

KENDALL | Retiring coach has led mens and womens tennis since 1992

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among the Truman mens and womens teams.

Blair said some of her favorite memories of Kendall were when they would travel to tournaments and he would quiz the players about tennis trivia, such as the dimensions of the court, and they would quiz him with trivial pursuit questions.

Kendall said one of his favorite memories from his time at Truman was during 1998 when one of the womens doubles teams came from behind to win the MIAA tournament.

"They were getting their butt kicked by a team they shouldn't have been," Kendall said. "I went out and put a little pressure on them. Not really pressure, but I told them 'What the heck? This is stupid. Let's play some tennis.' They had a huge comeback and won the match. It was one of those unusual comebacks you don't usually see. We did it because of one little strategy we knew would work. We came back and won the conference tournament."

He said more of his favorite memories include tournaments that came down to the last match, where individuals or teams shouldn't have won, but pulled out wins.

"And once was against Northwest [Missouri State] at the conference tournament so that was really fun," he said.

Another of Kendall's favorite memories is when Northeast Missouri State became Truman State in 1996. Kendall wanted to do something fun with the printed tennis guide the athletics department put out. The title of the guide was "The Tradition Continues," and he had his players dress in turn-of-the-century tennis clothes, hold wooden rackets, sit in wooden chairs, keep straight faces and display a trophy from 1929 to emulate a photo from that era.

"That was a fun thing," he said. "It took a little organizing. The women's clothes came from the theater department. In those days you played in your older clothing. There weren't athletic clothes."

Kendall said he hadn't seen many changes in the program until the last couple of years when the tennis courts were redone during 2010 and scholarships for mens tennis players were cut last year.

He said the program still has been successful without scholarships, because it nabbed the third best player in Missouri, freshman Jake Ohlhausen, but it might be a hindrance to the program during the future.

"The school sells itself so well," he said. "It's not a hard sell, but the more scholarship money you have, you can get more than one or two good players — that's the difference."

Athletic Director Jerry Wollmering has worked with Kendall for 12 years and said the department will miss him.

"He's been great to work with," Wollmering said. "Tennis is obviously an individualized sport when it comes to scores, but when it comes down to being a member of the athletic department and an advocate for players, he's the ultimate team player."

Kendall's tennis career didn't start at Truman nor has it been limited to the United States. Kendall worked in Bahrain for six years from 1982-1988 as the tennis specialist at the Bahrain Sport Institute. He said he did everything from court maintenance to coaching the National Junior tennis team, which won six Persian Gulf Championships while he was the coach.

Before coming to Truman, he also coached at Methodist University in North Carolina, where he was a five-time conference coach of the year and William Penn University in Iowa, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts and is a member of the school's Athletic Hall of Fame.

Kendall and his wife, Lynn, plan to move to Scottsdale, Ariz., but Kendall said even though he's retiring, he will probably play for fun and also volunteer with high schools or junior colleges in Arizona.

He said he won't be giving up his involvement in the tennis world until he physically can't play anymore.

Schedule By Student Athlete				
NAME	DAY	EVENT	SEED	FINISH
Jerod Simek	Wednesday	1000 Free	9th (9:23.26)	F: 10th (9:19.75) 7 POINTS
	Friday	500 Free	18th (4:32.05)	P: 20th (4:34.82)
	Saturday	1650 Free	10th (15:43.28)	F: 10th (15:40.66) 7 POINTS
Taylor Birska	Wednesday	200 IM	33rd (2:07.67)	P: 36th (2:09.21)
	Thursday	400 IM	20th (4:29.60)	P: 16th (4:30.59)
	Saturday	200 Breaststroke	17th (2:20.67)	F: 15th (4:31.89) 2 POINTS P: 15th (2:20.91) F: 14th (2:20.65) 3 POINTS
Beth Eyanson	Thursday	100 Butterfly	7th (55.77)	P: 22nd (56.96)
	Friday	100 Backstroke	35th (58.24)	P: 30th (58.50)
	Saturday	200 Backstroke	28th (2:06.29)	P: 29th (2:08.46)
Abby Hempen	Friday	100 Backstroke	13th (1:04.40)	P: 20th (1:04.94)
	Saturday	200 Backstroke	11th (2:18.71)	P: 6th (2:18.67) F: 7th (2:18.27) 12 POINTS
Jessica Jenkot	Wednesday	50 Free	42nd (24.31)	P: 41st (24.48)
	Friday	100 Backstroke	40th (58.58)	P: 26th (58.34)
Casey Jepsen	Thursday	200 Free	22nd (1:52.51)	P: 10th (1:51.68)
	Friday	500 Free	34th (5:03.01)	F: 15th (1:53.30) 2 POINTS P: 41st (5:11.21)
	Saturday	100 Free	29th (52.01)	P: 35th (52.73)
Margaux Kent	Wednesday	200 IM	38th (2:08.33)	P: 39th (2:09.59)
	Friday	100 Breaststroke	27th (1:05.74)	P: 14th (1:04.43) F: 10th (1:04.40) 7 POINTS
	Saturday	200 Breaststroke	16th (2:20.45)	P: 18th (2:21.13)
Relays	Wednesday	200 Medley (W)	19th (1:46.52)	P: 17th (1:48.96)
	Thursday	200 Free (W)	20th (1:36.91)	P: 17th (1:38.25)
	Thursday	400 Medley (W)	10th (3:50.20)	P: 9th (3:49.96) F: 10th (3:52.08) 8 POINTS
	Friday	800 Free	16th (7:42.04)	F: 16th (7:52.38) 6 POINTS
	Saturday	400 Free (W)	19th (3:32.68)	P: 14th (3:32.28) F: 14th (3:31.46) 6 POINTS

SWIMMING | During Pretre's first year as head coach, seven swimmers earned 10 all-American awards at the national meet and the women finish 24th overall

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swim on the national stage. She anchored the relay teams and ran her total to six career all-American awards. Jenkot said the team's success this year is nothing short of incredible, considering its situation coming into the season.

