

Women's tennis closes out fall season

BY KYLE MAGEE
Staff Reporter

Season-ending fall tournaments determine spring success. After the weekend, the women's tennis team couldn't ask for a better end to the fall season.

Eight Bulldogs competed at the second annual Hinds-Kellogg Classic in Macomb, Ill., hosted by Western Illinois University. Spread across six singles and four doubles flights, the 4-0 Bulldogs fashioned a .500 individual, 5-6 pair record with four singles players in the top five.

"It was very good competition ... on a par with the ITA," head coach Pete Kendall said. "I thought we did very well, pretty much all the way down the line."

The team had its hands full with NAIA Olivet Nazarene University (Ill.) in singles, dropping three late-rounders

to the Tigers. Four different doubles teams defeated Bulldog pairs.

Team No. 1 senior Jennifer Salmon split four Flight A matches, including a 7-5, 6-0 round-of-16 win against Anele Novak of Quincy University (Ill.) to advance to her 6-3, 6-0 quarterfinal loss to Southeast Missouri State University's Bryce Kristal.

Salmon then fell 7-6 (4), 6-4 to Carli Connors of the University of Southern Illinois-Edwardsville for sixth place. Sophomore Lindsay Blair sported a 3-1 Flight B performance, picking up a straight-set opening-round victory against Upper Iowa University's Kasey Huisman.

Her promising 6-2, 6-2 quarters dismantling of the host's Ashley Clark put her in contention. However, a 5-7, 6-0, 1-0 (3) semifinals loss to Southeast's Julia Masotti gave her third place after defeating Nazarene's Jade Stanlick 6-2, 6-2.

Freshman Kelsey Kuykendall de-

feated Upper Iowa's Mallory Cox 6-3, 6-2, advancing to her 6-4, 6-1 Flight C quarters loss to Nazarene's Lily Gonzalez. Walther fell 7-6 (6), 6-3 to Cassie Frantz of Div. III's Monmouth College (Ill.) before tying for fifth with Kuykendall after consecutive wins against Nazarene's Jennifer Ramsay 6-0, 7-6 (6) and Quincy's Alison Holloway in straight-sets.

"They both beat the same two players the last two matches," Kendall said. "That was pretty solid."

Flight D saw freshman Amy Ochs drop a close semi 2-6, 6-2, 1-0 (4) to Div. I University of Milwaukee-Wisconsin's Jenna Felsher. Ochs took fourth, falling 6-4, 5-6, 1-0 (10) to Nazarene's Engelbrecht.

Classmate Kirstyn Sampias fell 6-3, 7-5 to Nazarene's Alicia Cullen in the quarters of Flight E to take seventh. In her second appearance of the season, fresh-

man Maggie Fairchild vied for 10th in Flight F after her 6-4, 6-4 opening round loss to Upper Iowa's Faith Atherton.

Sophomore Taylor Warden's walk-over for seventh rounded out top-10 performances from the Bulldogs.

"Our places, how everybody did, might not reflect really how we played in this," Blair said. "We were playing some tough competition."

Three doubles pairs finished in the top four, reaching the semis. No. 1 duo Blair and Walther made the only final appearance, falling 8-1 to Southeast's Kristal sisters.

"I was pretty pleased with our doubles result," Walther said. "We were down 7-4 in our first match [against Milwaukee-Wisconsin]. We came back and won 9-7. That was a pretty big win for us."

Salmon and Ochs enjoyed a semi birth and a fourth-place finish falling

9-8 (4) to Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Sammi Schoen and Ashley Schoneman.

Kuykendall and Sampias handled Div. II Lewis University's (Ill.) Ann Oberbrunner and Clare Kessler before losing 8-3 to the host's flight champions Courtney Brooks and Kate Kennedy for third place.

"Our freshmen are still gaining experience," Blair said. "Our conference has traditionally been very tough. ... I don't think this year will be any different."

Undefeated in duals, the team looks to the spring to contend for its first MIAA title since 1998.

"I think this is a really good chance to get back into the top three," Kendall said. "The region hasn't really changed much."

The women, who finished 16-8 last season, have qualified for the NCAA Tournament seven times since 1995.

Athlete of the Week

Ben Green

Sport: Soccer

Year: Sophomore

Position: Sweeper

Hometown: Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

Ben Green netted three goals from his defender position in the men's soccer team's 4-1 victory against Tiffin University (Ohio) on Saturday. The goals were Green's first of the season. Green's hat trick marked the second time a Bulldog has scored three goals in a game this season.

