

The Ouachita baseball team celebrates a walk-off home run hit by Pierce Mitchum. The team cheerfully greeted him at the plate. Photo by Sarah Dean

SPORTS

An uncertain fall made all student-athletes feel uneasy. However, the light eventually shone through the darkness and spring competition resumed, rewarding the athletes' ***resilience.***



SCOREBOARD

Winning seasons streak	12
Graduates	12
2021 Signees	27
Fall scrimmages	3
Spring scimmages	3
vs. NE Okla. State	W



A. HAYDEN LASSITER intercepts a fluttering pass from Northeastern Oklahoma State's quarterback. Lassiter was a staple in the Tiger's defensive backfield for four years.
Photo by Levi Dade



Pocket presence

B. AN ONCOMING snap arrives in the hands of Gabe Goodman. Practicing snaps and holds was a point of emphasis for the Tigers special teams.
Photo by Levi Dade



Mesh point



A.

The pandemic hasn't been easy on our team, but we have managed to come out even stronger than when we first encountered COVID-19.
Carsten Johnson

It was really great still having practice and scrimmaging each other. It was a great opportunity to strengthen our weaknesses in football and grow stronger in our relationship as a team.
Nathan Turner

Last fall when we found out that we wouldn't be playing we were devastated. Even with the sad news we never missed a beat. We showed up every single day and got better.
Jack Pillow

TIGER STRENGTH



COVID Conduct
 The Tigers saw action against just one opposing program

UNPRECEDENTED

Tigers grind through school year without season

On August 14, 2020, the Great American Conference suspended all sporting events through December 31, 2020. As a result, the fall football season was obviously canceled and playing in the spring became the next big question.

The logistics of playing a full slate of spring football was puzzling. On one hand, the athletes who worked so hard for a season would get to have that season come into fruition. However, a spring season followed up by a regularly scheduled fall season, just a few short months later, could be extremely taxing on a football player's body.

The Great American Conference decided against a spring season, and the Ouachita Tigers will go nearly two full years between football games.

Junior tight end Hunter Swoboda struggled through the layoff, but felt as if his physical health greatly benefited from these unprecedented times.

"It has been really tough to maintain an aggressive mindset whenever you are unable to play football games," Swoboda, a political science major from Bentonville, said. "Physical health is probably the biggest positive coming out of the layoff because we have had so much time to make sure that our bodies are right for the next time that we play. At the end of the day, our coaches have done a really great job at keeping us busy and preparing us even when we were unable to play games."

Once the season was officially canceled, turning the page onto 2021's fall schedule was priority number one.

For senior offensive lineman Peyton Stafford and senior wide receiver Hayden Waller, returning for their fifth years was an easy decision. The two fifth year players will strive to set the pace on the field and lead the team to another conference championship with a deep playoff run.

"The main goal is we want to win every game and come out as conference champs," Waller, a kinesiology major from Telephone, Texas, said. "As a team we want to have the top offense and defense in the conference: scoring the most points and the defense holding the opponent's to around 10 points a game. As well as not just getting to the playoffs, but also making it past the third round in the playoffs, which OBU has never done before."

Stafford reiterated his teammate.

"Most importantly, as a team we plan to attack next season with an attitude of taking it one game at a time," Stafford, a finance major from Amarillo, said. "I believe that we have a very special group, and I can't wait to see what we can do this fall. Personally, I am going to strive to become the best teammate and player I can possibly be."

Ben Swanger

Keemontrae McKnight carries the football and beats the defender Austin Guymon. This was Hayes' second year with the Tigers.
Photo by Levi Dade



The Ouachita O-Line and Northeastern Oklahoma State D-Line prepare for collision / Photo by Abby Blankenship

Official team photos were not taken due to COVID-19.
Roster: Jakobe Alexander. Grant Allen. Brett Barbaree. Jacob Barker. Joey Benson. Malachi Bingham. Connor Bisswanger. Brayden Brazeal. Nick Bridges. Will Broussard. Jaraylon Burks. Jack Burnham. Josh Burnham. Rovell Carter. Anthony Chairez. Dylan Clayton. TJ Cole. Ty Compton. Tommy Crumpton. Justin Dean. Bryce Dixon. Cole Edrington. Isaac Edwards. Xaylon Falls. Connor Flannigan. Trey Flint. Anthony Freeman. Carson Gagnon. Ethan Gasaway. Jax Gasaway. Kyle Gasaway. Dhante Gibson. Terrell Gibson. Taylor Gillham. Kendel Givens. Mikey Gonzalez. Rico Gonzalez. Gabe Goodman. Jarvis Gullely. Austin Guymon. Andrew Hayes. Zacary Henson. Darius Hopkins. Gabe Huskey. Hunter Jackson. Jason Jackson. Carsten Johnson. Kenta Jones. Gregory Junior. Trenton Kolb. Melvin Kumwenda. TJ Lewis. Jacob Marshall. Mason Martin. Hunter Mason. Hunter McCord. Christopher McDaniel. Dameyun McDonald. Seth McDowell. KeeMontrae McKnight. Zach McWhorter. Dawson Miller. Jax Miller. Clayton Nelson. Nathan Nethers. Charlie Parkinson. Cole Pennock. Ryan Perdue. Jack Pillow. Iriyah Price. Trey Proctor. Noah Pruitt. Rickey Rogers, Jr. Jordyn Rosborough. Calab Scott. Lavery Shepherd. Elhan Sluety. Peyton Stafford. Zane Stephens. Hunter Swoboda. Tucker Swoboda. Chance Taylor. Perry Taylor. Cole Turner. Jeremiah Turner. Nathan Turner. Josh Wallace. Hayden Waller. Ja'Merrick Waller. Josh Watson. John Williams. Caleb Woodfield. Clark Yarbrough. Coaching Staff: Todd Knight. Jay Derby. Brett Shockley. Roy Thompson Jr. Spencer Knight. Kane Bryan. Dionte Dean. Dakota Flash Wilson. Payton Morris. Brady Carson.

PROGRESS

Tigers fight through abnormal year

Due to COVID-19, the normal fall season was moved to the spring for the Lady Tiger Volleyball team. Along with the postponement, masks had to be worn during the matches and sanitization efforts were heightened.

"We were bummed about it being postponed to the fall, but we looked at it as an opportunity to work hard and work on the team connection," head coach Allison Frizzell-Kizer said.

Building the team connection was vital for the Lady Tigers as they worked to acclimate nine new freshmen to the team.

"Because so much of the team was new, we've had to learn how to support each other from the top to the bottom and learn new roles for ourselves and others," said Joni Schneider, a sophomore kinesiology major from Garland, Texas.

Learning how to operate with a young team was not the biggest challenge of the year.

"One of the biggest challenges this season was having our team quarantined from a range of 28 to 42 days. It was really hard to have a consistent offseason with half the team missing at any given point," said Coach Frizzell-Kizer.

Despite the struggles of quarantine and COVID-19 protocols, the team was able to have two intra-squad scrimmages during the offseason. These scrimmages helped to prepare the team for the delayed spring season.

The hard work during the offseason paid off for the Tigers with their success during the regular season.

"A big high in the season was beating Henderson State at home with fans for the first time. The atmosphere was great, and it felt awesome to have so much support," said Lexie Castillow, a senior kinesiology major from Greenwood.

The Tigers had to play a shorted season due to COVID-19. They were only able to play the Arkansas universities within the Great American Conference. The ladies played a 10-game season and entered the GAC Tournament 3-7. Unfortunately, the team dropped its first match to Arkansas-Monticello in the first round to close the season.

The Lady Tigers will look to grow in the offseason and come back in the fall for, hopefully, a normal, full-length slate of games.

Caroline Johnson



Riley Fielder hits the ball over the net against Harding. Fielder recorded five kills during this match.
Photo by Abby Blankenship



Temi Fayiga



Shannon Hogan



A.

VOLLEYBALL TEAM **Front row:** Abigail Roberts, Lexie Castillow, Bethany LaTurno. **Second row:** Avery Howard, Temi Fayiga, Julianna Mack, Sydney Ellason. **Third row:** Assistant Coach Jalissa Trotter, Brooke Jones, Shannon Hogan, Joni Schneider, Abby Cagle, EJ Day, Kellen Church, Head Coach Allison Frizzell-Kizer. **Back row:** Riley Fielder, Audrey Gallagher, Jazmyne Dorton, Kayla Steinmeyer, Emily Low, Zhara Thomas, Karli Ferguson.



SCOREBOARD

ARKANSAS TECH	0-3
SOUTHERN ARK	3-2
MONTICELLO	1-3
HENDERSON ST.	3-1
ARKANSAS TECH	1-3
HARDING	0-3
SOUTHERN ARK	3-0
MONTICELLO	1-3
HARDING	1-3
HENDERSON ST.	1-3
MONTICELLO	1-3

3-8



A. BETHANY LATURNO serves the ball to Harding. This was Laturno's first season with the Tigers.
Photo by William Read

B. COACH FRIZZELL passes out hand sanitizer during volleyball practice. The Tigers followed multiple protocols to guard against COVID-19.
Photo by Mikaela Monahan

Between weekly COVID tests and a shortened season, we proved to be resilient through this unusual year. I am thankful for my teammates and their constant encouragement.
Kellen Church

Even during games that we didn't come out with a win, I feel like we started to play as a team and set aside our selfishness and instead focused on the team as a whole.
Karli Ferguson

We have shown that we are able to overcome any challenge together as a unit, and I can't wait to see where it takes this team in the coming years.
Shannon Hogan

TIGER STRENGTH



SCOREBOARD

HARDING	2-0
TAMU TEXARKANA	2-1
OZARKS	1-0
S. NAZARENE	0-3
FORT HAYS STATE	0-3
ROGERS STATE	2-4
NEWMAN	2-1
NE. STATE	0-7
HARDING	0-1

4-5



A. KOBE COLEMAN prepares to throw the ball into play. Coleman was a junior defender for the Tigers. Photo by Levi Dade

B. ARMANI ATILANO swats away an attempt from Ebon Jordan. Ouachita held inter-squad scrimmages to help prepare the team for the regular season. Photo by Levi Dade



Marshall Prather and Eli Jenkins



Max Kenyan



A.

We showed resilience by always abiding by the new protocols we were given. We did our best to stay positive and work hard in the fall despite the uncertainty of the spring.

Morris Tsuma

We didn't know if we were going to have a season when we were training in the fall, but we practiced like we were and with our sights on another GAC championship.

Matt Day

My favorite memory from this year was scoring two goals against Newman on senior day. It was a big day for people that encouraged me and pushed me to be a better player.

David Stankovic

TIGER STRENGTH



COVID Conduct
The fall season was delayed till spring

PREPARATION

Constructing community and prepping the program

The men's soccer team displayed great flexibility, discipline, and resilience this year. COVID-19 affected their season greatly. The number of games was reduced which made each game that much more important. The obstacles they had to face did not stop them from succeeding and making memories with their team.

Armani Atilano, freshman finance major from Maumelle, said that the team had a productive season despite the circumstances.

"We had to follow all of the COVID-19 restriction rules," Atilano said. "It was very tough, but we were able to push through. We were not able to have a full season, played every team once, and used those games as seedings for the NCAA tournament held at the end of the season."

Being a student athlete was not easy. Training hours, games, school work, and classes were very time consuming. Javi Sanchis Fito, a senior finance major from Valencia, Spain, found it difficult to balance it all.

"The biggest struggle that I face is time," Fito said. "When practicing and competing every day, it is difficult to find the time that you need to perform well in class and also enjoy some free time."

The team and coaches were a big family and they cared for each other. Everyone's performance was important, not only on the field but also academically.

"Coaches are really concerned with our academic performance, and they do everything they can to help us succeed both on and off the field," Fito said.

The team impacted many lives during its time at Ouachita. It has welcomed players in, given them lifelong friends, and has fostered leadership skills for the future.

