

# SPORTS



**DEFENSE PREVAILS**

Joya nets 20 but 'Dogs lose 79-65

Page 18

Thursday, December 3, 2009

www.trumanindex.com

15

## Bulldog Breakdown

## Index Online

### Index Sports Show:

Director of Athletics Jerry Wollmering sits down with sports editors to discuss recent news in Truman athletics.  
[www.trumanindex.com](http://www.trumanindex.com)

### On the blog:

Update on the search for a permanent head football coach  
[indexsports.wordpress.com](http://indexsports.wordpress.com)

## On campus

### Men's on campus:

Basketball: 3:00 p.m. Dec. 5 vs. Pittsburg St.

7:30 p.m. Dec. 9 vs. Illinois-Springfield

Wrestling: 7:00 p.m. today vs. Hannibal-LaGrange

### Women's on campus:

Basketball: 1:30 p.m. Dec. 5 vs. Pittsburg St.

5:30 p.m. Dec. 9 vs. Illinois-Springfield

## Records

### Men's Basketball:

(1-4 overall)  
(0-1 MIAA)

### Women's Basketball:

(3-3 overall)  
(0-1 MIAA)

## Quotable

“I think she can be up there with the Allie Chervens and the Lisa Webers. She proved that this year. ... If she continues to improve her blocking, she will become an incredibly dominant middle blocker. And I know she's going to do it, because that's just Megan's attitude.”

-- Head volleyball coach Ben Briney, on freshman middle blocker Megan Sharpe

MIAA Freshman of the Year >>>> Regional Freshman of the Year >>>>

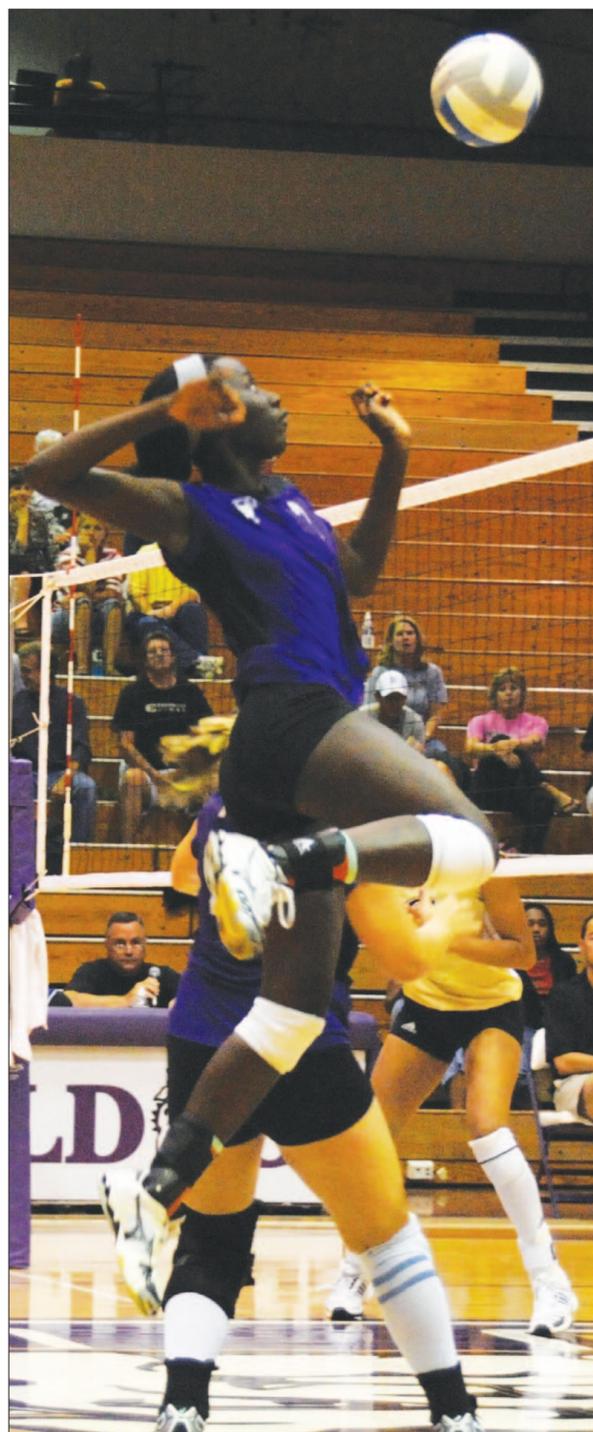


Photo submitted by George Barlow

# Sharpe wins National Freshman of the Year

**Middle blocker records second-highest hitting percentage at Truman**

BY JOE BELL  
Staff Reporter

On the eve of the Bulldogs' first and final match of the South Central Regional Championship, freshman middle blocker Megan Sharpe stood outside of her hotel room crying. She knocked on senior right side hitter Lauren Graybeal's door and asked if they could talk.

