

**TENNIS** | Bulldogs struggle to adjust to outdoor court conditions due to Kirksville weather

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my team, that pressure, I just fed off that."

King won the match to help propel the Bulldogs to a conference win. King said he thinks this win especially was important because it showed how strong the team can be.

"The future of Bulldog tennis is very bright," King said. "Our number one singles player had food poisoning so everyone had to step up and we still had a convincing 7-2 victory. Everyone played well and I have very high hopes for the rest of the season."

The women's team came out of Emporia with less success but junior Jessica Gennuso was able to play well during her match. Gennuso said she approaches the weather with indifference, due to the equalizing role it plays during matches.

"The cold and the wind have been factors, but I know my opponents have to deal with the same problems so I can't really complain," Gennuso said.

Gennuso said she was successful because she was able to practice outside more than previously during the season, and because she had team support.

"I think we are becoming more used to playing outside,"

Gennuso said. "I've been finding my rhythm, and I had my whole team there to support me so that was a huge motivational factor. I just tried to hit one more ball than my opponent and I think that really helped."

Gennuso echoed King and Blodgett's optimism for the future.

"When everyone finds their rhythm we have a really solid team," Gennuso said. "If everyone feels comfortable and is confident in their abilities I think we will do really well. We are usually neck and neck with most teams, but I think this year we are better conditioned."

The conditioning can be attributed to a team-wide "Insanity" training regiment that occurred during the winter. Coach Blodgett said he knows these tactics might be unorthodox, but thinks it will be what separates the Bulldogs from other MIAA teams.

"Our kids are working harder than ever before," Blodgett said. "When we get into matches we won't run out of gas."

Truman tennis will travel to Oklahoma to play Central Oklahoma and Northeastern Oklahoma State this weekend. Both men and women will play Nebraska-Kearney at 10 a.m. and noon on Friday.



Anna Grace/Index

Sophomore outfielder Jarod Hahn prepares to swing during the Bulldogs' game against Northwest State University last week. The Bulldogs lost all three games played against the Bearcats.

**BASEBALL** | Bulldogs extend losing streak to six against Pittsburg State

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-tance placed on individual batting average and increase focus on getting on base and scoring runs.

Despite the losses, Davis said the team is on the verge of breaking the skid and picking up momentum as the Bulldogs head to the end of the season.

"We were in all three games this past weekend," Davis said. "Attitude and focus was there. We've gone through these skids every year the past six years, and it's one of those things where we'll break out of it eventually. We just have to really stay tough and stay true to the game plan."

The Bulldogs did not lack positive play this weekend, however, with sophomore first baseman Paul Trenhaile and senior shortstop Jordan Howe both batting .500 and picking up two RBI's for the weekend.

Senior pitcher Logan Siegler was on the mound for the Bulldogs during the series opener, during which the Bulldogs lost 4-1. After completing three scoreless innings for the 'Dogs, a single during the fourth gave the Gorillas the momentum they needed to have a four-run inning, which

gave them the ultimate advantage.

Siegler said the scores don't reflect the team's performance and if a few crucial plays had gone the Bulldogs' way, scores would've been different.

"We played good, we didn't deserve to go 0-3," Siegler said. "But at the end of the day, that's how it went and we're all going to move on from it."

After dropping all three games to Pitt State, Siegler said the skid has forced the team to remain positive and put focus toward forgetting past results and look forward to future opponents.

"Everybody knows what needs to get done," Siegler said. "Teammates have to pick each other up. We can't let guys thinking they let the team down, thinking we lost a game because of one individual play."

The Bulldogs now sit at 6-21 for the season with a 6-20 MIAA record, putting them at 13th in the conference with 21 games left to play in the regular season.

While the 'Dogs are past the halfway point of the season, the team's goal of reaching the conference tournament still is achievable, Davis said, provided the players can start stringing together wins, which they

have had problems doing all season.

"We have to find a way to win a series to have any chance of making the conference tournament," Davis said. "We still have that chance, but we're going to have to play good for the rest of the year."

The Bulldogs will have the chance to make a run this weekend, as they stay at home to face off against the surging Emporia State University Hornets.

During the six years Davis has been at the helm of the Bulldogs, they have beat the Hornets once, with last season's extra-inning 5-4 victory against Emporia representing the lone win for the Bulldogs. Siegler said the team is expecting a tough matchup, though the talent-level in the lineup for the 'Dogs matches up with Emporia, who has won five of their last seven games.

"[Emporia State is] always a tough club," Siegler said. "I think everybody coming into this weekend needs to be locked in. We can definitely beat them, we can beat anybody if we play our game."

The first game of the double-header starts at 1 p.m. Saturday, and the final game of the series will start at noon Sunday at the Bulldog Baseball Park.

**TRACK** | Weekend highlighted for track team by large number of personal records set by team

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moods, and even though the weather wasn't what you wanted, we still had everybody outside cheering," she said.

It was the first heptathlon for Nelson, who competed in the pentathlon during the indoor season. The largest adjustment she has to make, she said, is the heptathlon takes place during two days of competition, as opposed to the one day of the pentathlon, so she has to stay relaxed and focused both days.

Like the women, multiple men set personal records as well during the meet. Sophomore Zach Thomas took second in the 400-meter hurdles, and sophomore B.J. Smith set personal records for the 110-meter hurdles and 100-meter dash, placing fourth and seventh, respectively.

"From start to finish, it

seemed like everyone was getting a PR throughout the day," Schaefer said. "With everyone else setting PR's, it's kind of contagious. It makes you want to go out and do the same thing. If they're setting PR's, you know you can probably do the same thing."

Schwegler said it was inspiring to see so many Bulldogs set personal bests at the first meet of the year, but the athletes need to keep working to improve given the short duration of the outdoor season.

"When you come out and do a personal best and have a really good effort, it just gets your confidence going," he said. "Performing well is the best confidence builder you can have. ... We got the ball rolling, we've got to keep it snowballing and just keep getting bigger and bigger as we go through the season."



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Free tickets for this event may be picked up at the Student Union Building Information Desk or the Public Relations Office in McClain Hall 202. Tickets may also be picked up at Edna Campbells gift shop in downtown Kirksville. For more information on how to obtain tickets, email pr@truman.edu or call 660.785.4016.

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