

# Baseball plans to succeed

After breaking a number of records during 2014, the baseball team looks to continue building on last year's progress

BY SAM STEWART  
Staff Reporter

As the winter sports continue toward the postseason and championships, other teams have been training and working all winter to prepare for their seasons. The Truman State men's baseball team has been gearing up for what might be the best season on record.

Last year, the Bulldogs broke team season records with 292 runs scored, 482 hits, 248 RBIs, 118 stolen bases and several other categories.

"The training throughout the offseason has been tough, but I believe that the hard work we put in as a team will pay off as we begin playing games and lead us to winning games," sophomore catcher Wyatt Fones said. "With the strong veteran presence that we have, we should fare extremely well in the postseason and conference."

The Bulldogs return to the diamond after the first play-off appearance since 1999. The team earned one of two wildcard spots in the postseason last year. After winning its first two games, the 'Dogs lost to eventual champion Drury University in the semifinals.

"We feel this club is our best to date with a great mix of veteran guys who are complemented by some very talented newcomers," head coach Dan Davis said.

Baseball will return a number of pitchers with starting experience, including junior Mark Roberts, senior Cody

Gardner and sophomore Alex Hoffmann. The 'Dogs will have redshirt freshmen Kent Frantz and Austin Tinsley back in action after missing last year with injuries. Sophomore Sam Reuter, will also be back.

Senior outfielder Jarod Hahn and senior first baseman Paul Trenhaile return to the diamond this year. Both were named second team all-GLVC last season. Trenhaile enters his final season ranked third in career batting average at Truman with .351, 10th with hits at 154 and 11th with RBIs at 84. He was named a Capital One/CoSIDA Academic All-American.

In addition to player awards, Davis eclipsed 100 career wins as a Bulldog, only the second manager to do so throughout school history. The Bulldogs are coming off a school record of 26 wins last season.

"This year I expect for us to have the first winning record in Bulldog baseball history, make it to the postseason and win the conference," Hahn said. "We had a really good year last year and I feel this year the team can surpass last year's success."

Last week the Bulldogs were ranked fourth in the GLVC preseason rankings poll. In the West Division, Truman is behind Quincy University, Drury and the University of Missouri-St.Louis in a close vote.

One point separated Truman and UMSL for third and fourth, and one point stood between Quincy and Drury for first and second. Despite the preseason respect the team was given, there still are a number of obstacles.

"We've had a couple of season-ending injuries on the pitching staff that could put some younger pitchers in more important roles this year, but we all feel as though they are talented," Davis said. "If our coaching staff can put them in a position to have success, they will compete at a high level for us."

Newcomers include sophomore third baseman Trevor Bell, freshman third baseman Brendan Trimble and freshmen pitchers Chris Beckmann, Alec Beuttel and Nate Lukas.

"It's going to take them a lot of reps to become comfortable, but I think it will be a short matter of time before we're clicking on all cylinders as a team," Trenhaile said.

With the high energy and positive attitude as the season opener approaches, the 'Dogs will look to make the most of this season.

The 2015 baseball season will be underway this weekend with a four-game series against Oklahoma Panhandle State in Goodwell, Oklahoma. The 'Dogs will have two games Saturday Feb. 14 and two Sunday.

**"We feel this club is our best to date with a great mix of veteran guys who are complemented by some very talented newcomers."**  
- Head coach Dan Smith

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## Truman's Lincoln Contest Art, Essay, and Oratory

Some would argue that what Abraham Lincoln is most remembered for is his signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. The document may have had a limited direct impact on the lives of many slaves, but it was a watershed moment in stating that previously bound people shall be "forever free" (Emancipation Proclamation, paragraph 2). To emancipate commonly means to free from bondage, oppression, or restraint. This year's prompt asks you to choose one of the following possibilities and develop it into an essay:

- Choose another emancipatory moment in Lincoln's life and write about it, incorporating source material.
- Choose an emancipatory moment in someone's life and, incorporating source material, write about it.

Fred & Ethel Schwengel established the Lincoln Contests in art, essay, and oratory to pay tribute to Abraham Lincoln. This semester the collegiate essays will be judged by Professor Monica Barron and the speeches by Professor Barry Poyner. The art contest will be judged by Professor Rusty Nelson.

By Feb. 28, submit a 1000-1500 word, 3-5 page essay in response to the prompt to Barry Poyner, Barnett Hall 1110. Provide a list of "works cited" as appropriate. On a cover sheet, provide contact information, and clearly indicate if entering the essay or oratorical contest, or both. Finalists in the Oratorical Contest will deliver their speeches before the National Communication Association Student Club later in the semester. Communication Club members will assist Dr. Poyner in judging. Essay and Oratory Prizes for 1st and 2nd places will be \$200.00 and \$100.00, respectively.

For the art contest, entries should be submitted to Rusty Nelson, OP 1221 by Feb. 28 and observe the following criteria: artwork of any media is acceptable, traditional or digital output/projection - 2D and 3D. No larger than 18 x 24" for 2D work and 3ft in the round for 3D work. Projected work should be formatted for 16:9 screen ratio. Winning art will be added to the Schwengel Lincoln Collection in Special Collections at Pickler Memorial Library. Art Prizes for 1st and 2nd places will be \$200.00 and \$100.00, respectively.