

Women's 1996 Season Review

The inaugural Missouri Valley Conference women's soccer season came to a close on Sunday, Nov. 10, as Evansville earned the league's first-ever women's soccer crown.

A superb final week of the season for Evansville, which included a win over No. 14 Minnesota and an MVC tournament title, was dampened as the Aces failed to earn one of the 32 spots in the NCAA Tournament field. Nevertheless, the first season of women's soccer was a successful one for the Valley.

Two first-year teams highlighted the 1996 season as Illinois State and Southwest Missouri State each started women's soccer programs for this season. The battle for first-year supremacy was a draw as the teams split two games, each winning 4-0.

Creighton was the only league team to survive its regular-season conference schedule unscathed, posting a 3-0 mark against league foes, while Eastern Illinois and Evansville each posted 16 wins, with the Panthers winning their first nine matches of the season.

Evansville's 16-4-1 record was highlighted by two wins against top-25 opponents, and the Aces ended the season ranked No. 24 in the nation by the National Soccer Coaches Association.

CU... Working Overtime

Creighton's 9-8-1 record this past season could have been noticeably better had the Lady Jays had success in overtime games. In 1996, Creighton posted an 0-3-1 mark in overtimes. The Lady Jays did, however, advance through the



Eastern Illinois' Beth Aussin ranked second in the league in scoring with 50 points last season.

Final 1996 Missouri Valley Conference Women's Soccer Standings

	Missouri Valley Games*						----- Overall Records -----							
	W	L	T	Pct.	G	GA	W	L	T	Pct.	G	GA	T25	Stk.
Evansville	4	1	0	.800	26	5	16	4	1	.786	75	21	2-0	W6
Eastern Illinois	3	2	0	.600	12	8	16	5	0	.762	67	33	0-0	L1
Creighton	3	0	0	1.000	8	2	9	8	1	.528	37	38	0-0	L1
SW Missouri	0	3	0	.000	2	10	9	11	0	.450	40	35	0-0	L1
Illinois State	1	3	0	.250	6	19	3	16	1	.175	20	77	0-0	L3
Valparaiso	0	2	0	.000	0	11	1	19	1	.071	10	101	0-1	L9

T25 - games vs. teams in the NSCAA or in Soccer America's Top 25;

*Teams did not play a round-robin schedule - MVC standings reported for tournament seeding purposes only.

MVC schedule unscathed, winning all three of their games against MVC members during the regular season this past year.

EIU... Century Toppers

Eastern Illinois' scoring tandem of Tracie Strother and Beth Aussin notched over 100 combined points this past season. Strother had 52 points to lead the league, while Aussin had 50 and ranked second in the MVC in scoring.

UE... World Beaters

Evansville defeated two nationally ranked teams this past season, including Kentucky and Minnesota. Both of those teams advanced to the NCAA Tournament. As a whole, the league was 2-1 against teams ranked in the top 25.

ILS... Young and Old

Illinois State's top two scorers this past season included a senior and a freshman. Senior Michelle Prusko led the team with 14 points, while freshman Aimee Grahe had 13. Each player scored six goals during the year, which tied for ninth among the league statistical leaders.

SMS... Just Shy of .500

Southwest Missouri had a successful first season of women's soccer as the Lady Bears recorded an impressive 9-11 mark in the program's first year. The team had a streaky year, losing its first three before enjoying a six-game winning streak early in the season. SMS then had a six-game losing streak before righting itself at season's end with two wins in its last three contests.

VU... Take Me To Your Leader

Valparaiso GK Amy Cavanaugh suffered a torn ACL in the Crusaders' match against Dayton. Since her injury, the Crusaders compiled an 0-8 record and were outscored 47-0. Cavanaugh was named to the MVC all-freshman team and was an honorable mention all-conference selection.

EIU... Welcome to the Valley

Of the league's two affiliate members for women's soccer, Eastern Illinois had better success in its first year in the Missouri Valley. The Panthers won 16 games, doubling their season total of 1995 (8-11-1). In addition, Eastern Illinois had the best start of any MVC member, winning its first nine games before a 3-1 loss to Dayton on Oct. 4.

SMS... All or Nothing

Freshman goalie Beth Schneider of Southwest Missouri State picked up her eighth shutout of the year with a 4-0 win against Illinois State in the conference tournament. The Lady Bears, in fact, shut out their opponents in all but one of their wins. The lone non-shutout victory was a 9-1 spanking of Southwest Baptist.

UE... Regionally Speaking

During this past year, Evansville spent three weeks in the top 10 in the Great Lakes Region, which included the final two weeks of the season. The Aces reached their highest regional ranking (tie-3rd) and national ranking (24th) in the National Soccer Coaches Association of America final poll, which was released Nov. 11.

