**Bulldog Breakdown**

Petak brings competitiveness, work ethic to team

By BRENT FOSTER

T he look in junior setter Ash-ley Petak’s eye tells the tale of her story. There are these big, steady eyes. Those eyes that are always focused, even when she’s rigging. This look is here for a reason, just as much as it is here for a reason, just as much as it is here for a reason, just as much as it is here for a reason. It’s like the scari-est thing one. It would make small people run away from 5-1.

Those eyes and that look have been here all along. A young high school senior to one of the most im-portant members of the volleyball team during the last three years. If it were not for Petak’s hard work, however, Port might have ended up plumb-ing for a different coach. Jordan Show-er lost a tournament in early February 2011, sciencing another vol-leyball player when he happened to be out of state and unable to make a game that week after that tournament. Petak made a visit to Truman, and she agreed to play for the Bulldogs that following season.

Petak came directly out of high school to start college. She played with the Bulldogs during her freshman season. Then, Show-er helped lead the Bulldogs to their first-ever NCAA tournament win. She did it again in 2010 and 2011. Now, as the final four comes to an end, Petak contributed substantially to those teams. As a freshman, she completed nearly 1,000 assists and won six matches in a row with more than half of the team’s matches that season. She repeated that performance in 2008, setting the tone for the first time since 1995, but turned it around. No. 2 Truman (12-2, 6-0 MIAA) won the set 27-21. petak led the Bulldogs with 15 assists and won the match 3-0.

Petak brings a rare ability, the joy of being, to the court and see how Petak. About a year after that tournament, Petak signed to play for the Bulldogs the following year. She started and won the match 3-1.

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"I’m excited to see the team and really see the team we’re recruiting, that really see the players that have been waiting for the opportunity to step on the court and see how they are doing."--West Texas A&M head volleyball coach Jason Skoch

Focus should not be on W. Texas A&M