

Women's golf places 15th at Drury Shootout

Team shoots 348, 358 with Limsiaco, Schepker absent

BY JOE BARKER
Managing Editor

A week after claiming the team and individual titles, the women's golf team took to the links this week hoping to repeat the success.

Playing against some of the best competition the Bulldogs will face all season and without last week's tournament winner, junior Krystal Limsiaco, the team didn't fare well at Monday and Tuesday's Drury Shootout. No Bulldog finished in the top 25, and the team finished in 15th place in the field of 21 schools.

"I wish we would have played better, that's the first thing," head coach Sam Lesseig said. "... There were some good things about the tournament for us, but it showed us a lot of things that we need to work on."

Limsiaco and freshman Jessica Schepker both missed the tournament to fulfill school obligations. Lesseig said the team missed both, but Limsiaco's absence probably was felt more.

"When you don't have your leading scorer, it's going to hurt a little bit," Lesseig said.

Senior Julie Williams appeared to be in contention to

bring home her fourth tournament title of her career after a Monday opening round 77 put her in fifth place, just five shots behind the leader. Williams looked to have at least a top-10 spot secure until she reached the back nine of her second round. She struggled finishing out the round and ended the day with an 86. Her two-day score of 163 put her in a tie for 27th place out of the 106 golfers at the tournament.

"She hit a couple of shots in the wrong spot [Tuesday]," Lesseig said. "It's a course that if you put it where you would like it to be, you can score well. If you miss, it's going to really jump up and bite you."

The course was not just unforgiving to Williams. The Murder's Rock course, designed by PGA golfer John Daly, features greens that are much larger and slower than the greens the team usually practices on at the Kirksville Country Club. Because of this, the tournament favored those who could limit their total number of putts.

"The greens were very big, so if you weren't close to the flag you could still be on the green but be extremely far away from it," freshman Jessica Kraus said. "It was very easy to three-putt. A two-putt was good, for sure."

Kraus said she struggled to make her putts, and she

posted rounds of 91, 90. The shootout was Kraus' second NCAA tournament, but her first as a member of the scoring team because of Limsiaco and Schepker's absence. Last week at the Mankato Fall Round-Up she competed as an individual.

Kraus was able to secure a tie for 68th with sophomore teammate Jen Lawson. Lawson fired a team-high opening round of 96. On day two she settled down and cut 12 shots from her score to tie Kraus.

"The first day [Lawson] got into some spots she shouldn't have and things just didn't work out well," Lesseig said. "[Tuesday] she really kept it in better spots, in other words, not the deep grass. She just played a lot better."

Lawson said it was tough to not think about the 96 during her second round of play, but she overcame it.

"I haven't shot a 96 in competition in such a long time," Lawson said. "It just really threw me for a loop. On Tuesday I didn't even

think about what I was shooting because that was a lot of what got in my head [in round one]."

Lesseig often says he doesn't look at where the team finishes, but more at how they shoot. His oft-stated goal is rounds in the 330s or lower. At the shootout, the team combined to shoot 348 and 358. He said to reach his goal the team needs to work better at putting and its short game.

"We ended up just getting in spots and not being able to get down in two putts," Lesseig said. "We ended up with a lot of three-putts and so that's one of the things we want to work on."

After playing back-to-back tournaments the Bulldogs take a weekend off before returning to the course Sept. 20 for the first round of the Illinois Wesleyan Fall Invite. Last season the Bulldogs took seventh out of the 21 teams at the Invite.

"We're just going to try and rebound for the next one," Lawson said. "Having a week off will help."

"The greens were very big, so if you weren't close to the flag you could still be on the green but be extremely far away from it. It was very easy to three-putt. A two-putt was good, for sure."

Jessica Kraus
Freshman

TRUMAN ATHLETICS News and Notes

Men's soccer: Team to play near hurricane

The men's soccer team could be dealing with some weather elements today and Saturday when the Bulldogs play games in Boca Raton, Fla., against Lynn University and Tampa University.

Hurricane Ike currently is dumping rain and causing strong winds in the Gulf of Mexico Region. At the moment, Ike is headed toward Texas and Louisiana and is a Category 1 hurricane, according to the National Weather Service.

Boca Raton is located on the Atlantic side of Florida, about 55 miles north of Miami. Even with the storm in the Gulf, southern Florida could be effected by the hurricane. Boca Raton has a 60 percent chance of thunderstorms today, according to The Weather Channel's Web site.

Head coach Duke Cochran said on Monday that the team still was planning to play its scheduled games.

Volleyball: MIAA eliminates tournament

The Bulldogs' dominance in the MIAA Tournament will come to an end this season. The MIAA decided before this season not to have its annual postseason tournament. Instead, each team will play everyone in the conference twice.

The addition of the University of Nebraska-Omaha created an odd number of teams, so the MIAA decided to eliminate the separate East and West divisions. Each team now will play 20 conference games instead of 16, and all 11 teams will be vying for the regular season conference championship. Truman had won the last five MIAA tournaments.

Women's Soccer: Mahn receives award

After scoring three goals and adding an assist in last weekend's games, junior forward Riley Mahn was named the MIAA Offensive Player of the Week.

Against No. 9 University of Central Oklahoma on Friday, Mahn had a part in both goals. She had the go-ahead assist to junior forward Jessica Wiegert in the sixth minute, then scored the second goal of the game in the 53rd minute.

