



The new press box at First Security Stadium is just one of many changes made within the athletic department at Harding this year.
Photo by Daniel Dubois.



Junior Marcus Ezell brings his opponent down during the Homecoming game, Oct. 21. The Bisons defeated the UNA Lions with a come from behind score of 37-36. Photo by Mark Kinonen.

Athletics

Individuals first, then athletes

From track to football, from court to field, the Harding Bison athletes prove that there is more to sports than winning and losing. It's all about attitude.

A lot of teams carry school pride onto the field, and there is nothing wrong with that, but we, as Christians, are called to carry something higher.

The core of the game lies within the attitude of the individual. Coach Franco Zengaro said it best last fall during a chapel introduction of the men's soccer team. "They are individuals first, then athletes," he said. Before you can compete, and compete well, you have to be mentally focused, knowing that your best is all that you can give.

Believing that you have done your best is not always easy. There is this constant voice within that is telling you that you could have done better. If only you had pushed yourself a little further. If only you had jumped a little higher. If only you had done this or that. If only.

A good game is the result of teamwork, which is the result of each individual focusing their thoughts on having a positive attitude when things don't work out the way they had planned. An athlete who enjoys the sport and has a good time playing draws our attention more than one who dwells on the ball he just fumbled or being three seconds away from making his best time.

You have to learn from your mistakes. Win or lose, you have to leave everything that you have out on the field or court, not regretting anything.

Everyone can be a winner, it just depends on the perspective you choose to view it from. If you play your best and run your fastest, you still come out on top.

You don't have to win to be a winner.

— Dustin Vyders, athletics editor

Success comes with experience

The Lady Bison Soccer team completed their third season with their best record of 10-7-1 and finished the season ranked 10th in the final NCAA Division II South Region poll.

Coach Terry Edwards was pleased with the team's season. "This was the first year for us to be in the Gulf South Conference, and we battled the strongest teams we have ever faced and had the most wins we have ever had," he said.

The team was composed of 22 players, nine of them being freshmen.

"We really had to come and play well together quickly," senior center-mid fielder Andrea Richmond said. "With all the new players, the girls with the most experience on the team really had to step up this year and all be leaders."

Richmond was tied with freshman forward Courtney Saul with nine goals for the 2000 season. Four of Saul's nine goals were game winning goals.

With a winning season, the offense is obvious for game winning points. However, Edwards said the defense is what is credited for the successful year.

"Our defense was the backbone of the team," he said.

The Lady Bison's defense consisted of senior goal-keeper Jodi Besenyei, junior defenders Michal Edwards, and Tricky Tarole, sophomore sweeper Carmen Sutton

and freshman defender Brooke Cockrell. Both Edwards and Cockrell were named All-Gulf South Conference Second Team — an outstanding honor for Harding defenders, coach Edwards said.

"The defense's teamwork was so strong because of our experience," Sutton said.

Besenyei had her career high with seven shut outs, naming her All-Gulf South Conference First Team. Also named All-Gulf South Conference First Team was junior center-mid fielder Heather Gray who led the team with 10 assists.

With four All-Conference Team members from Harding, it was evident that the skill level was much more distributed among the team. This higher skill level led to upset defeats such as the game against West Florida.

"That game was important to us," Michal Edwards said. "We went out as underdogs, and won 1-0. That game was won by everyone, including the players on the field, our strong bench and our coaching."

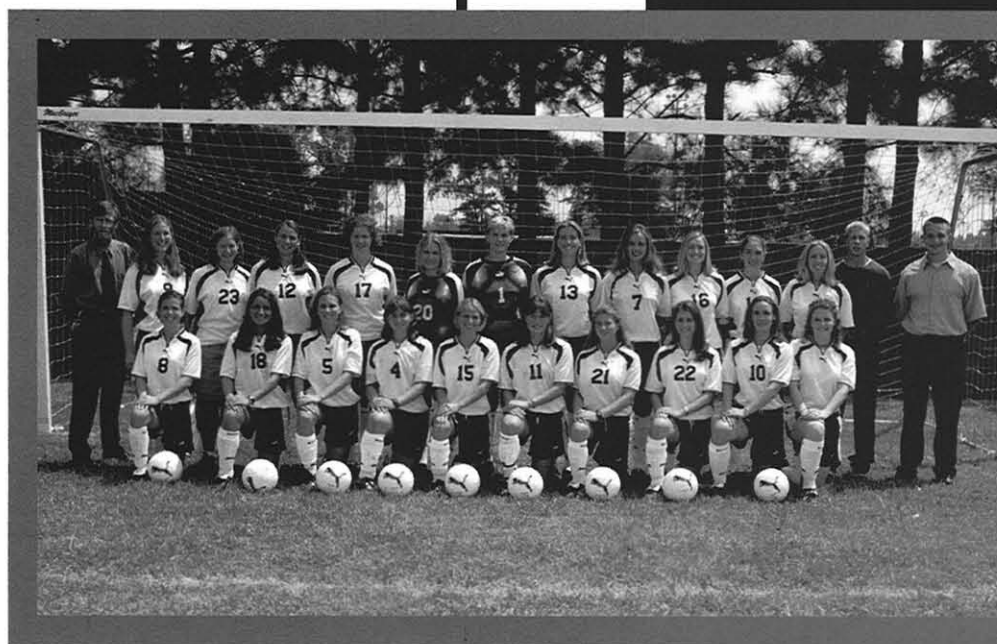
Coach Edwards said he is positive about next season as the team is steadily growing. He gave credit to the fans who came out to support the Lady Bisons at both home and away games.

Coach Edwards assured the Lady Bison team throughout the year that they will have an even more experienced team and more winning seasons in the future.

— Heather Gray

the team

First Row: Michal Edwards, Tricky Tarole, Courtney Pierron, Katie Ford, Carmen Sutton, Courtney Saul, Jennifer Riley, Amy Walker, Lyndsey Garner, Toni Edwards. **Second Row:** Coach Terry Edwards, Brooke Cockrell, Megan Bills, Lauren Hensley, Debbie Gullede, Bianca Beck, Jodi Besenyei, Andrea Richmond, Heather Gray, Meredith Simon, Kelly Nickell, Leah Rogers, Ryan Singleton, Steve Young. Photo by Jeff Montgomery.

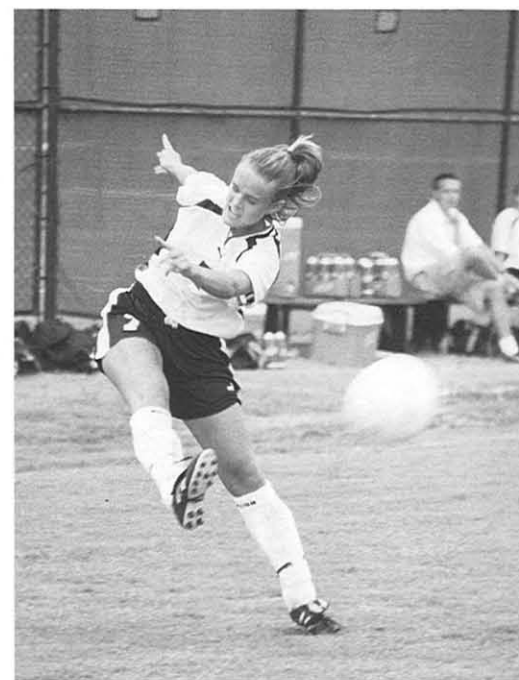
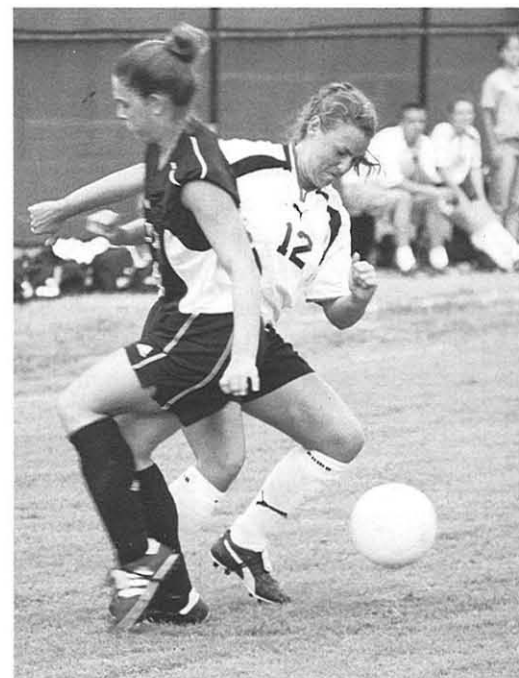


Women's Soccer



Aware of her approaching opponent, freshman mid-fielder Lyndsey Garner moves in for a pass. Garner scored her 5th goal of the season during the Lady Bisons first Gulf South Conference win. Photo by Daniel Dubois.

Junior forward Lauren Hensley steals the ball away from her opponent. Hensley hammered home three goals against the University of the Ozarks, allowing the 13-0 Bison victory. Photo by Daniel Dubois.



With a powerful blow, junior mid-fielder Heather Gray kicks the ball across the field. Gray was named a first team honoree for the All-Gulf South Conference. Photo by Daniel Dubois.



During a break, coach Terry Edwards encourages the team and discusses play strategies. The Lady Bisons ended the season ranking 10th in the NCAA Division II South Region poll. Photo by Daniel Dubois.

New program has hopes for strong future

The men's soccer team was the newest addition to the Harding athletic family this year. In its inaugural season the team surprised many of the veteran Gulf South Conference teams with impressive skill and speed.

"The season was a learning experience and it was fun," graduate assistant Austin Carr said. "We see a great opportunity to have a fantastic men's program at Harding."

Even with a team consisting of 13 freshmen and many players plagued by injuries, Carr said the Bisons were able to play well for a first year program. The team finished the season with a 5-11 record.

"We expected the latter part of the season to be very difficult, and it proved to be exactly that," senior captain Mike Rainbolt said. "Still, it was very exciting to be on the first men's soccer team at Harding. The season taught us many lessons and provided a foundation for us to build upon next season."

The season highlight for the Bisons was the game against Missouri Southern. This

top-ranked team was upset in a double overtime victory for the Bisons.

"This game was a foreshadowing of many great things to come in the future of this team," senior Drew Chandler, student assistant for the team, said.

With outstanding senior leadership from Rainbolt and Marcus Wagner, the team stayed focused.

"Several times during the season different players stepped up and were the leaders for that game, but Mike and Marcus were always the leaders of the team," Carr said.

Each player was, in essence, a walk-on student athlete because no financial aid was provided.

The team's goals for next season are to improve on their record and hopefully make the playoffs.

"Our most important goal is to represent Harding in a Christian way so we can be examples to each team we play," Chandler said.

— Mac Bell

Sophomore Kyle Hinckley kicks the ball back into play after it rolled out of bounds. Hinckley ended the season with a .250 shot percentage. Photo by Daniel Dubois.



First Row: Kyle Hinckley, Nathan Owens, Rees Jones, Michael Allen, Kurt Morris, Luke Thorkildsen, David Matamoro, Mario Caceres. **Second Row:** Josh Faris, Tim Miller, Nick Faris, Wes Tindall, Luke Boren, Mario Rosas, Zach Dameron, Kevin Hearne, Rene Rodriguez, Odde Faraj, Zach Johnson, Coach Franco Zengaro, Austin Carr. **Third Row:** Bill Ganus, Jeff Ireland, Mitch Jones, Marcus Wagner, Mike Rainbolt, Chris Jackson, David Shackelford, Tim Dawson, Michael Hovater, Jonathan Ireland, Josh Moore. Not pictured is Rigo Garcia. Photo by Jeff Montgomery.

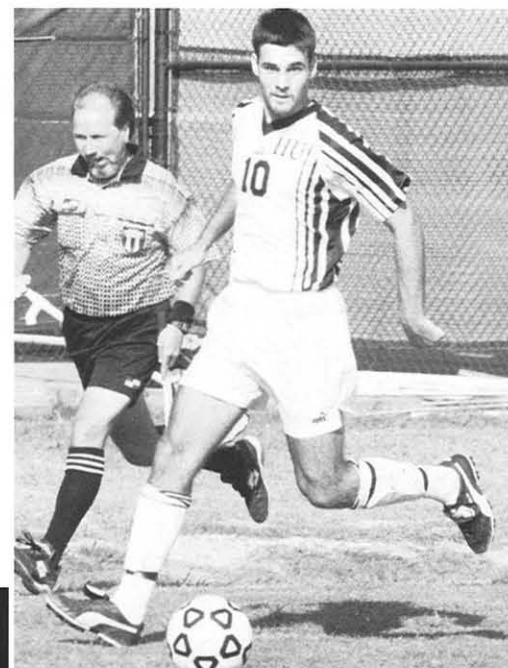
the team

Men's Soccer



With victory in their grasps, the Bison soccer team congratulates each other in a postgame huddle. The year 2000 marked the beginning of the men's soccer program. Photo by Daniel Dubois.

Looking to his teammate, freshman Mitch Jones prepares to pass the ball. Jones was named Gulf South Conference player of the week for October 10. Photo by Daniel Dubois.



Sophomore Zach Johnson prepares to kick the ball into play. Johnson started as one of the team's defensive players. Photo by Daniel Dubois.

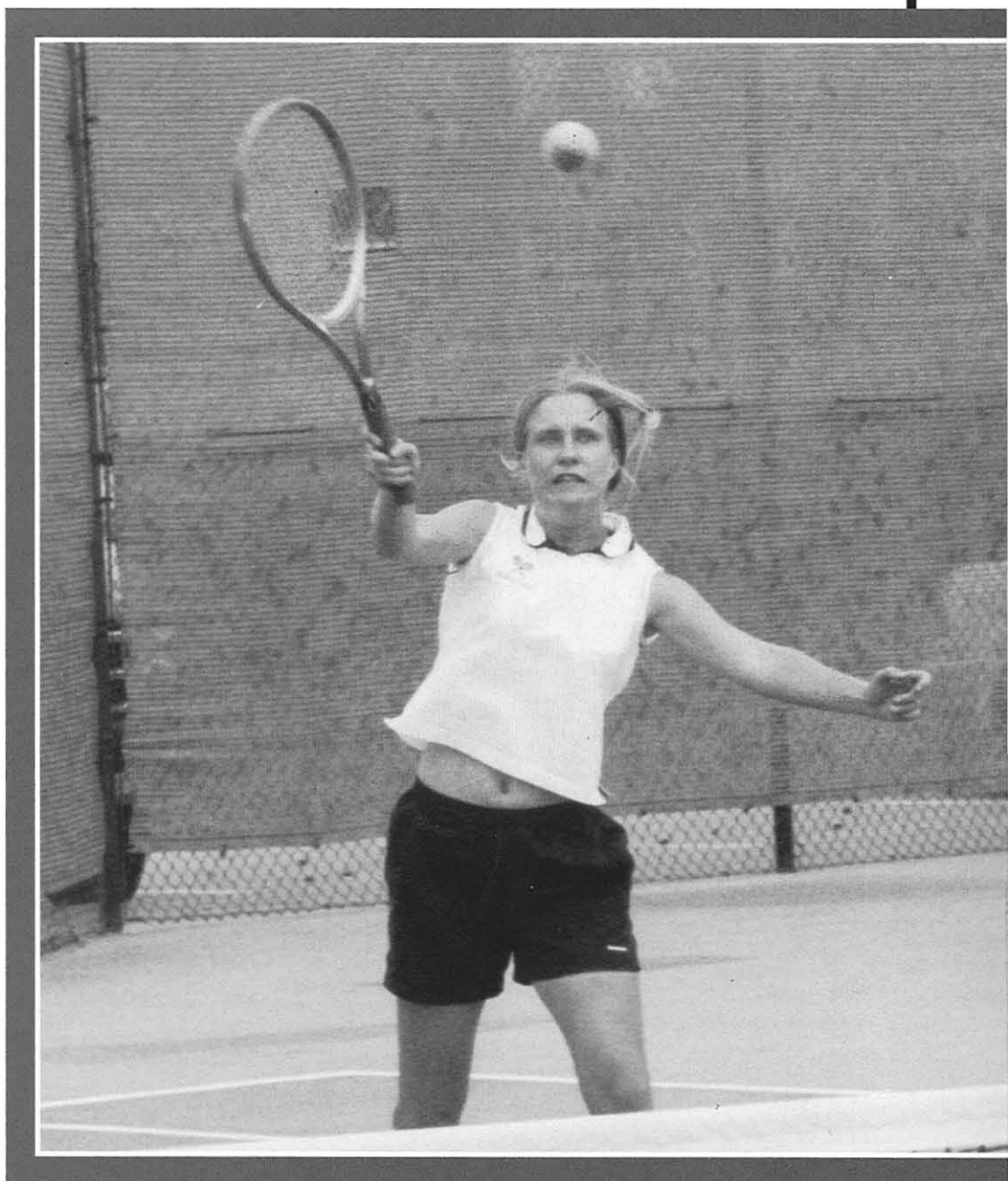
Women's Tennis

Reaching out her forearm, sophomore Eva-Lena Axelsson attempts to guard the net. Axelsson, a native of Sweden, finished the season with an 18-4 singles record. Photo by Mark Kinonen.

