### 2005-06 Men’s Basketball Game Notes

#### 2005-06 Truman Results
- Nov. 12 Bill Cable Purple & White Game vs. Dreambuilders (Exh.) W 84-79
- Nov. 15 Lincoln Christian College W 92-42
- Nov. 18 @ Southeast Missouri St. L 59-55
- Nov. 21 Quincy Univ. (Ill.) W 76-62
- Nov. 28 Lincoln Univ. (Mo.) W 89-71
- Nov. 30 Robert Morris College W 83-56
- Dec. 3 @ Lincoln Univ. (Mo.) W 62-53
- Dec. 8 Vernard College (Iowa) W 69-35
- Dec. 10 @ Southwest Baptist * L 86-82 (ot)
- Dec. 17 @ Quincy Univ. (Ill.) # W 81-77 (ot)
- Dec. 18 vs. Neb.-Omaha # W 64-60
- Dec. 20 @ Upper Iowa Univ. W 77-67
- Dec. 22 Harris-Stowe College W 91-67
- Dec. 30 Washburn (Kan.) * W 87-78
- Jan. 4 @ Central Missouri State * W 77-69
- Jan. 7 Missouri Southern * W 64-52
- Jan. 14 @ Pittsburg State (Kan.) * L 68-55
- Jan. 18 Missouri Western * L 69-49
- Jan. 21 @ Emporia State (Kan.) * W 61-58
- Jan. 25 Northwest Missouri * W 60-56
- Jan. 28 @ Washburn Univ. (Kan.) W 81-72
- Feb. 1 @ Northwest Missouri * W 76-71
- Feb. 4 Emporia State (Kan.) * W 68-67
- Feb. 8 @ Missouri Western * L 80-70
- Feb. 11 Pittsburg State (Kan.) * W 81-76 (ot)
- Feb. 18 @ Missouri Southern * W 68-67
- Feb. 22 Central Missouri State * L 66-62
- Feb. 25 Southwest Baptist * L 82-72
- Mar. 3 vs. Emporia State (Kan.) L 96-90

**Bold - Home Games**

- # MIAA Game
- # - Quincy University Tournament

#### Truman Quick Facts
- **Location**: Kirksville, Mo.
- **Founded**: 1867
- **Enrollment**: 6,000
- **Colors**: Purple and White
- **President**: Dr. Barbara Dixon
- **Alma Mater (Yr.)**: Arizona State (1975)
- **Record at Truman**: 106-169 (11th season)
- **Career Record**: Same
- **2004-05 Overall Record**: 8-19
- **2004 Conference Record (Place)**: A-14 (7-9th)

#### 2005-06 Truman Men’s Basketball Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pos.</th>
<th>Ht.</th>
<th>Yr.</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
<th>Previous Schools</th>
<th>PPG</th>
<th>RPG</th>
<th>APG</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Chip Sodeman</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>5-11</td>
<td>Sr.</td>
<td>Chesterfield, Mo.</td>
<td>Parkway West</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Second-team all-MIAA/all-Defensive Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Andy Calmes</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>Forsyth, Ill.</td>
<td>Warrensburg-Latham</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>First-team all-MIAA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Austin Kirby</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>6-1</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>Chesterfield, Mo.</td>
<td>Parkview Central</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Leads the team with 49 three-pointers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Garret Grimm</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>6-9</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>Macon, Ill.</td>
<td>Macon</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>Two straight double-figure scoring games</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Derek Lindsey</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>6-4</td>
<td>Sr.</td>
<td>Eureka, Mo.</td>
<td>Eureka</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>Honorable Mention all-MIAA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00</td>
<td>Gavin Welker</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>6-6</td>
<td>Sr.</td>
<td>Hancock City, Ill.</td>
<td>Farmington</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>Appeared in 13 games this season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Travis Kern</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>6-1</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>Kalona, Iowa</td>
<td>Mid-Prairie</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>Played 50 minutes in six games</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Banks Estridge</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>6-3</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>Eureka, Mo.</td>
<td>Westminster</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>The team’s leading freshman scorer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Matt Brock</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>5-10</td>
<td>Sr.</td>
<td>Mount Vernon, Mo.</td>
<td>Camdenton</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>Averaging nearly 1.0 three-pointer a game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Nick Certa</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>6-4</td>
<td>So.</td>
<td>Godfrey, Ill.</td>
<td>Marquette</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Led Truman with 18 points in MIAA Tourn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Matt Taylor</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>6-1</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>Marshalltown, Iowa</td>
<td>Marshalltown</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>10 points in five games this year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Ryan Welker</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>6-5</td>
<td>Sr.</td>
<td>Hancock City, Ill.</td>
<td>Farmington</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>Has appeared in the last two straight games</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Ryan Robinson</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>6-5</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>Roscoe, Ill.</td>
<td>Hononegah</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>8 of 14 rebounds on offensive end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>Grant Agbo</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>6-6</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>Ferguson, Mo.</td>
<td>McCluer</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>Missed the MIAA tournament game</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Probable starters are listed above the line

