

Roller hockey picks up three weekend wins

BY JOCELYN NEBEL
Staff Reporter

New players and experienced veterans collaborated this weekend at the Mattison Square Gardens Tri-Plex in St. Peters, Mo., to help the roller hockey team win three out of four games.

Truman improved its record to 4-2-1.

Senior goaltender John Pecher said the three wins were exciting because they showed the progress the team has made with the incorporation of new players into the game.

"Everybody's just becoming more comfortable with each other," Pecher said. "There's a lot more chemistry every time we hit the floor. I think the first weekend we were getting the jitters out, we weren't playing as tight of a system as we would have liked to."

Head coach Joe Nedelec said the sophomores are starting to show lead-

ership skills after a year of experience and have helped the freshmen acclimate to the team. Nedelec said the defensive line also did very well this weekend and that the forwards had some outstanding goals.

Last weekend, the Bulldogs first defeated St. Louis University with a 10-0 shutout. Freshman forward Cody Dependahl led the Bulldogs' scoring with four goals. Senior defenseman Jim Dougherty led in assists with five for the SLU game.

Nedelec said the shutout match was shocking.

"I didn't expect to beat SLU 10-0, though," he said. "I don't think they've got the teams they've had in the past."

Pecher agreed with Nedelec.

"I was kind of surprised that their program has started to fall apart a little bit," Pecher said. "They didn't have the talent I was expecting."

The Bulldogs also played St. Louis

Community College at Meramec and won 11-2. Dependahl and senior forward Drew Vandas scored three goals each and senior forward Truman Patterson led in assists with three. Southeast Missouri State also fell to Truman 12-2. Vandas led Truman with four goals.

Pecher said Meramec had talent but lacked the cohesion the 'Dogs have built during the season.

"[Meramec] has a lot of very skilled individual players, but they don't play well as a team," Pecher said. "They're pretty talented, but just with our system we were able to pick them apart and just expose some of their weaknesses."

The only loss of the weekend was to University of Missouri-Columbia. The Tigers won the game 7-3. Nedelec said this was because of the number of penalties Truman received.

Although the 'Dogs lost, Pecher

said there were some good lessons to learn from the defeat.

"We definitely underestimated how competitive they were going to be," Pecher said. "We have to be mentally prepared for every game. We shouldn't be discouraged by our loss."

Pecher also said the 'Dogs displayed great stamina for the first couple of periods and stayed in the game for a long time before penalties took a toll.

"The one thing that killed us was the power play," Nedelec said. "I think in the Mizzou game the goalie stood on his head."

Nedelec said that despite the loss there was not a lot of negative energy from the team. He said this improvement shows the team has adapted well with the addition of new players.

Dependahl also noticed the team had improved. He said this was because of the extra practice they spent on the power play and the breakout.

"You could tell the difference this weekend and we were able to break the puck out of our own end," Dependahl said. "Our passes were better and reflected in the scores and [we] put up some big numbers."

Nedelec said that throughout the weekend some of the defensive line was switched up to balance the offensive and defensive lines. He said a few of the defensemen rushed the puck a lot during one game. Nedelec also said he wanted to give some of his newer players a chance to mesh with the team.

During Winter Break before the Bulldogs resume play in January, the team will dryland train, which involves jogging and other exercises to build leg strength.

"We still need our conditioning to be improved," Nedelec said. "There's also issues with running our breakout and our face-off ... although they looked pretty good."



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Senior quarterback Matt Ticich scrambles for yardage during Saturday's game. Ticich rushed for a touchdown and passed for four more.

Quarterback racks up five touchdowns in final game

BY BLAKE TOPPMEYER
Sports Editor

His team needed him one final time.

The Bulldogs faced a fourth-and-three, and trailed by five points in the waning minutes of the fourth quarter in Saturday's football game against Missouri University of Science and Technology.

Senior quarterback Matt Ticich needed to make a play, and he delivered, completing a seven-yard pass to junior wide receiver Albert Coker. First down.

On the next play, Ticich zipped a pass just past a defensive back and into the hands of senior tight end Ryan King for another Truman first down.

Then, on what looked as if it would be the final play of his career, Ticich took a snap from the shotgun, ran off the left tackle, powered past a defender near the goal line and dove into the end zone for a touchdown that gave Truman its first lead of the game. Ticich tacked on a two-point conversion with a completion to junior tight end Steve D'Antonio.

"If you are behind, [Ticich] is the guy you want leading your offense to get you first downs and get you touchdowns," head

coach Shannon Currier said.

It could have been the perfect ending to Ticich's career, during which he was the Bulldogs' starting quarterback in all 33 games since transferring to Truman before his sophomore season.

Yet it simply wasn't meant to be. After S&T tied the game to send it into overtime, Ticich delivered one last attempt to guide his team to victory when he connected with Coker on a post-corner route for a TD on the first play of the second overtime. But S&T's ensuing touchdown and two-point conversion gave the Miners a 39-38 victory.

"I played as hard as I could," Ticich said. "I've been doing that my whole career so I'm going to do it my last game too."

As it stood, Ticich's touchdown to Coker was the final pass of his Truman career. Ticich completed 23 of 38 passes (61 percent) for 251 yards and passed for four touchdowns with no interceptions against the Miners. He tacked on another 66 rushing yards and a rushing touchdown.

As he did for most of his career, Ticich elevated his performance when his team needed him most. After Truman trailed 28-14 at halftime, Ticich com-

pleted 13 of his 17 second-half and overtime pass attempts for 182 passing yards.

"He made some unbelievable plays on Saturday, one in particular when he rolled around and found King for a big first down," Currier said.

King, who caught passes in 40 of his 44 games at Truman, was Ticich's favorite target Saturday. The senior duo hooked up for six completions, including four that went for at least 14 yards.

"[King] really just doesn't get enough credit for the job he does," Ticich said. "I think he's the best tight end in the conference."

Saturday was just the final chapter in Ticich's accomplished career. He ranks second in Truman history with 58 career passing touchdowns and 8,083 passing yards.

For the third consecutive season, Ticich led the Bulldogs in both passing and rushing yards and his 1,498 career rushing yards are thought to be the most for a quarterback in Truman history.

"I've been a head coach for 10 years, and I definitely would choose Matt as a starting quarterback of all the quarterbacks that I've had an opportunity to work with," Currier said.

Athlete of the Week

Matt Ticich
Sport: Football
Year: Senior
Position: Quarterback
Hometown: Temecula, Calif.

Matt Ticich completed 23 of 38 passes for 251 yards and five touchdowns. He also added a rushing touchdown. Ticich is second all-time in passing yards and passing TDs.

GOOD LUCK BULLDOGS!



FAR WEST REGION CHAMPIONSHIP

Thursday 11:00 a.m.

Western Washington (16-2-2)

vs.

Seattle Pacific (18-1-2)

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION CHAMPIONSHIP

Thursday 1:30 p.m.

Texas A&M Commerce (15-3-3)

vs.

Truman (16-3-2)

NCAA DIVISION II WOMEN'S SOCCER TOURNAMENT

Thursday Nov. 20 (11:00 a.m. / 1:30 p.m.)

Saturday, Nov. 22 (1:00 p.m.)

AT THE TRUMAN SOCCER PARK



NATIONAL QUARTERFINALS

Saturday 1:00 p.m.

Far West Champion

vs.

South Central Champion

DIVISION II FINAL FOUR
TAMPA, Fla. (Dec. 5-7)

Ticket Information:	
Adults	\$7.00
Students w/ID	\$3.00
Children (2-12)	\$1.00

