

GRADES | Spring sports move past halfway point toward end of season

Continued from Page 15
extra-inning contests. Pitchers who have thrown less than 25 innings have a combined 8.52 ERA and pitchers with more than 25 innings have a 5.16 ERA. On the pitching side, I commend head coach Dan Davis for giving his best-performing pitchers the majority of the innings. But for hitting, this is not the case. Senior Keaton Jones has only 69 at bats this season after hitting at least .291 his first three years, and Davis did not give a clear reason why Jones is not playing when a reporter asked him a couple weeks ago. Jones is batting .275 but will still end his career as one of the best hitters in Truman history.

Softball: C-
On one hand, this team (15-21, 6-6 MIAA) is faring better than in its disastrous 2009 campaign (11-34, 3-17). On the other hand, there is still plenty of room to improve, especially at the plate.

Senior pitcher Richelle van Gennip has been fantastic with a 1.83 ERA, 175 strikeouts and 45 walks in 122.2 innings pitched. Van Gennip could break Truman's single-season strike-out record of 228.

You would think van Gennip's stellar performance would lead to an equally stellar record. But her 9-9 mark shows the improvements the offense needs to make. The Bulldogs are last in the MIAA in average, on-base percentage and slugging percentage. It's something that even 63 stolen bases in 76 attempts cannot make up for.

Track: B-
Sophomore Dani Dell'Orco picked up an NCAA automatic mark in the 10,000-meter run last weekend at the Jim Duncan Invitational, and senior Katrina Biermann has continued to excel in the pole vault and triple jump.

But so far, Dell'Orco, freshman Rachell McCarroll and Biermann are the only two on the track teams with provisional marks. The Bulldogs had four athletes with provisionals in the indoor season, but only Biermann made it to nationals. They have already bettered that with Dell'Orco's performance. But track still needs more provisionals for a higher grade.

Women's tennis: B
The Bulldogs, with a 5-4 dual meet record, have beaten the teams they should beat and lost to the teams that are better than them. Season-ending ailments for No. 1 freshman Maggi Schutte and No. 6 junior Anna Greenwald have not helped the team move up in the MIAA.

The standout has been No. 3 sophomore Kelsey Kuykendall, who has been superb with a 10-1 spring singles record entering Wednesday.

Men's tennis: C+
After winning their first dual of the spring, the men lost 27 out of their next 30 dual-meet matches. Even against tough competition, three wins in four duals is not good. The 'Dogs have a 4-5 dual record.

Seniors Kyle Schlotz and Ben Rusk have done well recently, but Steven Hipkiss and Peter Bracha have struggled in the top two spots.

Women's golf: B
The team has pretty much met the expectations: finish well in most events but fall short of better teams. The Bulldogs have three top-two finishes to go with an eighth place finish last weekend at the Drury Lady Panther Invite.

Seniors Krystal Limsiac and Erin Semple, junior Jen Lawson, sophomore Liz Lestmann, and freshman Jessica Tomash seem to have the top five spots locked down. But this team is deep: five other golfers have a scoring average of 95 or lower this season.

Men's golf: C
The team has placed in the top half of the field just twice in 2009-10, and the results between the fall and spring seasons do not vary by much. Co-head coach Tyler Madsen continues to search for a consistent No. 5 to go with the top four of junior Chris Kovach, sophomore Nik Bentzinger and juniors Andy Herington and Vincent Kurth.

GOLF | Men, women end regular season at MIAA Championships April 19-20 in Kansas City

Continued from Page 15
you have to wait so long. We didn't finish until dark."

The competition was a step up from the previous three tournaments for the Bulldogs, who finished 79 strokes behind Grand Valley. The competition level affected Truman's finish. The Bulldogs finished first or second in their previous three tournaments. Lesseig said there are areas of the game the Bulldogs need to improve before the MIAA Championships on April 19-20 at Tiffany Greens Golf Club in Kansas City.

"When we missed greens, we didn't get it up and down the way we've been able to," Lesseig said. "We didn't putt well overall. Those were the biggest problems."

Lesseig said that despite being frustrated about the slow

play during the first round, the tournament served as a good warm-up for conference.

The men's team also spent its last tournament preparing for the upcoming MIAA Championships. They garnered a seventh-place finish Monday and Tuesday at the Missouri Southern State University Spring Invitational in Joplin, Mo.

Four Bulldog golfers finished the first round below 80 — the most golfers below 80 in a round since the Missouri Intercollegiate Tournament on Sept. 8-9.

Junior Chris Kovach was Tru-

man's top individual finisher with an eighth-place finish of 152. Junior Vincent Kurth tied for 24th at 155, and sophomore Nik Bentzinger and junior Andy Herington tied for 33rd with a 157.

The University of Central Missouri won the event by one stroke with a two-day 604 total. The Mules came from sixth place after the first day to win.

Truman finished just four strokes behind fourth-place Southwest Baptist University in the tightly contested middle of the pack.

Nine MIAA schools participated in the tournament. Tru-

"When we missed greens, we didn't get it up and down the way we've been able to. We didn't putt well overall."

Sam Lesseig
Women's Golf
Head Coach

BERREY | Berrey uses strong golf background to teach Truman and area golfers

Continued from Page 15

Berrey's decision to enter the PGA program in 1992 was what led to his decision to begin a career in golf. While attending the PGA school, he learned to maintain golf courses and the structure of teaching lessons. He became a club professional in 1995. Since then he has taught golf to former NFL head coach Marty Schottenheimer and running back Marcus Allen.

