**2003 Schedule**

Quincy (Ill.) Soccer Bowl (Aug. 30-31)
- **Aug. 30** vs. SIU-Edwardsville, 5 p.m.
- **Aug. 31** @ Quincy (Ill.), 7:30 p.m

**Sept. 6** Lewis (Ill.), 12 p.m.
**Sept. 7** Wisconsin-Parkside, 12 p.m.
**Sept. 13** @ Northern Kentucky, 3 p.m.
**Sept. 14** @ Indianapolis (Ind.), 12 p.m.
**Sept. 20** @ Rockhurst (Kansas City, Mo.), 2 p.m.

**Sept. 21** William Penn (Iowa), 2 p.m.
**Sept. 27** @ Missouri-Rolla, 12 p.m.
**Oct. 3** @ Colorado School of Mines (Golden), 7 p.m.
**Oct. 5** @ Colorado Christian (Lakewood), 12 p.m.
**Oct. 10** @ Southern Indiana (Evansville), 5 p.m.
**Oct. 11** @ Oakland City (Ind.), 2 p.m.

**Oct. 18** Gannon (Pa.), 12 p.m.
**Oct. 22** Missouri-St. Louis, 3 p.m.
**Oct. 26** @ William Woods (Fulton, Mo.), 1 p.m.
**Oct. 31** @ Christina Brothers (Memphis, Tenn.), 7 p.m.
**Nov. 2** vs. Harding (Ark.) (in Memphis, Tenn.), 12 p.m.
**Nov. 8** Missouri Southern, 2 p.m.

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**Quick Facts**

Location: Kirksville, MO 63501-4221
Founded: 1867
Enrollment: 6,000
Colors: Purple & White
Nickname: Bulldogs
Facility (Cap.): Pershing Arena (2,600)
President: Dr. Barbara Dixon
Director of Athletics: Jerry Wollmering
Office Phone: (660) 785-4235
Affiliation: NCAA Division II
Conference: Independent
First Year of Men's Soccer: 1979
Head Coach: Alf Bilbao
Alma Mater: Truman (1993)
Record at Truman: 64-23-7 (.718) (5 yrs.)
Career Record: 72-43-9 (.617) (6 years)
Office Phone: (660) 785-4168
Email: abilbao@truman.edu
Student Assistant: David Salvatierra
Student Trainer: Paul Hamilton
2002 Record: 13-4-0
2002 Final NSCAA Ranking: No. 23
Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 18/0
Starters Returning/Lost: 11/0

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**Credits**

Editor, Production & Photography: Melissa Ware ('87)
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Copy: Neal McConomy
Photography: Tim Barcus ('89), Truman Public Relations
Cover Design: Jason Daum

On the Cover (left to right): Lars Pottgiesser, Luke Bolar, Sean Birrell, Brett Coppage and Brenton Freeman..
2003 Season Preview

Nate Gibson in the early going.

In the backfield, sophomores Jared Atwood and Mike Boyle and senior Bryan DeFoe are the returning starting defenders. Junior Andy Lukers also saw action in 14 games as a back and junior Brent Rauch saw limited game time. This group combined to play a big role in the Bulldogs allowing just 18 goals in 17 games last year.

The top midfielder will be senior Brett Coppage who earned NSCAA second-team all-region and Verizon first-team academic all-district honors in 2002. He scored one goal and had four assists as one of the most solid performers in the midfield. Other returning starters at midfield include junior Brenton Freeman and sophomores Geoff Brengle, Nate Gaudreault and Martin Clayes. Clayes led the team with five assists and tied with Gaudreault (two goals, three assists) for fourth on the team with seven points. Other key returning midfielders are juniors Kevin Barry and Luke Bolar and sophomores Paul Link and Chad Baldwin. All four appeared in at least 13 matches a year ago and Barry and Bolar each started seven times.

At the forward position, Bilbao has three playmakers to choose from for the two spots in the Bulldogs’ 3-5-2 alignment. Senior Ricky Vigil and sophomore Sean Birrell started all 17 games last year while sophomore Lars Pottgiesser came off the bench in 16 contests. Vigil led the team with nine goals, 21 points and five game-winning goals. Pottgiesser scored six times, four of them game-winners, and had four assists. Birrell had four goals and four assists and was the only freshman named to NSCAA all-Central region team as a second-team choice.

