



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index  
Sophomore forward Malorie Kiecker had 15 points against Missouri Southern.

# Women fall to Lions in conference opener

**Bulldogs' two-game win streak snapped at hands of Missouri Southern**

BY KRISTA CRIDER  
Staff Reporter

The women's basketball team came out strong against undefeated Missouri Southern State University last night at home for its MIAA season opener, but strong wasn't enough against the now 6-0 Lions.

The Bulldogs lost 71-65 in the back-and-forth battle to drop Truman to 2-4 this season. Head coach Michael Smith said that regardless of the loss, the team made some crucial improvements.

"I was extremely proud of our overall effort tonight," Smith said. "I really think we made a lot of strides tonight as a team. I thought we played a 40 minute game together, and we almost came out on top."

The Bulldogs took the lead early in the game and didn't give it up until their luck turned for the worse with 15 minutes left in the first half when senior forward Georgia Mueller picked up her second foul on a Missouri Southern layup. The Lions connected for the layup and the following free throw and took the lead 10-8. Mueller didn't return from the bench for the rest of the half.

"Our defensive intensity is really what kept us in the game the first half," Smith said. "We were having a hard time scoring, we were missing some shots, and Georgia was in foul trouble. We just can't have her sitting on the bench."

Mo. Southern took a 28-25 lead into the locker room at the half despite Truman's solid defensive effort and a short 5-0 run by the Bulldogs as the clock ticked down.

The Bulldogs returned after half-time rejuvenated, and even momentarily reclaimed the lead when sophomore forward Malorie Kiecker drained a three-pointer five minutes in. The Lions soon took back the lead, however, and kept it that way to end the game.

Mueller led the Bulldogs in scoring with 16 points, closely followed by freshman guard Breanna Daniels and Kiecker with 15 apiece.

The women came away with their second victory of the season against William Woods University on Saturday at home thanks to a few exceptional performances from their bench, consistent rebounding and solid defense.

Truman won 66-61 against the Owls, with Mueller, junior guard Laura Joya and Daniels scoring in double digits for the team.

Smith said the team showed its ability to take care of the ball in the game against William Woods, especially since junior guard Laura Joya has assumed the point guard position.

"Overall, when it comes to our turnovers, we cut those down a lot [in our game Saturday]," Smith said. "We are gaining experience and getting better as a team, and we're maturing a little bit, and that's what we have to continue to do."

Smith said Truman got to show its depth last weekend when Mueller was benched for foul trouble, which limited her play to 25 minutes. He said junior forward Sarah Seberger, who played 13 minutes, and sophomore guard Natalie Fleming, who had six points, in particular did a good job coming off the bench.

Smith said that since a recent injury to former starting junior point guard Julie Guinn, Daniels has stepped up for the team. She has averaged more than 10 points in a starting role the last three games. Against William Woods

she led the team with six rebounds and she was second in scoring with 12 points.

"She's playing with a lot more confidence," Smith said.

Mueller said the women are growing more as a team with each game they play.

"Each game we show improvement," Mueller said. "We are coming along step by step and we showed more composure in the game on Saturday than we have in the previous games. The team's in-game experience is already showing. Our turnovers aren't as much live ball turnovers. On Saturday, a lot of our [turnovers] were just travels, and overall, I think cutting down live ball turnovers is crucial because live ball turnovers obviously are easiest for the other team to take advantage of."

Joya said with turnovers having been the team's main problem early in the season, she hopes the team will continue to improve upon them. The Bulldogs had 21 turnovers against the Owls, and they are averaging more than 20 per game.

"I feel like everyone is getting a little more confident with the ball, therefore being more aggressive and taking care of the ball, so I hope we will continue to have less turnovers," Joya said.

Joya said the team needs to focus mainly on aggression and defense.

"Overall, just being aggressive and fighting for every ball [is key] because each game, no matter how hard a team is going to be, it's going to be a battle every time no matter what," Joya said. "Any rebound we can get, any possession we can get, we can get an advantage over [the other team]."

Truman's next game is against Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kan., at 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

## CHASING JARRARD

ALL-TIME POINT LEADERBOARD

1. CAROL JARRARD: 2,006
2. FELICIA SUTTON: 1,578
3. GEORGIA MUELLER: 1,555
4. AMY EAGAN: 1,527
5. ANGIE GUM: 1,467
6. JENNIFER PERKINS: 1,461

# Women's soccer wraps up successful campaign

BY JOE BELL  
Staff Reporter

Mired in their first rough patch of the season, the Bulldogs looked to be facing another tally in the loss column. Truman launched a flurry of shots during the first half but had nothing to show for it. Twenty-four minutes had passed and the Northwest Missouri State University Bearcats had just scored their first goal of the game.

