



Joe Barker/Index

Four distance runners practice Wednesday on the Kenneth Gardner Track. The men's and women's track teams will compete Saturday at the Div. II Challenge in Emporia, Kan.

**TRACK |** Senior Sean Bergstedt sets meet record in the 400-meter hurdles, men's and women's track teams finish second at Northwest Invite

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 Freshmen Mike Reams and Derek Atwood and junior Dan Jones all took first place, in the javelin, discus and hammer throw, respectively.  
 In addition, Atwood took second in the shot put, racking up the most team points for an individual Bulldog.  
 Reams, who hit a personal best with his 43.38 meter mark in the javelin, said the fact that the throwing side did so well shows the team's progress.  
 "Last year, we had two guy throws, and this year we've got six,"

Reams said. "The fact that we are already firsts this fast shows great improvement in the throws program in general and speaks very highly of [throwing] coach [Leslie] Hardesty."  
 For the women, the jumpers were out in front. Sophomore Katrina Biermann tied Atwood's individual team point count, with 18 of her own. The point total came from a combined first place in the pole vault and second place in the triple jump.  
 But it was senior Christen Lauer who walked away with the triple jump crown this weekend with her mark of 11.60 meters. This mark was Lauer's

second provisional in the triple jump in as many weeks and third overall, with one last week in the long jump.  
 Lauer said the consistency brings comfort.  
 "I feel like everything is starting to flow right," she said. "At this point in the season, that is exactly what you want, and it feels good."  
 Also finishing high for the women was sophomore Amber Clayton, who tacked up 16 team points for the Bulldogs. She finished first in the 400-meter dash and third in the 200-meter dash.  
 Even with the second places for

the Bulldog teams, Cochrane said the overall competition was not the toughest Truman has ever seen but that it was pretty much on par with the past few meets. He also said that progress was made.  
 "Most of our people competed pretty hard, which is something that we didn't feel like always happened indoors," Cochrane said. "It's been better since we've moved outdoors."  
 Cochrane said, however, that the real challenges for the outdoor season are still to come, starting as soon as next weekend, when both the men's and women's teams will

travel to Emporia, Kan., to compete in the Div. II Challenge. This will be the Bulldogs' first chance to see many MIAA conference foes in the outdoor arena.  
 For the athletes, this next meet is something of a prequel to the outdoor conference championships, making it a good chance to gauge performances.  
 "Nothing is going to be easy in this meet," Lauer said. "There are very competitive fields in every single event. We are going to have to put every effort forth and work hard. It's a great meet to improve on."

**DRAFT |** Columnist forgoes final semester of college, declares for NBA draft despite marginal basketball skills

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 When one of my new teammates makes a big shot, I guarantee I will be the first one off the bench to celebrate. I will wave my NBA-issue towel with such fervor that basketball writers will start comparing me to David Eckstein because of my scrappiness.  
 Plus, I really look good in high socks, baggy shorts and a headband — an irresistible combo that I'm sure will help bring in the female audience.  
 I also promise to be great with the media. In this day and age, athletes are very wary of the press. Media have a nasty habit of taking small sound bites and blowing them up — that is, when the athletes talk.  
 Detroit Pistons forward Rasheed Wallace was famous for simply saying, "Both teams played hard," over and over again. It became such a cliché, he got the saying printed on a shirt.  
 I won't be like that. If an NBA team needs someone to answer the inane questions of the press, I will be that guy. I may never be the go-

to guy on the court, but I can be the go-to guy for post-game interviews.  
 If none of that impresses you, how about this one: I am very fresh. All of these big names in the draft have spent countless hours playing basketball. Many of them played basketball every waking moment in high school just to get that scholarship and then kept playing in an attempt to get better.  
 Me? I have barely played any basketball. NBA team: Do you really want to risk millions of dollars on some guy who is just waiting to break down?  
 I don't have the miles and minutes of high-intensity basketball weighing me down. Basically, an NBA team would be getting a nearly new car instead of a used one.  
 So sorry, Jack Schrader, I won't be suiting up for the Bulldogs next year. Once the NBA office returns my calls, and I find the right agent — someone who can ensure that I get a nice shoe deal — I will be turning pro.  
 Goodbye Truman, hello NBA.

**GOLF |** Three women place in the top 10 at Upper Iowa Classic

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 Junior Julie Williams and freshman Jennifer Lawson also made key contributions to the come-from-behind victory. Williams shaved three shots off her score on the final day with a score of 85, earning her a 10th-place finish. Lawson joined Williams in the top 20 the final day after she shot a 90 on both days of the match.  
 "The whole team contributed," Lesseig said. "They are learning that one bad shot or one bad hole can't ruin your whole day. You have to put it aside and stay with the present. In other words, 'What's the next shot that I have to hit?' Every shot counts in close matches like this one."  
 Senior Marta Samojluk tied for 36th with a 192, and fellow senior Amanda Senn finished 45th with an even 200.  
 Staying focused and mentally prepared is important at the beginning of a new season, Lesseig said.  
 "You have to realize that we have been outside playing just a little over two weeks now," he said. "You hope that they get back to where they were hitting the ball last fall, but it does take some time to get your swing back and your feeling of how to handle the game."  
 Amana Colonies Golf Course has won numerous awards, most recently a four-star rating in Golf Digest's 2002 listing of "Places to Play."  
 "This is the type of course where if you catch a day when you are not hitting it pretty much right where you are aiming, the course is going to kill you," Lesseig said. "You are going to



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index  
 Freshman Kaytie Spangler tees off in the Bulldog Classic. Spangler tied for seventh at the UIU Spring Classic

take some big numbers."  
 Truman currently is the seventh best team in the region, according to this week's Div. II women's golf regional polls, released by the NCAA Div. II Women's Golf Committee. Only the top six teams from each region are invited to the regional match, along with several of the top individual athletes.  
 The team now has two weeks off before heading north to Waseca, Minn., for the Maverick Invitational on April 19 and 20. The Bulldogs will look to improve on last year's seventh-place finish out of 10 teams at the event.

**SOFTBALL |** Bulldogs to host MIAA opponents this weekend, team in last place in MIAA with 2-6 conference record

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 "That's a key part to our success," Brown said. "We can win without Christen getting on base, but when she gets on base and we can score her then that really helps us out as a team to manufacture runs when she's on base so many times."  
 The pitching held Washburn to only two earned runs and less than a hit per inning in the two games.  
 Martin picked up the win in both contests, throwing a combined seven innings.  
 She only allowed one run total on four hits.

In the second game Martin and senior Katie Jeannin combined for a two-hit shut-out in the five inning mercy rule victory.  
 "[The pitching] was phenomenal," Brown said. "They just did everything that they could to keep the hitters off balance and our catchers did a great job calling the game."  
 A week earlier, Noski cited pitchers giving up runs early in the game and a decline in hitting as reasons for the team struggling.  
 This was not the case this week.  
 Truman pitchers did not

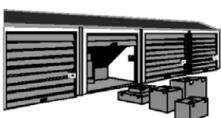
allow a single run in the first two innings of any of the games and they averaged more than one hit per inning in three of the four contests.  
 Truman now stands last in the MIAA with 10 conference games left.  
 They are fifth in the MIAA in overall win percentage.  
 "One thing about the MIAA, if you look at it, is anybody can beat anybody on any given day," Hadley said.  
 Next up for the Bulldogs is a home contest at 3 p.m. this Friday against conference foe Missouri Southern State University.

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