



Chris Tharp/Index
Senior back Jared Atwood clears the ball against Lewis University on Sunday.

CLAYES | Senior leads 6-2 Bulldogs in goals, assists and points after eight games

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can put a ball that they can't get to. Once a game, he makes a defender look silly."

Veteran Lewis University head coach Evan Fiffles echoes similar sentiments.

"Clayes is a strong player and a good leader who passes extremely well, [sees the field], and plays well with the ball," he said.

Last Sunday, in the 85th minute against Lewis, Clayes worked a Flyers' defender one-on-one at the top of the penalty box. His left foot undoubtedly giving him some pain, Clayes stutter-stepped, moved to his left and quickly back to his right, deking the defender. He didn't score on the play, but his dribbling display was impressive.

"I'll put his creative ability against anyone in the region," Cochran said.

Clayes, like England's most famous player, David Beckham, also is deadly on free kicks and corner kicks. Three of his assists, including his game-winning passes in his last two games, have come off corner kicks.

"I've always been good at striking dead balls in set pieces," he said. "It's something we work on in practice a lot. We work on runs off corners and signals."

Sunday's match against Lewis epitomized Clayes' deft passing touch and his ability to use his teammates. In the 30th minute of a scoreless tie, Clayes took a corner from the left side. Defender Mike Boyle signaled to him that the Flyers were in a

zone defense, meaning he should aim for the back side.

Clayes hit the ball with the inside part of his left foot, putting a different spin on the ball and causing it to curl slightly to the goal. It rose through the air, falling to the back side of the box – exactly the spot where Boyle headed the ball into the net for a 1-0 lead.

"Passing is definitely one of my strong points," he said. "I take satisfaction from a good cross or pass – even if it [doesn't result in a goal]."

Lightning struck again the previous Sunday against Newman University (Kan.). Clayes, who hurt his foot two days before, was on the sidelines and probably wasn't going to see any time. He watched the first half from the bench and gingerly kicked a few balls at halftime.

"We were going to play him as needed," Cochran said. "If I could have rested him another day, I would have. The bone bruise was [hurting], but he'll typically play through a lot of pain."

With the offense stagnating in a 1-1 game, No. 17 entered the match late in the second half. Then, in the 73rd minute, his corner kick led to the game-winning goal by junior midfielder Ryan Cravens.

Passing isn't Clayes' only forte. He's also put four balls in the back of the net, including a free kick from 25 yards out against University of Wisconsin-Parkside.

Clayes, shooting from the northwest side

Martin Clayes Statistical Region Rankings

Statistics	Place
15 pts.	3rd
7 Assists	1st
1.88 pts./game	2nd
0.88 Assists/game	1st

of the pitch, lofted the ball over the heads of multiple players and found the southwest corner of the net. It took plenty of angle and skill – and talent.

"It was a little cheeky," he said. "The keeper came out expecting me to probably try and cross. I decided to try and test it and drive it behind the keeper. It was a shot that not a lot of people will try."

Few others also will try to play on a deep bone bruise.

But Clayes has, and that's why the 'Dogs are one of the few teams left in the race for the playoffs.

HUGE | Sunday's win helps men's soccer in the race for a playoff spot

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will only yield the top three teams for November play.

The 'Dogs have an advantage over most of the other teams in the region. The schedule should get easier from here, as the 'Dogs' played one of the region's hardest schedules after their first seven matches.

They're also the only team in the region that has played SIUE and Wisconsin-Parkside, the two hardest teams in the Great Lakes.

On the horizon still stands some outstanding teams, including Gannon University, Rockhurst University and Northern Kentucky, but things should get a little easier the rest of the way.

And that gives Clayes confidence.

"We stand in good stead [after Sunday's win]," he said. "I think we're one of the top three teams in the region."

We have a strong defense, offense and goalie and we're solid in the midfield. I think we have what it takes."

VOLLEYBALL | Squad keeps No. 1 ranking and improves to 14-1

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another triple-double with 14 kills, 26 assists, and 14 digs, leading the team in all those categories.

The Bulldogs traveled to nationally ranked Washburn Sept. 17. The squad won the first two games by scores of 30-21 and 34-32. The Blues fought back to win games three and four, but the 'Dogs were triumphant in game five, winning 15-9.

Wackerman again led the team in kills and assists with 20 and 34 respectively in getting her third straight triple-double. Junior Sarah Shearman had a double-double, leading the squad with 20 digs in addition to her 19 kills.

Wackerman said the Lady Blues surprised the 'Dogs.

"Washburn held back the first two games," she said. "Then they played like we knew how they would play. We started giving them points, and we just needed to refocus. We were not going to come home with a loss."

The 'Dogs have five consecutive home matches next on the schedule. Wackerman said the team looks forward to the five-game stretch.

"We're always excited about home games," she said. "We are focused on our goals, although it really should not matter where we play."

Koch said that despite the away

schedule, the squad has a good support group that follows the team through its voyages across the Midwest.

"At Washburn, the women's soccer team came and watched us," he said. "There were times at which we were just as loud as the home crowd. Our parents are almost borderline obnoxious."

This weekend, the squad faces another pair of MIAA foes as they host the Griffons of Missouri Western and the Bearcats of Northwest Missouri State University.

"We don't know what to expect from them," she said. "The loss to North Alabama is always in the back of our minds."

