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Mid-year transfers face ‘new kid’ shock

by Ray Carter
Bison staff writer

Many students look back at their freshman year with a mixture of nostalgia and relief that it’s behind them now. Students often spend as much time meeting people and “learning the ropes” as they do studying during their first semester. Imagine what it would feel like to have to start that all over again, and you’ll have some idea of what the 74 students who transferred to Harding this semester are facing.

The transfers represent a wide range of previous experiences and backgrounds that are connected by one common factor: the desire to change schools. However, Evens said that adjustment was “very nice” in her new environment, and that she had to spend some time getting used to all of these new things. Madeline Budrow, a junior biology major who transferred from a college in California, said that the adjustment was “not a big deal.”

Evens said that the adjustment was taking some time because “it takes a while to get used to [a] new environment,” and that she had to study more than she had at previous schools. However, Evens said that “there have been very nice” in her new environment, and that she had made her feel welcome here. At the other end of the spectrum is Carla Crab, a junior biology major from Benton, Ark., just 60 miles from Searcy. Crab had gone to two other schools and found them wanting, so Green said that he appreciates the opportunity at Harding.

On a record pace... Senior Bridget Benson attempts a running jump shot against Bethel College. Benson is helping lead the Lady Bisons to what could be their best season in Harding history. Both the Lady Bisons and Bisons have set their sites on the NAIA National Tournament to cap their independent schedules as new members of the Lone Star Conference. Photo by Aaron Gillihan.

Skeen changes plea; receives life in prison

by Judie O’Farrell
Bison editor

Mitchell Wade Skeen will spend the remainder of his life in prison for the murder of Carla Williamson Jones. Skeen pled guilty to capital murder Friday, Jan. 19, ending a nine-week investigation and shortening the selection of jurors for his trial.

“We had already selected 10 jurors,” Prosecuting Attorney Chris Raff said, emphasizing the fact that he was prepared to try the case in which he would have sought the death penalty.

Skeen’s lawyer arranged Raff’s release the night before the trial had decided to change his plea of not guilty. According to Raff, he gave the Williamson family the choice of whether to stop the trial and accept the penalty of life in prison without parole, or to continue the trial and seek capital punishment. “Unfortunately, they asked me to stop the trial,” Raff said.

“We had a long discussion, and there were a lot of factors,” he said.

Skeen had the trial continued, the family would have faced the years of appeals and retrials allowed those who plead not guilty by reason of insanity.

After an evaluation by the state hospital that found no evidence of mental dysfunction, Skeen hired his own psychologist whose testimony may have been admitted had the trial taken place. “His testimony would have severely affected the penalty, not the issue of guilt,” Raff said.

Skeen’s accomplice, Patrick Dean Patterson, changed his plea to guilty in November, shortly before his sentencing. Both men will be imprisoned for life in the Cummins State Penitentiary.

“I’m glad we were able to convict both men,” Raff said.

Some things never change. Transfer students Leslie Carroll and Jackie Wood learn the mail routine quickly. Photo by Christie Mangrum.
Our personal challenge

We all passed through that first phase last April, that period of moral paralysis, when Walt Mart turned from a pleasant heaven of time-wasting to a terrifying, sad alley.

Then we developed a burning curiosity for Carla herself—what kind of person was she, what kinds of dreams did she have? I remember how she was the topic of every quiet conversation. I'm no psychologist, but I believe our curiosity stemmed from a need to connect with her, to empathize, to soften our hard heads and force them to accept the nagging realization, "That could have been me."

So we hurt, then we accepted. And then we grew.

And now, almost nine months after that grim chapel program we will never forget, both of Carla's murderers will be forced to spend the remainder of their lives in prison. Logic says their confessions should provide some sense of closure.

Instead, I believe that for many of us the close of the case has just thrown us back into that existing process I just described—the paranoia, the whispered questions, the answers that rumors provide. As more information is made public through our rumor network, more conversations revolve around the spectral shadow of that night last April.

Everyone is dwelling on how she died. I think we need to start talking about what Carla lived for.

I did not know her, but she was described by friends in the Bison last spring as "an angel among us," with a "gentle and quiet spirit." I think these are the things she would like us to remember. As we carry and cherish those beautiful memories, we become more angelic, more gentle, and we have cleaned something truly valuable from this sad experience.

On the other hand, if all we can remember about Carla Willmon Jones is her horrible death, I think we sadly miss the point of her wonderful life.

