



Jessie Poole/Index

Senior Jennifer Zweifel jumps at practice earlier this week. Zweifel set a school record in the triple jump at the Missouri Collegiate Challenge, which was held at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

## TRACK | Senior Jennifer Zweifel broke the triple jump school record during the last meet before MIAA championships, while senior Joey Walls broke the 1000-meter record

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kind of helped me pull through."

Going forward, both athletes said they are determined to let their performances give them momentum into the MIAA Indoor Championships next weekend.

"I'm really excited for the conference meet now," Zweifel said. "I had been really nervous before now. Conference is the most important meet besides nationals, so I have to perform well. I got a lot of the technique stuff right this time so hopefully I can take that forward."

Senior Michael Dial set a personal record in the mile with a time of

4:37.67. Junior Matt Wisniewski set a new personal best in the weight throw with a throw of 50-06.75.

Freshman B.J. Smith also carried his momentum from the Fighting Scot Invitational and set personal records in the 60-meter dash and 60-meter hurdles. Sophomore Alex Volstromer and freshmen Riley Williams, Brad Hart and Alex Cross also set new personal bests in their respective events.

Sophomores Katie Hirsch and Hannah Farnsworth coasted to first and second place in the 1000-meter run. The 1600-meter relay team also took first place. Sophomore Lisa Kucharski and freshman Nora Kueny finished

second and third in the 600 respectively, and senior Anne Ratermann and sophomore Abby Palm both took third in the mile and half-mile respectively.

The athletes will now compete in the conference championships this weekend.

"This past meet was a really good meet for a lot of people," Zweifel said. "A lot of people had a lot of really good performances at Mizzou, so I just hope as a team we can carry those performances over. We're going to have to set a lot of [personal records] to do well as a team, which I absolutely think we can do. It's just a matter of doing it."

## SCHLUETER | Conference change could mean more wins for Truman athletic programs

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Truman back in the center of a league.

This is a bigger deal than you might think because it means no matter where Truman plays in the MIAA, we have to drive a pretty good distance to get there, and most of those trips end up being overnight. No matter how you slice it, the University is going to lose money there. Closer schools means fewer overnight road trips, which means less money spent. This has to look attractive to Truman right now. Closer schools also means close geographic rivalries. Just across the Illinois border is Quincy University, which could be a great rival for Truman in all sports, and we won't even have to drive across the state of Missouri to get there.

Another argument against Truman going to the GLVC is a supposed decline in competition, and yes — it's true the GLVC is just starting football as a league-wide sport while the MIAA is generally recognized as the best football conference in Div. II. A similar situation exists with volleyball, where the MIAA had five top-25 teams at one point this season. For those sports, there will be a drop-off. That's unavoidable, but it's a silly reason not to move.

Not every conference is dominant in the same sports. The GLVC historically has been a conference of basketball powerhouses. Last year

Bellarmine University from the GLVC won the national championship in Div. II mens basketball. You might want to ask them if they think the GLVC is not as competitive as the MIAA.

Another great opportunity for Truman in the GLVC would be the potential creation of a mens and womens swimming conference championship, which is something Truman never has had. Given Truman's rich history in swimming, this is a fantastic chance for the swimming program to be able to bring home more hardware and compete against strong swimming programs. I know swimming isn't equal to football in terms of prestige, but that doesn't take away from the benefit.

The last point is in regards to football, because like it or not, it is the face of college athletics. I understand the allure as an athlete of playing the best competition in the nation to see how you fare, and head coach Gregg Nesbitt has done wonderful work with the Bulldog program. Truman athletics is more than just football, and moving to the GLVC would benefit athletics as a whole. It will allow Truman athletics to compete in a conference that's a better fit athletically, academically and economically for the University. In the process, we'll form new traditions and legends. If Truman sports happened to win more often as well, that wouldn't be such a bad thing, would it?

## CROSS-COUNTRY | Runners credit strict planning and coaches' help and support for academic success

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nated study hours. Instead, the runners study independently. Because of the rigorous schedule that goes along with athletes during their season, such as two-a-day practices, both Walls and Ratermann said they are forced to carefully structure their time to avoid falling behind with schoolwork.

"I would say the most challenging part is not only the time but the fact that you're just tired," Ratermann said. "You're just tired from traveling. You're tired from morning practice. You're tired, and when you finally get the chance to sit down, you almost fall asleep instead of studying."

Cochrane said he always remains conscious of the runners' academic demands when he is designing practice and meet schedules during the season.

"It doesn't always work that you can have everybody at practice at the same time, so we work in different groups to facilitate their ability to get out of here in four years," Cochrane said.

Cochrane also said the mens and

womens cross-country teams run every other weekend during their season, and for their meets Friday, the teams travel to their destination and back that day to minimize the classes the runners miss.

