NOV. 12, 2002

WOMEN'S SOCCER QUALIFIES FOR SECOND-StraIGHT TRIP TO NCAA POSTSEASON TOURNAMENT; BULLDOGS FACE NORTHERN COLORADO

THE GAME: Truman State University Bulldogs (Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association/NCAA Division II) vs. University of Northern Colorado Bears (North Central Conference/NCAA DII)

Date: Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2002
Time: 2:30 pm (CDT)
Location: Greeley, Colo.
Pitch: Butler-Hancock Field

NO. 14 TRUMAN (15-2-2 OVERALL, 9-0-1 MIAA): The Bulldogs have earned their second-straight trip to the NCAA Division II postseason tournament as the No. 3 seed in the Central region. Truman will have to play at the No. 2 seed, Northern Colorado, in the first round. The winner of that game will head to the No. 1 seed, Nebraska-Omaha for a 1:30 second-round game on Saturday.

Last year, Truman was the No. 1 seed and knocked out UNC in the second-round game in Kirksville, 1-0. MIAA athlete of the week Anna Sonderman (Manchester, Mo./Nerinx Hall), a true freshman midfielder at that time, scored the only goal in that game in the 59th minute.

The Bulldogs lost a quarterfinal game in Kirksville to Northern Kentucky the following week, 2-0.

In 1997, the ‘Dogs made their first post-season trip, beating St. Joseph’s (Ind.) 1-0 in the first round in Indiana, before losing at West Virginia Wesleyan in the second round, 1-0.

Truman faced both of the other two Central region qualifiers in the Truman classic this year, falling 3-0 to UNO and batting UNC to a scoreless draw.

Truman dominated the MIAA this season as they claimed their fourth-straight MIAA crown and remained unbeaten in MIAA play for the season. The ‘Dogs are 32-1-1 all-time in conference games over the past four years.

Sophomore striker Sara Murray (Eden Prairie, Minn.) continues to lead the Bulldogs with 27 points, nine assists and now nine goals, after scoring another over the weekend. Sonderman, tied for second among the ‘Dogs in scoring, tallied two goals over the weekend, including the game-winner in the MIAA finale over Central Missouri. She has also recorded five assists for a season for a total of 15 points. Sonderman now leads the ‘Dogs in game winning shots with three.

Freshman Lisa Schmalz (Chesterfield, Mo./Parkway Central) has a goals against average of .67 and has added two more shutouts to her season total last week which now stands at 10.

TRUMAN MIAA ATHLETES OF THE WEEK: The Bulldogs have had four MIAA athletes of the week this season. In addition to Sonderman this week, Sara Murray received the honor on Oct. 28, Lisa Schmalz earned the distinction on Oct. 21 and Heather Murray kicked off the Truman quartet with the honor on Sept. 30.

TRUMAN VS. MISSOURI SOUTHERN: The ‘Dogs had four shots on goal, while the Lady Lions only had one in the scoreless first half. In the second period, Lisa Manns (Overland Park, Kan./St. Thomas Aquinas) scored what would turn out to be the game-winner in the 52nd minute unassisted. Ten minutes later, Ellen Wright (Kirkwood, Mo.) would blast one by goalie Shannon Brosnahan with an assist from Sara Murray. Another scoreless 10 minutes went by until Sonderman, off a corner kick from Sara Murray, buried the ball in the net to put the ‘Dogs up 3-0. The final goal came in the 76th minute when Sara Murray knocked one in from Molly Benson (Rockford, Ill./Jefferson). Schmalz recorded her ninth shutout of the season with the 4-0 victory.

