

'Dogs take Minnesota

By Hannah Kacerovskis
Staff Reporter

The Bulldog cross country team competed this Saturday at the Roy Griak Invitational hosted by the University of Minnesota. Junior Brad Hart finished in 36th place and led the Bulldog men to a placing of 23rd, while Junior Emma Burditt took 71st, leading the women to 18th place.

Hart finished with a time of 26:27, followed by fellow Bulldog seniors Andrew Sheets and Chad Petrofsky. The men finished with 597 points, taking 23rd out of 40 teams.

Hart said he thinks the team could have run better, and if they don't step up their game, it might be a rough conference meet.

"We need the four or five top guys to start moving up and drop a little more time, so we can be a little more competitive with other teams," Hart said. "I realized that our team isn't quite where we needed to be yet. We need to run more together as a pack and work off each other better. We really need to work on doing stuff like that, so we can get better as a team and not just try to run individual races."

Hart said the course and the weather conditions played a large role in how the team did.

"This will be the hardest course we run at all year by far," Hart said. "About half way through the race, it started pouring rain and got really windy. You had to fight through all the elements."

The Roy Griak Invitational is one of the biggest meets in the country, and there were 458 runners in the race this year. Hart said the vast number of runners affected some of the Bulldog runners negatively.

"They might have had trouble passing some people because it was pretty bunched up out on the course," Hart said. "Personally, I love racing against a lot of people because if you run the right race, you can just pass people the entire race. I like feeding off of passing people. It gives me confidence to keep going faster."

Hart said he was pleased with how well he did. He said when he finished he got up as far as possible.

Cross country coach Tim Schwegler said he was pleased with Hart's performance but wasn't as satisfied with the



Carly Robison/Index

Cross country runners stretch after a run. Truman runners recently competed in the Roy Griak Invitational hosted by the University of Minnesota. The Bulldogs run next at the Haskell Invitational in Lawrence, Kan.

team's overall performance.

"It was a middle-of-the-road kind of performance," Schwegler said. "It wasn't as good as the first two meets. When we don't perform very well, we're just an average Division II team. We have to be on our game, and if we run well we can be above average. That's what we're striving for this season."

Schwegler said he would like to see the team focus better and learn from their mistakes in the future.

"We have one more meet until we go to the conference meet, and when we get to the conference meet, we want to be firing all cylinders and get everything worked out," Schwegler said. "These early meets are just trying to get things worked so you can try to do well at the conference and regional meets."

Schwegler said he was impressed with freshman Laura Tarantino's performance on her first 6K. Tarantino took 82nd place with a time of 24:26 and was the second Bulldog woman to cross the finish line.

Tarantino said she ran slower than she hoped she would and the team as a whole performed decently, but

she thinks there's room for improvement.

"For me, it was more difficult because it was longer," Tarantino said. "6K's the official collegiate distance for women, but this was our first time running a 6K. In the middle of the race, things got really hard, and I slowed down and lost heart a little bit. I had to talk myself back into racing hard and had to tell myself I did love doing this and keep going. My goals would be not to fade in the middle of the race and run faster throughout."

In the women's race, there were 33 teams and close to 400 girls running. Tarantino said in the beginning there were so many girls, it was hard to move without elbowing someone. Tarantino said Coach Schwegler told the team not to worry about times but to worry about racing people. Tarantino said she followed Schwegler's advice and focused on passing as many people as she could.

The Bulldogs next competition is Oct. 12 at the Haskell Invitational hosted by Haskell Indian Nation University in Lawrence, Kan.

TOP 'DOG



Trisha Shoemaker

Women's soccer, senior forward

Shoemaker has three goals and two assists through nine games for the Bulldogs. Shoemaker leads the team in goals and has had a point in each of the games played last weekend.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Thursday, Oct. 3

Tennis: 2 p.m.
at Missouri Baptist
St. Louis

Friday, Oct. 4

No. 21 Women's soccer: 1 p.m.
Home vs. Rockhurst

Swimming: 3 p.m.
at Mizzou Show-Me Meet
Columbia, Mo.

Men's soccer: 3:30 p.m.
Home vs. No. 20 Rockhurst

No. 18 Volleyball: 7:30 p.m.
Home vs. Missouri-St. Louis

Saturday, Oct. 5

Football: 1 p.m.
at Quincy
Quincy, Ill.

No. 18 Volleyball: 3 p.m.
Home vs. Maryville

Sunday, Oct. 6

No. 21 Women's soccer: Noon
Home vs. William Jewell

Tuesday, Oct. 8

No. 18 Volleyball: 7 p.m.
at Quincy
Quincy, Ill.

See all the results of
last week's games
online at [http://
tmn.truman.edu/
theindex](http://tmn.truman.edu/theindex)

Tennis competes at ITA tournament

Women's Team

Singles

So. Hannah Runez: 8 - 3

Fr. Marisa Thome: 8 - 1

Doubles

Fr. Marisa Thome
Jr. Katie Austin
2 - 1

Men's Team

Singles

Fr. Ryan Bunselmeyer: 8 - 1

Jr. Griffin Smith: 7 - 2

Doubles

Sr. Joe Murphy-Baum
Sr. Kirk Schlueter
4 - 3



Amanda Atwell/Index

Junior Griffin Smith looks at his opponent after a point. Smith is 7-2 in his singles matches so far this season and 4-4 in doubles.

BY ANTHONY PANGAN
Staff Reporter

With only three games left during the tennis fall season, the Truman State tennis team is looking to close out the year with a strong tournament showing. Last weekend, the women's tennis team traveled to Indianapolis to play teams around the Midwest in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Regional Tournament.

Junior Kim Birenbaum made an appearance at the ITA Regional Tournament. After playing at numerous matches and tournaments during her college career, she said she knew the type of in-

tensity she had to bring to not be eliminated early.

"Learning from previous matches such as the Quincy and Truman State University tournaments only helped me improve my game," Birenbaum said. "Playing good teams early in the season helped me prepare, physically and mentally, for the ITA Regional Tournament."

Because of the amount of veterans on the women's tennis team, freshman Lauren Jin was one of four girls who didn't get the opportunity to travel, but she said she knows one day she will get her chance to show she belongs in the ranks of college tennis.

"Although I didn't travel with

my team this year, I'm looking forward to playing in the new Great Lakes Valley Conference and get adjusted to college play," Jin said. "One big difference from high school tennis to college tennis is the level of play. I gain a better understanding of my best skills through each match, and can use them to my advantage to one day become the number one doubles and singles player."

After not participating in the ITA Regional tournament last year, sophomore Hannah Runez said she had the opportunity to expand her game by traveling to Indianapolis.

"The girls were strong players, and only being a sophomore I

lacked the experience others had," Runez said. "Going into the tournament, I had to keep a positive mindset and just play my best. Looking back, I went outside my comfort zone and pushed myself to keep up with the tough competition in singles."

Runez said Truman's team has

more depth and chemistry than other teams the Bulldogs have played, which has eased the transition from freshman to sophomore year. She said the connection the upperclassmen have with the younger players helps their development and growth of skills, experience and most importantly, confidence.