

**FEE | Tennis courts, Pershing Arena improvements among list of ideas for use of athletic fee dollars**

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But if the University doesn't get MOHELA money — something Wollmering said administrators should know more about after governor-elect Jay Nixon takes office in January — Wollmering said fee money might have to be used for new lights in Pershing, rather than repairing the bleachers or practice courts.

"Part of this [MOHELA] project does include new lighting in the gym," Wollmering said. "If that doesn't happen, we probably need new lighting before new bleachers."

As for the tennis courts, Wollmering said they are starting to crack and that he is looking at getting bids on resurfacing the courts next summer.

Fixing the tennis courts is a project that not only would benefit the men's and women's tennis teams but also any Truman student who uses the courts and Kirksville High School, which uses the courts for girls' tennis matches. Wollmering said projects that benefit the general student body — not just student athletes — are met with more approval by the Student Senate.

Tennis head coach Pete Kendall said the tennis court repairs were brought up at the last athletic staff meeting and that he is hoping the repairs to the courts take place this summer.

"I'm planning on it, let's put it that way," he said. "It's something that obviously very much needs to be done. It's been 12 years, so that's at least twice as long as you should wait."

Kendall said the project would include fixing problems with the asphalt of the court and then resurfacing.

"There were some imperfections in our asphalt that was put on there 12 years ago, and it's now starting to cause raised places [in the court]," he said. "We've been dealing with those for a couple years as best we could. Those have to be taken care of and then resurfaced."

Most of the money raised by the fee for the last two years has gone to improve football facilities. The lights installed at Stokes Stadium in 2007 took up a large percentage of the 2007-08 fee. Most of the leftover money from that year and all the money from this year was used to help fund the turf project at the stadium.

"It's time to start spending on other facilities," Kendall said.

Twice the soccer teams have had projects on the table that fell through, and now, women's soccer

head coach Mike Cannon said he's not counting on any fee money being used to help his program's facilities until he actually sees the work in progress.

Cannon said the soccer press box was supposed to be repaired during summer 2007 and Truman Soccer Park's sprinkler system, which was installed in 1982, was supposed to see repairs last summer. Neither project actually took place.

Now, Cannon said that when he hears of potential projects, such as lights at the soccer field, he doesn't automatically get excited.

"We've had two projects that were supposed to be projects that were going to be done [but] haven't got done," Cannon said. "So until I see anything or hear anything, I'm not going to buy anything."

Cannon said improving the sprinkler system and building a central restroom facility that could be used during soccer, tennis, baseball and softball games would be two ways the fee money could be used to help the soccer program.

Cannon said the current sprinkler heads, which keep the field from drying out during the summer, have sunk down in the ground a bit, making it harder for the water to shoot out. This causes erosion around sprinkler heads and creates holes in those areas. The holes have to be filled with sand during the season.

Cannon said lights at the soccer field would help with scheduling issues. The men's and women's soccer teams share the soccer facilities. If the field had lights, the teams could practice later in the day or at night, lessening the chance that the players would have to adjust class schedules so they could make practice times.

Five of nine MIAA schools that sponsor soccer have fields with lights.

Cannon said his team has practiced on the turf at Stokes Stadium a few times when the soccer field was too wet, and he said the two projects at the football stadium were "a great start" for the fee money. But now, he said, it's time for other teams to more directly benefit from the fee.

"Those [projects at Stokes] are some things that we needed to get done, now it's just a matter of, what's the next thing?" Cannon said. "If it's stands on the north side of football stadium, I'd have an issue with that because I don't think they fill up the other side completely. ... It's kind of like, 'Do the rich get richer or are we trying to help everybody?'"

**HAMMERS | Senior has drawn interest from professional teams this season**

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he was recruited by many schools in his home state of Illinois, including Div. I schools University of Illinois and Northern Illinois University.

Currier said he noticed Hammers' explosiveness and talent when looking at his high school game tape, but when Currier and then-defensive line coach Wallie Kuchinski paid Hammers a home visit, it was all about a laid-back atmosphere.

"If you know me, I'm really relaxed," Hammers said. "I'm not too uptight about anything. So it really wasn't me shooting a thousand questions at him."

