2002 Schedule

Feb. 23  @ University of Southern Indiana (Evansville) *, 12 pm
Feb. 24  @ University of Southern Indiana (Evansville), 12 pm
March 7  @ Lincoln University (Jefferson City, Mo.) *, 1 pm
March 11-15 @ Spring Break Trip (Panama City, Fla.)
March 11  vs. Carthage College (Wisc.), 7 pm
March 12  vs. Marietta College (Ohio), 9 am
March 12  vs. University of South Dakota, 12 pm
March 13  vs. Northern State University (S. D.), 9 am
March 14  vs. Carthage College (Wisc.), 11:30 am
March 14  vs. Wayne State (Mich.), 2 pm
March 15  vs. Ohio Dominican *, 9 am
March 19  Rockhurst University (Kansas City, Mo.), 2 pm
March 20  Simpson College (Iowa) *, 1 pm
March 23  @ Emporia State University (Kan.) * #, 12 pm
March 24  @ Washburn University (Topeka, Kan.) * #, 1 pm
March 29  @ Missouri Western State College (St. Joseph) * #, 2 pm
March 30  @ Northwest Missouri State Univ. (Maryville) * #, 1 pm
April 1  @ Quincy University (Ill.), 4 pm
April 3  Washburn University (Topeka, Kan.) * #, 12 pm
April 6  @ Pittsburg State University (Kan.) * #, 1 pm
April 7  @ Pittsburg State University (Kan.) #, 1 pm
April 9  Harris-Stowe State College (St. Louis, Mo.) *, 1 pm
April 13  @ Central Missouri State Univ. (Warrensburg) * #, 3 pm
April 14  @ Central Missouri State Univ. (Warrensburg) #, 1 pm
April 17  Missouri Western State College * #, 1 pm
April 19  Southwest Baptist University (Mo.) #, 2 pm
April 20  Southwest Baptist University (Mo.) * #, 12 pm
April 23  Iowa Wesleyan College, 2 pm
April 24  Northwest Missouri State University * #, 1 pm
April 27  University of Missouri-Rolla * #, 2 pm
April 28  University of Missouri-Rolla #, 1 pm
April 30  Emporia State University (Kan.) * #, 12 pm
May 4  @ Missouri Southern State College (Joplin) * #, 1 pm
May 5  @ Missouri Southern State College (Joplin) #, 12 pm
May 11-12 MIAA Conference Tournament, TBA

* DOUBLEHEADER
# Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association game

Quick Facts

Location: Kirksville, MO 63501-4221
President: Jack Magruder
Director of Athletics: Jerry Wollmering
Athletics Phone: (660) 785-4235
Founded: 1867
Enrollment: 6,000
Nickname: Bulldogs
Colors: Purple & White
Conference: Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association
Affiliation: NCAA Division II
Head Coach: Lawrence Scully
Office Phone: (660) 785-6003
Facility (Cap.): Truman Baseball Field (250)

Covering The Bases

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ON THE COVER (TOP TO BOTTOM): Senior third baseman Eric Howe, junior pitcher David Brandt, senior second baseman Shannon Cox, junior all-MIAA first baseman Brian Walters and junior shortstop Scott Theriault. The large picture is senior all-MIAA catcher Matt Wine.

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As his second season guiding the Truman baseball program approaches, Bulldog head coach Lawrence Scully is feeling optimistic about the team he has begun to mold. Scully is breathing life into a program that posted a 9-41-1 record the season prior to his arrival. In his inaugural campaign, the Bulldogs surged to 14-26, clipped a full run off their team ERA and boosted their team batting average 27 points, all evidence that Scully has the program moving in the right direction. Now, armed with 19 returners and a quality recruiting class, Scully is ready to lead his squad into a grueling 2002 schedule.

CATCHING

One place the Bulldogs enjoy depth is behind the plate where Scully can choose from among three skilled catchers. The battalion is led by two-time honorable mention all-MIAA senior, Matt Wine. A career .308 hitter who led the 'Dogs with a .377 batting average in 2001, Wine also plays fantastic defense, evidenced by the .974 fielding percentage he has amassed over 123 games behind the dish.

“Matt is going to be counted on in terms of run production and leadership,” Scully said. “He’s going to do a good job for us.”

Wine will play mentor to his heir apparent, freshman Mark Kirchhoff, who was a two-time all-state player at Columbia’s Rock Bridge High School. Scully likes Kirchhoff’s strong throwing arm and thinks he should see playing time as the No. 2 receiver.

The catching corps is rounded out by sophomore Matt Anderson.

“Matt is a good receiver who works well with pitchers and has a pretty good stick,” Scully explained.

INFIELD

The faces around the Bulldog infield will remain largely familiar, as only last year’s co-captain Kevin Ensminger departs and one-time third baseman Scott Theriault returns from a half-season odyssey in the outfield, as well as from a broken arm, to get a shot at the starting shortstop role. Prior to his injury, Theriault was hitting at a .333 clip last season, and Scully believes minor swing adjustments in the off-season could lead to increased power numbers for his projected lead-off man. Theriault’s double-play partner will be junior Nick Heineman.

