

Women outmatched by UNO

Truman scores lone goal in first half but can't hold on for win

John Weeks
Staff Reporter

What is it about the University of Nebraska-Omaha?

Its women's soccer team always seems to get the best of Truman when it counts, and the Mavericks did it again Sunday, coming from behind to win 2-1.

The women's soccer team came home an offensively-challenged team after being shut out twice 2-0 during Labor Day weekend.

The team scored one goal in the first four games of the season.

Last year, alumna Sara Murray and her teammates scored eight goals in the first four games of the 2004 campaign.

The Bulldogs returned home with hopes of scoring and racking up a couple of wins.

Playing in front of an excited home crowd Saturday, senior captain Lauren Cepicky led Truman with two goals and an assist in a 4-1 win against the University of Minnesota-Mankato.

Women's Head Coach Mike Cannon said he was pleased with the way his team gelled in Saturday's win.

"We've been playing well as a team, and today we seemed to click a little bit more offensively," Cannon said. "I thought we had pretty good patience. Today felt like we played pretty well for 90 minutes."

But the team's offense was held in check less than 24 hours later by heated rival UNO, a soccer program that has knocked Truman from the playoffs each of the past three years.

Cannon said his team looked a little tired during the second half of the game and UNO took advantage.

"You can't give good teams that many chances," Cannon said. "I think our fitness is good but we were reliant on our back four to really work their [butts off]. [UNO] is a good team, but against a good



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Senior Lauren Cepicky attempts to steal the ball away from a UNO player Sunday. The 'Dogs' 2-1 loss to the Mavericks marks the third loss in the last four meetings against UNO. In both 2003 and 2004, Truman's playoff run was brought to a halt courtesy of Nebraska-Omaha. Truman's only win in the past four meetings between the two teams was 2004's 1-0 shutout on Sept. 11.

team you have to take advantage of your opportunities."

Cannon said his team failed to be the aggressor for the full 90 minutes, and that's partly why Truman lost.

"I'm disappointed with the result and how we let [UNO] get back in the game, but we got a split at home against two good teams, and we scored in both games," Cannon said. "Overall things are looking up. Hopefully we can start getting some Ws."

Junior captain and goalkeeper Lauren Davis said even

though Truman didn't win Sunday, she still thinks the team played well.

"We maybe went down a little there right at first [in the second half]," she said. "It kind of took us a little bit to get back in the game and those couple of minutes cost us. UNO's a stronger team. They've always been strong and they know how to finish their opportunities."

Don Klosterman, head women's soccer coach for the University of Nebraska-Omaha, said his team's ability to win

comes down to capitalizing on his opponent's mistakes.

"We kind of kept the ball down at their end quite a bit the first 20 minutes of the second half and that was our plan," Klosterman said. "It's probably the best we've played all season."

Klosterman said he never doubts Cannon.

"Yeah, we knew [Truman] lost key players," Klosterman said. "Everybody loses key players, but a program like Truman, that doesn't mean anything to us. I don't care what [Cannon]

puts out there or how many he loses. He's going to have a great team."

Sophomore forward Emily Newsham, who had two goals and an assist in the two weekend matches, said the team needs to dust itself off and move on.

"Our team did well, and we keep on improving as a team," Newsham said. "We need to focus on the next game, learn from this and take it to heart."

While Cannon said he knows his team has to move on, UNO very likely could be an op-

ponent in the playoffs for the fourth straight year.

He said he thinks Truman's next 14 games, which happens to be all conference contests, will push his team to the limit.

"We dug ourselves in a little bit of a hole, but we are playing better," Cannon said. "This weekend was much better than last weekend. There's no reason that we can't win the conference. Just because we're 2-4 doesn't mean we're a bad team. We've played probably a tougher schedule than anybody else in our conference so far."

Bulldogs suffer loss at the hands of the SIUE Cougars

Truman gives up two goals per half, return home for a 2-1 victory over Newman

Tyler Madsen
Staff Reporter

With his team already leading by two against regional rival Truman State, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville forward Michael Banner dribbled down the right side of the field, luring the Bulldog defense to shift towards him and create open spaces in the middle of the Truman box.

When the 'Dogs wisely didn't take the bait, he decided to make something happen on his own.

Banner quickly changed directions, darted past three Bulldog defenders virtually untouched and placed the ball past a diving Nate Gibson for a commanding 3-0 lead with a little more than 20 minutes to play.

It was that kind of night for the Truman men's soccer team in its 4-0 loss to No. 2 SIUE in front of a crowd of more than 800 last Friday night in Edwardsville, Ill.

"Our first touches and some bad decisions led to two goals, then our guys lost their heads," Truman Head Coach Duke Cochran said following the game. "I think they showed up and we didn't. Bottom line."

For the first time in almost four years, Truman was outscored by four goals in a game. The 'Dogs lost to Incarnate Word (Tex.) 4-0 on Sept. 28, 2001. That game also was away from Kirksville.

Last year's national runners-up got things going early in a battle of very good defenses and equally good offenses. John Matthews placed a cross from Adam Lanter into the back of the net for the early lead in the 14th minute.

Ross Beveridge gave the home team a 2-0 lead in the 32nd minute to give the Cougars the momentum heading into the break.

Banner's goal, coupled with a goal by Lanter, led the Cougars to a decisive win.

"It wasn't anything they did," senior midfielder Nate Gaudreault said. "It's what we didn't do. We didn't expect to lose this year, and I hope that something like this is what's going to open our eyes and bring out the heart and intensity we know we have."

The 'Dogs had a day to rest and recuperate before hosting Newman University (Kan.) Sunday at home.

The team was able to turn it around and grab a 2-1 victory against the Jets, but the win certainly didn't come easily.

Truman jumped on the board first with freshman Kevin Barry's first goal of the season on a penalty shot in the 23rd minute of action. The 'Dogs dominated the first half, outshooting the Jets 11-0 and taking three more corner kicks. However, the insurance goal that wouldn't come almost proved to be heartbreaking in the second half.

Newman's first shot of the afternoon in the 66th minute was a goal off the head of Luke Knoblauch, suddenly bringing the game to a 1-1 tie. That's when senior Martin Clayes entered the match.

After starting the game on the bench with an injury, Clayes, the forward from Perth, Scotland, entered the game in the 71st minute and within three minutes set up junior Ryan Cravens off a corner kick, giving the 'Dogs a 2-1 lead that they would not relinquish.

"In all fairness to [Clayes] as a player, he's involved in almost every goal," Cochran said. "He has the ability to break teams down by hitting that ball that's a bit deceptive, and they don't see well, so we were missing that early in the match."

The previous weekend, the 'Dogs were able to secure a pair of wins against regional foes Northwood University (Mich.) and Quincy University (Ill.) at the Quincy Soccer Bowl. Truman defeated Northwood 3-0 on three second-half goals, one each by Gaudreault, senior Lars Pottgiesser and senior Mike Boyle. The next day, Quincy was the victim of a 4-1 Truman



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Senior Lars Pottgiesser charges down the pitch after evading a Newman defender. Pottgiesser made his return to the Bulldog lineup last weekend. Pottgiesser looks to score his fourth goal against Lewis University (Ill.) Sunday in Kirksville.

victory. That game featured two goals by Clayes, and one each by Pottgiesser and sophomore Tony Novelty.

Truman now sits at 4-2, with 14 matches remaining in the regular season.

With losses already to regional foes Wisconsin-Parkside and SIUE, each game in the region becomes almost a must-win for the 'Dogs.

"Every regional game from here on out is a big one," Boyle said. "Essentially every game is a must-win, and what happened Friday is in the past.

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