

# 'Dogs lose MIAA opener

BY TYLER KILLEN  
Assistant Sports Editor

The No. 16 ranked Truman volleyball team lost to No. 13 Emporia State University 3-1 in the conference opener Tuesday night. The loss drops the Bulldogs to 7-2 overall.

Truman played strong offense with a .340 team hitting percentage. However, Emporia (7-1, 1-0 MIAA) played stronger, hitting .346 as a team. Head coach Ben Briney said the match came down to crucial errors.

"When you have a match like that and everyone is feeling it and burying balls, it's going to be that team that makes fewer errors at the crucial point," Briney said. "And that's what Emporia did. [We] have to give them credit, they played a little less error ball than we did."

The Bulldogs committed seven serving errors in the first two sets without tallying a service ace. Truman dropped the first two sets, 25-21 and 25-22.

"I think it was disappointing, most of all — seeing that we were working hard but it wasn't paying off," sophomore middle blocker Megan Sharpe said. "After that second match we just tried to regroup and figure out what was working and what wasn't working and tried to change the things that weren't working."

The Bulldog defense outblocked the Hornets 8-5. Both teams did well in digs. Emporia averaged 15 digs per set, and Truman averaged 14. Senior outside hitter Allison Barker said the Hornets were just hitting their spots.

"[The defense] wasn't horrible," Barker said. "There were just a couple balls that dropped that were barely tipped. They had some good hits, so you can't complain about those."

Truman had difficulty digging out of an early hole in the third set, but back-to-back service aces by junior

setter Kylie Easlon cut into the Hornet's lead, making it 17-13. The Bulldogs faced match point, down 24-22, but reeled off four straight points, thanks to two kills by sophomore middle blocker Emily Briseno, to win the third set.

"I think [the third set win] rekindled the fire that was kind of going out after the second game," Sharpe said.

The fourth set also was back and forth, with 12 ties and four lead changes. The Bulldogs rallied from a four-point deficit to tie the set at 21 points, then tied it again at 24. However, a kill by Emporia's Brienne Boner followed by a service ace from Jocelyn DeMotte for match point gave the Hornets a 26-24 win.

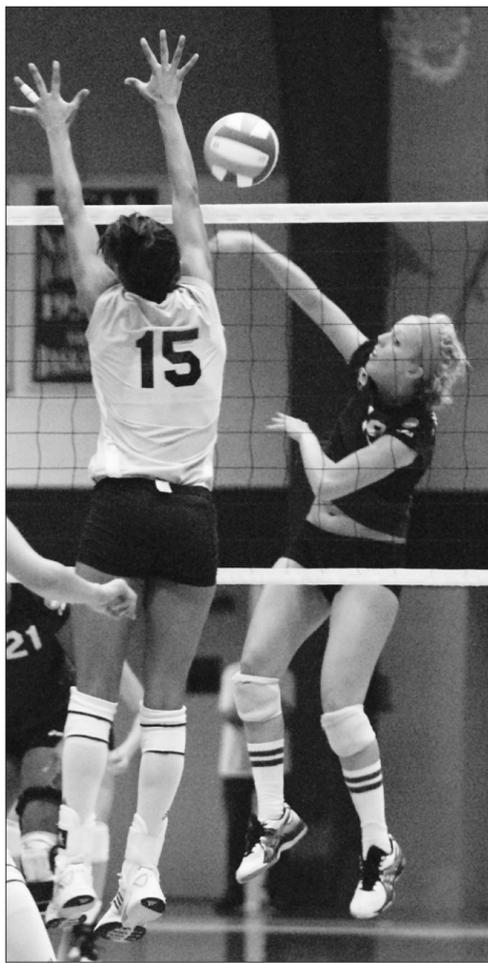
"Being right there at the end of the fourth [set] and not being able to finish was just really frustrating," Sharpe said. "And I know everyone is going to have a fire next time we play them, because we're going to want that revenge."

Sharpe led the Bulldogs with 20 kills and a .769 hitting percentage, the fourth-highest ever for a Bulldog. Junior outside hitter Molly Sinclair had 17 kills, while Barker added 11 kills and 15 digs. Briney said everyone played well offensively, especially Sharpe.

"She played amazing," Briney said. "All our kids, from an offensive standpoint, played great. And Megan just stepped it up that much more. I mean, they really couldn't stop her."

