

Landon Moore celebrates with
teammate after the Tigers score a
win. The baseball team ended the season

by: *Collie Stephens*

Sports



B

eing a Ouachita Tiger meant something different to each person. Whether it was running onto campus's grassy fields and illuminated courts to show what it meant to be a Tiger athlete, or crowding the stands and showing support as a fan, the reminder of long-standing traditions hung in the air as Tiger spirit got a **facelift**.

Intramural sports rose even more in popularity with the addition of field hockey. Rugby became a new alternative to throwing the football around on weekends.

Athletic options were expanded to include wrestling and a women's golf team, bringing the total of athletic teams to 16.

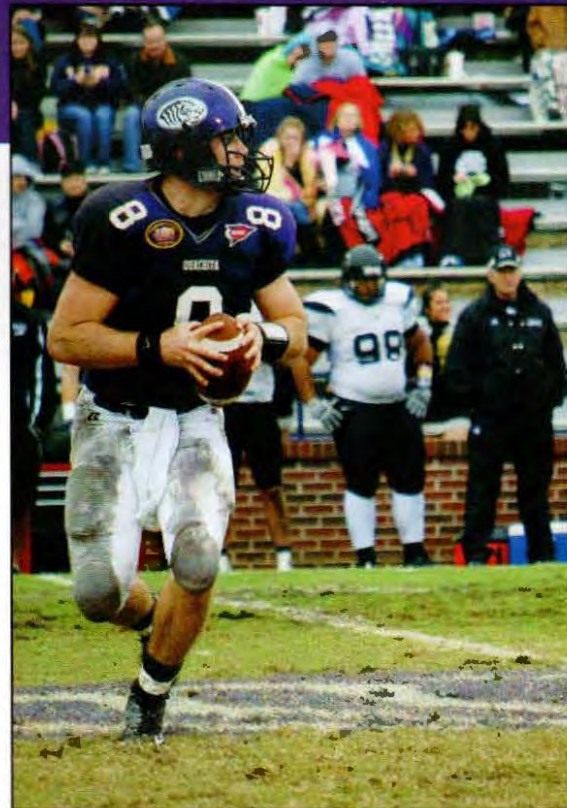
The women's softball team gained the title of the number one team in academics in the nation, and the football team claimed another Battle of the Ravine win against Henderson.

Senior Keldrick Johnson rushes against Valdosta State defense linemen on September 19. Johnson led the team in rushing with 1178 yards for the season.
Photo by Callie Stephens



Players rush onto the field during the Homecoming game. The Tigers fell to the Harding University Bison in the conference match.
Photo by Callie Phelps

Quarterback Eli Cranor, a junior from Russelville, seeks an open teammate during the Homecoming game versus Harding University. Cranor passed for 1941 yards in his third season with the Tigers.
Photo by Sarah Henley



EARLY SUCCESS

by Alan Greenwood

In every story, there is a climax that creates interest that keeps you wondering what will happen next. At the height of the 2009 Ouachita Baptist football team's season, success bloomed in a way that never dawned the university's football program before.

It was a tale of two halves for the Ouachita Baptist football team. The first provided the brightest beginning in the history of the program, as the Tigers recorded a 4-0 and reached No. 14 in the American Football Coaches Association Poll after top-25 Gulf South Conference victories over Valdosta State and Delta State.

The month of October that followed, however, was the internal and external conflict of injuries and circumstance that changed the complexion of the season and provided a twist to the story that would challenge players and coaches alike.

After senior wide receiver Jeremy Young returned the opening kickoff for a touchdown against Arkansas-Monticello, the Tigers couldn't seem to get into sync again long enough to derail the Boll-Weevils, losing both their first game overall and GSC loss of the season that ended on a blocked 22-yard field goal attempt with 32 seconds left. The momentum swing would carry over into the next two GSC matchups, as Ouachita could not provide enough offensive output, losing to Harding on Homecoming and Southern Arkansas on the road.

A non-conference matchup with Southwest Baptist went down to the wire, but junior safety Chad Emmons broke up a pass with no time remaining to give the Tigers their only victory in the month of October. An offensive shootout wouldn't end in Ouachita's favor

the following week against West Alabama, losing 52-49, as both teams combined for 101 points. The Battle of the Ravine rivalry against Henderson State pitted a pair of teams that were looking for a bright finish to the 2009 season after early success faded with mixed midseason results. An early 21-0 lead for the Tigers provided enough confidence that held through a late Reddie rally, giving Ouachita their second-straight winning record under Head Coach Todd Knight since his arrival in 1999.

Despite the struggle to maintain external conflict of early season success at its height, the Tigers put together a group of the finest individual performances to come through the university in decades. Ouachita placed a school-record nine players on the All-GSC team. Among them were Young, who set a school-record with 13 catches for 261 yards and two touchdowns against Valdosta State. Senior running back KJ Johnson rushed for 1,122 yards and 12 touchdowns to lead all GSC running backs for the second-straight season, while senior defensive end Jerry McNeil secured his second-straight season to lead the GSC in sacks as he finished with 8.5 in 2009. The Tigers ranked second in the league in both scoring defense and total defense, while allowing the least rushing yards among all schools.

Just as it is in life, circumstance is subject to change, but the will of a man's desire to succeed can surpass all external conditions in the way. The Tigers set out to do something no other team has in the history of the university, and continued the climb in establishing the program as a legitimate force in the GSC for years to come.



Scoreboard

- Texas College: 52-6
- West Georgia: 48-14
- Valdosta State: 24-14
- Delta State: 38-14
- Arkansas-Monticello: 32-34
- Harding: 7-21
- Southern Arkansas: 7-15
- Southwest Baptist: 14-10
- West Alabama: 49-52
- Henderson State: 35-28
- Season Record: 6-4*

Team members are **Front Row:** Jeremy Young, Keldrick Johnson, Jacob Harris, Jerry McNeil, Head Coach Todd Knight, Kyle Gardner, Drew Gardner, David Hallis, Brady King; **Second Row:** Kalby Ball, Nico Hobbs, Koren Pruitt, Kendall Council, Cody King, David Snoop, Clayton Goree, Eli Cranor, Clinton Dewitt, Josh Langley, Phillip Supernaw, Travis Anderson, Adam Cooper, Tray Shoate, Blake Burkett, Chad Emmons, Terrence Garrett, Cosey Cooper; **Third Row:** Jonathon Browning, Denszell Brown, A.J. Williams, Tyler George, Jaime Harris, Demarcus Collier, Jamerson Tolbert, Patrick Dukes, Augustine Ume-Ezeoke, Daniel McGhee, Ethan Gilbert, Germaine Gilbert, Tyreese Prince, Landon Freeman, Dijon Benton, Nick Davis, Stoney Patton; **Fourth Row:** Jonathan Braune, Jason Books, Jason Fowler, Tony Malfer, Devin Ball, Alanza Newton, Hollis Landreth, Ryan Gorman, Ugo Nkalari, Graham Cole, Tyler Lokey, Tyler Lokey, Quint Ashburn, Jacob Harris, Ja'Darius Dade, Matt Sawyer, Travis Yarbrough, Roy Richard; **Fifth Row:** Tron Ross, Aaron Gilbert, Aaron Epperson, E.J. Perrin, Jacob Raine, Austin Evans, Hunter Soper, Cory Goldbolt, Sam Henley, Kyle Smith, Michael DeYoung, Benjamin English, Brian Griffith, Andrew Myers, Kyle Garner, Justin Kirst, Blayne Beene; **Sixth Row:** Andrew Sarver, Taylor Masters, Jaime Harris, MacKenzie Wallace, Zach Penny, Peyton Tolliver, Dominick Thompson, Brett Reece, Patrick Thornton, Bryan Church, Taurus Williams, Michael Hoppell, Garrett Sykes, Westley Martin, Sam Dunnam, Alex Poole, Patrick Derby, Alex Cook, Mark Kelly, John Johnson, Brett Shackley, J.R. Eldredge, Frank Espy, Roy Thompson, Adam Green. Photo courtesy of Alan Greenwood



Cheerleading Squad members are **Front Row:** Breona Aikins, Kaitlin Mayfield, Jill Mitchell, Jena McCarty, Krystal Qualls; **Second Row:** Leah Harrington, Chelsy Lewis, Lauren Dewitt, Kelsey Kearney, Kelley Lester; **Back Row:** Tyler King, Abby Turner, Rod Arnold, Evelio Zapata.
Photo by Wesley Kluck



During **Octiger Fest** activities, freshman Brittany Hughes sells Battle of the Ravine shirts at the cheerleaders' booth. The squad fundraised throughout the fall to prepare for their trip to nationals in the spring.
Photo by Callie Stephens

EARNING RESPECT

by: Kelsey Kearney

It is was a joy to be involved in the spirit of athletics on campus: shirtless guys wearing body paint, rows of girls in club shirts that say "We Heart the Tigers," and alumni with future Tigers in tow. At center stage for all of this madness and loving support for Ouachita were the guys and girls involved in the OBU Spirit Squad.

In the past, according to former cheerleader Stephanie Glenn, a 2009 graduate and former captain, cheerleaders on campus "were not respected." However, getting a new coach last year, who continued his leadership, was what the program needed to stay on top.

Brian Bridges, a former Arkansas Razorback cheerleader, crafted the spirit squad with intense summer training, 5:45 a.m. practices, and a zero tolerance attitude.

"His leadership really kept the team motivated," said Captain Chelsy Lewis, a sophomore speech pathology major from Benton.

Sophomore Leah Harrington, a second year cheerleader from Lake Hamilton, said she enjoyed cheering for football the most.

"This year the crowd was bigger and better," Harrington said. "Having fan support not only helps us enjoy the games more, but it also helps the team do so much better."

As the year brought a bigger Tiger fan base, the squad faced much adversity and their numbers began to dwindle with the onset of the Cheerleading College National Championships.

The team was optimistic about competing after placing eighth in nationals last year, but the second time around proved a last battle. The squad had to drop three of its members the weekend before the 2010 Nationals, due to injury. Their whole routine had to be altered two days before departing for Florida.

"We had many ups and downs as a squad, but we kept our motivation and worked even harder to perform a solid routine," said Harrington.

They did not place at Nationals, but they were proud just to

have made it there with a routine they could be proud of, having learned it in one night.

"After all of the sweat and injuries, we pulled it off," said Evelio Zapata, a freshman Spanish major from Fort Worth, Texas. "If I could do it again, it wouldn't even pass my mind not to."

The squad was later able to live stress-free, as Nationals were held at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

"Wow, I could not think of a better way to unwind and take my mind off of all that we had been through," said Lewis, very excitedly. "As the squad's leader, I reminded them that we were at the most magical place on Earth, and they should make the most of it."

Tamara Robinson, a sophomore business major from Little Rock, and member of the Lady Tiger Basketball team, offered a surprising, yet humorous take on how she saw the cheerleaders.

"As a spectator, I found myself yelling along with them, and even trying some of their moves," Robinson said. She began to laugh adding, "They made me want to be a cheerleader."

The cheerleaders began their season with football, running out from the tunnel on A.U. Williams Field on Saturdays, leading their Tigers out to prey. They cheered at every home game of the 2009-2010 seasons. Their season ended in the spring with basketball, as they cheered the men's and women's teams on multiple times a week, with no signs of losing spirit.

