



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Freshman Dagmar Velez sets for a forward during this weekend's Truman Invitational. Velez tied for second in the five/six flight.

Women start season

BY KRISTA CRIDER
Staff Reporter

The women's tennis team kicked off its season by making a statement last Saturday at the Truman Invitational.

Despite a lack of practice because of rain, the team placed six of 10 singles players in the tournament and had a team record of 39-19.

Of the six who placed, senior Lindsay Blair took third in flight one/two with a 4-2 record, freshman Ellen Russell took second in flight three/four with a 5-1 record and freshman Dagmar Velez and sophomore Kelsey Kuykendall tied for second in flight five/six with records of 5-1. Sophomore Anna Greenwald took first in flight seven/eight, and sophomore Kirstyn Sampias took third in the flight.

"I thought overall we had a very good tournament," head coach Pete Kendall said. "When they do well, it obviously makes us feel optimistic."

The four-team singles tournament, which featured conference rivals Northwest Missouri State University and Missouri Western State University, was separated into four flights, with two Bulldogs entered in each of the top three flights. The women played six matches apiece Friday and Saturday.

Senior Lindsay Blair said the team was excited to finally get on the court. "We didn't get to have practice [before the tournament] because of

the rain, but it was fun to get out there and play some matches," Blair said.

The eight-game pro-set scoring of the tournament was different than what the players are used to. College matches normally are six games, best two out of three sets, and Kendall said that was a change for the players.

Kendall said both seniors, Blair and Courtney Walther, played very close in their matches in the top flight. One of Blair's losses came down to match point, and Blair said she thought she could have come out of the tournament with a better record.

"[My performance] was okay for the first time out, but the two matches I lost were matches I could have won," Blair said. "I am working to get more consistent."

The freshmen placing in the tournament gives an indication that the women should have plenty of depth this year.

"There's no doubt that Ellen and Dagmar did very well," Kendall said.

Russell played in the most competitive flight out of the freshmen at the three/four level and placed higher than she expected for her first tournament, she said.

"I was pretty excited about how well I did," Russell said. "I am glad I got my first match out of the way and did pretty well in it."

She said the match that stood out to her the most from the tournament was the last one she played. She won deci-

sively with a score of 8-5.

"The last match, I played the No. 4 girl [Lisa Pendrak] from Northwest Missouri State, and the girls have been telling me that they have one of the best teams in the conference," Russell said.

Kendall said the tournament was an indicator as to how the rest of the season might go. He said the freshmen played well as a whole, along with everyone else on the team.

Kendall also said the lineup for the team is not set in stone and that players could move around in the depth chart after challenge matches are completed during practice.

"We didn't get to finish all [the challenge matches] up last week, and obviously the weather is going to affect us this week some, so we will see how that goes," Kendall said. "We still have at least one or two matches that we probably should play intra-team, and we may or may not get those done."

Kendall said the tournament was a success overall.

"In tournaments there are always three or four matches that you felt like you should have won and you didn't and probably a couple that you pulled out at the end, but you know, for our first time out for the year we did pretty well overall," Kendall said.

The team is competing in the Western Illinois Tournament this weekend, followed by the six dual matches this fall.

Men fall just short against Incarnate Word

BY BLAKE TOPPMAYER
Sports Editor

The men's soccer team established itself as one of the top teams in its new region Saturday, even though a late goal prevented the Bulldogs from earning the end result they wanted.

The 'Dogs went toe-to-toe with perennial power University of the Incarnate Word (Texas) in a 90-minute battle, but the Cardinals scored a goal in the 84th minute to claim a 1-0 victory and hand Truman (2-1 overall, 2-1 in region) its first loss of the season.

Following last season, the Bulldogs switched from the now-defunct Great Lakes Region to the South Central Region, which includes Incarnate.

After Truman won its first two regional games of the season against mediocre opponents, the 'Dogs faced their first real regional challenge in Incarnate Word, a team that had a 41-14-7 record from 2005 to 2007 and was picked to repeat as Heartland Conference champions.

