

SPORTS

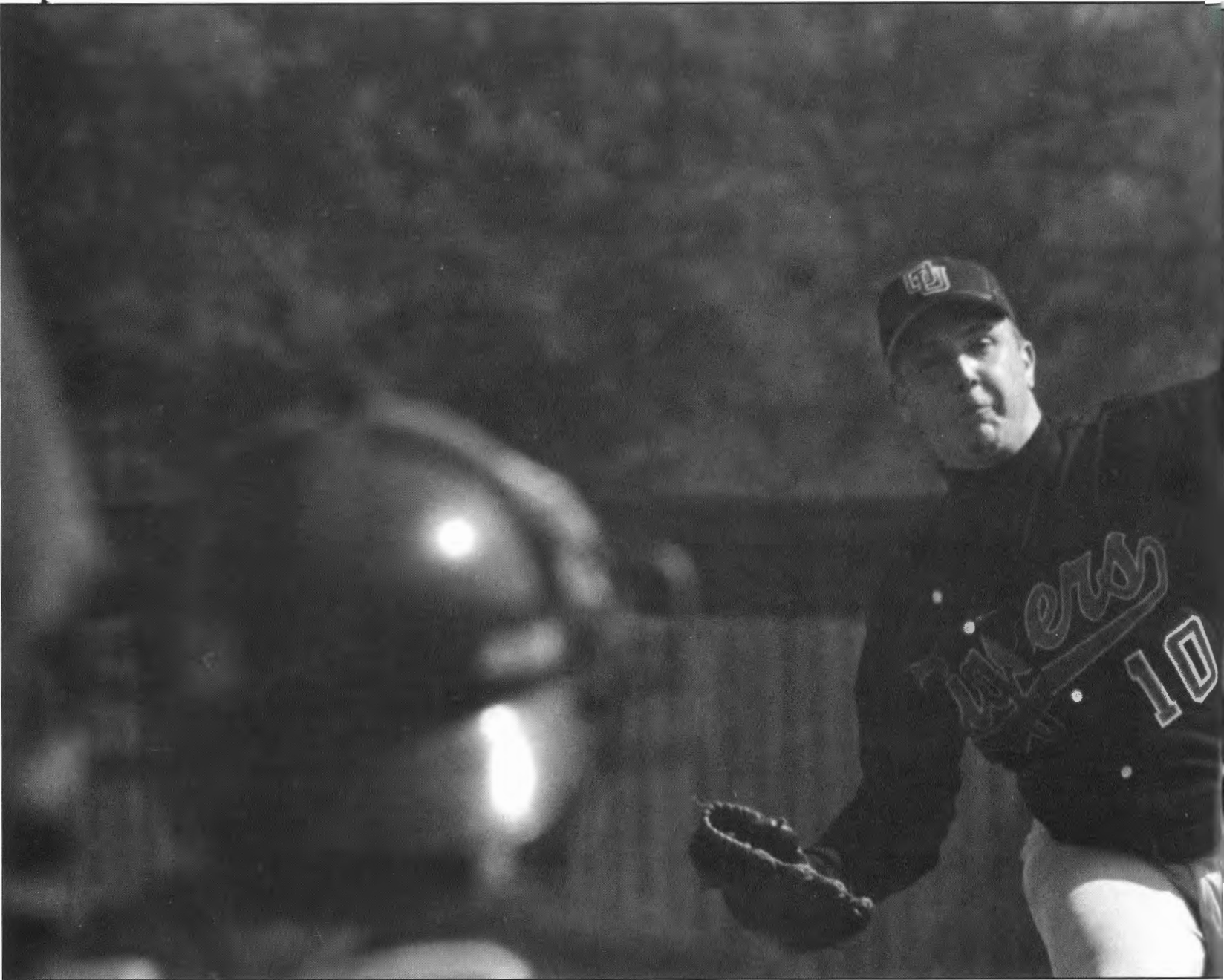


photo by Guy Lyons

He threw the ball up. His hand followed the movement, and the racket maneuvered by the force of his strength made contact and served the tennis ball into his opponent's court. His opponent anticipated the serve and returned it to the far side of the court with even more force. **REACHING** with every inch of his body, Patrik Lofvenberg slammed the ball back into his opponent's court and scored.

Moments like this earned Lofvenberg the tennis title of Southern Senior

Player of the Year and moved the men's tennis team to a fifth place finish in the nation. They reached **BEYOND** all levels of Arkansas tennis, finishing higher in the nation than any Arkansas tennis team ever had. Yet, the competition would grow fierce.

The AIC had come to an end, and the University would now face competition in NCAA Division II as an independent. This meant new teams with different strengths, as well as **THE** revival of some old rivalries. Baseball, swimming, and basketball all faced the reopening of "the battle of the ravine" as they fought to defeat the Henderson Reddies.

University athletics would face additional challenges as we introduced the women's cross country team to competition and lost some treasured coaches to retirement. Head Football Coach Buddy Benson retired from coaching and became athletic director after Bill Vining announced his retirement from the University.

Yet, we were prepared to meet every challenge.

We searched beyond the **WALL** for a new

football coach and found Red Parker. We proved ourselves in competition against old rivalries. And we broadened our horizons with new sports, new teams, and new competition. We reached beyond our goals and expectations.



With an incredible determination to win, sophomore Doug Fellenz thrusts all his energy behind the baseball as he pitches it toward home plate in a baseball game against the Henderson Reddies. The University's athletic teams ranging from football to swimming opened the doors to new competition with the acceptance into the NCAA Division II. This acceptance also reignited some old rivalries and reopened "the battle of the ravine."

GOAL— Junior Kevin Jones fights for the first down against the University of Arkansas at Monticello. The Tigers faced tough defenses the entire season. They were only able to hold on to two victories, finishing the season with a 2-7 record.
•photo by Guy Lyons



The Tigers experience a season of triumphs as well as heartaches.

the tigers search for missing **PIECES**

With sweaty palms and the sound of a roaring crowd, he clapped his hands, left the huddle, positioned himself across from the enemy, and set up his offense. He looked to his right and then his left, called the play, and embarked on the mission which had called him three years earlier.

Junior quarterback Brad Ray took the Tiger squad through a tough season capturing only two victories and seven devastating losses in what would be Coach Buddy Benson's final season at the University.

For Benson and his men, the season began on a hot August afternoon. The troops lined the field secured in helmets and shorts, lacking the complete padded uniform. The heat pounded down on the 57 veterans and newcomers as they went through a health, strength, agility, and speed testing period. Full speed practices in full pads followed as the opening game drew near.

"We have a few holes to fill, but we look good so far," said Benson after the first week of summer practices.

With a change in affiliation and conference after gaining dual membership in NAIA Division I and NCAA Division II, the team was preparing for the season, relying on Benson, who had been with the University for over three decades.

A third straight opening game win and the University's 400th football victory came in the season opener against Southwest Baptist University. The milestone victory came through the combination of Ray and his prime passing targets. With the score tied 10-10 in the third quarter, Ray took advantage of a pass interference penalty against the Bearcats by hitting junior fullback Jeff Johnson on a 15-yard touchdown pass to give the Tigers a 17-10 lead with 4:28 left in the quarter.

The Bearcats were forced to punt on the following drive and three plays later Johnson pranced into the endzone cushioning the lead,

making it a final 24-10 victory.

After the victorious opener, the Tigers found the next two games to be tough. With a 17-3 loss against Northwestern Oklahoma State University and a 35-14 loss to Northeastern Oklahoma State University, the squad began searching for pieces to fit the missing parts of the puzzle.

The pieces fit for Benson and his squad against the Tigers of East Central Oklahoma State University. The team jumped out to a 29-3 lead early and held out for the victory.

Benson's Tigers were ahead 14-3 at halftime, but had to kick off to East Central to begin the second half. After the defense forced a punt, Ray hit senior split end Richard Williams on a 51-yard touchdown pass early in the third quarter. East Central's quarterback Richard Peoples drove his squad down the field in an 18 play, 97-yard drive, that Peoples ended with an eight-yard touchdown run, making the final score 29-16.

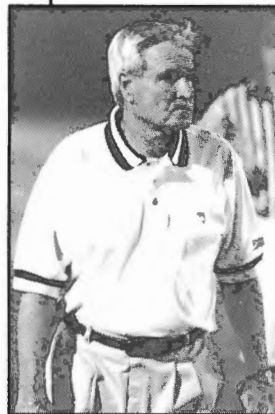
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COMING DOWN—Junior quarterback Brad Ray gets off his pass just in time to avoid a sack by the Harding Bison defense. Ray led the Tigers against the Bison, but came up short with a 13-16 defeat. •photo by Joy Barber

sharing the spotlight
BENSON & PARKER

As he paced the sideline at Burkle Field in Russellville in front of his players, just as he had done for 31 years at A.U. Williams Field, there didn't seem to be a difference. He was still pacing, still barking out orders just as he had done 309 times before at stadiums all across the nation, from Ada and Weatherton, Okla., to Monticello, Ark., and from Boliver, Mo., to Shreveport, La.



This time it was different. He knew it. His players knew it. His family knew it. Everyone who knew Tiger Head Coach Buddy Benson and had ever been associated with the University knew there was something historic about this day.

NEW ROLES—
 Coach Benson says farewell to his team and coaching career, while Coach Parker says hello.
 •photo by Guy Lyons

Jesse "Buddy" Benson's 310th game turned out to be his last. The season epitomized the character of all

Benson teams — don't give up, don't ever give up.

Despite the numbers, Benson's teams were always there, fighting for a win late in the fourth quarter. Benson's teams won 162 of the games he coached, four Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference titles and earned two trips to the NAIA national playoffs.

In late fall, Red Parker, a 1988 inductee in the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame was hired and named the new head football coach for the University.

Parker had coached at both the high school and college level. He began his duties at the University during the spring semester in off-season football. Coach Parker was known as one of the state's most successful coaches. •by Jeff Williams

reviving tradition
**FROM AIC
TO NCAA**

It was that time of the year again. The Tigers and the Henderson State University Reddies would play their annual game known as the "Battle of the Ravine." For more than 30 years, the two teams displayed their rivalry in many ways. The Reddies would paint the Tiger red, and the Tigers would put purple coloring in the HSU fountain.

