Seth Huston returns for his eighth year as head coach of the Truman swim teams after leading the 2001 women’s team to the school’s first-ever NCAA Division II title.

The women’s team, which garnered 656 points to leave the former champion Drury University in second with 610.5 points, boasted national champions in five individual events and two relay teams.

The men’s team finished 16th at the 2001 NCAA Division II national championships, claiming ninth the previous season for its highest national finish ever.

Huston’s teams also fared well at the 2001 Central States Championship, which is considered the team’s conference or regional meet. The women took first, beating defending-champion Drury, while the men repeated a third-place finish.

Last season the College Swim Coaches Association of America named Huston the women’s coach of the year, an honor he also earned in 1998 and 2000. He has also been named the Mideast Classic Championship women’s coach of the year five consecutive years.

Huston is 37 years old and a native of St. Louis. Huston earned a bachelor’s degree in physical education from the University of Tampa in 1988 and a master’s in exercise science from Texas Christian University in 1990.

He has held assistant coaching positions at Texas Christian University and the University of Tampa. While coaching at TCU, the men’s team achieved its highest finish ever in the Southwest Conference. At the University of Tampa, Huston coached consecutive top-10 finishes at the NCAA Division II Championships, including second- and third-place finishes by the women’s teams.

Huston served as program director and head coach of Katy Aquatics in Houston, Texas for four years. He built a program that produced three top-seven finishes at the Texas Age Group Championships, numerous state champions and a ninth-place men’s finish at the 1994 Junior National Swimming Championships.

An active participant in the U.S. program, Huston has coached United States Swimming camps and zone teams. In 1991, he was named Gulf Age Group Coach of the Year. Huston is an ASCA Level 4 coach, having coached swimmers at all levels of excellence from NCAA all-Americans to Olympic Trial qualifiers.

Huston still trains and competes regularly in open water races in Master Swim Meets, a men’s division. This fall he started up the Northeast Missouri (NEMO) swim team, a local USS swim club. He is also active as a Sunday school teacher at the First Presbyterian Church in Kirksville.

Huston resides in Kirksville with his wife, Amy, their two sons, 8-year-old Hobie and 2-year old Eli, and their daughter, 6-year-old Hanna.
Josh Diehl
Student Assistant Coach
Josh Diehl was a member of the Bulldog men’s swimming team for four seasons. Diehl improved throughout his career at Truman, charting his best season as a junior with personal bests in the 50-, 100-, 1,000- and 1,650-yard freestyle.
In the 1,000-yard freestyle, she set the NCAA Division II record at 9:55.86, and set school records in the 500-(4:52.72) and 1,650-yard freestyles.
A four-year all-America, Martin was also a member of the national championship 800-yard freestyle relay team as a junior, and placed second in the 500-yard freestyle that same year. Martin had four top-10 finishes as nationals as a sophomore and earned her first all-America honors with a fourth-place finish in the 1,650-yard freestyle as a freshman.
She was named the Honda NCAA Division II woman athlete of the year at the conclusion of her career.

Spencer Gillis
Student Assistant Coach
Spencer Gillis was a four-year member of the Truman men’s swimming team, but will now focus his duties on coaching.
Gillis earned honorable mention all-America status as a freshman when he finished 10th in the 200-yard freestyle relay and 12th in the 400-yard freestyle relay at the NCAA Division II national championships. That year, he also earned CSCAA academic all-America recognition and was an at-large academic all-MIAA pick. He was hampered by injuries during his sophomore season but remained a valuable contributor to the team for the next two years. Gillis was also a three-time member of the MIAA commissioner’s at-large academic honor roll.

Joe Fanthorp
Assistant Coach
Joe Fanthorp will serve as an assistant coach for the teams this season after contributing on a volunteer basis last year.
He also coaches the Northeast Missouri swim team, an age-group team in Kirksville.
Fanthorp graduated from Kentucky in 1999 with a degree in biology, and was an assistant coach for the Wildcat Aquatics team in Lexington, Ky., for a season.
He coached an age-group team in Phoenix, Ariz., the Arizona Desert Fox, while doing an internship.
Fanthorp also works in the University Career Center at Truman.

Jess Martin
Assistant Coach
Jess Martin is filling the assistant coach position after four decorated years on the Truman women’s swimming team. As a member of the women’s national championship team last year, she captured individual titles in the 200-, 500-, 1,000- and 1,650-yard freestyles.
In the 1,000-yard freestyle, she set the NCAA Division II record at 9:55.86, and set school records in the 500-(4:52.72) and 1,650-yard freestyles.
A four-year all-America, Martin was also a member of the national championship 800-yard freestyle relay team as a junior, and placed second in the 500-yard freestyle that same year. Martin had four top-10 finishes as nationals as a sophomore and earned her first all-America honors with a fourth-place finish in the 1,650-yard freestyle as a freshman.
She was named the Honda NCAA Division II woman athlete of the year at the conclusion of her career.

Christie Williamsen
Student Assistant Coach
Christie Williamsen was also a member of Truman’s first ever national championship team last year, earning all-America honors as part of the fifth-place 400-yard medley relay team. She also swam top-16 finishes in the 400-yard individual medley and 200-yard backstroke at nationals last year.
A four-time national qualifier, Williamsen’s best finish came during her sophomore season when she placed fourth in the 400-yard medley relay at the NCAA meet.
Williamsen holds the school record in the 200-yard breaststroke and is part of the school-record 400-yard medley relay team.