



Craig Rainbolt



Whatever comes their way, student athletes are constantly striving to meet the challenges head on. The passionate pursuit of perfection in their sport drives them to conquer hurdles that come their way. Whether on the field or in the classroom, they will forever be changed by the coaches, teachers, teammates and fans that they cross paths with. Through their experiences, they are equipped with the talents and abilities to become a unified body.

Nate Ramirez

athletics

laying a foundation

Freshman runner begins career strong with two national championships

During his high school years in Kenya, sophomore Daniel Kirwa's focus was on two things: running and his studies. After graduating, he came to Harding to run on the track team. In his first season competing last spring, Kirwa not only qualified for Nationals, but he also came away with the title of national champion.

Though Kirwa's quick success on the track made these accomplishments look easy, he was quick to note the difficulty of such feats.

"Sometimes the body's not willing but the spirit is willing and says, 'let's go,'" Kirwa said. "That is the mark of a real champion."

Kirwa understood the dedication and perseverance it took to accomplish what he did. "No pain, no reward" was what he and his teammates would tell one another to help motivate each other. Track and Cross Country Coach Steve Guymon, too, was always pushing him to be better.

"Daniel wasn't eligible his first year here, so it was difficult to not participate and still stay motivated," Guymon said. "He wasn't going after any meets or championships, but he still stayed focused."

Despite these challenges, Kirwa still found motivation within himself.

"I encouraged him at practice, but he's highly self-motivated," Guymon said. "As he became eligible [to compete], he gained more confidence as he began winning."

Kirwa underwent difficult training throughout the 2008 season to prepare for nationals. The team ran up to three times a day, depending on when their next competition was, and also lifted weights in the gym. Kirwa said the competition at invitational meets was like "pre-nationals" and helped prepare him mentally for what was to come. He attributed his coach and teammates for helping him stay calm during events.

While many qualifiers ran only single events, Kirwa ran in both the 5K where he took second place, and the 10K, where he won by a margin of almost 10 seconds. Those races put him at over 50 laps on a 400-meter track in three days. Kirwa reveled in his experience at nationals and was encouraged by the support of his teammates and coach.

"Daniel's confidence and maturity level have improved a lot," Guymon said. "When you're that good that early, you have to deal with a lot of things at once. He's still learning about racing and getting smarter. He works hard in practice and knows when to really push it come race time."

Kirwa's rise as a national champion was not an easy one. He gave credit to God for giving him strength, to his coach who helped him prepare physically and mentally, to his teammates who were always pushing and motivating him and to his family and friends for their prayers. Earning the title of national champion meant a lot to Kirwa.

"It makes you want more," he said. "It is a big accomplishment that we as runners dream about."

Joseph Dickerson and Rachel Klemmer

Junior Alexandra Hurst hands-off the baton to sophomore Dia Gibson in a relay run at the Bison Invitational April 5, 2008. The Lady Bisons ended the year with a trip to the NCAA Championships. *Craig Rainbolt*

Senior high jumper Brian Howard leaps skyward and leans back to clear the bar at the Bison Invitational April 5, 2008. Howard finished second in the event by clearing a height of 6'4". *Craig Rainbolt*





Row 1: J. Jones, B. Surgener, D. Timmerman, J. Baldwin, C. Ebenja. Row 2: R. Sima, K. Grant, M. Plaza, A. Hurst, S. Dillon, E. Komen. Row 3: R. Conley, D. Gibson, G. Draskowska, L. Lovett, H. Atkins.



Row 1: G. White, W. Kopec, A. Kern, F. Bolling, A. Hayden, J. Kosgei. Row 2: W. Fairhurst, J. Cheruiyot, B. Arnold, D. Kirwa, M. Cregar. Row 3: D. Hahn, L. Wheeler, J. Kidd, M. Voss, T. Shelton, M. White.

Senior Marco Ruiz reaches high overhead to serve the ball against his Delta State opponent in a match played April 14, 2008. Ruiz finished 8-5 in singles play and 12-6 in doubles play on the season, which earned him a spot on the All-Conference Team.
Jeff Montgomery



Scoreboard

Hendrix	W 9-0, W 9-0
Christian Brothers	W 9-0, W 9-0
University of the Ozarks	W 9-0, W 9-0
Stillman	W 9-0
LeMoyne-Owens	W 9-0, W 9-0
Lyon	W 9-0, W 9-0
John Brown	W 9-0, W 9-0
Newman	W 9-0
UAPB	W 9-0
Abilene Christian	L 0-9
UALR	L 0-7
Delta State	L 1-8
Ouachita Baptist	L 0-9
GSC TOURNAMENT	
West Alabama	L 4-5
North Alabama	L 3-5
NCAA TOURNAMENT	
West Florida	L 0-6

working together

All-Conference performers lead Bisons to NCAA appearance

Tennis anyone? Ask that question to seniors Marco Ruiz and Olzhas Taniyev and they would most certainly take you up on that offer. Both Ruiz and Taniyev were selected to the All-Conference team last season through their hard work and ability on the tennis court. They also joined the rest of the team in representing Harding at the Gulf South Conference Tournament in Montgomery, Ala., and at the National Tournament in Pensacola, Fla.

