



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

The wrestling team did not fare well against top Div. II and some Div. I competition at the UNO Open on Nov. 21.

## UNO provides challenge

BY CORY WEEKES  
Staff Reporter

The wrestling team faced its biggest challenge of the year so far last weekend in the UNO Open, hosted by University of Nebraska-Omaha, the defending national champions.

Going into the tournament, the Bulldogs took with them two solid performances from previous weeks as guidelines and confidence boosters. However, senior Loyde Braidlow and junior Andy Bader were not among the Bulldogs who competed in the UNO Open as they "were taking a break so not to get worn down too early in the season," Braidlow said.

Only 10 'Dogs competed in the tournament. Among the 10 was freshman Colton Schmitz who came into the open with a 7-3 record.

Against what Schmitz said were his toughest opponents so far, he managed to win his first match by way of pin in the second round after racking up points through ride time in the first round. However, as the day wore on, Schmitz lost two close matches.

"There were a lot of

matches that could have gone either way," Schmitz said. "As a team we had some good moments, but the UNO tournament was tough and we definitely didn't wrestle as well as we could have."

With a season that spans from November to the end of March, the physical aspect of the game could begin to take its toll. However, it is by managing these long months that head coach David Schutter said plays a big roll in how the wrestlers compete when the season comes down to the final tournaments, and every match becomes crucial.

"We had some guys who were banged up and tired so this early in the year, you don't want to take any chances," Schutter said. "We faced a lot of tough competition and we had some bright spots. We have a lot of talent on the team this year, and a lot of that talent

is young. So it is good to see them getting experience in tough matches."

Although the team didn't have the best of showings in the open, Schutter said there are still improvements being made that will play a big roll later on.

"Our work ethic is improving a lot," Schutter said. "Our overall attitude as a team is improving. We can't put a lot on these early tournaments. We just have to keep grinding and working hard. The guys always wrestle tough, and I've yet to see any of them give up on a match."

Coming off Thanksgiving Break, the 'Dogs are hitting it hard again in practice, making sure that after a week off, they will be ready for the Simpson Invitational in Indianola, Iowa, this weekend.

In previous years the team has taken two different All-Americans to this event, and in both cases,

they finished in fifth place. Not only does this mean the competition is going to be tough, but it also will be the first invitational the team will wrestle in this season. Because of this, the team can expect to see some of the teams they have already faced and some new faces as well.

"It's a tough tournament," Schutter said. "There are 16 teams and you are only allowed to take in 20 guys. I hope we can have everyone back for this one but only time will tell."

After the week off, Braidlow said he is ready and focused on the new challenges that lay ahead. Acknowledging that the team didn't do its best at UNO, Braidlow said that should all change come the Simpson Invitational.

"A bunch of our young guys saw a lot of quality action in the Open," Braidlow said. "This team works harder than any other team I have ever been apart of and we are really just improving as a whole. We should have everyone back, and we will be well represented. This is a big week for Truman wrestling."

## TRUMAN ATHLETICS News and Notes

### Women's basketball: Kiecker, McHenry injured

The injury bug has hit the women's basketball team. Head coach Michael Smith said junior guard Malorie Kiecker has been battling a knee injury since the beginning of the season. He said the injury is worse than first feared and that it might require a scope.

Kiecker did not play in Saturday's 68-62 victory against Lincoln University. She has started four games this season, averaging 4.5 points per game. Smith did not give a timetable for her return.

Smith also said freshman guard Becka McHenry is day-to-day with a sprained ankle. McHenry started in place of Kiecker on Saturday and scored six points.

The Bulldogs played Wednesday night's game without freshman forward Megan Sharpe who was in Minnesota to receive the volleyball National Freshman of the Year award.

### Men's basketball: 'Dogs lose 89-83 to UMSL

The Bulldogs played their third game of the season Nov. 24 against the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Truman lost 89-83 in a game that had six lead changes and 11 ties. Both teams also had five players in double figures.

UMSL scored 13 more points off turnovers and had 12 more fast-break points than Truman. Head coach Jack Schrader said the Bulldogs started to be more aggressive, and that led to a lapse in transition defense.

"Now after these two weeks, we've gotten a taste of being aggressive," Schrader said. "We have got to tighten things up with our transition defense. There was no way we would have gotten to where we are now unless [the team] had a blank check to be aggressive."

Truman was led by sophomore center Vesko Filchev, who posted his second double-double of the season with 21 points and 10 rebounds. Junior forward Mark Misiewicz and junior guard Alex Henderson had 16 and 15 points, respectively. Henderson also added five assists.

### Football: Coaching search continues

Director of Athletics Jerry Wollmering said the search for a permanent football coach has been narrowed down to a handful of candidates. He said more than 100 people applied for the vacancy, and that a coach should be in place by the end of the fall semester.

### Men's swimming: Taplin records top finishes

Just before a race at the University of Iowa Invitational on Nov. 22, freshman Greg Taplin caught the eye of a teammate in a different lane and gave a quick nod of his head. The gesture was small and simple, but it represented everything the team is about.

"It's like, 'I'm here to take care of business,' and then he goes out and takes care of it," assistant coach Tim Sandfort said. "He brings that attitude into practice every day, and it's not a corrosive, 'I'm better than you.' It's him pushing his teammates."

Taplin set the pace for freshman teammate Matt Fletcher in the 100-yard backstroke as he cut two seconds off his previous time against Missouri State University and finished in 55.24 seconds. In addition, he was second among Truman swimmers in the 200-yard backstroke, 200-yard individual medley and the 400-yard IM. While the head nod might seem to suggest overconfidence, head coach Mark Gole has said Taplin's hard work serves as a model for teammates.

"What he has brought to the program is just a fearless kind of work ethic going into every single day," Gole said.

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