2002 Schedule

Aug. 31 @ North Dakota (Grand Forks), 1 pm
Sept. 1 @ North Dakota State (Fargo), 12 pm

Truman Classic (Kirksville)

Sept. 7 Nebraska-Omaha, 11:30 am
Sept. 7 CMSU vs. Northern Colorado, 2 pm
Sept. 8 CMSU vs. Nebraska-Omaha, 11:30 am
Sept. 8 Northern Colorado, 2 pm
Sept. 21 Winona State (Minn.), 11 am
Sept. 25 Rockhurst, 3 pm
Sept. 28 @ Central Missouri State (Warrensburg)*, 12 pm
Sept. 29 @ Northwest Missouri State (Maryville)*, 1 pm
Oct. 5 @ Southwest Baptist (Bolivar)*, 12 pm
Oct. 6 @ Emporia State (Kan.) (Emporia)*, 1 pm
Oct. 11 @ Missouri-Rolla *, 7 pm
Oct. 16 Northwest Missouri State *, 2 pm
Oct. 19 Southwest Baptist*, 12 pm
Oct. 20 Missouri-Rolla *, 12 pm
Oct. 26 Missouri Southern *, 12 pm
Oct. 27 Emporia State (Kan.)*, 1 pm
Nov. 2 @ Minnesota State Univ., Mankato, 1 pm
Nov. 8 @ Missouri Southern (Joplin)*, 5 pm
Nov. 10 Central Missouri State *, 12 pm
Nov. 13 NCAA Playoffs-First Round
Nov. 16-17 NCAA Playoffs-Second Round
Nov. 23-24 NCAA Quarterfinals

* Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association game.

2002 Travel Plans

AUG. 31-SEPT. 1, NORTH DAKOTA & NORTH DAKOTA STATE
Depart: Aug. 30 at 7 a.m. by bus.
Return: Sept. 2 at approximately 2 a.m.

SEPT. 28-29, WARRENSBURG AND MARYVILLE
Depart: Sept. 27 at 5 p.m. by bus.
Return: Sept. 29 at approximately 10 p.m.

OCT. 5-6, SOUTHWEST BAPTIST AND EMPORIA
Leave: Oct. 4 at 5 p.m. by vans.
Return: Oct. 6 at approximately 11 p.m.

OCT. 11, MISSOURI-ROLLA
Leave: Oct. 11 at 2 p.m. by bus.
Return: Oct. 11 at approximately midnight.

NOV. 2, MINNESOTA STATE UNIV., MANKATO
Leave: Nov. 1 at noon by bus
Return: Nov. 2 at approximately midnight.

NOV. 8, MISSOURI SOUTHERN
Leave: Nov. 8 at 9 a.m. by van
Return: Nov. 9 at approximately 3 a.m.

Quick Facts

Location: Kirksville, Mo. 63501
Founded: 1867
Enrollment: 6,000
President: Dr. Jack Magruder
Director of Athletics: Jerry Wollmering
Affiliation: NCAA Division II
Conference: Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association
Nickname: Bulldogs
Colors: Purple & White
Head Coach: Mike Cannon
Phone: (660) 785-4463
Facility (Cap.): Truman Soccer Park (250)
First Year of Soccer: 1984

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IBC Campus, Kirksville & Tri-State Maps

Editor, Copy & Production: Melissa Ware (’87)
Production & Copy: Jennifer Buscher
Photography: Tim Barcus (‘89)
Cover Design:

On The Cover: (Top to bottom)
Bulldogs Hopeful For Return To NCAA, Despite Loss of Key Personnel

While a repeat of last season’s success would be a rewarding conclusion to the 2002 campaign, the Bulldogs believe that they can improve on their 18-3 record and NCAA quarterfinal finish, and make a run for a national title. The ‘Dogs head into the preseason with high expectations from around the nation as well, evident by their No. 6 ranking in the National Soccer Coaches Association of America poll.

Though the loss of all-America goalkeeper Emily Huyck may be the biggest obstacle for Truman to overcome, the defense that allowed just 4.4 shots on goal per game and led the nation with a 0.38 goals against average is mostly back, aided by an experienced Bulldog squad. Danekas and Murray, the seniors, and Wieman, a junior, will supply ample leadership for the Bulldogs. But that’s not the end of the list of returning all-MIAA Bulldogs for Truman, which returns a total of nine. Also back are senior midfielder Molly Adams and sophomore midfielder/forward Stephanie Cepicky.

Adams was a first-team all-MIAA choice after transferring to Truman two years ago from the University of Tulsa, while Cepicky was second-team all-conference in 2000 after leading the team in scoring. However, both missed the ‘01 campaign with injuries.

Sophomore forward Ellen Wright rounds out the top returners for Truman. She was an honorable mention all-conference pick as a true freshman, finishing third on the team with seven goals, including two game-winners.

“We have the talent to return to the postseason,” Cannon indicated. “The potential to have similar success and even do better is there if we jell as a team and stay healthy, with a little bit of luck.

“Several newcomers and redshirt freshmen have stepped up in the preseason too,” Cannon continued. “We have about 13 players legitimately vying for starting jobs right now.”

Goalkeepers

A pair of freshman, Lisa Schmalz and Lauren Knoble, are looking to fill Huyck’s spot in the net. Schmalz, who trained with the University of Kansas women’s soccer team as a redshirt last fall, seems to have an edge on getting the job. But Knoble will challenge for the assignment or see equal time in goal if Schmalz struggles.

“Lisa’s done a good job in preseason camp, but it’s not a done deal,” Cannon said. “It’s good to have that competition and both have different styles.”

