



athletics

During the course of a typical sporting event, many different emotions come across an athlete's face, ranging from anticipation to anxiety and ending with the excitement of a win or weariness of a loss. However, the face of a Harding Bison had one constant characteristic: he or she had the face of a Christian—a face that exposed the heart and focus of the individual athlete.

David wrote in Psalm 34:5, "Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered in shame." In the big picture it does not matter if the teams or the individuals won or lost; it was all about how they displayed Christ and whether or not they were looking to him for strength and guidance. That is the true face of a Christian student-athlete. Coach Keith Giboney said it best during his introduction of the volleyball team during chapel. He said that he coaches his players to be Christians first, students second and athletes third.

First and foremost, the athletes at Harding were to reflect the attitude of Christ and be shining examples of him on and off the field. Their second responsibility was that of living as a student; many athletes relied on their educations to take them far in this world after their college years ended. Although athletics were important to both the students and the school, they took a back seat to the previous two responsibilities.

Harding athletes were called to play for a team greater than the Bisons. They have all been called to play on God's team, guaranteed to be on the winning end after time runs out, and promised a constant face of hope.

Having your priorities straight is what it takes to have the face of a Christian student-athlete.

B. W. C.

Athletics Editor

Junior Linus Chepkwony, freshman **Dustin Knudsen** and sophomore **Scott Wietecha** battle for position in the 1,500 meter race during a track meet at Harding's First Security Stadium. The three runners learned throughout the season that competition was not always just against the other team's runners.

Discipline makes a DIFFERENCE

The 2001 season was one of discipline and focus for the men's and women's track teams.

Although the team was loaded with talented distance runners and strong sprinters, this advantage was not what made them so victorious this season, according to coach **Bryan Phillips**.

"Track takes more discipline than any other sport," he said. "It is an individual performance. There is no such thing as being physical; you do have to focus and do your part."

The Bisons had many individual victories last season. In Warrensburg, Mo., junior **Linus Chepkwony** took third place with a time of 14:54.26 in the 5,000 meter. His exceptional time made him the first NCAA Provisional Qualifier for the men's team.

Freshman **Scott Wietecha** finished fifth (15:26.63); junior **Andrew Scharff**, seventh (15:28.59); sophomore **David Scharff**, eighth (15:30.36); and junior **Scott Penick**, ninth (15:43.71). With these five in the top nine, the men's team conquered the race.

In Des Moines, Iowa, freshman **Jacob Rotich** broke a long-standing Harding record and qualified for Nationals. In the first race of the season, Rotich ran the 10,000 meter and placed his name among the best in Bison track history. The Kenya native finished fifth at the Drake Relays with an outstanding time of 30:30.69.

This time broke the 32-year-old Harding record of international track star **Jim Crawford**. In 1969, Crawford set the second-oldest track record recorded at Harding in the 10,000-meter at 30:50.7.

Hanna Ritakallio, a junior from Finland, is also the record holder in several events for the Lady Bisons. Ritakallio set three All-American records. For indoor track, she holds the record for running the 800 meter dash in 2:12.05 and set the record

for the one-mile run at 4:56.17. In outdoor track, she set the 800 meter at 2:10.35. Ritakallio also holds the record for the outdoor 1,500 meter, finishing in 4:34.08.

Last season the Lady Bisons competed in a new event called the 3,000 meter steeple. Sophomore **Sarah Reardon** set the school record at 10:50.09.

The internal victory continued for the track team. Nine Harding runners set season-best times at the University of Texas—Arlington Open. Chepkwony also won the 10,000 meter with a NCAA National Meet provisional qualifying time of 30:53.65 at the UT Arlington Open. Rotich also had a sturdy performance, finishing second in the 5,000 meter in 15:21.04. Junior **Carl Williamson** placed tenth in the race with a time of 17:08.48.

—Donda Burright & Kira Leigh

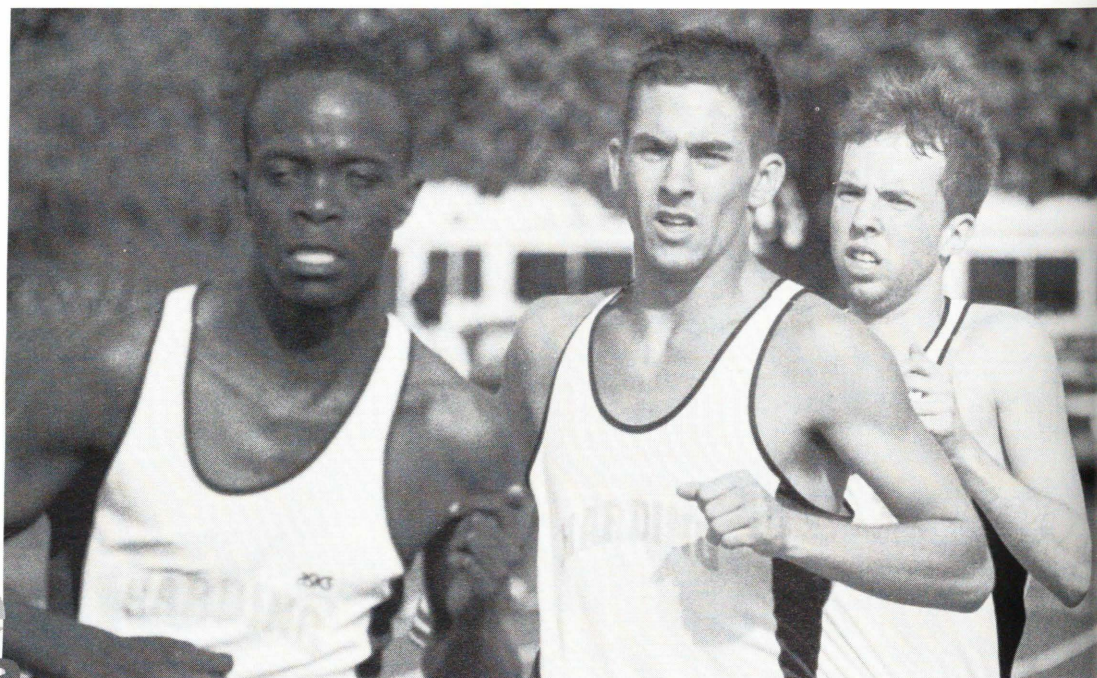


Photo by Daniel Dubois



Setting the pace, sophomore **Sarah Reardon** gains momentum towards the end of a race. Reardon placed third in the 5,000 meter with a season-best time of 18:55.34 in the meet at Arlington, Texas.

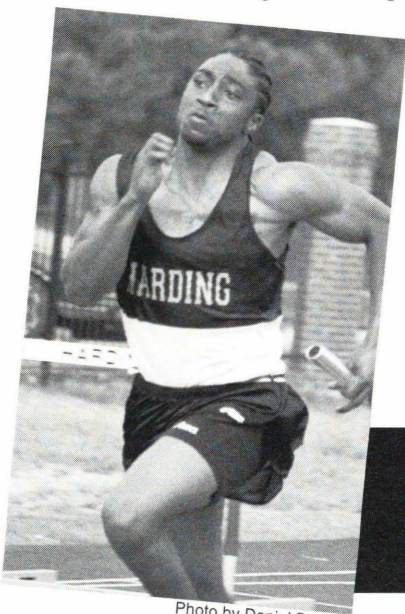


Photo by Daniel Dubois

Freshman Errick Wilson sprints down the straightaway during the April 10 meet at Harding.



Photo by Daniel Dubois

Junior David Scharff places his best foot forward as he leaps through the air during the 3,000 meter steeplechase. Scharff recorded the best time on the team, running the event in 9:27.00.

The end of the 800 meter race is just around the corner for freshman Sarah Reeser. With a time of 2:35:89, she placed third on the Bison team in the 800 meter event.



Photo by Daniel Dubois



Photo by Jeff Montgomery

THE TEAM

Front Row: Hanna Ritakallio, Valerie Goodale, Janet Kogo, Sarah Reeser, Sarah Reardon, Scott Wietecha, Jacob Rotich, Naomi Gill, Britney Copeland.

Back Row: Bershard Tillman, Gary Luna, Clay Good, Carl Williamson, Dustin Knudsen, Linus Chepkwony, Scott Penick, Tyler Kemmerer, Ryan Bond, Olli Haavikko.

SEASON REVIEW

Central Oklahoma
Louisiana State
Kansas/Oklahoma
Central Missouri State
Southern Arkansas
Memphis
Texas Relays
Harding
Arkansas
Kansas
Drake Relays
Texas-Arlington
Abilene Christian
NCAA Division II Nationals

IN YOUR

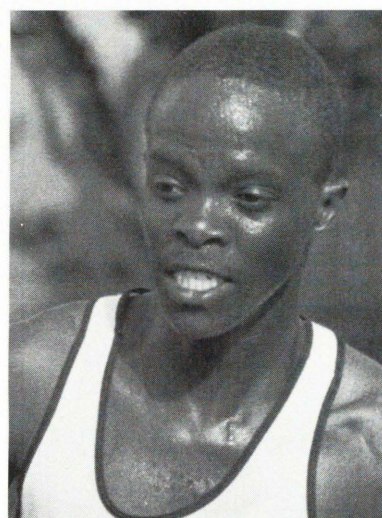


Photo by Daniel Dubois

Junior Linus Chepkwony won the 10,000 meter race with a NCAA provisional qualifying time of 30:53.63 at the University of Texas at Arlington meet May 6. The meet was Chepkwony's first time to participate in the event, which made his success even more remarkable. He was also the first Bison, for the indoor season, to qualify for nationals with a time of 14:54.26 in the 5,000 meter race.

FACE

Dust flies as junior Kenny Springer successfully steals second base. Springer was five for six in the stolen base department for the Bisons.

After a successful start, junior pitcher Matt Thomas has a few words with graduate assistant Ryan Rana and catcher Jeris Noye. These meetings usually occurred towards the end of a game when it was time to bring in a relief pitcher.

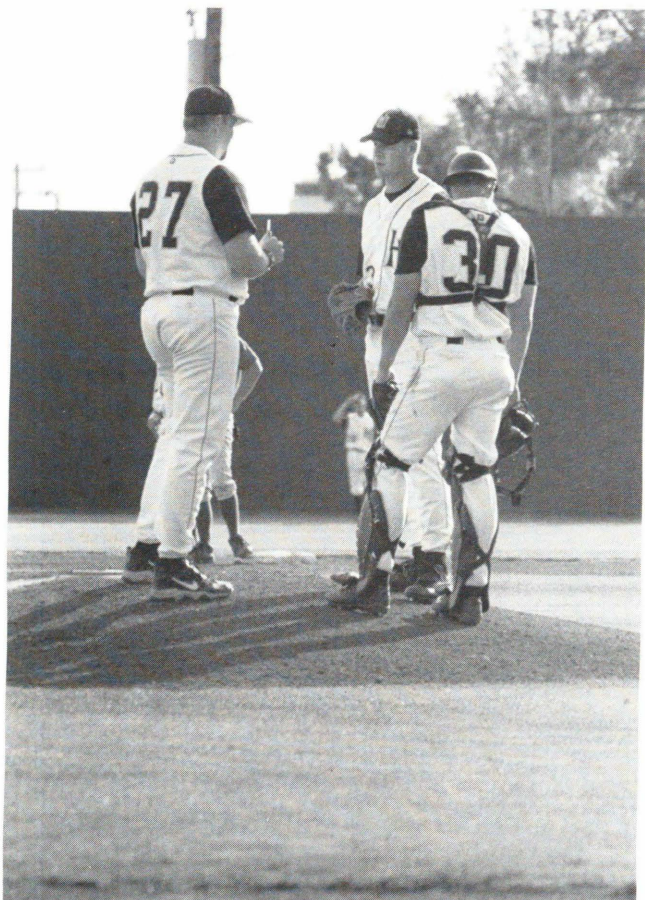


Photo by Daniel Dubois

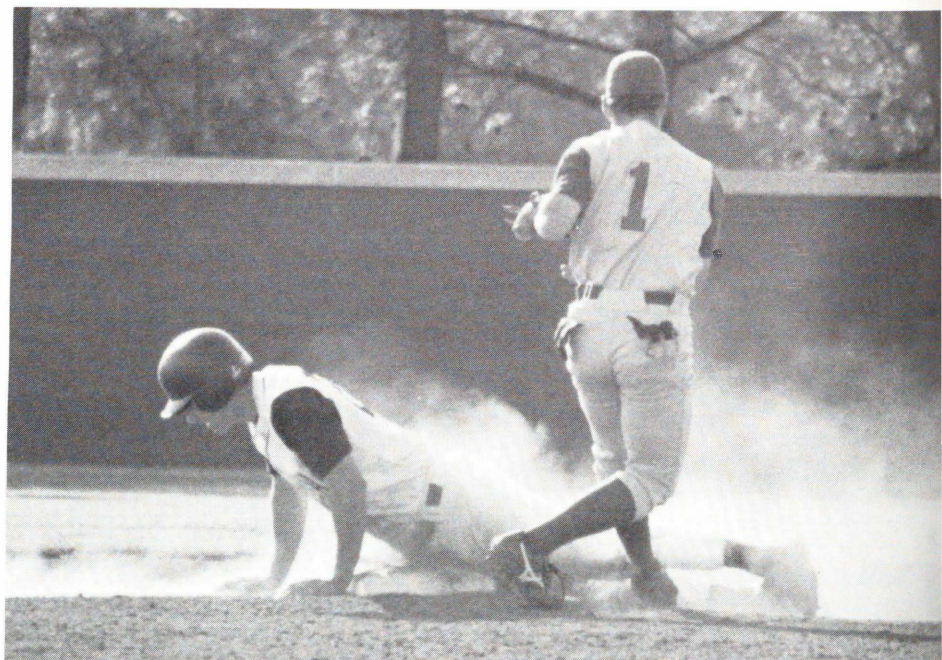


Photo by Daniel Dubois



Photo by Jeff Montgomery

IN YOUR

"The leadership from our seniors was very valuable for the success of our team this season. They worked very hard to encourage us and to guide our team in the right direction."

"However, next year, we [juniors] are going to try to fill in the holes that are going to be left by them and succeed where they might have failed."

—Junior Ben James

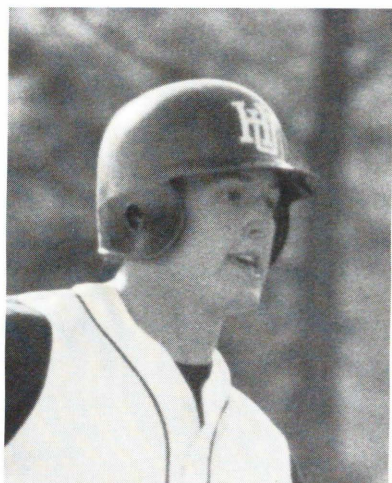


Photo by Daniel Dubois

FACE

THE TEAM

Front Row: J. Paul Fullerton, Barry Finnie, Mark Connett, Ben Neely, Jared Mills, Ryan Wilson, Andy Lawrence, Dustin Everett, Grant Tonick, Daniel Kirkendall. **Middle Row:** Pate and Shane Fullerton, Seth Watson, Ben James, Morgan Trotter, Michael Drennon, Stephen Smith, Gary Albritton, Joe James, Mike Huebner, Jake Kirby, Michael Wyant, SA Nate Watson, GA Ryan Rana. **Back Row:** Jay Phillips, Jeris Noye, Kyle Pitt, Jon Neely, Matt Thomas, Jeff Bolen, Matt Walter, Matt Bassing, Ryan Lee, Phill Gisel, Grant Andrews.

SEASON REVIEW

Williams Baptist	W9-4, W2-0
Univ. of Ozarks	W18-6, W11-1
East Central	W12-0, L0-4
Le-Moyne-Owen	W16-3, W7-3
Christian Bros.	L2-7, W6-0, W10-4
Freed-Hardeman	W15-14
Ark.-Monticello	L2-13, W5-2, L1-11
Southern Ark.	W7-6, L1-5, L4-18
Crichton	W15-3, W12-9, W9-5
Henderson St.	L5-9, L10-12, W9-3
Lyon	W8-4, W8-2
Hendrix	W18-11, W5-4
Arkansas Tech.	L6-18, L4-9, L8-9
Arkansas St.	W1-0
Ouachita Bapt.	W4-3, L5-6, L3-4
Central Ark.	W6-4, W7-2, L1-3
Delta State	L0-6, L8-13, L0-4

broken records LEAD TO A FULFILLING SEASON

Senior Seth Watson takes a swing at a pitch thrown from a Ouachita Baptist pitcher. Harding went on to win the first of a three game series 4-3. This game also boasted an attendance of 451, the highest at a home game for the season.



Photo by Daniel Dubois

The Harding baseball team finished the 2001 season with a winning record of 26 wins and 18 losses. The team is coached by Shane Fullerton, who said he believed last season was the best the team has had in 12 years.

The team was led by senior center fielder Seth Watson. Boasting a .425 batting average, Watson was named to the First Team All-Conference and had a successful season both offensively and defensively.

Also standing out in conference play was Jeris Noye, who led the conference in hitting and was expected to lead the team in 2002 as a senior.

Pitchers Matthew Thomas and Matt Walter had good senior years on the mound, leading to a record-breaking season for the team.

"The boys' talent, hard work and determination was an apparent package when beating strong opponents such as Arkansas State," Fullerton said. "They train hard all year and it showed this year during conference play."

With a full schedule of 44 games, the team had to deal with injuries throughout the season.

"Like any sport, we had to face players getting hurt or dealing with prolonged injuries. But with a team made up of many strong players and talent, we always had someone who could fill in the position needed and get the

job done right," junior Ryan Lee said. "We all wanted to play every team hard, and winning as many conference games was always a goal for us and will be next year too."

The Bison had a roster of many powerful seniors who made big plays in 2001.

With the expectation of the 2002 season on the horizon, the team faced the challenge of continuing their winning streak without them this spring.

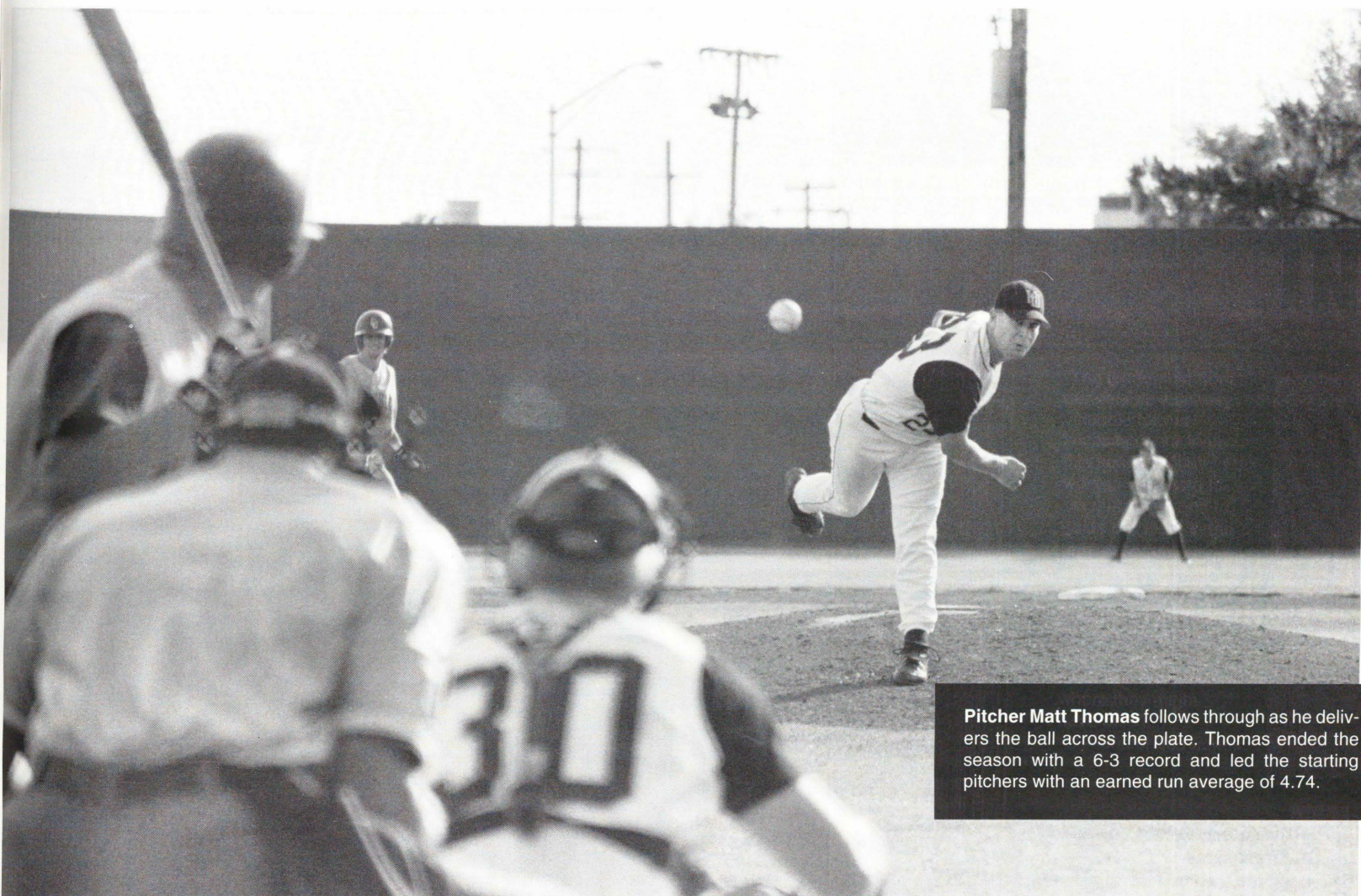
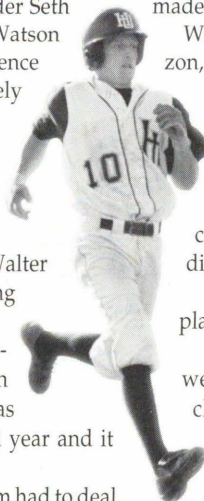
"The seniors finished their year with a lot of accomplishments," he said. "We have the records to prove that. However, the juniors this year gained a lot of attention and I know they will continue to lead the team like this year's seniors did."

