



Adam Kabins/Index

Sophomore midfielder Wes Frevert battles Drury freshman defender Tyson Bramley in the Bulldogs' 3-0 win against the Panthers on Wednesday afternoon at the Truman soccer field. The 'Dogs rank second in the Great Lakes Region at 14-3 with three matches left.

**SOCCER** | 'Dogs move to second in region

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on goal for the home team. "The intensity of our team right now is good across the board," Cochran said. "The depth of the team is one of its strengths this season, which is a tribute to them. They all feel a part of this, and everyone does what they can to make sure that we're there at the end."

One of the greatest coaches in the program's history returned to Kirksville on Wednesday afternoon. Former head coach Alf Bilbao, who left the team in March, returned with his new squad, the Drury University Panthers.

The 'Dogs did not allow him to have a joyful return to Kirksville as they defeated the Panthers 3-0 Wednesday afternoon.

"It was different coming back being on the other sideline because I know all the players," Bilbao said. "I would have liked a better result, but we played a very good team."

Birrell once again got things going with his seventh goal of the season at the 7:17 mark from another Claves assist. The assist, his 16th of the year, ties him with John Cunliffe, a junior forward for Fort Lewis College (Colo.), for the NCAA Division II lead in assists.

Senior back Jared Atwood got his first goal of the season in the

65th minute on a penalty kick, while senior forward Nate Gaudreault finished off the scoring in the 88th minute with his eighth goal of the season.

The 'Dogs now sit at 14-3 on the season and No. 12 in the nation with three matches to play. Two of those occur this weekend against a pair of teams from outside the region in Memphis, Tenn. On Saturday, the team will take on No. 17 Central Arkansas, which will enter with a 12-2-1 record, while

Sunday's match features opponent Christian Brothers University, which defeated No. 1 SIUE in the first match of the season.

"We want to get out and continue to play hard," Atwood said. "If we come out and play tough defense and get some balls in the back of the net,

we should be able to get away with two more wins."

Cochran echoed those thoughts and hoped his team can benefit from the quality of play that awaits them this weekend.

"If we're going to play in the tournament, then we need to be able to play away from home against teams we haven't seen and do well," Cochran said. "Right now, I would hate to play us because we're playing well, and we'd really like to see Rockhurst and Wisconsin-Parkside having to battle hard for that last playoff spot."

**"The intensity of our team right now is good across the board."**

**Duke Cochran**  
Truman Head Coach

**FOOTBALL** | Bulldogs fall to 1-8 on season after 66-14 Homecoming loss to Pittsburg State at Stokes Stadium

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18 yards, enabling the Gorillas to convert on fourth down and eventually find the end zone.

With the offense going nowhere and the defense struggling to make stops, the game quickly got out of hand.

By halftime, Pitt State had built up a 31-7 lead.

Pitt State attacked the Truman defense with an option play all afternoon.

Senior linebacker Marcus Yokeley said knowing assignments is the key to defending the option.

"The coaches did a great job preparing us for the game," Yokeley said. "You can never be perfectly prepared for a team like Pitt State. Defensively, we had things that should've worked. We just didn't execute to the best of our ability for whatever reason."

Currier also stood by the defensive game plan.

"We thought our scheme was solid even after the game," Currier said. "When you watch the film, it's pretty easy to see that

we had guys in the right spots, but we weren't making the plays, and that's what it comes down to."

Pitt State's offense came into Saturday's game ranked first in the nation, averaging 51 points per game. It looked like the country's best offense, gaining yardage in huge chunks all afternoon.

Offensively, the 'Dogs are on the opposite end of the spectrum. The Gorillas scored more points Saturday than Truman has totaled in its last five games combined. The 'Dogs only gained 262 yards of offense with just 66 of them coming on the ground.

Long completed 17 of 40 passes for 196 yards and three interceptions.

Currier said he thinks his young quarterback is trying to do too much.

