



Blake Toppmeyer/Index

Junior Krystal Limsiaco hits an iron from the fairway at the Bulldog Classic last weekend. Limsiaco won the event by eight strokes with a two-day 166.

GOLF | Women place first at only home meet of spring season

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her third-highest score this year. Lesseig said he wasn't too worried because he knows they've been there before.

"Some of the upperclassmen, who I know wanted to score lower, caught greens that were very firm," Lesseig said. "This time of the year, you can't put water on the greens because it freezes at night. Although [the players] hit the ball well, it was very hard to score."

The Bulldogs also struggled with their short game, missing several putts and short attempts. Limsiaco said everyone still is trying to get into the tournament mentality, and each team member knows she can do better.

"A lot of [our problems] dealt with short game," Limsiaco said. "I know we're having problems with putting. We're still trying to get used to the feel of things. The wind also played a huge role in the high scores."

The competition the Bulldogs faced wasn't top-notch. Truman beat one team, NAIA's Culver Stockton College, by almost 300 strokes. Culver Stockton had four players out of five finish with scores of 100 over par.

One of the biggest improvements came from freshman Jacqui Ball. It was only her second

tournament of the year, but she lowered her first score by almost 40 strokes. She finished in sixth place (86, 99) individually, a far cry better than her Maverick Round-Up placing from last semester.

"The first tournament of the season, I was just nervous," Ball said. "Being a freshman and coming in and playing, I was trying to live up to certain expectations. The mental game is about 80 percent of golf. I spent a lot of time over Christmas break working on getting a confident swing."

Truman's next tournament will be the McKendree Invite, April 10 to 11, at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois.

Slideshow

Check out the slideshow from the Bulldog Classic at: www.trumanindex.com.

COLUMN | Estridge tops list of editor's senior farewells

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Ticich proved to be the Bulldogs' best runner and passer. Watching Ticich was a bit like watching Div. II's version of Vince Young when Young was at Texas. Without Ticich, it could have been a rough past three seasons at Stokes Stadium.

5. Georgia Mueller, Women's basketball

Mueller made scoring against taller defenders an art form during her time at Truman. Despite being a bit undersized to play the center position at 5 feet 11 inches, Mueller had no trouble scoring from anywhere on the floor.

And Mueller's greatest virtue wasn't anything she did on the floor — it was her humbleness after the game. Even after games in which she scored more than 20 points and grabbed more than 10 rebounds, Mueller always said it was her teammates' passing and boxing out that allowed her to compile those stats. Star athletes who pass around the credit will always rank high in my book.

4. Allie Cherven, Volleyball

The volleyball team has been loaded with studs the past several seasons. But Cherven was the one player who made you say, "Wow," as your jaw dropped. The power Cherven brought to the middle blocker position was unbelievable. Cherven made opponents want to run for cover whenever she elevated for a kill.

One of my favorite Bulldog sports moments this season came during Truman's Oct. 22 home match against Emporia State University. During the

match, Cherven uncorked one kill that smashed an ESU player in the face and another that clocked an opponent in the chest. Nothing pleases student fans in Pershing Arena more than a kill to the face, and Cherven served these up with regularity. I'm just glad I was watching the matches and not trying to defend one of those kills.

3. Danna Kelly, Women's cross country/track

When Kelly was a junior in fall 2007, she constantly faced comparisons to former cross country All-American Jacquie Faust, who graduated in spring 2006. This probably was unfair. No athlete can be exactly like the outgoing predecessor. But Kelly handled the pressure well, and last fall she earned All-American honors and placed 24th at cross country nationals — five spots higher than Faust's finish in 2006. Kelly also is breaking her own record in the 3,000-yard steeplechase on the track week after week this outdoor track season.

And she's one of the nicest athletes at Truman. Kelly always was classy to Index reporters during interviews, and she never balked at comparisons to Faust, even though it probably was unfair to label her as the next Faust. In the end, Kelly proved to be as good of a runner and team leader as Faust was, and this is a very high honor.

2. Eli Medina, Volleyball/women's basketball

In 2006 and 2007, Medina impressed me with her energy and defense on the volleyball court. If Cherven was the enforcer, Medina was the spark plug. Medina led the team

huddles after each point, and you could tell she truly loved the sport. This season, Medina added improved offense to her repertoire, and she became the complete package at outside hitter. Medina's improvement on offense was probably one of the biggest reasons the Bulldogs reached the Final Four.

And just when I thought my time watching Medina compete was finished, she went out for the women's basketball team and became one of the Bulldogs' best defensive players. When it comes to hustle and energy, it's hard to find another athlete in any sport who displayed these characteristics better than Medina.

1. Banks Estridge, Men's basketball

If Truman had a course on media etiquette, Estridge should be the instructor. Many athletes are cooperative during interviews after a win, but Estridge always was respectful and friendly to the media after a win or loss — and there were a lot of losses during the past two seasons of men's basketball.

Estridge also had the perfect demeanor for a point guard. He brought energy and leadership to the court and worked to get his teammates involved in the game. He could go end-to-end with the basketball as fast as anybody in the conference, and he always took it to the basket hard.

Once again, thank you to these six seniors and all the other senior Bulldog athletes. It's been a pleasure watching you and covering your games for three seasons.

