

Men's soccer starts season 1-1

Soccer bounces back Sunday after loss to Drury on Friday

BY BRENDAN O'BRIEN
Staff Reporter

Led by an experienced defense, the men's soccer team is back on track and evened its record to 1-1 with a 2-0 shutout against the University of Missouri-St. Louis on Sunday.

After opening with a 4-2 loss on Friday to Drury University in a game that featured 10 yellow cards and 31 total fouls, Sunday's game against UMSL could not come soon enough for Truman.

Just four minutes in junior midfielder Bobby Larkin found the back of the net on a header. Larkin felt the effects of the header afterward saying he actually "blacked out for a minute" in the excitement and adrenaline rush, but he remained in the game, and the team's defense refused to give up a score.

Late in the game, freshman forward Andy Chapman scored his first career goal to put the Bulldogs up 2-0. The goal in the 68th minute served as the last score for either team, and the Bulldogs celebrated their first win.

The one major change between the Drury and UMSL games was the substitution of redshirt freshman Tyler Knierim in place of junior Kyle Talbot in goal. The new goalkeeper was well-protected by the Truman backline, as the

Tritons did not record a shot on goal. The last time the Bulldogs recorded such a feat was against Maryville University on Oct. 10, 2008.

"We know that one game isn't going to make or break our season," senior defender Ben Green said. "We really needed to come out strong and I think collectively, as a team, we did that."

Green said the team needed a victory on Sunday.

"[The win] helped us bounce back and put the tough loss to Drury behind us," Green said. "I think to have a successful season this year, it's important for the team to have a short memory."

Senior defender Matt Taylor said the victory should help the team gain confidence for several upcoming road games.

"It was a good win, but I think especially it'll be a good catapult for us with the games coming up," Taylor said.

In Friday's opener against Drury the Bulldogs failed to get any defensive consistency. Drury put on early pressure with two first half goals and added two more in the second half. Junior goalie Kyle Talbot allowed four goals on eight shots on goal.

After Drury opened up an early 2-0 lead, the Bulldogs clawed back. Senior midfielder Drew

Pauk scored in the 35th minute to make it 2-1, but Drury bounced back with a goal early in the second half.

Junior defender Craig Beil added a goal in the 75th minute to make it a one-goal game again, but Drury iced it with a goal just four minutes later.

The Bulldogs had early chances to score but came up empty. Truman had three shots in the first 10 minutes. Both teams finished with 15 total shots for the game.

The four goals allowed was the most since Aug. 29, 2007, when they allowed five in a loss to Rockhurst University.

Truman committed 19 of the 31 fouls but Drury received nine of the 10 yellow cards.

The Bulldogs hit the road for seven games in September. Truman plays Saturday and Sunday in the Quincy (Ill.) Bowl. The Bulldogs take on Christian Brothers (Tenn.) University at 5 p.m. Saturday and play Quincy University Sunday at 7:30 p.m. Truman returns home Oct. 2 against Northeastern Oklahoma State University.

"We know we won't be back at home until Oct. 2, but I think we have it ingrained in our minds that we'll go anywhere, play anyone, and, hopefully, we'll beat them," Pauk said.



Brian O'Shaughnessy / Index
Senior midfielder Drew Pauk heads the ball during Friday's 4-2 loss to Drury University. The Bulldogs bounced back with a victory Sunday.

Cross country has new faces heading into year

BY JACK NICHOLL
Sports Editor

The women's cross country team lost a two-time national qualifier after last season, but head coach John Cochrane said he thinks the team will be even better in 2009 without Danna Kelly.

"It's been fun in practice because we've run pretty well in practice — a long, long ways down on the team we've run pretty well," Cochrane said Monday. "I'm pretty certain team-wise we'll be better than we were last year, even without Danna. We'll be better because we'll be a whole lot further up with the five people we score."

Sophomore Michelle Gronemeyer, who finished second on the team in six races last season, is the top returner from 2008. Also in the mix will be sophomores Dani Dell'Orco and Anne Ratermann and juniors Amanda Brown and Kylie Raitchel. Fiona Williams is the lone senior on the team.

Cochrane said Gronemeyer and Dell'Orco will probably form the lead pack. Dell'Orco is coming off a track season during which she placed in the top 10 in the 5,000- and 1,000-meter runs in the MIAA, and Cochrane said she continues to look strong at practice.

"Kelly wasn't a superstar

in high school — she just got better [in college]," Cochrane said. "Dani has gotten a lot better from last year in cross country and did really well in track, and right now she's really tough."

The Bulldogs open the season Saturday in Rolla at the Miner Invitational, an event they have won the last two years. After a meet Sept. 25, they race every other week for the rest of the season. The 'Dogs earned a No. 4 ranking in the MIAA pre-season poll, the same place they finished last season.