On the rise as a respected sport on campus, the OBU Spirit Squad had quite a year. They went to Nationals for the second time in the school's history, were able to bounce back with a solid routine despite injuries, and managed to entertain and motivate the home crowd and the home teams during the athletic seasons.

"Cheerleading brings a great bond between you and the student body," Zapata said. "The experience is even more amazing at a place like Ouachita. I didn't feel like we were cheering alone, but with our classmates all behind us."



Leah Harrington cheers on the Tigers during the game of the Ravine game against Henderson State University. The game was held at A.U. Williams Field.
Photo by Callie Stephens



The spirit squad pumps up a crowd of students and alumni at the annual Octiger Fest. The squad helped boost support for the Homecoming game, in which the Tigers took on the Harding University Bison.

Photo by Callie Stephens

"Having fan support not only helps us enjoy the games more, but it also helps the team do so much better."

LEAH HARRINGTON



During pregame festivities, sophomore Chris Sumner performs a solo for "The Star Spangled Banner." Sumner performed the solo for every home football game.
Photo by Gary Gerber

Freshman saxophone player Bradley Lindsey leads the band onto the field before the Homecoming game. Each game, the marching band led the football team from the run through for pregame festivities.
Photo by Callie Stephens

ALL FOR THE CROWD by Whitney Crews

Nothing could deter Mr. Robert Hesse, director of athletic bands, from gearing up with students for another year of spirited half-time entertainment during Tiger football season. With support from family, staff and the student body at its highest in years, Hesse was confident that this would be another wonderful year for the marching band.

Featuring medleys from the 70s R&B band Earth, Wind & Fire, the band performed under the direction of drum major Emily Duncan. A senior instrumental music education major from Marion, Duncan described how important the audience was to their production. "We view being in the marching band as an act of service to our campus and community," Duncan said. "We work very hard to be able to provide the people around us with quality entertainment on Saturday afternoons."

With selections such as "Let's Groove," "Shining Star," "Rock That" and "Fantasy," and an incorporation from Tiger Blast "I Don't Care" by Fall Out Boy, it was easy to see that Hesse was considering the people who would be occupying the stands at each game. "The audience is a vital part of anything you do," Hesse said. "I ask myself, 'What can I do to draw people in? To get them enthralled in what they are hearing?' I am always looking for something different."

With numbers down slightly from last year after a change in curriculum, Hesse was apprehensive about the upcoming season. Worries soon dissipated however. "We were working with the students during a rebuilding year," Hesse said. "With only about 80 in the band I was a little concerned, but they were as strong as they ever were with a mature sound. Never underestimate the sound of the Ouachita band."

With the band's daily rehearsals, repetitious drill practices

and music memorization, a lack of enthusiasm would be likely to appear for some members. However, for senior Cami Jones, an early childhood education major from Mansfield, Texas, and self-appointed social director of the trumpet section, it was the roar of the crowd and the anticipation of performing that kept the energy high. "Ouachita's band is unique in that it is so relaxed," Jones said. "We want to look good and sound good, but it's all about fun. My favorite part of the season is the excitement of the tailgate, marching to the stadium with the crowd cheering, just that atmosphere."

Senior biology major Mike Kizzar from Danville, Calif., expressed the same feeling. "If I had to summarize the OBU band, I'd say we're passionate but relaxed. We love what we do and will devote everything we have to working for it."

Ask any of these seniors and they will tell you there was, as always, an unmistakable atmosphere of family and Tiger spirit among the members of the marching band. Perhaps it was the hours spent together perfecting the techniques of the "most exciting band in Tigerland," or maybe there was a general camaraderie that came from wearing the same bibbed, black and purple uniform.

"Musicians at OBU share a mutual respect for the hard work and dedication we see in each other," Duncan said. "It's as though all the hard work that the band does makes its members closer." In this way the members of the marching band shared their love of music and the Tigers with the crowd for mutual enjoyment.

"Hearing a crowd explode when you finish your piece is the most exciting and gratifying experience you can imagine," Kizzar said. "It's the reward for all the work you've put into the year, all the Friday afternoon practices, the sacrificing of study time to learn music and drill - it's all worth the sound of the cheering fans when you finish."



Members twirler Christina Albee, a senior from Missouri, performs her routine during the game. Albee was joined on the field this season by Brandi Hull.
Photo by Gary Gerber



Members of the trumpet and french horn lines gather for a medley of "Shining Star," "Get Away," and "Rock That" during a half-time performance. Black platform boxes were used to add depth and a "casual" feel to the performance.
Photo by Gary Gerber

"We view being in the marching band as an act of service to our campus and community."

EMILY DUNCAN

REBUILDING CHAMPS

by: *Melissa Richardson*

With yet another young team, 10 freshmen and sophomores, the Lady Tigers fought hard through a 14-21 season.

The year started off a little rocky winning only one out of the first five, losing to Northwest Missouri, Missouri-St. Louis, Alderson-Braodddus and Illinois-Springfield. The girls finally pulled out their first win of the season against Hendrix. "This season and last season really mirrored each other," said Head Coach Danny Prescott. "We got off to slow starts in early tournaments, and we had double digit wins in the second half of each season."

The Lady Tigers finished their season winning six out of their last 10. Three out of the last four were shutouts at a tournament held at Hendrix College. They defeated Westminster, Hendrix College and Central Baptist with ease.

Although the season did not turn out the way most had hoped, it helped lay the groundwork for upcoming seasons. "The hardest part for me as a coach was motivating the team to compete at their highest level every night," said Prescott. "On the occasions that everything did come together, this team was very exciting to watch play. These moments gave us great momentum and insight for the upcoming season."

Each match was close, and most of the time came down to the last game, which became frustrating for some of the girls. "The hardest thing for our team was winning a match. We were able to keep up with all the teams from our conference," said sophomore Libby Merritt, a kinesiology major from Conway, "and took many to

five games [including the best in conference, [Harding University]] but [we] could not pull out a win."

Even though the girls had a hard time winning on the court, off the court was a different story. "The highlight of my season was just becoming really close with all my teammates," said Kaitlyn Mitcham, a junior from Fort Worth, Texas. "This season was really tough but it brought us all together and made us closer." Raichel Settle, a senior from Garland, Texas, agreed, "My favorite thing about the team is the girls. We have some funny, amazing personalities and that always made it fun."

And that growing team chemistry will help the Lady Tigers in the long run. "I feel like next year is going to be our year. I felt like we all learned a lot and grew together and it will show next year," said Mitcham.

Merritt, Mitcham and Settle were among the top performers of this Lady Tiger team. Merritt led the team in kills with 246, averaging almost three per game, followed closely by Megon Askew, a freshman from Weatherford, Texas with 229 kills. Merritt and Askew also led the team in blocks with a combined total of 159. Allison Frizzell, a freshman defensive specialist from McKinney, Texas, was named the Gulf South Conference West Division Player of the year with 463 digs. Settle was the second leading defensive player with 394 digs, and got her fair share of kills in with 163. Mitcham was top three when it came to kills with a total of 178, while contributing 70 digs on defense.



Lady Tiger team members celebrate following their victory over Hendrix College. The girls defeated the warriors 3-0 in their first home match of the season.
Photo by John Morgan



Sophomore Libby Merritt jumps for a spike during a match at the Surgis Physical Education Center. Merritt was named to the 2009 Preseason All-Gulf-South Conference Team.
Photo by John Morgan

"This season was really tough but it brought us all together and made us closer."

RAICHEL SETTLE

Scoreboard

Westminster: 3-0
 Hendrix: 3-0, 3-0
 Williams Baptist: 3-1
 Central Baptist: 3-0
 Henderson State: 0-3, 0-3
 Arkansas Tech: 0-3, 0-3
 Arkansas-Monticello: 2-3, 0-3
 West Alabama: 0-3, 0-3
 Christian Brothers: 2-3, 2-3
 Alabama-Huntsville: 3-1
 Harding: 0-3, 2-3
 John Brown: 2-3
 Lyon: 3-2
 Southern Arkansas: 3-0, 3-2
 Berry College: 3-1
 East Texas Baptist: 3-1
 Mary Hardin-Baylor: 3-0
 UT-Tyler: 3-0
 Texas A&M-Commerce: 0-3
 St. Edwards: 0-3
 TAMU-International: 3-0
 Colorado-Mines: 1-3
 SE Oklahoma State: 0-3
 Illinois-Springfield: 1-3
 Alderson-Broadus: 0-3
 Missouri-St. Louis: 0-3
 Northwest Missouri: 0-3
Season Record: 14-21



Volleyball Team members are **Front Row:** Stephanie Carrell, Lauren Stuart; **Second Row:** Anna Ryan, Jillian Jeffcoat, Allison Frizzell, Kaitlyn Mitcham; **Third Row:** Rachel Settle, Kristyn Hawk, Chloe Lowrance; **Back Row:** Lindsey Pry, Megan Askew, Kate Strom, Ashley Parker, Libby Merritt, Madison Scott.
 Photo by Wesley Kluck

Freshman Megan Askew spikes the ball in a match against Hendrix College. Askew was one of five freshmen to join the team.
 Photo by John Morgan.

Rwandan team member advances across the field as junior Victor Romero tries to defend. The match was one of friendly competition rather than serious conference play for the Ouachita team.

Photo by John Morgan



Senior **Jarad Townsend** and junior Alex Tonrey greet Valens Nteziyaremye prior to the game. Valens, a UALR student, witnessed the 1994 genocide that killed over one million innocent people in his country.

Photo by John Morgan

Junior **John Mark Tohlen** defends a Rwandan player during the charity event. The event raised over \$700 for the Bridge2Rwanda program.

Photo by John Morgan



PLAYING FOR A **CAUSE** by Breaune Goodrum

The team prepared with drills and warm-ups, anticipating the match that was about to take place. Soccer balls flew from one end of the field to the other; it was game time. As the coach called and the whistle blew, the team rushed to the sidelines to watch as the opposing team entered. Smiles were exchanged as the teams took their places on the field. This was not just a game; it was a mission, a cause.

Money was donated as students rushed into their places ready to cheer on their team and friends who were playing for the benefit of others; they were playing for one of their own. As the game began, students watched as sophomore Elisee Habimana started for the Bridge2Rwanda team. Created by Little Rock businessman Dale Dawson, Bridge2Rwanda, a non-profit charity, provides scholarships to top students in Rwanda hoping to better their country. Habimana, a sophomore, is one of the 75 students in Arkadelphia participating in this program.

"I admire Elisee for his hard work and intelligence. I appreciate his genuine desire to change his country," coordinator and junior chemistry major Kristen Glover from Stuttgart, said. "He has incredible strength and character, and I have no doubt that he will have huge influence in today's world. His dreams are colorful."

Although a success, the game took more than a simple notion, it took a coordinator. Glover, after hearing about the Rwandan students and their created soccer team, began to question the soccer coaches and players about involvement in her fundraiser. Her idea developed and she focused not only the cause and its

benefits, but her good friend Elisee to raise student awareness. After talking with colleagues and friends the game was set.

"She asked me about potentially playing the Bridge2Rwanda team in order to help promote their organization and raise funds," soccer coach Alex Denning said. "We had a few dates open that we could play and it would be a good chance for all of my guys to be able to get in and do good with their skills rather than just play the game."

After much anticipation, organizing and advertising, the date arrived. Soccer players warmed up and 200 students filled the sidelines after their second school day. Glover's project was finally in play. Soccer balls flew and cheers ignited the field every time Elisee Habimana received the ball. At halftime, the spectacle did not end as a penalty kick competition took place and Glover counted the donations.

