



Sonny Phan/Index

Senior guard Breanna Daniels puts up a shot against William Penn University [Iowa] earlier this season. Daniels has been a four-year player for the Bulldogs and just recently scored her 1,000th point of her Bulldog career against Pittsburg State University on Saturday.

**DANIELS** | Senior guard has averaged 10.5 points a game this season and has led the Bulldogs to a 7-1 record

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 the 27 games and led the team in offensive production, finishing with 13.1 points and 4.4 rebounds a game and earning her an all-MIAA honorable mention. The 'Dogs finished 11-16 that season while Daniels suffered from stress fractures in both legs. Last season, Daniels proved she was the team's offensive leader, earning third-team all-MIAA honors as the Bulldogs received their first MIAA tournament berth in Smith career at Truman.

At the start of this season, Smith told Daniels he needed her to be more of a vocal leader instead of just a leader on the court. While she said it has taken a long time to

adjust to that role, she said she has been working hard to be the leader Smith needs.

"It's still something that I'm trying to work on," Daniels said. "[Junior] Becka [McHenry] is stepping up, she's being a leader too and even Allie Norton, as a freshman, since she's our point guard, she's been thrown into a leadership role. So the three of us are really just kind of feeding off each other and making sure that if one of us is down that the other two are there to pick them up."

At 6-1, the Bulldogs already have started making a name for themselves this season in the MIAA, which Daniels said was what she had been striving for since her freshman season.

"We've come a long way in the last four years," she said. "My freshman year, Truman was always an easy win on the schedule. ... I feel like in these last three years we've demanded the respect of the conference and just have continued to prove that we are a team to take seriously."

Smith said Daniels' work ethic has set her apart from other players. He said the player with a 3.76 GPA and who recently scored her 1,000th point of her Bulldog career has played a large role in the turnaround of Truman womens basketball.

"She's been a leader by example for a few years now," Smith said. "We

kind of joke around about it now because we look back three or four years ago, her first year and my first year, and it was like night and day of the perception of our program, the expectation of our program and the future of our program. And Brie is a big part of that."

Now, flash back to the fall of 2008, to the first time Smith laid eyes on his new players. He said he can't recall what other freshmen were there, because they are no longer on the team. The player who stands out the most in his mind now from that day, the one who has had a lasting impact on Smith's career at Truman and Bulldog basketball as a whole, is the one he knew nothing about.

**RECRUITS** | Incoming freshmen to make immediate impact on volleyball team

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 (711), and earned first-team all-conference and all-district accolades twice during her career along with an all-region award during her senior campaign. Patterson started all four years of high school and led her club program, Invasion VBC, to a first place finish at the USA Volleyball Junior National Championships. Briney said he expects Patterson to be better prepared for the college level because of her extensive championship experience.

onships and she was named second-team all-conference as a senior. Green will join current freshman Meghan Zimmermann as the squad's only setters.

**Sidney King**  
 King helped lead Incarnate Word Academy in St. Louis, Mo. to back-to-back final fours in MSHSAA Class 4, earning second-team all-conference and second-team all-district honors as a senior. Briney expects King to contribute as both a libero backing up Moser and as a defensive specialist.

**Kayleen Green**  
 Green comes in as Truman's career assist leader, senior Kylie Eason, graduates. Green lettered three seasons at Davenport Central High School in Davenport, Iowa., racking up 1,000 assists and chipping in 200 career digs and 87 blocks. Green's club team, Platform Elite, won the 2009 conference champi-

**Kassi Schroeder**  
 Schroeder will join the Bulldog program after starting and lettering four seasons at Stanford Olympia High School in Stanford, Ill., but was sidelined halfway through her senior season with an injury. Briney said Schroeder will see time next season as an outside hitter and defensive specialist.

**MCMILLAN** | Index offers valuable experience and good memories for departing Index Sports Editor Brett McMillan

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 ments in Truman sports, but I'm going to say it anyway: You should go to games.

Although you hear this plea a lot, it isn't overstated, because until it starts happening we are limiting Truman's athletics program and ultimately the University itself.

If you aren't interested in sports, I can respect that, but think about the economic impact a growth in Truman athletics would bring to the University. The school could use the money, and the more exposure the school can get the better. It is great to be known for academics, but Truman always promotes being well rounded. Why do we fail to have well-rounded interest as a University? Should life really be all about academics? I'm not criticizing, I'm just asking.

Next time it's a nice day or you're bored and looking for something to do, why not go to a game? You get in for free. If it is boring, then leave, but at least give it a shot.

Granted, if you are reading this you probably already go to games, so give a copy of this

column to a friend who doesn't. Talk about Truman sports on campus. I know that sounds laughable, but change has to start somewhere. You could be where it starts.

Give a little time and effort to investing in your school's athletics and image and you won't be sorry. I know I'm not. I bet those fans who do attend games faithfully feel the same way.

Athletics help to create community and a sense of belonging. My time covering the Bulldogs certainly has done so for me.

There are a lot of people who have enabled me to have a great experience working for the Index. God is good and has placed some excellent people in my life. The Index staff is awesome. They are a hard working group of people and as a reader you should know they make a ton of sacrifices for you. The most amazing thing is, they wouldn't have it any other way. I've learned a lot from current and past staffers.

I'd name people individually, but that would take more space than I have to fill in this week's section.

There are two non-Index

staffers who have made my time here possible who I feel I must thank by name.

The first is Index Adviser Don Krause. Without his guidance, the Index just wouldn't be what it is, and without his knowledge and friendship, I would not have enjoyed or benefited from the Index as much as I have.

The second is one of my best friends and current roommate, Scott Thornhill. Scott and I have known each other since our freshman year of high school. I've spent a lot of time working at the Index that originally was designated for hanging out with him when we first started at Truman. While that was a bummer and a sacrifice for both of us, he always has been more than willing to let it happen because he knew that it was best for my career. If that doesn't make someone a great friend and an even better person, I don't know what would.

As for the Index sports section, it is in the very capable hands of Sam Sherman now. He'll do a great job.

Thanks again for reading. Please don't ever stop.



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