LONE STAR CONFERENCE

- Ouachita Baptist University
- Northeastern Oklahoma University
- Southeastern Oklahoma University
- Harding University
- Abilene Christian University
- University of Central Oklahoma
- Eastern New Mexico University
- Texas A&M University-Kingsville
- Texas Woman's University
- Tarleton State University
- West Texas A&M University
- Midwestern State University
- East Texas State University

However, so much had changed in 30 years. The Tiger was no longer painted red and the fountain had not been purple in several years. The tradition died in 1993 when the Reddies left the Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference which was

part of the NAIA athletic league.

The move of Henderson and UCA in 1993 to the Gulf South Conference marked the end of the 68-year-old AIC and cast an uncertain future on the NAIA. According to athletic director Bill Vining, "We would have no competition in the NAIA. We must belong to an organization with teams comparable to ours if we want to compete."

The University was classified as "independent" and had no affiliation with a conference. The University was allowed to retain membership in the NAIA because the NCAA required a three year probationary period.

The famous "Battle of the Ravine" was scheduled to resume. So much had changed, yet some things were still the same. •by Jodie Matthews

HUSTLE—Freshman Art Cadena avoids a tackle against the defense of the University of Arkansas at Monticello. Cadena provided early leadership in the battle against UAM, but the Tigers suffered a 26-27 loss. •photo by Jim Yates



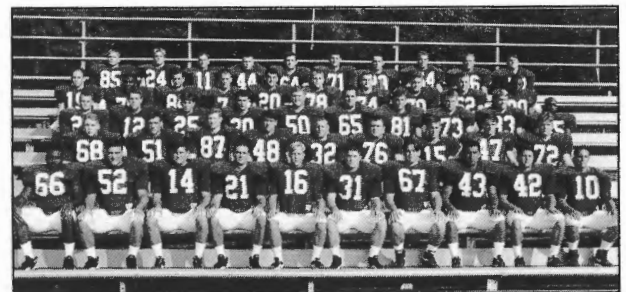
Tiger Football

for the RECORD

Southwest Baptist University	24-10
Northwestern Oklahoma State University	3-17
Northeastern Oklahoma State University	14-35
East Central Oklahoma State University	29-16
Southeastern Oklahoma State University	17-47
Southern Arkansas University	20-21
University of Arkansas at Monticello	26-27
Harding University	13-16
Arkansas Tech University	21-24

2-7 OVERALL

TIGER FOOTBALL TEAM—*front row:* William Nevels, Chad Wilkerson, Kevin Jones, Randy Winters, Richard Williams, Jeff Johnson, Josh Jones, Jason Renteria, Kenny Griggs, Brad Ray *second row:* Anthony Efird, Brian Maddox, Jeremy Petters, Don Hoover, William Moody, Billy Rhoden, Robert Poole, Jody Sifford, Aaron Thedford *third row:* Vince Perrin, Wes Rexrode, Art Cadena, Brian Kehner, Chet White, Justin Wooten, Wade Atchison, Greg Dalton, Brent Black, Adrian Tamplin *fourth row:* Cameron Gantz, Adrian Miller, Jason Owen, Tommy Poole, Mike Carozza, Brad Patterson, Jim Dipple, Ducer Smith, Josh Willeford, Damien Harris *fifth row:* Jason O'Neill, Casey McFadin, John Risinger, Mark Palfreeman, Haden Gildner, Scott Witherspoon, Mike Laughlin, Bryan Hoy, Kevin Samples, James Gass • *photo by Guy Lyons*



LOSING MOMENTUM—The Bison offense tries to push through the Tiger defense not finding the yards they need. The Tiger defense found their task to be a tough one. •*photo by Jim Yates*



the tigers search for missing PIECES

(Continued from page 98)

The remaining six games proved to be heartbreakers for the Tigers. Southeastern Oklahoma State University defeated the Tigers in a devastating 47-17 loss.

Southern Arkansas University took its victory against the Tigers when freshman Lucas Mellott blocked senior Randy Winters' extra point attempt with 2:41 left in the game which ended with a score of 21-20. Concentrating on the ball and watching the snap, he kicked the ball and hoped for the best. As he watched his attempt draw nearer to the center of the uprights, he was devastated when the kick was blocked and the conversion failed.

"I was hoping that Randy would make the extra point," said Benson. "We had two timeouts left and the momentum, and I thought our defense could hold them, then get the ball back and score again."

The same devastation took its toll when the Tigers took on the University of Arkansas at Monticello. The team could not convert an extra point attempt late in the fourth quarter, and the Boll Weavils came out on top with a 27-26 victory.

The final upsets for Benson's squad came with a 16-13 loss against the Harding Bisons, and a 24-21 loss against the Arkansas Tech Wonder Boys. The Tigers closed the season with a 2-7 record.

"We were pleased with our efforts," said Williams. "I thought we played really hard. We just had some tough losses in the end."

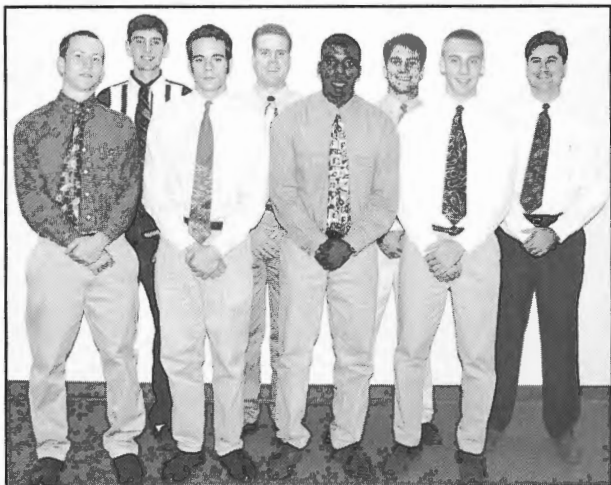
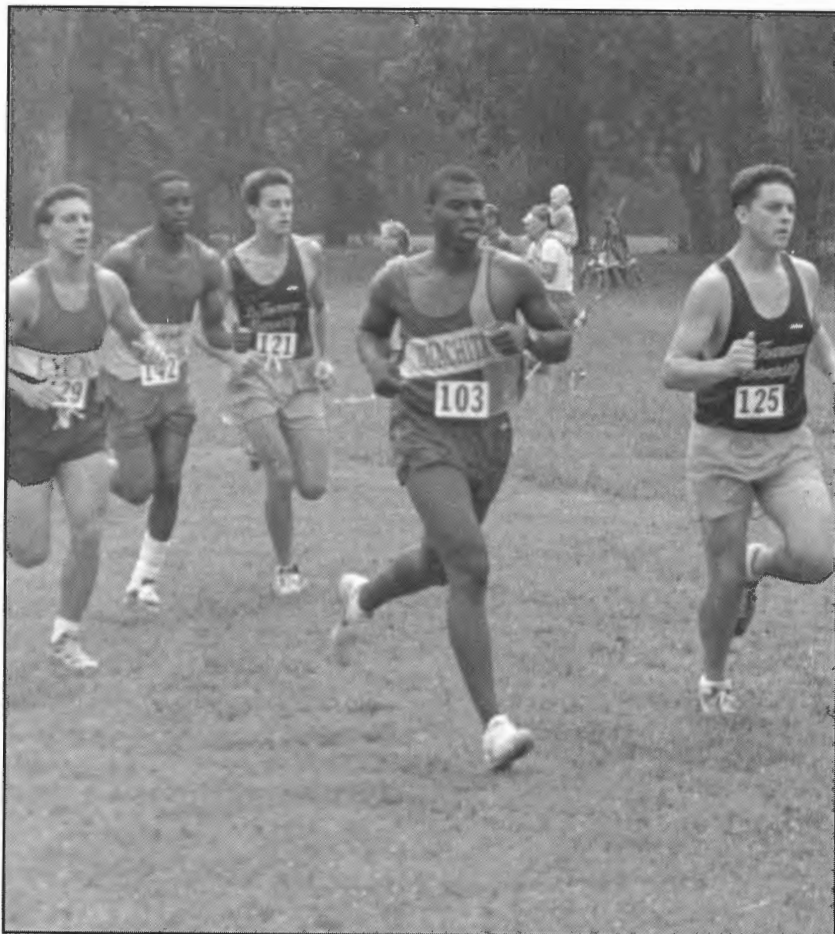
After a tough season and 31 years of service, Coach Benson announced his retirement as head football coach for the University. He was replaced by Coach Red Parker.

"Toward the end of the season we played really hard, but we lost some tough games," said junior Kevin Jones. "We wanted to play especially hard because it was Coach Benson's last season, and we wanted to send him out well."

The team used the off-season to prepare for the next season and the battles that would lay ahead. •*by Priscilla Shrader*

CONCENTRATION—Junior Eric Torrence concentrates on the finish line ahead in the OBU Invitational. The Tigers placed third in the meet, behind LeTourneau University and Harding University. •photo by Joy Barber

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM—front row: Matt Parker, Mason Pickens, Eric Torrence, Ross Brown back row: Trey Cone, Brant Steffey, Trey Barr, Coach Grant Pate •photo by Joy Barber



With the help of new leadership, men's cross country moves ahead.

men's cross country searches for the **FINISHLINE**

The sweat poured down his face as he wiped his wet hands on his shorts. He got on his mark, focused on the task ahead, and waited for the signal. As he took off, he concentrated on every stride, striving for the ultimate goal of the finish line.

Coach Grant Pate and his squad endured a tough season of rebuilding with the addition of new leadership and the transition into a new conference.

While most students were catching some rays on the beach or taking part in a summer internship, these faithful few were training for the season that lied ahead. Sophomore Mason Pickens was one of the runners who improved over the summer break. "He worked really hard all summer and has come back in good shape," said Pate after the runners returned in the fall.

The team practiced hard in preparation for the first meet, running and conditioning daily. Pate went into the season "cautiously

optimistic" about his group of distance runners.

The squad's first meet was held in their own backyard at the University's north campus. The team finished third in the invitational, and Harding took the men's championship.

The top finisher for the University was junior Trey Cone who finished eighth with a time of 27:42. Pickens was next with a time of 29:22. The humidity proved to be a tough factor in the meet. "The times were slow all around compared to other meets due to the humidity," said Pate.

