

SPORTS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

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11

UPCOMING EVENTS



FOOTBALL

9/17:
7 p.m. vs. Missouri S&T
Rolla, Missouri

TENNIS

9/17:
TBA vs. Quincy University
Quincy, Illinois

VOLLEYBALL

9/16:
7 p.m. vs. University of
Illinois-Springfield
Springfield, Illinois

9/17:
3 p.m. vs. McKendree
University
Lebanon, Illinois

MEN'S SOCCER

9/16:
3:30 p.m. vs. Bellarmine
University
Kirkville, Missouri

9/18:
2:30 p.m. vs. University of
Southern Indiana
Kirkville, Missouri

WOMEN'S SOCCER

9/16:
1 p.m. vs. Bellarmine
University
Kirkville, Missouri

9/18:
Noon vs. University of
Southern Indiana
Kirkville, Missouri



Million dollar project planned for Stokes

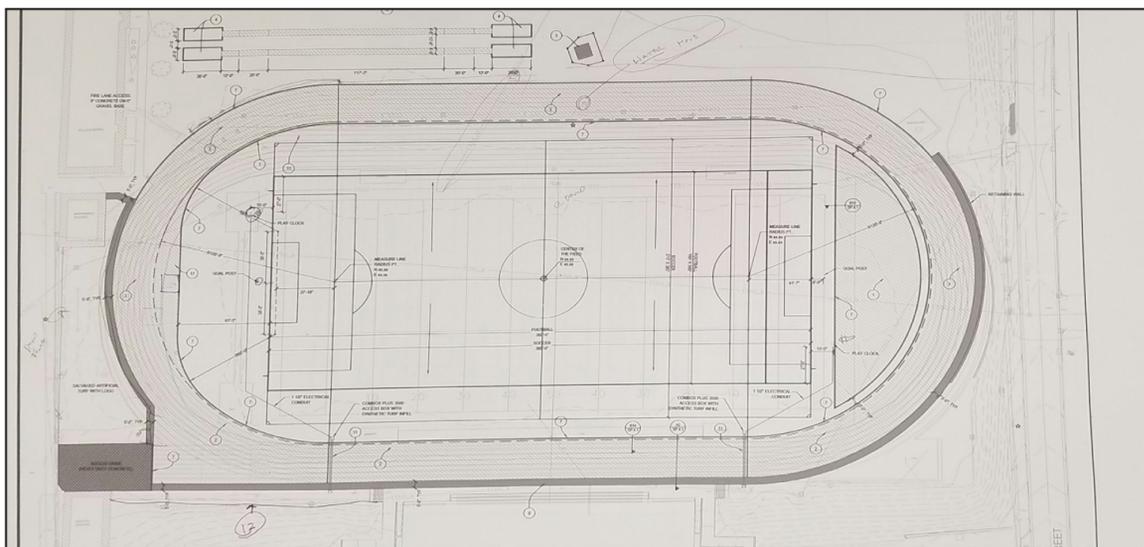


Photo by Seth Wolfmeyer/TMN

The design for the track and field after renovation, which widens the track to allow a soccer field to fit in the middle of the field. The field events will be moved to the north side of the track.

BY SETH WOLFMEYER
Sports Multimedia Editor
tsusportseditor@gmail.com

Truman State University is planning a million-dollar project to renovate the Gardner Track and field at Stokes Stadium. The project aims to start toward the end of this semester and finish before fall 2017, reshaping and redesigning the field.

Stokes Stadium is home to Truman's football and track and field team. It is also open to clubs that practice on the field, along with students and community members who want to run on the track. The stadium is one of the most recognizable symbols of Truman athletics, and the project will change it substantially.

Tim Schwegler, track and field head coach, said the plan is to change the shape of the track to make the field more functional. Schwegler said the current track has 100 meter straights and 100 meter curves, but it will change to a more European model with shorter straights and longer curves. Schwegler said this will not affect performance of runners but will widen it to make it possible for a soccer field to fit inside the track.

Schwegler said the field events such as long jump and pole vault will be moved to the practice field on the north side of the stadium. He said this will enable the football team to have a wider practice area and allow track and field to practice at the same time as football, which was a conflict in the past.

Schwegler said he and the rest of the athletic department were consulted throughout the project to make sure they had say in the project. Schwegler said he

was involved in the process more than he was with a similar situation at a previous university, which included updates from the architect during planning.

