

SPORTS

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Golf fights weather

The golf season has been delayed by snow as they approach MIAA tournament

BY TYLER POE
Staff Reporter

Heading into April, women's golf coach Sam Lesseig and his team still are waiting for a chance to get onto the greens as inclement weather has postponed the start of the program's spring season.

The Bulldogs were set to open their season last week at the Missouri Western Spring Invitational in St. Joseph, Mo., but due to forecasts of minor hail and snow, the tournament was postponed one week. Lesseig said strange weather during March is typical in Missouri, but said he still is frustrated with his team's inability to practice full rounds of golf during the offseason.

"We literally can't work on anything," Lesseig said. "We really need to get out and just play, but we are unable to do that right now with this weather and that is frustrating."

Senior Jessica Tomash said while the team hasn't been able to play a full 18-hole round of golf this season, it has been able to hit at the driving range, putt on some practice greens near the clubhouse and play three to five hole loops to try and simulate a full 18 holes. Tomash said the biggest concern the team currently is working on making adjustments to different club choices.

She said the weather affects the golfer's sense of range regarding yardage because the cold weather dampens the flight of the ball and makes reads difficult during a round. In addition, Tomash said she and a majority of her teammates are trying to break in new clubs for the spring, but with the little time the team has to practice, she said nobody feels confident about their clubs or fully prepared for tournament play. However, Tomash said other teams are dealing with similar issues.

"I don't think any team is really ready to compete at this point," Tomash said. "A lot of teams are going through similar situations, so if we can go out and play steady golf for two rounds we should be able to achieve success this weekend. It's just going to be hard on us because we haven't even played a full round of golf yet, let alone two."

Tomash said her teammates are trying to find ways to improve during the offseason despite the weather conditions. She said she has gone out during 30 degree weather to practice with her new putter and said some players have even used their break time away from Kirksville to prepare during better weather. Freshman Kim Barmettler said she used her break period to travel to California where she was able to practice a few rounds of golf.

"I went to California on spring break and I used that time to focus on my game and work on my short game and hitting greens," Barmettler said. "I think all of us are dealing with this weather the best way that we can and just trying to block it out of our minds when playing. Sometimes it's just hard to forget it when you are playing and can't feel your fingers."

Barmettler said as a whole the elements actually factor more into the mental game.
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'Dogs on top of MIAA

Truman is the lone MIAA school named in academic report

BY KIRK SCHLUETER
Staff Reporter

Truman State has earned the Div. II Presidents' Award for Academic Excellence after compiling an Academic Success Rate of 92 percent for athletes enrolled at Truman

from 2002 to 2005, meaning 92 percent of Truman student athletes from that four year period graduated.

The Presidents' Award is given to schools with an ASR greater than 90 percent. Truman was one of 26 Div. II schools across the nation to receive the award and the only MIAA school to be recognized. Four schools from the Great Lakes Valley Conference, the conference Truman

