

# SPORTS

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**Bulldogs clinch tournament berth**  
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## McCarroll qualifies for nationals

BY KIRK SCHLUETER  
Staff Reporter

Two Truman State Bulldogs finished their MIAA careers by defending their conference titles last weekend at the MIAA Indoor Track and Field Championships in Warrensburg, Mo., with senior thrower Rachel McCarroll earning a bid to the national championships.

McCarroll broke the school record for the weight throw for the third consecutive week and her

own record for the second, as well as setting a new MIAA conference meet record with a throw of 61-10.25. The throw, which currently places McCarroll seventh among Div. II weight throwers earned McCarroll first in the event, defending her weight throw title from last year.

Senior sprinter Ryan Peterson was the other Truman athlete taking home a title, defending his championship in the 600-yard run by .60 seconds.

The Truman women finished

with 29 points to place ninth, while the men finished with 16 points for a 10th place finish. Senior distance runner Karen Grauel placed second in the 5,000-meter run to earn all-conference honors for all four years of her collegiate career. Junior runner Matt Schaefer placed fourth in the 800 meter run.

With her record setting throw, McCarroll is headed to the National Indoor Championships in Birmingham, Ala., throwers coach Leslie Hardesty said.

"We talked Sunday after the throwing was over about what it would take to place at nationals," she said. "It's going to take a big throw. She said, 'I'm ready for it.'"

For McCarroll, making her first national meet is the product of long years of work and goals she set at the beginning of the season.

"It would be high school, college, years and years of working going into it and then just seeing it all pay off," McCarroll said. "And it'll be my last indoor meet probably ever. So there's nothing to lose.

Just go in and compete as hard as you can."

McCarroll said that during her third straight week of breaking the school record, the thrill still hasn't worn off. She had an added bonus this week of setting the MIAA indoor meet record as well.

"It felt good to leave a little mark in our conference as our school leaves one of the best conferences in the nation," she said.

Head coach Tim Schwegler said while he wasn't happy place-wise Please see **TRACK**, Page 15



## Women finish perfect at home

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As the Truman State women's basketball team honored head coach Michael Smith's first-ever recruiting class at Truman for senior night, the Bulldogs made school history with their 74-50 win against Lindenwood University.

With its 15th straight home win Thursday night, the Bulldogs became the first-ever women's team to have a perfect season at Pershing Arena. Smith said the big advantage Pershing has given them this season is fan support.

"The people in the crowd have started to see what these student athletes put into it," Smith said. "I think it's a combination of a lot of things. ... We prepare everyday at home in practice so we have a better feel for our home court. But obviously when you have games, it comes down to the difference in our fan support."

Coming into the game, all three seniors — guard Becka McHenry and forwards Megan Sharpe and Jennifer Conway — were in the starting lineup, and it wasn't until there were fewer than three minutes left during the second half that all three were taken out for the last time ever at Pershing Arena.

Smith said his graduating seniors have made a tremendous impact for the Bulldogs since they arrived at Truman, and he owes it to their leadership ability and faith in the program.

"I think it's great that we've got [the seniors] leading the way for us," Smith said. "We also have our juniors, sophomores and our freshmen that understand now what the bar is and the expectations are when you step on this campus and be part of this program."

The 'Dogs were paced offensively by sophomore guard Allie Norton, who finished with 15 points while McHenry led the team in re-

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## Spring Training is a fan's dream

BY DAVID LEMON  
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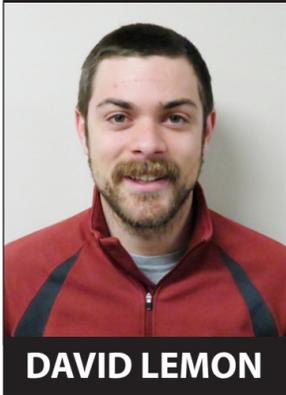
As I listen to Mike Shannon and John Rooney broadcast the St. Louis Cardinals spring training game on KMOX, a legitimate tear comes to my eye. Baseball is back.