“Nick is a quality hitter,” Scully indicated. “He has good balance at the plate, a hit-and-run type guy that can bunt. Defensively he’s consistent and makes the plays.”

Heineman will share time at second with senior Shannon Cox. A community college transfer last season, Cox is a solid all-around player who Scully says has good pop in the bat for a middle infielder.

Sophomore Keith Cronin should also see action in the keystone combination, most likely as Theriault’s back-up at short.

“Our middle infield is solid,” Scully said. “We have four guys that have great hands and throwing arms, not to mention that all of them are good hitters who strengthen our lineup.”

Scully will be counting on the corners of his infield to produce offensive numbers as well as play good defense. The Bulldogs enjoy depth at first base, where returning honorable mention all-conference selection Brian Walters is the starter. Walters launched 11 home runs over his first two Truman seasons, but this year Scully is looking for a more well-rounded offensive game from his big gun.

“Brian worked hard on conditioning during the off-season and he’s a lot stronger. He’s going to have better balance at the plate and hit for a better average.”

Senior Jason Sparks should also see time at first, as well as getting plenty of at-bats as the designated hitter. Sparks hit .306 in ‘01, and this year Scully is looking for him to pump that average up even more and become a big-time run producer in the Truman lineup. His younger brother, Jeff Sparks, may spend some innings at first base too. The young Sparks, a transfer from the University of Missouri, took a year away from baseball but still may have an impact this year.

“Jeff is going to be a power guy for us,” Scully predicted. “He’s made tremendous strides with the mechanics of his swing.”

At the opposite infield corner, third base will be the territory of senior Eric Howe. Howe returned to the diamond last season after three seasons of Bulldog football and saw most of his time at shortstop. The move to third should help Howe, who led the team in errors, and allow him to improve on his fine .339 batting average.

“Eric is as good an offensive third baseman as you’ll find in our conference and
he'll continue to improve defensively and be a good player for us," Scully said.

OUTFIELD

The Bulldog outfield sports an entirely new look for 2002. A youthful, speedy, defensively strong crew will patrol the outer reaches of the Bulldog park, as two sophomores and a trio of freshmen will vie for time.

The two fastest players on the Truman roster will share time in center field. Scully calls freshman Andrew Paul the speediest Bulldog, with sophomore Brad Miller a close second, and says that both players possess strong throwing arms. Miller batted .310 last season, and handled 50 chances in the field without an error after taking over in center for the injured Theriault midway through the year. However, Paul’s impressive speed and left-handed bat may give him an edge for the starting assignment.

Freshman Patrick Hardin, a first-team all-state player at Chaminade in St. Louis, should add some pop to the Truman lineup from the left field spot.

“Patrick is an extremely strong kid, has a powerful bat and will give us the consistency to make routine plays out there,” Scully said.

Freshman Blake McWilliams should also see time in left. Another left-handed hitter who runs well, McWilliams recorded two error-free seasons in high school and will provide a steady glove in the outfield.

Local sophomore Jamie Wolf, a converted infielder who saw limited time in left field last season, should be the ‘Dogs’ regular right fielder. Scully calls the Kirksville High School product one of the team’s most improved players.

“Jamie has improved his arm strength and accuracy and he’s learning to hit the ball the other way with more power.”

PITCHING

Heading into the campaign, the Bulldog pitching staff remains largely a mystery, consisting of zero seniors and a handful of juniors that have seen little time on the collegiate hill. Scully will have to fill the void left by all-MIAA hurler Nick Pianalto, as well as the absence of this year’s likely No. 1, junior Brant Kraner, who will red-shirt after undergoing elbow surgery.

“With the loss of Pianalto, we’ll need some pitchers to step up and lead the staff,” Scully explained. “Nick really did a good job, not just with pitching but leadership. This year we have a lot of good arms who just need the opportunity to prove themselves.”

The best of these arms belongs to sophomore Matt Kupferle, the early favorite to inherit the No. 1 mantle. Used largely in the closer role as a freshman, Kupferle led the staff with 16 appearances, posting a 2-1 record and earning four saves. Scully is looking forward to letting Kupferle cut loose with his upper-80s mph fastball more.

“Matt had a good summer," Scully said. “He went home, worked out, lifted and threw more. He’s going to give us a lot of quality starts and a lot of innings.”

Following Kupferle in the rotation will be sophomore Tony Jenkins, a transfer from the University of Missouri-Rolla who redshirted in 2001. Jenkins is another hard throwing right-hander who will get ample opportunity to prove himself.

“Tony’s arm action is fun to watch,” Scully commented. “It’s loose and easy, and the ball really explodes out of his hand. He’s learning to be a pitcher, not just a thrower.”

The other two spots in the rotation should be filled by freshman left-hander Coley Lewis and junior righty Paul Cornejo who, with 12 collegiate starts under his belt, is the most experienced hurler on the Bulldog staff.

