

Five-win streak propels 'Dogs to dual victory

BY ARRON HUSTEAD
Staff Reporter

Wins in the early part of Saturday's wrestling dual carried the Bulldogs to a 29-13 victory against Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

Truman won each of the first five matches of the meet.

"The meet was pretty much over before the last matches took place," sophomore Dean Schultz said.

Schultz started off the dual with a 6-4 win against SIUE's Dan Midgett at 174 pounds. Schultz said the coaches usually agree to start off the meet with the 125-pound division and progress through the dual by weight. Saturday's dual, though, was different because the order was chosen randomly. It was the first time this season the team began with anything but the 125-pounders.

"It's a bit of a change to be the first one up, but I managed to set the tempo for the team," Schultz said. "Just go out there and get a win like Rob [Nahlik]. Rob has had a great year, and he

always does it for us, starts off our meets usually with a win."

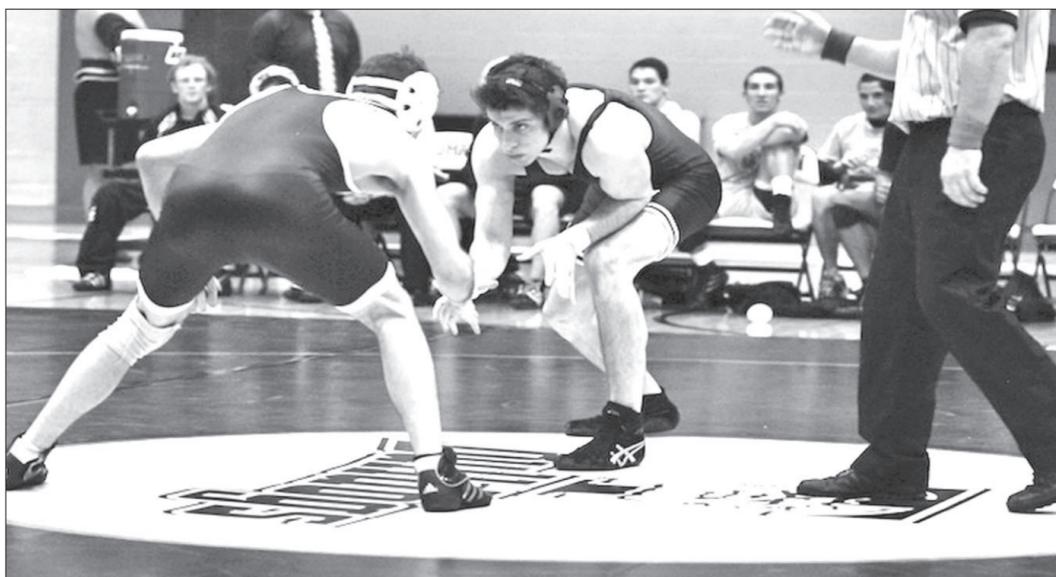
Schultz said the team was riding high after an exhilarating win last Wednesday against Missouri Baptist.

"Last Wednesday was big," he said. "It kind of got everybody's spirits up. The season can get to dragging, and we had a real exciting team win and kind of came together as a team a little bit more. We kind of felt that chemistry this weekend, too. One guy won, and the team got more excited. It's good to get those wins, and it's good to get that chemistry going, especially this time of year."

Schultz said young wrestlers played a big role in the Bulldogs' success Saturday.

True freshman and Kirksville native Thomas Redmon in particular helped raise the bar by picking up his first win of the season in the 197-pound class. Redmon defeated Edwardsville's Chris Flaughter by pin in the second round. Redmon's win stands out because he normally competes in the 184-pound division.

"He was down five points,



Sophomore Vince Vitatoe prepares to square off against an opponent in a home dual earlier this season. The Bulldogs are riding a two-dual winning streak after defeating Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville 29-13 on Saturday.

and he came back to pin the guy," Schultz said. "That's a 12-point swing, almost, in a match and that made all the difference. That set the tempo, and everybody got excited. That was great."

Redmon was excited to pick up a big score for the team.

"It's just a great feeling to finally get one," Redmon said. "You watch Blake [Peterson] and everybody go out and win. Blake and Dean [Schultz] and [John] Horman go out and win big matches, and you want to contribute so bad. It's just like a weight being lifted off you to

finally get the first win out of the way."

Senior John Horman defeated Edwardsville's Brian Brooks 3-2. Horman said Brooks didn't prove to be very strong competition.

"It wasn't really a tough guy," Horman said. "I just kind of got the easy win. I've got tougher competition coming up this week against Mankato's No. 2 guy. I'm going to give him everything I've got."

