APRIL 22, 2003

DIAMOND WOMEN PREPARE FOR FIVE-PLUS GAMES ON THE ROAD, BEGINNING WITH MIAA DOUBLEHEADER AT NORTHWEST MISSOURI ON WEDNESDAY

THE MIAA DOUBLEHEADER: Truman State University Bulldogs (Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association/NCAA Division II) at Northwest Missouri State University Bearcats (MIAA/NCAA DII)

DATE/TIME: April 23, 2003/2:30 p.m.
FIELD: Bearcat Field
LOCATION: Maryville, Mo.

THE TOURNAMENT: Truman at Central Missouri State University Tournament

FIELD: Jennies Field
LOCATION: Warrensburg, Mo.

TRUMAN SCHEDULE:

Mar. 25 vs. Southwest Baptist, 4 p.m.
Apr. 25 at Central Missouri, 8 p.m.
Apr. 26 vs. Lincoln, 10 a.m.
Apr. 26 Championship Play, 2/4 pm

TRUMAN (29-11, 11-1 MIAA): The Bulldogs began last week by running their record to 10-0 in the MIAA with a pair of 6-0 wins over Missouri Western, followed by a 9-1 non-conference victory at Missouri-St. Louis on Wednesday. However, the ‘Dogs suffered their first league loss of the season when they played host to Emporia State on Friday and lost the first game of a scheduled doubleheader, 2-0. Truman came back to win 4-1 in game two with ESU. A scheduled doubleheader on Saturday with Washburn was tentatively rescheduled for April 29.

In the latest NCAA Division II North Central region rankings, Truman remained unchanged in the No. 5 spot, while Washburn dropped from third to sixth.

The Bulldogs have already notched their 15th 20-win season since 1973 and are one win from just the eighth 30-win season in Truman softball history. Prior to last season, the ‘Dogs registered three straight 40-win seasons, the only three in school history.

BULLDOGS VS. EMPORIA STATE: In the first game, Breanna Wonderly pitched a three-hitter but got the loss after the Hornets scored two unearned runs in the sixth inning. The Bulldogs left five runners on base for the game, unable to score against Melissa Stevens who got the shutout win.

The ‘Dogs got on the board first in the third inning of game two when senior second baseman Shelby Ortweth’s (Hannibal, Mo.) two-out double scored junior center fielder Courtney Strubel (Olathe, Kan./St. Thomas Aquinas) brought home freshman pitcher/third baseman Loni Wedemeier (Bowling Green, Mo./Clopton) with a sacrifice fly by sophomore catcher Katy Mueller (Affton, Mo./Cor Jesu). The lead became 2-0 in the fifth when a sacrifice fly by sophomore catcher Courtney Strubel (Olathe, Kan./St. Thomas Aquinas) brought home freshman pitcher/third baseman Loni Wedemeier (Bowling Green, Mo./Clopton).

PROBABLE LINEUP

P-Britni Buford, Jr. or Breanna Wonderly, Jr. or Loni Wedemeier, Fr. or Nikki Mayer, Fr.
C-Holly Kessler, So. or Courtney Strubel, So.
1B-Leann Paul, Jr.
2B-Shelby Ortweth, Sr.
3B-Loni Wedemeier, Fr. or Amanda Holland, So.
SS-Elizabeth Economon, Jr.
LF-Kristy Brown, Jr. or Suzanne Mulcahy, Fr.
CF-Katy Mueller, Jr.
RF-Stephanie Cepicky, So.

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BULLDOGS ON THE WEB AT GoBULLDOGS.TRUMAN.EDU

