



BULLDOG BARK

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS MEDIA RELATIONS

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BULLDOGS ON THE WEB AT GOBULLDOGS.TRUMAN.EDU

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BY STUDENT ASSISTANT SARA SWENSON

MEN EMBARK FOR NATIONALS WITH LARGEST TEAM IN TRUMAN HISTORY

The Truman men will be seeking their highest national finish ever at the NCAA Division II Championships next week. Last season the men came away with a 16th-place finish with two members, so they are expecting bigger and better things with a fuller squad this year. The four-day competition begins March 13 in Orlando, Fla.

The current nine-member national team is the largest in Truman history. Until now, the largest team was the eight-member squad in 1998, which finished 11th overall. Truman's best national finish ever was eighth in 1996.

This year, Truman's high hopes begin with junior **Matt Pray (Naperville, Ill./Naperville North)**, who will be leading the way as the only returning all-America on the team. Last season he placed second in the 100-yard butterfly and ninth in the 200-yard butterfly. According to the NCAA Division II online rankings released Feb. 28, he will go into this year's national competition with the fourth-best time in the 100-yard butterfly and 11th-best time in the 200-yard butterfly.

Sophomore **Robby Cooper (Holden, Mo./Holden)** will be the other experienced member of the team for this competition. Last season **Cooper** placed 12th in the 1,000-yard freestyle and 13th in the 500-yard freestyle. His times indicate a higher finish

this season, as he is currently ranked fourth in the 1,000-yard freestyle. Senior **Kyle Sterup (Fremont, Neb./Fremont)** is 10th in the same event.

Together, the **Cooper-Sterup** duo could do some damage in the distance freestyle races. In the 500-yard freestyle they are ranked 11th and 12th, and in the 1,650-yard freestyle they are in spots 14 and 15, respectively.

Junior **Drew Yemm (Overland Park, Kan./Blue Valley NW)** should have a solid finish in the sprint freestyle races. He currently stands at seventh in the 50-yard freestyle.

The Truman men are swimming about the middle of the pack in the relay races. The 800-yard freestyle relay team of freshman **Phil Brown (Estes Park, Colo./Estes Park)**, **Cooper**, senior **Andy Ladrow (Colorado Springs, Colo./Mitchell)** and **Sterup** is ranked sixth.

The 200-yard medley relay team of sophomores **Andy Harken (Liberty, Mo./Liberty)** and **Brian Teson (Kansas City, Mo./St. Pius X)**, **Pray** and **Yemm** is in seventh place.

The 200-yard freestyle relay team of **Harken**, **Pray**, sophomore **Vince Struble (Omaha, Neb./Creighton Prep)** and **Yemm** is ninth overall.

2002 NATIONAL QUALIFIERS (A cuts only)

MEN

Phil Brown, Fr. (Estes Park, Colo./Estes Park): 800 Free Relay (6:52.77)

Robby Cooper, So. (Holden, Mo./Holden): 500 Free (4:35.27); 800 Free Relay (6:52.77)

Andy Harken, So. (Liberty, Mo./Liberty): 200 Medley Relay (1:33.70), 200 Free Relay (1:23.97)

Andy Ladrow, Sr. (Colorado Springs, Colo./Mitchell): 800 Free Relay (6:52.77)

Matt Pray, Jr. (Naperville, Ill./Naperville North): 100 Fly (49.66), 200 Medley

Relay (1:33.70), 200 Free Relay (1:23.97)

Kyle Sterup, Sr. (Fremont, Neb./Fremont): 500 Free (4:35.60); 800 Free Relay (6:52.77)

Vince Struble, So. (Omaha, Neb./Creighton Prep): 200 Free Relay (1:23.97)

Brian Teson, So. (Kansas City, Mo./St. Pius X): 200 Medley Relay (1:33.70)

Drew Yemm, Jr. (Overland Park, Kan./Blue Valley NW): 200 Medley Relay (1:33.70), 200 Free Relay (1:23.97)

TRUMAN 2001-02 SCHEDULE/RESULTS

Oct. 12 **Purple & White Meet, 6 p.m.**

Oct. 27 @ Wheaton, vs. Lewis (Ill.) - W: 1st/3; M: 1st/3

Oct. 27 @ Illinois (Champaign) (Women) - L 122.5-82.5

Truman Dual Meet Invitational

Nov. 10 **South Dakota, Women W 137-50, Men W 119-84**

Nov. 10 **Missouri-Rolla (Men), W 110-95**

Nov. 10 **Nebraska-Omaha (Women), W 125-78**

Nov. 11 **Delta State (Miss.), Women W 139-58, Men W 120-83**

Nov. 11 **Washington University (Mo.), Women W 119-78, Men W 122-81**

Dec. 1-2 @ Nebraska-Omaha Invitational

Dec. 7 @ Missouri (Columbia), Women L 136.5-67.5, Men L 130-75

Jan. 4 vs. Texas A&M (Women) (in Tampa, Fla.), L 112-85

Jan. 12 @ Tampa w/Emory, Truman Women 146 pts, Tampa 66, Emory 39; Tampa 116, Truman Men 108, Emory 38

Jan. 25 @ Iowa (Iowa City) (Women), L 157-105

Jan. 26 **Western Illinois, Women W 122-77, Men W 117-75**

Feb. 2 @ Drury (Springfield, Mo.), Women W 123-108, Men L 157-80

Feb. 2 @ Southwest Mo. State (Springfield) Women W 131-106, Men L 138-93

Feb. 14-16 @ Central States Champ. (Springfield, Mo.), 9:30 am/6 pm

Mar. 13-16 NCAA Division II Champ. (Orlando, Florida), 10 am/6 pm