Wes Frevert and Nathan Pearsall return after redshirting last year, and will be joined five newcomers Ryan Cravens, Matt McCarthy, Andrew Pichee, Sam Phelps and Stian Gundersen.

“Like last year, we have no superstars on the roster,” said Bilbao. “We have to play together, have good team chemistry and be mentally tough. If we can accomplish that, we’ll have a successful season.”

Another key to the Bulldogs’ success this year will be getting off to a fast start. Their first seven games are against Central region opponents, including the first four that are against teams expected to be in the hunt for the three Central region’s NCAA tournament berths. Truman opens up the year at the Quincy (Ill.) Soccer Bowl where it will face Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville and the host school. The following weekend the team will be home against Lewis (Ill.) and Wisconsin-Parkside. Lewis is one of three teams ranked in the preseason top 25 that Truman will face during the year. Rockhurst opens the season ranked No. 13 and Colorado School of Mines is sitting at No. 20.

The Bulldogs, which are an independent in men’s soccer, will feel like part of the Great Lakes Conference as they play eight games against schools in that league, including the first six on the slate. Truman plays 12 regional opponents during the year, including important matches against Rockhurst, Missouri-Rolla and Southern Indiana, three more teams that Bilbao sees as possible NCAA tournament squads. Those three contests are all on the road, a place the Bulldogs need to excel in 2003 as 13 of their 19 games are away from the Truman Soccer Park.

“Our goal this year is to reach the NCAA tournament,” said Bilbao. “If we improve each game throughout the year, I see us being right there by the end of the season.”

Martin Clayes led the team with five assists last season.

The 2003 Bulldog team captains are (left to right) Bryan Defoe, Ricky Vigil and Brenton Freeman.

Very few faces have changed from the 2002 Bulldogs men’s soccer team, but expectations are raised this year for a program that is looking to end a three-year drought from postseason play. The team, which is ranked 19th in the 2003 National Soccer Coaches Association of America preseason poll, returns every starter and key reserves from last year’s squad that went 13-4-0 and just missed an NCAA tournament berth.

“Our experience will play a major factor in the success we hope to have in 2003,” said head coach Alf Bilbao. “We are still a young team, but that year of experience a lot of the players got last year will help.”

The biggest strength for the ’03 Bulldogs will be the overall depth of the team. At every position, Truman has a couple of players who are able to step in and compete at a high level.

One of the biggest competitions going into the season is at the goalkeeper position. Senior Adam Johnson started every game last year and had a 1.12 goals against average with four shutouts. But he is being challenged by redshirt freshman...
Alf Bilbao became the seventh coach in the 24-year history of Bulldog soccer prior to the 1998 season. In the five seasons since then, he has compiled the best winning percentage of any previous Truman head coach and has the seventh-best winning percentage (.718) among active NCAA Division II men's coaches.

In his first campaign, Bilbao led the team to its second consecutive quarterfinal appearance in the DII tournament. Truman took a 13-3-2 mark into the postseason where it won a 3-2 overtime game against Quincy (Ill.) in the first-round. In the quarterfinals, the Bulldogs' season ended with a 1-0 loss to Mercyhurst (Pa.).

In 1999, the team earned another NCAA tournament berth following a 14-4-1 regular season, but fell in the first-round in another one-goal game, losing to IUPU-Fort Wayne by a 3-2 score.

The next two seasons, the Bulldogs went 11-6-2 and 11-5-2, but missed out on NCAA bids. Last year, Bilbao took a young squad, with no seniors, and guided them to a 13-4-0 record, falling just short of a third NCAA tournament berth during his tenure.

As he begins his sixth season, Bilbao's teams have compiled a five-year mark of 64-23-7 with a winning percentage of .718. He needs 14 wins in 2003 to become the all-time leader at Truman for wins for a men's soccer head coach.

Bilbao was a standout at Hillsboro High School in his hometown of Hillsboro, Ore. He was a member of the Oregon Olympic Development Team for two years and competed in the regional trials during the summer of 1988.

Bilbao married to the former Carie Toczylowski ('98), a letterwinner on the Bulldogs women's soccer team for four years. The couple has a son, Aidan, who is a year-and-a-half old.