

Student athletes had a remarkable year with conference championships in men's basketball and men's tennis. Individual athletes excelled in sports such as swimming and wrestling. Student athletes worked hard not only for their coaches but for their professors as well. The challenges these students faced in their individual sport was accompanied by the same workload as other full-time students. The athletes at Ouachita showed courage and dedication on and off the field, court, mat, pool or course. They believed in themselves and showed their potential from outstanding conference finishes to Division II recognitions. They chose to push themselves and showed their determination to

#speaknow



Senior Marcus Schlesinger races to be the first to touch the wall in a BOTR match-up in October. Schlesinger went on to win a national championship in the 100 yard butterfly with a time of 47.54 at the NCAA Championships in Birmingham, Ala.

photo by: Jason Pullano

SPORTS

changing Lives

#Mauri Sparks

Going from classes to practice, athletes had to learn to manage their time and stay on top of school-work. Whereas other students on campus were able to get involved in many different organizations at once, it was hard for student athletes to make time for various activities outside their sport. For this reason, many athletes found refuge in Fellowship of Christian Athletes, or FCA.

Every couple of weeks on Wednesday night, athletes from all different sports met for a time of fellowship with their peers. A student leadership team under the organization's staff sponsor, John Johnson, led this time. Head football coach Todd Knight, who helped out with FCA, saw FCA as a place where student athletes could meet other athletes and grow relationally with them.

"The common bond of athletics brings the student athletes together and gives each other support for their teams," Knight said. "FCA on the Ouachita campus is a place where all of our athletic teams can get together and not only socialize among teams but grow spiritually as well. FCA allows those student athletes to get together and have Bible study and grow as individuals."

One of FCA's most often-used verses on the Ouachita campus was Colossians 3:23-24. Students who attended FCA gatherings were often reminded, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters" (NIV).

Augustine Ume-Ezeoke, a senior kinesiol-

ogy and fitness major from Garland, Texas, joined FCA to help make an impact for Christ on campus.

"FCA has helped me communicate a lot better with my teammates and other athletes around campus about what's going on in their lives and mine, about how we could pray for each other if things are good or bad," Ume-Ezeoke said. "I want everyone that comes to an FCA event to feel welcome, as it's a place not to feel judged but to come and open up to other athletes who you can relate to or who have been going through the same things that you have probably been going through."

Many student athletes were able to go to camps with the help of a new FCA account. Knight said, "FCA now has a Ouachita account set up where people give monthly to buy things like pizzas for FCA meetings and give athletes scholarships so that summer FCA camps are affordable to all."

One way the account was able to help students was a camp held at the Family Farm Christian Day Camp in Malvern. The college retreat was on a Friday in February for college athletes across the state. Spencer Knight, a sophomore business management major from Arkadelphia, was one of many students who attended the day camp.

"We really just hung out, worshipping and praying together," Spencer said. "We stayed up most of the night playing games and fellowshiping. Camp allowed us to dig a

little deeper in our walks with Christ and was good for camaraderie on our team."

The account was also able to pay for four students to an Arkansas FCA leadership camp in the summer in Lonesdale. Athletes from universities all over the state were huddle leaders for over 300 junior high and high school athletes.

"I had eight 10-12 grade boys," Spencer said. "The purpose of the camp was to equip and train these FCA campus leaders to lead their local huddles."

The new account allowed for more students to go to different camps and have experiences like Ume-Ezeoke did at his first FCA camp.

"John Johnson invited me to go to a FCA camp one summer," Ume-Ezeoke said. "When I went to the camp it was a life-changing experience. I gave my life to Christ from that day on. God told me to share the good news with other athletes and that you can never be too cool for Christ."

Fellowship of Christian Athletes reminded the students on campus who shared the bond of sports that Christ is to be glorified on and off of the field, court, pool or course.

Ume-Ezeoke said, "FCA affects me on the field because it reminds me that my identity is not in football but it's in Christ and that I need to glorify him every time I step out on the field."

Students gather in the indoor practice facility for an FCA meeting. Students from all backgrounds and majors were invited to attend meetings.

photo by: Nicole McPhate





#1 Sophomore Hal Hoggard grabs a dodgeball during a game at an FCA meeting. FCA met every two weeks on Wednesday nights throughout the year.

#2 Freshman Colin Heaton speaks at the FCA Noonday in the amphitheater. The event was held in the fall semester.

#3 Junior Chris Rycraw takes dodgeballs in both hands during an FCA meeting. Meetings included pizza, games and Bible study.



Senior Cory Epps leads students in worship at the FCA Noonday event. The event brought in a crowd, and offered a short worship service following testimonies from athletes.

photo by: Heather Ellis

Augustine Ume-Ezeoke is a guy who has a lot of friends, and that says a lot about his character. He's involved in many different things on campus. He will be a fifth-year senior and is a returning all-conference football player. He had to be red-shirted this past year due to a knee injury. He has a good platform not only because of his athletic ability but his personality. I have seen Ume grow in the past four years. He was already a great young man, but has turned into a great leader. Ume has a great personality, he is a strong player in his sport and he has a great heart. He loves what FCA stands for and his faith is evident.

- Coach Todd Knight



Augustine Ume-Ezeoke

leader spotlight

Season **IN** replay

Soccer:

- Heartbreakers (men's upper)
- Terror-dactyls (women's upper)
- Lovable Losers (co-ed)

Volleyball:

- WestSide Out (upper)
- Prestige Worldwide (middle)
- Bazinga! (lower)

Basketball:

- Chi Delta Blue (women's lower)
- POWERHOUSE (women's upper)
- Los Latinos (men's lower)
- Follow Me (men's upper)

Flag Football: Softball:

- Beta Black (men's upper)
- EEE Hardcore (women's upper)
- Blood Bath & Beyond (men's lower)
- Francie's Finest (women's lower)
- Crawfish (men's upper)
- Black Sox (co-ed upper)
- Bad News Betas (men's lower)
- Southern Bat-tists (co-ed lower)



photo courtesy of Sarah Bean
 Director Jason Bean talks with student referees senior Demarcus Thornton, freshman Caleb White and junior Luke Smith at the intramural fields.



Students compete in the newest sport offered by OBU recreational sports: water polo. The new sport was met with a lot of student excitement and participation.

photo by Jason Pullano



Demarcus Thornton



Garrett Hartman

Demarcus Thornton and **Garrett Hartman** led our student referees as the assistant directors of intramural sports. Four years of commitment to intramurals as players, referees and assistant directors have seen Rec Sports grow into one of the most popular student extracurricular activities on campus. Their leadership on the field and on campus have set them on a path to a successful future as Ouachitonians.
 - Recreational Life Director Jason Bean

all students Welcome

#Aly Smith

From the hardcore high school sports stars to the social club sisters in matching tank tops, you could find every sort of student at an intramural game. Intramural sports played a huge role in campus life, and helped bring everyone in the bubble just a little bit closer.

Intramural sports was run by the Rec Life office. Rec Life Director Jason Bean and Rec Life Assistant Director Rachel Jones ran the Intramural program. According to both Bean and Jones, the goal of intramural sports was to create a competitive environment filled with good sportsmanship that allowed any student to be involved in a variety of sports. A large number of different intramural sports was offered by RecSports, including flag football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, ultimate frisbee, softball and the latest addition, inner-tube water polo. In this game, students played a game of water polo in the pool while splashing in inner tubes.

The intramural games were refereed by a staff of about 16 work-study students and two head referees. These students were trained in each sport and did their best to keep the games fair.

“The referees are what make intramurals possible for us. Without them, it would be a disaster,”

Jones said.

Something new to the intramural program this year was the use of a new online sign-up system. This system was called IM League and allowed students to create their teams online.

“Through IM League, the captain can send email invites to the players they want on the team,” said Griffin Kretzer, a middle school education major from Siloam Springs. “It’s a bunch easier than trying to chase people down with a crumpled piece of paper.”

IM League also allowed everyone on the team to have constant access to the game schedule as well as gave die-hard fans a way to check when their favorite teams were playing. The website also kept track of the teams’ points, statistics and standings, as well as awarded virtual trophies for each sport.

While virtual trophies were nice, nothing beat an intramural championship T-shirt. Easily the most coveted shirt on campus, the championship shirt was awarded to each

member of the team who won the championship in each sport. Needless to say, the championship shirt would be the crowning jewel of any Ouachitonian T-shirt collection.

While every intramural sport was wildly popular across campus, according to Bean there was a straight split for most popular between basketball and softball, each bringing in 430 players. However, for one very committed intramural player, there was no doubt which was the best sport offered.

“My favorite sport is basketball. There is no question,” said Devan Malone, a senior speech communication major from Benton. “During the summer I think about intramural basketball. During Tiger Tunes I think about intramural basketball. Christmas break, it’s basketball. It is the only sport I play. I recruit players heavily throughout the year. It’s just my thing.”

Malone and her team even had a special play to throw off the competition and win the game. “My team has a play called Tornado where we all just scream and run around acting like tornadoes,” Malone said. “This year it actually worked and we scored three points off of it.”



photo by: Morgan Morehead



photo by: Nathan Dickau

Left: The Women of EEE Hardcore try to shutdown the lane against Tri Chi Pretty in an intense rivalry matchup. The women’s social clubs had some of the biggest fan support during basketball season.

Top Left: Senior Andrew McCraw throws a wicked 12 foot arc in a softball game during intramural season. Softball was held in the spring, and marked the end of the school year and beginning of summer.

Top Right: The flag football team Prestige World-Wide walks off the field after a game in early October. Champion teams from upper leagues traveled to Fayetteville to compete in the regional tournament.

above and beyond the Norm

#Faith Ledbetter

Readily known for always pushing themselves far beyond their comfort zones, the Tiger Cheer squad members were among the hardest working athletes on campus. Even though the squad did not make their official debut until September, they began their hard work and dedication much earlier in the school year.

In early April, prospective squad members attended a three-day clinic which ended with team tryouts. The team began officially practicing together in late April. In July, the squad attended a camp in order to learn their new routines for the year and to become closer as a "family." At this camp, they were taught intensely choreographed routines and were absolutely exhausted, but all members agreed the camp was beyond worth it.

Before the school year started for all other students, the cheer squad members moved back to campus early and immediately began their long and hard practices in order to prepare for the upcoming football season. During the season, even when the football team suffered tough losses, the cheer team was always there to keep the crowd excited about cheering the players on.

By performing different chants to keep the crowd excited, the cheer squad kept fans on their feet and made it easier to have a positive outlook, no matter how the score ended up. The cheer squad also had short dances to certain songs to keep the positive energy going. The stunts and tumbling routines that they performed were also an aide in entertaining fans during the games.

Even though the cheerleaders performed at home, they also were able to impress people from all over the country. Near the end of January, the Tiger Cheer Team was able to travel to compete at the UCA/UDA College Cheerleading and Dance Team National Championship at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Fla. After lots of hard work and dedication while preparing for their time on the floor throughout the entire year, the team brought everything they had and finished seventh place overall. They also beat the previous high score of the squad by 5.93 points, a huge accomplishment.

Brad Hunter-Heird, a sophomore dietetics and nutrition major from Pine Bluff, said, "There's nothing better than a sense of accomplishment, and knowing you just hit

a routine perfectly in front of thousands of cheerleaders who are wanting you to fail." He went on to say, "We have one chance, lasting only 2 minutes and 30 seconds, during which we're able to show judges, our competition, and our fans what Ouachita Baptist University is made of."

With a well-executed routine and by the team being able to perform outstanding stunts, the team thoroughly impressed their coach, Brian Bridges, beyond his wildest expectations. Bridges said in a previous university press release, "The stunts and pyramid sequences that we had in our routine this year are, by far, the most difficult any Ouachita team has ever attempted. Not only did my team attempt these difficult skills – they HIT them with perfection at Nationals!"

The members of the Tiger Cheer squad agreed that they were actively growing in their abilities. They felt as if they would be able to continue to break records in the future by further developing their skills and by growing as a team.

front row: April Pitts, Kaleigh Barnet, Keena Dickey, Paige Onyuru, Elizabeth White, Julianna Howard, Krista Carlisle **back row:** Lauren Bundy, John Grove, Chandler Tillery, Dawson Prichard, Charles Tillery, Brad Hunter-Heird, Lauren Dunklin.





#1 The Spirit squad forms its iconic "OBU spellout" at a pep rally in late September. Pep rallies helped get the student body hyped up for the season.



#2 John Grove carries the flag at a November 3 game against Southern Arkansas. The guys on the spirit squad helped form a strong foundation for the squad.

#3 Krista Carlisle and April Pitts help lead a cheer at Bill Vining Arena. The Spirit Squad finished the year with a seventh place finish at Nationals.



The spirit squad leads a cheer at a February 11 basketball game against Southern Nazarene University. From Bill Vining Arena to A.U. Williams field, and everywhere in-between, the OBU spirit squad kept the fans on their feet throughout the season.
photo by: Tyler Rosenthal

Keena Dickey has been involved in the OBU Spirit Program for the past four years. Her commitment to Tiger Spirit is second to none. She has worked hard in helping build Tiger Spirit at all athletic events, community events, parades, pep rallies and other various activities that the spirit squads have been involved in. She has been a true leader this past year, serving as the captain of the cheer squad. Under her leadership, the team set another school record in the National Cheerleading Championships at the ESPN Wide World of Sports at Walt Disney World.

Keena has shown true commitment for her team and her university.

- Coach Brian Bridges



player spotlight

Freshman Justin Massey and other members of the rhythm section perform at halftime at A.U. Williams Field. The band performed in multiple events this year, including Tiger Tunes and Ouachita's Lip Dub video.
photo by: Kasey Westenman



@OBUBand It's GAME DAY! First college football game being played in the NATION! Come check out the band warm up in the stadium at 5:30! #tigionation



#1 Junior James Norton plays the guitar at a performance. The rhythm section performed on their own as well as with the rest of the band.
 #2 Senior Elyse Senteney, drum major, guides the band during a home game performance. Elyse has been drum major for the "Best Band from Tigerland" for three years.
 #3 Juniors Megan Massey and Brett Steed and freshman Zach Barber preform in the brass section at a halftime performance. The Tiger band, although smaller in size from previous years, still managed to impress audiences with big sound.



Deborah Caldwell



Andrew McCraw



Elyse Senteney

Deborah Caldwell (Senior Trumpet Player from Siloam Springs, Arkansas): Deborah has been a leader who has been instrumental in many of our performances. Her dedication to the band program is unmatched. She has helped in all aspects of the success of the OBU Tiger Marching Band. Her innovative guidance has kept the "family atmosphere" among all the band students throughout her time here at OBU.

