

DAVIS | Junior goalkeeper on track to shatter school shutout record; is 39-7-5 as starter

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 have," Davis said. "Being the goalie, I feel responsible sometimes. If we lose I think, 'What could I have done differently?' But we're a good team, so it's fun to be able to lead and be in that role."
 Her soccer résumé continues to grow as she plays her third season as a Bulldog.
 Davis said she started kicking the ball around when she was in kindergarten.
 "I started playing club ball in middle school," Davis said. "That's when I really got interested. I always played goalie on my club team, so I never really got the chance to try out any other positions."
 Davis said the position of goalie just seemed to grow on her.
 "I just thought it was fun to be back there," Davis said. "I like it because you can see the whole field. It's hard to explain, but it's kind of an adrenaline thing because you know that when the ball comes to you, you have to save it."

In high school, Davis started all four years at Kickapoo in Springfield, Mo. She was named team MVP, all-conference first team, all-district first team and regional goalkeeper of the year in spring 2003.
 Davis is on pace to finish her career with 56 shutouts, which would shatter the original record of 43, held by Emily Huyck, who played for the 'Dogs from 1998 to 2001.
 Davis said she always can count on her grandfather for advice when the going gets tough.
 "He's incredibly intelligent and always knows the right thing to say to me to make me feel better," Davis said. "He's just incredibly compassionate and caring. He's that guy who's on the phone with my parents at halftime asking what the score is. He's a die-hard fan."
 Women's soccer coach Mike Cannon said it's nice having a goalie that has the total package, especially one who is such a vocal leader.
 "Davis is a tall, athletic and strong shot-stopper but also a team

leader," Cannon said. "She's easy to coach and is always concerned about how the team's playing."
 Davis said being able to trust everyone on the team makes communication a lot easier.
 "There's a mutual trust between Coach and I and the other players on the field," Davis said. "I think that in order for us to be successful, I have to trust my teammates and what they're doing. And they have to trust that I'm going to do my job."
 Bill Davis, Lauren's father, said he is very proud of what his daughter has accomplished.
 "Lauren's a very loyal person," Bill Davis said. "It always seems like if she does well, it benefits everybody else."
 Senior defender Kera Reilly, who also lives with Lauren Davis, said Davis does more than eat, drink and sleep soccer.
 "She's a laid-back roommate and kind of a middle-of-the road roommate," Reilly said. "I get a kick out

of when she's sleeping because she passes out pretty hard."
 On the off-season weekends when Davis is not sleeping, Reilly said the whole house enjoys the finer things in life, like TV.
 "We watch TV for a good part of the day, and [Davis] and I enjoy watching shows," Reilly said. "We watch 'One Tree Hill' a lot. Not many people watch that, but we do."
 Davis said having such wonderful roommates puts her at ease.
 "All of my roommates are with me every day and see me when I'm upset and happy," Davis said. "They are the people I go to when I need to talk."
 Davis has one year left to play for the 'Dogs but already knows nothing can beat playing soccer at Truman.
 "Playing here has been probably the best experience ever," Davis said. "I don't think you could ever ask for anything more than 30 best friends."

Junior Goalkeeper Lauren Davis					
	GAA	W	L	T	SO
2003	0.59	17	2	1	13
2004	0.40	19	1	2	15
2005	1.00	3	4	2	3
TOTALS	0.60	39	7	5	31

2003:	Second Team First Team	All-Region All-MIAA
2004:	Third team First Team First Team	All-American All-Region All-MIAA



Chris Tharp/Index
 Junior Lauren Davis scoops up the ball during Truman's 0-0 tie against Northwest Missouri.

SOCCER | Squad plays different second half against Missouri Western

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 with his team's aggressiveness.
 "We got the win and played a great second half [of Sunday's game]," Cannon said. "We created some good opportunities. Instead of reacting to plays, we're anticipating plays."
 Cannon said he told the team to make things happen during halftime at Sunday's game. Cepicky said the team responded very well the final 45 minutes of play.
 "Really everyone started anticipating a lot more in the second half and jumping on opportunities instead of waiting for them to happen," Cepicky said. "Obviously it's nice to finally get out of the hole, and it's nice to see everyone's hard work starting to pay off. I think everyone's look-

ing to make the rest of the season an undefeated one."
 Senior assistant Ellen Wright said it's tough watching a team struggle because she wants to see the 'Dogs succeed.
 "When you are part of any team, you want nothing but for them to succeed, and when they don't, it's frustrating because you want them to do well," she said.
 Already halfway through the season, the 'Dogs head into next weekend's game against Southwest Baptist University a .500 ball club at 4-4-2.
 Cepicky said being the captain of such a great group of girls is a rewarding experience.
 "It's been great," Cepicky said. "Everyone has been really receptive to everything that I've said

and everything that Lauren Davis has said as captains. It kind of feels good to finally get out of the hole and feel like what you do as a captain maybe makes a difference."
 Cepicky said playing with a predominately young and new supporting cast isn't easy.
 "It's rough to go from three incredibly successful seasons on the scoreboard to a less successful season on the scoreboard, but by no means do I think that this season is any less rewarding than any other one that I've ever had," Cepicky said. "It's kind of more about improving as a team and gelling, and that's what feels good in the end. The actual goal is how good can we get and how far can we push ourselves."

