

Men beat Westminster

Team rebounds from ITA showing to claim second dual win of season

BY KRISTA CRIDER
Staff Reporter

This week resembled an anticlimactic rollercoaster for the men's tennis team. There were no twists or turns or huge downhill plummets — they simply started slowly on the bottom and ended at the top.

In the successful part of their week, the Bulldogs won a home dual match 8-1 Tuesday against Westminster College (Mo.) to improve their season dual record to 2-0.

The only match Truman lost came from senior No. 1 singles player Steve Hipkiss. He lost the first set 4-6 but rebounded to win the second 6-4. He proceeded to lose the super-tiebreaker 8-10. Hipkiss said he lost the match with his performance near the end.

"I think the match was already decided when I finished the second set," Hipkiss said. "[Then] I double-faulted twice in a row in the tiebreaker and pretty much just gave it to him."

The other challenging match of the day was the No. 2 singles match of junior Kyle Schlotz. He started 7-6, 4-6, then ended up dominating in the super-tiebreaker 10-2.

The doubles teams had no problem against Westminster. The No. 1 team of Schlotz and junior John Rothfusz won 8-3, the No. 2 team of Hipkiss and freshman Eric McCollough won 8-2 and the No. 3 team of freshman Mark Sturley and junior

David Sherwood prevailed 8-4.

"Except for the No. 1 and No. 2 [singles] players, the competition was not very strong," head coach Pete Kendall said.

The low part of the week was last weekend when the Bulldogs lost all but one match in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Regional Tournament in Maryville, Mo.

All six singles players lost in the first round of the ITA, and the only doubles team to advance to the second round ended their tournament there.

Kendall said the competition in the ITA tournament was the toughest the team had seen all season.

"We knew it would be pretty tough because of the realignment of the region, and obviously it turned out to be that way," Kendall said. "We're out of our league when we play against those teams from Oklahoma and Texas. Most of them are fully funded scholarships, and obviously they have very good weather."

The first-round winning doubles team of Schlotz and Rothfusz lost their first set to the pairing from Northwest Missouri State University 4-6 but came back and took the second 6-4.

They claimed the match with an intense 10-8 tiebreaker win.

"It was a close match all the way, and in close matches a couple points here and there make the difference," Kendall said. "If you win them, you win the match, and if you don't win them, you don't."

Hipkiss said Rothfusz and Schlotz got a good first-round draw.

"[Schlotz and Rothfusz] are a pretty good team," Hipkiss said. "They ended up playing a team



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Junior Kyle Schlotz keeps his eye on the ball as he prepares to hit a backhand. Against Westminster on Tuesday, Schlotz went undefeated, winning his singles match (7-6, 4-6, 10-2) and his doubles match (8-3).

from Northwest Missouri, a team from our conference, and I would say they could beat that team nine out of 10 times."

Schlotz and Rothfusz lost their next match 2-6, 3-6 against a duo from East Central University.

Freshman Eric McCollough was the only singles player to take his match to a tiebreaker last weekend. He lost his first set 3-6 but came back to win the second 6-3. He dropped the tiebreaker 6-10, however, and

failed to advance to the next round. McCollough said the main reason he almost came back was his opponent's lack of endurance.

In doubles, the team of McCollough and Hipkiss lost a close match 7-6 (3), 6-4. The match came down to a few crucial points, and McCollough said the team had a chance to come out on top.

"There were a few games that could have gone either way," McCollough said. "If we would have

won those, we could have taken the match."

This weekend, the men will compete in the Western Illinois Tournament in Macomb, Ill. Kendall said the competition is going to be tough there as well.

"It's going to be a good tournament," Kendall said. "There will be eight or nine teams there that are all pretty solid, and it's going to be a lot of very good competition, so it is going to be interesting."

Men's soccer falls 3-1 to rival Quincy

Effort to increase offense leads to just one goal late in game

BY BLAKE TOPPMEYER
Sports Editor

Head coach Duke Cochran indicated Tuesday that lineup changes would be made before yesterday's men's soccer game against Quincy University in an effort to jumpstart a stagnant Bulldog offense.

True to his word, Cochran shifted junior Matt Taylor up from the defensive backfield to a forward position in hopes that Taylor would help end Truman's streak of being shut out five times in the last six games. The Bulldogs also used a more aggressive 3-5-2 formation.

