

# Sports





Competition. The thing that bonds us together or tears us apart. Sports, collegiate or intramural, are a huge part of any college campus and Ouachita is no exception. From tailgates and touchdowns to the women of EEE winning the first ever Battle of the Ravine powderpuff football game, from a 700th career win for women's basketball coach Garry Crowder to two Tigers Baseball players in the MLB draft, from a third GAC championship win for the men's tennis team to the first championship game for intramural innertube water polo - all of these things come together to make the

**Ouachita State of Mind.**



Beta Black player senior Ryon Tibbets goes up for a ball in a regular season matchup against Fog Blue. The two teams traded wins during the season and both games were very close. Beta Black was the champions beating Prestige World Wide in the championship game, 38-37.

Freshman Devin Austin is guarded closely by senior Brooks Bureson. Bureson's team, Tune Squad, finished the regular season undefeated and made it to the championship game. Austin's team, Koppo Phot, finished the season at 3-3 and lost in the first round of the playoffs.



Senior Mitchell Kelley drives down the lane against True Breed. Kelley, a point guard for Beta Black, worked as a referee for three years. Basketball had one of the highest participation rates of all the intramural sports, and drew big crowds for every game. There was fierce competition at every level.

Senior Zach Smith controls the ball in a water polo game. Water polo, in its second year, was a very popular sport among the students. New goals were purchased in April and the sport was brought back for a full season this year. Team participation increased dramatically.



Senior Kyle Fischer scores a run during intramural softball. Fischer was a member of Blood Bath and Beyond, which had teams in every intramural sport and a huge fan base.



Garet West throws a pass during the run against Beta Blue. West led his team, Fog Blue, at the quarterback position.



- Football Champions: Men's Lower-Beta Blue | Men's Upper-Beta Black
- Soccer Champions: Coed: The Big Green | Women's: Terror-Dactyls
- Basketball Champions: Mens Lower-Beta Doo Doo Heads
- Women's Lower-Cherry Pickers | Women's Upper-EEE Upper | Water Polo: Aca Aca

# LEADING

*The Way*

**A** new rugby club was started, water polo became a full-time sport and Taylor Ogden became Arkansas's first full-time athletic trainer for intramural sports. The Rec Life staff took the new leagues far beyond just flag football and basketball.

For Josh Fritz, a sophomore Christian studies major from Siloom Springs, rugby has been a part of his life since he was in middle school.

"I've been watching rugby and playing pickup games since I was in 7th grade," Fritz said.

Fritz, a transfer from John Brown University, didn't get to play the sport officially until he joined a club team at JBU. In the fall, he transferred to Ouachita and with him he brought his love for the game.

"I had heard that OBU used to have a team and I wanted to bring the sport back for the students. I worked with Jason Bean to get the word out and pretty soon we began practice," Fritz said.

By April, the team was big enough to have a scrimmage with Harding University and played the Bisons very closely.

"We ended up only losing by one try,

which is roughly the equivalent of a touch-down," Fritz said.

Fritz took his love for the game and wanted to transfer that to campus.

"I just love the sport of rugby, I love the camaraderie that comes with it, the skill, the teamwork and the brotherhood that a team can develop. I really just wanted to teach a few guys here and hopefully get a club started," Fritz said.

Intramural water polo was also a relatively new sport, and was beginning to take hold. In its second year, the sport went from experimental to full-fledged spring league.

"We found out about water polo from one of our assistant directors, who was from Oklahoma State where the sport was very popular," said Jason Bean, the director for intramurals. "We decided to give the sport a test run last year, as an exhibition sport with a shorter season and no playoffs."

The sport took off and the staff decided to bring it back for another season as a full spring league.

"People loved watching it, loved playing it, so we brought it back this year. We got some better goals and really began to look more official with the sport. We saw a big jump in the number of teams as well," Bean

said.

One of the biggest developments for the intramural department was the addition of a full-time trainer to the staff.

"We are the only school in Arkansas to offer a full-time trainer and are probably some of the first in the country," Bean said. Taylor Ogden, a graduate of Henderson State was offered the job in the summer and began working in the fall.

"My position is actually more of a pilot or study to see if there really is a need for an athletic trainer in intramural sports," Ogden said. "It's really been a great experience to work with the rec sports staff. I feel like they are like a second family to me."

Through just the first year of training, Ogden saw the importance of an intramural trainer.

"Hopefully other schools will see the need for a trainer on the intramural staff. I have seen a lot of injuries this year, and the need for a trainer is very real," Ogden said.

With the addition of new sports and staff positions, intramurals sports took on a whole new look as it became bigger than ever.

*by Ben Cline*

Women's: Terror-Dactyls

Baseball Champions: Amateur-Border Patrol

Competitive-West Side Out

Men's Middle-Andrew Dropped the Ball

Men's Upper-Big Lexi Ballers

51 Intramurals Sports

Softball Champions:

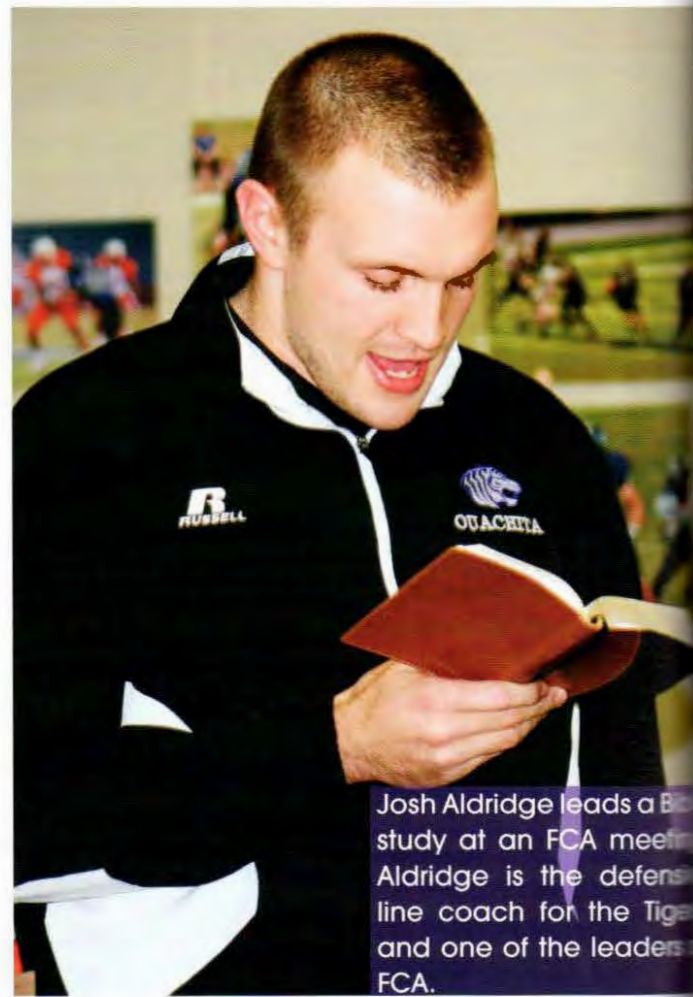
Coed Lower-The Great

Coed Upper-Black Sox

Men's Lower-Lightning Cats



Kendall Calvert and Myriah Miller enjoy a game of foosball at an FCA meeting. Students used the meetings to relax and reflect in fellowship. FCA had multiple speakers throughout the year, as well as having small group Bible studies.



Josh Aldridge leads a Bible study at an FCA meeting. Aldridge is the defensive line coach for the Tiger football team and one of the leaders of FCA.

Drew White pays close attention during an FCA Meeting. White, a junior from Van Buren, Ark., was a member of the Tiger football team. The FCA program allowed for students to reflect on God's word and study the Bible with other athletes. The meetings gave a much needed break for the athletes on Ouachita's campus during their respective seasons.

The FCA group looks on as Micah May speaks. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes club met throughout the year in various locations. Athletes from all of Ouachita's sports were a part of the club.



Gracie Lundberg



Josh May talks with the members of FCA at a meeting. May is the regional director for the FCA program and was a guest speaker for the night.

Freshman Clay Whaley pays close attention as the FCA meeting progresses. FCA had speakers and students lead the meetings and Bible studies. Most of the meetings were held in the football field house.

Student athletes listen to a guest speaker. FCA had multiple speakers throughout the year, as well as having small group Bible studies.

# BUILDING Fellowship

**E**ach Wednesday night at 8 p.m., if you were to make your way down to the football field, house you might find more than a few committed football players. Students of various sports and some non-athletes all gathered together and met as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

FCA was led by a team of one or two athletes from almost every sport as well as coaches Todd Knight, Ricky Rogers and Josh Aldridge. They planned and recruited for the Wednesday night meetings.

"We meet up, hang out and discuss things in the Bible that are relevant to any student-athlete," said Kyle Lamothe, a junior Christian studies and Christian theology major from New Ibera, La.

During the fall semester, the club went through the "I Am Second" video series. After watching a coach or athlete give their testimony in the video, everyone broke up into groups led by the leadership team to discuss what they had learned.

"I really enjoyed the 'I Am Second' videos and hearing from athletes and coaches that all had different backgrounds," said Spencer Knight, an FCA leader and senior business administration and management major from Arkadelphia. "Tony Dungy and Josh Hamilton were two that really stuck

out to me. Tony talked about his uncommon approach to coaching and relying on God through failures and adversity. Josh talked about his struggle with substance abuse and alcohol and finding Christ amidst the pain. Both made for great discussion."

The club also invited guest speakers to lead a few meetings. Speakers included Micoh May, head of FCA in South Central Ark, Jimmy Darby, youth minister at First Baptist Church in Arkadelphia and Robert Upshaw from Arkansas Baptist High School in Little Rock.

In February, a group of student athletes attended the FCA college retreat in Malvern.

"We had a great time. We ate barbecue, had worship and played games Friday night and Saturday morning. It gave us a chance to interact and fellowship with athletes from different schools across the state," Knight said.

The club put an emphasis on fun and teaching from God's word.

"FCA's goal is to provide an outlet for athletes to grow in their faith by learning from each other in their respective sports and how to be leaders for Christ on their teams," said Aldridge, director of FCA and assistant football coach. "The only requirement is to bring a great attitude and an open heart," Aldridge said.

Aldridge's journey with FCA started before he joined the Tiger coaching staff.

"I was also the president of FCA in high school," Aldridge said. "That introduced me to the organization."

But most of all, Aldridge was passionate about FCA because of his love for Jesus.

"My hope for FCA is that it will grow to be a fixture on OBU's campus as a group who will help in the community and be the backbone of OBU Athletics' mission to honor God in athletics," Aldridge said.

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes had core values such as integrity, serving, teamwork and excellence. It was a passion for all athletes to demonstrate these qualities in their lives on and off the court, field, pool, gym, course, arena or mat.

"It definitely helps build community among all the sports and athletes here at Ouachita," said Kelsi Bodine, a senior history major from Webb City, Mo.

Another purpose for the club was to form a unity between students and athletes.

FCA gave attendees the opportunity to put aside their sport or activity and gather together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

by Jessica Stewart



**Front Row:** Kasey McLeane, Abby Engelkes, Rebekah Ward, Crista Riggs; **Back Row:** Grace Finley, Parish Reed, Ashley Randels, Coach Mike McGhee, Johanna Casey, Hannah Diaz, Katie Cunningham

The cross-country Tigers warm up for their first race of the year. The girls competed in six races and traveled all over the south, ending the year with a sixth place finish at the GAC championships. The runners placed high in all their competitions, but placed highest at the Ozark College Invitational, where they earned a third place finish overall with Ouachita placing five runners in the top 15.



Kelsey Bond Photo



Kelsey Bond Photo

Johanna Casey congratulates Kaitie Cunningham on finishing her first college race. From freshmen to seniors, the team was a close knit group.

Kasey McLeane and Rebekah Ward push toward the finish at the Bob Gravett invitational. The race was a fundraiser to help the girls take a trip to the Gulf Coast Stampede held in Pensacola, Florida. The team not only raised the money, but won the Invitational as well.



Kelsey Bond Photo

Senior Rebekah Ward distances herself from the pack at the Bob Gravett Invitational. In her last home race, Ward helped the Tigers place first. At the GAC Championships, Ward finished with a time of 20:33.9.



Kelsey Bond Photo



Freshman Abby Engelkes in stride at the Bob Gravett Invitational. This race took place on OBU's campus.

Bob Gravett Invitational: 1st

Gulf Coast Stampede: 7th

Ozark C

Chillie Pepper Invitational: 23rd

Mississippi Choctaw: 5th

# UNITED

*Individually*

**W**aking up early and running miles on end. Out-running opponents and fighting their lungs for breath. Long trips, late practices and constant injuries; such was the life of the cross-country team. The team traveled all over the south and competed in six races.

The team began the season with the Bob Gravett Invitational hosted on campus. Although two girls were sick and unable to compete, the girls finished in first place as a team.

The competition was a fundraiser for the team and paid for the team's trip to Pensacola, Fla. for the Gulf Coast Stampede.

Division 1 and Division 2 schools were represented at the Gulf Coast Stampede meet, and the team placed seventh overall. "It's a great course. It's also just time where we can build team bonding," said Johanna Casey, a senior kinesiology and fitness major from Lawell.

After Pensacola, the team had a week-end of rest before the Ozark Invitational. While the team placed third, Coach Mike McGhee described it as, "the weekend it all tumbled and I mean actually tumbled."

Casey was in the lead and stepped in a hole causing her to fall. The team finished

the race with five runners in the top 15. From that race on, the team experienced various injuries and illness. By the time the team traveled to the Mississippi College Choctaw Open, only six of the 10 runners were able to compete.

In the midst of injury and sickness, the girls stood by each other during the meets. Abby Engelkes, a freshman pre-dentistry major from Canway, was one of two freshmen on the team. "I was kind of nervous when I joined, but your worries fade as soon as you meet these girls. There's no classification levels; you couldn't tell a senior from a freshman. We're all that close. Everyone gets along no matter what," said Engelkes. "Everyone's so humble. They're just people you want to be around. They're definitely friends I want to keep."

To end the season, the team ran in the GAC Championship in Russellville, finishing in sixth place. "It was a perfect day for a race," said Ashley Randels, a junior early childhood education major from Rogers. "It was a big enough race that there was always a girl to compete with, but you weren't having to push people to stay on the course."

The race was held at Arkansas Tech University and consisted of two laps around the

course.

As her final cross-country season came to an end, Casey said, "With every single girl, I just feel like Christ is radiating through them. You can see Him working in their lives, and I think because of that we will retain these friendships for a long time."