It has been 93 days since the San Francisco Giants obliterated the Triple Crown winner Miguel Cabrera and the Detroit Tigers in four straight games, winning the World Series. Since that day, I have been in withdrawal of hearing the crack of a bat and the pop of a ball smacking a leather glove. Spring has almost arrived and professional ball clubs get the chance to take their top prospects to Florida or Arizona and train to receive a roster spot on the major league squad. This is the most beautiful thing about baseball.

The way baseball progresses throughout the year is astonishingly similar to the patterns of the seasons. Winter, spring, summer and fall make a person feel a specific way and baseball has that parallel. To quote one of my favorite baseball writings, "The Green Fields of the Mind" by A. Bartlett Giamatti, "The game begins in the spring, when everything else begins again, and it blossoms in the summer, filling the afternoons and evenings, and then as soon as the chill rains come, it stops and leaves you to face the fall alone."

Right now is when joy abounds in baseball. Young prospects come to a spring training facility with high hopes. They see baseball legends hanging around the fields and giving pointers to those who need it. 90-year-old Cardinals legend

### Commentary



DAVID LEMON

Red Schoendienst is attending his 68th spring training and he still hits ground balls to Cardinals infielders. You will never see a better start to a sport, or much else for that matter.

When practice begins that first day and pitchers and catchers report to their respective facilities, its instantly a competitive environment. Minor league players immediately are thrust into a world where if they don't impress the coaches enough, they don't get a roster spot in the big leagues. For a brief month, though, those minor leaguers get a chance to play alongside the best in the country. Every spring training game is practically a major league start for the young guys. It is a dream come true.

For a whole month, a little fewer than 60 people per squad get to play major league ball in sunny Arizona or Florida against other

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## 'Dogs send two to nationals

BY CORY WEEKES  
Staff Reporter

After a weekend of regional competition, Truman State wrestlers junior Ryan Maus and redshirt junior Colton Schmitz earned a trip to the NCAA Division II Wrestling Championships after each wrestler placed in the top four of their weight class.

For Schmitz, this weekend's fourth place finish marks his first invitation to the national tournament while Maus' second place performance earned the wrestler his third-straight trip to Birmingham, Ala. By earning three nationals trips in a row, Maus joins a small group of Truman wrestlers. Only seven other athletes have been able to earn three or more trips to the national tournament. After the first day of regional tournament wrestling in the 149-pound weight class, Maus had sealed his trip with a pair of opening victories and key losses from a few wrestlers in his class.

"Overall, I was pretty confident headed into the tournament," Maus said. "We had a tough couple of weeks leading up to the tournament and I think that ultimately helped sharpen us for when it really mattered."

Having entered the contest ranked third in his weight class, Maus established himself in the top four with back-to-back wins Saturday. Headed into Sunday, Maus said he had his sights set for the top overall seed. Despite earning the first takedown of the championship match Sunday, Maus fell in overtime to top-seeded junior Jordan Basks from host college Central Okla-



Adam Antor/Index  
Juniors Ryan Maus and Colton Schmitz grapple at practice earlier this season. Both qualified for the national tournament.

homa University.

"It was pretty close, but the guy is tough, and I guess in the end I'm not complaining with another nationals berth," Maus said.

Going into the regional tournament, head coach Dave Schutter said his whole team would need to wrestle to their peak ability, including Maus and Schmitz who served as the team's two front runners during the regular season.

"I think both guys could have wrestled a little better," Schutter said. "However, it's great to get those two to the national

tournament. They deserve it and it's always good to be able to take your two horses to the big tournament."

While Maus sealed his nationals trip after the first day of wrestling, the road to Birmingham was a lengthier one for Schmitz.

After winning his opening match in the 157-pound weight class Saturday, Schmitz dropped his second round bout by a 6-5 decision. From there, he said he knew he was going to have to win the rest of his matches if he wanted to

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