

Rams into the record books: Men's soccer ranked No. 24

Jacqueline Wittman
jrwittman@tmail.xwes.edu

The Texas Wesleyan University men's soccer team broke into the national rankings for the first time in history on Sept. 15.

The Rams ended up as No. 24 in the NAIA Men's Soccer Coaches' Top 25 Poll.

The Rams kicked off the year with the best start in the program's history and tied the school record for the longest winning streak at 6-0.

"The team deserved the record for a six game winning streak and to be nationally ranked," Head Coach Josh Gibbs said. "They put in all the work and deserved the results."

The Rams moved to No. 24 in the coaches' polls—the first ranking in the history of Texas Wesleyan Men's Soccer—after only receiving votes but no making the rankings the previous week. The Rams totaled 157 votes through games played Sept. 13. The poll was voted on by a panel of head coaches representing each conference, independents and unaffiliated groups.

Gibbs calls this squad the most committed team since his arrival in 2006.

"All the credit goes to the players," he said. "With inju-

ries, changes in lineups and alternation between two exceptional goalkeepers, the team adjusted and accepted what needed to be done."

After defeating then sixth-

ranked Oklahoma City University 2-1 on Sept. 8 and Bethany College 1-0 on Sept. 11, the men tied the school record for the longest winning streak at 6-0 with the 1993

squad.

"I am grateful to be a part of a team with such great players that are working hard toward the same goal—to win a championship," said Senior

Forward Theo Nabassi. "With our determination, I think we will continue to accomplish great things."

Texas Wesleyan becomes the 122nd school in the na-

tion to be ranked in the Top 25 since 2000.

"It's a good achievement to be noticed and ranked in the country, but we're not satisfied," said Senior Midfielder John Kuethe. "We're motivated to go for more and achieve greatness throughout our entire season."

Booting Kentucky's University of the Cumberlands to No. 25, the Rams trailed 23rd-ranked Bellevue University. With 650 votes, Bethel University of Tennessee was at No. 1.

The Rams are looking to carry on with record-breaking success by focusing on one game at a time and continuing to push forward.

"This is special for the entire team," said the goalkeeper and captain, senior Toby Rochau. "I hope that this early ranking will drive us to reach our overall goal of going to the national tournament in November."

This year, with 19 returners, the team holds a different mentality and a new outlook on life. "They decided to work hard and believe in each other," Gibbs said. "We are seeing the benefits of that." With an overall record of 8-6-2 last season, the Rams are off to a great start this year with a record of 7-2-0.



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The men's soccer team practices at Martin Field before leaving for Arkansas to play John Brown University.

Rams Golf team returns to action

Joakim Soederbaum
jisoederbaum@mail.txwes.edu

As one of the strongest NAIA programs in the nation, the Wesleyan golf team is looking to add another chapter of success.

"It is what motivates me the most," Coach Bobby Cornett said. "We have a very strong tradition of success here at Wesleyan and plan on being continually competitive on a national level."

Losing graduating seniors and national tournament participants Kevin Doskocil and Carlos Arenas, Cornett returns three players from the team that finished second at last year's national championships.

Junior Armando Villarreal finished second individually at nationals and received third-team All-American honors last year. Villarreal, senior Drew Koonce and junior Stuart Martin return this year with valuable experience.

Koonce is looking forward to a successful season.

"The only way to get better from last year is to win," he said. "Coach leads us in the right direction, and it is up to us to finish it."

As the Rams took Newman University to a playoff at Abilene Christian's Charles Coody West Texas Intercollegiate in the first tournament of the year, Koonce finished second individually.

"He showed great composure despite lots of pressure," Cornett said. "It is important to have players who don't get overwhelmed by the magnitude of the competition."

Both Villarreal and Martin turned in solid score cards from the tournament as well.

Joining the returning core this year are sophomore Derek Brown and freshmen Aaron Canavan, Frazer Ogston, and Dillon Watkins.

"Frazer has already shown that he can play," Cornett said. "He grew up

in a great golf atmosphere at St. Andrews golf course in Scotland. He takes control of a situation rather than letting circumstances decide his destiny."

On the coaching side, Bill Myers stepped up to become an assistant coach, and Ronnie Rosson has joined to become the director of instruction, allowing for further one-on-one refinement of the players' skills.

Having a great mixture of returning experience and

the site of the 2010 national championship, at the same course where they finished runner-up behind Oklahoma Christian University.