"The fundraiser showed these students that there is a bigger world out there, people come from all over with so many different backgrounds and it is great to help out other people. While they asked for \$3 donations to get into the game, I think students came to see a cause and support their friends, not just to give," Denning said.

The game ended and as students left volunteers finished counting the donations reaching \$300. With the day closing, all volunteers received an invite to eat at Western Sizzlin along with good friend Elisee and the Rwandan team. The team gathered around the table for fellowship and fun as friends celebrated the victory of a cause.



Players exchange friendly handshakes and encouragement following the game. Although the Tigers defeated the Rwandan team, everyone was in good spirits due to the philanthropic nature of the event.
Photo by John Morgan

A Rwandan player kicks the ball past freshman Clayton Case. The fundraiser event, attended by over 200 students, was organized by junior Kristen Glover in honor of sophomore Elisee Habimana, a Rwandan native.
Photo by John Morgan

Scoreboard

- Dallas Christian: 15-0
- Texas Wesleyan: 2-6
- Louisiana College: 6-0
- Palm Beach Atlantic: 1-4
- University of the Ozarks: 8-1
- North Alabama: 1-8
- LeTourneau: 1-2
- Alabama-Huntsville: 1-0
- Hendrix: 0-1
- West Florida: 0-10
- Delta State: 4-2
- Christian Brothers: 0-1
- West Georgia: 0-2
- Harding: 1-1

Season Record: 5-8-1



Women's Soccer Team members are **Front Row:** Haley Barron, Miranda Lytle, Beth Wendi, Haley Whisenhunt, Jody Person, Brittany Vick, Felicia Arnold; **Second Row:** Taylor Gay, Sarah McKimmey, Becca Shupe, Becca Cochrum, Alexandra Patterson, Kelly Harris, Lauren Denning; **Back Row:** Whitley Berry, Randi Wilson, Carrie Lieblong, Brittany Davidson, Mary Whisenhunt, Jessica Foster, Whitley Hoppe, Katie Cresswell, Head Coach Alex Denning.
Photo by: Wesley Kluck.



After being kicked out of bounds, the ball is thrown in by sophomore Miranda Lytle. Lytle was one of four returning sophomores on the team.
Photo by Jeff Harmon.

OVERCOMING *ODDS* by Sarah Glenn

The Lady Tigers overcame many obstacles and pushed past expectations. Along with being the underdog in most games, the team faced the challenge of welcoming 10 new freshmen.

"The team was young this season with only three seniors and no one older than a sophomore athletically," said Lauren Denning, assistant coach.

Early in the season, captain Haley Barron from Euless, Texas, one of the four seniors on the team, tore her ACL.

"Off the field we all got along and we have a lot of really solid, good girls," said Barron. "Because of them, I was able to make it through the season."

Also, as pre-season approached, the team did not have a goalkeeper. Keeper coach Robert Pinkston worked with newly recruited goalkeeper Whitley Hoppe. Although Hoppe had never played soccer before, she met the challenge and even earned conference player of the week during the season.

Seniors Felicia Arnold, Brittany Vick, Haley Barron and Rondi Wilson not only set a precedent of work ethic during practice and games, but also with character.

"[The seniors] are all very solid girls and put Christ first. The other girls seeing that realize it is something they want and it has helped grow the program in a great direction," said Coach Alex Denning.

The team not only faced the challenge of youth, but also the challenge of being the underdog in many games.

"We were not supposed to compete with some of the teams we played against, but we did. We beat some teams that we were not

suppose to," Coach Denning said. "The girls overcame a lot and did very well after we went through some rough spots."

Despite odds against them, the Lady Tigers exceeded expectations and fell only one win short, against Harding, from making the GCS post-season tournament.

"It was a challenge but we did it. In the end, we accomplished more than we ever thought and were just one game away from playoffs," said Beth Wendt, a sophomore from Dallas. The team ended the season at 5-8-1. Wendt led the team with 11 goals, scoring four in a 6-0 victory over Louisiana College. During much of the season, the Lady Tigers were ranked No. 1 in the nation for goals per game average.

A major game of the season was against highly ranked Alabama-Huntsville. With few subs and many injuries, the Tigers battled for over 107 minutes into double overtime before freshman Sarah McKimney scored from outside the 18-yard box to claim the team's first conference win of the season.

"UAH ended up ranking third in conference, which just shows that we have the talent to fight for a spot in conference every year," Lauren Denning said.

Overcoming countless obstacles throughout the season, the Lady Tigers continued to work hard and bond as a team. Although the team did not join the men's team in the GCS tournament, Coach Denning considers the Lady Tigers' season victorious.

"We had girls that were great leaders as well as a large and talented freshmen class," said Coach Alex Denning. "The combination helped to make this season a success."



Senior captain Haley Whisenhunt prepares to trap the ball before taking it down field. Trapping is a technique drilled during practices. Photo by Jeff Harmon.



In the match against University of the Ozarks, sophomore captain Beth Wendt tries to get around a defensive player. The Tigers defeated the Eagles 8-1 in the match. Photo by Callie Stephens.

"The girls overcame a lot and did very well after we went through some rough spots."
COACH ALEX DENNING

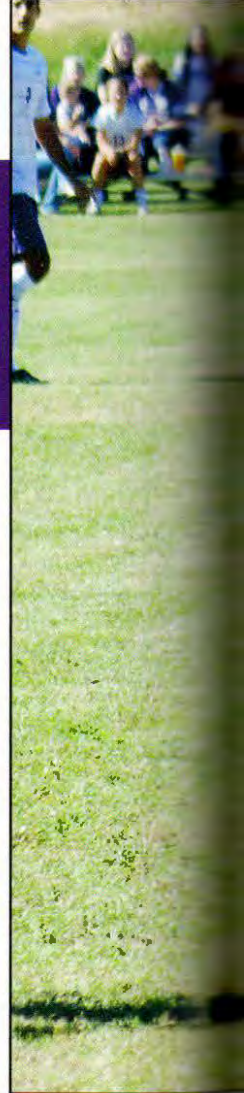


Trying to keep the Bison defense from regaining possession of the ball, freshman Tyler Humphrey kicks the ball from his path. Humphrey was one of 13 freshmen who joined the team.

Photo by Jeff Harmon

Freshman Rizvan Ceka moves the ball down field in the match against Harding University. Ceka led the team in points and goals, and was selected to the GSC First Team and named the GSC Freshman of the Year.

Photo by Jeff Harmon



THE TEAM THAT COULD,

DID

by: Hannah Clayton

After soccer almost being removed from Ouachita's athletic program, a short two seasons later the Tigers kicked and sweated their way to a never before achieved high. It was a historic season to top all previous seasons: for the first time in the team's history, the Tigers, with a 6-7 record for the season, made it to the Gulf South Conference Tournament.

"We had more talent that we've ever had," Head Coach Alex Denning said. "It's a very young team. We had 13 freshmen, but we also had returners who brought composure to the game. Luckily, the chemistry between the two worked out well."

Even before balancing books and the ball, demanding practices and demanding tests, the Tigers were working hard. With three practices per day in the Arkansas summer heat for most of August, the Tigers were on the field preparing for what they hoped to be a strong season.

"Before the season started, we decided to make it our goal to come out and play strong and make it to the Conference," said Jarad Townsend, senior and one of the four captains. "After two years in from reinstating soccer, we were ready to win."

The Tigers started off their 13-game season strong with a 3-0 shutout against Dallas Christian. After falling to Texas Wesleyan, John Brown and Palm Beach Atlantic, the Tigers dominated Louisiana College, Williams Baptist and LeTourneau.

With the season over halfway through, the Tigers knew they had a shot at making the GSC Tournament. It came down to the wire, and their hopes for the tournament were close within reach. The whole season rested upon the outcome of their final game of the season against their biggest rival—Harding.

"This was the game that was da or die," Denning said.

The Tigers came out ready. Freshman Payam Pourjavad scored a goal in first 29 seconds of the second half to put the Tigers up 1-0 and set the pace for the rest of the game. Minutes later, junior Victor Romero put one in the net from an assist from Pourjavad increasing the lead to 2-0. Rizvan Ceka broke through late in the second half to put in two goals within two minutes—the first by an assist from senior Bloke Mercer, and the second going solo by breaking through the Bison defense. A final victory of 4-0 sealed the deal for the Tigers. They were going to the Gulf South Conference Tournament.

"We were excited to have the opportunity to go to the Gulf South Conference," Ceka said.

With energy, motivation and talent fueling them, for the first time ever the Tigers packed their bags and headed to Pensacola, Florida, to play the top-seeded West Florida in the GSC Tournament.

The West Florida Argonauts started strong and put in two goals in the first 12 minutes of the first half. Late in the first half however, freshman Tyler Humphrey put one in the back of the net leaving the Tigers down only 2-1 at halftime. "Everyone was pretty much ready to fight after that," Denning said. "That got the guys motivated."

The Tigers came out on the attack in the second half, but the Argonauts were able to take advantage of the heavy offense and slip in two more goals before the end of the game with a final score of 4-1 Argonauts.

"Win or lose in the GSC Tournament, it was a huge accomplishment in and of itself," Denning said. "We've got a great bunch of guys, and I couldn't be more proud of their performance from beginning of the season to the end."



Junior Alex Tonrey goes for a steal against the Harding University defense. The game marked the climax of the season and ended with the Tigers winning the match and securing a spot in the GSC tournament.
Photo by Jeff Harmon



Scoreboard

- Dallas Christian: 3-0
- Texas Wesleyan: 1-3
- John Brown University: 1-2
- Louisiana College: 6-0
- Palm Beach Atlantic: 1-4
- Williams Baptist: 7-0
- LeTourneau: 2-1
- Alabama-Huntsville: 0-1
- West Florida: 0-5
- Delta State: 2-1
- Christian Brothers: 0-3
- Central Baptist: 1-2
- Harding: 4-0
- West Florida: 1-4

Season Record: 6-8

Soccer Team members are **Front Row:** Jarod Townsend, Ben Pettigrew, Jason Cantwell, Zack Pinkston, John Lee, Ben Emanuel, Tyler Humphrey, **Second Row:** Tyler Dennis, Victor Romero, John Mark Tohlen, Alex Tonrey, Reid Adkins, Payam Pourjavad, Barry McCaskill; **Back Row:** Robert Pinkston, Neal Ozmun, Rizvan Ceka, Sergiu Postalache, Daniel Johnson, Conner Burke, Clayton Case, Blake Howard, Blake Mercer, Kauffman, Coach Alex Denning.
Photo by Wesley Kluck

Scoreboard

Monticello Invitational: 1st Place
Bob Grovett Invitational: 1st Place
Mulerider Invitational: 3rd Place
Lyon College Invitational: 1st Place
GSC Conference Meet: 8th Place



Cross Country members are **Front Row:** Hannah Howard; **Second Row:** Aubree Fry, Amonda Boyce; **Third Row:** Kelsie Wilson, Sara Hanson; **Back Row:** Assistant Coach Mike Prince, Head Coach Mike McGhee.
Photo by Wesley Kluck

Senior Hannah Howard runs in the meet against Henderson State University. Howard was one of three seniors who helped lead the team for the season.
Photo by John Morgan



BECOMING *ONE* TOGETHER by: Julie Hagar

There are few experiences in life that compare to that of waking up even before the sun does, but the OBU cross country team has lived for it. Every morning, the girls woke up to a dew soaked ground and breathed in the crisp morning air, ready to run miles upon miles.

