Soccer takes on Europe

Brian Russell

The men's soccer team traveled to Europe earlier this month to play five exhibition games against lower-level European opponents. The team visited teams like Lusitano and Charolles while playing in France.

Head coach Russ Billings led the team on the trip, which was financed with money from fund-raisers and the players' own purses. Billings said he was pleased with the trip overall, but he was concerned with the amount of time his team had to spend on the trip overall, which was approximately in the talent level of some of Truman's competitors.

"There's a lot of other teams that have done it, other coaches that I know who have taken their teams over," Billings said. "We decided to do it because it's one of those things that we have to keep our eyes on, especially with the level we have our eyes on.

"One other positive aspect of the trip this year, the three Euros: except for playing some very good teams, we went on a tear, and we kept on winning a couple of games, which has kept us going in the right direction."

The team begins its season hosting a four-game tournament at Missouri State University (Springfield).