

Basketball: 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday vs. Lincoln
Christian College
Swimming: 5 p.m. Friday
vs. Iowa
2 p.m. Saturday vs.
Missouri State

Volleyball: 7 p.m. tonight
vs. Central Missouri
State
Basketball: 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday vs. Stephens

SPORTS



Pumping Iron
Iron Dogs
compete at two
meets
Saturday at
Pershing Arena

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Thursday, November 10, 2005

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Women win MIAA title

Soccer team captures the MIAA conference on the final day of the regular season

John Weeks
Staff Reporter

On a cool November afternoon, the women's soccer team made a statement: They're still the team to beat.

Hugs, cheers and tears consumed the soccer field Saturday afternoon as the Bulldogs took care of business on Senior Day and clinched the conference for the seventh straight year. With the help of a Missouri Southern State University loss to Central Missouri State University 2-1 in overtime on Friday, the 'Dogs just had to win its last two games to take the con-

ference. They finished the season 10-7-3.

Senior captain Lauren Cepicky had two assists in Friday's 2-0 win against Emporia State University and added one more Saturday, giving her 35 career points.

While trying to hold back tears, Cepicky said the season meant a lot to her, even if the team didn't make the playoffs.

"Obviously, it's bittersweet," Cepicky said. "You always want to go to the postseason, but I think we ended the season as best we could, and we put a little bit of flare on it ... I'm glad that even though we couldn't carry on with the tradition of postseason like we had the last few years, we were able to continue the tradition of conference."

Head coach Mike Cannon said he couldn't ask for a better finish to a rocky season.

"It's been all season that we've been up and down, but we finished on an upswing,"

Cannon said. "From the Northwest game [Oct. 30] through the Emporia game [Nov. 4] and today, we played some of our best soccer, which is great to finish that way ... This weekend was fantastic as far as our play."

Six of the 'Dogs' 10 wins on the season came in shutout fashion. A mixture of players contributed to the 5-0 shutout victory against a young Missouri Western State College team.

In the last three games of the season, the 'Dogs got back on the right track, garnering three wins and allowing only one goal in those 270 minutes.

With 10 wins this year, Cannon's coaching resume continues to build as he keeps his career winning percentage well above 70 percent.

A little more than a minute into Saturday's game, the 'Dogs found themselves with the lead, something the team hasn't been used to

all year. Senior forward Rachel McCarville kicked off the scoring with the purple and white's first two goals.

McCarville said scoring early and often was essential to winning the game.

"We all just wanted to go out on a good note and get the conference win," McCarville said. "I felt really good."

She said she enjoyed her final year with the team the most.

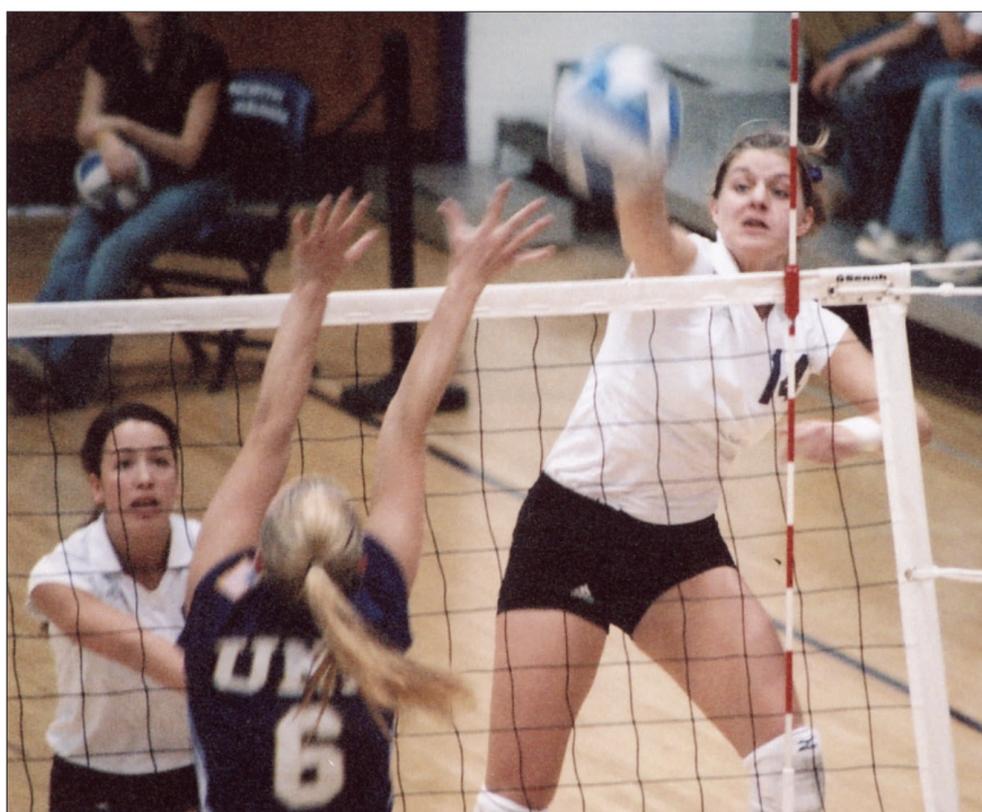
"This has definitely been my favorite year overall," McCarville said. "We just had an awesome team and played so well together. Even though we didn't go as far as we've had in the past, it was a lot of fun to play with this group of people."