"I'm an introverted person. The team is a large majority of my social circle. If I wasn't on the team, my life would be a lot different," James Jolly, a sophomore Christian studies major from Pflugerville, Texas, said.

The team did not have the season it was hoping for, however the players and coaches are already planning big for next season and have big goals for the GAC Tournament.

"Winning the GAC Tournament is what we plan to do next season. We've got an amazing team and a great group of guys. I look forward to putting in the work to hopefully achieve this goal in the fall of 2021," Kyle Kelson, a junior secondary education major from Frisco, Texas, said.

The Tigers are prepping for the future and ready to overcome any challenges that may come their way.

Valeria Gomez

Natnael Abeje prepares to take a shot around the defender from the University of the Ozarks. The Tigers won 1-0.
Photo by Sarah Dean



B.



Team members huddle up prior to kickoff / Photo by Sarah Dean

Official team photos were not taken due to COVID-19.
Roster: Kyle Kelson, Armani Atilano, Matt Day, Henry Terry, Max Kenyan, Joseph Lattier, Ryan Wilson, Natnael Abeje, Bobby Boone, David Stankovic, James Jolly, Kobe Coleman, Jasper Capaciete, Caden Pulliam, Marshall Prather, Hagan Sanchez, Parker Apicella, Collier Byrd, Giovanni Chavari, Stephen Barreiro, Ebon Jordan, Javi Sanchis Fito, Alex Brown, Morris Tsuma, Eli Jenkins, Julian Fernandez, Nikolas Marzullo, head coach Chris Lawson, assistant coach Killian Gorman.

CHAMPIONS

Tigers take conference trophy in whirlwind season

This season was like no other for the Ouachita Lady Tigers soccer team. With their normal fall season pushed to the spring, all of the COVID-19 adjustments, and a shortened season, there was a lot of pressure in the unknown. However, they still managed to pull off a winning season, beating all odds to become the Great American Conference Champions. Due to COVID-19, the women's normal season was postponed to the spring.

"COVID-19 really changed our season," said sophomore Gracen Turner, a biology major from Cabot. "We practiced all of the fall semester, unsure if we were going to even get a season in the spring because it was not a guarantee."

The safety measures and threat of quarantine or illness were a big challenge to the team, and it took a lot of sacrifice. Head Coach Kevin Wright elaborated.

"The biggest challenge was just keeping the group intact and on campus. Really having everyone do their part in staying aware of COVID-19 precautions and willing to sacrifice some to the social normality to make sure we had a full team and could get through the season."

The Lady Tigers had a very successful season. Entering into the Great American Conference Tournament, they were ready to win. After last season's loss to Oklahoma Baptist in the GAC tournament, the Tigers were ready for revenge. Taking down Northwestern Oklahoma State after double overtime and a winning penalty kick, then Southern Nazarene with a 3-0 victory, the girls advanced to the championship game hungry for a win. After two regular halves, the score was still 0-0. The teams advanced into overtime. In the last minute of overtime, freshman Frankie Nine sealed the win with a successful corner kick. Senior Captain Meagan North, a communications major from Fort Worth, Texas, described how much that moment meant to her.

"Everyone freaked out. The bench stormed the field. I instantly hit the ground. So many emotions came over me. Four years of Ouachita soccer just came to an end. Putting in four years of work for it to end with a championship win was surreal. I could not stop crying. These girls wanted it just as much as I did. We came together and pulled out what felt like the impossible," North said.

This moment was so special for the team to see how far they have come despite the setbacks of injury, change, and the unknown.

"The entire team was all so emotionally invested in the lead up to playoffs," said freshman Alexis Perry, a biology major from Yorba Linda, Calif. "Each game was a battle and we were constantly pushing each other so hard at every training. Through all the countless hours of long practices and watching film, all of that work paid off in the end!"

For the first time since 2014, the Ouachita Lady Tigers took home the Great American Conference Tournament Championship. Without giving up a goal throughout the whole tournament and being the first team in GAC tournament history to win three games, this was truly a record-breaking season.

Hanna Williams



Brianna Lozano fights for possession of the ball. Lozano was named GAC Newcomer of the Year.
Photo by Callie Rogers



Grace Hunter



Madison Humbard




A.

WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM Front row: Michele Snow, Brianna Lozano, Madison Humbard, Alexis Perry, Carley Ho, Ashlyn Lynch, Olivia White, Meagan North, Ashlyn Heckman, Jamie Fowler, Josilyn Kispert. Back row: Grace Hunter, Makenna Kager, Hope Pennington, Mia Paladini, Frankie Nine, Asha Samson, Gracen Turner, Ashton Long, Erica Gaddie, Jaymee Dotson, Hanna Thompson



Team members celebrate following the GAC Championship victory / Photo courtesy of GAC Twitter

 **COVID Conduct**
Social sacrifices were made enroute to a title

SCOREBOARD

OZARKS	5-0
TAMU TEXARKANA	2-0
DELTA STATE	1-2
S. NAZARENE	3-1
SWOSU	2-1
EAST CENTRAL	2-1
HARDING	0-1
NWOSU	3-2
OKLA. BAPTIST	0-2
NWOSU	4-2 PK
S. NAZARENE	3-0
OKLA. BAPTIST	1-0

8-3-1



A. ASHLYN HECKMAN dribbles past the goalkeeper. Heckman scored two goals on the season.
Photo by Callie Rogers

B. JAYMEE DOTSON maneuvers around a defender from East Central. Dotson was a midfielder for the Tigers.
Photo by Levi Dade

One of my favorite memories from this season was during the snow week, the whole team walked to practice in the snow every day.

It was so fun!
Gracen Turner

We never once gave up on the team! We won the championship because we were so close on and off the field. It created a special unity that I've never experienced before.

Ashlyn Heckman

My favorite moment was when we won in penalty kicks against NWOSU to secure our spot in the GAC tournament. We dog piled Michelle Snow because we were so excited!

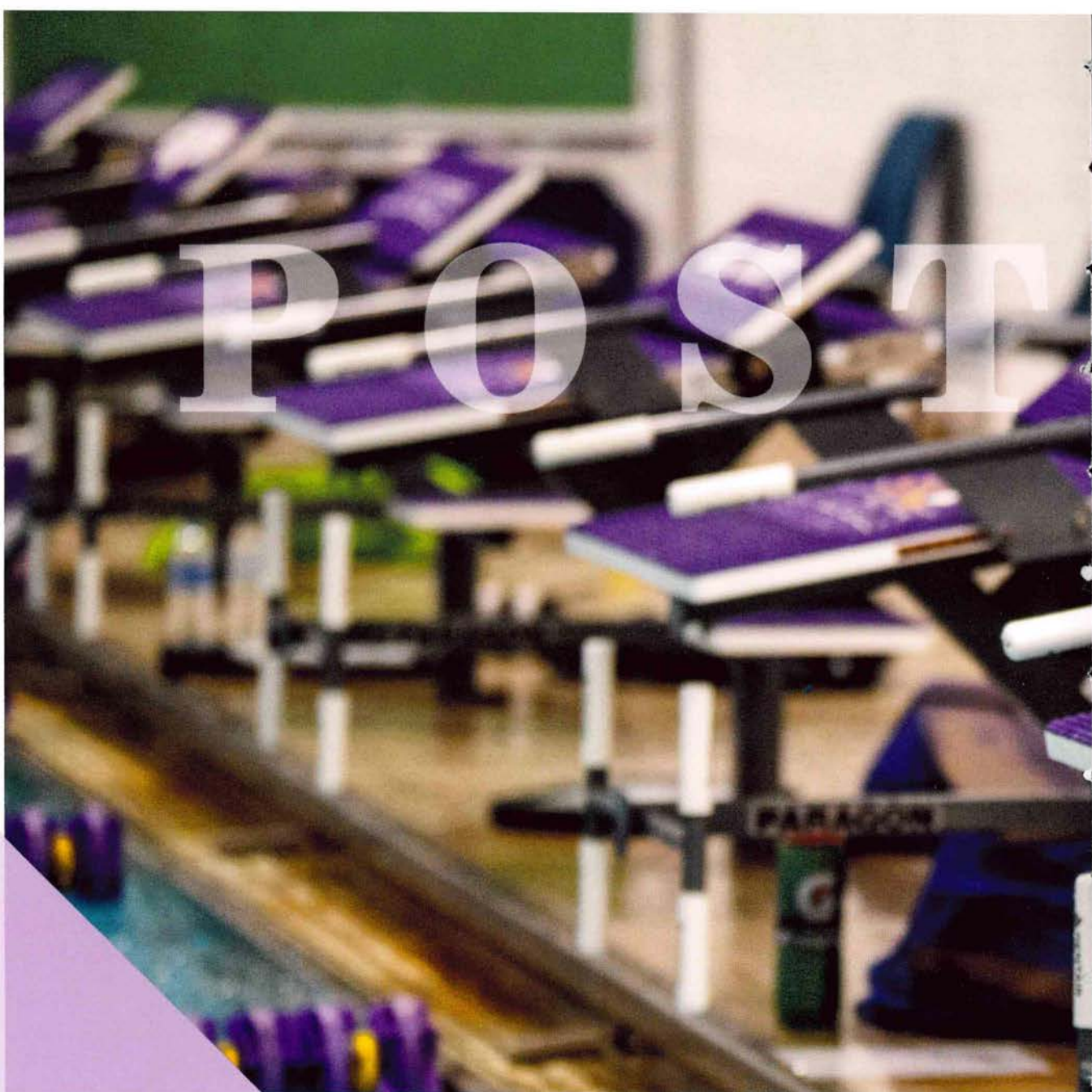
Jaymee Dotson



TIGER STRENGTH

POST

**The bleachers
were empty,
competition
was void.**



Students settled into their dorm rooms but the 2020 fall semester on campus did not feel normal. Cliff Harris Stadium was not lit up on Saturday nights for Great American Conference competition, Waggoner Pool was not full of competing Tiger Sharks, and Vining Arena was void of contests. Varsity sports is an integral part of life at Ouachita, but carrying over from the spring of 2020, competition continued to be halted by the coronavirus pandemic.

“We had to postpone fall sports due to NCAA guidelines. We had to keep our athletes safe,” Athletic Director David Sharp said.

The NCAA guidelines Sharp referred to required every student athlete, coach, and trainer to be tested before and after each

competition. It simply was not realistic to think Ouachita and the GAC could pull off such a feat.

“This was not financially feasible for us,” Sharp said.

Due to the change in schedule, coaches and student-athletes began to monitor and adjust to what athletics looked like during the COVID-19 pandemic. For athletes at Ouachita, this meant a transition from what should have been a competition season to an offseason.

Keeping student-athletes safe from the virus was the top priority but, this did not change the shock or relinquish the pain by the late decision to postpone fall sports. “I found out on move-in day that our season was [postponed.] It was heartbreaking. I know they tried to make it happen for us and

P O N E D



Photo by Abby Blankenship

I appreciate that but, it was still heartbreaking. Being a senior, this was my last chance [at a normal season]," Shannon Hogan said, a senior Business Marketing major from Plano, Texas and member of the volleyball team.

The unprecedented situation was full of confusion and hurt for those teams that compete in the fall, but also

**"This is new for all of us, but we push each other every day to get better despite the circumstances."
- Dawson Goodwin**

hope and determination became a theme for some teams as they began preparation for a season in the spring.

"Improve, improve, improve. This is new for all of us, but we push each other every day to get better despite the circumstances," Dawson Goodwin, a junior psychology major

from El Dorado, said.

Goodwin ran cross country for the Tigers and has quickly stepped into a leadership role, not only during this pandemic, but in the inaugural season for the men's

cross-country team. Goodwin was dedicated to using this time to help make the team better.

A postponed season was not the NCAA's or the GAC's first choice. Despite the disappointment, coaches utilized this time to get ahead for the next upcoming season.