“Lewis has great location and throws with confidence and consistency," Scully said. “He’s polished for a freshman and will give us quality innings.”

Scully also says Cornejo is a sharper pitcher than he was last season.

“His breaking ball is improved and he has a good fastball to compliment it.”

Scully will use the early part of the season to clarify his bullpen situation, seeking to match the right pitchers with the right situations. Sophomores Clayton Johnson and Wes Creech seem to be headed for relief roles and possible spot starts, while juniors Nate Rueckert and David Brandt, sophomores Jesse Bohlmeyer and Aaron Mueller and freshmen Matt Maxfield, Nate Alexander and Scott Gaines will vie for the shorter late-game stints on the hill. With Rueckert, Maxfield and Gaines all tossing from the left side, the Truman bullpen should be nicely balanced. Scully thinks his starting shortstop, Theriault, may also get a chance to show off his arm and inherit the closer role vacated by Kupferle.

SCHEDULE

If early spring weather cooperates, the Bulldogs will play a new high of 54 games in 2002. The season gets underway with a three-game set at Southern Indiana, a team that Truman has never defeated on the diamond. The Bulldogs’ annual spring break trip to Panama City, Fla., is next and will feature eight games in five days, including a match-up against the No. 1 team in NCAA Division III, Marietta College (Ohio). The Bulldogs return to Kirksville to host a doubleheader against Simpson College (Iowa) and Rockhurst before beginning the MIAA schedule with weekend doubleheaders at Emporia State and Washburn. The perennial conference favorite remains Central Missouri State, the runner-up in the Division II national championship last year and ranked No. 5 in the 2002 preseason poll. Truman travels to Warrensburg to take on the Mules in a three-game series April 13-14.

Eric Howe completed the 2001 season ranked third on the team with a .339 batting average.
Lawrence Scully became the fifth head coach in the 34-year history of Truman baseball on Sept. 1, 2000. He replaced B.J. Pumroy, who resigned the position after eight years to accept the job as Truman’s assistant director of athletics for compliance and eligibility.

The 2001 season was Scully’s first as a head coach at any level. He came to Truman from Morningside College (Iowa), where he served as hitting instructor, outfield coach and first base coach in 2000. Morningside’s offense prospered under Scully, setting new single-season records for batting average, hits, doubles, runs scored and runs batted in. The team also set a new season standard for victories. He was also involved in scouting and recruiting at Morningside.

Scully’s experience is not limited to the offensive aspect of the game. Prior to his stint at Morningside, Scully served two seasons as pitching instructor and third base coach at Sioux City West High School in Sioux City, Iowa.

Scully was also the pitching instructor for Indian Hills Community College in Centerville, Iowa from 1992-96. Over that span, Indian Hills reached the Junior College World Series three times. Seven of the hurlers Scully guided during his tenure were selected in the Major League Baseball draft.

Scully entered the coaching ranks after a collegiate playing career in which he spent time with both Indian Hills and Western Kentucky University. He was also a participant in the Canadian Olympic team program in 1987.

In the classroom, Scully earned a master’s degree in sport science from the United States Sports Academy and a bachelor’s degree in English Literature from Western Kentucky.

In addition to his experience, Scully also brings enthusiasm to the Bulldog program.

“Isn’t exciting,” he said. “Our goal is for each athlete to reach his full potential, both in the classroom and on the playing field.”

And along with his zest for the game, Scully provides an infusion of confidence for his young charges. “I told the team that I was in a program that one year finished dead last, the next we were in the conference championship. I know what it takes to run a successful program.”

Clay Biggs capped a fine Bulldog career with a stellar 2000 campaign in which he posted a .308 batting average while starting all 51 of the team’s games. Biggs posted a .391 on base percentage (coaxing 24 walks while whiffing just eight times) and led the squad with 16 stolen bases. Biggs’ thefts per game average (0.31) was the sixth-best in the conference, and he was the lone Bulldog named to the all-MIAA second team.

Biggs completed his four-year stint as a ‘Dog ranked in the top 10 on four career leaders lists. He is fifth all-time at Truman in runs scored (84) and stolen bases (32), ninth in at-bats (402) and 10th in hits (114). Biggs posted a solid .284 batting average in 125 career games. He snacked 15 doubles, two triples and 1 home run, knocked in 42 runs, and drew 52 free passes. At second base, Biggs recorded 216 putouts and 226 assists while committing 32 errors for a fielding percentage of .932.

Evan Adair was a four-year letterman who enjoyed his most productive season as a senior in 2001. Adair appeared in 37 games, including 34 starting assignments, as the Bulldogs’ regular leftfielder. He amassed a respectable .269 batting average, rapping out 25 hits, including nine doubles and a home run to boost his slugging percentage to .398. Adair tied for second on the team with 26 runs scored and he also drew 17 bases on balls, posting an on-base percentage of .393.

