

Bulldogs encounter problems on the road

BY WILL EVANS
Staff Reporter

Fall officially has started and October is two days away, but the Truman mens soccer team has yet to play an official home game. The Bulldogs have played eight-straight away games since the start of the regular season. The last two games, which were last weekend, ended in defeat, making the 'Dogs record after eight regular season games 3-5.

The 'Dogs faced Upper Iowa University at 3 p.m. last Sunday in Fayette, Iowa. Despite having a strong record against the Peacocks in the past the Bulldogs lost 1-0. Peacocks senior forward Derek Oelmann scored in the eighth minute. The Bulldogs were not able to come back, despite having more shots and shots on goal during the game. Truman finished the weekend 0-2.

"They scored off of a mishap while clearing the ball and once they scored they packed in tight with nine guys in the backfield," junior goalkeeper Tyler Knierim said.

Senior forward Jonny Brown said this year's struggle to score goals is a key difference between this year's team and last year's team.

"It is just part of the game," Brown said. "If we would have scored once we would have scored three or four times, but we just weren't able to get that first goal to help us get momentum the rest of the game ... We need to score on those chances when we play [Upper Iowa] in our first home game."



Blaise Hart-Schmidt/Index
Senior Jonny Brown takes a corner kick at practice earlier this year. Brown currently is leading the Bulldogs in goals this season with two. The 'Dogs have played their first eight games on the road and are 3-5. Their first home game of the season is Oct. 5.

The Dogs faced the No. 17 NAIA ranked Columbia College [Mo.] Cougars at 7 p.m. last Friday in Columbia, Mo. The 'Dogs lost 4-0, making it the

Bulldogs' biggest loss this season.

Columbia College senior Dylan Barduzzi scored first for the Cougars during the third minute.

Brown said the team was shaken up by the early goal and wasn't able to get anything going after that.

Knierim said the Cougars' strengths played well into the 'Dogs weaknesses.

"[Columbia College] has a much older, more experienced team and they had the experience to know the positions they needed to be in to score during their opportunities," Knierim said. "Our [teammates] are less experienced and couldn't adjust their position as well during the key plays."

The Cougars had 15 more shots and nine more shots on goal than the Bulldogs. Brown said there were more opportunities to score, but the team played too defensively. He said eight straight games on the road might have been a factor in the team's record so far this season.

"I definitely would say that not having a home game this year has been kind of rough this year, especially for the inexperienced guys," Brown said. "... For the younger guys, they haven't even played their first home game, and they have to play eight straight away games with classes just getting started and not having a lot of practice time because the team is always traveling."

Knierim said road games don't affect his or the other upper-classmen's play, but that he understands how it could affect the younger, less experienced players who make up most of the team.

The Bulldogs have their first home game at 3 p.m. Oct. 5, when the 'Dogs will try to even the series with the Upper Iowa

Men improve to 2-0, women now 1-1

BY BROOKE DALY
Staff Reporter

The womens and mens tennis teams hosted William Jewell College on Wednesday. The men won (4-2) in singles and (2-1) in doubles. The women lost in singles (6-3) and in doubles (0-3).

In singles, freshman Griffin Smith led the charge against the Cardinals, winning his No. 3 flight match 6-3, 6-1. Sophomores Adam King (6-2, 6-2), Joe Murphy-Baum (6-2, 6-2) and Mike Merchant (6-2, 6-7, 10-2) also won their matches.

In doubles, the pairings of freshman Jake Ohlhausen and Smith (8-3) and King and Murphy-Baum (8-2) won their matches. The Bulldogs' 6-3 win against William Jewell raised their record to 2-0.

On the women's side, the Bulldogs' struggles in doubles play came back to bite them against William Jewell resulting in a 3-6 loss, dropping their record to 1-0.

Although senior Ellen Russell and her doubles partner senior Dagmar Velez lost their match 4-8, Russell said she was not disappointed.

"It was really fun," Russell said. "Dagmar and I played like we had nothing to lose."

Monday afternoon the mens and womens tennis teams took on Westminster College in a make-up dual, the first of the season. Both teams won their match against the Blue Jays. The men won 8-1 and the women won 9-0.

Freshman Kim Birenbaum found success on the court at Westminster, winning No. 3 singles matches 6-0 and No. 2 doubles 8-2 with freshman Kelsey Porter. The pairing of juniors Ellen Russell

and Dagmar Velez won the No. 1 flight match against the Blue Jays (8-4), while freshman Katie Austin and sophomore Jessica Gennuso won 8-1 in the No. 3 flight.