Andrew McCraw (Senior Trombone Player from Fort Worth, Texas): Andrew has been extremely involved as a leader in the OBU Tiger Marching Band. His desire is to ALWAYS make it enjoyable to be a part of our band. He always is positive in rehearsals and is one of the leaders who make our performances on and off the field be entertaining. He is a great role model for all the members of the band and his unique ideas have made our band unique in many different ways. His leadership has been a strong determining factor in the success of the OBU Tiger Marching Band of the last four years!

Elyse Senteney (Senior Drum Major from Plano, Texas): Elyse has been the drum major for the Tiger Marching Band for the past three years. Her growth as a leader has improved every year and she has played a major role in the success of the OBU Tiger Marching Band. Her dedication, attention to detail, willingness to go the extra mile and her wonderful attitude have been the most important driving force behind the performances of the band. Her love for the performance is evident in every moment she is leading our band!

- Director Robert Hesse

small size Huge Sound

#Ali Robinson

They train, but they are not athletes. They perform, but they are not in the show business. They inspire, but they are not celebrities, evangelists, or political leaders. They are more than just instruments, syncopated beats, and tall, fluffy hats. They are the OBU marching band.

The band did not miss a beat this year and packed its schedule full of lively events. The band incorporated a very enticing take on the Men In Black into their Tiger Blast performance at Tiger Tunes in October. They kept a steady drumbeat as alien-like creatures flooded the stage, their faces exotically painted. After a rousing performance, the "Men in Black" then asked the audience to "stare into the light," upon which a cloud of smoke erupted from the stage.

They also participated in Ouachita's debut of the university lip-dub on campus in November. And let us not forget their presence at the multiple pep rallies and even a parade. But the band's most notorious appearances were the home football games.

Bandleaders were worried by the size of the 2012 marching band, but were soon reassured that it would not play a factor in how they performed. Elyse Senteney, senior

drum major and music education major from Plano, Texas, said that she believes "one of the band's greatest accomplishments this year has been that despite its relatively small size, it has made a huge sound and a huge presence in performances all around campus and the community." It was not easy for them to overcome such an obstacle, however. The band began practicing before school started and continued to work hard throughout marching season. They practiced on Tuesdays and Thursdays as well as the Friday before game days. Senteney also said they overcame the setback "with great musical playing, a full sound, and by just enjoying ourselves and providing entertainment for fans."

With their big sound and catchy performances, the band captivated the students, faculty, and community with their musical abilities. The band's halftime performances were highly anticipated by both the audience and the band members themselves. "I always look forward to performing at halftime because it is the culmination of what we've been working toward all week. And it's great to hear the crowd cheer and be able to tell that they enjoy what we're do-

ing, and that they're engaged for the most part," said Anna English, a sophomore English major from Coppell, Texas. Pleasing the audience played such an important role for the band because its success lied solely in the satisfaction of those listening.

"We want our performance to be enjoyable and entertaining for the audience. That's our goal with every performance," English said.

Every member of the band played an important role, but beautiful music would not be made if it were not for the man behind the magic, Director Robert Hesse. He was the prime example of dedication as he recently wrapped up his eleventh year of serving as the band's director. Hesse truly enjoyed putting his time and effort into the members and watching them succeed. "It is great to see a performance come together with this group. They work hard and we have some really enjoyable moments," Hesse said.

The band members had a passion to create enjoyable music, and that they did. They accomplished many great things, and led us all to one conclusion: you can't stop the beat, especially that of a Tiger.



Left: Freshmen Julie Nessler and Carter Harlan, sophomore Chris Hogan and freshman Adam Jones perform at halftime. In Tiger Blast, the drumline was dressed in alien costumes.

Top Left: Senior Erin Edge marches in time during a performance. The marching band began practicing before school started and continued to work hard throughout the season.

Top Right: Senior Brandi Hull twirls the baton with grace and accuracy while the band performs. Hull was a senior psychology major from Longview, Texas.

being Self-Driven

#Lauren Scarborough

"Anytime you have got a good cross country runner, it is self driven," Head Coach Mike McGhee said. "It doesn't matter what kind of coach you have, if the athletes do not have the discipline and the drive to put in the extra mile." This certainly seemed to reign true throughout this season for the Lady Tigers.

Through team practices or independent exercises, these girls proved their dedication to the sport and carried their commitment over in their races. The athletes' hard work paid off as the Lady Tigers won at the Harry Denson Memorial in Monticello for the third consecutive year. Johanna Casey, a kinesiology major from Rogers, Ark., took first in the race and set a new personal record with her time of 18:51.87.

"It was something I thought I would never do; God definitely was blessing me for all my hard work this summer," said Casey.

Casey was not the only one making personal improvements this season. The team's only senior, Kelsie Wilson, an early childhood

education major from Batesville, Ark., said she was pleased with her performance this season and glad to have gotten closer to her goal times. Wilson also reflected on the pleasure of traveling with her team to meets. "We had a lot of fun traveling. I'm always co-pilot for Coach McGhee, so I have to sit in the front and navigate, as well as trying to stay awake," she said.

Team members agreed that one reward for their labor was the extra day they got to spend on the beach after traveling to Pensacola, Fla., for the Gulf Coast Stampede in which they placed seventh out of 16 teams. The team also traveled to Fayetteville, Ark., for the Chili Pepper Run, Joplin, Mo., for the Missouri Southern Stampede, and to Ada, Okla., for the Great American Conference meet where Casey was named to the 2012 All-GAC Women's Cross Country Second Team.

While the team members all testified to the large amount of time and work required to achieve their goals, they agreed that the joy of accomplishing their aims outweighed the difficult training. When asked what his

main advice to his athletes was during their training, McGhee said, "The main thing is to listen to the body during the week. That way you know you will be prepared and be as strong as possible on the weekend when the time for the meets come."

As the team prepared for meets together, and later traveled to these meets, they spent much time bonding and generating strong relationships among themselves. When asked what her favorite aspect of being on the cross-country team was, Casey said, "My favorite part is being with my teammates and seeing how God works through them. I think God is really working through those girls and I feel honored to run with them." This similar message was echoed throughout the team. Senior Kelsie Wilson said, "I am going to miss my teammates and coach; it is kind of a bittersweet thing."

Although team members transitioned into different stages of life, the quality of being self-driven that Head Coach Mike McGhee stressed so much will carry on into all aspects of their lives, helping them be successful in all their endeavors.

front row: Grace Finley, Samantha Williams, Rebekah Ward, Kasey Mcleane, Kelsie Wilson
back row: Head Coach Mike McGhee, Parish Reed, Hannah Diaz, Johana Casey, Ashley Randels



Photo by: Kristie Bernar



photo by Nicole McPhate



2



3

photo by Kristen Barnard

#1: Kelsie Wilson [803], Hannah Diaz [805], and Rebekah Ward [808] get their second wind at the Bob Gravette Invitational. The Tigers finished first as a team.

#2 Ashley Randels takes a moment to snap a picture with some loyal cross country fans. OBU students came to show their support for the Tigers at the Bob Gravette Invitational.

#3 Johana Casey distances herself from the pack at the Bob Gravette Invitational. Casey was selected for the All-GAC second team at the end of the season.

Season INreplay

Harry Denison Invitational -Monticello, AR	1st
Bob Gravett Invitational- Arkadelphia, AR	1st
Missouri Southern Stampede-Joplin, MO	18th
Gulf Coast Stampede-Pensacola, FL	7th
Chili Pepper Run-Fayetteville, AR	40th
Great American Conference Meet- Ada, OK	5th



The team gets a jump start on the competition at the Bob Gravette Invitational. The Tigers placed first at the annual event, with Johana Casey placing first. Casey was named GAC runner of the week for her performance.

photo by: Heather Ellis

Kelsie Wilson went out having her best season ever and it was more of her leadership off the course that was as impressive this season. She did the little things that really helped the team come together and I was really proud of the respect and character that she showed this season.

Johana Casey is just a workhorse for the cross country team. She had a great season. She won the first two races of the season, and represented the team well at the conference meet in Ada, Oklahoma. She finished 33rd overall in conference with some really strong runners there. She does the little things as well and is a great overall student athlete. Johana will be a great senior leader next year.

- Coach Mike McGhee



player spotlight



@jcalebknight OBU stays unbeaten led by the 3rd string QB (a receiver)... If u can't pull for a team with this much heart, check ur loyalties. #TigerNation

Season IN replay

Northwestern Oklahoma State	55-3	W
Stillman College	31-0	W
Arkansas Tech	31-24	W
Southeastern Oklahoma State	27-24	W
Southwestern Oklahoma State	33-12	W
University of Arkansas - Monticello	58-7	W
Harding	14-34	L
East Central University	27-37	L
Southern Arkansas	28-44	L
Henderson State	7-42	L

front row: Augustine Ume-Ezoke, Casey Cooper, Jason Fowler, Ugo Nkalari, Dennis Stratton, Head Coach Todd Knight, Hunter Soper, Garrett Sykes, Peyton Tolliver, Brett Reece, Sam Dunnam **second row:** Chris Rycraw, Greg Williams, Jalen Jones, Curtis Martin, Ty Towers, Jarmarlin Jackson, Antwion Patterson, Evian Hill, Kendrick Henderson, Markell Bulliner, Jeremy Small, Benson Jordan, Rodney Lary, Correy Johnson, Ezekiel Garcia, Justin Jones, Devon Cousins, Avery Lynch. **third row:** Stephen Kehner, Claude Person IV, Etauj Allen, Spencer Knight, Cory Jones, Bradley Stamm, Jamarkus Harmon, Matthew Showalter, Zack Mitchell, Ricky Brown, Christon Garrett, Matt Mainiero, Derek Morgan, Jackson Guerra, Trayvon Willis, John Edwards **fourth row:** Jacob Clark, Kyle Lamothe, Desmond Shaw, Caleb Ramsey, Donovan Bosley, Landon Freeman, Dion Young, Clark Gladdis, Eric Ashburn, Hayden Howell, Ethan Ramsey, Jonthan Frink, Tyler Robinson, Justin Rose, Dave Fair, Javin Prunty **fifth row:** Alex Poole, Luke Kimmel, Jake Kraus, Blake Johnson, ZiMorien Hughes, Hal Hoggard, Sam Henley, Michale Rogers, Mitchell Russell, Brent Calhoun, Jordan Sharp, Aaron Sprinkle, Mitch Bledsoe, Drew White, Johnathan Powell **sixth row:** Ryan Perkins, Aaron Garrett, Brad Thomas, Jordan Mcgee, Marquez Massey, Cory Matlock, Tavarus McIntosh, Barkely Legens, Riley Wilson, Cody Clevlen, Ryan Newsom **back row:** Ben Willy, Cory Godbolt, Dave White, Roy Thompson, Chris Lee, John Johnson, Brett Shockley, Tyler Caid, Shep Cambell, Chad Emmons, Jay Derby, Brandon Sitz, Katelyn Cresswell



The Tiger offense lines up to snap the ball. The Tiger offensive line was put to the test in many games this year.



Brett Reece has been one of the main reasons that the OBU football program is the only college at any level to boast 5 back to back winning seasons, has one of the best winning percentages in the state and won the GAC championship in 2011. Brett has mind boggling statistics and his on the field accomplishments are second to none. His off the field presence has been felt as well. He has been a leader on the team, in FCA and across the campus. His Christian leadership earned him the vote of the 2012 team winning the Antwoyne Edwards leadership award his senior year. Brett has been a coach's dream on and off the field. In his career at Ouachita, Brett has 126 receptions, 2045 yards, 17 touchdowns, 60 yards per game average, eighth in GAC in receiving yards per game in 2011, eighth in GAC in receptions per game in 2012, fifth in GAC in receiving yards per game in 2012. He was named to the All Gulf South Conference First Team (2011), Don Hansen All-Super Region Two Third Team (2010), All-Great American Conference Second Team (2011), and All-Great American Conference First Team (2012).
- Coach Todd Knight

playing through Adversity

#Ryleigh Salmon

Ouachita overcame numerous injuries on its way to a fifth consecutive winning record, the longest current streak for a college football team in the state. The Tigers reached #10 in the nation, its highest ranking ever, and a 6-0 start before injuries and stiff Great American Conference competition pushed the Tigers to a 4-4 GAC record and 6-4 overall.

The first Tiger lost to injury was quarterback Casey Cooper, the returning GAC Offensive Player of the Year. He went down on the first offensive possession of the season-opener against Northwestern Oklahoma State.

"I completely tore my MCL, my medial and lateral meniscus, and sprained my ACL," said Cooper, a senior history major from Conway.

"I think it's upsetting for any athlete to be told they cannot play for the rest of the season. It is a part of sports, though, that every athlete is aware of. And how you respond to adversity is the most important thing."

Benson Jordan stepped into the position and played well until he injured his shoulder. "I sustained a grade two shoulder separation," said Jordan, a junior history major from Hot Springs. After missing two games, he was gradually returned to the lineup. With

both quarterbacks out, sophomore wide receiver Ty Towers moved to quarterback, his high school position at Star City.

Towers was a passing and running threat, hitting 67 percent of his passes for 573 yards and seven touchdowns while rushing for 445 yards and four touchdowns. Returning from his injury, Jordan was the Tigers' primary passing threat. He threw for 1,495 yards and 10 touchdowns while connecting on 62 percent of his passes.

With the quarterbacks fighting injury, sophomore Chris Rycraw played a significant role at running back. He rushed 199 times for 990 yards, averaging 5.0 yards per carry. He also caught 15 passes for 147 yards, and scored a total of nine touchdowns. Sophomore Steven Kehner added 341 yards rushing and six touchdowns.

Senior Brett Reece led the team in receiving with 44 catches for 685 yards and seven touchdowns. Sophomore Drew White followed with 43 receptions for 551 yards and four touchdowns. Sophomore Jalen Jones and senior Peyton Tolliver had 38 and 25 catches respectively.

Senior linebacker Jackson Guerra led the team with 72 tackles despite missing the final two games with an injury. Junior linebacker Ricky Brown had 71 tackles, and junior linebacker Antwion Patterson had

69. Sophomore defensive tackles Marquez Massey led the team in tackles-for-loss with 12.5 and sacks with six.

Both kickers had excellent seasons. Senior Jason Fowler was 7-8 on field goals and 38-40 on PATs. Junior Clark Gattis averaged 39.8 yards per punt and dropped 12 inside the opponent's 20 yard line.

With a dozen injuries limiting the team's success in its final four games, it was an injury to a high school player that put the game into perspective. Towers's younger brother, Zack, collapsed during his senior night game on Nov. 1.

