



Photo Submitted

Michelle Gronemeyer finished 13th at the MIAA championships, 11 places behind 2nd place finisher Danna Kelly.

Women take 4th in MIAA

Kelly finishes second at conference meet, Walls places 15th

BY LOGAN JACKSON
Staff Reporter

The Bulldog cross country teams ran well Saturday — just not well enough.

The woman's team finished fourth out of nine teams at the MIAA Conference meet in Warrensburg, Mo. Senior Danna Kelly and freshman Michelle Gronemeyer paced the Bulldogs, finishing second and 13th, respectively. Kelly took home All-MIAA honors, and Gronemeyer was awarded honorable mention All-MIAA. Sophomore Kylie Raitzel and freshmen Anne Ratermann and Dani Dell'Orco rounded out the top five for Truman.

The Bulldogs came into the MIAA Championship looking to finish in the top four in the conference. They succeeded in doing that, but Kelly said they could have finished even higher.

"I think, potentially, we knew we could have done better," Kelly said. "I think it was a little disappointing. We're

just trying to stay positive and know that we have regionals in two weeks. So we're just going to work hard and look forward, not backward."

Kelly earned All-MIAA honors for the second year in a row. She has finished among the top six individuals in all five of the races this season. She also had one first-place finish at the Miner Invitational on Sept. 6 in Rolla, Mo.

Kelly looks to repeat last year's results from regionals, in which her sixth-place finish was good enough to qualify her for nationals. She finished 80th at the 2007 nationals out of more than 180 runners. Head coach John Cochran said getting back to nationals would be a tough task.

"She could do fine," Cochran said. "She could be in the top five. It won't be easy. There are some pretty good people. It also depends on some of the conference people. You have to battle to be in the top five. There are no freebies along the way."

Kelly said all of the freshmen have done a good job for being first-year runners.

"It's hard for them because they don't know what to ex-

pect," Kelly said. "They've done a great job of taking the initiative to step up and finish. It's always interesting to see at the end of the season how they are doing. Next year they'll have a season under their belt, and they'll come back even stronger."

The men's team placed fifth out of eight teams. Freshman Joey Walls led the way for the Bulldogs, with a 15th-place finish. He also was awarded honorable mention All-MIAA, which is given to places 11 through 20. Junior Zach Chapman and sophomores Bob Gorman, Josh Mantooth and Brandon Gutteridge finished the top five for Truman.

The Bulldogs came into the meet ranked eighth out of eight teams. They exceeded that prediction, but head coach Tim Schwegler said they could have done better. He said they are heading in the right direction and that has the team energized.

"We were happy, not satisfied," Schwegler said. "We had an injury bother [sophomore Adam Kell]. Still, you run with the team you got. Overall, we were pretty happy. I think we're moving on the way up, and the

guys are excited about that. We think we can come back and run a little better at regionals."

Walls was the only Bulldog to finish in the top 20. Schwegler said being honorable mention All-MIAA is a great accomplishment for a freshman. He also said Walls has improved a lot since last year in high school.

"He bought into the program," Schwegler said. "It's nice for a coach because he just did everything I told him to. It's something to build off of. I think he's doing what he's been doing all year. He was a good runner in high school, and this is just another stepping stone for him."

Walls has finished in the top five for the Bulldogs in every meet this year. He said this race was a tough one but that he battled through to the finish.

"I went out about right," Walls said. "I was a little stiff for the first 2,000 meters, but after that I just loosened up. I hurt quite a bit, but I just pushed through it and had a strong finish."

Truman's next meet will be the NCAA South Central Regional on Nov. 8 in San Antonio, Texas.

TRUMAN ATHLETICS News and Notes

Basketball: Women sponsor Lil' Pup Club

This season, the women's basketball team is starting the Lil' Pup Club. The club is open to any faculty or staff member's daughter, niece or granddaughter in grades three through eight.

Girls selected to the Lil' Pup Club will be introduced before Truman home games and receive a free T-shirt. The girls also will get to sit on the team bench during the game and will help hand out water bottles to players.

Women's basketball head coach Michael Smith said the program will be a good way to get young girls excited about Bulldog basketball and will give the girls a chance to interact with Truman players.

"Our players can be more of role models in a positive way to these young ladies," Smith said.

Smith is in his first year as head coach of the women's basketball team, after taking over the program in April.

The women have compiled just two winning seasons since 2000, and Smith said he is trying to change the atmosphere surrounding the program. He said he is hoping programs like the Lil' Pup Club will generate more excitement about the team throughout the campus community.

"We're excited," Smith said. "We feel we're going to put a quality product on the floor."

Applications for the Lil' Pup Club must be filled out by Nov. 3. There is no cost to apply. For more information, contact women's basketball assistant coach Taira Roth at 785-7362 or troth@truman.edu.

