

Tennis teams pad records

BY KYLE MAGEE
Staff Reporter

The University tennis teams have plenty to write home about.

After defeating Quincy 8-1 at home last week, the men got another crack at the Hawks when they hosted the Truman Invitational singles tournament last weekend. They also challenged Johnson County Community College (Overland Park, Kan.) and Northwest Missouri State University in eight-game sets.

"We didn't do badly," head coach Pete Kendall said. "When you play good teams, you're going to win some, lose some and play some close ones."

Sophomore Steven Hipkiss fought for his 3-3 record in the top flight, defeating Northwest's Jake Saulsbury 8-3 and Quincy's Chris Greenlee 8-5.

Classmate Peter Bracha managed two key victories, including a comfortable 8-1 win against Quincy's Brian Silverstein.

Second-flight action saw senior Cody Pusateri and sophomore Kyle Schlotz each claim two wins against Sean Miller and John Irish of Quincy. Pusateri handled Irish 8-3 and defeated Miller 8-4. Schlotz won both matches by the same score.

In the third flight, freshman

Colin Boswell went 4-2, defeating Quincy's Keith Pipkin 8-3 and Rich Henschel 8-3 along the way. Suffering a shoulder injury during play, sophomore John Rothfusz dropped his first two matches 8-3 to Pipkin and 8-4 to Northwest's Giovanni Auriechio before winning 8-2 against Henschel.

"I think we are doing everything right so far," Rothfusz said. "I think [Kendall is] a good coach."

Rounding out the fourth flight, sophomore Ben Rusk picked up three 8-5 wins against Northwest's Clint Keith and the Hawks' Jacob Loyd and Matt Pellock. Flight-mate sophomore David Sherwood notched an 8-1 win against Loyd before defeating Keith 8-3.

"The No. 1 criteria for getting into the national tournament is being .500 or better against Div. II," Kendall said. "Anytime you win, it helps you. After the fall, our spring season is primarily Div. II matches. You have to put in wins."

The addition of the University of Nebraska-Omaha next season adds to the tough competition the men face in order to qualify for the tournament.

"They've had a strong women's team for quite a few years, so that will add another good team to the women's conference," Kendall said. "They are just starting men's tennis. That

was a requirement to come into the conference. I'm sure they won't take too long. Even right off they might be pretty decent."

After the men's successful weekend, the men and women competed against Div. III Westminster College on Tuesday in Fulton, Mo. Bracha's withdrawal due to tendonitis dropped the only singles match of the day as the team defeated the Blue Jays 7-2, improving to 2-0 in dual matches.

Sherwood defeated Josh Ray in straight sets while Hipkiss managed a three-set win against Chris Claypool 4-6, 7-5, 10-6.

In doubles play, Bracha and Pusateri defeated Myles Yokeley and Josh Brown 8-2 while Boswell and Sherwood managed an 8-5 win against Parker Stanza and Joseph Voeller.

"I think we are really strong in doubles this year," Rothfusz said. "We have one senior, a freshman and four sophomores playing in a point position, and we are looking very good for that. We've got a lot more experience now."

With their 3-0 record on the table, Kendall's women wasted no time picking up an overpowering 9-0 fourth win.

Straight sets were the name of the game as senior Jennifer Salmon defeated Abby Stuck, sophomore Lindsay Blair overcame Dori Craigherd, and

freshman Amy Ochs handled Ashley Coffman.

Freshmen Kelsey Kuykendall and Kirstyn Sampias dropped the only two games of the day to Bridget Overton and Romyana Tamers, respectively, in an impressive Bulldog showing.

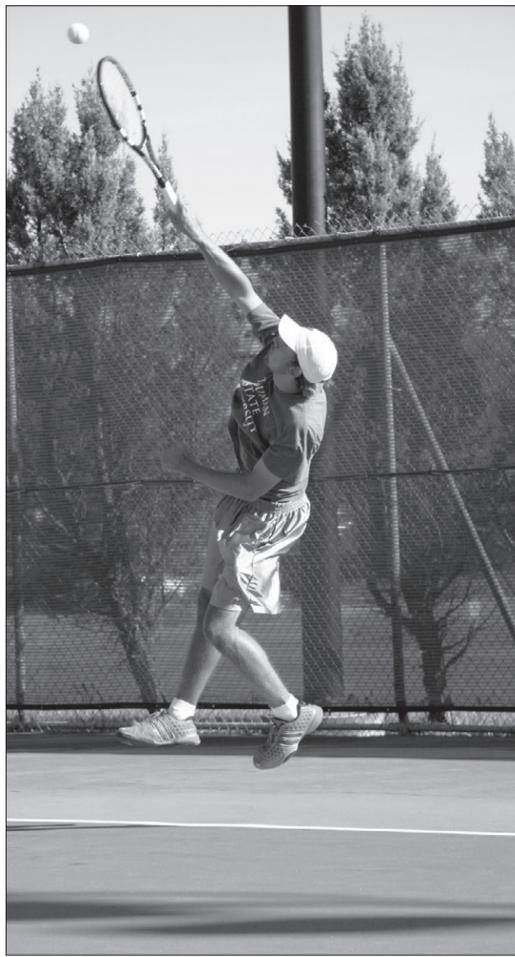
"We just kept our intensity throughout the whole thing," Kuykendall said. "I really liked how the team played."

