

Women's golf heads into back 9

BY JACOB MCGILLICUDY
Staff Reporter

Despite a rocky fall season and the mourning of their coach, Truman State's women's golf team is looking to improve this year and work with their new coach.

The team dealt with the passing of the golf coach of 28 years, Sam Lesseig, during the fall. This might have led to the up and down fall season. But the team has a new coach Clint Fitzpatrick to guide them.

Lesseig led the bulldogs to 11 postseasons and coached two All-Americans and 14 academic All-Americans. During 2006, the golf team won 2nd place playoff finish at regionals. That same year, Lesseig guided the team to an 8th place finish in Houston, Texas at the national meet.

Lesseig filled in as Truman interim athletic director from 1988 to 1989. He served on the NCAA Women's Golf Committee for nine years. The loss was upsetting not just for the golf team but for the University as a whole.

Junior Courtney Cisler said the first fall season without their usual skipper at the helm was challenging, but it brought the team closer together.

Despite the loss, the team hired a new coach, Fitzpatrick. Junior Riley Keltner said the team is looking forward to working with Fitzpatrick.

"We are so lucky and so happy to have the athletic department hiring him," Keltner said.

Fitzpatrick is a local golf pro at the Kirksville Country Club, and has been active at the club for six years. Fitzpatrick said he was honored when asked to be the new coach. Fitzpatrick said he and Lesseig had known each other and Lesseig was a great friend and a mentor.

Fitzpatrick has been with the team for the spring semester and said he is looking forward to the future of this program. With no seniors on the team, Fitzpatrick said the team has a lot of potential.

"We absolutely love him, and could not have asked for a better coach," Cisler said.

The team had the opportunity to meet Fitzpatrick through the Kirksville Country Club before he became their coach.

With the weather getting warmer and more consistent, the team has been able to get out and have quality practices. Cisler said the team is looking forward to playing in the nice weather.

The team participated in its second event of the new spring season, finishing 7th at the Maryville Spring Event. The Bulldogs shot 351 as a team, led by Cisler who shot 86. The team had their best team outing with all five players shooting in the 80s.

The team looked forward to improving their scores even more during day two Cisler said. However, the second day was rained out and cut the event to only 18 holes, and didn't allow a push up the leaderboard.

The team's next competition will be this weekend at the Mount Mercy Spring Invitational at Hunter's Ridge Golf Course.

**Bulldogs shoot a team
351 on Sunday**

**Courtney Cisler
shot 86 for 24th place**

**Riley Keltner
shot an 87**

TOP 'DOGS



Zak Larkin
Baseball, junior

Larkin scored four of the eight runs during the game versus non-conference opponent Lincoln University. Larkin added two more stolen bases to his record which brings him within six of Truman record's of 51.



Danielle Lewellen
Softball, senior

Lewellen had three hits and three stolen bases during the 'Dogs first game versus William Jewell College. During the second game Lewellen hit a double.

20 years ago

Bulls rugby gets national bid

The Bulls rugby club beat Kansas University 10-8, coming back after losing 5-8 at halftime and earned a spot in the Western Territorial Championship in Houston, Texas, April 23-24, 1994. After beating Kansas University, the Bulls went on to win the Heart of America Rugby Union and became the first team from Missouri to win the tournament since 1980.

27 years ago

Two athletes named MIAA players of the week

Senior Tami Billerbeck was named MIAA softball pitcher of the week of April 7, 1987. Billerbeck led the 'Dogs to four victories, in which she threw three shut-outs. Senior Sharon Thiel was named co-runner of the week and led the 'Dogs at their meet at the University of Iowa. Thiel set a Truman record in the 400-meter dash with a time of 57.33 seconds.

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For Rent

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