This Week in Truman Baseball:

Truman State University Bulldogs (MIAA/NCAA II) vs. Graceland College Yellowjackets (Heart of America/NAIA)
Date/Time: April 29, 1:00 p.m. (doubleheader, seven-innings)
Location: Lamoni, Iowa

Truman State University Bulldogs (MIAA/NCAA II) vs. Missouri Southern State University Lions (MIAA/NCAA II)
Date/Time: May 1, 12 p.m. (doubleheader, nine-seven inn.)
Location: Joplin, Mo.

Truman State University Bulldogs (MIAA/NCAA II) vs. Missouri Western State College Griffons (MIAA/NCAA II)
Date/Time: May 4, 1 p.m. (doubleheader, seven-innings)
Location: St. Joseph, Mo.

TRUMAN 2004 SCHEDULE
March 7-11 in Fort Myers, Fla.
Mar. 7 vs. Merrimack (Mass.) L 7-6
Mar. 8 vs. Southwest Minnesota State ^ L 13-12, L 13-2
Mar. 9 vs. South Dakota State L 123
Mar. 9 vs. Southern New Hampshire L 14-4
Mar. 10 vs. South Dakota ^ L 11-6, L 5-4
Mar. 11 vs. Bloomsburg (Pa.) ^ L 1-0, L 2-0
Mar. 20 at Emporia State (Kan.) ** L 5-1, L 11-6
Mar. 21 at Washburn (Topeka, Kan.) ** L 6-1, W 9-6
Mar. 23 Emporia State (Kan.) ** W 6-1, L 9-6
Mar. 29 Northwest Missouri ** L 5-4, L 2-0
Mar. 30 Quincy (Ill.) L 21-1
Apr. 1 Washburn (Kan.) ** L 8-3, W 5-1
Apr. 3 at Pittsburg State (Kan.) ** W 6-3 (10 inn.), W 11-3
Apr. 4 at Pittsburg State (Kan.) * L 5-3
Apr. 7 Central Methodist (Mo.) ^ L 7-6, L 7-4
Apr. 9 at Central Missouri (Warrensburg) * L 16-5
Apr. 12 at Iowa Wesleyan (Mt. Pleasant) ^ L 5-2, L 6-4
Apr. 13 Missouri Western ** L 8-4, L 10-8
Apr. 16 Southwest Baptist * W 6-2
Apr. 17 Southwest Baptist ** W 8-5, L 6-5
Apr. 20 at Central Missouri (Warrensburg) ** 1 p.m.
Apr. 21 at Northwest Missouri ** 1 p.m.
Apr. 24 Missouri-Rolla ** 1 p.m.
Apr. 25 Missouri-Rolla * 1 p.m.
Apr. 29 at Graceland (Lamoni, Iowa) ^ 1 p.m.
May 1 at Missouri Southern (Joplin) ** 12 p.m.
May 2 at Missouri Southern (Joplin) * 12 p.m.
May 4 at Missouri Western (St. Joseph) ** 1 p.m.

Schedule Change - Truman’s doubleheader against Quincy on April 28 has been cancelled.

Truman (7-33 7-19 MIAA): The Bulldogs will conclude their 2004 season with seven road games in the following seven days.

Truman will look for its first non-conference win on Thursday when the team travels to Lamoni, Iowa to take on Graceland, a NAIA school out of the Heart of America Athletic Conference.

Over the weekend, the team has a three-game conference set at Missouri Southern. The season will then end next Tuesday, May 4, with a rescheduled doubleheader at Missouri Western.

The Bulldogs struggled in action last week, going 0-7 in conference games with Central Missouri, Northwest Missouri and Missouri-Rolla. Injuries and a thin pitching staff has caught up with the team, as the Bulldogs allowed at least 10 runs in every game but one.

Bulldogs vs. Upcoming Opponents:

Graceland (14-32, 5-9 HAAC): Through April 21, the Yellowjackets were 14-32 overall and 5-9 in conference play. The team was hitting .267 and scoring just over four runs a game. Defensively, the pitching staff has an ERA of 6.69.

Fraser Vernon has been the team’s top hitter. In 29 games, he was hitting .368 with 16 runs, 20 RBIs and he had three home runs. Tyler Moe had played in all 46 games and was hitting .312. Adrian Kerr led the team with 31 runs and Kalev Betancourt was the team leader with 26 RBIs.

Ryan Brickman was the top Yellowjacket pitcher with three wins, two saves and a 4.47 ERA. Matt Riley also has three victories on the season.