Sophomore Eva-Lena Axelsson serves the ball as doubles partner, freshman Carolina Banuelos prepares for the return. Banuelos and Axelsson paired up to form Harding's number one doubles team, ending the year with a record of 15-7. Photo by Mark Kinonen.



With a powerful forehand, sophomore Beth Bonbrisco hits the ball. Bonbrisco, along with Louisa Duke, formed the number three women's doubles team. Photo by Mark Kinonen.



Sophomore Carolina Banuelos moves in for a shot at the net. Banuelos topped off the season with a singles record of 15-6. Photo by Mark Kinonen.

Strong season despite injuries

The Harding women's tennis team had an impressive ninth season of play.

The team finished the 2000 season with an overall record of 15-7 and earned a spot in the Lone Star Conference quarterfinals. The Lady Bisons have had a winning record every season since the team's existence.

The Lady Bisons started off the season red hot with a 5-0 record. Although, the team had a minor setback when sophomore Daniela Corrales, one of the team's top players, went down with a back injury.

"We were not the same after Corrales' injury," coach David Elliott said. "It was probably the difference in us not making nationals."

Even with Corrales' injury, the team still had a successful season. Sophomore Eva-Lena Axelsson and freshman Carolina Banuelos alternated at the number one and two singles positions.

Axelsson finished with an 18-4 singles record and Banuelos finished 15-6. The Axelsson twins also finished 15-7 as Harding's number one doubles team.

Corrales won 10 of her first 12 matches before her injury, and junior first-year player Laura Tollett had a stellar season, finishing 13-4. Tollett also earned Academic All-Conference accolades.

Sophomore Beth Bonbrisco paired with

Louisa Duke, who joined the team after Corrales' injury, to form Harding's third doubles team.

The team competed in many tournaments. In each tournament the team played six singles matches and three doubles matches.

Some of the major tournaments were held at Ouachita Baptist, Freed Hardeman and Harding.

The members of the women's tennis team come from a variety of countries and cultures. The team had players from Sweden, Mexico and Honduras, along with four U.S. members.

Elliott said he believes next year's team will be the most talented team he has ever coached.

"Not having a standout player could keep us out of the top 10, but having several great players will give us a very strong team," Elliott said.

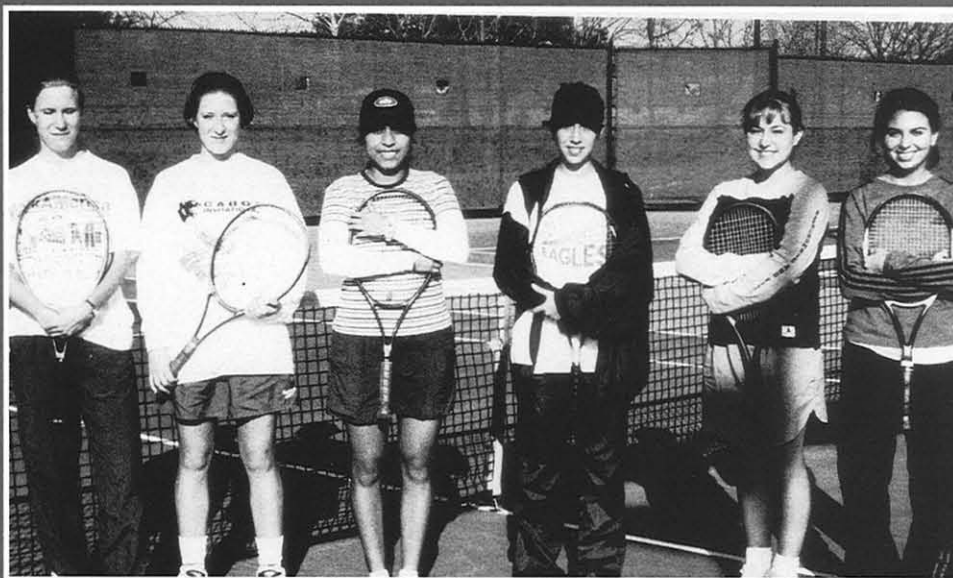
He said all of the key players from last season will return.

The Lady Bisons will compete next year in the Gulf South Conference.

"The women's tennis in the Gulf South Conference is extremely strong," Elliott said. "There could be as many as three conference teams ranked in the top 10 nationally."

— Mac Bell

the team

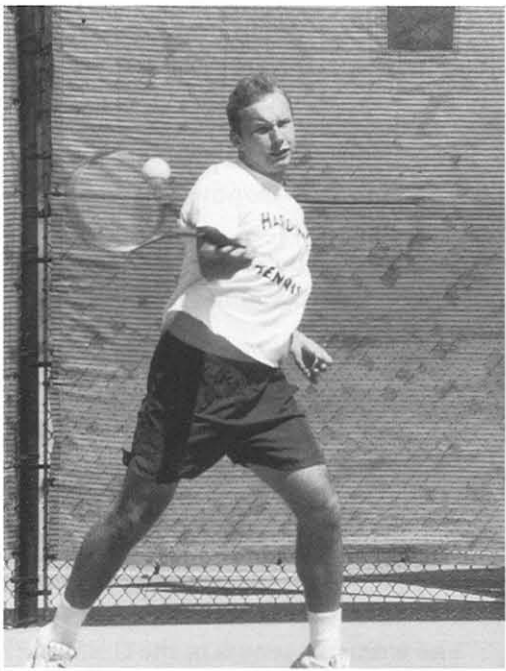


Left to right: Eva-Lena Axelsson, Laura Tollett, Caroline Banuelos, Daniella Corrales, Michelle Shimpock, Beth Bonbrisco. Not pictured are Whitney Price and Hiroko Okamoto. Photo by Jeff Montgomery.

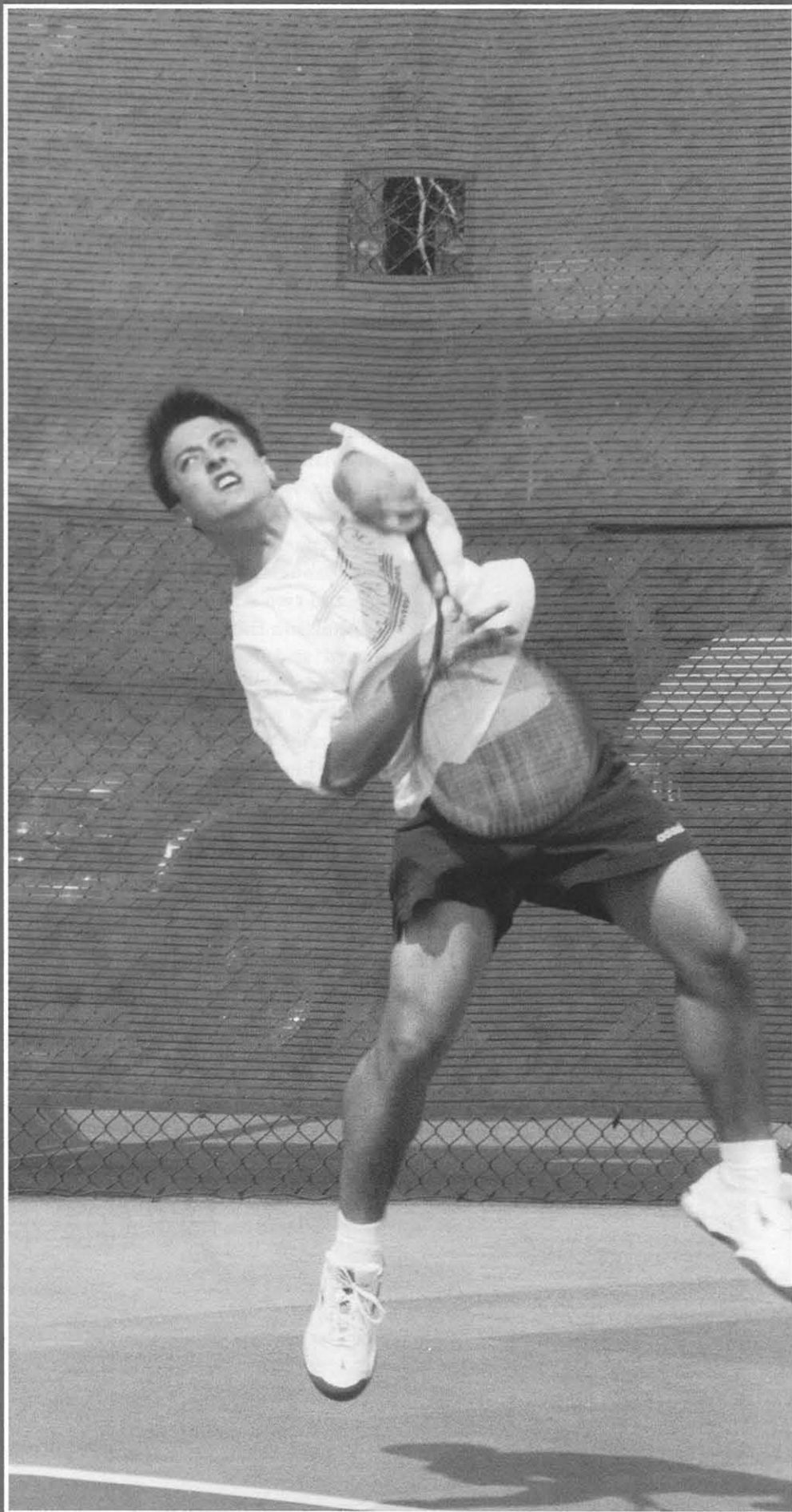
Men's Tennis

Using all his strength, junior Seth Bullington sets up for a powerful serve. Bullington ended the season with 16-5 record. Photo by Mark Kinonen.

With a strong forehand, freshman Artur Sikora prepares to return a serve. Sikora, a native of Poland, earned a 15-9 record in singles. Photo by Mark Kinonen.



With his eyes on his opponent, sophomore Klaus Schmidt lines up his serve. Schmidt teamed up with Sikora to play number two doubles for the Bisons. Photo by Mark Kinonen.



Team progress brings winning season

With this year's switch to the NCAA Division II Gulf South Conference, the men's tennis team has noticed that most of their meets have been with closely matched opponents. Senior Seth Bullington said most of the teams they have played this season are "on the same level" as the Bison team.

"Last year we had some really difficult and really easy matches," Bullington said. "This year the competition has been a lot more even."

In past seasons the wide variety of competition did not seem to affect the Bison, who finished with a winning record of 14-11. Scott Goode, sports information director for the university, said that last year's record marked the Bison's 26th consecutive winning season. He noted the men's team has had a winning season every year since David Elliot became head coach.

Bullington said that a winning season is common for the men's team, but this season is different because he has noticed an improvement in the team overall.

"We've always come out ahead," Bullington said. "I think that we're doing better—we're starting to progress and we're getting a lot stronger and deeper."

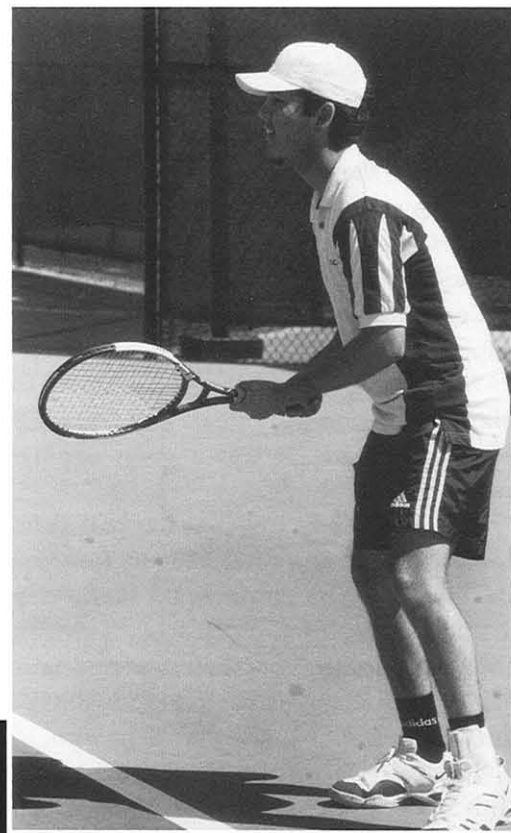
He added that team members are very supportive of each other, something that is important in a sport where players compete either as individuals in singles matches, or with one other team member in doubles matches.

According to Goode, the men's team competes in 25 to 30 matches each year with the fall matches occurring between September and early November and the spring matches taking place between mid-February and early May. He said that even though the team takes breaks from competition, they practice year round making for an "ongoing" season.

Bullington described a typical practice as "intense" and said a typical day includes running warm-ups, sprints, two hours of scrimmaging and occasional lifting.

— Casey Neese

Sophomore Jacobo Martinez waits to return a serve from the opposing player. Holding the number one spot in singles, Martinez earned Academic All-Conference honors. Photo by Mark Kinonen.



First Row: Jacobo Martinez, Seth Bullington, Klaus Shmidt, Assistant Darren Wade, Jonathan Leijen, Assistant Guillermo Hernandez. **Second Row:** John Hawkins, Igor Tamindzija, Artur Sikora, Justin John. Photo by Jeff Montgomery.

the team

Volleyball team “plays” in Alaska

When opportunity knocks, open the door.

An opportunity for the 2000 Lady Bison volleyball team to travel to Alaska knocked and was opened. The Lady Bisons traveled to Alaska to play volleyball for two days and sightsee for three days.

“The trip to Alaska was definitely the highlight of the season,” sophomore Heather Newman said. “It was a once in a lifetime trip. We had the opportunity to play volleyball and free time to sightsee.”

Coach Keith Giboney also enjoyed the trip.

“In Alaska we had the opportunity to play some good volleyball and to really bond as a team. It was a great experience,” said Giboney.

The 2000 Lady Bison volleyball team consisted of seniors Kelli Fager, Rebecca Dahlstrom, Erika Pierson and McKensey Kemmerer; sophomores Heather Newman and Leslie Hollingsworth; freshmen Shaila Farley, Lydia Kelly, Keri Jo Camp, Veronica Piech and Shathar Langston.

The Lady Bisons finished third in the Gulf South Conference with a 21-15 record for the season. According to Giboney, the team played well through the entire season.

“I was happy with the way that we started the season, and I was happy with

the way that we ended the season,” Giboney said.

For the most part, the Lady Bisons reached the team goals for the 2000 season.

“Making post season and conference was a goal completed, and I hope to build on that for the future and maybe even advance further next season,” Giboney said.

“I think that we reached our goals, but not our potential,” Fager said. “We had a lot of fun this season and we played well as a team.”

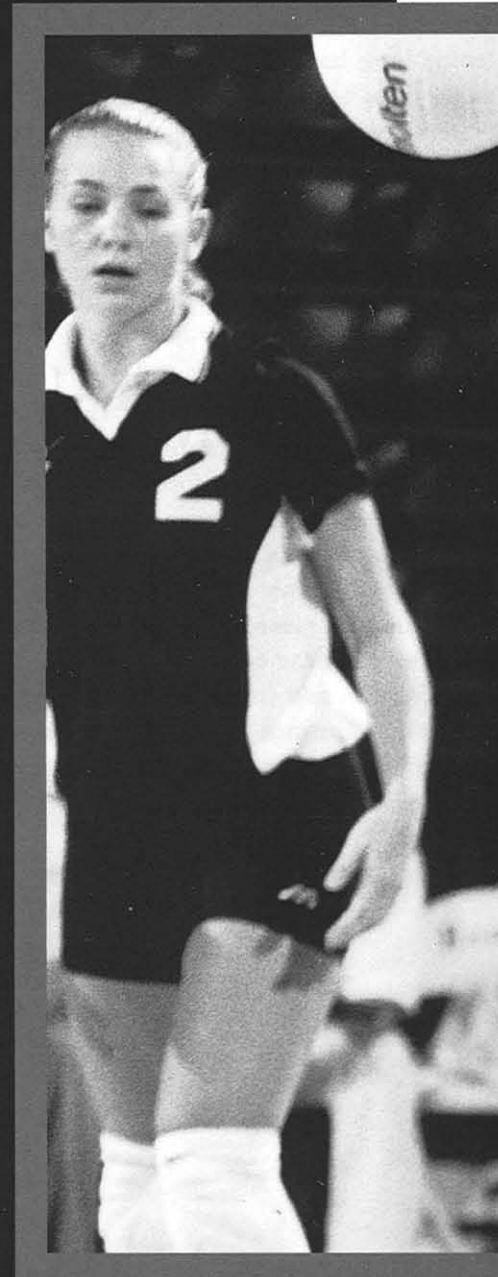
Fager joined the Lady Bisons this year after a three year career with the Lady Bison basketball team. She came in as a replacement player, helping out when there were injuries.

