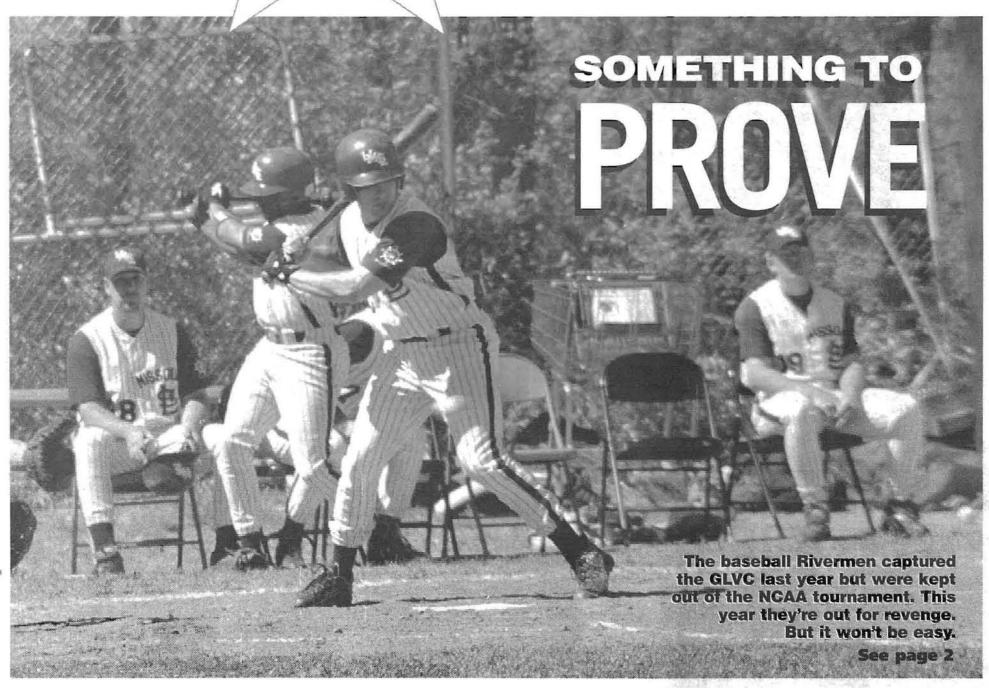
S DO ITS UPDATE

Spring 2001



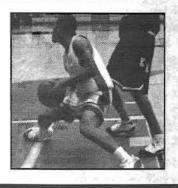
What's inside:



Softball gears up for new season

The Riverwomen's softball team looks to improve upon a third-place finish last season, minus their starting pitcher, Kathleen Rogaz.

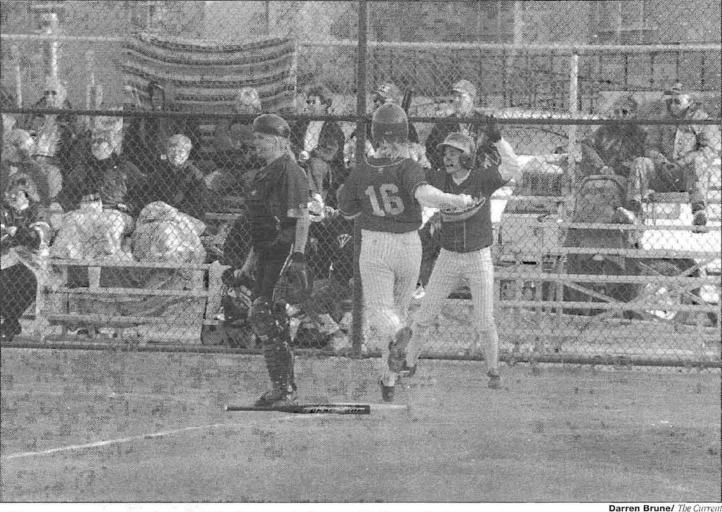
See page 2



UMSL basketball teams defeated

The Rivermen and Riverwomen were both able to qualify for the GLVC tournament but lost in their first games.

See page 7





Softball	2
Baseball	3
Tennis	4
Golf	5
Commentary	6
Basketball	7
Sports Column	8

A Riverwoman waves her teammate in for a run during a softball game last season.

