

Power play. Justin Gilbert (far right) drives down the lane against the College of the Ozarks. Gilbert scored on the play the Tigers went on to win 77-68.



Photo by Spencer Tury

At days end. Tom Ocken dresses after a meet in the Sturgis Physical Education Center. Ocken's season efforts helped the swim team capture second place in the AIC.

Up and over. Lori Kirkpatrick dinks the ball over an opponents head. All of the volleyball team's home games were played in the Sturgis Physical Education Center.



Whether it was
varsity
football or
intramurals,
students enjoyed
the competition of



Sports

For some there were throngs of people watching their every move. Others performed with only the flowers and the trees around. No matter what the sport was or who was watching, athletes spent hours of practice in each sport.



For triple jump star Lennox Adams, a trip to the NAIA championships was capped off by a first place finish.

However, for the basketball team, it was a dismal 10-23 record and a fifth place finish in the AIC.

Throughout the year, athletes put their best foot forward not only for them to have fun, but so the crowds could also have a good time.

Extra effort

An inexperienced football team pulled together through a season of disappointments

At first glance of their 3-5-1 season record, one might suspect that the Tigers had a poor team and an unsuccessful season. However, a record is not an accurate gauge of the success or failure of a season because a record can never truly tell the whole story. It can't say how that each loss was a battle to the finish that could have one either way. It can't point out the significance of each victory. "If you judged each season by your record," said the great football coach Vince Lombardi, "you'd be heart broken half your life."

OBU could very well name 1987 the season of heartbreaks with all but one of their five losses being decided by less than a touchdown and the other by only nine points. Two games were lost with less than a minute to play.

"We were just a young team with inexper-

ience players and that happens," said Tiger head coach Buddy Benson about the close losses. "Anytime you lose it's tough, though, but I thought the kids bounced back real well."

The Tigers opened their season against the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, an old foe with a new look. The former AIC team now turned independent suited up over 100 players only 10 of which played for UAPB in 1986. Under the direction of new coach Archie Cooley, nicknamed "The Gunslinger," the Golden Lions marched into Arkadelphia with grandiose predictions of dominance and full of confidence.

The Tigers handed the lions much more than they'd bargained for in the defensive battle, holding UAPB inside OBU's 20 yard line four times. But the tiring defensive stands wore out OBU's defensive

line and the 8-6 game-long score was broken with only 1:03 on the clock when the Lions made a 23 yard run to the endzone, making the final score 15-6.

After an open date, the Tigers traveled to Southeastern Oklahoma looking for their first taste of victory. What they got was the bitter-sweet taste of a 24-24 tie with the Savages. Brent Loganbill kicked the game tying field goal with only :02 seconds left on the clock after Dale Barnett and marched the Tigers all the way to the one yard line before running out of time.

After being turned away empty handed again, the Tigers had two weeks to prepare for the University of Monticello Bollweevils who were ranked eighth in the nation. OBU's determined spirit overcame event the powerful UAM offense as

(Continued on next page)



Members of the football team are: (front) Greg Johnson, Ryan Presley, Charles Roady, Brian McKethan, Lamar Trieschman, Nick Tyler, Eddie Halter, Anthony Shepherd, Jeff Morrow, Jeff Woddall, Jason Johnson, Andy Mills, (second) David O'Quinn, Jay Everett, Joe Boyles, Jay Hanlon, Jeff Devine, Darrin Mechling, Scotty Steed, Jon Miller, David Regan, Fitzgerald Fields, Butch Gray,

(third) Mark Herbert, Ronnie Reed, Greg Rucker, Jeff Hum, Morris Mayers, Charlie McLean, Bret Loganbill, Jeff Baker, Curtis Parker, Scott Spainhour, Jeff Sheeler, Scotty McCallister, (fourth) Mark Morris, Dale Barnett, Micheal Hannon, James Young, Larry Burkins, Robert Stroud, Craig Campbell, Michael Johnson, Andy Plagens, Louis Allen, Jimmy Johnson, (back) Trey Granier, Mark Haywood, Brian Harbison, Pat Cantrell, Greg Meadows, Gary Harbison





An added effort. Slot back Scotty Steed is tripped up at the 30 yard line by UAM players. The Tigers downed UAM 16-14.

Scoreboard

UAPB	6-15
SE Okla.	24-24
UAM	16-14
So. Ark.	7-13
UCA	7-14
Langston	35-8
Ark. Tech	32-38
Harding	10-17
Henderson	18-7

"No matter what our record was, the kids played hard..."

--Buddy Benson

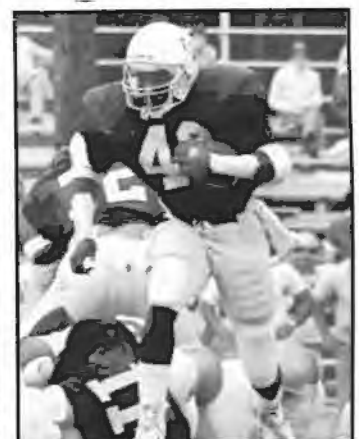


Photo by Spencer Turey



Break time. Members of the football team rest after an early practice. Players went through two-a-days before school began.

Eye to eye. Charles Roady returns an interception against Henderson State. Roady was a strong safety.



Breaking through. Fitzgerald Fields breaks through the line for a yardage gain. Fields was a tailback from Monroe, LA.

The fix-it man, Mike Johnson tapes up a player's elbow. Johnson was the manager of the Tigers.

He just won't fall, Brent Loganbill pulls along four Southern Arkansas players. Despite Loganbill's efforts, the Tigers lost the game 7-13.



Photo by Spencer Long



Photo by Spencer Long

Post-game cheers. Charlie McLean, Brent Loganbill, Scotty Steed, Morris Myers, Mark Morris, Andy Plagens and Scott Spainhour celebrate the win again Henderson State.

EXTRA EFFORT (continued from page 138)

the Tigers knocked off the Boll-weevils 16-14.

OBU travelled to Magnolia looking for their second win against Southern Arkansas University Muleriders. OBU failed to convert twice inside the SAU 20 yard line and the Muleriders came away with a 14-7 win.

Following another open date, OBU prepared to meet the defending AIC and NAIA champion University of Central Arkansas Bears. In a cold and rainy affair, UCA celebrated their homecoming by squeaking by the Tigers 14-7.

The Tigers went to their third away game in a row badly needing a win on the road. The frustrated Tigers took it out on Langston OK and pounded them 35-8.

returned home the next week and hosted the Arkansas Tech Wonderboys, the leagues last place team. After a see-saw battle all afternoon, the Tigers found themselves trailing Tech by a touchdown, 24-31, with only 6:33 left in the fourth quarter. The Tigers then put together a 70 yard, six play drive that ended when Dale Barnett scampers 13 yards to the endzone. Needing a win, OBU opted to go for two and they got it as Barnett nailed Anthony Shepherd with a pass in the endzone making the score 32-31 with only 22 seconds on the clock.

