Feb. 7, 2007 – The Truman football team experienced great success on the field in 2006 and with that comes great rewards in this year’s recruiting efforts. The Bulldog football team landed two junior college transfers and signed 24 high school players to National Letters of Intent.

Head Coach Shannon Currier and the Bulldog coaching staff received commitments from many of the top players on their prospect list. Truman signed 11 players on the offensive side of the ball while 14 will be defensive players. Seven of the 11 players on offense are linemen, a place where the Bulldog will have to replace three starters. Also on the offensive side are two running backs, a receiver and a quarterback.

On defense, the Bulldogs signed five linebackers and five defensive backs to go along with three defensive linemen. Two kick returners and a punter are also included in the list.

The majority of this year’s recruits came from Iowa with six and Texas with five followed by three apiece from Arizona, Illinois and Missouri. Last season, the Bulldogs signed 14 high school players and added four transfers.

The Bulldogs exceeded expectations last year with a 6-5 overall record and a 6-3 mark in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association. Truman started the season 1-4 but won five of their next six games.

Truman’s schedule is also being released today. The Bulldogs will open up the season on Sept. 1st against former MIAA member Missouri-Rolla on the road. Truman will host Upper Iowa in another Division II contest on Sept. 8th at Stokes Stadium.

The Bulldogs begin MIAA play a week later against Northwest Missouri in the annual battle for the Hickory Stick in Maryville. Truman will host Pittsburg State, Emporia State and Missouri Western, while go on the road for games against South-West Baptist, Washburn and Missouri Southern.

2007 Football Signees:

**Arizona:**

Jake Long – Quarterback
Glendale, Ariz (Ironwood)
6-0, 185

Long was a quarterback and free safety at Ironwood High School ... named team’s best offensive back ... was a first team All-Academic all-region selection ... team went to state semi-finals junior season before losing in overtime ... also participated and lettered in baseball (2B/CF), basketball and track & field.

Coach Currier on Long: “Jake was our man from the getgo. He is a very talented athlete in addition to being a very good quarterback. He is extremely fast and has made many big plays as a high school quarterback. Because of his athleticism his high school coaches found different ways to utilize him. We believe he will be very successful in our offense.”

Jake is the son of Vern Long (Kelly Scovil – step-dad) and Donna Scovil.

Michael Phillips – Linebacker
Peoria, Ariz. (Cactus)
(Phoenix College)
6-1, 240

Phillips was named honorable mention All-America at Phoenix College ... was a two-year starter and three year letterwinner at Cactus High School ... named All-Arizona as a linebacker and All-State ... named region’s defensive player of the year ... was a shooting guard for the school’s basketball team.

Coach Currier on Phillips: “Michael was an Academic All-American junior college player. He’s physical and moves very well. He’s a decorated athlete as he has had a tremendous amount of success at his high school and junior college. We’re expecting him to be a major factor in our defense! In addition to being a very good player, he brings a tremendous work ethic to our program.”

Michael is the son of Kevin and Angela Phillips.

Bryant Williams – Defensive Back
Mesa, Ariz (Red Mountain)
6-1, 185

Williams was a first team all-region as a defensive back and an honorable mention player as a wide receiver ... a second team all-state choice as a defensive back after recording six interceptions, three touchdowns and three force fumble ... Also ran track in the 400 meters, 4x400, 4x100 relays and long jump.

Coach Currier on Williams: “Bryan brings excellent size to our secondary. He’s a very physical corner and reminds me of our very good outgoing senior corner, Josh Mayson. Because of his physicality, he will also be able to play safety. I like his personality and character - he will be a very good player in our secondary.”

Bryan is the son of Alonzo and Janice Williams.
Feig was the defensive player of the year and received second team all-California Western State Conference honors at Los Angeles College Community College ... record 95 tackles, three interceptions and had two kick return and one punt return touchdowns ... he was all-Los Angeles City section, second team defensive player in high school ... first team all-league selection ... holds high school record in punt return yardage with 1,145 in a season.

