

**T**eamwork defined athletics. The purple and *GOLD* outfits for royalty, as student-athletes represented the queen of the college world. Championships were celebrated in football and women's cross country. *ETCHING* their names into the record books for years to come, student-athletes experienced success on all fronts.

# SPORTS



**POINTING TO THE CROWD,**  
Hunter Swoboda celebrates  
success. The Tigers won the  
Battle of the Ravine after  
rallying together in overtime.  
*Photo by // Levi Dade*





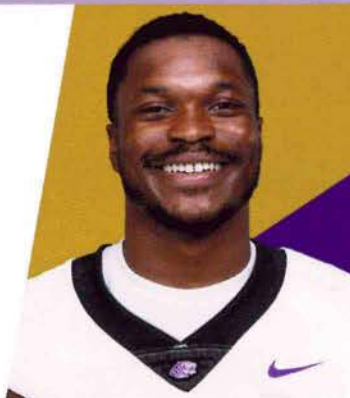
## SCORES

Oklahoma Baptist  
W, 42-32  
Southern Nazarene  
W, 45-0  
Arkansas Tech  
W, 63-14  
Harding  
W, 21-13  
NW Oklahoma St.  
W, 48-7  
SW Oklahoma St.  
W, 63-24  
Arkansas-  
Monticello  
W, 41-7  
Southern Arkansas  
W, 63-31  
East Central  
W, 28-18  
SE Oklahoma St.  
W, 40-18  
Henderson St.  
W, 40-37  
PLAYOFFS  
NW Missouri St.  
L, 17-47  
SEASON  
11-1



RILEY HARMS throws the football to Tucker Swoboda. Harms collected over 2000 passing yards on the season.  
*Photo By // Levi Dade*

# The Gold Standard



"This season taught me patience in all aspects, and whatever is thrown your way, control what you can control." -TJ Cole



"To be on the field for the last play in overtime next to my brothers will be something I will never forget." -Anthony Chairez



"I am leaving here a much better version of me, and I will always be proud to call myself a Ouachita Tiger." -Peyton Stafford



"One of the best moments was taking down the #7 team in the country in front of a packed Cliff Harris Stadium." -Kendel Givens

# UNDEFEATED

TIGERS MARCH THROUGH  
GAC REGULAR SEASON  
WITH 10-0 RECORD

For the fourth time in the history of the program, the Tigers went undefeated in the regular season, clinching an undisputed conference title. This was an especially exciting accomplishment for the fifth year seniors who chose to return to accomplish this goal. Their return not only meant a lot to their coaches, but also their teammates.

Quarterback Riley Harms, a kinesiology major from Fremont, Neb., said, "It's not like they just came back and played the 11 games. It's the whole offseason, the whole summer, and then all the practices that come with it, so that was a big part of the year was being able to do it for those guys."

Jay Derby, offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, noted that in his 24 years of coaching at Ouachita, the goal of reaching

the NCAA playoffs and having an undefeated season was no longer a goal. It was an expectation.

"Those are the expectations around here now, and I think we have reached those expectations," Derby said. "We've matched them year in and year out, and our team expects to go undefeated and win a conference championship, but we also expect to raise the level of our play on a national level and compete in the national playoffs year in and year out."

During their season, the Tigers combated various challenges. One of the biggest struggles the team had was in the passing of senior teammate Clark Yarborough. Through their loss, the team banded together with Clark as their drive.

Senior defensive back Jason Jackson, a finance major from De Kalb, Texas, built stronger relationships with his teammates.

"Losing Clark was the biggest challenge. He was the first person I met when I was here, so losing that friendship and that real brotherhood hurt, but the way I overcame it was the guys around me," he said.

With this as a drive for the team, winning a conference championship and going undefeated meant the world to the team.

"Everyone in the GAC has the goal of winning the conference, and to be able to go out and execute the game plan every week is something I found to be spectacular for us, and not only for us, but our teammate Clark," said Jackson.

By // Ellie Bennett



Photo by // Sarah Dean 1.



Photo by // Levi Dade 2.



Photo by // Levi Dade 3.



Photo by // Levi Dade 4.

1. Xaylon Falls looks to return the kickoff. Falls ended the season with 350 yards from kick returns.
2. Attempting to score a touchdown, TJ Cole dives at the pylon. Cole broke the single-season rushing record for Ouachita with 1649 yards and was named a two-time All American.
3. Connor Flannigan prepares to catch a punt. Flannigan led the Tigers in receiving yards with 839 yards.
4. Wrapping his arms around his opponent, Andrew Hayes makes a tackle on the receiver. This was just one of his 32 solo tackles on the season.



**FOOTBALL** (front row) Ty Compton, TJ Cole, Grant Allen, Hunter Swoboda, Justin Dean, Tommy Crumpton III, Jason Jackson, Terrell Gibson, Trey Flint, Head Coach Todd Knight, Anthony Freeman, Mason Martin, Josh Wallace, Hunter Jackson, Clayton Nelson, Peyton Stafford, Jax Gasaway, Anthony Chairez. (second row) Gabe Goodman, Keemontrae McKnight, Andrew Hayes, De'Kairo Rudolph, Xaylon Falls, Jacobi Nolen, Connor Flannigan, Dhante Gibson, Joel Allen, Chris Hightower, John Williams, Trey Proctor, Nathan Stafford, Riley Harms, Tucker Swoboda, Eli Livingston, Reid Messick, Terrance Murray, JT Towers. (third row) Peyton Adams, Riley Cornish, AJ Moss, Jacoby Williams, Kenta Jones, Josiah Johnson, Mario Ganter Jr., AJ Moss, Malique Reliford, Steven Weston, Isaac Edwards, Braylon Johnson, Jax Miller, Chris Henley Jr., Nathan Stafford, Pierce Smalley, Carsten Johnson, Kendel Givens, Ty Hipps, Lyric Treadwell. (fourth row) Dawson Miller, Jaden Wells, Daniel Voyles, Chance Taylor, Brayden Hendricks, Landon Stone, Mikey Gonzalez, Brock Howard, Matthew Burton, Josh Watson, Andre Lane, Rickey Rogers Jr., Cade Hudson, Seth McDowell, Bruin Barnes, Jaxson Carter, Cole Turner, Alex Brown, Charlie Parkinson, Nick Washington, JaRaylon Burks, Reed Gentreaux. (fifth row) Elias Loughmiller, Dylan Horton, Cole Pennock, Roscoe Tenison, Nathan Turner, Marcello Bernadi, Ethan Harbison, Brock Wollent, Joe Phillips, Nick DeBoard, Landon Kuhn, Harris Walker, Slate Warren, Whitt Sparks, Reece Randig, Gaylon Williams, Brett Barbaree, Jackson Jennings, Zacary Henson, Tanner Nelson, Jake Norman, Elias Hewitt. (sixth row) Michael Everett, Jeremiah Turner, Mason Brotherton, Hunter Nucci, Joe Couch, Buster Thomas, Jaden Nashww, Garrison Jackson, Hank Hatfield, Nathan Frater, Jayden Thurman, Tyquan Cooper-Isaac, Melvin Kumwenda, Braylen Butler, Wes McCord, Cade Hanks, Connor Schorp, Clark Yarborough, Dax Jagers, Boston Morris, Rovell Carter. (back row) Martha Kay Freeman, Cyndi Alexander, Tamia Callaway, Lexi Deck, Ashleigh Harris, Austin Guymon, Dionte Dean, Jay Derby, Dakota Flash Wilson, Roy Thompson Jr., Kane Bryen, Brett Shockley, Julius Pruitt, Jeremiah Johnson, Spencer Knight, Jake Ford, Bo Wheeler, Jessica Johnson, Alex Delgado, Jordan Meacham, Brody Kriegal.

**CONTINUOUS  
IMPROVEMENT LEADS  
TO WINNING SEASON**

# TIGER PRIDE

When Coach Allison Frizzell reflected on the season, the word that would continuously come to her mind was "proud." The team finished with a 19-12 record, ranked fourth overall in the conference tournament. This was the best the team had done since Frizzell stepped into the head coaching role.

"It was a competitive culture in practice, everyone always trying to get better," Frizzell said. "There were a few games when we lost and we could have continued to backtrack but we used it as momentum to get better for conference."

Although the team was viewed as the underdogs in many of their games, Frizzell was proud of the way the girls performed each game. "They grew to accept challenges and accept whatever role the team needed them

to be and that's how they got better," Frizzell said. The team had nine new freshmen. "We brought in nine unique and special girls that fit right into our program who contributed to our team perfectly," said Joni Schneider, senior kinesiology major and defensive specialist from Garland, Texas.

GAC freshman of the year Riley Braziel, biology major and six-rotation outside hitter from Decatur, Texas, approached the season with the expectation to help the team improve.

"I feel like I grew a lot this season in terms of leadership and going with the flow," said Braziel. "Coming in as a freshman, I wasn't sure what to expect or what my role would be."

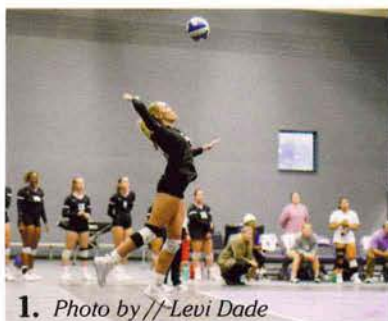
If the season was evaluated based on indi-

vidually-won awards, it would be appropriate for the season to be considered successful as many members of the team were honored for their hard work.

"I wasn't expecting the awards I received this season," Braziel said. "I was so excited and grateful for these awards and I couldn't have done it without the other girls."

Braziel chosen as GAC freshman of the year and second team all-conference, Courtney Hansen received second team all-conference and obtained over 1000 assists as a freshman, Lexi Castalow was second team all-conference and moved up to third on Ouachita's career list of digs, Emily Adams was honorable mention all-conference, and there were six academic all-conference members.

By // Erin Key



1. Photo by // Levi Dade



2. Photo by // Levi Dade

1. Haley Fairchild serves the ball to the opponent. She started 29 games as a freshman.
2. Doing the wave, the student section cheers the team on. Student fans attended the Battle of The Ravine game against Henderson State University.
3. Working together, Emily Adams and Karli Ferguson block the incoming ball. Adams earned honorable mention all-conference for the season.
4. Riley Braziel jumps to hit the ball over the net. Her performance this season earned her the GAC Freshman of the Year.



3. Photo by // Levi Dade



4. Photo by // Levi Dade

**VOLLEYBALL** (front row) Abigail Roberts, Lexie Castillow, Avery Jauz, Peyton Church, Bethany LaTurno. (middle row) Riley Braziel, Joni Schneider, Ellie Davis, Sydney Ellason, Courtney Hanson, Kellen Church, EJ Day. (back row) Kayla Steinmeyer, Sadie Snow, Katie Cofer, Eryn Dawson, Audrey Gallagher, Zhara Thomas, Haley Fairchild, Emily Adams, Karli Ferguson.





COURTNEY HANSON sets the ball for Haley Fairchild. Hanson started every game this season.  
Photo By // Levi Dade

## SCORES

- LeMoyne-Owen  
W, 3-0
- Arkansas-Fort Smith  
L, 1-3
- Auburn-Montgomery  
L, 2-3
- Cameron  
W, 3-0
- Midwestern State  
W, 3-0
- Eastern New Mexico  
L, 2-3
- Fort Hays State  
L, 0-3
- Texas Woman's  
University  
L, 2-3
- Arkansas-Monticello  
L, 2-3
- William Jewell  
W, 3-2
- Alabama-Huntsville  
W, 3-0
- Lee  
W, 3-0
- Harding  
L, 1-3
- Southern Arkansas  
W, 3-0
- Henderson State  
W, 3-0
- Arkansas Tech  
W, 3-0
- Mississippi  
University for  
Women  
W, 3-0
- Southern Nazarene  
L, 1-3
- Oklahoma Baptist  
L, 0-3
- East Central  
W, 3-1
- Southeastern  
Oklahoma State  
W, 3-0
- Austin College  
W, 3-0
- Southwestern  
Oklahoma State  
L, 0-3
- Northwestern  
Oklahoma State  
W, 3-0
- Arkansas-Monticello  
W, 3-0
- Henderson State  
W, 3-0
- Harding  
L, 0-3
- Arkansas Tech  
W, 3-0
- Southern Arkansas  
W, 3-1
- GAC TOURNAMENT
- East Central  
W, 3-2
- Harding  
L, 0-3

# The Gold Standard



"Some of my favorite memories were the bus rides on long away games." -Audrey Gallagher



"We have music at every practice and Audrey's contemporary dance moves cheers everyone up." -EJ Day



"I love playing volleyball and doing life with my teammates." -Kellen Church

SEASON

19-12

## SCORES

Christian Brothers  
T, 1-1  
Union  
L, 1-2  
Delta State  
T, 1-1  
Mississippi College  
L, 1-3  
UT-Tyler  
L, 0-2  
Dallas Baptist  
L, 0-3  
Southern Nazarene  
L, 1-4  
Northeastern State  
L, 0-3  
Fort Hays State  
L, 0-4  
Newman  
W, 3-1  
Rogers State  
L, 0-5  
Northeastern State  
L, 0-3  
Harding  
L, 0-3  
Fort Hays State  
T, 0-0  
Newman  
T, 3-3  
Rogers State  
L, 0-7  
Southern Nazarene  
L, 1-5  
Harding  
L, 2-3

SEASON  
1-13-4



HENRY TERRY prepares to take a shot on goal. Terry scored seven goals on the season. Photo By // Levi Dade

# The Gold Standard



"I have a lot of work to do to make us a winning squad, and it starts now." -Armani Atilano



"My favorite memory is from senior day, playing with my teammates one last time." -Caden Pulliam



"The biggest lesson I took from this season is to enjoy every minute." -David Stankovic



"I learned that we have to make sure we are always making the most of our time." -Morris Tsuma

# BROTHERHOOD

A GAME THAT FORMED  
AN UNBREAKABLE BOND

For the men of Ouachita Soccer, the sport was more than just a game. The hours of hard work on and off the field and the daily dedication to show up for each other, showcased their love for the game. They were a family on and off the field.