A Tiger win looked promising until Wonderboy Danny Spencer took OBU's kickoff from the seven yard line and returned it 93 yards to the endzone. The 32-38 loss gave the Tigers a

After another disappointing loss, this time to the Harding Bisons, the Tigers put all of the season behind them and prepared for the one game that mattered most—the Battle of the Ravine against archrival Henderson State.

The Reddies were looking for a win to receive a possible bid to the post-season playoffs but OBU was looking for blood and a chance to redeem themselves from a poor season. The underdog Tigers whipped the Riddies 18-7 and claimed the Battle of the Ravine trophy for the sixth time this decade.

Coach Benson said, "No matter what our record was, the kids played hard and to the best of their abilities. That's all I can ask of them, no more, no





Photo by Mike [unreadable]



Locking Morris. Gary Harbison ties up with his Henderson opposition during the homecoming game. OBU upset HSU 18-7.

Mark Morris: defensively sound

Mark

Morris, a 5-11, 200 pound linebacker for OBU led the Tigers on the defensive side of the ball in a big way all season. For his efforts Morris was named NAIA District 17 player-of-the-week for his performance



■ Morris

again at the UofA at Pine Bluff and was unanimous-

ly selected for the All-Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference team. Morris was also selected for the honor in 1986

"Mark is one of the finest linebackers we've ever had at OBU and was a real athlete and team leader," said head coach Buddy Benson.

Morris led OBU in solo tackles with 81, assists with 37, and overall tackles with 118.--By Lon Vining

Celebration. Mark Morris, Anthony Shepherd and Jimmy Johnson are handed the "Battle of the Ravine" trophy from Wesley Kluck after defeating cross-street rival Henderson State.

A always a first time

The Tigrette volleyball team experienced a season full of firsts including playing the second-ranked team in the nation

WITH a string of "first evers," the Tigettes showed that they were more than just state contenders. They reached new heights as they realized the potential they had for the season.

Entering the season as conference champions was a first. Coach Tona Wright was named coach of the year. That was another first. Although unable to recapture the title, the team won the district title for the first time.

After winning the district title, the women's volleyball team went on to

Bi-District, yet another first for the aspiring group. At Bi-District they fell to Missouri Western, the number two ranked team in the nation. "I knew in my heart that we were as good if not better than the team we were playing, but I could not convince my team to get over that fear of playing the second ranked team in the nation," said Coach Wright.

Missouri Western recognized the Tigettes' talent and invited them to a top twenty tournament the following October to face off against the top

teams in the country.

Ouachita finished third in the conference behind Arkansas Tech and Southern Arkansas University. They had a conference record of 11-4 and an overall record of 24-8.

Several players received individual honors. Lisa Edwards, Jean Burns, and Carissa Ross were named All-AIC and All-NAIA. It was the first time Ouachita players had been named All-NAIA.

In spite of the winning record, Coach Wright recruited on attitude rather than on skill. She insisted

that academics be more important than volleyball and that a player's personal growth come before winning games. "We're not just here to win games," she said. "We're here to help that person become the best that she can be."

Her players agreed and were quick to express their respect for Coach Wright. "I have more respect for Coach Wright than any coach I've ever been under," said senior Shelly Mars. "I feel she cares more for her players as people. She brings out the best in all of us." —by Steven Kirk



Volleyball team members are: (front) Asst. Coach Ed Garza, Asst. Coach Lorie Krikpatrick, Belinda Burnett, Tanya Ross, Leslie Molton, Lisa Edwards, Coach Tona Wright, (back) Carissa Ross, Rhonda Fiser, Shelley Mars, Jean Burns, Kim Herndon, Lisa Farquhar, and Barbara Adkins.

Power smash. Hitter Jean Burns spikes a return during a game at the OBU gym. Jean was one of three Ouachita players named to the All-AIC team.



photo by Spencer Tirey

High ten. Leslie Molton celebrates with a teammate after a score. Leslie helped the volleyball team finish third place in the



Photo by Spencer Tiers

Scoreboard

	Games
Wylie	2-0
Mary-Hardin	1-2
Centenary	2-0
Central Ark.	2-0
Tx. Luth.	2-0
Mary-Hardin	0-2
East Texas	2-0
Pine Bluff	3-1
So. Arkansas	2-2
East Texas	2-0
Central St.	2-0
Ok. Baptist	2-0
Mary-Hardin	2-1
So. Nazarene	2-0
St. Edwards	1-2
Harding	3-0
Central Ark.	3-1
Henderson	3-2
Ark. Tech	1-3
Hendrix	3-1
Central Ark.	3-0
John Brown	3-1
Pine Bluff	3-0
Henderson	3-1
Ark. Tech	2-3
Hendrix	2-0
Central Ark.	2-0
Ark. Tech	2-1
Harding	0-2
So. Arkansas	1-3
Harding	3-0
Hendrix	3-0

"We're here to help people become the best that they can be."

--Tona Wright



SPORTS

extra

..... *Just for fun*

After a long day of classes and work, students found that extracurricular activities helped them survive their rigorous schedules.

Activities such as Wiffle Ball and Frisbee were played on campus but many students decided to go to nearby Lake DeGray and go fishing, sailing or skiing.

"Sometimes it just helped me to spend a few hours at the lake by myself," said Ellen Childress. "No matter what I was doing, that time away from school helped me collect my thought and make it through another day."

Whether you were by yourself or with a group of friends, a few hours participating in some kind of extracurricular activity seemed to give students a second wind and help them make it through the week.





Photo by Spencer Turey

The big one. Mike Thomas reels in a big catch. Thomas was one of several students who took advantage of Lake DeGray's good fishing spots.



Contributing photo by Leigh Bass



Photo by Spencer Turey

Bird's eye view. Swimming coach Jim Dann and students Rob Sills and Charlie Hankins spend an afternoon sailing on Lake DeGray.

Big cut. With Lake DeGray only five miles away students found the perfect place to go to get away from campus.

SPORTS

extra





We started playing in early spring because we were looking for something to kill time after supper...

--Terry Jerry



Photo by Christopher English

Batter up. Scott Snider waits for the ball to arrive from pitcher Terry Jerry. Several students gathered each night to play Wiffle ball.

Wiffle Ball

It was 6 p.m. and everyone began pouring out of the cafeteria. It was too early to begin studying so a group made their way through the plaza to the playing field where they began their nightly game of Wiffle Ball.

The open patch of land next to Lile Hall served as the playing field until the sun went down.

"We had to have some way to procrastinate studying," said Terry Jerry. "We started playing in early spring because we were looking for something to kill time after supper until it got dark enough to start studying."


Many played to kill time and others played for the fellowship with friends. Whatever the reason, the beaten paths of the Wiffle Ball "diamond" saw a lot of action at the close of each day.

SPORTS

extra

Fishing

With one of Arkansas' premiere lakes just five miles away, students found many ways to relax at Lake DeGray. One of those was fishing.

Students could put their  boats in the water at Iron Mountain or at one of the nearby landings and spend a lazy afternoon or early Saturday morning trolling in and out coves or fishing the main channel.