Salmon and Ochs eased their way to an 8-0 win against Overton and Megan Benne while Blair and sophomore Courtney Walther defeated Stuck and Craigherd by the same score. Kuykendall and Sampias rounded out the ninth Bulldog win against Coffman and Zhenia Morova.

"I like being undefeated, but at the same time, everyone is gunning for you then," Kuykendall said. "I feel like sometimes freshmen are expected to lose, ... but we're not."

Defeating two Div. II schools with a 31-5 match-play record this season, the women look to challenge for their first MIAA title since 1998. They last qualified for the NCAA tournament in 2005 with a 14-8 record.

The women head to the ITA Regional Tournament this weekend in Maryville, Mo. The team will take on about 75 players from around the north-central region, Kendall said.



Jason Williams/Index
Sophomore John Rothfusz returns a shot during a Sept. 11 win against Quincy University. The men are 2-0 this season.

Golf teams work on games at fall tournaments

BY JOE BARKER
Sports Editor

For the members of the golf teams, fall is not the time to panic.

The teams are trying to knock off the rust from the summer and gear up for the spring season.

Both teams hit the links this week in an effort to get ready for spring. The women finished seventh out of 21 teams at the Illinois Wesleyan Tournament while the men garnered an eighth place finish out of 15 schools at the Bulldog Invitational.

Women's head coach Sam Lesseig said his team is not playing at the level he thinks it is capable of, but nonetheless he is not concerned.

"We ought to be better," Lesseig said. "Our scoring av-

erage should be lower. Do I see us getting there? I hope so. ... It makes no sense to worry."

At the Illinois Wesleyan Tournament, sophomore Krystal Limsiaco was the low scorer for the Bulldogs. She carded rounds of 80 and 76 to shoot a 12-over par, 156.

Limsiaco's second-day 76 was the first time this fall she turned in a round in the seventies. It helped her climb the leader board and move into a tie for ninth place.

"Krystal hit the ball as well as she has played in two years," Lesseig said. "I mean, from tee to green, she hit the ball beautifully."

At the previous week's Regional Shootout, Limsiaco shot a two-day 166 and said she was disappointed with her play. This

week she turned things around. Lesseig said a lot of her improvement was because of her playing partner.

"She was playing with a very good player the second day," Lesseig said. "She got very focused, and she kept concentrating on making a good solid swing on the ball, and it paid off."

Freshmen Kaytie Spangler and Jennifer Lawson once again appeared unfazed by the college game. Spangler shot a 20-over 164 to tie for 27th place in the field of 123. Lawson tied for 52nd.

After not playing in tournament action since Labor Day weekend, the men returned to play on familiar soil. They were the host team at the Bulldog Invitational and came away with their highest finish

of the season — eighth out of 15 schools.

"In general, we played pretty average," men's co-head coach Jim Berrey said. "I didn't have anybody really exceed what I thought they could shoot. If anything, our scores reflected us probably trying to play outside our ability. And when you do that, your scores kind of go up a little bit."

The tournament was the men's first conference scoring event this fall. Washburn University ran away with the tournament by shooting a team score of just one over par for 36 holes. Matt Ewald and Matt Lazzo, both of Washburn, tied for first at the tournament with a two day score of 136 (-5). Lazzo beat his teammate in a

playoff to capture first.

Despite struggling in the MIAA opener, Berrey said the team will have plenty of chances to make up ground in the conference.

"We are a fairly inexperienced team, and we're going to have to get out there and compete a couple of times before the real games are going to show up," Berrey said.

Four of the five scoring Bulldogs shot back-to-back rounds in the seventies. Freshman Chris Kovach was the low scorer for the men posting 72, 75 to finish in a tie for tenth.

"I played pretty good considering it was windy and everything," Kovach said. "The second day I didn't putt as well, but it still went pretty good."

This was the first time this

season Kovach has been the low scorer for the Bulldogs. Berrey said he thinks Kovach has the potential to do that every week.

"He's a great player," Berrey said. "We recruited him pretty heavily. ... He is definitely what we are building our team on for the future."

Heading into the tournament the men seemingly had a home course advantage. But windy conditions evened up the playing field.

"Since you kind of know how far to hit it on most holes, what clubs to use and how the greens are, it helped out a little bit," Kovach said. "With how windy it was, it kind of took some of the advantage away from us because it hasn't been that windy thus far."

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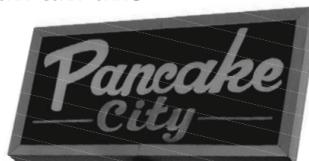
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