In the 7-1 victory against Southwestern Oklahoma State University on Saturday, Mahn scored both of the Bulldogs' first half goals in the fourth and 13th minutes.

Mahn had four goals and zero assists all of last season.

Football: Kleckner makes punting debut

In his first game in a Bulldog uniform, redshirt freshman punter Max Kleckner had plenty of chances to show off his leg.

Kleckner had seven punts average out to 38.7 yards a punt, including three inside the 20 and two inside the 10-yard line. His longest punt was 47 yards.

"As he gets more comfortable he's going to get even better punts because he's got an even bigger leg than he did," head coach Shannon Currier said.

Junior Mickey Masucci, who handled the punting duties in 2007, averaged 33.4 yards per punt. This season, Masucci will only kick field goals and kickoffs.

Defense leads the way for 'Dogs in opener

BY JACK NICHOLL
Assistant Sports Editor

As expected, the football team kicked off the season with a win. The surprising part was how it won.

After the offense carried the team for most of last season, was the defense that led the way Saturday, intercepting three passes and recovering a fumble. The defense held the Southern Arkansas University offense to just seven points in the first three quarters and 325 yards total en route to leading Truman to a 34-21 victory in Liberty, Mo.

After the two teams traded three punts to start the game, Southern Arkansas made the first mistake. Mulerider quarterback Quintin Porter fumbled a snap and hurried his throw. The result: an interception by senior linebacker Jason Thier, who returned the ball 14 yards for the score.

"It was a big momentum shift," freshman defensive back Josh McLeod said. "They didn't really have that big of a drive. They didn't have a lot of momentum even, but it definitely gave us the edge."

The Bulldogs never relinquished the lead.

After the touchdown, the defense came through again, forcing the Muleriders into a quick three-and-out. Sophomore Anton Bernard blocked the ensuing punt, setting up a field goal for the 10-0 Bulldog advantage.

Truman took that lead into the second quarter, despite only having 14 yards of total offense and zero first downs.

"I think the momentum that we got early on and carried through that and it propelled us to a good lead," defensive coordinator Ryan Nourse said.

McLeod recorded an interception in the second quarter, and junior linebacker



Running back Donald Harvey tries to avoid a tackle in practice Tuesday. Harvey had 33 yards against SAU.

er Eric Sternberg continued the trend with a pick in the third quarter.

Thier, a team captain, was named MIAA defensive Player of the Week for his performance. Along with the interception, he forced the fumble and had a game-high 14 tackles.

"Everybody ... did their job and we really stress for everyone to do their own job," Thier said. "And everything worked out and it just so happened that I was the guy who came free more often than not to make plays."

The offense finally started to catch up halfway through the second quarter. Junior kicker Mickey Masucci made a 41-yard field goal and senior quarterback Matt Ticich had a one-yard touchdown run with 25 seconds left to give the Bulldogs a 20-7 lead going into halftime.

Everything clicked during the third quarter.

Southern Arkansas recorded a first down on only one possession, and the Bulldogs pulled away with two touchdowns, allowing them to put in sec-

ond and third-string players.

"The whole third quarter we just dominated," Nourse said. "We just blew their doors off."

Overall, the offense only accumulated 265 yards, with 102 coming on the ground.

Ticich started with a 2-for-14 passing skid, but he rebounded to go 9-for-24 overall with a touchdown and zero interceptions. The receiving corps was led by junior Albert Coker who had 72 yards on two receptions.

"Our offense did one good thing,

and that's not turn the ball over," head coach Shannon Currier said.

Southern Arkansas employed a cover-zero defense, which puts a lot of players up near the line of scrimmage and opens up the passing game for big plays. Currier said the receivers sometimes had trouble getting open, and the team probably had five dropped balls to go with a few errant throws by Ticich.

"We just weren't able to win the one-on-one matchups as many times as we needed to," Currier said. "And on top of that, they made a lot of really good plays."

The offense was out gained by 60 yards, but it was made up for by the strength of special teams and defense. Truman's average starting position was at its own 45, compared to the 29-yardline for SAU.

"That field position combined with our special teams play and the turnovers really created the difference in the game," Currier said.

Freshman Donald Harvey was the leading rusher with 33 yards on 13 carries in his first start. Six other Bulldogs had at least one rush, with the rushing game averaging 2.8 yards a carry.

The defense let up a little in the fourth quarter, allowing a few big plays and making the game seem closer than it was. SAU had nearly a third of its offense on three plays, which were all fixable mistakes, Nourse said.

By the time the Muleriders tacked on two touchdowns in the fourth quarter, it was too late.

The Bulldogs open conference play against University of Central Missouri at 7 p.m. Saturday at Stokes Stadium. Truman started practicing on the new turf surface earlier this week.

top 10 reasons to come to RIDER DRUG

- 1 We're the pharmacy closest to campus
- 2 We have a drive-up window
- 3 Save time and gas with FREE Kirksville delivery, free mailing everywhere!
- 4 Order refills online at www.riderdrug.com
- 5 We're the pharmacy closest to campus
- 6 FREE consultation about your prescription
- 7 Most insurance and Medicaid programs honored
- 8 We're the pharmacy closest to campus
- 9 We "keep the assist in pharmacist"
- 10 We're the pharmacy closest to campus

Keeping the "Assist" in Pharmacist • 1207 S. Baltimore • (660) 665-4666

Take advantage of your good fortune.

Whether you're ticked or tickled, the INDEX accepts letters to the editor every week.

You have a charming way with words. Write a letter this week.