

MEN LOSE

Men's tennis drops two home matches

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SPORTS



Football: 7 p.m. Saturday April 26th Spring Game



Softball: 1 p.m. today vs. Lincoln (Mo.)

Thursday, April 24, 2008

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Limsiaco leads team

Sophomore has played competitive golf since the seventh grade

BY JOE BARKER
Sports Editor

Krystal Limsiaco gave up her tennis racket in favor of a golf club. It seems to have worked out for her.

Limsiaco, a sophomore on the women's golf team, grew up in Houston following her two older sisters to the tennis courts.

"I would play with them all the time," Limsiaco said. "I just fell in love with the sport."

But once her dad took up golf, her sport preference changed.

"He was like, 'You should come out with me sometime,'" Limsiaco said. "And then once became twice, and twice became three times, and then I would just play with him every weekend."

Limsiaco took to golf quickly.

Despite little training, she had a natural swing that didn't require much tweaking.

"Golf is a sport where it's rare to find somebody who has a natural swing," Limsiaco said.

After picking up the game, Limsiaco decided to start playing seriously the summer between her seventh- and eighth-grade years. She gave up tennis and hit the links.

"My dad was the one who was like, 'I think you should play golf — I think you have a better future in it,'" she said.

Her natural swing led her to the golf team at the Woodlands High School in Conroe, Texas, which boasted the No. 1-ranked girls' golf team in the state.

On a team loaded with talent, she said she was not the best player.

"I was top five on my team, but then again our team consisted of amazing players," she said. Please see LIMSIACO, Page 21

Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Krystal Limsiaco chips towards the green at the Bulldog classic March 28-29. She placed second at the event with a 169.

New 'Dog in town

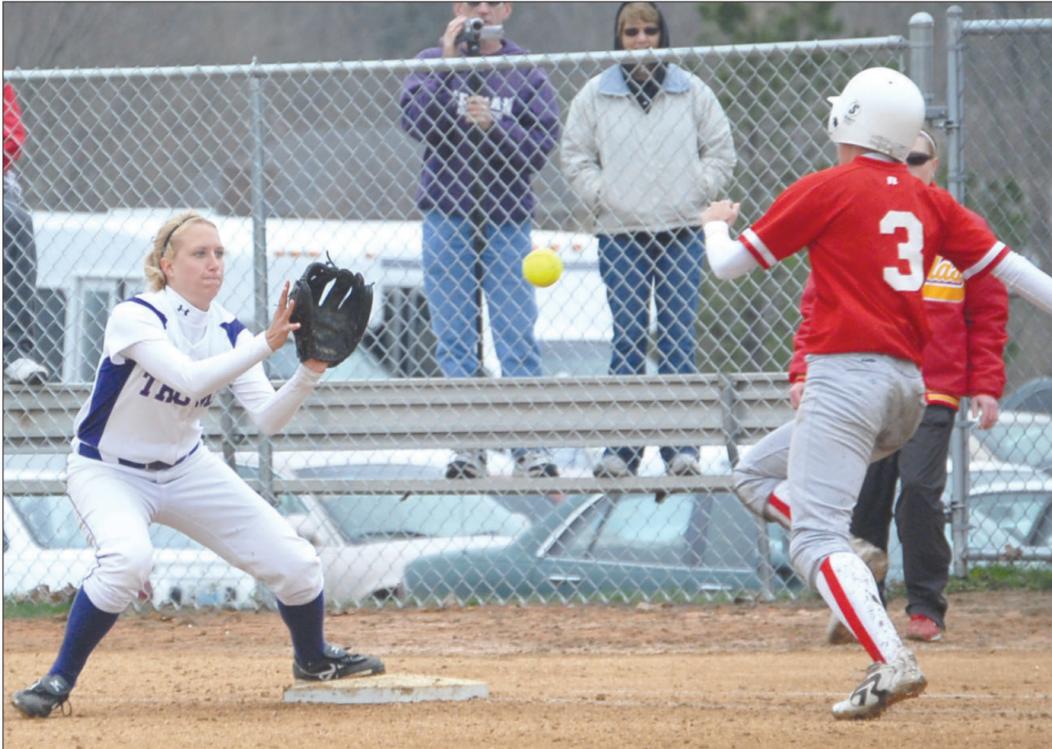
Michael Smith was hired Wednesday as the women's basketball head coach. He replaces John Sloop, whose contract was not renewed for next season. Smith joins Truman with 12 years of college women's basketball coaching experience.



Here's where Smith coached prior to joining the Bulldog staff.

Position	Place	Year
Assistant coach	Univ. of Arkansas-Little Rock	2006-'08
Head coach	Moberly Area Comm. College	2002-'06
Assistant coach	Angelo State (TX) Univ.	1998-'02
Graduate Asst. coach	Northwest Mo. State Univ.	1996-'98

Photo by Blake Peterson, design by Antionette Bedessie/Index



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Senior second basemen Sherri Johnson takes a throw at first base during Saturday's doubleheader against Pittsburg State University. The softball team split with Pitt. State, and on Monday the Bulldogs swept Missouri Southern.

