

Sharpe opens up offense

BY TYLER KILLEN
Assistant Sports Editor

Sophomore middle blocker Megan Sharpe drew a lot of attention last season when she was named AVCA National Freshman of the Year. This year she is drawing even more attention on the court. Senior setter Ashley Petak said teams have started double teaming Sharpe.

"She usually has two and sometimes three [defenders] on her," Petak said.

Last season, Sharpe led the Truman volleyball team with 390 kills and averaged three kills per set. She had a hitting percentage of .354, which is the highest of any Bulldog in the modern rally-scoring era.

Sharpe played well defensively, leading the team with 104 blocks and averaging 0.80 blocks per set. However, she said at the beginning of the year that she had been working during the summer to improve her blocking and serving.

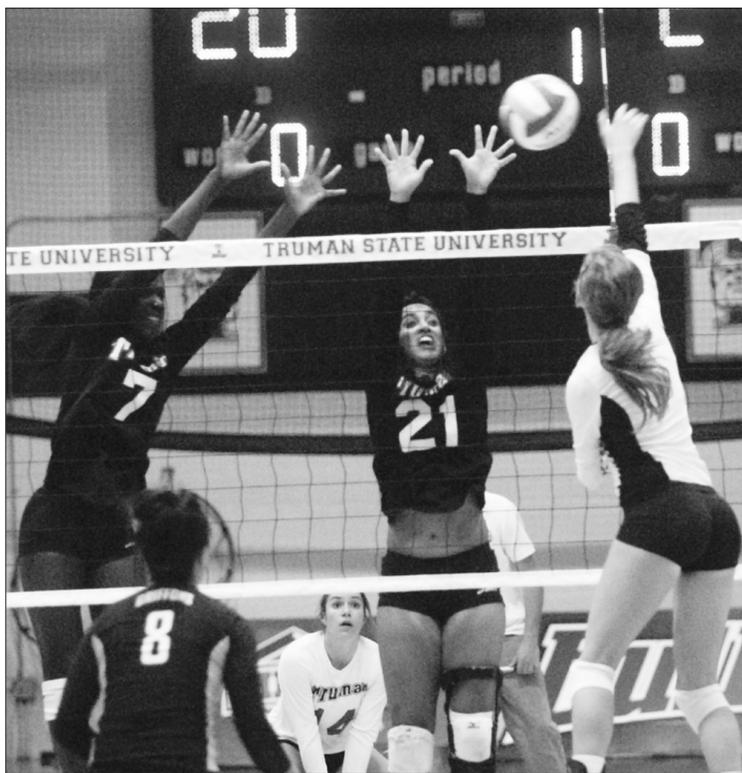
"A lot of blocking, I wanted to block," Sharpe said. "Also serving, as a middle [blocker] I'm only in for three rotations, so being on the court longer will help my team more."

This season Sharpe has had to deal with teams planning their strategies around her. Head coach Ben Briney said the extra defenders have not slowed her down.

"Megan obviously is going to draw a lot of attention when you have the freshman year she had," Briney said. "And for that matter, her numbers are pretty much on par for what they were last year."

Sharpe currently is second on the team in kills with 245, three behind senior outside hitter Allison Barker. Sharpe still ranks first on the team with a .312 hitting percentage.

The offensive stats for Sharpe remain relatively close to her freshman season. However, her defensive numbers have improved quite a bit. She has 93 blocks so far this season, 11 fewer than her total from last year when she



Logan Jackson/Index

Sophomore middle blocker Megan Sharpe and senior outside hitter Allison Barker team up for a block against Missouri Western earlier this season. Barker leads the team in kills.

played in 11 more matches. She is averaging 0.98 blocks per set this year, an increase of 0.18.

Sharpe's biggest asset to the team might not be the kills or blocks she produces herself, but that she creates opportunities for the rest of the team. Briney said he sometimes uses Sharpe as a decoy to draw defenders away from the outside. That gives the outside and right side hitters more one-on-one matchups.

Sharpe said the extra defenders can be disheartening, but it leads to the team's success.

"It's definitely frustrating," Sharpe said. "It hinders me a little bit because everyone is keying on me. But I think it helps open up a lot of other people. So, I think as long as we are winning, it's not a big deal to me who is getting the points and

who is not."

The Bulldogs have taken advantage of the extra opportunities this year. Barker and outside hitters juniors Molly Sinclair and Heather Hargadine have combined for 544 kills this season. Right side hitters sophomores Lauren Radix, Allyson Stellmach and junior Erin Burmester have 265 combined kills.

