

**VOLLEYBALL** | The Bulldogs finish their season ranked No. 13, the highest team ranking since 2010

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"We stopped serving aggressive at times, [and] we kind of had some lapses in our offense where we didn't necessarily make smart decisions, and it's tough against a team like that," he said. "You can't afford to make too many mistakes."

Briney said he had no idea where the team would finish at the start of the year, but the season started on a less-than-promising note when the Bulldogs lost senior Heather Hargadine and freshman Jessye Maurer to injury early during the year. Brak, who finished the year as Truman's kills leader, also missed the first weekend of competition with an injury.

Truman rebounded however, as Briney said the team would continue to do all year. With a lineup consisting mainly of sophomores and freshmen, the team had success early on, and after five-set losses to Washburn University and the University of Central Missouri during mid-September, the Bulldogs won 16 matches in a row, including the victory against Nebraska-Kearney.

The No. 13 national ranking Truman finishes with was the highest for the program since 2010, when the 'Dogs were ranked No. 10 briefly. Truman also lost during the first round of the NCAA tournament that year.

Additionally, Truman had seven players selected to the All-MIAA team: Sharpe and Brak were first-team selections, with sophomore Meghan Zimmerman a second-team pick, Heise selected for the third team, and senior middle blocker Emily Briseno, freshman outside hitter Ali Patterson and Moser all receiving honorable mention.

The Bulldogs graduate Sharpe, Briseno, Hargadine and Allyson Stellmach. With no rising seniors, much of the talent present on the current team will be on the court for Truman for several years still to come.

Looking toward the future, Briney said the hard work from this senior class was the biggest reason for Truman's success this year, and he hopes the momentum will carry into next year, the Bulldogs' first season in the GLVC.

"This group of seniors has really helped put this team back to where Truman volleyball is used to being, and being in that national talk," he said. "It's really set the stage for the next several years. [The seniors] were a huge example to these underclassmen to want to leave an even better legacy behind and strive for bigger and better things."



Freshman Abby Heise attempts a kill against MIAA opponent Missouri Southern State University on Nov. 2 in Pershing Arena. The Bulldogs won in three straight sets against the Llons.

Calli Lowry/Index

**TRACK** | Indoor track season begins with young roster

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meet last winter while Walls broke the 1000-meter run record which had stood for 20 years.

The freshmen athletes for the men and women's track teams have a lot in store for them this upcoming season, considering they make up a larger portion of both of the squads.

Senior sprinter Ryan Peterson said when transitioning from high school to college-level track and field, the competition increases dramatically, though he said he sees plenty of potential in many of the younger athletes.

"There are a lot of freshmen that are looking really good this year and have a lot of talent," Peterson said. "I think they will be in for quite a surprise once we actually start competing, though. It is a lot different from the high school level."

With both the men and women's rosters full of young talent, the Bulldogs are looking toward to their first few competitions. The Truman men and women will travel to Ames, Iowa Friday for the Iowa State University Cyclone Holiday Preview. Their first meet will be Jan. 18 also at Iowa State University.

**SHARPE** | Senior leaves her mark on Bulldog history

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No. 2 Southwest Minnesota State University during the first round of the national tournament, her Bulldog career still is alive. Sharpe is a two-sport athlete and plays forward for the women's basketball team.

Briney said Sharpe's two-sport prowess, along with the fact that she's a pre-med Biology major, made her work harder than most to accomplish what she did.

"She had to work that much harder to get better in volleyball and vice-versa, to get better at basketball," Briney said. "That's just a testament to her drive, her work ethic and what she was able to do with both sports."

## 2012 Volleyball Stats

**TEAM POINTS**  
**2,920**

**OPPONENT POINTS**  
**2,512**

**TEAM ATTACKS %**  
**.236**

**KILLS**  
ALLIE BRAK  
**421**

**DIGS**  
ABBY MOSER  
**546**

**BLOCKS**  
MEGAN SHARPE  
**144**

**INDEX Classifieds** 660-785-4319

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