



File Photo

Senior Scott Danielsen putts during a meet last fall. Danielsen was the second lowest scorer on the team last year. He and Michael Spaulding are the only two seniors on the team.

## Kovach, Danielsen lead men's golf team

BY ARRON HUSTEAD  
Staff Reporter

As golf balls soar high above the course, optimism continues to spread through the men's golf roster.

The team expects to make several improvements from last season after returning six players from the 2007-08 team, including Chris Kovach, the 2007-08 MIAA Freshman of the Year. The team lost six members of last year's team, none of whom saw playing time in more than three competitions last season.

The most significant loss for the team was Adam Clatterbuck, who finished his career at Truman in December 2007.

Head coach Jim Berrey said he thinks this year's squad will be the best team he has assembled in his four seasons at Truman.

"This will be the first year where we're actually six or seven or eight deep as far as guys qualifying for the top five spots," Berrey said. "Just to have some depth of some guys who come in with a little bit of trim and experience is something that we haven't had in the past."

Despite the number of returning players, the team still is very young. Five of the six returning players are sophomores, including Kovach.

Kovach placed third at the MIAA Championship and was the only member of last year's squad to compete at the NCAA Div. II Regionals in which he placed 13th.

Kovach said he hopes to return in even better form this year

after participating in several tournaments during the summer.

"I think I got more consistent than I was last year with ball striking and stuff like that, so that'll definitely help out a lot," Kovach said.

Kovach's optimism extends to the performance of the entire team, and he said he hopes the team earns the chance to compete at the NCAA Regionals. The top three teams from the spring's MIAA Championships and the top five individuals advance to regionals.

"I think we can get up in the top three or top five and maybe get a regional bid and go off from there, but we'll be a lot better than we were last year," Kovach said.

For the team to accomplish its goals this year, the Bulldogs need to deal with the pressure of playing in big tournaments. Kovach said the team will have to make smart decisions on the course and avoid unnecessary strokes because every stroke can be crucial, and even one mistake can be costly.

Last season, the Bulldogs averaged a seventh-place finish in eight competitions in which team scores were recorded.

Senior Scott Danielsen also returns to the roster. He averaged six above par for the season and was second to Kovach in scoring average.

Danielsen and fellow senior Michael Spaulding are expected to be team leaders, possibly serving as co-captains. Spaulding redshirted last season and did not play in any competitions for the team.

Danielsen said the team is

talented enough to be one of the top teams in the MIAA.

"I want to be the best team in the conference," he said. "Washington has been the best team ever since I've been at Truman, and I want to give them a run for their money, and I think with this team we have a chance."

Aside from the team's goals, Danielsen said he also expects a lot from himself individually.

"If you reach your expectations, you're not setting them high enough," Danielsen said. "So I'm setting my expectations to the point where I'm going to go out and win every tournament."

Four freshmen join the squad this year, all of whom are expected to compete with the team's returning members for playing time. Five members of the team are chosen to play in each competition, and Berrey said it's too early to tell which new members of the team will stand out.

"I expect Chris [Kovach] to kind of pick up right where he left off," Berrey said.

"I expect my seniors to also be vying for top 10 spots pretty much every week that we go out and play in a tournament. It's going to be interesting to see who kind of fills in there for my fourth and fifth spots."

If the team can get consistent play from those fourth and fifth positions, its goals could be well within reach.

The Bulldogs will tee off their first competition of the season Tuesday and Wednesday at the Missouri Intercollegiate in Lake Ozark, Mo.

## Experienced trio will lead otherwise inexperienced team

Three of team's top four scorers from 2007-08 team return this year

BY LOGAN JACKSON  
Staff Reporter

Experience will play a key role in the women's golf team's attempt to get back to nationals after missing out last year.

The Bulldogs return half of last year's squad, including three of their four best scorers: junior Krystal Limsiaco, senior Julie Williams and sophomore Jen Lawson. These three will be counted on to lead this relatively young team, which includes four freshmen.

"You try to have at least two or three [players] come back each year," head coach Sam Lesseig said. "You don't like to have four of your top five graduate all at once. Fortunately, this year we have three of the top four."

The Bulldogs will rely on co-captains Limsiaco and Williams to prepare the younger Bulldogs for the season. The duo has different leading styles.