This tragedy has indeed, made me more alert to danger when I go out at night alone. But 10 years after this ordeal, if I have to show for the experience is a can of pepper spray, I have failed miserably.

...
The Student Activities Committee has once again proven its motto, "Christian fun can be done," by bringing the Harding campus some of its best entertainment ever.

"This year is the best we've had in my six or seven years at Harding," said Terry Davis, chairman of the SAC. He claims "the Pass" played a major part in the good response to SAC events this year. "It makes it easier for people to see the less popular acts as well."

Booking Sinbad for a two-hour stand up routine wasn't such a bad idea either. The Benson was packed for the popular comedian's hysterical performance. One entire "roommate named 'Earl'" segment was side-splitting.

The SAC is also responsible for bringing the melodic, thought-provoking, and, well, kind of weird alternative group, Say-So. Songs ranged from the computer wire in front of a monitor to a laser gun by your best friend in the room. The writers have a good moral about the show. If the parents agree to the Benson stage, the artists perform. The artists who perform at Harding usually have a base asking price for the show in the thousands to fifteen hundred. But part of the contract they sign informs them that Harding is a Christian university and that no vulgarities or questionable material be used during the performance. If the artists have a good moral reputation, the SAC can afford them, they agree to the "no vulgarities" contract, and they are available, they will perform at Harding.

Don't miss the unique opportunities the SAC offers. Upcoming performances include country star Martina McBride on Friday, Feb. 23, and pop group All-4-One on Saturday, April 13. These shows have been changed from their original dates. Tickets will be on sale for Martina McBride Feb. 1 at the Benson ticket booths.

by Jeff Krinks
Bison staff writer

Today in History

Tomorrow marks the 20th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, the longest war in US history. More than 46,079 Americans gave their lives.

Michigan was admitted as the 26th state on this day in 1837.

Sunday is the tenth anniversary of the Challenger explosion that killed seven astronauts.

by Johnna Duke
Bison columnist

"Engineers from all around the world have set up camp to try to balance the ecosystem of Lake Vostok. Because all the work being done around the lake, the snakes that usually inhabit the banks are fleeing the chaos to seek refuge and new homes in town. This information was part of our education as interns for the programmes in the past summer and was work that was done by the project scientists."

The Dennis' named Eye between serpent and woman peaked that day before the brave African gardeners ended with a conflict with a garden hoe.

Those fluent in missions terminology often refer to a "homenage stage" of missions characterized by idealism of foreign fields. We left that stage on July 4th, and reluctantly though we were excited and agreed one of the realities of African missions - SNAKES!

Recently, a friend and I were discussing possible future confrontations with snakes. pondering over what past and the future would be following a event similar to that of July 4th, 1965. He said, "Of course I'd be scared, but my first impulse would be to go through the snake and the other is, I don't know what I'd do after that. I guess the adrenalin would kick in. Love would overcome fear and cause me to protect."

The tendency to protect what is yours seems to be inherent in living creatures. One of my golden retrievers recently had 10 puppies. She's a really nice dog and all, but all it takes is one stranger that seems threatening, and she turns into a beast. I've seen several human mothers respond in similar ways. The parent-child bond often leads parents through all manner of places and situations to protect their own.

"Perhaps," my friend said, "perhaps that is what happened with Jesus and the cross." In the garden He asked His Father if there was any alternate plan - He had must have been terrified! I forget sometimes that His humanness meant that He felt fear just like I do. But only hours later, when the guards came and began seizing his disciples, He responded with such boldness and surrendered Himself saying, "I told you that I am He. If you are looking for me, then let these men go."

At that moment He claimed us all for all eternity, declaring to the guards, to Satan, and to all who wound opposed Christ, "You have seen the God! God's love, which Is His essence, overcame fear because He knew what He was protecting. And if He loved us, He had to protect, or Satan would have triumphed."

He protected us from Satan in much the same way that my friend said he would protect the one he loved from the snake; Jesus placed Himself between us and Satan.

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ lied down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers."

by David Allen
CPA, MRA
Associate Professor, School of Business

What were you dreaming about on New Year's Day? Resolutions? Orange Bowl? Rose Bowl? Getting back to Harding? Taxes? - Oh no!!!

That's right! It is time to start pulling those tax records together to make an accurate return to file by April 15. It's easy as filing your I and 1040 through the Federal 1040. For many, it is as easy as calling Dad and Mom back home and pushing that job off on them. For others, it is the first experience of filling out the tax forms themselves, adding another rung to the ladder of adulthood.