A versatile player who saw time around both the infield and outfield throughout his Bulldog career, Adair brings to the coaching staff a knowledge of how to effectively field a variety of positions. As a freshman in 1998, he tied team and conference records by handling 72 chances (69 putouts and 3 assists) without an error for a perfect 1.000 fielding percentage. Over his career, Adair committed only nine miscues in 231 chances for a fielding percentage of .961.
### Bulldog Rosters

#### CATCHERS
- **Matt Wine**  
  - **Pos.**: C  
  - **Year**: Sr.  
  - **Ht.**: 6-0  
  - **Wt.**: 190  

- **Mark Kirchhoff**  
  - **Pos.**: C  
  - **Year**: Fr.  
  - **Ht.**: 6-0  
  - **Wt.**: 190

- **Matt Anderson**  
  - **Pos.**: C  
  - **Year**: Fr.  
  - **Ht.**: 6-2  
  - **Wt.**: 205

#### SECOND BASE
- **Catcher**:  
  - **Pos.**: C  
  - **Year**: So.  
  - **Ht.**: 6-3  
  - **Wt.**: 190

- **Shannon Cox**  
  - **Pos.**: 2B  
  - **Year**: Sr.  
  - **Ht.**: 5-11  
  - **Wt.**: 175

- **Nick Heineman (HINE-uh-man)**  
  - **Pos.**: 2B  
  - **Year**: Jr.  
  - **Ht.**: 5-10  
  - **Wt.**: 170

#### FIRST BASE
- **Matt Kupferle**  
  - **Pos.**: P  
  - **Year**: Jr.  
  - **Ht.**: 6-1  
  - **Wt.**: 190

- **Tony Jenkins**  
  - **Pos.**: P  
  - **Year**: So.  
  - **Ht.**: 6-1  
  - **Wt.**: 185

- **Brant Kraner**  
  - **Pos.**: P  
  - **Year**: Jr.  
  - **Ht.**: 6-0  
  - **Wt.**: 180

#### CENTER FIELD
- **Andrew Paul**  
  - **Pos.**: OF  
  - **Year**: Fr.  
  - **Ht.**: 5-11  
  - **Wt.**: 180

- **Blake McWilliams**  
  - **Pos.**: OF  
  - **Year**: Fr.  
  - **Ht.**: 5-11  
  - **Wt.**: 165

- **Shannon Cox**  
  - **Pos.**: 2B  
  - **Year**: Fr.  
  - **Ht.**: 5-11  
  - **Wt.**: 165

#### RIGHT FIELD
- **Matt Wine**  
  - **Pos.**: C  
  - **Year**: Sr.  
  - **Ht.**: 6-2  
  - **Wt.**: 205

- **Mark Kirchhoff**  
  - **Pos.**: C  
  - **Year**: Fr.  
  - **Ht.**: 6-0  
  - **Wt.**: 190

#### SHORTSTOP
- **Scott Theriault**  
  - **Pos.**: SS  
  - **Year**: Jr.  
  - **Ht.**: 5-7  
  - **Wt.**: 160

- **Clayton Johnson**  
  - **Pos.**: P  
  - **Year**: Sr.  
  - **Ht.**: 6-4  
  - **Wt.**: 200

#### PITCHERS
- **Nick Heineman**  
  - **Pos.**: P  
  - **Year**: Jr.  
  - **Ht.**: 5-10  
  - **Wt.**: 170

- **Brant Kraner**  
  - **Pos.**: P  
  - **Year**: Jr.  
  - **Ht.**: 5-11  
  - **Wt.**: 180

#### Third Base
- **Nick Heineman**  
  - **Pos.**: SS  
  - **Year**: Jr.  
  - **Ht.**: 6-3  
  - **Wt.**: 190

#### Alphabetical Roster

No. | Name | Pos. | Year | B/T | Ht. | Wt. | Hometown | High School (Previous School) |
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
1. | Andrew Paul | OF | Fr. | L/R | 5-11 | 180 | Maryland Heights, Mo. | Parkway North |
2. | Blake McWilliams | OF | Fr. | L/R | 5-11 | 165 | Columbia, Mo. | Rock Bridge |
3. | Matt Anderson | P | Fr. | R/R | 6-3 | 190 | Marion, Iowa | Linn-Mar |
4. | Matt Wine | C | So. | R/R | 6-2 | 205 | Bloomington, Ill. | Normal Community West |
5. | Matt Wine | C | Sr. | R/R | 6-2 | 205 | Columbia, Mo. | Hickman |
6. | Matt Wine | OF | Fr. | R/R | 5-11 | 175 | Kirkville, Mo. | Kirkville (University of Arkansas) |
7. | Nick Heineman | OF | Jr. | R/R | 5-11 | 175 | Creve Coer, Mo. | Parkway North |
11. | Nick Heineman | OF | Fr. | R/R | 5-11 | 175 | Kirksville, Mo. | Kirksville (University of Missouri) |
13. | Nick Heineman | OF | Fr. | R/R | 5-10 | 160 | Affton, Mo. | Chaminade |
14. | Nick Heineman | SS | So. | R/R | 5-10 | 160 | Centralia, Mo. | Centralia |
15. | Nick Heineman | SS | Fr. | R/R | 5-10 | 160 | Creve Coer, Mo. | Lutheran North |
16. | Nick Heineman | SS | Jr. | R/R | 5-10 | 160 | St. Louis | Parkway North |
17. | Nick Heineman | SS | Jr. | R/R | 5-10 | 160 | Oakville, Mo. | Lutheran South |
18. | Nick Heineman | SS | Jr. | R/R | 5-10 | 160 | Des Moines, Iowa | Dowling |
20. | Nick Heineman | SS | Jr. | R/R | 5-10 | 160 | Parkview, Mo. | Parkview West |
22. | Nick Heineman | SS | Jr. | R/R | 5-10 | 160 | Columbia, Mo. | Rock Bridge |
23. | Nick Heineman | SS | Jr. | R/R | 5-10 | 160 | Creve Coer, Mo. | Lutheran North |
24. | Nick Heineman | SS | Jr. | R/R | 5-10 | 160 | St. Louis | Lutheran South |
25. | Nick Heineman | SS | Jr. | R/R | 5-10 | 160 | Oakville, Mo. | Lutheran South |

