



Sophomore Paul Edgerly (left) goes up for a throw-in during a match last spring. The Bulls were 3-5 last spring and missed out on an invite to Westerns.

Bulls hope to improve record, commitment

BY BEN YARNELL
Staff Reporter

The Truman Bulls need a turnaround. After a tough spring season, with a record of 3-5, the men's rugby team is looking to get back on track this fall.

A result of the lackluster performance was the Bulls' failure to earn an invite to the Western Championships. Not getting an invite became an obstacle for the team.

"Toward the end of the season, I think a lot of guys just kind of, after we found out we weren't going to be going to the Western Championships, ... if they had to do something else or rugby practice, they were like, 'I guess I'll go to that something else,'" senior prop Shea Cleveland said.

One constant hurdle for the team has been departing students. The Bulls felt this when former captain Tony Giubardo graduated at the same time former vice-captain Mike Fitzgerald made his decision to transfer.

Although this has been a setback for the Bulls, head coach Bill Sexton still is optimistic.

"In the many years I've been coaching rugby at Truman, we've had lots of great players come and lots of great players have left," Sexton said. "I'm not going to sweat too much about who

leaves and who doesn't leave because I don't have the time to worry about, 'Gosh, I wish somebody was here.' What I can only deal with are those who are here."

With both players gone, the burden of leadership now falls to senior captain Justin Lacy and junior vice-captain Phil Powell.

"I kind of do feel a little pressure," Powell said. "But I do have a strong captain with [Lacy]. He's an amazing guy with a huge heart and is a huge part of this team. I feel, with his help, we can do a good job."

Sexton said another major challenge for the team was a general lack of fitness. He pointed out the Bulls' final game of the season against Benedictine University as an example of the team's fitness level.

"Being up 21 points at the half and then giving up all those points in the second half was just sloppy," Sexton said. "We just were not motivated to play our best, and so we are going to have to make some significant improvements."

In their quest to improve upon the spring, the Bulls will look to a new crop of players to fill the holes left behind.

"We've already been contacted by a couple of players who played some high school rugby out of the St. Louis area and

have indicated that they are coming to Truman," Sexton said. "And then, there's always the intangibles — the guys who show up on campus or the athletes who get recruited by your players."

The Bulls will be tested early this season when they open up play against what Sexton described as a scrappy and challenging team out of St. Louis University on Sept. 8.

But for Sexton, the most meaningful contest will be when the Bulls take on the University of Nebraska in the last of their fall league matches, Oct. 20. Last season's matchup was especially tough for the Bulls, not only because they lost 46-8 but also because they lost sophomore Patrick Holley, who suffered a season-ending leg break.

"We've had their number more often than not," Sexton said. "They put it on us pretty good [last year]."

Sexton said he sees this fall as a good opportunity to craft his team into a real threat for the spring season.

"The fall season is really about developing teams, developing players, bringing new bodies in and teaching them the game and then getting them ready for the spring, because in the spring, we have Oklahoma University and Oklahoma State University and hopefully play well enough to go back to Westerns," Sexton said.

Freshmen expected to bolster cross country teams

BY BEN YARNELL
Staff Reporter

There is life after Jacquie Faust.

"She's gone," women's cross country head coach John Cochrane said. "That happens in the world. Over the years I've been here, we've had good people graduate, move on, and you work with who's involved with the program."

Now that the All-American Faust has graduated, the women's cross country team looks to its young members to rise to the occasion.

The women's roster boasts six freshmen for a team of nine runners. One of the few upperclassmen on the team is junior Danna Kelly. She was the Bulldogs' No. 2 runner last year, behind Faust.

Now that Kelly is the veteran runner on the team, she said she is ready to shoulder the burden of leadership.

"There is definitely responsibility because we do have a majority of freshman," Kelly said. "Even last year, though, as a sophomore, I felt like I had to step up into more of a leadership role than I realized I would have to."

Kelly said she is anxious to get back with her team after a long summer of training by herself.

"You know, during the summer, you are training, but not with your teammates," Kelly said. "So it just kind of gets boring working out alone."