"As in any sport as well as fishing you must have endurance, dedication, skill and a strong sense of competitiveness to be successful," said tournament fisherman Mike Thomas.

Why would anyone spend hours riding around in a boat waiting for a nibble? Thomas said, "The only way a person can stay out there is the hope that in the next minute he'll catch the largest fish he'll ever catch."





You must have endurance, dedication, skill and a strong sense of competitiveness to be a successful fisherman.

--Mike Thomas



Contributing photo by Leigh Bass



Contributing photo by Leigh Bass

Patience. Fishing often tested the patience of those who participated in the sport. Lake DeGray was a popular place for students to go fishing.



Big catch. Leigh Bass and Mike Thomas show off their string of fish they caught on Lake DeGray.

The big one. Mike Thomas reels in a catch. Thomas fished many tournaments around the state.

SPORTS

extra



Photo by Spencer Lacey

H.....
Hold on. John Knaus picks up speed as he crosses the wake. Many students enjoyed skiing on Lake DeGray.

S.....
Super sprayer. Carrie Cowling makes a cut back toward the wake. Carrie was a junior from Arkadelphia.





DeGray was the perfect place to go to get out of the dorm and off campus for a while.

—Carrie Cowling



SKING

A boat, skis, and a free afternoon were all you needed to heed the call of nearby Lake DeGray. Student found the glass-like waters a refreshing alternative to work or study.

"DeGray was the perfect place to go to get out of the dorm and off campus," said junior Carrie Cowling. "A bunch of us tried to go skiing a lot during the spring. We tried to stay late enough to miss supper that way we had an excuse to go out to eat."

For those students who couldn't bring boats to school, the Iron Mountain Marina and the Clark County Marina, both located on the lake, did rent ski boats for the day. A group of friends could pitch in and rent a boat for \$165 per day.

SPORTS

extra

Skateboarding

In a flash they had zipped by you. They weaved in and out of the people that were strolling along the crowded sidewalks that crisscrossed the campus. It was a beautiful spring day and the skateboarders were out in full force.

"You could learn something different each time you went out," said Derek Randle. "That is the one thing I really liked about skating."

Derek said he started skateboarding in high school after he quit football and some other high school sports because he got bored with them. "Skating offered me more of a challenge not only through fear but through trying to do difficult maneuvers as well," he said.

Whether you enjoyed trying to attempt difficult maneuvers or just being a spectator, skateboarding was an out that could also give you a thrill.





Skating offered me more of a challenge not only through fear but through trying to do difficult maneuvers.

—Derek Randle



Photo by Spencer Tiley



Photo by Bob Ocken

D.....
Down the stretch. Some students found that the paved area around Lake DeGray was the perfect place to skateboard. DeGray was five miles away from the campus.

W.....
ild ride. Derek Randle uses the empty swimming pool at OBU's Starlight Apartments to practice. Derek said he had been skateboarding since he was 15.

SPORTS

extra



Photo by Spencer Tovey

High snag. Robin Butler catches a high toss from a friend. Robin was a sophomore from Arkadelphia.

Pactice catch. Jeannie Ross practices catching in the plaza. Jeannie said she was practicing before they went on their trip to Fort Walton Beach, Florida during spring break.





We played when we didn't have to study or when we didn't want to.

—Robin Butler

Photo by Spencer Tiney



Frisbee

They were almost as numerous as the squirrels and just as dangerous. A walk across the plaza wasn't as safe as it used to be. Everyone had to be on the lookout for the Frisbee golfers.

Teams would divide up and throw the plastic disks to "holes" such as the benches in front of Mabee Fine Arts building or Evans Student Center, the veterans memorial, or a tree. Teams would keep totals of how many throws it took the team to make it to the hole and the lowest score would win.

Some people created new games with the disks such as "Frisbee football". Others found the throwing about the disks a relaxing way to spend free time. "We usually played on the weekend just for fun," said sophomore Robin Butler. "We played when we didn't have to study or didn't want to."

SPORTS

extra

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The clanging of iron crashing against iron echoed off the concrete walls of the weight-room. Athletes representing all sports gathered in the "free-weight" room to lift in order to better prepare their bodies for competition.

"I lifted every day after basketball practice," said Matt Stewart. "I did it mainly to lose some weight and get some extra conditioning."

There were two weightrooms on campus and both were located in the Sturgis Physical Education Center. The hydrolic weights were open to all students and people with gym passes. The "free-weight" room was open only to athletes.

Athletes were those people most often found utilizing the weightlifting facilities. However, other students found weight-lifting a great way to get stronger and stay in shape.





I lifted weights mainly to lose weight and get in some extra conditioning.

--Matt Stewart



Photo by Bob Ocken



Photo by Bob Ocken

D.....
aily routine. Matt Stewart lifts after basketball practice. Matt included weightlifting as part of his daily activities.

U.....
p she goes. Robert Banks takes advantage of the weightlifting facilities in the Sturgis Physical Education Center. Robert was a member of the track team.

SPORTS

extra



Photo by Spencer Tirney

H.....
Hold on. Steve Ozmon and swimming coach Jim Dann spend an afternoon sailing. Ozmon was a member of the swim team.





Sailing was a nice way to get away from everything at school.

--Charlie Hankins



Photo by Spencer Terry

Sailing

It was a peaceful scene. A sailboat gently gliding across the waters of Lake DeGray. "It was the perfect getaway," said senior Charlie Hankins. "Sailing was a nice way to get away from everything at school."

Catamaran sailboats could be rented from the DeGray State Park Marina for \$20 per half day during the spring. Charlie said he and some of his friends had taken advantage of the low price and rented sailboats before.

Sailing wasn't always easy, however. Charlie told of one day when he and his friends rented a catamaran and while sailing, the wind changed directions and they "grounded" at the State Park Lodge. He said they had to call a friend to help tow them back to the waters.

It might not have always been easy, but sailing's peaceful scenes helped some students survive the pressured life of a student.

The high seas? Former student Rob Sills joins swimming coach Jim Dann and student Charlie Hankins on Lake DeGray.

Scoreboard

OBU Invit.	1st
HSU Invit.	1st
NELA Invit.	4th
OBU relays	1st
Austin Co. Inv.	1st
UAM Invit.	2nd
AIC	1st



Both
Rodgers
Gains and
Lennox
Adams
were
named
NAIA All-
Americans



Members of the track team are: (front) Brain Harbison, Gary Harbison, Lennox Adams, Kevin Coleman, Tony Stewart, Jon Guydon, Brett Franks, Breck Lowe, (middle) Kevin Clark, Robbie Simmons, Barry Maroney, Glen Hudnall, Pat Ponder, Rodgers Gaines, Brent Merrifield, Tony Thompson, (back) head coach Bob Gravett, Mark Neese, Tim Warthan, Jason Stevenson, Gary Wade, Garth Hill, Mike McCarther, and Robert Banks.



Photo by Bob Ocken

Handoff. Rodgers Gaines passes the baton in practicing for the relay events. The 1,600 meter relay team finished fourth and the 400 meter team finished sixth in the championship meet.



championship meet. Mike placed first in the 100 meter hurdles with a time of 14.82.



