



Freshman catcher Adam Manzer takes a swing during batting practice earlier this week. The Bulldogs split games with Lincoln University on Tuesday. Rose Sparks/Index

BASEBALL | The 'Dogs won their fourth game of the season against the Lincoln Blue Tigers on Tuesday with the help of Bulldog bats

Continued from Page 15
last in the conference in runs scored. The team is last in the conference in hits, slugging percentage, home runs and total bases.

Head coach Dan Davis said the Bulldogs' tough opening schedule bears part of the blame for the team's struggles. "Our start of the year has been a tough start," Davis said. "We're playing a lot of good competition, but [during] the last three weekends, we've had opportunities to split. And we just haven't gotten it done. ... We could easily be 6-6 over the last three weekends, but instead we're 2-10."

During the second game, the Bulldogs addressed their offensive concerns to the tune of 11 runs in 12 hits to win 11-5 against Lincoln.

Sophomore Daniel Jewett started the game on the mound for the 'Dogs, pitching three and two-thirds innings and allowing two hits with four strikeouts. It was senior Tyler Stefan, however, who scooped up the win, tallying his first win of the season. Jewett added a 3-5 hitting

performance to his pitching on the mound as he scored three runs.

The 11-run total is the most the team has scored all season. Myers helped the cause with his first home run of the season while senior outfielder Weston Lewis led the team with three RBIs.

The team's high run total was scored against a Lincoln team that currently has a team ERA of more than seven runs a game. The Blue Tigers' pitching staff has allowed the second-most hits in the conference, finishing only behind the Bulldogs' competition for next weekend, Northwest Missouri State University.

Last weekend, Truman picked up one win out of four games played against Emporia State University.

The Hornets came into the game with a 4.69 team ERA and the conference's highest team batting average at .349. The Bulldogs lost 12-1 in the first game before junior pitcher Logan Siegler threw a nine-inning gem. Allowing only five hits total, and one after the fourth inning, Siegler's efforts allowed

the game to continue into extra innings. The 'Dogs lost during the 10th as they couldn't capitalize on any of their 10 hits.

The Bulldogs' lone win of the weekend came Sunday during extra innings, as they won 5-4 against the Hornets. Freshman pitcher Bret Gerstner said it felt good to pick up a win against such a good team.

"It's always good to get a win against anybody ranked in the top 30," Gerstner said. "Overall, I think we played pretty solid [this weekend]."

The 'Dogs will stay in Kirksville this weekend as they play a four-game series against the Northwest Missouri State Bearcats. The Bearcats currently have a 7.42 team ERA and have allowed 262 hits this season.

Davis said the best is yet to come for his team.

"We're starting to pitch it pretty good," he said. "We're starting to get on base and do all kinds of things. I told our guys, I want us to be playing our best baseball. We had to survive our schedule early because we were playing some really good teams."

Let's get help from somebody."

Head wrestling coach David Schutter, whose teams have been first or second in Div. II wrestling GPA for the last seven years, said he discusses academics with his players every day during the season. He also said he instructs his players to buy books for their courses early and to read them before the semester starts. He also communicates with the wrestlers' teachers to be informed if they miss class.

"You can [make winning at any cost] the most important factor," Schutter said. "We could say, 'We're going to recruit athletes and bring them in for one year and they're going to help us win, but we don't care if they graduate.' But that's not the Truman mission. ... I like to get my athletes to buy into the Truman mission as well."

Anderson said Truman athletes have the highest academic success rate and graduation rate of any school in the MIAA, something she said might help bring more talented student-athletes to Truman.

"[Being first in the MIAA] is something we hold a lot of pride in, and it gives our coaches another talking point in recruiting," she said.

RUGBY | The only Div. I team at Truman plays a game unfamiliar to most and competes against much heavier players

Continued from Page 15
ery practice is at the intensity level it needs to be at so we can continue to compete, just like the older guys did for me," he said.