Defenders

With Buscher at sweeper, Danekas and Wieman the marking back, the Truman defense will supply plenty of experienced help for the young goalkeepers.

Sophomore Lisa Manns looks to have claimed the fourth defensive starting role. She gained valuable time on the pitch in nine games a year ago and made strides in the off season.

True freshman Icelander Asdis Finnsdottir has worked her way up in the preseason and is likely to be the first defender off the bench. However, redshirt freshman Jamie Sharp’s versatility will challenge Finnsdottir for time behind the starting defenders.

Freshman Megan Burkett and redshirt freshman Katie Laws will also vie for time.

Midfielders

Despite the loss of an all-region and two all-MIAA midfielders, the Bulldogs don’t seem to have missed a beat. The reason being the return of two all-MIAA players who redshirted in ‘01.

Adams and Cepicky seem to have reclaimed their starting roles as they head into the 2002 campaign. Adams will play top center, while Cepicky and Smith will take the ball wide.

“It’s really nice having those two back (Cepicky and Adams),” Cannon said. “With the loss of three of our starting midfielders, their experience will be a big help.”

Sophomore Anna Sonderman made tremendous progress in the second half of ‘01, and looks to have garnered a starting spot in the center midfield too. A well rounded player, she will also help with defense, but can score when needed.

“Anna has been dominate in preseason,” Cannon indicated. “She’s important to what we’re doing in the midfield.”

Heather Murray and junior Angie Schuhler provide excellent depth in the center midfield, along with two redshirt freshmen and four newcomers.

Redshirt freshman Chayil Wiedeman and newcomer Molly Benson will play relief roles outside, while redshirt freshman Chrissy Colpoy could also see time in the midfield. Newcomers Maureen Bylina and Emily Griffard are likely to redshirt the season.
Bulldog fans should not be fooled by the seemingly young corps of forwards to take the field in 2002.

Sara Murray’s record-setting 17 goals as a freshman last year, could be an omen of things to come for true freshman Lauren Cepicky, the two women slated to fill the forward spots.

“Sara looks pretty similar to last year,” Cannon said “But she lifted weights over the summer and has gotten stronger. She’ll be a big part of the offense like last year.”

Murray’s outstanding inaugural campaign spoke for itself, while Cepicky looks to have captured the job with an outstanding preseason performance. If Stephanie Cepicky’s freshman accolades are any indication of her younger sister Lauren’s abilities, the Bulldogs should have no trouble putting the ball in the net this year.

Wright’s year under her belt may win out in the hunt to fill the other forward spot. Her speed and ability to find the net provides good depth among the forwards. Redshirt freshman Whitney Fancher and true freshman Rachael McCarville will see some minutes as well.

Schedule
All 19 regular season games are again Central region contests. The Bulldogs need to defend their ownership of the MIAA crown, and get their first test in the conference opener on Sept. 28 at Central Missouri. CMSU snapped the ‘Dogs’ 21-game MIAA win streak in handing Truman its first ever MIAA loss in the 2001 regular season finale.

2002 NSCAA Preseason Division II Poll

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>UC San Diego</td>
<td>21-2-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Christian Brothers (Tenn.)</td>
<td>22-1-0</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Northern Kentucky</td>
<td>22-2-0</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Franklin Pierce (N.H.)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Lock Haven (Pa.)</td>
<td>18-4-0</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Truman</td>
<td>18-3-0</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Incarnate Word (Texas)</td>
<td>18-2-0</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Cal Poly Pomona</td>
<td>16-6-0</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Regis University (Colo.)</td>
<td>16-3-2</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Merrimack (Mass.)</td>
<td>18-4-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Barry University (Fla.)</td>
<td>16-3-0</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Mercyhurst College (Pa.)</td>
<td>15-3-1</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Slippery Rock (Pa.)</td>
<td>14-5-0</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Northern Colorado</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Barton College (N.C.)</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Ashland University (Ohio)</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Cal State Dominguez Hills</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>West Florida</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Bloomsburg (Pa.)</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>West Texas A&amp;M</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Winona State (Minn.)</td>
<td>18-5-0</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Belmont Abbey (N.C.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Bryant College (R.I.)</td>
<td>13-8-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Adelphi University (N.Y.)</td>
<td>13-2-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Also receiving votes: Eckerd (Fla.), Southern Connecticut State, South Carolina-Spartanburg, Wisconsin-Parkside, Nebraska-Omaha</td>
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</table>

But it will be the first six games and a Nov. 2 bout with Minnesota State University, Mankato that will probably tell the tale of the season. Of those seven games, Truman faced six last year and went 5-1. The only new face on the schedule is North Dakota which began its program in 1999 and has not faced the Bulldogs yet.

Truman begins its year at North Dakota and then North Dakota State, and opens at home with the Truman Classic on Sept. 7-8. NDSU has not won a game in the last four meetings with Truman, including a 1-0 loss in the 2001 opener in the Truman Classic. This year, the Classic brings Nebraska-Omaha and preseason No. 15 Northern Colorado to Kirksville. Truman suffered its first loss of the ‘01 campaign at UNC, but ended the Bears’ season with a 1-0 win in the second round of the NCAA tournament in Kirksville.

The home slate continues with Winona State (Minn.) on Sept. 21 and Rockhurst on Sept. 25 before starting the double round-robin MIAA schedule at CMSU. Winona is ranked 22nd in the preseason.

The Bulldogs play 10 MIAA games before facing MSUM, and wrap up the regular season with the Central Missouri rematch in Kirksville on Nov. 10.