



Left, sophomore Meghan Zimmerman sets the ball for senior Emily Brisenio during the game against Missouri Southern State University on Friday. Right, senior Megan Sharpe blocks the ball against the University of Central Missouri on Saturday. The 'Dogs defeated MSSU, and lost to UCM.

SOCCER | With the fall season completed, the 'Dogs look toward the team's first season in the GLVC

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started all 17 games during 2012, said the team didn't bring their "killer mentality" and their lack of confidence early on was the difference in the match.

Despite the loss, Langley said Truman learned a lot from the contest and will use the game as motivation to improve next season. Langley said the young team gained valuable postseason experience that was sorely missed on a roster loaded with freshmen and sophomores.

Apart from the disappointing semifinal loss, Franta said the team achieved success this season through gritty play and a much-improved defense from 2011. During the coming weeks, Langley said his team will look to set new expectations and goals for 2013, but acknowledged the team needed some time to collect themselves after the tough loss.

"Without question we have a sick feeling in our stomach right now, but the important thing is that we grew as a team from the experience and saw our defensive potential next year," Langley said.

Junior midfielder Dylan Carter, who missed part of 2012 due to in-

jury, said the team would be back and ready for next season during the team's inaugural season as a member of the Great Lakes Valley Conference. Carter said the team will miss the talents of seniors Andy Chapman and Charlie Backus next season, but the 'Dogs will display a healthier group of veterans on defense next year. He said the 'Dogs will return with all of their defensive starters from 2012 along with the goal to get back to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2010 and win a conference title.

Carter said the team's injury woes of 2012 served as a building block for younger players to gain important minutes during the season to better prepare them for next fall. Next season, Carter said he thinks the 'Dogs will continue to improve so long as they remain injury free and continues to fight with heart.

"We learned a lot about our team this year and as we progressed through the season, fans saw our team's depth and how talented we are," Carter said. "We got hit with a bunch of injuries and played through adversity that will only make us tougher heading into next season."



Sam Gorden/Index

The Truman State men's soccer team prepares for a corner kick during the game against Lindenwood University on Oct. 19 at the Truman Soccer Park. The Board of Governors approved a new irrigation and drainage system to be completed by May 1, 2013.

IRRIGATION | New soccer field irrigation system is set to cost the University about \$155,000

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Junior football player Brad Young said that he viewed the news of the field improvements positively as it shows Truman is making strides toward athletic improvement.

Truman admissions counselor Joy Bulen said changes like the ones being made at the soccer field are important, because the condition of facilities often are an important factor to incoming freshmen.

"Everyone gets excited when

there are new and improved things at the school," Bulen said. "As an admissions counselor, it feels good to know that Truman is making improvements that enhance the school's image."

Notable related projects carried out on the athletic budget before the irrigation system include last summer's renovations in Pershing Arena, as well as the large-scale addition of the new athletic weight room two years ago.

VOLLEYBALL | Despite being ranked 15th in the nation, sixth in the Central Region and fourth in the MIAA, Truman's postseason future is not certain

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be the difference between being the six seed and being the nine seed and being out."

Truman currently is ranked sixth in the Central Region behind MIAA foes UCM and Washburn University. The Bulldogs are one spot ahead of the University of Nebraska-Kearney, a team ranked fourth nationally but whom Truman defeated Oct. 12 in Kearney.

The Bulldogs played their last home stand of the season this weekend, defeating Missouri Southern 3-0 Friday before the loss to UCM Saturday on Senior Day.

Against the Jennies, sophomore Allie Brak led the way with a career-high of 25 kills for Truman. Senior Megan Sharpe added 13 and Zimmerman had a career-high of 60 assists, but none of it was quite enough for Truman to prevail against a UCM team that had defeated them during five sets Sept. 22 in Warrensburg, Mo.

Saturday, the Jennies took the first set 27-25 after Truman

had rallied to tie the set at 24-24. UCM's Carly Sojka and Brak traded service errors with UCM up 25-24 and then at 25-25 before the Jennies converted their fourth set point.

The 'Dogs took the second set 25-18 with the help of eight kills from Brak. Central Missouri emerged as the stronger team after halftime however, taking the third set 25-19 before sealing the match with a fourth set victory of 25-22.

Senior Emily Brisenio said she thought the loss would make the 'Dogs more determined during their final week of regular-season play.

"We're a pretty good team at moving on," she said. "The last time [UCM] beat us, we went on a 16-game win streak. It'll help focus us more. We'll see them again."

Truman currently is fourth in the MIAA standings, trailing UCM, Washburn and Nebraska-Kearney in a three-way tie for first. A good showing in the MIAA tournament then could help the Bulldogs keep or even

improve their regional standing, Briney said. Doing so would require the Bulldogs to beat two of the three aforementioned teams, but Briney said he thinks if the team plays as well as they are capable of, they have a chance to win the MIAA tournament.

With their win Friday night, Truman already has guaranteed themselves a first-round match at home for the MIAA tournament, which will be played Nov. 13 in Pershing Arena. Before that match, though, the Bulldogs will face two potential MIAA quarterfinal opponents, squaring off against Emporia State on Friday and Northwest Missouri State on Saturday.

Zimmerman said the team's goal is to go 2-0 for the road trip and try to keep their momentum rolling into the MIAA tournament and beyond. But Bulldog wasn't quite above looking ahead.

"The fans were great today, and if they come out and watch us Nov. 13, we'll get a win for them," Brisenio said Saturday after the Senior Day loss.

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