

Fall Sports | Men's soccer surprise of fall sports season

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But the three teams with post-season chances this fall stand out the most.

Women's soccer: The 'Dogs weren't supposed to lead the MIAA in goals-against average after losing first-team All-Region defender Kim Wolfe. They weren't supposed to reel off nine straight wins and average more goals per game than 2008 after losing senior forward Jessica Wiegert to an injury in the first match of the season.

No, those things weren't supposed to happen.

But with head coach Mike Cannon at the helm, anything is possible.

Cannon has only padded his impressive résumé this season. With Wiegert set to return to practice this weekend, the Bulldogs are first in the MIAA and fifth in the South Central Region with an 11-2-2 record.

Men's soccer: I can't decide if I'm more surprised by the Bulldog's 8-9-1 record in 2008 or their improvement this fall.

A winning record was expected this season — but 11-2-2 and a No. 17 national ranking? — that's a huge turnaround.

Thirteen different Bulldogs have scored, and sophomore assist-machine Jonathan Brown is third in the nation in assists per match. The team also ranks in the top 40 in both offense and defense.

But most surprising is that the team needs help to make the postseason. The 'Dogs are one spot out of the playoffs at No. 3 in the region. Midwestern State University (Texas) sits at No. 2 and the Mustangs best chance at a loss is Oct. 25 at regional No. 1 West Texas A&M University — but don't expect much scoring. The two teams tied 0-0 on Sept. 18 and they are first and second nationally in GAA.

Women's cross country: It's not often that a team loses its best runner by far (Kelly) and improves the next season.

The women will likely improve on last fall's fourth-place at the MIAA Championship this weekend. Led by sophomore Dani Dell'Orco, the Bulldogs are ranked No. 3 in the region and No. 16 in the nation — just one spot behind Dallas Baptist University, who is No. 2 in the region.

Soccer | Men defeat Upper Iowa 1-0, face Principia College (Ill.) on Friday at Truman Soccer Park

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leading sixth goal. Late in the half, senior defender Matt Taylor found the back of the net with an assist from senior defensive midfielder Drew Pauk to put Truman up 2-0 at the break.

The nets remained untouched to begin the second half, but that changed when Green came off the bench and, within a minute, scored his first and second goals of the year off assists from sophomore midfielders Jonny Brown and Charlie Backus. Sophomore midfielder Matthew Sanderson received an assist from junior forward Matt Kimball to make it 5-0. The Falcons struck back a moment later with a goal of their own.

Backus ended the storm of goals with an assist from senior midfielder Ben Hoyt. The 'Dogs' 29 shots and six goals were just what Cochran was looking for out of his team.

"We have to solidify our home field for this team to be quality," Cochran

said. "We're very good on the road this year and your home field, or your home pitch, has to be a place where you get points — if not wins, at least ties."

Cochran and his players pointed to wins against University of the Incarnate Word (Texas) and Rockhurst University, but even their losses show something about the team. The 'Dogs' only blemish before Lewis came in their season-opening 4-2 loss to Drury University. That game was just one of two times this season that Drury (14-1) surrendered multiple goals in the same game.

The 1-0 loss to Lewis on a rain-soaked field was the Flyers' ninth win in 10 games and improved Lewis' record to 10-3-1.

Although junior forward Nick Schlichtman said the team has to find ways to win regardless of the circumstances, he said the weather played a role.

"I think the weather had a big factor on our play just because it's slick out there and it just, you know, didn't

help our style of play for sure," Schlichtman said.

The Bulldogs actually outshot Lewis 17-13 and were on the attack throughout the game, but Cochran said the weather shouldn't effect matches.

"Both teams played on it, so it's a non-factor," Cochran said. "I wish I could blame it on the field, but we're an outdoor sport. That's part of the game. Snow, rain, mud — if you can't play in all those conditions then you're not going to the tournament because that could happen in the tournament."

Pauk was more motivated after the hard-fought defeat.

"I mean, we're not using [the wet field] as a crutch or an excuse or anything," Pauk said. "We lost the game, and it was a terrible feeling that we lost, and we just don't want to have that again the rest of the season."

Truman rebounded from the loss with a 1-0 victory against Upper Iowa

University on Sunday. For much of the match, Truman kept the ball in Peacock territory with 12 shots on goal, but the Bulldogs did not find the back of the net. Tensions were high when the team entered overtime, but Backus placed it in front of the goal off a corner kick and Pauk redirected it for the score.

"It was just good knowing that the game was over," Pauk said. "We scored. Golden goal and that was it — game over. So that was definitely a good feeling knowing that we came away with another road victory."

Despite the daunting road ahead Pauk said the team refuses to panic. Pauk, one of the Bulldogs' captains, knows only one course of action for the team.

