



Senior setter Amanda Holliday digs a ball in the volleyball team's 3-1 victory Wednesday. Holliday compiled 29 assists and 13 digs in the win. The win marked the second time this season the Bulldogs defeated UCM. Truman is 29-5 this season.

Jackson Groves/Index

CLINCHER | Volleyball team downs UCM to clinch MIAA East title and home court for tourney

Continued from Page 15

They found that spark Saturday by sweeping No. 13 Augustana College (S.D.) 3-0 (-23, -13, -27) at Pershing.

Truman was in command from the beginning, hitting .375 in game one to jump out to an early lead. The 'Dogs did not let up in game two and hit .475 while holding the Vikings to a .047 hitting percentage.

Cherven said it was good the team came out with a lot of intensity after winning games one and two.

"It was definitely important for us, especially since we lost on Tuesday," Cherven said. "It was really important for us to come out and show what Truman volleyball is all about, and we definitely did that tonight."

Freshman setter Ashley Petak said this was the best match Truman has played all season.

"It was definitely our most complete game," Petak said. "Everyone played their best. Our offense and defense was there. We definitely controlled the pace of the game."

Keck led the offensive attack. She finished the match with 15 kills and a .484 hitting percentage. Five other Bulldogs finished with hitting percentages higher than .300.

Junior libero Whitney Boehler had a team-high 16 blocks.

Head coach Jason Skoch said he was pleased with how hard the team worked.

"We got outworked against SIUE," Skoch said. "We outworked [Augustana] tonight. There were some great rallies from both teams. I like the fact that we got our points by outworking them. ... We are getting better about it. We beat the 13th-

ranked team in the country, but we laid off in game three. But we were fortunate that we came back at the end. But it was very good that we came out of the gate 2-0."

On Friday night the Bulldogs were able to put the close loss to SIUE behind them with a sweep of Southwest Baptist University (Mo.) (-13, -22, -21) on Friday at Pershing. The win improved the Bulldogs' conference record to 10-1 with just two conference games remaining before the MIAA tournament.

The Bulldogs rode another solid defensive effort to victory as SBU hit .048 for the match.

Truman was in control from the beginning as it rode a .300 hitting percentage to victory. The match was a total team effort for Truman as every player saw the floor and 12 different Bulldogs recorded kills.

Medina led the 'Dogs with seven kills and had a .300 hitting percentage. Boehler led the team with 16 digs. Senior setter Amanda Holliday had a double-double with 15 assists and 10 digs.

The win marked the 10th straight season that the Bulldogs have won at least 10 MIAA games.

Truman will close out the regular season this weekend with a pair of home matches beginning Friday night against 19th-ranked Emporia State (Kan.) before the final regular season match against the University of Missouri-Rolla on Saturday night. The Bulldogs will open play in the MIAA tournament Wednesday by hosting either Fort Hays State University (Kan.) or Missouri Southern State University at Pershing.

HOST | MIAA begins Tuesday, Nov. 6 with the 'Dogs holding the top spot in the MIAA Eastern Div.

Continued from Page 15

Tessa Jones leads the Lady Blues' offensive charge. The senior right side hitter and two-time All-American leads Washburn in kills per game, averaging 4.22, and has a hitting percentage of .305. She also has started all 33 of her team's matches.

If both Truman and Washburn make it through their first two matches, a rematch of the early October match would be in line. Washburn overcame a 2-0 deficit to beat the Bulldogs in five games. After that match, Truman went on a nine-match winning streak while Washburn has gone undefeated.

The University of Central Missouri

likely also will be a factor in the tournament. The Jennies currently sport a 29-4 record and are ranked fifth in the country. Central ranks near the top of the MIAA in almost every statistical category, including second in hitting percentage, second in kills and first in service aces. Senior middle hitter Jillian Ohrman leads the Jennies offensively. Ohrman averages 3.9 kills per game and has a hitting percentage of .388, which leads the MIAA.

Other teams still in contention for a spot in the NCAA Tournament include Pittsburg State University (No. 4 in region) and Emporia State University (No. 6 in region). North-

west Missouri State University is ranked No. 10 in the region and currently sits on the outside looking in at the NCAA tournament. The top eight teams from each region advance to the tournament.

First-round play of the tournament will begin Wednesday with the higher-seeded teams hosting the matches. Quarterfinal action will have Missouri Western State University playing Washburn. Truman will take on either Missouri Southern State University or Fort Hays State University (Kan.). UCM will host Pittsburg State, and Emporia State will host Northwest Missouri State.

VICTORY | Team impresses in victory

Continued from Page 15

I would hate to have to scout this team. Who do you double-team? You can't put just one on Cherven — she proved that last season. But if you do, who is going to stop junior right-side hitter Melissa Keck? Or Medina? The team has got some depth on the front line.

All the talk in the preseason seemed to focus on what the team didn't have — a quarter of muck-ballyhooed former players — instead of what the team did have.

Yes, it was just one game, but it was one game against a quality, above average team. I wouldn't be this excited by a win against an NAIA school, but Augustana is one of the top Div. II schools.

What impressed me more than the depth was the third game. A common theme of volleyball team's years past has been a tendency to lighten up when leading and not finishing strong.

The final score in the third game was 30-27, but it never seemed that close. Yes, there were two lead changes and four tie scores, but I never felt like Truman

was going to lose. They kept the intensity up for all three games and sent Augustana home with a loss that knocked them down to No. 16 in the newest coaches' poll.

Let's just say this: The 'Dogs won and looked pretty good doing it.

And, the win could not possibly have come at a better time for the team. They had just lost to Southern Illinois University and needed to prove that they are a good team deserving of their No. 7 national ranking and No. 2 regional mark.