Head coach of Graceland is former Yellowjacket all-conference performer Brady McKillip. McKillip is in his fifth season at the school and has a career coaching mark of 65-112.

Graceland and the Bulldogs have met just twice before, in a doubleheader last season. Truman won both of those games by scores of 8-1 and 5-3.

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Missouri Southern (20-26, 10-15 MIAA): Like the Bulldogs, Missouri Southern is struggling a bit down the stretch. The Lions have lost four straight and seven of their last nine contests heading into the series with Truman. One of the victories in that span, however, was against Central Missouri, the number one team in the country.

The Lions are last in the MIAA with a .258 batting average and are averaging just 4.2 runs a game. They are sixth in the conference with a 5.76 ERA.

Kyle Rodgers has been the top starter, collecting three wins on the year and having an ERA of 3.86. Ross Bailey has won two games and has an ERA just above five for the season. Matt Lawrence has a team-high four wins in eight appearances out of the bullpen.

Nathan Hughes leads the team in nearly every hitting category. He has team-highs with a .345 batting average, 27 runs, 49 hits, 42 RBIs and 11 home runs. D.J. Hergenrother and Jeff Taylor are both regulars hitting above .300 as well.

Head coach of the Lions is Warren Turner, who is in his 28th season at the school. He is just one win shy of picking up his 800th career victory. His current coaching record is 799-619-3.

The Lions lead the all-time series against Truman by a 17-4 margin. Last season, the two teams split a doubleheader, with the Lions winning game one by a 5-4 score and the Bulldogs capturing the second game by a 5-2 margin.

Missouri Western (30-16, 14-12 MIAA): After a great start to the season, the Griffons now enter this week tied for the fourth and final spot for the MIAA Tournament. The Griffons have won just twice in their last eight meetings, including going 1-2 last season and finishing tied for the fourth spot in the conference with a 3.55 ERA.

Clint Gilliland is the team's ace with seven wins on the year and a 3.305 batting average and are scoring over six runs a game.

The Griffons have one of the best pitching staffs in the conference with a 3.89 ERA on the year. At the plate, the team has a .305 batting average and are scoring over six runs a game. Brian Desch is hitting .373 for the Griffons and has team-highs with seven home runs and 47 RBIs.

Head coach of the Griffons is Buzz Verduzco who is in his fifth season at the school. He has a career coaching mark of 26-112.

Missouri Western leads the all-time series by a 39-21 margin. The Griffons have won 11 straight in the series, including two wins earlier this season in Kirksville. Missouri Western escaped game one by an 8-4 score in extra innings and then won game two by a 10-0 margin.

Last Week's Action:

Central Missouri-13, Truman-3 (Game 1)

The top-ranked team in the country took game one of the rescheduled doubleheader by a 13-3 score.

The Mules scored five runs in the third and scored again in every inning after that until the game ended in the seventh by the 10-run rule.

Mike Arway kept Truman close in the fourth inning with a two-out, two-run single that scored Jon Peckron and Patrick Hardin. In the fifth-inning, a Pat Wilmes fielder's choice scored Andrew Pitts.

That run cut the Mules margin to just four at 7-3, but Central Missouri would answer with four in the bottom of the fifth to put the game away.

Truman had six hits in the game, including two by Josh Rubin. The Bulldogs' pitchers didn't get any help from their fielders, as the Bulldogs committed five errors in the game.

Central Missouri-15, Truman-1 (Game 2)

Five different Bulldog pitchers could not slow down the Mules in game two as they scored 14 unanswered runs in the first five innings on the way to a 15-1 victory.
Missouri-Rolla-11, Truman-2 (Game 1, Saturday)

The Miners scored four runs in the first inning which was more than enough as they defeated Truman by an 11-2 score.

The Bulldogs got on run back in the bottom of the first when Patrick Hardin was allowed to score on a Miner balk. The team didn't score again until the fifth inning when Adam Davis hit into a fielder's choice which scored John Sheehan.

At that point, Missouri-Rolla led 7-2 and neither team scored again until the ninth when the Miners pushed four more tallies across for the final nine-run win.

Josh Rubin had three hits in the game for Truman, but couldn't get any other help as the rest of the team combined for just two hits.

Missouri-Rolla-11, Truman-3 (Game 2, Saturday)

In a suspended game that wasn't completed until Sunday, the Miners won game two of the series by an 11-3 score.

Truman tied the game at three in the fourth inning when it scored three runs on four hits. The big hit in the inning was a solo home run by Josh Rubin to lead off the inning.

After that, it was all Miners as they scored four times in the fifth and three in the six to turn the game into a blowout.