The team was proud of its record in conference play, but was not fully satisfied.

They had a hopeful group of freshmen who were described by Fullerton as the "best recruiting class yet." They worked to gain respect in both their offensive and defensive game to make the 2002 season even better than 2001.

"We might have made a big step in becoming a record breaking winning team this year, but we will just continue to get better and push ourselves more and beat those new records next season," Noye said.

—Heather Gray



Pitcher Matt Thomas follows through as he delivers the ball across the plate. Thomas ended the season with a 6-3 record and led the starting pitchers with an earned run average of 4.74.

Photo by Daniel Dubois

Sophomore Doug Sanders hits the peak of his swing as he prepares to drive the ball down the fairway. Sanders competed in four events during the 2001 season and shot a season low round of 79.



Photo by Andrea Waters

Looking for THE GREENS

With the 2001 season tucked under their belts, there was a lot in store for the golf team in 2002.

The top two golfers from last season, Jeff Powell and Stan Short, both graduated and left behind some responsibility for the others who were still in the hunt of a winning season.

Golf is an individual sport, so when it comes down to looking at Harding's team statistics, they are not immediately impressive. Individually, however, several striking scores were on the card.

In team golf, the top few scores are tallied to place competitors in the standings.

The top few players on each team have to hit well on the course to produce the lowest scores possible.

"The team got off to a good start last year but ended up having a bad year," senior Jared Smith said. "There is a whole lot of talent on the team, but when it came down to the tournaments, not everyone was playing their best golf, so the team as a whole suffered in the standings."

Harding's top players last year, Powell and Short, both showed impressive numbers and had several good showings at the big tournaments.

Powell ended the year with an impressive four top-ten finishes out of only eight tournaments. Short was just behind him with three top 20 finishes through eight tournaments.

Smith ended the year with two top 20 finishes as well. The team finished the season at the Gulf South Conference Tournament in

Hot Springs, Ark. in 9th place.

Smith said he is excited about next season, despite losing several senior team members.

"It's going to hurt us as a team to lose our top players, but I'm working hard on my game, and I'm looking to win a tournament this year," he said.

"Everyone is working hard on their games, and I think that we might be able to pull out a few good showings this year. I'm really looking forward to playing on new courses that we haven't seen yet."

—Aaron Snow

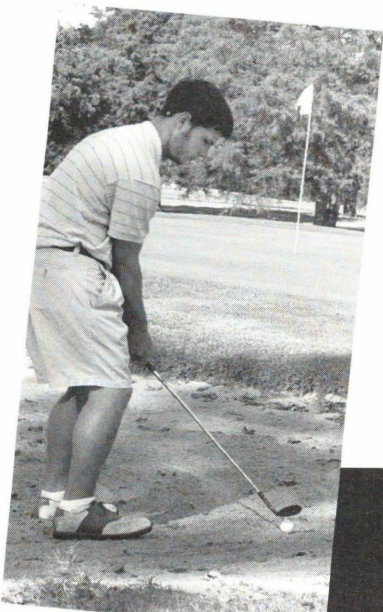


Photo by Andrea Waters

Sophomore Dustin Taylor attempts to chip his ball out of the bunker to save par. Taylor shot a season low of 84 at the Drury/Deerfield Inn Classic.



Sophomore Doug Sanders carefully putts the ball to the hole. Most golfers say that a player can be an excellent driver, but if his putting game is not up to par, then there is no evidence of the complete player.

Photo by Andrea Waters

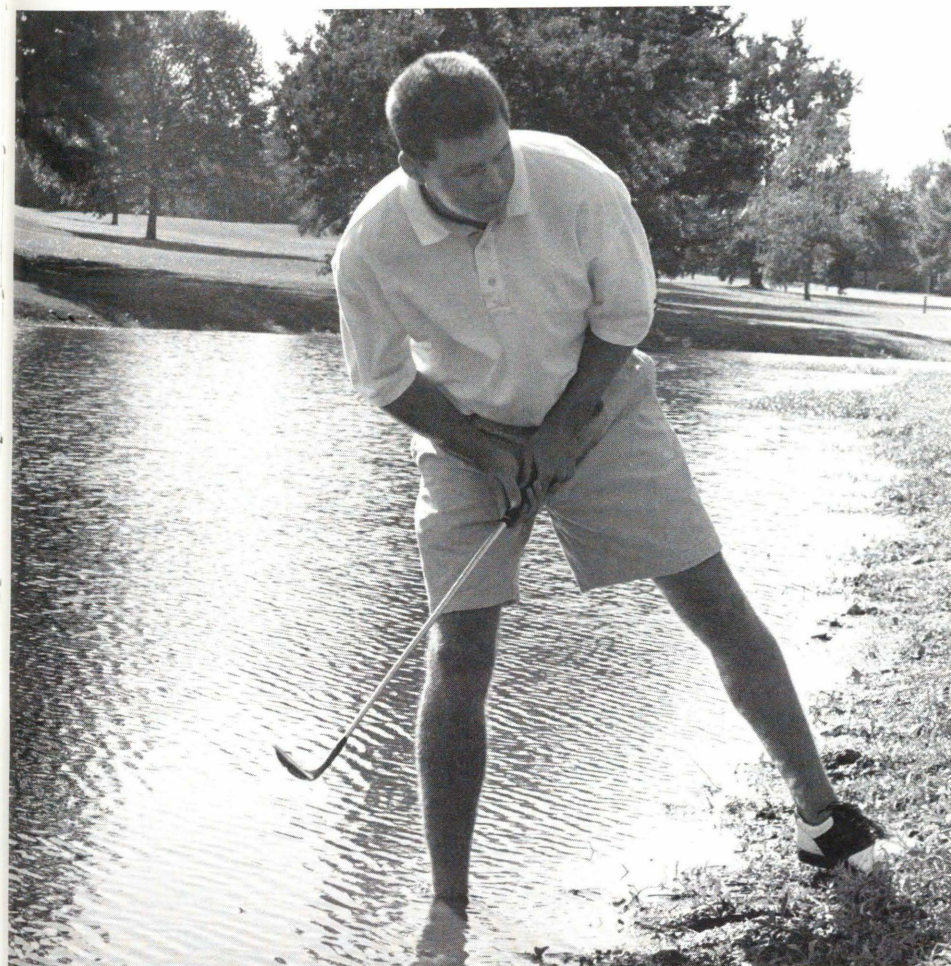


Photo by Andrea Waters

Sometimes it takes getting a little wet to keep playing, as senior Jared Smith shows by trying to chip his ball out of the mud. Smith had two top-20 finishes throughout the 2001 season.

Junior Matt Plant focuses on his target as he prepares to tee off. Plant participated in three tournaments and finished with a season average of 81.40.



Photo by Andrea Waters



Photo by Jeff Montgomery

THE TEAM

Front Row: Dustin Taylor, Doug Sanders, Matt Plant, Stan Short.

Back Row: Nicky Boyd, Jeff Powell, Jared Smith, Patrick Briscoe.

SEASON REVIEW

<u>Tournaments</u>	<u>Finished</u>
UCA Invitational	8th of 8
St. Gregory's Inv.	10th of 14
Drury/Deerfield Classic	19th of 21
Doyle Wallace Classic	7th of 8
Burris Inc. Coll. Classic	7th of 10
SAU Invitational	2nd of 4
GSC Tournament	9th of 14

IN YOUR

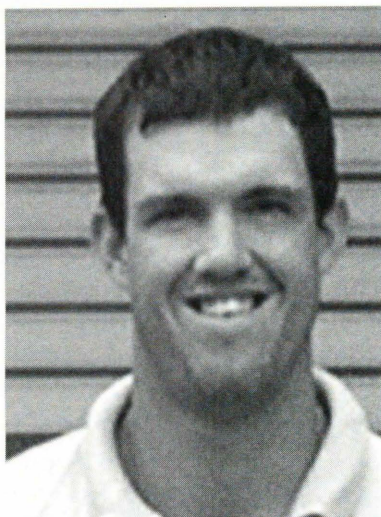


Photo by Jeff Montgomery

Senior Jeff Powell, from New Braunfels, Texas, led the golf team throughout the season. Powell placed in the top 20 golfers in five events. He placed 27th, the highest among the Bisons, at the Gulf South Conference tournament. Powell also led the team in first place finishes, posting six of the top scores among the Bisons.

FACE

Practice makes better for sophomore Carolina Banuelos as she works on her doubles match with partner junior Pernilla Axelsson. Banuelos made an impact in the Gulf South Conference in both her singles and doubles matches.

The drop shot is one that barely clears the net and proves to be tricky for junior Eva-Lena Axelsson. Axelsson played matches in the number one through number four seeds throughout the season.

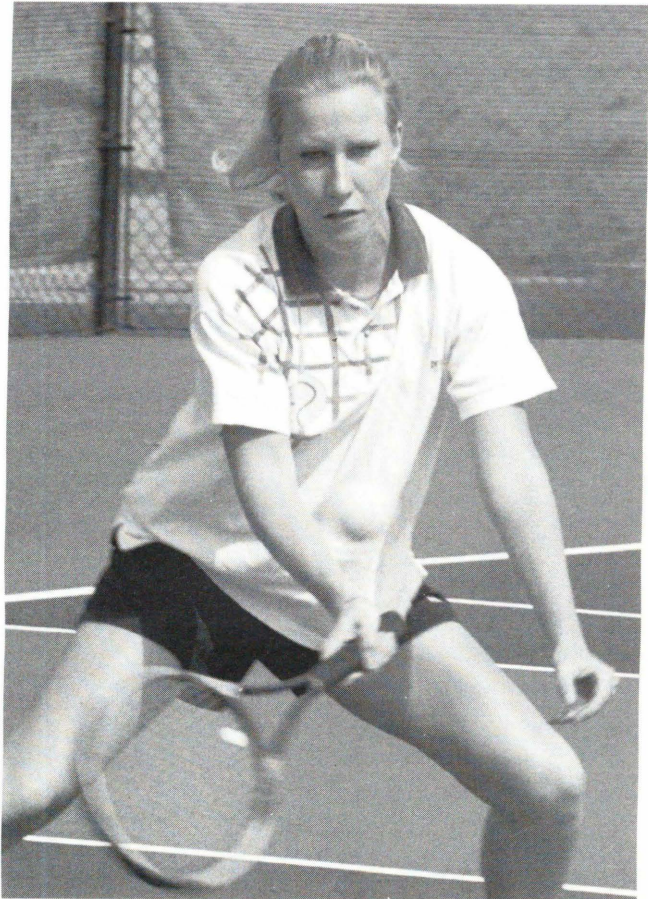


Photo by Daniel Dubois



Photo by Daniel Dubois

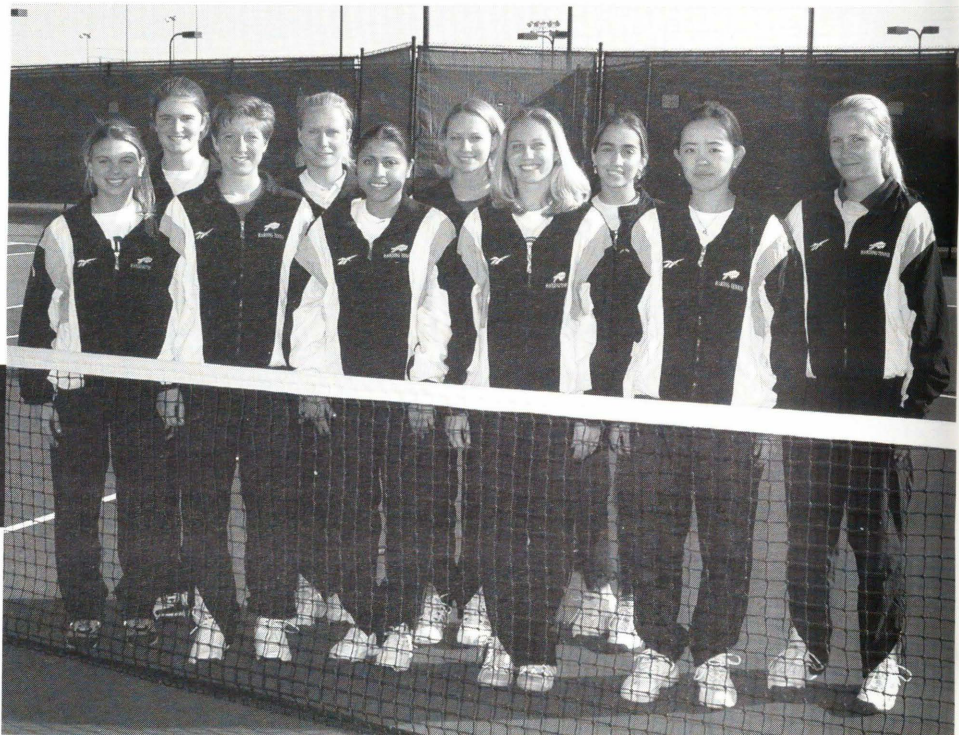


Photo by Jeff Montgomery

IN YOUR

Junior Pernilla Axelsson entered uncharted water with a record of 21-6 overall and a 13-0 record when playing the number one seed. At the NCAA Regionals in Savannah, Ga., Axelsson downed the previously undefeated number two seed from Kennesaw State and helped the Lady Bisons upset the 11th ranked team in the nation.



Photo by Daniel Dubois

FACE

THE TEAM

Front Row: Beth Bonbrisco, Laura Tollett, Carolina Banuelos, Sara Campbell, Hiroko Okamoto.
Back Row: Louisa Duke, Pernilla Axelsson, Cristi Sterling, Daniela Corrales, Eva-Lena Axelsson.

SEASON REVIEW INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

Eva-Lena Axelsson	15-11
Pernilla Axelsson	24-6
Carolina Banuelos	15-15
Beth Bonbrisco	12-1
Sara Campbell	24-8
Daniela Corrales	21-4
Louisa Duke	3-0
Michelle Shimpock	0-2
Cristi Sterling	4-1
Laura Tollett	24-5

no longer A TEAM TO OVERLOOK

The gentle approach is the way freshman Daniela Corrales gets the ball back over the net. Corrales won her first match against Henderson State as the number five seed. She ended the season with a record of 21 wins and four losses.

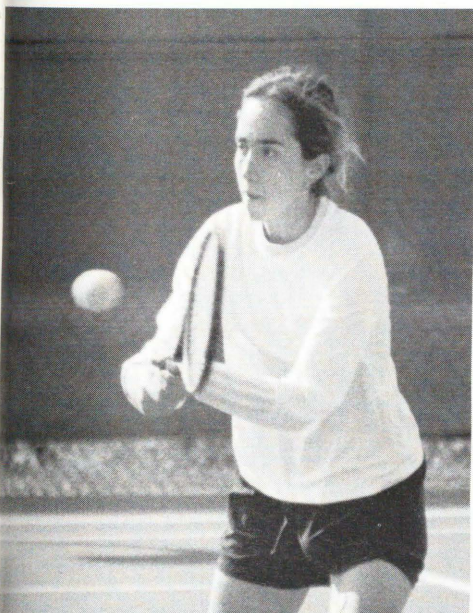


Photo by Daniel Dubois

The women's tennis team used its successful season to establish itself as a powerful force in the conference as well as in the nation, according to coach David Elliott.

The team was comprised of relatively young athletes; there were, in fact, no senior women in the group. However, players managed to push their way to a 21-7 record and a spot in the national tournament.

"We were strong in the NAIA, but it took a while to establish ourselves in the new conference," Elliott said.

In the Gulf South Conference, the team earned the rank of third, behind West Florida University (first) and Ouachita Baptist University (second).

In post-season play, the team hit the road for the national tournament in Savannah, Ga. Ranked 18th nationally, the team traveled 600 miles to battle the team ranked 11th in the nation.

The underdog team upset number 11 Kennesaw State, going on to play Armstrong Atlantic. In the second round of play, the women fell to this fourth-ranked team.

However, this loss was no discouragement to the team. "Now we have a lot more experience," Elliott

said. "They are hungry to repeat [the successes]."

Elliott also said that the other teams in the conference can no longer consider the Lady Bisons the "new kids on the block."

"Now they know we're the real McCoy," he said.

Looking to the upcoming season, Elliott said the team hopes to avoid the "injury bug."

The team faced minor injuries during the season, but managed to recover.

Elliott also said that every member would be back next season, adding experience to the group's wealth of talent. The team will now be able to boast two senior athletes on the roster.

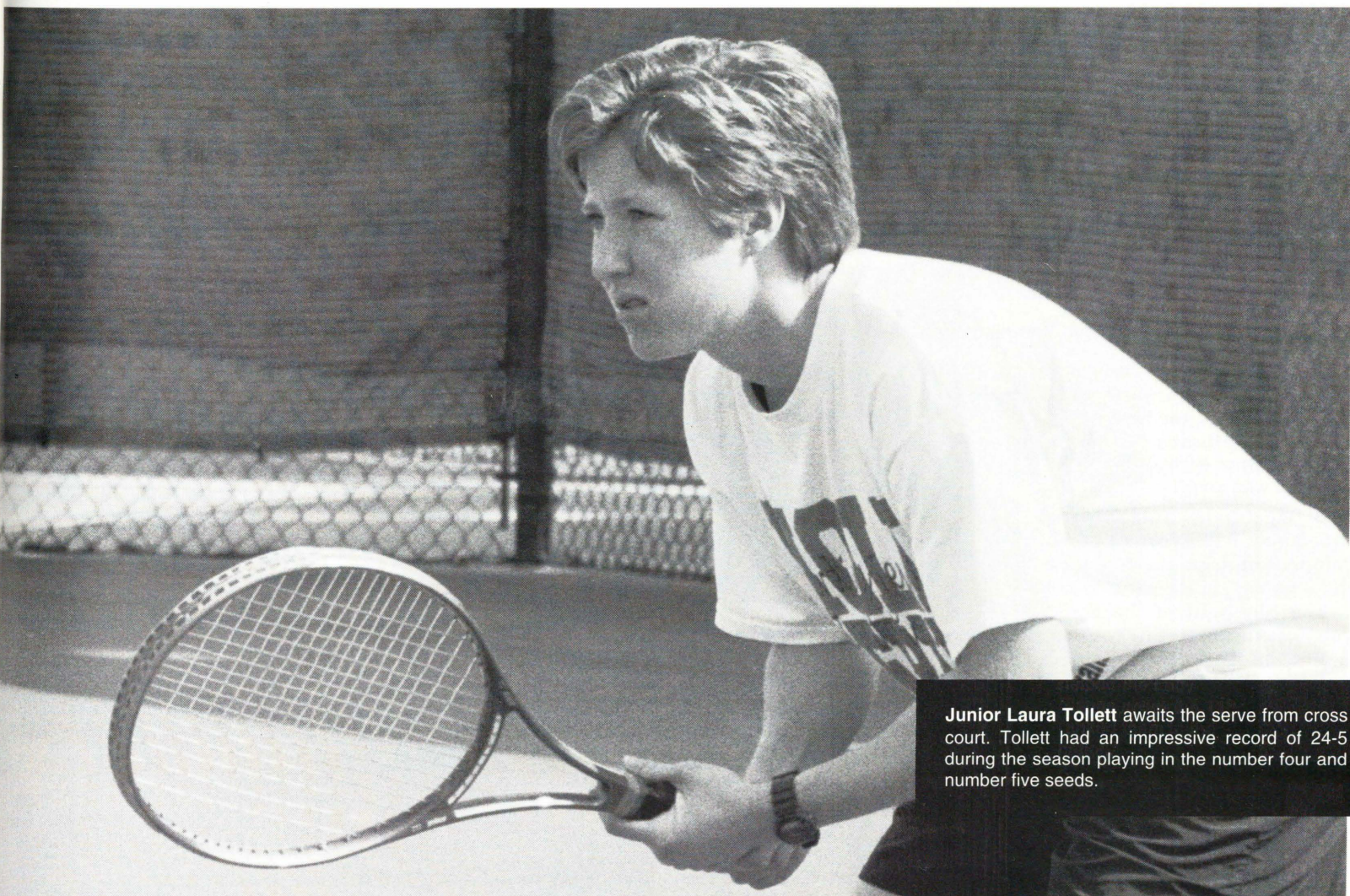
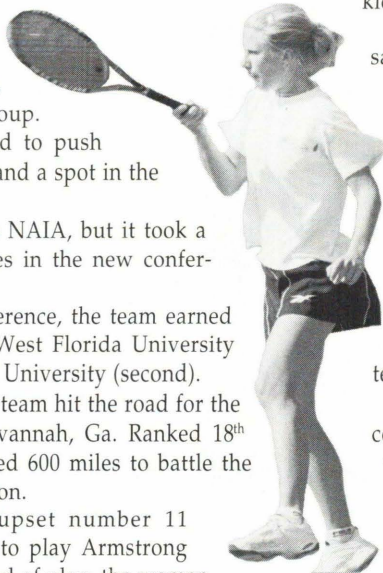
Finally, Elliott had much to say of the team's "great" attitude.

