



BOOSTING THE *Spirit* FOR THE FUTURE

Throughout Harding's history, it has excelled in both the academic and the athletic arenas. Whether in intercollegiate or intramural athletics, Harding teams strive to be the best they can be and to do so in a spirit of competition and sportsmanship.


Through the years, the Bisons have left their mark in the record books in a variety of intercollegiate sports. The bowling team dominated the Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference (AIC) from 1964 to 1980 when the conference dropped bowling. During that time, the team earned four national championships.

The cross country teams racked up 19 consecutive district championships from 1972 to 1990 and 18 consecutive AIC championships. During the last eight years of the AIC, Harding won the all-sports trophy seven times.

As the athletic teams settled into their second year of competition in the Lone Star Conference, one of the toughest conferences in the nation, they faced many bumps in the road, but Athletic Director Greg Harnden deemed it a successful year. "We fell short of our goals in many respects, but we fared well as newcomers to such a competitive conference," Harnden said. "I believe we are up to the task of being competitive in every sport in the conference. We just need a little more time and experience."

At Alumni Field, Rhodes Field House and Jerry Moore Field, fans made Bison opponents work hard for scores while spurring the home teams to victory. Record crowds did their part to bring honor and recognition to the players.

Harding athletics charted a new course by adding women's intercollegiate soccer and changing to non-contact intra-



mural flag football. The soccer team, coached by Dr. Terry Edwards, also an associate professor of humanities, hit the field running and scoring to make victory next to impossible for their opponents. Their successful first year set a course for seasons to come. Non-contact flag football took some getting used to, but the transition went smoothly according to Jim Gowen, director of men's intramural athletics. Reduction of injuries and more evenly matched play led to quick acceptance of the change.

All of the athletic teams had traditions to live up to, but this year's players worked hard to pursue the mark laid out before them as they charted a course for future competition and left behind an even greater legacy for others to follow.

Ryan Puckett, Athletics Editor

The 1970 National Championship Bowling Team included Charles Webb, Gary Parsons, Dennie Reeve, Mark Poteat and Charles Burt. During the following four years the Bisons won the National Championship three more times.

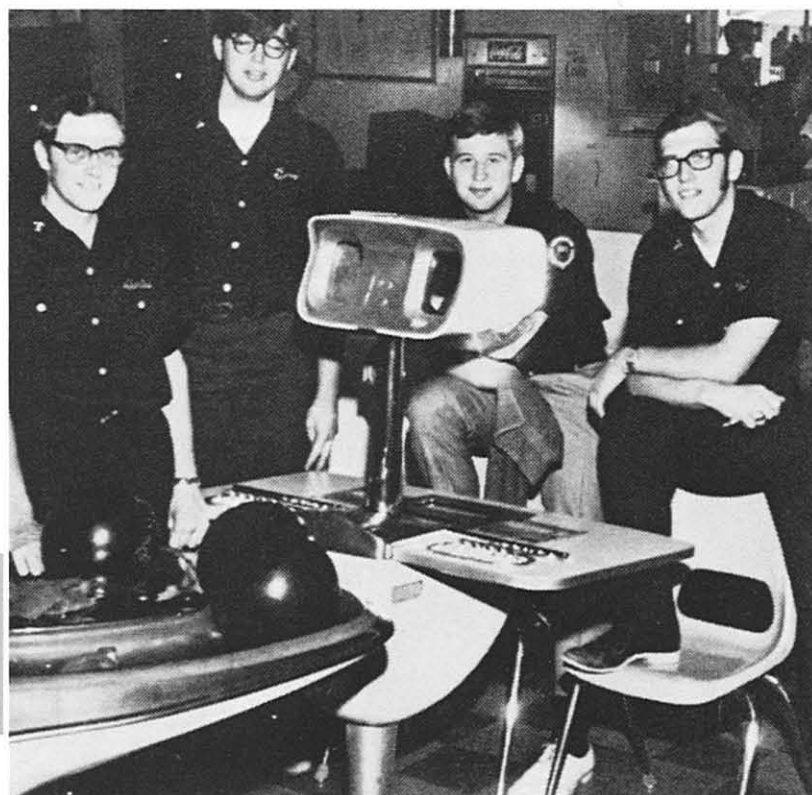
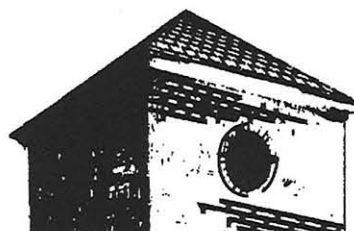


Photo from 1971 Petit Jean



Photo by Daniel Dubois

Baseball coach Shane Fullerton and basketball coach Jeff Morgan fill their plates while visiting with Stan Bratcher at the Bison Boosters dinner. The dinner was held August 24 at the John E. Lightle Center to allow the athletes to meet those who support their activities.



ADDING TO *Records* OF THE PAST



Mid-season slump defines tough season

The 1998 Bison baseball team had a rough transition into the NCAA Division II Lone Star Conference as they finished the season with a 13-34 record. Coach Shane Fullerton was forced to rely upon the strength of his eight seniors as the Bisons had to face stronger competition.

Senior David Rampey was chosen as the team's Most Valuable Player for the second consecutive year. Rampey led the Bisons offensively, batting .313 with 46 hits and 16 runs.

"David did a real good job this year leading the team in a lot of the offensive categories," Fullerton said. "He led the team by example and verbally."

Sophomore Seth Watson also had an outstanding year offensively as he batted .287 with 41 hits and 23 runs. "I am pretty satisfied with the way I hit the ball this year, but as a team we did not do too well," Watson said. "We just couldn't put all the pieces together at the same time."

Hitting was the Bisons' biggest weakness as only two players reached the .250 batting average plateau.

Harding's pitching staff was loaded with upperclassmen but was unable to reach its potential and hold up against many of the tough Division II schools. Seniors Bentley Harrell and Charley Moore added some maturity to the pitching lineup. Unfortunately, the Bisons' tough schedule was not forgiving to the pitching staff as they regularly played up to eight games a week.

Harrell had a 5.95 ERA while pitching 84.2 innings. "Harrell had his best year this year by far," Fullerton said. "He was up and down before this year. He gave us quality pitching every time he went to the mound." Moore ended the season with a 6.12 ERA and accumulated three saves.

Freshmen Phill Gisel and Joe Yale were brought in to help ease the pitching load. Gisel led the Bisons with an ERA of 3.90. In his 60 innings, Gisel struck out 44 batters while walking 52. "I feel I had a pretty decent year, but it was overshadowed by how the team did," Gisel said. "We seemed to struggle the whole year."

During the month of March, Harding fell into a 0-13 slump, playing against nationally ranked teams that were both conference and non-conference opponents. Fullerton attributed the slump to the "packed schedule and tougher opponents than Harding had previously faced."

Almost everyone on the Bison baseball team felt that they had an uncharacteristic bad year but that next year would be different.

"We are going to have a good group of incoming players next year, along with the returning players from this year," Watson said. "We should be a lot better."

Fullerton echoed Watson's remarks by saying, "We should be improved next year by adding more competitive new kids that have great attitudes. Our talent level will be higher and our hitting will be better."

— Philip Murphy

★ All-Stars

LSC All Conference

Derek Reaves, 2nd Team
Seth Watson, 2nd Team
David Ramsey, Honorable Mention
Phill Gisel, Honorable Mention
Bentley Harrell, Honorable Mention

LSC Academic All American

Josh Bostic	Jeremy Pharr
Aaron Brister	Shane Pharr
Charley Moore	David Rampey

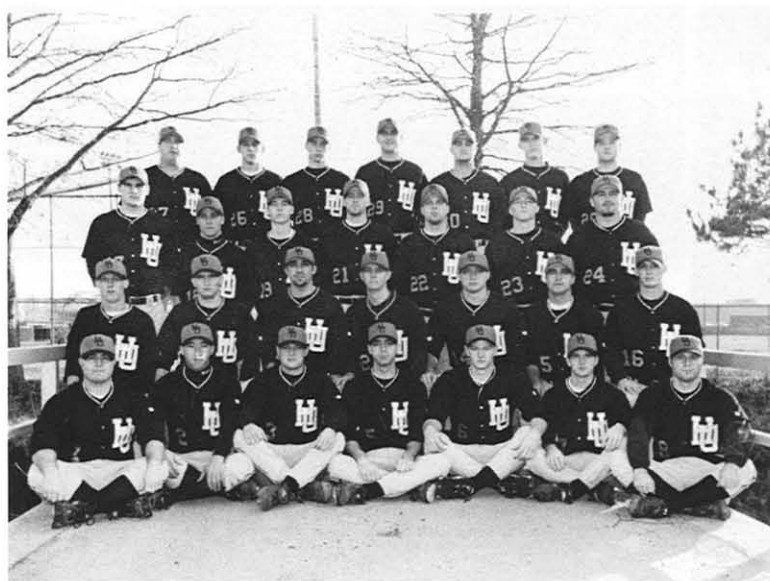
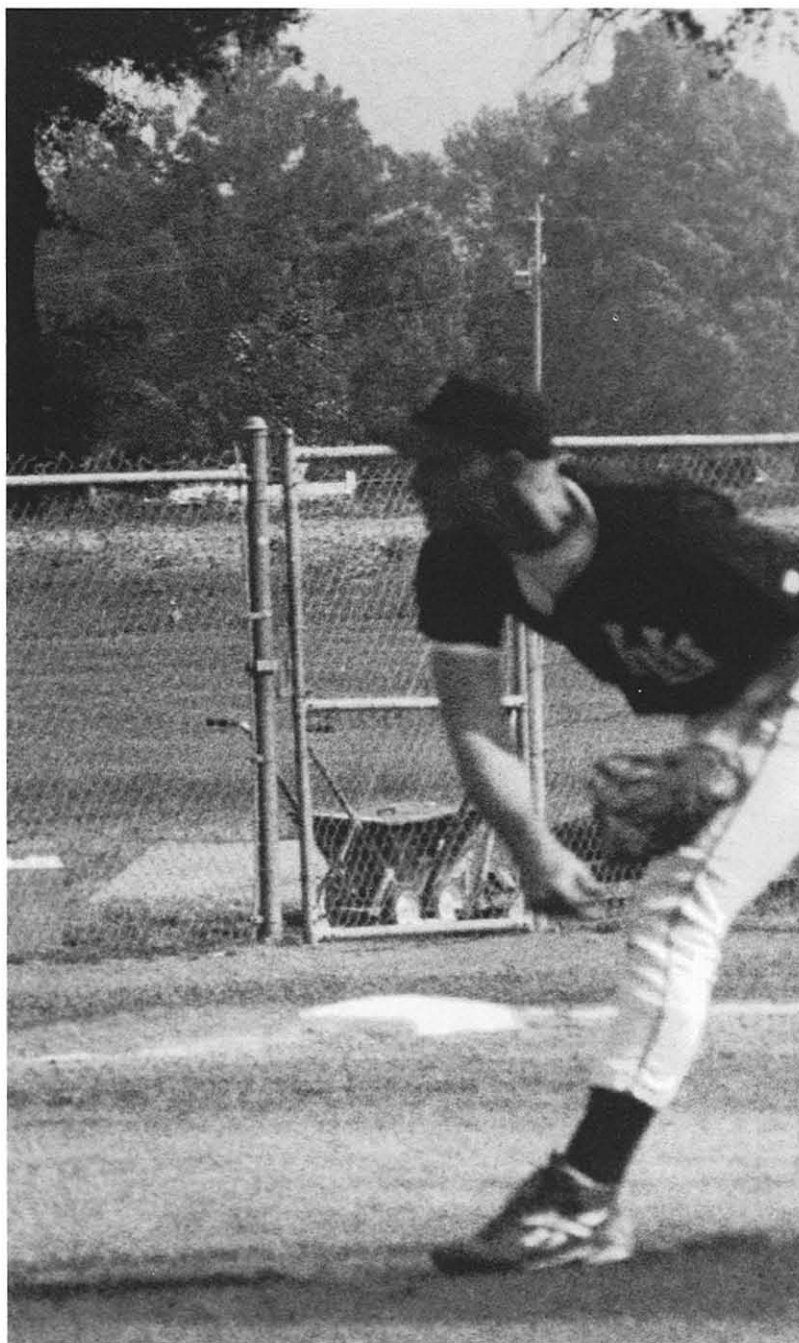


Photo by Jeff Montgomery

Baseball Team: Front Row: Jeff Hernandez, Eric Chin, Charley Moore, Phillip Hays, Phill Gisel, Student Assistant Brent Wilhite, Jeremy Pharr. Second Row: Seth Watson, Brent Tanner, Ryan Smith, Bentley Harrell, Kevin Dees, Josh Bostic, Nathaniel Watson. Third Row: Derek Reaves, Troy Wolfe, Johnnie Ross, David Rampey, Shane Pharr, Joe Yale, Ryan Tharp. Fourth Row: Asst. Coach Randy Bostic, Jon Neely, Michael Harris, Aaron Brister, Lee Wimberley, Grad. Asst. Coach Robbie Centracchio, Head Coach Shane Fullerton.



Photo by Kristi Burns

Freshman Phill Gisel strikes out another of the opponent's batters. Gisel, from Clinton, Mo., joined the team as an infielder and a pitcher.

Senior David Rampey fouls a pitch off to stay alive and face another throw. Rampey had the Bisons' best batting average at .313.



Photo by Kristi Burns

Senior Josh Bostic takes a lead to advance to second base faster. In his junior year, Bostic led the Bisons in stolen bases with 14.



Photo by Kristi Burns



The 1971 baseball team achieved its best record with a 26-12 season. In 1994, the baseball team had its best season, winning 28 games.

Junior Brent Powell drives one full force to the hole. Powell placed 20th in the Lone Star Conference Tournament.

Freshman Paul Sobottka watches as his putt is about to hit the jackpot. Sobottka tied for first place in the Harding University Golf Classic.

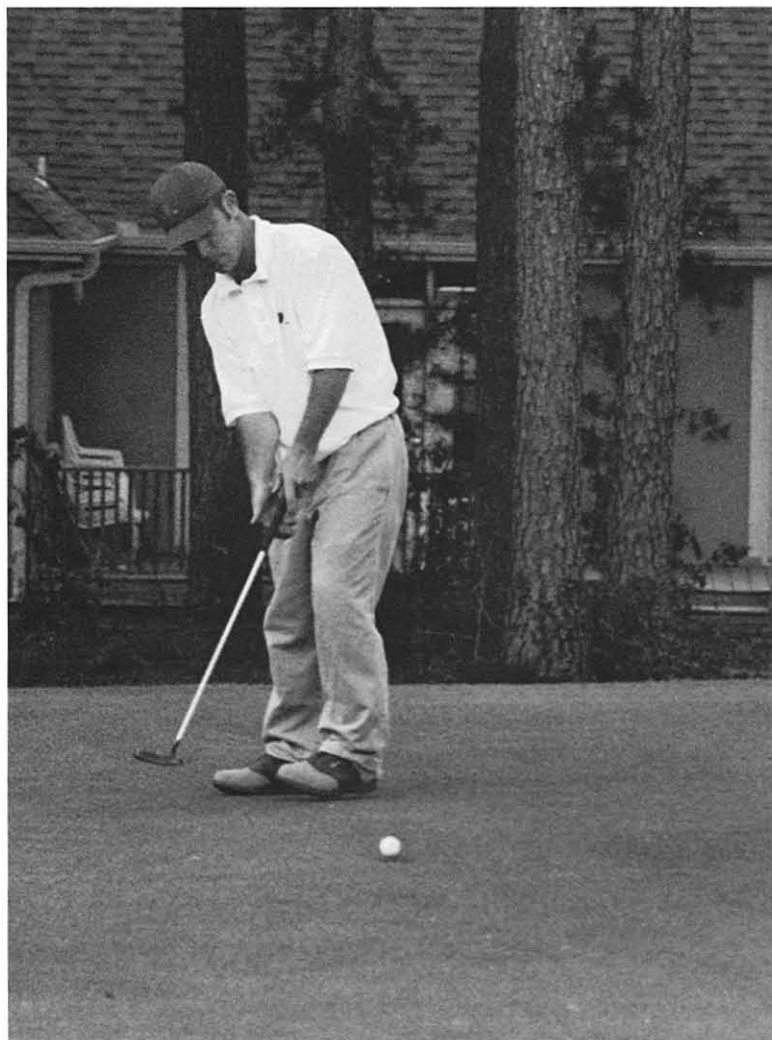
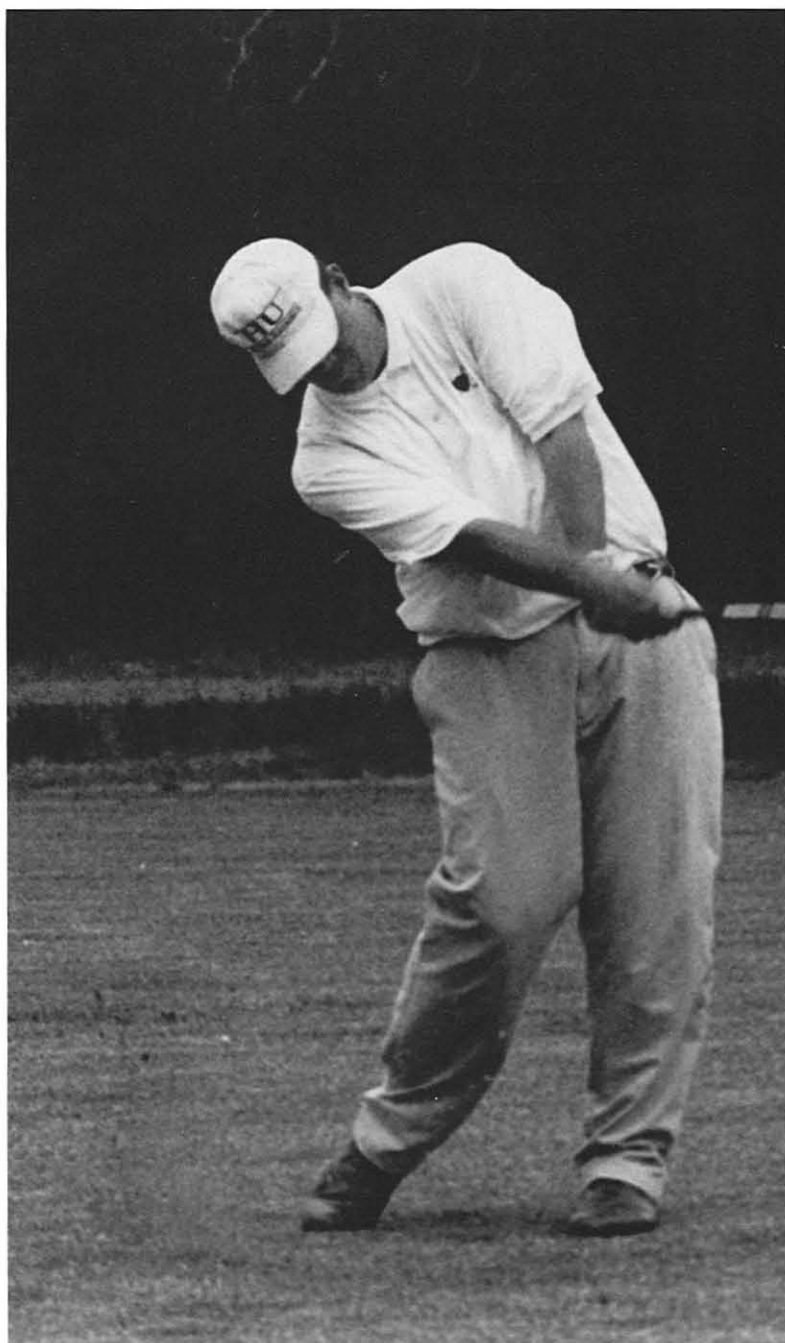


Photo by Kristi Burns

Freshman Jeff Powell checks the distance of his drive after he hits the ball. Powell finished the University of Arkansas-Monticello golf tournament tied for seventh place.



