

Golf teams tee off with high hopes

BY SHAWN SHINNEMAN
Staff Reporter

Expectations in sports mean very little. Teams can return a slew of upperclassmen to a previously competitive team, but if the team doesn't go out and play up to its potential, it doesn't mean a thing.

It's apparent women's golf coach Sam Lesseig has this idea prevalent in his mind when he discusses expectations for the 2007-08 season.

"This coming weekend, we go to our first tournament, and we get to see four of the top teams in our region," Lesseig said. "So we'll have a pretty good idea, hopefully, kind of how we stack up."

The team is returning two

Academic All-Americans. Junior Julie Williams and senior Laura Westensee are looking to help the team build on its success from last year, when the Bulldogs placed eighth at nationals — a significant accomplishment for a team that only had one senior.

But there are concerns elsewhere on the team.

"We also have one of the ones who's back that probably won't travel as much as she did last year," Lesseig said. "She wants to really concentrate on her grades. And as long as the tournaments don't interfere with that, she may travel with us. But if it's during the week or anything, she probably won't. That's Marta Samojluk."

In addition to Samojluk's

decision to reduce her traveling time, the team graduated Sara Lloyd from last year, giving it two spots to fill for the upcoming season.

"Every team that loses some, you have to have the younger ones step up," Lesseig said. "We hope they're going to improve."

Similar to the women's team, the men's golf team is coming off of a good season. The team finished fifth in a competitive MIAA and won the Quincy Invitational, catapulting it into a bid for the national tournament.

"That's a goal of ours every year, to get to the national tournament," men's head coach Kevin White said. "I mean, not every team gets to go, and we have that experience."

That experience could go

a long way this year, but with two players graduating from last year's team and another redshirting, the team will have to get help from new players.

"There's a lot of room for people to step up," White said.

One player who already has established himself as a top player on the team is 5th-year senior Adam Clatterbuck.

"I've set my expectations as an individual higher," Clatterbuck said. "Just because I've been playing a lot of golf and been playing good golf."

Because of the spots that need to be filled, Clatterbuck is slow to set his outlook for the rest of the team.

"I want to see how the freshmen play in competition, and then my expectations for the

rest of the year will change," Clatterbuck said.

Although it's never great to be counting on freshmen, White said there is reason to be optimistic about this incoming class.

"They have played in more high-level tournaments," he said. "That will mentally prepare them for going out in a college tournament."

With practice starting Monday and the first tournament slightly more than a week away, the newcomers have little time to adjust.

"It all counts," White said. "We'll play two conference scoring events in the fall and three conference scoring events in the spring. So these count. I mean, this first tournament next week is a big tournament,

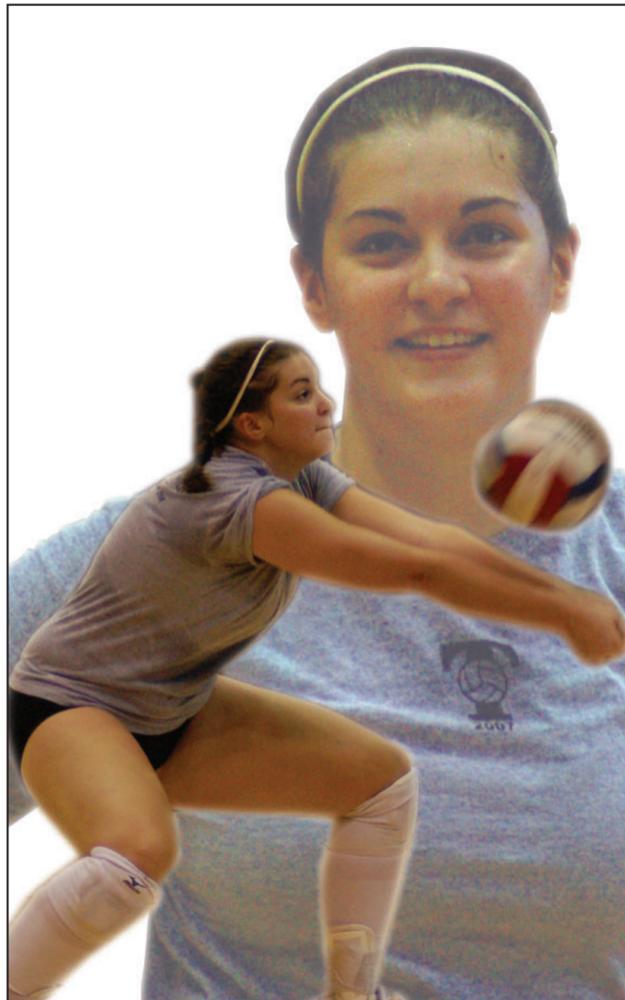
and we host a conference tournament here Sept. 18 and 19, and then we go to Fort Hays, which is another conference tournament."