Coach expects group effort to propel softball team

by Dave Kinworthy

staff editor

The Riverwomen's softball team had an average season last year in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, but exploded as the No. 6 seed during the postseason tournament to place third in the conference. UMSL looks to improve upon that mark this season, minus their starting pitcher, Kathleen Rogaz.

"We have high hopes and we are excited," Head Coach Lesa Bonee' said. "Losing Kathleen was a big hit. You just don't replace a pitcher like Kathleen everyday. We did bring in a lot of new people and I think that everyone of them will have a major impact on the program. We have five young ladies that can pitch and they all bring different things to the table."

The five pitchers that the Riverwomen will carry on the team this season may not have the strong impact that Rogaz had in the GLVC last season, but they will compete and keep the Riverwomen in every game.

"We don't have that pitcher that is going to dominate and shut everybody down," Bonee' said. "But they are going to give us what we need. We are going to have to keep the pitching in check and that is an area that I have some concerns with."

The offense will be the side keeping the Riverwomen in the games and Bonee' is counting on her offense to produce numbers this season.

"The offense will answer the call," Bonee' said. "If we give up a run here or there, we have the offense to get it back. This should help the pitchers throw with some confidence. Their team will be behind them defensively and offensively."

During the off-season, the Riverwomen were 12-5 during the fall, defeating two Division I teams in Saint Louis University and Illinois State. This, along with defeating numerous Missouri schools, will give the Riverwomen confidence going into the regular season according to Bonee'.

"We had a very good fall," Bonee' said. "We beat everybody around here, so that is good for bragging rights and recruiting. It was just an offensive explosion. The last seven games, we scored 47 runs. This team, I feel, has the potential to be an exciting offensive team to watch. We have power and speed. They are going to be fun to watch and they are aggressive in their own nature."

Some of the adjustments Bonee' went through this past off-season were filling the necessary positions and even adjusting her coaching methods as well.

"We brought in another catcher, which we definitely needed," Bonee' said. "We have virtually a whole new infield. Second will be the only position in the infield that will be a repeat. There were a lot of changes. We are doing things differently as a coaching staff. I think that the girls are having more fun and I think they understand me a little bit better. They know now what I expect of them. It is just a different attitude. On the back of our T-shirts, it says 'Attitude and Pressure' and we have to have the right attitude and playing pressure offensively and defensively."

There is no certain individual that Bonee' is counting on to step up and be the leader of the Riverwomen's softball team this season. She is counting more on a team effort and the team to rise to the occasion and step their level up as a

"I hold all of them accountable," Bonee' said. "At one point, everyone has to step it up and be leaders. We have talked about that since day one. Everybody has to do their part and hold the rope and step it up and be leaders. There are some that carry different leadership roles just by nature with their personalities and stature. We want to play better and smarter ball overall and work better as a team."



Josh Renaud • Editor-in-Chief

Anne Porter · Managing Editor

Inshirah • Business Manager

Judi Linville • Faculty Adviser

Tom Wombacher · Advertising Dir

Prod. Associate

Dave Kinworthy · Sports Editor

Nick Bowman . Staff Writer

Darren Brune · Photo Director

Dana Cojocaru • Business Associate

Mutsumi Igarashi • Photo Associate

Violeta Dimitrova • Copy Editor

Theresa Autry • Proofreader

ports Update is published twice a year. once in the fall semester and once in the winter semester. Advertising rates available upon request. Terms, conditions and restrictions apply. Sports Update (a publication of The Current) financed in part by student activities fees, is not an official publication of UMSL. The University is not responsible for the content of Sports Update or The Current or their policies. Commentary and columns reflect the opinion of the individual author. All material contained in each issue is property of The Current and may not be reprinted, reused or reproduced without expressed, written consent of The Current. First copy free; all subsequent copies, 25 cents, available at the offices of The

Baseball team motivated by snub

by Dave Kinworthy

staff editor

The men's baseball team is out to prove something this season, as the Rivermen's squad was snubbed from the NCAA Tournament after UMSL had convincingly captured the Great Lakes Valley Conference title. They are out to right the wrong from last season.

