SOFTBALL FACES MISSOURI-ROLLA IN HOME-OPENER ON WEDNESDAY

THE GAME: Truman State University Bulldogs (Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association/NCAA Division II) vs. University of Missouri-Rolla Lady Miners DATE: April 2, 2003 FIELD: Truman Softball Field LOCATION: Kirksville, Mo.

TRUMAN (15-7, 2-0 MIAA): The Bulldogs have played 22 straight road games and are ready to play at the friendly confines of the Truman Softball Field this week as they play host to Missouri-Rolla in the home-opener. The Bulldogs opened MIAA play last week with a doubleheader sweep at Central Missouri and split games with St. Cloud State and South Dakota State at the Northwest Missouri last weekend. Last Saturday’s tournament games were cancelled due to cold weather and snow, but the ‘Dogs won a rematch with St. Cloud State 5-0 before losing 9-8 to SDSU in the nightcap on Sunday.

VS. ST. CLOUD: The Bulldogs were looking for revenge for the 5-4 loss to SCSU the previous weekend at the Missouri Western Tournament and that is what they exacted in the 4-0 win on Sunday. The ‘Dogs scored all four runs in the fourth inning. Senior second baseman Shelby Ortwerth (Hannibal, Mo.) led the inning off with a bunt and steal. Junior all-America shortstop Elizabeth Economon (St. Louis/Notre Dame) got a hit next, followed by freshman pitcher/third baseman Loni Wedemeier (Bowling Green, Mo./Clopton) whose hit scored Ortwerth. Junior first baseman Leann Paul (Olathe, Kan./North) reached on a fielder’s choice, leaving herself and Wedemeier on first and second, respectively. Senior all-region pitcher Britni Buford (Kahoka, Mo./Clark County) then stepped up to the plate and hit a three-run homer. Buford also got the win on the mound after striking out three batters and scattering just four hits.

AGAINST SOUTH DAKOTA STATE, the Coyotes scored twice in the first, fifth and seventh innings and three times in the second. Truman also scored
twice in the first and seventh and once in the third and three times in the fifth. 
Sophomore Stephanie Cepicky (St. Louis/Lindbergh) and Economon were both 3-for-4 at the plate, while Ortwerth and Wedemeier each had two hits apiece. Economon hit her fourth homer of the season in the first inning, also scoring Ortwerth who reached on an error. In the third inning, Ortwerth scored after getting hit by the pitch, stealing second and going home on a wild pitch. Cepicky, Ortwerth, Economon, Wedemeier all had hits, while Economon and Wedemeier had RBIs with theirs. Junior center fielder Katy Mueller (Affton, Mo./Cor Jesu) also had an RBI after grounding out to the shortstop. In the seventh, Mueller had another RBI on a hit and sophomore catcher Holly Kessler (Blue Springs, Mo.) had an RBI after reaching on an error by the second baseman.

Wedemeier got her first collegiate loss in the game, working 4.1 innings, but giving up five earned runs and seven hits, while striking out three batters. Junior Breanna Wonderly (Conception, Mo./Jefferson) relieved Wedemeier and struck out three batters herself, but gave up two earned runs and four hits.

Wedemeier, Cepicky, Ortwerth, freshman outfielder/catcher Suzanne Mulcahy (Lenexa, Kan./Shawnee Mission South) and Mueller all had stolen bases.

ABOUT MISSOURI-ROLLA (10-13, 1-1 MIAA): The Lady Miners lost three straight games before picking up a 5-1 win in the second game of their MIAA opener last Wednesday. UMR lost 4-0 to SBU in the first game of the league doubleheader. Missouri-Rolla won eight-of-10 games prior to the four-game skid, including a 3-1 win over MIAA foe Pittsburg State on March 21.

Pitcher Stacey Fletcher leads the team with a .455 batting average but has just 22 plate appearances. Janet Borgmeyer is hitting .385 and Erin Butler has a .301 average to account for the Lady Miners hitting .300. Borgmeyer, Butler and Molly Balke (.289) each have 10 RBIs, while no one has hit a home run on the season yet. Renee Roberts has a 1.55 ERA and is 5-3 on the hill, followed by Christy Deken with a 1.56 ERA and a 4-8 mark on the mound. Fletcher is 1-2 with a 1.94 ERA.

THE SERIES WITH UMR: Truman is ahead 21 games to 12 in the all-time series with UMR that dates back to 1984. The Bulldogs won six straight, and 11 of the first 12 games in the series. UMR then won 10 straight games from April 21, 1989, to April 18, 1997, before Truman won the next 10 from April 2, 1998, to April 30, 2002. The Lady Miners halted the ‘Dogs’ most recent streak with a 1-0 win in the last meeting on April 30, 2002. Truman won the first game of that doubleheader, 1-0.

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

A native of Kansas City, Mo., she was a catcher for Raytown High School, performing in every game of her career, totalling over 600 innings. Raytown was 73-17 during her tenure and won four Suburban Middle Seven Conference championships. Schanz was the starting catcher for the Kansas City Thunder in 1996. 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 postseason tourney.

ECONOMON SETS TRUMAN CAREER RECORD FOR RUNS SCORED... Economon set a new school standard for career runs scored when she crossed home plate for the 110th time in the first inning of the South Dakota State game on a home run. The previous mark was held by Megan Sullivan who played for the Bulldogs from 1997-2000. Economon set the Truman single season record for runs scored in each of the last two seasons with 47.