Strong relationships were not the only thing that kept the team going. The girls also spent time training for meets in various ways. Coach McGhee's practices included running, sprinting and swimming. The girls also had to find time in their schedules to train beyond the set practice time. "It's your own discipline and putting your own time into (training) so you can get out of it what you want," Casey said. "Also, it allows a lot of freedom and choice in what you do; it was really fun to change up my training and see what worked for my body and have the freedom in that."

Through team dinners and road trips to meets, the team bonded. "They are all self-driven individuals and must be to a degree to be a cross-country runner. But yet they care more about their teammates than they do themselves," McGhee said.

by Mauri Sparks



Scan for more information  
on the OBU Cross Country  
team





The squad builds a formation on the sidelines during a football game. Football season was one of the most involved times of the year for the cheer squad. "Between tailgates, games and the early morning Battle of the Ravine pep rally, I'm not sure how I had time for anything else," said freshman speech communication major Devin Austin.



The spirit squad starts during a time out at a men's basketball game in Bill Vining Area.

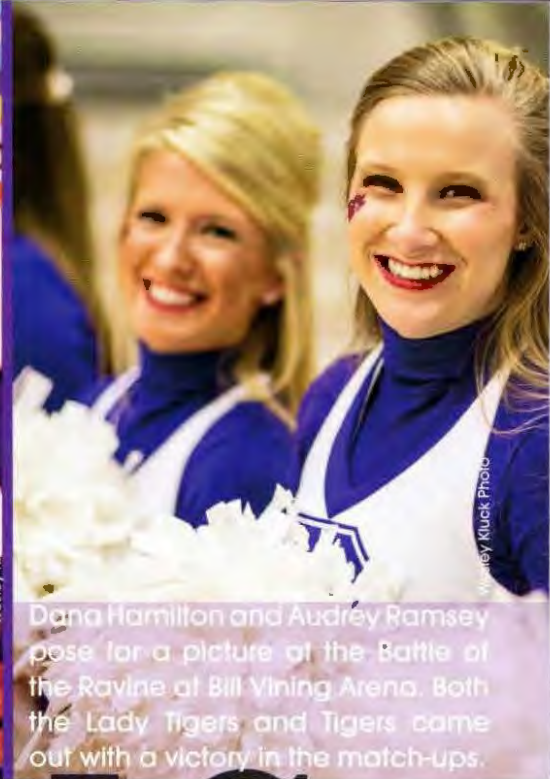
The squad prepares to introduce the men's basketball team at the final Battle of the Ravine of the season. Abbey Little, a freshman mass communication major, said, "The spirit squad was a great way to get involved as a freshman, and I loved cheering for various Ouachita teams."



Scan for more information on the OBU Spirit Squad

**Front Row:** Mariah Gough, Audrey Romsey, Kyoiro Flagg, Kristo Carlisle, Victoria Williams, Lauren Teague; **Second Row:** Elizabeth White, Colleen Owen, Rylee Schwaller, Dana Hamilton, Kaitlyn Jackson; **Third Row:** Sarah Jeffrey, Becca Mitchell, Julionno Howard, Abbey Little, Ali Kinsey, Hollan Van Horn; **Back Row:** Cody Osburn, Devin Austin, Dowson Pritchard, Parker Flemmons, Matthew Collier





Jackson helps lead a cheer during a basketball game. The squad pumped up the crowd during every action during home basketball

The spirit squad lines up behind the camera at the Battle of the Ravine Pep Rally. KATV Channel 7 news broadcast its Daybreak show from A.U. Williams Field.

Dana Hamilton and Audrey Ramsey pose for a picture at the Battle of the Ravine at Bill Vining Arena. Both the Lady Tigers and Tigers came out with a victory in the match-ups.

# LEADING

*the Cheer*

**F**or the Spirit Squad, the season started far before school in the fall. Those interested in becoming part of the team attended a three-day clinic at the end of April the previous year. There they learned a cheer, dance and fight song, made up their own choreography, showed their tumbling skills and concluded the process with a practice interview with the judges.

"I thought cheering would be a great way to get involved with the school and be a really good experience," said Sarah Jeffrey, a freshman communication sciences and disorders major from Camden.

Once the new team was chosen, they went right to work to prepare for the upcoming year full of football games, basketball games, pep rallies and performances. They attended several practices during the spring and camp at the end of July.

"Cheer camp is one of the hardest parts of the entire year. We learned at least 15 new routines, tons of new stunts and the majority of camp was spent running and conditioning," said Jeffrey. "But after it was all said and done, we all felt very accomplished."

The time for the start of the fall semester rolled around and the team moved back to campus early. The Spirit Squad began pre-

paring for the upcoming year.

"The craziest thing we had to do during practice one day was run timed laps around the parking lot with the huge OBU flags from football games for conditioning," said Jeffrey. "We still joke about how weird we must have looked to people passing by."

The Spirit Squad's debut was at the first pep rally held for the very first home football game which was later in September than usual. Many members agreed that was one of their favorite memories. They loved being able to show their school spirit and support along with the football team and fellow classmates.

Throughout the season, some of the football games became downpours. However, the squad supported its team with enthusiasm no matter what the weather conditions happened to be. They were also prepared to travel and cheer the team on at the Heart of Texas Bowl game in December until it was cancelled due to the inclement weather.

"One of my favorite experiences from this year was cheering at Battle of the Ravine for both football and basketball. Both games were so intense and exciting. Rushing the court after winning the basketball game by one point was really fun," said Krista Carlisle, a senior accounting major from Searcy.

"One of the coolest new traditions for

basketball is the game where everyone dresses crazy and we have to stay quiet until the tenth point," said Cady Osborn, a sophomore Christian studies major from Alexander. "It was so hard to stay quiet for so long, but when we finally got those points, the sound of everyone cheering was exhilarating. You couldn't even hear yourself speak because it was so loud."

The 2013-2014 senior captains, Corlisse and Elizabeth White, a senior math education major from Searcy, both cheered on the squad for at least three years.

"The best parts about cheering for so many years have been the friendships I gained with the members of the squad, representing Ouachita at nationals in Orlando and of course the big games against Henderson," White said.

The Spirit Squad not only provided support for athletic events, but friendships and strength for each member.

"Cheering has definitely taught me determination, whether it is through the constant running, trying to stick new stunts or just getting to know the team members," Osborn said.

by Abbey Little



Tyler Rosenthal Photo

Alainey Weatherford, Megan Graves and Garrett Lee play the euphoniums at Oct-Tiger Fest. The Tiger marching band played at every home football game and numerous pep rallies throughout the football season. The band arrived at school several days early to begin learning songs and routines.

Julie Nessler and Corter Harlan perform at a pep rally. The band kept the Homecoming Crowd entertained with a variety of musical performances that drew from a variety of influences. The marching band drum line was led by Dr. Ryon Lewis, assistant professor of music.



Tyler Rosenthal Photo



Kelsey Bond Photo

Will Combs plays the trumpet in a halftime performance at the Homecoming game. Combs, a freshman science major from Jessierville, Ark., was one of 30 new freshmen in a band with 42 upperclassmen. Beginning in August, the band began practice to prepare for the upcoming season.

Kaela Butler, a sophomore early childhood education major from Lincoln, Ark., plays the clarinet during halftime at a football game. Fellow clarinet players Crista Riggs and Megan Massey, earned second place and honorable mention, respectively, at the MTNA Young Artist Performance Competition.



Wesley Kluck Photo



Wesley Kluck Photo

Tiger Steel performs at halftime in a November 9 match-up against the University of Arkansas at Monticello. New to the band this year, the steel drum section brought a fresh sound to the band's carnival style performance. Tiger Steel, directed by Dr. Ryan Lewis, specialized in the performance of calypso and soca music.



Justin Massey plays tuba at a halftime performance at A.U. Williams Field

# RECREATING *A New Era* MARCHING

The audience cheered as conga lines of musicians wound their way onto the field. Steel pans appeared, dancers on stilts paraded in front of the audience and students limboed to the Latin and Caribbean tunes of the marching band.

As the marching band danced and paraded onto the field during their carnival-themed halftime show, a movement of reinvention sambaed its way throughout the marching band program under the new direction of Dr. Craig Hamilton. Although he continued to write drill and music for marching bands and work with high school groups around the state, Hamilton, who serves as professor of music and director of bands, had not directed a marching band in 17 years. With Hamilton come not just new leadership, but new attitudes and expectations.

"I tried to make marching band more efficient and less time consuming. I also tried to make it as fun as possible," Hamilton said.

Working with percussion director Dr. Ryan Lewis and drum major Brent Nessler, a senior music performance major from Rowlett, Texas, Hamilton strived to create a

more spirited and more organized ensemble and not waste any of the band members' time.

"I really admire his work ethic, his efficiency and his attitude," Nessler said. "We cut down on practices to just two days a week and still accomplished everything we needed to get done."

Chelsea Villanueva, a junior music education major from Rogers, said, "The weekly schedule, where he told us everything we were going to get done, just shows the huge amount of clear communication we had."

Zachary Barber, a sophomore music education major from Mansfield, Texas, also agreed, adding, "He took it more seriously, but still made it fun."

Further aiding Hamilton's goal of reinventing the marching band was a large increase in the number of freshmen who joined the program. Along with 42 upperclassmen, Hamilton worked with 30 new freshmen during the season.

"We wouldn't have had a marching band without the freshmen. They did a great job and came a long way from the first rehearsal," Hamilton said. Working together to create a crowd-pleasing and crowd-involving show, the marching band built friendships with its new members, which,

according to Hamilton, helped to create a better marching band in future years.

Megan Massey, a senior music education major from Fort Worth, Texas, explained the role the freshmen had in the trumpet section, half of which was made up of new members.

"We all banded really well," Massey said. "The new freshmen helped create a new atmosphere within the band."

With new members and new leadership, the marching band set out to not just entertain the audience, but to be a part of the school spirit as well.

"We added the steel drum ensemble and invited the crowd to come party on the track," said Justin Mossey, a senior music education major from Azle, Texas.

The marching band's carnival-themed show also featured plenty of dancing, colorful costumes and even people parading around on stilts.

Conga lining and sambaing through the season, the marching band experienced a new wave of reinvention. Under Hamilton's direction, the band, including its new members, marked the season as the beginning of a new era for school spirit and entertaining performances.

by Robert DeSoto



Scan for more information on the OBU Football team.

An aerial view of the 87th Battle of the Ravine. Over 9,000 fans attended the game that would go to three overtimes and end with a score of 52-60 in favor of Henderson. The two teams combined for 112 points and over 1000 yards of total offense. Jalen Jones said the game was unlike any other. "The game didn't end in our favor, but I think we'd all agree that it was one of the greatest games any of us have been a part of."

Chris Rycraw looks up as Benson Jordan leads the way. Rycraw averaged over 100 yards rushing per game in 2013.

**Front Row:** Left to Right: Augustine Ume-Ezeoke, Chris Rycraw, Greg Williams, Antwion Patterson, Avery Lynch, Corey Johnson, Head Coach Todd Knight, Rickey Brown, Jackson Guerro, Coleb Romsey, Clark Goddis, Alex Poole, Tyler Robinson; **Second Row:** Choyse Brown, Kendrick Henderson, Jacob Edge, Jalen Jones, Ke'Vantae Pape, Ty Tawers, Drew White, Benjamin Cole, Devan Cousins, Evian Hill, Lucas Reed, Austin Warford, Jeremy Small, Benson Jordan, Stephen Neal, Jesse Stane, Justin Jones; **Third Row:** Travis Simon, Kendall Bruce, Steven Kehner, Jaalen Watkins, Etouj Allen, Spencer Knight, Aaron Garrett, Donovan Bousley, Mork Bulliner, Devin Price, Zack Mitchell, Bloke Johnson, Andre Morman, Mott Mainiero, Gerold Worner, Kyle Varster; **Fourth Row:** Jacob Clark, Kyle Lamothe, Desmond Shaw, Brandon Marks, Johnathan Bayce, Wayman Johnson Jr., Ovie Urevbu, Dian Young, Eric Ashburn, Devin Ball, Justin Rose, Dave Fair, Javin Prunty, Josh Hall, James Nuells; **Fifth Row:** Elijah Romsey, Riley Wilson, Jacob Engel, Bronnon Kotch, Hal Hoggard, Chase Whitaker, Andrew Ingram, Bradley Root, Michael Ragers, Raderick Ingram, Michael Russell, Tyler Foster, Jed Beach, Brett Calhoun; **Sixth Row:** Jordan Sharp, Aaron Sprinkle, Mitch Bledsoe, Justin Avery, Jake Kraus, Jay Patrick, Alex Armfield, Jardon McGee, Johnathan Powell, Ryon Perkins, Brett Jones, George Hutsan, Connon Burkholter; **Back Row:** LaVonte Thomas, Gary Fortney, Mitch Ward, Tyree Gray, Lone Pearson, Barkley Legens, Clay Patrick, Gerold Watson, Ed Hood, Matthew Ehosz, Ryon Newsom, Andrew Gendi





Augustine Ume-Ezoke (1), Andrew Gendi (99), Dion Young (47) and Dave Fair (56) bring down Harding's D'Nico Jackson-Best (34). The Tiger defense held opponents to an average of 24 points per game in 2013.



Steven Kehner breaks into the open field against North Western OK State. Kehner would return the opening kickoff for an 89 yard touchdown. The junior from Glen Rose, Ark. rushed for 636 yards in 2013.



Aaron Sprinkle (76) and Brent Calhoun (74) keep Theodis Williams (95) out of the backfield. The Tigers totaled 4273 yards of offense in the 2013 season.

# EARNING Respect

**R**espect was something earned, something that must be demanded. The football team came into the season determined to earn this respect.

The football team was the only team in Arkansas to have six consecutive winning seasons. They also took the number four ranked Reddies to three overtimes in the Battle of the Ravine game, and 15 players received post-season honors.

Coach Todd Knight and the rest of the coaching staff believed that the team was ready to for a run at the conference championship.

"We really had high expectations for postseason play, whether it was the playoffs or a bowl game," Coach Knight said.

Chris Rycraw, a senior running back and kinesiology major from Bryant, Ark., had high expectations for himself and the team as well. "My expectations for myself were getting first team All GAC, getting last season All American, and for the team going 10-0 and post season play," he said.

The team hit the ground running, coming up with wins in their first five games. They scored an average of 38.8 points a game

and held opponents to only 16.6.

The senior class was ready to leave their mark as Tigers, and Coach Knight said his seniors were some of the best to come through the program. "This group of seniors is not only super talented, All Conference, All American football players. This group of guys are going to graduate and be successful dads, husbands, guys that are going to make a difference in their community," Knight said.