Birenbaum said she was relieved the Bulldogs beat the Blue Jays.

"It was good to have a win for the first [dual]. I was so nervous going in," she said.

In womens singles, Russell (6-4, 6-3), Velez (6-0, 6-3), Birenbaum (6-0, 6-0), senior Jennifer Hawkins (6-1, 6-1), Austin (6-3, 6-1) and Porter (6-2, 6-0) won their singles matches against Westminster. The sweeping of the Blue Jays brought the Bulldogs to 1-0 for the season.

In mens doubles, the pairing of seniors Eric McCullough and Mark Sturley lost 3-8 in the No. 1 flight. The freshmen pairing of Jake Ohlhausen and Griffin Smith won the No. 2 match against Westminster with a final score of 9-8 (7-3). Sophomores Adam King and Joe Murphy-Baum won 8-2 at No. 3.

In mens singles, all the Bulldogs won their matches in straight sets. This brought the mens team to 1-0 for the season and gave the Blue Jays a loss in their first match of the fall season.

Last Friday and Saturday, the mens team hosted the Truman Invitational, round robin style tournament. The men won a total of 29 matches and had the most singles wins in the Invitational.

In mens singles, sophomore Mike Merchant and Sturley were undefeated in their respective flights, earning first-place finishes. Murphy-Baum finished second in Merchant's flight with a 5-1 record, while sophomore Kirk Schlueter finished third in Sturley's flight, posting



Dan Warner/Index
Senior Ellen Russell returns a ball over the net at practice last week. The women's team was not able to beat William Jewell, putting them at 1-1 for the season.

a 4-1 record for the weekend.

Sophomore Joe Murphy-Baum placed second in Flight 5/6 posting 5-1 after a loss to Michael Draper of Johnson County, winning 8-4.

The mens and womens teams will return to the court 9 a.m. Friday at the ITA Regional Tournament in Springfield, Mo.

and 4 p.m. Tuesday to face Quincy University. Head coach Pete Kendall said it will not be an easy endeavor for the Bulldogs.

"It will be the best players in the region — some of the best teams in the country," Kendall said. "There will be some tough competition."



Jessie Poole/Index
Junior Caitlin Combs watches her shot at the Kirkville Country Club driving range at practice earlier this season. The Bulldogs shot their best score of the season last weekend at the Millikin University Fall Classic.

Women step up their game at Millikin

BY TYLER SIGRIST
Staff Reporter

Finishing 13th at Drury and 12th at Illinois Wesleyan, the womens golf team put up their best score of the season last weekend at the Millikin University Fall Classic in Decatur, Ill.

The team picked up 17 strokes from their day, one score on their way to a two-day total of 659 [+83], which was good enough for third place in the tournament.

"It was great to see everybody's game come together," senior Liz Lestmann said. "It was rewarding to finally have all of our hard work finally pay off and be reflected in our scores."

Junior Jessica Tomash led the way for the team, shooting 161 during the tournament and tying for 12th place.

"She's just being really patient, making sure she's lined up well and concentrating on hitting the ball solid," head coach Sam Lesseig said.

Lestmann was next in line for the 'Dogs, placing 14th. She shot an 84 Saturday and was able to come back with an 80 during the next round. Lestmann, though, was just one of many Bulldogs to come back with a better round the second day. Freshmen Riley Keltner and Courtney Cislir, who place 19th and 29th respectively, also lowered their scores on day two by four or more strokes.

"Some days it's there, some days it's not," Lesseig said. "When it isn't there you just try to

salvage what you can. When it is, you just sort of enjoy it."

Junior Lynn Dreisilker, who shot 17 over during the first round, came back and fired a career low 78 Sunday.

"My determination and confidence were way up," Dreisilker said. "I've always known that I could do it, but I just hadn't gotten there [on the collegiate level]. I am going to keep practicing and stay determined."

Lesseig said he enjoys it when his players fight their way back.

"I was very happy for her," Lesseig said. "She's a good player. It's one of those things where you have to make that breakthrough to get down there and once you've done it, now you actually know that you can do it. It might not be the next time when she shoots it again, but now she knows that she can do it and, if she just stays focused, she'll be fine."

Washington University-St. Louis [Mo.] took home the first place trophy from Millikin this weekend. Freshman Olivia Lugar won the tournament overall, shooting a 145. The Bears swept the tournament with their top five golfers finishing in the top five within 10 strokes of each other.

The Bulldogs are off this weekend and will pick up Oct. 9-10 at Western Illinois. Coach Lesseig said he hopes they continue to improve as they get back into a routine and the season continues.