



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Freshman Jerod Simek practices earlier this year. Simek was an All-American in the three distance freestyles.

Simek places in 3 events

Freshman notches three All-Americans, team finishes 23rd

BY BRENDAN O'BRIEN
Staff Reporter

Choosing a college was not an easy decision for freshman swimmer Jerod Simek. He said the choice tormented him so badly that he could not reach a conclusion until after Spring Break of his senior year of high school. Surrounded by seven other freshmen swimmers, Simek entered Truman with the chance to have an immediate impact on the team's success.

Now, fresh off a trip to nationals in which he snagged a top-10 finish and three All-Americans, Simek's decision to become a Bulldog has never looked better.

Simek earned 14 points and led Truman to a 23rd-place finish as the lone Bulldog swimmer at the Div. II national swim meet in Canton, Ohio, last weekend. He won All-American honors for a 15th-place finish in the 1,000-yard freestyle, 14th-place finish in the 500-yard freestyle and 9th-place finish in the 1,650-yard freestyle.

"At race time, it was pretty crazy," Simek said.

"Sometimes [the fans] were screaming and hollering if they had kids in their heat, but the other two that were right by the starting blocks were always really, really loud because parents are just sitting there and they're cheering."

Simek earned a spot in four races. Before swimming in the 500-, 1,000- and 1,650-yard freestyle as well as the 400-yard individual medley, head coach Mark Gole jokingly reminded Simek in practice that he had the four longest races. Training was grueling and was made more of a struggle by the fact that his teammates ended their season at the conference meet Feb. 10 to 13.

Simek worked toward nationals the entire season, however, and his preparation paid off. Simek said he was fortunate to have his races spaced with one each day.

Despite being the lone Bulldog on the men's side, Simek had the support of his coaches and family, mes-

sages from alumni and the encouragement of the 12 Bulldog women swimming at nationals. On the first day of competition, Simek was forced to wait until evening for the 1,000-yard freestyle heat, but he made it count when his turn came. The freshman shattered the school record with an All-American finish of 9:25.38.

Simek said the first race usually helps him get rid of some jitters, but Gole said he believes Simek's stellar first performance may have caused him to take his second race, the 400-yard IM, lightly.

"I don't want to say he was overconfident, but he was pretty excited after he broke the school record by seven seconds and it was his best time by 17 seconds," Gole said. "Sometimes when you drop that much, it can get you too excited for your following event, and I think that's what happened."

Despite being ranked No. 10 prior to nationals, Simek fell to 18th in the 400-yard IM with a time of 4:04.57.

Only the top 16 score points.

"With me being seeded 10th and the way that I felt in the water with all my strokes, I felt like I could have made it at least top 16, and after I finished and touched the wall, I was out of breath," Simek said. "I was dead tired. That was probably the hardest 400 IM I've done all year."

He got back on track in the 500-yard freestyle the next day with a 14th place, All-American finish at 4:34.82 and then could focus his sights on the 1,650-yard freestyle. Simek said he had two goals as he entered the race: to set a new personal best and beat sophomore Brian Tillis' school record. He could see other swimmers fading with it being late in the meet and said he swims better as meets go on, but this made him more nervous.

However, Simek finished ninth and earned a third all-American. Gole said Simek saved his best for last.

"His 1,000 was outstanding, but his 1,650 on Saturday was his best race I've seen all year," Gole said. "We only had one member of the men's team there, but he definitely represented Truman to the best of his ability. We're extremely proud of how Jerod did."

"His 1,000 was outstanding, but his 1,650 on Saturday was his best race I've seen all year."

Mark Gole
Head coach

TRUMAN ATHLETICS News and Notes

Swimming: Qualifying format to change

Automatic national cuts will be harder to come by for the swimming teams next season.

The NCAA recently decided to implement a qualifying system in Div. II that will make it so only the best swimmers will be able to swim A cuts. Head coach Mark Gole said the new times will be hard enough that maybe only four people in the country will get them. B-cut times will be swum at nationals on an invitation-only basis.

The system is currently used at the Div. I and III levels.

"You're going to have to have almost a peak performance just to get an A cut," Gole said. "And chances are that peak performance might have to come after six months of training at a conference as opposed to three months of training at the Iowa Invite."

Gole said the NCAA made the decision to cut down on the number of national qualifiers to save money. The swimming committee did not make the decision.

The NCAA wants Div. II to have 205 women and 160 men at the meet, Gole said. There were more than 450 qualifiers combined in 2009 and 2010.

The decision will cause Truman to taper all its swimmers at the conference meet in the spring regardless of times at the fall taper meet because a top-10 B-cut time in the fall may significantly drop in the spring when other teams taper.

Truman had 15 A-cut swimmers this season and 13 competed at nationals. Nine of those scored in an individual event.

"If you scored in this event this year your chances of getting invited next year if you go a similar time are pretty high," Gole said.