“I’ve always loved to play volleyball, and I missed it,” Fager said. “Becoming a member of a different team at Harding was a totally new experience for me. The girls really made me feel welcomed.”

This year’s Lady Bison team consisted of both strong senior and freshman players, which resulted in success for this season and an optimistic outlook for next season.

“We had a really good group of players this year with strong seniors and freshman,” Giboney said. “We are losing key players, but we do have a good group of strong younger players for next season.”

— Meredith Garrity

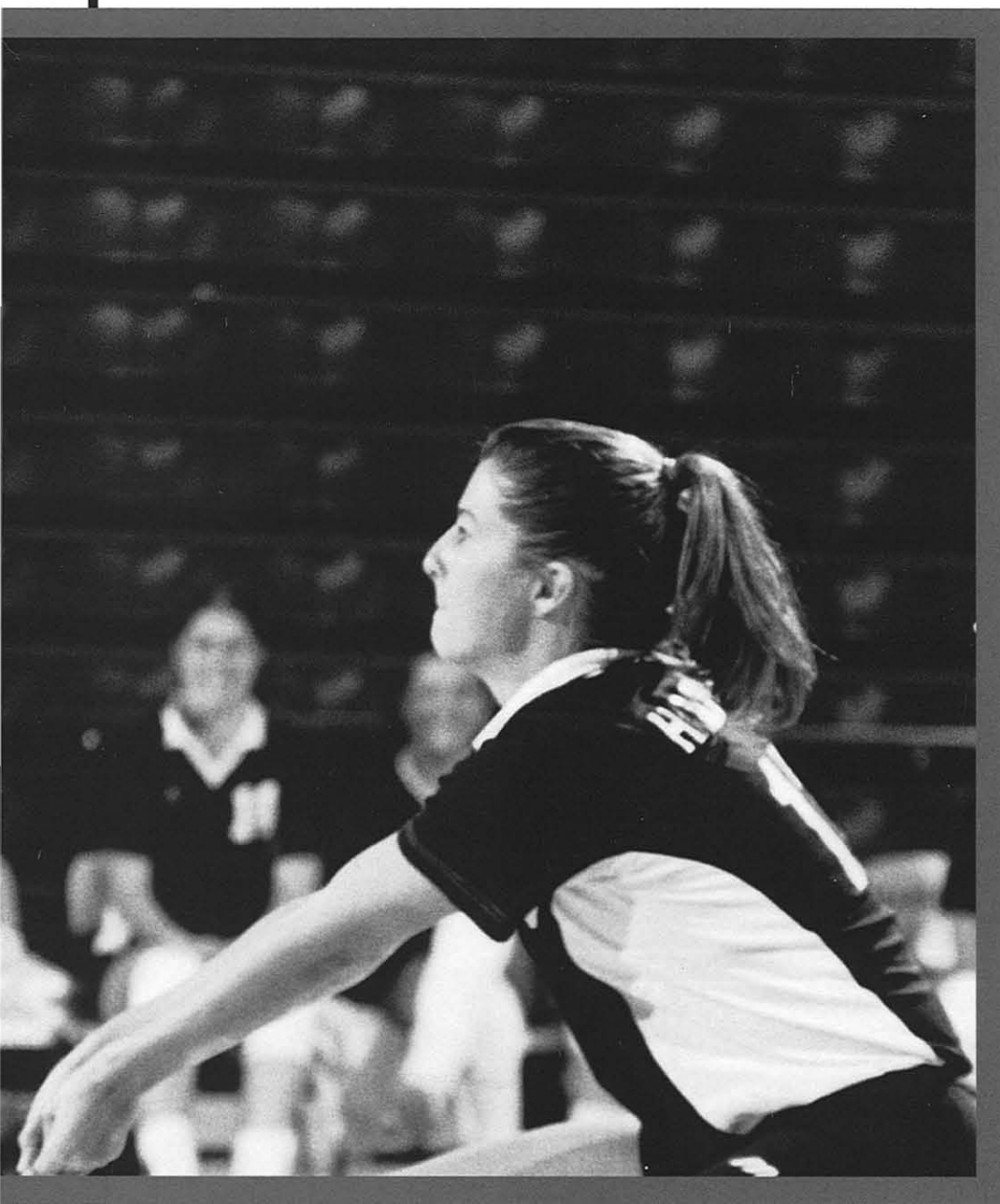


the team

First Row: Veronica Piech, Erika Pierson, Leslie Hollingsworth, Delana Keilers, Keri Jo Camp, Kelli Fager, Rebecca Dahlstrom, Lydia Kelly. **Second Row:** Coach Keith Giboney, Misty Fant, McKensey Kemmerer, Shathar Langston, Heather Newman, Shaila Farley, Mandy Hintz, Aimee Smith. Photo by Jeff Montgomery.



Volleyball

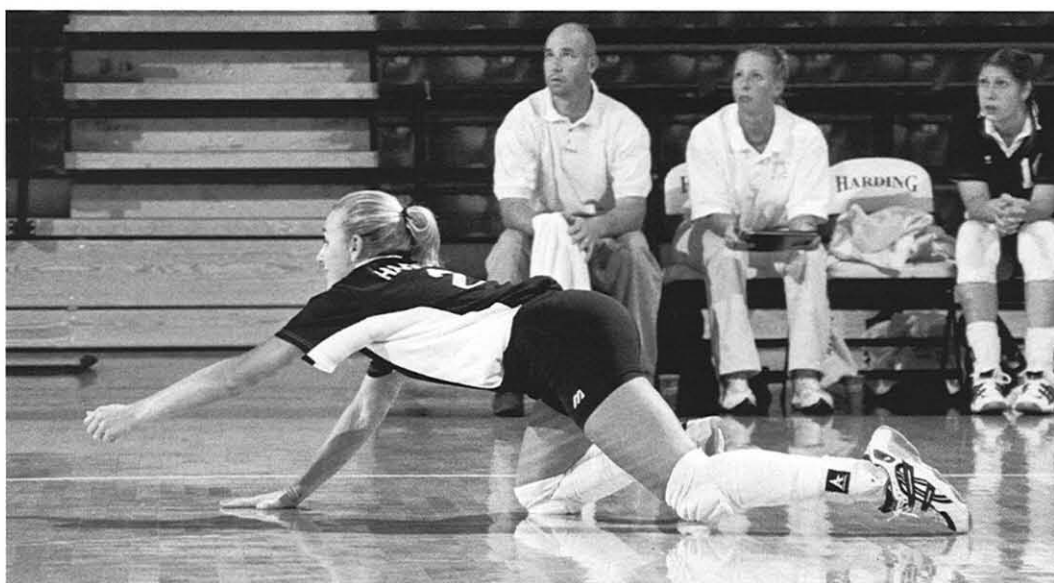


As the ball falls to her arms, freshman Shathar Langston prepares to bump to the setter. The Lady Bisons ended the season with a record of 1,900 digs and 1,939 kills. Photo by Daniel Dubois.

After spiking the ball, senior Delana Keilers falls back into position to prepare for the next play. Keilers led the Lady Bisons with eight kills against Central Arkansas, clenching the victory. Photo by Daniel Dubois.



Freshman Veronica Piech and senior Delana Keilers join the team as they prepare and encourage each other for the next set. The Lady Bisons finished their first year in the Gulf South Conference with a record of 21-16. Photo by Ashlee Johnson.



Diving to her knees, freshman Shaila Farley reaches for the dig. Farley helped the Lady Bisons win their first home conference match by leading the offense with 19 kills and the defense with 15 digs. Photo by Daniel Dubois.

Season of changes and improvements

The 2000 Bison baseball team made a solid improvement in the Lone Star Conference, finishing with a record of 24-21. This was an improvement from their record of .500 in the 1999 season. Much of the Bisons' success can be attributed to the play of junior Jeris Noye, who led the team in hitting with a .352 batting average and six home runs for the year.

"We were expecting a great season for 2000, and we had a very solid season with a pretty good group of upperclassmen who played well in a tough conference," Coach Shane Fullerton said.

The team experienced several changes this year, including their lineup. Fullerton explained that the team should be able to achieve an improved chemistry, and he is looking forward to seeing what the new freshmen and transfer students are going to be able to do.

Another major change for the Bisons this year was the addition of Ryan Rana, the new assistant coach. The Bisons were excited about the experience that Rana brought to the team as well as the work he was able to do with the pitchers.

In addition to the new assistant coach, the

Bisons participated in a new conference this year, the Gulf South Conference. This was exciting for the team and the fans as their games were closer to home, Fullerton said.

"All of the teams in the conference except for two are in Arkansas; this is good since we don't have to travel as much, and it will create more rivalry," graduate assistant Nate Watson said.

Fullerton believes that in joining the new conference, the team has a greater chance of competing and making the playoffs.

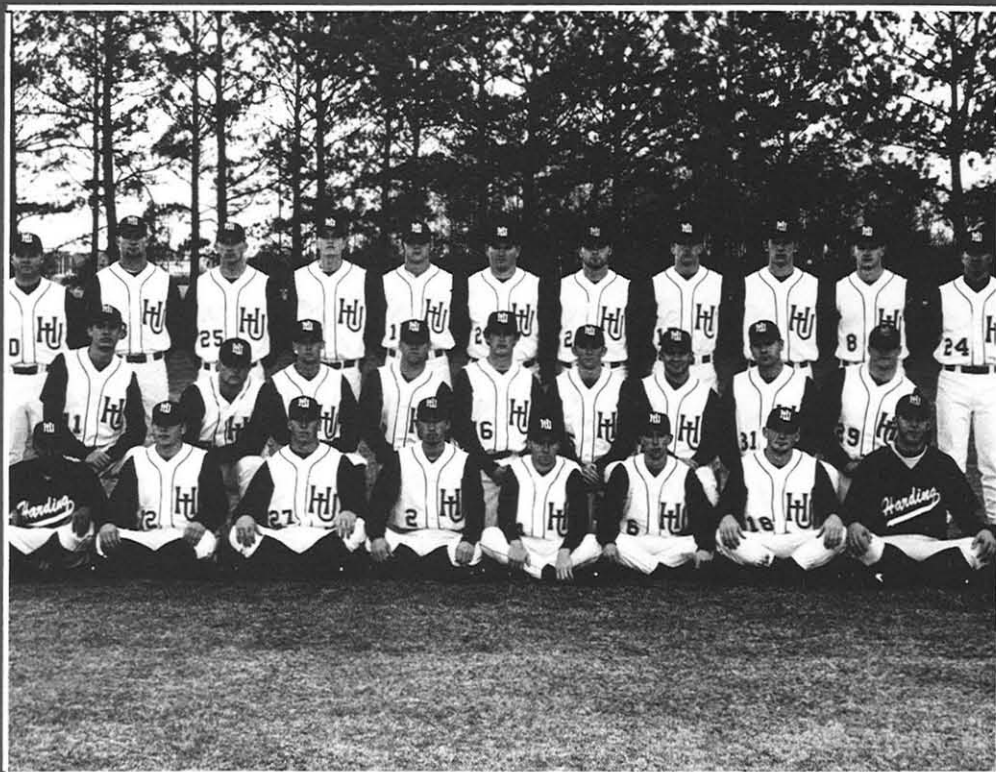
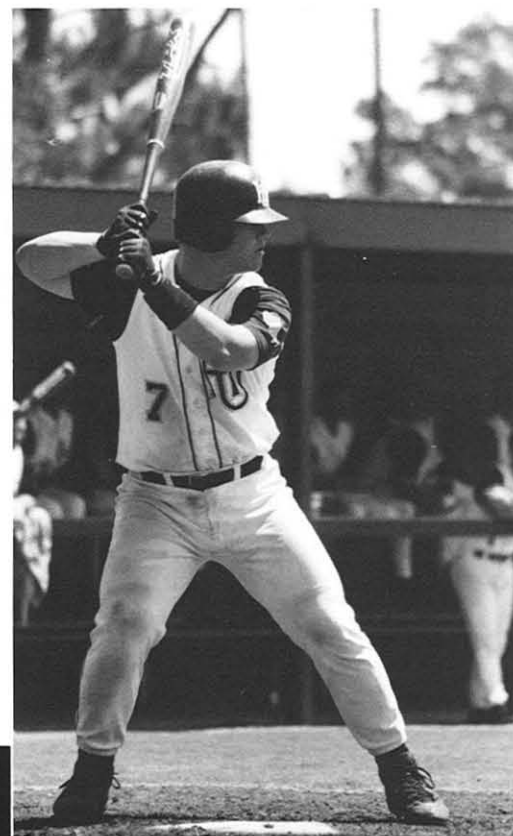
There were also many improvements made to the baseball field over the summer. New sod, infield clay and dugouts were added, making Jerry Moore Field look more professional.

The highlight for the players and the fans, however, was the new scoreboard that went up during the summer of 2000.

"The whole field just has a better atmosphere that will create a more enjoyable season, both for the fans and the players," senior Mike Huebner said. "Plus, the fans can actually tell the score now."

— Sarah Madden

Waiting for his pitch, freshman Gary Albritton finds his stance. Albritton was one of the catchers for this year's team. Photo by Mark Kinonen.



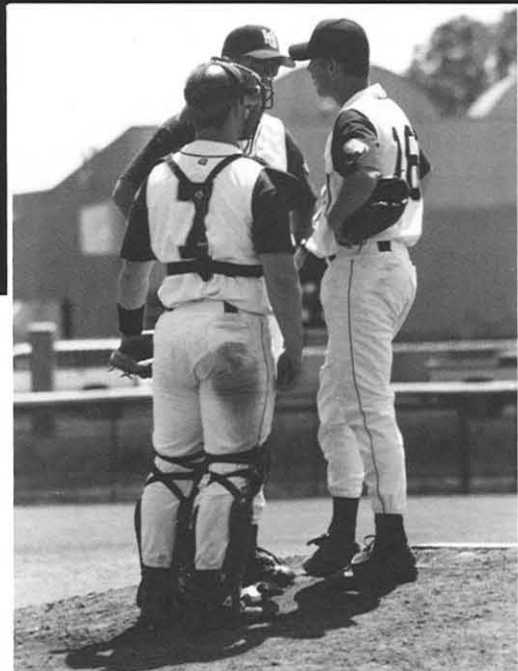
First Row: Jason Redd, Cliff Collins, Jarrod Smith, Eric Chin, Troy Wolfe, Barry Finnie, Stephen Smith, Jeff Bolen **Second Row:** Ryan Lee, J.D. Noye, Seth Watson, Gary Albritton, Nate Watson, Matthew Bassing, Matt Wilson, Mike Huebner, Ben James. **Third Row:** Coach Shane Fullerton, Matt Thomas, Kenny Sprenger, Michael Wallace, Matt Walter, Grant Andrews, Rodney Cloud, Grant Tonick, Jon Neely, Phill Gisel, Assistant Coach Nathan Blackwood. Not pictured: Manager Zac Lambrecht, Brian Gifford, Alan Seim, Jake Turner. Photo by Jeff Montgomery.

the team



Releasing his pitch, junior Nate Watson looks for the strike out. Watson finished the season with a record of 5-5. Photo by Mark Kinonen.