"We make our living off of Arkansas High School football players. High schools still played so we were able to go watch them play and also get to see them at practice," Jay Derby, the Offensive Coordinator for the Tiger football team, said.

This unique time gave coaches more opportunities they have not had in the past to invest in the present and future collegiate athletes. While the fall semester was devastating for countless fans, coaches, trainers, student-athletes, and more, the spring semester saw a resume to play for all sports teams except for football.

Caroline Johnson

SCOREBOARD

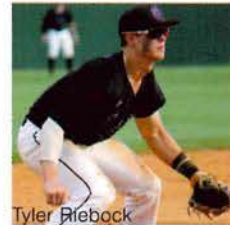
ARKANSAS TECH	4-3,1-7
SOUTHERN ARK.	4-16
OKBU	8-13, 1-2, 5-16
HARDING	8-3, 17-5, 7-8
SOUTHERN ARK.	2-3, 7-3, 2-5
HENDERSON ST.	8-12
SWOSU	2-7, 1-5, 0-10
TAMU TEXARKANA	11-0
NWOSU	3-7, 6-11 3-5
WILLIAMS BAPTIST	4-3,7-0
MONTICELLO	11-9, 3-17 5-3
SEOSU	9-2,6-4 10-7
EAST CENTRAL	2-0,7-3 8-2
HENDERSON ST.	3-10, 2-3 3-1
SOUTHERN NAZ.	0-1, 7-5 9-3

18-22



A. PIERCE MITCHUM jumps on home plate as the team celebrates his walkoff homerun. The Tigers relied on Mitchum's bat throughout the season.

Photo by Sarah Dean



Tyler Piebock

B. MICHAEL SOISSON throws a pitch. This was Soisson's first year pitching for the Tigers.

Photo by Levi Dade



One thing I've learned this year is to approach this game with a childlike mentality and just have fun playing the game I have for so many years.

Cole Kelly

I think our team showed great resilience toward the second half of the season. At about the halfway point, we flipped a switch and really took off running from there to finish strong.

Cooper Timmons

Every day we just kept rolling into practice ready to go. The amount of pure resilience this team has is something I will remember forever.

Jaxson Chaney

TIGER STRENGTH



FORTITUDE

Tigers display unwavering fight through season

The 2020-2021 Ouachita baseball team was nothing if not resilient. This year gave the Tigers challenge after challenge, but they worked together to overcome each one. Since their first scrimmage last fall, the guys faced fifth year seniors, wild weather, and injuries for an especially memorable season. From grand slams to sweeps, this group of Tigers proved to be a special one.

Since the 2019-2020 season ended abruptly, the Great American Conference (GAC) extended an extra year of eligibility to seniors who were supposed to graduate in 2020. Most of the teams in the GAC had players that returned for a fifth year, but all of Ouachita's seniors chose to graduate. The Tigers found themselves facing teams with more experienced players in a conference with an elevated difficulty level.

"When you've got guys that are 23 and 24 years old still playing college baseball, it's some seriously talented guys," senior captain and third baseman Tyler Riebock said. "The GAC has been better this year than it normally is."

On top of facing tougher teams, the Tigers had several series rescheduled or moved around due to weather. The snowstorm that hit Arkadelphia in February meant that the team had to push its series against Southern Nazarene University back to the first week in May. While the Tigers didn't play any games in the snow, they continued to prepare for their matchup against Oklahoma Baptist University the next week.

"We tarped the field and then we did not touch the field until it all melted, pretty much," sophomore second baseman Colton Schrader said. "But we hit in the cages and we practiced in the indoor some."

As if the snow and more challenging opponents weren't enough for the Tigers, two of their key players were injured during the season. Senior pitcher Hunter Gautreaux and senior catcher Cade McBride sustained injuries during the Northwestern Oklahoma State University series in late March. The Tigers lost their footing for a couple of weeks following those games, but they found it again when senior right fielder Louis Steen hit two grand slams in game one against the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

The Tigers honored their seniors during the last home series against Henderson, and Riebock's cohort has been especially close since they stepped onto Rab Rodgers Field as freshmen.

"It's just the closest group of guys I've ever been around," Riebock said, "and no matter what's happening on the field, what's happening off the field, you know what you're going to get out of them every day and I just love them."

The seniors had been an instrumental part of the team for the past four years, but the rest of the team was ready to carry on their legacy.

"They paved a pretty good path for us," Schrader said. "They're really important, and they're going to be missed a lot."

Caity Hatchett

Simmons Sowell makes solid contact. Sowell started every game for the Tigers.
Photo by Levi Dade



The outfield looks on as the Tiger infield takes in-and-out. / Photo by Rachel Sansano

Official team photos were not taken due to COVID-19. Roster: Louis Steen, Tyler Riebock, Zach Kuykendall, CW Schrader, Pierce Mitchum, Jud Arrington, Jared Free, Simmons Sowell, Cooper Timmons, Blake Tubbs, Carter Wade, Beau Burson, Garret Hermes, Cole Kelly, Hunter Gautreaux, Caleb Donoho, Jacob Bowman, Michael Soisson, Cade McBride, Cade Burris, Colin McWhorter, Jaxon Chaney, Hayden Childers, Luke Scaggs, Ben Miller, Andrew McDonald, Noah Fowler, Bryce Smith, Caleb Robbins. Head coach Luke Howard, assistant coach Tanner Rockwell, pitching coach Dave Brown.

MUDITA

Cultivating joy en route to victories

Like most every other organization and sports team on campus, this season was far from normal for the Ouachita Tiger softball team. Under the circumstances and regulations of COVID-19, the softball team had to sacrifice a lot. In order to keep their season, they had to be careful with who they exposed themselves to. Amidst the changes and difficulties of this unusual season, the Lady Tigers played with determination throughout the whole year.

Even though this season looked different, flexibility was key for this team. Coach Grimes gave each team member a rubber band on the first day of practice as a reminder of being flexible.

Sophomore Christian Studies major Lacey Pettigrew, from Bentonville, said, "The rubber band is worn by every girl and coach on the team." This team effort of staying positive despite the adversity had brought the team together in many ways. "The rubber band is meant to remind us of our need to be flexible, not necessarily physically, but mentally, emotionally, and even spiritually."

Senior kinesiology major Kendyl Dockter, from Rowlett, Texas, said that the biggest lesson she learned this season was "mudita," a term the team applied to every practice, every game, and every pitch, meaning to "have joy for one another."

Continuing out the season with flexibility and joyful spirits allowed the softball team to make memories they will always cherish. "This lesson will also help us in life after softball," said Dockter.

Even through an unpredictable year, the Lady Tigers managed to keep their season by staying safe and doing their part to keep the cases low. Junior accounting major Kyndal Moyer, from Lampasas, Texas, said, "My favorite memory was beating Oklahoma Baptist University 17-6. This win was a good start to the season because it showed the team's potential."

COVID-19 changed most things this school year, but it did not affect the players' abilities and talents this season, finishing 20-18. Over the course of the 2021 season, three Lady Tigers were named GAC Player of the week; junior Sloane Precure, junior Madison Miller, and sophomore Hope Waid.

On top of having a strange season in the midst of COVID-19, the Lady Tigers were led by a new head coach at the beginning of the year. Coach Derrick Grimes made a big impact on the season as he encouraged, supported, and cheered on the Lady Tigers. Pettigrew stated that in the huge win against OKBU, "Coach Grimes ran out of the dugout and threw his hat in the air as he made his way over to the fan section and screamed 'HOW 'BOUT THEM TIGERS.'"



Lauren Lester makes contact putting the ball into play. This year was Lester's rookie season.
Photo by Rachel Sansano



Jillian Jones



Callie Jourdan



Lucie Shepherd

SOFTBALL TEAM Front row: Tori Herbert, Kendyl Dockter, Hannah Stuart, Emma McCorkle, Sarah Tuller, Kirsten Shaw, Madi Terry, Sloane Precure, Erin Williams, Kyndal Moyer. **Back row:** Heather Brown, Lacey Pettigrew, Maci Hill, Hope Waid, Jillian Jones, Madison Miller, Kellen Church, Rebecca Holiman, Nicole Arreola, Addyson Miller, Nikki Schneider, Lauren Lester, Callie Jourdan, Lacy Ornelas, Lexie Foreman, Tally Turnbow.



SCOREBOARD

CAMERON	2-14
CENTRAL OKLA.	3-4
CHRISTIAN BROTHERS	3-2, 8-0
OKLAHOMA BAPTIST	4-1, 0-5 17-6
HARDING	5-2, 9-3 1-10
HENDERSON ST.	4-5, 6-5
SOUTHERN ARK.	0-2, 2-1 0-9
SWOSU	0-5, 5-4 3-2
NWOSU	15-5, 6-4 4-1
ARKANSAS TECH	1-5, 1-4 1-2
HENDERSON ST.	0-1
MONTICELLO	8-7, 3-7 11-3
SEOSU	1-4, 0-1 2-3
EAST CENTRAL	2-0, 5-4 12-3
SOUTHERN NAZ.	4-9, 5-2 8-0
SEOSU	2-9

20-18



A. NICOLE ARREOLA pitches the ball. Arreola was a senior leader for the Lady Tigers *Photo by Abby Blankenship*

B. HOPE WAID rounds third base as Kendyl Dockter crosses home plate. The Tigers were playing Henderson State during the annual Battle of the Ravine game. *Photo by Sarah Dean*

If I could choose one word to describe OBU softball it would be 'perseverance.' We have never backed down from a challenge but have used it to fuel our energy and love for the game.

Sarah Tuller

My first year on the softball team has exceeded my expectations. All of the girls are so sweet and supportive. They feel like family to me. I'm blessed to be a part of this team!

Lauren Lester

These are the people I'm closest to and we know each and every one of us are going to back each other up on the field and in life. We're just a big family who likes playing softball together.

