WOMEN'S SWIMMING TEAM CAPTURES 7TH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The Bulldog women's swimming team won the 2008 NCAA Division II Swimming & Diving Championship at the Mizzou Aquatics Center in Columbia, Mo., on March 15. This makes seven national championships in eight years for the Truman women.

It was the depth of the Bulldogs again that allowed them to grab the gold. With the team score tied heading into the final day, Truman had eight swimmers in scoring finals, while Drury had six swimmers in scoring finals Truman won with 461.5 points to Drury's 449 points.

The Bulldogs took advantage with Molly Polette capturing second in the 1650 free event and Kate Aherne was sixth in the 100 free. Erika Anderson scored in the A-Finals in the 200 breaststroke, while Emily Greenwood and Whitney Wodstrichill were in the A-Finals in the 200 back. Wodstrichill was fourth and Greenwood tied for seventh.

Truman led Drury by 10.5 points heading into the final event of the competition, the 400 free relay. With the title on the line, the relay team, consisting of Polette, Emily Pufall, Kendra Brunkow, and Aherne took second to clinch the title, while the Panthers came in third.

All 14 women's swimmers earned all-America honors. Aherne led the way with eight all-America titles, while Anderson and Polette each grabbed six. Brunkow, Greenwood, and Pufall, each grabbed five.

In her final national appearance, Polette finished no worse than third in all five events in which she participated.

Jason Stokes was the only swimmer on the men's side to race as an individual on the final day of the meet. Stokes placed 33rd in the 100 free with a time of 46.35. Stokes, Alex Totura, and Adam Pruess walked away with six all-America honors, while Peter McCall nabbed three and Andrew McCall had two.

The men's 400 free relay team finished in 13th place to end the night in the B-Finals. The Truman men scored 48 points and finished in 20th place overall.

BULLDOG SOCCER ATOP CONFERENCE ONCE AGAIN

Following a one-year hiatus, the Truman women's soccer team reclaimed the MIAA women's soccer championship. After being picked to finish fifth by MIAA coaches in the preseason, the Bulldogs returned to atop the conference standings with a 10-3-1 record.

Truman shared the regular season title with Central Missouri and now have won or shared the championship in eight of the nine years soccer has been a conference sport.

The Bulldogs captured the first MIAA postseason tournament with a pair of 1-0 wins to earn the league’s automatic berth into the NCAA Central region tournament.

Truman was defeated by Nebraska-Omaha 3-0 in the first round to see their season come to an abrupt end.

Nine Bulldog players and Coach Mike Cannon were honored by the MIAA with the release of the 2007 All-Conference teams. Emily Newsham and Katie Reuck were first-team selections, and Coach Cannon picked up his seventh Brine/MIAA Coach of the Year honors.

Kim Wolff, Katie Buning, Isabel Gaeta, and Jessica Wiegert were second-team honorees, and Rachael Schmidt, Brigitte Pohren, and Katelyn Talcott were selected as honorable-mention all-conference.

VOLLEYBALL CAPTURES CONFERENCE CROWN; HOSTS REGIONALS

The Truman Volleyball team had Pershing Arena rocking this past fall as the team captured their fifth consecutive MIAA championships. The Bulldogs, behind all-Americans Melissa Keck and Allie Cherven, finished the 2007 season with a 36-6 overall record and broke school records for total kills, assists, digs, and blocks.

The squad played 17 matches against teams ranked in the CSTV/AVCA top-25 coaches’ poll at the time of the match, going 13-4, and did not allow a single opponent to hit better than .250 in a match throughout the 2007 campaign.

Truman played host to the NCAA South Central regional tournament and advanced to the finals before falling to Washburn 3-1.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL GETS TO MIAA TOURNAMENT

Junior forward Georgia Mueller led the MIAA in both scoring and field goal percentage as the women’s basketball squad reached the semifinals of the MIAA Tournament knocking off nationally-ranked Emporia State in the quarterfinals in 2008. The squad finished with a 16-13 overall record, the most wins in a Bulldog season since the 1999-2000 campaign.

Truman got off to a hot start going 8-1 in non-conference play before posting a 7-
11 record in MIAA contests to secure the No. 7 seed entering the conference tournament and a date with second-seeded Emporia.

