This Week:
Two weekend contests lie ahead for the Truman men’s soccer team as it tries to break out of their recent scoring slump and inch closer to the .500 mark in 2008.

About Maryville:
The Saints haven’t won a game since September 20 and stand at 4-7-2 overall this season. MU most recently dropped a 2-1 decision to Missouri Baptist in overtime last weekend. Last season, the squad finished fourth in the conference and qualified for the SLIAC tournament for the first time since 1990.

Up front, Maryville features impressive depth. Cory Scott and Rick Bryson are tied for the team lead in goals with five, and four other teammates have two or more goals to their credit this season. Scott also leads the way in assists, with four feeds overall.

In the net, three different keepers are splitting time - Drew Senior, Jeff Senior and Michael Flately - that have combined for a total 1.32 goals-against average and 77 saves.

Although Maryville has an overall losing record, the squad is 2-1-2 in conference play and have already played three overtime games this season.

About Newman:
It’s been an up-and-down year for the Jets, a team that has struggled to clear the .500 mark but has also defeated the top-ranked team in the region, Drury. Newman dropped its first three games of the year, won its next three, then traded wins, ties and losses after that to stand at 5-5-2 overall.

A pair of seniors lead the way for the team on the front and back end of the field. Forward Brian Alvarez has won the Heartland Conference Men’s Player of the Week honors twice for his scoring efforts and is tops on the team with six goals and two gamewinnersthis season.

Keeping things close on the defensive side is keeper Emmanuel Gutierrez, who has a 1.36 goals-against average and 77 saves so far this year. The Jets have been outscored 19-15 by their opponents but boast a definite homefield advantage, with an undefeated 5-0-1 record.

Bulldog Review:
Although Truman continues to play strong, the Bulldogs haven’t been able to spark another win streak and have dropped its last five games. The Bulldogs have only scored once during that period, a goal against Quincy from forward Robbie Narrow.
Truman Men’s Soccer
Matches 12-13  ➤ Maryville (Mo.) & Newman (Kan.) ➤ Oct. 10 & 12, 2008

NSCAA Top-25 Poll (Oct. 6)

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Truman 2008 Opponents in BOLD Regional Opponents Italicized

All of the team’s games have been close, including a recent battle with No. 19 Rockhurst down to the wire before falling at home.

Although the Bulldogs have struggled to find the back of the net, Bobby Larkin, Ben Green and Narrow have been the team’s most consistent scoring threats. Larkin has three goals on 15 shots so far, Narrow has two scores on 14 tries, and Green has 19 attempts with eight coming on goal.

The Bulldog back line continues to keep the scoring low, and keeper Kyle Talbot has made 27 saves with a 1.33 goals-against average.

Head Coach Duke Cochran:
Duke Cochran, former Bulldog player and assistant coach, has compiled a 38-25-7 (.593) record in what is now his fourth season on the Truman sideline.

In his first year, the Bulldogs went 17-3-2 and advanced to the NCAA Division II national tournament, where the team reached the regional finals before being eliminated by penalty kicks by now-Division I Southern Illinois-Edwardsville.

His squads posted winning seasons in each 2006 and 2007, including a 10-win season last year. Cochran has coached six players that have received all-region recognition, and has also had five players be named to the CoSIDA Academic All-Region team.

Last Week’s Recap:
Wednesday, October 1: L 1-3 vs. Quincy (Ill.)
Friday, October 3: L 0-1 vs. Rockhurst (Mo.)
Tuesday, October 7: L 0-3 at Graceland (Iowa)

Series Info:
Truman vs. Maryville (Maryville leads series 3-2-1).
Last meeting: Truman won 3-0 in St. Louis on Sept. 9, 1984.

Truman vs. Newman (Truman leads series 2-0).
Last meeting: Truman won 3-0 in Kirksville on Sept. 17, 2006.

Up Next:
After its game with Newman, Truman only has five more contests left in the regular season. The purple and white will head to St. Louis to take on UMSL on Wednesday before returning to Kirksville for a match with Missouri Science & Technology next Sunday.