

SPORTS



OFFENSIVE EFFORT

Volleyball outhits UCM .331 to .194 in 3-1 win

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Athletics ponders future use of fee

BY BLAKE TOPPMEYER
Sports Editor

To get a sense of the effect the Student Athletic Fee has had in two years, students need to look no farther than Stokes Stadium.

Working lights and bright green turf mark the improvements made to the stadium with athletic fee money.

Now that the lights and turf projects have been completed — with more work to be done after the football season — the athletic department is considering how to next spend money generated by the fee.

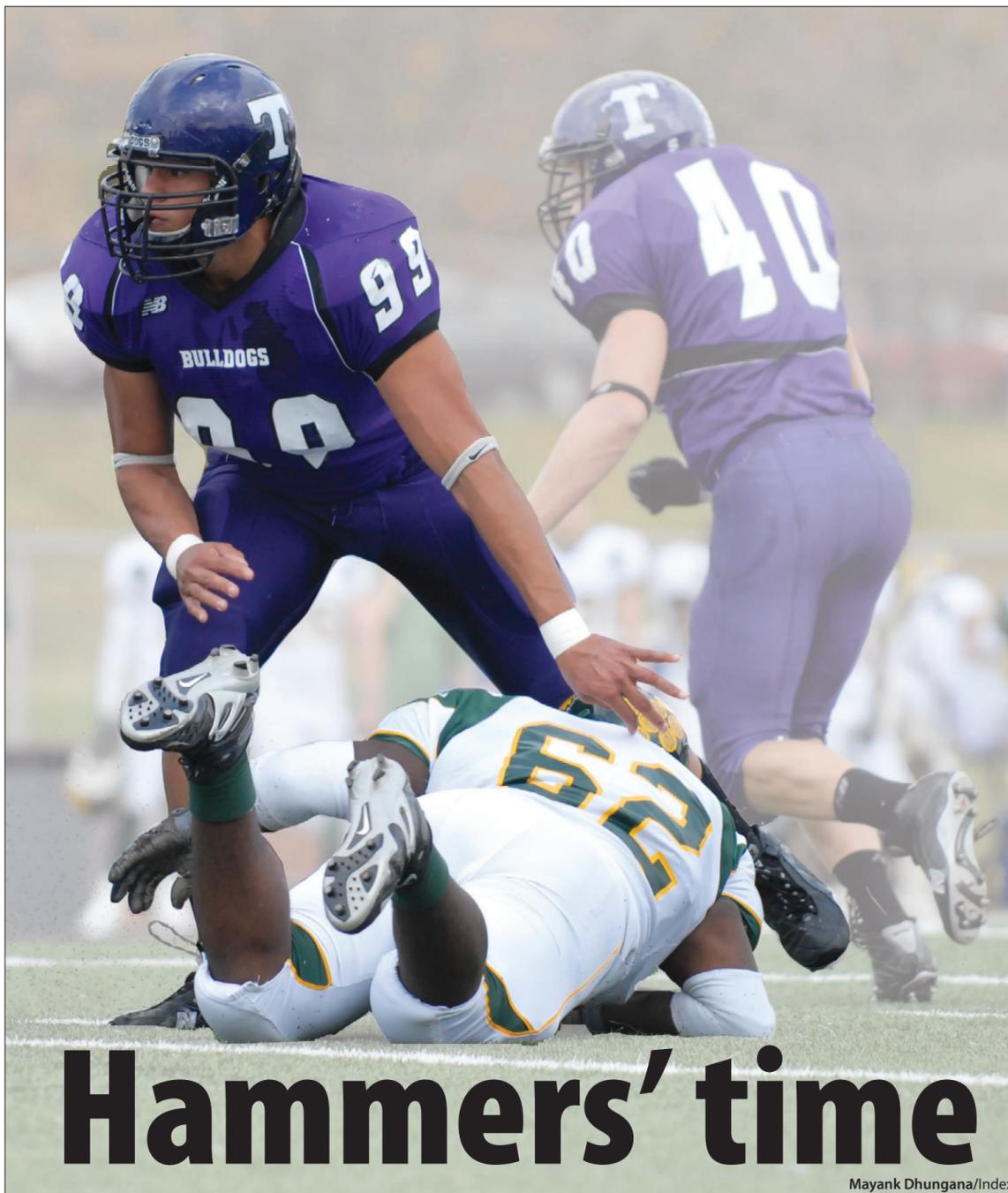
“We’re really kind of brainstorming right now,” Director of Athletics Jerry Wollmering said.

The \$50-per-semester fee, which passed via student vote during spring 2007, will be up for review by the Student Organizational Fees Committee during spring 2010. If the fee does not receive a favorable review, it will go back on the ballot for student vote in 2010. This means next year will be the final year of guaranteed money from the fee, pending approval for the fee to continue.

Repairing and resurfacing the tennis courts and renovating the bleachers and side courts in Pershing Arena are two projects that could be funded by the fee in the near future, Wollmering said. Pershing’s side courts now have a rubber surface and are used by many teams for practice during the winter, and Wollmering said they might be replaced with a Sport Court, which is a good multisport surface.

