

SPORTS

Thursday, March 18, 2010

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Bulldog Breakdown

Index Online

On the blog:

A career comparison of Kate Aherne and former swimmer Diana Betsworth

indexsports.wordpress.com

Baseball

	MIAA	OVR
1. UCM	11-1	16-2
2. UNO	7-1	11-5
3. FHSU	8-4	12-5
4. ESU	8-4	12-6
5. WU	8-4	9-5
6. PSU	7-7	8-7
7. MSSU	5-9	7-14
8. MWSU	4-8	7-8
9. SBU	2-10	3-16
10. TSU	1-7	4-12
11. NWMSU	1-7	3-18

Softball

	OVR
1. Emporia	15-7
2. Pittsburg St.	9-6-1
3. Nebraska-Omaha	8-6
4. Fort Hays	6-5
5. Central Mo.	7-7
6. Southwest Baptist	9-9
7. Northwest Mo.	8-9
8. Washburn	7-8
9. Mo. Western	7-9
10. Truman	7-11
11. Mo. Southern	7-15-1

Quotable

“That’s just making that four-footer here, having three guys that make that four-footer that goes down. That changes everything. Whether it’s a 300-yard drive or four-foot putt, every stroke in this league can cost you.”

— Tyler Madsen, men’s golf co-head coach, on what the team needs to do for success this spring

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Biermann, Aherne take titles as Truman has national champions in two different sports in the same year for the second time ever

Senior track athlete
Katrina Biermann

- Won pole vault
- Broke her own school record
- Placed sixth in triple jump



Senior swimmer
Kate Aherne

- Won 200-yard IM for third year in a row
- Set new NCAA record in the IM
- Earned seven All Americans



Biermann takes pole vault title

BY JOCELYN NEBEL
Staff Reporter

Even as she sat and stretched in Pershing Arena, senior pole vaulter Katrina Biermann wore a big smile as she thanked coaches and staff that congratulated her on her new title of national champion.

Biermann became the fifth Truman women’s track and field athlete to win a national championship Friday night in the pole vault.

“It was the most intense competition I’ve ever been in for any event in my entire eight years of track and field,” Biermann said.

Biermann had national qualifying marks in both the pole vault and triple jump.

At the NCAA Div. II Championship in Albuquerque, N.M., Biermann faced last year’s champion Lauren Stelten from Minnesota State University-Mankato, Jennifer Hansen from Slippery Rock University (Pa.), and Jessica Blair of Abilene Christian University (Texas).

“Pole vault was a really tough competition,” head coach John Cochrane said.

“It went back and fourth and there were probably four people that could have won.”

For Biermann it came down to the final vault.

“I knew if [Stelten] made the bar, I’d get second, but if she didn’t, I’d get first,” Biermann said. “So, I missed my first three, she missed her first two, so I was sitting back. It was so intense. I was just sitting there kind of hoping she wouldn’t make it, still hoping she would do well.”

... I just kind of lay down and closed my eyes and closed my ears and just let whatever happen, happen. When I opened my eyes the crossbar had fallen.”

“When I opened my eyes the crossbar had fallen.”

Katrina Biermann
Senior track athlete, after the runner-up missed the final pole vault

Biermann said her nervousness and excitement hit her in her first vault of the meet, but she calmed down and relaxed after her first vault and treated nationals like any other meet.

“I wasn’t nervous warming up,” Biermann said. “I was pretty focused, but that first vault, my nerves hit me. My first vault wasn’t the prettiest, but yeah, it was Please see TRACK, Page 19



Brian O’Shaughnessy/Index
Senior Katrina Biermann broke her own school record in the pole vault last week at nationals. She also placed sixth in the triple jump.

Commentary



JACK NICHOLL

5 reasons why Biermann’s win is special

1. She deserves it.
Senior Katrina Biermann is the best pole vaulter ever to attend Truman. She owns the indoor and outdoor records in the event and has broken her own records multiple times.

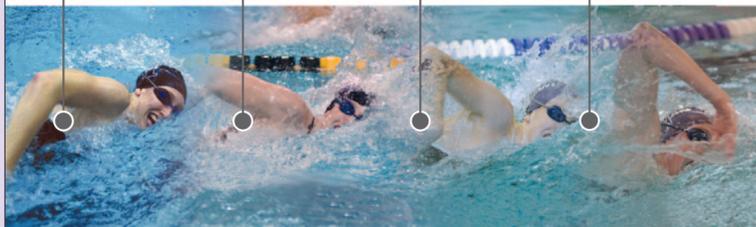
Biermann has been strong throughout the indoor season after placing sixth at nationals in the pole vault in the spring. She entered the national meet with an automatic mark and the third-best vault in Div. II. In her final successful vault, she bested her record with a vault of 13-01.75.

“I just wanted to go and vault like I had been vaulting all season,” Biermann said. “It finally all came together at the right time and at the right meet.”

2. She didn’t out-jump anyone.

The scoring in pole vaulting is like no other. It’s not uncommon in sports that you win because your Please see COLUMN, Page 19

2007	2008	2009	2010
7th: 50 Free	1st: 200 IM	1st: 200 IM	1st: 200 IM
7th: 100 Free	5th: 50 Free	2nd: 50 Free	2nd: 50 Free
5th: 100 Back	6th: 100 Free	4th: 100 Free	3rd: 100 Free
NP: 200 Free	9th: 100 Back	2nd: 200 Free	2nd: 200 Free



Aherne 3-peats in IM

BY JACK NICHOLL
Sports Editor

Kate Aherne didn’t even need the freestyle leg to pull ahead of the competition.

Aherne, the senior women’s swimmer from Cary, Ill., took the lead in the final 25 yards of the breaststroke before increasing her lead in the freestyle, the final leg of the

200-yard individual medley.

The end result for Aherne was a third-straight national championship in the 200-yard IM and a new national record with a time of 2:00.56 at the NCAA Championships last week in Canton, Ohio.

“I thought to myself that if I had the lead after the breaststroke, I would be able to finish the race out and win

it,” Aherne said. “That event is just so nerve-racking for me, especially because I put a lot of pressure on myself for it and, also, I feel like people kind of had high expectations of me.”

Aherne is the only Truman swimmer ever to three-peat in a single event.

The victory in the medley Please see AHERNE, Page 19

Women earn 5th at nationals

BY JACK NICHOLL
Sports Editor

One streak continued and another streak started.

The women’s swimming team’s fifth-place finish at nationals last week in Canton, Ohio, made it 13 straight years that the team has placed in the top-five in the nation. However, it was the second-straight year the team declined.

After placing fourth in 2009, Truman earned 251 points this year. Drury University claimed the title for the second year in a row.

“I know there might be some disappointed, myself included, but we did pretty much everything we could in the deepest national meet in my coaching and swimming career,” head coach Mark Gole said.

Truman sent 12 swimmers to the meet and 10 scored, highlighted by senior Kate Aherne’s three-peat national championship Please see WOMEN, Page 19