

Men bow out in semis

Women lose 5-4 in first round of MIAA tourney to UNO

BY JACK NICHOLL
Managing Editor

The men's tennis team played some of its best tennis of the season at the MIAA Tournament last weekend but fell short of an upset against Northwest Missouri State University.

The No. 4 Bulldogs lost 5-1 against the No. 1 Bearcats, who went on to win the conference title. Truman also defeated No. 5 University of Nebraska-Omaha 5-1 the previous day in the first round of the tournament in Kansas City, Mo.

The women's tennis team also competed at the tournament but bowed out in the first round with a 5-4 loss to UNO.

The No. 2 doubles pairing of seniors Peter Bracha and Steven Hipkiss won their match 8-6 for the 'Dogs' only victory. Northwest — ranked No. 26 in the country — also defeated Truman 8-1 on April 18.

"We played really well in the Northwest match all the way down," head coach Pete Kendall said. "They're just a little better than we are."

The loss to Northwest marked the end of the careers of five Bulldog seniors, including the top four singles players. Senior John Rothfusz made a rare singles appearance in a 7-6, 6-3 defeat, and he and senior Kyle Schlotz had an early lead in their 8-6 No. 1 doubles loss.

No. 3 doubles lost 8-3 to give Northwest a 2-1 lead going into singles. The same match was 9-8 in favor of Northwest on April 18.

"Going into singles, it was a longshot [to win]," Bracha said. "We needed at least two doubles wins to have any chance really at singles."

The Bulldogs did not win any sets in singles in the following three matches, and Rothfusz was the only player to win more than four games in a set.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Senior Steven Hipkiss returns a shot earlier this season. Hipkiss won both his first-round MIAA matches, including an 0-6, 6-3, 6-1 win in singles. Hipkiss is one of six Bulldog seniors.

Bracha stood out for the 'Dogs all weekend, not dropping a set until a 6-2, 6-2 defeat against Northwest's Malcom Harrison, who is ranked. Bracha said it was a small victory to win even four games.

Bracha finished the spring season with a 4-9 singles record after starting 2-8. He won his singles match against UNO's Drew Mercier 6-4, 7-5 after he lost to Mercier 7-5, 3-6, 10-8 on April 17.

"I was really lucky that he was missing some shots on some key points," Bracha said. "Luck was on my side that match."

Against UNO in the first round, the Bulldogs picked up wins from No.'s. 2 and 3 doubles and in singles from Bracha, Hipkiss and sophomore Eric McCollough. McCollough had a straight-sets victory, but Hipkiss had to make a comeback after getting bageled in

the first set.

"He was just not serving well," Kendall said. "He wasn't getting first serves in, and all of a sudden he started serving a lot better middle of the second set, and he ran it out then."

The men ended the season with an 11-6 dual meet record and 3-4 in the MIAA.

The women were not as consistent as the men in their season performance. After defeating UNO 5-4 on April 17, the result was reversed on Saturday.

The Bulldogs earned wins at No. 1 doubles and Nos. 1 to 3 singles. But the difference from the earlier meet came at the No. 4 singles — sophomores Dagmar Velez suffered a 6-1, 6-4 defeat. She won in three sets in the first dual.

Like the men, the women nearly had a 2-1 lead after doubles play, but the No. 3 team of freshmen Lauren Higgins and Kirstyn Sampias

lost 9-8 (10-4).

"We had a lot of chances," Kendall said. "At the end we didn't get the break points, but let's just say I feel like we should have won that match. ... We had plenty of chances to win that match in the last game and then the tiebreak."

The Bulldogs could have lost by more if not for a rain delay in the middle of singles play. The dual was moved indoors after a delay that lasted more than an hour.

Before the delay, Truman was well behind at No. 1 and No. 4 singles. After the delay, both matches improved in favor of the 'Dogs. Junior No. 1 Amy Ochs came back to win 3-6, 6-1, 6-2.