Henry Terry, a senior finance major from Bryant said, "My favorite part about being on the Ouachita soccer team is my teammates. They make it easier to be away from home."

Long practices and road trips built the brotherhood called Ouachita Men's Soccer.

"If we could have the chance to relive senior night, and have one more shot at our last game as a team, I would take it," said Terry.

Before lacing up their cleats and hitting the field, the team members had rid themselves of doubt and prepared their minds for the

battles ahead.

"We usually show up to the game two hours early. Then we sit in the locker room and listen to whoever wants to play music to hype us up, then hit the field for the last hour for warm-ups," said Hagan Sanchez, a junior nursing major from Wichita Falls, Texas.

Right before hitting the field, the team would take one moment together. "We come together before the game to discuss how we as a team can be successful and we close out by saying the Lord's prayer," said Terry.

The relationships, positive atmosphere, and the feeling of family that surrounded the soccer team made the sport so much more than what was visible to the public's eye. These men took time to honor God through the game. Whether it was huddling up to

pray before each game, or thanking Him for the abilities He had blessed them with, these men recognized the goodness of God through their chosen sport.

Sanchez said, "Listening to Nati's, or Natnael Abeje's, senior night speech. Hearing about his favorite moments and how his favorite memory was scoring an upper nasty, hearing it just made us all laugh and relive the good times from this season. Hearing that moment one more time would be something special."

One special memory for Ebon Jordan, a junior from Cedar Hill, Texas, was receiving honorable mention all-conference honors. He led the Tigers in points, shots on goal, and goals.

By // Katy Beth Dunn



Photo by // Levi Dade 1.



Photo by // Levi Dade 2.

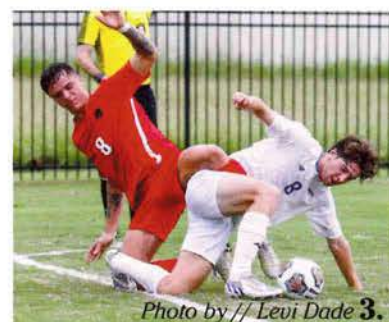


Photo by // Levi Dade 3.

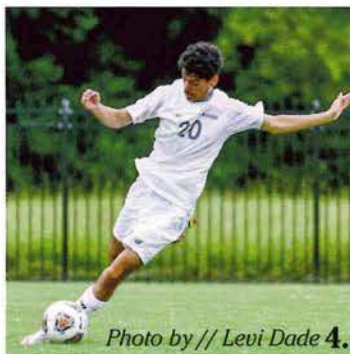


Photo by // Levi Dade 4.

1. Ebon Jordan breaks a defender as he moves up the field. Jordan earned All-Conference Honors for his season performance.
2. Armani Atilano kicks the ball down the field. Atilano played goalkeeper.
3. Eli Stuart collides with a defender to get the ball. He played in 13 games during the season.
4. Brandon Avila rares back to kick the ball. Avila played defense for the Tigers.



**MEN'S SOCCER** (front row) Caden Pulliam, Hagan Sanchez, Eli Jones, Henry Terry, Brayden Hall, Tavin Wright, Alfonso Gonzalez Gomez, Bobby Boone, Daniel Marcano, Payne Barrow. (middle row) Matthew Magnano, Quintin Kispert, Grant Isbell, Emilio Garcia, James Jolly, Morris Tsuma, Eli Stuart, Ebon Jordan, Baydn Pond, Brandon Avila, Gael Gonzalez. (back row) Johar Ghuneim, Joseph Lattier, Eli Jenkins, Kristian Baker, Dillon Staal, Armani Atilano, Cade Cramer, CJ Washington, Natnael Abeje, Marshall Prather, Chris Hausmann.



LADY TIGERS SHOW TALENT  
AND SKILL THROUGH A SEASON  
WITH UPS AND DOWN

# FORTITUDE

After a successful season, the women's soccer team unlaced their cleats one last time and headed for the bus to leave their last game. A feeling of accomplishment brewed from the past season while ambition began to grow for the next season.

Head Coach Kevin Wright said, "As we reflected on everything, it was a good year – it just ended before we wanted it to."

Heading into the GAC Conference Tournament, the team was the second seed, and fought all the way to the semi-finals. Coach Wright finished up his 11th season coaching for Ouachita in the tournament.

"Although our competition was one of our favorite things about soccer, when it's all said and done, those relationships formed throughout the team were the most important

thing," Wright said.

A senior kinesiology major from North Richland Hills, Texas, and one of the team leaders, Michele Snow, was the goalkeeper and finished an impressive season with 89 saves. Snow was the main goalkeeper for the Tigers and the last line of defense.

Snow said, "Since I cared for this team and wanted us to play the best we could, I was excited to step into a leadership role. By being a captain, I wanted to create an encouraging environment for my teammates as we learned to play this sport we love together as a team."

In the midst of long bus rides to far away games, the girls developed an unbreakable bond on and off the soccer field.

Jaymee Dotson, a kinesiology major from Princeton, Texas, was named to the All-

Ouachita Athletic Team for women's soccer. Dotson had a note-worthy year ending with being named an All American for her performance.

"The most rewarding thing about being a part of this team was that I truly had a second family that I could go to for anything," Dotson said. "The relationships I built on the team are nothing short of lifetime friendships."

Ava Dunagan, freshman biology major from Keller, Texas, said, "What I enjoyed most about being a freshman on the team was getting to learn from all the older girls." Snow, and Dotson were just two of the leaders the freshman class looked up to.

The season ended at the GAC conference tournament when Oklahoma Baptist scored in the final seconds to win. *By // Rose Robinson*



1. Photo by // Ashlyn Holt

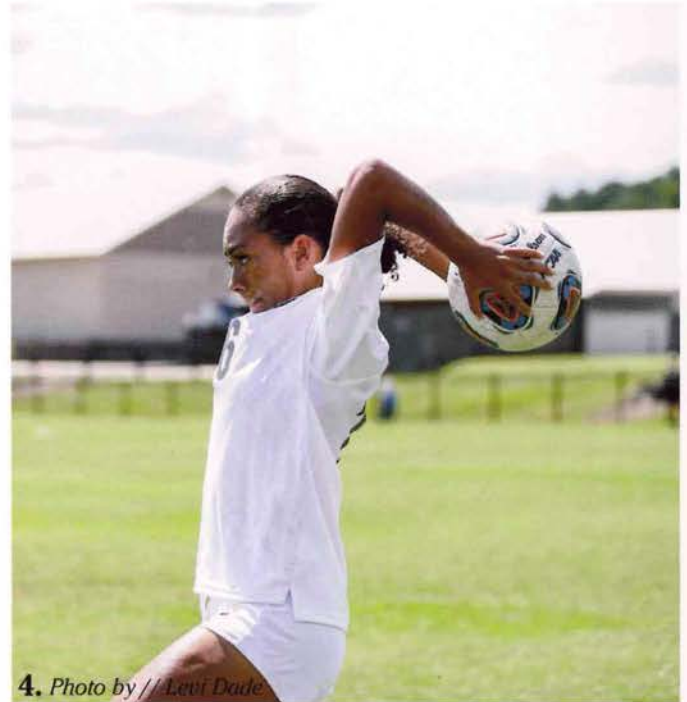


2. Photo by // Levi Dade

1. Attempting to settle the ball, Jaymee Dotson looks to move up the field. Her performance helped earn her All American Honors for the season.
2. Gracen Turner prepares to kick the ball. Turner started every game this season.
3. In a full sprint, Abbey Inman races after the ball. She played all 19 games this season for the Tigers.
4. Amerie Thomas throws the ball in bounds to her team. During the season, Thomas played defender for the Tigers.



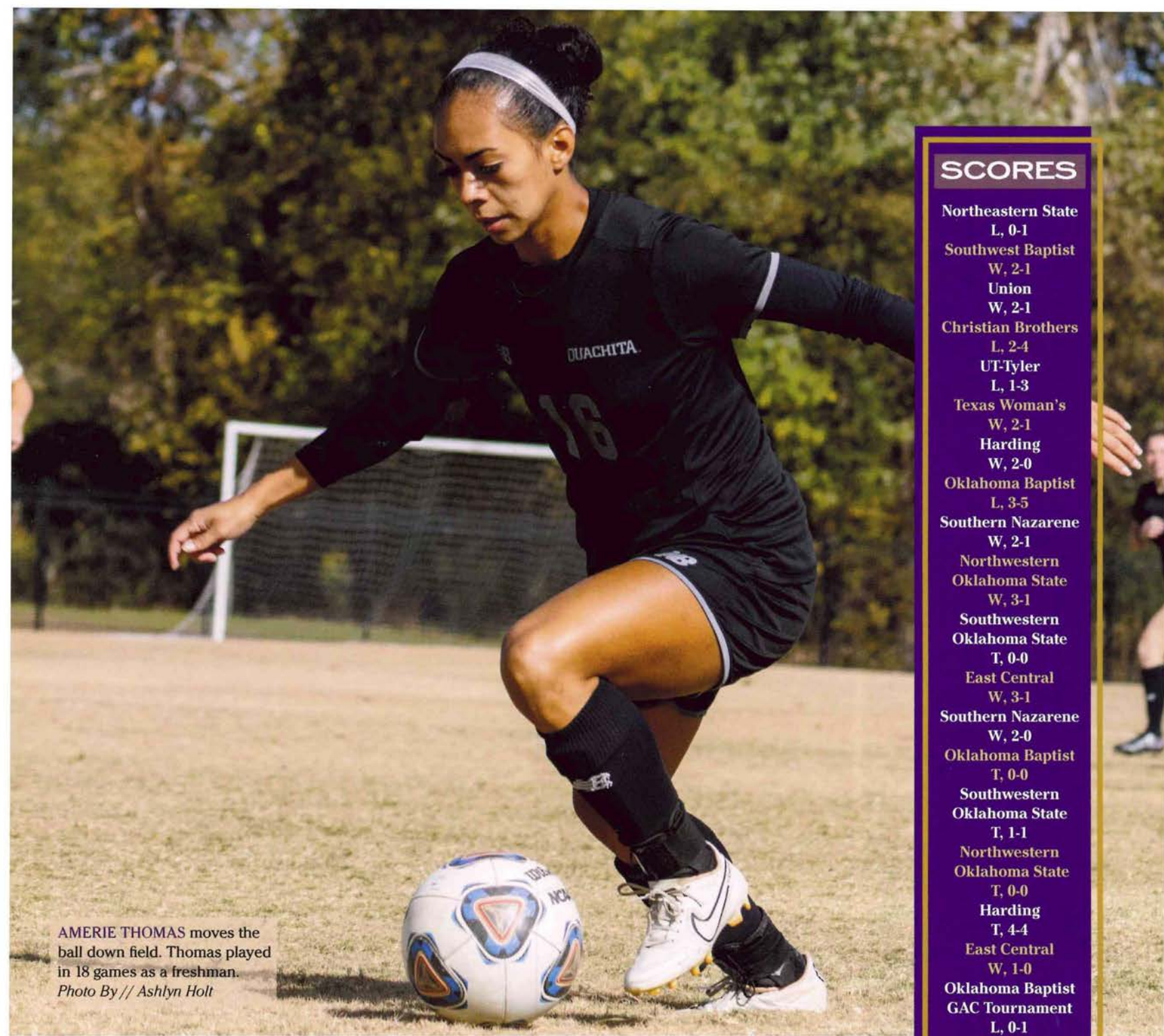
3. Photo by // Ashlyn Holt



4. Photo by // Levi Dade

**WOMEN'S SOCCER** (front row) Cici Fernandez, Kristen Mann, Madison White, Megan McKay, Hayley Wolfe, Josilyn Kispert. (second row) Amerie Thomas, Sophia Valencia, Fernanda Valencia, Ashlyn Lynch, Sydney Perry, Gracen Turner, Paige Owens, Michele Snow, Lauren Heathcock. (third row) Carina Chavarria, Abbey Moore, Jordan Nelson, Ashlyn Vana. (back row) Frankie Nine, Jamie Fowler, Jaymee Dotson, Shanley Rogers, Brooke Steinman, Kasten Merrill, Taylor Read, Ava Dunagan, Ashton Inman, Abbey Inman.