Coach Carrier on Feig: “Garrett is a transfer from LA Valley. He is a guy we tried to recruit last year but fortunately we were able to get him here this spring. He’s a very physical player and plays fast. He’s athletic enough to return punts and kicks, but very physical – he has the ability to come up and make some vicious hits on opposing ball carriers or would be receivers. I also believe Garrett’s maturity will allow him to become a very good leader for our defense and team.”

Garrett is the son of Michael and Kathy Feig.

Taylor Gayle – Defensive Back
Lawrenceville, Ga. (Collins Hill)
5-11, 185

Gayle was second on his team in tackles and was named honorable mention all-County ... had 78 tackles during senior season ... also lettered in baseball, wrestling and track & field.

Coach Carrier on Gayle: “Taylor was a wanted man by our defensive staff. He is a very explosive player, playing fast and making things happen on the field. He’s a neat young man and I’m really looking forward to working with him and getting to know him. We’re going to play Taylor at safety because of his aggressiveness and abilities to tackle. He will make an early impact.”

Taylor is the son of Rich and Beth Gayle.

Jackie Monroe – Offensive Tackle
Norcross, Ga. (Meadowcreek)
6-7, 250

Monroe started three years for Meadowcreek High School ... was co-captain ... also started three years for the basketball program at the school.

Coach Carrier on Monroe: “Jackie is an offensive lineman that has tremendous upside – he’s only played high school football for a short time and will benefit from being in a college program. He has excellent size and moves extremely well. I’m very excited about Jackie’s future … I look for him to be one of the better tackles in the MIAA!”

Jackie is the son of Jackie and Joy Monroe.

Max Klekner – Punter/Placekicker
Belleville, Ill. (Belleville West)
6-2, 170

Klekner was a two-time all-conference punter ... honorable mention all-state punter ... two-time academic all-state punter ... had a 42.2 yard career punting average, which is also a school record ... holds school record for field goal distance (45 yards) ... also ran track and field for four years in high school.

Coach Carrier on Klekner: “Max is a very established punter as well as having the abilities to place kick and kick off. He will add depth and competition to our kicking game. He had an excellent high school career and we are very excited about him.”

Max is the son of Dave and Pamela Klekner.

Dustin Moore – Offensive Lineman
Decatur, Ill. (Morava Forsyth)
6-4, 280

Moore was a second team all-conference offensive lineman and first team all-county selection ... high school team won the Illinois 2A Football Championship in 2006 ... on the defensive side of the ball, Moore had 43 tackles and four sacks ... also plays center on the basketball team.

Coach Carrier on Moore: “We learned about Dustin at a camp in Chicago. He is very athletic offensive lineman. I was impressed with his film but also very impressed watching him play basketball – he moves well and he’s only going to get bigger and stronger. He’s another guy that can play tackle or guard. Like all of our signees, Dustin is a very intelligent player.”

Dustin is the son of Walter and Shari Moore.

Henry Sitkiewicz – Linebacker
Riverside, Ill. (Riverside-Brookfield)
6-1, 220

Sitkiewicz was named first-team all-conference for football in his sophomore, junior and senior seasons ... all-area selection as a junior and senior ... team captain as junior and senior ... recorded over 260 career tackles including 117 in his senior season ... member of conference championship team during his sophomore year ... wrestled and played goalie for the water polo team.

Coach Carrier on Sitkiewicz: “We really like Henry’s ability to play a variety of linebacker positions for us. He has the size and athleticism to help us in many ways. He runs to the ball well and like many of our new players, brings a tremendous passion for football to our team. He likes contact and makes plays from sideline to sideline.”

Henry is the son of Andrew and Frances Sitkiewicz.
Phillip Francois – Offensive Lineman
Solon, Iowa (Solon)
6-4, 285

Francois was named second team all-District and all-area as an offensive lineman … was a two year starter and letterwinner … also played basketball and baseball.

