

# 'Dogs miss tournament

**Volleyball ends season with loss to Gorillas, finish season six games over .500**

**BY SAM SHERMAN**  
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A five-set loss to the Pittsburg State Gorillas last Saturday marked an end to the first volleyball season since 1999 without an NCAA tournament berth for the Bulldogs.

The 'Dogs finished fourth in the MIAA conference with a 9-9 conference record and finished the season 20-14 overall. Head coach Ben Briney said he was pleased about the season his players had, despite not making the NCAA tournament.

"Anytime you hit 20 wins, that's always a good thing," he said. "I was proud of them for that because they fought through a lot this year and fought through all kinds of different struggles. To get to 20 wins is nothing to be ashamed of."

Truman State began its last weekend of the 2011 season on the road at Missouri Southern to face the Lions.

The Bulldogs hit .408 and were led offensively by senior Molly Sinclair who finished with 14 kills with a .400 hitting percentage. Juniors Emily Briseno and Megan Sharpe each had 13 kills while Briseno hit .611.

Familiar faces led the 'Dogs defensively with freshman libero Abby Moser leading the team with 12 digs against the Lions. Briseno finished with a double-double, totaling 11 digs to add to her offensive performance. Freshman Allie Brak also had 11 digs to add to the box score.

The two setters for the Bulldogs, senior Kylie Easlon and freshman Meghan Zimmerman, led the team with 26 and 25 blocks, respectively.

The 3-1 win against Missouri Southern

earned the team its 20th win of the season, making the 2011 season the 22nd consecutive 20-win season.

The Saturday following the win against the Lions, the Bulldogs traveled to Pittsburg, Kan. to face Pitt State, a court Briney said was a tough environment in which to play.

"You go down, you play [Missouri] Southern Friday night, and then Pitt, regardless of when you play them, they have a very good home court advantage," he said. "It makes it that much harder because you've put all this effort into your Friday night match."

The Bulldogs started slowly, dropping the first two sets 25-19, but the women bounced back, winning the third set [25-23] and the fourth set [25-22]. The momentum gained going into the final set against the Gorillas did not last long. Pitt State won the fifth set 16-14 to end the 'Dogs season on a sour note.

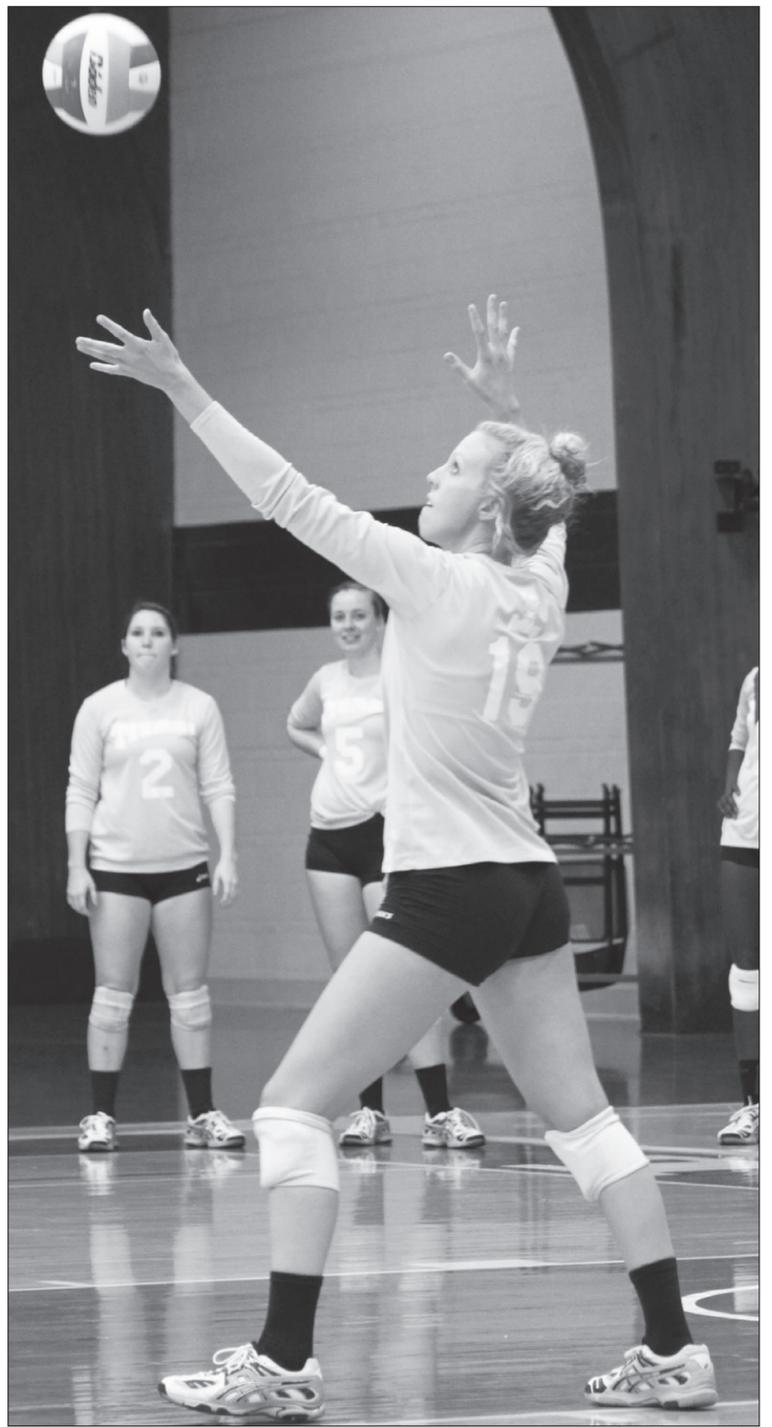
Sharpe led the team with a .474 hitting percentage and 18 kills, while Brak earned a double-double with 13 kills and 14 digs.

