



Sondra Langley/Index

Both swimming teams practice their individual strokes during practice Wednesday. Both teams will swim at Missouri State University on Saturday.

FUTURE | Women have seven seniors — all national qualifiers, men with only one senior on this season's roster

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mine here in the upcoming weeks.”
The only change with the team's schedule thus far is the cancelation of the annual training trip during Winter Break. Competition will resume as scheduled starting with a dual meet 2 p.m. Saturday at Missouri State University.
Both Godlewski and Odenthal said that this season they will not significantly alter the training program that Gole established. Also, recruiting will continue with the two coaches sharing duties. Odenthal said no recruits have been signed yet for next year, but there is an athlete coming for a recruiting trip this weekend.
“We have several others that had already been talking and looking into the program, so we're definitely staying in contact with them,” Odenthal said.

However, after April 30 the future of the swimming program is uncertain as there is no permanent head coach or assistant coach. Godlewski said she is “most definitely” going to apply for the job, and Odenthal said she was “open to the idea” of a permanent position.
It also remains to be seen if money will be cut from the swimming program, and athletics as a whole, if Truman takes a budget cut next year. The athletic budget was about 2 percent of the overall budget in 2010, according to University documents, and President Troy Paino predicted a \$5 million cut for the next fiscal year last July.
Wollmering said the absence of a full-time coach would not have an impact on the decision-making process following a possible budget cut to the department.
“That's not how we would make

our decision on what to cut,” he said. “My focus has been making it the best possible experience that we can for the rest of the season, and then when the end of the season comes to an end, a lot of it would depend on who we hire as head coach.”
The next head coach will head a women's program that has finished in the top five at nationals in each of the last 13 years and a men's team that has finished in the top 16 in 16 of the last 17 years. The swimming area in Pershing also was renovated recently.
After this season the women's team will graduate seven seniors — all with nationals experience — while the men's team has only one senior.
However, a permanent coach also will take over a program that has declined in its finish at nationals in the five years since Gole became head coach. In Gole's first year the women

finished first and the men 11th. Last year, the women finished fifth and the men 23rd — the lowest finish for either squad since 1997.
Despite the comparatively low finishes, Gole told the Index at the end of last season that the program finished well considering it is not fully funded — the women had less than four athletic scholarships and the men less than one in 2009-10.
Both interim coaches said scholarships should not be a hindrance because Truman is known for its academics and has had success in the past.
“Especially for the women's team we rely a lot on our success I think,” Odenthal said. “A lot of people are attracted to Truman not only just for the swimming but also for the academics, so that helps a lot. ... The men's team is improving championship-wise.”

CHANGE | Bulldogs Winter Break training trip canceled due to the coaching changes

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the ropes and I think I could have got it done, but I wouldn't have been as effective without her.”
Odenthal replaced assistant swimming coach Tim Sandfort who resigned from his position just days before Gole. Sandfort took a job with Dell Computers in Texas.
Odenthal volunteered with the both Truman swimming teams last semester, mainly helping when practices were busy.
“It was kind of a win-win for both people, as she was already here in the community,” Athletic Director Jerry Wollmering said. “She's very beneficial for Jennifer [Godlewski] because she knows the team and knows the kids. She worked with Mark [Gole] and Tim [Sandfort] and we were very fortunate to have her involved.”
While Odenthal said she was surprised at Gole and Sandfort's departure, she also was excited about the opportunity to be more involved. Odenthal said the assistant coach position includes several responsibilities she did not have as a volunteer.
“It's really different,”

Odenthal said. “It's been a transition from being in the water, having people yell at me to being on the deck yelling at other people. I know most of these swimmers on a personal level. We've been teammates and I've lived with some of them so it's been an adjustment. However, it's good so far.”
With only three regular season swimming meets left on the schedule, Godlewski and Odenthal said the team still has a lot to work on. Both coaches agreed the goal was to finish the season with as many personal bests and national cuts as possible.
The Bulldogs usually take a training trip during break but because of the coaching transition, the team couldn't attend. Odenthal said this hasn't stopped either team from pushing itself as hard as possible.
“This group is really impressive to me in the fact that they have stayed positive throughout the entire situation,” Odenthal said. “This is just their fourth day in the water and they're already swimming with as much intensity as they were when they left. That tells me they are motivated and focused.”



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Interim coach Jennifer Godlewski (right) said she will mostly continue Gole's style throughout the rest of the season. Interim assistant Danielle Odenthal (left) was volunteering last semester.

GOLE | Coach to join reinstated William Jewell swimming program

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its swimming program and will compete in the Great Lakes Valley Conference at the Div. II level. Gole said his main job is recruiting and letting people know about the new program, as the swimming program will start during the 2011-12 season.
Gole said Jan. 1 was his first day as William Jewell's head coach, and the early start was because of recruiting purposes.
“[William Jewell's athletic director] asked a point-blank question, ‘Would I be willing to make the move at halfway?’ because they want their coach in place as soon as possible,” Gole said. “Everything I learned about the job the next week on an interview made it attractive. Obviously from a location standpoint, but also what they want to do, it was something that I felt that I could not turn down.”
Gole said the situation was not ideal and that he wanted to make sure to tell both Truman teams the news in person. He said he tried to work out a way to stay throughout the season at Truman, but the position at William Jewell began Jan. 1.

“I talked to my mom and dad all of the time and my mom was like, ‘You can't leave your team. You can absolutely not leave your team,’” Gole said. “I felt like I had the devil and angel on my shoulder, my mom being the angel and my dad being the devil. My dad was like, ‘You look out for you. You're always looking out for your team and never doing what's best for you.’ I feel bad that I did something selfish, and I wish things would have worked out different.”

Wollmering said that when he found out that neither Gole nor Sandfort could stay for the rest of the season, Truman immediately started the search for an interim.

Wollmering also said they reassured the team they would not be canceling the season no matter what happened.

“We met with the captains and said, ‘Hey, sorry we're in this situation and one way or another, we're going to get through it,’” Wollmering said. “It was at a weird time too because a lot of the team had already left. By this time it was Thursday. It was during finals and the whole team wasn't here anymore.”

Gole started coaching swimming in 1995, but Truman provided him his first coaching job at the collegiate level. The women's team never finished below fifth at nationals, while the men's team never finished better than 11th under his leadership.

“I have friends that have been coaching for 30 years and have never won a national championship, and I was fortunate to win one in my very first year as a head coach,” Gole said. “I hope every swimmer at Truman State has a successful season and seasons to come. I'm going to miss them.”

Congratulations Fall 2010 Alpha Sigma Gamma's New Actives!

- Katy Been
- Katey Carlton
- Victoria Caskey
- Rachel Chambers
- Mamie Cox
- Rachel Dicke
- Megan Distler
- Taylor Dodson
- Ashley Evers
- Alex Fowler
- Liz Fifer
- Karen Hancock
- Stephanie Huynh
- Brittany Johnson



- Cara Lowry
- Lindsey Miller
- Elizabeth McBride
- Amanda Meyers
- Meghan Newton
- Tasha Pian
- Becky Rader
- Rosie Strawn
- Erin Small
- Jenny True
- Millie Vazquez
- Anna Wiley
- Bri Zavadil
- Marika Zhuchenko