Men gear up for MIAA Championship

BY BRET FOSTER Staff Writer

The MIAA men’s golf team has reached crucial time.

This is a crucial point in preparing for the MIAA Championship, April 21-22, knowing that a solid day could end any streak.

“If we stay consistent in our meet from now on, we need to maintain our place within the top five of the conference, and that means not getting caught up,” head coach Kevin White said. “I have never, nor have we had to have, to have two teams to have two separate places. It would be different in the MIAA championship, point totals are different. It’s those two things that are different for the MIAA. The first-place finisher receives 16 points, second-place gets 14 points, and so on.

The Bulldogs are at 10th-place in the MIAA but are 10 points behind fourth-place Missouri Western State University. A 10-point lead is hardly insurmountable, but a poor performance could drop the Bulldogs even further.

“Bernard has been our team’s top scorer,” White said. “We’re just one point ahead of Missouri Western, and two points ahead of seventh-place Pittsburg State University, Southeastern Missouri State. Last year, the team was as close as 10 points.”

In addition, the team faces a major test as the MIAA men’s golf season is underway. The University of Central Missouri is a distant second with 24.5 points.

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“Last season, we had the meet at the MIAA Championship, so we’re preparing for that now,” head coach Kevin White said. “I think everyone is in their best shape and we’re looking forward to the regionals. We’re planning to focus on putting and laying up on two through five. That’s the key to doing well in the short game because that’s where all the strokes come from.”

Bernard claims first twice at Challenge

BY ARRON HUSTEAD Staff Writer

Junior Ashley Bernard finished second at the Div. II Challenge at Emporia State University.

Bernard took two firsts and a second at last week’s Div. II Challenge.

“I didn’t have the best day, but I finished second,” Bernard said. “I finished second, and played pretty well for the first time this season. I’m sure to play well and get back in the mix.”

Bernard had finished fourth in last week’s Div. II Challenge at Emporia State University. Bernard took two firsts and a second at last week’s Div. II Challenge.

Bernard said she has not played well in the past, but is feeling confident after finishing second.

“I was just a little bit off this week, just didn’t play as well as I would have liked,” Bernard said. “I finished second for the season, and trying to go as far as possible.”

The team’s second-place finish was not as close as it was last season, but it was still a victory for the Bulldogs.

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