

Volleyball Falls to Saint Xavier, Triumphs Over RV Campbellsville

BOURBONNAIS, Ill. – In a pair of matches on Saturday, the Trojans split to end the weekend tournament. TU grabbed a sweep over RV Campbellsville in its last match, finishing the Olivet Nazarene Tournament 2-2.

Taylor's opening match began closely against the Cougars (12-6). Addy Bailey came out strong, leading the team with four kills in the first set. Coming within one of Saint Xavier at 21-22, the Purple and Gold gave it their best effort but fell short.

In the following set, Haley Harrell was solid as TU's setter, pulling in 10 assists on all 10 of Taylor's kills. Despite her efforts, the Trojans could not handle the Cougar attack and dropped the second set.

The final set proved to be too much for the Trojans, as they fell behind early and could not find their way back. Saint Xavier came out fast with a seven-point run and Taylor was never able to overcome the deficit, dropping the match in three sets (25-22, 25-13, 25-16).

Taylor returned to the court for its second match quickly after its initial loss. Without much time to regain their composure, the Trojans were set for a tough afternoon matchup against RV Campbellsville (11-8). Despite the circumstances, the Purple and Gold came out strong against the Tigers. A six-point run in the middle of the opening set pushed the score to 22-14. Six different Trojans landed a kill, helping TU grab the first set.

The Trojans remained in control in the second set, gaining a lead early in the set. The Tigers kept within reach until Amanda Adams and Ryan Czerniak logged back-to-back kills to take the set for TU.

Looking to close the match, Taylor was determined to sweep the Tigers. With the score wavering back and forth, Adams stepped up for the Trojans, tallying five kills, including a pair of kills to put the team up 24-23. An error from the Tigers finished the match, as the Trojans won their ninth match of the season (25-22, 25-22, 25-23).

Service aces were key for Taylor in its match against Campbellsville, as the team pulled in a season-high 11 aces. Freshman Nikki Parrett notched a career-high six aces in the contest.

Adams continued to be a factor for the TU offense, slamming 12 kills against the Tigers, which is her 14th double-digit kill effort of the season. Harrell was also crucial for the Taylor attack, grabbing 49 assists over the two matches on Saturday. The senior setter is averaging over nine assists per set for the 2018 campaign.

The Purple and Gold will return to Crossroads League action on Wednesday, as they take on RV

Marian (17-3, 9-1 CL) in Odle Arena at 7:00 pm

TAYLOR REMAINS UNBEATEN WITH USF INVITATIONAL TITLE

Results

FORT WAYNE, Ind. – The seventh-ranked Taylor women’s golf team remained unbeaten on Saturday with its third tournament title of the 2018-2019 season.

Sophomore Taylor French followed up a career-low round of 74 on Friday with a 75 on Saturday to finish in second place with a two-day total of 149 (+5).

Fellow sophomore Nicole Jung also added a 3-over par 75 on Saturday on the 5,844-yard, par-72 layout of Cherry Hill Golf Course. Jung played her last six holes on Saturday in 2-under par to claim third place on the individual leaderboard with a two-day total of 150 (75-75).

Junior Maddie Thomas continued her steady play this fall with a final round 76 to finish in a tie for fifth place with a two-day total of 154 (78-76).

The Trojans also counted a final round 79 from junior Annie Stimmel while senior Elizabeth Jackson added an 87.

Taylor entered Saturday’s final round tied atop the leaderboard with Indiana Wesleyan. The Trojans carded a final round team tally of 305 to pull away from Indiana Wesleyan for a six-shot victory. The Trojans’ two-day total of 612 (307-305) ties for the second-lowest 36-hole team score in program history.

The Trojans knocked off several Crossroads League teams en route to the victory, including Indiana Wesleyan (618), Saint Francis (630), Huntington (640), Grace (660), and Mount Vernon Nazarene (706).

Taylor returns to action next weekend at The Players Club Invitational played at The Players Club in Yorktown, Indiana on Friday, Oct. 5 and Saturday, Oct. 6.

Saint Xavier Outpaces Trojans in MSFA Crossover Action

UPLAND, Ind. – Taylor scored 22-unsanswered points to open the third quarter, highlighted by a pair of touchdown returns from Tyler Gerig, but it was not enough in a 49-36 loss to RV Saint Xavier under the lights at Turner Stadium.

The third quarter flurry helped erase the sting of a lopsided opening half that saw SXU (3-3) pile up a 35-7 lead by rattling off 50 plays and 18 first downs over the first 30 minutes of action.

The Trojans nearly erased that by the 4:58 mark of the third quarter, with a trio of touchdowns over a stretch of 4:52 of game action. Gerig opened the barrage by scooping a loose ball off the pile and racing 96 yards to the end zone for TU's second score of the contest.

