

# Men finish with win

## Goal at end of game gives soccer 1-0 victory in last game

BY JOCELYN NEBEL  
Staff Reporter

With six minutes left in the second half, the men's soccer team rallied around a corner kick to defeat Columbia College (Mo.) 1-0 on Sunday.

Sophomore midfielder Bobby Larkin served the corner into the box, and junior forward Matt Taylor headed the ball in the goal to score his first goal of the season.

The Bulldogs dominated field possession for the majority of the game.

They took 12 shots on the goal throughout the game, and Columbia only attempted three.

With the win, the Bulldogs finished the season 8-9-1.

Senior midfielder Josh Weir said much of Sunday's success can be attributed to the performances of the Bulldog defenders.

"The guys you have playing on defense [have been] consistent throughout the whole season," Weir said.

"Those guys back there are arguably the best players on our team."

The game's turning point came in the 74th minute: Columbia's Parker Rawdon received a red card after taking down a Bulldog forward from behind in the box. Truman played with a one man advantage for the rest of the game.

Weir said the loss of the Co-

lombia player helped open up more opportunities for the offense to score.

After beginning the season 3-8, the Bulldogs finished their final seven games of the season with a 5-1-1 record.

Senior back Nick Zarkadis said the team took time during the season to make adjustments to their game play.

"We went back to basics [to] see what we can and can't control," Zarkadis said.

Despite finishing the season well, Truman missed out on a winning record for the first time since 1992. The team will miss the NCAA Tournament for the third straight year.

Head coach Duke Cochran said the team faced difficult teams all season. The Bulldogs are an independent team, which means they do not play in a conference and schedule some top non-conference teams. Cochran also said many of their toughest games were at the beginning of the year.

"This season, being below .500 will be a good reminder to these guys coming back how hard you have to work to win everything," Cochran said.

Weir shared the sentiments of his coach. "It would appear as if we underachieved," Weir said. "[But] how well we played within the actual game, I think we played up to our capabilities."

Weir said there was not one particular game in which the Bulldogs had felt outplayed and that the season was just a year of unfortunate events.

Zarkadis agreed with his



Mayank Dhungana/Index

Sophomore midfielder Bobby Larkin drives upfield last Saturday. Larkin had an assist on a corner in the 1-0 win.

teammate.

"I don't think we're lacking in any part of the game," Zarkadis said. "I just feel that we could have improved in certain aspects of it."

Despite the Bulldogs' sub-.500 record, Cochran said he is not discouraged by the numbers.

The Sunday game was Senior Day.

This game marked the end of college soccer careers for three players — Weir, Zarkadis and midfielder Nick Cepicky. Cochran said the seniors on the team were important for calming the other

players down and getting the team excited for games.

"Talent-wise we'll be OK, but it's those intangibles, like off-the-field leadership, getting the guys to rally together," Cochran said.

Next season, Truman will return 10 of its 11 starters, including six of its top seven scorers.

Weir had some final advice for his fellow teammates for next season.

"Take what this season felt like," Weir said. "Take the sour taste in [your] mouth and use it as motivation for the season to come."

## TRUMAN ATHLETICS News and Notes

### Football: Team rides early momentum

Head football coach Shannon Currier said the early success the team had in Saturday's 38-7 win against Missouri Southern State University led to an easy second half.

"There's always a point in the game where, if you've got a lead and it seems like there's a breaking point, and we hit the breaking point and then everything's easy," Currier said. "... At some point the team doesn't have that attitude or effort. They have a defeated mindset. And we were able to get to that point with [MSSU] and after that all of a sudden balls are thrown all over the place for touchdowns and 38 points later we win the game."

Truman stretched a 10-0 halftime lead into 31-0 midway through the fourth quarter. Currier said the breaking point came at the beginning of the third quarter, when the 'Dogs went 63 yards on eight plays to take a 17-point lead, capped off by a 21-yard touchdown reception by senior tight end Ryan King.

Senior linebacker Jason Thier said the MSSU's defeated mindset also affected Truman's defense.

"It makes us want to attack even more because you know when a team is already down they are more potent to make mistakes and that's exactly what happened," Thier said.

The defense had one interception and forced three turnovers on downs in the second half.

### Football: Mistake in box score realized

Freshman safety Michael Elliot has started at running back for the football team the last three games, according to the box scores. But, Elliot seems to have been better suited for defense than offense. He has 12 tackles and one fumble recovery and does not have a single rush or reception.

That's because of a mistake in the box score. In every game Elliot has "started," sophomore running back Anton Bernard has been the real starter at running back.

Head coach Shannon Currier said he was not aware of the mistake, and a possible explanation is that Bernard used to wear No. 35, which is now Elliot's number.

### Men's Swimming: Freshmen show promise

The freshmen on the men's swimming team are showing promise early in the season. Two swimmers in particular are setting themselves apart as possible contenders for A cuts: freshman Brian Tillis the long distance races, and freshman Eric Kaestner in the sprint freestyle and butterfly relays.

Tillis placed in the top three in all six races he competed in last weekend. Kaestner was on the winning 400-yard freestyle relay team against the University of Iowa alongside senior Jason Stokes and juniors Peter and Andrew McCall. Kaestner also took third in the 100-yard butterfly in that meet and was on the first place 200-yard freestyle relay last Friday.

### Women's Swimming: Aherne gets award

Collegeswimming.com awarded junior Kate Aherne Div. II Swimmer of the Week honors after her performance last weekend in Indianapolis.

Aherne received an early-season A cut in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:07.31, more than half of a second ahead of the pace needed. Aherne was the national champion in the event last season.