AMERIE THOMAS moves the ball down field. Thomas played in 18 games as a freshman.  
Photo By // Ashlyn Holt

SCORES	
Northeastern State	L, 0-1
Southwest Baptist	W, 2-1
Union	W, 2-1
Christian Brothers	L, 2-4
UT-Tyler	L, 1-3
Texas Woman's	W, 2-1
Harding	W, 2-0
Oklahoma Baptist	L, 3-5
Southern Nazarene	W, 2-1
Northwestern Oklahoma State	W, 3-1
Southwestern Oklahoma State	T, 0-0
East Central	W, 3-1
Southern Nazarene	W, 2-0
Oklahoma Baptist	T, 0-0
Southwestern Oklahoma State	T, 1-1
Northwestern Oklahoma State	T, 0-0
Harding	T, 4-4
East Central	W, 1-0
Oklahoma Baptist GAC Tournament	L, 0-1
<b>SEASON</b>	
<b>9-5-5</b>	

# The Gold Standard



"I loved getting together with the team before a game and getting hype." -Jamie Fowler



"I'm grateful for everything that our team has accomplished together." -Michele Snow



"My favorite memory was coming back from a 40 deficit to tie with Harding 44." -Abbey Inman

# ON THE NATIONAL



HEAD COACH Todd Knight is a respected leader for not only his Division II success, but also for his leadership across the nation.  
Photo by // Levi Dade  
Illustration by // Addie Chumley

# STAGE

Star City, Arkansas, a small agricultural Arkansas Delta town of just barely 2,000 people, is known as the setting for a 1992 police thriller film titled "One False Move." A blockbuster movie was not the only thing to come out of Star City. It is also the place that Coach Todd Knight calls home.

Knight grew up in Star City, Arkansas, and only moved away for his true love, playing football. As a standout player for the Star City Bulldogs, it was no surprise when he decided to play at the next level. During his time at Ouachita, he continued to grow as a football player and eventually decided he wanted to coach. After moving to Delta State and UT El Paso, Knight found his way back to Ouachita in 1999 and has served as the head football coach ever since. With 23 seasons leading the team, Knight is currently the longest-standing football coach in Arkansas.

Knight's legacy of work on behalf of his players and colleagues was recognized at the national level in early January. He received the honor of being nominated as the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) president while attending the yearly convention in Charlotte. In this role, he will push for policy changes, represent coaches from high school to the NFL, and continue to lead the Ouachita Tigers as their head coach while also leading on a national level.

"This is our professional organization. There are probably 15,000 coaches from the NFL down to the high school. I've been a member since the late 80s," said Knight. In 2012, Grant Teaff, a historic coach from Baylor, advocated for Knight to be one of only two division two representatives on the board.

"It's an ascending board, as people leave or change jobs you move up in leadership," said Knight. Because of his long tenure at Ouachita, Knight was able to work his way up in the AFCA and serve as the vice president and now as the president. Serving under legendary coaches such as Mack Brown from Texas and Tommy Tuberville from Cincinnati, Knight never thought he would ascend into the presidency.

"We are working on things that affect college football, coaches and players," said Knight, "We give input to NCAA committees and coaches, to improve coaches and make the game better for players. That's really our focus." With new guidelines for NIL (Name, Image and Likeness) deals and the college football transfer portal, advocating for coaches and players looks different than it did when Knight joined the AFCA in the 1980s.

"Nobody understands how the portal is changing college football. It looks good. It looks glamorous, but it's really not," said Knight, "This sport was created to be a team sport and it dismantles football teams. It takes brotherhood and leaning on each other. All of a sudden, the loyalty is gone." Knight's goal in addressing these major changes in college football is to use his role, and the team surrounding him, to set parameters to make the portal healthy for coaches, players, and the team aspect of the game. A major concern associated with the portal is graduation rates. Student-athletes that enter the transfer portal struggle to graduate.

Knight's athletes being successful after they hang up their cleats has always been a priority. The impact he has made on students during his long stint at Ouachita has not gone unnoticed, and now his impact will transition to the national level.

"I'm at a national convention and they are introducing Ouachita and they can finally pronounce it. I wouldn't be in this spot if it wasn't for Ouachita," said Knight. The people that Knight surrounds himself with know what Ouachita is, and those surrounding knight have some pretty big names. Sam Pittman, head coach at the University of Arkansas, serves under Coach Knight on the AFCA board. It's no surprise to those that call 410 Ouachita Street home that the Tigers could hold their own at the national level, but it's time people from outside of Southern Arkansas know it as well.

"I really think for our football program and school, it shines a light on us. It's kind of like a football player, you can't measure someone's heart," said Knight, "and it's the same way with our school, you can't measure us by enrollment, you have to measure us by production and what we do." One major production of Knight's time at OBU is his work with the "Be the Match" organization. Each president of the AFCA gets to pick a philanthropic organization to promote.

"The president gets to decide what our focus is going to be, so going into the fall, the Andy Talley Be The Match Organization will be our big push," said Knight. This organization manages the most diverse marrow registry in the world. They help patients that are diagnosed with life-threatening blood cancers like leukemia and lymphoma find a transplant match. For 70% of patients, there is not a full match within their family. This shows how important a matching registry is for these patients.

"The AFCA is more than just Xs and Os, it's about service as well," said Knight. Knight has promoted this organization multiple times at Ouachita, hosting membership drives all across campus. Knight recruited his football team to set up booths around campus to encourage the student body to join the match program. His plan is to use the coming year to sponsor drives across America.

"It is a lifetime appointment. After ascending to the presidency I will become a past president and will be invited to attend all of the meetings," said Knight, "As long as I'm coaching, I will be part of the clinic. There are guys that come to the clinic that have been retired for 20 years." After Knight's year of service as president, he will still be involved with the AFCA as an ex-officio member. This means he will be invited to give input and suggestions but will not be a voting member.

"My passion is to make college football the best that it can be, I want to improve the situations of coaches, and I want to improve the situations for all players and especially my players here at Ouachita," said Knight.

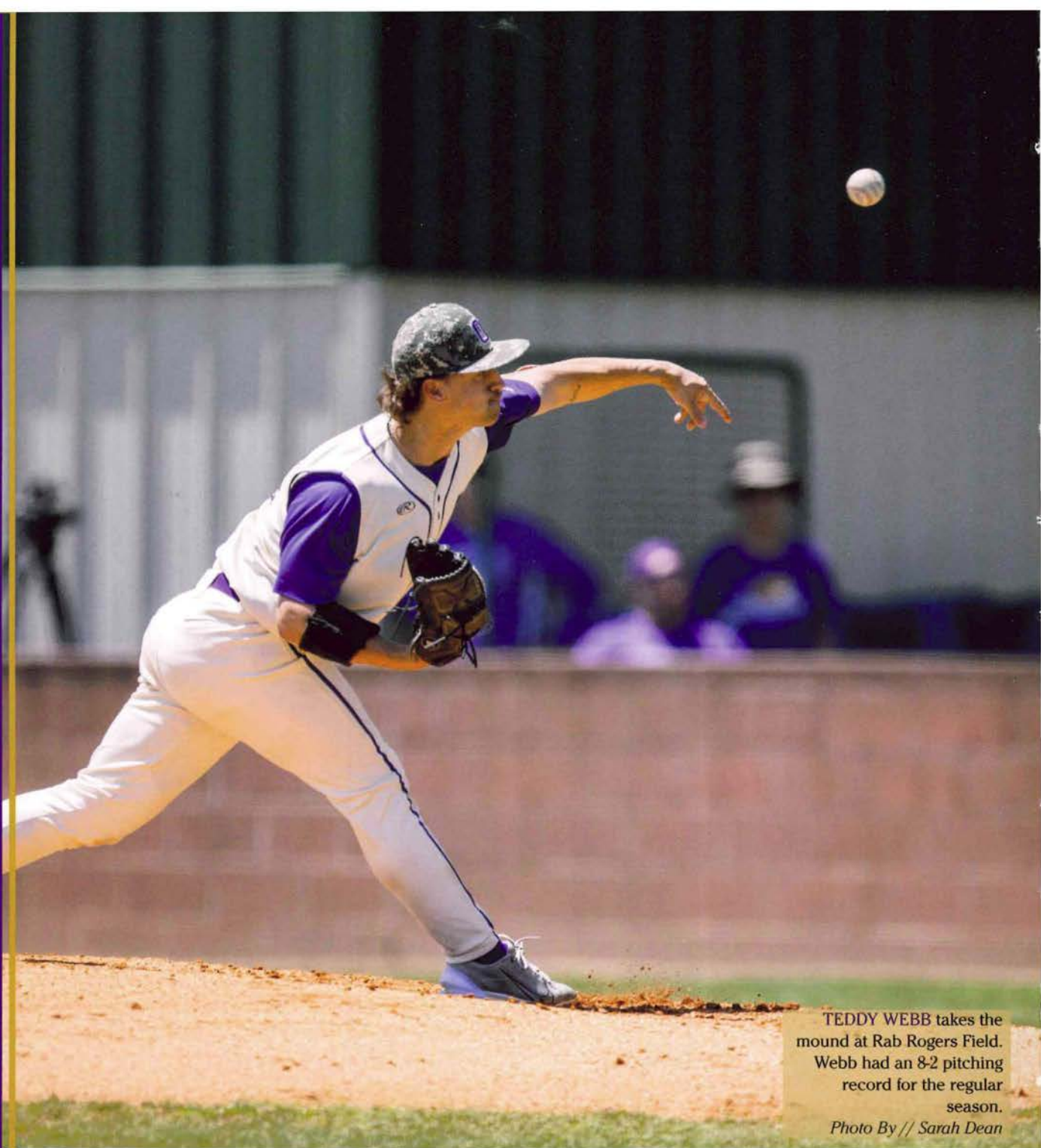
By // Caroline Johnson



# SCORES

- Washburn  
W, 7-6
- UA-Fort Smith  
L, 3-10
- Rogers State  
W, 10-3
- Missouri Western State  
L, 6-10
- McKendree  
W, 10-2
- Lane College  
W, 9-2
- NW Oklahoma State  
W, 6-1  
L, 3-4  
W, 6-3
- SW Oklahoma State  
L, 2-4  
L, 4-7  
W, 16-14
- Harding  
W, 6-4
- Arkansas-Monticello  
W, 5-3  
W, 3-0  
L, 0-13
- Arkansas Tech  
L, 6-7  
W, 11-3  
W, 15-8
- Southern Arkansas  
L, 4-5
- East Central  
W, 13-3  
W, 11-1  
W, 14-2
- Christian Brothers  
W, 12-4
- SE Oklahoma State  
W, 6-1  
W, 7-5  
W, 10-2
- Christian Brothers  
W, 13-0
- Southern Arkansas  
L, 4-7  
W, 6-5  
L, 4-7
- Williams Baptist  
W, 3-2  
W, 9-3
- Harding  
W, 9-8  
W, 7-3  
W, 6-4
- Henderson State  
W, 13-4  
W, 5-1
- Oklahoma Baptist  
W, 12-8  
L, 3-10  
W, 10-5
- Arkansas-Monticello  
L, 1-7  
W, 3-0
- Southern Nazarene  
W, 6-3  
W, 8-1  
W, 13-3
- Harding  
L, 1-9
- Henderson State  
L, 5-6  
L, 9-10  
W, 2-0
- GAC Tournament  
Harding  
W, 7-0  
W, 6-1
- Oklahoma Baptist  
L, 3-6
- Henderson State  
L, 3-11
- NCAA Regionals  
Augustana  
L, 3-5
- St. Cloud State  
L, 4-5 (13 inn.)

**SEASON  
37-19**



TEDDY WEBB takes the mound at Rab Rogers Field. Webb had an 8-2 pitching record for the regular season.

*Photo By // Sarah Dean*

## The Gold Standard



"Early on we made it a goal to focus on going 1-0 every day. This mindset led to our success."  
-CW Schrader



"This team was very resilient. Anytime our backs were against the wall we were able to scrap out a win."  
-Cooper Timmons



"This season has been nothing short of special. We are so close and have achieved so much together."  
-Cade Burris

# SUCCESSFUL

MENTAL TOUGHNESS  
AND GRIT LEAD TO A  
POSTSEASON RUN

A new era of Ouachita baseball emerged as the Tigers surpassed their overall win total from last season, as well as the record for conference wins. This was Coach Howard's fifth year as head coach, and he described it as "the best year" he's coached thus far.

The Tigers finished with a 37-19 record, made the GAC Tournament Final Four and then earned the program's second straight NCAA Tournament berth.

"This year we have an older group, with some veterans in the line up," said Howard. "We had some new guys step in as pitchers and all aspects of our game were solid. I think that's what made this year the best one."

Being a pitcher brings a lot of pressure, calling for mental toughness. Senior business management major Cooper Timmons from

League City, Texas, led the team from the mound.

"We do a lot of mental training before practice and take mental minutes to decompress before taking the field," said Timmons. Mental preparedness played a large part in the program's culture. One of the team's goals was to go "1-0" every day, whether in the details in practice, working on mechanics, practicing situations, or in the heat of games, looking for solid at bats or the win itself.

