VOLLEYBALL QUICK FACTS

Truman State University

Location: Kirksville, Mo. 100 E. Normal, Kirk Building 215

Founded: 1867

Enrollment: 6,000

Nickname: Bulldogs

Colors: Purple & White

Arena: Pershing Arena

Capacity: 2,600

Conference: Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (NCAA Div. II)

President: Dr. Barbara Dixon

Director of Athletics: Jerry Wollmering

Athletics Phone: (660) 785-4235

Coaching Staff

Head Coach: Jason Skoch

Alma Mater (Yr.): Oklahoma State (1998)

Truman/Career Record: First Season

Office Phone: (660) 785-4468

Best Time To Call: Mornings

Assistant Coach: Ben Briney

Student Assistant Coach: Jessica Sears

Team Information

2004 Overall Record: 37-1

Conference Record/Finish: 16-0/1st

Final National Ranking: No. 2

Final Regional Ranking: No. 1

Starters Returning/Lost: 5/1

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 8/5

Team History

First Year of Volleyball: 1973

All-Time Record: 633-408-14

No. Years in Playoffs/Last: 6/2004

Last Postseason Opponent/Result: Barry/L 3-1 in NCAA Championship Match

ATHLETICS MEDIA RELATIONS

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On the Cover: Truman seniors Micaela Walter, Tiffany Graham, Melanie Jones and Megan Remley

2005 BULLDOG VOLLEYBALL

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2005 VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

Date | Opponent | Location | Time
--- | --- | --- | ---
Aug. 26-27 at Minnesota-Duluth Tournament | Duluth, Minn. | 12:30 p.m.
Aug. 26 | at Minnesota-Duluth | Duluth, Minn. | 5:30 p.m.
Aug. 26 vs. Concordia-St. Paul (Minn.) | Duluth, Minn. | 10:00 a.m.
Aug. 27 vs. Cal State-San Bernardino | Duluth, Minn. | 3:00 p.m.
Aug. 27 vs. Northern Michigan | Edwardsville, Ill. | 2:00 p.m.
Sept. 2 vs. Drury (Mo.) | Edwardsville, Ill. | 7:00 p.m.
Sept. 2 vs. Alderson-Broadus (W.Va.) | Edwardsville, Ill. | 12:00 p.m.
Sept. 3 vs. Southern Indiana | Edwardsville, Ill. | 5:00 p.m.
Sept. 9-10 at Central Missouri Tournament | Warrensburg, Mo. | 5:30 p.m.
Sept. 9 vs. Henderson State (Ark.) | Warrensburg, Mo. | 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 9 vs. Missouri St. Louis | Warrensburg, Mo. | 12:00 p.m.
Sept. 10 vs. North Alabama | Pershing Arena | 7:00 p.m.
Sept. 14 Central Missouri* | Emporia, Kan. | 7:00 p.m.
Sept. 16 at Emporia State (Kan.)* | Topeka, Kan. | 1:00 p.m.
Sept. 17 at Washburn (Kan.)* | Kansas City, Mo. | 7:00 p.m.
Sept. 21 at Rockhurst (Mo.) | Pershing Arena | 7:00 p.m.
Sept. 23 Missouri Western* | Pershing Arena | 4:00 p.m.
Sept. 24 at Missouri Western* | Pershing Arena | 7:00 p.m.
Sept. 29 Southwest Baptist (Mo.)* | Pershing Arena | 7:00 p.m.
Sept. 30 Missouri Southern* | Pershing Arena | 1:00 p.m.
Oct. 1 Pittsburg State (Kan.)* | Quincy, Ill. | 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 4 at Quincy (Ill.) | Warrensburg, Mo. | 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 12 at Central Missouri* | Pershing Arena | 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 15 Emporia State (Kan.)* | Pershing Arena | 2:00 p.m.
Oct. 16 Washburn (Kan.)* | St. Joseph, Mo. | 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 21 at Missouri Western* | Maryville, Mo. | 5:00 p.m.
Oct. 22 at Northwest Missouri* | Bolivar, Mo. | 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 27 at Southwest Baptist (Mo.)* | Joplin, Mo. | 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 28 at Missouri Southern* | Pittsburg, Kan. | 1:00 p.m.
Oct. 29 at Pittsburg State (Kan.)* | Huntsville, Ala. | 7:00 p.m.
Nov. 4 at Alabama-Huntsville | Florence, Ala. | 1:00 p.m.
Nov. 5 at North Alabama | Huntsville, Ala. | 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 5 vs. Lincoln Memorial (Tenn.) | Huntsville, Ala. | 1:00 p.m.
Nov. 8-12 MIAA Tournament (TBA) | Huntsville, Ala. | 1:00 p.m.
Nov. 17-19 NCAA Regionals (TBA) | Huntsville, Ala. | 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 1-3 NCAA Elite Eight (TBA) | Huntsville, Ala. | 1:00 p.m.

