

Track teams return veteran rosters

Multiple women were All-American last season

BY LOGAN JACKSON
Staff Reporter

Veteran leadership will be key for both Bulldog track teams during the upcoming indoor season.

Track is split into two separate seasons — indoor and outdoor. The indoor season starts this Friday in Ames, Iowa, and ends March 14 at the NCAA Div. II Indoor Championships. The outdoor season picks up March 21 and ends in late May.

On the women's side, the track team returns the majority of its roster. The Bulldogs also add several freshmen to the already experienced team.

Seniors Ashley Bernard and Kortney Holeman and juniors Katrina Biermann and Shaina Dochterman are the top returners for Truman. Each of them qualified for nationals during either the indoor or the outdoor seasons.

Senior Danna Kelly also returns for the Bulldogs. After an impressive cross country season in which she earned All-American, Kelly looks to repeat that success in the distance events.

Holeman said the entire

team is motivated for the upcoming track season.

"Danna Kelly is coming back, and she has All-American status in cross country now," Holeman said. "Cross country as a whole did really well, so they're excited for distance. Shaina's coming back from nationals as well as Ashley and myself. So we're definitely excited for the year."

One of the biggest losses this year for the women is Christen Lauer. She finished sixth in the triple jump at the NCAA Div. II Outdoor Championships last year.

She also did well during the indoor season, placing 10th at nationals in the triple jump.

Biermann said losing Lauer will hurt the team quite a bit but that they still will be competitive.

"We didn't lose many members from last year," Biermann said. "[Lauer] was a big part of the team. She did a lot of events, and she was really good at most of them. It was a big loss, but we'll be OK."

The first meet for the Bulldogs will be the Cyclone Holiday Classic held in Ames, Iowa. Biermann said it is more of a practice meet to get everyone back in the track mode.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Long-distance runners sophomore John Venner and junior Zach Chapman finish a run during practice on Tuesday. Men's track returns nearly all of their distance runners.

"The first meet isn't a real serious meet," Biermann said. "It's kind of one that gets everyone used to competing again after training. People get anxious and want to compete and this is a good way to get out there and do that. It also shows the fresh-

men what a college track meet is like."

The men's team lost a few key members from last year's team, but several experienced members will return for the upcoming season.

Sean Bergstedt is the biggest loss for the team. He was

a three-time qualifier for the national outdoor meet. He was awarded the South Central regional track athlete of the year last year after winning the MIAA Championship in the 400-meter hurdles and finishing second at the national meet in the same event.

Senior Dan Jones said losing Bergstedt, along with others including Joe and Jacob Ackermann, will make things a little tougher but that the men's team still will be competitive.

"We lost some top scorers in conference," Jones said. "Overall though, I think we're fairly strong. We lost Sean Bergstedt, who won the 400-meter hurdles. We also lost the two Ackermann twins who placed in conference as well."

Jones, junior Eric Ruzicka and sophomore Derek Atwood give the Bulldogs a strong returning group of throwers. The men's cross country team also did well this year, giving Truman some competitive athletes in the distance events.

Truman has finished in the bottom half of the conference for the last five years in both the indoor and outdoor seasons. Bergstedt, the team's highest point scorer during the conference meets, graduated prior to this season, but Jones said the Bulldogs have a positive outlook going into the season.

"We want to place higher in conference," Jones said. "The last couple of years we've taken dead last, so finishing better is definitely a goal of ours."

Wrestling holds own against Div. I squads

Maus, Kurvoski defeat Div. I competition en route to top finishes

BY ARRON HUSTEAD
Staff Reporter

Anytime you go up against Div. I competition and come away with a couple of wins, you have to feel good about it.

That's what Truman wrestling accomplished at the University of Missouri Open on Nov. 23.

Twelve bulldogs competed in the open, and 10 of them picked up at least one win at the tournament. Six members of the team defeated a Div. I opponent in the tournament.

"Things are pretty upbeat," head coach Dave Schutter said. "Practice is pretty upbeat considering everything."

The tournament was divided into two divisions, one for freshmen and sophomores and one for upperclassmen. Truman suited up 10 wrestlers for the freshmen and sophomore bracket compared to just two for the upperclassmen bracket.

Freshmen Alex Maus and Chad Kurvoski each placed for the first time in their college careers. They defeated Div. I athletes on their way to placing at the open. Maus placed fourth in the 141-pound class and Kurvoski placed fifth at 184 pounds.

"If you can do that at the right time of year they call you an All-American," Schutter said.

Maus earned a 4-2 record at the open. He defeated University of Indiana's Nick Viterisi 8-5 to advance to the third-place match in which he was defeated by Missouri's Cody Farnella, 9-3.

"I kind of messed up," Maus said. "It was close and then he got me in a five-point move. It probably would have been a lot different match if he didn't get that. I just wasn't expecting it."

Maus said he is starting to find out what moves he can utilize effectively, and that played a large role in his success at the open.

