

SPORTS

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Baseball wins 2 straight

BY BRENT FOSTER
Staff Reporter

The baseball team took a five-run lead into the bottom of the ninth against Lincoln University on Tuesday and the Bulldogs had to fight for their lives to hold on.

After Lincoln squandered an early 2-0 lead and fell behind 8-3, the Blue Tigers rallied with two runs and left the bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth as the Bulldogs held off Lincoln for an 8-5 victory.

"Now we are seeing a little fer-

titude to where we can come from behind, and we believe in ourselves a little more," head coach Dan Davis said.

The victory moved Truman to 7-23 for the season and was the Bulldogs' second consecutive victory. This is the first time the Bulldogs have won consecutive non-conference games since early in the 2007 season.

Truman led 4-3 going into the top of the ninth before scoring four runs on two hits to blow the game open. Sophomore catcher Bryce Bond doubled to lead off the inning, fol-

lowed by a single by senior shortstop Corey Eagen. After Eagen's single, Lincoln's defense fell apart. Truman scored all four runs thanks to three Lincoln errors and two wild pitches. The Blue Tigers finished with five errors for the game.

Lincoln countered in the bottom half of the ninth by scoring two runs without a hit.

Davis brought sophomore Drew Garwood into the game to pitch the ninth. The inning got off to a rocky start when the first Lincoln batter

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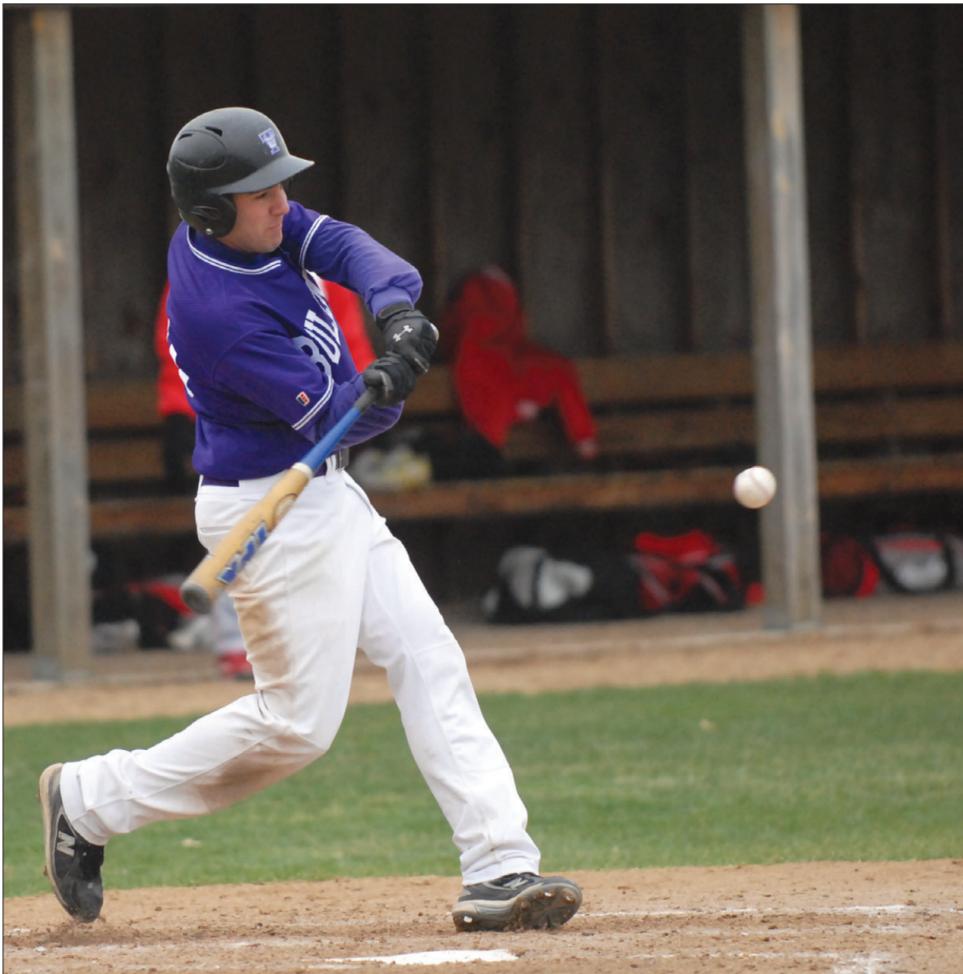
Softball team drops double-header in MIAA opener

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Sophomore pitcher Kyle Veazey helped the 'Dogs to two consecutive wins this week, the first time the team has done so since early 2007.

Hitting Machine



Junior outfielder Keaton Jones was cut his freshman year at Truman when he tried out as a catcher. After making the team as an outfielder his sophomore year, he has never hit lower than .291 in a season.