Defender notches hat trick in victory

BY BRENT FOSTER
Staff Reporter

For a defender in soccer, scoring goals usually is not on the top of the priority list. Don't tell that to sophomore Ben Green.

Green netted a hat trick, helping Truman to a 4-1 win against Tiffin University (Ohio) on Sunday.

Although it is rare for a defender to get a hat trick, Green said he is not getting caught up in it.

"I guess it's not the most common thing," Green said. "But it was one of those games that some things opened up for me, and you've got to be good to be lucky, so I just took my opportunities."

Sunday's win helped keep the 'Dogs' NCAA tournament hopes alive while improving their record to 9-3-1 on the season.

The three goals Green scored were special for the sophomore. The British Columbia, Canada, native started off his Bulldog career as a forward but was moved to defense late last season. Head coach Duke Cochran wanted to find a position where Green would have the most impact, and so far the move has worked out well for the Bulldogs as Green has helped anchor a defense with eight straight shutouts earlier in the season.

Green said he is happy about the goals but that he prides himself most on the defense.

"It's always nice to score," Green said. "Obviously that's not No. 1 priority though. The eight shutouts in a row were more of a good thing for

the defense than the goals, I guess."

Green has been a key contributor this season, starting all 13 games and adding two assists to his three goals this season. His three goals also moved him into a tie for second place on the team in goals scored. Green's three goals have been scored on only four shots on goal, giving him a shooting percentage of .750.

The three goals and two assists match his totals for all of last season when he was a forward. His 13 starts also match his total from last season.

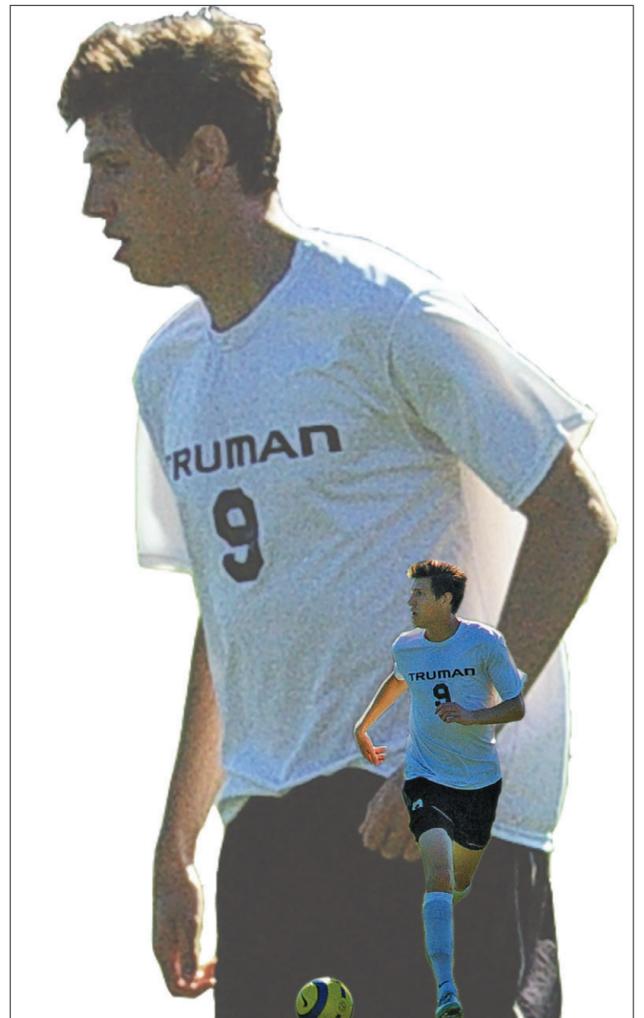
Cochran said Green was taking advantage of what the opposition was giving him.

"For Ben Green, ... that is the top end of what I thought he could do," Cochran said. "He is a very talented soccer player, a gifted athlete. He's very fast and technically very sound. The opportunities just happened for him where the game broke open for him to move forward. ... Ben is a very good player and is only going to get better."

Cochran added that the entire defense deserves credit for its recent strong play.

"Those guys have all played an equal role," Cochran said. "It's not fair to say any one of them has done more than the other. They've done a good job at saying we all have to step up and not allow teams. Ben is a part of it big-time, but it is the team in the back. They trust each other."

The hat trick was the second this season for a Bulldog. Freshman forward Matt Kimball found the net three times against Upper Iowa on Sept. 15.



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