Sophomore Emily Newsham put the game far out of reach when she tallied the 'Dogs' fourth goal of the game in the 37th minute. **See MIAA, Page 21**

MIAA 2005
Women's Soccer
Final Standings

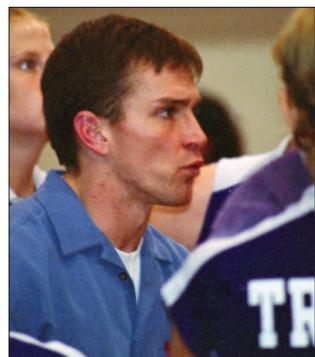
	W	L	T	Pts.
Truman	8	3	3	27
MSSU	7	3	4	25
Washburn	7	3	4	25
CMSU	8	5	1	25

Lindsay Koski/Index



Adam Kabins/Index

(above) Junior outside hitter Sarah Shearman spikes the ball against University of North Alabama. (below left) Head coach Jason Skoch talks to his team in Alabama. (below right) The Bulldogs break from a huddle.



Volleyball ends season on road

Bulldogs fall to regional rival North Alabama 3-1, will now open playoffs Thursday

Ross Houston
Assistant Sports Editor

It is about 8:30 p.m. Sunday, and every member of the Truman volleyball team is huddled around head coach Jason Skoch on the coach bus.

"We, as a team, can beat anyone in the country," he says to his players. "But it's going to take everything."

The squad is returning home from Huntsville, Ala., the location of its final road trip of the regular season. Unlike most end-of-season matches, these matches were critical for the 'Dogs.

A season's worth of emotion was packed into three days. The team saw injuries and recuperations, aggressive attacks and poor performances, wins and losses.

Although the squad lost to the University of North Alabama and lost the possibility of having the South Central Regional tournament near Truman, it gained much more.

On the bus, the players all went around and said what they could've done better on the weekend. Lack of focus and hustle were the most common remarks.

Skoch tells his athletes they need to improve on all of these to win the upcoming conference tournament.

He then asks, "Do you think we can win?"

"Yes," the players all respond at once.

Day 1: Knockout at 6:30 a.m.

It is 6:15 a.m. and the women are playing "knock-out" basketball before the 6:30 a.m. practice.

Finally, Skoch and assistant coach Ben Briney arrive, and the team gets down to business.

It performs a series of drills, with Briney and student coach and former All-American Jessica Sears participating while Skoch takes in everything his team is doing. It's a big weekend for the volleyball team, and he knows it. Everyone knows it.

When the team struggles, Skoch yells encouraging words such as, "Can you guys not win?!" and, "I don't want to see any of you wear a Truman jersey unless we win this weekend!" to help get the team motivated.

The players close off practice with a serving drill. They have to get to 20 points combined in one minute by serving the ball where they are told. Every time they commit a service error, they lose a point. If the team fails to complete the drill in a minute, the members have to do three sit-ups and try the drill again.

Although it takes them about seven times to complete the drill, Skoch doesn't go crazy. He simply tells the players they need to improve if they want to compete against UNA.

At 1 p.m., the team boards the bus for the 12-hour, 631-mile journey. The team is very talkative in the beginning of the ride, but for the majority of the trip, the bus is quiet. The players watch a movie, complete homework or sleep.

The bus arrives at the Holiday Inn Express at 1 a.m. The players all head to their rooms to get some shut-eye and prepare for a busy weekend.

Day 2: Victory in the Rocket City

Today, the squad has a match against the University of Alabama-Huntsville, a Gulf South Conference team fighting to snatch the final spot in the upcoming South Central Regional tournament.

"They are right now eighth in the region, and the eighth seed [in the tournament] automatically goes to the [Southern Atlantic Intercollegiate Conference]," Skoch tells his team during the 10 a.m.

