

SPORTS



SHUTOUT WIN
Bulldogs earn win behind Buri's first-half goal

Wollmering supports 'Dogs at games, in meetings

Athletic director now in tenth year after replacing Walter Ryle in 1999

BY BRENT FOSTER
Staff Reporter

For most people, a road trip to Pittsburg, Kan., to watch the football team play on a Saturday afternoon would be a way to escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life. But for Director of Athletics Jerry Wollmering, it's just another day's work.

"I'm actually going down there to check out their new scoreboard," Wollmering joked before his trip to Pittsburg earlier this month.

Showing his support at Bulldog athletic events is just a small portion of Wollmering's job as director of athletics. Wollmering said that besides heading the athletic department, the job entails getting out and spending time with the entire student body and faculty. He said getting to do so many different tasks, such as attending Truman athletic events and speaking on behalf of the athletic department in meetings, is what he really likes about being athletic director.

"That's what I like best about it," Wollmering said. "You're not coming to work doing the same thing. Seasons change, people change. It's neat to see students come in as freshmen and develop into seniors and graduate and the whole cycle starts all over again. I'm just very fortunate to be in this position."

Wollmering came to Truman in 1999, replacing the previous director of athletics, Walter Ryle. Before coming to Truman, Wollmering served as the associate athletic director of finance at Div. I Bowling Green State University (Ohio), and he was an assistant athletic director at Div. I Southeast Missouri State University prior to that.

Wollmering said he originally began researching Div. II schools when a friend told him to look into a position at Div. II Findlay University (Ohio).

"When I was researching that position I found out what Div. II was all about," Wollmering said. "At that point I thought, 'If

I ever wanted to be an athletic director, maybe Div. II would be a good level for me.' About a year later the Truman position opened up and, being a native of southeast Iowa, it was close to home. After researching the institution I felt that as an institution it had a lot of great, positive things going for it. The rest is history I guess. Nine years later I'm still here."

During his nine years at Truman, Wollmering not only has helped Bulldog athletics succeed, but has helped out on the MIAA budget committee. Wollmering has a degree in accounting from Drake University (Iowa), which is something that Bob Boerigter, Northwest Missouri State University athletic director, said has been a great benefit to the MIAA.

"He has a tremendous background in terms of finance," Boerigter said. "As a result he has been able to make a very significant contribution to the MIAA budget committee."

"I like the fact that he is at our matches. I like the fact that he's gone up to bat in meetings for the athletic department"

Jason Skoch
Volleyball Head Coach



Mayank Dhungana/Index
Director of Athletics Jerry Wollmering smiles after walking onto the turf field after a football game this October.

Please see JERRY, Page 23



Mayank Dhungana/Index

The women's swim team returns eight of their 14 national qualifiers from last season, including two-time national champion Kate Aherne. The women have won the National Championship eight of the last nine seasons, and the men have placed in the top 15 each of the last four.

Repeat will be difficult

Everyone knows how much talent the women's swim team lost after last season.

Six seniors combined for 27 All-American honors. The entire national championship team had 14 qualifiers and 51 All-Americans.

This is the first time in recent memory the swimming team has lost this much talent in one offseason. After 2004-05, the women lost leading swimmers Diana Betsworth, Sarah Dance and Michaela Osborn, but the women responded by winning nationals by an even wider margin the next year.

"It's almost like a two-year plan because of who we lost," head coach Mark Gole said, referring to both the women and the men. "It's going to take some time. We couldn't make it up in one year — it was impossible with who was out there."

The question is, how will the teams respond?

Gole said that realistically 11 or 12 women will make it to nationals. That leaves a void of two or three people compared to the 14 who scored last season.

That's assuming senior captain Jessie Lemaster, sophomore Julia



Jack Nicholl

COMMENTARY

Women begin title defense

Women return eight national qualifiers title run, men return three

BY KRISTA CRIDER
Staff Reporter

The men's and women's swimming teams have jumped into the 2008 season with improvement and A cuts on their minds.

Head coach Mark Gole said the team shapes its goals based on qualifying for nationals first, then changes gears later in the season to concentrate

on coming out on top in the conference and national meets.

"[The team] goals are to get as many people qualified for nationals as possible first semester and then try as hard as we can to build on that number during the conference meet," Gole said. "The goal is definitely to win the conference championship then place as high at nationals as we possible can."

The teams began their season earlier this month with a meet against the Div. I University of Iowa, and Gole said he hopes to improve times throughout the season.

Please see SWIM, Page 23

Key Returners

Women

- Kate Aherne** - Won national titles in 200-yard individual medley and 800-yard free relay
- Erika Anderson** - Three-time national qualifier
- Kendra Brunkow** - Earned four All-American honors at 2008 nationals

Men

- Jason Stokes** - Three-time national qualifier, 12 career All-American honors
- Andrew McCall** - Earned two All-American honors at 2008 nationals
- Peter McCall** - Earned two All-Americans at nationals



Mayank Dhungana/Index

Junior Lloyd Braidlow is the only returning national qualifier on the wrestling team, which includes nine freshman. He qualified two years ago before redshirting last year.

Wrestling team fueled by youthful roster

Braidlow, Schultz to help provide veteran leadership

BY ARRON HUSTEAD
Staff Reporter

Let the youth movement begin.

The wrestling team will field a young squad this season, following the addition of nine freshmen from this year's recruiting class.

A few starters return to the team this season, including junior Dean Schultz. Schultz competed in the 174-pound division last year, but might move up a weight class this season.

"We've got a young team, but at the same time we don't have any seniors on the starting line-up this year," Schultz said. "We should be able to return the

same team next year and that's really invaluable in college wrestling."

Truman has sent at least one representative to the national tournament in each of the last 16 years and has had one All-American on the team each of the last six seasons.

Schultz said he aspires to fill that role and become an All-American this season.

"I realize the end of my career is coming up here," he said. "This is a sport you've committed to your whole life and you want to have something to show for it at the end."

Schultz said he was committed to gaining experience the last two seasons, but this year he has a higher confidence level going in and expects to win.

"Last year I wrestled a lot of tough guys in the nation," Schultz said. "I was right there

with them, one-point matches, overtime and stuff. You get through a year of that and you're older, you benefit from your experience and you get out there with a whole different mentality."

Head coach Dave Schutter said the team's top goal is to win the Div. II Academic National Championship for the third consecutive season.

"Everything else is secondary to that," he said. "No program's ever done that in Div. II. Academics are the No. 1 priority of this University, so that's our No. 1 priority right there and nothing else enters into it."

The Bulldogs also will look to improve on their dual record of 4-8 from last season.

The team lost both of its national qualifiers from last

Please see WRESTLE, Page 23