

Athlete of the Week

Jayne Grisham

Sport: Women's soccer

Position: Goalie

Year: Sophomore

Hometown:

Bridgeton, Mo.

Sophomore goalie Jayne Grisham had two shutouts last week to improve her season goals-against average to 0.66. She has posted eight shutouts this season and six overall, the first time a Truman goalie has done so since 2003.

Grisham continues defensive prowess

BY JACK NICHOLL
Sports Editor

Sophomore goalie Jayne Grisham has not missed a beat since her performance in the playoffs last season.

Grisham, who allowed two goals in five full matches in 2008, leads the MIAA this season with a 0.66 goals-against average.

Grisham's performance last week was stellar. In two victories — 1-0 against Missouri Western State University and 3-0 against Southwest Baptist University — Grisham combined for 10 saves.

"She's come through when we've needed her to," head coach Mike Cannon said.

Grisham delivered in the double-overtime victory against Western with six saves, including one in which Cannon said she made a kick save and another where she "donkey kicked" the ball out of the way after an initial save.

But her performance last week has little difference from the rest of the season. She has eight shutouts, including six straight. It is the first time Truman has had six straight shutouts since 2003.

This season has been different from last in that Grisham has had the starting position since the beginning. 2008-senior Denise Childress started last season, but Grisham stepped in during the NCAA Tournament as a true freshman.

"I was a little nervous at first, but the main thing I learned was just keeping focused and trying not to worry too much, because that's when you make a mistake," Grisham said.

Cannon said Grisham was ready to play the entire year in 2008, but he made the switch at the end because she was building a reputation in practices as the better goalie.

Now, Cannon said Grisham reminds him of great Truman goalies in the past, including Emily Huyck and Lauren Davis, who have set multiple Truman records.

"The team is confident in her," Cannon said. "It's one thing to be confident in yourself, but, especially as a goalkeeper, does the team trust you? And they did."

"They have complete confidence in Jayne. And it's vice versa — she has confidence in the kids in front of her."

But Grisham hasn't done

the work by herself. The 'Dogs have a stellar defense, backed by senior three-year starters Kelsey Richters and Theresa Bauler.

The Bulldogs have not allowed more than 10 total shots during the six-match win streak, and with the offense leading the MIAA in shots, sometimes there isn't much to Grisham's job. In the 3-0 victory against Emporia State University on Sept. 19, the Hornets did not have a single shot on goal.

"I really just try to stay involved," Grisham said. "Let them know I'm there I guess, and try to help them out where there's an open player we can play to."

It's the easier games during which Grisham shows her leadership and not just her abilities as a goalie. It's the leadership she started to develop at the end of last season and continues in 2009.

"Even when the ball is at the other end, you hear Jayne barking out commands and really being a vocal leader, which is great having a goalkeeper that actually knows what they're saying, but also is loud enough to demand that from the rest of the team," Cannon said.



Mayank Dhungana/Index
Sophomore goalie Jayne Grisham had two shutouts last week. She has participated in eight shutouts this season and leads the MIAA with a 0.66 GAA.

SOCCER | Men's soccer wins 2-0, 6-1 last week

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shoulder. That same attitude allowed the team to prevail once again as the 'Dogs fired 30 shots while holding the Saints to just 6.

Six different Bulldogs found the back of the net, which has been a theme this season.

"The most consistent aspect has probably been that it's not just one person scoring the goal," freshman forward Andy Chapman said. "Everybody's contributing, even the defense with [senior defenders Matt] Taylor and [Drew] Pauk scoring in our last home game."

Chapman was one of those who contributed with a goal in the win. Junior forward Nick Schlichtman found him with a pass across the middle, and Chapman went one-on-one against the goalie for his third goal of the season and put the 'Dogs up 2-1 midway through the first half.

Schlichtman started the scoring with an assist from Jonathan Brown, and within a few minutes time, Chapman put Truman in the lead for good. The Bulldogs added an unassisted insurance goal from junior midfielder Bobby Larkin, and freshman midfielder Kyle Menges scored his first of his Truman career off Taylor's assist. Kimball tacked on another goal before the half with another assist from Brown.

"I was blocking the goalie on a corner kick and Jonny Brown played it in," Kimball said. "And basically I burned my area, I just beat my defender in the air and headed it the right and controlled it before the goalie got to it."