From 1980 to 1983,
the golf team won
four straight Arkansas
Intercollegiate Conference
championships.



Photo by Kristi Burns

Youthful golf team looks to great future

The 1998 Bison golf team finished sixth in the Lone Star Conference Tournament and Coach Nicky Boyd was named KWCK Dream Team Coach of the Year.

Competing for the number one position and leading the team were junior Brent Powell and freshman Paul Sobottka.

"It is always good to have someone push you," Powell said. "I played better in the fall and Paul played better in the spring. It helped us become better players."

Although Powell had a slightly better stroke average at the end of the season, Sobottka was listed as one of the top 10 players in the Lone Star Conference; Powell made it into the top 20. "I just went out there and played," Sobottka said.

Rounding out the top five and competing for the four and five spots were Powell's freshman brother Jeff, returning lettermen junior Bill Brandsma, seniors Andrew Baker and Bryan Layton and freshman Greg Ramer.

With only two seniors, the team was fairly young and inexperienced, which made it more difficult to compete against older, more experienced teams. This did not prevent Boyd from setting high goals for the season.

"We were wanting to qualify for nationals; we did not do this, but we still played pretty well," Boyd said. "We will be more prepared for that next year."

The team's play often fell short of the top spots. In the Missouri Southern match, they finished third. "We were just a couple of strokes from winning," Boyd said.

"It was very exciting for us."

One of the bright spots for the Bisons this season was winning the Harding University Golf Classic, which was played at the Greystone Country Club in Cabot. Some of the competition the Bisons faced were Henderson State, Ouachita Baptist and the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

"The weather made it a tough day to play, but I feel we played all right because we came in first place," Sobottka said. "Among the many attributes was team unity, which played a major role throughout the season."

The team worked together to achieve their goals. "We were not expecting too much; we wanted to play well," Jeff Powell said. "We were young and we finished in the middle of the Lone Star Conference and that was good for us. We were in a rebuilding process and, together, we were preparing for the next season."

Brandsma said the team managed to get up for major tournaments. "When it came to bigger tournaments, there was more team unification," he said.

Working together came naturally for Jeff and Brent Powell. "We played together in high school and we get along pretty well; it's a good thing," Jeff said.

Harding's golf team had a difficult rebuilding year, but according to Brandsma, "The best part about playing for Harding is the competitiveness with the Christian focus." That is something that Brandsma said he is proud of.

— Diane Grubbs



Photo by Kristi Burns



Photo by Jeff Montgomery

Golf: Front Row: Andrew Baker, Greg Ramer, Paul Sobottka. Back Row: Jeff Powell, Bill Brandsma, Brent Powell, Coach Nicky Boyd.

★ *All-Stars*

All Conference 2nd Team

Paul Sobottka

Women tracksters achieve personal bests

The women's track team competed well in the various events despite their shortage of runners for the 1998 season. "We had a few runners, and they were outstanding, but we didn't have any depth," Coach Bryan Phillips said.

The team was led by sophomore Calister Ubah, who ran the 100-meter dash in the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. "She is the best runner we have on the team," Phillips said.

Ubah ended the indoor season in first place individually and won the national championship in the 50-meter dash. She also won the 100-meter dash in the conference meet with a record pace of 6.90 seconds. The team finished the indoor season ranked 13th in the nation.

During the outdoor season, seniors Ericka Harris and Bumiegha Tombiri and sophomores Erin Elliott and Ubah qualified for the nationals in the 4 by 100-meter relay race. The team was picked to place high in Nationals, but Ubah pulled her hamstring during the meet. The Lady Bisons again set a record in the 4 by 100-meter relay by running a blazing 47.30, bettering the mark they set during the 1997 season when they finished in 47.7 seconds.

"I was really happy for the girls to get the chance to run in

Nationals because Tombiri and Harris were seniors and it gave them one last chance to run in the national meet; and it was a great way to end their careers," Phillips said.

Phillips lauded two distance runners for their contributions to the team's success. "We have a very good distance runner in Kelly Lauterbach, who has given great results for the team," he said.

Lauterbach contributed to the team by running the 1,500-meter and the 3,000-meter races. "My favorite race is the 3,000-meter race because it is not as long as some of the other races, but it is not so short that it is like a sprint; I feel I do a little bit better in the middle distances," she said.

Diane Grubbs also ran distance – the 1,500- and 3,000-meter races. "I like both races; each has its own advantages," she said.

Grubbs said that team unity helped the participants in their performance. "It's a lot of fun; we love each other very much; we are like a family," she said.

The combination of hard work and closeness in their relationship helped the team perform to the best of their ability. "I thought the team performed very well. Every one of them had their personal bests this year," Phillips said.

– Julieta Gil



★ All-Stars

LSC All Conference

Calister Ubah

LSC Academic All Conference

Erin Elliott

Katie Fant

Diane Grubbs

Ericka Harris

Cheri Scharff

Kelly Lauterbach

LSC Honor Scholar Athlete

Ericka Harris

GTE Academic All American District VI

Cheri Scharff

Kelly Lauterbach



Photo by Jeff Montgomery

1998 Women's Track Team: Front Row: Erin Elliott, Calister Ubah, Kelly Lauterbach, Ericka Harris, Katie Fant. Back Row: Sarah Baines, Bumiegha Tombiri, Cheri Scharff, Tia Tarole, Mindi Tummins, Diane Grubbs.

Sophomores Cheri Scharff and Kelly Lauterbach push themselves as they near the finish line. Scharff and Lauterbach were also members of the cross country team.



Photo by Aaron Gillihan

Sophomore Diane Grubbs has the baton safe in her hand as she chases after her competition. Grubbs finished in fifth place in both the 1,500-meter run and the 3,000-meter run at the LSC meet.

Sophomore Calister Ubah leads the race as seniors Ericka Harris and Bumiegha Tombiri battle for second place. Ubah won the 100-meter dash championship at the LSC meet with a time of 11.3 seconds.



Photo by Aaron Gillihan

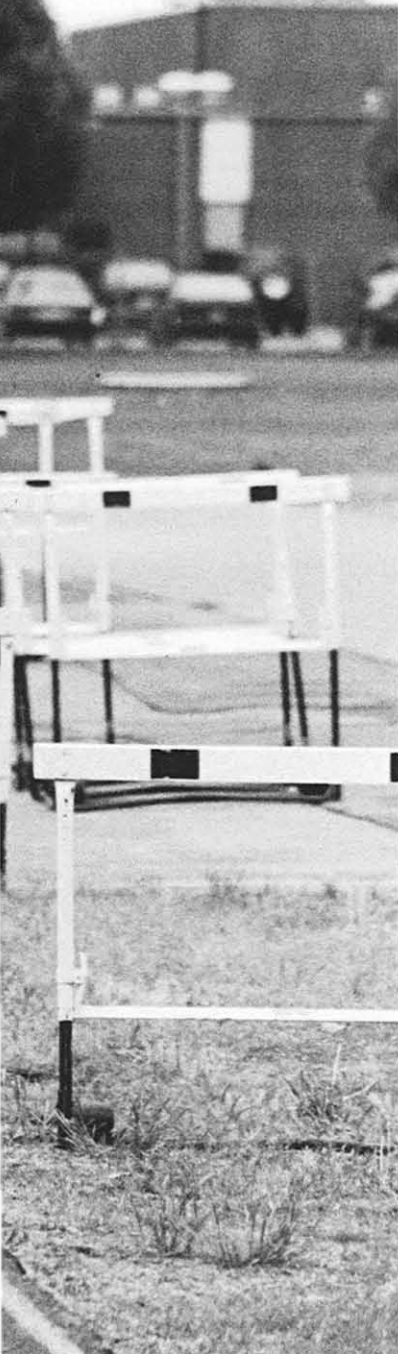


Photo by Aaron Gillihan



Photo by Aaron Gillihan

Kelly Lauterbach runs hard as she tries to stay ahead of her opponent. Lauterbach was one of the Lady Bisons' most consistent runners this year.



Shauna Queen, from Ogallala, Nebraska, was a three-time All-American from 1991-1993. Queen competed in the middle and long distance races.

Junior Jonah Tanui and senior Tommy Noel push each other as they race toward the finish line. Tanui came in third place in the 5,000-meter race at the LSC meet.



Photo by Aaron Gillihan



Freshman Connor Grimes sprints toward the finish line in the 100-meter dash. Grimes' best time in the 100-meter dash was 10.5 seconds.

Senior Seth Crum races his way to the front of the pack. Crum provided invaluable senior leadership for the track team.

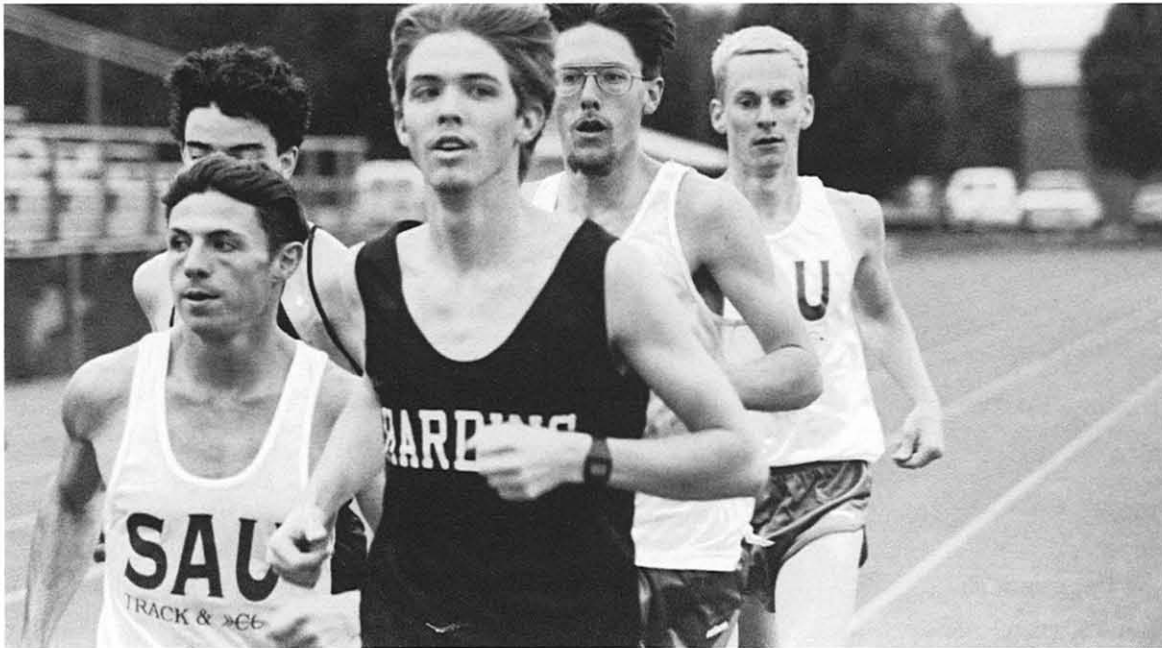


Photo by Aaron Gillihan



In 1959, Roger Brown won the state championship in the mile run. In two years of competition, Brown was never defeated in the mile run.

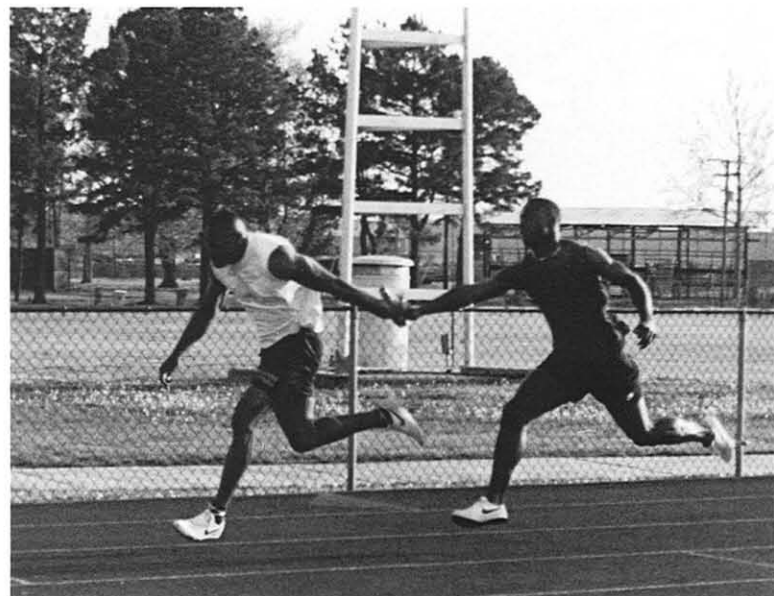


Photo by Tonia Davenport

Junior Daniel McCondichie and sophomore Jamael Harris practice their hand-offs for the Drake Relays that took place in April, 1998. McCondichie and Harris were also members of the football team.



Photo by Aaron Gillihan

Distance runners come up big for Bisons

The Bisons had to make a rough transition from the NAIA to the NCAA Division II in 1998 and the men's track team had to utilize the experience of their long-distance runners to gain their fifth place finish at the Lone Star Conference (LSC) meet at Texas A&M Kingsville.

Senior Seth Crum had a great collegiate finale as he had a come-from-behind victory in the 10,000-meter race at the conference meet. "Seth has played a key role on our team in the past couple of years," Coach Bryan Phillips said. "Seth had his best run of his collegiate career as he ran a strong 32:15."

Senior Jonah Tanui won the 3,000-meter steeplechase with a time of 9:19.5, a national meet qualifying mark. "It felt great to win the race; it was a really big achievement for me because the Lone Star Conference is such a tough division with very strong teams and it has some really good runners," Tanui said.

"Jonah's performance was nothing less than outstanding," Phillips said. "Jonah had done well throughout the year, and we were expecting a strong finish from one of Harding's best distance runners ever."

Junior college transfer Jerry Maritim won the 5,000-meter with a time of 14:39.9. "Jerry has been a great asset to our team," Phillips

said. "His maturity and experience has helped us throughout the season. We are hoping to use Jerry on our cross country team in the future. He definitely has the potential to break several of Harding's records."

Maritim was excited to have competed against nationally recognized NCAA II competitors. "It's a great experience and an opportunity to race against guys that have so much potential," Maritim said. "Harding has done a lot in the past couple of years. I think that, with time, we will be an even stronger team that will always be in competition with the other schools for first place."

Harding had to face several nationally recognized teams within its division. Perennial powers Abilene Christian University and Texas A&M/Kingsville are two of the top track schools in the country. "It's going to take a while before we can compete closely with ACU and Kingsville," Phillips said.

"Although we have a few outstanding athletes, it's going to take more. To compete against opponents like ACU, we are going to have to have an outstanding team all around. It is going to take some time to catch up with schools that have been in the LSC for a while," Phillips said.

— Philip Murphy



Photo by Jeff Montgomery

1998 Men's Track Team: Front Row: Connor Grimes, Tommy Noel, Seth Crum, Matthew Dabbs, Fred Strathmann. Back Row: Japheth Langat, Jonah Tanui, Jerry Maritim, Lee Shirey, Albert Tabut, Nick Letsinger, Richard Ashlock.

★ All-Stars

LSC All Conference

Seth Crum
Jerry Maritim
Jonah Tanui

LSC Academic All Conference

Seth Crum
Jonathan Dandy

GTE Academic All American District VI

Seth Crum
Jonathan Dandy

Lady Bisons struggle to rebuild young team

The women's tennis team had a rough but successful season with 15 wins and 10 losses. After losing some of their top girls last year, seniors Julieta Gil and Cristina Rodriguez stepped forward and led the team.

Other members of the team included junior Shelly Schaefer, sophomore Anil Aldaz and freshmen Hiroko Okamoto and Rachel Leonard.

"Gil was our number one player and Rodriguez was our number two player; both girls had a very good season," Coach David Elliott said.

During the months of February and early March, the Lady Bisons caught fire as they won seven matches in a row, pushing their record to 9-2. Four times throughout the season the Lady Bisons skunked their opponents by a score of 9-0.

The team was always looking to improve. "We had some good matches, like when we beat Missouri, which was the first time we had ever done that," Gil said. "As a team, our season wasn't as good as it had been in 1996."

Although it may have been difficult, the team went out and gave it a good performance each time. "I had my best match during this season and it felt so good because I knew that I played well," Gil said. Rodriguez also had good

things to say about the season. "I did my best and I played as hard as I could; I almost won all of my matches."

Although the team played hard, there was more to it than that — there was a real sense of camaraderie.

"I like to go out and compete for my team as a school and I like to be with my teammates," Rodriguez said.

Gil also liked the team spirit. "There was togetherness; we got along very well and we were friends on and off the court."

Schaefer said that she felt time together made the team closer. "We have been together for the past three years, so we know each other about as well as a person could," she said. "We never had times when we were not having fun together."

The team represented Harding with pride. "We were recognized as being from Harding because it is a Christian school. We were distinguished and that was important," Rodriguez said. "We stood out among the other non-religious schools."

Elliott was a key element in the success of the team, Rodriguez said. "He always encouraged us to enjoy our matches; sometimes he was kind of hard, but he never let us feel bad if we lost."

