

Women continue dual win streak

BY KRISTA CRIDER
Staff Reporter

The women's tennis team finished off their undefeated fall season yesterday with an 8-1 win against Upper Iowa University. The win improved their overall record to 6-0.

This year marks the fifth consecutive season the women have had a perfect fall dual record. Their fall dual win streak stands at 21 straight.

The Bulldogs' only loss came from freshman Dagmar Velez, after she moved up to the No. 4 singles spot to fill in for sophomore Ellen Russell. Kendall took Russell out of the singles lineup because of a pulled muscle. Velez played a close match at No. 4 but ended up losing 4-6, 6-7.

The only other close match of the day was at No. 1 doubles with seniors Lindsay Blair and Courtney Walther managing to come out on top 8-6. Walther said the match was close because she and Blair had trouble keeping focus and were not placing the ball where they needed to.

"When you hit the ball to the person at the net, chances are you are going to lose the point, and we were doing that a lot," Walther said. "I think we weren't very focused, unfortunately."

The Bulldogs also came out on top at their home finale, sweeping Westminster College on Tuesday. Four of the six singles players — Blair, Walther, and sophomores Anna Greenwald and Kelsey Kuykenall — won their matches in straight 6-0 sets.

Kendall said the match against Westminster was not one the team was worried about, and Blair said the team used the matches to work on fundamentals.

"There weren't a lot of competitive matches today, so it was more just working on staying focused throughout your match," Blair said. "Even though you're up, you can always work on things like coming to the net a lot more or playing more aggressively than you normally would."

The women also competed in a "super



Senior Courtney Walther powers up for a backhand during Tuesday's match against Lincoln University (Mo.). Walther won her singles match 6-2, 7-6 and paired with senior Lindsay Blair to win her doubles match 8-1.

Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

dual" during the weekend against Div. I Western Illinois University. The Bulldogs played two singles and two doubles matches apiece against WIU players, and no team scores were kept. The Bulldogs were 7-19 for the weekend.

Blair, Walther, Russell, and sophomore Amy Ochs came out of the weekend with the most wins on the team, winning one of each of their singles and doubles matches.

Blair won her first match in both

singles (6-3, 6-3) and doubles (9-7), but failed to come out on top against a new singles opponent and a new opponent on the opposing doubles team. Her losses were 6-1, 6-1 in singles and 8-2 in doubles alongside

Walther, her doubles partner.

Blair said their doubles matches were determined by who had the mental edge at any given time.

"The team we actually beat was their regular No. 1 doubles team I think, so we had a really good match and were able to kind of get them frustrated early," Blair said. "In the one that we lost, we just never got into a rhythm."

Walther also won on the first day in singles 6-4, 6-3. Kendall said Western Illinois had a very solid No. 1 player, Amanda Griffin, who gave Blair and Walther their singles losses.

"They both had their hands full because she's a strong player," Kendall said.

Kuykendall played two super-tiebreakers in singles. She won one match 2-6, 6-2, 10-3, and then lost another match against a different opponent 4-6, 6-2, 10-5. Greenwald also took one of her singles matches into a super-tiebreaker.

Blair said the "super dual" could be seen as an indicator for how Truman will do in the spring, when the woman face tougher dual-match competition.

"We had some tough matches this weekend, and everyone played really hard and competed really hard all throughout their matches," Blair said. "Western Illinois is a good team, so I think it's a sign that we will be very competitive."

Blair said one of the reasons they will be so competitive in the spring is the impact of freshmen who joined the team this year.

"Our freshmen just came in having worked hard all summer and were competitive right from the start," Blair said. "We're a lot deeper of a team than we've been in the past."

Both seniors are looking forward to the spring season coming up, and Walther said the team has a chance to beat some top teams.

"I think we proved we are going to be really competitive this spring," Walther said. "I think that we have a good chance of doing really well in our conference and beating some teams that we may have lost to in the past."

Lestmann, Kovach lead golf to top-three finishes

BY JOE BARKER
Managing Editor

For the Truman golf teams, it was the underclassmen who led the way to the top.

Both Bulldog golf teams ended their recent tournaments near the top of the leader board. Freshman Liz Lestmann paced the women's team with a 13th-place finish to help the women secure a third-place finish at the Millikin University Fall Invitational. On the men's side, it was sophomore Chris Kovach who was the low scorer. His second-place score matched the team's finish at the Pasta House Drury Invitational.

The women hit the links first, in Decatur, Ill., on Saturday. Playing on a course that rewarded ball placement and punished those who were unfamiliar with the course layout, the women were able to overcome the conditions to beat 15 schools.

"We played very steadily, even though we had a few bad holes," head coach Sam Lesseig said. "... You always want to shoot lower, but we played pretty steadily."

Lestmann opened the tournament with an 84 but figured out the course by day two. She cut eight shots off her opening round and carded a 76 to finish the tournament with a 160 and sole possession of 13th place.

"I played really well," Lestmann said. "I had the best round I've shot so far in my golfing career, so it was pretty good."

Junior Krystal Limsiaco was one stroke off her teammate. She shot a two-day 161 (81, 80) to earn a tie for 14th. Right behind Limsiaco was senior Julie Williams, who carded a pair of 81s to end the tournament tied for 16th. Freshman Jessica Schepker rounded out the top-four with a 34th-place finish (84, 88).

Lestmann was the third different low scorer for the women's four fall tournaments. Only Williams has repeated the feat.

"I don't mind it a bit," Lesseig said. "I don't expect anyone to always be low. It's one of those things, you go to a course and a certain couple of days someone's really feeling good about their swing and they'll play low."

The men haven't had as many different low scorers, but they too have a balanced attack. Kovach and seniors Mike Spaulding and Scott Danielsen all finished in the top 10 and the men finished just two shots behind first place Missouri Western State University at the Drury Invite.

The Bulldogs closed the opening round in third place, eight shots behind Mo. West. On the windy second day, the team shot a 296 and moved into the second spot, ahead of 10 other schools.

The Bulldogs finished ahead of four MIAA schools. Last season the Bulldogs finished near the bottom of the conference standings.

"I think it's good for our team to be right there [in the conference],"

Kovach said. "We've improved a lot from last year."

For the second consecutive tournament Kovach turned in the lowest scorecard. He opened the tournament Monday with a four-under 68 and shot an even-par 72 Tuesday. His second-place finish was one stroke behind tournament-winner Jeremy Martin from Northern Kentucky.

"[Tuesday] I played pretty good," Kovach said. "I didn't play as well as [Monday], but it was a lot tougher conditions because there was a lot more wind. It was tougher to hit the ball as well as I did [Monday]."

Spaulding fired off rounds of 73 and 74 to finish in a tie for eighth at four-over-par. In three tournaments this fall Spaulding has averaged a team-best score of 72 per round.

Just one shot behind Spaulding was Danielsen. He tied for 10th after firing an even-par 72 in the second round. Combined with his Monday score of 76, Danielsen claimed his first top-10 finish of the fall.

Rounding out the top four was freshman Nik Bentzinger. He finished in a tie for 36th with a 10-over 154.

Both teams will hit the course again in the coming week. The women will travel to Lincoln, Neb., for the Nebraska Wesleyan Invite, which takes place Sunday and Monday. While the women are finishing up, the men will be teeing off at their final event of the fall, the SBU Fall Tournament. The two-day event concludes Tuesday, Oct. 7.



Photo Submitted

Freshman Liz Lestmann tees off at a tournament earlier this season. Lestmann shot 84, 76 and led the women with a 13th-place finish.



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