As the season wore on, the team experienced two losses against Harding and Southern Arkansas University, losing by an average of 5.5 points over the two games. The team bounced back, however, and came up with a dominating 35-10 performance over UA-Monticello.

Finally, the Battle of the Ravine arrived. The Reddies were undefeated coming into the game, and the team was looking to change that. The stage was set, and the 87th Battle of the Ravine was one that would go down in history.

Jalen Janes, a junior wide receiver and business administration and marketing major from Canway, Ark., said the atmosphere was unlike any other. "Everyone's

emotions were high, as it was what we thought was our last game with the chance to knock off a top five team in the nation," Janes said.

Three overtimes and 112 points later, the game ended 60-52 in favor of the Reddies.

The Tigers were invited to play in the Heart of Texas Bowl, which was scheduled for Dec. 7, but was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Those receiving past-season honors included: GAC First Team - Chris Rycraw, Aaron Sprinkle, Etaj Allen; Second Team - Antwion Patterson, Steven Kenneer, Kyle Vorster, Augustine Ume-Ezeoke, Greg Williams, Spencer Knight, Johnathon Pawell, Kyle Vorster; Honorable Mention - Drew White, Clark Gaddis, Matthew Ehasz, Zack Mitchell.

There were many accomplishments the Tigers took away from this season, but perhaps the most important was the pride and respect this team achieved. It was not something that was asked for, not something given. Respect was something this team demanded, went out and earned.

by Ben Cline



**Front Row:** Emily Anderson, Ashley Wake, Anna LeTourneau, Anna Holcomb, Brandi Armfield; **Second Row:** Kelsi Badine, Keely Hawk, Faith Avalas, Chelsey Hess, Tara Wait, Canley Harrison; **Back Row:** Savannah White, Lauren Perry, Stephanie Pollnow, Kelly Ballard, Julie Stanley, Abby Pickett, Jayme Shell

Kelly Ballard (7) spikes the ball over Henderson's Sarah Williams (8). The Lady Tigers were undefeated against HSU, facing them two times. Ballard, a junior from Grand Prairie, Texas, recorded 85 spikes in the 2013 season.



Left: Chelsey Hess serves the ball in an October match. The Lady Tigers totaled 2,190 points in the entire season. Hess, a junior from Conway, Ark., recorded 460 digs in the season. Chelsey was named the Great American Conference defensive player of the week for her performance at the Pitt State Invitational.

Tara Wait sets the ball in a Battle of the Ravine match up in October. Wait totaled 78 kills and was named the Great American Conference setter of the week twice in the 2013 season. The junior from White Oak, Texas, totaled 817 assists and averaged 9.50 assists per set.



The Lady Tigers huddle up before a match against University of Arkansas at Monticella. The girls finished the regular season with a 15-11 record and a 8-6 record in conference play.



Stephanie Pollnow (15) Abby Pickett (24) after block a volley against Henderson State.



Missouri Southern State: 2-3	Pittsburg State: 3-0	Quincy Univ.: 3-1
Philander Smith: 3-0	OK Panhandle State: 3-0	SAU: 3-2
UAM: 3-2	Texas Southern: 1-3	SAU: 1-3
Texas A&M Commerce: 0-3		

Southeastern OK State 3-1	Texas A&M Commerce: 0-3	Harding: 0-3	Kentucky State: 3-2	Univ. of Alabama-Huntsville: 3-2
---------------------------	-------------------------	--------------	---------------------	----------------------------------

# SEVENTH ANNUAL UP

*The Foundation*

**A** team was only as good as its players, and those players were only as good as the focus they put into the game. Keeping their heads in the game and sporting the right state of mind, the Lady Tigers finished with a winning record.

Starting the season at the Pitt State Invitational in Pittsburgh, Kan., the team fell to their first opponent, Missouri Southern State University, but quickly gained momentum, finishing the tournament with three wins against Pittsburgh State University, Quincy University and Missouri Western State University.

The team took on the Lady Reddies across the ravine twice, once on the home court and once on the Reddie court. The team took home a win both times, taking the Lady Reddies to three games at the home game and four games on the Reddie court.

"It felt amazing beating Henderson," said Kelly Ballard, a junior biology and psychology major from Bedford, Texas. "It's always great beating your rivals because both teams played their hardest and there are always a crazy amount of fans. This is one of the oldest college rivalries and it feels great because you feel like a part of some-

thing, participating in it."

Allison Frizzell, once a Lady Tiger herself, took on the position of assistant coach under the direction of head coach Danny Prescott. Frizzell said she felt very blessed to have been given the position, and learned a lot being on the other side of the net.

"I am very blessed to have this opportunity that Coach Prescott has given me to work with this team and him as first a coach and a mentor," said Frizzell. "I have learned so much. For example, I have learned about the financial situations, different motivational techniques and the time and effort it takes to get prepared for games, such as filming and gaming strategies."

At the GAC Tournament that rounded out the season, the team took Southwestern Oklahoma State to five games, finally beating them 16-14 in the fifth game. In their second match of the tournament against Harding University, they took the Lady Bison to five games, but fell in the fifth game, 10-15.

"Our goal was to win conference, but I could not be more proud of our performance in the GAC Tournament," said Kelsi Bodine, a senior history and political science major from Webb City, Mo. "We played our hearts out against Harding in that semi-final match

and proved just how much potential our team has. I think with being such a young team, OBU volleyball will find itself playing for those top two or three spots in conference next year and I look forward to watching that."

Over the course of the season, Tara Wait, a junior studio art major from White Oak, Texas, was awarded the GAC setter of the week twice, once after the Pitt State Invitational and once after winning against Northwestern Oklahoma State and Southwestern Oklahoma State.

Chelsey Hess, a junior history major from Conway, was awarded defensive player of the week after the Pitt State Invitational.

With a 16-12 overall record and an 8-6 conference record, Frizzell considered the season a "solid foundation for the next years to come."

"We have a very young team as opposed to the last few years where we had more upperclassmen playing on the court previously," said Frizzell. "It was a unique year because we went further in the conference tournament. I'm very excited about the talented group of girls I have on the team."

*by Jake Coffman*



Scan for more information on the OBU Volleyball team.

Missouri Western: 3-1	Lyon College: 3-0		
Arkansas Tech: 1-3	Southern Nazarene: 1-3		
Northwest OK State: 3-1	Southwestern OK State: 3-2	HSU: 3-0	
MSU: 3-1	HSU: 3-2	Southwestern OK State: 3-2	Harding: 2-3

16-12





Scan for more information on the OBU Women's Soccer team



Sarah Broyles kicks the ball into play. Broyles, a senior from Longview, Texas, was named goal keeper of the week twice.

Haley Hatcher pushes the ball up field against East Central University. Hatcher was named Great American Conference offensive player of the year. Haley ended the season with 19 goals, and 53 shots on goal.

**Front Row:** Natalie Batres, Audrey Rodriguez, Sarah Luttrell, Katy Alexander, Barrett Gay, Sammie Mack, Barbara Pascale; **Second Row:** Dina Harper, Abby Emanuel, Sarah Broyles, Kaitlin Asher, Haley Hatcher, Bryson Rial; **Back Row:** Madison Trussell, Tristan Mazzu, Jessica Allen, Morgan Pitchford, Morgan Allen, Tessa Woodcock, Megan Clay



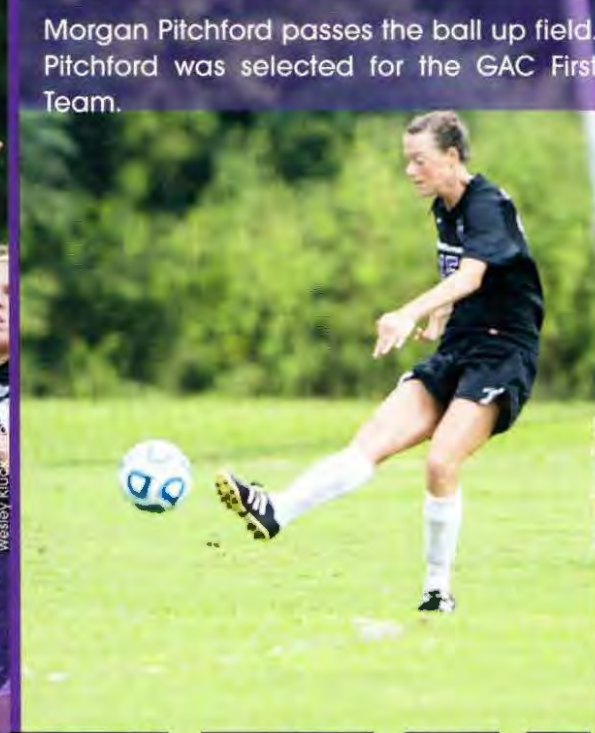
Wesley Kluck Photo



Wesley Kluck Photo



Shara Pascale (4) heads the ball towards the goal against Harding University. She was named to the Great American Conference All-Conference seven players named to the All GAC first and second teams.



Morgan Pitchford passes the ball up field. Pitchford was selected for the GAC First Team.



Morgan Allen (22) launches the ball as Jessica Allen (16) looks on. The Allen sisters were from Sparks, Nev.

# S I L L I N G

## New Standards

In the world of team sports, what makes a great season? For the Lady Tigers soccer team led by coach Keith Wright, assistant coach Neal Ozmun and new assistant coach, Marquis Muse, it could mean a number of things. If you asked all three seniors, two juniors, five sophomores and 10 freshmen who made up the team, they would each have a similar answer. "We had so many more fans show up to cheer us on this season and I think that helped us play harder and as a result, win," said Morgan Pitchford a senior biology major from Columbia, Mo. "I don't think athletes can express just how much fans help our spirit on the field."

The new addition of sheltered bleachers at the soccer fields could have been one reason Lady Tiger fans came out more than ever, but the numbers could not be attributed to comfortable seating alone. The effort, passion for the game, sportsmanship, and talent shown by the entire team were just what it took to draw fans down to the fields.

Boosting a record of 11-6-1, the best record held by the Lady Tigers in years, seniors Jessica Allen, a history major from Little Rock, Pitchford, and Sarah Brayles, a kinesiology major from Longview, Texas, agreed that their lost chapter as collegiate

soccer players was one to be proud of.

For Broyles, the season was not how she would have imagined it. For the first time in her four years as a member of the soccer team, Brayles found herself playing goalkeeper. Goalkeeper was not a position that was her first choice, but one that would earn her conference-wide recognition. Broyles earned Goalkeeper of the Week honors twice and finished the season ranked 13th in the nation.

At the conclusion of the season, seven players were named all-conference, which was a conference best. Among the seven players was Haley Hatcher, a sophomore mass communications major from Maumelle, who was also awarded offensive player of the year.

Hatcher was also named First Team All-GAC, ranking in the top five nationally in three offensive categories including total goals scored, goals per game and total points. Hatcher was also a two-time GAC Offensive Player of the Week.

Pitchford and Tesso Wookcock, a freshman communication sciences and disorders major from Keller, Texas, joined Hatcher on the all conference first team.

Broyles, Kaitlin Asher, a freshman biology major from Fort Worth, Texas, Morgan Allen, a sophomore communication sciences and

disorders major from Sparks, Nev. and Dina Harper, a freshman pre-physical therapy major from League City, Texas, were all named second team all conference. Asher started in 14 games as a freshman, and Harper played in 15.

The last game of the season was also Senior Day. Three Lady Tiger seniors were honored. Jessica Allen played four years with the team, scoring 19 goals and seven assists in 65 games. Sarah Broyles also played with the Lady Tigers for four years and recorded 84 saves. She ended the season ranked 14th in the nation in save percentage. Morgan Pitchford spent four years on the team and ended with 14 career goals, nine assist, and five game-winning goals. In the game, the girls shut out East Central 4-0. The Lady Tigers entered the GAC tournament as the number two seed, but fell to Harding in the first match.

"After such a successful season, I feel like the team will only improve from now on," Broyles said. "Now that we have tasted this much victory and have gained confidence, our girls are only going to crave it that much more. I expect great things from these ladies."

by Brittany Nolan



Wesley Kluck Photo

**Front Row:** Logan Hompton, John Vasquez, Jared Carlin, Taylor Christian, Richard Burke, Jarrad Collins, Wayne Smith, David Henley, Gage Romero, Kevin Tello, Keith James; **Second Row:** Rojo Scott, Dillon Farrell, Tyler Mouton, Brandon Horn, Taylor Heinsohn, Philippe Ichter, Jacob Mathis, AJ Bauckman, Brandon Horman, Spencer Soles; **Back Row:** Nathan Gay, Ryan Trayner, Sewell Yost, Matt West, Colton Huie, Ian Manteiro, Ryan Stuckey, Kyle Hendren, Gideon Onguti, John Givier, Bry Goss

Jared Carlin stops the ball in a match against Delta State. The Tigers were ranked as high as fourth in the central region and faced a number of nationally ranked teams. Carlin, an accounting major from Lubbock, Texas, played four years with the Tigers starting 57 of 64 games.



Wesley Kluck



Wesley Kluck Photo

AJ Bauckman pushes the ball past defenders. Bauckman played three years with the Tigers after transferring from Eastern New Mexico University. While at OBU, AJ amassed four goals, three assists and eight points. He was a history major from Irving, Texas.

Taylor Heinsohn controls the ball against Delta State. Heinsohn played three years for the Tigers, playing in 37 games and starting 10. Four of Taylor's six career goals were game winning goals for the Tigers. He also had three assists.



Wesley Kluck Photo



Wesley Kluck Photo

Taylor Christian moves the ball away from defenders in a match against CBC. The sophomore from Mesquite, Texas, played in 14 games for the Tigers. The team defeated CBC 5-3, and finished the season 5-9-1.



The team huddles up in a match. The Tigers had six graduating seniors and six players returning next year.

McMurry: 1-1	West Texas A&M: 0-2	Lindenwood: 0-2
Lindenwood: 1-2	Southwest Baptist: 5-2	Harding: 0-1
Northeastern State: 0-1	Lyon College: 1-0	Delta State: 1-2

# GOOD

*Game*



The words "good game" were repeated numerous times as the two teams high-fived after the game.

The men's soccer team experienced a season of challenges and opportunities; however, the thing that remained consistent was each player's determination to play a "good game."

The men's soccer team faced a season of six home games and nine away games, with most of the trips being more than four hours away.

On their journeys, the team was able to play against nationally ranked teams such as Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Mo., and Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla.

The team was challenged by coaches Kevin Wright, Marquis Muse and Neal Burton to focus on their academics while also balancing the time spent away from campus with more away games than usual. "I think all student athletes know that balancing school and sports is not easy," said senior Taylor Heinsohn, forward and computer science major from Hallsville, Texas. "But at the end of the day, it's all worth it to know that you gave your all to the team."