"The team is very team-oriented and easily coached," Elliott said "Overall, this is a high water-mark team."

Rookie team member Sara Campbell said that being part of the team is one of the main reasons she plays for this university.

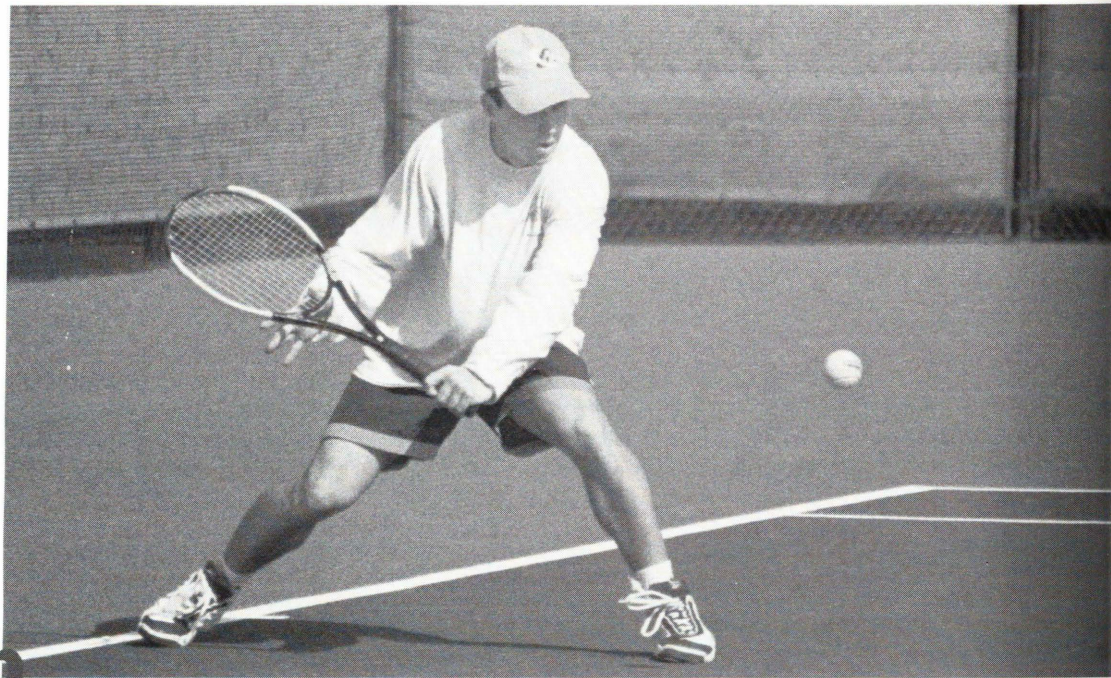
"I love spending time with the team," Campbell said. "We all have such a great time together in practice."

—Lyndsey Lewis



Junior Laura Tollett awaits the serve from cross court. Tollett had an impressive record of 24-5 during the season playing in the number four and number five seeds.

Photo by Daniel Dubois



Junior Seth Bullington prepares to return the ball back across the net to his opponent. Bullington played the number five seed most of the season where he compiled a record of 10 wins and five losses.

Senior leadership SERVES TRUE

Photo by Daniel Dubois

The 2000-2001 men's tennis team had a productive year, finishing with an impressive 15-9 record.

The team ranked in the top 20 in the south region and ranked among the top 25 in the United States.

The team faced many tough Gulf South Conference opponents, as well as non-conference teams such as Delta State, Springfield and Oklahoma Christian, which was ranked third in the nation.

"The team was very unified," coach David Elliott said. "The senior leadership was the best I have seen in years."

"I have enjoyed playing under coach Elliott," senior Seth Bullington said. "The team worked hard, and it showed."

Despite all of the heavy competition, the Bisons finished in the top half of the conference.

"The South Region was the most fierce division of the NCAA to compete in this year, due to the competition from the surrounding schools," Elliott said.

The highlight of the team's year was the opportunity to represent Harding in the NCAA national tournament in Valdosta, Ga.

"I am looking forward to the future of this team and the upcoming season of competition," Elliott said. "We will have many new players, but a few of our strong players will still remain."

Elliott recruited a few new

players for the spring 2002 team.

"The team is strong and ready to play the best we can for Harding University," said junior Jacobo Martinez.

Elliott welcomed back only a handful of returning players and depended on them to provide leadership to the new players on the team.

Among the players returning for fall 2001 were Martinez and Artur Sikora. Elliott expected these players to contribute to the success of next season's team.

—Jerod Nunnally

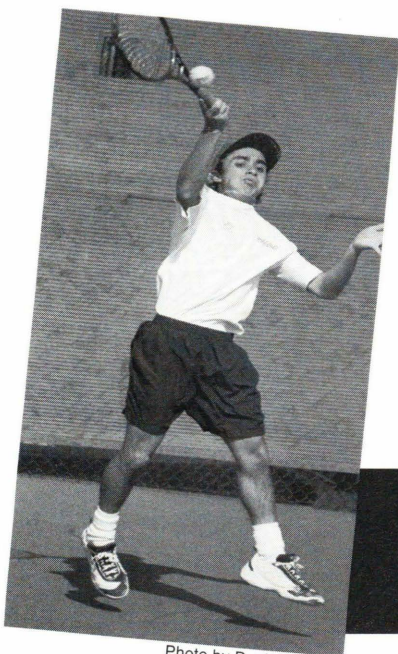
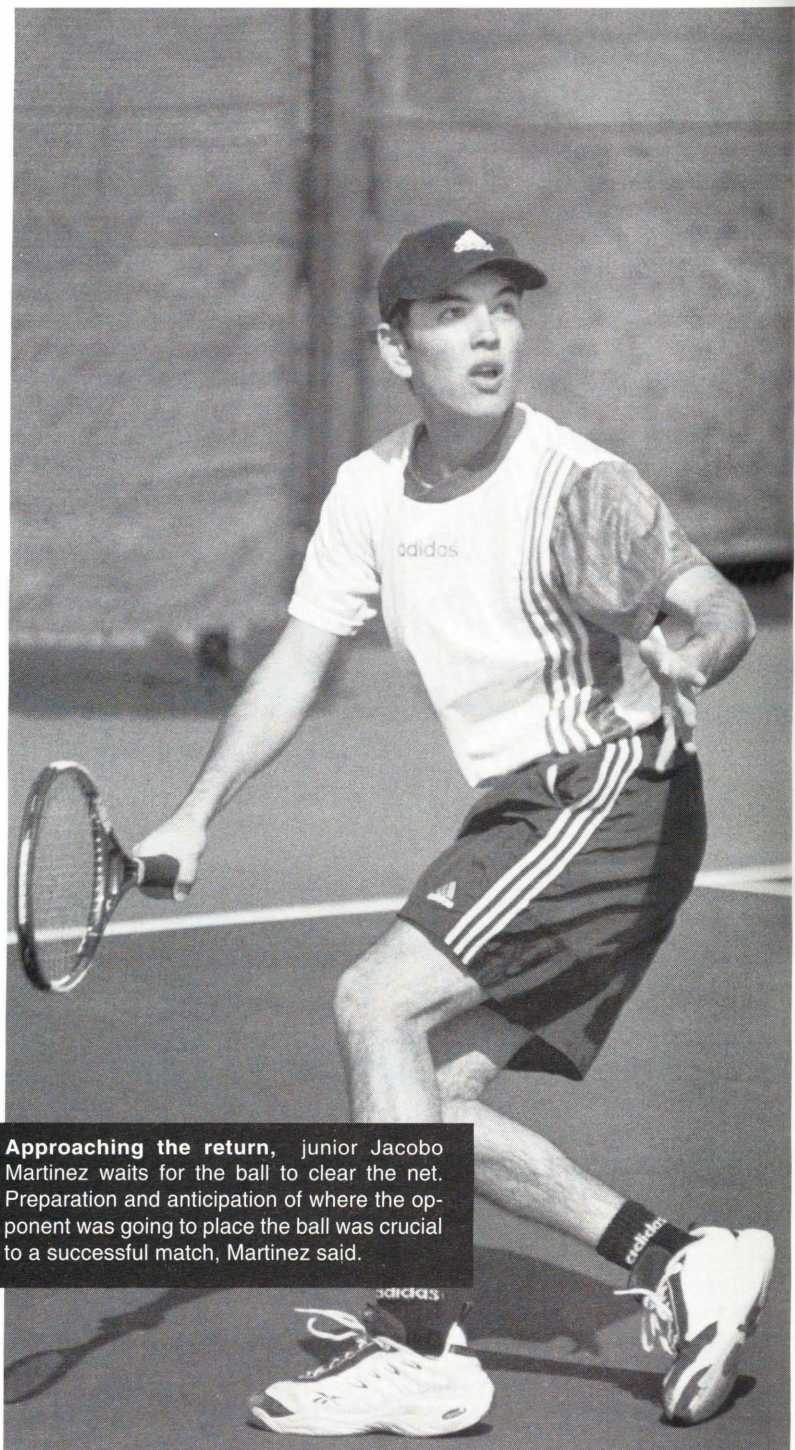


Photo by Daniel Dubois

Freshman Rodrigo Cervantes stretches out to serve the ball. Cervantes used his strong serve to defeat his opponent from Hendrix to win his first match as a Bison.



Approaching the return, junior Jacobo Martinez waits for the ball to clear the net. Preparation and anticipation of where the opponent was going to place the ball was crucial to a successful match, Martinez said.

Photo by Daniel Dubois

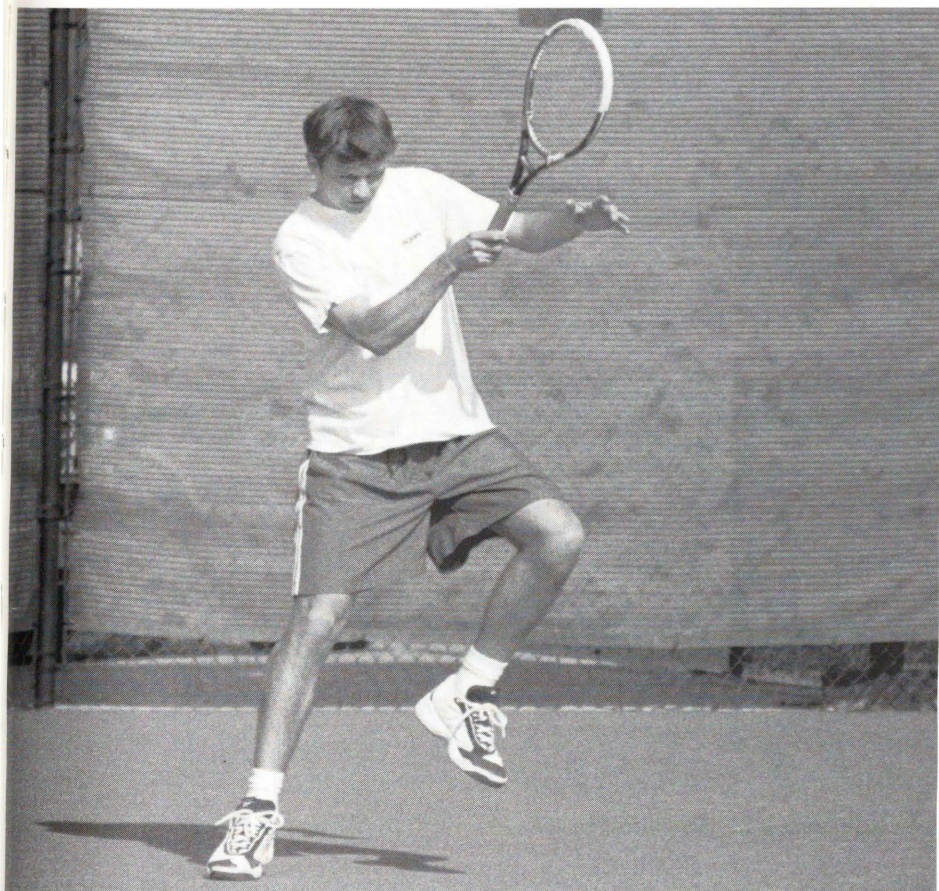


Photo by Daniel Dubois

Junior Igor Tamindzija returns the ball to his opponent. Tamindzija played in the number two seed for most of the season.

Going for the kill, number one seeded Jacobo Martinez uses his powerful forehand to put away his opponent. The team had plenty to look forward to in the 2002-2002 season as Martinez returned for his senior year.

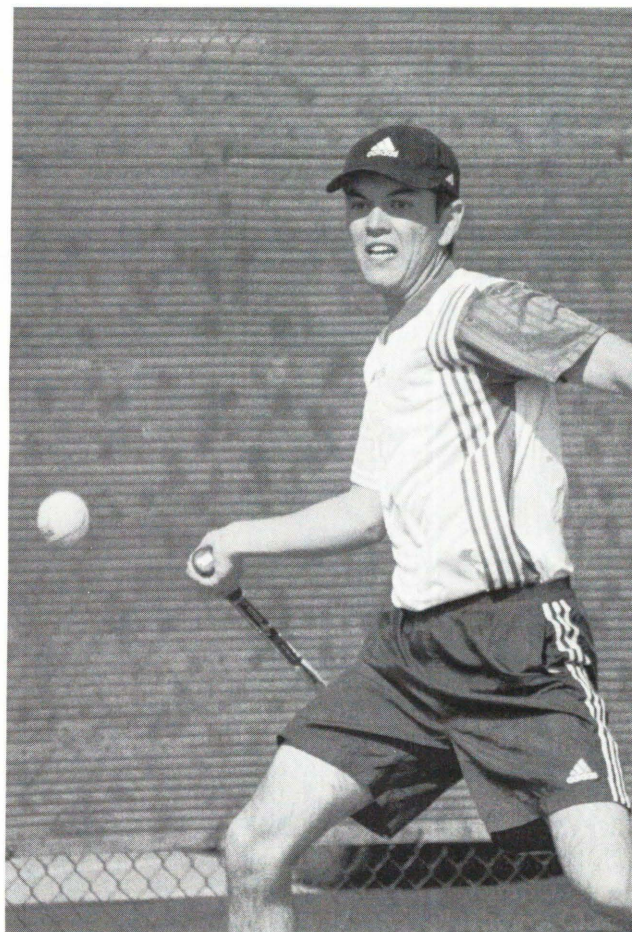


Photo by Daniel Dubois



Photo by Jeff Montgomery

THE TEAM

Front Row: Jason Balota, Seth Bullington, Brandon Fox, Jacobo Martinez, Rodrigo Cervantes.

Back Row: Igor Tamindzija, Artur Sikora, Justin John, Assistant Guillermo Hernandez.

SEASON REVIEW INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

	<u>W-L</u>
Jason Balota	11-10
Seth Bullington	14-6
Rodrigo Cervantes	13-7
Brandon Fox	1-0
Justin John	7-6
Jacob Martinez	14-9
Artur Sikora	16-8
Igor Tamindzija	11-12

IN YOUR

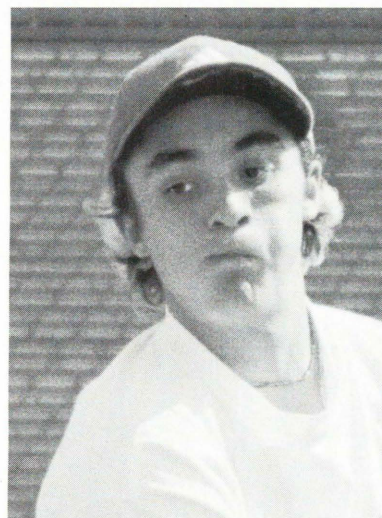


Photo by Daniel Dubois

Rodrigo Cervantes was named the Gulf South Conference co-West Division Freshman of the Year. Cervantes predominately played the number four seed for the Bisons and frequently teamed with Jacobo Martinez to form the number one seeded men's doubles team. They compiled a record of 12-8 over the 2001-2002 season.

FACE

As she gains control of the ball, senior Tricky Tarole is tackled from behind by the opposing forward trying to regain possession. Tarole spent most of the season defending the Bisons' end of the field.

Leaping up and over her opponent, sophomore Brooke Cockrell jumps to head the ball. Despite the effort by Cockrell, the Lady Bisons lost the Sept. 7 game to Southwest Baptist by a score of 3-1.



Photo by Daniel Dubois



Photo by Daniel Dubois



Photo by Daniel Dubois

IN YOUR

"This year we had to make adjustments with the completely new coaching staff. We continued working hard throughout the entire season for coach [Greg] Harris. We [seniors] really had to step up and lead the team and hold our ground about many things."

—Senior Heather Gray

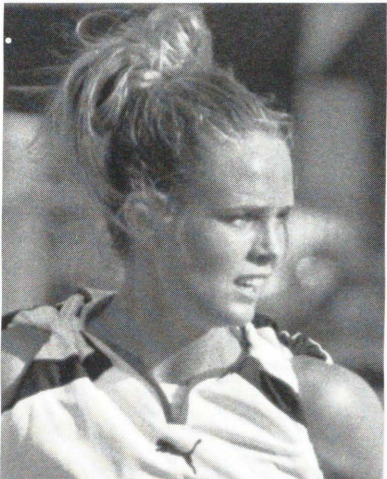


Photo by Daniel Dubois

FACE

THE TEAM

Front Row: Graduate Assistant Austin Carr, Carmen Sutton, Caroline Frederick, Jocelyn Dyer, Katie Ford, Lori Boren, Student Assistant Jason Monaghan.
Middle Row: Emily Cunningham, Amy Walker, Kelly Nickell, Courtney Saul, Tricky Tarole, Elizabeth Caperton, Amy Ireland.
Back Row: Coach Greg Harris, Assistant Tim Dawson, Lyndsey Garner, Gracey Mathis, Brooke Cockrell, Jodi Besenyei, Kai Goodwiler, Heather Gray, Lauren Hensley, Assistant Steve Meadors, Assistant Eric Besenyei.