"Once we got in the van, we got to kind of refocus ourselves," sophomore Ellen Russell said. "We got to start over, essentially."

Russell picked up two of the 'Dogs' wins with a 7-5, 6-4 win in singles and 8-4 in doubles. No. 1 singles was the only match to reach three sets.

The women ended the season with an 11-6 dual record and 3-4 in the conference. The team retains its entire roster for next season.

TRUMAN ATHLETICS News and Notes

Baseball: Hitting, pitching improves

Although the record might not show it, the Bulldogs have improved both their offensive and pitching numbers from last season. Last year as a team, Truman had a .262 batting average and an 8.73 team ERA. This year the 'Dogs are batting .276 and have lowered their team ERA to 6.55.

This season, opponents have a .317 batting average against Bulldog pitchers. Last season, Truman struggled at getting people out as opponents batted .359.

One more win will give the Bulldogs their highest win total since 2005. Truman has four games left this season.

Basketball: Bulldogs add three recruits

The men's basketball team signed its first three players for the upcoming 2010-2011 season. Justin Strickland will join the Bulldog program from Kansas City, Kan. Strickland averaged 10 points and six rebounds for the Sumner Academy of Arts and Sciences. He was captain of the team that won the 2010 Kansas Class 4A State Championship.

Patrick Sodemann averaged 14.5 points as a guard for Parkway West in St. Louis, Mo. He is the brother of former Bulldog player Chip Sodemann, who played for Truman from 2002 to 2006.

The final player to sign a National Letter of Intent was Isaac Gardner. He played guard/forward for Washington High School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Gardner was named second team All-State and was a nominee for a McDonalds All-American award.

Tennis: 'Dogs sweep weekly MIAA awards

Junior Kelsey Kuykendall and sophomore Eric McCollough swept the MIAA tennis player of the week awards for the week ending April 22.

Kuykendall went 3-1 in singles during the week, with wins against three MIAA schools and a loss against No. 41 Northwest Missouri State University. Kuykendall also was 3-1 in doubles while paired with sophomore Dagmar Velez.

McCullough also was 3-1 in his singles matches during the span, with his only defeat coming against Northwest. McCollough ended the season with a 19-8 singles record, including 8-4 in conference play. McCollough will be the top returner for the men next season, as six players are seniors.

Track: Dell'Orco breaks second school record

Sophomore distance runner Dani Dell'Orco broke another school record this weekend at the Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa.

Dell'Orco placed in the 5,000-meter run with a time of 16:45.13. This time is more than four seconds faster than the 16:49.44 record set by Kerry Knepper in 1990. This time also was a national qualifying mark for Dell'Orco.

Dell'Orco broke Knepper's record in the 10,000-meter run at the Jim Duncan Invitational earlier this season. This is her second school record this season.

"That was her best race probably ever in her life," assistant coach Tim Schwegler said. "It was really a good day for her, the first time I saw her compete really well. She hung in there. There's things to work on, but you have to walk away from that really happy."

This will be Dell'Orco's first time at nationals this season. Schwegler said Dell'Orco could do both events, but it would be a difficult task. The Bulldogs will compete this Saturday at the Fighting Scott Invitational in Monmouth, Ill.

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Classifieds

Rates On-Campus: \$3 per ad
Off-Campus: \$5 per ad

For Rent

For Rent: Property Concepts LLC is your source for affordable student housing in Kirksville. Apartments starting at \$315 with heat, water, trash, electric, cable tv, wireless internet provided. Onsite laundry. Off street parking. 24 hour maintenance. Pet friendly units available. www.kirksvilleapartments.com. 660-627-1400.

For Rent: One bedroom furnished apartment, two blocks from TSU. It has air, walk-in closets, washer and dryer, off street parking. One is available in May and one in August. 660-488-6465.

For Rent: 2-bedroom house available. May 1, near university. \$390/month. \$450 deposit. Call 660-665-7186 after 5

For Rent: Two and three bedroom apartments very close to campus. Available after June 10. Call 660-216-1179.