— Diane Grubbs

Senior Julieta Gil slams the ball with a two-handed backhand. Gil finished the year ranked 42nd in the nation.



Photo by Aaron Gillman



Senior Cristina Rodriguez serves the ball to an opponent. Rodriguez was one of only two seniors on this year's team.

Freshman Hiroko Okamoto returns an opponent's serve. The lady Bisons ended the regular season with a 15-7 record.



Photo by Kristi Burns

Senior Cristina Rodriguez rares back to smash the ball back to her opponent. Rodriguez's singles match record this year was 17-7.

Photo by Kristi Burns



Photo by Aaron Gillman



Between 1992 and 1997
the women's tennis team
finished in the top 20 nationally
five times.

Senior Guillermo Hernandez jumps high to hit the ball. Team members considered Hernandez the best doubles player Harding has seen in the last four years.

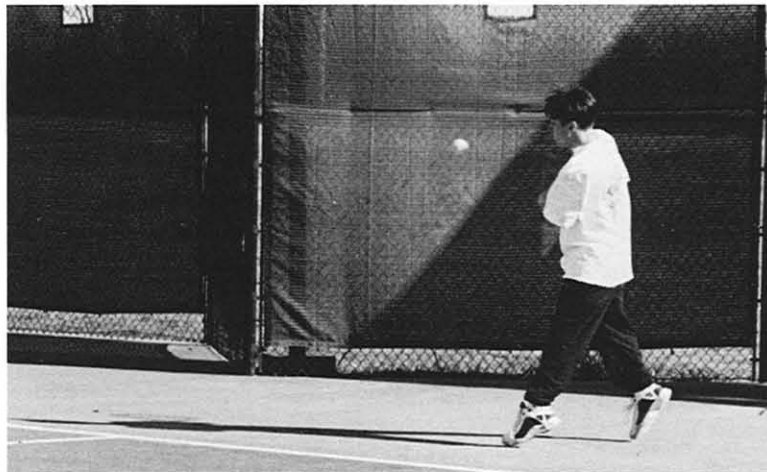
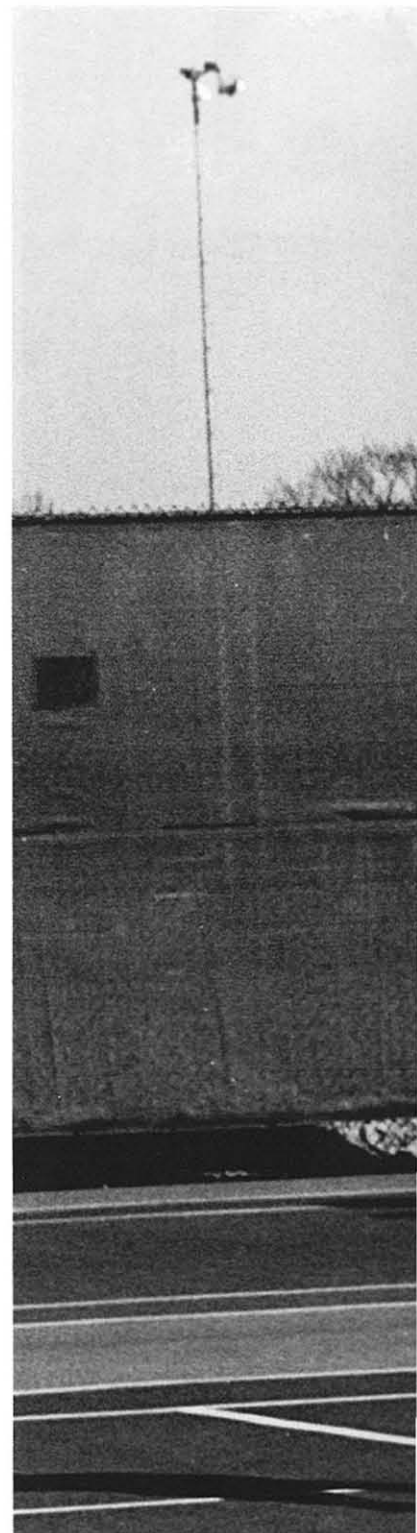


Photo by Kristi Burns



Freshman Seth Bullington uses his forehand to rally for the point. Bullington was one of two freshmen on this year's tennis team.

Senior Orlando Martinez returns a serve from an opponent. Martinez was a junior college All-Star for two years before he transferred to Harding.



Photo by Kristi Burns



The 1991 tennis team finished with a 24-3 record. This team went undefeated in conference for three years and undefeated in district for two years.

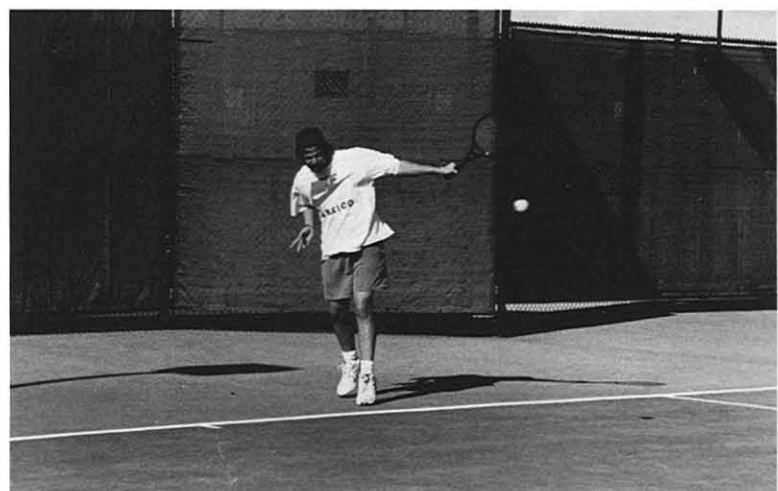


Photo by Kristi Burns

Senior Juan Carlos Hernandez follows through with his swing as he returns the serve. Hernandez had to battle a wrist injury through much of the season.



Photo by Kristi Burns

Bisons reach Nationals for 17th successive year

The Bison tennis team began their 1998 season with a great performance by winning six matches in a row and, with great results from all the players, they were able to achieve a 16-8 record.

The Bisons added three new players to the team during the fall, including two freshmen – Igor Tamindzija from Yugoslavia and Seth Bullington from Edinboro, Pa. The third new player, Orlando Martinez, was a transfer from the University of Texas in Tyler. These three players, who have different styles of hitting the ball, also have the ability to perform on the court.

They joined a team with a competitive focus and a history of quality performance. The team has qualified for the National Tournament for the last 17 years.

"The 1997 qualification to Nationals was especially gratifying since it was our first year in a higher division of play in the NCAA," Coach David Elliott said. The opportunity to qualify for Nationals came in the Lone Star Conference (LSC) Tournament.

Although the Bisons lost to Central Oklahoma University in the first round of Nationals, Elliott was pleased with their effort in the match. "The guys were very close to beating Central Oklahoma, which is in the top 10 in the nation. The score was 4-5," Elliott said.

Elliott said that an extra week of practice between the Lone Star Conference Tournament and Nationals might have given the

Bisons the edge they needed to win that first-round match. "It was hard for the guys after the long week they had at the Lone Star Tournament to come back and play Central Oklahoma," Elliott said.

Elliott said the team's best momentum came in matches just before the Nationals. "I was really proud of my players, of the effort the guys put into the game," he said.

Senior Arturo Rodriguez, a first team All-American in 1996, had a great year in 1997. He ended the season ranked in the top 30 in the nation in NCAA Division II.

Rodriguez and senior Guillermo Hernandez led the team in doubles, finishing the season in the top 12 in the nation.

Team members say they consider Hernandez the best doubles player that Harding has had the last four years. "I like playing singles, but I really enjoy and have more fun playing doubles," Hernandez said.

Hernandez enjoyed his teammates too. "We get along very well," he said. "We are friends and that helps us to have more confidence on the tennis court."

Elliott also noted the sense of togetherness on the team. "They like each other and there isn't any jealousy among them," he said. "They supported each other as a united team. It was the best tennis team I've worked with in Harding's history of tennis."

– Julieta Gil

★ All-Stars

Academic All Conference

Andrew Garner
Darren Wade

Senior Arturo Rodriguez reaches high to return an opponent's serve. Rodriguez was the Bison's number one player this year.

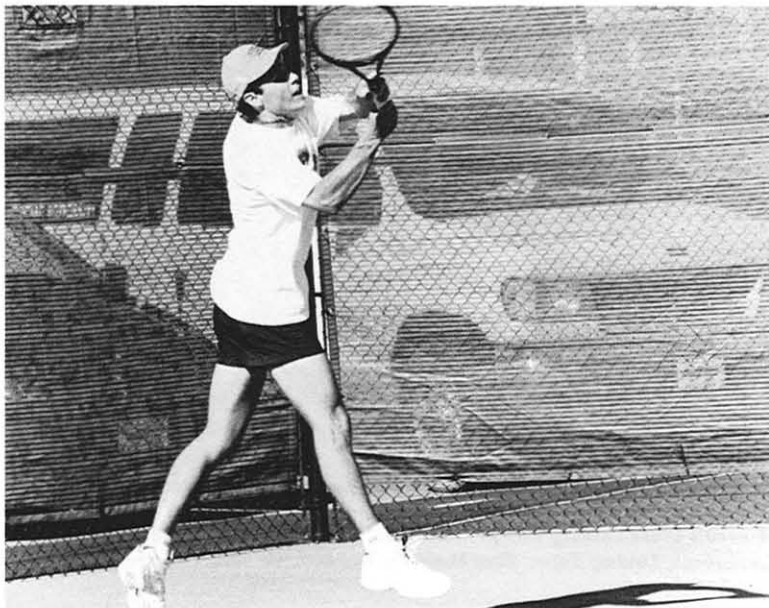


Photo by Aaron Gilliam

Young women's team excels in conference

During the 1998 season the women's cross country team placed second in the conference and fourth in the region, and three team members – junior Cheri Scharff, sophomore Tia Tarole and freshman Britney Copeland – were named to the all-conference team.

The team consisted of four juniors, including Scharff, Kelly Lauterbach, Diane Grubbs and Katie Fant; one sophomore, Tarole; and three freshmen – Copeland, Lindsay Snow and Elizabeth Lucas.

Coach Bryan Phillips said, "The girls are all great. They ran really well this year. The season was a big success and I am very proud of them."

Junior Diane Grubbs agreed with Phillips.

"Our team works really well together," she said. "The freshmen are strong and the whole team got along well. I feel that we had a good season and we had a really good team. The only bad thing was that we did not win first place in the conference. We lost it by two points."

The team meshed well together as the season went along and that helped the Lady Bisons have a successful year.

"The season was good," Scharff said. "The freshmen fit in perfectly. We got really close as a team. We are all about the same in

the way we run. In my opinion, we should have won the conference. We ran with all we had. We did learn a lot."

Scharff also said, "I was really excited about being named all-conference, but I was disappointed that our team did not win even though we did so well."

Freshman Elizabeth Lucas said, "Running at Harding is a lot different from running in high school because the team is so much closer here. Also, we depend on each other as teammates more than my team did in high school. I feel like running in college has developed me, not only as a runner, but also as a person. This season was a really good and challenging one for me."

In the regional race, the team placed fourth, missing nationals by only 11 points. The three teams that beat Harding were teams that were ranked first, seventh and 12th in the nation. Harding beat the 14th ranked team at regionals.

"The race was a lot of fun," Grubbs said. "I felt like it really challenged me. The team that won was expected to win the national title."

"Due to the fact that there were no seniors, the team will be very strong again next year," Phillips said. "Next season should be even better than this season."

– Meredith Hlasta



★ All-Stars

LSC All Conference

Tia Tarole
Cheri Scharff
Britney Copeland

LSC Academic All Conference

Katie Fant
Kelly Lauterbach
Cheri Scharff

LSC Commissioner's Honor Roll

Diane Grubbs
Katie Fant
Kelly Lauterbach
Cheri Scharff



Photo by Jeff Montgomery

Women's Cross Country Team: Front Row: Britney Copeland, Diane Grubbs, Kelly Lauterbach, Lindsay Snow. Back Row: Tia Tarole, Katie Fant, Cheri Scharff, Elizabeth Lucas.



Sophomore Tia Tarole keeps pumping her legs as she chases after her competition. Tarole was named the women's Lone Star Conference runner of the week three times – Sept. 12, 19 and Oct. 13.



Photo by Bryan Phillips

Juniors Diane Grubbs and Kelly Lauterbach push each other as they head toward the finish line. Grubbs and Lauterbach served as great role models for the team.

Junior Cheri Scharff works hard as she tries to track down one of her opponents. Scharff posted the third fastest time this year in the 5,000-meter race in the Lone Star Conference, with a time of 19:11.



Photo by Bryan Phillips



Photo by Bryan Phillips

Freshman Britney Copeland runs as hard as she can so her opponent will not catch her. Copeland was one of three freshmen on this year's team.



In 1995, the women's cross country team won its ninth straight Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference championship.

Junior Jerry Maritim keeps his torrid pace as he nears the finish line. Maritim ran the third fastest time this year in the 8,000-meter run with a time of 25:24.



Photo by Bryan Phillips

Freshman Andrew Scharff runs hard to stay ahead of his opponent. Scharff and his twin brother, David, ran second and third in the South Carolina high school championship last year.

Senior Albert Tabut paces himself to finish the race. Tabut was the only senior on the cross country team.



Photo by Bryan Phillips



In 1990, the men's cross country team won its 18th consecutive AIC conference championship and its 19th consecutive district championship.



Photo by Bryan Phillips

Freshman Carl Williamson pushes himself to the finish line. Williamson was a true freshman from New York and one of four freshmen on the cross country team.



Photo by Bryan Phillips

Cross Country team races into regionals

The Bison cross country team had a great season, finishing fourth in the Lone Star Conference (LSC) meet.

Led by junior Jerry Maritim and senior Albert Tabut, the men's cross country team advanced to the regional meet. Maritim and Tabut received all-conference honors.

"There was a lot of mud and water at the Lone Star Conference meet," Maritim said. "The mud made it pretty difficult and we didn't really have the best times of our season."

"Although we didn't have the best runs of the season, we still were able to pull off decent runs," Tabut said. "We were all wanting to do our best in the race. We had been looking forward to the conference meet all year long."

The Bisons entered their third year of the LSC looking forward to improving on their third-place finish in 1997.

The Bisons were all newcomers to the Harding cross country team. Maritim was a junior college champion who ran track last year, but did not run in the 1997 cross country season. Tabut ran track for the Bisons last year, but took the "red shirt" route for cross country.

Four freshmen had to compete for the final three spots. They were twins David and Andrew Scharff, Scott Pennick and Carl Williamson.

"There is definitely a difference in running in high school and running for a Division

II school," David Scharff said. "The continuous workouts gettingtiring, but we all know that it's to make us better as a team."

Members of the team felt that their workouts with each other helped them mature.

"Jerry has really pushed me this year," Tabut said. "I'm more of an 8,000-meter runner and Jerry has spent more time training for the longer distances. We have really helped each other a lot this year."

At the regional meet in Abilene, Texas, the men ran hard and finished ninth out of 16 teams. "It was really tough to qualify as a team this year," Maritim said. "But we had our eyes set on regionals all season long."

Maritim finished in 11th place and qualified for nationals. He qualified by being the top finisher on a team that failed to qualify for nationals.

"I felt pretty good going to Lawrence, Kan., for nationals because that is where my career blossomed by winning two junior college national championships," Maritim said. "I really wanted to win this race because it was in my home state."

Maritim placed ninth in the national race at the University of Kansas in November.

"I thank God for letting me come to Harding," Maritim said. "It's great to be here and to run not only as an athlete but also as a Christian. It makes me happy and makes me feel different."

— Philip Murphy

★ All-Stars

LSC All Conference

Jerry Maritim
Albert Tabut

NCAA Division II All American

Jerry Maritim



Photo by Jeff Montgomery

Men's Cross Country Team: Front Row: Andrew Scharff, Carl Williamson. Back Row: Albert Tabut, David Scharff, Jerry Maritim, Scott Pennick.

Bison volleyball team advances to playoffs

At the beginning of the 1998 season, the volleyball team sat down and made goals for the year – to win 25 matches, have an 8-4 record in the Lone Star Conference (LSC) and make the Division II playoffs. When the season ended, the Lady Bisons had won 24 matches, gone 8-4 in the conference and made the Division II playoffs.

"It felt great accomplishing our goals because we had never actually set goals before," junior Misty Fant said. "They gave us something to work toward and we were a better team than we thought."

The leaders of this year's team were co-captains Heather Gray, the team's lone senior, and Fant. Coach Karyl Bailey described Gray, who led the team in serving and digs per game, as a "very mature player."

"Her number one strength is her serving ability," Bailey said. "Her number two strength is her passing ability and she is a very smart hitter," he said.

Bailey described Fant as "intense, fiery and a good competitor who despises losing."

The Lady Bisons started the season slowly, having to face some of the tougher teams in the conference first, but they battled back to win eight of their last 10 matches. One of those last eight wins came against Texas A & M at Commerce. The Lady Bisons had to win if they had any chance of making the playoffs. They went to Commerce and won three games in a row, which propelled them

into the playoffs with a 24-14 record and a third place finish in the conference's North Division.

"It felt great beating Texas A & M at Commerce because they beat us three games in a row at Harding in front of our parents," Gray said. "We knew we could beat them all over the floor."

One of the reasons the Lady Bisons finished the year with a 24-14 record was their blocking ability. Leading them in blocking was sophomore Delana Keilers, who finished fifth in the Lone Star Conference, with 1.48 blocks per game.

"Every game day I tried to keep in my mind that blocking was my main job, but I couldn't do it without our whole team. It was a team effort, not just one person," Keilers said.

Another one of Harding's strengths was its offense. Leading the Lady Bisons in hitting was Lone Star Conference Freshman of the Year Erika Pierson, who had a scorching .299 hitting average. Also, freshman Kari Whitney finished 10th in the conference in assists per game, with 7.66.

The 1998 season also marked the end of Bailey's 16-year career as head coach. He amassed a career record of 369 wins and 273 losses, with a .740 winning percentage.

"It was a lot of fun," Bailey said. "I met a lot of good people and had some good times with the players and assistants. It is a satisfying feeling that we could finish on a good note."

