

# Women go 4-0-1 at home

BY RYAN TURNER  
Staff Reporter

The women's soccer team couldn't have asked for a much better five-game homestand.

Truman (8-3-1) continued its stretch of home games this past weekend by hosting No. 6 University of Central Missouri on Friday afternoon and then Missouri Western State University the following day. The Bulldogs ended it Wednesday against Northwest Missouri State University, posting a 4-0-1 record at Truman Soccer Park during this span.

The Bulldogs sunk into their old habit again this weekend of failing to score in the first half but still managed to earn a 1-1 tie against Central and defeated Western 1-0. When taking on Northwest, the 'Dogs managed to kick the habit by scoring in both halves to earn a 2-0 victory.

Truman piled on early chances against the Bearcats, but it couldn't get many opportunities for shots. The Bulldogs eventually got beyond the offside trap, and sophomore Isabelle Gaeta was able to carry the ball in, placing it inside the post for her second goal of the season.

The Bulldogs pressured the Bearcats defense in the second half, capitalizing on a second-half goal from sophomore forward Riley Mahn. The Bulldogs' next game will be at Northwest, and head coach Mike Cannon said the Bulldogs need to play even better to beat them on the Bearcats' field.

"They're going to play you close," Cannon said.

The Bulldogs possessed the ball and the scoring chances for the majority of Friday's match against Central, but they allowed a first-half goal regardless.

"Against Central, we played a really good first half, their one shot was their one goal," Cannon said.

The Bulldogs did manage to outshoot the Jennies in the first half 8-1, and outshot them 17-10 for the game. However, as time wore on, it appeared that Truman's effort against the MIAA leader would be all for naught. That's when junior midfielder Katie Buning came along to save the day.

Buning took a pass inside the 18-foot box from junior forward Katelyn Talcott and put it just beyond the keeper's reach for the tying score in the 88th minute.

"We never really gave up, and that's why we ended up coming back," Buning said.

Once the Bulldogs had secured the tie, Truman got a little



Jackson Groves/Index

Senior defender Emily Newsham dribbles the ball out of danger during the Bulldogs' 1-0 victory against Missouri Western State University on Saturday. Newsham assisted sophomore Riley Mahn's goal. The women have not lost since Sept. 15 and are 8-3-1 this year.

more conservative in order to not give a lead back to Central.

"We want to go for the win, but we don't want to take a real big gamble, give up a counterattack to [Central] after working that hard," Cannon said.

Truman didn't score again in the final three minutes of the second half, and the game went into overtime.

"We were focused on playing defense, we wanted to play smart and make sure that they couldn't come back," Buning said.

Cannon said he thought the Bulldogs had the better of the play in the first overtime period, but like the first half, they would not net any results. The two teams played two scoreless overtimes to finish in a 1-1 tie. This leaves the Jennies as the only undefeated team in conference play, but they no longer have a perfect record.

The second game of the week-

end against Western should have produced a lesser challenge, but Friday's extended contest left the Bulldogs a little sluggish.

"We were tired, and we didn't really play together as a team, but it got better as the game went on," Buning said.

Truman couldn't hold the ball well against Western. But neither could the Griffons. Even though the goal scoring has been inconsistent this year, the 'Dogs' goal-keeping and defense have been steady. The key to the back end for Truman has been communication.

"We just have to know what the other person is doing," junior fullback Kim Wolff said. "... If we don't know what the person is doing next to us, then we're just going to mess up."

The Truman defense gave a comparable performance Saturday. Even though the offense couldn't produce results in the first half, the defense only al-

lowed one shot. Things wouldn't improve much for the Griffons in the second half. They just managed two more shots to give them a game total of three, none of which were on goal.

The tide turned for Truman in the second half, however, as the Bulldogs got a bench goal from Mahn in the 68th minute. It was Mahn's third goal of the season (4 total goals for Mahn after Wednesday's result), all of which have come off of the Bulldog bench.

"[Mahn's] been working really hard, it was nice to see her get the game winner," Cannon said.

The Bulldogs couldn't secure any other goals to put the game away, but they staved off any Western goals to earn another shutout. Following the game with Northwest, the Bulldogs now have put up six shutouts in 12 games this season, which leads the MIAA.

## TRUMAN ATHLETICS News and Notes

### Men's Soccer: Intensity high as team wins

Friday's game against the University of Missouri-St. Louis was a physical one. The two teams combined to produce 38 fouls during the game.

The crowd got noisy toward the end of the first half when UM-SL's Danny Muesenfechter committed what seemed to be a hard foul on Bulldog sophomore defender Jack Randazzo. Randazzo and Muesenfechter got into an exchange of words but quickly separated and resumed play.

UMSL was handed two yellow cards in the first six minutes of the second half, setting the tone for a physical half that saw 23 total fouls.

The 38 fouls in the game were eight more than Truman's previous season high of 30, set against Missouri Southern State University on Sept. 2.

### Women's Soccer: Mahn contributing off bench

Sophomore forward Riley Mahn continued to be a super sub during the Bulldogs' five-game homestand. She's scored two goals in the past two games, placing her in a tie for the team lead in goals scored with four.

"I think a lot of it is just being on the field a little more," Mahn said. "I've been able to get a little more playing time recently, so I've been able to get more opportunities."

