

SPORTS



REPEAT MATCHUP

WOMEN, UNO TO CLASH
IN FIRST ROUND OF
PLAYOFFS TOMORROW

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Thursday, November 12, 2009

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Bulldog Breakdown

Men's on campus:

Basketball: 7:30 p.m.
Monday vs Culver-Stockton

Women's on campus:

Basketball: 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday vs. Hannibal-LaGrange

Regional Rankings:

Volleyball

OVR

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| 1. Central Missouri (5) | 31-4 |
| 2. West Texas A&M (6) | 31-3 |
| 3. Emporia State (9) | 28-4 |
| 4. Washburn (8) | 31-4 |
| 5. Truman (19) | 23-11 |
| 6. Nebraska-Omaha (22) | 20-12 |
| 7. Abilene Christian | 27-5 |
| 8. Pittsburg State | 23-10 |

Wom. Soccer

OVR

- | | |
|------------------------|--------|
| 1. West Texas A&M (7) | 14-2-3 |
| 2. Incarnate Word (14) | 15-2-3 |
| 3. St. Edward's | 14-3-1 |
| 4. Truman | 14-3-3 |
| 5. UNO | 13-5-2 |
| 6. Central Oklahoma | 14-6-2 |

MIAA Standings:

Football

MIAA OVR

- | | | |
|--------------|-----|------|
| 1. NWMSU (2) | 8-0 | 10-1 |
| T2. UCM (23) | 6-3 | 8-3 |
| T2. MWSU | 6-3 | 8-3 |
| T2. WU | 6-3 | 8-3 |
| 5. UNO | 6-3 | 7-4 |
| T6. FHSU | 4-5 | 6-5 |
| T6. PSU | 3-6 | 5-6 |
| 8. MSSU | 3-6 | 3-7 |
| 9. ESU | 1-8 | 2-9 |
| 10. Truman | 1-8 | 2-9 |

Preseason rankings:

W. Basketball

- | | |
|----------|----|
| 1. ESU | 96 |
| 2. WU | 90 |
| 3. PSU | 86 |
| 4. UCM | 68 |
| 5. FHSU | 64 |
| 6. MSSU | 51 |
| 7. UNO | 47 |
| 8. SBU | 34 |
| 9. NWMSU | 31 |
| 10. MWSU | 21 |
| 11. TSU | 18 |

Quotable

“He certainly can make a difference, and I think everybody saw that today.”

-- Football coach Aaron Vlcko on junior quarterback Phil Davis' performance Saturday

Search for new coach begins

BY BRENT FOSTER
Assistant Sports Editor

The football team's season ended Saturday, but an offseason filled with uncertainty has started. Truman began a search Monday to find a permanent head football coach.

Director of Athletics Jerry Wollmering said he hopes to have a coach in place by the end of the semester so that whoever is hired can start recruiting in preparation for signing day Feb. 3.

“We want to make sure we do a thorough process and evaluate everyone that can fill the position,” Wollmering said. “Obviously, January [has] big recruiting weekends with visits, so we definitely don't want to keep everybody in limbo

with recruits for our team.”

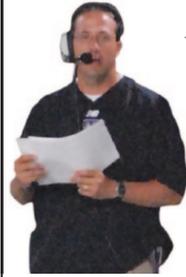
Former offensive coordinator Aaron Vlcko, who took the position of interim head coach in March after former head coach Shannon Currier's contract was not renewed, guided the Bulldogs this season. Wollmering said that when Vlcko took the job there was an agreement between himself, Vlcko and Interim President Krueger, which stated that at the end of the football season a search for a permanent coach would take place.

Vlcko said he plans to apply for the job and that he will continue to recruit and work to make the program better during the search process. Starting under Currier in 2005, Vlcko has been at

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Open Competition

Under interim head coach Aaron Vlcko, the football team was 2-9 overall and 1-8 in the MIAA



- Finished 140 out of 148 Div. II teams in run defense
- Was last in the MIAA in offense and eighth in defense
- Lost to Northwest 70-0 on Sept. 26
- Defeated Pitt St., 28-21, for first time since 1989 in last game of season

Design by Cameron Ballentine/Index

Women's basketball preview

'Dogs ready to prove their worth

BY BRENT FOSTER
Assistant Sports Editor

Hanging inside the women's basketball team's locker room is a blown up poster of the MIAA preseason poll released earlier this month. Truman appears below every other team. The poster is the last thing players see when they leave the locker room to hit the floor.