Before reaching the GSC and National Tournaments last spring, the tennis team got off to a good start in the regular season that included a remarkable 15-match winning streak.

Men's tennis Coach David Elliott described both Ruiz and Taniyev as extremely hard-workers and team leaders.

"They have a very positive effect on the team," Elliott said. "Their attitudes and intensity levels are contagious."

While the team benefited from the great examples that its top two players exhibited, Taniyev was quick to recognize the efforts from all of the players.

"The rest of the team did so much," Taniyev said. "Every member worked really hard and showed so much support to each other, and that is what is really important."

This positive attitude and work ethic greatly helped toward the team's

progress in the post season. The tennis team had consistently made it to the GSC and National Tournaments since the university became Division II. Elliott attributed these successes to the qualities of the players.

"We've had a good tradition here [at Harding] in tennis," Elliott said. "I think our character is above the norm at the college level."

Going into these postseason tournaments, Elliott said their aim was simply to be the best that they could be.

"The only thing we can control is ourselves and then try to perform [the best that we can] when we get there," Elliott said.

Both Ruiz and Taniyev led the way toward this goal. With the team behind them and Elliott mentoring and building the young players up, they were able to succeed and advance to the National Tournament. There, they faced one of the best schools in the nation, West Florida. Though unsuccessful, they came away with a sense of pride and hard work.

"We try so hard to peak at the end of the year and I feel like I played my best at the tournament," Taniyev said.

The conclusion to an overall successful 2008 season, while satisfying in many ways, also made both Ruiz and Taniyev anticipate continuing their progress in the next season.

"I am really excited about this next season, because in my opinion we have a more solid team than we did last year," said Ruiz.

Cody Waits



Row 1: E. Mendoza, J. Walters, C. Beach, B. Hemphill, O. Taniyev, D. Little. Row 2: R. Rios, E. Bryant, M. Ruiz, T. Samuel, B. Hoch.

finishing strong

Senior player finds faith and friends

Many students felt confined by Searcy's small-town atmosphere, especially with such slim-pickings for weekend entertainment. For May graduate Karina Swindle, formerly Gomes, however, experiencing feelings of culture shock was justified.

Swindle came to Harding in 2004 from Sao Paulo, Brazil, a city with over 10 million people, making it larger than New York City. Why did this student make the leap to a town of 19,000 people? Swindle wanted to play on the tennis team.

But the population of Searcy and Sao Paulo was not the only difference for Swindle.

"In Searcy, you are a lot more exposed to Christianity and churches," Swindle said. "Sao Paulo, on the other hand, is too busy to care about the Bible or God."

As Swindle settled into Harding, she said she began to ask questions about Christianity.

"I was never really introduced to any religion before coming to Harding," Swindle said. "The only thing I can remember growing up is that my dad would make me and my brother watch biblical movies. My family never prayed before meals, [but] they always taught us to pray by ourselves in our room before going to bed."

After being at Harding and taking two years of Bible classes, Swindle wanted to be baptized.

"Dr. [Joe] Brumfield, who is my favorite Bible teacher at Harding, baptized me on my birthday three years ago," Swindle remembered.

Soon after her baptism, Swindle began teaching about Christianity to her family. Her mother and brother were later converted.

"[It was] one of the happiest days of my life," Swindle said. "I love the fact that I can already picture my whole family in Heaven one day."

In addition to sharing her faith with her family, she was also a spiritual encouragement to her tennis family.

"Karina has always been a great Christian example to our team, and that is so important and needed for us," senior Alicia Williams said. "Karina, as any other Christian, is not foreign to obstacles in life, but her faith in Christ has led her to many victories through trials, not only trials in life, but trials that led to victories on the tennis court, as well. [She] is a true champion in all aspects of the word, and she has made a difference on our team that will not be forgotten!"

Swindle not only motivated her team, but also found motivation from within.

"There was a lot more pressure playing tennis back home because I didn't play on a team, so it was more about me as an individual," Swindle said. "Contributing to the Harding team made the game more fun and motivated me to give 100 percent because it was about something bigger than me."