SEASON REVIEW

East Central	L1-4
Dallas Bapt.	W3-2
SW Baptist	L1-3
SW Oklahoma	L1-3
NE State	L1-4
Christian Bros.	L1-10
N. Alabama	L0-2
Belhaven	L0-5
Ouachita Bapt.	W2-1
Ala.-Hunt.	L1-3
Lincoln Mem.	L0-3
Montavello	L1-2
West Florida	L1-5
Central Ark.	L1-3

adjustments TAKE TOLL ON YOUNG TEAM

Sophomore Kelly Nickell shows her intensity as she sprints towards her opponent from Ouachita Baptist University. The Lady Bisons won the Gulf South Conference match Oct. 10 by a score of 2-1.

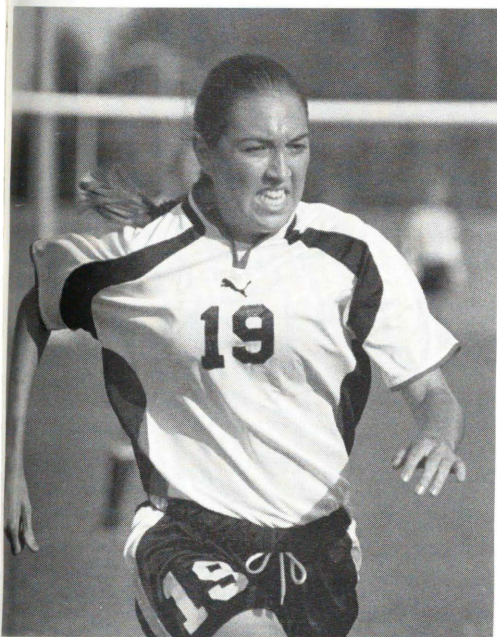


Photo by Daniel Dubois

Adjusting to new coaching techniques, two torn anterior cruciate ligaments and a few key losses did not prevent the 2001 women's soccer team from achieving their goals.

"We definitely grew closer and bonded better as a team this season," sophomore forward Courtney Saul said. "It was either handling this season and coming together or kill each other. We chose to unite together instead of being individuals."

Coming to a young program was challenging for new head coach Greg Harris, a former goalkeeper for North Carolina's Queens College. Harris said that he wanted university soccer to flourish and grow into a renowned athletic program at Harding.

Each team member strove to improve her individual skills, which in turn benefited the entire team. Senior stopper Tricky Tarolesaid she wanted no regrets for her last season; she stayed positive by improving her own game as well as having a good attitude in times of frustration.

"I'm used to thinking defensively and then giv-

ing the ball to someone else," Tarolesaid. "But when the time was right, I took an offensive role. I definitely played better both offensively and defensively."

Learning to play under a new coach meant welcoming change to the way the girls practiced, played and thought about their position on the practice field.

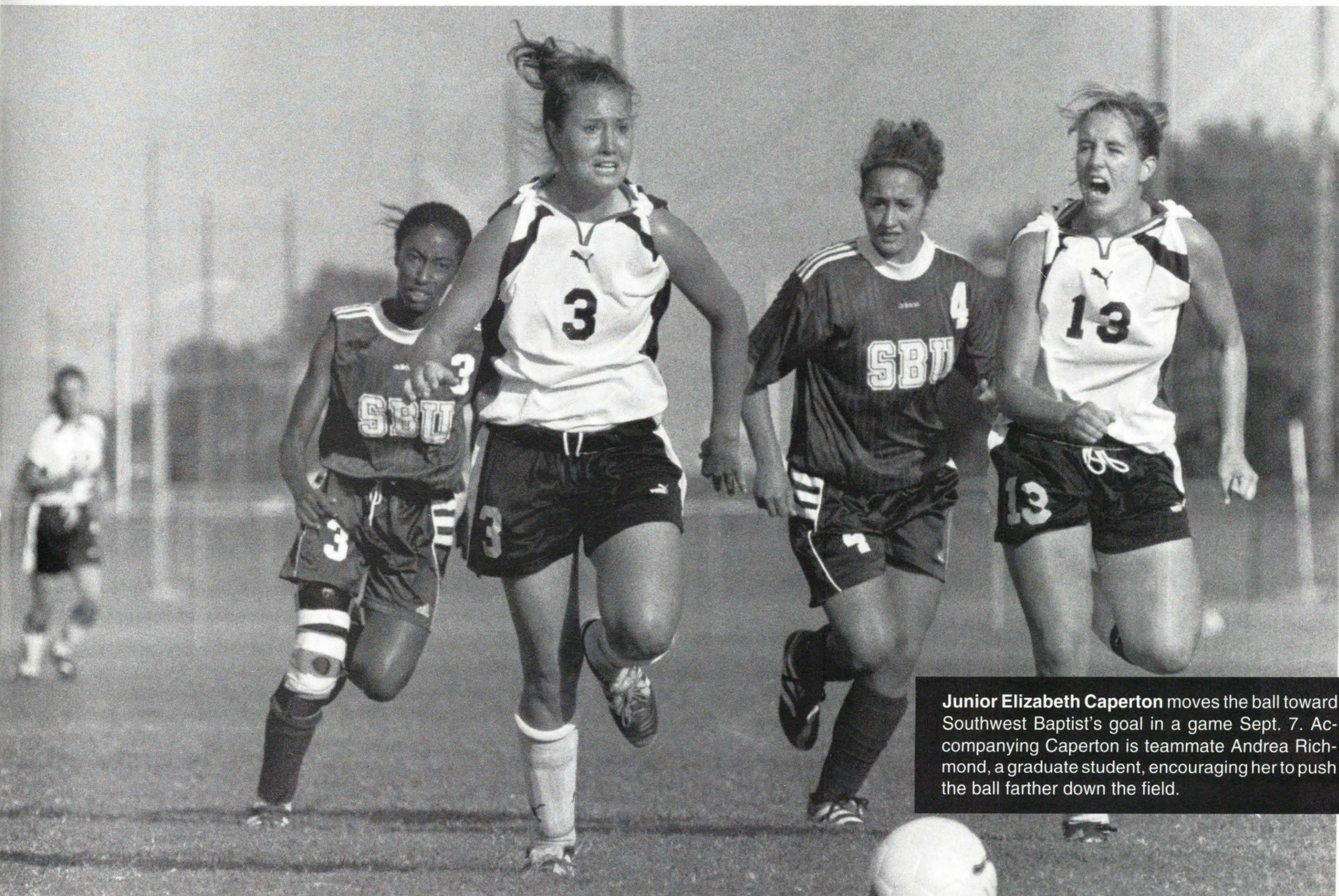
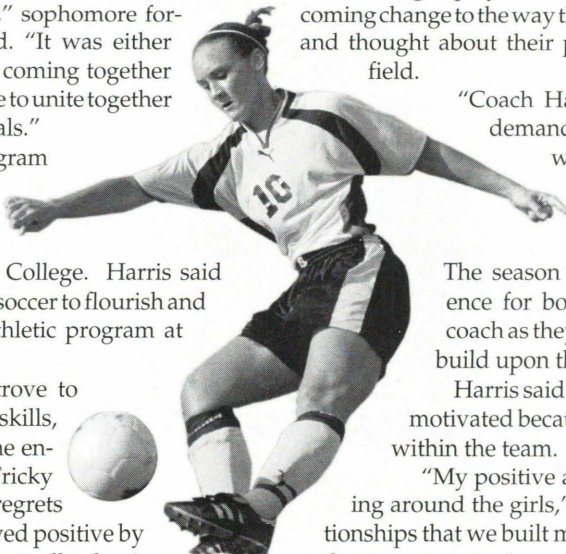
"Coach Harris did a great job of demanding more out of us than we were used to," Saul said. "We worked hard for him instead of slacking off."

The season was a learning experience for both the players and the coach as they continued to work and build upon the season.

Harris said it was easy for him to be motivated because of a spirit of oneness within the team.

"My positive attitude comes from being around the girls," Harris said. "The relationships that we built made the season fun. It's a downer not winning when you are close, but when you still have each other it is all worthwhile."

—Tiffany Johnston



Junior Elizabeth Caperton moves the ball toward Southwest Baptist's goal in a game Sept. 7. Accompanying Caperton is teammate Andrea Richmond, a graduate student, encouraging her to push the ball farther down the field.

Photo by Daniel Dubois

With some fancy maneuvering, junior Luke Boren keeps the ball away from a Dallas Baptist defender. Boren started every game for the Bisons and ended the season with three goals scored.

Winning on and off THE FIELD

The 2001 Bison soccer team was out to prove one thing this season: that with little funding and no scholarship players, they could out-score, out-dribble and out-play the rest of their opponents in the NCAA Division II Gulf South Conference.

With opponents that had been in the conference for more than a decade, the Bisons believed they might be at a disadvantage in the beginning, but they found that they had everything they needed.

With a 6-11 record, the majority of the players said they had really improved as a team since their first taste of collegiate soccer last season—not only spiritually and mentally, but on a physical level as well.

"Our talent level is a lot stronger than last year," sophomore Mike Allen said. "We have many more good young players who are the foundation for this team."

"We are in much better shape, and this year's team really cares about the game. You can tell by the way that everyone practiced at the beginning of the year that each and every one of us was dedicated to our cause, and that was the game."

But even with the talent of young players, the Harding men had a lot to overcome in their second season of collegiate soccer.

"No matter how long you play soccer, nothing can prepare you for soccer on the college level," said sophomore defensive player Zach Dameron. "You really have to get in there and practice hard, and you really have to love the game."

The 2001 team not only proved

what they went out to do, but they gained something else as well—integrity.

Players said that being a strong, Christian team was just as important as winning games and being strong athletes.

"As a team, we really grew spiritually," Allen said. "It was exciting to see all of us as strong Christians using the talents that God blessed us with."

"We proved to ourselves as a whole that you can be strong Christians and great athletes all at once."

—Kayla Firquain

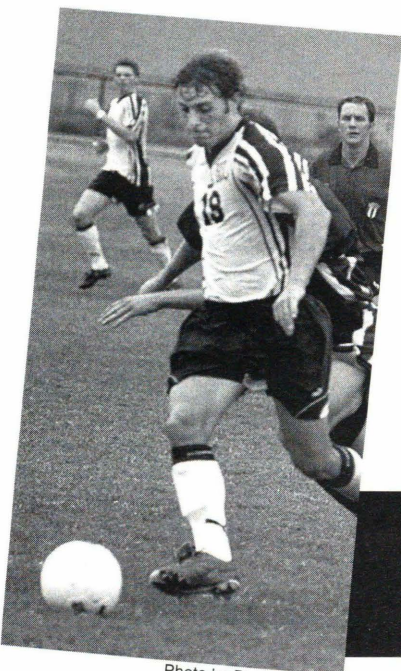


Photo by Daniel Dubois

Junior Jeff Ireland fights off a defender for the ball. Ireland scored a second half hat trick to lead the Bisons to their first win of the season against Dallas Baptist.



Photo by Daniel Dubois



Freshman Brandon Sublette moves the ball down the field before passing it to his teammate by the goal. Sublette played in 11 games during his first season with the Bisons.

Photo by Daniel Dubois



Photo by Daniel Dubois

Accidents can happen, as freshman Brian Day discovers in a tangle with a defender from Dallas Baptist. Despite the foul, the Bisons went on to a 6-2 victory.

Sophomore midfielder Kyle Perkins stretches out to gain control of the ball. Perkins said playing the midfield position took much endurance and training, which was gained through off-season conditioning.



Photo by Daniel Dubois



Photo by Jeff Montgomery

THE TEAM

Front Row: Austin Carr, Jay Ellis, Brandon Sublette, Kevin Hearne, Nathan Owens, Luke Boren, Nick Faris, Kyle Hinckley, Drew Chandler, Jason Monaghan.

Middle Row: Jon Ireland, Mitch Jones, Zach Dameron, Michael Hovater, Brian Day, Ryan Stork, Matthew Rainbolt, Joel Mitchell.

Back Row: Coach Greg Harris, Tim Dawson, Rees Jones, Zach Johnson, David Shackelford, Jeff Ireland, Jacobo Hernandez, Mike Rainbolt, Marcus Wagner, Michael Allen, Steve Meadors, Eric Besenyei.

SEASON REVIEW

Lynn (Fla.)	L2-5
Dallas Baptist	W6-2
Williams Baptist	W5-1
Southwest Baptist	W5-0
Freed-Hardeman	W4-2
SW Oklahoma	L0-1
NE State	L0-2
Ozarks (Ark.)	L1-3
Christian Bros.	L1-9
MO. Southern	L1-5
Williams Baptist	W4-1
Ouachita Baptist	W3-1
Alabama-Hunt.	L1-2
Lincoln Mem.	L0-3
Montavello	L1-3
West Florida	L1-3
Central Ark.	L0-5

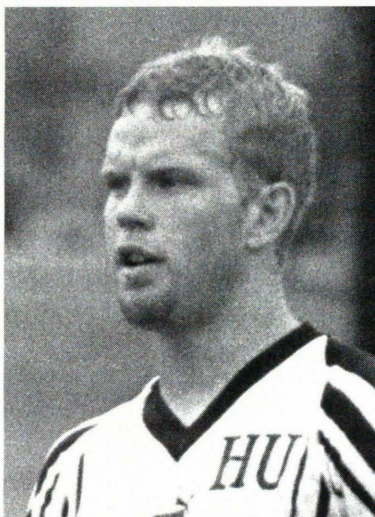


Photo by Daniel Dubois

"Even though the record did not show it, we were a much improved team from last year. Much of our success came from the seniors. That group of guys really had to step up the intensity and help out coach [Greg] Harris."

—Junior Kevin Hearne

IN YOUR FACE

Freshman Danielle Foster drives the ball over the net after a serve from Henderson State. Harding split the season match-up with the Lady Reddies, each winning one match.

Sophomore Lydia Kelly sets the ball up for a kill from freshman Kate Kennedy during a Gulf South Conference match against Ouachita Baptist. Kelly averaged 5.72 sets per game.

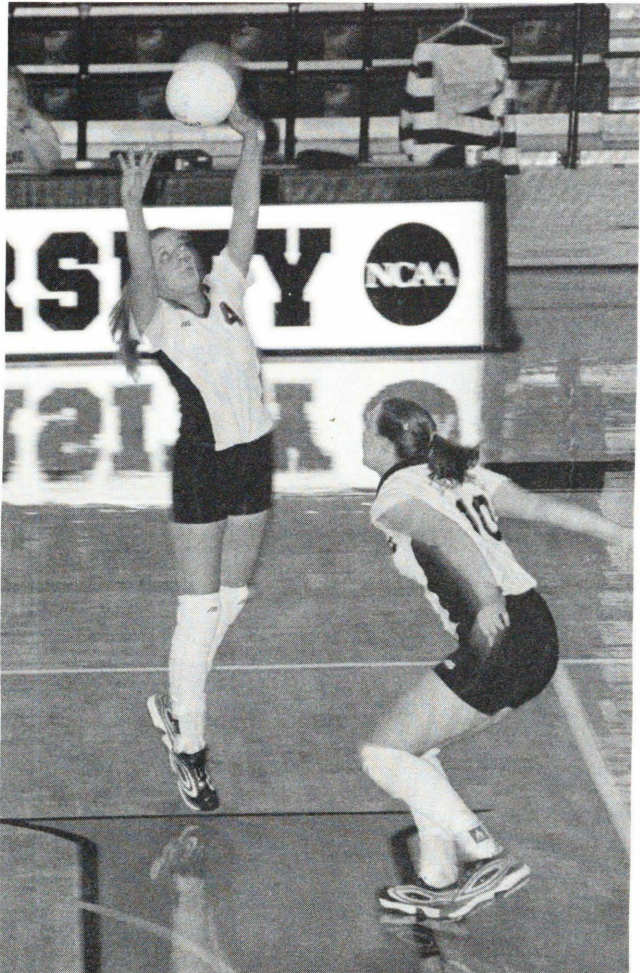


Photo by Curtis Seright

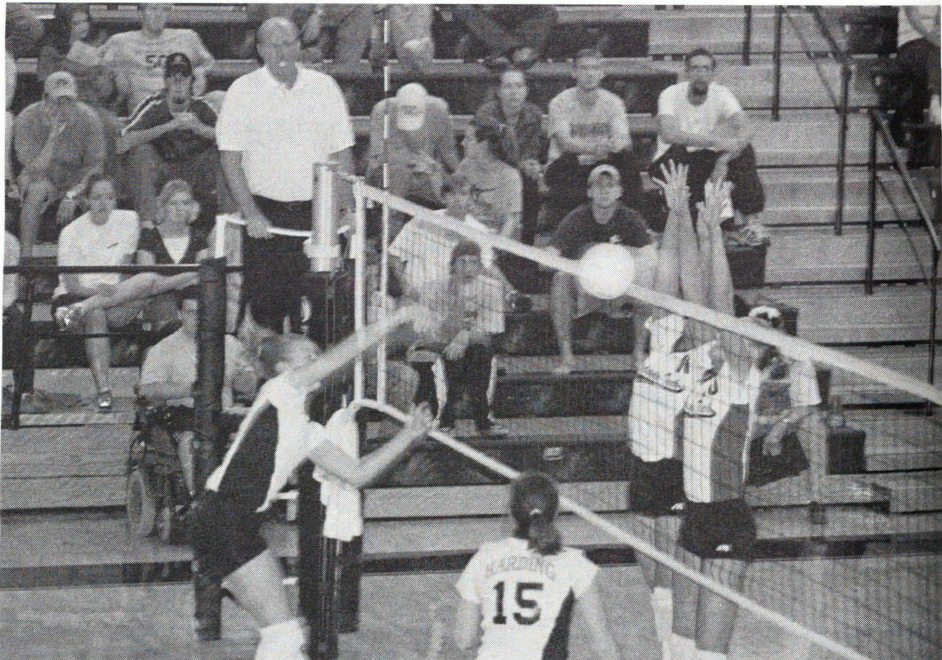


Photo by Curtis Seright



Photo by Jeff Montgomery

IN YOUR

"Winning the Gulf South Conference West Freshman of the Year was a tremendous honor. I was very surprised. And as a whole, the season went very well considering that the team did not have any seniors and had many freshmen. I can't wait to see how we do next season, since we will have the same starters."

—Freshman
Kate Kennedy

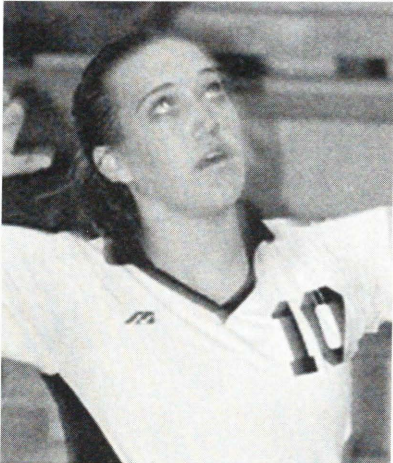


Photo by Curtis Seright

FACE

THE TEAM

Front Row: Leanne Lackey, Jenny Gowen, Amie Morrison, Veronica Piech, Shaila Farley, Lydia Kelly, Shathar Langston.
Back Row: Assistant Jennifer King, Danielle Foster, Kate Kennedy, Leslie Hollingsworth, Ashley Kellum, Head Coach Keith Giboney, Assistant Mandy Hintz.

SEASON REVIEW

SW Baptist	W3-0	MO South. State	L2-3
Drury College	W3-1	NW MO State	L1-3
Colorado-Co. Springs	L2-3	Pittsburg State	L1-3
Midwestern State	L0-3	Drury College	W3-0
Central Oklahoma	L0-3	Henderson State	W3-2
Texas Woman's	W3-1	Arkansas Tech	W3-2
SE Oklahoma	W3-0	Washburn	W3-0
Angelo State	W3-0	Rockhurst	L0-3
Freed-Hardeman	W3-0	Central MO State	L0-3
Lyon College	W3-1	Emporia State	L0-3
Louisiana Tech	W3-0	Christian Bros.	W3-2
Rhodes	W3-0	Southern Arkansas	W3-1
Christian Bros.	W3-1	Central Arkansas	W3-2
Southern Arkansas	W3-2	Ouachita Bapt.	W3-0
Texas Wesleyan	W3-1	Henderson State	L0-3
Lubbock Christian	W3-2	Arkansas Tech.	L1-3
Dallas Baptist	W3-0	Ouachita Bapt.	W3-0
Central Arkansas	W3-2	Lyon	W3-0

lady bisons SET UP A NEW GAME PLAN

The Lady Bisons gather together after they score a point. At the end of every play, the team huddled to encourage one another before the next volley.

