

QUICK FACTS

Truman State University
Location: Kirksville, Mo.
Founded: 1867
Enrollment: 6,000
Nickname: Bulldogs
Colors: Purple & White
Arena: Pershing Arena
Capacity: 2,600
Conference: Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (NCAA Div. II)
President: Dr. Barbara Dixon
Director of Athletics: Jerry Wollmering
Athletics Phone: (660) 785-4235

Coaching Staff

Head Coach: Jason Skoch
Alma Mater (Yr.): Oklahoma State (1998)
Truman/Career Record: 32-6 (one year)
Office Phone: (660) 785-4468
Best Time To Call: Mornings
Assistant Coach: Ben Briney
Student Assistant Coach: Tiffany Graham

Team Information

2005 Overall Record: 32-6
Conference Record (Place): 13-3 (2nd)
Final National Ranking: No. 4
Final Regional Ranking: No. 2
Starters Returning/Lost: 5/1
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 8/6

Team History

First Year of Volleyball: 1973
All-Time Record: 665-414-14
No. Years in Playoffs/Last: 7/2005
Last Postseason Result: Advanced to the NCAA Quarterfinals

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Printing: Truman Center for Printing and Publications
On the Cover: Truman seniors Kelsey Wackerman, Alex Baker, Christine Wagener, Sarah Shearman

2006 BULLDOG VOLLEYBALL

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2006 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Aug. 25-26	at Shark Classic (hosted by Nova-Southeastern)		
Aug. 25	vs. Concordia-St. Paul (Minn.)	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	11:00 a.m.
Aug. 25	at Nova-Southeastern (Fla.)	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	7:00 p.m.
Aug. 26	vs. Florida Gulf Coast	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	9:00 a.m.
Aug. 26	vs. Barry (Fla.)	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	2:00 p.m.
Sept. 1-2	at Broncho Invitational (hosted by Central Oklahoma)		
Sept. 1	vs. New Mexico Highlands	Edmond, Okla.	12:00 p.m.
Sept. 1	at Central Oklahoma	Edmond, Okla.	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 2	vs. St. Edward's (Texas)	Edmond, Okla.	9:30 a.m.
Sept. 2	vs. College of the Southwest (N.M.)	Edmond, Okla.	5:00 p.m.
Sept. 8-9	at Lady Blues Classic (hosted by Washburn)		
Sept. 8	vs. Nebraska-Omaha	Topeka, Kan.	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 8	vs. Pittsburg State*	Topeka, Kan.	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 9	vs. North Alabama	Topeka, Kan.	9:00 a.m.
Sept. 9	vs. Minnesota-Duluth	Topeka, Kan.	1:00 p.m.
Sept. 15	Southwest Baptist (Mo.)*	Pershing Arena	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 16	Quincy (Ill.)	Pershing Arena	5:00 p.m.
Sept. 20	Central Missouri*	Pershing Arena	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 22	at Missouri Western*	St. Joseph, Mo.	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 26	SIU-Edwardsville	Pershing Arena	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 29	at Washburn (Kan.)*	Topeka, Kan.	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 30	at Emporia State (Kan.)*	Emporia, Kan.	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 3	at Missouri-St. Louis	St. Louis, Mo.	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 6	Missouri Southern*	Pershing Arena	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 7	Fort Hays State (Kan.)*	Pershing Arena	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 11	Missouri Western*	Pershing Arena	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 13-14	at Henderson State Classic		
Oct. 13	vs. West Florida	Arkadelphia, Ark.	9:30 a.m.
Oct. 13	at Henderson State (Ark.)	Arkadelphia, Ark.	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 14	vs. Alabama-Huntsville	Arkadelphia, Ark.	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 14	vs. Arkansas Tech	Arkadelphia, Ark.	3:00 p.m.
Oct. 21	Iowa Wesleyan	Pershing Arena	5:00 p.m.
Oct. 21	Columbia (Mo.)	Pershing Arena	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 25	at Central Missouri*	Warrensburg, Mo.	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 26	at Southwest Baptist (Mo.)*	Bolivar, Mo.	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 28	Northwest Missouri*	Pershing Arena	2:00 p.m.
Oct. 31, Nov. 3-4	MIAA Tournament (semifinals and finals at West Division Champion)		
Nov. 9-11	NCAA Regionals (TBA)		
Nov. 16-18	NCAA Elite Eight (Pensacola, Fla.)		

