

# Tennis sweeps Quincy in two duals

BY BLAKE TOPPMEYER  
Editor in Chief

A little ease in the schedule was exactly what the tennis teams needed.

After an early-season spring schedule that included upper-tier MIAA schools and top non-conference teams took a toll on the Bulldogs, the men and women cruised to victories Wednesday at Quincy University, a team the 'Dogs routinely handle with ease.

The women (8-4) won 6-3, and the men (7-5) picked up a 9-0 decision.

Those victories came on the heels of the Bulldogs' solid performance Saturday, when both teams defeated William Jewell College 7-2. Prior to that match, the women had lost three of their last four

while the men had lost four of their last five.

The women also defeated the University of Missouri-St. Louis 6-3 Sunday, but the men dropped that decision 6-3.

Head coach Pete Kendall said it was certainly nice for his teams to have a bit of a break from top competition.

"I was really pleased all the way around," Kendall said of the Bulldogs' weekend performances.

The women will have another winnable match at 4 p.m. today in home dual when they face Lincoln University, a team the women already beat 9-0 earlier this spring. Then both teams will step back into conference competition with a road match against the University of Nebraska-Omaha on Saturday.

Junior Amy Ochs helped spark the attack last weekend for the women. Ochs has been playing up a spot at No. 1 singles this spring since the season-ending injury to former No. 1 freshman Maggi Schutte.

Ochs defeated William Jewell's Nikki Chambers 10-7 in a third-set tiebreaker before cruising to a straight set win against UMSL.

"I think I played pretty well overall, and I was working on my consistency, which is something I've been trying to work on throughout the season," Ochs said. "I'm pretty comfortable playing No. 1. The biggest difference I've noticed is you're always playing the best player on each team, and after every match, my body is so tired. They run you around so much."

The Bulldogs also have been receiving a boost from freshman No. 5 Lauren Higgins and sophomore No. 6 Jennifer Hawkins, who have been in the lineup consistently this spring because of injuries and sickness of others in the lineup. They won their singles matches against Jewell and UMSL, and Hawkins picked up a straight set win against Quincy.

"I've been impressed [with them]," Kendall said. "Jennifer just goes out there and hits it back to you, and you've got to hit it. Lauren is a little bit up and down if you look at her scores. ... She's much more aggressive, and she can hit her forehand pretty good. She has a put-away shot."

Senior No. 3 Kyle Schlotz continued his steady play for the

men last weekend, winning both matches. Schlotz lost a total of just five games in the four sets he played. With a win Wednesday against Quincy, Schlotz now has won four consecutive singles matches and has a team-best singles record of 18-6.

"Definitely against UMSL, I was serving really well and got a lot of first serves in," Schlotz said. "I just stayed consistent, hit big serves and came to the net when I had the chance."

Senior Ben Rusk also produced well for Truman last weekend, winning at No. 6 singles against Jewell and at No. 5 singles against UMSL.

"All of a sudden this year, [Rusk] has really been playing singles well," Kendall said. "He killed those guys this weekend."

## Athlete of the Week

**Kelsey Kuykendall**  
Sport: Tennis  
Year: Junior  
Hometown: Oronogo, Mo.

Junior Kelsey Kuykendall was undefeated last weekend in singles and doubles at William Jewell College and the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She is 6-1 this spring after moving up a spot to No. 3 singles.

## Kuykendall stars at No. 3 singles slot

BY LOGAN JACKSON  
Staff Reporter

A move to No. 3 singles hasn't slowed junior Kelsey Kuykendall at all.

Kuykendall won two singles matches and two doubles matches this weekend as the Bulldogs defeated both William Jewell College and the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Kuykendall now has won nine out of her last 10 singles matches.

Head coach Pete Kendall said Kuykendall has adjusted to the No. 3 slot after No. 1 freshman Maggi Schutte suffered a season-ending knee injury earlier this season and everyone in the lineup shifted up one slot.

"She's more consistent," Kendall said. "She's being more aggressive when she gets the chance to be aggressive. She's doing a better job about not getting frustrated and upset. Those three things combined help her do better."

Kuykendall began the weekend with a strong performance against William Jewell on Saturday. She won both sets 6-3. Kuykendall said her opponent was a hard match-up because of their opposing

styles.

"The girl I played against played really different," Kuykendall said. "She had a lot of different spin and used a lot of drop shots. She wasn't a conventional player. It was pretty tough."

On Sunday, Kuykendall got off to a quick start against the No. 3 player for the University of Missouri-St. Louis and won the first set 6-0. In the second set, Kuykendall needed a tiebreaker to get the win, which she won 9-7. She said her opponent caught her off guard in the second set.

"In the first set she was not playing well," Kuykendall said. "She started hitting the ball very well in the second set. I was down 4-0 in the tiebreaker, and coach came over and told me to start concentrating."

Kuykendall also won two doubles matches during the weekend. Kuykendall and sophomore Dagmar Velez have compiled a 6-4 record and have won three out of their last four matches at No. 2 doubles this spring season.

"I love Dagmar," Kuykendall said. "We play so well together. On big points, I get real nervous and she's just clutch. I think we

work out well together."

Against William Jewell, the pair won easily, 8-2. The women's tennis team swept William Jewell in all three doubles matches.

The next day, against the University of Missouri-St. Louis, the match was much closer, but Kuykendall and Velez won 8-6. It was the only win the Bulldogs earned in doubles play during the day.

"Doubles is such a different game," Kuykendall said. "It's more strategy. You have to play so much smarter. You have to think about two other people. You really have to think about serve placement also."

Last year, Kuykendall was primarily a No. 6 player for the Bulldogs and was voted all MIAA at that spot. She also saw some time at No. 5 last year. This year, she started as a No. 4, but injuries have shuffled the lineups around.

"Since I started playing three, I've stepped up my game because I've had to," Kuykendall said. "It's a whole different mindset. The girls that play four aren't as consistent as the girls who play three. I've had to be more consistent and play smarter."



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index  
Junior Kelsey Kuykendall, shown earlier this season, is 10-1 in singles and 7-4 in doubles during the spring.

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