Wollmering said that right now, he is waiting to see whether the MOHELA money comes through. MOHELA will affect how fee money is spent after this year. Although MOHELA renovations wouldn’t provide too many benefits for athletic facilities in Pershing, they would lead to the installation of new lights in Pershing Arena.

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Hammers' time

Mayank Dhungana/Index

Senior defensive end combines on-field dominance with laid-back demeanor

BY JACK NICHOLL
Assistant Sports Editor

Football players took the practice field two weeks ago with slightly less clothing than usual.

“We wore purple tights, no shorts,” senior defensive end Les Hammers said. “You saw it all.”

The idea was co-created by Hammers, who has also helped create a number of unique practices, including one day when players wore do rags and another when they painted their faces with eye black.

“We just keep coming up with them out of nowhere,” Hammers said. “We just came up with one. I think it was Thursday. We switched offense and defense jerseys. If anybody has any ideas we just do it.”

The fun at practice doesn’t de-

tract from Hammers’ performance during the games. Against Missouri Southern State University on Saturday, he recorded five tackles and was named Defensive Player of Week by the Truman coaches, his fourth such award in the last two years.

But that’s who Hammers is. He has fun and then he dominates when he gets on the gridiron.

This season, Hammers is third in the MIAA in sacks and second in tackles for a loss per game, and he leads the Bulldogs in both statistics. He has appeared in every game for the ‘Dogs in his four years since playing as a true freshman in 2005. He led the team in sacks and was second team All-MIAA last season.

“He just dominates,” head coach Shannon Currier said. “He’s a fantastic player. He’s head and shoulders

above everybody else he’s played against. He’s all over the field. He gets off blocks, he goes and plays hard. He’s fast, he’s athletic — I can’t say enough good things about him. I haven’t seen a better defensive end on film this year. He’ll take a 300-pound tackle and buckle him and put him on his back.”

The words to describe Hammers’ plays on the field don’t differ by much. Senior linebacker Jason Thier used almost the same wording as Currier, and defensive coordinator Ryan Nourse offered a similar sentiment.

“Usually when he’s one-on-one with somebody, he’s pretty dominant,” Nourse said.

Hammers’ laid-back attitude and on-the-field dominance isn’t anything new. As a senior in high school,

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Sacks: 5.5

1st on team, 3rd in MIAA

Tackles: 52

5th on team

Tackles for a loss: 9.5

1st on team, 2nd in MIAA

List of potential future projects for Student Athletic Fee money (in no particular order)

- Fixing asphalt and resurfacing tennis courts
- New bleachers in Pershing Arena
- Renovating practice courts in Pershing Building
- Repairing outfield fence at baseball field
- Repairing sprinkler system at soccer field
- Lights at Truman Soccer Park
- New press box at Truman Soccer Park
- New wrestling mat
- New sound system in Pershing Arena



Senior Danna Kelly (front right) runs Monday.

Kelly eyes national return

Senior will lead Bulldogs in Saturday's regional race

BY LOGAN JACKSON
Staff Reporter

Believe it or not, tearing an ACL isn’t always a bad thing — not in Danna Kelly’s case anyway.

Kelly, the women’s cross country team’s senior No. 1 runner, tore her ACL in high school and needed surgery to fix it. The recovery time for this type of injury usually lasts six to nine months, depending on the severity. For most, the injury can linger for almost a year. Kelly, however, battled back and qualified for state in cross country and track.

Kelly said the experience taught her several things, including pushing through injury

and keeping a positive mindset. Those two things allowed her to have an outstanding high school career in which she earned all-conference in four different sports.

“In high school, tearing my ACL was my only big injury,” Kelly said. “Just going through that rehabilitation process ... helped me to realize how important mentality is. You have to have that intrinsic, motivational aspect in yourself.”

That mindset has transferred to her college running career. So far, Kelly has stayed healthy during her four years as a Bulldog. Although she and her teammates compete for the entire school year, running cross country in the fall and track in the spring, Kelly hasn’t had a problem with injuries or fatigue. She said the practice schedule that the team sets up has helped her stay in shape and run better

every year. She also said bringing in new runners helps keep things fresh and motivates her.

“Some of the biggest areas of improvement have come from summer training,” Kelly said. “What you do over the summer is basically the backbone for how your season is going to go. Every year the team atmosphere is different, too. Having that difference every year kind of helps to push the intensity and mindset of the team.”

Kelly has continued to run well this year. She has finished in the top six in every meet this year. She will compete in the South Central Regional on Nov. 8, looking to get back to nationals for the second year in a row.

Head coach John Cochrane has coached women’s cross country since 1980. When it comes to recruiting, he looks

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Women’s soccer might have to give up hosting rights in NCAA Tournament

Complications in getting hotel reservations because of deer season could lead team to play on road despite possibly earning right to host first- and second-round games.

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