



Photos by Ross Houston/Index and Design by Lindsey Koski/Index

Athlete of the Week

Chris Waller
Staff Reporter

Jesse Helms
Sport: Golf
Year: Senior
Hometown: Hillsboro, Mo.

Helms shot a three-under par 139 for 36 holes to capture his first career victory. He was two strokes down after the first 18 holes but shot a 69 on the final day to claim the win. Helms' score helped the team win a tournament for the first time since 2003.

Senior Jesse Helms had never played the Westview Golf Course in Quincy, Ill., before.

"We played a practice round, and I played pretty well in that," Helms said. "It's a pretty straightforward course, there's not much to it. Everything is pretty much laid out in front of you."

This fact did not deter Helms from finishing first in the Quincy University Invitational tournament last weekend, finishing with a three-under-par 139 for 36 holes. Helms found himself two shots down from the leader after the first round but fought his way back to beat out players from Rockhurst, Quincy and Lindenwood universities to claim the title.

Helms led the Bulldogs to their first overall victory since 2003, and Helms' individual victory is the first for the squad since Austin George tied for first at the Central Missouri State Invite in the spring of 2004.

"I played exactly how I set out and planned to play minus a few mistakes here and there but that's going to happen with any round of golf," Helms said. "I set out, made a plan, and executed my plan perfectly, exactly how I wanted to. I played to win the tournament, which was my goal when I started the tournament."

Helms has been on the golf

team his entire college career, and this is his first win and best score to date. Helms is confident this year will be his best and that the win this weekend is something that will be repeated — potentially next weekend at the SBU Bearcat Invitational.

"It's on a course that I've played before, and I've played well and have had a lot of success on," Helms said. "This is definitely something I can do again, hopefully more than once if I keep playing well."

Men's golf coach Kevin White said the win was no surprise, and Helms has been playing well since last season.

"It is something he has always had in him," White said. "He has played really well for us even going back to last fall and spring. It's an honor for one of our golfers to win a medal, and it's an honor for him to earn a medal on the collegiate level."

White also said the win is a huge accomplishment for Helms and that not many people get the opportunity to earn a medal at the collegiate level. White also said winning the tournament was vital to team morale.

"It's huge because it's a momentum builder," White said. "We are an experienced team that lacks that winning instinct. Getting a team and individual title in the second tournament of the year, this helps us gain momentum and gain confidence and maybe get into the NCAA tournament."

FOOTBALL | Team faces archrival Northwest Missouri State University on Saturday in the annual Hickory Stick game, win would change program

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or Johan Santana shutting down American League lineups every fifth day, a mediocre MIAA team defeats a top-notch program every fall.

"It happens every year," Missouri Western State College head coach Jerry Partridge said at MIAA Media Day.

Could the Bulldogs start the trend?

The 0-2 squad is markedly better than the past two cam-

paigns but still features porous special teams, an offense that hasn't fulfilled expectations and a team that still features a penchant for mistakes.

"The biggest things that we have to do is we can't turn the ball over and we can't allow a big play," Currier said. "We can't make mistakes that are controllable by us. We have to avoid mental mistakes."

Mental errors yielded turnovers, a mediocre third-down

conversion rate and poor red zone production in the first two contests.

Those aspects must improve against a Bearcats squad that has outscored their opponents 62-14 in their two games.

Red zone production, though, will be the deciding factor Saturday.

When the Bulldogs pulled the gigantic upset against No. 16 Winona State in Week 1 of the 2005 season, the purple and

white permitted the Warriors just one score on three attempts inside the red zone.

The Bulldogs scored all three times they were inside the 20.

Through two games this fall, the 'Dogs rank last in the conference in red zone production (three TDs in 11 attempts). That must change.

Overall, the offense has registered 12 carries for an anemic 16 yards and completed

four of 20 passes inside the red zone. On one of their most successful red zone drives against Minnesota State-Mankato, they rushed the ball five times against just two passes.

Establishing the ground game — both inside and outside the 20s — will prove critical against the Bearcats' defense.