Graybeal then asked Sharpe what the problem was, fearing something horrible had happened. Sharpe, however, was afraid of the Bulldogs losing their upcoming match.

“She just wanted it so bad for the team,” Graybeal said. “She was like ‘I want to win this for you.’ That was one of the best moments in volleyball I’ve ever had right there. With someone actually wanting to play for me, I just wish I could play with her longer.”

It was this attitude that helped Sharpe have not only one of the best seasons for a Bulldog freshman in recent memory, but also garner some of the top honors from the American Volleyball Coaches Association. After the volleyball season, which ended Nov. 19 with a 3-0 loss to West Texas A&M University in the first round regional match, Sharpe was awarded with the MIAA Freshman of the Year, and she earned a spot on the All-MIAA second team.

Sharpe then took the South Central Region's Freshman of the Year award along with a spot on the all-region first team. The crowning award for Sharpe, however, was receiving the AVCA's Freshman of the Year Award. She also earned All-American honorable mention. Former Bulldog Sarah Shearman won national freshman of the year in 2003.

Sharpe's season numbers lend support to her awards. She

hit a team-leading .354 and averaged 3.00 kills per set. Head coach Ben Briney said Sharpe was an asset up the middle of the court, causing many teams to reconsider their offensive strategy when playing against the Bulldogs. Sharpe now holds the second highest all-time single-season hitting percentage. She also broke the record for highest hitting percentage in a season for the Bulldogs in the rally-scoring era, an honor previously held by former Bulldog Lisa Weber.

And Briney sees this season as only the start of a great career for Sharpe.

“She can be a great middle blocker,” Briney said. “I think she can be up there with the Allie Chervens and the Lisa Webers. She proved that this year. ... If she continues to improve her blocking, she will become an incredibly dominant middle blocker. And I know she's going to do it, because that's just Megan's attitude.”

“So I'm looking forward to the future and her only getting better and being one of the best middle blockers in the conference. And if you're one of the best middle blockers in the MIAA, you're one of the best middle blockers in the country.”

The awards and numbers are indicative of a great season, but that might not have been the crowning achievement for Sharpe this season. Helping the team to a postseason berth was another one of her major accomplishments.

“I think it's amazing that I got [National Freshman of the Year],” Sharpe said. “I never expected it going into the season. I know I really wanted to help impact the team in a good way from the beginning. But I didn't even expect to get MIAA Freshman of the Year, let alone National!”

Coming into the season, Sharpe had some big shoes to fill. Not only was she stepping into one of the toughest conferences

Please see SHARPE, Page 19

“She definitely will do great things. Definitely.”

Lauren Graybeal  
Senior

## Sharper Image Megan Sharpe Fact File

- Highest Truman single-season hitting % in rally scoring era (3.54)
- Led team in kills, attempts and kills per set (3.00)
- Recorded at least 10 kills in 22 out of 36 matches played
- Also named Honorable-Mention All-American
- First Bulldog to win National Freshman of the Year since Sarah Shearman in 2003

Design by Antionette Bedessie/ Index

### Commentary



JACK NICHOLL

# McCall exemplifies student-athlete

Where can you start a story about a man who you cannot relate to?

I can't dream of playing violin in a university orchestra. (I played viola for one year in high school — wasn't very good.) I can't imagine spending 20 hours per week in the pool for a top-20 national swimming team. (I played water polo for two years in high school — it's nowhere near as difficult as swim practice.)

The story of senior Andrew McCall, 2009 recipient of a Rhodes Scholarship (see story, page 1) and co-captain of the men's swimming team, is beyond me. He has done something that no one from Truman has ever done. And he did it while participating in possibly the most vigorous sport there is.

McCall likely will be accepted to Oxford University for graduate school on a paid scholarship and start attend-



Andrew McCall dives into the pool at a meet earlier this season. Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

ing next October. He said he wants to study philosophy and become a professor after graduation.

McCall's journey will continue well after his time at Truman, but it's here where he has balanced his time well enough to earn the prestigious award. From Nov. 19 to 22, he exemplified his abilities

to balance his three main activities: academics, swimming and orchestra.

Nov. 19: McCall wakes up early and heads to Pershing for swim practice — by himself. For the last four years, every Thursday during the school year, McCall has done this. It is something he must do.

Please see MCCALL, Page 19

# Pershing parking should not deter fans

People make all kinds of excuses when it comes to not attending Truman athletic events. “It's too cold out,” or “It's too far to walk” or “I have to study” are just a few of them.

With the main parking lot east of Pershing Building under construction as part of the ongoing renovations to the building until Spring 2011, fans that drive to athletic events might add the excuse, “There is no place to park. I guess I'll stay home.”

But the athletic department has planned ahead to make sure fans who drive to events will not make that excuse and will have a place to park when

Please see PARKING, Page 19

### Commentary



BRENT FOSTER