Sharpe said positive aspects of the season were building team unity and becoming familiar with all the players.

"I think we learned a lot about each other, and we kind of got to know each other better," Sharpe said. "You really get to know someone from the way they play when they're losing or when things aren't going as well, more so than when everything's going well and we're winning all the time."

The Bulldogs are graduating four players, but Briney said the team's outlook for next season looks positive.

"I'm excited," Briney said. "It's a chance to have kids that have gotten experience, kind of had to hold their feet to the fire and they had to get thrown in there, so it's not going to be a new experience when they get thrown out there next year."



Lindsey Borgna/Index  
Senior hitter Molly Sinclair serves in a match versus Fort Hays State Oct. 29 at Pershing Arena. Sinclair finished the season with a .924 serve percentage.

## Volleyball Season Statistics:

- Final record: 20-14, 9-9 MIAA record

- Longest losing/winning streak: 3 games / 4 games

- 11-3 in neutral site games

# Wrestling pleased with season start

**BY TYLER SIGRIST**  
Staff Reporter

The Truman State wrestling team started the 2011-2012 season by winning its first duel Nov. 11, defeating Central Baptist College [Ark.] 26-24. Truman started the duel a man down, because redshirt freshman Will Evans couldn't compete because of a spider bite, forcing Truman to leave the 133-pound class open.

The first four bouts of the day, split between the schools, were all won by fall. Brothers junior and sophomore Alex and Ryan Maus came up with the first two match wins for the 'Dogs when they picked up falls in the 141- and 149-pound weight classes.

"Alex and Ryan have a lot of mat experience, and you expect them to go out and handle guys," head coach David Schutter said.

At 165 pounds, Truman sophomore Josh Wells defeated CBC freshman Tony Mogno 13-1 in a major decision. Truman took three of the following four matches. Senior Max Muench won 8-1 and redshirt freshman Helmut Rentschler won 10-2 in a major decision. The 'Dogs were down heading into the heavyweight match, where Bulldog sophomore



Lindsey Borgna/Index  
Sophomores Ryan Maus and Josh Wells practice at the Greenwood School earlier this month. The 'Dogs beat the Central Baptist College last Friday in the team's first dual of the season.

heavyweight Joel Geders was paired against sophomore Jared Pflastere.

"A lot of people came through," Wells said. "Joel [Geders] came through. Our starting heavyweight

wasn't here and Joel really pulled it off for us in the end. [Alex] Maus did what he has always done — he kept the pressure on them. A lot of guys had to change their weight class so

it was not our best lineup but everybody came out to compete."

Geders, who was 0-2 for his career at Truman going into the day, was outweighed by more than 40

pounds but won 10-4.

"It was my first college win and I felt on top of the world," Geders said. "I mean, it was nice to get it out of the way and it was really nice to have it be the duel-winning match."

On Nov. 12, the 'Dogs competed in a tournament at Central Baptist. The Bulldogs took third place out of the nine teams that competed. Schutter said he was pleased about the outcome, especially because it still is so early in the season.

Ryan Maus won the 149-pound bracket after receiving a first round bye, pinning his second round opponent and then winning his final match 10-4. Sophomore Devon Fenstermaker and Alex Maus took second place in their brackets, wrestling at 157 and 141.

Alex Maus was suffering from heat exhaustion and wasn't able to take the mat for his final match. Had he been able to compete and win, the 'Dogs would have placed second.

"We had a good weekend to open up with," Schutter said. "If everybody gets right in their mind, everybody shows up and makes weight, we're going to continue to be successful."

Truman's next duel is at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 17 against Hannibal-LaGrange College in Pershing Arena.



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