"It's a lifestyle that we've come up with," Howard said. "Baseball is a game that will get to you mentally." The "1-0" mentality enabled players like Isaac Nowell, a sophomore biology major from Little Rock, to perform well at the plate, batting .300 most of the

season.

"I just trust the work I have put in," said Nowell. "It also helps to have great teammates that are there to pick me up before I get down." Being mentally tough brought a sense of grit to the team. Howard defined the team as resilient.

"Every time it seems like they're backed against a wall, doubted, or didn't have respect they always found a way to come through consistently," said Howard. Nowell was in agreement.

"Coach Howard praises us often for being resilient, and I have to agree with him," Nowell said. "Whenever our back seems to be against the wall we keep fighting and often find a way to come out on top."

By // Ellie Bennett



Photo by // Levi Dade 1.



Photo by // Levi Dade 2.



Photo by // Levi Dade 3.

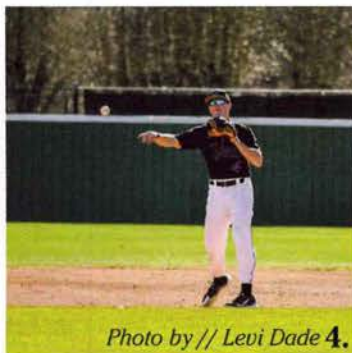


Photo by // Levi Dade 4.

1. Senior Jud Arrington takes a swing in a midweek game at Henderson State.
2. Hayden Childers turns to pick the runner off at first. Childers pitched 37 innings this season.
3. Junior catcher/DH Michael Quinones throws the ball back to the mound. Quinones had 269 putouts and batted .364 in his first year with the Tigers.
4. CW Schrader throws the ball around the infield. Schrader played third base for the Tigers in most games.



**BASEBALL** (front row) Weston Bailey, Zach Kuykendall, Dustin Bermudez, Tate Goodrum, Jud Arrington, Tallon Heine, Noah Bachman, Ben DePriest, Andrew Cox, Cole Bedwell, Cade Burreis. (middle row) Jaxon Rees, Cooper Timmons, Michael Quinones, Kieran Theriot, Hayden Childers, Teddy Webb, Wyatt Core, Cameron Hunt, Joseph Bolin, Jaxon Chaney, Jonathan Weiss, Cameron Marchant, CW Schrader, Braden Tucker. (back row) Dave Brown, Beau Burson, Logan Bell, Jackson Lipscomb, Tucker Anderson, Caleb Donoho, Grant Allen, Jacob Bowman, Caleb Robbins, Luke House, Tag Pacot, Cade Crossland, Isaac Nowell, Bryce Smith, Head Coach Luke Howard.

**TIGERS WORK TOGETHER  
THROUGHOUT THE  
SEASON**

# TEAMWORK

The sweet aroma of popcorn from the concession stand, the loud sound of softball fans in the stands and chants being yelled in the dugout could only mean one thing: softball season. This season brought about new teammates, long but rewarding practices, and a new locker room facility.

The team was persistent in working hard this year, and a few players received recognition for their hard work. Erin Williams, a junior kinesiology and leisure studies major from Stuttgart, was named to the 2023 GAC All-Great American Conference Honorable Mention Team. She led the team in batting average and was also ranked top-10 in the GAC in various categories.

Remington Adams, a freshman elementary education major from Farmington, experienced her first year of collegiate softball. She had to experience much of her rookie year from the dugout as she had an injury that kept her from playing. Even with the unfortunate timing of her injury, she kept a positive outlook throughout the season.

"The transition from playing high school and travel softball was much different as the girls were much more mature in their talent and it shows," Adam said. "I really liked the competition college ball brought in addition to seeing how special it was that we all played for each other."

Jessalyn Ahrens, an elementary education

sophomore from DeWitt, played third base this season. "We definitely grew closer together as the season went on as success was temporary and relationships last forever," said Adams. "Throughout the season, we learned that when nothing else seemed to go our way, we at least had each other."

Junior Lauren Lester, a communication sciences and disorders major from Sherwood, enjoyed many moments from this season. One game in particular that stood out to her was playing Henderson as the Lady Tigers crossed the street and earned an exhilarating win.

"We grew as a team and as people throughout the season as our team chemistry was really good," Lester said. *By // Rose Robinson*



1. Photo by // Levi Dade



2. Photo by // Levi Dade

1. Madyson Shoebottom stretches out to make the catch. Shoebottom recorded 67 assists on the season.
2. Looking to hit the ball, Lauren Lester swings the bat. She ended with 21 hits on the season.
3. Lauren Lester catches the ball at first base to get an out. Lauren finished the season with 173 putouts.
4. In the circle, Tuesday Melton pitches the ball. Melton pitched 29 games this season.



3. Photo by // Levi Dade



4. Photo by // Levi Dade

**SOFTBALL** (front row) Heather Brown, Laura Stewart, Katelyn Provence, Reagan Harper, Madyson Shoebottom, Tiffany Backeberg, Kalia Kekahuna-Fernandez, Kennedy Wilkie, Erin Williams, Lacy Ornelas. (second row) Callie Jourdan, Hope Waid, Ryan Rector. (third row) Shelby Smith, Emma McCorkle, Riley Gillis, Kodee Batchelor, Jessalyn Ahrens, Mackenzie Amaya, Hannah Hunter, Kyndall Fomby-Bell, Remington Adams. (back row) Rebecca Holiman, Hope Johnson, Kellen Church, Tuesday Melton, Lauren Lester.



## SCORES

**Christian Brothers**  
 W, 6-3  
**Northeastern State**  
 L, 4-8  
**Missouri Southern**  
 L, 2-15  
**Williams Baptist**  
 W, 7-4  
 W, 8-4  
**Arkansas - Pine Bluff**  
 L, 1-9  
 W, 8-0  
 Union  
 L, 15-18  
 L, 7-10  
**Southwest Baptist**  
 W, 9-7  
 W, 10-7  
**Central Missouri**  
 L, 0-3  
 L, 2-7  
**SW Oklahoma State**  
 W, 5-2  
 L, 0-9  
 W, 6-2  
**Arkansas-Monticello**  
 L, 2-18  
 L, 2-4  
 L, 0-10  
 Union  
 L, 0-3  
 L, 1-7  
**Arkansas Tech**  
 L, 0-10  
 L, 2-6  
 W, 6-5  
**Henderson State**  
 L, 2-6  
 L, 3-6  
**East Central**  
 L, 2-6  
 W, 11-3  
 L, 1-5  
**SE Oklahoma State**  
 L, 0-1  
 L, 1-8  
 L, 1-4  
**Delta State**  
 L, 2-7  
 L, 4-6  
**Southern Arkansas**  
 L, 2-4  
 L, 3-7  
 L, 1-7  
**Harding**  
 L, 0-3  
 L, 1-3  
 L, 0-10  
**Henderson State**  
 W, 6-0  
**Oklahoma Baptist**  
 L, 2-11  
 L, 1-2  
 L, 0-9  
**Southern Nazarene**  
 L, 1-7  
 L, 0-4  
 W, 12-4  
**NW Oklahoma State**  
 L, 1-4  
 W, 7-4  
 L, 1-4  
**SEASON**  
**13-37**

HOPE WAID throws the ball to the infield. This was Waid's senior season playing with the team. Photo By // Levi Dade

# The Gold Standard



"We play for each other, love each other, and I know my teammates always have my back." -Heather Brown



"My favorite memory was coming from behind and run-ruling SNU on senior weekend." -Erin Williams

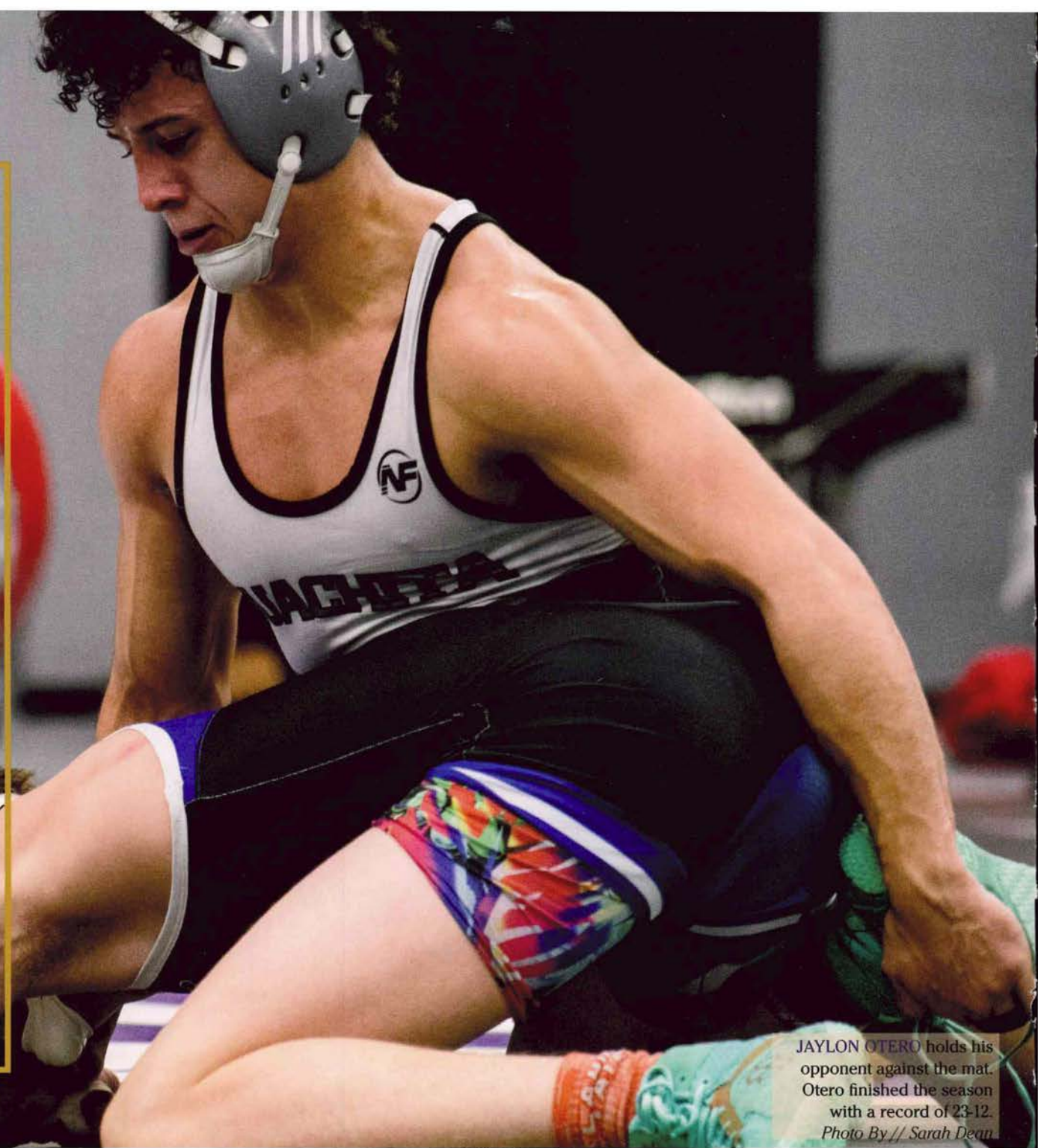


"I made it my goal to work hard and have fun for my very last year." -Callie Jourdan



## SCORES

Little Rock  
 L, 3-41  
 Central Baptist  
 W, 33-15  
 Ozarks  
 W, 32-16  
 Carl Albert State  
 W, 28-16  
 NEO-Ouachita Clash  
 L, 15-28  
 Midwest Classic  
 18th of 43 teams  
 Drury  
 W, 25-24  
 Indianapolis  
 L, 9-35  
 William Jewell  
 W, 25-21  
 McKendree  
 L, 15-32  
 Carl Albert State  
 L, 22-23  
 Quincy  
 W, 27-18  
 Maryville  
 L, 3-40  
 Davenport  
 W, 42-7  
 NCAA Super  
 Regionals  
 8th of 11 teams  
 NCAA Nationals  
 Day 1  
 Johnny Green 2-0  
 NCAA Nationals Day 2  
 Johnny Green  
 5th place  
**SEASON**  
**7-6**



JAYLON OTERO holds his  
 opponent against the mat.  
 Otero finished the season  
 with a record of 23-12.  
 Photo By // Sarah Dean

# The Gold Standard



"The biggest thing I took from  
 the season is that humility and  
 teamwork go hand in hand."  
 -Brady Marple



"I learned this season that I am a  
 lot better than I think, and I need  
 to trust in that and just believe in  
 myself." -Jaylon Otero



"One of the best parts of  
 wrestling at OBU was getting to  
 do it alongside so many amazing  
 men." -Noah Yeamans



"This season I learned that  
 no matter how much you love  
 something, too much of anything  
 is not good for you." -Alex Thyges

# DISCIPLINED

TIGERS STAY FOCUSED FOR COMPETITION

Brotherhood and discipline were two consistent words for the wrestling team. Coach Kevin Crutchmer led his team to a winning season with three wrestlers making it to nationals and heavy weight champion Johnny Green earning All-American honors.