Brown capped his two assists with his own goal off a Chapman assist in the 50th minute that brought the scoring to a halt. Soon after the sixth goal,

just about every player from the bench got in on the action. More than 20 players played at least 20 minutes each for the Bulldogs.

Truman's depth has been a point of emphasis all year.

"It makes it to where, when we play a team, they can't just mark one person and mark them out of the game," said Chapman. "They have to worry about everybody."

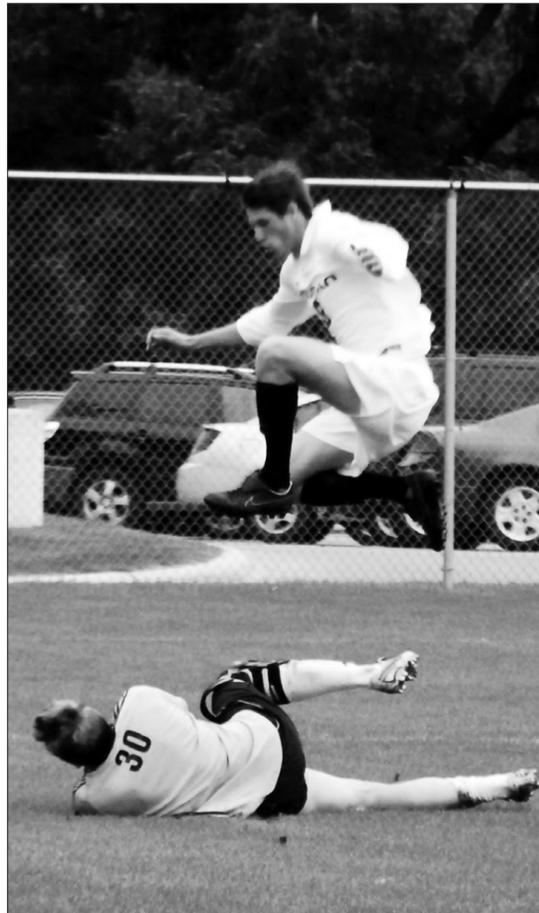
This was proven in the team's Friday victory against Northeastern when Taylor and Pauk scored. Taylor got his first goal of the season in the 11th minute, when he headed Brown's corner kick into the lower right area of the net. Brown found Pauk for another header off a corner kick in the 64th minute, bringing the score to 2-0 en route to another shutout victory for Knierim.

"I think our biggest strength is performance," Kimball said. "We had a lot of potential at the beginning of the year, we had a lot of talent ... Someone once told me that potential doesn't mean anything — performance means everything."

Throughout the 10-game win streak, the team strived to strike a balance between confidence and complacency.

"We're just taking it one game at a time, but it's always nice when you look back and you see we've beaten teams like Rockhurst," Brown said. "It's good for us, but we take games like Maryville as seriously as we do playing against Incarnate."

Truman is ranked second in the South Central region in the first poll released by the NCAA on Tuesday. The Bulldogs look to pick up where they left off when they face Upper Iowa University at 4 p.m. today at the Truman Soccer Park.



Mayank Dhungana/Index
Senior midfielder Ben Green gets airborne in an attempt to avoid the Northeastern St. goalie in the 'Dogs 2-0 win last Friday.

PRACTICE |

Kirk gym not an option, Greenwood makes sense

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Wollmering said the original plan was for the small gym to turn into a mechanical room, meaning the wrestling team would have moved somewhere anyway during the renovations, but those plans switched when the Pershing renovations changed earlier this year.

Wollmering also said the recently-renovated Kirk Gym is currently not an option for athletic teams to hold events in. He said the age and location of the building would require major renovations. The holes in the floor are not big enough for volleyball polls, and some seats would have to be ripped out to have enough room for a full volleyball court.

"It'd be fun if it was ever possible, but it would take a lot, a lot, of construction and a lot, a lot, of money to do it," head volleyball coach Ben Briney said.

The building, which was built in 1922, would have to be upgraded to become fully handicapped accessible. Wollmering also said that because there is no parking nearby, it would cause problems for people getting to the building for events.

The volleyball team might use Kirk Gym in the spring to alleviate the use of Pershing Arena. The volleyball team currently plays its home matches and practices in Pershing.

The athletic department does not control the use of Kirk Gym. The Center for Student Involvement controls its use and any organization that wants to use the gym must reserve it through the CSI.

SWIM | Aherne, McCall among top returners for swim teams that will both try to build off of down performances at nationals

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Gole said he believes the men will thrive, especially in the distance races. Sophomore Brian Tillis, who set the school record in the mile last spring and qualified for nationals, returns.