"Just win," Pauk said.

The 'Dogs will look for another victory when they battle Principia College (Ill.) at 3 p.m. Friday at the Truman Soccer Park.

Women | 'Dogs outshoot 'Cats 16-8

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junior midfielder Beth Bystrom kicked in an unassisted goal.

The Bulldogs controlled the ball for most of the match. They outshot the Bearcats 16-8 and also had 11 shots on goal.

"Our possession was very strong," Hayes said. "The transition by the defense to the forward was really on point. Everyone was clicking really well. That allowed us to keep the ball longer and helped us control the match."

Truman has only five matches left until postseason action, and four of those matches will be on the road. The 'Dogs are only 3-2 on the road this year, so they will definitely be tested.

Each match becomes increasingly important because of the looming postseason. To qualify for the playoffs, the Bulldogs have to either finish in the top six in their region or win the MIAA conference. Cannon said because the region consists of 27 teams, anything can happen.

The Bulldogs' biggest competitor for the MIAA crown will be UNO. The teams split their matches this season with each team defending its home field.

As far as schedules go, Truman has the advantage. In its last five matches, Truman plays the three worst teams in the conference. UNO will have to face three of the top teams in the confer-

ence during their last five games.

However, the MIAA is still very competitive. Cannon said the team can't look too far down the line.

"Looking ahead is a big danger," Cannon said. "Our next match is Southern on the road. They aren't having a great season, but they can still play. We hammer it into our kids that there's only one game you can play at a time."

A turning point in the Bulldogs' season might have come against the team they're fighting for the MIAA title. After Truman lost to UNO 4-1 on Sept. 12, the team hasn't lost another match.

"Obviously, some kids were not happy with the score line," Cannon said. "We didn't play poorly [against UNO]. We made mistakes in that game that we've stopped making now. We've also been scoring goals. As a team, we're just playing better. We're dictating play instead of being passive."

Truman's next match is 4 p.m. tomorrow at MSSU.

Reuck said the team has to be careful not to overlook Missouri Southern.

"We want to maintain a high intensity and motivation so we can get to postseason play," Reuck said. "We want to take each game one by one and remember what to do each game to reach our goal."

Offense | Offense key factor in recent success

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midfielder Jonathan Brown, who has a team-high nine assists, many of which have come from his services on free kicks and corner kicks.

"Really that's the next level. If you can score from set pieces, that definitely helps."

The balanced attack and better production off set pieces have led to an increase in overall scoring. The Bulldogs are averaging more than two goals a game (2.43) for the first time since 2005. That year, Truman reached the NCAA Regional finals.

As of Sunday, Truman ranked 43rd in Div. II in goals per game. That production, coupled with a defense surrendering just 0.71 goals per game, has sparked the Bulldogs to an 11-2-1 record and a No. 17 national ranking as the postseason approaches.

Not only has Truman's offense been more balanced this season, but it also has been more consistent. Although the 'Dogs recorded five goals in a game three times in 2008, they only scored more than one goal in six games all season and suffered eight shutouts. This year, they've already had nine games with more than one goal scored and have been shut out just twice.

Junior midfielder Bobby Larkin leads Truman with six goals.

Larkin split time between forward and midfielder last season. But with freshman Andy Chapman (three goals) taking hold of a starting forward spot this season and redshirt junior forward Nick Schlichtman (three goals) back in the lineup after missing 2008 with an injury, Larkin has played consistently in the outside midfield position this year. Larkin said the spot has been a good fit.

"I'm left with guys one-on-one, and I'm

kind of isolated out there," said Larkin, who was second on the team with three goals last year. "And it seems like some teams try to hide their low-end players on the wings."

Larkin has taken advantage of those mismatches by utilizing his speed and improving on putting away opportunities. He is netting more than 23 percent of his shots.

"The funny thing in our training is everyone knows he's going to cut it, everyone knows that," Cochran said. "And you know what? He cuts it, and he goes right by the guy. You know he's going to do it, but you can't stop it."

"He's definitely one of those guys that if you have to come out and find him and chase him, he's going to make you pay."

With players like Larkin, Brown and junior midfielder Dan Meagher (four goals) providing steady offense, Cochran hasn't tinkered much with the lineup.

When the offense struggled last season, Cochran moved senior defender Matt Taylor up to forward, where Taylor played early in his Bulldog career. But the increased scoring this season has allowed Cochran to keep Taylor in the backline, which Cochran said serves the team best.

First-year assistant coach Joe Nick has played a role in the offensive improvement. Nick played forward for Truman during the 1990s, and Brown said Nick has helped the offense mentally and with technique.

"Last year we made it a little bit too complicated for ourselves," Brown said. "Joe Nick came at the end of last year in the spring, and he just simplified it. He just says to put it on goal. If you put it on goal, it has a chance to go in."

