

WRESTLE | Team lost both national qualifiers from last season to graduation

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year, Rob Nahlik and Blake Peterson. Peterson earned All-American honors in each of the last two seasons and Nahlik qualified for the national tournament for the first time last season as a senior. Peterson, who currently is taking classes at medical school, has one year of athletic eligibility left and might choose to return to Truman and the team in the spring.

"It's hard to replace those guys," Schutter said. "As far as who's got the front-runner of doing it this year, there are a whole slew of guys on that team. Right now, nobody's in front of anybody else. We returned a lot of guys that were young, a lot of guys that have the capability, but it's a long season and they have to want it."

Schutter said he expects the whole team to step up. He said there are several members of the team that look solid right now and could become All-Americans by the end of the season.

"From our lowest weights on up, we're pretty solid all the way through

there," Schutter said. "We don't have that returning All-American. We don't have that horse. If Blake was back right now, he'd be preseason favorite right now, No. 1 at 165."

The Bulldogs might not have either of their 2007 national qualifiers back from last season, but they will not be without a former national qualifier. Junior Loyde Braidlow returns after red shirting last year. Braidlow was a national qualifier two seasons ago in the 285-pound division.

Schutter said multiple members of the team have the chance to make it to the national tournament this year. Nahlik had never completed a winning season prior to last year, but he made it all the way to the national tournament last spring.

"Guys that have been in the program three or four years, they're kind of like Rob," Schutter said. "This is the year they could rise up."

Junior Andy Bader started for the team at 157 pounds last year but will red shirt this season.

Bader said he will be training hard

to improve for next season, while at the same time taking on more of a leadership role with the team and showing the incoming wrestlers how to be successful.

"For me it's more along the lines of getting better, getting stronger and more physical in matches and just overall preparing myself for more college wrestling in the upcoming seasons," Bader said.

Bader said he might be moving up to the 165-pound weight class next season and by redshirting this season he won't have to worry about cutting weight to stay at 157 pounds this year.

"In some sense, I'll probably have more energy because a lot of guys will be cutting weight whereas I really won't have to worry about that too much," Bader said. "By not cutting weight this year, I think that might help some matches to be more energized."

The Bulldogs will compete in their first tournament of the season Saturday at the Lindenwood Open in St. Charles, Mo.



Senior Vince Vitatoo (left) stares down an opponent at a meet last weekend. Vitatoo compiled a 3-5 record during the season last year.

SWIM | Gole said he hopes for 11-12 women and 7 men qualifiers

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"We are a smaller team this year, so we are definitely focusing a lot more time on detail, trying to perfect all the little things with all of our newcomers," Gole said.

The women's team has won seven national championships in the past eight years. Their only non-first-place finish was at the 2007 nationals, when Truman finished second to rival Drury University. The team graduated six seniors who competed in nationals last year, and Gole said the swimmers are going to have to work hard to make up for the loss.

"We just graduated a class that no class that has graduated [in the past] can even compare to at all," Gole said. "It's something that we don't want to talk about because we are just focusing on what the team is going to do this year and who we have on it right now."

Last year, the women qualified and scored 14 swimmers at nationals. Gole said he will start to make predictions as to how this year will compare only after he sees how the team does in a few key meets, including the Nov. 21 to 23 Indiana Hoosierland Open.

"We will have a good gauge on how many people we get that early in the season," Gole said. "Realistically, right now we would like 11 to 12 [women to qualify for nationals] at the [November] meet. I would love to get as many as 14, but that is definitely going to be a stretch."

A key returner for the women's team is junior Kate Aherne, who led the team with seven All-Americans last spring, including

two National Championships.

Aherne said she wants to get her times back to what she had at nationals last year.

"One thing for me to build on is how well I did at nationals last year and just work towards getting my times back down to where they were," Aherne said. "To see from what we've been seeing at practice and what I did at the meet we've had so far, I think I should be able to do that."

Aherne said her main goal overall is to improve each race, but for nationals she hopes to get to the final heat in her events.

"My main goal is always to drop time and get my best times, places are kind of secondary," Aherne said. "I would like to make it back to the top eight [in nationals]. That's my main goal for all of the events, just to make it back to the final heat."

The Bulldogs have four new faces on the team, and with the absence of last year's seniors, Gole said the freshmen are going to have to step up to fill in some big shoes.

"[The freshmen] are going to have to play a big role," Gole said. "All of them came in as I would like to call them projects because none of them have the A qualifying times coming in."

