

Biermann, Dochterman earn All-Americans

Bernard also places 12th in shot put with throw of 13.40 meters

BY JOCELYN NEBEL
Staff Reporter

Three indoor track women performed against the best of the best in Houston last weekend at the NCAA Div. II Indoor Track and Field Championships with sweet and bittersweet results.

"The national meet is unlike anything you've ever seen," junior pole vaulter Katrina Biermann said. "You know everybody there is really good, and everyone is supposed to be there. ... You know the person that you're standing next to is just as good as you, whereas in other meets, it's a wide range of competitors."

Biermann tied for eighth in the pole vault with a vault of 3.60 meters, junior sprinter Shaina Dochterman placed sixth in the 400-meter run with a time of 56.88 and senior thrower Ashley Bernard placed 12th in the shot put with a throw of 13.40 meters. Dochterman and Biermann earned All-American titles.

The Bulldogs faced a variety of athletes from all over the country, including conference teams such as the University of Nebraska-Omaha, the University of Central Missouri and the University of Missouri Southern. Dochterman said her time in the

400-meter preliminaries was not as good as she hoped because she was nervous, but she used the tension to motivate herself for the finals.

"I was trying to think of it as just another race," Dochterman said. "You have to get nervous to get your adrenaline up, [but] if you're too nervous it can throw you off. ... You have to be confident in yourself and just think of it as another race. You have to think positive."

Dochterman was seeded eighth after the preliminaries and said she worked at the beginning of the race to avoid getting boxed in by the other athletes. Unlike the outdoor 400-meter run, the athletes get a cut in the race to run on the inside lane. Dochterman said this cut makes the

race more interesting because she could run against other people instead of just the clock. Dochterman was passed at the very end to finish sixth. Her time nearly was a second faster than her time of 57.45 at the indoor national meet last year.

Head coach John Cochrane said Biermann placed and performed well. Biermann said she was nervous before the meet because she was competing against excellent athletes including champion Katelin Rains, from Minnesota State University, who won the event with a vault of 4.20 meters.

"I was trying not to think about it until the day of competition," Biermann said. "It was a little intimidating being around them, but I just tried to focus on what I was doing, try not

to worry about anybody else, just do what I've been doing in practice and just stay positive and try not to freak out."

Biermann said she worked on her approach during the week to stay consistent. The steps before the vault are the most important part of this event.

Biermann said it didn't really sink in that she was competing at nationals until her name was called for the first attempt.

"I just stepped onto the runway and thought, 'Oh my gosh, this is it. I have to do something and make the best of this,'" Biermann said.

Biermann will be competing in the triple jump and pole vault in the upcoming outdoor season.

Biermann and Dochterman said Bernard did not perform as well as she wanted, but she was still happy to have performed at nationals. She threw a provisional mark of 13.87 at the conference meet to qualify. This was Bernard's first time at the national indoor meet.

Dochterman said Bernard's conference throw was a three-foot personal record, but she only managed to throw that distance once.

"She threw consistent with what she normally throws, so it's not like she threw worse than what she ever had before — she was just upset that she didn't make it to finals," Dochterman said. "[Assistant coach Leslie Hardesty] helped pick up her mood and said, 'You know, you threw consistent with what you normally throw.'"

The men's and women's indoor track teams will begin the outdoor season Saturday at the Central Methodist Open in Fayette, Mo. Cochrane said there are many athletes who should perform well, but the teams still have to step up and get better to raise their game.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Junior Katrina Biermann, shown at a practice earlier this year, tied for eighth at nationals with a pole vault of 3.60 meters.

'Dogs win first series in more than two years

Staihr's performance highlight of three wins in home stand

BY BRENT FOSTER
Staff Reporter

Sophomore Michael Staihr fell one strike short of Truman history last weekend.

The sophomore right-hander was one strike away from Truman baseball's first perfect game with two outs in the bottom of the seventh and final inning, when Staihr hung an 0-2 curve ball that Southwest Baptist University's No. 3 batter hit over the left center field wall. The next batter reached on an error by freshman shortstop Steven Rose before Staihr got the final batter to strike out to secure the Bulldogs' 2-1 victory Saturday.