The team is deep after the top two — Cochrane named 10 women who could compete for the top five scoring spots on the team. Williams, Brown, Raitchel and Ratermann have each scored for the team in the past.

With the loss of Kelly, who would pull ahead from other Bulldogs, the team will rely more on depth and pack running this year.

"We're really excited to see how this race turns out this weekend," Ratermann said. "Because I think that we have a lot of really good talent and I think our team has a lot of depth this year — more depth than it did last year and our times are already faster from previous workouts last year."

The men's cross country team will be built more on experience, with six juniors and only one freshman.

The 'Dogs return five of seven finishers from the regional meet last season, including senior Zach Chapman, juniors Bob Gorman and Adam Kell and sophomores Joey Walls and Mike Dial.

"It's a big difference doing your first cross country race freshman year versus third year coming back, you know what to expect," junior Josh Mantooth, who is redshirting this season, said. "So you've had some time to not necessarily experiment, but you know what works for you and what doesn't work by now."

Only Mantooth will not return from the top runners in 2008. Mantooth said he received an injection about six weeks ago for a small tear in his patellar tendon. He is currently on a rehab program and plans to be back in time for the indoor track season.

The 'Dogs have an active roster of just nine runners, which makes for a smaller pack than in previous years, even with the addition of freshman Chad Petrofsky. The team finished fifth in the MIAA last year, but the goal is to be top-three at the Oct. 24 conference meet this year.

"Other than [Chad], it's just our returning guys stepping up, and that's where [improvement is] going to come from," Mantooth said.

"We're a small group this year ... probably the smallest group we've had since I've been here at least, so it's going to be really important that everyone who is healthy right now — they stay healthy."

Head coach Tim Schwegler said Gorman, Kell and Walls will run together as the front pack for the first meet. Schwegler said Chapman, who has been one of the top runners during each of the last three seasons, might not run on Saturday because he is recovering from the flu.

The second pack could include any number of runners on the team, most of whom Schwegler said have improved since the 2008 season.

"The second pack I think is going to be a little bit better," Schwegler said. "The first pack, since we don't have Mantooth, that first pack may not be quite as good, but those [top] three I think are a little bit better [this year]."

After the Miner Invitational this Saturday, the men have two straight meets at the longer 8K distance. The team then has the GLVC/MIAA Challenge on Oct. 10 in Rolla, a meet that consists of four teams from each conference. Schwegler said this meet will give the men a good indication of where they stand heading into the MIAA Championships.

TRUMAN ATHLETICS News and Notes

MIAA: Conference launches web site redesign

The MIAA has unleashed a new web site in time for the start of the 2009 fall sports seasons. The new web site features a live scoreboard, a facebook page and a twitter page. Fans can visit the new site at themiaa.com.

Volleyball: 'Dogs drop four spots in polls

One impressive streak ended but another continued this week for the volleyball team. After going 3-1 last weekend at the Omaha Volleyball Showcase, the volleyball team dropped from No. 9 to No. 13 in the AVCA top-25 coaches' poll. This marks the second time since the middle of the 2004 season that the Bulldogs have been outside the top 10. From 2002-2008, the Bulldogs spent 74 consecutive weeks in the top 10. They fell out of the top 10 near the end of last season but returned one week later on their way to the Final Four.

This week's No. 13 ranking makes 128 straight weeks in the top 25. The Bulldogs have been ranked in every poll since the beginning of the 2000 season.

Football: Bulldogs fumble five times in loss

The football team had a tough time hanging on to the ball during Saturday's season-opening loss to Minnesota State University-Mankato. The Bulldogs had five fumbles and lost two of them. It was the most fumbles in a game for the Bulldogs since Sept. 17, 2005, when they also recorded five fumbles in a loss to the University of Central Missouri.

Although the Bulldogs recovered three of the fumbles, junior running back Donald Harvey's fumble in the third quarter probably cost the 'Dogs points. After a blocked punt, the Bulldogs reached the two-yard line before Harvey's fumble on first and goal was recovered by Mankato. The Bulldogs failed to gain momentum following the play.

Women's soccer: Wiegert injured Friday

Senior forward Jessica Wiegert started in Truman's opening day match Friday against Drury University, but injured her leg 30 minutes into the game. Head coach Mike Cannon said the team isn't sure of the condition of the injury, but he is hopeful that he will receive news this week.

Wiegert sat out during the Bulldogs' 2-1 overtime loss to Quincy University (Ill.) on Sunday — the first collegiate game she has missed in her career.

Wiegert played in all 66 games her first three years, starting in 62 of them. Wiegert has led Truman in points and goals the last three years. She is currently seventh all-time in goals scored and points at Truman.



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See page 5 for this week's rants!

The only rules are:

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- No personal attacks or profanity allowed