Coach Carrier on Francois: “Phillip is referred by our staff as the powerful one. Phillip is a very powerful tackle – he plays with excellent leverage and moves defenders. He is a very big guy and we believe he will become an excellent player. I believe he has a lot of potential and will help replace some good linemen that we lost to graduation.”

Phillip is the son of Patrick and Kathy Francois.

Myung Jung Kang – Nose Tackle
Ames, Iowa (Ames)
6-0, 250

Kang earned all-state honors in both 2005 and 2006 and was a three-time all-conference pick … was a three-year starter on both the offensive and defensive line … was named Elite all-conference following senior season … was a state qualifier in the shot put in 2005.

Coach Carrier on Kang: “MJ plays hard and runs to the ball very well. He will be a NT for us – he will give opposing centers headaches because he is a relentless player and his play resembles a Bulldog, which he has become. He plays with his hands well!”

Myung is the son of Sung Kwon and Sunglyun Kang.

John Kennedy – Linebacker
Des Moines, Iowa (Theodore Roosevelt)
6-1, 210

Kennedy was a two-time MVP and was also named second-team all-conference during his three starting seasons … recorded 47 solo tackles, 27 assisted tackles, two sacks, two forced fumbles and three recovered fumbles in 2006 seasons … was member of the 2006 Metro Conference championship team … lettered three seasons of baseball playing both pitcher and third base.

Coach Carrier on Kennedy: “We see John having the abilities to play many LB positions for us – he’s aggressive and plays fast. He comes from a football family and plays with excellent instincts. John will fit very well into our football family – he’s top-notch young man with a huge upside.”

John is the son of Walt and Elizabeth Kennedy.

Adam Reynolds – Linebacker
Lake City, Iowa (Southern Cal)
6-2, 200

Reynolds was a first-team unanimous all-district selection as a linebacker in 2006 … had 86 tackles in 2006 and 148 career tackles … played fullback as well with 745 rushing yards in 2006 and 12 touchdowns … as a punter had 30 punts for a 36.1 average … was second team all-district in 2005 … played basketball and ran track.

Coach Carrier on Reynolds: “I had the opportunity to watch Adam play basketball. The thing that stands out about Adam is that he is a high-effort player. He plays with a lot of intensity and he will be an excellent outside linebacker in our scheme. I’m really excited about his potential and believe he has a tremendous upside.”

Adam is the son of Daniel and Ranee Reynolds.

Aaron Tjarks – Offensive Tackle
Ankeny, Iowa (Ankeny)
6-5, 260

Tjarks was a Shrine Bowl selection after being named first team all-state in class 4A by the Des Moines Register … was also named to the first team all-conference Central Iowa Metro League, first team Elite all-state by the Register and first team Elite all-league … was a starter on squad ranked in the top 10 in Iowa and finished each season as a quarterfinalist … also an accomplished wrestler with a district championship in 2006 and is currently ranked seventh as a heavyweight.

Coach Carrier on Tjarks: “Aaron is one of our top players. He’s a very big 6’5" 260 lb. OLM – he is physical and brings a tenacious style to our offense. I believe he will be a very good leader for us. I like his personality, intensity and competitiveness. His high school film showed him being a 6 second player consistently. He is having an outstanding wrestling season being ranked the #7 heavyweight in the state of Iowa.”

Aaron is the son of Michael and Nancy Tjarks.

Dan Tweeton – Offensive Lineman
Washington, Iowa (Washington)
6-3, 285

Tweeton was named second-team all-state in 2006 and was the Lineman of the year and team captain … was an all-district selection the previous two years and was awarded the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame Scholarship … team won only two games as a sophomore but advanced to the state finals the next season and was a state semi-finalist last year.

 Coach Carrier on Tweeton: “I really like this guy. He’s getting up early in the morning to make himself a better player so I know he’s dedicated to football and willing to do anything to make himself the best. I think he’s athletic enough to play tackle or guard. He moves people and plays with a good base. He’s going to be an outstanding player!”