The next meet for Pate and his runners turned out to be a victory for the squad when they placed first in the Hendrix College Invitational. The Tigers placed four runners in the top 10. Cone once again led the team with a first place finish and a time of 27:54.

The next stop for the Tigers was the Lyon College Invitational Meet, where the team finished third with 52 points trailing Harding University with 37 points and Lyon College

with 51. Pickens led the Tigers with 27:06 time followed by Cone and Junior Eric Torrence.

With two regular season meets left, the Tigers regrouped and continued the hard work to end the season. They finished sixth place in the Rhodes College Invitational and captured a second victory at Hendrix College finishing first with 39 points followed by Lyon College with 41 and Williams Baptist with 73.

The Tigers wrapped up their season with a 10th place finish in the NAIA Southwest Regional Cross Country Championship Meet. The finish came in a field of 13 with 274 points.

"We did a lot," said Cone. "We practiced hard, and we all came together for our regional meet."

Coach Pate was pleased with his squad's performance. "These guys worked really hard all year, and I was very pleased with their work ethic," said Pate. "I look forward to the off-season and what we can do next year." •by Priscilla Shrader



TOP RUNNER—Sophomore Mason Pickens leads the way for the Tigers in the OBU Invitational. Pickens provided strong leadership for the team with a competitive spirit and a determination to win. •photo by Joy Barber

Men's Cross Country

for the RECORD

OBU Invitational	
Harding University	21
LeTourneau University	46
Ouachita	79
Southern Arkansas University	100
University of the Ozarks	117

Hendrix College Invitational	
Ouachita	29
Lyon College	36
Southern Arkansas University	55

Lyon College Invitational	
Harding University	37
Lyon College	51
Ouachita	52
Williams Baptist College	86
University of the Ozarks	122

Rhodes College Invitational	
Harding University	51
Rhodes College	51
Greenville College	77
Christian Brothers University	113
Trinity University	156
Ouachita	160
Southwestern University	162
Southern Arkansas University	207
University of the South	215
Rust College	265

Hendrix College Invitational	
Ouachita	39
Lyon College	41
Williams Baptist College	73

NAIA Southwest Regional Championship	
Lubbock Christian University	15
Northwood University	82
Harding University	113
Oklahoma Baptist University	141
Oklahoma Christian University	162
Ambassador University	164
Wayland Baptist University	170
LeTourneau University	173
Southern Nazarene University	242
Ouachita	274
Lyon College	287
Incarnate Word College	287
University of Mary-Hardin Baylor	394

10th in NAIA SW REGION



Women's Cross Country

for the RECORD

OBU Invitational

Harding University	17
Lyon College	77
Henderson State University	78
Ouachita	85

Lyon College Invitational

Henderson State University	1st
Lyon College	2nd
Ouachita	3rd

ENDURANCE—Stuart runs with stamina to the very end. Stuart was one of only five members on the women's cross country team. The team's small number allowed for them to receive team scores in only two of the seven meets in which they participated.
•photo by Guy Lyons



STRETCH—Freshman Sarah Jones stretches with sophomore Stacy Stuart before practice. Practice was a big part of being on the cross country team. The team's practice included running every morning as well as lifting weights and running again in the evening. •photo by Guy Lyons



PASSING OPPONENTS—Stuart works her way through the crowd at the NAIA Southwest Regional Cross Country Championship at North Park in Irving, Texas. Stuart came in 68th place in the meet with a time of 27 minutes. •photo by Ronald Jones

The women's cross country team establishes a lasting foundation.

women's cross country prepares for **TAKEOFF**

With hearts pounding, clammy hands, and beads of sweat waiting to burst forth, the women's cross country runners anxiously awaited the fire of the gun signifying the start. Suddenly, hundreds of feet stammered past the starting line with a loud roar. The entire group of runners dashed toward the path shoulder to shoulder each trying to break free from the pack. Focusing only on each step they took, the runners put all of their long hours of training into action, hoping to come out the victor in the end. Mile after mile the women refused to give up, even after fatigue had put its toll on them. Sweat pouring into each runners eyes was a sign that this sport was definitely not easy. Finally, the light at the end of the

tunnel could be seen. Through pure exhaustion, the runners paraded over the finish line, each gaining victory at the fact they had finished the race.

It was a year of firsts for the team. In its first year of existence, the team consisted of five women and was coached by first-year coach Jill Murders. Coach Murders said she had a good group of distance runners. "These girls really showed the desire to give whatever it takes to be the best they could be," Murders said. "The girls got up and ran at 5:45 in the morning which really showed dedication. In the afternoon, they lifted weights and ran again at night," Murders added.

Throughout the season, the women did not always have five runners participating in the

meets. Therefore, they did not receive team scores for meets. The team finished up the regular season with their meet at Hendrix. Coach Murders said that she was pleased with her team's performance and work ethic this season despite the few runners she had. The women participated in the regional meet at Kenosha, Washington. Sarah Jones finished 63rd, Stacy Stuart finished 68th, and Hope Tate finished 69th in the regional meet.

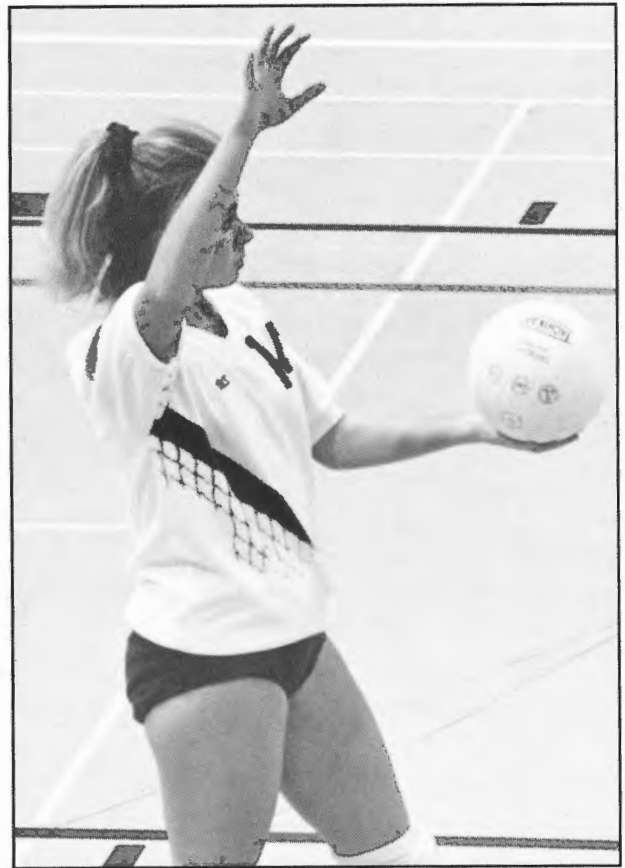
The team participated in an off season program to prepare for next season.

Coach Murders said, "I could not be more proud of these girls and what they have done this year. This was a good start to the women's cross country program that can be built upon."

•by Jodie Matthews

TOUGH SERVE—Junior Krista Lapp prepares to serve to the opposing team. Lapp was named to the NAIA Southwest Region's All-Independent team and was named Second All-Southwest Region. •photo by Joy Barber

PRACTICE—Members of the women's volleyball team give 100 percent in practice. Hard work and dedication paid off as they competed with, as well as defeated, many of the best teams in the region. •photo by Joy Barber



Women's volleyball hangs on to the momentum of the past.

the lady tigers make a habit of
WINNING

After finishing last in the AIC in 1992, the Lady Tiger volleyball team rebounded to share the AIC crown in 1993. With the high hopes entering the 1994 season, the Lady Tigers ended the season with a disappointing 11-16 record and a fifth place finish in the final season of the Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference.

Entering the 1995 season, the Lady Tigers hoped the roller coaster they had been riding would once again finish on top.

The Lady Tigers began the season with a change at head coach. Tona Wright, who had guided the Lady Tigers since 1971, resigned her post and decided to stick with the classroom setting.

Instead, the Lady Tigers looked to the leadership of Betsy Danner, a member of Wright's 1971 squad.

Danner began the season with the optimism that her squad could compete with NAIA forces Harding University and Southern Arkansas University.

The Lady Tigers showed how well they

could compete early in the season. On Oct. 10, the Lady Tigers trailed the Harding University Lady Bison 9-1 in the third game of a tied match. Instead of folding and giving the Bisons a 2-1 lead in the match, the Lady Tigers rebounded and outscored the Lady Bison 14-3 to win the match.

The Lady Tigers could not hold on to beat the nationally ranked Lady Bison, but they proved to everyone they could compete.

"That set showed me a lot of determination from this team," said Danner following the contest. "To come and win a set when you're down like that to a team like Harding is great."

The squad went on to win six of their last seven regular season games and entered the Southwest Region Independent Tournament seeded third and was ready to face John Brown University, the six seed in the tournament.

The Lady Eagles surprised everyone by beating the Lady Tigers in the quarterfinals and advancing to the finals with another shocking upset of Southern Arkansas.

Despite the early upset, the Lady Tigers

were proud of their 19-13 record and what they had accomplished throughout the season.

"I am pleased overall with the way our players performed this season," said Danner.

Individually, Krista Lapp, a junior setter who spent the majority of the season among the nation's top setters in the assist category, was named to the NAIA Southwest Region's All-Independent Team and was named Second All-Southwest Region.

Christy Hudson, a sophomore middle hitter, also received recognition as honorable mention to the NAIA Southwest Region's All-Independent Team.

Despite the return of Lapp and Hudson, however, Danner would have to find a way to replace the experience and ability of the seniors and their talent.

