



Photo Submitted

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

# Reuck nets two vs. Washburn

BY KRISTA CRIDER  
Sports Reporter

Junior Katie Reuck scored two goals for the women's soccer team last Thursday to give the Bulldogs a 2-1 edge against Washburn University.

The midfielder netted both goals during the first half of play — in the 13th and 30th minute of the game — and it was enough to hold off Washburn. Her second goal came with the help of junior forward Isabel Gaeta on the assist. Reuck said she capitalized on Washburn's defensive mistakes in order to score the goals.

"I was trying to find the open areas on the field, and Washburn likes to leave one portion of the field wide open a lot," Reuck said. "It was just the system that they were playing, and so I was looking to get in behind and looking for different runs off of teammates. I think that's what was mostly working."

Reuck leads the undefeated Bulldogs in goals this season. She has scored four of the team's 16 total goals. Head coach Mike Cannon said Reuck has proven herself to be an invaluable player.

"She's a good attacking midfielder," Cannon said. "She just has a great knack for being in the right place at the right time and making really good runs out of the midfield, especially away from the ball."

Having watched her at practice and games, he said one of Reuck's greatest qualities is her innate athletic ability.

"[Reuck] is super-fit, and she will run all day up and down the field and will do that for an entire game," Cannon said.

Last fall was Reuck's first season for

the Bulldogs, after she transferred from Rockhurst University following her freshman season. She has shown how she can benefit the team since arriving on campus. In 2007, she tied for the team-lead in goals scored with junior Jessica Weigert with seven goals. This season she is leading in points, goals and game-winning goals.

Reuck said the experience she gained last year has helped her confidence on the field.

"I think I have become more of a leader this year than I was last year," she said. "I feel a little bit more confident as a player and as a teammate."

Cannon said Reuck currently is working on her communication on the field.

"She is a little more on the quiet side, both on and off the field, but she is getting better [with communication] this year," Cannon said. "I think that is part of the reason she has gotten more goals this year already because she has done a better job of calling for the ball and being more demanding on the field."

Reuck said she thinks that for the team to remain successful, players also have to communicate as a whole.

"We just need to remember that we are a team and to work together as a team," she said. "[We also need to] keep the intensity up."

Reuck also attributes her success to the new perspectives of the game Cannon has taught her.

"[Coach has helped me] see things differently on the field and be a smarter player," Reuck said. "[He has helped teach me to] find the right runs at the right times."

## Athlete of the Week

**Katie Reuck**

Sport: Soccer

Year: Junior

Hometown: Jacksonville, Ill.

Reuck scored two goals in the first half in a 2-1 win against Washburn last Thursday. She has four goals on the season and leads the No. 4-ranked Bulldogs in goals, points and game-winning goals. In 2007, her first year at Truman, she tied for the team lead with senior Jessica Weigert with seven goals.

## WINS | Team faces rival UNO Saturday with perfect record at stake

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seven shots, while only managing to get off one of their own. Childress made two saves during the half. The defense proved to be tough enough though, as the Bulldogs held on for the win.

The game marked the first time since Sept. 5 that the Bulldogs have been outshot by their opponents. In that game against Central Oklahoma State University, the Bulldogs were outshot 12-8. Against Washburn, they were outshot 14-7.

Truman's 7-0 record never before has been accomplished during Cannon's 16-year tenure as coach. The next closest record a Cannon-led team had through its first seven

games were the 2004 and 2003 squads. The '04 squad had six wins and one tie, and the '03 team had six wins and one loss. Each of those teams went on to win the MIAA and participated in the NCAA tournament.

The Bulldogs have scored first in every game this season, and then played lock-down defense, which has allowed no more than one goal in a game.

The offense has been steady, not being shut out in any game this season and has scored more than one goal in four of its first seven games, for a total of 16 goals this season. The 2007 team only managed 10 goals at this point in the season. The 2004 team had 18 in the same span.

Reuck said she thinks that the team's success starts at practice.

"It's a huge team effort," Reuck said. "The freshmen have come in and pushed everybody to work harder at practice. The intensity at practice has been really high. There's been great leadership on and off the field. I think most of all, everybody wants it real bad this year. We know we've got to work hard."

The Bulldogs look to keep on winning as they head to Joplin, Mo., today to take on Missouri Southern State University. Saturday they head west to take on conference rival No. 13, University of Nebraska-Omaha.

## SWEEP | Women come back to win match against Washburn

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11 win in the decisive fifth set. Cherven said working together was a major factor in the victory.

"We talked a lot with each other and the seniors had meetings and tried to figure out what was going on," Cherven said. "We definitely played as a team in a great win."