The team rallied around Ty and his family as his brother lay in a coma. "It was an indescribable feeling for my entire team to pull together and play for my little brother. This situation has just made me realize not to take anything for granted: not one practice, not one play, not one game. To give it everything I have, every time."

Despite the numerous injuries, the Tigers managed to place 10 players on the All-GAC team. First-team selections included Rycraw and Reece, with second-team honors going to Towers, Massey, cornerback Etauj Allen and Gattis. Fullback Spencer Knight, center Hunter Soper, offensive lineman Aaron Sprinkle and Guerra were named honorable mention.



Left: Two Tiger defenders bring down a Henderson running back in the annual Battle of the Ravine game. The Tigers faced a Reddie offense that was nationally ranked.

Top Left: Quarterback Benson Jordan [15] scrambles out of the pocket in an October 20 game against the Harding Bison. The Tigers had their first loss of the season against Harding.

Top Right: Junior Tori Aberella and others celebrate Tiger success at a game. Students showed their support by attending the games decked out in all the latest "Tiger Nation" gear.

playing for One Another

#Sydney Bratton

After summer workouts and moving into dorms a week early to begin pre-season two-a-days, the Lady Tigers were ready to hit the ground running from day one of practice. The team had a slow beginning as they held a 2-5 record during the first half of conference. The season continued and the team came together and worked hard to produce a 5-2 record for the second half of conference which led them to fifth place in the conference tournament.

Though many had higher expectations for the season, the players were able to come out with proud victories. Those victories included two sweeps against the team's long standing rival, Henderson State University. The defeats knocked HSU out of the Great American Conference tournament that was held at the end of the season. Encouraged by these wins, the Lady Tigers were given the drive they needed to finish strong.

"It was a great encouragement to see how our team responded to our imperfect start. It being my first year to play, I was amazed to see how we were able to come together and finish the season so great. We

were able to push through by staying strong in the Lord while also staying strong in each other," said Abby Pickett, a freshman early childhood education major from Texarkana, Texas.

With a season record of 10-17, some might have been discouraged to end with a losing season, but for others this was only the incentive to strive to do better in the next season.

"I look forward to seeing our team chemistry grow even more than it did this past season. I expect us to put up a fight in each game we play and make a run for that top spot in conference," said Kelsi Bodine, a junior history and secondary education major from Webb City, Mo.

The expectations for next season have risen but just as this season ended, good-byes were said to players who ended their college volleyball career. Allison Frizzell, a senior mathematics and secondary education major from McKinney, Texas, who received the "Player of the Week" title and led the conference in average digs per game with

a total of 536, prepared to leave the team with a thankful attitude. "[College volleyball] taught me that hard work and dedication pay off in the end," Frizzell said. "I loved receiving awards and getting recognized, but I wouldn't have gotten them if it weren't for my teammates' passion for the game and most of all God."

Even through rough patches of the season, as a team the Lady Tigers were able to withstand their circumstances and end their year with pride. "I can honestly say that being a part of this team has made me not only a better player, but person," said Jillian Jeffcoat, a senior kinesiology and secondary education major from Frisco, Texas. "It has taught me lessons like perseverance, leadership, time management skills, and most importantly, hard work."

In December, the Lady Tigers received the GAC Sportsmanship Award. According to the news release, "Of the 11 volleyball playing universities in the Gulf South Conference this year, none were as encouraging and displayed the level of sportsmanship as Danny Prescott and his Lady Tigers."

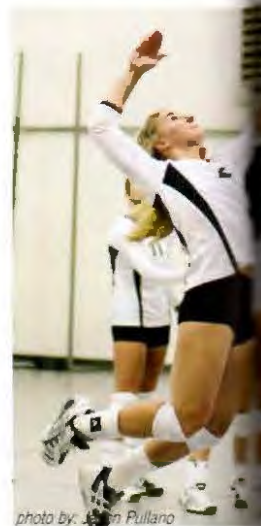


photo by: Jason Pullano

**front row:**

Savanah White, Sara Mitchell, Chelsey Hess, Keely Howk, Allison Frizzell, Morgan Kelly, Jillian Jeffcoat

back row:

Faith Avalos, Lauren Perry, Abby Pickett, Kelly Ballard, Julie Stanley, Kelsi Bodine, Megan Askew





#1 Chelsey Hess serves the ball with authority. Hess, a Conway native, was a sophomore.

#2 Abby Pickett and Kelsi Bodine look to block a spike against Harding. Pickett, a red shirt freshman, came to OBU from Texarkana, Texas. Bodine, a junior, was from Webb City, Mo.

#3 Kelsie Bodine, Keely Howk, prepare to return the ball. The Tigers were 4-4 at home this season.

INreplay Season

West Georgia	1-3	L
Christian Brothers	2-3	L
Lincoln Memorial Univeristy	2-3	L
Tiffin University	0-3	L
Philander Smith College	3-0	W
Texas A&M-Commerce	2-3	L
Incarnate Word	1-3	L
Tarleton State	0-3	L
Lubbock Christian	0-3	L
Lyon College	3-0	W
Southern Arkansas	2-3	L
Texas college	3-0	W
Ark- Monticello	3-0	W
Harding	1-3	L
Arkansas Tech	0-3	L
Southern Nazarene	1-3	L
Southern Arkansas	1-3	L
Northwestern Oklahoma	3-0	W
Southwestern Oklahoma	1-3	L
Henderson State	3-0	W
Southeastern Oklahoma	3-2	W
Harding	0-3	L
Ark-Monticello	3-0	W
East Central	3-1	W
Southeastern Oklahoma	1-3	L
Henderson State	3-0	W
GAC Tournament -Southwest OK	1-3	L

The Tigers huddle up before a November 2nd matchup against East Central. The Tigers Won 3 games to one.
photo by: Tyler Rosenthal



Allison Frizzell has been an outstanding libero and team leader. She brought out the best in her teammates through her exceptional work ethic and Christian example. She led the Great American Conference (GAC) in defense this season, averaging 5.36 digs per set. She finished second in the nation with 6.86 digs per set her sophomore season, and her efforts resulted in a team overall ranking of #7 in NCAA Division II volleyball defense that year. She and her teammates had a profound impact on their competition, as the GAC coaches and match officials chose them to be the recipients of the inaugural GAC Sportsmanship Award this season. It has been a privilege to coach Allison and to see the impact she has made in others' lives during her career in Ouachita athletics.
- Coach Danny Prescott



player spotlight

INreplay Season

Texas A&M Commerce	0-2	L
Texas Womens	1-0	W
Hendrix	1-0	W
Central Baptist	2-0	W
Texas College	6-0	W
Southern Nazarene	2-1	W
East Central	0-1	L
Harding	1-2	L
Northwestern OK State	2-0	W
Southwestern OK State	0-1	L
Delta State	2-0	W
Southern Nazarene	0-1	L
Easst central	2-1	W
Harding	3-0	W
Northeastern State	1-3	L
Northeastern SOk State	2-2	T
Southwestern OK State	2-4	L
Gac Tournament - East Central	1-0	W
Gac Tournament- Southwest OK	1-2	L

front row: Azaela Smith, Sammie Mack, Shelby Shepard, Alison Drobena, Audrey Rodriguez, Vanessa Hays **second row:** Akane Forbess, Carrie Lieblong, Abby Emanuel, Britany Davidson, Sarah Mckimmey, Lauren Hatch, Taylor Gay, Sarah Broyles **back row:** Morgan Allen, Jessica Allen, Morgan Pitchford, Mary Wisenhunt, Brittany Davidson, Leah Anderson



Senior Lauren Hatch stops the ball and prepares to move it upfield. The Tigers posted a season record of 10-8-1.
photo by: Grace Finley



Lauren Hatch



Carrie Lieblong

Midfielder, **Lauren Hatch** and defender **Carrie Lieblong** have been outstanding leaders for the Lady Tiger soccer team. Their outstanding work ethic and verbal leadership helped the team to their second straight GAC Championship Match. Both Hatch and Lieblong were National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-Central Region Third Team selections. Thanks to her great play and leadership from the back line, Lieblong was named to the All-Conference team her junior and senior years. Hatch anchored the midfield and helped lead the team through regular and post season play. Her exceptional service to the team landed her on the All-Conference team her junior and senior years. Both players have meant a great deal to the team, their coaches and to the school.

- Coach Kevin Wright

player spotlight

leadership, commitment And Love

#KateCody

The Lady Tigers soccer team was filled with leadership, commitment and a love for the sport. The team, led by first year coach Kevin Wright and assistant coach Neal Ozmun, consisted of six freshmen, five sophomores, three juniors and six seniors. "It's exciting at first. You get in and you're really anxious to get to meet them," said Coach Wright. "They were very business-like and were just as committed as the guy's program."

Although this was the first year Coach Wright coached the team, he made it clear that he couldn't have picked a better group to start with, posting an 10-8-1 winning season.

The ladies began the season with an 0-2 loss to Texas A&M Commerce, but quickly bounced back with a five game win streak. Early games against Harding University and East Central University resulted in losses, but the ladies were able to defeat both teams in their second meetings.

Coach Wright noted that in the middle of the season, "We tried to switch philosophies

from what we were wanting to do coming in, to what we felt fit our girls a little better."

Their winning season brought the Lady Tigers a invitation to the GAC Tournament in Weatherford, Okla. The Lady Tigers won their first match of the GSC tournament, beating the host team East Central Oklahoma 1-0. However, the team's season came to an end with a hard fought 1-2 loss to Southwest Oklahoma in the second round of the tournament.

As the tournament closed, the conference released the 2012 GAC All-Tournament team, which included players Lauren Hatch, Carrie Lieblong, and Mary Whisenhunt.

All-GAC First Team honors went to Lieblong. Hatch and Shelby Shepherd were named to the All-GAC Second Team.

The success of this team laid heavily on the leadership and commitment of seniors Lauren Hatch, Carrie Lieblong, Mary Whisenhunt, Sarah McKimmey, Taylor Gay, and Brittany Davidson. Coach Wright said, "We were very envious of the staff prior to us that

got to spend three years with that group, and we only got one year."

Not only were these seniors a great asset to the Lady Tigers; juniors helped significantly. Juniors Jessica Allen and Morgan Pitchford led the team with 4 goals each. Junior Sarah Broyles, along with Allen and Pitchford, each scored 2 game-winning goals.

In her leadership role as captain, Lauren Hatch sent inspirational texts to her teammates to motivate and encourage them. She often wrote,

"Find that one thing that makes soccer important for you, and play for it every single time."

For these seniors, a chapter of their life came to end as collegiate soccer players. According to Hatch, a senior English major from Mesquite, Texas, soccer is like a relationship. "It's the longest relationship I've ever had," Hatch stated. "So it's kind of like a break-up, it's sad, but at the same time you know it has to end."



The Lady Tigers take a breather in a home game against the Harding Bison. The Tigers reached the second round of the GAC tournament.



Top Left: Audrey Rodriguez [14] dribbles past a defender from Texas College. The Tigers had a dominating 6-0 win.



Top Right: Carrie Lieblong [12] intercepts a pass in a September match-up against the Harding Bison. OBU palyed Harding twice this season, posting a win in the second meeting.

building a bond that Inspires

#Tori Abellera

A goal was in sight for the players of the OBU men's soccer team. For most of them, this dated back to when they were very young. The goal was not 24 feet wide and 12 feet tall encased by white netting. The goal that most of these men shared this season was to play for "the love of the game."

"It's a sport that everyone enjoys and it helps you grow and develop character and self discipline. Soccer is, 'The Beautiful Game,'" said Sergiu Postolache, a senior business major from Dallas, Texas, whose soccer journey began in Romania. "Me and my friends would place rocks and our shoes as goal posts and play soccer everywhere. On Sundays we would all get together and play from morning to night." For many, soccer was a lifestyle rather than simply a hobby. Their dedication was shown throughout the season by their talent, vision and persistence.

The OBU men's soccer team began its season in August with new head coach Kevin Wright, OBU soccer alum and assistant coach Neal Ozmun, and a team that included 10 senior players. Though the team

headed into the final part of the season with a 7-6 record, tough matches at the end resulted in a 7-10 final record.

The seniors were honored prior to the final game on October 28 against Lindenwood. "Even though we lost, it will be a game I'll never forget. From the ceremony to stepping on the field one last time with a group of guys who had become brothers to me over the last four years. It was a time that I'll cherish forever," said senior Ben Pettigrew, a history major from Hot Springs, Ark.

Co-Captain Payam Pourjavad, a senior physics major from Plano, Texas, believed in his teammates and let it show in the way he led throughout the season.

"Soccer is a passionate game. Love the game first. Then hard work, determination, and the will to win will fall into place," said Pourjavad, who had four goals and three assists for the season. He also had 13 shots on goal, including a game winner. For his efforts, Pourjavad was named to the 2012 National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA)

Division II All-Central Region team.

Also leading the team was Rizvan Ceka, a business major from Coppell, Texas. He started in 12 of the 16 games he played, posting six goals and two assists to lead the team in points with 14.

The OBU men's soccer team was visibly a unique team because of the bond they created through working together. "The best strength of the team is our love for each other. We have one of the best team bonds in all of college soccer and that helps inspire us to work harder for each other on the field," said Josh Galante, a senior mass communications major from Plano, Texas.

"The senior class of 2012 is by far the most fun group of guys that I have ever met. For the three seasons that I was able to play with them, whether in practice or during a game, they set the bar high for us," said junior Nathan Gay, a business major from Little Rock. "Our team is continually pushing forward to achieve new goals and I am proud to call them my teammates." This Senior class played for more than themselves, and built a bond that will last a lifetime.

front row: Taylor Christian, Mat Brockway, Wayne Smith, David Henley, Richard Burke, Kevin Tello, Daniel Lockridge, Jared Carlin
second row: Brandon Harman, Jonathan Batres, Rizvan Ceka, Ben Pettigrew, Jason Cantwell, Jaosh Galante, AJ Bauckman, Bry Goss
back row: Clayton Case, Sean Crisco, Kyle Hendren, Connor Burke, John Givler, Sergiu Postolache, Nathan Gay, JT Goodrum, Payam Pourjavad



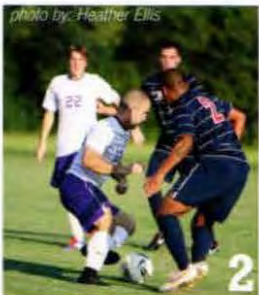


photo by: Heather Ellis

#1 JT Goodrum [2] and Payam Pourjavad [10] direct a header at the goal in a game against Lindenwood University. Before the game, the seniors were recognized for their years of dedication and hard work.

#2 Jason Cantwell [13] makes a move on a Lyon defender as AJ Baukman [22] looks on. The Tigers lost a close match 2-3.

