This Week:

Off to an impressive start to the 2008 season, the Bulldogs now head to Oklahoma for their biggest test of the young campaign.

This Friday the 'Dogs face Central Oklahoma, ranked second in the latest NSCAA poll with a 2-0 record. Last season the Bronchos made it all the way to the NCAA Division II Sweet 16, and although they return just three starters from last year's 19-5-1 squad, they've already found success this season.

Senior Stephanie Lovely, a transfer from Oklahoma State, has scored three of UCO's four goals, including goals on her first two shots of the year as the Bronchos shut out Oklahoma Christian 2-0. They followed that performance with a 2-1 triumph over Dallas Baptist. After leading the back line to two dominating performances, junior fullback Alli Miller received the Lone Star Conference Defensive Player of the Week honor.

Truman fell 3-1 to UCO in the teams' first-ever matchup last season. The Bronchos are hard to beat at home, racking up an impressive 87-18-3 record at Tom Thompson Field and winning 14 of their last 15 matches there.

But UCO isn't the only team with a solid backline—Truman has won both of their contests 1-0, relying on strong defensive performances to shut down the opposition. Junior forward Jessica Wiegert stepped up big for the team in their first victory, knocking in the only goal of the game against No. 25 Quincy, and she picked up an assist on a feed to Katie Reuck for the score in another 1-0 triumph against Midwestern State. The two tied for the team lead in goals last season along with teammate Isabel Gaeta.

After seeing limited action last season, junior Denise Childress has been rock solid between the posts, with two shutouts and ten saves already to her credit. Thanks to the two opening victories, Truman is ranked 5th in the latest NSCAA South Central poll, three spots behind Central Oklahoma. Friday's clash will certainly have an impact on the rankings and separate two of the best teams in the South Central Region.

After their contest Friday, the Bulldogs will have one day off before facing Southwestern Oklahoma State on Sunday, in the teams' first-ever meeting. Their opponent is coming off a 1-17-1 season, but they've picked up 11 new faces on their roster of 21, including several key freshman.

The squad has already collected its first win of the season, beating Wayne State 1-0 after falling in their first game to Northwest Missouri State. Fresh-
man Lorina Salinas scored the game winner against WSU, and freshman keeper Chelsey Dodd made five stops in the net for the victory.

Head Coach Mike Cannon:
Cannon picked up his 200th win in the team’s first match of the year against Quincy. He is the winningest coach in Truman women’s soccer history and is ranked seventh in victories among active Division II coaches.

During his tenure as coach, Cannon has had six players named to the all-American squad by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA). He has had 42 players earn all-region honors with 16 named to the first-team.

Cannon’s teams have won eight of the nine MIAA titles the conference has offered and have been to the NCAA post-season six times. His 2007 squad captured the MIAA conference tournament title in the only year of its existence after sharing the regular season championship.

He has been named MIAA Coach of the Year seven times - most recently in 2007 - and was the Central Region Coach of the Year in 2001.

Last Time Out:
Friday, August 29: W 1-0 at Quincy (Ill.)
Sunday, August 31: W 1-0 at Midwestern State (Texas)

Series Info:
Truman vs. UCO (UCO leads series 1-0)
Last Meeting: UCO won 3-1 on August 31, 2007.

Truman vs. SWOSU: First meeting.

Up Next:
The Bulldogs will return home for a match with MIAA rival Northwest Missouri State in Kirksville. The game is slated for 4:00 pm on Thursday.

Two days later, Truman returns to action with a big Saturday game against perennial foe Nebraska-Omaha, who joined the MIAA this year. Kickoff is scheduled for noon in Kirksville.

Overall Statistics (2-0; 0-0 MIAA)

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