

Volleyball can't hold on vs UCM

BY JOE BELL
Staff Reporter

The volleyball team played its second match against a top-10 opponent in less than a week last night against No. 4 University of Central Missouri. Unfortunately for Truman (15-8, 3-4 MIAA), it ended in the Bulldogs' second defeat by a top-10 team in a week.

The Bulldogs jumped to an early lead. They took the first two sets (25-20, 25-21). The Jennies rallied and won the next two (25-18, 28-26) and brought the Bulldogs into a do-or-die fifth set. The Bulldogs were unable to hold on and UCM took the set 15-12.

Errors were a problem for both teams all night. The Bulldogs also were plagued with an inability to finish off their chances, which eventually spelled their doom. The Bulldogs had 27 errors for the match, and the Jennies had 24.

The most telling stat might be the Bulldogs hitting percentage. The 'Dogs hit .289 during the first set, but their average dipped to .164 by the time the match was finished. This also marked only the second time this season the Bulldogs took the first two sets of the match and lost.

"Hopefully, [this match] is a learning lesson, that we need to finish every game," assistant coach Megan Wargo said. "That's nothing new that they didn't know, but hopefully it's just a learning lesson."

The Bulldogs did continue their streak of strong first sets. They got off to a strong start, possessing a

sizable lead over the Jennies for the majority of the first set. Strong setting and attacking helped the Bulldogs increase the deficit as the set continued.

A vicious back-and-forth ensued as both teams battled for dominance early in the second set. The set came down to the wire, but some dramatic final points gave Truman its second set win. Truman continued its strong hitting, compiling a .265 average to that point in the match, and the Jennies continued to struggle, hitting only .160.

Truman built off of its momentum going into the third set, but that momentum soon stalled and the Jennies took the lead. The Bulldogs ran into their first rough spot of the match. The Bulldogs hitting percentage dropped to .200 for the match, even though they were still outshooting the Jennies.

Up 2-1, the Bulldogs still had the upper hand as they headed into the fourth set. The Bulldogs took a 24-20 lead coming into the final points of the match. The Jennies reeled off four straight points to tie the set, however. The lead changed hands several times, and the Jennies eventually won the set.

The Lady Blues Fall Classic was a weekend of mixed results for the Bulldogs.

In their last regional non-conference matches of the year, the Bulldogs were 3-1. The only match the team lost was against No. 6 West Texas A&M University, in which they lost 3-1. The Bulldogs played two very close

matches on the first day of the classic with both matches going up to five sets.

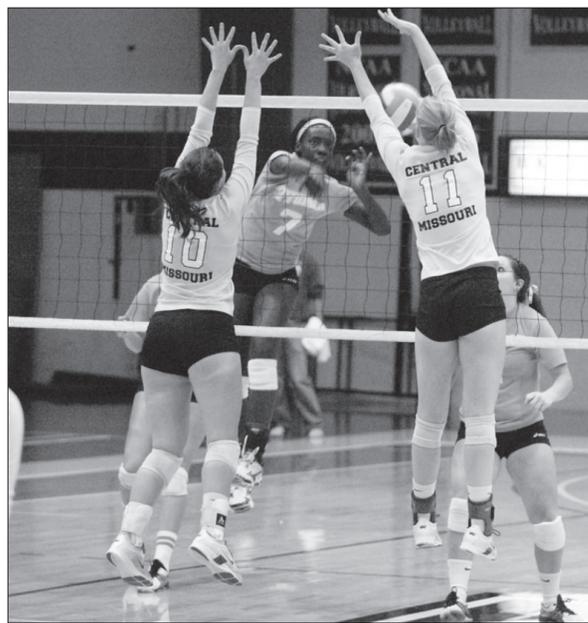
"We went 3-1 this weekend, and I think that shows, actually, that's better than how we played," senior rightside hitter Lauren Graybeal said. "I don't think we played very well at all this weekend. Halfway through the season it's kind of a struggle because you realize you focus so much on volleyball. ... This is the part of the season where we could definitely break down."

"We dropped games to teams we shouldn't have again. Just the same old same old, kind of roller coaster ride thing."

In its first match of the Classic, Truman matched up against Angelo State University. The Bulldogs won two of the first three sets, but only by three- and two-point margins. The Bulldogs struggled similarly against Tarelton State University. Truman dropped two of the first three sets, but the team pulled out the victory in a 15-13 fifth set.

Saturday brought another challenge for the team. Not only did the Bulldogs face one of the best teams in the region in West Texas A&M, but this is the first time the team faced former head coach Jason Skoch since he left Truman and took the helm at West Texas A&M. Truman took a set from West Texas and hung close in the others, but still ended up losing a tough match.

"Obviously, we had a good shot at West Texas," head coach Ben Briney said. "They're a team we believe we can beat. ... Overall, as the tournament progressed, I was real-



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Freshman Megan Sharpe couldn't will the 'Dogs to victory last night. They lost 3-2 after having multiple chances to win in the fourth set.

ly proud of the girls after the West Texas loss and how we played Friday. ... They came back in the last match on Saturday and really took it to a team and played well and were able to play a lot of people."

The Bulldogs continue their season Friday with an away match against No. 5 University of Nebraska-Omaha. The Bulldogs will be-

gin their next homestand at 7 p.m. Oct. 16 against Northwest Missouri State University.

"Now is the best time we need to refocus and realize that if we don't start producing in every single game that we aren't going to even make into regionals, let alone be a host team or a top contender in regionals," Graybeal said.

