

Wrestling drops 4 duals

Braidlow, Maus pick up multiple wins to lead Bulldogs

BY ARRON HUSTEAD
Staff Reporter

A young team learned some lessons the hard way last weekend.

Truman wrestling competed at the University of Central Missouri Duals on Sunday. The Bulldogs lost four straight duals by a combined total of 106 points.

The team started off the dual jamboree with a 27-18 loss to Newman University (Kan.). Junior Loyde Braidlow and sophomore Warren Galloway each picked up wins by forfeit at 285 and 197 pounds, respectively, to account for 12 of Truman's 18 points. Freshmen Alex Maus (141 pounds) and James Crone (125 pounds) each picked up wins by decision, 9-5 and 5-1, respectively.

Junior Dean Schultz (174 pounds) returned to the lineup for the first time since the University of Missouri Open in November. He was pinned by Newman's Brandon Ewert in his first match back.

"It takes time," Schultz said. "I've been out almost three whole months now, and you come back right away and you've got to get your mat awareness back from not being out there in competition."

Schultz had an 8-0 lead against Ewert at one point in the match, but a mistake on Schultz's part allowed Ewert to get the pin for a crucial six points.

"It's just one of those mental lapses where you haven't been on the mat in so long, you just quit thinking when you're out there," he said.

Schultz said he isn't fully recovered yet, but that he plans to continue to be in the lineup and get himself prepared for the NCAA Div. II Midwest Regional tournament.

"I'm nowhere near 100 percent yet," Schultz said. "It's just going to take a while to get back in shape, get the calories off [and] get my strength

and my endurance back. At least I've got a start now, and I've got about a month here to get ready for where it really matters."

In the team's second dual of the jamboree, Truman was shut out by No. 4 University of Nebraska-Kearney, 49-0. In a heavyweight contest against UNK's Derek Ross, senior Andy Swedenhjelm suffered injuries to both his knee and shoulder that might keep him on the sidelines for the rest of the season.

"He ended up losing a match just basically because he was injured, but he sucked it up and finished the match," head coach Dave Schutter said.

This came as a harsh blow to a team that already has been struggling this season with injuries. In just Swedenhjelm's first semester with the team, he already had made an immediate effect and improved the team's depth in the heavyweight division.

"It's tough," Schutter said. "Practices get a little limited just trying to keep guys healthy."

The team then competed against its second ranked opponent of the jamboree, No. 12 University of Wisconsin-Parkside. Braidlow and Maus each picked up their second win of the day, 10-4 and 7-2 respectively, to account for all of Truman's points against Wisconsin-Parkside as Truman lost 47-6.

Maus was 2-2 in competition at the jamboree. His record for the season currently stands at 9-8.

"Considering he's a true freshman, that's a bright spot," Schutter said.

Truman wrapped up the jamboree with a 25-18 loss against the University of Mary (Neb.). Braidlow and Schultz each picked up victories, 9-6 and 8-5, respectively. Braidlow was 3-0 on the day and Schultz 1-1 in his return to the line-up. Junior Kazuyuki Hastimoto and sophomore Steve Kueny picked up victories by forfeit.

Four Bulldogs competed in two matches this week at a weight class above what



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Junior Loyde Braidlow (right), shown here in practice, was a perfect 3-0 at the UCM Duals on Saturday.

they normally compete in to fill holes in the line-up left by injuries. Hastimoto and Crone, 125-pounders, each competed in two matches at 125 and two matches at 133. Freshmen Tyler Bise and J.C. Housley, 157-pounders, each competed in two matches at 157 and two matches at 165.

"I felt I could hang with [the heavier guys]," Bise said. "They're strong, but I felt right up there with them though."

Bise said he had to change his game plan to wrestle against competition heavier

than him, relying on technique and speed.

"You've got to be quick," he said. "You can't just try to muscle everybody."

Bise said he doesn't like going up against heavier competition because he's very competitive and doesn't like losing, but at the same time he said he learned from the experience.

"It humbles you," Bise said. "It makes you want to work harder."

The team next competes Friday and Saturday at the Wheaton College (Ill.) Invite.

TRUMAN ATHLETICS News and Notes

Men's swimming: 'Dogs look to add A cuts

Head coach Mark Gole said the men's swimming team still has a chance to qualify three more events for nationals. Gole said senior Andrew Berdine in the 400-yard individual medley, freshman Brian Tillis in the 1650-yard freestyle and the 400-yard freestyle relay made up of Berdine, seniors Jason Stokes and Darren McDivitt and freshman Eric Kaestner all have a good shot to make nationals.

The Bulldogs have two attempts left to add national qualifiers: the Feb. 11 to 14 NSISC conference and the meet Feb. 20 to 21 Last Chance meet.

Truman already has made A cuts in two events. Stokes received an individual A cut in the 50-yard freestyle. The 200-yard freestyle relay made up of Stokes, Kaestner, and juniors Peter McCall and Andrew McCall also received a A cut.

