

MIAA | Bulldog defense does not give up a goal during the week, offense still searching for rhythm

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those chances."

Schumann was the only Bulldog to put a ball in the back of the net against Northwest, and sophomore midfielder Kelsey Twellman earned the assist.

Cannon said the team is looking for its rhythm offensively, but the team's ball movement is improving, and that is the key.

"Our passing game is starting to come along, starting to move the ball quick and play one or two touches, and when we do that we're good," Cannon said. "But when we try to dribble too much and take too many touches, try to force things, that's when we struggle a bit. There's still a lot to work on, a lot to improve, but we're definitely making some strides which is good to see."

The Bulldogs defense did not give up a goal during the two-game span. The defense is young and Cannon said they are getting more relaxed in the Bulldogs' scheme as they get game experience.

"[The defense] is just getting more comfortable, we're changing formations a couple times, playing with three in the back, four in the back so it's a little bit different at times," Cannon said. "Sally [Smith] and Suzanne [Pelley] have been the two freshmen that have been playing, and Stasia [Montgomery] is only a sophomore, but I think they get some confidence and



Junior defender Amy Schnoes clears a ball Saturday against the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Schnoes has started all four matches this season. The Bulldogs won the UNO match 1-0 and are 3-1 on the season.

some game experience."

Hayes said the Bulldogs' offense has benefited from the hard work of the defense.

"The defense is definitely putting a lot of pressure on their

forwards and keeping them from getting scoring chances," Hayes said. "Our defense has been really strong and the goal-keeping has been really good too, especially with Emily [Boz-

deck] stepping up when Jayne got hurt."

The Bulldogs play at 7 p.m. today at Missouri Southern State University and at noon Saturday at Southwest Baptist University.

Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

UPSET | Kimball scores his second goal of the season in the 76th minute to give Truman the win

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off in the second half, Nick said.

"They relaxed a little bit and we kept working," he said. "We took advantage of our opportunities as an offense, and you have to take charge in situations like that."

Kimball has two goals and an assist in three games. Head coach Duke Cochran said Kimball has been brilliant at home but now needs to do just as well on the road.

"Right now we're really looking for that consistency in players, instead of having great games and then having an off game," Cochran said.

Cochran said the entire starting 11 for the Bulldogs fought hard at last Friday's match. The match was physical with both teams racking up 12 fouls throughout the game. Fort Lewis received two yellow cards while Truman was issued only one. Cochran said Chapman's goal really set the tone for the second half.

"Chapman, he's a goal scorer," Cochran said. "He's good at shooting at frame from distance and from anywhere really."

Junior Zachary Cooper was at

last Friday's match. He said once Truman scored the tying goal, the crowd became very invested in the game. There were 583 people in attendance, according to the box score.

"Everyone was pumped up and cheering for Truman and heckling the other team," Cooper said. "It was probably some of the most school spirit I've seen at a Truman event, even [President] Troy Paino was there."

The 'Dogs travel Friday to Springfield, Mo., to face rival Drury University. Truman has not beaten Drury since 2005. Nick said this might be the last chance the seniors have to beat Drury during their time, so he expects it to be a war.

"We have to go down there and win, and at the same time they need to step up at home and beat us, so I expect it to be a battle," Nick said. "Ryan Swan is the head coach down there, and he's a former player and coach here at Truman. He knows what's coming and we know what's there."

Nick said the 'Dogs have been



Senior forward Matt Kimball gets elbowed while dribbling toward the goal Friday against Fort Lewis. It was Kimball's 10th career goal.

practicing on Truman's turf field inside Stokes Stadium in preparation for the match. Nick said the turf feels different and plays differently than a normal pitch. Drury will be used to their surface and

that's going to be tough, said Nick. "I mean, we're going to have to adjust, but all good teams do," Nick said. "We're going to have to be tough and beat Drury on their home turf."

Amy Vicars/Index

ATTENDANCE | Bulldog athletic teams giving Truman students a reason to attend home sporting events

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After seeing that game, I learned to stay until the end of every event I attend. Even if the game seems to be a complete blowout, I stay until the final horn sounds or the final out is recorded. Unfortunately, I did not follow my own rule last Friday.

The men's soccer team played Fort Lewis (Colo.) College in their second home match of the year. Fort Lewis was the preseason No. 1 in Div. II and was the national champion last year.

My fiancée was coming into town and we had planned on meeting with my family later Friday night. I watched the first 65 minutes of the match but broke my rule and left as soon as my fiancée arrived so we could start the drive home. The Bulldogs showed me why I should never break my rule.

Senior forward Matt Kimball put in his second goal of the season in the 76th minute and the defense held strong as the 'Dogs upset Fort Lewis.

And I missed the goal. Luckily, a lot of people did not. There were 583 people at the

match on Friday — the most at a men's soccer game since 2003, when the Bulldogs hosted the NCAA Div. II Central Regional. Truman was undefeated during the regular season and won 20 games that year.

So, while I did not get to see the exciting finish, I did get to see a solid crowd support the Bulldogs, which seems to be a trend this season.

There were more than 250 fans at the women's soccer match on Saturday against the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Last year, attendance eclipsed that mark just two times.

More than 3200 people attended the first home football game of the year against Southwest Baptist University on Sept. 4. That would have been the third highest total last season. While that number does not seem high, the game was played during Labor Day weekend and Truman did not have classes on Monday. Still, head coach Gregg Nesbitt told me the audience was a great football crowd that cheered and stayed all night to watch the Bulldogs win.

And really, the attendance should be

high this season. Truman had three teams ranked in the top 25 in Div. II in preseason polls — women's soccer, men's soccer and volleyball. And none of those teams have disappointed.

The women's soccer team started the season 3-1 and is 2-0 in the MIAA. The men are 2-1 and, as I mentioned, got a huge win against Fort Lewis. The volleyball team has gotten off to a great start, with an early 7-2 mark.

While both soccer teams and the football team have had home events, several Bulldog sports have not. Volleyball and women's tennis have their home openers Friday. Tennis plays at 4 p.m. and volleyball will be at 7 p.m. The men's tennis team will play a home exhibition match Sunday at 2 p.m.

I would encourage all Truman students to take in at least one game for each sport, because I feel that there are several reasons to attend.

First, every home game, match or race that you attend is completely free. You will not have to pay a dime to get into a Truman game as long as you have a student ID. I think it is

great that we can watch some very competitive — and in some cases, nationally ranked — Bulldog teams for free, which leads me to my second point.

Nearly all of the Truman teams that are playing right now are very competitive. As I mentioned before, three teams were ranked nationally in the preseason. The men's and women's cross country teams finished second and third, respectively, in their first race of the season. The women's golf team also won its first tournament of the season.

So not only are you able to get into the games for free, you will be able to see solid Bulldog teams compete.

Finally, a good crowd that is into the game can pump anyone up. I played sports for years, and the more the crowd was into it, the better my team seemed to do. A loud crowd can confuse and distract opposing teams, giving the home team a great advantage.

So try to make an attempt to attend a few games this year, but whatever you do, make sure you do not leave the game early.

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