Despite this being the largest open the team has competed in so far this season, Maus said he was more comfortable going into this tournament than in competitions earlier in the season.

"I wasn't that nervous, actually, as I was in the first two [tournaments]," Maus said. "I'm actually starting to feel a little more confident now that we're getting into the season." Junior Dean Schultz finished the open with a 1-2 record in the 174-pound division. He was defeated by No. 3 Lindenwood University's Matt Cauley via a pin in his first match before rebounding to pin Indiana's Nic Avery in his second match. Schultz then aggravated a neck injury during his third and final match of the open.

"It's been a real tough start to the year," Schultz said. "I injured

my neck a couple of days before our first tournament, and I tried to wrestle anyways but I couldn't."

Schultz didn't compete at the previous tournament due to injury and said he re-injured his neck by competing at the Missouri Open. He likely will not compete again until next semester.

"It's frustrating because I worked hard in preseason and over the summer, and I was really excited to get going this season," he said. "I haven't really had a chance to truly start this season."

The Bulldogs have been battling several injuries, which led to multiple members not competing in the Missouri Open. The 'Dogs will face some challenges in coming weeks as they compete at Indianola, Iowa, for the Simpson Invite on Dec. 6 and in their first two duals of the season. The first dual takes place at Hannibal-LaGrange College tonight and the team hosts No. 10 Upper Iowa University in its home opener Dec. 19.

"It's going to be tough because we're so banged up," Schutter said. "We probably won't have our best line-up going into Thursday or even any part of this first semester."

Schutter said the team will have to make some adjustments in coming weeks to fill the holes in the line-up caused by injuries, but will work through it and build toward the second half of the season.

"We've just got to get some people healthy and we'll be OK," Schutter said.

Some younger members of the team will have to step up and fill the holes left because of injury if the team is going to be successful in the next few meets. If they can perform up to the level they set at the Missouri Open, they should be able to fit into those roles nicely.

TRUMAN ATHLETICS News and Notes

Athletics: Kelly, three volleyball players All-American

Senior cross country runner Danna Kelly and three volleyball players were named All-American in their respective sports.

Kelly finished 24th, with a time of 22:23, at the Div. II national meet in Slippery Rock, Pa., on Nov. 22. It was Kelly's first All-American honor in cross country. The top 30 finishers receive All-American status. For full coverage of Kelly's All-American finish, visit trumanindex.com.

Volleyball seniors middle blocker Allie Cherven, right side hitter Melissa Keck and outside hitter Eli Medina were named AVCA All-Americans. Cherven, a three-time selection, was named to the second team. Medina was third-team and Keck was honorable mention.

Volleyball: Four named to All-conference team

The MIAA announced its All-Conference teams last week, and as usual, the Bulldogs were well represented. Senior middle blocker Allie Cherven and senior right side hitter Melissa Keck were both named to the first team. It was Cherven's third first-team selection and Keck's second. Cherven and Keck rank first and second respectively all-time in career hitting percentage at Truman.

Senior outside hitter Eli Medina and senior Whitney Boehler each received second team all-conference honors. Medina and Boehler were both named to the honorable mention team the last two seasons.

Senior outside hitter Dana Hanselmann and sophomore setter Ashley Petak received honorable mention honors for the first time in their careers.

Four Truman volleyball players also were named to the AVCA All-Region team. Cherven and Keck received the honor for the third consecutive season and Medina received the honor for the first time. Boehler received honorable mention honors, for the first time in her career. Keck, Cherven and Medina now are eligible for the All-American team, which will be released next week.

Volleyball: Skoch moves into second place in wins

Head coach Jason Skoch is putting his mark on the Truman record book. Skoch passed Qi Wang for second place on the Bulldogs career wins list after the victory against the University of Nebraska-Omaha in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. His career record now stands at 136-21.

Debbie Masten is the all-time wins leader. She won 262 matches from 1985 to 1996. Skoch is second to Wang in career winning percentage with .866.

Men's Basketball: Team matches 200-7-08 win total

The men's basketball team has matched its win total from last season in its first five games.

The Bulldogs are 5-0. Last year, they finished 5-27 after losing their first five games and 10 of their first 11.

Head coach Jack Schrader said the team has been clearly superior to only one opponent — Central Christian College. The 'Dogs defeated Central Christian 97-71 in Pershing Arena on Nov. 24.

Schrader said the team has done a good job approaching the season one game at a time.

"I think we've developed a pretty good mindset that our next game is the most important," he said. "And we've done that for several years now. And I think so far this year we've done it."

The home schedule also has helped. This season, every game up to this point has been at Pershing. Last year, the team played in four games and two tournaments before its first home contest.

"Compared to last year, when we were on the road, I think it helps keep us a little fresher, not having to travel and everything," Schrader said.

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The Truman volleyball team is going to St. Paul, Minn. for the Elite Eight.

So is the Index.

Check out www.trumanindex.com throughout the tournament for coverage and analysis of the Bulldogs quest for a national title live from the Elite Eight.

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