

# Women lose in straight sets to Central Missouri

BY TYLER POE  
Staff Reporter

The Bulldogs rebounded from three straight losses to win three in a row last weekend at the Washburn Lady Blues Crossover with primetime performances from junior middle blocker Megan Sharpe and company, but were swept during the second home game of the season versus the University of Central Missouri on Wednesday night.

In just more than an hour, the Bulldogs (9-7, 1-3 MIAA) were defeated by the Jennies in straight sets, 25-19, 25-12 and 25-8. Sharpe, selected to the all-tournament team during the weekend, averaged 3 kills and 1.53 blocks per set, while hitting .339 for the Bulldogs as they beat Tarleton State [Texas], Central Oklahoma and Abilene Christian [Texas] last weekend. Against the Jennies, Sharpe had four kills for the entire match.

"We played really well this weekend," Sharpe said. "Physically our team is in the top 25 in the country. But our struggles come mentally and that happens when you have younger players. We start three freshmen and they are going to make freshman mistakes the same way our other players make junior mistakes or senior mistakes."

The Bulldogs committed 18 errors during their match against the No. 8 Central Missouri Jennies. Sharpe said on Tuesday that if the Bulldogs hoped to beat the Jennies, they were going to need to execute offensively and disrupt opponents' schemes.

The first set featured seven tied scores and three lead changes, but the Bulldogs failed to capitalize on the serve as they committed nine service errors in the match. Sharpe said the team needed to execute its game plan and dictate the game's pace if they were to defeat UCM.

"We aren't going to out jump or out block teams in this league, so we have to be in our offensive system 60 to 70 percent of the time," Sharpe said. "We have to force teams out of their system 40 to 50 percent of the time. That's how we win games. The team that makes the most mistakes is always going to lose the match."

Freshman Allie Brak had a team-high five kills and freshman libero Abby Moser notched a match-high 25 digs in the loss for the Bulldogs. Moser said the team wasn't in sync on the floor Wednesday and that the loss was the team's doing.

"Our communication was a little off from the beginning and that hurt us and put us into a position where we had to fight back all night long," Moser said after the game.

The Jennies totaled 43 kills to the Bulldogs 22 and committed just nine errors in their match Wednesday, hitting .270. The Bulldogs hit .033 for the match and had four total



Jessie Poole/Index

Senior outside hitter Molly Sinclair returns the ball during a game Wednesday night versus the University of Central Missouri.

blocks.

"Our serving was off, our communication was off and our motivation was off," Moser said. "We need to be self-motivators. We have a lot to work on and now it is clear what we need to work on. All we can do is move forward."

Sharpe continues to be the top offensive weapon in head coach Ben Briney's arsenal, as the two-time all-American has a hitting percentage of .304 on 2.91 kills per set, with 1.16 blocks per set defensively. The 'Dogs are blocking 2.20 attacks per set and are hitting .193 as a unit on the season.

Brak (2.52 k/s), senior outside hit-

ter Molly Sinclair (2.20 k/s) and junior middle hitter Emily Briseno (2.02 k/s) are also among the team's top producers. Senior Kylie Easlon (5.52 assists/set) and freshman Meghan Zimmerman (4.33 a/s) continue to handle setting duties, while Moser (5.45 digs/set) continues to be one of the MIAA's best back row defenders.

This Friday, the Bulldogs travel to face Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Mo. After that, Truman will come back to Kirksville where they will face another MIAA opponent, Missouri Western State University, at 7 p.m. on Saturday for Homecoming in Pershing Arena.

# Men lose 3-1 to Upper Iowa

BY TYLER SIGRIST  
Staff Reporter

For the second time in 10 days, the mens soccer team led the Peacocks of Upper Iowa University (6-3) in shots and shots on goal on Wednesday, but fell short on the scoreboard. The 'Dogs were defeated 3-1, giving up all three goals during the first 13 minutes.

The first goal was given up to a free kick when junior Marco Garcia found senior Frank Atchison in the fourth minute. The next goal in the spree came off a well-placed corner kick during the eighth minute when Garcia's pass found Peacock senior forward Derek Oelmann's head for the second score. The Peacock's final strike came during the 13th minute when red shirt senior Jason Olsgard and Oelmann had a two-man attack heading down the field. Olsgard found Oelmann around the 18 and he found the back of the net.