Classifieds

Rates On-Campus: \$3 per ad
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For Rent

For Rent: Property Concepts LLC now renting for 2010-2011 school year. Studios, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom units available. Apartments starting at \$315 with heat, water, trash, electric, cable TV, wireless internet included. Two blocks from campus. On-site laundry. 24 hour maintenance. Pet friendly units available. 660-627-1400. www.kirksvillapartments.com.

For Rent: Missouri Riverside is now renting for the 2010-2011 school year. Newly remodeled units available in all sizes. We are locally owned and operated for all your needs. Units available with some utilities included. For more information call 660-665-3779.

For Rent: 1st time home buyers. Are you using the \$8,000 credit? We are moving our business to another location here in town and are ready to sell 1006 E. Jefferson, Kirksville. Zoned residential or commercial. This would be a great home w/ 3 BR, 1 bath, laundry room, living room as well as family room that could be another BR. Within walking distance to TSU or ATSU. Or, great office space w/ cement parking in back. Asking \$84,800. Call 660-216-3009.

For Rent: Subleser needed. Studio apartment with some utilities included. Lease starting in January \$275 a month. Call 660-216-1794.

For Rent

For Rent: Now taking applications for "White Apartments" and other locations. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 bedrooms. Call 627-2060 or submit online application at TheWhiteApartments.com.

For Rent: Here is your Peace/piece of country. 4+BR, 3 full baths home for sale less than 4 miles from Kirksville. Large family room w/ pool table, bath w/ jacuzzi jet tub in LL. Large island in open kitchen w/ French door in dining room. Large shed w/ electric. Wanting to move to town now to combine home and business. \$184,800. Just off of Hwy 6 East. Please call 660-216-1718.

For Rent: Gordon & Motter Apartments 2 and 3-bedroom, all appliances including washer and dryer. May & August leases. 660-341-4163.

For Rent: Subleser needed. Two bedroom apartment starting in January for \$350 a month. Located behind Centennial Hall, one block from campus. Call 660-216-1794.

For Rent: Allycat Investment Properties, small 2-bedroom home for rent just off campus. \$350 a month with water and trash included. 660-627-4990.

For Rent: Poston Rentals are now leasing for 2010-2011. 3, 4 & 5-bedroom homes all close to TSU, available May 2010. Spacious, washer/dryer provided, clean, affordable. Call to schedule showing. Don't lease until you give us a call. Bobby 660-216-1445 cell, 660-665-2347 home.

For Rent

For Rent: Behrman Rentals will have a selection of 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6-bedroom homes for the 2010-2011 leasing season. These homes are close to TSU and have ample off street parking. All rentals come with appliances included, most have hardwood floors and central air. These homes are well maintained and locally owned. Visit www.housesinkirksville.com for address and interior photos and rent amounts or call Jeff Behrman owner/agent at 660-626-7598 for your showing.

For Rent: Wagner Enterprises rental properties are available for 2010/2011 lease. New units from one to four bedrooms are all within two blocks of campus! Complete with washer/dryer in each, all electric, central heat and air, private parking, and maintenance staff. For more information call: 660-627-5437.

For Rent: Northeast Missouri Properties is now renting for the 2010-2011 school year. Apartments and houses between sizes of 1,2,3,4,5 and 6-bedrooms available. Some utilities included. Very pet friendly. Locally owned and managed. Affordable quality rentals. Call today 660-216-1794.

For Rent: Spring semester 2010. Nice apartment priced right for one to three people. Call 627-2060 for more information.

For Rent

For Rent: Available June 2010. 4-bedroom house. 1.5 blocks from Truman campus. Plus office and big basement storage room. Pets welcome. Big fenced backyard. Single detached garage. Washer & dryer furnished. Central air. \$800 plus deposit. Call 660-988-1701.

Miscellaneous

Misc: Student Bible Study. Ryle Hall, room 362. Mondays at 8pm. For more info call Ryan 573-424-2887. ryanmskinner@gmail.com. "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32.

Misc: JUNGLE OF JOYS PET SHOP, Kirksville, MO 660-665-7701: Amphibians, Birds, Exotics, Ferrets, Fish, Reptiles, Small Furry Animals, Special Orders, Supplies; Feeder Crickets, Fish, Mice, Worms.

Misc: Take a shoebox, fill it with toys, school supplies and clothes for a needy child. This is an **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** project. Learn how to get started, visit samaritanspurse.org or call Joann @ 665-2261 or 626-5270 or call Rehoboth Baptist Church 665-7577.

For Sale

For Sale: Noble's Berry Farm: "Pumpkins, pumpkins, pumpkins!" 3 miles east of Hy-Vee on Highway 11, Strawberry Way, follow the big signs!

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