"When those hitters start pounding away and the coach gets mad at that, all of the sudden you've got Megan open," Briney said. "Then she starts putting balls down and then the coach gets mad at that. So, that's kind of been a big part of our success this year, is the balance. And a lot of that has been created because teams are double and triple blocking Megan."

Truman already has seven

players with more than 100 blocks. The Bulldogs had the same number of players at the end of the season last year, but two of those players graduated.

Petak said that Sharpe's maturity has led to her improvement and the improvement of the team as well.

"Last year, she just kind of did her thing," Petak said. "This year she is more aware of what's on the court."

Sharpe said she recognizes the value she has to the team as a decoy, but she still wants the ball.

"I'm the type of player, that I have the mindset of I want the ball," Sharpe said. "I want to help put the ball away. At the same time, I recognize that there are two or three people following me on the court, so it is easier to use me as a decoy. I understand that."

TRUMAN ATHLETICS News and Notes

Women's Soccer: Bozdeck fills in as keeper

Since starting keeper junior Jayne Grisham rolled her ankle in practice, redshirt freshman goalkeeper Emily Bozdeck has started four games, made 19 saves and given up one goal.

After four straight performances, Bozdeck was named the MIAA Women's Soccer Player of the Week on Oct. 19. She recorded two shutouts in her award-winning week, including shutting out the conference's second-highest scoring team.

Bozdeck is Truman's second goalkeeper to win the award after Grisham won it earlier this season in the midst of a five-game shutout streak.

Out of all teams in the MIAA, Truman has given up the fewest goals this season, and the strong defense continues to be a key factor in the Bulldogs' success, as Truman has struggled offensively this season with 18 goals in 15 games.

Volleyball: Undefeated at home this season

The Truman volleyball team is undefeated at home and neutral sites this year, going 17-0. Its last home loss was October of last year when Emporia State University beat them 3-2.

Truman has a .556 winning percentage on the road, going 5-4 this season. Last year the Bulldogs finished 6-5 on the road.

Truman has six remaining regular season matches, three at home and three on the road.

The Bulldogs will host their next two matches. They play Missouri Southern State University at 7 p.m. Friday. Senior night will be at 6 p.m. Saturday when the team plays Pittsburg State University.

Basketball: Preseason polls released

The MIAA basketball coaches and media polls were released this week. Both teams were picked to finish toward the bottom of the conference.

The men's team was ranked 11th in both polls. Lincoln University is the only team ranked below Truman.

The University of Central Missouri, Fort Hays State University and the University of Nebraska-Omaha are the consensus top three teams.

The women's team was picked 10th in the coaches poll and 11th in the media poll. Lincoln was projected to finish in last in both polls.

Washburn University, Emporia State University and Central Missouri are the top three teams in each poll.

Football: Team still trying to improve

The football team has reeled off two straight MIAA wins for the first time since 2008. The 'Dogs earned their first fourth-quarter comeback since 2001 last Saturday at Emporia State University.

The Bulldogs (4-4, 2-4 MIAA), who were ranked last in the MIAA preseason polls, might have surpassed some expectations up until this point. Head coach Gregg Nesbitt said the team has reached its main goal but still has room to improve.

"The sign of a good football team ... is the ability to play well and play your best and find a way to win, and that was certainly the case Saturday," Nesbitt said. "I'm not going to suggest we're a good team yet. We are becoming competitive, which was our No. 1 goal coming into the season. The fight, the determination, is evident to anybody — even outsiders or our opponents."

Index Classifieds

660-785-4319

Deadline: Monday by 5 p.m.

Rates:

- On-Campus: \$3 per ad per issue. Under 25 words.
- Off-Campus: \$5 per ad per issue. Under 25 words.

For Rent

Wagner Enterprises, rental properties are available for 2011-12 lease. New units with one to four bedrooms are all within two blocks of campus! Complete with washer/dryer in each, all electric, central heat and air, private parking and maintenance staff. For more information, call 660-341-5538.

Property Concepts LLC is now accepting applications for May and Aug. 2011. We are your source for affordable student housing. Studios, 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom units available. Apartments starting at \$320 with heat, water, trash, electric, wireless Internet and cable TV included. 2 blocks from campus. On-site laundry. 24-hour maintenance. Pet-friendly units available. Close to downtown. 660-627-1400. kirkvilleapartments.com.

5-bedroom, 2-bath house available June 1, 2011. Total electric, washer, dryer, 2 refrigerators, dishwasher. Enclosed vanity with running water, light, mirror in each bathroom. Individually controlled heating and cooling in every bedroom. Cable, phone, ethernet in each bedroom. Large kitchen and great room. \$850/mo. Call 660-627-1400 for a showing.

