



Football: Noon Saturday vs. Mo. Western



Women's Soccer: Noon Saturday vs. Mo. Southern

SPORTS



The Bulldogs fall to 1-3 after loss to MIAA rival Mules

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Clayes propels offense

Lewis victory crucial for playoff push

Bulldog senior midfielder Martin Clayes leads Div. II with seven assists in 2005

Conor Nicholl
Sports Editor

The foot that drives the Bulldog offense is encapsulated in ice.

It's Monday afternoon, and senior midfielder Martin Clayes, wearing a blue and white Adidas soccer jersey and blue soccer shorts, walks slowly to a table in Pershing Building, his left foot covered in an ice bag.

It's a common occurrence these days for Clayes, the fulcrum of the Bulldogs' offensive attack. About two weeks ago, he suffered a deep bone bruise that was supposed to hold him off the pitch in one match and limit him in several others.

"It always hurts when I kick a soccer ball," he said.

Clayes has played through the perpetual pain, tallying two game-winning assists in the last two contests.

Then, after every game, Clayes can be seen gingerly walking off the field, his left foot wrapped in an ice pack.

On the pitch though, during those 90 minutes, Clayes is one of the best players in the ultra competitive Great Lakes Region.

"He's a game-changer," head coach Duke Cochran said. "When he steps onto the field, our attack is a lot better. He's a bit of a schemer, one who always has the ability to make things easier on himself. I first saw him as someone who would probably lead the team in assists, but now I see him as someone who will contribute on every goal we score, either by assist or scoring."

And through eight games, Clayes has played a role in 10 of the squad's 22 goals. After leading the team in scoring last season, Clayes has emerged as the Great Lakes Region's top passer and arguably its most potent offensive weapon.

He has 15 of the squad's 61 points, including four of the team's 22 goals and seven of its 17 assists. His point total is third in the 24-team region and his assist total is the nation's front runner.

The 5-foot-8-inch Clayes isn't blessed with remarkable speed and quickness, but the Scottish native has uncanny passing skills and excellent footwork.

"His greatest strength is his deception," Cochran said. "He has a very good ability of wrong footing defenders and getting them off balance. He's not a big guy by any means, but even against bigger players, he

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Senior midfielder Martin Clayes handles the ball against Lewis University on Sunday at the Truman soccer field.

Chris Tharp/Index

Bulldogs gain key region win

Tyler Madsen
Staff Reporter

A word to opposing soccer teams who might be counting the Bulldogs out of post season play: Don't.

The 'Dogs put themselves back into contention by defeating rival Lewis University (Ill.) 1-0 on Sunday and Iowa Wesleyan 7-0 on

Wednesday at the Truman Soccer Field.

The match almost got off to a horrible start in the 10th minute, when Lewis forward Tito Lara stared an open net in the face but missed high and wide. The guys in purple and white otherwise played a strong first half, outshooting the Flyers 11-4, including a 5-1 advantage in shots on goal.

Senior Mike Boyle tallied his second goal of the season off a corner kick from fellow senior Martin Clayes in the 31st minute to push the 'Dogs ahead going into half-time. The level of intensity that carried the team into the break somehow vanished early in the second half.

"Up until we scored our goal, we completely outclassed them

as far as possession," head coach Duke Cochran said. "It's like a sports anomaly. When a team gets scored on, the other team, for whatever reason, all of a sudden packs it in and begins defending. We just thought we had to defend this 1-0 lead instead of going and doing the same thing - possess."

Junior goalkeeper Nate Gibson was once again solid in the net but

had to rely on some additional help from his friends to keep the Flyers scoreless. In the 49th minute, a shot by Lewis' Cory Mastey got by Gibson, but Boyle cleared the ball before it was able to cross the end line.

Later in the half, senior Ben Hicks stepped up and headed out a ball destined for the back of the net, See SOCCER, Page 19

Both the Bulldogs and Lewis University were well aware of the incredible enormity Sunday's match presented.

"This game means a lot for November and the playoffs,"

Lewis head coach Evan Fiffles said. "Every game from here on out is extremely important."

Bulldog head coach Duke Cochran agreed.

"It was a pivotal point in the season for both of us because each team had two losses," he said. "A third loss at this time really hurts you in the region. The players knew it, I knew it - our backs were against the wall. We knew we show up and play and get a result."

It was a must-win for both teams. For Lewis, who ended the 'Dogs 27-match regular season win streak last year, a win on enemy turf would boost their regional ranking and provide a sense of confidence after losing one-goal games to Rockhurst University and Wisconsin-Parkside.

The 'Dogs needed to restore their equilibrium.