Seventeen freshmen signed to play on the team. With only 15 returning players, the team more than doubled. That gave the returning players an opportunity to act as leaders on and off of the field. They had little time before the season began to familiarize themselves with their new teammates.

Although the Tigers finished with a record of 5-9-1, they understood that their season served as a building block for the future.

"This season was filled with chances to rise above what looked to be insurmountable obstacles for our team," said senior Nathan Gay, left back and business management major from Little Rock. "Although we faced losses, it was worth experiencing coming together as a team to share in triumph as well."

The last game the seniors played was against Delta State. It also happened to be Senior Day.

They knew that they had to keep up their defensive line against Delta State. Through a penalty kick, Gay was able to score.

"When I stepped up to take the shot, I was determined to tie the game," Gay said. "There was a lot of pressure because we were down 1-0, but I pushed pass it because I knew how much it meant to the

other seniors."

Gay made the shot by shooting the ball to the left side of the net where the Delta State's keeper was unable to block it. With only a few minutes left on the clock and a tied score, the team saw they were going to get 10 more minutes of overtime to gain one last win.

The game went into overtime. The first 17 minutes of overtime were filled with moments that made the entire crowd jump out of their seat in suspense, but neither team scored.

In a second overtime, fans sat on the edge of their seats as the sun slowly began to set. The Tigers and fans could barely see the ball in the dimly lit field when it snuck past the keeper at about five minutes into the second overtime. Delta State scored, winning the game 2-1.

The seniors were honored at their last game, but the ceremony was not simply a customary celebration. As the seniors collected their memorabilia and jerseys to head back to the locker room for the last time, the crowd stood and applauded the seniors and team who delivered a "good game."

*by Tori Abellera*



Scan for more information on the OBU Men's Soccer team

Delta State: 1-2

Harding: 1-2

Dallas Baptist: 3-2

Mississippi College: 0-3

5-9-1



A Last  
Second Shot

had been working hard with the girls all week and had them in the right place. We were really able to shut people down," Crowder said.

The Lady Tigers held Henderson to 7-22 shooting and 22 percent from three-point range. The girls dominated the turnover battle and controlled the basket all night, finishing with six turnovers to Henderson's 20. When the final whistle sounded, the girls found themselves up 40-plus points in a perfect send-off for the seniors on the team.

"All four of those young ladies are quality people, and we are going to miss them," Crowder said about the four seniors on the team.

For the men's team, a win was absolutely necessary if the boys wanted to see the post-season.

"We were in a situation where we had two games remaining, and we had to at least win one of the two to have a chance, so we were ready to take care of business on that Thursday night," Coach Nutt said.

By the end of the first half, the men's team was trailing Henderson by one point 27-28. With 5 minutes left to play in the second half, Colt Fason, a junior kinesiology major from Conway, hit a jumper to tie the game at 53. Henderson's Reggie Murphy scored the next five points for the Reddies, but fouled Delph on a three point attempt, sending him to the free throw line. "Free throws are supposed to be tree points. They are also something we spend a lot of time with, so I went to the line with a lot of confidence," Delph said.

Delph went into the game shooting 93 percent from the line, and was good for all three points.

Down two points with six seconds left, the team sent Henderson's Kevin Korzan to the free throw line. "We huddled up and I told Colt, 'He's gonna miss, if they double me, I'll kick it to you and make it, and if not then I'll make it,'" Delph said.

That was exactly what happened. Korzan missed his first one and one shot, giving Delph the ball with six seconds remaining. Delph brought the ball up court, used a quick screen from Fason and knocked down the three with six tenths of a second left in the game. The final buzzer sounded and the fans rushed the court, lifting Delph into the air.

"That was a really awesome moment. The students backed us up all year even though our season wasn't the best. It was great having their support all year," Delph said.

In February 27, Bill Vinning Arena was packed to the brim for another edition of the Battle of the Ravine. Both the girls and boys teams were set to compete and both squads had something on the line going into the game. Coach Crowder and his Lady Tigers had struggled in the year, until finally finding their groove late in the season. Coach Dennis Nutt and the men's team were having a roller coaster season of their own, moving into the game with a record of 8-16. Both teams did not have the option to lose if they wanted to post-season play.

For the senior night into the mix, and then you've got a perfect storm for an unforgettable Battle of the Ravine. When these two teams get together, it's always a heated battle," Nutt said.

For the Lady Tigers, a victory of 93-51 over the Reddies got the night off to a winning start. For the men, Delph's three point shot with 2.4 seconds left set to one of the most dramatic finishes in recent memory.

"All you, I've been in a lot of games. I've coached a lot of games and I've played in a lot, but I've never been one where you are down five points with 8.6 seconds left and win in regulation," Nutt said.

For the Lady Tigers, winning that night ended their season on a high note and gave a sense of revenge for the girls who had gone across the street in January and lost to Henderson, 49-78.

The basically felt embarrassed by the way we played over in the Wells Center in January, but we came back and played really good basketball down the stretch," Crowder said. "When you cap off your season with a 44 point win over your rivals, the feeling is almost unparalleled. It was great to send the girls out with such an exciting win."

The girls hit the ground running after the tip off, taking out a 21-7 lead in the first six minutes of the game. Never letting Henderson come close, the team started the first half with a 25 point lead. The team shot the field and 41 percent from beyond the arc. James, a senior kinesiology major from Pine Bluff, was 4-5 from the three-point line in the first half and recorded 14 points.

The second half was more of the same, with the team turning up the pressure on defense. A lot of that credit goes to assistant coach Michael Jennings. He

Arkansas Baptist Univ.: 61-0 | Lindenwood Open | Univ. of Central Okla.: 17-28

Jet Invitational: 2nd | Cental Missouri Duals: 3W-0L | National Duals: 12th

Oklahoma City Univ.: 26-22 | Central Missouri: 22-21 | Lindenwood Univ.: 20-16

Univ. of Central Okla.: 16-19 | Maryville Duals: 1W-2L | Regional Tournament: 5th

National Tournament: 4th Place Team Finish | Kevin Ward: Coach of the Year

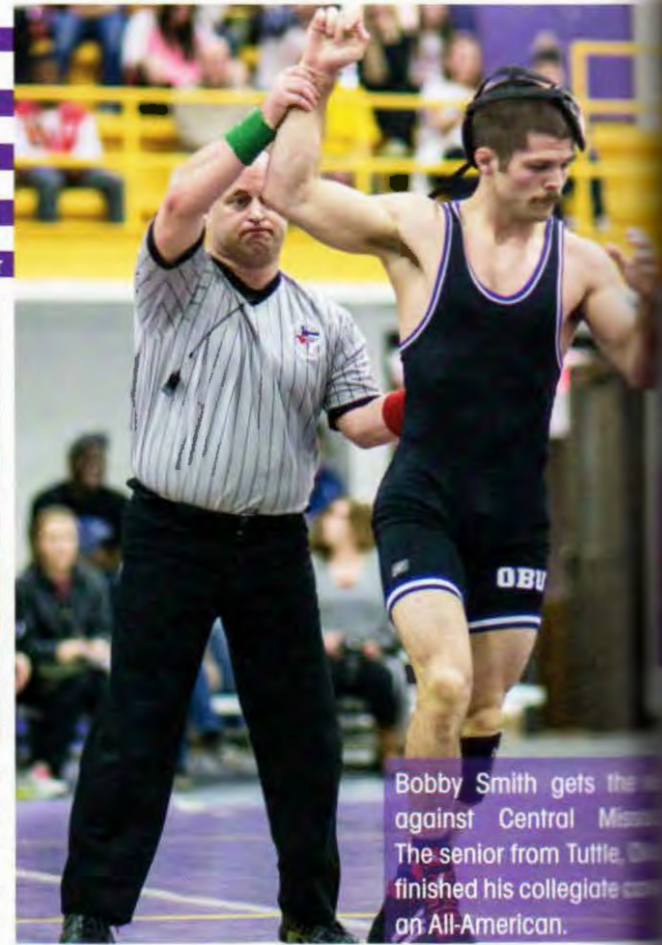


Josh Manck Photo



Scan for more information on the OBU Wrestling team

Cooch Chris Chinouma, Josh Myers, Garret Evans, Bobby Williams, Dallas Smith, Nate Rodriguez and Coach Kevin Ward celebrate after the national tournament. All five athletes qualified for the NCAA tournament held in Cleveland, Ohio. All five earned All-American honors, and the team finished fourth in the country.



Bobby Smith gets the win against Central Missouri. The senior from Tuttle, Okla., finished his collegiate career as an All-American.

Dallas Smith scrambles to maintain control against a Central Missouri wrestler in a dual meet in January. Smith finished the year in third place after battling back from a quarterfinal loss at the national tournament.

**Front Row:** Nate Rodriguez, Josh Myers, Garret Evans, Lee Celestino, Joey Mereo, Sawyer Smith, Seth Hutchinson; **Second Row:** Asistant Cooch Chris Chinouma, Zach Matthews, Max Welsh, Jacob Andrews, Dexter Carter, Elyjoh Crumpler, Andrew Martin, Bobby Williams, Head Coach Kevin Ward, Grad Assitant Aaron Butler; **Back Row:** Troy Mercer, Dallas Smith, Nathan Jackson, O'dell Lee, Mason Pemba, Taylor Pae



Wesley Kluck Photo





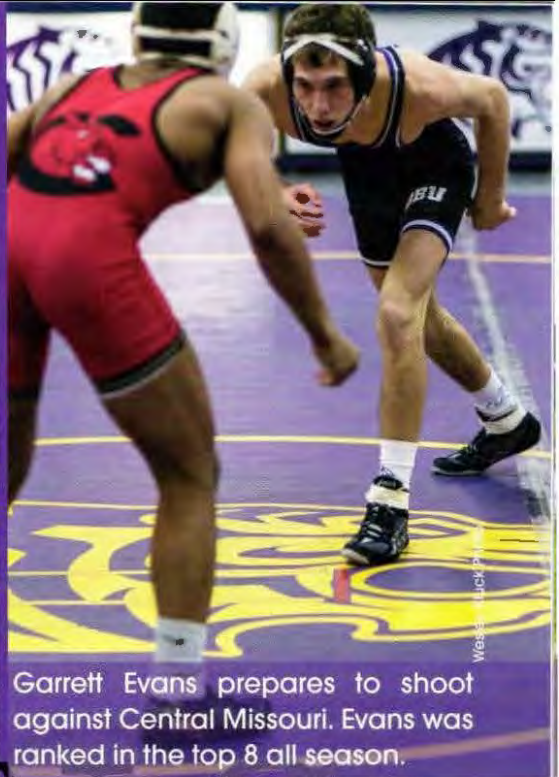
Bobby Smith gets the win against Central Missouri. The senior from Tuttle, Okla. finished his collegiate career as an All-American.



Garrett Evans, Nate Rodriguez and Zach Matthews shake hands after a January dual meet. The Tigers finished the regular season with an 10-9 dual record, earning its best winning dual record in program history.



Nate Rodriguez looks for the pin against Central Missouri. Rodriguez, a freshman from Neosho, Miss., earned All American honors.



Garrett Evans prepares to shoot against Central Missouri. Evans was ranked in the top 8 all season.

# W I N T E R S E A S O N W I N N I N G



**T**he wrestling season for the Ouachita Tigers was one that will forever be remembered. Expectations were high for the Tigers, as their preseason rank was #8 in Division II. Ouachita, led by head coach Kevin Word, was up for the challenge and hungry to prove that they could live up to each city expectations.

The first competition of the year for the Tigers was a dual meet against three Division II schools. Ouachita held its own against some of the best in the nation in Arizona State and Illinois, and even pulled the upset against Southern Illinois. It was a great way to open the season for the Tigers and really gave them some momentum moving forward. They followed with dominating victories over Central Baptist and Arkansas Baptist. Junior Dallas Smith made a name for himself at the Lindenwood Open. He won the entire tournament, defeating wrestlers from Oklahoma State and Iowa along the way, and he was named Division II Wrestler of the Week after his memorable performance. Smith and fellow junior Josh Myers also won at the Jet Invite in which Ouachita participated.

Despite ups and downs throughout the season, the Tigers finished with an impressive 8-5 regular season record in dual meets,

including wins over Newman University, Mary University, and Minot State, the first winning dual season in school history. Impressively, Ouachita never dropped outside of the top 20 in national rankings.

Capping off their stellar regular season, the Tigers sent a school record of five wrestlers to the NCAA Division II Championships in Cleveland, Ohio. Senior Bobby Williams, juniors Dallas Smith and Josh Myers, sophomore Garrett Evans, and freshman Nate Rodriguez represented Ouachita and competed valiantly as each one of them earned All-America honors at the end of the tournament. Myers especially was in a league of his own in Cleveland. He dominated his first three opponents, winning by a combined score of 27-5 to advance to the Division II championship against Daniel Ownbey of University of North Carolina-Pembroke. Myers lost a heartbreaking match by a score of 2-1 to finish as the national runner-up. Smith, Williams, Evans, and Rodriguez, also all left Cleveland ranked nationally in the top 8 of their weight classes, with Smith finishing third in the 184-pound weight class.

These were not the only accolades that the Tigers earned during their trip to the Division II Championships. Ouachita finished as the fourth ranked team in the nation, and Coach Ward was named the NCAA Division

II Coach of the Year, the highest individual award given to a coach each season.

Coach Ward established the Ouachita wrestling program in 2010, improving every season leading up to this historic run for the Tigers. Coach Ward also featured two new assistant coaches on his staff this season, former NAIA National Champion wrestler Chris Chionuma and Ouachita's own Aaron Butler. Chionuma said about this season, "It was an honor to be a part of this special team. The five All-Americans were representatives of our team as a whole. We couldn't have done it without everyone on the team buying in." Butler moved from athlete to coach this season after fishing up his eligibility in the previous spring. "Although it was different not competing, it was a honor to be able to still contribute," Butler said.

To walk away with five All-Americans, the number four-team ranking in the country, and the NCAA Division II Coach of the Year Award was no small feat. The most difficult challenge for Coach Ward, assistant coach Chionuma, and the Ouachita Tiger wrestlers will be finding a way to build off of this success and do even better in the coming seasons.

