

Roller hockey finishes 1-1-1

BY JOE BELL
Staff Reporter

The roller hockey team was unable to make lightning strike twice last weekend.

The Bulldogs played three games last weekend. In their first game against Missouri State University, the Bulldogs won 3-1. Truman lost its next game 9-5 against St. Louis University. The Bulldogs then tied their last game of the weekend 8-8 against the University of Illinois. Truman's record now stands at 4-5-2, eighth in the Great Plains Regional standings.

"It was really an up-and-down weekend," sophomore forward Cody Dependahl said. "A weekend of true highs and lows. On Saturday, we played Missouri State. ... [It] was just an unbelievable game for us. The next two games, I would have to put them down as disappointments."

In their first game of the weekend, the Bulldogs pulled off a difficult feat. Truman beat Missouri State, one of the best Div. II schools



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
The roller hockey team finished with a 1-1-1 record last weekend. The Bulldogs are currently in eighth place in the Great Plains Regional standings and are off for the rest of the semester.

in the nation, and beat them with only four skaters and a goalie. One of the team's players didn't make the game because of a prior engagement, and two players did not make it to the game in time, leaving Truman with an extremely short bench.

The only Truman player to get rest at all during the game was junior defense-

man Nick Blechle, who hit the penalty box a few times during the course of the match. Senior goalie John Pecher also made his season debut for the Bulldogs with 29 saves.

Unfortunately for the Bulldogs, they did not replicate these results for the rest of the weekend. Even though the team had a full

complement of skaters for its game against SLU, many of the Bulldogs were worn out from having to skate the entire game. Coach Dane Moody said the Bulldogs had lost the sharpness they had against Missouri State and allowed SLU to set up and make several back-door shots.

"[Against] SLU, we had a

lot of very, very tired legs," Moody said. "We kind of just stood around and expected them to take the fact that we beat Missouri State and assume that they were going to roll over and die, which they absolutely didn't. ... We weren't willing to do the things we needed to be successful."

The Illinois game was another tough one for the Bulldogs. They battled their way through and had the lead with a minute left on the clock when they allowed Illinois to score a goal and tie up the game.

"Illinois was just a strange game," Moody said. "We had a lot of opportunities in that game and for some reason we weren't capitalizing. ... We left a lot of points out there, and our defensive zone play was atrocious."

Although the weekend might have been rough for the Bulldogs, they have positives as they move into next semester. Between the scoring tandem of senior forward Truman Patterson and Dependahl, the team has members capable of scoring goals. The emer-

gence of senior goalie Joel Hentrich along with Pecher also gives the Bulldogs depth in the net.

Part of the team's problem to this point in the season might be attributed to growing pains. Dependahl said that this year, more than ever before, the offense has to change its plan of attack from game to game. On the other side of the rink, the defense still is working on keeping quality of shots on goal low.

"[They are not trying] to cut down on the amount of shots, but to keep the quality of the shots [down]," Pecher said. "That's one thing with the Missouri State game. They got 30 shots on goal, and only five, maybe eight of them, were from the inside of the faceoff circle. All the other ones were from the outside. Defensively, that's what we want to do, not allow them to penetrate into the middle."

The team hopes to use its time off during the next couple of months to prepare itself for the next round of games that start up next semester.

Wrestling places 8 at Knox Open

Braidlow leads Bulldogs with second-place finish in heavyweight division

BY CORY WEEKS
Staff Reporter

The wrestling team set an unprecedented mark with eight of 13 individuals placing out of a large field of competitors at the Knox Open last weekend.

Head coach Dave Schutter said he doesn't remember a time when the team placed this many individuals in such a large field.

Following the Loras College Open two weeks ago, the Bulldogs had to once again get to work.

"Conditioning and working from the feet was a big emphasis in last week's training," Schutter said.

Conditioning proved key, considering the team, already coming off of the long Loras tournament, entered an even longer Knox Open. Even so, the team started off fast. Schutter said, "Once everyone got going, we were hard to stop."

"It's a great day for Truman State University wrestling," Schutter said. "That's the first time in my 20 years here that we placed eight guys in a single tournament. We had a great week

of training, and it really took a whole team effort. The credit goes to the kids. They are taking huge steps towards learning how to be winning wrestlers."

Among the top finishers, senior Loyde Braidlow scored the highest with a second-place finish in the heavyweight division. While he didn't wrestle as well as he would have liked, Braidlow said he credits his finish to experience.

"It was a much better run tournament," Braidlow said. "I thought I wrestled smart, not as well as I would have liked, but smart nonetheless."

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Dave Schutter
Head Coach

experience factor kicks in and really helps me to wrestle smarter," Braidlow said.

Freshman Colton Schmitz wrestled against upper-classmen for the first time. He went 4-2 overall and finished fourth in the



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Senior heavyweight Loyde Braidlow finished second at the Knox Open last weekend in Galesburg, Ill. Braidlow was one of eight Bulldog wrestlers who placed. The Bulldogs compete at the UNO Open on Saturday in Omaha.

141-pound weight class.

"I felt I wrestled to the best of my ability on that given day," Schmitz said. "We are improving as a team each week, and it was good to see some of the guys using what we worked on during the week."

This weekend, the 'Dogs travel to Omaha to compete in the UNO Open. The University of Nebraska-Omaha comes into this year not only as the defending national champions, but also as the No. 1 team Div. II wrestling.

The UNO Open is among the top tournaments of the year and promises to attract All-American wrestlers from across the region. Div. I teams also will compete in

the tournament.

The team plans to continue to focus on its conditioning because in wrestling, Schutter said, conditioning plays the biggest role in the success of teams.

"We have to win the late matches," Schutter said. "In the Loras Open we didn't win the late ones. It was good to see the kids improve on that in the Knox Tournament."

Although the team has experienced solid success in their previous two tournaments, Schutter said the Bulldogs are still a long way away from reaching its true potential.

"We are by no means wres-

ting to the top of our ability right now," Schutter said. "UNO will be a good test for us, and if we can maintain our focus as the day progresses like we did at Knox, I think we will surprise some people. The kids are putting in the effort, now we just have to keep improving like we have been."

Regardless of the challenge the team faces this weekend, Braidlow said the team likes its chances.

"We have to focus on doing what we are good at," Braidlow said. "If we don't try to wrestle outside of ourselves, I think this team can be a big eye-opener for a lot of people."



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