

# Men take fifth at MIAA

BY BLAKE TOPMEYER  
Editor in Chief

Junior Vincent Kurth saved his best for last. Playing the final round of his collegiate career, Kurth fired a career-best 73 Tuesday.

Kurth, who will forego his final year of athletic eligibility to enter pharmacy school next fall, led Truman to a team score of 301 Tuesday during the final 18 holes of the two-day, 54-hole MIAA Championship.

Truman's 301 Tuesday was tops among the eight teams in the field and moved the Bulldogs up a spot to a fifth-place finish after Truman posted rounds of 313 and 315 Monday.

Kurth's putting fueled his success throughout the tournament. He didn't have a single three-putt during the three rounds, and his 30 putts for Tuesday's round helped him post four birdies to offset five bogeys. He capped off the round by sinking a 12-foot birdie putt on the 18th.

"I worked hard all semester, and it felt like all semester I was really close [to a great round]," Kurth said. "I'd have a good nine [holes], and then I'd have a bad nine or just an OK round. But I felt like my work was just starting to pay off, and it all clicked. It all came together on the last round that I had, which was really great for me."

Truman's fifth-place tournament finish allowed the 'Dogs to place sixth in the MIAA's final standings. The Bulldogs entered the tournament positioned seventh but moved up a rung by besting Missouri Western State University.

Truman's 301 was its second-best 18-hole score this season, behind only the 296 the team shot Sept. 14 on Day 1 of the Bulldog Classic in Kirksville.

"It's a shame that the



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index  
Junior Vincent Kurth tees off earlier this year. Kurth tied sophomore Nik Bentzinger for 12th at the MIAA Tournament.

regular season is over because we're playing great golf right now," co-coach Tyler Madsen said. "We definitely went off on a great note to wrap up the season."

Kurth's 73 was the pinnacle to the improvement he showed this spring. He finished the year with an 18-hole average of 81, but in his last seven rounds, he posted five scores of 77 or better.

Junior Andy Herington matched Kurth with a 73 of his own Tuesday. As opposed to Kurth, who was up and down with birdies and bogeys, Herington had 17 straight pars before taking bogey on 18.

Junior Chris Kovach had the best round of the tour-

namment for Truman, carding a 71 on the first 18 holes Monday. He finished with a three-round total of 231 and tied for 14th, one stroke behind Kurth and sophomore Nik Bentzinger, who tied for 12th. Bentzinger earned All-MIAA honors.

"He's just been Mr. Consistent for us," Madsen said of Bentzinger. "I know when Nik goes out there, we're going to get at least 76, if not better."

Although Truman won't qualify for regionals as a team, Madsen said Kovach and Bentzinger have a chance to qualify as individuals. Team and individual selections will be announced Friday.

Junior Jen Lawson led

the women's golf team at the MIAA Championships by finishing in a tie for second place in the five-team, 25-player event. Lawson shot a 74, 82, and Truman finished with a two-day 670, 43 shots back of conference champion University of Nebraska-Omaha.

The Bulldogs finished Day 1 with a 328 and were 10 shots behind the Mavericks, but they dropped to a 342 Tuesday.

"We were disappointed," head coach Sam Lesseig said. "We knew which team we had to beat, and we started out [Tuesday] 10 shots behind them, and they improved, and we fell the other way. Overall, I would consider it a very average tournament."

Lawson's opening-round 74 put her in first after Day 1 and tied for the best round of her career. She and senior Krystal Limsiaco, who finished 10th (83, 88), earned All-MIAA honors. Junior Liz Lestmann (82, 83) finished seventh overall.

"[Lawson] was hitting the ball pretty much where she wanted it [Monday]," Lesseig said. "She didn't make any really bad swings. She made a few putts that helped out at times. But she stayed away from any really bad numbers."

After finishing 43 strokes behind UNO, Lesseig labeled Truman's chances of getting a regional selection Monday as "an extreme outside shot." UNO was ranked 11th in the regional poll released April 15. Truman was not ranked in the 12-team poll. Only nine teams from the region are selected.

"I think [chances] would be very slim," Lesseig said.

If the team doesn't get an invite, Lawson and Limsiaco possess the best chances for an individual selection. They had season averages of 80.1 and 80.9, respectively.

## TRUMAN ATHLETICS News and Notes

### Baseball: Jones approaches hit record

Senior outfielder Keaton Jones is now 10 hits away from tying the all-time hits record at Truman. After a slow start to begin the season, Jones has a .282 batting average this season in 31 games. He has 14 RBIs and has the second highest on-base percentage on the team.

Jones hit his first home run of the season Wednesday. It was the fourth home run of his career.

### Track: Dochterman competes at Rolla

The Bulldog women's track team was greeted with a familiar face Saturday at the Dewey Allgood Invitational in Rolla, Mo.

Senior Shaina Dochterman competed unattached at the meet in the 400-meter dash. Dochterman won the event with a time of 57.43 seconds, a little more than half a second ahead of the second-place finish.

Dochterman redshirted this track season because of an injury. She ran hurdles for the women's team last year and advanced to the Div. II national meet in the 400-meter hurdles.

