

Men drop two on road trip



Andrea Hewitt/Index

Sophomore midfielder Dylan Carter dribbles the ball at practice. Truman lost to a ranked team for the second week in a row Monday when they fell 2-0 to No. 18 Fort Lewis College.

BY WILL EVANS
Staff Reporter

The Truman State mens soccer team traveled 16 hours last weekend to compete against No. 18 ranked Fort Lewis State College [Colo.] and Dixie State College of Utah. The trip to higher elevation mimicked the results of the previous weekend trip to Quincy, Ill., as both weekend trips resulted in a 2-0 loss to a higher ranked team and a bounce-back win the following match.

The first half of the game against Fort Lewis ended 0-0, but Fort Lewis had 10 shots on goal compared to the Bulldogs' two, although junior keeper Tyler Knierim had eight saves — the most he's had all year. Fort Lewis State scored a goal late during the game in the 71st minute and followed it up with a goal during the 77th minute. Despite creating more chances late in the second half, including a shot on goal by senior Jonathan Brown, Truman was not able to get on the board and lost 2-0.

"The two shots we did have on goal could have went in on any given day, but they just didn't fall our way," junior midfielder Ben Hasse said. "The first half we actually played really well, the second half with about 20 minutes left and with the elevation, our team's play didn't become as effective, and we lost the strength in our legs."

The Skyhawks started six seniors in their lineup as opposed to the Bulldogs' two. Brown and Hasse said the elevation played a factor in the team's play during the games, especially for the underclassmen.

"They brought some fresh legs in and the newer guys, the ones who haven't gotten used to the [speed of] play in the game and [the elevation] affected [their play]," Brown said.

Despite the elevation's effect on the team's endurance, Brown said the team's overall quality of play was not as good as it needed to be to compete in the game, especially in

the second half.

In their next game against Dixie State last Sunday, the Bulldogs scored first with a goal off a corner kick by Hasse.

"The whole [Dixie State] team was a lot taller than our team, so we had a couple corners and we weren't really winning them, so with the experience that I have had here, I realized just to lay off and wait for them to head it in and they headed it in and I was right there to follow up on it and score," Hasse said.

The goal was Hasse's first of the season and also his second career goal at Truman.

Dixie State followed up with a goal by junior Jordan Roylance in the 43rd minute. During the 77th minute, senior Matt Sanderson scored his first goal of the season in the right side of the net off a pass by junior Andy Chapman, and the Bulldogs held on for a win. Although Brown admits they did play better and had gotten used to the elevation the second day, he said their confidence level was much greater against Dixie State.

"Fort Lewis is a good team, they are one of the best in the nation, and we knew that when we were coming up to face them, and [the team] hasn't had much experience playing Dixie State, and no disrespect to Dixie State, but they are not as good as Fort Lewis and we had a bit more confidence when we played them on Sunday," Brown said.

Wednesday night, the Bulldogs faced future MIAA member Lindenwood University [Mo.]. The game was close and forced to go to extra time after regulation ended in a 0-0 tie. Lindenwood won the game with a goal by Hernan Gonzalez in the 92nd minute by freshman forward Hernan Gonzalez. Lindenwood led in shots with 14, but both teams had the same number of shots on goal with 4. Brown led the bulldogs with two shots and one shot on goal.

Tennis starts quest to improve

BY SAM SHERMAN
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Following the mens tennis team's 5-11 year, including its 1-11 spring season, head coach Pete Kendall said he wasn't surprised about his team's performance in the Western Illinois University Tournament last weekend.

Sophomore Kirk Schlueter won in straight sets (6-0, 6-2) in his first match and won in a tiebreaker in his second (7-6, 6-3, 10-6) before losing in finals in a tiebreaker (3-6, 6-3, 6-10) to give him a second place finish.

Sophomore Mike Merchant won his first match in straight sets (6-1, 6-1) and won his second in a tiebreaker (2-6, 6-1, 10-5) before losing in finals (6-7(3), 4-6).