"That's one thing I've done with my PGA card since then, I've just taught and taught and taught," Berrey said. "I've been at some very, very nice clubs in Chicago and Kansas City, and I got to work under some people that were exceptional teachers, and so that really helped me with learning how to be a better golf instructor."

However, there are issues that keep Berrey from being around the Truman team as much as he would like. The men's golf team is different from other sports at Truman because its coaches are not considered full-time employees. Berrey coaches the team as much as he can during the week while balancing his family life and his full-time job at Farm Bureau in Kirksville. These issues forced Berrey into more of a secondary role as a coach.

Co-head coach Tyler Madsen handles the duties during week-ends, driving the team to tour-

naments and coaching the team during tournaments. Madsen and Berrey receive small stipends for their work.

Berrey said one of the difficulties of his job is not being with the team during the tournaments. He said he wishes he were at tournaments to watch golfers to see if adjustments need to be made, so he could address these issues between rounds.

The situation makes it difficult for Berrey to be in tune with his players needs and skills.

"In a perfect world we'd like for him to do that and be able to do that on the course in tournament play," Director of Athletics Jerry Wollmering said.

Most of his interaction and instruction to players comes when they contact him directly. He said he leaves it up to the players to communicate to him when something is wrong with their swing or need help with another aspect of their game.

Junior Andy Herington has worked with Berrey since high school and said one of Berrey's biggest assets is getting the team to be more mentally tough.

"Mental toughness is quite a big part of the game," Herington said. "We need that out there."

Berrey said handling recruiting allows him to help make a dif-



Brent Foster/Index

Co-men's golf coach Jim Berry at Kirksville Country Club on Tuesday.

ference on the team because he doesn't get a large opportunity to spend time with them.

"I'm absolutely committed to this group of guys that I've got," Berrey said. "That's part of the reason why I took over the recruiting."

Kirksville Country Club Pro Clint Fitzpatrick said Berrey's strength is his short game, which provides a big lift to the team and the individuals he teaches.

"His greatest asset is his attention to detail, especially around the short game," Fitzpatrick said. "He spends more hours out here than

probably anyone else working on that. I think that's where he can help them the most. He has a pretty vast knowledge."

Berrey said his hope as golf coach is to provide the knowledge needed so the team can be competitive while instilling fundamentals.

"I'm a big believer in the good old fundamentals," Berrey said. "A good high school golfer, a lot of times, has really bad fundamentals."

The hope is that by the time they are a junior they've gotten fundamentals in place to compete at the next level."

TRACK | Bulldogs next compete at Dewey Allgood Invitational on Saturday in Rolla

Continued from Page 15

"I can really enjoy the season just because it's almost like pressure's off, and anything else is icing on top of the cake," Dell'Orco said.

Dell'Orco has a provisional mark in the 5,000-meter run as well and must take 13 seconds off her time for a national qualifying mark.

Provisional marks for the women's track team included senior jumper Katrina Biermann and freshman thrower Rachel McCarroll. Biermann broke Truman's triple jump record with a jump of 39-09.25 feet, a little less than three inches farther than the record set by Christen Lauer in 2008. McCarroll qualified in the discus with a throw of 47-04.00 feet.

Senior thrower Alex Van Delft said one of the reasons McCarroll threw so well was the good weather they had last weekend.

"The wind definitely impacted her throw," Van Delft said. "If you can get the disk to fly correctly, then the wind's going to help you because then it will push the disk out there and get you more length."

Cochrane also said McCarroll could have some promise in upcoming seasons if she continues to throw for the Bulldogs.

"She's somebody that we felt like had the ability to do this," Cochrane said. "The first meet she won. ... I kind of felt like she had some possibilities. Now where she goes with this I don't know. ... I've talked with her, and I've said, 'You have to get better. It's not just going to happen.'"

Other top competitors for the women included sophomore distance runners Elli Mathis and Anne Ratermann. Mathis placed sixth in the 3,000-meter steeplechase and Ratermann placed third in the 800-meter run, both with personal bests.

Freshman hurdler Lisa Kuchariski placed second in the 400-meter hurdles. Freshmen distance runners Karen and Cindy Graul placed third and sixth in the 10,000-meter run with Dell'Orco, respectively. This was the first time this season the women had

run this race.

"On an overall basis, I guess we are getting better in some stuff," head coach John Cochrane said. "After Northwest I wondered, but then again we did have a couple things there. Our men were terrible at Northwest. We did a better job this time."

Some of the men who competed better Saturday included

Van Delft in the shot put. Van Delft placed second with a throw of 50-04.75 feet. Van Delft said he views his teammates as competitors, and they all use each other to better their throws. He said the men's throwers are transitioning to getting better results by working on the power position at the front of the ring when they start and using more aggressive releases.

Other top competitors for the men include junior distance runner John Venner and senior distance runner Zach Chapman in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

Venner and Chapman placed second and third respectively. Junior jumper Demetrius Lavant placed fourth in the long jump.

"We need to compete better," Cochrane said. "That's my major complaint right now. Some of them, if they have major technical problems right now, especially if it was an indoor event, you're in trouble."

Cochrane said some athletes are not running aggressively, and the Bulldogs have a limited amount of talent to prepare for the conference meet. He said many teams from southern and northern universities will begin to make provisional and automatic qualifying marks because the weather is starting to improve in those areas.

The Bulldogs will compete at the Dewey Allgood Invitational on Saturday in Rolla, Mo. Cochrane said some runners will have different events to run to improve their speed or endurance in their main events.

"The Allgood meet isn't as tough a meet, but there are always really, really good performances there in every event," Cochrane said.

"We need to compete better. That's my major complaint right now."

John Cochrane
Track head coach

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