



Sophomores Eric McDonnell and Andrew Sheets along with freshman Brad Hart run at a practice last week. The men were led at the MIAA championships by senior Joey Walls, who ran better than he ever has in a conference meet.

Jessie Poole/Index

Walls leads 'Dogs in MIAA meet

BY KIRK SCHLUETER
Staff Reporter

The MIAA Cross Country Championships this past Saturday could have served as a microcosm for the Truman State mens and womens cross country teams. Familiar faces led the Bulldogs on both sides as five runners finished well enough to garner an all-conference selection. However, both teams fell slightly short of where they hoped to finish.

The women finished third and were led, as they have been for most of the year, by junior Karen Grauel, who was unable to defend her conference title but nonetheless finished fourth to earn all-conference honors. Senior Anne Ratermann, earned all-conference status with a seventh place finish, while junior Cindy Grauel and senior Michelle Gronemeyer earned honorable mention all-conference.

"We're happy," womens head coach John Cochrane said. "I would have liked to finish second, but I'm happy. There were good efforts. Karen ran pretty well and Anne ran probably the best race she's ever run. The thing in our conference is we don't have any real powerhouses, but there's a whole bunch of teams that are really close."

Although Grauel's fourth-place finish did not replicate her victory from last

year, she said she was pleased about the race's outcome.

"I was running pretty well with the front pack, and around the two mile mark I lost the first three runners," she said. "I think I lost my mental toughness whenever I saw the three pull away, but I still have next year, and I feel pretty good about the way I ran, so not much disappointment [about not winning]."

Ratermann said she thought that the team had performed up to their potential and finished the season strong.

"I think the team made good improvements overall," Ratermann said. "Karen was up where she needed to be, and Cindy and Michelle were in good places too. I think we all moved up a little bit more where we needed to be."

On the mens side, coach Tim Schwegler saw a familiar sight as his young team struggled to tie for seventh place.

"We're a young team and inexperienced, and we showed that inexperience," Schwegler said. "You get young guys and put them in pressure situations, sometimes they don't come through. They just have to have confidence in themselves."

A bright spot for the men was the standout performance of senior Joey Walls, who finished fourth in the meet and earned all-conference honors, making Saturday's race the best conference meet of

his career.

"As far as my coaching perspective goes, [Joey's] was a textbook race," Schwegler said. "The first mile mark he was about 35th, at the halfway point he was in 16th or 17th place and just kept moving up and finished real strong that last half mile. It was fun to watch."

For Walls, the race was a gratifying return to form after a year marked by struggle.

"This is the best race I've ever run," Walls said. "This is literally the race of my life. Considering how I didn't run for half of the summer [because of injury], and the first race this season was four minutes slower than this, I didn't think I'd ever be back in this sort of shape again."

Truman's next race is the NCAA South Central Regional Nov. 5 in Wichita Falls, Texas. Unless the teams or individual runners qualify for nationals, this will be the Bulldogs' final race of the season. Cochrane said it was important for the teams to stay focused the next two weeks in practice.

"Some teams after the conference meet just go down, it's not that important to them," Cochrane said. "Most times, we've been able to run better in the regional than we do in the conference meet. We're actually on more of a roll team-wise than we have been, and we've got to keep that going."

Golf places third in tournament

BY BROOKE DALY
Staff Reporter

After cutting strokes from the first day, the womens golf team placed third with 680 strokes in the Bulldog Classic last weekend at the Kirksville Country Club to conclude the fall season.

Nearly all of the girls cut their strokes from the first day to the second. Senior Liz Lestmann cut 10 strokes, posting a final score of 166 and placing eighth. Right behind Lestmann was senior Jessica Schepker who finished with a 167 overall, which put her tied for ninth in the tournament. Junior Jessica Tomash finished 13th in the field with a 172 overall.

"They played well [Monday]," head coach Samuel Lesseig said. "They should have played that way both days, and they know that."

The 'Dogs were only seven strokes behind second place Missouri Western State University and 42 strokes from the University of Nebraska-Omaha in first.

Truman's B-Team placed fifth overall with 727 strokes.

Junior Kathryn Hogan said everyone played better the second day because of the tournament settings. She cut four strokes from the first day to post 83 strokes the second day.

"The greens were really tough, they're really quick," Hogan said.

