Bulls rugby shut out 31-0 in season opener

BY ARTHUR/HUSTAD

Bulls rugby ended a string of losses in the first game of the 2008 season. The Bulls, who shut out the Nebraska-Omaha Mavericks 31-0, played in front of a crowd of nearly 1,000 fans at Stokes Stadium.

“People are really getting excited about the game,” said coach Ralph Cochrane. “They love to see the team doing well and the fans are showing up for the games.”

The game was won early, with two quick tries in the first quarter. The Bulls scored five tries in the first half, with two more in the second half. The score of 31-0 was the highest score for the team in the season opener.

The Bulls played well in all aspects of the game, with effective lineouts, good communication, and strong defense. The team is looking forward to the next game.

“We’re happy with the way we played,” said Cochrane. “We’re looking forward to the next game and the opportunity to keep improving.”

Athlete of the Week

Michelle Gronemeyer
Sport: Cross Country
Year: Freshman
Home town: Creve Coeur, Mo.

In her first NCAA race, Gronemeyer placed second at the Missouri Cross Country Championships last fall, in which she finished 12th.

“Michelle knows how to pace herself and that she can come more familiar with one another to stay together as a unit,” Ralph said. “It’s not out of self-interest.”

Cochrane said the team needs to work on working together and maintain consistency in the games. He said they have to do to be successful and just work on our technique and hope to be there to help out more in the rucks practice this week and come out stronger.

“Under one-two finish led the team to a pretty easy scores off of some just really lopsided as it sounds,” head coach Bill Sexton said. “They put the ball in the red zone and missed a couple of key tries. The Bulls have plenty of experienced forwards and backs,” he said. “We’re looking forward to the next game and the opportunity for the team to get back into game shape without feeling too hard a league play.”

“We just need to work on working together as a unit,” Ralph said. “It’s not out of self-interest.”

Friday night will look into his technique in lineout and practice this week and come out stronger.

“The individual efforts were really good,” Ralph said. “There was unsaturated momentum when players played together well and the team worked together well. We’re still working with some different combinations to figure out which combinations work the best.”

The Bulls have two more weeks to make adjustments before league play starts Sept. 27 to 28 against Oklahoma State University and the University of Nebraska-Omaha in home opener September.

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MIAA Opening Weekend

Football v. Central Missouri
Saturday, Sept. 13 at 7 p.m.
Stokes Stadium

The power of PURPLE! Wear It!

Women’s Soccer

Thursday, Sept. 11 at 4 p.m.-Northwest Missouri
Saturday, Sept. 13 at 12 p.m.- University of Nebraska-Omaha

Truman Soccer Complex

See Truman stomp their RIVALS!