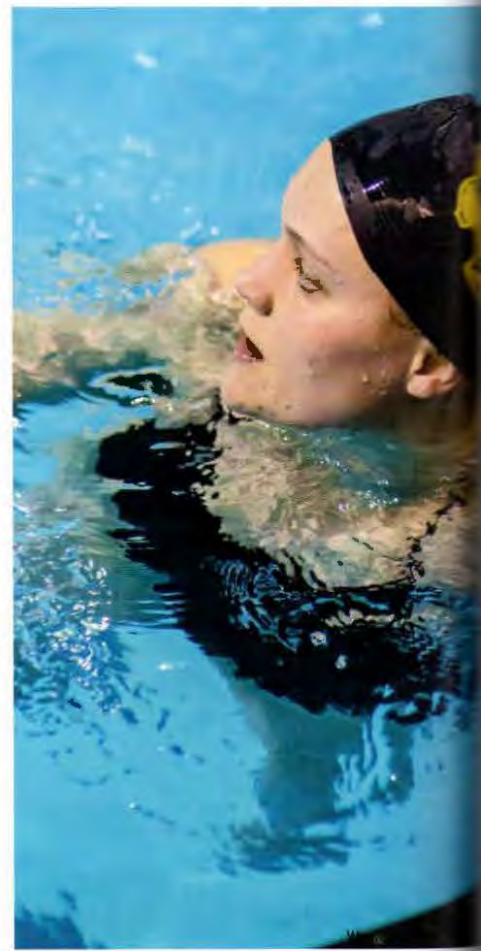
by Zach Parker





**Front Row:** Karen Wray, Haley Fax, Tatiana Pacheca, Holy Wray, Rachel Ewart ; **Second Row:** Jessica Hillyard, Michelle Wasmund, Rebecca Zandstra, Jennifer Steele, Bailey Broadway; **Back Row:** Alyssa Stubblefield, Elizabeth Willis, Brittany Ewart, Emily Grigsby

Alyssa Stubblefield tags the wall and checks her time at the Battle of the Ravine senior night. The girls dominated HSU in the meet, finishing with a team score of 124-99. The Lady Tiger Sharks placed at least two swimmers in the top three of all but two events and won all of the relay events. All seven seniors were recognized at the event: Brittany Ewart, Haley Fox, Jessica Hillyard, Jennifer Steele, Michelle Wosmund, Holy Wray and Rebecca Zandstra.



Liz Williams, Rachel Ewart and Emily Grigsby pose for a picture at Senior Night. The team had seven seniors on the squad and all of them were honored with a great performance from the Lady Tiger Sharks with a win over the Reddies 124-93.

Holly Wray competes in the butterfly event at Waggoner Pool against Henderson. Wray, a senior history major from Eads, Tenn., competed at the NSISC championships placing 8th in the 100 yard butterfly with a time of 59.60 and 7th in the 200 yard butterfly with a time of 2:13.77.



Elizabeth Willis competes in the backstroke event at Waggoner Pool. Willis, a sophomore biology and kinesiology major from Kingsland, Ga., placed third at the NSISC meet in the 100 yard backstroke.



The girls dive into the pool on Senior Night against Henderson State. The girls beat the Reddies twice in 2012.

OBU Purple and Gold

Henderson State University: 95-117

Delta State: 41-169

UALR/ SIU: 94-120 , 43-192

# Bonding Season

Only at Ouachita will you find swimmers like the women of the OBU Lady Tigers swim team. Throughout the 2014 season, the Lady Tiger Sharks worked hard and bonded as a team to take on the competition they faced. One such swimmer was sophomore mass communications major Rachel Ewert. Ewert said that this season really helped her bond with her teammates.

"Although this might not have been the best season we've ever had, as a team we came together," Ewert said.

This was a bonding season for the Lady Tiger Sharks. Along with their goals they set for performance, they also set team goals and met them. Ewert said the goals they set really helped her to strive high and swim well.

"No matter what the results were of the meets, we just continued to think positive," Ewert said. "This team is like a second family to me and that's what mattered most to me. We supported each other through it and bonded."

The Lady Tiger Sharks' early success came when Jennifer Steele, Rebecca Zandstra, Haley Fox and Elizabeth Willis placed

second in the Women's 800 Yard Freestyle Relay at the UALR Invitational. Elizabeth Willis finished first in the 100 Yard Backstroke with a time of 58:09. Also, in the 200 Yard IM, Rachel Ewert finished second with the time of 2:12.07 and Hally Wray finished third with the time of 2:15.22. Ewert also placed third in the 200 Yard Backstroke with a time of 2:08.11.

The Lady Tigers came through when the pressure was on and took the victory over rival Henderson State on January 24. The win helped the Lady Tigers gain momentum going into the NSISC meet. But the meet would be the toughest competition they had faced.

The Lady Tiger Sharks finished the season by setting records at the NSISC meet. Senior Jennifer Steele recorded the fastest time in Ouachita Baptist swimming history in the 200-yard freestyle preliminary race with 1:52.20. Along with the 200-yard freestyle, Steele also finished second in the 500-yard freestyle preliminary race. Sophomore Elizabeth Willis also did well in the prelims and finished 3rd in the 100-yard backstroke with a 58.33 time.

Senior Rebecca Zandstra finished third in two preliminary races (50 yard freestyle

and 100 yard freestyle). Zandstra, Emily Grigsby, Alyssa Stubbeffield and Steele also finished second in the 200-yard relay preliminary race.

One successful swimmer for the Lady Tiger Sharks was sophomore Bailey Bodway. Although she struggled through injury this year, Bodway credits the team with having pride and bonding as a group.

"I love swimming for this team because it makes me feel like I have a second family away from home. Being so far away from home, the swim team has really helped me cope with that. I also have met some awesome people here and they have helped me through so much," said Bodway, a sophomore early childhood education major from Magnolia, Texas.

The team will be losing seven seniors, Brittany Ewert, Haley Fox, Jessica Hillyard, Jennifer Steele, Michelle Wasmund, Hally Wray, and Rebecca Zandstra. Bodway, along with a strong junior class, will return for the Lady Tigers next season.

The season was full of ups and downs for the Lady Tiger Sharks, but one thing that remained constant was the bond that these girls shared.

*by Evian Hill*



Scan for more information on the OBU Women's Swim team

State University: 60-151 | UALR Invitational: 3rd

State University: 124-93 | NSISC Championships: 4th



Wesley Kluck Photo

Matt Cox competes in the butterfly event at the last home meet of the season. Cox had success swimming the butterfly, as he placed first in the 100 yard butterfly at the UALR Christmas Invitational. Also at the invitational, the 800 yard freestyle relay team of Neil Fogel, Matt Cox, Emile Maritz placed first.



The Tigersharks fire off starting block in a swim meet against Henderson State. The meet was Saturday Night In for the Tiger Sharks.



Scan for more information on the OBU Men's Swim Team

Tim Ferris competes in a race against Henderson State. The men's team started off strong in the meet, winning the first three spots in the 200 freestyle race. Despite strong swimming some of their best times this season, the Tigers would come just short and fell 149-91.

**Front Row:** Misaki Onoue, Emile Mortiz, Matt Cox, Jason Puliano, Austin Cody; **Second Row:** Colt Thompson, Yan Rocha, Christopher Price, Kody Moffatt, Kenton Scott; **Third Row:** Zac Mertins, David Wray, Neil Fogel, Cawley Starling, Cody Knapp; **Back Row:** Tim Ferris, Dawson Pritchard, Luke Jamison.



Wesley Kluck Photo



Wesley Kluck Photo



Yan Rocha prepares to begin the backstroke competition. Rocha, a business and administration major from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, finished in 7th place in the 200 yard freestyle at the NSISC Championship.



Jason Pullano makes his way to be congratulated by Coach Killackey. All of the seniors were recognized at the last meet.



Cawley Starling catches his breath after finishing his race. Starling was from Abilene, Texas.

# OVERCOMING *Obstacles*

**T**he season didn't officially start until the middle of October, but it was long before then that the team was waking up before the sun rose to prepare for the meets. Starting the third week of school, while the sun was still below the horizon, the men's swim team woke up at 5:30 to go to practice. They practiced in the morning and then again in the afternoon, all in preparation for the season. They even went back early to campus from Christmas break to practice together.

The team attended six different meets; two at home in Waggoner Pool, two at Henderson State University and two in Cleveland, Miss., including the conference meet at Delta State University. Even though individual swimmers placed at each meet, the team as a whole did not have enough swimmers to compile the necessary points to win a meet.

"It wasn't our lack of speed that was the problem. We had some really fast guys. We just didn't have the numbers that other teams had," said Luke Jamison, a freshman biology major from Benton. "Other teams had way more guys than we did."

The way the scoring worked at a meet was first place received the most points while the eighth place finisher earned the

fewest. Ninth and below were not awarded any points. With this format, a swimmer could win first, but the opposing team may have won second through eighth place. The opposing team would then accumulate more points, therefore winning the meet.

Despite the team's low numbers and overall meet results, the individual swimmers placed high. Neil Fogel, a junior political science major from Monterey, Calif., got on the podium more often than other team members. He swam both the 200 and 500 free style, as well as the mile. Kady Moffatt, a senior kinesiology major from Temecula, Calif., was a leader for the team as well, getting on the podium in both the 200 and 400 individual medleys.

At the UALR Christmas Invitational the 800 yard freestyle relay team of Fogel, Matt Cox, a junior business administration and finance major from Wake Villoge, Texas, Emile Maritz, a junior business administration and finance major from Los Vegas, Nev. and Moffatt, placed first. Cox finished first in the 100 yard butterfly.

"The weather forced officials to change the meet format, so the way we adjusted showed me a lot about where we are physically and mentally," said coach Ryan Killackey. "We embraced the challenge and as a result, we had athletes posting their best

times in events. Right away I felt like the weekend was a great success. It's good knowing we can excel as a team, regardless of the obstacle."

At the meet against rival Henderson State, Fogel, Cox and Yan Rocha, finished in first, second and third place in the 200 yard freestyle. Kenton Scott, a kinesiology major from Saint Cloud, Fla., Tim Ferris, a senior business administration and marketing major from Triangle, Zimbabwe, and Dawson Pritchard, a senior kinesiology major from Denton, Texas, won first, second and third place in the 50 yard freestyle. The relay team of Fogel, Maritz, David Wray, a sophomore sociology major from Eads, Tenn., and Moffatt finished first in the 400 yard freestyle.

In the New South Intercollegiate Conference Championship meet in Cleveland, Miss., Fogel broke the longest standing school record in the 500 yard freestyle race.

"That swim was for my coach, Ryan Killackey, and all the time he invested in me," said Fogel. "Regardless of my own doubts, he never stopped believing in me. I was honored to share that experience with him, my team, and my school."

by Brittany Nolan



**Front Row:** Nashia James, Allie Brown, Erica Sharp, Elise Holman; **Back Row:** Athletic Trainer Brandon Sitz, Assistant Coach Michale Jennings, Katherine West, Hayley Cooper, Ashley Johnson, Breona Harris, Macey Burr, Katie Kapler, Alexis Sharp, Jay Okeke, Kaylen Taylor, Kelsey Smith, Student Assistant Coach Emily Payne, Head Coach Garry Crowder

Nashia James launches one from the corner in a February matchup against Henderson State. James, a senior guard from Pine Bluff, Ark., was the leading scorer and rebounder for the Lady Tigers in the 2013-2014 season. James was named to the all GAC Second Team for the 2013-2014 season, and became only the third player in conference history to top 1,000 points for a career. The Lady Tigers were able to defeat HSU at home, 93-51.



Alexis Sharp sets up the offense against the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith. Sharp played in 27 games this season, and averaged 14.5 minutes per game. The sophomore guard from Jonesboro, Ark., put up seven against UA Fort Smith. The Lady Tigers won the game, 72-70.

Wesley Kluck Photo

Katherine West begins a drive toward the basket against UA Fort Smith. West averaged 25 minutes a game in the 2013-2014 season. The Lady Tigers ended the season with only four seniors on the team, and nearly missed upsetting the number one seeded Lady Bisons in the first round of the GAC tournament.



Wesley Kluck Photo



Elise Holman, Erica Sharp, Katherine West, and Alexis Sharp line up for an in-bounds play. The Sharp sisters were both major contributors to the team throughout the season.

Wesley Kluck Photo



Ashley Johnson pushes ball upcourt in the meeting of the Battle of Ravine.

Washburn University: 72-80 | East Central University: 55-63 | Southeastern Okla. State: 61-58

UA Fort Smith: 72-70 | Texas A&M Commerce: 64-68 | Southern Nazarene: 61-58

Northwestern Okla. State: 56-73 | Southwestern Okla. State: 72-93 | UAM: 82-58

Southern Nazarene: 71-61 | Arkansas Tech: 55-71 | Harding Univ.: 65-72 | Northwestern Okla. State: 83-60 | Southwestern Okla. State: 72-93

# FINDING

## A Groove



The Lady Tiger basketball season was the definition of a roller coaster. The season started low as the team struggled to score. Once the new year rolled around, however, the women found a groove, beginning with a win over Blue Mountain College and a conference victory over Arkansas Tech. Over the next six games, the Lady Tigers entered a down slope, recording only one win and losing five games. That would be the lowest the Lady Tigers would allow themselves to fall, as the second half of the season was a skyward journey.

Fighting for a spot in the Great American Conference Tournament, the team won five of their last nine regular season games. All five victories were by at least 10 points, including a 23-point win over Northwestern Oklahoma State and a 42-point win over Henderson State.

The team reached one of its highest points of the season in a win over Southern Nazarene in which senior Nashio James, a kinesiology major from Pine Bluff, became only the third player in GAC history to score 1,000 points, and head coach Garry Crowder recorded his 700th win as a wom-

en's basketball head coach.

The team continued to climb late in the year as they played the nationally ranked Harding Lady Bisons. The team was within three points late in the contest before losing 72-65.

"We played them really close," Crowder said. "I think that gave the girls a lot of confidence."

After the loss, Crowder and James led the team to three straight wins to clinch a spot in the tournament. James scored team-highs of 18 points, 19 points and 17 points during the streak.

"It was all a matter of us wanting it more than the other teams," James said. "(Crowder) just told us we had to work hard if we wanted to win, and we did just that."

The game against Henderson State was the highest scoring game of the season for team, and four players scored at least 10 points. James scored 17 points in the blow-out win.

"By the end of the year, we felt we were just about as good as anybody in the conference," said Crowder.

They entered the GAC Tournament as the eighth seed and would face the one-seeded Harding, who at that point was ranked

second nationally. Crowder's squad was lights out from the field, shooting 42 percent, while holding Harding to only 27 percent. Free-throws ended up being the difference in the game, however, as Harding recorded 27 points from the line to steal the 60-57 win, ending the season at 9-18.

"There were a lot of things about this team that were championship caliber," Crowder said. "I thought our team chemistry and work ethic were outstanding, and offensively, we ran our stuff as good as any team I have had. And our seniors are such high-character people."

