



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Passing is one of senior midfielder Kristin Haluszczak's greatest strengths. Haluszczak has appeared in every match but one, totaling 84 entering today's match, during her fourth-year career at Truman.

Haluszczak nears Truman record for matches played

Senior likely to break record if team earns playoff berth

BY JACK NICHOLL
Sports Editor

It was hardly noticeable, even to the reporter looking for it. And it certainly wasn't flashy. But when senior midfielder Kristin Haluszczak took the field in the 27th minute of Tuesday's match against Missouri Western State University, she edged herself one match away from the all-time Truman matches played record. Haluszczak (pronounced ha-loose-check) stayed in for the rest of the half. She never took a shot, never recorded an assist, never beat a defender on the dribble. Her best play might have been when she received the ball, dribbled a couple times and threaded a pass through three defenders. It was a typical match from Haluszczak: see play-

ing time, help the team, don't record quantifiable stats. "If you're playing in every game, probably you're a pretty important player," even if you don't have statistics, head coach Mike Cannon said. That's the way Haluszczak consistently has worked for her 84 appearances in a Truman uniform. She has more matches than senior starters Riley Mahn, Isabel Gaeta and Theresa Bauler, and likely will have more matches than Truman great Sara Murray. Haluszczak likely will tie the record at home today against Emporia State University and break it in a playoff game later this season. The playoff bracket will be announced Monday. "I'm not one of those players who has good games and bad games," Haluszczak said. "I'm always there. I've never considered myself as having a lot of natural talent, so I've always been a hard worker." Haluszczak admitted that she is not the fastest

person on the team, nor the tallest. She has taken a total of 50 shots in her career and has three goals and six assists, but none in 2009. Murray, who currently holds the record, is the all-time Bulldog leader in points and assists. "She's smart, because she's figured out like, 'How can I still be a really effective player for us even though I'm not as fast as [sophomore] Megan Buri, not as tall as [senior] Jess Wiegert?'" Cannon said. "She's a little limited in that way — and she's not the only one — but she's done an excellent job with, 'How can I be effective?'" Cannon said Haluszczak, who can play both right and left wide-midfield, has great passing abilities, such as the example from the Missouri

Western. Another time in the match, with less than two minutes left in the first half, she headed the ball across the field to set up a clear. "[Her] ball skills and her crosses are extremely accurate," senior captain Katie Hinrichs said. "She's always someone we can rely on to get the ball where it needs to be." Haluszczak said she has to play smarter with her positioning than some of her opponents. She said she sometimes can't play tightly on defense or take many chances because of her speed. For nearly her entire career, Haluszczak has come off the bench. She started 17 out of 20 matches as a freshman but has started just once since then. She has sat out just one match in four years.

"She's always someone we can rely on to get the ball where it needs to be."
Katie Hinrichs
senior

Nearing the record
Career games played (TSU)

- 85 Sara Murray, 2001-04
- 85 Ellen Wright, 2001-04
- 85 Rachael Schmidt, 2004-07
- 85 Katie Buning, 2005-08
- 84 Kristin Haluszczak 2006-current**
- 84 Lauren Cepicky, 2002-05

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Cannon said Haluszczak is like many people on the team in that they are good enough to start but don't because of the overall strength of the team. "I think she kind of epitomizes the program a little bit, because she's more of a blue-collar, hard-working type of kid, and that's kind of how our program is," Cannon said. "We don't have a lot of stars. We have kids that try to buy into what we're trying to do and maybe play above what other people expect them to." Cannon said Haluszczak could probably have a few more assists than she does because she is one of the best on the team at taking corners. Also, Haluszczak's position is one that usually doesn't have assists or goals,

because she has to play both offense and defense. As with anybody else, she couldn't have had the consistency she does without staying healthy throughout her career. "I don't think the people in the training room even know me," Haluszczak said. "One of them during pre-season, she thought I was a freshman because I had never been in there before." But unlike most, Haluszczak does not go by her first or last name. Instead, she is known by just "H" to members of the team. It's been that way — consistently — for four years. "It's funny to try to see if people actually know her first name, because she's always been 'H' to everyone," Hinrichs said.