'Dogs improve to 8-2-2

Women defeat Missouri Western and SBU

BY LOGAN JACKSON
Staff Reporter

The women's soccer team continues to dominate on the defensive end and its offense hasn't missed a beat.

The Bulldogs (8-2-2) now have won six in a row, with two more shutouts last week. They beat Missouri Western State University 1-0 in double-overtime and knocked off Southwest Baptist University 4-0.

The Missouri Western (4-8) match originally was scheduled to be a home game for Truman, however, poor field conditions caused the teams to meet in St. Joseph, Mo. This made it a home match for the Griffons and forced the Bulldogs to play two matches on the road.

The change in scenery didn't stop the 'Dogs.

The lone goal in the game came in the 109th minute by freshman forward Olivia Hayes. A foul on Missouri Western gave the Bulldogs a free kick, and that was all Hayes needed. It was Hayes' eighth goal of the season and her fifth game-winning goal. She currently leads the MIAA in both categories.

Junior midfielder Beth Bystrom said Hayes' goal couldn't have come at a better time.

"[Hayes] has obviously scored a lot of game-winning goals," Bystrom said. "In the last 30 seconds, you're hoping for anything. We got the call, and she made the shot. That's what you have to do under pressure."

"It looked like it was going to be a tie, which is a pretty fair result," head coach Mike Cannon said. "[Missouri Western] played well. I told the girls, 'Great result, exciting finish, but we need to play better.'"

Missouri Western plays on a turf field, which is much different than the grass field that the Bulldogs are used to playing on. Weather conditions were also a factor, but Cannon said the team didn't let that affect them.

"We actually played better against the wind than with the wind," Cannon said. "We played well in the first half. Statwise, we did fine in the second half, but we could have done more with the wind."

The defense limited the Griffons to just 10 shot attempts. It was sophomore goalie Jayne Grisham's sixth full shutout of the season.

"On Thursday night, Jayne came to play," Cannon

said. "She was probably our best player Thursday. She had six saves, but at least three or four of those are big saves where they easily could have been goals."

Against Southwest Baptist (5-4-1), the Bulldogs picked up their first win in Bolivar, Mo., in six years. They scored a goal just two minutes into the game and picked up three more goals later on to rout the Bearcats.

"[Southwest Baptist] is a tough place to play with their fans and set up. They're also always pumped to play us down there."

Mike Cannon
Head Coach

to take just nine total shots and only two in the second half. Senior midfielder Katie Reuck said the entire team pitched in for the win.

"[The match] was awesome," Reuck said. "We got a goal really early. I don't know if we've scored that early this year. [The goal] put us in a good position and gave us a lot of confidence. We possessed the ball well and moved it around the field."

The Bulldogs first goal was kicked in unassisted by senior forward Riley Mahn. Mahn added another goal in the 64th minute on an assist from freshman midfielder Kelsey Twellman. Cannon said Mahn has started to regain last year's form.

"She had a breakout season last year," Cannon said. "She started out a little slow this fall, and missed a couple games with a minor injury. She's really starting to play like she did last year. She's more confident and playing with more aggression."

Reuck and Bystrom also added goals. Reuck's was unassisted, and Bystrom scored her goal off an assist from freshman Heather Niebling.

The bench also saw quite a bit of action and performed when they had to. Only three subs made it onto the field against Missouri Western, but seven bench players contributed to the win against Southwest Baptist.

"The bench played well on Saturday," Cannon said. "We made some substitutions and those kids did a great job. Most of them were on when we got the second goal. We started them in the second half, and they scored again. It was a real good team performance."

The Bulldogs' next match is against the University of Central Missouri today at the Truman Soccer Park at noon.

TRUMAN ATHLETICS News and Notes

Football: Tough schedule continues

The football team's rough schedule continues this week against No. 17 Missouri Western State University. The game against Missouri Western marks the Bulldogs' third straight game against a ranked opponent and fourth this season. The 'Dogs are 0-3 against ranked teams.

"I think, for our players sake, there's some frustration there that even though we're playing ranked teams, we're still not playing at the level that we expect to do," head coach Aaron Vlcko said.

The Bulldogs have gone through the toughest part of their schedule and likely will not play any ranked teams after Mo. Western.

Men's Soccer: Brown dishes out assists

Sophomore forward Jonathan Brown has become a master of dishing out goals to teammates this year. This weekend, he assisted on four goals and added another himself. Three of his assists came on corner kicks that either set his teammates up for a header or gave them control of the ball. Brown credits the team's preparation for the team's success off set plays.

"You know, over the summer I think Coach [Duke Cochran] and [Assistant Coach] Joe Nick worked hard on coming up with some new routines for corner," Brown said. "Last year we were just kind of putting it in the box and hoped that we were going to get the end of it, but this year we've worked a lot harder."

In 11 games this season, Brown has recorded eight assists, which puts him in a tie for fourth of all Truman players in the last 10 seasons. It is the most assists by one player since senior midfielder Martin Clayes' 16 in 20 games during the 2005 season.

Women's Soccer: Grisham honored again

Sophomore goalie Jayne Grisham was named the MIAA defensive player of the week for the second straight week. She picked up two more shutouts last week against Missouri Western State University and Southwest Baptist University. She currently leads the MIAA in goals-against average and shutouts. Her current GAA is 0.66, and she is one of only three players to have an average below one. She also has 44 saves and is second in save percentage.

Freshman forward Olivia Hayes also leads the MIAA in two categories. She is first in goals with eight and first in game-winning goals with five. As a team, the Bulldogs are first in assists and second in goals scored in the MIAA.

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