Seniors on the team were James, Erico Sharp, a business administration and marketing major from Jonesboro, Elise Holman, a Christian media/mass communications major from Berryville and Allie Brown, a communication sciences disorders major from Rosston. Brown recorded a three-point basket in five of the last seven games of the season, including eight points in a win over Southwestern Oklahoma State.

"The thing that I will remember most about this team," Crowder said, "is that they probably improved more, from the beginning of the season to the end, than any team that I have had."

by Brandon Smith



Scan for more information on the DBU Women's Basketball team

Western State: 74-84 | Southern Arkansas: 69-73

Blue Mountain: 82-52 | Arkansas Tech: 72-60 | Harding Univ.: 54-82

9-18  
Southern Arkansas: 55-66 | Southeastern Okla. State: 85-75 | East Central: 48-59

Univ. of Ark. Monticello: 64-75 | GAC Tournament: Harding 57-60



Scan for more information on the OBU Men's Basketball team



Colt Fason drives against UAM defender. Fason named to the All-GAC honorable mention Team for the 2013-2014 season.

Eric Bauer (11) drives down the lane against Henderson's Melvin Haynes (3). At the second Battle of the Ravine, the Tigers were down 5 points with 8 seconds left, and came back to win in regulation.

**Front Row:** Micah Delph, Colt Fason, Eric Bauer, Allen Buchanan, Tyler Gattin, Jerron Smith; **Back Row:** Head Coach Dennis Nutt, Assistant Coach Logan Johnson, Sterling Bailey, David Hill, Carven Holcolmbe, John Kornet, Kyle Francis, David Day, Manager Bryce Evans, Athletic Trainer Brandon Sitz





Francis (12) blocks a shot by Harding's Watson James (14). Francis, a 6-9 senior from Brooklyn, New York, recorded blocks in the January match-up against the Ravens.



Micah Delph is lifted into the air after the second battle of the Ravine. Fans rushed the court as time expired.



Allen Buchanan (23) pushes the ball toward the basket over Hardings' Hayden Johnson (21).

# BUILDING *a foundation*

**T**he men's basketball team had a season of ups and downs.

"It was a little tough going this year," said head coach Dennis Nutt. "We had some rough spots, had some good wins, but at the end of the day we didn't win enough games to go and defend our title."

The Tigers finished the year with a 9-17 overall record. Three of the nine wins included a season sweep of the Battle of the Ravine series against Henderson State University, as well as a victory over Harding University, the GAC Tournament Champions.

"It's always great to win against Henderson, especially since they're our rivals," said Micah Delph, a junior biology major from Conway. "How we won was very dramatic, and I'm sure it's cool from a fan's perspective, but I'd rather it be a little more comfortable. At the end of the day, a win's a win."

On February 27, Micah Delph's game-winning shot brought the team to their second straight victory over Henderson. Each game against Henderson State came down to the last possession. The team took advantage of each game behind Delph's two game-winning shots. The second one falling with 2.4 seconds left in the game. Delph took a missed free throw from Henderson's Kevin Korzan the length of the floor

to sink the three.

"Micah always seemed to come up with big shots," Nutt said. "He just loves the end of games, and the chance to be a hero."

The team's second win against Henderson State put them one win away from getting back in the conference tournament. However, they failed to qualify after losing to the University of Arkansas at Manticallo.

"After last season, we knew we had some major holes to fill after losing four senior starters," Nutt said. "We knew we had to try to replace those guys who had lot of experience on this team."

The team did not qualify for the GAC Tournament for the first time since moving to the Great American Conference in 2012.

"We didn't do what we wanted to do. We wanted to get to the tournament and repeat as champions," said Colt Fason, a junior kinesiology major from Conway. "We didn't execute at the end of games."

Two juniors, Delph and Fason, led the team in scoring. Fason finished the season as the teams leading scorer and rebounder averaging 16.9 points and 8.8 rebounds a game. Fason also recorded a team-high 10 double-doubles this season. Fason was named to the 2013-2014 All GAC honorable mention team, he led the team in scoring with 16.9 points per game, as well as leading the

Tigers in rebounds per game averaging 8.8. He also finished second in the conference with nine double-doubles in the season.

Delph concluded the year averaging 15.5 points, 4.4 assists and 4.3 rebounds a game. Delph also broke the GAC record for most three-pointers in a game by making 10 threes against Northwestern Oklahoma State on January 16.

Eric Braeuer, a senior accounting major from Belton, Texas, and Allen Buchanan, freshman kinesiology major from Marked Tree, also played major roles during the season. Braeuer averaged 9.8 points and 3.5 assists per game and averaged 30.8 minutes of playing time for the season. Buchanan averaged 9.5 points, while also bringing Tiger Nation to their feet with his dunks.

The team looked to improve on their nine-win season as offseason practice began.

"We have great team chemistry. We know what we need to work on, and we're excited to begin offseason practice," said Fason.

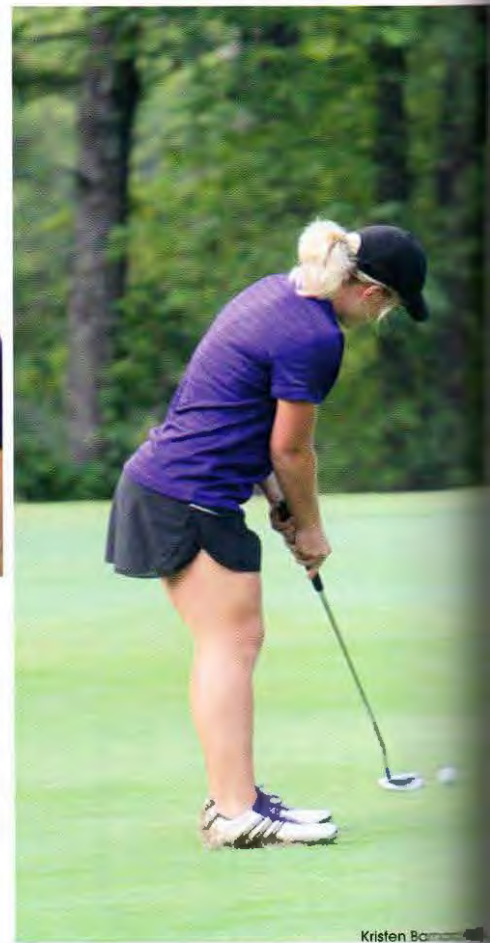
by Matt Brockway



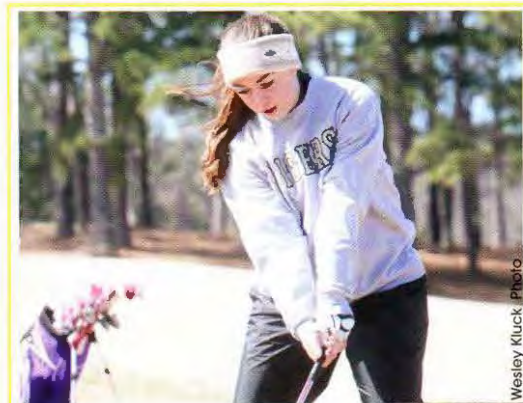


**Front Row:** Bethany Clay, Ali Robinson, Head Coach Doug Taylor, Taylor Skinner, Emily Haynes.

Senior Emily Hayes works on her short game at a practice day at Lake DeGray. The girls competed in a number of tournaments around the state. Competing in eight different competitions, the girls worked on their game throughout the season and prepared for the GAC Women's Golf Championships, where the girls finished the season in 9th place.



Kristen Barnard Photo



Wesley Kluck Photo

Ali Robinson prepares to swing on a cold day at the course. The girls played in all kinds of weather to perfect their game. The season ran from early February to early April, where the girls competed in the conference tournament. Robinson, a sophomore, was from Bella Vista, Ark.

Bethany Clay watches her ball down the fairway. Clay, a junior from Locksburg, Ark., traveled with the team around the state competing in different tournaments. The small team became very close over the season after traveling together.



Kristen Barnard Photo



Kristen Barnard Photo

Taylor Skinner drives the ball at Lake DeGray. Skinner and the rest of the team tried to play several times a week at the local course to keep their game sharp. Skinner was in her senior season and was from Hot Springs, Ark.



Sophomore Ali Robinson walks the course during practice day. The girls perfected their skills all season.

Southern Ark. Univ. Mulerider Classic: 4th Place | Henderson Lady Reddie Invitational: 4th Place

Ouachita Baptist Univ./Univ. of Arkansas Monticello Fall Dual Match: 2nd Place

Ouachita Baptist Univ./Southern Ark. Univ. Spring Dual Match: 2nd Place

# PLAYING

## Four Game

**S**enior Emily Hays led the Lady Tigers golf team with a seventh place finish at the SAU Fall Classic and placed in the top 12 at both the HSU Reddie Invitational and the UAM Fall Classic. She finished 25th at the Great American Conference Championships in April as the team placed ninth in the conference.

Hays, a nutrition and dietetics major from El Dorado, completed the three-round GAC Championships in Hot Springs with four birdies, which tied for ninth among the 48 competing golfers. The senior from El Dorado was a four-year veteran of the team and led the Lady Tigers in each of their tournaments.

Taylor Skinner, a biology major from Hot Springs Village, joined the team as a senior. She provided leadership and encouragement to the younger players.

"This team was so much fun to be on. I enjoyed the time spent with my teammates and coach throughout the season and am excited to see the team improve over the next few years," Skinner said. "This was a fun and rewarding way to spend my senior year."

All Robinson, a sophomore mass communications major from Bella Vista, also enjoyed the team chemistry and looked forward to her junior and senior campaigns.

"Our team scores may not have turned

out as good as we hoped, but they didn't reflect our personal scores by any means," Robinson said. "Our team really enjoyed being in each other's company and that made every aspect of golf better," Robinson said. "Golf is all about competing with yourself and playing your best each time you step on the course. When you can do that alongside encouraging and supportive team members, it makes the game so much more fun."

Doug Taylor enjoyed serving as the team's coach. "I thoroughly enjoyed spending time with some very talented and dedicated student athletes that embodied the true qualities of Ouachita," Taylor said. "We laughed, cried, persevered and triumphed over a season that was filled with excitement. I am truly proud of each and every one of our lady golfers."

Two Lady Tigers finished in the top 15 at the HSU Fall Classic at DeGray State Park on Sept. 27-28 as sophomore Alleabelle Gongola joined Hays in a tie for the 11th position. Both shot 84 for both rounds of the tournament. Hays led Ouachita with 12 pars, while Gongola had three birdies. Robinson and freshmen Kayla Payne and Mallorely Calhoon placed in the top 20 for the tournament.

Hays' best finish of the season came in October at the Mystic Creek Golf Club in El Dorado, where she placed seventh overall

with a final score of 184. She started off the tournament with a tough first round, finishing with a 95. The second round, however, was a completely different story, in which she shot an 89. Hays' second round score was tied for fourth best of the round. Gongola finished 15th and Robinson 16th in the tournament hosted by Southern Arkansas University.

The Lady Tigers kicked off their spring season on Feb. 28 in a one-round tournament against the University of Arkansas at Monticello. Hays led the team, finishing with a score of 91 at DeGray State Park. Her round included a birdie on the 11th hole and back-to-back pars on 16 and 17. Robinson and Skinner also competed well, and the team welcomed Bethany Clay, a junior communication sciences and disorders major from Lockesburg, to tournament action.

Hays shot a combined two-round score of 180, including an opening round score of 84 to lead the Lady Tigers at the Texoma Chevy Dealers Lian Invitational at Tanglewood resort in Pottsboro, Texas. The tournament was hosted by Texas A&M Commerce, a member of the Lone Star Conference. The Lady Tigers finished 14th overall as a team. Robinson finished just behind Hays with a two-round combined score of 193.

*by Kristen Morris*



Scan for more information  
on the OBU Women's Golf  
team

Arkansas Monticello Fall Classic: 6th Place

Texoma Chevy Dealers Intercollegiate Tournament: 13th Place

Natural State Golf Classic: 13th Place | GAC Women's Golf Championship: 9th Place

Mulerider Classic: 4th | Northeastern State Classic: 15th

UCM Heart of America Invitational: 17th | UAM Fall Classic: 2nd

Texoma Invitational: 5th | Dave Falconer Classic: 16th

Natural State Classic: 10th | GAC Conference Championship: 10th



Drew Greenwood, Will Hegi, Jamie Barker, Chose Netherton and Austin Sarabia all pose for a picture at the University of Arkansas at Monticello Fall Classic golf tournament. Greenwood finished first in the tournament and the team finished second overall.



Junior Jamie Barker tees off during the tournament. Barker is one of five Tigers who represented OBU.



Scan for more information on the OBU Men's Golf Team

Sophomore Jacob Calhoon lines up to swing on a team practice day. The guys tried to play once a week, and were always trying to improve their game. The Tigers had five golfers participate in the the Great American Conference Championships.

**Front Row:** Jamie Barker, Shane Starkery, Chose Netherton, Evan Greenwood, Jacob Calhoon, Will Hegi, Austin Sarabia



Kristen Bernard Photo





Will Hegi hits the ball at the GAC Championships, where he finished overall. He ended the first round with a score of 81, and recorded one of three eagles at the tournament.



Senior Austin Sarabia works on his mid-range game at the intramural fields. The guys practiced wherever they could.



Sophomore Jacob Calhoon follows his shot at the conference tournament.

# COMPETITORS

*Drive*

**L**ed by Will Hegi, a junior accounting major from El Dorado and Honorable Mention All-GAC, and sophomore Jacob Greenwood, a sophomore business major from Springfield and the GAC Galfer of the month for October, a young Tiger golf team started in the middle of the pack but generated goals for the near future.

Hegi received attention at GAC tournaments for his prowess on par fives. He wrapped up the year with one of only three eagles at the GAC Championship Tournament in April.

Hegi, who had two top 10 finishes during the season, began playing golf at a very young age and was recognized by his teammates as one of the best and most devoted players. Hegi classified the team as a group of guys who were easy to have as teammates. One of his favorite moments took place during the last few holes of the conference tournament.

"I chipped in on the last hole with my whole team watching and that was a fun moment," said Hegi. "They are just a fun group to be around and we enjoy everything from traveling together to playing together."

Another Hegi highlight was a fifth place

finish at the Dave Falconer Memorial Invitational on March 10 and 11 at the Chamberlyne Country Club in Danville. He scored a 75 in the first round but moved up the leader board with a 71 in the second round.