"Poor recruiting from our old coaches really led us into a bad situation, and I am extremely proud of the way our team came together and outperformed expectations at the end of the season," Jenkot said.

Jenkot said the recent cuts to the swimming programs, as well as a lack of financial support from the athletic director, led to what she considers to be an individual-based criteria for success. The winner of a national championship her freshman season, Jenkot said she has seen a steady decline in overall team performance during the last four years, but the program has a lot of potential moving forward.

Pretre said he evaluates performance based on how players improve each year.

Looking ahead, Pretre said the biggest gains for the program have to be made outside the pool because strength training and effort in the weight room are what separates the Bulldogs from an even better performance during 2013.

"There's no limit to what the program can do the next couple of years," Pretre said. "The women will get some fantastic young swimmers in the fall with a chance to be in the top 15 in the country, while the men should be able to crack the top 20 mark in the nation."

BROWN | Former soccer starter from Scotland says his athletic career flew by

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I could only play in four seasons on this side of the pond was a shock. However, at no point did I ever think I would reach the end of my career so quickly.

I remember arriving in Kirksville the day before the first team meeting of the year in 2008. Driving along Highway 63, passing places like McDonald's, Taco Bell and Pizza Hut, I realized this was the place where I would spend the next four to five years. To put it kindly, it wasn't exactly matching up to what I had imagined.

After an 8-9-1 season my freshman year, in which I started every game, I really didn't feel like the season went by that fast. Maybe it was because I was going through so many new experiences — classes, practice every day, living in a residence hall, American culture, making new friends, new teammates and all the traveling. All these things were new to me, so I was learning constantly. Maybe it's because I wasn't having that much fun, or maybe it was because I was 4,500 miles from home. Whatever the reason, Fall 2008 was my slowest semester in college.

One thing I have noticed as

I grow older and more experienced is that as a freshman and sophomore, you take everything for granted. I would go as far to say every college athlete makes this mistake. You don't see yourself playing in almost 70 games when arriving as a freshman. You think you have a long time ahead of you, and it will last for what seems like an eternity. Four years sounds like a long time.

It's not. After two hugely successful years as a sophomore and a junior, I realized this doesn't last forever. No matter how long four years sounds, it's not long enough to afford not to give 100 percent in everything, whether it's practice, preparation or games. Don't take a single play off because eventually it comes to an end. Ten years from now, when you sit at your desk after an eight-hour day, you still might think back to being a college athlete and be satisfied knowing that you gave everything for four years. Everyone wants it back once it's done, but the most important piece of advice I can give any freshman would be to treat every day like you're a fifth year senior and it's your last practice. Give everything you have while you can.

SOFTBALL | The Bulldogs are shut out during a four-game weekend road trip

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ing the final game of the weekend, Brown said she saw her team do a lot of things right, with the exception of the fifth inning when Western scored of their runs. She explained that the team was much more alert defensively, but did not get all the big hits it needed.

"The next game we finished much

better, we hit the ball, and we had good hits," Brown said. "At one time we had the bases loaded, but couldn't finish. They only had three more hits than we did. Before the game we talked about struggling mentally and just being mentally tough."

This week the team will be working on fundamentals, namely bunting, swing

techniques and specific pitches.

"We didn't do a good job of executing our bunts to move runners," Brown said. "We want to tweak our swings and focus on where we want to contact the ball based on the pitches. Those are some of the things we struggled with and if we can get those right, we can compete with anyone."

SCOUTING | Reports about opposing team's hitters and pitchers are key for baseball's preparation

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before they start the series.

Senior catcher Devon Myers said that when the reports are distributed, he reviews them with the pitchers so they are on the same page come game time. He said he only uses it to get a decent idea of how to pitch to the players the first time through the batting lineup, but after that he relies more on his observations.

"Every year there's new guys," Myers said. "I'll look at it before the game to get a feel for who the guys are, who are their fast guys, who are their home-run hitters. ... After that, though, it's kind of what I see from the game."

Davis said the Bulldogs put together their scouting reports about teams on a weekly basis, and don't rely on their experiences against the team the seasons before. While they can recall players from seasons past, Myers said it was important to have fresh scouting reports every time they play a team because players can develop quickly.

"Every year, people are changing," he said. "We have guys on our team that were throwing 75-80 [miles per hour] last year and now they're up to 85. Year-by-year, people on other teams were doing that too. We saw a guy, Joe Holtmeyer [from the University of Nebraska-Omaha] my freshman year, he was throwing like 84, and my sophomore year he was throwing 93 and was a pro prospect."

Overall, Davis said while the scouting report is crucial, it's not the most important part of the game plan, and the team has stopped relying as much on what they can conclude from statistics.

"We play a little bit more of our game, and [don't] worry about scouting reports as much as we did in the past," he said.

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