

Men take fourth at conference meet

Spaulding finishes with third round 70, ties for 11th place

BY ARRON HUSTEAD
Staff Reporter

In what possibly will be his final collegiate tournament, one senior returned home in search of a storybook ending.

The men's golf team traveled to Kansas City, where the Bulldogs took part in the MIAA Championships on Monday and Tuesday. The team placed fourth out of eight teams at the 54-hole event.

The team finished with a combined score of 914, 35 shots behind first-place finisher Washburn University and just four strokes out of third place.

"It was just a pretty solid effort, the way we've been teaching them to play fairways and greens," co-coach Kevin White said.

Senior Scott Danielsen had the opportunity to play in the MIAA Championships on his home course in Liberty. Danielsen finished the tournament tied for 15th with a score of 231.

Danielsen said it was awesome to have the chance to play the tournament on a course he was familiar and comfortable with. But Danielsen said he did have trouble with one hole in particular that had given him problems in the past.

"Hole 14 in past years has been probably the worst hole for me," Danielsen said. "That type of hole is just straight away. You've got to hit the drive. You've got to hit the green. It's given me some



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Senior Scott Danielsen practices hitting a fairway wood earlier this season. Danielsen shot a 54-hole 231 last weekend to finish tied for 15th at the conference championship meet.

trouble in past years, and it gave me some trouble in this tournament too."

Danielsen said his past experience with this hole might have served as more of a hindrance, and it took all he could do just to make par.

"I'm pretty sure that my mindset prevented me from playing that hole very well," he said.

The team got off to a great

start in the first round, taking advantage of an early tee time to avoid the troublesome wind. The team posted an overall score of 303 in the first round to put them in second place early on.

"We had the earliest tee time," White said. "From about 7:30 to about 9:30 the wind was pretty calm, so we were able to get our first four or five holes through that and

take advantage of some scoring there before it really started picking up."

Freshman Nik Bentzinger led the Bulldogs in the first round with a score of 72, good enough to tie for the clubhouse lead at that point. He finished the tournament with a score of 232 for 17th place overall that tied him with sophomore teammate Chris Kovach.

Bentzinger was one of

the players furthest along the course when the wind picked up in the first round, which gave him an advantage on the rest of the field for the first few holes. He said he was then able to adjust and shoot low into the wind as the day progressed.

In contrast to Danielsen, Bentzinger said he played the course for the first time during the practice round Sunday and said he didn't really know what to expect. He said he didn't anticipate being able to shoot as well as he did in just his first round on the course.

"I just tried to understand the course and got a few other birdie opportunities," Bentzinger said.

Bentzinger said the wind conditions worsened in the second round, which played an integral part in his 86-shot second round.

"I guess I just found out that wind was my kryptonite," he said.

Most of the team experienced difficulties adjusting in the second round as the Bulldogs posted a combined 319 and fell to a fourth-place tie. Sophomore Andy Herrington was the only Bulldog to shoot below 80 in the second round with a score of 77.

"In the second round, the wind was really howling, and

some of the fatigue from being out there all day led to some missed short putts," White said. "That's kind of why we ballooned up."

Senior Michael Spaulding led the charge in the third and final round with the best

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Co-Coach

individual round of the tournament. He shot a 70, one under par. Spaulding posted the best tournament score for the Bulldogs with 228 shots and tied for 11th place overall.

The team will lose its two leading golfers from the team next season as Spaulding and Danielsen graduate.

It is uncertain whether the senior duo have played their last tournament at Truman as the Bulldogs wait to hear whether they have qualified for the regional tournament.

White said the team will miss Spaulding and Danielsen's leadership next season, but that he is excited for the future because four underclassmen received championship tournament experience.

The NCAA Div. II Regional tournament will take place May 4-6 in Allendale, Mich. The Bulldogs will find out whether they will be competing when the tournament field is announced tomorrow.

Women finish 2nd at inaugural MIAA meet

Limsiaco, Semple tie for fifth as team awaits regional decision

BY LOGAN JACKSON
Staff Reporter

The women's golf team played well during the first ever women's MIAA Championship tournament Monday and Tuesday — just not well enough to win.

The Bulldogs finished second (343, 335) this week in Liberty, Mo., 27 shots behind the University of Nebraska-Omaha at the 36-hole tournament. UNO and Truman were well out in front of the other two MIAA teams, Northwest Missouri State University and Missouri Western State University. Missouri Western finished more than 100 shots out of first place, and Northwest finished more than 120 shots off the mark.

Head coach Sam Lesseig said he wasn't surprised with the team's finish.

