



Junior midfielder Brigitte Pohren fires the ball ahead to a teammate during a 4-0 victory against Upper Iowa last September. The Bulldogs compiled a 12-5-3 overall record in 2006, but for the first time in eight years they did not finish first in their conference. The 'Dogs graduated six starters from last year's team but bring back MIAA Freshman of the Year Jessica Wiegert.

Women's soccer aims to reclaim MIAA

Bulldogs search for eighth conference title in nine seasons

BY RYAN TURNER
Staff Writer

Amid the summer humidity of Kirksville there is something else beginning to stick: the women's soccer team. Even though they've been practicing for a little more than a week, they've already begun to gel. "We're just all working as a team and working our hardest," sophomore Jessica Wiegert said. "It's the preseason so we're just trying to get in shape and working together as a

team as well as we can." The team is motivated this year, as they would like to reclaim the MIAA conference title. Last year was the first time in the existence of the MIAA that Truman failed to bring it home. Truman was ranked fifth in the conference in the preseason coaches poll — the first preseason poll in which the team received zero first-place votes. "You can't say that wasn't a fair preseason ranking because it's pretty similar to how the season ended last year," head coach Mike Cannon said. Cannon, who is entering his 15th year as head coach, said the

team will use the rankings more as a motivator. Cannon also stressed the importance of improving upon those rankings because of the new conference tournament that has been put in place this year. The MIAA tournament will only take the top four teams in the standings. This tournament is of great importance because the winner gets an automatic bid to

the NCAA Div. II tournament. The team lost six starters from last year's squad, including four-time all-MIAA honoree Robyn Mortenson. However, it has some promising youth returning, like MIAA Freshman of the Year Jessica Wiegert. Last season Wiegert led the team in all scoring categories and could very well do the same this year. "I don't care if I lead the team or not," Wiegert said. "Whoever

does it is fine as long as we're scoring and winning games. I'm just going to try my hardest this year and do anything I can to help the team." Wiegert said she knows she needs to be more physical, and that working hard will result in improvement in that area. Wiegert thinks the offense is going to be very potent this year. "We have some other good forwards and freshmen coming in," she said. Many of the freshmen have been dealing with minor injuries and illnesses, but Cannon said he doesn't see any of the ailments being long term.

"The kids that have played have done well, so we're pretty excited about a couple of them," he said. Cannon also said the team is going to be more offensive-minded this year. The team managed five goals in a scrimmage with Rockhurst University (Mo.) on Aug. 11. This could be a sign of things to come as the new strategy continues to be employed. The season begins Aug. 24 when Truman takes on host St. Edwards University, at their tournament in Austin, Texas. Truman fans can see the Bulldogs for themselves at the home opener versus the University of Nebraska-Omaha on September 8, at 12 p.m.

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Jessica Wiegert
Sophomore Forward

Roark takes control in net

Junior keeper assumes spot between the posts after the graduation of Lauren Davis

BY RYAN TURNER
Staff Writer

When Lauren Davis graduated last spring, she left some pretty big cleats to fill. In four years at Truman, Davis not only played a key role in capturing three conference titles but also set several club records. But indications are that she left her position to capable hands. Junior Emily Roark started four games, appearing in eight, for Truman last year while serving as Davis' backup. She posted a 2-1-1 record, as well as a .38 goals against average. Both wins came via shutout performances. Head coach Mike Cannon said Roark played about a quarter of the total minutes last season, and her experience has helped prepare her for this year. "She's had experience the last couple of years," Cannon said. "We're confident in her. She came in very fit and ready to work." For Roark, being prepared is part of the game. She's come ready to play for every game the last two years as a backup. If something happened to Da-

vis, Roark said she needed to already be in the gametime mindset. "[The biggest thing is] just coming in knowing that you have a job to get done and having to be mentally and physically prepared to do that," Roark said. Roark said Davis set a good example as a goalkeeper. "She did a great job for the team for four years so hopefully I can just fall into her footsteps and put as much effort and heart into it as she did," Roark said. The spring season also provided invaluable time for the defensive lines to get used to Roark. "We feel pretty comfortable with each other," Roark said. The forwards appear to be just as secure with Roark as their backbone. "She has been behind Lauren Davis, who is a great goalkeeper, and she taught Emily Roark a lot of things," sophomore forward Jessica Wiegert said. "I'm confident that this year, being her first year starting, that she'll do great things as well." Cannon said he is employing a more offensive-minded strategy, which will probably put more pressure on Roark as a keeper.

"It could have the potential to leave us open to more quick counter attacks, but I still feel really comfortable with our defense and how we're able to cover for each other," Cannon said. In a scrimmage versus Rockhurst University (Mo.) Aug. 11, Roark posted another shutout, although she said she didn't feel extremely challenged in the match because of the good defense in front of her. She said she only had to make a few saves. Roark said that once the season starts, she'll need to challenge opponents more. "I'm really focusing this year on being aggressive and coming out and challenging everything," Roark said. "Just getting better in the air on crosses and coming out on those." Roark said she is confident that if she can improve on those scenarios, she and her defense will be able to stand up to chances caused by their offensive assault. The team missed out on the conference title for the first time in the MIAA's existence last year, and Roark said she is as hungry as ever to get it back — this time as the starting goalkeeper.

"She's had experience the last couple of years. We're confident in her. She came in very fit and ready to work."

Mike Cannon
Head Coach

Net Loss

Lauren Davis played her last game in a Bulldog uniform last fall. A four-year starter, Davis is one of seven Bulldogs to be on the MIAA All-Conference team four times. She leaves the team as the all-time leader in minutes played with more than 6,800 and is third all-time in shutouts.

G/GS	Min.	SV	GA	GAA	W	L	T	SO
78/75	6865:34	203	47	0.62	55	13	8	38

Junior Emily Roark will take over for Davis in net. She has been the primary backup for the last two years and now is the full-time starter.

G/GS	Min.	SV	GA	GAA	W	L	T	SO
14/5	762:01	27	3	0.35	3	1	1	2

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