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2005 Men's Soccer Great Lakes Region Playoff Preview

Bulldogs win 1-0 on Senior Day

Team finishes the season at 16-3-1, will open the playoffs tonight at SIU-Edwardsville

Tyler Madsen
Staff Reporter

The powers that be looked as if they were working against the men's soccer team Sunday afternoon.

The heavy emotions involved with Senior Day, the careful play of a handful of players trying not to pick up another yellow card and the absence of the team's assist and point leader created many obstacles for the guys in the white, long-sleeved jerseys to overcome.

Despite it all, they found a way to win yet again.

Senior midfielder Geoff Brengle scored his first goal of the season at the most opportune time as the Bulldogs closed out the regular season with a 1-0 victory against the Leathernecks of Western Illinois University. With the victory, the 'Dogs notched their 16th win of the season.

"I brought the ball down and saw Lars [Pottgeisser] coming across the goal, but I decided to try and take a hit and see

what happened, and it ended up going in," Brengle said. "Usually I would have passed it in that situation, but it felt good to get one in the back of the net."

The Bulldogs and Leathernecks battled to a first-half stalemate, but the 'Dogs clearly dominated, as shown by their 10-2 advantage in shots.

Finally, in the 65th minute, Brengle received a tipped ball off the foot of senior forward Nate Gaudreault. Brengle then fired a ball toward the far post, which glanced off the head of Leatherneck defender Jeff Schield and into the net for the lone goal of the afternoon.

Junior goalkeeper Nate Gibson posted another shutout but was tested in the second half as he faced 11 shots, six of which were on goal. The shutout was the 34th of his career and 12th of the season, as he continues to add to his record-breaking numbers.

"I think today showed the consistency of our team," head coach Duke Cochran said. "We gave up two goals in our last game [against Christian Brothers] and wanted to get back to having a shut-out and scoring goals. I think the team showed today how we can go very deep and still be very good."

The team played a clean match and received only one yellow card. The 'Dogs played without senior forward Martin Claves, who was forced to sit since he received a red card in their last game. As a result, all the players on the roster will be eligible to play Thursday evening in the first round of the playoffs.

"I think that we substituted guys out a little earlier and that some guys had to control themselves and not say anything to the officials, and that's a good practice," junior back Matt McCarthy said. "We played really well while staying cool."

Fourteen players were honored prior to the match in what would be their last home game. Jared Atwood, Mike Boyle, Ben Hicks, Sean Birrell, Kevin Barry, Stian Gundersen, Paul Link, Claves, Chad Baldwin, Wes Frevvert and Lars Pottgeisser, as well as Gibson, Gaudreault and Brengle, were recognized for their commitment, success and dedication to the Bulldog program in the past four seasons.

The 'Dogs got word Monday afternoon that they will be heading back to the Div. II playoffs for the second time in the past three seasons. Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville is the top seed in the Great Lakes region with an overall record of 15-2-2 and will serve as the host for the weekend. The squad then will take on Rockhurst

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Great Lakes Region Schedule

Truman vs. Rockhurst
No. 2 (16-3-1) No. 3 (15-4-1)
Tonight, 7 p.m. at SIUE

Winner vs. SIUE
No. 1 (15-2-2)
Saturday, 7 p.m.

Key Players

Truman
Martin Claves: 16 assists, 32 points
Sean Birrell: 9 goals, 19 points
Nate Gaudreault: 8 goals, 22 points
Nate Gibson: 16-3-1, 0.55 GAA

Rockhurst
Haggai Leboo: 19 goals, 43 points
Tom Heinemann: 11 goals, 32 points
Cody Anderson: 8 goals, 21 points

SIUE
Victor Pacheco: 7 goals, 20 points
Mike Banner: 7 goals, 17 points
Ross Beveridge: 7 goals, 15 points

Designed by Lindsay Koski/Index

Seniors look for great finish

Things had to change for the men's soccer team.

After a 1-0 loss to Northern Kentucky University on Sept. 30 dropped the Bulldogs to the brink of playoff elimination, several seniors became emotional and spoke after the post-game run.

"We realized that we weren't going to win games just based on reputation alone," senior back and two-year captain Jared Atwood said. "We just all said that we shouldn't have lost that match, and we shouldn't lose anymore the rest of the season."

They have dominated since then, going 9-0-1 and winning pivotal 1-0 victories over Gannon University (Pa.) and rival Rockhurst University (Mo.).

They didn't allow a goal for eight games and 877:01 minutes – the sixth-longest streak in NCAA Div. II history – and outscored opponents 22-2. **See SENIORS Page 21**

Commentary



Conor Nicholl