– Ryan Puckett

★ All-Stars

LSC All Conference

Heather Gray, 2nd Team
Delana Keilers, 2nd Team
Erika Pierson, 2nd Team
Misty Fant, Honorable Mention

LSC Commissioner's Honor Roll

McKensy Kemmerer
Rebecca Dahlstrom

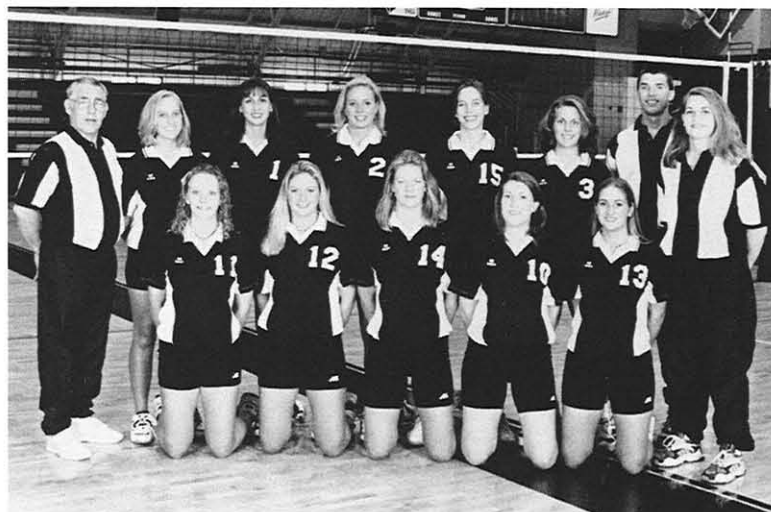
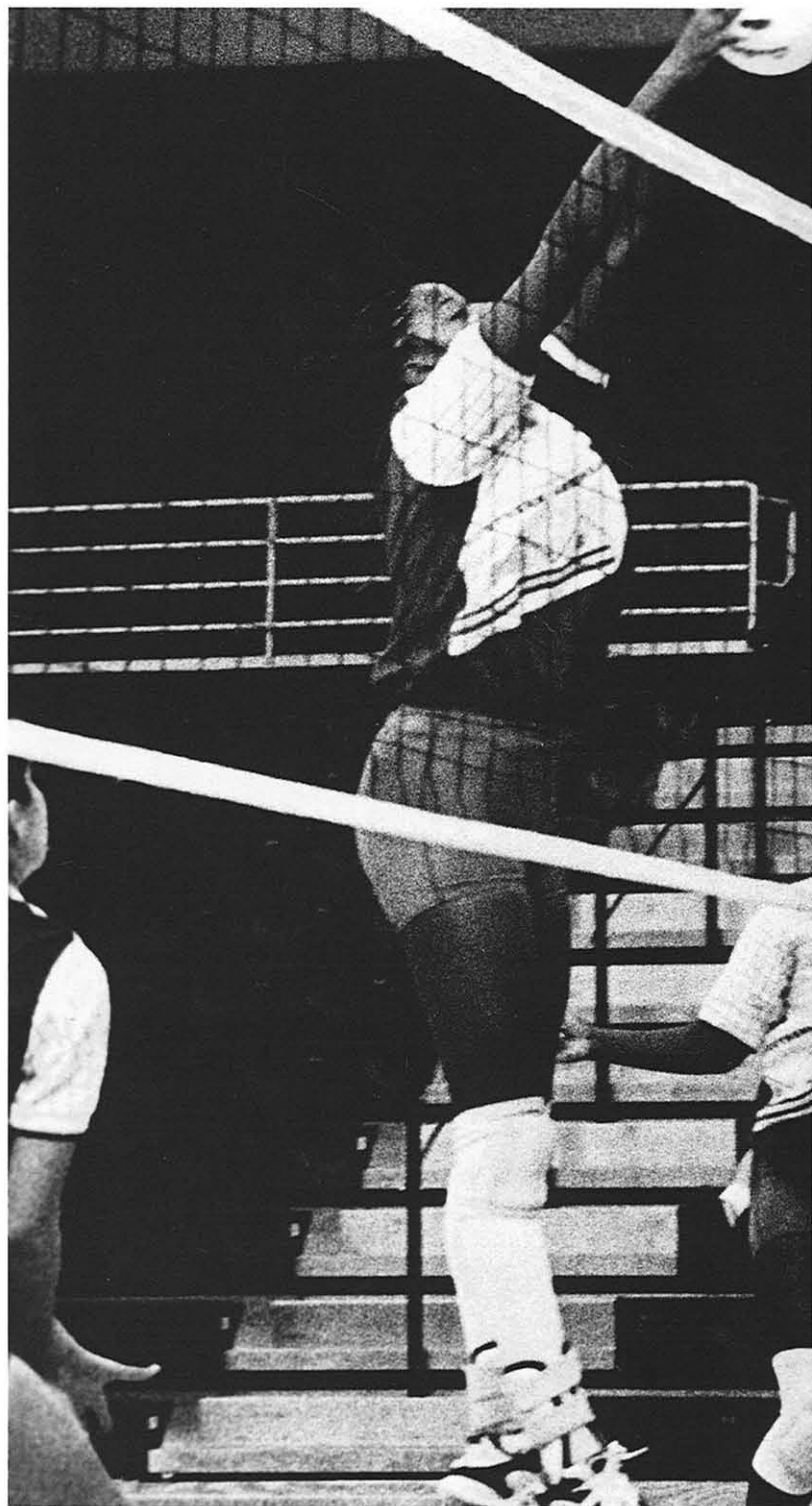


Photo by Jeff Montgomery

Volleyball Team: Front Row: Summer Page, Delana Keilers, Talia Wood, Erika Pierson, Laura Lejarzar, Stephanie Denney. Back Row: Coach Karyl Bailey, Kari Whitney, Heather Gray, Misty Fant, Rebecca Dahlstrom, McKensy Kemmerer, Jim Diehl.

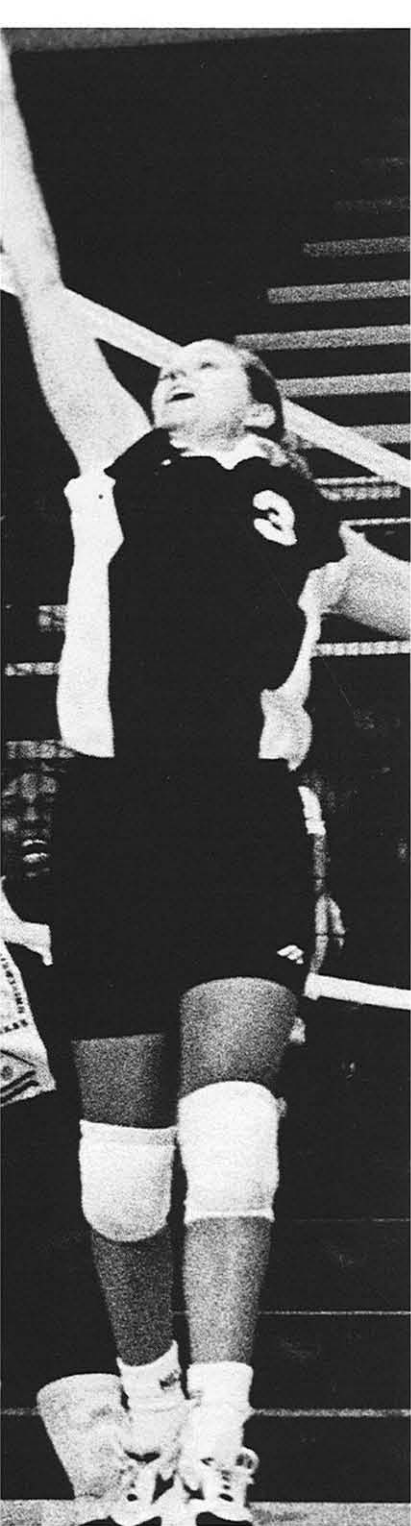


Photo by Daniel Dubois

Sophomore McKensy Kemmerer jumps high to block an opponent's shot. The Lady Bisons went from a 14-24 record in 1997 to a 24-14 record in 1998.



Photo by Daniel Dubois

Sophomore Delana Keilers skies high to attempt a spike. Keilers proved to be a major defensive factor for the Lady Bisons.

Junior Misty Fant pops the ball over the net in hopes of scoring a point. Fant was a great asset to the team and one of the reasons the Lady Bisons finished the season with 24 wins.

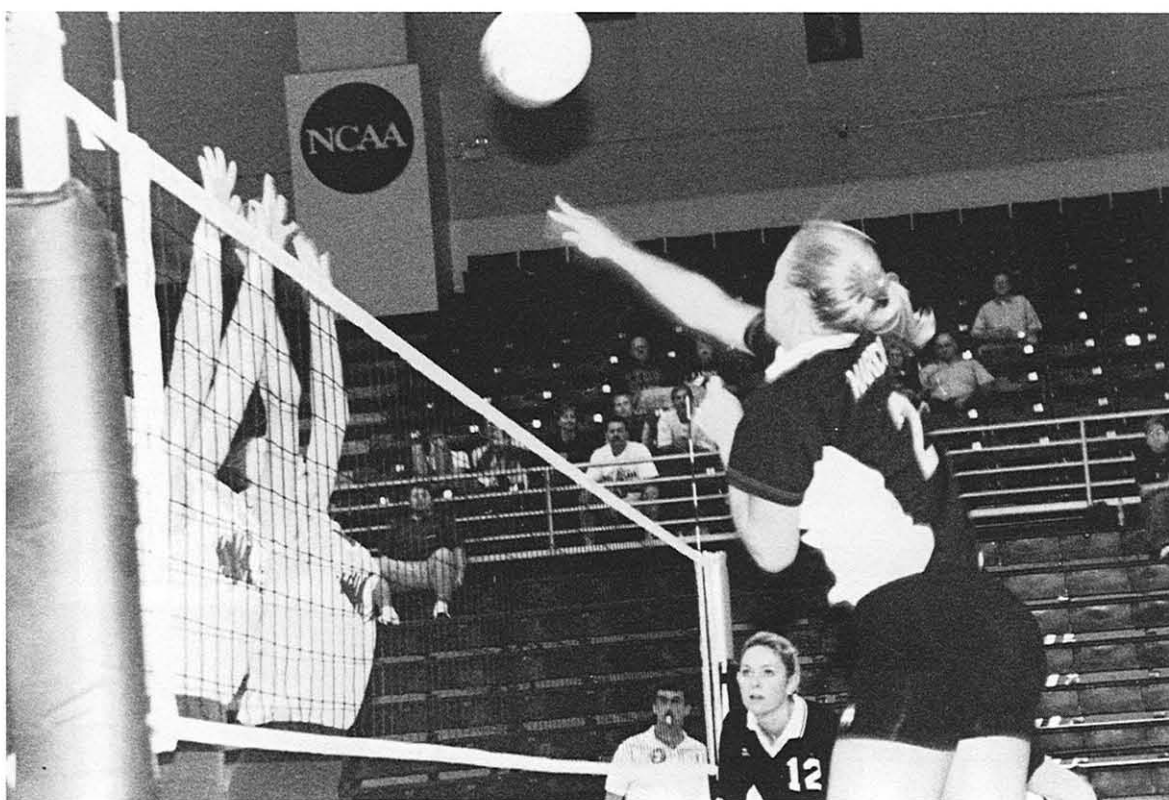


Photo by Bryan Jobe

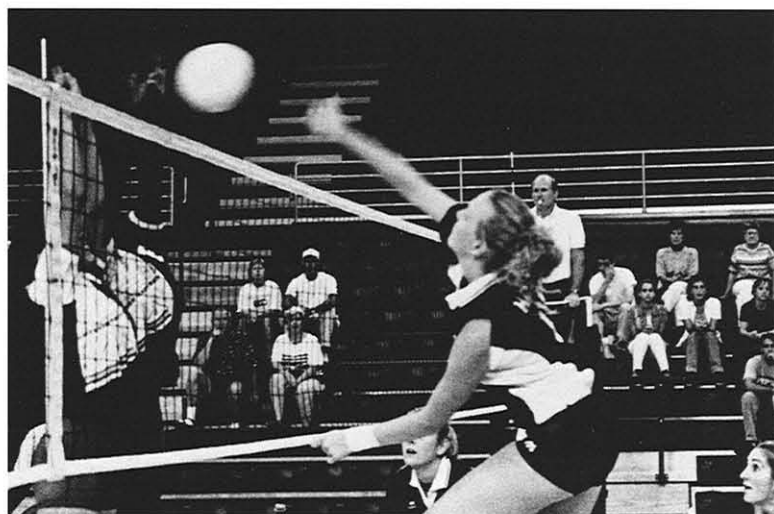


Photo by Daniel Dubois

Freshman Summer Page rockets a spike at her opponent's awaiting hands. Page was one of four freshmen who contributed heavily to the Lady Bison volleyball team.



In 1992, the volleyball team won its third straight AIC Championship. In 1996, the team finished with a 39-15 record, its most wins ever, and reached the semifinal round in the national tournament.

Freshman Heather Gray dribbles past an opponent with ease. Gray led the Lady Bisons in game-winning goals with two.

Freshman Tricky Tarole outruns her opponent to the ball. Tarole started all 16 games for the Lady Bisons.



Photo by Salomon Pineda



Harding students have competed in independent soccer leagues since 1990. But 1998 was the first year Harding fielded a school-sponsored soccer team.

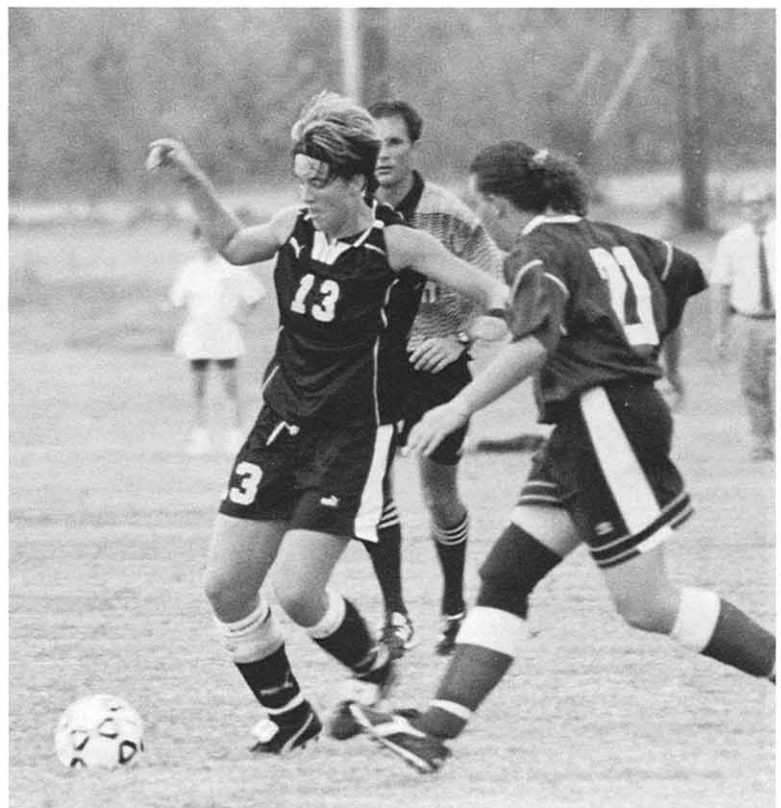


Photo by Salomon Pineda

Sophomore Andrea Richmond steals the ball from her opponent. Richmond established a Lone Star Conference record for most assists in a game with four against Louisiana College.



Photo by Salomon Pineda



Photo by Jeff Montgomery

Soccer Team: Front Row: Gena Rouse, Tricky Tarole, Sue Fecteau, Ashley Hodge, Sheilah Dunham, Michal Edwards, Candace O'Neal, Melissa Toungette, Aimee Wilson, Heather Shipman. Back Row: Coach Terry Edwards, Rachel Haslam, Rachel Chitwood, Amy Walker, Amber Singleton, Justine Cokley, Jodi Besenyei, Rachel Belcher, Courtney Pierron, Andrea "Tree" Richmond, Sarah Randolph, Heather Gray, Assistant Coaches Steve Young and Ryan Singleton.

First soccer team exceeds expectations

The Lady Bison soccer team finished its first year in the Lone Star Conference (LSC), impressing the veteran teams with skill and speed nearly unheard of in a team's rookie year.

Coach Terry Edwards said he was very pleased with the first-year program. "I feel good about it for two reasons," Edwards said. "Two of the conference games went into overtime, and we found it easier to compete with the teams from states south and east of us."

While the team struggled with teams from Texas and Oklahoma, finishing the season with a 6-9-1 record, Edwards said he expected the western teams to be more difficult.

"Oklahoma and Texas have a longer history of competitive soccer," Edwards said. "And Arkansas is nearly two decades behind."

One of the season highlights, according to Edwards, was the game against Texas A&M Commerce. The number three ranked team was held to a sudden-death, overtime win. "The fact that we held such a highly ranked team to overtime is impressive," Edwards said.

Edwards complimented his team and their efforts during the season. "They all did an outstanding job, especially when we hit the stiffest competition," he said.

Edwards continued with his accolades, saying he was proud of the way the Lady Bisons stepped up to their challenges and exceeded expectations.

Heather Gray, a freshman midfielder, said she thought the season went well for the first year. "I thought it would be intimidating since I was a freshman," Gray said. "But the team was really supportive."

Edwards named Gray as one of the MVP's on the team. "[Heather] is in the top 10 of everything in the Lone Star Conference," Edwards said. "She's the top scorer on the team."

Other top players that Edwards highlighted included fullback Justine Cokley, attacking midfielder Andrea Richmond and goalie Jodi Besenyei.

"Justine shut down some very fast players with more experience," Edwards said. "Jodi did an outstanding job, especially when we hit the stiffest competition, and Andrea established a new record during the season for most assists in a game."

The Lady Bisons are looking forward to the next season now that the team has a little experience in the conference. "We need to improve in speed to better compete with the Texas teams," Edwards said. "But I still feel good about the team."

— Remie Beaulieu

★ All-Stars

LSC All Conference Team
Heather Gray - Midfielder

LSC Honorable Mention
Jodi Besenyei - Goalie

LSC Commissioner's Honor Roll

Rachel Belcher	Gena Rouse
Sarah Randolph	Ashley Hodge
Heather Shipman	Sheila Dunham

Bisons finish strong; look to next season

The 1998 Bison football season ended on a positive note that had the team looking to next year. The Bisons had a 7-4 record, winning four of their five home games and three of their six away games. There were only 12 seniors who graduated this year, so a large number of players would return for the 1999 season.