Aid for tax-o-phobic students

Most Americans are required to file a tax return each year. Congress wants most citizens to make an annual accounting of their income.

The results can be good news for those who can keep a regular income. Some fortunate people may get a refund, while others may owe a few dollars.

Have you worked in Arkansas this school year? If so, you will probably be required to file a separate form for this state. Also, if you worked in another state, there may be filing requirements there as well. This can get confusing, right?

Alas, some good news! There is help available right here on the Harding campus, and most of it is free! Where is this, you ask? Here are three sources:

1. Each year the library makes available tax forms as well as some instruction booklets on a first come, first served basis. The librarians do not, however, answer any tax questions.

2. Those who are not U.S. citizens, but have worked in this country or have received a scholarship or other forms of aid need to go by and see Stephen Belche, the International Student Advisor, in his office in the American Heritage.

3. Finally, for the 10th year, Volunteers in Tax Assistance (VITA) will be opening the door each Monday, beginning February 19, from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. So, gather up your tax information for these local returns and bring it to the Mabee Business Building, Room 122, during our working hours. We can help with both the Federal and State forms, and this help is free. If you have questions, call David Allen, extension 4458.
Fill-in instructor pleased to coach “musically sensitive” concert band

by Holly Latimer
Bison staff writer

Claude Smith, band director at Searcy High School, is fulfilling a dream this semester. A member of Downtown High School Concert Band director in the absence of Dr. Warren Casey, who is on sabbatical in Italy this semester.

“I have always wanted to work with music majors who wanted to teach,” Smith said. “I have always hoped that I could show them things to do or not to do.”

Smith has made a smooth transition from the high school band to the college band, he believes. “The difference is obvious between the high school band and the Harding band. The college maturity level is way above even the most mature high school band in the state.

“I have a good band at Searcy, and I do things the same way with both bands,” he said.

Smith claims that he learns as much as he teaches. “I learn things all the time. I am learning about the instruments that I do not know how to play.

Smith is pleased that Smith could work Harding’s hands into his normal schedule. “It is nice that, after his work day at Searcy High, he can come to Harding for practice at a little later than normal rehearsal time for the concert band. Mr. Smith was gracious enough to do this, and he wanted to do it.”

Smith hopes one day to direct band and teach on a college level. “I like Searcy High School. The situation would have to be right for me to go to a college band, but working with adults is fun.”

Smith will prepare the band this semester for two concerts. “The concert band is functioning very well,” Shearin said. “They band members have nice things to say about Mr. Smith and vice versa. I am confident that the two concerts this spring will be quite successful.”

Smith works with the concert band on Mondays and Wednesdays. Senior Colby Canterbury is filling in for Casey with the jazz band.

Casey has resigned from all band duties after this semester to devote himself full-time teaching. The search is underway for a new director of bands, according to Shearin.

“Good to work with adults.” Claude Smith of Searcy High conducts Harding’s band in Casey’s absence, diligently preparing for two concerts this semester. Photo by Christie Mangrum.

THE PRIMARY GOAL OF THE CONTEST IS TO ENCOURAGE MORE MEMBERS OF THE STUDENT BODY TO BECOME INVOLVED IN WRITING, ACCORDING TO WILLIAM’S. “IT PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO SHOWCASE THE CREATIVE TALENTS OF HARDING STUDENTS AND IS AN OUTSTANDING WAY TO SPUR THE CREATIVE ENERGY ON CAMPUS,” WInLASSAID.

Contest frees the quill

by Marty Rowc
Bison staff writer

William Faulkner once remarked, “Really, the writer doesn’t want success... He knows he has a short span of life, that the day will come when he must pass through the wall of oblivion, and he wants to leave a scratch on that wall... that somebody a hundred, or a thousand years later will see.”

Harding’s English Department wants to give students the opportunity to leave marks of their own by providing an outlet for their writing. The Jo Cleveland Creative Writing Contest. The competition, which has existed for more than 30 years, is named in honor of the late Jo Cleveland, a former English instructor who inspired many young writers.

Dr. John Williams, who teaches creative writing in the department, has sponsored this contest for the last three years. “The contest gives those students reluctant to write or intimidated by writing a chance to stretch their creative muscles,” he said. The competition typically includes hundreds of entries from about 50 students.

