

MAUS | The junior wins his first All-American honor

Continued from Page 13
the All-American placing," Maus said. "Colton was really close too and having him there with me really gave me a boost. It made me feel like I wasn't alone out there."

Schmitz started his first national tournament with a decisive 5-2 win against 5th ranked Daniel Kelly from Adams State University. Schmitz said a win at the national level was important for him moving forward.

However, after losing his second match of the tournament, Schmitz lost by a 5-4 margin during his third and final bout. Had Schmitz earned a victory during his final match, he would have earned a spot in the top eight and qualified for All-American status. While Schmitz acknowledged he could have wrestled a bit better, he said his focus already is about next year.

With senior Alex Maus representing the team's only lost starter, the outlook for Truman State wrestling has many returning talents. Alex, who finished his career at Truman with an 80-67 overall record, made the trip to Birmingham to watch his brother and teammate compete.

"The atmosphere was really great," Alex said. "Overall, I think Ryan took some big steps out there this time. He could easily be ranked number one in the nation next year after that."

Schmitz and the Maus brothers said they think the team is moving in the right direction and the ultimate goal is to get more Truman wrestlers into the final tournament of the year.

"We have some good young talent to fill in for the loss of [Alex]," Schmitz said. "We want to see more of our guys getting to the national level and hopefully even to All-American."

BASEBALL | The Bulldogs completed a six-game Midterm Break with an even 3-3 record



Freshman second baseman Tyler Hill throws to complete a double play at practice Tuesday. After the weekend, the Bulldogs are 5-14 for the season.

Continued from Page 13
after he struggled earlier during the season and his mechanics are finally improving.

"It felt good to finally contribute to the team and do what I know I'm capable of," Lee said. "I couldn't have had that happen, though, without the guys behind me on the field and the bats coming alive."

One of those bats that has been alive the entire season belongs to sophomore first baseman Paul Trenhaile, who currently is hitting .415 for the season. During the six game stretch during break, he batted in nine runners and extended his hitting streak to 11 games.

Throughout the 19 games thus far, Trenhaile has five doubles, a triple, three home runs, a slugging percentage of .662 and an on-base percentage of .506.

On the field, he has a fielding percentage of .974, leading all of the Bulldogs infielders. Trenhaile said a lot of his hitting success is due to the new mechanics student assistant coach Weston Lewis is teaching.

"I'm sticking to the approach of seeing certain pitches in certain situations and just hitting the ball hard," Trenhaile said. "The consistency has really helped my confidence. Even if I do have a down day, I know that I can pick it right up the next game."

Trenhaile said he looks to extend his hitting streak today as the Bulldogs host their first home game of the season.

Today, the Bulldogs play their first game at Bulldog Baseball Park against MIAA foe Lindenwood. The doubleheader begins at 1 p.m. with another game following at three.

SOFTBALL | The Bulldog bats come alive as the softball team expands their season record to 13-5 going 6-2 in their last eight games

Continued from Page 13
7-1 on the season with a team-high 60 strikeouts and a 2.22 ERA.

During the second game of the doubleheader, Upper Iowa went up 3-1 during the top of the third inning as the Peacocks got to freshman pitcher Kindra Henze. During the bottom of the third however, the Bulldogs continued their power hitting ways as Grossman and sophomore infielder Andrea Klipsch both homered to give the 'Dogs a 7-3 lead. The Peacocks tied the game 7-7 with an inning and a half left. After a scoreless bottom of the fifth, Klipsch produced the first multi-homerun game of her career during the bottom of the sixth, driving a shot deep to right center to give the Bulldogs the final lead of the game at 8-7. Brown said the hit was important not only because it was the go-ahead run, but because Klipsch had made a mistake defensively early in the game.

"That was a great moment on a low pitch and she kept her

head down and swung right through it," Brown said. "She had a couple mishaps in the field during the game so it was a great moment to pick herself and her team up in a clutch situation."

Brown said the way the Bulldogs won both games was significant because the team came into the meeting with the focus of hitting and driving in as many runs as possible.

"When we hit, we focus on trying to score every inning and to do that you have to come out swinging," Brown said. "Hitting is contagious and once one person gets a hit, our entire team has more confidence and it makes the afternoon easier on our pitching staff."

