

Dell'Orco, Kell lead Bulldogs

Women finish fourth, men fifth in second race of season

BY LOGAN JACKSON
Sports Editor

Injuries affected both the men's and women's cross country teams last weekend at the Brissman-Lundeen Invitational in Rock Island, Ill.

The women finished fourth out of 24 teams and the men fifth out of 26 teams.

Juniors Anne Ratermann and Michael Dial finished third on their respective teams two weeks ago but missed the meet last weekend because of injury.

"[Ratermann makes up] about 40 or 50 places," women's head coach John Cochrane said. "She makes a difference. We've been trying to develop [runners] five, six and

seven. [With Ratermann out] that now means four, five and six have to do something. Without Anne, that changes the whole game."

Junior Dani Dell'Orco paced the Bulldogs and finished second overall. Sophomore Karen Grauel finished in sixth place and sophomore Cindy Grauel finished 12th. Sophomore Debbie Boedeker and freshman Katie Hirsch rounded out the top five for Truman.

The Bulldogs brought nine runners to the meet.

"We ran better, but we did need to step up a little bit more," Cochrane said. "We're in the process. We've got to work on our things, and we realized that when we started."

Last year, the women won the Invitational by 70 points. The Bulldogs had five runners in the top 11, and all seven runners finished in the top 30.

Dell'Orco earned second place in the invitational last year as well, and Ratermann was fifth overall.

"I know coach wasn't happy with how we ran technically," Dell'Orco said. "I think some overall times improved. But as far as pack and team running, I don't think that necessarily translated well into this meet."

Cochrane said the team still is working on running as a pack this year. Boedeker was nearly one minute behind Cindy Grauel, and Hirsch finished 20 seconds behind Boedeker.

"After they get up, they have to stay up," Cochrane said. "That's the major thing they have a difficulty with. They want to rest. They have to get the mentality that you don't have to rest."

For the men, senior Adam Kell led the way for the 'Dogs with a fifth place overall finish. Junior Joey

Walls ended the race in 10th place. Sophomore Chad Petrofsky and seniors Zach Chapman and Alex Phillips rounded out the top five.

The entire Bulldog roster, besides Dial, participated at the meet.

"There was a lot of improvement over a couple weeks ago," head coach Tim Schwegler said. "Our gap between three and seven was very small. That's what we want, and we have to improve from there. It gave me a lot of faith that we can be in the mix at the conference meet. I got a little more excited about the season after this meet."

Petrofsky, Chapman, Phillips and seniors John Venner and Bob Gorman were all within 14 seconds of each other. However, they were nearly one minute behind Walls and Kell. Walls finished 13 seconds behind Kell, who finished with a time of 25:15.

"If we can get three out of the

five to move up a little bit, we'll be alright," Schwegler said. "Once we get Dial back full-force, we think we'll be alright."

Both teams were scheduled to run in the Border Wars Championships on Oct. 9, but the meet was canceled.

Instead, both Bulldog teams will run in the Gary Stoner Invitational Oct. 9 in Fayette, Mo. The men will run the regular 8K, but the women will be running a 5K instead of the 6K they have run during their first two meets.

Schwegler said he was not sure who would be at the invitational, but it would be a good meet to work on pack running.

"We need to be aggressive at the beginning of the race, have that back pack pushing each other," Schwegler said. "We need to get Kell and Walls a little closer together, as well."



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Senior Allison Barker records a kill last year against Pitt State. She is averaging 2.40 kills per match this season.

Barker takes leadership role

BY TYLER KILLEN
Assistant Sports Editor

Senior outside hitter Allison Barker had two double-doubles, which helped lead the volleyball team to a 2-0 record last week. Head coach Ben Briney said Barker has taken a big leadership role in her final season with Truman.

He said one of the biggest examples came in the match against Pittsburg State University last Saturday. The Bulldogs dropped the first two sets, but Briney said Barker was not going to let the team lose.

"She really said, 'You know what, I'm a senior. We are not going to lose here,'" Briney said. "I was very proud of her."

Barker had 11 digs and a team-leading 17 kills during the match. She tallied 13 of her kills in the final three sets. In the fifth set, she had a .750 hitting percentage, going 6-8, with no errors. She ended the match hitting .267 after having a negative hitting percentage in the first two sets.

Barker said junior setter Kylie Easlon asked the team who wanted the ball when the final set was tied 8-8. Sophomore middle blocker Emily Briseno said she did, but Barker stopped her.

"Kylie no," Barker said. "You are setting me the ball. We are finishing this game."

The next two points were Barker kills on Easlon sets. Barker had five kills in the final nine Truman points to win the match.

"Her teammates are trusting her," Briney said. "It's really been fun to watch her grow up and take hold of her senior year."

Briney has been a coach for Truman during Barker's four-year career and personally recruited her out of Racine Lutheran (Wis.) High School. He said Barker has really stepped up this year, especially in calling for the ball.

"She has really matured and come into her own," he said. "And she has wanted the ball. And that's big, because in the past she didn't neces-

sarily want the ball. I'm really proud of her for that."

Barker is second on the team with 323 total attacks so far this season. She is averaging 2.40 kills per set and a .201 hitting percentage. Last season, Barker had a .094 hitting percentage and averaged 2.14 kills per set.

Her defense also has been strong this season. She has a total of 165 digs this year, trailing only senior libero Casey Bruno in that department.

In the game against Missouri Southern State University, Barker led the team with 13 digs and added 12 kills on a .417 hitting percentage. Her combined efforts in the two conference matches also netted her MIAA Hitter of the Week. With her award, the Bulldog volleyball team has had winners in three of the last four weeks.

"For me, it's exciting," Barker said. "But it's not the start of my season or the end of my season. Hopefully there's a lot more exciting things for Truman volleyball that will happen."

Athlete of the Week

Allison Barker

Sport: Volleyball

Year: Senior

Position: Outside

Hitter

Hometown:

Racine, Wis.

Barker led the Bulldogs in kills in both matches last week and was named MIAA Hitter of the Week. She finished with 29 kills and is third on the team with 115. She is second on the team in digs with 164.



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