"I think Incarnate has a chance to be [top 10 in the nation] at the end of

the year, and I think we showed that we're every bit as good as those kinds of teams," head coach Duke Cochran said. "I like our chances against any team right now."

Truman outshot Incarnate Word 13 to nine in the game, but it was the Cardinals who broke through with a goal after a scoreless first half.

The goal came after the Cardinals' quick transition to reverse the field. Incarnate goal keeper Gil Ben Nachum made the save on senior midfielder Josh Weir's shot. Forty-five seconds later, Incarnate's Dustin Lemley beat sophomore goal keeper Kyle Talbot to put the Cardinals ahead.

Lemley's goal was aided by the wet field conditions and what Cochran said he thought might have been a possible missed call by the referee. Junior center back Matt Taylor, who was marking Lemley, slipped or was tripped up, leaving Lemley open on the right side of the 18-yard box. The Cardinals' Jesus Cortez then sent a pass to Lemley, who converted for his third goal of the season.

"In the game of soccer, you have

referees, and you may not always agree with the calls and you may not always get the calls," Cochran said. "Because on film, on their goal, our center back gets tripped up and their forward runs onto the ball."

Cochran said the wet field conditions probably also factored in to Taylor losing his mark on Lemley. Rain throughout the weekend caused the game, originally scheduled for Friday, to be moved to Saturday.

After more rain fell Saturday night, the Bulldogs' game scheduled for Sunday against NAIA Graceland College (Iowa) was cancelled. Cochran said the teams currently are in the process of trying to reschedule the game.

The Bulldogs created numerous second-half scoring chances before and after Lemley's goal, but Nachum, an all-Midwest Region goalie in 2007, made five saves and handed the 'Dogs their shutout this season. Truman was shut out seven times in 2007.

After attempting just two shots in the first half, the Bulldogs fired 11 shots in the last 45 minutes.

One of the Bulldogs' best chances

to score came on one of the team's nine corner kicks. In the 67th minute, junior back Dan Russell delivered the corner kick, which led to a shot by Weir and a rebound attempt by sophomore forward Bobby Larkin. Nachum made saves on both attempts.

Nachum made another key save to preserve the win for the Cardinals on junior back Ben Green's shot in the 87th minute.

Incarnate came out on the offensive in the first half. The Cardinals attempted three of the game's first four shots, but after that, the Bulldogs had the attacking advantage.

"They came out firing at us right away," Weir said. "I wouldn't say we started off slow. It was more of an instance where we kind of realized that we're going to probably have to weather their storm for the first 20 minutes while they came at us."

Despite allowing the one goal, the game marked another good performance for the Truman defense. The Bulldogs allowed just two shots on goal. Through the season's three games, the 'Dogs have surrendered

only two goals and six shots on goal. The goal by Lemley — the 2007 Freshman of the Year in the Heartland Conference — was his only shot of the game.

"We knew about him coming in," junior back Jack Randazzo said. "Coach had obviously told us he had scored in each of his [first two] games. We shut him down in the first half. ... I think we did a good job marking both their forwards."

Truman will face another tough opponent Saturday when the team faces Lynn University (Fla.), a non-regional opponent ranked third in the nation. Before the Bulldogs' match with Lynn, they play today in Boca Raton, Fla., against Tampa University.

Cochran said that based on his team's performance Saturday against Incarnate Word, there is no reason to think the Bulldogs can't compete well against Tampa and Lynn.

"It was two [NCAA] tournament-type teams, and it was a good game," Cochran said of the game against Incarnate Word. "We played as well as we've played all season."



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If a minor in Disability Studies interests you, please attend an informal discussion on Friday, September 5, at 12:30 p.m., in Violette Hall, room 1320. The purpose of the discussion would be to generate ideas and gauge student interest.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Janet Gooch at jquinzer@truman.edu or at 660-785-4672.