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**2006 NCAA Division II South Central Men's Basketball Regional Tournament**

**March 11, 12, 14**

**Meyer Sports Center (Bolivar, Mo.)**

**Saturday, March 11 - NCAA First-Round**

#6 Truman vs. #3 Central Missouri, 12:00 p.m.
#7 Central Oklahoma vs. #2 Tarleton State, 2:30 p.m.
#5 Northwest Missouri vs. #4 West Texas A&M, 6:00 p.m.
#8 St. Edward's vs. #1 Southwest Baptist, 8:30 p.m.

**Sunday, March 12 - NCAA Regional Semifinals**

Truman/CMSU winner vs. UCO/TSU winner, 5:00 p.m.
NWMSU/WTAMU winner vs. SEU/SBU winner, 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 14 - NCAA Regional Finals**

Semifinal Winners, 7:00 p.m.

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**This Week’s Games:**

This Saturday, the Truman men’s basketball team returns to the NCAA Division II Tournament for the first time since its magical 1999 run to the Final Four. The Bulldogs will take on MIAA rival Central Missouri in the first round of the South Central regional. That game will take place at noon at the Meyer Sports Center in Bolivar, Mo.

Truman and Central Missouri split their regular season series this year, with each team winning on the other’s home court. In early January, Andy Calmes’ double-double led the Bulldogs to a 77-69 win in Warrensburg. In late February, the Mules got payback with a 66-62 victory in Peshing Arena.

A key to the game will be whether Truman can contain Central Missouri’s Michael Hicks. In Truman’s win, Hicks shot just four-of-19 from the field and 0-of-nine from three-point range. In the Mules win, he scored 24 points on eight-of-14 shooting, and five-of-nine from beyond the arc.

The Bulldogs earned a NCAA tournament bid this year after recording a 20-8 overall record, marking the fifth time in school history that they have reached the 20-win plateau.

If Truman is to make a run for the national title, it will have to regain the one thing that got the Bulldogs into the tournament, winning close ballgames. The Bulldogs are 13-5 in 2005-06 in games decided by 10 points or less. However, they enter the tournament on a three-game losing streak, all games that fell within that 10 point margin.

**Broadcast Info:**

All Bulldogs NCAA tournament games can be heard on Superstation KRES 104.7 or on the internet at regionalradio.com. Brad Boyer and Hank Jansen will call the action, starting with the pregame show 15 minutes before tipoff.
NCAA Division II South Central Men's Basketball Regional Tournament • March 11-14, Bolivar, Mo.
Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association

(website - www.themiaa.com)

**Truman Men's Basketball Postseason Notes**

**All-Conference Awards:**
Truman was well represented on the MIAA All-conference teams. Andy Calmes became the 54th Bulldog to earn first-team all-MIAA status and first since Cory Parker earned the award following the 1999-2000 season. Chip Sodemann was named to the second-team after earning honorable-mention status a year ago. Sodemann was also named to the all-defensive team. Derek Lindsey also closed out his second senior year by being named to the honorable-mention all-conference squad.

Head Coach Jack Schrader was named the league's Coach of the year. Schrader picked up his second COY honor after sharing the award with Pittsburg State's Gene Iba following the 1998-99 campaign. Schrader guided the Bulldogs to their first 20-win season in seven years and only the fifth all-time in school history.

**NABC National Poll:**
Truman, which is currently unranked, has been nationally-ranked during six weeks of the 2005-06 season. Its highest ranking came in its debut in the poll back on Jan. 10, when it was ranked 16th.

Three schools in the South Central regional are nationally-ranked with Southwest Baptist being sixth, Tarleton State being 13th and Central Missouri being 24th. West Texas A&M is receiving votes in the poll.

This season, the Bulldogs are 2-2 against nationally-ranked teams at the time of the game. Truman has wins over No. 18 Northwest Missouri (Jan. 25) and No. 11 Central Missouri (Jan. 4). The team lost to Southwest Baptist twice, with the Bearcats being ranked each time.

