

Athlete of the Week

Alex Henderson

Sport: Men's Basketball
Year: Junior
Hometown: Willard, Mo.

Junior guard Alex Henderson scored 16 and 15 points in two games last week. He is currently second on the team in minutes played and third in points with 10 per game entering Wednesday's conference-opener.

Versatile Henderson nets 31 in two games

BY JOE BELL
Staff Reporter

Jack Schrader, men's head basketball coach, said junior guard Alex Henderson has always been underestimated. After Henderson's last two games, and his season so far, teams might have to start re-evaluating him.

In last Saturday's game against Quincy University, Henderson led the Bulldogs (1-4) in scoring with 16 points. Henderson also tied for the team lead in total shots made (six), three pointers made (two) and field goal percentage (57 percent).

During Truman's Nov. 24 game against the University of Missouri-St. Louis Henderson was again one of the leading scorers on the team. He put up 15 points, good for third out of the five Bulldogs who put up double-digit points.

"The last couple of games, we've lost both games," Henderson said. "I guess I played

fairly well, but in the end, it doesn't really matter. We played better against the University of Missouri-St. Louis. We moved the ball, I was able to get a couple of open shots, stuff like that. Last game didn't go so well."

The last two games have marked a bit of a turning point for Henderson. Henderson said that although he was not assertive in the team's first two games, he has really tried to step in and take more of a leadership role on the court and more responsibility for the team. The early results of this change indicate that it is paying off.

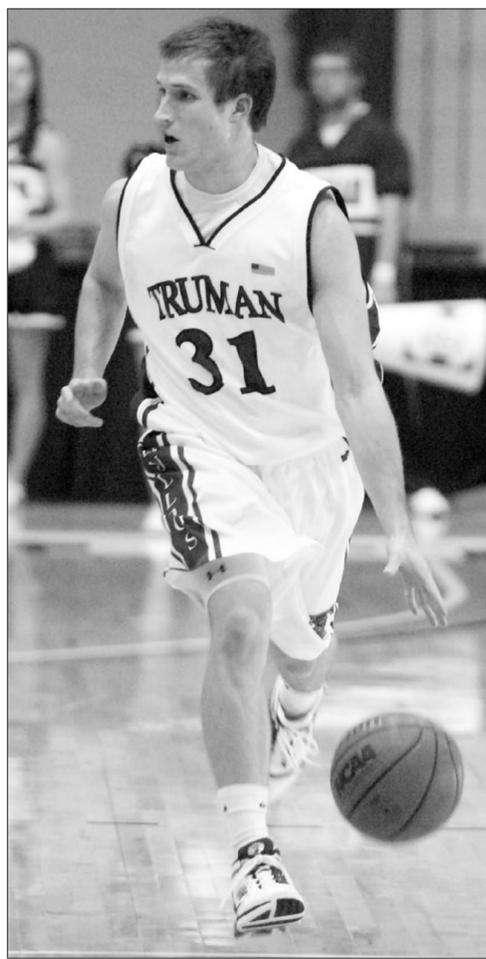
"Alex is the guy we have back that probably played the most in crunch time last year," Schrader said. "He has started to pick up his game. The tougher the competition, the tougher he is, and I think that's showed in our last two games."

Schrader said the team has begun to change directions in the middle of the

season. They have embraced a more aggressive attitude, and Henderson is one of the key components of this new offense, which features three guards. Schrader said Henderson's ability to play several different positions as well play different styles of basketball has made him an integral part of the team's new offense. For Henderson, this has meant it has been necessary to play several different positions on the court so far this season.

"All three guards are interchangeable," Henderson said. "If I'm in there and [Schrader] wants me to bring the ball to the court, I'll bring the ball to the court. If coach has somebody else bringing it up, I'm going to try and get down the court, maybe get an easy basket or something like that. That's kind of my mindset."

Although the offense has seen improved results with this new style of offense, Henderson said he felt that the area the team needed to improve on most was its defense. He said an improved defense will not only help bolster the team's offense, but also will allow the team a chance to win more games.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Sophomore guard Alex Henderson, shown earlier this season, is averaging 10 points in five games this season.

PARKING | Director of Athletics Jerry Wollmering said fans should park on west side of Pershing Building in lot across from Franklin Street

Continued from Page 15 attending events in Pershing.

