

# Bulldogs fall short after late comeback

BY JOHN MOENSTER  
Staff Reporter

After coming back for two goals in the second half, No. 8 Truman men's soccer fell short, losing 3-2 at No. 2 Midwestern State University (Texas) in the first round of the NCAA Div. II tournament Nov. 11.

The Bulldogs ended the 2010 season with a 12-3-2 overall record, while MSU (18-0-2) faces California State University, Chico this Saturday in an Elite Eight match.

"It was a really intense game from all standpoints," senior captain Dan Meagher said. "[Midwestern] is a very good team and we wouldn't be surprised if they ended up winning the national championship. We played really well against them, but they were just the better team."

MSU scored early off a penalty kick from a Bulldog handball in the goal box. Truman was trailing 2-0 going into the second half, but leading scorer senior forward Matt Kimball got on the board in the 53rd minute of the match. Meagher scored Truman's second goal in the final few minutes of play, but Midwestern had scored an insurance goal by converting a corner kick to a goal earlier in the second half.

"Everyone will probably say that this has been their favorite team they've ever been on," Meagher said. "Our team just gets along well, and we play well together because we are out there playing for each other. I think that's something that should never change."

Senior midfielder Scott Big-



Jack Nicholl/Index

Sophomore forward Andy Chapman makes a pass in a game earlier this season. Chapman was named to the Daktronics All-Region first team this week, along with senior forward Matt Kimball.

gerstaff said he thought it was a hard-fought game. Biggerstaff said it was a hostile environment for the 'Dogs playing at Midwestern State.

"It was just a tough game," Biggerstaff said. "They played a lot

like us — very physical and fast. I'm sure it was a very entertaining game to watch."

Biggerstaff said that although it wasn't as far as the team wanted to go, he thought the 'Dogs represented themselves well and played

their best. Biggerstaff said he thinks the team won when it counted and that they saw results this season that didn't necessarily go their way a year ago.

"When you've got an undefeated team like Midwestern lead-

ing a region that only takes two teams, that means every other team in the region is competing for that one spot," Biggerstaff said. "This year, we were in a situation where we were in second, and so the pressure was kind of on us to stay there."

He said he thinks Truman has the ability to be a tournament-bound team every year. Biggerstaff said if Truman continues to play its brand of soccer and keeps bringing in guys who are willing to work hard, the program will continue to be successful. Biggerstaff said he thinks the program simply has to keep doing what it has always done, but that a little more funding wouldn't hurt.

"I think coach Cochran does a great job working with what he has," Biggerstaff said. "With a little over one scholarship and about 30 guys on the roster this season, he's really making that money work for all it's worth."

The Bulldogs finished the season with 41 team goals, led by Kimball's 12. Assistant coach Joe Nick said other outstanding goal scorers this season included Meagher, senior midfielder Bobby Larkin and sophomore forward Andy Chapman. Eight players scored two or more goals, while sophomore goalie Tyler Knierim posted six shutouts between the pipes and closed the year with a 0.93 goals-against average.

"The best part about this team's offense was their ability to adapt in the moment," Nick said. "They were able to step back and create opportunities but at the same time knew when to turn on the gas and move quickly."

## 'Dogs end season with 3-0 loss to UCM

BY DEREK FRANKLIN  
Staff Reporter

The Bulldogs entered this season with a lot of questions after the graduation of a strong class, losing eight seniors from a 15-4-3 campaign in 2009 and entering the 2010 season with 14 players lacking varsity experience.

However, Truman responded with 11 wins, placed second in the MIAA and earned a regional tournament win.

Truman (11-4-5) lost Sunday to No. 2 University of Central Missouri 3-0, ending its 2010 season. The loss came after the Bulldogs' 3-1 upset against the No. 3 team in the region, Midwestern State University (Texas) on Thursday.

Head coach Mike Cannon said that although the Bulldogs executed their game plan and played some of their best soccer of the season in the tournament, it was not enough to overcome Central.

"Playing two really good teams back-to-back like that is tough," Cannon said. "I thought we played very well in the Midwestern game especially, getting the two early goals in a brilliant first half."

Truman has had trouble this year coming out of the gate in games against all levels of competition, Cannon said, but he was pleased with

his team's energy in the national tournament.

"Both games we came out really strong, which was something we hadn't done very consistently all year," Cannon said. "It was nice to get two early goals."

