SEPT. 23, 2003

WOMEN’S SOCCER LOOKS TO CONTINUE WINNING STREAK THIS WEEK WITH MINNESOTA-DULUTH AND EMPORIA STATE

THE GAME: Truman State University Bulldogs (Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association/NCAA Division II) vs. University of Minnesota-Duluth Bulldogs (NSIC/NCAA DII)
Date: Saturday, Sept. 27, 2003
Time: Noon
Location: Kirksville, Mo.
Pitch: Truman Soccer Park

THE GAME: Truman vs. Emporia State University Lady Hornets (MIAA/NCAA DII)
Date: Sunday, Sept. 28, 2003
Time: 1 p.m.
Location: Kirksville, Mo.
Pitch: Truman Soccer Park

NO. 11 TRUMAN (4-1-0 OVERALL, 1-0-0 MIAA): The Bulldogs have advanced a spot each week for the past three weeks in the NSCAA/NCAA Division II poll.

Contributing to this week’s climb, were weekend victories over Northwest Missouri 3-0 and Missouri-Rolla, 4-3, that put the ‘Dogs on a five-game winning streak.

This week, the Bulldogs have a non-conference encounter when they play host to the Minnesota-Duluth Bulldogs on Saturday in Kirksville. Truman resumes MIAA play with Emporia State on Sunday in the ‘ville, before embarking on a six-game road stretch with trips to South Missouri and Kansas.

THIS PAST WEEKEND, Truman hosted Northwest Missouri and Missouri-Rolla in league games.

Against NWMS, sophomore forward Lauren Cepicky (St. Louis/Lindbergh) tallied first in the 10th minute off of a double pass from junior forward Sara Murray (Eden Prairie, Minn.) and sophomore midfielder Molly Benson (Rockford, Ill./Jefferson).

Junior midfielder Anna Sonderman (Manchester, Mo./Nerinx Hall) added a goal in the 67th minute after getting the ball from junior forward Ellen Wright (Kirkwood, Mo.), and Wright finished the scoring for the day with a goal just over two minutes later off of a feed from senior back Beth Wieman (Dittmer, Mo./Rosati-Kain).

Freshman keeper Lauren Davis (Springfield, Mo./Kickapoo) shut out her fourth opponent of the season, making five saves over all 90 minutes.

After an hour-and-a-half rain delay on Sunday, it was not as easy of a victory for the ‘Dogs who barely overcame a 2-1 deficit before halftime in their 4-3 win over Missouri-Rolla.

Murray got the ‘Dogs on the board first with a shot from the left side that slipped past the goalie and went off the post to score. Wright assisted on that goal and she would score the game-winning goal with a header in the 51st minute with an assist from Benson.

Barb Porter scored Missouri-Rolla’s equalizer in the 17th minute and UMR took the lead just over five minutes later with a goal by Danielle Lyman.

Murray evened the score again in the 36th minute, with help from Benson, and Lauren Hawks came in to give the ‘Dogs a 3-2 halftime lead with a goal in the 42nd minute off of a feed from Murray.

Wright’s second-half header would seal the win for the ‘Dogs, despite another goal from Porter in the 57th minute.

Davis’ goals against average nearly doubled, from 0.60 to 1.00, after allowing the three goals on the rain soaked pitch at the Truman Soccer Park. She made another five saves for the day in all 90 minutes of action.

MURRAY AMONG TRUMAN CAREER LEADERS: Sara Murray already ranks among Bulldog career leaders in several categories in her junior season. She is

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MURRAY AMONG TRUMAN CAREER LEADERS: Sara Murray already ranks among Bulldog career leaders in several categories in her junior season. She is
tied for fourth with Carrie Toczylowski-Bilbao all-time in goals (32) and is fifth in points (82) and seventh in assists (18).

Ellen Wright’s 17 career goals ranks tied for eighth all-time at Truman, and Sonderman’s now 12 career assists ties for 10th on the Bulldog list.

SERIES RECORDS: Truman and the Minnesota-Duluth Bulldogs are even in their two-game series. In the first meeting on Sept. 3, 2000, in Truman’s season-opener, UMD came away with a 3-0 win. However, the following season, Truman beat UMD 1-0 in game No. 3.

The Truman Bulldogs are 4-0 vs. Emporia State.

In fact, Truman’s only MIAA loss in its last 37 league games was to Central Missouri (1-0 ot) on Nov. 4, 2001, in the regular season finale. The ‘Dogs tied one MIAA game with Southwest Baptist on Oct. 5, 2002, 2-2. Truman currently has a 15-game MIAA unbeaten streak on the line.

COACHES’ RECORDS: Coach Mike Cannon enters his 11th year at Truman as the winningest coach in Truman women’s soccer history with a current record of 131-51-15 (.705). At the start of the season, Cannon was ranked tied for 16th by percentage and 14th by victories among NCAA Division II active coaches with a current record of 131-51-15 (.705).

Minnesota-Duluth taskmaster, Greg Cane, is in his 10th year guiding the Bulldogs and is 110-43-12 during that time. He is also 1237-7-13 over 14 years as a DII women’s soccer head coach.

Evan Huntoon is in the midst of his third year at Emporia and is 18-26-1 over that span. He is also 51-53-4 over six years as a DII head coach.

TRUMAN IN THE MIAA: As a team, the Bulldogs lead the MIAA in nearly every statistical category. Most notably, the ‘Dogs are first in points (9.29 pg), goals (3.0 pg), assists (3.29 pg), goals against average (0.86) and shutouts (0.57 pg).

Sara Murray leads the MIAA with 4.29 shots a game, and is second in points (2.29 pg) and goals (0.86 pg) and tied for fourth, with Sonderman, with 0.57 assists per contest.

Ellen Wright is tied for third in points (0.71 pg) and goals (0.71 pg), tied for ninth in assists (0.43 pg) and tied for first with two game-winning goals.

Lauren Cepicky also has a league-high of two game-winning goals, while Molly Benson is tied for ninth in assists (0.43 pg).

Anna Sonderman is 10th in points (1.14 pg) and tied for fourth, with Murray, with 0.57 assists per game.

Lauren Davis tops the MIAA in shutouts (3) and goals against average (1.00 pg), and is eighth in saves per game (2.83 pg).

EMPORIA STATE (2-4-0 OVERALL, 1-0 MIAA): The Hornets lost to the top ranked team in Division II, Nebraska-Omaha, 2-0 last Sunday in Omaha, Neb. ESU was outshot by the Mavericks 46 to 2 in the match, but kept UNO scoreless in the first half.

Lauren Ishman had 14 saves on the day for ESU with the Mavericks taking 19 shots on goal. The Lady Hornets are back in action on Friday when they travel to Southwest Baptist in Bolivar.

MINNESOTA-DULUTH: (2-3-1 OVERALL, 1-0 NSIC) UMD was defeated by the University of North Dakota 2-1 on Sunday in a non-conference match.

The teams were locked in a 1-1 tie at the half after sophomore Sara Noonan recorded her second goal of the season with help from senior Nicole Fetz and sophomore Pam Lensing. But the Sioux would score the game-winner at the 61:08 mark to hand UMD its third loss of the season.