

'Dogs put up a good fight

BY ANGIE DANIELSEN
Staff Reporter

Being the only sport not to switch to the Great Lakes Valley Conference, Truman State's wrestling team traveled to their NCAA Super Regional Tournament, Feb. 28 and March 1. The team only could hope to maintain their rankings against their new competitors.

The tournament consisted of 17 teams and lasted two days. Every team in the conference made it to this tournament, but the top wrestlers after two days will move to Nationals.

Sophomore J.J. Dorrell said the team has worked hard throughout the season to prepare for this tournament. Dorrell said the team started 6-0, although they had a difficult time during January. He said he thinks the team has pulled through to put forth their efforts into this tournament.

Dorrell said the team has focused on strength and conditioning to help them learn better techniques, and this helped them achieve their good record and hopefully will help them even further during the Super Regionals.

This tournament is the deciding factor for whether teams and individuals can advance to Nationals or not. Although the team went to the tournament looking and feeling strong, the Super Regionals was filled with even tougher teams.

Senior Colton Schmitz said this tournament was the toughest tournament he has performed during his wrestling career. Schmitz said this qualifying tournament took the team by surprise with how well the other teams performed.

"Some of the top teams weren't even able to send their wrestlers on to Nationals," Schmitz said. "Our region was really stacked up with good teams compared to previous years."

Leaving the tournament with a record of 2-2, Schmitz said he knew he and other members of the team could have defeated some of the wrestlers who would have moved to Nationals if circumstances had been different.

Freshman Rafael Lopez said he was excited to go to the Super Regionals. Lopez said the team has worked hard, and this tournament was their time to show their potential.

For Lopez, wrestling has a strong mental component. He said it is all about having confidence, knowing



Elle Fitzgibbons/ Index

Junior Helmut Rentschler takes down his opponent during a match against Fort Hays State University Tuesday, Feb. 11 at Pershing Arena. 'Dogs finished their season with an overall record of 6-10.

you are just as capable as the next guy and wrestling with heart.

"We had to perform to the best of our ability and we leave it all out there on the mat afterwards," Lopez said. "That's all we really could have done."

The team, however, will not advance and send wrestlers to Nationals after last weekend.

Lopez said the team put their best efforts on the mat, which is all he could really ask for:

"Although we did not make it to Nationals, it is a learning experience and we know where to build from here," Lopez said.

Despite hard work and tough efforts, the season has drawn to a close for Truman's wrestling team as none of their wrestlers advance to Nationals.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Friday, March 7

Softball 12 & 2 p.m.
vs. McKendree University
Kirksville, Mo.

Saturday, March 8

Baseball 11 a.m.
vs. Hillsdale College
Louisville, Ky.

Softball 12 & 2 p.m.
vs. Illinois-Springfield
Kirksville, Mo.

Sunday, March 9

Baseball 12 p.m.
vs. Hillsdale College
Louisville, Ky.

Monday, March 10

Baseball 2 p.m.
at Bellarmine University
Louisville, Ky.

Tuesday, March 11

Baseball 2 & 4 p.m.
at Southwest Baptist University
Bolivar, Mo.

Softball 2 & 4 p.m.
at Lincoln University
Jefferson City, Mo.

See all the results of last week's games online at <http://tmn.truman.edu/>

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