

SPORTS



Women win twice
'Dogs beat UNO and Mo. Southern

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Thursday, October 1, 2009

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Bulldog Breakdown

Women's on campus:

Soccer: 4 p.m. Today against Mo. West

Tennis: 2 p.m. Saturday against Maryville

Men on campus:

Soccer: Noon Friday against Northeastern State

Tennis: 2 p.m. Saturday against Maryville

MIAA Standings:

Volleyball

	OVR	MIAA
T1. UCM (5)	15-3	5-1
T1. UNO (15)	15-4	5-1
3. ESU (6)	14-1	4-1
4. PSU (21)	12-5	4-2
5. WU (9)	15-2	3-2
6. TSU (20)	12-6	3-3
7. MSSU	7-6	2-2
8. SBU	7-10	2-3
9. NWMSU	8-9	1-4
10. FHSU	0-3	1-5
11. MWSU	0-6	7-11

Wom. Soccer

	OVR	MIAA
1. TSU	6-2-2	5-1
2. UNO	5-4	4-1
T3. NWMSU	7-2	3-2
T 3. SBU	4-2-1	3-2
T3. UCM	4-4-1	3-2
6. WU	4-4	2-3
7. MWSU	4-6	2-4
8. ESU	1-6-1	1-4
9. MSSU	3-7	1-5

Regional Rankings:

M. Soccer

	OVR
1. Truman (10)	7-1-1
2. West Texas A&M (16)	7-1-1
3. Midwestern St. (18)	6-1-2
4. Northeastern St.	5-2-0
5. Eastern New Mexico	7-2-1
6. Texas A&M Int.	3-3-2

Quotable

“I'm excited to see the team and really see the players that we recruited, plus 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

Setting the tone



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Petak brings competitiveness, work ethic to team

BY JOE BELL
 Staff Reporter

The look in junior setter Ashley Petak's eyes tells the whole story.

“[Petak] has these big, beady eyes,” senior rightside hitter Lauren Graybeal said. “You know Peti. They're out there, and especially when she's digging. ... This look in her eye, you just want to run away and hide, because it's like the scariest thing ever. It would make small children cry.”

Those eyes and that look have seen Petak go from a dominant high school senior to one of the most important members of the volleyball team during the last three years.

If it were not for a bit of luck, however, Petak might have ended up elsewhere.

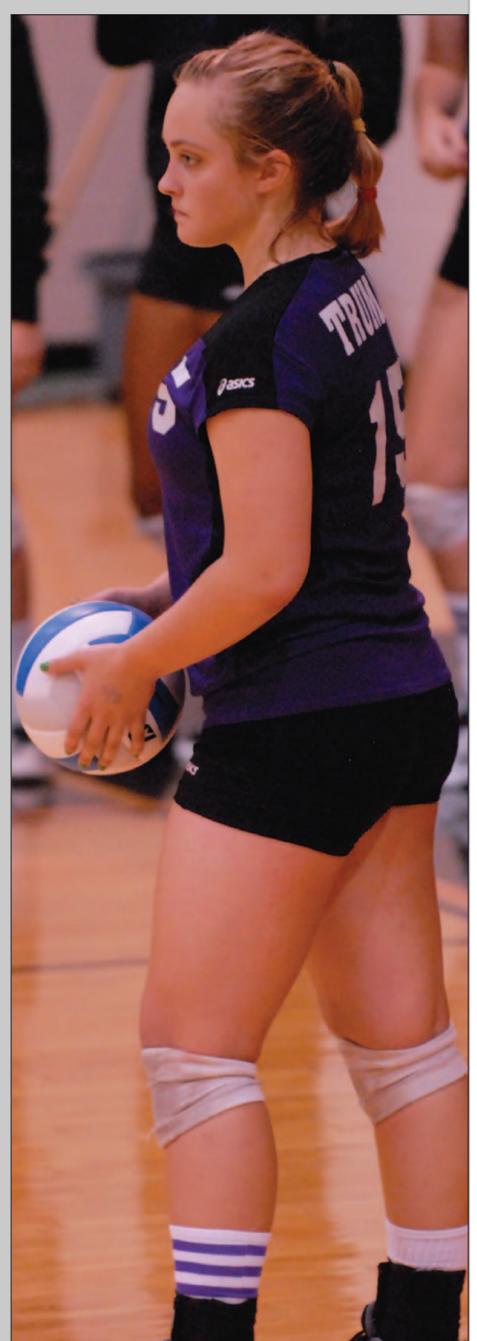
Former head coach Jason Skoch was at a tournament in early February 2007, scouting another volleyball player, when he happened to look over and see Petak. About a week after that tournament, Petak made a visit to Truman, and she signed to play for the Bulldogs the following year.