TU got the ball right back with another defensive takeaway, as TJ Swore hit the Cougar quarterback on a pass that was intercepted by Jordan Bostick on the SXU 42-yard line. Pollard found Craig Faulkner for a 26-yard touchdown strike five plays later and then rushed in the two-point conversion to narrow the gap to 35-22.

Another strong defensive possession forced a three-and-out from the guests and Gerig picked up the rolling punt on TU's 35-yard line and found paydirt yet again, this time via a 65-yard return to bring the Purple and Gold to within 35-29 with 4:58 to play in the third.

Saint Xavier settled down from there, locking back into an offensive rhythm to orchestrate an eight-play scoring drive and then put the game away with a 19-play drive that chewed 8:47 off the clock and pushed the spread to 49-29 deep into the final period.

Taylor pushed back with an 11-play possession of its own, capped by a nine-yard pass from Pollard to Faulkner to make it a 49-36 margin but could do no further damage.

SXU finished with 587 yards on 97 snaps from its up-tempo attack, while Taylor posted 283 total yards of offense on 60 plays and faced a 36:44 to 23:16 gap in time of possession in the loss.

Gerig was the story for the Trojans, as the senior cornerback and special teams artist accounted for two touchdowns and 161 yards on his fumble and punt returns and added a pass defended in the end zone to prevent a score.

Jackson Bronkema led the defense with a career-high 10 tackles, with Tyler Hasbrook posting career-highs of seven stops and 1.5 sacks. TJ Swore also chipped in with seven hits and Jeff Kaczmarek ended with seven tackles, one hit for lost yardage and a pair of pass breakups.

Pollard led the Taylor offense with 16 carries for 54 yards and also completed 14 passes for 173 yards and three touchdowns in the face of heavy pressure from the NAIA's top-rated sack defense.

Grant Hohlbein led TU with five catches for 50 yards, while Ben Davis caught one touchdown and Faulkner hauled in the first two touchdown receptions of his career.

Taylor (2-2) will head north to open MSFA Mideast League Play on October 3, when it plays at No. 25 Siena Heights (4-0) in a 4:00 pm start.

Trojans Close Regular Season with 7-2 Win

UPLAND, Ind. – The Taylor women's tennis team put the final stamp on the 2018 fall regular season on Saturday by defeating Indiana Tech 7-2. Taylor (9-4, 6-3) will now turn their attention to the postseason tournament next week.

Indiana Tech, who was competing with a limited roster, forfeited three of the nine sets giving TU a 3-0 lead before the competition began. Of the six matches that were decided on the court, TU won in the No. 2 doubles slot as well as the No. 1, 3 and 4 singles positions.

“We had a great turnout for our senior day today,” mentioned Coach Jon Wegener. “Our seniors have done a great job of leading the team this year. I’m very proud of their hard work and constant improvement throughout this entire season. We had a fun match today and now set our sights on our match against Grace on Tuesday in the first round of the Conference League Tournament.”

The postseason kicks off on Tuesday for the Trojans. TU will travel to Grace College for their quarterfinals matchup.

Taylor def. Indiana Tech; 7-2

Doubles

No. 1 – Verodimenez/Borges (IT) def. Fletchall/Clark (TU); 6-8

No. 2 - Hoffman/Grose (TU) def. Bobos/Tikic (IT); 8-0

No. 3 - Schaufelberger/Hoffman (TU) won by forfeit

Singles

No. 1 - Molly Fletchall (TU) def. Verodimenez (IT); 6-2, 6-4

No. 2 - Martina Borges (IT) def. Taelor Grose (TU); 6-0, 6-2

No. 3 - Courtney Clark (TU) def. Elena Tokic (IT); 6-4, 6-4

No. 4 - Corinne Hoffman (TU) def. Joselyne Bobos (IT); 6-2, 6-0

No. 5 - Julianna Hotmire (TU) won by forfeit

No. 6 - Lydia Browning (TU) won by forfeit

Warriors Defeat Trojans on Senior Day

UPLAND, Ind. – The TU men’s tennis team closed the 2018 regular season on Saturday by celebrating senior day at Meier Court while hosting Indiana Tech. The Warriors were able to overpower TU by a score of 8-1 to move the Trojans to 3-10 on the season.

Steven All was the lone Trojan to land a win. The senior picked up his individual match victory in the No. 3 singles slot by downing Alvaro Garrito in a three-set match. All fell behind early but responded to win the second and third set helping Taylor avoid the team sweep.

