

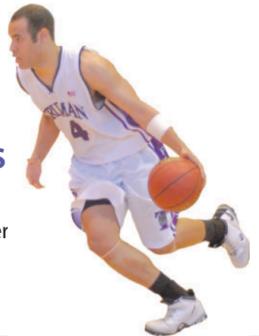


SPORTS

ANOTHER LOSS

Men make it nine straight defeats after 62-51 loss

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Make it 9

Women win ninth straight conference championship

Six more Bulldogs join national-bound group, total of women's qualifiers reaches 16

BY KRISTA CRIDER
Staff Reporter

The women's swimming team won its ninth straight conference championship last weekend at the New South Intercollegiate Swim Conference meet in Cleveland, Miss., and the Bulldogs now have qualified 16 swimmers for nationals.

The team qualified seven more swimmers at the meet and placed in the top eight in the majority of its races, giving the swimmers an advantage over the competition when it came to team standings. Truman had 960 points, easily beating the next closest team, Delta State University, which scored 805 points. On Friday alone, the 'Dogs placed in the top eight in 14 of the 15 events.

"You can't compete with how many people we had in the finals," head coach Mark Gole said.

The new A cuts achieved at conference include senior Jessie Lemaster and sophomore Stephanie Myers in the 1,650-yard freestyle and freshman

Krista Tippin in the 200-yard backstroke. Other swimmers who got A cuts were sophomore Claire Myers in the 400-yard individual medley, senior Jacqui Dempsey in the 800-yard freestyle relay and sophomore Carina Pautz in the 400-yard freestyle relay. Sophomore Amanda Carnes also touched in at second in the 400-yard individual medley with an A-cut time.

"We actually got more A cuts than we were expecting," Tippin said. "We qualified all of our relays, which were expected, but some people that were on the verge of getting their individual A cuts also got them."

"I think the team did awesome. It was probably one of the best meet I have experienced here at Truman."

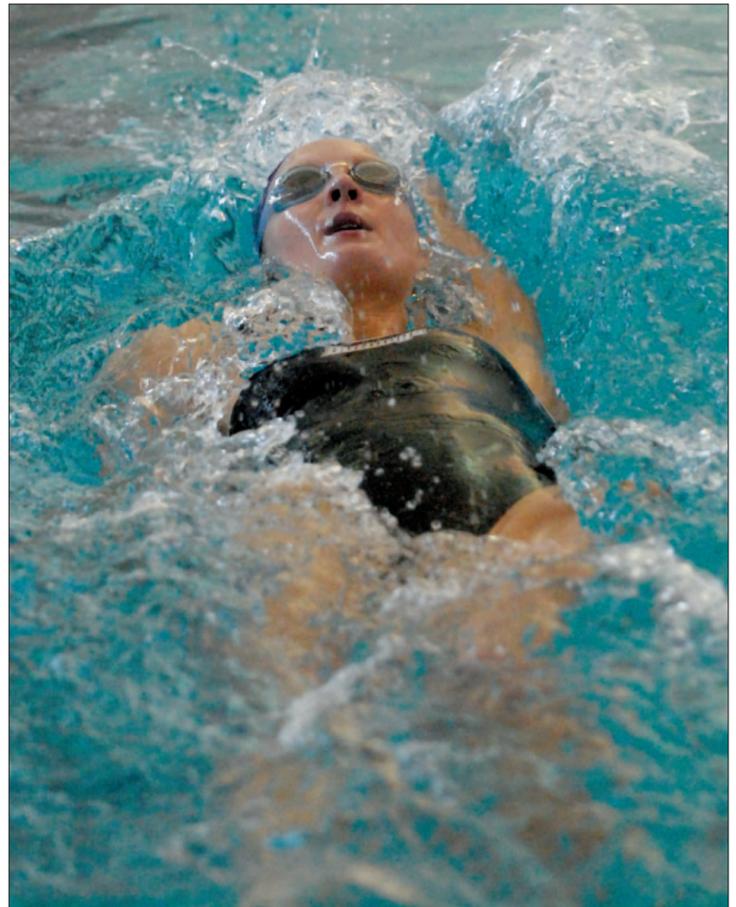
Mark Gole
Head Coach

With 16 qualifiers, the team is just two short of the maximum it is allowed to bring to nationals. Junior Kate Aherne broke the school record in the 100-yard freestyle, which also was a pool record set by a swimmer that has the Div. II national record. That was the only school record set at the meet, but Gole said more should come at nationals. Sophomore Julia Jones broke her conference record in the 1,000-yard freestyle by 10 seconds.