This vengeance will not be easy for the Rivermen, as numerous seniors have graduated, leaving vacancies in the infield and in the outfield for Head Coach Jim Brady to fill.

"We just reloaded," Brady said. "That essentially has been our philosophy over the past 10 years and it is no different now. We reloaded with some very capable people. Will we reach the heights of last year's team? I think it is very possible and quite probable, as a matter of fact. We do appear to have more depth than we had last year."

Along with the depth of the Rivermen's squad comes a more balanced offensive attack to the GLVC pitchers this season.

"We have a nice mix," Brady said. "I like the balance and I think we are better from top to bottom then we were last year. Our goal is conference winners. I think we have a chance to have a really special year."

Brady is worried about the depth at the catching position, though, with only two catchers in junior Chas Wigger and freshman Scott Miller.

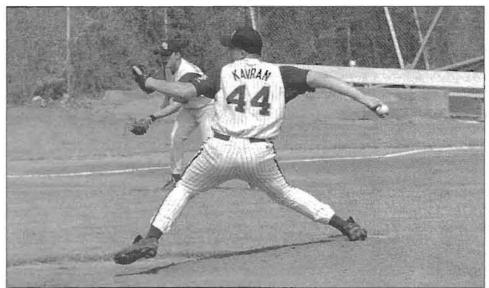
"We are vulnerable at the catching position depth-wise because we have two quality receivers, but beyond that, we have no one," Brady said. "One has pushed the other and they both bring outstanding credentials to the table, but they have to stay healthy. They are such tough kids."

The other question that comes into play with the Rivermen's squad this season deals with a huge loss of leadership capabilities from last year's senior class. Brady looks for senior pitchers Scott Johnson and Lance Wilson along with junior infielder Nick Post to step up and be the leaders of this year's squad.

"The guys who have been with me for a couple of years and have really grown into the leadership roles will shine," Brady said. "They have certainly put themselves in the position to step up."

With pitcher Greg Bierling being a surprise for the Rivermen last season, Brady speaks just as confidently in freshman infielder Jeff Viox.

"He just came in here and impressed me last summer," Brady said. "I am just amazed at just how quickly he has caught on to things and he has been a pleasant surprise. Not very often do you find a true freshman step in and could find himself logging some playing time. He has exceeded our expectations and then some."



Darren Brune/ The Curren

Bob Kavran pitches in one of last year's games against Lewis.

But the one thing the Rivermen have this season is pitching. Brady will rely heavily on his pitchers to put his team offensively in position to win the game.

"I like our depth on the mound," Brady said. "I plan on bringing the pitchers out of the bus first on road trips because we average about 6'4". Our pitching will keep us in every game. Anytime your pitchers can keep you in the game, chances are that if you keep healthy, you will have a very good year."

Rivermen uniform particu-

larly fitting, as Brady made

the decision to redshirt the

freshman. This had been

the first time that Post ever

found himself on the

after that first year," said

Post. "I wasn't used to rid-

ing the bench, and as a red-

shirt I knew that I wasn't

Post's high school coach at

Howell North, who con-

vinced the young infielder

It was Bob Dunahue,

going to be able to play."

"I really wanted to quit

Other GLVC teams may take the Rivermen for granted this year with the departed seniors from last season, but Brady disagrees with that philosophy.

"What will help us is that last year, everyone was somewhat weary of how many seniors we had," Brady said. "This year, I think that because we have a bunch of nonames, I am hoping that they will take us lightly. The more confidence that these guys gain, the more dangerous they become."

Post learns to adapt to new roles

by Nick Bowman

staff writer

Baseball has hit its ups and downs over the course of times, but it still is the "national Pastime" for the Post family for a reason.

Since he was six years old, the Rivermen's infielder Nick Post has played baseball, following in the footsteps of his father.

"My whole family has always played baseball, so it really came kind of naturally," said Post. "I just followed Dad and my older brother."

It wasn't until the seventh grade that Post began to realize that he could be part of something special. His little league team in St. Charles had qualified for the Little League World Series and it was here that Post first got a taste for the competition and skill that would carry him to UMSL.

"My little league team began winning local tournaments and honors, and eventually, we found ourselves playing in the World Series," said Post. "It was a great experience."