* Letters earned  
# Returning Squadmember  
$ Redshirting in 2002  
% Previously Redshirted
Returning All-MIAA

Matt Walters - Co-Captain
Catcher ◆ Sr. ◆ R/R ◆ 6-2 ◆ 205 ◆ Columbia, Mo. ◆ Hickman H.S.

Truman 2001: Walters was one of the 'Dogs' most dangerous power hitters, connecting for six home runs and four doubles among his 23 hits. His .517 slugging percentage was second on the squad. Also reliable in the field, Walters' .958 fielding percentage was tops among the team's starting infielders. For his efforts, Walters was named honorable mention all-MIAA and to the MIAA commissioner's academic honor roll.

2000: Walters emerged as the 'Dogs' most dangerous long-ball threat. He smashed five home runs to lead the squad, as well as shared the team lead in doubles (9) and triples (2). He amassed 67 total bases for a slugging percentage of .429. Walters also contributed stellar defense at first base, making only five errors in 392 total chances for a solid .987 fielding percentage. His 376 putouts set a new team single-season record.

1999: Walters quickly claimed the starting catcher spot with his aggressive defense. He appeared in 37 games behind the dish and made only four errors for a fielding percentage of .980. Walters also earned 22 throwing assists.

High School: Walters lettered two years in both baseball and soccer. In baseball, he was named first-team all-district his senior season and received the senior award for being an outstanding player. He twice won the team award for hustle and attitude. In soccer, he was co-MVP his senior year, leading his team to a third-place finish in the state.

Personal: Born Dec. 18, 1979, in Dubuque, Iowa ... the son of Mark and Vickie Wine ... a business administration major ... spends summers working as an instructor for University of Missouri baseball camps and playing in the Chicago Suburban Baseball League.

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Brian Wine - Co-Captain
Catcher ◆ Sr. ◆ R/H ◆ G-2 ◆ 205 ◆ Columbia, Mo. ◆ Hickman H.S.

Truman 2001: Wine led the Bulldogs with a .377 batting average and anchored the defense from behind the plate with a solid .965 fielding percentage. He began his climb up several Truman career hitting lists, finishing the year ranked 13th in at bats, eighth in hits, tied for 18th in doubles, tied for 11th in total bases and 10th in RBIs. For the second consecutive season, Wine was named honorable mention all-MIAA and to the MIAA commissioner's academic honor roll.

2000: Wine emerged as the 'Dogs' most consistent hitter, improving his average more than 130 points to a team-best .329. He also remained solid behind the plate, posting a .975 fielding percentage in the regular catching role. Wine earned honorable mention all-MIAA status and was named to the MIAA commissioner's academic honor roll.

1999: Wine quickly claimed the starting catcher spot with his aggressive defense. He appeared in 37 games behind the dish and made only four errors for a fielding percentage of .980. Wine also earned 22 throwing assists.

High School: Wine lettered for two years in both baseball and soccer. In baseball, he was named first-team all-district his senior season and received the senior award for being an outstanding player. He twice won the team award for hustle and attitude. In soccer, he was co-MVP his senior year, leading his team to a third-place finish in the state.

Personal: Born Aug. 3, 1981, in Lincoln, Ill. ... the son of Ben and Sue Walters ... an exercise science/sport management major.
Returning Letterwinners

Matt Anderson
Catcher
So. • R/R • 6-3 • 190
Marion, Iowa
Linn-Mar H.S.

Truman 2001: Anderson started five of the seven games in which he appeared as a freshman.
High School: Anderson lettered three years in baseball and basketball. He was twice named all-metro and once selected as an all-conference honoree on the diamond. He was also named all-metro and all-conference, as well as second-team all-state, as a senior on the basketball court.
Personal: Born Nov. 5, 1981 in Marion, Iowa ... the son of Mike and Diane Anderson ... an accounting major ... spends his summers as a YMCA day camp counselor.