### Football: Cunningham's elbow improves

The football team received a scare Saturday night when senior running back Jake Cunningham suffered an injury blocking for a kick return in the fourth quarter.

Cunningham said Bulldogs' trainer Michelle Boyd originally thought he may have dislocated or fractured his elbow. But Cunningham had an X-ray after the game, which came back negative on a fracture.

Cunningham said the elbow still is a little sore but that he is progressing and could be available for Saturday's game against Southwest Baptist University.

"There's a couple more days before the game so I think I should be able to play," Cunningham said Wednesday. "It's not really going to affect me all that much. Hopefully, it's not too sore to where I can't play."

Cunningham is the Bulldogs' leading rusher with 220 yards this season. Against Fort Hays, Cunningham led the team with seven receptions for 87 yards.

### Football: Masucci tabbed as main punter

Two different players have been performing punting duties for the football team this season.

Sophomore kicker Mickey Masucci and sophomore receiver Vanness Emokpae have shared the roll. Masucci has punted 21 times this year, and Emokpae has punted seven times. They have almost identical averages at just more than 31 yards per punt.

Emokpae has been called upon when the team needed a longer punt, and Masucci has performed the punting duties on shorter punts, trying to pin the opposition within their own territory.

"I have the confidence to go out there and punt," Masucci said. "I know what I can do. Vanness has a real big leg. ... If one is tired, the other can go out there, and we both can get the job done."

But after Emokpae had a punt for negative four yards in the Bulldogs' 26-11 Saturday victory against Fort Hays State University, head coach Shannon Currier said he plans to rely solely on Masucci in the upcoming weeks.

"Right now our punter will be Mickey," Currier said. "Every time we try to make a change, I guess, something has happened where we went back to Mickey."

### Volleyball: Regional rankings out next week

Next week will be the first indicator of where the Bulldogs stand as far as making the NCAA Tournament. On Tuesday, Oct. 9, the first regional rankings of the season will be announced. The 64-team NCAA Tournament is comprised of the top eight teams from the eight different regions in the country. The Bulldogs' ranking will most likely be determined by the 3-2 loss to Washburn on Tuesday night.

Head coach Jason Skoch said that had the Bulldogs won, they probably would be ranked No. 1 in the region. However, the loss to the Lady Blues means Truman likely will be second or third in the region.

# Men finish 2nd, women 3rd at Jock's Nitch

BY JACK NICHOLL  
Staff Reporter

The men's cross country team has fallen short of its main rival in the last two meets.

Emporia State University, an MIAA foe, has finished one place ahead of Truman in the last two races. At the Emporia State Jock's Nitch Invitational this past Friday, Truman finished second, well behind first-place Emporia. In Truman's 24th-place finish at the Southern Stampede two weeks ago, the Bulldogs ran a better cumulative time than Emporia but finished one team back because of placing.

"I would have liked to have been a little closer to Emporia State [Friday]," head coach Tim Schwegler said.

Freshman Josh Mantooth again led the way for Truman, finishing 10th with a time of 26:34 in the 8K event. Freshman Bob Gorman (11th) finished two seconds behind Mantooth. Sophomore Zach Chapman (14th) and junior Bryant England (15th) and senior David Yonce (17th) rounded out the top five for the Bulldogs.

In comparison, Emporia State finished with runners in the one, two, three, seven and 10 slots.

"We kind of set the pace for Emporia," Schwegler said. "In the future, we have to make sure our opponents set the pace for us."

In order to beat Emporia State, Truman must move its pack ahead of Emporia's.

"Right now we're trying to get our top five runners as close as possible,"

Mantooth said. "I think the main thing we're going to have to do [to pass Emporia] is just try to get our pack to move up, ... just try to stay as close together as we can and move up at the same time."

Schwegler said the overall race strategy also could be improved.

"Last week I think we tried to win the race in the first mile, and we can't do that," Schwegler said. "What we're going to try to do is get a little more relaxed going into that first mile and try to get aggressive after that."

Women's head coach John Cochrane said he was unhappy with both the results of his women's team and how the team ran. He said the team did not run together well and that everyone has things to work on.

"We didn't really do what we want-

ed to do," junior Grace DelNero said. "I know that [junior Danna Kelly] and I separated a little bit after the first mile. We want to just stay together a little more, and I know that the other girls weren't up as far as they wanted to be."

The women placed third out of 13 teams at the Invitational, finishing behind Emporia State and Park University.

Truman's top two finishers, Kelly (second) and DelNero (fifth), finished 28 seconds apart. Freshmen Morgan Cox and Kylie Raitel finished together but 40 seconds behind DelNero. Sophomore Fiona Williams and freshman Amanda Brown finished 30 seconds behind Raitel, making this the most spread-out finish for the women this year.

The entire team finished with a slower time than at the Southern Stampede

two weeks ago. Cochrane said this course was slightly harder than at the Stampede. In comparison, the men finished with nearly equal times to those of two weeks ago.

The one bright spot for the women was the continued leadership shown by Kelly and DelNero. In her second place finish, Kelly took more than a minute off of her time from last year's Jock's Nitch. DelNero, after not racing last season, took off more than a minute from her time at the Jock's Nitch two seasons ago.

"We've really stepped up our training," DelNero said. "I know that we have both conditioned a lot since the past year. ... We're eating healthy and running well. We're just completely different runners. We're really taking it up to the next level."

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