

# SPORTS

Thursday, December 1, 2011

www.trumanindex.com

15

HICKS: Junior conducts 'Dog offense' Page 18



## Women remain unbeaten

Womens basketball keeps winning streak alive with sixth game

BY MEREDITH KUSKY  
Staff Reporter

The womens basketball team has a perfect record through the first five non-conference games of the season. After yesterday on the road, the Bulldogs remained perfect, putting their overall record at 6-0 with a record of 1-0 in the MIAA.

The Bulldogs kicked off conference play against Missouri Southern State University with a 63-55 victory in Joplin, Mo.

Junior guard Becka McHenry led the team with 22 total points, while freshman guard Allie Norton scored 16.

"We kept fighting and there were a lot of opportunities for us to give up and take off with it, but we just kept going and didn't give up," senior guard Brie Daniels said.

Truman had 40 total rebounds while Missouri Southern had 30.

Head coach Michael Smith said to prepare for the team's first conference game his coaching staff scouted Southern's strong players and also focused on the team's strengths and weaknesses.

Although Truman won, the Bulldogs trailed by three at halftime.

"It wasn't pretty but we did what we needed to do to get a win," Daniels said.

Please see UNBEATEN, Page 19



Freshman Allie Norton guards a player at the top of the key during the Bulldogs 79-55 win against Lindenwood University-Belleville during their home opener earlier this season. The Bulldogs have increased their winning streak to six games. Lindsey Borgna/Index



Freshman Patrick Burmester prepares to pass to freshman Seth Jackson in their game against Central Christian College earlier this season. The Bulldogs currently are 2-6 for the season. Lindsey Borgna/Index

## 'Dogs can't handle No. 2 Mo. Southern

BY KIRK SCHLUETER  
Staff Reporter

Entering Truman State's Wednesday night road game in Joplin, Mo., host Missouri Southern State University was ranked No. 2 in the latest Div. II national poll. After 40 minutes on the Lions' home court, the 'Dogs knew why.

The Bulldogs fell behind during the first half and never recovered as the defending MIAA champion Lions cruised to an 89-43 victory behind senior Keane Thomann's 31 points in the conference opener for both teams.

Freshman Seth Jackson led the 'Dogs in scoring on the night with 11 points and junior EJ Hicks added 10.

The game against Southern caps a stretch for Truman, in which it played in four other contests mostly during Thanksgiving Break, going 1-3 during the time span. Despite the losses, head coach Matt Woodley said his outlook has remained positive.

"I think the biggest thing is we have so many new guys, and so many young guys in a new system that we had some growing pains, but we've been in every single game," Woodley said.

"We haven't quite got over that hump, but I think the biggest thing you've found from our guys is they're pretty resilient. I think the wins are going to start coming, I'm not sure when, but I found a lot of character in our guys."

Against Upper Iowa last Saturday, the Bulldogs fell 68-75 despite 17 points from Hicks. Truman cut Upper Iowa's lead to three with 1:32 remaining, but the Peacocks' Jake Hughes made a basket and two free throws to secure the win for Upper Iowa.

Truman was defeated 74-81 by Quincy University.

Please see MEN, Page 19

## Simek snaps records as men finish fourth

BY KIRK SCHLUETER  
Staff Reporter

Truman's men and womens swimming teams made waves again during Thanksgiving break, traveling to the Phoenix Fall Classic in Chicago for a tournament that serves as a coda to their fall season. The women won five events en route to placing second in the meet overall, while the men finished fourth behind a record-setting day from junior Jerod Simek. Multiple swimmers set B-cut national qualifying times that may allow them to qualify for nationals.

The women received individual victories from junior Taylor Birsa in the 400-meter IM, sophomore Casey Jepsen in the 200-meter freestyle, sophomore Beth Eyanson in the 100-meter fly and freshman Abby Hempen in the 200-meter breaststroke. The women also received a win from the 400-meter freestyle

relay team of Jepsen, Hempen, senior Jessica Jenkot and sophomore Margaux Kent. All the finishes were enough to set B-cut qualifying times, as was a second-place finish by Jenkot in the 100-meter backstroke.

"I thought we looked good," Hempen said. "We got a couple days rest before going up. It was fun to get up and race everybody."

Hempen said she took particular pride in being part of a victorious relay squad.

"The relays are worth more points, so it's more satisfying," she said. "This was the first time we tried out this combination. I think it went well because everybody was rested. I think relays are a lot more fun and little bit more relaxed because you're behind the block with your teammates and just joking around a bit."

On the mens' side, the story of the day was Simek, who won the 400-meter IM, the 500-meter

freestyle and the 1650-meter freestyle during the weekend. In the process, he broke his own school record in the two freestyle races. Simek said that going into the water, he knew he could do something special.

"Leading up to the meet I was feeling really good," Simek said. "So [head coach Ed Pretre and assistant coach Kerry Smith] allowed me to shave when everybody else on the team wasn't. Once I got to the meet I was feeling even better and doing really fast times in the warmup. Going into my first event, I really felt like I could maybe get something going and get close to one of those cuts."

Simek said before the final heat of the 500-meter, he and Pretre sat down and planned out how Simek should swim. The entire time he was in the water, Simek said he knew he was on pace to break his own

Please see SWIMMING, Page 17

## Holidays liven up sports world

Commentary



SAM SHERMAN

Like it or not, Christmas spirit is upon us. Many would say this is the best time of the year because of the amount of charity, the religious holiday or the fat man breaking and entering through your chimney.

For me, this season is my favorite time to watch sports.

Don't get me wrong, Thanksgiving is a great time for football, the spring is great for baseball and the beginning of the summer is

wonderful for the Stanley Cup Playoffs. However, the holiday season combines everything magical about sports and then serves it to fans on a silver platter.

In college football, the holiday season means bowl season is in full swing. An almost guaranteed LSU-Alabama matchup in the national championship is a little disheartening, because almost no one likes to watch defensive games on such a national stage, but the other bowls are destined to please even the most mundane college football fans.

In the professional sports world, the NFL starts getting to the thick of things during the holiday season, meaning my fantasy team stops performing and the Chiefs break my heart. With that said, there isn't much better than late-season divisional races in below-freezing weather. The holiday season is when NFL stars become legends, rivalries thicken

Please see SHERMAN, Page 17