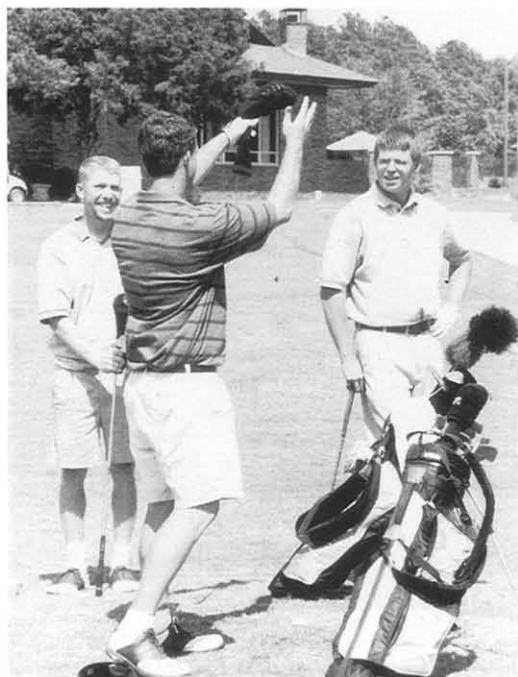
Bison players watch intently as one of their teammates goes to bat. The team ended play in the Lone Star Conference with a record of 11-12-1. Photo by Mark Kinonen.



Junior Nate Watson and freshman Gary Albritton gather at the mound to discuss their next play strategy with a fellow teammate. This year the Bison team experienced a new lineup and improved field conditions. Photo by Mark Kinonen.

Focusing on the green, senior Stan Short prepares to hit a line drive. Short shot a 166 in his two rounds of play in the Burris Inc. Collegiate Golf Classic. Photo by Mark Kinonen.

After hitting the ball, sophomore Jared Smith looks for an easy putt. Smith tied for 15th at the Freed Hardeman Invitational with a 160. Photo by Mark Kinonen.



Senior Stan Short, and sophomores Jeff Powell and Jared Smith enjoy a laugh on the golf course. The team finished fourth in the season opener at the Doyle Wallace Classic, hosted by Henderson State University. Photo by Mark Kinonen.



With his eyes on the ball, sophomore Jeff Powell begins to follow through with his swing. Powell tied for 16th place at the Lone Star Conference Championship with a two-round total of 156. Photo by Mark Kinonen.

Going strong, looking to future

Golf – the little-known, often misunderstood sport equated with power lunches, country clubs, old men and polo shirts. After all, how many people really understand a sport where you try not to score points?

However, in recent years, golf's popularity as a whole has grown.

The Harding University golf team consisted of six men who contributed their individual techniques at each of the tournaments.

The members of the golf team were seniors Richie Whaley and Stan Short, juniors Jeff Powell and Jared Lillard, sophomore Jared Smith and freshman Aaron Farley. The team was led by head coach Nicky Boyd.

The golf team is different from other sports teams because they play in tournaments rather than games. The tournaments are typically held in locations other than Searcy. Traveling to the different tournaments is something the players enjoy doing.

"It was really exciting for me to play a tournament in my hometown of Memphis because my family was able to come and watch," Whaley said.

"It was fun traveling to different tournaments, especially spending time in Dallas for the Lone Star Conference tournament," Lillard said.

The spring season began with an inspiring fourth place finish in the Doyle Wallace

Classic hosted by Henderson State University. Short's low score of 76 led the Bisons to a final score of 314.

The team finished eighth out of 11 in the Burris Inc. Collegiate Classic and seventh out of nine in the Christian Brothers University tournament.

The Freed Hardeman Invitational ended the season on a high note. Farley, the newest addition to the team, led them to a remarkable season end with an individual fourth place finish, resulting in a third place finish for the men's golf team.

"We had an awful first day, but we came back in the last round and finished with the third lowest score," Whaley said.

"The Freed Hardeman tournament was the best finish for the year," Boyd said. "We played our best and it was encouraging."

The men's golf team finished eighth in the Lone Star Conference Championship and played at the Texas Star golf course in Dallas, Texas.

Smith made the Lone Star Academic Team, and Powell was MVP with the lowest stroke average.

Next season the golf team will be competing in the Gulf South tournament.

"I am looking forward to the 2000-2001 golf season," Boyd said. "With new additions to the team and strong returning players, I feel we can improve in the new Gulf South Conference."

—Meredith Garrity

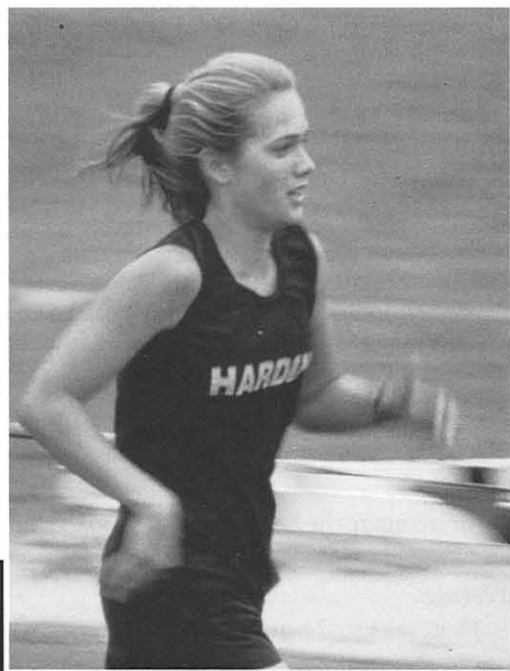


Sophomore Jared Smith and senior Stan Short practice their putting skills as sophomore Jeff Powell looks on. Members of the golf team were: Aaron Farley, Greg Ramer, Jason Harding, Stan Short, Richie Whaley, Jared Lillard, Wes Pugh, Jared Smith and Jeff Powell. Photo by Mark Kinonen.

Women's Track

With all of her effort, junior Tia Tarole runs for the home stretch. Tarole placed ninth in 1500 meter run at the Memphis Big Cat Classic. Photo by Mark Kinonen.

Sophomore Britney Copeland paces herself during a race. Copeland had an impressive run at the Broncho Indoor Invitational, finishing second in the mile and second in the 3,000 meters. Photo by Mark Kinonen.



Sophomores Elizabeth Lucas and Britney Copeland run within feet of each other in order to finish at the same time. Lucas placed third in the Big Cat Classic and Copeland took sixth place. Photo by Mark Kinonen.



New conference brings little change

The 2000 Lady Bison track team was small in number but big in spirit. The team, mostly made up of distance runners, competed in 12 meets, four indoor and three outdoor.

Three members of the team placed second in their respective events in the Lonestar Conference Meet. Senior Sheri Etheridge placed second in the 3,000 meter; junior Britney Copeland was second in the 5,000 meter, and junior Elizabeth Lucas finished second in the 10,000 meter.

Senior Erin Elliot had an impressive fifth place finish in the 400-meter low hurdles. Coach Bryan Phillips was impressed by the performance of freshman, two-sport athlete Susan Berry. Berry, a Lady Bisons basketball player, qualified for the finals in the 400 meters at the conference meet.

"Several members of the team beat their personal best times more than once," Phillips said. "Britney Copeland beat her personal best in the 3,000 meter three times."

The athletic department's move to the

Gulf South Conference this season will have a minimal effect on the scheduling of Lady Bisons' track meets, Phillips said.

"There will not be many changes with the team schedule next season. There are only eight track teams in the Gulf South Conference and there is not a conference meet," Phillips said. "In track you qualify for nationals by successfully running a set time, so not having a conference meet will not change our chances of having a successful season."

The team will have two new additions next season. Finnish runner, Hanna Ritakallio will transfer to Harding from Tulane University.

She has competed in the 800 meter and 1,500 meter in the Finnish National Championships.

Another team addition is Kenyan runner, Janet Kogo. Janet has competed in the 3,000 meter in the Kenyan National Championships.

— Mac Bell

Pushing to get ahead, freshman Susan Berry looks to beat the competition. Berry finished eighth in the 400 Meter Dash at the Big Cat Classic with a time of 1:00.44. Photo by Mark Kinonen.



First Row: Bershard Tillman, Freddy Frazier, Willis Britton, Kevin Roberts, Larry Holliman, Tia Tarole, Jacob Smith, Amy Elliot. **Second Row:** David Scharff, Albert Tabut, Rayshun Taylor, Santiago Collins, Michael Summers, Chris Brainard, Elizabeth Lucas, Britney Copeland, Erin Elliot, Scott Penick. **Third Row:** Bryan Rampey, Josh Kirby, Jason Vines, Japheth Langat, Jerry Maritim, Carl Williamson, Andrew Scharff, Linus Chepkwony, Richard Ashlock, Chris Dobbs, Adam Crane, Olli Haavikko, Diane Grubbs. Not pictured: Mike Dominski, Gary Luna. Photo by Jeff Montgomery.

the team

Women's Track
Athletics

Keeping a competitive edge

For the men's track team, the major obstacle that had to be overcome during last year's season was not physical, but mental.

Coach Bryan Phillips said the problem was not meeting qualifying times for national meets, but keeping a competitive edge on the eve of this year's switch from the NCAA Division II Lone Star Conference to the division's Gulf South Conference.

"The idea of changing conferences kind of took the edge off because we were thinking 'We aren't going to run against these guys next year,'" Phillips said.

In the LSC individuals qualified for the national track meet based on their performances at the annual conference meet.

Although the GSC does not hold a conference meet, Phillips said the change did not pose a problem since qualification for the national meet is based on times recorded throughout the year.

Senior Jerry Maritim was one of two team members to qualify for last year's national meet, representing the men in the 3,000 meter steeplechase.

The steeplechase is an event in which competitors run seven and a half laps around the track while jumping a number of hurdles, including a hurdle located in front of a water-filled obstacle.

"The race is, at best, challenging and, at worst, grueling," junior David Scharff said.

"There's nothing in track like it," said

Scharff who, during the regular season, competed in the steeplechase alongside Maritim. "By the end of the race you're soaking wet and exhausted. I love it, though."

Senior Albert Tabut was the second team member to qualify for nationals, competing in the 800 meter run.

Last season's team included a number of Bison football players. Sophomores Willis Britton and Santiago Collins, junior Rayshun Taylor and senior Bershard Tillman composed the 4x100 meter relay team. Phillips said that an all football player relay team was unique since most collegiate 4x100 meter relay teams include only two or three football players.

Regardless of how unique the relay team was, the quartet seemed to have the formula for success, qualifying for the prestigious Drake Relays held last spring in Des Moines, Iowa. Phillips said the relay team's performance was remarkable.

Since all four members were involved with football practice during the summer and fall months, they were able to train with the track team for only half of the year.

Phillips said last season maintained the Bisons' tradition of strong track performances.

"I think the men's team was the strongest it's been in quite some time," Phillips said.

— Casey Neese

Propelling himself several feet into the air, freshman Mike Dominski falls on the other side of the bar without a problem. Dominski, this year's only pole vaulter, had a top outdoor performance record of 12-6. Photo by Mark Kinonen.

The men's track team photo can be found on page 255 with the women's team.

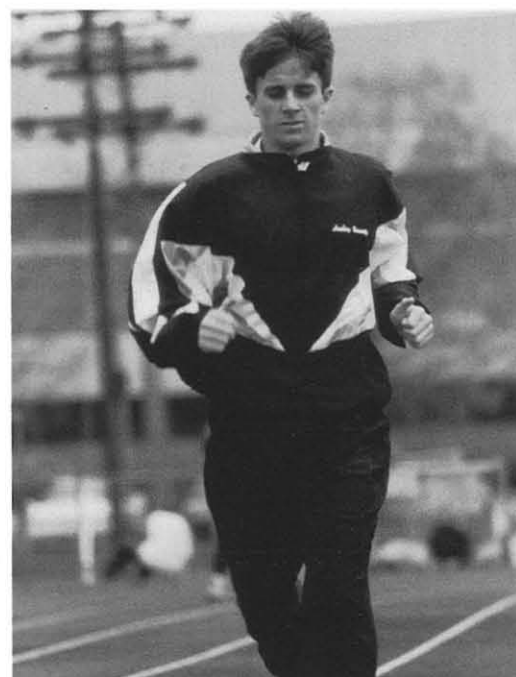


Men's Track



With the runners gathered around, Coach David Elliott discusses their schedules for the track meet. This was the team's last year to compete in the NCAA Division II Lone Star Conference. Photo by Mark Kinonen.

Freshman Gary Luna pushes himself towards the finish line. Luna took fifth place at the Memphis Big Cat Classic in the 800 meters. Photo by Mark Kinonen.



Freshman Jacob Smith warms up before a race. Smith competed in the UAPB Indoor Invitational, running the 3,000 meter race. Photo by Mark Kinonen.



In full stride, senior Jerry Maritim sprints toward the end of the race. Maritim, a native of Kenya, Africa, won the 3,000 meter steeplechase at UT-Arlington with a time of 9:23:60, his first outdoor season win. Photo by Mark Kinonen.

Lady Bisons bring first GSC championship

Going into the 2000 cross-country season as newcomers in the Gulf South Conference, the Lady Bisons had quite a reputation to live up to. Last year, the women won the Lone Star Conference Championship and qualified for Nationals in the toughest region in the United States. They then went on to place 12th at Nationals.

With four seniors graduating, there was room for many new faces. Only four runners remained from the previous season: senior Tia Tarole, juniors Britney Copeland and Sara Treat and sophomore Amy Elliot. Newcomers to the team were sophomore Hanna Ritakallio from Finland, freshmen Janet Kogo from Kenya, Sarah Reeser from Texas and Sarah Reardon from New Hampshire.

The team traveled to the following meets: OBU (placed 1st), Missouri Southern, Vanderbilt, Rhodes (placed 1st), Conference at the university of Huntsville (placed 1st), Regionals at Northern Florida

(placed 2nd) and Nationals at Cal-State University.

Ritakallio led the Lady Bisons the entire year winning four out of the seven meets. She was the GSC Individual Champion and received the honor of All-American. Kogo ran second for the team receiving the honors of 1st team All-Conference and All-Region.

"A definite high point of the season was when the guys' and girls' teams both won conference," Tarole said. "We knew that it would be very close and everyone's place would count."

The team won Harding's first GSC Championship. They received 2nd at the regional meet, missing first by only three points. The Lady Bisons qualified to run at the national cross-country meet, which was in Pomona, Calif.

The girls talked about going to Nationals from the start of the season. It was a tough season with many ups and downs, but the team worked together to meet their goals.

— Britney Copeland

With half the race behind her, sophomore Sara Treat focuses on the end. The Lady Bisons took first place at the Gulf South Conference Championships with a score of 44. Photo by Daniel Dubois.



First Row: Janet Kogo, Sarah Reardon, Britney Copeland, Sara Treat, Amy Elliot, Tia Tarole, Sarah Reeser, Hanna Ritakallio. **Second Row:** John Bob McFarland, Carl Williamson, Linus Chepkwony, Dustin Knudsen, David Scharff, Scott Penick, Scott Wietecha, Andrew Scharff, Olli Haavikko. Not pictured is Japheth Langat. Photo by Jeff Montgomery.

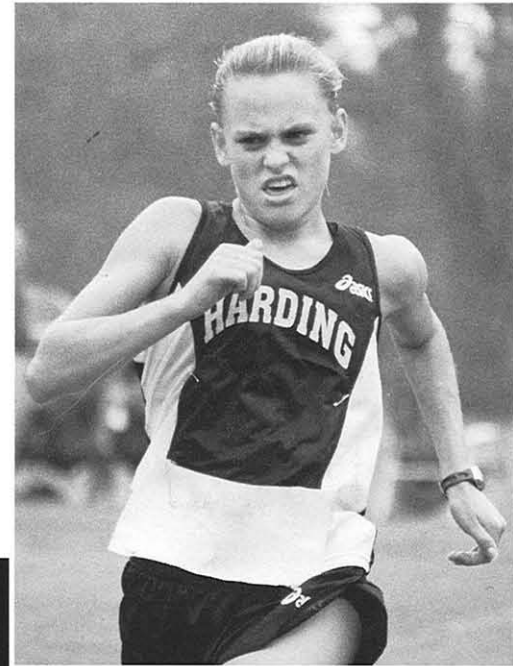
the team

Women's Cross Country



Sophomore Hanna Ritakallio pushes herself towards the finish line. Ritakallio finished first place in four of the seven meets. Photo by Daniel Dubois.

Freshman Sarah Reardon strives to finish an intense race. Reardon took sixth place at the Bob Gravette Invitational with a time of 20:01.9. Photo by Daniel Dubois.

