

'Dogs earn first dual meet win

BY DEREK FRANKLIN
Staff Reporter

The wrestling team got off to a great start and never looked back Monday night, defeating Newman University 30-10 in the first dual meet of the season.

Sophomore Ryan Banning came from behind to win the first match of the night with a 9-4 decision in the 125-pound class, and the freshmen Nick Shea and Ryan Maus followed with consecutive pins.

However, 174-pound senior Chad Kurvoski said the 149-pound match wrestled by sophomore Colton Schmitz set the tone for the Bulldogs.

"Colton Schmitz fought off of his back for the whole first period, and he didn't win," Kurvoski said. "But he wrestled with a lot of heart and really got the rest of the team fired up."

Schmitz's opponent was Newman junior Mitch Arnold, who earned a trip to the NCAA National Tournament last season. Although Arnold got Schmitz on his back early, head coach David Schutter said, Schmitz kept fighting, in a match the score did not quite reflect. Instead of wrestling back for points, Schmitz went for the pin for the rest of the match.

Kurvski said a big match like Schmitz's can be a big factor in a meet, especially in a dual where only one match is going on at a time. "All eyes are on you," Kurvoski

said. "Instead of 10 matches going on [like a tournament], when you are in a dual, you are watching one match, and then you're up next and the momentum just builds and carries over to the rest of the team."

The Bulldogs responded by winning the next four matches, one pin and three decisions.

Freshman Devon Fenstermaker recorded a pinfall in 3:49 in the 157-pound class, followed by 4-0 and 3-2 decisions by seniors Andy Bader and Kurvoski, respectively.

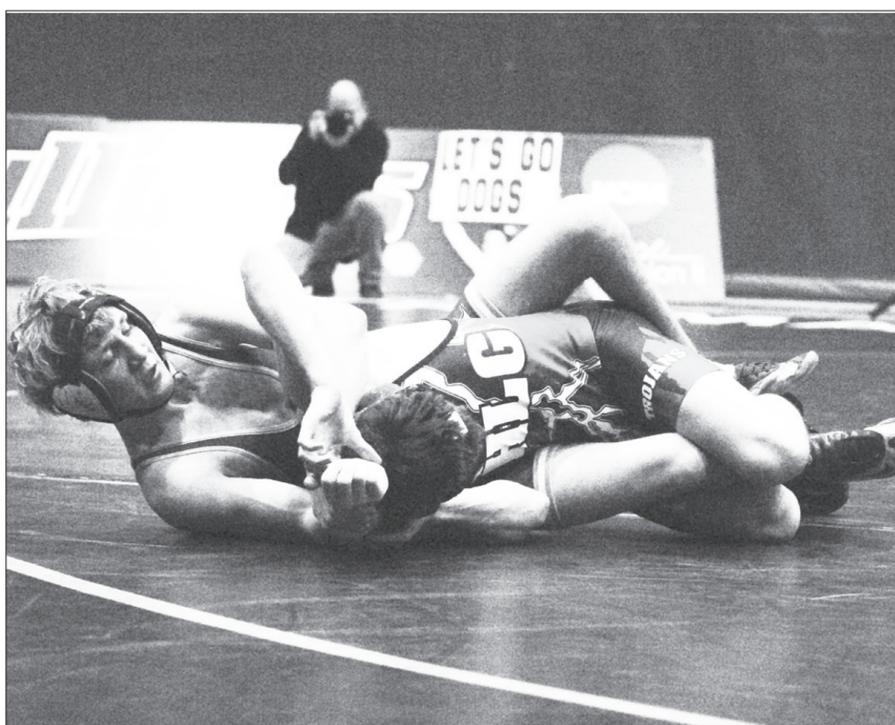
At 184-pounds, freshman Nate Seiler rounded out Truman's score by recording a 4-2 decision as the Bulldogs earned the victory.

Truman had seen Newman earlier in the year at the Newman Invitational. It looked as though Truman would have trouble measuring up to Newman's lineup, but Schutter said this match was a great example of the mental aspect of the sport.