Senior guard Katie Fowler scored a career-high 26 points as the Bulldogs pulled off one of the greatest upsets in MIAA Tournament history with a 77-70 win against ESU. Truman became only the second No. 7 seed to win an MIAA tournament game since the field expanded to eight teams in 1991.

The Bulldogs led for nearly the entire game, as Emporia only led by one at the 3:41 mark of the first half (20-19). Senior guard Candace McGee gave the Bulldogs a lead they would never relinquish only seconds later with a quick three-pointer, as the win marked Truman’s first MIAA tournament victory since Feb. 23, 1999.

After leading by as many as 17 in the second half, the Bulldogs sealed the ballgame from the free throw line, hitting 11-of-16 charity stripe chances in the final three minutes. Fowler added 14 more points in the second half, including two three-pointers and six-of-eight free throws.

59 STUDENT-ATHLETES NAMED TO MIAA COMMISSIONER’S ACADEMIC HONOR ROLL

To be eligible for the Commissioner’s Academic Honor Roll, student-athletes must have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.00 or better, have at least two terms of attendance excluding summer sessions, be a sophomore, junior, or senior in athletic eligibility, and not be inactive due to redshirt or medical hardship. Five honor rolls were released by the conference office for the five MIAA championship sports that played this fall.

The women’s soccer team had 16 members honored; they were: Theresa Bauler, Denise Childress, Isabel Gaeta, Kristen Haluszezak, Katie Hinrichs, Riley Mahn, Lisa Nadeau, Emily Newsham, Brigitte Pohren, Kelsey Richters, Emily Roark, Rachael Schmidt, Katelyn Talcott, Rachel Ward, Jessica Wiegert, and Kim Wolff.

Whitney Boheler, Lauren Graybeal, Dana Hanselmann, Erin Hattey, Susie Lesher, Eli Medina, Krysta Tholen, and Lisa Weber earned the honor on the Bulldog volleyball team.

Grace DelNero, Danna Kelly, and Fiona Williams were women’s cross country representatives, while the men had John Chenault, Bryant England, and David Yonce honored.

The Truman football team had 18 members named to the honor roll; they were: Charlie Brunette, Matt Burel, Albert Coker, Jesse Cooper, Jake Cunningham, Steve D’Antonio, Jon Frantz, Steve Jurkovic, Phil Kenney, Ryan King, Michael Long, Robert Massop, Mickey Masucci, Derek Rodriguez, Richard Schroeder, Andy Swedendjelm, Jason Their, and Matt Ticich.

This winter, 10 more student-athletes received the award as Katie Fowler, Julie Guinn, Candace McGee, Carmen McGee, Julia Montebello, and Georgia Mueller made it from the women’s side, while Nick Certa, Josias Flynn, Todd Kulage, and Ryan Robinson were honored from the men’s team.

LIGHTING UP OLD TRADITIONS: SATURDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL RETURNS TO KIRKSVILLE

The Bulldogs hosted Upper Iowa on Sept. 8, 2007, in front of a capacity crowd at Stokes Stadium in the first night game in more than decade. Last summer, university officials replaced the outdated stadium lighting system with new Musco lights to allow for better usage of the facility.

The light installation finished two weeks prior to the first scheduled game, and the Bulldogs didn’t disappoint the crowd.

WRESTLING EARNs ACADEMIC NATIONAL TITLE

The Truman wrestling team earned their second-straight and fourth overall NCAA Division II Team Academic Championship in March. The Bulldogs averaged a 3.394 GPA and had nine members selected to the all-Academic Wrestling Team.

Both of Truman’s national qualifiers were selected to the first team; Blake Peterson and Rob Nahlik were among 41 first-team members and 133 total student-athletes mentioned. Peterson was one of nine student-athletes named to the list for the third year.

Dean Schultz was a second-team selection, while Andrew Bader, Ryan Clanahan, Matt Craig, Kas Hashimoto, Bryan Isbell, and Vince Vitatoe were named honorable mention.

