Central Regional Semifinal:
Southern Illinois-Edwardsville Cougars (NCAA II/Great Lakes Valley) vs. Rockhurst University Hawks (NCAA II/Independent)

Date: Thursday, Nov. 13, 2003
Time: 1 p.m.
Location: Kirksville, Mo.

Central Regional Final: Semifinal Winner vs. Truman State University Bulldogs (NCAA II/Independent)

Date: Saturday, Nov. 15, 2003
Time: 1 p.m.
Location: Kirksville, Mo.

Ticket Prices: $5 Adults/$2 Students and Children under 12

Truman (19-0-0): Truman was rewarded this week for its perfect season by receiving a number one seed in the NCAA Central regional tournament. The Bulldogs will host the event and receive a first-round bye.

SIU-Edwardsville and Rockhurst also received NCAA bids. Those two teams will play on Thursday in Kirksville at 1 p.m. The winner will advance to the regional final where they will face Truman on Saturday at 1 p.m.

The Bulldogs wrapped up their perfect regular season last Saturday with a 4-0 win over Missouri Southern. On senior day, senior Ricky Vigil scored three times and senior Adam Johnson recorded the shutout in goal.

National Poll: Truman remained at the No. 2 spot in the national poll this week. SIU-Edwardsville is ranked 13th and Rockhurst is ranked 24th.

Southern Illinois-Edwardsville (16-3-0): The Cougars had a 15-game winning streak snapped last weekend with a 3-1 loss to Lewis in the Great Lakes Valley conference tournament. The only other losses on the year came early in the season against Truman and Christian Brothers.

Southern Illinois-Edwardsville has similar numbers to Truman with both a strong offense and a great defense. The team is averaging 2.67 goals a game while allowing just 0.63 goals. It has 11 shutouts on the year and have been shutout just once. Through Nov. 2, the team was 24th in the nation in scoring, second in goals against average and third in shutout percentage.

Three Cougars have double-figure goals on the year. Adae Rique leads the team in scoring with 35 points (13 goals and nine assists). Cal Thomas also has 13 goals and six assists on the year. Victor Pacheco has 10 goals and seven assists. Pete Cacciatore is the fourth threat with 10 goals and five assists. Greg Allen has 13 goals and four assists.

In goal, Bret Richardson has the second-best goals against average in the nation. He has allowed 10 goals in 19 games. He has 11 shutouts and a 0.55 goals against average.

SIU-Edwardsville is coached by Ed Huneke who is in his 18th season at the helm of the Cougars. He has a coaching mark of 190-140-22.

Lynn University (Fla.)
Truman
South Carolina-Spartanburg
Incarnate Word (Texas)
Cal State Dominguez Hills
Southern Connecticut State
Mercyhurst (Pa.)
Dowling (N.Y.)
North Carolina-Pembroke
Chico State (Calif.)
East Stroudsburg (Pa.)
Barry ( Fla.)
SIU-Edwardsville
Midwestern State (Texas)
Wheeling Jesuit (W.V.)
Franklin Pierce (N.H.)
New York Institute of Technology
Carson-Newman (Tenn.)
UMass-Lowell
Rollins ( Fla.)
UC-Davis
Metro State
West Florida
Rockhurst (Mo.)
Findlay (Ohio)

2003 Bulldog Schedule
Aug. 30 vs. SIU-Edwardsville
Sept. 6 Lewis (III.)
Sept. 7 Wisconsin-Parkside
Sept. 13 @ Northern Kentucky
Sept. 14 @ Indianapolis (Ind.)
Sept. 20 @ Rockhurst
Sept. 21 William Penn (Iowa)
Sept. 27 @ Missouri-Rolla
Oct. 3 @ Colorado School of Mines
Oct. 5 @ Colorado Christian
Oct. 10 @ Southern Indiana
Oct. 11 @ Oakland City (Ind.)
Oct. 18 Gannon (Pa.)
Oct. 22 Missouri-St. Louis
Oct. 26 @ William Woods
Oct. 28 @ Quincy (Ill.)
Oct. 31 @ Christian Brothers (Tenn.)
Nov. 2 vs. Harding (in Memphis, Tenn.)
Nov. 8 Missouri Southern
Nov. 15 SIU-Edwardsville/Rockhurst