That swift signing helped the Bulldogs to one of their most successful runs in recent history.

Petak came directly out of high school to start for the Bulldogs during her freshman season. Since then, she's helped lead the Bulldogs deep into the postseason twice, going as far as the Final Four in 2008.

Petak contributed substantially to those teams. As a freshman, she compiled nearly 1,000 assists and was top in assists in more than half of the team's matches that season. She repeated that performance her sophomore year, when she notched

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Competitive Nature

Ashley Petak

2,297 career assists
 25 career dig/assist double doubles
 Led team in sets played in Final Four team in 2008
 Two-year starter

Design by Cameron Ballentine/Index

'Dogs defeat No. 21 Pitt

Win follows first loss against Missouri Southern since 2002

BY JACK NICHOLL
 Sports Editor

Backed by a return to the 6-2 formation, the volleyball team won for the first time this season against a ranked team last Saturday.

The Bulldogs faced a five-point deficit late in the third set of a 1-1 match against No. 21 Pittsburg State University and the possibility of losing their first three home matches for the first time since 1989, but turned it around.

No. 20 Truman (12-6, 3-3 MIAA) won the third set 27-25, aided by seven PSU (12-5, 4-2) errors in the final 15 points, and won the match 3-1.

“I think everyone is just sick of losing,” junior setter Ashley Petak said after the match. “We had a lot of people step up, come off the bench and play.”

The win followed up Friday's 3-2 home defeat against Missouri Southern State University. The loss was Truman's first against the Lions since 2002.

Against PSU, Petak led Truman with 25 assists, and the 'Dogs outhit the Gorillas .209 to .161. Senior rightside hitter Lauren Graybeal led the Bulldogs with 11 kills, and junior

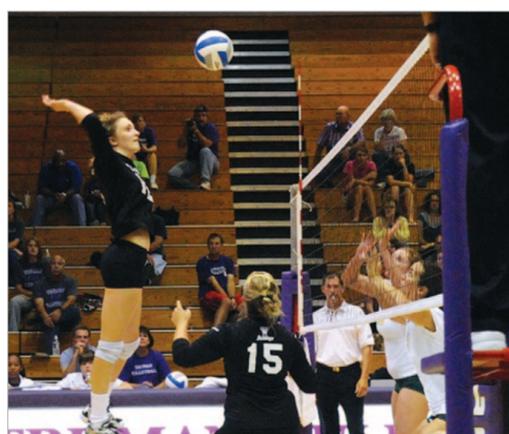


Photo submitted by George Barlow

Sophomore middle blocker Johanna Ruff goes up for a kill against Missouri Southern last Friday. Truman lost 3-2.

outside hitter Allison Barker had a near double-double with nine kills and 16 digs.

Truman used the 6-2 for the entire match, compared to the 5-1 the team used in wins against Fort Hays State University and Southwest Baptist University two weeks ago. The 6-2 utilizes two setters who rotate out every three rotations. The 5-1 has only one setter who rotates to both the front and back row.

“With the 6-2 we're able to have three hitters all the time, we're able to have a big block,” Petak said. “With the

5-1 we can use more subs.”

Truman utilized the better blocking to slow down PSU outside hitter Pamela Cartagena, who hit .196 with 51 attempts. Cartagena is second in the MIAA in kills per set.

The Bulldogs did not use the 5-1 in the four years Jason Skoch coached at Truman and did not use it for the first part of this season. No. 6 Emporia State University, whose setter, Ting Liu, is the reigning MIAA Player of the Year, is an MIAA team that uses the 5-1.

“When you have the 5-1, if you have a setter that is really

Focus should not be on W. Texas A&M

West Texas A&M University head volleyball coach Jason Skoch won 137 matches as head volleyball coach at Truman before leaving Kirksville last Spring. This Saturday, he will try to win his first match against his former school — but Truman has other things on its mind.

Old friends will be reunited in Topeka this weekend when Truman faces off against Skoch's new team, No. 7 West Texas A&M, as part of the Washburn Invitational on Friday and Saturday.

“I'm excited just to see the team and really see the players that we recruited, plus the players that have been waiting for the opportunity to step on the court and see how they are doing,” Skoch said.

Skoch's impact on the program will be felt for a long time. In 2004, he took the reigns of an already successful volleyball program and kept it competing at a high level. During his four seasons, the Bulldogs went 137-22, with two trips to the Elite Eight.

But the Bulldogs' focus this weekend shouldn't be on beating Skoch. Although a win against the former head coach would be nice for current head coach Ben Briney and the Bulldog players, Truman has three other matches that are just as important this weekend. The Bulldogs' matches against Angelo State University

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Commentary



BRENT FOSTER