Football: Missouri S&T back on schedule

The football game against Missouri University of Science and Technology has been rescheduled for 1 p.m. Nov. 15 at Stokes Stadium.

The game originally was scheduled for Aug. 28 but was postponed because of delays in the installation of the field turf at Stokes. It was then rescheduled the following week to be played at Central Methodist University, but was delayed once again because of inclement weather.

The non-conference game against Missouri S&T would have been cancelled if either the Bulldogs or the Miners made the playoffs, but the chances of that happening are highly unlikely as the teams have 3-5 and 4-4 records, respectively.

Volleyball: Team fourth in MIAA standings

The MIAA standings are beginning to take shape as the season enters its final three weeks. Right now Truman is in fourth place with a 10-4 conference record. Emporia State University is in first place with a 12-1 record, followed by Washburn University at 11-2 and University of Central Missouri, also at 11-2.

In the current regional rankings, Washburn comes in as No. 1 ahead of No. 2 Emporia State. Truman is ranked fourth, UCM fifth and Pittsburg State University sixth. The top team from the region hosts the South Central Regional of the NCAA Regional Tournament.

Women's Soccer: Wiegart wins MIAA award

Junior forward Jessica Wiegart was named MIAA offensive player of the week this week.

Wiegart had a hat trick in the 4-1 win against the University of Nebraska-Omaha on Oct. 20. She scored the goals in three different ways: The first was off a breakaway, the second from a rebound and the third from a shot from the wing.

Wiegart is second on the squad in goals with eight, one behind junior midfielder Katie Reuck, who won the same award last week.

It was the first hat trick in Wiegart's career as a Bulldog. She is eighth all-time for Truman in goals and points.

Volleyball sweeps Hays, improves to 23-7

Washburn University dominates Bulldogs en route to 3-0 victory Friday

BY BRENT FOSTER
Staff Reporter

The volleyball team's mystery season continued last week.

The No. 11 Bulldogs kept up their dominance of lower-tier MIAA teams with a sweep Tuesday at Southwest Baptist University and a 3-1 victory Saturday at Fort Hays State University. But Friday the Bulldog struggles against upper-echelon MIAA teams continued with a 3-0 loss at No. 7 Washburn. The Bulldogs now stand at 23-7.

"Against Washburn it was like the Pitt. [State] game," head coach Jason Skoch said. "We just came out uninspired and Washburn took it to us. That was the best I've ever seen Washburn commit to defense. They just wanted it because we beat them the first time."

After getting blitzed in the first two sets (25-18, 25-15), Truman came out strong in the third set and held an 18-15 lead, but Washburn rattled off seven straight points, including two Bulldog attack errors to take a 22-18 lead.

The Bulldogs are 7-0 against the bottom four teams in the MIAA standings, but against the top six teams the Bulldogs are just 3-4. Truman is 4-7 against ranked opponents this year, which is uncharacteristic of past Bulldog teams. Last season Truman was 12-3 against ranked teams.

"The biggest difference is our defense is great," Skoch said. "And it can win a lot of matches for us. But against the good teams we have to have offense."

Senior outside hitter Eli Medina said this has been an up and down season for the 'Dogs.

"It's been really frustrating because I think we entered the season expecting a lot, knowing we only lost one player [and] we returned four or five starters," Medina said. "I don't know. Subconsciously we took some teams for granted or I'm not exactly sure what happened. I just think we were kind of caught off guard at the beginning of the season knowing our ultimate goal was a national championship. ... We've kind of had to put stuff back into perspective that I think we kind of overlooked at the beginning of the season."

Truman's offense disappeared for most of the match against Washburn as the 'Dogs hit only .129. It was the second straight loss in which the Bull-

dogs had been held below .200.

Senior middle blocker Allie Cherven was the only Bulldog with more than six total attacks to hit above .233. She hit a match-high .429 with eight kills.

Truman's defense also was off a little bit. The Lady Blues hit .270 for the match and out-blocked the Bulldogs 12-10.

This was the second time Truman hit below .100 against Washburn this season.

"Washburn was probably the worst match that I've ever seen us play since I've been at Truman," Medina said. "I think we all spent that night knowing we couldn't ever play that bad again. It didn't matter who we played, we wouldn't beat anybody in the conference like that."

Cherven said the team was able to regroup after the Washburn match.

"The next day we kind of came together and had a team talk," Cherven said. "We just had to put it behind us and keep working."

The meeting seemed to work as Truman got back on track against Hays on Saturday picking up a 3-1 victory. The offense and defense rebounded as the Bulldogs out-hit Fort Hays .291-.035. The loss dropped Fort Hays to 2-11 in the MIAA and 9-17 overall.

Cherven and senior outside hitter Dana Hanselmann led the offensive charge. Cherven finished with 10 kills and hit .571. Hanselmann had a match-high 14 kills and hit .355.