The primary goal of the contest is to encourage more members of the student body to become involved in writing, according to Williams. “It provides an excellent opportunity to showcase the creative talents of Harding students and is an outstanding way to spur the creative energy on campus,” Williams said.

Participation is open to any student currently enrolled at Harding University. Entries are accepted in the categories of fiction, children’s literature, essay, poetry, and miscellaneous writing. Cash awards will be given to the top three entries in each category during a special banquet in honor of the participants on March 23. The English Department will also publish a booklet, called “Shapers and Names,” containing the best entries submitted in this year’s contest.

More information and contest rules are available in the English Office, American Studies 300. Deadline for entries is February 10.

Bidding farewell. Travelers begin their trip to Italy for the start of HLF’s spring semester. Photo by Christie Mangrum.

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History books realized through student travel
“Every Wednesday we had class in the [British] museum ...”

Diana King
Bison staff writer

Da Vinci, Shakespeare and Paul the Apostle are occupying the minds and conversations of 65 students who took advantage of the opportunity to study in Florence, Athens or London last fall.

Leah Pease, who went to Harding University in Florence, said, “I learned so many new things about other countries, especially about Italy.” Her Italian because of trips to Athens or London last fall. Spanish, many things in Italy were new for our group, and we had pasta every single day,” Pease said.

She enjoyed living in Florence because of the British Museum and the Fast food USA.

Leah Pease, who went to Harding University in Greece (HUG) students sing praises at the Grecian mountain village known historically for its monastaries. Photo by Connie Barry.

“Every Wednesday we had class in the [British] museum,” Stark said. "It was really neat that the faculty didn't shelter us but let us do things on our own," Yecke said.

Bacov Covert, who was also in London, found himself most impressed by the architecture in England and all of Europe. "I saw some cathedrals that would be hard to build even today; it's hard to imagine how they did it back then," he said.

During their stay in London, the students became familiar with both the city and the political situation. "I learned a lot about the British culture and government just by being there," Covert said. The famous British Museum contributed to this. "Every Wednesday we had a class in the museum," Stark said.

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The students who went to HUG in Athens felt they had a special benefit. "So many things we saw had a direct connection to the Bible," senior Luke Smith said.

After visiting the Greek cities, the group took tours through Israel, Turkey and the Greek islands, getting some insight into the Armenian and Jewish cultures. "When I read about those places in the Bible now, it's so much more interesting," said Anastasia Yecke, who also went to Athens. "I loved visiting the Shrine of the Book in Jerusalem where we saw the Isaiah Scroll."

Besides touring the Holy Lands, however, the students also had many opportunities to interact with the Greek people. "It was really neat that the faculty didn't shelter us but let us do things on our own," Yecke said.

The Church in Athens was another unique experience for the students. "The church was a blend of Greek, Arab and Russian Christians, and it was neat to see how they all had been brought together by Christ," Smith said.

As the promotional materials say they were intended to do, the international studies gave a new perspective to students in all three programs.

The Frances Mayo Smith Memorial Scholarship of $300 will be awarded this spring semester by Searcy University Women Affiliated. Applications are available for women 28 years of age who have completed 12 hours of college work with a 2.5 GPA. The deadline for applications is Feb. 28.

The SA movie Lord Before Time will be shown tonight at 8:00 in the Hammon Room, 236 of the Student Center. Tickets are $2 each or free with the Pass.

Saturday night's SA movie The Big Green is showing at 8:00 in the Benson.

The SA wants to make everyone aware of these changes in your activities calendar:

Martina McBride will perform Feb. 23 at 7:30 in the Benson. Admission is $12.

All-4-One will be presented April 13.

The Humane Society needs volunteers to walk dogs at the shelter. For more information call Janet at 268-6320.

Welcome back students! We hope you have a great semester.

Take your clothes off your hangers and bring them to us!

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"Headed for the Future"

by Heather Henson
Bison staff writer

The biggest event of the spring semester is fast approaching as Spring Sing fever hits campus. Each club's Spring Sing director has been meeting with Dr. Steve Frye and Dr. John Ryan since November in an effort to get the April 4-6 event underway.

This year's program, with the theme, "Headed for the Future," will consist of six shows, performances by the jazz band, and interludes with the hosts, hostesses and ensemble. Some social club groupings have changed this year in an effort to decrease the pool size for an individual show; others have remained the same.