"We finished the season very strong. It leaves us with a positive feeling for next year," Coach Randy Tribble said.

Sophomore linebacker Said Perez said he looked forward to next year. "I think the season went well," Perez said. "Winning our last four games put us in a good spot for next year. I just hope we do not have the number of injuries next year that we had this year."

The Bisons were plagued by injuries this season. Ian White, Brad Fortson, Chris May, Wesley Duncan and Micah Gifford were among those injured, but were expected to return for next season.

"The players found a way to win a majority of the games. We were not selfish; we stayed together and won four consecutive games," Tribble said.

Senior captain Rob Stroud

said he felt positive about the season. "I thought we had a good season overall," he said. "We won four games in a row, which is good. I am so proud of the way we came together. Sometimes the defense would be doing badly and the offense would do well. Or the offense would be doing badly and the defense would do well. We really pulled it together in the end and we won."

In reward for their hard work, three players were named the Lone Star Conference (LSC) North Player of the Week. Senior tail back/wide receiver Aaron Evans was named offensive player of the week twice. Freshman tailback Jason Sneed was named offensive player of the week and junior defensive end Greg Taylor was named defensive player of the week.

"I am really proud of the seniors and the leadership they provided. It allowed us to have a successful season," Tribble said.

"We appreciated the support so much from the fans. We only lost once at home and that was to the number one ranked team in Division II football," Tribble said.

— Meredith Hlasta



★ All-Stars

LSC All Conference First Team

Said Perez

LSC All Conference Second Team

Archie Walker
Skip Griffith
Jason Smith
Rob Stroud

LSC All Conference Honorable Mention

Mac Hurley	Greg Taylor
Jamael Harris	Jess Lanier
Andrew Patton	Aaron Evans
Troy Berreth	Chris Cook

GTE Academic All American, District VI

Clay Madar



Photo by Daniel Dubois

Freshman Jason Sneed prepares to give an opponent a massive stiff arm. Sneed proved to be a key weapon on offense for the Bisons.



Senior Aaron Evans evades one of his savage opponents. Evans led the Bisons in all-purpose yards with 1,506.



Photo by Jeff Montgomery

Football. First Row: L. Tribble, Cardoso, Thompson, Frazier, Taylor, May, Evans, Behel, Perez, Chism, Anfield, S. Keese. Second Row: Hurley, Colon, Patton, Stroud, Underwood, Fager, Cullins, Hart, West, Sneed, Lanier, B. Ragsdale. Third Row: Richardson, High, Weekly, Shock, McCondichie, Jerkins, Poulian, Harris, Harr, Deming, Self, C. Keese. Fourth Row: Polk, Rudesill, Caffey, Smith, Alford, Hazelwood, McCormick, Farmer, Wallace, Fortson, Martin, Duncan. Fifth Row: Madar, Hutchinson, Neil, Sexson, Sarrels, Daniel, Bridges, Denton, Brazle, Rhodes, Curtis, Chism, Brinson. Sixth Row: Morse, S. Ragsdale, Mote, M. Keese, Frank, R. Tribble, Huckeba, Harlow, Howell, Polk, Joseph, Byrd, DeArman. Seventh Row: Chandler, King, Gilliam, Braley, Shepherd, Fruge, Conner, Thornton, Satterfield, Turner, Berreth, Tower, Haney. Eighth Row: Williams, Hamby, Griffith, Walker, Bagley, Bocks, Simpson, Eason, Blount, Reeves, Babb, Jones, Strine. Ninth Row: Baggett, Whinery, Tatum, Ivory, Beavers, Nowlin, Taylor, Ezell, Randle, Cook, Smith, Turner, Maluotoga, Gifford. Tenth Row: Vacogiannis, Hobby, Rye, Phillips, White, Holt, Billyos, Jordan, McClure.

Photo by Salomon Pineda

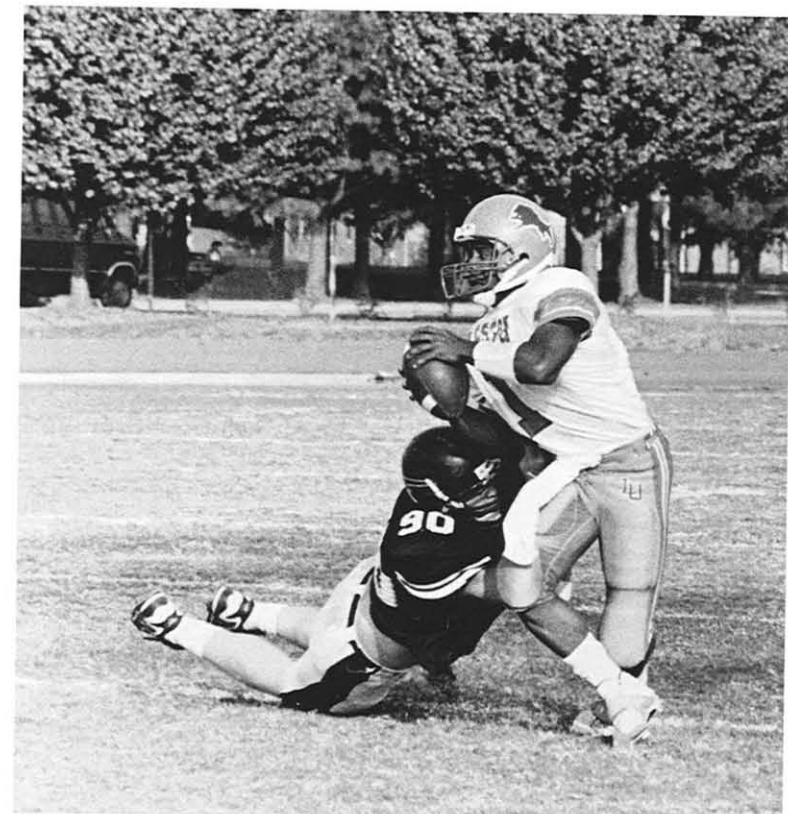


Photo by Daniel Dubois

Junior Greg Taylor holds on for dear life as he gets another quarterback sack. Taylor led the Lone Star Conference in sacks with 10.



In 1976, Randy Miller led the NAIA Division I in tackles, averaging 16.8 tackles per game. Miller was also voted All-AIC and an Honorable Mention All-American.

Junior Rachel Raglin drives past a Southeastern Oklahoma defender. Raglin provided valuable defense and good ball handling for the Lady Bisons.

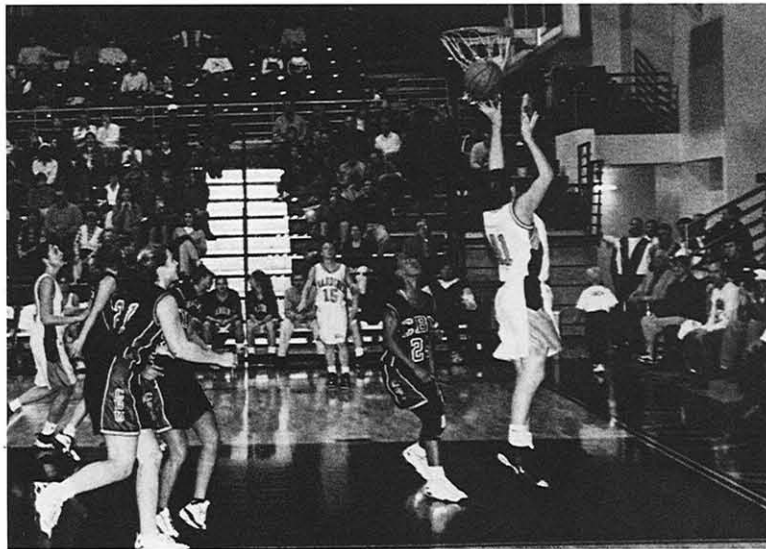


Photo by Salomon Pineda

Senior Karie Fouts-Fager scores two points for the Lady Bisons. Fouts-Fager was one of the many reasons the Lady Bisons had such a successful season.

Senior Molly McPherson goes up strong in the paint to score two points. McPherson was the Lady Bisons' leading scorer this year.

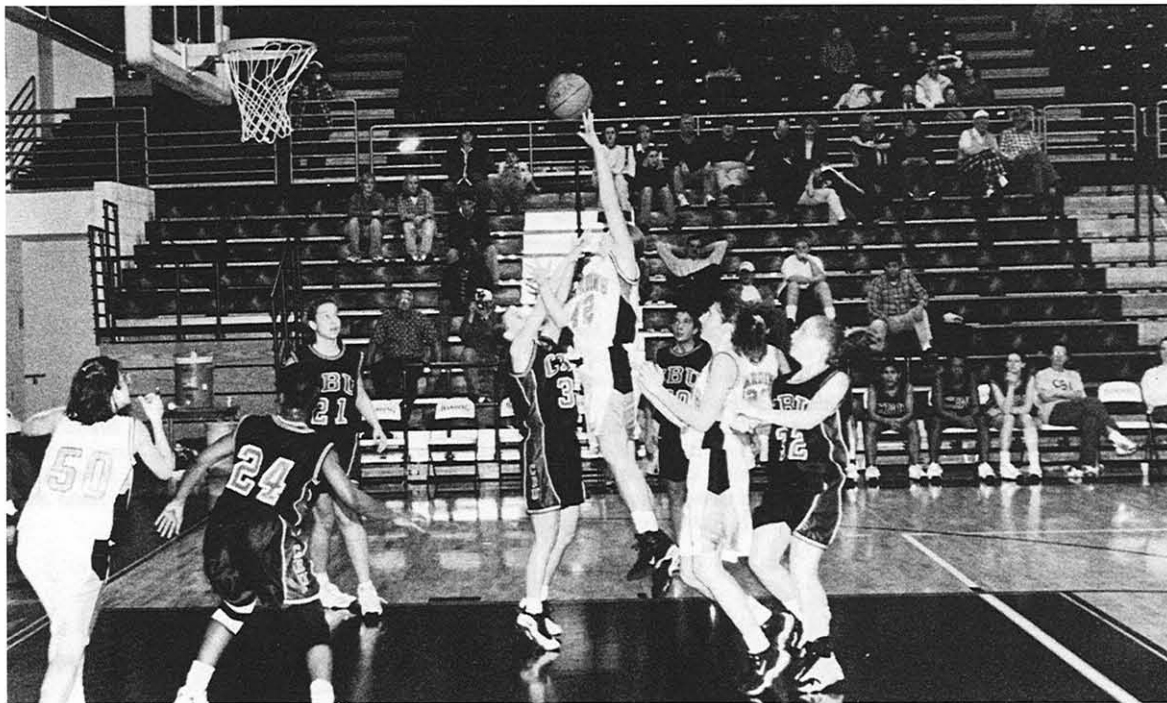


Photo by Salomon Pineda



The 1991-92 Lady Bison basketball team won a school record 21 games and was the first Harding women's team to win a District 17 playoff game.

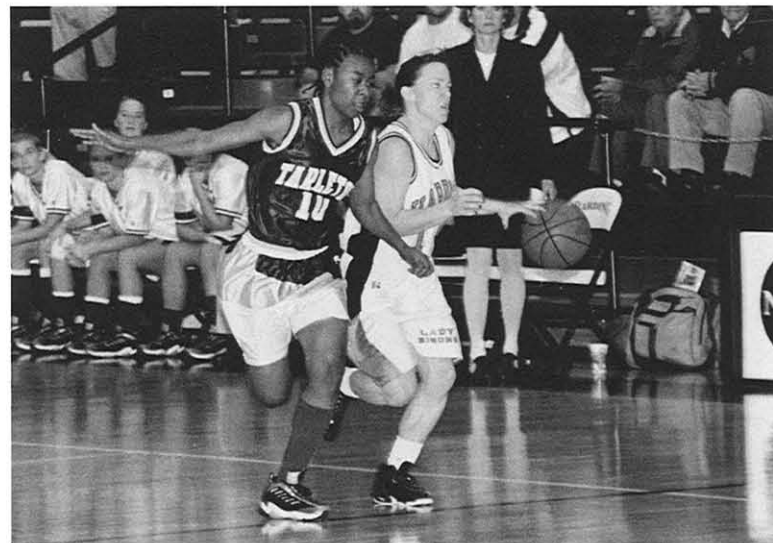


Photo by Daniel Dubois

Senior Emily Prysock leads the Lady Bisons in a fast break. Prysock was one of the many senior leaders on this year's basketball team.



Photo by Salomon Pineda

Lady Bison seniors lead team to playoffs

The Lady Bisons picked up where they left off last year, winning their first five games before settling into a 19-8 season, making a second consecutive appearance in the conference playoffs and finishing third in the Lone Star Conference's North Division.

"We've only been in the Lone Star Conference for two years and each year we have made the conference tournament. That speaks highly of our seniors this year and shows us where our program is," Coach Brad Francis said. "We are also getting a lot of respect from around the league and that's why we won so many post-season awards."

Leading the way for the Lady Bisons this year and providing great leadership were five seniors – Molly McPherson, Emily Prysock, Susan Reiss, Stephanie Barron and Karie Fouts-Fager.

"The most important thing is that we [seniors] made sure the team was focused on Christ. We set the tone for the team and made sure everyone gave their best effort, worked hard and played together as a team," Reiss said.

McPherson, from Greenland, Ark., had a great year, as she finished in the top ten in three statistical categories. She was second in the conference in points per game with 20, sixth in the conference in rebounds per game with 8.5 and eighth in the conference in free throw percentage at 79 percent.

"I feel I played a lot better this year than last year because last year I was trying to fill Angie Fouts-Dugger's shoes, whereas this year I have been more consistent and played a lot better," McPherson said.

Prysock, a point guard, from Mountain Home, Ark., finished in the top five in two statistical categories. She finished first in the conference in assist-to-turnover ratio with 3.10 and fifth in the conference in assists per game with 4.65.

"It is my job as the team's point guard to run the offense and take care of the basketball, which is really important. I try to make every possession a positive one," Prysock said.

Other seniors made key contributions. Reiss averaged eight points and six rebounds while starting all 27 games. Barron also started every game and averaged 13 points and four rebounds. Fouts-Fager provided strength off the bench as she averaged six points and seven rebounds and shot 48 percent from the field.

Junior Rachel Raglin also started all 27 games this year for the Lady Bisons, averaging eight points and three rebounds. She will be counted on heavily next year along with junior Jamie Pate, sophomores Stephanie Davis, Krista Anderson and Kelli Fager and freshmen Mindy Napier, Kristen Shewmake and Louisa Duke.

– Ryan Puckett

★ All-Stars

LSC North Division

Molly McPherson – Player of the Year
Rachel Raglin – Defensive Player of the Year
Brad Francis – Coach of the Year

LSC All Conference Team

Molly McPherson, first team
Stephanie Barron, second team
Emily Prysock, honorable mention

GTE Academic All-America, District VI

Susan Reiss, first team



Photo by Jeff Montgomery

Women's Basketball Team. Front Row: Emily Prysock, Krista Anderson, Louisa Duke, Stephanie Barron, Rachel Raglin, Jamie Pate, Mindy Napier, Glenna Wright, manager. Back Row: Coach Brad Francis, Susie Smith, student assistant, Stephanie Davis, Susan Reiss, Kristen Shewmake, Molly McPherson, Kelli Fager, Karie Fouts-Fager, Assistant Coach Stephen Burks.

'Cardiac kids' diligent at gaining experience

Harding's 1998-99 men's basketball team finished the year with 15 wins and 11 losses, while placing fifth in the Lone Star Conference's North Division.

"From the first scrimmages to the end of the season, our defense improved the most," Coach Jeff Morgan said. "The guys all accepted their roles on the team and executed them well."

The team felt that, if they could just stay close, they could win in overtime or at the buzzer. The Bisons played in five overtime games and won three of those. Seven of their wins were by five points or less.

They won their first game of the year against Lyon College 90-88 in overtime, beat Texas A & M University at Kingsville 74-71 in overtime and defeated Cameron University 74-71 in overtime.

Junior college transfers Chris Hardaway and Lenny Bert were heavy contributors to this year's team. Hardaway took over the starting point guard position, averaging 15 points and four rebounds while dishing out 101 assists.

Bert contributed heavily on defense as he led the conference in steals per game with three. He also played well offensively, averaging seven points and four rebounds per game.

"In the first half, I tried to contain my man and stay out of foul trouble; in the second half I

just cut loose and tried to steal the ball," Bert said.

The two lone seniors on this year's team were Steve Meadors and Brent Adams. These two guys not only provided scoring, rebounding and good defense, but they also provided valuable leadership to the younger players.

"I am not a vocal leader but I try to lead by example. I refrain from getting down on my teammates, I don't point fingers, and I try to encourage everyone," said Meadors, who averaged 12 points and seven rebounds.

Adams was in his fifth year with the Bisons and enjoyed his most productive year. He averaged nine points and six rebounds and ranked fourth in the conference in blocks per game, with just over two.

"I am pleased with the way I've played this year. I would rather win and not be a factor than be a factor and not win. I measure myself on how our team does," Adams said.

Junior Levern Floyd was another key player for the Bisons. Floyd was second on the team in scoring with 14.8 points per game, but he always displayed a team attitude.

"It is a privilege to be the second leading scorer, but I will do whatever it takes to win, whether that is to rebound, play defense or score," Floyd said.