Dan is the son of William and Ann Tweeton.

Anthony Brown – Wide Receiver
Shawnee, Kan. (Bonner Springs)
6-3, 180

Brown was voted the most valuable player and offensive player of the year following his senior season … had 33 catches for 467 yards and six touchdowns … named to the 2006 all-Metro Sports football team … is part of the school’s record setting 4x100 team in track with a time of 43.5 … also is a triple and long jumper … starting point guard and shooting guard and was named to the 2006 Bonner Spring Metro Classic in basketball.

Coach Carrier on Brown: “Anthony brings some things to our receiving core that we don’t have. He has good size and will provide some very good mismatches vs. smaller cover men. He has shown the abilities to make big plays and he will excel in our wide open attack. He catches the ball well and is able to make something happen after the catch. We’re very excited about Anthony!”

Anthony is the son of Deotis and Jeanette Brown.

Michael Duncombe – Running Back/Wide Receiver
Shoreview, Minn. (Mounds View/Arden Hills)
5-10, 170

Duncombe is a four year starter and three time all-conference pick … twice named honorable mention all-state … had 416 career rushes with 2,453 yards and 36 touchdowns … caught 69 passes for 1,092 yards and seven touchdowns … holds school record in rushing yardage, touchdowns with 43, rushing touchdowns and single-season punt return yardage with 330 … was a two time all-conference selection on the track team as a long jumper … owns five perfect games in bowling and carried a 230 average during the 2005-06 season.

Coach Carrier on Duncombe: “Michael is a very versatile player – he plays running back, receiver, returns punts and kicks, punts and played defensive back for his high school. We’re very excited about him and we believe he will fit nicely into our offensive scheme. I also like his personality – I believe he can help us many ways. He has great ability to make people miss and being the best is important to him”

Michael is the son of Vincent and Donna Duncombe.

Trevor Simmons – Linebacker
Rochester, Minn. (Mayo)
6-2, 205

Simmons was named the squad’s 2006 most valuable player and was twice named all-conference … team won back-to-back Big 9 Conference championships … also played fullback.

Coach Carrier on Simmons: “Trevor is a very athletic linebacker – he plays all over the field and his high school film was very impressive. We see him playing our Will LB position, a position that needs a linebacker that’s athletic enough to scrape over the top of blockers. He has a very good frame and upside.”

Trevor is the son of Tim and Michelle Simmons.
Matt Lewis – Defensive End
Wildwood, Mo. (Lafayette)
6-5, 230

Lewis was named an honorable mention all-conference defensive end and tight end during his high school career ... recorded 45 tackles, two sacks, two fumble recoveries and had 54 yards receiving last year ... was a 2006 team captain ... also a starter on the basketball team.

Coach Currier on Lewis: “Matt is just now starting to scratch the surface as a football player. He’s a slender 6’5” and 230 lbs. – he is going to be an outstanding player in our defensive line. He’s athletic and because of his character and work ethic, he’s going to develop into a great player who will utilize his long levers on his way to stardom for the Bulldogs.”

Matt is the son of Jim and Cathy Lewis

John Nolan – Offensive Tackle
Joplin, Mo. (Joplin)
6-4, 250

Nolan was an Ozark Conference first-team offensive tackle in 2006 ... received second-team honors for both all-district and all-area in 2006 ... also was an all-conference and all-district defensive tackle in 2005 ... was a member of the 2006 conference championship team.

Coach Currier on Nolan: “John is going to be a very good tackle for us. He moves extremely well and is a very lean 250 lbs. I like his size and his athleticism – I believe he will be a very good split side tackle for us. I know football is important to him and I’m excited to work with him over the next few years.”

John is the son of Doug and Lisa Nolan.