Moving into NCAA Division II and the Lone Star Conference after losing four top players could be discouraging, but the Lady Tigers had proven over and over they would always be able to compete with the best this region had to offer. •by Jeff Williams



JUMP—Sophomore Christy Hudson ascends to the top of the net for a smooth return. Hudson, a middle-hitter, was awarded honorable mention to the NAIA Southwest Region's All-Independent team. •*photo by Joy Barber*

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM—*front row:* Mgr. Brandon Griffin, Melissa Marsh, Angela Griffin, Stephanie Ferrill, Holly Brogden, Coach Betsy Danner, Tiffany McBride *back row:* Christy Hudson, Sarah Kelly, Stephanie Baynes, Krista Lapp, Michelle Blaine • *photo by Diane Deaton*

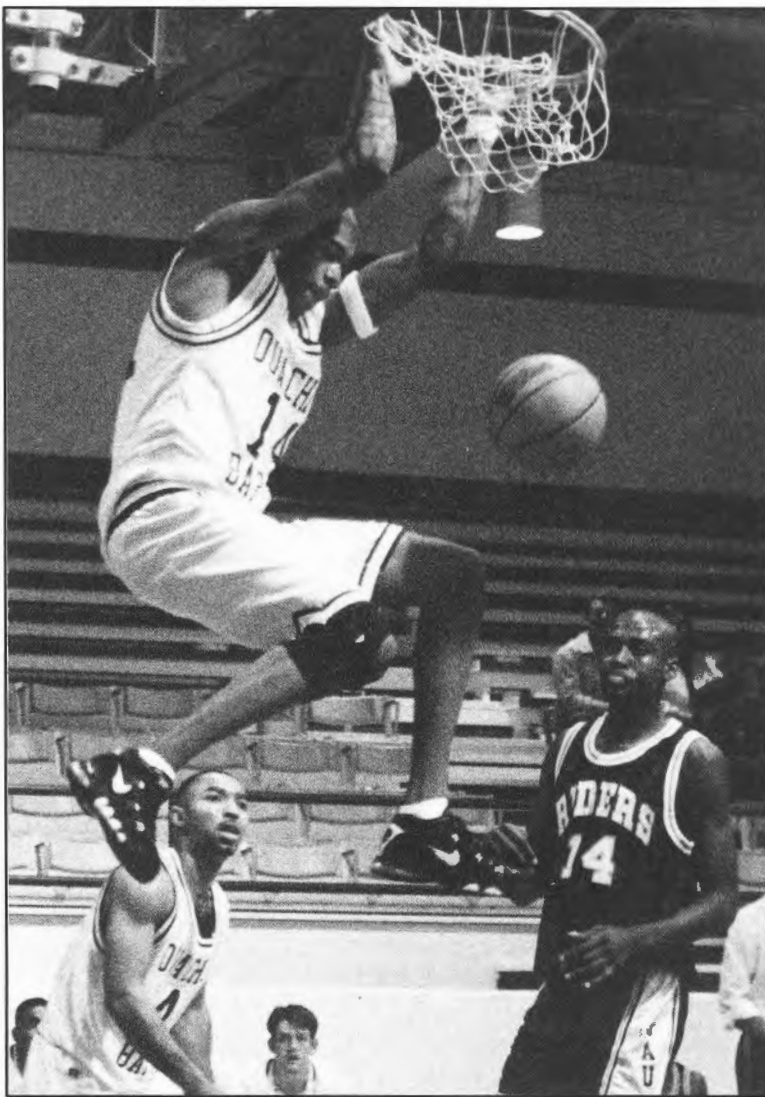


Tiger Volleyball

for the RECORD

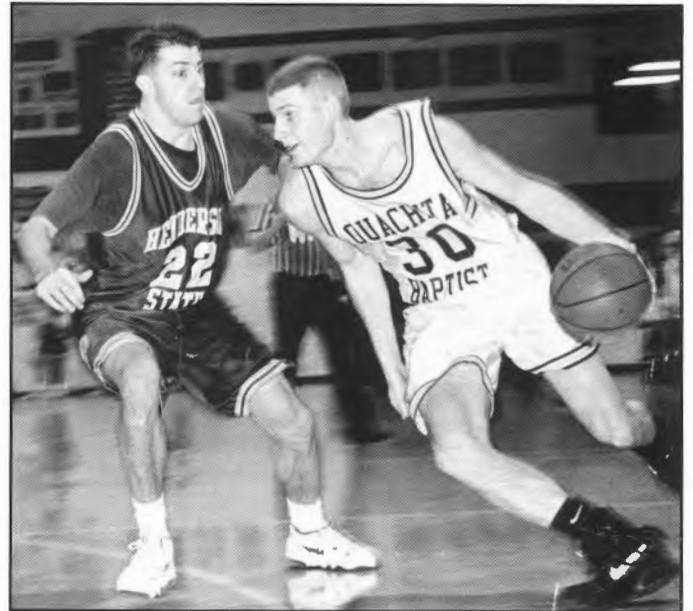
McKendree College	7-15 15-7 15-7
William Woods College	17-15 9-15 11-15
Bartlesville Wesleyan	12-15 15-9 15-6
Bellevue College	7-15 15-6 15-11
Harris Stowe State College	15-9 15-1
John Brown University	15-7 12-15 15-12
McKendree College	13-15 15-7 15-9
Arkansas Tech University	15-12 5-15 9-15
Southern Arkansas University	15-10 13-15 15-9 8-15 15-6
University of Central Arkansas	12-15 3-15 15-11 16-14 15-13
Southern Arkansas University	15-5 7-15 6-15 10-15
Loyola University	15-2 15-7 12-15 17-15
Southern Nazarene University	15-10 15-5 15-11
Loyola University	2-15 15-13 3-15 10-15
Hendrix College	15-3 16-14
University of Central Arkansas	15-7 15-4 11-15 15-12
Rhodes College	15-9 15-10 13-15 15-9
Lyon College	15-7 15-1 15-10
Harding University	9-15 15-11 15-12 9-15 12-15
Arkansas Tech University	15-10 1-15 7-15 15-8 15-11
Lyon College	15-2 15-1 15-11
Northeast Missouri State	1-15 11-15 15-6 15-8 12-15
West Alabama	15-13 15-7 10-15
Emporia State University	15-19 5-15 11-15 1-15
Southern Arkansas University	15-5 11-15 15-12 8-15 15-9
Lambuth University	15-2 15-11 15-9
Lyon College	15-10 15-5
College of the Ozarks	17-15 15-11 8-15 15-12
Williams Baptist College	15-5 15-11 15-7
Hendrix College	15-9 15-7 15-6
Harding University	16-15 15-13 15-11
John Brown University	16-14 15-17 15-4 15-12

19-13 OVERALL



SLAM—Junior Rod Lee leaps above the other players for a slam dunk. The Tigers battled it out with SAU to gain a win with a final score of 70-67. •*photo by Jim Yates*

DRIVE—Senior Jarrod Gaither maneuvers around a Reddie for a shot. The Tigers played to packed-out crowds as they consecutively beat Henderson State University in both of their games. •*photo by Jim Yates*



After a roller coaster season, the Tigers come out on top.

the tigers finish with a **SWISH**

With every shot, every foul, every turnover, every call, all 2,500 fans, whether they were rooting for Ouachita or Henderson, were on their feet, but in the end it was Mike Reynolds' squad who finished on top.

A capacity crowd crammed into the Sturgis Center on February 25 to watch the Tigers sweep rival Reddies.

As usual, the fireworks were not reserved for the game, but that only fueled the fire to help a Tiger team who had experienced ups and downs all season long to earn their biggest victory all season.

When all was said and done, the Tigers had roared their way to a 113-91 victory over the Reddies and could look back with a smile at a successful season.

The Tigers began their roller coaster ride season with two victories, but the wins in the early part of the season proved to be hard to come by. After winning their first two games the Tigers won only three of their next 12 contests, and it began to look like a long season on the horizon.

But the Bengals picked it back up by winning eight of their next nine contests to move above the .500 mark for the first time since early December.

The Tigers went on to win 10 of their final 13 games to earn the 15-12 mark, which proved to be the best mark under Reynolds.

But the season of ups and downs was not without record-breaking performances.

Senior Lamont Page thrilled the Tiger cage residents with his acrobatic shots and

freshman Mitchell Bolding wooed the crowd with his three-point shooting.

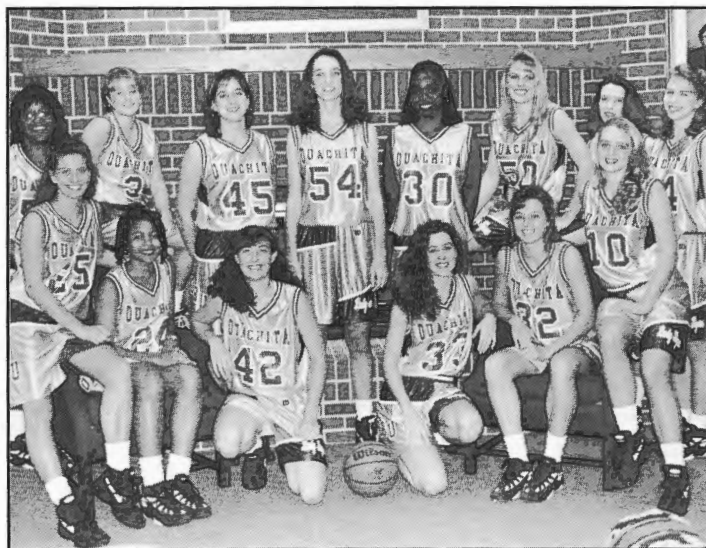
Bolding went on to set two school records by first knocking down nine three-pointers against Philander Smith College in Little Rock. Then the Benton native continued his record-setting freshman year by knocking down 91 percent of his attempts from the charity stripe, which was not only a school record but made him the best free throw shooter in the NAIA.

Page ended his two-year stint with the Tigers with 718 points and 89 steals.

The Tigers would lose only one starter after the 1996 season and would return four starters and 11 lettermen when they made a final bid at the NAIA national tournament in 1997 before they embarked on a new era in the Lone Star Conference in 1998. •*Jeff Williams*

FIGHTING HARD—Senior Lavinia Young dribbles around Lyon College players. The Lady Tigers defeated Lyon College in both games, helping to finish the most successful season in years. •photo by Matt Manning

LADY TIGER BASKETBALL TEAM—front row: Leslie Whitten, Lavinia Young, Kim Sullivan, Courtney Davis, Joveta Saylor, Sarah Robbins; second row: Kerri Newbom, Amy Teague, Dianne Harper, Tori Norton, Karla Lang, Holly Hagle, Karen Southerland, Nikki Dyer • photo by Amy Morton



A new coaching staff provides the foundation for success.

the lady tigers have a season full of **VICTORIES**

The challenge of coaching in the college ranks lured the coaches of two of the state's top high school girl's basketball coaches to the University. Head coach Garry Crowder of Jessieville and assistant coach Jill Murders of Plainview, in their first year of collegiate coaching, led the Lady Tigers to an 18-8 record and a victory over the Arkansas Tech University Golden Suns for the first time in 10 years.

