



Submitted Photo
Junior forward Jessica Wiegert looks to cross the ball during the Bulldogs' 2-1 win Thursday against Northwest Missouri State. Weigert scored her third goal of the year in the game.

Women's soccer takes down 'Cats

Game against UNO rained out, makeup date set for Oct. 20

BY JOE BELL
Staff Reporter

The rain affected everyone's weekend, and the women's soccer team soccer team was no exception.

On Sunday the Bulldogs were set to take on long-time regional rival and their newest conference opponent, University of Nebraska-Omaha, in their home opener, but rain kept the teams from taking the field. The game is tentatively set to be played Monday, Oct. 20 at Truman.

"The kids were disappointed," head coach Mike Cannon said. "They were looking forward to playing UNO. It's a big game, but we can't control the weather."

Last Thursday saw the Bulldogs square off against Northwest Missouri State University in Truman's MIAA home opener. It marked the fifth straight win for the Bulldogs, as they defeated Northwest 2-1. The win helped the Bulldogs move to No. 10 in the nation.

Truman struck first when junior forward Jessica Wiegert scored her third goal of the season in the 24th minute of the first half. Junior Isabel Gaeta fed her the ball on a breakaway, and Wiegert found the back of the net. That goal ties Wiegert with junior Riley Mahn for most goals on the team.

Northwest regrouped quickly and came back to score about three minutes later, as junior goalkeeper Denise Childress allowed her second goal of the season.

Truman had four more shots on goal before the end of the half, including a breakaway attempt by redshirt freshman Colleen Baker. As the whistle sounded the end of the first half, the score stood knotted at 1-1, with Truman having the slight advantage in shot attempts, 8-7.

The second half opened with a flurry of Bulldog scoring opportunities. In the first nine minutes, the Bulldogs attempted seven shots before freshman midfielder Megan Buri scored the game-winning goal in the 55th minute.

"It was kind of a lucky goal, I think," Buri said. "[Junior] Katie Reuck slid the ball one more time, so I had a breakaway. I guess I was just trying to find near post or crossing it. It was one of those things where you don't know whether you're crossing or shooting — it was so fast. The goalie kind of hit it in, so it was kind of lucky."

After Buri's goal, the Truman defense effectively shut down Northwest — they only managed two shot attempts in the second half. The 'Dogs finished with a 17-9 shot advantage.

"We played pretty well," Cannon said. "I wouldn't say we played our absolute best game. ... The big thing for me

was ... we could have made it easier on ourselves if we had finished some of our chances. [Northwest's] keeper played pretty well, I think we hit the post at least twice. We also had some other chances we didn't do as much as we should have with."

This game also marked another trend the Bulldogs have exhibited this year: the increasing contributions of freshmen.

Besides Buri, freshman defender Jaelyn Schumann started the game on a defense that is manned mostly by upper classmen. Freshmen Caitlin Wells and Colleen Baker both entered the mix as substitutions. Altogether those freshmen have contributed three of the team's 13 goals for the season.

"Megan [Buri] and Jaelyn [Schumann] have made great contributions for freshmen," Mahn said. "They've come in, and they've been working really hard, helping us get results."

Buri also said she thinks the freshmen gave the team an extra edge.

"With the new incoming class, it's always good to have that new competition in the team," Buri said. "We contribute by competing for a spot. There's a competitive atmosphere on the team. It's what drives the team to get better."

The Bulldogs head to Topeka to compete against Washburn University today, and they square off against Emporia State University on Saturday.

Athlete of the Week

Melissa Keck

Sport: Volleyball
Year: Senior
Hometown: Belleville, Ill.

Keck, a right-side hitter, tallied a team-high 43 kills at the Concordia University-St. Paul Tournament last weekend. She is second on the team in kills this season with 94, averaging 2.4 per set, and she is first on the team with a .361 hitting percentage. This is the second time Keck has been awarded Index Athlete of the Week.

Keck hits .402 for tournament

Senior puts up a career high in blocks to go along with hitting percentage

BY JOE BELL
Staff Reporter

Senior right side hitter Melissa Keck's big weekend helped the Truman volleyball team win two of the four matches they played last weekend.