As a student at Francis Howell North, Post played his way onto the varsity squad in his

junior year, earning firstteam all-conference honors. He repeated the feat in his final year, as his team won the Gateway Athletic Conference crown. This got the attention of Jim Brady, the head coach at UMSL.

"When I first met coach Brady, he talked very highly of UMSL," said Post. "He had a lot of pride for his school, and a lot of expectations from his teams."

Along with UMSL,

Post had fielded calls from Jefferson College
and St. Louis Community College-Meramec,
but the prospect of playing NCAA baseball
proved too strong for him to resist.

"I had many friends that were going to those schools, and I didn't want to go with them," said Post. "I really didn't want to go to a small school if I had a choice."

In his first season, Post didn't find the



ost

to stick with it.

"I went back to talk with coach [Dunahue], and he set me straight," said Post. "I really didn't understand what was going on, but [Dunahue] explained to me what [Brady] was doing. I just needed a year to mature into a better player."

bench.

Post accepted this, and with the support of Assistant Coach Darren Spink, learned to adapt and observe the game.

"Spink was a big part of my process," said Post. "He was always by my side, and I would talk to him about most anything."

Post would see his first real shot at action during the end of his second full season, when DH and outfielder Brian Payne went down with a broken hand during the Great Lakes Valley Conference playoffs, and Post went in.

The following season Post found himself recast as a first-baseman. Brady had no man to play the spot, and Post knew that it was really up to him to lose the spot. Post also found himself beginning to emerge as a team leader, as he had now been around for three years.

"The coaches have begun to rely on me to play a leadership role," said Post. "It's a role that I am very proud to have."

This season, Post will have to learn a new position, as Brady has again re-cast him at the hot corner. This will be the first time that Post will play third base, a change to which he is still adjusting.

"At first, I didn't think that I was going to be able to adjust," said Post. "But everyday in practice it gets a little easier."

Tennis team optimistic about new season

by Dave Kinworthy

staff editor

The Rivermen's tennis team finished in the top three of the Great Lakes Valley Conference last season, only behind Southern Indiana and Indianapolis. This season, minus their no. 1 player from a year ago in Scott Goodyear and seniors Townsend Morris, David Crowell, Andy Forinash and Andy Coon, the Rivermen believe they can move up in the standings.

"I had a pretty good recruiting year," Head Coach Rick Gyllenborg said. "I am carrying less players, so I didn't fill five spots. I filled five spots with three people. We are going to try to finish in the top two this year. We think that we can hold off the rest of the teams and we think that we are better than Indianapolis this year. We want to move off of the three spot and onto the two spot."

The players that Gyllenborg is talking about are Matt Vaulkhard, Damien DeLoyola and Mario Gruden.

Vaulkhard, a freshman from Victoria, British Columbia, will fill the void of graduate Scott Goodyear at the no. 1 spot.

"There was never a chance or the money to have him come for an official visit," Gyllenborg said. "He came sight unseen. We recruited each other. It just all worked out and ironically enough, he will be playing no. 1 for me and filling Scott Goodyear's spot and we are excited about that. There is a little bit of pressure living up to what Scott Goodyear has done the past two years. I would like to see him, preseason, I can't imagine that he won't be freshman of the year because I just don't think that there is another freshman in the league that is as good as him."

DeLoyola was expected to contribute to the team's success, but health conditions have taken him a different path.

"Unfortunately, he will take a medical redshirt because he hurt his back in the fall," Gyllenborg said. "He is currently in rehab and not able to play at a high enough level and more importantly, pain-free. We will miss him this year."

Gruden is a familiar face to the Rivermen's tennis squad as he formerly played for UMSL his freshmen season and then took a year off.

"He did very well and was undefeated his freshmen year in conference play," Gyllenborg said. "He found out that he missed tennis and we picked him up this year. He has been a good catch to fill in the top-six area."

With three seniors, three juniors, a sophomore and two freshmen, UMSL's goal this season, although it is a fairly young team, is

Darren Brune/ The Current

Riverman Minh Phan plays hard at one of last season's games against SIU-Edwardsville. This season Phan hopes to win a GLVC crown.

to build off of last year's team.