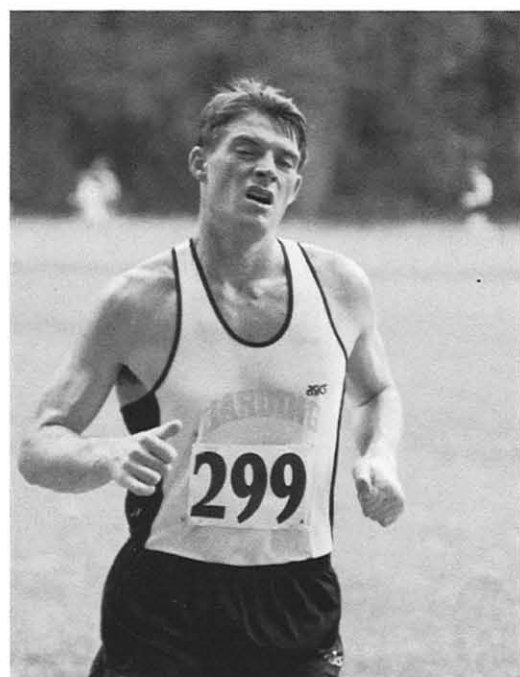
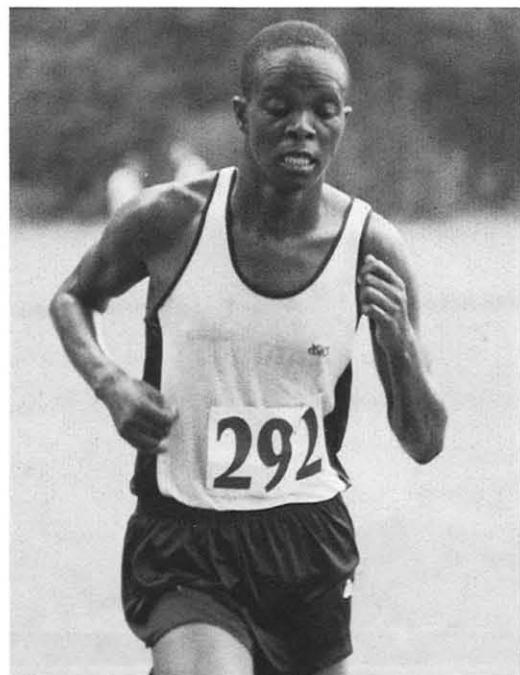


With glowing confidence, freshman Janet Kogo paces herself. Kogo clutched second at both the Bob Gravette and Rhodes Invitational. Photo by Daniel Dubois.

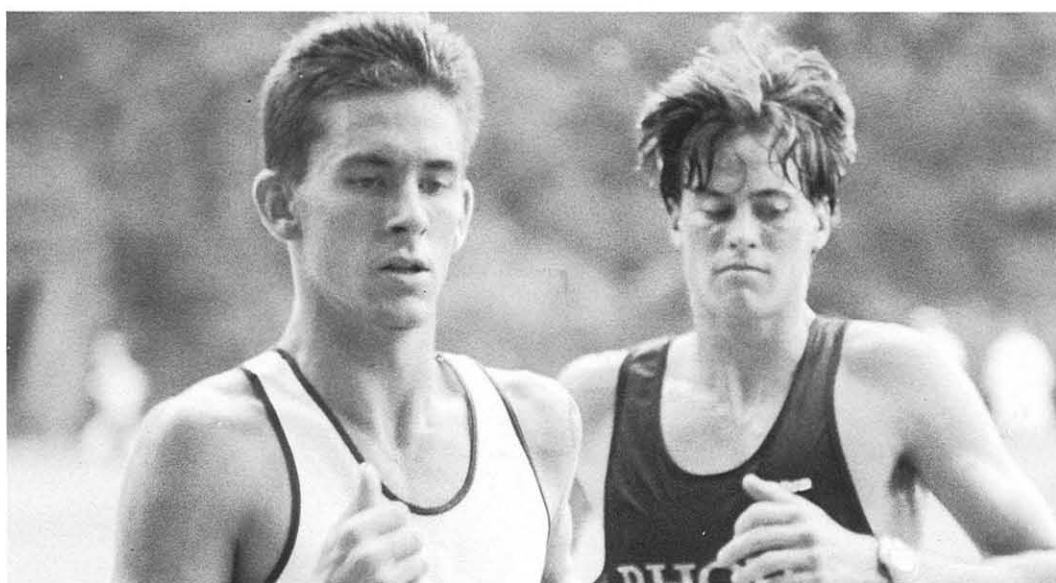
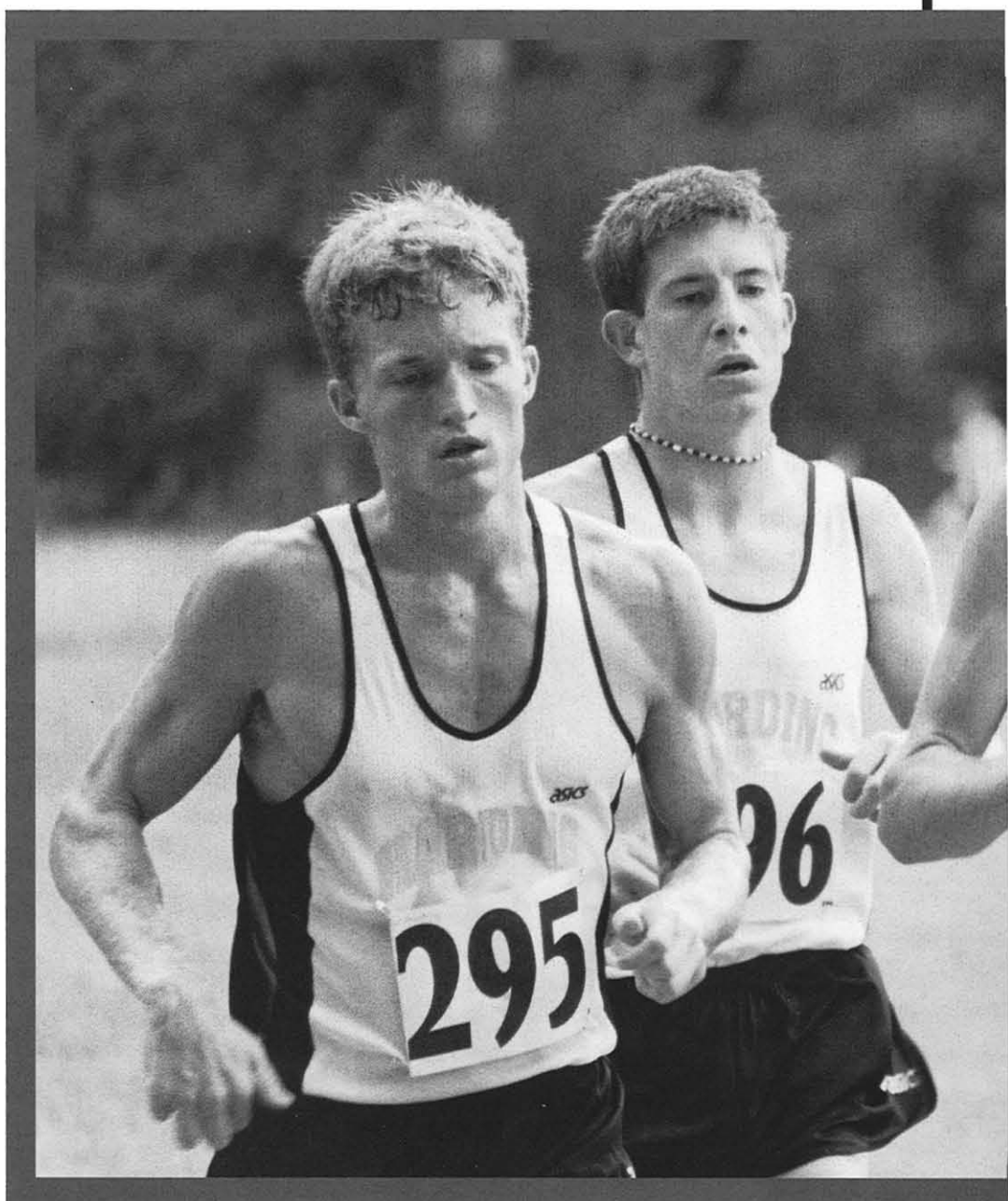
Men's Cross Country

Keeping the pace, senior Scott Penick and juniors David and Andrew Scharff run side-by-side. The trio placed in the top 10 at the Bob Gravette Invitational. Photo by Daniel Dubois.

With all of his effort, senior Linus Chepkwony runs for the finish line. Chepkwony finished first at the Gulf South Conference Championship with a time of 25:48.4. Photo by Daniel Dubois.



Exhausted, sophomore Carl Williamson pushes himself to the end. Williamson finished 31st of 108 runners at the Rhodes Invitational with a time of 28:05.0. Photo by Daniel Dubois.



Sophomore Dustin Knudsen pushes ahead of his opponent. Knudsen finished the Rhodes Invitational in Memphis with a time of 26:34.0, giving him a fifth place victory. Photo by Daniel Dubois.

Team secures a solid season

Solid.

It was a word used over and over again to describe the 2000 men's cross country team. In the end, it was this attribute that led them to a string of victories this season.

Unlike previous years, no one outstanding runner carried the team to its top finishes. Instead, their wins came from a strong core of competitors who scored consistently well from meet to meet. According to Coach Bryan Phillips, they owed much of their success to this characteristic.

"The team had great depth," Phillips said. "We didn't have one outstanding runner. We had our top six finishing within a minute of each other. It makes a huge difference when you have a team like that."

The season marked the Bison runners' debut in the Gulf South Conference. Being new to the conference served as a great motivator for many veteran team members.

"It was a big source of motivation because we knew we had a shot at winning the conference," junior Andrew Scharff said. "We went from being the underdogs to being the big dogs. When we were in the Lone Star Conference, we knew we didn't stand a chance against Abilene [Christian University]."

As predicted, they easily captured the conference championship in Huntsville, Ala. Two weeks later, in Jacksonville, Fla., they walked away with the regional championship as well. While the team

relished these impressive titles, they felt the lack of competition at these levels hurt their performance at the national meet in Pomona, Calif., where they finished 12th overall.

"It weakened us on a national level because we knew we would walk away with conference and regionals," senior Scott Penick said. "The lack of a challenge at those levels hurt us when we got to nationals, and we weren't prepared to go up against teams that were that good."

The team's performance this season did receive an unexpected boost from Phillips' new graduate assistant, Olli Haavikko.

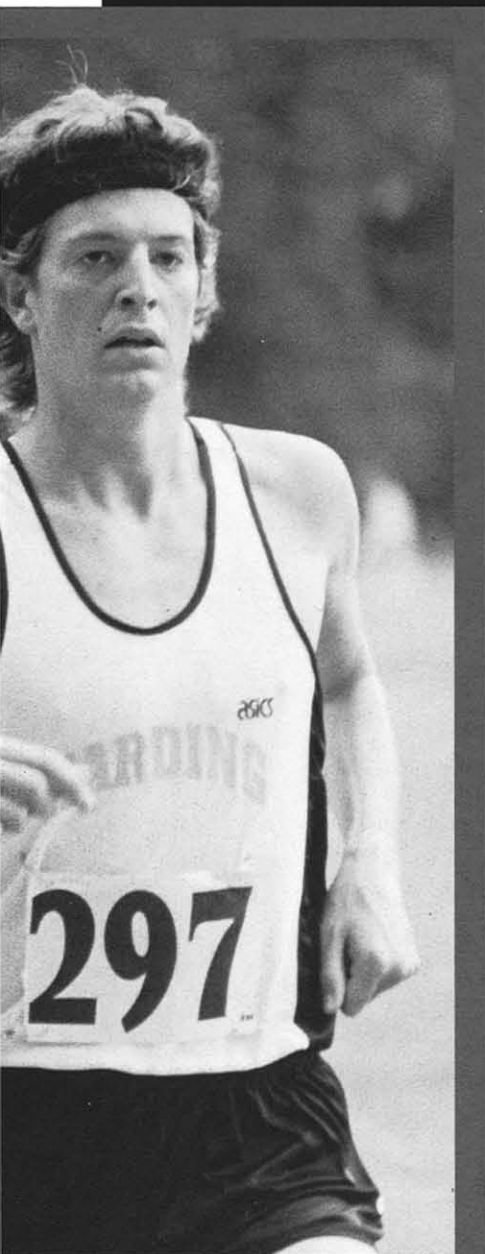
A former professional athlete from Finland, Haavikko accompanied the team on many of its workouts and training runs.

"It's nice to have a coach who can train with you," Penick said. "Sometimes it's easier to talk to him than to coach Phillips because he's more like a friend than a coach. He also does the workouts with us, so he knows what we're going through."

Their new-found success gave the team high ambitions for next year when all of the team's top seven runners will return to compete again.

"As a team, I'd like to see us finish in the top five at nationals," Penick said. "I think we can get third if everything goes right, but I've learned not to count on anything until it happens."

— Sara Hardesty



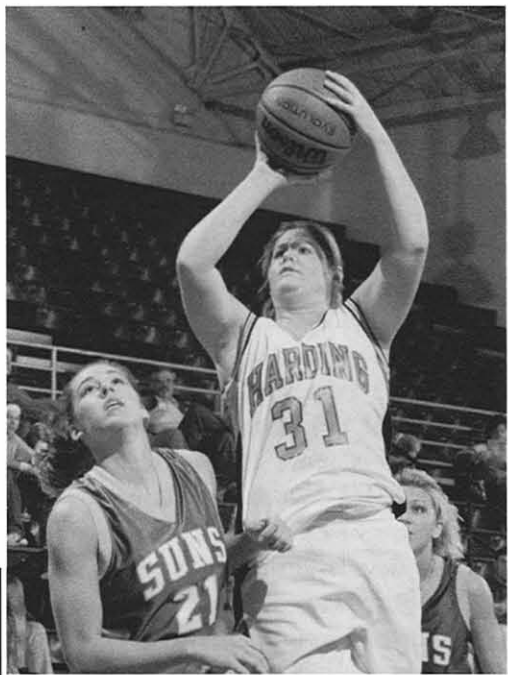
Senior Linus Chepkwony and freshman Scott Wietecha take time out for rest during one of the meets. The Harding team placed first in the 8k Bob Gravette Invitational in Arkadelphia, Ark.

The men's cross country team photo can be found on page 258 with the women's team.

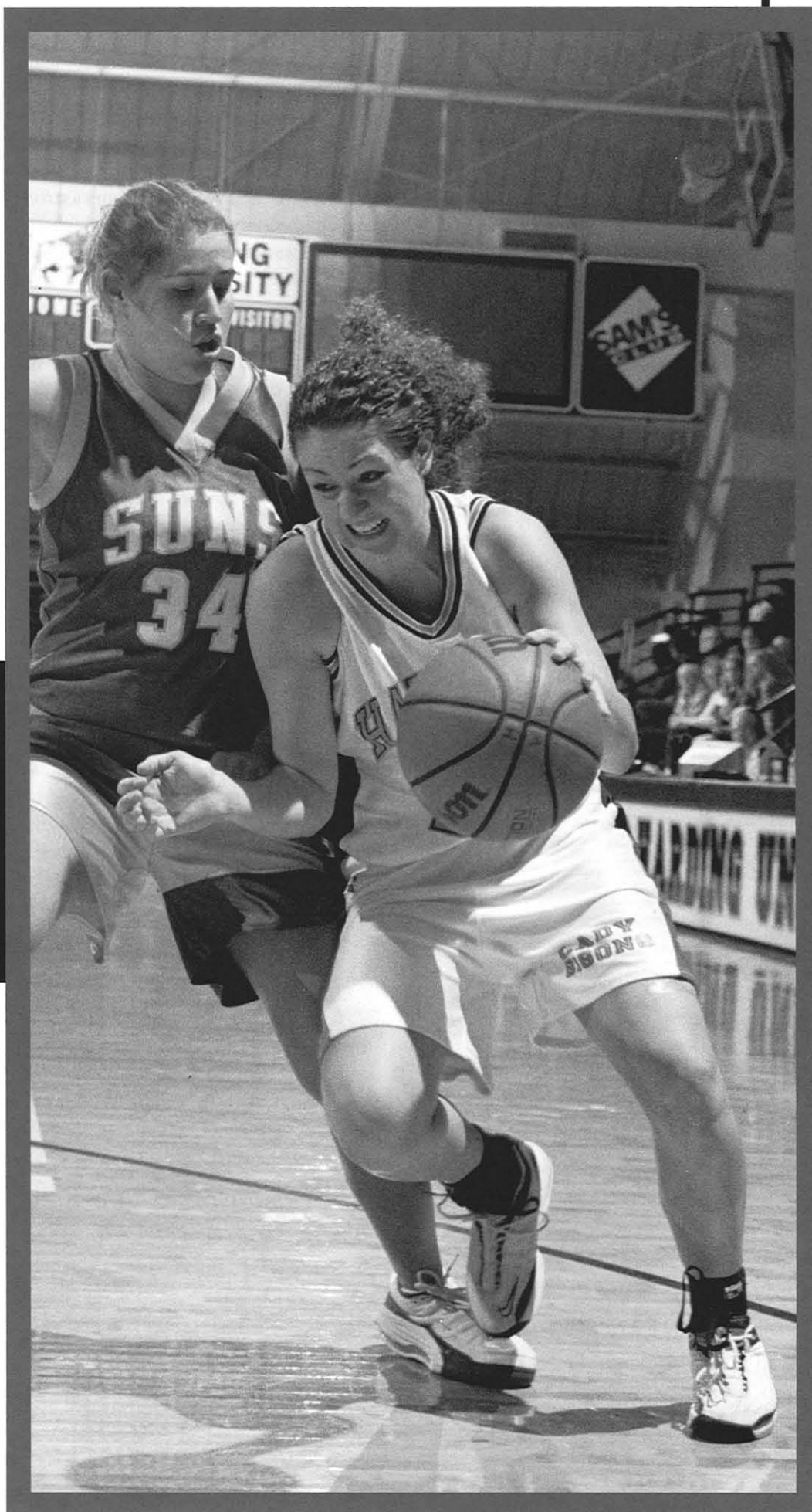
Women's Basketball

Driving the ball down the court, senior Josie Anderson pushes past her opponent. Anderson was a key inside player for the Lady Bisons. Photo by Daniel Dubois.