NSCAA/Adidas National Poll
1. Lynn University (Fla.)
2. Truman
3. South Carolina-Spartanburg
4. Incarnate Word (Texas)
5. Cal State Dominguez Hills
6. Southern Connecticut State
7. Mercyhurst (Pa.)
8. Dowling (N.Y.)
9. North Carolina-Pembroke
10. Chico State (Calif.)
11. East Stroudsburg (Pa.)
12. Barry (Fla.)
13. SIU-Edwardsville
14. Midwestern State (Texas)
15. Wheeling Jesuit (W.V.)
16. Franklin Pierce (N.H.)
17. New York Institute of Technology
18. Carson-Newman (Tenn.)
19. UMass-Lowell
20. Rollins (Fla.)
21. UC-Davis
22. Metro State
23. West Florida
24. Rockhurst (Mo.)
25. Findlay (Ohio)

Bulldogs in the National Poll
Preseason . . . . No. 19
Sept. 1 . . . . . . . No. 20
Sept. 8 . . . . . . . No. 13
Sept. 15 . . . . . . . No. 8
Sept. 22 . . . . . . . No. 7
Sept. 29 . . . . . . . No. 5

2003 Bulldog Schedule
Aug. 30 at Quincy Soccer Bowl (Ill.)
Sept. 3 vs. SIU-Edwardsville
Sept. 6 vs. Lewis (III.)
Sept. 7 vs. Wisconsin-Parkside
Sept. 13 vs. Northern Kentucky
Sept. 14 vs. Indianapolis (Ind.)
Sept. 20 vs. Rockhurst
Sept. 21 vs. William Penn (Iowa)
Sept. 27 vs. Missouri-Rolla
Oct. 3 vs. Colorado School of Mines
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Nov. 15 vs. SIU-Edwardsville/Rockhurst

Nov. 11, 2003

No. 2 Truman Men’s Soccer Hosts the Central Regional Tournament This Week

Continued on Next Page...
by a 5-2-1 mark and are unbeaten in the last five meet-
nings.

Earlier This Season: The Bulldogs opened the year with a 1-0 shutout win over SIU-Edwardsville. Both teams had four shots on goals but Truman’s Sean Birrell was the only one to get a shot in the back of the net. He scored in the 39th minute off an assist from Chad Baldwin, Baldwin’s first career point. Nate Gibson earned the shutout in goal, making four saves in his first collegiate start.

ROCKHURST (10-8-1): The Hawks ended the season with a pair of overtime wins over Missouri Southern and Benedictine, both by 2-1 scores. Prior to that, however, the team won just once over a five-game span, a streak in which they went 1-3-1.

Rockhurst has scored 24 goals and allowed 24 in its 19 games.

Three players lead the team with four goals on the year in Tommie Becks, Joe Burns and Kurt Trouba. Burns and Trouba also have a team-high 10 points.

In goal, Matt Meier and Adrian Winnubst have seen the most action in goal. Meier has allowed eight goals in nine games and has four shutouts. Winnubst has allowed 14 goals in nine games and has two shutouts.

The all-time series against Truman is in Rockhurst’s favor at 9-8-0.

Earlier This Season: The Bulldogs recorded a 2-0 road win over Rockhurst.

Shots were pretty even in a physical game that saw the two teams combine for 38 fouls and nine yellow cards. The difference was the goalkeeping as Nate Gibson made saves on all four Rockhurst shots on goal as he recorded his fourth straight shutout.

The score was tied at half and remained that way until the 67th minute when Martin Clayes scored unassisted. Six minutes later, Ricky Vigil put another tally on the board with an assist from Sean Birrell.

SEASON IN REVIEW: Truman opened up its year with a lot of expectations after returning every key member from last year’s 13-4-0 team.

The bulldogs first test came against Southern Illinois-Edwardsville at the Quincy Soccer Bowl. The two teams both managed just four shots on goal but Sean Birrell’s shot in 39th minute was the only one to cross the line in a 1-0 Bulldog win.

