

Men's soccer finishes 1-1 after tough weekend play

Squad falls to regional foe Wisconsin-Parkside, defeats Southern Indiana

Tyler Madsen
Staff Reporter

During a team's first match under a new system, the fans, the players and even the coach might not know the outcome.

If Truman's season-opening dominance of the University of Southern Indiana is any indication, the Bulldogs could be very good come November.

"I was very pleased with the way our guys came out and played," head coach Duke Cochran said. "We're playing a new system and got a result out of it against a quality team. The fact that we're willing to work on it and work hard for the team shows how deep this team is and how hard this team will work for each other."

Three assists from senior Martin Clayes highlighted the Bulldogs' 4-0 victory against the Screaming Eagles on Friday afternoon.

Sophomore forward Drew Vogt scored the first goal of the young season in the 10th minute off a bizarre play.

Screaming Eagles' goalkeeper Kyle Penick was penalized for holding onto the ball too long, and a quick restart by Clayes led to the easy goal for Vogt.

"In all fairness, I think that call was a bit harsh for that early in the game," Cochran said. "However, our guys took advantage of it and put it in the back of the net, and that started the ball rolling."

Later in the first half, senior Sean Birrell, who missed all but one game last season due to injury, tallied his first goal of the 2005 campaign on a feed from Vogt in the 28th minute. Birrell was the team's leading goal-scorer in 2003.

Just two minutes later, junior defender Matt McCarthy snuck past the Screaming

Player	Position	Goals	Assists	Points
Martin Clayes	M	1	3	5
Drew Vogt	F	1	1	3
Three players tied with two points apiece				

Eagles' defense and scored off a Clayes corner kick to give the 'Dogs a commanding 3-0 lead late in the first half.

"Things felt good," Clayes said. "We've been working on a new system, and once we got those early goals, we were cruising."

Clayes added his final assist of the day in the 63rd minute when he found fellow senior Nate Gaudreault for the final goal of the afternoon.

Outside of the offense's dominance, another bright spot was the Bulldog defense. Goalkeeper Nate Gibson picked up his first shutout of 2005 by stopping seven Screaming Eagles' attempts. Two diving stops late in regulation kept the shutout.

The only blemish in the box score was the amount of yellow cards received by Bulldog players, all in the second half.

The 'Dogs were recipients of seven yellow cards, while the Screaming Eagles escaped Kirksville unharmed. Truman assistant coach Andy Lakers received a red card in his first game on the sideline not dressed as a player.

On Tuesday, the 'Dogs hosted the University of Wisconsin-Parkside in a key regional match. The Rangers defeated the 'Dogs 1-0 last season in Wisconsin and advanced to the NCAA tournament ahead of Truman.

This time around, a goal in double overtime gave the Rangers a 2-1 victory over the 'Dogs, who dropped to 1-1 on the season.

Truman was in trouble very early one

on the hot, muggy day when Birrell picked up a pair of yellow cards and was ejected from the game.

As a result, the 'Dogs had to play a man short for the remainder of the match.

After a scoreless first half played mainly in the midfield, Clayes got his first goal of the season in the 55th minute off a free kick just outside the Wisconsin-Parkside box.

The Rangers retaliated quickly, however, in the 60th minute when a rebound bounced right to the feet of Mike Ruffalo, who put it in the back of the net.

The match remained tied until the 106th minute, when Wisconsin-Parkside senior Sher Yang placed the ball past the outstretched arms of Gibson to secure the golden goal victory.

"We respect Truman's program and what coach Cochran is doing now with this senior-laden team," Rangers' coach Rick Kilps said following the match. "Every regional game, especially against the top-tier teams, is very important, and we're fortunate to get on the bus with a victory."

The 'Dogs now have to prepare for the weekend, which features a pair of games at the Quincy Soccer Bowl. Truman faces Northwood University (Mich.) on Saturday and tournament host Quincy University (Ill.) Sunday evening.