Home Games in Bold - * MIAA Games

When a collegiate program has reached an elite level, like the Truman volleyball program has, the goals remain the same every year - win a conference title, win a NCAA regional title and make a run to the national championship.

With eight returning players, including two first-team all-Americans, these goals are again within reach for the Bulldogs in 2006.

In order to achieve the goals and finally capture that elusive NCAA title, Truman will need two or three newcomers to step up and contribute at a high level by the end of the season.

On paper, things look very promising for the upcoming season. The Bulldogs return their regulars at every position but one, from last year's team that went 32-6 overall and won the MIAA and NCAA regional tournaments.

The one position where Truman lost its key players was at middle blocker. Three newcomers and one returner will look to fill that hole, including two NCAA Division I transfers.

OUTSIDE/RIGHT-SIDE HITTERS

The big difference in this year's team is that it will be an outside dominant squad, compared to last year when the Bulldogs were middle dominant.

Outside hitter Sarah Shearman is a big reason for that as the two-time all-American is poised for a big senior season.

"Sarah has improved in all areas over the summer," said head coach Jason Skoch. "She has the potential to go out with one of the best NCAA Division II careers ever."

Shearman has made an impact at Truman since her rookie season when she earned National

Freshman of the Year honors. She followed that up with second-team all-American honors as a sophomore and first-team honors last year.

In 2005, Shearman led the team with 3.84 kills and 4.00 digs a game. If she puts up similar numbers this year, she will end her career in the top three at Truman in both totals kills and digs.

On the other side of the court is another first-team all-American in Kelsey Wackerman. The reigning MIAA MVP had career-highs in nearly every category during the 2005 season, including averaging 3.19 kills, 6.26 assists and 2.90 digs a game.

Last year, Wackerman was used in the dual role of hitter and setter, racking up 15 triple-doubles for the season. This year, the Bulldog coaching staff would like for her to concentrate just on the hitting position, but she still remains an option at the setter position.

During Truman's postseason run last year, two freshmen saw much of the time at the other two hitting positions.



Sarah Shearman

Eli Medina was a regular throughout the year, while Melissa Keck stepped up big during the latter half of the season.

Medina's top strength is her ball control, which helped her average 3.85 digs a game. She has improved both her power and vertical over the offseason, which should help her offensive numbers.

Keck averaged over two kills a game last year, including collecting double-figure kills in both the NCAA regional final and the NCAA quarterfinal matches. She comes into camp in better shape, and, if she is mentally tough in 2006, will have a big year.

The other returning hitter on the outside is senior Alex Baker. Baker has gained more playing time each season and that should continue this year after she showed extreme improvement during the team's spring season.

The top newcomer on the outside is Susie Leshner. Leshner, a power hitter, is a two-time all-state performer in Texas and the MVP of this summer's Texas all-star game.

The other newcomers, Allison Barker and Erin Hattey, are both expected to redshirt the 2006 season.

Barker was an honorable mention all-state player last year, while Hattey was a four-time all-conference selection.

MIDDLE BLOCKERS

While Truman lost a lot of experience at this position, it did upgrade in both size and athleticism.

Defensively, the team's block will be better in 2006. The offense of this year's middle blockers' isn't up to par with last year's yet, but Skoch hopes it will reach that point during the season.

The lone returner at the middle blocker position is Dana Hanselmann, who saw limited playing time behind three all-conference middle blockers last year.

For the year, Hanselmann averaged just under two kills and one block a game, and she hit over the .300 mark. She often showed great court presence and made things happen while she was on the floor.

The top newcomer will likely be Allie Cherven, a transfer from the University of Pittsburgh. At Pitt, she led the team in blocks and finished fourth in kills.

"We got a steal with Allie," said Skoch. "By midseason, we expect big things from her."

