

# Golf teams prepare for season

## Madsen joins men's team, Limsiac and Lawson to lead women

BY SONDRALANGLEY  
Staff Reporter

The men's golf team welcomed a new co-coach during the offseason in Tyler Madsen, athletic media relations assistant, to go along with their four returning traveling players.

Juniors Chris Kovach, Vincent Kurth and Andy Herington and sophomore Nik Bentzinger are the top four returners. The rest of the team, including four freshmen, will try to qualify for the fifth scoring spot and also work to better Truman among the MIAA competition.

The squad joins Madsen, who Kovach said not only helps the team behind the scenes, but also is an asset for emotional and time management difficulties.

"He seems to be well-organized and already has got my in stuff order, which is nice to have done at the beginning of the year," Kovach said. "He has come out to some golf team barbecues and seems like he will be good at the tournaments to get us around and help us out."

Madsen was hired as co-coach this summer after Sports Information Director Kevin White stepped down. Jim Berrey is in his fifth season as the other co-coach.

"I really enjoy both to play [golf] and watch others play," Madsen said. "It is a great experience for me at this stage of

my career at this point to step in."

The team opens the season next week at the Missouri Intercollegiate in Lake Ozark. With the Truman Bulldog Classic coming up Sept. 14 to 15, Kovach has some goals for the home meet.

"I really want to win a tournament," Kovach said. "It would be nice to win that one as a team."

Seven returners and seven freshmen currently are competing for the top five spots of the women's golf team. The season begins tomorrow at the Central College Invite in Pella, Iowa. Although the team has some inner competition, overall the women are working on making relationships and friendship on and off the course.

"The returning women are welcoming and help with the transition," fresh-

man Laura Heien said.

Heien said one of her goals is to play in some tournaments and qualify for events.

Even with the large number of freshmen looking for spots, head coach Sam Lesseig has larger goals for the team. He is not just looking for confident freshmen, but also for the team to make the NCAA Regionals in the spring.

"[Senior] Krystal Limsiac and [junior] Jennifer Lawson are my two captains, and I expect them and most of the returners to step up their games," Lesseig said. "Hopefully they do, and I am looking for the freshmen that come through and those that come through early on."

Last season, the chance to go to regionals eluded the team, and that is the

team's biggest goal coming into the season. Unlike other sports, qualification for regionals is decided by a committee based on each player's scores. Depending on the overall score, the committee decides who is invited and who is left out.

"Making it to regionals is always a goal," Lesseig said. "We can't control that since it is decided by a committee. My personal goal is for the women to lower their personal scores."

Lesseig said confidence is a major part of the sport and will play a part on whether the team makes regionals this year.

"I want to attend regionals, since we didn't qualify last year and I attended before," Lawson said. "I just hope as a team we can pull it together."



Mayank Dhungana/Index

Freshman Megan Sharpe, shown here at practice, hit .231 with 32 kills last weekend. She also led the team in blocks.

## Sharpe makes immediate impact

### Freshman MB excels as Cherven's replacement

BY JACK NICHOLL  
Sports Editor

Megan Sharpe and Allie Cherven look nothing alike.

Sharpe is shorter, smaller and faster. Cherven is bigger and stronger. The two come from different ethnic backgrounds.

But by looking at the statistics from last weekend's Nebraska-Omaha Volleyball Showcase, it was hard to tell the difference between the Bulldog freshman middle blocker and the 2008 senior All-American.

Sharpe tallied 32 kills, 17 blocks and a .231 hitting percentage to help Truman achieve a 3-1 record to start the season. Sharpe's 2.46 kills per set matched Cherven's average from last fall, and although Cherven's hitting percentage of .300 is higher, Sharpe makes up for it with slightly better blocking numbers.

"They are complete opposites in the fact that Allie was physical, big presence up at the net and Megan is more quick [and] fast,"

head coach Ben Briney said. "And that's where she's going to drive other middles crazy is because she's just going to wear them out running all over the place trying to catch her."

Sharpe was the most consistent Bulldog attacker at the Showcase, as she never hit below .143 or higher than .300. She led the team in blocks, was second by one in kills and had the second-highest hitting percentage of 'Dogs with at least 10 kills.

The last time a Truman freshman tallied at least 32 kills in a season-opening tournament was 2005 when Eli Medina, another 2008 senior, had 44 in 18 sets played. Cherven had 29 kills and nine blocks in her first weekend as a Bulldog in 2006.

Cherven became known for powerful attacks in her three years at Truman. Briney said Sharpe hits a heavy ball. He said she is up fast and down fast and it was the quickness of the setters that led to her success last weekend.

"She's got the quickness to where she can put up a fast block," Briney said. "And she's getting better with the footwork and getting better with the vision

and seeing the middle blocker and going. So she's got the potential, definitely."

Sharpe has had to make adjustments to the college game. She said her high school team ran more plays with a high setter and the high school offense was not as fast as it is here.

Sharpe describes herself as more of an offensive player and said it's her blocking that still needs work, even though she set the season record for blocks in high school.

"Just because the game here is so much faster and everything, it's harder to impress when you get stuck in the middle," Sharpe said. "And then just getting up earlier because I'm not really used to it."

Briney said he expects Sharpe to continue to impact the team and be a big contributor for the rest of the year. No matter how the season turns out, Sharpe said she doesn't feel pressure to be the next Cherven.

"[My teammates] haven't really come to me and made me think that I need to be her or anything," Sharpe said. "I know those are big shoes to fill and I definitely want to at least adequately fill them."

## Athlete of the Week

**Megan Sharpe**  
Sport: Volleyball  
Year: Freshman  
Position: Middle Blocker  
Hometown: Edwardsville, Ill.

Freshman Megan Sharpe had 32 kills and 17 blocks to lead the volleyball team to a 3-1 record at the Nebraska Omaha Showcase last weekend. It was the most kills a Bulldog freshman had in her first tournament since 2005.

## Hard Day? Unwind at the BULLDOG!

### FALL HOURS

Wednesday - Friday: 4:30pm - Close

Saturday: 8pm - Close

- **Wednesday:** Bulldog Beer 30 Night!  
(9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.)  
Beer 30 cans and Keystone Light Pitchers specials!
- **Thursday:** Bottomless Game Night!  
\*Beer Pong\* \*Bags\* \*Buck Hunter\*  
Beer 30 cans/Wells/Keystone Light pitcher specials!  
(9 p.m. to 12 a.m.)
- **Friday:** Happy Hour til 8 p.m.!  
Dancing and Karaoke 9:30 p.m. to Close  
Power Hour 11 p.m. to 12 a.m.
- **Saturday:** Late Night Happy Hour! 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. (50 cents off regular prices)  
Dancing and Karaoke 9:30 p.m. to Close  
Power Hour 11 p.m. to 12 a.m.



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