



Jackson Groves/Index
Junior Erika Anderson swims the butterfly leg of the individual medley at the Bulldogs' Nov. 17 meet with the University of Iowa. Anderson finished in a tie for fourth place in the event. The women fell 139-123 to the Div. I Hawkeyes.

Women set season-highs

BY JACK NICHOLL
Staff Reporter

The women's swim team turned in plenty of season-high bests going into the University of Miami (Ohio) taper meet.

The team collected four A cuts and 10 B cuts overall in the 139-123 loss to the University of Iowa on Nov. 17.

Head coach Mark Gole said Iowa did not expect the meet to be close and that they were scrambling to put in their best swimmers when the meet was tied with two races to go. He said finishing close to a Big Ten team is an accomplishment.

Gole said he put out the best possible lineup for the meet against Iowa, a Div. I opponent. The team needed to finish first in the 400-yard freestyle relay to have a chance to win, and they got touched out at the end. Even so, the team turned in its first ever A cut in the event unrested.

"We knew that it was going to come down to the last couple of events," said senior Molly Polette, the anchor of the 400-yard freestyle relay. "I was trying really hard to beat the Iowa A team.

I got touched out and that always hurts, but we swam really well and we had a really good race, and I had a really good split."

Senior Emily Greenwood again swam an A cut in the 100-yard backstroke to go along with team A cuts in the 200-yard medley relay and the 400-yard freestyle relay, and an individual A cut for Polette in the 200-yard freestyle. The team also has qualified for the A cut in the 400-yard medley relay earlier this season, and Greenwood has swam an A cut time in the 100-yard backstroke at every race this season.

Senior Emily Pufall's 3rd-place finish of 1:55.00 garnered a B cut in the 200-yard freestyle. Polette's time of 1:52.65 in the race was a new in-season best for her and almost a second off of her career best.

"I'm really happy with my swims at Iowa, and I know that I am training well, so that points to good things for Miami," Polette said.

Polette's winning B cut time of 5:04.25 in the 500-yard freestyle was less than a second off the A cut time and four seconds

faster than her previous season best time in the event. Pufall gave Polette high accolades for her performance at the Iowa meet and throughout the season.

"Every time she dives in the pool, she swims amazing and she swims completely for the team," Pufall said. "She is not only a big motivating factor in the water, but out of the water, too."

Gole also cited improvements in the 1000-yard and 50-yard freestyle events as well as the 200-yard individual medley event. He said the team showed good depth in the 200-yard medley relay and the 200-yard butterfly events, even though the team only placed third, fourth and sixth in the butterfly event.

The Miami (Ohio) meet is the first taper meet of the season, and it's where Truman will attempt to qualify as many swimmers as possible for the national event. The team will try to add to the five A cuts and the numerous B cuts they have already accumulated.

"I think right now, the whole team is feeling how they need to feel right now in preparation for our Miami meet and doing ex-

actly what we need to be doing," Polette said.

Pufall said the team is setting up relays to get the most A cut qualifiers possible.

Last year, the team placed second out of 11 teams at the Miami meet. Polette said that although it is nice to win, the team's main goal is to qualify swimmers for nationals. With the conference and last-chance meets in February, the team has only three taper meets before nationals.

"It's something that if we don't win it, we're going to be incredibly disappointed with ourselves, even if we have good swims, but it's something that can be an extra motivation," Polette said. "... The thing that most people focus on for most of the season is training to get your cuts at Miami."

Gole said he would like the team to qualify 18 swimmers for nationals, even though it will be a challenge. Qualifying 18 would allow the team to take the maximum allowed number of swimmers to nationals. Gole said tapering will help some people a lot, while it might not help others at all.

TRUMAN ATHLETICS News and Notes

Men's basketball: Youth playing big role early

Freshmen immediately are being asked to make an impact for the men's basketball team.

Because the Bulldogs graduated four seniors from last year's team and had two players suspended prior to this season, head coach Jack Schrader has turned to youth to help plug the holes.

Ethan Freeman is getting the most playing time of the freshmen. The forward started both games in the University of South Dakota's Thanksgiving Tournament and has started three of four games this season.

Freeman is averaging more than eight points per game this season but also has displayed his inexperience by leading the team with 14 turnovers.

In addition to Freeman, freshmen guards Alex Henderson and Stefan Garrison and freshman forward Mark Misiewicz have appeared in all four games this season.

Apart from freshmen, many of Truman's veteran players have been asked to step into bigger roles this season. Schrader said that despite an 0-4 start, he is satisfied with his team's performance.

"You're talking about nine guys who haven't played much," Schrader said. "They're just going to keep getting better and more comfortable."

Wrestling: Craig producing this season

Out of the four wrestlers who placed second at the Coe College (Iowa) Invitational earlier this month, the name that probably stood out the most was junior Matt Craig.

Craig took second in the 285-pound Division going 2-1. Last season, with the emergence of junior Loyde Braidlow at heavyweight, Craig competed in only five matches and had a 1-4 record. Craig has a career record of 32-38.

Women's swimming: Pufall adapts to distance

Senior Emily Pufall is doing a good job settling into her new role as a long-distance freestyler. On the roster and coming into the season, she was listed as a sprint freestyler. However, she has not made an appearance in either the 50- or 100-yard freestyle events so far this season.