Photo by Bob Ocken

Planning session. Mike McCarther looks over a time sheet with head coach Bob Gravett. McCarther placed in the triple jump and the 100 meter hurdles in the championship meet.

Consistent victors

By dominating the long jump and winning in other key events, the track team captured their ninth AIC Track and Field championship

Battling back from a near cancellation of the program the previous year, the track team proved its worth by capturing the AIC Outdoor Track and Field Championship and by having two team members take NAIA All-American honors.

In the one meet that decided who would be champions of the Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference, the Tigers totaled 146 points in the competition to take top honors. They were followed by the Central Arkansas with 119 points. This title was head coach Bob Gravett's marked the ninth top finish in the past 19 years.

Ouachita dominated the triple jump, winning four of the top five spots. All-American Lennox Adams won the event with a jump of 49' 1 1/2". Rodgers Gaines earned second with a jump of 47' 8 3/4". Mike

McCarther was third with a jump of 47' 1/4", and Robert Banks was fifth with a jump of 46' 13/4".

McCarther also took top honors in the 100 meter high hurdles with a time of 14.82 and Mark Neese was second with a time of 14.93. In the 1,500 meter run, Gary Wade finished first with a time of 3:54.52, and Barry Maroney was fourth with a time of 3:57.7.

Ouachita also captured first place in the pole vault with a 15'6" vault by Tim Warthan. Bret Franks placed fifth with a vault of 15'0". Three Tiger athletes placed in the 5,000 meter run with Pat Ponder placing first with a time of 15:06.29. Wade finished third with a time of 15:23.02, and Robbie Simmons was fifth with a time of 15:27.86.

In other track events, Tony Stewart

placed sixth in the 400 meters with a time of 48.53, Gaines was fourth in the 100 meter run with a time of 10.98, and Jon Guydon was sixth in the 800 meter run with a time of 1:58.24. In the 400 intermediate hurdles, three OBU athletes captured winning positions. Kevin Cark finished second at 53.76, Neese was fifth at 55.42, and Garth Hill was sixth with a time of 56.05. In the 10K run, Ponder finished second with a time of 31:49.8, Simmons was third at 32:40.4, and Todd Thompson was fourth at 33:01.6.

In the relay events, the 1,600 meter relay team placed fourth with a time of 3:17.14, and the 400 meter relay team finished sixth with a time of 2:59.

In other field events, Morris Mayers placed fifth in the discus with a throw of 135'9", Gaines placed second and

Banks fourth in the long jump with jumps of 24'7" and 23'2 3/4" respectively, and Therman Jackson placed fourth in the high jump at 6'6".

Because of their successful efforts in the AIC meet, Lennox Adams, Rodgers Gaines, and Tim Warthan advanced to the NAIA meet held at Azusa Pacific University. Adams jumped a personal best 50'1" to win the triple jump at the meet. In the two years he has competed at OBU, Adams has never lost in the event. He is also the 1987 and 1988 Indoor Champion in the triple jump.

Gaines placed third in the long jump and both he and Adams were named NAIA All-Americans. Adams, Gaines, and Warthan combined to give OBU a 17th place finish out of over 100 teams competing at the national meet.—News Bureau



Photos by Spencer Tracy

Last leg. Freshman Glenn Hudnall uses a strong finish to help him place in the event. Glenn earned All-AIC honors for his efforts.

Making a pass. Barry Maroney attempts to go around a Harding runner. Barry placed fourth in the AIC meet.



Near the top

The cross country team finished in third place with three runners earning honors

At times, the path was quiet, serene, with birds singing and the sun shining brightly. At times, the path was rough and rugged with flies in your face and sweat on your brow. The destination was as far as Lake DeGray and back, or perhaps around the charted course in the OBU fields.

It was the path of a cross country runner.

The members of the

cross country team spent hours clocking miles to Caddo Valley and laps through the cross country course. Training was essential for the distance runners.

And the training paid off. Ouachita finished third in a field of nine teams. Harding captured the Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference championship, with the University of Central

Arkansas placing second, just two points ahead of OBU.

The top ten finishers in the AIC race received the All-AIC honors and three OBU runners were among the list. Freshman Barry Maroney placed fourth, freshman Glenn Hudnall placed ninth, and senior Robbie Simmons placed tenth to receive conference recognition.



Photo by Spencer Tney

Photo by Thomas Copeland

Helping hand. Marc Spencer and Brent Merrifield hold each other up after the race. Marc's and Brent's efforts helped the cross country team place third in the AIC.

Scoreboard	
AIC	3rd
NAIA	3rd

Scoreboard

NELA	50-63
Hendrix	81-32
Hendrix Relays	3rd
Henderson	116-101
TCU Invit.	5th
Hendrix	78-35
Austin	89-24
Harding	59-40
Henderson	59-54
AIC	2nd
NAIA	10th



Several Tiger Shark swimmers received All-AIC and All-American honors

Perfect form. Diver Greg Freeman breaks the record he set in the 3 meter competition last year. Freeman scored 485 in the event at the AIC championship meet.

Up for air. Chantel Myers swims the butterfly in the 400 IM. Chantel was one of six girls on the swim team.



Bouncing back

After suffering a disappointing loss to Henderson in the AIC meet, the Tiger Sharks returned with a top 10 NAIA finish

FOLLOWING a heartbreaking AIC championship loss to the Henderson Red Wave, the Tiger Sharks wasted no time in bouncing back with a top ten finish at the NAIA Nationals.

A disqualification in the 400 medley relay cost OBU the conference title. But, the disappointing final outcome did not blemish the individual performances of several team members. Keith Sangalli set a record in the 200 yd. freestyle at 1:45.33. Greg Freeman broke the record he set in the 3 meter

diving competition last year with a point total of 485.00. Senior Spencer Tirey's 1:00.63 time in the 100yd breaststroke earned him a first place finish in the event for the second year. Tirey holds the standing AIC championship record in both the 100 and 200 yd. breaststroke.

Derek Swenson contributed two second place finishes in the 100 and 200 yd. backstroke. Other second place finishers were: Danny Carter; 50 yd. freestyle; Andy Allison; 500 yd freestyle; and Doug Barlow; 100 yd.

butterfly.

The Tiger Sharks finished their season on a high note at the Nationals in Orlando, Florida. OBU broke three team records on its way to the top ten finish.

The 400 yd. freestyle relay team broke the Ouachita record with a time of 3:11.70, Sangalli broke the school record in the 100 yd. freestyle, and the 800 yd freestyle relay team set a Tiger Shark record.

Other top finishes at the National meet were: Tirey, fifth place in the 100

yd. eighth place in the 100 yd.; Andy Allison, thirteenth place in the 500 yd freestyle, 400 yd medley relay, ninth place; Greg Freeman, fifth place in one meter diving.

Several Tiger Shark swimmers received All-AIC and All-American honors during the season. Two top award winners were Spencer Tirey, who received the Bob Lambert Memorial Award as the Outstanding Male Athlete at OBU; and Andy Allison, who received Academic All-American honors for scholastic achievement.



