

**SOCCKER** | Bulldogs give up a goal for the first time since Sept. 5, Buri nets second goal of the season

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"They had the ball a lot and had control of the game," Cannon said. "We didn't do much or challenge them. But they didn't create too many great chances either."

Junior goalkeeper Jayne Grisham had six saves for Truman.

Freshman midfielder Suzanne Pelley and sophomore midfielder Heather Niebling were the only two players to have shots on goal for the Bulldogs. Senior midfielder Beth Bystrom also had a shot.

"Central is a real solid team and always tough to play at home," junior midfielder Megan Buri said. "From that game, we learned we have a lot to work on, but we still have half a season left."

Things were completely different Thursday against Washburn. Truman controlled the match but failed to capitalize on its chances and tied 1-1.

The Bulldogs allowed a goal in the 31st minute, but Buri responded just seven minutes later with her second goal of the season.

"Offensively, we looked great as a collective unit," Buri said. "We possessed the ball

really well, the statistics and shots show that. It was just a matter of not being able to put them away that day."

Grisham earned one save on the day. Truman outshot Washburn 8-3 in the first half and 15-0 in the second. The Bulldogs took four shots to Washburn's one in the overtime sessions. Three Bulldog players had more than five shots in the match.

"We had some really good chances," Cannon said. "We had some breakaways, some point-blank shots that we kicked right to the keeper or just wide. On a good day, we would have won that game by two, three, maybe four goals."

Redshirt freshman Emily McMeekin and true freshman Kristina Weishar started both matches for the Bulldogs. It was the first time McMeekin has played all year and only the fourth and fifth matches for Weishar.

Cannon said injuries to freshmen midfielder Sally Smith and defender Kelsey Ridgway forced the lineup changes.

"We've been pretty banged up, especially with our center backs," Cannon said. "Every time we look like we're healthy and have options, something happens. It's been interesting."

Cannon said the Bulldogs are still searching for more offensive rhythm and consistency. He said he wants Truman to move the ball quicker as well.

Truman has scored nine goals in nine matches this season. Four of those goals came in the first two matches. The Bulldogs have had five goals in their last seven matches.

"If you would have told me we'd only scored nine goals through the first half of the season, I would have been really worried about our record," Cannon said.

On the defensive end of the field, Truman has been steady so far this season. Truman has given up just six goals on the season. Grisham has started all nine matches and has recorded 27 saves. She has four shutouts and a 0.67 goal-against average.

"The defense has really been what's holding us together," Grisham said. "They're keeping the goals down and keeping us in games. We're working well together."

Truman's next match is 3 p.m. today against Missouri Western State University at the Truman soccer pitch. The Bulldogs will then travel to Maryville, Mo. Saturday to play Northwest Missouri State University.

**COLUMN** | Truman sports offer a good place to develop a passion for sports

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I grew up with my dad coaching almost all my little league teams. Usually this scenario doesn't work, but it did for us. He walked the fine line of patient coach and pushing father, and he did it well.

My love for sports has only grown since my little league days. The same can be said about my relationship with my dad. The two are very much related. We bond over sports and the Cincinnati Reds. I guess it is in our blood — seriously, our blood is red — and you can't have that without sports.

My dad and I are a lot alike. We are both big, stubborn and very much stone-faced emotionally. We both express only two emotions — anger and happiness — which are often displayed during sports. However, when my dad talks about the Big Red Machine — the Reds team from the 1970s — he can't help but get misty-eyed. And that is why sports are so special to me.

So, when I think about the Reds, baseball or sports in general, I always think of my dad. I think about those hot summer nights fielding ground balls. I reminisce about eight-hour family vacations to Cincinnati to watch the Reds play. I can hear him yelling at the TV in disgust or occasionally throwing something in that direction.

Perhaps the most impressive part of all is that my story is not uncommon at all. I think most sports fans, especially men, could share similar tales. The passing of fandom is very much a part of sports. There are many stories of families holding season tickets for generations.

It's not always dads that share their passion, it can be the same for sibling or even friends. Even complete strangers can share special fan moments. After a big win, fans at the stadium or on the street will high-five, hug and chat with a fellow fan like they've known each other for years. There is a special bond that unites fans.

Honestly, I don't think a sports passion can be explained in words. I think it must be experienced. And I feel sorry for those not as fortunate as me who have missed out on such experiences.

