

Schade focuses on team goals

Despite impressive numbers, the senior outfielder remains set on team success

BY TYLER SIGRIST
Staff Reporter

After beginning her collegiate career with year-long stints at St. Louis Community College-Meramec and Jefferson College, senior Bridget Schade is making the most of her second and final season as a Bulldog.

With 14 games left during the 2012 regular season, Schade has accrued 43 hits and drawn 20 walks on her way to a team-leading .426 batting average and a .516 on base percentage. With such impressive figures, Schade's focus might be expected to lie with the scorecard, but that's far from the case.

"I don't like looking at numbers,"

Schade said. "I hate it. ... I don't look at [statistics] until my season is done. A lot of players focus on their numbers and improving themselves, but it's not me individually. We win as a team. It's us as a whole and that's been my goal from day one."

Even though Schade isn't a fan of looking at her own numbers, she hasn't shied away from putting up big ones in the scorebooks. This season alone, Schade has hit eight homeruns and driven in 29 RBI's, giving her a .723 slugging percentage, which is the highest for a Bulldog since Elizabeth Economon posted .836 in 2004.

"People can tell me, 'Bridget you've been doing really well' and 'You've hit a lot of

homeruns' but that's not my focus," Schade said. "My focus is to score my runner. My goal is to move [the runner]. I rely on [the players batting] in front of me. If [they] get on, I don't care if it's a homerun or if it's a blooper; if I can score her then I've done my job successfully."

After a shaky start to her career at Truman State, which Schade attributes to not being comfortable and a lack of self-confidence on the field, head softball coach Erin Brown sat her down and reminded Schade of why she recruited her to become a Bulldog. She had the tools to compete at the Div. II level and the potential to be very successful.

"I'm really pleased with how she has just owned her performance and put in the extra work to continue to improve," Brown said. "That says a lot about who she is. Looking back, I'm very glad that I recruited her. She's a great person and has really added a spark to our lineup. I'm really glad that

she's a Truman Bulldog."

Although she maintains that it is far away and there are still a lot of games to be played before then, Schade said she is excited and looking forward to senior day, April 22 against the University of Sioux Falls.

"For me, it defines everything that for four years I've worked for," Schade said. "I love when I can look back and look at all the people that have helped me get here, because, when it's over, I'm going to have so many people to thank and be thankful for. I'm also glad to be finishing with a team that I love so much and I think that is what is going to make it so hard."

Schade's stats

Batting average /// .426

Slugging percent /// .723

On-base percent /// .516

RBI's /// 29

Homeruns /// 8



Lindsey Gillam/Index

Schade works on baserunning and fielding at practice Tuesday. She ranks second in the conference in batting average and slugging percentage, first in on-base percentage and fourth in homeruns.

Women finish ninth in Illinois tourney

Washington University Invitational Final Golf Scores

William Woods University 611

Washington University 611

Drury University 617

Wittenberg University 622

St. Olaf College 645

Illinois Wesleyan University 645

No. Central College 647

Birmingham-Southern 648

Truman State University 650

Central College 656

BY ROB JONES
Staff Reporter

The Truman golf team regained some of its confidence during the Washington University Invitational last weekend, shooting 76 strokes better as a team than two weekends ago.

After a less than satisfactory outing during the Missouri Western Invitational, the team was determined to play up to its capabilities.

Despite not getting the luxury of a run-through on the course, the squad found themselves in sixth place of 18 schools after the first day, posting a season second best score of 324 in the process. During the week leading up to the match, the players had all been focusing on individual weaknesses.

"Golf's a really individualistic game and everyone has a feel for what they need to do," senior Liz Lestmann said. "[Head coach Sam Lesseig] does ask you throughout the week to turn some scores in, but everyone has their own routine and that's really helpful for us because it lets us take the time out and work on what we need

to keep improving."

These individual workouts proved to be beneficial as four golfers shot in the 80's or below during the first round, including Lestmann, who finished tied for 16th and junior Jessica Tomash, who swung her way to a career best round of 72 and a tie for 23th out of 90.