Zeta Rho, Chi Omega Pi and TNT are going to be waiters and waitresses while Chi Sigma Alpha and Beta Regina enter the stage as vampires. Kappa Gamma Epsilon, Delta Chi Delta and Delta Gamma Rho will act out a Calypso theme, and Ko Jo Kai and Ja Go Ju will roar into action as tigers. Alpha Tau Epsilon, GATA, Ko Re Ta, Sigma Phi Mu and friends will take a look at Hollywood, and Shantih, Knights, Theta Beta Kappa and Sub V-16 will present an underwater world.

Planning meetings and practices involving entire groups began this week. By beginning early, Frye believes there will be less pressure on individual groups. "We are focusing less on competition and more on showing off and having fun," Frye said. He said that, by starting each meeting and practice with a short devotional, the group's focus remains centered on God and less on who is going to win the sweepstakes.

The hosts and hostesses began practicing earlier this week and will continue to meet twice a week until the show. Frye said he believes this year's group is vocally the strongest we have had in a long time. "The hosts, hostesses and ensemble complement each other well," Hostess Rachelle Rose said, "It's really exciting to see us getting the job done and having fun at the same time!"

According to Frye, channel 16 will dig into its files again this year to show Spring Sings from the past 10 years. They will be shown on Monday nights, beginning later in February. "It was neat to see how the show had progressed over the past few years in terms of technical merit and entertainment," said junior Janel Strunk, who saw parts of last year's broadcast.

Though Spring Sing weekend seems far away, intense planning and preparation is already underway. For the directors, choreographers and faculty advisors, a busy semester has just begun. For Randi Roper, a freshman choreographer for GATA, Spring Sing brings with it excitement and anticipation. "There is a lot of extra time involved behind the scenes, but when Spring Sing arrives, all our work should pay off," she said.

Students take dive from co-op into real world employment pool

by Claudia Cordera
Bison staff writer

Students looking to "improve prospects for employment upon graduation" should look to the Co-op office, according to Denise Miller, director.

The Co-op academic program gives students the opportunity to gain major-related work experience by combining classroom study with salaried, on-the-job training. Often the students will be able to earn academic credit for the co-op experience.

“We want the students to get work experience before they go out to the real world,” Miller said. “Co-op students can develop professional work habits and skills, apply classroom theory in a realistic work setting and gain professional work experience. The students become more responsible in their work,” Miller said.

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Angry Bisons thrash Tigers, 72-59

by Brian Hendricks
Bison staff writer

The Ouachita Baptist Tigers just happened to catch Harding in a particularly bad mood Monday night. Firing off a two-game losing skid, the Bisons regained their early season lead and held off the Tigers in the second half.

Harding, who dropped from No. 7 in the NAIA poll, improved to 14-3 on the season. The Bisons had lost consecutive road games to Lyon College and Arkansas Tech.

"It was good to get back on the winning track after two losses," Harding coach Jeff Morgan said. "It's always good to get out of Arkadelphia with a win. The players gave a great effort."

Cliff Miller led the Bisons with 13 points, eight assists and six rebounds. Jason Cooper had 12 points and nine rebounds. Close behind Cooper in scoring is Miller, a sophomore with an average of 15.7 points per game. He is also leading in rebounds. Coach Jeff Morgan, a sophomore with an average of 14.0 points per game. Read Daughtery is also a leader in scoring, averaging 11.9 points per game and shooting 79 percent from the free throw line.

According to Morgan, Kennedy Pooler is also a great scorer for the team. Pooler has been shooting an average of 60 percent. The team is pretty well balanced with very good senior leadership," Morgan said.

Coming off of last year's record-breaking season and with a current season record of 14-3, Morgan said his goal of winning the region is attainable.

"We have been doing as well as can be expected, and we have been having a great year," Coach Jeff Morgan said. "The real test for the Bisons will come in the next five weeks as they face five of nine opponents on the road. "Although on-the-road victories are harder to get than those at home, we have only lost one of the six games we have played on the road so far," Morgan said. "We should reach our peak performance by the end of February," he said, noting that only two weeks will remain until the post season at that point.

Cooper, a senior, leads the team in scoring with an average of 15.7 points per game. He is also leading in rebounds. Close behind Cooper in scoring is Miller, a sophomore with an average of 14.0 points per game. Read Daughtery is also a leader in scoring, averaging 11.9 points per game and shooting 79 percent from the free throw line.