DOUBLE | 'Dogs stay perfect in conference play after last weekend

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double overtime, it's hard," Cannon said. "I think we outplayed [Washburn]. Everyone played really well for being as tired as they were."

About 10 minutes into the second half, Davis went down hard on her head after colliding with senior midfielder Maureen Bylina and another Emporia player. Davis suffered a concussion and had to leave the game.

Freshman backup goalie Emily Roark said Cannon told her to warm up shortly after Davis went down.

Roark said her emotions were conflicted between hoping Davis was OK and being nervous and excited.

"I was praying for [Davis] and wanted to make sure she was OK," Roark said. "But it was really exciting to get a chance to play, and it felt real good to make some saves."

Cannon said he still thought his team could win without Davis.

"Emily Roark stepped up and did fine for us," Cannon said. "The second half and the overtimes were an opportunity for Emily to step up and help us a little bit more than we've asked of her so far."

The 'Dogs didn't allow a goal all weekend until the 20th minute of Sunday's game against Emporia State University (Kan.). Netting her first goal since 2002, senior forward Rachel McCarville tied the game in the 39th minute.

McCarville's goal was the team's only notch of the day, which eventually sent the game into overtime and resulted in a 1-1 tie.

McCarville said the team should have beaten ESU.

"We easily could have won 4-0," McCarville said. "We just outworked [Emporia State], and at the end of the game they were

just dead tired."

Cannon said he thought sudden death would have been perfect for Sunday's game.

"I wish we had more time to score," Cannon said. "I really didn't think [the Hornets] were going to score. The chances they had were really good, but besides three or four instances we had the ball the whole time. We deserved to win, but we just didn't get it."

Cannon said he was slightly disappointed coming home with one win and not two, but knows it is tough keeping the same starting lineup week in and week out.

"The game that we tied we actually dominated more than the game that we won," Cannon said. "We had a lot of good chances, but we just couldn't finish them off. We've had six different lineups in eight games."

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SOCCER | Soccer defeats Lewis 1-0 and Iowa Wesleyan 7-0 at home

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again protecting the slim lead.

"We practice that drill a lot, and you look for it every time," Hicks said. "That's why I stand on the post."

Gibson snared a John Solberg rocket sandwiched between the two team saves to preserve the shutout.

"The effort from the team today is what I needed to see," Cochran said. "We came out, and everyone fought for each other. This is always a big game against Lewis. It's a game we needed to win because this puts us back into things. People start to say, 'Oh okay, don't forget about Truman.' So for the boys, this was huge."

Following the match, Lewis head coach Evan Fiffles echoed many keys that Cochran stresses to his squad.

"We didn't play well in the first half but were able to play better and take it to them in the second half," Fiffles

said. "We gave up the goal early and just couldn't get the equalizer. [To succeed in the region], we need to play 90 minutes at the caliber of how we played the second half."

The 'Dogs now find themselves in a much better position in the region. With only two losses (both coming to regional leaders Wisconsin-Parkside and No. 1 Southern Illinois-Edwardsville), the team now can focus on an upcoming stretch of matches that set up well to get the 'Dogs playing in November.

A three-game road trip awaits and takes the team to Upper Iowa University, No. 12 Northern Kentucky University and the University of Findlay (Ohio). All of the matches count in the region and could help propel the 'Dogs – should they take care of business as planned.

"We expect to win," Hicks said. "We put those two losses behind us, and we need to win from here on out."

Welcome To Mainstreet Market
September 26th – 30th

Breakfast Special
2 Eggs, Hashbrowns, Sausage Patty and China Cup of Coffee
\$2.80
Sky Ranch Grill Special
Swiss Chicken Griller and Lg. Fries **\$5.29**

New Spice Market entrees will be offered daily in the Grab and Go and on the Main Event Line
This week: Mynokos chicken Greek Salad - \$5.49
Spicy Salsa Jack Biscuit – \$2.49

Classic Line			
	Monday		Thursday
Carved Pork loin	\$2.75/\$4.05	Chicken Broccoli Stir Fry	\$3.25/\$4.55
Fried Chicken	\$2.75/\$4.05	Italian Lasagna	\$2.75/\$4.05
Teriyaki Cashew Tofu	\$2.75/\$4.05	Southwestern Eggplant	\$2.75/\$4.05
	Tuesday		Friday
Carved Roast Beef	\$2.75/\$4.05	Burgandy Mushroom Steak	\$2.75/\$4.05
Chicken Romano	\$2.75/\$4.05	Baked Fish	\$2.75/\$4.05
Black Bean Burrito	\$2.75/\$4.05	Pasta Primavera	\$2.50/\$3.80
Grilled Turkey Melt	\$2.50/\$3.80		
	Wednesday		Blimpie Special
Carved Turkey	\$2.75/\$4.05		Grilled Beef & Cheddar Combo
Stuffed Bell Pepper	\$2.75/\$4.05		\$5.59
Broccoli Cheese Pasta	\$2.25/\$3.50		

Tierra Del Sol Special – Soft Beef Taco
\$.65

Jazzman's Special – Tall Latte
\$1.89

Freshens Special – Small Sundae
\$.89

Bonus bucks and Dining Dollars may be used on Sunday Evening in Mainstreet Market. You may not use your Block meals on Sunday except for our large pizza special.