

Women defeat UNO, MSSU

BY LOGAN JACKSON
Staff Reporter

After a slow start to the season, the women's soccer team has started to come together.

The Bulldogs (6-2-2) continued to roll last week and picked up two wins in the process. They defeated Missouri Southern State University 4-0 on Thursday and beat rival University of Nebraska-Omaha 1-0 on Saturday.

Truman has won four straight and moved into first place in the MIAA. The team also has posted four straight shutouts for the first time since 2007.

The defense has been a big part in the team's success, led by sophomore goalie Jayne Grisham. Grisham has a 0.80 goals-against average and has been a big success in the net. Head coach Mike Cannon said he isn't surprised with Grisham's success.

"She has picked up where she left off from last year," Cannon said. "You take the [first] UNO game out and the other teams have only scored four goals. She'll contribute a lot of that to the girls working in front of her. She's starting to become more of [a] vocal leader too."

Against Missouri Southern, Truman dominated possession and allowed the Lions just one shot attempt in the first half. The Bulldogs took nine shots in the half and connected on one. Cannon said the team did a good job not to ignore Missouri Southern with the UNO rematch ahead.

"We told the girls, 'They're going to be a good team, don't overlook them,'" Cannon said. "We couldn't afford to look past them.

We played well. We finished when we had to and really controlled possession. That game also allowed us to get our reserves some more minutes."

Sophomore midfielder Megan Buri kicked in her second goal of the season in the first half off an assist from senior forward Isabel Gaeta.

The Bulldog defense continued to pressure Missouri Southern in the second half. It allowed just eight shot attempts, three of which were on goal. Truman took 10 shots in the half and scored on three of them.

Freshman forward Olivia Hayes scored two goals in the half, one unassisted and one assisted by junior midfielder Beth Bystrom and senior midfielder Katie Hinrichs. Senior midfielder Katie Reuck scored the other goal on an assist from junior forward Danielle Hill and senior forward Riley Mahn.

Grisham was a part of another shutout with the help of redshirt freshman Alison Taylor. Grisham had two saves in 68 minutes and Taylor added another save in her 22 minutes of action.

Against UNO, the Bulldogs looked to rebound from a 4-1 loss to the Mavericks on Sept. 12. In that match, possession wasn't the problem for Truman. The 'Dogs made key mistakes early in the match and couldn't find their way back into the game.

This time around, the Bulldogs didn't have the same miscues. They continued to dominate possession and outshot UNO by nine shots.

"We didn't make mistakes," Cannon said. "Our clearing was

much better and so was our composure. We were completely in sync with each other. We kept possession of the ball well. It was fun to watch."

The match was deadlocked 0-0 after the first half, even though the Bulldogs took 11 shots. Their defense was on display again and limited the Mavericks to just three shots. Grisham said the defense really kept the Bulldogs in the game.

"The defense has been the most consistent part of our game," Grisham said. "They're always on top of their game. They never let up. The defense doesn't take breaks, even when they could."

Cannon said the team didn't get down on themselves after they played so well but failed to score a goal. He said the coaching staff told the team to go out and do the same thing. They just needed to add a goal.

"We played with more confidence," Cannon said. "The girls played excellent. We played the perfect kind of game to beat UNO. The first half might have been the best half of soccer we've played this year. It was nice to finally get a score early in the second half."

Hayes put the Bulldogs ahead just one minute into the second half. Bystrom added her second assist of the week on the play. Hayes' goal was her seventh of the season and the sixth in her last five games.

Truman's next match is against Missouri Western State University at 4 p.m. today at the Truman Soccer Park. It will be the team's fifth-straight home game. Hayes said the team has really benefited



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Junior midfielder Beth Bystrom moves the ball down the field during Saturday's 1-0 victory against the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Bystrom assisted Truman's lone goal.

from its schedule, but the players are also starting to complement each other.

"We are definitely meshing a lot better than we were at the begin-

ning [of the season]," Hayes said. "We're really clicking and getting used to how each other plays. Being at home is a big thing, too. We haven't lost at home yet this year."

Football mauled 70-0

Bearcats defeat 'Dogs for eighth straight time

BY BRENT FOSTER
Assistant Sports Editor

Northwest's dominance against Truman football continued Saturday afternoon.

No. 6 Northwest Missouri State University used an explosive 28-point second quarter and rolled past the Bulldogs 70-0 in the most lopsided game in the long and storied rivalry since 1919. The Bearcats have won eight straight games against the Bulldogs and retained the Ol' Hickory Stick for at least one more year.

The loss dropped Truman to 1-4 overall and 0-3 in the MIAA.

"We expected to compete and have a chance to win the football game," head coach Aaron Vlcko said. "We understood that to beat a team of that caliber we were going to have to play our best football and really hope that they were going to have an average day. And, in the end, we didn't come close to playing our best football and didn't give ourselves a chance to win the football game because we made too many mistakes."

Northwest wasted little time getting on the board as Blake Bolles connected with Tyler Shaw for a 14-yard touchdown pass on its

first possession to put the Bearcats up 7-0. After Truman went three-and-out, the Bearcats blocked freshman Eric Phillips' punt in the end zone, and Shaw recovered it for a touchdown.

