

# 'Dogs down Newman

**Women win 8-1 to extend perfect dual streak, men earn sweep against Jets**

BY JOE BELL  
Staff Reporter

The Bulldog tennis team is back on the courts after a week and a half break in the schedule.

The men and women played against Newman University (Kan.) Tuesday at Truman.

The Bulldogs had little trouble picking up two wins against the Jets.

The women won all of their matches except for one doubles match, giving them an 8-1 victory against the Jets and improving their record to a perfect 9-0.

The doubles matches of juniors Lindsay Blair and Courtney Walther and senior Jennifer Salmon and freshman Amy Ochs were close. Blair and Walther defeated their opponents by a score of 8-6 and Salmon and Ochs lost 8-5.

The singles matches all were won solidly by the Bulldogs.

In the men's meet, only two doubles matches and four singles matches were played, because Newman had only four men competing. The Bulldogs won every match, giving them a 9-0 victory and pushing them to 6-2 for the season.

Every member of the men's team played one singles or doubles match except for sophomore Kyle Schlotz, who played a doubles and singles

match, and senior Cody Pusateri, who did not play in the meet at all.

Schlotz and fellow sophomore John Rothfusz won their doubles match 8-0, and sophomores Peter Bracha and Ben Rusk won their match 8-2. The Bulldogs won all of their singles matches, and Newman forfeited the final two singles matches.

Tuesday marked the first time the tennis team had played or practiced outdoors. The weather has forced them to stay inside Pershing Arena until now.

"This is the first time we've hit outside," Salmon said. "We haven't had any practices outside. ... We're supposed to be outside for, I think, two weeks of practice, but the past two weeks have been so cold, we've been stuck in Pershing."

The tennis teams also played matches March 6 to 8 in Topeka, Kan.

The women played a match March 6 against Winona State University (Minn.) and won 6-3. They played the following day against Mesa State College (Colo.) and won 7-2.

The men played three matches during that span as well. They played their first match March 6 against Winona State and won 9-0.

The men played two matches Friday, winning the opening match against Mesa State 7-1, and losing the following meet against Mesa State 5-0.

"The three [matches] over break, I think we did really well," Pusateri said. "Given the competition we had to play, I think we all played really well. I was really impressed with

the level of competition. Winona and Mesa are solid teams, and the score was pretty favorable to us, but I think it was just because of how we played. They're definitely not rollover opponents. ... I think we all did a good job just going out and taking care of business. Metro had some singles players that are ranked in the top 40 in the nation in Div. II, and then they have a doubles team which is top 25 [in the nation]. Going out there to play that team is pretty difficult."

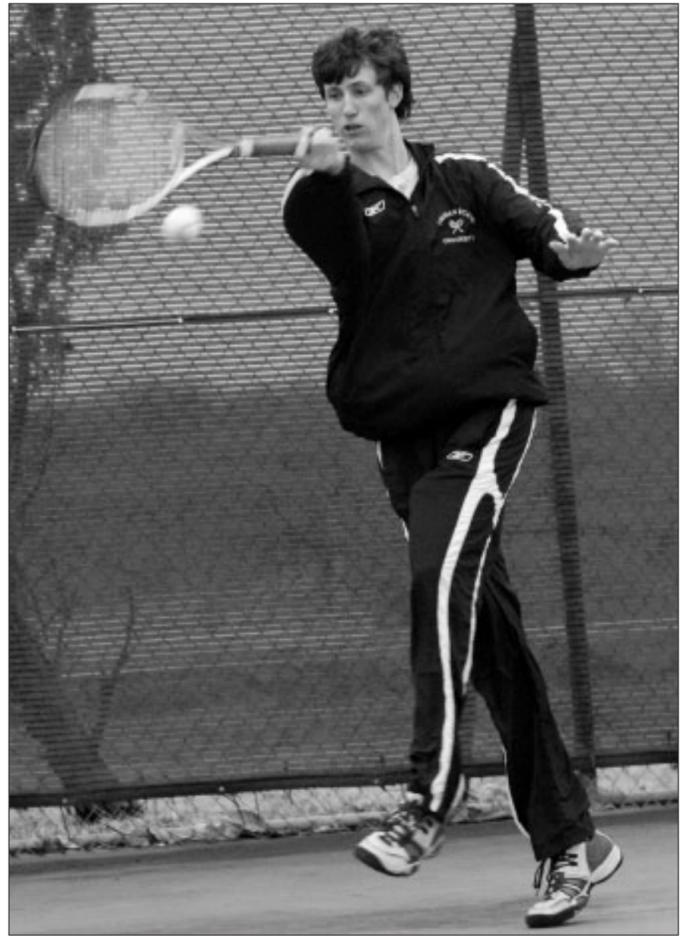
The meet against Newman University marked the beginning of the more important part of the tennis team's schedule, head coach Pete Kendall said.