Junior outside hitter Jenna Novelli finished with her first career Bulldog double-double. She had 10 kills and 15 digs. Her performance, alongside Boehler's team-high 31 digs and junior setter Krysta Tholen's career-high 15 digs helped limit Washburn to a season-low .123 hitting percentage.

The win against Washburn also was significant because it kept the Bulldogs from starting the conference season 0-2 for the first time since the MIAA reconfigured its scheduling in 1996.

"In my mind I didn't even let starting out 0-2 be an option," Medina said. "I just said, 'We are going to win this game, and we are going to be back on top.' That didn't even cross my mind."

The Bulldogs followed up their win Friday with a sweep

of MIAA-foe Fort Hayes State University on Saturday. Medina and Cherven led the team with 10 kills apiece. Cherven hit a match-high 471.

Twelve Bulldogs saw action during the match and nine recorded kills. Boehler led the team with 15 digs.

The Bulldogs hit the road this weekend against Missouri Southern State University on Friday and against No. 17 Pittsburgh State University on Saturday.

**"In my mind, I didn't even let starting out 0-2 [in the MIAA] be an option. I just said 'We are going to win this game.'"**

**Eli Medina**  
Senior Outside Hitter

## COLUMN | Junior goalkeeper Denise Childress' .43 goals against average ranks second in MIAA and 14 in Div. II after seven games.

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team plays against Truman on Saturday. "It's no tricks, it's nothing fancy, it's just really good soccer. They always play really well defending. They're very good [one-on-one] defenders."

This year might be Cannon's best defense yet. The defense has been instrumental to the perfect start because in six of its seven wins, Truman has scored just one or two goals.

After seven games, the team has a GAA of 0.43 goals per game, which ranks second in the conference. This bodes well for the Bulldogs considering the last three Div. II national champions have a combined GAA of 0.55.

Truman's entire team plays with a defense-first mindset, and the three

defenders in Cannon's backfield have done an exceptional job of limiting shots on goal and keeping the pressure off junior first-year starting goalie Denise Childress.

Senior right back Kim Wolff is the most experienced of the backline. She has been a starter since arriving at Truman in 2005. A three-time all-MIAA performer, Cannon said Wolff is probably the fastest of his defending trio and has the speed and skills to provide some offensive support, something he said all three defenders provide.

"I think offensively [our defenders] help us a lot because when they stop the attacks, most of the time they're not just kicking the ball," Cannon said. "They're looking to play it into our midfielders and our

forwards. There are a lot of times that gets our attack going."

Wolff is joined in the backfield by junior left back Theresa Bauler and junior center back Kelsey Richters. Bauler shifted from her midfield position to the backfield to replace former all-region defender Emily Newsham, who graduated after last season.

"[Bauler's] really aggressive," Cannon said. "Out of the three of them, she's probably the most aggressive. ... That's something where I think when she first got here she was too aggressive. Now she's kind of smart about when to challenge and when to sit off and see what develops."

As for Richters, Cannon describes her as a true defender who reads angles well and has good instincts.

But Truman's defense is not limited to its backfield. Childress has made big saves when needed this year, including a diving stop in the second half of last Thursday's 2-1 win against Washburn University.

And even in the midfield and forward positions, Klosterman said he can tell Cannon places special emphasis on being fundamentally sound defensively.

"Their whole team defends really well," he said. "... Their center of the field is always really solid in terms of their ability to win balls and head balls. They're just really solid when in comes to clearing balls and winning balls. The other thing I think they do is, they stay together, they stay compact, they stay organized."

The next two and a half weeks

will be especially important for the defense. During this stretch, Truman will play UNO, the University of Central Missouri and twice against Southwest Baptist University — the three teams that rank in the top three of the MIAA in shots per game.

But as long as the Bulldogs continue to follow Cannon's equation, they should come out of this stretch just fine.

"Some coaches will probably say, 'We're going to come at you and attack you and we're going to give you opportunities on the other end, but we're going to score more,'" Cannon said. "That's just never been my mindset. I'm like, 'We're going to score some goals, but why wouldn't you try to limit the other team from scoring?'"

## CLUBS | Players often have to pay for tournament entry fees, find playing space, carpool to games and stay with friends on road games

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dinner fundraiser. She said an entry fee for a tournament can range between \$350 and \$450, and it costs \$75 to pay for an official to referee a single game.

"The costs definitely add up a lot," Schweig said. "And then you have to buy balls and upkeep on jerseys and all that stuff."

