

'Dogs finish 10th at Shootout

'Dogs with one tournament before MIAA Tourney

BY WILL EVANS
Staff Reporter

The calm weather on the first day of the Drury University Spring Shootout was followed by wind throughout the second day and made the sand traps, ponds and trees more hazardous for the women's golf team.

The Bulldogs finished the shootout in 10th place out of 13 teams.

"The second day it was extremely windy," senior Jen Lawson said. "If you were hitting against the wind, the ball might go a lot shorter, or if it you hit with the wind, the ball might go a lot farther, and if you hit a crosswind there is less room for error. If you go way left there is the river running through the course — there could be more sandtraps, more ponds."

Head coach Sam Lesseig said the weather was bad, but it wasn't an issue if players hit well in the first place.

"If you hit good, if you hit solid, the wind didn't matter," Lesseig said.

Lawson finished in fifth place overall, her sixth top-

five finish of the year. She won three tournaments last semester.

Lawson's best round of play was the second round despite the windy conditions. Although this was not Lawson's best performance so far this season, she said she has had trouble on this course in the past and that this invitational always has good competition with teams like Drury and the University of Nebraska-Omaha. She said she was happy with her performance considering the circumstances.

"I was pleased with how I played just because of all the [previous] struggles I have had on the course," Lawson said. "[I have played] at least 10 rounds on it in the four years of my career."

Lawson's putting was also fairly good last weekend, as she had 32 putts the first day and 30 putts

the second day, which met her putting goals for the invitational.

"After some of the worst days of putting, where I have had 37, 38 putts, so it was my goal to be under the 32, 33 mark," Lawson said. "I was making a couple of decent five, six footers to stay on par, in places where I wouldn't hit the green and I would make a chip shot. There was a couple of times that I would make a birdie that I wasn't expecting to make when what I was looking for was just to get near for a tap in."

Junior Liz Lestmann finished 36th overall, while sophomore Jessica Tomash and junior Jessica Schepker finished in 49th and 50th, respectively.

The Bulldogs' next tournament is the this weekend in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, at the Mount Mercy Spring Invitational.

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Jen Lawson
senior golfer



File Photo
Junior Jessica Kraus putts during practice last year. Kraus has two top-30 finishes in her last three tournaments.

Women win first meet of outdoor season

BY KIRK SCHLUETER
Staff Reporter

Truman's men's and women's track teams began their outdoor season on the right foot last Saturday at the Northwest Missouri Invitational, their first outdoor meet of the year. The women's team took first in the meet behind five first-place finishes and four provisional marks, while the men placed fourth.

For the women, junior Jenny Zweifel won both the triple jump and long jump, setting provisional marks in both with leaps of 39-00.25 and 18-08.50, respectively. Senior Shania Dochtermann took first in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 1:02.53, good enough to earn her a provisional mark. Dochtermann then teamed with sophomore Lisa Kucharski, senior Kristin Lowry and senior Amber Clayton to bring home first place in the 4x400 meter relay. Sophomore Rachel McCarroll rounded out the Bulldogs' victories by taking first in the discus and setting a provisional mark.

"What was supposed to be our first meet of the year was snowed out," head coach John Cochrane said. "And we've been practicing, and you know that some people are going to do really well. It's just that you've got to go have your first outdoor meet. We had some things go really well, but there were some other things where we'd hoped we were at a higher level than we actually were."

Dochtermann said that while she was pleased with achieving a provisional mark, she had room for improvement.

"It wasn't the greatest race for me," Dochtermann said. "If I'd ran a 1:01 or a minute, it would have been better, but I was happy to get a provisional. That was my ultimate



Joyce Wong/Index
Sophomores Karen Grauel (left), Cindy Grauel (middle) and senior Amanda Brown warm up before practice earlier this season. Karen and Cindy both finished in the top 10 in the 5,000-meter run last weekend.

goal, so I was happy to get that."

Cochrane said there were several athletes who did not win events but had a solid meet overall.

"Rachel McCarroll was a pleasant

surprise in the discus because that's an event you only have in the outdoor," Cochrane said. "Lisa Kucharski finished third in the pole vault and third in the 400-meter hurdles behind Shania. Am-

ber Clayton got second in the 400-meter run. They had good days. Hopefully we're going to go on from there."

On the men's side, sophomore Joey Walls brought home the men's only

win in the 1,500-meter run with a personal best time of 3:57.85. It was a win that almost didn't happen, as Walls had debated attending the meet.

"I'd been having some really bad allergy problems, to the point where I hadn't run for about four days before the race," Walls said. "And coach Cochrane said to just come and jump in if I felt good. So I warmed up and while I didn't feel 100 percent, I didn't feel terrible, so I ran it. I got through the 800 meters and thought, 'I feel all right,' and I took the lead at the 600-meter point and kept it until the end."

Cochrane said the men had success in addition to Walls.

"With Joey and his tree pollen allergies, I just told him to come along and time people if nothing else," Cochrane said. "And I have to believe there are less trees in Northwestern Missouri. And then [sophomore] Ryan Peterson ran better than he had ever run in his lifetime to get fourth in the 400-meter dash. [Sophomore] Michael Gambach ran faster than he'd ever run in his lifetime to get third in the 800."

Senior Bob Gorman took third for the Bulldogs in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, while sophomores Andy Viehmann and Matt Wisniewski took fourth in the shot put and hammer, respectively.

Cochrane said the team's focus solely was on future meets. Truman's next meet is the Central Methodist Invitational on April 9 in Fayette, Mo.

"All in all, it was a good start," Cochrane said. "You focus on what you did great this week, and then next week you have to do better. You have to compete well all the time now because our meets get tougher as they go on and crescendo at the conference meet. So your game's got to get a lot higher."

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