Another Division I transfer is Lisa Weber, who comes to Truman via UT-Martin. Weber has a great work ethic and will be a big part of Truman's team once she becomes more aggressive on the offensive side of things.

Two talented freshmen add depth to this position.

Both Lauren Graybeal and Kristen Nissen received all-state honors last year.

Graybeal is already there offensively, but needs to improve her blocking at the collegiate level.

Nissen had been a pleasant surprise so far for the Bulldogs, but she will redshirt the 2006 season after suffering an injury over the summer.

SPECIALISTS

In Truman's 6-2 offense, one of the setting positions is in good hands, while another is a question mark.

Senior Christine Wagener is poised to shoot up the Bulldogs' career assist list during her final year.

"We expect better leadership and defense from Christine this year," said Skoch. "If she does those two things, she will leave Truman with a big senior season."

The other spot will come from the trio of Wackerman, and freshmen Krysta Tholen and Julie Johnson.

Tholen was a two-time all-state player in Minnesota. She has experience at the highest levels, including leading both her high school and club teams to titles.

Johnson was a defensive player in high school and club play, but has been learning her new position from a great club setting coach.

The starter at the libero position is expected to be sophomore Whitney Boehler. Boehler took over the position late last season and averaged 5.62 digs during the conference and national tournaments.

Junior Erin Leavitt is close behind Boehler for playing time. She has showed remarkable increases in her improvement after moving to libero from the setter position.

SCHEDULE

Truman's schedule policy has always been to play the best teams in the nation. Last year, sixteen of the team's 38 matches were against nationally-ranked teams, including 13 against squads ranked 11th or better in the final national poll.

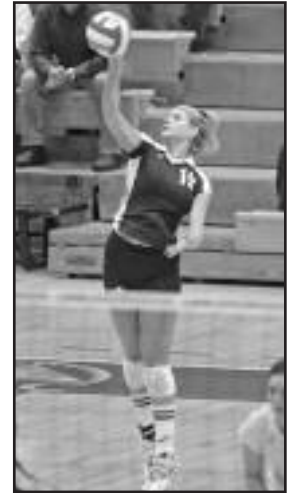
This year is no different, with the Bulldogs scheduled to play numerous ranked teams in both non-conference and conference action.

In non-conference action, the team plays in four tournaments and has five other matches scheduled against nearby rivals. One of the highlights is a rematch of the 2004 national championship game against Barry.

The MIAA will once again be one of the toughest conferences in the country, headed by Truman, Washburn and Central Missouri.

Two changes this year is that the league will be divided into two divisions, and the MIAA will welcome Ft. Hays State into the conference.

"I expect this year to be like last year in that we will not be playing our best volleyball at the beginning of the year," said Skoch. "Our goal is to peak late in the schedule and make some noise during the postseason."



Christine Wagener

No.	Athlete	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown	High School (Previous School)
2	Alex Baker **	MB/OH	5-10	Sr.	St. Peters, Mo.	Duchesne
3	Kelsey Wackerman ***	OH/RS	5-11	Sr.	Camdenton, Mo.	Camdenton
4	Allie Cherven	MB	6-1	So.	St. Charles, Mo.	Francis Howell Central (Pittsburgh)
5	Lisa Weber	MB	6-1	So.	St. Louis, Mo.	Westminster Christian Academy (UT-Martin)
6	Lauren Graybeal	MB	6-0	Fr.	Olathe, Kan.	Olathe South
7	Dana Hanselmann *	MB	6-0	So.	Sleepy Hollow, Ill.	Dundee-Crown
8	Krysta Tholen	S	5-8	Fr.	Tracy, Minn.	Tracy Area
9	Eli Medina *	OH	5-8	So.	Kansas City, Mo.	St. Teresa's Academy
10	Melissa Keck *	RS	6-0	So.	Belleville, Ill.	Belleville Township West
11	Whitney Boehler *	DS/L	5-10	So.	Olathe, Kan.	Olathe East
12	Julie Johnson	S	5-9	Fr.	Lenexa, Kan.	Kansas City Christian
14	Sarah Shearman ***	OH	5-8	Sr.	Manchester, Mo.	Lutheran South
15	Christine Wagener ***	S	5-11	Sr.	Ballwin, Mo.	Parkway West
16	Susie Leshner	OH	5-10	Fr.	Carrollton, Texas	Hebron
18	Erin Leavitt #	DS/L	5-7	Jr.	Flossmoor, Ill.	Andrew (Bryant)
	Allison Barker ¹	OH	5-10	Fr.	Racine, Wis.	Racine Lutheran
	Erin Hattey ¹	OH	6-0	Fr.	Kearney, Mo.	Kearney
	Kristen Nissen ¹	MB	6-1	Fr.	Lincoln, Neb.	Lincoln Southwest

