

2002 IN REVIEW

The 2002 season opened with a lot of question marks for the Truman soccer team. The Bulldogs lost nine players from the year before and opened the year with no seniors and 13 freshmen on the roster.

In the end, however, the season had to be judged a success as Truman finished 13-4 overall and was ranked 23rd in the country in the final poll. The biggest disappointment came from a pair of 2-0 losses to regional foes Lewis (Ill.) and Rockhurst (Mo.) that kept the team from making its first appearance in the NCAA Tournament since 1999.

The young squad had a difficult schedule to deal with early on with eight of the first nine matches on the road. However, it opened the season strong with a 2-0 home shutout over Southern Indiana. Goalkeeper Adam Johnson made seven saves and Truman scored a pair of second-half goals for the win.

The team moved to 2-0 with a 2-1 victory at Wisconsin-Parkside but on the same weekend fell in their meeting with Lewis. The Bulldogs managed just one shot on goal against the Flyers in a physical contest.

The next week, Truman gained another split against Great Lakes Valley conference teams. The trip started with a 2-1 overtime win at SIU-Edwardsville as Nate Gaudreault scored the winner in the 99th minute. However, the Bulldogs fell 1-0 to Missouri-St. Louis as they continued to struggle to get shots on goal.

Truman began to come together as a team after that weekend starting with a road trip to Pennsylvania to face Gannon and Mercyhurst. In the Gannon match, the Bulldogs put three shots in the back of the net in a 3-1 victory. They then gave Mercyhurst, an eventual Final Four team, all they could handle before coming up short by a 1-0 score. The lone goal the Bulldogs allowed in that contest was a penalty kick just before halftime.

The team bounced back the next weekend with 10 goals in two games against St. Joseph's (Ind.) and Oakland City (Ind.) as Truman won both contests to move to 6-3 overall. Ricky Vigil scored

three times as the team defeated St. Joseph's by a 4-2 margin and Oakland City by a 6-2 score.

The Bulldogs finally got to return to their home pitch after that and the offense kept rolling with a 4-1 win over Indianapolis (Ind.). The score was tied at one before they scored three times in eight minutes midway through the second-half to put the game away.

Rockhurst finally cooled off Truman with a 2-0 victory. As in its other defeats, the Bulldogs struggled testing the other team's goalkeeper with just five shots on goal, including none in the final half.

That loss would be the final setback for the team as the Bulldogs swept the remaining six opponents, with five of the victories coming by just a single goal. The wins included home victories over Baker (Kan.) (2-0), Missouri-Rolla (1-0), Quincy (Ill.) (2-1), Northern Kentucky (3-2), and Christian Brothers (Tenn.) (1-0) and a road victory at Missouri Southern (2-1).

Two of the biggest wins in that stretch were against Missouri-Rolla and Quincy. Against the Miners, Sean Birrell scored in the 84th minute for the only tally of the game. In the victory over Quincy, Truman scored twice in the first five minutes of the second-half and held on for a 2-1 win.

Truman finished the year by winning nine of the final ten matches and also had a record of 7-1 at the Truman Soccer Field. The team was ranked third in the final Central Region poll behind Rockhurst and Lewis.

As a team, the Bulldogs averaged 2.0 goals a game for the season while allowing just 1.1 goals. The 18 goals allowed by Truman was the second-best mark since 1996 for the club.

Johnson was a big reason for the low numbers put up by the opposition. He had the 28th-best goals against average in the nation for the year with a 1.12 mark and made 88 saves for a .830 save percentage. His 88 saves was the eighth-best in school history for a season and his four shutouts tied for 11th in the single-season records.

Vigil led Truman's offense with team-highs of nine goals, 21 points and five game-winning goals. Lars Pottgiesser came off the bench in 16 games and scored six goals, four of which were game-winners. Birrell was third on the squad with four goals and 12 points. Martin Clayes had a team-high five assists on the year followed by Pottgiesser, Birrell and Brett Coppage with four apiece.

Coppage and Birrell were each named to the NSCAA all-Central region second-team. It was the first all-region accolade received by Coppage and Birrell was the only freshman on either all-region list.

Academic awards also poured in for the Bulldogs. Coppage was named to the Verizon first-team academic all-america team and was joined on the Verizon first-team academic all-district team by Vigil.

Coppage, Jeremy Crenshaw, Bryan DeFoe, Johnson and Vigil were all named to the at-large MIAA commissioner's academic honor roll for having a GPA of 3.00 or higher (and being at least a sophomore in eligibility) and Birrell received academic all-MIAA honors for having at least a 3.5 GPA and being named to the all-district team.



Jared Atwood started every game as a freshman in the Bulldogs' backfield.