2002 BULLDOG SCHEDULE

Aug. 31 @ North Dakota, W 2-1
Sept. 1 @ North Dakota State, W 4-2
Sept. 7 Nebraska-Omaha, L 3-0
Sept. 8 Northern Colorado, T 0-0
Sept. 21 Winona State (Minn.), W 2-0
Sept. 25 Rockhurst, W 2-1
Sept. 28 @ Central Missouri *, W 2-0
Sept. 29 @ Northwest Missouri *, W 1-0 (ot)
Oct. 5 @ Southwest Baptist (Bolivar)*, T 2-2
Oct. 6 @ Emporia State (Kan.) *, W 5-1
Oct. 11 @ Missouri-Rolla *, W 2-0
Oct. 16 Northwest Missouri *, W 4-1
Oct. 19 Southwest Baptist *, W 1-0
Oct. 20 Missouri-Rolla *, W 1-0 (ot)
Oct. 26 Missouri Southern *, W 2-1
Oct. 27 Emporia State (Kan.), W 2-0
Nov. 2 @ Minnesota St. U.-Mankato, L 1-0
Nov. 8 @ Missouri Southern *, W 4-0
Nov. 13 Central Missouri *, W 1-0
Nov. 16 NCAA-2nd Rnd. (Omaha, Neb.), 1:30
Nov. 23 NCAA Quarterfinals (Campus Site)
Dec. 6-8 NCAA Final Four (Virginia Beach Sportsplex, Va.)

* Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association game.

NOV. 4 NSCAA DII POLL

School .................................................. W-L-T Prev.
1 Northern Kentucky University .................................. 17-0-2  
2 Christian Brothers Univ. (Tenn) ................................ 20-1-0  
3 University of Nebraska .......................................... 17-0-0  
4 Franklin Pierce College (N.H) ................................ 16-0-2  
5 Barry Univ. (Fla.) .............................................. 17-0-0  
6 UC San Diego ................................................... 13-2-1  
7 Lock Haven University (Pa).................................... 16-1-1  
8 Kennesaw State (Ga).......................................... 15-0-0  
9 Metro State (Colo)............................................ 15-2-2  
10 Adelphi University (N.Y) .................................... 14-1-2  
11 Cal Poly Pomona ........................................... 11-5-2  
12 Merrimack (Mass)........................................... 14-6-1  
13 West Texas A&M University ................................ 14-2-0  
14 Ashland University (Ohio) .................................. 12-1-2  
15 University of South Florida .................................. 15-3-1  
16 Catawba College (N.C.) ...................................... 12-2-1  
17 Univ. of Northern Colorado .................................. 13-2-2  
18 Univ. of Central Oklahoma ................................... 17-2-0  
19 Wheeling Jesuit Univ. (W Va) ................................. 14-2-1  
20 University of North Florida .................................. 14-2-1  
21 San Francisco State Univ............................... 12-4-4  
22 Philadelphia University ....................................... 13-2-5  
23 College of Saint Rose (N.Y) ................................ 15-4-0  
24 Regius University (Colo) .................................... 15-3-1  
25 Northern Mich. Univ ....................................... 12-5-0  

Also receiving votes: Shippensburg (Pa.), Presbyterian (S.C.), UC Davis, Truman.
TRUMAN VS CENTRAL MISSOURI: In the first half, both teams took three shots and made one save but could not score. Just minutes into the second half, Sonderman put a header in the net off a corner kick by Heather Murray (St. Charles, Mo./West). Schmalz made three saves in recording her 10th shutout of the year.

BULLDOGS IN THE MIAA: Sara Murray is fifth in shots (2.65 pg), fourth in points (0.47 pg), third in assists (0.41 pg) and tied for fifth in game-winning goals (0.12 pg) with five of her teammates.

Heather Murray is ninth in shots (2.00 pg) and points (0.71 pg), seventh in goals (0.29 pg) and tied for fifth in game-winning goals (0.12 pg).

Sonderman is eighth in points (0.73 pg), fourth in assists (0.33 pg) and tied for fifth in game-winning goals (0.14 pg).

Anna Smith (Jefferson City, Mo.) is tied for fifth in game-winning goals (0.12 pg).

Schmalz leads the MIAA with a 0.74 goals against average and 0.47 shutouts per game and is seventh in saves (3.47 pg).

BULLDOGS IN THE NCAA (AS OF NOV. 3): Schmalz ranked 27th in the nation for goals against average (0.74). Truman was 23rd with a 0.74 goals against average, 27th with a 0.47 shutout percentage and 18th in won-lost-tied percentage (0.824).