Ryan Summers – Defensive End
St. Charles, Mo. (Francis Howell Central)
6-2, 240

Summers was a first team all-GAC South all-conference pick last season as well as earning all-district and state honorable mention honors as both a defensive tackle and offensive guard following senior season ... had 53 tackles with 15 for loss, nine sacks and an interception last season to lead high school team to the District Five championship ... during junior year, recorded 43 tackles, 16 for loss, seven sacks and two fumble recoveries ... holds school career sack record with 16 ... first team all-conference, all-district and honorable mention all-metro defensive end following junior year.

Coach Currier on Summers: “Ryan is a very good defensive end – he’s physical, powerful and moves very well. I believe he will fit very well into our defensive scheme. He is a fantastic player and we’re very excited to have him in our program. I like his personality and I know football is very important to him.”

Ryan is the son of Bill and Deborah Summers.

Terrance Byrd – Corner Back
Katy, Texas (Taylor)
5-10, 180

Byrd was a finalist for Defensive Player of the Year in the Houston area, sponsored by the local Touchdown Club ... was a first team all-district pick and named defensive back of the year by the team ... had 49 tackles, 39 solo and forced two fumbles ... had a school record seven interceptions last season ... helped lead his high school squad to the playoffs for the first time since 1995 ... is also starting point guard on the basketball team.

Coach Currier on Byrd: “Terrence is a very polished corner. He has great abilities to change directions and gets out of the break well. He has also demonstrated a tremendous ability to be a physical corner – he can cover but he will come up and hit you. I believe he has big time upside!”

Terrance is the son of Tyrone and Vickie Byrd.

Luther Eta – Defensive Back
Houston, Texas (Spring Westfield)
5-9, 170

Eta was a first-team defensive back and kick returner in class 5A in Texas ... a four year starter and three year letterwinner ... holds school record in the power clean at 275 lbs. ... ran a 4.41 40-yard ... also a member of the school’s track and field team.

Coach Currier on Eta: “Luther comes from an established high school program, and is a very explosive player. He’s a very good return man as well as a play-making defensive back. He’s athletic enough to play corner but physical enough to play safety. We’re really exited about him and expect to make a contribution immediately.”

Luther is the son of Godfrey and Mary Eta.

Cameron Harmon – Offensive Guard
Richardson, Texas (Richardson)
6-2, 275

Harmon was a four-year starter and two-year letterwinner as an offensive lineman ... was twice named the Offensive player of the week ... graded out at over 90% ... also participated in the discus and shot put.

Coach Currier on Harmon: “Cameron is a very committed football player and he has worked extremely hard to get himself into great football shape. He’s very persistent and a tough football player. We are projecting him to be a very good guard in our offense. He’s played very good football in his conference and understands what it’s going to take to be a great player for the Bulldogs.”

Cameron is the son of Phyllis Harmon.

Donald Harvey – Running Back/Wide Receiver
Richmond, Texas (George Bush)
5-9, 170

Harvey holds several school records including all-time receptions all-time leading rusher with 2,565 yards, over 3,000 all-purpose yards, all-time touchdown leader with 24 and most points scored in a career ... a two-time offensive MVP and first-team all-district selection following senior season ... a two-time academic all-district honoree ... played basketball as well.

Coach Currier on Harvey: “Donald is an offensive playmaker and can play running back as well as receiver. He has excellent quickness and is a tremendous player. He is considered to be one the best running backs in the Houston area. He will fit very nicely into our wide open offense.”

Donald is the son of Donald and Mia Harvey.

Steve Little – Linebacker
San Antonio, Texas (Ronald Reagan)
6-1, 220

Little was a three-year starter leading the team to their first state playoff appearance, advancing to the quarterfinals ... was a two-year all-district team member and was named to the preseason all-area and all-Region teams ... had 76 tackles with 13 for loss during senior season ... had one interception and two fumble recoveries.

Coach Currier on Little: “Steve is a very physical linebacker that will occupy the Mike LB position. He plays very well in the box and brings the ‘punch’ to the picnic. He’s a very determined player and plays very hard. I believe he will become a great leader for our team and a difference-making linebacker.”

Steve is the son of David and Angela Little.