The Truman football team made great strides in 2006 by finishing 6-5 overall and 6-3 in the MIAA under Coach Shannon Currier. The Bulldogs were ranked 12th in the final NCAA regional rankings, the first since the 2001 season.

Truman lost their first three games before upsetting Central Missouri at home 24-21. That game propelled the Bulldogs to four straight wins at home as the team beat Missouri Southern on Family Day, Washburn on Homecoming and Southwest Baptist on Senior Day. Truman also had road wins at Emporia State and Conference newcomer Fort Hays State.

Former Coach Inducted In Mo. Sports Hall Of Fame

Former Truman football coach Russ Sloan was among 15 individuals inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in February in Springfield, Mo. Sloan, also a member of the Truman Athletics Hall of Fame, was the head coach of the Bulldogs from 1969-1971.

Sloan was a four-sport athlete at Columbia-Hickman before playing for the University of Missouri-Columbia. At Mizzou, Sloan earned all-Big Eight and honorable mention all-American in 1959, as the Tigers played in the Orange Bowl that season against Georgia.

After a brief stint with the New York Titans, Sloan returned to Hickman as an assistant football coach. He later served as head coach at Centralia, Higginsville and Carthage High Schools before joining the Truman staff under Marv Braden in 1968.

Sloan was named head coach of the Bulldogs the following year and went on to post a 22-5-1 record over the next three seasons, including two shared MIAA titles and one undisputed league crown in 1971. The .804 win percentage is second only to Don Fauror (.816) in Truman football coaching history.

Sloan resigned in the spring of 1972 to enter the race for the sixth congressional district of the United States House of Representatives. He was victorious in the three-man Republican primary but lost a close race in the November general election.

Sloan worked for the state of Missouri and the Republican Party before returning to athletics. He was named director of athletics at Southeast Missouri State and then moved on as AD at Fresno State (Calif.).

He was inducted into the Truman Athletics Hall of Fame in 1993.

FOOTBALL

The offense was led by the o-line behind three seniors, Pat Murray, Mike Shelden and Tyrone McCormick. The linemen helped the Bulldogs lead the conference in fewest sacks allowed while first-year quarterback Matt Ticich was the top skill player and he led the conference with 251.2 yards of total offense per game.

The defense was led by Les Hammers who was named the MIAA defensive player of the week three times during the season. Darryl Reddick led the team with eight tackles for loss and four sacks.

VOLLEYBALL

Truman lost their season opener but then reeled off 36 straight victories, one shy of the Bulldogs and conference record en route to a 36-2 record and an MIAA championship. The Bulldogs finished sixth in the nation in the final American Volleyball Coaches Association poll, their sixth straight year of finishing in the top 10.

Truman was selected host of the NCAA South Central region but fell 3-2 to eventual NCAA runner-up North Alabama in front of a big Pershing Arena crowd.

Senior Sarah Shearman was named a first-team all-American by the AVCA, while senior Kelsey Wackerman was a second-team choice and sophomore Allie Cherven an honorable mention pick.

Shearman became the first three-time all-American in Truman history, while Wackerman joins Shearman and Jessica Sears as the only Bulldog to earn at least two all-American awards.

CROSS COUNTRY

Running in her final cross country race, senior Jacque Faust finished 29th at the NCAA Division II Championships and became just the third Truman runner, joining Kerry Knepper and Cindy Springman, to be named all-America.

Faust's road to her second national meet run started by winning the NCAA South Central regional race in Warrensburg with a career best time of 22:00 on the 6k course. The first five runners in the regional meet were all within 11 seconds of one another. The U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association named Faust the South Central regional female runner of the year.

Jason Simpson was the top runner on the men's team. Simpson had two top-10 finishes during the season including a second-place showing at the season opening Miner Invitational in Rollo, Mo. Simpson also placed ninth at the Emporia State Invitational and was 13th in the MIAA conference race. Zach Chapman was right behind Simpson in most races but edged out the senior in the MIAA race by two places.
**MEN’S SOCCER**

Second-year head coach Duke Cochran entered the season with having to replace 13 letterwinners who graduated the year before and had 22 players on the 30-man roster being a sophomore or freshman.