Home Games in Bold - * MIAA Games

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For the first time in nine seasons, the big question mark for the Truman volleyball team comes on the sidelines where Jason Skoch has taken over as head coach.

In 1997, Becky Pike was named head coach and she turned the Bulldogs into a conference threat. Four years later, her assistant coach, Qi Wang, took over the team and Truman became a national power.

This year, a completely new coaching staff, led by Skoch, will look to keep the Truman program among the national elite and hopefully, accomplish the one thing that eluded the previous two coaches, a national championship.

Skoch takes over a team that went 37-1 last year and advanced to the NCAA Championship match. The program has been ranked in the top-10 in the nation for 30 consecutive polls, the third-longest streak in the nation.

Besides the coaching change, the 2005 Bulldogs have several other hurdles to overcome in order to stay near the top of the national poll.

The biggest hurdle will be replacing the top senior class in school history, which was led by first-team all-American Jessica Sears and included three other all-conference performers.

The team will also likely have a large learning curve early in the year as they get used to the new system that Skoch brings to the team.

These hurdles seem to indicate that Truman will have trouble repeating last year’s regular season success. Skoch believes though, by the end of the year, Truman will be playing at its highest level and will once again be competing for the conference, regional and NCAA Championships.

While Truman did lose four talented players after last year, it does return 10 players, including five starters, four all-conference players, two all-region athletes and one all-American.

Leading the team will be junior outside hitter Sarah Shearman, who last season became the first Bulldog sophomore to earn all-American honors when she was named to the AVCA second-team.

Shearman led the team with 4.19 kills a game and was second with 3.60 digs a game. She hit just under .300 for the season and had the third-most total blocks on the team.

Shearman was the only non-senior hitter to be included on the first-team all-MIAA squad last year and is the top returning player in the conference in points and kills.

Another big strength for the 2005 Bulldog squad are their middle hitters, which include three senior all-conference performers. This position will likely see much more action this year as Truman looks to take advantage of one of its top strengths.

Micaela Walter looks to end her career with an all-American type of season. Walter had a breakout year in 2004 and was named to the all-MIAA second-team and to the AVCA all-region squad.

She averaged career-bests in nearly every statistical category, including averaging 2.73 kills a game and hitting .300.

Tiffany Graham earned honorable mention all-conference honors last year and was a second-team pick during her sophomore campaign. In 2004, she averaged 2.46 kills and 2.36 digs a game.

For the third straight year, Graham was one of the team’s top players during their postsea- son run. She averaged 2.65 kills and hit .287 during last year’s NCAA Tournament and was named to the Elite Eight all-tournament team.

Walter and Graham rank in the top-10 all-time at Truman in blocking statistics. Last year, both were among the MIAA blocking leaders with Graham averaging 1.06 a game and Walter collecting 0.95 a game.

The final all-conference middle for Truman is Megan Remley, an honorable mention selection the last two years. Remley had career-bests with 2.11 kills a game and a .293 hitting percentage in 2004. She also ranked third on the team in blocking average.

The other returning starter at a hitting position is junior outside hitter Kelsey Wackerman. Wackerman was an all-around player for Truman, averaging 2.40 kills, 1.64 assists, 1.76 digs and 0.43 blocks a game last season.

Other returning hitters are junior Alex Baker and senior Melanie Jones. Each of the outside hitters averaged around two kills a game last year and both saw positive increases in their hitting percentage over the previous year. Four freshmen hitters also join the team in 2005 in Dana Hanselmann, Megan Hornof, Melissa Keck and Eli Medina.

Hanselmann was an honorable mention all-state player in Illinois last year after collecting a school record 307 kills.

Hornof was a two-year starter on the St. Joseph’s Academy team that advanced to the Missouri state championship match last year.

Keck was also a member of a successful volleyball program as her high school team finished third in the Illinois class AA tournament.

She was named to honorable mention all-state teams in both her junior and senior seasons.

Medina was a three-time all-district pick. Her best season came as a junior when she averaged four kills and four digs a game.

At the setter position, junior Christine Wagener is slated as the starter. Wagener split time at the position for most of last year before taking over as the primary setter during the end of the season.

She averaged over 10 assists a game during the NCAA Tournament and her passing played a big part in Truman hitting over .300 during its postseason run.

Backing up Wagener will be Erin Leavitt, a transfer who helped Bryant advance to the NCAA Division II Tournament last season.

One of the holes for the team to fill will be at the libero position. Sophomores Marti Joyer and Amanda Holliday and freshman Whitney Boehler will compete for that position and also for the backrow defensive specialist spot.