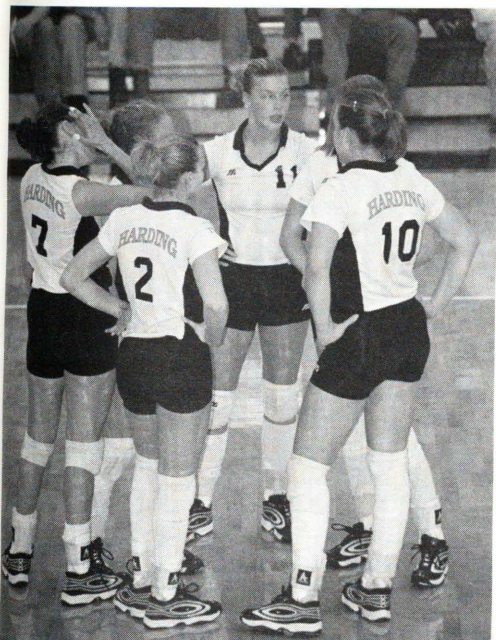


Photo by Curtis Seright

Having lost six players from the 2000 squad, there were doubts about how this year's volleyball team would be able to rebound from the loss. Three of the seniors who graduated were six-foot or taller middle blockers, so the team's size was a concern.

Harding was forced to use a style of play different from the big hitting and blocking game that they had been accustomed to over the previous years.

Defense and speed were greatly needed to balance the loss of talent. This year's team was every bit of what Harding needed to have a winning record of 24-13.

"Going into this season, I had no expectations, mainly because I didn't know what to expect," head coach Keith Giboney said.

Along with the winning record this season and the tie for second place in the Gulf South Conference West, there were some remarkable team and individual accomplishments.

This year's team was extremely strong defensively, maybe the best in the last few years, according to Giboney. Harding placed first in the conference in digs, with a total of 2,866. For the first time in conference history, two of the

team's players, sophomores Shaila Farley and Veronica Piech, both had more than 500 digs. Farley led the conference with 585.

During the middle of the season, Harding held a 14-game winning streak, winning seven by a score of 3-0. A big win came when

Harding defeated an NCAA Division I team, Louisiana Tech, 3-0 at home.

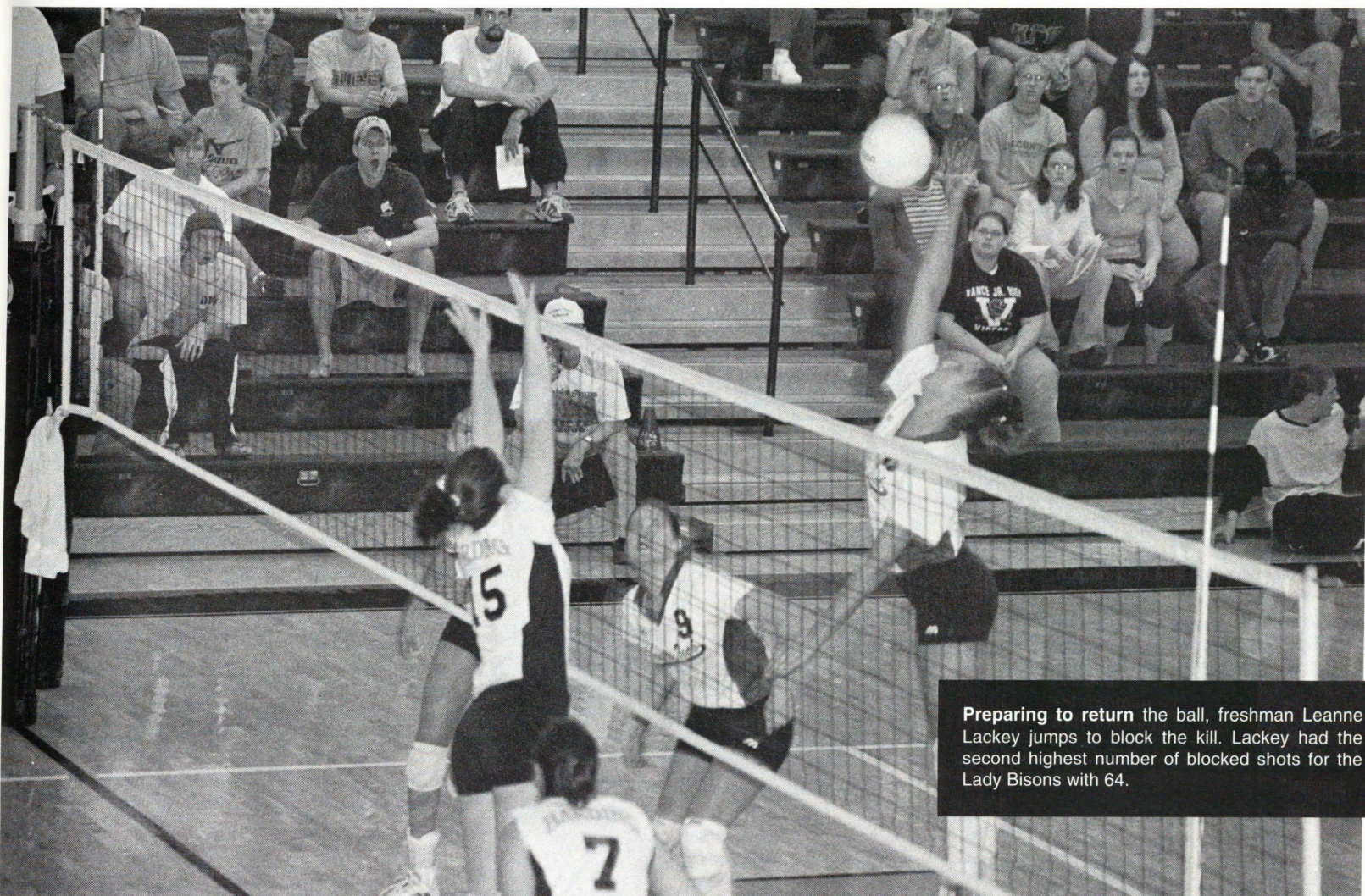
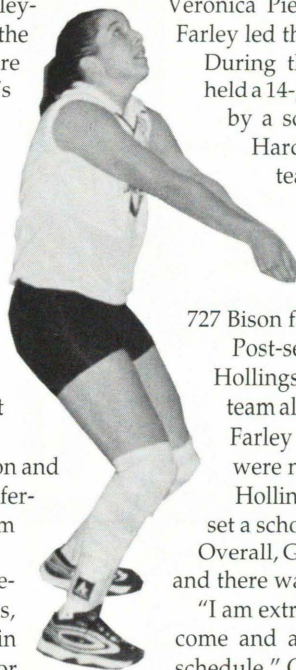
Harding was only defeated at home once this year, and the team set a record for attendance in their game versus Lyon College with 727 Bison fans there to support the team.

Post-season honors included junior Leslie Hollingsworth, who was appointed to first team all-conference, and two other players, Farley and freshman Kate Kennedy, who were named second team all-conference.

Hollingsworth, the only junior on the team, set a school record with 490 kills this season. Overall, Giboney said the team was balanced, and there was an abundance of talent.

"I am extremely pleased with this year's outcome and am looking forward to the spring schedule," Giboney said.

—Aaron Snow



Preparing to return the ball, freshman Leanne Lackey jumps to block the kill. Lackey had the second highest number of blocked shots for the Lady Bisons with 64.

Photo by Curtis Seright

Freshman Helen Singoei, junior Hanna Ritakallio, sophomore Janet Kogo, senior Britney Copeland and sophomore Sarah Reardon battle for position as the race begins at the Gulf South Conference Championships. The Bison team repeated as GSC champions.



Photo by Daniel Dubois

Success came by **DOMINATION**

The Harding men's and women's cross country teams enjoyed their second year of success in a dominant fashion, winning their second straight Gulf South Conference championship.

Both teams finished with the same results as last year, winning the conference and regional championships and collecting 5th place at the NCAA Division II Championship meet.

"We knew that we had a great shot at repeating as conference champions," senior Andrew Scharff said. "Our focus shifted to trying to stay on top of the hill. And that's a lot tougher to do. When you're the best, you have a big target on your back that all of your opponents are aiming for."

Senior Scott Penick, who last year made a bold prediction for a top five finish at the 2001 national meet, felt good that the team was able to live up to his promise.

"We were more prepared heading into the national meet this year than last, and I think it showed," Penick said. "We knew we couldn't rest on our laurels and coast into such a big event. I was just glad I didn't have to eat my shoe when it was over."

According to head coach Bryan Phillips, the teams' success came from a solidarity that many teams competing in cross country running do not enjoy.

"There is such a spirit of unity and hard work that runs through this team on both the men's and women's sides," Phillips said. "No one runner is leaned on heavily to carry the load of the team. Everyone works hard. We had our top six or

seven runners finishing within a minute of each other. It makes a huge difference when you have a team like that."

The teams opened up the season with a win at the Bob Gravett Invitational at Ouachita Baptist University and rolled steadily through the season's meets around the country.

The teams' top runners included sophomore Jacob Rotich, junior David Scharff and senior Linus Chepkwony for the men, along with junior Hanna Ritakallio, sophomore Janet Kogo and freshman Helen Singoei for the women.

—Jeff McKeand



Photo by Daniel Dubois

Cooling down after an 8K race, senior Andrew Scharff catches his breath. Scharff helped lead the Bisons to a first place finish at the first meet of the season.



Senior Carl Williamson pushes for the finish line as he nears the end of a race. Williamson finished the first meet of the season at Ouachita Baptist with a time of 31:10.

Photo by Daniel Dubois



Photo by Daniel Dubois

Pushing forward, sophomore Sarah Reardon maintains her position in a September 8th race at Ouachita Baptist. The Lady Bison team finished first out of 10 teams at the meet.

Sophomore Sarah Shields grabs her side as she receives assistance after finishing a race. Shields finished 14th out of 93 runners at the Ouachita Invitational.

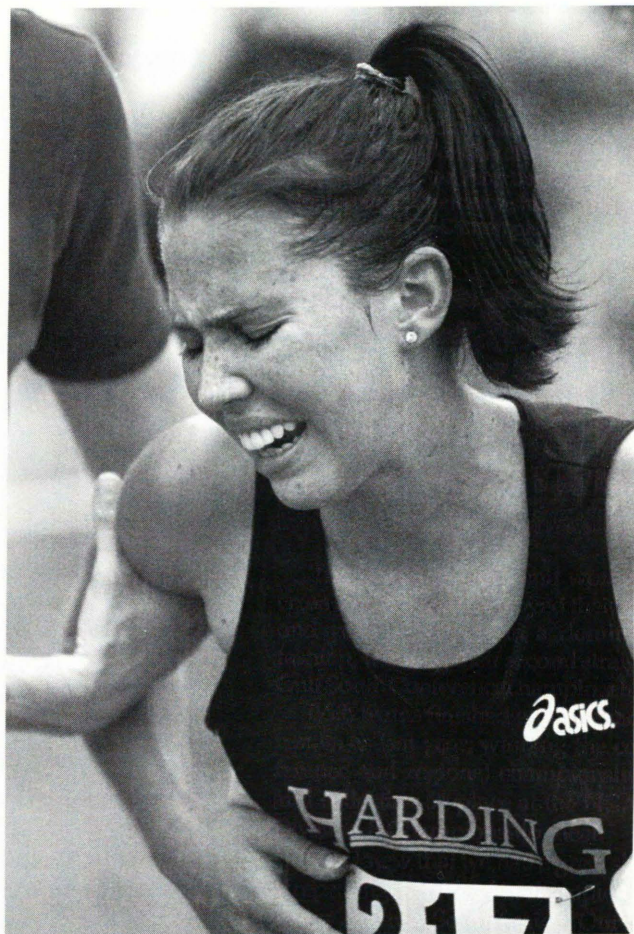


Photo by Daniel Dubois



Photo by Jeff Montgomery

THE TEAM

Front Row: Britney Copeland, Sarah Reardon, Helen Singoei, Andrea Winter, Dana Metcalf, Naomi Gill, Sarah Shields, Sarah Reaser, Janet Kogo.

Back Row: Jacob Rotich, Dustin Knudsen, Carl Williamson, David Scharff, Reed Fisher, Scott Penick, Andrew Scharff, Scott Wietecha, Linus Chepkwony.

SEASON REVIEW

Ouachita Baptist Invitational

Men - 1st Women - 1st

Missouri Southern Stampede

Men - 1st Women - 4th

Great American CC Festival

Men - 5th

Oklahoma St. Cowboy Jamboree

Men - 7th

Rhodes Invitational

Women - 1st

Chili Pepper Invitational

Men - 9th Women - 19th

Gulf South Championships

Men - 1st Women - 1st

South Regional

Men - 1st Women - 1st

NCAA Division II Nationals

Men - 5th Women - 17th

IN YOUR



Photo by Daniel Dubois

Junior David Scharff gets his game face on as he prepares to begin the race. Scharff proved himself a consistent runner throughout the year, finishing two 8K races with the exact same time of 25:37. He also brought the Bisons a respectable time of 34:27 in the 10K at the NCAA Division II National meet.

FACE

With a determined look on his face, running back Robert Lolohea darts through the West Alabama defensive line. The junior accounted for 209 of Harding's 347 rushing yards during the Homecoming game.

Junior center Chad Eason listens as sophomore quarterback Freddie Langston yells the snap count. Langston said that a good offense needs to have nearly perfect communication between the center and the quarterback, because with one wrong move, the ball can be easily fumbled.

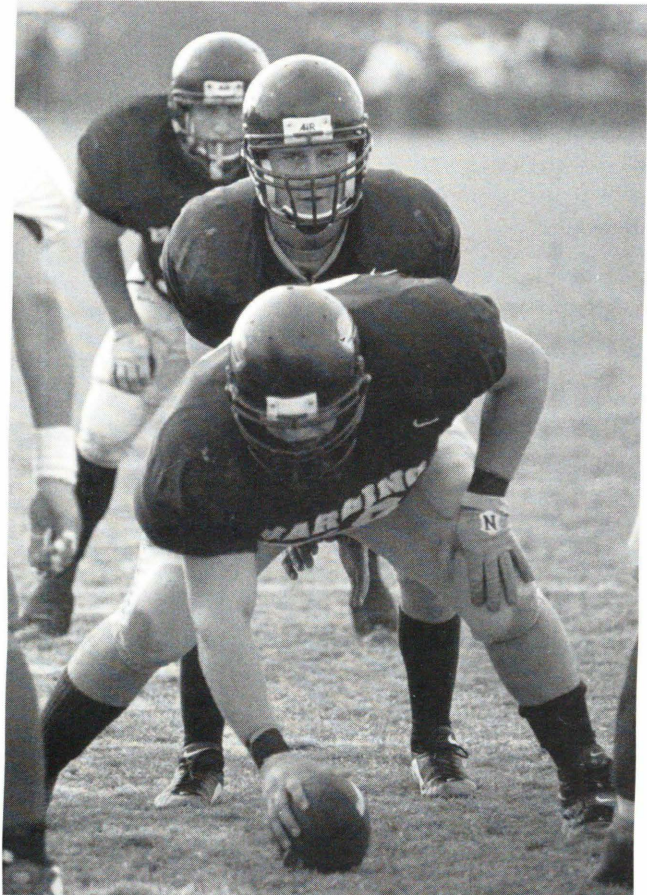


Photo by Daniel Dubois



Photo by Daniel Dubois

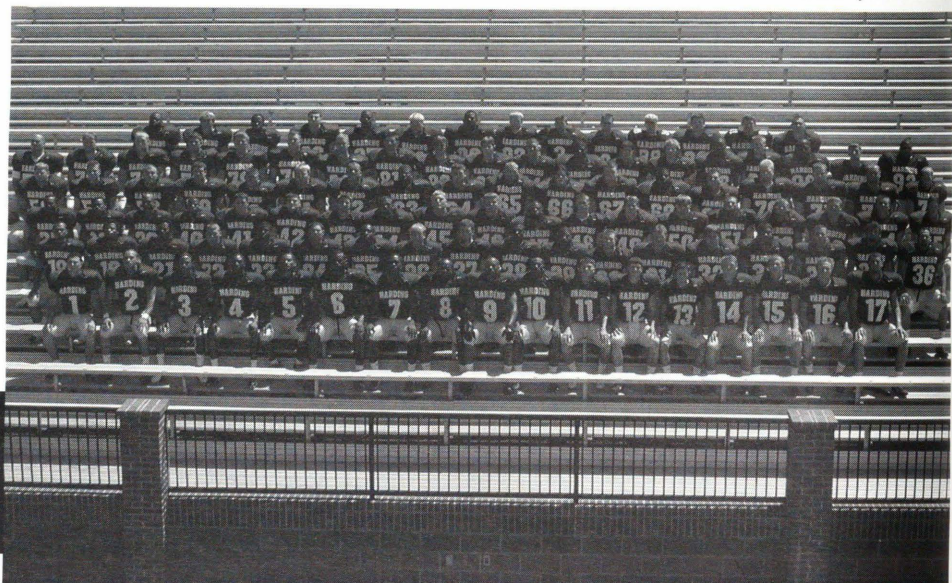


Photo by Jeff Montgomery

IN YOUR

"As a captain, I'll never forget seeing the guys look me straight in the eye before the game. I feel that they were looking for and counting on my leadership throughout the game."

—Senior
Dennis Cardoso

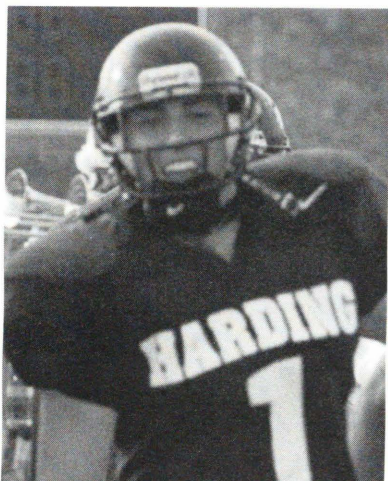


Photo by Daniel Dubois

FACE

THE TEAM

Front Row: Dennis Cardoso, Tim Polk, Shedrick Lewis, Errick Wilson, Santiago Collins, Jamie Doyle, Joe Price, Ra'Shun Taylor, Michad Holliday, David Anfield, Reid Smith, Matt Underwood, Adam Mason, Coy Nance, Mike McCain, Freddie Langston, Tyrel Pace. **Second Row:** Robert Lolohea, Rae Holden, Jason Sneed, Rashaad Cooper, Zach Beavers, Lee Harrell, Chad Bonner, Derek Ivory, Luke Anderson, Micah Sexson, Jon Williams, Jason Moats, B.J. Bailey, Josh Chambers, Cody Kiser, Les Polk, Casey Doby, Brad Harris, Josh Loera. **Third Row:** Norman Griffin, Jason Darden, Travis DeSisso, Kevin Redd, Nate Dutile, Josh Satterfield, Darin Brazile, Julius Jenkins, Preston Bryan, Izzy Fieilo, Hamilton Archibald, Drew Clothier, Scott Dutile, Ben King, Ryan Bridges, Ben Garner, Travis Stanley, Nathan Moreland, Grant Taylor. **Fourth Row:** Kevin Brennan, Michael Whitlow, Jonathon Lovil, Philip King, Kyle Farrell, Barkley Terry, Mike Fuelein, Montae Bates, Presley Melson, Jeff Thornton, Matt McJunkins, Adam Allen, Chuck Wells, Phillip Wood, Eric Foy, Nate Williams, Brett Sims, John Hicks. **Fifth Row:** Nick McNabb, Jacob Stephenson, Jeremy Schulz, Justin Beller, Chad Eason, Corey Fipps, David Baggett, D.J. Belcher, Sean Smith, Spencer Ross, Sterling Riggs, Tobias Brown, Aaron Mitchell, Bubba DeLukie, Anthony Bailey, Chris Hanvey, Floyd Black, Chris Peak, Dewayne Randle. **Last Row:** Tim Love, Jonathan Ellis, Torrance Daniels, Dylan White, Marcus Ezell, Mike Bankston, Andrew Bozarth, Brian Buck, Jerry Evans, J.D. Hindman, Josh Logan, Thomas Ritchie, Justin Tidwell.

SEASON REVIEW

TX A&M-Comm.	L11-14
Arkansas Tech.	L13-25
Henderson State	W26-10
Delta State	L21-40
Central Arkansas	L27-51
Valdosta State	L17-51
North Alabama	W17-14
West Georgia	W43-31
West Alabama	W44-10
Ouachita Baptist	L10-20

bisons rebuild during A SEASON OF TRANSITION

Junior defensive back Rae Holden lunges at the West Alabama quarterback. The quarterback had a rough day staying comfortable in the pocket due to pressure from the Bison defense, which had four sacks in the game.