"I think the team did awesome," Carnes said. "It was probably one of the best meets I have experienced here at Truman. Everyone did really well."

Gole said he was incredibly pleased with the

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Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Sophomore Claire Myers was one of seven women's swimmers at the NSISC meet to join the list of national-bound swimmers. The women now have 16 swimmers qualified for nationals. Myers notched her A cut in the prelims of the 400-yard individual medley.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Senior Andrew Berdine (shown here) and sophomore Paul Wanamaker both garnered A-cut times at last week's NSISC meet. The men finished fourth out of six teams at the meet.

Men add two to national roster

BY LOGAN JACKSON
Staff Reporter

The men's swimming team added two to its national roster last week, bringing the total to six.

The Bulldogs finished fourth out of six teams in the New South Intercollegiate Swim Conference championship meet in Cleveland, Miss.

Senior Andrew Berdine and sophomore Paul Wanamaker qualified for nationals during the meet. Berdine earned A cuts in the 200-yard backstroke, the 400-yard individual medley and the preliminaries of the 200-yard individual medley. Wanamaker was part of the 200-yard medley relay that earned an A cut.

This will be Berdine's first time at the national meet during his career. He said that this year has been a little different because he isn't

swimming in long distance events anymore, which has allowed him to focus on his breaststroke more and improve his overall individual medley performance.

Berdine said he was excited to earn the first A cut of his career, which came Thursday in the 200-yard individual medley.

"Honestly, the first event that I got [an A cut] in wasn't expected at all," Berdine said. "I was more stuned than anything. I tried not to think about it and just wanted to focus on my [other] races."

Berdine set school records in the 400-yard individual medley and the 200-yard backstroke.

The 200-yard medley relay team finished third with a time of 1:32.77 to earn its A cut. The relay team is made up of Wanamaker, senior Jason

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File Photo

Junior catcher Erica LaCombe will be one of the three captains for the Bulldogs, who lost six seniors from last year's 22-21 team.

Softball aims for top marks in MIAA play

BY JOE BELL
Staff Reporter

The MIAA is rife with competition this season in softball, and the Bulldogs plan to be in the thick of it.

No. 19 University of Central Missouri and No. 25 Emporia State University are projected to sit atop the MIAA. The rest of the conference is chomping at the bit to get into the

National Fastpitch Coaches Association's Top 25 poll. Truman will have to perform well if they hope to come out on top.

"We have a mission this year to win the regular MIAA conference season," head coach Erin Brown said. "We know that we can compete with every team in our conference, so it's just showing up each day and giving

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Veteran core leads women

Blair, Walther, Ochs headline group that will lead 'Dogs this spring

BY JACK NICHOLL
Assistant Sports Editor

The fall season brought no surprises for the women's tennis team.

The Bulldogs dropped just three matches en route to a 6-0 dual meet record, and they also placed well at the Truman Invitational.

But starting today against Div. I Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, the schedule gets more difficult. The 'Dogs slipped past the Cougars 5-4 last season, and the result should be close to the same this year.

"It'll probably be a 5-4," head coach Pete Kendall said. "We would obviously like to win more than 5-4, but we'll take a 5-4."

A month from now, the Bulldogs' conference opener is against defending MIAA champ Southwest Baptist University. SBU beat Truman three times last year, including in the NCAA and MIAA tournaments.

SBU could just be a stepping stone to better teams in the second half of the season.

"We had a good fall season [so] that was good," senior Courtney Walther said. "But at the same time we didn't play the level of competition we're going to be playing in the spring."

The 'Dogs will begin a two-day trip April 17 in which they will play against Newman University (Kan.), East Central University (Okla.) and



File Photo

Senior Lindsay Blair returns as the No. 2 singles player. She and senior Courtney Walther will pair to make the No. 1 doubles team.

Dallas Baptist University (Texas), three of the teams in the new South Central Region. Truman will have to fare well against competition outside the MIAA to gain recognition in the region.

Just like the men, the women will be up against some of the best Div. II competition in the new region. And just like the men, the women probably will have to finish first in the MIAA to gain a repeat entry into the

NCAA tournament.

But unlike the men, the women did not play any of their new competition during the fall.

"Obviously, it's a lot tougher this year because we switched regions," Walther said. "It's going to be pretty difficult for us to get to the national tournament, but as far as conference play goes we'll definitely have a

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