#3 Senior Connor Burke pushes the ball upfield against Lindenwood University. Burke came to OBU from Gilbert, Arizona.

Season IN replay

Union University	0-2	L
Milligan College	2-1	W
Lyon College	2-3	L
Harding	0-2	L
Central Baptist	1-0	W
Southwest Baptist	6-1	W
Texas College	3-1	W
Lindenwood	0-1	L
Midwestern State	0-6	L
Incarnate Word	0-5	L
Hendrix College	3-2	W
Harding	5-1	W
Delta State	2-1	W
West Texas A&M	2-4	L
Midwestern State	1-3	L
Northeastern State	0-4	L
Lindenwood	0-4	L



Payam Pourjavad has been a great player for OBU the last four years. I feel that Payam was a big part of what we were this year, really the motor of our team. He was a very consistent presence for us in the midfield and one of the hardest working players that I have been around. As talented as he is, Payam's leadership may very well be what we miss most going into next year. Payam was named to the NSCAA All Region team.

- Coach Kevin Wright



Payam Pourjavad

player spotlight

Tailgating

great food memories laughter atmosphere competition good time friends FUN

Aly Smith

The football stands are packed and the parking lots are bursting. Grills are fired up and tents are set. Cokes are waiting on ice and excitement fills the air. All these things could only mean one thing: it was a Ouachita football game day.

Fall Saturdays and Ouachita football games brought along with them a campus favorite, tailgating. "The first thought that comes to mind when I hear college football is tailgating," said Stephen Raines, a senior biology major from Camden. "It lets the fans get excited for the game and nothing says school spirit like wearing your school colors, playing baggo and stuffing your face with tailgate food."

While tailgating was relatively new to Ouachita, the trend had spread rapidly. "My sophomore year at Ouachita some friends and I decided to tailgate for a few of the OBU games," Raines said. "We were the only group to do it, but as the year progressed some other people joined in doing their own tailgates. A year later Student Senate started the tailgate competition."

"Senate wanted to do something that would amp up the Tiger Nation spirit so we created the tailgating contest," said MyLisa Speer, a senior communication sciences and disorders major from Texarkana, Texas. "We created the rules and stipulations, lined up the judges for each competition and awarded the prize money from our own budget."

Anyone could enter the tailgating competition: a social club, campus organization or even a group of friends. Tiger Nation and the Student Senate received a huge response to tailgating the past two years. Many clubs had people assigned specifically to tailgating to ensure they had the best tailgate.

Groups got serious about making sure they had plenty of people stop by their tailgate. Many took to social media to advertise their tailgates and what they would have going on. Some groups even put posters up around campus.

Early on Saturday morning the groups headed down to the football field to begin set-up. Tailgating was

lined up along the home side of the football field, next to the entrance. Friday afternoon, Student Senate roped off spots for each group participating. All the groups were then assigned to a specific spot for tailgating. To ensure the fairness of the competition, Senate made sure all sections were evenly measured.

To further increase Tiger Nation spirit and tailgate involvement, Sodexo moved lunch down to the football field. Serving a buffet style lunch directly across from the tailgating helped funnel students to the competition and eventually the game.

Lindsey Fowler, a junior political science major from Arkadelphia, had become involved in tailgating through Student Senate and by being an EEE Spirit Leader. Fowler said she loved seeing student organizations and clubs bond together over supporting Tiger athletics. "After one tailgate, we were all cleaning up and I told the girls to put anything in my car that didn't need to go to the storage unit," Fowler said. "Well, a week later I was cleaning out my car and found a full bowl of cheese dip someone had just put in my car during the hectic clean up. That was quite the surprise."

The men of Eta Alpha Omega had a hit tailgate with the debut of their bottle buster and funnel cakes. With rows of root beer bottles lined up, adults and children alike gave it their best shot to break even just one of the sturdy bottles. "We had the bottle buster out and everyone was having a tough time hitting and breaking the bottles," said Logan Kuhn, a sophomore biology major from Roland. "Then a kid came up, and on his third throw he broke a bottle and everyone's jaw around us dropped. It was crazy."

Tiger Nation had a tailgate booth which provided "war paint." At this booth, students, adults and children could get face paint to show their support. From simple cheek designs to full-on body paint, students would display their stripes and Tiger pride in the stands.

The men of Beta Beta brought another crowd favorite with the petting zoo. Along with their usual tailgating festivities such as grilling, "College Gameday"

on television and Mario Kart, they had baby chicks in a cardboard box for people to come by and pet. The chicks were always a favorite. However, the trend was keeping them inside the box.

College Republicans had a strong showing at the tailgate for their first time. The group not only used the time as an opportunity to hang out with their friends and support Tiger athletics, but also to spread their message to the student body. College Republicans used their tailgate to raise awareness about the Conservative Cause and voting in the 2012 election.

Dixon Land, a freshman Christian studies major from Little Rock, took charge in planning the tailgate for College Republicans. "I had been tailgating with my family and friends and knew exactly how to implement a tailgate that fit CR's perfectly," Land said. "It was an easy transition."

One great detail about the tailgates was that everything was free. From burgers and chips, to cupcakes and cookies, everything the groups had to offer was completely free to students. The groups raised money to cover the cost of the supplies needed for all the tailgates, and they were happy to do it. "Tailgates are always a fun chance for students from different clubs, and organizations to spend some time together showing support for Ouachita," Fowler said.

Like it did in all things, Ouachita put its own spin on tailgating. "The greatest thing about OBU tailgating is its size," Land said. "While some would argue there isn't nearly enough tailgating, I say that the environment is perfect. Everyone is right there together where we can all fellowship before going to the game. Everyone helps each other out and we all have a great time."

"Tailgating at OBU is unique because it is exclusively the student body," said Jacob Catlett, a Christian studies and Biblical studies major from Vern. "We all tailgate in the same area which makes us feel more united than most schools' tailgate. It's a school-wide event!"

"The environment is perfect. Everyone is right there together where we can all fellowship before going to the game. Everyone helps each other out and we all have a great time." - Dixon Land



1 Sophomore Beau Dagget winds up to throw at the Eta Alpha Omega tailgate. The Etas featured a carnival style bottle breaking game for fans to enjoy.

2 Sophomores Laura Shaddox and Ramsey Vaughn guess the number of jelly beans at the OSF tailgate. All clubs competed at home football games.

3 Sophomores Kristyn Davis, Alli Goodson, McCall Guttridge, and Katy Wood pose for a picture at a Tri Chi tailgate. The Tri Chis set up a photo booth for fans to snap candids.



The men of Kappa Chi watch closely as college teams from around the country take the field before the Tigers. There was never a dull moment on gameday at OBU.
Photo by: Hannah Bishop



Left: Tailgaters enjoy a "van top" patio set up by the men of Rho Sigma at the Arkansas Tech Game on September 22. The tailgate contest had clubs pulling out all the stops to win cash prizes.

Right: Junior Mitchell Kelly entertains with card tricks at the Beta Beta tailgate. Along with card tricks, the men of Beta Beta had a petting zoo to entertain students before the September 22 match up between OBU and Arkansas Tech. The Tigers were victorious with a score of 31-24.





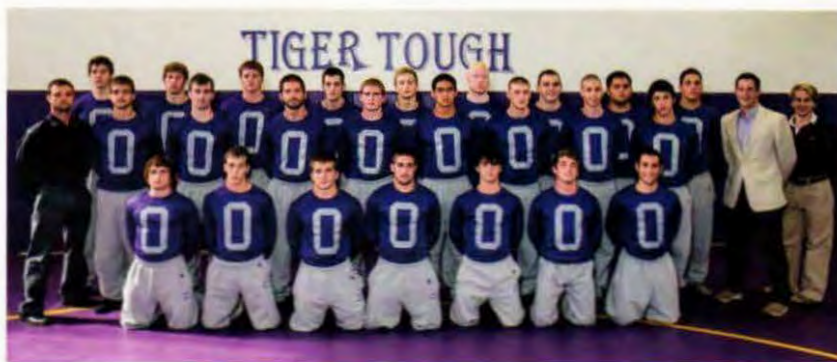
@OBUwrestling

Clear mind. Strong heart. Can't lose. #tigertough
#chasinggreatness

Season IN replay

OBU Purple- Gold Dual	Intersquad	-
Lindenwood Open	Open	-
Oklahoma Open	Open	-
Central Baptist College	48-4	W
Maryville Open	Open	-
Jet Invitational	3rd Place	
Central Missouri	25-18	W
Ft. Hays	11-33	L
Ashland	17-29	L
Central Oklahoma	13-34	L
Kutztown	16-27	L
Shippensburg	25-18	W
East Shroudsburg	36-9	W
West Liberty	36-9	W
Oklahoma City University	24-18	W
Central Oklahoma	7-42	L
Maryville University	21-22	L
NCAA Regionals:	4 Qualifiers	
NCAA tournament:	2 All-American	

front row: Seth Huchison, Garret Evans, Zach Dobbins, Ben Cline, Robert Lewis, Tanner Mann, Anthony Melilo **second row:** Assistant Coach Porter, Tyler Graham, Josh Meyers, Bobby Williams, Zach Matthews, Dexter Carter, Andrew Martin, Jacob Crocker, Sawyer Smith, Coach Kevin Ward
back row: Seth Calvert, Garret Comer, Dallas Smith, Aaron Butler, Ty Kirkland, O'Dell Lee, Troy Mercer, Taylor Poe, Adam Thomas.



Senior 174 pounder Aaron Butler looks to finish a single leg takedown in a duel meet in a November against Central Baptist.
by Tyler Rosenthal



Dallas Smith

Dallas Smith is Ouachita's first NCAA finalist in the sport of wrestling. He finished his sophomore season 19-1 in NCAA Division II competition and led the team to a 12th place finish at the NCAA Championships. He is now a two-time NCAA All-American.



Josh Myers

Josh Myers is a two-time NCAA qualifier and led the team with 11 pins this year. What makes his success as an athlete even more special is that he and his wife, Courtney, are raising their 3-year-old daughter, Bentley, together while Josh is a student-athlete at Ouachita and Courtney works as a hair stylist in Arkadelphia. Josh is proof that, with the right attitude and incredible will power, anything can be accomplished.

- Coach Kevin Ward

Chasing Greatness

#Ben Cline

What does it mean to chase greatness? To head coach of the Tiger wrestling team, Kevin Ward, chasing greatness was not only an expression, but a way of life.

"I have always been a person who aspires to do great things. I want to be excellent at everything I do, and I could start to see a few guys on the team thinking the same way. I knew we could be a good team, but I didn't want us to be satisfied with being good and meeting others' expectations," Ward said.

Since the beginning of the program in 2010, the wrestling team has aspired to "chase greatness," and this year was no different.

The Tigers went 6-6 in dual meets this season and went to several open tournaments with Division I opponents. Coach Ward looked to improve on a successful 2012 schedule and move the Tigers even higher in the national polls. "We were able to improve from a 15th place finish last year, to a 12th place finish at this year's NCAA Tournament," Ward said.

The wrestling team started off the 2013 season with a "Purple vs. Gold" meet on November, 14. The starting positions were determined, and got the Tigers pumped for the year. "The Purple vs. Gold dual was a great way to start the season. It got us excited for a great year, and also added another home dual that the student body could attend," said Aaron Butler, a senior secondary education major from Little Rock, Ark.

The wrestling team then hit the road, trav-

eling to Missouri. The Tigers competed in the Lindenwood Open where they faced several Division I opponents. The following weekend the Tigers headed to the Oklahoma Open, where they posted a pair of first place finishes. Central Baptist College traveled to the Arkadelphia area late November to compete against the Tigers in a dual meet. Ouachita won handily 48-4.

OBU finished out the first semester in St. Louis, Mo., at the Maryville Kaufman-Brand Open, and then traveled to Wichita, Kan., for the Jet Invitational. In Kan., the teams posted a 3rd place finish with two champions and two runner-ups, scoring over 70 team points. Josh Myers, a junior business major from Cushing, Okla., claimed that a tough first semester schedule prepared them for the second semester of competition.

"We wrestled a lot of tough, long matches first semester. We had tournaments where we would wrestle four or five matches in a day. That prepared me for the regional tournament because I had been through that type of grind," Myers said. "Knowing that you had a tough schedule when other teams didn't was a kind of a confidence booster."

The Tigers took a short break in December to celebrate the holidays and then reported back to campus to resume training. After a few weeks of focused preparation, the wrestling team hit the road again to finish up the season. On Jan. 8, the team traveled to Warrensburg, Mo., where they competed in the University of Central Missouri Dual Jamboree. The Tigers finished the day

with a 1-2 record, recording a victory over UCM. On the Jan. 18, the wrestling team faced a tough University of Central Oklahoma team at home, where they suffered a hard-fought loss.

The Tigers then traveled to South Carolina and competed in the Newberry Duals, posting a 3-1 record at the event. The Tigers finished the regular season with a string of dual meets at Oklahoma City University, the University of Central Oklahoma and Maryville University, finishing with a win, loss and loss, respectively.

During post season, the regional tournament put four Ouachitonians in the national tournament: Dallas Smith, a sophomore kinesiology major from Joplin, Mo.; Myers; Garret Evans, a junior secondary education major from Cushing, Okla.; and Dexter Carter, a dietetics major from North Little Rock. They finished with a first, second, third and fourth place finish, respectively.

Two weeks later the four Tigers traveled to Birmingham, Ala., where they competed in the NCAA Division II Championships. The Tigers emerged from the tournament with two All-Americans and a 12th overall finish. Evans finished the tournament with a 3-3 record and a sixth place finish, earning All-American honors for the second year in a row. Smith posted a 3-1 record and finished as a national runner up, falling 5-3 in the finals.

The season was marked by a runner-up finish by Smith, a 6-6 dual meet record and continued pursuit of greatness by the athletes. Chasing greatness was what this coach and team lived by as they continued to build a strong program.



photo by: Tyler Rosenthal



Left: Dallas Smith capitalizes on a poor shot and looks for the takedown. Smith ended the season with a second place finish at the national tournament, marking the highest finish by a Tiger since the team's inception in 2010.

Top Left: 125 pound junior Garret Evans ties up with a Central Oklahoma opponent in a January 18 Dual meet. Evans qualified for the national tournament and received All-American honors for the second year in a row.

Top Right: Josh Meyers sprawls his hips to the mat in a January 18 matchup against Central Oklahoma. Meyers placed second in the regional tournament, landing him an invitation to the national tournament.



preparing for Success

#Kaitie Scott



Ten intense practices a week and mpmorning practice at 5:30 began in October. The Lady Tigersharks were prepared for a new swim season.