David Brandt
Pitcher
Jr. • R/R • 5-11 • 176
Springfield, Mo.
Kickapoo H.S.

Truman 2001: Brandt took the hill six times for the Bulldogs during his sophomore season, including one start. He worked 11 innings, allowed 30 hits and 15 runs (11 earned) but did not record a decision. Brandt was named to the MIAA commissioner's academic honor roll.
2000: Brandt was used sparingly out of the bullpen in his freshman campaign. He made four appearances, allowing nine hits and seven runs over 4.1 innings of work.
High School: Brandt lettered in baseball as a junior and senior.
Personal: Born Sept. 22, 1980, in Wuerzberg, Germany ... the son of Charles and Sheila Brandt ... a communication major.

Jesse Bohlmeyer
Pitcher
So. • R/R • 5-11 • 170
Centralia, Mo.
Centralia H.S.

Truman 2001: Bohlmeyer was one of the most effective relief hurlers, appearing in eight games and working 17 innings. Opponents mustered 26 hits and 20 runs (13 earned) against Bohlmeyer, who was one of only three Bulldogs to record a save and whose 6.88 ERA was third-best among Truman relievers.
2000: He was redshirted.
High School: Bohlmeyer earned four letters in baseball, two in football and one in basketball. He served as team co-captain and earned second team all-conference and honorable mention all-district honors as a senior. Bohlmeyer left Centralia High School as the all-time leader in career and single-season victories.
Personal: Born June 5, 1981, in Centralia, Mo. ... the son of David and Teresa Bohlmeyer ... a communication disorders major.

Paul Cornejo
Pitcher
Jr. • R/R • 6-6 • 215
St. Louis
Parkway North H.S.

Truman 2001: Cornejo's lone victory came in conference action, an 8-5 win at home over Pittsburg State University. He was named to the MIAA commissioner's academic honor roll.
2000: Cornejo split time between starting and bullpen assignments as a freshman. He posted a 1-3 record over nine appearances, with the lone victory a complete game three-hit shutout of Missouri-Rolla. Cornejo allowed 45 hits and 33 runs, issued 19 base on balls and struck out 14 batters over 35 innings of work.
High School: Cornejo lettered three years in baseball. As a senior, he earned first-team all-Suburban South conference honors and his team won the district championship. He threw two no-hitters. Cornejo was also a two-year starter at center for the basketball team.
Personal: Born April 8, 1981 in St. Louis ... the son of Charles and Sueanne Cornejo ... a finance major.
Returning Letterwinners

Shannon Cox  - Co-Captain
Second Base
Sr.  •  H/R  •  5-11  •  175
Tiffin, Iowa
Clear Creek-Amana H.S.
(Kirkwood CC)

Truman 2001: Cox started in 10 of the 12 games he played in his first season with the Bulldogs after transferring from Kirkwood Community College. At the plate, he rapped out eight hits, including one double, and made just two errors in 40 chances at second base.

High School: Cox was a four-sport star, lettering four times in baseball, three each in football and track, and twice in basketball. He was a three-time all-conference, all-district and all-area selection on the diamond.

Personal: Born July 17, 1980, in Iowa City, Iowa ... the son of Jerry and Sandra Cox ... a communications major.

Year  G  AB  R  H  2B  3B  HR  TB  RBI  SB/BB  BB  K  SAC  HB  BA  PO  A  E  FLD%
2001  12  37  2  8  3  0  0  3  15  0  1  1  .216  24  14  2 .950
Career 12  37  2  8  3  0  0  3  15  0  1  1  .216  24  14  2 .950

Keith Cronin
Shortstop
So.  •  H/R  •  5-10  •  170
Chesterfield, Mo.
Parkway West H.S.

Truman 2001: Cronin started in five of the 10 games in which he played as a freshman. He collected three hits, all singles, and scored six runs. Throughout these appearances, he was flawless in the field, handling 18 chances without an error.

High School: Cronin participated in baseball, cross country and basketball. He earned honorable mention all-conference accolades in baseball as a junior and second team honors as a senior. In cross country, Cronin was twice named first-team all-conference and all-sectional and finished in the top 30 at state.

Personal: Born Jan. 6, 1982, in Cranston, R.I. ... the son of William and Debra Cronin ... an exercise science major.

Year  G  AB  R  H  2B  3B  HR  TB  RBI  SB/BB  BB  K  SAC  HB  BA  PO  A  E  FLD%
2001  10  17  6  3  0  0  0  3  2  0  0  0  .176  7  11  0 1.000
Career 10  17  6  3  0  0  0  3  2  0  0  0  .176  7  11  0 1.000

Wes Creech
Pitcher
So.  •  H/R  •  6-3  •  185
Hannibal, Mo.
Hannibal H.S.

