

SPORTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2016

@trumanathletics

tmn.truman.edu

11

Last Week's Scores

Baseball	
4/23	UMSL L 8-6, W 6-2
4/24	UMSL W 2-1, W 11-9

Softball	
4/23	University of Indianapolis L 5-1, L 3-2
4/24	Saint Joseph's L 5-4, W 5-0

Golf	
GLVC Championships 10th place	



Lindsay St. John/TMN

Bulldog duo meets NCAA Provisionals

BY RACHEL STEINHOFF/SPORTS EDITOR
tsusportseditor@gmail.com

Senior Dominic Kacich and freshman Cassidy Smestad met NCAA provisional marks for their events at the Jim Duncan Invitational. Hitting the marks put the pair in position to qualify for the 2016 NCAA Div. II Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

SEE TRACK & FIELD, PAGE 12

Upcoming Events

Baseball	
4/30	Noon and 3 p.m. vs. William Jewell
5/1	Noon and 3 p.m. vs. William Jewell

Men's & Women's Track & Field	
4/28	
Stokes Stadium 2:30 p.m. - field events 4 p.m. - running events	

Softball	
4/29	
GLVC Tournament 10 a.m. vs. Maryville	

Olympic fans need variety



BY CURT WICHMER
TMN Staff Writer

As the school year comes to a close, students anxiously await the possibilities of summer. Summer brings new opportunities, job offers, leisure time and significantly less stress because of the absence of rigorous college schedules. This summer, however, is different because of a special sporting event taking place in August — the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

In the past, ESPN has dedicated air time to as many different Olympic events as possible. However, not all viewers have access to cable. In the absence of cable, a good number of American Olympic viewers have to watch the action from NBC. Unfortunately for these Olympic fans, NBC is not a channel dedicated entirely to sports. NBC has its own non-sports related programming that needs to air in addition to the games. Because of

this limited airtime, NBC only can air a limited number of Olympic events.

Judging from information found in NBC transcripts from the 2012 Games in London, NBC dedicates the majority of its time to events in which the United States is projected to do well. Before the games even started, NBC programming was stuffed with advertisements promoting gymnasts Gabby Douglas, McKayla Maroney, Aly Raisman, Kyla Ross and Jordyn Wieber, also known as the Fierce Five. Just as NBC predicted, the Fierce Five performed well in the team event, and to document as much of the team's success as possible, NBC aired every individual event in women's gymnastics.

In addition to gymnastics, NBC dedicated a large amount of airtime to U.S. swimming and track and field events. As the favorites once again, each team rose to their expectations and came home with a large number of medals. The American team performed as predicted, and NBC highlighted each moment of the success.

The Olympic Games bring a unifying sense of national pride. No country wants to see their team lose, and the United States is no exception. Televising Olympic events that the U.S. is likely to dominate certainly gives our nation a greater sense of national pride, but I can't help but wonder what we are overlooking on the outside of the sport's spotlight. By only televising the competitions the United States does well in, the audi-

ence misses out on many other events people might find interesting.

For example, the last Olympic Games had what might be the greatest controversy in the history of fencing. In the semifinals of the women's tournament, the score was tied with 3 seconds left. Play resumed, and the two fencers lunged at each other and struck each other at the same time, causing a tiebreaker. The clock, however, never moved, and remained at 3 seconds. Competition resumed and the same thing happened — the clock still read 3 seconds. On the following action, German fencer Britta Heidemann scored a point and won the match. The South Korean coach complained about the error with the match timer, and a panel of judges discussed the winner of the match for more than half an hour, eventually adhering to their original decision. The South Korean fencer, Shin A Lam, lost the following match for the bronze medal, but the International Olympic Committee offered her a "special medal," which she refused, according to an August 2012 article by Fox Sports.

This incredibly controversial incident, as well as many other great moments in sports often go unnoticed and unappreciated, all because the NBC lineup does not save the space for fencing or other under-the-radar events. If NBC can learn from its mistake in London four years ago, then perhaps it won't make the same mistake in Rio.



Nicolle Barmettler

Sophomore golfer Nicolle Barmettler earned a qualifying bid to the NCAA Div. II Women's Golf Championships. Barmettler will become the first Bulldog to reach the tournament since the 2007-08 season. Barmettler tied for 18th place in the GLVC championships last week and has placed in the top 20 of all 9 tournaments this year. Barmettler's national tournament debut in the East Super Regional will be May 2-4 at Panther Creek Country Club in Springfield, Illinois.

PLAYER of the WEEK