TRUMAN VOLLEYBALL HOSTS REGIONAL RIVAL QUINCY ON TUESDAY

The Truman State University volleyball team (6-4, 2-0 MIAA) will look to continue the momentum gained from last weekend’s two impressive victories to start MIAA play. The Bulldogs will do this against Quincy University in a non-conference match on Tuesday at Pershing Arena.

Last weekend, the Bulldogs started off conference play with 3-0 victories over Missouri Southern and Pittsburg State, two teams picked in the preseason MIAA poll to finish in the upper division of the conference.

SCOUTING THE LADY HAWKS: Quincy University has a record of 5-3 on the season after a successful weekend at the University of Charleston Tournament. The Lady Hawks went 3-1 in Charleston, defeating West Virginia Wesleyan, Charleston and Shepherd and falling to Indiana-Pennsylvania.

Quincy has played one common opponent of the Bulldogs. The Lady Hawks lost to Pittsburg State by a 3-0 margin while Truman knocked off the Gorillas by a 3-0 score.

Amber Heimann and Jenny Gramer are the top hitting threats for Quincy. Hollie Westrich is the main setter and Westrich also lead the team in digs. Patty Unnerstall is the number one blocker for the Lady Hawks.

Quincy is coached by Tim Koth who is in his seventh year at the school. He has a career coaching record of 80-100 while at Quincy.

SERIES HISTORY: Truman leads the all-time series with Quincy by a 33-18 margin. Despite the Bulldogs’ edge in the series, the two teams have played many competitive games, especially recently. Truman has won three straight in the series and five of six matches since 1997. Three of those contests though went down to a fifth game including last year when the Bulldogs escaped Quincy with a 15-9 victory in the deciding game.

BULLDOGS IN AVCA POLL: Truman was ranked 17th in the latest AVCA coaches poll released on Sept. 10.

UP NEXT:
#17 Truman State University vs. Quincy University
Sept. 17, 2002 - 7:00 p.m.
Kirkville, Mo. (Pershing Arena)

Radio Broadcast: KTRM, 88.7 FM

TRUMAN 2002 SCHEDULE & RESULTS

Date          Opponent (Location)     Time/Result
Aug. 30       vs. Regis (Colo.)     W 3-1
Aug. 30       vs. New Haven (Conn.)  W 3-0
Aug. 31       at Southern Colorado  W 3-0
Aug. 31       at Nebraska-Omaha     W 3-0
Sept. 6       vs. CSU-San Bernardino L 2-3
Sept. 6       vs. Northern Kentucky  L 1-3
Sept. 7       vs. North Florida      L 1-3
Sept. 7       at Tampa              L 1-3
Sept. 13      Missouri Southern *  W 3-0
Sept. 14      Pittsburg State * W 3-0
Sept. 17      Quincy (Ill.)         7 p.m.
Sept. 20      at Washburn (Topeka, Kan.) * 7 p.m.
Sept. 21      at Emporia State (Kan.) * 11 a.m.
Sept. 25      Missouri Western *  7 p.m.
Sept. 28      at Rockhurst (Kansas City, Mo.) 2 p.m.
Oct. 2        at Northwest Missouri (Maryville)* 7 p.m.
Oct. 4        Central Missouri *  7 p.m.
Oct. 5        Southern Illinois-Edwardsville 1 p.m.
Oct. 11       vs. Montevallo (Ala.) 1 p.m.
Oct. 11       vs. Alabama-Huntsville 7 p.m.
Oct. 12       at Henderson State (Ark.) 11:30 a.m.
Oct. 12       vs. North Alabama 1:30 p.m.
Oct. 18       Washburn (Kan.) *  7 p.m.
Oct. 19       Emporia State (Kan.) * 1 p.m.
Oct. 21       Columbia College      7 p.m.
Oct. 31       at Southwest Baptist (Bolivar, Mo.) * 7 p.m.
Nov. 1        at Missouri Southern (Joplin) * 7 p.m.
Nov. 2        at Pittsburg State (Kan.) * 12 p.m.
Nov. 6        at Missouri Western (St. Joseph) * 7 p.m.
Nov. 13       at Central Missouri *  7 p.m.
Nov. 15       Northwest Missouri *  7 p.m.
Nov. 16       Southwest Baptist *  1 p.m.
Nov. 22-23    NCAA Division II Regionals TBA
Dec. 5-7      NCAA Division II Elite Eight TBA

HOME GAMES IN BOLD CAPS
All times Local
* Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association match

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE ...
The first game was close early on with both teams being tied at 16. The Bulldogs jumped ahead though shorty after as Megan Remley scored six straight points off her serve to give Truman a comfortable 25-17 lead and eventually the 30-18 win. Four Bulldogs had four or more kills in the first game as the team hit .400 for the game.

Game two was all Truman as they jumped out to a 3-0 lead and led by as much as eight points at 26-18 before a late Missouri Southern rally made the final 30-25. Vogel had five kills in the second game and Nickolai had four kills and one error in seven attempts.