**Bulldogs Against The NCAA Field:**
Truman is 3-3 against the other teams in the South Central regional, with all of those games being MIAA contests. The Bulldogs were 2-0 against Northwest Missouri, 1-1 versus Central Missouri and 0-2 against Southwest Baptist.

The program is 5-3 against teams in the NCAA Division II tournament. Besides the six contests against regional opponents, Truman went 2-0 during the year against Quincy. The Hawks are the No. 6 seed in the Great Lakes region.

**Overtime Games:**
The Bulldogs have tied the school record for overtime games played in a season at three. Truman is 2-1 in the extra five minutes, with two of the games being played back-to-back.

The last time Truman played three in a season was in 1995-96, going 1-2. Truman has played four double-overtime games and two triple overtime games, the last being in the NCAA Elite Eight game against St. Rose (N.Y.), winning 106-101.

**Home/Away/Neutral:**
Truman went 11-3 in the friendly confines of Pershing Arena this season. That was the squad's best home record since the 1999-2000 campaign.

Away from Pershing Arena, like the Bulldogs will be for the rest of the year, the team is 8-5.

Included in that is a 7-4 mark in away games and a 1-1 mark at neutral sites.

**Taking Care Of The Ball:**
Entering the NCAA Tournament, the Bulldogs are averaging 10.7 turnovers a game, the best mark among the 265 teams ranked in the NCAA Division II statistics. The closest team to Truman is Philadelphia, which is averaging 11.5 turnovers a game.

Ten times this season, Truman recorded just single-digit turnovers in a game, including a season-low three in the most recent meeting with Southwest Baptist.

However, this statistic hurt the Bulldogs in their first postseason game in the MIAA Tournament. Truman turned the ball over 17 times in that contest, and were on the wrong side of a 23-9 scoring on points off turnover.

**Three-Point Shooting:**
Another key stat to watch in the opening round game with Central Missouri is both teams' shooting from three-point range.

Defensively, Truman ranks first in the MIAA in three-point field goal percentage defense, while the Mules are third in that category. Offensively, Truman is again first in three-point percentage, while the Mules are fourth.

In both meetings with Central Missouri this year, the Bulldogs shot 33.3% from three-point range. However, in Truman's win over the Mules, Central Missouri shot just 17.6% from beyond the arc. In the Mules' victory, Central Missouri shot 54.5%, the highest mark against Truman this year in a game.

**In Close Games:**
Truman is 8-3 this season in games decided by five points or less. Last year, the Bulldogs were just 2-5 in similar games. The team is 13-5 during the 2005-06 season in games decided by ten or less points.

**NCAA Elite Eight:**
The winner of this week's South Central Regional will advance to the NCAA Elite Eight, which will be held on March 22, 23 and 25 in Springfield, Mass. The South Central team that advances will take on the winner of the Northeast region in the NCAA quarterfinals.

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**Standings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MIAA</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Southwestern Baptist (6)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Central Missouri (24)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Truman</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Northwest Missouri</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Missouri Western</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Emporia State</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Missouri Southern</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Pittsburg State</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washburn</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

( ) - NABC Division II Coach Poll ranking

**MIAA Tournament**

**First-Round**
Southwest Baptist def. Pittsburg State, 67-52
Northwest Missouri def. Missouri Western, 72-49
Central Missouri def. Missouri Southern, 64-61
Emporia State def. Truman, 96-101

**Semifinals**
Southwest Baptist def. Northwest Missouri, 85-63
Central Missouri def. Emporia State, 82-73

**Championship Game**
Southwest Baptist def. Central Missouri, 78-71

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**2005-06 MIAA Men's Basketball Preseason Coaches Poll**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>PTS.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Central Missouri (7)</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Southwest Baptist (1)</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Pittsburg State (1)</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Missouri Western</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Emporia State</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washburn</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Northwest Missouri</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Missouri Southern</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Truman</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Points awarded on a 8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 basis. Coaches could not vote for their own school.

