

Tennis starts season

Men and women open year with victories against Div. I and Div. II Universities

BY KYLE MAGEE
Staff Reporter

Playing well against higher-division teams poses a daunting challenge.

When the men's tennis team took on two Div. I schools at the Western Illinois Tournament this past weekend, things couldn't have gone much better. The Bulldogs sported team victories against both the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and the University of Southern Illinois-Edwardsville.

Six singles and two doubles victories sealed the win against Edwardsville, while three consecutive doubles wins complemented as many in singles for the win against Wisconsin-Green Bay.

"It was obviously a very good weekend," head coach Pete Kendall said. "Everybody did well, and that's a great way to start off."

Sixth-seed freshman Colin Boswell held his own by claiming two of his three matches in his Bulldog debut. Boswell dropped his first match 6-3, 3-0 to Wisconsin-Green Bay's Brian Zaron but recovered later in the day to overpower Western Illinois' Mike Tiu 6-1, 6-2 and Southern Illinois' Mike Jolly 6-1, 6-1.

"I think [Boswell] has endless potential for his four years at Truman," third-seed senior Cody Pusateri said. "He's so solid right now that he can only get better, which, as a senior leaving, I know that the team is going to be in good hands"

After having lost his first two matches, Pusateri picked up a tight

third-set win against Carlos Sanchez of Southern Illinois 6-1, 7-6, (5-0). Pusateri began his maiden partnership with sophomore Peter Bracha, earning two doubles victories.

The Bulldog doubles teams fought all weekend for narrow victories, led by the sophomore duo of John Rothfusz and Kyle Schlotz. They were perfect in their three matches. Rothfusz and Schlotz now have won 17 of 26 doubles matches since first pairing together in February.

Pusateri and Bracha's two victories against Wisconsin-Green Bay's Zaron and Tim Prudlow 9-8 (4-0) and Edwardsville's Jolly and Cole Garrison 8-6 helped secure the team victory for the Bulldogs.

Kendall's men face Edwardsville later in the season, and Pusateri said consistency will be key.

"I think if we can beat them again like we did in the Western Illinois tournament and then like we did last year, I think that will give us a big confidence booster for the rest of the year heading into the spring," Pusateri said.

Adding to the men's success on the road, four of the five freshmen made their debuts for the women. The women opened up their season at the Truman Invitational.

Freshman Amy Ochs powered her way to a 5-1 showing in the third flight of the round-robin tourney, defeating Johnson County Community College's (Kan.) Vika Schnose 8-3 and Gina Pendrack of Northwest Missouri State University 8-4 along the way before retiring her final match against Pendrack's sister, Lisa.

Kelsey Kuykendall enjoyed her first four career wins, highlighted by an 8-0 win against Schnose.

"That was the goal in the recruiting class — to get players who could fill all those spots, and we did, so we are pleased with them," Kendall said.

Junior Maggie Fairchild won her first match in straight sets against Missouri Western's Laura Kukuc. Junior Lindsay Blair dropped her first two matches 8-3 to Marie Cellitti of Johnson County and Northwest's Kristina Vucenov but recovered to go undefeated in her final four matches.

Lone senior Jennifer Salmon finished her day with a 4-2 record, including an 8-0 pounding of Missouri Western's Kristy Pechous and a narrow 9-8 win against Northwest's Veronica Castilla.

"I think that we played well as a team," Salmon said. "It's a really good thing to start out with because we get a lot of different matches in."

Both teams regrouped to host Quincy University (Ill.) this past Tuesday. The top-seeded Salmon led the way with her 6-1, 6-1 win against Anele Novak as the Bulldogs claimed four of the six singles matches en route to a 6-3 team win. Blair's 6-1, 6-2 victory against Jackie Ostermiller and Kuykendall's straight-set win against Sarah Harris.

"I think that our team is really unique in how well we get along," Salmon said. "Everybody does a good job of helping everyone else out. I think we are going to have a really good year."

The men went a perfect 6-0 in singles play to defeat the Hawks 8-1 in their first team win of the season. Rothfusz enjoyed a straight-set win against Adam Albertsen while top-seed Bracha defeated Chris Greenlee 6-1, 6-1.