Junior midfielder Megan Buri scored from 30 yards out in the 15th minute to put the 'Dogs on top against Midwestern, and 29 seconds later Buri finished another goal to give the Bulldogs a 2-0 lead and herself seven goals on the year, assisted by sophomore midfielder Kelsey Twellman.

Buri's two goals in 29 seconds set a new record for fastest consecutive goals in the program's history, and it is the fifth fastest time in NCAA Div. II women's soccer history. Junior midfielder Jaclyn Schumann put away the Mustangs (16-4) with her third goal of the season in the 49th minute off a corner kick by Twellman.

Freshman goalkeeper Emily Bozdeck improved her record to 6-2-1 on the year in tournament games.

Cannon said the score of the game against Central did not reflect the team's performance, but that the 'Dogs played the best of any of their games against UCM this year.

"We started really well and it was an even game," Cannon said. "The shots

were six to six, and the scoring chances were even in the first half."

Truman was outshot 20-3 and 9-4 respectively, in the first two games against UCM (20-0) and Bulldogs were outshot 14-7 in Truman's final game.

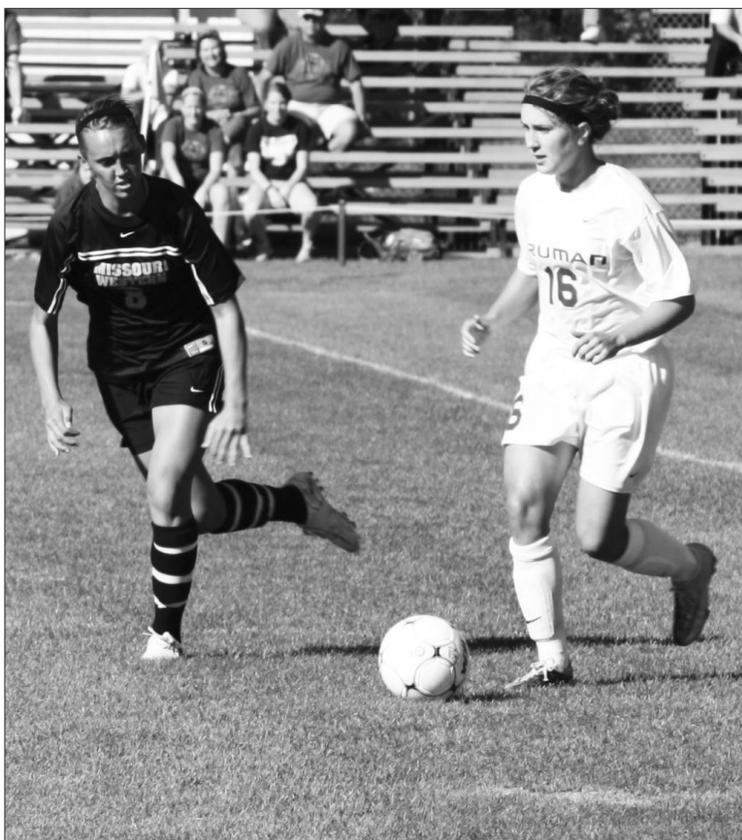
All four of Truman's losses on the year came from the two teams the Bulldogs faced in the national tournament — three to UCM and one to Midwestern in the first game of the season. Cannon said he thought the game showed how much the team improved by the time it faced the Mules in Truman's 19th game.

"It was really interesting to see on the field how much we improved as a team," Cannon said. "We had come a long way."

The Bulldogs improved throughout the season on nearly all facets of the game. After allowing four goals during the first weekend, the Bulldogs' defense allowed only six more during the rest of the regular season.

"A lot of people expected it to be just a rebuilding year, but I think we proved to people that it wasn't a rebuilding year, it was just a good year," Buri said.

"Starting out, we really had to learn how to play together, but once things started clicking and working well, we played well," Buri said. "I think that



Logan Jackson/Index

Junior midfielder Megan Buri tries to get around a Missouri Western State University defender earlier this season. She scored two goals against Midwestern State University.

[the national tournament] showed what we had accomplished by the end of the season."

The offensive production also stepped up. During the first half of the regular season, the Bulldogs scored four goals through the first two games but

then only five during the next seven games. The second half saw the 'Dogs put away 12 goals and three more postseason goals.

The Bulldogs will enter next season with raised expectations, as they will return all 11 starters, with a competition to ensue this spring for

the keeper position.

"It hurts losing [senior midfielders] Beth [Bystrom] and Dani [Hill] and the leadership skills they bring," Buri said. "But losing two is better than losing eight, and I'm really excited to have so many girls coming back."

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