Joyer and Holliday, both all-state players in high school, averaged just under a dig a game last year in limited playing time. Boehler also earned all-state honors and had the best passing stats in the Kansas City metro area last year.

Skoch will get a challenging start to his coaching career when Truman competes at the Minnesota-Duluth Tournament at the end of August.

All four opponents at that tournament finished last season ranked in the top-10 in the nation. The highlight of that event will be a showdown with Northern Michigan and Truman’s former coach, Wang.

The Bulldogs will also compete in tournaments the following two weekends at SIU-Edwardsville and Central Missouri.

Other non-conference matches throughout the year include contests against Rockhurst and Quincy and a trip to Alabama to end the regular season for three regional tilts.

Truman begins the defense of its MIAA title on Sept. 14 with a match against the team’s top rival, Central Missouri.

The MIAA race should once again be exciting in 2005. Three teams open up the season with national rankings, led by Truman at No. 2 and followed by Central Missouri at No. 7 and Washburn at No. 18.

Last season, the conference had its best year ever, with four teams advancing to the second-round of the NCAA Tournament.

“This year’s team will have a different style and way of doing things,” said Skoch. “In the end, though, we should be in the same position to make another run to the Elite Eight.”
## NUMERICAL ROSTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Athlete</th>
<th>Pos.</th>
<th>Ht.</th>
<th>Yr.</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
<th>High School (Previous)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Amanda Holliday  #</td>
<td>DS/S/L</td>
<td>5-7</td>
<td>So.</td>
<td>Papillion, Neb.</td>
<td>Papillion-LaVista</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Alex Baker *</td>
<td>MH/OH</td>
<td>5-10</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>St. Peters, Mo.</td>
<td>Duchess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Kelsey Wackerman **</td>
<td>OH/RS</td>
<td>5-11</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>Camdenton, Mo.</td>
<td>Camdenton</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Megan Hornof</td>
<td>OH/RS</td>
<td>5-11</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>St. Louis, Mo.</td>
<td>St. Joseph's Academy</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Micaela Walter ***</td>
<td>MH</td>
<td>6-0</td>
<td>Sr.</td>
<td>Topeka, Kan.</td>
<td>Shawnee Heights</td>
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<td>Marti Joyer #</td>
<td>DS/L</td>
<td>5-8</td>
<td>So.</td>
<td>Roseville, Minn.</td>
<td>Roseville</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Dana Hanselmann</td>
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<td>Sleepy Hollow, Ill.</td>
<td>Dundee-Crown</td>
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<td>Eli Medina</td>
<td>MH/OH</td>
<td>5-8</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>Kansas City, Mo.</td>
<td>St. Teresa’s Academy</td>
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<td>Melissa Keck</td>
<td>RS</td>
<td>6-0</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>Belleville, Ill.</td>
<td>Belleville Township West</td>
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<td>Whitney Boehler</td>
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<td>Fr.</td>
<td>Olathe, Kan.</td>
<td>Holdren</td>
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<td>Tiffany Graham ***</td>
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<td>Sr.</td>
<td>Holden, Mo.</td>
<td>Lutheran South</td>
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<td>Sarah Shearman **</td>
<td>OH</td>
<td>5-8</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>Manchester, Mo.</td>
<td>Parkway West</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Christine Wagener **</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>5-11</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>Ballwin, Mo.</td>
<td>Andrew (Bryant)</td>
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<td>Erin Leavitt</td>
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<td>So.</td>
<td>Flossmoor, Ill.</td>
<td>Kearney</td>
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<td>Melanie Jones ***</td>
<td>OH</td>
<td>5-11</td>
<td>Sr.</td>
<td>Independence, Mo.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Jason Skoch, Head Coach  
Ben Briney, Assistant Coach  
Jessica Sears, Student Assistant Coach

* Number of Letters earned  
# Returning Squadmember  

**Position Legend:** S-Setter, MH-Middle Hitter, OH-Outside Hitter, RS-Right-Side Hitter, L-Libero

## 2005 TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY BULLDOGS
Jason Skoch became the eighth head coach in the history of the Truman volleyball program when he was named to the position in May.

“We are extremely excited to have Jason take over our volleyball program,” said Director of Athletics Jerry Wollmering. “He will bring a contagious enthusiasm and a high level of volleyball knowledge to a team that wants to continue the success we have had. He will be a great fit in our department and in the community.”

“I wanted to be a head coach and wanted to be at a good institution, so Truman is the perfect fit for me,” said Skoch. “I like Division II volleyball because it is very competitive, but more of a family-type atmosphere. I believe I bring the leadership and energy necessary to sustain this program and hopefully, take it over the hump to win a national championship.”

Skoch comes to Truman after spending one season as an assistant coach at Mississippi State University. He was part of a first-year coaching staff which led Mississippi State to an improvement of 11 wins overall and tied a school record for the most win in Southeastern Conference (SEC) play. Among his responsibilities there included recruiting, logistics, game/practice planning and opponent scouting.

