



Photo by Daniel Dubois

Bison teams challenge the opposition

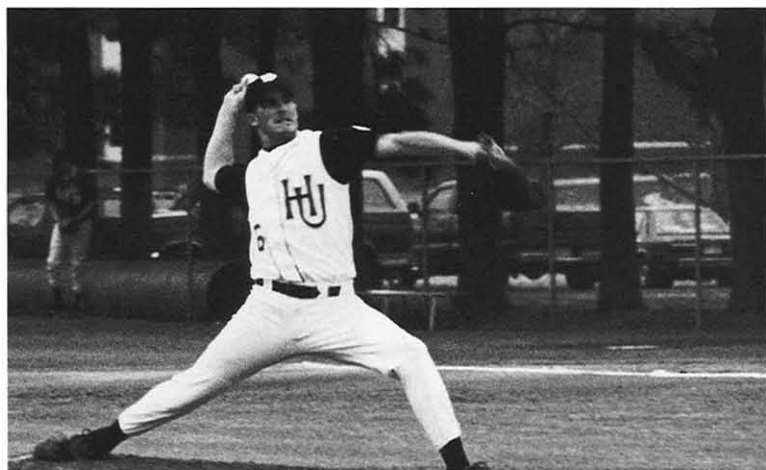


Photo by Daniel Dubois

Above: Nate Watson, junior, rears back just before throwing a strike to an opposing batter. Left: Rene Rodriguez, junior, prepares to kick the soccer ball during practice. Two men's club soccer teams competed in preparation for intercollegiate competition in 2000.

"Starting in the 2000-2001 school year, Harding's intercollegiate teams will begin trying to meet the challenges of a new Division II conference - the Gulf South Conference (GSC)."



Since Harding resumed intercollegiate athletics in 1957, the Bisons have been meeting the challenge in every conference of which they have been a part.

Harding was a longtime member of the Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference (AIC) until it dissolved in 1995. Since the fall of that year, the Bison teams have competed in the Lone Star Conference (LSC), an NCAA Division II conference.

The massive LSC is composed of teams in Ark., Okla., Texas and N.M. Facing such long road trips and nontraditional rival teams, Harding looked for a new conference home and found it.

Starting in the 2000-2001 school year, Harding's intercollegiate teams will begin trying to meet the challenges of a new Division II conference - the Gulf South Conference (GSC).

Harding and in-state rival Ouachita Baptist will make the move together. The two additions will give the GSC 18 members, including seven in Arkansas.

"Harding has always valued its relationships with the other Arkansas schools," President David Burks said. "The old AIC had some great rivalries, and this move will rekindle those in-state rivalries.

As part of the move, Harding will field two new teams. Men's soccer will start full intercollegiate competition next season, with women's softball following soon after.

No matter what conference they call home, the Bisons have always met the challenge of being competitive.

—Ryan Cook, athletics editor

WOMEN'S TRACK

LONG DISTANCE SUCCESS

For most people, 6.2 miles is a distance much longer than they would care to run.

Even to those who might not find the distance very daunting, the idea of running all of it around a 400-meter track is too repetitive and tedious to even consider.

But in collegiate track and field, competitors complete the 10,000 meter run in exactly that way — 25 laps around the track.

Last spring, members of the women's track team took on the challenge and managed to excel.

At the conference meet, Elizabeth Lucas, freshman, took third place in the 10,000. Kelly Lauterbach, junior, was fifth and Britney Copeland, freshman, was sixth.

Their success in the longer race came as a surprise to the women, since their daily practices had been geared primarily toward the

shorter races.

"We didn't really prepare for the 10,000," Lucas said. "Our track workouts were really focused more on the 1,500 and 3,000."

As a result, the runners depended on strategy rather than sheer physical preparation to get them through the long race.

"In the 10,000, we started out at a fairly slow pace," Copeland said. "Our teammates stood on the sidelines and called out our split times after each lap. That really helped keep us on a steady pace."

The women opted not to go out fast with the rest of the pack, but to run at their own pace and move up as the race continued.

"Britney and I paced ourselves slowly," Lucas said. "We were last at the second mile, and then we just started taking people one by one as they dropped off."

The 10,000 wasn't the only conference race at which the distance runners excelled. In the 1,500 meter race, Diane Grubbs, junior, finished fourth.

In the 3,000 meters, Tia Tarole, sophomore, placed fifth and Cheri Scharff, junior, placed sixth.

Tarole and Scharff were also third and fifth, respectively, in the 5,000 meter run.

Tarole was particularly pleased with her per-

formance in the 5,000 since she had spent much of the spring coming back from a winter bout with mononucleosis.

"Conference was my best race of the season," Tarole said. "I ran a personal best of 18:32. I was proud of my time because I had just come back from having mono."

"I had to start the season off with walking a lap, then jogging a lap and gradually building up to practicing with the rest of the team."

"It just goes to show that it is possible to come back from just about anything."

Tarole was one of several team members struggling to overcome physical limitations. Lauterbach injured her hip during the season and often had to run despite the pain.

"She was really strong," Scharff said of her teammate. "Coach gave her the option of not running, but she decided to tough it out and run anyway."

In the end, Lauterbach was rewarded for her perseverance.

"The season ended on a positive note for me," she said. "I ran in the 10,000 and placed fifth. My dad was there to see it, so that made me really happy."

Hip injuries plagued non-distance runners as well. Erin Elliott, junior, overcame her hip problems to place fourth in the 400 meter hurdles at conference.

"Erin had a really good performance at conference," Coach Bryan Phillips said.

"She had been at HUF [Harding University in Florence] during fall so she wasn't able to train, and when she came back and started training again, she developed a hip injury that lasted most of the season. However, she came back and ended up running really well at conference."

The team suffered in the sprint events due to the injury of Calister Uba, junior.

Her absence from competition was one of Phillips' few regrets about the season.

"I would have liked to not have our sprinter hurt," Phillips said. "Calister had scored the majority of our points over the last two years and without her we didn't score anything in the sprints at all."

However, Harding women were able to make a stronger showing in the field events.

Meredith Garner, freshman, made the finals in the long and triple jumps and Keri Fager, freshman, made the finals in the javelin, although neither scored points in the finals.

— Sara Hardesty

**"I RAN IN THE 10,000
AND PLACED FIFTH.
MY DAD WAS THERE
TO SEE IT, SO THAT
MADE ME
REALLY HAPPY."
—KELLY LAUTERBACH,
JUNIOR**





Photo by Daniel Dubois

Sprinting down the home stretch, Elizabeth Lucas, freshman, tries to secure first place honors. Lucas earned a third place finish in the 10,000 meter race at the Lone Star Conference Championship.

FOR THE RECORD. . .



Photo by Jeff Montgomery

Men's and Women's Track: Front Row: Katie Fant, Erin Elliott, Bumiegha Tombiri, Tia Tarole. Second Row: Calister Uba, Conner Grimes, Tommy Noel, Seth Crum, Matthew Dabbs, Fred Strathmann. Back Row: Ericka Harris, Japeth Langat, Jonah Tanui, Kelly Lauterbach, Jerry Maritim, Cheri Scharff, Lee Shirey, Albert Tabut, Nick Letsinger, Richard Ashlock, Sarah Baines, Mindi Tummins, Diane Grubbs. Not Pictured: Britney Copeland, Khris Downey, Meredith Garner, David High, Elizabeth Lucas, Mark Ohrenberger, Scott Penick, David Scharff, Aaron Shock, Lindsay Snow, Jason Thomas, Jason Vines, Archie Walker, Francis Wanji.

WOMEN'S TRACK MEETS

Indoor

University of Kansas
University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff
University of Nebraska
Louisiana State University

Outdoor

NW Louisiana
University of Memphis
University of Texas
Arkansas State University
Lone Star Conference
Drake University
University Texas Arlington
Missouri Southern University



Photo by Daniel Dubois



Photo by Daniel Dubois

Elizabeth Lucas, freshman, and Tia Tarole, sophomore, stop to catch their breath after finishing a race together. The Lady Bisons earned sixth place in the Lone Star Conference Championship.

Tarole and Lucas run side by side in an attempt to gain the lead together. Tarole placed well at the Lone Star Conference Championship in both the 3,000 and 5,000 meter races.

After successfully clearing the water during the steeplechase event, David Scharff, freshman, leads a pack of runners. Scharff placed fifth in the Lone Star Conference Meet in steeplechase, a 3,000 meter race with five barriers (one with water) on each lap.

FOR THE RECORD. . .

The Men's Track Team Group Picture is included with the Women's Track Team on Page 181.

MEN'S TRACK MEETS

Indoor

University of Kansas
University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff
University of Nebraska
Louisiana State University

Outdoor

NW Louisiana
University of Memphis
University of Texas
Arkansas State University
Lone Star Conference
Drake University
University Texas Arlington
Missouri Southern University

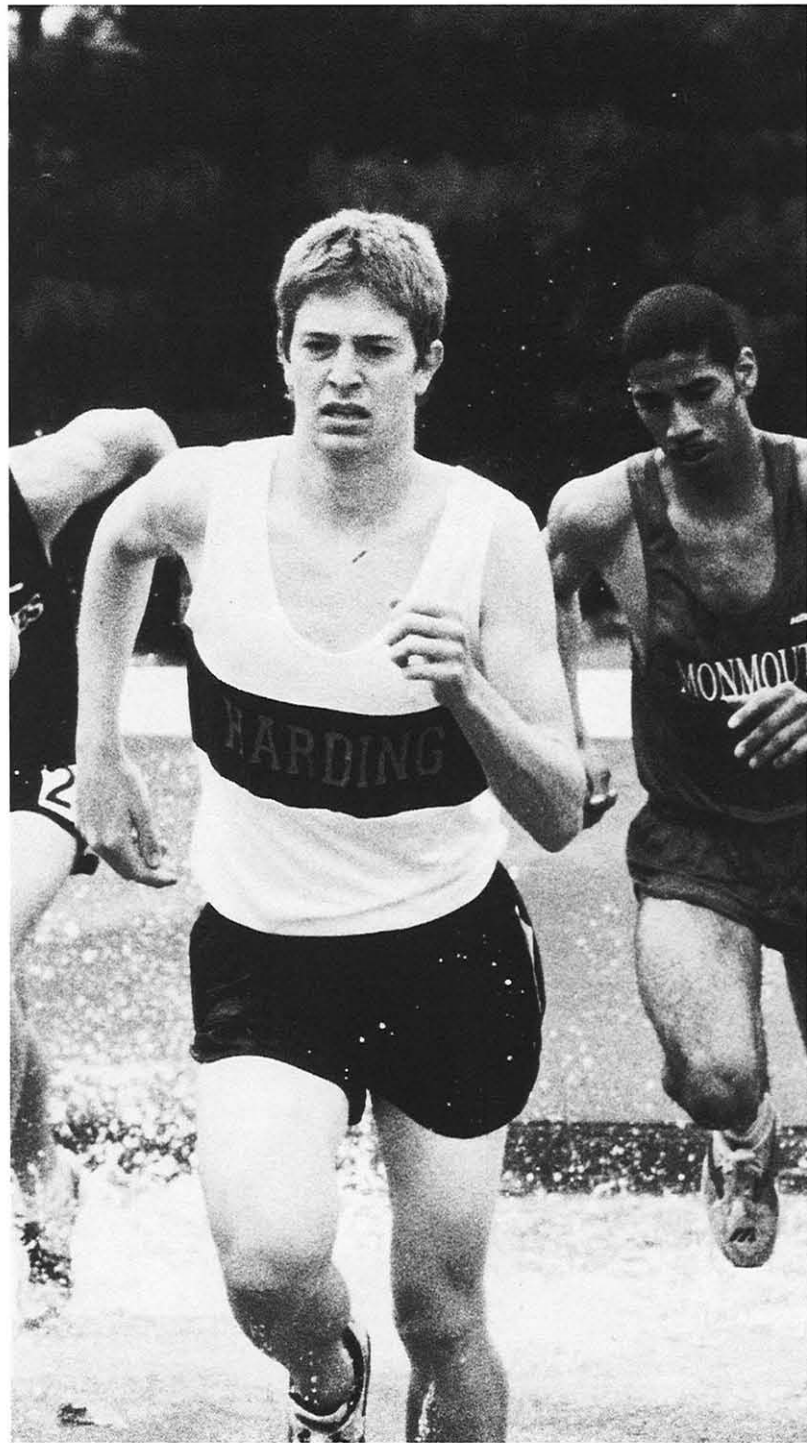


Photo by Daniel Dubois

Jeff Shirey, junior, demonstrates proper javelin technique. The Bisons won another field event, the long jump, when Clint Spencer, sophomore, jumped 6'8" at the University of Memphis meet in April.

Hoping to improve his finish, Albert Tabut, junior, attempts to pass a runner from the University of Memphis. Tabut qualified for the NCAA Division II National Meet in the 800 meter race.



MEN'S TRACK

"BUILDING YEAR"

The 1999 men's track team had a rough, yet promising year characterized by a loss of several top distance runners that left the team with mostly inexperienced runners.

The team missed Jerry Maritim, senior, who red-shirted the 1999 track season, which meant he was able to practice but not compete.

His absence from competition cost the team points in the conference and was a major factor in their poor showing at the Lone Star Conference meet in Abilene, Texas.

Left in the upperclassmen's places were several freshmen including Scott Penick.

Just as adjusting to college life can be difficult for freshmen, playing intercollegiate sports provides challenges as well.

Penick, who ran the 5,000 meter and the 10,000 meter, felt confident about his performance.

"I had a pretty good season," Penick said. "I was consistent and that is good for a freshman runner. I think I laid a good foundation for the next track season."

Team members agreed that a firm foundation is vital to their performance as a team.

Because of the absence of experienced runners, this year's main focus was on rebuilding the team.

"We lost a lot of guys," said Andrew Scharff, freshman. "Last year was pretty much a building year."

Albert Tabut, junior, believes both the younger and older runners must learn from each other in order to improve.

Tabut listed "strong team effort and working together" as two of his goals for the 2000 track season.

Despite their strong efforts to improve as a

team, not every runner's goals were met.

Tabut, who participated in the 800 meter and the 1,500 meter, did not compete as well as he had wanted.

"I didn't quite accomplish my goal," he said. "I wanted to run under 1.50 and I ran a 1.51."

David Scharff, freshman, who competed in the steeplechase, the 3,000 meter, the 5,000 meter and the 1,500 meter, said he would also like to perform better next year.

"I would like to place higher in the steeplechase and get my time down in other events," he said.

Despite what Coach Bryan Phillips called "the year in limbo," he said the team looks promising for the 2000 season.

The team is excited about the much needed physical improvements that were made to the track.

"Even while the track was being redone, athletes continued to play on the grass," Phillips said.

Fred Strathmann, sophomore, said the team has many high expectations for the coming season.

"Even though we had a rough season, the team as a whole competed hard and will definitely improve in the upcoming season," Strathmann said.

**"EVEN THOUGH WE
HAD A ROUGH SEASON,
THE TEAM AS A
WHOLE COMPETED
HARD AND WILL
DEFINITELY IMPROVE
IN THE UPCOMING
SEASON."**

**-FRED STRATHMANN,
SOPHOMORE**

—Ginger Wilson

—Sonya Sawyer



Photo by Daniel Dubois

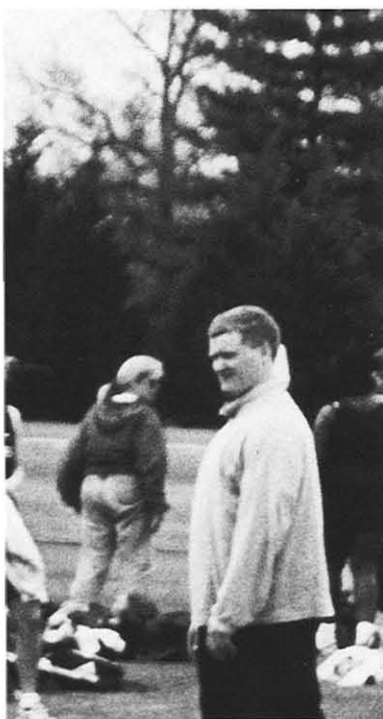


Photo by Daniel Dubois



Photo by Daniel Dubois

Mark Ohrenberger, freshman, smiles as he prepares to throw the shot put during practice. As a team, the Bisons finished seventh at the Lone Star Conference Meet.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

YOUNG SQUAD EXCELS

They may be young, but age did not make a difference in the high degree of talent that permeated the Lady Bison tennis team during the 1999 season.

Coach David Elliott had predicted pre-season that the team could possibly be the best in Harding's history, and their final statistics proved he could very well be right.

The nearly all-freshmen team ended their 1998-99 season with a 20-3 record, placing them in the top eight teams in the Lone Star Conference and ranking several members among the top twenty players in the Midwest region.

The Lone Star Conference is comprised of 17 teams that hail from Ark., N. M., Okla., and Texas.

Although the Lady Bisons are relatively new to the Conference, the players are quickly making their mark as a highly-skilled team that can hold their own among the other uni-

versities.

This year, the Lone Star Conference Championship Tournament was held at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas.

The Lady Bisons were ranked in the top eight teams when inclement weather altered the outcome of the tournament.

Because of rain, only the top four teams were selected to play for top ranks, thus eliminating the Lady Bisons from the final competition.

The Lady Bisons are a considerably young team — seven of the nine players are freshmen.

They also bring a wide cultural diversity to the team. The team consists of players from Germany, Japan and Mexico, as well as the United States.

Hiroko Okamoto, a sophomore from Tokyo, Japan, said this vast mix of culture is perhaps one of the team's greatest strengths.

She said because they come from all over the world and bring a variety of experience, they complement each other well.

They are a positive influence on each other and as a result, form a unified force that has made them a winning team.

In addition to athletic skill, the team also has a high academic record. Laura Tollett, freshman, is a National Merit Scholar.

Most of the team is on at least partial scholarship and the overall team GPA is over 3.0.

Coach Elliott and Assistant Coach Raymond Kelly have trained and led the team for many years.

Elliott has been with the Harding tennis program for 31 years.

During his tenure, the team has won every tennis season. As a result, he has gained the respect of his players.

Okamoto says Elliott and Kelly take a personal interest in the team and in the individual lives of the players.

She said their interaction goes beyond the court, extending into the important aspects of life and school as well.