Maddi Terry

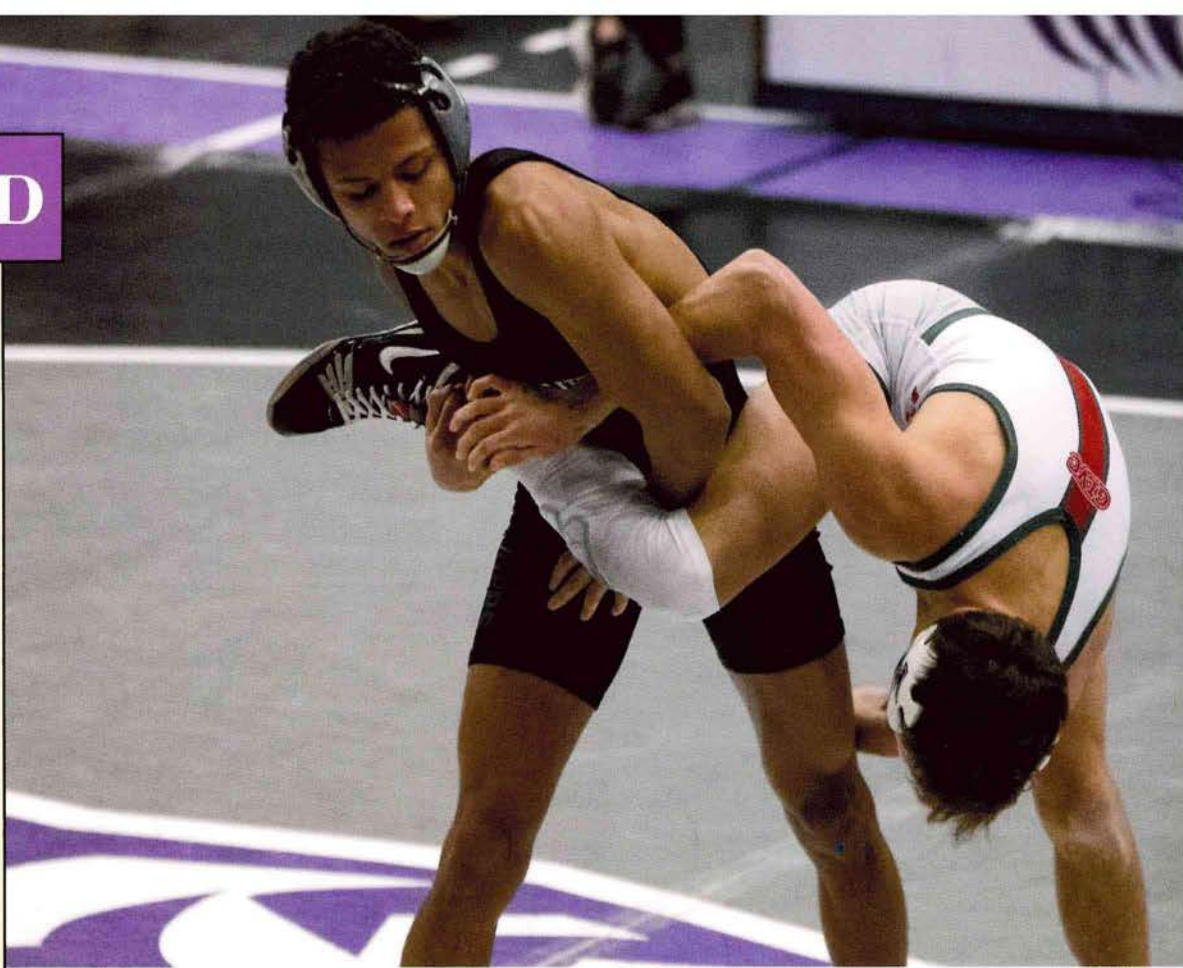


TIGER STRENGTH

SCOREBOARD

TEXAS WESLEYAN	3-42
WILLIAMS BAPTIST	6-43
INDIANAPOLIS	9-28
DRURY	9-34
KY. WESLEYAN	39-0
EMMANUEL	38-4
CENTRAL OKLA.	0-44
LINDENWOOD	6-42
MARYVILLE	9-45
HUNTINGDON	41-10
WILLIAMS BAPTIST	22-21
LYON	53-0

5-7



A. CODY CAGLE manipulates his opponent on the floor. Cagle was a veteran and team leader for the Tigers.

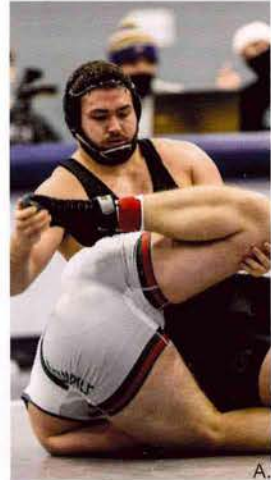
Photo by Wesley Kluck

B. JESSIE HODGE pins his opponent during a match. This was Hodge's first season competing for the Tigers.

Photo by Wesley Kluck



Jaylon Hero



A.



Brady Marple

What really set us apart this year was our dedication. We knew that if we were fortunate enough to get to wrestle this year, we would have to make it count.

Cody Cagle

A big high for me was getting my first college win in my hometown. All of the people who supported me and helped me get to this point were there.

Terrence Murray

What seems different with this group of guys is we're all committed, we're fully bought in to the program, and we are moving this program forward.

Christian Carney

TIGER STRENGTH



 **COVID** Conduct
Extreme sanitation measures were taken during matches

BATTLE

Tigers show no waver in a season of ups and downs

While the typical wrestling season began in November in years past, this season began in January due to COVID-19. Improving from last year, the Ouachita Tigers went 5-7 for their season, highlighted by a landslide win against Kentucky Wesleyan.

The team started off slow but finished off January and started February with a three match winning streak, which started in Bossier City, La.

For Zeke Smotherman, a finance major from Huntsville, Ala., wrestling on the ice hockey rink in Louisiana was the highlight of his season.

"As a team we pushed through by keeping our heads up and continuing to give effort into the season," Smotherman said. "No matter what happened at the end of the match, I knew I would have my teammates beside me to cheer me on."

While many of the matches were canceled or postponed due to quarantines or snow, redshirt junior Cody Cagle, a Christian studies major from Wheatland, Wyo., was just happy to be able to wrestle amidst the global pandemic.

"Each day we were able to wrestle was a gift because there were so many across the country who didn't have the chance to do what we did here," Cagle said.

Cagle praised the many freshmen who came onto the team this year, many of which filled starting positions. There were 17 true freshmen alongside the 11 upperclassmen.

"We welcomed many freshmen to starting positions across several weight classes and although a lot was expected of them, they delivered," Cagle said.

The men found success in February in their last match at Walnut Ridge. The matches were against Williams Baptist University and Lyon College where the Tigers picked up two wins.

The Tigers finished eighth at NCAA Super Regional in Edmond, Okla. A freshman kinesiology major from Waxahachie, Texas, Jackson Carter, posted a 2-2 record at the 157 weight class, which was a solid showing. Carter picked up back-to-back victories to finish out his freshman season.

"It was so surreal to compete at the college level and finish feeling like I contributed to the team," Carter said. "I think this year I learned the true importance of giving as much as you can."

As a team, Ouachita finished ahead of Central Missouri and Kentucky Wesleyan in the final standings. The Tigers look to improve even more next year.

Addie Woods

Evan Kennedy takes down his opponent during a home match. Kennedy had a record of 4-4 on the year. Photo by Hannah Smith



Official team photos were not taken due to COVID-19. Roster: Brandon Anderson. Cody Cagle. Christian Carney. Jackson Carter. Ryan Cochran. Chandler Cooley. Preston Fiser. Johnny Green. Jessie Hodge. Chase Howerton. Brody Jacks. Evan Kennedy. Brady Marple. William Martin. Cole McCartney. Tanner Melendrez. Marcel Molu. Terrence Murray. Jaylon Otero. Robert Otero. Donald Paul. Rey Reyes. Rickey Rogers, Jr. Patrick Rudd. Adrian Salazar-Rivera. Zeke Smotherman. Trey Taylor. Alex Thyes. Austin Weldon. Noah Yeamans. Head Coach Kevin Crutchmer. Assistant Coach Kyle Ash. Graduate Assistant Joseph Presley. Student Assistant Keelan Stanley.

Team and family members celebrate following a match / Photo courtesy of Head Coach Kevin Crutchmer

PEDIGREE

Tigers continue to display top-notch talent

For the third straight season the men's tennis team posted a winning season. At 9-6 the men consistently showed up to the court ready for success.

At the conclusion of the season five Tigers were named to the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association all-conference teams. Francisco Oliveira led the way as the No. 10 singles player in all of Division II and was named to the Second Team at No. 1 singles. Santiago Kearny was named to the Second Team at No. 1 doubles. Alex Blanchar, Tobias Fuerschuss, and Fernando Docters all earned Honorable Mention accolades in singles.

Oliveira finished his regular season at 12-3 in singles and teamed up with Kearny to go 7-4 in doubles matches and was most proud of the team's resilience at the beginning of the season.

"We showed a lot of resilience when we started the year with only four players because COVID had the other four in quarantine," Oliveira, a junior business major from Porto, Portugal, said. "We all came together when we needed to the most."

Oliveira's doubles partner, Kearny, a junior business major from Buenos Aires, Argentina, said, "We are not a just tennis team, we are brothers that go to war together. It's such an honor to compete with these warriors on my side."

The team started the season with two straight losses to Delta State and Southwest Baptist, however bounced back with back-to-back 7-0 victories to jump start their season.

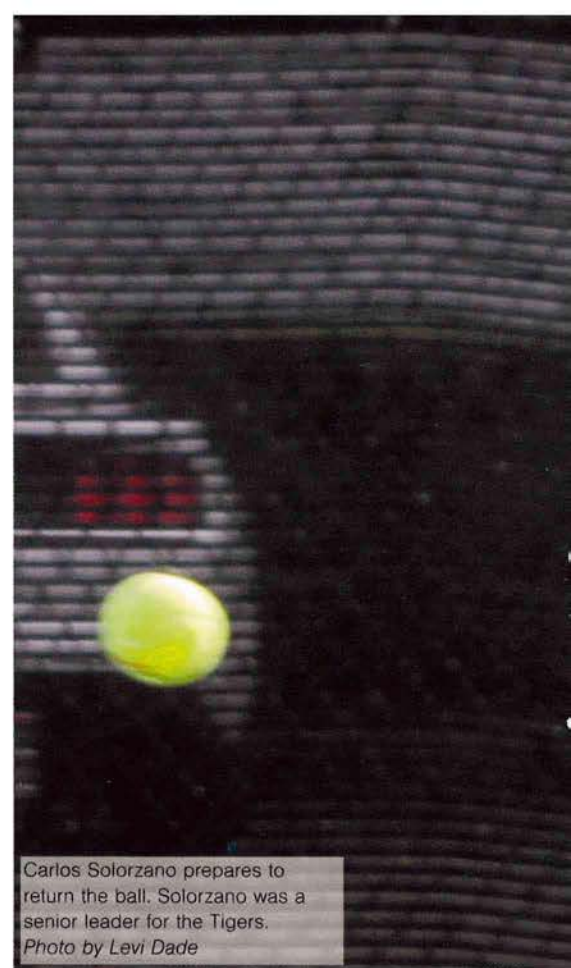
Southern Arkansas, residing at No. 25 in the country, was the team's next opponent, but the Tigers were unable to conquer the Muleriders. Between February 28 and March 26, though, the men went on to win five of six matches. Coming down the stretch the Tigers had four MIAA competitions and concluded the year at 2-2 in conference.

Not too many changes to the tennis team's routine were changed due to COVID-19. Within the indoor complex, fans could not watch, but most matches were outside. The team stayed disciplined all season long and not a single match was canceled or postponed due to coronavirus protocols.

"I think our team really showed resilience every single day on and off the court," Carlos Solorzano, a senior business major from Morella, Mexico, said. "We always pushed each other to do our best in everything we did."

The Tigers will look to continue their successes next season and will continue to reminisce on the resilience and growth displayed this season in order to supplement the team's future success.

Ben Swanger



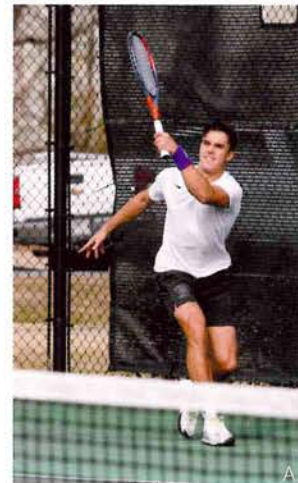
Carlos Solorzano prepares to return the ball. Solorzano was a senior leader for the Tigers.
Photo by Levi Dade



Tobias Fuerschuss




Francisco Oliveira



MEN'S TENNIS TEAM Front row: Santiago Kearney, Javi Sanchis Fito, Francisco Oliveira, Head Coach Craig Ward. Back row: Fernando Docters, Carlos Solorzano, Tobias Fuerschuss, Matias Parzajuk, Alex Blanchar, Seth Hernandez.



 **COVID** Conduct Started the season with four players quarantined

SCOREBOARD

DELTA STATE	2-5
SOUTHWEST BAPTIST	3-4
TEXAS A&M TEXARKANA	7-0
ARKANSAS FORT SMITH	7-0
SOUTHERN ARK.	2-5
HARDING	4-2
WEST ALABAMA	5-2
MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE	6-1
NEWMAN	6-1
NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE	2-5
TEXAS A&M TEXARKANA	7-0
SOUTHERN ARK.	2-4
HARDING	5-2
SEOSU	1-4
OKLAHOMA BAPTIST	7-0
9-6	



A. SANTIAGO KEARNEY hits the ball over the net. Kearney picked up wins in both doubles and singles for the Tigers.
Photo by Levi Dade

B. TOBIAS FUERSCHUSS and Carlos Solorzano celebrate during a match. The pair played doubles for the Tigers.
Photo by Levi Dade

My favorite moment was beating Harding in Searcy with more than 400 people watching. It was one of the best moments in my career.