Truman (4-20, 3-5 MIAA) won three of four games in the weekend series against SBU.

"I was actually calling pitches for him, and the whole seventh inning I was sitting there telling myself, 'Don't screw it up for the kid,'" head coach Dan Davis said. "He's done too much for me to make a mistake and mess it up for him."

This was Staihr's first start of the season. Davis said usually he uses Staihr out of the bullpen but said his performance Saturday means he will start a game during the series next weekend against



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Sophomore Michael Staihr, shown here in a game earlier this season, pitched a one-hitter in a 2-1 victory against Southwest Baptist on Saturday. The 'Dogs took 3-of-4 from SBU. It was the first series win in head coach Dan Davis' three-year tenure.

Pittsburgh State University. Staihr credited the Bulldog defense for keeping the perfect game going and ultimately leading the Bulldogs to victory.

"I think it was a whole-team effort," Staihr said. "I only got two strikeouts the entire game, and that's very low. It was mainly the guys

behind me making plays left and right — 25 out of the 27 outs were behind me."

Staihr's performance was not the only positive outcome from a Bulldog starter last weekend. Sophomore left-handed pitcher Kyle Veazey flirted with a no-hitter in Game 1 on Friday before giving up the lead late in

the game. The Bulldogs rallied with a walk-off 7-6 win in the bottom of the seventh with an RBI single by sophomore first baseman Kevin Zukaitis.

Truman led 4-0 heading into the top of the sixth, but SBU mounted a rally. After retiring the first batter, Veazey allowed a dou-

ble down the left field line, which broke up the no-hit bid. Veazey walked the next batter, followed by a two-run single by SBU first baseman Justin Crumpley. Later in the inning, SBU designated hitter Brandon Shepherd doubled home two more runs to tie the game at four.

Truman came up with a run in the bottom of the sixth to take the lead, but the Bearcats responded with two more runs in the top of the seventh off of junior right-handed pitcher Jake Smith to take a 6-5 lead.

But unlike most of the season, the Bulldogs responded in the bottom of the seventh with a wild inning. Sophomore catcher Bryce Bond struck out to lead off the inning, but sophomore first baseman Logan Frame sent a pinch-hit double to left, igniting the rally. Sophomore center fielder Kenny Swanson followed that up with an infield single, then freshman catcher Devon Myers reached on an error, tying the game at six. After an intentional walk to junior outfielder Keaton Jones, Zukaitis came up with the game-winning single that plated Swanson to give the Bulldogs the victory.

Truman finished their first home stand of the season at 3-5. The series win against SBU was the first for Davis since he arrived at Truman. The last time the Bulldogs won a conference series also

was against SBU, during the 2006 season.

The Bulldogs had a chance to come up with a 4-4 home stand but dropped a 14-6 decision to Upper Iowa University on Sunday afternoon. The Peacocks pounded out 21 hits and scored runs in seven of the nine innings, as the Bulldogs were forced to use six different hurlers.

Truman recorded 11 hits of its own, but only Jones had a multi-hit day. Six different Bulldogs drove in a run.

Freshman right-handed pitcher Tyler Stefan was tagged with the loss. He pitched three innings and allowed four runs on seven hits.

The offense showed signs of turning the corner last week. Truman scored 21 runs against SBU during the weekend. That was in stark contrast to the Bulldogs' previous three games — all losses — in which they mustered just two runs. Sophomore second baseman Luke Crader said the team is starting to take a better approach at the plate.

"[Earlier in the season] we were being too passive at the plate and not nearly as aggressive as we should have been," Crader said.

The 'Dogs return to action this weekend with a four-game set at Pittsburgh State University. The Bulldogs just need three conference wins to match their total from last season.

Four Horizons Realty

Providing affordable student housing for more than 22 years!

- Boardwalk
- States Avenue
- Waterworks
- St. James Place
- Park Place
- New York Avenue

FOR RENT

**703 N. Marion
Kirksville, MO 63501
660-665-RENT
www.4horizonsrealty.com**

Can you see through the clutter?

www.trumanindex.com