"We went down there and our kids decided that they were going to win," Schutter said. "They were fired up and that was the difference."

Schutter said he was especially pleased to get some of the younger members of the team involved in the team's success, especially against a team that was as solid as Newman.

"Four true freshmen in the lineup got wins and a couple of sophomores, so we're young," Schutter said. "But we've got some



Jack Nicholl/Index

Sophomore Ryan Banning takes down an opponent last year during the Truman Invitational.

good senior leadership too. It's a good combination."

The Bulldogs defeated Newman 23-19 last year, winning five of the weight classes. However, it was one of only two dual wins for the 'Dogs, who only had four wrestlers earn records above .500 last season. Schutter said he attributes the improvements this year

to toughness as a team.

"If a guy gets hurt, he wants to get right back in there," Schutter said. "Guys want to get better, and that's what it takes to build a program, guys that want to get better and want to wrestle."

Senior Andy Bader said he agrees that the mindset of this team has changed this season.

"The team is more focused," Bader said. "I think we have a clearer goal in our mind of what we want to get done this year, and everyone wants to get to nationals."

The Bulldogs have a dual at 7 p.m. tonight at Hannibal-LaGrange College and then next weekend at the Missouri Valley Invitational in Marshall, Mo.

'Dogs put several in top 10 at Holiday Preview

Junior Jennifer Zweifel takes first in triple jump

BY JOHN MOENSTER
Staff Reporter

After returning from Winter Break, both track and field teams are now preparing for their first competition since December. The Bulldogs will compete next at the Iowa Hawkeye Invitational this Saturday.

Head coach John Cochrane said that while Winter Break can be beneficial to athletes, it can just as easily hurt their training. Cochrane said it's hard to tell what the rest of the season will be like, but he's looking for improvement across the board. Cochrane said training can be challenging this time of year due to weather.

"On days like this we have to either work out in the gym or do bicycle workouts, and other days we just have to suck it up and go out," Cochrane said.

Cochrane said the team hasn't competed since the Iowa State Holiday Preview in December, but the season will start to take shape in these next two weeks. Cochrane said he was pleased with several performances at the Holiday Preview, in-

cluding that of senior Demetrius Lavant, who placed second in the long jump with a mark of 22-03.00 and took third in the triple jump with a jump of 42-09.50.

"Demetrius looked good in his first meet of the year," Cochrane said. "We hope to see him improve even more over the next few months."

Another noteworthy performance came from junior Jennifer Zweifel. After setting two personal bests, Zweifel took home a first place medal with a 38-09.00 mark in the triple jump and a third place medal with a mark of 17-08.00 in the long jump.

"We are very strong, and we have a lot of potential," Zweifel said. "We've been working really hard all fall, and I'm so excited to see what we can do. We have so much talent and have worked so hard that I think we can do great things this season."

Other top 10 finishers in Iowa on the women's side included senior Lindsey Bramer and freshman Samantha Figg in the pole

vault, freshman Abby Palm in the mile run and senior Shaina Dochterman in the 400-yard dash.

On the men's side, in his first competition of the year Lavant placed second in the long jump with a mark of 22-03.00 while taking third in the triple jump with a jump of 42-09.50.

Sophomores Matt Kiblinger and Matt Wisniewski had personal bests in the weight throw. Kiblinger had a mark of 40-07.25, while Wisniewski tossed 43-08.50. Matt Smith was eighth in the shot put with a mark of 47-08.00.

On the track, freshman Alex Rhodes finished third in the 600-yard run with a time of 1:14.51. Sophomore Michael Gambach achieved an indoor best with a 1:59.66 time in the 800 and was followed closely behind by senior Brandon Gutteridge in seventh place at 1:59.88. Another noteworthy finish came from freshman Patrick Fink, who placed ninth in the mile in a time of 4:35.49.

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John Cochrane
Head coach



File Photo

Seniors John Venner and Bob Gorman warm up before track practice last season.

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