

# 'Dogs place second at Maryville Invitational

**Williams, Lawson shoot two-day 157s, tie for fifth overall**

BY JOCELYN NEBEL  
Staff Reporter

The women's golf team claimed a second-place finish at the Maryville Invitational to end the fall season Monday.

The Bulldogs ended the two-day, eight-team tournament in second place behind Lindenwood University (Mo.). After shooting a 334 Sunday, Truman improved by 20 shots Monday to shoot a 314. The two-day 648 total was the Bulldogs' second-best score for a tournament this fall.

Sophomore Jen Lawson and senior Julie Williams were the top Bulldog finishers. They tied for fifth in the tournament. Lawson shot under 80 both days, and she and Williams both finished with a plus-13, two-day score of 157.

Lawson's two-day 157 was her career-best score. Before this tournament she had not broken 80 in a single round in her collegiate career.

Williams improved by seven strokes the second day to tie with Lawson. Junior Erin

Semple finished third for the Bulldogs. She improved by nine strokes the second day and finished in a tie for 10th place at 21-over-par.

With some of the women never having seen the course before the tournament, Sunday's opening round proved to be a little difficult.

"The first day we played kind of mediocre," head coach Sam Lesseig said.

Making the second-place finish more impressive was the fact that Truman played the tournament without last year's low scorer, junior Krystal Limsiaco.

Limsiaco missed the tournament because of academic obligations.

Semple said Limsiaco's absence made for "a little added pressure."

Even with Limsiaco absent, there were enough good performances from other players to keep the Bulldogs near the top of the leaderboard.

"I think that's what's good about our team is that we have depth," Lawson said.

After Truman's average performance on day one, Monday marked a turnaround for the Bulldogs. Truman's 314 Monday total moved the 'Dogs from third to second place.



Photo Submitted

**Sophomore Jen Lawson shot a season-best 13 over par, tying her for fifth with senior teammate Julie Williams.**

Truman outshot Lindenwood by two strokes Monday.

Lawson said the clubhouse was the center of excitement Monday. As every Bulldog finished, hopes were high and she had a good feeling about their performance.

"We had started a little slow on Sunday, ... but I just had gotten really excited every time one of our girls would walk in [on Monday]," Lawson said.

Williams also finished well Monday. She opened the tournament with an 82 but carded a 75 on Monday.

"You can really rely on her to come through," Lawson said of Williams.

Semple said this final tournament gives the team high

hopes for the spring season.

"We're all looking good for the spring if we keep scoring the way we did at the end of this fall," Semple said.

This was the second time Semple has carded a sub-80 round in a tournament. She shot a 78 on Monday.

Including Truman's performance at the Maryville Invite, the Bulldogs finished in the top three in four of their six fall tournaments. Last fall, Truman finished in the top three just once in six tournaments.

The Bulldogs will look to return to the NCAA Tournament this spring. After qualifying for the event in Spring 2007, the Bulldogs missed the tournament last season.

## TRUMAN ATHLETICS News and Notes

### Volleyball: Novelli out with knee injury

The injury bug continues to plague the volleyball team. Junior starting outside hitter Jenna Novelli has been out since Oct. 3 with a knee injury and could miss significant time. Novelli said she had an MRI conducted Monday and is awaiting the results. Novelli ranks fifth on the team in kills.

Novelli is the second Bulldog starter to injure her knee during the last month. Senior right side hitter Melissa Keck suffered a right knee injury in September but has not missed significant time. Keck leads the Bulldogs in kills and kills per set.

### Football: Win vs. UNO marks milestone

The 26-20 double-overtime win against the then-No. 16 University of Nebraska-Omaha on Oct. 8 was the football team's first win against a ranked opponent since 2005. In 2005, the Bulldogs defeated No. 13 Winona State University 21-16 in the season opener before losing their next nine games.

UNO (4-2, 3-2 MIAA) was voted to place second in the MIAA preseason coaches poll this season and was 10-1 in 2007.

The win against UNO compares to Truman's 24-21 win against the University of Central Missouri in 2006, which jumpstarted the team to two 6-5 seasons in a row.

"I think the UNO win is bigger," head coach Shannon Currier said. "For one, it's this year and we need to win this year. We're still in contention for some postseason opportunities so we have a chance to do some good things yet. As well as, they are a ranked team. ... Their reputation nationally I think is pretty strong. They've been a playoff team the last few years."

Currier said he thinks that even though the Bulldogs could not beat Pittsburg State University last weekend, the win against UNO will positively affect the program by giving the players a belief that they can beat top teams.

### Women's soccer: Team battles for NCAA spot

The women's soccer team now sits in a tie for seventh in the South Central Region and ranks third in the MIAA.