The construction will occur during track and field season, which will require Schwegler to find other places to practice. He said the high school is one option, but NCAA rules make using their facilities difficult.

Campus planner Mark Schultz said redoing the track and field could cost around \$750,000 each, depending on what bids contractors make for the job. Schultz said the track and field project is essentially guaranteed to happen, while an additional project to renovate the press box overlooking the stadium is not certain. Schultz estimates the cost for the press box to be around \$1.5 million, which he said might be higher than the University is comfortable with spending. If Truman can get a lower price on the press box, it is more likely to happen.

Schultz said the project is being planned now because of the need to resurface the track. He said Truman will host the GLVC track and field tournament in the 2019-20 season, and as of now, the track is not up to standards. Schultz said the turf on the football field is not in immediate need of replacement but will need replacement soon, and the University would rather do both at once than risk damage by doing the projects at different times, which has happened before.

Schultz said when artificial turf was first put on the football field, Truman was waiting on additional equipment that never came during construction, forcing them to dig a ditch through the track to gain access to pipes running un-

derground. Schultz said Stokes Stadium is in a difficult location at the bottom of a slope from several directions, making the stadium a drainage area for rainwater. He said there are pipes running under the field to keep water from flooding the track and field, but work on the pipes damaged the track.

The project being planned will also require work to these pipes. Schultz said the plan is to change the piping to avoid the overflowing with the current system. He said occasionally the water pressure can become so high during a major rainstorm the manhole cover to the piping can blow.

Schultz said the press box is also being looked at for renovation because it does not have proper exiting or handrails, the restroom facilities are not up to code and there is no elevator. He said the plan is to update all of these and add a few additional rooms.

Schultz said the University hired an additional architect, Vance Rzepka, who specializes in athletic facilities to help design the track, field and press box for \$250,000. He said Rzepka has helped greatly in creating a good design.

This will likely be the largest renovation to Truman's athletic facilities for a while. Rector said the University will still do smaller projects, such as replacing score boards.

Dave Rector, vice president of administration and finance, said the funds for the project will come from money made by the student athletic fee. Each student pays \$116 per academic year to the student athletic fund. Rector said some of the funding will come from savings built up by the athletic fee, while the rest will come from this year's.

New culture of confidence fuels Truman swimming

BY RACHEL STEINHOFF
Sports Text Editor
tsusportseditor@gmail.com

Excitement and high expectations mount in the preseason calm of Pershing Natatorium. Truman State University men's and women's swimming return from a 2015-16 season that racked up many awards for the Bulldogs and even higher hopes for this season.

Three Bulldog swimmers, seniors Will Shanel, Evyn Spencer and junior Nikki Sisson, were named Division II Preseason All-Americans by collegeswimming.com last Tuesday. Based on times of returning and incoming athletes, 121 athletes earned the honor.

Ed Pretre, head coach of the men's and women's teams, said he is excited about the national attention surrounding the trio. Pretre said the team is three weeks into preseason training, during which his athletes have been working mostly out of the pool. Pretre said his teams run and train with CrossFit techniques to prepare for the long season grind that

awaits them. He said he has been pleased with the fitness of his athletes, but more than anything, he loves the attitude his team has taken on in preseason preparations.

"It's not even so much being in shape," Pretre said. "I mean, yeah, that has a lot to do with it, but it's the mentality. I think there is a certain confidence with this team right now that is just taking over from last year."

Last season, the Truman men saw strong performances at the GLVC championships to finish fifth place as a team. The men consistently beat records last season and have returned to the pool this season with the GLVC Male Swimmer of the Year — Shanel.

The Truman women surprised the conference last season with a successful team effort on the final day of the GLVC championships. The women emerged with their first GLVC title and picked up two major individual awards — Spencer was named GLVC Female Swimmer of the Year, and Emma Barnett was recognized as the league's Freshman of the Year.

See SWIMMING, page 13



Katie Mattingly

Junior goalkeeper Katie Mattingly earned recognition as the GLVC Women's Soccer Defensive Player of the Week. Mattingly posted back-to-back shutouts this weekend, the 20th and 21st of her career. Mattingly and Bulldog defense have not allowed a goal in 325:05.

ATHLETE of the WEEK