However, there is good news. It is not too late to become a fan. Another beautiful aspect of sports is that they can be enjoyed by people of all ages.

If you're looking for a place to start, there are sporting events on campus all the time. College fans are some of the best there are in sports, and that is the same at Truman as well. Go to a football game, volleyball match, golf tournament, cross-country meet, soccer game or tennis match. They are all enjoyable, and a good place to begin building a sports passion.

Then, when you become a parent, be sure to do two things — buy a house with a big front yard, and share your passion with your kids — especially if you're a Reds fan.

**HAYES** | Sophomore forward leads the team in goals and points, also has one assist

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Hayes chose Truman after initiating contact through a questionnaire and realizing Truman's academic reputation. Playing for the soccer team worked itself out at the last minute.

"They were one of the last schools I looked at, to be honest," Hayes said. "Nothing felt completely right until I came and visited Truman. I've always been told to look at the school first, and ask myself, 'If I ever didn't play soccer, would I like to go there?'"

Head coach Mike Cannon said he knew the club team Hayes played on was very competitive, and after Hayes's first contact, things went smoothly.

"I hadn't seen her play yet

when I first met her, but I knew she played on one of the top club teams in St. Louis," Cannon said. "We knew we were going to have to have replacements in line, especially at the forward position, and she fit really well."

Cannon said that last year Hayes, and then-junior midfielder Beth Bystrom, developed good chemistry that helped contribute to Hayes's success, as she led the team in goals but only started two games.

Many athletes have their own unique pre-game rituals, and Hayes is no exception. Dating back to last year as a freshman player, Hayes still sits in the same spot to put on her cleats before the game. Hayes' "spot" is on the

team cooler, because last year there was not enough room on the bench for everyone and as a freshman she was not given the privilege of the bench.

The team consistently does the same warm-up before a game, and Hayes said that this routine of the same stretches, same music and warming up with the same partner, red-shirt freshman midfielder Hannah Luerding, helps her focus before every game.

"We all put positive signs on our hand," Hayes said. "It's something we've done to keep our minds focused and thinking positively as a team."

The Bulldogs' record during Hayes's tenure is 20-6-5, and she has scored in nearly half of those

games. She recalled the Missouri Western game her freshman year when she scored in double overtime on a free kick as being one of the most exhilarating moments of the year.

"It was the last seconds of double overtime and we got a dead ball, and they were confident enough in me to take it," Hayes said. "And I scored off of the kick for the winning goal."

Cannon said Hayes has made her mark as a scorer with a tough shot and reiterates that she is only a sophomore with as much soccer ahead of her as behind her.

"She is climbing the charts in career goals with 15," Cannon said. "It'll be interesting to see what she'll accomplish."

**ROUT** | Chapman nets hat trick, Bulldogs score seven goals for first time since 2005

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match. Kimball said that this year he's realized how mentally tough he has to be to play successfully. It's important to be in the game before the match even starts, Kimball said.

"I've realized you play soccer to have fun, regardless of all the hype or if you're having a bad season or even a good season," Kimball said. "If you're not having fun then why play? And if everyone is on the same page and having a good time, then you tend to get good results."

Kimball said the team's persistence led them to their victory last Friday. Kimball said the 'Dogs kept working hard and knocking on Maryville's door, and eventually everything started coming together. Kimball said

the more goals Truman put on the board, the more it hurt Maryville's morale and boosted the Bulldogs'. The team is playing well across the field, Kimball said.

"Sometimes it's weird, because either the offense gets the defense going, or the defense gets the offense going, and then we all start working together," Kimball said. "The more we communicate the better we'll perform, but we're all playing together and I think it only looks up from here."

Cochran said the defense still is being tested. However, the chemistry in the backfield is starting to come together. Freshman keeper Nick Wallner recorded his first collegiate save during last Friday's game after he was subbed in near the 73rd

minute of play.

"The offense is buzzing and our defense is playing simple and making sure no one gets any easy looks at our goal," Cochran said.

The 'Dogs travel to St. Louis today for their next match against the University of Missouri-St. Louis at 6 p.m. Although everyone has seen what the team is capable of, they are still looking for their first victory on the road. Chapman said the team is looking forward to the match because it's on a grass field and a night game.

"For the guys that are actually from St. Louis, they're really looking forward to it," Chapman said. "There's nothing better than going back to your hometown and playing under the lights on a Thursday night."

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