"They ask us about how we are doing personally and about our classes," Okamoto said. "The mind is very important for tennis. [Tennis] is not just about athletics. It's about the mind, too."

— Rachel Wilson

**"TENNIS IS NOT
JUST ABOUT ATH-
LETICS. IT'S ABOUT
THE MIND TOO."
-HIROKO OKAMOTO,
SOPHOMORE**

Hiroko Okamoto, sophomore, returns the tennis ball to her opponent. She went 16-2 during the season to help the Lady Bisons compile a 20-3 record.



Photo by Salomon Pineda

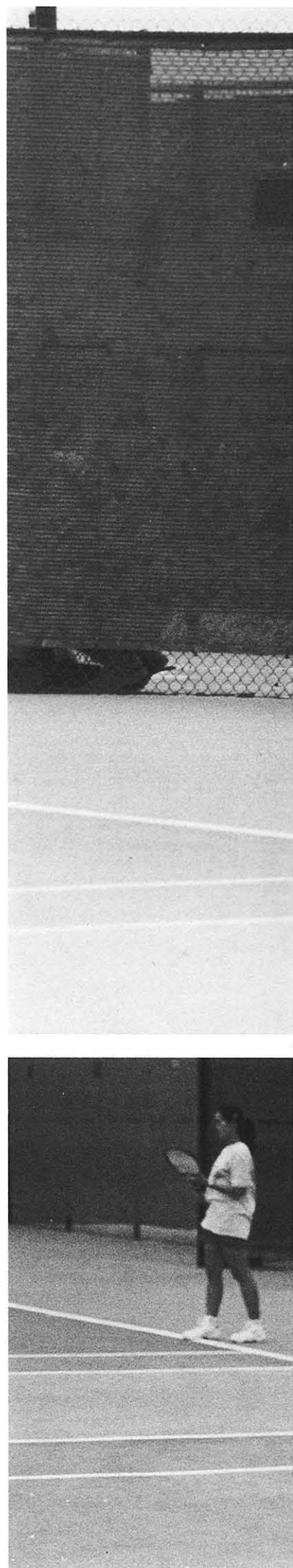




Photo by Daniel Dubois

Ivette Andrade, freshman, follows through after smacking the tennis ball. She was Harding's second ranked player and compiled an individual record of 19-2.

FOR THE RECORD. . .



Photo by Daniel Dubois

Women's Tennis: Front Row: Daniella Corrales, Carolina Banuelos, Hiroko Okamoto, Anne Axelsson. Back Row: Michelle Shimpock, Whitney Price, Beth Bonbrisco Coach David Elliott. Not Pictured: Erica Aldaz, Ivette Andrade, Katherine Jayroe, Karla Mueller, Laura Tollett.

WOMEN'S TENNIS RESULTS

Overall 20-3

Lone Star Conference 5-2

Henderson State	W	5-4	SE Okla. State	W	8-1
Hendrix	W	9-0	Hendrix	W	9-0
Hendrix	W	8-1	NE Okla. State	L	0-9
Central Arkansas	W	6-3	Drury	W	5-0
NE Okla. State	L	1-8	SE Mo. State	W	8-1
Ark. Tech	W	9-0	SW Baptist	W	9-0
Millsaps	W	9-0	Henderson State	W	6-3
John Brown	W	9-0	Ark. Tech	W	9-0
Ouachita Baptist	W	9-0	Ouachita Baptist	W	9-0
Henderson State	W	7-2	Ouachita Baptist	W	5-0
Ark.-Little Rock	L	2-7	West Texas A&M	W	5-0
Hendrix	W	8-1			

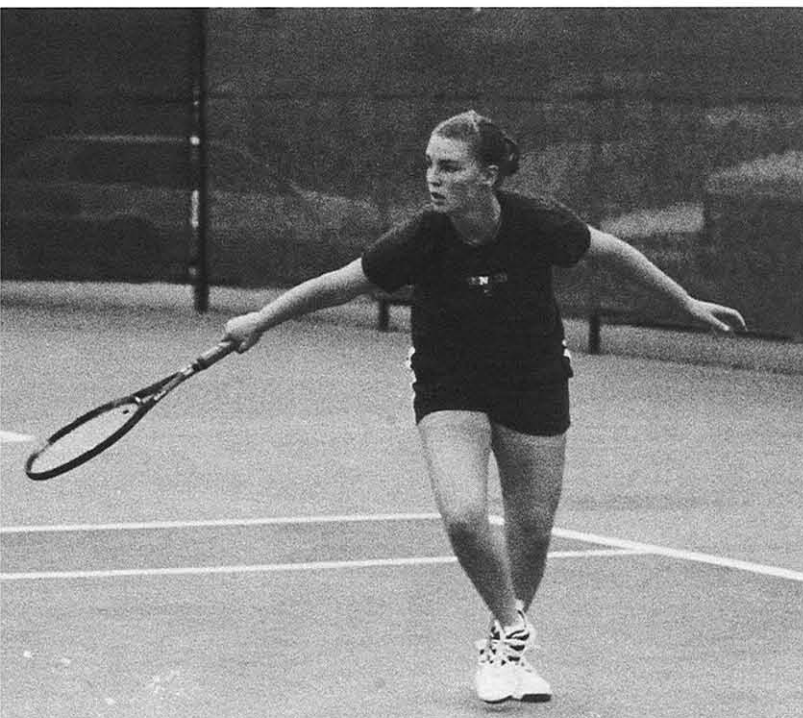


Photo by Daniel Dubois

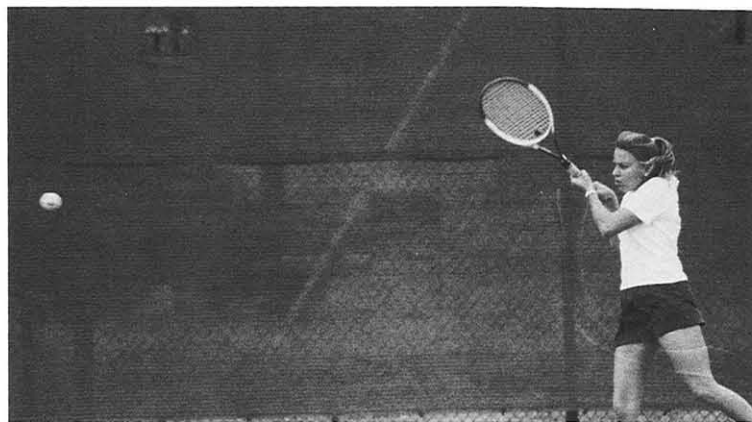


Photo by Salomon Pineda

The ball soars after a hit from Beth Bonbrisco, freshman. Bonbrisco had a 15-3 individual record in the sixth position.

Karla Mueller, freshman, gets ready for a return volley from her adversary. Mueller finished the season with a record of 19-2 as the top seeded individual member of the Lady Bisons.

Klaus Schmidt, freshman, gets into position to return a serve. Schmidt, a native of Guadalajara, Mexico, earned an 11-7 record as the Bisons' fourth seed in singles play.

FOR THE RECORD. . .



Photo by Daniel Dubois

Men's Tennis: Front Row: Klaus Schmidt, Justin John, Artur Sikora, Jacobo Martinez, Arturo Rodriguez. Back Row: Jonathan Leijen, Seth Bullington, Igor Tamindzija, Coach David Elliott. Not Pictured: Thomas Alm, Andrew Garner, Jeff Johnson, Darren Wade.

MEN'S TENNIS RESULTS

Overall 11-7

Lone Star Conference 1-2

Henderson State	W	9-0	Delta State	L	2-7
Hendrix	W	9-0	Drury	L	3-6
Hendrix	W	9-0	SW Baptist	L	2-7
Ouachita Baptist	L	0-9	Henderson State	W	9-0
Oklahoma City	L	0-9	SW Baptist	L	3-6
Millsaps	W	9-0	Ouachita Baptist	L	1-8
John Brown	W	7-2	Henderson State	W	7-2
Henderson State	W	8-1	Delta State	W	5-4
Hendrix	W	9-0	East Central	W	5-4

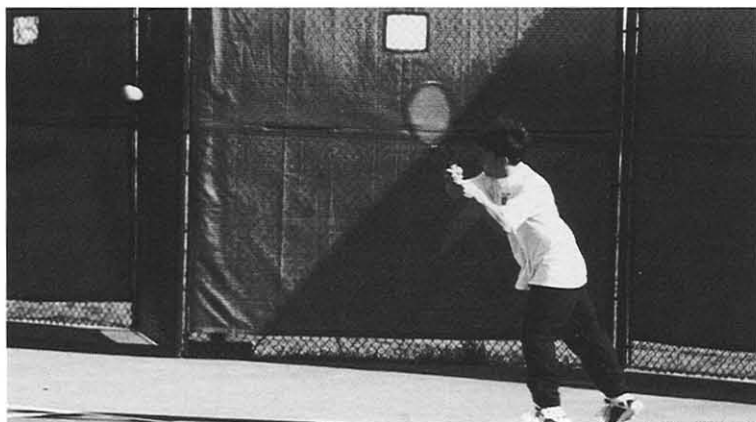
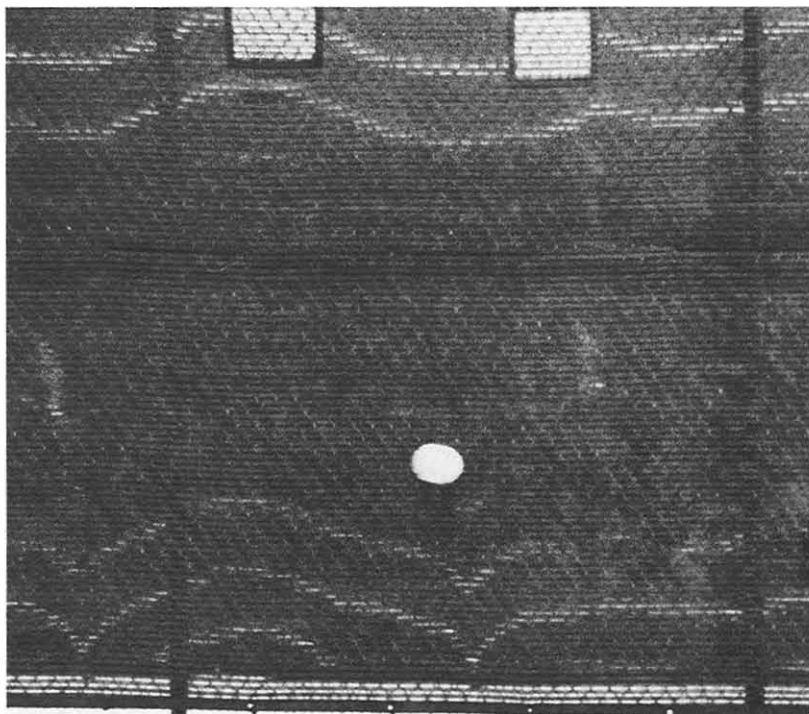


Photo by Daniel Dubois

Seth Bullington, sophomore, returns his opponent's serve. Bullington had an individual record of 12-6 for the Bisons, who defeated Hendrix University 9-0 in each of three meetings during the season.

Harding's top seed singles player, Darren Wade, senior, follows through on his swing. Wade went 6-13 in the difficult top position.



MEN'S TENNIS

STRENGTH IN DIVERSITY

"Good depth. Well-balanced. Hard working." These are a few of the terms Coach David Elliott used to describe the 1998-99 men's tennis team.

The team ended their season with a winning record once again under the skilled direction of Elliott and Assistant Coach Raymond Kelly. The tennis team has not had a losing season in more than three decades.

No other team in the history of Harding has an equal record. Elliott said that the winning record is "a tribute to the teams we've had."

The Bisons, who are members of the Lone Star Conference, finished victoriously with an 11-7 record.

The team had several members ranked in the top twenty in the Midwest region. No conference finish was awarded, however, because rain prevented the final matches from being played.

The men's tennis team has many winning qualities, according to Elliott.

He said Darren Wade and Andrew Garner, seniors, brought lots of talent and experience to the Bisons.

In addition, Elliott said the team "played well together" and had "a lot of depth."

Elliott began coaching the tennis team 31 years ago. His love of tennis and his leadership have resulted in making the team a force to be reckoned with for many years.

Beyond being an excellent coach, he and Kelly are respected mentors for their players.

"They do a good job of bringing players together," said Seth Bullington, freshman. "They help motivate us for matches and they are easy to work with."

The coaches work hard to establish a solid relationship with their players that extends be-

yond athletics and reaches into their daily lives and concerns.

These qualities have brought respect and admiration from the players and have provided a firm foundation for success and teamwork.

The members of the men's tennis team represent four different countries.

Players hail from Serbia, South Africa, the West Indies and the United States. The cultural diversity of the team is one of its strong points, according to Bullington.

"We all have our differences, and in the beginning it's hard to understand. However, we all are respectful of each other and everyone helps everyone else out as much as possible so we have unity all the time," Bullington said. "We also get to learn about all the different cultures."

Wade came to Harding from South Africa. He had played for a year in his home country when his coach put out Wade's resume for college.

Elliott recruited him and he came on scholarship to Harding when he learned about the business department and tennis program.

Wade said the cultural diversity of the team gives them a "different perspective on life" and provides the members with a "big learning experience."

"We enjoy each other's differences and get a lot of strength from them," he said.

— Rachel Wilson

**"THE COACHES
HELP MOTIVATE US
FOR MATCHES AND
THEY ARE EASY TO
WORK WITH."
-SETH BULLINGTON,
FRESHMAN**

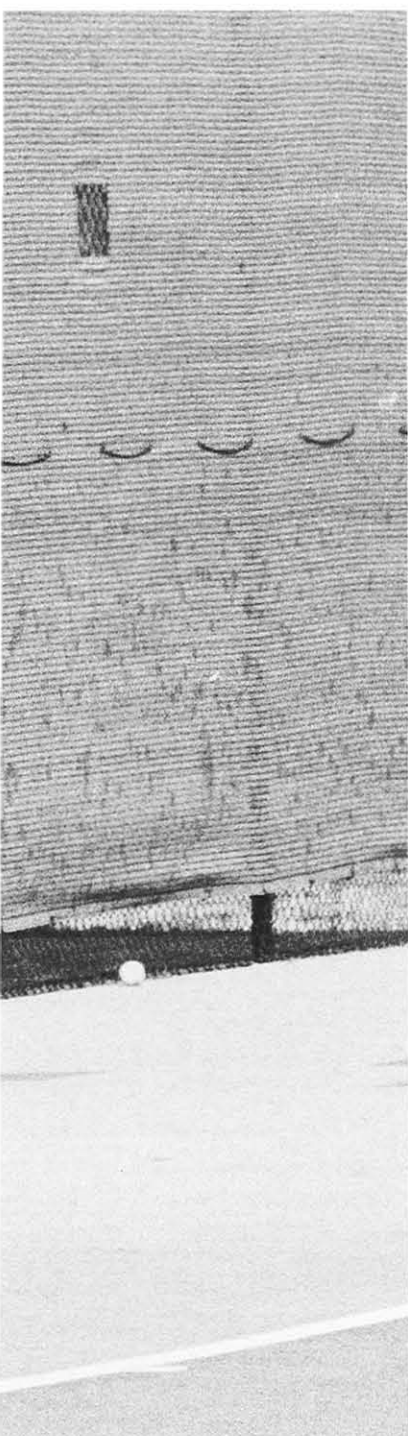


Photo by Daniel Dubois



Photo by Daniel Dubois



Photo by Daniel Dubois

Preparing for the fast-approaching ball, Andrew Garner, senior, begins his swing. Garner, the Bisons' third seed single, compiled a 6-8 singles record.

BASEBALL

OFFENSIVE IMPROVEMENT

The 1999 Bison Baseball Team made a tremendous improvement in the Lone Star Conference with a record of 22-22.

This season marks the first time the Bisons have achieved a .500 record in recent years.

Contrary to last year, the Bisons' offense proved to be the heart of the team.

Mike Huebner, freshman, led the Bisons in home runs and fielding.

"I'm just one man," he said. "I can't do it all by myself. I'm just happy to be here. I'm going to take it one day at a time and do whatever it takes to help out the ball team."

**"WE'RE DEEPER IN
PITCHING AND
MIDDLE INFIELD AND
HAVE MANY STRONG
RETURNING
PLAYERS."
-PHILL GISEL,
SOPHOMORE**

The Bisons' overall batting average increased to .314, a significant improvement from last year's .220.

This resulted in an increase in run support for the Bisons' pitching staff.

Increased off-season recruiting moved the Bisons into a position to challenge the Lone

Star Conferences' top rated teams and possibly make a run for the conference title.

"We're deeper in pitching and middle infield and have many strong returning players," said Phill Gisel, sophomore pitcher.

In addition to the vast array of off-field changes, the Jerry Moore Field also received a major face-lift during the summer of 1999, which is expected to aid the Bisons in the 2000 season.

New sod, dugouts and a three foot raise in the level of the field are expected to draw more

recruits and make playing in watery conditions easier.

"In my neighborhood, the kids are always looking for a nice yard to play in," Coach Shane Fullerton said. "I feel players who are wanting to participate in collegiate baseball are looking for the same thing."

According to Fullerton, the Bisons added several new players to the pitching staff, which should bring needed depth to the 2000 squad.

Among these additions are Matt Thomas, sophomore, who sat out last year's season due to a rotator cuff injury, and Matt Walter, freshman, who was drafted by the Florida Marlins in the 26th round.

These are just two of the many players who will aid in the advancement of Harding Baseball toward its bright future.

Perhaps the most important step the Bisons will make is the new addition of Pitching Coach Nathan Blackwood.

Blackwood, a former Lubbock Christian University standout, will assume the role with the same enthusiasm as in his previous years of coaching.

"I'm excited about the depth we're going to have in the pitching staff," Blackwood said.

Aside from the loss of All-Conference catcher Derek Reeves, the team will remain relatively intact for the 2000 season.

Fullerton believes having a veteran team will greatly contribute to a successful 2000 season if the returning players step up and assume leadership responsibilities.