— Ryan Puckett

★ All-Stars

LSC All Conference Team
Levern Floyd, second team
Chris Hardaway, second team

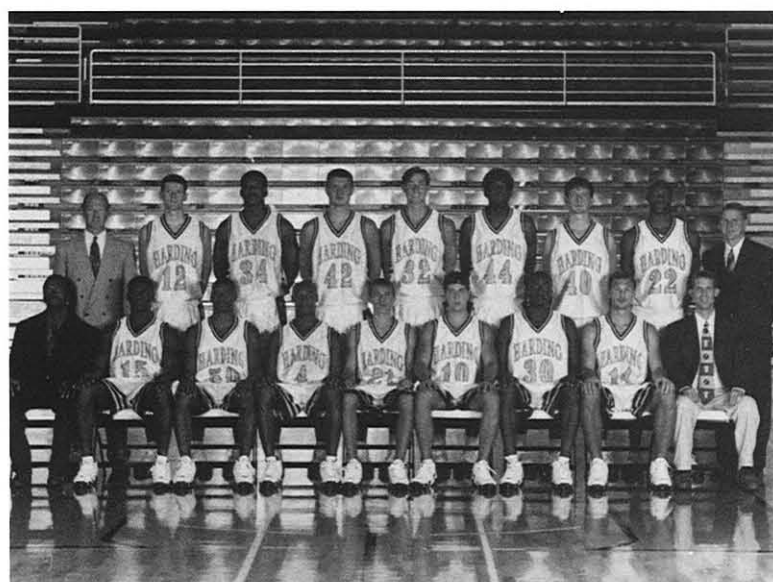
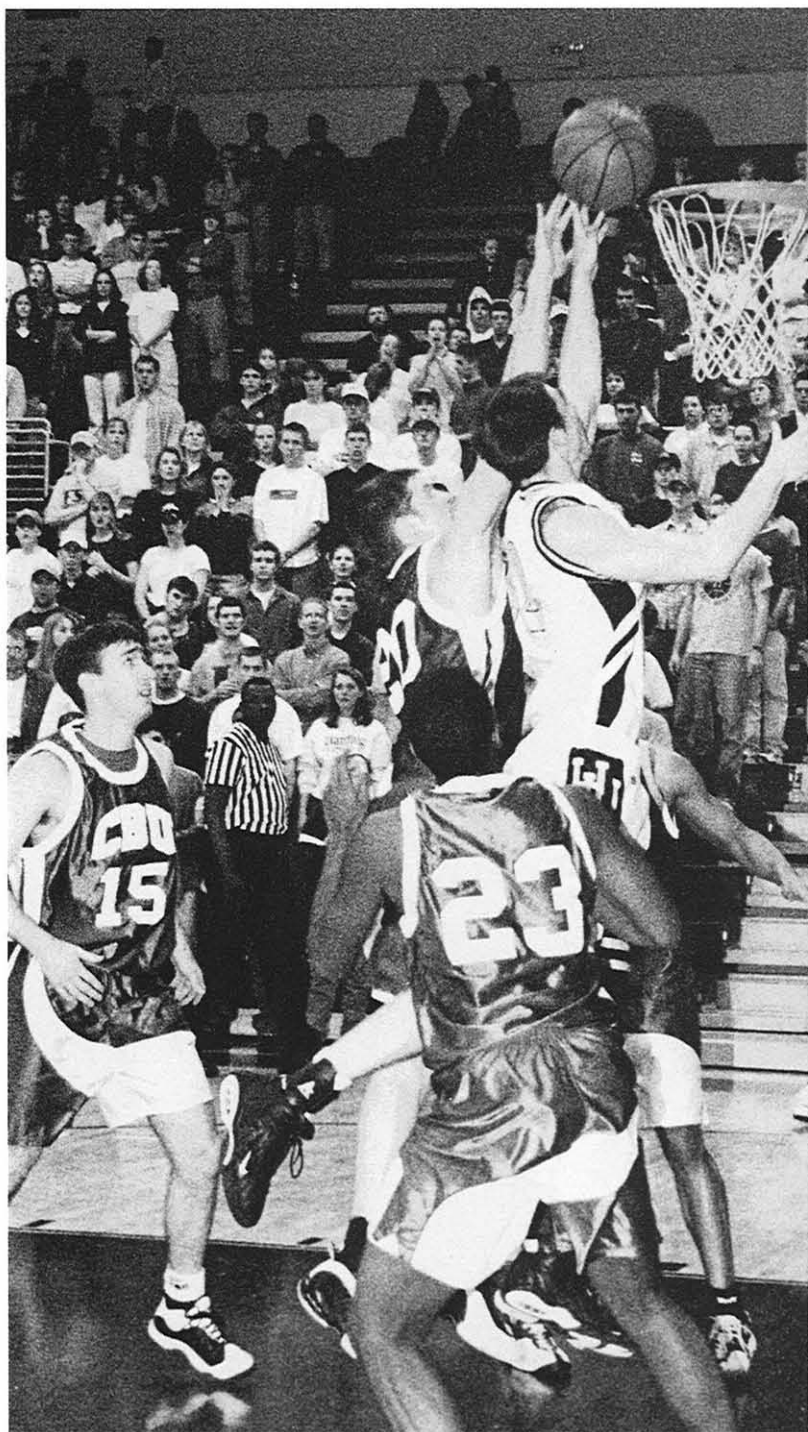


Photo by Jeff Montgomery

Men's Basketball Team. Front Row: Damon Bolland, student assistant, Levern Floyd, Lenny Bert, Chris Hardaway, Aaron Farley, Ryan Semanchik, Lenard Blocker, Jason McGinty, Ty Clothier, student assistant. Back Row: Assistant Coach Tim Kirby, Clint Spencer, Dwayne Elliott, Alan Webber, Brent Adams, Steve Meadors, David Duke, Michael Jackson, Coach Jeff Morgan.

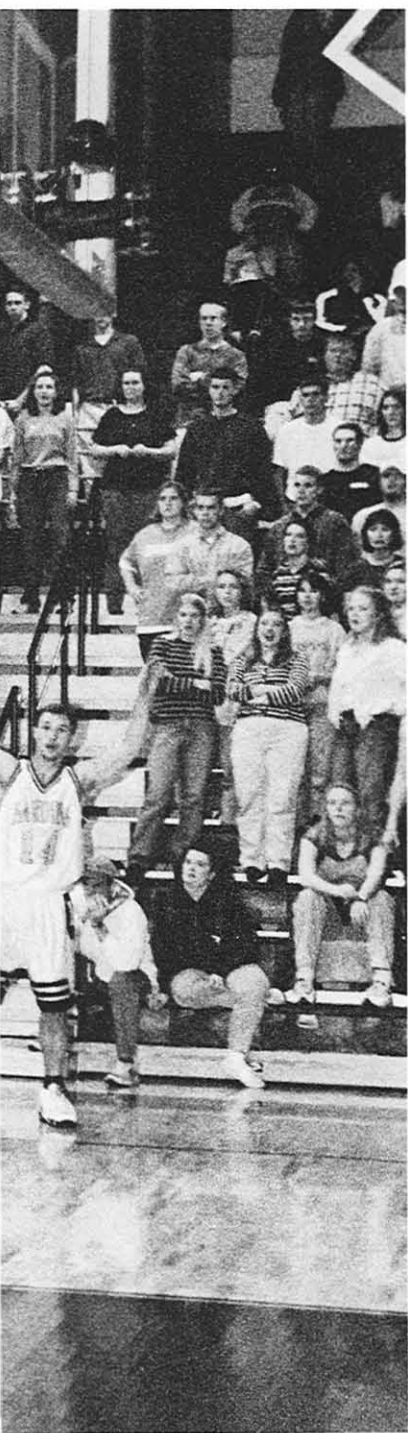


Photo by Salomon Pineda

Senior Brent Adams outjumps a Christian Brothers forward to tip in a missed shot. Adams was one of only two seniors on this year's basketball team.

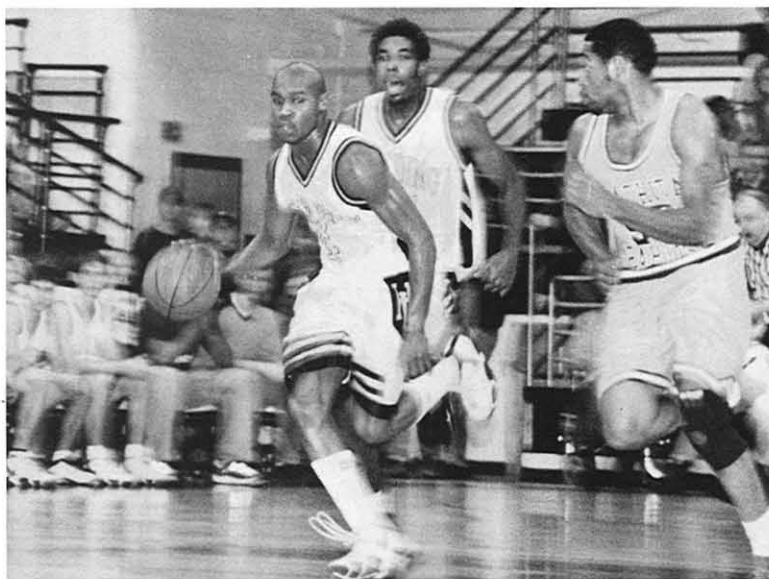


Photo by Daniel Dubois

Junior Chris Hardaway outruns a Ouachita defender as he leads the team on a fast break. Hardaway took over the team's starting point guard position this year after transferring from Westark Junior College.

Senior Steve Meadors scores two points on a fast break lay-up. Meadors provided valuable senior leadership to a young team.

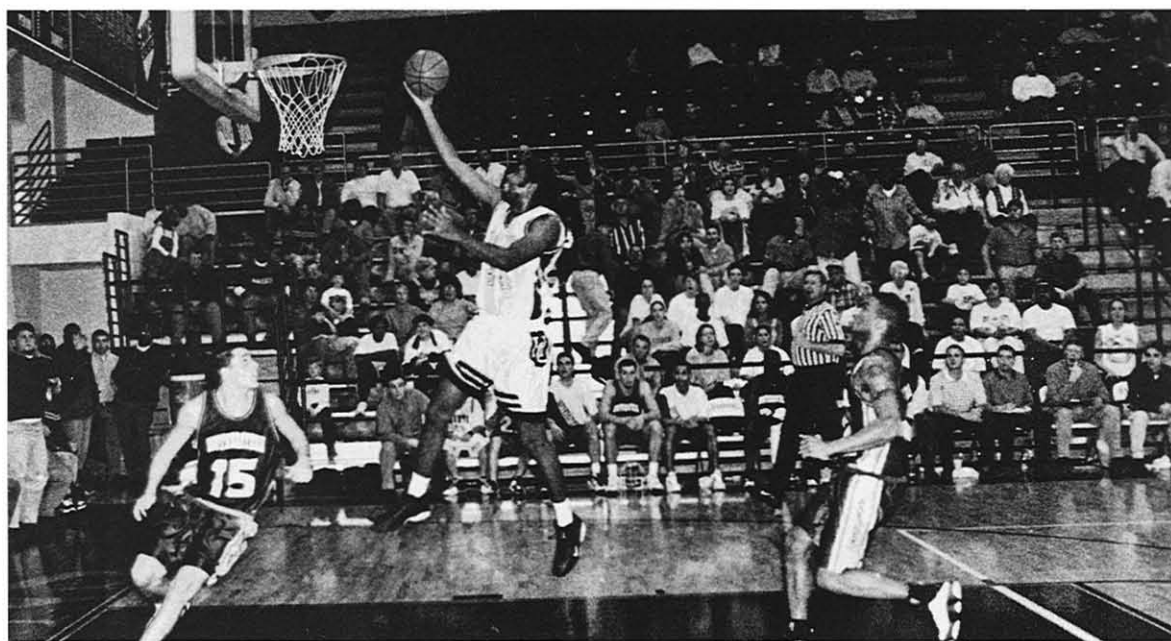


Photo by Salomon Pineda



Photo by Salomon Pineda

Junior Levern Floyd shoots a one-handed shot over a Southwestern Oklahoma opponent. Floyd, who was second in scoring, was a three-point threat to every opponent.



In 1988, the men's basketball team defeated the University of Central Arkansas, which was led by All-American and future NBA superstar Scottie Pippen, twice.

Paige Fairley, Carla Redd and Amber Keilers cheer the football team to victory. Hard work and long hours made the year a success for the cheerleaders.

Mandi Hogan, Liza Freeman and Summer Daniel participate in a cheer. The cheerleaders always kept the crowd involved in the game.



Photo by Salomon Pineda



The current trend for intercollegiate cheerleading began when Harding resumed intercollegiate athletics in 1958.

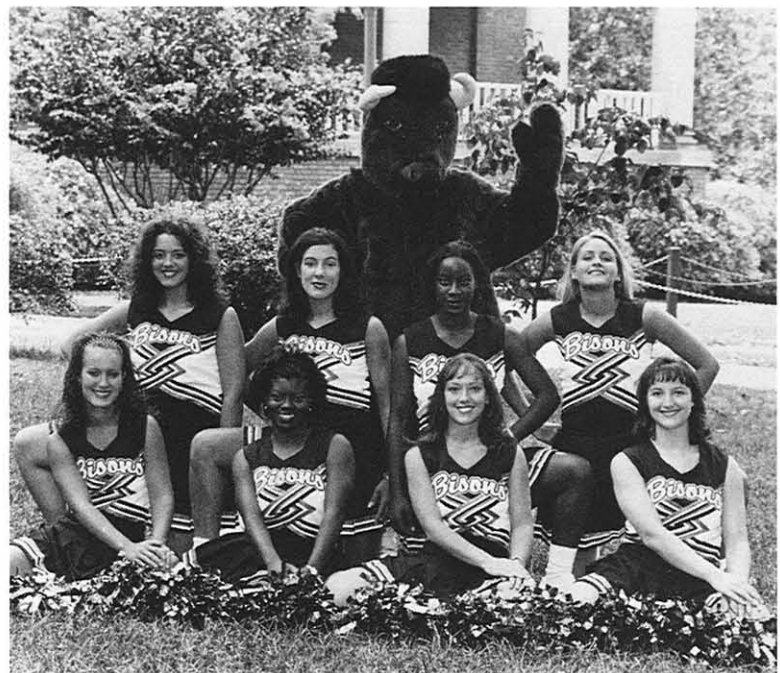


Photo by Jeff Montgomery

Football Cheerleaders. First Row: Tori Predmore, Miriam Dodson, Amber Keilers, Paige Fairley. Second Row: Heather Roberts, Sarah Johnston, Carla Redd, Mandi Hogan. Third Row: Amber Aubrey.



Photo by Daniel Dubois

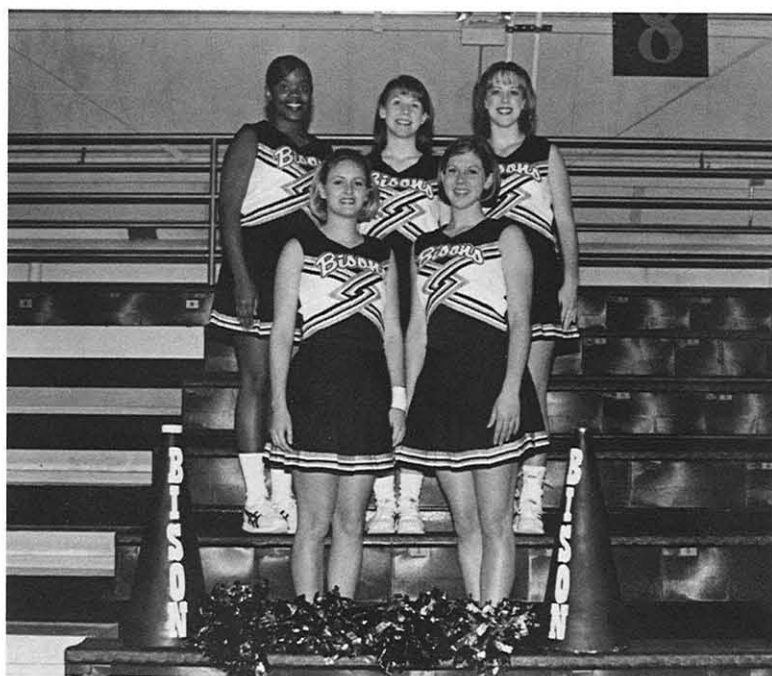


Photo by Daniel Dubois

Basketball Cheerleaders. First Row: Mandi Hogan, Summer Daniel. Second Row: Cortney "Kashawn" Bradley, Liza Freeman, Monica Glenn.

Cheerleading squads keep crowds involved

Last year, the Bison cheerleaders introduced male yell leaders to the student body. This year, the Bison cheerleaders introduced skirts to the student body.

To be able to get skirts, captains Carla Redd and Amber Keilers had to write a letter to Harding's Athletic Committee, asking for permission, and then they had to meet with the committee to discuss it. The Athletic Committee approved the request and allowed the cheerleaders to wear skirts. In previous years the cheerleaders wore skorts, which were actually a pair of shorts that looked like a skirt.

"Since we were getting new uniforms this year, we needed skirts to make our uniforms look more collegiate," Keilers said.

When tryouts were held for both the football and basketball squads, many of the girls were trying out for their first time in college. Sarah Johnston and Heather Roberts were two cheerleaders who were cheering this year for the first time.

"I cheered in high school and, when I came to Harding, I went to all the games and saw the cheerleaders having fun cheering, so I tried out and made the squad," Johnston said. Roberts said, "I cheered throughout high school and I missed it a lot my first two years here at Harding, so I decided to try out."

There was more to being a

cheerleader than just showing up at the athletic events and yelling. In the summer, a week before school started, the football cheerleaders started their year by practicing eight hours a day. During this practice time they made the run-through banners for the football players and learned new cheers and dances.

Throughout the football and basketball seasons, the squads practiced two nights a week, made the players treats before every home game and decorated the locker rooms with signs before every game. Also, the cheerleaders traveled to every away game, no matter how far the game was.

During games it was the cheerleaders' job to not only entertain the crowd but to get them involved in cheering and to be there for the athletes.

"Our goal is to get the crowd involved as much as possible, to be enthusiastic, motivate the athletes and give them support," Roberts said.

Fifth year senior Miriam Dodson wrapped up her cheering career for Harding this year after cheering for seven seasons.

"I enjoyed cheering a lot. I liked all the traveling we did and meeting all the new people I would not have met had it not been for cheerleading. I also liked cheering with other girls who had different cheering styles, which was difficult, but we always seemed to adjust to each other," Dodson said.

— Ryan Puckett

New director leads women's intramurals

During the fall of 1998, the women's intramural program was under new leadership for the first time in 32 years. Dr. Jessica Moore replaced Barbara Barnes, who retired at the end of the 1998 spring semester.

"I feel the first semester went really well. Barbara Barnes left me a list of things that had been done in the past, so I kind of had an idea what to do – not to mention the fact that, if I had a problem, I could just call her," Moore said.

It took a lot more to run an intramural program than just the director. It took many people who would donate their time and effort to referee games and keep score. Also important to the intramural program were the assistants.

This year Moore was assisted by three undergraduate students and one graduate student. Heather Allison served as the grad assistant and Jennifer Holt, Annika Jacobs and Jeana Schweikhard were the undergrad assistants.

"I love Dr. Moore; she is so great," Holt said. "She has really done an excellent job. She had a big role to fill and she has done it with excellent service and a great attitude. I am very proud to work for her."

Women participated in intramurals for many different reasons but the most popular seemed to be to meet new people. Junior Danna Johnson said, "I like to be involved in intramurals so I

can get to know more people."

"I liked doing intramurals this year because I got to meet people that I would not normally meet, especially because I transferred this year," sophomore Emily Montandon said. "It really helped me get into things at Harding."