The season kicked off with the Lady Tigersharks' first meet on October 16. They were up against rivals Henderson State University. While the team was not victorious against the Lady Red Waves, they did not make it an easy win. The team gave everything they had. Jennifer Steele, a junior early childhood education major from Tyler, Texas, won the 1000 and 500 freestyle. Rebecca Zandstra, a junior biology major from St. Charles, Mo., won the 50 freestyle, and Svitlana Smirnova, a senior accounting major from Kiev, Ukraine, placed first in the 100 breaststroke. Bailey Bodway, a freshman early childhood education major from Magnolia, Texas, placed first in the 100 fly with Holly Wray, a senior history major from Eads, Tenn., who placed third.

On October 26 the Lady Tigersharks traveled to Conway to compete in the 45th Annual Hendrix Classic. The team placed third overall. Steele placed first in the 1000 freestyle while Rachel Ewart, a freshman mass communications major from Bossier

City, La., placed third. Bodway, Smirnova, Elizabeth Willis, a freshman Biology major from Kingsland, Ga. and Zandstra beat UALR's Lady Trojans time in the 400 Medley Relay, placing third. The Lady Tigersharks placed in other categories during this event as well.

The team also traveled to Bryant for the HSU Invitational, a two-day event in November. Ewart placed first in the 400 Yard Individual Medley with a time of 4:45.34. Steele, Willis, and Zandstra also placed in the women's 200 freestyle. Ewart placed second in the 200 backstroke while Smirnova placed first in the 50 breaststroke.

“It was definitely a rewarding experience to get first place, and when I touched the wall and finished. I just remember hearing my teammates chanting 'OBU!' They are always so supportive of me whether I swim bad or I swim great,” Ewart said.

In a meet against Delta State in January, Willis, Smirnova, Bodway, and Zandstra finished first in the 200 Medley Relay with an

impressive time of 1:50.73. Willis and Haley Fox, a junior early childhood education major from Garland, Texas, placed second and third in the 200 Freestyle. Wray also came in second in the 50 freestyle with Zandstra placing first with a time of 24.99.

In February the Lady Tigersharks found themselves in Cleveland, Miss., at the New South Intercollegiate Swimming Conference (NSISC) Championships. The Lady Tigersharks held third place on the first day of competition with 267 points. Zandstra did well, placing first in the 50 freestyle. Steele placed second in the 500 freestyle with a time of 5:01.32. Bodway placed first in the 100 fly. Steele also won the 200 free at the NSISC. “I really didn't set a goal for myself this season as a freshman,” said Bodway. “I just wanted to swim for fun so being conference champion in this event was an accomplishment.”

Team Willis, Bodway, Smirnova, and Zandstra pushed through the 400 Yard Medley Relay bringing home first in the event. They fell short of the NSISC record by just three seconds. The Lady Tigersharks finished the championship in third place with 732 points.

front row: Holly Wray, Michelle Washmund, Chelbi Smith, Svitlana Smirnova, Karen Wray
second row: Lindsey Henderson, Jessica Hillyard, Haley Fox, Brittany Ewart, Bailey Bodway
back row: Rachel Ewart, Jennifer Steele, Annaliese Clark, Rebecca Zandstra, Emily Grigsby, Elizabeth Willis





#1 Haley Fox pulls hard at the HSU invitational. Fox came to OBU from Garland, Texas, and competed in the 200 and 500 free.

#2 Chelbi Smith competes in the breast stroke event versus Henderson on January 25. The Lady Tigersharks exacted revenge with a close victory over the Red-dies.

#3 Rachel Ewart cuts through the water at the first swim meet of the year on Oct. 25. The Lady Tigersharks lost their first meet in a close battle with Henderson 110-117.

Season IN replay

OBU Purple and Gold	
Henderson State University	110-117 L
Hendrix Classic	3rd Place
HSU Invitational	2nd Place
Delta State University	97-129 L
UALR Winter Invitational	3rd Place
Delta State University	83-134 L
Oklahoma Baptist University	45-57 L
Henderson State University	111-103 W
NSISC Championships	3rd Place



On the starting block, Lady Tigersharks prepare to start at the HSU invitational. The Lady Tigersharks placed 2nd at the event. photo by: Jason Pullano



Jennifer Steele is the team leader who I can always count on. She is always able to push it to the next level in practice and in competition. She is a conference champion, an All-Conference and an Academic All-American. Steele is someone I can always count on to lead this team to success.

Rebecca Zandstra is one of the best female sprinters we have had. Rebecca made her mark this season by becoming the top sprinter in her conference in the 50 and 100 yard freestyle. When she was put in to vital situations, she always came through with 100% effort.

Elizabeth Willis set the freshman precedence this year in the backstroke event. She came in and proved she can compete at the Division II level. She is willing to do whatever it takes to succeed, and I am expecting great things out of her in the years to come. She really made herself known this year in a Henderson dual meet when she defeated a conference champion from HSU in the backstroke event.

- Coach Ryan Killackey

player spotlight



@OBUAthletics The four Tigersharks who advanced to the NCAA Nationals this year are having a great time in Birmingham!

@OBUTigerNation Marcus Schlesinger: NATIONAL CHAMPION in the 100 Fly with a time of 47.54!! #TigerNation



OBU Purple and Gold

Henderson State 92-146 L

Hendrix Classic 4th Place

HSU Invitational 2nd Place

Delta State University 103-132 L

UALR Invitational 3rd Place

Delta State University 63-172 L

Oklahoma Baptist University 40-63 L

Henderson State 91-132 L

NSISC Championships 4th Place

NCAA Division II Championships 16th Place

IN Season replay

front row: Martin Stevens, Logan Distefano, Carl Thomas **second row:** Mikey Sullivan, Jason Pullano, Zach Mertens, Austin Lindsey **third row:** Colt Thompson, Matt Cox, Christopher Price, Eran Jennings, Hein Hillmer **fourth row:** Andrew Halliburton, Emile Maritz, Kody Moffat, Marcus Schlesinger, Kenton Scott, Jake McClain **back row:** David Wray, Jacob Ramaly, Dawson Prichard, Carl Johnson, Cawley Starling.



Senior Marcus Schlesinger pushes off the wall in the Hendrix Classic on October 26. Schlesinger finished the year with a National Championship in the 100 meter butterfly. photo by: Jason Pullano



Marcus Schlesinger

Marcus Schlesinger is one of the most talented swimmers we have ever had at Ouachita. He is a multi-national champion, a four year All-American and an Olympic Trials qualifier. He did not lose a single race this season until he reached the Division II Championships where he recorded two second place finishes. He's the type of leader I can count on in the classroom, in practice and in competition to lead the team to success.
- Coach Ryan Killackey

training Together

#Tori Abellera

"We train together. We compete together. We succeed together," was the Tigersharks' team motto as they strove for victory through camaraderie and persistence.

One main quality that set apart the men's team was how much they relied on each other. Because of the support each teammate received, their goal of championship was within their reach all throughout the year.

The team of dedicated athletes strove to succeed for not only their close-knit team, but also for personal reasons. Dawson Prichard, a junior kinesiology major from Denton, Texas, who was involved in several campus organizations, found the "sometimes stressful times" were well worth the pursuit.

"Not only does the pool give me that outlet to relax and unwind, but the team helps keep me up.

Being on a team as close as ours, we tend to pick up when someone is down or super stressed. My teammates are always quick to ask me what's wrong and help talk me through what I'm feeling anxious about. They always know what to say and are always pouring into me," Prichard said.

Some Tigersharks achieved their personal best through memorable moments. Emile Maritz, a sophomore business major from Las Vegas, Nev., earned fourth place in the 100 backstroke on the third day of the New South Intercollegiate Swimming Conference (NSISC) Championships. Maritz felt encouraged by his team who pushed him to do his best in the race.

"At conference this season, just before the 800 free relay, we all knew I was going to be the slowest leg of the relay, but Marcus, Kody and Matt just kept pushing me and getting me to believe in myself," Maritz said. "I ended up swimming the fastest time of my life in that race! It meant a lot to me because I always feel like I am the one who lets the relay team down, but they really pushed me to do my best and it paid off in the end."

The camaraderie shown by his teammates was just one example of their passion to support each other.

At the end of their swimming season, the Tigersharks placed four swimmers to compete in the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships. Marcus Schlesinger, a senior biology major from Nuevo, Calif., Kody Moffatt, a junior kinesiology major from Temecula Calif.,

Jake McLain, a senior business major from Nacogdoches, Texas, and Kenton Scott, a senior kinesiology major from Saint Cloud, Fla., were able to represent Ouachita in Birmingham, Alabama. The team earned second place in the 100 freestyle and an eleventh place finish in the 400 freestyle relay. The Tigersharks were ranked 16th overall with 90 points at the NCAA Championships.

Schlesinger became a national champion in the 100 yard butterfly with a finishing time of 47.54. Afterward he recorded a second place finish in the 100 yard freestyle. He posted a time of 43.56 seconds. Schlesinger was only five tenths of a second short from winning his second national title of the year. He then went on to place second in the 50 yard freestyle with an even closer gap of three hundredths of a second with a time of 19.84.

"This was a great season. There were a lot of best times from everyone and hard training. I can't pick out just one moment because there were so many, but I would highlight our conference meet because of the ridiculous intensity on our 400 freestyle relay and the freshmen and other upperclassmen who stepped up and pulled off some crazy-awesome stuff in their events," Schlesinger said.



photo by: Jason Pullano



photo by: Jason Pullano



photo by: Jason Pullano

Left: The Tigersharks fire off the start block at the HSU invitational. The meet played host to Henderson State, UALR, and Rhodes College with great swims from the Tigersharks.

Top Left: The team celebrates at a meet with Henderson State on January 25. The Tigersharks recognized their senior members before the meet.

Top Right: Carl Thomas dives into the water at the HSU invitational. Thomas placed first in the 50 meter butterfly with a time of 24.07.

something to Build on

#Hannah Shull

The Lady Tigers basketball team had a season of team building and hard work.

"We had a good season. After losing our opener by one point to Texas Women's University, the team went on an 11 game winning streak," Coach Garry Crowder said.

Three of the 11 victories included beating Arkansas Tech, the Great American Conference Champions, former conference rival Delta State who reached the National Tournament's Sweet 16, and Union University, who won the Gulf South, the Tigers' former conference.

"Our big win against Arkansas Tech in the first half of the season was definitely a highlight for me," said Katherine West, a freshman psychology major from Charleston, Ark.

On January 10, the Lady Tigers defeated the defending conference champions Arkansas Tech, in a close overtime victory. Defensive pressure and an intense home crowd allowed the Lady Tigers to only allow a 33.3 percent mark from the floor from the Golden Suns.

"We pulled together to beat one of the top ranked teams in the conference, and there is no better feeling than winning as the underdog," West said.

West was a freshman starter for the team. Coming off a successful prep school career at Charleston High school, West played in all 27 of the Lady Tigers games, and posted an average of 5.6 points per game.

"Starting as a freshman was a real honor, although nerve wracking at first. I quickly felt at home playing with my new teammates," West said.

"My favorite part of being on the team was the relationships that were built from spending so much time together. It quickly became easy to see my teammates as family when we were all working so hard to accomplish the same goal." West said.

Monica Williams, a senior early childhood education major from Arkadelphia, Ark., was named the GAC Women's Newcomer of the Year after transferring from the University of West Georgia. Williams was also named to the All-GAC First Team, as well as being named GAC Women's Basketball Player of the Week twice during the season. Williams averaged 19.8 points a game in the 25 games she played in for Ouachita. The Horn Lake, Miss., native ended the season

with a 39 point game against East Central.

Nashia James, a junior kinesiology major from Pine Bluff, Ark., was named to the All-GAC Second Team. The 5'7 junior recorded almost 1000 minutes of playing time this season, averaging 14.4 points a game.

The Lady Tigers finished their season with a 17-10 record. At home, the Lady Tigers were almost unbeatable, posting a 10-4 record and with victories over Arkansas Tech, Delta State, and rivals Henderson State.

"Eleven games were one-possession games inside of one minute (3 points or less is a one possession) with Ouachita winning 7 of the 11," Crowder said.

In the conference tournament, the Lady Tigers traveled to Bartlesville, Okla., where they faced a tough East Central team. East Central got out to a big lead, but impressive performances from Monica Williams and Nashia James kept the Tigers close. Williams kept the Lady Tigers in the game with a 39 point performance, setting a GAC tournament record. The loss closed out a 17-10 season for the Lady Tigers. "The team had great work ethic and great team chemistry," Crowder said.

The Lady Tigers looked to improve with a young team with lots of talent.



photo by: Nicole McPha



front row: Nashia James, Maraja Johnson, Katherine West, Hollie Chaytor, Ruby Richie, Alexis Sharp, Allie Brown, Kendra Coyle
second row: Breanna Harris, Ashley Johnson, Erica Sharp, Hayley Cooper, Elise Holman, Monica Williams, Breana Dillard
back row: Garry Crowder, Lizz Webb, Sarah Pugh, Emily Payne.





#1 Junior Allie Brown drives down the lane at January 19th match-up against Southwestern Oklahoma State. The Tigers got off to an early lead, but couldn't hold on as Southwestern won with a late surge, 96-89.

#2 Freshman Alexis Sharp moves the ball up court in a rivalry match up against Henderson State. The Jonesboro native spent her prep career at Nettleton High School.

#3 Freshman Katherine West directs the offense against Henderson State on January 24th. West played 26 minutes in the 65-57 victory.

IN Season replay

The Lady Tigers huddle up before a January 19th game against Southwestern Oklahoma State. The lady tigers posted a 17-10 record with a 10-4 record in Bill Vining Arena.

photo by: Nicole McPhate



Arkansas State University	46-86	L
Texas Woman's University	59-60	L
Union University	64-60	W
Stillman College	83-32	W
East Central University	74-72	W
Southeastern Oklahoma	81-74	W
Southern Arkansas	74-66	W
University of Ark. at Monticello	82-65	W
Texas A&M Commerce	71-56	W
Delta State University	75-72	W
Southern Nazarene University	71-64	W
Christian Brothers University	71-62	W
Arkansas Tech University	84-81	W
Harding University	58-66	L
Northwestern Oklahoma	62-54	W
Southwestern Oklahoma	89-96	L
Henderson State University	65-57	W
Southern Arkansas University	66-62	W
Southeastern Oklahoma	70-67	W
East Central University	64-72	L
Southern Nazarene University	69-72	L
Arkansas Tech	55-74	L
Harding University	42-45	L
Southwestern Oklahoma	62-88	L
Northwestern Oklahoma	60-55	W
Henderson State University	56-58	L
University of Ark. at Monticello	75-63	W
GAC Conference Tournament:		
East Central University	75-63	L

Monica Williams was a great leader for the 2012-2013 Lady Tiger Basketball team. She led our team in scoring and rebounding averaging nearly 20 points and 10 rebounds per game. She did this while serving as a student intern in our Early Childhood Education Program.