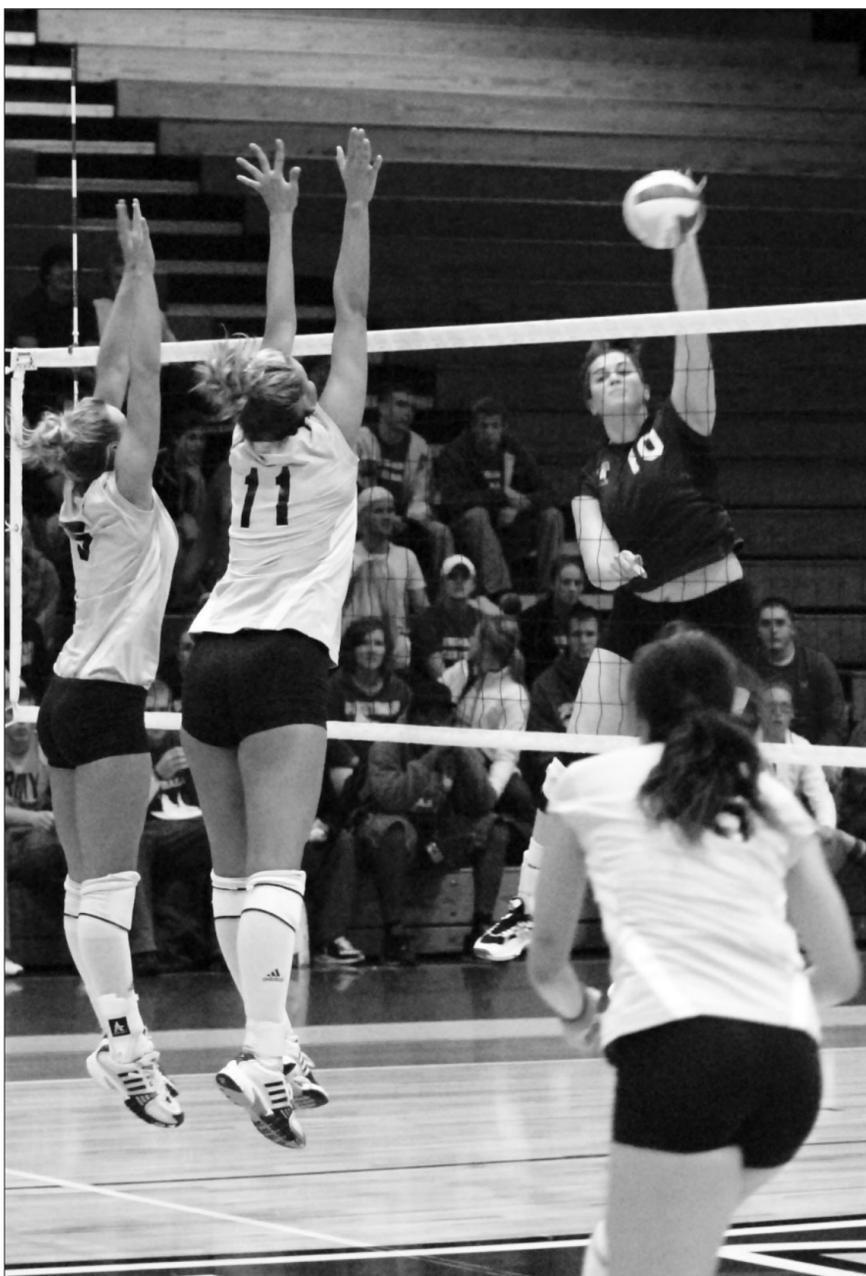
The Bulldogs carried the momentum from the win against Hays into Tuesday night's victory against Southwest Baptist (3-10 MIAA).

The Bulldogs used a balanced attack led by Medina's 15 kills. She also hit .375 on the night.

Truman outside hitter SBU .264-.051. The 'Dogs also out dug Baptist 65-50. Senior Libero Whitney Boehler had a match-high 19 digs.

Despite the sweep, the first set was closer than the Bulldogs had hoped. Trailing 22-21 late in the set, the Bulldogs got a spark from Cherven. The senior scored three of the next four points for the 'Dogs with a block and two kills. That momentum carried into the rest of the match. Truman cruised to victory in the second (25-12) and third (25-15) sets to complete the sweep.

The Bulldogs return to Pershing Arena for a three-match home stand beginning Friday at 7 p.m. against Missouri Southern State University. On Saturday the Dogs will take on No. 18 Pittsburg State University at 6 p.m. Pitt defeated Truman 3-1 Sept. 27.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Senior right side hitter Melissa Keck hit .471 with 9 kills in the 3-0 sweep of Southwest Baptist on Tuesday.