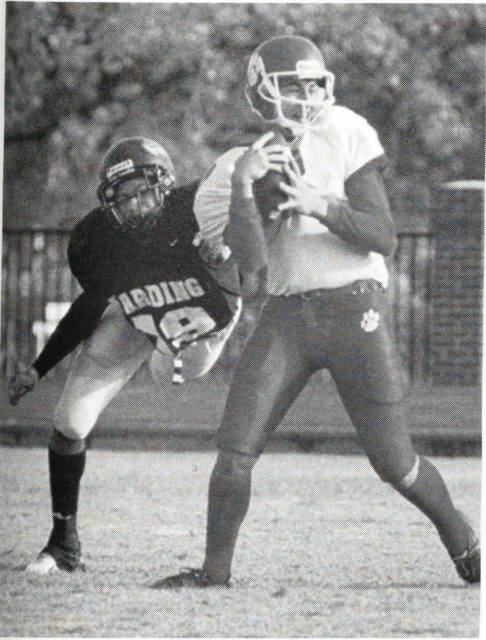


Photo by Daniel Dubois

The Bison football team experienced a tough, sometimes exciting, and sometimes disappointing second season in the Gulf South Conference.

Struggling without the presence of last year's All-American wide receiver Gerald Payne, the Bisons found their second year in the GSC to be much tougher than the first, finishing the season with a 4-6 overall record and putting together a string of two consecutive losing seasons.

"We had a little higher expectations than last year," head coach Randy Tribble said. "You always want to improve on what you were able to accomplish the season before. But we knew that losing Gerald and others would set us back a bit. We just didn't have the kind of results we'd hoped for, but we were able to improve in some areas of weakness as the season progressed."

After opening the season with a record of 1-5, the Bisons were able to string together three straight wins over some tough opponents, including a 43-31 win over 11th ranked West Georgia, the Bisons' first win against a ranked opponent in 13 tries.

"That was a huge win for us," offensive coordinator James Frank said. "We were able to control the ball

better than we had all season and consistently put points on the board. It was our first home win of the season and gave us some much-needed momentum heading into Homecoming the following week."

Homecoming weekend marked another milestone for the Bisons, as their 44-10 win over West Alabama lifted their Homecoming winning streak to 12 straight seasons.

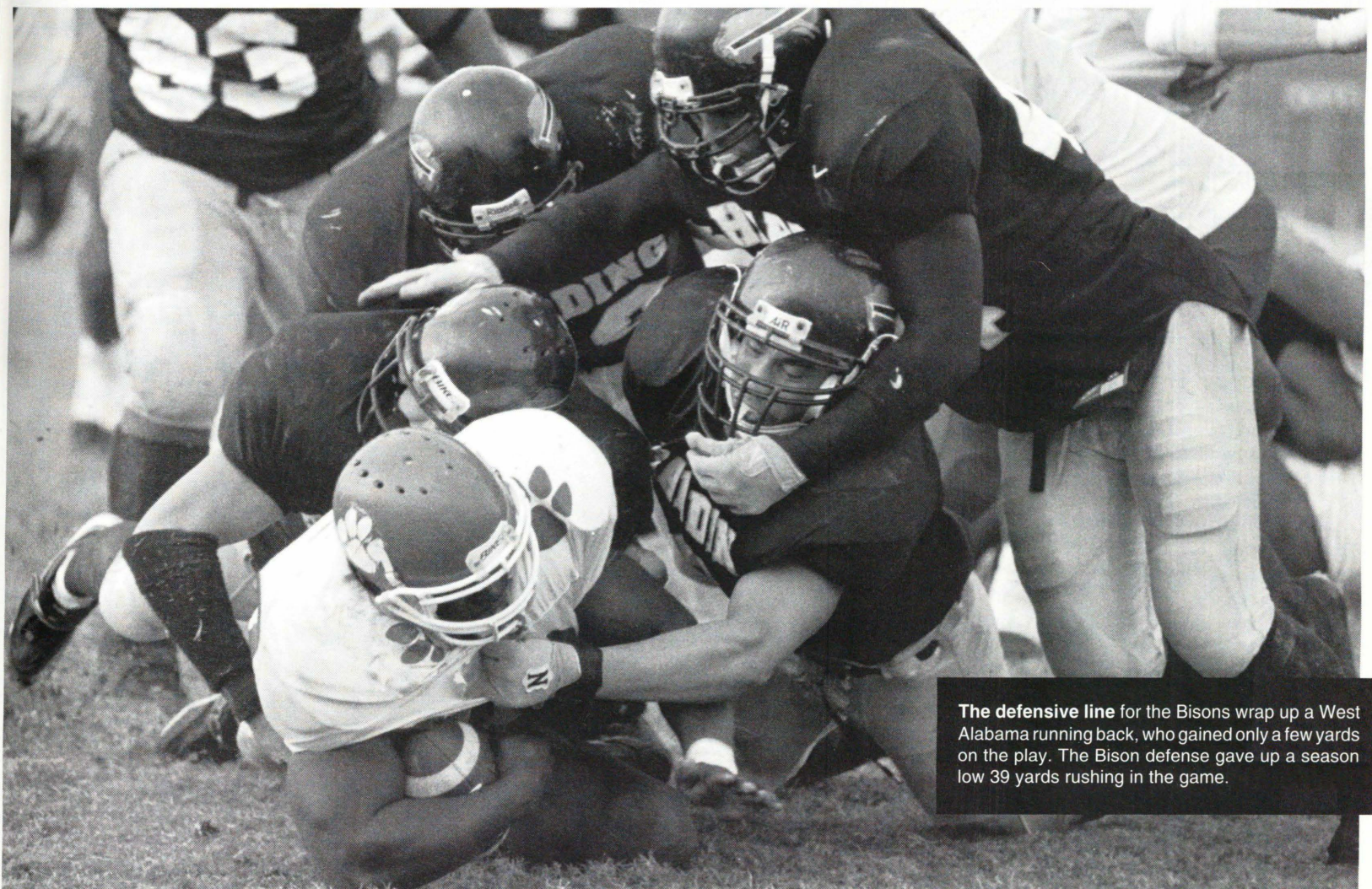
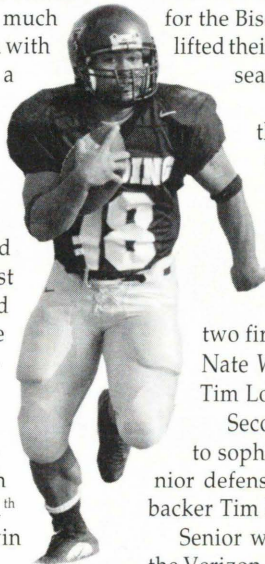
The Bisons then struggled on the road in their season closer against long-time rival Ouachita Baptist, losing 20-10 in a heart-breaking fourth quarter defensive struggle. The loss snapped a 10-game winning streak against the Tigers, dating back to 1990.

The Bison football assault included two first team All-GSC players, senior left tackle Nate Williams and sophomore defensive tackle Tim Love.

Second team All-GSC honors were handed out to sophomore wide receiver Santiago Collins, senior defensive lineman Floyd Black, freshman linebacker Tim Polk and sophomore kicker Coy Nance.

Senior wide receiver Zach Beavers was named to the Verizon Academic All-District VI College Division Football Team for his success in the classroom.

—Jeff McKeand



The defensive line for the Bisons wrap up a West Alabama running back, who gained only a few yards on the play. The Bison defense gave up a season low 39 yards rushing in the game.

Photo by Daniel Dubois

The Bison cheerleaders entertain the crowd with one of their more difficult stunts. The cheerleaders put in many hours of practice to prepare for games.

Who said cheering WAS EASY?



Photo by Daniel Dubois

This season the cheerleaders helped keep the Bisons motivated and the crowd boisterous with their cheers, chants and stunts.

Harding's football and basketball games would not be complete without the Bison squad boosting up the teams' spirits as well as the crowd's enthusiasm.

This year's squad practiced four days a week and cheered in the games, making cheerleading a time-consuming sport. There were no scholarships available for cheerleaders, so the desire to work and do their best came from an inner inspiration.

"We want to improve ourselves every game, so we work hard in practice to reach that goal," senior co-captain Holly Dawson said.

The squad challenged themselves with daring new stunts to perform at all the games. Over four years, the girls have improved their stunt teams and have grown to trust each other, said co-captain Candace Colon.

"It makes a difference that it is the same girls you've been working with for four years, because you grow together, learn from each other and trust each other," Colon said. "We really are very close friends away from the sport, which shows up when we cheer."

The cheerleaders this year were successful due to this foundation of experience: seven seniors were on the 15-person squad. With Colon, Dawson, Heather Fox, Liza Freeman, Christy Samuels, Jennifer Shappley and Anna Wheeler leaving the squad, the younger members had to take new leader-

ship roles.

"This year we incorporated the freshmen in our stunt teams so they can gain experience to lead the new girls in the stunts," Colon said.

The cheerleading squad could not be so successful if it wasn't for their sponsor, Kellee Blickenstaff, the squad said.

"She is the inspiration of the team," they said. "She takes care of everything we need. She's our spiritual leader, our friend and our mom away from home."

Even though many of the seniors were graduating, there was a positive excitement about next year's squad.

—Heather Gray

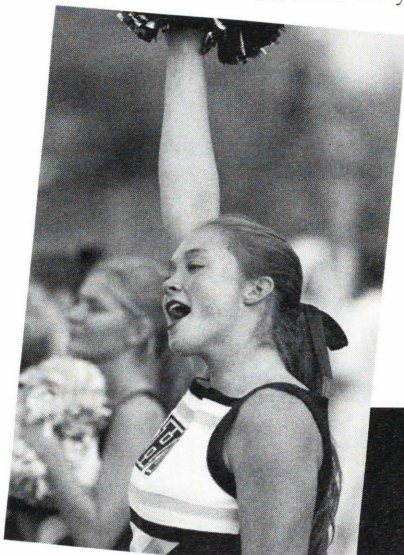
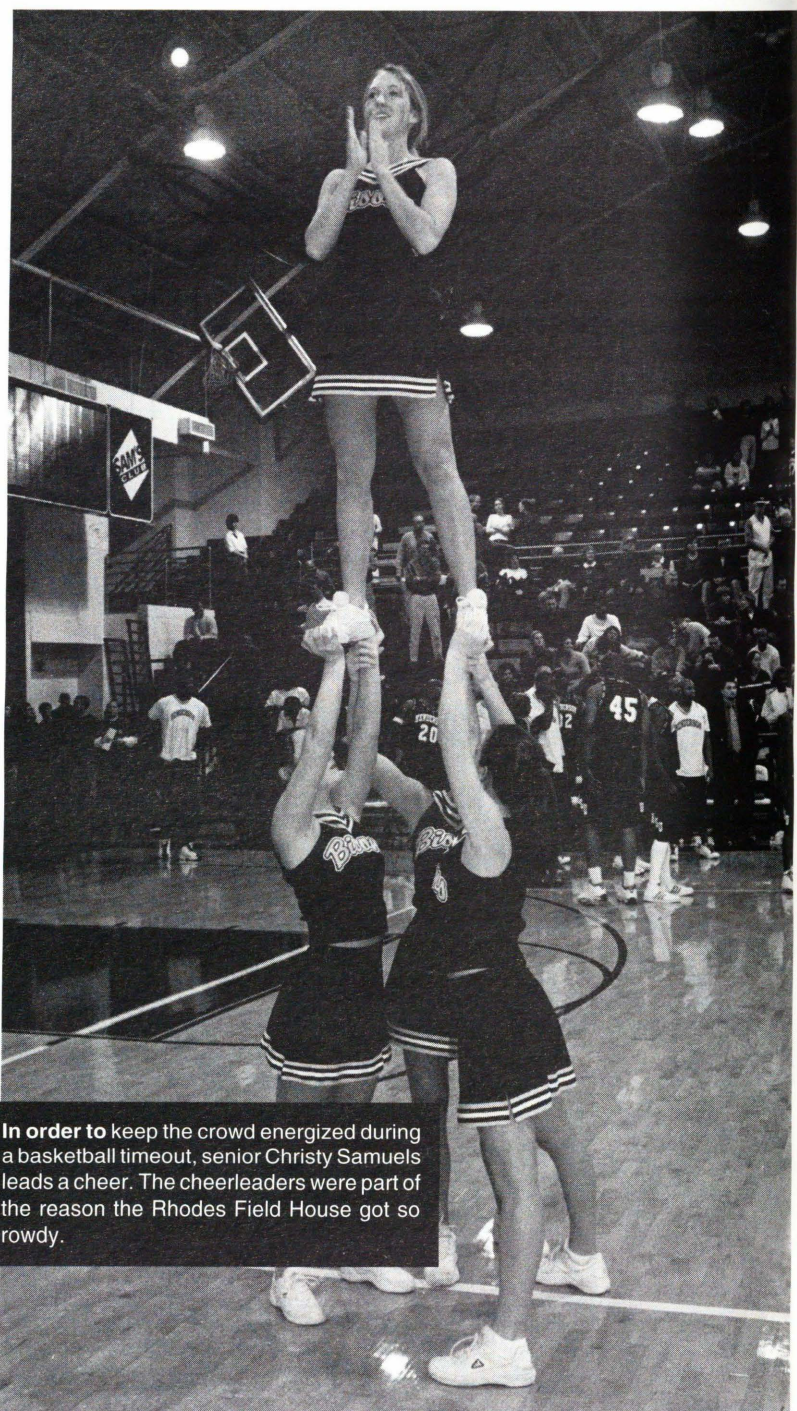


Photo by Daniel Dubois

Senior Heather Fox yells encouragement to the football players from the sideline during the game against West Alabama. Fox was one of the seven seniors on the squad.



In order to keep the crowd energized during a basketball timeout, senior Christy Samuels leads a cheer. The cheerleaders were part of the reason the Rhodes Field House got so rowdy.

Photo by Daniel Dubois

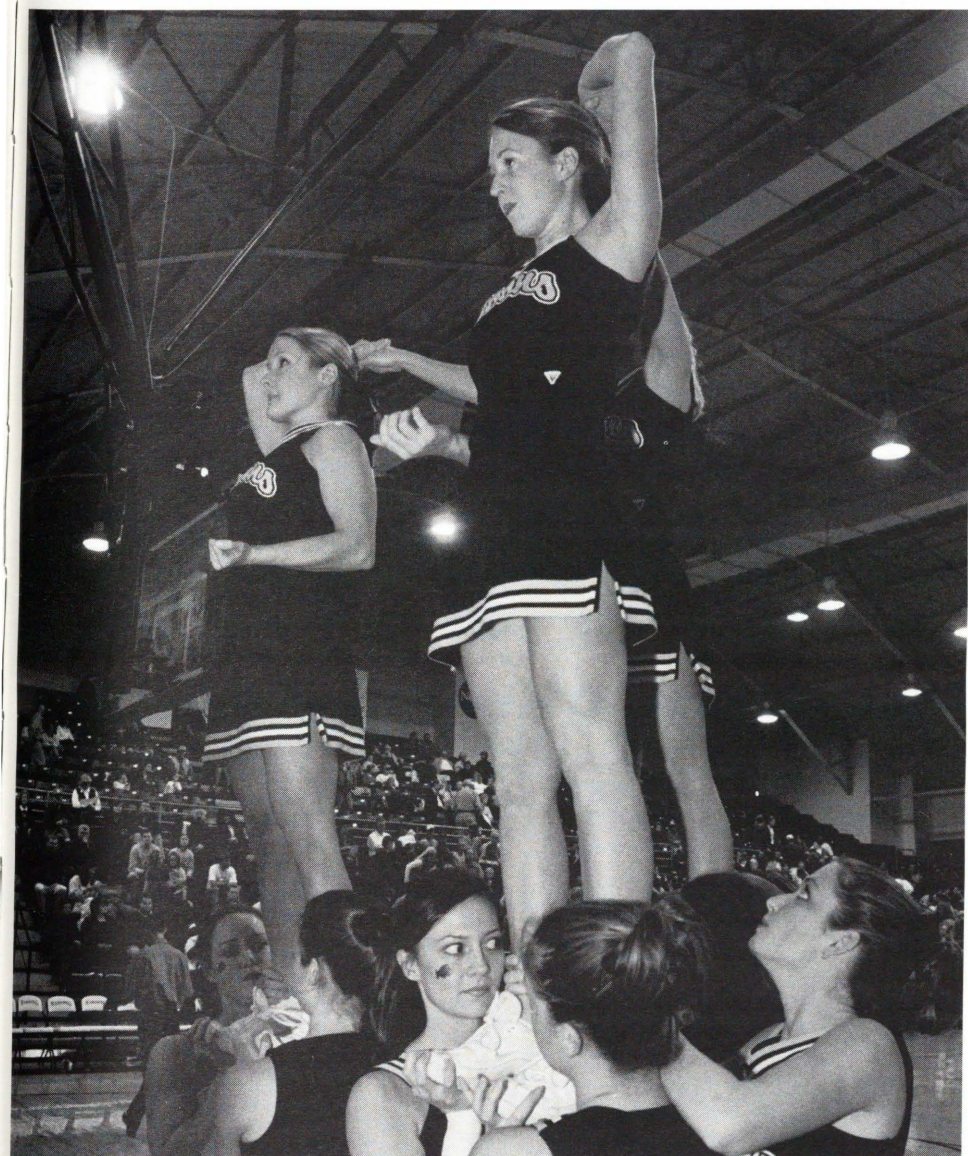


Photo by Daniel Dubois

Waiting to support their teammate, seniors Holly Dawson and Christy Samuels prepare to add the finishing touches to a stunt. The cheerleaders tried to get extra practice in before the men's basketball game versus Henderson State.

Senior Jennifer Shappley cheers on the Bisons at the Homecoming football game Oct. 6. The cheerleaders added enthusiasm to the atmosphere of every game.



Photo by Daniel Dubois

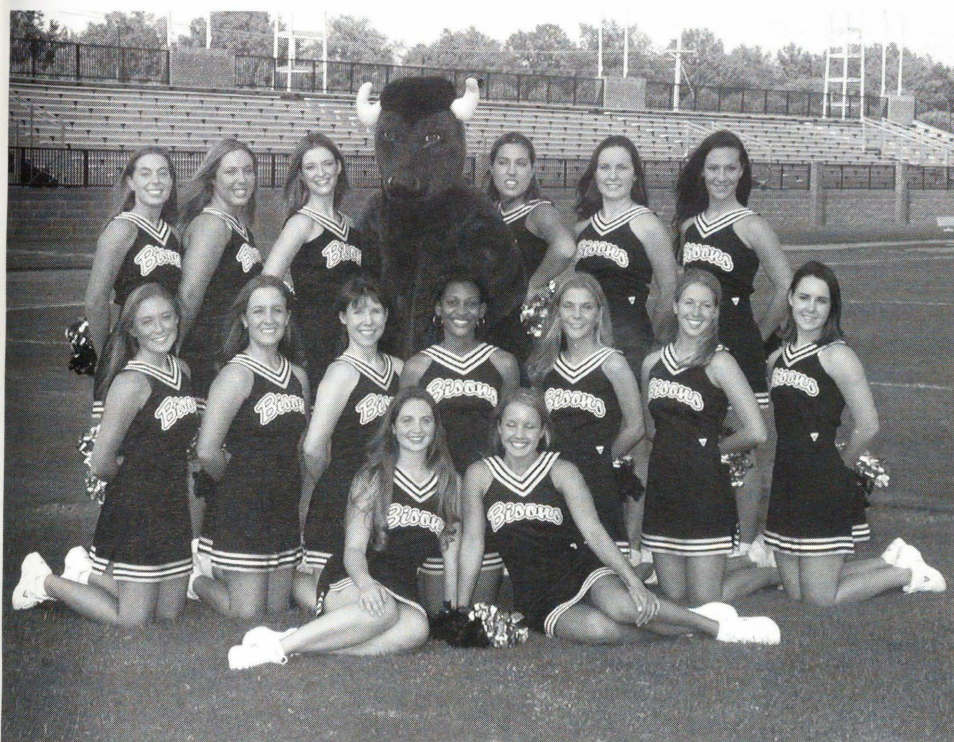


Photo by Jeff Montgomery

THE TEAM

Front Row: Candace Colon, Holly Dawson. **Middle Row:** Heather Fox, Jana Allred, Liza Freeman, Starla Robinson, Anna Wheeler, Christy Samuels, Jennifer Scott. **Back Row:** Lindsay Schmidt, Tressa Tucker, Hailee Augsburger, Jennifer Shappley, Amie Parker, Jamie Hughes.