The women's cross country team participated in several meets this season including the Gulf South Conference meet, held in Hoover, Ala. The ladies finished eighth out of 15 teams for the conference meet as well as three first place finishes throughout the season. Hannah Howard, a senior from Nacogdoches, Texas, was the lead runner for the team, helping direct the Tigers into a winning season.

"Howard was a key runner this season. Not only was she a good runner, but an amazing person. She was always encouraging others, and keeping a good attitude which was refreshing for everyone on the team," said Kelsie Wilson, a freshman from Batesville.

The team didn't just concentrate on winning meets, but on becoming a more unified set. After losing some runners early in the season, the team was able to connect and focus on encouraging one another and taking on one meet at a time.

"We were able to go to Alabama this year, which is a seven hour bus ride. The whole way there, all of the girls just laughed and became closer, while still concentrating on what we were going to do in Alabama," said Boyce.

The team started out with eight runners for the season, but soon dropped to four. Two girls were able to join the cross country team at the last minute so that the Tigers could compete at conference. Whitley Hoppe, a Junior from Montgomery, Texas and Sarah

Hanson, a junior from Tyler, Texas, joined the team to help them place eighth at the conference meet.

"That is definitely one of the highlights of my entire season. Having Whitley and Sara join us for our last meet was definitely a much needed blessing," said Wilson.

With a season of shortages, the Lady Tigers overcame. "I felt this team accomplished more with less talent of teams in the past. This group of young ladies met with more adversity and still found a way to compete," said Coach Mike McGhee.

With each meet came a different strategy and McGhee knew to look ahead. "We approached each race differently. It may have depended on the teams there, or we may have focused more on the structure of the course itself, but the girls were always well prepared to win the race," said McGhee.

For the season, the Lady Tigers finished first in three meets which were the Monticello Invitational, Bob Gravett Invitational, and the Lyon College Invitational. The team also finished third in the Mulerider Invitational and eighth at the conference meet.

Daily nutrition habits, practicing in the early hours of the morning, and even mental willpower helped these girls conquer what many didn't think they could. They were determined to prove that they could compete on a strong level with few runners.

The season had a lot of surprises, but the Lady Tigers handled the cards they had been dealt with in a positive way. With a new level of excitement and determination, they were looking ahead to see what the future brings them, and using what they learned from this season to set new goals.

"I know we're young, but we have heart, and with that kind of combination, nothing will stop us," said Wilson.



HSU runners near the end of the finish line. The Gravett Invitational was held on Ouachita.

Photo by John Morgan



Waiting for the whistle, team members ready their watches to keep track of their progress along the run. The team placed eighth in the GSC meet. Photo by John Morgan

"I know we're young, but we have heart, and with that combination nothing will stop us."
KELSIE WILSON

Junior Gabby Coleman presses past a Lady Reddie in the away Battle of the Ravine game at HSU. Coleman led the team in scoring with 448 points for the season.
Photo by Callie Stephens



Lady Tigers shake hands with the Henderson State Lady Reddies after the home court Battle of the Ravine. The girls lost the game 76-79 after a close game of play.
Photo by Callie Stephens

Sophomore guard A'Laeshia Adams runs through a UAM defensive player in Bill Vining Arena. Adams led the team in successful free throws, with 131 shots made, and successful three-point shots, with 49 shots made.
Photo by Callie Stephens



STRONG LEADERSHIP

by: Haley Griffin

The Lady Tigers may not have had the Cinderella season of the year before, but the season certainly had its success stories. "As a team we had some ups and downs," said junior kinesiology major and guard Gabby Coleman. The Lady Tigers were a very young team. They returned this year losing only three seniors from the prior year. So, most of the talent was back.

The Lady Tigers pulled away with a 13-14 record, going 5-9 in the GSC conference. "The GSC conference is a really tough conference to compete in and has been for years," said Graduate Assistant Kim Beverly.

Leadership was key to a team and the Lady Tigers found senior leadership in Angela Colliver and Melissa Richardson, the only four year veterans of the team. "It was tough to replace the leadership we had the previous year but I feel like we came together as a team mid-season," said senior business major and post Angela Colliver. They also had to get to know each other and get used to how well they played together. "We have worked on building our team chemistry. From road trips to game days to late and early practices, we have grown closer together as a basketball family," said Colliver.

The Lady Tigers kept a steady winning streak through the first half of the season. They had a bit of an advantage having the majority of their games on their own court, although they did have a lot of traveling once they did hit the road. Having such a young team, road trips proved to be a little intimidating and rough on new players.

An advantage to having a young team is they have a lot to look forward to the next four years as these players progressed. "I think these girls have

so much potential and I hope that they continue to learn and grow together become one unit," said Colliver.

The Lady Tigers did well throughout the conference but one game that stood out was against the rivals across the street, Henderson. The first meeting was at Bill Vining Arena. The Lady Reddies pulled away with a 76-79 win over the Lady Tigers. "It was a big upset because that is one of the goals every year to not let Henderson beat us on our own court," said Colliver. The next meeting against HSU would be a different story. It was a must win for the Lady Tigers. If Henderson beat them the Lady Reddies were likely heading to the conference tournament.

"I wanted to beat them on their court since earlier in the season they had won on ours," said Coleman. The game came to a bitter end where both teams were calling time outs and setting up special plays. It was the game that basketball players dream about. Gabby Coleman's dream came true that night. As the last seconds counted off the clock with the Lady Tigers down, A'Laeshia Adams headed down the court with the ball and gave Coleman an assist at the left three point line. She pulled up and scored and the Lady Tigers won the game 79-77. "I have never made a last second shot to win the game before. It was awesome," said Coleman.

The Lady Tigers ended the season with several individual awards. Terrell Robinson and Melissa Richardson were named to the GSC winter all-conference team. Gabby Coleman was named GSC women's basketball second team while A'Laeshia Adams was named GSC player of the week.



Basketball Team members are **Front Row:** Shannon Bennings, Gobby Coleman; **Second Row:** Blair Jordan, Lydia Fincher, Beulah Osueke, Shatelia Walker-Scott, Sarah Pugh, Tamara Robinson, Breana Dillard, Lauren Kollmargen, Melissa Richardson, Maranda Parker, A'Laeshia Adams, Domina Miller.
 Photo by Wesley Kluck

Scoreboard

Harding: 60-70, 62-76
 Henderson State: 79-77, 76-79
 Southern Arkansas: 91-85, 80-78
 Arkansas Tech: 72-92, 74-78
 Arkansas Monticello: 67-69, 66-61
 Christian Brothers: 87-68, 62-65
 Delta State: 37-73, 60-71
 Southeastern Oklahoma State: 79-87
 West Alabama: 78-65
 West Georgia: 72-55
 Southwest Baptist University: 69-72
 Ecclesia: 80-57
 Newman: 76-59
 St. Mary's (Texas): 48-56
 Lambuth: 70-91
 Incarnate Ward: 59-58
 North Alabama: 86-67
 Alabama-Huntsville: 69-66
 Philander Smith: 100-70
 Tougaloo: 70-79

Season Record: 13-14

Scoreboard

Harding: 71-72, 58-79
 Henderson State: 81-73, 80-52
 Southern Arkansas: 69-64, 62-66
 Arkansas Tech: 61-71, 65-74
 Arkansas Monticello: 40-69, 48-60
 Christian Brothers: 59-54, 51-58
 Delta State: 77-84, 62-67
 Texas A&M Commerce: 59-62, 59-66
 West Alabama: 58-51
 West Georgia: 66-80
 Dallas Christian: 83-75
 Central Baptist: 81-66
 College of the Ozarks: 72-79
 North Alabama: 75-83, 64-90
 St. Edwards: 64-79
 Drury University: 51-78
 Incarnate World: 79-72
 Alabama - Huntsville: 50-56
Season Record: 8-19



Basketball Team members are **Front Row:** Austin Mitchell, Julian LaDay, Landon Parker, Keilan Stittiams, Head Coach Mark Price, Corey Morrow, Jeremy Banks, Reggie Britton, ; **Back Row:** Belford Williams, Josh Roine, Miles Monroe, Bryce Miracle, Scott Day, Emmanuel Engulu, Olden Jordan, Assistant Coach Sean Rutigliano.
 Photo by Wesley Kluck

Senior Belford Williams takes a shot in Bill Vining Arena in the game against UAM. Williams, who led the team in field goals made, rebounds and blocked shots, was one of only two seniors.
 Photo by Callie Stephens



HIDDEN SUCCESS by Josh Fink

The men's basketball team had a season full of ups and downs en route to an overall record of 8-19. One of those losses came against Drury University by a final score of 78-51, one of the biggest deficits that the team would suffer all year. The team proved that they were not one to lie down though, when they were able to compete strongly against the No.1 team in the nation, Arkansas Tech, only losing by a final score of 74-65. Although they didn't finish with the best record in the Gulf South Conference, according to head coach Mark Price, this season was a huge success.

"We took a lot of steps in the right direction," said Price. "We are on the right path to where we want to go and we are very pleased with the progress that we made as a team." The Tigers were able to prove themselves as a competitor against some of the top competition in division II. The first key game for them was their loss to Delta State by a score of 67-62. The biggest turning point though was a conference win in which the team was able to defeat Christian Brothers at Bill Vining Arena by a final score of 59-54 going into the second half of their conference schedule. They finished the season with a one point loss to Harding at Bill Vining Arena in which Harding was able to hit the game winning shot with seconds left on the clock. Their final conference record in the Gulf South Conference was 4-10, but other than two of the losses, the team did not lose one of those games by more than 12 points. "I think finishing the season on a high note was a strangpoint for the team," Rutigliano said. "Once the guys saw how good we could be, they really started believing in our team."

As mentioned before, two of the four wins that occurred in conference play were achieved against rival school Henderson State in the Battle of the Ravine. The Tigers won the first game 80-52 at home. When they played at Henderson, the game was much closer, but the Tigers were able to pull out the win with a final score of 81-73. "Winning the season series with Henderson was huge for the team," said Franklin Featherston, the freshman student assistant from Searcy, Arkansas. "It helped build confidence and momentum for the team late in the season."

Even though the team only had two seniors and two juniors, the one

sophomore and six freshmen on the team were all able to step up in their own ways and create a cohesive unit that was able to play together as well as any team in the Gulf South Conference. "The atmosphere around the players was very positive this season," Price said. "It was very energetic and our kids like each other and get along very well. They have good camaraderie together."

Belford Williams, a senior speech communications major from Hill Air Force Base, Utah, came into the season as by far the oldest player on the team at the age of 25. Williams led the team in rebounds, with a total of 173. This is very impressive considering that Williams stands at 6'5 tall, shorter than many other players in the conference. Williams also led the team in blocks and shooting percentage and was second on the team in steals with 32 blocks, a 60.7 field goal percentage and 26 steals. The Tigers were led in scoring by Scott Day, a junior from Highlands Ranch, Colorado, who finished with a total of 259 points on the season. "Coach told me I needed to be a leader on the floor and not seclude myself," said Williams. "Coach challenged me. It was a personal challenge from my coach and I had to fulfill it."

