

RACE from page 1

1,815 yards. San Diego does, however, need a reliable backup for Tomlinson. Michael Turner was that backup last season and he was on the trading block in the weeks leading up to the draft. The Chargers chose to keep Turner, but Race said he is confident that he will be in the mix for Turner's position.

"They look at me as a Michael Turner," he said. "If I can make the team, which hopefully I will, I can take over that spot maybe ... it will be a fight, but I'm going there thinking like I'm going to win it. It's a foot in the door. It's all up to me now. I'm just looking forward to the opportunity to prove that I'm good enough to play with the boys."

Chargers general manager A.J. Smith, in a press release on chargers.com, said that Race and the 22 other free agents who signed after the draft will have a chance to prove themselves.

"I love creating competition," he said. "These guys come in here and work their tails off as they try to become professionals. It makes everyone better, and as history has shown, we've found quite a few underrated players make our team and help us win."

Race leaves for San Diego today (May 3) and will take part in a three-day mini-camp over the weekend.

Race said he is excited about the opportunity to represent Pittsburg State in the NFL.

"I'll always be a Gorilla," he said. "Once a Gorilla, always a Gorilla. It'll be nice to represent Pitt State and kind of carry on our tradition."

GORILLAS from page 8

Spies won the race in 10.90.

The Pittsburg State men's 4x100 meter relay team finished first in the event with a time of 42.32 seconds after the Missouri Southern team was disqualified from the event.

In Des Moines, junior Venessa Lee and the women's sprint medley relay posted fifth-place finishes for the Gorillas' top performances at the Drake Relays.

Lee, who garnered MIAA Track Athlete of the Week honors for the second time this season, placed fifth in the 800 meters in 2 minutes, 9.71 seconds.

The 1,600-meter sprint medley relay composed of senior Shamekia Berkley, Lee, sophomore Haley Mendick and freshman Megan Ballock took fifth in 4:07.52.

In Emporia, five athletes garnered All-MIAA recognition at the MIAA multi-event championships. Junior Nate Thomas and seniors Shawn Hoyle and Jeremy Dunkle earned the honors on

the men's side while sophomore Sara Thurber and Ali Shaffer picked up the honors on the women's side.

The Gorilla men earned nine points toward next weekend's conference championships as Thomas, Hoyle and Dunkle finished fifth, sixth and seventh, respectively, in the decathlon.

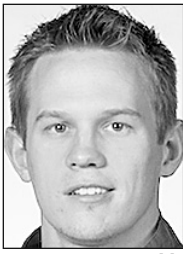
Pittsburg State will enter the MIAA Championships trailing only Northwest Missouri State. The Bearcats scored 10 points as Courtland Ingram won the event title

with 6,727 points.

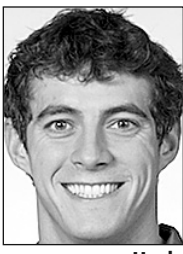
Thomas scored 6,317 points, Hoyle scored 6,310 and Dunkle finished with 5,993. Thurber led the Pittsburg State women with 4,463 points and a fifth-place finish in the heptathlon. Shaffer scored 4,296 points in a seventh-place showing.

The University of Central Missouri tallied a meet-high 17 points after Anne Carlson's meet title and third and eighth-place showings by Cody Varner and Haley Morrissey.

The Gorillas will reunite for next week's MIAA Outdoor Championships at Fort Hays State in Hays (May 5-6).



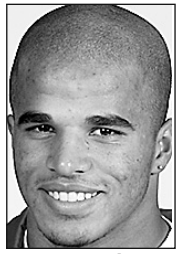
Dunkle



Hoyle



Shaffer



Thomas



Thurber

Field day



Teresa Gawrych/Collegio

Tom Winford, PSU midfielder, charges across the field to head off Newman University's Andrew Shahan during the home lacrosse game Sunday afternoon at the President's Field. PSU failed to hold NU and lost 13-1. This was the PSU lacrosse team's first season and home game.

RUNNING from page 8

at Cass-Midway High School in her native Cleveland, Mo., when coach Doug Carder, a Central Missouri grad, talked her into running again. Trying to avoid the embarrassment she felt two years earlier, Lee says she found an event that would allow her to compete at meets because nobody else wanted to do it - the 300-meter hurdles.