"We were hungry to take action and had the discipline to see it through," said Alex Village, a freshman from Searcy. "We can always grow, but we are proud of how far we came this season."

"One goal I had in my freshman season was to sharpen my own skills and techniques not only to make me a better wrestler, but the other guys on my team, too," said Village.

Junior Terrance Murray was a multi-sport athlete on campus. He defined discipline as knowing what you need to get done and

achieving it. He not only had discipline during practice, but in his everyday life as well. Watching what he put into his body was what allowed him to be a better student and wrestler.

"This season taught me persistence," said Murray. "When I was lacking in motivation, discipline kicked in." Murray had the best support system this season and a set of brothers who surrounded him and pushed him to be better in every aspect of life. Murray ended the conference duels on a high note. He ended the season feeling like he represented his team and the university well.

"Wrestling is different from a lot of other sports," said Brady Marple, a senior biology major from Altus, Okla. "There is a level of discipline that comes from the sport that is

necessary in every duel."

That paid off in managing good grades, a social life, and a wrestling career. Though this season consisted of many teaching moments and an injury that held him back from his full potential, he was proud to keep pushing despite the difficulties.

Beating Drury University for one of the first times in school history was the highlight of most of the wrestlers' season. This win came at a crucial point in the season. There were only a few weeks left and the wrestlers needed motivation to finish strong. Winning such an important match propelled them to excel in the last few weeks of the season and into the NCAA tournament. The Ouachita wrestling team made several memories and had great successes. *By // Lilly Biggers*



Photo by // Levi Dade 1.

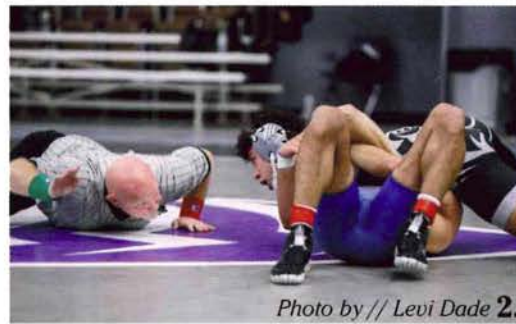


Photo by // Levi Dade 2.



Photo by // Sarah Dean 3.



Photo by // Levi Dade 4.

1. Alex Thyes fights to pin the opposer. This was Thyes' senior season.
2. Jaylon Otero awaits the refs call as he holds his competitor down. The team competed in 13 matches.
3. As he is declared the winner, Brady Marple raises his hand. Marple was a starter for the Tigers.
4. Zander Fields prepares to slam his opponent to the ground. This was his second year with the team.



**WRESTLING** (front row) Jaylon Otero, Zander Fields, Cole McCartney, Noah Yeamans, Alex Pena. (second row) James Anderson, Marcel Molu, William Martin, Henry Martin, Hudson Herring, Cole Eason, Alex Thyes, Jake Sheehy. (back row) Adrian Salazar-Rivera, Tyler Gares, RJ Hild, Johnny Green, Jadon Wilkerson, Donald Paul, Chandler Cooley, Brady Marple, Brooks Schrimsher, Wyatt Compton.

**TIGERS FIND SUCCESS  
FROM BONDS FORMED ON  
AND OFF THE COURT**

# COMMUNITY

The men's tennis team was a community of students from all around the world. These students came from Spain, Germany, Argentina, Australia and Switzerland. This team built bonds through their success on the court and their hard work off of the court.

Coach Craig Ward led the team to the NCAA Regionals. The team's season ended with a loss to Washburn in the tournament. Alex Blanchar, Phil Exner, Fernando Docters and Aaron Osmond received post season honors for their performance this season. They, along with Seth Hernandez and Matias Parzajuk, received academic post season honors as well.

"If you put your teammates ahead of yourself, they'll take care of you," said Ward. "You will win more if you have this type of attitude." This was the advice that Ward gave to his players. He had

continually stressed the importance of helping out teammates and being there for them because he believed teamwork was what gets them a win and helps them to be better overall.

Exner, a sophomore business administration, entrepreneurship and management major, was recruited by Coach Ward.

"Without tennis I wouldn't be here in the U.S.," said Exner. "I'm able to be a student and be a tennis player here." Because of how tennis had influenced his life, he was given the opportunity to do what he was passionate about and play here. He was one of the top players nationally. He was ranked 4th in the nation for singles, and 5th in the nation for doubles in NCAA Division II.

Seth Hernandez, a senior kinesiology major from Little Rock, focused on singles mainly and when he did play doubles it was for exhibition

matches that were not competitions. Tennis had also been something of high importance in his life, like Exner. He had been playing since he was 4 years old. He also had the opportunity to be a part-time coach outside of school, which had grown his love for this sport as well.

"When I graduate, I'm going to miss hanging out with my teammates on and off the court. But I know that when I graduate that I'm going to continue to grow in those relationships," said Hernandez. Being the only teammate from the U.S., he was a huge part of all the players' lives, and he saw them as family.

Like his players, Coach Ward cherished the family atmosphere of the team. "I'm going to miss the relationships with these guys when I retire," said Ward.

*By // Rosalyn Decker*



1. Photo by // Levi Dade



2. Photo by // Levi Dade



3. Photo by // Levi Dade



4. Photo by // Wesley Kluck

1. Matias Parzajuk stretches to return a volley. This was Parzajuk's senior season with the Tigers.
2. To get the ball, Phil Exner lunges across his body. He finished the regular season with a 25-5 record in singles.
3. Using an aggressive backhand, Ramon Strassmann swings his racket. Strassmann was a freshman this season.
4. Fernando Docters uses a forehand swing to hit the ball. He played doubles with his partner Aaron Osmond.

**MEN'S TENNIS** (front row) Yosua Lumbanradja, Fernando Docters, Matias Parzajuk. (back row) Alex Blanchar, Seth Hernandez, Aaron Osmond, Ramon Strassmann. Phil Exner, Head Coach Craig Ward.





MATIAS PARZAJUK makes a powerful serve to start the match. Parzajuk ended the year with 9 regular season victories.  
Photo By // Levi Dade

SCORES	
Delta State	W, 7-0
Southwest Baptist	W, 5-2
West Alabama	L, 1-4
Mississippi College	W, 4-2
UT-Tyler	L, 2-4
Cameron	L, 1-4
Midwestern State	W, 4-1
Cowley College	L, 1-4
Southwest Baptist	W, 4-2
Emporia State	W, 7-0
Mississippi College	L, 3-4
Auburn-Montgomery	W, 4-3
West Florida	L, 0-7
Southern Arkansas	W, 6-1
Northwest Missouri State	L, 3-4
William Jewell	W, 7-0
UA-Fort Smith	W, 4-1
Southeastern Oklahoma State	W, 4-3
Harding	L, 3-4
Washburn	L, 0-4
MIAA/GAC Championships	Newman
	W, 4-0
Northwest Missouri State	L, 2-4
NCAA Regionals	Washburn
	L, 1-4
<b>SEASON</b>	
12-11	

# The Gold Standard



"Even though we did not always get the results we hoped for, our team spirit was unbelievable."  
-Phil Exner



"I learned so many mental, technical, strategical, and competitive aspects from this season."  
-Seth Hernandez



"Not everything goes as you expect, however you got to keep working to try to be better."  
-Fernando Docters

**TEAM FOCUSES ON  
LEADERSHIP AND  
MORALE**

# MOTIVATION

From early practices to late night bus rides, the women's tennis team completed the season with stamina and grit. With a team of nine players, each person worked their hardest to contribute to the team.

Conference honors were earned by Austynn Crocker, Clarisa Valenzuela and Ali May.

Crocker, a junior political science and mass communications double major from Little Rock, helped build a learning environment.

"The most important thing that our team does to raise morale is to cheer for each other at every practice and even more at matches. Our seniors did this so well, constantly supporting the team and motivating us through their words," said Crocker. "We are like a family and I am proud to say that everyone was supportive and encouraging of each other

throughout the season."

The team improved in many aspects. Being a student athlete took a level of dedication to school and the sport they loved. A certain mental toughness was needed to have a social life, school and tennis.

With eight other girls to support her, Taylor Hansard, a fifth year senior kinesiology major from Stockton, Texas, touched on how tennis has given her valuable lessons she can use off the court.

"Tennis has shaped me as a person because it has given me skills to be a leader, to be an effective communicator and to love and be loved by an amazing group of women on and off the court," said Hansard.

However, tennis wasn't all work and no play. To celebrate the end of the season, the

team took a trip to Waco, Texas to relax.

"It was unplanned, but I will forever be grateful to have experienced a spring break trip with the team," said Hansard.

The team made sure the two graduating seniors felt loved and appreciated. May, a sophomore Christian studies major from Franklin, Texas, reflected on how much of an impact the seniors had on her season.

"One moment that stuck out to me was Senior Day because we won the match and it was really great to get to celebrate our seniors and everything that they have done for us," said May.

Regardless of the number of wins and losses, the women's tennis team was able to give many young players valuable experience.

*By // Addie Woods*



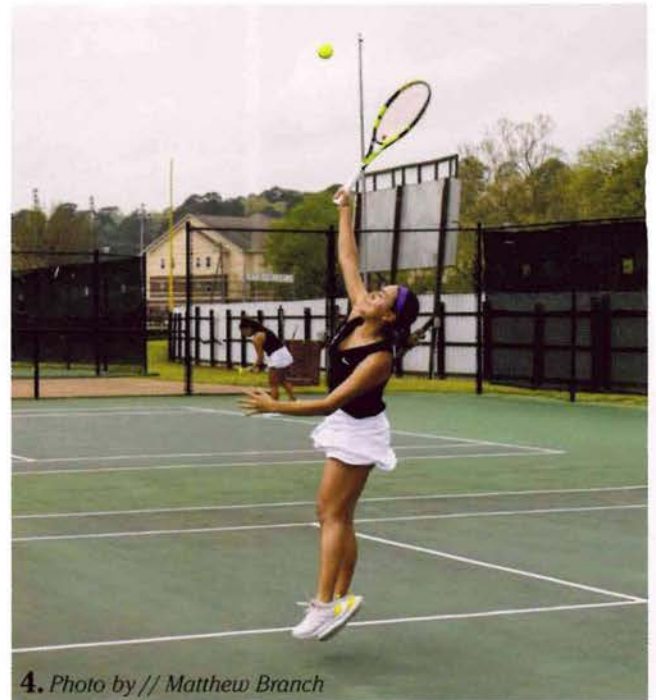
1. Photo by // Matthew Branch



2. Photo by // Matthew Branch



3. Photo by // Matthew Branch



4. Photo by // Matthew Branch

1. Austynn Crocker looks to hit the ball back to her opponent. Crocker became the second Ouachita player to earn a spot on the All-GAC First Team.
2. During a match, Natalia Zamora Capriolo breaks down in a stance. This was her first season playing with the Tigers.
3. Teammates Taylor Hansard and Shelly Davilus come together after scoring a point. They played together as doubles partners.
4. Clarisa Valenzuela jumps to hit the ball over the net. The senior earned both athletic and academic post season honors.

**WOMEN'S TENNIS** (front row) Ali May, Shelly Davilus. (middle row) Austynn Crocker, Natalia Zamora Capriolo, Olivia Gaston, Clarisa Valenzuela. (back row) Keelan Williams, Carla Gallart Polo, Taylor Hansard.





OLIVIA GASTON returns the ball in a home court competition. Gaston played singles and doubles this season. Photo By// Levi Dade

SCORES	
Hendrix	W, 9-0
Ozarks	W, 9-0
Arkansas Tech	L, 0-7
Northeastern State	L, 0-7
UT-Tyler	L, 0-4
Central Arkansas	L, 1-6
Harding	L, 0-7
Angelo State	L, 0-7
Texas A&M - Kingsville	L, 0-7
Henderson State	L, 0-7
Arkansas Tech	L, 0-7
Weatherford College	L, 3-4
Collin College	W, 6-3
Mary Hardin-Baylor	W, 8-1
Harding	L, 2-5
Henderson State	L, 1-6
Southeastern Oklahoma State	L, 1-6
Southern Arkansas	L, 0-7
Washburn	L, 0-7
Fort Hays State	W, 5-2
GAC Conference Tournament	
Southeastern Oklahoma State	L, 0-4
<b>SEASON</b>	
<b>5-16</b>	

# The Gold Standard



"This season I managed to develop a stronger mindset in believing that I am capable of achieving more." -Shelly Davilus



"My favorite part of this season was seeing each member of our team improve as a whole and individually." -Olivia Gaston



"Serving as a senior captain for my team truly challenged me and allowed me to push my teammates." -Clarisa Valenzuela

# UNFORGETTABLE

This past season for the men's swim team was one for the record books with monumental times, finishes and team growth. With a new freshman class came added depth to the Tigersharks. Coach Bostick, head coach of swimming and diving, believed this was due in part to the arms that welcomed them.

"They [the freshmen] know they have leaders who have set the example, set the precedent, and held them accountable," said Bostic. "If you have a few upperclassmen that show them the way, that transition can be smooth."