Overall, the team grew a lot over the course of the season. They worked together and through it all they formed relationships with coaches and other players. The team is only losing two players to graduation, those being Williams and Josh Raine, a business administration major from Little Rock, Arkansas. They started off slow but were able to pick up some key wins against some of the toughest competition in the nation. As previously mentioned, the key wins during the season were the win over Christian Brothers late in the conference schedule and the series sweep of the rival Henderson State University Reddies. These wins were pivotal and led to a chance at the conference tournament, even though the Tigers were not able to capitalize on this opportunity due to a combination of unfortunate occurrences.

"It was a year of ups and downs, but toward the end of the season we were able to end on a high note," Rutigliano said. "The biggest thing is when you are able to bring a group of guys together and as the year progresses they really learn to enjoy each other."



Junior Scott Day presses past a Henderson player in the home game against the Reddies. The Tigers defeated the Reddies 81-73. Photo by **Callie Stephens**



Sophomore guard Reggie Britton goes up for a shot against the Henderson defense. Britton was the only sophomore on the team, and scored 167 points for the season. Photo by **Callie Stephens**

"We are on the right path to where we want to go and we are very pleased with the progress we have made as a team."
HEAD COACH MARK PRICE

Senior Summer Morris dives to begin a race at the Henderson State Invitational. The Lady TigerSharks placed second behind Henderson in the meet.
Photo by John Morgan



Ksenia Gromova, a sophomore from Kostrama, Russia, swims in the Henderson meet. Gromova was one of two international students on the women's swimming and diving team.
Photo by William Wood



Sophomore Kelly Johnson and team members prepare for a freestyle swim in the Henderson State Invitational. Sophomore Megan Young and senior Summer Morris led the team to a second place win.
Photo by William Wood

EXCEPTIONAL **EFFORT**

by Amy Lynn Wentz

As their team saying goes, "we train together, we compete together, we succeed together." Such was the story for the Lady TigerSharks.

With a team stacked full of underclassmen, the Lady TigerSharks set the foundation for years to come with the ability to compete at the highest level during conference and NCAA competition.

"This year was a very solid year for our ladies considering our numbers," said Head Coach Ryan Killackey. "The girls were able to improve throughout the year in regards to their times, efforts and abilities to succeed in the meets and in practice."

At the New South Intercollegiate Conference Championships, the Lady TigerSharks finished in fourth place overall with 524 points behind conference champion Truman State University (923.5).

Ouachita was led by top individual performances by a trio of Lady TigerSharks. Sophomore Megan Young, an early childhood education major from Bryan, Texas, recorded a first place finish in the 1000-yard free, along with second place finishes in the 500-yard free, 200-yard IM and 1650-yard free.

"What was different about this season was that we really came together as a team, and it was the focus of the entire year. It brought us closer together," Young said.

Sophomore Ksenia Gramova, a Russian major from Kostrama, Russia, put together a first place finish in the 100-yard butterfly, as well as second place finishes in the 200-yard butterfly and 200-yard individual medley (IM). Junior Katie Patterson, a history major from San Antonio, Texas, added a first place finish to the team's

record in the 400-yard IM.

Ouachita took home first place honors in the 200-yard medley relay with a team of Gromova, Patterson, freshman Svitlana Smirnova, a business administration/finance major from the United Kingdom, and senior Summer Morris, a psychology major from Tyler, Texas, while the 800-yard freestyle relay team of Young, Patterson, Smirnova and Gromova finished second. "Not only did the relay qualify me for nationals and set the tone for the meet, but it was the first 1st place finish I have had at conference, which made my senior year especially memorable," Morris said. In the 200-yard freestyle relay, Ouachita finished second with Gramova, Patterson, Young and junior Ruth Megli, an early childhood education major from Enid, Okla.

"Compared to most teams with 20+ swimmers, we had a small number," Killackey said. "We were able to put it together. We have the quality. The quantity is what we had to overcome."

At the NCAA Division II Swimming and Diving Championships at Canton, Ohio, Ouachita finished in 18th place overall with 59.5 points. The highest individual performance went to Gromova with a third place finish in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 55.59. The Lady TigerSharks also recorded top-20 finishes in the 400-yard IM, as Patterson finished 11th, while Gromova finished 11th in the 200-yard butterfly. The 800-yard Freestyle relay team of Young, Patterson, Smirnova and Gramova finished 13th overall.

"The girls had the work ethic to achieve greatness," Killackey said. "Overall, our efforts were exceptional."



Scoreboard

Drury State: 64-172
 Delta State: 96-127
 UALR Invitational: 2nd
 HSU: 87-149, 115-119
 HSU Invitational: 2nd
 NSISC Meet: 2nd
 Conference Championship: 4th
 National Meet: 18th

Women TigerShark team members include: **Front Row:** Svitlana Smirnova, Kelli Caldwell, Chelbi Smith, Megan Young, Sarah Davis, Megan Rebel and Summer Marris; **Back Row:** Sarah Bennet, Ksenia Gromova, Ruth Megli, Kelly Johnson, Katie Patterson, Anni Clark, Kaitlin Tagon and Jessica Wasmund.
 Photo by Wesley Kluck

Senior Kyle Tilley swims in a 400 yard consolation event at the Henderson State Invitational. Tilley clocked a time of 25.18 seconds in the event.

Photo by John Morgan

Scoreboard

Drury State: 103-138

Missouri S&T: 85-120

Delta State: 147-86

UALR Invitational: 1st

HSU: 116-121, 128-131

HSU Invitational: 1st

NSISC Conference Championship: 2nd

National Meet: 5th



TigerShark team members are: **Front Row:** Nathan Bercow, Austin Farr, Martin Stevens, Marcus Schlesinger, Carl Thomas, Douglas D Stefano; **Second Row:** Tyler McCarley, Daniel Karkaska, Kenton Scott, Jake McLain, Carl Johnson, Harrison Tomlinson; **Third Row:** Austin Lindsey, Travis Bail, John Ragland, Tim Ferris, Matt Pope, Nelson Silva; **Fourth Row:** Jacob Osborn, Jacob Ramaly, Kyle Bartlett, Razvan Gaga, Kyle Tilley, Joseph Caudill; **Back Row:** Kristian Krc, Nick Bass, Austin Teague, Will Wood, Radu Badalac, Chris Hull.

Photo by Wesley Kluck



NATIONAL SUCCESS by Josh Fink

The men's swimming team wrapped up a successful season on March 13 when they traveled to Canton, Ohio, to participate in the NCAA championship meet. The Tiger Sharks finished fifth overall, with strong performances by multiple swimmers.

"To finish fifth at nationals was a great experience," said Daniel Karkoska, a junior from Bryant. "It was my third time attending the national championship swim meet and was another top five finish. It was great to succeed as a team. We had a few wins including two relays and one individual event which increased the pride I have for my team. Finishing fifth was like icing on the cake after having an amazing meet and season."

The TigerSharks were led by five seniors, all contributing in their own ways, and according to head coach Ryan Killackey, all will be missed next year.

"It is always very hard to lose your seniors to graduation," said Killackey. "It will be very difficult to achieve the same success as this year without them."

The biggest contributing factor on the team was actually not the seniors, but instead the freshmen. The Tiger Sharks had a total of 14 freshmen swimming for them, with a couple of those going on to compete at the national meet.

"It is a very big advantage to have so many returning guys next year," Killackey said. "At this point we have a lot of guys who have a chance to step up and prove themselves as leaders both in the pool and out of it."

Although they did go on to compete at the NCAA national meet, it could not have happened without the momentum the team

built during the season. The team started off slow but went on to win their meets later in the season in a dominating fashion.

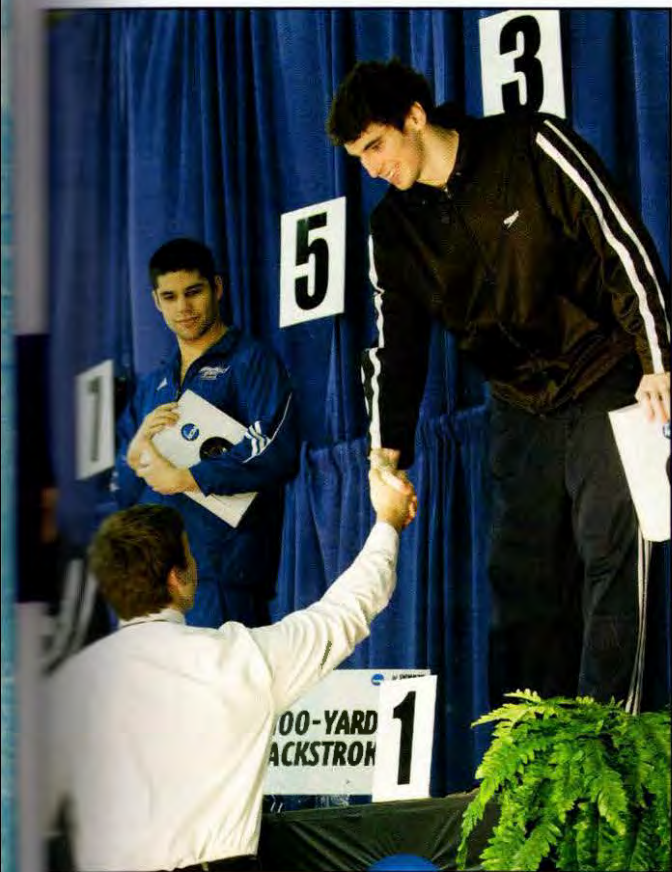
"I could compare this year's team with a freight train," said Radu Badalac, a senior from Bucuresti, Romania. "It takes a while to get it going, but once it goes, it is hard to stop. What made the 'train' really move, was the UALR Christmas meet. That was, in my opinion, a good indicator of how the season would be."

One of the most important factors for a winning team is how well they interact with each other. If a team does not compete well as a unit, it can cause many problems. Killackey does not think working together was a problem for the TigerSharks.

"This group is a family," Killackey said. "It is evident in practice and competitions how close knit all of these guys are. They are willing to do whatever it takes to succeed and that is a big part of our fifth place finish at nationals."

Overall the TigerSharks finished this season successfully. They finished second at their conference meet, finished with national championships in multiple events, were able to place fifth overall in the national meet and also had 11 All-Americans. For any team with 14 freshmen, that would almost be considered impossible. The most important thing in the end is success, and the TigerSharks were able to achieve that under the direction of Killackey.

"Since Coach Killackey took control of the swim program, he kept emphasizing 'we work as a team, compete as a team, succeed as a team'," Badalac said. "We have been able to apply that, throughout the whole season. I believe that those were important goals, and the good results are coming naturally from them."



After the NCAA Division II Swimming and Diving Championships in Canton, Ohio, senior Radu Badalac receives his trophy for third place in the 100 yard freestyle. The Tiger Sharks placed fifth after the four days of competition.
Photo by Will Wood



Freshman Carl Thomas swims the 100 yard butterfly consolation round in the Henderson State Invitational. Thomas placed fifth in the event.
Photo by Will Wood

"I could compare this year's team with a freight train. It takes a while to get it going, but once it goes, it is hard to stop."
RADU BADALAC



Thoko Zulu delivers the serve during a home match. The Zimbabwe native was a senior on the tennis team.
photo by: Callie Stephens

Scoreboard

- Tarleton State: 1-8
- Drury: 0-9
- Oklahoma Christian: 0-9
- Northeast Ok. State: 0-9
- Southwest Baptist: 2-7
- Christian Brothers: 9-0
- Delta State: 0-9
- Southern Arkansas: 9-0
- Arkansas Tech: 2-7
- Univ. Ark.-Fort Smith: 3-6
- Arkansas Tech: 3-6
- Harding: 2-7
- Delta State: 0-9
- Henderson State: 3-6

Season Record 2-12



Women's Tennis Team members are: Lilia Sokolova, Mariana Divardin, Thoko Zulu, Megan Ruggles, Annie Gerber, Samantha Tavu Fa, Katie Potts.
photo by: Wesley Kluck

Taru Fa returns a volley during play. Fa teamed up with Mariana Divardin to finish 9-5 in doubles play.
photo by: Kara Humble



Senior Katie Potts practices her form at the Heflin Tennis Center. The center was open for students and the public.
photo by: Callie Stephens



PULLING THROUGH

by: Alan Greenwood

According to Henry Ford, "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." For Ouachita, the record didn't fully indicate the measure of progress for the 2010 women's tennis team.

