SEVENTH-RANKED BULLDOGS HOST SIX-TEAM TOURNAMENT ON FRIDAY & SATURDAY

THE TOURNAMENT: Truman Bulldogs/Days Inn Classic
Date: Sept. 7-8, 2001
Arena (Capacity): Pershing Arena (2,600), Kirksville, Mo.
Teams: Arkansas Tech University, Christian Brothers University (Tenn.), Emporia State University (Kan.), Henderson State University (Ark.), Southwest Baptist University, Truman State University

ABOUT THE TOURNEY: The Truman Bulldogs/Days Inn Classic features three teams from around the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association and three from the Gulf South Conference. All of the teams are members of the South Central Region. Game 1 of the tournament, a 10 a.m. clash on Friday, will mark the Bulldogs' initial MIAA match of the season as they take on Southwest Baptist.

TRUMAN'S WINNING WEEKEND: The Bulldogs are coming off a pretty good weekend. They ran their record to 7-0 on the season by sweeping through the University of North Alabama/Ramada Inn Tournament on Sept. 1-2, including victories over the Nos. 1 and 4 teams in the nation, North Alabama and South Dakota State.

To open the tournament on Saturday, senior Jenny Glenn (Granby, Colo./Middle Park) and sophomore Jenna Buckner (Quincy, Ill.) combined for 18 kills and a .425 hitting percentage as the 'Dogs downed Montevallo (Ala.), 3-0. Glenn's 10 kills led the Bulldogs. Senior Eliza Hoerner (Augusta, Mo./Univ. of Colorado-Colorado Springs) recorded six aces to go with five blocks (three solo) and five kills.

On Sunday, Truman faced the fourth-ranked South Dakota State Jackrabbits and came away with a 3-1 win as four Bulldogs reached double-digit kills. Hoerner led the way with 19 finishes to go with 12 digs, her first double-double of the year. Senior Cassy Felkerson (Salem, Mo.) added 11 kills and Glenn and Buckner finished with 10 apiece. Buckner also had six blocks and 13 digs, and Glenn 18 digs and four aces. Truman outhit SDSU .210 to .065 in the victory. Junior setter Monica Marlowe (Aurora, Ill./West Aurora) had 54 assists, 14 digs and three aces.

Sunday's finale pitted the two competitors from the South Central Regional championship match last fall, and the 'Dogs avenged that 3-2 loss by downing UNA 3-1. Neither team won a game by more than four points, as Truman won the opener 30-26 before UNA tied it with a 30-27 Game 2 victory. The 'Dogs swiped the final two games by identical 30-28 scores, stunning the top-ranked Lions, who had won seven straight over Truman. Hoerner earned her sixth career 20-kill match as she logged an even 20 to go with nine digs and a .381 hitting percentage. Felkerson chipped in 12 kills and four blocks while Buckner and true freshman Jessica Sears (Colchester, Ill.) had nine kills apiece. The 'Dogs recorded kills on 21 of their first 49 attempts of the match, hitting .408 in the opening game to set the tone. Marlowe had 61 assists and 12 digs in the final match.

ALL TOURNAMENT HONORS AT UNA: Hoerner and Marlowe were named to the all-tournament team at UNA. Hoerner averaged four kills, 2.27 digs, 1.00 blocks and 0.64 aces for the 'Dogs. Marlowe averaged 12.82 assists, 2.82 digs and 0.82 kills.

TOURNAMENT OPPONENTS @ UNA TOURNEY: Southwest Baptist University (MIAA/NCAA Div. II) is under a new head coach for the 2001 campaign, as Mark Pryor took over the squad during the summer. So far in 2001, the Lady Bearcats are 0-7 and come in off a 3-1 loss on Tuesday to Pittsburg State (Kan.). Senior OH Sarah Hunter and junior MH Keri Cochran had 16 and 13 kills, respectively, but it wasn't enough. Junior OH Lindsay Johnson had 11 kills and a team-high 21 digs for SBU, which hit only .128 for the match. The loss to PSU marked the MIAA opener for the Lady Bearcats.

MIAA STANDINGS

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Number in parenthesis is ranking in latest AVCA Division II poll.

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Arkansas Tech University (Gulf South Conference/NCAA Div. II) has posted a 5-3 record on the year under first-year head coach Amanda Thiessen, but has suffered two losses to highly ranked teams in Division II, Western State (Colo.) and Augustaana (S.D.). Senior OH Misty Martin and junior RS Ningning Liu average 3.80 and 3.33 kills, respectively, to lead the Golden Suns who are coming off a 1-3 weekend at the Premier Challenge in Denver. Sophomore S Julie Plotts averages 11.23 assists and a team-leading 3.17 digs. Martin is second on the team in digs (3.07 pg) while Sophomore MH Brittany Pyles is the top blocker (0.89 pg). ATU is the defending GSC West Division champion and last year made its first ever appearance in the NCAA postseason, finishing with a 36-5 record.

