

Softball drops doubleheader at Quincy

BY BRENDAN O'BRIEN
Staff Reporter

The softball team suffered a setback Wednesday as it dropped both games of a doubleheader against Quincy (Ill.) University, 4-0 and 9-4.

The non-conference games were a difficult task for the Bulldogs (18-25, 6-6 MIAA). Although the 'Dogs beat Quincy 5-4 on Feb. 26 to open the Missouri Southern Tournament, the Hawks were at the top of their game this time around. The team entered the doubleheader at 29-10 and had won 21 of its past 24.

Sophomore outfielder Katie Pitts had the sole hit in Game 1, and head coach Erin Brown said the team simply did not hit the ball well, despite inconsistent umpiring.

"I thought that we swung at a lot of pitches that were out of the strike zone, and I think that was kind of the story of the day," Brown said. "I felt like we played solid defense."

Brown said the lineup needed more discipline and struggled against the Hawks' pitcher's riseball. Junior Beth Schnurbusch suffered the loss.

Truman fell behind early in Game 2, but freshman third baseman Kristin Grossman knotted things up in the

second-inning on a two-run shot to left field. But Quincy added another run in the bottom half of the inning. Freshman Christine Ulises drove in junior shortstop Alex Weber to knot the game 3-3 in the third inning, but the Hawks tagged sophomore pitcher Ashley Rotkovich for five runs in the latter half, and the 'Dogs never recovered.

The Quincy doubleheader followed the second MIAA Crossover Tournament last weekend in Maryville, Mo. The tourney games served as another chance for the team to face conference foes but did not count toward the overall conference record. The 'Dogs prevailed in three of the five games in the three-day span.

They opened the tourney against Emporia State University, who was riding a 23-game win streak. Despite being outthit 11-5, the team stayed close to the Hornets and fell with a 6-4 loss. The Bulldogs rebounded and secured a 5-0 win in the nightcap against Southwest Baptist University. Senior pitcher Richelle van Gennip had eight strikeouts en route to the complete game shutout.

The numerous strikeouts and complete games have been common occurrences with van Gennip on the



Senior Richelle van Gennip readies for a pitch earlier this season. Van Hennip pitched a no-hitter against Southwest Baptist University at the MIAA Crossover Tournament on Friday.

Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

mound. She's gone the distance in 15 of her 20 starts and has tallied 194 strikeouts this season. Although van Gennip gave up five earned runs in Truman's 7-6 nine-inning loss to Central, she is on the brink of breaking Loni Wedemeier's 2005 single-season strikeout record of 228.

"It would be cool to have your name up there, but that's not what I'm going for," van Gennip said.

Freshman catcher Mer-

edith Kusky said this team-first attitude has played a major role in the team's successes so far and will be critical as the team looks ahead.

"We just know we are still in any game, and we can play with any team we're up against, so I think our attitudes are a lot of it and our heart for the game," Kusky said. "We all want to be there, and we all want to play for each other."

Kusky came up big for the Bulldogs in their final three

games at the Crossover Tourney, with two RBIs in the 5-2 win against Missouri Southern State University and one more in the 3-2 win against Pittsburg State University. Her two-hit game in the loss against Central Missouri made her 4-for-9 in the three games. Kusky said that after splitting time with freshman Christine Ulises behind the plate for much of the early part of the season, she will not take the starting role for granted.

"As a freshman I'm really honored to be playing as much as I am, and I just know that I have to do my best in order to help the team win games," Kusky said. "And I just vowed to be in the game whenever I can be, try to do whatever I can to get my job done to help my team."

The Bulldogs' next games will be against rival Northwest Missouri State University at 2 p.m. Friday in Kirksville. The team will play the next day against the University of Nebraska-Omaha for the season's final home games but also the last home games in the careers of van Gennip and senior outfielder Erica LaCombe. Van Gennip said she has mixed feelings about the weekend.

Kusky said that, although the two seniors have been the crux of the team's achievements this year, the example they have set will not be lost.

"Seniors have taken us under their wings this year," Kusky said. "I couldn't have asked for better sportsmanship and just the loyalty they've shown to all the freshmen. The way they showed their heart for the game makes us want to play not for our averages or our own success. It shows us that we need to play for Truman State University."