Greenwood earned his GAC honor early in the season in back-to-back tournaments. He won the University of Arkansas at Monticello Fall Classic, recording seven birdies in the tournament. His two-over first round put him in the lead, and Greenwood pulled away from the pack with a one-under 70 to win the tournament by five strokes.

The rest of the team shot well also, and the Tigers finished the Fall Classic in second place, their highest team finish of the season.

Two weeks before the win in Monticello, Greenwood finished seventh in the University of Central Missouri Heart of America Invitational. He opened with a 75, but came back with back-to-back even-par rounds of 71 to move up to seventh place. The team finished 17th in the 20-team tournament.

From keeping up with the Masters together to being on the side of the green supporting a teammate, the golf team remained close-knit and supportive.

The Tigers had to overcome tough losses at tournaments. However, the guys did have

three tournaments where they finished in the top five as a team. Finishing ninth in the conference helped the returning players know where they would like to be in the future. Although having not been at the top of the conference, the team was composed of strong-willed individuals who didn't give up.

Austin Sarabia, a senior business administration and finance major from Huston, Texas, Jamie Barker, a junior biology major from Smackover, and Chase Netherton, a freshman accounting major from Conway, also competed in the GAC Championship Tournament in April. Netherton finished 11th at the UAM Fall Classic and was only two strokes behind Hegi in the GAC Championships. Sarabia and Barker were instrumental in the team's second place finish in Monticello.

"Men's golf competed well in one of the toughest conferences in NCAA Division II. With leadership from senior Austin Sarabia and junior Will Hegi, the Tiger holders represented Ouachita well," said David Sharp, athletic director and men's golf coach.

by Dalaney Thomas

ports Freaks," that is how senior Hunter Threadgill described the men and women of the intramural sports dynasty, Blood Bath and Beyond. Threadgill, a senior philosophy major from Cordova, Tenn., has been a member of the teams since his sophomore year.

Blood Bath and Beyond started three years ago in a dorm room with seven boys who decided they wanted to form an intramural team to play football together. Since then, Blood Bath and Beyond, and its many spin off teams, became the most popular and fastest growing intramural team system on campus. The founding members of the Blood Bath and Beyond phenomenon have now played three years together and finished out their senior seasons strong. According to Jacob Tinklenberg, a senior psychology major from Arlington, Texas, the name Blood Bath and Beyond came from a Google search for "punny names" and the team just formed from there. The names for the group's spin off teams for various other sports have all been original though.

"That (the names) is all pretty much Trey Lynch," said Clay Mckinney, a senior business administration major from Hughes Springs, Texas. "He is so witty. Whenever we played sophomore year we were Blood, Bath and Beyond for football, Blood, Bath and Beyond the Arc for basketball and then Blood, Bath and Beyond the Park for softball. Junior year we were Blood, Bath and Beyond polo we were Bubble Bath and Beyond and Sponge Bath and Beyond."

The clever names are one of the reasons the teams' popularity grew so quickly. Due to their catchy titles, they were easy to remember and somewhat of a hit across the campus. Another reason the team became so popular was due to the team members themselves. Many of the team members have described Blood Bath and Beyond as, "Just a big group of friends who like to play together but are still competitive." "What I really like is that it is a bunch of guys I enjoy hanging out with, but they are also really competitive teams," said Threadgill. "It's a combination of the competitiveness and the friends just all hanging out together."

Another popular trait of the team is that everyone is welcome, it is not exclusive to just one group.

"People want to be a part of the Blood Bath experience and just hang out," said Threadgill. "If they want to play with us they just need to ask, and if we need to make another team, we will make another team."

The team members also said one of the keys to the group's success has been not having too many people on one team. By spreading people out among several teams everyone gets to play and no one gets stuck on the bench. Due to the team's no one gets turned away policy, Blood Bath and Beyond has been known to have as many as three different teams in one league at the same time.

The team prided itself on bringing together students from all parts of campus.

"I really enjoy playing with Blood Bath because with sports

"S"

At games, Blood Bath and Beyond fans often outdressed fans at for social club teams who typically have larger numbers. The guys of Blood Bath and Beyond care much of their success and love of the games to their fans. "Our fan base has been really awesome," said Tinklenberg. "A lot of people come out to the games and just cheer us on. That's probably my favorite part about it."

This year the team sold over 50 BBFC soccer jerseys because fans who were not on the teams wanted to wear them too.

"I love that everyone wants to wear Blood Bath and Beyond shirts. It's cool to be around campus and see these BB shirts that we started."

The size of the team's fan base is due in large part to Mckinney.

"Sophomore year I made a Blood Bath Twitter account and our schedule to try and get people to come. A lot of people started showing up. It's the best feeling in the world to have people cheering you on when you are playing."

Unfortunately, Mckinney, an intramural basketball player, had to sit out most of his senior season due to an ACL injury on their first basketball game of the season. After a loss on their first basketball game of the season, Mckinney was playing some basketball to practice. Some of the fans went wrong while playing, and he suffered a torn ACL. "It's been hard just to watch, because I love to play with him out for the rest of the year."

"We missed him. We had to get some extra players to play one game and then got hurt."

"We lost Clay for basketball," said Tinklenberg. "But he has been a good coach and supported us on the side when he has not been able to play."

As the founders of Blood Bath and Beyond closed out their senior intramural seasons, they reflected on their time with Blood Bath, but it has been really good to get to know new people and hangout with old friends and just be closer with a group.

"Blood Bath has given me just a lot of good memories. I wish it could continue my college experience for sure. I wish it could continue a lot of good times," said Tinklenberg. "It's been the highlight of my college experience for sure. I wish it could continue."

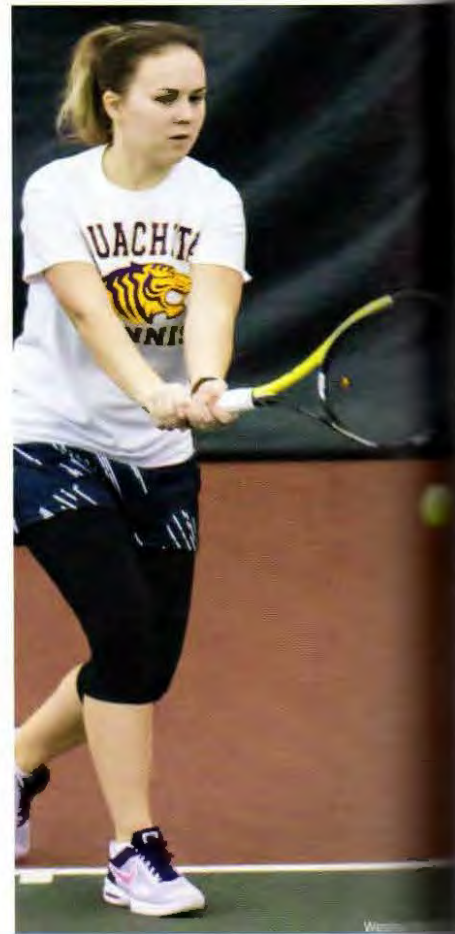


# Leaving a Legacy Behind



**Front Row:** Katelyn Barber, Valeriya Mansvetova, Mary Rachel Wolf, Keely Hawk, Polino Tsymbalava, Camila Ferreira

Freshman Valeriya Mansvetova returns the ball in a home match against University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Mansvetova was a freshman from Moscow, Russia. The 5-4 loss to UAPB was the team's closest match of the season.



Freshman Camilla Ferreira waits for her opponent to return the ball. Ferreira was a freshman from Sao Paulo, Brazil. Ferreira earned a spot on the president's list for her 4.0 grade average in the fall semester. She was named the teams' most outstanding player.

Senior Mary Rachel Wolf prepares to serve the ball at a home match at the indoor tennis facility at Ouachita. Wolf, a senior from Hot Springs, Ark. is pursuing a biology degree. Wolf is a member of the EEE social club, and received the Jerry Forehand award at the 2014 Athletic Awards Banquet.



Senior Katelyn Barber greets her teammate Valeriya Mansvetova in a doubles match. The team allowed girls that lived across the globe from each other to connect and bond at Ouachita.



Junior Keely Hawk serves the ball in a home match up against Eastern State University. Hawk is from Rowlett, Texas.

Univ. of Ark. Pine Bluff: 4-5

North Central Texas College: 0-9

Drury Univ.:

Southwest Baptist Univ.: 0-9

Tarleton State Univ.: 0-9

Univ. of Central Oklahoma:

Univ. of West Georgia: 1-8

Southeastern OK State Univ.: 0-9

Southern Nazarene Univ.: 2-7

Arkansas Tech Univ.:

# FAMILY

*Spirit*

**T**he Lady Tigers' tennis season came to a close with an April 18 loss against Southeastern Oklahoma University, the team's 17th loss in a season. Despite the record, the team developed a strong bond that was remembered.

The best part of being on the women's team here at OBU is definitely a family," said Polina Tsymbalova, a freshman business administration and finance major from Moscow, Russia. "Knowing that no matter what happens, I can always rely on the Tiger girls being there for me."

Tsymbalova came to Arkadelphia from Moscow, Russia, and embodied the mentality that each of her teammates demonstrated throughout the season. Out of the eight players, five of them were from outside the United States. Although the team originated language and culture barriers, they grew as a family while learning more about each other. Learning about what each other tick helped them grow individually and as a team.

"Sometimes I feel like I'm studying abroad," said Kourtney Chumbley, a senior speech communications major from Richardson, Texas. "Every day is an adventure

with these sweet friends. I love to learn all about the new cultures and languages, even learning about the history of the countries where the girls came from."

Chumbley agreed with Tsymbalova about the family feel of the team.

"We are a small team so we get to know each other really well. I'm blessed by the girls and the family we have within our team," she said.

The team encouraged each other so they could hone the skills needed to win games. Although they faced tougher opposition, they always kept their heads up. They knew that hard work would eventually pay off, and by giving tips to each other they improved their games day by day.

Camila Ferreira, a sophomore kinesiology and leisure pre-professional studies major from Sao Paulo, Brazil, was one of the standout players on the team. She was an integral part of the growth of the team and played her part in helping her teammates improve. Ferreira was the recipient of the Most Outstanding Tennis Player of the sports banquet in April, but she was more thankful that she got to practice with her team family each day and learn so much from her teammates.

"The best part about playing on this team

is being able to make friends from around the world," Ferreira said. "I had the chance to improve my tennis everyday and also get a good education. It was nice to get the chance to improve my friendship with the girls every day."

Ferreira moved to Arkadelphia from Sao Paulo, Brazil. Like many students from big cities, it took time to adapt to life in Arkadelphia. All of the players went through culture shock, but it helped them grow together. They each brought an integral piece of the puzzle that was needed to compete against the strongest opponents.

The team's closest match was its first of the year, a 5-4 loss to the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, an NCAA Div. I team. The team faced rival Henderson State University twice in Great American Conference play, dropping both matches 8-1.

Head coach Betsy Donner was optimistic about the future. "Even though we struggled this year to win games, I am looking forward to next year as everyone is committed to work hard over the summer and improve. We will have two more players in the lineup next year that will probably take the top two spots that will help us compete on a higher level," she said.

*by Josh Galante*



Scan for more information on the OBU Women's Tennis team

Eastern State Univ.: 0-6 | Delta State Univ.: 0-5

Henderson State Univ.: 1-8 | Univ. of West Alabama: 0-9

Central Univ.: 0-9 | Harding Univ.: 0-9 | Henderson State Univ.: 1-8

0-17



Univ. Ark. Pine Bluff: W 6-0 | Southwest Baptist Univ: W 5-4

Drury University: L 2-7 | Washburn Univ.: L 3-6 | Colorado St. Pueblo: W 5-4

Cameron University: L 1-5 | Univ. of West Alabama: L 1-8 | Delta State Univ.: W 5-4

St. Edward Univ.: L 4-5 | Southeastern Okla. State: L 3-6 | East Central Univ.: L 5-4

Harding University: W 5-4 | North West Missouri State University: L 3-6

Southwest Baptist University: L 3-5 | University of Arkansas Fort Smith: W 3-6

GAC Tournament: 1st Place



Wesley Klück Photo

Teodor Anghel Valentin practices in the Heflin Tennis Center. Valentin, a senior from Ploiesti, Romania, paired with Maciej Braciszewicz for a doubles win in the GAC tournament.



Andre Stefano gives a backhand return in a matchup. Hailing Brazil, Stefano was first season with the team.



Scan for more information on the OBU Men's Tennis Team

Nathan Street returns a ball with a backhand against University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Street, from Bentanville, Ark., was one of three freshmen on the team.

**Front Row:** Teodor Anghel Valentin, Marka Baskovic, Maciej Braciszewicz, Andre Stefano; **Back Row:** Head Coach Craig Ward, Vitar Oliveira, Nathan Street, Helge Knuth



Wesley Klück Photo



Wesley Klück Photo



Wesley Kluck Photo

Sophomore Vitor Oliveira concentrates on the ball against UA-Pine Bluff. In the fall semester, Oliveira and teammate junior Marko Boskovic reached the doubles semi-finals of the USTA/ITA Small College Championships.



Wesley Kluck Photo

Coach Ward and freshman Maciej Braciszewicz watch the team compete in the Heflin Tennis Center.



Wesley Kluck Photo

Junior Marko Boskovic serves in a home match. He was named GAC's Player of the Year for the second year.

# MIAKIN G

## History

Setting the historic new record, the men's tennis team was victorious for the third consecutive year in the Great American Conference championship. This series of three wins from the men's tennis team had never occurred before in any single one of the Great American Conference's 13 sports.

The championship was held on April 19. This year was the tennis team's third year beating the East Central University Tigers at the championship – this year winning with a three point lead.

According to Head Coach Craig Ward, "The year began with some challenges, but ended great."

Teodor Anghel Valentin, a senior business administration major from Ploiesti, Romania, described the amount of effort and the dedication that went into the men's tennis team's record-setting victory.

"We fought from the very beginning, and it's been an amazing journey," Valentin said in an interview after the championship. "It's been only two days, but it feels like forever."

Valentin and doubles teammate Maciej

Braciszewicz, a freshman from Olesnica, Poland, won a marathon match at the No. 2 position during the championship. The doubles team of Marko Boskovic, a junior from Belgrade, Serbia, and Vitor Oliveira, a sophomore from Brasilia, Brazil, also won during the No. 1 position.

"I was lucky enough to win pretty quick, although my opponent was fairly good," Valentin said about his role in the championship.

The doubles team of Boskovic and Oliveira even ranked top among the Central Region's doubles teams.

While the men's team as a whole set records within the Great American Conference, individual team member Boskovic remained the Great American Conference Player of the Year for two consecutive years.

Once the championship ended, the men's tennis team found themselves once again on top.