Playing a tough non-conference and competitive Gulf South Conference schedule, Ouachita was challenged against some of the best talent in the South Region.

After starting the season at 0-5, the Lady Tigers put together a 9-0 decisive victory over Christian Brothers on Feb. 27. Led by 6-0, 6-0 shutout wins from senior Taru Fa, junior Mariana Divardin and junior Annie Gerber in singles play, Ouachita also picked up their first Gulf South Conference win. Freshman Lilia Sokalava also recorded a 6-0, 6-1 singles victory and teamed with Gerber for an 8-1 doubles triumph. Teammates Divardin and Fa also were victorious in doubles play with an 8-0 shutout.

After dropping a match to Delta State to even the GSC record to 1-1, Ouachita again provided a shutout victory against a conference opponent in Southern Arkansas, 9-0 on March 2. In the No. 1 doubles spot, Divardin and Fa provided an 8-0 victory, while senior Katie Potts and Sokalava won the No. 2 doubles match with an 8-3 score and Ouachita won the final doubles matchup via forfeit.

In singles play, Divardin won the No. 1 spot with a 6-4, 6-0 victory, while Potts and junior Megan Ruggles provided shutout wins, 6-0, 6-0. Teammates Fa and freshman Samantha Street each provided

victories in the No. 4 and No. 5 spots.

The pair of victories over Christian Brothers and Southern Arkansas would be the only wins all season for Ouachita, finishing at 2-12 overall and 2-6 in GSC play.

On three different occasions, the Lady Tigers lost tough 6-3 matches, as Divardin and Fa each won the opening No. 1 doubles spot, only to see the victory slip away in singles play. Against Arkansas Tech and Henderson State, the Lady Tigers won a pair of matches in the top singles flight, but couldn't compete in the middle of the lineup. "We didn't shy away from tough competition because tough competition only makes us better," Coach Betsy Danner said. "We didn't look at the win-loss statistics because realistically if we didn't beat everyone we came up against we were not likely to win the GSC Championship again like we did in 2003 and 2004. So we'll keep working hard and playing tough teams to help us get better."

While team success was harder to come by, several individual performances stood out for the team, including newcomer Street finishing the season with a 6-4 record in singles action, while Divardin and Fa each finished with a 9-4 record in doubles play.

According to Street, "Being on the Ouachita Women's Tennis team this past season gave me an opportunity to play with some great girls and to be a part of a team again. I enjoyed being able to play on a higher level of tennis and getting a chance to play the sport I know and love."

LEAVING BEHIND A *LEGACY*

by: Alan Greenwood

When you reach a pinnacle of success, you want to annually compete with the nation's best. In this process of facing elite competition, you eventually mirror the success you face and your program begins to play at such a high level that nothing less than a National Championship is acceptable.

For the Ouachita Baptist men's tennis team, such is everyday life, as the Tigers again finished the season among the nation's best in Division II with an 18-3 record.

Among the three losses during the 2010 season, all three were to national championship participants that advanced to the 2010 Division II Men's Tennis National Championship match in national champ Barry and national runners-up Valdosta State.

After a 9-0 start to the regular season, Ouachita's first loss of the season came at the hands of No. 2 Valdosta State (21-2) on March 14, 7-2.

Ouachita then went on to win six-straight, recording a 5-0 record during spring break, including 5-4 victories over then-No. 8 Florida Southern and Barry. After defeating Barry (25-4), 5-4, on March 24, the Tigers finished the regular season unblemished to earn their seventh-straight Gulf South Conference West Division Men's Tennis crown.

The Tigers then advanced to the GSC Tournament, knocking off Alabama-Huntsville, 5-0, and West Florida, 5-2, during the first two rounds of action. However, for the third consecutive season, it was Valdosta State who took home the GSC Championships crown, 5-1.

When the NCAA Championships began, Ouachita traveled to Miami Shores, Fla., as the No. 1 seed in the South Region No. 2 tournament. After a first round bye, the Tigers took down then-No. 8 Florida Southern, 5-2, in the second round to advance to the regional final to face a familiar

opponent in Barry. The quest for the program's first national title ended when Ouachita lost to eventual national champion Barry, 5-0, in the South No. 2 Region final.

For many teams around the country, the difficulty doesn't come in regional play, while the Tigers were forced to advance from a South Region that featured seven of the top nine schools in the nation.

"Team chemistry is a big factor in our success," Ouachita Head Coach Craig Ward said. "I try to keep things fun and non-competitive inside the team. That being said, each team and year is different and there is no cookie-cutter model."

For the fifth consecutive year, No. 4 Ouachita Baptist swept the Gulf South Conference Men's Tennis West Division awards, as sophomore Jean Charles Diame was named the 2010 GSC West Division Player of the Year and freshman Tobias Kuhlmann was selected as the 2010 GSC Freshman of the Year. Diame marked the seventh-straight player to take home the award for Ouachita and finished the season as the No. 8 singles player in the country with a 17-2 record. Kuhlmann was the sixth-straight player to win the award for the conference's best newcomer with a 14-1 singles record and teamed up with junior Till Heilshorn to compile a 15-5 doubles record and No. 25 national ranking. Along with Diame, senior Jan Plewinski, sophomore Pierre Tafelski and Heilshorn were all named to the 2010 All-GSC West Division squad. Plewinski finished the season at No. 26 in singles action, while Heilshorn ended the season at No. 34 and Tafelski at No. 43.

"Each team leaves a legacy. This group will be remembered for setting aside personal differences and maintaining their focus until the end. We overcame a lot of obstacles and really played some great tennis," said Ward.

Scoreboard

Arkansas-Pine Bluff: 9-0
Harding: 9-0
Southwest Baptist: 8-1
Oklahoma Christian: 6-3
Delta State: 5-0
Drury: 7-2
Christian Brothers: 9-0
Delta State: 7-2
West Florida: 6-3
Valdosta State: 2-7
Florida Southern: 5-4
Rollins: 7-2
Barry: 5-4
St. Leo: 8-1
Florida Tech: 9-0
Harding: 9-0
Alabama-Huntsville; GSC Championships: 5-0
West Florida; GSC Championships: 5-2
Valdosta State; GSC Championships Final: 1-5
Florida Southern; NCAA Championships: 5-2
Barry; NCAA Championships: 0-5

Season Record: 18-3



Men's Tennis Team members are **front row:** Till Heilshorn, Jean Charles Diame, Tobias Kuhlmann, Daniel Moser, Pierre Tafelski, and Till Heilshorn. **Back row:** Jan Plewinski, Coach Craig Ward, Christian Ceparu, Satoshi Gado. **photo by: Wesley Kluck**



GSC West Player of the Year sophomore Jean Charles Diame displays his back hand shot. Diame ranked at number eight nationally in singles action.
photo by: Callie Stephens



Senior Satoshi Goda and freshman Daniel Moser practice during a fundamentals session. Moser went 17-2 in singles action in both the number five and number six positions.
photo by: Neal Ozmun

Senior Cole Fisher works on his form during a practice session. Fisher led Ouachita with a two-round total of 145 at the Derrall Foreman Invitational. *photo by: Collie Stephens*



SEARCHING FOR *DEPTH*

by: *Tanner Huffman*

With two starting members graduating and one transferring, the Ouachita golf team had to search for depth in their team and look ahead with confidence for success in the upcoming seasons.

"We had good talent on our top five but we didn't have much depth besides them," said Cole Fisher, a junior business administration major from Hot Springs.

In the fall, the team participated in the Bison Fall Golf Classic hosted by Harding University in Searcy. Sophomore Tanner Siman led the team with scores of 73 and 75, helping the junior varsity team place 13th overall.

"I really wanted to come out of the gate on fire," said Siman, a sophomore chemistry major from Denton, Texas. "I put in two great rounds of golf and it was a great way to kick off my sophomore season."

On Sep. 22, the team traveled to Tahlequah, Oklahoma, for the Northeastern State Golf Classic, where they placed 10th. The team put forth a strong effort in the Derrall Foreman Invitational to finish seventh overall in the tournament. Fisher led the team in the tournament with a combined score of 145. Seniors Rob Greer and Dax Demaree contributed as well, with scores of 146 and 153.

"We performed decently in tournaments partly due to the fact that we all got along fairly well," said Demaree, a senior chemistry major from Dexter, Missouri. "We showed great team unity."

The team kicked off the spring season with a ninth place finish

in the Doyle Wallace Classic held at the Hot Springs Country Club on Feb. 22. Pottsboro, Texas, was the next stop for the Tigers as they participated in the Crawford-Wade Invitational hosted by Texas A&M-Commerce, finishing seventh. Demaree led the team with a two-round score of 157 and finished 17th in the individual rankings.

"It felt good to finish on top," Demaree said. "My golf experience here has been great and I'm glad to have had an opportunity that many people never get to receive."

On March 15, the Tigers hosted the Ouachita Baptist Invitational at DeGray Lake Resort and Golf Course. The two-day tournament ended with the Tigers in third place.

The team traveled to Muscle Shoals, Alabama, on Mar. 29 for the North Alabama Spring Classic, where they finished 17th in the two-day tournament. To end their season, the Tigers ventured to Hot Springs Country Club for the Gulf South Conference Golf Championships on April 19. The Tigers placed ninth in the tournament with a total score of 928. Demaree, Greer and Buchanan ended their last seasons for Ouachita, but the team looked forward to improvement and finishing stronger in upcoming seasons.

"They have the potential to do very well," Demaree said. "They have a great amount of talent remaining and, if they find some promising incoming freshmen, then it could be a very successful season ahead for the team."

Scoreboard

- Bison Fall Classic: 13th (JV)
- Northeastern State Classic: 10th
- Derrall Foreman Invitational: 7th
- Doyle Wallace Classic: 9th
- Crawford-Wade Invitational: 7th
- North Alabama Spring Classic: 17th
- Gulf South Conference Tournament: 9th

Junior All-GSC performer Kristen Rigsbee delivers the pitch. Rigsbee led the Lady Tigers with a 20-10 record on the mound with a 2.57 ERA.
photo by: Neal Ozmun



Sophomore Jana Deen rounds the bases in a victory over Christian Brothers. Deen hit a .266 batting average.
photo by: Callie Stephens



SETTING A HIGHER STANDARD

by Alan Greenwood

"If you build it, they will come." While Kevin Costner's quote in "Field of Dreams" wasn't referring to the process of building a team, it fits perfectly in the design of the Ouachita Baptist softball program since its inaugural berth during the 2002 season. To fully understand the magnitude of the Lady Tigers' success during the 2010 season, you must first take a look back to where the team once was.