Director of Athletics Jerry Wollmering said there will be minor changes fans should be aware of beginning with Saturday's basketball double-header against Pittsburgh State University.

The main fan entrance will be in the southwest corner of Pershing Arena near the concession stand. He suggested that fans driving to events park in the lot across Franklin Street that was completed last year. Wollmering also said the row of parking spaces next to the entrance on the southwest side of the arena are now handicapped spaces, and the Department of Public Safety will monitor the area on days of events to help people get across Franklin Street.

"A lot of times on Wednesday night games you couldn't find any place to park out here anyways," Wollmering said.

The entrance at the front of Pershing will remain open during construction for students and fans who walk to Pershing.

The parking problems for Bulldog fans are very minor compared to other universities. At the University of Missouri, fans who want to park in the closest lot to Faurot Field on football gamedays must make a minimum donation of \$10,000 per year to the Tiger Scholarship Fund. If they don't want to pay that, they can park well away from the stadium with donations beginning at \$50, plus a \$100 parking fee. Those fans who don't want to pay big money

to park are often relegated to walking more than half a mile to the stadium. I've never heard a fan at a major university make the excuse of not attending a game because of lack of parking.

"Attendance is derived by winning," Wollmering said. "People are going to find a way to get here. If you park four rows back here, walk in downstairs and around it's really about the same distance as the parking lot across the street."

Wollmering said the only thing that could be a problem is getting the opponents in and out of Pershing smoothly. He said other schools are used to being let off in front of Pershing, but will now have to be let off on the west side of the building. Their buses will



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
The east entrance to Pershing Building is no longer the main entrance during athletic events because of parking lot construction. The new entrance is by the concession stand.

park in the lot across Franklin Street.

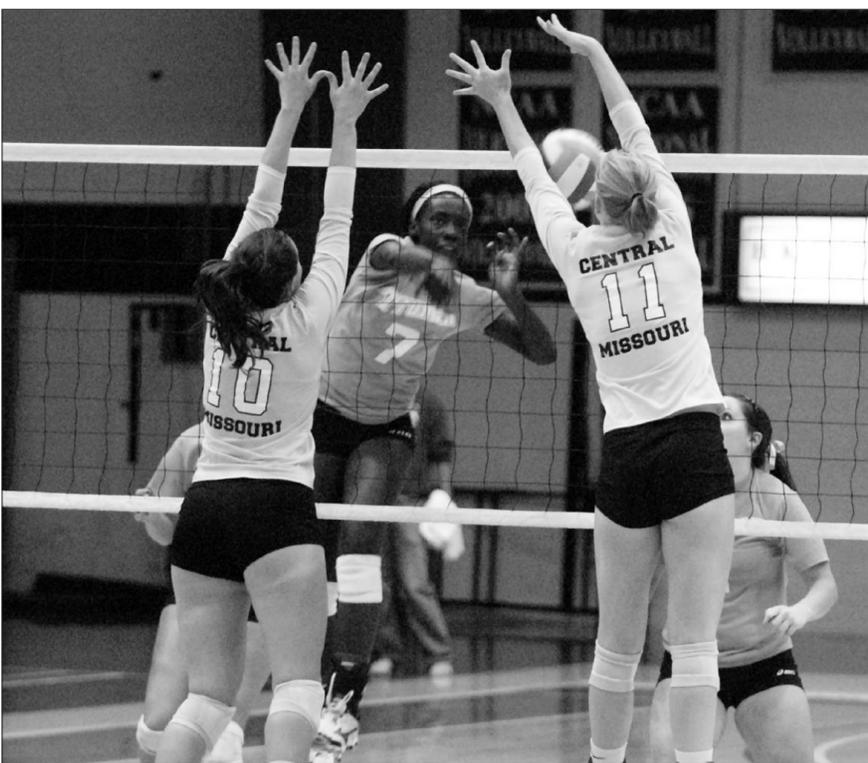
For those still concerned about the parking situation, the athletic department has

put a map on the Truman athletic Web site, Trumanbulldogs.com.

When construction of the lot is complete, there will be

fewer spaces in the Pershing lot. Who knows, maybe people will use that as their next excuse why they don't attend Truman athletic events.

SHARPE | Freshman middle blocker leads team in kills, hitting percentage



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Megan Sharpe is the first Bulldog to win National Freshman of the Year since Sarah Shearman in 2003.