"All the commitment and effort paid off. This was a life lesson they will never forget," Coach Ward said about the sportsmanship of the players from the team.

"The mindset was always to win. It wasn't an awesome season, but we always give

100 percent, as well as give 100 percent even if we are in practice, in match, everywhere we played," Valentin said, describing the amount of work put into the team during the season and their mindset going into the Great American Conference championship.

Coach Ward also commented on the success of both the team as a whole and the work of its individual players.

"In my 25 years, this is one of the finest groups of guys I have ever coached," Coach Ward said.

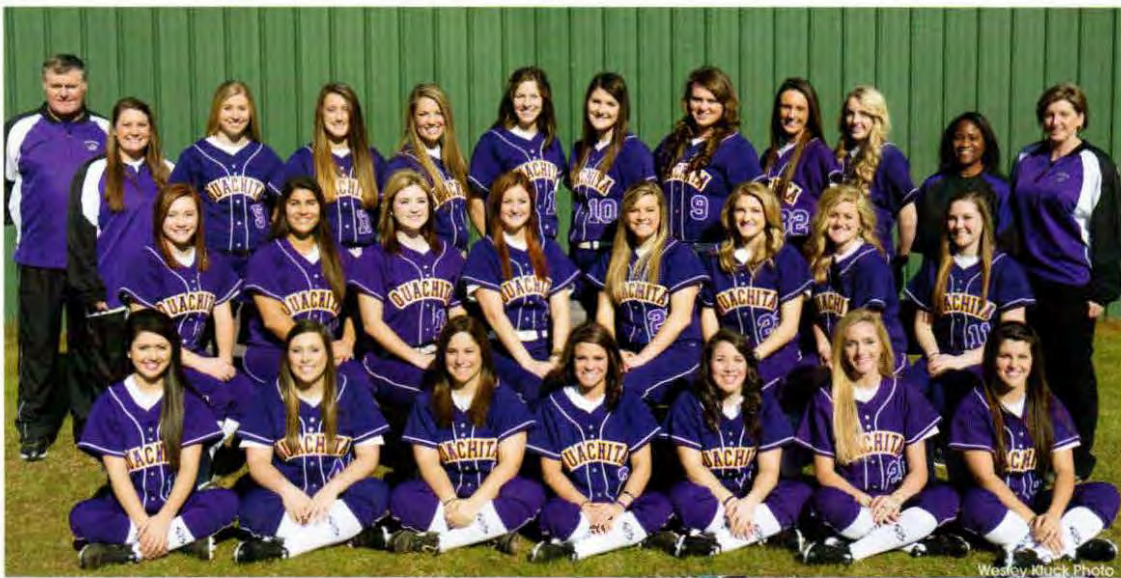
He went on to describe the resilience they showed throughout the season and during the championship.

"It would have been easy at any time to quit but these guys committed themselves to give 100 percent physically, mentally and emotionally," Coach Ward said. "It was a privilege to be a part of this team."

"We came to win," Valentin said. "As long as we are Tigers, we will come to win."

The successful season ended with Boskovic and Oliveira being named to the ITA All-American team.

by Robert DeSoto



**Front Row:** Carley Yazza, Emily Margan, Teresa Mursuli, Jessica Branan, Brittany Halmes, Oliva Guin, Jenna Hendry; **Second Row:** Jacelyn Janes, Daniella Brantley, Kate Lacina, Kayley Willingham, Kailey Madden, Suzie Gresham, Macy Nantz, Amber Oxford; **Back Row:** Head Coach Mike McGhee, Assistan Coach Kirsten Rigsbee, Brittney McElroy, Parrish Reed, Brianne Bailey, Abbi Frakes, Kayla Golden, Shelby McWhorter, Kayla Bullard, Taylor Anderson, Assistant Coach Manica Smith, Assistant Coach Jamie Pattford-Gresham

Abbi Frakes pitches in a game against Southeastern Oklahoma. Frakes, a senior from Plano, Texas has played for the Lady Tigers since 2011.



Jacelyn Janes stretches out for a grounder in a game against Southeastern Oklahoma. The Lady Tigers would face the Savage Storm in two double-headers in 2014, winning two out of the four games. Jones, a junior from Inez, Texas played at the shortstop position.

Parrish Reed swings for the fences in a home game against Harding University. Reed played in the outfield for the Lady Tigers, and was a senior from Cabot, Ark. Parrish, who also ran cross-country for Quachita, recorded an RBI single in the matchup.



Kailey Madden tags out Jessica Simmons (12) in a double header against Southeastern Oklahoma State.



Kaley Willingham throws a ball back to the infield in a game against Cameron University. Willingham was a junior from Tucson, Ariz.

Cameron Univ: W 6-3 | Tarleton State Univ: L 2-9 | Missouri Western Univ: L 0-1 | Lincoln Univ: L 0-1

Missouri Southern Univ: L 4-8 | Upper Iowa Univ: W 8-3 | Central Oklahoma Univ: L 0-1

Southern Ark. Univ: L 0-4, L 1-4 | UAM: L 0-5, L 0-8, W 10-1, L 1-13 | Christian Brothers Univ: L 1-3, L 1-3

Southwestern Okla. State Univ.: L 1-3, W 7-4, W 4-1, L 7-8 | Henderson State Univ: L 1-8, L 4-8

Henderson State Univ: L 0-4, W 4-2

Ark. Tech Univ: W 4-0, L 0-11, L 2-4, W 5-4

Harding Univ: W 1-0, L 1-6, L 5-6, L 1-9

# GOOD

Game

**B**efore the season began, the Lady Tigers were picked seventh in the Great American Conference. However, with several returning starters, the team worked hard to reach the conference tournament.

"Our biggest focus this season was communication. If we could learn to communicate on and off the field we could beat any team out there," said Daniella Brantley, a freshman psychology major from Albuquerque, N.M. "The times we were most successful is when our communication was at its best, meaning we were encouraging each other, learning from each other and listening to our coach."

Ending the season with an overall record of 18-38, the Lady Tigers advanced to the SAC Tournament. In the first round of play, ranked number eight, the Lady Tigers played the number one team of the conference, Southeastern Oklahoma State, and lost 0-1. The same day, the team played East Central, lost 5-7 and was eliminated from the tournament.

"Playing in the GAC tournament was one of the most incredible feelings. The first game was a tough loss. We played the first seed and held onto them until extra innings. The game ended 1-0 in the ninth. It was

an incredible feeling to fight hard," Brantley said. "Even though we lost, we knew we gave it our all. We worked hard. We wished we could have lasted a little longer, but the reality is we came together as a team and fought hard."

The Lady Tigers strived to work together as a team in order to succeed during the season.

"One significant part of this season was how often we went into extra innings. We found ourselves in multiple situations going into the eighth and ninth inning because we tied the game up. For us, that was huge because it showed our heart and our fight. We want to win those games and fought until the end. Sometimes just forcing the end to lost just a little longer felt good," Brantley said.

As a freshman, Brantley adjusted to playing college ball.

"I loved being a part of the team. For me, I had to spend a lot of time and effort trying to find the perfect college," Brantley said. "Now, I get to once again fall in love with the game and play with a group of girls with the same desires and passions as me. It's a great feeling to be reminded of why I am here playing this sport."

Freshman Brittany McElroy, a middle school education major from Ashdown, also

adapted to playing on a college team.

"This year was a very eye opening experience. I knew coming in as a freshman that it would be a whole lot different than high school, but I have had amazing teammates that have helped make it one of the most memorable years of ball I have played and I can't thank them all enough for it," McElroy said. "Our very last game of the season was such a memorable part of the season. We had so much fun cheering each other on and we played our hearts out."

Senior Abbi Frakes, a biology major from Plano, Texas, grew from each win and loss from her time spent playing for the Lady Tigers.

"Although we were faced with a lot of adversity this past season, our team had so many positive qualities. I think the chemistry was great this year. Everyone got along and encouraged one another," said Frakes. "I enjoyed having Coach Riggsbee as part of the coaching staff this year. She was a senior when I was a freshman and encouraged me to not get too stressed about the game. I've learned so many valuable lessons over the past four years with her leadership, along with all of the other coaches."

by Amber Easterly



Scan for more information on the OBU Softball team.

18-36

Central Missouri Univ: W 6-5 | Missouri Western Univ: L 0-8

Ark at Pine Bluff: W 7-0 | Southeast Okla. State Univ: L 2-4, W 1-0, W 10-9, L 2-3

Northwestern Okla. State Univ: W 9-6, L 8-11, L 0-9, L 1-11

Univ of Ark. at Pine Bluff: W 3-0, L 1-2 | Southern Nazarene Univ: L 1-9, L 1-6, L 3-5 W 19-15

Central Univ: L 0-2, L 3-7, L 0-8, W 7-5 | GAC Tournament: SE Okla. State L 0-1 | East Central: L 5-7

Harding: L 0-5, W 6-5 | Southeastern OK State: L 6-7, L 0-3, L 2-3

Southern Ark: W 7-2, L 3-12, L 0-7 | UAM: W 4-0, W 6-0, L 1-4

Arkansas Tech Univ.: L 4-9 | Northwest OK State: L 2-4, W 11-7, W 6-5

Southern Arkansas Univ.: L 5-7 | Southwestern OK State: L 2-4, L 3-8, W 7-3

Delta State: L 5-9, L 0-13 | UA Fort Smith: W 4-3, W 7-2, L 2-3, L 5-11

Henderson State Univ.: L 3-11 | Southern Nazarene: W 10-0, W 17-1, W 7-3

UAM: L 6-9 Ark. Tech: L 5-7, L 11-16, L 6-10 | Texas A&M International: W 5-1

Harding Univ: W 2-0, L 7-10, L 0-10 | Henderson State Univ: W 5-2, W 9-3, W 9-1

GAC Tournament: Ark. Tech Univ: W 6-3 | Southern Ark. Univ: L 10-15



Landon Moore lays out for a ball against East Central. Moore, a senior from Sheridan, Ark., hit a grand slam against SAU in the conference tournament.



Junior Tyler Faught fires a ball to first from one knee in a game against East Central. Ouachita would sweep ECU Tigers in the series.



Scan for more information on the OBU Baseball Team

Senior Davis Ward winds up to pitch against Southwestern Oklahoma State. Ward received numerous post season honors including being named to the 2014 Daktronics Baseball All-Central Region Team and the NCBWA All-Region First Team. He was a two-time GAC Pitcher of the Year. Ward, along with teammate Keegan Ghidotti, was drafted in the 2014 MLB draft.

**Front Row:** Justin Weigel, Jace Melby, Weston Smith, Blake Leisenring, Drew Feuerbacher, Evan Ruiz, Parker Norris, Seth Childers, Tyler Faught; **Second Row:** Landon Moore, John Cunningham, Davis Ward, Kyle Matusoff, Ryan Hammer, Lucas Castleberry, Josh Reeves, Chris Taveres, Jacob May, Reuben Miller; **Back Row:** Head Coach Jeremy Haworth, Graduate Assistant Nick Rountree, Zach Gloff, Tryce Scholchlin, Keegan Ghidotti, Mat Sinclair, Luis de Jesus, Joey Gammon, Trey Hart, Austin Watson, Sean Noland, Croig Daniels, Will Wallace, Grad Assistant Kolby Moore, Assistant Coach Kyle Hope





Senior Luis de Jesus prepares to release a changeup. De Jesus came to Ouachita from Salinas, Puerto Rico, and was named SAC Co-Pitcher of the week in the sixth week of the Tiger's season.

Freshman Justin Weigel connects with the ball in a game against UAM. The Tigers went 2-2 versus the Muleriders in the regular season.

Junior Mat Sinclair waits for the pitch in a mid-season match up against East Central. Sinclair was from Spring, Texas.

# FINISHING

## *For a Spot*

Coming off a promising off-season, the Tigers baseball team dug their cleats into the dirt and had a very successful season. Finishing 25-28 and 16-14 in conference, the Tigers would defeat many ranked opponents and make a run in the conference tournament.

"We did a lot of inter-squad scrimmaging this fall which was different than we normally do," said Davis Ward, a senior business major. "And then we did a fall world-series where we split up into two teams and played a best of five series for bragging rights."

The Tigers began their season with a trip to Houston where they defeated St. Edwards University twice, 1-0 and 8-6. St. Edwards, which was ranked third overall in Division II Baseball, posed a challenge to the Tigers to start the season. Right after playing St. Edwards, the Tigers played Central Missouri in a weekend series. They would go 2-1 on the weekend.

"That win was very important to the start of our season," said Matt Sinclair, a mass communications major. "We wanted to come out and make a statement and by defeating the third overall team in the country, we gained some momentum and confidence that would help us throughout the season."

As the team fought through conference play, the Tigers worked to a 13-14 record in conference. The Tigers struggled on defense and couldn't find hits when they needed them.

"We had a little bit of a midseason slump," Ward said. "When we loose some of our ability to hit, we loose heartbreakers. We were swept by Southeastern and that hurt. We knew we needed to get out of our slump."

The Tigers continued to play toward a GAC tournament birth. With a chance to gain the last spot in the tournament, the Tigers entered their last series needing to win two out of three games against Henderson State.

"Going in, we didn't just want to try and win two," Sinclair said. "We had the mindset to win all three games and knew we wanted to sweep them...Coming out, we could tell that they really didn't really want to be there. We were really energetic and cheering on our teammates and they seemed to be sluggish."

The Tigers began the series with a 5-2 win with Ward on the mound. The next day, the Tigers blew past Henderson in the second game 9-3 to clinch a playoff birth. However, the Tigers weren't finished as they completed the sweep beating HSU 9-1 in the third game.

"We expected to win," Ward said. "When you go into conference with the expectation to finish first, there's always going to be some

added pressure. But we came out there with the right attitude and got the sweep."

The Tigers finished the regular season and earned a Great American Conference playoff birth. As the sixth and final seed in the tournament, the Tigers faced Arkansas Tech in their first game. Tech, which had beaten Ouachita all four times they had played during the season, had won 22 straight games and was ranked number three in the nation. "Going in to the tournament, we didn't really have anything to loose. We knew we had to win the entire tournament to get a birth in regionals, so we just wanted to go out there and play our game," Sinclair said.

With less pressure on them, the Tigers defeated Arkansas Tech 6-3 and moved on to play Southern Arkansas. Unfortunately, the Tigers would loose their next two games and be eliminated from the tournament.

"It's unfortunate that we didn't win the tournament," said Head Coach Jeremy Hayworth. "Overall this team played good defense and we worked hard. Hopefully, we can succeed even more in the coming years building off some of the success we had this year."

by Dixon Land