

Track succeeds in Rolla

BY KIRK SCHLUETER
Staff Reporter

During their second-to-last meet before the conference championship, the Truman State mens and womens track teams brought home 11 event titles from the Dewey Allgood Invitational Saturday in Rolla, Mo.

For several Bulldogs, the competition began Thursday at the Kansas Relays. Senior Anne Ratermann won the unseeded section of the 1500 meter run before also taking first in the 800 meter run Saturday in Rolla.

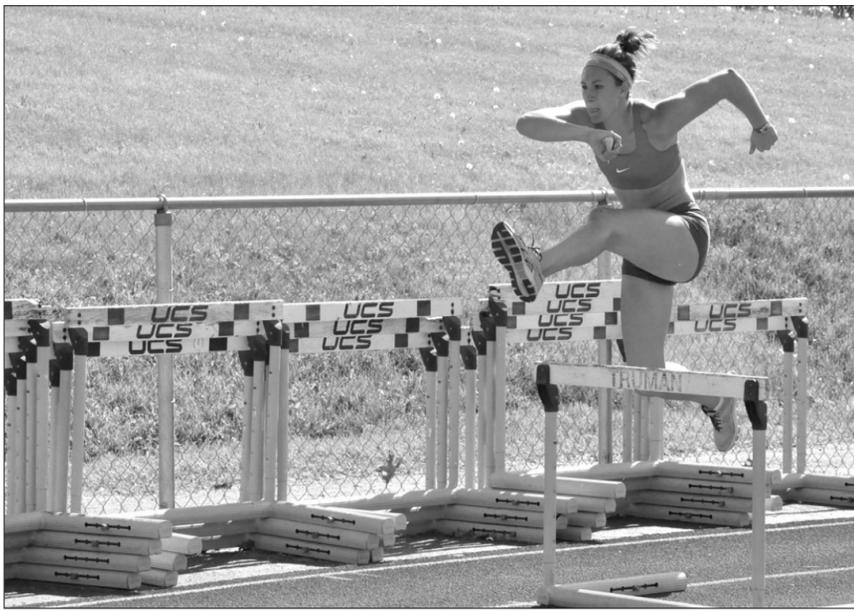
"I wouldn't say I had winning as a set goal in mind," Ratermann said. "My goal was to hit my paces and stay up with the front group and then winning just happened to have an extra bonus, obviously."

Athletes from all three divisions of NCAA competition participated in the meet, meaning Ratermann had to defeat Div. I opponents to take home the title.

"I wouldn't say there's any difference [between Div. I and Div. II], it's just the mentality," she said. "When you go to KU, and the stadium is humongous and you're not used to competing in a state-of-the-art place, it all kind of gets wrapped up in your mind that this is a big event and there are good people here and it's a little intimidating."

Senior Joey Walls and junior Karen Grauel, who took fifth and sixth in the 1500 and 5000, respectively, also participated in the event.

During the course of the Invitational, 11 'Dogs won gold, including senior Derek Atwood, who tied for first in the shot put, despite throwing a length, which he said he wished had been better. Atwood has not competed in the



Lindsey Gillam/Index

Freshman Taylor Dinyer practices hurdles April 21 at Stokes Stadium. The track team participated in both the Dewey Allgood Invitational and the Kansas Relays this past weekend.

shot put for the past three meets because of a wrist injury.

Atwood said he did not think taking time off would hurt his distances because he has been throwing shot for nine years and using his current spinning technique for five.

After making his return, Atwood, who won the shot put at the indoor conference meet, is looking to defend his outdoor title May 4 at the MIAA outdoor conference meet in Emporia, Kan. After that, he said, where he goes is still up in the air.

"I'd like to go back to nationals," he said. "I'd like to throw whatever I need to throw to really get my

groove back and get ready for the next couple of weeks. I just want to go out with a bang."

Head coach John Cochrane said if members on his two teams want to do well at the conference meet, they need to be prepared to fight for every second and inch.

"It's a war in our conference, and you're really going to have to step up and perform better than you have all year," Cochrane said. "If you don't do that, you won't do well."

Following the conference meet the ESU Twilight Qualifier will take place May 12, also in Emporia, Kan., for which Cochrane said

only athletes who have a chance to improve times to make the national meet will compete. From there, athletes who have qualified will compete in the national championships May 24 to 26 in Pueblo, Colo.

Ratermann said her goal is to break the school record in the 1500 meter run, be in the top three of conference and qualify for nationals in one or both of her two events. If she is successful, she said, it would be a great finish to her career.

"It would be the culmination of everything," Ratermann said. "A lot of mixed emotions would be going on. I'd be proud I finished off on a high note."

TSUnami prepares for nationals

BY GARRETT FRITCH
Staff Reporter

The womens ultimate frisbee team, TSUnami, will be the only Truman State athletic team that will compete for a national championship during the summer. They will do so at the national tournament, which will take place May 19 in Appleton, Wisconsin. TSUnami finished the regular season with a 17-6 record.

The top 16 teams in the region, receive bids to the national tournament. TSUnami was one of seven teams to receive what is the equivalent of an at-large bid to the national tournament. The other nine teams competing received automatic bids for having the highest ranking in their regions at the end of the year.

TSUnami, which last played two weeks ago at the conference championships in Lawrence, Kan., will not play again until nationals.