Lesseig has a similar viewpoint on the season.

"Every day in golf counts," Lesseig said. "You have 24 days that you can compete, ... and if you tee it up, it counts."

Like every year, graduated golfers will be missed. However, both the men's and women's teams might have the potential to tally another successful year in Truman golf. Of course, having potential and achieving goals are two very different things.

"We're going to miss our core," White said. "And how these new guys come in and step into roles will be important."



Photos by Chris Waller and Design by Jackson Groves/Index

Keck almost perfect at opening tourney

BY JACK NICHOLL
Staff Reporter

The Truman volleyball team lost four key players from last year's squad. However, after going 3-1 to open the season in the Concordia-St. Paul tournament, it's less noticeable that four players are gone.

Junior right-side hitter Melissa Keck is one of the main reasons for the team's early success. She had kills on 49 of 91 attempts with only three errors for a .505 kill percentage in the tournament. She also tacked on eight assists, seven digs and six block assists for the weekend.

"I did get a lot of good sets this weekend definitely, and the middles were pulling my blockers away all the time," Keck said. "I had some good shots and some good angles from them."

Keck was the most efficient player for the Bulldogs when it came to kills. She was first on the team in the category while ranking third on the team on total attempts. Her .505 percentage was a contributing factor for the Bulldogs, who accumulated a .225 percentage as a team.

"I didn't realize she hit that well for the whole tournament," head coach Jason Skoch said. "Our setters weren't making smart choices all the time, so it was more impressive because the other teams knew she was going to set."

Keck was a key in Sunday's 3-2 upset of No. 2-ranked University of Minnesota-Duluth. Playing opposite of reigning national player of the year Vicky Braegelmann, Keck posted 16

kills, 40 attempts and only one error for a .375 kill percentage.

"Their right side was banging the ball top of the line every time she hit," Keck said. "What's good about our team is that we spread the ball around so much, and they didn't necessarily have as many people with double-digit kills as we did."

Keck also posted strong numbers against No. 6-ranked Concordia University (Minn.), although Truman lost the game 3-0. She had a .545 kill percentage in the game with 13 kills, one error and 22 attempts. Against Northern Michigan University, Keck posted her best numbers. She had a career-high 20 kills to only one error in 29 chances.

"She stepped up when we needed it, so that's a good sign for her mental development because no one else was that productive offensively the whole tournament," Skoch said.

Skoch said maintaining a kill percentage greater than .500 is nearly impossible.

"I think if Melissa stays focused, she can get close to the .400 mark," Skoch said. "This weekend, we can't bank on [Keck hitting .500], and if we do we're not going to be successful. But close to it, I expect that from her."

After starting the season on good a note, the Bulldogs hope to keep it up at the Findlay, Ohio, tournament this weekend.

"I feel very confident going into the rest of the season," Keck said. "We definitely have a lot to work on, but we did do a lot of good things this weekend and showed a lot of promise."

Athlete of the Week

Melissa Keck

Sport: Volleyball

Year: Junior

Position: Right-side hitter

Hometown: Belleville, Ill.

Melissa Keck led the Bulldogs with 49 kills and a .505 attacking percentage during the volleyball team's season opening Concordia-St. Paul tournament last weekend. Keck's efforts helped the 'Dogs win three of four matches and earned her a share of the MIAA Hitter of the Week honor.

STUDENT APPRECIATION NIGHT

6:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8 at Stokes Stadium

Football under the lights returns to campus for the first time since 1994!



Bulldogs (1-0) vs. Upper Iowa University
in an NCAA Div. II matchup

Go Bulldogs!

- Don't miss the action as we light up the night at Stokes Stadium!
- Pre-game ceremony to dedicate the new lights!
- Student giveaways all night long, including one lucky student who will win a private dinner for 10 with President Dixon at the University Residence!
- Start your day at the soccer field for the women's soccer home opener against future MIAA member Nebraska-Omaha! Match starts at noon.