In the beginning, during the 2002-2004 seasons, the Lady Tigers won a combined 31 games total. During the 2010 season, Ouachita Baptist set an all-time program best wins mark with a 36-24 record overall, including a 14-16 mark in Gulf South Conference play and a No. 3 seed in the GSC Tournament.

After an 11-1 start to the season, it didn't take long for supporters to see something special was in the making. It wasn't just the victories that caught the attention of opponents. It was more about how Ouachita was winning: coupled with a dominant starting pitcher in junior Kristen Rigsbee and a trio of powerful sluggers in the lineup at the No. 3-5 spots in junior Sarah Bell, Rigsbee and senior All-American Haley Chambers, the Lady Tigers broke the team record in home runs with 46. The trio each collected 13 homers each, breaking the 2008 program record of 12 set by Rigsbee.

The tone of the GSC season was set right away in a 3-1 series victory over cross-town rival Henderson State at Sully Anderson Field, followed by a four-game sweep over reigning West Division conference champion Arkansas Tech to start the GSC slate at 7-1. It was the following pair of series that brought the Lady Tigers back to life, losing four-straight to Delta State and 3-of-4 to Arkansas-Monticello. The Lady Tigers didn't stay down for long, answering back with a 6-1 stretch, including a 3-1 series victory over Southern Arkansas and a 3-0 victory over GSC East opponent West Florida to open the 2010 GSC Crossover. After

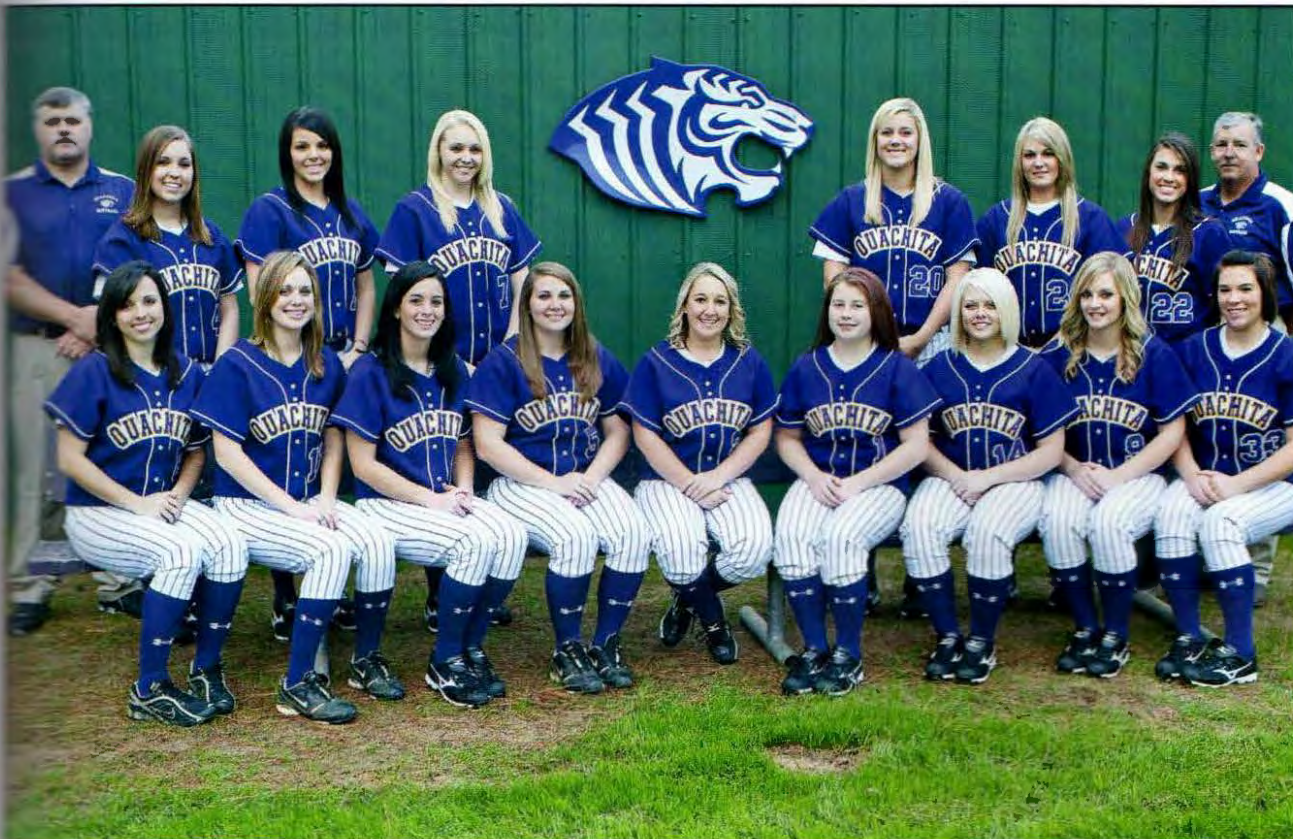
tough results at the Crossover, Ouachita clinched a GSC Tournament spot with a 3-1 series victory over Christian Brothers, led by a walk-off home run from an unlikely offensive hero in junior pitcher Sara Hanson.

While the GSC Tournament left disappointing emotions for the Lady Tigers after an eighth inning loss to national runners-up Valdosta State, 2-1, and a late inning loss to North Alabama, 6-5, Ouachita constructed a body of work that will continue to stretch the potential and heights of a once dismal program.

The individual accolades of several players didn't go unnoticed once the season was over, as senior Haley Chambers became the program's first All-American, earning a First Team spot on the 2010 Daktronics All-America team as an outfielder. Chambers finished a banner season by batting .435 with 12 doubles, 13 home runs and 69 RBIs. Chambers also earned 2010 Louisville Slugger/NFCA Division II All-Region Team honors, while junior Kristen Rigsbee joined her teammate on the Second Team. The duo also was named to the 2010 Daktronics All-South Region Softball Team and All-GSC First Team, while Bell was named to the All-GSC Second Team as a second baseman. "It was a very good season in which we broke several team records throughout the season, including most wins, most team home runs and the highest team batting average," Ouachita Head Coach Mike McGhee said. "We have even higher expectations for next season and want to continue to build our program to be recognized as a top contender in the GSC every season."

The 2010 Ouachita Baptist Softball program set out to build not only a competitive squad, but a program that challenged even greater heights in conference supremacy and postseason opportunities. By combining parts of the program together for the banner season, future seasons at Sully Anderson Field will always look back at the team that set the bar higher.

Sophomore Taylor Austin jogs in to the dugout after a defensive stop. Ouachita finished 19-5 at home.
photo by: Paden Fontenot



Softball team members are **front row:** Whitley Hoppe, Sara Hanson, Korrine Cook, Kristen Riggsbee, Jana Deen, Kelli Beth Bratton, Bailey Sanders, Jana Neal, Kaitlin Wilson. **Back row:** Head Coach Mike McGhee, Carissa Williams, Taylor Austin, Megan Askew, Haley Chambers, Sarah Bell, Alexis Johns, Assistant Coach Keith Bell.

photo by: Wesley Kluck

Scoreboard

- Lyon College: 0-2, 3-0
 - OBU Classic-Drury Univ.: 5-3
 - OBU Classic-Southwest Baptist: 1-0, 6-5
 - Arkansas-Pine Bluff: 4-0, 11-3
 - Lincoln University: 9-0, 8-0
 - Univ. of Missouri-St. Louis: 9-4
 - Missouri Western State Univ.: 4-3
 - Texas A&M-Kingsville: 8-0
 - Southwestern Oklahoma State: 0-3
 - Southwest Baptist: 5-8, 8-1
 - Southeastern Okla. State: 10-9, 4-12
 - Henderson State: 2-1, 0-4, 6-0, 5-3
 - Arkansas-Pine Bluff: 16-3, 7-0
 - Arkansas Tech: 5-3, 5-0, 4-0, 8-7
 - Illinois-Springfield: 8-0, 7-5
 - Central Arkansas: 7-2
 - Delta State: 1-8, 5-8, 7-8, 12-16
 - Missouri Southern: 6-0, 1-2
 - Arkansas-Monticello: 7-4, 1-3, 4-12, 3-11
 - Missouri S & T: 6-1, 8-0
 - Southern Arkansas: 1-2, 8-4, 4-1, 5-2
 - West Florida (GSC Cross-over): 3-0
 - Alabama- Huntsville: 0-4
 - North Alabama: 1-2
 - West Georgia: 2-10
 - West Alabama: 2-4
 - Valdosta State: 1-3
 - Lyon College: 8-5, 7-9
 - Christian Brothers: 3-0, 9-7, 9-1, 2-5
 - Valdosta State: 1-2 (GSC Tournament)
 - North Alabama: 5-6 (GSC Tournament)
- Season Record: 36-24**

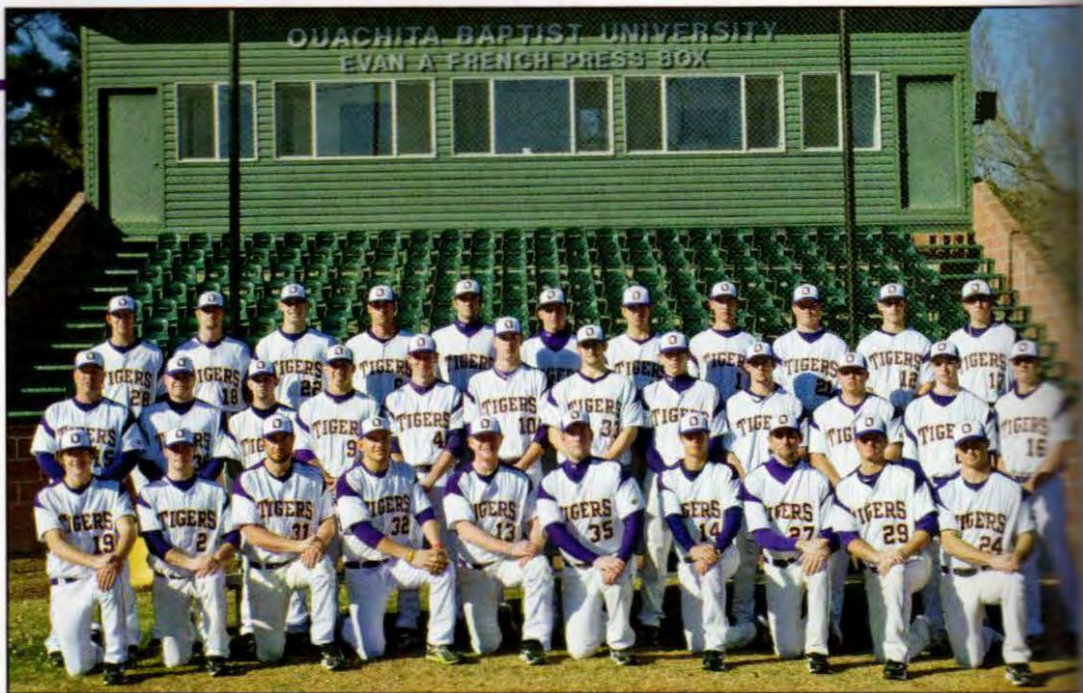
Sophomore Brock Green tries to beat the throw to first. Green led Ouachita's season with 19 doubles and five home runs.
photo by: Callie Stephens