Junior Blake Peterson also picked up a win Saturday, beating SIUE's Blake Reed by technical fall. Junior Andrew

Isbell (184 pounds) and sophomore Kazuyuki Hashimoto (125 pounds) each won by forfeit.

Head coach Dave Schutter said he thought Edwardsville would provide good competition for the team.

"They beat Missouri Baptist by two points, and we only beat Missouri Baptist by one, so we were expecting a tough dual," he said.

Schutter said the win against Missouri Baptist on Wednesday night and Saturday's win bode well for Truman when the team heads north to take on Minne-

sota State University-Mankato in the final dual of the season Saturday.

"Anytime you get a couple of dual wins back-to-back, you gain some momentum," Schutter said.

Schutter said the two wins show that the team is making improvements.

"The fact that we won two duals back-to-back shows where the team is at," Schutter said.

Mankato will be a tough test. In the latest poll released Feb. 7, the Mavericks were ranked No. 1 in Div. II.

Roller hockey drops three games, beats SIU-C

BY JOE BARKER
Sports Editor

February has not been kind to the Truman roller hockey club.

The Bulldogs entered the second month of the year without a loss on their record. After dropping its first game to St. Louis University on Feb. 9, the team hit the rink again last weekend for four more games and lost three out of four.

Two Div. I schools, Lindenwood University (Mo.) and the University of Missouri-St. Louis, knocked off the 'Dogs, and SLU managed to come up with another upset win. The team's lone win during its weekend session was a 9-3 victory against Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

"A lot of very important things happened this weekend," senior forward Jon Watson said. "We showed some of our flaws — some of the things we need

to work on, and some of the things we need to do to do better. We also showed a lot of promise, a lot of things we can build on. There were good things that we can take away from this weekend and be very proud of."

The team opened up the weekend slate Saturday by taking on long-time rival UMSL. Last season the Tritons were a Div. II squad and took two of the three games between the squads.

Despite a 2-0 lead for the Bulldogs at the end of the first period, the Tritons proved to be too much and netted six second-period goals en route to a 10-4 win.

"We came out against UMSL flying," head coach Joe Nedelec said. "We played probably the best period that I've seen the guys play all year. UMSL is a really talented team — very fast, very quick. They finished every single chance that they got."

The 'Dogs were able to put the loss

behind them in Saturday's late game. They squared off against SIUC and skated away with a 9-4 victory. Junior forward Truman Patterson set the tone offensively, scoring the first goal of the game 6:40 into the contest.

Patterson lit the lamp three more times in the third period — one a short-handed goal — to help seal the victory.

Dane Moody, senior forward and team captain, said he was pleased that the 'Dogs were able to overcome the loss to UMSL and not let it keep them down.

"Carbondale is a surging team and we knew that," Moody said. "... We're not used to losing many games. It doesn't happen very often. So I think it showed a lot of character on our part to bounce back, keep our head in it and not get too frustrated about losing one."

Sunday morning's session had the Bulldogs looking for revenge against SLU. The Billikens handed Truman its first loss of the season in the

clubs' previous meeting.

Both teams were kept off the score sheet in the first period, but in the second, SLU took over and scored three unanswered goals.

"They just capitalized on their chances," Watson said. "We gave them some chances, and they put the puck away."

The Bulldogs put a goal past SLU goalie Brendan Vail in the third period but couldn't score again and fell to SLU 3-1.

"SLU's got our number," Nedelec said. "Their goalie stood on his head. I don't know the numbers, but I know we outshot them, maybe even by a margin of two-to-one. He played an amazing game. He played a real good game. I mean, he would have to, right, with the amount of offensive talent that we have on our team."

The one-goal output was just the second time this season the team has not scored multiple times. For the season, the Bulldogs are averaging a

little more than six goals a contest.

Div. I Lindenwood closed out the team's four-game session. The Lions had yet to lose on the season and were riding a 106-game winning streak.

The Bulldogs took a 2-1 lead midway through the second period, but Lindenwood's offense could not be stopped. The Lions outshot the Bulldogs 40-13 and won the game 7-2 for their 107th win in a row.

"This was the best team in the nation, by a landslide, and we played right with them," Nedelec said. "They had to bring their A-game to beat us. So I was overjoyed. Even though it was a loss, I was very happy with the way we finished off what was a pretty difficult weekend. To play the way that we played was incredible."

The Bulldogs are off until March 1 when they take on Washington University-St. Louis. Truman won 4-0 when the teams met last November.

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