Francisco "Chico" Oliveira

We are not only a group of tennis players, we are a family that supports each other and pushed each other to give our best. That's what helps us to get better and to win.

Alex Blanchar

It's such an honor to compete with these warriors on my side - I feel like a beast out there competing against the other teams because of the energy that we all bring to any tennis court.

Santiago Kearney

TIGER STRENGTH



SCOREBOARD

SOUTHERN ARK.	0-7
ARKANSAS TECH	0-7
CHRISTIAN BROTHERS	2-5
ANGELO STATE	0-7
HARDING	0-7
UT TYLER	0-7
SOUTHERN ARK.	1-6
DELTA STATE	3-4
ARKANSAS TECH	1-6
HENDERSON ST.	3-4
HENDERSON ST.	1-6
SEOSU	0-4
OKLAHOMA BAPTIST	5-2
ARKANSAS TECH	1-4

1-13



A. TAYLOR HANSARD serves the ball. Hansard played singles and doubles for the Tigers.
Photo by Callie Rogers

B. MAKEILAH TURNER lunges to make a play. Turner was a senior leader for the Tigers.
Photo by Callie Rogers



Taylor Hansard



Clarisa Valenzuela



A.

As a team, we were always able to build on the little things and build each other up that led us to a big win against OKBU, qualifying us for the conference tournament.

Clarisa Valenzuela

We're unified, both on and off the court, and the relationships that have been cultivated in the past two semesters have allowed us to reach the goals we set for ourselves.

Claire Phillips

My favorite moment from this season was when we saw all of our hard work result in a win over OKBU. We charged the court jumping, cheering and really cherishing that moment together.

Makeilah Turner

TIGER STRENGTH



RETURN

Lady Tigers win first GAC match in eight years

The women's tennis team went back to the Great American Conference Tournament this season for the first time since 2017. Ouachita clinched the tournament berth with a 5-2 win over Oklahoma Baptist and was the program's first conference victory since 2013.

In route to 2021's successful season, growing pains were present within the program. On September 21, 2020, Kourtney Chumbley was named head coach after the former head coach left the program to stay home with her and her husband's two children.

"When a program gets a new head coach, nobody really knows what to expect," Haylee Cannon, junior double major in English and secondary education, from Denison, Texas, said. "Fortunately, we were met with a genuine hard-working coach who wanted the best for us both on and off the court. We put in the effort all season, and we finally saw our diligence pay off by qualifying for the conference tournament at the end of season for the first time in four years."

Chumbley concluded the season being selected to participate in the ITA USTA College Coach Mentorship Program for the 2021-22 season. The program will pair Chumbley up with a veteran collegiate coach for the upcoming season. She was only one of 15 coaches selected.

Chumbley was able to lead a team that had a bond not many other teams have. It is difficult to build a positive culture, but even amidst the pandemic, the team displayed a connection unlike any other.

"One of my favorite memories from this semester was when we would all get in circle after practice to stretch and we would say what we admired most about each person on the team," sophomore accounting major from Grand Prairie, Texas, Clarisa Valenzuela, said. "I loved doing this because it allowed us to be able to express to each other how much we appreciate one another and bond us more as a team."

For the first time since 2013, the women's tennis team placed multiple players on the All-GAC teams and Valenzuela was one of them. Freshman communications major from Little Rock, Austynn Crocker, was also named to the team. Senior business major from Allen, Texas, Makeilah Turner, was named the GAC's Distinguished Scholar.

Not too many changes to the tennis team's routine were changed due to COVID-19. Within the indoor complex, fans could not watch, but most matches were outside. The team stayed disciplined all season long and not a single match was canceled or postponed due to coronavirus protocols.

Unfortunately, the Lady Tigers' season came to end in the first round of the conference tournament. However, the resilience this group displayed and the growth that was made will only continue to supplement the program's success for years to come.

Ben Swanger

Olivia Gaston returns the ball during a match. This was Gaston's rookie season.
Photo by Callie Rogers



WOMEN'S TENNIS TEAM Front row: Olivia Gatson, Claire Phillips, Shelly Davilus. Second row: Austynn Crocker, Haylee Cannon, Clarisa Valenzuela, MacKenzie Wade. Back row: Keelan Williams, Makeilah Turner, Taylor Hansard, Carla Gallart, Head Coach Kourtney Chumbley.

TOUGHNESS

Tiger Sharks soar toward ascension

This season for the men's swim team was memorable. The Tiger Sharks had their fair share of obstacles this season as they trained, practiced, and competed all while dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

The pandemic brought along many changes for the Tigers. The team was not allowed to compete in meets until January, so the first semester was very difficult. Not even their practices were normal, as they had to split into two groups and swim separately in order to properly social distance. It was taxing on the team to be in the unknown for a majority of the season. Freshman Noah Smith, a kinesiology major from Pearcy, put it best when he said, "COVID made inconsistency the only consistent thing in our season."

Constantly wearing a mask and having to distance from teammates made forming connections and friendships slightly more difficult. However, the team faced this challenge together, deciding they would not let COVID get in the way of their season.

"Some of the most memorable moments have been pushing through the difficulty of trying to have a season with COVID," said Keith Matthews, a sophomore finance major from Carrollton, Texas. "We had to rely on each other and come together to stay motivated in the midst of a pandemic."

There has been a common theme of camaraderie within the group, as Peyton Stone, a senior business major from Garland, Texas, had similar words to share about his team.

"I think trying to have a positive mindset while keeping the rest of the team in good spirit through the season has helped me to stay positive," he said.

Even though the pandemic made it harder to remain in optimistic spirits, this team chose to remain positive and not let the pandemic get in the way of their goals. The men's team had one of the fastest seasons the team has seen in years. Constantly dropping times as well as shattering personal and pool records, the Tiger Sharks continued to see their hard work pay off.

"The biggest lesson this year that I felt everyone had to learn was to be flexible and go with the flow. All of us started this season without the assurance that there was even going to be a season. But we all committed to the work that needed to be done and it all ended up working out well in the end," said Smith.

Everything did end up working out, as the men's team came in fifth at the New South Intercollegiate Swim Conference Championships with a majority of the team making it to finals and besting previous team records.

The Tiger Sharks learned a lot about perseverance and determination this season.

Matthews put it best when he said, "I've learned that relying on each other to motivate everyone is better than trying to do it on your own. I've also learned that there's no way to improve without putting in the hard work."

Hanna Williams



Keith Matthews slices through the water. Matthews competed in eight events during the season.
Photo by Levi Dade



Trent Reeder



Nolan Gerfers



Official team photos were not taken due to COVID-19.
Roster: Trayton Armstrong. Sebastian Bustillo. Jack Conner. Chase Foiles. Nolan Gerfers. Chad Gscheidle. Jayden Herron. Keith Matthews. Jeff McCoy. Alex Noel. Jacob Ragsdell. Joe Ragsdell. Trent Reeder. Lucas Riley. Joao Rodrigues. Noah Smith. Peyton Stone. Vaughn Stresow. Head Coach Steven Bostick. Assistant Coach and Recruiting Coordinator Dawson Pritchard.



Team members watch for official results / Photo by Abby Blankenship

SCOREBOARD

MONTEVALLO	111-144
HENDERSON ST.	49-78
DELTA STATE	85-185
HENDERSON ST.	93-109
HENDERSON ST.	68-137
WILLIAMS BAPTIST	173-72
NSISC	5th
0-5	



A. JAYDEN HERON waits on the side of the pool for practice to begin. This was his first season on the swim team.
Photo by Abby Blankenship

B. LUCAS RILEY dives backward off the pool deck to begin his race. Riley was a senior leader for the team in and out of the pool.
Photo by Levi Dade

It has been incredible to see the team's response to the many obstacles this season. We never lost focus or confidence in each other.
Trent Reeder

This team's atmosphere has been full of hard work and dedication to progress the Ouachita swim team to the next level.
Nolan Gerfers

What seems different with this group of guys is we're all committed, we're fully bought in to the program, and we are moving this program forward.
Vaughn Stresow

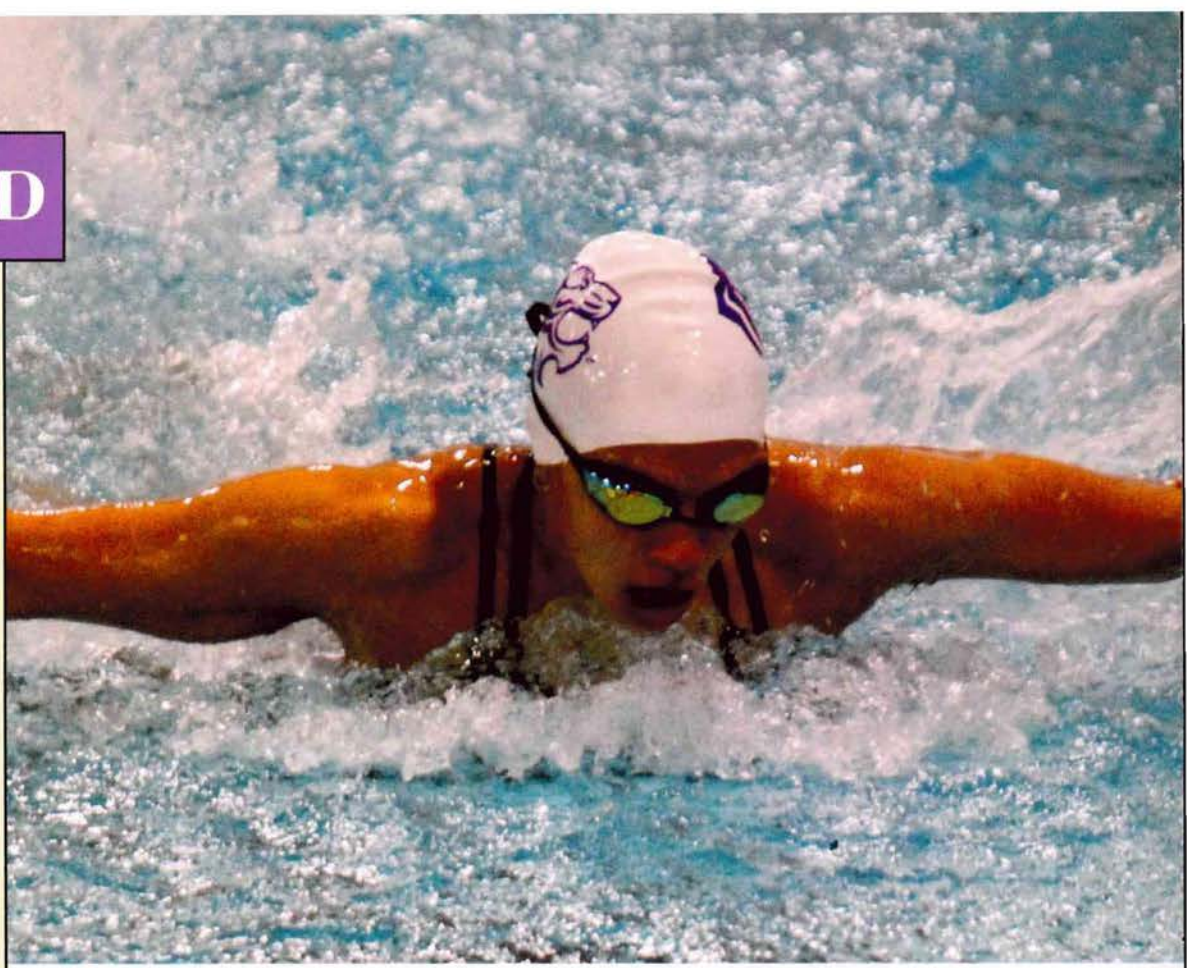
TIGER STRENGTH



SCOREBOARD

MONTEVALLO	166-95
HENDERSON ST.	79-69
HENDERSON ST.	128-75
HENDERSON ST.	128-75
LITTLE ROCK	72-173
WILLIAMS BAPTIST	173-72
NSISC	3rd

4-1



A. ERIN RUSSO plunges into the water to start her race. She made her college debut this year with the Lady Tiger Sharks.
Photo by Levi Dade



B. LILIA CLARK competes in the breast stroke event. Clark was a veteran swimmer for the Tigers, swimming 11 events.
Photo by Mikaela Monahan



Anna Kate Velasquez

My favorite moment of the season was watching the women's relay break the pool record. Everyone was jumping and cheering.
Ariana Rizo

We were extremely resilient this year. The entire women's team got quarantined and two months later we were Ouachita's first athletic competition in over 300 days.
Bailey Hunter

Through the most inconsistent year, the one thing that stayed consistent is the people on this team. Without them I would have never been able to enjoy my last year as a Tiger Shark.
Camilla Howarth

TIGER STRENGTH



STARDOM

Lady Tiger Sharks display top-notch talent

Despite facing challenges from COVID-19, the Lady Tiger swim team united together to push through the season's obstacles and achieve new team and personal goals. Social distancing, wearing masks, and mandatory testing became the new normal as the team had to adapt and adjust to the sport's COVID-19 protocols.