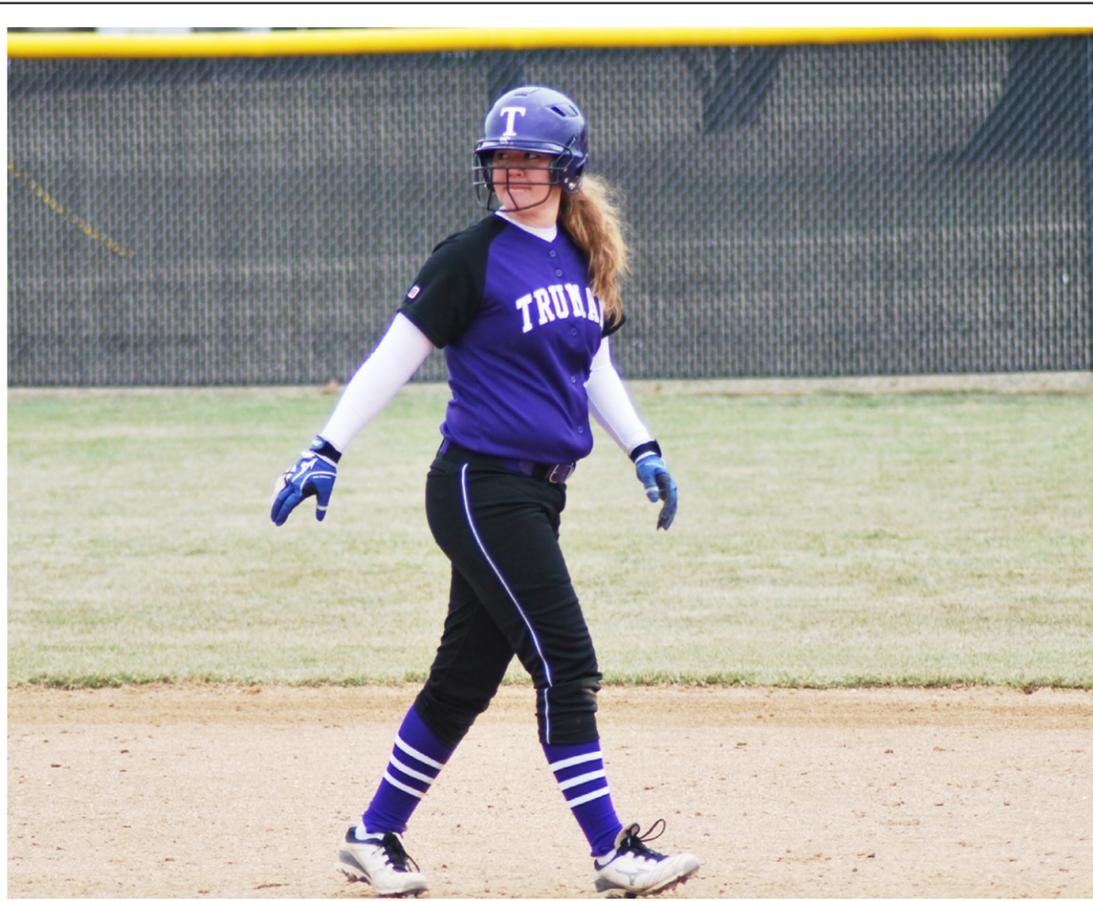
will begin competing in next year, also received the award. Truman also has won the MIAA's award for having the highest ASR in the conference every year the award has been given.

Athletic Director Jerry Wollmering said earning the Presidents' Award shows the commitment of Truman athletics to the University's principles.

"I think [graduating students] is at the core of what

we do," Wollmering said. "Obviously we participate and work in athletics, but our number one goal is to educate kids. It's exciting to see we practice what we preach and I think it's just a reflection of the values of Truman State University."

The Div. II ASR differs from the federal graduation rate used in Div. I, Wollmering said, because it tracks every student.
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Sophomore second baseman Andrea Klipsch walks back to second base during the Bulldogs' game Saturday against the Pittsburg State Gorillas. Klipsch has batted .400 this season and currently has 10 extra-base hits for the Bulldogs.

Klipsch sees improvement

Sophomore second baseman Andrea Klipsch leads offensive attack for 'Dogs

BY CORY WEEKES
Staff Reporter

Thus far into the 2013 season, the Truman State softball team is playing as one of the top teams in the MIAA. Currently sitting at 3rd place in the conference with a 16-6 overall record, the team owes much of its success to sophomore second baseman Andrea Klipsch.

Since earning the starting spot at second base halfway through her freshman season, Klipsch said she has seen a sharp rise in her confidence and, consequently, her numbers. After finishing last season with a 23-28 overall record, Truman softball seemingly has found a rhythm behind strong play across the roster, with the second base position being one of the strongest.

