

REUCK | Senior midfielder transferred to from Rockhurst after one season because she wanted to experience the small-town atmosphere of Kirksville

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also gave the coaching staff a chance to try her out at a couple of different positions. Cannon said Reuck adjusted very quickly because she had already played one year of college soccer.

"The talent was always there," Cannon said. "The atmosphere allowed her to fit right in. You could tell she was more comfortable and quickly became one of our best players."

When Reuck joined the Bulldogs, she also was allowed to play her natural position — center midfielder. Reuck played the position throughout high school, but became an outside midfielder at Rockhurst.

Cannon said the center midfield position is tough to play because they always have to make adjustments. He said no team plays the same, so the center midfielder always has to know what type of formation the other team is playing.

With the Bulldogs, Reuck not only controls the flow of the game, but she also scores a lot of goals. This trait is often rare for a center midfielder.

"[Center midfielder] is not a position that you have to have a score from all of the time, but Reuck has great instincts when to make runs forward," Cannon said. "She's made that position real unique for us by being one of the best attacking center midfielders we've ever had."

Reuck's brilliant play on the field hasn't gone unnoticed. She has been named First-Team All-MIAA two times, and picked up NSCAA All-Region honors last year.

Other coaches in the MIAA have noticed Reuck too. Don Klosterman, University of Nebraska-Omaha head coach, said Reuck is one of the toughest players to deal with.

"Well, I'm glad she's a senior, if that tells you anything," Klosterman said. "She's really good and plays hard. I think she's a

settling factor in their midfield. She makes them dangerous because she's able to really control things so well in the middle of the field."

Klosterman also said Reuck's ability to sneak up behind the defense makes her a player that must be tracked the entire game.

"We try to make sure we know where she's at all the time," Klosterman said. "If she's given space and time, she's going to pick you apart. If you don't keep your eyes on her, you're in for a long day."

Cannon attributes most of Reuck's success to her work ethic. He said she isn't a cutthroat type of player, but she beats you with her hustle and mind set.

"She's one of the fittest kids on the team," Cannon said. "She works extremely hard, even out of season. We tell [the team] to take a week or two off after the season and don't do anything. She doesn't listen. She's the ideal kid you want on your team."

Early this season, Reuck suffered a broken wrist during a game against St. Edward's University (Texas). After she was taken out of the game, Cannon said the trainer came up to him and told him that Reuck wanted to go back in. Cannon said moments like that are why Reuck is one of the best players Truman has ever had.

"Her will is one of her many strengths," Cannon said. "Even when it's tough, she still finds a way to do well. She's at her best under pressure. She's super competitive and it really comes out when she plays."

Reuck said she is extremely happy she made the decision to transfer to Truman. She said the team atmosphere is amazing and the coaching staff has really allowed her to grow as a player.

"Coming to Truman has been a turning point in my soccer career," Reuck said. "I've always been learning under coaches, but I've learned so much under Coach Cannon."

"I'm glad she's a senior, if that tells you anything."

Don Klosterman
University of Nebraska-Omaha head coach



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Freshman forward Olivia Hays moves the ball down field during a game earlier this season. Truman improved to 3-1 in the MIAA with wins against Emporia State and Washburn.

SOCCKER | Hayes scores two goals in two games as women's soccer moves to 3-1 in conference play, prepares for rematch with Nebraska-Omaha

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Alison Taylor also played for the first time this season.

"It is nice though for some of the kids who haven't been playing as much definitely got a chance to play a ton in the second half," Cannon said. "But game experience is game experience, regardless of who you're playing."

Against Washburn (0-3, 2-4), Truman took advantage of a red card that led to Hayes' PK in the 21st minute. Hayes received a pass from senior forward Isabel Gaeta and threaded through three defenders before she was tackled from behind, inside the box. Hayes then bounced the PK into the bottom right corner. "I think that definitely lowered

their confidence, and it raised ours and we were really excited about that," Hayes said of the card.

Truman had chances to score on breakaways in the second half, but the Washburn's keeper Ashley Klone made multiple diving plays to keep Truman at bay. Despite the close score, Cannon said the 'Dogs controlled the game.

The Lady Blues subbed in a defender for a midfielder after the card and switched from a 4-4-2 to a 4-3-2. The Bulldogs continued their 4-4-2 formation, which they have used for five of the last six matches.

Cannon said the team will stay with the formation for at least the next three matches because of op-

ponents that play with three forwards.

"We've been playing pretty well out of a 4-4-2," Cannon said. "Right now at least, that's kind of our best lineup with who we want on the field."