“Our schedule hasn’t gotten any easier, and today we had another tough team to play,” said Coach Don Taylor. “We now will get ready for the league tournament on Tuesday against Marian. My hope is we will persevere, and we will learn from the tough matches we played this season.”

The Trojans will now turn their attention to the postseason and their quarterfinals matchup against Marian University. The match is slated to begin at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 2nd in Indianapolis.

Indiana Tech def. Taylor; 8-1

Doubles

No. 1 – Lima/Garrito (IT) def. Danelli/Jacquottet (TU); 8-3

No. 2 – **Neves/Storani (IT) def.** Cheng/Lo Cascio (TU); 8-2

No. 3 – Bono/Gomez (IT) def. All/Graves (TU); 8-0

Singles

No. 1 – Brunno Storani (IT) def. Christen Jacquottet (TU); 6-0, 6-4

No. 2 – Tiago Neves (IT) def. Salvador Lo Cascio (TU); 6-0, 6-2

No. 3 – Steven All (TU) def. Alvaro Garrito (IT); 3-6, 6-2, 10-4

No. 4 – Rui Lima (IT) def. Victor Cheng (TU); 6-1, 6-1

No. 5 – Pablo Bono (IT) def. Abraham Pauta (TU); 6-3, 6-0

No. 6 – Evan Beck (IT) def. Caleb Hoogerheide (TU); 6-1, 6-2

TU Shutouts Bethel in Road Match

MISHAWAKA, Ind. – Coming off a tough loss on Wednesday, the No. 22 Taylor women’s soccer team got back in the win column by beating Bethel 2-0 on Saturday, capturing the team’s sixth shutout of 2018.

The Trojans (8-1-2, 1-1 CL) broke the blank sheet early off a Savannah Porter netter. In the fifth minute, Porter tallied her first goal of the year and third of her career. The game-winner was a career-first for the senior.

The Pilots (3-3-4, 1-1 CL) held TU scoreless for the next 14 minutes, before Danielle Toren increased the lead to 2-0. The junior notched the third netter of the season and fifth of her career.

The Purple and Gold had eight shot attempts, their second-lowest output in a win or tie this season. The defense held the hosts to seven shots, with five on-target.

Emily Calvani and Jourdan Lehman paced the offense with two shots. Hannah Davis and Emma Walsh added a shot each.

Megan Williams and Lauren Engelkes split time in goal in contributing to the shutout. Williams picked up the win and now has a 6-1-2 record for the season. The sophomore had three saves and Engelkes had two.

Bethel has now lost nine-straight matches and 11-of-12 to the Trojans.

TU returns home on Wednesday after three-straight road contests. Goshen (4-2-2, 0-1 CL) visits for a 7:00 p.m. Crossroads League match.

Bethel Trims Taylor in League Action

UPLAND, Ind. – The Taylor men’s soccer team had a late rally cut short against Bethel on Saturday and ultimately fell 4-2 at Turner Stadium.

After going down 4-0 in the 74th minute, TU (3-6-0, 0-2 CL) went on a small-scoring streak over the next five minutes of action and cut the deficit in half.

Bethel (8-2-1, 2-0 CL) had just scored and over 10 seconds later, Paul McBride found the back of the net for the Trojans to put the hosts on the scoreboard. Coming off a pass from Josiah Wieland, McBride was able to get away from a couple defenders and scored his fourth goal of the season and lifted the spirits of his teammates. Wieland received his first helper of the season and second of his career.

Jeremiah Rader cut the lead in half with his second netter of the season a few minutes later. Michael Maloney sent the ball sailing near the box and a Pilot defender headed the ball towards an uncovered Rader, who gathered the ball and sent it rolling past Bethel’s keeper.

The Trojans were able to keep the deficit at 1-0 going into halftime, but the Pilots scored just under three minutes after the second period began. Bethel went on to score its next two goals over a 25 minute span.

With the Pilots owning an 18-10 shot advantage, TU made the most of its three shots on-goal, while Drew Sezonov saved four of the visitor's shots.

On the attack, Rader led the squad with three shots and had two on-frame. Charbel Salako had two shots and McBride contributed two. Peter Linn and Mason Brooke came off the bench and each had their first-shot attempt of the season.

The Trojans travel to Goshen (5-5-0, 0-1 CL) on Wednesday for a 7:00 p.m. Crossroads League match.

Taylor Splits Pair of Matches to Open Weekend Tournament

BOURBONNAIS, Ill. – The TU volleyball squad (8-11, 4-6 CL) began the weekend with a victory over RV Trinity Christian and a loss to Olivet Nazarene in the opening day for the Holiday Express Invite.