"Our goals are higher than last year," Gyllenborg said. "We think that we are better than last year. We feel that Matt [Vaulkhard] will fill Scott's spot as strongly as Scott [Goodyear] did, we have Josh Heape, a returning senior that was All Conference last year, Eric Schrumpf a returning senior who is a solid no. 4 player and Minh Phan who is a solid no. 3 player. Taking nothing away from the people that graduated, we think that we are as good, if not better than last year. All three seniors [Heape, Schrumpf and Phan] have to lead by example."

This year's team does not have as many players on the roster, but the talent is there as long as the injuries are not.

"It is lacking depth mainly because of numbers, but not because of talent," Gyllenborg said. "We can't really afford to have anyone get hurt or anyone get sick or become ineligible, which [is] unlikely in the middle of the season. If everyone stays healthy, we are okay. We are hurting if we lose somebody. It is definitely a concern and we tried to pick up somebody at semester, but it just did not work out."

Refugee pushes UMSL to tournament

by Nick Bowman

of the Current staff

As a boy, Minh Phan found himself in the face of poverty, with his family in rags, living in rural Vietnam with his siblings, leading a simple life and surviving. That all has since changed. Phan now finds himself waking not to hunger and cold, but to an alarm. Life in St. Louis is good.

"My family left Vietnam so we could have a better life," said Phan. "I'm taking every advantage of that."

With an uncle to sponsor them, the Phan family moved to Texas, and Minh, with his older brother Triphan, found a new pastime. This one was much more fun that scrounging up food.

"My brother worked at a country club in Texas, and he would get me in to play tennis with him," said Phan. "I got better as I grew into my body, and by high school, began to play more competitively."

Phan made his varsity squad at Rockport/Fulton High School his freshman year playing in the shadow of his older brother, who also was a very accomplished player. Triphan would go on to play at the collegiate level and is currently an assistant coach at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. When Triphan left, it was Mihn's turn to shine, and he did, winning MVP honors his senior year, and a scholarship to Kilgore College.

Phan continued to improve, hitting the books and the court for two years. He earned many accolades at Kilgore, including a nomination to the second-team junior college All-American squad. This got the attention of some bigger schools, including UMSL.

"Coach [Rick Gyllenborg, head coach of men's and women's tennis at UMSL] started contacting me after the national tournament," said Phan. "I had been getting a few phone calls, but he was the only coach who actually came down to see me play in person, and that meant a lot. Also, I wanted to get to see St. Louis."

That move proved to pay off, as Phan signed with Gyllenborg shortly after, and is now entering his final year of eligibility. In his first season, Phan helped the Rivermen to a third-place finish in the Great Lakes Valley Conference standings, their highest since Gyllenbourg has coached here.

"It's everything that I expected it to be here," said Phan. "I love my teammates, and I like this school. It's going to be hard to let go of the sport after I leave. But we have a great chance to move up in the standings this year, and I want to go out on top. I would love to win a GLVC crown."

New coach comes into swing for Rivermen

by Dave Kinworthy

staff editor

Even though the men's golf team advanced to the NCAA Tournament this past fall and placed 18th overall, the team has changed its look, but not in the individual players.

James Trittler, a Hazelwood Central graduate, has been hired as the head coach of the Rivermen's golf team, replacing former Head Coach Steve Hausmann. Trittler is the assistant golf professional at WingHaven Country Club and is a graduate of UMSL. The prestige of coming back to his alma mater was one of the considerations that lured Trittler back to UMSL.

"I have known a couple of guys on the team and enjoy the game of golf," Trittler said. "I enjoy challenges and hopefully this will be a good one."