**2005-06 Wilson/MIAA Men's Basketball Player of the Week**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Joseph, Center</td>
<td>Emporia State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheldon Pace, Guard</td>
<td>Southwest Baptist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eddie Jackson, Guard</td>
<td>Pittsburg State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Blair, Forward</td>
<td>Pittsburg State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Hicks, Guard</td>
<td>Central Missouri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andy Calmes, Forward</td>
<td>Truman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheldon Pace, Guard</td>
<td>Southwest Baptist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brady Sisk, Forward</td>
<td>Washburn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Hicks, Guard</td>
<td>Central Missouri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheldon Pace, Guard</td>
<td>Southwest Baptist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xavier Gaines, Guard</td>
<td>Northwest Mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andy Calmes, Forward</td>
<td>Truman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Warren, Forward</td>
<td>Mo. Western</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NCAA Division II South Central Men's Basketball Regional Tournament ♦ March 11-14, Bolivar, Mo.**
Truman Men's Basketball Postseason Notes

2005-06 Team Statistics
(MIAA Rank as of 3/5)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Truman</th>
<th>MIAA Rank</th>
<th>NCAA Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scoring Offense</td>
<td>72.5</td>
<td>6th</td>
<td>128th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scoring Defense</td>
<td>66.5</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>57th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scoring Margin</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>6th</td>
<td>69th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Throw Percentage</td>
<td>71.2</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>81st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FG Percentage</td>
<td>45.8</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>102nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FG Percentage Def.</td>
<td>.419</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>47th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3Pt. FG Percentage</td>
<td>37.4</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>57th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3Pt. FG Percentage Def.</td>
<td>.309</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebounding Offense</td>
<td>35.9</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebounding Defense</td>
<td>33.8</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebounding Margin</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>88th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blocked Shots</td>
<td>2.43</td>
<td>6th</td>
<td>177th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assists</td>
<td>15.61</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>60th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steals</td>
<td>4.32</td>
<td>9th</td>
<td>264th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turnover Margin</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>7th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assist-To-Turnover Ratio</td>
<td>1.46</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offensive Rebounds</td>
<td>9.71</td>
<td>9th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defensive Rebounds</td>
<td>26.21</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-Point FG Made</td>
<td>7.43</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAA rank out of 265 teams</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2005-06 Truman MIAA Individual Leaders

Scoring
- Andy Calmes, 11th (13.1)
- Derek Lindsey, 20th (11.1)
- Andy Calmes, 1st (9.2)
- Nick Ceta, 3rd (9.1)
- Chip Sodemann, 5th (6.3)
- Austin Kirby, 10th (5.4)
- Andy Calmes, 14th (4.2)
- Andy Calmes, 1st (6.7)

Rebounding
- Andy Calmes, 27th (9.2)
- Chip Sodemann, 62nd (9.8)
- Austin Kirby, 6th (6.6)
- Andy Calmes, 1st (6.6)

NABC Rankings (March 7, 2006)

No. School                        | Record |
----------------------------------|--------|
1. Delta State (Miss.) (8)        | 29-1   |
2. Saint Joseph's (Ind.)          | 30-2   |
3. Virginia Union                 | 25-3   |
5. Winona State (Minn.)           | 26-4   |
6. Southwest Baptist (Mo.)        | 26-4   |
7. Montevallo (Ala.)              | 26-4   |
8. Fort Hays State (Kan.)         | 26-3   |
9. Barton (N.C.)                  | 24-3   |
10. Seattle Pacific (Wash.)       | 22-5   |
11. Findlay (Ohio)                | 25-4   |
12. Stonehill (Mass.)             | 23-6   |
13. Tarleton State (Tex.)         | 24-6   |
15. Northern State (N.D.)         | 23-6   |
16. Western Washington            | 21-6   |
17. Southern Indiana              | 25-6   |
18. Shippensburg (Pa.)            | 24-6   |
19. Alderson-Broadus (W.Va.)      | 22-6   |
20. Armstrong Atlantic State (Ga.)| 23-7   |
21. Alabama-Huntsville            | 22-7   |
22. West Virginia State           | 26-6   |
23. Saint Anselm                   | 23-7   |
24. Central Missouri State        | 23-7   |
25. Mount Olive (N.C.)            | 23-6   |

Others Receiving Votes: Columbus State, SIU-Edwardsville, Johnson C. Smith, Rollins, Bentley, Quincy, CS-Bakersfield, Chaminade, West Texas A&M, Ashland, Bryant, Nebraska-Kearney

Scouting The Rest Of The Regional Field:
Southwest Baptist (26-4, 12-4 MIAA)

The Bears earn the first seed and hosting rights after winning both the MIAA regular season championship and the conference postseason tournament crown. The program is making its third trip to the NCAA Tournament, and first since 1991.

Southwest Baptist has a high scoring offense, averaging nearly 80 points a game. The team leads the MIAA with a .469 field goal percentage and a .400 field goal percentage defense.

