

# 'Dogs win two, climb to No. 16 in poll

**4-0 season start is best since 2001 season when team finished 18-3**

**BY JOE BELL**  
Staff Reporter

The Bulldogs blazed a trail through Oklahoma as they rolled over both of their opponents last weekend.

The women's soccer team extended its win streak through its first four games of the season with a 2-0 shutout Friday against No. 9 University of Central Oklahoma and a 7-1 win Sunday against Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

The Bulldogs improved their season record to 4-0. After these wins, the Bulldogs are ranked No. 16 in the nation, and second in the South Central Region.

The first of four games against ranked opponents this season, the 2-0 victory against Central Oklahoma looked to be one of the toughest tests for the Bulldogs this season.

The Truman offense struck early, as junior forward Jessica Wiegert scored a goal off an assist from junior Riley Mahn a little more than five minutes into the first half.

"When I received the ball, my back was toward the goal," Wiegert said. "[I] turned real quick to my left, and I looked up and saw the defenders weren't tight. So I decided to take a shot. And it just went right over the keeper."

In the second half, Wiegert assisted on Mahn's goal. It marked the first time in its six games this season that Central Oklahoma allowed a goal in the second half.

The Truman defense held strong as junior goalie Denise Childress notched her third straight shutout and her third shutout of her



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**Senior Brigitte Pohren (No. 9) fights for possession against Central Oklahoma on Friday. Truman won the game 2-0 in its second victory against a ranked team this season, propelling the 'Dogs to a No. 16 national ranking.**

career. The Central Oklahoma offense made the defense work for the shutout, recording seven shots in the first half and five in the second. Childress ended the game with seven saves.

Senior defender Kim Wolff said she thinks there are several reasons

why the defense, which has surrendered one goal through four games, has been so successful to start the season.

"I think the backline has done a good job so far, but we can't take all the credit," Wolff said. "Our forwards and our midfielders have

done a great job of helping to limit the number of counterattacks and ... how much the team can distribute throughout the field. Overall, it's been a huge amount of team effort."

Head coach Mike Cannon said experience played a role in Tru-

man's victory against Central Oklahoma.

"[Central Oklahoma] is a good team," Cannon said. "They're a young team. They've got a few older kids who are pretty good. A young team, but very talented too. I think the big part of the game was just a matter of we were a bit more experienced. I really think that came to fruition in the game."

The game against Southwestern Oklahoma State went from being a reasonable Truman lead at halftime to a blowout in the second.

After 16 shots and a pair of goals by Mahn, the Bulldogs were up 2-0 at halftime.

A corner kick started the scoring parade of the second half, with the corner kick bouncing off the SWOSU goalie for a goal. A close range shot from junior midfielder Katie Reuck then put the 'Dogs up 4-0.

The second half saw an end to the shutout streak for Denise Childress, though. SWOSU's Lorine Salinas dribbled in and scored on the only shot attempt by SWOSU in the game.

After SWOSU snapped the shutout streak, the Bulldogs came back to score three late goals, including redshirt freshman Colleen Baker's first two collegiate goals. Sophomore forward Beth Bystrom capped off the scoring with a goal two seconds before the final whistle was blown.

When the dust had settled, the Bulldogs had collected their second win of the weekend, having out shot their opponents by a 34-1 margin.

The Bulldogs return home for a 4 p.m. game against Northwest Missouri State University today and continue with a showdown at noon Saturday vs. No. 19 University of Nebraska-Omaha.

## Offense keys early season success

**Mahn, Wiegert provide early punch from forward spots**

**BY JOE BELL**  
Staff Reporter

By halftime of its game against the Southwestern Oklahoma State University on Sunday, the women's soccer team had turned a flurry of 16 shots into two goals.

When the game ended, the score was a lopsided 7-1 in the 'Dogs' favor. It was another example of what has been the current trend with the Truman offense.

In the span of four games to start the 2008 season, the 'Dogs have gone from a team with a questionable offense to one that has started to play to its full potential.

The team has scored 11 goals through its first four games and have 57 shot attempts. By comparison, four games into the 2007 season, the team only had scored three goals and attempted 41 shots.

So far this season, the team is averaging 2.75 goals per game, as opposed to the

1.68 goals scored per game last year.

Last year, the Bulldogs didn't have a game in which they scored four or more goals in a game until nine games into the season, when they scored seven goals against Emporia State University.

Head coach Mike Cannon said he isn't getting too wrapped up in statistics this early in the season.