2003 TRUMAN SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

Mar. 4 ♦ Columbia College, L 1-0, W 3-1
Mar. 10-14 ♦ Rebel Spring Games (Kissimmee, Fla.)
Mar. 10 vs. Southwest State (Minn.), W 3-1
Mar. 10 vs. Adelphi (N.Y.), W 10-2
Mar. 11 vs. New Haven (Conn.), W 3-2
Mar. 11 vs. Bloomington (Pa.), L 4-0
Mar. 12 vs. Northern Kentucky, W 1-0
Mar. 12 vs. Wayne State (Neb.), W 2-1
Mar. 13 vs. Wayne State (Mich.), L 5-0
Mar. 13 vs. Tiffin (Ohio), W 5-4
Mar. 14 vs. Merrimack (Mass.), L 5-4
Mar. 14 vs. Ashland (Ohio), L 3-0
Mar. 18 ♦ Quincy (Ill.), W 2-0
Mar. 22-23 ♦ Missouri Western Tourn. (St. Joseph)
Mar. 22 vs. North Dakota, W 2-1
Mar. 22 vs. St. Cloud State (Minn.), L 5-4
Mar. 22 vs. Wayne State (Neb.), W 4-0
Mar. 23 vs. South Dakota, W 2-0
Mar. 23 vs. Missouri Western, W 5-0
Mar. 25 ♦ Central Missouri *, W 3-1, W 5-0
Mar. 30 ♦ Northwest Mo. Tourn. (Maryville)
Mar. 30 vs. St. Cloud State (Minn.), W 4-0
Mar. 30 vs. South Dakota State, L 9-8
Apr. 2 Missouri-Rolla *, W 3-2, W 3-0
Apr. 3 ♦ Central College (Iowa), W 4-2, L 3-0
Apr. 5 ♦ Nebraska-Omaha Tournament
Apr. 5 vs. Nebraska-Omaha, L 5-3
Apr. 5 vs. North Dakota State, L 5-4
Apr. 5 vs. South Dakota State, W 3-2
Apr. 10 ♦ Lincoln, W 5-1, W 6-0
Apr. 12 ♦ Pittsburg State (Kan.) *, W 6-3, W 3-2
Apr. 13 ♦ Missouri Southern *, W 2-0, W 6-1
Apr. 14 Missouri Western *, W 6-0, W 6-0
Apr. 16 ♦ Missouri-St. Louis, W 9-1
Apr. 18 Emporia State (Kan.) *, L 2-0, W 4-1
Apr. 23 ♦ Northwest Mo. (Maryville) *, 2:30 p.m.
Apr. 25-26 ♦ Central Missouri Tourn. (Warrensburg)
Apr. 25 vs. Missouri-Rolla, 4 p.m.
Apr. 26 vs. Missouri Western, 11 a.m.
Apr. 26 Championship Play, 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.
Apr. 28 Washburn (Kan.) *, 1 p.m.
Apr. 29 ♦ Southwest Baptist (Mo.) *, 2 p.m.
May 2-3 ♦ MIAA Tourn. (Happy Rock Park, Gladstone)
May 8-11 NCAA DII N. Central Region Tourn. (TBA)
May 15-19 NCAA DII Championship (Salem, Ore.)

* Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association date

SEE NEXT PAGE...
That was enough for senior all-region pitcher Britni Buford (Kahoka, Mo./Clark County) who allowed just one run in the sixth inning while picking up her 10th victory of the season.

Mueller and Ortwerth each had two hits and freshman pitcher/third baseman Loni Wedemeier (Bowling Green, Mo./Clopton) stole two bases.

MAKING THE NCAA TOURNAMENT: The NCAA Division II Softball Championship provides for a field of 48 teams. Six teams will participate at eight regional campuses sites in double-elimination tournaments to determine the final eight participants. In the North Central region, the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association, North Central Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference all receive automatic bids for their champions, while the other three regional berths will be awarded to the top teams in the North Central region rankings. The winner of the MIAA postseason tournament will represent the league in the NCAA tournament.

A BAND OF THIEVES ... A total of 10 Bulldogs have stolen a base this season, led by sophomore Stephanie Cepicky (St. Louis/Lindbergh) who has successfully stolen 22-of-29 times. Her now 32 career stolen bases ranks second among Truman career leaders. However, this year she will have trouble catching Truman career record-holder Stephanie Schlegel who stole 65 bases from 1997-2000.

As a team, the Bulldogs have stolen 88 bases for the season and are closing in on the school record of 106 set in 1999. Cepicky, Ortwerth and Wedemeier rank second, third and fourth in the MIAA in stolen bases, respectively.

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In MIAA only games, Economon has hit .455 with a 1.091 slugging percentage on six home runs and three doubles, along with 11 RBIs. Wedemeier has hit .368 with a .658 slugging percentage on three home runs and two doubles, along with eight RBIs. Leann Paul (.387), Katy Mueller (.344), Amanda Holland (.300) and Shelby Ortwerth (.300) have also hit above .300 in MIAA only games.

Buford has a 5-0 mark in the MIAA with a 0.39 ERA and a save, while Wonderly is 4-1 in the conference this year and has a 0.76 ERA. Mayer and Wedemeier are both 1-0 with 0.00 ERAs in MIAA only games.

