



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index  
Junior midfielder Bobby Larkin moves the ball downfield. The Bulldogs tied Newman 0-0 and defeated Rockhurst 1-0.

# No. 10 Bulldogs beat Rockhurst

BY BRENDAN O'BRIEN  
Staff Reporter

The men's soccer team fired 31 shots against Newman University (Kan.) Sunday, but uncharacteristically could not find the back of the net as two overtimes could not break the 0-0 tie.

However, the Bulldogs (7-1-1) did defeat archrival Rockhurst University last night 1-0 in Kansas City.

Truman picked up a goal from junior forward Matt Kimball off an assist from junior forward Bobby Larkin in the 67th minute, and freshman goalie Tyler Knierim tacked on eight saves to secure the win.

Before the match, senior defender Matt Taylor said that the match against Rockhurst "is the hardest game all year."

Taylor recalled that he has not beaten Rockhurst since two wins in his freshman year.

The game drew the largest crowd for Truman since they took on Drury University in their season opener. In a hard-fought battle, with last year's 1-0 loss in Kirksville still fresh in the team's mind, the Bulldogs returned the favor.

The victory against Rockhurst capped an unbeaten road trip for the 'Dogs.

"I mean, at the beginning of the season, if you would have told me

we would travel for a month and not get a loss, I would've been ecstatic, and by now, I am," senior defender Jack Randazzo said.

Through regulation against Newman, the Bulldogs were constantly on the attack. Eleven Truman players fired shots during game, which helped spread the field.

"We got wide," senior defender Matt Taylor said. "I think that was the one thing that was really working for us. We were getting the ball to Ben Green's feet and Bobby Larkin's feet, and they were really creating a lot of stuff on the outside, kind of giving the other team some problems."

The 'Dogs applied persistent pressure to keep the Newman defense on its heels. The first and last minute told the story of the game. Two shots, in the first and last minutes came off the foot of senior midfielder Ben Green, who led the team with seven shots. In both instances, Jets' keeper James Esquivel made the save.

"You know, that's the game of soccer for you," said Taylor. "You can control the run of play, control possession, and, you know, outshoot your opponent by 20 shots, but sometimes on the score sheet it's a 0-0 draw."

Taylor was quick to acknowledge the impact of the Newman

defense and goalie.

"Our team had four breakaways, that I thought were going to be game-winners, but the keeper made some good saves and you have to give him credit," Taylor said. "You have to give the Newman team credit because they held in strong."

Despite the 'Dogs control of possession, the Jets had their fair share of opportunities. Redshirt freshman keeper Tyler Knierim recorded three saves, but not without close calls. In the 65th minute of play, a Newman player nearly broke the tie when he hit the post on a shot.

"For the most part, we're always up for the challenge to get a shut-out," Randazzo said of the defense.

Going into the first overtime, Taylor was confident the team would finally find the back of the net. He said the team had been threatening late in regulation.

"We were on their side of the field for the last, I'd say, 20 minutes of the game," Taylor said. They were just kind of bunkered in having to try to survive. We were really just knocking on the door."

The No. 10 Bulldogs will take on Northeastern State University (OK) at noon on Friday at the Truman Soccer Park.

# Men, women top Westminster

Bracha and Boswell miss dual meet for men's tennis

BY BLAKE TOPPMEYER  
Editor in Chief

A reshuffling of the lineup didn't prevent the men's tennis team from picking up its second dual win of the season Tuesday.

Playing without senior No. 1 singles player Peter Bracha and junior No. 5 singles player Colin Boswell, the Bulldogs (2-0) still claimed a 7-2 victory against Div. III Westminster College (Mo.).

Bracha missed the match because of an interview for medical school, and Boswell was absent because of academic obligations, head coach Pete Kendall said before the match.

In the absence of Bracha, senior Steve Hipkiss slid up to the No. 1 position, and senior Kyle Schlotz filled Hipkiss' normal spot at No. 2. Both secured victories.

Hipkiss split his first two sets against Westminster's No. 1 Tony Stephenson and won the match by taking the tiebreaker 10-6. Hipkiss jumped to a 5-1 lead in the tiebreaker and then traded points en route to the win.

"It helped that I played well in doubles, that gave me some confidence going into singles," said Hipkiss, who was one of three Bulldogs to win their singles match via a tiebreaker.

Hipkiss, who normally plays with Bracha in doubles, teamed with sophomore Eric McCullough to take an 8-2 win at No. 2 doubles.

"It went pretty well," Hipkiss said of playing with a new doubles partner. "We both play similar games. We both hit big first serves. So it was pretty easy for both of us to hold with our serve. And that kind of takes the pressure off the rest of the game."

Schlotz and senior John Rothfusz won 8-5 at No. 1 doubles. Those two wins gave Truman a 2-1 lead entering singles play.

The women (2-0) swept Westminster 9-0, which extended their fall dual match winning streak to 23 straight.

Sophomore No. 3 Ellen

Russell, junior No. 4 Kelsey Kuykendall and sophomore No. 5 Dagmar Velez did not lose a game in their singles matches.

No Bulldog lost more than two games in a set in singles play.

"It was a good confidence builder for the rest of the fall season," Russell said.

Freshman No. 1 Maggi Schutte picked up her first dual singles win of the season against Westminster and second win of the season overall. Schutte battled

a sprained ankle injury earlier in the fall, but Kendall said she seems fully recovered. Schutte also continues to recover from a knee injury she sustained in high school. Russell said Schutte's serve is improving as the fall season progresses.

The women went winless in the main draw in both singles and doubles during the weekend at the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Regional tournament. But three of the four Truman players in the tournament bounced back to win some singles matches

"It's always fun to play people who are better because it brings your level of game up too."

Ellen Russell  
Sophomore



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index  
Senior Steve Hipkiss returns the ball during a match last season. Hipkiss stepped into the No. 1 spot Tuesday and helped lead the 'Dogs to a 7-2 victory against Westminster.

in the consolation bracket.

This is the second year for the Bulldogs competing in the South Central Region, and Kendall said the region has proved tough on MIAA schools.

"It's very hard to compete [in the region] on a year in, year out basis," Kendall said. "You'd about have to take an all-star team from our conference to put together a team. If you took all the No. 1s [from MIAA schools], even then, it'd be pretty tough."

MIAA players combined for an 11-20 record in singles and 4-10 record in doubles at the ITA. However,

at least one player from each of the four other MIAA schools at the ITA won at least one match in the singles main draw.

Russell lost 6-1, 6-3 in the main singles draw but won three matches in the consolation bracket, the last win coming via forfeit.

Russell picked up an 8-6 win against the University of the Incarnate Word's Aubrey Hernandez in her second consolation singles match. The match was on serve at 6-6 when Russell held serve to take the lead and then broke Hernandez's to take the match.

"It's always fun to play

people who are better than you because it brings your level of game up too," Russell said of the overall competition at the ITA. "Everyone at that tournament is going to be a good tennis player so it was nice to come back and get a couple wins against good players in the consolation bracket."

Kuykendall and Schutte also had wins in the consolation bracket.

The women will look to extend their fall dual match winning streak at 4 p.m. today at Lincoln University, which will start competing in the MIAA next season.

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