Photo by Spencer Tirey



Photo by Spencer Tirey

Pre-meet ritual. Steve Ozmon shaves before competing in the AIC championship meet. Steve's efforts during the year helped the team place second in the AIC.

Congratulations. Keith Sangalli shakes hands with a Henderson State swimmer after taking top honors in the 200 freestyle in the AIC conference meet. Andy Allison placed third in the event and Mark Baggett placed sixth.

Scoreboard

Ozarks	3-1
Central Ark.	6-1
Univ. of Ark.	0-7
Hendrix	1-4
Ozarks	3-0
Harding	1-2
Central Ark.	3-1
Univ. of Ark.	1-3
Ozarks	3-0
Hendrix	0-0
Harding	1-8
Westside	3-7
Hendrix	5-3
United	4-4
Harding	4-5
United Soccer	2-0
Harding	1-6
Central Ark.	2-0
Hendrix	3-4
Central Ark.	2-1



"One thing I've always noticed about Ouachita is that they always have more spirit."
 --Robert Pinkston



Photo by Thomas Copeland

Scoring attempt. Scott Corder tries to score on Kelly Shiflett. Kelly was the senior goalie of the scooper team.



High hopes and positive attitudes made an otherwise mediocre season a success and established a basis for future seasons

WHEN the fall season opened for the soccer team, expectations ran as high as spirits. Talented new freshmen and transfers, together with returning players, provided the basis for a good solid team. They had the conference championship in their sights.

Aspirations were further boosted when they dealt consecutive defeats to the University of the Ozarks and the University of Central Arkansas, 6-1 and 4-1, respectively. But high hopes were not enough to get past the University of Arkansas goalie as the defending champions shut out Ouachita, 7-0, in Fayetteville. Chances of winning the conference title were also hampered by losses to Hendrix College, 4-

1, and Harding University, 2-1.

Despite the disappointing losses, The Tigers still maintained a buoyant spirit according to team captain Robert Pinkston. "When you play a team like UA or Harding man-on-man, the other team is better," Pinkston said, "But the thing I've always noticed about Ouachita is that we have more spirit. We don't let the fact that other teams have better players get us down because we play as a team and try to overcome that through teamwork."

The spring season brought morning practices, new players and a new way to play soccer. Joining the team at the 6:00 practices was sophomore Kiki

Schleiff, the first and only female player on the team. Kiki said she came to some of the practices and started playing for fun when they asked her to join the team. "I love to play soccer, and I was really impressed by the people on the team," Kiki said. "It looked like a lot of fun."

The state's first indoor soccer tournament was hosted by Ouachita in the SPEC building. Indoor soccer was different in that the playing field and goal were much smaller; there were 6 instead of 11 players; the ball never went out of bounds, being in play constantly; the score was generally much higher, and the games were much more tiring.

Because Arkansas

State University cancelled the night before the tournament, Ouachita was forced to create two teams out of its one to fill the brackets. This act proved to be a death blow to the Tigers. Neither of the teams had enough backups to relieve the exhausted players, and as a result, both lost games they could have won as a whole.

Ouachita finished fourth in the tournament and third in the conference with a record of 4-6-1. Despite being in the middle of the pack, everyone felt good about the season. "We lost some games, and we won some games. We've played our best even if we didn't win the conference," Pinkston said. *—by Steven Kirk*



Head shot. Ali Basoon tries to work around a defender. Ali was a senior member of the squad.

Members of the soccer team are: (front) Mike Perkins, Mario Barbosa, Naccaman Williams, Monty Freel, Lewis South, Leigh Bass, Phil West, (back row) Lennox Adams, Scott Corder, Eddie Gray, Terry Sergeant, Kelly Shiflett, Clarke Cagle, Charlie Lechner, Eric Reddish, David Hardister, and Robert Pinkston.

To come of age

Beginning with a young team and ending the season with an even younger one gave the basketball team opportunities to grow

After battling through most of their rocky and contravention season in which, among other things, three vital starters were lost from an already young and inexperienced squad, the battered Tigers pulled together and defeated crosstown rival Henderson State and top-ranked Ozarks in their final two home games. The two emotional wins by the never-die-easy Tigers seemed to rectify an otherwise disappointing and emotionally exhausting season.

When you combine the Tigers successful end-of-the-line stand with their conference leading 4-1 start in the AIC race, the season was pretty good. That is, if you can forget the tough times in between.

OBU began the season with two losses on the road—an 47-84 blowout at the hands of Dallas Baptist and a narrow two point loss to East Texas Baptist, 66-68.

The Tigers got their first-of-the-season kinks worked out and went on a five game rampage. Along the way, they defeated Baptist Christian twice, handed payback defeats to Dallas Baptist and ETBU and defeated Arkansas

Tech.

The losses to taught competition didn't deter the Tigers as they opened the spring season with three wins out of four AIC games. The only blemish to OBU's conference record was a 63-79 loss to number one ranked Southern Arkansas University, but the three wins boosted the Tigers into first place in the conference with a 4-1 record.

Tiger mentor Bill Vining, who has coach OBU for more than a third of this century, was pleased with his team's number one standing, but experience has taught him not to become overly enthusiastic at that point of the season. "It feels great to be number one, of course, but it was much too early to get excited yet," he said. "Too many things can change or go wrong during a season." Vining's cautious words proved to be correct.

OBU immediately lost it's next two games but more importantly, factors outside of basketball rocked the OBU boat. Two starters, Greg Wilson and Tony Orr were removed from the team for rules infractions. Equally important was the suspension of fireplug pointguard Terry

Wesley, who was the team's floor leader and leading scorer. The three combined were responsible for over half of OBU's scoring and rebounding.

Instantly a young team had become younger in a league where veteran squads were predominant. "Sometimes there are certain events that take place on athletic teams that you wish didn't have to occur, such as disciplinary action. As a result we had a lot of rebuilding to do from then on," said Vining. "We had, in essence, yet another opportunity that we had to come of age."

All of a sudden freshmen and reserve players were called upon to fill in the gaps of the missing starters, and the remaining starters were called on to do even more.

In their first game, the "new" Tiger squad faced Hendrix after spending little practice time together. The young Bengals scraped and played above their heads, each knowing that they much give full effort to even stay close to the Warriors. When the buzzer sounded, the Tigers had won a miracle game, 79-65. "It was one of those strange

games when everyone knew what they had to do and they did it—everything went right," said Vining.

But even with efforts, the next seven games say the Tigers fall victim to their veteran predecessors each time. Better days arrived, however, when the Tigers snapped their seven game losing streak against the team they had rather defeat than any other team—Henderson. It took freshman Matt Stewart's final-second freethrows to send the game into overtime where the Tigers nipped HSU 71-70.

The Tigers fell to Hendrix 72-77 at the next game but bounced back to downs number two ranked Ozarks 77-68 and win a trip to NAIA District 17 Tournament. OBU ended the season with a loss to number one ranked Arkansas Tech.