Women's swimming: Myers gets personal best

The women's swimming team has a new swimmer to watch. Thanks to her third-place finish in the 1,650-yard freestyle against Drury University on Saturday, sophomore Stephanie Myers has raised expectations for her to a potential spot at nationals. The A-cut time she will have to reach at the Feb. 11 to 14 conference meet is 17:22.39, and she swam a 17:54.87 last weekend against Drury without tapering.

The time Myers hit at the Drury meet was a personal best. Given that she already is surpassing expectations, head coach Mark Gole said he thinks she has the potential to take that progress one step further for a nationals spot.

Swimming: Gole misses Saturday's meet

Head coach Mark Gole was not present on the pool deck during Saturday's Senior Day men's and women's swim meet against Drury University.

Gole missed the meet because of sickness. Assistant coach Greg Naumann stepped in Saturday to fill the role of head coach.

Women's basketball: Tourney berth unlikely

The women's basketball team's MIAA Tournament chances are fading fast. Only the top eight teams in the conference will make it to the March 5 to 8 conference tournament in Kansas City. The Bulldogs currently sit in last place of the 11-team MIAA with eight games remaining. Truman has a 1-11 conference record, and is three games behind the eighth-place University of Nebraska Omaha Mavericks.

Last season, the Bulldogs made it to the semifinals of the tournament as a No. 7 seed before losing to Southwest Baptist University. The Bulldogs have never made it past the semifinals of the tournament.

Men's basketball: Kulage earns start Saturday

Senior guard Todd Kulage, who is averaging 9.1 minutes a game, started for the first time this season last Saturday against Missouri Southern State University. He played a team-high 35 minutes and scored five points and added three assists.

But the most impressive stat might have been in the turnover category. Kulage had just two of Truman's 18 turnovers against MSSU's constant full-court press, and he took the ball down the court more often than usual after senior guard Banks Estridge was charged with his fourth foul early in the second half.

Head coach Jack Schrader said he had junior guard Matt Taylor ready to play, but Kulage stayed in the game because he was playing well.

Roller hockey snags 2 wins

BY JOE BELL
Staff Reporter

The Bulldogs took to the rink last weekend to show that they had put their winter layoff behind them, and the result was some of their best hockey yet this season.

In their first game of the weekend, the Bulldogs played the Western Illinois Fighting Leathernecks on Saturday and won by the mercy rule, 12-2, in the third period.

This set the stage for the rest of the weekend. In the next game, Truman played St. Louis Community College Sunday and won 11-5. The Bulldogs then played their long-time rival, Div. I University of Missouri-St. Louis. In what some members of the team described as their best game of the season so far, the Bulldogs (6-3-1) lost by a narrow 4-3 margin.

"[UMSL] being a Div. I school makes us want to go out and play even better against them, go out and want to beat them even more," sophomore forward Cody Dependahl said. "Being a Div. II team, if we can go out and play [well] against a Div. I team, it's just that extra incentive. It's more fuel to the fire. You

almost want to prove you could be where they are, Div. I."

The Bulldogs remain in third place in the region after the weekend.

The Bulldogs used their game against the Leathernecks, who are 0-11 this season, as a warm-up game for the rest of the weekend.

"We started off our first game a little sloppy," Drew Vandas, senior forward and captain, said. "[We] were just getting used to a bigger rink and everything. We came back and finished that game off."

Against WSU, Truman scored its first goal until a little more than three minutes into the game. The Bulldogs outshot the Leathernecks by 30, ending the game at a lopsided 36-6.

The next game against St. Louis CC proved to be a little bit more of a problem for the Bulldogs. The 'Dogs won the game by a slightly slimmer margin of 11-5, but still managed to turn the game on its head. Truman scored eight of their 11 goals on power plays.

"Unfortunately, they played a pretty dirty game because they had a lot of talented players on their team," head coach Joe Nede-

lec said. "They kept taking power plays. ... I was impressed with the power play in terms of its production. It was funny though, because I saw a lot of movement of the puck on the power play I wasn't happy with, but they were scoring, so it was hard for me to be like 'Don't do that.'"

The Bulldogs' next game defined the weekend. UMSL currently sits second in the Great Plains region in Div. I, behind 2008 national champion Lindenwood.

The game was tight the whole way through. UMSL took an early lead but Truman came back to tie the game early in the third period. UMSL scored the final goal six minutes into the third period, and Truman was unable to overcome it.

Nedelec's recent tough practices helped prepare the Bulldogs for the first weekend of games.

"I wanted [the team] to play that third-period hockey, and for the most part, I saw that," Nedelec said. "They were giving it their all every shift. It's nice to see the amount of work that we've put in the past two weeks. The guys, I've just been working them like dogs. It's nice for that result in something that was



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
The Bulldogs won two games by a wide margin this weekend but lost 4-3 to Div. I rival University of Missouri-St. Louis.

good."

The results from these first two weeks back have encouraged Nedelec to continue the current practice regimen. He said he hopes to continue this until the team reaches the national tournament.

Before the Bulldogs head to

nationals, they have several more weekends of regular season hockey to play. Then they must survive the gauntlet of regionals.

The Bulldogs take on Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, the University of Illinois and Div. I Missouri S&T the weekend of Feb. 7.

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