Continued from Page 15 in the country but she also was replacing former All-American middle blocker Allie Cherven.

If Sharpe felt pressured, she did not show it. She hit the ground running in Truman's first tournament of the year. She hit .223 with 32 kills in those first four matches. Sharpe then continued to steadily improve throughout the season.

"A lot of it was getting to know the other girls, especially the seniors," Sharpe said. "Once you

see how hard they work and see how much they want it and how much they've put into it in the past four years, you just want to up your game even more. Just getting to know [Graybeal], [senior right side hitter Erin] Hattey, and [senior setter] Krysta [Tholen] just was like 'I want to win for these guys, not even for myself, just for them.'

"It's Ben's first year as a coach, and we wanted for him to have a good first season, and [assistant coach] Ms. Megan [Wargo], also. ...

Everyone thought we were the underdogs, so we wanted come out and show them that we weren't. I think that helped me a lot. As they elevated their game, it helped me elevate mine."

Sharpe had one of the most consistent seasons of any Bulldog, and became one of the Bulldogs' go-to players as the season continued. Briney said Sharpe brought a special kind of confidence to floor that was a great boost to the team. This confidence was even

more special because she was a freshman. Briney also said Sharpe worked incredibly hard all year, taking in and applying everything he taught her and worked on areas of her game that she viewed as deficient.

Sharpe's hard work, dedication and personality all came together into a season for the Bulldogs to remember. But Sharpe's best seasons might still be ahead of her.

"She definitely will do great things," Graybeal said. "Definitely."

MCCALL | Senior balances time between academics, swimming team and orchestra

Continued from Page 15

The swimming team has two different practice times Thursday afternoon to accommodate schedule conflicts. Because McCall has orchestra practice during both swimming practices, he has swam with no teammates on Thursdays. Only swimming head coach Mark Gole, who teaches a class at the same time, will occasionally ask McCall how fast he is swimming.

"I trust that kid 100 percent," Gole said. "He's going to give everything he has, whether he's by himself or whether we're right there with him."

"He does work extremely hard at whatever he does ... No matter how hard something is, he always takes the attitude of he can do it."

Nov. 20: McCall travels to Kansas City as a finalist for the scholarship. There is a reception and a dinner where McCall meets the other finalists. McCall will have a 7-on-1 interview the next day.

Nov. 20 is also the start of the University of Iowa Invitational for the swim team. It's the fall taper meet — the one fall meet when swimmers rest their bodies and attempt to qualify for nationals. McCall has been tapering for the meet, and now he'll miss the first two days. Included in this is the 200-yard freestyle relay and the 50-yard freestyle, two events McCall swam at nationals in the past but will likely not qualify for this year.

Nov. 21: McCall interviews for the scholarship, then waits for more than two hours for a decision before he and one other person are called back for a surprise re-interview.

Meanwhile, the swimming meet in Iowa City continues. The men will not qualify anyone for nationals at the three-day event — the first time that has happened in McCall's career. He likely will need his first career individual A cut to qualify this year because relays are not as strong as past years.

McCall said he focused more on the 50-yard freestyle the past two years to help with the 200-yard



ANDREW MCCALL

freestyle relay, but his aim this year is more on the 100-yard freestyle and butterfly — two events he earned B cuts in during his freshman season when he focused on them.

It's in the evening when he finally gets the verdict on the scholarship.

"My nerves were shot at that point, so when they told me I got it I was just relieved," McCall said.

Nov. 22: McCall arrives in Iowa City at about 1:30 a.m. and wakes up at about 7 a.m. He will swim in just two events today — the 100-yard freestyle and 400-yard freestyle relay. He finishes second for the 'Dogs in the 100-yard freestyle and helps them to a third-place finish in the relay.

Gole said McCall "had a phenomenal meet on Sunday," despite no A or B cuts.

McCall had a second shining moment in store before the meet Sunday when the public address announcer congratulated him on his academic achievement.

"Right after that he stood up and waved and every single parent of Western Illinois, South Dakota State, Northern Iowa, Truman and the University of Iowa — all five schools, all the parents stood and gave him a standing O as well as almost every swimmer on deck," Gole said. "It was probably one of the proudest moments I've ever had as a coach."