"We're kind of at a disadvantage [with nationals being two weeks after finals] because

some schools do go a lot longer than us," senior captain Sarah Warner said. "Our goal right now is to make workouts for people to do on their own after finals. We'll try to go up early and get a last minute practice before the tournament."

Although the practice schedule puts the women of TSUnami at a slight disadvantage, the ultimate players think they have a good chance at winning the tournament.

Senior Betsy York said that the way the team was able to compete successfully with upper tier teams gives them confidence that they can win nationals.

Play spans across two days during the national ultimate frisbee tournament. During day one, teams compete in pool play to determine seeding. For day two, the brack-

et play begins and a champion is determined through those head-to-head matchups. Pool play often consists of four games played throughout the day. The games go up to an hour and a half, so TSUnami players could end up playing six to eight hours of ultimate frisbee. The matches are back-to-back during the day as well.

"The goal at any tournament is to break seed," said Warner. "Breaking seed means we placed higher than what we were seeded at conference. For example, at conference we placed third, and we were ranked third, so we were happy with how we played even though technically we didn't actually break seed."

To break seed, TSUnami will have to place higher than 10th at the national tournament.

National Tournament
May 19th
Appleton, Wisconsin

Men finish fourth at MIAA tournament

BY ROB JONES
Staff Reporter

After defeating Emporia State University 6-0 during the first round of the 2012 MIAA conference tournament, the mens tennis team didn't win another match last weekend in Kansas City. The 'Dogs fell to Northwest Missouri State University in the conference semi-finals the next day and lost to Washburn University in the consolation finals as well.

Having beat Emporia 7-2 previously, the team knew if they executed, they could beat Emporia. The Bulldogs won all three doubles matches and freshman Jake Ohlhausen, and sophomores Mike Merchant and Kirk Schlueter also

won their two, five, and six singles matchups, respectively, to give Truman State the victory.

The next round versus Northwest proved to be much more one-sided as they fell 5-0. Going into the matchup, the team knew they would have a tough time defeating the Bearcats because they had lost to them 9-0 on April 1. During the consolation finals, the Bulldogs were unable to outlast the Washburn Ichabods even after winning the two and three doubles matches 8-4.

The final score showed that Truman lost 5-0 and 5-2, respectively. Head coach Pete Kendall said this is not a testament to how well the team actually played.

"I thought both teams played better than they had all year," Ken-

dall said. "The scores don't indicate it, but those losses probably would have been 5-4 had they been able to finish [their shots]. I was also especially impressed with the team in comparison to how we had been playing those teams before. We didn't win a match [against Washburn last time we played them] but we came out and won two doubles."

Although the team did not meet all of its expectations this past season, Kendall said he still is impressed with the team's performance during matches, practice and off the court.

"I was very pleased with the work ethic, not just in practice but during conditioning," Kendall said. "I would get to practice and many players would be already out there

hitting and hitting afterwards, and you can't ask for more. They were a great group to work with and they put everything into it."

The team will be losing senior Eric McCollough, its number one singles player, and head coach of 20 years, Kendall, but Ohlhausen said they have a lot to look forward to in forthcoming years, having a current roster of five sophomores and two freshmen.

"We all got better this year, so I expect everyone to get better next year," Ohlhausen said. "Eric [McCollough] was great at number one and [senior] Mark [Sturley] was a great doubles player. I have big shoes to fill and we'll have to step up one way or another, and I think we're capable of doing that."

Womens tennis swept

Womens tennis was defeated 5-0 during first round of the MIAA tournament

BY ROB JONES
Staff Reporter

The womens tennis team was knocked out of the Mid-America Conference Championships during the first round by a score of 5-0 against Northwest Missouri State University last weekend. The Bulldogs went on to defeat Missouri Western 5-0 during the first round of the consolation bracket only to lose 5-1 to Fort Hayes during the fifth place game.

Senior Dagmar Velez said they could have had better results if they had prepared differently during the season.

"As a team, we could have focused more during our practices," Velez said. "Preparation is key. A lot of those points during matches came down to that. I feel like we could have worked on our weaknesses more."

Despite an early exit from the conference tournament, senior Ellen Russell said she would be hard-pressed to view the 2011-2012 season as a failure.

"I think I would rate it as a growing experience," Russell said. "It was hard. I got beat a lot and that's never easy to just go on the court and just give it your all and not come out with the win. If you lose but you tried 100 percent, that is all you can do."

The Bulldogs have given it their all this season, going 4-3 on the road and 7-11 overall. Though they struggled throughout conference games, the 'Dogs were one game shy of splitting their out of conference matches.

"Our record may not reflect the fights we've had on the court this spring, but we definitely held our own," junior Maggi Schutte said. "Our team is also so close on and off the court and I'm proud to be on the team with the character we exhibit everywhere we play, win or lose."

Coming into the season, the team was unsure what to expect, and was rather hesitant.

Russell said she expected playing number one would be difficult because at this level, even if a team doesn't have great depth, their best player usually is good.

"Every match is a battle," Russel said. "I expected for it to be a challenge and to have to battle every game and every match."

Even though they didn't win as many matches as they would have liked to, Russell said they prospered in ways beyond the statistics.

"Now and years from now, I'm not going to just look back on my tennis career and think, 'Oh man I lost all those games my senior year,'" Russell said. "I'm going to think about all those trips with the girls and the relationships I built."

MIAA Tennis Conference Rankings

	Pre-tournament	
Mens	4th	4th
Womens	6th	6th

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