During the first half, the Bulldogs got off seven shots to UI's six during the first period. At half time, senior Jonny Brown said the team knew it had to change something.

"I think being down 3-0 at home is a big enough message that something had to change," Brown said. "We knew we had to come out and keep working hard and I think we really picked it up. We were unlucky not to get more than one but we put ourselves in too big of a hole to get out."

The second half proved to be as physical as the first. By the end of the game, eight yellow cards were awarded, four to each team. The aggressive defensive play during the latter half of the game was effective for the Bulldogs. Truman held the Peacocks to zero shots on goal while junior Andy Chapman was able to find the back of the net in the 62nd minute.

"We have to play 45 minutes at a time and do what we did in the second half every time," sophomore Dylan Carter said. "We won the second half, now we just have to put a full 90 minutes together."

The Bulldogs' next game is 3 p.m. Friday at home against Fort Hays State.

"We have the talent to beat anyone," Carter said. "So what's past is past. We just need to close this season out by winning as many of the rest of our games as possible."



Blaise Hart-Schmidt/Index

Sophomore Adam King returns a ball during a match against Westminster College. The men's team finish the fall season with a final record of 3-0.

# Men wrap up season with win

BY BROOKE DALY  
Staff Reporter

The tennis teams finished their home season Tuesday against Quincy University with a win to mark a 3-0 dual fall record for the men, and a 2-1 record for the women.

The men were 2-1 in doubles, posting 8-4 by sophomores Adam King and Joe Murphy-Baum at No. 3 and 8-6 by freshmen Jake Ohlhausen and Griffin Smith at No. 2. The No. 1 doubles pairing of seniors Eric McCollough and Mark Sturley lost a close match 8-9.

In mens singles, sophomores Joe Murphy-Baum and Mike Merchant decided the dual with straight sets. After losing a close match against Lane Luhning of Quincy at the Truman State Mens Invitational 8-9, King came back at

the dual to post 6-4, 6-1 for the 'Dogs.

The women brought in three doubles wins. Freshmen Kim Birenbaum and Kelsey Porter posted a 9-7 at No. 2 while seniors Ellen Russell and Dagmar Velez pulled out an 8-4 win at No. 1, and freshman Katie Austin and sophomore Jessica Gennuso won 8-6 at No. 3.

The women tied Quincy in singles. Senior Jennifer Hawkins rallied for a tie-breaker, but lost 9-11. Birenbaum also had a close match. Austin won both sets 6-0, while Russell won 6-2, 6-4, and Velez won 6-1, 6-2.

Last weekend, Truman tennis brought its top four mens and womens players to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association regional event in Springfield, Mo., advancing both mens doubles teams to

the second round.

McCollough and Sturley won during the first doubles round to Southeastern Oklahoma, 6-4, 6-4. They lost during the second round against Southwest Baptist in a tie breaker 10-4.

"We lost a close doubles match," McCollough said. "It was a tough tournament."

Ohlhausen and advanced to the second round by default, but lost to University of the Incarnate Word, 7-5, 6-3.

In singles, all four men lost during the first round, but both freshmen took their opponents to a third set. Smith lost to the sixth seed from Abilene Christian University [Texas] in a tie breaker 10-3, and Ohlhausen lost to a player from Dallas Baptist University [Texas] 10-2 in a tie breaker.

"I played pretty tight

which wasn't the best," Ohlhausen said. "It was my stiffest competition all fall."

Seniors Ellen Russell and Dagmar Velez were eliminated during the first womens doubles round to third-seeded players from Tarleton State University [Texas], 6-3, 6-2.

Senior Jennifer Hawkins and freshman Kim Birenbaum lost opening matches in the women's "B" draw.

"We all lost our first matches, so we got put into the consolation round," Russell said. "Eric, Jennifer, and Dagmar won their first round of the consolation."

Velez won 8-6 in a consolation round to Arkansas Tech University, and Birenbaum won 9-8 to Northwest Missouri State University.

This weekend, the women will wrap up their season at the Div. I Western Illinois University Tournament.

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