Without worrying about the defense, senior Stephanie Davis takes her shot. Davis led the team with 15 points in the blowout win against Central Baptist, Dec. 4, 2000. Photo by Daniel Dubois.



Sophomore Heather Lawrence towers over the defense as they attempt to block her shot. Lawrence helped the Lady Bisons defeat Arkansas-Monticello, Feb. 1, 2001, with her 11 points and 8 rebounds. Photo by Daniel Dubois.



Key players improve roster and bring good season

The Lady Bisons charged the Rhodes Field House this year with fighting spirit and contagious excitement. They worked hard and saw their work pay off, not only on the floor but also in coming together as a team. Focus, dedication and endurance carried them through another season of basketball.

Seniors Krista Anderson, Stephanie Davis, Josie Anderson and Jennifer Williams led the Lady Bisons on and off the court. J. Anderson and Williams were a dominating force inside, scoring valuable points and holding more than their own defensively.

Davis was invaluable in seeing the floor and reading the defense. While point guard K. Anderson expertly ran the floor and set the pace for the fast, physical games that worked well for the Lady Bisons.

Several key freshmen were added to the roster this year including Anne Foulkes, Shay French, Lauren Hickmon, Elizabeth Woodroof and red shirt Jennifer Andrews. These girls provided great enthusiasm for the game and showed tremendous potential for future leadership.

The upperclassmen were impressed with their level of play and continued improvement.

"I am impressed with the adjustment that they have made both on and off the court," sophomore Susan Berry said.

Despite some untimely injuries that plagued the team, several individuals courageously rose to the occasion to aid the team. When junior point guard Mindy Napier was sidelined with a knee injury, the team was able to maintain their level of play with much help from players such as junior Kendra Bell and sophomore Heather Lawrence.

"Our season went very well," K. Anderson said. "It has been a good senior year, and I am happy with the way that I am going out. I cannot be disappointed about it at all."

Throughout the season, the team constantly improved and strove to keep God as their focus. Even during the hard losses, the Lady Bisons exemplified the attitude of true sportsmanship.

—Regena Bullard and Kristin Grile

Seeing a teammate with an opportunity for a shot, senior Krista Anderson passes the ball. Anderson led the team from the point guard position. Photo by Daniel Dubois.



First Row: Lauren Hickmon, Kendra Bell, Heather Lawrence, Jennifer Andrews. **Second Row:** Elizabeth Woodroof, Krista Anderson, Anne Fowlkes, Mindy Napier, Stephanie Davis, Vallon Williams. **Third Row:** Coach Brad Francis, Susan Berry, Jennifer Williams, Josie Anderson, Michia French, Asst. Coach Stephen Burks. Photo by Jeff Montgomery.

the team

Keeping focus after shaky start

Basketball is a game played on a hard-wood floor 94 feet long and 50 feet wide, but sometimes the things that happen on the court are affected by circumstances the fans don't see in the games, things no one can predict.

With the death of Coach Jeff Morgan's mother 10 days before the basketball season started, the Bisons dealt with a tremendous blow.

"This is the hardest year I have personally ever had to deal with," Morgan said. "These things just happened and it was a struggle to keep a focus on things. Still, it did not defeat our expectations for the year and what we had to do."

In December, the Bisons suffered another setback as they had to play through three games without their head coach. Coach Morgan was having pain in his back due to discs pressing on his spinal nerves and was forced by doctors to lie in bed and miss some of the action.

"The hardest thing was to just lie there in bed, not able to move and not able to be at the games," he said. "When I was feeling better, I tried to sit through a game so I could bounce ideas off of coach Kirby (assistant coach), but the pain was so bad I had to leave."

A normal beginning to the season was out of reach, but the players began to rally around their coach. Despite what had happened in

the past month, his players still remained positive and focused on their task.

"Whenever you have a close family of 14 or 15 guys like we have, there is a trickle-down effect, and every guy wants to do his best to help the team," senior Armand Etame said.

Morgan credited the success of his young, eager team to their willingness to mature during the season and learn their own rules on the court. He admitted that in the beginning things were a little shaky, but the situation improved greatly.

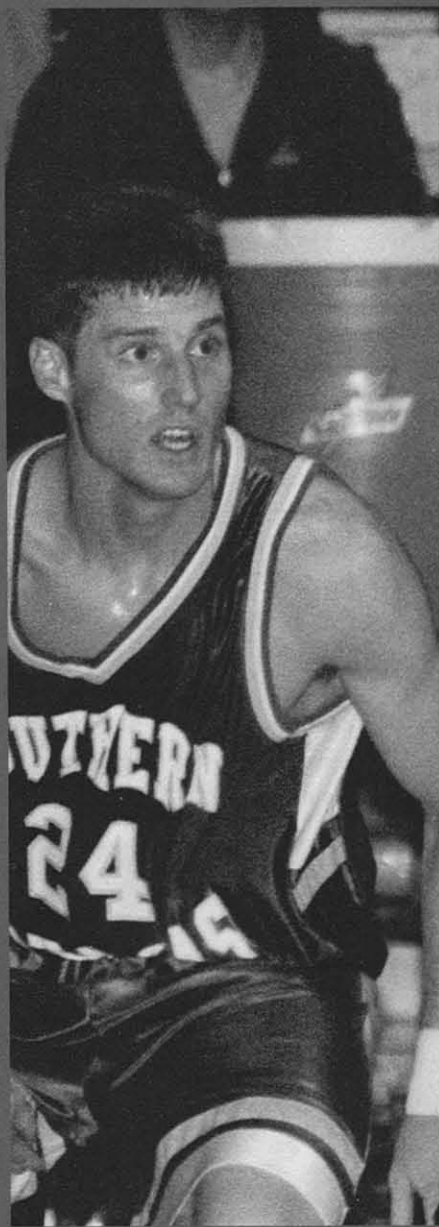
The Bisons only lost three senior players this year—seniors Etame, Dwayne McDonald and Danny Jeune.

The Rhodes Rowdies will be relying on the play making of super-trio Aaron Farley, Jay Brogdon and Michael Jackson, who will all be juniors next year.

Though the Bisons missed the Conference Tournament this season with a 10-10 record (as of Feb. 12), 5-7 in conference play, the Bisons seemed ready to make a strong push in the 2002 season once they made a few key recruiting moves.

"We really need a couple of big men and a big defensive stopper," Morgan said. "I like the way we'll look if we get these guys with our group that will be coming back next year. The future looks bright."

—Ryan Kirksey



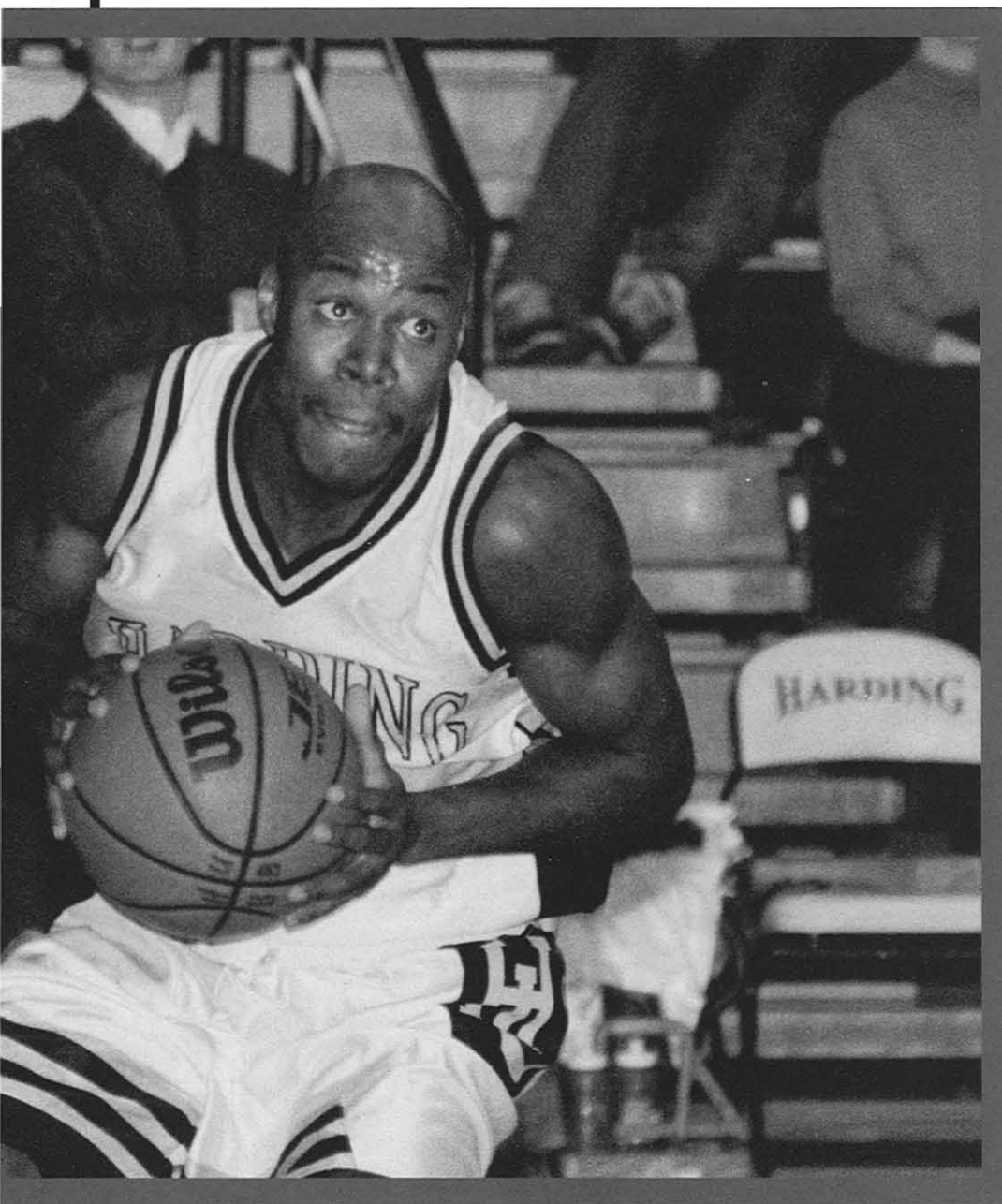
the team

First Row: Zachary Kirby, Mitchell Kirby.

Second Row: Stephen Marx, Jason McGinty, Adam Langston, Chase Melder, Aaron Farley, Darren McCrillis, Joe Merillat, Danny Jeune, Bruce Warren, Joey Pruitt. **Third Row:** Coach Jeff Morgan, Dwayne Elliott, Michael Jackson, Jay Brogdon, Ashley Buford, Armand Etame, Dwayne McDonald, Chad Ware, Datron Wilson, Asst. Coach Tim Kirby. Photo by Jeff Montgomery.

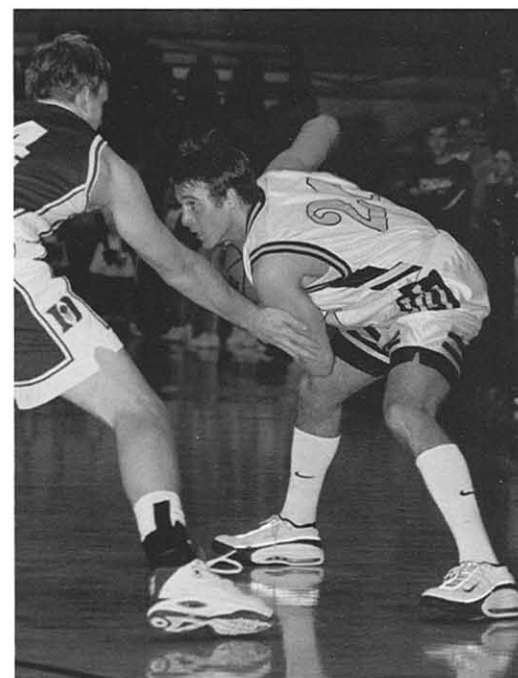
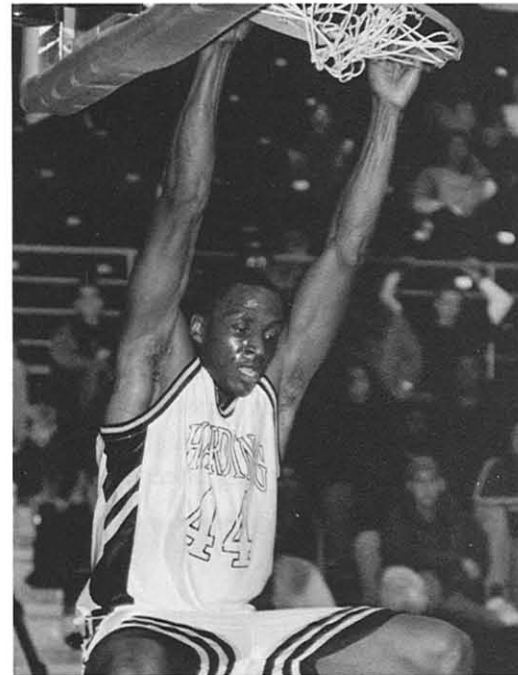


Men's Basketball

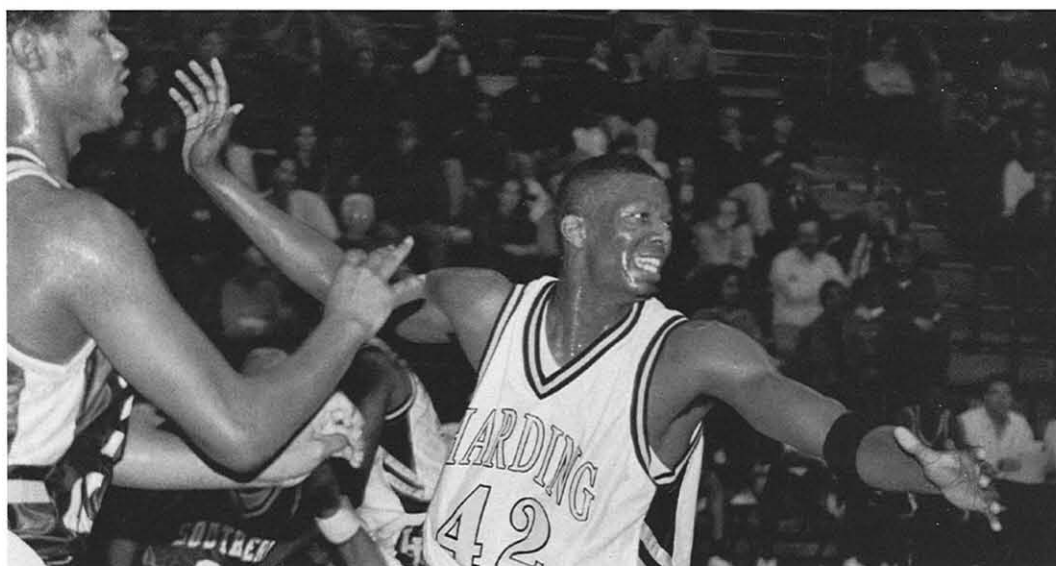


Focusing his eyes on the goal, senior Danny Jeune prepares to go up for the shot. Jeune scored 19 points in the Harding Classic, Dec. 8, 2000, allowing the Bison team to claim victory of 10 of their last 11 Classic games. Photo by Daniel Dubois.

