Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
The Bulldogs came out with 16 wins at the Knox College Invite last weekend, which is one of their easiest meets.

Track claims 16 events

BY JOCELYN NEBEL
Staff Reporter

Instead of boxes of chocolate and red roses, the men's and women's track and field teams were rewarded with the sweet success of 16 event titles on Valentine's Day.

The Bulldogs competed against a variety of teams Saturday at the Knox College Invitational in Galesburg, Ill. Junior hurdler Shaina Dochterman, junior jumper Katrina Biermann and freshman jumper Coedy Walker each captured two event titles.

Head coach John Cochrane said the meet probably had the least competition out of all the meets this season. Freshman middle distance runner Anne Ratermann said she heard the same from her teammates.

"I feel like the weeks before [we] had a lot of competition," Ratermann said. "The past two weekends haven't had that much."

Ratermann placed first in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:20.44. This was her second meet this season after coming off an injury from cross country last fall.

"Not having that much competition helped ease me into competitive running again," Ratermann said.

Senior distance runner Danna Kelly placed second behind Ratermann in the 800-meter race, an event Kelly normally does not run. Cochrane said he placed Kelly in this event so she could work on her turnover, speed and pacing for longer events.

"I knew [Kelly] tends to go out pretty fast in the first couple laps," Ratermann said. "My goal was just to stick with her for the first couple of laps and see where that got me and see how I felt."

Cochrane also said sophomore sprinter Neosha Hayes and sophomore thrower Alex Van Delft performed well in the meet. Hayes placed first in the 55-meter dash with a time of 7.46 and Van Delft placed first in the shot put with a throw of 15.27 meters. Senior thrower Ashley Bernard and junior thrower Tessa Letuli also captured first in the shot put and weight throw, respectively. The women's 4x200-meter relay team placed first and came within 0.26 seconds of the school record.

Other top performers included junior distance runner Fiona Williams and sophomore distance runner Bob Gorman. Both athletes placed first in the 3,000-meter run. Freshman distance runner Dani Dell'Orco placed first in the mile run with a personal-record time of 5:30.57.

The men's distance team also placed high at the meet. Middle distance runners junior Damon Morris and sophomore Adam Kell placed first in the 400-meter and mile runs, respectively. Freshman distance runner Joey Walls said fellow teammates sophomore Josh Mantooth and freshman Kenny Szakacsi also performed well.

Walls placed first in the 800-meter run. He has run many different events this season to work on both speed and endurance. Walls will run the 3,000-meter race next weekend to prepare for conference Feb. 27.

"I had never run a two-mile or 3,000[-meter] in high school, and three or four weeks ago was the first time I ran the 3,000 and [I think I] did really well there," Walls said. "Looking at the times now, it's not a great time, but now I know how to run it and can run it a lot faster."

Although some of his athletes placed well in their events Saturday, there still is a lot of training to do before the conference meet, Cochrane said. Despite top placement, this is the first meet in which the Bulldogs have not improved or made any provisional marks this season.

Cochrane said he is disappointed with some of the performances this season because some of the athletes are not achieving their full potential.

The Bulldogs will compete in the Central Missouri Classic in Warrensburg, Mo., next Saturday, where they will face some of the conference teams.

"It will be tougher than the last two meets we've had, but it won't be completely out of this world," Cochrane said.

Cochrane also said the meet will help him determine how well his athletes will perform and who will be going to the conference meet.

"We look for warriors," he said. "If you can't be a warrior and you don't have your mind on it, you aren't going to do anything, and we don't need people who are just there to be there."

Rough weekend toughens young wrestling team

Bulldogs pick up just one win in losses against UNO and Central Oklahoma

BY ARRON HUSTEAD
Staff Reporter

Steel sharpens steel.

This phrase has been uttered numerous times by the Truman wrestling team this season and perhaps it never has been truer than last weekend.

The Bulldogs faced off against some of their toughest competition this season with No. 1 University of Nebraska-Omaha and No. 6 Central Oklahoma University. The team suffered four dual losses and was shut out twice including its worst loss of the season Saturday at Central Oklahoma, 55-0. The Bronchos recorded seven victories by pin against Truman along with a forfeit victory and a major decision.

Just as steel needs other steel to make it sharper, the team needs to face high-quality competition to become stronger.

Central Oklahoma fields two returning All-Americans. Colby Robinson was an All-American for the Bronchos last season at 149-pounds and competed at 141-pounds last weekend, beating freshman Alex Maus 11-2. The team's other returning All-American, Dustin Finn, was runner-up for the NCAA Div. II National Championship in the heavyweight division last season. Finn defeated junior Loyde Braidlow 6-2 Saturday.

"I just didn't have a good weekend overall," Braidlow said. "I didn't really wrestle well, didn't really pull the trigger when I needed to and didn't stop one of Finn's shots."

Head coach Dave Schutter said Braidlow wrestled a close match against Finn but gave up one takedown that gave Finn all the points he needed.

"As a heavyweight, if you give up a takedown you give up points, and that's pretty much the match," Schutter said.

Sunday, the team took part in the MIAA Duals at the University of Central Missouri where it lost three consecutive duals. This marks the first season for the MIAA Duals.

The Bulldogs suffered their second consecutive shut-out as Central Missouri routed them 48-0. Braidlow suffered his second consecutive loss of the weekend, 4-2, against the Mules' Cody Beck in double overtime. Beck was one victory short of becoming an All-American last season.

Beck picked up points on an escape in double overtime while Braidlow was unable to escape Beck's grasp to pick up some points and extend the match.