Economon also had a run in the fifth inning of that game for a total of 111 heading into Wednesday’s doubleheader.
BULLDOG HITTING STREAKS

Career Best This Season

Krystl Brown 5 games (3-30 to 4-5-02) 2 games (3-4 to 3-10 & 3-23)
Bradi Buford 1 game (3-13-03) Same
Britni Buford 5 games (3-20 to 4-2-02) 3 games (3-14 to 3-14)
Stephanie Cepicky 10 games (3-10 to 3-14-03) Same
Elizabeth Economon 21 games (3-13 to 4-10-02) 4 games (3-13 to 3-18)
Amanda Holland 4 games (3-11 to 3-13-02) 1 game (3-10 & 3-30)
Holly Kessler 6 games (3-29 to 4-5-02) 5 games (3-23 to Present)
Katy Mueller 6 games (3-29 to 4-5-02) 5 games (3-23 to Present)
Shelby Ortwerth 5 games (4-17 to 21-02 & 3-18 to 3-23-03) No hits

2003 TRUMAN SOFTBALL ROSTER

NO. NAME POS. BA G/GS AB R H 2B 3B HR RBI TB BB HBP SF GDP OB% BB/HBP SO GDP Fld% 1

Krystl Brown * LF .382 22-22 68 10 26 5 2 12 12 39 .574 3 0 12 0 .480 0 1 9-9 13 56 5 .932
Elizabeth Economon * SS .377 22-22 61 17 23 1 2 4 17 40 .656 10 1 8 0 .599 2 2 1 2 40 51 7 .929
Stephanie Cepicky * RF .319 22-22 72 15 23 0 1 3 22 .319 6 0 11 11 .372 0 3 13-15 16 4 1 .952
Britni Buford * P/R/R 25 1 1 0 1 6 10 .400 0 0 6 0 .240 0 3 0 0 11 0 .1000
Elizabeth Economon * SS L/R 5-3 Jr. St. Louis Notre Dame
Stephanie Cepicky * RF L/R 5-5 So. St. Louis Lindbergh
Britni Buford * P R/R 5-7 Sr. Kahoka, Mo. Clark County
Elizabeth Economon * SS L/R 5-3 Jr. St. Louis Notre Dame
Stephanie Cepicky * RF L/R 5-5 So. St. Louis Lindbergh
Britni Buford * P R/R 5-7 Sr. Kahoka, Mo. Clark County

2003 STATISTICS

Player BA G/GS AB R H 2B 3B HRRBI TB SLG% BB/HBP SO GDP OB% SF SH SB/SBA PO A E Fld%

Wedemeier,Loni .382 22-22 68 10 26 5 2 12 12 39 .574 3 0 12 0 .480 0 1 9-9 13 56 5 .932
Economon,Elizabeth .377 22-22 61 17 23 1 2 4 17 40 .656 10 1 8 0 .599 2 2 1 2 40 51 7 .929
Cepicky,Stephanie .319 22-22 72 15 23 0 1 3 22 .319 6 0 11 11 .372 0 3 13-15 16 4 1 .952
Ortwerth,Shelby .258 22-22 66 11 17 1 0 1 6 21 .318 2 1 9 0 .290 0 1 9-9 64 34 3 .970
Kessler,Holly .136 18-15 44 6 1 0 0 0 3 7 .159 2 0 3 1 .174 0 3 0 1 61 7 3 .958
Loni Wedemeier 9 games (3-22 to present) Same
Breanna Wonderly 3 games (3-5 to 3-4-02) No hits

2003 TRUMAN SOFTBALL ROSTER

No. NAME Pos. B/T Ht. Yr. Hometown Previous School(s)

1 Krystl Brown * LF R/R 5-5 Jr. Olathe, Kan. Olathe North
2 Elizabeth Economon * SS L/R 5-3 Jr. St. Louis Notre Dame
3 Stephanie Cepicky * RF L/R 5-5 So. St. Louis Lindbergh
4 Katy Mueller * CF L/R 5-3 Jr. Affton, Mo. Cor Jesu
5 Holly Kessler * C/U R/R 5-6 So. St. Thomas Aquinas
6 Amanda Holland * 3B R/R 5-10 So. Omaha, Neb. Millard North
7 Britni Buford * P R/R 5-7 Sr. Kahoka, Mo. Clark County
8 Breanna Wonderly * P/R/R 5-7 Jr. Olathe, Kan. Olathe North
9 Britni Buford * P R/R 5-7 Sr. Kahoka, Mo. Clark County
10 Amanda Holland * 3B R/R 5-10 So. Omaha, Neb. Millard North
11 Nikki Mayer P R/R 5-5 Fr. St. Peters, Mo. Ft. Zumwalt South
12 Shelby Ortwerth * 2B R/R 5-6 St. Hannibal, Mo. Hannibal (Culver-Stockton)
13 Loni Wedemeier P/R/R 5-7 So. Olathe, Kan. Olathe North
14 Hailey Lawyer IF/2B R/R 5-6 Fr. Maryville, Mo. Maryville
15 Elizabeth Economon * SS L/R 5-3 Jr. St. Louis Notre Dame
16 Amanda Holland * 3B R/R 5-10 So. Omaha, Neb. Millard North
17 Courtney Strubel * C/U R/R 5-6 So. St. Thomas Aquinas
18 Leann Paul * 1B L/R 5-7 Jr. Olathe, Kan. Olathe North
19 Bradi Buford 3B/IF R/R 5-5 Fr. Kahoka, Mo. Kahoka, Mo.