"In October, we all got sent home from COVID, and when we came back it seemed like we all had each other's backs. We built each other up and encouraged each other. It was kind of a turning point for the team," said Lauren Gaharan, a sophomore elementary education and Spanish major from Frisco, Texas.

The Lady Tiger Swim team competed in only five meets due to conference guidelines with a delayed start to the season. The team focused on maintaining morale and hopes while also getting stronger and faster. The coaches focused on being flexible and on encouraging the team to push harder so that they were always ready for their next competition.

"COVID-19 seemed to give the team a common enemy, something that the entire team was working to beat," said Dawson Pritchard, the Lady Tiger swim team assistant coach. "COVID was not going to be an excuse for us as coaches or for our athletes to slack off for a year. It gave the team a way to bond together to overcome something that was affecting everyone."

Not only was swimming a physical sport, but it was also a mental sport, especially during a season of uncertainty.

"Whenever you get to the big meet, it's going to be whoever is the mentally strongest who wins. We all had to learn how to overcome and persevere this year as a team," said Lilia Clark, a junior business administration and management major from Hillsboro, Texas.

At the end of February, the team traveled to Cleveland, Miss., to compete in the New South Intercollegiate Swim Conference (NSISC) Championships. The team earned third place and beat their score from last year's conference championship. In addition to placing third as a team, Kaitlyn Montgomery finished second in the 200-yard backstroke and the 400-yard relay team took third place. Pushing past the obstacles that stood in their way during the season, the team came together as one and created a bond that would last forever.

"I love what Ouachita stands for and its environment, but I think that the swim team just adds a whole other aspect. It gives me this second community, a second family that I see every single day," said Anna Kate Velasquez, a freshman Christian studies major from Pearland, Texas. "I feel like there is this extreme physical bond between the team, whereas Ouachita is more of a spiritual bond. It's really special, and I am really thankful to be a part of it."

Kathryn Totty

Sofia Rizo starts the 200 individual medley. Although Rizo was a rookie, she was a huge asset to the team. Photo by Levi Dade



Lauren Gaharan and Rachel Sansano celebrate a successful practice / Photo by William Read

Official team photos were not taken due to COVID-19. Roster: Jade Ashley, Christina Beger, Bella Bevel, Lilia Clark, Lauren Gaharan, Hannah Hickman, Camilla Howarth, Bailey Hunter, Victoria Kunselman, Elysian Majeske, Samantha McCarty, Kaitlyn Montgomery, Courtney Myers, Sydney Parker, Arian Rizo, Sofia Rizo, Erin Russo, Rachel Sansano, Avery Sewell, Madison Shankle, Emma Starkman, Erin Strautman, Anna Kate Velasquez. Head Coach Steven Bostick. Assistant Coach and Recruiting Coordinator Dawson Pritchard.

Students take up club and leisure sports to rev competitive engines

Ouachita students were seen all over campus taking a break from academics by spending time outside. Students enjoyed a variety of leisure activities such as golf, disc golf, corn hole, fishing, and hunting. These activities allowed students to have a little fun, stay active, and enjoy the beautiful campus.

Jillian Woodruff, a sophomore business administration major from Hope, has played golf since she was a child. This hobby followed her to college and was a “great way for me to take a break from studying and just clear my head,” Woodruff said.

Breanna Parker, an elementary education major from Clarksville, picked up the hobby of disc golf from some of her college friends. Even though it hadn’t been a passion for years like Woodruff, Parker built great relationships through playing.

“I first started playing because my friends did and I wanted to spend time with them and get involved in what they loved to do,” Parker said.

Golf and disc golf were not the only ways to clear your head after a hard week of class. Blaine Miller, a senior Christian studies major from North Little Rock, used corn hole to take his mind off of classes. Not only was it a hobby, but Miller used his talents to compete for cash.

“I like playing against others just see how to get better,” Miller said. “An organized tournament with something at stake is more competitive and people take it much more serious.”

Miller wasn’t the only one turning a hobby into competition. The Ouachita fishing team also competed on a regular basis. Jared Wright, a senior finance major from Glenwood, was the captain for the team.

Wright described a fishing tournament as “the opening kickoff of a football game and then after that it’s like golf.”

The beginning of fishing tournaments were fast paced with lots of adrenaline rushing. After the initial excitement, the team relaxed and focused on fishing.

Baker Kendrick, a sophomore biology major from Conway, mentioned the same adrenaline rush when he found the perfect hunting spot near campus. Kendrick has enjoyed bow hunting since he was a small child, and he did not want to give up the hobby when he came to college.

“I had to find an alternative. I found a gorgeous clearing right next to the river and decided that this would be a great place to hunt,” Kendrick said.

But that was not all, Kendrick put in a lot of work in to be ready for hunting season.

“I brought in my portable tree stand, cut some shooting lanes, set up a game camera, and planted a food plot,” Kendrick said. “This was a perfect place to go hunt on Tuesday mornings right before watching Chapel.”

Whether it was on a boat, on the greens, or anywhere in between, Ouachita students found themselves staying active within competition, surrounded by fun.

Caroline Johnson



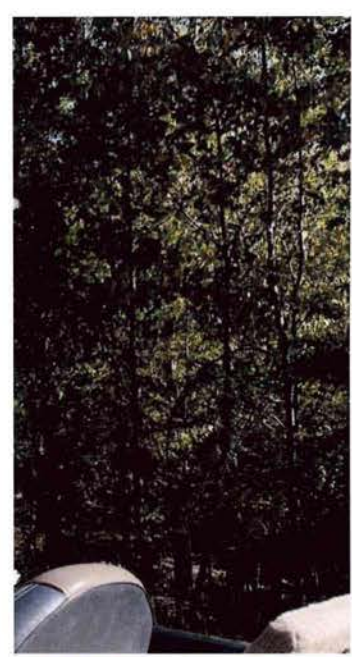
Fishing team captain Jared Wright shows off his catch. Photo courtesy of Jared Wright



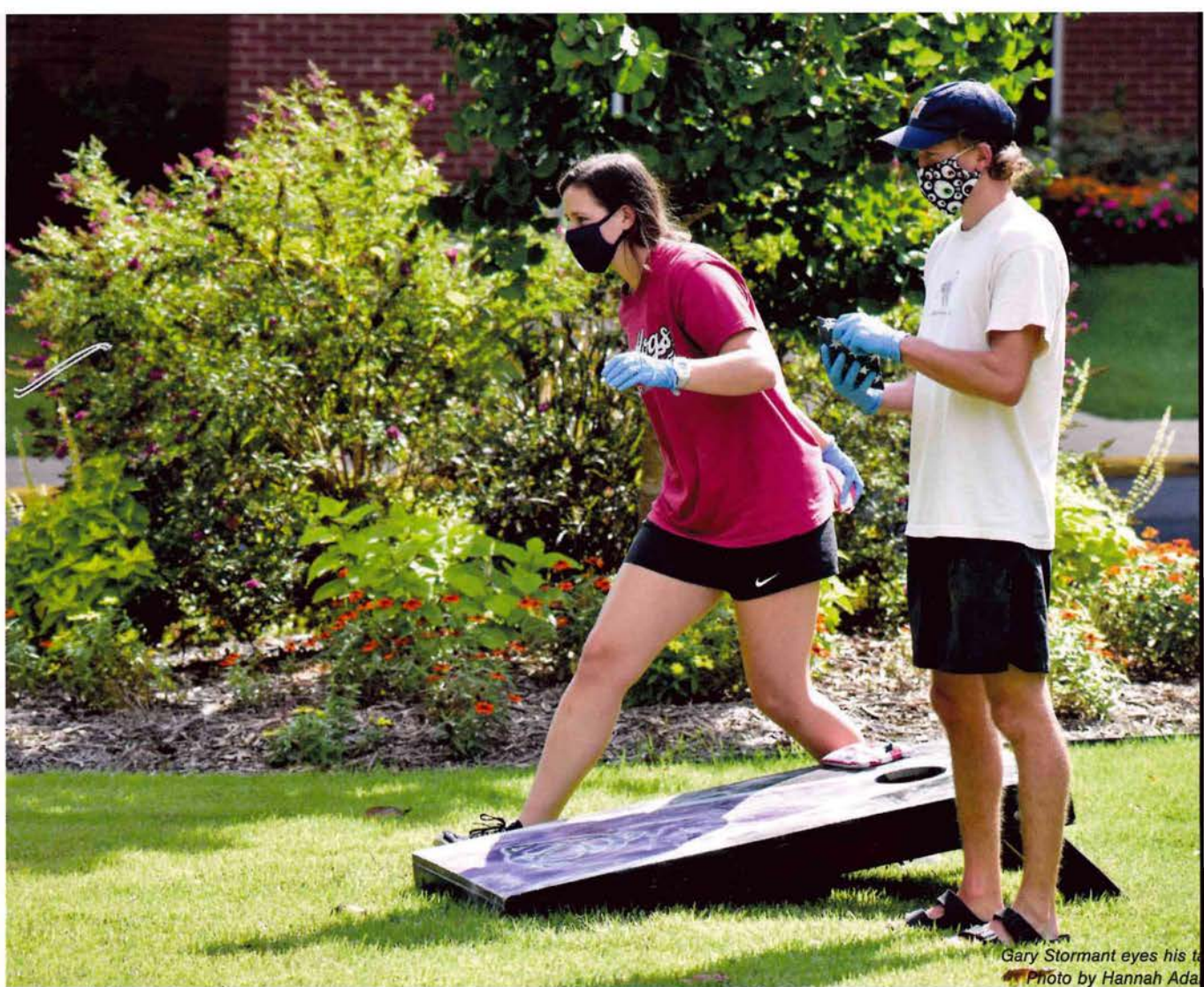
Fishing team's new wrap. Photo by Tyler Wosenthal



Ben Hodde tosses his frisbee. Photo by Hannah Adamson



Baker Kendrick poses with his prize.
Photo courtesy of Baker Kendrick



Gary Stormant eyes his target.
Photo by Hannah Adams



JOYMENT



Jillian Woodruff strikes her iron.
Photo courtesy of Jillian Woodruff

PROCESS

Tigers set foundation for future success

Although the season was no normal task, the Tigers made the most of the year securing a GAC Tournament victory. Fighting to prevent COVID-19 both on the court and within the locker room, weekly testing of the team never produced a positive case for the men's basketball team; a feat the players and coaches were proud to stand by.

Despite the added precautions, the team was still forced into quarantine due to possible exposure from an opposing team just as they were hitting their stride.

