



Senior Krystal Limsiaco putts from just off the green on the 10th hole at Kirksville Country Club on Sunday. Limsiaco shot an 83 Sunday to force a playoff. Jack Nicholl/Index

CLASSIC | Truman A and B teams nearly tied after Day 1 but both fall to Drury University at Classic

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to race out to a 26-stroke lead. Five Panther golfers finished in the top 10. The 'Dogs picked up four strokes in round two but couldn't make up the difference.

Truman, Drury and Rockhurst University were the only Div. II schools in the field. The remaining five schools compete at the Div. III or NAIA levels.

Lesseig said he knew Drury, a regional qualifier last year, was the team to beat going into the tournament. He also said he expected Rockhurst to score closer to Drury and Truman than it did. The Hawks shot a 747, 70 shots behind Drury.

The Bulldog Classic was the only home tournament for the Bulldogs this season.

Lesseig said that even though the golfers know the course from playing on it so much there is sometimes added pressure playing in front of family and friends.

Limsiaco said she really likes playing at home and did not feel added pressure from playing in front of friends. She thinks playing at home gives Truman an advantage.

"A lot of the time I wouldn't even check the yardage because I played so much that I already knew exactly what club to use on every shot," Limsiaco said. "I didn't need to second-guess myself on anything. It was definitely a home advantage."

The golf team heads to Des Moines on Friday and Saturday to compete at the Upper Iowa Invite.

TITLE | Columnist argues that team excels in the classroom, has work to do to earn respect on the wrestling mats

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I'm wondering if we are still off-the-record.

"Can I put that in the paper?"

Schutter pauses. Asks me to clarify which part of his response I'm asking about.

"You know, you" — he pauses again, thinks about if he really wants to give me permission — "You can put that in there. I mean, I guess it's really no secret, is it? It's just getting kids to buy into it."

Fact is, it's a pretty simple formula.

"I tell our kids, 'Look, get your books. Read them first two weeks,'" Schutter said. "And everything else in the semester is review. You can easily see our kids that buy into it, just like buying into your strength program, buying into our workout program."

It is that easy. The Secret is out.

Some sports have study hall, including soccer, softball and swimming. Others are lenient about allowing athletes to miss an event because of an overload of schoolwork.

Schutter's secret has played a part in the wrestling team winning four straight NCAA Div. II Wrestling Coaches Association team all-Academic Championships, a Div. II record. The team also has sole possession of first with six awards overall.

The team won this year with a 3.467 career team GPA, which is calculated by taking the top eight GPAs from the 10 regional participants, plus the top two GPAs from the rest of the team. An athlete must have competed in at least one event to qualify — a rule that can significantly help some teams if they have a couple smart athletes who rarely compete.

The team won this year despite switching its focus away from the academic title. Schutter said the academic title was never even talked about this season and that "it's not even a focus point anymore."

Schutter said he could have replaced an injured wrestler at regionals with a weaker competitor that would have bumped the GPA to 3.57 but didn't because

A Split Performance

Academics VS Athletics

- Team has an overall GPA of 3.27. The male average at Truman is 3.20.

- Team won fourth-straight academic title and sixth overall, both NCAA Div. II records.

- Has not sent a wrestler to nationals the last two years after sending at least one from 2003-08.
- Three of the top-four finishers at regionals are seniors this season.

Design by Sarah Schneider/Index

of the new focus of sending three wrestlers to the national meet. It's a goal the team has never accomplished.

Truman has not sent a wrestler to nationals for two seasons following six straight seasons with at least one qualifier. After a slew of injuries this season, the team had four wrestlers get within one win of a national berth. Seniors Dean Schultz, who earned second-team academic All-American honors with a 3.64 GPA, and Bryan Isbell picked up fifths, and two other wrestlers earned sixths.

Three of the Bulldogs' top-four finishers are seniors, which could make the challenge even more difficult next season.

There are 47 NCAA Div. II wrestling teams, according to the NCAA Web site. There are 84 Div. I teams and 89 Div. III teams. Although this makes it slightly easier for Truman to win the academic title, it should make it nearly twice as easy to qualify wrestlers for nationals.

None of the 10 weight classes at regionals had more than nine competitors. Sure, No. 1 University of Nebraska-Omaha is in the region, but that is just one opponent. Truman needs to start qualifying wrestlers for nationals to earn respect athletically.

