FIVE MEN’S TENNIS PLAYERS NAMED ALL-CONFERENCE

Five of the Bulldog men’s tennis team members were named to the all-conference squad by league coaches. The Bulldogs finished 14-9 this past school year and advanced to the NCAA Division II tournament.

All five were named to the Honorable Mention All-MIAA squad. Senior Ryan Cope was named as a number one singles player as well as freshman Peter Bracha on the number one doubles team. Cope had a 22-15 overall record playing as the top Bulldog singles player. With Bracha, the team was 18-11 overall and 13-9 in dual matches this season.

Junior Cody Pusateri was named to the honorable mention team for number four singles. Pusateri posted a 16-17 overall mark but was 11-8 in dual matches. Freshmen Kyle Schlotz and Ben Rusk earned honors at number five and six singles, respectively. Schlotz was 25-7, the most wins by any Bulldog player this season.

BERGSTEDT PLACES SECOND AT NCAA NATIONALS

Bulldog junior Sean Bergstedt wrapped up his record-setting season with a final race at the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championships. His time of 50.18 in the 400-meter hurdles earned a second-place finish in the event, which was held at Charlotte, N.C.

Bergstedt entered competition with the nation’s fastest time in the 400-meter hurdles and on the final day of the three-day meet, he made a strong bid for a national championship.

CHRISTEN BELCHER EARN ALL-REGION IN SOFTBALL

Junior outfielder Christen Belcher of the Truman softball team was a first-team selection to the inaugural Daktronics all-region team and a second–team pick by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA).

Belcher, who led the Bulldogs with a .385 batting average, was a nightmare for opposing pitchers and catchers, stealing 42 bases, which is just three shy of her single-season record of 45 set last year. She already holds the school record for career stolen bases with 111 and will be gunning for the conference record of 152 held by Becca Alt of Missouri-Rolla next year.

WOMEN’S GOLF FINISHES EIGHTH AT NCAA NATIONAL MEET

The Truman women’s golf team advanced to their first NCAA Division II championship this spring and finished eighth in the country. Truman qualified with a thrilling playoff win over Nebraska-Omaha at the regional tournament.

Sophomore Julie Williams was the highest placing Bulldog finishing in a tie for 29th place with a total of 316 (81-80-75-80). She was also named to the All-North region team by the National Golf Coaches Association.

Freshman Krystal Limisaco finished in 37th (84-80-79-78), the lone senior Sara Lloyd placed 44th (83-88-80-77), and juniors Marta Samojluk tied for 49th (82-85-83-80) and Laura Westensee (88-91-88-90) finished 48th.

WOMEN’S TENNIS HAS FOUR SELECTED

Sophomore Courtney Walther was named to the All-MIAA First Team for women’s tennis as a number three singles player. Three other Bulldogs were named to the Honorable Mention squad as the team finished their season with a 16-8 overall record.

Walther was second on the team with 27 wins this season and had a 19-4 record in dual matches. She was 14-3 playing at the number three spot and was a unanimous selection by MIAA coaches. Walther was a perfect 7-0 in conference matches.

Junior Jennifer Salmon, the Bulldogs number one singles player, was named honorable mention after going 23-11. Salmon was 4-3 in the MIAA and 16-7 in all dual matches.

Sophomore Lindsay Blair led the Bulldogs with a 28-4 record and was also an honorable mention pick. Blair lost just once in dual matches this year and finished the year winning her last nine.

At honorable mention number four singles was Bulldog Hannah Wittmer. The senior was 15-11 overall and 11-6 in dual matches.

BULLDOG MEN’S GOLF COMPLETES SEASON AT NCAA

The Truman men’s golf team ended their 2006-07 season by placing eighth at the NCAA Central Regional in Joplin, Mo. It was the sixth consecutive trip to the regional tournament for the squad.

The Bulldogs finished just two shots behind Southwest Baptist. Scott Danielsen led the Bulldogs with a team low of 74 in the final round to finish in a tie for 27th position.

Joining Danielsen in 27th was junior Michael Spaulding. Spaulding finished a 75 in between a pair of 79s on his scorecard.

Senior Tyler Phillips tied for 38th with a 238, Jesse Helms, another Bulldog senior, tied for 40th with a 240 and freshman Matt Rhodes finished 45th with a 249.