"At any time, we could've been sent home from a close contact," said Larenz Nero, a senior guard and computer science major from Hot Springs, Ark. That added layer of possible quarantine motivated Nero and the team to stay as safe as possible throughout the season.

Despite the unexpected quarantine, the team continued to improve.

"The team dynamic grew stronger as the season went on. We started trusting each other more and I believe that was mainly Coach Nutt and Coach Bailey pulling to bring us closer together," said Stephfan Tabe, a freshman biology major from El Dorado Ark.

The dynamic of the team was important for the Tigers success as they struggled to mesh in the offseason and to begin the regular season.

"After we got seven new guys, the chemistry was off," said Matt Stanley, a senior business administration major from Cabot, Ark.

"The back half of the season we noticed we looked like a different team playing wise compared to the first half. We all got pretty close outside of basketball which helped us late this season," Stanley said.

The team chemistry that continued to foster throughout the season permitted the Tigers to make a post season run. The Tigers traveled to Arkansas Tech coming off a loss to the Wonder Boys just two days earlier to end the regular season.

Winning a road game is no easy task within the GAC, let alone a road tournament game. Led by All-GAC guard Kendarious Smith's 17 points, the Tigers defeated the Arkansas Tech Wonder Boys 70-69.

"It was good to get by the first playoff game against Arkansas Tech. It was a hard fought game that came down to the wire. I thought we played extremely hard and survived to advance," Coach Nutt said.

The Tiger basketball season would come to a close at #24 Oklahoma Baptist in the second round of the GAC Tournament, but a foundation was set for future success and the road back to the top of the GAC had begun.

Caroline Johnson



Marvin Williams-Dunn dribbles the basketball looking to pass. Dunn was a rookie, but still made vital contributions to the team.
Photo by Levi Dade



KDI Smith



Jacob Street



A.

Official team photos were not taken due to COVID-19. Roster: Marvin Williams-Dunn. Xavier Hall. Larenz Nero. Ma'Darius Hobson. Alex Scariolo. Jacob Street. Kobe Dunlap. Kendarious Smith. Daveon Bankston. DJ Kane. Leon Kalinic. Matt Stanley. Stephfan Tabe. Head Coach Dennis Nutt. Assistant Coach Jordan Bailey. Student Assistant Sam Scott.



Team members huddle during a time out / Photo by Sarah Dean



COVID Conduct

The team had zero positive cases all season

SCOREBOARD

HARDING	77-84
SOUTHERN ARK.	58-69
HARDING	78-74
HENDERSON ST.	67-96
SOUTHERN ARK.	62-83
MONTICELLO	79-81
SOUTHERN ARK.	57-68
HARDING	71-62
HENDERSON ST.	55-59
ARKANSAS TECH	81-59
MONTICELLO	68-88
SOUTHERN ARK.	73-59
HENDERSON ST.	75-82
MONTICELLO	52-55
ARKANSAS TECH	66-68
ARKANSAS TECH	70-69
OKLA. BAPTIST	78-97

5-12



A. LARENZ NERO gets a fast break and goes up for a lay up. Nero shot for 42% from the field for the season.
Photo by Levi Dade

B. DJ KANE shoots a three point shot over the defender from SAU. Kane shot for 26% on three point attempts for the season.
Photo by Levi Dade

I think the big high was when we beat Arkansas Tech to advance into the quarter finals. They had previously beat us in a close game but we beat them when it mattered.

Stephan Tabe

All of the guys are amazing people off the court, so that really does help the team dynamic on the court.

Matt Stanley

The team's dynamic is something different than any team I've been a part of. We handled adversity and stuck with each other until the end.

Deaveon Bankston



TIGER STRENGTH

SCOREBOARD

HARDING	63-66
HENDERSON ST.	61-71
ARKANSAS TECH	89-94
SOUTHERN ARK.	102-86
HENDERSON ST.	69-66
MONTICELLO	77-51
ARKANSAS TECH	76-89
SOUTHERN ARK.	85-84
SWOSU	66-89

4-5



A. EDEN CROW tips off against Southern Arkansas. Crow served as the team's captain.
Photo by Levi Dade

B. MAKENZIE SCHILMOELLER celebrates with Eden Crow after her buzzer beater against SAU. This win gave the Lady Tigers their first post-season win since 2012.
Photo by Wesley Kluck



Ray Osborn



Makayla Miller



A

A moment of true resilience was when Eden Crow hit a game winner against SAU. The atmosphere was electric. I will never forget that moment.
Lauren Wright

We overcame quarantines, injuries, illnesses, and snow storms, not by our power, but by the grace of God, because he has big plans for the OBU women's basketball program moving forward.
Eden Crow

My teammates and I have had to be physically and mentally tough to get through this season due to COVID-19 protocols.
Ray Osborn

TIGER STRENGTH



 **COVID Conduct**
14 games were canceled due to COVID-19 protocols

GRIT

Lady Tigers display resilience en route to victory

The Lady Tiger basketball team struggled through a rough start to its season, but not because of losses or poor play.

"We were quarantined three separate times this year and with Christmas break we were off campus 40 out of 49 days before we played our first game on Feb. 6," Head Coach Robert Dallimore said.

The Lady Tigers were scheduled to begin their season on Jan. 7, however the season failed to tip off till an entire month later.

Not only did the team have to work through multiple quarantines, but they also had to establish chemistry within the locker room. The Lady Tigers only returned four players from 2019-2020 season as eight new faces were welcomed on board Dallimore's ship. Despite a fresh look, the team began to mesh as the season progressed.

The time spent off campus meant the Lady Tigers were not in the gym to prepare for the start of their season. Because Ouachita began the season one month after the expected date, most teams in the Great American Conference established a rhythm and, of course, a record that displayed more than 0-0.

Despite the setbacks, the Lady Tigers kept pushing forward.

"We kept working hard in practice and we knew that eventually we would get to play in front of our fans," said senior Guard Majja Gertstone, a nutrition and dietetics major from Liepajas, Latvia.

That hard worked paid off. The Lady Tigers fought through the regular season and, in comparison to last year, the team "increased their conference win percentage by 40%," said Coach Dallimore.

The Lady Tigers earned a home GAC tournament game and went on to win their first conference tournament game since 2012. The feat was a huge milestone for the organization as the GAC was very competitive containing multiple nationally ranked teams.

"I believe this year has laid the ground work for the teams to come," said the senior captain Eden Crow, a kinesiology and education major from Texarkana. Crow hit the game winning mid-range jump shot at the buzzer to seal the victory over Southern Arkansas in the first round of the GAC Tournament.

Parker Smith, a freshman English major from Searcy, agreed with Crow on how impactful the post-season run was for the future of Lady Tiger basketball.

"I think the post-season run and first round win will help us in the future because we know what it feels like to win and lose. The feeling of winning in a post-season tournament is a feeling you can't explain," said Smith.

Caroline Johnson

The team cheers as Majja Gertstone is announced as a starter. Gertstone averaged a team high of 35.7 minutes per game.
Photo by Levi Dade



B.



Official team photos were not taken due to COVID-19. From left to right, front row: Makayla Miller. MaKenzie Schilmoeller. Jessi Bennett. Dai Brown. Kailen Wright. Back row: Parker Smith. Eden Crow. Lauren Wright. Majja Gertstone. Haley Day. Brittney Williams. Ray Osborn. Not Pictured: Head Coach Robert Dallimore. Assistant Coach Amber Reeves.

Team celebrates after post-season win / Photo by Wesley Kluck

RECORDS

Runners push through boundaries and set personal bests

Despite the challenges that COVID-19 brought, the Cross Country and Track and Field teams had successful seasons. The fall cross country season was pushed to the spring along with track. This was difficult for the athletes because it made it harder to find motivation to train, but the team encouraged each other and pushed through.

The track team made history by being the first OBU women's track and field team to attend a conference meet. Most of the team members were able to set personal records and came home with recognitions.

"The conference meet was the highlight of this year. Since I started the semester with COVID-19 and going over a month with no physical activity until I was cleared, I had to work extremely hard to catch up and get in shape, but our amazing coaches worked with me. I was able to get all conference with both of the relay teams and only missing all conference by one place in my individual event," Rebekah Wendt, a sophomore biology major and chemistry minor from Haworth, Okla., said.

Track was a new sport this year at Ouachita and the team was already thriving. The coaches and team had been working hard and they feel they have a great future ahead.

"With our amazing coaching staff, I'd say we have a bright future. Coaches are working extremely hard to build up this program, bringing in some really good recruits for next year as well as building our current team up as runners and making us better. Hopefully in the next few years we will even see our own OBU track," Wendt said.

Time management and discipline were just the many things you need to succeed as a student athlete. It is not easy to balance it all, but it is possible.

"As an athlete, I struggled with finding time to hang out with people or even going home for the weekend. Our practices would sometimes clash with other events on the campus. However, over the years I learned to balance everything out," Elizabeth Costner, a senior kinesiology major and dietetics minor from Fayetteville, said.

Both teams grew closer together and became a family for many.

"I have never met a group more accepting of each other and reflective of Christ and His unconditional love. The way each teammate supports another and would do anything for each other as soon as a need is spoken, is so encouraging and comforting," Grace Loftin, a junior kinesiology major, from Shreveport, La., said.

This season might have looked different, but the team was still able to make memories and train hard.

"Athletically, because of being older I haven't competed in a long time. I was doubting my abilities but with training and dedication I beat my high school personal best by seconds. I trusted the coach, and realized that I still have capabilities and potential," Kirsten Swanson, freshman nutrition and dietetics major, from Spring Branch, Texas, said.

Both the cross country and track and field teams displayed strength and refused to let anything stop them. The teams had a great bond. They pushed each other and lifted each other up. Their unity made them stronger.

Valeria Gomez



Taylor Koeth and Kristen Holeyfield run to the finish line. This was Koeth's first year on the team.
Photo by Levi Dade



Emily Castilaw



Lauren Williams



CROSS COUNTRY & TRACK AND FIELD TEAM

Front row: Sydney Delgado, Becca Beard, Kristen Holeyfield, Nataly Nailling, Taylor Koeth, Kyndal Moyer, Meighan Mears, Elizabeth Coster. **Second row:** Dawson Goodwin, Taryn Bewley, Alyssa Reece, Analyse Hamlett. **Back row:** Ben Blocker, Nic Gonzalez, Jorie Beaumont, Grace Loftin, Kirsten Swanson, Rebekah Wendt, Sam Vickers, Gabe Chandler, Neil Cole.



COVID Conduct

All meets took place in the spring semester

SCOREBOARD

CROSS COUNTRY

SAU INVITE 3rd

OBU INVITE 3rd

GAC CHAMPIONSHIP 5th

TRACK AND FIELD

HENDRIX INVITE 6th

RHODES INVITE

BISON INVITE

DAN VEACH INVITE

GAC CHAMPIONSHIP 10th



A. RACHEL FREEMAN, Ouachita Cross Country signee, passed away in February of 2020. The team ran in remembrance of her throughout the season.

Photo via OBU Cross Country Twitter

B. SYDNEY DELGADO jumps into the water during a race. Delgado competed in the steeplechase event for the Lady Tigers.

Photo by Levi Dade

My favorite memory from the season was the day we had practice at Coach Guymon's house and they made us breakfast. That day I really felt like we were not just a team but a family.

Nataly Nailing

This fall we didn't get a season because of COVID, so Coach Guymon & Coach Jones set up a time trial for us to run. There were several girls who beat their personal record.

Jorie Beaumont

My experience on the team is something that I will hold in a very special place in my heart forever. It's become a huge part of who I am, and who I will become.