Swindle went to regionals and nationals four years in a row and acquired many Gulf South Conference honors. She was also the first Harding tennis player to win Freshman Player of the Year.

"A huge highlight for me was when we beat one of our biggest rivals, UCA, because we had lost to them so many times before," Swindle said of one of her most memorable career moments.

Swindle graduated from Harding in the spring of 2008 and went on to work as a graduate assistant to the tennis team. She began to complete her masters in education with an emphasis in kinesiology, hoping that a master's would make it easier for her to find a job as a tennis coach.

Through her time at Harding, Swindle felt that she changed in many ways.

"I am now a lot more mature and have lived so many good experiences during my Harding career," Swindle said. "I am also a lot closer to where I want to be spiritually, which makes everything else better in life."

Rebecca Harrell and Rachel Klemmer



Senior hard-hitter Karina Swindle returns a ball played by a Delta State opponent in a match on April 14, 2008. Swindle helped the Lady Bisons earn a bid to the NCAA Tournament with her consistent play throughout the year and finished third in career singles wins. *Jeff Montgomery*

Row 1: L. Brumfield, K. Saegert, K. Swindle, H. Bloomster, K. Turnbow, A. Roller, E. Roller, J. Orgain. Row 2: A. Williams, A. Nowlin, K. Golik, H. Gara, L. Pardo, A. Bryant.



Scoreboard

Hendrix	W 9-0, W 9-0
Northeastern State	L 0-9
UALR	L 0-7
Henderson State	W 7-2
Arkansas Tech	W 7-2, W 7-2
Christian Brothers	W 9-0, W 9-0
Southern Arkansas	W 6-3, W 9-0
Stillman	W 9-0
LeMoyne-Owen	W 9-0, W 9-0
Lyon	W 8-1
John Brown	W 9-0, W 9-0
Newman	W 9-0
UAPB	W 9-0
Ouachita Baptist	W 7-2
Louisiana Tech	W 8-1
Henderson State	W 7-2
Abilene Christian	L 0-9
Delta State	L 0-9
<i>GSC TOURNAMENT</i>	
North Alabama	L 1-5
Arkansas Tech	W 5-2
<i>NCAA TOURNAMENT</i>	
Delta State	L 0-5

Scoreboard

Northeastern State	W 3-0
Missouri S&T	W 7-3, W 5-2, W 12-6, L 2-9
Peru State (Neb.)	W 6-2, W 12-2, W 11-5
Crichton	L 6-5, L 4-1, L 5-11, W 8-5
Alabama-Huntsville	L 4-5, W 6-5, W 10-9, W 4-0
North Alabama	L 11-1, L 10-7, L 11-8
West Florida	L 12-5, L 14-4
Missouri Western	W 2-1, W 9-3
Southern Arkansas	L 14-3, L 9-2, L 12-6
Ouachita Baptist	W 3-2, W 6-3, L 1-7
North Alabama	W 2-0, W 4-3
Delta State	L 1-6
Christian Brothers	W 6-1, L 6-7, W 8-0
Lyon	L 4-13
Henderson State	L 9-0, L 7-2, L 8-1
Central Baptist	W 11-2, W 15-2, W 7-0
Arkansas Monticello	W 8-16, W 7-14, W 1-10
Arkansas Tech	W 7-2, W 7-4, L 2-6
GSC TOURNAMENT	
Valdosta State	L 4-3
Southern Arkansas	L 10-5

Senior first baseman Matt Stevens tags out an Arkansas Tech runner in the April 27, 2008 game. The Bisons won two out of three games in the series, earning them a spot in the Gulf South Conference Tournament for only the second time in the history of the program.
Craig Rainbolt



Senior right-hander D.A. Kremer delivers a pitch to a Northeastern player during a game on February 6, 2008. Kremer went on to win the game, giving up only two hits and no earned runs. *Craig Rainbolt*



why not us?

Hardballers earn spot in GSC Tournament

Making it to the 2008 Gulf South Conference Tournament stood out as the top accomplishment for the Bison baseball team during the 2008 season. The team qualified for the tournament for the first time since 2002 and since Dr. Patrick McGaha took the reins as head coach.

The GSC consisted of two divisions: the east, containing seven teams, and the west, made up of eight. Harding was in the west division, which was considered the tougher of the two categories. Only eight teams total qualified for the GSC, and Harding was one of four teams in the west division to do so. To make it to the GSC was a worthy goal for the team to strive for and certainly an exciting one to achieve.

"[Making it into the GSC] was a big step forward," McGaha said of the impact of qualifying for the tournament. "It was always a goal to become a contender in the conference."