At the Concordia University-St. Paul Tournament, Keck totaled 43 kills — including matches with 15 and 12 kills — and she hit a combined .402. In Truman's win Friday against Central Washington University, Keck had a career-high eight blocks.

After this weekend, Keck is second on the team with 94 kills (2.41 per set), and she leads the team with a .361 hitting percentage.

Head coach Jason Skoch said he thinks Keck is just settling in.

"She had a great weekend," Skoch said. "A great weekend. Now what has she done? She's started off a little sluggish, but she's working hard. And this weekend was proof that she's working hard and that she's improving. She's nowhere near where she can be and will be by the end of the season. I'm not saying that's a bad thing — it's a good thing. We're going to expect that from her every weekend, and I think she can do even better than that."

Keck said that more than racking up the good statistics, she just wants to see the team compile victories.

"I want to do what it takes for the team to win," Keck said. "If that

means me hitting .500, then that means me hitting .500. But also if that means me hitting .100 and pulling blockers for other people, then [that's what I'll do]. I just want to win, and I'll do whatever I have to do to make the team better, to make the team win."

Keck has been a starter on the team since 2005 and has been an integral part of Truman's offense ever since. She posted 110 kills in 2005, 280 in 2006, and 429 in 2007. She set a career high for kills per set in 2007 with 3.2 per set.

Skoch said he expects her offensive numbers to pick up now that she is a senior.

"She has to be more consistent, more productive," Skoch said. "Now she's an upperclassman and there's an expectation for her to carry offensively. ... She put up the kind of numbers we expect from her [this weekend]. It was a very good weekend for her. ... She knows that's what we expect and that anything less is playing a little under what she can do."

For Keck, though, volleyball is more than something she does on the court. It has been a big part of her life at Truman.

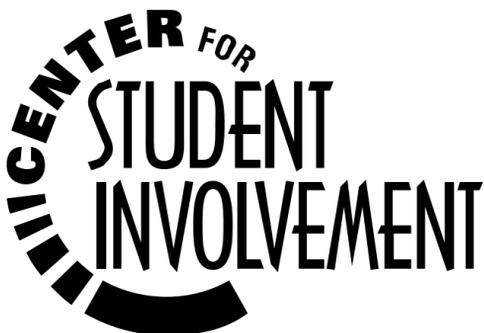
"I have loved Truman volleyball since pretty much the minute that I came here," Keck said. "It's done so many things for me. It's really helped me grow as a person throughout the past three years. I wouldn't imagine my college life without it."

As Keck's offense begins to heat up, there could be many more double-digit kill matches for her in the future.



File Photo

Senior right side hitter Melissa Keck totaled 43 kills during last weekend's Concordia-St. Paul Tournament. She hit a combined .402.



The Center for Student Involvement (CSI) thanks the Truman State University Faculty/Staff, Cardinal Key, campus organizations, and City of Kirksville for their support of the 2008 Activities Fair and Dawg Fest. We could not have done it without your help!

A few reminders...

- Where in the World is Harry S. Truman? Mark your calendars for 2008 Homecoming events taking place September 29 – October 5. Visit homecoming.truman.edu for more details!
- 2008 Homecoming Parade registration is taking place NOW via homecoming.truman.edu, or you can register at the Center for Student Involvement office. Payment due upon registration online or in the CSI.
- Please remember that fall 2008 Banner rosters must be submitted via TruView by October 31, 2008. More information will be provided to you very soon regarding this new process.
- The SERVE Center is rounding up bowling teams for the upcoming Bowl 4 Gold tournament, October 18. Visit SERVE.truman.edu for more information.
- The Women's Resource Center will be hosting various events during Sexual Assault Awareness Week (SAAW) September 22 – 26. Visit wrc.truman.edu for more details!
- FAC member applications are available now and due by October 1. Applications for spring 2009 funding are available now and due October 8. Applications are available in the FAC office and at fac.truman.edu.