Kristen Holeyfield

TIGER STRENGTH



CHAMPIONS

HUMAN FOOSBALL
ETA Big Dinner

KICKBALL
Men's: BETA Black
Coed: New Kicks on the Block

INDOOR PICKLEBALL
Men's: Dream Team
Coed: Get Paddled

BASKETBALL DRILLS
Chris McCuiston

NBA PICK 'EM
Overall: Valery Cotton
Weekend: Sophia Ward & Audrey Gallagher

BIG FOOTBALL GAME PREDICTION CHALLENGE
Karlee Sanders

DISC GOLF SCRAMBLE
B(Eta) Black

ARCHERY
Rambow and Arrow

TRIVIA
Basketball: Kendall Jones
Football: Grant Allen

PING PONG
Men's: Luke Black
Women's: Savannah Staggs

DISC GOLF SINGLES
Beginner: Nicolas Gonzalez
Advanced: Chris Couch and Connor Bjerke

NCAA MARCH MADNESS BRACKET
Men's: James Lasley
Women's: Jason Greenwich

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT
Ben Swanger and Blaine Miller

REC NIGHTS
Spikeball: Parker Apicella and Hagan Sanchez
Kan Jam: Micah Hitt and Isaac Johnson

PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT
Doubles: 2 Cent Pickle
Singles: Ben Blocker

SOFTBALL
Men's: BETA Black
Coed: Friends on the Field



A. SARAH COLLINS runs to first base during a softball game. She participated in intramurals every semester she has been in college.
Photo by Sarah Dean



B. ASHLEY DRENNAN and Issac Crow celebrate with a high five. Drennan and Crow were both freshmen playing on a human foosball team.
Photo by Madison Melcher



It was different not being able to play the same intramurals we were used to, but overall I think Rec Life did a great job coming up with different sports that we could play.
Mitchell Waite

COVID made it hard to meet people, especially as a freshman. Intramurals provided a way to form good friendships and get to know people on a deeper level, while also having fun!
Vivian Pryor

Intramurals has been a great way to be social, do something that I absolutely love, which is playing sports.
Halley "Lou" Bryant

TIGER STRENGTH



RECREATION

New competitions proved worthwhile

Intramurals were an integral part of Ouachita's community and Rec Life. This year was different and normal competitions were challenged due to the adjustments the directors had to make to abide by campus wide restrictions. New games were created to provide ways the student body could get involved.

"This year, Rec Life offered more individual sports than team sports, like archery and ping pong, or sports with two to a team like pickleball," said Halley Bryant, a sophomore kinesiology major from El Dorado. "My favorite memories from being involved in Rec Life is always the time I get to spend with friends through intramurals."

Students focused on having a good time with their friends through the new games which allowed them some normalcy back in such a difficult semester. Games like archery, disc golf, ping pong, pickleball, virtual football and basketball leagues were introduced.

"I feel like students really came together in different ways because when I think about the different teams, especially in the fall semester, there were a lot of freshmen teams put together," said Bryant.

Some of the new games were loved so much that the Rec Life directors plan on keeping these competitions for later years. While not much on campus remained the same, Rec Life worked hard to encourage fun competition and raised morale for the student body and the community on campus.

"It has been a challenging year to be the one in charge of intramurals, but we are really pleased with how things have turned out! As a result of having to cut several of our normal sports leagues, we have been able to try several new things that I think we will keep around for years to come," said Matthew Cook, Rec Life's assistant director.


Ben Blocker, a junior engineering physics major from Little Rock, thought that, although intramurals were different, he advocated that these changes were not necessarily bad but displayed rec life's ability to be flexible and creative.

"I have been involved with most of the intramural sports offered on campus, including soccer, which I missed the most," said Blocker. "Intramurals were always the highlight of my week. Each sport was always a healthy mental and emotional break for me, and they always seemed to give us hope as students that the hard times would not last forever, and that things would get back to normal soon."

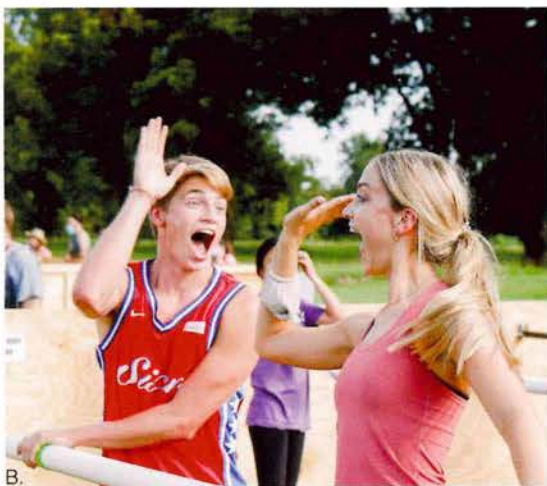
At the heart of intramurals are the students who come together and laugh during their games. This is a lighthearted time for students to step away from schoolwork.

"I got involved in human foosball in the fall when there wasn't a lot going on. It gave me more structure and the opportunity to meet more people while playing sports I loved," said Addyson Cassell, a freshman middle school education major from Fayetteville. "Intramurals encouraged me throughout the year to continue to get involved and opened my eyes to new things that I am so thankful to have."


Emily Barton



Ethan Marshall throws a frisbee while Broc Ingold watches. Ouachita hosted a frisbee golf tournament for students. Photo by Sarah Dean



B.



KALLEN SMITH runs home to score during a kickball game. Kickball was a great way for students to connect in a normal way despite COVID-19. Photo by William Reed

Tiger cheer rallies through a year without sporting event appearances

During the season of COVID-19, the Ouachita Tiger cheerleaders found creative ways to support fellow Tigers and each other. At the beginning of the cheer season, hopes were high concerning what sports the cheerleaders could attend. Even when it began to look like the cheer squad would not be able to attend any games, they still began social distanced practices once a week.

Anna Claire Newman, a freshman biomedical sciences major from Greenbrier, became a Ouachita cheerleader via the online tryouts last spring. She was one of the three freshmen on the team.

"When I first made the team, I was so excited to get to cheer for OBU, and now, even though we were not able to cheer at games this year, I'm still excited for what's to come," Newman said.

While the cheerleaders were not able to cheer for games, they were still able to attend pep rallies and band events throughout the year that were hosted outside of the Student Center. Julia Shands, a sophomore communications major from Searcy, was particularly excited about the annual cheer banquet that Dr. Kluck sponsored.

"Because of the pandemic, the cheer team wasn't able to be all together at once much, but the banquet enabled us all to be at the same place at the same time," said Shands.

Even though the season looked nothing like she had imagined, Jaelle Morrison, a junior communication sciences and disorders major from Rison, was just happy to have the community that surrounds the team.

"I love being a Ouachita cheerleader, and I love the friendship and community our squad has. Not having meetings, practices, and not cheering for games this year was definitely not something any of us wanted, but we stayed in touch through our Group-Me and visited Coach Chris in his office," said Morrison.

Morrison enjoyed reminiscing on the "normal times" and planning for when life would be back to the way it was. She also attended many of the football scrimmages to show support for the boys with or without a cheer uniform.

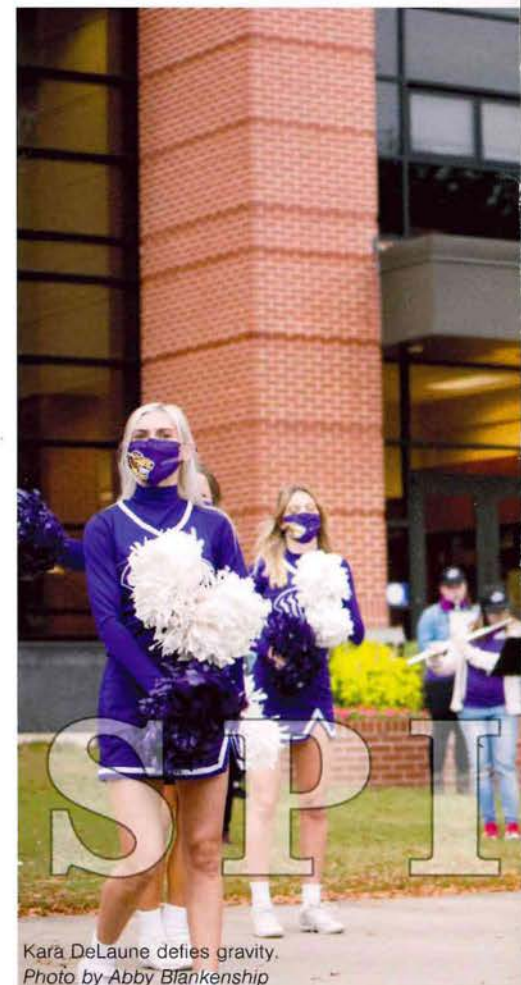
Julianne Weaver, a senior biology major from Benton, was particularly upset about not being able to cheer her senior year, however she looked forward to continuing her support of the Tigers.

"As a senior, it was difficult not getting the last year I was expecting to get to cheer at football and basketball games, but that will make next year even more exciting to be able to come back and watch them play," Weaver said.

Addie Woods



Madison Cresswell and Emmy Hipps cheer at the pep rally.
Photo by Callie Rogers



Kara DeLaune defies gravity.
Photo by Abby Blankenship



Courtney Davis and Kristen Holyfield cheer on the Tigers.
Photo by Callie Rogers



Cannon Fisher split leaps into the air.
Photo by Abby Blankenship

MELODY

Tiger marching band jams amidst adjustments

Empty stadium bleachers and JPAC seats due to a canceled football season and scrapped Tiger Tunes brought change for the Ouachita marching band. Students went into the semester unsure what the band would look like and whether they would get to even play for others to enjoy.

"My emotions toward marching band this year seemed slightly optimistic, even though I knew we would not have the regular routine of actual marching band in the stands and on the field," Brock Wade, sophomore music education major from Plano, Texas, said. "One great aspect I learned this year through marching band is the ability we can all adapt no matter the situation."

Instead of learning a typical marching show, Ouachita band learned the music they would have performed for a show without the marching sets. They performed these songs at multiple outdoor concerts throughout the semester for the student body.

"Overall challenges within band this year had to be with the challenge of the overall ensemble's health," Wade said. "Each person plays a significant part within an ensemble, as if one or more people are out due to COVID-19, it can be hard to carry on. In this, we were still able to be flexible during these situations, such as doubling parts on another instrument."

Ouachita band had to navigate through many challenges throughout the semester. Students like sophomore graphic design major Lindsay Fulton, from Cabot, mourned the beloved marching season while also remaining optimistic about other opportunities.

"I had mixed emotions toward band this year," Fulton said. "I was glad we got to perform our band music for people on campus, but I missed the marching aspect of it all. I'm really glad Ouachita gave us the opportunity to play our instruments this year."

While students eagerly waited for normality to return so that marching band could continue, senior Mason Holder, a middle school education major from Camden, reflected on the experiences he gained from being a part of Ouachita band.

"There is nothing like playing in the stands on game day," Holder said. "The atmosphere is unrivaled. I have the most fun dancing in the stands before, during, and after games, both while playing a song and just chilling. I cannot seem to stand still. I love the experiences I have because of the OBU marching band."

Gracen Goudy



The drum line works together to play a cadence. The drum line was important to keeping the Tigers on beat. Photo by Abby Blankenship



Katelynn Bayless



Taryn Toles



A.



The band plays at the Christmas program. The program helped students get in the holiday spirit. Photo by Abby Blankenship



COVID Conduct
Despite no football season, band performances marched on



A. GRACE ROARK strikes a pose at the end of the performance. Despite COVID-19, the band was still able to lead a pep-rally on campus.

Photo by Sarah Dean

B. ASHLEY HARRISON twirls a purple Tiger flag. The flag line worked hard to perform along with the band.

Photo by Hannah Adamson

Band has provided me a circle of good friends that I can rely on. It has allowed me to grow to be a better musician and it has provided me with wonderful professors that support me.

Graham Scarborough

I have seen my growth as an individual musician shine through in the band and lead others to improve musically. Through the band, I have seen my passion for music only grow.

Holli Barger

Being in several ensembles as well as the band has strengthened me as a professional. I have developed a solid sense of commitment, which I believe will serve me well in the future.

Andrew Coop

TIGER STRENGTH