The men's team didn't graduate quite as many national qualifiers, but the two the team did lose lost were crucial. Gole said that even with the loss of Alex Totura and Adam Pruess, the team is picking up freshmen who look as if they might help fill the role of last year's seniors.

"Those two guys were probably two of the strongest swimmers on the team," Gole said. "One person that people fail to remember is Kyle Ruiz [who graduated]. He was our go-to guy in the distance races, but we picked up a freshman in Brian Tillis who has actually gone faster than Kyle ever has in the 1,000, which is pretty exciting. He is definitely going to be carrying a lot of the weight in the distance races."

Gole said he is hoping for seven of the men to qualify for nationals.

Gole said he also expects senior Jason Stokes to shoulder some of the workload that Alex Totura left behind in the 200-yard freestyle as well as the 50- and 100-yard freestyle sprints. In the sprint freestyle and butterfly events, Gole said freshman Eric Kaestner is showing promise and that he might make a run for some A-cut times as well.

Junior sprinter Andrew McCall, a returning national qualifier, said the team is confident about the season and is looking forward to seeing what they will be able to do.

"We're looking good," McCall said. "I think we'll do a lot better especially at nationals than last year. We have some returners from the nationals team, and we have a couple [of] very good freshmen this year, so it's a good combination."

The Bulldogs will swim their second meet against Wayne State College-Ashland and Indianapolis University this Friday in Indianapolis.

COLUMN | Drury returns top swimmer who missed last spring with an injury and they have strong incoming freshmen

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Jones and junior Danielle Odenthal qualify — all of whom missed nationals after competing at the Last Chance meet in the spring.

"I'm counting on them making it," Gole said. "It's not a question of whether they can or can't."

The pressure falls on the freshmen to reach nationals and for the returning eight swimmers to score higher than they did last year.

None of the freshmen significantly impacted in the team's opening dual meet against the University of Iowa on Oct. 10. In only one non-relay race did one of them have the best time for the Bulldogs — freshman Krista Tippin in the 200-yard backstroke.

Eight returners plus the three already mentioned equals 11 — which means Gole is not expecting major contributions at nationals from the newcomers this season.

This leaves it up to the eight returning national champions to step up their games. Sophomores Emily Buss, Claire Myers, Carina Pautz, Tanya Sylvester and Anna Grinter have to do better than seven combined All-Americans. They need to improve on just one individual top-eight finish — something five of the six seniors accomplished at nationals last year.

Junior Kendra Brunkow and captains junior Kate Aherne and senior Erika Anderson will have to improve on their point totals from their combined 18 All-Americans, as difficult as that may be.

Drury University, which finished second to Truman by 12.5 points at nationals last year, is doing the Bulldogs no help either. Drury returns its best swimmer from injury and Gole said Drury has a few freshmen who are better than the seniors the team lost.

"They are going to be extremely tough this year," he said.

In 2007 Truman had 15 people score,

one national champion and they finished second to Drury. In the victory last year the 'Dogs had 14 people score and two national champions. This year, they won't have as many top finishes or as many qualifiers.

If everyone improves and a few things fall Truman's way, then maybe they can claim their eighth title in nine years.

The men's team is in nearly the same position, except on a smaller scale. Of the five national qualifiers last year, two have graduated.

Contrary to the women, who get their A cuts through relays and individual events, the men received four of their A cuts through relays last season — two in freestyle events and two in medley events.

In losing Adam Pruess and Alex Totura, the 'Dogs lost two of their swimmers who appeared in every relay and two swimmers who could contribute for non-freestyle strokes. Gole said backstroke and breaststroke are the Achilles' heel for the men's team — the same two strokes Totura and Pruess swam in the medley relays.

"As far as relays go, we're going to be really focusing on the free relays this year," Gole said. "The medley relays — we're just going to be able to swim them and hopefully we can maybe score a point by getting 16th at the national meet."

Freshman Eric Kaestner will fit in nicely with senior Jason Stokes and juniors Andrew and Peter McCall on the freestyle relays, and those four will qualify for nationals.

But finding a fifth swimmer will be more of a challenge. Gole can mix another freestyler into a relay or freshman distance swimmer Brian Tillis could get an A cut.

If the men finish in the top-15 at nationals, it will be a success. But they won't be returning to the top 10 for the first time since 2004-05 with what they lost.

JERRY | Most noticeable change since his arrival is the Student Athletic Fee, which goes toward improving athletic facilities

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Besides Wollmering's behind-the-scenes work with committees at meetings, he also attends as many Truman athletic events as possible. Volleyball head coach Jason Skoch said he likes that Wollmering supports athletes by attending matches and fighting for the athletic department.

