

Three Bulldogs take first at invite

BY LOGAN JACKSON

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The wrestling team started the season off strong and placed seven wrestlers in the top five at the Knox College Invitational last weekend.

The Bulldogs had three first-place finishers, the most of all 14 teams at the invite. Truman also earned a third, fourth and two fifth-place finishes.

Senior Andrew Bader, junior Chad Kurvoski and sophomore Ryan Banning took first in their respective weight classes. Sophomore Colton Schmitz placed third in the 149-pound weight class.

"Last year we didn't have any champions and had just one finalist," head coach David Schutter said. "This year, there were more teams and we still placed seven. Obviously, you can see that we have improved. We still have a lot of work to do, but overall, it was a great effort by the team."

Last year at the Knox Invitational in Galesburg, Ill., Banning and Kurvoski finished in third place and Bader earned fourth. Schmitz earned a fourth place finish as well.

Banning rolled through the 125-pound weight class this year, going 4-0 on the day. He was the second seed in the 125-pound division.

"Ryan Banning wrestled exceptionally well for the first tournament of the year," Schutter said. "Ryan just dominated in the finals. Ryan really never had a hard match in the day. There were a couple of times that he got taken down on the day, but those

were mistakes that he made. He was able to come back from those and finished really well."

Bader also went 4-0 in the 165-pound weight class as its No. 1 seed. Bader is up a weight class from last year.

Kurvoski started the day unseeded but won the 174-pound weight class, going 5-0. He is down a weight class from last year.

The change in weight class seemed to help both Bader and Kurvoski. Schutter said both wrestlers moved into their respective weight classes with relative ease.

Bader said the practice schedule has kept the team from getting tired during the day. The Bulldogs normally practice twice a day, which is a change from last season.

"In all of my matches, I just felt a lot more relaxed," Bader said. "I've got a little bit more energy. I didn't feel that I got worn down at all throughout the day."

The Bulldog freshmen also had a solid first meet. Ryan Maus earned fourth place and Nick Shea and Devon Fenstermaker each finished in fifth place.

Maus finished 4-2 overall in the 141-pound class. Shea was 5-2 at 133, and Fenstermaker was 4-2 at 157.

"Jumping from high school to college, it's a whole other level," Bader said. "I was actually really curious to see how they would do. They held their own for sure and did really well."

Truman's next tournament is the University of Nebraska-Omaha Open on Saturday. Schutter said the tournament would be a good test after wrestling in the



Jack Nicholl/Index

Sophomore Ryan Banning takes down an opponent during a home tournament last year. He was 4-0 this week.

Knox Invitational.

"Omaha is probably one of the top five tournaments in the country," Schutter said. "You'll have a slug of midwestern Div. I teams. You'll have a whole bunch of Div. II teams. It's the toughest tournament that we'll go to this year."

Schutter said the Knox Invita-

tional is made up of mainly NAIA and Div. III universities. He said there are some strong teams at the invite, and that it is a good starter tournament for the Bulldogs.

Last year, Banning and Bader did not wrestle in the UNO Open. Kurvoski went 0-2 at the tournament and Schmitz was one of only

three wrestlers to earn a win at the open.

"There will be bigger brackets, but it will be broken into freshman, sophomore, junior, senior," Banning said. "Basically, the longer you wrestle, the better. Just staying in the bracket as long as possible is the goal."

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Megan Buri

Sport	Position	Year	Hometown
Soccer	Midfielder	Junior	Parkville, Mo.



Logan Jackson/Index

Junior midfielder Megan Buri passes to an open teammate earlier this season against Missouri Southern State University.

Buri earns second straight All-MIAA award

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Scoring two goals in an entire season would be a highlight for most soccer players. Junior midfielder Megan Buri accomplished that in just 29 seconds.

Buri scored those goals last weekend in the first round of the NCAA Div. II Tournament against Midwestern State University (Texas). The Bulldogs were the No. 6 seed going into the game and knocked off the No. 3 seeded Mustangs, 3-1.

"Just getting the first goal was really important," head coach Mike Cannon said. "Scoring goals has been one of our issues. When we have scored, we've done really well. Going into the playoffs, we put an extra emphasis on scoring first."

Buri's first goal was unassisted and came in the 14th minute. Buri said that because of the wet conditions, Cannon told the team to challenge every ball. She did just that and was rewarded for her effort.

"They kicked off and we stole the ball back quick," Buri said. "[Sophomore midfielder] Kelsey Twellman took it down the line, crossed it and the ball deflected off of a defender. The ball was going high, and with the wet conditions, the goalkeeper made an

error. I was running toward the keeper and she bobbed it. The ball went off my shoulder and into the goal."

Buri led the team in goals this season with seven. She added one assist and had the highest shooting percentage of any Bulldog player who took more than 15 shots. Buri finished second on the team with 15 points.

In each of the last two seasons, Buri has scored two goals and had five assists.

This season, Buri has also had to take on several different roles. Truman used several different formations throughout the season and Buri's role changed with each formation. She has played as a wide midfielder, a forward and a central midfielder.

"It was kind of tough in the beginning," Buri said. "My freshman and sophomore years, I was used to having a specific role, a specific job. Before each game this season, I would always ask coach what position I would be playing so I could wrap my head around that and focus on that role."

The Bulldogs finished the season 11-4-5. Truman lost its entire backline to graduation and also lost its second and third best scorers going into this season. Buri said it took the team some time to learn how to play with each other.

"I'm really proud of where we ended up," Buri said. "People didn't expect us to do very much. The team unity didn't click right away, but we definitely grew throughout the season."

Recently, Buri earned her second straight first-team All-MIAA selection. Last year, she was also selected as a third-team NSCAA All-Region player.

Cannon said Buri took on more leadership responsibilities this season. With only two seniors on the team, the junior class was expected to take the leadership role a season early. Cannon said Buri had no problem stepping into that role.

"She's probably one of our fittest players and hardest workers," Cannon said. "She's always positive. She played injured and is always working for the team and her teammates. She's the kind of player that you would want 11 of."

Cannon said Buri has had shoulder and knee problems this season. He was used to having a specific role, a specific job. Before each game this season, I would always ask coach what position I would be playing so I could wrap my head around that and focus on that role."

The injuries didn't stop Buri from starting in all of the Bulldogs' 20 games this season. She hasn't missed a game in her three seasons with Truman.

While Buri has been an award-winner for Truman, Cannon said you would never think that from her behavior.

"That's the kind of kid she is," Cannon said. "She is one of our best players, that's pretty much a given. She doesn't carry herself that way. She doesn't think of herself in that way."

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