"We not only beat them, we dominated them," Medina said. "It's a good confidence-builder heading into postseason play."

I still don't know if this is the team that can finally break through and capture that elusive first national title. If they play like they did against SIUE, it will be another early exit. But if they play at the level they played against Augustana, look out.

"I don't think there is a team out there that can beat us — but we have to be on," Medina said.

TOURNEY | Bulldogs take on Washburn for third time this season in MIAA opening round

Continued from Page 15

the Lady Blues, they will take on the winner between top-seeded University of Central Missouri and Southwest Baptist University.

"If you're going to win it, you got to be two out of the three, and they are all really good teams," Cannon said.

The 'Dogs should be familiar with the Lady Blues — the two teams have met twice this year with each squad winning on its home pitch. Neither team will have home-field advantage with Central Missouri handling the hosting duties for the tournament.

Cannon said that because it's the third time the two teams will face one another, he won't spend as much time in practice harping on how Washburn plays.

"We'll focus on some stuff that we usually do against Washburn, but hopefully I think we've seen them enough that the kids can be like, 'Yeah, OK, this is what they normally do' so we can more focus on how we're going to play," Cannon said.

While the 'Dogs won't have home-field advantage, they will have home-surface advantage. The Bulldogs play their home matches on a grass field while Washburn plays on an artificial surface.

Washburn head coach Tim Collins said the surface-advantage should be non-existent. "We train on grass, and it's not anything

that we don't see everyday," Collins said. "Our players have enough experience under their belt to adapt."

The Bulldogs will head into the tournament on a sour note riding a two-game losing streak. Still, the team is 13-6-1 and tied for first in the MIAA regular season.

Cannon said his team doesn't have just one discernible strength. Instead, he said the women do a lot of things well.

"I think we're pretty solid throughout the lineup," he said. "We're scoring timely goals, we're playing good defense — you know, we haven't given up many goals this year. There are some things we could do better, but I think we're playing pretty good right now."

As far as a weakness of the team, Cannon said his team lacks No. 1 offensive force. He said the team doesn't have one player who can dominate the game on offense. Instead, the Bulldogs rely on a balanced attack with three players having at least six goals.

Although Cannon said the lack of an offensive sniper is a weakness, he also sees it as an advantage for his squad because other teams simply can't focus on shutting down one player.

Although the Bulldogs don't have one offensive star to shut down, Washburn does. Jessica Mainz is second in the MIAA goals scored with 15. It will be up to the

Bulldog's defense and goalie Emily Roark to keep Mainz off the stat sheet.

Roark will be a key player for the Bulldogs in the tournament. The junior net-minder is in her first year as the team's No. 1 goalie.

Roark said she doesn't feel any extra pressure playing in the postseason.

"I look at all the games the same," Roark said. "There is a little more riding on these games, but all the games are the same. We just need to win them."

In the earlier matches between the 'Dogs and Lady Blues, the Bulldogs netted the first goal. Cannon said it would be important for the team to get the first goal Saturday because of how the game will be played.

"I think defensively everyone is going to be very aware and be like, 'Don't get scored on,'" Cannon said. "So, that first goal is going to be big."

Collins said his team will focus on not making mistakes.

"I think it's going to be who can be the sharpest, the longest and who can avoid the mental lapses," Collins said. "It is going to be whoever can make the fewest mistakes and who can capitalize on the other team's mistakes."

The match between the Lady Blues and the Bulldogs starts at 3 p.m. Saturday at Central Missouri. The championship game will take place the next day at 2:30 p.m.

SOCCER | 'Dogs and UCM share MIAA title

Continued from Page 15

The Bulldogs got the goal right back, with Pohren's first goal of the season in the 15th minute.

"I was just making a run down the left side, and Jessica Wiegert had the ball, and she had a defender on her, and she just slotted it to me," Pohren said. "And I just shot it low into the corner."

After the first 15 minutes, the offense dwindled for both sides. The field gathered dew during the night game, and Cannon said this might have had something to do with the lack of scoring, especially because the field was a synthetic surface.

"Passing was a little harder because it was harder to judge how quick the ball was going to move," Cannon said. "It was not quite like playing on a skating rink, but it was slick enough where the ball was going to skip and go a little bit faster than we thought."

The Bulldogs outshot the Griffons 24-3 in what ended up being a 2-1 game. Cannon said the score was much closer than the game actually was. The team had its chances but failed to capitalize on them.

"If we put one or two of those in, it's three or four to one, and that's a little more indicative of how the game should've ended up," Cannon said.

By winning the match Friday, the Bulldogs set up a conference title game with Central on Saturday. The Jennies also won Friday, keeping them three points behind Truman in the MIAA standings. This meant the Bulldogs could earn a win or a tie and wrap up sole possession of the MIAA title.

Instead, they lost 1-0 and ended up sharing the MIAA title with the Jennies.

"I don't think we did anything wrong," Pohren said. "We played a really good game. We just didn't get the ball in the back of the net."

Cannon said the defenses and midfields were strong for both teams throughout the contest where the majority of the game was played. Both sides had limited offensive

chances, but the opportunities were there.

"If we would've had a little more composure in the final third of the field, I think we could create ... better opportunities," Cannon said.

The teams remained scoreless through both halves and went to overtime. The Jennies got the Bulldogs to overcommit to the ball on the right side of the field, and this left an attacker open for a cross. The Jennies' forward received the ball inside the six-yard box and put in the winner.

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Mike Cannon
Head Coach



Junior goalie Emily Roark jumps to pull a ball out danger during Tuesday's 2-1 loss to Drury. Even with two consecutive losses, the women's soccer team tied for a share of the MIAA conference title. The team finished with a 13-6-1 regular season record.

Jackson Groves/Index