Interest was high when the first intercollegiate women's soccer team took the field at Truman on Sept. 8, 1984, at Cardinal Newman College in St. Louis, but little else was known. The Bulldogs’ first head coach, Alvaro Duran, welcomed the challenge. He had a 20-player roster littered with experience with all having played in high school or on club teams.

One factor Duran faced that caused early problems was a schedule of already established teams. Regional competitors, including Missouri-St. Louis, Missouri-Rolla and Quincy (Ill.), also the two plus years of intercollegiate experience. It took three tough years, including a 0-14 campaign in 1985, before the Bulldogs were able to establish themselves.

As with most things, time brought gradual improvement, and in 1987 the Bulldogs reached the .500 mark for the first time, posting a 7-6-2 record. That same year marked another milestone for the program as freshman Shauna Putnam became the first Truman women’s soccer player to earn all-region honors. The ’87 campaign also became the cornerstone in establishing the Truman women’s soccer program as a national power.

Continuing the rise was now the goal Duran set for his team. In 1988, seven players were named to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America Division II all-region team and the squad was ranked 12th in the nation. The following season, the Bulldogs turned in their best performance to that point, finishing with an 11-5-1 record and 15th in the national rankings. It would be the last winning campaign at Truman for Duran who left at the conclusion of the 1990 season.

Stephanie Gabbert became the team’s second coach in 1991. Her stint would only last two years before she took an assistant coaching job at the University of Wisconsin. Both of her seasons ended with disappointment when the ‘Dogs did not achieve a .500 mark.

Current head coach Mike Cannon took the reigns in 1993, posting the 1994 NCAA DII tournament. In only two seasons, Cannon established the ‘Dogs as a national contender. He followed the ’94 accomplishments with another record-breaking season, going 12-4-1 overall in 1995. A year later, the Bulldogs would rise as high as fourth in the national rankings and go 12-3-5, again missing the tournament by a single match.

Truman’s postseason drought would end in ’97 with its first trip to the NCAA tournament. It would be four more years before Cannon’s team would reach the NCAA tournament again. In 2001, the Bulldogs shutout 15 foes en route to their No. 1 ranking in the Central region. The ‘Dogs garnered a first round bye in the NCAA tourney that year, as well as a pair of home games. The 2002 squad also made the postseason and won its first round game before a second-round encounter at Nebraska-Omaha ended another NCAA title run.

Although, Truman’s rise to national prominence has had its peaks and valleys, the Bulldogs are poised to stay among the top soccer schools in Division II and possibly achieve the ultimate goal of a national championship in the near future.

**Coaching Records**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coach</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Wins</th>
<th>Losses</th>
<th>Draws</th>
<th>Winning %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alvaro Duran</td>
<td>1984-90</td>
<td>41-57-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephanie Gabbert</td>
<td>1991-92</td>
<td>11-16-5</td>
<td>.422</td>
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<td>Mike Cannon</td>
<td>1993-02</td>
<td>125-50-15</td>
<td>.697</td>
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**Over time Games**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 9, 1995</td>
<td>vs. Quincy (III)</td>
<td>T 1-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 24, 1995</td>
<td>vs. Lindenwood</td>
<td>W 1-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 9, 1995</td>
<td>vs. Drury</td>
<td>T 2-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 14, 1995</td>
<td>vs. Wisconsin-Parkside</td>
<td>W 2-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 20, 1995</td>
<td>vs. Missouri-Rolla</td>
<td>T 1-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 15, 1995</td>
<td>vs. Quincy (III)</td>
<td>L 1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 4, 1996</td>
<td>vs. Park College</td>
<td>T 4-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 16, 1996</td>
<td>vs. Rockhurst College</td>
<td>T 2-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 3, 1996</td>
<td>vs. Northern Colorado</td>
<td>T 2-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 30, 1997</td>
<td>vs. S. Ill. Univ.-Edwardsville</td>
<td>W 4-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 28, 1997</td>
<td>vs. Rockhurst</td>
<td>L 1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 5, 1997</td>
<td>vs. Southern Indiana</td>
<td>W 1-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 15, 1997</td>
<td>vs. Central Missouri</td>
<td>W 1-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 26, 1997</td>
<td>vs. Lindenwood</td>
<td>T 1-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 29, 1997</td>
<td>vs. Missouri-Rolla</td>
<td>W 1-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 12, 1998</td>
<td>vs. Southern Indiana</td>
<td>T 0-0</td>
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<td>Sept. 13, 1998</td>
<td>vs. Indianapolis</td>
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<td>Nov. 1, 1998</td>
<td>vs. S. Ill. Univ.-Edwardsville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 8, 1998</td>
<td>vs. Central Missouri</td>
<td>T 0-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 9, 1999</td>
<td>vs. St. Joseph's (Ind.)</td>
<td>T 1-1</td>
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<td>Oct. 27, 1999</td>
<td>vs. Quincy (III)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 19, 2001</td>
<td>vs. Missouri Southern</td>
<td>W 1-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 4, 2001</td>
<td>vs. Central Missouri</td>
<td>L 1-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 8, 2002</td>
<td>vs. Northern Colorado</td>
<td>T 0-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 29, 2002</td>
<td>vs. Northwest Missouri</td>
<td>W 1-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 5, 2002</td>
<td>vs. Southwest Baptist</td>
<td>T 2-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 20, 2002</td>
<td>vs. Missouri-Rolla</td>
<td>W 1-0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Less than ideal conditions again plagued the 'Dogs in the quarterfinals. This time, it was rain and mud at West Virginia Wesleyan. The pitch, a veritable swamp in the middle, forced the teams to play wide and slowed action. Truman mustered only one shot in the first half, but won four corner kicks to Wesleyan's one. The defense was coming up huge in the match, holding Wesleyan scoring juggernaut Juli Hanrath in check for the half.