Jon Peckron and Andy Vandepopulier each had two hits and an RBI in the game and Peckron also added a run.

Missouri-Rolla-10, Truman-9 (Sunday)

A late Bulldog rally came up short and the Miners swept the three-game series with a 10-9 extra inning win on Sunday.

Truman trailed 9-5 heading into the bottom of the ninth but a three-run home run by Josh Rubin, his second home run in two innings, culminated a Bulldog rally which tied the game.

The Miners ended up scoring the winning run in the top of the tenth on an RBI double. Truman got two runners on in the bottom-half of the frame, but couldn't get the tying run across the plate.

Rubin ended the game with three hits and four RBIs. Patrick Hardin, who also had a home run in the game, had three hits and two RBIs in the game. The top four in the Bulldogs' lineup, Adam Davis, Hardin, Andrew Pitts and Rubin, all scored twice in the contests.

MIAA Statistics: Through April 26, Truman ranked ninth in the MIAA in batting and fielding and tenth in pitching.

Individually, Adam Davis was fifth in the conference in stolen bases (0.43 a game) and tenth in triples (0.08)

Brant Kraner was tied for first in the MIAA in complete games (4) and was third in innings pitched (6.19 per game).

Bulldog Seniors: Four Bulldog seniors will play their final games in Truman uniforms this week.

#2 Jamie Wolf - Wolf has been a regular in the outfield for Truman over the last three seasons. He has played in 32 games this year and has recorded 12 runs and 14 RBIs. He has six extra base hits, including two home runs. Twice, he has driven in at least three runs in a game, including four RBIs against Central Methodist. In the field, he has committed just five errors during his career in 172 chances.

#12 Brant Kraner - Kraner has been one of the top pitchers on the Bulldogs' staff throughout his career. He is Truman career leader in strikeouts (174) and also ranks in the top 10 in career wins (t-7th, 10), appearances (t-6th, 42), starts (2nd, 31), complete games (3rd, 16) and innings pitched (2nd, 208.1). This season, Kraner has been the team's ace with two wins and one of the lowest ERAs on the staff. He is among MIAA leaders in complete games and innings pitched per start.

#14 Matt Kupferle - Kupferle started his career out as the Bulldogs closer and is now one of its top starters. As a freshman, he saved four games and is ranked tied for fourth in career saves at Truman. He is also 10th in appearances and tied for 15th in games started for his career. This season, he is a team captain and has the second-lowest ERA on the team. He is a two-time selection on the MIAA commissioner's academic honor roll.

#26 Brad Miller - Miller has been another regular in the outfield during his Bulldog career. This season, in 23 games, he has scored six runs, had four RBIs and is second on the team with 12 stolen bases. For his career, he is tied for fifth in school history with 32 career stolen bases. He is a two-time member of the MIAA commissioner's academic honor roll and last season was a second-team academic all-district pick.
Despite losing four seniors, the Bulldogs will likely return most of their top players from this season, including four of its top hitters.

Head Coach Lawrence Scully: Lawrence Scully is in his fourth season as head coach at Truman. He has a career coaching mark of 46-126 at the school.

The Bulldogs improved in the win column in each of his first two seasons, going 14-26 in 2001 and 15-29 in 2002. Last year, despite struggling midway through the schedule, Scully led the team to a strong finish, winning six of the final 11 games.

Prior to coming to Truman, Scully was an assistant coach at Morningside, Sioux City West High School and Indian Hills Community College. He was a former player at Indian Hills and Western Kentucky.

Who's Coming Back: Despite losing four seniors, the Bulldogs will likely return most of their top players from this season, including four of its top hitters.

Adam Davis, Josh Rubin, Patrick Hardin and Andrew Pitts will all likely end the year hitting above .300. Davis leads the team with a .331 average on the year and also has team-highs with 30 runs, three triples, 17 stolen bases and a .415 on-base percentage. Rubin is hitting .326 and leads the team with four home runs and 26 RBIs. Hardin is hitting .319 with 19 runs and 14 RBIs and Pitts is batting .312 with 19 runs and 24 RBIs.

Pitching-wise, Coley Lewis will be the top returning player in 2005. Lewis was injured midway through the year but was 2-2 on the season in five appearances and had an ERA of 4.94. In MIAA games, he was nearly unhittable in two starts and one brief outing of the bullpen. He allowed just seven hits in nearly 15 innings pitched and had an ERA of 0.61.

**2004 TRUMAN BATTING/FIELDING STATISTICS**

**2004 TRUMAN PITCHING STATISTICS**

**2004 TRUMAN PITCHING STATISTICS**