The Bears are led by MIAA MVP Sheldon Pace, who averages 13.8 points and 8.40 assists a game. Frans Steyn was a second-team all-MIAA pick after averaging 12.9 points and a team-high 7.7 rebounds a game. Both of those players were named to the MIAA all-defensive team.

Tarleton State (24-6, 11-1 LSC)

Tarleton State is the number two seed after winning the South Division of the Lone Star Conference this season and finishing runner-up in the conference tournament. The team is making its fifth appearance in the NCAA Tournament, all coming in the last five years.

The Texans have one of the top defenses in the country, allowing just 59.7 points a game and holding opponents to a .391 field goal percentage. Offensively, the team shoots 48.8% from the field and averages 73.5 points a game.

A pair of Tarleton State players were named first-team all-LSH South Division in John Davis and LeShon Sheffield. Both of those athletes are averaging between 14 and 15 points a game.

Central Missouri (23-7, 11-5 MIAA)

Truman’s opponent in the first-round of the NCAA tournament was this year’s runner-up in both the MIAA regular season and the conference tournament. Central Missouri, the 1984 national champion, is making its second straight tournament appearance and 17th overall.

The Mules are another high-scoring team, averaging 79.0 points a contest. Defensively, the team is allowing 68.7 points a night. Central Missouri leads the MIAA with a .730 free throw percentage.

An individually, Michael Hicks was a first-team all-MIAA selection after leading the MIAA with 21.3 points a game. He ranks fifth nationally with 3.7 three-pointers a contest. Honorable mention all-MIAA selections Alonzo Brooks and Wadale Williams also average double-figure scoring for the Mules.

West Texas A&M (23-7, 9-3 LSC)

After finishing second during the regular season in the Lone Star South Division, the Buffs won the conference tournament and earned an automatic bid to the NCAA dance. West Texas A&M is making its ninth appearance in the NCAA tournament, and the first since 2003.

The Buffs are averaging 75.3 points a game and allowing 68.1 points a contest. The team is shooting 46.3% from the field, while opponents are shooting 43.5% against the Buffs.

The team is led by the duo of Ronnie Holmes and Damien Lolar. Lolar was a first-team all-conference pick after averaging 17.1 points and 6.8 rebounds a game. Holmes earned second-team honors after averaging 13.4 points a night, including 18.2 points against Lone Star opponents.

Northwest Missouri (20-9, 10-6 MIAA)

Northwest Missouri finished tied with Truman for third in the MIAA regular season standings, and the team advanced to the MIAA semifinals. The Bearcats are back in the tournament after seeing a five-year streak get snapped in 2005. The program is in the tournament for the 10th time.

The Bearcats win with a stingy defense which allows a MIAA-best 62.8 points a game. Northwest Missouri forces nearly 19 turnovers a night and leads the league easily in turnover margin.

Defensively, the team averages 73.6 points a game and shoots 43.6% from the field.

Kazisher Gaines, second-team, and Mose Howard, honorable mention and all-defense, represented the Bearcats on the all-MIAA team. Three players average double-figures in a balanced scoring attack.

Central Oklahoma (17-12, 9-3 LSC)

The final at-large bid went to Central Oklahoma, who finished as co-champions of the Lone Star North Division and advanced to the conference tournament semifinals. The team is making its eighth appearance in the NCAA Tournament and earning the trip for the second straight year.

Offensively, the Broncos are averaging 76.2 points a game, while shooting .464 from the field. Defensively, the squad is allowing 71.2 points a game, and teams are shooting .332% from the field.

Four Central Oklahoma players average double-figure scoring, led by Anthony Brown, a first-team all-conference selection. He is averaging team-highs with a 17.1 scoring average, 7.2 rebouning average and a .662 field goal percentage, which is the third-best mark in the NCAA Division II.

St. Edward’s (21-8, 9-3 HC)

St. Edward’s, the Heartland conference regular season co-champion and tournament champion, earned an automatic bid to Bolivar. The Hilltoppers will be making their first appearance in the Division II men’s basketball March Madness.

St. Edward’s averages 76.3 points a game, while allowing 71.6. The team shoots 43.3% from the field and opponents are shooting 47.6% against them. The Hilltoppers win with a defense that is forcing 21.5 turnovers a game.

David Lunn was the conference’s MVP after averaging 16.7 points a game. Other scoring threats include Shawn Weinstein, 13.4 scoring average, and Daniel Pierre, 12.0 scoring average.