

# Truman Week yields no athletic contests

BY BLAKE TOPPMEYER  
Sports Editor

Two years ago, the stands at Truman Soccer Park filled to the point of overflowing. Hundreds of freshmen students got their first taste of Truman athletics at the men's soccer team's season-opening game against Rockhurst University.

The game was played on the Friday of Truman Week, and 527 fans attended — the largest crowd to attend a men's soccer game in the last five years.

"To date, it was definitely one of the funnest games I think I've ever played in," said Ben Green, a junior on the men's soccer team who was playing in his first college game that August 2006 day.

This year, freshmen students won't have the same Truman Week opportunity that the freshmen of 2006 experienced. For the second consecutive season, there are no home games for any sport to be played during Truman Week.

There is no scheduled game — road or away — until the football team opens the 2008-

09 athletic year with an Aug. 28 home game.

This season's late fall sports schedule is not the work of the athletic department.

Director of Athletics Jerry Wollmering said he would be interested in having games during Truman Week, if possible.

"That'd be great," he said.

The late start this year stems from NCAA by-laws. According to NCAA regulations, fall sports seasons can begin the Thursday preceding Aug. 30.

For 2008, this means teams can begin play Aug. 28. The men's and women's soccer teams and volleyball team open their seasons Aug. 29.

Because of the calendar, last year fall sports teams could begin their seasons Aug. 23, the earliest date a season can start under current NCAA rules. In 2006, teams could begin playing games Aug. 24.

With the athletic scheduling strapped in by NCAA rules, the only way to ensure a home Truman Week game would be for the University to consider athletic schedules when deciding the dates for Truman Week.

Most non-conference athletic games, which are played at the beginning of the season, are scheduled about a year in advance.

Ralph Cupelli, assistant to the provost and vice president for academic affairs, draws up Truman's academic calendar. He said it would be feasible to schedule Truman Week around a home game, but that would mean other sacrifices would be made. This year, for example, moving Truman Week to coincide with a home sports game would push the December commencement and Winter Break back a week, Cupelli said.

The 2009-10 academic calendar was up for approval by the Board of Governors on Saturday, as the Index went to print.

If the calendar was approved, Cupelli said it would feature a shortened version of Truman Week, spanning from Saturday, Aug. 22 to Wednesday Aug. 26. Classes for all students would begin Aug. 27. Wollmering said the football team has a home night game slated for Aug. 27.

Wollmering said having a

home game early in the season, whether during Truman Week or not, is important for students.

"Truman Week ends Wednesday [next year, pending calendar approval,] and we'll have a game the next day when everyone is going to be here for the first day of class," Wollmering said. "I think that's going to be pretty cool. If we can find those Thursday night games whether it's during Truman Week or the first week of class, it's a great opportunity."

With the schedule like it is this season, women's soccer head coach Mike Cannon said the real problems come in the way of practices, not games.

Cannon said that for the past several years, his team has had two weeks of two-a-day practices before Truman Week. Practices during Truman Week were then only once a day and games started around the end of Truman Week.

But this year, with the late sports schedule, Truman Week will be the second week of two-a-day practices for many fall sports teams.

Sports	First Game 2007	First Home 2007
Football	Aug. 25	Sept. 8
Men's Soccer	Aug. 24	Aug. 31
Women's Soccer	Aug. 24	Sept. 8
Volleyball	Aug. 24	Sept. 12

## Late start

Sports	First Game 2008	First Home 2008
Football	Aug. 28	Aug. 28
Men's Soccer	Aug. 29	Sept. 5
Women's Soccer	Aug. 29	Sept. 11
Volleyball	Aug. 29	Sept. 19

Design by Antionette Bedessie/ Index

Because of this, Wollmering said Truman Week will "be real tough on our freshman student athletes," who will be attending practice twice a day in addition to Truman Week classes and activities.

For Cannon's team, freshmen will practice during Truman Week at 7 a.m., the rest of the team will practice at 8 a.m., and then the full team will practice together in the afternoon. This leaves most of the morning open for the freshmen players to attend their Truman Week classes, and it leaves evenings free for the week's activities.

"It's nice to have at least two weeks where you can have all your kids there [and not have to worry about classes]," Cannon said.

Volleyball head coach Jason Skoch said Truman Week

also will disrupt his team's two-a-day practices. Skoch said he prefers for his team to practice in the morning and evening, leaving the afternoon open for the players to rest. But because he wants his freshman to be able to experience the nightly activities during Truman Week, his team will practice in the afternoon and then again in the early evening on short rest.

This does have some advantage, Skoch said, as it will prepare his team for the short rest it receives between matches during early season tournaments.

Even with no games during Truman Week, there are some options for freshmen wanting to get an early look at Bulldog athletics. Several teams have home scrimmages this week.

"They're not like a real game, but we're wearing uniforms and we're playing," Cannon said.

# Ten games to keep an eye on for fall season

Welcome to a new season of Truman athletics. The volleyball team lost only one starter, the football team returns 20 starters and the soccer teams have grown a year older.

All of the big four fall sports have a good chance to build on their winning records from 2007, and all four have a realistic shot at a playoff bid.

With a clean slate for '08, here are my top 10 games for the fall.

10. Football vs. Missouri Science and Technology, Aug. 28: This non-conference matchup has been played nearly every year since 1929 and Truman has won the last 22 times.