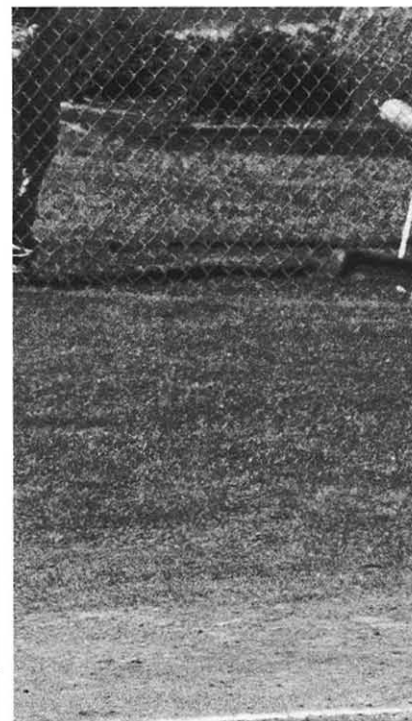
Fullerton said he is excited about the upcoming season, with thoughts that a conference title may soon be within reach.

— Alan Seim

Preparing to hurl the baseball towards home plate, Nate Watson, sophomore, steps forward as part of his windup. Watson, with a team-high 58 strikeouts, was among four Bisons named to the Lone Star Conference All-Conference Second Team.



Photo by Salomon Pineda



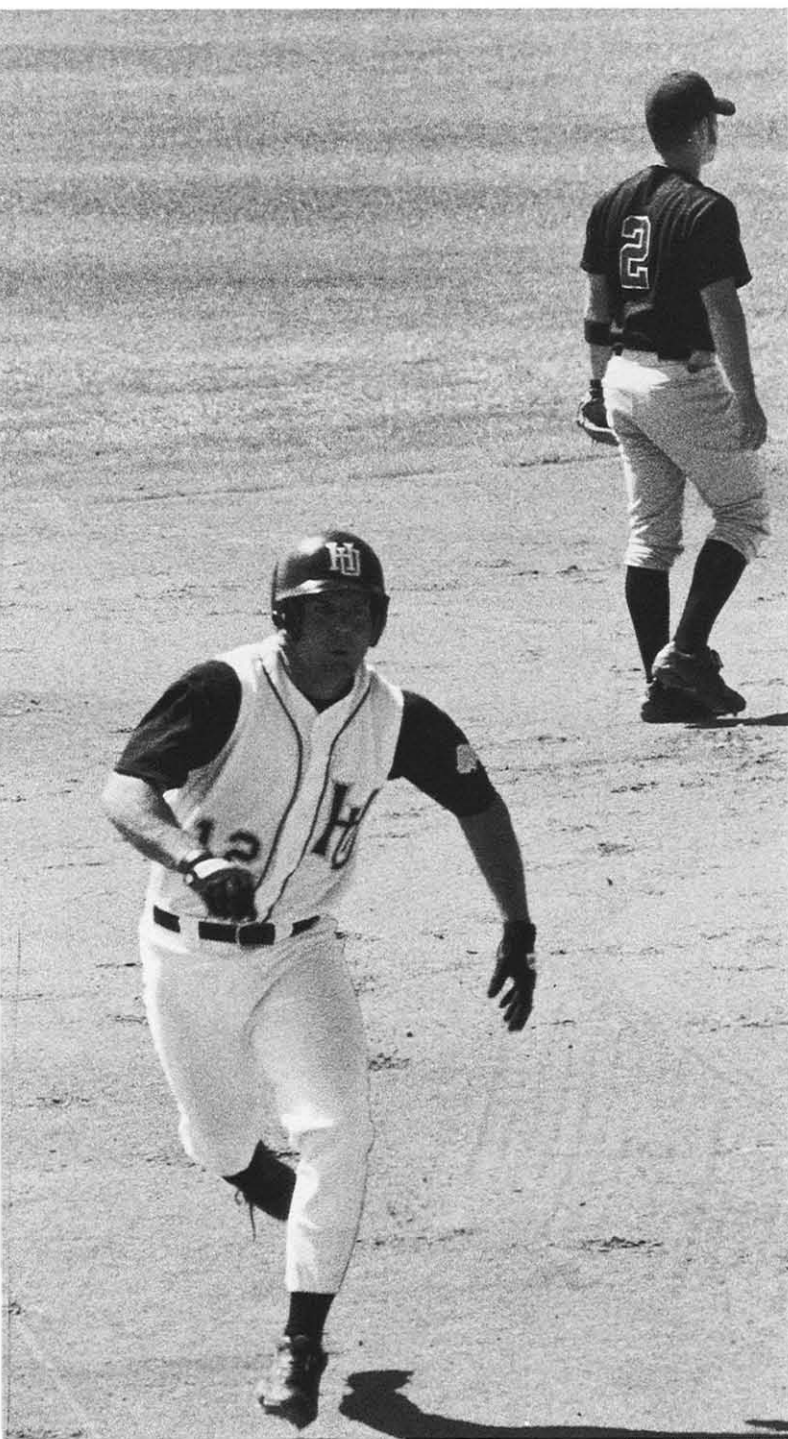


Photo by Salomon Pineda



Photo by Salomon Pineda

Rounding second base and heading for third, Mike Huebner, freshman, runs for safety. Huebner helped lead the Bisons to their best-ever team batting average, .314.

FOR THE RECORD. . .



Photo by Jeff Montgomery

Baseball: Front Row: Manager Clay Moody, Jason Redd, Matt Faulkner, Alan Seim, Brad Patterson, Mike Wallace, Ryan Lee, Matt Thomas, Manager Jeremy Schopper, Trainer Jay Phillips. Second Row: Mike Huebner, Ben James, Matt Bassing, Nate Watson, Rodney Cloud, Grant Andrews, Phill Gisel, Kenny Springer, Derek Reaves, Jon Neely, Asst. Coach Nathan Blackwood, Coach Shane Fullerton. Back Row: Matt Wilson, Troy Wolfe, Eric Chin, Jonathan Davis, Peyton Bowman, Gary Albritton, Brandon Jeter, Brad Perry, Johnnie Ross, Seth Watson. Not Pictured: Skip Parnell.

BASEBALL RESULTS

Overall 22-22

Lone Star Conference 5-11

Williams Baptist	W 3-1	East Central Okla.	W 6-2
Williams Baptist	W 5-3	East Central Okla.	L 0-4
Williams Baptist	L 8-4	Univ of Ozarks	W 14-4
Williams Baptist	L 7-14	Henderson State	W 7-3
SW Baptist	L 5-6	Henderson State	W 11-2
SW Baptist	W 4-0	Central Arkansas	W 22-10
Rhodes	L 8-14	Ouachita Baptist	W 10-2
Central Mo. St.	L 3-26	Ouachita Baptist	W 10-9
College of Ozarks	L 9-11	Ouachita Baptist	W 5-1
Missouri-Rolla	W 8-7	Ouachita Baptist	L 2-7
Lyon	L 6-12	Rhodes	W 12-11
Christian Brothers	W 4-3	Freed Hardeman	L 3-18
Hendrix	W 10-7	NE Okla. State	L 6-15
Ouachita Baptist	W 12-7	NE Okla. State	L 1-12
Ark.-Monticello	L 5-9	NE Okla. State	L 2-3
Ark.-Monticello	L 7-17	NE Okla. State	L 5-11
Mid-Amer. Naz.	W 5-4	Lyon	W 9-4
Mid-Amer. Naz.	W 6-4	Central Arkansas	W 4-3
Central Okla.	L 4-8	SE Okla.	L 0-9
Central Okla.	L 4-8	SE Okla.	L 9-13
Univ of Ozarks	W 36-10	SE Okla.	L 1-13
Univ of Ozarks	W 15-13	Lyon	L 1-11

Derek Reaves, junior, follows through on a powerful swing. Reaves played catcher for the Bisons and was named to the Lone Star Conference North Division All-Conference first team, with a .336 batting average, 32 RBI and 17 doubles – tying a Harding single season record for doubles.

Standing in his own shadow, Jared Smith, freshman, lines up for a putt. Smith helped the Bisons finish in the top 15 in each of their seven tournaments of the season, including five top tens.

FOR THE RECORD. . .



Photo by Jeff Montgomery

Golf: Front Row: Jason Lillard, Paul Sobottka, Andrew Baker. Back Row: Brent Powell, Jeff Powell, Jared Smith, Coach Nicky Boyd. Not Pictured: Justo Casal, Jason Harding.

GOLF RESULTS

Ouachita Baptist Tournament: 1st
 East Central Invitational: 13th
 Drury Classic: 10th
 Arkansas Tech Classic: 10th (tie)
 Central Oklahoma Classic: 15th
 Ouachita Baptist Invitational: 4th
 Lone Star Conference Tournament: 6th



Photo by Daniel Dubois

Brent Powell, senior, begins his backswing. Powell shot a round of 74 (+2) at the Ouachita Baptist Invitational in Sept. for his best round of the year.

Trying to coax the ball into the cup, Jeff Powell, freshman, goes for a long putt. With a three-round score of 235, Powell tied with his brother Brent for 22nd place at the Lone Star Conference Championship.



GOLF

EARNING RESPECT



Photo by Salomon Pineda

In just their second year of competition in the Lone Star Conference, the golf team made its presence felt.

This was a result of the Bisons' consistency and strong tournament play.

The Harding golf team surprised many of their opponents with consistent, even dominating play at times during the 1999 season.

With a sixth place finish at the Lone Star Conference (LSC) Tournament, the Bisons made their mark and solidified themselves as legitimate competitors within the Conference.

"I was really pleased with our play at the Conference Tournament," Coach Nicky Boyd said. "We received a very solid effort from top to bottom."

Leading the way for the Bisons throughout the season, particularly at the Conference Tournament, was team captain Paul Sobottka.

The sophomore standout finished third in the event with scores of 73, 74 and 76.

"I just went out and played the best golf I could," Sobottka said.

The Bisons surprised their competition with a quick start at the tournament, according to Boyd.

"After the first round of the tournament we were in second place," Boyd said.

This was a surprise to many of the team's competitors, who only seemed to look at the Bisons' inexperience and poor play in past competitions.

Jared Smith, freshman, who shot a solid round of 76, was pleased with the tournament and the team's enthusiasm.

"We had a lot of talent, but never seemed to click at the same time," Smith said. "We could never seem to get four scores together in unison."

With their sixth place finish, the Bisons equaled their 1997 LSC finish.

The team totaled 934 strokes in the three-round tournament.

Sobottka led the squad with four sub par rounds during the season, including a three under par 69 at the Arkansas Tech Invitational.

With only seven players in the Bisons' bag, Boyd fervently stressed quality over quantity.

"All season we received consistent play from our top two players. However, I was most pleased with the play of our entire team as a whole," Boyd said.

Continued improvement is expected for the upcoming season, according to Boyd.

However, several obstacles will have to be overcome before substantial progress can be made.

Sobottka transferred in May 1999 and the number two player will be lost to graduation.

It is imperative that the rest of the team challenge themselves to improve, according to Boyd.

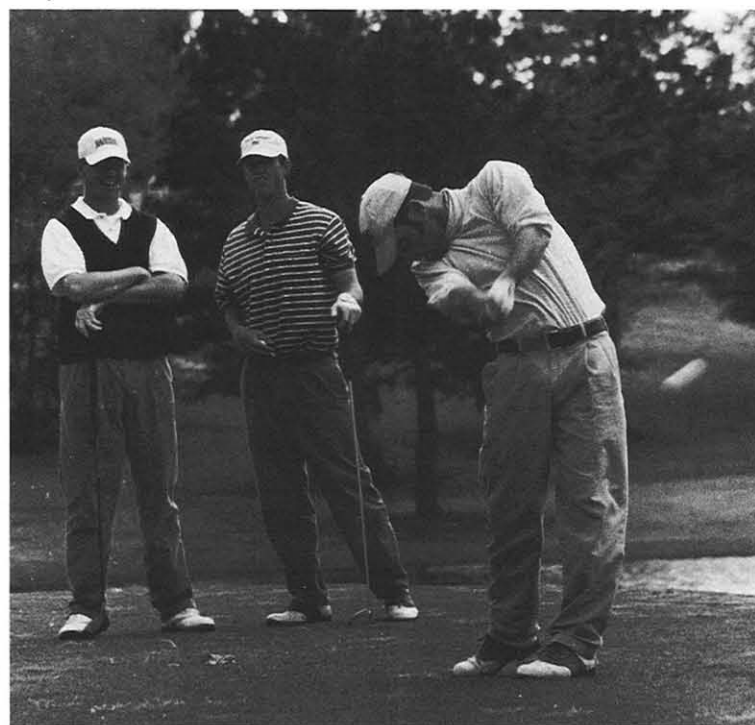
Don't be surprised if the Bisons compete for honors at the next LSC Tournament.

"We're excited about the upcoming season," Boyd said. "I expect good things from the up and coming team."

— Alan Seim

—Ryan Cook

**"I WAS REALLY
PLEASSED WITH OUR
PLAY AT THE
CONFERENCE
TOURNAMENT. WE
RECEIVED A VERY
SOLID
EFFORT FROM TOP
TO BOTTOM."
- COACH
NICKY BOYD**



Paul Sobottka, sophomore, drives the golf ball as Jared Smith and Jeff Powell, freshmen, look on. Sobottka led the Bison golf team to a sixth place finish with a third place individual showing in the Lone Star Conference Championship.

Photo by Salomon Pineda

Photo by Salomon Pineda

WOMEN'S SOCCER

SECOND SEASON SUCCESS

The Lady Bison Soccer team had great results from all the players during the 1999 season, according to Coach Terry Edwards.

They achieved a 9-10-1 record. The team is in its second season, where gaining experience seems to be the motto.

Edwards said he was impressed with the girls' season.

"The team notched three more wins than the first season," he said. "They nearly reached the .500 mark, which meant they almost had as many wins as they did losses.

"There was more experience and talent this season, and that gave us an edge over last year."

Michal Edwards, sophomore right defender, said that every game is important for the future of the Lady Bisons' soccer program.

"Whether we won or lost, we still gained a lot of good experience

from every game," she said.

Over time, the girls will gain the experience they need to be a better team, according to Heather Gray, sophomore mid-fielder.

"Hopefully next year the girls with the most experience will step up and lead the team," she said. "It takes time for the girls to get to know each other and really become a team. We work really hard now, but I know with the experience of playing together year after year we will get better."

Andrea Richmond, junior center-mid fielder,

said goals are an important part of playing on any athletic team.

The women's soccer team is no exception.

"We did better this season compared to last season," Richmond said. "There is still room for improvement, though.

"I would like to see us work together more as a team. We are going to have a lot of talent coming into next season."

"A goal I would like to see the team accomplish would be to make the conference tournament," Coach Edwards said. "This means we would have to finish in the top four."

Gray, who was named Lone Star Conference Player of the Year for the 1999 season, said she was excited about the amount of fan support exhibited during the year.

"In the Lone Star Conference, the Lady Bison soccer team was named fourth in overall attendance," she said.

According to Richmond, this kind of support helped to motivate the team.

She said it meant a lot when the fans showed their support and attended the games.

"The fans were really great this year. For every home game we had a huge crowd, more than I ever expected," Richmond said. "I wish we could have taken them to our away games."

With only one year of experience under its belt, the Lady Bison soccer team amazed its competitors in the 1999 season. Players who had been through last season led the younger members this year.

With a growing number of fans and the experience the players gained with each game they played, the girls look to become an even more competitive soccer team next year.

— Ginger Wilson

**"THE FANS WERE
REALLY GREAT THIS
YEAR. FOR EVERY
HOME GAME WE HAD
A HUGE CROWD."**

**-ANDREA
RICHMOND, JUNIOR**

Sheridan Smith, junior mid-fielder, prepares to kick the ball downfield. Smith scored five goals and had four assists this season.

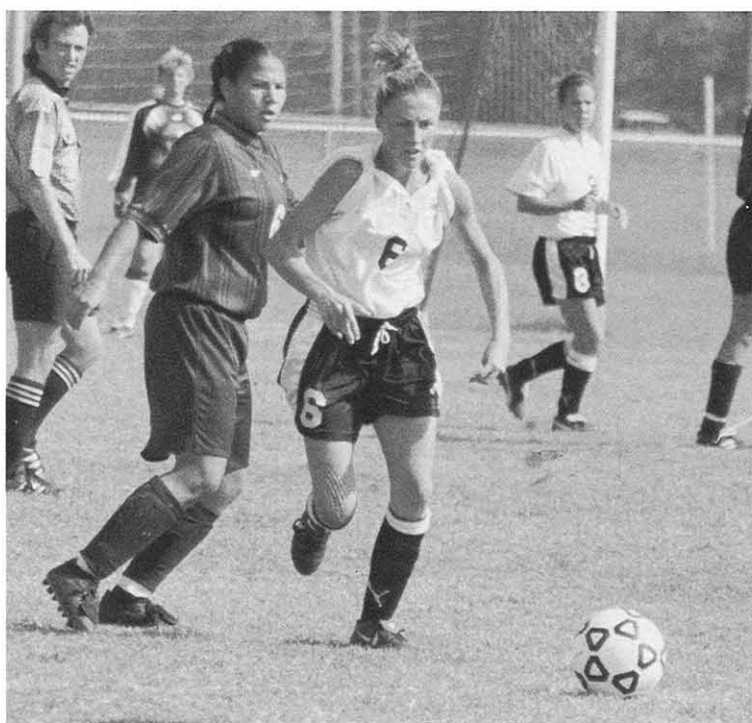


Photo by Daniel Dubois

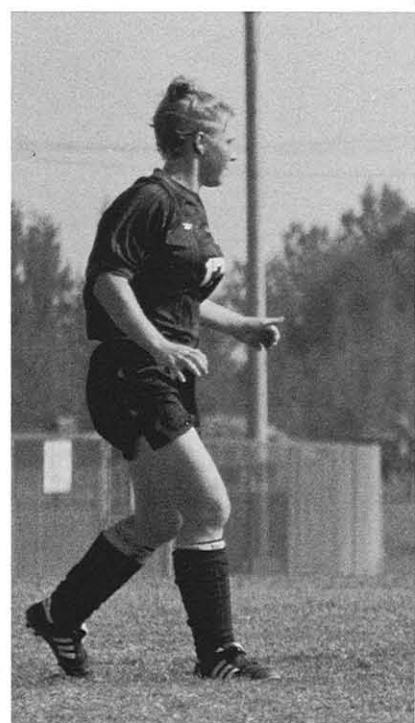




Photo by Daniel Dubois

Sheridan Smith, junior mid-fielder, attempts to drive the ball past two defenders. The Lady Bisons outscored opponents 40-38 this season while outshooting them 328-286.

