

Women notch first 20-win season

Men fall to 13-6 as Bulldogs prepare for MIAA tournament

BY JOE BELL
Staff Reporter

Last weekend was a weekend of firsts and lasts for the Bulldogs tennis teams.

The weekend marked the first time the women's tennis team has won 20 matches in its history. The women now stand at 20-4. The last Truman tennis team to win 20 matches in a season was the 1981 men's team, which had a record of 20-3. The women surpassed their previous best mark of 19-3 set in 1995. That year the women went on to win the MIAA championship and made it to the first round of NCAA tournament.

The women's dominant singles record this year has helped fuel their success. Only one of the women has less than a .500 singles record and another five women have won at least 25 matches this season. Junior Lindsay Blair and freshman Amy

Ochs have more than 30 singles victories. The doubles teams have not been found wanting either, with two of the three winning at least 18 matches.

"I think we had a really solid team this year, so I don't think any of us were so surprised that we did well," junior Courtney Walther said. "I don't know if we were expecting to get 20 wins, but I think we knew that we had potential. I think since a lot of us have [played together so long], like Lindsay, [senior] Jennifer [Salmon] and I have been playing together for the last three years. It's really helped a lot. The freshmen have been great. They've really added a lot to our team."

"I don't know if we were expecting to get 20 wins, but I think we knew that we had potential."

Courtney Walther
Junior

Despite rain falling until Friday, the tennis squads managed to play all of their matches during the weekend. The matches against Washburn University scheduled for Friday were moved to Sunday.

"We didn't start until [noon on Saturday]," head coach Pete Kendall said. "We started a couple hours later. That was after I spent an hour and a half Friday

night ... to get the courts rolled off, and then it got all wet again after we did that. So I spent three and a half hours, starting at 5:30 on Saturday morning ... getting [the courts] cleared off."

The women played strongly throughout the weekend, downing both Missouri Southern State University and nationally-ranked (No. 29) Washburn, but lost 7-2 against Southwest Baptist University. The No. 2 singles player, Blair, and the No. 5 singles player, Ochs, went undefeated, and the No. 3 doubles team of freshmen Anna Greenwald and Kelsey Kuykendall took two of the three matches they played.

The men (13-6) lost their matches against Southwest Baptist and Washburn, which were ranked at No. 23 and No. 24, respectively. The men managed only one singles win by No. 6 sophomore Ben Rusk against Southwest Baptist. The Bearcats defeated Truman 8-1. The men took an early lead against the Ichabods by winning two doubles matches but were unable to capitalize on it. They won only one singles match and lost 6-3.

"It's not the best way I'd want to end my four years, but those were the matches we had to play," senior Cody Pusateri said. "They were



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Sophomore Ben Rusk hits a backhand return last weekend. Rusk was the only member of the men's tennis team to win a match against Southwest Baptist on Saturday.

tough competitors. It's just tough to psych yourself up for a match like that, especially with [sophomore] John [Rothfusz] just getting hurt. Knowing you're going to play someone tough, and that you're going to need your full strength. ... It's tough enough playing them when you've got everybody, let alone not having your one doubles team and your No. 5 singles player there."

Salmon and Pusateri played their final regular season matches this weekend. Both have had successful runs as Bulldogs. Salmon came in 2005, playing in both the No. 2 and No. 3 places in the lineup that year and has been playing in the No. 1 spot ever since 2006. She has compiled a 23-12 singles record this year.

Pusateri has been playing since 2005, playing two matches in the No. 6 hole that year. In

2006 he moved up to the No. 3 slot and remained there ever since. He has compiled a 16-14 record this year.

The Bulldogs head to the MIAA tournament this weekend. The women have a No. 3 seed, and the men are seeded fourth. Their level of success at this tournament will determine if they move onto the NCAA Div. II tournament the following weekend.

Women's golf places second, two tie for sixth

Limsiaco, Williams lead team with two-day 170s at Maverick Invitational

BY COREY JAROS
Staff Reporter

It was another cold start for the women's golf team this past weekend at the Maverick Invitational in Waseca, Minn.

The Bulldogs finished the first day with a team score of 355, leaving them in third place behind Minnesota State University and Winona State University. Sophomore Krystal Limsiaco's round of 85 was Truman's best on Saturday, followed by junior Julie Williams' score of 89.

"We just weren't getting the ball in the hole," head coach Sam Lesseig said.

"They were not hitting it exactly where they wanted to. It's as simple as that."

With only one more invitational before the NCAA Div. II Women's Golf Committee selects the top six teams from each region, the athletes know that every shot counts.

"Our first day was definitely not our best performance," senior Amanda Senn said. "We wanted to prove to ourselves more than anyone else that we can play better than that."