Brown said the team is continuing to improve the little things, but is focused on two distinct areas. She said the pitching staff is working to adjust to the strike zones of different umpires while the team as a whole is working on putting teams away defensively.

Senior catcher Meredith

Kusky said the team's defense has to improve before the Bulldogs get into the bulk of the MIAA schedule. She said the team has struggled when umpires employ tighter strike zones and it makes calling pitches difficult during crucial situations. Kusky said another area for growth is being able to put teams away after scoring on them.

The Bulldogs played Tuesday and split the doubleheader series with the University of Missouri-St. Louis Tritons, winning 5-0 during the first game before falling 8-4 to bring their overall record to 13-5 for the season.

During the win, the 'Dogs were led offensively by Kusky and sophomore designated hitter Liz Leath. Leath hit a two-run homer and finished 1-4, while Kusky hit 1-3 with two doubles and one RBI.

The Bulldogs' next matchup is today as they face the Lindenwood Lions in a conference matchup. The first of the two-game series starts at 1 p.m. at the Truman Softball field.



Senior outfielder Laura Miller prepares to hit a ball at practice Monday. Miller had four RBIs as the Bulldogs generated 21 runs during the two game series against the Upper Iowa Peacocks.

SIMEK | Swimmer receives All-American honors all four years

Continued from Page 13
proved to be tough competition, earning the national title with a time of 9:02.85

"I started out on a faster pace than anticipated," Simek said.

Although he knew the ropes and the mentality of the competition, the first race is always the hardest, he said.

At about 600 to 700 meters he said he felt the consequences of the hurried start but was able to pace himself better in his following two races because of this. Simek was able to bounce back after the first race and score better times in the rest of his events, Pretre said.

"I held myself back a little bit," Simek said. "I had more energy and paced it better, especially in the mile."

His second event the 500-freestyle took place Friday. Simek fought in the preliminary round for 17th place, but

was unable to make the cut for a spot in the finals. With a time of 4:33.84, Simek was two seconds away from a finals spot.

Saturday, on the final day of competition, Simek swam the 1650 meter freestyle and placed 14th. With a time of 15:46.53 he was able to beat out Cory McVey, a familiar competitor from Drury University. Alex Menke from Queens University in North Carolina took home the national title with a time of 15:11.50.

The national meet marks the last competition of one of the most decorated male swimmers in Truman State history — one that spans four national meet appearances, seven All-American honors and numerous first place finishes. Simek said of all his experiences with Truman swimming, he'll miss the team dynamic the most, though with four years of collegiate swimming under his belt, he said he's going to take a break from swimming for awhile.

MCCARROLL | Thrower receives first All-American honors

Continued from Page 13
her last indoor meet and focus on staying relaxed. The event was an odd experience, she said, because for the first time during her career there wasn't another event happening at the same time as the weight throw.

McCarroll was fourth going into the finals. From there, she said, she just let everything go. "[I knew] these were my last two throws and the end of my indoor season, so I just went out there and tried to do my best and see where it landed," McCarroll said. "I'm very happy. I was ranked seventh and got sixth, so I can't ask for more than that."

Hardesty said she was impressed with how McCarroll handled the pressure throughout the competition at her first national championship meet.

"She was a little jittery during the day leading up, but once warm-ups started in the meet, she fell into that normal competition mode," Hardesty said. "You couldn't see any anxiety

on her face at all. It just looked like she was at any other meet and ready to go. ... You can't fault her for anything. She did her best and came home an All-American."

McCarroll, who became the 40th individual Truman women's track athlete to earn All-American status, said the award came as validation of years of work put in throughout her Bulldog career.

"It definitely means a lot," she said. "All the athletes here at Truman work hard, and to see my hard work pay off from these last four years is really gratifying."

McCarroll's focus now shifts to the outdoor track season, beginning March 29. For McCarroll, it will be her final competitive season as a Bulldog, and she said she hopes to end on a high note and keep improving her throws. The end goal of that process, she said, would be a return to nationals, with the outdoor national championship meet scheduled for May 23 to 25 in Pueblo, Colo.

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