Lesseig said Williams leads by example, and that Limsiaco is more of a vocal leader. Limsiaco said she now focuses on helping out the incoming players.

"Before I didn't really think too

much about the freshmen," Limsiaco said. "I didn't really consider them as much as I do now. I try to set a better example for them. I'm more supportive of what they do. It's definitely made me think more about the team than myself."

Limsiaco was Truman's best scorer last year, averaging 10 over par. Her three top-five finishes also led the Bulldogs.

Senior Lindsay Dodge and junior Erin Semple are the Bulldogs' two other key returning players. They are expected to step up in place of Kaytie Spangler, who transferred to Concordia University-St. Paul after last season.

Spangler, one of the 'Dogs' top players last year, was the team's third lowest scorer. She also played well enough at the end of the year to qualify for nationals as an individual.

"She'll be missed a lot," Lesseig said. "Scoring, she really came into her own toward the end. She played well at regionals, qualified for the national finals. But I hope we have enough talent from those returning ... from the freshmen we brought in, that we'll pick up where we left off."

With Spangler gone, the four freshmen will have the opportunity to step in and make an early impact this season. They should see quite a bit of action in some of the 'Dogs' early tournaments.

Truman's first tournament is the Mankato Fall Round-Up, taking place Saturday and Sunday in St. James, Minn.

These earlier tournaments should give Lesseig a good idea of who is going to step up and make an impact.

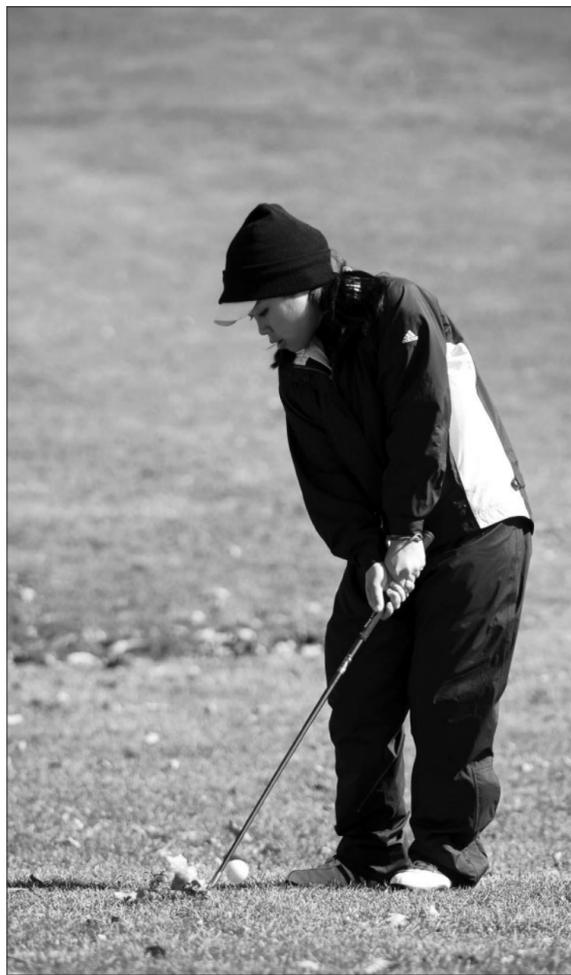
"Right now we're trying to get some scores in because we have a tournament this Saturday and Sunday," Lesseig said. "We don't know how many [freshmen] we'll take yet. Hopefully one of them or two of them will step up and help out."

The women's golf season is split between the fall and spring. Post-season takes place in the spring, but the Bulldogs don't plan to overlook the fall tournaments. As some of the veteran players know, getting a good start really can help out the team later in the year.

"In general, we're just trying to play to the best of our potential," Lawson said. "Obviously, we want to welcome the new freshmen. We want to help them and everyone else grow as a team. We aren't looking to shoot the most amazing score to begin, but we also want to get off on a good foot, being competitive with other schools."

The Bulldogs look to build off a few of last season's performances. They took first place at the Prairie Fire Invite in Nebraska and at the Upper Iowa Spring Classic in Iowa. Both tournaments featured 11 teams.

Truman also notched two second-place finishes in the Bulldog Classic and in the Maverick Invitational.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Junior Krystal Limsiaco lines up a shot at a tournament last spring. Limsiaco maintained the lowest average for the women's team last year.

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