SERIES RECORD: The Bulldogs are behind in the series against the UNC Bears 3-6-2. Northern Colorado beat Truman 1-0 in a regular season game on Sept. 15 last year, before the ‘Dogs advanced to the NCAA quarterfinals with the 1-0 win in Kirksville on Nov. 10.

COACHES’ RECORDS: Mike Cannon is nearing the end of his first decade as head coach at Truman and is the most successful coach to ever lead the Bulldogs during the last 19 years.

Last year, Cannon’s team reached the NCAA Division II tournament for the second time, earning a first-round bye and the opportunity to host second-round and quarterfinal NCAA games for the first time in school history. The 2001 team also posted the most wins ever (18) and was the No. 1 team in the Central region. Cannon was later named Central region coach of the year.

His squad of year ago led the nation with an outstanding 0.38 goals against average and he was named MIAA coach of the year for the third consecutive season. This year, Cannon has led the ‘Dogs to their fourth-straight MIAA crown.

Cannon is the winningest coach in Truman women’s soccer history, and was ranked tied for 17th by percentage and 16th by victories among NCAA Division II active coaches heading into the season. He is now 124-49-15 (.699) for his career.

Coach Tim Barrera is continuing his fourth season at the helm of the Bears with a record of 55-18-1.

NORTHERN COLORADO (13-4-1): UNC is making its second consecutive appearance in the NCAA Tournament. Last season the Bears defeated Winona State in the first-round before having to travel to Truman for the Sweet 16 game in which they dropped a tough 1-0 decision to the Bulldogs. This will be the first-time ever the Bears will host a NCAA Tournament game. UNC owns a 1-3 all-time record in NCAA Tournament play.

Kika Thomas leads the Bears with nine assists and 21 points. Jessica Brennan, Kayln Sprehe and Sara Perterson lead the team with seven goals apiece. Christine Devaney is another player to watch for as she has a team high three game-winning goals. Shanna Swinehart has played in all 17 games, recorded eight shutouts and has a 1.01 goals against average.

After two weeks off, the Bears traveled to Minnesota State, Mankato over the weekend for NCC tournament and were defeated 2-1 by the host.

NEBRASKA-OMAHA: The Mavericks have so far registered a perfect season at 19-0-0. It is their first NCAA postseason trip after winning their third straight North Central Conference tournament title. The Bulldogs have won just one in four meetings with UNO, winning their only game in the series on Sept. 16 last year, 1-0. Sara Murray scored the game-winning goal.

SENIORS SPOTLIGHT
Molly Adams (Omaha, Neb./Marian-Dame) joined the Bulldogs after lettering twice while at the University of Tulsa as a midfielder and defender. In 2000, she transferred to Truman and earned first-team all-MIAA honors. Adams scored three goals her first season with the ‘Dogs, including the game-winners against Missouri-St. Louis and Northwest Missouri. This year, she scored her only goal to date in game five vs. Winona, the game-winner as well. For her career with the ‘Dogs, Adams has four goals and three assists for 11 points. She is a two-time member of the MIAA commissioner’s academic honor roll. Adams is one of the ‘Dogs four team captains this year. She is a speech pathology major and the daughter of Steve and Darley Adams.

Jennifer Buscher (St. Louis/Notre Dame), was a regular among the defenders as a freshman, scoring her first collegiate goal against Minnesota State, Mankato. That year, she was named rookie of the year by her teammates and was a member of two all-tournament teams. In 1999, Buscher earned honorable mention all-MIAA honors as a full-time starter for the ‘Dogs. She scored the game-winning goal that year against Southwest Baptist. Buscher redshirted on 2000, but came back the following year to be named to the third NSCAA/adidas all-America team, the first NSCAA/adidas all-Central region team, as well as earned second-team all-MIAA honors. She helped the ‘Dogs lead the nation with a 0.38 goals against average and shared save of the year honors last season for the NCAA second-round game against Northern Colorado. Buscher will be a three-time academic all-MIAA honoree and member of the MIAA com-

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missioner’s academic honor roll. She has a career total of two goals and seven assists for 11 points, and is tied for second in career games played at Truman with 77. Buscher has served as one of four captains this year. She is the daughter of Terry and Nan Buscher, and is pursuing a degree in communications.