BOARD | Tennis courts scheduled to be redone this summer, multipurpose field is long-term project

Continued from Page 15

Schultz said the plan is to award a contract to a contracting company at the June board meeting and have the tennis courts resurfaced in July and August.

The courts will have a new synthetic surface, and there also will be new fencing and poles. The overall size of the courts will stay the same, but the spacing between the courts will be altered slightly because the outer courts are too close to the fence, Schultz said.

However, Truman cannot yet go forward with the multipurpose field because currently there is not sufficient money. There is about \$400,000

left in guaranteed athletic fee, which will go up for review in fall 2010. Student Senate President, JoEllen Flanagan said in February that the fee likely will go up for student vote in spring 2011. Two years' worth of guaranteed money is needed to contract the project.

If the fee is extended, the multipurpose field will be built behind Centennial Hall. Schultz said it will consist of a softball field and a multipurpose area that will overlap in the softball outfield. The multipurpose area will be a turf surface.

The committee originally planned to build the multipurpose field where the rugby and soccer fields are, but that plan did not go through.

"With the level of activity that is on those fields, the only way I could make a field that could take the abuse is to go synthetic," Schultz said. "The soccer coaches [and] a few of the other coaches over there don't want a synthetic field."

Schultz said there was also an option of installing a high-irrigation grass soccer field, but that would have created an issue because grounds people would have to control when the soccer field could be used.

Schultz said building the multipurpose field behind Centennial Hall will create "great gains" for the student body compared to what the field currently offers.

EDITOR | Students need to be more supportive of athletics

Continued from Page 15

and that makes students equate poor play in football and basketball to every other sport.

"Winning is the best marketing tool you can have to get people to come to games," Wollmering said.

But Wollmering also noted the success of the women's swimming, women's soccer and volleyball teams, which rank near the top of the national polls every year.

Besides lack of competitiveness, some students point out that the academic load is too heavy to allow the time to attend sporting events. Tell that theory to the men's and women's golf teams, who often miss two days of classes per week during the fall and spring seasons but still manage to get their work done in the classroom.

The most disheartening moment of student support came during the NCAA volleyball South Central Regional Championship game two years ago in Kirksville between Truman and Washburn University. A huge crowd that included many students showed up to support the Bulldogs.

But about halfway through the match, more than half of the large and vocal student section had departed, finding other activities to occupy their Saturday night. It was disturbing to see that students couldn't stay for another 45 minutes to cheer on their school toward the Elite Eight. It was the biggest Truman sporting event of the year, and students couldn't stay for the whole game. Unbelievable.

Student athletes, administrators and coaches are not to blame for this lack of support. They are taking steps to get students to games and support athletes.

The Sports Information Department does a good job of keeping the website updated with stats and game reports. Administrators encourage students to wear purple on Fridays to show school spirit. I have heard of some professors offering students extra credit if they wear Truman apparel to class certain days.

Wollmering said that in the future, he hopes to designate one sporting event every semester as a campus-wide event to drum up support, in hopes it would carry support to more athletic events.

Wollmering also said he would support wet tailgating in a limited capacity but noted that would be geared more toward alumni and other fans and not undergraduates. However, he said wet tailgating is something that is not in the near future because there are numerous obstacles regarding alcohol on campus that would have to be addressed.

Wollmering and other administrators are doing their part. It's time the students stepped up and did theirs.

I hope to come back to a football game next season and see 2,000 students in Stokes Stadium. But then again, most would probably leave after halftime.

MADDOX | Bulldog great passed away at the age of 97 slightly more than three weeks ago

Continued from Page 15

compete for then-Northeast Missouri State Teachers College.

In high school and college, he played basketball, baseball and football. He later told Janssen that he had initially picked up basketball because, with seven siblings during the Great Depression, he knew playing a high school sport at least would guarantee him a hot shower.

But football was his passion. He was an all-state two-way player for coach Don Faurot's undefeated teams in the mid-1930s, including the undefeated and hall of fame 1934 squad that gave up just 13 points all year. Many agree that year's team was the best Truman football team of all time.

Faurot left after that year to head to the University of Missouri-Columbia, where he became so successful the school later named its field after him. But at Truman, Faurot played a big role in molding Maddox. Janssen said Maddox often remembered the way Faurot handled himself — how he simply pulled kids out of the game when they weren't playing well instead of hammering them with insults.

