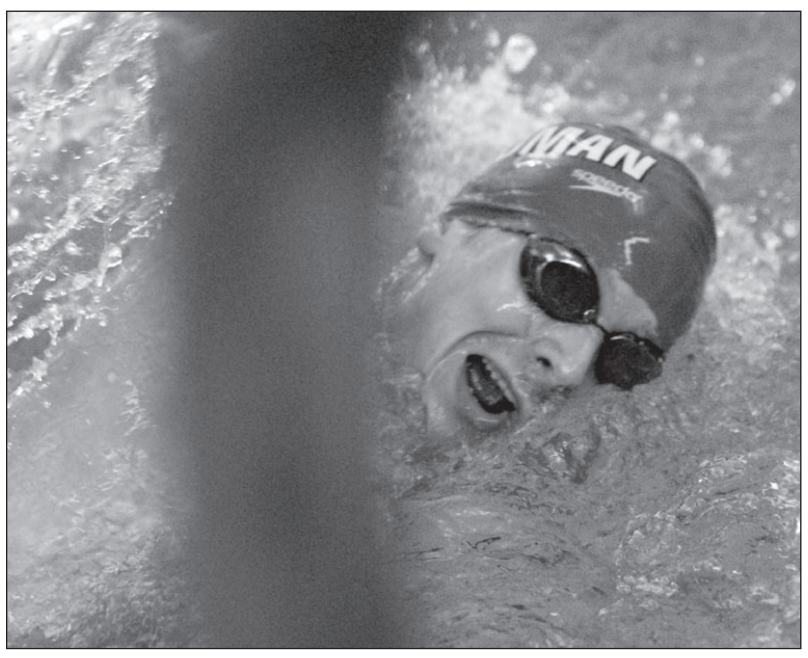

Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Above: Junior Kate Aherne earned the team's first A cut of the season in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:07.42.

Aherne, women defeat Missouri State 69-53

Men lose 92-30, Simek earns B-cut time in 1,000-yard freestyle

BY SONDRA LANGLEY
Staff Reporter

The men's and women's swimming teams both took on the Div. I Missouri State University Bears on Saturday with very different results.

The women won 69-53, but the men lost 92-30 in the Pershing Natatorium.

Senior Kate Aherne received her first A cut of the season in the 200-yard individual medley and picked up another B cut in the 200-yard freestyle, adding to a string of B cuts Aherne attained at the quad meet in Indianapolis on Oct. 23 to 24.

"It wasn't a surprise," head coach Mark Gole said. "We have been expecting [that] for a few weeks now."

Other top performances for the women include the 400-yard medley relay of freshman Stacey Wymer, juniors Emily Buss and Tanya Sylvester and Aherne. They missed the required A-cut time of 3:54:99 by less than a second.

Sophomore Jessica Jenkot had a lifetime best of 1:06.52 in the 100-yard breaststroke, and she later finished second behind senior Kendra Brunkow in the 50-yard freestyle.

"We needed it, any time you go one-two in a race, you outscore your opponent by seven points," Gole said. "[Brunkow] was technically our third fastest, so I put her in lane six and she ended up winning it from lane six. No one saw that coming, and I was extremely impressed by her ability to do that."

Brunkow finished second in the 200-yard freestyle behind Aherne and finished first in the 100-yard freestyle. Junior Anna Grinter finished first in the 200-yard butterfly. The relay team of Brunkow, Sylvester, Jenkot, and Aherne also placed first in the 400-yard freestyle. Junior Julia Jones in the 100-yard breaststroke, Brunkow in the 100- and 200-yard freestyle, and Jenkot in the 100-yard breaststroke, earned B cuts.

> "No one saw it coming, and I was extremely impressed with her ability to do that."
>
> **Mark Gole**
> Swimming head coach, on senior Kendra Brunkow's first-place in the 50-yard freestyle

"I think that we needed it," Aherne said. "Not only was everyone swimming so well, we ended up with a win which also just makes it so much better. It was really great to see everyone doing so well and gave us a lot of confidence going into the next meet."

The men did not fare as well as the women in their competition against Mo. State.

"On the scoreboard it didn't look like it went very well at all, but I thought that we swam outstanding," Gole said.

Freshman Jerod Simek earned the Bulldogs' only B cut in the 1,000-yard freestyle. He finished 0.09 seconds behind Missouri State's Niklas Gustafsson.

"For the race being over nine minutes long to come down to 0.09 seconds, it was probably the most exciting races on the men's side," Gole said. "We swam well from start to finish on the men's side. We had some major performances from the freshmen."

Despite the loss, Simek remained optimistic about the meet.

"For me, it was a very, very solid meet," Simek said. "It was a solid swim for everybody. Everybody got best times."