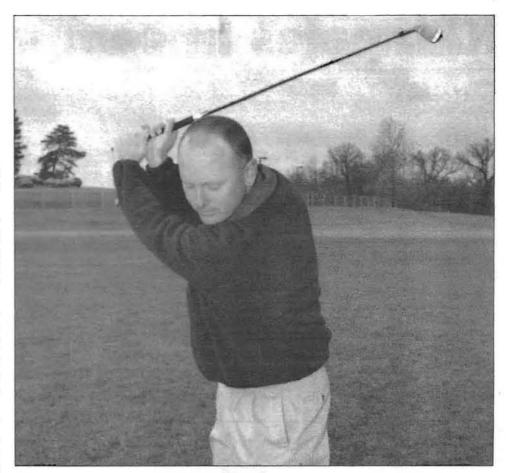
While at UMSL, Trittler was a member of the 1993 men's golf team which finished in 12th place in the NCAA Division II

Championship. Trittler finished in 52nd place in the national tournament, good for second on the Rivermen's squad.

"I think the idea of someplace I used to go to school... well, I enjoyed playing at UMSL," Trittler said. "The idea of coaching was in my mind. It seemed like a great opportunity and something I would enjoy doing. It is a perfect part-time job."

As far as the Rivermen's squad is concerned, Trittler hopes to bring more enthusiasm and to instill a love for the game into all of his players. The Rivermen lost two key players from their NCAA team and the recruiting wars have already begun for Trittler.

"The key is just building on good play and going out finding new recruits and players to maintain the momentum," Trittler said. "I want to keep the guys excited about playing. As long as you keep players interested in playing, they will enjoy winning as a team and it makes it a lot of fun."



Riverman James Trittler eyes the ball for his downswing.

Darren Brune/ The Current

What do *you* think about The Current?

We want to hear from you. You're our audience, after all. Tell us what you think about the newspaper. What are we doing well? What could we be doing better? Do you have story ideas? Let us know! After all, we can't do anything about it if we don't know what you think.



By phone

516-5174



By e-mai

current@jinx.umsl.edu



By fax

516-6811



By Snail Mail

388 Millennium Student Center 8001 Natural Bridge St. Louis, MO 63121

XFL pales in comparison to real thing

Sports Opinion

by Tom Weathersby

World Wrestling Federation owner Vince McMahon and his partner, NBC Television, debuted its XFL three weeks ago to a very large viewing audience. McMahon promised a league that would be better, tougher and more competitive than the NFL. Well, frankly, this isn't must-see TV.

As predicted, the league is all about T&A, weird side bars (such as players named "He Hate Me") and oh yeah... lousy football, not to mention boring. And I thought "The Mole" was bad.

The league is made up of many non-draft-

ed rejects with a few washed-up former NFL players who couldn't make it in the NFL. They hired a couple of high-profile names to attract more viewers.

People such as Minnesota Governor Jessie "The Body" Ventura and former NFL player Brian Bosworth were hired to do the play-by-play. This too is a joke. Every play, you would think a spectacular play happened because of the way they scream into the microphone, when the play was really about as exciting as watching paint dry. Besides, doesn't the governor have a state to run? Is that state that well off?

I heard Bosworth say that this league would be better than the NFL. Obviously

he's still feeling the effects from being run over by Bo Jackson a few years back. Basically the XFL is trying to be innovative and an improvement over the NFL. They want to attract the 15-25-year-old-male viewer. It isn't working. People don't want to watch community college football on TV.

Finally, the hookers—excuse me, "cheer-leaders," are a joke and an insult to real cheerleaders, who bust their butts to try to display some sort of talent and not just a lot of saline and pretty faces. This is nothing but the selling of T&A. There is nothing wrong with that. It's one of my favorite pastimes. But if I want T&A, I can walk across the campus on a hot day or go to one of the strip

joints. I thought this was going to be about football, good football.

I am sort of a football purist. I like to watch good football with good games as I did every Sunday. The XFL isn't it. They will draw an audience, but ultimately I think it will fail and drop like a bad habit, just like the USFL. Ratings have dropped 50% each week and sponsors are beginning to run for cover (Honda withdrew on 2/21/01). I don't think the NFL owners will lose sleep over the XFL. I thank the TV gods that we have the National Hockey League and National Basketball Association this time of year and that my satellite has about 200 channels.