"To finish the AIC race with a win against the second place team and qualify for the tournament too, I thought was an outstanding accomplishment for the club, especially under the circumstances," said Vining. "I think, for the second time, they did come of age."—By Lon Vining

Up in arms, Greg Wilson and Bobby Stastny loose the battle for the rebound to Arkansas Tech. The Tigers won the first confrontation with the Wonderboys 74-57 but lost the second game to them 68-85.



Rebound. Tony Orr fights for the rebound against Arkansas Tech. Orr was the Tiger's top rebounder before he was lost for the season.

Scoreboard

Dallas Bap.	47-84
East Texas	66-68
Bap. Christ.	73-60
Bap. Christ.	96-73
Dallas Bap.	73-62
Ark. Tech	74-57
East Texas	58-50
Eau Claire	47-66
St. Mary's	58-68
Ark. College	67-57
Southern Ark.	63-76
UCA	67-63
Harding	88-74
UAM	47-48
Henderson	65-79
Hendrix	65-79
Ozarks	52-65
Ark. Tech.	68-85
Ark College	47-49
Southern Ark.	61-80
UCA	40-64
Harding	65-69
UAM	57-62
Henderson	71-70
Hendrix	72-77
Ozarks	77-68
Ark. Tech.	96-73

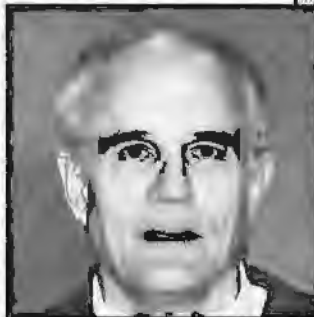


Photo by Mike Timmons

Photo by Spencer Tracy

Vining joins elite group

All coaches have dreamed of setting some sort of record. Bill Vining, OBU's head men's basketball coach, accomplished his goal. He was listed 10th in the nation, entering the '87-'88 season for being one of the winningest, active men's university head coaches.



■ Bill Vining

Vining had achieved a total of 538 victories in 32 seasons at the helm of the Tiger basketball program.

Kyle Hensley was OBU's leading scorer averaging 13.4 points per game



Out of reach. Sam Ferguson lunges from the rebound against HSU. Henderson won the game 79-65.

Growing up

The women's basketball team battled a tough AIC schedule with young players

Good things can come from a 3-17 season. The Tigerettes placed last in the Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference, but despite their poor showing, the season did have some positive notes.

"We knew when we started the season that we were going to be young," said head coach Virginia Honnell. "We had six freshmen on the team who were talented, but they just didn't have the strength and leadership of upperclassmen. We gained a lot of experience but we just weren't strong enough to hold with the amount of competition in the AIC. I guess you would call this a rebuilding year."

Honnell called upon the leadership of one senior on the squad, Gari

Mills. "Gari did a good job showing leadership. She showed the freshmen how they were supposed to be an example." One freshman that proved to be a strength to the team was Margaret Smith. Smith was named honorable mention to the All-AIC women's basketball team. She was also eighth in the AIC in rebounding grabbing 142 in an 18 game span. "Margaret is an explosive player and being named honorable mention was a good honor for her since she was just a freshman this year," said Honnell.

It was a time for growth for a young Tigerette squad. Without the needed senior leadership, the freshmen had to learn on their own what is normally handed down to

them from the upperclassmen. "We learned a lot this year. We really grew up. The freshmen didn't have the benefit of having upperclassmen to learn from so they had to learn from experience," said Honnell.

Honnell expected the experience gained from the season will strengthen the squad. "We're going to be a lot more competitive next year because we have a couple of junior college players coming in and we will have the same gals back for another year."

Honnell reflected on what freshman Rhonda Eddington said at the end of the season. She said, "This has been a good year. We didn't win much but there were so many things that we did learn."—
Mitch Bettis

Pep talk. Head coach Virginia Honnell talks with the team during a time out at Sturis Physical Education Center.



Photo by Bob Ocken

Up for two. Junior Angela Nation fights off a defender during an in-person practice.



Scoreboard

East Texas	56-79
Ark. Baptist	66-68
Ark. Tech	58-88
Okla. City	56-83
East Texas	88-80
Ark. College	75-64
So. Ark.	79-93
UCA	43-72
Harding	70-78
UAM	74-108
Henderson	70-84
Ozarks	66-99
Ark. Tech	56-86
Ark. College	57-73
So. Ark.	68-82
UCA	54-86
Harding	56-58
UAM	71-105
Henderson	91-99
Ozarks	56-54

"This has been a good year. We didn't win much but there were so many things that we did learn."



Members of the women's basketball team are: Suzanne Lively, Jennifer Arnold, Rhonda Eddington, Yolanda Summons, Margaret Smith, (back) coach Virginia Honnell, Darrell Ross, Angela Burch, Mona Aldridge, Angela Nation, Tina McClain, Beth Blakley, Cheryl Wasbrikoff, Gari Mills, Jenny Frazier, and Jackie Stockard

Scoreboard

Henderson	2-14
Ark. Tech	3-12
Ark. Tech	4-1
UALR	4-7
SW LA.	3-12
SW LA.	4-19
SW LA.	3-12
SW LA.	10-12
UAM	4-5
UAM	10-0
SAU	1-6
SAU	4-11
Harding	4-16
Harding	7-8
Henderson	4-3
Henderson	2-7
UCA	9-8
UCA	6-13
UAM	7-0
UAM	6-5
LA Tech	2-14
LA Tech	5-9
Ark. Tech	4-3
Ark. Tech	5-11
UCA	7-6
UCA	12-16
Henderson	2-7
Henderson	3-4
UALR	1-10
Harding	2-1
Harding	0-4
SAU	2-12
SAU	0-1



J.D. Turner had a batting average of .360 and led the team in every offensive category



Season of the Tiger

Even with talented players and the FCA coach of the year, the baseball team wasn't able to pull off a tournament berth

DESPITE a 9-24 season, the Tiger baseball team certainly had its moments of hope and glory throughout the year. The final games of the season were crucial in determining the top four teams that would make the tournament bracket. And, as luck would have it, ravine rival Henderson State University finished fourth and Ouachita, fifth.

But being out of the tournament did not result in

a season without winning moments. On March 30, OBU entertained the Reddies. In the first game, senior catcher Boyd Ross blasted a solo home run in the sixth inning to give the Tigers a 9-8 win. It not only meant a win over the Reddies, but it was the first time in five years the Tigers had defeated Henderson. Sophomore pitcher Kyle Ratliff pitched the entire game and surrendered only four hits. It was

a long-awaited win for the senior players.

And there were individual winners as well. J.D. Turner, the Rab Rogers Outstanding Baseball Player of the Year, batted .360 and led the team in every offensive category. Ratliff was the only player to get named to the All-AIC team, while Turner and David Bennett received honorable mention. And the Tigers were well represented at the All-AIC

Game in April. Tiger baseball coach Van Barrett was named coach of the South team, and OBU players selected for the game were Boyd Ross, Ratliff, Bennett, Turner, and Jason Harris.