"The more experience the players have from the course, the less intimidating it is," Cornett said. Returning junior Stuart Martin agrees.

"Having played the course twice already last year and once again this fall is perfect," he said. "It is like we have been preparing for the upcoming nationals for



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Freshman Frazer Ogston.

new talent, as well as a larger coaching staff at his disposal, Cornett is looking to play as heavy of a schedule as possible with only one thing on his mind.

"Everything we do is in preparation for nationals," he said. "Sure, it would have been nice to win the first tournament, but when it comes down to it, all that matters is where we are at nationals."

In the fall, the Rams will participate in a preview tournament in Silvis, Ill.,

two years."

According to Cornett, not many teams manage to deliver back-to-back years of excellent results.

"Golf is a funny game," he said. "It really doesn't matter whether you have the best team or not. You never know what you will get."

The strong tradition of success for the Wesleyan golf team begs to differ. Or, perhaps it just comes down to how Cornett sees it.

"You just have to bite the bullet and do it."

7-7 Flag Football Standings

Name	Wins	Loses	TP Scored	TP Against	Byes
Pickles	2	0	93	18	0
BOHICA	2	0	14	0	0
TapOut	1	1	47	57	0
Twisters	1	1	7	7	0
1 L's	0	2	18	83	0
Pink Dragons	0	2	0	14	0

Wesleyan Week-in-Sports

- The **Lady Rams Volleyball's** Destiny Clemons and Kristen Venhuizen were selected to last weekend's Wesleyan Hughes Volleyball Classic. The Lady Rams, after finishing 1-3 in their own tournament, began conference play on home court last week. They lost 3-0 (25-22, 25-21, 25-20) to Wiley College on Sept. 25 before making a quick recovery, beating first Jarvis Christian College 3-0 (25-7, 25-12, 25-9) followed by Texas College 3-0 (25-4, 25-4, 25-13) on Sept. 26. The Lady Rams are now 7-10 overall and 2-1 in conference.
- **Lady Rams Soccer** went to Arkansas to take on John Brown University in their final contest before conference play. The Lady Rams lost 1-0 on a late goal. Goalkeeper Katy Houchin made seven saves in the loss. The Lady Rams are now 6-3.
- The **Rams Soccer** team did not manage to cope with John Brown University but lost 3-0 after allowing three goals in the first half. The Rams are now 7-2 when heading to Oklahoma on Oct. 1 to face Bacone College in their first conference game.
- The **Rams Golf** team hosted the 12th annual O.D. Bounds Gold Classic at Diamond Oaks Country Club on Sept. 21. The tournament featured 35 teams and 139 individuals and raised a total of approximately \$20,000, benefits that will proceed the O.D. Bounds Endowment. The Blue division was won by the foursome of Reed Petrie, Kyle Finkler, Stuart Martin and Billy Privette with a score of 119. The Gold division was won by the foursome of Mashall Barton, Benny Hamilton, Jack Kell and Johnny Pilcher after a scorecard playoff with a score of 136.

Fantasy Football Pig Skin Pick'Em Leaderboard

Name	Pts.
June Johnson	25
Jeremy Newton	23
Ryan Amador	23
Rachel Loftin	23
Michael Greer	22
Fabiola Duron	22
Erik Hall	22
Terry Waldrop	21
Jason Simpson	21
Phillip Blockinger	21
Cara Lumpkin	21
Justin Payne	21
Sandy Gonzalez	21
Barbara Kirby	20
Ken Flowers	20
Keith Wright	20
Oscar Lazarko	20
Michael Chaney	20
Michael Wylie	19
Kyle Morgan	18
Trey Bomar	18
Randy Pistorious	18

The Weekly Sports Quote

"Any time Detroit scores more than 100 points and holds the other team below 100 points, they almost always win."

Doug Collins

Former NBA player and coach

Upcoming Sports

Game	Time/Place
Volleyball vs. SW Assemblies of God University	7 p.m. Waxahachie
Men's Soccer vs. Bacone College	7 p.m. Muskogee
Women's Soccer vs. Bacone College	9 p.m. Muskogee
Volleyball vs. Bacone College	11 a.m. Sid W. Rich.
Volleyball vs. University of St. Thomas	1 p.m. Sid W. Rich.
Men's Soccer vs. Texas College	2 p.m. Tyler
Women's Soccer vs. Texas College	3 p.m. Tyler