Lee said she chose not to give up on track because of the nature of the sport.

"It's a sport that everybody's always told me you get out what you put into it," Lee said. "I'm a really hard worker and dedicated...in track, I knew if I worked hard enough I could get good at it."

And she did. Eventually, Lee began running distance events and finished as the Class 1A state champion in the 800 meters and 1600 meters as a senior in 2005.

That year, with a letter of acceptance and half of her tuition paid for by various scholarships, Lee had decided to attend the University of Missouri. She hadn't even applied anywhere else and she didn't want to.

Having already recruited the top high school 800-meter runner in the nation, Lee said, Missouri had no athletic scholarship money left to offer, but that didn't affect her decision.

"Before I even wanted to run in college, I planned to go to MU," Lee said. "That's where all my cousins had gone and it's not too far from home. I just knew I was going there."

But Lee's dad, David, convinced her to apply to Pittsburg State.

"Coach Jewett had been calling me, but I was like, 'I'm not interested, I'm gonna run D-I,'" Lee said.

After applying to Pittsburg State, she was accepted into the Honor's College and was later offered the Presidential Scholarship, which covered all but 40 percent of her book expenses. Jewett offered to pick up the remaining expenses and Lee says that was an offer she couldn't pass up.

Despite the full ride, Jewett is convinced that without the help of former athlete and assistant coach Matt Brown, Lee would be running at Missouri. Brown had been an assistant track coach at Cass-Midway when Lee was in high school.

"There's a lot of kids you don't have a chance at if you don't have a connection and she would have been one of those without Matt," Jewett said. "She was going to Mizzou, she had her mind made up...because of Matt's connection we were able to get her down here for a

visit."

Lee came to Pittsburg State with the intention of becoming the best 800-meter runner in school history, a goal she has already achieved. She owns both the indoor and outdoor school records, which she continues to break and she's only a junior.

An extremely intense competitor, Lee hates to lose.

"Once she gets to a standard she can't stand to be below that," Jewett said. "She can't stand to be beaten by someone that she's beaten before and she can't stand to run a time that's not a (personal record)."

Lee admits that her life revolves around track. Despite the hours of studying and homework that accompany her dual major in biology and Spanish, she still finds time to cruise Internet sites, looking for the latest results from track meets around the country.

Track and field is a major part of her identity and she wants people to know that.

"Within two minutes of meeting me, somebody's going to know I'm a runner," Lee said. "It's what I think about all the time, it's what I talk about all the time."

Teammate and close friend Rachel Sneddon said Lee has a whole wall of her bedroom covered in awards, race numbers and spikes.

"She's on a totally different level than us," Sneddon said. "She's trying to make it into the Olympic trials and she's winning nationals. She's a teammate still and she's our friend, but she's on a different level athletically and we recognize that."

This weekend, Lee will compete at the MIAA Outdoor Championships in Hays. She is the defending conference champion in the 800 meters and 1,500 meters.

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Crossword

- ACROSS
- Recipe meas.
 - Mason of "The Goodbye Girl"
 - Hazy pollution
 - Stool pigeon
 - Hawaiian hellos
 - Cash drawer
 - Actress Meyers
 - French port
 - Ray of "Battle Cry"
 - Dollar fraction
 - Confidence in one's own worth
 - Border tool
 - Portable lights
 - "Finding ___"
 - Rolodex info
 - Retreat in panic
 - "Ladder of Years" writer
 - ___ Paulo, Brazil
 - Grommets
 - Period
 - Camping equipment
 - Study of humans
 - Small snake
 - Citizen of Hollywood?
 - Engenders
 - Nose
 - Movie music
 - Scholarly volume
 - Anderson of "WKRP..."
 - Sounded the hour
 - Branch of Buddhism
 - Pops the question
 - Coveter
 - Sense of self
 - Screen material
 - Profoundly
 - ___ Jose, CA

- DOWN
- Minute amount
 - Revealed
 - Smarting pain
 - Buddy
 - Lamenter's cry
 - Part cast
 - Auxiliary verb
 - Israeli port

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4-26 Solutions

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| 52 Hangman's knot | 59 Mortise's counterpart |
| 53 Sleeping berths | 61 Cut short |
| 54 Male honeybee | 62 Bow-stern connection |
| 55 Ointment | 66 Matter-of-fact |
| 57 Exudes slowly | |