"A lot of times good quarterbacks have confidence they can throw the ball anywhere," Currier said. "Right now, he thinks certain guys are open when they might be slightly covered. You like that mentality, but we need

The Bulldogs have hit a two-month slide since their win in week 1

|                                      | Week 1 | Week 2-9 |
|--------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| <b>Overall Record</b>                | 1-0    | 0-8      |
| <b>Pts. per game.</b>                | 21     | 12.5     |
| <b>Pts. allowed per game</b>         | 16     | 43       |
| <b>Rushing Yds. per game</b>         | 79     | 72       |
| <b>Allowed rushing yds. per game</b> | 90     | 249      |

Designed by Lindsay Koski/Index

him to be a little more conservative with his throws."

Senior wide receiver James Walton said much of the responsibility for Long's struggles lies with the veterans on offense.

"Mike's a young quarter-

back, and we need to do more to help him out and get him his first win as a starter," Walton said.

Walton is one of eight senior Bulldogs who played their final football game at Stokes

Stadium on Saturday.

Walton said two of his favorite football memories involve battles for the old Hickory Stick. First, he spoke of the matchup his true freshman year when former Truman quarterback Eric Howe led the Bulldogs to a come-from-behind win against the Northwest Missouri State Bearcats.

Then, he recalled last year's Homecoming game when the 'Dogs nearly shocked the world with a win against the undefeated Bearcats but came up just short, 45-42.

Walton drew a parallel between the two games.

"My true freshman year we came back and won the Hickory Stick because we never gave up and played 60 minutes of football ...," Walton said. "Last year was special too. We didn't give up then. The difference was we played 59-and-a-half minutes of football. I remember the elation of winning the Hickory Stick and of almost pulling off one of the greatest upsets in college football history."



**Shannon Currier**  
Truman Head Coach

"I wouldn't say Homecoming made [the 66-14 loss to Pitt St.] worse ... losing's losing, no matter what week it is."



**Marcus Yokeley**  
Senior Linebacker

"You can never be perfectly prepared for a team like Pitt State ... we just didn't execute."

**SWIMMING** | Women look for sixth-straight national title, and men hope to improve on 10th place last season under new coach Mark Gole

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100-yard freestyle and sophomore Whitney Wodstrchill in the 200-yard back. Junior Lija Kaleps-Clark took second in the 200-yard IM. Both Wodstrchill and Kaleps-Clark already qualified for nationals.

Not to be lost in all the talk about the "six-peat" is the men's squad. After a 10th-place finish last year at nationals, the men look to improve on that standing, or at the very least not lose ground.

"It's going to be a challenging year," Gole said. "We are really going to have a hard time trying to stay right there. I think we lost quite a bit, but I think the guys are up to the challenge."

The men also had to deal with

several losses because of graduation. A lot of the swimmers and national qualifiers are returning, but some relay talent is gone. Gole said the freshmen will have to contribute as well as senior Josh Otis and junior Robert Fletcher, who were both national qualifiers.

"Once you make that national cut, it makes it that much easier to get it again," Gole said. "They always say the first cut is the hardest, and that is what the freshmen and sophomores are facing right now. And they can look to Robert and Josh for a little leadership to get them there."

If the freshmen can learn from Otis and Fletcher and make an impact, the men hope they can match the women's performance.

"This off-season we have been training a lot harder than we ever have before and have done a lot more stroke-orientated work than we ever have before," Strom said. "It should really pay off when we get into the clutch part of the season. I think we will do really well. We have some new freshmen that will really help us out a lot. I think we will do as well as last year, if not even better."

With the season already in progress, the 'Dogs know that they will have a target on their back with the reputation of the University swim program. And, according to Gole, they are ready for whatever comes their way.

"I think whenever you are on the top, people are trying to knock you down," Gole said. "We definitely are in position to defend the title, and that's what it's all about. People are going to bring the best they have against us, and we just have to fight them off."



Chris Waller/Index

Freshman Andrew Berdine swims the backstroke during Tuesday's practice. The men, led by seniors Josh Otis and Robert Fletcher, have their first dual meet Nov. 5 against Washington University (Mo.) and the University of Missouri-Rolla at home. The women also will participate in the same meet.

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