

# Women win first game

Team takes 4-0 victory against Incarnate Word after losing season opener

BY RYAN TURNER  
Staff Reporter

Truman's women's soccer team could not dig itself out of a first-half hole against St. Edward's this weekend. They paid it forward to Incarnate Word on Sunday morning.

Truman found itself a bit overwhelmed in its season opener. Host St. Edward's, ranked 10th in the nation, was both a formidable and intimidating first opponent of the season, and this intimidation factor may have factored into what head coach Mike Cannon referred to as "first game jitters."

Cannon said he could not be sure if the team was anxious, nervous or just too amped up because of the level of competition they were up against.

Cannon said the team's biggest problem was not possessing the ball enough. The defense would work very hard to win the ball, but Truman would quickly turn it right back over to St. Edward's.

This was how the first half went for the most part, with Truman hanging on but being unable to find the next foothold to move forward.

"[In] the first game, we were just giving it up way too easy," sophomore forward Riley Mahn said.

The breaking point for Truman came in the 39th minute when St. Edward's put a header in off of a corner kick.

"[A bad] point in the first game was when they scored their first goal because we were still hanging in there," sophomore forward Jessica Wiegert said.

Truman failed to get a body on the eventual goal scorer, which led to a goal that was much too easy, Cannon said.

"They weren't dangerous, but they controlled the play more than we did," Cannon said. "The positive was that we played better in the second half."

At halftime, Cannon told the team it needed to play better.

"He was confident that we knew what needed to be done. We just had to do it," junior midfielder Katelyn Talcott said.

Truman allowed another goal late in the game off of a cross. Junior goalkeeper Emily Roark played her angles correctly, but another well-placed header put the game away. Cannon said Roark did not have much chance of stopping either goal. It was the defense getting beat both times.

The strong second half carried over to Truman's second game of the weekend against Incarnate Word on Sunday. Wiegert scored a goal off of a throw in from a tough angle just two minutes in.

"[We] scored early, which is important," Cannon said.

One other major difference between playing St. Edward's and Incarnate

Word was the offensive formations used by the opponents.

St. Edward's played an aggressive style, using three forwards up front. Cannon said he had seen Incarnate Word use two forwards in its first game, so he was prepared for a slightly less aggressive team from Game 1 to Game 2.

However, Incarnate Word came out against Truman with just one forward, which allowed Truman to dictate the play, much like St. Edward's did to the Bulldogs in game one.

"It was easier for us to keep them in their end," Cannon said.

Truman's intensity faded in and out during the Incarnate Word game. Cannon said this worried him because one quick goal could tie the game. However, after about 10 minutes of lackadaisical play, Truman elevated its intensity.

"[We] kind of picked it back up and scored two more goals before halftime, and that pretty much put the game away," Cannon said.

Truman added another goal late from Mahn to slam the door completely on Incarnate Word. "Overall, three pretty good halves, one not so good," Cannon said.

The theme of the weekend was ball control. When Truman was able to hold the ball, they were allowed to determine the play, and when they failed to do this is when they got in trouble, primarily against St. Edward's.

Truman visits University of Central Missouri this weekend for a tournament and will face Central Oklahoma at 4 p.m. Friday, followed by Northeastern State University (Okla.) Sunday at noon.



Photo Submitted

Junior midfielder Katelyn Talcott battles a defender for possession during the St. Edwards Tournament last weekend. The Bulldogs split their two tournament games.

## Offense picks up after slow start in Game 1

Bulldogs score four goals in second contest after being shut out in opener

BY RYAN TURNER  
Staff Writer

The women's soccer team's offense was struggling Friday afternoon. And not without good reason.

The Bulldogs were taking on the 10th-ranked team in the nation — a team that went to the NCAA Div. II tournament last season — and one that is returning most of its players.

The 'Dogs only managed to put two shots on net during the weekend opener, a 2-0 loss to tournament host St. Edward's of Austin, Texas. Neither went in.

St. Edward's outshot Truman 5-2, and the Bulldogs struggled to main-

tain the ball for most of the game.

"We were giving the ball up too often, we were able to pass it around and make the plays that we wanted to [make]," junior midfielder Katelyn Talcott said.

The 'Dogs allowed a backbreaking goal with six minutes remaining in the first half.

Head coach Mike Cannon said he thought his team would've had an excellent chance to win the contest had the first half ended scoreless.

"The second half was pretty even, I felt," Cannon said.

The offense attacked more in the second half, but it yielded few scoring opportunities.

"We couldn't even connect on our

passes, really," sophomore forward Riley Mahn said.

The offense couldn't find a rhythm against St. Edward's even though Cannon attempted to switch things up.

"We ran, we subbed to try to find a combination that worked," Cannon said. "We traveled with six forwards and only had two up top, so a few lines, basically. In the first half, we tried all of them, you know. Some were a little better than others. There wasn't like a huge differ-

ence. We did get a little better in the second half."

Although the forward combinations worked better after halftime, Truman already had a one-goal deficit to overcome against a ranked oppo-

nent, and it proved too difficult to get the first goal back.

"The big thing with our offense, or just the team in general, against [St. Edward's] — we didn't hold the ball like we needed," Cannon said. "Our forwards didn't hold the ball for us ... so our defenders didn't get a lot of time to rest."

But the Bulldogs quickly put their offensive shortage against St. Edward's behind them when they battled the University of Incarnate Word (Texas) two days later. It wasn't an uphill battle anymore.

The offense certainly came on in the second game. By playing only one forward up front, Incarnate Word played right into the hands of the attack-minded Bulldogs.

The purple and white scored four goals in a shutout victory against the Cardinals.

"We did a better job of possessing the ball, getting control of the game, played a little bit smarter," Cannon said. Talk was better. Decision making was better."

The Bulldogs applied offensive pressure early, scoring three first-half goals. "We got some contributions from a lot of people, you know," Cannon said. "The goals were all four different people, so that's a good sign."

The Bulldog's third goal against Incarnate Word involved a failed clearing attempt. Sophomore midfielder Kristen Haluszczak kept the ball in the zone, and Talcott put the finishing touches on the goal.

If the Bulldog offense continues to play as they did against Incarnate Word, they have a chance to get on a little roll before they host top-ranked University of Nebraska-Omaha on Sept. 8th in their home opener.

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T R U M A N

The Center for Student Involvement (CSI) welcomes students back to Truman and invites them to attend the 2007 Activities Fair on Sept. 6 from noon to 4 p.m.

For more information about campus involvement, please visit us at our **NEW LOCATION** in the Governors Room on the 3rd floor of the Student Union.

**Remember** to submit your Organization Recognition Form by Sept. 28, 2007 and the banner roster for your Chartered Student Organization to the CSI by Oct. 31, 2007. The banner roster form can be found at:

[http://studentinvolvement.truman.edu/orgmembers\\_spreadsheet.xls](http://studentinvolvement.truman.edu/orgmembers_spreadsheet.xls)

Submit the form to [csirollers@truman.edu](mailto:csirollers@truman.edu)

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