

Women defeat Mo. West 8-1

'Dogs also drop matches to Rockhurst and SBU

BY JESSICA RAPP
Managing Editor

The women's tennis team served up an 8-1 win yesterday against Missouri Western State University in the MIAA.

No. 3 Doubles players freshman Lauren Higgins and junior Kirstyn Sampias won 8-6 in the tightest match of the day. Junior Kelsey Kuykendall, No. 3 singles player, was the only person to win at love during the dual.

Sophomore Dagmar Velez had the closest singles match Tuesday, defeating MWSU 6-4, 6-4.

Women's tennis did not see as good of scores during Friday's match, losing 7-2 at home against Rockhurst University. Higgins and Kuykendall picked up the only two wins. Higgins played to 9 super tiebreak-

er and won 10-8. Kuykendall wrapped up a close 6-4 first set by breaking all serves in a 6-0 second set.

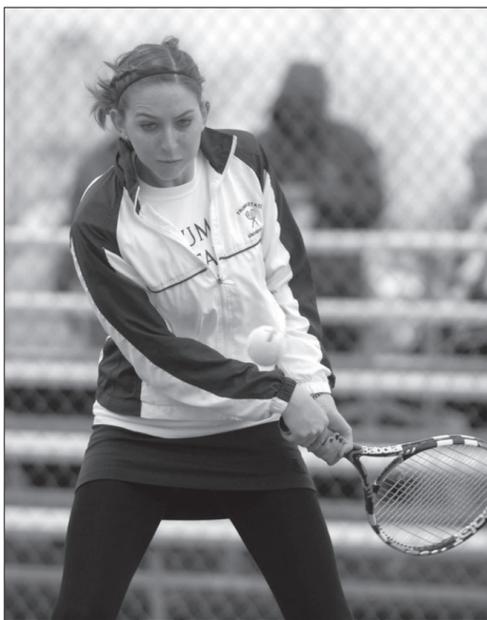
Sophomore Ellen Russell said she would approach Tuesday's match with a mindset that's conscious of the way the wind is blowing so she doesn't hit the ball out of play. She said she struggled with the groundstrokes during matches last weekend, resulting in a two-set loss both Friday and Saturday.

"My forehead has been really off, and also, I've never double faulted this much in my life," she said. "So I just need to figure out my serves a little bit."

Russell said before Tuesday's match that she would attempt more risks in the game to work on improving some of these factors if she had a steady lead on her opponent. She might have found this chance as she walked off the courts with a two-set victory against opponent Nicole Kerr,

"So she has two things going for her, which are what we'd like for everybody."

Pete Kendall
Head Coach, on junior Kelsey Kuykendall's will to win and play an all-around game.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Junior Kelsey Kuykendall returns a shot during Saturday's tennis match against Southwest Baptist University.

scoring 6-2 and 6-0. Her doubles match alongside junior Amy Ochs took the best score of the day with an 8-1 win.

Truman's men and women faced Southwest Baptist

University in the MIAA conference opener Saturday with the women taking only one match 7-1, while the men gave up all eight matches to SBU.

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Men finish 10th at Div. I tournament

Kovach takes 15th at Western Illinois University Classic

BY BRENT FOSTER
Assistant Sports Editor

The good news for the men's golf team is that they won't see competition as tough as they saw last weekend the rest of the year.

The Bulldogs took 10th place out of 13 teams at the Western Illinois Classic on Monday and Tuesday. Nine teams at the tournament compete at the Div. I level.

Kyle Peterman of Western Illinois University won the tournament at 12-under-par. Peterman competed at last year's PGA United States Open but did not make the cut. He helped lead WIU to the team victory by 31 strokes.

Despite the difficult competition, co-head coach Tyler Madsen said the team can build on the experience of playing against the highest level of collegiate golfers.

"We weren't in position to finish first or second," Madsen said. "We're just looking at a different level, but there are a lot of things we can build off of this weekend."

Junior Chris Kovach was Truman's top individual finisher at 12-over-par. He posted a team-low 70 in the first round, the first time this spring a Bulldog golfer broke

par. Madsen said that for much of the round, Kovach had a chance to finish the round in the 60s.

The Bulldogs were in eighth place after posting a 308 in the first round and led Div. I schools Bradley University and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Kovach, sophomore Nik Bentzinger and junior Andy Herington all posted first round scores in the 70s. It was the first time this happened since last September's Bulldog Classic.

WIU and the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay combined to have just two golfers finish in the 80s in 30 rounds of golf. Madsen noted that would not happen at a normal Truman tournament and said a round of 308 would normally put the Bulldogs in the top four, right where he wants the team to be.

Bentzinger said that even though the team played mostly Div. I teams, it's good for the team to be on the course playing and preparing for conference and ultimately regionals.

"We're really just looking for tournament practice and experience or anything that will help us at this point," Bentzinger said.

Truman dropped a stroke in its final round although most teams' scores increased. Madsen said this resulted from windy conditions that made the course more difficult during the final round, and was proud of how his team han-

dled the challenging conditions.

Madsen said there aren't a lot of differences between Div. I golfers and Div. II golfers. But he said the major difference is on and around the green, which really separated the teams at the tournament. He said he hopes to see the team improve their putting during their week off.

"All of them can hit the ball down the fairway and pretty far," Madsen said. "One of the main differences is on the greens. If there's eight or nine feet left on a putt it was almost automatic most of the time for a lot of those golfers."

The three-round format that features 36 holes on the first day and 18 on the second day is the first this season for Truman, but it is the format of the MIAA Championship on April 19-20.

"You can't simulate playing 36 holes, other than playing 36 holes," Madsen said. "[There is] the mental and physical toll it can really take on you by basically just playing golf for 11 straight hours."

Kovach agreed with Madsen and said the format shows how much the team has to be in shape when the conference championships begin. He said the team was not used to playing 36 holes in one day and that it showed in their second round scores.

"I could definitely see myself getting tired the second 18," Kovach said. "About halfway through the second 18, I just started hitting the ball a little worse."

The Bulldogs are off this weekend and open up MIAA play April 12-13 at Missouri Southern University in Joplin.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Top: Sophomore Nik Bentzinger finishes his follow through at a meet during the fall. Bottom: Bentzinger chips onto the green from the sand. The Bulldog took 10th place at the Western Illinois Classic.



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