Rugby encompasses the physicality and brutality of football and hockey, the continuous play of soccer and the immense speed found in both. The playing field, or pitch, is 100 meters long and 70 meters wide. Each team has 15 players on the field at a time and the object is to get the ball across the opponent's try line, much like the plane of an end zone in football, and down it. When a team scores a try, they earn five points and have the opportunity to attempt an uncontested kick, called a conversion, which, if good, is worth another two points. Scoring a try, however, is where the sport's resemblance to football comes to an end.

"Rugby is unlike anything that most people have ever seen," junior David McDonough said. "[New fans will] be entertained, that's for sure."

In rugby, the ball can only be tossed backward or laterally. The only way to advance the ball forward

is by running with it or kicking it ahead to either the opponent, a teammate, or yourself. To prevent the attacking team from scoring a try, the opposition must attempt to tackle the ball carrier before he can score or defer the ball to a teammate.

Once a tackle is made, the ball must be passed or released. Most often, the ball is released and players from each team will form a ruck, or a pack of people, over the loose ball. Both teams will push until one team gains an advantage and a player toward the back of that teams ruck can hook the ball with his foot and drag it out. Once formed, though, no player from either team can leave the ruck until a player not engaged in the ruck picks up the ball and either passes or begins to run.

The Bulls fell to the University of Missouri 55-31 March 24, giving them a 0-3 spring record after taking second in a preseason seven's tournament.

The Bulls used their speed and fundamentals to score four tries during the first half and take a 26-5 lead against a Tiger

team that Sexton said outweighed them by about 25 pounds a man.

The latter half of the game was all Mizzou. Within the first 15 seconds of the second half, Missouri scored and shifted the momentum away from the Bulls. Then, after a Truman player received a yellow card, the Bulls played down a man and the Tigers took full advantage, scoring four ties during a 15-minute period on their way to the comeback victory.

"We kind of thought that once we were up on them 26-5 at the half, that was all we had to do, and clearly it wasn't," Sexton said. "We tried to admonish the guys to remember how this feels remember, next time to never take anyone for granted."

The next Bulls home game is against Missouri S&T at 1:30 pm April 7 at the rugby field, located adjacent to the tennis courts.

"Rolla's going to be a good team but, if we play our game, we're going to win," Loida said. "We're going to be ready to go that weekend and it's going to be a lot of fun."

FIELD | Field maintenance staff, coaches and players work diligently to keep baseball field pristine and green

Continued from Page 15
field is healthy.

Henrichs said the crew spends about an hour a day on the field during the season weed-eating and working on general upkeep, and he said Davis and the players help out a lot.

"Coach Davis and the players help out tremendously," Henrichs said. "Before the rain, they put on the covers. ... And Coach Davis, he mows throughout the field. He enjoys doing that and it helps us out a lot."

Freshman pitcher Bret Gerstner said that after games, the players take on the responsibility of cleaning up and getting the field back in shape for the next day.

"After games, we'll tidy it all up," Gerstner said. "We'll get the mound done, we'll rake the field, water it. All the little

stuff to help Coach Davis out."

Davis said there are players on the team who have field maintenance as a scholarship job for the University, so they do more work than the other players. Although he said it's important to all the players, because having a clean and well-kept field is a top priority.

"It's a team effort," Davis said. "All these guys are out there. It's a pride thing to take care of your field because you want to take ownership. I want our [team] to take ownership of our facility and that's why we do a lot of that work."

Gerstner said the work they put on maintaining the field pays off when opposing teams notice how well kept it is, but that doesn't come without daily work. Henrichs said the crew goes out to the field every day to make sure the lines are painted straight and the grass

GPA | Truman athletes maintain same average GPA as regular Truman students, with both cross country teams having highest athletic GPAs

Continued from Page 15

Truman can offer is a competitive degree. ... That's attractive to kids."

Anderson said there are no special resources set up for athletes to use to gain help in their studies apart from those available to the entire student body.

"The only thing we do that might be a little extra, is both the coaches and I spend a little time at the end of the semester identifying players who might be at risk as far as being eligible for the next year," Anderson said. "So we contact them and make sure they take care of business to be eligible for the next year."

Nesbitt said he and his staff talk to players about academics consistently, and have interventions with struggling players to address academic problems.