"When you put two new players in at two and three, that obviously moves the other guys down, which is really good because it helps them have a better chance to win," Kendall said. "Plus we have new doubles teams now, and one [freshman] is playing one doubles and the other is playing two doubles. I think that will

really help us as the guys get used to playing with each other. I think our doubles teams are going to be the real strong point of our team."

Freshmen Jake Ohlhausen and Griffin Smith were added to the roster this offseason and Ohlhausen's first tournament was anything but ordinary. He was given a defaulted win during his first match, lost his second match and then default the win that earned him third place.

Smith said he did not know what the competition was going to be like during his first college tournament.

"I really didn't know what to expect," Smith said. "I just talked to my teammates about the competition. I feel like I belonged [in the three flight], so I didn't feel too overpowered."

Smith lost his opening match (7-6(5), 3-6, 4-10) but bounced back in the consolation bracket, winning his next match (6-3, 6-2) before losing in consolation finals (4-6, 4-6).

In doubles, senior Eric McColough and sophomore Joe Murphy-Baum finished third in their flight. They won their first match 8-0, lost in the second 3-8 and won the third place match 8-6.

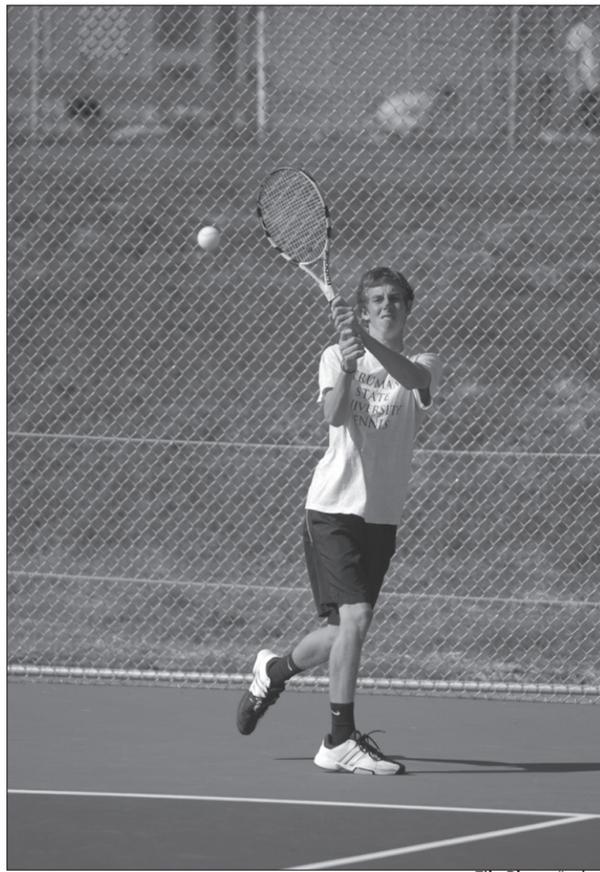
The mens and womens first duel of the season against Westminster College was rescheduled to Sept. 26. Kendall said he wasn't worried for the womens match against the Blue Jays, but that the men's match was not one to look past.

"Their mens team is usually decent but their womens team has never been too strong," Kendall said. "In the last few years, their mens team has been okay, so that won't be an [automatic win]."

In womens tennis, the Bulldogs will be staying in Kirksville this weekend for the Truman Invitational. Kendall said that, because of injuries, he will have three freshmen in the lineup for the tournament. He said he thinks the competition will be thick.

"Northwest [Missouri State University] will be here and they're always good," Kendall said. "Johnson County [Community College] and they have a very good number one player ... Quincy has gotten a lot better the past year. So it will be a solid competition this year."

The tournament begins 2 p.m. Friday and starts 9 a.m. Saturday at the Truman tennis courts.



File Photo/Index

Sophomore Joe Murphy-Baum returns a serves in practice at the Truman tennis courts. Smith and the rest of the team are trying to improve on their 5-11 season from a year ago.

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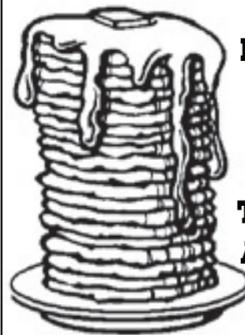
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