

Goalie battle settled for tomorrow

BY JOE BELL
Staff Reporter

Three goalies entered the season with a chance at starting in the women's soccer team's season opener tomorrow at Quincy University. Now only one remains.

After several weeks of pre-season games and two-a-day practices, a starting goalie has emerged for the Bulldogs. The competition saw junior Denise Childress and freshmen Alison Taylor and Jayne Grisham vying for the starting spot. Head coach Mike Cannon said Childress will be the starter against Quincy.

"[Taylor and Grisham] both have a lot of potential, but Denise has a little bit more experience," Cannon said. "She kind of knows how we play. She's a very good shot stopper, which has always been one of her strengths. I think she has really improved a lot in her reading of the game, ... crosses and playing with her feet. Those are three areas she has definitely improved in. So right now, she's our No. 1 [goalie]."

Childress served as the backup last year to now-alumnus Emily Roark, but Childress did not get much game experience. Childress appeared in just three games and played less than 85 minutes last year. She had one save and no goals allowed.

Her experience and talent, however, were evident from an impressive high school career. In her senior year at Nerinx Hall High School in Webster Groves, Mo., Childress didn't allow a goal in her 420 minutes of play.

"I'm really excited about [winning the starting spot]," Childress said. "I've been working hard for three years, and finally I get my chance to show my stuff on the field and be there for my team like I've been wanting to all along. I'm pretty confident. I think I'm going to have a good season. I'm also confident because our team this year is looking amazing. So I know we're going to have a good season."

Plans for the two freshmen goalkeepers still are undecided. With Childress starting at goalie, the freshman's playing time

appears limited. Cannon said he thinks the freshmen keepers might need to make a few adjustments before they see a great deal of playing time.

"[Taylor and Grisham] are both good keepers, it's just a matter of, 'Are they ready to step in and play at high level yet?'" Cannon said. "Consistency would be a big one for both of them, as far as what they need to work on. They both make some great saves. They both can catch some crosses. They both do some things distribution-wise. But there are times where it goes the opposite way, where they might make a great save and then a pretty good save, but maybe not hold the ball, drop it, the other team scores — just little fundamental stuff."

Defense and goal keeping long have been major strengths of the women's program, which has won eight MIAA titles in the past nine years. Last season, Roark led the MIAA with eight shutouts. Alumnus Lauren Davis was a four-year starter in net from 2003 to 2006. She played in 78 games in four seasons and

surrendered just 47 goals (0.60 goals allowed per game).

Cannon said it's important to be fully confident in your team's goalie.

"Obviously, if [the freshmen are] goal keeping, you want them to be very sure about everything they do," he said. "They need to make all the easy saves, all the mid-level saves. They can't be dropping balls on the crosses. They need to make sure if they're not catching it, they're punching it out of danger. ... It's just going to be time and practice, as far as just repetitions. We'll see, it's not a done deal that they're not going to play. Just at this moment, [Childress] definitely has the edge."

The freshmen will continue to work hard and try to show that they have what it takes to be the Bulldogs' starter.

Taylor said she will try to elevate her level of play to that of Childress'.

"There's definitely some flaws that I have," Taylor said. "[Childress]'s work ethic is crazy, so I need to step it up with her. Just try my hardest, I guess."



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Freshman goalie Jayne Grisham makes a save in practice Tuesday. Grisham will start the season as a backup goalie.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Junior backfielder Ben Green takes a shot during practice Tuesday. Green is one of the top returning scorers.

Men seek better offense

BY JOE BELL
Staff Reporter

Last season, the offense was unable to carry the men's soccer team into the NCAA tournament, but head coach Duke Cochran said he is confident this year's team will make it back.

In three preseason games for the Bulldogs, the team has averaged two goals a game and has yet to be shut out. Compared to the 1.4 goals per game scored last year, the increased scoring is an encouraging sign.

"The two previous years that I've been in here, that was something we've definitely missed in the years previous, is that player that can score 10 plus goals a season," junior backfielder Ben Green said. "I think what it all comes down to, at this point, is just experience. All three of our strikers are going to only be sophomores, but that year is experience

that they didn't have coming into last year, and that makes all the difference in the world."

The Bulldogs kick off their season on the road against Northeastern Oklahoma State University tomorrow.

Green said that after the team increased scoring during its trip to England and in preseason games, the players are feeling more confident in their scoring abilities than they have in past years.

The offense returns last season's top-scoring trio of Green and sophomores Dan Meagher and Matt Kimball. Green has moved to left back from sweeper, which should generate more opportunities for him to rack up goals and assists. A pair of sophomores, Bobby Larkin and Robby Narrow, also look to play an important part in the team's offense during the season.

Cochran said Larkin and Narrow both are vying for a starting spot, and both could

see playing time depending on who plays well. They both played in at least 15 games last season, but neither recorded a goal.

"Out of [those guys], I wouldn't describe them as outright goal scorers, that's not necessarily their game," Cochran said. "But they are very good attacking players. They're very evasive, clever in keeping a ball, connecting us and holding the ball so our offense can get forward. They can score goals, but I wouldn't say that's the best part of their game. That's a part of the game we want to work on for them."

In 2005, when the team finished 17-3-2 and made the playoffs, they had three players with at least eight goals. That year, the team scored 53 goals overall to its opponents' 11. Last season, the 'Dogs only outscored opponents 26-18.

Although Meagher, Green and Kimball were the top

scorers in 2007, they only combined for 13 goals. Green and Kimball each scored only one goal outside of a game in which they had a hat-trick.

Meagher is 6'5", making him a good target for his teammates passes, and both Larkin and Kimball are quick, Cochran said. He said Narrow is a potential goal scorer as well.

"His work rate alone will help create things for our team," Cochran said. "He's just a real hard worker. [He] has a natural knack to find the goal, and I think he's still maturing as a player."

Meagher said he thinks experience is responsible for the team's recent offensive success.

"I don't think we're really doing anything different," Meagher said. "I think it's really just our experience is getting better. ... Just scoring more goals and attacking better has definitely been evident so far."

Hamilton Street Baptist Church

Welcome Students!
Come worship with us.
8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:45 a.m. Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship led
by HSBC Praise Team

- College class led by Brent and Ginger Nolker.
- Come learn about our Philos ministry to Truman Students

Just a few blocks west and south of the campus.

Charles Jackson, Pastor

802 W. Hamilton Street
660-665-4633
www.hamiltonstreet.org
e-mail: hsbcsbcglobal.net

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 free 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.



- 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://ekkleisia.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

SCHWAN'S HOME SERVICE

EASY ORDERING AT schwans.com
OR 1-888-724-9267

MORE THAN 400 CONVENIENT
DELICIOUS PRODUCTS

DELIVERY NOW AVAILABLE