Karla Danekas (Naperville, Ill./Central) has started all but one game since joining the team in 1999. She became a starting defender her freshman year with the ‘Dogs and earned honorable mention All-MIAA status. The following season, she scored her first collegiate goal in a 7-0 shutout against Northwest Missouri and was again an honorable mention All-MIAA pick. In 2001, Danekas was named first-team All-MIAA as the Bulldogs led the nation with a 0.38 goals against average. She finished tied for second on the team in assists last year (5) and was named defensive MVP by her teammates. Danekas will be a three-time academic All-MIAA recipient and member of the MIAA commissioner’s academic honor roll. For her career, she has one goal and eight assists for 10 points, and is also tied for second in career games played for the Bulldogs with 77. Danekas is one the team’s four captains this season. She is a nursing major and the daughter of Steve and Paula Danekas.

Forward Heather Murray (St. Charles, Mo./West) earned MIAA athlete of the week honors following her performance against No. 2 Barry (Fla.) her freshman year when she scored the game-winning goal, which was also voted goal of the year by her teammates. At the Missouri-St. Louis tournament that year, she was selected to the all-tournament team. In 2000, Murray was fourth among Bulldog leaders in scoring (0.53 ppg), tying for 15th among MIAA leaders. Murray received first-team all-MIAA honors last year, while finishing fifth in team scoring and recording two game-winning shots. This year, Murray received MIAA player of the week after scoring all three goals in a 2-1 win over Rockhurst and a 1-0 victory vs. Northwest Missouri. Over the past four years, Murray has accumulated 14 goals and 11 assists for 39 points. She is tied for ninth in goals and points among Truman career leaders, and is 11th in assists. She claimed the Bulldog career games played record last weekend, appearing in her 78th match. Murray is a philosophy/religion major and the daughter of Michael and Susan Murray.

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Midfielder Anna Smith (Jefferson City, Mo.) was a second-team all-MIAA selection as well as the league’s freshman of the year in 1999. That year, Smith was voted rookie of the year by her teammates as well and led the team with five game-winning goals. She was also fourth on the team in scoring (12 points) and second in goals (5). Her sophomore year, Smith again earned second-team all-MIAA honors and was fourth in the MIAA in assists per game (0.28), while also scoring two game-winning goals. Last season, Smith was selected to the first NCSCA/adidas all-Central region team and was also a first-team all-MIAA pick. She finished fourth on the team in scoring with 12 points. After scoring back-to-back game-winning goals against North Dakota State and Minnesota State-Mankato, she was named MIAA athlete of the week. So far in 2002, Smith had game-winning goals vs. Central Missouri and Northwest Missouri and is tied for fifth in MIAA game-winning goals (0.12 pg). Smith will be a three-time member of the MIAA commissioner’s academic honor roll. While with the ‘Dogs, she has scored 39 points on 14 goals and 11 assists to rank tied for 11th in career assists. Smith is also tied for second in career goals played with 77. She was one of the team’s quad-captains this year. Smith is a biology major and the daughter of Tony and Jenny Smith.

Midfielder Becky Ojile (St. Louis/Nerinx Hall) saw limited playing time as a true freshman. The following year, she scored her first collegiate goal in a 5-0 shutout against Quincy University. Last season, Ojile tallied two more goals, one against Missouri-Rolla and the other against Northwest Missouri. So far this season, she scored her only goal in the opening 2-1 win over North Dakota, also the first goal of the year for the ‘Dogs. Ojile will be a three-time member of the MIAA commissioner’s academic honor roll. Over the past four years, she has tallied 10 points on four goals and two assists. Ojile is a history major and the daughter of James and Mary Ojile.

MURRAY AND SCHMALZ AMONG TRUMAN SINGLE SEASON AND CAREER LEADERS: After leading the team with a Truman record 16 goals last year, Sara Murray is again the Bulldogs’ scoring machine with team highs of nine goals and assists and 27 points. She is so far this year tied for eighth on the Truman single season goals list, is sixth in single season assists and seventh in single season points.

Schmalz is currently fourth on the Bulldog single season list of fewest goals allowed (13) and minutes played (1,769:03) and is tied for fifth in shutouts (10).

-- GO BULLDOGS --