The Bulldogs earned their trip to nationals with a strong showing at the conference tournament in Branson Creek.

CARPENTER EARNS ALL-AMERICA HONORS AT NCAA’S

In their final meet as Truman Bulldogs, seniors Bridgette Carpenter and Ashley Colon competed in the 2007 NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championship in Charlotte, N.C.

Carpenter led the team in the women’s shot put with a sixth-place finish, earning All-America honors.

Carpenter’s mark of 14.45 meters was the longest throw of the outdoor season, eclipsing her old mark of 14.17. She also competed in the women’s discus, placing 13th with a distance of 41.85 meters.

Colon ended her career at Truman with a 15th-place finish in the women’s hammer throw at 46.81 meters.

Sophomore Danna Kelly’s time of 11:13.49 in the 3,000-meter steeplechase earned an 11th-place finish, while junior Jacque Faust’s time of 38.09.20 in the 10,000-meter run placed 15th.
SARAH SHEARMAN NAMED KEN B. JONES AWARD WINNER

Senior volleyball player Sarah Shearman was awarded the Ken B. Jones Award, given to the top student-athlete in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association. Shearman was a finalist last year as a junior for the conference’s most prestigious award.

Shearman led the Bulldogs to a 36-2 overall record and a perfect 13-0 MIAA record, while picking up league Most Valuable Player honors and first-team All-America accolades by the American Volleyball Coaches Association. The Bulldogs spent five weeks ranked number one in the nation by the AVCA. Shearman was most recently named the Truman State University Female Student-Athlete of the Year.

For her career, Shearman was a three-time AVCA All-American (First-team in 2005 and 2006, Second-team in 2004) and the 2003 MIAA Commissioner’s Academic Honor Roll. She was a three-time CoSIDA Academic All-District selection three times.

Academically, Shearman was just the 20th Truman State student-athlete to earn Academic All-America honors. For her career, Shearman was a three-time Academic All-District selection three times.

MURRAY SIGNS FREE AGENT DEAL WITH GREEN BAY

Former Bulldog offensive lineman Pat Murray has been signed to a free agent deal by the Green Bay Packers.

Murray was named honorable mention All-America by the 2006 Don Hansen’s Football Gazette. The Gazette is a recognized authority on small college football and has selected a Division II All-America team for the past 19 years. Murray earned first-team All-MIAA honors this season for Truman. He had a season grade over 92.0 percent and was named the team’s lineman of the game four times. Murray has been a starter for Truman since his sophomore season, earning honorable mention All-MIAA in 2004 and second-team accolades in 2005.

Murray helped the Bulldogs offensive line give up just 16 sacks this season, tying for the MIAA lead in that category. He also helped the Bulldogs rush for 168.5 yards a game, which was an improvement of 77.8 yards a game.

BULLDOGS LEAD THE WAY IN SPRING HONOR ROLL LISTS

The MIAA Commissioner’s Academic Honor Rolls for the spring were recently released and 89 Truman student-athletes were honored. Overall, the Bulldogs had 141 MIAA Commissioner’s Academic Honor Roll members, the most of any school in the league.

To be named to the Commissioner’s Academic Honor Roll, student-athletes must have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or better, must have two terms of attendance at the member school and must be a sophomore, junior or senior in athletic eligibility.

2007 BULLDOG ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME CLASS ANNOUNCED

Jim Blacklock (’61), Aaron Royster (’94), Mary Blandford (’96), the 1946-47 Men’s Basketball team, and the 1982 Softball team will be enshrined into the Truman Athletics Hall of Fame. Oct. 26-27 part of Homecoming festivities.

Blacklock (1957-60) played for the football team, Royster (1991-94) was a standout on Truman’s baseball team and Blandford (1993-96) will be the first of many Truman women’s swimmers to be inducted.

The 1946-47 basketball team under Coach Boyd King finished with a 30-2 record and was led by future NBA Hall of Fame player, Harry “The Horse” Gallatin (’49). The 1982 softball team was led by Mary Jo Murray and was the first women’s team in University history to bring home an NCAA trophy with an appearance in the Final Four.

More information about the inductees will be in the next issue of the Truman Review.