

# Roller hockey starts semester 2-0-1



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Members of the roller hockey team practice earlier this season. The Bulldogs went 2-0-1 last weekend, their first undefeated weekend of the season. The team is now 6-5-3.

## Bulldogs earn first undefeated weekend of season

BY JACK NICHOLL  
Sports Editor

The roller hockey team returned from a six-week layoff to play its best hockey of the season last weekend.

The Bulldogs went 2-0-1 for their first undefeated weekend of the season, with wins against St. Louis College of Pharmacy and Washington University and a tie against Missouri University of Science and Technology.

The 'Dogs (6-5-3) started the weekend strong with two goals in the first three minutes against WU (6-7-2) and won 6-2. Truman previously tied the Bears 5-5 on Oct. 24.

"We knew we were capable of beating them," senior goalie John Pecher said. "We knew we didn't play as well against them as we should have last semester. So coming and firing right away and getting those first two goals really set the tone for the game and really allowed us to get our confidence back, especially after the shaky games we had last semester."

"We were able to concentrate less on scoring and more on playing better as a team."

Forwards sophomore Cody Dependahl and senior Zach Rohne combined for five goals in the game and freshman defenseman Cary Nave added one goal and two assists. Pecher, who started the first two games of the weekend, had 26 saves.

Truman continued the improved play in the tie against Missouri S&T (7-3-2), to whom the 'Dogs lost 6-3 to Nov. 7. No statistics were available for the S&T and COP games at the time of publication. However, Pecher said the team is happy with a tie after last semester.

"Neither of us really dominated the game," Pecher said. "We didn't shut their offense down as much as we would have liked to. They played a pretty physical game, but I felt like if we would have spread out play a little more and worked on 2-1 passes, we probably could have gotten a win."

Against COP (4-10), which is on a seven-game losing streak, the 'Dogs played a back-and-forth game before going up by two goals in the third period. Senior goalie Joel Hentrich got the start and Pecher saw time at forward late in the game.

"It was a lot closer than it should have been because they're not one of the better teams in the division," Nave said. "We took some bad penalties in the third period — I know I took one later on — and they ended up scoring on the power play."

The weekend also marked the return of Rohne, who missed last semester because of injury. Rohne teamed with Dependahl on the first line, and forwards junior Da-

vid Merrifield and senior Jeff Flaton were on the second line.

Pecher said it took Rohne a couple periods to get his shot back, but once that happened he and Dependahl had the same dynamic as last year. Rohne combined for 25 regular season goals the last two seasons.

Rohne's return also allowed the team to switch to a three-defender rotation, with Nave, senior Nick Bleche and alumnus Truman Patterson taking turns.

"That's something we were used to doing a couple years ago — we had three defenseman that we rolled pretty consistently," Pecher said. "It gave us a lot more opportunities, and [we did] not have to wait on the same six guys the whole game."

Pecher said another improvement from last semester is that he has settled in at goal. He said he has hit a level he hasn't hit since the midway point of last season. Pecher has played five games in goal this season and has about

a 3.5 goals-against average. Even with the successful weekend, Truman is fifth in the Great Plains Division and likely will need to win the regional tournament to make the playoffs. The team has four regular season games left.

The Bulldogs' next game is Feb. 20 against Southeast Missouri State University in Ballwin, Mo.

"Coming out and firing right away and getting those first two goals really set the tone for the game and really allowed us to get our confidence back."

John Pecher  
Senior

## Athlete of the Week

### Zach Chapman

Sport: Track  
Events: Middle Distance  
Year: Senior  
Hometown: Columbia, Mo.

Senior middle distance runner Zach Chapman set a new personal best in mile last weekend with a time of 4:26. Chapman set the mark in the fourth meet of the season after redshirting in cross country in the fall.

# Chapman sets PR in mile at Iowa Invite

## Senior breaks mark after redshirting cross country season

BY BLAKE TOPPMEYER  
Editor in Chief

The men's cross country season didn't go as planned for senior Zach Chapman.

First, Chapman came down with an illness just before the season started. As he was overcoming the illness, he suffered a leg injury that ultimately forced him to redshirt the season.

