

SPORTS

Thursday, September 20, 2012

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Senior Maggie Schutte bounces back from a series of injuries
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Mosquera follows dream

Playing Bulldog football helps senior Will Mosquera fulfill childhood dreams

BY KIRK SCHLUETER
Staff Reporter

Senior running back Will Mosquera still vividly remembers the day he met head coach Gregg Nesbitt — it was the day during the 2010 offseason when Mosquera stepped into Nesbitt's office to ask to be let back on the football team.

"My heart was beating," Mosquera said. "I had never spoken with him, never talked with him or anything like that ... I just went in there with an open heart and open mind and spoke my heart and just told him I really wanted to play."

For Mosquera, football had been a constant presence since he was a child. His childhood dream, he said, like so many other young boys, was to play professional football in the NFL. He said the first professional player he can remember watching was Detroit Lions running back Barry Sanders which Mosquera said was probably one reason he himself became a running back.

Mosquera soon ended up at Truman State, by which time he had developed into a running back with a style Nesbitt called physically punishing, as well as a resilience crucial to the running back position.

"[Being a running back is] unbelievably tough," Nesbitt said. "The ball attracts bad guys."

Senior safety Richie Schumacher said Mosquera is a back who can be counted on to get "the hard yards" during plays, but his skills definitely are not one-sided.

"At the same time, he's got speed and the moves, so he can make people miss if he needs to," Schumacher said. "You never know if he's going to try to make you miss or if he's going to try to run you over, which makes it pretty tough as a defender."

But for some time after his arrival at Truman, Mosquera's future as a running back seemed in jeopardy. During his freshman season he was suspended from the football team following a series of violations of team rules and receiving a ticket for driving without a license. For the first time since he was nine years old, Will Mosquera found himself without football.

"It was kind of scary, kind of iffy," he said. "It kind of changed my life. I tried



Senior running back Will Mosquera prepares to take a handoff during practice Friday. Mosquera has 48 carries, totaling 206 yards, and four touchdowns this year.

Sam Gorden/Index

to take a different outlook."

He said he stayed in shape during the offseason by taking a weight training class and working out on his own. Then Nesbitt became head coach, and Mosquera went to his office to plead his case to be allowed back into Truman State football.

"I think a new coaching staff gave the opportunity for a fresh start," Nesbitt said. "What impressed me was the humility of the kid ... When you talk to a person of authority, there's going to

be a certain anxiety level. He did a really good job with it, obviously, or we wouldn't have given him that second shot."

Mosquera was allowed to rejoin the team. Almost immediately, he said, his goal became to earn the respect of the coaching staff that had let him back in the game. He said his new motto in life and in football was accountability.

"I feel like [accountability is] one of the more important aspects of football
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Goalkeeper shows her dominance

BY TYLER POE
Staff Reporter

Junior goalkeeper Emily Bozdeck was named MIAA Player of the Week for her defensive dominance on the soccer field this week and will look to extend her shutout streak to six games when the Bulldogs take on Central Oklahoma tomorrow in Edmond, Ok.

Bozdeck leads the MIAA in shutouts and has allowed only two scores out of 50 shots on goal this season. Bozdeck said she doesn't spend time dwelling on the streak as Truman heads into the bulk of the MIAA season. Bozdeck said the team is focused on winning any way they can, but

said everyone wants the streak to continue. Bozdeck said she readily acknowledges she is a dominant player, and she isn't shying away from the spotlight.

Bozdeck began her career in the net during an 8th-grade club soccer match after the team's previous goalie sustained a sprained ankle halfway through the match. Her father, who was also her coach at the time, told her she had to go in. Bozdeck said she immediately

refused, but was later convinced by her father to just go in and have fun.

During that first game, Bozdeck said her father encouraged her from the sidelines all match long and gave her a thumbs up after each save.

"My father always told me to be confident and to believe in myself," Bozdeck said. "He has always told me that a good keeper is someone who answers the bell when tested in big moments and they may only

get that one opportunity each game, but if I am confident in my ability, then I would be successful."

Bozdeck spent her first year at Truman as a redshirt and quickly learned she had to wait her turn for a chance to start on the team loaded with talent, which included Jayne Grisham, the team's longtime starting goalkeeper. Bozdeck said she knew she would have an opportunity her first year as a starter.

Bozdeck's roommate, senior forward Olivia Hayes, said Bozdeck has overcome more adversity than most along her way to the top of the MIAA. Hayes said

Bozdeck has had to learn to become a fully confident leader on the field and overcome some major obstacles off of the field.

In the spring of 2012, Bozdeck suffered a broken leg in her first team practice as the team's number one goaltender. Hayes said during the next several months Bozdeck faced struggles to overcome rehabilitation while maintaining a positive outlook for the fall.

"Emily had to overcome a lot during last spring," Hayes said. "She knew she would be the starter in the fall so [her injury] was a major setback. Even then, she was never deterred and never got down on herself. She was right
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Emily Bozdeck

Success deserves recognition

BY SAM SHERMAN
Truman Media Network Sports Director

It was an odd feeling for everyone Saturday night after the Bulldogs football team defeated an unimpressive Northwestern Oklahoma State team 63-21 to go 3-0 for the first time since 1994. As the players greeted their families and fans filed out of Stokes Stadium, I came to a realization that I never thought I'd reach — I'm actually emotionally involved with how this football team does.

Even before I attended classes at Truman State, I always heard how bad the football team was. It was almost like the culture surrounding the University was that the Bulldogs were going to be the laughingstock of the MIAA and

to not pay any attention to athletics, because in the end it didn't matter.

Despite what I heard, I joined the Index sports staff and started writing about the same Truman sports I had been told nobody cared about. Eventually, I took the football beat, and I had the pleasure of working with head coach Gregg Nesbitt and numerous players. As I learned more about the team, the players and the conference, I started to believe in a team not many people would give a second glance.

Now the team I've been writing about for two years finally has a shot. They're undefeated after three games, yet the bad-mouthing of the program by students and faculty still is prevalent in Truman culture. To all those people
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Commentary



SAM SHERMAN

Dear readers,

Welcome to the new sports section. We've decided to redo the way we approach reporting sports. From now on, we will have more features to give you the most interesting stories about athletes, coaches and Truman sports trends. For results of recent sporting events, the Bulldog Breakdown and a calendar of this week's upcoming sporting events, please see page 16.

This section, and this newspaper, is a constant work in progress, so please give us your feedback and comments so we can serve you.

Thank you,

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