Leaving no room for the defense to block, junior Datron Wilson slams the ball and takes a moment to enjoy it. Wilson led the Bisons to victory against Arkansas Baptist, Nov. 18, 2000, with 16 points. Photo by Daniel Dubois.



Guarding the ball from his opponent, sophomore Aaron Farley looks for a good pass. Farley was named GSC player of the week (Jan. 29), the first ever by a Bison, after leading the team in back-to-back 20-point games. Photo by Daniel Dubois.



With arms outstretched, senior Dwayne McDonald helps defend his teammates. McDonald helped the Bisons triumph over Ouachita Baptist, Jan. 25, 2001, by scoring 17 points. Photo by Daniel Dubois.

All work and play for Harding cheerleaders

Cheerleading is a sport that requires intense dedication, coordination, flexibility, raw talent and the right attitude. The Bison cheerleaders possessed all of these qualities. To these girls, cheerleading was not just a hobby, it was a sport.

This year's squad was composed of six new cheerleaders and seven returning. This year's captains were juniors Holly Dawson and Candace Ward.

"The leadership provided by Candace and Holly directed the squad to a new level of cheerleading at Harding," Kellee Blickenstaff, cheerleading sponsor said.

"The tireless hours spent organizing and planning for practices paid off with the high quality of stunts, routines and basic cheerleading that was performed.

"The commitment and dedication of these girls to this squad has brought respect to the sport of cheerleading," Blickenstaff said. "Not only do they cheer well, but they are very involved in many aspects of Harding life. These girls exhibit the high standards and qualities of a Harding cheerleader."

This year, the cheerleaders were fortunate enough to travel to every football game but one.

"It was awesome to always see the cheerleaders at all the away games," senior Josh Satterfield said. "No matter where we played or what the score, we could always count on them to support us."

Dawson expressed her gratitude toward Blickenstaff.

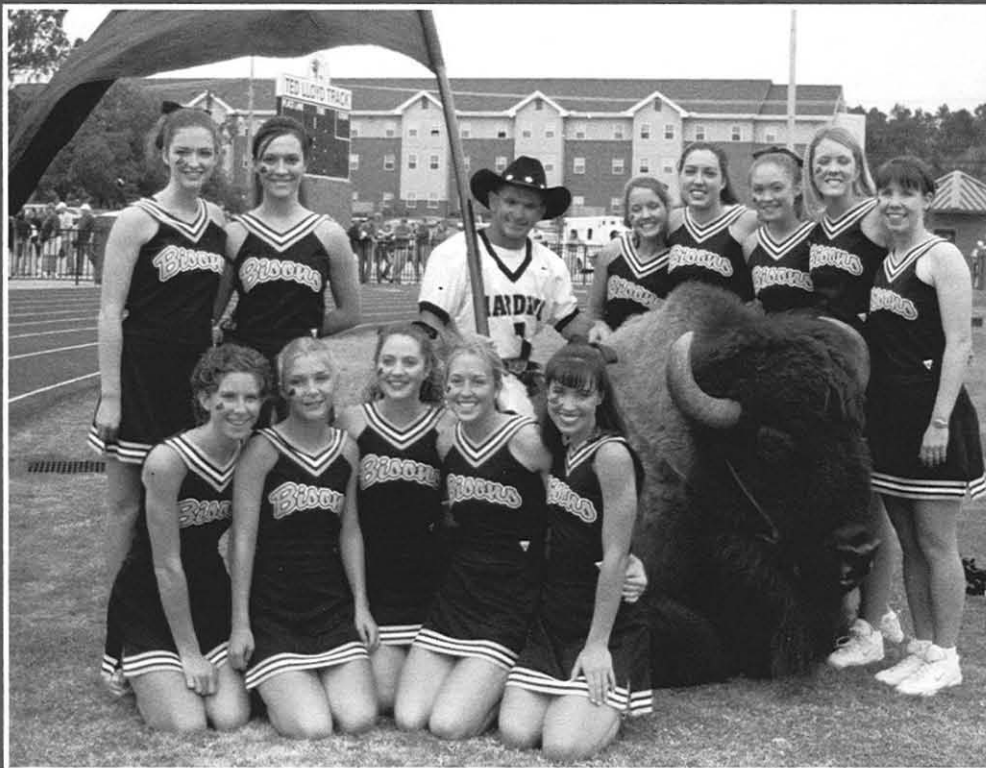
"She is an incredible coach and more importantly a 'mom' to every girl on the squad," Dawson said.

The squad for 2000-2001 contributed greatly to the increased school spirit at Harding's athletic events. The football fans and the "Rhodes Rowdies" helped the cheerleaders lift the school spirit to a new level.

This year's squad spent countless hours supporting Harding athletics, learning cheers, making signs, decorating locker rooms, baking cookies, practicing, tumbling and conditioning; and they did this year-round. For the Harding cheerleaders, there was no "off season."

— Candace Ward

To increase the excitement of the game, junior Candace Ward throws miniature basketballs to the "Rhodes Rowdies." Ward, along with Holly Dawson, led the 2000-2001 cheerleading squad as a co-captain. Photo by Daniel Dubois.



First Row: Amy Mansour, Anna Wheeler, Candace Ward, Christy Samuels, Sarah Shields. **Second Row:** Hailee Augsburger, Jamie Hughes, T.C. Thorstenson and Harvey Wallbanger (the bison), Holly Dawson, Jennifer Shappley, Heather Fox, Amanda Davis, Liza Freeman. Not pictured are: Amanda Stevens and Salina Ransom. Photo by Daniel Dubois.

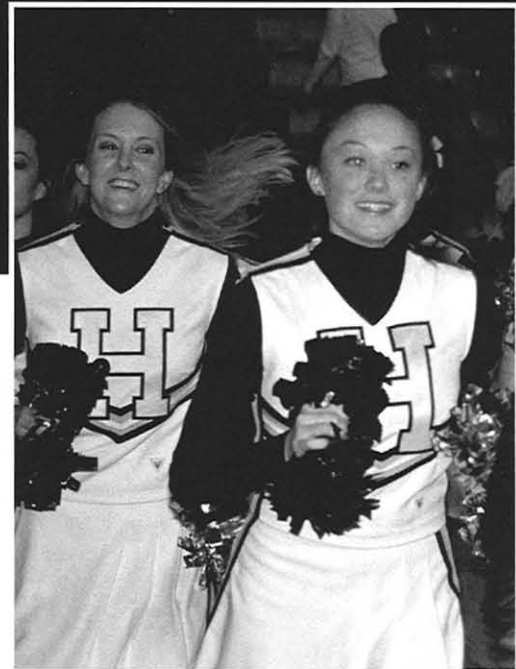
the team

Cheerleaders



Freshman Sarah Shields sends cheers of encouragement to the Bison football team. The Bison cheerleaders led the crowd at all but one of the games this season. Photo by Daniel Dubois.

The Bison cheerleaders help build spirit and enthusiasm during a basketball game. The cheerleaders participated in both football and basketball games. Photo by Daniel Dubois.



During a time out at a basketball game, senior Amanda Davis and junior Heather Fox lead the squad out to entertain the crowd. The squad not only performed at games, they also made signs, decorated locker rooms and made cookies to show support for the team. Photo by Daniel Dubois.

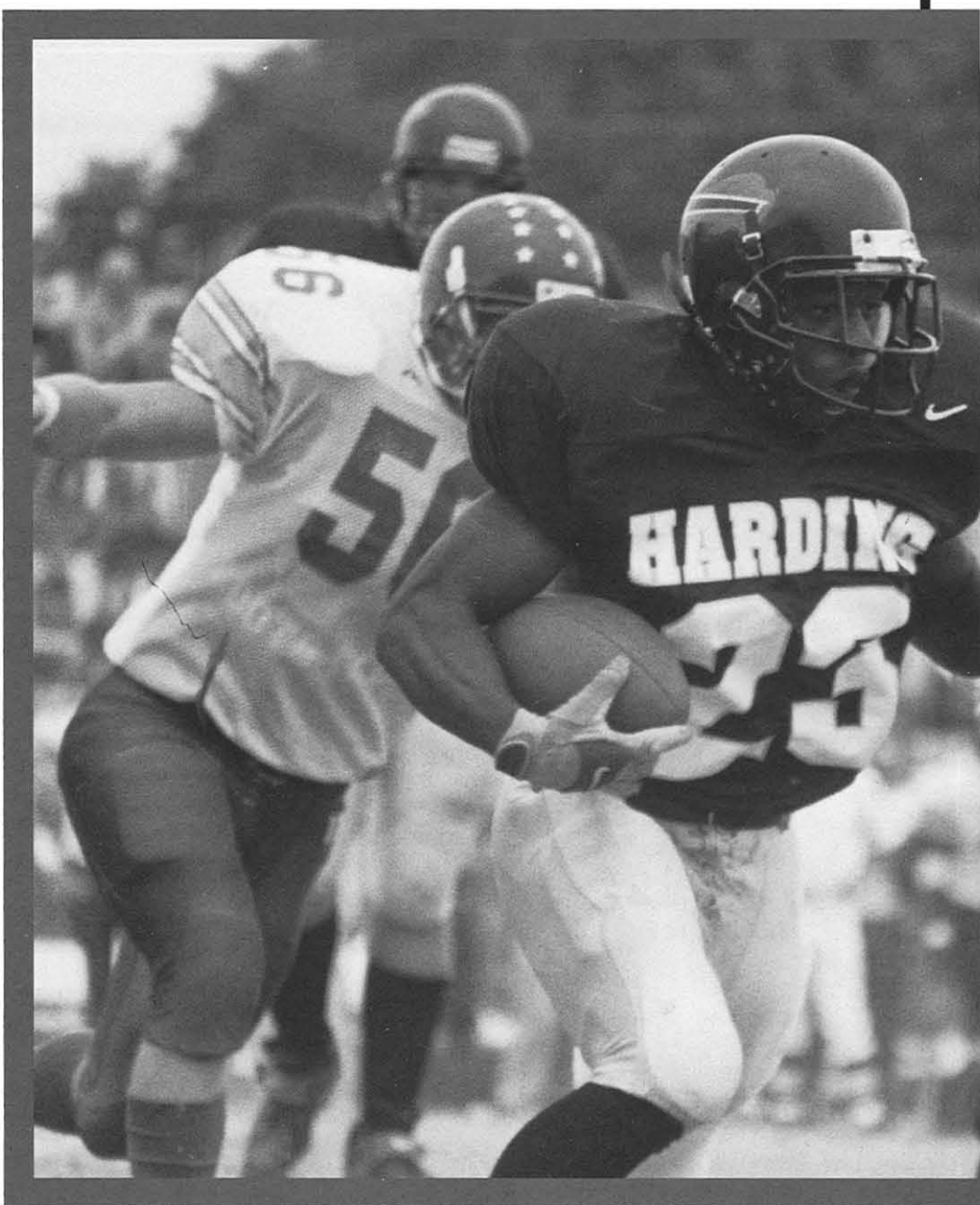
Football

Junior running back William Holloway breaks through the defensive line and gains yardage. Holloway led the team with 653 rushing yards and 10 touchdowns. Photo by Daniel Dubois.

The Bison defense proves to be too much for Ouchita Baptist as they tackle an OBU running back. Photo by Daniel Dubois.

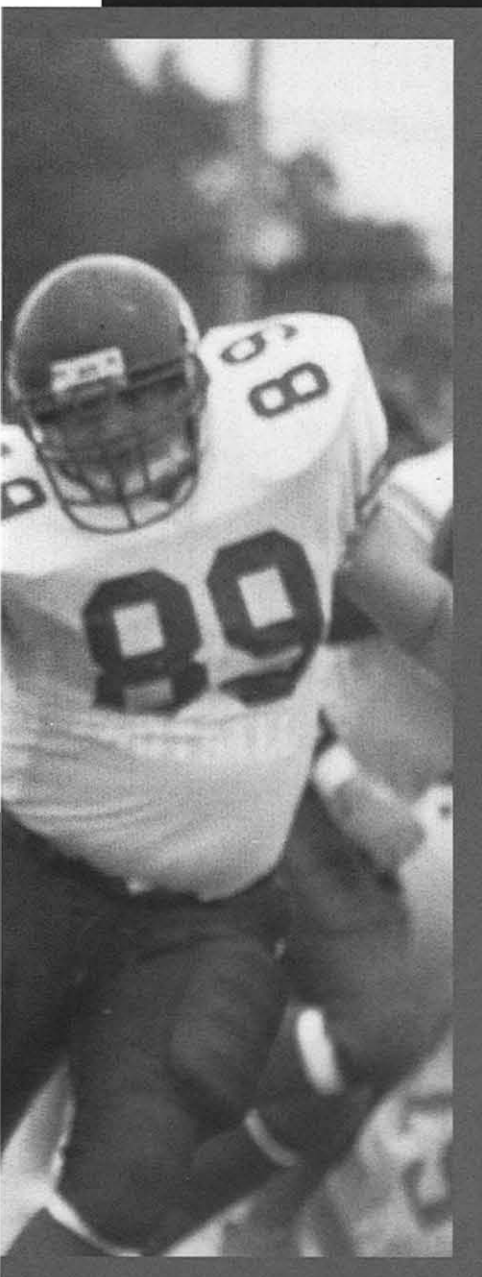


In a Heisman-esque pose, senior wide receiver Nate Davis stiff-arms the OBU defense. Davis ended the season with a total of 36 passing yards. Photo by Daniel Dubois.



With his teammates behind him, freshman Coy Nance kicks off the game. Nance finished the season scoring 10 of 15 field goals and 33 of 34 extra points. Photo by Daniel Dubois.

Bisons face challenges in GSC



The Harding University Bison football team had a season mixed with triumph and disappointment.

"Overall we didn't accomplish what we wanted to with a 5-6 record," head coach Randy Tribble said. "Our goal was to have a one-loss season. However, the team did stick together and finished strong by playing their best game of the season the last game of the year."

The Bison's move into the Gulf South Conference proved to be a challenge. The conference included many nationally ranked teams.

"We played a tough schedule that included five teams that went to the playoffs and four were in our conference," offensive coordinator James Frank said.

Despite their record, the Bison offense boasted one of the most potent scoring attacks in Harding history. Senior wide receiver Gerald Payne was the offense's primary weapon with 1,040 receiving yards, 14 touchdowns and 60 receptions.

Junior Alex Behel and freshman Freddie Langston shared time at the quarterback position and each threw for more than 1,000 yards.

Senior William Holloway was the team's leading rusher with 653 yards. The team averaged 31.4 points per game and 368.5 yards a game. The offense provided a bal-

anced attack by rushing for 116.6 yards a game and passing for 368.5 yards per game.

The Bison defense was led by two All-Conference players, senior middle linebacker Said Perez and junior defensive back Jimi Holden. Perez led the team in tackles with 113.

Holden was second in tackles with 87. Junior Rashun Taylor led the team with five interceptions.

The story of the season for the Bisons was the spectacular play of Gerald Payne. He was twice national offensive player of the week and once GSC offensive player of the week.

Payne scored a Harding record four touchdowns in the victory over Central Arkansas. Payne led the GSC in receptions per game (7.5), receiving yards per game (130) and was third in the conference in all-purpose yards and in scoring.

"It was a great honor to coach an athlete like Gerald Payne," Frank said. "He was not only a good player but a good person."

Behel and Langston will both be back next season at quarterback. Frank said other key players to watch next season are freshman Tiago Collins, All-Conference defensive back Holden and junior defensive lineman Marcus Ezell.