Gole said he does not agree with the switch because the Div. II system was unique in that swimmers knew what events they were qualified in.

Baseball: 'Dogs take two from Upper Iowa

Junior Kyle Veazey picked up his first career win and the Bulldogs took two of three from Upper Iowa University during Midterm Break. Truman scored 23 runs and won the first and third games of the series.

Veazey pitched seven innings and gave up four hits and two runs in the 12-2 Bulldog win. Eight players had a hit and seven players had an RBI. Sophomore catcher Devon Myers was 3-for-4 with three RBIs. Junior first baseman Drew Garwood was 3-for-4 with three RBIs and hit the 'Dogs first home run of the year.

In the second game, Truman fell behind early and lost 8-1. Sophomore Tyler Stefan took the loss for the Bulldogs. He pitched 1.2 innings and gave up three hits and five runs, four earned. Garwood had the only Truman RBI. Freshman Jarrett Eiskina had five strikeouts in three innings.

Sophomore Ryan Trimble earned the win in the final game of the series. Truman won 10-7 behind Trimble, who pitched six innings and gave up nine hits and seven runs, three earned. The 'Dog offense once again performed well and had seven players with a hit and six with an RBI. Myers, junior second baseman Mike Reese and freshman third baseman Jordan Howe had two hits apiece. Myers had three RBIs.

Garwood closed the door in the final inning and picked up his first save of the season.

Softball : Van Gennip earns MIAA award

Senior pitcher Richelle van Gennip was named the co-MIAA Softball Pitcher of the Week for the second time this season. Van Gennip allowed three hits in a five-inning complete game victory against Southwest Minnesota State University March 8, and she allowed one run and four hits in a 1-0 loss to Ashland University (Ohio) March 9.

Van Gennip is 5-4 this season with a 1.09 ERA and has already surpassed her 2009 strikeout total with 91 in nine appearances. Last season she had 87 strikeouts in 27 games.

Index Classifieds

Rates On-Campus: \$3 per ad
Off-Campus: \$5 per ad

For Rent

For Rent: Property Concepts LLC is your source for affordable student housing in Kirksville. Apartments starting at \$315 with heat, water, trash, electric, cable tv, wireless internet provided. Onsite laundry. Off street parking. 24 hour maintenance. Pet friendly units available. www.kirksvilleapartments.com. 660-627-1400.

For Rent: 2-bedroom unfurnished house, two blocks from TSU. It has washer and dryer, central air, walk-in closets, paneled attached garage. Available in May. Off street parking. Call 660-488-6465.

For Rent: 5-bedroom house at a 4-bedroom price with two kitchens, two bathrooms, spiral staircase, off the street parking and walking distance to campus. Pets welcome. Contact Jerry with Northeast Missouri Properties today. 660-216-1794 or check out our Web site at NortheastMissouriProperties.com.

For Rent: Large 4+ bedroom loft. Downtown, 4 blocks from campus. Dishwasher, washer & dryer included. \$1000/month plus deposit. Water and trash paid. Available May. 660-216-8608.

For Rent: 4 blocks from campus -- 2-bedroom and 1-bath apartment. All electric, central air, parking at door, washer and dryer. Available August. 660-341-1805.

For Rent: Very nice two bedroom modern duplex apartment located at 1404 Bishop Drive, available August 1st. Many amenities included. Call Greg at 660-626-7695.

For Rent: 1-bedroom duplex apartment. All appliances including washer/dryer. A/C. Behind Domino's Pizza. \$300 per month. Available Aug. 665-2796.

For Rent: Hurry to secure this 5-bedroom house with two kitchens! One month free rent! Washer/dryer, large bedrooms, 2 full baths, off street parking, walking distance to campus! Great landlords, too! 660-665-3779.

For Rent: 2-3 bedroom house, 2 blocks from campus. \$525/month. Available August-September and/or September-August. Fireplace, washer and dryer, balcony. Pets allowed. 660-553-8945.

For Rent

For Rent: Wagner Enterprises rental properties are available for 2010/2011 lease. New units with one to four bedrooms are all within two blocks of campus! Complete with washer/dryer in each, all electric, central heat and air, private parking, and maintenance staff. For more information call 660-341-5538.

For Rent: 2-bedroom apartments directly across from OP at the "White Apartments." Call 627-2060 for more information.

For Rent: Kirksville Property Management is the source for your housing needs. We have apartments, houses, condos, and more. Many properties to choose from with 1-6 bedrooms. Stop by 106 E. Washington, call 660-665-6380, or visit our Web site at www.KirksvillePropertyManagement.com

For Rent: Two 1-bedroom apartments. Total electric. Stove, refrigerator, off street parking. Close to Truman. One \$250/month, other \$280/month with washer and dryer. Tenant pays all utilities. 660-216-1952.