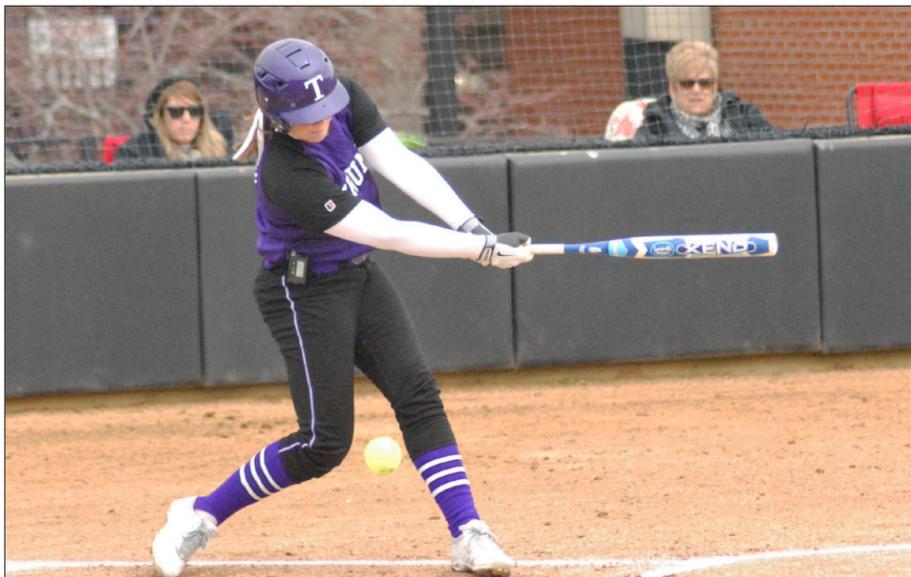
After starting in all but one game this season at second base and hitting in the number two spot, Klipsch is batting .400 with 10 extra-base hits, including three home runs, through

60 at-bats. Compare those numbers to her six strikeouts coupled with a .925 fielding percentage. Klipsch is proving herself to be one of the anchors on a team sitting close to the top of the MIAA.

"We are a very strong team this year," senior first baseman Kristin Grossman said. "Andrea has really been standing out though. She is a natural kind of leader and it's been really good to watch her develop this year."

With six of nine starters batting .300 or better, Klipsch said she thinks the team's strong play can be attributed.
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Bulldogs finish 3-1 at home in conference play



Senior catcher Meredith Kusky connects on a foul ball during the Bulldogs' game Saturday against Pittsburg State. The Bulldogs split games with the Gorillas and improved to 16-6 for the season.

BY HOLLY CANTALUPO
Staff Reporter

It was a weekend full of games for the Truman State softball team, who braved the cold for two double headers this weekend.

The Bulldogs kicked the weekend off with a win against Missouri Southern Friday afternoon. Although the Lions took an early 1-0 lead, the Dogs were able to take advantage of a Lion error during their turn of the third inning and score four runs, with sophomore third baseman Cate Simon hitting in two RBIs. Missouri Southern scored the next two runs during the fifth inning, but was unable to outlast the Dogs, who scored a total of five runs during the fifth and sixth innings. A final score of 9-3 gave the Bulldogs their first win of the weekend.

"It was just a team effort," Simon said. "Everybody up and down the lineup hit, our de-

fense was solid and our pitching was fantastic."

The second game of the series proved to be closer for the 'Dogs. They scored their first three runs of the game during the third inning, to take a 3-1 lead behind home runs by sophomore infielders Andrea Klipsch and Liz Leath. The Lions scored during the fourth and seventh innings to tie the game, but Klipsch came through with a RBI to left field to score junior shortstop Corey Niblet, giving the Bulldogs a 4-3 win for their second victory of the day.

"We got bases when we needed them," head coach Erin Brown said. "I also felt like we hit well and scored our runners and our pitchers had really good performances."

The Bulldogs continued play Saturday, splitting two games against Pittsburg State.

The first game started quickly for the Dogs, thanks to a first
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