Another highlight of the Lady Tigers' season was a sweep of cross-town rival Henderson State University. The schools had not played each other since 1993.

The 18-8 record that the Lady Tigers compiled was the best record for any

Ouachita women's basketball team since they began intercollegiate play in 1977-1978.

Leading the team in scoring was junior guard Leslie Whitten of Mena. Whitten averaged 16.9 points per game and hit 62 three pointers during the year.

Senior forward Lavinia Young averaged 16.4 points per game this year and also led the team in free throws with 60.0 percent shooting. Young finished in the top 10 in the NAIA in field goal percentage with 59.8 percent.

Joveta Saylor, a senior forward from Lead Hill led the team in rebounding with 203 boards. Saylor was named All-Southwest Region in her final year.

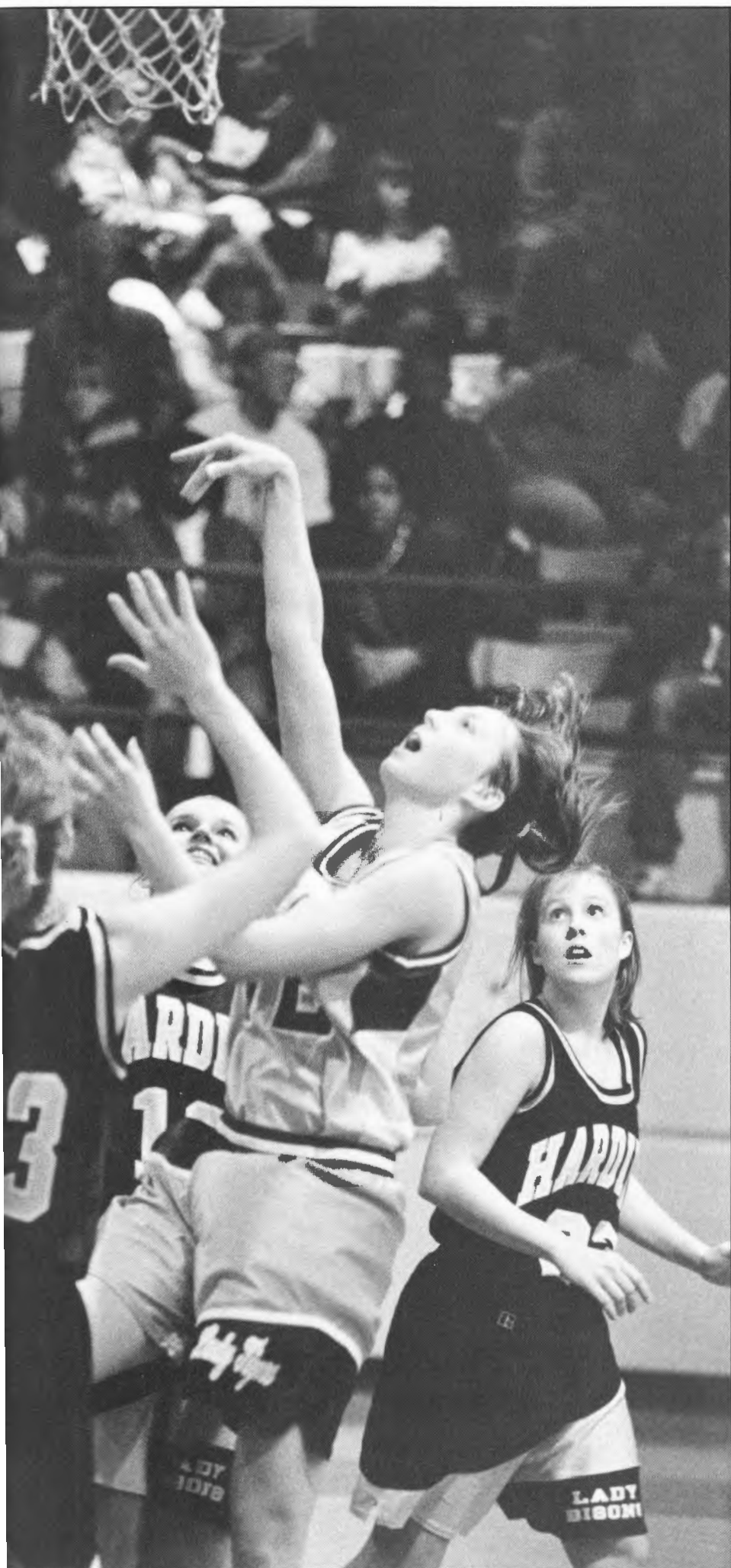
"Joveta was a great team leader on the

floor as well as off the floor," said Crowder. "When the game was on the line, we could always count on Joveta for a big basket."

Crowder also mentioned what a pleasure it was to coach this year's team.

"These girls had a lot of class," said Crowder. "They are not only outstanding basketball players but also outstanding people. I couldn't hope for a better team during my first year of college coaching. They had great chemistry, and that is a big reason why we had such a successful season."

With only three seniors on this year's squad, Crowder and Murders had good reason to be optimistic about the 1996-1997 season and what it held in store for them. • Chris Baab



Lady Tiger Basketball

for the RECORD

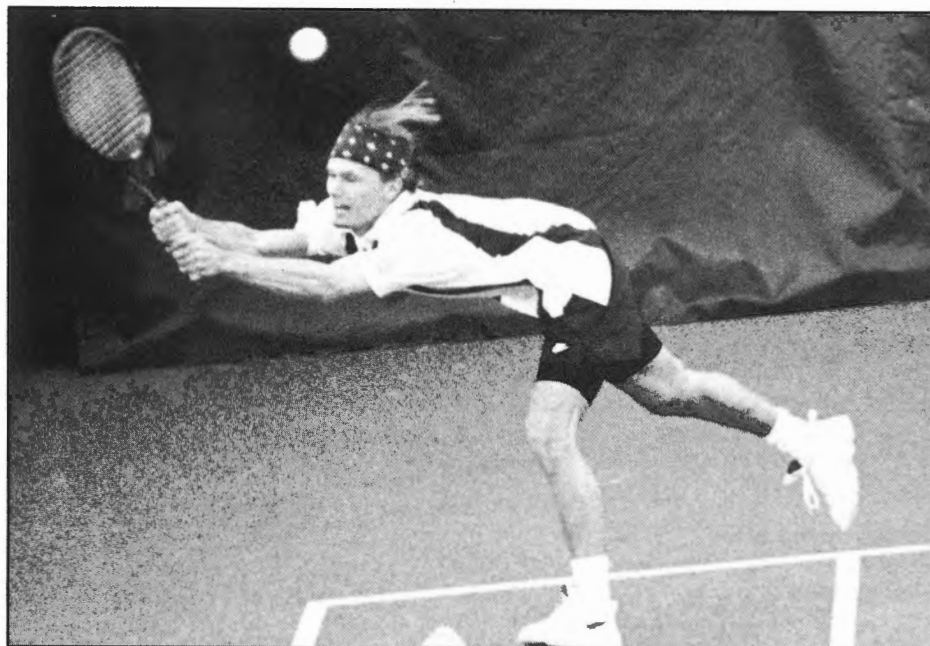
Freed-Hardeman (TN) University	85-70
Southern Arkansas University	90-64
Arkansas Tech University	70-77
Christian Brothers (TN) University	74-55
University of Central Arkansas	62-102
LeTourneau (TX) University	69-54
Christian Brothers (TN) University	70-73
Henderson State University	62-41
Austin (TX) College	71-58
Arkansas Tech University	67-60
Arkansas Baptist College	88-73
Harding University	66-83
LeTourneau (TX) University	68-55
Philander Smith College	76-64
University of the Ozarks	83-67
Williams Baptist College	78-65
Southern Arkansas University	55-41
Lyon College	64-56
Harding University	58-69
Philander Smith College	84-55
Arkansas Baptist College	84-36
University of the Ozarks	68-72
Williams Baptist College	73-76
Lyon College	83-68
Henderson State University	76-69
Arkansas Tech University	67-75

18-8 OVERALL

REBOUND—Senior Joveta Saylors tries to rebound while surrounded by opponents. The Lady Tigers fought hard against Harding University but couldn't pull off a win at home. *photo by Guy Lyons*

SKILL—Junior Christian Wassmer shows prowess as he returns the ball with ease. Wassmer was a vital part of the men's tennis team which finished fifth in the NAIA. • photo by Guy Lyons

DIVE—Senior Patrik Lofvenberg sacrifices his body for a play. Lofvenberg earned the trophy for Southern Senior Player of the Year after a season of hard work and dedication. • photo by Guy Lyons



After facing tough competition, Tiger tennis placed fifth in the nation.

the tigers bring home **HONORS**

A team known for achieving its goals traveled to Tulsa, Okla. on May 20, with its focus turned to a goal that to this point had alluded it - a national championship.

"Our goals were to first win the regional tournament and then to win the national championship," said Head Tennis Coach Craig Ward of his 1996 squad.

This was a team that was ranked second, with only defending national champion Auburn- Montgomery ranked higher. This was a team that had finished seventh in 1995 and was the only team in the nation to return five All-Americans.

It was a team that seemed primed and ready to bring home a national championship and it was a team that solidified that claim in late April when they accomplished the first half of its set of goals by completely dominating the NAIA Southwest Regional Tournament.

Ward's squad dropped only one match,

out-scoring their opponents 17-1 and never had to play a match in doubles competition. Three victories in the Regional Tournament improved the squad's record to 6-3 heading into the national championships in Tulsa.

The Tigers were going into nationals hoping to be the first team in Arkansas to earn a national championship trophy in tennis and hoping to give the University its first national championship in any sport.

Despite the return home without the trophy, the trip proved successful. Senior Larry Hurta, along with juniors Christain Wassmer and Tim Oosterhouse brought home All-American honors, while Hurta, Wassmer and senior Patrik Lofvenberg earned All-Academic honors.