For Rent: Newer, well maintained duplex apartments near downtown. 2-bedroom, 1 walk-in closet, washer, dryer, dishwasher, refrigerator, range, central air, garbage disposer, and outside storage all included. August and May availability. Call 660-665-2796 M-F 8-5.

For Rent: New two bedroom duplex, two blocks from TSU, total electric, includes stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer and dryer, outside storage area, off street parking \$585.00 rent, \$585.00 deposit. Call 660-341-4627.

For Rent: Several nice 1, 2, and 3-bedroom rentals within walking distance of Truman. These are located at St. James Place, Boardwalk, Park Place, Water Works, States Avenue, and Community Chest. Call Four Horizons Realty Inc at 660-665-3400 or visit our Web sites at 4Horizonsrealty.com or Trumanrentals.com.

For Rent: 3-bedroom house, 3-bedroom apartment and 1-bedroom apartments available in May. 660-216-1179.

For Rent: 2-bedroom, 1-bath, all electric apartments. Call 660-341-1805.

For Rent

For Rent: ONE MONTH FREE RENT: Northeast Missouri Properties is now renting for the 2010-2011 school year. Apartments and houses between the sizes of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6-bedrooms available. Some utilities included. Very pet friendly. Locally owned and managed. Affordable quality rentals. Call today 660-216-1794.

For Rent: 1 and 2-bedroom apartments available for May/August leases. Within 1 mile of both Truman and ATSU. Trash/water included. No pets/smoking. On-site W/D in some units. Call 626-3725 or 488-5554.

For Rent: Check out our super nice 3 and 4 bedroom houses with ONE MONTH FREE RENT! Washers/dryers, spacious bedrooms, off street parking, new kitchens and much more! Great landlords, too. Pets allowed upon approval. Deposit holds! Don't delay... 660-655-3779.

For Rent: 7-bedroom, 3-bath, 3-living rooms. Very nice house only blocks from campus. 660-341-1805.

For Rent: Three bedroom house, newly remodeled, two blocks from TSU, total electric, includes stove, refrigerated, dishwasher, washer and dryer. Outside storage area, off street parking. \$650.00 rent, \$650.00 deposit. Call 660-341-4627.

For Rent: 3-4 bedroom houses for rent. Within walking distance of Truman and KCOM. Newly remodeled. Appliances provided including washer and dryer. Pets negotiable. 660-216-3803.

For Rent: 1-bedroom efficiency apartment approximately 2 blocks from TSU. ALL UTILITIES INCLUDED. No pets. \$300 per month. Available AUG 2010. Call Corey Sanford 660-988-9848 or leave message.

For Rent: Extra clean one bedroom apartments with local landlords for great service! Great privacy with each unit. Pets allowed upon approval. Phone 660-665-3779.

For Rent: Clean one bedroom apartment near campus and the downtown area. Landlord provides heat, water, and trash. Tenant is responsible for electricity. Rent is \$330 a month. Lease to start in May 2010 for one year. Call Sondra at 660-216-8779.

For Rent

For Rent: 3-bedroom house for rent. Dishwasher, laundry, central air, energy efficient furnace. Within walking distance from campus. Off street parking. Call 970-318-8902 or 815-519-6509. Available May 2010.

For Rent: 1-2 bedroom apartment approximately 2 blocks from TSU. ALL UTILITIES INCLUDED. No pets. \$350 per month. Available MAY 2010. Call Corey Sanford 660-988-9848 or leave message.

For Rent: Newer, well maintained duplex apartments 4 blocks from campus. 2-bedroom. Off street parking, washer/dryer, central air, garbage disposal. \$425 per month. Available May and Aug 665-2796 8-5.

For Rent: 2 and 3 bedroom apartments available for 2010-2011 school year. Nice apartments... great value! Call for more information. 660-627-2060.

For Rent: 2-bedroom house available. May 1, near university. \$390/month. \$450 deposit. Call 660-665-7186 after 5 p.m..

For Rent: Behrmann Rentals has available for May 2010 a clean 2-bedroom house close to TSU. This home has new carpet, deck, spacious living room. Includes stove, refrigerator, washer and dryer, central air and forced air heat. Rent is \$450. Call Jeff Behrmann owner-agent at 660-626-7598 or visit www.housesinkirksville.com

For Rent: Walk to class from this 3 or 4 person apartment. Central air, washer and dryer, and off street parking. Available May. 660-341-1805.

For Rent: One bedroom furnished apartment, two blocks from TSU. It has air, walk-in closets, washer and dryer, off street parking. One is available in May and one in August. 660-488-6465.

Wanted

Help Wanted: HUGE OPPORTUNITY with a BIG "O". Ground floor opportunity to earn three times what you thought you could earn at no cost to you. Totally new concept. Could be the next GOOGLE. Call for an appointment at 660-395-8777.