



BULLDOG BARK

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS MEDIA RELATIONS

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BY STUDENT ASSISTANT SARA SWENSON

WOMEN LOOK FOR SECOND NATIONAL TITLE AT D-II CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Truman women's swimming team looks poised for another national-championship performance at the NCAA Division II Championships next week. With added depth, solid experience and last year's title on their side, the women have a good chance to extend their national reign to two years running. Their efforts will begin March 13, as the competition lasts four days in Orlando, Fla.

Taking the largest team allowed by the NCAA, Truman's national team of 18 women is also the largest in school history. Last year the women won the title with 13 members. The championship was the first registered by any team in Truman's history.

Truman's best numbers as a squad are in the freestyle races. Along with a solid group of veterans returning in the freestyle events, freshman **Diana Betsworth (East Moline, Ill./United Township)** could make big waves at the meet as a newcomer. According to the NCAA Division II online rankings released Feb. 28, Betsworth posts the nation's best times in the 100-, 1,000- and 1,650-yard freestyles, and she is holding onto second in the 200- and 500-yard freestyles.

Capitalizing on three years of experience at the national meet will be

senior **Bridget Riley (Olathe, Kan./Olathe South)**, who has had a top-three finish in each of the past three years, including the title in the 500-yard freestyle two years ago. Going into this competition, she is ranked second in the 1,000-yard freestyle, third in the 1,650-yard freestyle and sixth in the 500-yard freestyle.

Junior **Sara Hatcher (Kingdom City, Mo./North Callaway)**, who took second last season in the 100-yard freestyle and third in the 50-yard freestyle, should come back strong again in the 50-yard freestyle. Currently, she is ranked second in the event.

Improving upon last year's national finishes should also be junior **Liz Hug (Maryville, Ill./Collinsville)**. Hug is leading the pack in the 500-yard freestyle, and she is fifth on the list in the 200-yard freestyle. Last season she earned seventh and ninth in the 200- and 500-yard freestyle races, respectively.

Also ranking among the top 10 in freestyle events is freshman **Sarah Dance (Lincoln, Neb./Lincoln Southeast)**, who will be making her national debut at ninth in both the 100- and 200-yard freestyles. Sophomore **Katie May (Westmont, Ill./Hinsdale Central)**, who placed second in the 1,000-yard freestyle last season, is currently eighth in the event. Junior **Amanda Shearer (Bartlesville, Okla./Bartlesville)** is ranked eighth in the 1,650-yard freestyle.

The Truman women are also in good standing in the freestyle relays. The 800-yard freestyle relay of **Betsworth, Dance, Hug and Riley** is positioned in first. The 400-yard freestyle relay of **Betsworth, Dance, Hatcher** is also posting the best time in the nation. Last year the women came home with the title in the 800-yard freestyle relay and walked away with second in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

The 200-yard freestyle relay also took first-place honors last season. Currently, the team of freshman **Christina Blose (St. Charles, Mo./Francis Howell N.)**, **Dance, Hatcher** and freshman **Sue Ellen Thoma (Jefferson City, Mo./Jefferson City)** is ranked fifth.

Junior **Kelli Dudley (Topeka, Kan./West)** will be a strong force in several other areas. **Dudley** is slated at second in the 100- and 200-yard backstrokes and the 200-yard IM. She is also ranking third in the 400-yard IM, seventh in the 200-yard breaststroke and 10th in the 200-yard butterfly. Last season **Dudley** won the 100-yard backstroke, in addition to picking up second places in the 200-yard backstroke, 200-yard IM and 400-yard IM.

Hug is fourth on the list in the 200-yard IM, while freshman **Sarah Wells (Carrollton, Texas/Newman Smith)** is holding onto ninth in the 400-yard IM. Sophomore **Krista Pray (Naperville, Ill./Naperville North)**, who took fourth in the 100-yard backstroke a year ago, is ranked sixth in the same event. **May** is in ninth in the 200-yard backstroke. Last season she placed fifth in the event.

The women's medley relays also have good chances of doing well. The 400-yard medley relay team of **Betsworth, Dudley, Hug and freshman Megan Losee (Omaha, Neb./North)** is in third. The 200-yard medley relay of **Blose, Hatcher, junior Meghan Osborn (Tipton, Iowa/Tipton)** and **Pray** is ranked fourth. Last season the 200-yard medley relay placed second, while the 400-yard medley relay took fifth.

2002 NATIONAL QUALIFIERS (A cuts only)

WOMEN

Diana Betsworth, Fr. (East Moline, Ill./United Township): 500 Free (4:58.82); 200 Free (1:51.76); 1,650 Free (17:04.40); 400 Free Relay (3:30.28); 100 Free (52.72); 400 Medley Relay (3:54.80); 800 Free Relay (7:31.61)

Christina Blose, Fr. (St. Charles, Mo./Francis Howell N.): 200 Medley Relay (1:47.88); 200 Free Relay (1:37.17)

Alison Blyth, So. (Clive, Iowa/Dowling): 200 Butterfly (2:09.25)

Sarah Dance, Fr. (Lincoln, Neb./Lincoln Southeast): 200 Back (2:08.59); 200 Free Relay (1:37.17); 400 Free Relay (3:30.28); 100 Butterfly (58.62); 100 Free (52.57); 200 Free (1:54.22); 800 Free Relay (7:31.61)

Kelli Dudley, Fr. (Topeka, Kan./West): 400 IM (4:29.12); 200 IM (2:06.72); 200 Back (2:03.57); 100 Back (58.36); 400 Medley Relay (3:54.80)

Gina Fettig, Fr. (Billings, Mont./Billings West): 400 Free Relay (3:30.28)

Ellen Frick, Jr. (Manhattan, Kan.): 1,650 Free (17:42.78)

Sara Hatcher, Jr. (Kingdom City, Mo./North Callaway): 500 Free (23.78); 200 Free Relay (1:37.17); 200 Medley Relay (1:47.88); 400 Free Relay (3:30.28)

Liz Hug, Jr. (Maryville, Ill./Collinsville): 500 Free (4:55.41); 200 Free (1:54.51); 200 IM (2:07.10); 400 Medley Relay (3:54.80); 800 Free Relay (7:31.61)

Megan Losee, Fr. (Omaha, Neb./North): 400 Medley Relay (3:54.80)

Katie May, So. (Westmont, Ill./Hinsdale Central): 100 Back (58.57); 500 Free (5:06.00); 200 Back (2:07.29)

Meghan Osborn, Jr. (Tipton, Iowa/Tipton): 200 Medley Relay (1:47.88)

Michaela Osborn, Fr. (Tipton, Iowa/Tipton): 100 Breast (1:06.28)

Krista Pray, So. (Naperville, Ill./Naperville North): 100 Back (58.34); 200 Medley Relay (1:47.88)

Bridget Riley, Sr. (Olathe, Kan./Olathe South): 1,650 Free (17:21.61); 500 Free (5:02.25); 800 Free Relay (7:31.61)

Amanda Shearer, Jr. (Bartlesville, Okla./Bartlesville): 1,650 Free (17:34.50)

Sue Ellen Thoma, Fr. (Jefferson City, Mo.): 200 Free Relay (1:37.17)

Sarah Wells, Fr. (Carrollton, Texas/Newman Smith): 400 IM (4:33.93)