

Lukin's Two Goals Lifts OU Past Missouri Valley

OTTAWA, Kan. - OU used **Nicki Lukin's** two first half goals to defeat the Missouri Valley College Lady Vikings 3-1 on Saturday afternoon at Peoples Bank Field. Lukin, playing her first game of the season, gave OU the spark off of the bench as her first goal tied the game and her second gave OU the lead for good.

The Lady Vikings scored the first points of the game when Adriana Batres scored off a rebound shot from five yards out. OU answered exactly 50 seconds later when Lukin, scored her first goal of the season off of a pass from Whitney Bowen. Lukin wasn't finished though, 10 minutes later she found the ball in front of the net. Missouri Valley goalkeeper Ashley Johnson couldn't corral Bowens shot on goal attempt and that goal gave OU the 2-1 lead. The Lady Braves weren't finished yet; Bowen scored her fifth goal of the season with 23 seconds left on the clock. Sarah Wilkerson found Bowen streaking down the right side of the field and Bowen was able to put the ball through the net giving OU the 3-1 lead at the half.

OU goalkeeper Shannon Fisher started her third game of the season between the pipes for the Lady Braves. She had seven saves in the first half. MVC out shot the Lady Braves 20-12 and led in fouls 7-6.

OU had plenty of chances to build on its lead but could not connect and the second half ended like the first, 3-1. In the second period Stephanie Henderson started between the pipes for OU and didn't allow a second half goal. She mad 10 saves in 45 minutes of play.

"I've been very impressed with the work ethic the last couple of days by the girls," said head coach Craig Shaw. "This would have been a game that we would have lost two weeks ago. If we keep improving and play all 90 minutes we will continue to do well."

The Lady Braves next game is against KCAC foe, Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kan. Game time is set for 3:00 p.m.

Notes: Nicki Lukin scored on her first two shots of the season ... Fisher has only allowed one goal in the three games that she has played.