"It was a good tournament," Lesseig said. "[UNO] is a very good squad. According to how they had played all year, they were the favorites. I was hoping it would have been much closer. We have to be on our top game [to beat UNO]."

Truman was led by juniors Krystal Limsiaco (86, 83) and Erin Semple (85, 84). They finished in a tie for fifth place with a final score of 169, 25 strokes over par. Semple

had one of her best outings of the year. Competing as an individual and not on Truman's scoring squad took quite a bit of pressure off of Semple for the tournament. Lesseig said he wasn't surprised to see Semple play that well.

"I told her to embarrass me," Lesseig said. "Play very well so that everyone says 'That coach should have played her.' She just played very steadily. She did what I think she's capable of doing all of the time."

Limsiaco also played well, once again earning the lowest score for the Bulldogs. She said her score was good but that she really didn't play that well.

"I felt like I was kind of struggling," Limsiaco said. "Granted, there was a lot of wind and there were other tough conditions. I still didn't play my best. I had a tough time putting and hitting greens."

Senior Julie Williams (91, 79) rebounded from a tough first day to finish in a tie for seventh place with sophomore Jen Lawson (80, 90). Lawson finished the first day with the second lowest score of the tournament, but she was 18 shots over par the second day. Lawson said she wished she could have finished the tournament a little bit better.

"The first day was really good," Lawson said. "I actually eagled the last hole, a par five with the wind at my back. I feel like I played pretty smart during the first day. During

the second day, I didn't have any big numbers. I didn't have anything worse than a double[-bogey]."

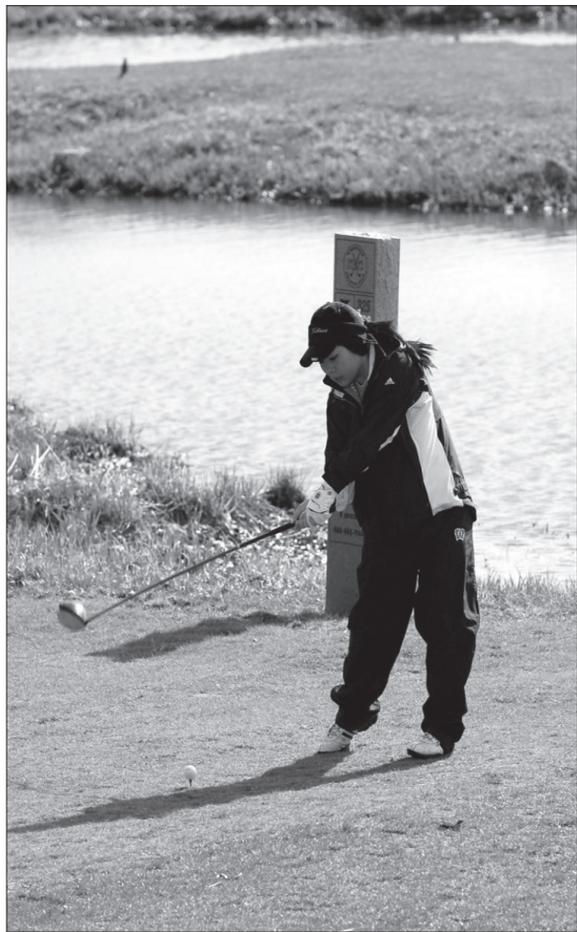
Freshmen Liz Lestmann and Jessica Schepker finished in ninth and a tie for 14th, respectively.

The weather once again hindered everyone playing in the tournament. There were constant winds of nearly 40 miles per hour during the first day. During the second day, the winds died down and so did the scores. Lawson said the wind created several problems for the entire field.

"[The weather] was a big factor," Lawson said. "I had to think about [my shots] a lot. I had to think about whether I wanted to punch [my shot] or use more of the club. I think that's why the scores were higher the first day. The second day, the weather wasn't as strong."

Lesseig said that the course, Shoal Creek Golf Club, was very comparable to the other courses the team played. Lesseig said he wished the team could have played the course without all of the wind. He also said it was a fair course, one that wasn't more difficult than other courses.

Truman's future is now up to a committee in Texas. The team still has an opportunity to go to the regional meet, but Lesseig said the Bulldogs' chances are very slim. He said winning the MIAA Championship tournament was probably the only way Truman would have made it to the regional tournament.



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Junior Krystal Limsiaco tees off at Kirksville Country Club earlier this season. Limsiaco tied for fifth at the MIAA Championship earlier this week and helped the women's golf team to a second-place finish.

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