

Tennis finishes fall with wins

BY HENRY JANSSEN
Staff Reporter

The Truman State women's tennis team wrapped up its fall season last Saturday with a four-team tournament at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, that also featured Maryville University and Lindenwood University.

Although no Truman players won their brackets during either singles or doubles, several of the Bulldogs were able to succeed during their final competition. During doubles, both Truman teams in the A-flight bracket were able to pick up first-round victories. Sophomore Lindsey Schlichting and junior Marisa Thome defeated an UMSL doubles team by a score of eight sets to four before falling to a first-seeded Maryville duo during the second round.

"We played really well against UMSL's team and won, so that was really nice," Thome said. "I think next season in the spring, we'll play together really well. Lindsey and I, we've gotten to where we miss a lot less of our shots. We've gotten really aggressive at the net."

Thome lost her singles match to Maryville's No. 1 player, junior Puck Vlaskamp. Thome said though she

made some mistakes, she thinks there was little she could have done differently to win the match.

"Honestly, she was just a really good player," Thome said. "I played her last year, and I made improvements, but she was [GLVC freshman of the year] last year, so she's really good. I don't think there's much I could have done better."

Thome said she thinks the team is starting to really mesh, and she has seen some improvement going into the spring season. She said the doubles teams are good and have more depth now than they had a semester ago.

Three players were able to win at least one round during singles play last weekend. Schlichting, senior Savannah Everett and freshman Maura Dunn made it out of the first round as winners in their brackets. Schlicht-

ing competed in the A-flight bracket, while Everett and Dunn were in the B-flight bracket.

"I was a lot more patient than I've been recently," Everett said. "I've been really consistent, and I think a lot of our girls have gotten better about that."

Everett and teammate junior Elise Mousseau lost their first match during doubles as the No. 3 team for Truman.

Tournaments in the format that UMSL utilized, with no team rankings, means playing for one another takes on a different meaning because there are no team standings. Everett said she thought her teammates had some impressive performances.

"[Junior] Lauren Jin had a pretty good tournament," Everett said. "She gets good results from working hard, plain and simple. Overall, I think we're all feeling pretty comfortable. This fall season is the best we've done in a while, and we've worked harder than ever in practice."

Jin said she thought Everett's second win against Maryville sophomore Anne Lutz was one of the most exciting matches of the tournament, and said she thought Everett's performance was the most notable of the Truman women's because she made it the furthest in her bracket.

Jin said the wind was brutal on Saturday, though Friday's matches were a little sunnier and more pleasant. She said the weather conditions required a great deal of focus to compete, and even though this was a somewhat rough tournament to end the fall season, she and her teammates know what they need to

improve upon.

"We have to work on consistency, strategy and fitness," Jin said. "These things have failed us time and time again, but I have seen improvements throughout everybody's games, so I am very hopeful and excited for the spring season to come around."

The purple and white are set to open their spring schedule April 2, 2016 at home against Quincy University.

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- Senior Savannah Everett

'Dogs need a rival tradition



By Sam Stewart
Staff Reporter

Homecoming week is upon us, and what better way to celebrate than to discuss Truman State's top rivals? Since joining the GLVC during 2013, Truman has come across familiar faces and new enemies. Before the GLVC, Truman was part of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association since its creation during 1912.

As a member of the MIAA, Truman was known for its infamous rivalry with Northwest Missouri State University. The matchup was referred to as the battle for "the Ol' Hickory Stick," and was one of the longest-running Div. II rivalries to date.

During 1930, the Northwest Missouri State Bearcats lost their annual football game with the Northeast Missouri State Bulldogs by a score of 20-7, according to the archives in Pickler Memorial Library. In recognition of that resounding defeat, Northwest's then-president Uel Lamkin sent Northeast's then-president Eugene Fair a polished hickory stick which would become the trophy of the annual game between the two schools — the president whose team won the game each year would take possession of the stick until the next meeting.

Truman and Northwest were founding members of the MIAA and Truman had played the Bearcats since 1908. But times have changed. For more than 100 years we were a part of the MIAA, but now, in our new conference, we have made some new changes to whom we consider our rivals.

Before we dive into who we might think is a rival or not, here's a brief background about what makes a team into a rival. Rivalries can spring from many different sources — it could be because of close proximity, such as

the rivalry between the University of Alabama and Auburn University. The intense team history between the Boston Red Sox and the New York Yankees was sparked by the trade of Red Sox great Babe Ruth to New York, which would haunt the Sox for years to come in "The Curse of the Bambino." It also could just be the general idea of competitiveness between schools, resulting in something comparable to the rivalry of boxers Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier.

Every rivalry is different, which makes the concept hard to break down with just a few comparable sports moments in history. The passion of each team and the respectable hatred that occurs every time the team steps on the field brings out the love of the game in every fanatic.

Nick Verbeck, redshirt freshman offensive lineman, said the University of Indianapolis is a good choice for a new rival.

"The last couple of years that we have been in the GLVC they have barely edged us out of the conference championship for the past two seasons," Verbeck said.

Other football players had similar answers, and still were irate about the way the last three meetings between the "Dogs and Greyhounds ended. Unfortunately, Truman lost to the Greyhounds last weekend, 26-13, on the night of Indy's homecoming.

"Indianapolis for sure," said Tanner Hageman, redshirt freshman offensive lineman. "We were runner-up to them and lost both times in extremely close games."

Truman still is trying to establish its footing in the conference and as of now, Truman's only GLVC championships are for women's basketball and volleyball during 2014. But the Bulldog football team is a new team in a conference that still is developing its football prowess, and it will take time to build up recognition and an official rival.

As Homecoming comes to a close, bring out the crowds to see the Bulldogs take the field to defend Stokes Stadium. Bring out the fire and the band, and cheer on our team. The Bulldogs only get one Homecoming a year to represent who they are and where they are going in this conference. There's no time like the present to do anything we can to support all the athletes across Truman's 18 intercollegiate teams this year, and hope Truman eventually will find a school to call its rival.

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