

Wrestling for success

Senior Alex Maus balances his performance on the mat with leadership off the mat

BY CORY WEEKES, Staff Reporter

After a positive start to its season at the Loras College Open, the Truman State wrestling team has continued its winning streak with victories at the Knox Open and Hannibal-LaGrange University dual with strong outings from senior Alex Maus, who won the first MIAA wrestler of the week award since wrestling was re-instated as a MIAA recognized sport.

During his fifth year at Truman, Maus has a 5-2 record this season, boosting his overall career record to 70-61. Throughout previous seasons, Maus has earned Academic All-American honors as a member of the team but has not earned All-American as a wrestler yet, a fact that head coach David Schutter expects to change this year.

"He has been such a solid worker since he got here," Schutter said. "After all the work he has put in, and in the form he is in now, I expect Maus to break through this year and earn All-American."

During the Knox Open, Maus, along with four other Bulldogs, earned first placed in his weight class. Maus began the day with two pinfall victories in less than one minute of action. He then won his third match by a 3-1 decision, which put him into the title round at the 141-pound weight class against Mason Bohm of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, which he won by way of pin, 4:40 into the match.

Following the Knox Open, Maus helped the 'Dogs notch their first dual win of the season with a victory Tuesday night against Hannibal-LaGrange University, where seven Bulldogs recorded wins. Schutter said while his team expected challenges going into the Hannibal dual, they made the most of their opportunities and outwrestled their opponents.

"On paper, it looked like Hannibal had the advantage," Schutter said. "They had some guys who had beaten us earlier this year who we were able to get key wins against."

Maus, who has been a staple for Truman's roster since he first arrived at the University, said this year feels different. He said while he felt he always was taking steps toward becoming better as a wrestler, the attitude of this year's team has been more positive than during previous seasons.

"I think this team has been really good so far," Maus said. "Our recruiting class was exceptional this year,



Senior Alex Maus practices with sophomore Nick Shea yesterday. Maus is 5-2 this season and won his 141-pound weight class at the Knox Open Nov. 10.

and we are really close. Closer than just about any team we have had since I have been at Truman."

Schutter said he thinks Maus has benefited from an improved wrestling team as he has been facing much stiffer competition during practice. He said that the younger talent Maus faces in practice pushes him hard, and forces him to get stronger.

Maus said while he continues to make improvements in practice, he feels his strongest point is wrestling from the top, a position where

he feels he is able to earn the most points.

Junior Colton Schmitz, who is starting the season with an 8-2 record, said while Maus' success on the mat has helped the team, Maus' leadership off the mat has been most important.

"Alex is a good leader first and foremost," Schmitz said. "He works hard everyday, always encourages us to push ourselves and he definitely leads by example."


Maus' leadership will be important this week, as the team will kick

off its home-dual season against a Missouri Valley team. While he acknowledged his team faces a tough matchup, Maus said he thinks Truman will win because of the little things that the team has been doing right.

"We always just focus on the basics," Maus said. "We need to keep doing the little things like extra workouts to keep getting stronger throughout the year."

Truman will face Missouri Valley College at 7:30 p.m. today in Pershing Arena.

Top Bulldog



Matt Patterson
Men's basketball, senior guard

Patterson shot 100 percent from the field in the Bulldogs' 71-61 victory against Grand View University on Wednesday night in Pershing Arena. He finished with a career-high 11 points, shooting 3-3 from the three-point line throughout 11 total minutes of play.

Mark your calendar


<p>Volleyball 2:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 29 St. Paul, Minn.</p> <p>The Bulldogs begin national tournament play against No. 2 Southwest Minnesota State University.</p>	<p>Wrestling 9 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 1 Indianola, Iowa</p> <p>The wrestling team heads north to Iowa to compete in the Simpson College Invitational.</p>	<p>Wrestling 7 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 5 Oskaloosa, Iowa</p> <p>The 'Dogs hit the road again for a dual against the William Penn Statesmen as they look to build on their strong start.</p>
<p>Wrestling 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 29 Pershing Arena</p> <p>The 'Dogs compete in their first home dual of the season as they take on Missouri Valley College.</p>	<p>Women's Basketball 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 5 St. Joseph, Mo.</p> <p>The women compete against Missouri Western State University on the road in the conference opener.</p>	<p>Men's Basketball 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 5 St. Joseph, Mo.</p> <p>The Bulldogs take on the Missouri Western Griffons on the road in an MIAA matchup.</p>

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