



SPORTS

SEASON
PREVIEW

Men return
veterans Estridge,
Fandja, Landau

Page 19



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15



Photo Submitted

Freshman midfielder Jaclyn Schumann and the women's soccer team earned a first-round playoff bye. The Bulldogs finished the regular season 15-3-2 and are ranked No. 2 in the South Central Region.

Tournament starts Friday

Bulldogs await winner of Washburn-West Texas A&M matchup

BY JOE BELL
Staff Reporter

The women's soccer team hopes to keep the wins coming as it heads to the NCAA postseason tournament.

The Bulldogs have proven that, not only can they win, they can overcome tough times. After starting off the season 8-0, the 'Dogs went into a tailspin, failing to win four out of their next five games. Truman rallied to finish the season undefeated in its last seven games. That finish helped them climb back to No. 23 in the national polls, after falling out of the national poll earlier in the season. They clinched a second-place finish in the MIAA last Thursday and earned the No. 2 seed in the South Central region with their 15-3-2 record.

"It's a real nice testament to the kids we have on the team [now], getting back [to the tournament] a second time in a row, getting a higher seed," head coach Mike Cannon said. "This year, we had a good feeling the last couple of weeks we were going to get in. [It was] just a matter of could we get to the top. . . . We had a very good regular season, [it's just] what we can do in the postseason."

Earning the second seed is an improvement from their 2007 finish. The Bulldogs entered the postseason

as the sixth seed, and lost to the University of Nebraska-Omaha in the first round. As they go into the 2008 postseason, the Bulldogs already have made it further than they did in last season's tournament.

As the No. 2 seed, the Bulldogs automatically received a bye for the first round of play. The first game they play will not be until the second round Sunday, when they play the winner of the match-up between No. 3 Washburn University and host No. 6 West Texas A&M University.

During the regular season, the 'Dogs defeated Washburn twice. The first game Truman beat Washburn 2-1 in Topeka, and then defeated them 2-0 at the Truman Soccer Park later in the season. Washburn earned a 13-5-2 record. The Lady Blues have a fairly balanced team this year, putting up 1.73 goals scored per game. Washburn's defense limited the goals their opponents score per game to one goal per game, and has allowed their opponents just more than 10 shots per game.

West Texas appears to play an entirely different game. The Lady Buffs have an outstanding offense that averages more than four goals per game (4.06). The West Texas defense has given up more than a goal a game to its opponents (1.04), and has allowed its opponents to shoot more than 11 shots per game (11.2). West Texas, the representative from the Lone Star Conference, finished the season at 15-3-1 record.

Please see **TOURNEY**, Page 17

Kelly advances to national meet

BY LOGAN JACKSON
Staff Reporter

Senior Danna Kelly continues to impress — another top-five finish and another trip to nationals.

Kelly led the charge for the women's cross country team last weekend at the NCAA South Central Regional in San Antonio, Texas, finishing in fourth place with a time of 21:23. She was just two seconds behind the third place finisher and 38 seconds from first place. Runners automatically advance to nationals if they finish as one of the top five individuals.

Kelly will run in the NCAA Division II Championships in Slippery Rock, Pa. on Nov. 22.

Overall, the team finished in fifth place out of 19 teams. Freshmen Michelle Gronemeyer and Anne Ratermann, sophomore Kylie Raithel and junior Fiona Williams rounded out the top five for the Bulldogs. All four finished in the top 51 out of 130 total runners at the meet.

This will be Kelly's second trip to nationals. Last year, she finished 80th out of more than 180 runners. This year, Kelly said she wants to finish in the top-30 which would give her All-American status. She said getting back to nationals was a goal she set after not making nationals in the steeplechase in track last spring.

"This being my final season, I wanted

Please see **KELLY**, Page 17



Photo Submitted

Senior Danna Kelly received an automatic national bid by finishing fourth at regionals.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Junior Peter McCall swims the breaststroke in the 200-yard medley on Saturday. He was part of the 200-yard freestyle relay team which was 0.56 away from an A cut.

Stokes snags A cut

Men's swimming falls to Div. I Missouri State 77-45 but senior freestyler secures national bid

BY KRISTA CRIDER
Staff Reporter

It could have been the home pool advantage, the team's recent tapering or simply his day, but senior Jason Stokes walked out of the Pershing Natatorium with a new 50-yard freestyle pool record and the first A

cut of the season for the men's team.

Even though the men lost 77-45 to Div. I Missouri State University on Saturday, Stokes won the 50- and 100-yard freestyle and helped his team to a win in the 200-yard freestyle relay. Head coach Mark Gole said Stokes' success surprised and pleased him and Gole said he hopes this success will continue and result in an all-time school record.

"This was the first time since I have been at Truman that we have had a men's swimmer make an individual A cut outside of a rest meet,

Please see **STOKES**, Page 17



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Senior Jessie Lemaster in the 1000-yard freestyle at the meet last Saturday. Lemaster won the event in 10:40.42, which gave her a B cut by more than eight seconds.

Women take down MSU

Aherne achieves second A cut in win against Div. I squad

BY KRISTA CRIDER
Staff Reporter

The women's swimming team beat its cross-state rival Div. I Missouri State University and the University of Nebraska-Omaha at Pershing Natatorium last Saturday.

Truman came out ahead 82-40 against MSU and 90-32 against UNO. Junior Kate Aherne and sophomore Anna Grinter achieved A cuts again this week. Aherne had hers in the 200-yard freestyle, and Grinter had a repeat performance in the 200-yard butterfly.

"We're really excited to see the consistency in Anna that she was able to make that cut time two weekends in a row," head coach Mark Gole said. "Kate swam the [200-yard freestyle] a little smarter than she did the previous week. I thought she was going to be able to get it last week, and she ended up getting it in a different event than we were anticipating, so for her to get it was good."

Grinter said her A cut times in the past two weeks were unexpected, but she said she thinks her hard work is the reason behind them.

"It was a really big surprise to get my A cut this early in the season because last year I got it at the very end of the year," Grinter said. "I have

been working harder than ever before and everyone is contributing and working their hardest and it is showing."

Defeating Missouri State was the icing on the cake for the Bulldogs, and Gole said that despite recent back-and-forth victories between the teams, he hopes the 'Dogs can win when the teams meet again at Mo. State on Jan. 17.

"Since they are a Div. I school, it's always fun to beat a team at that higher level, but overall in the past we've beaten them every time they've come up here," Gole said. "They beat us when we go down there because we don't have diving, but hopefully this year we might be able to overcome that."

Please see **WIN**, Page 17