— Mac Bell

the team

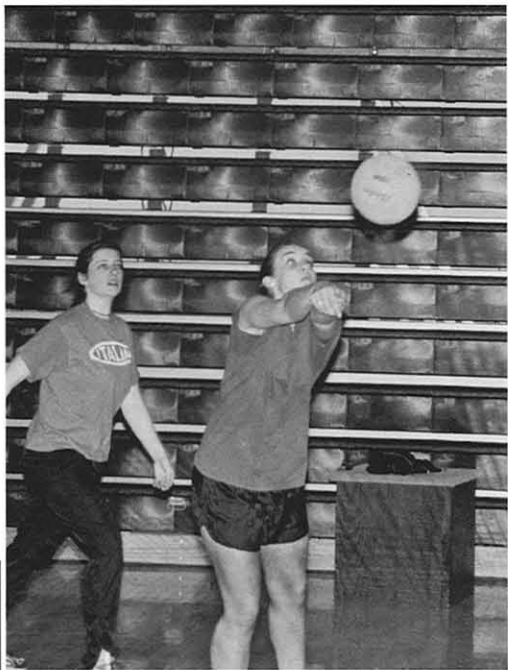


First Row: Dennis Cardoso, Travis Alford, Sherrick Lewis, Rashun Taylor, Tiago Collins, Zach Beavers, Alex Behel, Said Perez, Jimi Holden, David Anfield, Drew Colon, Matt Underwood, Adam Mason, Coy Nance, Gerald Payne. **Second Row:** Freddie Langston, Tyrel Pace, Lee Otis Harrell, Rae Holden, Jason Sneed, Bershard Tillman, Henry Smith, William Holloway, Chad Bonner, Derek Ivory, Eric Woodard, Micah Sexson, Michad Holliday, Jason Moats, Jamie Doyle. **Third Row:** Josh Chambers, Les Polk, Casey Doby, Bradley Harris, Norman Griffin, Jason Darden, Clint Smith, Kevin Redd, Nate Dutile, Marshall Householder, Darin Brazile, Wesley Duncan, Tim Polk, T.Q. Osby. **Fourth Row:** Hamilton Archibald, Jon Clark, Ryan Bridges, Ben Garner, Travis Stanley, Scott Smith, Grant Taylor, Kevin Chism, Paul Chandler, Philip King, Drew Clothier, Preston Bryan, Michael Fuglele. **Fifth Row:** Chad Eason, Ryan Blount, Ricky Box, David Ellis, Nate Davis, Casey Wright, Sterling Riggs, Brad Whinery, Dean Holt, Bubba DeLukie, James Nowlin, Floyd Black, Chris Peak, Dewayne Randle, Jonathan Knight. **Sixth Row:** Cory Barnes, Aldwin Gregory, Reid Smith, Micah Gifford, Marcus Ezell. **Seventh Row:** Josh Locra, Devaris Moore, Robert Holden, Jake Smith, Mike McCain. Photo by Jeff Montgomery.

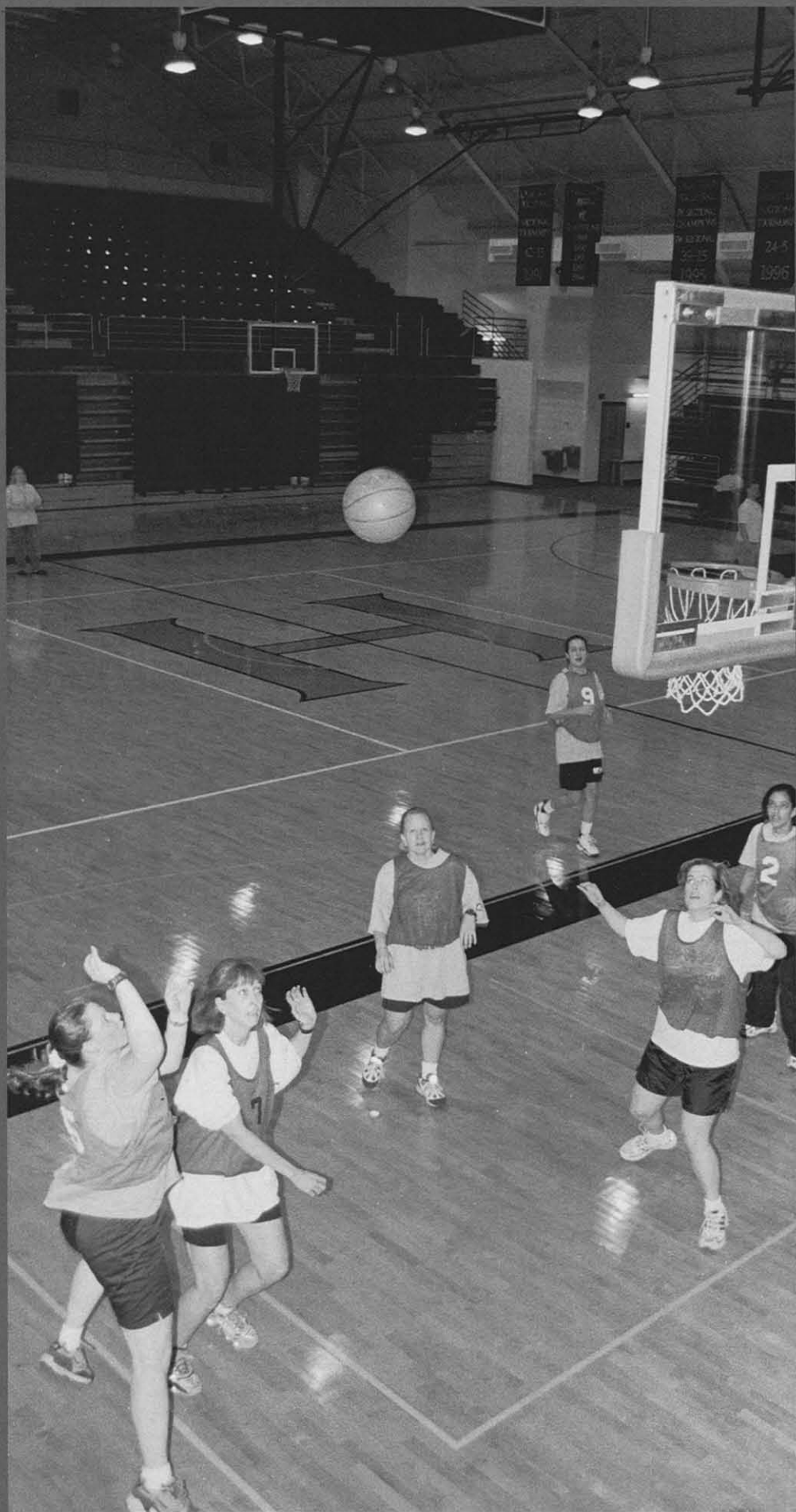
Women's Intramurals

With all eyes on the ball, the two intramural teams prepare to move in for the rebound. Women's basketball seemed to be one of the most popular intramural sports. Photo by Ric Helms.

Senior Kim Hodges prepares to bump the ball to the opposition. The women's intramural program offered several opportunities for the women on campus to compete with one another on a friendly level. Photo by Ric Helms.



An intramural player sends a line drive down left field. Softball, the only sport that was played twice a year, was the first sport in the fall and the last sport in the spring. Photo by Ric Helms.



Intramural program stays alive and busy

If you find Aiden and Caily Moore, it is likely that you have found the Women's Intramural program. Aiden and Caily are the "little" workers, the young daughters of Dr. Jessica Moore, director of the Women's Intramural program.

After the departure of Barbara Barnes three years ago, Moore has continued to keep a thriving and popular program going strong. Moore has a great love for her job and said she can "interact with the students on a different level than in the classroom."

Most people viewed the intramural program as simply a way for ladies to play sports. Essentially that is what it is. But the program was also a great way to meet a number of ladies that people may not have met otherwise. In fact, great friendships have been formed through playing in the intramural program.

Working in the intramural department provided a way to meet many ladies with exceptional athletic abilities and great Christian hearts.

The program involved a staff of ladies

who ranged from freshmen to seniors.

New workers junior Regena Bullard, sophomores Shelby Kempf, Audri Phillips and Alicia Young and freshman Brittany Honeycutt brought new spirits and fun attitudes to the program.

Also working with the intramural program this year were seniors Jeri Chapin, Emily Montandon, Mandy Hintz and Annika Jacobs who contributed years of experience, lots of laughter and hard work.

"We have fun laughing together while getting the job done," Jacobs said.

Our intramural program was constantly alive and busy. Sports offered this year were softball, volleyball and tennis in the fall, and softball, swimming, basketball, track and field and soccer in the spring.

Four nights a week, people could catch the women's intramural program in high gear. Whether it was on the softball field, the basketball court or in a prayer huddle after a game, we played hard, worked hard, and had fun too.

— Jennifer Holt

With her eyes on the end zone, junior Regena Bullard runs for the touchdown. Bullard joined the student staff of the intramural program this year. Photo by Ric Helms.



One intramural player goes up for a shot while another attempts to block. The intramural program allowed students from different social clubs to compete with one another. Photo by Ric Helms.

Intramurals help relieve stress

From volleyball and football to ping pong and racquetball, this year's men's intramural program offered a wide array of sports.

Jim Gowen, men's intramural director for five years, said the intramural schedule was so full that adding more sports to the line up would have been difficult because of time restraints. Gowen said he was glad so many men took advantage of intramural sports.

"Intramurals provide an opportunity for students to participate in competition on a less than intercollegiate level," Gowen said. "Intramurals are set up so players with different abilities can participate or compete and enjoy the sports."

To add to the competitiveness, students could earn intramural awards depending on how many sports they participated in, their leadership ability and the number of sports they won.

Gowen's personal goals for the intramural program this year were to encourage spiritual growth and strong relationships, to improve the facilities in order to provide the best courts and fields for students' use and to continue the increasing participation rate.

Bryan Jobe, graduate assistant for men's intramurals, praised Gowen's work. "Mr. Gowen has made the program one of the best in the state," he said.

However, without the help of intramural assistants, the program would not have been as successful as it was. The assistants added different qualities to the program.

Jobe said he thinks he provided a younger voice for students to talk with. "I think it may

be easier for me to relate to students because I'm younger than Mr. Gowen," he said.

Participants found many benefits from playing intramural sports.

"Intramurals helped me meet more people on campus and get exercise at the same time," senior Blaine Tucker said.

Junior John McCammon said, "I've gotten to know more people from other clubs and groups on campus [through intramurals]."

While many students benefited from the intramural program by developing friendships, there were other rewards from participating in intramural sports such as time management and personal growth.

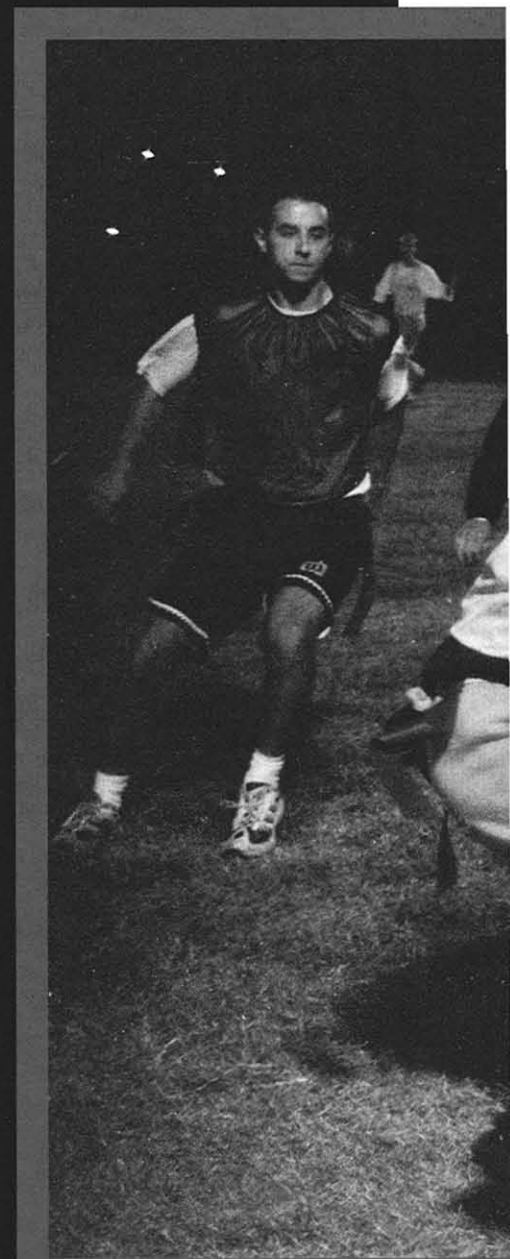
"Intramurals have taught me to use my time wisely," sophomore Chris Conder said. "Intramurals are also a good way to relax."

Students enjoyed having something fun to dedicate their time to. "I enjoy intramurals because it's a way to have fun and interact with others," junior John Hawkins said.

"I love the fact that, at Harding, we can have competition, but at the same time, we know we're just playing for fun," senior Dennis Van Erp said.

Playing sports is one of the best ways to get to know people, Jobe said. Perhaps Jobe summed up the purpose of the intramural program when he said, "[Intramurals] provide good social and physical interaction. They try to promote good, clean competition."

—Rachel McCuiston



During an intramural basketball game, players wait in anticipation of the rebound. Many students participated in intramural games in order to relax and relieve stress. Photo by Ric Helms.

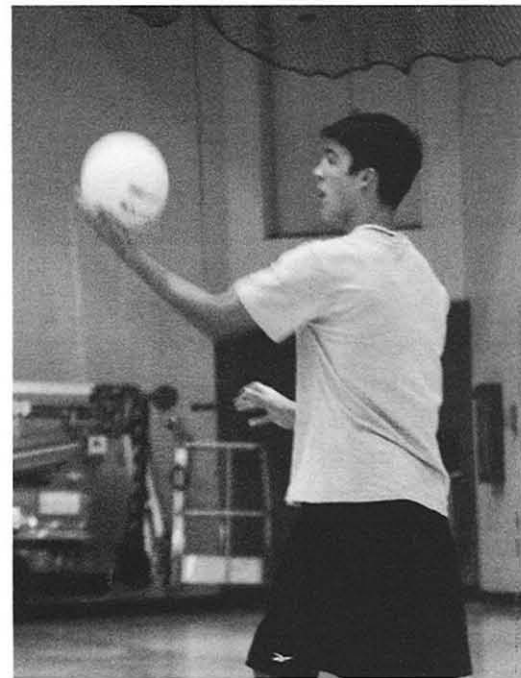


Men's Intramurals

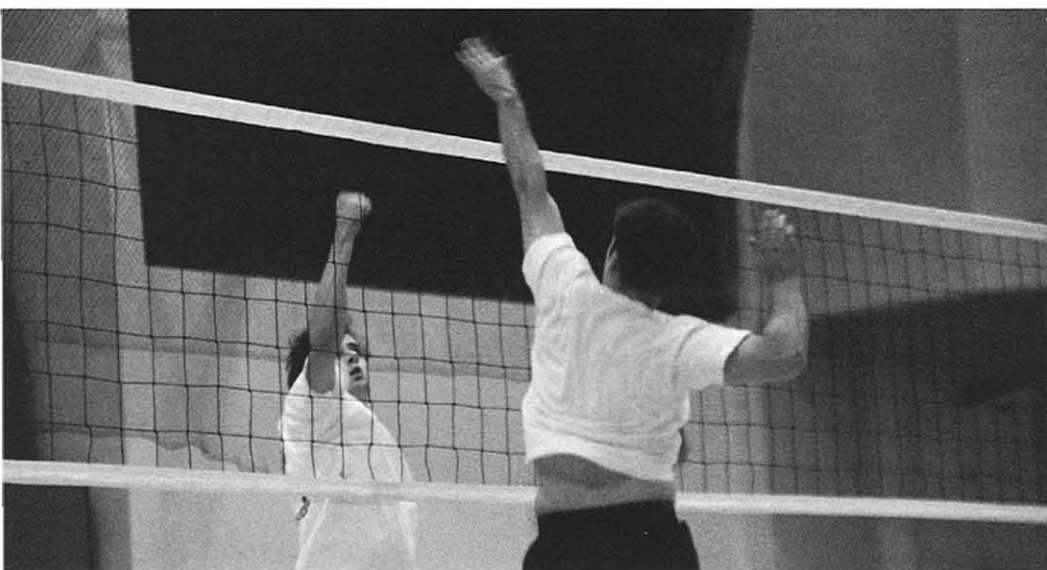


Senior Shane Nesler confronts an opposing team member head-on during a men's intramural football game. The intramural program provided an opportunity for beginners and veterans to play. Photo by Ric Helms.

Looking for an opening on the opposing side, sophomore Zac Lambrecht prepares to serve. Intramural games allowed students with different backgrounds to come together for friendly competition. Photo by Ashlee Johnson.



An intramural basketball player attempts a lay up for two points during a game. Participating in intramural games allowed students to have fun while being competitive. Photo by Ric Helms.



Junior Tim Johnston and senior Will Young are about to meet in a showdown for the sideout. Volleyball was the most popular sport played during the fall semester. Photo by Ashlee Johnson.