Instead, she has been swimming in the individual 200- and 500-yard freestyle events as well as the 400-yard freestyle relay. She has made B cuts in both individual events and helped the team to an A cut in the relay.

Last season, Pufall swam in the 50-, 100- and 200-yard freestyle events as well as swimming freestyle in four different relays.

Women's basketball: Team protecting the ball

The women's basketball team has turned last year's turnover problems into a point of success for this year's squad.

The Bulldogs are averaging 2.5 fewer turnovers a game this year than last year while forcing opponents to turn the ball over five more times per game.

Although this year's 15.5 turnovers per game mark certainly is not an extraordinary statistic, it has contributed to the team's early success. Head coach John Sloop said the consistently high turnover average can be attributed to the fast-paced games the Bulldogs play.

"Unless teams really try to slow it down, we're going to play high-possession games," Sloop said. "There are going to be, in terms of just overall numbers, more turnovers for both teams in those games because we want to run and get as many easy baskets as we can."



Jackson Groves/Index
Sophomore Peter McCall dives into the water in the men's meet against Iowa. The men will swim next at the Miami (Ohio) Invite.

Men win two events vs. Iowa

BY RYAN TURNER
Staff Reporter

The men's swim team only made a ripple compared to the tsunami of the University of Iowa. But ripples grow from something quite small into something progressively larger.

Although Iowa won the meet 162-95 with the Hawkeyes exhibitioning points to Truman in the last two events, the Bulldogs did have bright spots.

"Our men's team compared to a Div. I Big 10 school is light years away from where our women would be compared to them," head coach Mark Gole said. "The fact that we did win a few events, and that we almost won the medley relay, I was thrilled with how our guys did."

A very unexpected victory that the Bulldogs achieved was senior Kyle Ruiz's 1,000-yard freestyle win. The long distance freestyler had a time of 9:54.97.

"I was just really fired up to see Kyle Ruiz win the 1,000," Gole said. "That was a completely unexpected victory for us. I'm sure that Iowa thought that their guys that were in there were easily going to be able to handle him."

Ruiz knocked off Iowa's top finisher by about ten seconds, which gave the team a lift after it fell just short in the opening event of the day, the 200-yard medley relay.

"It felt pretty good," Ruiz said of winning the event. "I was just happy that I

was able to cut some time, and have a good swim, and hopefully start the meet off on the right foot, and try to get people swimming fast."

Another victory that speaks for the team's progress was senior Alex Totura taking home the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 52.28.

"This is the first time [he swam] the 100 fly this season, and he put up a pretty impressive time," sophomore Andrew McCall said.

The Bulldogs also won the 400-yard freestyle relay and the 200-yard individual medley via exhibition.

Junior Andrew Berdine would have only been .31 seconds short of a win in the 200 individual medley had the event not been exhibitioned.

Truman had another close call in the 50-yard freestyle, in which junior Jason Stokes took second place.

"Jason Stokes was a start away from winning the 50 freestyle," said Gole.

In addition to the Bulldogs' two victories, they had a total of four second-place finishes in non-exhibitioned races.

"I was really pleased with how the majority of the team swam," Gole said. "People improved upon their swims from earlier in the year. People got a chance to swim in events that they hadn't swum yet prior to this major invite that's coming up."

The Bulldogs have persistence that could lead to more than just close calls in

the upcoming University of Miami (Ohio) Invitational.

"I guess I've been impressed this season that we've had two Div. I opponents so far, and against both of them we've been absolutely crushed," McCall said. "Even when we have a heat with six people, their three [swimmers] are one, two, three, ours are four, five, six. [Our swimmers are] always racing at least against each other. And the events where we do have a chance, we give it what we have. We don't just give up on the entire meet, and that's something that it would be really easy to do."

Now the Bulldogs are preparing for Miami this weekend. Gole said the goal is to qualify as many relays and individuals for the national meet as possible.

The swimmers appreciate the rest and will be able to pull out all of the stops this weekend.

Many of the swimmers will be shaving completely, even their heads, while others will be donning caps.

"The sprinters have been resting for about a month now, and that makes a phenomenal amount of difference," McCall said. "Just mentally, it's huge for us not to be broken down, especially when you're swimming short races," McCall said. "To not have how your body's feeling be a factor, it's a lot easier to go fast."

The Miami (Ohio) Invitational will take place with a session Thursday night, and will include all-day sessions Friday and Saturday.

BENSON PROPERTIES

Off-Campus Housing LOOKING TO RENT IN 2008?

- A Properties Management Business specializing in Kirksville rentals to the Truman Student, KCOM Student or the Kirksville resident
- Offering studios, one-, two-, three-, and four-bedroom rentals
- Within walking distance to Truman campus
- **May and August** leases available
- On-call, full-time maintenance personnel available or visit www.vickibenson.net or vbenson@cablone.net

call today
inventory
is going fast!

Contact Megan at
660-988-2050 or 627-0111
meganroof@gmail.com

Vicki Benson, owner/agent
111 S. Baltimore
Kirksville, MO 63501

THE INDEX

TRUMAN'S NEWS
AUTHOR-I-TAH

