



Blake Peterson/Index

Junior Andrew Isbell dodges a Missouri Valley wrestler during a dual meet Tuesday night. The team lost the dual 36-4.

'Dogs fall to Mo. Valley

BY BRENT FOSTER
Staff Reporter

The first of a long string of duals did not go well for the Bulldogs Tuesday night.

Junior Blake Peterson picked up Truman's only victory as the 'Dogs were pummeled by NAIA Missouri Valley College 36-4. The loss dropped the Bulldogs' dual record to 1-3 and was the team's largest margin of defeat this season.

Peterson won his match at 125 by defeating Brian McClure 15-2 in a major decision. The only other Bulldog who kept his match close for the night was 173-pound sophomore Dean Schultz. Schultz took his opponent to overtime before falling 4-3.

Before the dual, head coach Dave Schutter said it was going to take a complete team effort for the Bulldogs to do well.

"We're banged up quite a bit," Schutter said.

Several members of the Bulldog wrestling team also competed in the Central Missouri Open last weekend.

Four wrestlers placed for the Bulldogs.

Senior Rob Nahlik set the pace for the 'Dogs with a second-place finish at 125. Nahlik won his first match by fall before winning his next two by a combined score of 13-2. In the championship match, Nahlik wrestled against

Troy Dolan, who wrestled unattached from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Dolan defeated Nahlik 7-0 to capture first at 125.

Also placing second for Truman was sophomore Andy Bader at 157. Bader won two matches by forfeit and claimed a 4-1 victory against Daniel Yuenitis from Moberly Area Community College. Bader fell in the title match to Andrew Sherry who was also wrestling unattached from Mizzou.

Two other Bulldogs placed at the open. Senior Dan Keller placed third at 133 pounds. Keller won his first two matches before falling in the third round. He fought his way through wrestlebacks to finish in third place.

Sophomore Bryan Isbell also placed for the Bulldogs, coming in fifth at 184. Isbell lost in the quarterfinal match, but was able to battle through wrestlebacks to finish in fifth place.

Schutter said he thought the team showed more improvement this weekend.

"We didn't take everybody, but the guys that did go looked pretty good," Schutter said. "We showed a lot of improvement in certain areas where we needed to improve at, especially riding on top and keeping opponents down."

Nahlik said he thought the team wrestled sharply at the Central Open.

"I thought we looked great this weekend," Nahlik said. "We didn't even bring our whole lineup, but the guys we

brought, like Keller, probably had his best tournament of the year to date. Bader only had a couple matches, but he looked great in his matches. Isbell looked really good. Overall, we looked much better this weekend."

Keller, a 2005 national qualifier, continues to make a comeback from the torn ACL that ended his 2006 season. He has shown improvement all season long, including wrestling in the finals of his last two tournaments.

Keller said he was able to put the injury behind him and continues to wrestle hard every day.

"You know, I don't even really think about the injury anymore," Keller said. "It was in the past, and it was something that happened. I was obviously glad that I was able to come back and wrestle. I'm to the point now where I don't even think about it, and it doesn't effect me."

Schutter said that recovery is tough, but Keller is handling it very well.

"It's a hard road back for him coming when you come off surgery," Schutter said. "He's just got a lot of ground to make up. Guys that you were dominating before you got hurt, they've made up ground on you, so he's got a lot of ground to make up. He's handled it well. He knows there's a lot of adversity coming back. He never gives up and keeps working hard. He's overcoming all that adversity. He's climbing up that mountain and will hopefully be a national champ by the end of the year."

The Bulldogs will be back in action this weekend at the University of Central Missouri Duals, where they will wrestle in several matches throughout the weekend.

Roller hockey earns draw with Missouri State

BY JOE BARKER
Sports Editor

The Truman roller hockey club has yet to lose this season. They also have yet to beat Missouri State University this year.

For the second time, the Bulldogs and Bears matched up and played to a draw Saturday. This time the final score was 2-2.

"We were hoping to come in and get a 5-0 weekend, but Missouri State played real well and just to get any points out of the game is always good," junior forward Jon Watson said. "A tie is definitely better than a loss."

The Bears almost came away with a victory before senior forward and team captain Dane Moody scored a goal midway through the third period.

Both times Truman and Missouri State have met have been the opening games of weekend action. Both games also have come off a prolonged break from game action.

"Guys were a little jittery, a little nervous," head coach Joe Nedelec said. "Of course, we have been off for a month and only had a week's worth of practice — it sounds like excuses, but they're more explanations than they are excuses."

Nedelec said the two-month layoff from game action and the speed of Mo. State affected his team and got the players off their games.

"There is a phrase in hockey: 'You're gripping your stick too tight,' and that's what I saw," Nedelec said. "The guys were hurrying their

passes. Not to take anything away from Mo. State, I think they've got a great team, and they're one of the teams that can keep up with us, skating-wise. They did really well, but when we see them again, it's going to be different."