For Rent: 3-bedroom house, available June 1. Four blocks from campus. Central air, washer, dryer included. \$600/month. Call 660-349-8636.

For Rent: Large 4+ bedroom loft. Downtown, 4 blocks from campus. Dishwasher, washer & dryer included. \$1000/month plus deposit. Water and trash paid. Available May. 660-216-8608.

For Rent: 2-bedroom house on Jefferson street. Covered porch, full basement, washer and dryer. Newly remodeled. \$350/month. 660-627-1400.

For Rent: ONE MONTH FREE RENT: Northeast Missouri Properties is now renting for the 2010-2011 school year. Apartments and houses between the sizes of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6-bedrooms available. Some utilities included. Very pet friendly. Locally owned and managed. Affordable quality rentals. Call today 660-216-1794.

For Rent

For Rent: Wagner Enterprises rental properties are available for 2010/2011 lease. New units with one to four bedrooms are all within two blocks of campus! Complete with washer/dryer in each, all electric, central heat and air, private parking and maintenance staff. For more information call 660-341-5538.

For Rent: Kirksville Property Management is the source for your housing needs. We have apartments, houses, condos and more. Many properties to choose from with 1-6 bedrooms. Stop by 106 E. Washington, call 660-665-6380, or visit our website at www.KirksvillePropertyManagement.com

For Rent: Newer, well maintained duplex apartments near downtown. 2-bedroom, 1 walk-in closet, washer, dryer, dishwasher, refrigerator, range, central air, garbage disposer, and outside storage all included. August and May availability. Call 660-665-2796 M-F 8-5.

For Rent: Several nice 1, 2 and 3-bedroom rentals within walking distance of Truman. These are located at St. James Place, Boardwalk, Park Place, Water Works, States Avenue and Community Chest. Call Four Horizons Realty Inc. at 660-665-3400 or visit our websites at 4Horizonsrealty.com or Trumanrentals.com.

For Rent: 5-bedroom house at a 4-bedroom price with two kitchens, two bathrooms, spiral staircase, off the street parking and walking distance to campus. Pets welcome. Contact Jerry with Northeast Missouri Properties today. 660-216-1794 or check out our website at NortheastMissouriProperties.com.

For Rent: 4-bedroom, 2-bath, 2-kitchen house. Very nice, on golf course. \$1000/month. 660-341-3761.

For Rent

For Rent: 1 and 2-bedroom apartments available for May/August leases. Within 1 mile of both Truman and ATSU. Trash/water included. No pets/smoking. On-site W/D in some units. Call 626-3725 or 488-5554.

For Rent: 3-bedroom house, newly remodeled, two blocks from TSU, total electric, includes stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer and dryer. Outside storage area, off street parking. \$600 rent, \$600 deposit. Call 660-341-4627.

For Rent: 3-4 bedroom houses for rent. Within walking distance of Truman and KCOM. Newly remodeled. Appliances provided, including washer and dryer. Pets negotiable. 660-216-3803.

For Rent: Single bedroom available in 4-bedroom home located on Washington. Close to campus. Equipped with washer, dryer, and dishwasher. Extra storage space. Lawn care provided. Enclosed front porch. \$250/month. Available in May or August. Call 701-739-3990.

For Rent: One bedroom apartments available after May 15th. All electric units. Call 660-216-1179.

For Rent: 2-bedroom, 1-bath house close to TSU and KCOM. Available May or August 2010. Newly renovated. Large living room, eat-in kitchen, electric stove, disposal, dishwasher, refrigerator, washer and dryer, new electric furnace, A/C, garage. Call 314-477-3928 or jim@kirksvillereental.com.

Miscellaneous

Misc: Need a great job for the summer? We need fun and mature individuals at our camps one hour from St. Louis. Salary, free lodging, food and training. Must be 18 years or older. www.girlscoutsem.org. Call Donna at 314-592-2351.

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