Another upperclassman Cochrane said he will look to is junior Grace DelNero. DelNero

missed last season but ran with the team in 2004 at the national cross country championships.

As the season progresses, Cochrane said he hopes to develop his young team.

"We have no idea what will happen with these new people," Cochrane said. "When both Grace and Danna were freshmen, they both came in and did much better than we thought they would do. Maybe somebody out of the people we have will do that. Maybe there will be a couple."

Cochrane said he thinks the real litmus test for the women will come late in the season at the Border States Invitational in Edwardsville, Ill., Oct. 6.

"It will most likely take a long time before we have any an-

swers for where we get to," Cochrane said.

As for the men, they look to improve upon last season, after finishing eighth out of 17 teams at the NCAA South Central Regional competition.

The men sport several more experienced runners than the women, with only seven freshmen out of 15 runners. With the loss of four graduating seniors, including Jason Simpson, who recently was named to "ESPN The Magazine's" Academic All-District VII Second Team, the men have many obstacles to overcome.

"The loss of Simpson is going to make an impact," said men's head coach Tim Schwegler. "But, we have put a lot of emphasis on training this summer, and we hope

that we will come back in very good shape and we can make up for some holes that may have developed."

Schwegler said his team has been reporting in via e-mail on their progress throughout the summer, running anywhere from 30 to 60 miles a week. He said he hopes to use this as a good foundation to build off for the start of the season.

One of the runners Schwegler said he plans on looking to during training will be junior Bryant England. England missed last season due to injury, but Schwegler said he hopes England will be a front-runner this season.

England said he hopes that by the Southern Stampede in Joplin, Mo., Sept. 15, the team should be in the shape it needs to be.

"We are going to be going up against 20 to 30 different teams and see some of the best teams in the region there," England said. "You really have to show up there. Otherwise you will get swallowed up by the big crowd."

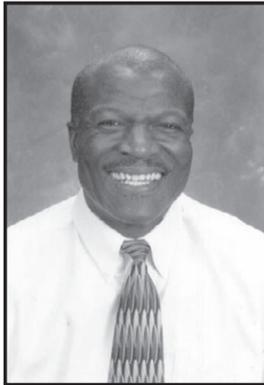
He said the stampede will be a good indicator of where the team needs to be one month later, at the MIAA conference meet.

For the first time since 2003, Truman will play host to the conference meet for both the men and the women. Kelly said it is a great opportunity for both teams.

"I'm really excited to finally have a cross country meet at home," she said. "But, from what I've heard, the course is really hilly, so it will be pretty interesting to see how things go."

The Kirksville Church of Christ & Ekklesia Campus Ministry Welcome Willie Franklin

August 26-28



Willie played football for the University of Oklahoma and later professional football for the Colts and Rams. Willie now serves on the Lord's team! For eight years he preached in New Guinea and now resides in north Texas. Willie has a passion for sharing the gospel and loves college ministry.

Theme: "Details"

You are still getting acquainted with school, your roommates, with the 'Ville ... but how well do you know Jesus? Take a crash course with Willie.

Sunday, August 26, 10:00 a.m. Class, 11:00 a.m. Worship
Kirksville Church of Christ 110 Pfeiffer Ave.
For rides, call Campus Minister Dan Green and wife Gaylene at 627-5003. Meet at Ekklesia's campus house, 1405 S. Florence, close to Stokes Stadium.

Sunday, August 26, 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. Ekklesia's Kickoff Event at Ryle Hall Main Lounge, Truman State University. Free meal after Willie.

Willie will lead two other Bible Studies:
Monday, August 27, 7:00 p.m. at Ryle Hall Main Lounge
Tuesday, August 28, 7:00 p.m. at Willie Franklin's
KEYNOTE ADDRESS, Baldwin Hall Little Theatre

TV Ministry
One Another Christianity
FOX KYOU
Sunday 8:30 a.m.

Radio Ministry
Ekklesia A Cappella Hour
KHGN 90.7
Sunday 4:00 p.m.

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