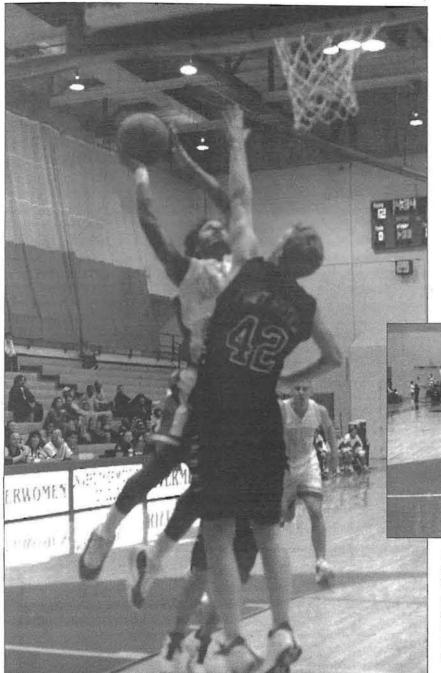
Still think your flyers are the best way to advertise on campus?

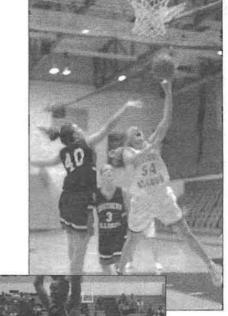


Think Again!

Call 516-5316

Ask about monthly specials!





þ

Left: Riverman Greg Ross leaps up for a shot at two earlier this season. Top right: Lynette Wellen jumps for a shot at a recent game. Above: Even with a strong defense the

Rivermen were unable to defeat
Northern Kentucky in the GLVC tournament.

Riverwomen return with worst loss of season

by Nick Bowman

of the Current staff

Entering the quarterfinal round of the Great Lakes Valley Tournament on Wednesday afternoon, the Head Coach of the Riverwomen's basketball team, Shelly Ethridge, wondered about her draw. Her team was to face No. 19 Bellarmine Knights after coming off of two straight losses.

"The matchups are OK, but I would really have liked to see SIU-Edwardsville in the beginning," said Ethridge.

And as SIU-Edwardsville squeaked by the Indianapolis Greyhounds 59-58, Ethridge was in the midst of the worst defeat of the 2000-2001 season.

Behind solid shooting and rebounding, the Knights of Bellarmine sent No. 5 UMSL back up the Mississippi with a 95-61 loss, the largest margin of defeat for the Riverwomen this season.

Bellarmine, No. 19 in the national polls and No. 4 in the GLVC, started out hot in the first half, shooting 69 percent from the floor while building a 23-point lead. Ethridge headed into the locker room with only 33 points while Bellarmine hit 3-of-7 from three-point land and .750 from the charity line for a total of 56 first half points.

Audrey Cannon and Stephanie Hutchcraft scored in double digits in the half.

Things did not improve much for the Riverwomen in the second half, as Bellarmine continued to sizzle from the field, hitting 43 percent of shots and outrebounding UMSL 53-28. Knights Lynne Johnson and Ryan Danner both recorded double-doubles in the contest as the

Rivermen fell to Bellarmine 95-61.

For the game, UMSL shot 36 percent, well below their season mark of .410. Brittney Dowell, who scored a season-high 12 points against Bellarmine in an 89-85 UMSL loss on December 2, shot 0-of-7 for the game. Five of those shots were from beyond the arc. Chirsty Lane and Lynette Wellen shot off-pace as well, hitting 6-of-17 between the two, and combined for 18 points. Both women have averaged double-digits for the season. Freshman Leah Boehme led the Riverwomen in scoring with 13 points in 25 minutes of play.

With the loss, the Knights took the season series 2 to 1. UMSL defeated Bellarmine 77-70 in an overtime game at Mark Twain on February 1. Johnson and Danner had double-doubles in that contest as well, but as a team shot only 33 percent.

Men lose in first round of tournament

by Nick Bowman of the Current staff

For the first time since the 1996-1997 season, the UMSL men's basketball team finished over the .500 mark. The Rivermen's season came to an end at the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament, where in the quarterfinals, UMSL lost to nationally ranked Northern Kentucky 82-72. The Rivermen entered the tournament with the No. 6 seed by virtue of their 10-10 conference record. This pitted them against Northern Kentucky, who ended the season with a three-game winning streak and had defeated UMSL in both of their regular season matchups, including a 96-70 victory Feb. 22.

