

Baseball team takes two vs. SBU

BY BLAKE TOPPMEYER
Assistant Sports Editor

The last time the baseball team won an MIAA series, head coach Dan Davis was still the pitching coach at the Div. I University of Northern Iowa, and two-thirds of the current Bulldogs roster were still in high school.

The Bulldogs had a chance to end that streak last weekend when they traveled to Bolivar, Mo., for a four-game series with Southwest Baptist University. The Bearcats rank one spot ahead of the last-place 'Dogs in the MIAA standings.

Truman (4-23, 3-15) managed a split, winning Game 2 10-1 and Game 3 6-3. But the Bearcats (6-20, 4-14) prevented the Bulldogs from winning their first series since April 2006 by taking Game 1 10-1 and Game 4 13-8.

It was just the second time Truman has earned a split since Davis took over the team prior to the 2007 season, but the Bulldog head coach was not pleased with his team's performance.

"That's a team — you look at the numbers, we're both comparable," Davis said. "For us to change being the last place team in the league, we've got to beat some teams. We have to win some conference series. That's a perfect example of one that we need go in thinking that we're going to win three

games, maybe four games."

The Bulldogs started the series poorly, managing just two hits in the 10-1 loss Friday. Bearcat starting pitcher James Ledford — the team's staff ace — had a no-hitter through four innings before freshman Logan Frame's single in the top of the fifth inning. Only three Bulldogs made it past first base.

Frame took the mound in the second game and turned in his second consecutive quality start. His seven innings of one-run ball catapulted Truman to a 10-1 victory in Game 2. Freshman Michael Staihr worked perfect eighth and ninth innings to seal the win.

In his last two starts — including a complete game victory against Missouri Western State University on March 29 — Frame has a 1.29 earned run average.

"The games were pretty similar," Frame said. "I tried to make sure I commanded the inside part of the plate. As far as that goes, throwing strikes is probably the most important thing. So I'm not walking people because you can't defend walks."

Truman compiled a season-high 18 hits in the win. Junior shortstop Neil Bleish and sophomore outfielder Brandon Pearl led the way as the two combined to go 6-for-10 at the plate.

The duo also helped lead the 'Dogs to their 6-3 win in Game 3. Bleish and Pearl hit back-to-back home runs in the first inning, stak-



Freshman center fielder Matt July takes a cut in a March 29 game against Missouri Western. July and the Bulldogs split a four-game series at Southwest Baptist last weekend.

ing starting pitcher junior Corey Tomasek a four-run lead before he even took the mound.

Making his first start of the year after beginning the season as a relief pitcher, Tomasek pitched five innings and allowed just one run. Davis said Tomasek will stay in the rotation.

After the Bulldogs jumped to a 5-0 lead in the second inning, Truman notched just three hits the rest of the game. Despite the team's 25 runs in the series, Davis said he wasn't impressed

with the Bulldog hitting.

"I felt like we gave away a lot of at-bats this weekend," he said. "We were ahead in the count, and we swing at crap pitches and end up hitting weak ground balls to the middle infielders. There's no excuse for that. When our pitchers fall behind, people put good swings on it, and they hit the ball hard. We don't. We refuse to stay disciplined and swing at a pitch that we can drive."

Davis said that after watching his team post the early lead,

he wanted to see them put the Bearcats away.

"We went out to an early lead on Sunday, and then we just coasted the rest of the way," he said. "It wasn't like we went out to an early lead and then we just stepped on it and really put the game away. We didn't. We coasted."

Part of Davis' disappointment in the hitting could be stemming from the lack of production from his veteran hitters. Junior infielder Corey Eagen, senior catcher

Matt Over and senior first baseman Larry Hall have combined for a .179 batting average while compiling more than 150 at-bats this season.

"[The veterans] need to pick up the pace," Davis said. "They need to make adjustments. Honestly, that's it. They need to make adjustments and lead the team, and they're not doing it right now. And you're seeing a lot of guys getting a lot less playing time because of that."

Bleish and Pearl were the two veterans who did hit well against Southwest Baptist. Bleish drove in eight runs and picked up seven hits in 12 series at-bats.

"It just seemed like [in] this series I was seeing the ball a lot better," Bleish said. "I got good pitches to hit and put good swings on them, and my hits fell in."

In the last eight games, Pearl hit .500 with five extra-base hits. Bleish said Pearl has been trying to hit curveballs better.

"He's been working real hard on staying on his back foot and keeping his weight back and really driving the ball and not getting out on his front foot," Bleish said. "You can definitely see improvements. He's hitting curveballs, and he's hitting them hard, too."

Truman will continue to seek the elusive first series win of the Davis era when they play a four-game series this weekend at Fort Hays State University.

