

The Index would like to congratulate the Bulldogs who represented Truman State at national championships!

'Dogs show bite in Birmingham

Simek ends career

BY HOLLY CANTALUPO
Staff Reporter

While most athletes focus on making it to nationals at least once in their collegiate career, senior Jerod Simek recently took his fourth consecutive turn at the NCAA Div. II Swimming and Diving National Championship. He headed to Birmingham, Ala., to compete against swimmers from all across the country and represent the Bulldogs in three freestyle events to close his collegiate career.

Simek said he felt no nerves for his final competition but rather gratitude. Just being able to compete against swimmers from all across the nation combined with his accomplishments during his four years was successful in itself, both head coach Ed Pretre and Simek said.

Due to various injuries occurring before the meet, Pretre said it was unclear if Simek would be able to swim at Nationals.

For weeks before the competition, Simek had been training the best he ever had, Pretre said. Although he had learned the ropes of nationals throughout the three years prior for this year's championship, Simek said he spent a great deal of time preparing, focusing on the finer details.

"I tried to focus on a few of the smaller things; turns, speed into turns and getting off the wall," Simek said. He kicked off the competition Wednesday night with an appearance in the 1000-meter freestyle. Simek earned 16th place with a time of 9:24.36. Mark Rubin, a senior from Incarnate Word in Texas,

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Sam Gorden/Index

Senior thrower Rachel McCarroll prepares to throw the discus at practice Monday, March 18. McCarroll finished sixth in the weight throw at the Div. II National Indoor Track Championships.

McCarroll finishes sixth

BY KIRK SCHLUETER
Staff Reporter

While many Truman State students were preparing for Mid-term Break March 7, senior weight thrower Rachel McCarroll was competing for a national championship in Birmingham, Ala.

Far from the Kirksville snow, McCarroll placed sixth at the Div. II Indoor Track and Field Championships with a throw of 18.23 meters on her second throw of the day, earning All-American honors at her first national championship. The toss was the second-longest of McCarroll's career.

McCarroll, who has the Truman record for the weight throw, entered the national championship ranked seventh. Between finishing above her seed and a top three career throw, McCarroll said she was

pleased with the outcome. "My goal was to throw as far as I've ever thrown, to [set a personal record]," McCarroll said. "That didn't end up happening, but I'm still satisfied with my performance. I finished higher than I was ranked, so that was definitely a goal of mine, to go into it with confidence and come out better than I was seeded."

Throwing coach Leslie Hardesty said while she and McCarroll did not talk much strategy leading up to the meet, they did focus on what they felt was one key element. McCarroll was in the first of two preliminary flights, each of which had nine

throwers, and only nine women total from both flights advanced to the finals. They decided McCarroll needed to try and win her flight, Hardesty said.



McCarroll

"So we knew going in she needed to have one of her biggest — if not her best — throws of the competition in those first three throws," Hardesty said. "She had a good one and was second after the first heat. And then we had to wait!"

McCarroll said while waiting for the second heat to throw was nerve-racking, she took the opportunity to watch some of the best throwers across the country compete, enjoy

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Maus takes bronze

BY CORY WEEKES
Staff Reporter

During a historic weekend for Truman State wrestling, juniors Colton Schmitz and Ryan Maus wrestled to some top place finishes during the NCAA Div. II Wrestling Championships.

During his first trip to the national tournament, Schmitz came out on top against tough competition in his first of three matches. However, it was Maus' third place finish and first All-American award that gave the Truman wrestler a successful weekend.

During the opening day of competition, Maus, entering his third straight national tournament unranked, defeated the 2nd, 4th, and 7th seeded wrestlers. Of his first three wins, one was against the University of Central Oklahoma's Jordan Basks who previously had defeated Maus 3-1, 4-2 and 6-4 during the 2013 season.

"It really hasn't sunk in yet," Maus said. "I think that overall, I was just a lot more comfortable and relaxed when I was wrestling out there. I feel really good about how I wrestled."