Jason Skoch, Head Coach
 Ben Briney, Assistant Coach
 Tiffany Graham, Student Assistant Coach

* Number of Letters earned
 # Returning Squadmember
¹ - Redshirting the 2006 season

Position Legend: S-Setter, MB-Middle Blocker, OH-Outside Hitter, RS-Right-Side Hitter, L-Libero, DS-Defensive Specialist

ROSTER BREAKDOWN

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.
2	Alex Baker	MB/OH
	Allison Barker	OH
11	Whitney Boehler	DS/L
4	Allie Cherven	MB
6	Lauren Graybeal	MB
7	Dana Hanselmann	MB
	Erin Hattey	OH
12	Julie Johnson	S
10	Melissa Keck	RS
18	Erin Leavitt	DS/L
16	Susie Leshner	OH
9	Eli Medina	OH
	Kristen Nissen	MB
14	Sarah Shearman	OH
8	Krysta Tholen	S
3	Kelsey Wackerman	OH/RS
15	Christine Wagener	S
5	Lisa Weber	MB

Players By State

Illinois (3): Dana Hanselmann, Melissa Keck, Erin Leavitt
 Kansas (3): Whitney Boehler, Lauren Graybeal, Julie Johnson
 Minnesota (1): Krysta Tholen
 Missouri (8): Alex Baker, Allie Cherven, Erin Hattey, Eli Medina, Sarah Shearman, Kelsey Wackerman, Christine Wagener, Lisa Weber
 Nebraska (1): Kristen Nissen
 Texas (1): Susie Leshner
 Wisconsin (1): Allison Barker

Players By Year

Seniors (4): Alex Baker, Sarah Shearman, Kelsey Wackerman, Christine Wagener
 Junior (1): Erin Leavitt
 Sophomores (6): Whitney Boehler, Allie Cherven, Dana Hanselmann, Melissa Keck, Eli Medina, Lisa Weber
 Freshmen (7): Allison Barker, Lauren Graybeal, Erin Hattey, Julie Johnson, Susie Leshner, Kristen Nissen, Krysta Tholen

Players By Position

Setters (3): Julie Johnson, Krysta Tholen, Christine Wagener
Outside Hitters (7): Alex Baker, Allison Barker, Erin Hattey, Susie Leshner, Eli Medina, Sarah Shearman, Kelsey Wackerman
Middle Blockers (6): Alex Baker, Allie Cherven, Lauren Graybeal, Dana Hanselmann, Kristen Nissen, Lisa Weber
Right-Side Hitters (2): Melissa Keck, Kelsey Wackerman
Liberos/Defensive Specialist (2): Whitney Boehler, Erin Leavitt

Name Pronunciation

Whitney Boehlerbow-ler
 Allie Chervencher-vin
 Lauren Graybealgray-bill
 Erin Hatteyhay-tey
 Erin Leavittleh-vit
 Susie Leshnerlesh-er
 Eli Medinae-lee
 Kristen Nissenknee-sin
 Sarah Shearmansher-man
 Krysta Tholentho-lin
 Kelsey Wackermanwack-er-man
 Christine Wagenerwag-ner



Head Coach Jason Skoch

Second Year at Truman

Jason Skoch became the eighth head coach in the history of the Truman volleyball program when he was named to the position in May of 2005.

In his first season as a Bulldog, he kept the program among the nation's elite.

Truman went 32-6 overall and 13-3 in MIAA play. The Bulldogs finished second in conference play and won the MIAA postseason tournament.

