



File Photo

Sophomore midfielder Ben Green knifes between two defenders during a game last fall. The men's soccer team defeated Bellarmine (Ky.) 2-1 during last weekend's John Toebe Classic before falling 1-0 to No. 8 Northern Kentucky.

## Men split season opener

### Bulldogs experience a victory and defeat at John Toebe Classic

BY BRENT FOSTER  
Staff Reporter

The men's soccer team competed this weekend at the John Toebe Classic in Wilder, Ky., finishing the weekend with a 1-1 record.

On Friday the Bulldogs defeated Bellarmine (Ky.) 2-1 behind strong play from redshirt freshman Dan Meagher. The win improved the Bulldogs' record to 9-1 in their last 10 season openers.

Bellarmine broke a 0-0 tie in the 62nd minute when Ryan Lederman found the back of the net. In the 75th minute, Meagher scored to tie the game up, and one minute later the freshman forward followed that up with his second goal of the game to give the Bulldogs the lead for good.

"It was the first regular season game, and it's always harder on the road when you don't have your fans backing

you," sophomore sweeper Ben Green said. "We played really well. We are still trying to find the right combinations between the different lines."

Even after the Bulldogs fell behind by a goal, they did not waver.

"A lot of guys have a year of experience now, and we can battle back better from deficits better," Green said.

On Sunday the Bulldogs lost a heartbreaker 1-0 to No. 8 Northern Kentucky on a penalty kick in the 86th minute. Head coach Duke Cochran said he was baffled as to why Northern Kentucky was awarded a penalty kick.

"The ball was served into our box and didn't make it into the box," Cochran said. "The ball was cleared out of the box, and Drew Pauk and one of their kids kind of got tangled up after the ball was cleared. Drew got elbowed in the face by one of their players and retaliated by kind of kicking him, and when he went down and yelled, that's when the referee decided to award a penalty kick in the box. So you can draw your own con-

clusions as to how we felt."

Green agreed with Cochran that it was a difficult way to lose.

"It was really tough," Green said. "You battle hard for 85 minutes, and then you lose on a ghost penalty kick and to send a man off as well. It is really tough. It kind of deflated us."

Green was given a yellow card, and junior captain Josh Weir was given a red card for arguing with the official about the call. Weir will be forced to sit out the next game because of the red card.

"It's unfortunate that it comes down to a judgment call and penalty kicks," Cochran said. "You never want to lose on penalty kicks. Josh is our captain, and he went to talk to the ref and disagreed with it [the call]. As a captain he should disagree with it, and he got thrown out for arguing with the referee. He's a captain, and he's standing up for his team. He should stand up for the team, and I won't fault him for that."

The loss was especially tough

to handle not only because of the tough call at the end of the game, but also because Northern Kentucky is ranked near the top in the region.

"Northern Kentucky will be one of the top four teams in our region," Cochran said. "I believe that because of their depth. They won our region last year and lost in the elite eight. Are they a good team? Yes. Are they beatable? Yes. I thought we battled really well. We had just as many chances as the top team in our region."

The game was a defensive struggle as the Bulldogs had only two shots on goal, while Northern Kentucky had three. The strength of the Bulldogs' defense seems to be carrying over from last season, when they ranked 21st in the country in goals against.

The Bulldogs will kick off their home season this weekend with two games, beginning Friday at 4 p.m. with a game against Northeastern State (Okla.) and a game Sunday at 2 p.m. against Missouri Southern.

## Redshirt freshman contributes in first contest

### Dan Meagher nets two goals, propels men's soccer to first win of year

BY BRENT FOSTER  
Staff Reporter

Dan Meagher made the most of his first-game action on the Bulldog soccer team last weekend. The redshirt freshman scored both goals in last week's 2-1 victory over Bellarmine (Ky.).

Scoring the tying and go-ahead goals really meant a lot, Meagher said.

"That is basically what I have been working towards," Meagher said. "I got the first one, and it was great. It tied us up with Bellarmine, and then the second goal, I was just ecstatic. I couldn't describe the feeling. It was great, putting the team ahead in our first game, the opening game."

Meagher became the first Bulldog player to score two goals in a season-opening game since Matt Byers and Ryan Shaw scored two goals apiece in the opening game of the 2000 season.

Meagher's play in the first game of the season could inspire an offense that has struggled to find goal scorers.

Meagher said he knows there are many strengths with this year's team.

"I think our defense is going to be really strong again," Meagher said. "We want to be one of the top teams in the nation in goals against. We have a lot of guys in the midfield and defense that are winning a lot of balls for us and keeping the ball on net. I think

overall we are really coming together as a team."

Consistency on the offensive side is one thing the Bulldogs need to work on as a whole, something Meagher might be able to provide.