BULLDOGS AMONG MIAA STATISTICAL LEADERS: Economon leads the MIAA in batting (.440), slugging percentage (.810), on base percentage (.511), home runs (.275 pg) and RBIs (.97 pg), and is third in runs (.78 pg). Wedemeier is 15th in batting (.325), 14th in slugging percentage (.496), fourth in stolen bases (.47 pg), seventh in ERA (1.28), fifth in strikeouts per seven innings (5.34) and seventh in walks per seven innings (1.28).

Cepicky is 11th in batting (.338), ninth in runs scored (.62 pg) and second in stolen bases (.55 pg). Ortwerth is seventh in runs scored (.69 pg) and third in stolen bases (.49 pg).

Freshman Nikki Mayer (St. Peters, MO./Clark County) has a 1-0 record with 0.00 ERA in MIAA only games.

OUT OF THE BALL PARK: The Bulldogs have hit 13 home runs in the last 20 games. Economon has bunted out eight of those round-trippers and leads the team with 11, while Wedemeier has hit two during that span. Ortwerth, Buford and Strubel hit one out of the park as well in the last 20 contests.

OVER THE SECOND HALF OF THE SEASON, the Bulldogs bats picked up. Economon has led the team in the last 20 games, hitting .532 over that span after hitting just .333 in the ‘Dogs’ first 20 games. Ortwerth has improved from .241 to .333 for second half games, while Leann Paul has gone from hitting .268 in the first 20 contests to hitting .310 in the last 20 games. Cepicky also picked up her production at the plate, going from .315 to .362. As a team, the Bulldogs hit .249 through the first half of the 2003 campaign, but have improved to .298 in the second half of the season.

A TOTAL OF 10 Bulldogs have stolen a base this season, led by sophomore Stephanie Cepicky who has successfully stolen 22-of-29 times. Her now 32 career stolen bases ranks second among Truman career leaders. However, this year she will have trouble catching Truman career record-holder Stephanie Schlegel who stole 65 bases from 1997-2000.

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Mueller has 14 career stolen bases and is 7-of-9 this year, while Brown has been successful on 8-of-12 attempts in 2003.

Strubel (2-for-2), Kessler (2-for-3) and Paul (3-for-3) have all stolen the first bases of their careers this year, while pinch runner Suzanne Mulcahy (3-of-5) and Economon (5-for-8) have stolen too.

ECONOMON KNOCKING ON THE DOOR OF MORE RECORDS ... Economon set a new school standard for career runs this year and now has 124 since 2001. She is knocking on the door of a number of other Truman records as well, including the Bulldogs’ and MIAA’s home run record. Economon added three home runs to her career total last week and has now 29 for her tenure at Truman, resting just five round-trippers from the school and league record of 33 set by Kristi Bredbenner from 1998-2001. Another five homers will also tie the Bulldog and MIAA single season mark of 16 home runs set by Bredbenner in 2000.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION RANKINGS - APRIL 16, 2003

1. North Dakota St., 26-3
2. Neb.-Omaha, 24-5
3. Minn. St. Mankato, 24-9-1
4. St. Cloud St., 22-12
5. Truman, 25-10
6. Washburn, 27-10
7. Augustana (S.D.), 26-14
8. Northwest Mo., 23-11
9. Emporia State, 24-13
10. Minn. Duluth, 11-6
The Bearcats' doubleheader with Missouri Southern Friday afternoon at Bearcat Field. The Bearcats won game one 10-2, before falling 9-1 in the nightcap.

MIAA HITERS OF THE WEEK: Junior all-America shortstop Elizabeth Economon (St. Louis/Notre Dame) and Cepicky have both been named MIAA hitters of the week over the course of this season. Two weeks ago, Economon was named an MIAA hitter of the week after batting .611 in helping the ‘Dogs go 6-0 two days ago. She was 11-of-18 for the week with a home run, six RBIs and six runs. Perhaps her best outing came at Lincoln when she went 6-of-8 in a double-headers with two doubles, four RBIs, two stolen bases and three runs scored.

Cepicky became the first Bulldog this year to earn the distinction after hitting .455 on the ‘Dogs’ spring break trip, going 6-fo-6 in stolen bases and putting together a 10-game hitting streak.

ABOUT NORTHWEST MISSOURI (24-15, 7-6 MIAA): The Bearcats' doubleheader with Pittsburg State scheduled for Saturday was rained out. Northwest split a doubleheader with Missouri Southern last year, 3-2, 4-2 and 2-1.