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Coming off of last year's record-breaking season and with a current season record of 14-3, Morgan said his goal of winning 20 games is attainable. But Morgan has a few goals that are much tougher than that. He not only wants to play in the national tournament, he is also shooting for being number one in the region so that Harding can play host to the regional tournament.

The Bisons will play at home four times in February – Feb. 5 against Drury College, Feb. 6 against Ouachita Baptist, Feb. 15 against Southern Arkansas University, and Feb. 26 against Lyon College.

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Ladies look to bring road domination home

by Bart Blasengame
Bison Sports Editor

Honed by the fires of an early season schedule filled with tough road games, the Harding Lady Bisons are hoping they’re now hard enough for the home stretch.

The Lady Bisons cleared another road hurdle Monday night with an 83-71 victory over No. 20 Northeastern Oklahoma.

"If we can survive until next Monday (at Monticello) we will have a pretty favorable schedule," Hamden said. "It was really important for us to handle the road situation, and so far we have. Now, when we go on the road we think we can win. We just have to keep it going."

In order to "keep it going," Hamden says the Lady Bisons must prepare to key on one person because someone other than Fouts and Benson are going to score, but it’s hard to key on one person because someone else might get hot."

In order to "keep it going," Hamden says the Lady Bisons must prepare to key on one person because someone else might get hot.

Bison Sports Challenge

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- NAIA Basketball
- Harding Bisons at U. of Ozarks
- Lady Bisons at U. of Ozarks

Welcome, arm-chair quarterbacks!

This is a chance for you, the Harding student, to battle wits with the Bison Sports Editor and be eligible for a great prize at the same time. Cut out the entire entry sheet and drop it in the Bison Sports Challenge box at the Campus Mall window before Friday at 10 p.m. HAVE FUN!

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Brad Eatherly

Grand Prize

One Medium Pizza and a Six-pack of Coke from: ARAMARK

HU receives post-season honors

Joseph makes NAIA first team All-America squad

by Bart Blasengame
Bison Sports Editor

Some of the memories of a sour football season were sweetened a bit last week when the NAIA handed out its post-season honors.

Harding University defensive tackle Orlando Joseph was named as a member of the first team All-America football squad. Chad Griffin, who played strong safety last season for the Bisons, earned a spot on the second team. Meanwhile in lineman Chris Howell was an honorable mention selection.

"Joseph had 35 unassisted and 38 assisted tackles, including 14 for losses. He also had five quarterback sacks and recovered a fumble. One of his best performances came against Southern Arkansas when he sacked up 15 tackles, Joseph recorded eight tackles, three for losses, against Northeastern State and also had six tackles, two for losses, in the Southwestern Oklahoma game."

"Griffin, a dominating defensive lineman," Harding coach Randy Tribble said. "He makes more plays than any interior lineman I have coached. He had an outstanding season and truly deserves to be recognized as a first-team All-America."

Griffin had 48 unassisted and 41 assisted tackles, a forced fumble, seven pass breakups and two interceptions. He had 14 tackles against East Texas State and 13 in the Midwestern game. Griffin also came up with 13 tackles in a game against Southeastern Oklahoma.

Howell led Harding’s defense with 128 tackles, six for losses, forced a fumble and broke up three passes. He had a season-high 11 tackles, including two for losses, against Northeastern State.

Three other Harding football players were selected as NAIA All-America football athletes.

Wide receiver-quarterback Clay Benson, quarterback Jay Wright and free safety Paul Maple all met the requirements of having at least a 3.50 grade point average, a junior classification and playing a significant role for their teams.

Maple, a political science major with a 4.0 grade point average, started at safety. In eight games, he recorded 19 tackles, recovered a fumble and had an interception. Maple missed the final two games with a back injury.

Benson, an elementary education-special education major, had a grade point of 3.74. He led Harding in receiving with 27 catches for 305 yards and three touchdowns. He started in the final two games and directed Harding to victories over Midwestern State and Ouachita Baptist.

Wright, a secondary education major with a grade point average of 3.54, started two games at quarterback. He completed 34 of 71 passes for 310 yards and a touchdown.

"We are extremely proud of their accomplishments," Tribble said. "They possess the self discipline and drive to excel academically as well as athletically.

"They truly represent the ideal of the student-athlete. We are fortunate to have them represent Harding University, and we believe they deserve the award."

The Bisons, who won their final two games of the season, ended their five-game season as an NCAA Division II independent with a 4-6 record.

SCREEN GRAPHICS

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