The Bulldogs saw the 1-0 score glare at them from the scoreboard. They had had enough.

As the clock ticked downward, Truman struck and tied the score. The Bearcats were not finished, however. They launched another goal to take the lead for the second time that game. Truman fought back, scored two more unanswered goals and claimed a hard-fought, come-from-behind win. This was the first win for the 'Dogs in their last three games.

After that Oct. 16 game against Northwest, losing would be a thing of the past for the Bulldogs. With that win, the Bulldogs launched a furious end-of-the season campaign. The Bulldogs did not lose one of their remaining eight games of the season, until Seattle Pacific University downed the 'Dogs 1-0 in the NCAA quarterfinals.

The 2008 Bulldogs squad probably will go down as one of the best in the history of Truman's soccer program with a season that included many high-points and highlights.

Truman's record (17-4-2) was the

highest since that of the 2004 squad (19-1-2).

"I expected us to perform better than we had last year, to go farther and win more games," junior forward Jessica Wiegert said. "I knew everyone would come in prepared and prepared to work harder to improve our individual skills so we could improve as a team."

The season started with a bang. With a victory against Quincy University in the 'Dogs first game, head coach Mike Cannon secured his 200th career win at Truman. This win also marked the beginning of an eight-game win streak to start the season. This streak was the longest to start off a season in Truman history. It also tied the longest winning streak in Truman history, set in 2004. Perhaps just as impressive, seven of the Bulldogs eight wins to start the season were on the road.

The Bulldogs ran into trouble when they met with their long-time rival, the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Always a thorn in the Bulldogs' side, UNO was reason for Truman's early exit from the playoffs last year. A 2-0 loss ushered in a midseason dryspell for the Bulldogs. The 'Dogs won only one of their next five games and saw themselves unranked for the first time all season.

"We had a little lull, as far as results, in the middle of the season, but we were still actually playing really good soccer," Cannon said. "We never had a bad game. We might have had moments we didn't play our best, but we were consistent. I think that's

a good sign of a good team."

After the come-from-behind win against Northwest, Truman rebounded and went undefeated until its final game of the playoffs. In their late season run, the 'Dogs repaid UNO with a solid 4-1 win, spurred on by Wiegert's hat trick.

Truman pushed on the rest of the season, and for the third time in Bulldog history, reached the quarterfinals. They have never reached the final four.

The 'Dogs win in the Sweet 16 against Texas A&M University-Commerce also marked the first time the Bulldogs had won more than one playoff game in a season.

Despite the loss to SPU, the 'Dogs regained their status as one of the best teams in the South Central Region.

"I was very pleased with our season overall," junior goalkeeper Denise Childress said. "I think we played well and we can hold our heads high as one of the better women's soccer teams that Truman State [has had] because we broke some school records and the furthest we got was only matched by [two] teams in school history."

After overcoming doubts early in the season about their scoring abilities, the Bulldogs proved themselves more than capable. Two of last year's leading goal scorers, junior forwards Katie Reuck and Wiegert, topped their performances from last season. Wiegert increased from seven to 10 goals for the season and Reuck from seven to eight. But junior forward Isabel Gaeta suffered an offensive drop, scoring two goals this season after

## WOMEN'S SOCCER BY THE NUMBERS

- 43 Goals scored this season, most by the team since 2004
- 17 Wins by the team, the most since the 2004 season
- 10 Goals by Jessica Wiegert and Riley Mahn, tied for the lead on the team
- 8 Shutouts by goalkeepers Denise Childress and Jayne Grisham
- 8 Bulldogs on the All-MIAA squad, including defender Kim Wolff who made the team for the fourth time
- 1 Regional championship, the women beat Texas A&M Commerce 2-1 to win the South Central Regional

Design by Joe Barker/Index

having seven last year. Junior Riley Mahn stepped in to give the Bulldogs the offensive boost they needed. After scoring only four goals last season, she tied with Wiegert for team lead with 10 this year.

The team also found solid replacements at goalie this year after losing last season's starter Emily Roark. Childress filled the net for most of the regular season. Freshman Jayne Grisham replaced Childress in the playoffs when Childress went down with a back injury.

The team will lose four seniors this year. Defender Kim Wolff and mid-

fielder Brigitte Pohren will be among those leaving. Cannon said it would be impossible to replace the departing seniors but that new players coming in next year will help offset the loss.

Reuck said she has high expectations set for the next season.

"Since we had such a good season this year, and some of the freshmen got involved this season, I expect we'll have a lot of experience next year and the goals will be set really high because we did so well this year," Reuck said. "Hopefully, that will affect the incoming freshmen and hopefully gets us off to a good start."

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