Most club teams, like Bullets rugby, do not have enough funding to cover all of their expenses like travel and lodging, so often the students have to pay their own way. The FAC contributes some funding to club sports that typically goes to cover entry fees.

Women's ultimate uses its FAC funding to pay for entry fees into tournaments, but that still leaves travel expenses.

Abts said the travel expenses are high because of the price of gasoline, and the team travels a lot because there are so few competitive teams in the Kirksville area.

The issue of funding becomes more of a challenge each year for club volleyball teams as prices to enter tournaments increase.

Junior Kelsey Lira has played women's club volleyball for three years and currently serves as the

club's president. Lira said the funding issue makes it hard to recruit new members for the team because sometimes people just can't afford it.

"We are funded through FAC, and they do help with that a lot, but a lot of times we're kind of strapped for cash and the girls have to pay out of their own pockets," Lira said. "We actually don't have any funding this year for tournaments, so we all have to pay that out of our own pockets."

Like women's club volleyball, men's club soccer competes in a sport in which Truman also has a varsity team.

Junior men's soccer club vice president Collin Koenig said the biggest difficulty for the team is finding a place available to practice and play games. The men's club soccer season takes place during the varsity men's soccer season, so the club team is unable to use the regular soccer field because this could cause too much wear

and tear.

Other than the field issues, Koenig said the varsity squad doesn't have much of an effect on the club team. He said several of the club's members are former varsity soccer players or students who went out for the varsity team but didn't make it and still wanted to play soccer.

Koenig said the team missed the deadline to apply to the FAC for funding this semester, so funding has become a bigger issue this year. He said that when the team travels to away games, the players try to stay with teammates whenever possible to help decrease some of the expenses.

"Roughly 50 percent of our away games are in St. Louis," Koenig said. "We have several members on the team that live in St. Louis, and we just stay with teammates to cut hotel costs."

Like men's club soccer this season, Bullets rugby has had issues with finding a place to practice in the past.

In past years, the Bulldog football team has chosen to have practice on the rugby field because of poor field conditions on its own practice field. The rugby team has no way to reserve the rugby field for its practices, and the football team, varsity soccer teams and marching band potentially could use that field on a first come, first serve basis.

Bulls head coach Bill Sexton said the past arrangements for the field hurt the rugby team's ability to put in quality practices.

"In falls of 2006 and 2007, we basically went for the better part of four or five weeks without getting on the field one time during the week, which obviously you can imagine makes it very difficult when you are working on a little 30 by 40 yard patch at the end of the tennis courts," Sexton said.

Sexton said he hopes the new synthetic turf at Stokes Stadium will al-

leviate some of the problem because the football team now will be able to practice on the game field full time.

Sexton said funding transportation becomes more of a challenge for the team as gas prices rise. The team cannot afford to rent buses to get to games, so the players travel by carpooling. Sexton said the team has scheduled multiple matches in some weekends or double headers in order to cut down on costs.

Sexton said the expenses play a role in the team's ability to recruit, so the team finds ways to work with committed players.

"We'd rather work with these guys than run them off," Sexton said. "We do as much as possible to try to make it tolerable for them so that they can participate. At the end of the day, we're representing Truman to the best of our ability, but it's on the backs of these kids and it's their cash and they do it because they want to."

**Why they play**  
Club sports athletes typically get involved because they prefer the relaxed atmosphere of club sports.

Abts ran cross country in high school, but she said she decided against making the commitment to run cross country for Truman and instead chose to play ultimate.

"I didn't really want to run for Truman," Abts said. "I wanted to try something new."

Club sports provide participants with a more flexible schedule. Schweig said most club sport players

would see the decreased level of time commitment as an advantage over varsity sports, but as head coach she puts a lot more time into Bullets rugby than most club sport athletes.

"It can be stressful at times, but it's really rewarding to see skills that you've taught to players implemented in games," Schweig said.

Lira said she joined the club volleyball team after being recruited by friend and teammate from high school who played on the team. Lira played volleyball in high school but said she doesn't have the time to commit to varsity athletics in college. Club sports allow her to compete without having to put all her time into it.

Sexton, a professor at Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, revived the men's rugby team in the spring of 1989 and has volunteered ever since. He said he became involved with the team as his playing career was winding down.

Senior men's volleyball club president Matt Desrosiers said he wanted to participate in an organized physical activity on campus and was attracted to club sports through the team's Web site.

"I'm in three different organizations and volleyball is my fun, more relaxed organization," Desrosiers said. "A club environment is a lot of fun. It's relaxed. People are usually involved in a lot of other things too. They come to club just to have fun, enjoy the sport, meet new people and go compete at other schools."