The players and Nedelec both agreed that Missouri State benefited from scheduling. Watson said that if the teams meet up again the results should be different.

"If we play Mo. State the way we showed this weekend like we are able to play — mark it in the win column," Watson said.

Nedelec said the team relaxed after the tie to Missouri State and played much better hockey. The Bulldogs beat Southeast Missouri State University 10-0, the first of two

10-0 wins on the weekend.

"The very next game ... I could see such a difference," he said. "It was a lot different. Guys had settled down a lot."

Drew Vandas continued lighting the lamp at a torrid pace. The junior forward filled the back of the net eight times in the five games to give him 24 for the season after just 11 games. Vandas currently is the leading goal scorer in Div. II, with eight more goals than Moody.

"Jon Watson said that every time Drew gets on the ice, he gets better," Nedelec said. "It got to the point that a lot of the guys were saying, 'Drew isn't allowed to play the rest of the game.' They were asking me to bench him."

Nedelec said Vandas is able to score so often because

his line mate, sophomore forward Ronnie Gentile, always is working to set him up.

It also helps that Vandas has a powerful shot.

"His shot is just ridiculous," Nedelec said. "He blew one through the goalie. It went right under his arm. The goalie was in position, and it just went through him, he shoots it that hard."

Although Vandas' goals top the Div. II leaderboard, he still trails junior defenseman Jim Dougherty in overall points. Dougherty has notched 10 goals and 21 assists to lead Div. II with 31 points.

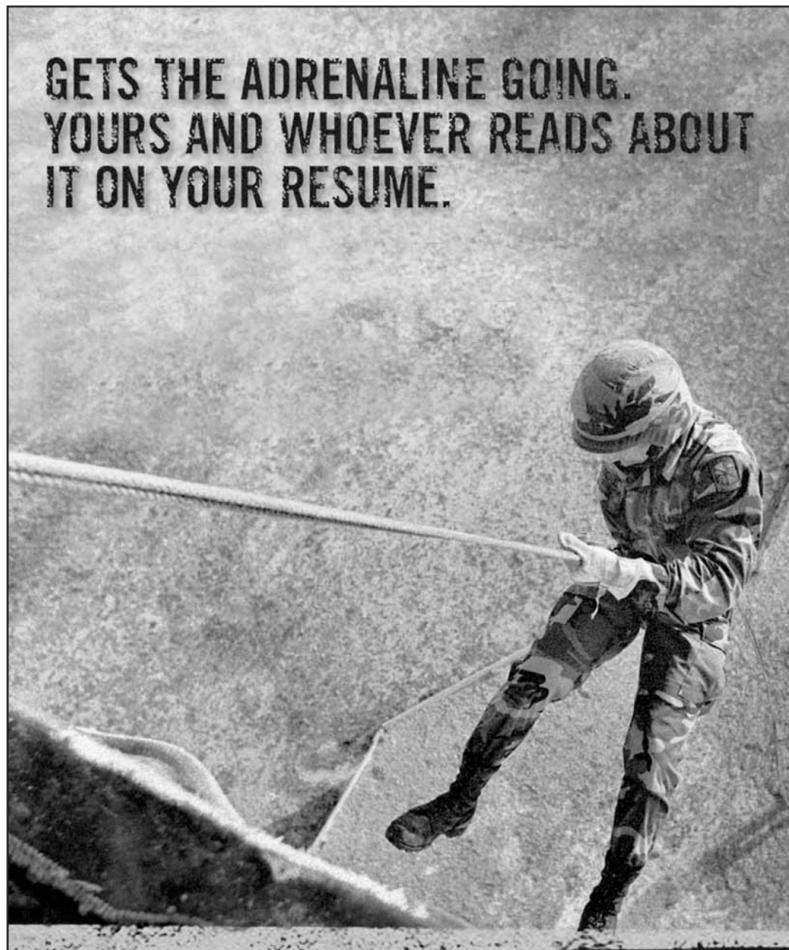
"J.D. is absolutely one of the most tenacious hockey players I have ever played with," Moody said. "I have never seen somebody who goes in game-in and game-out and plays with

the kind of intensity — he just skates like he has a chip on his shoulder all the time, like someone on the other team really made him angry. I've talked to other players on other teams and coaches on other teams, and they hate him for that because he's so fierce."

Dougherty, Vandas and Moody are the top three points-scorers in all of Div. II.

"We always talk about how lucky we are," Moody said. "I consider myself fortunate that I play with such a skilled group of guys. We can work together so well and make everyone look good. There is a lot of individual talent on the team, and when we work together for one goal, anything is possible."

The team takes the floor again Feb. 9 and 10 for two games.



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