"We're really successful getting kids to buy on that part of the program," Schutter said of the academics. "Now we've got to get kids

really successful to buy into. 'Hey, you've got to lift on top of this. You've got to work this hard on top of working that hard,' and that's really demanding."

The wrestling team seems to have little trouble with the academic part of the balance with an overall team 3.27 GPA. Compared to Div. II wrestling, the numbers are stellar. But the numbers also show the overall academic strength of Truman athletics.

Wrestling is tied for fifth in GPA out of 10 male teams at Truman. The average cumulative GPA for all male athletes is 3.20. The women are slightly better, as eight of nine teams have at least a 3.35 cumulative GPA and the average is 3.42.

So the wrestling team, and the rest of Truman sports, have the student side of the student-athlete down. It is the most important part of the equation.

But the second part cannot be neglected — for any sport. The wrestling team is the best Div. II team in the country for academics, but are they the best student-athlete team? That's a difficult title to earn when no wrestlers qualify for nationals.

Maybe another team will let Truman in on an important wrestling secret.

In the meantime, the competition just got more difficult for the academic title. The Secret is out.

BASEBALL | Team earns first four-game series victory in Davis Era against a non-Southwest Baptist University team



Junior outfielder Kody Stricklin takes a swipe at the apple in the last inning of Game 4 last weekend against Pittsburg State University. Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

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Jarrett Eiskina pitched complete games to earn their wins.

"In all facets of the game, we played very well," Davis said. "We pitched it unbelievably. We made plays defensively, and we hit the ball extremely well."

Eiskina's first complete game of the season also gave him his first win. The Bulldogs scored in four out of six innings and won 7-1 in Game 3. Eiskina pitched seven innings and gave up three hits and a run. He added six strikeouts and didn't issue a walk.

The team was led in Game 3 by junior designated hitter Luke Crader. He didn't have a hit on the day but tied an NCAA Div. 2 record by getting hit four times. Freshman right fielder Brett Budd and freshman second baseman Jordan Howe each had two hits. Budd and junior left fielder Mike Reese each had two RBIs.

Trimble started Game 1 and set the tone for the rest of the weekend. He threw his third complete game of the season and earned his fourth win. The 'Dogs won 4-1 as Trimble went seven innings and gave up six hits and a run.

Garwood did most of the damage offensively for Truman. He went 1-for-2 with

his second home run of the year. Garwood also was hit by a pitch and scored two runs. Rose had one hit and two RBIs. Crader was 2-for-2 with two runs and a RBI.

In Game 2, the 'Dogs offense didn't let up as eight starters had at least one hit as Truman won 10-3. Reese, Budd and junior first baseman Bryce Bond each hit their first home run of the season. Reese finished the day 3-for-5 with three runs and two RBIs. The Bulldog four through eight hitters combined to go 10-for-21 with six runs and six RBIs.

"A guy who's been really hot for us, Myers, had a tough weekend," Davis said. "But, other guys picked up the slack and made sure that he didn't have to be the only guy [hitting]. It was a total team effort."

Junior Kyle Veazey earned the win for Truman. He went six innings and gave up six hits and three runs to earn his second win of the season. Sophomore Tyler Stefan picked up his first save of the season after three innings of work. He gave up three hits and didn't yield a run. Howe said the pitching staff did a good job limiting Pittsburg State.

"This season, it seems that some days our pitching would show up and we would

fail to provide the offense," Howe said. "Sometimes our hitting would show up but we couldn't keep the other team from scoring. This weekend, our staff showed what they're capable of."

In Game 4, Truman rallied in the final innings but couldn't pull off the comeback and lost 10-9. Junior Michael Stairh was tagged with the loss. He went six innings and gave up nine hits and six runs, three earned. The Bulldogs' bullpen combined to pitch three innings and gave up four hits and four runs.

Truman trailed by seven runs going into the last inning. However, the Bulldogs sent 11 batters to the plate in the bottom of the ninth and scored six runs. In the inning, Truman had four walks, three hits, reached on one error and also had a player get hit.

Sophomore catcher Pete Jurich went 2-for-5 with two doubles and a RBI. Rose and Budd had two hits apiece, and Rose added two RBIs.

Trimble said the team showed what it was made of throughout the entire weekend.

"It says that even when it looks like we're down, we're not out of the game," Trimble said. "We have the ability to come back at any time."



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