"If she runs two or three more times, I think she'll run pretty fast," head coach John Cochrane said. "When you see her run, she has some time before she gets back to what she is."

Although Dochterman will not run for the Bulldogs this season. She said in a March interview she will compete next season.

### Basketball: Agre joins Bulldogs program

The women's basketball team added a new recruit Tuesday. Stephanie Agre signed a National Letter of Intent to join head coach Michael Smith and the rest of the Bulldogs. Agre played post for Francis Howell North High School in St. Louis. She is a two-time first-team all-Gateway Athletic Conference player. She currently ranks second all-time in points and first in rebounds at Francis Howell. She is also the all-time leader in blocked shots and free throws made.

Agre was named to the GAC all-Academic team all four years. During her senior season, she averaged 13.8 points per game and 8.5 rebounds per game.

The Bulldogs will lose four seniors from this year's team. Truman looks to replace their second leading scorer, Laura Joya and their leading rebounder Sarah Seberger.

Agre joins four other new Bulldog recruits who signed in November.

### Volleyball: Bulldogs add new recruit

Outside hitter Katie Thomason will join head coach Ben Briney and the Bulldog volleyball program after she signed a National Letter of Intent last week. Thomason will be a junior at Truman after she was named first-team all-American at Illinois Central College. She helped take Illinois Central to the national championship last year. She totaled 606 kills and had 639 digs in two years at ICC.

The Bulldogs will look to continue their run at the NCAA Div. II tournament. They have advanced to the postseason 10 straight seasons. They finished 24-13 last season, Briney's first as a head coach. They also finished the season ranked No. 25 overall. It was the 140th straight week that the 'Dogs were ranked in the top-25.

# Bulldogs swept by Missouri S&T

## Baseball drops three of four against Southwest Baptist University

BY LOGAN JACKSON  
Staff Reporter

The Bulldogs couldn't put Missouri University of Science and Technology away in either game Wednesday as the Miners swept the 'Dogs.

Truman (11-34, 9-25 MIAA) lost Game 1 of the doubleheader 3-2 in extra innings. The Bulldogs loaded the bases in the bottom of the seventh with only one out but couldn't push a run across the plate. Missouri S&T scored on a sac fly in the top of the eighth for the win.

Six Bulldog pitchers couldn't keep Missouri S&T off the base paths, as Truman lost 12-5 in Game 2 of the series. Freshman outfielder Brett Budd and senior outfielder Keaton Jones each hit home runs.

After falling behind by four runs early, the Bulldogs fought

back to tie it in the fifth. A five-run inning for the Miners in the sixth put them ahead for good. Missouri S&T added three runs in the seventh to earn the win. Truman's bullpen pitched 4.1 innings and gave up seven earned runs on seven hits. The bullpen walked three batters and also hit three batters.

The Bulldogs struggled defensively and lost three of four games at Southwest Baptist University during the weekend.

"We pitched really, really well," head coach Dan Davis said. "We didn't hit at all. Unfortunately, we didn't play defense at all either. It was just a bad weekend defensively. In every game we did something tremendously bad on defense."

Truman committed 15 errors in four games that led to nine unearned runs. The Bulldogs had at least two errors in each game and had a high of five errors in the second game of the series. Junior second baseman Luke Crader said the defense has to support its pitchers better.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index  
Freshman Matthew Grosch comes to the plate during Wednesday's loss to Missouri S&T.

"The pitchers did well, but we gave SBU too many four or five out innings," Crader said. "That doesn't help our pitchers at all, and it also makes the innings longer. It keeps the other team in the

game as well."

The Bulldogs have committed 83 errors this season after they committed 87 total last year. Truman has given up 300 runs this season, and 219 are earned runs.

The 'Dogs' offense didn't make up for the defensive blunders and scored just 13 runs during the weekend. They left 26 runners on base and had a team batting average of .222.

"We get some guys on base, we just didn't come through with clutch hits," Davis said. "That's what other teams are doing to us. I think a lot of guys are putting too much pressure on themselves."

Junior Jordan McLaughlin picked up his first career victory during the only Truman win in the last game of the series. The 'Dogs won 7-4. He pitched eight innings and gave up three earned runs. Sophomore Christian Witt earned his first save of the season with a scoreless ninth.

The Bulldog offense finally broke out with eight hits and

seven runs. Truman used a strong four-run second inning to take an early lead. Southwest Baptist tied it going into the ninth inning but a bases-clearing double by Budd gave the Bulldogs a three-run lead. McLaughlin said Budd's double gave the team a spark.

"You'll take all of the runs you can get," McLaughlin said. "It was big on Budd's part to drive in some runs late in the game. You can't ask for a bigger hit than that."

The first three game of the series were all similar as the 'Dogs lost 4-2 and 8-0 in Friday's doubleheader. They lost the first game on Saturday 5-4.

Crader and sophomore catcher Pete Jurich led the offense. Each had six hits during the weekend. Jurich hit his second home run of the season in the third game of the series.

The Bulldogs have a doubleheader starting at noon Friday against No. 2 University of Central Missouri at the Truman Baseball Park.

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