"The two games last weekend and the Central Oklahoma game were two good teams playing against each other," Cannon said. "We managed to shut the other teams out and get a goal or two. I think Sunday would be the aberration. [SWOSU wasn't] as good of a team. ... They weren't a bad team at all, but they just weren't quite as strong as the other teams we played."

The 'Dogs have out scored their opponents 11-1 this season. Part of the reason for this offensive surge has come from two of the Bulldog's junior forwards. Jessica Wiegert and Riley Mahn have accounted for almost half of the Truman offense so far.

Wiegert has been a centerpiece of the Truman offense for her entire career. In 2006, she led the team with 10 goals and five assists and was named conference Freshman of the Year.

She tied for the team lead in scoring in 2007, with seven goals and five assists. This year she already has two goals and two assists, including a goal and assist in Friday's win against then-No. 9 in the nation University of Central Oklahoma. In her career at Truman the team has won or tied 15 out of the 16 games she has scored in.

"Jess has been a proven, solid goal scorer for us, pretty central to our offense," Cannon said. "... Last year was a little tougher [for her]. I think she might have put a little pressure on herself. ... It's kind of natural when you score 10 your first year. How many do you want to score your second year, 12, 15? Sometimes that's hard, especially when other teams are keying in on you more."

Wiegert said she thinks one of the keys to the success of the offense this season has been increased maturity.

"I don't know, we're real pumped up I think," Wiegert said. "We're pretty athletic and tall. We're strong forces on the field. We're getting some pretty good opportunities at goal."

**"I think everything's been clicking for me this year. I just have the right mindset, more confidence on the field, I think."**

**Riley Mahn**  
Junior Forward

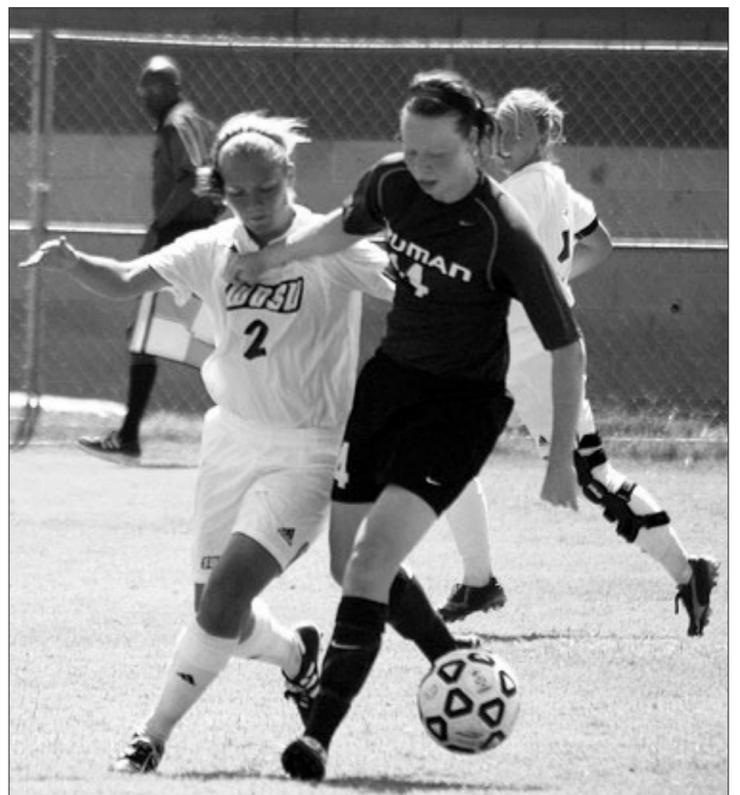


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**Junior Riley Mahn fights off Samantha Dobson of SWOSU on Sunday. Mahn has made an immediate impact this season with three goals and an assist in four games.**

Mahn also has experienced an offensive surge this fall. After having four goals and no assists during the 2007 season, she already has three goals and two assists.

"[Mahn] worked really hard over the winter, and then in the spring and then in the summer," Cannon said. "You

can see she wants it. Not that she didn't want it before, but I think she's really seeing, 'OK, if I do this and this, I can do pretty good. I can really help the team.'"

Mahn said she's more confident this season, and as a result, her play has improved. "I think everything's been

clicking for me this year," Mahn said. "I just have the right mindset, more confidence on the field, I think. More confidence in my play on offense."

Several forwards have yet to score a goal, which could spell good news for the 'Dogs down the road as more players score.

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