But Chapman is making up for lost cross country time on the track this winter.

He finished fifth overall in the mile at the Jack Jennett Invitational on Saturday, crossing the finish line in a career-best time of 4:26.

Chapman was the first of five Bulldogs to cross the line.

"He's getting better every time he goes out there, and that's what we want to see this time of year," distance coach Tim Schwegler said. "He's had some lulls in his career here, and it looks like he's putting it together this season. So I'm pretty happy how

he's progressing so far."

Chapman said it was difficult to sit out the cross country season and stay in Kirksville while his teammates were competing at meets. But he will return next fall as a fifth-year senior and plans to use his fourth year of cross country eligibility.

And sitting out of cross country meets gave him a chance to focus on preparing for his fourth and final indoor track season.

"On Saturdays where I would normally be going to a [cross country] meet — and you get kind of beaten up going to meets like that — instead I was training, which probably kept me from getting any more injuries, which was good," Chapman said. "I could just build up my training more and have better times going into track."

Chapman also sat out both the indoor and outdoor track seasons last spring as he used the semester to focus on academics, following a change of majors. So this year's indoor track season was his first chance at competition in about a year.

"He seems a little more

juiced up now to get after it," Schwegler said. "I can't complain. Every time he goes out there so far this year, he runs pretty well."

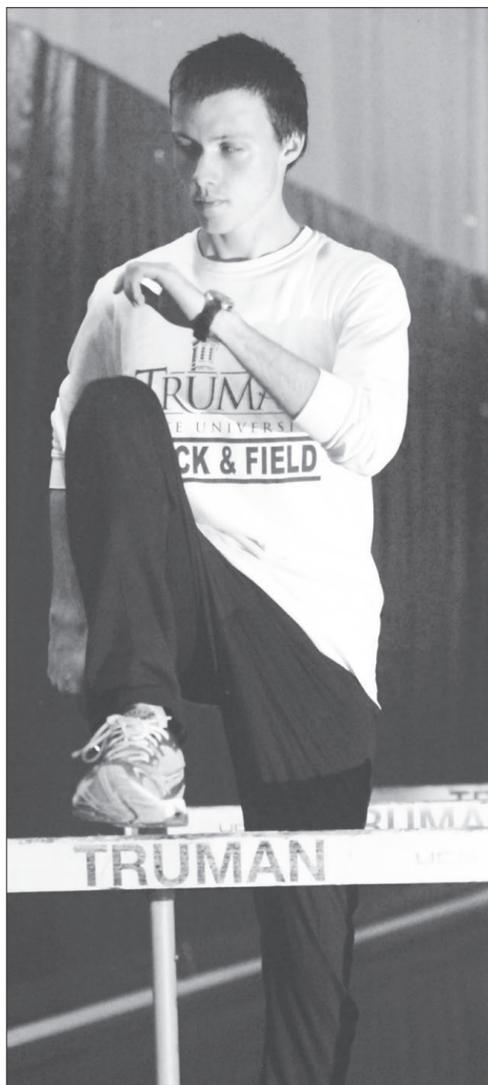
Chapman competed the 3,000-meter run in the Jan. 22 to 23 Iowa State Open. He finished that race 21st, and he said he was disappointed that he got caught back in the pack early in the race and was unable to recover.

Chapman positioned himself better Saturday in the mile, and he utilized a strong finish to pass three runners in the final 200 meters.

"I managed to stick in the middle of the pack right off the bat, which was good," Chapman said. "And part of the strategy was just kind of hold it there for a while, until about 800[-meter mark], and then just kind of move up."

Chapman had a negative split in the mile Saturday, meaning his time in the final half of the race was faster than his split in the first half. His 1:05 time in the final 400 meters was his fastest 400-meter split.

"Every world record for men for 1,500 [meters] on up are negative splits," Schwegler said. "So what we try to do is to kind of go along with even splits and then have a big finish. That's what we work on all the time, and he's been able to do it."



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Senior Zach Chapman practices drills earlier this week. He was the first Bulldog finisher in the mile last weekend.

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