Coach Brent Haring added that the team's ultimate goal was to enter the tournament as the No. 1 seed.

Both McGaha and Haring reported contributions from many players during the 2008 season that made going to the GSC Tournament possible. McGaha said that juniors Troy Keith and Brodie Brumley helped out the team with their pitching, while senior Aaron Roberts contributed with 10 home runs and was named Second Team All-Conference.

In addition to outstanding performances by individual players, Brumley commented on the team's hard work as a whole that contributed to qualifying for the GSC.

"Mostly our work ethic was a lot better than previous years," Brumley said. "We worked a lot harder for the next season, so we knew we would be better."

In the first round game at the tournament, the No. 4 seeded Bisons led their opponent, No.1 seed Valdosta State, until the bottom of the ninth inning.

"We have a huge picture of the scoreboard going into the bottom of the ninth [in the clubhouse]," Brumley said. "It just reminds us how close we were."

With the ever-present goal of winning a Division II conference title still on their minds, the Bisons looked to channel that momentum into the next season. As last season was only the second time in Harding's history that the baseball team qualified for the GSC, both coaches and players anticipated greater accomplishments still to come.

While the baseball team continued to strive for excellence on the field, McGaha and Haring also encouraged the players to represent Harding admirably off the field, both academically and spiritually. Both coaches wanted the baseball team to show that they were good ambassadors of God, family and sportsmanship.

Rebecca Harrell and Emily Hauptli



Row 1: H. Boyd, J. Glenn, Z. Fisher, B. Whitaker, R. Hunt, B. Rodríguez, M. Skinner, W. McDonald, T. Thompson, M. Stevens, M. Johnson, N. Bacon. Row 2: J. Yant, C. Clifton, K. Ganus, D. Saul, R. Moody, C. Bradley, G. Tellez, A. Roberts, R. Countryman, Z. McKay, M. Jackson, B. Haring, P. McGaha. Row 3: W. Correa, B. Brumley, S. Bishop, A. Darby, B. McCrackin, D. Stephens, D. Gardner, C. Kirksey, Dr. Kremer, K. Barnett, T. Keith.

standing firm

Bison golfer achieves success on and off course

As the Harding men's golf team drove to the Hot Springs Country Club, expectations were high. Five men had worked all year, both individually and as a whole, towards the Gulf South Conference Tournament. The Bisons competed against 13 other teams that belonged to a conference which many felt was the toughest in NCAA Division II competition.

Coach Nicky Boyd said the team was excited to play and felt confident they would do well; however, they tried to treat it as just another day of playing golf.

"We played tournaments all year right up until the big one," Boyd said. "We hit a lot of balls the week leading up to it, but there was really nothing different about the way we prepared."

Boyd also attributed the leadership of juniors Andrew Warder and Dusty Gourley to the team's preparation.

"They both set excellent examples to all our players by their work ethic and personal discipline to do everything they could to get better," Boyd said.

Senior Austin Osburn said that while the team played well on the first day of the tournament, things did not seem to come together like they had hoped.

"After the first day we were doing really well, and then things just started to go south," Osburn said. "I think we put a lot of pressure on ourselves because we were playing above even our own expectations the first day, but unfortunately that's the way golf is; it's an all-out mental battle."

After three rounds of golf, the Bisons finished 9th overall. Individually, though, junior Dusty Gourley placed 6th overall, and made the All-Tournament team.

"We didn't place as well as we would have liked, and for several of our guys, it was their last college tournament," Gourley said. "On a personal level, I was very excited. I knew I could have played better, yet I was still able to compete at that high level."