Barrett also received a state award from the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. At the annual high school FCA convention, Barrett was named the FCA's Arkansas Christian Coach of the Year.



Photo by Mike Thomas

Practice toss. Dewayne Garves warms up on the practice mound before a game. Dewayne was a senior member of the squad.



Photo by Mike Thomas

Eyeing the plate. Lex Mickle delivers a pitch during practice. Lex was a junior from Fort Smith.

Squeeze play. Catcher Boyd Ross tries to tag out a Henderson State player as he steals home. The HSU player was safe on the play and Henderson went on to split the double-header.

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No way out

The golf team became trapped in the middle of the pack and couldn't move closer to the top

With Henderson state winning each round of AIC play, the Reddies were tough to deal with during the golf season, but Ouachita was able to stay in the middle of the AIC race, finishing fifth out of nine teams.

Sophomore Scott Steed led the OBU golfers with an 83.6 average, for a 14th place individual finish. Other team members were senior Paul Wilkins and freshman Tim Thomas.

The AIC Championship title was based on six rounds of play during late March and April. In those six rounds, OBU

finished sixth, fifth, fifth, fourth, seventh, and fifth.

66
Scott Steed
led the team
with an 83.6
average.

99

The HSU Reddies dominated the season,

earning first place in each round, and placing six of their team members on the All-AIC golf team. They also had six of the seven top individual scoring leaders. Following the Reddies' team total of 54 points, Arkansas Tech was second at 48; Harding University, third with 37; University of Central Arkansas was fourth with 37.

Ouachita was fifth with 28; Hendrix College, sixth with 25; University of the Ozarks, seventh with 21; Southern Arkansas, eighth with 14; and Arkansas College, ninth with 6.—News Bureau

Fore! The golf team practiced and held their meets at the Arkadelphia Country Club. OBU placed fifth in the AIC.



Long ball. Paul Wilkins tees up on the first hole at the Arkadelphia Country Club. Paul





Scoreboard

AIC Final Standings

Henderson

Arkansas Tech

Harding

Central Arkansas

Ouachita

Hendrix

Ozarks

Southern Arkansas

Arkansas College



A little coaching. Coach Woody Epperson removes a pin on the golf course. Epperson assisted Mike Renyolds with the team.

Scoreboard

Women

Hendrix	5-4
John Brown	6-0
Southern Ark.	2-7
Henderson	7-2
Ozarks	8-1
Central Ark.	2-7
Hendrix	8-1
Henderson	7-2
Southern Ark.	4-5
Central Ark.	0-9
Ozarks	7-2

Men

Henderson	9-0
Central Ark.	6-3
Southern Ark.	0-9
Harding	0-9
Ark. Tech	2-7
Harding	0-9
Henderson	7-2
Southern Ark	0-9
Henderson	4-5
Hendrix	1-8
Central Ark.	3-6
Hendrix	1-8
Ark. Tech	0-9



"We had a lot of first year players this year and I was very surprised with the results."
 --Tona Wright

Just in reach. Mike Harris lunges for the ball during a meet with Arkansas Tech. The Tigers lost at the meet.



R

Rebuilding year

Both the men's and women's tennis teams were plagued with youthful teams but look for things to turn around next season

The men's tennis team fell victim to nagging injuries, schedule conflicts, and a lack of experience and found themselves in last place in the AIC while the women's squad pulled out a third place finish

First season coach Dave Ozmun knew it might not be an easy year for the men before the season opened. Brett Rogers and Dan Hill were the only two players returning from last season. Rogers sat out most of the year with an elbow injury and finished 0-4. Hill had a good season finishing 5-5 overall.

Coach Ozmun said of the 3-10 season, "It was a

learning experience for me and them." He felt the season would have been much better had injuries and other problems not forced several athletes to compete over their heads.

Sophomore Keith Baxter, who earned the team's first position this year, was unable to compete more of the season due to conflicts with his afternoon science lab. Baxter did manage to finish the season with a 2-2 record.

Despite the team's 3-10 campaign, Ozmun as well as his men believe the future looks better. Besides Baxter, Hill, and Rogers returners include Mike

Harris, Steve Brawner, Corey Gillum, and John Belt. The Tigers will only lose one senior, Scott Harris.

With only two returning letterman, Coach Tona Wright anticipated their season to be a rebuilding year. The women's team finishing in third place with a 6-4 record was a "pleasant surprise" for Wright.

"We had a lot of freshmen and first year players this year and I was very surprised with the final results," said Wright.

Wright credited much of the young team's success to Laura Pogue and

Ann Sewell who were both named to the All-AIC women's tennis team. "Laura and Ann pulled us through in the tight spots," said Wright. "They played well in doubles also."

Looking to next season, Wright feels that, with so many freshmen on the team with a year's experience under their belts, her squad should finish in the top three in the AIC.

With the added experience and good health, look for next years teams to be close to the top of the AIC or at least farther up the ladder.—by Darrell Potts and Mitch Bettis



Photo by Spencer Turey

Backhand. Freshman Corey Gillum returns a volley from his Arkansas Tech opponent. Corey will be one of the returning players.

Big serve. Becky Combs serves against her Hendrix opponent. The Tigerettes shut down the Warriors 8-1.

Glory Days

Intramurals were a way to recapture long lost glories of high school and a way to have fun

For some, it was a channel through which to expel some of the frustrations and anxieties which build up from hours of studying. For others, it was a last vain attempt to recapture the long lost glories of their high school days. But for most, intramural sports were just a way to have good time.

Students had the chance to compete in intramural football, basketball, volleyball, and softball. Competition ranged from teams of good

friends to rivalries between social clubs.

In football the action was rough. Bones were cracked, ankles were sprained, ribs were bruised, and noses were broken. Sophomore Kent Smith stated, "It's not the glory so much as the grime that makes it fun."

Dean of Student Bill Dixon said that there was a number of injuries during the year and that most were due to excessive roughness. "Flag football became regular football

without the pads," he said.

Dixon said that the concern for the excessive amount of injuries grew when a local doctor wrote him a letter saying that he had treated a large amount of injuries as a result of flag football games. This letter sparked Dixon and the Student Senate to approach Coach Van Barrett, director of intramural activities, and ask for closer game supervision in an attempt to help reduce the number of injuries.

(continued on next page)

I got it! First baseman Shelly Mars eyes a fly ball. Shelly played for Gamma Phi who were the softball champions.



Photo by Bob Ocken

Ready and waiting. Dana Combs waits on an opponent to come to second base. Dana played for the Chi Deltas.