Bulldogs finish 13th, 9th in tournaments

BY BRENT FOSTER
Staff Reporter

The men's golf team stepped outside the MIAA this week and golfed in two tournaments.

The Bulldogs competed in the Beu/Mussato Invitational Friday and Saturday at Western Illinois State University. Truman finished the tournament 13th out of 17 teams. The tournament field included several Div. I schools.

Junior Scott Danielsen and freshman Chris Kovach tied for 27th place with a three-round total of 234. Danielsen and Kovach tied for Truman's lowest round of the day with a pair of first-round 75s.

"I think it was a good tournament for us because it was a Div. I tournament," Kovach said. "There were Div. I schools there, and we actually got to play with two Div. I schools the first day. ...There were 36 holes instead of 18 the first day, which is good for us."

Head coach Kevin White said it was nice to see a variety of teams other than MIAA teams.

"It was just nice to see someone different and play with someone that we don't normally get to see," White said. "In that regard it was good."

Western Illinois State won the event with a three-round total of 885.

The Bulldogs also competed in the Kansas City Intercollegiate tournament on Monday. The Bulldogs golfed Monday, but Tuesday's round was called off because of rain and will not be made up. Monday's results are final.

Truman finished the tournament in ninth place out of nine scored teams. The University of Missouri-Kansas City also competed but did not have a full team.

Danielsen finished tied for 29th and had the low round for the Bulldogs with a four-over-par 76. Kovach finished tied for 32nd with a 77.

"We were disappointed that we didn't

have the second day to improve our score," White said. "We had a phenomenal practice round before the tournament. We really felt going in we were going to do good, score well. Then the tournament came around [and we] just made some mental mistakes. I think we realized that after it was done. We really wanted to get out there on Tuesday to show that wasn't our team."

White said the team couldn't get on the same page.

"Not really any of us played too good," Kovach said. "Like some of us started off pretty good and had a rough ending. And like me, I had a rough start and had a good ending. So basically, no one really played a whole round together. The scores aren't what we wanted. Even though they are better than our previous team scores, the course was a little easier, and we should've done a lot better."

Missouri Southern State University won the event with a two-over-par total of

290. The event was not an MIAA-scoring event, despite seven MIAA schools participating.

Danielsen and Kovach continued their string of finishing first and second this week for Truman. Kovach and Danielsen have finished first or second on the team in each of the last four tournaments. Freshman Andy Herington is the only other Bulldog to finish in the top two this spring. Herington finished second on the team at the Newman (Kan.) Invitational March 17 and 18.

"Scott Danielsen [and] Chris Kovach are basically interchangeable for one another as far as how they're playing," White said. "We just need to get some more depth out of the other three guys that are traveling."

The Bulldogs will take the week off before competing at the MIAA championships in Branson, Mo., on April 21 and 22. The two-day event will feature 36 holes on day one and 18 on day two,

similar to the Western Illinois invitational format.

The Bulldogs currently are in fifth place in the conference. The MIAA championship counts for double the points of a normal MIAA event.

White said the team will take a few days off before getting back to the course and working on its short game.

"They're really going to hammer out the practice game at the course," White said. "I mean, putting and chipping is all this game is all about. If you can't putt and chip, you can forget about it. They are really going to work on that."

Danielsen said the break would give the team a chance to shore up its short game.

"We're employing a system of a short game here," Danielsen said. "We've all been working on our swings since we were little kids, so we pretty much know what's going on there. We're just going to try and get a handle on the short game and get a foot up on the competition here."

Now Hiring

- Business Manager
- Circulation Manager
- Assistant Advertising Manager
- Page/Graphic Designer
- Advertising Designers
- Advertising Representatives
- Copy Editors
- News Reporters
- Sports Reporters
- Features Reporters
- Photographers
- Columnists
- Distributors
- Publicity Director

The Index is a valid scholarship and work study job. Pick up an application in the Index office (BH1200) or get one online at www.trumanindex.com Applications due April 18.

Le Coin Français & La Casa Hispánica

in Missouri Hall



¡Se habla español!
Le français se parle ici!
Aprende un poco de francés
Apprenez un peu l'espagnol

Accepting applications for next year

Deadline: Friday, May 2, 2008

- Great location
- Newly renovated rooms & lounge
- Immersion activities
- Movies
- Meals
- Music
- Cultural activities

For more information or to receive an application, contact:

Le Coin français: Dr. Timothy Farley
tfarley@truman.edu

La Casa Hispánica: Dr. Carol Marshall
carolmar@truman.edu

Applications also available on line at the Residential Life and the Classical and Modern Languages websites