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Cowgirl soccer aims to finish conference strong

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Corie Wilkinson

Oklahoma State Soccer

Cowgirl players celebrate a goal at the Cowgirl Soccer Complex in Stillwater. The team will celebrate senior day on Sunday against Baylor at 4 p.m.

Posted: Tuesday, October 9, 2012 8:44 pm

By Bryan Urbach Sports Reporter | 0 comments

The OSU soccer team is on the ropes with only three games left in conference play and four games total.

Newcomer West Virginia is atop the Big 12 standings with a perfect 5-0 record. The University of Texas closely follows at 3-0 in the conference. The Cowgirls (1-3-1 in conference) are struggling this season coming in at sixth in the conference. Coach Colin Carmichael said the top team in the conference is definitely one to be reckoned with.

"We've seen West Virginia firsthand, you know, traveling out there was especially difficult," Carmichael said. "They're a great team. They're leading the way in the conference right now. We knew they'd be up there and they're a legitimate team."

The Cowgirls, who lost a close matchup against WVU 1-0, play the other Big 12 newcomer, Texas Christian University, this Friday night at 7. Carmichael said the addition of the two schools this year has brought some heated competition to the conference, especially after the loss of another two universities.

"In our sport, it was a great addition because of the loss of Texas A&M and Missouri," Carmichael said. "Right now, both of those schools are ranked in the top 10 in the country, so it shows you how big that loss was for women's soccer. TCU's a good team as well and we're glad to have them in the conference."

With the Cowgirls' struggles so far in conference play, senior defender Carson Michalowski said some of the inconsistencies of the team are beginning to take a toll on the players.

"This rough stretch right now has put a little bit of a damper on everything as a team," Michalowski said. "It really starts to get into your head and starts being more of a mental game than a physical game. You have to know that you need to fight back from it. As a team, we're out here this week working twice as hard, trying to get that mindset back. We know we have to work hard and start winning some games."

Carmichael, who has been on both ends of the spectrum as far as conference play goes, said the setback of the team may be because of the lack of experience, but that should not stop the Cowgirls from going far into the post-season.

"I think it's a work in progress," Carmichael said. "We've been starting about five or six freshmen every game and I think any coach will tell you when you do that, inconsistency tends to kick in. We've played pretty well at times and we've also played really poor at times.

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“A lot of these girls aren’t used to playing at this level yet and playing on the road, but that comes with time.”

The Cowgirls look to bounce back from the rough record this weekend against TCU (0-3 in the Big 12), who is last in the conference and Baylor (2-0-1), who is third in the conference, on Sunday at 4 p.m.

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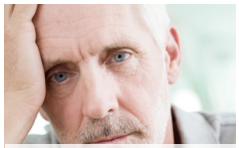
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