"I'm not sure if it's a good draw or a bad draw," said Head Coach Mark Bernsen. "When you get into a tournament, you just want to play and having just played them, it makes for easy preparation. But having just played them and not played well makes for concern."

In that game, Northern Kentucky shot 65 percent from the field and five players reached double digits in scoring as Northern Kentucky downed the Rivermen by 26 points.

The contest was close in the beginning as both teams felt each other out. Northern Kentucky would slowly take the lead midway throughout the first half before Anthony Love closed the gap with a pair of free throws to set the score at 27-24. This sparked Norseman Craig Sanders to hit 4-of-5 from three-point land and help rally Northern Kentucky to an 18-5 run to close the half with a 15-point advantage.

Sanders and the Norse continued to shoot strong, extending their lead to as many as 23 points with just over 10 minutes to play. The Rivermen's offense, led by Brian Markus and Greg Ross, attempted to chop at the lead one last time, but could not get closer than nine as the Norse advanced to the semifinals. NKU will play Kentucky Wesleyan in the semifinals.

For six Rivermen, this was the final game of their collegiate careers. Ross, who earlier in the season became just the ninth Riverman to break 1,000 points, ended the game with 19 points in 38 minutes of play.

Markus and Love ended with 13 points a piece, and Michael Coleman finished with 10 points and 7 boards. Luke Harms and Scott Kassel will also leave the team next season. All six will leave the program on a strong note as their record of 14-13 is the first winning season in four years and the first under Bernsen.



MU in for rough ride

Young players on Mizzou's basketball team may offer MU poor seeding in NCAA tournament

by Dave Kinworthy staff editor

With March Madness approaching as we speak (or as I write), the Missouri Tigers are classified as a team on the bubble, but are they really? They have defeated the likes of the Kansas Jayhawks, a team in the top 25 of the national rankings, but have also been defeated by the Virginia Cavaliers, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State.

The Tigers are a team that is up and coming in the spotlight and Dick Vitae may even be shouting in favor of the Tigers on some ESPN games next season, but the youth of this team could hurt the Tigers come time for a berth in the NCAA Tournament.

Do not misunderstand me though when I

A STATE OF THE STA

say that youth is bad for this team. I still think that the Missouri Tigers will receive a berth in the NCAA Tournament, but I just do not think that the seeding will be very high. The Tigers will receive, at the highest, a no. 6 seed in the tournament. Missouri could slip all the way to a no. 9 seed, though, if they do not favor well in the Big 12 Championships. It all depends on the postseason tournament in the Big 12 and if the Tigers can beat some of the more dominant teams in the Big 12 this late in the season in Iowa State and Kansas.

But the Tigers, in my mind (and hopefully in the NCAA selection committee's minds), are on the rise and definitely are one of the top 64 teams in the nation. They have Kareem Rush, their top scorer, coming back to prove a point: that he is and should be the Big 12 player of the year. With Rush returning to the Tigers' lineup, Missouri will definitely be on the upswing.

Although I hate how many shots the man takes in an average game, Clarence Gilbert will be relied upon, not like Keyon Dooling of last season, but more like an Albert White from a couple of years ago to hit the threepointer in the clutch.

The one player that just continues to impress any basketball fan has to be Brian Grawer, a Pattonville graduate, who seems to be coming into his own as the starting point guard of the Tigers. Grawer is stepping up during his senior season and taking the leadership role ever since Rush went down with the hand injury. He was even the go-to

man during a few games two weeks ago. Like his father, Rich Grawer, the former Saint Louis University head coach, Brian will definitely move on past his collegiate career with wisdom from the game of basketball and pursue a coaching role on a collegiate team. He lives and breathes basket-

With signings already taking place from the high schools and the Tigers being as young as they are, this season will be the start of something special at the University of Missouri. Grawer and Rush have led the team this season, but more talent is ahead for the Tigers next season, no matter how far they go in the NCAA Tournament if chosen.

- Plan To Attend -

Gateway To Careers Job Fair

Thursday, March 29, 2001, 9 am - 3 pm

in the Mark Twain Building

Gateway Teacher Recruiting Fair

Friday, March 30, 2001, 9 am - 3 pm

327 MSC Career Services 516-5111