

## SWIMMING | Three members of the Truman swim team earned national recognition as Division II Preseason All-Americans. With experience all across the roster for both the men and women, the Bulldogs set big goals for the 2016-17 season.

### PRESEASON ALL-AMERICANS



**Junior, Will Shanel**  
200 Butterfly  
400 Individual Medley



**Junior, Nikki Sisson**  
100 Freestyle



**Senior, Evyn Spencer**  
100 Backstroke  
100 Butterfly  
200 Individual Medley

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Pretre said he believes his teams gained confidence from this success but are swimming with chips on their shoulders. He said he is coaching the best-ever men's team this season and expects nearly 96 percent of the men's records to fall this year. On the women's side, Pretre said the team is not talking about repeating as conference champions, but they are also not backing down from the challenge.

"We woke up a sleeping giant last year with multi-national champion Drury [University]," Pretre said. "They could win the NCAA championships this year, but we feel like at a conference level, if we're going on all four cylinders we have a shot at that number one team in the nation. Our girls are not afraid of anybody."

Pretre said both the men and women learned a lot last season about what it takes to be great and said he thinks they are returning as veteran teams, driven by the examples of positive leadership and a completely unified work ethic. He said the team graduated a great class last year that set the tone as far as leadership is concerned. He said this year's seniors have embraced that same leadership and are doing it even better now.

Only three weeks in, Pretre said the team is off to its best start ever for a program with historic success.

"It's all about the culture change," Pretre said. "It's completely different. I think that's why we're attracting not just great athletes, but great student athletes. I had a lot of fun last year, but I've never had this much fun before. A lot of teams say that they're family, but we actually mean it and we do it. I think that's why people want to come in and swim for us."

This culture aids the recruiting process, and veterans will not be the only impact-makers for the 'Dogs this year. Pretre said his latest freshmen recruiting class contains special athletes who all have the ability to be contributors. He said he expects them to be even more impactful because they have upperclassmen to look up to who have been through the process.

Included in this group of influential upperclassmen will undoubtedly be the All-American trio. Pretre said he has seen the three athletes mature and learn to work smarter and more aggressively in the time he has spent coaching them. Pretre said the recognition was nice for these three athletes, but he knows their minds are focused on much more than preseason rankings.

"They're working hard where they want to improve on last year and be better," Pretre said. "They all have

specific goals of what they want to do in and out of the pool, and they're really doing that. I don't think they're focusing on times. They're focusing on the little things they need to do to achieve those times. They're dialed in right now."

Sisson was honored for the 100 freestyle, Shanel for the 200 butterfly and 400 individual medley, and Spencer for the 100 backstroke, 100 butterfly and 200 individual medley.

Sisson returns as a key component for the Bulldogs with two seasons left to continue making her mark at Truman. She picked up five All-American honors at last year's NCAA Championships with her best finish being fourth in the 100 freestyle.

Sisson said last year's success and this preseason's rankings are not given much thought because they don't have anything to do with what she needs to get done this year.

"While it's nice to have accomplished the things I did last year, doing so gets harder every year because time standards get faster, as well as the other swimmers," Sisson said. "Making nationals is really hard, so instead of focusing on that, I'm trying to just have fun and enjoy training with my teammates."

For Shanel, last season's run at the NCAA National Championships was highlighted by a third place finish in the 400 individual medley. Shanel said this accomplishment was above and beyond what he had expected last season, but he has his sights aimed for the top podium spot this year, a goal he has held since his first NCAA qualification his freshman season. Shanel said

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-Head Coach Ed Pretre

he also aims to keep his name as the top competitor in the GLVC and break his own school records.

Even with success, Shanel said he stays motivated and focuses on setting a good example for his team.

"As a captain, I try to hold myself as someone the team looks up to when they're unsure of which path to take," Shanel said. "I try to keep my grades up, work hard in and out of the pool, stay involved on campus and be a means of communication for coaches, parents and other admin around campus. I also strive to be a friend to those around me, as everyone needs one at some point or another."

Shanel said these caring and well-rounded attitudes are embraced by the entire team, making each person a leader in their own right. He said Truman swimming is truly a family, and applauds his team for always wanting what is best for one another.

As preseason training comes to a close, Bulldog swimming prepares for the first meet of the 2016-17 season at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24. The Bulldog Alumni Meet will take place in Pershing Natatorium.

# Bazemore brings experience to Truman athletic department

BY BROOKE BAILEY  
Staff writer

Michael Bazemore, commonly known as Mike or Baze, is taking over as Truman State University's new associate athletics director, a position formerly held by Linda Anderson. As associate athletic director, Bazemore serves as Truman's athletic compliance director and head adviser for the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. Bazemore brings a new face to Truman, but he is certainly not new to the roles he holds in a collegiate athletic department.

Bazemore previously held the position of athletics compliance director and oversaw SAAC for over four years at his previous university, Montana State University Billings.

Bazemore earned his master's degree in sports, recreation and fitness management at MSU-Billings. Earlier in his collegiate career he graduated from Michigan State University with two bachelor's degrees, one in sociology and another in interdisciplinary studies in social science. During his time there, Bazemore acquired firsthand experience as a collegiate athlete as two-year starter on Michigan State's defensive line.

Bazemore said his experience in a Division II athlete department has prepared him for his role. Bazemore said he brings new ideas from his previous university, including the new athletic honor fraternity, Chi Alpha Sigma, which will have its first initiation class this fall.

Having been both a successful student and athlete himself as an Academic All-Big Ten conference selection, Bazemore owns the experience needed

to understand, guide and connect with Truman student athletes.

Also new to the Truman athletic department is the Bulldogs' newly hired Faculty Athletics Representative, Liz Jorn. Jorn represents the academic interests for student athletes and has already been working closely with Bazemore.

Jorn said her and Bazemore's positions work with compliance training for all student athletes, waivers for classroom attendance issues and attending the spring GLVC meeting. Jorn also oversees SAAC. Jorn said the experience Bazemore has from Billings will be an excellent addition to the Truman athletics staff.

SAAC president J.J. Dorrell said Bazemore has already made great strides with SAAC and has added great input and ideas from his previous experience. SAAC's recently made a major change to the constitution breaking responsibilities down into three committees — student life, public relations and fundraising — Bazemore and Dorrell said they plan to use these committees to reach their goals and make the organization more involved than ever before.

"SAAC's mission is to enhance the total student athletes' experience by promoting opportunity, protecting student athlete welfare and fostering a positive student athlete image," Dorrell said.

Dorrell said SAAC plans to get the community involved with a day called "Basics with Bulldogs" which kids from the Kirksville community can attend and choose what sport they want to learn about from Truman athletes. SAAC will also host a tailgate before the football game Homecoming weekend.



**Submitted Photo**  
Michael Bazemore joined the Truman State University Athletic Department this year as associate athletic director. He serves as compliance director and SAAC director.



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