The Bulldogs play at 2 p.m. today at home against Missouri Southern State University and the University of Nebraska-Omaha comes to town Saturday for a match at noon. UNO, which is 4-0 in conference play, defeated the 'Dogs 4-1 on Sept. 12.

"The more we have the ball, the less they have it," Cannon said of the 'Dogs' strategy. "They're only dangerous when they have the ball."

FOOTBALL | 'Dogs fall to 0-2 in the conference, prepare for Ol' Hickory Stick game against Northwest Missouri State on Saturday

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punted the ball to Lovett, the nation's leading returner. Lovett caught the punt and went untouched for the 89-yard touchdown to make the score 14-7, his fourth return for a score this season.

"Well, he certainly can change the game, he's shown that this year," Vlcko said. "Unfortunately on the one he did get on us, we had two guys right there that we didn't execute, and they didn't follow through on their assignments, and we let him loose."

The Bulldogs answered the Tigers again with a 31-yard touchdown from Davis to junior receiver Jordan Flores to tie the score 14-14. Walker added another touchdown to put Hays up 21-14 with just more than a minute left in the first half. Senior kicker Mickey Masucci connected on a 35-yard field goal just before the half to cut the lead to 21-17.

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Aaron Vlcko
Football head coach, on Hays returner C.J. Lovett, who returned a punt for a touchdown

Truman's offense couldn't keep up with Hays in the second half. The Tigers scored the first 10 points of the second half to take a 31-17 lead.

Backup quarterback Taylor Breen, who entered the game in the third quarter when Davis injured his thumb, led the Bulldogs on a seven-play touchdown drive to cut the lead to 31-24. But Truman would get no closer.

Hays continued to pound the Bulldogs on the ground. The Tigers used a nine-play, 82-yard drive, capped off with a 19-yard touchdown run by quarterback Mike Garison get back up by 17.

Davis was 11-for-20 with 131 yards and two touchdown passes before he left the game in the third quarter with a thumb injury. Breen, who finished 4-for-13 with his first touchdown pass of his career, relieved him.

"It's nothing new to me," Breen

said. "I've played before, so the adjustment was relatively easy."

Vlcko said the team would evaluate Davis during the week to see if he will play Saturday.

Flores said the receivers don't have to adjust a lot when a new quarterback enters the game.

"Both guys are great," Flores said. "I feel comfortable with both of them, no matter who's in."

Truman rushed for a season-high 131 yards. Junior running back Donald Harvey led the team with 54 yards on seven carries.

Emokape finished with four catches for 48 yards and two touchdown receptions and junior safety Demetrius Levant finished with a team-high 14 tackles.

The road does not get easier for the 'Dogs, as they could be starting at 0-3 in the MIAA for the first time since 2005 when they went 0-8 in the MIAA. The Bulldogs travel to Maryville to take on rival No. 6 Northwest Missouri State University in the annual Ol' Hickory Stick Game. Truman hasn't beaten the Bearcats since 2001.

Northwest has been to four straight Div. II national championship games. Kickoff is set for 1 p.m.

MARTIN | Martin, who drove teams since 2001, is remembered as outgoing and friendly

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owned and operated an auto maintenance shop in Kirksville. He and the other drivers were responsible for oil changes and making sure the vehicles made it through long drives.

"[Martin] was good at picking up at things before they turned into a real problem," Baker said. "He could tell when a tire was going bad, or he'd drive it and hear the breaks grinding. He really taught me and the other guys on how to be observant and notice things before it develops into a major episode."

He said Martin never shied away from the longer or more difficult trips when it came to mapping out the schedule. Twice, Martin covered for Baker, once when Baker had health issues in 2005, and once in 2002 when his son was being born.

"Those two times in particular, Tom just really took an extra load off of me that I couldn't do," Baker said. "I will never forget his kindness and helping in those trials."

Thursday, Martin returned to

Truman after dropping off the team at the St. Louis airport, and Baker said he recalls talking with Martin as usual. They often reminisced about previous trips that stood out to them, he said.

Now, he said he feels sentimentality when he does the small things for the trips, such as sign his name on the key log under Martin's scrawl.

"It just hits you—that's the last time he'll ever sign that book," he said. "Those kinds of things are a little harder than I thought they would be."

Tom Johnson, director of public safety, said Martin was a good employee who went out of his way to greet people in the mornings or start a conversation. Johnson also viewed Martin as a friend, as did tennis head coach Pete Kendall, who lived down the street from the bus driver.

"He was always very friendly with the students and also interested in what they were doing," Kendall said, adding that Martin often knew the students by name. "He'll certainly be missed by all the coaches and players."

"He'll certainly be missed by all the coaches and players."

Pete Kendall
Tennis head coach

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