“We're not going to finish last this season,” head coach Michael Smith said.

Following a season in which the Bulldogs finished tied for eighth in the MIAA, the 'Dogs are out to prove they can be a force in the MIAA. They get their first chance to prove naysayers wrong when they open the season at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Pershing Arena against Hannibal-LaGrange College.

This year's team features many new faces. The Bulldogs added eight new players to the mix with five returning players. Smith said there will be an adjustment period this season because of all the newcomers, but he is pleased how the returning players have taken on leadership roles this season.

“The nice thing is we have the five returners that have done a great job in our pre-season, as far as instructing them on what to expect and the expectations from myself and our staff,” Smith said.

The Bulldogs spent much of last season adjusting to the new motion offense Smith implemented. It showed, as Truman averaged just 61 points and 19 turnovers per game. But sophomore forward Breanna Daniels said the returners now have a better understanding of the offense and have taught it to the new players.

“Definitely last year when all of us had it new, it was very confusing,” Daniels said. But this year, second year back with us, we understand it a lot better and it's a lot easier.”

Truman will rely heavily this season on the mix of new and old to help offset the lost production from the departure of forward Georgia Mueller. The All-MIAA star averaged 17 points and 7.5 rebounds per game last season, and she averaged double digit scoring all four seasons at Truman. Please see BBALL, Page 19

“We are not going to finish last this season.”

Michael Smith
Head Coach



Smith shows confidence in current players

Commentary



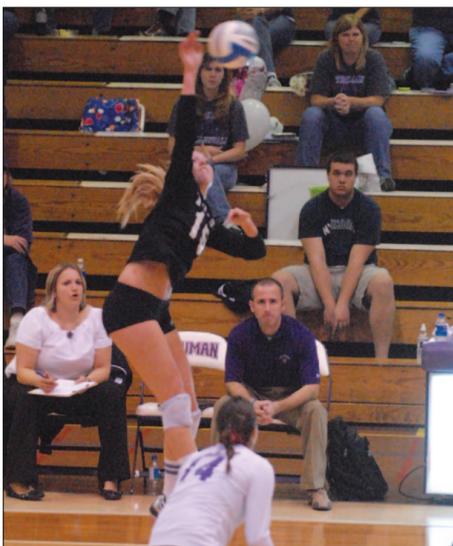
JACK NICHOLL

All Michael Smith, women's basketball head coach, wants to talk about is this year.

He has five returners — seniors Julie Guinn, Laura Joya and Sarah Seberger, junior Malorie Kiecker and sophomore Breanna Daniels.

“Our returners have done a great job,” Smith said. “I've seen a fire in them. I've seen a light when I look in their eyes. I see that light. I see that confidence.”

He has seven recruits, all of whom he said will play a Please see SMITH, Page 19



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Sophomore Molly Sinclair had eight kills and hit .152 in the 'Dogs 3-1 against No. 20 UNO on Saturday. The win likely assured Truman a playoff berth.

Volleyball picks up key win vs. UNO

BY JOE BELL
Staff Reporter

Befitting its name, the Bulldog seniors carried the team on Senior Night.

The No. 19 volleyball team took down No. 20 University of Nebraska-Omaha 3-1 on Saturday night. This likely guarantees the Bulldogs the No. 5 regional spot as they near the postseason.

Every aspect of the Bulldogs' game was on display during Saturday's match. The Bulldog defense came up with 102 digs to go along with eight blocks. The Bulldogs held UNO to a .043 hitting percentage, including two sets in which UNO hit in the negatives.

The Bulldogs hit .161 with 53 kills. Five Bulldogs racked up double-digit points. As was fitting for senior night, the three

seniors led the team. Senior right side hitter Lauren Graybeal had 16 kills, along with a block and two block assists and fellow senior right side hitter Erin Hattey put up 12 kills. Senior Setter Krysta Tholen picked up 19 assists and 16 digs for the Bulldogs.

“[Senior Night] was sad and happy,” Graybeal said. “The way we went out was awesome. ... It was weird knowing that that was the last time I'll ever play here. I actually subbed out. We had game point of our last game, and I knew that was the last time I was ever stepping on the court. It was a little emotional at the end. Other than that, it was a great night.”

The win followed up 3-0 losses to No. 24 Pittsburg State University and No. 6 University of Central Missouri.

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