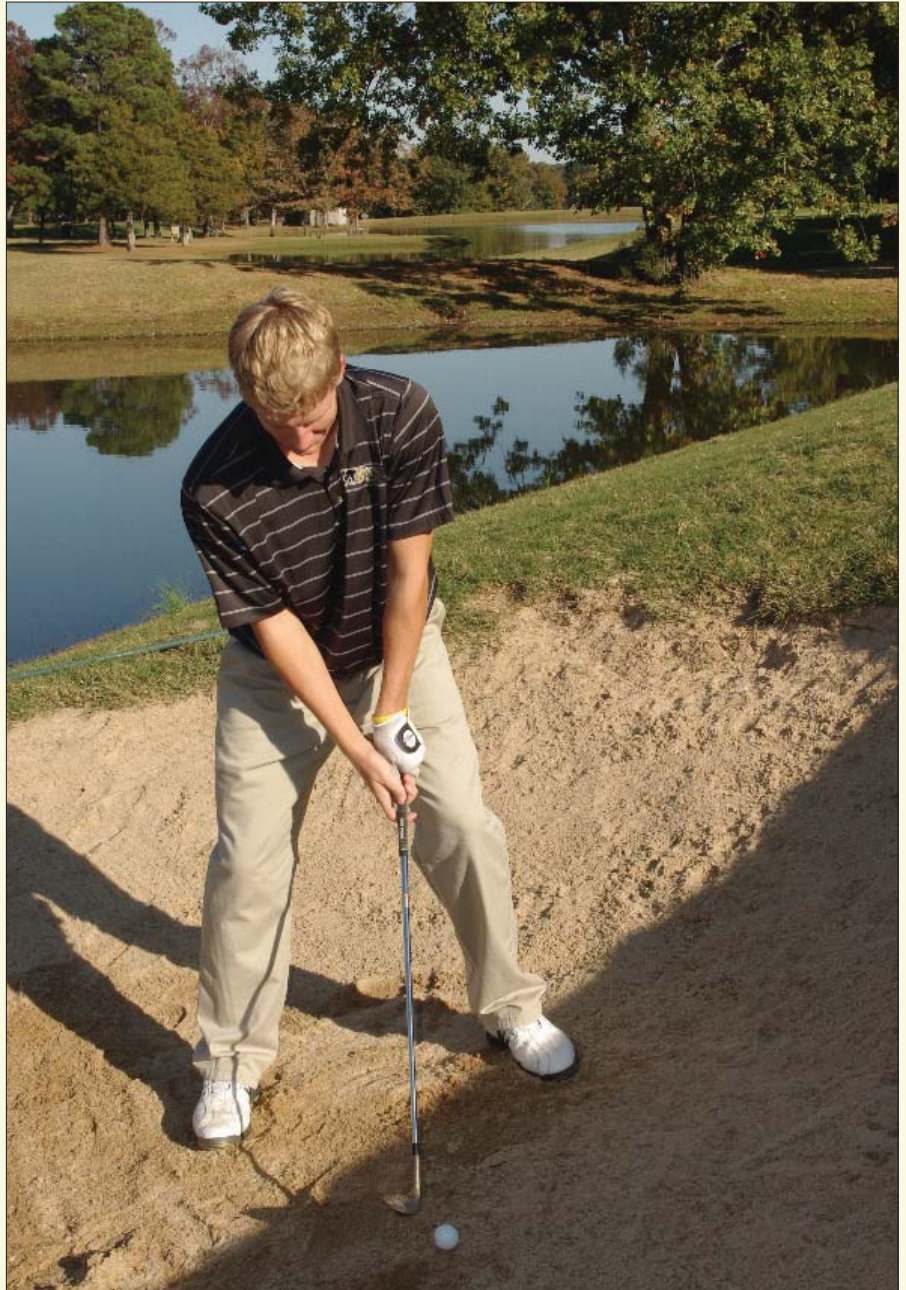
Gourley said he attributed most of his success to lots of time on the driving range and putting green leading up to the tournament, which helped him stay focused. However, Gourley said that the tournament was in the past, and now he was excited and looking forward to the 2009 season.

"My expectations for this season are very high," Gourley said. "We have two seniors returning: Andrew Warder and myself. We have a sophomore and several freshmen that are very promising. We want to compete for the team title, so we know we have to play very well."

Zach Welch

Senior Dusty Gourley prepares to blast his way out of a bunker in a practice round played Oct. 28. Gourley set a two-day tournament stroke record with a total of 142 strokes, beating the previous record by one stroke. *Nick Michael*

Senior Andrew Warder tees off during a practice round played at the Searcy Country Club on Oct. 28. Warder, a three time letter-winner for the Bisons, played in all four events in which his team competed. *Nick Michael*



Scoreboard

Men's Scores

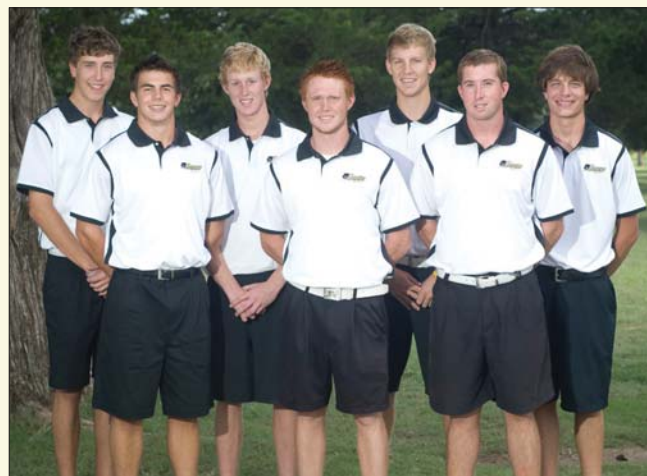
Bison Fall Classic
Northeastern Golf Classic
Derrall Foreman Tournament
Indian Bayou Tournament