1-bedroom apartment one block from TSU! Spacious. Modern. Must see. 505 S. Davis. KPM at 665-6380.

3-bedroom home. 1 bath/shower/jet tub, spacious living room. Washer/dryer provided. May 2011 lease. Deck with privacy fence. 4 blocks from TSU! Locally owned and managed. Our properties are clean, neat and well maintained. For more information about your next rental home, call Bobby at 660-216-1445.

Kirkville Property Management has apartments, condos and more. Visit us at 106 E. Washington, call 660-665-6380 or check us out online at www.KirkvillePropertyManagement.com.

For Rent

Property Concepts is now accepting applications for May and Aug. 2011. We are your source for affordable student housing. Studios, 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom apartments available for Jan. 2011 lease. Apartments starting at \$320 with heat, water, trash, electric, wireless Internet and cable TV included. Two blocks from campus. On-site laundry. 24-hour maintenance. Pet-friendly units available. Close to downtown. 660-627-1400. www.kirkvilleapartments.com.

3-bedroom home. 2 bath/shower, huge living and dining room. Central air, dishwasher, washer/dryer provided, large backyard, May 2011 lease. 1 block from TSU! Locally owned and managed. Our properties are clean, neat, and well maintained. For more information about your next rental home, call Bobby at 660-216-1445.

Awesome 3-bedroom 2-bath next to TSU. Modern, Pottery Barn paint, all appliances. 820 E. Line St. KPM at 665-6380.

Now taking applications for "White Apartments" and other locations. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 bedrooms. Call 627-2060 or submit online application at TheWhiteApartments.com.

Missouri Riverside is now renting for the 2011-12 school year. 1-, 2-, 3-, 4-, 5- and 6-bedroom apartments and houses available. Some utilities included. Very pet friendly. Locally owned and managed. Call today, 660-665-3779.

4-5 bedroom home. 2 bath/shower, large living room and dining room. Washer/dryer provided. May 2011 lease. 4 blocks from TSU! Locally owned and managed. Our properties are clean, neat and well maintained. For more info, call Bobby to learn more about your next rental home. 660-216-1445.

2-bedroom close to TSU! Nice hardwoods, big bedrooms. Brand new kitchen, all appliances. 623 E. Pierce. KPM at 665-6380.

Behrmann Rentals will be offering a selection of 3-, 4-, 5- and 6-bedroom homes available in May 2011. These homes are close to campus with off-street parking, nice yards and most have hardwood floors, central air, dishwashers and washer and dryers. To see what is available, go to www.houseinkirkville.com.

For Rent

Northeast Missouri Properties is now renting for the 2011-12 school year. Apartments & houses between the sizes of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 bedrooms available. Some utilities included. Very pet friendly. Locally owned & managed. Affordable quality rentals. Call today, 660-216-1794.

4-bedroom, 2-bath one block from TSU! 1003 S. Halliburton has large bedrooms, space and character. KPM at 665-6380.

2-bedroom house for rent. 1 bath, large kitchen, office, fenced yard, storage shed, dishwasher, stove. Just blocks from TSU, clean and ready. \$450/mo. 660-415-6773 Call to see!

3-4 bedroom house. 823 E. Scott. Close to Truman campus. Big yard. Washer/Dryer included. Pets welcome. Very good neighborhood. Available immediately. Call 988-1701.

3-bedroom 100 yards from TSU! Loaded. All appliances including dishwasher and washer/dryer. New interior. Great rental. 208 E. Pierce. KPM at 665-6380.

4-bedroom, 2-bath apartment. Available May 2011. Call 341-7529.

4-bedroom, 2-bathroom. Tons of character. Close to TSU. Very spacious. Class hardwoods in living and dining rooms. All appliances, laundry room. 620 S. Osteopathy won't last long. KPM at 665-6380

3-bedroom one block from TSU. Modern, restored, all appliances including dishwasher and washer/dryer. Great kitchen. Won't last. 706 E. Line. KPM at 665-6380.

Miscellaneous

Bible Study, 8 p.m. Monday, Ryle Hall Cafeteria. For more information, call or e-mail: Colin at 573-673-3633/colins573@yahoo.com Rebekah at 660-349-0509/rgg7546@truman.edu Jesus said, "You will know the truth and the truth will make you free." - John 8:32

Now hiring: Market Research Interviewers. Part-time work. Flexible scheduling. \$7.25/hr. starting wage, employees meeting quality standards could earn up to \$9.75 within 90 days. Interview at Maritz Research, Mondays 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., or at the Missouri Career Center, Wednesdays 1 - 4 p.m. For further information, call 660-626-1500.