

# Swim teams compete at NSISC meet

BY JACK NICHOLL  
Staff Reporter

The conference meet will culminate the season for many of the swimmers on the men's swimming team.

The New South Intercollegiate Swim Conference taper meet, which started on Wednesday in Cleveland, Miss., will be the last meet for everyone on the squad who is not going to nationals. Those already qualified for nationals only have a drop taper for the meet and their season will end next month at the Div. II championships.

"[Conference] is the biggest meet of the year for the majority of the guys on the team," junior Darren McDivitt said. "It's what you focus on at the start of the year. We rest for Miami, and that's our mid-season taper meet, but conference is really the culmination of everything worked for the whole year."

The men will attempt to add to their five national qualifiers. Head coach Mark Gole said there are a handful of people who have an outside shot at getting an A cut and that, realistically, the men will have to qualify through relays. Except for the five who already have an A cut, no swimmers on the men's side have ever qualified for nationals before.

The men's best chance of qualifying new swimmers is through the 400-yard

freestyle relay. McDivitt said the team will combine faster swimmers who have already received A cuts with some of the swimmers who have not qualified. He said freshmen John Gloss and Paul Wannamaker as well as himself could be on the relay, which was less than a second off the A cut at the Miami meet. At that meet, McDivitt swam with three of the swimmers who are national qualifiers.

Because not all of the swimmers will be tapered, McDivitt said it will be harder to get the A cut now than it was at the Miami meet. However, he said the mood of the meet and swimming against better teams will help the team.

"The other guys on that relay will not be fully rested so hopefully the atmosphere of the conference meet and having good competition [will help]," McDivitt said. "Hopefully everybody can step it up and hopefully we can get that A cut."

Gole said the men's side of the conference might be the toughest in the nation. Drury University, the University of Missouri Science and Technology, Ouachita Baptist University and Henderson State University all finished in the top 15 at nationals last year. Although Truman finished third at conference last year, Gole said finishing fourth is more realistic this year.

The conference meet won't be the end



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Senior Chris Pearson swims the individual medley earlier this season. Pearson and the rest of the Bulldog swim squads are competing in the New South Intercollegiate Swim Conference in Cleveland, Miss.

of the season for much of the women's squad. They have 13 national qualifiers at this point, slightly more than half the squad. The relay teams are all set with swimmers who have already qualified for nationals, meaning swimmers will have to qualify individually.

Junior Jessie Lemaster, swimming the 1,650-yard freestyle, has the best chance of getting her A cut. She has qualified for nationals at conference the last two years and she was only 0.8 of a second off the A cut at the Miami taper meet in December.

Freshman Claire Myers also has a shot at the individual medley events. At the Miami meet, she was close to four

seconds off the A-cut time in both the 200- and 400-yard events.

Gole said getting as many as three more swimmers qualified is a stretch and hoping to get more than three is unrealistic. He said Myers has been training well and that he she can make a significant drop to qualify.

The Bulldogs will be up against tough competition, as the women's conference has a few teams in the top 15 in the nation. But, Gole said if Truman cannot win its own conference, it has no shot at winning nationals. Truman's main rival, Drury, will, for the most part, only send swimmers who do not have their A cuts, which should make

Drury a non-factor to win the meet. Truman has won the conference meet the past three years.

For the swimmers already qualified, conference serves as a good opportunity to see where their times are at this point in the season.

"This is really the hardest part of the season right now for all the girls who are qualified to go to nationals, just because this is our big buildup in the season right before we get to taper down for nationals," sophomore Kate Aherne said. "Just seeing what we can go when we've been doing this much work is really realistic to what's going to happen when we're at nationals and when we're tapered and rested."

# Women's tennis starts spring season with win



File Photo

Junior Courtney Walther readies for a backhand during the fall season. The women's team was in action last weekend.

BY JACK NICHOLL  
Staff Reporter

The women's tennis team didn't miss a beat after its four-month layoff.

The team, which concluded its fall schedule Oct. 6, returned to action with a dual meet against Missouri Baptist University and the Principia College (Ill.) tournament this past weekend, both at Principia. The team won the dual meet 8-1, and the Bulldogs claimed two first-place finishes at the tournament. The dual meet victory added to their 4-0 dual meet record in the fall.

The tournament is the only one before the end of the season, when the team competes in the conference and national tournaments. Head coach Pete Kendall said it's good to start off the season with a tournament after a long break, but in the long run, dual meets are the only ones that matter because they qualify teams for the end-of-season tournaments.

"The tournament is a great

way to get started because it really doesn't affect your team situation, but it's great for individuals not to have so much pressure in matches," Kendall said.

Freshman Amy Ochs stood out for the Bulldogs. She never lost a match and only dropped one set en route to two first-place finishes in the tournament. She claimed victories in B flight singles and No. 2 doubles and only lost two games in her straight-set dual meet victory. Her doubles victory, in which she paired with senior Jennifer Salmon, was a breeze until the final, which resulted in a tiebreak win.

The women also claimed a second place and four third-place finishes in the six-team tournament. The only blemish during the dual match was freshman Kirstyn Sampias' (7-6, 4-6, 10-4) tie-break loss in fifth-flight singles.

"I think we did really well," junior Lindsay Blair said. "I think everybody was pretty happy with it. We haven't had

a lot of opportunities to play besides Pershing."

Freshman Anna Greenwald returned to play in the tournament after being out with a back injury in the fall. Greenwald won her sixth-flight singles match (6-0, 6-1) at the dual meet as well as her third-flight doubles match (8-4) when she was paired with freshman Kelsey Kuykendall. The pairing also placed third in No. 3 doubles at the tournament. With the exception of Greenwald returning to the team, the players returned to their respective flights they played at in the fall.

The team was able to have an early season meet partly because of the indoor facilities at Principia. Kendall said the team usually practices at Principia, and it worked out well that they were able to have matches there.

The indoor courts make for easier play because players have fewer outside factors to deal with.

"These courts were a little bit faster than the courts outside,

and you don't have to worry about the wind or anything like that," Blair said. "It's nice in that respect because the conditions are kind of perfect."

Even with the long layoff, the team never stopped practicing. The women started with conditioning, and when they went home for break, everyone played as much as they could. For the past three weeks, they have been playing regular matches with each other in Pershing Arena.

Even playing in Pershing, practice matches cannot match the competitive atmosphere at meets.

"I know I personally was really rusty," junior Courtney Walther said. "I know none of us had played any matches since the fall, so we were all a little out of it, but once we got a few matches under our belt, we were fine."

Next up for the squad is a March 1 dual meet at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. The team opens its home schedule against Newman University on March 18.



Uncover the



Info

Monday, February 25th

- 11a.m. to 5p.m. Violet Hall Commons
- Expo Info
- Resume Critiques
- Free Popcorn and Refreshments
- Fun and Music
- How to work a career fair advice and Expo Registration

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