Defensively, the team has a 1.21 goals against average. Matt Angelo has three shutouts in ten games in net while Kim Jernberg has two shutouts in four games.

Head coach of Gannon is Rob van Rheenen. He is in his seventh year as a collegiate head coach, all at Gannon, and has a record of 70-50-4.

The all-time series between the two is tied at 4-4-0, with Truman winning the last four meetings. Last year, the Bulldogs won a 3-1 decision on the Golden Knights’ home field. Geoff Brengle, Ricky Vigil and Luke Bolar had the Bulldogs’ goals in that win.

TRUMAN VS. SOUTHERN INDIANA: Sean Birrell provided the offense and Nate Gibson anchored the defense as the Bulldogs knocked off Southern Indiana by a 3-0 score. The Bulldogs had just five shots on goals, compared to seven for the Screaming Eagles. However, Gibson made saves on all seven shots, while Southern Indiana’s goalie provided saves on just two of the Bulldogs’ shots on goals.

Birrell scored all three goals for Truman. His first came in the 43rd minute off an assist from Martin Clayes. Clayes and Birrell hooked up again in the 51st minute to make the score 2-0. Birrell completed the hat trick after converting a pass from Ricky Vigil in the 72nd minute. It was the first three-goal game for a Bulldog since Charlie McDaniel scored three against Lincoln in 2001.

TRUMAN MEN’S SOCCER WILL HOST GANNON OVER HOMECOMING WEEKEND

THE GAME: Truman State University Bulldogs (Independent/NCAA II) vs. Gannon University Golden Knights (Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletics/NCAA II)
Date: Saturday, Oct. 18, 2003
Time: 12 p.m.
Location: Kirksville, Mo.

TRUMAN (12-0-0): Following two shutouts last weekend, the Bulldogs are in unprecedented territory as a program, as they improved their record to 12-0-0. For the second straight week, the team is ranked third in the national poll.

Truman set a new school record last Friday for consecutive wins with a 3-0 blanking of nationally-ranked Southern Indiana. The next day, the Bulldogs defeated Oakland City (Ind.) by a 9-0 score, the most goals scored by Truman since 1999.

The Bulldogs now have recorded 10 shutouts in 12 matches, and have allowed just three goals on the year. They are on pace to shatter the current team season records of shutouts (12), fewest goals allowed (14) and fewest goals allowed per game (0.65). They are also approaching the records for wins in a season (16) and consecutive games with a goal (21).

NO. 24 GANNON (9-5-0): The Golden Knights, who play Lock Haven on Wednesday, currently have a three-game winning streak after a 2-1 win over Saginaw Valley last Sunday. They moved into the national poll this week at the No. 24 slot.

Gannon has been shutout just twice this season and is averaging over two goals a game. Morgan Knipe is the top offensive threat with 11 goals and 23 points on the year. Azizollahi Kashayar has five goals and a team-high six assists. Pablo Graham, Jonathan Brickman, Parbaid Bowen and Tomas Latocha all have three or more goals on the year.
TRUMAN VS. OAKLAND CITY: The Bulldogs’ offense exploded on Saturday, scoring nine times in a 9-0 rout over Oakland City (Ind.). It was the biggest offensive output for the program since a 12-0 win over Lincoln in 1999.

Seven different players got into the scoring column during the game. Lars Pottgiesser and Ricky Vigil each scored twice in the game. The goals were the first on the year for Pottgiesser, last year’s second-leading scorer, after he has missed most of the season due to injuries.

Nate Gaudreault and Paul Link each recorded a goal and an assist. Brett Coppage got credit for the game-winning goal and Sean Birrell and Chad Baldwin scored the other two Truman goals. Martin Clayes, Luke Bolar and Wes Frevert all were credited with an assist.

Bulldog goalkeeper Adam Johnson earned his second shutout in as many tries this year.

DEFENSIVE STARS: While the goalkeepers get all the credit, the Bulldog backs and midfielders have also played huge roles in limiting the number of scoring chances for the other team. Among the numerous contributors in this group, Jared Atwood, Mike Boyle, Bryan Defoe, Brett Coppage and Ryan Cravens have started all 12 matches for Truman. Forwards Sean Birrell and Ricky Vigil have also started every match for the Bulldogs.

NATIONAL STATISTICS:
Through Oct. 5, Truman led the nation in shot percentage (0.80) and goals against average (0.30). Currently, the Bulldogs are one of two teams with a 1.000 winning percentage.

Individually, Nate Gibson led in the country with a .740 goal percentage. Bilbao’s next win will tie him with Dave Poggi for the most wins by a Truman men’s soccer head coach.

UP NEXT: Truman will host Missouri-St. Louis on Wednesday, Oct. 22, at 3 p.m. Later that week on Sunday, Oct. 26, the team travels to William Woods for a 1 p.m. contest.