This is the Bulldogs fourth academic
championship in the 15 years of the program sponsored by the Division II Wrestling Coaches Association. The team GPA is calculated by averaging the cumulative grade-point averages of 10 wrestlers from each team of which eight of those wrestlers must have competed in their team’s NCAA Division II regional tournament.

Truman won the title first in 1996-97 and has won it in 2001-02, 2006-07, and 2007-08.

**FORMER SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR PASSES AWAY**

Melissa (Thomas) Ware (’87), passed away on Nov. 30, 2007, at the Cancer Treatment Center of America in Zion, Ill., after a long illness.

Ware graduated from Truman in 1987 and began working in Truman’s Sports Information Office as publication coordinator in 1988. She became only the second sports information director at Truman following the retirement of Bill Cable in 1995, serving in the role until 2004. She received more than 40 national awards for media guides from the College Sports Information Directors of America while working at Truman.

Ware left Truman when she moved with her husband John Ware, a former head coach of the Bulldog football team, to Joplin, Mo., after John was named head coach for Missouri Southern.

She was preceded in death by John who passed away in 2005.

**Bulldog Bites:**

- The following student-athletes earned ESPN the Magazine/College Sports Information Directors of America Academic all-District honors: Whitney Boehle (Volleyball), Ryan King (Football), Georgia Mueller (Women’s Basketball), Emily Newsham (Women’s Soccer), Rachael Schmidt (Women’s Soccer), Katelyn Talcott (Women’s Soccer), Matt Trisch (Football), and Jessica Weigert (Women’s Soccer).
- Junior Danna Kelly advanced and competed at the 2007 NCAA Division II National Cross Country race in November 2007. Kelly finished sixth at the regional race and was 80th at the championships held in Joplin, Mo.
- Senior midfielder Drew Vogt earned third-team all-region selections by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. The Bulldog soccer team finished the 2007 season with a 10-7-2 overall record and had a school record of eight straight games without allowing a goal.
- Senior Sean Bergstedt broke his own meet record and automatically qualified for the Division II outdoor championships with a time of 51.45 in the 400-meter hurdles at the Northwest Missouri Invitational on April 5. Senior Christen Lauer won two events (long jump and 200-meter dash) while also picking up a provisional qualifying triple jump mark of 38-07.50 at the Truman Open one week prior.
- Senior Christen Belcher leads Coach Erin Brown’s softball squad both at the plate and on the bases so far in 2008, as Belcher’s .429 average and 30 stolen bases through early April are both team highs. The squad is hovering near the .500 mark through 30 games, as senior Katie Noski has posted a sub-1.50 ERA and seven complete games through her first 20 appearances this season.
- Truman baseball picked up its second and third MIAA wins with a pair of doubleheader splits at Southwest Baptist the weekend of April 4-5. Junior Neil Bleish has recorded a team-best 27 hits through the beginning of April, including three home runs.
- Nick Certa crossed the 1,000-point plateau for his career and was named to the all-conference team as the men’s basketball team finished its season with a 5-22 mark. Certa averaged 14.6 points per game as one of only two seniors, while junior guard Banks Estridge scored 12.3 points and dished out a team-high 3.6 assists per game.
- The spring season has started well for the women’s golf team, as the squad has taken a first- and second-place finish in its first two events in 2008. Sophomore Krystal Limusio won the individual title at the Upper Iowa Classic, leading the squad also to a first-place finish one week after both Limusio and the Bulldog team finished second at the Bulldog Classic.
- Heading into the final MIAA scoring event of the season, the men’s golf team sits fifth in the conference following a solid fall season, which featured a top-five finish at the Bulldog Classic in Kirksville.
- The women’s tennis squad won its first 13 matches of the season and sits in the regional polls through early April as the team looks for another post-season berth. Jennifer Salmon and Lindsey Blair have led the squad at the No. 1/No. 2 singles spots, while teammate Amy Ochs had yet to drop a singles match in the spring season through early April.
- Men’s tennis has seen production up and down the lineup this season, as the No. 2 doubles team of Cody Pusateri and Peter Bracha has gone 8-2, while the No. 4, No. 5, and No. 6 singles spots typically occupied by Kyle Scholtz, John Ruthfus and Bracha, have posted a combined 30-4 record this season.