Skoch also has experience at the Division II level as he was an assistant coach at Central Oklahoma in 2003. That season, Central Oklahoma went 23-7 and advanced to the tournament finals in the Lone Star Conference.

Other coaching experience for Skoch includes spending one season as freshman coach at Stillwater High School and as head coach with the Stillwater Volleyball Club and the Kaeppa Oklahoma Charge Volleyball Club. He is a former player with club teams at Penn State University, the University of Memphis and Oklahoma State University.

Skoch earned a bachelor of science degree from Oklahoma State in 1998 with a major in statistics and a minor in mathematics. He earned a master of science in statistics from Penn State in 2001 and has started work towards his PhD in statistics.

Skoch and his wife, Karen, reside in Kirksville.
Truman's full-time assistant coach in 2005 will be Ben Briney, who comes to Truman after being an assistant coach for two seasons at St. Andrews Presbyterian College (N.C).

"I am excited to have Ben join the Truman staff," said Skoch. "He is young, but has good credentials for someone his age. He will bring a lot of energy to the team. I look forward to working with him."

At St. Andrews, a NCAA Division II program in the Carolinas-Virginia Athletics Conference, Briney was involved with recruiting, on-court coaching and the development and implementation of the team's strength and conditioning program. In his two years at the school, the Knights went 40-24 overall. In 2003, the school advanced to the conference tournament finals after being picked seventh in the preseason poll. Last year, the team tied a school record with 14 conference victories and advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in school history.

Briney coached seven all-conference athletes at St. Andrews and one conference freshman of the year. The Knights also excelled academically over the last two years, including being ranked 10th in the nation in 2003 with a 3.54 team GPA.

Briney was also the assistant athletic trainer at St. Andrews, where he helped with the coverage of all 14 sports at the school.

Prior to moving to North Carolina, Briney was the graduate assistant trainer at Southwest Baptist. He was the head trainer for the men's basketball, volleyball and tennis programs at the school and was the host trainer for the 2003 NCAA Division II regional tennis tournament and the 2002 MIAA tennis tournament.

While at Southwest Baptist, he also assisted with the volleyball program by helping run drills in practice and keeping charts on the bench during games. Other volleyball experience includes being a member of the Athletics in Action men's volleyball team that toured Nigeria on an international sports ministry trip in 2003, being a camp clinician at Campbell University in the summer of 2004 and being an assistant coach of the Carolina Region High Performance youth team in 2005.

The Missouri native graduated from Southwest Baptist in 2001 with a bachelor of science in sports management and a minor in psychology. He earned his masters of education from the same school in 2004. Also in 2004, he passed his strength and conditioning test to gain his CSCS credentials from the National Strength and Conditioning Association.

Bulldog opponents will be happy to see Jessica Sears on the sidelines this year instead of on the court. The former all-American will join the Truman coaching staff after being one of the top players in the country the last couple of seasons.

Sears is arguably the top volleyball player in Truman history as she played for the Bulldogs from 2001-04. Over her four seasons, her all-around play helped Truman compile a 133-17 overall record. In that span, the program won three MIAA championships, two MIAA tournaments, three South Central regional titles and advanced to two national championship matches.

She ranks in numerous Truman career categories, including fifth in kills (1,644), third in hitting percentage (.274) and service aces (156) and second in digs (1,624). She is one of just two Bulldog to go over 1,500 kills and 1,500 digs in a career.

As a freshman in 2001, Sears immediately contributed to the team and was named MIAA and South Central regional freshman of the year. She helped Truman advance to the Elite Eight for the first time in school history that year.

The next season, she was one of the top players on the team, averaging 3.42 kills and 3.42 digs a game. Sears then broke out as the team's leader during the NCAA Tournament when she led Truman to a trip to the NCAA finals.

In 2003, she had her best numbers statistically, averaging 4.62 kills, the second-best average in school history, and 4.18 digs, the fourth-best mark for a season. She earned first-team all-MIAA honors, all-region accolades, and became the first Bulldog junior to earn all-American honors when she was picked for the second team.

Last year, Sears was the top all-around player in the MIAA and led Truman to the best season in conference history. Along with repeating as first-team all-MIAA and all-region, she was the only player in the conference to earn first-team all-American honors. She is only the second player in Truman history to earn first-team accolades.

Sears ended the year averaging 3.66 kills and 3.44 digs a game. She once again led the team to the NCAA Championship match and nearly single-handily led the Bulldogs to a victory in the finals. In her final collegiate match, Sears recorded 22 kills, 10 digs and hit .378 in a tightly-fought title match.

Sears, a former all-state high school player at Colchester (Ill.), is currently completing her Truman degree in exercise science.