Both opponents are in the Bulldogs' Region, making each of the contests very important for a playoff position.

"We either win or we learn, so we're going to watch video and go over scenarios when you're down a man and how to keep in games," Cochran said. "We're going to learn from this, move on and work on winning every half again."



Senior Sean Birrell tries to escape the grasp of a Southern Indiana defender during Friday's 4-0 win. Birrell, who missed most of last year with an ankle injury, scored a goal in the 28th minute to put the Bulldogs ahead 2-0. Against Wisconsin-Parkside, however, Birrell was ejected from the game after he picked up two yellow cards. The 'Dogs played a man down the rest of the match and lost 2-1 in double overtime to regional rival Wisconsin-Parkside. They will travel to the Quincy Soccer Bowl this weekend.

Chris Tharp/Index

Women suffer first regular season loss in nearly two years

Squad had won 38 regular season games dating back to Sept. 6, 2003

John Weeks
Staff Reporter

An unlikely star had her eyes set on a goal Sunday — to play in her first college soccer game.

Not only did freshman midfielder Brigitte Pohren get to play, but she also scored the team's only goal, leading to the Bulldogs' first win of the season.

The Bulldogs stand at 1-1 on the year.

After suffering its first regular-season loss since Sept. 6, 2003, a span of 38 games, the women's soccer team dusted itself off by mixing up the lineup and edging out St. Cloud State 1-0 on Sunday.

Pohren supported the team on the bench during Friday's heart-wrenching 1-0 loss to the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

But about 33 minutes into the first half of Sunday's match-up, Pohren's role was reversed, as head coach Mike Cannon gave her a chance to play.

Within two minutes, Pohren answered the call by lofting the ball over the shoulder of St. Cloud goalie Stephanie Brendel.

Pohren said she threw her fists in the air after she scored and savored the moment of scoring not only the first goal of her college career but also the first goal of the season.

"I guess I was more shocked that it was me that had the goal," Pohren said. "There's like nine freshmen on the team,



Senior defenseman Addie Arment approaches the ball in practice on Wednesday. The women finished 1-1 this past weekend, defeating St. Cloud State 1-0 and falling to University of Minnesota-Duluth by the same score.

Chris Tharp/Index

and only three traveled, so being there is just a big deal. Hard work paid off."

Cannon said he knew the team had to bounce back after being shutout their first game and couldn't come back home with a 0-2 record.

"We didn't play that poorly," Cannon said. "We just made more mistakes in the first game that we normally wouldn't make. The second half [of the first game] we played with a lot more intensity. We controlled the play, but we just didn't

capitalize on our opportunities."

Cannon said he used his bench a bit more in the second game than in the first, giving 18 out of the 20 girls playing time in the first half.

"We have a lot of depth, and it's kind

of hard to get everyone out there," Cannon said. "But we played better as the weekend went on. I think the team's catching on pretty quick."

Senior midfielder Molly Benson, who had a shot on goal each game, said she also noticed a difference in the team's play Friday and Sunday.

"I think we felt a little more relaxed having the first game out of the way," Benson said. "We have a lot of new faces, and it's just a matter of getting to know everybody and how everyone plays."

Benson said she sees the team's chemistry improving with each passing game and thinks goals will eventually come.

"I see a lot more of our goals produced from many different people rather than one or two power scorers, which will make it more difficult for teams to mark us because you never know who will step up," Benson said.

Captain and junior goalkeeper Lauren Davis is already on her way to breaking her own record of 15 shutouts in a season, by recording her 29th career shutout Sunday.

Being behind the team every game, Davis said she saw the team working a lot better the second time around.

"Friday we played well, we definitely played well, but you could tell it was that first game getting used to each other," Davis said. "But then Sunday it just seemed to click."

Davis said she thinks the team will have a successful season as long as everyone prepares mentally.

"Physically I think we have the talent, so it's just preparing ourselves to work hard enough to stay in the close games," Davis said.

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