Ratermann said she thinks Cochrane and the mens cross-country coach Tim Schwegler both do a good job of accommodating academic schedules and are understanding if the runners have scheduling conflicts. She also said she thinks her running has given her mental fortitude that helps her with schoolwork.

"People that are runners have to be able to withstand longer races and mentally push yourself, which is very comparable to studying and putting in long hours of just getting stuff done," she said.

Cochrane said he will continue to make the cross-country program strong academically.

"You're supposed to be here to [get an education], and since we're a highly selective university we ought to be getting good people, and we can help them and continue to remind them it's important," he said.

## SHERMAN | Truman moving to the GLVC spells disaster for the Bulldogs' rich history and tradition in the MIAA conference

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Harry Gallatin, and also a member of the college basketball Hall of Fame, Gene Bartow. Truman State undoubtedly has been a huge part of the MIAA's rich history.

This history is at stake. If we move to the GLVC, we no longer will compete in the most prestigious Div. II conference in the nation. Sure, we'll have more wins and maybe we'll gain some numbers at sporting events, but at what cost? Bulldog pride already is at an all-time low, attendance is abysmal and Truman students are quick to write off any team wearing purple and white.

The only thing comforting to me after I watch a Truman loss against conference opponents right now is the fact that we're facing some of the best competition the nation

has to offer.

It would be ridiculous to say a conference change wouldn't be a sound financial decision, but the tradition and the pride our membership in the MIAA carries far outweighs the dollars saved. I talked to Wollmering earlier this year, and he said even if we cut the entire Truman athletic program, it would only save the University about \$4 million. The fact is, this move to the GLVC would only save a small fraction of what the University pays to support athletics at Truman.

What Truman would be entering if they moved to the GLVC is a conference that doesn't even hold a candle to the MIAA. The only sport that the GLVC has had more nationally-ranked teams than the MIAA in this year is swimming, and that's because the MIAA doesn't even offer the

sport. In football, the MIAA is often compared to the SEC in terms of national dominance, while the GLVC begins their inaugural conference football season next fall.

This move to the GLVC is nothing but a Band-Aid to the current athletic problems. When you look past the small amount of money saved and the easy wins we could pick up, there isn't much left. A conference change will kill any type of selling point involving our rich athletic history or our high level of competition, not to mention it will overshadow all our past conference achievements and warrant them worthless.

With that said, conference change looks almost inevitable now. I guess the old saying holds true — everyone has a price.

## SOFTBALL | Bulldogs split games against out-of-conference opponents at Alabama-Huntsville Charger Chillout tournament

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Truman stole five bases on five attempts and were able to effectively push runners around the bases with critical sacrifice bunts toward its first double digit score of the season.

Defense was a little more lax as the teams each committed three errors. But freshman pitcher Kelsea Dorsey and the Truman defense were able to hold the Tritons to five runs, despite giving up 12 hits and making a few defensive miscues during the 10-5 Bulldog victory to close out the first day of the season.

First up Saturday for the 'Dogs were the University of Southern Indiana Eagles. Again, Dorsey would take to the circle, and this time defense wasn't an issue. Dorsey tossed a two-walk, two-hit shutout that brought the Bulldogs' record to 2-1 during both the season and

the tournament.

Offensively, Schade stayed hot, going 2-3 against the Eagles. Kusky and junior Kristin Grossman also were effective offensively, going 2-3 as the Bulldogs cruised to their second victory. Schade said the key to her and the rest of the team's offensive success all came down to making adjustments and staying disciplined.

"We studied the pitchers, studied how they pitched and we adjusted from there," Schade said. "We know that no one throws the same so we recognized quickly how each of the pitchers threw individually and went from there. We are also very disciplined. We each know our individual strike zones and know what pitch we are looking for. And if the pitcher gives us one we like, we attack."

In what was their last game of the weekend, the Bulldogs lost 8-6 at the hands of Maryville University. The Bulldogs had 12 hits and walked four times during the losing effort. Rotkvich received her second loss of the season and junior Kirsten Krause came in to finish the game during her first appearance in the circle for the Bulldogs this season.

"[Rotkvich] will be better," Brown said. "She is throwing harder and I think that some of the things that we've done will show improvement in her movement. I feel good about it because I feel like she'll compete and come through throughout the season. Right now she's still just trying to find that command that she wants, but it's early."

The 'Dogs originally had five games

scheduled for the tournament, but because of rain, they did not face the University of Indianapolis.

"We left Alabama with a sour taste in our mouth because [the Maryville game] was our worst played game," Brown said. "We saw some good things and we clearly have some things that we need to work on this week to prepare for our tournament this weekend."

The Bulldogs play Feb. 24-26 at the Texas Woman's Invitational at Texas Women's University in Denton, Tex. Quincy University is the only other team, beside Truman, from outside Texas. Each of the teams from inside of the Lone Star State have played a minimum of nine games and their seasons are well underway. Brown said it should be a tough tournament.

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