



**INJURY WOES**

Depleted women's team falls to Northwest 86-71

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# SPORTS



Basketball: 3 p.m. Saturday Feb. 16 vs. Washburn



Basketball: 1 p.m. Saturday Feb. 16 vs. Washburn

Thursday, February 14, 2008

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Photo Submitted

Junior Blake Peterson puts his opponent's face in the mat during a meet earlier this season. Peterson and the rest of the Bulldogs claimed a 26-25 win against Missouri Baptist College last night in Pershing Arena. The win snapped a four-dual losing streak.

## Court skills not up to snuff

This might come as a surprise, but I'm not an athlete.

I know it's shocking: a sportswriter who can't play sports — who has ever heard of that?

OK, saying I can't play sports might be a case of me being a little hard on myself. I can play, I'm just not going to turn pro anytime soon — in anything.

My skill level probably can be summed up best by the old gym class tradition of picking teams. I would most definitely not be the first pick. But I'm not bad enough to be the last pick. I think of myself as a late-round steal that could help the team win a game — that is, if the game being played is not basketball.

I can shoot a hockey puck, I can hit a baseball and I can catch a football. I cannot, however, play basketball.

I think my problem stems from the fact that I can't shoot, I don't run fast, my endurance is lacking and I have a problem playing defense without fouling people. Aside from that, I am the next LeBron James.

So imagine my surprise when someone asked me to play intramural basketball.

A couple of friends started a team and needed a few extra players to round out the bench. You know, just some guys to give the starters a breather. I informed them how bad I was, but they said it didn't matter. I would only have to play a few minutes a game.

Turns out, they lied. Our first game was two weeks ago, and I showed up prepared to ride the proverbial bench and cheer loudly for my comrades. I showed up five minutes before tip off and only saw three of my teammates. I figured the other guys were just taking a pregame bathroom break.

Nope. Thanks to the flu bug that hit campus our team was decimated, going from 14 members to four. Having dealt with the plague two days before, I was pretty excited by this development. I might not be good at basketball, but I know it takes five to field a team.

Wrong again. The other team badly wanted to play, so they agreed to have a little four-on-four action. Did I mention my endurance will never be confused with that of a marathoner or even that of an in-shape 22-year-old?

After five minutes I was winded and just waiting for something — anything — to stop the clock.

However, my breathing problems did help my game. Because sprinting around under the basket in an attempt to get an easy layup was too much work, I camped out beyond the three-point line and waved my arms frantically.

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**COMMENTARY**



Joe Barker

## Wrestlers earn narrow win

**Horman's last-match victory propels Bulldogs to dual meet triumph**

BY BEN YARNELL  
Staff Reporter

It came down to a battle between the big boys.

Wednesday's home dual against Missouri Baptist College was a dead heat for the entire night. With the Bulldogs trailing 23-25 and only one match remaining, the win and the end to a four-dual losing streak rested on the broad shoulders of senior heavyweight John Horman.

Heading into the match, Horman's goal was a simple one.

"Get out of the first period without getting any points scored on me," he said.

And he did.

The drama came in the second period. After giving Micheal Wakim a free escape point, Horman found himself down by one. But with just one moment left in the second period, he scored a critical takedown to put him up 2-1. It was in that moment that Horman felt the tide turn.

"I knew right then I pretty much had the match wrapped up," he said. "... There was no way I was going to let him get a take-down on me."

Heading into the third period, Horman got an extra boost with an escape. But with less than two minutes left, Horman was hit with a stalling point against him to cut his lead to one.

Horman held on, however, to push the 'Dogs to a 26-25 win over the Spartans.

"We needed to win this dual meet," Horman said.

The win came after a rough weekend for the Bulldogs. They started with a Saturday dual against the University of Central Oklahoma, last year's defending NCAA Div. II national championship team. The 'Dogs lost to the Broncos 39-6.

In all, only two Bulldogs had their

hands raised the entire day. One of those wins came right off the bat when 125-pound senior Rob Nahlik defeated Nick Rice 9-0 for a major decision.

The 'Dogs then suffered four straight losses, three of which were pins, before they claimed their second and final win of the dual. 165-pound senior captain Blake Peterson defeated Paul May in a 7-3 decision.

This bodes well for the Bulldogs' sole All-American. Last season, Peterson was pinned competing against Central Oklahoma, less than a week before winning the NCAA Div. II Midwest regional tournament.

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## Bulldogs lose to top teams

BY ARRON HUSTEAD  
Staff Reporter

Domination was an overwhelming theme this weekend.

