

SPORTS

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Women's soccer wins five

BY RACHEL STEINHOFF
Staff Reporter

The Truman women's soccer team has hit a hot streak during conference play. The 'Dogs have assembled five straight conference wins, which has them at 6-0-2 against GLVC opponents and bumped the team up to second place in the conference standings.

The Bulldogs made their move in GLVC play last weekend by earning wins against the GLVC's Kansas City schools. The first of these wins was secured Friday during a 2-1 victory against the Rockhurst University Hawks.

After both teams struggled to score during the majority of the first half, the Hawks got on the board first. With three minutes remaining during the first half, a Rockhurst shot was accidentally knocked in by a Truman defender, giving the Hawks a 1-0 lead from the own goal. The Hawks took this lead into half-time, but it did not last long.

Junior midfielder Megan Casserly said the most important thing about trailing late in the contest is the ability to move past the own goal and use it as motivation to play at a higher level.

"With the first goal of the game being one of their only dangerous chances and it coming from an unlucky tip like that, we knew we were outplaying them," Casserly said. "At halftime, we discussed certain things we could work on collectively as a team — especially being patient when making that final pass in a sequence to get us in behind their defense."

After immediately placing pressure on the Rockhurst goalkeeper during the second half, Truman leveled the score at 1-1 with a free kick by senior defender Jessica Hanson. Casserly said the 'Dogs rallied around this goal and found their confidence.

"In the second half, scoring somewhat early into it definitely pumped us up and helped us realize that we definitely had a chance at winning," Casserly said. "I feel like better chances arose for us in that half because we played with composure and communicated a lot better with each other."

These scoring opportunities did not end with Hanson's goal. During the 70th minute senior midfielder Megan Frkovic sent a corner kick into the box, and Casserly scored to give the Bulldogs the lead. The team continued its offensive pressure as it out-shot Rockhurst 8-3 during the second half and sealed the 2-1 victory.

Sophomore goalkeeper Katie Mattingly said during the second half,

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
Sept. 11	Maryville	Tie 0-0
Sept. 13	UMSL	Win 1-0
Sept. 15	Lindenwood	Tie 1-1
Sept. 18	Lewis	Tie 1-1
Sept. 20	Wisconsin-Parkside	Win 2-1
Sept. 25	Indianapolis	Win 1-0
Sept. 27	Saint Joseph's	Win 2-1
Oct. 2	Rockhurst	Win 2-1
Oct. 4	William Jewell	Win 1-0

the team responded the right way with a positive attitude and in-

creased motivation.

"We knew we couldn't dwell on the

goal, and I think it motivated us because we knew we were not going to allow an unlucky situation like that cost us the game," Mattingly said.

The 'Dogs returned to action Sunday afternoon and tallied another home field victory against the William Jewell College Cardinals. Sunday's match did not offer as many scoring opportunities for both teams, but Truman posted a shutout in a 1-0 win.

Despite the lack of shots from both teams, senior midfielder Alexis Heffernan dribbled unassisted past three Cardinal defenders and scored to give Truman the lead during the 32nd minute. The goal marked Heffernan's fourth of the season.

Truman had 11 shots on the game with four on goal, but Heffernan's score was the only one to find the back of the net.

Heffernan led the team with eight shots. As a team, Truman spent a lot of time on the Cardinal's half of the field and took 10 corner kicks.

The two GLVC contests were not just offensive shows. On the defensive side, Truman held Rockhurst to seven shots, all of them coming during the second half. Mattingly recorded her 10th career shutout and fourth of the season.

Mattingly said it is important that the defense has been able to limit shots on goal and keep the pressure off of her.

"Even the easiest shots can be dangerous in close games," Mattingly said. Limiting shots on goal takes a lot of pressure off me as a goalkeeper because in close games there is no room for error on my part. However, no one is perfect and mistakes are going to happen. The less shots on goal, the less I have to worry about."

Sunday's win increased Truman's current win streak to five in a row — the most consecutive wins for the women's soccer team since 2013. Hanson said team chemistry plays a big role in what the team has been able to accomplish.

"We are a very close team, and we work for each other," Hanson said. "This is why we have had so much success."

Hanson said her team is looking to continue this climb by centering its attention on the most immediate task.

"The winning streak is not something we talk about," Hanson said. "We focus on one game at a time, and we try not to look forward too far into the future."

With this mindset, the 'Dogs will be traveling for two straight weekends, just one game out of the lead in conference standings. The road series will open 5 p.m. Friday in Rolla, Missouri, against the Missouri University of Science and Technology Lady Miners.

From the desk of the editor



Sports Editor emphasizes the importance of a Homecoming victory from Truman's intercollegiate athletic teams

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Homecoming is the time to show just how proud you are to be a Bulldog. Seeing some new and familiar faces back on campus brings added enthusiasm to the game day atmosphere.

With all the celebrating festivities going on throughout the week and into the weekend, Truman State's student athletes primarily are so with defending their turf in front of their home crowd — even more concerned during Homecoming than during other home games throughout the season. It also is when many people will see the teams in action for the first time, so it is important to make a good impression.

Programs at the high school and college level stress the importance of Homecoming victories. It would be a shame for alumni to return with such high hopes of their alma mater excelling only for the visiting team to spoil the party. Because this is considered common knowledge among players and coaches around the country, a lot of opposing teams will take offense to being scheduled during the hosting school's Homecoming, because it implies they are easy to defeat.

Last year, William Jewell College came to town on Homecoming with a chip on its shoulder to not be viewed as an easy win. The Cardinals came from behind and upset the Bulldogs, 21-17, handing Truman its first conference loss of the season.

This year, we have two Bulldog teams competing on Saturday. The football team looks to add another win to its conference record 2 p.m. at Stokes Stadium when Southwest Baptist University comes to Kirksville, while volleyball will host Maryville University at 7 p.m. in Pershing Arena to cap off the evening.

The moral of the story — just win, Bulldogs! A happy Homecoming is one that ends with victories.



Joey Schenck

Junior wide receiver Joey Schenck finished with a season-high of 10 catches for 107 yards and one touchdown during the Bulldogs' road loss to the University of Indianapolis Saturday. Schenck currently is Truman's leading receiver with 24 catches and 212 yards this season during the first five games.

PLAYER of the WEEK