Following a rainout against Quincy, Truman came home to face regional rival Lewis. The Bulldogs kept pressure on the Flyers all game, leading to two penalty kicks, the last one with under four minutes remaining which proved to be the difference in a 3-2 win.

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BULLDOGS DEPTH: Truman coach Alf Bilbao has said all year that this year’s biggest strength was the overall depth of the team. He feels when a substitute goes into the game for a starter, the level of play does not drop off at all.

Eighteen different Bulldogs have played in at least half of Truman’s games this season and 16 Bulldogs have started at least one game during the season.

STRONG DEFENSES IN THE NCAA TOURNAMENT: Statistically, Truman has one of the top defenses in NCAA Division II history. In the past, this has been a good sign in the NCAA Tournament. Ten other teams have recorded a season goals against average below 0.40. Five of these teams made the Final Four and one won the NCAA Championship.

BULLDOGS DEFENSE: Truman’s defense has been strong in 2003 in large part because of the Bulldogs’ backs and midfielders allowing less than nine shots a game and just over four shots on goal a game.

Backs Bryan Defoe and Mike Boyle have started every game for Truman and Ryan Cravens has started all 18 games he has

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2003 TRUMAN ROSTER

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<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pos.</th>
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Head Coach: Alf Bibao
Student Assistant: David Salvatierra

* Letters Earned  % Previously Redshirted
played in. Brett Coppage, Jared Atwood, Brenton Freeman, Luke Bolar and Nate Gaudreault have started the majority of games at midfield for the Bulldogs.

Truman’s goalkeepers have done their part as well. Nate Gibson had made 68 saves on the year and has a .944 save percentage. He has 13 shutouts in 16 games and a 0.25 goals against average. In three games in goal, Adam Johnson has not allowed a goal while making 11 saves.

BULLDOGS OFFENSE: Since the return of Lars Pottgiesser from an early season injury, the Bulldogs offense has exploded with four main threats to score. Sean Birrell currently leads the team with 12 goals and 30 points. Ricky Vigil is also in double-figures with 10 goals. Martin Clayes has eight goals, three by penalty kick, and has a team-high eight assists. Pottgiesser has scored eight times in 12 games.

Bilbao became the eventual national champions.

The winner of the Central regional will face the winner of the Great Lakes regional on Nov. 22 or 23 in a NCAA quarterfinal match. Mercyhurst is the number one seed of the Great Lakes regional and will face the winner of the first-round match between Findlay and Ashland.

The following season, the first under Alf Bilbao, Truman defeated Quincy in a wild first-round game in Kirksville. The two teams were tied at one at the end of regulation. Truman struck first just 18 seconds into overtime but Quincy answered five minutes later. Truman finally pushed the game-winner across in the 103rd minute. Claes Meldal had a hand in every goal with a score and two assists. In the quarterfinals, in Kirksville, Mercyhurst defeated the Bulldogs by a 1-0 score.

The last appearance by Truman in the postseason came in 1999 as the team lost to IU/UP Fort Wayne in another overtime thriller at the Truman Soccer Park. The Bulldogs scored twice in the final nine minutes, including one with 42 seconds remaining, to force an extra period. However, the visitors scored the game-winner just three minutes into overtime to give them a 3-2 victory.

HEAD COACH ALF BILBAO: Alf Bilbao became the seventh coach in the 24-year history of Bulldog soccer prior to the 1998 season. His teams have compiled a mark of 83-23-7 (.765), giving him the best winning percentage of any head coach in school history. Earlier this season, he passed Dave Poggi for the most wins by a Truman head men’s soccer coach. Prior to the season, he ranked seventh among active Division II coaches in winning percentage.

UP NEXT: The winner of the Central regional will face the winner of the Great Lakes regional on Nov. 22 or 23 in a NCAA quarterfinal match. Mercyhurst is the number one seed of the Great Lakes regional and will face the winner of the first-round match between Findlay and Ashland.

The 2003 Division II Final Four will be held on Dec. 5 and 7 in Virginia Beach, Va.