



Calli Lowry/Index

Sophomore wrestler Alec Rentschler and junior punter Jacob Lamp pose by the sign outside of Kirksville High School. Rentschler and Lamp are two of the four Bulldog athletes who attended KHS and reside in Kirksville, Mo.

## Softball goes undefeated in Alabama

The Bulldogs 6-0 start to the season is the first since the 2001 softball season

BY HOLLY CANTALUPO  
Staff Reporter

The Truman State softball team opened their season with an undefeated weekend beating all six teams at the UAH Charger Chillout Tournament in Decatur, Ala.

The Bulldogs kicked off the tournament with a win against Wayne State (Mich.) on Friday. The game quickly progressed with two RBI's from senior Kristin Grossman's left center hit allowing runs from junior Kelsey Bollman and senior Laura Miller. Both teams didn't score again until the fifth inning when the 'Dogs furthered their lead to 5-0. WSU scored one run during the sixth inning, but were unable to catch up as Truman continued to score, ending the game at 7-1.

The second game proved challenging for the 'Dogs as they took on the Ohio Dominican Panthers. The Panthers took a three run lead during the third inning, but the 'Dogs quickly rebutted, scoring five at the bottom of the fourth, only to be overcome by ODU's additional three runs during the fifth. Freshman Whitney Richardson doubled during the seventh, allowing Bollman to score. With the score tied, the Bulldogs came through with one more run from sophomore Andrea Klipsch for their second win of the weekend.

The Bulldogs took on Quincy University Saturday morning. Junior pitcher Hannah Washburn helped the defense, allowing just four hits and one run during her six innings on the mound. The Bulldogs secured the win with three more runs during the fifth inning, leaving the score at 6-1. The Bulldogs triumphed against Maryville later that day 13-5 led by Klipsch with three hits and three RBI's.

The Truman softball team had a 4-0 record for the first time since 2004, but senior catcher Meredith Kusky said the Bulldogs went into the last two games like they were the first.

"I think it's important not to dwell on our record," Kusky said. "Yesterday's wins don't mean anything when there is a new game coming up."

Please see **SOFTBALL**, Page 17

## From Tigers to Bulldogs

Four hometown athletes are making their mark as Truman Bulldogs

BY SAM SHERMAN, Sports Editor

The Truman State athletic programs draw recruits from all across the Midwest. One look at any Bulldog roster will show players from Illinois, Texas, Iowa and other parts of Missouri now calling Kirksville home.

However, calling Kirksville home is nothing new to the four Bulldog athletes who once called themselves Kirksville High School Tigers.

Wrestlers junior Colton Schmitz and sophomore Alec Rentschler, junior softball player Danielle Lewellen and junior punter Jacob Lamp all walked the halls of Kirksville High School before deciding to become Truman athletes and stay in

their hometown.

Rentschler said he had no qualms about staying in Kirksville for college wrestling. Throughout his childhood, Rentschler's father coached the Kirksville youth wrestling program, a program he and Schmitz were a part of. He said being close to the community is a major advantage of staying in Kirksville.

"A lot of people give Kirksville a bad reputation," Rentschler said. "But I really like Kirksville, I like the town and I think it helps. Community support is a big thing for me, and I always have people still come up and talk to me. Being close to my family, being close to my dad and my mom, that's helpful."

Despite the familiarity with the town, Rentschler said the transition from high school wrestling to collegiate wrestling was a difficult one. While Kirksville High School has a direct connection to the happenings throughout the community, he said Truman is more of a separate entity, making the transition harder as a student and, subsequently, as a wrestler.

"When I came here to Truman, it's a lot different than Kirksville [High School]," Rentschler said. "A lot of people don't understand that Truman is its own little world compared to Kirksville. I had to adjust to that, and [Schmitz] kind of helped me do that."

Please see **HOMETOWN**, Page 17

## Baseball wins one of three game series

BY DAVID LEMON  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Truman State baseball team opened its season this weekend with a three-game series against the Washburn University Ichabods as the Bulldogs won one of three in Topeka, Kan.

Offense was the theme of the weekend, as the first game was won by Washburn 14-8, the second went to the 'Dogs winning 8-1 and the final game went to the Ichabods by a score of 16-11. The first game was played Saturday and there was a double-header Sunday, the first with seven innings and the second a full-length game.

With the two losses, Truman still had 27 runners cross the plate during the three-game series. During the last game, each squad had spurts of run production with Washburn going up 16-0 within the first three innings. The Bulldogs tried to make a game of it by scoring 11 runs of their own, but it wasn't enough for the win, with the Ichabods taking their second game of the weekend with a 16-11 final.

Although they lost two of the three games this weekend, this year's team is going to be competitive, head coach Dan Davis said.

"In the past, if we were in a situation where we [fell behind], we would just roll over and lose the game," Davis said. "This

weekend, we definitely showed that we're going to fight to the end and we're not going to give up. ... Our pitching staff will get better over the course of the year and if our offense continues to produce the way they are, it's going to be a fun year."

Davis said there still are a couple positions available, but with the depth of this year's players, he has a couple of options with each position.

In the 'Dogs' only win, the pitcher who shut down the Ichabods this weekend was senior captain Logan Siegler. During Sunday's first games against Washburn, Siegler pitched six of the seven innings only giving up one run on three hits and striking out five. The Bulldogs provided eight runs of support for Siegler, which excited him the most about this season, he said.

"That is the thing I am the craziest about right now, just because getting run support always makes it a lot easier on the pitchers," Siegler said. "It's not like the majors where you have to throw a zero or give up one run to win the game. [The batters] are giving us a chance to make some mistakes and still win the game."

Along with the run support the pitchers received this weekend, they also saw four Ichabod batters hit by a pitch. Washburn pegged 11 Truman batters of their own throughout the course of the

Please see **BASEBALL**, Page 17

## Women snap two-game losing streak against 'Cats

BY TYLER POE  
Staff Reporter

The Truman State women's basketball team defeated Southwest Baptist University 78-69 Thursday evening during the team's annual Think Pink Night in Pershing Arena.

The win marked the Bulldog's 14th straight home win as junior forward Nicole Gloor hit her first seven shots from the field to lead the Bulldogs past the MIAA rival Bearcats.

Head coach Michael Smith said the win was important not only because it snapped a two-game losing streak for the Bulldogs, but because it helped honor the men and women who battle cancer every day. Smith said the event helps educate others about the effects of cancer and shows his Bulldogs care about those struggling in the community.

Smith said the Bearcats came out on fire in the first half and set the tone for the game while his defense struggled. However, Smith said after a few timeouts the team found their offensive spark.

"We weren't playing team defense and didn't get after it and it affected us on offense," Smith said.

Please see **DOGS**, Page 17



Sarah-Wonder Agbehia/Index

Senior guard Becka McHenry squares up for a shot Thursday night in Pershing Arena. The Bulldogs beat Southwest Baptist 78-69.