2nd out of 9
15th out of 15
9th out of 14
12th out of 12

Women's Scores

Drury Fall Shootout
Bison Fall Classic
Dallas Baptist Golf Classic
Lady Red Wolves Classic

13th out of 21
2nd out of 6
9th out of 16
14th out of 14



Row 1: M. Sittler, D. Richter, A. Warder. Row 2: N. Williamson, B. McMullen, D. Gourley, W. Sides.



Row 1: E. Poteet, N. Gay, R. Muncy. Row 2: B. Watkins, A. Cooper, S. Stavely, N. Boyd.

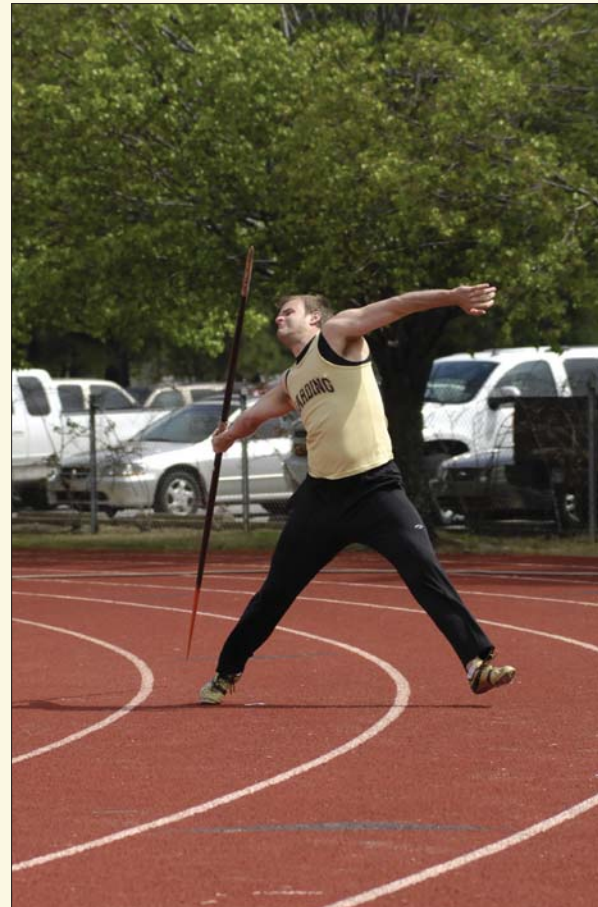
Jeff Montgomery



Jeff Montgomery



Noah Darnell



Craig Rainbolt



Jeff Montgomery

added benefit

Freshman contributes time and talents to experienced team

When it came to height, weight and stature, he was not at the top of the list, weighing in at 145 pounds and measuring at 5'8", but when it came to aggression, dedication and persistence, he soared to the top of the men's soccer roster.

Freshman Phillip McCormick was recruited by the men's soccer team his senior year of high school and played in 18 games, started 12 games and scored 11 goals for the Bisons in the 2008 season.

McCormick had played soccer for as long as he could remember.

"My parents put me in a soccer league when I was four," he said. "Then I just never stopped playing after that. My older sister also played soccer, so I always looked up to her and took notes from her when I was younger."

McCormick joined his first club team at age 11 and played for two years. Then, he switched to a more advanced team, which traveled internationally to play in tournaments.

Many times he won "man of the match," a team award given to a game's outstanding player, in his games overseas. After several years, that team broke up, and he rejoined his first team, which he decided still was not advanced enough for him to prepare to play on a collegiate level.

Then, the soccer all-star moved to Dallas, Texas, with his family, which was where he played on his most successful team, winning two league championships back-to-back and personally scoring 24 goals in 17 games.

"It was then that I was recruited by Harding University," McCormick said.

To say the least, he lived his life for soccer, which spectators and Harding teammates, like senior Odie Guzman, were able to see.

"Phillip is a person that has a lot of heart for the game, and he never wants to let his teammates down," Guzman said. "There have been many times that if he was not out there playing, we would have lost the game. He is a very humble person when he has an excellent game and refuses to give up any time we are losing."

The common agreement that fellow teammates had of McCormick made it evident that his passion for the sport was real. Throughout his soccer career, McCormick was never close-minded as far as positions he was to play.