Eleven of the team's victories came against nationally ranked opponents, including eight against squads ranked 11th or better in the final national ranking.

Truman capped off the season by winning the South Central regional tournament against the toughest field in



NCAA South Central regional history. After advancing through the first-round with a 3-1 win, the Bulldogs swept ranked rivals Central Missouri and Washburn for the title.

Throughout the year, Truman was ranked in the top-10 in every weekly poll, including being ranked first for the first time in school history. The Bulldogs held on to that top spot for six polls during the 2005 season.

Another school first was two of Skoch's players, Kelsey Wackerman and Sarah Shearman, earning first-team all-American honors. Both players were also first-team all-MIAA and Wackerman was named MIAA MVP.

Two other Bulldogs also earned all-conference recognition. Micaela Walter was a second-team pick, and also earned all-region and honorable mention all-American honors. Megan Remley was an honorable choice selection to the all-MIAA team.

In the classroom, six athletes were named to the MIAA commissioner's academic honor roll. Shearman was also a second-team academic all-district selection, and she was selected as a finalist for the Ken B. Jones award which is given to the top MIAA student-athlete both on and off the playing field.

Skoch came to Truman after spending one season as an assistant coach at Mississippi State University. He was part of a first-year coaching staff which led Mississippi State to an improvement of 11 wins overall and tied a school record for the most win in Southeastern Conference (SEC) play. Among his responsibilities there included recruiting, logistics, game/practice planning and opponent scouting.

Skoch also had previous NCAA Division II experience as he was an

SKOCH QUICK FACTS

Education

Bachelor of Science, Oklahoma State University (1998)

Major: Statistics Minor: Mathematics

Master of Science, Penn State University (2001)

Statistics

Ph.D. Student, Oklahoma State University (currently taking part-time)
Statistics

Previous Coaching Experience

Mississippi State University (Aug. 2004 - May 2005)

NCAA Division I - Southeastern Conference

- Part of a coaching staff that inherited a team that went 3-22 in 2003 and had just one returning starter
- The 2004 team won 11 more games overall
- The squad tied a school record for most SEC wins in a season
- Skoch's responsibilities included recruiting, logistics, game/practice planning and opponent scouting

University of Central Oklahoma (Aug. 2003 - June 2004)

NCAA Division II - Lone Star Conference

- Central Oklahoma went 23-7 in 2003
- The team won the north division conference title
- The Bronchos advanced to the conference tournament finals
- Skoch's responsibilities included game/practice planning, logistics and conditioning

Other Coaching Experience

Club Volleyball Coaching

- Under 16 for Kaepa Charge (Aug. 2003 - June 2004)
- Under 15 for Club Stillwater (Aug. 2002 - April 2003)

Stillwater Public Schools

- Ninth grade head coach
- Varsity assistant coach

Playing Experience

Club Volleyball

- Penn State University
- University of Memphis
- Oklahoma State University

Family

Wife: Karen

assistant coach at Central Oklahoma in 2003. That season, Central Oklahoma went 23-7 and advanced to the tournament finals in the Lone Star Conference.

Other coaching experience for Skoch includes spending one season as freshman coach at Stillwater High School and as head coach with the Stillwater Volleyball Club and the Kaepa Oklahoma Charge Volleyball Club. He is a former player with club teams at Penn State University, the University of Memphis and Oklahoma State University.

Skoch earned a bachelor of science degree from Oklahoma State in 1998 with a major in statistics and a minor in mathematics. He earned a master of science in statistics from Penn State in 2001.

Skoch and his wife, Karen, reside in Kirksville.





**ASSISTANT
COACH
BEN BRINEY**

**SECOND YEAR
AT TRUMAN**

Ben Briney is starting his second year on the Truman coaching staff as the full-time assistant coach.

Briney's main responsibilities include recruiting, scheduling, scouting, fundraising and running drills in practice.

In his first year at Truman, Briney helped the Bulldogs go 32-6 overall and win both the MIAA and NCAA South Central regional tournaments. He also had a hand in the Bulldogs bringing in a highly-touted recruiting class during the offseason.