The team continued its trend of strong finishes with a score of 334 Sunday, shaving 21 strokes off of the first-day effort.

"We were not too happy with being in third place going into the second day," senior Marta Samojluk said. "Getting in front of Winona was a big deal for us because we are both fighting to get an

invitation to regionals. That motivated us a lot to shoot better the second day."

Four of Truman's top five golfers dropped at least four strokes on the final day, allowing the team to take second place from Winona by eight strokes.

Williams led the rally Sunday, dropping eight strokes off of her first day score with an 81, the third-lowest round of the invitational. She finished with a total score of 170, good for a tie in sixth place.

Limsiaco shot rounds of 85 on both days, earning her a tie for sixth place. She has at least tied for the lowest score on the team at every invitational of the spring season.

Samojluk rebounded from her first round score of 91 to score the second lowest round for the team on Sunday with an 83, earning her a tie for 14th

place. After playing during her first three years at Truman, Samojluk did not compete in last year's fall season.

"It has taken a little while to get back into the swing of things, but it clicked in the middle of that second round," Samojluk said. "It was like I learned to play golf again."

Lesseig is happy to have her back, knowing that having at least five solid performers is the key to a successful team effort.

"All fall we really looked to have one more consistent player so that we could have a shot at five good scores every time out," Lesseig said. "Without her, we couldn't find that consistent fifth player. If she continues to find her game, we should do really well."

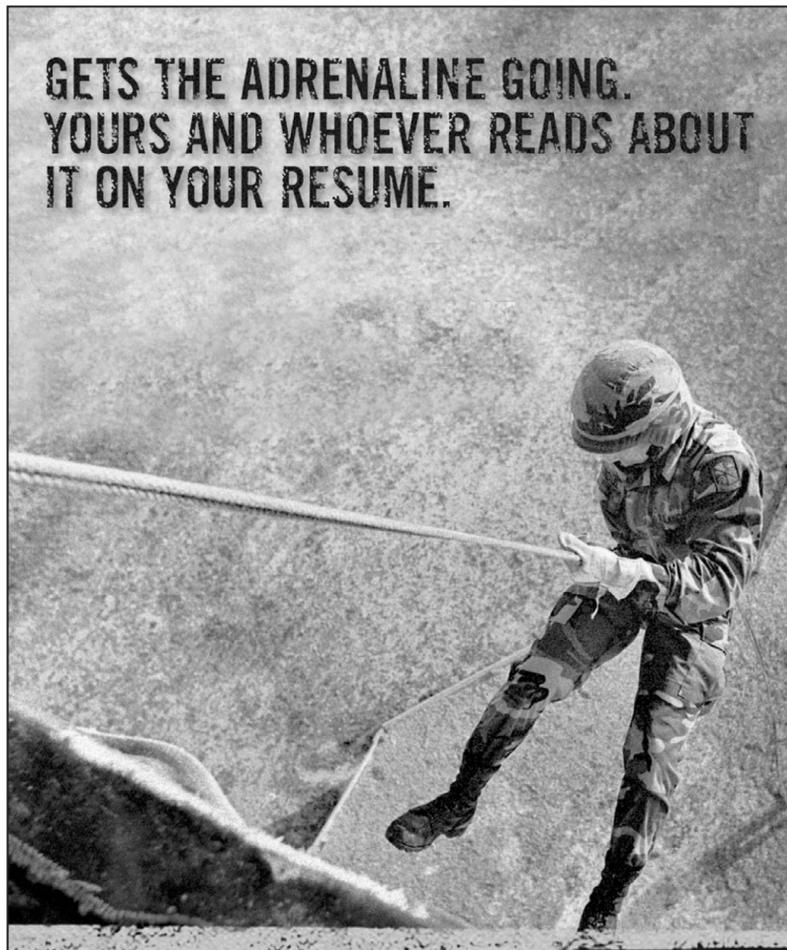
Freshmen Kaytie Spangler and

Jennifer Lawson also improved their scores on the final day. Spangler shot an 85 for a two-day total of 175 to finish in a tie for 16th, and Lawson scored a 90 for a total score of 184 and 28th place.

Senn's total score of 183 was good for a tie in 26th place. Senn said she is confident the team will finish strong and earn the right to compete in the ninth annual Div. II Women's Golf Championships set to take place at King's Walk Golf Course in Grand Forks, North Dakota beginning May 5.

"We went to nationals last year, and we have a strong team this year," Senn said. "I think we will do really well next weekend, and that will secure a spot for us in regionals."

The Bulldogs will travel to Okoboji, Iowa for their final invitation of the spring season this Saturday, April 26.



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