

Men's soccer rolls past Wesleyan 5-0

BY SHAWN SHINNEMAN
Staff Reporter

The Bulldogs' NCAA tournament hopes are still alive.

Truman (10-5-1) put together a flawless 5-0 defeat against Iowa Wesleyan College at Truman Soccer Park on Tuesday to remain in the tournament hunt. The Bulldogs dominated possession of the ball during the game and outshot Iowa Wesleyan 32-7.

Coming into Tuesday's match, Truman had lost three of its last four games and allowed five goals since putting together a record-tying, eight-game shutout streak.

"It was good for us to get the shutout again," head coach Duke Cochran said. "It was important to get back to that shutout streak or at least establish defensively that we don't let teams score."

The team had struggled offensively, as well. The Bulldogs had been held scoreless in four out of the past five games before putting five goals against the net versus the Tigers.

Truman forwards sophomore Nick Schlichtman and freshman Matt Kimball combined for three goals in the game and helped the Bulldogs snap a two-game losing streak. Cochran said it was important the forwards contributed.

"For the forwards to start scoring goals — that's Kim-

ball and Schlichtman — that's good," Cochran said. "We need them scoring goals if we are going to be a good team."

Schlichtman, in just his fifth start, picked up his first goal of the season in the 71st minute when senior Gavin Kempe chipped a ball over the goalkeeper's head. Schlichtman ran full speed and headed the ball into the net from point blank range to give the Bulldogs a 3-0 lead.

After assisting sophomore sweeper Ben Green's goal to make it 4-0, Schlichtman put the exclamation point on the day with another header for a goal off of freshman Bobby Larkin's cross.

"After struggling a little bit throughout the season ... it's good to finally hit the back of the net twice," Schlichtman said. "I'm [starting] to contribute a lot more to the team."

The offense wasn't able to get going Friday at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. The Bulldogs managed just three shots against the 12th-ranked Cougars. Truman lost the game, 1-0.

Junior midfielder Josh Weir said the game was an even match not dominated by either team.

"It was more of a game being played in the whole middle third of the field," Weir said. "Neither team really had very many deadly chances."

Schlichtman said SIUE did a good job stopping the Bulldog attack.

"They're a good team," Schlichtman said. "They played well. [But] we sometimes didn't take the chances when we had them."

On the defensive side of the ball, Truman played a solid game. They allowed only five shots on goal to a team that averages 2.32 goals per game. The lone SIUE goal came on a play Weir said was a fluke.

SIUE scored in the 20th minute when Dustin Attarian kicked a ball that deflected off a Truman player into the top corner of the goal. Cochran said it was the second straight game in which the opponent's goal had been the result of an unfortunate bounce.

Despite the two straight losses, Weir said he thought the team still was playing at a high level.

"It's not like we're not playing well," Weir said. "We are playing well. ... The ball is just not going our way. A couple of unlucky bounces here and there, and we've lost three of four."

Truman will look to stay away from unlucky breaks as they try to qualify for postseason play.

But in a very competitive region, Truman's current résumé looks fairly average. The Bulldogs are 0-5 against teams ranked in the top 10 of the



Adam Kabins/Index
Junior midfielder Josh Weir charges upfield with an Iowa Wesleyan University defender. The Bulldogs defeated the Tigers 5-0 on their home pitch Tuesday.

NSCAA Great Lakes regional poll as of Oct. 16. In those five games, the 'Dogs only have managed a total of one goal.

The Bulldogs are ranked seventh in a region that will get four teams into the tournament. With

regionally ranked opponents Lewis University and Drury University on the schedule, there still is time for Truman to make a move.

"Somebody is going to get in with probably five losses," Co-

chran said. "Is it going to be us? I don't know. Right now we've got to win games and then hope things happen."

The Bulldogs will look to take down 12-4-0 Lewis this Sunday at home.

Rugby snaps four-game losing streak with shutout

BY BEN YARNELL
Staff Reporter

Friday night pasta and rugby World Cup games just might be the secret formula for the men's rugby team.

Last Friday, the Bulls rugby team got together to eat a spaghetti dinner and watch England take on Australia in the rugby World Cup before shutting out Benedictine University (Kan.) 28-0 the next day at home, bringing the team's record to 2-4 for the fall.

"I feel like watching that game really got us in the right mindset," senior prop Leo Stephens said. "I think things like that help to develop a commitment to Bulls rugby."

The Bulls showed that commitment early in the game when junior fly half Will Holleman booted a penalty kick at three minutes. Holleman quickly followed that up with another penalty

kick at 10 minutes, bringing the score to 6-0. The Bulls and the Black Monks then battled for another 20 minutes before Bulls junior co-captain Phil Powell scored a try, converted by Holleman.

Again, at 35 minutes in the half, Holleman came through with another penalty, bringing it to 16-0. To top off the half, junior captain Justin Lacy scored a try of his own, again converted by Holleman for a score of 23-0.

In the second half, the Bulls came out charging, with a try after just two minutes. The conversion was missed, bringing it to 28-0. From there, the Black Monks' defense held the Bulls scoreless. At the end of the second half, Benedictine had a chance to tack up a few points with a penalty kick but missed, remaining scoreless for the game.

Head coach Bill Sexton said the win was very important for the team.

"Since we haven't seen many of

them this season, it was a very big win, indeed," Sexton said.

One important aspect of the win was the play of Holleman. In the fall season alone, Holleman has accounted for 25 points, more than 40 percent of the team's total. Lacy said he thinks Holleman is an invaluable asset to the team.

"He is one of the older guys now, even as a junior, and a lot of his emotions and the way he plays is going to sway the team and help the team a lot," Lacy said.

Lacy said one of the main reasons his squad was able to pull out a win was because of a change in the order of practices. Sexton said that after a 31-8 loss to Iowa, the team's lack of fitness was apparent.

To improve, he decided to move the conditioning portion of practice to the front, focusing on the ball-handling as-

pect of the game only after the team was worn out.

"By working very hard, we were able to achieve goals in regard to not only our fitness level, but also with the ball-handling portion because it helped increase their level of concentration," Sexton said. "In practice, I saw an immediate improvement in their execution."

Throughout the week, one thing on the minds of returning team members was the chance to get a shot at former teammate and co-captain Mike Fitzgerald, who now plays for the Black Monks. Containing Fitzgerald was one of the keys to success for the team last weekend.

"The fact that he is their team captain and he only just started at their school really speaks to his competence," Stephens said.

Containment on the scoreboard is going to be a key issue next weekend

when the Bulls head north to Lincoln, Neb., to take on the Cornhuskers of the University of Nebraska.

Fans might remember last season's match in which currently inactive sophomore Patrick Holley broke both his tibia and fibula in his right leg during a 46-8 loss to the Huskers.

Sexton said that during this go-around, he isn't concerned about a repeat of the accident.

"That was just kind of a freak thing," Sexton said. "In all the years I've played rugby, I've never seen a broken tibia."

To be ready for Nebraska this Saturday, Sexton said he plans to increase the intensity of his new practice style in the hope that it will bring more focus to their ball-handling and overall level of play.

And, just for good measure, a good pasta dinner and another World Cup game already are in the works for this Friday, Sexton said.

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