

'Dogs shut out in two straight games

BY JOE BELL
Staff Reporter

The women's soccer team has fallen on hard times since its first loss.

Last weekend the Bulldogs suffered back-to-back 1-0 shut-out defeats at the hands of the University of Central Missouri and Southwest Baptist University. In the four games since their first loss Sept. 27 against the University of Nebraska-Omaha, the Bulldogs (9-3-1) are 1-2-1.

Last weekend marked the first time this season Truman has lost two games in a row and the first time the Bulldog offense has been

shut out two times in a row.

"We're still consistently working hard," freshman midfielder Jaclyn Schumann said. "We're still doing really well. It's just luck doesn't seem to be on our side. We're playing really well, but the few mistakes that every good team makes, we've been making now. It just hasn't worked to our advantage at all."

After the losses, Truman dropped to 25th in the national rankings and seventh in the South Central Regional. Six teams from the region make the NCAA Tournament.

Head coach Mike Cannon said he thinks his offense's in-

ability to score this weekend was a case of bad luck and nothing more.

"The silver lining is that we're playing well," Cannon said. "The big part of the cloud, though, is that we're not getting all the results that we need to get. If we're losing these games, having this rough spell... if that was coupled with us not playing very well, I'd be pretty concerned. It's more like, 'When are the goals going to start coming in?' because we're playing fine."

Last Saturday, the Bulldogs went to Bolivar, Mo., for a rematch against Southwest Baptist. The Bulldogs tried to avenge the

tie that SBU earned in their last meeting on Truman's homecoming. Truman again was unable to come back as the winners.

"We were extremely pumped to play [SBU]," Schumann said. "We were so excited. We were really ready to play. We just wanted to get back and to show them that we can win."

SBU claimed the only goal of the game 16 minutes into the contest. A corner kick allowed SBU's Terri Beddows to score her first goal of the season on a header.

Truman had the offensive advantage the rest of the game and outshot SBU by a margin

of 11-7 for the game. Only three of Truman's shots were on goal, with all of them coming in the first half. In the second half, the Bulldogs shot five times but were unable to put any of those shots on goal.

There was no lost love between these two teams as they played a tough game.

"Southwest Baptist is just a really physical team, and it's hard to call fouls against a physical team and be consistent," freshman midfielder Megan Buri said. "But [a few times] where there should have been calls that weren't made. It's just [SBU]'s style of play."

Last Thursday the Bulldogs suffered their first loss of their road trip to Central Missouri.

The contest was another uphill battle for the 'Dogs as they struggled to recover from an early deficit. In the early part of the game, UCM put several shots on goal before scoring in the 23rd minute.

The Bulldogs head to Maryville, Mo., today to play Northwest Missouri State University. On Saturday, the Bulldogs return home to play Missouri Western State University. This kicks off a six-game homestand that will run through the remainder of the season.



Photo Submitted

Senior Danna Kelly claimed third place at Saturday's Border War Championship. She shaved 18 seconds off her 2007 time.

Kelly takes third at Border War

BY BLAKE TOPPMEYER
Sports Editor

Head coach John Cochrane wanted to make sure that senior cross country runner Danna Kelly was not satisfied with her performance at last weekend's Border War Cross Country Championship.

After Monday's weight lifting session, Cochrane pulled his lone senior aside to talk about Kelly elevating her performance for the final meets of her college cross country career.

"He said, 'You're not going to like me, but I'm going to push you in order to get to that next level,'" Kelly said.

Kelly placed third out of 131 runners with a time of 18:30.24 at Saturday's Border War meet in Edwardsville, Ill. She led the team to a third-place finish in the 16-team event.

But Cochrane said he's not thinking about the past, but rather what's ahead for Kelly as she prepares for the Oct. 25 MIAA Championships, the Nov. 8 South Central Regional and possibly a return to the NCAA Div. II Championship, in which Kelly placed 80th last year.

"You kind of don't remember what happened in the Les Duke Invitational... or even the Border Wars," Cochrane said. "You don't remember those things later on. You remember what happened in the conference meets and the regional meets."

Kelly's performance last weekend was a good indication of what might come at the season's final meets. Her time Saturday was 18 seconds faster than it was at the 2007 Border War.

Kelly moved into the third-place position within the first half-mile and remained there for the rest of the race. Cochrane said Kelly finished the race strong, which secured her third-place finish behind Missouri Southern State University's Kimi Shank and Div. I Southern Illinois Univer-

sity-Edwardsville's Kayla Brown.

"Nobody made a dent in her the last half-mile at all," Cochrane said. "Early in the season she didn't finish that well, but she finished much, much better on Saturday."

Kelly has placed in the top six of all four meets the team has competed in this season, and the team has not finished any lower than fifth.

Still, Kelly said she wants to get mentally stronger for the final meets of the season so she can hang with runners like Shank at the MIAA Championships and the South Central Regional.

Kelly was close to Shank and Brown early in Saturday's race but lost touch with them when the runners entered some hilly terrain in the second mile.

"My goal was to be at the top three and I obtained that goal, but I should've gone with those top two girls earlier on in the race," Kelly said. "I let them go, and I don't think it was anything physiologically. I think psychologically that's where I need to get tougher. In two weeks [at conference], when things like that happen, I need to go with those people and not just fall behind."

Kelly said her goal ultimately is to return to the national meet and earn All-American status with a top-30 finish. She would become just the fourth Bulldog ever to be an All-American.

To reach her goal, Kelly said she has to continue to push herself and listen to the advice of her coach. Cochrane's pep talk with Kelly on Monday was similar to one Cochrane had during the outdoor track season last April with then-senior Christen Lauer. Lauer ended up winning the outdoor track conference title in the triple jump and placed sixth in the event at nationals.

Given Kelly's past success, it's possible Cochrane's most recent pep talk could spark another first-place MIAA finish, this time with Kelly at the upcoming MIAA cross country meet.

Athlete of the Week

Danna Kelly

Sport: Cross Country

Year: Senior

Hometown: Boone, Iowa

Danna Kelly finished third out of 131 runners at last Saturday's Border War Championship with a time of 18:30.24 in the 3K race. Kelly moved into third midway through the first mile and held her position for the rest of the race. She has finished in the top six at all four meets this fall. At the cross country national championships in 2007, Kelly finished 80th.



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