"Since the last tournament I focused a lot on short game in practice and worked a lot on putting," Lestmann said. "This weekend I had about 10 less strokes per day. After [Saturday] I had some bad breaks but [on Sunday] everything just clicked and it was pretty awesome."

Although the Bulldogs finished the second day with a score of 326, St. Olaf College, Illinois Wesleyan and Birmingham-Southern all managed to track them down, dropping Truman to ninth. Tomash and Lestmann explained that a late start Saturday followed by an early Sunday coupled with the mid-day winds took a slight toll on the team, but the team was more focused on its output than the fact that it fell three spots.

"I don't think that we were

upset that we dropped three spots," Lestmann said "Even finishing ninth out of that field is an accomplishment in itself. The field was really close. This will boost our confidence as a team, so hopefully later on we can finish in the top three or so."

The 76 stroke improvement is the best jump of the season for the Bulldogs and has the team excited for the rest of the year.

"Everybody is improving as a team so it shows that we've worked hard and we've learned from the past few tournaments," Lestmann said.

Just five strokes separated the Bulldogs from the fifth place spot, and Tomash as well as the rest of the team thinks they are on the brink of un-tapping their potential.

"I know I can do it now," Tomash said. "I just have to let things fall into place without having to force it. I know I'm a good player it just hasn't been able to show. ... We all can get that low — we just have to have confidence in ourselves and confidence in our swings."

The Bulldogs play again this weekend in Waterloo, Iowa in the Upper Iowa Spring Outing.

Absent athletes hurt track's performance

BY KIRK SCHLUETER
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A combination of missing athletes and lackluster performance hindered the Truman State mens and womens track teams Saturday at the Central College Invitational in Pella, Iowa.

The men took 11th in the meet while the women finished sixth.

"We sort of got embarrassed a little bit," head coach John Cochrane said. "We had people all over hell, giving presentations, doing weddings, doing funerals, sick or hurt, but not at the meet."

Cochrane also said the athletes who were present at the meet struggled during competition.

"When people are missing in scoring places, your other people had better be nasty," he said. "Some were, and some weren't."

On the womens side, freshman Taylor Dinyer led the team with a victory in the triple jump, an event normally dominated for Truman by senior Jenny Zweifel, who missed the meet because of obligations for the Miss Missouri beauty pageant.

"Zweifel, [senior Anne] Ratermann and [sophomore] Becca Nelson would have made us 40 points better, and [then] we're 2nd place," Cochrane said.

Dinyer said the meet felt different with all the missing Bulldogs.

"We're used to having a lot of people to cheer on and help cheer you on," she said. "I think it changes the dynamic, so you just have to get used to it."

Another high finisher for the 'Dogs was junior thrower Rachel McCarroll, who took home second in the discus and had a personal record in the hammer. However, she said she was disappointed with the length of her throws.

"It was not up to what I think it should be or what I hope it will be," she said. "I know I can [throw] farther than I did, so it's just a matter of fixing the technical issues I have and throwing better at the next meet."

For the men, freshman Zach Thomas had the mens highest finish, placing second in the 400-meter hurdles.

Here, however, the team struggled as well. No athlete besides Thomas placed in the top three in any event.

"[Senior] Joey Walls ran a very decent time, but he wasn't in the fast heat," Cochrane said. "... It would have been interesting if he'd been in that first group. ... The only relay we ran all day, we dropped the baton in the first hand-off in the 4x400. That's just kind of how our day went."

Senior thrower Derek Atwood and junior thrower Matt Wisniewski both had



Hanna Bilinski/Index

Freshman B.J. Smith takes a handoff from freshman Dalton Preston at practice Tuesday. The 'Dogs are preparing to compete at the Northwest Missouri Open.

personal records in the discus and hammer respectively. The problem, Cochrane said, is that the level of competition in these events is above those throws.

Cochrane said that as the team looks to regroup for the Northwest Missouri Open this weekend, he won't alter their training regimen. What he will look to do

is not let the team forget what happened in Pella.

"We also remind them what happened this week," Cochrane said. "We remind them where we're playing this game. We're not playing it down here, we're playing it up here, and our conference is up here."