



Ben Yarnell/Index

Freshman Matt Kimball battles with Drury's Cody Reinberg for possession during the men's soccer team's 3-1 defeat Tuesday. The Bulldogs finished the season with a 10-7-2 record.

Drury downs men

Bulldogs fall 3-1 on Senior Day, finish season at 10-7-2

BY SHAWN SHINNEMAN
Staff Reporter

The men's soccer team found out the hard way why Drury University (Mo.) forward Marco Cherisma is a national top-10 goal-scorer.

Cherisma recorded his 18th, 19th and 20th goals Tuesday in front of the Truman crowd on Senior Day. The Bulldogs (10-7-2) lost the game 3-1 to end their season with five losses in their last eight games.

The Bulldogs outshot the Panthers 13-11 in the game. It was the third time in the past five losses that the 'Dogs have recorded more shots than the opponent that beat them.

In a 1-1 game 17 minutes into the second half, Drury scored a goal that switched the momentum.

"For the first 15 to 20 minutes of the second half, [it] looked like the momentum was our way, and we were going to get one," head coach Duke Cochran said. "Their goal was against the run of play. Their goal was kind of that kick in the gut because we were actually all over them."

Cochran said the second goal was the result of a defensive breakdown. Cherisma headed in a free kick to give the Panthers the 2-1 lead. Just eight minutes later, Cherisma completed his

hat trick with another header off of a free kick.

Sophomore defender Drew Pauk recorded the Bulldogs' lone goal of the day. Pauk tied the game in the ninth minute with a header off a deflection from a Drury player. The goal came just one minute after Cherisma's bicycle kick goal gave Drury a 1-0 lead.

Although he said the game was by no means one-sided, Cochran said it is never a good feeling to lose the last game of the year.

The game marked the last in the Truman careers of senior midfielders Gavin Kempe and Drew Vogt. Thursday, Truman picked up its 10th shutout of the season in a controversial 0-0 tie against Hannibal-LaGrange College.

Freshman forward Bobby Larkin put an apparent goal into the net midway through the first half that was taken away by a delayed offside penalty. Later, in the second half, freshman forward Matt Kimball maneuvered around a Hannibal defender and sent a pass to Larkin. Larkin again netted the ball, only to have the goal erased by a late out-of-bounds call on Kimball.

"We beat them 2-0," Kempe said. "It just came out 0-0."

Cochran said he has sent the video of both goals in to the referee assigner. Although this will not change the game's outcome, Cochran said it might keep the game's referees from being assigned to any Truman home games in the future.

"Refereeing is a tough job, and

I don't want to take anything away from it," Cochran said. "But two goals getting called back at home is a bit sketchy to me, and on tape both goals look like they could stand. To score two goals and tie 0-0 doesn't feel very fair."

Apart from referee controversy, the game was fairly back and forth. Hannibal outshot the Bulldogs 23-16 and was able to get eight shots on goal compared to Truman's four.

"They were 8-8 when they came and played us," Pauk said. "I was expecting them not to be as good as they were. They held with us."

Truman sophomore forward Nick Schlichtman had a chance to break the tie in the last minute of regulation, but he sent a shot from about five yards out sailing over the goal. The game went into overtime, where Hannibal recorded 10 shots to the Bulldogs' one.

But the 'Dogs held on to get the tie. Freshman goalkeeper Taylor Hyndman recorded eight total saves en route to his second shutout of the year.

Kempe said Hyndman has played well since becoming the starter Oct. 10.

Truman ends the year ranked ninth in the final NSCAA Great Lakes region poll. The team's 10-7-2 record marked Truman's 15th straight winning season. The 'Dogs will look to build on the success of this year in 2008 when they will return 11 out of 13 players who started at least five games this year.

Bulldogs improve record from 2006 campaign

BY SHAWN SHINNEMAN
Staff Reporter

The men's soccer season can best be summed up in one word: streaky.

The young Bulldogs squad's up-and-down season ultimately ended in a 10-7-2 record and a missed chance at postseason play. But senior midfielder Gavin Kempe said the season can be viewed as a success when compared to last year's 8-7-3 record.

"We had our shot this year," Kempe said. "A lot of things happened ... that [if] the ball bounces the other way, [we] maybe have two losses — maybe three losses — and we're in the tournament."

During an eight-game span through September, Truman was getting those bounces. The Bulldogs did not give up a goal during that stretch. The eight con-

secutive shutouts tied a school record set by a 2005 Truman team that was ranked as high as third in the nation.

"I don't think you can take that away from [this team]," head coach Duke Cochran said. "That's in the record books. ... I think, defensively, we'll be known as being very strong."

Maybe the best testament to the quality of the defense came in Truman's second game of the year against Northern Kentucky University. The 'Dogs played NKU, now 19-0-0 and No. 1 in Div. II, to a 0-0 tie for 83 minutes until Truman was whistled for a tackle in the box. NKU's Braden Bishop put the penalty kick in the back of the net to seal the 1-0 victory. Regardless of the end result, Truman showed it can play with anyone.

After eight games without a loss, Truman went into a key stretch of games

against ranked regional opponents. In order to gain a berth into the NCAA tournament, the Bulldogs needed to continue their mid-season success against the quality opponents that awaited.

The stretch started against Gannon University (Pa.) on Oct. 5. Truman came out with high intensity and controlled possession most of the game but failed to capitalize on early scoring opportunities. Gannon eventually found the goal twice in the last 15 minutes of the game.

"If you watch the game, we won," sophomore defender Drew Pauk said. "But the score didn't reflect that way. ... That was like a dagger to the heart. ... I couldn't believe we lost that game."

Cochran said he thinks doubt began to creep into his players' minds after such a tough defeat. The loss to Gannon was the first of five losses in the final

eight games of the Bulldogs' season.

Truman failed to get much offense going in those games, scoring just one goal in the five losses. One possible reason for the offensive deficiencies was the lack of a go-to offensive sniper. Truman's leading goal scorer, freshman forward Dan Meagher, recorded just five goals on the year. Sophomore sweeper Ben Green and freshman forward Matt Kimball were second on the team with four goals a piece.

"Any time we can have one dominant goal scorer that can put 10 goals up per year ... it's going to help so much," Pauk said.

Cochran said he would like his goal scorers to have around eight goals per year but that he sees the possibility for more in coming years.

"When you can have a guy scoring 15 to 20 goals, that's special," Cochran

said. "And I think that [with] the forwards we have, a couple of them have that potential."

Truman will look to make a playoff run next year when it returns all but two players to a team that finished ranked ninth in the NSCAA Great Lakes region poll.

"[I'm] a little bit jealous because I'm not there," said Kempe, who played his last game as a Bulldog on Tuesday afternoon. "But I'm going to be there [next year] yelling [at] every game."

Kempe isn't the only one looking forward to the future of Truman soccer.

"I'm excited for the next couple years," Cochran said. "It's hard to take your lumps as you're waiting, but I'm excited. I think lessons have been learned. [With] the talent we have and some of the recruits we're looking at, I think it's time."

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