FOR THE RECORD. . .



Photo by Jeff Montgomery

Women's Soccer: Front Row: Erika Rouse, Ashley Hodge, Carmen Sutton, Candace O'Neal, Erin Elliot, Michal Edwards, Elizabeth Caperton, Courtney Pierron, Meredith Simon, Amy Walker, Sheridan Smith, Heather Shipman. Back Row: Trainer Erin Hill, Assistant Coach Steve Young, Coach Terry Edwards, Tricky Tarole, Melissa Toungette, Debbie Gulledge, Rachel Belcher, Jodi Besenyei, Lauren Hensley, Andrea Richmond, Justine Cokley, Heather Gray, Assistant Coach Ryan Singleton.

WOMEN'S SOCCER RESULTS

Overall 9-10-1

Lone Star Conference 2-7

Ala.-Huntsville	L	1-2	Tex. A&M-Com.	L	0-5
North Alabama	W	3-2	St. Gregory's	W	1-0
Lambuth	W	7-0	Central Okla.	L	0-3
SW Baptist	W	4-0	NE Okla. State	L	0-4
Ark.-Little Rock	L	0-2	West Texas	L	1-5
North Alabama	L	0-3	SW Okla. State	W	4-0
Central Ark.	W	3-0	Central Ark.	T	1-1
Ozarks	W	4-1	Ouachita Baptist	W	3-0
Louisiana Coll.	W	6-0	Angelo State	L	1-2
East Central	L	1-2	Midwestern State	L	0-6



Photo by Daniel Dubois



Photo by Daniel Dubois

Coach Terry Edwards discusses strategy with Melissa Toungette, sophomore forward. Toungette tallied 12 goals in 1999, second only to Heather Gray, sophomore, who had 13.

Driving downfield, Andrea Richmond, junior defender, is in the clear. Richmond scored two of the Lady Bisons' three goals in a 3-0 shutout of Ouachita Baptist.

Delana Keilers, junior, and Misty Fant, senior, attempt a block. The Lady Bisons averaged more than three blocks per game this season, for a total of 461.

FOR THE RECORD. . .



Photo by Jeff Montgomery

Volleyball: Front Row: Holly Nelson, McKensy Kemmerer, Rebecca Dahlstrom, Misty Fant, Heather Newman, Ashlie Burroughs, Kimilee Washburn, Chris Berger. Back Row: Coach Keith Giboney, Leslie Hollingsworth, Erika Pierson, Talia Wood, Delana Keilers, Summer Page, Laura Lejarzar, Graduate Assistant Brad Gould.

VOLLEYBALL RESULTS

Overall 26-11

Lone Star Conference 9-4

Arkansas Tech	L	0-3	Christian Brothers	W	3-2
Southern Arkansas	W	3-0	Cameron	L	1-3
Pittsburg State	W	3-0	Central Oklahoma	W	3-1
St. Mary's	L	1-3	Lyon	W	3-1
Southern Arkansas	L	0-3	Christian Brothers	W	3-0
Abilene Christian	L	1-3	Angelo State	W	3-0
St. Edward's	W	3-0	Morningside	W	3-2
Central Arkansas	W	3-1	Drury	W	3-2
Tex. A&M-King.	L	1-3	Ouachita Baptist	W	3-0
St. Edward's	W	3-0	SE Okla.	W	3-0
Huston-Tillotson	W	3-0	Christian Brothers	W	3-2
Concordia	W	3-0	Henderson State	L	1-3
Henderson State	W	3-0	Lyon	W	3-0
Tex. A&M-Comm.	W	3-0	Central Oklahoma	W	3-2
Texas Woman's	W	3-1	Cameron	L	0-3
Ouachita Baptist	W	3-0	Texas Woman's	L	1-3
Central Arkansas	W	3-1	Tex. A&M-Comm.	W	3-0
SE Okla.	W	3-0	Abilene Christian	L	1-3
Arkansas Tech	L	0-3			

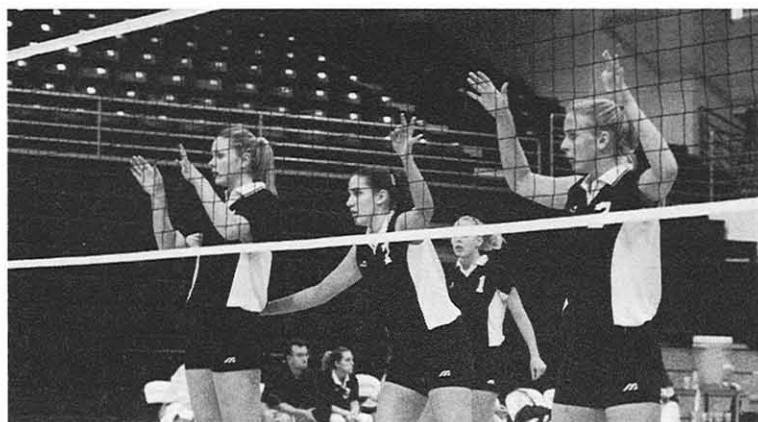
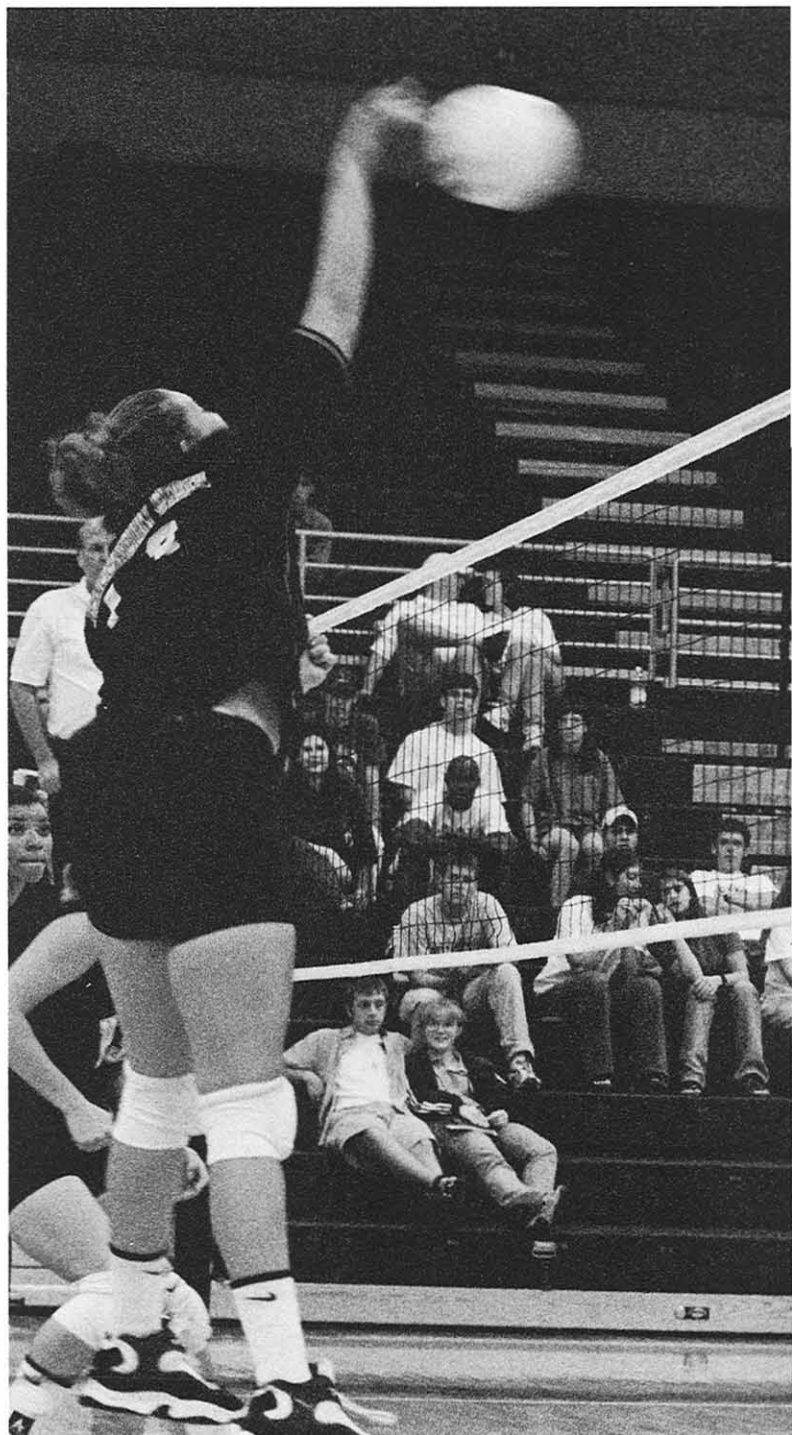


Photo by Mark Kinonen

A trio of Lady Bisons stands ready for the next serve. The team won all five matches that went five games this season.

Delana Keilers, junior, hits the volleyball over the outstretched hands of her foe.



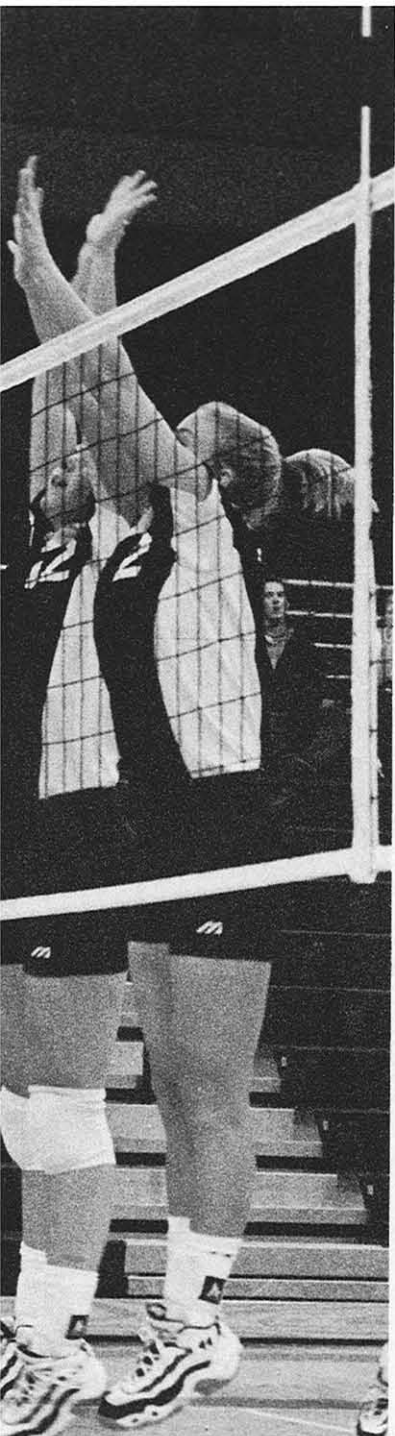


Photo by Mark Kinonen

VOLLEYBALL

QUALIFIES FOR POSTSEASON

Bump. Set. Spike. For the 11 members of Harding University's women's volleyball team, these words were more than just short descriptions of the game's strategy, they were a part of life.

"We have spent a lot of time this season working on drills, and I am sure that we will do even more next season," McKensy Kemmerer, junior, said.

After finishing this season with an overall record of 26 wins and 10 losses under the direction of Coach Keith Giboney, Kemmerer seemed satisfied with the season.

"We made many great improvements this season," Kemmerer said. "We had a lot of fun, and we really came together to meet our goals as a team."

Specifically, Kemmerer noted the team's pre-season ambition to make it into the conference playoffs and maintain an overall rank among the top three teams in the Lone Star Conference (LSC).

"Even though we would have liked to make it further in the tournament, we were really proud of our overall performance," she said. "We really pulled together and united as a team this year. The leadership of the seniors helped a lot with that."

Although the team had only two seniors, Misty Fant and Laura Lejarzar, their experience helped lead the team into the conference.

According to Giboney, other team leaders included Heather Newman, freshman, who made a total of 651 sets; Erika Pierson, sophomore, who executed 306 kills; and Delana Keilers, junior, who made 236 successful blocks.

Keilers and Pierson were named First Team All-Lone Star Conference.

For Giboney, the team's success was surprising as it was his first year coaching at the collegiate level.

He came to the team after coaching women's high school volleyball for several years at Lubbock Christian High School and Dallas Christian, which earned four state volleyball championships collectively under his direction.

Although he enjoyed his success at the high school level, Giboney said he was ready to work with university players because of the higher level of play and the heavier game schedule.

Yet, for Rebecca Dahlstrom, junior, and Ashley Burnes, freshman, Giboney's first year of coaching

was more of a homecoming than an introduction. Both played volleyball for Giboney while students at Dallas Christian.

"It has been really great getting to work with them again," Giboney said.

"It has been wonderful spending time with Coach Giboney and his family," Kemmerer said. "He is a great Christian leader."

Dahlstrom echoed Kemmerer's sentiment.

"The year went really well. We all adjusted quickly to the change of coaches," she said. "I expect him [Giboney] to make even more changes next year."

Kemmerer said she looks forward to working with Giboney and the returning players next season.

"IT HAS BEEN WONDERFUL SPENDING TIME WITH COACH GIBONEY AND HIS FAMILY. HE IS A GREAT CHRISTIAN LEADER."
-MCKENSEY KEMMERER, JUNIOR

— Elizabeth Smith



Photo by Mark Kinonen

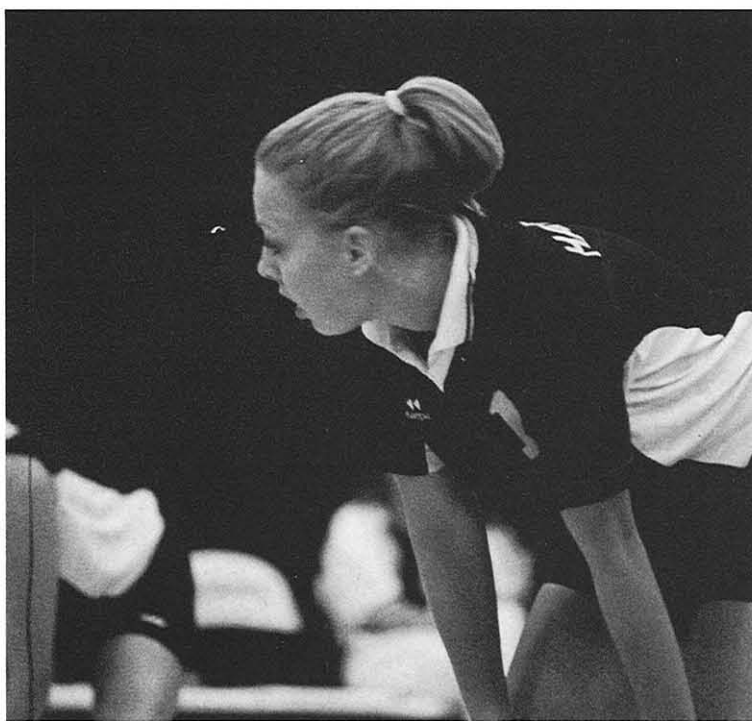


Photo by Mark Kinonen

Resting between serves, Heather Newman, freshman, saves her energy. Newman led Harding with 651 sets during the 1999 season, an average of more than five per game.

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

WINS LONE STAR CONFERENCE

Five minutes remain until the gunshot that will signal the start of the race — and the air is thick with tension.

Little clusters of color representing dozens of schools stretch across the starting line. Occasionally, a few runners spring into the air or take short sprints across the field to keep their muscles warm and loose. While each runner struggles to keep her mind focused on the race ahead, each one is preoccupied with the same daunting question: who will cross the finish line as the winner?

The answer was cause for great celebration at the 1999 Lone Star Conference Women's Cross

Country Championships in Ada, Okla.

The Harding women's team captured the first Lone Star Conference title in any sport in the school's history. But Coach Bryan Phillips was hardly surprised at the team's historic victory.

"At the beginning of the season, we had two objective goals: to win conference and qualify for nationals," he said. "Of course, the nebulous goal is to perform to the best of your ability, but that's something you can't tangibly evaluate. So in lieu

of that, we set our sights on conference and nationals."

The team managed to achieve the second part of the overall goal as well. At the regional meet in Fort Hays, Kan., the women finished third to qualify for the NCAA nationals in Joplin, Mo. This feat was also unprecedented, since no Harding women's cross country team had ever made it to NCAA nationals. Phillips attributed this achievement to "the cohesiveness of the team and the senior leadership."

The Lady Bisons finished in 12th place at the National Meet. Cheri Scharff, senior, led Harding's women, finishing the six kilometer race in 22:45.

The women kept the major goals for the season in sharp focus as they practiced and competed. Instead of cracking under pressure, they used their coach's expectations to motivate them to give 100 percent effort to every workout and race, according to Diane Grubbs, senior.

"I think there were high expectations, but Coach made it seem attainable," Grubbs said. "He made us feel like we could actually do it, not like it was an unreachable goal."

The four seniors on the team had an extra impetus to achieve these goals. Katie Fant, senior, said they had been working toward these same goals for four years, and they knew it was their final opportunity to make them a reality.

"Being seniors, we knew this was our last chance," she said. "We knew we were capable of qualifying for nationals, so we worked hard toward that goal all season."

Of course, the strong senior presence on the team meant that its makeup would change dramatically the following year. Phillips' goals for next year's team were decidedly different from this year's high aspirations.

"Next year, our goal will be to start over," he said. "My first goal will be to try to find more runners to come in, since we're losing four seniors, three of whom are in our top five. We're returning some good runners, but we won't have the same depth that we had this year."

Apart from the powerful senior element and their record achievements, the season was remarkable in another sense.

Harding hosted its first home cross country meet in many years.

According to Phillips, the school used to have home meets every year, but was forced to discontinue them when the new tennis courts and softball complex took over the course.

Phillips rerouted the course this year for the first Ted Lloyd Bison Stampede. The women's team swept the race with a perfect score of 15, taking 10 of the top 11 places. Scharff won the race with a time of 22:50.

While the home course was not as varied or scenic as some of the courses they ran on, team members still relished the benefits of competing on their home turf.