"Phil is a very skilled player," junior teammate Andrew Flesher said. "He came into Harding as a defender but got moved up to striker shortly after [arriving]. He's great to have as a teammate, and he's definitely a team player and works hard in every training session."

Flesher also said he enjoyed playing with McCormick because of his work rate and skill, which raised the level of play in practice and games.

"He's got a very bright future as a player," Flesher said.

Another teammate, junior Chad Marshall, had similar feelings and views of McCormick. Marshall said that he was a very aggressive and passionate player and a good teammate to have.

"You can never question his effort or his desire to win, and you can always count on him to work hard and never give up on his team," Marshall said.

Clearly, this rising all-star did not have an issue of wasting any talent on selfish ambition or from lack of teamwork. He was thankful for the success in his first collegiate season and the opportunities that it provided him.

"My freshman year was a learning year for me," McCormick said. "I hope that throughout my sophomore year I'll be able to produce greater results than I did my freshman year."

Allison Weaver

Senior forward Carter Truax leaps up high to win the ball from Lynn defenders on Aug. 31. Truax started a majority of the games for the Bisons and finished second in goals scored on the team. *Craig Rainbolt*



Row 1: T. Rojas, P. McCormick, R. Bourdeau, C. Wilson, A. Flesher, J. Thurmond, C. Marshall, O. Guzman, D. Nowlin, G. Alexander, J. Warmath. Row 2: G. Harris, B. Colvin, J. Meadows, J. Ireland, J. Eddy, M. Rotich, J. Skinner, C. Truax, S. Hedeman, Z. Williamson, C. Galloway, B. Bailey, A. Brown, M. Osorio, B. Wallace, J. Cook, J. DeRamus.

Scoreboard

Centenary	L 1-4
Lambuth	L 4-5
Lynn	L 0-8
Northeastern State	L 3-4
Drury	L 1-5
UT-Tyler	W 4-1
Ozarks (Ark.)	T 0-0
Lyon	L 2-3
Christian Brothers	L 0-1, L 1-2
Rust	W 15-0
Central Baptist	W 2-1
Montevallo	L 2-3
West Florida	L 1-2
Delta State	W 2-0
UAH	W 4-0
Texas College	T 1-1
Ouachita Baptist	W 1-0

Freshman forward Phillip McCormick holds off two Drury defenders as he looks to pass the ball in a game played on Sept. 7. McCormick scored the only goal of the contest for the Bisons, and went on to lead the team in goals scored for the year. *Noah Darnell*





Row 1: B. Meek, K. LeCocq, M. Wood, J. Anthony, H. Douglas, C. Hornbeck, R. McAllister, C. Brandon, M. Guzman, S. Nail. **Row 2:** J. Ireland, G. Harris, B. Colvin, M. Strand, C. Bailey, S. Varner, M. Przeczewski, K. DeAtley, L. Stark, H. Winthrow, N. Moore, S. Burch, S. Hancock, A. Tucker, B. Wallace.

Scoreboard

Northeastern State	L 2-5
Missouri Southern	L 4-5
Drury	W 3-2
Texas A&M-Commerce	L 0-4
Ozarks	W 6-0
Lyon	W 2-1
Southwest Oklahoma State	W 5-0
Central Oklahoma	L 1-4
Grambling State	W 2-1
Montevallo	L 0-1
West Florida	L 1-5
Delta State	L 2-3
Alabama Huntsville	W 5-1
North Alabama	T 1-1
West Georgia	L 2-3
Christian Brothers	L 0-2
Ouachita Baptist	W 3-0

never before

Lady Bisons score three goals in under five minutes to cap historic comeback



Freshman midfielder Chelsea Brandon moves the ball down field against the Missouri Southern defenders in a game played on Aug. 31. Brandon was second in the team in minutes played and led the team in goals scored. *Noah Darnell*

On the Sept. 7 game against Drury University, the Lady Bisons soccer team had lost hope. After playing most of the game without scoring a goal, the players were ready to give up. Little did they know that a huge turn around was about to occur.

The turn around came in the form of three goals scored in four minutes and nine seconds to come back to win the game. Drury was leading the game 2-0. With less than eight minutes left in the game, sophomore Brianna Meek scored the Lady Bisons' first goal. Then freshman Chelsea Brandon scored a free kick to tie up the score. Before the clock had three minutes left in the game, junior Kellie DeAtley scored the third goal to put them in the lead, 3-2. Drury got a few shots off but did not score, leading the Lady Bisons to victory. They had come back from a two-point deficit to win the game, making it their first win of the season.

The team had just lost their previous two games and did not think this would be an easy matchup. Women's soccer coach Greg Harris said they expected it to be a tough game, but were going to go in and play hard. That was exactly what this team did.

