



BULLDOG BARK

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS MEDIA RELATIONS

MELISSA WARE, DIRECTOR ♦ MWARE@TRUMAN.EDU

100 E. NORMAL ♦ 215 KIRK BUILDING ♦ KIRKSVILLE, MO 63501-4221

OFFICE 660.785.4127/4276 ♦ FAX 660.785.7475 ♦ HOME 660.665.3652

BULLDOGS ON THE WEB AT: GOBULLDOGS.TRUMAN.EDU

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BULLDOGS TABBED MIAA PRESEASON FAVORITES IN VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN'S SOCCER, WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

The Truman State University Bulldogs have been selected as the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association favorite in all three fall women's sports, the league announced today.

Truman was picked as the preseason MIAA No. 1 in volleyball, women's soccer and women's cross country in voting done by the league's coaches. In both women's soccer and women's cross country, it was the second straight season that the two squads were chosen the league favorite.

The Bulldog volleyball team posted a 30-6 record, including 15-1 in the MIAA, last year en route to splitting the league title with then 18-time MIAA winner Central Missouri State. With five returning starters from the 2000 regional finalist team, the 'Dogs garnered five first-place votes and 54 points in this year's poll, while CMSU charted three first-place votes and 52 points in what was the closest vote of the five fall preseason polls.

In women's soccer, Truman, with 10 returning starters from last year's MIAA championship team, recorded six first-place votes and 30 points. The Bulldogs, the only women's soccer champion the MIAA has known, have yet to allow a goal in 10 MIAA contests. Last year, the 'Dogs were 15-4 overall and 5-0 in the conference.

Truman women's cross country, which last year claimed its first ever conference title, was tabbed the preseason favorite again this season. The 'Dogs collected five first-place votes, while Pittsburg State (Kan.) had two and Emporia State (Kan.) one. The 2001 Truman contingent returns many of its top runners from a year ago.

Elsewhere in the polling, the Bulldog football squad was picked No. 5 in the preseason poll, which was led by five-time defending MIAA champ Northwest Missouri State. Truman went 6-5 overall last year, including 5-4 in MIAA action.

The Bulldog men's cross country team, coming off a 10th-place finish last year in Division II, was selected for the No. 2 slot in the conference's preseason poll. Missouri Southern was picked as the preseason No. 1.

Truman's football team opens the 2001 season at home on Sept. 1 vs. Drake (Iowa). Volleyball begins on Aug. 24-25 at the Missouri-St. Louis Tournament. The Bulldog women's soccer team starts its new campaign on Sept. 1-2 in the Truman Classic. Men's and women's cross country both open on Sept. 1; the men will be at Southern Illinois-Edwardsville, while the women will compete at Western Illinois.

2001 MIAA Fall Preseason Coaches Polls

FOOTBALL

1. Northwest Missouri State (7)	78
2. Pittsburg State (Kan.) (3)	74
3. Missouri Western	66
4. Central Missouri State	58
5. Truman	47
6. Washburn (Kan.)	40
7. Emporia State (Kan.)	35
8. Missouri Southern	26
9. Southwest Baptist	15
10. Missouri-Rolla	11

VOLLEYBALL

1. Truman (5)	54
2. Central Missouri State (3)	52
3. Missouri Western	44
4. Washburn (Kan.)	32

5. Emporia State (Kan.)	29
Northwest Missouri State	29
7. Pittsburg State (Kan.)	23
8. Missouri Southern	17
9. Southwest Baptist	8

WOMEN'S SOCCER

1. Truman (6)	30
2. Central Missouri (1)	25
3. Missouri Southern	21
4. Missouri-Rolla	19
5. Northwest Missouri State	14
6. Emporia State (Kan.)	10
6. Southwest Baptist	7

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

1. Truman (5)	46
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2. Pittsburg State (Kan.) (2)	43
3. Central Missouri State	38
4. Emporia State (Kan.) (1)	31
5. Missouri Southern	26
6. Southwest Baptist	19
7. Northwest Missouri State	14
8. Missouri-Rolla	7

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

1. Missouri Southern (5)	45
2. Truman (2)	42
3. Central Missouri State (1)	40
4. Pittsburg State (Kan.)	30
5. Emporia State (Kan.)	28
6. Northwest Missouri State	18
7. Missouri-Rolla	12
8. Southwest Baptist	9

— GO BULLDOGS —