Freshman business major Tyler Andruss from Fort Worth, Texas, appreciated the push to work hard, as well as the immediate unity.

"There has been no superiority or walls between classes and they did a good job

making sure those were never built up," said Andruss, "They made us feel welcome from day one which helped us get into what we are supposed to do,"

As part of the veteran leadership on the team, junior kinesiology major Chad Gscheidle from Denton, Texas, hoped to motivate his younger teammates.

"I hope to encourage them to continue swimming even though it is tough academically, to get the best grades they can get rather than just flying by with low grades," said Gscheidle. "I am hoping I can leave behind high standards for everyone."

In addition to the comradery amongst classes, the Tigersharks broke countless school records and sent two swimmers and a diver to the NCAA National Championships.

This was the first time the Tigersharks had made an appearance at the Championships since 2019 and the first time they had sent multiple swimmers since 2013. Not only was it a tremendous achievement for the program, but also for the qualifiers themselves who had fought to work up to that level of competition.

"The qualifiers have a lot to be proud of," said Bostick. "We have a lot to be proud of as a team and as a university." Team pride and motivation was something the men's swim team did not lack. They were team-oriented.

"The individual achievements and awards are cool," said Andruss, "but ultimately what you feel the most in terms of accomplishment is the team's success."

By // Ellie Bennett



1. Photo by // Levi Dade



2. Photo by // Levi Dade



3. Photo by // Levi Dade



4. Photo by // Wesley Kluck

1. During an event, Jeff McCoy turns to catch his breath while freestyling. This was his third season with the Tigers.
2. Blayz Hood performs a forward dive to begin the relay. This was Hood's rookie season.
3. While doing the butterfly, Ethan Smith drives through the lane. Smith swam the individual medley.
4. Bryce Benson executes an armstand dive as he prepares to hit the water. This was his first year on the dive team.

**MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING:** (front row) Samuel Woods, Blayz Hood, Noah Smith, Jacob Lewis, Fernando Bustillo, Justin Oulette, Jax Stevens. (second row) James Savarese, Sam Ragsdell, Cristobal Pena, blank, Bennett Bibza, Sam Goins. (third row) Jake Goltzman, Anthony Paculba, Ethan Smith, Alex Schulze, Miles Schulze, Jayden Herron, Angel Medina. (fourth row) Parker Nelson, Elijah Christenson, Tristan Richert, Jeff McCoy, Tyler Andruss, Barrett Troup. (back row) Chad Gscheidle, Joe Ragsdell, Duncan Troup, Ian Redman Aguilar, Isaac Bourne, Jackson McCaleb, Hayden Jestes.





ELIJAH CHRISTENSON powers through the water during the event. He swam both butterfly and freestyle this season.  
 Photo By // Levi Dade

SCORES	
All Arkansas Invite	2nd of 6 teams
Hendrix	W, 140-81
Loyola-New Orleans	W, 181-78
Oklahoma Christian	L, 111-126
Southwestern	W, 218.50-75.50
UT-Permian Basin	W, 180-119
Henderson State	L, 100-136
Miami (OH)	Invitational
6th of 8 teams	Montevallo
W, 85-63	Montevallo
W, 107-77	Delta State
L, 134.5-165.5	Henderson State
L, 102-141	Delta State
L, 76-108	New South
Intercollegiate	Swim Conference
Championships	3rd of 4 teams
NCAA DII Meet	3 athletes
<b>SEASON</b>	<b>6-5</b>

# The Gold Standard



"Our team atmosphere is definitely my favorite part."  
 -Chad Gscheidle



"Overall, I was really happy with how we as a team and individually did this year."  
 -Tyler Andruss



"The beginning and middle of the season were rough, but I kept working hard and focused on my goals."  
 -Angel Medina



## SCORES

All Arkansas Invite  
4th of 8 teams

Hendrix  
W, 158-73

Loyola-New Orleans  
W, 170-87

Oklahoma Christian  
L, 111.5-121.5

Southwestern  
W, 197-97

UT-Permian Basin  
W, 184-114

Henderson State  
L, 90-153

Miami (OH)  
Invitational

7th of 9 teams

Montevallo  
W, 113-35

Montevallo  
W, 114.5-71.5

Delta State  
L, 127-169

Henderson State  
L, 112-122

Delta State  
L, 73-123

New South  
Intercollegiate  
Swim Conference  
Championships  
4th place

SEASON

6-5



ABIGAYL CONARD tucks her body as she prepares to hit the water. Conard was a rookie on the team.  
*Photo By // Levi Dade*

# The Gold Standard



"Something I learned this season was how to let go and be in the moment." -Anna Kate Velasquez



"I realized that even if it doesn't feel like it in the moment, perseverance will pay off."  
-Didi Christenson



"I realized that I need to just live in the moment and swim for my team." -Elise Henderson

# ACHIEVEMENT

LADY TIGERSHARKS MEET GOALS IN THE POOL AND IN THE CLASSROOM

An academically and athletically well-balanced team had always been a recipe for success. "The girls do a really good job at staying academically focused and doing their best on the athletic side," Coach Steve Bostick said. "They have high expectations in and out of the classroom. My only expectation has been that they continue to do that."

Although the team was smaller, the team members were focused and motivated. "There was some adversity," said Coach Bostick. "I know we always want to be successful, but life is hard and life is even harder once you get out of school so to see those girls fail in some instances but then rebound and come back and have a strong showing at conference, that was important to me."

Elise Henderson was a sophomore finance

major from Columbia, Mo., who swam the 200 freestyle, 500 freestyle, 1000 freestyle, and the 1650 (mile) freestyle. She went into the season with the goal of getting top eight at conference in the 1000 and 1650 because she knew it would be a challenge. She accomplished this by placing seventh in the 1000 and eighth in the 1650.

"I had shoulder surgery during my junior year of high school which was the root of a lot of mental and physical struggles this year," Henderson said. "But I was able to overcome those struggles and was supported by my coaches and teammates the whole time, which really helped me achieve my goals."

Beyond her personal goals, the team also set a goal to get top three in the 800 free relays. At conference, the Tigers achieved this

goal and placed in the top three.

"I grew as a swimmer this year because I was able to enjoy swimming as an athlete but also just as a person," said Henderson. "I was able to swim for my team and myself while having fun while doing it."

Senior Christian studies major from Pearland, Texas, Anna Kate Velasquez, went into the season wanting to make the most of every moment. She swam the 1000 freestyle, 100 butterfly, 200 butterfly, and 1650 freestyle.

"The team did great this season," Velasquez said. "We had three people from our team go to nationals and the coaches really brought the dive team to a new level." She added, "I'm proud of where the team has come from and where I know they will go."

By// Erin Key

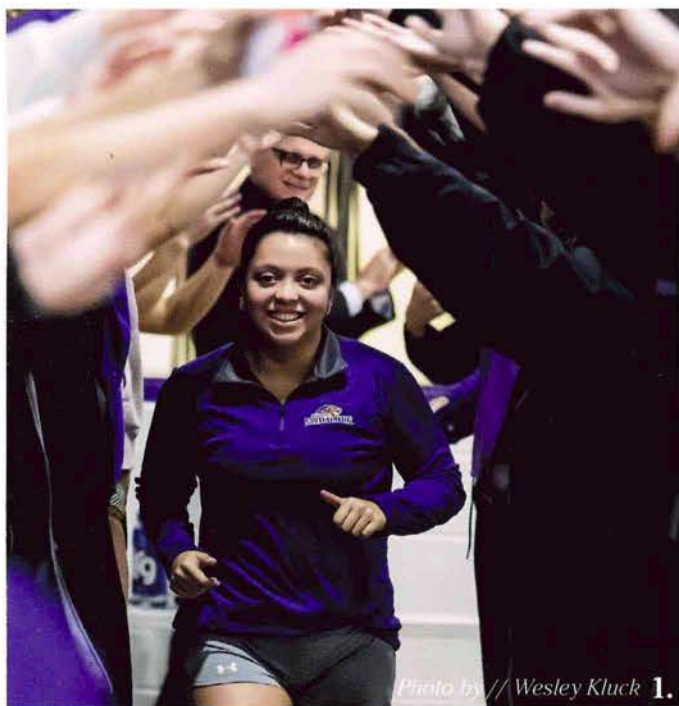


Photo by // Wesley Kluck 1.



Photo by // Levi Dade 2.



Photo by // Levi Dade 3.



Photo by // Levi Dade 4.

1. Velasquez runs through her teammates as they cheer her on. This was her senior year for the Tigers.
2. Diving into the water, Elise Henderson maintains a straight position. She swam freestyle and breaststroke during the season.
3. Abigail McMahon cuts through the water using backstroke. This was McMahon's first season swimming for the team.
4. Emma Ballantyne takes off to start the race. She swam the individual medley.



**WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING** (front row) Anna Kate Velasquez, Kate McCown, Isabella Howell, Keilee Holcomb, Samantha McCarty. (second row) Emma Ballantyne, Torrie Weems, Rachel Del Angel, Abigail McMahon. (third row) Erin Russo, Jameson Tankersley, Abigayl Conard, Mary O'Sullivan. (back row) Elise Henderson, Didi Christenson, Kaitlyn Montgomery.

SENIORS ENCOURAGE  
WORK ETHIC AND  
DEDICATION

# LEADERSHIP

The size of the men's basketball team did not reflect the size of their hearts. As a team made up of guards and forwards, the Tigers typically found themselves undersized and in a mismatch against opponents whose offenses focused around their forceful centers. Coach Nutt combated this by embracing the small stature of his team.

"I think basketball in general has gone away from the bigger guys and gone more small ball," said Nutt. "Our guys just had to work through those obstacles, front them more, and use our speed and quickness to kick it around. At the end of the day, you just have to fight through those challenges and keep finding ways to win them."

Junior business management major Jared Adams from Jacksonville, a transfer from Northeastern, found their lack of size gave

them confidence because they had nothing to lose, yet much to prove.

"We're undersized and a lot of us are JUCO players, so we're underdogs which gives us a little chip on our shoulder when we play teams with powerful centers," said Adams.

The Tigers proved their grit, defeating UAM to clinch a spot in the Great-American Conference (GAC) tournament where they made a two-game run. Like many other game this season, the Tigers were led by seniors Ma'Darius Hobson and Laquan Butler Jr. in their final game against Arkansas Tech. Hobson led the team in scoring with 19 points, shooting eight of 15 from the field goal range and three of five from behind the arc, as well as from the glass with six rebounds. In addition, Butler performed well in anticipation with three steals. Nutt felt that both seniors

were a major part of the Tigers' success.

"We're going to miss both of them," said Nutt. "They both have a great work ethic, are team guys, and are just fun to be around." Hard work was a practice senior Ma'Darius Hobson, a kinesiology major from Houlka, MS, wished to leave.

Adams noted that the basketball program was more family-oriented than his past teams which made him feel accepted. Hobson, a fellow transfer who came in from Itawamba, was in agreement.

"My favorite part was definitely being a part of a family," said Hobson. "In high school, junior college, and AAU (travel basketball) I had never been this close with the team and coaches." He added, "You have to work hard every single day to become a better player, student and person." *By // Ellie Bennett*



1. Photo by // Levi Dade



2. Photo by // Levi Dade

1. While attacking the goal, Reggie Martin puts up a layup. Martin collected 220 points on the season.
2. Alex Scariolo keeps his eyes locked on the ball as he defends the basket. Alex finished the season with 61 assists.
3. After grabbing the rebound, Marvin Williams-Dunn passes the ball out to his teammate. Dunn played every game this season.
4. Tylar Haynes makes an aggressive dunk over the opponent. Haynes averaged 12.9 points a game for the Tigers.



3. Photo by // Levi Dade



4. Photo by // Levi Dade

**MEN'S BASKETBALL** (front row) Hamilton Hamm, Dre Anderson, Kobe Dunlap, Reggie Martin, Ma'Darius Hobson, Marvin Williams-Dunn, LaQuan Butler Jr., Ryan Harris. (back row) Alex Scariolo, Tylar Haynes, ZaVion Jackson, Adel Mellak, JC Philip, Cailean Ables, T'vondrick Henry.