Scoreboard

Christian Brothers: 14-4, 16-5
 North Alabama: 9-3, 3-5
 Southern Arkansas: 2-15, 2-4, 4-7
 Arkansas Tech: 4-7, 7-11, 5-10
 Arkansas-Monticello: 11-10, 10-9, 10-4
 North Alabama: 2-9, 4-3
 Henderson State: 7-10, 10-1, 8-9
 Stillman College: 15-1, 5-9
 Harding: 6-13, 3-4
 Valdosta State: 6-14, 10-2
 Delta State: 4-0, 3-4, 9-8
 Hendrix College: 7-0
 Missouri S&T: 13-10
 Drury University: 10-4
 St. Cloud State: 3-5
 Arkansas-Fort Smith: 9-7, 7-5, 3-11, 4-7
 Central Missouri: 7-2, 2-4
 Wisconsin-Parkside: 11-1
 North Alabama: 3-0
 Evangel University: 11-9, 13-4
 Kentucky Wesleyan: 2-3, 19-6
 Angelo State: 5-15, 3-6, 3-7, 4-3

Season Record: 24-29



Baseball team members are **front row:** Zac Treece, Steve Mirizzi, Nick Holtgrieve, Kolby Moore, Sam McGill, Michael Hayden, Warner, Taylor Henry, Beau Martin, Ben Warner. **Second row:** Head Coach Chris Modellmag, Assistant Coach Luke Howard, Hordcastle, Mark Coin, Drew Baker, Will Gowdy, Wesley Clingman, Brock Green, Cody Matthews, Kevin Bird, Nick Crump, Coach Justin Cunningham. **Back row:** Justin Hall, Brandon Mayer, Taylor Riggs, Cass Via, Kyle Zimmermon, John Gebhard, Evan Landon Flax, Travis King, Duncan Collins, Miles Neimeyer.

photo by: Wesley Kluck



Senior Luke Hardcastle receives the pitch as catcher. Hardcastle was one of five seniors on the team.
photo by: Collie Stephens

Freshman Duncan Collins applies the tag at second base. Collins provided solid play with a .387 batting average in 25 games in his debut season.
photo by: Matt Sawyer



FINISHING **STRONG**

by: Alan Greenwood

As the old saying goes, it's not necessarily how you start that matters the most, but how you finish. The process of closing out games was the heart of the issue for the 2010 Ouachita Baptist baseball team. The Tigers finished the season at 24-23 overall, including an 8-11 record in Gulf South Conference play.

While proving their ability to play with some of the nation's elite baseball programs, the Tigers lost seven GSC games by three runs or less, including losing three games by one run. Among the program's highlight victories on the season, the Tigers defeated postseason No. 4 Central Missouri in non-conference play on Feb. 22, while also defeating top-20 Valdosta State in a GSC Cross-over match up on March 17.

Ouachita used a 12-game home stand at the beginning of non-conference play to pick up eight victories, including seven games with seven or more runs for the team. The Tigers didn't have issues at the plate, but it was when games shifted to the conference season that the bats struggled to produce.

As the second-best team in the GSC defensively, Ouachita recorded the least amount of errors among all conference programs. After opening up GSC play with a series victory over perennial power Delta State, the season had a promising outlook. It was the next series with Harding, coupled with a handful of injuries, including returning senior All-American Will Gowdy, that led to a tough midseason and year end stretch that ultimately took away hopes of postseason play for Ouachita.

After losing the GSC series to Harding, the Tigers traveled across the street and left with a disappointing series loss to the Reddies, including a late-inning error in the 13th inning that led to a 9-8 loss in Game 1.

The following weekend provided a series sweep over Arkansas-Monticello at home, breathing life into a program that had experienced close defeats as of late. The next pair of GSC series, however, closed the door on a GSC Tournament berth, as Arkansas Tech and then-No. 1 Southern Arkansas swept the Tigers. Ouachita finished the season with strong back-to-back victories in a rain-shortened weekend against Christian Brothers.

Gowdy, an Amarillo, Texas, native earned a spot on the 2010 National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association Division II All-South Region Second Team and was a unanimous selection to the All-GSC First Team as an outfielder. Gowdy finished the season with a .351 average with 14 doubles, 10 homeruns and 45 RBIs. Sophomore Brock Green also picked up postseason accolades with a selection to the 2010 GSC Spring All-Academic Team.

The head coach remained optimistic about what the team accomplished. "We had a whole new team that had some tough luck and just were not able to finish games," Ouachita Head Coach Chris Modelmog said. "We were able to beat some very good teams. We really are excited for next year and look forward to finishing games and changing those tough losses to wins."

Junior Beau Landers seeks a receiver during an intramural flag football game. The Kappa Chi team was defeated in the upper league championship by Team Rex Horne.

Photo by Callie Stephens



The women of EEE cheer on their basketball team during the upper women's division championship game. The team was defeated by "Powerhouse" in the game.

Photo by Callie Stephens

During the men's upper division championship, opposing teams struggle for a rebound. "El Tigre" walked away with the championship t-shirt and bragging rights in the league.

Photo by Callie Stephens



FOR THE LOVE OF THE SHIRT by: Tanner Huffman

College students love free things: free food, free events and, especially for Ouachita students, free t-shirts. Intramural athletics offered students the chance to compete in friendly competition with fellow students, and the prize for winning: none other than a free t-shirt, THE t-shirt to be exact.

"In the end, the chance to have bragging rights is the biggest plus for most students," said Alan Greenwood, recreational sports director. "The championship t-shirt is like the 'Holy Grail' on the Ouachita campus."

In the fall, flag football was the first opportunity to participate. "True Breed" took the title for the lower division. "Team Rex Horne," three-year-reigning champions for the men's upper division, came in to win it once again, defeating the men of Kappa Chi in the division championship.

In women's flag football, "Crowford Crushers" won the lower division. "Freshman 15" walked away with the title in the upper division. This team was made up of a group of senior girls who started the team as freshmen and continued all four years.

"Freshman 15 was the best bonding experience I had at OBU," said Audreyonno Horrell, a senior communication sciences major from Russellville. "We didn't know much about flag football freshman year, but we kept growing and the effort paid off with a championship this year!"

Dodgeball and volleyball seasons were played simultaneously. "The Wreckin' Crew" earned the championship t-shirt for men's dodgeball and "Dodge Ballin'" for women's. On the volleyball

court, "Ulab Yellow" wore the shirt home for the co-ed division, while "Intentional Grounding" earned the title in the men's division.

Basketball started in January and had the most participants next to flag football. In the men's league, "El Tigre" won the upper division, "The Rhinos" the middle, and "The Red Shirts" the lower. The women's lower division champions were "The Has Beens."

In the upper women's league, the championship game was notable. Fans packed into the stands of Bill Vining Arena to witness the event between "Powerhouse" and "EEE Hardcore." "Powerhouse" walked away with the title.

In the women's soccer division, "Backatcha" defeated the women of Tri Chi in the championship. The men's upper division soccer champion team was "Man U Wish You Were Us," a group of guys from the OBU soccer team. "Cole's Meatheads" walked away with the shirt in the lower men's division.

The men's softball tournament ended with "The Crow Hoppers" winning the title. Garrett Berg, a freshman athletic training major from Jonesville, Wisconsin, earned four home runs in the tournament to help lead the team to victory.

"We just took one game at a time," said Berg. "When we got to the tournament, we got really hot and when we got to the championship we weren't going down without a fight."

In the co-ed softball division, "We Got the Runs" won the championship title and the shirt to prove their glory.

In the end, only 17 teams walked away with "Holy grails," but the fun and fellowship of intramural athletics lived on another year.



sophomore Austin King bats for the EEE co-ed softball team on the intramural softball field. The co-ed teams consisted of an equal number of guys and girls.
Photo by Callie Stephens



Players sprint for the balls during an intramural dodgeball game. The games were held on the volleyball court in Sturgis Physical Education Center.
Photo by Callie Stephens



The women of Tri Chi huddle before an intramural soccer game. The ladies were defeated by "Backatcha" in the championship game.
Photo by Erica Porter

Junior Beau Landers blocks off junior Jason Kirk while running downfield. Kirk, along with juniors Theo Hone and Clayton Chapuis, organized the games.

Photo by Jessica Hill



Players struggle for control of the ball during a rugby game. Games were organized throughout the year and were held on the intramural fields.

Photo by Jessica Hill

NOW INTRODUCING... RUGBY

by Brady King

Ouachita had football; it had soccer. Yet, for some guys, that wasn't enough. Hence, rugby was introduced to the school.

Clayton Chapuis, a junior Christian studies from Utica, New York, Jason Kirk, a junior biology and Christian studies double major from Zimbabwe, and Theo Hane, a junior physics and biology double major also from Zimbabwe, collaborated to organize a game once it became evident there were several people on campus with a desire to play.

"I had a lot of people interested," said Chapuis. "There was a bunch of soccer players, a bunch of football players, and rugby integrates the skills of soccer and football. And then I found out there were a couple of Zimbabweans on campus - Jason and Theo - and they taught us how to play."

Rugby is to southern Africa what desert is to northern Africa. The game's popularity cannot be underestimated. It served as a vehicle to promote unity in South Africa, Zimbabwe's neighbor, when the country hosted and won the 1995 Rugby World Cup. So while growing up in Zimbabwe, Kirk and Hane were around the sport.

"I think it's great," said Kirk. "And there's little tricks I know that these guys haven't picked up on yet. Just to tackle somebody without any pads on, it's just different and unlike any other sport."

"It was a good sport to grow up playing," said Hane. "Just going out there having fun with friends, being able to vent frustration if you need to."

Since they were introducing a sport foreign to Ouachitians, Jason and Theo made sure to emphasize basic rules. Game-play is a continuous style and forward passes are not allowed. Once they got a legitimate rugby ball, play also improved.

"The first couple of games we played were with a football, which was fine," laughed Kirk. "At first it was really clumsy, but we started playing just to learn the rules."

Throughout the year, they established a faithful following. The consistent contingent of participants hovered around 20 guys, so they averaged 10 to a side. On some days, however, up to 40 players would show up.

"One of the challenges we had was that it just became very popular very fast," said Kirk. "When it's that huge it's almost chaotic. It's hard to keep everybody playing by the rules."

One main problem with soccer is that you cannot pick up the ball with your hands and run with it. One main problem with football is that you have to wear pads. Rugby solves both these problems. However, rugby is not a contact sport, it is a collision sport.

"Our hits are generally not that hard," said Chapuis, well aware of the physical risk but attracted to the physicality of the sport. "We try to keep it safe. Everybody's out there to just have some fun. It's fun to just hit somebody."

One of the biggest problems with rugby?

"It's for guys only," asserted Chapuis. "We've had girls who have asked to play and have been promptly rejected."

Chapuis does not expect the sport to become a staple of Ouachita intramurals.

Either way, he and the rest of the guys were happy just to receive the chance to play.

"We're comfortable where we are," said Chapuis. "We'd like for new guys to come out and just learn how to play. Just teaching people, that's a lot of the fun for us."



Senior Ethan Williams charges toward the goal. Williams was one of over 40 guys who participated in the rugby games throughout the year.

Photo by Jessica Hill



"The Shirts" huddle before beginning play for a rugby match. Since the sport was school sponsored, "shirts" and "skins" acted as jerseys for the players.

Photo by Jessica Hill

"One of the challenges we had was that it just became very popular very fast."

JASON KIRK