In addition, Wassmer was selected by a panel of coaches to receive the Southern Regional Arthur Ashe Sportsmanship Award, and Lofvenberg earned the trophy for being named the Southern Senior Player of the Year.

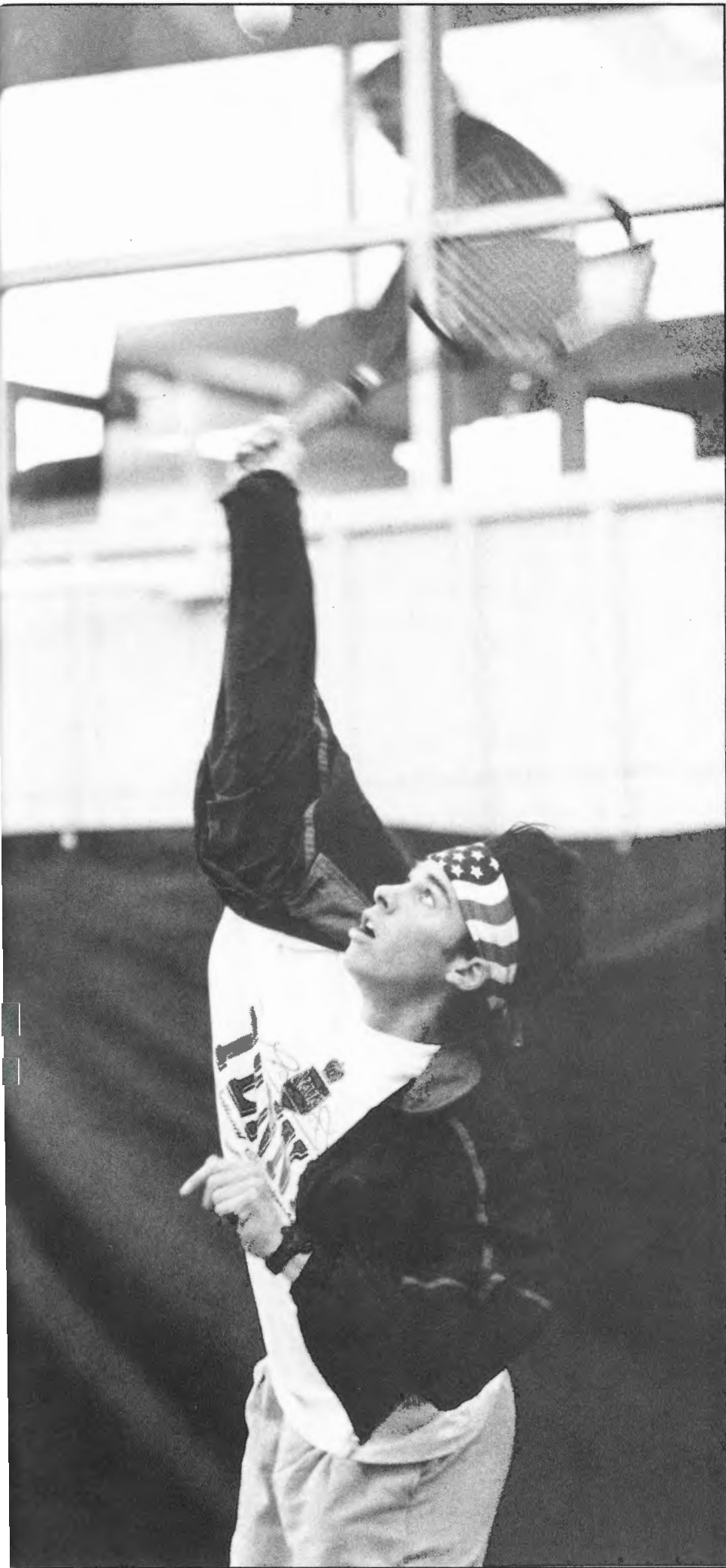
Wassmer and Oosterhouse teamed up in

the national tournament to advance to the round of 16 in doubles competition, but that was not enough for the squad to earn the second half of its goals.

The team did, however, bring home a fifth place finish, the highest finish ever for a tennis team from Arkansas, and with four top six players returning for 1997 the future continued to look bright for the Tiger tennis program.

"It looks like we will be adding to the roster two excellent players to replace those athletes graduating," said Ward after assessing his team's finish. "Ouachita should not suffer next season and should be as strong as we were this year."

That's good news for Tiger tennis fans, because the University will have one last shot at a NAIA national championship before heading to NCAA Division II in 1998 where Ward will attempt to make the Tiger tennis program a national power like he has done in the NAIA. • by Jeff Williams



STAR TIGER—Senior Larry Hurta serves up a winner. Hurta was honored with All-American honors along with several of his teammates. •*photo by Guy Lyons*

TIGER MEN'S TENNIS TEAM—*front row:* Patrik Lofvenberg, Larry Hurta, Coach Craig Ward; *back row:* Eric Picket, Robert Ungh, Jonathan Martin, Christian Wassmer, Tim Oosterhous, Cristofer Johansson •*photo by Matt Manning*



Men's Tiger Tennis *for the* **RECORD**

Oklahoma City University	7-0
University of Texas - Tyler	6-1
University of Auburn at Montgomery	3-5
University of North Alabama	4-0
University of Texas - Tyler	4-3
Henderson State University	7-0
Harding University	7-0
William Carrey College	6-1
University of Mobile	2-5
Oklahoma Christian University	3-5
Collin County Junior College	6-1
Oklahoma City University	5-1
Northeastern Oklahoma University	4-3
Harding University	8-1
Midwestern State University	6-0
University of Texas - Tyler	6-0
Oklahoma Christian University	5-1

14-3 OVERALL, 5th in NAIA

POWER—Sophomore Patti Blackard hustles to return a serve. Blackard was a strong player for the women's tennis team which finished with a record of 5-11. •photo by Jim Yates

TIGER WOMEN'S TENNIS TEAM—front row: Shea Morgan, Shemica Ward, Patti Blackard; backrow: Yoshie Ganaha, Kelly Ballard, Aimee Dinwiddie, Coach Betsy Danner •photo by Amy Morton



Lady Tiger Tennis

for the RECORD

Lyon College	8-1, 7-2
Henderson State University	0-9, 0-9
Harding University	0-9, 0-9
John Brown University	3-6, 2-7
East Texas Baptist University	2-7, 1-8
Hendrix College	2-7
University of the Ozarks	9-0, 8-1
Southern Arkansas University	2-7
Arkansas Tech University	7-2, 3-6

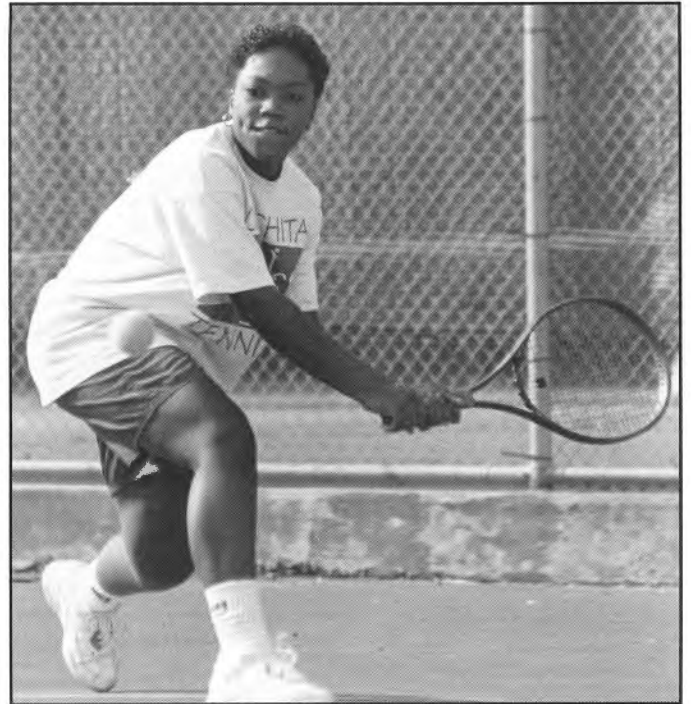
5-11 OVERALL





ANTICIPATION—Sophomore Shea Morgan concentrates on returning a volley to her opponent for a possible score. Morgan was one of three returning players to the women's tennis team. •*photo by Jim Yates*

BACKHAND—Freshman Shemica Ward shows proper form as she prepares to return the ball. Ward was a newcomer to the Lady Tiger's tennis team which had only three returning players. •*photo by Jim Yates*



The Lady Tigers hope to gain experience from a tough season.

learning it the **HARD WAY**

Coach Betsy Danner said before the 1996 tennis season began that her squad was young and inexperienced, and their 5-11 record proved her to be right. Danner's squad frequently came up short in their close matches, and she attributed that to the youthfulness of the squad.

This year's tennis team was comprised of five sophomores and one freshman. The sophomores were Jennifer Jones, Patti Blackard, Shea Morgan, Aimee Dinwiddie, and Yoshie Ganaha. Shemica Ward was the lone freshman on the squad.

The Lady Tigers started their season on a high note, as they defeated Lyon College but then fell to cross-town rival Henderson State three days later.

The loss to Henderson started a six match losing streak that included losses to East Texas Baptist University, John Brown University, and Harding University.

Danner's squad got back on the winning track as they defeated the University of the Ozarks and Arkansas Tech University.

The Lady Tigers fell to Harding and Arkansas Tech in the last week of the season, but ended the regular season with a win over Lyon.

Three members of the team traveled to Oklahoma City for the NAIA Southwest Regional Tournament on the anniversary of the tragic bombing of the Alfred H. Murrah Federal Office Building on April 19, 1995. Jennifer Jones was defeated by the number

one seed in singles Sarah Fox of Schreiner College. Dinwiddie and Ganaha were defeated by the duo of Katherine Well and Amanda Roberts of East Texas Baptist University to complete the season.

Coach Danner had recently been awarded one new scholarship for the women's tennis program. Danner hoped to use the scholarship to recruit a high caliber player to make the squad a better team.

