

# SPORTS

Thursday, April 29, 2010

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## PHOTOS OF THE YEAR

Photo Editor Brian O'Shaughnessy picks his sporting favorites

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### Bulldog Breakdown

### Index Online

Photos of the year Slideshow:

www.trumanindex.com

On the blog:

Outgoing sports editor Jack Nicholl explains his of-the-year picks and gives final thoughts

indexsports.wordpress.com

### On campus

#### Men's on campus:

Baseball: 2 p.m. Friday vs. Fort Hays

#### Women's on campus:

Softball: 2 p.m. Sunday vs. Northwest Missouri

### Baseball

	MIAA	OVR
1. UCM	32-4	40-5
2. ESU	27-9	35-12
3. UNO	26-10	30-14
4. FHSU	19-17	27-19
5. WU	17-17	20-20
6. MWSU	16-18	22-19
7. MSSU	16-18	22-24
8. NWMSU	15-19	17-31
9. PSU	13-27	14-27
10. SBU	9-27	11-35
11. Truman	6-30	11-38

### Softball

	MIAA	OVR
1. ESU	16-0	42-9
2. UNO	11-2	38-9
3. MWSU	7-6	24-22
4. UCM	7-7	21-22
5. WU	7-8	23-20
6. NWMSU	6-7	22-18
7. FHSU	7-9	25-18
8. MSSU	7-9	18-36-1
9. Truman	6-8	18-27
10. SBU	4-10	21-28
11. PSU	2-14	18-27-1

### Quotable

“The [national] meet was very loaded. There were some nasty people there. She had a really good jump and finished pretty well.”

—Track coach John Cochrane on Katrina Biermann at the national indoor track meet

# Athlete of the year



## Biermann takes vault title

**Biermann dominates pole vault and triple jump all season**

BY LOGAN JACKSON  
Sports Editor

Senior Katrina Biermann, head coach John Cochrane and assistant coach Tim Schwegler can agree on one thing — a national championship wasn't expected.

Biermann tied for eighth last year in the pole vault at the indoor national meet with a vault of 11-09.75 feet, a height that wouldn't have put her in the top 13 this year. However, after a season of domination in the event, she took home first place at the NCAA Div. II Indoor Championships with a vault of 13-01.75.

“In 30 years, I've only won two national championships as a coach,” Schwegler said. “It's great. I thought she had a shot, but it was still unexpected. As a coach, you want to get someone the best that they can get. I told her to focus on the basics. It was very emotional because she was in sixth place, and one

vault later she's first.”

She became the fifth Truman women's track athlete to take home a national championship. The last indoor champion the Bulldogs had was in 1985, when Marlene Frahm won the shot put.

Biermann was consistent with the pole vault during the Bulldogs' indoor season. She won the event all seven times she competed in it.

“I've matured a lot,” Biermann said. “I handle the pressure of a meet a lot better now. I've also had to fill a leadership role. Doing college, track has really helped me grow as a person.”

Schwegler has been Biermann's pole vault coach since her sophomore year. A student assistant coached Biermann during her freshman year, so there was a transition period after that.

The transition didn't slow Biermann, as she continued to get better every year. During her freshman year, her best vault at an indoor meet was 9-06.25, nearly four feet lower than her record-setting vault

“It was very emotional because she was in sixth place, and one vault later she's first.”

Tim Schwegler  
Pole vault coach

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### For the Record

- ★ National champion in indoor pole vault
- ★ Sixth in triple jump at indoor nationals
- ★ Holds indoor and outdoor school records in both events

### ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Five members of the Index sports staff submitted their top five choices for Athlete of the Year. Points were awarded on a 5-4-3-2-1 basis, and tiebreakers were broken by the number of first-place votes, then second-place votes, etc. First-place votes are in parentheses. Here are the results:

1. Katrina Biermann — Track	22 (3)
2. Kate Aherne — Women's swimming	18 (1)
3. Richelle van Gennip — Softball	10 (1)
4. Megan Sharpe — Volleyball/basketball	9
5. Katie Reuck — Women's soccer	5
6. Olivia Hayes — Women's soccer	4
7. Kelsey Kuykendall — Women's tennis	4
8. Jonny Brown — Men's soccer	2
9. Tyler Knierim — Men's soccer	1

## Sharpe an offensive force in first season

BY BLAKE TOPPMEYER  
for the Index

Kurt Kohler, head coach of Fort Hays State University's volleyball team, has Truman's middle blocker freshman Megan Sharpe on his mind during the spring recruiting season.

Kohler knows he can't have Sharpe, the 2009 MIAA and AVCA Freshman of the Year. So he's targeting the next best thing — a middle blocker to shut Sharpe down.

“A kid like [Sharpe] is going to be a challenge to stop, and we can't just afford for her to go off for 20 kills every match every time we see them,” Kohler said. “So our recruiting had to change based on the type of kid that she is. We're trying to find some middles who are equally as explosive and can get off the floor quick enough to get a good solid block set against her.”

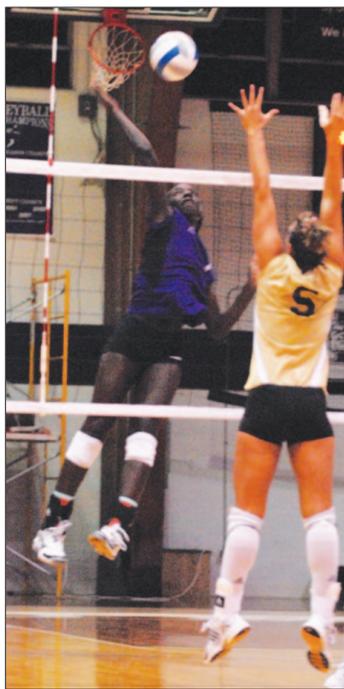
Kohler witnessed first-hand last fall just how much Sharpe can impact a game. Sharpe combined for 32 kills and hit .474 in two matches against Fort Hays.

But Sharpe didn't single out Fort Hays. Almost every MIAA team faced an onslaught from Sharpe at least once.

\* Against Missouri Southern (two matches): 26 kills, .523 hitting percentage

\* Against Nebraska-Omaha (two matches): 28 kills, .356 hitting percentage

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Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index  
Freshman middle blocker Megan Sharpe was named National Freshman of the Year after she hit .354 in the fall, the second-highest in Truman history.

### COACH OF THE YEAR

Five members of the Index sports staff submitted their top three picks for Coach of the Year. Points were awarded on a 3-2-1 basis, and tiebreakers were broken by most number of first-place votes, then second-place, etc. First-place votes are in parentheses. Here are the results:

1. John Cochrane — Cross Country	14 (4)
2. Mike Cannon — Women's soccer	8
3. Duke Cochran — Men's soccer	6 (1)
4. Mark Gole — Swimming	2

## Cochrane garners national ranking

Cross country team sends two to national meet

BY JACK NICHOLL  
Managing Editor

John Cochrane, women's cross country head coach, did not do anything extraordinary to prepare for the season last fall.

There are no secret workouts hidden in his desk, nor does he claim to be a miracle worker. He gave incoming freshmen the usual freshmen workouts and the returning sophomores the usual sophomore workouts.

“There's nothing magic that I did,” he said.

And yet, even with no clear-cut star runner entering the fall, Cochrane had one of his best seasons ever. The Bulldogs won three meets in one season for the first time since 2000. They were second in the MIAA, third in the region and finished the season ranked No. 15 in the nation. Two runners qualified for the national meet for the first time since 2004.

The accomplishment came a year after the team placed fourth in the conference and graduated senior All-American Danna Kelly. Rarely does a team lose

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