Soft-spoken outfielder develops into offensive leader

After getting cut as freshman by former coach, Jones excels

BY BRENT FOSTER
Staff Reporter

Junior outfielder Keaton Jones came to Truman in fall 2005 with every intention of playing baseball. But his journey to college baseball hit a bump three years ago, and if he had not been willing to make a sacrifice, he might never have played an inning at Truman.

Jones tried out for the baseball team his freshman year when Lawrence Scully was head coach Jones but did not make the team. Jones had been a catcher in high school, and at the time, the 'Dogs did not need any more catchers.

But Jones never lost the desire to play during the one-year absence from baseball. Head coach Dan Davis said that when he arrived in 2006, Jones approached him and told him that he could play outfield if the coaching staff wanted him to. Davis gave the experiment a try, and now Jones has developed into one of the Bulldogs' most consistent offensive threats. He leads the team with a .330 average.

"The thing that I saw about

Keaton is that he can hit," Davis said. "And anytime you have a college kid that can hit, you find a place to put him in the field. ... Even when he's not getting a hit, he's hitting the ball hard, and that's all you ask your guys to do."

Jones played high school baseball at City High School in Iowa City, and he was named team MVP as a senior in 2005.

He also received first-team all-conference honors as a senior and led the team with 40 hits during the conference season. Even with all of his success in high school, Jones said he was not heavily recruited. He said that besides Truman, his only other option to play baseball in college was to play at one of Iowa's Div. III schools.

"When I looked at Truman, academics and stuff were a big part of it, but I felt like maybe when I got here I would have a chance to play quite a bit based on what the program has been like," Jones said.

Ever since Jones walked on to the team prior to the 2007 season, the quiet, unassuming outfielder has been one of the Bulldogs most consistent contributors. In 2007, his first year on the team, he started all 49 games for Truman and led the

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Men's tennis tops Mo. Valley

BY JACK NICHOLL
Assistant Sports Editor

Sophomore Colin Boswell did not know what to expect coming into the men's tennis match against Missouri Valley College.

It didn't matter. The men won 7-2 in a marathon match yesterday that lasted almost four hours at the Truman tennis courts. The win improved the Bulldogs' record to 5-2 in dual matches.

"We didn't really know what to expect, so it was good that we came out and got a win," Boswell said.

The match was lengthy because the men's and women's teams played at the same time. With 12 singles matches to be played and only eight courts, Boswell's 6-4, 6-2 singles match was one of two that did not end until the crowd had dispersed.

The two matches Truman lost were two of the most exciting. Junior Kyle Schlotz lost in three sets after losing the second-set tiebreaker and junior Peter Bracha came back from four games down in his second set to force a tiebreak in a 0-6, 6-7 loss at No. 1 singles.

At No. 3 doubles, Truman edged out Missouri Valley for a 9-8 win. The match was close near the end, and the 'Dogs pulled away in the tiebreak and won easily.



Junior John Rothfusz reaches for a backhand during yesterday's 7-2 win against Missouri Baptist. Rothfusz won his doubles match 8-5, but he did not play singles.

Prior to the win against Missouri Valley, the Bulldogs battled through injuries to earn a split with MIAA foes Emporia State University and Washburn University last weekend in Topeka, Kan.

Junior Steven Hipkiss sat out his No. 2 singles match against ESU and junior John Rothfusz did not play No. 4 singles against Washburn. With most everyone moving

up because of these injuries, the 'Dogs finished with a 5-3 win against ESU and a 0-5 loss against Washburn.

"Obviously [we were] not at full capacity," head coach Pete Kendall said. "It makes a big difference when you don't have your lineup in there to get guys playing the right positions."

Kendall said at the beginning of the season that Rothfusz

sometimes would sit out singles matches because of a shoulder injury. Hipkiss did not play because of a strained calf.

The injuries became apparent in the Emporia match, where three of the five singles matches were close and two went into super-tiebreakers. Truman's wins came at Nos. 1 and 2 doubles and Nos. 1, 4 and 5 singles. Junior Ben

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Sophomore Ellen Russell swept her matches yesterday in a 9-0 Bulldogs win against Missouri Valley College.

Women's tennis grabs dual win

BY JACK NICHOLL
Assistant Sports Editor

Sinking temperatures and a relatively unknown opponent did little to prevent the women's tennis team's sweep of Missouri Valley College yesterday afternoon.

The Bulldogs, who traditionally do well against Missouri Valley, earned a 9-0 win at the Truman tennis courts. Missouri

Valley boasts a roster of mostly new players, and the 'Dogs did not know how difficult they were prior to the meet.

"[Head coach Pete Kendall] told us before the match that he didn't really have anything to tell us, because he didn't know most of these players," senior Courtney Walther said.

There was not a single match that Truman did not win

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