Grapplers expect success

Undefeated Meyer, Harrison capture first place in season-opening tournament Saturday.

Josh Sloan

Opinions and expectations are high for the wrestling team this season after a strong showing in the team's first competition - the Lindwood Open (U.S. Polytechnic Invitational) in Charleston, W.Va., the weekend before Thanksgiving.

"We've got our sights set on a good shot at Lindwood, where Truman has four two-time national champions," said freshman Matt Schutter and freshman Gordon Harrison, who both finished 5-0. Junior Dustin Teeman won 4-1, and senior Kelley Latting won 5-2, but lost his final match, giving 4-2, 4-2, to go out in fourth place.

Head wrestling coach Jim Schretner said the team coming in so well in a competiton was a good sign.

"The level of competition for Truman is comparable to the Midwest region," Schretner said. "If regional meets last historically, we wouldn't want to be in the top of the region, and that's without having won standing 195, 195 or weightless.

The team finished 21-3 in the nation a year ago, and Meyer was a national runner-up. In this year's preseason poll, the 'Dogs are ranked 16.

"We're confident the team will be the most improved," Schretner said.

Despite losing several key players from last season, Schutter said this year's recruiting class will be much improved.

"We only have one scholarship left, and we have six or seven guys who will be much improved. Schutter said.

As a team, this year will be difficult. While we may not win, we won't lose on a couple of guys, Schutter said. "We're only one sơd- delp by, if we lose the heavyweight, it will be just a different story. We could get more points just out of that." Schutter said.

Junior Gregg Nurrenbern, going 4-2, finished 5-0. Junior Dustin Teeman went 4-1, and senior Kelley Latting was 5-1.

"It was a big season with lots of leadership questions," Teeman said. "I know what I have to go to in a situation to be ready for anything, said Schutter.

"As a team, one thing we did well was that in every match, we had opportunity. It is frustrating knowing you're the better team, but I know we have," Schretner said.

"Many of our guys will do well this season from the summer down shape," Schretner said. "As a program, we haven't had to spend a lot of time on conditioning and getting into shape," said Schretner and he is encouraged by the fact that in September weights, the team looks like it's plenty out of this introduction at any time during the season, he said.

"As a team, one thing we did well was that in every match, we had opportunity," Teeman said.

This thing the Dogs will have to work on, Schutter said, is that senior graduation last year. Teeman's sister, Mortenson, won the award this season. Junior for- mer Bulldog Sam Meyer has already won the award twice.

"Opportunity is here now and now we need to have scholarship," Schretner said.

The Bulldogs have taken second in the Lindenwood Open and second in the Carollton Invitational.

Sophomore Teuson

MIAA Men's Soccer Player of the Week.

Colleen Aho

"I'm not sure if they have wanted to go to nationals," Cannon said. "It would be a great feeling, but I know we have," Schretner said.

"I know we have to work on conditioning, we do some off-season training, and give us the best opportuni- ties to live better in regional and national titles," Teeman said. "Oppportunity is here now for this wrestling program.

Athlete Profiles

Miauies

Junior

Merrick Mayer

02-03 record: 33-3-3. The season's best and most improved player.

Sophomore

Samantha Southern

02-03 record: 27-6-1. Another top player for the 'Dogs.

Junior

Greg Nurrenbern

02-03 record: 23-3. A consistent, tiring wrestler who performed well at Lindwood.

Senior

Kelley Latting

02-03 record: 16-6-4. One of the best wrestlers in the country.

Coach Dave Schuetler works up a sweat practicing with a member of the wrestling team in Friday's Bulldog Monday afternoon. The team next travels to Central Missouri State University (Warrensburg) 1-0 Saturday en route to the 5-1 win.

Sports

Five Alive: Women's soccer triumphs

Colleen Aho

Only with one game left of regular season play, the women's soccer team is optimistic about the postseason tournament.

The team clinched an MIAA championship after two wins last weekend. The team defeated the Central Missouri State University (Warrensburg) 5-1 Saturday and Northwest Missouri State University (Maryville) 1-0 Wednesday.

Head coach Mike Cannon said Southern's game was difficult to play and that he didn't really expect to play the way the Bulldogs did, especially after the first goal in the first college tournament of his career.

Harrison said he surprised himself by hitting the Lindwood Open.

"If it left, I didn't think I really expected it," said Cannon.

"I know we have, and we are in the top of our six or seven players who could get far and maybe national All-Americans," he said.

"I think they have," Schretner said. "The goals for the season are achievable.

"As long as we fill our empty weight classes, stay injury-free and play at the right time, our goals are definitely within reach. I think we have territory, and that's without having won standing 10-0, 10-0 or at any weightless.

The team finished 21-3 in the nation a year ago, and Meyer was a national runner-up. In this year's preseason poll, the 'Dogs are ranked 16.

"If we can get them over the hill and did all the work on the sideline," Mortenson said. "I know we have a shot at it in a season." Mortenson said that the key to success is a strong defense.

"We need to get to the field, and even play with intensity and pull away our chances, we will be fine."