"I loved it," Kelly Lauterbach, senior, said. "I hope it becomes a tradition because it makes you feel so much pride in representing Harding when you have so many people from school out there supporting you."

The team looked back on its landmark season with satisfaction, hoping its success would carry over into future generations of Bison runners.

"I hope it will be the starting point to a tradition of high expectations and good seasons," Lauterbach said. "Hopefully, seeing what we've been able to accomplish this year will help future teams believe that they can do it too."

— Sara Hardesty

"I THINK THERE WERE HIGH EXPECTATIONS, BUT COACH MADE IT SEEM ATTAINABLE. HE MADE US FEEL LIKE WE COULD ACTUALLY DO IT, NOT LIKE IT WAS AN UNREACHABLE GOAL."

-DIANE GRUBBS, SENIOR





Photo by Daniel Dubois

Kelly Lauterbach, senior, runs a six-kilometer race on the Harding campus. She had the second fastest Lady Bison time at the NCAA Division II National Meet with a six-kilometer time of 22:46.

FOR THE RECORD. . .



Photo by Jeff Montgomery

Men's and Women's Cross Country: Front Row: Diane Grubbs, Tia Tarole, Katie Fant, Sara Treat, Elizabeth Lucas, Gary Luna. Second Row: Lindsay Snow, Britney Copeland, Cheri Scharff, Kelly Lauterbach, Jacob Smith, Amy Elliott, Sara Hardesty, Scott Penick. Back Row: Andrew Scharff, Jerry Maritim, David Scharff, Jason Braaten, Japheth Langat, Dustin Knudsen, Albert Tabut. Not Pictured: Linus Chepkwony, Carl Williamson.

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS

Meet	Place
Bob Gravett Invitational (Ouachita Baptist)	1st
Southern Stampede (Missouri Southern)	3rd
Cowboy Jamboree (Oklahoma State)	8th
Ted Lloyd Bison Stampede (Harding)	1st
Lone Star Conference (East Central)	1st
South Central Region (Fort Hays State)	3rd
NCAA Division II Nationals (Missouri Southern)	12th



Photo by Daniel Dubois



Photo by Daniel Dubois

Having crossed the finish line, Britney Copeland, sophomore, cools down after a long race at home. The Bisons and Lady Bisons hosted their first home meet in many years, Oct. 9.

Kelly Lauterbach and Diane Grubbs, seniors, make sure their numbers are securely fastened before the race. Grubbs finished among the top five Lady Bisons in every race and was noted by Coach Bryan Phillips for her "quiet leadership."

Getting a little wet in the race, Scott Penick, junior, runs alone near the Village Apartments. Penick finished 14th in the Lone Star Conference Meet, Oct. 24, on the campus of East Central Oklahoma University.

FOR THE RECORD. . .

The Men's Cross Country Team Group Picture is included with the Women's Cross Country Team on Page 197.

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY **RESULTS**

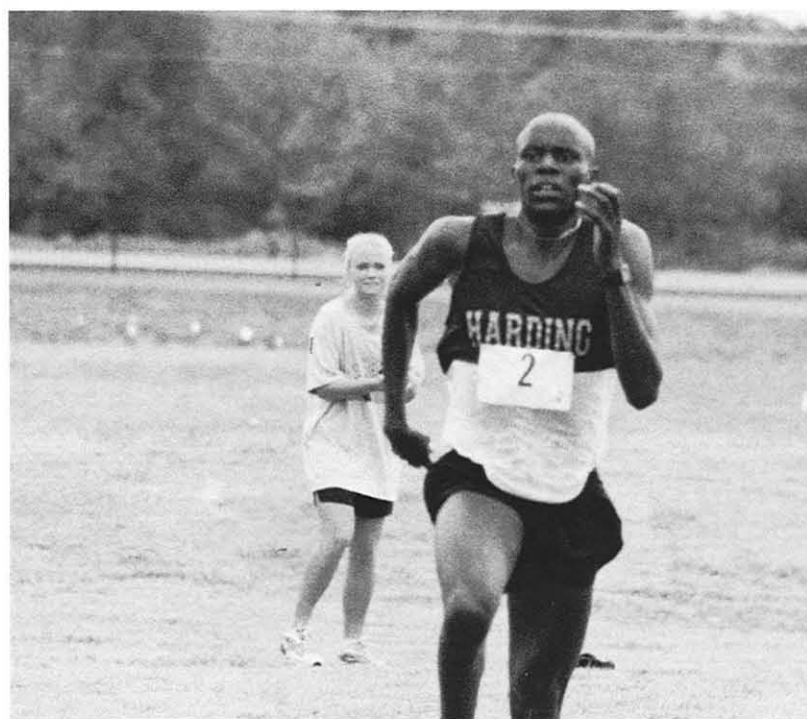
Meet	Place
Bob Gravett Invitational (Ouachita Baptist)	1st
Southern Stampede (Missouri Southern)	6th
Cowboy Jamboree (Oklahoma State)	7th
Ted Lloyd Bison Stampede (Harding)	1st
Lone Star Conference (East Central)	2nd
South Central Region (Fort Hays State)	6th
Jerry Maritim Individually at National Meet	23rd



Photo by Daniel Dubois

Jerry Maritim, senior, drives towards the finish line. Maritim finished 23rd at the NCAA Division II National Meet, good enough to be named an All-American for the second consecutive year.

Albert Tabut, senior, leads a string of three Bisons (Linus Chepkwony, sophomore and Jerry Maritim, senior, follow) to top honors at the Ted Lloyd Bison Stampede, Oct. 9. Tabut won the eight-kilometer race with a time of 25:41.



MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

SENDS SENIOR TO NATIONALS



Photo by Daniel Dubois

The Men's Cross Country team had high hopes for the 1999 season. The team trained harder than ever and was ready for Nationals.

However, the team ran into some unexpected difficulties at the NCAA South Central Regional Meet in early November. Three of the top five runners were sick during the competition. The cross country team placed sixth overall, which excluded them from Nationals. Only those teams finishing in the top five places were able to compete in Nationals.

"We didn't do so well at regionals. It was disappointing for the team because they worked so hard," Coach Brian Phillips said. "Even though the team did not make it to Nationals, they were still the best team I have coached in my four years as head cross country coach."

One of the leaders for the Bisons was All-American Jerry Maritim. Maritim, a senior, qualified individually for Nationals. He finished 23rd at the NCAA II National Meet in Joplin, Mo. in November. His finish was good enough to be named All-American.

"I did pretty good at Regionals, but I am sad about the team not qualifying [for Nationals]," he said.

"Jerry did a good job at regionals," Phillips said. "He was one of the individuals who was sick and he still managed to make it to Nationals."

The Bisons qualified for regionals with a second place finish at the Lone Star Conference (LSC) Meet held at East Central University in October. Albert Tabut, senior, led Harding, finishing the eight kilometer race in 25:06. Maritim came in fifth.

The Bisons also found success at their other meets, winning at Ouachita Baptist, Sept. 11 and at home, Oct. 9.

The team trained extremely hard this season. Phillips took the team to different locations to run and provided the men with a more challenging practice.

"The team had good timing, high spirits and trained hard. This has been the best year since I've been here," Maritim said. "The training was much better. The coach made us run up mountains, not hills."

This was the Bisons' last trip to the Lone Star Conference Meet. The team will be competing in the Gulf South Conference (GSC) next year. Although the conference will not be as competitive, Harding is the favorite to win.

Japeth Langat, junior member of the team, believes that the change in conference will be good for the Bisons.

"I think being in the Gulf South Conference will help Harding to advance," Langat said.

The team will be losing two of their top runners next year, Maritim and Tabut. The two men have led the cross country team throughout their years at Harding.

However, while the team is losing two runners, it has also gained a top prospect — Linus Chepkwong, junior college All-American.

The members of the men's cross country team worked hard to compete to the best of their ability, according to Phillips. He said that not qualifying for nationals will make them stronger and more competitive next year.

— Ginger Wilson

**"I DID PRETTY GOOD
AT REGIONALS, BUT
I AM SAD ABOUT
THE TEAM NOT
QUALIFYING [FOR
NATIONALS]."
-JERRY MARITIM,
SENIOR**



Photo by Daniel Dubois



Photo by Daniel Dubois

Andrew Scharff, sophomore, extends all of his effort down the home stretch to the finish line. The Bisons won the Ted Lloyd Bison Stampede at Harding, Oct. 9, sweeping the top six places.

FOOTBALL

OVERCOMES INJURIES

Although plagued by adversity, the 1999 Bison football team managed to finish the season with a respectable record of 5-5.

Early season injuries to running backs Jason Sneed and Willis Britton hampered the Bisons, forcing the coaches to make major adjustments in their offensive scheme, according to Head Coach Randy Tribble.

"After the injuries, we switched to a more throwing oriented offense," he said.

This reconstruction of the Bison's offense was a job that James Frank, offensive coordinator, was eager to tackle.

"Considering our injuries and adjustments that followed, I'm happy with our offensive production," Frank said.

As a result of this vast array of adjustments, the Bisons achieved first place in scoring offense and second place in total offense within the Lone

Star Conference (LSC).

"We feel that this was one of the best football teams that we've ever had," Tribble said.

The Bisons' high powered attack was headed by standout quarterback Luke Cullins. Cullins, who led the conference in multiple categories including total passing yards, attributed his success to his teammates.

"I'm happy with the way that I played, but I have to give the credit to our offense as a whole," he said.

Among other successes, Cullins was named

the Division II National Player of the Week by *USA Football* twice.

Other offensive contributors were Jeremy Thompson, kicker, Andrew Patton, punter, and Marc Fager and Gerald Payne, receivers. All were distinguished and noted threats within the conference. Thompson was the conference's leading scorer and was an integral part of the Bison offense since his arrival four years ago.

"Jeremy will be missed; he's been a great kicker for us," Tribble said.

The contributions of Fager and Payne were also invaluable to the Bisons, Tribble said. Both were awarded for their on field accomplishments. Fager was the conference's leader in yards receiving per game, and *USA Football* named Payne Division II National Co-Rookie of the Week.

Through hard work and determination, the Bisons' defense kept the team within striking distance throughout the year. Led by players such as Greg Taylor and Said Perez, seniors, the Bison defense improved throughout the course of the season.

"Our defense forced a lot of turnovers and they intercepted the most passes in the Conference," Tribble said.

Unfortunately, the Bisons lost 14 seniors to graduation. The entire coaching staff said that the seniors would be missed.

"We're really proud of their accomplishments on and off the field," Tribble said.

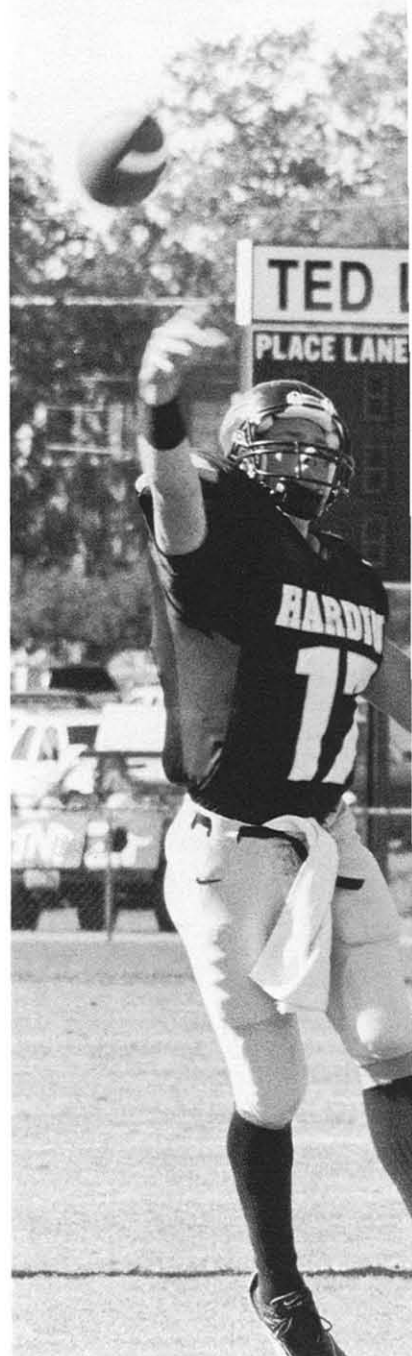
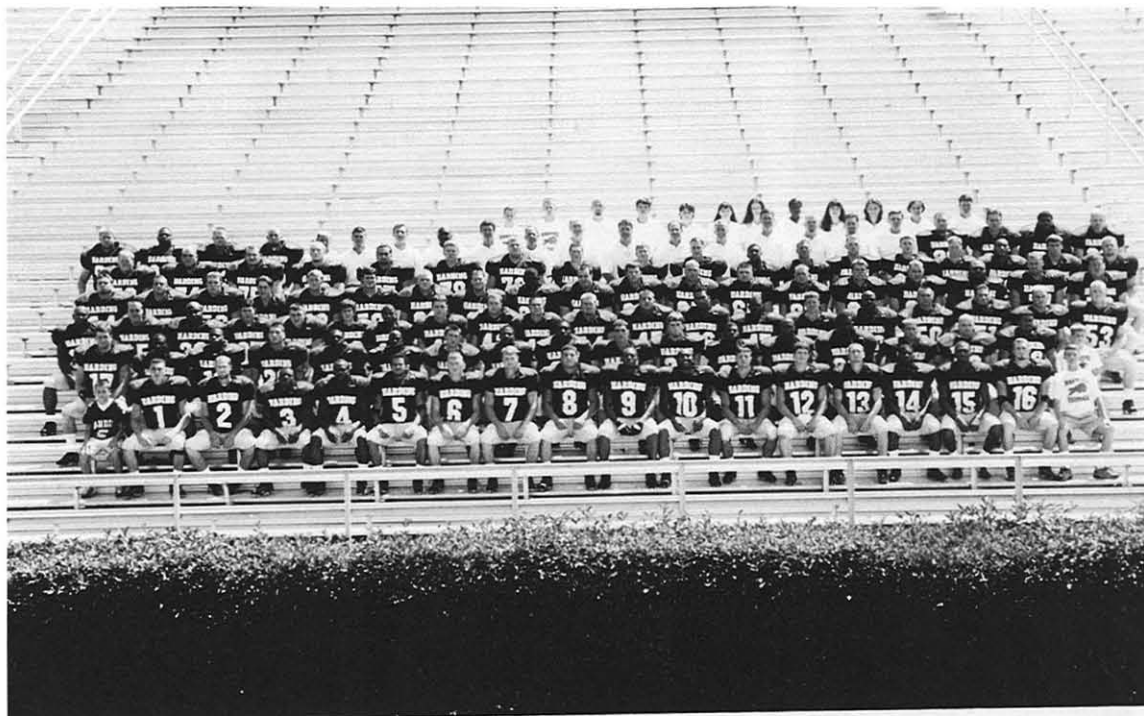
Despite a .500 record, Bison coaches and team members alike said that their potential was not reached.

"We just didn't overcome all of the adversities with which we were faced," Tribble said.

— Alan Seim

**"WE FEEL THAT
THIS WAS ONE OF
THE BEST FOOTBALL
TEAMS THAT WE'VE
EVER HAD."
-COACH RANDY
TRIBBLE**

Football: Front Row: Luke Tribble, Dennis Cardoso, Jeremy Thompson, Willis Britton, Rashun Taylor, Chris May, Zach Beavers, Alex Behel, Said Perez, Jimi Holden, David Anfield, Drew Colon, Matt Underwood, Andrew Patton, Jason Moats, Gerald Payne, Marc Fager, Jake Tribble. Second Row: Luke Cullins, Shaylon Hart, Rae Holden, Jason Sneed, Travis Alford, David High, William Holloway, Willie Weekly, Derek Ivory, Eric Woodard, Micha Sexson, Bershard Tillman, Jamael Harris, Jamie Doyle, Seth Morgan, Zack Self, Les Polk, Zack Tribble. Third Row: Carlton Smith, Brian Caffey, Brandon Archer, Nathan Scott, Kyle Hazelwood, Clint Smith, Kevin Redd, Nate Dutille, Brad Fortson, Darin Brazile, Wesley Duncan, Clay Madar, Hargis Billyos, Hamilton Archibald, Chad Bonner, Shawn Cofer, Jerry Evans, Ryan Bridges, Rob Denton, Andy Brazile. Fourth Row: Scott Smith, Casey Stewart, Kevin Chism, Paul Chandler, Philip King, John Steeples, Jeremy Stewart, Chuck Wells, Brandon Thomason, Josh Tomlinson, Jeff Thornton, Joshua Satterfield, Jeremy Turner, Robert Holden, Zack Towery, Tyreek Harry, Nathaniel Williams, Aaron Harris. Fifth Row: John Hicks, Nick McNabb, David Bagley, Jeremy Schulz, Jeff Simpson, Chad Eason, Ryan Blount, Ricky Box, David Ellis, Jody Jones, Harambee Ryan, Sterling Riggs, Brad Whinery, Steve Parks, Bubba DeLukie, Tiago Collins, James Nowlin, Greg Taylor. Sixth Row: Chris Peak, Dewayne Randle, Tim Daniels, Josh Turner, Chris Howell, Rob Stroud, Joseph Walker, Archie Walker, Kyle Blickenstaff, Scott Ragsdale, Ronnie Huckleba, James Frank, Randy Tribble, Roddy Mote, Ronnie Harlow, Ian White, Jason Smith, Chris Morse, Clint Rhodes, Micah Gifford, Floyd Black, Clint Holt. Seventh Row: Jesse Jordan, Sean Judge, Chad Rye, Jarrod Hobby, Aimee Smith, Alice Merrit, Kelley McCreary, Tiffany Laster, Rene Wilson, Heather Driver, Diana Vacogiannis, Jay Phillips.



