

Women gain the MIAA lead

Buning scores goal to lead Truman to a come-from-behind win against CMSU

John Weeks
Staff Reporter

The ball keeps rolling in the right direction and has players seeing heaven for the seventh straight season.

With two wins during the weekend, the women's soccer team gained sole possession of first place in the MIAA, a position the team has been very familiar with in the past six seasons.

Having allowed only four shots on goal all weekend, the Bulldogs won their two games 4-0 against Northwest Missouri State University and 2-1 against Central Missouri State University.

Down 1-0 with 20 minutes left to play, the team rallied to score twice in a span of 10 minutes, giving it the checkered flag for the fourth straight game.

Freshman midfielder Katie Buning, who hit the post in Saturday's game, made sure she got the ball in the net Sunday.

Buning said it was frustrating when the Jennies scored in the 70th minute because she knew the 'Dogs were the better team.

"I think it kind of motivated us a little bit," Buning said. "I think it all made us work harder and made us want it even more."

Buning grabbed the ball by its horns about five minutes later and buried the ball from five yards out, tying the game at 1-1.

With about five minutes remaining in the game, junior midfielder Robyn Mortenson followed her own shot after hitting the post and scored to win the game.

Mortenson said the 'Dogs' scoring average of 3.5 goals per game during the past four contests was bound to happen at some point in the season.

"I knew it was going to happen because we worked too hard for it to not happen," Mortenson said. "It's just a matter of time, and we finally found it."

Scoring off a penalty kick in Saturday's win, junior forward Lauren Hawks said it's more fun to play when in a scoring groove.

"It's helping that it's not just one person that's scoring," Hawks said. "It's an overall team effort, and it's just a lot more fun to play games when we have a couple of goals."

Through the first 11 games of the 2004 season, the 'Dogs had a total of 23 goals, with star Sara Murray scoring nine of the 23, and an average of two goals a game. This year, the Murray-less squad has just one less goal, 22, an average of exactly two goals a contest.

In the last four games, opponents have yielded 3.5 goals a game on average.

Even though no player has more than four goals on the year, the team continues to put the ball in the net.

Head coach Mike Cannon said he's very pleased with how well the team is playing, even though the 'Dogs have a long way to go.

"We're in a really good place right now as far as how we're playing," Cannon said. "We're creating chances, scoring goals and being really consistent with our play."

Senior forward Chayil Wiedeman, who had her first two goals of the year in Saturday's shutout victory, said it was fun to chip in.

"It definitely helps my confidence, but just being able to be a part of getting some points on the board, it was just a great feeling," Wiedeman said.

In spite of the loss, Northwest head coach Tracy Cross said she thought her team tried its best.

"If we would have held them off a little bit more, we would have done a good job," Cross said. "We tried to hold them off and hold them off, and we did very well in doing that."

But the 'Dogs dominated the game and could finish the season at 14-4-2. They have only lost one MIAA contest in the last seven years.

"If we win the conference and we don't go [to the playoffs], it's disappointing, but we did everything after our slow start to make sure that I don't want anybody else from our conference going," Cannon said. "If it's not us, it better be nobody."

The 'Dogs next challenge is against Missouri-Rolla on Friday.

Mortenson said she does not see any reason for the team to lose another game the rest of the way.

"Overall it's been an interesting season because it hasn't been like the other ones where it's always been win, win, win, win down the road," Mortenson said. "We've had to battle through some ties, the overtimes and a couple of losses. I feel like we're finally on the peak level, and we're just coasting."



Chris Tharp/Index
Senior captain and midfielder Lauren Cepicky controls the ball last Sunday against MIAA rival Central Missouri State University at home.

SPORTS | In Brief

Volleyball falls to Central Missouri State University

The No. 1 ranked volleyball team lost 3-0 Wednesday night to Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg, Mo.

The scores were 30-24, 30-26 and 30-26. Junior outside hitter/setter Kelsey Wackerman led the team with 13 kills while freshman outside hitter Eli Medina had 19 digs and junior setter Christine Wagener had 25 assists.

The Bulldogs hit .158 as a team while the Jennies hit .271.

Look Thursday morning at www.trumanindex.com for a complete recap and comments from both teams.

This weekend, the 'Dogs return home to face Emporia State University on Friday and Washburn University on Saturday.

Davis takes home MIAA Goalkeeper of the Week

Junior goalkeeper Lauren Davis' 0.66 GAA in her past two games propelled her to the MIAA Goalkeeper of the Week.

She played nearly two-thirds of Saturday's 4-0 victory against Northwest Missouri State University without facing a single shot on goal.

Against Central Missouri State University the next day, Davis allowed one goal and two saves in Truman's 2-1 victory. The win put Truman in first place in the MIAA, bumping Missouri Southern State University from the top slot.

Klimek runs to MIAA Runner of the Week at Border States

Senior Eli Klimek was the MIAA's top finisher at the Border States Invitational on Saturday in Edwardsville, Ill.

