

## Maus reaches Nationals

Wrestler Ryan Maus, ranked No. 3 in the nation, is looking for his first all-American award

BY GARRETT FRITCH  
Staff Reporter

An up-and-down season for Truman State wrestlers continued this weekend when the Bulldogs traveled to the NCAA Div. II Super 2 Regional tournament. Of all the Bulldogs competing, only sophomore Ryan Maus qualified for nationals with his second place finish in the 149-pound weight class.

This is the second time he has qualified for nationals. He enters the tournament this year ranked No. 3 in his weight class. Last year as a freshman, Maus went 1-2 at nationals and he said that experience will help him this time around.

"I went to nationals last year as a true freshman and I kind of got that experience of being there and that atmosphere of being there," Maus said. "It's cool going this year, but I'd really like to place, and that's my main goal, and I'm working up to that. I need to win two matches to get in the All-American round. I've been waiting for this opportunity for a year."

Two other Bulldogs placed at the tournament this year. Sophomore Devon Fenstermaker went 4-2 and placed fifth. Fenstermaker, who was unseeded at the tournament, needed one more win to qualify for nationals, but during the match for fourth he was pinned in 24 seconds.

Fenstermaker said he was proud of his improvement in the regional meet from last year, as he went from winning only one match during the tournament last year to nearly qualifying for nationals.

"I feel like it's not necessarily a letdown, but it's more of a drive because it shows me how much improvement I've made since last year," Fenstermaker said. "It gives me hope that next year and the following years give me a high chance of going to nationals and being an All-American."

Redshirt junior Alex Maus was the other Bulldog to place at the regional meet. He finished the weekend with a record of 2-3 and placed sixth.

It was the first time Alex had competed in the 141-pound division at regionals, and also his first time placing in the meet.

The Bulldogs season ended this weekend, and head coach David Schutter said the off-season will be important.

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Senior shooting guard Brie Daniels dribbles the ball down the court during a game against Lincoln last week. Daniels, along with junior guard Becca McHenry, was voted to the all-MIAA roster Monday.

Lindsey Gillam/Index

## 'Dogs head to postseason

BY JONNY BROWN  
Staff Reporter

After spoiling Central Missouri's senior day with a victory in Warrensburg, Mo. Saturday afternoon, the Truman women's basketball team heads to the MIAA tournament championship in Kansas City, Mo. Thursday riding a five-game winning streak.

The 80-75 overtime victory confirmed the Bulldogs as the sixth seed in the tournament and matches them up against Emporia State. Head coach Michael Smith said it was an important win in many ways.

"It was good for us to go on the road and

win in a tough environment," Smith said. "Very proud of their efforts overall in riding out a five-game win streak into the tournament."

Junior guard Becca McHenry and senior guard Brie Daniels were named all-MIAA Monday afternoon. McHenry said the road win was important because winning anywhere will be vital for the team in the conference tournament and, hopefully, beyond.

The 11 conference wins the Bulldogs totaled this season is the most since the 1999-2000 season. Junior forward Jennifer Conway said this was important for the Bulldogs' confidence.

"We're in a really good place right now,"

Conway said. "Our team is peaking at the right time."

After a 49-70 loss to Emporia during December, the Bulldogs rebounded with a 78-60 win in Pershing on Jan. 28. The Hornets were ranked 22 in last week's national polls. Despite this, Smith said he really is looking forward to the game against Emporia in the first round of the conference tournament.

"It definitely helps us knowing we beat them on our home floor, it's a good match up for us," Smith said. "I really like the focus of our team right now."

The Bulldogs are returning to the tournament. Please see BASKETBALL, Page 15



Junior Tony Hernandez practices his stroke during practice this week. The mens swimming team finished sixth in the NSISC, two spots worse than last year. Junior Jerod Simek led the team, winning the 1000-meter freestyle and the 500-yard freestyle.

Hanna Bilinski/Index

## Women place second

Women led by freshman's record-breaking performance in 200-breast

BY JACKIE KINEALY  
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Head swimming coach Ed Pretre came to the Truman State women's team this year with a reputation to defend — a seven-year first place streak and 23 years in

the top two slots in the New South Intercollegiate Swim Championship conference.

The women secured second place out of 15 teams, advancing a 23-year streak of finishing in the top two slots during the Feb. 22-25 meet. But the team's first-place streak was broken, losing by 91 points to Henderson State.

The men finished sixth in conference, dropping two spots from fourth place last year.

During his first season poolside at

Truman, Pretre said he tried to channel the team's focus to finishing races hard and not thinking how other teams are doing. But as a coach, Truman's reputation in the NSISC is impossible to ignore.

"There's a lot of pressure, absolutely," Pretre said. "When you're looking at championship banners everyday, I think it just reminds you of what you have to live up to everyday."

This year, the women have an expectation to finish near the top, but

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## Basketball has promising future

It isn't often I get to watch Wednesday night Truman basketball.

With deadline coverage for the Index, homework in the back of my mind and a late night ahead of me, I generally stay in the newsroom, pounding away at the section so I can leave at a decent hour. But I found the time two weeks ago to catch the second half of the mens' game against Northwest Missouri State University, and that's when it hit me.

The mens basketball team clearly has a bright future ahead. There I stood in the press box in Pershing Arena as the game was sent to first overtime and I wasn't expecting much from the Bulldogs. They had blown a solid lead and the Bearcats had forced the game into overtime.

Throughout the extra time, it was obvious the No. 14 Bearcats had the momentum. However, junior guard Tom Norton's deep three-point shot as the clock wound down to tie the game and send it to a second overtime not only shocked the small home crowd, it made a statement.

Never mind the Bulldogs lost that game during the second overtime, and never mind that

the men are done for the season, barely losing to UCM during the final game of the regular season game, a game that could've sent them to the MIAA tournament had they won. This team is on the rise, and the way I see it, it all starts with head coach Matt Woodley.

When former coach Jack Schrader stepped down from the helm of the program, the troublesome past of Bulldog basketball left with him. What I've since

seen from this team since is a fire only Woodley could ignite.

With a young roster, first-year coach and coming off a spectacularly mediocre, seven-win season, I have to say I wasn't expecting an MIAA championship. So what I looked for this year from the young squad was progress and a renewed sense of passion — the mens basketball team delivered on both accounts.

What I observed from this team was a rise in team basketball combined with solid scoring efforts from the Bulldog leaders. It had been 8 years since Truman had seen a 30-point performance from one of its players and this season, the 'Dogs had not one, but

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Commentary

SAM SHERMAN