IN YOUR



Photo by Daniel Dubois

"If a squad is to come together by the beginning of the season, everyone must get along and work as a team. If these two elements are not there, we would have been in store for a rough season. I am going to miss the atmosphere at all of the games and just cheering in general with all the other cheerleaders."
—Senior
Liza Freeman

FACE

Searching for a teammate, junior guard Julie Wright looks to pass the ball in the Bisons 75-63 victory over Arkansas-Monticello. Wright helped lead the Lady Bisons to victory against the Cotton Blossoms with 15 points and four assists.

Junior Susan Berry avoids a UCA defender. Berry was a force underneath the basket on the defensive end, with a team leading 26 blocked shots.



Photo by Jeff Montgomery



Photo by Daniel Dubois



Photo by Jeff Montgomery

IN YOUR

"Throughout my career at Harding, I learned a lot in different aspects—spiritually, mentally, emotionally and physically. I improved as a person through everything."
—Senior Mindy Napier



Photo by Daniel Dubois

FACE

THE TEAM

Front Row: Kendra Bell, Kendra Beard, Valerie Singleton, Jennifer Andrews, Julie Wright, Mindy Napier, Lauren Hickmon, Michia French.

Back Row: Stephen Burks, Trainer Josie Anderson, Student Assistant Anne Fowlkes, Jamie Simpkins, Heather Lawrence, Susan Berry, Elizabeth Woodroof, Saretha Jackson, Manager Shawna Leaser, Brad Francis

SEASON REVIEW

John Brown	W63-59
Lyon	L62-64
Drury	W60-59
North Alabama	L75-79
West Alabama	L56-65, L75-79
LeMoyne-Owen	W67-51
Bacone College	W97-76
Central Baptist	W106-58
Missouri-Rolla	W67-54
Arkansas-Monticello	W81-74, W75-63
Central Arkansas	L70-103, L52-90
Henderson State	W56-55, L57-60
Southern Arkansas	L70-72, W85-74
Christian Brothers	L66-67, L56-76
Delta State	L63-87, L54-76
Ouachita Baptist	L56-62, L62-78
Arkansas Tech	L46-56, L58-63

Lessons learned PROVIDE POSITIVE OUTLOOK

Junior Heather Lawrence and freshman Saretha Jackson collapse towards the ball after a missed UCA shot. The game versus the Sugar Bears was the beginning of the final stretch for the Lady Bisons which resulted in the team losing six of their last seven games.



Photo by Jeff Montgomery

The Lady Bisons basketball team struggled this season, but grew as individuals from the lessons learned.

"We learned to rebound from every difficult circumstance," senior Kendra Bell said. "We had to learn to overcome all of our losses."

The Lady Bisons finished the season at 10-16 overall, 4-12 in the Gulf South Conference. Wright topped off the season by being part of the conference top 10 in free-throw percentage, three-point field goals made and three-point percentage.

"We played hard this season and had a lot of individual success," junior guard Julie Wright said. "Next year our experience of playing together is what will really be the key to our success."

Although the team struggled this year, the Lady Bisons were known for the chemistry they shared on and off the court.

"Our team has strong unity," junior Heather Lawrence said.

"We are a close team and are really good friends with each other outside of basketball."

Due to the time the girls spent together, they shared a strong bond this year.

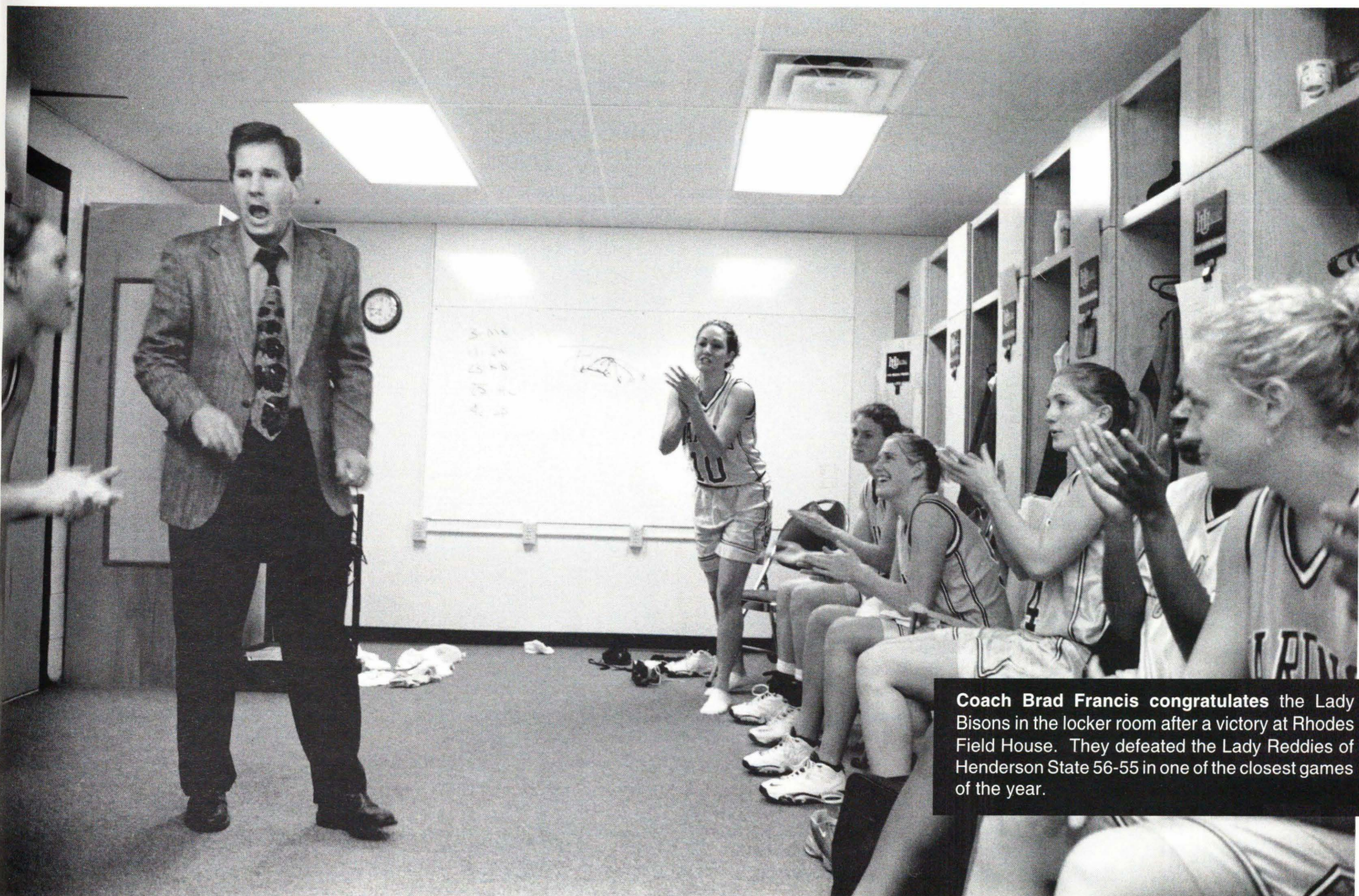
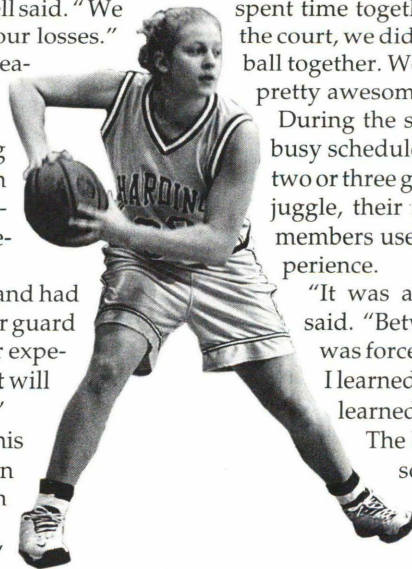
"Our friendships are great on and off the court," freshman Saretha Jackson said. "We not only spent time together in the locker room and on the court, we did things other than play basketball together. We ate and lived together. It was pretty awesome."

During the season, the Lady Bisons had a busy schedule, with practice every day and two or three games a week. Since they had to juggle their schedules, many of the team members used the season as a learning experience.

"It was a maturing process," Jackson said. "Between classes and basketball I was forced to get my priorities straight. I learned responsibility this year. I also learned how to manage my time."

The Lady Bisons finished this season optimistic about seasons to come. The team members were looking forward to next year when they could put this season's lessons into action.

—Renee Lewis
(Heather Gray contributed this report.)



Coach Brad Francis congratulates the Lady Bisons in the locker room after a victory at Rhodes Field House. They defeated the Lady Reddies of Henderson State 56-55 in one of the closest games of the year.

Photo by Daniel Dubois

Sophomore guard Darren McCrillis uses his ball control to draw a foul from an Arkansas Tech defender. McCrillis' ball handling skills and clutch three-point shooting helped lead the Bisons throughout the season.



Photo by Daniel Dubois

Breaking records ALL AROUND

The men's basketball team overcame several obstacles en route to a 16-11 record, Harding's best mark since moving up to NCAA Division II play in 1997. An 8-8 record in Gulf South Conference games was good enough for fourth place in the West Division and a spot in the conference tournament, held in Tupelo, Miss.

The Bisons qualified for the tournament in just their second year in the GSC, but Valdosta State made Harding's stay a short one, living up to its No. 1 seed with a 95-73 victory.

"It's been a lot of fun, but they were such a tough team," senior Datron Wilson said. "It's sad that it had to end this way."

The season got off to a shaky start when four team members were suspended from school for rule violations in the fall. This left the team short-handed until several of the suspended players returned in the spring.

A strong nonconference run, which included a competitive game against Division I Louisiana Tech in November, earned the Bisons a brief stay in the Division II South Region Top 10.

But the Bisons couldn't get a break once conference play started in January, as six of their eight GSC losses were by five points or less.

"There's been a lot of times during the year that they could have checked it in and given it up," coach Jeff Morgan said. "They've battled all year."

Due to the close games, the Bisons needed a win in their final regular-season contest to qualify for the tournament. The team responded with a come-from-behind 79-76 victory over Arkansas Tech in front of a school-record crowd of 3,245.

"[The Rhodes Rowdies] are so much a part of the team," Morgan said. "People talk about crowds being the 'sixth man.' They are more than that."

Despite the lopsided tournament loss, junior Aaron Farley said the postseason experience will help the team next season.

"It was the first time we've been in a tournament in a while, and ... this ought to make us hungry," he said.

Farley, who scored 28 points against Tech, was named to the All-GSC First Team for the second year in a row.

With only Wilson graduating, the Bisons will look to improve on their 16-11 mark next year.

—Ryan Cook

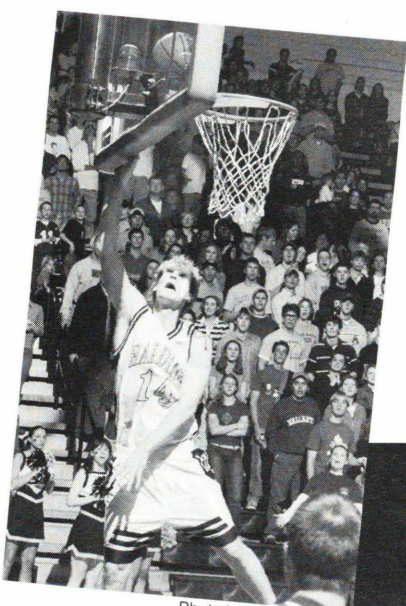
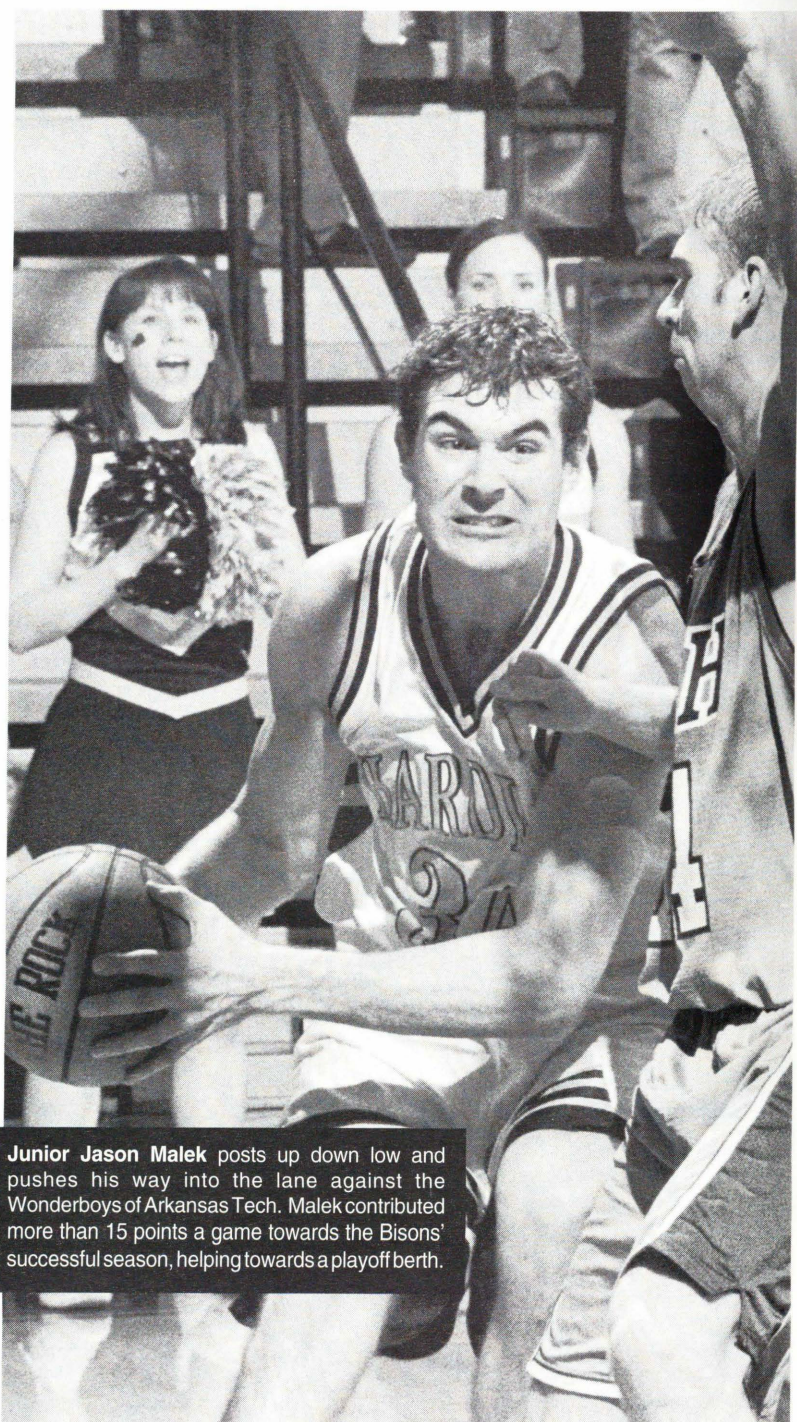


Photo by Daniel Dubois

Sophomore Chad Ware takes the ball to the basket in an important game against Delta State. Ware finished the game with eight points and four rebounds.



Junior Jason Malek posts up down low and pushes his way into the lane against the Wonderboys of Arkansas Tech. Malek contributed more than 15 points a game towards the Bisons' successful season, helping towards a playoff berth.

Photo by Daniel Dubois



Photo by Daniel Dubois



Photo by Jeff Montgomery

THE TEAM

Front Row: Zachery Kirby, Davis Morgan, Mitchell Kirby.

Seated Front Row: Assistant Amory Cole, Michael Ashcraft, Aaron Farley, Carl Vault, Aaron Grieb, Chase Melder, Darren McCrillis, Assistant Joey Pruitt.

Back Row: Coach Jeff Morgan, Assistant Jason Sautter, Marlon Henderson, Jason Malek, Jay Brogdon, Regimantas Butvydas, Chad Ware, Datron Wilson, Chris Campbell, Assistant Dwayne Elliot, Assistant Coach Tim Kirby.

SEASON REVIEW

Jarvis Christian College	W108-78
East Central Oklahoma	W61-54
Louisiana Tech Univ.	L86-102
Central Oklahoma	W93-87
SW Baptist University	W77-75
Wiley College	W118-79
SE Oklahoma State Univ.	W74-58
Central Baptist	W100-79
East Central Oklahoma	L75-76
Arkansas-Monticello	L77-79, L82-85
Central Arkansas	W84-67, W80-64
Henderson State	L83-88, L64-72
Southern Arkansas	L79-83, L78-92
Arkansas Baptist	W113-56
Christian Brothers	W85-75, W96-63
Delta State	L73-74, W81-77
Ouachita Baptist	W93-76, L79-82
Arkansas Tech	W72-68, W79-76
Valdosta State (GSC Tourn.)	L73-95

The Bisons celebrate a victory over Arkansas Tech after their final home game of the season Feb. 23. The win catapulted the Bisons into the number four seed of the Western division at the Gulf South Conference Tournament in Tupelo, Miss.

Junior point guard Aaron Farley signals a play to the rest of the team as he brings the ball down the court. Farley was a threat to opponents both driving to the basket and from behind the three-point arch.

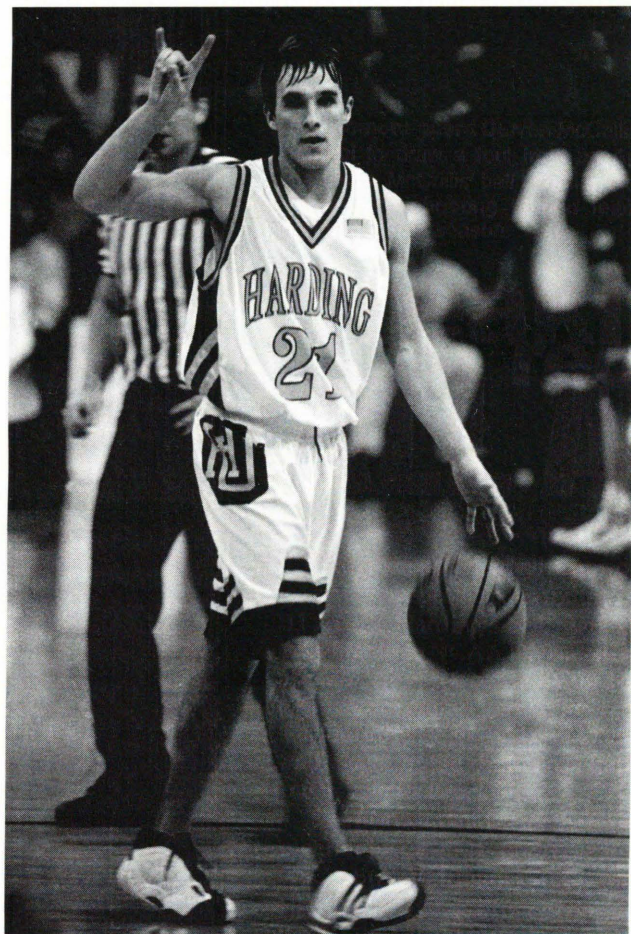


Photo by Daniel Dubois

IN YOUR

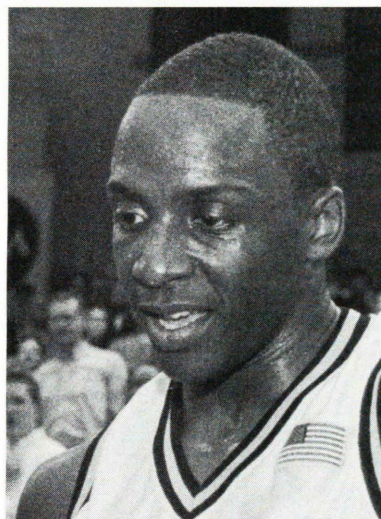


Photo by Daniel Dubois

Datron Wilson addresses the Rhodes Rowdies after his final home game as a Bison. Wilson entered the 2001-2002 basketball season as the only senior on the team. He led the squad with an average of 29.4 minutes of playing on the court and finishing the season with a shooting percentage better than .600 and 13.1 points per game.

FACE

Senior Jared McCormick bumps the volleyball after receiving a serve. Volleyball is a sport that many students would not have had the opportunity to play if the intramural program did not exist.