The three of them — plus Hammers' mom — sat on the couch, drank Mountain Dew, watched NFL play-offs and talked about Truman football. The visit worked — Hammers said he liked the program, but it was his mom who made the decision for him because of her liking of Currier.

"I think that's one of the things that really attracted my mom is that the coach came to the house," Hammers said. "We were sitting on the couch, watching the game, discussing me coming to Truman, and I think by the end of that talk I had pretty much committed, so it worked."

Hammers played outside linebacker in high school and said the transition wasn't hard because the position is similar to playing defensive end except when he used to drop into pass coverage.

Now he is able to use his speed, which is about a 4.5 in the 40-yard dash, to get to the quarterback quickly. He went from 265 lbs. last year to 243 lbs. this year.



Mayank Dhungana/Index  
**Hammers wins the battle against an offensive tackle in Saturday's game.**

"I used to just love run blocks and getting off blocks and making tackles, but this year my speed and my pass rush has really improved," Hammers said.

Hammers' pass-rushing ability also factors into Nourse's play-calling.

"A lot of times I'll call the strength of our rush or the strength of our call away from Les just so he can work by himself on a tackle," Nourse said.

Hammers, a computer science major, has drawn interest from professional teams. Arena league scouts and a representative from the Indianapolis Colts have talked to him this season.

He said he will try to keep playing football if possible but that he is going to see what happens by the end of the year.

"I personally think he can play at the next level if somebody gives him

a chance," Currier said.

The possibility of playing football post-Truman is what gives Hammers his motivation. He said he is not a player who gets psyched up before games. Instead, he said he stays calm and poised, similar to his demeanor throughout the week.

"One of the things is I'm a senior and that's been the biggest motivational thing is that this could be my last year," Hammers said. "This could be my last play. No more playing football. So that really gets me going for every game, every practice. And somebody is always watching you if you want to play later on."

And what does Hammers think about his last name?

"I think it's a great football name," he said.

**KELLY | Runner has finished in the top ten in all but two races last two years**

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for runners that can handle the tough academic load at Truman. He wants runners that like the school and runners that can perform well in the classroom even while training twice a day. He said Kelly fits that mold perfectly. He said she is an intelligent person who blends in with the other runners.

"In our world we try to recruit people because of the educational thing," Cochrane said. "Don't get us mixed up with the Div. I world where it's about running [and then education]. You have to have an interest in the school. We talked to her and we liked her. We felt she fit in nicely."

Kelly has balanced school and running. Not only did she finish 80th at nationals in 2007, but she also was selected for the NCAA Div. II U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association all-Academic team. Cochrane said she has gone through difficult times, but those type of things are expected.

"The whole process is very interesting," Cochrane said. "Your easiest year is when you're a freshman because your world isn't very complicated. After that ... you have to figure out what you want to do. Life can be stressful ... and sometimes you aren't as interested in running."

Kelly also learned several things from Jacquie Faust during her freshman and sophomore year. Faust was one of Truman's best cross country runners. She was one of two runners in Bulldog history to take home first place in a regional meet. Faust also was an all-American after finishing 29th in nationals her senior year. Kelly said Faust made running enjoyable with her positive attitude, and she taught her teammates to have a desire and love for running.

"[Faust] was such a great team leader and role model for me," Kelly said. "She was great to have running in front of me. She always gave me that motivation and that push to try to make myself better. After she gradu-

ated, I knew that's the type of athlete and the type of person that I wanted to be like."

Kelly's career at Truman has been quite impressive. The last two years she has finished in the top 10 in all but two races. During the Southern Stampede her junior year, she finished in 14th place, however there were more than 290 runners participating in the event. During that two-year period, she has won the Miner Invitational both times.

Kelly has been able to lead by example. Throughout the last two years, she has become a more consistent leader.

Freshman Michelle Gronemeyer said Kelly has taught her several things so far this year. Kelly has helped her be more optimistic and helped her to develop a hard-working attitude.

"It's nice to have someone that's better than you so that they can push you," Gronemeyer said. "I hadn't really experienced that in high school. She's definitely an active leader. She really helps us get through the workouts."

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