MOHELA | Wrestling plans to have multi-purpose room in future

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Armory but determined this was not viable, and Schultz ruled out moving wrestling to Greenwood School, which is owned by the University.

For now, wrestling coach Dave Schutter said it appears his team might be practicing on a side court in Pershing Arena from 6 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

"In a perfect world, we'd love to have a spot for wrestling and wrestling only, and we unfortunately don't have that," Wollmering said.

The wrestling team practiced in the small gym this season from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., but that time period is already packed with practices in Pershing Arena. Schutter said the early-morning time slot is the most feasible, and he doesn't think the transition will have a major negative effect on his team.

"It's going to affect us because we're going to be somewhere new, and it's going to change our routine," he said. "But as far as rolling the mats out, we were used to rolling the mats out and rolling them up. It's not like we have our own facility. As far as if we're in the big gym versus the little gym, it's not going to be that much of an issue because we're rolling the mats out."

Schultz said wrestling definitely will be displaced next year, but after that, he said there should be a place for the team to go. Schultz said one option would be the new auxiliary gym that might be built on the Southwest side of Pershing Building. That gym is supposed to be included in phase one of construction, but Schultz said it remains uncertain whether the funding will be available to construct the gym.

"We're planning on — if budgets work out correctly — constructing a new multi-purpose space," Schultz said. "It would be the size of a volleyball court, which would be suitable for volleyball and wrestling."

Schultz said even if the funding is available to build this auxiliary gym, it wouldn't be

available for use next fall.

MOHELA renovations are supposed to be academically oriented, not athletically oriented. But Schultz said construction of the auxiliary gym would be allowed because it is multi-purpose space to be used for classes and athletics.

"Because of the tight budget constriction, we've taken the tiered classroom seating out," Schultz said. "But we're building the envelope [shell for the classroom] because literally in order to renovate this and do this work, I need to build this shell. It will become potential multi-purpose swing space for them if [the auxiliary gym is not constructed]."

The other option after next year would be to place wrestling in the empty space of a classroom that will be constructed in phase one near the current small gym. Schultz said the classroom is eventually supposed to become a 100-seat tiered classroom, but there isn't enough funding right now for the tiered seating.

Schultz said contractors will be building the classroom shell, and wrestling could use this space as a short-term solution if funding is not available to build the auxiliary gym.

Schutter said the major disadvantage of his team having early-morning practice is that many of his athletes are signing up for 7:30 a.m. classes. Schut-

ter said he doesn't want to require his athletes to keep the time period free because it is not definite that the team will be practicing at that time, but he's recommending that they do so if possible.

The early-morning slot in Pershing would carry some advantages for the Bulldogs, he said. The team competes in a lot of early-morning tournaments in big gyms, and Schutter said the early practices would help the Bulldogs prepare for that.

"Truman athletics is all about handling adversity, and how an athlete can handle adversity and succeed here," Schutter said. "It's going to affect us. Whether it affects us in a negative way or a positive way, I won't know until next year."



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Freshman shortstop Steven Rose throws to first against No. 20 UNO on Friday. The 'Dogs won one game, their first win against a top-20 team since 1998.

BASEBALL | Pitching woes plague 'Dogs during losing streak

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He allowed one run in six innings before turning it over to junior right-hander Jake Smith, who got the final three outs to secure the Truman victory. Staihr is now 3-0 this season and is third in the MIAA in ERA.

"I just hit my spots and let my defense play for me," Staihr said.

Truman could not keep up its hot start the rest of the weekend, however, as the Mavericks outplayed the 'Dogs in nearly every facet of the final three games.

"After Game 1, I think we kind of just hit a wall," freshman catcher Devon Myers said. "Part of it was our pitching, part of it was that they just played better than us."

Like the two games against Northwest, UNO used several big innings to break games open.

In Game 2 the Mavericks roughed up Bulldog starter sophomore left-hander Kyle Veazey. He gave up eight runs on 11 hits in 4.2 innings. UNO scored in all but one inning and pounded out 18 hits in the victory.

Mavericks starter Ben Percival improved his record to 8-0 on the season. He allowed one run and scattered five hits to pick up the seven-inning complete game. Percival leads the MIAA in wins and is third in the conference in opponents' batting average. Opposing hitters are hit-

ting just .210 against Percival this season.

Percival is no stranger to Davis. In 2006 Davis was the pitching coach at Div. I University of Northern Iowa, where Percival began his college career before transferring to Western Illinois University and then to UNO.

The Mavericks never trailed en route to a double-header sweep Saturday.

In the first game Saturday, UNO scored eight runs in the second to put the Bulldogs in a deep hole. Truman got no closer than within six runs the rest of the game and lost 19-5.

UNO finished off the series with a 10-4 victory, once again doing damage to Truman's starting pitching. Freshman Ryan Trimble picked up the loss. He allowed seven runs in five innings. Trimble is now 1-4 this season.

Besides Staihr, the other three starters for the Bulldogs allowed a combined 23 runs in three games.

Myers was one of the only bright spots during the weekend for the 'Dogs. He finished with five hits during the two games Saturday.

Truman faces one of its toughest series of the season this weekend when No. 5 Emporia State University visits Kirksville. The squads will play double headers at 1 p.m. Friday and noon Saturday.

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