This past summer, Briney was the assistant coach for the Carolina Region Junior High Performance Team, one of the team's that is the pipeline for the United States national team.

That team went 4-3 during a trip to the Dominican Republic, which included international matches against the Dominican Youth and Junior National teams, along with some top club teams.

Briney and the Carolina team also participated in a clinic by two of the Dominican national team coaches, including one of which was on the Cuban men's national coaching staff for 14 years.

Briney came to Truman after being an assistant coach for two seasons at St. Andrews Presbyterian College in North Carolina.

At St. Andrews, a NCAA Division II program in the Carolinas-Virginia Athletics Conference, Briney was involved with recruiting, on-court coaching and the development and implementation of the team's strength and conditioning program. In his two years at the school, the Knights went 40-24 overall. In 2003, the school advanced to the conference tournament finals after being picked seventh in the preseason poll. Last year, the team tied a school record with 14 conference victories and advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in school history.

Briney coached seven all-conference athletes at St. Andrews and one conference freshman of the year. The Knights also excelled academically over the last two years, including being ranked 10th in the nation in 2003 with a 3.54 team GPA.

Briney was also the assistant athletic trainer at St. Andrews, where he helped with the coverage of all 14 sports at the school.

Prior to moving to North Carolina, Briney was the graduate assistant trainer at Southwest Baptist. He was the head trainer for the men's basketball, volleyball and tennis programs at the school and was the host trainer for the 2003 NCAA Division II regional tennis tournament and the 2002 MIAA tennis tournament.

While at Southwest Baptist, he also assisted with the volleyball program by helping run drills in practice and keeping charts on the bench during games. Other volleyball experience includes being a member of the Athletics in Action men's volleyball team that toured Nigeria on an international sports ministry trip in 2003, being a camp clinician at Campbell University in the summer of 2004 and being an assistant coach of the Carolina Region High Performance youth team in 2005.

The Missouri native graduated from Southwest Baptist in 2001 with a bachelor of science in sports management and a minor in psychology. He earned his masters of education from the same school in 2004. Also in 2004, he passed his strength and condition test to gain his CSCS credentials from the National Strength and Conditioning Association.



**STUDENT COACH
TIFFANY
GRAHAM**

**FIRST YEAR
AT TRUMAN**

The latest Bulldog to make the move from the court to the bench is Tiffany Graham. The former all-conference player will be the student assistant coach for Truman during the 2006 season.

Graham will handle stats, run drills in practice, help recruit and will run practice for redshirts and non-travelers when the team is on the road.

Graham is best remembered for her postseason exploits at Truman. The middle blocker consistently stepped up her game during the NCAA Tournament, helping the Bulldogs win three NCAA regional championships and advance to two national championship matches during her career.

She was named to the 2004 Elite Eight all-tournament team and to the 2005 South Central regional all-tournament team. Other honors during her career were being named second-team all-conference in 2003, honorable mention in 2004 and once being named the MIAA hitter of the week.

As a freshmen, Graham broke into the regular rotation late in the season. Her 2.82 kills and 2.27 digs a game in the postseason helped the Bulldogs advance to the national title game.

She recorded her best offensive numbers as a sophomore, averaging over three kills a game. She led the team in blocks that year with just under one a game.

As a junior, Graham continued to improve her blocking. She averaged the seventh-best single-season mark at Truman with 1.06 blocks a game. That year, she hit .387 in the postseason as she helped Truman go 37-1 on the year.

Last year, Graham finished with her best hitting percentage (.329) and blocking average (1.13 a game). Among the program's single-season leaders, Graham's numbers ranked sixth in hitting percentage and fifth in blocks per game.

For her career, Graham averaged 2.56 kills and 0.94 blocks a game. In the postseason, her kill numbers improved to 2.70 kills a game.

She ended her career with 55 solo blocks and 266 block assists. She ranks eighth in Truman's career list in solo blocks, sixth in block assists, sixth in total blocks and fourth in blocks per game.

Graham graduated from Truman last spring with an english degree. She is currently studying to get her masters in elementary education and plans to graduate with that degree next summer.