## SCORES

Oklahoma State  
L, 51-85 (exhibition)  
Northwestern State  
L, 68-79 (exhibition)  
Arkansas Baptist  
W, 72-57  
Ecclesia College  
W, 91-65 (exhibition)  
Oklahoma Christian  
L, 58-69  
Arkansas-Fort Smith  
L, 67-92  
Harding  
W, 84-81  
Arkansas Tech  
L, 65-74  
Champion Christian  
W, 88-71  
Southern Arkansas  
L, 67-89  
Arkansas-Monticello  
W, 61-56  
Southern Nazarene  
L, 66-74  
Oklahoma Baptist  
L, 55-79  
Southwestern  
Oklahoma State  
W, 69-68  
Northwestern  
Oklahoma State  
W, 83-75  
Harding  
W, 85-83  
Arkansas Tech  
L, 58-64  
Henderson State  
W, 74-69  
Southeastern  
Oklahoma State  
L, 66-92  
East Central  
W, 76-68  
Oklahoma Baptist  
W, 77-65  
Southern Nazarene  
L, 56-68  
Northwestern  
Oklahoma State  
L, 70-75  
Southwestern  
Oklahoma State  
L, 68-69  
Henderson State  
L, 59-62  
East Central  
L, 64-72  
Southeastern  
Oklahoma State  
L, 70-83  
Southern Arkansas  
L, 75-86  
Arkansas-Monticello  
W, 75-61  
GAC TOURNAMENT  
Southern Nazarene  
W, 70-67  
Arkansas Tech  
L, 66-73

SEASON

12-16

71

MEN'S BASKETBALL  
Sports



ADEL MELLAK looks to get the ball during the opening tip-off. This was his second season with the tigers. Photo By // Levi Dade

# The Gold Standard



"Even though we were underdogs, we could still beat the number one team, even with being undersized." -Jared Adams



"Seasons like this take a lot out of you, but having teammates to lean on to get you through is important." -Kobe Dunlap



"I learned this season making connections with people is very important and can open so many doors." -Ma'Darius Hobson

## SCORES

Champion Christian  
 W, 97-54  
 Angelo State  
 L, 72-80  
 Mississippi College  
 W, 73-62  
 Harding  
 L, 51-66  
 Arkansas Tech  
 L, 77-80  
 Williams Baptist  
 W, 96-51  
 Southern Arkansas  
 W, 93-83  
 Arkansas-Monticello  
 L, 65-77  
 Southern Nazarene  
 L, 56-76  
 Oklahoma Baptist  
 L, 65-89  
 Southwestern  
 Oklahoma State  
 W, 82-67  
 Northwestern  
 Oklahoma State  
 W, 57-53  
 Harding  
 L, 61-69  
 Arkansas Tech  
 L, 62-64  
 Henderson State  
 W, 69-59  
 Southeastern  
 Oklahoma State  
 W, 71-62  
 East Central  
 L, 61-72  
 Oklahoma Baptist  
 W, 73-51  
 Southern Nazarene  
 L, 60-83  
 Northwestern  
 Oklahoma State  
 W, 80-76  
 Southwestern  
 Oklahoma State  
 L, 65-70  
 Henderson State  
 L, 72-82  
 East Central  
 W, 79-54  
 Southeastern  
 Oklahoma State  
 W, 74-68  
 Southern Arkansas  
 W, 93-65  
 Arkansas-Monticello  
 W, 81-62  
 GAC Tournament  
 Henderson State  
 W, 70-53  
 Harding  
 L, 51-78  
**SEASON**  
**15-13**



MAKAYLA MILLER goes up strong to secure a goal. Miller was named to the GAC All-Tournament Team.  
 Photo By // Levi Dade

# The Gold Standard



"We all had the same goal in mind which was to win games no matter what it took."  
 -Makayla Miller

"Something I learned is that everyone on the team is valuable and vital to our success."  
 -Makenzie Schilmoeller

"No matter what you're doing or where you are at in your season, you didn't make it that far to only make it that far."  
 -Audri Winfrey

# THRILLING

## LADY TIGERS ADVANCE TO CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT ON A BUZZER BEATER

The women's basketball team had many exhilarating moments during their season. One, in particular, stood out to many. In their last game, Heidi Robinson made a three-pointer buzzer beater and the team stormed the court to celebrate making the Great American Conference (GAC) tournament.

“Making the GAC all tournament team was a super special moment, and I felt as if my hard work over the years had finally paid off,” said a senior biology major from Little Rock, Makayla Miller. “I’m thankful for my teammates and all of the work that we put in over the course of the season.”

This dedicated point guard was ranked 10th in the GAC for top-scoring and ended her collegiate career by joining the 1,000-point club. As she unlaced her basketball shoes for the last time, she left quite a mark on Ouachita

as her name was listed all throughout the school's record book. Although she was the lone senior on the young team, she found a strong community in her teammates. She ended her last game with a grand total of 1,209 points in her career, and overwhelming gratitude for her time here at Ouachita.

Coach Robert Dallimore saw the hard work of his team pay off. “This season was exciting because we made it to the semi-finals for the first time since 2012,” said Dallimore. “My main goal for next season is for the girls to always give God the glory and to teach them to be women of excellence.”

That focus attracted new players to the team. “I chose OBU's basketball program because I saw the potential in it and Coach Dallimore believed in me tremendously and always made me feel at home,” said Grayson

Fairless, freshman chemistry major from Mena. “One of my best games was actually against Henderson with 20 points and 15 rebounds.”

The Battle of the Ravine game against the Lady Reddies was one for the books. The Lady Tigers not only excelled in the GAC tournament but knocked out Henderson to do so. The team posted a 70-53 point victory.

Working as a manger was a special experience for sophomore Jordan Dallimore. “Working with my dad, Coach Dallimore, was a great experience because it gave me the opportunity to be a part of a team. I also love that I get to be a part of something that he loved to do.”

The Lady Tigers had an impressive season and broke numerous records along the way.

By // Rose Robinson



Photo by // Levi Dade 1.



Photo by // Levi Dade 2.



3. Photo by // Levi Dade



Photo by // Levi Dade 4.

1. Samantha Watson drives through the defender toward the basket. Watson played every game this season.
2. Robinson breaks down to play defense against the opponent. She recorded 19 steals this year.
3. Looking to score, Madeleine Tipton follows her jump shot through. As a freshman, Tipton ended the season third-overall in points for the Tigers.
4. Gracen Williams prepares to catch the pass from Watson. Williams averaged 19 minutes a game.



**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL** (front row) Kylie Jo Kilgore, Laney Mears, Joey Babel, Gracen Williams, Jordan Dallimore. (middle row) Anna Grace Rankin, Makenzie Schilmoeller, Makayla Miller, Kyndal Rooks, Samantha Watson, Madeleine Tipton, Heidi Robinson. (back row) Kayla Richardson, Nxerro Maluw, Abbey Harrison, Head Coach Robert Dallimore, Grayson Fairless, Audri Winfrey, Lauren Wright, Abby Moseley.

A YOUNG TIGER TEAM  
BUILDS MOMENTUM

# ATMOSPHERE

The Tigers experienced success in their second year competing in the Great American Conference. Even though this was only the second year to race competitively, it allowed the sophomore runners to gain leadership abilities and create a young, fresh, positive outlook for the team.

Lawson Sanders, a sophomore from Fort Worth, Texas, ran both cross country and track. Sanders' favorite track meet was at Arkansas State. The entire team ran well, and they hit several personal records.

"It was awesome seeing so many of our guys win their heats and compete against excellent competition, but the best part was having so many people come up to us and compliment our program as a whole," said Sanders. Because the team was so young, the

sophomores were able to lead by example.

"Being a part of this team at Ouachita has shaped me in many ways, but leadership has had the biggest effect on me," said Sanders. "Since we started as such a young team, it enabled the freshmen incredible growth opportunities. Now in our second year, we don't have any upperclassmen, which has shaped the other sophomores and me to step up in our ways and lead. We might be young, but we are beginning to create a strong atmosphere on the team."

The freshmen recognized leadership from their teammates and peers, and it encouraged them to model their attitudes.

Dylan Dew, a freshman from Hot Springs, agreed that the Arkansas State Track meet was his favorite track meet of the season.

"I am truly blessed to be surrounded by such a great team that I call my second family," said Dew. "They have continually pushed me to be the best version of myself on and off the track." Being on the men's cross country and track team had opened Dew's eyes to what God-glorifying teamwork and leadership look like.

While running looked different for everyone on the cross country and track teams, each athlete had a common agenda in building up the other men on the team so they were all becoming the best versions of themselves.

In post season honors, the cross country team was named an All-Academic team by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Association.  
*By // Lilly Biggers*



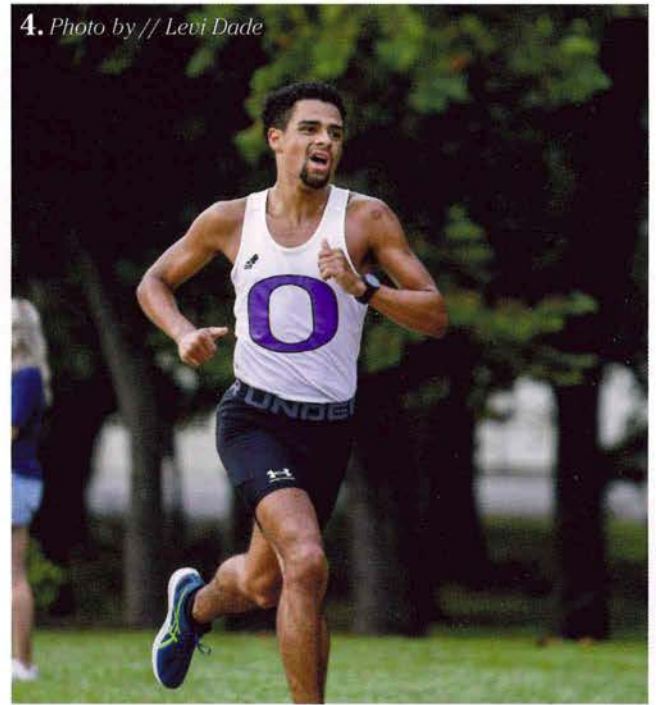
1. Photo by // Levi Dade



2. Photo by // Levi Dade



3. Photo by // Levi Dade



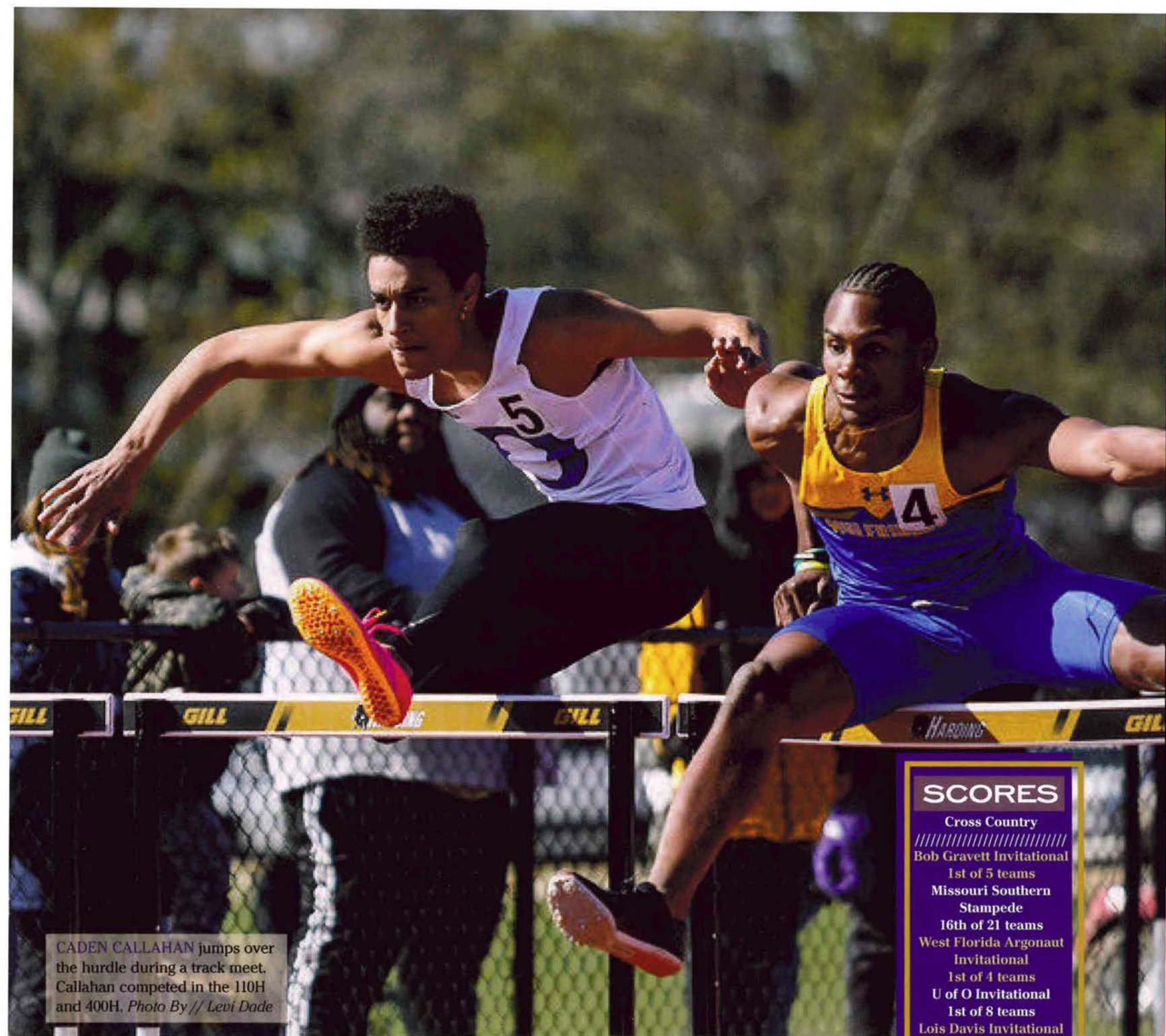
4. Photo by // Levi Dade

1. Xander Naegle sprints to stay in front of his opponents. This was his first season running for the Tigers.
2. On home turf, Jonathan McEndree runs during the Bob Gravett Invitational. McEndree competed in both cross country and track.
3. Maintaining long strides, Dylan Dew finishes the race. Dew was crowned the GAC Champion for the 800m and 1500m events.
4. Keagan Pointer gives it his all while running at a meet. Pointer ran in the 1500m event.

**MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY/TRACK & FIELD** (front row) Neal Cole,

Barrett James, Evan Armitage, Dylan Dew, Noah Zetts, Trey Hicks, Lawson Wideman, Andrew Ohrn, Josh Tibbs. (middle row) Jeremiah Mainor, Chip Fournier, Ethan Kailey, Jaelen Becho, Drew Bryant, Sam Vickers, Lawson Sanders, Keagan Pointer, Brit Hawkins, Brayden James, Micah Meeks. (back row) Jonathan McEndree, Jay Brumsey, Noah McAllister, Benjamin Himaya, Cade Swindle, Whit Lawrence, Marcus McGahee, Xander Naegle, Andrew Tarlton, Caden Callahan.





CADEN CALLAHAN jumps over the hurdle during a track meet. Callahan competed in the 110H and 400H. Photo By // Levi Dade

## SCORES

- Cross Country**  
 ///  
 Bob Gravett Invitational  
 1st of 5 teams  
 Missouri Southern  
 Stampede  
 16th of 21 teams  
 West Florida Argonaut  
 Invitational  
 1st of 4 teams  
 U of O Invitational  
 1st of 8 teams  
 Lois Davis Invitational  
 3rd of 8 teams  
 DBU Old Glory Gallup  
 7th of 15 teams  
 GAC Championship  
 4th of 8 teams  
 NCAA Regionals  
 20th of 31 teams
- Track and Field**  
 ///  
 Little Rock Invitational  
 6th of 6 Teams  
 GAC Championship  
 5th of 6 Teams

# The Gold Standard



"One of the best things about pioneering this program has been seeing our team create a name for ourselves." -Lawson Sanders



"Even though you might not be where you want, it is important to keep working hard every day." -Jay Brumsey



"This season was a breakout year for us, and we are only going to continue to grow and improve." -Chip Fournier







MADelyn BAXLEY and Gracie Blocker run side-by-side during an event. Both girls ran cross country this season. Photo By // Levi Dade

## SCORES

### Cross Country

Bob Gravett Invitational

1st of 4 teams

Missouri Southern Stampede

10th of 26 teams

West Florida Argonaut Invitational

1st of 5 teams

U of O Invitational

1st of 7 teams

Lois Davis Invitational

1st of 8 teams

DBU Old Glory Gallup

4th of 16 teams

GAC Championship

1st of 12 teams

NCAA Regionals

13th of 35 teams

### Track and Field

Little Rock Invitational

4th of 8 Teams

GAC Championship

6th of 10 Teams

# The Gold Standard



"Switching events was hard work but it taught me how to navigate through something new."  
-Rebekah Wendt



"One of my favorite moments from this season was being able to break the Ouachita triple jump record."  
-Reyna Rogers



"Our team truly is a gift that has become a family that I will have even after my time here."  
-Sara Holman

# CHAMPIONS

LADY TIGERS WIN  
CONFERENCE  
CHAMPIONSHIP

Track and cross country won a championship and broke records this season. Through hard work and dedication, the teams earned recognition for their hard work. Led by Coach Steve Guymon, the teams experienced a monumental season in both sports.

For cross country, it was the university's first women's cross country GAC championship, and Guymon was named GAC Coach of the Year.

"I love that track is so individualized. I have my own goals and track allows me to work on those," said Allison Hylkema, a freshman communications and media major from Jackson, Tennessee, who was a member of both teams. Hylkema ran the 5k and 10k races for cross country. She beat her own personal record in the 5k event this season.

"With cross country we're united as a team.

You're able to connect a lot more because you're relying on each other more," said Nataly Nailling, a junior accounting major from Fayetteville who also competed on both teams.

"I'd say Florida was our best meet for cross country. We didn't expect to win, but when we did it was nice to be there all together and celebrate with the team," said Nailling. Ouachita won the meet in Pensacola, Florida, with an average time of 20 minutes and 20 seconds in the 5k event. This course was on sand and was very difficult compared to what the team was used to.

"I'm a firm believer in the people you surround yourself with are going to mold you and how you view things. There's consistent positivity, love, and support for each other on these teams," said Hylkema.

The track team ended the season at the GAC

championships placing 6<sup>th</sup>. At this meet 25 personal bests were beaten.

The cross country team ended the season at the NCAA regional meet after placing 13<sup>th</sup>. The team was invited to the regional meet after winning the GAC championship.

Athletes on both teams were recognized by the conference for their performances and their success in the classroom.

The cross country team was recognized as an All-Academic team by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross-Country Coaches Association with top-20 rankings.

The women's team was ranked 11<sup>th</sup> overall academically in Division II with a combined team GPA of 3.8, just .002 grade points away from cracking the top 10 and just .09 away from the top spot in the country. *By// Rosalyn Decker*



Photo by // Levi Dade 1.



Photo by // Levi Dade 2.



3. Photo by // Levi Dade



Photo by // Levi Dade 4.

1. While competing in the long jump, Karis Martin leaps into the air. Martin also participated in the high jump and the 200m events.
2. Macie Cash jumps over the wall and lands in the water. Cash competed in the 3000 Steeplechase.
3. Elise Knight keeps her pace to stay ahead of her opponents. Knight ran the 800m event.
4. During a cross country meet, Addison Southerland runs to finish the race. This was Southerland's first season with the team.



## WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY/TRACK & FIELD (front row)

Elise Knight, Reyna Rogers, Victoria Bourgeois, Rebekah Wendt, Avery Howard, Becca Beard, Jaci McGregor. (second row) Ella Marie Davis, Katelyn Provence, Nataly Nailling, Jillian Roberts, Avery Womack, Megan Monk, Abby McElhaney, Melina West, Allison Hylkema. (third row) Darby Jones, Elly McDonald, Gracie Blocker, Sara Holman, Taylor Koeth, Emily Payne, Rylee Patterson, Ashlynn Hecht. (fourth row) Maggie Gregory, Nadia Denman, Sydney Delgado, Karis Martin, Ashley Dillman, Presley Roberts, Izzi Breaux, Macie Cash, Mackenzie Davis, Addison Southerland, Savannah Carrigan. (back row) Hannah Bailey, Kloe Parsons, Laynie White, Alexis Perry, Zoie Eserman, Abby Elcan, Adrienne Brown, Katelynn Nachtigal, Jessica Jennings, Emily Castilaw, Shayla Conley, Madelyn Baxley.

THE CHEERLEADERS AND  
BAND WORK TOGETHER  
TO KEEP SPIRITS HIGH

# ENVIRONMENT

Game days were electrifying when the student body gathered together. That atmosphere and environment would not have been possible without the cheer team and band.

The cheer team and band functioned together as the Tigers' support system. The connection between the two was crucial to the energy that fueled the Tigers from play to play. The cheer team evolved over the season thanks to the addition of a new coach.

"We are present at events for the purpose of bringing joy and excitement," senior cheer captain Emmy Higgs a biology major from Russellville said. "The main reason we are there is to lead the crowd and cheer on the team."

The atmosphere of the games would not

have been what it was if it had not been for the cheer team, but the band was also a crucial component. Josh Sutton, senior music education major from Lone Star, Texas, was the drum major of the Tiger band.

"I believe the marching band brings value to Ouachita by bringing a lot of fire and energy to the football games," said Sutton. "We like to think we're the cheer team's number one fans. We have the same job at the games: to keep the football team hyped, and to engage and entertain the fans."

Freshman instrumental music education major, Sadie Buttram, was a member of both the cheer team and band. Buttram had a strong desire to be involved in all things school spirit and to be surrounded by a variety of people as part of her community.

She performed with the band for the first half of each game, performed halftime with both the band and cheer, and then cheered for the second half.

"We don't compete with each other," said Buttram. "We don't play while they're cheering and we don't cheer while they're playing. It's been a seamless connection between the two."

Over the seasons, band and cheer have worked hand in hand; Sadie Buttram doing both proved that to be true.

"The band provides good entertainment and is responsible for the mood of the crowd because that's what everyone hears," Buttram said. "The atmosphere is very hype, but without either of us, it would be dull and uneventful between plays." *By // Erin Key*



1. Photo by // Levi Dade



2. Photo by // Sarah Dean

- Using his cymbals, David Weick cheers on the Tigers. The band attended every home football game.
- Reyna Rogers and the team perform for the crowd. The cheerleaders showed team spirit throughout the entire season.
- Holding her sign high, Kennedy Johnson gets the crowd excited. The team supported the Tigers at every home football and basketball game.
- Chloe Crawley goes all-out while playing the drums. Every member of the band helped to keep the energy high.



3. Photo by // Sarah Dean



4. Photo by // Levi Dade

**CHEER** (front row) Elise Hicks, Grace Tidwell, Emmy Higgs, Kennedy Johnson, Tori Bourgeois, Avery Womack. (second row) Layne Wilson, Kenzie Cresswell, Olivia Whitlach, Audrey Fortner, Reyna Rogers, Anna Claire Newman. (third row) Joely Thomas, Karis Martin, Addison McCaulley, Karmen Lybrand, Ella Brinkley, Riley Kratz. (back row) Coach Kristi Seals, Alysha McClure, Hannah Claire Humphries, Opal Moore, Campbell Fisher, Kylee Braley, Sadie Buttram, Cannon Fisher.





KYLEE BRALEY stands atop the team pyramid. The cheer team was made up of 26 members.  
Photo By // Levi Dade

# The Gold Standard



"This season our cheer team became not just a team, but a family." -Audrey Fortner



"This generous opportunity has given me two great communities to be a part of that I am very grateful for." -Sadie Buttram



"I am so thankful to lead such an encouraging and hardworking group of girls." -Emmy Hipps



"Without being able to adapt quickly, our team would not have been able to reach our full potential." -Kennedy Johnson

## SPORTS

Human Foosball

Flag Football

Kickball

Pickle ball

Volleyball

Basketball

Disc Golf

Inner-Tube  
Water Polo

Whiffle Ball



SAM SCOTT STRETCHES out to make a one-handed grab during a flag football game. Scott was a business major and a member of Beta Beta.  
*Photo By // Levi Dade*

# The Gold Standard



"It offers everyone the opportunity to stay fit and to enjoy time with the student community."  
-Haley Shourd



"Intramural basketball is always so hype. Getting to beat Henderson was so fun."  
-Brock Bivens



"Being part of intramurals was such a blessing. I met so many people and created new friendships."  
-Faith Morgan

# COMPETITION

INTRAMURALS PROVIDE A VARIETY OF SPORTS FOR STUDENTS TO STAY ACTIVE

Intramurals were a vital part of campus life. They encouraged students to engage with others. Students were hired by RecLife as referees to facilitate the games. Josh Ray, a senior finance and business administration double major, was the Intramural Supervisor. He was in charge of scheduling the refs for games, training refs, and making any final decision rulings. Ray's favorite intramural was volleyball.

"I love volleyball just because I think that in a competitive sense, it's maybe the most even," said Ray. "If you play it enough, then you can get really good at it in a short amount of time."

The head of intramurals was Johnny Webb. Webb had a passion for sports all throughout high school and his time at Ouachita, even making some of his closest friends through

intramurals.

"I had more sports that I wanted to incorporate into intramurals. So instead of doing what we usually do, which is four sports a semester, I tried to incorporate five. That way if some people didn't want to play basketball maybe they'd want to play ultimate Frisbee, and stuff like that," said Webb.

Basketball saw the involvement of 20 teams of girls and 20 teams of guys.

The new sport of Whiffle ball was added to replace softball. The sport required less of an athletic background than softball, so players would have more evenly matched games against each other.

Another sport, while not new, made a reappearance. Human Foosball was first introduced in 2020 and was once again played as an alternative to intramural soccer. This

was an intramural loved for its uniqueness.

Students, like freshman Gracie Tucker, played in every sport they could. Tucker stated how intramurals had given her opportunities to meet lots of people and to form new friendships. She also enjoyed being able to play many different sports throughout the school year.

"Intramurals are nice because they change every month. So, it's pretty frequent and it's a good opportunity just to get out. It's not that time consuming, and even if you have to miss something you can reschedule it. It just kind of forces you to get out and it forces you to get out of your comfort zone a little bit because who's played human Foosball? That's not a sport. It's just fun to try something new," said Tucker.

By // Sarah Dean



1. John Hunter Crum hits the volleyball over the net. There were two different leagues, amateur and competitive.
2. Cali Mendonca calls a timeout during one of the basketball games. Beta Black won the men's league and BOTR game.
3. Sticking his foot out, Seth Poindexter attempts to block the soccer ball. Human Foosball was the first intramural offered this year.
4. Anna Hudson makes a full swing to hit the Whiffle ball. The whiffle ball season was made up of coed teams.



While playing inner-tube water polo, Daniel Gillson looks to score on Sammy Arizaga. The Tigersharks won in the championship match. Photo by // Sarah Dean

