2004 Truman State University
Bulldog Softball

2004 Truman Softball Team Picture I.D.

Front row (left to right): Holly Kessler, Courtney Strubel, Kelly Walsma, Janet Bembnister, Nikki Mayer and Gina Walsh.
Back row: Head coach Lacey Schanz, Loni Wedemeier, Natalie Soltys, Amanda Holland, Suzanne Mulcahy, Hailey Lawyer and student assistant coach Shelby Ortwerth.
2004 Truman Softball Schedule

@ Central Arkansas Tournament (Conway)
Feb. 20 vs. Delta State (Miss.), 10 am
Feb. 20 @ Central Arkansas, 4 pm
Feb. 20 vs. Christian Brothers (Tenn.), 6 pm
Feb. 21 vs. Ouachita Baptist, 10 am
Feb. 21 Bracket Play, 2/4 pm
Feb. 25 @ Columbia College, 2 p.m.

@ Rebel Spring Games (Kissimmee, Fla.)
March 7 vs. East Stroudsburg (Pa.), 8:50 am
March 7 vs. West Virginia Wesleyan, 10:40 am
March 8 vs. Ferris State, 8:50 am
March 8 vs. Bloomfield (N.J.), 10:40 am
March 9 vs. Kutztown (Pa.), 12:30 pm
March 9 vs. South Dakota State, 2:20 pm
March 11 vs. Lock Haven (Pa.), 10:40 am
March 11 vs. Southern New Hampshire, 2:20 pm
March 12 vs. Indianapolis, 8:50 am
March 12 vs. Merrimack (Mass.), 10:40 am

March 16 Quincy (Ill.), 2 p.m.
March 19 vs. South Dakota St. (in St. Joseph, Mo.), 3 pm

@ Missouri Western Tournament (St. Joseph)
March 20 vs. Minnesota State, Mankato, 8:30 am
March 20 vs. South Dakota State, 12:30 pm
March 21 vs. Wayne State (Neb.), 10:30 am
March 21 vs. South Dakota, 4:30 pm

March 23 Central Missouri *, 2 p.m.
March 25 @ Nebraska-Omaha Tournament
March 27 vs. Minnesota State, Mankato, 9 am
March 27 @ Nebraska-Omaha, 3 p.m.
March 28 vs. Missouri Southern, 9 am
March 28 vs. Southwest Missouri (St. Louis), 1 pm
March 31 @ Missouri-Rolla *, 2:30 p.m.
April 6 @ Southwest Baptist (Bolivar) *, 2 p.m.
April 9 Pittsburg State (Kan.) *, 2 p.m.
April 10 Missouri Southern *, 1 p.m.
April 13 @ Missouri Western (St. Joseph) *, 2 p.m.
April 14 Missouri-St. Louis, 2 p.m.
April 16 @ Emporia State (Kan.) *, 2 p.m.
April 17 @ Washburn (Topeka, Kan.) * 12 p.m.
April 20 Northwest Missouri *, 2:30 p.m.

@ Minnesota State-Mankato Tournament
April 24 vs. South Dakota State, 9 am
April 24 vs. St. Cloud State (Minn.), 1 pm
April 24 @ Minnesota State, Mankato, 3 pm
April 25 vs. Nebraska-Omaha, 9 am
April 25 vs. Augustana (S.D.), 11 am
April 26-28 Conference Make-Up Games
April 30-May 1 @ MIAA Tournament (Johnson County)
May 6-9 North Central Regional Tournament (TRA)
May 11-16 NCAA Division II Championship (Orlando, Fla.)

* Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association date
Bulldogs Look To Repeat As MIAA Champions With Five Senior Starters And A First-Team All-American Back

The Bulldogs return a plethora of talent in 2004 with six all-Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association performers back, including one first-team all-American. Truman also received votes in the National Fastpitch Coaches Association preseason ranking.

