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Freshman midfielder Katie Buning kicks the ball Saturday afternoon in a 4-0 loss to Washburn University. The defeat was the Bulldogs first in the MIAA since 1996. Currently, the 'Dogs are tied for the MIAA lead with Washburn at 17 points.

Women suffer first MIAA loss since 1996

'Dogs surrender 4 goals in squad's first MIAA loss in 47 games

John Weeks
Staff Reporter

Most Truman students barely could see PG-13 movies the last time the women's soccer team gave up four goals in a game, stretching all the way back to Oct. 5, 1996.

The Bulldogs lost their first conference contest in 47 games, a span of four years, on Saturday to Washburn University.

The Lady Blues blanked the 'Dogs 4-1, putting three balls in the net in the second half.

Junior captain and goalkeeper Lauren Davis had a tough day between the posts, surrendering four goals, the most in her collegiate career.

Davis said Washburn capitalized on the 'Dogs' mistakes.

"It wasn't our day," Davis said. "Sometimes you play well, and you just don't get the result, and I think that's what happened today. I'm disappointed because we're a good team, and the score didn't show how well we actually played."

The 'Dogs scored two goals in 10 minutes Oct. 9 and beat Central Missouri 2-1 after being down 1-0 with 20 minutes left to play. Six days later the 'Dogs found themselves playing catch-up yet again, but this time the team had to erase a 3-0 deficit with 20 minutes remaining.

Washburn defender Lisa Coleman put the game out of reach when she added her second goal of the game in the 80th minute, putting the score at 4-0 and handing the 'Dogs their first conference loss of the season.

Head coach Mike Cannon said the Bulldogs didn't play like they normally do.

"I thought it took us a little while to just relax," Cannon said. "We were not panicked, but we were very flustered at times. Their physical play, plus going down a goal, it seemed like we got very frustrated."

Cannon said the 'Dogs appeared to be one step behind Washburn the majority of the game.

"Today I think we were just off," Cannon said. "We struggled in the midfield and a little bit up top. ... Once they scored that second one, it seemed like we were really chasing the game."

Senior captain Lauren Cepicky said she thinks the 'Dogs weren't controlling the clock or maintaining possession.

"I think when they scored the first goal, we got out of our rhythm, and then they got the momentum and just kind of stuck with it," Cepicky said. "It's kind of an uncharacteristic loss for the Bulldogs.

We gave effort all the way up to the end, and I don't think there's much more that you can ask for. It's just tough to lose."

With the loss, Washburn's young soccer program is tied in the league standings with the 'Dogs at 17 points.

Washburn head coach Tim Collins said he used Truman's soccer program in the past as a barometer of what he'd like his team to reach.

"We've seen in the last two years what it takes to be at the next level," Collins said. "I really do think that if Truman puts away a couple of those opportunities that they had in the first half, then it may be a different story.

But I'm not going to deny that I'm really happy with the result."

Collins said his players rose to the occasion and silenced critics.

"Today showed that we can step up when we need to and put some balls away," Collins said.

Washburn captain defender Lora Westling said coming out strong and beating Truman improves the team's chance of winning the conference.

"It's a big win for us," Westling said. "We have a lot of respect for [Truman]. They're a great team, and we knew we had to come in and be really focused on our attack."

SPORTS | In Brief

Volleyball falls from top spot in national rankings

The women's volleyball team fell eight spots to No. 9 in the AVCA poll follow its three straight MIAA losses. The Bulldogs had held the top spot for the last six weeks, but are 20-4 after losing three matches in the past week.

The University of Nebraska-Kearney took the first spot earning 29 of a possible 34 votes.

Women's swimming loses at home meet

In its first dual meet of the season, the women's swim team lost to Div. I University of Kansas Jayhawks 127-78 Saturday at the Pershing Natatorium in Kirksville.

In the 11-race event, the five-time defending national champion Bulldogs only won three races. Senior Whitney Jensen won two races, the 50- and 100-yard freestyle, while sophomore Whitney Wodstrchill won the 200-yard backstroke.

Men's tennis finishes fall season with a win

The men's tennis team finished the fall season with wins in five out of the the possible six matches at the Western Illinois Doubles Tournament. The Bulldogs beat Wasbash College (Ind.), the University of Missouir-St. Louis, Quincy University (Ill.), St. Ambrose College (Iowa) and Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. The host school, Western Illinois University, gave the 'Dogs their only loss.

Sophomore Cody Pusateri and freshman Mark Marifian won five out of six matches as the squad's No. 3 team.

No. 1 duo senior Tyler Wood and junior Ryan Cope went 4-2, beating the top teams from Quincy, Missouri-St. Louis, Wabash and SIUE.

ROTC competes at Challenge over weekend

The University's ROTC program competed at the Ranger Challenge at Fort Leonard Wood last weekend. The Alpha team finished second, while the Bravo team took eighth out of 26 teams.

Cross country teams head into conference with high hopes

Men, women prepare for MIAA conference meet at Pittsburg State

Joseph Barker
Staff Reporter

The warm-up is over. The main event is now set to begin.

After a summer of working and a fall season, the men's and women's cross-country teams are heading to Pittsburg, Kan., on Oct. 22 for the MIAA Conference Championship.

Both teams have a good shot at placing high. Central Missouri State University and Missouri Southern State University are both in the running in both the men's and women's field.

"In the conference right now, there are four, maybe five, teams that have a chance to win the conference because it is that even," women's head coach John Cochrane said. "What it comes down to is that the team that competes the best is going to end up winning. Everybody has beaten everybody during the year, so we really don't know."

Both coaches said the men's and women's teams have a solid group of runners this year. However, one runner from each team has stood out among the rest.

For the men, that is senior Eli Klimek. For the women, it's junior Jacquie Faust.

Faust has been on a roll all year since returning from Spain last fall. She won the Emporia State Invitational on Sept. 30 and was the top conference runner at the Border States Invitational on Oct. 8. She has been the MIAA Women's Cross Country Runner of the Week four times.

"I feel confident that if I run my best race, I could win," Faust said.

On the men's side, Klimek also is having a noteworthy year. In every race this season, Klimek has been Truman's highest-finisher. Twice he has been recognized by the MIAA as the Men's Cross Country runner of the week.

"I think individually, I am pretty much seeded second," Klimek said. "There is one guy from Central [Jarod Wall], and he's really good. He's probably going to win pretty easily. Other than that, I think competition is pretty shallow, so I think I should be the second guy."

Both teams will have issues with the course. The course in Pittsburg is brand new.

"It will be a new course for us," men's head coach Ed Schneider said. "We haven't run on it. But nobody else has either, so it won't be any big advantage or disadvantage one way or the other."

The new course is longer on the women's side. Instead of the 5 kilometers they have been running all season, the race is now 6k.

However, Faust said she is not concerned with the added length. Instead, she sees it as a plus.

"I love long distances," Faust said. "Distance is where I excel. I am definitely going to view it [the extra distance] as an advantage."

Schnieder said no one really knows what will happen. It could rain, which would completely change the course. One team might not show up. Or someone completely off the radar could step up and win, he said.

"You never know what is going to happen on a given day," Schneider said. "You just hope that everybody is ready to run their best race and compete very well, and they have the confidence that they can do well."

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Freshman Danna Kelly and junior Meagan Robertson run during practice last week. Kelly and Robertson, along with the rest of the women's squad, will be tested at the MIAA Championship, as the course is a kilometer longer than an average women's cross-country course.