Six teams from the region will move on to the NCAA Tournament at the end of the season. Each of the three conferences that makes up the region gets an automatic bid to go to the NCAA Tournament. That leaves three at-large bids up for grabs.

Head coach Mike Cannon said he is optimistic that the Bulldogs will have a shot at the postseason.

"Third place [in the MIAA] would be wise if you want to have a shot at [going to the postseason]," Cannon said. "I would say anything below third place is going to be tough to make the playoffs. Even third place might not make it. ... Our conference is strong enough, hopefully we get a third [bid]. But that means we still have a bunch of teams fighting for that third and second spot."

# Bulls lose in final minute against K-State



Mayank Dhungana/Index

Senior Josh Harris drives with the ball in a game earlier this season. The Bulls were unable to score on their final possession last weekend.

BY ARRON HUSTEAD  
Staff Reporter

With the simple act of preventing a ball from touching the ground, Bulls Rugby was defeated.

In the final seconds of Sunday's match against Kansas State University, the Bulls had a chance to take the lead on an attempted try in the red zone but were unable to touch the ball down past the goal line.

The Bulls had scored two tries earlier in the game with the same play they attempted the last play of the game, moving the ball in close to the goal line with the forwards and scoring on a short burst across the line. However, Kansas State was ready this time and prevented the try by getting enough hands under the ball to hold it up as time expired, giving the Wildcats the win 27-24.

"It was a heartbreaker for the guys," head coach Bill Sexton said. "They worked real hard to come back and then the next thing you know, it's over."

When a try is held up in the end zone, the team with possession is given the ball back five meters out and then has another opportunity to score. But because time ran out as the try was held up, the Bulls didn't get another chance to score.

"The referee just called the game," sophomore Aaron Loida said. "Thirty seconds to a minute later, and I think we could have pounded it in if they'd given us the ball one more time."

Senior vice-captain Dustin Ralph said the team remained poised during the final drive. He said the team has had a tendency this season to become nervous in big situations and

make costly mistakes.

"We just stayed calm and one play after another in sequence, just being really patient and waiting for them to mess up for us to make a good play, and tried not to force anything," Ralph said.

Senior captain Justin Lacy suffered an injury late in the second half and was unable to return to the game. Loida said the rest of the team's veterans stepped up in Lacy's absence to rally the team together, but they still were unable to overcome their deficit.

"I think before we put a lot of pressure on our captains and vice-captains and really there shouldn't be that much pressure on them," Loida said. "They make the pregame speech and they get us all focused and they try to rally us as best they can, but you can't just do it by yourself. You need everybody."

Ralph said he was pleased with the way the team came together this week.

"I've been waiting for it to happen all season, and it happened halfway through the first half and it just didn't quite pan out," Ralph said. "It was an outstanding performance all around. It just wasn't quite enough."

A penalty late in the game allowed the Wildcats to increase their lead to 27-19, which turned out to be the deciding points of the game. Sexton said the Bulls made too many mistakes early in the game that put Kansas State in better position to score.

"We're still making a lot of mistakes and giving the other team too many opportunities," Sexton said. "Credit to Kansas State, they took advantage of some of our mistakes and turned them into points against us."

The Bulls had to play from behind for almost the entire game, and Kansas State pulled away every time the Bulls got close.

Kansas State held a 19-7 lead at the end of the first half, in part because of Bulls' mistakes and the Wildcats' effective use of the wind advantage they had in that half. With the wind at their backs, the Wildcats kept the ball on the Bulls' side of the field for most of the first half with their kicking game.

The Bulls had the wind advantage in the second half but were unable to use the advantage as effectively as Kansas State had in the first half. Sexton said using the wind was a part of the team's game plan in the second half, but the Bulls got caught trying to run the ball out of their own red zone a couple of times.

"It's really back to decision making, something we've struggled with all season," Sexton said. "We talk about having a game plan, but then we don't adhere to it very well."

Sexton said a lack of quality practices has been a factor in some of the team's mistakes.

"We've had very poor practices, and it's hard to get better as a team if you're not practicing as a team," he said. "Consequently we have some guys that are working very hard and then we have some other guys that are not working as hard. Our performance is probably reflecting our modest preparations. We've not had a real significant commitment and consequently it's left us a little short."

The Bulls will be back in action at home against the St. Louis Ramblers and Kansas City RFC on Saturday.

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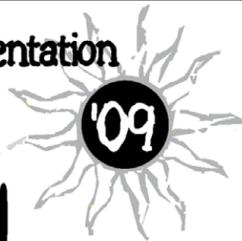
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