With 45 minutes to go in regulation and 500 spectators looking on, Wesleyan's offense heated up. A corner shot at 79:10 slipped past Truman keeper Jenny Miller. The 'Dogs went into overdrive the last 10 minutes and threatened in the 85th minute, but couldn't send one home.

The Bulldogs returned to the postseason in 2001, and earned a pair of home games after finishing the regular season as the No. 1 seed in the Central region. Truman began its second postseason run with a rematch with Northern Colorado, a team that handed the 'Dogs their first loss (1-0) of the '01 campaign in game five that year.

However, the home pitch proved more successful for the Bulldogs who sent UNC heading west with a 1-0 defeat. True freshman Anna Sonderman performed the heroics in the 59th minute with help from senior Kelli Best. The stingy Truman defense held Northern Colorado to three shots on goal as senior goalkeeper Emily Huyck recorded her 14th shutout of the year.

Unfortunately, the Bulldogs were not as lucky in the quarterfinal game as Northern Kentucky ended their season short of national title. With 45 minutes to go in regulation, Truman scored when junior Angie Schuhler sent the ball down the right side to senior forward Becky Ojile who got it up to sophomore forward Ellen Wright for the header.

The No. 3 seed, Truman would now face the top seed in the Central region and third-ranked team in the nation, Nebraska-Omaha. UNO dominated both offensively and defensively in its 3-0 victory, allowing the Bulldogs nine shots for the game, and just one on goal. The Mavs went on to fall just one game short of national title.
**Bulldog Records**

**Individual Single Game**

Goals: 17, Sara Murray, 2001

Most Consecutive Games with a Goal: 7, Kathy Corson, 1992

Best Goal/Game Average: 0.94, Kathy Corson (16/17 games), 1989 & (15/16 games) 1992

Assists: 13, Jill Benson, 1996

Best Assist/Game Average: 1.0, Helen Turnbull (11/11 games), 1984

Points: 44, Trisha Harting, 1996

Best Point/Game Average: 2.47, Kathy Corson (42/17 games), 1984

Shots: 102, Shauna Putnam, 1989

Saves: 122, Jenny Miller, 1997

Best Save/Game Average: 11.29, Renee Buchholz (79/7 games), 1985

Fewest Goals Allowed: 7, Jenny Miller, 1998 & Emily Huyck, 1999

**Individual Single Season**

Goals: 17, Sara Murray, 2001

Most Consecutive Games with a Goal: 7, Kathy Corson, 1992

Best Goal/Game Average: 0.94, Kathy Corson (16/17 games), 1989 & (15/16 games) 1992

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**Team Awards**

2002

MVP: Jennifer Buscher

Offensive MVP: Sara Murray

Defensive MVP: Jennifer Buscher

Most Improved: Angie Schuhler & Becky Ojile

110%: Angie Schuhler

Rookie of the Year: Lauren Cepicky

Goal of the Year: Ellen Wright vs. Northern Colorado, 11-13-02

Save of the Year: Karla Danekas vs. Northern Colorado, 11-13-02

Save of the Year: Carie Toczylowski vs. Northern Colorado, 11-9-01

2001

MVP: Emily Huyck

Offensive MVP: Sara Murray

Defensive MVP: Karla Danekas

Most Improved: Anna Sonderman

110%: Melissa Miller

Rookie of the Year: Sara Murray

Goal of the Year: Anna Sonderman vs. Northern Colorado, 11-9-01

Save of the Year: Emily Huyck & Jennifer Buscher vs. Northern Colorado, 11-9-01

1999

MVP: Emily Huyck

Offensive MVP: Stephanie Toczykowski

Defensive MVP: Meredith Hartle

Most Improved: Missy Ell

110%: Nikki Thorpe

Rookie of the Year: Anna Smith

Goal of the Year: Heather Murray vs. Barry

Save of the Year: Emily Huyck vs. Lewis

1998

MVP: Stephanie Toczykowski

Offensive MVP: Jocelyn Parisi

Defensive MVP: Meredith Hartle

Most Improved: Nikkii Thorpe

110%: Melissa Miller

Rookie of the Year: Jennifer Buscher

Goal of the Year: Jill Harlan vs. Wisconsin-Parkside

Save of the Year: Emily Huyck vs. CMSU

1997

MVP: Jenny Miller

Offensive MVP: Carie Toczykowski

Defensive MVP: Kim Mannion

Most Improved: Ann Wiser

110%: Jill Benson

Rookie of the Year: Meredith Hartle

Goal of the Year: Kim Mannion vs. UMR

Save of the Year: Jenny Miller vs. UMR

1996

MVP: Trisha Harting

Offensive MVP: Trisha Harting

Defensive MVP: Chris Zitko

Most Improved: Bekcy Sparks

110%: Trisha Harting

Rookie of the Year: Bekcy Sparks

Goal of the Year: Carie Toczykowski vs. UNC

1994

MVP: Cathy Bussjaeger

1993 MVP: Shelly Landa

1992 MVP: Kathy Corson

1991 MVP: Shelly Landa

1990 MVP: Maggie Froelich

1989 MVP: Tracy Fedar

1988 MVP: Becky Eggleston

1987 MVP: Becky Eggleston

1986 MVP: Tracey Fedar

1985 MVP: Helen Turnbull

1984 MVP: Renee Buchholz

Anna Sonderman was one of four first-team all-region picks for the ‘Dogs in 2002.