Truman 2001: Creech made 10 mound appearances during his first season as a Bulldog. He did not register a win but did get a save against Brewton-Parker College at the 2001 Gulf Coast Community College Classic in Panama City Beach, Fl.

High School: Creech lettered three years in baseball and once each in soccer and basketball. He was named first-team all-conference and first-team all-district while being MVP and all-area his junior year. As a senior, he was named honorable mention all-conference and all-area. Creech set school records for wins in a season (7) and a career (14).

Personal: Born Jan. 10, 1982 ... the son of Robert and Crystal Creech ... an exercise science/pre-chiropractic major.

Year  W  L  S  G  GS  CG  IP  H  R  ER  BB  K  ERA
2001  0  3  1  10  2  0  20.1  36  28  23  11  6  10.18
Career 0  3  1  10  2  0  20.1  36  28  23  11  6  10.18

Nick Heineman
Second Base
Jr.  •  H/R  •  5-10  •  170
Normal, Ill.
Normal Community West

Truman 2001: Heineman batted .262 over 36 games during his second season. He drew 12 walks to boost his on-base percentage to .354, and his 25 RBIs were second-best on the team. In the field, Heineman was involved in a team-best 25 double plays.

High School: Heineman lettered four years in baseball, two in basketball and one in golf. He was named second-team all-conference in baseball as a senior. Baseball team won regional championship his junior and senior seasons. Heineman set new records on his baseball team in career games played, single-season assists, and least errors over a full season.

Personal: Born June 6, 1981 in Normal, Ill. ... the son of Ed and Alyce Heineman ... a business major ... his father played college baseball at Illinois State.

Year  G  AB  R  H  2B  3B  HR  TB  RBI  SB/BB  BB  K  SAC  HB  BA  PO  A  E  FLD%
2000  10  17  2  4  0  0  0  4  1  0/1  1  4  0  0 .235  7  16 2 .920
2001 36 110 16 29 3 1 1 37 25 6/9 12 27 6 5 .264 61 45 6 .946
Career 46 127 18 33 3 1 1 41 26 6/10 13 31 6 .526 68 61 8 .942
Eric Howe
Third Base
Sr. • R/H • G-6 • 200
Des Moines, Iowa
Dowling H.S.

Truman 2001: Howe earned a starting role as the shortstop. His two years away from the diamond showed few ill effects at the plate, as he finished third on the team with a .339 batting average. Howe had 42 hits including 12 doubles and two home runs, pumping up his slugging percentage to .484. He also completed an outstanding career as the starting quarterback on the Truman football team in the fall of 2001. Howe is the all-time Truman passing and total offense leader and ranks second all-time in the MIAA in passing yards.

High School: Howe earned three letters in baseball and two each in football and basketball, serving as team captain for each sport. On the diamond, Howe was named first-team all-conference and all-district and second-team all-metro and all-state as a senior. On the gridiron, he holds team records for single-game passing yards and longest touchdown pass.

Personal: Born Oct. 21, 1979 in West Des Moines, Iowa ... the son of Bill and Joan Howe ... a justice systems major.

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Brant Kraner
Pitcher
Jr. • R/H • G-6 • 180
Creve Coeur, Mo.
Parkway North H.S.

Truman 2001: Kraner was hampered by arm trouble but managed to post a 3-3 mark, including conference wins over Washburn and Pittsburg State. 2000: Kraner was the ‘Dog’s No. 3 starter in his frosh campaign. He went the distance in nine of his 13 starts, the most complete games on the staff. Kraner struck out an impressive 3.7 hitters per walk, and his 8.83 K’s per nine innings was second-best in the MIAA. His 6.64 ERA was second on the staff.

High School: Kraner lettered three years in baseball and two each in football and basketball, serving as team captain for each sport. On the diamond, Kraner was named first-team all-conference and all-district and second-team all-metro and all-state as a senior. On the gridiron, he holds team records for single-game passing yards and longest touchdown pass.

Personal: Born March 31, 1981, in St. Louis ... the son of Judy Kraner ... a business management major.

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Clayton Johnson
Pitcher
So. • R/H • G-6 • 200
Pittsfield, Ill.
Pittsfield H.S.

Truman 2001: Johnson was used mostly in a relief role as a redshirt freshman, with eight of his nine appearances coming out of the bullpen. 2000: Johnson was redshirted.

High School: Johnson lettered four seasons in baseball and three in basketball. He was named first-conference and all-conference and was an all-star all-state selection. Johnson's basketball team won the regional championship in '99. Johnson’s basketball team won the regional and sectional championship in '99.

Personal: Born Feb. 14, 1981, in Jacksonville, Ill. ... the son of William and Jane Johnson ... a biology/pre-medicine major.

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Matt Kupferle
Pitcher
So. • R/H • G-6 • 190
Ballwin, Mo.
Marquette H.S.

Truman 2001: Kupferle proved to be one of the most effective and durable hurlers on the staff in his first season at the college level. He led the pitching corps with 16 appearances, mostly in short relief situations. Kupferle also led the bullpen with four saves and posted a 2.1 record and a better than two-to-one strikeouts to walks ratio.