Jeff Smith, assistant director of admissions, tries to elude a student defender in a flag football game. The faculty team gave it their all and finished softball, football and basketball with several wins.

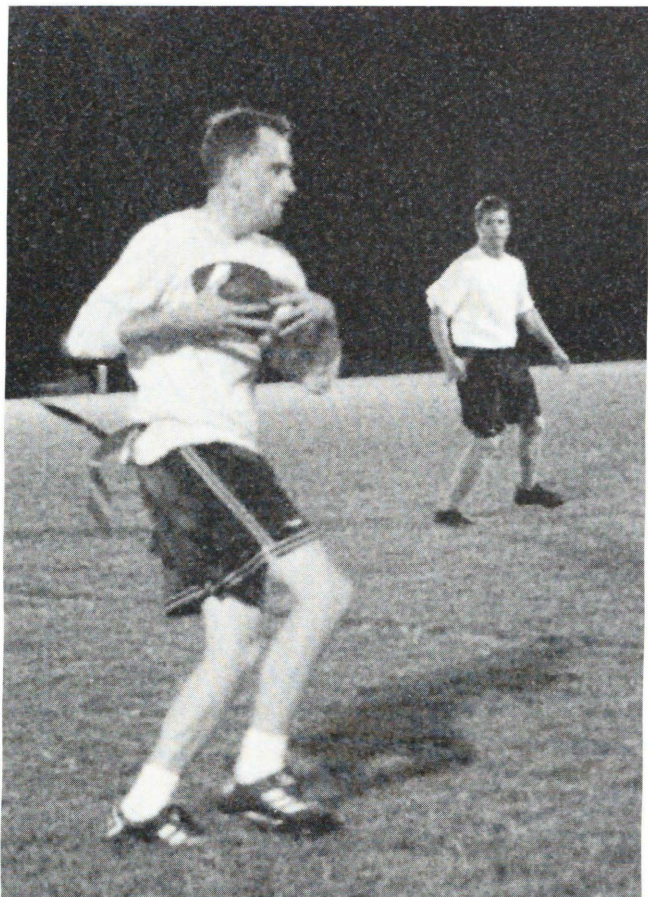


Photo by Andrea Waters

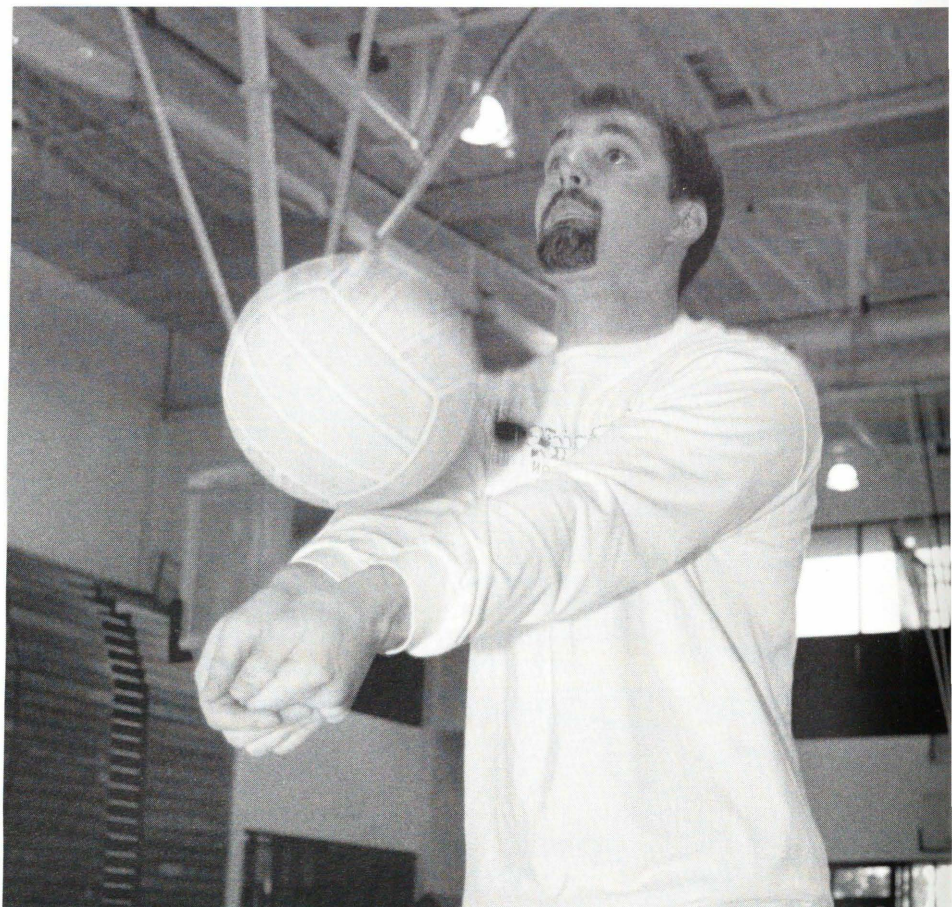


Photo by Daniel Dubois

IN YOUR

"Intramural athletics have been a very important part of my time at Harding. They have given me the opportunity to just get out and meet many different people that I normally wouldn't have had the opportunity to meet."
—Graduate student
Jyusef Larry

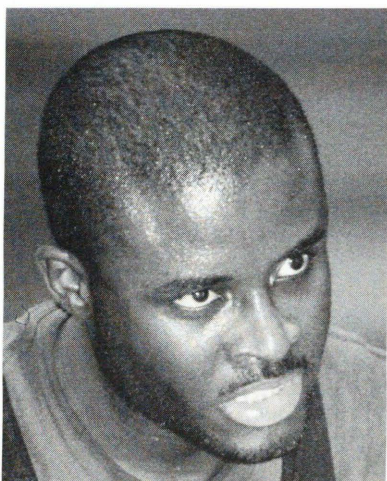


Photo by Daniel Dubois

FACE



Photo by Daniel Dubois

Fighting hard, freshmen Candice Glidewell and Ashley Powers battle it out under the goal for a monster rebound. The women's intramural program has constantly added new sports and has increased participation every year, according to Jessica Moore, women's intramural director.

intramural FACILITIES HAVE A NEW LOOK

Directing his team down the court, sophomore Suns point guard Brent Dixon gets set up for a shot. Teams usually needed someone to take the leadership role to guide the different teams during the games.

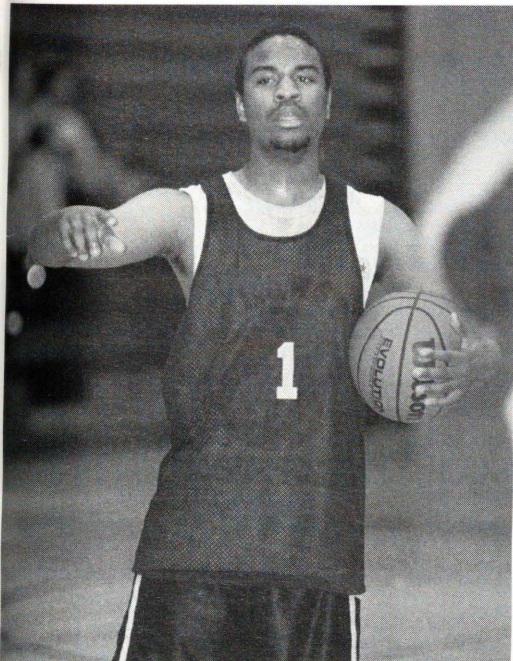


Photo by Daniel Dubois

Students again competed against their peers in intramural sports this year.

Jim Gowen, men's intramural director, said, "In intramurals we've had extensive participation. It's up over past years by about 20 percent. We've had a lot of people sign up."

Jessica Moore, women's intramural director, echoed the growth in the women's program. "We had a lot more intramural volleyball teams than in the past," Moore said. "It fluctuates year to year, and this year has been a record number."

The intramural department also saw some physical changes.

"This year probably the biggest addition we've seen was putting grass on the infields of the softball fields," Gowen said. "The university has provided tremendous facilities; all of the facilities we have are five-years old or less."

With the Ganus Athletic Center being converted to almost totally intramurals, it makes it a lot easier to run the program."

By renovating the Ganus Athletic Center,

the program was able to use the floor space more efficiently. "We were able to add two more basketball goals, as well as two more volleyball courts," Gowen said.

The women's intramurals began in the fall with softball, volleyball and tennis, and they took a break during the football season.

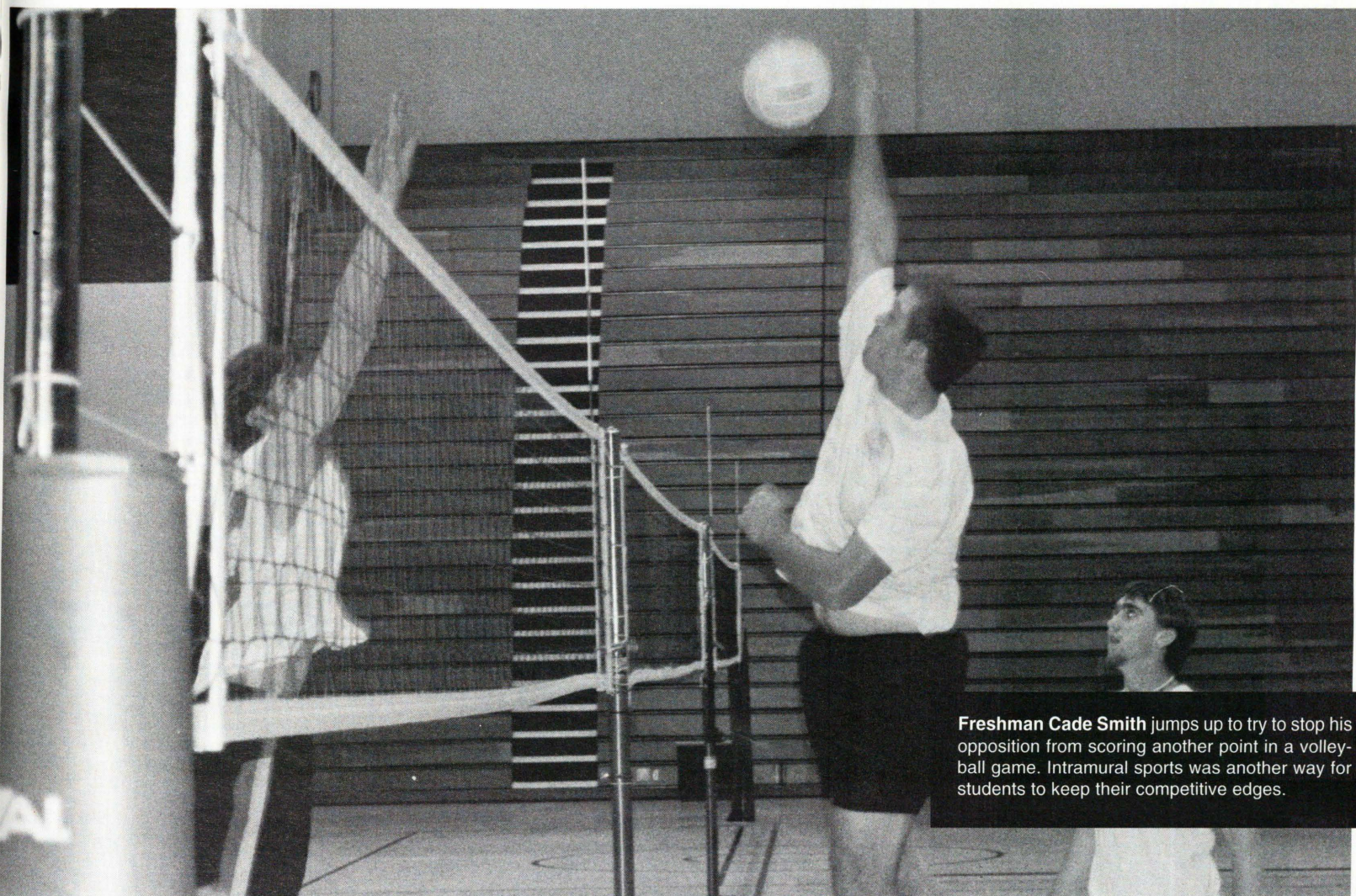
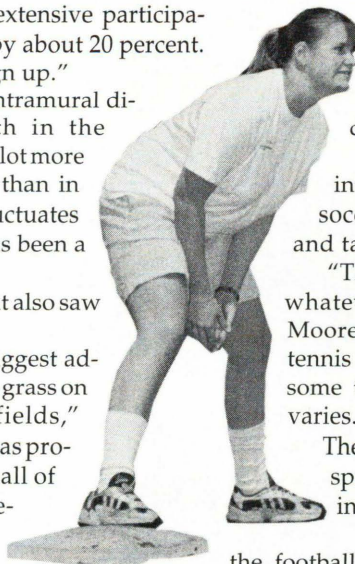
In the spring season women's intramurals started off with basketball, soccer, softball, racquetball, badminton and table tennis.

"The students are able to sign up for whatever they want to participate in," Moore said. "You have some that will just do tennis because they're tennis players, and some that'll do all of the sports; it really varies."

The men played similar sports in both the spring and the fall, adding flag football in the fall and swimming in the spring.

"We also do the cross-country run, the football pass for distance and the softball throw for distance," Gowen said. "We've had very good sportsmanship and very few injuries; it's just been a great year."

—Sarah Lair



Freshman Cade Smith jumps up to try to stop his opposition from scoring another point in a volleyball game. Intramural sports was another way for students to keep their competitive edges.

Photo by Andrea Waters

AMERICA UNITED



Associated Press Photo

September 11, 2001

Attack on America hits home with students

Worries about tests, unfinished homework and talk of another normal day at Harding were displaced by a somber message delivered by President David Burks at the opening of chapel services Sept. 11.

"I think you all should know that two commercial planes have reportedly crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City," Burks said, plaintively. "There are also reports of a plane striking the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. At this point we don't know the number of injuries, but obviously there will be many."

Separated from the already rampant television coverage of the attacks, most students were not aware of the devastation until they were released from chapel for their morning classes.

During chapel, the north and south towers of the World Trade Center collapsed, and the Pentagon remained swaddled in flames.

Sophomore Anne Fowlkes didn't know if her brother Tyler was trapped in the twisted wreckage that had hidden New York City behind a thick sheath of billowing black smoke.

Fowlkes said her brother, who works for a Fayetteville-based investment firm, was in a hotel that connected the two towers when the first plane hit.

"He got in touch with the

Fayetteville office, and we found out that he was all right, and then the towers collapsed," Fowlkes said. "I was on the phone with my dad when we saw the towers collapse on television. It was at least two or three hours before we heard from him again. He'd gotten on a ferry and made his way to New Jersey."

Fowlkes said it was difficult to remain focused on Sept. 11, especially during those few tense hours when she didn't know her brother's whereabouts.

"We didn't know how far away he was," she said. "It was a bad day, to say the least."

Impromptu prayer sessions and muffled tears dotted the campus as students and faculty alike struggled to comprehend the enormity of the attacks, which left thousands dead and millions searching for peace amidst the chaos and worry.

Junior Brooks Brown spent most of Sept. 11 trying to locate his father, who worked at the World Trade Center.

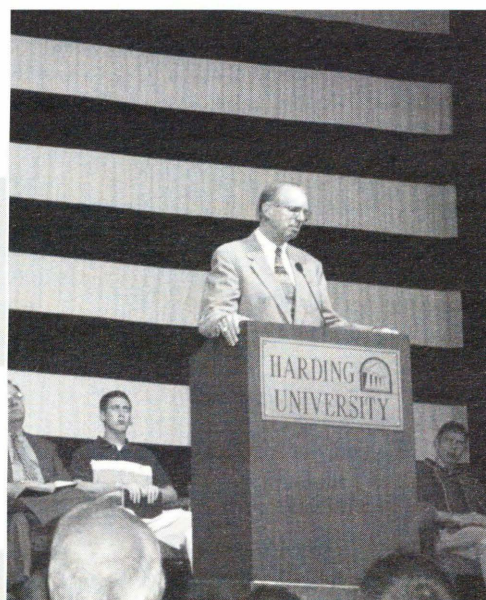
"All I could think about was that my dad was working up there," said Brown, who is from New Egypt, N.J. "I first tried his mobile and couldn't get him, and I was worried ... When I finally got a hold of him, he was at home sitting on the porch ... I was relieved. He told me he didn't have to work that day."

—Chad Lawson & Jeffrey Hunter



Photo by Jeremy Beauchamp

Students gather in the student center to listen and watch as the latest news of the attacks unfold. Many students said they will always remember where they were and what they were doing the tragic morning of Sept. 11.



President David Burks leads chapel Sept. 12, a little more than 24 hours after the twin towers collapsed. A large American flag was draped in the background to serve as a memorial, giving the campus a symbol on which to focus its emotions.

Photo by Ryan Cook

Students respond to September 11 tragedy

One couldn't travel far without noticing that American flags of all sizes were everywhere—flying at half-mast, hanging in windows across campus, dancing in the wind atop the radio antennae of nearly every vehicle that drove through the streets around Harding.

After the sun set on Sept. 11, 2001, allowing one of the bloodiest days in America's brief life to fade into the annals of history, the nation began its healing process and its march to avenge terrorism.

"There was just such a great response of patriotism by the student body," President David Burks said. "It was just wonderful... like nothing I've ever seen in my life."

Burks said the American flag that draped the back wall of the Benson

Auditorium stage gave the entire campus something to focus its emotions upon during the first few weeks after the tragedy.

Sept. 12 saw the first of several chapel services honoring the victims of the attacks.

But the students didn't wait until the days following the attacks to begin the first of many service projects organized to aid an ailing nation, Burks said.

According to the Red Cross, a blood drive sponsored by King's Men and OECE social clubs garnered more than 70 usable pints of blood the day of the attack.

In addition, several groups of concerned students and faculty reacted quickly by traveling to the newly-termed "Ground Zero," near the base

of the twin towers, to distribute much-needed items to emergency workers.

Dr. Jack Shock, associate professor of communication, volunteered nearly two weeks at Ground Zero assisting the Red Cross with public affairs.

In October, senior Chad Mims traveled to New York City with his father, Bob, and brother, Clay, to witness the destruction in person.

Before he left, Mims enlisted the help of fellow Harding students to fill 12 notebooks with words of encouragement to emergency workers searching tirelessly for remains.

"I couldn't appreciate what those workers were doing until I saw what had happened," Mims said. "I had watched it on television so much... that when I flew over the actual site I remember it being the first time I really

grasped the devastation."

Mims said he took the notebooks to workers at firehouses and Red Cross emergency shelters across New York City.

"I got to meet some of them and shake their hands," he said. "New York City was amazingly quiet... yet everyone had a story to tell."

Burks said the student body's reaction to the attacks, at home and elsewhere, proved its resilience in times of great hardship.

"The only thing that's ever come close to this is the Gulf War, but it's not the same kind of threat," Burks said. "This is a threat to all nations and, since Harding represents a number of different countries, I think it's given us all a unique perspective."

—Chad Lawson

TIMELINE

September 11, 2001

8:45 a.m.

A hijacked passenger jet, American Airlines Flight 11 out of Boston, Mass., crashes into the north tower of the World Trade Center.

9:03 a.m.

A second hijacked airliner, United Airlines Flight 175 from Boston, crashes into the south tower of the World Trade Center and explodes. Both buildings are burning.

9:43 a.m.

American Airlines Flight 77 crashes into the Pentagon, sending up a huge plume of smoke. Evacuation of the Pentagon and The White House begins immediately.

10:05 a.m.

The south tower of the World Trade Center collapses.

10:10 a.m.

United Airlines Flight 93, also hijacked, crashes in Somerset County, Pa., southeast of Pittsburgh.

10:28 a.m.

The World Trade Center's north tower collapses.



Photo by Clay Mims

Senior Chad Mims talks with members of the New York Police Department at one of the Red Cross Relief Centers located at Ground Zero. Mims distributed notebooks filled with words of encouragement written by Harding students to workers at the relief centers and fire houses near the site.



Associated Press Photo



Associated Press Photo

Father Brian Jordan and a group of rescue and construction workers gather for a moment of prayer around a cross of steel beams found amidst the rubble of the World Trade Center. The events of Sept. 11 caused many Americans to reevaluate their faith and the power of prayer.

Smoke slowly fills the New York sky after planes crashed into the 110-story World Trade Center towers. After more than 30 years, the Empire State Building is once again the tallest building in New York City.