- Coach Garry Crowder



player spotlight

Season *IN* replay

			Tarleton State University	67-74	L
			Southern Nazarene University	67-72	L
			Arkansas Tech University	57-52	W
			Harding University	78-83	L
			Northwestern OK State	78-82	L
			Southwestern OK State	58-52	W
			Henderson State University	61-59	W
			Southern Arkansas	74-48	W
			Southeastern OK State	74-48	W
			East Central University	62-77	L
Phialnder Smith College	114-101	W	Southern Nazarene University	75-62	W
Southeast Missouri State	60-71	L	Arkansas Tech University	50-52	L
Letourneau University	84-56	W	Harding University	60-56	W
Champion Baptist College	108-43	W	Southwestern OK State	63-75	L
Texas A&M University Commerce	56-69	L	Northwestern OK State	80-87	L
Midwestern State University	81-77	W	Henderson State University	81-90	L
East Central University	83-58	W	University of Ark at Monticello	62-58	W
Southeastern OK State	56-59	L	GAC Confrence Tournament:		
Southern Arkansas	54-66	L	Southeastern Oklahoma	67-60	W
University of Ark at Monticello	65-63	W	Harding University	78-63	W
Texas A&M University Commerce	82-76	W	Arkansas Tech University	59-54	W



front row: David Day, Eric Braeuer, Nigel Ramsey, Julian LaDay, Austin Mitchel, Michael Morris **back row:** Head Coach Dennis Nutt, Assistant Coach Logan Johnson, Micah Delph, Colt Fason, John Kornet, Kyle Francis, Tyler Gattin, Franklin Featherston, Ben Willy.



Julian LaDay is one of the best on-ball defenders I have ever had the privilege of coaching. Julian's work ethic and his desire to control the game from a defensive standpoint is amazing. His defensive mentality carried over to the rest of our team, especially during the successful run at the Great American Conference tournament this spring. Not only was he the great floor leader, he finished the spring semester with a 4.0 GPA. He will be missed greatly.
- Coach Dennis Nutt

MEN'S BASKETBALL

making it To the Top

#Chelsea Byers

The lights glared on the court as the smell of sweat and determination permeated the air. The crowd's cheers had turned into a deafening roar as the final minutes of the conference championship game ticked away. The entire season came down to this moment, as the Tigers found themselves at the championship game, ready to claim the conference title.

Hard work and dedication were the two words that defined this season for the Ouachita Tigers. Ouachita finished the season with a 17-12 record, ending on a four game win streak. The team performed their best at home with a 12-2 record at Vining Arena. During the regular season the team maintained a spot in the middle of the conference, but beat four of the top five teams including the number one seed, Harding University.

In the Great American Conference tournament, the number five seed OBU defeated four seed, Southeastern Oklahoma, followed by another victory against Harding. In the final game against Arkansas Tech, the Tigers went into halftime down, but they battled back in the second half and took control of the game. The Ouachita Tigers went on to take the GAC title against number two seed

Arkansas Tech.

"I would say towards the end, the seniors stepped up their game and saw that their careers were coming to an end, and so they stepped their game up and were able to play as a team," said Colt Fason, a 6'6 sophomore from Conway, Ark. "I think all of us contributed really well on defensive end and offensive end."

The Tigers were led by Head Coach Dennis Nutt, who pushed the team to new heights this season and was proud to see the Tigers push themselves to a title win.

"It's been interesting this season," said Head Coach Dennis Nutt. "There have been a lot of ups and downs, just like any season would be. It's a long process and our guys worked really hard since day one. We put them through some tough workouts early. We improved a lot. Our season came along and we knew we had a pretty good team, and it took a little while to get to it, but I think it really came together in that last week in our tournament. I'm just really proud of our guys for playing like they did."

Two seniors, Austin Mitchell and Michael Morris, led the team in scoring and were key to success for the Tigers. Mitchell finished the season as the team's leading scorer with

a little over 13 points a game. A lot of his work came from beyond the arc with a three-point percentage of 42. Morris also averaged double figures in scoring with 11 as well as six boards. Morris was another efficient scorer shooting 50 percent from the field. Two other seniors, Nigel Ramsey and Julian LaDay, also played major roles in the Tigers championship run. Ramsey, from Birmingham, Ala., finished the season averaging 10 points per game, and LaDay from Keller, Texas, finished with an average of seven points a game.

"This is such a close knit group. We have a great group of guys, and it made it a lot of fun this season," said Assistant Coach Logan Johnson. "The most memorable moment of the season for me was during the

GAC championship game. We had a timeout and were up about seven or eight points with not much time left; there was basically no way the other team could come back to win. Coach Nutt told all the guys in the huddle, 'You're about to be a champion, you're about to get a ring.' Hearing him say that to the guys, that's probably going to stick in my mind for a long time."



The Tigers line up for the game of Allegiance in a Dec. 1 game. The Tigers were almost... post... record in Bill... Arena. ... Barnard



photo by: Taylor McKinley



photo by: Grace Finley



photo by: Grace Finley

Left: Senior Austin Mitchell drives past a defender in a January match up against Southern Arkansas. The 6'5 senior sank 4 three-pointers in the game to help defeat the Mulenders, 68-61.

Top Left: Coach Nutt talks strategy as the team catches a break in a February game against Southern Nazarene. In his second year as a head coach, Nutt led the Tigers to a GAC championship.

Top Right: Junior Kyle Francis sets a screen as Micah Delph cuts into the lane against Southern Nazarene. The Tigers defeated the Crimson Storm, 75-62.

Developing Consistency

#Ben Cline

The women's golf team experienced another year of growth and development, as well as a level of success that is usually unheard of for such a young team. The seven golfers that made up the 2012-2013 season were Catlin Jones, Allie Brown, Emily Sinclair, Victoria Mantooth, Ali Robinson, Emily Payne, and Alleabelle Gongola. These girls helped grow the team with success on the course and in the classroom. "We had a lot of fun and look forward to improving overall competitiveness as the program grows," said Alleabelle Gongola, a freshman psychology major from Dardenelle.

The team competed in two pre-season tournaments in the fall to prepare for the season that ran from January until April. Before each tournament began, the girls played a qualifying match and the five lowest scores advanced to compete in the tournament. As well as tournament play, the Lady Tigers took on the lady Muleriders of Southern Arkansas in a head to head match up in November. The Lady Tigers would be victorious, with an overall team score of 364, with Southern Arkansas finishing with a team score of 371. One of the biggest challenges in the fall semester was finding a time when all the girls could practice together. Coach Sharp would

have a sign in sheet that kept track of each girl's required practice times. Emily Sinclair, a senior dietetics and nutrition major from El Dorado, believed that the team had to "improve on our consistency in tournaments" and as the season began, the team seemed to do just that.

In March, the Lady Tigers competed in the Henderson State Invitational, placing fourth out of six at their home golf course at Lake Degray State Park Golf Course. Ouachita finished with a total team score of 725, after posting combined scores of 368 and 357 in the two round event.

The Lady Tigers competed in the Oklahoma Baptist Spring Invitational in April and posted a cumulative score of 903 at the event, with a 23 stroke improvement during day two of action. Emily Sinclair finished atop the team with a total score of 186, including an event best 90 on the first day of competition. She was closely followed by Ali Robinson who finished up with a 192. Robinson saw a six stroke improvement in her second round, posting a 93. Alleabelle Gongola, taking on Sinclair's pleas for consistency, was as consistent as it gets, posting a 97 in both of her rounds, finishing with a total score of 194.

By the time the GAC conference tourna-

ment rolled around in April, the Lady Tigers were ready to compete.

The girls traveled to Hot Springs for the three-day tournament, and hoped to put their talent on display. Sinclair led the Lady Tigers posting an overall score of 248, including an 80 on day one of the championships. Caitlin Jones, a senior education major from Little Rock, finished with a total score of 289, with a 94 on the second day of competition. Senior Allie Brown, a communication science major from Rosston, Ark., finished with an overall score of 316 while Victoria Mantooth, a senior voice major from Sherwood, Ark., finished with a total score of 323. Ouachita finished with an overall team score of 1148, earning them a sixth place finish.

Already looking to improve, Ali Robinson, a freshman mass communications major from Bella Vista, planned on working hard in the summer. "I plan on working hard over the summer and fall to get my swing back and really try to lower my score and keep it consistent. Consistency will come as the program grows older and stronger." With such a young team, success will become consistent for this team.

#1 Freshman Ali Robinson works on her swing in the courtyard of the East Village dorms. The girls had to take advantage of any time they had to practice.

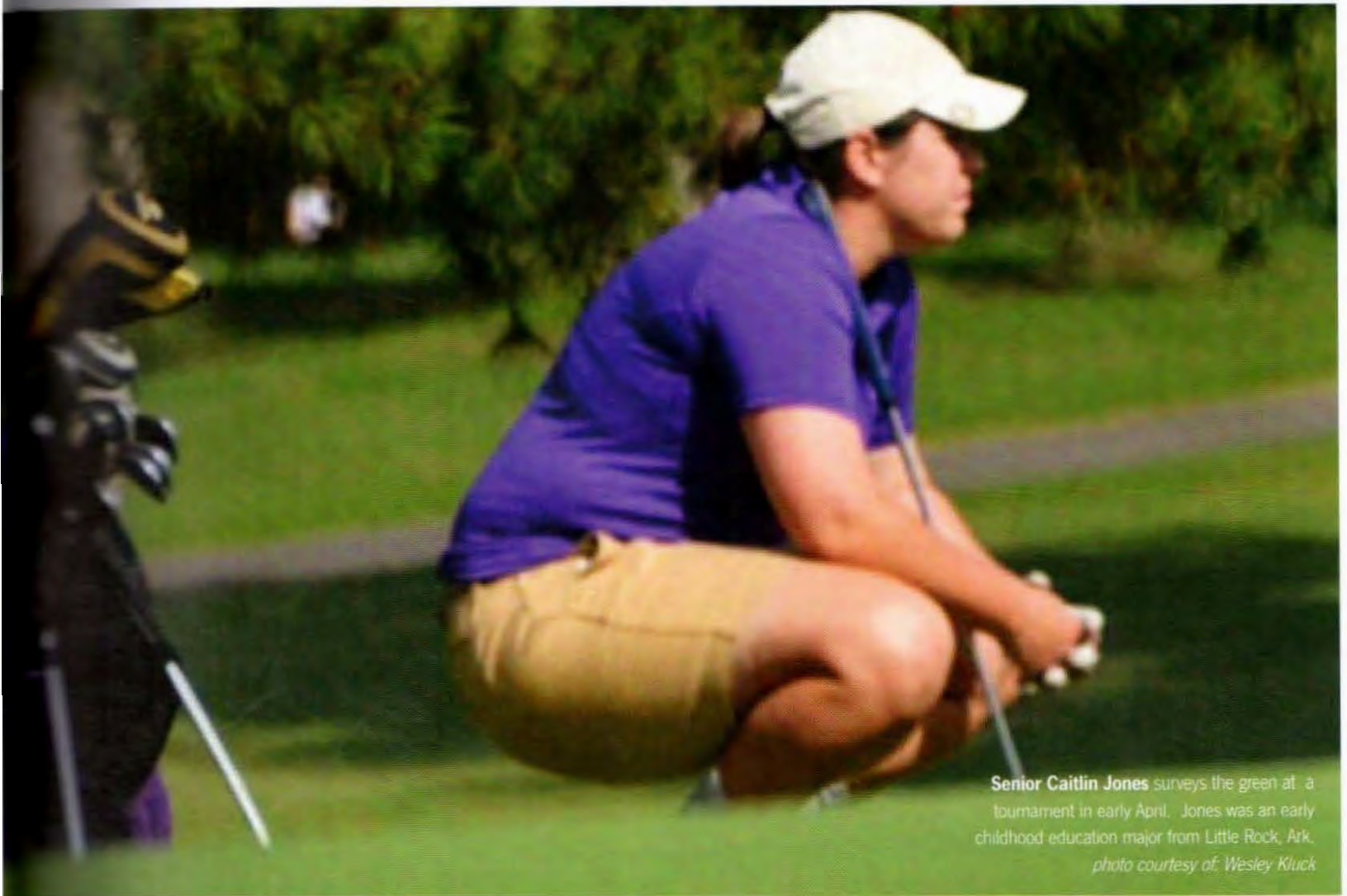
#2 Senior Emily Sinclair works on her swing at practice. Sinclair led the team with an overall score of 248 at the Conference Tournament.

#3 Freshman Alleabelle Gongola drives the ball one afternoon in March. Gongola came to OBU from Dardenelle.



Season **IN**replay

Southern Arkansas	354-471 W
Arkansas-Monticello	349-380 L
HSU Invitational	6th Place
A&M Commerce Invitational	21st Place
Oklahoma Baptist Invitational	6th Place
GAC Championships	10th Place



Senior Caitlin Jones surveys the green at a tournament in early April. Jones was an early childhood education major from Little Rock, Ark.
photo courtesy of Wesley Kluck

Emily Sinclair has been our Outstanding Athlete in Women's Golf for the past two years. She is consistent with her game, and she is a person we can build our team around.
- Coach David Sharp



Emily Sinclair

player spotlight



OBU Athletics @OBUAthletics

Men's Golf sits ninth after first day of GAC Championships, led by Drew Greenwood.

OBU Athletics @OBUAthletics

The Tiger men's golf team finished seventh at the Natural State Golf Classic.



Season IN replay

Southern Arkansas	321-311 L
Harding Invitational	8th Place
A&M Commerce Invitational	10th Place
Arkansas Tech Invitational	10th Place
Harding Invitational	7th Place
GAC Golf Championships	10th Place



Freshman Will Hegi drives the ball in a head-to-head matchup against Southern Arkansas. Hegi finished with a cumulative score of 236, including rounds of 78, 81 and 77 at the Conference Tournament.
photo by: Nicole McPhate



Drew Greenwood

Drew Greenwood transferred from Memphis in January. Drew is an outstanding golfer. He commands a level that will raise the bar for the entire team and help elevate us to the next level.
- Coach David Sharp

seeing potential to Rebuild

#Kaitie Scott

The men's golf team represented the Tigers by competing in tournaments throughout Arkansas and a tournament in Texas.

The team practiced as much as they could on their own. "I practiced just about every day," said Jacob Calhoun, a freshman business administration and finance major from Jonesboro.

