Friday’s Game: Truman State University Bulldogs (MIAA/NCAA Division II) vs. Missouri Southern State College Lions (MIAA/NCAA Division II)

Date/Time: Oct. 19, 2001/7 p.m.
Location/Pitch: Joplin, Mo./Hal Bodon Field

TRUMAN (12-1 OVERALL, 5-0 IN THE MIAA): The Bulldogs continue to be one of the hottest teams in the nation, running their winning streak to eight last weekend with a 1-0 blanking of Emporia State University.

The ‘Dogs climbed another spot this week in the NSCAA/adidas national rankings to No. 6 and remained ranked atop the Central region.

The Bulldogs have knocked off six of the seven teams ranked below them in the region, and are making a run for the NCAA postseason and a home berth in the first and second rounds.

Truman has six matches remaining in round two of the round-robin schedule that MIAA teams are playing for the first time this season.

Their next encounter will occur in Joplin, Mo., this Friday night against Missouri Southern State College. The Lions are the only MIAA team that Truman has not yet faced this season. The ‘Dogs are off the remainder of Truman’s mid-term break weekend, returning to action next Wednesday at home against Northwest Missouri State.

TRUMAN VS. EMPORIA STATE ON OCT. 14: The Hornets gave the Bulldogs a little more trouble the second time around after suffering a 6-0 thrashing in Kirksville back on Sept. 23. Emporia protected the net better on their home pitch, withstanding a barrage of 15 Truman shots in the first half without allowing one to rip the twine. Freshman netminder Tasha Henry continued to keep a lid on the goal for more than half of the second stanza, until the Bulldog pressure finally proved too much in the 75th minute. Senior Melissa Miller (Olathe, Kan./South) found the back of the net with the game-winner for Truman, converting the first career assist for freshman Ellen Wright (Kirkwood, Mo.). It would be the only score of the contest, despite the ‘Dogs’ 27 total shots.

The relentless Truman offensive attack left little time for the Hornets to mount scoring opportunities, as they were held to a mere five shots. Only one of these attempts made it on goal, and Emily Huyck (Omaha, Neb./Westside) stopped it for her only save en route to tying the Truman record for career shutouts with her 39th.

TRUMAN VS. SOUTHWEST BAPTIST ON OCT. 13: Truman was slated to take on the Bearcats in Bolivar on Saturday, however the match was postponed due to shoddy field conditions. The MIAA contest has been rescheduled for Friday Oct. 26 at 3 p.m.

THE DISH ON MISSOURI SOUTHERN (7-6-0, 0-6-0 IN THE MIAA): The Lions are a vastly improved squad in 2001, posting an 8-5-1 record thus far, including a solid 6-1 in the conference. They have won six of their last seven, with the only loss a 2-1 heartbreaker at Emporia State on Oct. 5, and climbed into the Central Region rankings at No. 9. Freshman midfielder Ashley Munnelly leads the offense with 33 points on 15 goals and three assists while senior netminder Moe Ybarra has emerged between the pipes with a 1.02 GAA and 32 saves over seven appearances. Munnelly is fifth among MIAA scoring leaders (2.0 ppg) and fourth in goals per game (0.85). Kayse Griffin is sixth in scoring (1.46 ppg) and goals per game (0.62), while Alicia Givens and Amanda Zook are tied for sixth in MIAA assists (0.31 pg).

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EMILY HUYCK (Omaha, Neb./Westside) tied the Jenny Miller’s school record of 39 career shutouts. Miller, Huyck’s predecessor, established the mark from 1995-98, and also holds the Truman record for minutes, a mark that is the third-most by a goalkeeper on the NCAA Division II level (6,850:34) and will be impossible for Huyck to pass after playing in just 10 games when Miller was a senior.

Huyck is also climbing up other Truman career goaltending leader lists. She is now fifth in saves (268), second in games played (61) and third in minutes ($160:40$).

Heading into her senior campaign, Huyck had already put her name in the NCAA record book. She shares the NCAA record for single season solo shutout percentage of 0.74 after holding 14 of 19 teams scoreless during the 1999 season. Huyck’s 14 shutouts that year is the third-best single season total in Division II. Among DII single-season leaders, Huyck also posted the 10th-best goals-against average, allowing just seven tallies in ‘99 for a goals against average of 0.36.

In 2000, Huyck charted 13 shutouts in 19 contests which was good for the eighth-best shutout percentage (.068) and the 10th-most total shutouts in a season for DII. From Sept. 17 to Oct. 29, 2000, she played 955:21 scoreless minutes, the third longest time in NCAA Division II by a netminder without allowing a goal. Huyck also went 871:33 minutes from Oct. 9, 1999, to Sept. 2, 2000, without allowing a goal, the fifth-longest streak in DII.

SERIES RECORD: Truman is undefeated in the MIAA over the last two seasons that women’s soccer has been a conference sport. In fact, every game ever scored against the ‘Dogs in conference action occurred this season, when CMSU forward Telesha Joseph put one past Huyck in Warrensburg on Sept. 29. However, it took 12 consecutive MIAA games and two plus years for that lone goal to be scored on Truman.

The Bulldogs will be looking to register their 18th league win on Friday. The ‘Dogs have beaten Missouri Southern each of the past two years, by a combined score of 9-0.

TRUMAN AMONG NCAA AND MIAA LEADERS: Huyck leads the MIAA and in second in NCAA Division II with a 0.31 goals against average. The only better GAA in the nation this week is 0.18 by a Regis (Colo.) goalie who has allowed two goals this season, while Huyck has allowed four.

Sara Murray is a mere .01 off the lead in the MIAA, and is tied for 19th among DII leaders, in goals per game (.92). She is also fourth in MIAA scoring (2.00 ppg).