His 8k time of 25:44 was good enough for ninth place overall and helped lead Truman to a second-place finish.

Klimek has been the Bulldogs' top finisher four times this year.

Faust gathers fourth-straight MIAA Runner of the Week

Junior Jacquie Faust has been dominating MIAA women's cross country as she captured her fourth straight MIAA Runner of the Week.

Her 5k time of 18:33 led the Bulldogs to sixth place at the 22-team competition. Overall, Faust placed eighth out of 216 runners and was the MIAA's top finisher.

Southwest Baptist University's Amy Broadhurst was the MIAA's next closest finisher, crossing the line eight seconds behind Faust.

Faust and Klimek earn MIAA Awards for second straight week

Roger Meissen
Design Editor

Men's cross country came out on top of the MIAA last weekend.

The men's squad had a confident showing Saturday at the Border States Invitational in Edwardsville, Ill., topping the four MIAA schools that competed. The Bulldogs placed second of 29 schools, against Central Missouri State University, Missouri Southern State University, Pittsburg State University and Southwest Baptist University. The women also competed, obtaining sixth place out of 22 teams.

Senior Eli Klimek led the men's team for the fourth straight meet, placing ninth overall on the 8k course. His times have shown a gradual progression and improvement, moving from 27:20 at the Iowa State Open to just more than 25:44 at Saturday's Border Wars.

Klimek said he has more room to improve.

"On average, I've been a little bit better than last year," Klimek said. "I think I haven't reached my full potential yet. I'm not racing significantly better than last year. This meet last year, I got 10th place with 25:57. This year I got ninth with 25:44."

However, every second counts in a

sport like cross country, and the team has been shaving off seconds compared to last year. The top five runners are running a total of about two and a half minutes faster than the top five runners in the 2004 season, men's head coach Ed Schneider said.

"What we're trying to do is just improve each week," Schneider said. "I think Saturday was our best meet team-wise so far this season."

However, sophomore Bryant England was not satisfied with his 71st-place finish at Edwardsville.

"I ran average," England said. "I left a lot of room for improvement for the next Saturday. I didn't close well. The last mile me and one teammate kind of let the race slip away when we did not kick at all at the end."

His score was part of the 169 points that clinched second place in the meet. Their score bested Missouri Southern University by 10 points and CMSU by 68. Both teams that Truman will face in the Oct. 22 MIAA Conference meet at Pittsburg State. Klimek said he sees the win as encouraging but far from a guarantee.

"That was good that we beat them," Klimek said. "However, it's not by very

much so they're still gonna be competition at conference. CMSU, we beat them by a lot, but they didn't run two of their top five runners, which would have made them run a lot better."

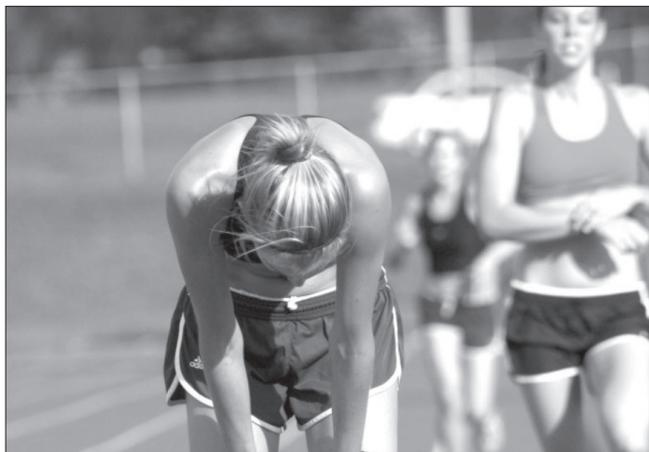
The women also fared well, placing sixth of 22 against conference opponents. Women's head coach John Cochrane said they fared better than their second-place effort the previous weekend.

"The last meet was a smaller meet and wasn't anywhere near as competitive as this meet," Cochrane said. "We ran better this week. We still are trying to find consistency."

Consistency is present in junior Jacquie Faust's performance. She finished eighth place with a time of 18:33 over the 5k course. This landed her in first place among MIAA competitors at the Border Wars, only eight seconds ahead of Southwest Baptist junior Amy Broadhurst.

However, injuries affected the women Saturday. Junior Sarah Armstrong pulled up short of finishing the race because of a recurring injury.

"She's had some problems with things with her back for a number of years," Cochrane said. "It's just flared up recently." Cochrane now focuses on the MIAA



Chris Tharp/Index
Junior Jacquie Faust hunches over after completing a workout during practice last week. Faust finished eighth at the Border States Invitational.

Conference and how to increase the chances of winning.

"When you go to this two-week period right now, everybody starts tapering back how much they're doing in training, so that by the time you get to the conference

meet," Cochrane said. "Everybody's much more rested than they are throughout the year. When that happens, all sorts of things occur. Some people run absolutely out of their mind, so there is no given here. It comes down to what you do that day."




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