In the end, Truman snapped a 320-minute goalless streak in the 86th minute with a goal from senior midfielder Nick Cepicky, but the Bulldogs could not snap their losing streak. Quincy scored three second-half goals en route to a 3-1 victory. The Bulldogs have now lost three straight.

Wednesday was the first time this season Truman (3-6) has scored a goal in a game and lost.

"We tried to change some things up to see if we could get some goals," junior midfielder Drew Pauk said. "... We put one away there and had some other chances, but we still need to find some other goals."

After a scoreless first half, the Hawks staked a 2-0 lead with two goals in a matter of five minutes. Quincy broke the 0-0 tie in the 32nd minute, when the Hawks' Steve Miller served a free kick from about 30 yards out to Banko Isailovic, who flicked the ball into the net.

Even with Cochran's strategy changes designed to help spark the offense, the Bulldogs had few scoring opportunities until late in the game. Cepicky brought Truman within a goal when his shot from about 25 yards

out appeared to ricochet off a Quincy defender and went into the net.

The Bulldogs had a chance to tie the game a minute later, but Quincy's goalie Kyle Dillman made a diving save on junior back Ben Green's shot to preserve the Hawks' lead.

"When you put one in and you're only down one goal, you're still believing," Pauk said of the late offensive surge. "I think we only had about four or five minutes left, but you're still pushing. Let's throw everything at them. We just wanted to try to tie it up and get it into overtime."

Quincy put the game out of reach with a goal in the final minute.

Taylor had his best chance to score in the first half, when he fired a shot from just outside the 18-yard box high and over the goal. Taylor played forward in 2006,

when he led the Bulldogs in goals scored, but he has played center back this season prior to being moved to forward Wednesday.

With the win, Quincy — one of Truman's top rivals — has won two straight games against the 'Dogs. From 1996 to 2006, the Bulldogs had a 10-0-2 record against Quincy.

The Bulldogs' three-game losing streak began last weekend, when Truman suffered a 1-0 loss against Div. III Washington University on Friday and fell 2-0 to Lewis University (Ill.) on Sunday.

Against Wash U., the Bulldogs applied offensive pressure by attempting 16 shots — including 10 in the second half — but could not slip a goal past the Bears' defense line and goalie John Smelcer.

"We need to put away those chances when we have them," head coach Duke Cochran said. "We need someone with that killer instinct that wants to put a team away."

Truman's defense held its own for most of the game against Wash U., and soph-

omore goalie Kyle Talbot made four saves.

But in the 85th minute, Wash U. took advantage of a Truman foul and converted a set piece into a rebound goal. Talbot saved Marshall Plow's shot, but the ball rebounded to John Hengel, who netted the goal.

"When you give up fouls in and around your box, eventually a team is going to find your goal," Cochran said. "It was just kind of a mental lapse in the last 10 minutes of the game."

The 'Dogs' offense continued to be shut down Sunday when the Bulldogs played Lewis.

Once again, Truman outshot the opposition — this time by a 13-8 margin — but the Bulldogs could not notch a goal.

The Flyers scored two first-half goals within a minute of each other to earn the 2-0 victory.

"We played very good for 89 minutes, and one minute killed us," Cochran said.

Truman outshot Lewis 10-4 in the second half, and senior midfielder Josh Weir said he thought the Bulldogs

outplayed Lewis for the final 45 minutes.

"I'd have to say that was probably the best half of soccer we've put together [this season]," Weir said.

Following a trend that has been set throughout the season, Truman had 13 corner kicks in the game, compared to Lewis' five, but the Bulldogs could not convert any of those opportunities for a goal.

This season, Truman has attempted 57 corner kicks, while opponents have had only 35. But the 'Dogs have not scored a goal off a corner kick since Aug. 31.

"Believe it or not, the service on them has been great, the guys crashing the box has been great," Weir said. "I think against Lewis, three corners were cleared off the line. So honestly, I think it is just a bit of us being unlucky."

The Bulldogs will look to put an end to their three-game losing streak when they host top-rival No. 20 Rockhurst University (7-0-1) at 4 p.m. tomorrow.

In the last six years, Truman leads the rivalry 3-2-1.

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