Aherne also garnered B cut times in the 100- and 200-yard freestyle events, both by less than half a second off the A cut pace.

Aherne joins sophomore butterflyer Anna Grinter as the two Bulldog swimmers with an A cut this season.

### Volleyball: Women third in MIAA rankings

This season likely will mark the first time since 2002 that the volleyball team will not have an MIAA Championship to its name. The Bulldogs currently sit at 12-4 in the MIAA and are in third place, three matches behind first-place Emporia State University with four to play. Because there is no longer an MIAA postseason tournament, the 'Dogs will not be afforded the opportunity to compete for another championship. Truman won all five MIAA Tournament Championships and the 2006, 2004 and 2003 regular-season championships.

The end to the streak might not be all bad for the Bulldogs, however. The 2002 team made it all the way to the national championship match.

### Women's Soccer: Second bye approaching

The Bulldogs have their second bye of the season scheduled for this upcoming Saturday. Each team in the MIAA receives two byes during the season, with Truman drawing its first by toward the end of September.

Head coach Mike Cannon said this was both good and bad for his team. He said that when the team is playing hot, it's good to keep them playing. Conversely, this allows his team extra time to rest and prepare themselves for the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

### Men's Basketball: Promotion tomorrow

The men's basketball team will be playing their first promotional game tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in Pershing Arena for the Purple and White intrasquad scrimmage game.

Because it is a scrimmage and not an actual game, there will be free admission. Complimentary food, drinks and prizes also will be provided.

Head basketball coach Jack Schrader said he wanted the event to be a scrimmage so that people would not have to pay to get in and would be more apt to make donations.

Donations will benefit Parkinson's Disease Research.

# Women go 5-1 at dual meets

## Aherne, Grinter receive 'Dogs first two A cuts of season in early meet

BY KRISTA CRIDER  
Staff Reporter

Two women's swimmers punched their ticket to nationals last weekend.

The women's swimming team continued its season with six total duals against three Div. II schools in Indianapolis last weekend. They won five of six dual matches, and they earned national-qualifying A cuts from junior Kate Aherne in the 200-yard individual medley and sophomore Anna Grinter in the 200-yard butterfly.

Overall, the weekend was a success for the Bulldogs. On Friday the women defeated Ashland University (Ohio) 160-45, Wayne State University (Mich.) 144-83 and host University of Indianapolis 141-82. Saturday, the Bulldogs defeated Ashland 155-50 and Indianapolis 146-77 but lost to Wayne State 113-110.

"That was one of the best dual meets that we've ever had while I have been here," Aherne said. "I feel really good about it."

Head coach Mark Gole said the one dual loss against Wayne State was a disappointment for the team.

"[It] kind of left a bitter taste in my mouth," Gole said. "It was kind of disheartening for us to lose that meet on the women's side just because Wayne State was the sixth-placed team in the nation last year. And, unfortunately, they have diving, but in my opinion we should have been able to make up the diving. We did on Friday and we ended up winning 144-83."

Aherne made her individual A cut Saturday in the 200-yard IM and just barely missed individual A cuts in the 200-yard freestyle, 100-yard freestyle and 100-yard backstroke. She picked up B cuts in those events. Grinter made her individual A cut in the 200-yard butterfly Saturday.

"Out of swimmers like Kate and Anna, for how well they did at the national meet last year, I was kind of hoping that they were going to be able to [make some A cuts] in season prior to the Indiana Invite," Gole said. "Whether it was going to be this weekend [was the question]. Anna really surprised me by dropping over two seconds off of her best unshaved 200-fly time."

Aherne said that so far she is pleased with her performance this year.

"I am definitely way farther ahead right now than I was this time last year, so I am feeling really good about everything," Aherne said.

Many of the Bulldogs' other swimmers also achieved personal bests and first-place finishes during the weekend. Junior Kendra Brunkow, who won the 50-yard freestyle and was part of the winning 400-yard medley relay on Friday, said the meet was a success for her and the team.

"I think [the meet] went really well," Brunkow said. "It is actually one of the best meets that I have had personally, and as a team I think it is one of the best dual meets that we have had. We had so many in-season best times, and I had some of my best in-season times in the past three years."

Friday, the women won seven events. Saturday, the women came out on top in five events.

Head coach Mark Gole said the Bull-

dogs' success Friday night failed to carry over to Saturday in some events.

"Friday night we definitely performed above and beyond expectations," Gole said. "Saturday we had many swimmers that had a difficult time duplicating those high-level swim times that they had on Friday."

Aherne said the Bulldogs competed well.

"We went in there knowing it was going to be tough meet, especially against Wayne State," Aherne said. "We brought it, and so did they."

Brunkow said the way the Bulldogs performed this past weekend was indicative of how the team will do at the Nov. 21 to 23 Hoosierland Invitational. The Bulldogs expect to pick up more A cuts at that meet.

"I have really high expectations for us at our taper meet," Brunkow said. "[This past weekend] got me really excited, and I think we can do some really awesome things at it. Just seeing how fast we can go when we haven't even been tapered yet shows me how much faster we are going to be than at last year's taper meet."

Aherne said the team is beginning to focus more heavily on technique at practice, and some of the swimmers already are starting the resting process.

"It is getting down to the time where we really have to think about what we are doing instead of just trying to go out there and swim as fast as we can," Aherne said. "We have to start being smart about the race, so we are really working on that."

The Bulldogs' next meet is 2 p.m. Saturday at home against Div. I Missouri State University and the University of Nebraska-Omaha.



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