Gole said he also is excited about the impact of two underclassmen.

"Freshman Jerod Simek, who was the runner-up in the Missouri High School state meet in the 500 free, he can really add that," Gole said. "And then, Zac Litzau returning, he's a sophomore this year. He missed the [A-cut for nationals] in the mile by 10 seconds. ... All you've got to do is drop three-tenths of a second per 50, and you're on the cut."

Both Gole and McCall said they hope for up to six men to make nationals. McCall said that because the squad lost a couple top sprint relayers last year, there will be more individual qualifiers this year.

"Our emphasis is always on, 'It's the engine — it's the athlete who's doing the times, it's not the pool, it's not the suits,'" assistant coach Tim Sandfort said. "We think our guys are training right now at a level that's exceptional."

On the women's side, the team is poised for another run after a fourth-place finish at nationals last year. Gole said he thinks the depth and versatility of the team will definitely help this effort.

"I can't think of anything that's consid-

ered to be like a rock-solid strength," Gole said. "It's just we're strong everywhere."

Last year was the first during Gole's tenure in which not one swimmer qualified for backstrokes at nationals. He said he thinks this will be one of the biggest areas of improvement.

The team is led by senior Kate Aherne, and she said she understands the responsibility that comes with that experience.

"I think [the role] changes every year," Aherne said. "You get a little more experienced and people are always looking up to you as the upperclassman. As the senior, for the example that's to be set during practice and at a meet. It's just kind of learning to accept that."

Gole and Aherne said the team should take approximately 16 swimmers to nationals.

Despite Aherne's consecutive national championships in the 200 individual medley, she does not feel added pressure.

"Everything's the last time and it feels a little bit like the pressure's off," Aherne said. "I've already established myself a little bit, on the team and in my sport, so now it's just kind of continuing on with that hopefully."

Aherne is not alone near the top. Senior Kendra Brunkow and juniors Anna Grinter, Tanya Sylvester and Emily Buss and other returners will share the workload up top as the squad looks to contend at nationals.

COLUMN | Swim teams try to build off 20th and 4th places

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The Bulldogs lost three swimmers off each of their All-American relays. Plus, with the loss of Stokes and Kaestner, the Bulldogs lost two big difference makers.

"As of right now, this will be a tough year as far as relays go," head coach Mark Gole said. "We're going to have to kind of manufacture some swims."

However, Gole said to watch the freshmen this year. Although they haven't swum at the collegiate level, he expects good things.

"Our freshman are extremely talented," Gole said. "They're going to play a huge role."

Still, they can't be expected to vault the team back into the top 15. It will take them at least one year, if not two, to get comfortable with collegiate swimming. The men's team lost too much talent to make a serious impact this year. However, the future does look bright. If they jump in and get that much needed experience, they could make a statement next year.

The women's team is on the opposite end of the

spectrum. They finished fourth overall last year, the first time that the program hasn't had a top-three finish at nationals since 1998.

But the team should rebound from a somewhat disappointing season. They lost three swimmers and only one of them, Erika Anderson, traveled to the national meet. They return a strong group of juniors led by Emily Buss, Julia Jones and Tanya Sylvester.

They also return their best swimmer, senior Kate Aherne. Aherne is a two-time national champion in the 200-yard individual medley and has earned 20 All-American honors. Aherne will be the leader of the team and also will look to become Truman's first three-time national champion in an individual event.

Gole said that, realistically, 15 or 16 women will make it to nationals. This number isn't surprising, mainly because 16 swimmers went to nationals last year and the 'Dogs returned 15 of them. Their depth didn't take much of a hit, so the team should be deep in just about every event.

"We're getting back to being strong in everything," Gole said.

If the women's team wants to capture another championship they have to place higher in their events and also get a solid contribution from their underclassmen.

Although the Bulldogs did secure 28 All-American awards last year, only 10 of them were top-five finishes. They also sent only three freshmen to the national meet. Both numbers have to increase for the Bulldogs to take back the national championship.

They also have to get production from the backstroke swimmers. The Bulldogs didn't get a single point at the national meet from those events.

Then, of course, there is Drury University. Drury won the national meet convincingly last year and continues to be one of the top Div. II swimming programs. They bring back the core of their team, with 13 swimmers returning.

It will be an uphill battle, but if the women push themselves hard enough, a national championship could be within their grasp.