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NWMS has swept MIAA doubleheaders with Missouri Western, Southwest Baptist and Emporia. The ‘Cats split with Washburn and Central Missouri, and are coming off of a 5-1 loss to Missouri-Rolla in a weather-shortened doubleheader last Wednesday. The second game will be played at the Central Missouri tournament this weekend.

Northwest is second in the MIAA in batting average (.284) and leads the league in scoring at 4.36 runs a game.

Tara Rissetter (.362) and Angie McCoy (.352) are seventh and eighth, respectively, among MIAA hitting leaders. Megan Spring is second in the conference in slugging percentage (.646), while McCoy is third (.638) and Rissetter is sixth (.571).

Spring is also second in doubles (.333 pg), 10th in triples (.051 pg), fourth in home runs (.188 pg) and third in RBIs (.77 pg).

Rissetter is sixth in doubles (.278 pg) and 10th in home runs (.111 pg) and RBIs .58 pg.

THE SERIES WITH NORTHWEST MISSOURI is even over the last 12 years but has Truman with a 39-30 deficit going back to 1975. The teams split a double-header in Kirksville last year with Northwest taking the first game 5-3 and Truman winning game two, 9-0.

COACH: Last summer, Lacey Schanz was named head coach for the Bulldogs. Schanz was the pitching coach in 2001 at University of Pennsylvania. Prior to that, Schanz was a four-year letterwinner on the Georgia Tech softball squad as a catcher and designated hitter. Schanz started 75 of 109 games over a three-year span before suffering a career-ending injury.

A native of Kansas City, Mo., she graduated cum laude from Georgia Tech in 2001 with a degree in management.

Schanz took over a Truman softball squad that went 31-19 last season and made its fourth consecutive appearance in the NCAA Division II tournament after winning the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association post-season tourney.

THE SERIES WITH SOUTHWEST MISSOURI: The Jennies went ahead 1-0 in the top of the fourth inning, getting three of their eight hits in that frame. Truman rallied with three runs in the sixth after Economon and junior first baseman Leann Paul (Olathe, Kan./North) walked and Wedemeier reached on a base hit to load the bases before Britni Buford hit a single to bring Economon and Wedemeier. Mueller singled to center field next, scoring Paul. Paul also had a hit and Cepicky stole one base. Buford picked up seven innings, giving up one earned run, striking out three batters and walking two.

In game two, the Bulldogs scored runs in the first three innings and two in the fifth for the 5-0 win. Cepicky led off for the Bulldogs and reached on an error by the pitcher, and Economon walked to load the bases before geometrically scoring on a single by Mueller. Wedemeier hit the second home run of her career in the third inning, and Economon homered to start the fifth inning to put the Dogs up 4-0.

Paul scored the final run after hitting a single to right center, advancing to second on an error and to third on a double play before scoring on a single by Mueller. Wedemeier, Paul and Strubel were all 2-for-4 at the plate and Cepicky had two stolen bases. Wonderly struck out five batters en route to the win, giving up just two hits.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
V.S. LINCOLN: In game one, the Bulldogs scored a run in the first five innings and gave up LU's only run in the sixth for the 5-1 win. Economon was 4-for-4 with a pair of doubles, two RBIs and a stolen base. Cepicky had two hits on four at bats and an RBI, while Wedemeier and Brown both have RBIs. Wedemeier also threw a complete game, giving up no earned runs and striking out six batters and scattering five hits.

Lincoln gave up a run in the second, fourth and seventh innings, and three in the third as Truman took the second game 6-0. Cepicky, Economon and Paul all had two hits and Ortwether, sophomore catcher Holly Kessler (Blue Springs, Mo.) and Britni Buford brought home runners, while Economon had two RBIs. Buford threw a complete game as well and her sixth shutout of the season, giving up just two hits and striking out seven batters.

BULLDOG HITTING STREAKS

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<td>5 games (3-30 to 4-5-02)</td>
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<td>Bradi Buford</td>
<td>1 game (3-13-03)</td>
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<td>Britni Britni</td>
<td>5 games (3-20 to 4-2-02)</td>
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<td>Stephanie Cepicky</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Economon</td>
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<td>Katy Mueller</td>
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<td>Courtney Strubel</td>
<td>6 games (5-4-02 to 5-10-02)</td>
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<td>Brenna Wonderly</td>
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BULLDOG BARK ... PAGE 4

2003 TRUMAN SOFTBALL ROSTER

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* Letters earned 1 Previously Redshirted* Letters earned $ Previously Redshirted