

# Men fall to UMSL, end streak

After defeating UMSL 6-0 last season, 'Dogs drop 1-0 game Sunday

Chris Waller  
Staff Reporter

Earlier this season, the men's soccer team defeated or tied supposedly superior teams. On Sunday, they lost a game they likely should have won.

The Bulldogs fell 1-0 to the University of Missouri-St. Louis Rivermen, dropping their overall record to 3-1-2.

After ties against nationally ranked Rockhurst University and regional rival Drury University and two victories earlier in the week, the Bulldogs — a team constructed primarily of freshmen or first-year starters, took a step back against UMSL — a team they defeated last year.

The loss was the first for the 'Dogs in their last 17 matches. The last loss was a 1-0 defeat against Northern Kentucky on Sept. 30, 2005. The team was 13-0-5 during the streak.

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Ryan Cravens  
Senior Midfielder

"From what I saw, and after talking to the guys, I think there was a lack of intent in the attacking third," Cochran said. "It was more hopeful that we were going to score, and I think that factor led to them getting a half chance that went in because they only had one shot on goal and that was really just a clearance from our team."

Sunday's game, like many of the squad's contests this season, was very close. The teams were tied for most of the game at 0-0.

The Bulldogs controlled the offense, taking 14 shots and collecting 13 corner kicks, but couldn't break through.

UMSL made only one shot — in the 67th minute — on goal in the game, but that was all they needed to secure a shutout victory against the Bulldogs.

The Bulldogs had continued their brilliant season before facing the Rivermen. They defeated two regional teams in Pennsylvania — Gannon University and Mercyhurst University.

First, the team defeated Mercyhurst 2-1 when junior defender Gavin Kempe broke a 1-1 tie in the 86th minute.

Two days later, the team beat Gannon University 1-0 when junior midfielder Aldo Muniz scored in the 12th minute. Goalie Chris Kirkweg pitched his first shutout in the

contest.

"Our game against Gannon I think was one of the best games we played this year," freshman midfielder Ben Green said. "We got an early goal through Aldo, and after that we battled and everyone was able to do their part, and we played really well as a group. I think the results we are getting are a result of



Chris Sharp/Index  
Freshman defender Jack Randazzo knocks the ball away from a Rockhurst forward during the team's Aug. 25th match. The Bulldogs are 3-1-2 on the season.

team play rather than individual players."

After the successful road trip, the Bulldogs returned to Kirksville to play Upper Iowa University on Sept. 6. The 'Dogs made an impressive showing, outscoring the Peacocks 5-1. Green scored his

first two collegiate goals, the first coming in the 21st minute.

"It was good to get [on] the mark, there were a couple of games where the ball wasn't going into the back of the net," Green said.

Still, the young Bulldogs suf-

fered their first loss against the Rivermen. Cravens, though, believes the 'Dogs are still a team that can contend for a playoff berth.

"I think other teams realize that even though we are a young team, we are a team to be reckoned with," he said.

## Faust captures cross country's opening meet

Sadye Scott-Hainchek  
Staff Reporter

Both the men's and women's cross country teams left the Miner Invitational thinking they had something to prove.

The men, who finished second to host University of Missouri-Rolla on Saturday, need to repeat their success to prove their preseason ranking — sixth out of eight schools — wrong, and the women need to show that their third-place finish isn't the best they can do.

The women's team had two runners, senior Jacquie Faust and sophomore Danna Kelly, finish in the top 10 out of 67 runners, but the other three members didn't crack the top 20.

Faust's, who won the race in 18 minutes 17 seconds, was the biggest highlight for the Bulldogs. She said the meet underscored the team's weaknesses.

"To be a pretty successful cross country team, you need a

solid top-five runners, and right now we have a big gap in our top five, so we need to work on that," she said.

Women's head coach John Cochrane said it wasn't a question of talent. The question was how well the 'Dogs competed.

"We just did not do a good job competing against the people that ran," he said. "Cross country is a sport where you can run a meet without a stopwatch. It's a sport of places."

Faust said none of the team members met their goal times, which she hopes will motivate them at Saturday's Southern Stampede in Joplin, Mo.

"It's a really fast course, really good competition, so hopefully we can take something from this meet into next week," she said.

The 'Dogs competed with only five members, leaving them at the bare minimum, after sophomore Alana Walker discovered she had a stress fracture Sept. 7.

Cochrane said Walker, who has been training, probably will run next weekend. He said the numbers make performance even more essential.

"Everyone's going to have to get everything out of themselves that they can get because we do have enough talent if we can get these two injured people back to do alright," he said. "Everyone counts in our situation."

