

SOCCER | Childress saves ten shots total in back-to-back shutouts to open season

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Truman's strong defense also was on display as the backline limited Quincy to three shots on goal.

Cannon said he had mixed feelings about how his team played.

"First half, we were a bit uneven," Cannon said. "We didn't play poorly, but we really didn't find our rhythm. There weren't a lot of great [scoring] chances on either end. ... Second half we actually came out and played a lot better. We actually started connecting on our passes. ... In the second half, once we started kind of knocking the ball around. It wasn't that we were dominant in the game, but I had a lot better feeling about how we were doing in the second half."

On Sunday against Midwestern State, the teams' offenses were pretty well matched. Though the Mustangs had the slight edge in shot attempts in the first half (6-4), they were unable to score, with Childress saving four shot attempts.

The Bulldogs put the pressure

on MSU when junior Katie Reuck scored a goal early in the second half. The Bulldog defense limited MSU to only four shots in the second half, three of which were saved by Childress, bringing her saves total to seven for the game and 10 for the weekend.

As for his 200th and 201st career wins at Truman, Cannon attributed all of his success to his players.

"[The records] are nice things, but the team's more important," Cannon said. "In those 200 wins, I haven't scored any of the goals, haven't made any assists. ... The kids were pretty excited about it, and that's always a nice thing, a little recognition. But I was just as excited about No. 201 on Sunday as I was about No. 200 and 199 and on back. They're all important."

The Bulldogs and Cannon will look for career win No. 203 Friday against No. 9 University of Central Oklahoma.

Truman plays again Sunday against Southwestern Oklahoma State University.



Photo Submitted
Junior goalkeeper Denise Childress goes up for a save against #25 Quincy on Friday. Childress had three saves in the game to help coach Mike Cannon get his 200th career coaching victory at Truman.

WINS | Bulldogs only team at tournament to go undefeated

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GVSU behind another strong defensive effort. The Bulldogs limited the Lakers to a .073 hitting percentage and held five players to negative hitting percentages.

Senior outside hitter Eli Medina paced the offensive attack with the first Bulldog double-double of the season. She recorded 10 kills and 16 digs to give the Bulldogs their first win against a ranked team this season. Truman could face as many as 16 ranked opponents before the season is over.

The sweep was made more impressive because GVSU proceeded to go 3-0 the rest of the weekend.

The Bulldogs carried over the momentum Saturday in a 3-2 victory against the University of North Alabama.

Once again, the victory was fueled by the defense. Truman held UNA to a .108 hitting percentage and forced 32 errors. Senior right side hitter Melissa Keck led the offensive charge for the Bulldogs with 11 kills and a .526 hitting percentage.

The match with UNA was the most intriguing matchup of the weekend. The memory of 2006 still lingers in the heads of the Bulldog seniors because North Alabama upset them in the second round of the 2006 NCAA Tournament, ending the Bulldogs 36-match win streak.

The Bulldogs have been 108-14 during the seniors' time at Truman but have no national championships. Medina said revenge was definitely in the back of her mind as she took the court.

"I think we are like a lot of teams because obviously only one team



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Sophomore Allison Barker digs a ball during practice last week. Barker was part of an overall offensive attack that recorded 198 kills and a .249 attack percentage in the Middle of Everywhere Classic.

ends up on top at the end of the season, so everyone is kind of working on revenge," Medina said. "It's a good feeling having all of the seniors out there because I know we are all on the same page. North Alabama wasn't the strongest team we played in the tournament, but that game is based on emotion. It was a lot of fun, and it's always a good feeling to beat them. We always try and get revenge on North Alabama and Washburn."

Truman carried over the mo-

mentum from the UNA win and finished off the weekend with a 3-0 sweep of Missouri University Science and Technology. Cherven led the attack with eight kills.

Skoch said he was not completely pleased with the final victory of the tournament.

"We tried some different things and different personnel," Skoch said. "We talked about it and that it was different people's time to shine, and again they didn't approach the game right. We approached it as if we had

already won it, which is unacceptable and disrespectful, to be honest."

Truman was the only school to go 4-0 in the 10-team classic. Two other MIAA schools participated in the classic, Pittsburgh State University (3-1) and Missouri Western State University (2-2).

The Bulldogs continue tournament play tomorrow and Saturday with four matches in the Nebraska Kearney Tournament, including a match against No. 14 Nebraska Kearney University.