Truman started the season unbeaten in their first five games with ties to regional rivals Rockhurst and Drury in the opening weekend and wins against Mercyhurst (Pa.) and Gannon (Pa.) followed by a 5-1 win over Upper Iowa.

The Bulldogs tried to claw their way into the NCAA tournament but key losses to Missouri-St, Louis, Lewis (Ill.) and SIU Edwardsville put a damper on returning to the tournament for the second consecutive year.

Sophomore Matt Taylor led the Bulldogs with five goals and three assists for 13 points, while newcomers Aldo Muniz and Ben Green each had three goals apiece.

The Bulldogs finished the season with an 8-7-3 record but were 5-1-2 playing in front of the home crowd in Kirksville.

Senior defender Matt McCarthy was named to the all-region team by the NSCAA for the first time in his career and the 11th consecutive year that a men’s soccer player had been selected all-region.

**WOMEN’S SOCCER**

All things must come to an end and in the women’s soccer case it was their consecutive years of winning the conference championship. The Bulldogs had been the only team to win the MIAA title and had done so seven straight years before finally being knocked off by Washburn (Kan.).

Truman still posted a 12-5-3 overall record which was the 12th consecutive year the team had won at least 10 games and the 13th consecutive winning season under head coach Mike Cannon.

The Bulldogs had three players named all-region by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. Seniors Robyn Mortenson, Melissa Snodgrass and freshman Jessica Wiegert were named all-region with Wiegert earning Freshman of the Year in the MIAA.

Six other players earned all-conference accolades, including Lauren Davis, Lauren Hawks, Rachel Schmidt, Kim Wolff, Emily Newsham and Katie Ruefer.

Davis, the Bulldog goalkeeper for the past four years, ended her career third all-time in shutouts with 38 and first in minutes played in goal with over 6,800. She was once again the top conference keeper in goals-against average with a 0.49, allowing just eight goals on 62 shots faced.

**Other Sports Quick Hits**

- The Bulldog men’s golf team won the Quincy Fall Invitational. Senior Jesse Helms was the individual winner with a two-round total of 139 (-3). It was the first tournament title for the team since fall of 2003.
- The men’s tennis team is ranked fourth by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association following the fall season. Ryan Cope was ranked eighth and Peter Bracha was 13th in singles while the duo is sixth in the region in doubles play. Cope and Bracha finished as quarterfinalists in the fall ITA event held in Maryville.
- The women’s tennis team is ranked fifth by the ITA in the North Central region. Courtney Walthner and Lindsey Blair are ranked ninth and 13th, respectively, in the singles rankings and as a pair are sixth in doubles.
- Julie Williams was the tournament medalist for the women’s golf team at the Nebraska Wesleyan Invite. Williams led the program to a second-place showing, just three shots behind Nebraska-Omaha. The Bulldogs had three, top-five showings during the fall season.
- Entering February, the Bulldog women’s swim team is poised for another National Championship. The team already had 20 automatic qualifying times for the national meet to be held March 14-17 in Buffalo, N.Y.
- Truman’s men’s swimming team has five events in which they have a provisional qualification for the national meet.
- Senior track and field athlete Ashley Colon broke the school record in the weight throw on Jan. 27th. Colon had a mark of 57-10.25 to beat the old record set by Danielle Grimes in 2005 by half an inch. Colon has the second-longest mark in the NCAA Division II so far this season.
- Andy Calmes, of the men’s basketball team, became one of just five players all-time to score at least 1,000 career points and pull down more than 800 rebounds. Calmes joins former Bulldog greats Cory Parker (1995-00), David Winslow (1977-81), Jason Reinberg (1997-00) and Larry Swift (1959-61) in this exclusive club.
- Women’s basketball player Georgia Mueller has made an impact on the squad. The sophomore already has scored 669 career points, which is fifth fastest all-time in school history. On her current pace, Mueller could make a run at the top three all-time, chasing Carrol Jerrard (-3). It was the first tournament title for the team since fall of 2003.
- Jesse Helms was the individual winner with a two-round total of 139 (-3). It was the first tournament title for the team since fall of 2003.
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