All three of the undergraduate assistants had worked in the intramural program before, and the graduate assistant had done intramurals before.

"They were all trained so well. My grad assistant, Heather Allison, was trained very well; I really felt like I could just leave everything up to her and it would all be fine," Moore said.

"The best thing about the women's intramural program is that we all strive for a Christian attitude and to have fun," Holt said. "You can go out and play with your Christian sisters, not just to win but to have fun as well. And, after every game we pray to make sure our minds are where they are supposed to be."

The sports offered during the fall for women's intramurals were softball, tennis and volleyball.

During the semester approximately 100 women participated in softball, 30 in tennis and 100 in volleyball. There were no women's intramural football teams. All of this was in addition to club competitions in these sports and flag football.

– Meredith Hlasta

"She [Dr. Jessica Moore] has really done an excellent job. She had a big role to fill and she has done it with excellent service and a great attitude."

– Jennifer Holt, intramural undergraduate assistant

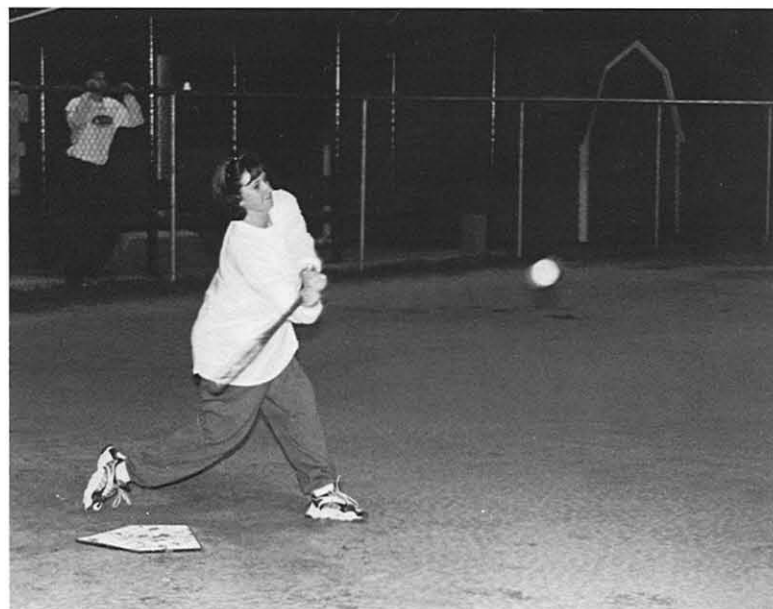
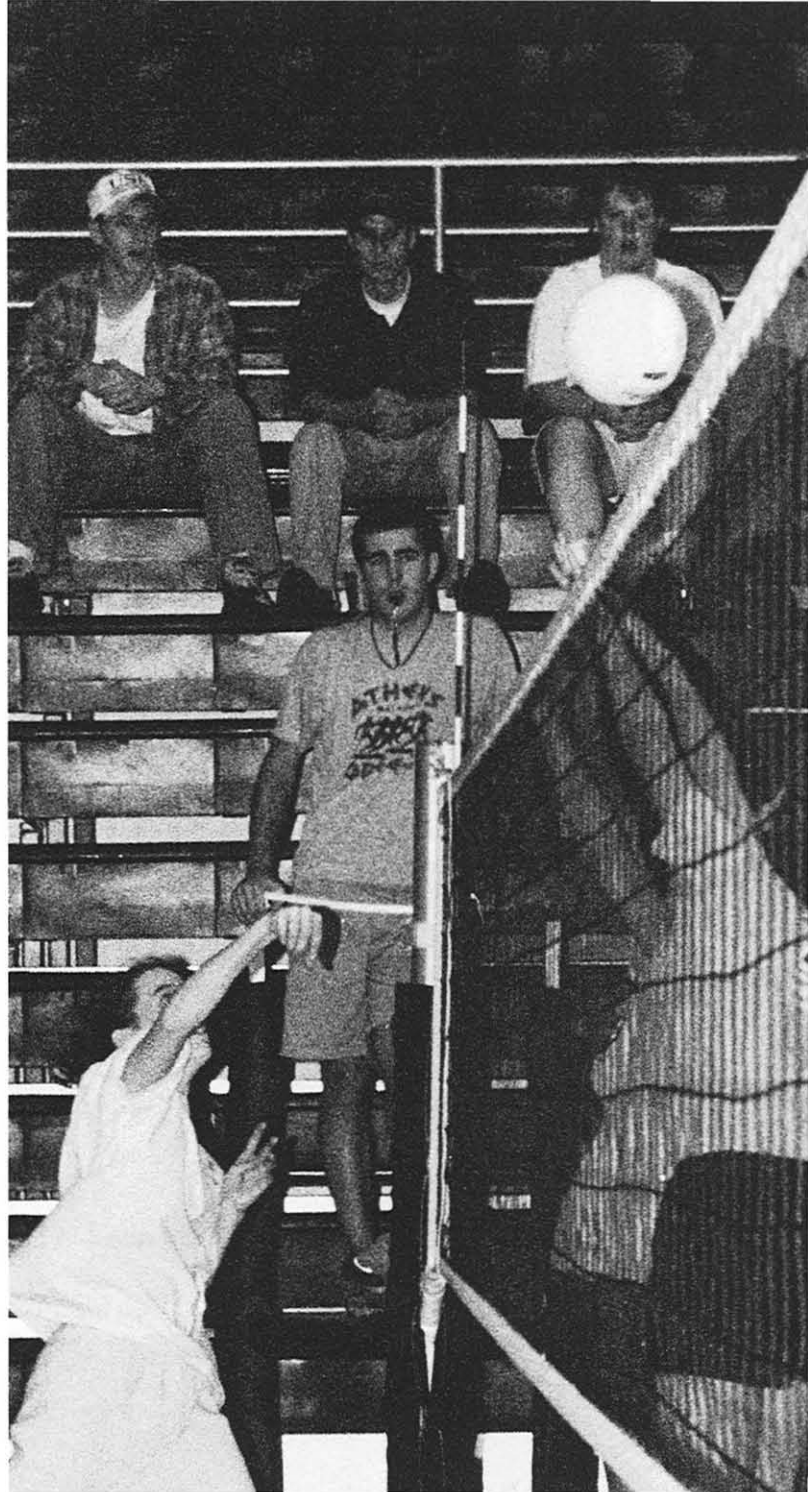


Photo by Daniel Dubois

Junior Jodi Menges keeps her eye on the ball as she swings for the fences. Intramural softball was a great way for girls to make many new friends while playing a sport they love.

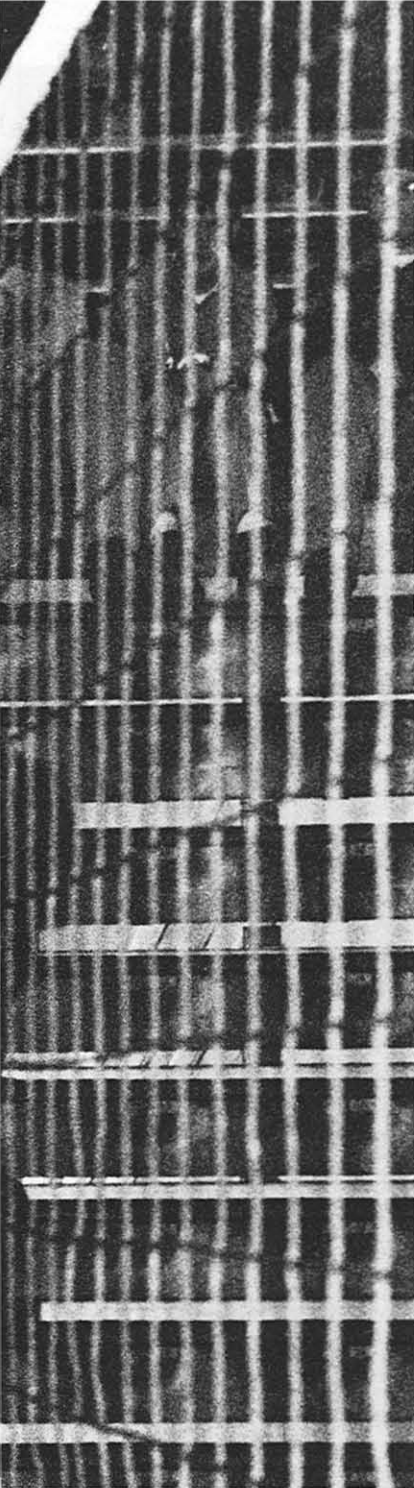


Photo by Salomon Pineda

Junior Brenda Thornberg pops the ball just high enough over her opponent's hands. Intramural sports were a great way for students to meet new people.



Photo by Salomon Pineda

Freshman Louisa Duke returns the ball to her opponent. Duke was also a member of the women's inter-collegiate basketball team.

Freshman Sara Price follows through on her massive stroke. Price won the women's intramural single's tennis championship.

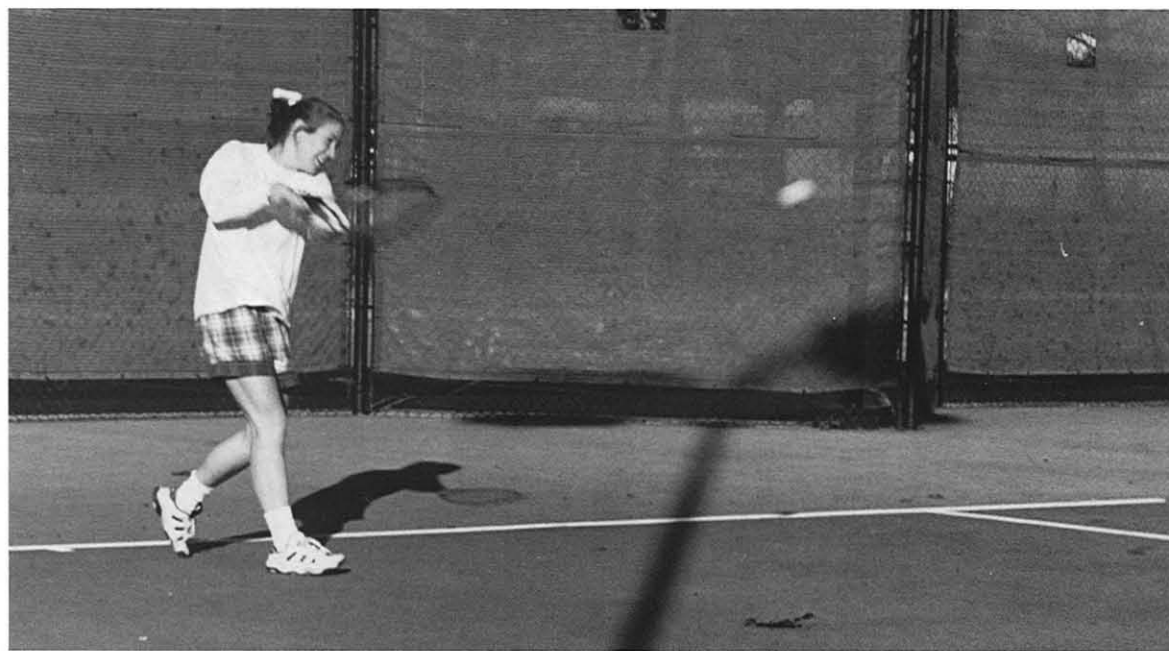


Photo by Salomon Pineda



Photo by Daniel Dubois

Senior Kristi Burns pitches to one of her opponents in hopes of striking out the batter, as her teammate, junior Jennifer Holt, awaits the results. Burns was voted to the women's intramural all-star softball team.



Traditionally, the women's intramural program has awarded 10 intramural jackets per year since 1924.



Senior Tim Johnson sets senior Philip Murphy up for the kill. Intramurals were a vital part of extracurricular activities this year.

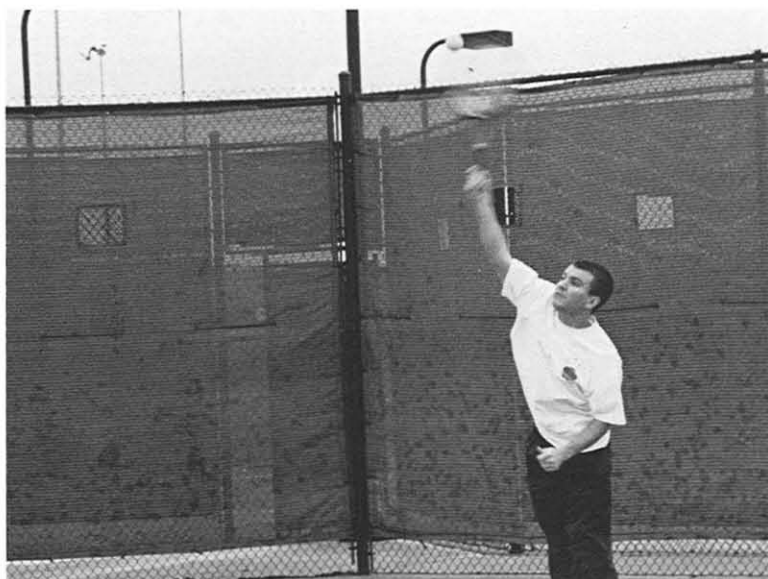


Photo by Salomon Pineda

Senior Matt Miller smashes the ball at his opponent. Intramural sports allowed students to compete with each other in a Christian atmosphere.

Six brave men get off to a good start in the intramural cross country run. The cross country run was one of the events men had to compete in to earn an intramural jacket.



Photo by Daniel Dubois



The oldest men's intramural record still standing is the baseball distance throw, which was set in 1959 by Paul Huff, with a throw of 385 feet.



Photo by Salomon Pineda

Senior Bo Farley looks for a teammate to pitch the ball to. Farley was voted to play in the intramural football all-star game.



Photo by Salomon Pineda



Photo by Salomon Pineda

Men's intramurals introduces a change

One of the many opportunities available to Harding students was participation in intramural athletics. This year the men's intramural program "went about as smoothly as it usually does," graduate assistant Chad Joice said. "An outstanding number of people signed up to participate this year and that really helps our program a lot."

Intramural athletics enabled students to participate in sports in a friendly environment, engage in healthy competition and enjoy Christian fellowship. "It is just getting out and having fun and meeting different people and enjoying the competition but not getting too serious about it," senior assistant Bobby Davis said.

"You get to meet different people and play sports you do not usually play and try to get better at them," senior Russell Hawkins said. "I survived the cross country run and I was happy about that." Hawkins placed fourth in the run.

Meeting new people and making new friends was definitely a part of intramural athletics. "There is a lot of participation and everyone seems to be enjoying themselves," junior Nick Boone said.

"It gives students an opportunity to play with other people that they usually compete against in club sports," Joice said. "It builds relationships and helps students make friends outside of their clubs."

In general, the students

maintained a positive attitude while competing. "It is a lot of fun and it is not too competitive," Boone said. "The attitudes I see out there are good, and most people have a handle on their tempers."

Another opportunity that students had in the intramural program was the chance to compete for a jacket. In order to earn a jacket in men's intramurals, one had to acquire 2,000 points. "Points are given for participation, places and championships; and if you enter in all of the events and do fairly well in them, you can usually earn a jacket," Hawkins said.

"It is time-consuming and you almost have to compete in every event, but really, all you have to do is be mediocre and go out and take the time to do it," said Boone, who received a jacket as a freshman.

The intramural teams experienced one major change this year – in flag football, which changed from contact to non-contact to help prevent injuries. The athletes seemed to adjust quite well to the change. "At first, a lot of people did not think they would like it, but then everyone adjusted," Davis said.

"The change was interesting and kind of rough at first, but as long as it eliminates some of the injuries, it is good," Hawkins said.

Being involved in intramural athletics this year was all about fun. "The season has been very successful; it is just a lot of fun," Boone said.

– Diane Grubbs

"It [the intramural program] gives students an opportunity to play with other people that they usually compete against in club sports. It builds relationships and helps students make friends outside of their clubs."

– Chad Joice, intramural graduate assistant

Junior Chadd O'Neil rares back to throw the ball over his opponent's head in hopes of scoring a touchdown. O'Neil also competed in club football for Titans.

Participation is key to program's success

Harding's 1998-99 women's intramural program had a successful year, thanks to the large number of participants. Each participant played intramurals for her own personal reasons.

Sophomore Kate Rivera said her favorite intramural sport was basketball because "the competition is good and almost everyone that competes has a good attitude and is friendly."

"My favorite spring intramural sport is softball," junior Gretchen Simmons said. "I just love to play softball and, since Harding does not have a collegiate softball team, I play intramural softball."

Sophomore Jeana Schweikhard competed in intramural volleyball and basketball and said her favorite part of participating in intramurals was "getting to interact with all the girls and to be around girls that I might not otherwise be around."

Freshman Sharon Grove competed in softball and basketball. Grove echoed Schweikhard's sentiments.

"Playing intramurals gave me the opportunity to meet other girls, make new friends and play the sports I really like to compete in," she said.

An important part of the intramural program was the captains of the intramural teams.

The captains served as the leaders and coaches of the teams.

Some of their responsibilities included getting all the girls on their team to their games, finding officials to referee the games, making sure that everyone on the team got to play and making sure that everyone showed good sportsmanship and had a good time.

"I liked being a captain. I felt it was my responsibility to make sure everyone enjoyed competing and had fun," senior Corrie Albright said.

"I tried to make sure that everyone on my team showed good sportsmanship and never gave up, no matter what the score was. The hard part of being a captain was getting everyone to show up and be on time," junior Mendy Smith said.

Many of the women who competed in intramurals this year also competed in club sports. Even though both the club program and the intramural program offered the same sports, the two programs were different in their atmosphere and in their approach to competition.

"In the intramural games, most of the girls want to have fun and they want to win, but if they don't, it's O.K.," freshman Tiffany Summers said.

— Ryan Puckett

"Playing intramurals gave me the opportunity to meet other girls, make new friends and play the sports I really like to compete in."

— Freshman Sharon Grove

Sophomore Annika Jacobs shoots a free throw in the women's free throw competition. The women competed in a free throw competition during activities night.

