The Bulldogs had high expectations before entering the 2003 season after coming off two straight NCAA Elite Eight finishes in 2001 and 2002. The AVCA ranked Truman fourth in the preseason national poll, the team's highest-ever preseason ranking. The Bulldogs were favored to win the MIAA title according to the preseason coaches poll.

The team did open the year with some questions marks though after losing two all-Americans from the previous season. It was also a young squad with seven freshmen and just two seniors on the roster. Everything came together quickly for the Bulldogs and they ended up putting together one of the best regular seasons in school history.

Truman ran away with the MIAA regular season championship and captured the MIAA tournament title. The only disappointment in 2003 came during the regional semifinals by the eventual national title. The Bulldogs were the number one seed for the MIAA Tournament. The conference tourny returned in 2003 to decide the conference champion from 1982-92, now determines who gets the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. The conference tourney returned in 2003 after the Days Inn Classic. On Friday night, the team earned the No. 1 seed in the NCAA South Central Regional Tournament, giving the Bulldogs an opportunity for home court advantage and a first-round bye.

The turning point on the team's championship season was the win over nationally-ranked Rockhurst and a 7-0 start in MIAA play. However, two losses by the Gorillas during that week and a pair of 3-0 Bulldog wins essentially sealed the regular season title for Truman.

The team faced rival North Alabama in the regional semifinals. Truman struggled upfront against North Alabama's first-team all-American Yana Ninova and dropped the match by a 3-0 score.

In the finals, Truman met up with Pittsburg State again and won the conference crown by a convincing 3-1 margin.

After a stellar season up to that point, the squad earned the No. 1 seed in the NCAA South Central Regional Tournament, giving the Bulldogs an opportunity for home court advantage and a first-round bye. The team faced rival North Alabama in the regional semfinals. Truman struggled upfront against North Alabama's first-team all-American Yana Ninova and dropped the match by a 3-0 score.

The Lions ended up winning the regional title the next night with a win over Central Missouri and would go on to win the NCAA Championship.

The two Bulldog seniors were key contributors to the 2003 volleyball squad.

Shedd had the difficult task of replacing four-time first-team all-MIAA setter Monica Marlowe. Shedd made sure the Bulldogs didn't lose a step, though, at the setter position with a record breaking season.

She ended the year with 12.7 assists a game, a new Bulldog single-season record. That mark was the best in the MIAA and the 21st-highest in the nation.

Shedd also finished third on the team with 3.17 digs a game and was fourth with a .53 block average. She ended her career ranked fourth in school history in assist average and fifth in career assists.

Shedd earned numerous awards at the conclusion of the season. She was named the MIAA MVP and received AVCA third-team all-American honors. Five times during the year, she earned MIAA specialist of the week honors. She was named to the all-region teams by both the AVCA and Daktronics.

The losses sparked the Bulldogs to one of their best stretches during the season. Truman won its next 12 matches, dropping just two games in that span.

During the 12-0 run, Truman recorded a perfect record at the Central Missouri Challenge, a non-conference win over nationally-ranked Rockhurst and a 7-0 start in MIAA play. The team's next setbacks came at home during the Days Inn Classic. On Friday night, the team dropped their first MIAA match to Pittsburg State in an 3-0 loss. After knocking off Christian Brothers, Truman fell for the second time to Northern Colorado, a team that was starting its move to Division I during the 2003 campaign.

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The team would go on to win its remaining matches, including getting revenge over Pittsburgh State by winning the final three games in a 3-2 win on the Gorillas' home court in the Bulldogs' conference finale.

Truman ended the MIAA season with a 15-1 overall record, earning the title by four matches. Eleven of the team's wins came by 3-0 sweeps.

After defeating Culver-Stockton on Senior Night, the team was at the halfway mark of conference play and had just a 1/2 match lead over Pittsburg State at that point. Truman ended the MIAA season with a 15-1 overall record, earning the title by four matches. Eleven of the team's wins came by 3-0 sweeps.

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Academically, she was a second-team academic all-district pick and she was also named to the MIAA commissioner's academic honor roll, the academic all-MIAA team and was Truman's female recipient of the Dean's Recognition of Academic Excellence award.

Ashley Patey was another senior specialist on the team's roster. In her final collegiate season, the libero finished second on the team with 3.96 digs a game. That mark was ninth among MIAA leaders and the seventh-best mark all-time for a single-season at Truman.

Patey, who also lettered for the team in 1999 and 2000, earned honorable mention all-MIAA honors for her 2003 season.

Truman had the best combination of hitters in the conference, led by Sears. She became the first Bulldog since 1995 to lead the MIAA in kills as she averaged 4.62 a game, which was 21st in the nation. She also led the conference in points and was among the top 10 leaders in hitting percentage, digs and service aces.

Sears' kill average was the second-best in school history for a single-season and her dig average of 4.18 a game was the fourth-best for a Truman player.

Sears was named a second-team all-American by the AVCA and was a first-team all-MIAA pick. Twice during the year she was the conference's hitter of the week and once, she earned national player of the week honors.

One of the biggest questions mark for the team before the season was who would replace all-American hitter Shelby Ortwerth. A freshman, Shearman, quickly answered that question. She averaged 4.37 kills in her first season, the fourth-best mark in the MIAA for 2003 and the fourth-best mark all-time at Truman. She also finished third in the team in hitting percentage and fourth in digs. Her 485 kills were the tenth-most at the school for a season.

Shearman was named the AVCA national freshman of the year, making her the first Truman player to ever receive that award. Besides also sweeping the regional and conference freshman of the year honors, she was named honorable mention to the all-MIAA and all-region teams.

Tiffany Graham was the number three hitter for the Bulldogs, averaging 3.04 kills and she had a .279 hitting percentage. She led the team with 96 blocks and a 0.96 block average. She also earned second-team all-MIAA recognition.

The trio of junior Annie Nickolai and sophomore Micaela Walter and Megan Remley were the other regular hitters for the Bulldogs. Nickolai averaged 1.81 kills, Walter put up 1.95 kills and 0.91 blocks a game and Remley averaged 2.07 kills on 0.75 blocks. All three hit over .200 and averaged around one dig a game and all were named to the MIAA commissioner's academic honor roll. Remley received all-MIAA honorable mention honors.

Other returning hitters included junior Kelly Vogel, sophomore Melanie Jones, and redshirt freshman Amy Kreimer. Vogel averaged 1.56 kills and 1.57 digs. Jones averaged 1.20 kills and 1.59 digs and Kreimer put up 0.55 kills and 0.55 digs a game. Besides Shearman, five other hitters were newcomers. Alex Baker averaged 1.00 kill and 0.59 service aces, Kelly Grimes averaged 1.39 kills, Sara Harman averaged 0.31 kills, Kelsey Wackerman averaged 1.22 kills and Julie Wohldmann averaged 1.40 kills.

There were three additional specialist players that helped to round out the 2003 Truman volleyball team.

Lauren Dickbernd and Rebecca Knefelkamp were mostly defensive specialist.

Dickbernd averaged 2.18 digs and had 28 service aces on the year. She was named to the MIAA commissioner's academic honor roll.

Knefelkamp led the team with 0.38 service ace average and also averaged over two digs a game.

Freshman setter Christina Wagener averaged 4.06 assists and 0.92 digs while serving as the backup to Shedd.

Head coach Qi Wang earned conference coach of the year honors for a second time in 2003.