A week after falling 4-0 in disheartening fashion to rival Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville and barely squeaking by NAIA Newman University, the men's soccer team needed a victory.

At the end of 90 minutes, the purple and white had a 1-0 win. It took a little bit of everything to capture the victory.

Cochran's offense, a little discombobulated the last two matches, enjoyed a tremendous first half - arguably their best of the season - holding wide advantages over the Flyers in shots (11-4) and corner kicks (6-2).

One of the corner kicks, off the golden left foot of senior midfielder Martin Clayes, was headed into the net by senior back Mike Boyle for the game-winning goal.

In the second half, the Flyers applied pressure, but three brilliant game-saving saves from junior goalkeeper Nate Gibson, defenders Ben Hicks and Mike Boyle helped seal the win.

There also was a little bit of luck involved, as Lewis missed a wide-open net in the 10th minute and hit the post in the second half.

Still, at the end, it was 1-0. They had survived. And that's all that matters.

"Mentally, the win is big for our players because it gets us over the hurdle of our first seven games with just two losses," Cochran said.

If the purple and white had lost, their season wasn't over, but making the playoffs would be akin to climbing Mt. Everest without oxygen - it's doable, but not something that's very possible.

Instead, the Flyers will have to make the climb.

On the other hand, the purple and white has catapulted back into the playoff hunt. Currently at 6-2, they're one of nine teams with one or two losses in the brutally difficult Great Lakes Region - a region that

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Women perform double time

Women improve to 3-4-1 on the season after 1-0-1 MIAA weekend

John Weeks
Staff Reporter

Two 90-minute contests this weekend just weren't enough for the Truman women's soccer team.

The Bulldogs saw both of their games enter double overtime, winning 1-0 Saturday and tying 1-1 the following afternoon.

The Bulldogs quickly rebounded from last Sunday's loss to rival University of Nebraska-Omaha by shutting out Washburn University (Kan.) 1-0 in the first match of the weekend Saturday.

Junior midfielder Robyn Mortenson scored early in the second overtime, leading the team to the shutout victory.

Women's soccer coach Mike Cannon said his team created more opportunities as the game wore on

"Into the overtimes we started to create more chances and dominate possession," Cannon said. "Davis made one brilliant save in the first half on their [Washburn's] best



Senior midfielder Molly Benson dribbles the ball against the University of Nebraska-Omaha Sept. 11 in the 'Dogs 2-1 loss

Photo by Chris Tharp/Index

chance. We got some good performances from a lot of the kids off the bench in both games."

Junior captain and goalkeeper Lauren Davis recorded her 23rd

shutout out of 30 career MIAA games. Davis said the team worked really hard to get the win Saturday.

"Anytime you have to go into See DOUBLE, Page 19

Volleyball ends streaks

John Scognamiglio
Staff Reporter

After the women's volleyball team's winning streak was snapped at 10 games, the team quickly ensured it was capable of being streak-enders.

In the past week, the team demolished three lengthy winning streaks. It defeated Emporia State 3-0 to end the Hornets 12-match winning streak Friday. Saturday the squad snapped Washburn's 13-match winning streak, winning in five games. Wednesday the Bulldogs halted Rockhurst's 11-match winning streak.

Wins against ranked foes Central Missouri and Washburn (Kan.) helped the Bulldogs gain first-place votes in the latest Div. II poll. The 'Dogs stayed ahead of Cal-State Bernadino by gaining seven first-place votes.

Monday, junior outside hitter Kelsey Wackerman was named MIAA Hitter of the Week. In three MIAA matches thus far, she recorded a triple-double in each, giving her seven.

Head coach Jason Koch said Wackerman has been a great contributor for the team.

"She has been more consistent than our other hitters," he said. "When we have had lulls, we've been able to count on her

TRIPLE THREAT

Kelsey Wackerman has more **triple-doubles** than all of **Division II** combined.

DIV. II TRIPLE-DOUBLE THREATS

Kelsey Wackerman (Truman State) 7

Jessica Lucia (Concordia-St. Paul) 1

Laura Belinger (North Alabama) 1

Traci Knuth (Armstrong Atlantic State) 1

Designed by Mark Hylton/Index

to get us out of binds."

Wackerman said she's no one special.

"I'm trying to play to the best of my abilities," she said. "I go and give the team the best I can every game."

After losing the first two games to Rockhurst University (Mo.), the 'Dogs recovered in the next

three sets to triumph 3-2.

The squad matched up against the best of the top teams in the MIAA. The Bulldogs traveled to Emporia State (Kan.) Friday night to battle the Hornets. After a close first game, the 'Dogs took the next two for a 3-0 victory. Wackerman hit for

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