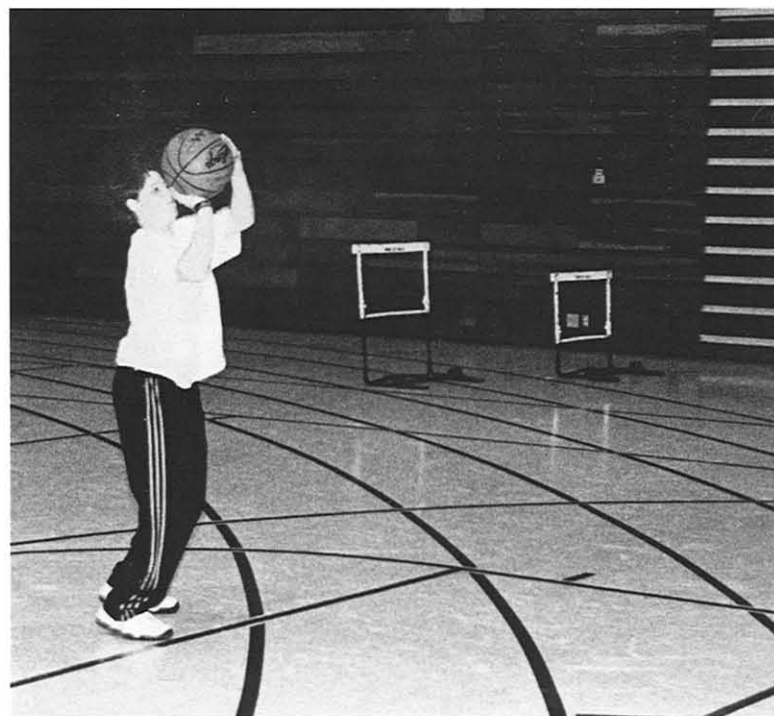
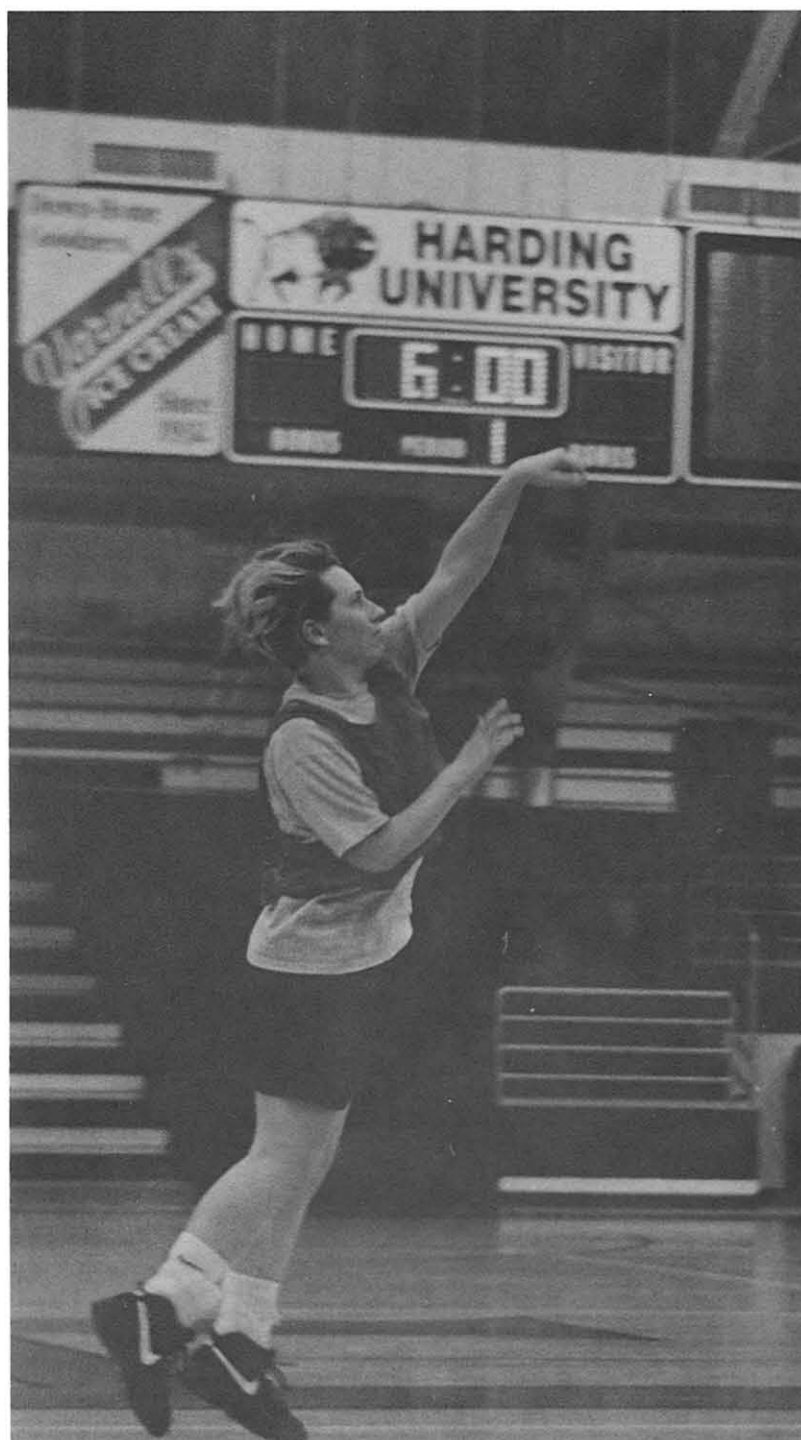


Photo by Salomon Pineda



Photo by Daniel Dubois

Freshman Sharon Grove floats a jump shot from the top of the key. Grove also competed in club basketball for Tri Kappa social club.



Photo by Salomon Pineda

Junior Jennifer Holt reaches low to hit the ball back to her opponent. Holt not only competed in intramurals, but she was also an undergraduate assistant.

Freshman Olympia Rogers goes up strong to score two points. Intramurals gave students the opportunity for friendly competition in athletics.



Photo by Daniel Dubois

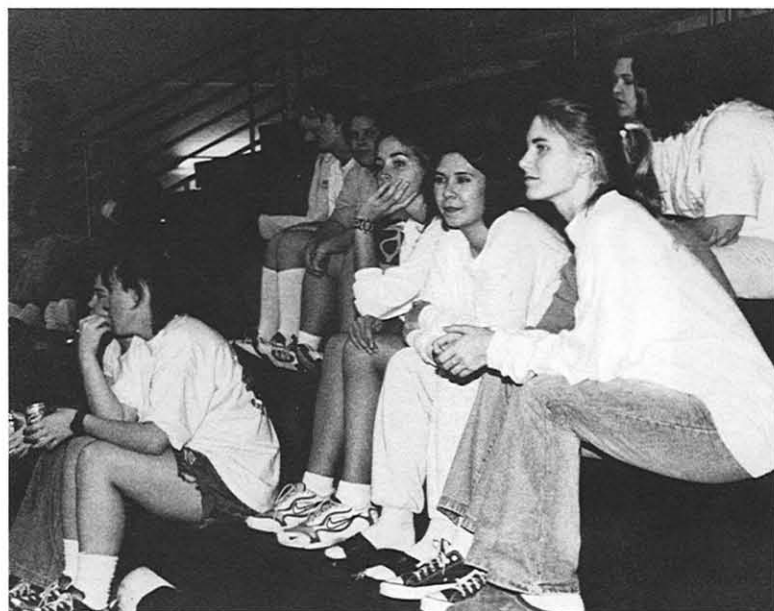


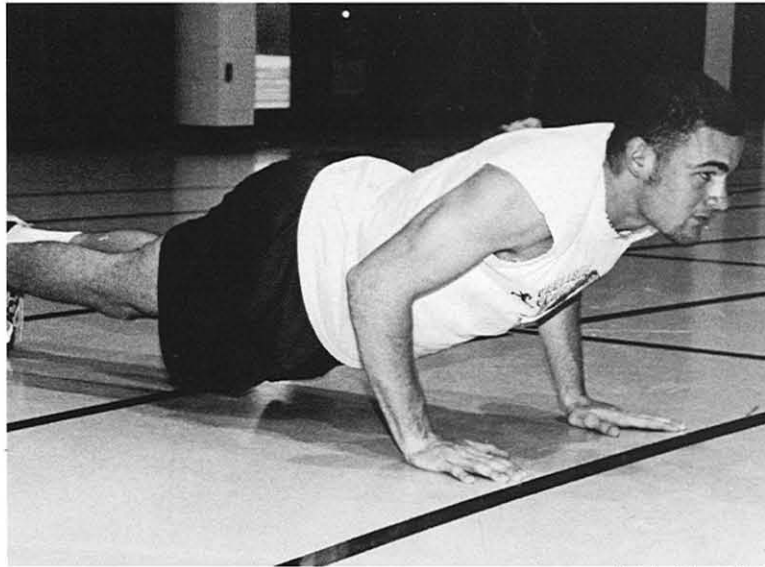
Photo by Salomon Pineda

Sarah Randolph, Kim Ewing and Lia Shoemaker watch as friends compete in basketball. Women played their indoor intramural competitions in Rhodes Memorial Field House.



The point system that continues to be a very popular part of today's intramural program was started by Coach M.E. "Pinkie" Berryhill and Mrs. Margaret Alston in 1939.

Senior Jamie McClay goes up strong in the paint for two points. McClay also competed in club basketball for Knights social club.



Freshman Aaron Shock pushes himself to the limit in the push-up contest. Intramurals offered a wide variety of competition for the student body.

Sophomore Jonathon Roberson drives to the basket as junior James Jones tries to prevent him from scoring. Playing intramural sports was one of the many ways Harding students escaped the pressures of school and work.

Photo by Salomon Pineda



Photo by Salomon Pineda



Darrell Webb, from Silvis, Ill., won the intramural sports skill championship four years in a row, from 1981 to 1984.

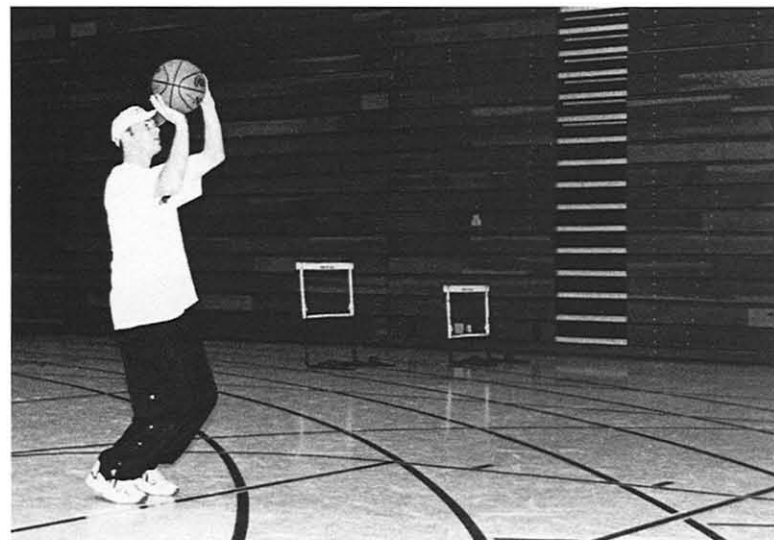


Photo by Salomon Pineda

Senior Bobby Davis bends to shoot a free throw. Davis was one of Jim Gowen's valuable undergraduate assistants for the intramural athletic program.

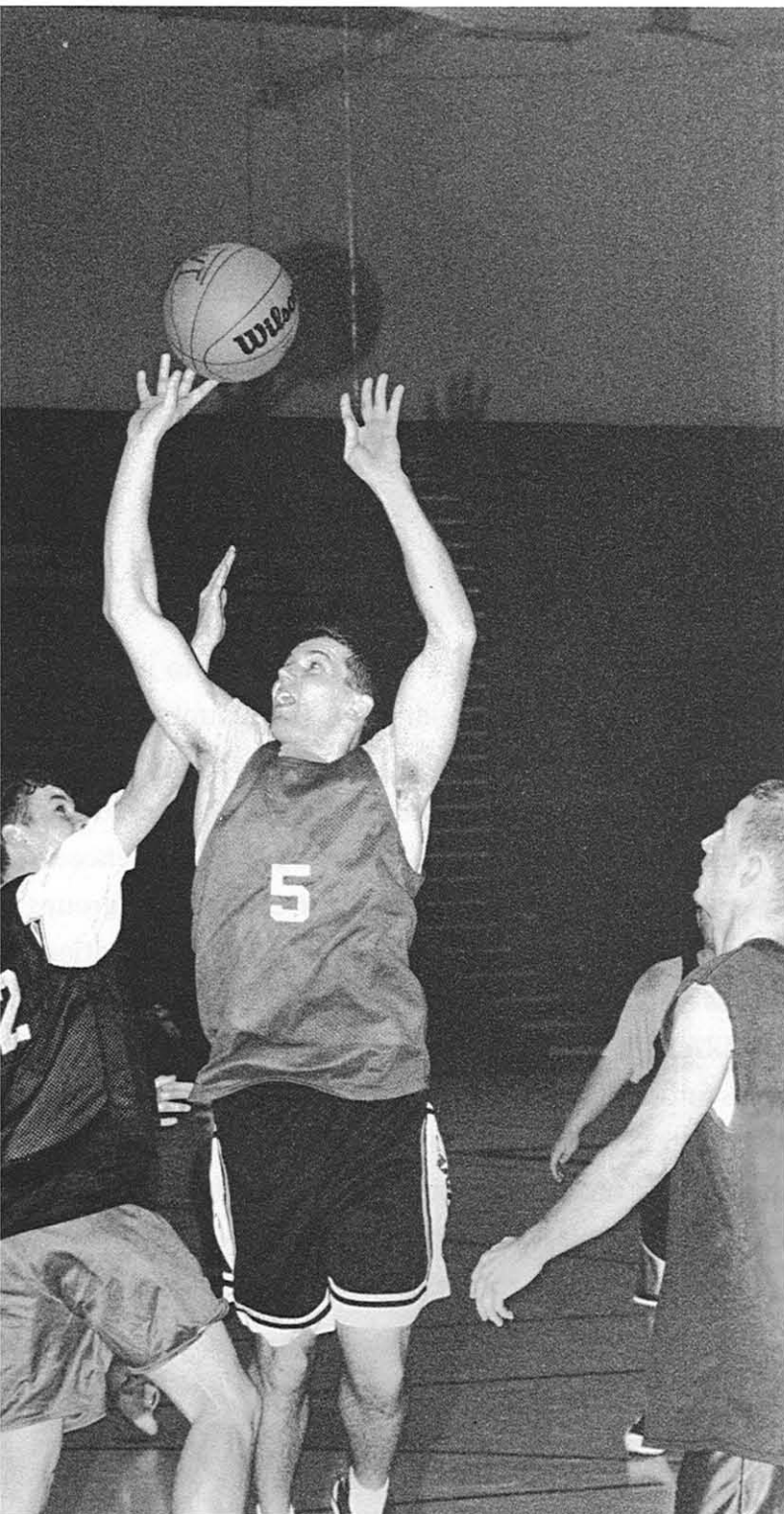


Photo by Salomon Pineda

Various levels offered in men's intramurals

This year, approximately 65 percent of the male student body participated in at least one intramural sport, according to intramural athletic director Jim Gowen. There are many reasons why so many male students competed in intramurals.

"There are several physical and social aspects as to why men participate, such as getting to meet new people, being competitive while playing the sports they like and getting more exercise," Gowen said.

"I play intramurals for the fun of it, to get some exercise and because I really like to compete in the different sports," said sophomore Jared Lillard, who competed in basketball and softball.

"I enjoy playing basketball, tennis and ping pong, so I compete in them through intramurals," senior Jamie McClay said.

Another reason that men competed in intramurals was that they played these sports in high school and didn't want to stop playing just because they were not involved in intercollegiate play. Intramurals gave them a chance to keep competing.

"Intramurals gives men the opportunity to continue to play on their level of competition in the sports they competed in in high school. For instance, in basketball, we offer a major and a minor level of competition, so everyone has

the opportunity to compete," Gowen said.

"I really enjoy playing football, but since I can't play football on the collegiate level, I play intramural football," senior Jay Brockman said.

Senior Clay Ellison echoed Brockman's comments when he said, "I like playing intramurals for the competition and I want to be a part of athletics even if it is not at the collegiate level."

Even though playing intramurals took up a lot of free time, a lot of positive opportunities could be afforded through competing in intramurals.

"Playing intramurals doesn't keep you confined to playing sports only with people in your club; you get to meet and play sports with new people," said sophomore Tim Johnston, who competed in volleyball, softball and ping pong.

"One positive of playing intramurals is that you get to compete with friends while having fun in a relaxed atmosphere," said senior Brett Davies, who competed in the cross country run, basketball, ping pong and racquetball.

The best thing about the intramural program was that it allowed all students to participate.

"Intramurals are designed to provide an opportunity for everyone to compete in athletics, whether they are in a club or not," Gowen said.

— Ryan Puckett

"Intramurals are designed to provide an opportunity for everyone to compete in athletics, whether they are in a club or not."

— Intramural Athletic Director Jim Gowen

Senior Matt Tibbles returns his opponent's serve during an intramural game of table tennis. Table tennis was one of the many individual events Harding's intramural program provided.

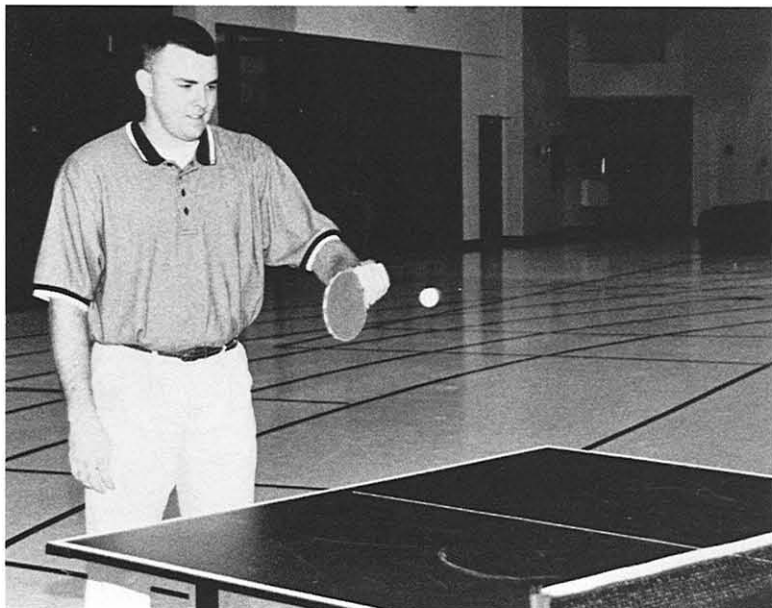


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