Henderson State University (Gulf South Conference/NCAA Div. II) has posted a 6-2 mark with its lone losses coming against nationally-ranked Alabama-Huntsville and North Alabama. Senior MH Lucy Arroyo was named Gulf South Conference West Division Offensive and Defensive Player of the Week on Monday after recording 76 kills, 22 blocks and 24 digs to go with a .281 hitting percentage in four matches last week. The Lady Reddies have won three consecutive matches, including a 3-0 sweep on Tuesday over Texas A&M-Commerce.

Christian Brothers University (Gulf South Conference/NCAA Div. II) currently sits atop the GSC West Division with a perfect 5-0 mark after Tuesday’s 3-2 win over Lyon College (Ark.). Junior OHs Ashley Hollis and Andi Roettger lead the Lady Buccaneers with averages of 3.69 and 3.29 kills per game, respectively. As a team, CBU is hitting .257, led by Roettger and senior MH Tina Finnie, who are hitting .389 and .352, respectively. Junior S Danielle Guerre averages 12.13 assists to go with a .333 hitting percentage. Hollis and sophomore MH Breanne Boyd average 1.00 blocks per game. CBU has two wins over MIAA squads, Missouri Western and Missouri State.

SERIES RECORDS: Truman leads the all-time series 29-6 over Southwest Baptist and has won 23 consecutive matches over the Lady Bears. … The ‘Dogs hold a 3-0 advantage vs. Southwest Baptist and has won 23 consecutive matches over Missouri Southern, both by 3-1 decisions.

HEAD COACH Qi WANG: In his first year as Bulldog head coach, Qi Wang has a career record of 7-0. Wang took over in the offseason for 2000 MIAA Coach of the Year Becky Pike, who remains on board as an assistant in 2001. Under guidance from Pike and Wang, the Bulldogs are 103-43 (.706) dating back to the start of the 1997 campaign.

NATIONAL POLL: In today’s AVCA Division II poll, Truman moved up eight spots, from No. 15 to No. 7 thanks to its wins over then-No. 4 South Dakota State and then-No. 1 North Alabama. Hawaii-Pacific took over the top spot, followed by

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West Texas A&M and Cal State-San Bernardino. North Alabama and North Dakota State round out the top five, while Western State (Colo.) ranks just ahead of the Bulldogs.

SEEING DOUBLE: For the second straight weekend, four Bulldog players recorded double-doubles. Jenna Buckner, Jenny Glenn and Eliza Hoerner each posted double-doubles in kills and digs in the 3-1 win over South Dakota State. Monica Marlowe had two double-doubles, both in assists and kills, on Sunday vs. both SDSU and North Alabama.

- Monica Marlowe (3): 54 assists, 14 digs vs. SDSU, 9/2; 61 assists, 12 digs vs. North Alabama, 9/2
- Jenna Buckner (2): 10 kills, 13 digs vs. SDSU, 9/2
- Jenny Glenn (2): 10 kills, 18 digs vs. SDSU, 9/2
- Eliza Hoerner (1): 19 kills, 12 digs vs. SDSU, 9/2
- Jessica Sears (1): 10 kills, 15 digs vs. SIU-Edwardsville, 8/24

Hoerner and Felkerson lead the ‘Dogs in matches with double-figure kills this season, as each has accomplished the feat five times.

BULLDOGS AT HOME: This weekend’s tournament makes the home opener for Truman, and in Pershing Arena the Bulldogs have been dominant. Over the last two years, Truman is 10-4 on its home floor, including 17 wins in the last 19 matches. The ‘Dogs are also riding a five-match winning streak at home.

THE HOT START: This year isn’t the only year the Bulldog volleyball team has gotten out of the gates well. For example, just last year, Truman ran out to a 21-1 record. But, at 7-0 this year, it marks the latest in any season that the ‘Dogs have been undefeated.

BULLDOGS ON CAREER LISTS: Over the weekend, Marlowe moved up to second place on the Bulldogs all-time career assists list, passing Kelly Mangels. Marlowe now has 2,938 assists in her two-plus years with Truman.

Senior Brenda Ippensen (Quincy, Ill.) is now within 10 of sixth place on the career kills list, while Felkerson is 54 back of eighth place on the same chart.

Hoerner, who continues to hold down the No. 1 spot in career hitting percentage (.306), broke into the top 10 in total blocks and now has 129 for her career.

UP NEXT: After three tournaments to start the year, the Bulldogs will take to the road for four matches, beginning next Wednesday at NAIA powerhouse Columbia College. Last year, Truman brought an end to Columbia’s 102-match winning streak with a 3-2 victory in Pershing Arena.

The ‘Dogs will also play Friday and Saturday, Sept. 14 and 15, on their Pittsburg State-Missouri Southern road trip. Friday night, Truman will visit an upset PSU squad that is off to a 4-2 start. At Missouri Southern on Saturday, the ‘Dogs will meet the Lions, who are currently 5-2 on the year.

After one more road match on Sept. 19 at Missouri Western, Truman will return home to begin a five-match homestand through the end of September.