2002 STATISTICS



Name	GP-GS	G	A	Pts	Sh	Sh%	Y-R	GW	PK-AT
Ricky Vigil	17-17	9	3	21	30	.300	1-0	5	1-1
Lars Pottgiesser	16-0	6	4	16	11	.545	4-0	4	1-1
Sean Birrell	17-17	4	4	12	30	.133	1-0	1	0-0
Nate Gaudreault	16-12	2	3	7	11	.182	1-0	1	0-0
Martin Clayes	17-11	1	5	7	15	.067	1-0	0	0-0
Brett Coppage	15-14	1	4	6	20	.050	2-0	0	0-1
Kevin Barry	15-7	2	0	4	9	.222	0-0	1	0-0
Geoff Brengle	17-15	1	2	4	10	.100	1-0	0	0-0
Jared Atwood	17-17	1	2	4	3	.333	1-0	0	1-1
Luke Bolar	16-7	1	1	3	18	.056	3-0	1	0-0
Brenton Freeman	17-17	1	1	3	16	.063	1-0	0	0-0
Mike Boyle	15-15	1	1	3	10	.100	3-1	0	0-0
Paul Link	13-0	1	1	3	4	.250	0-0	0	0-0
Brent Rauch	4-0	1	1	3	1	1.000	0-0	0	0-0
Bryan DeFoe	17-16	1	0	2	6	.167	1-0	0	0-0
Kyle Ward	3-0	1	0	2	1	1.000	0-0	0	0-0
Chad Baldwin	14-2	0	0	0	12	.000	0-0	0	0-0
Jeremy Crenshaw	8-0	0	0	0	3	.000	0-0	0	0-0
Andy Lakers	14-3	0	0	0	1	.000	2-0	0	0-0
Dave Sodemann	1-0	0	0	0	0	.000	0-0	0	0-0
Adam Johnson	17-9	0	0	0	0	.000	0-0	0	0-0
Total	17	34	32	100	211	.161	26-1	13	3-4
Opponents	17	18	8	44	200	.090	33-1	5	2-3

Name	GP-GS	GOAL AVERAGE			SAVES		RECORD			
		Min.	GA	Avg	Saves	Pct	W	L	T	Sho
Mike Boyle	1-0	0:36	0	0.00	0	.000	0	0	0	0
Adam Johnson	17-17	1443:51	18	1.12	88	.830	13	4	0	4
Total	17	1444:27	18	1.12	88	.830	13	4	0	4
Opponents	17	1444:27	34	2.12	81	.704	4	13	0	4

The Bulldogs celebrate following a goal during their 2-1 victory over Quincy last season.

2002 GAME-BY-GAME RESULTS

Date	Opponent	Score	Attend	Truman Goals scored (Assist)	Goalie(s) (Saves)
Aug. 31	Southern Indiana	W 2-0	200	Lars Pottgiesser (penalty kick), Ricky Vigil (Gaudreault; Pottgiesser)	Johnson (7)
Sept. 7	@ Wisconsin-Parkside	W 2-1	141	Lars Pottgiesser (Rauch, Clayes), Ricky Vigil (Atwood)	Johnson (8)
Sept. 8	@ Lewis University	L 0-2	60		Boyle (0) Johnson (8)
Sept. 13	@ SIU-Edwardsville	W 2-1 (OT)	247	Brent Rauch (Vigil), Nate Gaudreault (Vigil)	Johnson (4)
Sept. 15	@ Missouri-St. Louis	L 0-1	250		Johnson (4)
Sept. 28	@ Gannon (Pa.)	W 3-1	100	Ricky Vigil (Gaudreault), Luke Bolar (Vigil), Geoff Brengle (Bolar, Birrell)	Johnson (7)
Sept. 29	@ Mercyhurst (Pa.)	L 0-1	125		Johnson (10)
Oct. 5	@ St. Joseph's (Ind.)	W 4-2		Mike Boyle (Clayes), Ricky Vigil (unassisted), Lars Pottgiesser (unassisted) Jared Atwood (penalty kick)	Johnson (2)
Oct. 6	@ Oakland City (Ind.)	W 6-2		Sean Birrell (Brengle), Brenton Freeman (Brengle), Ricky Vigil (Pottgiesser) Ricky Vigil (Link), Martin Clayes (Pottgiesser), Lars Pottgiesser (Clayes)	Johnson (6)
Oct. 13	Indianapolis (Ind.)	W 4-1	175	Kevin Barry (Coppage, Pottgiesser), Ricky Vigil (Atwood) Sean Birrell (Clayes), Nate Gaudreault (Coppage)	Johnson (6)
Oct. 19	Rockhurst (Mo.)	L 0-2	237		Johnson (1)
Oct. 20	Baker (Kan.)	W 2-0	123	Ricky Vigil (penalty kick), Kyle Ward (unassisted)	Johnson (5)
Oct. 26	Missouri- Rolla	W 1-0	203	Sean Birrell (Boyle)	Johnson (7)
Nov. 1	Quincy (Ill.)	W 2-1	112	Paul Link (Coppage, Birrell), Lars Pottgiesser (Coppage)	Johnson (6)
Nov. 2	Northern Kentucky	W 3-2	157	Bryan Defoe (unassisted), Sean Birrell (Freeman), Kevin Barry (unassisted)	Johnson (4)
Nov. 8	@ Missouri Southern	W 2-1	121	Brett Coppage (Gaudreault), Lars Pottgiesser (Birrell, Clayes)	Johnson (2)
Nov. 10	Christian Brothers (Tenn.)	W 1-0	185	Ricky Vigil (Birrell)	Johnson (1)