"Everything now gets kind of more, since it's now all conference and pretty much other Div. II regional opponents, everything becomes more important as far as postseason placement and the NCAA tournament goes," Kendall said. "Hopefully we are outside for the duration [of the season]. We don't mind playing indoors at a racquet club or something like that. In fact, it's probably better because it's not cold, and it's not windy."

The Bulldogs host Emporia State University, a conference rival, 2 p.m. today.

The Bulldogs play March 25 at Central College in Pella, Iowa.

On March 29 and 30, the women play three matches, and the men play two at Fort Hays State, (Kan.)



Nathan Becker/Index  
Freshman Colin Boswell sets to return a shot during a Tuesday match against Newman University. The men won the match and are now 6-2 in duals this season.

# Rugby rolls to perfect 3-0 start to spring season

**Bulls pick up victories against Oklahoma and Oklahoma State, now 3-0**

BY BEN YARNELL  
Staff Reporter

Midterm Break was a well-deserved rest for the Truman men's rugby team.

Two weeks ago, the Bulls traveled to Lawrence, Kan., and defeated both the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University, finishing out their final two conference matches of the season and bringing their spring record to 3-0.

The weekend began with a match against Oklahoma, a team that has plagued the Bulls during the past few seasons. Head coach Bill Sexton said one particular part of the Bulls' play was key to their 12-7 victory.

"The only reason we won that close of a game was because of courage on de-

fense, and that cannot be understated," he said. "... There were times where we defended right in front of our goal line through multiple phases and then were able to clear the ball eventually."

On Sunday, the Bulls locked horns with an Oklahoma State team that suffered a defeat at the hands of Kansas State University. Truman went on more of an offensive front in that game and defeated Oklahoma State 29-10.

Junior Dustin Homer said he was very pleased with the wins, even though the Bulls were knocked from contention in the Western Conference tournament last fall.

"Last semester, we were really disappointed with how we played, but we were a really young team last semester," Homer said. "I think this weekend has really proved how good we've gotten."

The two wins came after a huge 53-0 shutout against the University of Tulsa the previous weekend. Sexton said he thinks the win was a

definite boost going into last weekend's matches.

"We knew we could play, we could attack and we could have a coordinated game, but we also knew stepping up from the University of Tulsa to the University of Oklahoma is a big step," he said. "There was that shadow of doubt in the back of everybody's minds of 'Do we have the horses to pull it off?' and 'Do we have the game plan?' and I am pleased that on the days of the game, the guys were able to do it."

The weekend did take its toll on the team, however. After the first match against Oklahoma, an injury forced junior Lawrence Emembolu to the sidelines. Sexton said that at first, he thought Emembolu simply had rolled his right ankle. However, after closer inspection, doctors confirmed that he had fractured the end of his right fibula. Sexton said the injury requires six weeks of recovery, putting an end to Emembolu's season.

"It's really unfortunate because he was just coming back to the team after having not played for a couple of years," Sexton said.

Emembolu's injury was not the only setback the team faced throughout weekend. Four regular starters for the team missed both games, for both Midterm Break-related activities and family obligations.

"A couple of guys who would have been starters ... decided to go on [Midterm Break]," Sexton said. "... They made decisions based on their priorities."

With the absence of the starters, however, other Bulls who otherwise would not have as much playing time stepped up to aid in the win. Most notable among these players was junior Ignatius Onyewadume, who totaled three tries throughout the weekend. Junior Will Holleman said that the team still came away with two wins can only be a sign of good things down the road.

"We are usually undersized and understaffed, being a smaller school," Holleman said. "The fact that we can still come away with those two huge wins says so much about our team and our future, especially our future."

Next for the Bulls' is a match Saturday against the St. Louis Bombers developmental team. The Bombers are a men's super-league team and represent the highest level of competition the Bulls have seen have seen so far this season.

Last fall, the Bulls lost to the Bombers 34-5. Still, Holleman said he thinks the Bulls have a fair shot at winning. Even if his team loses next weekend, he said he doesn't necessarily see that as a bad thing.

"Since we are kind of on a roll, I think it would set us back a little bit, but I imagine this weekend will be pretty big on getting people more acquainted with day-in, day-out playing," Holleman said. "... But I don't see why we can't still win. We're not cocky. We're just confident."



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