Pusateri and Bracha's 8-1 doubles win against Miller and John Irish led



Jason Williams/Index
Junior Courtney Walther unleashes a forehand in the women's season opening Truman Invitational. Walther went 2-3 at the Invite.

the team to its 8-1 victory. Sophomores Steven Hipkiss and Ben Rusk defeated Albertsen and Rich Hensel 8-5.

On Wednesday, the women took on Central College in Pella, Iowa, in

their third matchup of the season and defeated the Dutch 7-2. In afternoon action, a 9-0 white-washing of Upper Iowa extended their three-tournament unbeaten streak.

Women's golf finishes 13th at Regional Shootout

Freshman Katie Spangler leads team, ties for 25th out of 97 golfers at tourney

BY JOE BARKER
Sports Editor

Rain is not a golfer's friend.

Whether it comes during the round or before, rain can wreak havoc on golfers' rounds, sending their scores soaring.

Playing on a rain-soaked course at the Regional Shootout in Springfield, Mo., the women's golf team recorded a two-day score of 679 — tying with Dallas Baptist University for 13th place in the 18-team field.

"We played fairly well the first day, we didn't play well the second day as a team," head coach Sam Lesseig said. "... We needed to shoot — I would've

hoped that after the first day at 334 that we could be right at 328 the next day. We weren't."

The tourney featured some of the best teams Div. II has to offer. Tareyton State University (Texas) took home the team title with a combined score of 624. Tareyton finished fifth at the NCAA tournament last spring.

"There were several teams that were at nationals last year, and most of the teams in the Midwest that hope to be [at nationals] were there," Lesseig said. "It's very good competition."

Freshman Katie Spangler was the low scorer for the Bulldogs. In just her second collegiate tournament, Spangler shot a 19-over 163 to tie for 25th place.

"Katie Spangler played very well the second day," Lesseig said.

Going into the tournament, Lesseig said he hoped his team could finish

in the top half of the standings.

"I hoped that we would finish above the halfway point," Lesseig said. "We didn't."

Lesseig said his team had a chance to finish in the top 10 after strong play on day one. The team shot a combined 334 to head into day two in 12th place.

"When we were in 12th after the first day, I was kind of happy," Lesseig said. "I thought, 'OK, if we could move up to maybe 10th or something, then we would be fine.'"

Lesseig said it wasn't anything in particular that caused his team to falter in round two.

"It was a combination of things," Lesseig said. "They got into some bad spots and just lost confidence in what they were doing."

When the team arrived in Springfield, it was greeted with a soaked course that

offered no relief to golfers. More rain during the afternoon portion of Monday's first round caused the course to be even wetter.

"The course was soaked when we went down for the practice round on Sunday," Lesseig said. "The rain on Monday just kept it that way."

Because of the conditions, the lift, clean and place rule was enacted, even on balls hit in the fairway. This allows golfers to mark their ball and clean it off before hitting another shot.

Sophomore Krystal Limsiaco was not happy with the condition of the course.

"That was terrible, especially when it came to the longer holes," she said. "You get no roll, and the ball doesn't go anywhere — it gets stuck wherever it lands. It makes it hard because you get stuck with really bad lies in just

really bad places. ... It's just harder."

The women return to the course this weekend at the Illinois Wesleyan Open in Normal, Ill. Lesseig said that before the team hits the links, it will spend some time on the practice range working out some kinks.

"A couple of them are going to work on swings today to build up confidence in their swing," Lesseig said. "Another one is working strictly on her short game from 120 yards in, and another is going to work on her driver."

Freshman Jen Lawson said she is working on making adjustments from high school to college. That includes working on her game close to the green.

"Definitely one thing right now I need to work on is my short game," Lawson said. "I'm not worried about my driver — I'm hitting it fairly well."

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The Center for Student Involvement (CSI) thanks the Truman State University Faculty/Staff, student workers, campus organizations, and City of Kirksville for their support of the 2007 Activities Fair. *We could not have done it without your help!*

The CSI also wants to remind student organizations to return their **Renewal Packets** by **September 28th** and their **Banner Rosters** by **October 31, 2007**

Reality
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The 2007 Homecoming Committee of Truman State University would like to invite all interested students to apply to be a part of this year's Homecoming Lip Sync competition as an Intermission Performer or a Master/Mistress of Ceremonies. Students who apply must be a part of a chartered campus organization in good standing with the Center for Student Involvement (CSI). Applications and additional information for all positions are currently available in the CSI in the 3rd Floor of the SUB.