Faust said she hopes the freshmen are ready to contribute more after having experienced their first collegiate meet.

"Hopefully now they have the first-race jitters worked out, and that will help them going into the Southern Stampede next weekend," she said. "I think hopefully they just got a taste for the level of competition. It's a lot different now than it was in high school."

On the men's team, two of the three top-10 'Dog finishes were freshmen. The other top-10 finish came from senior Jason

Simpson, whose 15:39 finish was only five seconds off the first-place time.

Junior Bryant England said he thinks this freshman class will contribute significantly this year.

"Both Zach Chapman and Adam Kell finishing fourth and sixth in their first college meet was a really good indicator that they have a lot of potential at the college level," he said.

Men's coach Tim Schwegler said Simpson ran especially well, considering the bottom of his foot was bruised earlier in the week.

Schwegler said everyone contributed.

"The good thing about it is there was a team effort during the race to try to stay together and help on the scoring, so I was pretty pleased with everyone," he said.

England said that overall, the team executed the techniques addressed in practices.

"Nobody had amazing races,

but we accomplished most of our goals for the meet," he said.

Schwegler said he would have liked to win the meet but was pleased that it was so close and that it served its purpose.

"We found out what we can do as far as team tactics go, and I think [the team] gained some confidence in that, so we're looking forward to this weekend," he said.

Although the team performed well at the Miner Invitational, England said the 'Dogs haven't proved their preseason ranking wrong yet.

He said the Southern Stampede will provide tougher competition and the normal eight-kilometer distance against which the 'Dogs can be measured.

"I think we're going to show up there and run real strong and start to show people what we can do," he said. "But we're really not going to try to prove ourselves until we get to conference and regionals, where it really matters."

## SPORTS | In Brief

### Wackerman named MIAA Hitter of the Week

Kelsey Wackerman was named the MIAA Hitter of the Week after leading the fourth-ranked Bulldogs to a 4-0 record at the Washburn Tournament this past weekend.

Wackerman, a reigning First Team All-American, outperformed top tier talent. The senior right side hitter/setter hit .402 and averaged 4.65 points, 3.23 digs and 6.62 assists per game.

She enjoyed a terrific match against then-No. 12 University of Nebraska-Omaha in the Bulldogs' opener, hitting .360 with 13 kills and 12 digs in the 3-0 win.

In a sweep against MIAA foe Pittsburg State University, Wackerman hit .552, with 19 kills, 22 assists and eight digs.

Wackerman kept up the pace in the final two matches, helping the 'Dogs down its archrival and then-No. 13 University of North Alabama on Saturday afternoon. She compiled 15 kills and registered a .406 hitting percentage.

Wackerman struggled offensively in the team's final match, hitting just .238 against No. 5 Minnesota Duluth, but her setting and defense — 25 assists and 11 digs — helped the team collect their 11th straight victory.

### Volleyball stays the same in national poll

The Bulldogs remained at No. 4 in the country when the newest AVCA poll was released on Sept. 12.

The purple and white, 12-1 overall, 2-0 in the MIAA after defeating conference foe Northwest Missouri State University on Tuesday night in Maryville, collected 799 votes.

The top three also remained the same. Tampa (Fla.) University remained No. 1 with 897 votes. Grand Valley State (Mich.) University, the defending national champions, stayed second and Concordia-St. Paul University (Minn.), the only squad to defeat the Bulldogs this season, remained No. 3.

Florida Southern University and Minnesota-Duluth University — who lost to the Bulldogs last weekend — are tied with 719 votes for the fifth position.

Rounding out the top 10 include California State San Bernardino, MIAA rival Washburn University (No. 8), conference foe Central Missouri State University (No. 9) and BYU-Hawaii at No. 10.

Only four teams in the top 25 remained undefeated.

### Women's soccer ranks in top 25 in NSCAA poll

The women's soccer team remained in the NSCAA/Adidas National Rankings released Sept. 12. The Bulldogs moved up one spot to No. 19 after finishing non-conference play with a 5-1 record. This included a 2-0 victory against Winona State (Minn.) University last Sunday at Truman Soccer Park.

University of Nebraska-Omaha, the only team to defeat the Bulldogs this season, remained No. 1 in the country after finishing the week 6-0-0.

### Locals compete in 22nd annual NEMO triathlon

The 22nd Annual Northeast Missouri Triathlon was Sept. 10. Thomas Etter won the race in 1 hour, 27 minutes and 21 seconds. Molly Veters-Smith, the top female participant, finished 16th in 1:46:08.

The top finisher in the 20-24 division was Brad Eastman, who crossed the line in 1:47:04.

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