"Overall, I was happy with the way we represented ourselves as a whole," head coach Duke Cochran said. "We are getting opportunities into our middle and attacking thirds, but we just need to become better at maintaining possession once we've won it off the other team."

Meagher said he also recognizes that the Bulldogs need to be more consistent in their play.

"We really need to become more

consistent and play the entire game," Meagher said. "We have times when we are really clicking, and then there are times when we seem to fall apart and let things slip. Playing all 90 minutes is really important."

Cochrane said he has seen a lot of improvement in Meagher during the last year.

"I thought that Dan would play in our midfield," Cochran said. "But last spring when we were looking for some forwards, he really stepped up and showed that he could play up there. When called upon, he really steps up. The opportunities were there for him, and putting those chances away showed that he wants to play up there."

Sophomore midfielder Ben Green also likes Meagher's play.

"He's a big body in there," Green said. "There aren't too many players in there that are his height. He has a good

touch on the ball and will work hard for it. In the Bellarmine game he was in the right place at the right time and took his chance. He put away two big goals for us."

Cochrane also said he thinks Meagher's play can really inspire the team, which struggled last season to find goal scorers. The Bulldogs averaged 1.39 goals per game last year.

"He is excited and our team is excited because now we are finding out who is going to play where, and Dan has really established himself as one of our forwards," Cochran said.

The team also has a nickname for Dan. "I just want to throw it out there that we call him 'Beans,'" Cochran said.

Meagher did not elaborate much on the nickname.

"Some of the players started calling me Beans last year, and it kind of stuck," Meagher said.

## TRUMAN ATHLETICS News and Notes

### Football: Jordan no longer a Bulldog

After a record-tying season in 2006, former Bulldog defensive tackle Courtney Jordan is not with the team this fall.

Jordan tied a Bulldog single-season record and led the MIAA with six fumble recoveries last season. He also recorded 20 solo tackles, 15 assists and 3.5 sacks.

However, he could not meet the academic standards to remain on the team and head coach Shannon Currier said Jordan is not at Truman this fall.

"He just didn't take care of business in the classroom," Currier said. "... We tried to help him the best we could, but the guys have to be motivated themselves, too, just like any student here. We have other guys who are stepping up, and that's the way it goes."

### Men's Soccer: Vogt misses chance at record

Senior midfielder Drew Vogt came close to tying a Truman record in the season-opening 2-1 win against Bellarmine (Ky.) on Friday. Vogt's two assists were one short of the record held by three different players from 1980, 1988 and 2001. He was credited with assists on both of Dan Meagher's goals in the 2-1 victory.

Vogt has not been known as a playmaker in his previous three years with the team. In 17 games played last season, Vogt registered two goals and one assist for the Bulldogs. In his four-year career, the St. Peters, Mo., native has eight goals and seven assists.

### Women's Soccer: Bench contributes in win

The success of a team often comes down to depth on the roster. Games can be won or lost depending on the strength of the bench.

This past weekend, the women's soccer team showed it's bench was up to the challenge for providing support for the starters.

The bench players registered five of the team's total eight points, including two goals.

Junior midfielder Katelyn Talcott was the most productive off of the Bulldog bench. She tallied one goal and one assist.

Sophomore forward Riley Mahn also netted a goal in the team's 4-0 victory against University of Incarnate Word (Texas).

This production could leave head coach Mike Cannon more sure of himself when he needs to rest his starters for a defensive stand or a late push.

### Volleyball: Team rebounding from injuries

The Truman volleyball team is just now healing up, one week into the season.

Freshmen right-side hitters Kristen Nissen and Courtney Larson and junior outside hitter Eli Medina all are coming off of injuries that kept them from practicing, but they will start back into the rotation this week.

Skoch said having so many players out during the Ramada Inn Classic in St. Paul, Minn., had its advantages, though.

"We had people playing new positions against [the University of Minnesota-Duluth], the No. 2 team in the country," Skoch said. "It was really a team effort for the win, which was great."

### Athletics: Feig and Keck honored by MIAA

Two junior athletes were recognized by the MIAA for their weekend exploits.

Garret Feig, a defensive back for the football team, snared two interceptions in the Bulldogs 38-31 win against the University of Missouri-Rolla. Feig was the first Bulldog to grap two picks since Marcus Yokeley in 2004.

Mellisa Keck, a right-side hitter on the volleyball squad, dominated the opposition at the Ramada Inn Classic. Keck had a team-high 49 kills and an average of 4.9 kills per game. She is attacking at a rate of .505 — best on the team.

### Athletics: Football will play under lights in '07

For the first time in more than a decade, the Bulldog football team will play a night game at Stokes Stadium. Lights were installed Friday as the 'Dogs prepare for their Sept. 8, 6:30 p.m., home opener against Upper Iowa University.

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INDEX

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