MVC Tournament

Nov. 7, 8, 10, 1996 • Evansville, Ind.
Black Beauty Field • Castle High Field*

Friday, November 7 - First Round*

Eastern Illinois 6, Valparaiso 0
Southwest Missouri State 4, Illinois State 0

Saturday, November 8 - Semifinals

Creighton 3, Eastern Illinois 1
Evansville 4, Southwest Missouri State 1 (ot)

Sunday, November 10

Evansville 5, Creighton 0

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SCORING LEADERS

Name	School	MP/MS	Shots	G	A	Pts.
Tracie Strother	Eastern Illinois	21-20	79	20	12	52
Beth Aussin	Eastern Illinois	21-20	72	18	14	50
Sandy Jakubczak	Evansville	21-18	52	20	5	45
Krissy Meek	Evansville	21-21	52	17	3	37
Jamie Hautzinger	SW Missouri	20-19	64	10	10	30
Kalan Malone	Creighton	18-18	56	9	5	23
Kelly Gilbert	Eastern Illinois	21-21	41	7	7	21
Jenny Lembeck	Evansville	21-18	40	6	8	20
Sally Meek	Evansville	21-20	43	6	8	20
Lisa Dispense	Creighton	18-18	29	8	3	19
Stephanie Hartong	Evansville	20-3	24	8	1	17

GOAL LEADERS

Name	School	Matches	Goals
Sandy Jakubczak	Evansville	21	20
Tracie Strother	Eastern Illinois	21	20
Beth Aussin	Eastern Illinois	21	18
Krissy Meek	Evansville	21	17
Jamie Hautzinger	SW Missouri	20	10
Kalan Malone	Creighton	18	9
Lisa Dispense	Creighton	18	8
Stephanie Hartong	Evansville	21	8

four players tied with six goals

ASSIST LEADERS

Name	School	Matches	Assists
Beth Aussin	Eastern Illinois	21	14
Tracie Strother	Eastern Illinois	21	12
Jamie Hautzinger	SW Missouri	20	10
Jenny Lembeck	Evansville	21	8
Sally Meek	Evansville	21	8
Mikki Bussiere	Evansville	21	7
Kelly Gilbert	Eastern Illinois	21	7
Shanna Anderson	Evansville	12	5
Kalan Malone	Creighton	18	5
Colette Lalumondiere	SW Missouri	20	5
Sandy Jakubczak	Evansville	21	5

TEAM SCORING STATS

School	M	Shots	G	A	Pts.	Fouls	CK	PK
Evansville	21	363	75	64	214	203	109	2-2
Eastern Illinois	21	389	67	58	192	231	121	n/a
SW Missouri	20	295	40	33	113	143	81	2-2
Creighton	18	239	37	20	94	258	97	4-4
Illinois State	20	300	20	16	56	263	71	2-2
Valparaiso	21	122	10	5	25	150	22	1-1

KEY: A=Assists; CK=Corner Kicks; G=Goals; GA=Goals Against; GAA=Goals Against Average; MP=Matches Played; MS=Matches Started; PK=Penalty Kicks; ShO=Shutouts; SV=Saves. Goalkeepers must have at least 33% of team's total minutes to be eligible for goalkeeping stats.

GOALKEEPING LEADERS

Name, School	MP/MS	Min.	SV	GA	GAA	ShO
Misty Long, Evansville	21-20	1740	79	17	0.88	6
Beth Schneider, SW Missouri	18-18	1397	104	19	1.22	8 (4)
Mary Libert, Creighton	17-17	1415	74	33	2.10	2 (2)
Jenny Vargas, Eastern Illinois	15-12	854	33	20	2.11	3 (2)
Amy Cavanaugh, Valparaiso	13-13	1162	105	49	3.80	2
Kristi Elliott, Illinois State	20-20	1920	184	77	3.85	2

() indicates number of shared shutouts

FEWEST GOALS AGAINST

Name	School	MP/MS	G	GAA
Misty Long	Evansville	21-20	17	0.88
Beth Schneider	SW Missouri	18-18	19	1.22
Jenny Vargas	Eastern Illinois	15-12	20	2.11
Mary Libert	Creighton	17-17	33	2.10
Amy Cavanaugh	Valparaiso	13-13	49	3.80
Kristi Elliott	Illinois State	20-20	77	3.85

MINUTES PLAYED LEADERS

Name	School	MP/MS	Min.
Kristi Elliott	Illinois State	20-20	1920
Misty Long	Evansville	21-20	1740
Mary Libert	Creighton	17-17	1415
Beth Schneider	SW Missouri	18-18	1397
Amy Cavanaugh	Valparaiso	13-13	1162
Jenny Vargas	Eastern Illinois	15-12	854

SAVE LEADERS

Name	School	MP/MS	Saves
Kristi Elliott	Illinois State	20-20	184
Amy Cavanaugh	Valparaiso	13-13	105
Beth Schneider	SW Missouri	18-18	104
Misty Long	Evansville	21-20	79
Mary Libert	Creighton	17-17	74
Jenny Vargas	Eastern Illinois	15-12	33

SHUTOUT LEADERS

Name	School	MP/MS	ShO
Beth Schneider	SW Missouri	16-16	8 (4)
Misty Long	Evansville	21-20	6
Jenny Vargas	Eastern Illinois	15-12	3 (2)

three others tied with two shutouts

TEAM GOALKEEPING STATS

School	MP	Min.	Saves	GA	GAA	ShO
Evansville	21	2010	95	21	0.94	6
Eastern Illinois	21	1980	81	33	1.50	7
SW Missouri	20	1830	136	36	1.77	8
Creighton	18	1740	93	38	1.97	2
Illinois State	20	1920	184	77	3.85	2
Valparaiso	21	1920	158	101	4.73	2