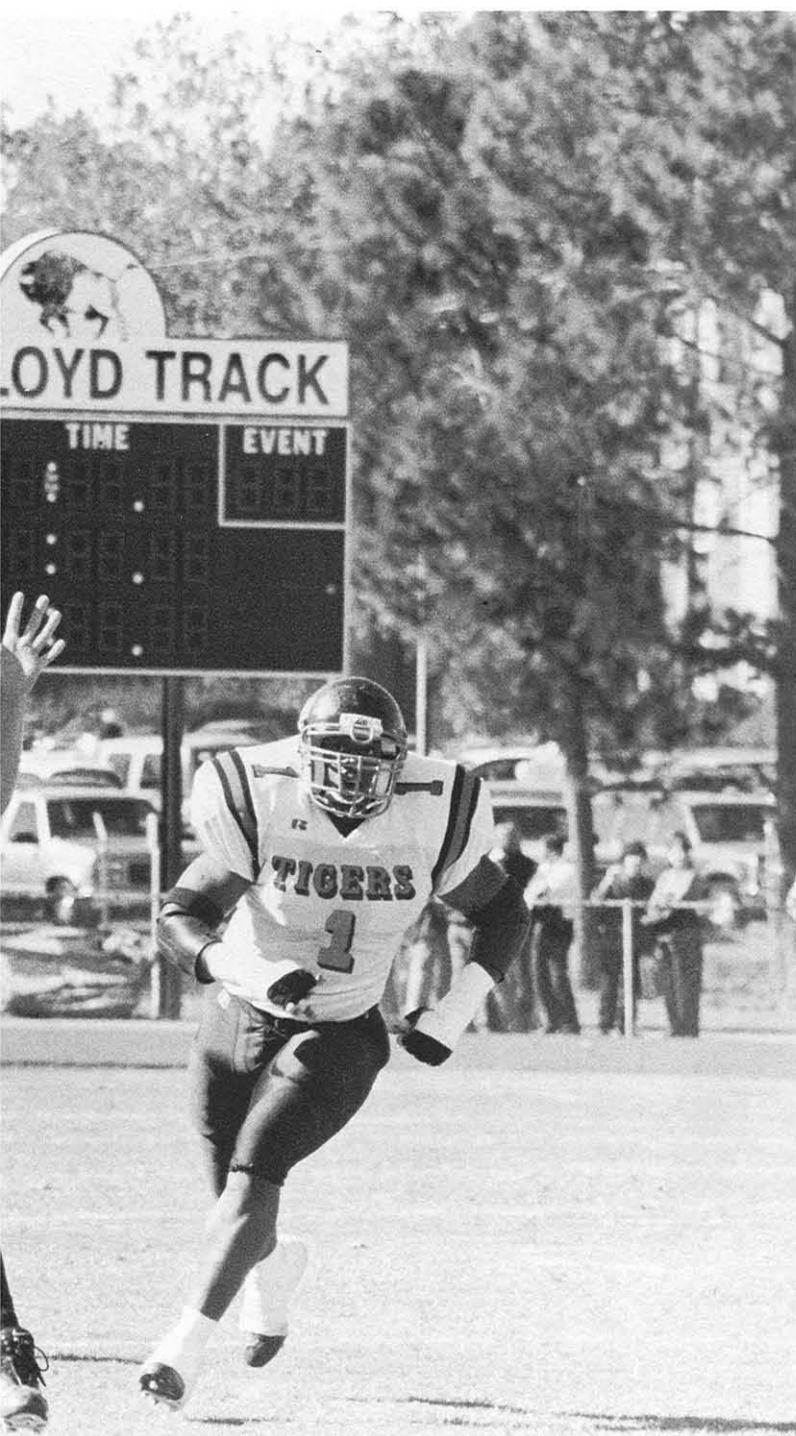


Photo by Daniel Dubois



Photo by Daniel Dubois

Luke Cullins, senior quarterback, launches a long pass before the East Central University defense can get close to him. Cullins garnered numerous honors after a season in which he averaged 264.8 passing yards per game and threw 22 touchdown passes.

FOR THE RECORD. . .

FOOTBALL RESULTS

Overall 5-5

Lone Star Conference 3-5

Tarleton State	W	44-16
West Alabama	W	21-19
Midwestern State	W	38-35 (OT)
Angelo State	L	28-31
SE Okla.	L	27-41
NE Okla.	L	28-34 (OT)
Central Okla.	L	30-42
East Central Okla.	W	30-7
Ouachita Baptist	W	41-7
SW Okla.	L	22-31



Photo by Daniel Dubois

Jimi Holden, sophomore free safety, tries to strip the ball away from an East Central University player during the Bisons' Homecoming game at Alumni Field. "[Holden is] a hard-nosed player with a lot of energy and enthusiasm," Head Coach Randy Tribble said.

Trying to give quarterback Luke Cullins time to throw the ball, Jason Sneed (20), sophomore, and David Bagley (75), junior, put pressure on a West Alabama defender. The Bisons topped West Alabama 21-19 when the Tigers missed a late field goal.

Rachel Raglin, senior, handles the ball in a game against Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Raglin, a Pochontas native, started all but one game in her four years with the Bisons.

FOR THE RECORD. . .

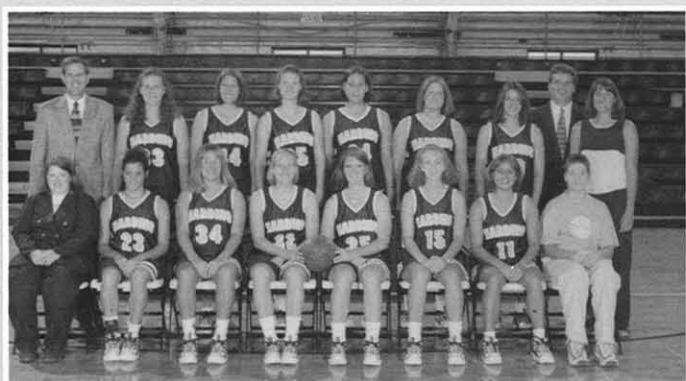


Photo by Jeff Montgomery

Women's Basketball Front Row: Glenna Wright, Mindy Napier, Jamie Pate, Heather Lawrence, Louisa Duke, Andrea Hickmon, Krista Anderson, Andrea Miesner. **Second Row:** Coach Brad Francis, Josie Anderson, Kelli Fager, Susan Berry, Jennifer Williams, Stephanie Davis, Rachel Raglin, Asst. Coach Stephen Burks, Susan Reiss.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

RESULTS

Overall 9-17

Lone Star Conference 3-11

Abilene Christian	W 72-68	SW Okla. St.	W 60-48
Angelo State	L 57-66	Cameron	L 66-73
Southern Ark.	W 87-66	NE Okla. St.	L 36-48
Eastern N.M.	L 55-75	Central Okla.	L 58-73
W. Tex. A&M	L 63-64	Lyon	L 73-84
Lyon	W 84-74	Ouachita Baptist	L 61-83
Ark.-Monticello	L 54-73	Central Okla.	L 65-73
Christian Brothers	W 64-52	NE Okla. St.	L 64-74
Texas Woman's	W 67-64	East Central Okla.	L 69-71
Central Ark.	L 62-75	SE Okla. St.	W 56-55
Southern Ark.	W 65-62	Ouachita Baptist	L 68-75
SE Okla. St.	W 70-67	Cameron	L 78-84
East Central Okla.	L 40-62	SW Okla. St.	L 56-66

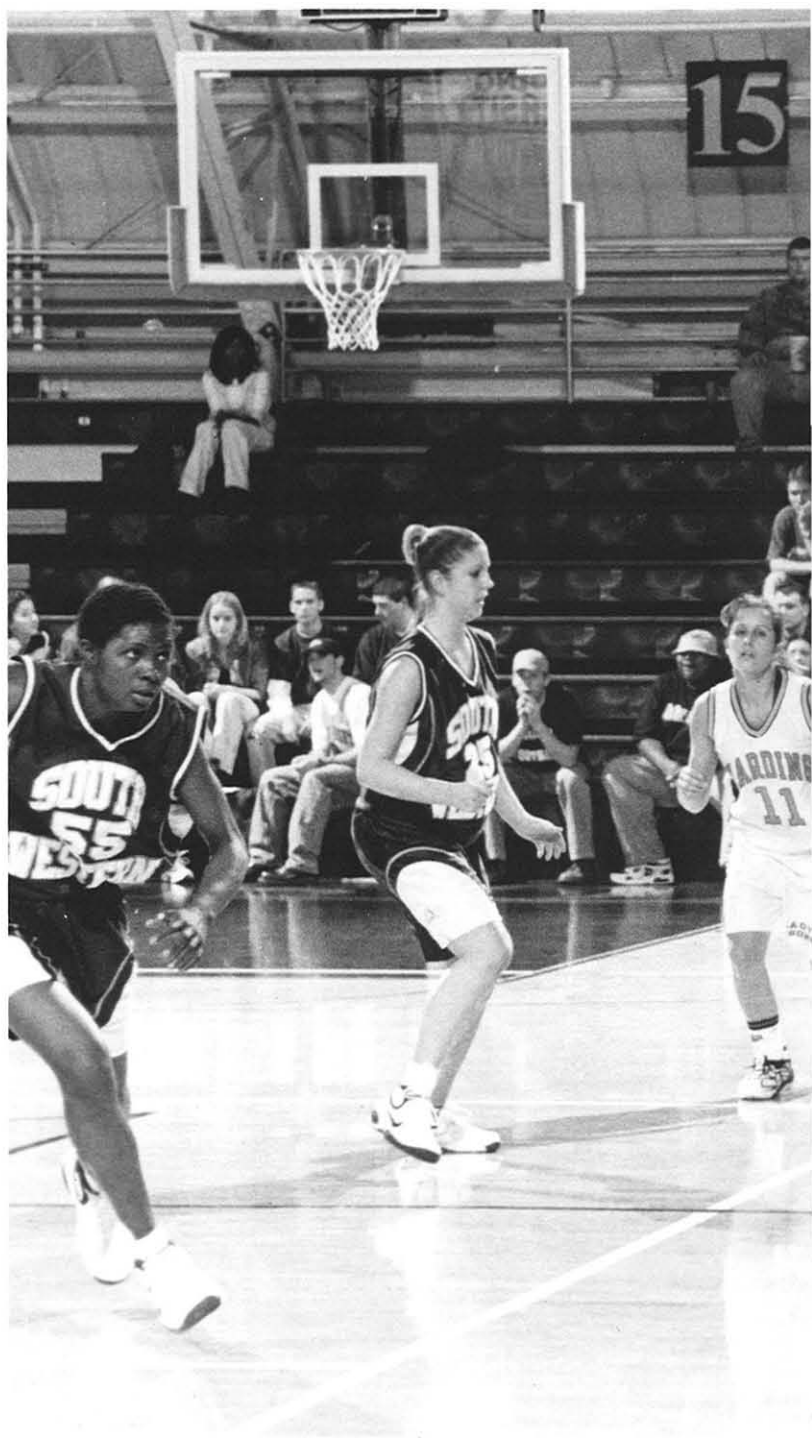


Photo by Mark Kinonen

Strategizing during a timeout, Lady Bison Coach Brad Francis encourages his squad. The 1999-2000 season was Francis' third season at the helm, after a year as an assistant under Greg Harnden.

Evading an attempted block, Heather Lawrence, freshman, shoots a layup. The Lady Bisons won the game against Southwestern Oklahoma State, 60-48.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

SHOWS TEAM SPIRIT

The concept of a team is something that few can fully understand. Blood, sweat and tears are not just motivational phrases.

They represent groups of individuals striving for the same goal — victory.

That is what being a team is all about.

The Lady Bisons basketball team was an excellent example of this idea. At the beginning of the 1999-2000 season, the Lady Bisons faced four of the top teams in the South Division of the Lone Star Conference (LSC).

Although they came away from these games with a 1-3 record, the Lady Bisons competed well and had a good showing against some tough competition, including a season-opening win at Abilene Christian University, Nov. 26, 72-68.

"We had something to prove against these strong teams, and I think we did a good job of showing that we can compete with top teams," Mindy Napier, junior, said.

This being their last year in the LSC, the Lady Bisons wanted to send a message to the other teams in the conference, according to Rachel Raglin, senior.

"We have competed well in this conference, but we really wanted to go out on a good note," Raglin said.

While there were several returning players from last year's team, five new players were introduced at the beginning of the season. Raglin said her new teammates were a welcome addition to the growing team.

"We had a new group this year," Raglin said. "As the season progressed, we began to play much better together and function more as a team."

Raglin and fellow senior Jamie Pate provided leadership for the young team.

Raglin's nine steals against Cameron University on Jan. 22 established a new Lady Bison record for steals in a single game. The forced turnovers were not enough, however, as the visitors won the game, 73-66.

As any winning organization can attest to, the one aspect that separates a good team from a better team is defense — and the Lady Bisons were no different.

"We had trouble getting up and down the court sometimes," Raglin said. "We understand that defense is the basis of this team and are always working to improve on that."

"We set defensive goals that we tried to reach for each game," Kelli Fager, junior, said. "We have done well in the past, but we can always do better."

"The games we won were the games in which

we did a good job at achieving our defensive goals," Krista Anderson, senior, said. "That's why we put so much emphasis on shutting down the other teams offensively."

Another strength of the Lady Bisons was the team's ability to rely on each other in game situations rather than just on one person to carry the team.

"We were a well-balanced team," Raglin said. "While we had some great individual players, we had more than one weapon when we needed it."

The team concept was definitely stressed in the Lady Bison locker room. But every team has

an individual from which it draws energy and encouragement. Several Lady Bison members said Pate was one of their sources of leadership.

"Jaime is a great motivator in practice as well as during games," Fager said. "She is a good encourager who won't hesitate to tell someone where they can improve."

"She [Jamie] has a lot of energy that we all benefit from," Raglin said. "She helped us keep a positive attitude in practice as well as in games."

A common understanding of the Lady Bisons is the high level of competition in the Gulf South Conference (GSC). The 2000-2001 season will be the Lady Bisons' first year in the GSC, and it promises to be an exciting season, according to Fager.

"Sure, there are going to be hard teams to beat, but the degree of competition is fairly equal throughout the conference," she said. "The intensity will be high and any team can finish the season with the conference title."

The Lady Bisons promise to be a strong force in a highly competitive GSC that will provide many new challenges.

The GSC will reunite Harding with several opponents from the old Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference, including Central Arkansas, Henderson State, Southern Arkansas, Arkansas Tech and Arkansas-Monticello.

The Lady Bisons' potential for success against the new competition is compounded by the fact that the Lady Bisons will have five experienced seniors on the roster next season.

— Brian Jobe

"WE WERE A WELL-BALANCED TEAM. WHILE WE HAD SOME GREAT INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS, WE HAD MORE THAN ONE WEAPON WHEN WE NEEDED IT."

-RACHEL RAGLIN, SENIOR



Photo by Mark Kinonen



Photo by Mark Kinonen

MEN'S BASKETBALL

REBOUNDS IN LSC PLAY

Despite a rocky start, the Bison basketball team managed to overcome early season setbacks and earn a spot in the Lone Star Conference (LSC) Tournament.

"I am very excited about this team despite our slow start. Even though we were struggling, we could see that we were capable of doing some very good things," Assistant Coach Jeff Kirby said early in the season.

The Bisons finished with an 8-6 record in the LSC North Division, good enough for third place and a playoff game at West Texas A&M. West Texas won 92-67 Feb. 29 to end Harding's season.

This year's Bison squad consisted of four seniors: Chris Hardaway, Lenny Bert, Levern Floyd and Dwayne Elliot. These four players stepped to the forefront as leaders of the Bison team.

"Throughout the year our four seniors exhibited a good work ethic, which carried over to the rest of the team," Coach Jeff Morgan said.

One element which contributed to the Bisons' success while playing at home was the fans, which have been appropriately dubbed "The Rhodes Rowdies." As he has done in the past, Morgan praised the fans for their support week in and week out.

"The fans were great this year. You can't say enough about the Rhodes Rowdies; they made it fun for all of the players," Morgan said. "The atmosphere they provided generated a lot of fun."

The Rhodes Rowdies were in top form at the

start of the LSC schedule in January. After starting conference play with two losses on the road, the Bisons came home to Rhodes Fieldhouse and won three out of their four home games in January.

One of the wins in that streak, 100-58 domination of Cameron University, set a new school record for margin of victory in a LSC home game.

There are several things that made this year's Bisons a unique team to watch and to play for. Many of the Bison players said their ability to overcome obstacles was one element that made winning possible.

"This team had the ability to react well to adversity," Armand Etame, junior, said. "I am also proud of our relationships on and off the court."

Morgan was also impressed with the play of his underclassmen this season, he said. Jay Brogdon and Michael Jackson were two freshmen who played well for the Bisons. Both are expected to contribute toward the future of Bison basketball.

"We have a good nucleus coming back next season, Morgan said. "Give the freshmen another year and they will be more experienced and adjusted."

One thing that this year's team did on a consistent basis was work extremely hard on and off the court, according to Morgan.

The team could be seen in the weight room constantly, and they practiced six days a week, he said.

"We worked harder this year," Jason McGinty, sophomore, said. "We're just now starting to come together as a team."

— Alan Seim

**"YOU CAN'T SAY
ENOUGH ABOUT THE
RHODES ROWDIES;
THEY MADE IT FUN
FOR ALL OF THE
PLAYERS."**

-COACH JEFF MORGAN

Dwayne McDonald (42), junior, scores two points with an uncontested slam dunk against Arkansas-Monticello. The Bisons topped the Boll Weevils at Rhodes Fieldhouse, 78-75, but lost in Monticello, 99-88.

