

Men's season ends

BY CHRIS CARTER
Staff Reporter

The men's soccer team did not qualify for the GLVC postseason tournament and ended their season last weekend.

This week marked the conclusion to the men's soccer team's season. Their record this year wasn't enough to qualify them for the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament, where only the top eight teams in the GLVC get to compete.

The Bulldogs finished their season with a six-game losing streak, which ended their chances at competing in the end of season tournament. The men ended with a 5-11-1, 4-10-1 GLVC record that placed them 13th in the 16-team conference.

Senior forward Austin Hayden said he was disappointed because he thought the team was better this season than what the losing record showed.

The team played their last game of the season Wednesday evening in Quincy, Illinois, against the Hawks. Quincy (16-0-2, 13-0-2 GLVC) was ranked first in the conference, and would be a difficult opponent. Truman put up a fight, but concluded the game with another loss, making it six games in a row. The game concluded with Quincy shutting out the Bulldogs 4-0.

The Hawks first scored during the 28th minute, and then the same player put a second goal in during the 51st minute. Quincy continued their lead when they scored a third goal just two minutes after their second, with a cross and goal put in just past

the post. The game ended when the Hawks headed one into the goal during the 68th minute. The game ended before Truman could make it onto the scoreboard, but Hayden managed to take two shots during the final game of his career.

Senior keepers Drew Garrone and Tony Lantz shared their last game and together stopped four shots from going in. Sophomore defender Jake Brown said the game wasn't played terribly, and it went as expected.

"We played fine," Brown said. "Quincy is a really good team, and they managed to almost always finish their chances."

Looking back at the last few months now that the season is finished, Brown said it was an extremely frustrating season. During the past, the 'Dogs have performed better late in the season and he said it was tough to watch the 'Dogs struggle during this game. The team was set up well, but they weren't able to get goals and win games.

"It's hard to talk for the team ... because we didn't have a good year," Hayden said.

Hayden said it especially was tough for the seniors to watch their final season slip through their hands and not make it to the conference tournament.

There are 10 senior Bulldogs retiring from the soccer program this year including Hayden, Garrone, Lantz, forward Tony Luedecke, defender Ian Abundis, midfielder Chris Mansfield, midfielder Nick Franta, forward Brandon Visonnavong, midfielder John Fernandez and midfielder Danny Jack.

"This season, the seniors were the definite leaders, and they helped build the team and directed us through everything," sophomore midfielder Craig McLaurine said.



Athena Geldbach/Index

Senior goalkeeper Drew Garrone takes the ball away from an opponent. Garrone is one player who played his last game at Bulldog Soccer Park last week.

McLaurine said future seasons without the current seniors will be different, since those 10 won't be there to lead. He said the entire team dynamic will change and the focus of next season will be about the chemistry of the new players and not about the leadership.

Brown said they have younger players ready to step up. Hayden said he thinks the program has a bright future even with the loss of 10 seniors.

"The only way to move on from this past season is to push the younger players in this off season and let them know how important is to work hard now," Hayden said.

The Bulldogs will keep six of their starters on the field next season.

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