



Lindsey Borgna/Index

Junior outside hitter Heather Hargadine returns a serve at practice Monday. The Bulldogs will participate in the Washburn Lady Blues Fall Classic this weekend in Topeka, Kan.

VOLLEYBALL | 'Dogs target areas for improvement after loss

Continued from Page 15 aware of our problems and we will put this game behind us."

Zimmerman and Hargadine agree the team has the talent to win a national championship, and agree the time is now. The team had a private meeting on the bus ride home to address the team's issues. Hargadine said the meeting allowed the players to vent frustrations, take on responsibility and organize the team's needs. Hargadine insists the team's problems will resolve when the team gets back to basics.

"Our mental attitude ends and begins with practice," Hargadine said. "We have to want to get better in order to be better. We need to enter practice with a chip on our shoulder, intensity in the air and come to play like it's the national championship every practice and game."

Hargadine said the team can't afford to settle with themselves. She said it needs to sustain its killer instinct throughout the course of a long match if they are going to make the NCAA tournament this season.

Zimmerman, a back-to-back state champion in high school, said each player on the team is working hard to perfect their own skills to help the team. Zimmerman led

the Bulldogs with a career-best 26 assists in the loss to Fort Hays, but is focused on winning games.

"I want to make my hitters better with every set, make them better with the best of my own abilities," Zimmerman said. "But I am used to winning and I want to win now."

Truman will have its chance to win this weekend, at the Washburn Fall 2011 Classic — an event in which the Bulldogs have a 15-1 record in the four years of the tournament. Last season, the Bulldogs faced three of the foes they'll see this weekend, picking up five-set victories against Angelo State University [Texas], Tarelton State University [Texas] and University of Central Oklahoma. Replacing St. Edward's (Texas) on the bracket this year is UCO.

Hargadine said the team is looking forward to a chance at redemption this weekend, but said the key is the Bulldogs' mental toughness.

"We have all the talent in the world on this team," Hargadine said. "But until we play with more determination, we won't achieve success. It's there — it's our job to take it."

The Bulldogs will open the weekend at 11:30 a.m. Friday against No. 20 Angelo State, who is off to a 15-1 start in 2011.

X-Country | Men and women both take away positives from most recent invitational

Continued from Page 15 19 people to finish where she finished. Those were good things. We have to work on dealing with how your body handles the pace after the first mile. You are going to feel something. You have to understand that you can't call timeout, go have a hot dog, and come back."

For Grauel, the defending MIAA individual champion, the meet's victory was particularly satisfying after being narrowly outkicked at the race's end the previous two years.

"The last two years, especially last year, I knew I could do it but I was passed up at the end," Grauel said. "So, I knew I would have to get out early, and start the gap earlier so people would have to work harder to catch up to me. I went out pretty good for the first 80 meters then just kept the pace, and no one ever ran with me. It was nice to finally come out with a win."

On the mens side, senior Joey Walls led the Truman runners with a 22nd-place finish. Sophomore Andrew Sheets continued a solid season by finishing 33rd, and freshmen Brad Hart and David Stodden finished 70th and 72nd in their second collegiate meet. Senior Mike Dial finished 83rd to finish the Bulldogs' top five.

Schwegler said he was very pleased by how his relatively young team performed at the meet.

"This was a lot harder race than the one at Grinnell and we were seventh [out of eight teams] at [Grinnell] and

sixth here out of 33 teams," Schwegler said. "We ran as a team a little bit better. Just overall racing skill, people did better. The team came out of it with a lot more confidence. Everybody felt good coming home on the bus, let's put it that way."

The meet was a return to form for Walls, who was all-conference last year, and was plagued by groin and knee tendinitis during the summer; developments that made him only minimal off-season training.

"At Grinnell, I had a really awful race because I'd been out of shape [due to injuries]," Walls said. "Then one day about a week before this last race, I started feeling like I could actually do workouts well again. I was able to do a 17-mile run two weekends ago without any pain. At Grinnell, I slowed down during the race, but this time I was able to catch up in the middle and go faster." Schwegler said he is looking for continued improvement for the Bulldogs in the coming weeks.

"We want to get [the gap between our top five] under a minute," Schwegler said. "The main thing is to not be afraid to move in the middle and the end of the race."

The teams have only one more race, the Jackling Jocks Invitational on Oct. 8 in Rolla, Mo., before the conference and regional meets. The invitational will give Truman their first look at several of the MIAA's top teams that will become familiar faces.

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— Tim Schwegler
Mens Head Coach

FOOTBALL | UCM quarterback threw for 353 yards

Continued from Page 15 for 353 yards against the Bulldogs. UCM senior quarterback Tommy Corwin saw the majority of the Mules' snaps, going 32-41 with four touchdowns and 360 yards.

Truman was able to disrupt the passing attack once when junior defensive back Kyle Whitcher returned the game's lone turnover — a Corwin interception — for 48 yards ending a UCM drive early in the third quarter. Corwin, who is averaging 329 passing yards per game is now second in the MIAA in passing efficiency with a rating of 162.4. He and Washburn senior quarterback Dane Simoneau are tied for the league lead in touchdown passes with 14.

"He is in his sixth year," Nesbitt said. "He is a medical hardship. Even though he hasn't played a lot of game experience he has got a lot of collegiate experience and he has been under three different, really fine offensive coordinators."

Bulldog senior quarterback J.B. Clark was 20-39 with 304 yards and two touchdowns. Saturday marked two milestones for Clark — He eclipsed 300 yards passing for the first time since joining the Bulldogs and also did not throw any interceptions. Before Saturday, Clark had been averaging 2.3 interceptions a game this season.

"J.B. has been there for us the whole season," freshman wide receiver Kurt Loyd said. "People have been doubting him, but I don't. We've had his back he

has had our backs. He looked great. He just keeps getting better and better."

Sophomore Dallas Grier was one of the beneficiaries of Clark's performance, catching eight balls for 95 yards Saturday, leaving him second only to the 'Dogs leading receiver on the day, freshman Kurt Loyd. Loyd had 113 yards on four catches, falling 6 yards short of tying senior wide receiver Anthony Brown's single game season high for receiving yards, which he set the previous week against Pittsburg State.

Jamar Howard, UCM junior wide receiver, all receivers in catches and yards. He had nine receptions for 129 yards. Howard is the MIAA's leading receiver, averaging 132.5 yards per game. Saturday's performance brought him to 530 receiving yards this season.

Saturday was UCM Family Day and the reported crowd at the game was more than 10,000, according to the official UCM athletics website.

"Last year, we played well at Pitt [St.] on the road," Nesbitt said. "We had a come from behind [win] at Emporia State, so there wasn't any significant difference. I didn't anticipate [the atmosphere] being a major problem, but it was, because we practiced well last week. Kids prepared well. They were mentally prepared and we just didn't get out of the gate in the first quarter."

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— Kurt Loyd
Wide Receiver

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