In fact, the only replacement needed will be at second-base where two-time all-MIAA recipient Shelby Ortwerth finished her career last year, and will now serve as an assistant coach.

Undoubtedly the top returner is senior shortstop Elizabeth Economon who is Truman’s only two-time all-American after earning first-team status a year ago and third-team honors her sophomore season. She has hit .346 for her career with the Bulldogs, already holds numerous MIAA and Truman records, and has left her name in the NCAA record book as well. She was the league’s MVP for the second year in a row, and was named MIAA freshman of the year in 2001. Economon enters the season tied for the most career home runs in the league at 33.

With a total of five senior starters back, the future certainly looks bright as the season prepares to begin.

Senior right fielder Stephanie Cepicky and sophomore pitcher/third baseman Loni Wedemeier are two more first-team all-MIAA picks who return.

Cepicky was the team’s stolen bases leader with 23 and was second with a .367 batting average, while turning out 11 assists from right field.

Wedemeier tied Ortwerth for second with 19 thefts, had the most assists with 136 at third base, hit .298 and posted the lowest ERA in the conference at 0.96 with an 11-1 record. She will see even more time in the circle this season.

The starting first baseman, Leann Paul was named to the league’s second team in 2003 after hitting .312 and registering .984 fielding percentage.

Senior Breanna Wonderly was an honorable mention all-MIAA pitcher a year ago posting an 8-6 record and a 1.30 ERA with five shutouts. She and Wedemeier will be an excellent one-two punch for the ‘Dogs’ pitching staff.

Also returning is senior center fielder Katy Mueller who earned all-MIAA status her first two seasons and has been a solid performer at the plate and in the field. She had a team-high of 14 sacrifice hits last year, along with seven stolen bases.

Rounding out the senior returners is left fielder Krystl Brown who missed just one start for the Bulldogs in 2003.

Catching duties will be split again between juniors Courtney Strubel and Holly Kessler. Strubel hit .235 and Kessler had a .231 batting average, while Kessler made just four errors behind the plate and was second on the team with eight doubles.

Other returners include junior Amanda Holland who won back her job at third base in the fall. She was the starter as a freshman, but shared time last season while working on her game.

Hailey Lawyer redshirted last season with an injury, but claimed the team’s only vacancy at second base where she performed well in fall.

Sophomore outfielder Suzanne Mulcahy may not see action in the early going while rehabbing an injury.

### 2004 Bulldog Softball Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>POS.</th>
<th>B/T</th>
<th>Ht.</th>
<th>Yr.</th>
<th>HOMETOWN</th>
<th>PREVIOUS SCHOOL(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Krystl Brown</td>
<td>OF</td>
<td>R/R</td>
<td>5-5</td>
<td>Sr.</td>
<td>Olathe, Kan.</td>
<td>Olathe North</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Elizabeth Economon</td>
<td>SS</td>
<td>L/R</td>
<td>5-3</td>
<td>Sr.</td>
<td>St. Louis</td>
<td>Notre Dame</td>
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<td>Gina Walsh</td>
<td>2B</td>
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<td>Fr.</td>
<td>Crown Point, Ind.</td>
<td>Thorndow</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Stephanie Cepicky</td>
<td>RF</td>
<td>L/R</td>
<td>5-5</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>St. Louis</td>
<td>Lindbergh</td>
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<td>Katy Mueller</td>
<td>CF</td>
<td>L/R</td>
<td>5-3</td>
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<td>Cor Jesu</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>L/R</td>
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<td>P</td>
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<td>Courtney Strubel</td>
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<td>Jr.</td>
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<td>St. Thomas Aquinas</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Leann Paul</td>
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<td>L/R</td>
<td>5-8</td>
<td>Sr.</td>
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* Letters earned

### Quick Facts

Location: Kirksville, Mo. 63501  
Founded: 1867  
Enrollment: 6,000  
President: Dr. Barbara Dixon  
Director of Athletics: Jerry Wollmering  
Affiliation: NCAA Division II  
Conference: Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association  
Nickname: Bulldogs  
Colors: Purple & White  
Head Coach: Lacey Schanz  
Phone: (660) 785-4343  
Facility (Capacity): Truman Softball Complex (250)  
Field Dimensions: 200/200/200  
First Year of Softball: 1973  

Look for sophomore pitcher Nikki Mayer to have a breakout season. She has improved her throwing from last year when she was second on the team with a 1.20 ERA.