Danner looked forward to next year's season. "We have nobody graduating from this year's team and we have one scholarship to give out," said Danner. "I hope this year's team gained experience through the losses we had and can learn from those mistakes." • *Chris Babb*

Tiger Sharks and Lady Tiger Sharks

RECORD

NSISL CHAMPIONSHIP

Men

Henderson State University	852
Delta State	744
Ouachita	514.5
University of Arkansas at Little Rock	346.5
John Brown University	281
Hendrix College	191

Women

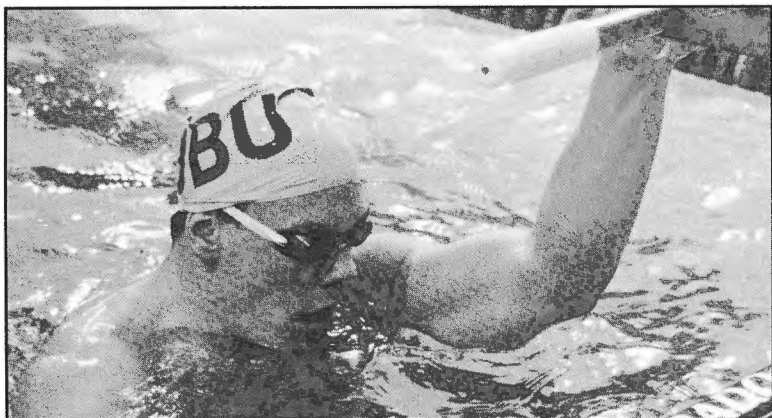
Henderson State University	814
Delta State	525
University of Arkansas at Little Rock	446
John Brown University	426
William Woods	289
Ouachita	245
Hendrix College	208

9th in the NAIA

20th in the NAIA

CONTEMPLATION—Sophomore Jason Miller thinks about his previous swim. Miller was a strong swimmer for the team which finished ninth in the NAIA. •*photo by Guy Lyons*

SWIMMING AND DIVING TEAM—*front row:* Elena Sheina, Kimberly Dickerson, Julia-Faye Kimbrell, Kaela Kenley, Jari Kirkland; *second row:* Tom Stickney, Ryan Killackey, Bobby Rollins, Vladimir Kravchenko, Carl Davis, Fred Dickinson, William Whitney, Andy Russell, Joe Crum, Masa Yamamoto, Jason Miller, Aaron Gillespy, Shane Carson • *photo by Guy Lyons*



The swim teams prove themselves worthy of their new competition.

conquering CHANGE

One final trip to San Antonio, Texas, marked the end of an era in Tiger Shark swimming and marked another year of beating the odds.

The Tiger Sharks had become a fixture in the top 10 among swim teams in the NAIA, but due to a change in the NCAA Division II, coach Jim Dann faced the toughest challenge in his 14 year career to keep the Tiger Sharks among the best in the nation. "Our younger swimmers will have to step up and help us out quite a bit if we want to be as successful as we were last year," said Dann.

In San Antonio, Dann's Tiger Sharks proved themselves worthy of the top 10 by finishing ninth. This marked the ninth time in 10 seasons the non-scholarship program had finished among the top 10 teams in the nation.

For the second straight year, Dann's Tiger Sharks were led by the diving of Jeff Anthony and Bobby Rollins.

The two divers finished among the top three divers in both the one meter and three meter diving events, garnering diving coach of the year accolades for Dann for the second straight year as well.

"Jeff and I were both confident in our diving," said Rollins. "We were just happy to take second and third on the boards at nationals."

The Tiger Sharks also got an All-American performance from Ryan Killackey, who earned All-American accolades in both the 200 and 500-yard freestyle. "Not only is six months of morning practices and regular long workouts an essential part of a winning season," said Killackey, "team togetherness and motivation prove to be the key element."

The Lady Tiger Shark program began the season with only two returnees from a team that had finished 18th in the nation the previous year. With two sophomores and six freshmen to work with, Dann led the Lady Tiger Sharks to a 20th place finish in the national meet.

Jari Kirkland led the way for the Lady Tiger Sharks finishing 13th in the 200 meter backstroke.

"This team worked harder than any team I've had," said Dann. "They worked well together in the pool and in the weight room, and it carried over into the season."

Now the Tiger Sharks and Lady Tiger Sharks would journey into NCAA Division II territory where they hoped to repeat the success they had through the years in the NAIA.

It would mean tougher competition and tougher recruiting, but the swim team was no stranger to beating the odds. •*Jeff Williams*



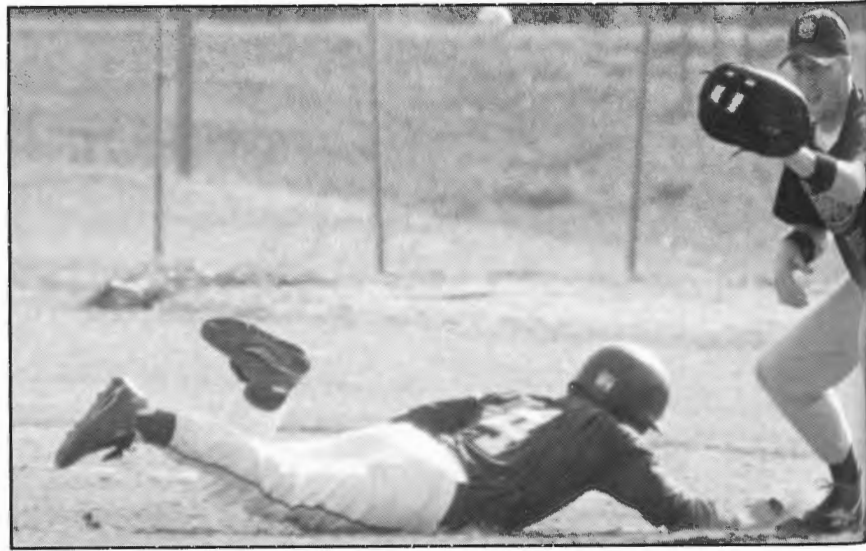
SUPPORT—Fans encourage sophomore Jari Kirkland. Kirkland was one of only two returnees who provided the backbone of leadership for the women's team . *photo by Guy Lyons*

DETERMINATION—Junior Masa Yamamoto shows concentration as he swims his final lap. Yamamoto finished ninth in the 200-yard breaststroke and tenth in the 100-yard breaststroke during the NAIA National Swimming and Diving Championships in San Antonio, Texas. *photo by Guy Lyons*



CATCH—Freshman Joe Lewallen waits for the ball in position to tag the runner and make an out. Lewallen used his position as third baseman to defend the Tiger infield.
•photo by Jim Yates

CLOSE CALL—Senior John Sowers hustles in order to beat the ball to first base. The Tigers relied on speed from key players such as Sowers to convert hits into runs.
•photo by Guy Lyons





SLIDE—Junior Jimmy Ellis shows athleticism as he beats the ball to second base. The Tigers faced several tough opponents and finished sixth in the NAIA Southwest Region. •photo by Jim Yates

Tiger Baseball

for the RECORD

Southern Arkansas University	29-7
University of the Ozarks	20-11
Arkansa Tech University	24-14
Harding Unviversity	21-25
Lyon College	19-26
Ouachita Baptist	22-28
Williams Baptist	3-13

22-28, 6th in the NAIA SW Region

The baseball team excels during a season of tough competition.

squeeze PLAY

The changes were evident as the cold winter winds turned to refreshing spring breezes. The winter had come and gone, and spring was in the air. The trees started to bloom, the grass turned green, and young men anticipated the season ahead of them.

Head Coach Van Barrett and Assistant Coach B. J. Brown had the players excited about the beginning of the season. This new excitement stemmed from improved field conditions and a winning attitude.

Having lost only two key players, the Tigers hoped to capitalize on the experience and depth of the team. All eight positions starters saw considerable playing time last season, which was a huge benefit to the team. "Our strength now is our depth," said Barrett. "And we don't lose much when we put in our backups."

The Tigers played good baseball at the beginning of the season and had some big wins against tough competition. The first big win of the season came against the Henderson State University Reddies. Both teams battled, and the score was tied 3-3 at

the end of the seventh inning. In the top half of the eighth inning, the Tigers went ahead 4-3 when senior second baseman Clay Partridge scored on a clutch pinch-hit single by Joe Lewallen, a freshman from Mesquite, Texas. The Tigers added five more runs in the ninth, and freshman pitcher Paul Svoboda closed the door as the Tigers won 9-3. Offensively, the Tigers were led by senior catcher Paul Price, who had three hits and two runs batted in. "This was a huge win for us," said Price. "We wanted this game bad." The Tigers went on to defeat the Reddies two out of three more games to win the battle of the ravine.

Another key victory for the Tigers came against the NCAA Division I Louisiana Tech University Bulldogs. The Tigers lost the first game of the doubleheader but came back to stun Louisiana Tech in the second game. The bulldogs held a 3-2 lead until the top of the fourth inning when the Tigers came back to tie the score at 3-3. The game remained tied until the top half of the seventh inning when junior right fielder Ashley Patrick squeezed home junior Jimmy Ellis for a 4-3 lead. Svoboda

was able to hold on to the lead as he pitched seven good innings for the win. This victory helped Svoboda become a main force for the Tigers as he compiled a 9-4 record for the year and emerged as a pleasant surprise for the future of the team.

Along with the key victories came key defeats for the Tigers. One of these defeats came at the hands of Harding University. After dropping the first game of a doubleheader, the Tigers were shutout 1-0 in the second game by Harding pitcher Bentley Harrell who pitched a no-hitter. Sophomore pitcher Jonathan Hamner pitched seven good innings for the Tigers, but the Tiger bats fell silent. "Jonathan pitched a great game," said Barrett. "He only gave up three hits, but we couldn't get him any runs."

