

SPORTS



TSU women's ultimate team is 11th in the country
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Bulldog Breakdown

TOP 'DOGS



Logan Siegler, pitcher

9 innings pitched, no hits, 3 strikeouts vs. Emporia State



Jessica Schepker, golfer

T-16th at Missouri Western Invitational



Jenny Zweifel, jumper

Won both long jump and triple jump at Washington University Mini Meet

ON CAMPUS

Mens/Womens Tennis

4 p.m. Thursday vs. Nebraska-Kearney

3 p.m. Saturday vs. Emporia State

1 p.m. Wednesday vs. South Dakota State

Baseball

3 p.m. Friday vs. Northwest Missouri

1 p.m. Saturday vs. Northwest Missouri

Noon Sunday vs. Northwest Missouri

STANDINGS

Baseball
11th 3-17 (2-14 MIAA)

Softball
11th 12-19 (1-9 MIAA)

Mens Tennis
T-2nd 3-2 (0-0 MIAA)

Womens Tennis
T-6th 3-3 (0-1 MIAA)

QUOTABLE

John Cochrane
head track coach

"Considering the fact that 70 percent of the people competed in the rain when they were there, it was a little harder to focus than usual."

Football begin spring practice

BY SAM SHERMAN
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Following a 4-8 fall season, head football coach Gregg Nesbitt and his Bulldogs have taken to the field for spring football practice.

Nesbitt said the main purpose of spring football is to get the players used to practicing again and to shore up any questions regarding the depth chart.

"We're re-learning how to practice, we're relearning how to prepare," Nesbitt said. "We're taking the [red] shirts off our freshman, and it's really the first time we've gotten to see

those youngsters. ... It's a chance to really reevaluate and look at guys for an extended period of time."

Nesbitt said the defense's depth is looking to be a major strength of the Bulldogs.

One of the team's biggest strengths is its secondary, Nesbitt said. With an all-American award under his belt, junior Richie Schumacher leads the way in the defensive backfield. Schumacher led the team in tackles with 130 last season, along with two interceptions. Junior Kyle Whitcher, who was second on the team in tackles with 89, also is a returning defensive back with a lot of experience. Junior Tremaine

| 2012 Bulldog leaders | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Offense: Dallas Grier, WR | 2011 stats: 599 yards, 4 TD |
| Defense: Richie Schumacher, S | 2011 stats: 130 tackles, 2 int |
| Special Teams: Derek Koon, K | 2011 stats: 15-17 FG made |

Millender, who was an all-MIAA honorable mention last year, will be rounding out the Bulldog secondary. The secondary also will return junior Robert Gayden from injury.

Schumacher said the secondary is going to be helped a lot by the players returning from injuries, and that he was confident in the group

they have.

"It's going to add a lot of dynamic to our secondary," Schumacher said. "Last year we developed great depth and everything, so [the injured players are] just going to add to the overall talent and experience that we have in our defensive secondary."

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Andrea Hewitti/Index

Senior Joe Krispin passes the ball to senior captain Aaron Loida. The Bulls lost to the University of Missouri-Columbia rugby team Saturday 55-31.

Bulls play a level above the rest

BY TYLER SIGRIST
Staff Reporter

Truman State's mens rugby team competes at a level above all other sport at Truman.

Unlike the other athletic programs at Truman, the Truman club rugby team competes at the Div. I level. It is a part of the D-I Heart of America conference which includes: University of Arkansas, University of Kansas, Kansas State University, the University of Missouri, University of Oklahoma's developmental team and Oklahoma State University.

"You can either decide to become Div. II and play down, being the big fish in the smaller pond, or you can continue to try and play above your weight," head coach Bill Sexton said. "We've got a long history of playing above our weight, we play really solid rugby. The guys still want to play up. And that's an attitude."

Sexton said this year has been a disappointing one for the Bulls but with a young team and only a few seniors graduating, he thinks the fu-

Bulls Rugby 2012 season

| opponent | outcome |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Midnight 7s tournament | 2nd place |
| Univ. of Central Missouri | Lost 19-26 |
| Univ. of Arkansas | Lost 27-18 |
| Univ. of Missouri - Columbia | Lost 55-31 |

ture is looking bright.

"The season has been good and it's been bad," Sexton said. "We haven't won as many games as we would have liked but, at the same time, we get better every week."

Throughout the first few weeks of practice, team captains seniors Aaron Loida and Jason Ralph coach players and explain the ins and outs of rugby. Loida said it's just his way of giving back to a team that's given so much to him.

"My goal is to work hard to make sure ev-

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'Dogs split at Lincoln

The Truman baseball team scores 11 during the second game after being held to two runs

BY SAM SHERMAN
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The Truman baseball team split games with conference opponent Lincoln University on Tuesday. The 'Dogs lost the first game of the series 2-4 after leaving five runners on base and only getting three hits in 23 at-bats.

Senior catcher Devon Myers said the team couldn't get things in order offensively in the first game.

"We just didn't have very timely hitting," Myers said. "We hit the ball hard, we just didn't hit to the right side that would've driven people in."

Sophomore pitcher Tim Lee tallied the loss, allowing three earned runs and seven hits in six innings pitched. Lee now is 1-2 for the season with a 6.23 ERA.

The 'Dogs' offensive woes have plagued them all season. They rank 11th in the MIAA in team batting average with a .255 team average and are tied for

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Players take ownership of their field

Truman State Athletes and maintenance crew take responsibility for the upkeep of athletic fields

BY SAM SHERMAN
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There is work to be done during any given day at the Truman State baseball field.

What most fans see when they go to a game is the game itself, but head baseball coach Dan Davis said he, the grounds crew and players put in a lot of time and effort to make sure the field is in pristine condition.

"Our team does a lot of work on the field, they really do," Davis said. "We do a lot of the day-to-day stuff. Our grounds guys are fantastic. ... Those guys work hard with me."

Luke Mudd, grounds crew supervisor, along with workers Darren Henrichs and Coley Hanes, help Davis with the more tedious field upkeep.

Davis said the grounds crew is responsible for seeding the grass, applying chemicals and painting the lines, while making sure the soil on the

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Athletes bring home high GPAs

BY KIRK SCHLUETER
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Truman State student-athletes' GPAs roughly are equivalent to those of non-athlete Truman undergraduate students.

Both student-athletes and regular undergraduates had an average cumulative GPA of 3.20 for the Fall 2011 semester, according to a summary sheet from Assistant Athletic Director Linda Anderson.

"We're very proud of that, as far

as our athletes mirror the general student body," Anderson said.

Head football coach Gregg Nesbitt said that when he recruits potential athletes for Truman, the first place he and his assistants go is a high school guidance department to evaluate a recruit's unofficial transcript.

"Certainly the perception is that our higher entrance qualifications is a detriment to recruiting," Nesbitt said. "I think it can be if you let it, but it can be a tremendous positive if you don't. ... One of the things

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