VOLLEYBALL | Wackerman just misses sixth consecutive triple double in Northwest Missouri game, team keeps streak against MIAA opponents

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 them. They are just tremendous, athletes."
 Wackerman extended her triple-double streak to five games with 12 kills, 32 assists and 11 digs. Shearman led the squad in kills and digs with 18 and 21, respectively.
 The squad welcomed the Bearcats of Northwest Missouri State to Pershing Arena on Saturday. The team used a balance attack as many Bulldog bench players saw action. After the 'Dogs edged Northwest in game one 30-28, they quickly shut out hopes of a Bearcat rush, winning the next two games 30-23 and 30-19.
 Shearman led the team in kills with 13 and tied freshman outside hitter Eli Medina with 13 digs to pace the squad. Wackerman ended up with 11 kills, 16 assists and nine

digs, just missing out on her sixth straight triple-double. Freshman middle hitter Dana Hanselmann hit 1,000 with six kills in six attempts.
 Wackerman said the Bulldogs were sure they were going to win the match despite the teetering pace of game one.
 "I don't think that any point we thought we were going to lose," she said. "It was just a matter of everyone playing together and clicking as a team."
 Bearcat head coach Lori Dejongh-Slight said she believes her squad performed well in the first two games of the match.
 "Obviously, you're playing the No. 1 team in the country," she said. "They play great defense, and in volleyball, defense wins games."
 Slight also said in preparing to face the 'Dogs, one of the keys she

advocated was controlling the tempo of the game.
 "I think we did a pretty good job of isolating shots, what players took on what shots," she said.
 Skoch said that during the seesaw battle in game one, a lot of questions about leadership were answered.
 "I overheard some of the girls try to take command on the floor and say, 'Enough is enough,'" he said. "[The Northwest players] were playing very good, but we let them come back in with unforced errors. They decided to step it up earlier and not let it wait till the game was out of hand."
 Although Wackerman's streak is over, more Bulldog streaks continue. The 'Dogs have won 37 matches in a row against MIAA opponents, including the postseason. Also, with the win against the Bearcats, the

squad has yet to drop a single game against Northwest since October 2000.
 With four days off until its next match, Skoch said the team is going to focus on resting up for a busy weekend.
 "I overworked them this week, so this is a very well-needed break," he said. "The game mindset might be off a little, but that is far outweighed by the girls getting their legs back."
 The Bulldogs return to Pershing Arena this weekend for three MIAA matches. Tonight the squad takes on the Southwest Baptist University Bearcats. Friday the 'Dogs welcome the Golden Eagles of Missouri Southern State University to Kirksville. The team ends the three-game marathon as they take on the Gorillas of Pittsburg State University on Saturday.



Chris Tharp/Index
 Senior Micaela Walter spikes the ball against Northwest Missouri.

MULTISPORT | Participating in two sports leads to busy schedules during the week and requires athletes to budget their time properly

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 They each try to concentrate on the sport that is in season with a little understanding from their coaches.
 "When it's football season, it's football season," Walton said. "I've had two sets of head coaches, and both have been understanding of my situation. It makes it easy when coaches respect each other. For me to be successful, I had to have that."
 Having coaches who respect one another and the other's program was Pitts' reason for attending Truman.
 "That's one of the reasons why I chose Truman," Pitts said. "Because I knew I wanted to play both sports,

and the coaches were easy to work with as far as playing for both and giving me leeway as far as, 'OK you can miss this, but you have to make it up here.'"
 They try to fit in some time to work on their other sport during the offseason. Pitts, who isn't required to do baseball training during football, does try to work in some baseball exercises when lifting with the football team. He'll also try to catch up with them when he is available.
 Both did admit to feeling overwhelmed.
 "I do, but I think most college students feel that way," he said.
 Pitts and Walton both try to get

the academic end covered within the first few days of the semester by talking to their professors and informing them about their schedule. Both have found teachers to be very understanding and willing to work with them as long as they are willing to do their end as well.
 "I've never had a problem," Walton said. "They just want to know if you're not going to be there. They know how the policies work, and they are very understand-

ing. They understand that I'm trying to do double-duty at this school."
 Business administration instructor Cathy Poyner said she understands that it is hard for athletes.
 "I think athletics is part of their education, and I've found that they typically try to do everything they can to get their work done," she said.
 Pitts said for them to do both sports successfully takes some planning and orga-

nization when they miss some classes.
 "It does hurt missing lecture from time to time," Pitts said. "But if you just put in a little extra time studying ... , it doesn't seem to affect you as much."
 Being active in two sports definitely has its advantages. They are doing what they love. But being involved all the time does have its drawbacks, and they both said they feel they have missed out.
 "The thing I miss the most is just going home every so often to see my family," Pitts said.
 On the other hand, Walton

always has wondered what it's like to be just a student.
 "You don't get to see what college really is because you are always doing something after class, and by the time you get home its time to do homework ... ," he said.
 Neither, however, would have given up playing two sports while in college.
 "I probably would do it all over again if I knew it was going to turn out the way it did in both sports," Walton said.
 "I would definitely do it again," Pitts said. "I'm not going to be able to play sports all my life, and I'd just like to play them as long as I can."

"It makes it easy when coaches respect each other I have to have that"
James Walton
 Senior Wide Receiver/
 Long Jumper

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