The Bearcats, who have played in four consecutive Div. II national championship games, added four touchdowns in the second quarter to blow the game open. All eight of Truman's first-half possessions ended in punts.

Shaw capped off his afternoon with a 92-yard kickoff return to open the second half. The majority of Northwest's starters did not take the field in the second half.

Senior safety Demetrius Lavant said the defense had to force Northwest to three-and-outs to be successful. The Bearcats went three-and-out one time in the game.

The only time Truman threatened to score came in the fourth quarter. The Bulldogs moved the ball from their own 20 to the Bearcats 18 before the drive stalled and eventually ended on downs. The 62 yards marked Truman's longest drive of the game. Northwest outgained Truman 497-92 and reached the red zone just once during the game.

The Bulldogs' offensive woes continued. Truman averaged 1.4 yards a play. Truman is last in the MIAA in total offense with a 276-yard per-game average. Ninth place Missouri Southern

State University is averaging 374 yards a game.

Northwest has beaten Truman by a combined 119-0 the last two seasons. The last three games against Northwest, Truman has been outscored 172-6.

The Bulldogs were with-

out junior quarterback Phil Davis, who injured his thumb in last week's loss to Fort Hays State University. Redshirt freshman Taylor Breen made his first career start Saturday and finished 4-for-17 with an interception. Breen was limited in practice during the week because of what coach Vlcko described as "flu-like symptoms." He did not practice Wednesday or Thursday, and was "very limited" in Friday's walk through.

Vlcko said he expects Breen to get the start again next week while Davis' injury continues to be evaluated.

The Bulldogs' run defense was exploited for the third consecutive week. Northwest used a balanced attack to run for 228 yards and four touchdowns. Five different Bearcat backs had at least 20 yards rushing. Last week the Bulldogs surrendered 250 yards on the ground in their 41-31 loss to

Fort Hays State University. The previous week against University of Nebraska-Omaha, the 'Dogs surrendered 256 yards on the ground. Truman ranks last in the MIAA in total defense and has allowed 202 yards per game on the ground.

Truman's offensive problems have continued to cause struggles on third downs. Truman finished 4-of-19 on third-down and has converted just 14-of-50 third downs in the last three games.

"[Northwest is] a championship caliber team and a pro-gram," Vlcko said. "We need to look at and see what the difference is, and we've got to close that gap."

Senior linebacker Eric Sternberg said the team would use a loss like this as a motivating tool for the rest of the season.

"We're not going to give up on our season or anything, we're not going to just lay over," Sternberg said. "We've still got six more games, so I think a lot of guys are going to use this as motivation for the upcoming week and then the rest of the season too."

Truman takes on the University of Central Missouri on Saturday in Warrensburg. Kickoff is set for 1:30 p.m.

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Eric Sternberg
Senior linebacker

TRUMAN ATHLETICS News and Notes

Volleyball: Sharp injures shoulder

Freshman middle blocker Megan Sharpe saw less playing time than usual in the two volleyball matches last weekend. Sharpe was taken out early in the second set against Missouri Southern State University on Thursday and did not return after an athletic trainer worked on her right shoulder.

After Saturday's 3-1 victory against Pittsburg State University, Sharpe confirmed it was a shoulder problem but said that it will not be ongoing.

Sharpe tallied eight kills in 23 attempts against PSU but had her worst match, statistically, of the season against MSSU. She tallied six kills in 15 attempts but had three errors in a span of five points just before she was removed from the lineup.

MIAA: Two 'Dogs honored by conference

Sophomore goalie Jayne Grisham was named MIAA defensive player of the week last week. The Bulldogs picked up two wins during the week, a 4-0 win against Missouri Southern State University and a 1-0 win against the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Grisham has been a part of six shutouts this season, and has four shutouts of her own. She has posted a 0.80 goals-against average this year as the main stay in the net for the Bulldogs.

In the midst of the team's five-game home stand, Grisham has helped the Bulldogs post four straight shutouts, the first time the program has accomplished that feat since 2007.

Sophomore cross country runner Dani Dell'Orco was named MIAA runner of the week. Dell'Orco finished second overall on Saturday at the Brissman/Lundeen Invitational in Davenport, Iowa, with a time of 19:28.4 in the 5.4K race. Dell'Orco has placed first for the Bulldogs and in the top five overall in each of the three races.

Men's soccer: Bulldogs return home Friday

After seven games and nearly 4,000 miles, the 'Dogs are finally back in Kirksville. Truman's last home game was more than a month ago, a 2-0 shutout win against the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Since the road trip began, the team has outscored its opponents 14-3, with 4 shutouts from redshirt freshman goalie Tyler Knierim.

The Bulldogs' depth has proved invaluable. Seven different players have scored goals, and substitutions have kept players fresh, despite often playing two games in a three game span. The 'Dogs took 144 shots compared to just 80 from their opponents. The No. 11 Bulldogs return home to take on Northeastern State (Okla.) University Friday at noon.



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