The Trojans grabbed a thrilling win over the Trolls (10-5) in an afternoon match on Friday. A 4-0 start set the tone for the team in the opening set, as they jumped out to an early lead. The Trolls bounced back to gain three set point opportunities but Taylor would not let the set slip away. Back-to-back kills from Ryan Czerniak secured the first set for the Trojans.

The following set was a breeze for TU, as it took the lead at 5-4 and never looked back.

After dropping the first two sets, Trinity Christian came back fighting, finishing the third set on a four-point run to extend the match.

A close fourth set went back and forth before the Trolls took control at the end to force a fifth set.

Once again, Taylor was caught in a balanced battle with the Trolls, as each team looked for a victory in the final set with the score even at 10. As the pressure mounted, Taylor would not be denied, surging ahead and notching its eighth victory of the season.

In its second match of the day, TU struggled to pull ahead of Olivet Nazarene (9-9). The Tigers completed the sweep over the Trojans with a trio of close sets that fell away from Taylor. In the first set, TU had just a one-point deficit with the score at 19-20 but the team could not overcome the Tiger lead.

The following sets began well for the Purple and Gold, taking a two-point lead into the middle of each set. Unfortunately, the second and third set each ended similarly, as the Tigers marched back to victory with large scoring streaks.

On the attack, Amanda Adams was on fire, logging 36 kills for the day, including 22 kills against the Trolls, which is a career-high for the sophomore.

The Trojans maintained their strong defense on Friday, grabbing a season-high 104 digs against Trinity Christian. Four different student-athletes tallied double-digit digs in the contest, including Abby DeSimpelare, Haley Harrell, Samantha Korn, and Jamie Scherb. Korn scooped up a season-high 34 digs in the match and pushed her season total to 400 digs.

TU returns to the court on Saturday with another pair of matches as they face Saint Xavier (10-6) at 1:00 pm and RV Campbellsville (11-6) at 3:00 pm.

Wildcats Topple the Trojans in Crossroads League Contest

MARION, Ind. – Taylor volleyball struggled against Indiana Wesleyan on Wednesday, dropping the match in three sets. The team has now split the season series with the Wildcats, as the Trojans won their first matchup on September 7th.

The Purple and Gold (7-10, 4-6 CL) had a slow start to the match, falling behind early in the first two sets. These early deficits were too much to handle, as the Trojans could not find a way to get back into the match. However, the third set looked much better for Taylor. The squad maintained a five-point lead for the majority of the set, looking to extend the match. With TU leading 23-18, the Wildcats (8-10, 7-3 CL) fought back with a six-point run to take the lead before stealing the set from the Trojans (25-18, 25-16, 27-25).

Defensively, TU continued to smother the court, grabbing 49 digs as a team, including 12 from defensive specialist, Jamie Scherb. Wednesday's match was the seventh-consecutive contest that Taylor tallied more digs than its opponent.

Freshman Nicki Sechrist had a great performance, leading the Trojans with 11 kills for her fifth double-digit kill effort. Efficiency also characterized the outside hitter's night, as she logged an impressive .476 hitting percentage.

The Trojans will return to action this weekend as they begin the Olivet Nazarene Tournament on Friday, facing RV Trinity Christian at 3:00 pm and Olivet Nazarene at 7:00 pm.

TU's Defense Shines in Loss to No. 22 Spring Arbor

UPLAND, Ind. – The Taylor men's defense had its hands full keeping the No. 22 Spring Arbor's offense at bay, but eventually fell 1-0 on Wednesday at Turner Stadium.

In both team's first Crossroads League match of the season, the Trojans (3-5-0, 0-1 CL) saw the Cougars (7-3-0, 1-0 CL) attempt 25 shots and had five on-goal. TU managed to take two shots and had one on-frame, while focusing heavily on its defensive plan to slow down the visitors.

Spring Arbor broke the tie in the 71st minute, when the reigning Crossroads League Player of the Year found the back of the net. Morris Kamara received a short pass from a teammate and headed it in from a couple yards out. The play was set up by a corner kick.

The Purple and Gold felt the pressure early, as the Cougars unleashed four shots in the opening five minutes of the contest and had 12 total in the first 45 minutes of play.

Luke Williams was busy in goal for TU, blocking four shots and flying around the box to interrupt a few Spring Arbor cross passes. Williams kept the game even with a diving save in the opening minutes of the second half. The Cougars had a free kick and sent the ball past TU's wall of defenders and Williams was able to get his hand on the ball, which ricocheted behind him and clipped the post to go out of play.

It took Taylor a little over 75 minutes to garner its first shot, which came off the boot of Andrew Johnson. A couple minutes later, Paul McBride took aim and sent it sailing over the crossbar. McBride leads the team with 13 shots and Johnson has two.