The Bulldogs have ran the football very well in the new spread offense (4.3 yards/

carry) and rush defense could be the Bearcats' weak point. The 'Dogs' duo of Phil Kenney and Jake Cunningham could wreck havoc on Northwest.

Through the two games, teams rushed for 3.4 yards per rush against Northwest — the fourth highest total among MIAA teams.

This time, a strong rushing attack could pose the correct answer in the Bulldogs' equation.

REDDICK | Converted defensive end adapts to new position, leads MIAA in several stats

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you have to be a little bit thicker to do that," Reddick said.

When compared to his old position on the defensive line, Reddick likes his new one better.

"I prefer linebacker in this defense," he said. "At times I get to play positions that are similar to defensive end, like I get to put my hand down like a defensive end sometimes. But sometimes I get to drop back into pass coverage, so I like this lot."

Currier said Reddick's success is based more on his intangibles than on his actual physical attributes.

"You can measure a lot of things with people — you can measure their height, their weight, their speed — but you can't measure their passion, their desire, their heart," Currier said. "Those are hard measurements to put on people. And he's one of those guys that just plays

extremely hard and wants to be successful, and he's playing real well right now."

Besides putting up stats at the position, Reddick is enjoying the extra responsibility that comes with his new position.

"I like the fact that I have a little more responsibility than I did as a defensive end," Reddick said. "Being my senior year, I want it — I want all the responsibility I can get."

While he enjoys his early success, Reddick said that he is just doing his job.

"I have made the plays that I have been put in position to make," Reddick said. "The play calls that the coaches have made have put me in the best position possible. In this defense you don't have to be a superstar to put up defensive stats. You just have to do what you're asked and that's what will make this defense good."

DOMINATION: Reddick has flourished in the 3-4 defense

Statistic	Total	Conference Rank
Sacks	2	Tied 1st
Tackles for Loss	4	1st
Tackles for Loss	30	1st
Yards lost		
Tackles for Loss	4	1st
Season High in a game		

Design by Patrick Rembecki/Index



GOLF | Men capture first tournament victory since the 2003 season, women finish 11th out of 21 teams at the Deerfield Inn Region Shootout

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White said another big factor in the win at Quincy was junior Michael Spaulding and seniors Adam Clatterback and Tyler Phillips all placing in the top 10.

White said he now looks forward to next weekend's tournament, the Southwest Baptist University Bearcat Invitational in Bolivar, Mo.

"This is the first of five MIAA scoring events for us,"

White said. "We know that with key losses for some of the other schools, this is our year."

White said the course the team will be playing on, Silo Ridge Country Club, is very familiar to many of the players.

"Three of the guys have played the course a number of times, so they know the course like the back of their hand," White said. "There are going to be no excusses."

However, White said he

doesn't feel that a solid knowledge of the course is going to ensure a win for the team.

"Obviously the host school, Southwest Baptist, practices there, so they are going to have an advantage there and should take advantage of it," White said. "As long as [the team] keeps themselves out of trouble, play smart golf, and know where to take advantage of certain holes, we should be all right."

White said many of the teams they will see this weekend, such as Central Missouri State University, Missouri Western University and Missouri Southern State University, competed against them in the Missouri Intercollegiate Golf Tournament. He said they finished within striking distance of those teams last time, so they should be able to compete well.

The Truman women did not fare as well in their most recent

tournament. After taking third at the Maverick Round-up hosted by Minnesota State-Mankato last weekend, the team came in 11th out of 21 teams.

Most notable out of the women's performance was Marta Samojluk, who shot a 153 and placed 8th individually out of 119 people.

Samojluk fired a 74 in the first round, setting a personal record that broke the 75 she fired at the Concordia Invite in

the fall of 2005. She also shot a 79 in the second round, marking the first time she shot two rounds in the 70s in her career.

Coach Sam Lesseig said his emotions were mixed about the play of the team.

"I think we played alright, but I think we can play better," Lesseig said.

Up next for the Bulldogs is a tournament at Illinois Wesleyan in Normal, Ill., on Sept. 16 and 17.



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