High School: Kupferle lettered four years in baseball. He was a two-time St. Louis Amateur Baseball Association all-star, named to the second-team all-conference and was an all-star all-state selection. Kupferle set the school record for consecutive scoreless innings with nearly 33. His St. Louis Amateur Baseball Association team won the conference championship for three consecutive years starting in 1998. The team also won the A.A.B.C. state and regional championships in ’98.

Personal: Born March 30, 1982, in Ballwin, Mo. ... the son of Gary and Judy Kupferle ... an accounting major.

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Returning Letterwinners

Brad Miller
Outfielder
So. • H/R • 5-9 • 175
Wheaton, Ill.
Wheaton North H.S.

Truman 2001: Miller inherited the starting center field job, following Scott Theriault’s mid-season injury, and he provided the ‘Dogs with both consistent offense and flawless glovework. He handled 50 chances without a single miscue, leading the team in fielding. He captured the school records for single-season and career stolen bases.

High School: Miller lettered two years in baseball and football. His baseball team won the regional championship his junior year and the conference championship his senior year. Miller was an honorable mention all-area pick as a junior and named second-team all-conference as a senior. He was also a two-time first-team all-conference player in soccer. Personal: Born Jan. 25, 1982, in Glendale Heights, Ill. ... the son of Paul and Patti Miller ... a business major.

Year G AB R H 2B 3B HR TB RBI BB K SAC HB BA PO A E FLD%
2001 25 58 17 18 2 0 0 20 5 7/8 3 10 2 2 .310 310 50 0 1.000
Career 25 58 17 18 2 0 0 20 5 7/8 3 10 2 2 .310 310 50 0 1.000

Jason Sparks
Third Base
Sr. • H/R • 5-11 • 180
Kirksville, Mo.
Kirksville H.S.

Truman 2001: Sparks served as both first baseman and the designated hitter, enjoying a breakthrough campaign by boosting his batting average 84 points to .306. Four doubles and four home runs helped his slugging percentage rise to .435. Sparks set a new school record for strikeouts in a season, eclipsing the old mark of 35 by four Ks. He enjoyed his finest season afielid, improving his percentage by 91 points. Sparks earned a spot on the MIAA commissioner’s academic honor roll for the second time. 2000: Sparks started 19 of his 28 games after returning from rotator cuff surgery. He smacked two doubles and one home run among his 14 hits for a slugging percentage of .302. Sparks was named to the MIAA commissioner’s academic honor roll. 1999: Sparks started a total of six games and improved his on-base percentage to .296.

High School: Sparks lettered four years in baseball, three in football and two in basketball. In baseball, his team won the state championship in 1995 and won two conference and three district titles. He was named first-team all-conference his junior and senior seasons. Personal: Born Aug. 3, 1978, in Memphis, Mo. ... the son of John and Penny Sparks ... a biology major.

Year G AB R H 2B 3B HR TB RBI BB K SAC HB BA PO A E FLD%
1999 13 22 1 3 0 0 2 4 1/2 5 9 0 0 .136 3 14 2 895
2000 28 63 7 14 2 0 1 19 12 0/0 5 18 0 1 .222 9 31 7 851
2001 38 124 4 38 4 0 4 54 17 8/9 11 39 1 4 .306 95 18 7 942
Career 79 209 32 55 6 0 5 76 33 9/11 21 64 1 5 .263 107 63 16 .914

Senior Jason Sparks, one of the ‘Dogs’ top offensive weapons, will split time between first base and designated hitter again this season.

Nate Rueckert
Pitcher
Jr. • L/L • 6-2 • 185
Creve Coeur, Mo.
Lutheran North H.S.

Truman 2001: Rueckert was the most effective situational reliever. His 2.31 ERA was the team’s lowest by more than a full run, and opponents batted only .200 against him, also best on the squad. Rueckert was named to the MIAA commissioner’s academic honor roll.

2000: Rueckert saw limited mound duty as a freshman, amassing six innings of work over eight relief appearances. He allowed 12 hits and eight earned runs while striking out two hitters and walking a pair.

High School: Rueckert lettered twice in baseball, three times in soccer and once in basketball. Over his two seasons on the diamond, Rueckert earned first- and second-team all-conference honors, and his team won conference and district championships both years. He was also a two-time first-team all-conference player in soccer.

Personal: Born Jan. 29, 1981, in Kalamazoo, Mich. ... the son of Paul and Becky Rueckert ... an accounting major.

Year W L S G GS CG IP H R ER BB K ERA
2000 0 0 0 8 0 0 6.0 12 11 8 2 2 12.00
2001 0 0 0 10 0 0 11.2 8 3 3 5 4 2.31
Career 0 0 0 18 0 0 17.2 20 14 11 7 6 5.60
Junior Scott Theriault was fourth on the team with a .333 batting average and scored 17 runs for the Bulldogs in 2001.