HITTER | Medina receives offensive help from Hanselmann

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end, including 44 in Friday's victory against the University of Missouri-Saint Louis. Last season Medina had more than 1,400 total attacks, which was nearly 400 more than the next closest Bulldog.

She finished second on the team in digs with 559, only seven behind senior libero Whitney Boehler.

"It will definitely take pressure off not just Eli, but Allie [Cherven] and Lisa [Weber]," Skoch said. "They just had to do too much this weekend."

Cherven and Weber combined for 57 kills during the four matches, and both hit above .250.

Finding another option will be even more important because junior Susie Leshar, an outside hitter in 2007, did not return to the team this season.

Besides the strong play of Hanselmann, junior Jenna Novelli rotated in and out of the lineup at outside hitter. Novelli, a junior college transfer from Los Angeles, played a big part in Truman's 3-2 victory against UMSL.

Novelli played in all five sets, recorded 10 kills and hit a match-high .556. The junior did not commit an error in her Bulldog debut. She played in all four Bulldog matches this weekend and recorded 20 kills.

"She did offensively what we brought her in to do," Skoch said. "... But teams saw she was a little unsure of herself on the passing, and they just went to her. So there were a few times we had to take her out. But she's working on it."

Cherven said Novelli brings a lot of toughness and energy to the team.

"She definitely brings a lot of power," Cherven said. "She can put the ball away a lot, which is really nice to have this year. I don't necessarily think pressure, but it is nice to have another outsider that we can rely on like Eli [Medina]. That makes it nice."

Medina said it's good to have another impact player on the outside but that she doesn't think it takes any responsibility off her.

"I don't feel any pressure," Medina said. "We brought Jenna [Novelli] in to help offensively on the outside. She played great. ... She did good while she was in."

Another player getting some playing time last weekend at outside hitter was sophomore Allison Barker. Barker saw action in three matches and recorded six kills. Barker is looking to build off the end of last season when she saw extended playing time, including seeing action in all three NCAA Tournament matches. She recorded nine kills in Truman's first-round victory in the NCAA Tournament.

GOLF | Women defeat two opponents to win season opening Round-Up tournament, Limsiaco, Williams and Lawson all finish in top 10 of the 25-player field

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ahead of myself," Limsiaco said. "I mean, I think winning individually is definitely a bonus. Everybody wants to win for themselves, but in the end you're there as a team and you're there to play for your team. I am always a lot more satisfied if the team does better than I do individually."

Limsiaco was the only golfer in the 25-player field at the Round-Up to post back-to-back rounds in the 70s.

But Limsiaco alone didn't help the Bulldogs claim first. Three other members of the squad joined Limsiaco in the top 10.

Senior Julie Williams finished in a tie for sixth after shooting an 85, 81. It was the 16th time in her

Bulldog career that she has placed in the top 10.

Three shots back of Williams in ninth place was sophomore Jen Lawson. She followed an opening round 87 with an 82 to move into the top 10.

"I feel like I played well," Lawson said. "As any golfer would say, I feel like I could have shot better, but it was definitely a better start than last year."

After day one, Lawson was on the outside of the top 10 looking in. After getting comfortable with the course though, she was able to shave five shots off her score, the biggest improvement for any of the Bulldogs.

"I was hitting the ball better," Lawson said. "The first day I hit

only four greens, and when you hit only four greens, you can't always get up and down to save par. I was able to hit almost half my greens [Sunday], and I made more putts."

One spot behind Lawson was freshman Jessica Schepker. Playing in her first collegiate tournament, Schepker shot a 27-over-par, 171 to finish in 10th place.

"It's your first collegiate tournament, so nerves are going to come into play — lots of nerves, lots of pressure to help the team out," Limsiaco said. "So I'm surprised she played really well. I'm really proud of her."

Junior Erin Semple fired off rounds of 88, 87 to finish tied for 13th. Freshmen Liz Lestmann and

Jacqui Ball both made their Bulldog debuts at the tournament and finished 16th and 25th, respectively.

Although the team beat just two other schools to claim the top spot, Lesseig said it would have been successful had the team not taken first.

"I'm just looking at the scores," Lesseig said. "Yeah, we won, but had we not won and we shot that, I would still have been happy."

Next up for the Bulldogs is a trip to Branson, Mo., for the Drury Panther Shoot Out this weekend.

Winning this tournament will be more challenging because Limsiaco and Schepker won't be making the trip.



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