The Tigers finished the season with an overall record of 22-28. The team was very optimistic coming into the season with a strong work ethic and a winning attitude. The Tigers hoped to carry this optimism into next season. "We'll have most of our team back next year," said junior shortstop Chuck Mosley. "I definitely think we'll improve." •Kaleb Barrett

TIGER SOCCER CLUB—*front row:* Sammy Karuri, Nathan Nipper, Ryan Baldi, Jeff Anthony, Rafael ZaSalete, Keith Nosker *second row:* Coach Isaac Mwase, Daniel Funderburk, Matt Melcher, John Davidson, Micah Walters, Nathan Strickland, Nelson Ortiz, Ben Carothers, Juan Carlos Pereira, Sean Nicholson • *photo by Guy Lyons*

EYES ON THE BALL—Sophomore Ben Carothers warms up by kicking some goals. The soccer club practiced about nine hours a week in preparation for its games. • *photo by Guy Lyons*



STEAL—Senior Daniel Funderburk takes the ball from a Henderson opponent. Funderburk had been a leader on the team since he began playing as a freshman. •*photo by Guy Lyons*



HUSTLE—Rafael ZaSalette chases a loose ball down the field. The soccer club proved to be a tough opponent despite its small number of members and limited team practice time. •*photo by Guy Lyons*

POWER—Senior John Davidson employs his offensive skill against the defense of Henderson. The club defeated Henderson's soccer team during the fall season. •*photo by Guy Lyons*



The soccer club grows in membership as well as success.

earning new **GOALS**

They stood poised facing the competition, awaiting the kick-off, and the start of 90 minutes of non-stop action. A game of fancy footwork, soccer required hours of practice from students who had a genuine love for the sport. A genuine love for the sport was definitely a characteristic of the members of the soccer club.

"It's my favorite sport to play because it combines everything; skill and physical endurance," said senior Daniel Funderburk.

The team practiced about nine hours a week in preparation for games. But it wasn't always easy to get everyone together

for practice because the players were busy with social clubs and other activities. Since the players didn't all practice together, the team's performances weren't always consistent. However, during the fall season, the team succeeded in defeating Henderson State University as well as Harding University. They also played a close game with the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

The spring season also brought success, as well as new members. The team won games over many of its opponents and the club membership grew to 18. But new members weren't the only thing new to the club. The

club had been previously student led and student coached. This year, however, the club added a faculty coach, philosophy professor Dr. Isaac Mwase. The addition of this authority figure gave the club a more permanent status.

"He has given us someone to look up to and respect," said sophomore Ben Carothers.

The future of the soccer club looked bright as the game of soccer continued to spark the interest of the students.

"It's fun to participate in, and I find it enjoyable to play a sport that is really taking off," said freshman Josh Willeford. •*Jodie Matthews*

FORE—Senior Kevin Jones watches his putt to see where it lands. Jones spent time playing tight end for the Tiger football team when he was not golfing. •*photo by John Barber*



SCRUB—Freshman Brent Walker washes the golf carts in preparation for a game of golf. Walker proved to be a strong addition to the team though he had never competed at the collegiate level. •*photo by John Barber*



Despite tough competition, the Tiger golf team finishes in fifth place.

swinging for SUCCESS

Up at 6:30 a.m. for breakfast before their 8 a.m. tee time. Out on the course, the 25 mile per hour wind gusts make the air feel like it's 40 degrees and make the golf ball fly in directions the golfers never intended it to fly.

Not only did Head Coach Ike Sharp's golfers have to contend with the bitterly cold temperatures and heavy wind gusts in the regional tournament in April, they also had to deal with the 10th ranked team in the nation.

Despite the fact that the University of Mobile ran away with the regional championship and the Tigers finished a disappointing fifth place, the season was not without a few highlights.

Sharp's team began the season at the same place where it ended — at Glenwood

Country Club. In their first match the Tigers finished third behind state powers Harding University and Henderson State University.

That finish proved to be the Tigers' best finish of the season as the team staggered, showing its youth and inexperience in tournament golf.

"The weather was pretty bad all season long," said Clay Conly the team's top returner from a year ago. "It was pretty much a rebuilding year, after all we only had one senior."

The Tigers played well despite the obstacles of weather and tough competition. Sharp coached his squad through the season and finished with a fine standing against some top contenders.

The only senior on the squad was Kevin Jones of Arkadelphia, who despite playing all

four years on the golf team spent much of his time on the gridiron as a tight end on the Tiger football team.

Other than Jones, only two golfers had ever seen action in a college tournament before the season began. Junior Mark Conine of Arkadelphia and Conly, a sophomore from Gurdon, were each returners from a 1995 team that finished third in the Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference.

The golf team, however, will no longer have to rely completely on non-scholarship work study students to try to compete with the larger schools that offer golf scholarships. In 1997, Sharp will have one scholarship to dole out as he sees fit.

"We think we're going to get two or three good golfers that will really help us next year," said Conly. •*Jeff Williams*



Tiger Golf Team

for the RECORD

University of Mobile	899
Spring Hill College	937
Harding University	945
Lyon College	985
Ouachita Baptist University	1,029
University of the Ozarks	1,081
Williams Baptist	1,112

5th in the NAIA SW Region



TIGER GOLF TEAM—front row: Kevin Jones, Clay Conly, Mark Conine, Scott Massey; back row: Coach Ike Sharp, Jake Hambleton, Jeremy Petters, Neil Ingram, Brent Walker •photo by John Barber

CONCENTRATION—Sophomore Clay Conly focuses his attention on the hole that lies ahead. Conly was the team's top returning golfer from the previous season. •photo by John Barber

CHEERLEADERS—front row: Brooke Sorters, Abby Hughes, Amy Adams, Stacy Stuart backrow: Lindsay Simmons, Mandy Wilks, Meagan Burroughs, Lisa Finkbeiner, Katherine Hollis •photo by Mac Sisson



he cheerleaders encourage each team as well as each other.

the cheerleaders provide team
SUPPORT

When someone spoke of the cheerleaders, most people thought of ballgames, sideline cheers, and ponytails, but not very many knew about the things they did when the games were over. Being a cheerleader took a lot of hard work and dedication. They practiced, did fund raisers, and most of all, helped promote school spirit. Spirit — now that's something the cheerleaders knew about.

Fund raisers were an important part of the cheerleaders' job. Because they needed new uniforms, the cheerleaders worked hard to get donations and earn the money themselves. They also sponsored two cheerleading clinics on campus for elementary, junior high, and high school students. This was a money maker as well as an opportunity for these students to be

helped with their upcoming try-outs.

Encouragement was one thing the cheerleaders stood for. They encouraged the team by sending them good luck notes and hanging up posters on game days. The gym would be decorated with posters supporting the Tigers and the cheerleaders took pride in their support for each team.

Not only did they encourage the players, they encouraged each other as well. Amy Adams said, "Our squad has an awesome relationship. We are not just school supportive. We involve prayer and God in everything we do and send each other encouraging notes when needed. It's kind of like a mini social club. I consider these girls to be some of my closest friends."

Keeping in tune with the focus of the University was important to the cheerleaders.

All in all, promoting school spirit was the cheerleaders' main goal. They did this by sponsoring a Tiger Train, where each club had an opportunity to decorate cars and parade around campus to support the Tigers. They also sponsored a pep assembly or two and many crowd participation cheers at the games. Lindsay Simmons said, "I like cheering at OBU because I have made some very good Christian friends. I love being part of promoting school spirit, and I like jammin' to the band chants."

Although ballgames, sideline cheers, and ponytails were one aspect of cheering, there were many other things involved. Through fund raisers, encouraging the teams, and promoting school spirit, they still had time for something else. Kathy Hollis summed it up, "It's just FUN!" •by Rachel DeBusk



FIRED UP—Freshman Lindsay Simmons and sophomore Stacy Stuart lead the crowd in cheers at the Homecoming game. The cheerleaders played a big role in helping the crowd show its support for the team. •*photo by Jim Yates*

SPIRIT— The cheerleaders entertain the audience at Parents' Day. The pep rally before the football game on this day was a tradition at the University. •*photo by Carol Price*



EXCITEMENT—Freshman Katherine Hollis shows enthusiasm while she cheers at the home game against the University of Arkansas at Monticello. Cheerleaders also traveled to away ball games to give the teams added support. •*photo by Jim Yates*

TWIRL—Senior Kristi Cannon entertains the crowd during the halftime show against Southwest Baptist University. Cannon served as captain and provided leadership for the majorettes. •photo by Jim Yates

CONCENTRATION—Freshman Matthew Jackson and Junior Jeannie Cogbill focus their attention on the melody line. The auxiliary section played from the sidelines during the halftime show. •photo by Guy Lyons



The band promotes school spirit and halftime entertainment.

the band entertains the crowds with
MELODIES

When the band began marching season, it was one of the most talented and strongest that had played in recent years, according to some upperclassmen. For the over 100 member band, marching band was not simply something else to add to the extracurricular activity list or simply something to do. It was something exciting.

Being in band was a way to meet new people, learn new skills, and go new places. "If you don't work together with the people around you, the show will not look very good," said freshman Cory Goodé.

The members of the band made it look easy to go out and perform week after week. However, learning two different shows meant practice for one hour and 15 minutes three days a week. Often the band practiced

practiced in the heat and rainy conditions. These students were dedicated to the promotion of school spirit and the other students they represented.

Dr. Hamilton said the reason for the different shows was to keep the crowd and students from getting bored. "We are out there to promote school spirit," said Hamilton.

The marching band performed at all home games and two away games. The band performed shows based on the music of Duke Wellington and Aaron Copeland.

These shows were enjoyed by the crowds of both the home and visiting teams. The sound of the band and the spirit they showed allowed the crowd to be entertained while each team revived themselves and prepared for a second half of battle.

The halftime show was led by junior Cari Martin as drum major. Martin led the band and provided leadership both on and off the field for the members.

Complementing the band were the flagline led by Melody Bigler and the majorettes led by Co-captains Kristi Cannon and Misty Evers. Dr. Hamilton said that these girls make up and teach the routines to the music. "They do an excellent job," said Hamilton. Every aspect of the spirit promoted by the band is student led.

After an exciting year, the band hoped to become larger and better. According to Dr. Hamilton, the band's purpose was to support school spirit, educate, entertain, and provide an institutional image. These goals were indeed obtained through the hard work and leadership of each band member. •by Jodie Mathews



PLAY IT—Junior David Snethen plays to the tune of the University's fight song to end the halftime show during the Homecoming festivities. The band provided halftime entertainment for all home games. • *photo by Jim Yates*



BEAT IT—Sophomore Kevin Morgan keeps his eyes focused on the drum major, while he keeps a steady beat. Morgan was part of the important percussion section, which supplied the rhythm for each tune. • *photo by Guy Lyons*