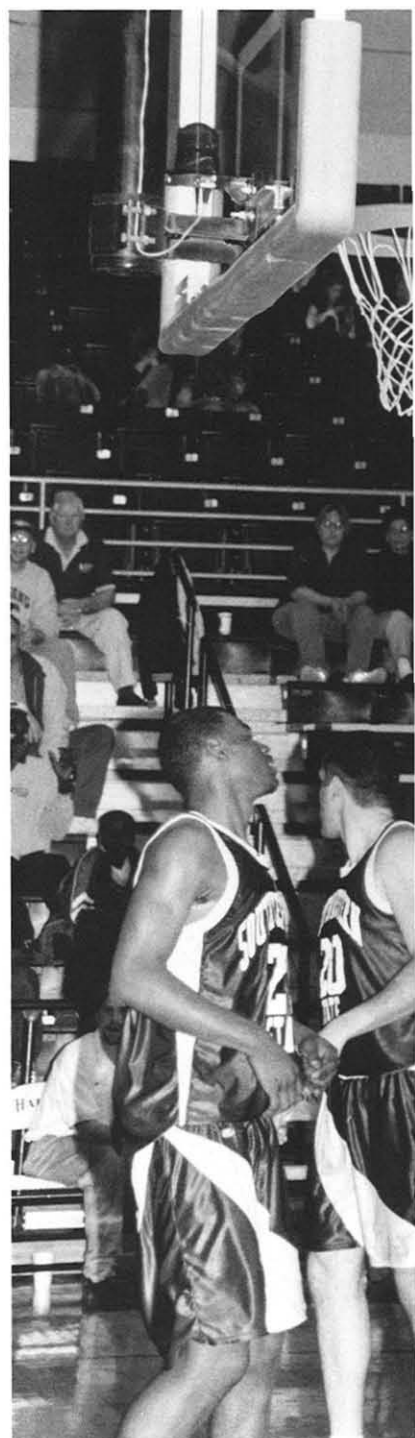
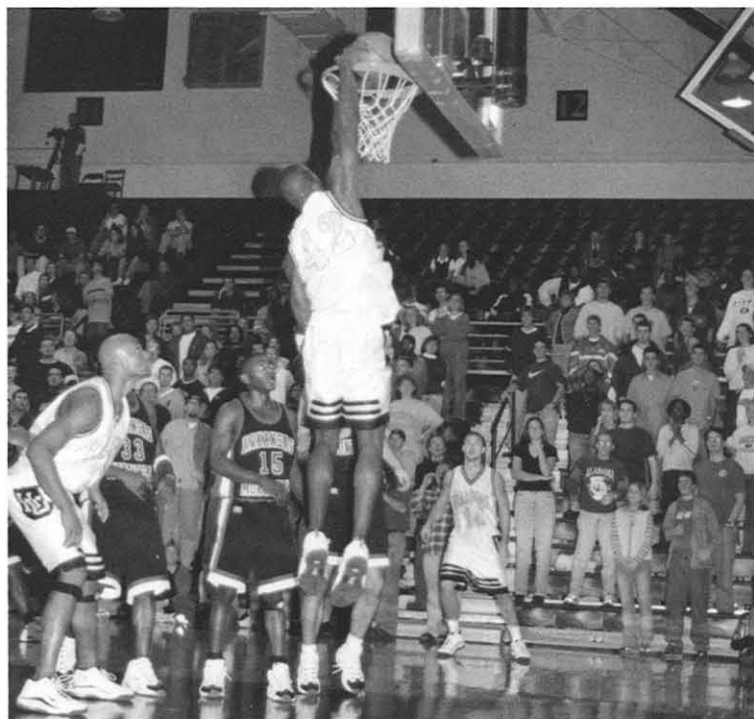


Photo by Daniel Dubois

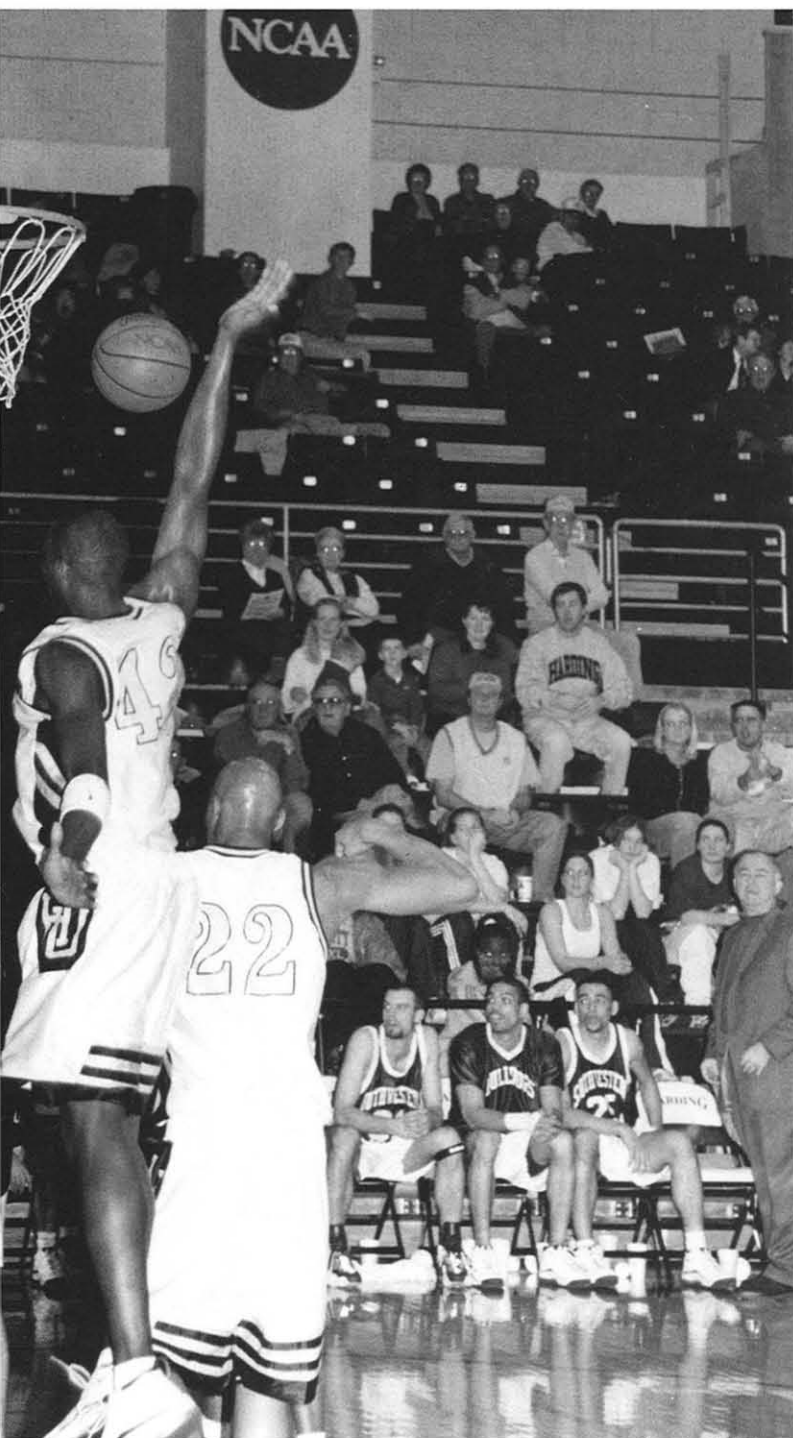


Photo by Mark Kinonen



Photo by Mark Kinonen

Dwayne McDonald (42), junior, and Michael Jackson (22), sophomore, play defense as a shot goes up.

FOR THE RECORD . . .



Photo by Jeff Montgomery

Men's Basketball Front Row: Zachary Kirby. Second Row: Jonathan Roberson, Lavern Floyd, Lenard Blocker, Chris Hardaway, Aaron Farley, Lenny Bert, Jason McGinty, Danny Jeune, Lance Langston. Back Row: Asst. Coach Tim Kirby, Ray Woods, Joe Merillat, Jay Brogdon, Dwayne Elliott, Armand Etame, Dwayne McDonald, Michael Jackson, Tommy Busby, Coach Jeff Morgan.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

RESULTS

Overall 13-14

Lone Star Conference 8-6

Lyon	L 75-83	SW Okla. St.	W 94-79
Williams Baptist	W 98-95	Cameron	W 100-58
Abilene Christian	L 75-77	NE Okla. St.	L 59-70
Angelo State	L 70-78	Central Okla.	W 92-90
Ark.-Monticello	W 78-75	Ouachita Baptist	W 76-67
Eastern N.M.	L 62-68	Central Okla.	L 81-95
W. Tex. A&M	L 60-71	NE Okla. St.	L 53-91
Williams Baptist	W 93-81	East Central Okla.	W 69-58
Lyon	W 82-58	SE Okla. St.	W 66-61
Southern Ark.	W 93-91	Ouachita Baptist	W 69-67
Ark.-Monticello	L 88-99	Cameron	W 66-47
Southern Ark.	L 92-98	SW Okla. St.	L 73-81
SE Okla. St.	L 62-64	W. Tex. A&M	L 67-92
East Central Okla.	L 64-71		



Photo by Daniel Dubois

Driving the lane towards the hoop, Lenny Bert, senior, tries to score. "Lenny is a real warrior on the court," Coach Jeff Morgan said. "Guys seem to really rally around him because of his work ethic and his desire to compete."

Jason McGinty, sophomore, shoots a key free throw against Southwestern Oklahoma State University. McGinty scored 15 points, including a seven-of-eight day at the free throw line, to help the Bisons top the Bulldogs, 94-79.

Jimmy Allen, sophomore, goes up for a shot in a small club basketball game between Alpha Tau Epsilon and Delta Chi Delta. The large Ganus Athletic Center allowed six men's games to be played at once during the club tournament.

Brian Jobe, senior, returns the serve in an intramural table tennis match. Justin John, sophomore, won the men's intramural table tennis singles tournament, then teamed up with Klaus Schmidt, sophomore, to take the doubles championship.

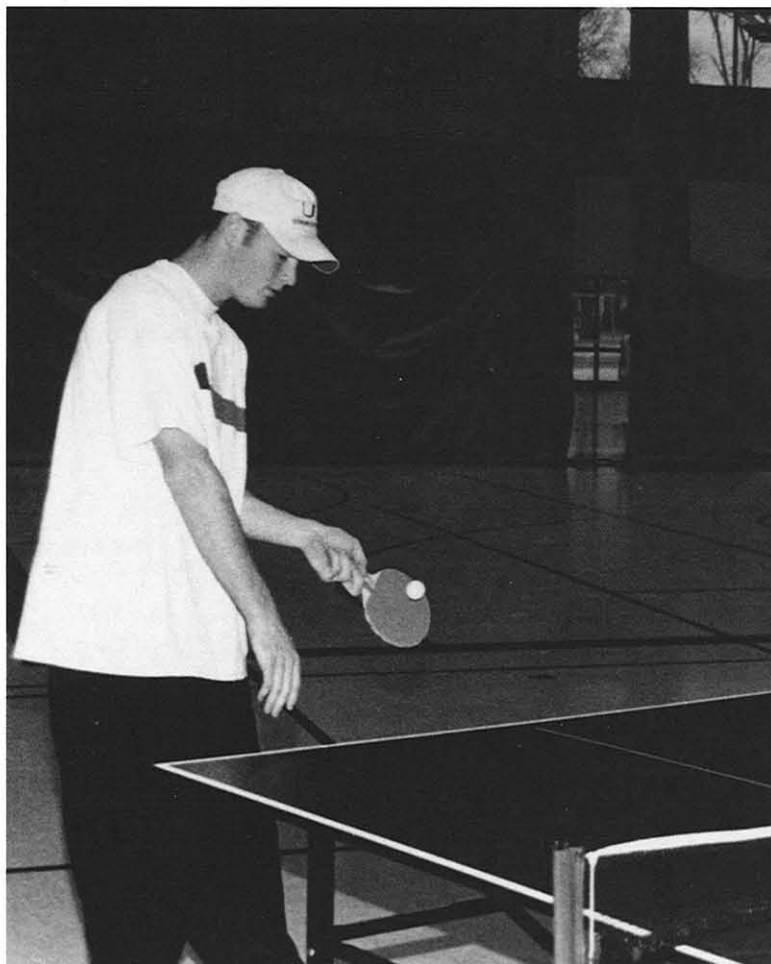


Photo by Salomon Pineda

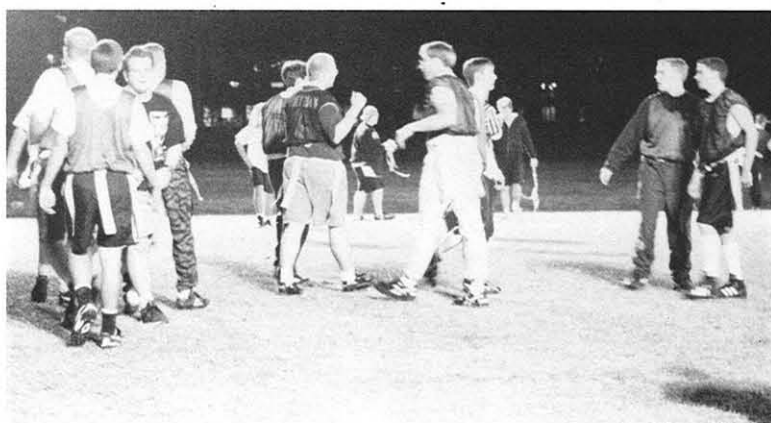
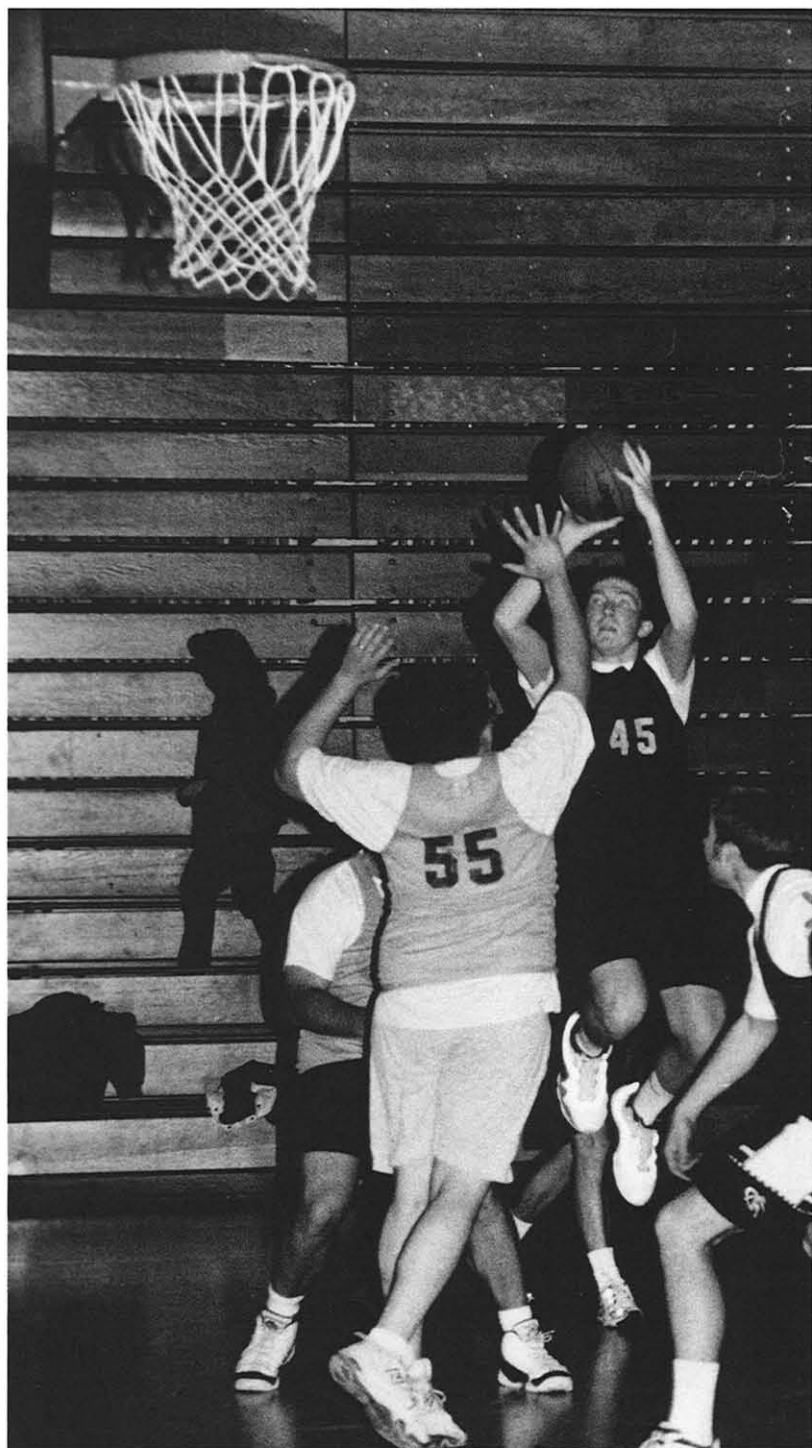
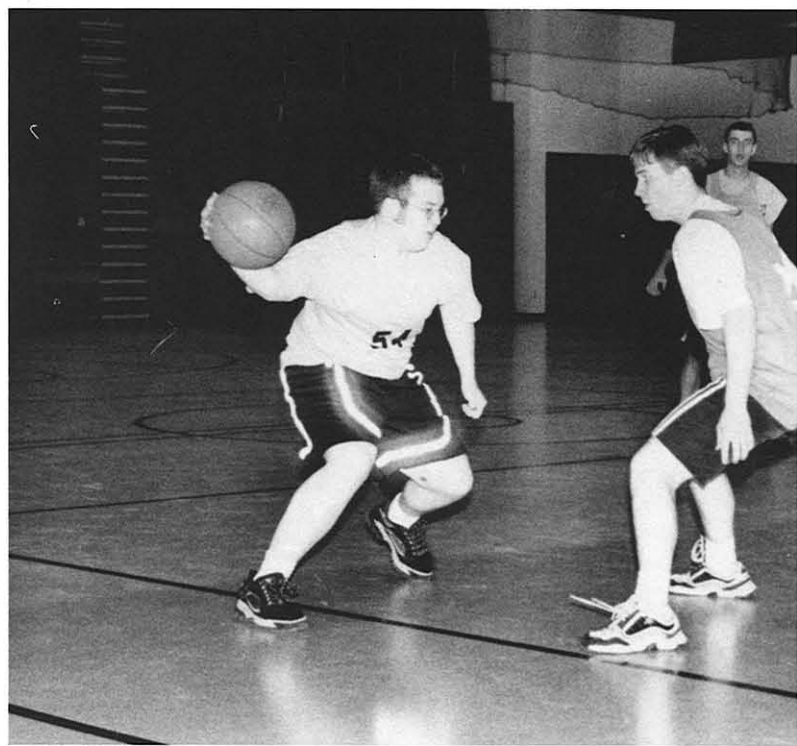


Photo by Daniel Dubois

The opposing squads shake hands after a small club flag football game. The intramural program placed a high emphasis on sportsmanship, both during and after competition.

Two competitors go one-on-one in an intramural basketball game. Divided into two divisions based on skill level, over 100 men participated in intramural basketball.