The team's season kicked off in Arkadelphia, taking on the Muleriders of Southern Arkansas University. Of the Tigers, Calhoun finished best with a score of 78. Following close behind both with a score of 79 were both Jamie Barker, a sophomore biology major from Louann, and Will Hegi, a sophomore accounting major from El Dorado.

The team competed in October at the Bison Fall Classic held in Searcy. The Tigers placed eighth with a team score of 673. Barker had the best score of the Tigers with 156, placing 12th overall in the tournament. Bryce Skinner, a senior accounting major from Hot Springs, tied for 33rd with a score of 166.

Traveling to Pottsboro, Texas, the men's golf team competed in the Texoma Chevy Dealers Crawford Wade Invitational alongside 14 other teams. Drew Greenwood, a freshman business major from Hot Springs, represented the Tigers well by placing 18th out of 81 participants with a score of 152. Overall, the team placed 10th.

Greenwood led the Tigers once again when traveling to the Dave Falconer Memorial Invitational hosted in Russellville by tying 12th with the best overall score of 151. Hegi, with a score of 159, was the second best performer for the Tigers.

"The Natural State Golf Classic was my favorite," Skinner said. The men's golf team placed 7th out of 13 teams at the Natural State Golf Classic in Heber Springs. The Tigers were unable to keep their 4th place standing from the first day of the tournament. However, they triumphed over Southern Arkansas, Arkansas-Monticello and Northwestern Oklahoma. Greenwood led the team at the event with an overall score of 153 with Skinner close behind with 154 overall.

Greenwood said, "Harding's tournament in Heber Springs was probably the most fun. Our team bonded the most that week and really had a good time as a team. It was our best finish."

The team competed in the final tournament of the year, the Great American Conference Championship at the Hot Springs Country Club. The Tigers found themselves placing 10th after the three-day event. Greenwood led the Tigers with a cumulative score of 223. Hegi finished with 236 and Skinner with 238. Barker posted a score of 252 and Calhoun with a score of 262.

With the season being a rebuilding year, the team did not place in tournaments as well as they hoped. However, they stayed positive for the following season. Austin Sarabia, a junior business administration and management major from Houston, Texas, said, "We know the potential and the talent we have on the team now, so we are excited for next year."



photo by: Nicole McPhate



photo by: Heather Ellis



photo by: Nicole McPhate

Left: Freshman Drew Greenwood talks with a golfer from SAU. Greenwood led the team at the conference tournament, with recorded scores of 69, 81 and 72

Top Left: Sophomore Jamie Barker watches the ball after his swing.

Top Right: Freshman Jacob Calhoun reaches down to set the tee before a swing.

Athletic Training



photo by: Nicole McPhate

Left: Senior Landon Freeman shakes hands with Head Football Coach Todd Knight at the senior recognition game. Freeman suffered a knee injury during in the fall, and athletic trainers were ready to assist with rehab and recovery.

Right: Ben Willy watches from behind the bench at a men's basketball game. Athletic trainers were available on the sidelines at athletic events to help with injuries or talk players through painful symptoms.



photo by: Jessica Stewart

Senior Cory Godbolt wraps a player's arm on the sidelines at the A.U. Williams Field during a football game. Students completing the athletic training program were required to log hours of assisting the athletic teams.

photo by: Nicole McPhate



Unsung Heroes

Ben Cline

the Ouachita athletic program had a huge support base across campus and across the state. Whether newly formed Tiger Nation, alumni or part-time friends, the athletic teams at OBU had an immense amount of support. However, one of the biggest assets of these teams was often overlooked. The athletic training program supported the Tigers on the field, court, mat or any other surface that they competed on. This staff, led by Katelyn Cresswell, spent countless hours keeping athletes healthy. In the training room, these trainers were extremely busy on campus. These unsung heroes were the backbone of the athletic program because they kept everyone healthy.

When we could really appreciate all that the athletic trainers did, we must first understand all the things they do. According to the National Athletic Trainers Association, athletic trainers "are health care professionals who collaborate with physicians. The services they provide include prevention, emergency care, diagnosis, therapeutic intervention and rehabilitation of injuries and medical conditions. Students who become certified athletic trainers must earn a degree in an accredited athletic training curriculum. Their programs include formal instruction in areas such as injury prevention, first aid and emergency care, assessment of injury/illness, human anatomy and physiology, therapeutic modalities, and nutrition."

When you ask any coach on campus, you could see just how busy the athletic trainers were. "Athletic Trainers are people you shouldn't ever really notice. When they are doing their job well, most people never even know they are there. It's a thankless job where they put in long hours, but don't receive any of the praise. We are so lucky at Ouachita to have some young, motivated trainers who have been willing to help us out anytime we ask," said Kevin Ward, head wrestling coach.

Aaron Butler, a senior Spanish major from Mabelvale, and a wrestler in the 174-pound division, believed that the athletic trainers at OBU were irreplaceable. "The staff here is really great, they know their stuff, and are dedicated to their work. Of course no one is perfect and everyone makes mistakes, but the staff here learns quick and gets athletes back to the field in no time. I wouldn't trade them for anything." Ask any athlete in any sport, and you would see just how great these athletic trainers are. Davis Ward, a junior business administration and marketing major from Little Rock, and starting pitcher for the Tigers, has witnessed first hand just how much time these athletic trainers put in, specifically Ben Willy. "Ben has been such a huge help to our team this year, he has traveled to every away game, and been at every practice ready to help out. It's easy to tell that he is really passionate about the sport, and passionate about his job as well. It's comforting to know that our staff is always ready to help out, at home or on the road."

Willy, a graduate of Henderson State University, was originally from Los Cruces, N.M., and came to OBU to intern in the athletic training program. Before coming to Ouachita, Willy was at New Mexico State. "I had already been at a Division I university and learned how it worked, so next on my list was a Division II university," Willy said about his past experience. Willy logged over 300 hours in the spring semester, working with the baseball team, the wrestling team, and men and women's soccer in the fall. Willy's favorite thing about athletic training was the whole process of getting the athlete back on the court. "Just being able to see an athlete get hurt and then go through the process of healing and returning to the field, I love getting the athlete back to their sport." Of course, there were some parts of the job that Willy did not particularly like. "Daily cleaning, dealing with insurance, just anything that

keeps me from my work." Eventually, Willy hoped to be an athletic trainer in the MLB. "Pro baseball is the ultimate goal, specifically with the Pittsburgh Pirates." In his spare time, Willy enjoyed a variety of things. "I love to play disc golf, go shooting at the range, and duck hunting."

Cresswell, the interim head athletic trainer, was a graduate of OBU and found her favorite part of athletic training to be the athletes.

"My favorite part of working as an athletic trainer at OBU is our athletes. The athletes at OBU dedicate so much time and effort to their sport; it can be heart-breaking when they get injured. However, it is very rewarding working with them through an injury, getting them back to their sport as quickly as possible," Cresswell said.

When not in the athletic training room, Cresswell spent her time playing basketball and going to the lake. In March, Cresswell's intramural basketball team won the championships for women's upper league. Cresswell kept the athletic training room running efficiently all year.

Whether it was keeping the room open late to help rehabilitate an injury, or doing a preemptive skin check for staph, these athletic trainers went above and beyond what it took to keep OBU athletes on the field. Since most of these trainers were once athletes themselves, they knew what it meant to an athlete to be hurt and unable to compete and did anything they could to ensure a speedy return to the sport. They were the first ones on the field or court and the last ones off of it, they were the first ones to the athletes side when there was an injury, and were last to leave the athlete's side before they returned to the field.

They were the best at what they did and least recognized for it. The athletic trainers at Ouachita were the lifeblood that kept the Tiger Spirit alive.

"It's a thankless job where they put in long hours, but don't receive any of the praise. We are very lucky at Ouachita to have some young, motivated trainers who have been willing to help us out anytime we ask." - Coach Kevin Ward

making Memories

#Sydney Bratton

Even though the season did not end as the Lady Tigers were hoping, a lot of hard work and dedication was devoted to the season as they ended with an overall record of 4-13 and a conference record of 2-4. While the Lady Tigers spent the season working on their skills they also got to spend the season bonding as teammates.

The first match of the season was a loss to Drury University with a score of 1-8. The Lady Tigers worked on their game and came out of their second match of the season with a win of 5-4 against North Central Texas College. A streak of four losses of 0-9 plagued the team against Northeastern State University, Southwest Baptist University, Cameron University and Arkansas Tech University.

The season had not been off to the best start but celebration was in order as the Lady Tigers won both of their games against Henderson State University with scores of 6-3 and 7-2. These games presented the team with the win of this year's Battle of the Ravine. "This year was a lot of fun and although we struggled to get wins, this season was by far the most memorable," said Kristin

Bodine, a sophomore music major, Christian studies minor from Webb City, Mo. "I am so glad I got to play my final season of college tennis with this group of girls."

The Great American Conference Tournament was held in Bentonville and the Lady Tigers were seeded fifth. The team played against fourth seed Southeastern Oklahoma State and ended doubles with a score of 2-1 but ended up losing the match with a score of 5-2.

"We had an incredible experience at conference this year. During the doubles matches my partner Valarie and I put away our match 8-6 and then watched our seniors Kristin and Lily win a very close match," said Kourtney Chumbley, a junior middle school education major from Richardson, Texas. "It was so emotional, but such a proud moment to watch your teammates work together and win. Our three doubles barely missed the mark, but they played beautifully and hard until the very end. After this we were very optimistic, but unfortunately our singles did not pull through against Southeastern Oklahoma. Everyone played their hearts out, and

we have three incredible leaders that will be missed."

The number one doubles team was led by Chumbley and Valeriya Mansvetova, a freshman kinesiology and leisure pre-professional studies major from Yaroslavl, Russia. The number two doubles team was led by Kristin Bodine, and Lilia Sokolova, a senior Russian major from Yashkar Ola, Russia. During conference the Chumbley and Mansvetova team was awarded second team all-conference.

"This season was a good one to end on. I have played tennis a long time, and it has had a huge part in shaping me into the person I am today," said Samantha Street, a senior accounting major from Rogers.

“Overall, these last four years on Ouachita's tennis team have taught me a lot about teamwork, time management, and the importance of being driven. I have enjoyed every second of playing the sport, and it is hard to believe that my tennis career is now over.”

front row:

McKenzie Cranford, Valeriya Mansvetova, Camila Ferreira, Kourtney Chumbley, Lilia Sokolova
back row: Samantha Street, Mary Rachel Wolf, Kristin Bodine.



photo by: Jason Finkbe





#1 Freshman Camila Ferreira gets ready to hit the ball back over the net at a game inside the Heflin tennis indoor courts.

#2 Junior McKenzie Cranford serves the ball. Cranford was a mass communications major from Irving, Texas.

#3 Junior Kourtney Chumbley returns the ball with power in a Little Rock tournament. Chumbley was selected for the All-GAC team.

IN Season replay

Drury University	1-8	L
North Central Texas College	5-4	W
NorthEastern State University	0-9	L
Southwest Baptist University	0-9	L
Cameron University	0-9	L
Arkansas Tech University	0-9	L
Delta State University	Cancelled	
Tarleton State University	1-8	L
Notheastern State University	Cancelled	
Henderson State University	6-3	W
Southeastern Oklahoma University	2-7	L
University of North Alabama	3-6	L
Delta State University	6-3	W
East Central University	1-8	L
Harding University	0-9	L
Arkansas Tech University	1-8	L
Henderson State University	7-2	W
Southern Nazarene University	1-8	L

GAC Tournament:

Southeastern OK State	2-5	L
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Junior Lillia Sokolova prepares to return the ball at a tournament in Little Rock, Ark. Sokolova comes to OBU from Yoshkar, Russia.
photo by: Jason Pullano

Kristin Bodine transferred in and played 3 years for us at #2 and 3 in singles and #1 and 2 in doubles. She was a hard worker and went above and beyond in practice. During matches she never gave up and kept fighting up to the last point. She was a strong team leader and she will be missed on the team next year.

Kourtney Chumbley will be a senior next year and had the best record on the team this past season. She has played #1 and 2 single for us the past 3 years and #1 doubles. She is hardworking and always trying to improve. She is a strong leader and I am looking forward to see how she does her senior year.

- Coach Betsy Danner



player spotlight

Season IN replay

Southwest Baptist	7-2	W
Washburn University	5-4	W
Delta State	5-2	W
Oklahoma Christian	4-5	L
Southeastern Oklahoma	7-2	W
Cameron University	4-5	L
Northwest Missouri	5-4	W
Drury University	2-7	L
Noth Alabama	3-6	L
BYU-Hawaii	4-5	L
Hawaii Hilo	9-0	W
Hawaii Pacific University	2-7	L
Southeastern Oklahoma	5-4	W
East Central	6-3	W
Valdosta State	5-4	W
West Florida	0-5	L
Harding	9-0	W

GAC Conference Tournament:

Harding	5-2	W
East Central University	5-2	W

NCAA Regional Tournament:

Southwest Baptist	2-5	L
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front row: Leon Ferran, Marko Boskovic, Teodor Anghel **back row:** Helge Knuth, Vitor Oliveira, Marvin Muller, Riccardo Bassani, Till Heilshorn, Coach Craig Ward.



Strong serve Junior Teodor Anghel gets off the ground on a serve. Anghel came to OBU from Ploiesti, Romania.
photo by: Heidi



Teodor Anghel

Teodor Anghel, "Teddy," is one of those guys who does not get a lot of individual recognition. However he is a talented player whose contributions on the court and in the classroom are his character and competitiveness. Much of the success our team enjoyed this past year can be attributed to him.
- Coach Craig Ward

claiming the title a Second Time

#Jeff Root

A perennial NCAA Div. II power, the men's tennis team won its second championship in the two-year history of the Great American Conference, but fell in regional action of the post-season tournament. While failing to repeat the 2012 team's march to the Elite Eight, the 2013 Tigers were nationally ranked throughout the season and entered the tournament as the No. 1 team in the Central Region rankings.

"In my 23 years at Ouachita, the 2012-13 season was one of the most enjoyable," Head Coach Craig Ward said. "The highlights for the year would be winning the Great American Conference and advancing to the finals of the NCAA Regional championships. This was a great group of guys and I look forward to most of them coming back next year."

Ranked nationally at No. 21 entering the post-season, the Tigers were upset by No. 35 Southwest Baptist University by a score of 5-2, losing two of the three doubles matches and three of four in singles. The loss came after a convincing win in the GAC tournament. Ouachita had fashioned a 3-0 GAC

record (10-7 overall) in the regular season and traveled to Bentonville, Ark., for the GAC tournament. The Tigers beat longtime rival Harding University 5-2 and then won the championship with a 5-2 win over East Central Oklahoma in a rematch of the 2012 finals.

