

SPORTS

Thursday, November 19, 2009

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FLYING HIGH

Misiewicz scores 16 as men win opener 86-68

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Bulldog Breakdown

Index Online

Postseason coverage:
Volleyball: The Index will have continued coverage of all Truman volleyball matches from Warrensburg.

Women's cross country: Results from the national meet this Saturday.

Index Sports Show: Sports editors Jack Nicholl and Brent Foster and volleyball beat writer Joe Bell discuss the national volleyball tournament.

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On campus

Men's on campus:

Basketball: 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 28 against Lincoln

Women's on campus:

Basketball: 5:30 p.m.
Nov. 28 vs Quincy

Regional Rankings:

Volleyball

OVR

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| 1. Central Missouri (4) | 32-4 |
| 2. Washburn (8) | 32-4 |
| 3. West Texas A&M (5) | 31-3 |
| 4. Emporia State (10) | 29-5 |
| 5. Pittsburg State (21) | 24-10 |
| 6. Truman (22) | 24-12 |
| 7. UNO (23) | 20-13 |
| 8. Dallas Baptist | 20-16 |

Wom. Soccer

OVR

- | | |
|------------------------|--------|
| 1. West Texas A&M (13) | 15-2-3 |
| 2. Incarnate Word (8) | 15-2-3 |
| 3. St. Edward's (22) | 15-4-1 |
| 4. Truman | 15-4-3 |
| 5. UNO | 13-6-2 |
| 6. Central Oklahoma | 14-7-2 |

Quotable

“It's a great day for Truman wrestling. That's the first time in my 20 years here that we placed eight guys in a single tournament.”

-- Head wrestling coach Dave Schutter, after the Knox Open last weekend

Tournament bound



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Junior libero Casey Bruno and Bulldogs play West Texas A&M University in the first round of the playoffs at noon today. If they win, round two is Friday night.

No. 6 seed volleyball to play W. Texas A&M in first round

Appearance in tournament is 10th-straight for Bulldogs

BY JOE BELL
Staff Reporter

The volleyball team garnered its 10th-straight postseason berth Sunday.

The Bulldogs will head into the South Central Regional Tournament as the No. 6 seed, along with five other teams from the MIAA. This is the first time in six years the Bulldogs (24-12) will come into the regional tournament lower than a No. 2 seed.

“[The No. 6 seed is] about where we should be,” head coach Ben Briney said. “I think with the wins and the losses we have, we're seeded about where we should be. The tournament, the top eight seeded out pretty well.”

The University of Central

Missouri will host the regional. The Bulldogs play at noon today against No. 3 seed West Texas A&M University, and if they win, their second match will be 6 p.m. Friday.

This postseason will mark a first for many members of the team. This marks the first postseason for Briney as Truman's head coach, along with assistant coach Megan Wargo's first postseason in the South Central Region. Both of them have postseason experience, however. Briney has been to the playoffs four times as a Truman assistant and Wargo helped lead her former team, Lees-Mcrae College, to the NCAA tournament three times during her four-year tenure.

This also marks the first time many of the players on the team will see action in a postseason. Only two members of the Bulldogs roster, junior setter Ashley Petak and senior right side hitter

Consistency is key to victory

Here we go again. Another South Central Region volleyball tournament, with another four teams in the top 10 and seven in the top 25 nationally. No surprises there.

The MIAA has the maximum of six teams at the tourney. All are ranked, and an MIAA team is hosting. Again, no surprises.

In fact, not much is out of the ordinary entering the regional, which kicks off at noon today with Truman against West Texas A&M University in Warrensburg.

Sure, things change from year to year. Players graduate. Teams change coaches. The seeds for each squad differ.

But one thing remains constant: The team that brings its A game for three straight matches has the best chance of winning.

The team with the best players usually wins if both teams play their best — but, usually, that doesn't happen. The Bulldogs have been on both sides of the spectrum when it comes to this. In last year's regional final, No. 1 seed Emporia

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Commentary



JACK NICHOLL

First round matchup



24-12	Record	34-3
22	National rank	5
.193	Hitting %	.264
.161	Opp. hitting %	.140
17.3	Digs/set	16.5
1.8	Blocks/set	1.9

*W. Texas defeated Truman 3-1 on Oct. 3

Design by Antonette Bedessie/Index

'Dogs win final regular season match 3-1

BY BRENT FOSTER
Assistant Sports Editor

The volleyball team makes its 10th straight NCAA Tournament appearance today, but two matches last weekend left the 'Dogs breathing heavily with their NCAA tournament hopes hanging in the balance.

The No. 20 Bulldogs suffered a 3-1 loss at Northwest Missouri State University on Friday before defeating Missouri Western State University Saturday in a match head coach Ben Briney called “a must win.”

“It would have come down to us and [the University of Nebraska-Omaha], and I honestly don't know,” Briney said. “I was going to not sleep much at all on

Saturday night or Sunday [if we lost Saturday]. There was a shot we weren't going to make it.”

The Bulldogs were helped when West Texas A&M, today's opponent, won the Lone Star Conference Tournament on Saturday to receive the conference's automatic tournament bid. If West Texas had lost, a second member of the Lone Star conference would have received a bid, meaning Truman could have been the odd team out.

Northwest, which beat Truman for the first time since 1999, shut down freshman middle blocker Megan Sharpe by effectively hitting away from her. She finished with six kills on 17

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Women defeat UNO, lose to West Texas

BY LOGAN JACKSON
Staff Reporter

Although the women's soccer season is over, the team accomplished two of its preseason goals — win the MIAA conference and make the playoffs.

Beating the University of Nebraska-Omaha for the first time in the postseason Friday was just icing on the cake.

“The MIAA race was pretty close down the stretch,” head coach Mike Cannon said. “[UNO] kind of faltered a bit allowing us to win the conference. This match certified that we were the MIAA champs. Losing to them in the playoffs wouldn't have taken away our title, but it could have brought up doubts about us winning the conference.”

The Bulldogs, who finished the season 15-4-3, defeated UNO 1-0 Friday



Photo submitted
Senior forward Riley Mahn scored the 'Dogs lone playoff goal in the 68th minute against UNO.

in the first round of the NCAA Tournament before losing to No. 13 West Texas A&M 1-0 in the second round Sunday. UNO had previously dominated the Bulldogs in the playoffs, outscoring them 11-2 in four previous wins. Truman improved

to 6-12 all-time against UNO. The team has four wins in its last seven matches against its biggest rival. UNO is the only MIAA team the Bulldogs have an overall losing record against. Since UNO joined the MIAA in 2008, Please see PLAYOFFS, Page 19