Braidlow said he can benefit from wrestling Finn and Beck this weekend if he meets them again in the postseason.

"I've got some stuff to work on," Braidlow said. "I've got a couple of things that I think are going to work against [Finn] and against Beck — I've just got to get away because that's the kind of match that he's looking to wrestle. That's exactly what he wants to do is what happened Sunday."

> "There's a lot of adversity right now, and it's not easy when you're wrestling some of the best kids in the country at this level."
>
> **Dave Schutter**
> Head Coach

The Bulldogs then faced off against the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

The Mavericks defeated Truman 48-6. Sophomore Thomas Redmon picked up the only points for the Bulldogs with a forfeit victory at 197 pounds.

On a positive note, senior heavyweight Andy Swedenhjelm returned to action against UNO. The Mavericks' returning All-American Tony Lewis defeated Swedenhjelm, 7-3, but Swedenhjelm's return could bolster the Bulldogs' roster for the final month of the season.

Junior Dean Schultz was 0-2 this weekend at 174 pounds. Schultz has been hampered by injuries for most of the season.

"I'm still banged up," Schultz said. "I just have to get out there. I don't really have the luxury of taking time off right now. I'm just going to push through hopefully in these next few weeks to regionals. That's all that really matters. It wasn't a great performance, but at least I got some mat time. That's all I'm trying to do right now."

Schultz said this could have been a rough weekend for him even if he were coming into it at 100 percent.

"Even when you're healthy all year, and you're wrestling great, you still have bad weekends every once in a while," Schultz said. "It's a good time to have a bad weekend and get it out of your system."

The Bulldogs rounded out the weekend with a 37-9 loss against Fort Hays State University.

Freshman Chad Kurvoski picked up six points for the Bulldogs when he pinned Hays' Aaron Berscheidt.

Braidlow picked up his only win of the weekend against the Tigers' Justin Glenn, 3-1. The score was tied at 1-1 late in the match, but Braidlow came away with a takedown in crunch time to get the victory.

"We got into a scramble, and I was just a blink of an eye away from giving two points and got up, turned and somehow got a takedown," Braidlow said. "I don't really know how that happened."

Schutter said last weekend was the toughest the team has faced all season in terms of the quality of competition.

"I'm proud of all our guys," Schutter said. "There's a lot of adversity now, and it's not easy when you're wrestling some of the best kids in the country at this level."

The team next competes in its final home dual of the season against No. 3 Minnesota State University–Mankato on Saturday at Pershing Arena.

TRUMAN ATHLETICS
News and Notes

Men's Basketball: Team varies offensive strategy

After switching from the power offense to a four-out, one-in attack for a good portion of the season, the men's basketball team has switched back to power as of late.

The power offense features more movement, and it does not revolve around a single post player as the alternative does. Also, there are more off-the-ball screens in power.

In Saturday's game against University of Nebraska-Omaha, the Bulldogs utilized power and shot 51.6 percent, their second-highest total of the season.

"Sometimes when power gets pressured out we struggle a little bit because the ball runs through the post," sophomore guard Alex Henderson said after the UNO game. "They didn't really pressure a whole lot so we were able to get it to the post and kind of pick them apart a little bit."

Head coach Jack Schrader said one of the reasons why the team originally got away from power was because inside men sophomore Ethan Freeman and senior Patrick Fandja had poor assist-to-turnover ratios. However, they combined for 15 assists and five turnovers in Saturday's game against University of Nebraska-Omaha and last Thursday's game against Fort Hays St. University. This season, the two have combined for a ratio of slightly less than one.

The team as a whole also has improved on their assist-to-turnover ratio. The team had a positive ratio in both games. Prior to the FHSU game, the 'Dogs had had a positive assist-to-turnover ratio in one of their last 17 games.

"We can control the pace of the game a lot better with that offense than with our ball screen offense," Schrader said.

Swimming: Gole named conference coach of the year

Mark Gole, the head coach of the men's and women's swimming teams, was awarded coach of the year at the New South Intercollegiate Conference Championships meet.

Gole is in his fourth season of coaching the Bulldogs, and he has won the conference championship on the women's side every year. The women won conference this year by a wide margin and the men finished fourth out of six teams. The women's team is sending 16 swimmers to nationals this season, and the men have six qualified so far.

The award is voted on by the coaches, and Gole said he appreciates and is honored by the recognition.

"It is always good to get recognized by your peers," Gole said.

Women's Basketball: MIAA tourney chances are slim

Senior forward Georgia Mueller notched another milestone in the loss to Northwest Missouri State University last night.

Mueller moved into eighth place in the MIAA for career rebounds. She now has 858 rebounds for her career. Mueller will finish her career No. 2 on the Truman career rebound list. Carol Jarrard finished her Bulldog career with 1,084 rebounds.

Mueller also will finish as the No. 2 scorer in Bulldog history. She has 1,845 points in her career. With just two games left in her career, she will not catch Carol Jarrard's record of 2,006 points.

Mueller will need a heroic effort in her final two games to make the MIAA top-10 in career points.

Mueller would need to average nearly 40 points in each of the final two games to reach No. 10.

Men's Swimming: Stokes leads team in A and B cuts

Senior Jason Stokes will be headed to his fourth straight national meet this March.

This year, Stokes qualified in the 50-yard freestyle, the 200-yard freestyle relay and the 200-yard medley relay. He also received a B cut in the 100-yard freestyle during the Indiana Hoosierland meet. Last year, Stokes earned six All-American honors. During his first two years as a Bulldog, he earned seven All-American honors. He currently holds the school record in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 20.64.

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