The loss marks the second in a row for Truman. The Bulldogs played in the University of Missouri-St. Louis Tournament last weekend.

Truman beat Southern Indiana University 3-2 to open the tournament. The Bulldogs swept their next two opponents, the University of Illinois-Springfield and the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. But host UMSL came out and knocked off Truman 3-0 for their first loss of the season.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index  
Junior outside hitter Molly Sinclair (right) goes up for the kill last year against Emporia. Sinclair had 17 kills Tuesday against Emporia.

"We still can't figure out what happened [against UMSL]," Barker said. "There was one thing that was missing and we still don't know what it was. We don't know if it was a lack of energy. It was a long weekend."

The Bulldogs now have three straight home conference games, beginning Friday with No. 3 Washburn University. Fort Hays State University will be here Saturday, and Southwest Baptist University comes to Kirksville on Wednesday. Briney said the

competition of the conference is relentless and players need short memories.

"We have to forget about it, because Washburn is here Friday," Briney said. "And we've got a Fort Hays team with 13 new players coming in. And they're playing well so far. In this conference you can't dwell on losses. You've got to forget about it, learn from them, get better and move on."

The Bulldogs hope to do just that 7 p.m. Friday in Pershing Arena against Washburn.

## TRUMAN ATHLETICS News and Notes

### Tennis: Court construction completed

The tennis teams christened the new tennis courts with a practice Tuesday. The courts were supposed to be ready Sept. 1, but delays pushed the completion back by two weeks.

The men's team had to postpone its dual meet against Missouri Baptist University scheduled for Sept. 14. The meet now will be played Tuesday.

The women will host the first tournament on the new courts this weekend with the Truman Invitational. Teams competing in the tournament include Northwest Missouri State University, Quincy (Ill.) University and Johnson County Community College.

Kirksville High School teams will use the courts for practices and meets, as well. The public also may use the courts when they are not in use by any varsity teams.

### Men's Cross Country: Kell wins MIAA award

Senior Adam Kell was named the MIAA Cross Country Student-Athlete of the Week after he placed second in the Les Duke Invitational in Grinnell, Iowa last weekend. Kell was only 19 seconds behind the first-place finisher.

The Bulldogs took second place in the first meet of the season with five runners in the top 20.

Kell ran a 25:56 to improve his Les Duke Invitational time from last year by 18 seconds. Last year's invitational was the only meet that Kell finished as the Bulldogs' top runner.

The Bulldogs' next meet is Sept. 24 at the Brissman-Lundeen Invitational in Rock Island, Ill. Kell will attempt to best his 22nd place finish from last year.

### Women's Soccer: Bozdeck to play more in goal

Truman's starting goalkeeper, junior Jayne Grisham, suffered a minor injury during Thursday's game against Northwest Missouri State University, requiring redshirt freshman Emily Bozdeck to fill in during the second half. It was Bozdeck's first collegiate soccer match.

The goalkeeping for the women's soccer team has allowed only four goals during the first four games and made 20 saves.

Head coach Mike Cannon intends to give Bozdeck more playing time but still will maintain Grisham as the starter because of her experience. Cannon said he likes what he has seen from Bozdeck and knows that she is ready to play. Bozdeck had five saves in the second half of last Thursday's match.

The Bulldogs play at 7:00 p.m. today at Missouri Southern State University and at noon Saturday at Southwest Baptist University.

### Men's Golf: Conditions were poor on course

The men's golf team battled poor course conditions this past week during the Lincoln University Invitational in Branson, Mo.

Senior Chris Kovach said a hot summer left the fringe of the greens at Old Kinderhook Golf Club exceptionally dry and composed mostly of dirt.

Grounds crews tended to poor conditions on the course as the rounds were being played.

The sod that was laid mid-round actually ended up benefiting the Bulldogs. The grass helped prevent one of Kovach's shots from finding its way into a water hazard.

"[The sod] actually saved him, to be brutally honest," head coach Tyler Madsen said. "When it crossed the green, it got caught in that new sod. Before, it would have gone into the water."

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### Miscellaneous

Bible Study, 8 p.m. Monday, Ryle Hall Cafeteria. For more info. call or e-mail: Colin at 573-673-3633/colins573@yahoo.com Rebekah at 660-349-0509/rgg7546@truman.edu. Jesus said, "You will know the truth and the truth will make you free."  
- John 8:32

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