Freshman Tony Hernandez gave the team its first win the 100-yard breaststroke, with freshman Matt Fletcher giving the 'Dogs another first-place finish in the 200-yard IM.

"Sometimes the older ones get stubborn with things, and they have taken it as a challenge to get better and better," Gole said. "All of our freshmen have just brought this nothing-to-lose attitude to practice every day. Having that much youth on the team can have its trouble times as well."

The next meet for the Bulldogs is the University of Iowa Invitational Nov. 20 to 22 in Iowa City. This is the team's taper meet and the biggest event of the fall. The men and women look to get multiple A and B cuts for bids to nationals.

"I think that we are going to do really well," Aherne said. "This semester we have had a lot of great days of training and everyone is really excited about it. We are really looking forward to see what everyone can do right now."

Roller hockey finishes weekend with 2-2 mark

BY JOE BELL
Staff Reporter

After a week hiatus, the Truman roller hockey team returned to the rink for its best weekend of games yet.

The Bulldogs went 2-2 for the weekend improving their overall season record 3-4-1, seventh in the Great Plains region. The Bulldogs faced a tough slate of games last weekend. They won 10-5 against Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and 14-4 against Illinois State University. The Bulldogs lost 5-3 against the Missouri University of Science & Technology and 10-0 against Lindenwood University.

Senior goalie Joel Hentrich said the Bulldogs played better than their .500 record indicated, however.

"Yeah, we lost to the [MS&T] Miners 5-3, but we played a really great game against them, and it could have gone either way," Hentrich said. "We did win those two games ... by a decent amount, those two, and even though we lost 10-0 to Lindenwood, we made it to the third period."

The Bulldogs found many signs of encouragement from all of the games they played. They hung tough against the Miners, who played in Div. I last year. If not for a few mistakes on the Bulldogs' end, the results might have been different. In their games against ISU and SIU-C, the Bulldogs kept the puck in the opponent's net and stayed out of the penalty box.

But the crowning jewel of the Bulldogs' weekend might have been their game against Lindenwood.

> "It was like a light bulb came on, and all of a sudden, there was this awareness."
>
> **Dane Moody**
> **Co-Coach**
> After the team made it to three periods against Div. I runner-up Lindenwood

"We almost throw out the first three games," sophomore forward Cody Dependahl said. "We did some stuff well in those games, but the Lindenwood game, we could take ... away just about everything we did in that game as a positive. Defensively, we probably played the best we have all year. We really picked up the speed of our game and we elevated our game pretty much all over."

Against Lindenwood, the outcome was almost a foregone conclusion. Lindenwood is one of the best Div. I teams in the nation, having come out as the runner-up in the 2009 national tournament. The fact that the Bulldogs withstood Lindenwood until the third period before being mercied was a testament to many of the players and their coach as to how far the team has come since their first weekend.

Hentrich said that Div. I University of Missouri only made it to the second period against Lindenwood before getting mercied.

"It was like a light bulb came on, and all of a sudden, there was this awareness," co-coach Dane Moody said. "Guys were anticipating the play and making the right decisions with the puck, and following the right man, and staying with the man. Defensively, Ron Beilstein, the Lindenwood head coach, came up to me after the game and said, 'You guys played a very, very solid game.'

"I mean, you hate losing 10-0 — it never feels good — but there were a lot of positives to take away from that game. ... I think the team came to grips with what they are capable of despite the fact that there has been some adversity so far this year."

Moody said he thought this game would give the team a "jumping off point" for the rest of its season. Before the game, Moody also made it the mission of Dependahl and senior forward Truman Patterson to prove to everyone that they were good enough to play on Lindenwood's team.

This game also marked the return of senior goalie John Pecher. Pecher, regarded as one of the best goalies in the Great Plains region, patrolled the net and made a number of saves that helped the team prolong the game to the third period.

The team now has two goalies who will be vying for time in the net. Because Hentrich, who is amongst the leaders in several key goaltending statistics in the league, was expected to be the starter for this season after Pecher left following last season, he will receive the bulk of the goaltending minutes as the season progresses. Heintrich said he would be OK with relinquishing the starting job if his play starts to slip, however.

"If I start playing bad, I have no problem letting Pecher play because Pecher is an amazing goalie," Heintrich said. "I've learned a lot from him. Having him back is very beneficial for our team, and I am glad he is on our team."

The Bulldogs will head back to St. Peters, Mo., where they will face off against Missouri State University and Saint Louis University on Saturday, and against the University of Illinois on Sunday.

Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
The roller hockey finished the weekend with a 2-2 record. The Bulldogs are 3-4-1 this season.

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WITH THE INDEX
EVERY THURSDAY MORNING

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