Women's soccer ties Mo. West 1-1

Draw comes after 2-0 loss to UCM that snapped 11-match win streak

BY LOGAN JACKSON
Staff Reporter

The women's soccer team finally saw its impressive win streak snapped last week. The Bulldogs (13-3-3) extended their winning streak to 11 games when they defeated Washburn University 1-0 Oct. 29. They then turned around and lost to University of Central Missouri 2-0 Oct. 31, their first loss since Sept. 12. The Bulldogs also hosted Missouri Western State University on Tuesday and tied 1-1 in double overtime. Head coach Mike Cannon said the 11-match win streak came at a crucial time during the season. "The winning streak was really great for us," Cannon said. "With such a slow start, having a stretch like that, especially against conference opponents, is fun. We have had

some streaks similar to that, but you don't have them that often." After the matches against Washburn and Central, the Bulldogs are fifth in the South Central Region. They also are in second place in the MIAA and either need to win the conference or finish in the top six in the region to reach postseason play. Cannon said the Bulldogs will be without sophomore goalie Jayne Grisham, who did not play against Mo. West, for the last match of the season. Grisham injured her shoulder in a collision with a Central Missouri player. However, he said she should be back in time for the postseason. Against Washburn, Truman got off to a slow start. The team only attempted two shots in the first half but connected with one of them. Freshman forward Olivia Hayes scored an unassisted goal in the 33rd minute to give the Bulldogs the lead. It was Hayes' 12th goal of the season. "To get the lead before half-time was very important," Cannon said. "[Washburn] is a good team,

so there weren't going to be too many goals in the game. We had a couple of chances in the second half but couldn't connect, so it was good to have at least one goal before it got too late." The second half was very similar to the first, as the Bulldogs only took five shots. Although the Bulldogs attempted just seven shots, they limited Washburn to only four. Grisham turned in another strong performance. She recorded her ninth shutout of the season and added two saves. Grisham said the "Dogs defense has really kept them in games so far this year. "It's nice to have a solid defense because at the beginning of the season we had some trouble in the midfield," Grisham said. "Now, we're on the same page and working together and it makes things a lot easier." Against Central, the Bulldogs again got off to a slow start but couldn't rebound like they did in the previous match. Central scored in the 20th minute to take

an early lead and added an insurance goal toward the beginning of the second half. "We ran into a good team at their place," Cannon said. "We didn't come out strong and gave up an early goal. We had to chase the game the rest of the time to try and get that goal back. We didn't play poorly, though. We brought our 'B' game but they had their 'A' game." The match was very even throughout. Truman attempted eight shots, but only two were on goal. Central had nine shot attempts, but six of them were on goal. Grisham played most of the match and recorded four saves before she left with the shoulder injury. Without Grisham in the lineup, Truman gave up an early goal to Missouri Western on a ball that bounced over freshman goalie Alison Taylor's outstretched hands. Mo. West only attempted three shots, and only one of those was on goal. Although the first half was played evenly, the Bulldogs found themselves in a 1-0 hole.

"During the first half, our possession wasn't that good," Cannon said. "We gave a goal away and started slow. The second half and overtimes, I thought we really dominated the ball." In the second half, the ball rarely left the Bulldogs' possession. They outshot Western 13-0, with more than half of them on goal. They still didn't find the net until freshman midfielder Kelsey Twellman scored with fewer than 12 minutes left in the game. Senior forward Riley Mahn assisted on the goal. Hayes said the goal was huge because the team hadn't been able to convert all day. "That goal was really helpful," Hayes said. "It gave us a push to score again, but we had a hard time finishing. We did a good job of working hard the whole time though." In the first overtime period, Truman outshot Western by four. Neither team had a shot attempt in the second overtime period. Truman's final regular season match is 1 p.m. today at Emporia State University.

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