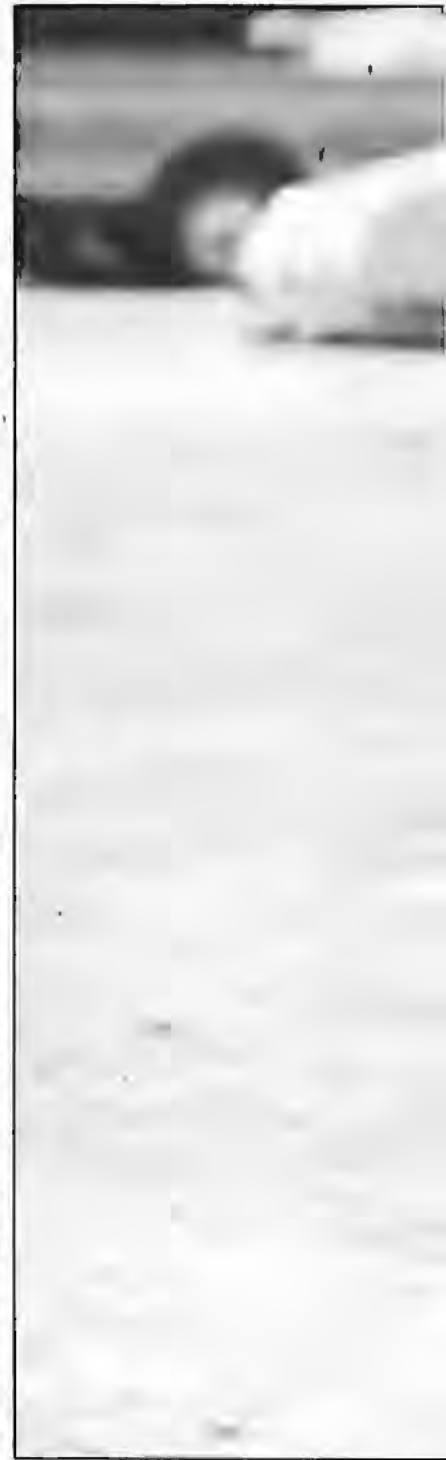




Photo by Spencer Tirey



Photo by Bob O'Brien

Timed release. Grace Neill takes careful aim during an intramural game. Grace played for the Baptist Student Union.

Pitcher. Tina Bearden pitches during a game with the EEEs. Tina was a member of the Chi Deltas team.

Mighty swing. Chi Delta's Denise Masters takes a cut at a pitch from the EEE's. The Chi Delta's defeated the EEE's in the game.



Photo by Spencer Ginn

GLORY DAYS CONT.

The girls also got somewhat violent. Lisa Crane, known by many people as a quiet, peaceful girl, turns into what her teammates call a monster during the heat of a game.

As for basketball, there certainly weren't any Larry Birds or Michael Jordans hiding out. "Intramural basketball was a good time to prove to myself that I couldn't make the moves I saw on television," said sophomore Reed McCracken of the intramural team Flamin' Caucasians.

Basketball is popular, however, and several teams spent months preparing for the season.

OBU football player Butch Gray said, "I shot buckets all Christmas break getting ready for the season. I'm even beter now than I was when I dominated at the Cove (Magnet Cove, AR)."

America's sport was baseball and Ouachita's intramural softball was just as exciting as any exhibition. Umpire Sean Seligman made the observation that "a lot of guys must be using defective gloves and they sure don't make bats like they used to."

No matter what the reasons were, intramurals remained an intricate piece in the OBU puzzle.--by Darrell Potts





Close call. The quarterback just gets off his pass just before being tackled.



Photo by Mike Thomas

Flag football? Making your way through the defensive line was a battle. An excessive amount of contact in the football games made coaches improve supervision of the games.



Photo by Mike Thomas

Diving effort. Corey Gillum reaches for Kappa Chi's John Moore after getting around Dennis Tucker. Corey played for the Betas.

Scoreboard

Football

Men

Cotton Bowl Express

Women

Gamma Phi

Basketball

Men (best division)

Full Force

Men (middle division)

Serious Shoats

Women

Ebony & Ivory

Volleyball

Men

Phi Mu Delta

Women

Neill's Netters

Softball

Men

Stray "B's"

Women

Gamma Phi



Crowd pleaser. The Pom Pon squad leads the crowd in a cheer during the first pep rally. Many of the pep rallies were held on the lawn in front of the cafeteria.

Pom Pon members are: (front) Shelly Leslie, Shelia Leslie; (middle) Lucretia Collier, Junnifer Kuntz, Connie McWilliams, Christy Smith; (back) Robin Butler, Laurie Lawhon, Gina Ratcliff, Montie Edwards, Angel Bailey, and Wendy Woffard



Spirit spreaders

The cheerleading and pom pon squads concentrated on rebuilding school spirit and pride among the student body and faculty.

IT took more than yelling a few chants or dancing a few steps to add enthusiasm to athletic events. Besides working on routines, memorizing dance moves and synchronizing motions, the cheerleaders and pom pon squad had to be motivators. With cheers, chants, music, and the help of the mascot, both squads aroused a winning spirit in Tiger fans.

Since tryouts were held in the fall, the cheerleading squad was unable to attend a summer cheering camp. Instead, each girl had to rely on her own knowledge and abilities to begin the year. Captain Jodi Strother said, "We each pulled cheers from our own high schools and modified them for the collegiate level. We had to work extra hard, but we did it."

With only one returning member, the

cheerleaders began the year on shaky ground. This all-female squad experienced a rebuilding year. They had to build not only a new cheering program, but also pride among the student body. Because spirit was down, the squad concentrated on building and participation. Co-Captain Kristen Perkins said, "We need the students' help at pep rallies and games. It's important to us if they get involved by cheering."

Although the cheerleaders suffered a slow start, it didn't take away from their determination to cheer. They practiced three times a week, working on sharpening motions and improving skills. They also concentrated on learning more chants, making it easier for the fans to yell with them.

Rather than cheering, the Pom pon squad had a different purpose.

Through sideline dances and halftime shows, this second year dance team sparked a new interest from the crowd. Because of the squads enthusiasm, performances were filled with excitement.

After spring tryouts, these girls attended a summer dance camp at Memphis State University. Captain Laurie Lawhon said, "We learned a new routine every day. We gained new ideas that helped us in making up our own dances. It was great."

The pom pon squad practiced four to five times a week. Because of a busy schedule, practices were very disciplined. At least 4 routines were perfected for each performance. The squad had to learn to work together. They experienced a successful year because of, outside support, inside spirit, and determination.

Aside from the

cheerleading and pom pon squads, the mascot played a big part in determining how the crowd participated. Ricardo Escobar was the man behind the Tiger suit. His job was to help motivate the student body. His talents were a big asset to athletic events.

Although he used his own routines, Ricardo could also work with the other groups when performing. "I want people to have fun at the games," said Ricardo. "It's easier to get them involved since I can dance around and go crazy behind the uniform."

All the spirit groups had the same goal. Practice and hard work on the parts of the cheerleaders, pom pon squad, and mascot resulted in high energy performance as well as renewed spirit and pride among the student body and community. *--by Tammi Tutt.*



Fired up. Cheerleaders Apryl Berry and Jodi Strother lead a cheer at the pep rally. The bonfire was held on the eve of the football homecoming game against Henderson State.

Cheerleaders are: (front) Jodi Strother, captain; (back) Kristen Perkins, Apryl Berry, Cindy Allison, Deborah Johnson, Sandy Corbell, Suzanne Bushmeir, and Natalie Carrigan

photo by Deborah Armonson