

TSUnami ranked No. 1 and 16

BY ANGIE DANIELSEN
Staff Reporter

Between two divisions, Truman State's Women's Ultimate Frisbee team, TSUnami, is ranked No. 16 and No. 1 in the nation. For Div. I, TSUnami is ranked 16th out of 154 teams and in Div. III, the team is ranked No. 1 out of 33 teams.

During years past, the team played Div. III and will continue their journey there for the rest of the season. Since the team placed 7th at Nationals the past two years, they have hopes their luck will continue until the end.

Senior Jen May said the team currently is more concerned with their ranking in Div. III, but being 16th in the country for Div. I is exciting. May said the team's goal is to be the best in their region, South Central, which will put them through to Nationals. Because there are four teams in the region that are in the top 10 in the division, May said each game matters even more to determine who will make it.

During their stride toward the top, the team has made changes throughout the past season to ensure their goals. The returning girls taught the rookies techniques faster and with more efficiency. Because practice is where all good performances start, the team has been determined to stay more focused, on and off the field.

Sophomore Carli Jackson said the team was tired of placing 7th at Nationals the last two years and decided it was time to be a more solid team.

"We need to be the strongest team and that is exactly what we are doing," Jackson said. "We want to stay on top and show everyone this isn't a hoax."

The team has an 8-0 undefeated record. Jackson said the team has benefited by being able to call the shots and attributes their record to this. Although the team has a coach, the captains take control of practices and workout routines. She said the girls have earned this record because they respect each other.

For the rest of the season, junior Lauren Kells said the team will focus on improving their athleticism. Kells said they have added more conditioning activities to practices, as well as perfected their zone defenses. She said TSUnami has been working to place the correct people in the proper spots — figuring out what works for some and not for others.

TSUnami will play at two more tournaments before Nationals. The first tournament is the Chicago Invite, which May said will give the girls an opportunity to see teams they might face at Nationals. From Nationals, the team's goal is to break quarterfinals, something they previously have not been able to do.

The team has found their way to the top of the South Central region, something the team is proud to hold on to.

"We work together not as seven individual players on the field, but as a team of everyone on the sidelines and the field, supporting those seven and being an unstoppable force," May said.

May said she attributes their success to their efforts as a team. She said their undefeated record, if it continues, will qualify them for Nationals.



Submitted Photo
Senior Priya Maillacheruvu prepares to catch a pass during a game. TSUnami's next tournament is the Chicago Invite March 28 in Chicago.

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