"The first thing is, are you going to class every day?" Nesbitt said. "Where are you sitting in class? Are you paying attention in class? ... After that it's the organizational aspect, and a lot of men, young men, older men, struggle with organization. ... If we're sincerely struggling, let's don't be prideful. Let's get a tutor.

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NOT PAID FOR BY ANY CANDIDATE

(by writer in his own right)

THIS TUESDAY FOR KIRKSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL, APRIL 3 ELECTION YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, NEIGHBOR CANNOT AFFORD THE WRONG CHOICE FOR 3 YEARS ON ONLY A 5-PERSON COUNCIL. IT'S A PIVOTAL ELECTION.

GOOD CHOICE:

The safe, reliable, yet exciting Progressive choice is Professor Doctor Betty McLane-Iles at the very top of your ballot. The only woman/educator in a college-economy town. In first file since January. She's "with-it", ALERT!

1. Betty stands for **solid** policies formulated by you and told us on the doorstep in 2 HALF THOUSAND plus winning campaigns.
2. A small business commission is needed to hear efforts to keep private capital to raise EXISTING businesses especially in town square and promote exhibits/facilities for a new Seniors Center. So it is necessary also to have a revamped traffic light system to enable kids to get to play parks safely across too long-wait Baltimore St.
3. A forester is needed, as are people like Mice/Bat infestation consultation officers to PREVENT/REMOVE else costly disasters. This is SENSIBLE forward-cost saving.
4. A French Professor who can TAKE ON French multi-national VEOLIA for its poor service, inadequate blue recycling and OUTRAGEOUS price rise, when America is in fact this foreign company's BIGGEST profit gouger.
5. Betty is an experienced, thoughtful town planning/historic district commissioner. She is liked but is cost-scrutinizingly known as a fighter by town bureaucracy never the less. She thinks ahead and supports kids, colleges, animal care as you would expect of a Ph D. professor and a present vice chair of the American Association of University professors.



Signed, Larry Iles

WRONG CHOICE:

THE DANGEROUS, EVEN POLITICALLY "WACKY" OUT-OF-ALL-TOUCH DISASTER IS MR. R. RUSSELL. NOT A REAL "BOB" AS BETTY IS AUTHENTICALLY "BETTY". HE IS LAST FILED IN BALLOT LATENESS AND LAST POSTERED TOO! HE'S "PAST-IT", HE IS OUT OF TOUCH WITH REAL FOLKS LIKE YOU/ME.

1. Russell was the LEAST articulate at the El Kadir Shrine Wed. March 15 all-candidates debate of ALL the candidates. For example, he claimed to rhapsodically care "for the town square" but then, contorily COLDLY said he wanted more effort elsewhere in town on "ANYTHING" UNSPECIFIED in job growth. Contrastingly, Betty points out, CHAMPIONINGLY, her support for all our town square owners "SACRIFICES".
2. He is a FALSIFIER of facts. At the above small meeting and in his SOLE elective leaflet under a section called oddly "changing our mind set" he said that "Harley-Davidson Company" had been "turned down". He said by implication through college elitism. Surely it is time he deleted this leaflet as it is a TOTAL myth. Derek Spellman, Kirksville Daily Express FACTUALLY reported (March 5, 2004!) "Harley-Davidson we never looked at Kirksville for a new plant, Spokesperson says". His leaflet is thus a totally UNTRUE statement in this respect!
3. This whole attempt to "revive" town/gown animosity is old-fashioned political hypocrisy for a candidate who in his own candidate INDEX profile (second after Betty's) criticised all his rivals if they engage in "divisiveness"
4. His replies to an ONLINE Kirksville Daily Express survey of "Candidates view on Trail Parks, bikes" list him as bottom in the writer's preference as he opposes "sidewalks" and "bike paths" as only for the young in too much "cost".

This is incredible bad advice all around.

IN SHORT FOLKS, BETTY REPRESENTS THE HONEST PRO-GROWTH MODERN KIRKSVILLE AND SUPPORTERS OF THE TWO OTHER MEN RUNNING AGAINST HER ARE SWITCHING THEIR VOTES TO SUPPORT HER QUITE CORRECTLY THEREFORE.