Smith hired as new coach

Former Div. I assistant takes over women's basketball program

BY BLAKE TOPPMAYER
Assistant Sports Editor

Michael Smith is going to need some more purple ties.

Smith, with one of the two purple ties he owns tied tight around his neck, began a new era of Truman women's basketball Wednesday. He signed his \$52,500 contract, which lasts through June 30, 2009, to become the Bulldogs' new head coach.

"It's a great day to be a Bulldog," Smith said during yesterday's press conference to announce his hiring. "I'm extremely excited about the opportunities currently here at Truman State University [and] things to look forward to in the future."

Smith fills the void that was created five weeks ago when John Sloop's contract was not renewed, which ended his eight-year reign as the women's head coach.

Smith joins Truman after spending two years at the Div.

I University of Arkansas-Little Rock, where he was an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator. Prior to that, Smith was the head coach at Moberly Area Community College from 2002-06. Smith's record was 102-34 at Moberly, and he guided the Lady Greyhounds to two NJC-CA tournament appearances.

"He's been around good people in women's basketball, and he's been very successful," Director of Athletics Jerry Wollmering said. "We think he'll bring to the program the recruiting experience that we're looking for and to be able to compete in the MIAA."

Wollmering said he had more than 90 applicants for the position. Smith was brought in April 12 as one of four finalists to interview on campus. During his visit, he had the chance to meet the team.

The three other finalists for the position were Lee Green, assistant coach at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, Amy Eagan, head coach at NAIA St. Ambrose University (Iowa) from 2005-07, and Amanda Levens, assistant coach at the Div. I University of Nevada.

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Jerry Wollmering
Director of Athletics

'Dogs take two from MSSU

BY JACK NICHOLL
Staff Reporter

The softball team received two pitching gems Monday.

Seniors Katie Jeannin and Katie Noski each threw a shutout against conference foe Missouri Southern State University in Truman's 2-0 and 3-0 victories.

The wins came after Sunday's 2-1 and 3-1 losses to MIAA leader Emporia State University and

Saturday's 5-2 win and 8-5 loss against Pittsburg State University. Truman (20-19, 8-10 MIAA) now is finished with the conference schedule. The team currently is sixth in the 10-team MIAA.

Jeannin took the mound in the first game against Missouri Southern, looking for her first win in more than a month and her third of the season. She got that and more, throwing her first complete game and shutout of the spring.

"I had a great time," Jeannin said. "I felt like I was hitting my spots, and everything was working well. ... We were keeping them low and outside. And I threw pretty much the same as I would normally try to throw."

Jeannin mixed inside curveballs with outside dropballs to keep the Lions' batters off balance. She struck out three and allowed only three hits in the contest. Only two batters

reached second base, both with fewer than two outs, but Jeannin was able to prevent the runs.

"[She] really did a good job at keeping the ball low and out, which is pretty much what we've been doing with her, and it's her best pitch and she can pinpoint a dropball excellently, and she just did a really good job," sophomore catcher and second baseman Erica LaCombe said.

Please see SOFTBALL, Page 21

Noski leads staff in final season

BY JACK NICHOLL
Staff Reporter

After taking a two-year break from pitching, senior Katie Noski is back in top form in her second season as a pitcher for the 'Dogs.

Noski has emerged as the ace of the staff this season, compiling a 10-2 record and a 1.21 earned run average. However, she has not always been a pitcher.

In her first two years at Truman she played nearly every game at first base. She was one of two people to start every game during her freshman year, and she started in 49 of 54 games her sophomore year.

Noski said she was a pitcher her entire softball career until college, which made the switch back to pitching last year smooth. Her freshman season she pitched in two games, compiling a 2.00 ERA in 14 innings pitched.

"It really wasn't that hard — it was just getting back into the swing of things," Noski said. "... I feel like I'm a better pitcher now than when I was younger, just because I had a little time off."

"I feel like I'm a better pitcher now than when I was younger, just because I had a little time off."

Katie Noski
Senior

Last year was different from her first two seasons. She had to balance being a part of the pitching staff with starting regularly at first base and as designated hitter.

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Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Senior Katie Noski throws a warm-up pitch last Monday. She threw a one-hit shutout in the 3-0 win.

Editor offers final thoughts

Sorry, Mom, this will be the last time you see me in a tie on the front of sports.

As you read this, my term as editor is up, and I will no longer be filling this space with my tie-wearing mug shot. To my fan out there, I hope this doesn't break your heart too much.

The last page of the columnist playbook says that I should write some fawning farewell column. I should talk about my time doing what I've done and thank all the people who touched me (appropriately) along the way. I'm not going to do that.

It would take far too long to mention everyone who has

been good to me, and I know I would leave someone out. So instead I'm just going to say some things I've wanted to say in my three years covering Truman sports but for some reason haven't.

First off, I hate writing columns. I know this doesn't seem important, but it's true. For me there were two types of columns, positive or negative, and neither one appealed to me.

Positive columns always seemed like I was kissing someone's rear end. Negative columns also didn't sound fun because I never liked calling out a college official's rear end. Please see COLUMN, Page 21

COMMENTARY



Joe Barker