The two-time and defending national championship Truman women’s swimming team has announced that three women have signed national letters of intent to compete for the Bulldogs, beginning in 2003-04.

Whitney Burtch (Elkhart, Ind./Concord), a backstroker and individual medley performer, was an Indiana high school state finalist in 100-yard backstroke and 200 IM, as well a a Junior National qualifier in the backstroke. She holds numerous school and pool records and is an academic all-America.

"We are excited to have Whitney as a Bulldog. She fits perfectly with the academic and athletic excellence that our swimming team strives to achieve," Truman head coach Colleen Murphy said. “She will be a very important contributor on our team, especially in the backstroke events, and should develop into one of our top IMers as well."

Lija Kaleps-Clark (Westerville, Ohio/North) competes mainly in the individual medley and was a finalist at the Ohio High School State Championships. She was also a United States Swimming sectional qualifier and finalist and a Junior National qualifier in the IM events.

"Lija is a versatile swimmer who will step right into an extremely important role on our team,” Murphy said. “She has the ability to compete at the national level in a variety of events and will be a force at nationals over the next couple of years. Her goals are high and her success in the pool and the classroom make her a great asset to our team."

Lindsay McReynolds (Bloomington, Ill./University) is a distance and butterfly performer in the pool. She was the Illinois senior state champion in the 400 IM at the summer state meet, as well as the distance high-point winner. McReynolds was also a YMCA national qualifier and competitor.

"Lindsay is a very exciting signee for our team," Murphy indicated. “She has improved rapidly over the past year and continues to improve with every competition. She will be a great addition to our strong distance freestyle tradition as well as add depth in the 200 fly and the 400 IM."

The Truman women began the 2002-03 campaign with a win over Division I Nebraska.

--- GO BULLDOGS ---