MEN'S INTRAMURALS

SOCCER JOINS LINEUP

The beginning of the 1999-2000 men's intramural season was eagerly anticipated by individual competitors and teams alike.

Several additions were made to the already vast expanse of the intramural playing field. This was the first year that intramural competitors enjoyed soccer. Soccer was played on the intramural football fields, and slightly smaller goals were used to compensate for the decreased size of the playing fields.

"We're very excited about soccer being added to our program," Jim Gowen, men's intramural director, said.

Intramural soccer was played after spring break, at the same time as spring softball. Gowen said that soccer will not be added to the club lineup, as it is already full.

Competition was strong in all of the sports played this year, according to Gowen. More importantly, however, sportsmanship remained the cornerstone of the intramural tradition, according to Sean Hudkins, intramural graduate assistant.

"All of the play in the men's sports has been very competitive," Hudkins said. "As a whole, sportsmanship has been excellent."

Bryan Jobe, intramurals assistant, said that much of the success of this year's intramural program can be attributed to the hard work of Gowen.

"The growing success of the intramural program is due to Mr. Gowen's dedication and enduring work throughout the year," Jobe said.

Eight individual competitors worked to earn the coveted intramural jacket this year. A busy and strenuous schedule awaited all those who braved such an undertaking.

To earn a jacket, one had to participate in all

team sports, all singles and doubles tournaments, the swim meet, the cross country run and at least half of the sports skills contests.

"Those hoping to earn the jacket must compete in all of the team sports and at least half of the individual activities," Gowen said.

The individual activities included table tennis, racquetball, tennis, track, cross country, swimming and the sports skills contests.

Another major award in the intramural program was the All Sports Trophy. Men's social clubs are awarded points based on their finish in each club sport at both A and B levels. At the end of each school year, the club with the most points at each level wins.

Both large and small men's social clubs competed in softball, flag football, volleyball, basketball, track and field and swimming.

Those not in social clubs and club members who were looking for more playing time could participate in intramural sports like softball, flag football, volleyball, basketball or soccer.

"Intramurals at Harding is one of our oldest traditions," Gowen said. "Intramurals is one of those things that make Harding a special place."

— Alan Seim

"INTRAMURALS AT HARDING IS ONE OF OUR OLDEST TRADITIONS HANDED DOWN FROM PREVIOUS GENERATIONS. INTRAMURALS ARE ONE OF THOSE THINGS THAT MAKE HARDING A SPECIAL PLACE."

**- JIM GOWEN,
DIRECTOR OF MEN'S
INTRAMURALS**



Photo by Mark Kinonen

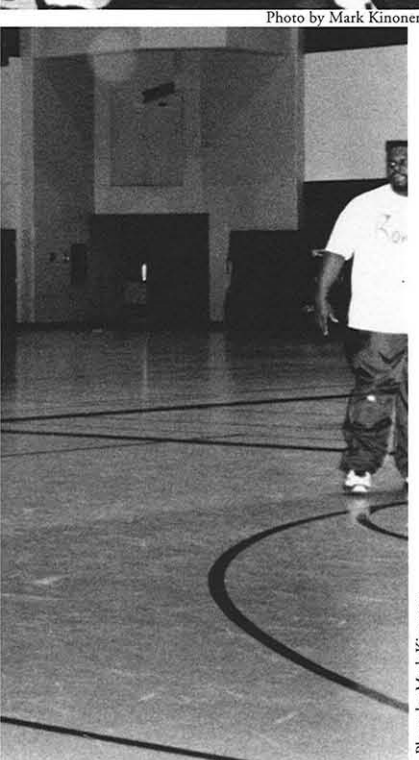


Photo by Mark Kinonen

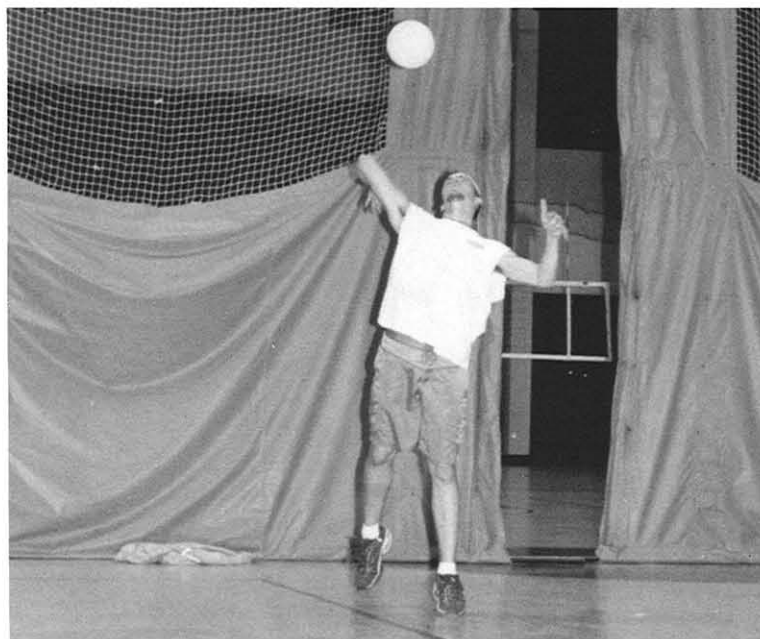


Photo by Daniel Dubois

An intramural volleyball player prepares to serve the ball. Volleyball was the final team sport of the fall semester for men's clubs and intramurals.

WOMEN'S INTRAMURALS

MOORE HEADS PROGRAM

In 1924, when Harding became a four-year institution under the leadership of Dr. George Benson, the school immediately began its intramural program. Today, the women's intramural sports program continues to involve one of the most diverse cross-sections of Harding women.

The program is directed by Dr. Jessica Moore, who came to Harding two years ago to fill the position when Barbara Barnes retired after 34 years. Moore was Barnes' student assistant nearly 20 years ago while attending Harding.

"Dr. Moore is always on task about the games," Jennifer Stowe, senior, said. "She always gives a smile and wants to know who we are."

**"INTRAMURAL
SPORTS ARE A GOOD
WAY TO MEET
PEOPLE. IT'S LOTS
OF FUN."
-ANNA
WESTMORELAND,
SENIOR**

Holly Nelson, senior, agreed. "Dr. Moore enjoys meeting people and is really involved with the program," she said.

This year's women's intramural program consisted of six sports. In the fall, students played softball, tennis and volleyball. Spring sports included basketball, racquetball, soccer and softball. In addition, there was one night when players competed at badminton, table tennis and shuffleboard.

"The main purpose of the program is to have fun," Moore said. "Intramural sports are not as competitive as club sports. Instead, it is a socializing time and a time to meet new friends."

One of the biggest differences between intramural and intercollegiate sports was the varied ability levels of the participants, according to Nelson.

"We have a wide variety of ability on the

teams," she said, "but that is what makes it fun and enjoyable."

Women who participated earned points that counted toward a letter jacket or blanket. The point system was implemented in 1939 and still determines the top players each semester. In addition, the High Point Award was given to the player who accumulated the most points.

According to Moore, players earned points by entering an event, officiating games, being on one of the teams that place in the top three and playing on an all-star team.

A sportsmanship award was also presented to an exemplary student at the end of the spring semester.

Intramural sports are a regular activity among Harding students.

In fact, many students favored the intramural program over club sports, according to Anna Westmoreland, senior.

"Club sports are more competitive and teammates already know each other," she said. "Intramural sports are a good way to meet people. It's lots of fun."

The relationships which were formed during the games were perhaps the greatest benefit of the intramural program, according to Stowe.

"Intramural sports are a great way to involve people," Stowe said. "I created so many friendships by being involved in the program. There is a unique atmosphere when playing with people who are from many different places. We get to help each other out."

"The contact I have with students is so much closer and more personable than in the classroom," Moore said. "I have the best job in the world."

— Rachel Wilson

Club basketball players circle up for a postgame prayer, a longtime tradition involving both teams. The women's intramural program is coordinated by Dr. Jessica Moore and aided by six intramural assistants.



Photo by Mark Kinonen



Photo by Mark Kinonen

Sarah Nowlin, freshman, shoots a short jump shot in an intramural basketball game. Participation in women's intramural basketball grew this year, requiring the formation of two more teams than last year.

Students wait for the ball to come down in a club volleyball match. Shantih and Zeta Rho dominated women's club volleyball by winning two divisions each.



Photo by Salomon Pineda



Photo by Daniel Dubois

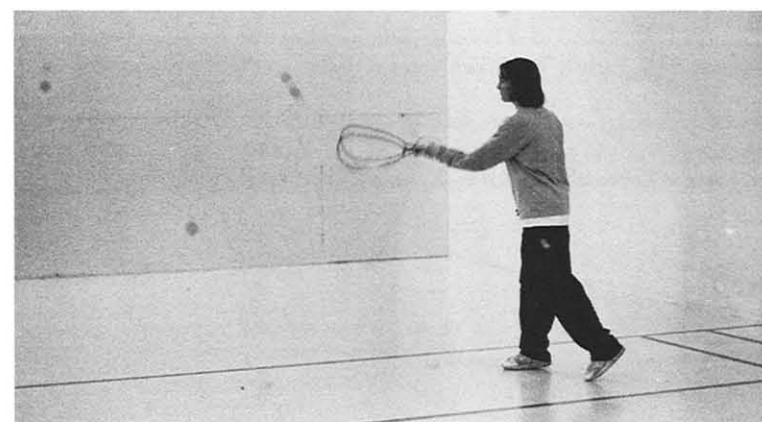


Photo by Mark Kinonen

Jennifer Burton, senior, plays raquetball on the Ganus Athletic Center raquetball courts. Played in the fall semester, raquetball and tennis were the two women's intramural individual sports.

Running down the sideline, Leigh Howard, sophomore, gains yardage in a club football game. Ko Jo Kai won the B and C-level championships in club football, but Shantih took the top prize, the A championship. Club sports were overseen by the intramural staffs.

Showing the Alumni Field crowd her skill, Christy Samuels, sophomore, forms the top of a pyramid while being supported by Jamie Kulild, sophomore, and Elizabeth Hedley, senior. Unlike years past, in which a separate set of cheerleaders was selected for the basketball season, the squad remained intact for the entire school year.

FOR THE RECORD. . .



Photo by Jeff Montgomery

Cheerleaders: Front Row: Elizabeth Hedley, Candace Ward, Melissa Henderson, Holly Dawson, Christy Samuels, Heather Fox. Second Row: Amanda Davis, Jennifer Shappley, Carla Redd, Liza Freeman, Paige Fairley. Back Row: Jamie Kulild, Kerri Kaegi.



Photo by Daniel Dubois

The cheerleaders show their Harding pride by riding with the Bison mascot in the Homecoming Parade. The Parade was a revival of an old Harding tradition.

Jennifer Shappley, sophomore, leads the cheerleaders and football teams as they burst onto the field before a football game. The squad was under new leadership this year as Kellee Blickenstaff took over the cheerleading program.

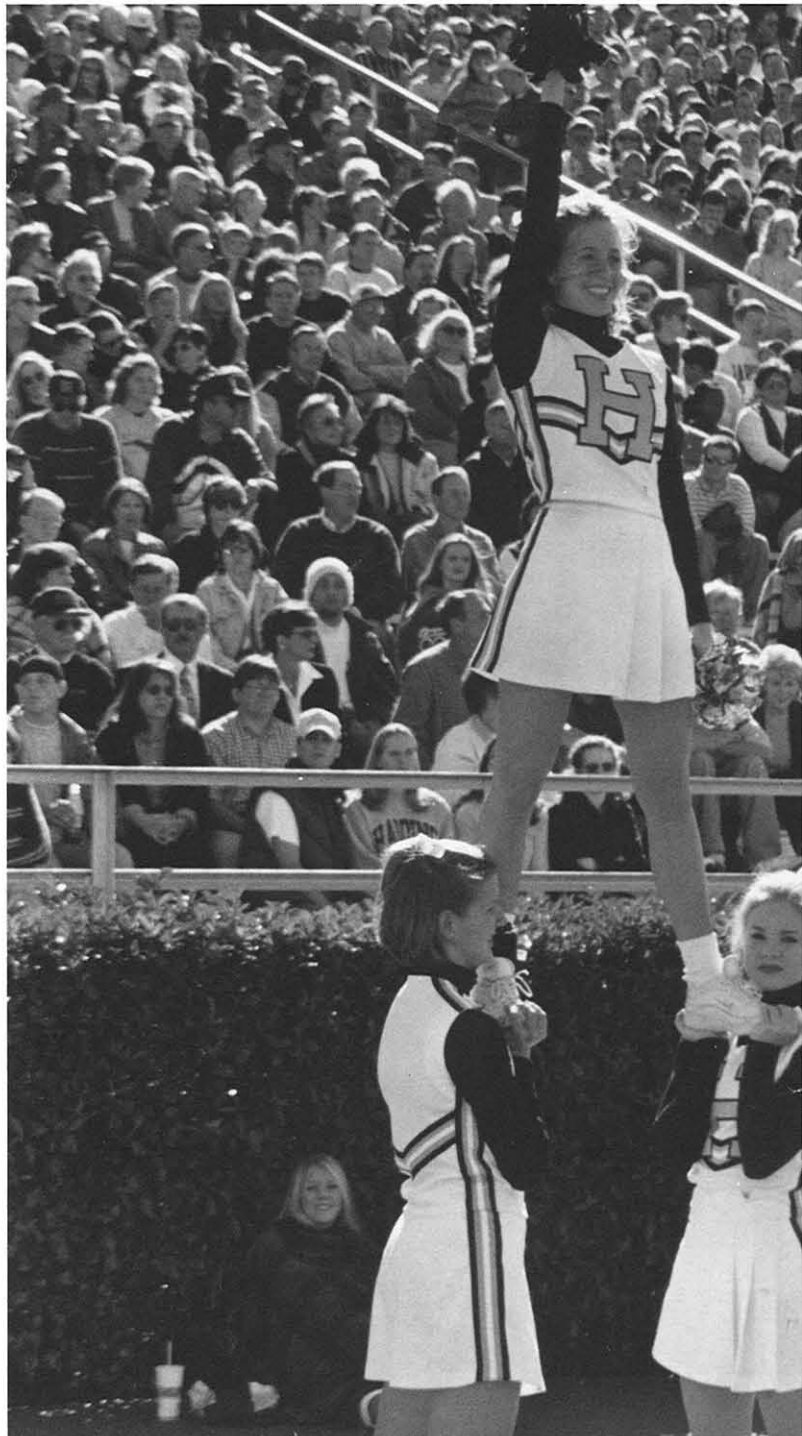




Photo by Daniel Dubois



Photo by Daniel Dubois

CHEERLEADERS

CHANGE WITH NEW SPONSOR

Try to imagine a world without sports. Try to imagine a world without an arena for both men and women to exert their energies into a fierce and exciting competition. For many, this task only presents a vision of a world without color, without life, without spirit.

At the risk of pressing you into a greater depth of depression, try to imagine a football game without one of the most important and exciting components. Try to picture the dull crowd lacking in spirit and enthusiasm. The players and coaches are present. The fans are packed in their seats. But one vital aspect of the game is still absent. Only one addition can put the game back into the spotlight where so many loyal fans flock to join in on the emotion — the cheerleaders.

To many dedicated athletes and sports fans, the cheerleaders at football and basketball games are as American as apple pie. Not only are they a pleasant and enjoyable means of adding spice and excitement to the game, but they can easily be considered a necessity.

In order to fulfill this imaginary and hypothetical void, a talented group of 13 young women were assembled to lead the Bison teams and fans to victory. Through intense practices and workouts, the Bison cheerleaders have prepared themselves and have proven to be up for the task at hand.

While the fall signaled the beginning of another season of Bison athletics, it also signaled a new beginning for the Bison cheerleaders. Kellee Blickenstaff was named the new sponsor for the squad.

"Kellee has a lot of good connections and knows how to get things done," Paige Fairley, junior, said. "She puts a lot of work and effort into her job to make us better at what we do."

With Blickenstaff in her first year as cheerleader sponsor, the squad reverted to an old practice in which one squad cheered at both football and basketball games.

"Since 1983 the cheerleaders were divided into two separate squads that performed at one sport," Blickenstaff said. "We have an experienced group of girls that work hard to boost school spirit at both football and basketball [games]."

While cheering for both sports may require more practice and training, the Bison cheerleaders recognized the advantages to the two-sport cheering season, according to Kerri Kaegi, captain.

"It takes a lot of time and dedication to cheer at both sports," Kaegi said. "Our main purpose is to support the teams, and doing both is a great way to do just that."

Along with the ability to boost crowd support and spirit for the players, returning members

acknowledged and appreciated the ability to build on the fundamentals of cheerleading that were taught in the fall.

"We used to have to learn new things to catch the new girls up for each sport," Carla Redd, senior, said. "With one squad we can continue to build on things we learned early in the school year. This allowed us to improve at a faster pace and learn more things."

To some, the amount of time and dedication a cheerleader puts into her job seems minimal. But something many people do not realize is the intense training and preparation completed by the Bison cheerleaders before the athletic season even begins.

"The girls arrive on campus a week before the rest of the student body," Blickenstaff said. "They do everything from learning cheers and routines to lifting weights and running for conditioning. The girls have to be in great shape when the season rolls around."

As a reward for the hard work and time put forth by the squad, Blickenstaff is in the early stages of entering the squad into cheerleading competitions held with other schools.

"This would be a great way for us to gain awareness of and recognition for the sport of cheerleading," Kaegi said. "People don't recognize it for being the sport that it is, and this would be a great way to show what goes into cheering."

"For us to become a competition squad would be a great way to get more girls interested in cheering at Harding," Fairley said. "We have a large and experienced group that could do really well at a competition."

The squad was also given the opportunity to interact with some children from the Sunshine School.

"The girls shared their time and energy with the kids by playing baseball, helping with crafts and other activities," Blickenstaff said. "The kids really enjoyed the time they spent with the group."

"I played baseball with the children for most of the time," Redd said. "We had a lot of fun and it made me feel good to be someone they could look up to."

— Brian Jobe

"WE HAVE AN EXPERIENCED GROUP OF GIRLS THAT WORK HARD TO BOOST SCHOOL SPIRIT AT BOTH FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL [GAMES]."
-KELLEE BLICKENSTAFF, SPONSOR