Prior to leaving for the national tournament, Maus said it was his goal to finish among the top eight because these wrestlers are chosen to be All-American. He finished 3rd with a 5-1 overall record at the national tournament, his only loss coming to Raufeon Stots of the University of Nebraska-Kearney who went on to win the tournament. Maus rebounded from the loss to defeat high school teammate Jonathan Rivera during the match that ensured his top eight finish.

"It feels great to finally get

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Women aim for fences

BY TYLER POE
Staff Reporter

The Truman State women's softball team got off to an early start with their spring cleaning last week as the Bulldogs swept a two-game series against Upper Iowa State University to improve to 12-4 this season led by head coach Erin Brown.

During the first game of the doubleheader, the Bulldogs started strong behind pitching ace Junior Hannah Washburn. During the bottom of the first, Truman jumped to a 3-0 lead as senior Kristin Grossman homered to right center after singles by junior Kelsey Bollman and sophomore Liz Leath put runners in scoring position. Grossman leads all Bulldogs this season with 21 hits in 54 at bats with 24 RBI's, more than any two players have combined to bring in.

"[Grossman] took the first pitch she saw and it went over the first base dugout on the baseball field and landed near home plate," head coach Erin Brown said. "I don't think I have ever seen a longer home run in all my years of coaching."

After a scoreless second frame from Washburn, Truman went off again during the second, scoring four more runs to give the Bulldogs a 7-0 lead they wouldn't relinquish. Senior Laura Miller hit her first career grand slam and the Bulldogs



Calli Lowry/Index

Junior outfielder Kelsey Bollman practices batting in the Pershing during practice Monday, March 18. The Bulldogs are 13-5 on the season and 6-2 in their last eight games.

went on to defeat the Peacocks 13-5.

Grossman said it was one of the best games of her career, as she finished with four RBI's with two hits during four at-bats including a double and a

homerun while Miller contributed four RBI's for Truman.

On the mound, Washburn notched her sixth complete game of the season as she improved to

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'Dogs split games

BY DAVID LEMON
Assistant Sports Editor

After the Truman State baseball team opened the season with a 2-11 record, the Bulldogs went 3-3 during the most recent road trip and still haven't played a game in Kirksville after 19 total games.

The Bulldogs played games against the Div. I University of Missouri-Columbia Tigers, the Lincoln University Blue Tigers and the Missouri Southern State University Lions. Truman played all six games on the road as the men have yet to play a home game this season because of the two large snowstorms that hit Kirksville more than two weeks ago. However, the Bulldogs will play their first home game of the season today, facing Lindenwood University at Bulldogs Baseball Park at 1 p.m. followed by a second game at 3 p.m.

Truman opened the break losing a one game series to the Mizzou Tigers 14-4. The men then traveled to face Lincoln and the 'Dogs swept the Blue Tigers, toppling them 17-10 during the first game and 8-1 during the second. Truman then headed to Joplin, Mo. to finish the road trip by facing the Missouri Southern Lions. The Bulldogs won the first game 3-2 and lost the remaining two games 2-5 and 8-15.

Head coach Dan Davis said during the past six games, the pitching staff has improved compared to their performances against the University of Central Missouri where the 'Dogs gave up 17 and 24 runs during each respective game.

"[The pitching staff] has quit hitting guys with pitches and we've just quit walking guys," Davis said. "Against Mizzou we gave up six hit-by-pitches and six walks, which is 12 free passes. If you can win the freebie game — which is more walks and hit-by-pitches on offense than you give up on defense — then you're probably going to win the game."

Of the 12 walks given up by the Bulldogs against Mizzou, seven of the batters scored. During Truman's next three games — against Lincoln and Missouri Southern — the team only gave up nine free passes. The 'Dogs won all three of those games.

To start second game against Lincoln, junior pitcher Tim Lee took the mound, and he wouldn't leave until the end of the eighth inning, only letting up one run to the Blue Tigers and solidifying his first win of the season. Lee gave up three free passes through his eight innings of work, and gave up six hits to the 32 batters he faced.

Lee said his arm feels great

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