Post-season honors naturally came to the conference champions. Coach Craig Ward was named Coach of the Year for the second consecutive year, while Marco Boskovic was named GAC Player of the Year and Vitor Oliveira was tabbed as the GAC Freshman of the Year. Junior Helge Knuth joined Boskovic on the All-GAC First Team.

Boskovic, a sophomore from Belgrade, Serbia, was the No. 2 ranked player in the Central Region and was No. 36 in the nation with a 13-6 record in singles and 13-5 record in doubles. Oliveira, from Brasilia, Brazil, was 14-4 on the year in singles and 13-5 in doubles. He was undefeated in singles after a mid-season move to the No. 4 spot in the lineup. Knuth, a junior from Mandelbachtal, Germany, also had a banner year, reaching the No. 4 ranking in the region and the No. 39 ranking in the country.

Hosting the regionals, Ouachita got a

9-8 win in doubles action from Boskovic and Oliveira, but the Tigers only other win in the Round of 32 came from Teodor Anghel, a junior from Ploiesti, Romania, who took his singles match 6-0, 6-1 over Southwest's Alex Belote.

Marvin Muller, a sophomore from Hagan, Germany, also played a key role in 2012-13 for the Tigers. He teamed with Knuth for No. 2 doubles action, highlighted by an 8-5 win over East Central in the GAC Tournament. Doubles also featured Anghel teamed with Riccardo Bassani, a sophomore from Curitiba, Brazil.

Having earned a national reputation during Coach Ward's two decades at the helm, the Tigers peppered their regular season matches with some of the top competition in the nation. Ouachita defeated Gulf South Conference powers Delta State and Valdosta State, as well as strong teams from Northwest Missouri State University and Washburn University. The Tigers also played close to such powers at West Florida and Oklahoma Christian. The team enjoyed very competitive matchups in Hawaii with a win over Hawaii Hilo and close loses to BYU-Hawaii and Hawaii Pacific University.



photo by: Heather Ellis



photo by: Heather Ellis



photo by: Heather Ellis

Left: Sophomore Marvin Muller returns a ball in the NCAA tournament match up against Southwest Baptist. Muller was on a doubles team with fellow German Helge Knuth.

Top Left: Sophomore Marko Boskovic returns a ball with a quick forehand in a home meet against Southwest Baptist. Boskovic was named player of the year for the Great American Conference.

Top Right: Freshman Vitor Oliveira gets ready for the serve late in the season. Oliveira came to OBU from Brasilia, Brazil.

growing stronger For the Future

#Hannah Shull

The Lady Tigers softball team had a unique season with a young squad but several shining moments. Bailey Sanders, a senior early childhood education major from Godley, Texas, said, "The entire season was filled with many memorable moments, one in particular that will be remembered forever. For the first time in Ouachita Baptist University history, we won two games at the Great American Conference conference tournament."

At the conference tournament the team knocked out Arkansas Tech, the number three seed, and the University of Arkansas at Monticello, the number four seed. They beat Arkansas Tech 11-2 and Monticello 5-1. The team placed fourth out of eight teams.

"We have a really young team and the fact that we were able to apply all of our individual talents into working as a team and getting the job done made me realize what the game of softball is all about," Sanders said.

"The team worked together in many ways, but we all played for each other. If one person was down, we tried picking them up, always encouraging," said Megan Askew, a senior math major from Fort Worth, Texas.

In addition to their wins, the team also came together and teammates and friends.

"Being a senior on the team has been a challenging, yet life changing experience. The duties that go along with being a senior are time consuming and difficult, but my coaches and teammates made it all worth while," Sanders said.

"They taught me so much about myself and brought the leader in me out. I couldn't have asked for a better group of girls to play my last season of softball with," Sanders said.

“ My favorite part of being on the team is playing with several girls who have a love for the game. I have become close over the years to several of them and it's crazy that I will no longer be playing with them,” Askew said.

Askew also played volleyball, so she missed the fall season. She said, "I had a lot to prove when I came in the spring."

"Being a senior [on the team] can be a heavy load at times, but I really enjoy being a leader in the team. I couldn't be more proud of what we accomplished at the conference tournament," Askew said.

Askew was rewarded for her excellent season by being named 2nd Team All-GAC,

a step up from her honorable mention All-GAC honors of a year ago. Askew was an offensive machine for the Lady Tigers. She hit .323 for the season with 43 hits. Her on-base percentage was over .400 as she added a team-high 32 walks. Askew was a power hitter as well, with eight doubles and 10 home runs for the season. She scored 32 runs and drove in 25, while stealing 11 bases. It was quite a way to cap off a stellar career for the senior outfielder/first baseman.

Askew, however, was not the only player honored by the conference. Abbi Frakes, a junior biology major from Plano, Texas, was named the GAC Pitcher of the Week for the final week of the season in April. She won the honor by taking home the victory in three games of a four-game weekend series against Southern Arkansas University. In the series, Frakes gave up zero earned runs in 20.2 innings pitched, including a 10-inning shutout in game two. She struck out 24 Lady Riders and walked none.

While the young team finished 20-33 for the season, they rallied to win five of their last eight games, including an OBU record at the GAC conference tournament. The end of the Lady Tigers' season signaled an improved veteran squad for next year.

front row: Nici Starkey, Ashley Stegall, Michaela Hopkins, Suzie Gresham, Bailey Sanders, Kayley Willingham, Megan McLaughlin, Jocelyn Jones, Teresa Mursuli, Kailey Madden **back row:** Assistant Coach Beth McGhee, Monica Smith, Olivia Guin, Parish Reed, Rebekah Dindak, Abbi Frakes, Shandy Noonan, Shelby McWhorter, Megan Askew, Brianna Baley, Amber Oxford, Head Coach Mike McGhee.

Softball 2013



photo by: Bekah Hall





#1 Junior Parish Reed prepares to make a throw from the outfield. Reed also ran Cross Country for Ouachita.

#3 Sophomore Kayley Willingham heads toward second. Willingham was an outfielder for OBU and came from Tuscon, Ariz.



#3 Junior Abbi Frakes pitches for the Lady Tigers. The Plano, Texas, native was named GAC pitcher of the week after a three-win weekend.

Season INreplay

Hampton Classic	2 W 2L
Southeastern Shootout	1W 3L
UAM Classic	3W 5L
Newman University	Cancelled
Henderson State University	5-9,0-11,8-0,5-6 L,L,W,L
Southern Nazarene University	3-2,1-5,6-14,6-4 W,L,L,W
Arkansas Tech	1-2,1-4,4-8,3-6 L,L,L,L
East Central	1-4,6-9,0-7,4-9 L,L,L,L
University of Ark. at Monticello	Cancelled
Southwestern OK State	6-1,7-6,3-2,1-0 W,W,W,W
Midwestern State University	2-4 L
Northwestern OK State	5-0,1-6,2-6,4-3 W,L,L,W
Southeastern OK State	6-7,1-5,1-9,0-5 L,L,L,L
Southern Arkansas University	3-2,1-9,1-0,2-1 W,L,W,W

GAC Tournament :

East Central	0-5	L
Arkansas Tech	11-2	W
UAM	5-1	W
East Central	0-8	L



Junior Rebekah Dindak makes contact with the ball in a game against Southern Nazarene in early March. Dindak came to OBU from Allen, Texas.

photo by: Bekah Hall

Megan Askew had a great career for our program and she will be truly missed. Megan started all four years for our program. She started her career as a freshman, being GSC freshman of the year in our conference. She finished this season as All GAC and was our leading hitter with a .338 batting average with 11 homeruns. She owns our record for doubles and runs scored. She is first or second in many other categories as well. Megan will be extremely hard to replace.

- Coach Mike McGhee



player spotlight

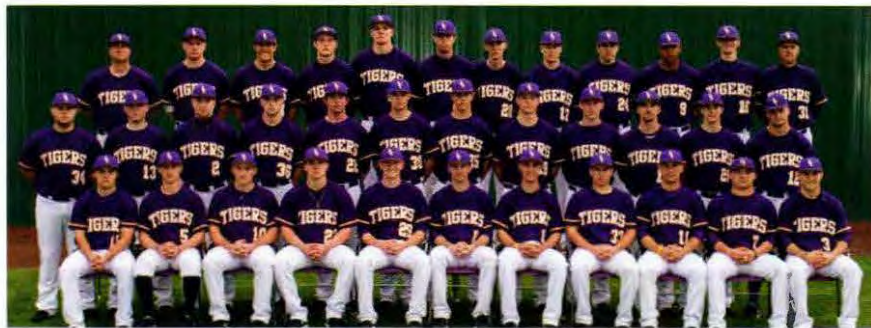


@willwallace9 It's a good day when you run-rule
Henderson 10-0! #OBUBaseball

Angelo State University	0-3,2-6,6-16,1-13 L,L,L,L
Tarleton State University	2-1,0-0,1-0 W,Tie,W
Southern Arkansas University	16-13 W
East Central University	6-1,19-16,5-7 W,W,L
Harding University	7-6 W
Southeastern Oklahoma	3-2,3-0,5-6 W,W,L
Southern Arkansas University	3-6,2-1,2-8 L,W,L
Arkansas Tech University	2-16 L
University of Ark. at Monticello	3-7,13-1,7-9 L,W,L
Henderson State	10-0 W
Northwestern Okla. State	3-6,7-6,0-3 L,W,L
Southwestern Okla. State	0-9,0-1,1-2 L,L,L
Okla. Christian University	10-5,2-1,2-0 W,W,W
Southern Nazarene University	5-1,3-2,3-9 W,W,L
University of Ark. at Monticello	2-4 L
Arkansas Tech University	13-10,1-2,5-0 W,L,W
Delta State University	3-4,4-5 L,L
Harding University	4-1,1-4,4-7 W,L,L
Henderson State	2-3,7-2,3-2 L,W,W

Season INreplay

front row: Blake Leisenring, Ducas Collins, Drew Feuerbacher, Jace Melby, Jacob May, Matt Balogh, Landon Flax, Weston Smith, Seth Childers, Tyler Faught, Parker Norris **second row:** Chris Tavares, Josh Reeves, Lucas Castleberry, Jon Michael Cunningham, Kyle Matusoff, Tryce Schalchlin, Craig Daniell, Will Wallace, Davis Ward, Landon Moore, Nick Crump, McCrae Jones **third row:** Head Coach Jeremy Haworth, Keegan Ghidotti, Sean Noland, Trey Hart, Joey Gammon, Ben Gielow, Hunter Lewis, Austin Watson, Josh Everett, Luis De Jesus, Assistant coach Ryan Westover, Assistant Coach Kyle Hope.



The Tigers' junior Davis Ward winds up to pitch in a early February game. Ward was unstoppable from the mound, finishing the year with a 9-3 record in 13 starts. He was named the GAC pitcher of the year.
photo by: Nici Starkey



Davis Ward

Davis Ward hails from Little Rock, Arkansas and has been a member of the Ouachita Baptist University baseball squad for three years. He has demonstrated leadership qualities on and off the field. Davis played a major role as our frontline pitcher this year. His success on the baseball diamond was noticed not only by his teammates, but opponents as well. Davis was selected as OBU's Most Outstanding Athlete of the Year and GAC Pitcher of the Year. He has just recently been named to the ABCA All-Central Region 1st Team and the NCBWA All-Central Region 2nd Team. He led the GAC in ERA (1.74) and also led in completed games pitched (10).
- Coach Jeremy Haworth

creating Standards

#Faith Ledbetter

Under the coaching of Jeremy Haworth, head coach for the second year at OBU, the Tigers began to prepare for their upcoming season of play, and for their competition in the Great American Conference. During the beginning of their busy season, the Tigers were told that they had been chosen to finish sixth out of the nine teams in the conference based on a poll voted on by all of the head coaches in the conference.

Davis Ward, a junior from Little Rock, AR, had a season filled with success and accolades. Ward was named the Great American Conference pitcher of the year. He was also a unanimous All-GAC First Team Selection. In addition, Ward was a semifinalist for the Titto Martinez award, which recognizes the top players in the nation for Division two athletics. Davis finished the year with a 9-3 record in 13 starts, including 10 complete game performances. He finished the year with an ERA of 1.74, the best among all GAC pitchers during the season. Ward believes his success will benefit the program as well.

“It was a great feeling to be recognized, and great for the program as well. We’re setting a

high standard for OBU baseball and creating a winning and confident attitude for upcoming seasons,” Ward said.

The season started with a tough weekend of the Tigers losing back-to-back double-headers to Angelo state. In the first game of “Wacky Saturday,” the two teams faced off in a 12-inning thriller that was capped off by a walk-off single for the Tigers, giving them a 2-1 win and their first win of the year.

During the first game of the conference season, the Tigers were able to complete nine innings of action as they recorded a 6-1 win in their first dose of Great American Conference action. Throughout the season the Tigers won against other teams, such as Tarleton State, SAU Magnolia, Northwestern Oklahoma, Oklahoma Christian, and ended their season with a bang during the Battle of the Ravine against Henderson State, including a 10-0 win over the Reddies on their own field.

“It’s always good to beat Henderson, especially on their home field in a dominating fashion. We have seen quite a bit of success against HSU this season, and hopes it continues in the future.” The Tigers ended

with a double-header sweep to close out the season.

The Tigers suffered a few upsetting losses including games against Arkansas Tech, SW Oklahoma State, Southern Nazarene, Arkansas-Monticello, and Harding University. These hard losses will give the team more motivation in the future to work harder towards their goal of winning a championship. The Tigers’ end of season record was 22-24-1 and their conference statistics were 15-16.

During the season, the Tiger baseball players practiced about six days a week. Something that often gets overlooked regarding student athletes was the amount of time and dedication they put into playing their sport. Overall, the average college athlete spends about 20 to 25 hours practicing and still has to maintain a good GPA in order to continue playing.

Ward weighed in on the future of the program. “I think us underperforming this year will help us focus even more next year. Everybody in the program understands that nothing but winning championships is acceptable, so I think that mindset will help us out next year,” Ward said, referring to the team’s record during this season.



photo by Nathan Dickard



photo by Bekah Hall



photo by Nic Starkey

Left: The Tigers shake hands before an early February match-up against Tarleton State. The Tigers won the game with an eighth-inning base hit from senior Duncan Collins, advancing junior Landon Moore over home for the lone score of the game.

Top Left: Senior Matt Balogh swings for the fences against Arkansas Tech. The Centennial, Colo., native recorded 13 stolen bases for the Tigers.

Top Right: Senior Landon Flax looks to tag out an Angelo State runner in a non-conference game in Feb. Flax totaled 61 putouts at the end of the season.