



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

The women's swimming team could not complete a season sweep of Div. I Missouri State University last weekend. Truman's last dual meet this season is against Drury this weekend.

Women fall to Bears in road dual

Aherne, Anderson pick up pair of individual first places

BY KRISTA CRIDER
Staff Reporter

The women's swimming team lost for the first time since Nov. 1 last weekend, falling to Div. I Missouri State University 164-130.

The Bulldogs entered the meet with a 32-point deficit because of Truman's lack of a diving team, and even though they swam neck-and-neck with the Bears, the initial diving deficit was too much to make up.

"It is kind of hard to overcome [that deficit] sometimes," junior Kate Aherne said. "I think that everyone put their best effort into it, but that was definitely a huge obstacle and one that we will have to work on next year to overcome."

Excluding the diving points, Truman still lost to MSU by two points. When the Bulldogs faced the Bears at home Nov. 8, they came out on top 82-40.

"[This time it] was a very competitive meet," head coach Mark Gole said. "A few points difference, in my opinion, leaves a very sour taste in my mouth, because that's one place difference, the difference between a third and a second or a fourth and a third. When it's that close, every single place counts equally."

Aherne and senior Erika Anderson came out of the meet with multiple victories. Aherne won in the 50- and 200-yard freestyle races and swam the initial leg of the first-place 200-yard freestyle relay. Anderson won the 200-yard backstroke and 200-yard individual medley. Other winners included sophomore Anna Grinter in the 200-yard butterfly and junior Kendra Brunkow in the 100-yard freestyle.

"I would say [the team] was really successful [in the meet]," Anderson said. "The times may have been slower in places [than in the last meet], but given the week of training that we had just had going into the meet, our coach was really pleased with the times, as were we."

Aherne improved upon her 50-yard freestyle swim from the Jan. 9 to 10 meet against Lewis University (Ill.) by capturing a 23.81 time as the opening swimmer in the 200-yard freestyle relay. This meet was the first time this season that she swam less than 24 seconds in the relay.

The Missouri State away meet traditionally has been a tough one for the Bulldogs. Truman now has lost to MSU on the road in three consecutive seasons. In addition to having a diving disadvantage at road meets, the Bulldogs face an early drive to Springfield, Mo. The team members weren't surprised when they started

the meet off with a few less than perfect swims.

"I was a little disappointed because we had a rough start, but we finished very strong," Gole said. "[On the day of the meet] we leave Kirksville at 5:30 in the morning, and I think they lose their legs on the bus, so they're not fresh. I think as the meet goes on we get better because they're more alert and ready to go."

Gole said he accomplished one of his goals for the meet when Brunkow won the 100-yard freestyle. She swam a season-best time of 54.19 seconds, and Gole said he was impressed with how she stepped up and came through for the team.

The Bulldogs next meet is against rival Drury University. The teams have been dueling back and forth for the national championship title for nine years, and Gole said the Drury team is even better than its national championship team of two years ago.

Gole said the Bulldogs aren't going to taper until they begin to prepare for conference, which might pose some problems for the swimmers this weekend.

"We are going to try to work as hard as we possibly can this week," Gole said. "We are not going to back down in training at all going into this meet. Our focus right now is getting everybody that's resting for conference to get season bests at that meet, try to get more people qualified for nationals, and then the national crew. We're just going to continue to work hard all through conference."

The Bulldogs host Drury at 1 p.m. at home Saturday.

"We know it's going to be a tough meet," Aherne said. "I know every year we go into this meet prepared to swim as fast as we can, and we are going to have to bring our A game on Saturday and have to hope it will turn out for the best."

MSU completes season sweep of men



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

The men's swimming team had four first-place finishes in a 168-104 dual meet loss at Missouri State University this past weekend.

BY LOGAN JACKSON
Staff Reporter

It was a different meet but the same story for the men's swimming team last weekend.

The Bulldogs lost at Missouri State University 168-104 Saturday in a meet similar to the Nov. 8 meet between these two teams, which Missouri State won easily, 77-45. Truman failed to do better away from home, losing to the Bears by another wide margin.

Sophomore Corey Moon said that although the Bulldogs didn't win, facing tough teams like Missouri State really pays off down the road.

"It's always good swimming against Div. I teams because they're such a high level of competition," Moon said. "It definitely helps us out towards the end of the season because we know we've already seen great competition. It takes some of the pressure off."

Despite the final score, there were a few bright spots for the Bulldogs. Several underclassman swimmers did well, and continue to improve from previous races.

Head coach Mark Gole said the underclassman swimmers have progressed greatly since the beginning of the season.

"We still had some younger swimmers go in-season best times

after probably the best overall week of training," Gole said. "People were holding good paces and there was a lot of intensity during practices. They really got behind each other and were really pushing each other."

Freshman Eric Kaestner had another steady meet. He won the 100-yard butterfly, finished second in the 50-yard freestyle and finished third in the 200-yard freestyle relay and the 200-yard medley relay.

Other first-place winners included freshman Jonathan Temple in the 200-yard backstroke, sophomore Krish Singhal in the 500-yard freestyle and senior Kevin Johnson in the 200-yard individual medley. The Bulldogs took the top three spots in both the 500-yard freestyle and the 100-yard butterfly.

After picking up a big win in the 200-yard breaststroke two weeks ago at Lewis University (Ill.), Moon swam well enough to again take top honors. Gole said Moon really has stepped up the last couple of meets.

"Corey had a huge meet at Lewis, which we needed," Gole said. "He's just carrying his momentum and continuing to get it done on a regular basis."

Truman was without one of its top swimmers, senior Jason Stokes. Gole said Stokes missed his first meet of season because of a viola-

tion of team rules.

Sophomore Paul Wanamaker took Stokes' place in both the 200-yard medley relay and the 200-yard freestyle relay. Gole said Wanamaker is used to swimming the sprint events, so picking him to fill in made sense.

"Paul has speed," Gole said. "He's been flirting with being able to take that A medley relay fly spot for a while now. He's been in our sprint group for the last year and a half. He shows a lot of promise, and I was glad I was able to give him that shot."

The next two meets will be tough ones for the Bulldogs. Truman will host Missouri University of Science and Technology on Friday in Pershing Natatorium. This men's-only meet features the team that finished as the runner-up in the national meet last year. Saturday at 1 p.m. in Pershing Natatorium the men's team will face another tough team in Drury University. Drury, the four-time defending national champion, continues to do well this season.

Moon said the men will try to steal a few wins during both meets.

"We know that Drury is the returning No. 1 team in the nation," Moon said. "Missouri S&T is not far behind. We always like to see what we can do against them each year and give them the best that we've got."

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