What should be a winner for the 'Dogs is more interesting because of the surface of play compared to the opponent. This potentially will be

the first game played on the new synthetic surface at Stokes Stadium.

9. Volleyball at Emporia State, Sept. 17: This is the conference opener for the 'Dogs. Although Emporia is only ranked fifth in the MIAA coming into the season, the team will be looking for revenge.

Truman completed the trifecta last year by beating the Hornets in the regular season, conference tournament and NCAA regionals.

8. Football vs. Northwest Missouri State, Sept. 20: Northwest Missouri has won the last six meetings, has been the Div. II runner-up the last three years and is favored to repeat as MIAA champs. But the "Ol' Hickory Stick" game still serves some impor-

ance. It'll be huge for the 'Dogs if they can pull off an upset.

7. Women's Soccer vs. Central Missouri, Nov. 1: This will be Senior Day and the second-to-last game of the regular season. Central Missouri edged Truman for the second spot in the preseason MIAA rankings. This game could have huge implications for either team heading into postseason play.

6. Volleyball at Concordia-St. Paul, Sept. 12: Last year, Truman finished at 36-6. Of those six losses, only one came as a 3-0 sweep — against Concordia-St. Paul, the eventual national champion, in the second match of the season.

If the Bulldogs can win this contest on Concordia's home court, they will gain momentum going into the conference schedule.

5. Men's Soccer vs. Rockhurst, Oct. 3: Rockhurst comes into the season ranked No. 22, which makes this a good measuring stick to see how Truman stacks up against a top team. The Hawks were the only team

to score more than three goals against the Bulldogs last year.

4. Football vs. Central Missouri, Sept. 13: The second night game at Stokes Stadium this season is a big one. Central Missouri tied for third in the MIAA last season. If the Bulldogs want to improve from their 6-5 record, they have to win games like this.

3. Women's Soccer vs. Nebraska-Omaha, Sept. 13: The Bulldogs will be playing their second game of the conference season against MIAA newcomer Nebraska-Omaha, ranked No. 1 in the MIAA coming into the season compared to Truman's No. 3 ranking.

The Mavericks are Truman's biggest rival, and they ended the Bulldogs' season with a 3-0 victory in the first round of the regional playoffs last fall after Truman beat them in the regular season.

2. Football at Missouri Western, Nov. 8: Time will tell how big this game will be. It's the last game of the

season between two teams that could be vying for a shot at the playoffs, the same situation as 2007. Last year, Truman ruined the Griffons' hopes with a 37-28 upset in Kirksville, but the 'Dogs have not won at Spratt Stadium since 2001.

1. Volleyball vs. Washburn, Sept. 19: No. 1 versus No. 2. That's how it was all of last season between these two teams, and that is how it will start out this year. After Washburn edged Truman in the preseason rankings in 2007, Truman earned the No. 1 seed in the regional tournament. The Ichabods then responded with a four-game upset in the regional final.

This season, Truman enters as the No. 1 seed in the conference and Washburn as No. 2. Both teams come in with something to prove. Even though this is only the second conference match of the year, it could make a difference for post-season play.

## COMMENTARY



Jack Nicholl

## Are You Interested in a Minor in Disability Studies?

The School of Health Sciences and Education (SHSE) is exploring the possibility of developing a minor in Disability Studies. The Disability Studies minor would be of interest to students from many different academic areas. Students interested in the arts, law, medicine, social work, health, nursing, architecture, education, communication disorders and other liberal arts and sciences disciplines may have a special interest in applying their study to focusing on the needs of disabled populations.

A minor in Disability Studies would provide the opportunity to study the nature, meaning and consequences of disability in global culture from an integrated perspective. Students interested in interdisciplinary academic work would be provided with rich avenues of new scholarship in fields throughout the arts, humanities, social sciences and sciences.

If a minor in Disability Studies interests you, please attend an informal discussion on Friday, September 5, at 12:30 p.m., in Violette Hall, room 1320. The purpose of the discussion would be to generate ideas and gauge student interest.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Janet Gooch at [jquinzer@truman.edu](mailto:jquinzer@truman.edu) or at 660-785-4672.

## Ekklesia Campus Ministry & Kirksville Church of Christ Welcome You!

• Visit us at the Activities Fair  
Thursday Sept. 4 from Noon to 4:00 p.m.

• Reserve your ticket to *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*, a documentary with Ben Stein: Special showing at Downtown Cinema 8 on Thursday Sept. 4 at 7:00 p.m. *Is Darwinism dead? Is there scientific evidence for God? Are scientists being silenced?* Discuss the film, Georgian Room, SUB, 9:00 p.m.

• Pick up our *House to House/Heart to Heart* Magazine.

• Dan's Dogs begins Sunday Sept. 7, 7:30 p.m. at the Ekklesia Campus House, 1405 S. Florence (close to the football stadium). Join us for a free BBQ on Sunday nights.

Dan & Gaylene Green, Campus Ministers

Call 627-5003 for a ride to church.  
<http://ekklelesia.truman.edu>

Ekklesia is the campus ministry of the  
Kirksville Church of Christ  
110 Pfeiffer Ave. (close to Leisure World)  
Sun. 10 AM Class, 11 AM & 6 PM Worship  
Wed. 7 PM Class  
KYOU Fox TV Ministry, Sun. @ 8 AM  
Ekklesia Radio Hour, KHGN 90.7 FM Sun. @ 4 PM