"I like the fact that he is at our matches," Skoch said. "... I like the fact that he's gone up to bat in meetings for the athletic department. There are efforts being made to try and improve the conditions, and not everything gets approved, but the fact is things are getting changed."

Since Wollmering first arrived on campus in 1999, the changes in the athletic department have been noticeable. No change has stood out more than the passing of the Student Athletic Fee in spring 2007. The fee was voted on by the students

and approved by the Board of Governors. Students pay \$100 every year that goes toward improving athletic facilities at Truman. Wollmering was very active in helping make sure this resolution passed. He said the passing of the fee is just one of the many good things happening with Bulldog athletics right now.

"I think the student fee was just the tip of the iceberg to things we can do to make our facilities better," Wollmering said.

"We put all new scoreboards up at every venue, soccer, baseball, Pershing, football." Many saw the athletic fee

imperative to keeping athletics at Truman competitive with the rest of the conference. Truman's budget for athletics is \$3.96 million annually. That ranks Truman seventh in the 11-team MIAA, according to a story in the June 12 edition of the Omaha World.

Truman is unique in that the University sponsors 21 NCAA intercollegiate sports, which is more than any school in Missouri or the MIAA. Compare that with Northwest Missouri State University, which has a budget of a little more than \$5 million and offers 11 sports. Wollmering said that although it

is good that Truman has so many sports to offer, having to spread the money around makes upgrading facilities more difficult.

"On January days we have track running around, basketball practicing, 100 football players walking back and forth trying to get to the weight room," Wollmering said. "It basically becomes organized chaos. That's our biggest challenge. There is no doubt we do not have the facilities. Washburn University has 10 sports. We have 21. They have a weight room that is two and a half times bigger than ours."

Although Wollmering said there still is work to be done, Truman is beginning to show improvement in its facilities. As part of the Student Athletic Fee, artificial turf was installed at Stokes Stadium this summer. Lights were installed at Stokes prior to the 2007 season. The floor inside Per-

shing Arena has been replaced after flooding in the summer and a new center-court scoreboard is due to be installed in Pershing in time for basketball season. The renovations in Pershing were not funded by the athletic fee.

Wollmering also said that because Truman offers more sports than most schools, several teams end up with fewer assistant coaches. For example, the newest member of the MIAA, the University of Nebraska-Omaha, has four full-time assistant football coaches, four graduate assistants and a full-time strength and conditioning coach. The Bulldog football team has five full-time assistants but no graduate assistants.

"Any time you have multiple programs it's multiple challenges because of the efforts required to coordinate schedules, appropriate budgets and funds and make sure the events are well-staffed,"

Boerigter said. "... Jerry is very conscientious. And I'm sure he is trying to provide as many services to all those sports. So the more you have, the greater the challenge."

Wollmering said he thinks athletics are put into their proper perspective at Truman when dealing with the University as a whole.

"I think people really respect our program," Wollmering said. "We don't compromise. We aren't going to let in someone we know can't make it in the classroom just to win a game. I heard a president speak one time and he explained it really well. Athletics will never be the biggest room in the house in terms of the University. We are never going to be the most important thing that happens here. But a lot of times I think athletics can be used as the front porch of your house. It's the first impression."

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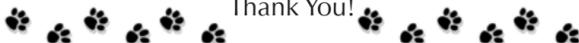
Jerry Wollmering
Director of Athletics

The Kirksville Primary School Parent Teacher Club would like to thank members of the following campus organizations for volunteering at our recent Family Fun Night:

Alpha Sigma Gamma
Cardinal Key
Tau Lambda Sigma
Phi Delta
Circle K
Serve Center

Your time and effort were greatly appreciated.

Thank You!



The International Student Affairs Office is hiring Hall Hosts for Spring Semester.

Looking for a campus job?

Requirements:

- Live on campus
- Have a car
- Enjoy being around students from other countries and other cultures
- Have an outgoing personality
- Understand and exhibit cultural sensitivity

Looking for:

- Students who live in West Campus, Centennial Hall, Ryle Hall, and Missouri Hall in need of a scholarship or work study job. Institutional paid positions available.

Hall Hosts are dorm assistants to incoming and current international students and are an invaluable resource to international students, the International Student Office, and to Truman. It is an exciting job for students to be able to meet people from all over the world.

Please contact Liz Enberg
eaef26@truman.edu for more information
or stop by Kirk Building 120 for an application.