Freshman Gina Walsh will back up at second base, and Janet Bembnister will back up in the outfield. Bembnister has shown great offensive skills and could see time on the field.

Freshman Kelly Walsma has been working at second base too. She can handle the bat well and will be utilized in the lineup as a designated hitter if not on defense.

Newcomer Natalie Soltys will serve as backup to Paul at first base.
The Offense

With the top four hitters from last season back, the offensive production should be even better that a year ago when the team led the MIAA with .284 batting average and scored a league-best 3.93 runs a game. Cepicky will again lead off the batting order after getting on base 43.6% of the time last year. Her speed gives the ‘Dogs an extra threat on the base paths.

In fact, three of the top four hitters in the lineup remain unchanged with Economon back in the No. 3 spot and Wedemeier hitting clean up. Economon set a new MIAA record with 59 RBIs last year. With 144 RBIs for her career, Economon is poised to break the MIAA record of 166 held by former Truman all-American, Kristi Bredbenner (1998-2001).

Wedemeier was second on the team in slugging percentage at .462 and had six home runs and six doubles in her first year.

The replacement for the No. 2 spot on the lineup card is slated to be Krystl Brown, one of the team’s best slappers.

Paul will provide more power in the fifth spot, while Strubel and Kessler will likely hit in the sixth and/or seventh spots.

The Infield

There is one newcomer to the infield as Lawyer takes over for Ortwerth at second base. She will get backup from Walsh.

Holland will return to third-base duties where she spent her freshman season and saw spot action there last year.

A steady at first base since 2001, Paul has started nearly every game of her career. Soltys will serve as backup at first.

Truman will again look to the duo of Kessler and Strubel to share duties behind the plate. Strubel picked off four runners last year, while Kessler was third on the team with a .979 fielding percentage.

The Outfield

The outfielders will remain intact with Brown, Mueller and Cepicky in left, center, and right field, respectively. The trio has combined for 368 starts in the outfield.

Look for Bembnister to provide help in the outfield if needed.

The Schedule

As always regional games will play a big role in the team’s success in 2004. The Bulldogs face their first regional opponent on their spring break trip to Florida when they take on South Dakota State on March 9. On March 20, the ‘Dogs will get a big taste of regional action at the Missouri Western Tournament with four regional teams on the slate. It will be a good warm-up for when MIAA action starts on March 23 as the defending MIAA champions host Central Missouri.

No. 19 Nebraska-Omaha will host the Bulldogs’ next tournament and the Mavs will test the ‘Dogs on day No. 1 of that tournament, and again on April 25. The only other preseason ranked team on the Truman agenda is No. 16 St. Cloud State on April 24 in the Minnesota State, Mankato tourney.

NFCA NCAA Division II Preseason Top 25

The National Fastpitch Coaches Association Top 25 is voted on by eight NCAA Division II coaches representing all eight DII regions. First-place votes in parentheses.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Rank</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>'03 Rec.</th>
<th>Pts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>North Dakota State (6)</td>
<td>43-11</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>St. Mary’s (1)</td>
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<td>West Florida</td>
<td>50-12</td>
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<td>Angelo State</td>
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<td>Armstrong Atlantic</td>
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<td>Cal State Dominguez Hills</td>
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Others receiving votes: Nebraska-Kearney 13, Ashland 9, Charleston State 4, Truman 4, Indiana (PA) 1, Long Island-C.W. Post 1.

Truman 2004 Opponents in bold.