

Junior picks Top Ten fall games

The 2005 fall sports schedule has many interesting matchups on tap.

Each of the four major teams – football, volleyball and men's and women's soccer – possess the ability to have amazing seasons with games that are sure to provide exciting action and great memories. Below are my top ten games to keep an eye on for the fall.

Commentary



Tyler Madsen

10) Men's soccer vs. Lewis University (12 p.m.; Sept. 18): This is the first chance to get back at the team that snapped the 'Dogs 29-game regular season unbeaten streak, and it's at home.

9) Volleyball vs. Central Missouri State University (7 p.m.; Sept. 14): Not only is this the first home match of the season for the second-ranked Bulldogs, but it's also against a conference powerhouse (second in preseason conference voting).

8) Football vs. Pittsburg State University (2 p.m.; Oct. 22): Last year's national runner-up comes to Kirksville to help celebrate Truman's homecoming and Senior Day festivities.

Perhaps some magic from the 2004 Hickory Stick game (which was so close) will carry

over for one of the biggest upsets in Div. II football.

7) Volleyball @ University of Minnesota-Duluth Classic (Aug. 26-27): Four teams from the 2004 Elite Eight will be in attendance, including Northern Michigan and new head coach (former Truman coach) Qi Wang.

There's nothing more the 'Dogs would love to do than show him what he left behind.

6) Women's soccer hits the road (Oct. 22-23): Truman is again the team to beat in the conference, but this weekend's trip to Southwest Baptist University and Missouri Southern State University could tell quite a bit about the final standings.

The Griffons and Lady Bearcats (ranked second and third in the conference's pre-season polls, respectively) won't greet the 'Dogs with open arms.

5) Men's soccer vs. Drury University (3 p.m.; Oct. 26): Former head coach Alf Bilbao brings his new team back to Kirksville in a highly anticipated rematch. This could be quite bittersweet for both sides of the midline.

4) Volleyball at Central Missouri State University (7 p.m.; Oct. 12): The return trip to Warrensburg comes late in the season.

Could another five-set victory for Truman be in the works? This match could seal the conference for either team.

3) Football vs. Winona State University (12 p.m.; Aug. 27): It is the season opener for football, and spirits will be high for the new season.

However, the Warriors won't be an easy target for the Bulldogs, as they are the preseason favorites to win the Northern Sun conference.

2) Women's soccer vs. University of Nebraska-Omaha (1 p.m.; Sept. 11): On this day of remembrance, we all will be honoring our fallen heroes of 9/11.

Truman, though, also will be recalling the bad blood with UNO. In the 2004 NCAA Sweet 16, the Lady Mavericks knocked off the 'Dogs at home on a bad bounce in overtime.

This is a nasty rivalry that certainly will have the intensity turned up a notch in 2005.

And the top regular season game in the fall of 2005?

1) Men's soccer at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville (7 p.m.; Sept. 9): Truman heads south to take on last year's national runner-up in a game with serious playoff implications as to possible home-field advantage come November.

The Cougars lost only one starter, and Truman brings most of its players back for this noteworthy matchup.

So spend some money on gas, gather up some friends and go watch what could be the biggest regular season game in Truman history.



Chris Waller/Index
Junior Melissa Snodgrass evades a UNO defender during Truman's 2-1 defeat in the post season last fall. The Bulldogs will seek revenge against the Mavericks on Sept. 11 in Kirksville.

2005 Volleyball

Key Returning Players

Player	Year	Position	Key Stat
Sarah Shearman	Junior	Outside Hitter	4.19 Kills/game
Micaela Walter	Senior	Middle Hitter	.300 attack pct.
Tiffany Graham	Senior	MH	1.06 Blocks/game
Megan Remley	Senior	OH/MH	2.11 Kills/game
Kelsey Wackerman	Junior	Rightside Hitter	1.64 aces/game
Christine Wagener	Junior	Setter	7.45 assists/game

Volleyball

Libero position battle is Skoch's first key decision of year

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little more than Marti [Joyer], but Marti doesn't have to as much because she reads better. Right now, it's who is going to be consistent for more than one day."

As with any season, a lot of the questions facing the squad should be answered by the new faces.

This year's team has five freshmen who will be given the opportunity to play, Skoch said.

"[A few] of them will get a lot

of playing time," he said. "It just really right now depends on what system we'll go with, but it looks like three or four will get significant playing time right off the bat."

Shearman said the freshmen are contributing already to the squad.

"The freshmen have really stepped it up," she said. "They are playing volleyball at a higher level than they have before."

An interesting match up is in store when the Bulldogs face their former head coach, Qi

Wang, in a game against No. 11 ranked Northern Michigan this Saturday as part of the Minnesota-Duluth Classic.

While he does admit there is some emotion going into the game versus the former coach, Skoch said he's trying to keep a level head for the Northern Michigan match.

"The girls are going to put a lot of emotion in that game," Skoch said. "I'm treating it like we're playing the 11th-ranked team in the country regardless of who the coach is."



Truman Football and Soccer Home Openers This Weekend!!!!

Men's Soccer Vs. Southern Indiana
4 p.m. Friday, August 26
Soccer Field

Men's Soccer Vs. Wisconsin-Parkside
2 p.m. Tuesday, August 30
Soccer Field

(Soccer field is located south of Campbell Apartments past Stokes Stadium)

Truman Football Vs. Winona State
Saturday, August 27
Stokes Stadium
Kickoff: Noon





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