Lesseig said that at this time of the year, the greens are extremely fast because the grass is cut short. He said the short grass means a firm green and the potential for fast-rolling golf balls.

Hogan said the greens in Kirksville probably are the fastest the team has played. Hogan said that, unlike the other teams, Truman knew what to expect because the team has practiced at Kirksville Country Club all season.

Last year, the Bulldog Classic was snowed out.

"The weather couldn't have been better [this year]," Lesseig said.

Lesseig said the women need to improve their putting.

"If you talk to any players, they will agree," Lesseig said. "You just have to have confidence in hitting the ball. If it doesn't go in, you have to accept it and go on."

Hogan said the most difficult holes were 14 and 15. She said 14 always is tough because it is a par three and a tough green in general.

Typically, only the top five or six players travel to tournaments, but all the Truman golfers participated in the Bulldog Classic.

The tournament marks the end of the fall season and also the end of the first season for the women without a male counterpart. The Bulldogs best round as a team was at the Millikin Fall Classic when Truman shot 321 in the second round to secure a third place finish amidst a 12-team field.

The best score of the year individually was shot by Lestmann who shot a 76 in the second round of the Illinois Wesleyan Fall Invitational. Tomash and junior Lynn Dreisilker tied for the second best individual score of the year with a 78. Tomash shot 78 in the second round of the Illinois College Invitational while Dreisilker shot 76 in the Millikin Fall Classic.

The team finished third three different times over the course of the fall season, but never placed better than that.

The Bulldogs will resume their tournament play in the spring.

'Dogs clinch first round bye with 2-0 win

BY MEREDITH KUSKY
Staff Reporter

The womens soccer season is winding down, and so are the team's losses. Beating Southwest Baptist University 2-0 at home Saturday continued the team's seven-game winning streak, six of which were shutouts. The 'Dogs debuted yesterday at No. 7 in the first regional poll.

The first scorer for the 'Dogs was senior midfielder Jaclyn Schumann, who scored during the first half.

"[During the first half we were] playing too direct and trying to go forward too much instead of keeping it a little longer, keeping it wide and keeping possession," head coach Mike Cannon said.

During the second half, junior midfielder Kelsey Twellman put up the second goal. Cannon said Twellman's goal allowed him to get the younger, less experienced players more experienced.

The Bulldogs outshot the Southwest Baptist Bearcats 25-4 with 12 of those shots on goal. Senior keeper Jayne Grisham played the full 90 minutes and had three saves, tallying her fifth shutout of the season, tying her for first in the conference in total shutouts.

Junior forward Olivia Hayes said the team's success in conference play is partly due to the tough games they played at the beginning of the season.

"The teams in our conference aren't as strong of competition as the teams we saw early on," Hayes said. "So we've been slowly building and getting better and better."

The 2-0 final against Southwest Baptist extended their undefeated confer-

ence record to seven games. The win also placed the Bulldogs in one of the two top seeds in the upcoming MIAA postseason tournament with a bye. After getting the secured spot in the tournament, the team celebrated the win with a tailgate with family and fans.

Twellman credits the team's play to the connection they have with each other.

"Every year I've been here, we've had great team chemistry," Twellman said. "I think it's a big part of us being successful." Last Thursday, the Bulldogs faced Missouri Southern State University. The Bulldogs won in overtime against the MIAA opponent with a final score of 2-1.

Sophomore keeper Emily Bozdeck saw time in goal against the Lions as did Grisham. The Bulldog offense outshot its opponents 25-3, with six shots on goal. Cannon said he would have liked to see a better job of putting shots on goal during the match.

S o p h o m o r e

forward Trisha Shoemaker was the first to score, her eighth goal of the season, putting her at fourth in the conference. Twellman scored during the overtime period off of a free kick to put the team up for good. After the two wins against Southwest Baptist and Missouri Southern this past week, the team's overall record jumps to 10-4-2.

At 2 p.m. today, the Bulldogs face Emporia State University at home. The team will play its final home game and last conference game against University of Central Missouri at 1 p.m. Saturday. The team then jumps into the MIAA conference tournament in Kansas City, Mo., starting Nov. 4.



Sophomore defender Kelsey Ridgway takes a ball upfield against SBU on Saturday. With their 2-0 win over the Bearcats, the Bulldogs clinched a top spot in the MIAA tournament and a first-round bye.

Lindsey Borgna/Index