"He felt Don was just a great molder of young men — character guy as well as football-specific stuff," Janssen said. "I really think Don's qualities and character kind of carried Delbert the rest of his life."

Maddox was a product of his time period. He was concerned with his image. Nobody would

ever see him in less than his Sunday's finest. He was polite and courteous. Friends remarked about how he always had the time of day for them.

As he grew older, he was increasingly opinionated about the generation that fills Truman's campus today. But he would not share his opinions when they were not needed. Maddox, Janssen said, would pick his spots.

"He was guarded and smart about not expressing his opinion when he knew he shouldn't," he said. "He was from that old school." Maddox also was non-confrontational. Patty Bolz, owner of Patty's Bookstore and longtime friend of the Maddox family, remembers a day she decided to challenge Maddox. She said she usually stayed away from battling Maddox, who had been around for much longer than her. But this time, she couldn't bite her tongue.

The two were discussing Title IX, which requires colleges to offer the same amount of women's and men's sports.

"[Maddox said,] I think the women need to kind of earn their spot," Bolz said.

Bolz said she wasn't sure if he

was joking with her, but she asked him if women also should pay less tax money.

"Well, I don't want to get into politics," Maddox replied.

And that, it seems, was Maddox. Opinionated, proud, yet he didn't want to step on anyone's toes.

Maddox developed an interest in physical fitness through sports. Despite his old-school mentality, he was ahead of the game when it came to learning how to keep his body in top form. Janssen said Maddox was into the physiological side of things before exercise science was a part of anyone's curriculum.

Maddox would tell his family and friends about five factors that contribute to a good life: health, family, faith, friends and career.

"Health was at the top of the list," Janssen said. "It all started with that for him. If you're not healthy and you're not progressing, then the other stuff is not going to be quite as cool."

Maddox eventually decided to make a career out of his enthusiasm for good health. He graduated from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine at the age of 42 and spent the next 30 years serv-

"He felt Don was just a great molder of young men — character guy as well as football-specific stuff. I really think Don's qualities and character kind of carried Delbert the rest of his life."

Hank Janssen
Truman alumnus, on the effect of Don Faurot on Delbert Maddox

LINDA | Editor recognizes work of associate athletics director for compliance and eligibility

Continued from Page 15

Truman athletics out of trouble.

"There's a lot of paperwork and documentation that I have to track, make sure it gets done, keep it in a safe place," Anderson said.

Every Div. II university has to log how they apply a rule. For instance, coaches only can call recruits once per week, and every call is documented. It is Anderson's job to log this every month. She also works with coaches to make sure every rule is followed — even if it is something as small as a team wearing wristbands with the Truman logo.

Anderson goes through a process with every athlete before each season starts. She has to make sure they are registered full-time for the upcoming semester, update the credits taken and earned, update financial aid and make sure each athlete has taken enough credits in the last semester and year.

There are roughly 420 athletes at Truman, and Anderson has to update files for each ath-

lete, each season. That's a lot of monotonous work.

"A lot of times it is the same thing but done in a different way or has a different look or different twist to it," Anderson said. "Even though I repeat it every year, every season, it doesn't seem to get old."

Her game management responsibilities are not difficult. She just has to be at athletic contests and handle situations should they come up. The MIAA requires that an administrator be at every game, and it is usually Anderson so Wollmering can stay in the office. But the management duties either cause her to work overtime or take her away from the office during the day.

Anderson replaced B.J. Pumroy in fall 2007 after she spent 22 years at the Div. III level. Yet the adjustment isn't noticeable from an out-

side perspective — Anderson goes above and beyond her normal duties, and she does some work that Pumroy did not. She is the conference liaison for tennis and will attend the MIAA championships this weekend in Kansas City.

"Linda, since she came in, has been a great addition to our program," Wollmering said. "Just this past year, with her doing such a great job, I actually divided up the sports, so now some sports report directly to her."

Anderson oversees softball, wrestling and men's and women's tennis, swimming and soccer. She meets with those coaches every month to discuss the state of the sports.

Kudos to Wollmering for recognizing the work Anderson puts in and delegating eight teams to her. She deserves every bit of praise she gets. And more.

"[Linda] has been a great addition to our program."

Jerry Wollmering
Director of Athletics