Unfortunately for the Bulldogs, they came out on the losing end against No. 6 University of Central Oklahoma, 39-7, Saturday and Oklahoma City University, 40-4, Sunday. Those losses make Truman's record in duals this season 2-7. Truman wrestlers were pinned a total of six times in the two duals.

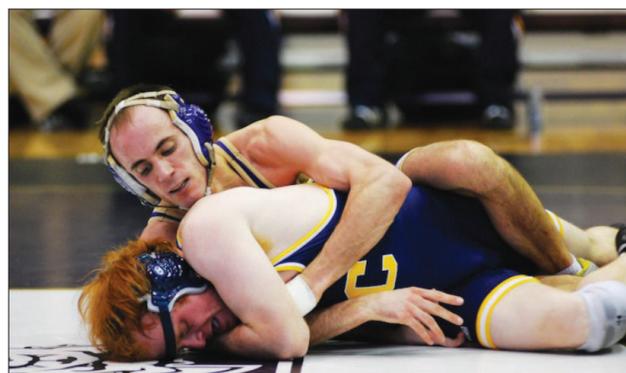
The two teams posed difficult competition for the Bulldogs. Central Oklahoma is nationally-ranked and 12-6 in dual matches. Oklahoma City, an NAIA school, is 18-6-1 in duals this season and sent eight wrestlers to the NAIA national championship last season.

Head coach Dave Schutter said there really aren't any advantages or disadvantages to scheduling certain teams.

"You have a 16-date schedule, and you try to get home matches and away matches with teams," Schutter said. "[Central Oklahoma] is one of the best programs in Div. II, so you get to see good competition when you wrestle them."

The team's performance against Central Oklahoma significantly improved from when the two squads wrestled last season.

"We have room for improvement," Schutter said. "I'm not totally discouraged. Last year they shut us out. They're not the team they were last year, and we've gotten a little better at some weights. We can wrestle better, there's no doubt."



Blake Peterson/Index

Senior Rob Nahlik wraps up his opponent during a dual meet last weekend. Nahlik was the only Bulldog to win multiple matches in the duals.

Schutter said he didn't think this weekend's losses would hurt the team's confidence and that the team had a good practice Monday.

"Truman wrestlers, Truman students are intelligent," he said. "They realize that it's just one weekend. It's just two matches of a long season.

It's just two matches of a long career. You don't evaluate where you're at on two matches. I think our kids do really well holding everything together, keeping their mentality on the upbeat. You'd never tell that we came off of two dual losses."

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Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Sophomore Tessa Letuli works on her form in the hammer throw in a practice earlier this season.

## Track team has top finishes

**Bernard, Biermann and Bergstedt finish first at Blue Classic**

BY COREY JAROS  
Staff Reporter

With the indoor track season past the halfway mark, members of the Truman track and field squads rapidly are approaching that critical time of the season when workouts are reduced in volume and the push to score a mark under the NCAA Div. II qualifying standards begins.

The Bulldogs showed no signs of looking too far ahead in the season last Saturday — three athletes claimed first-place victories at the Illinois College Blue Classic in Jacksonville, Ill.

Junior weight thrower Ashley Bernard continued her impressive string of performances by placing first in the

weight throw and setting a new season-best mark of 16.73 meters. Her strong efforts were enough to earn the honor of MIAA Athlete of the Week in women's track and field. Bernard attributed her improved results to the hard work that she has put into training.

"At this point in the season, you basically just have to take everything you have learned since the fall and hope that it falls in place, and fortunately, it is all starting to come together for me right now," she said. "If I make it to nationals for sure, I am going to do the best that I know I can,

and whatever happens will happen and I will be happy either way."

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Ashley Bernard  
Junior Thrower

trina Biermann also had a breakout performance for the Bull-

dogs. She earned her first victory of the season and nearly matched the school record with a vault of 11-feet-7-inches. Perhaps no-body was more pleased with her performance than second-year assistant head coach Tim Schwegler, who has watched Biermann progress from a 9-foot pole vaulter out of high school to now taking shots at the school record of 11-feet-8-inches, set in 2001 by Kristy Morton.

"Her technique is better, her overall condition is better, she is having a really good season so far," Schwegler said. "She's ranked 23 on the provisional list for the national meet. They will probably only take about 14 vaulters, so she has to vault a little higher, but there is a real possibility she could do it."

Biermann's best mark Saturday was one inch short of the Truman record, but it easily was enough to secure a victory.

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