The Bulldogs appeared to be in trouble at the start of the third game as they quickly fell behind 9-3. Truman fought back to briefly tie the game at 10 and then took the lead for good at 18-17. Remley again had the hot serving hand as Truman scored eight straight points with her serving to take a 24-17 lead. Missouri Southern fought back and were within two points on two occasions but could never retake the lead as Truman closed them out 30-26. Vogel had eight kills for Truman and Marlowe added 17 assists in the final game.

#17 Truman 3, Pittsburgh State 0: Truman defeated Pittsburgh State by scores of 30-22, 30-19 and 30-23 Saturday afternoon at Pershing Arena.

Shelby Ortwerth and Jessica Sears both recorded double-doubles to lead Truman. Ortwerth had 14 kills and 12 digs while Sears had 13 kills and 13 digs. Monica Marlowe recorded 38 assists and had 24 digs in the win.

Pittsburg State was led by Gloria Iliariogun who had 14 kills, Dina Wathan with 20 digs and Sarah Wohlgenuth with 18 assists.

Truman jumped out quickly in the first game. Already up 13-8, the Bulldogs scored 15 of the next 19 points to open up a 16 point lead. Pittsburg State kept fighting, scoring 10 of the next 12 points but still fell 30-22. Sears had six kills and just one error in 10 attempts and also recorded three service aces in that game.

The Gorillas scored the first five points of the second game before Truman came alive and jumped ahead 21-11 and eventually won 30-19. Ortwerth had an impressive game two, recording five kills in seven attempts.

The final game was the closest on the afternoon. Truman held a narrow 22-20 lead but strong serving by Marlowe and Kelly Vogel helped the Bulldogs close Pittsburg State out by a 30-23 margin. Marlowe had 15 assists and 15 digs in that final game.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP: The 2002 Bulldogs are a young volleyball team but their two seniors have provided a lot of leadership on and off the court this year.

Monica Marlowe continues to build on the impressive numbers she has accumulated at Truman. She is just 14 assists away from 4500 for her career and is second all-time at Truman in that category. Marlowe also passed the 1200 digs mark after recording 15 in just game three of the Pittsburg State match. She is sixth in career digs at the school. Marlowe is only five service aces away from breaking into the top 10 for a Bulldogs career and is eighth in career block assists and tied for eighth in career block total blocks.

Shelby Ortwerth was used mostly in a defensive role last year after transferring to Truman but has been an all-around contributor this season. She is averaging 2.94 kills a game and 3.26 digs a game, both the third-highest marks on the team. Ortwerth has four kill/dig double-doubles on the year and has five double-digit kill matches and eight double-digit dig matches.

MIAA LEADERS: Through Sept. 15, several Bulldogs were listed among the top 10 conference leaders:

Offensively, Monica Marlowe is currently leading the conference with 12.16 assists a game. Annie Nickolai is fifth in the MIAA with a .344 hitting percentage. Kelly Vogel and Jessica Sears are eighth and ninth, respectively, in kills per game with marks of 3.21 and 3.09.

Defensively, Rebecca Knefelkamp is eighth in the conference with 3.76 digs a game.

As a team, Truman leads the league with 16.83 kills and 15.75 assists a game. The Bulldogs are second in digs (19.19), fourth in hitting percentage (.253), seventh in service aces (1.64) and ninth in blocks (1.75).

AVCA DIVISION II TOP 25 POLL (SEPT. 10)

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Receiving Votes (Truman’s 2002 Opponents): Nebraska-Omaha (19), SIU-Edwardsville (7), Rockhurst (6)

Truman’s 2002 Opponents in italics.

HEAD COACH QI WANG: Qi Wang is in his second season as head coach of the Bulldogs. Wang had an impressive coaching debut, leading Truman to a 37-2 overall record in 2001 and was named MIAA and South Central Region Coach of the Year.

Wang is in his sixth season at Truman after also being assistant coach for four years. Since Wang has been at the school, the Bulldogs have gone 139-49, won their first outright MIAA title, shared another MIAA championship and advanced to two NCAA tournaments.

Assistant coach Becky Pike has also played a huge role in the Bulldogs’ success the last six years. Pike was the head coach from 1997-2000 before accepting the assistant’s role before the 2001 season. Pike was named the MIAA Coach of the Year in 2000 after Truman earned a share of the MIAA championship for the first time.

SEASON HIGHLIGHT REEL:

◆ The Bulldogs were the preseason MIAA favorites according to the coaches’ poll and were ranked fifth in the nation in the AVCA preseason poll, Truman’s highest-ever preseason ranking.

◆ Truman went 4-0 during the Nebraska-Omaha tournament, including a 3-1 victory over nationally-ranked Regis.

◆ Truman tied a school record with a .333 attack percentage in a four-game match against Regis. Jennifer Hunter had an .846 attack percentage in that match, the second-best for a single match in school history.

◆ The Bulldogs won both matches in their conference and home openers against Missouri Southern and Pittsburg State. The wins were the 18th straight conference victories for Truman and the 24th straight wins at Pershing Arena.

UP NEXT: Truman will be in the road this weekend for a pair of MIAA matches at Washburn University and Emporia State University. The Bulldogs will be home again on Sept. 25 against Missouri Western State College.