The girls played hard during the first part of the game, but since they were losing by two points, they began to lose their momentum. Harris said he was upset and ready to run the girls really hard at their next practice.

"We were not playing bad; we just needed something to break the ice," Harris said. "When Brianna Meek scored the first goal, that broke the ice."

After each goal was scored, the girls began to get fired up and were ready to claim a victory.

"The girls worked hard and were getting tired, but after the first goal, a little of the fire came back," sophomore goalie Chelsea Hornbeck said. "When we got the second goal, there was a hunger in their eyes that couldn't be stopped. After the third goal, there was no way we were going to let them get another goal and go into overtime. With each goal, I saw energy come back to the girls. A group of average girls coming together for each other to win a game is an unforgettable feeling."

The adrenaline from scoring the three goals so quickly helped the team hold Drury and win for only the second major comeback in the history of the Lady Bisons soccer team. At the end of the game, everyone was smiling — even the coach.

"Any victory feels good, but this one was especially rewarding because it showed not only me, but the team as well, that you should never give up," DeAtley said. "It is easy to give up when you are down, but I have never been so proud of the team before. We stuck together, encouraged each other and worked together to achieve something, and it was a perfect example to me of what a team is supposed to look like."

Besides the excitement from the win, the girls also learned that hard work and perseverance really paid off.

Harris believed that lessons like that were some of the best things the players could get from their soccer careers.

"They can apply this comeback not only to soccer but to their everyday lives," Harris said. "It even applies to their Christian lives as well. When you are down and out, you can always come back."

The players agreed with Harris' advice and found ways to apply the lessons they learned on the soccer field to their daily lives.

"Sometimes in life you feel like you are losing," Hornbeck said. "But at any time God can put something in your life to you give you energy and push you forward."

Bethany Loftis



Row 1: A. Kern, B. Wloszczynski, J. Kosgei, N. Puckett, P. Biwott. Row 2: F. Bolling, M. Fahey, R. Johnson, R. Jackson, J. Durham, D. Kirwa. Row 3: J. Cheruiyot, T. Shelton, J. Kidd, W. Fairhurst.



Row 1: K. Grant, M. Samoei, S. Frazier, D. Timmerman, V. Shandavel, S. Dillon, H. Skelton. Row 2: A. Roznos, G. Kimitai, H. Lehman, R. Conley, H. Atkins, L. Lovett, G. Drazkowska.

Scoreboard

Men's Results

Memphis Twilight	1st out of 29
MSSU Stampede	1st out of 25
Cowboy Jamboree	5th out of 23
Ted Lloyd Bison Stampede	1st out of 7
GSC Championship	1st out of 11

Women's Results

Memphis Twilight	8th out of 36
MSSU Stampede	3rd out of 34
Cowboy Jamboree	14th out of 25
Ted Lloyd Bison Stampede	1st out of 8
GSC Championship	1st out of 14



continued dominance

Cross country teams rely on youth and experience to capture GSC crowns



Freshman Phillip Biwott, senior Julius Kosgei and freshman Daniel Kirwa lead the pack at the Ted Lloyd Bison Stampede on Oct. 11. The Bisons won the team event with Kirwa taking first place in the individual race with a time of 23 minutes, 48 seconds. *Noah Darnell*

Sophomore runner Rysper Sirma crosses the finish line at the Ted Lloyd Bison Stampede race on Oct. 11. The competitors ran on the newly designed course at Camp Wyldewood. *Noah Darnell*

Athletes on Harding's cross country team had a reason to hold their heads high at the end of the 2008 season. Both the men's and women's teams raced to first-place finishes in the 2008 Gulf South Conference Tournament held in Birmingham, Ala. making it the men's 8th GSC victory in the last nine years and the women's 4th consecutive title. While members of the teams could boast impressive personal achievements, such as freshman Daniel Kirwa blowing away competition at the GSC tournament with a record time of 24 minutes, 30 seconds, or junior Esther Komen posting a top time of 18 minutes, 53 seconds at the same tournament, they were most proud of their teamwork.

Team captain and senior Julius Kosgei finished his fourth year running on the team, and he believed that this year was one of Harding's strongest years they had seen yet.

"I feel privileged to be a part of the team this year," Kosgei said. "The team was together, organized and ready every time they were needed."

Also important was head coach Steve Guymon, who finished his seventh year as the men and women's cross country and track head coach.

"Coach Guymon is the best coach I have ever known," Kosgei said. "He does everything on time and with a purpose. He can bring athletes together with a common thought."

Guymon built a team of dedicated athletes and continued to push them to do their best for as long as he coached.

"Coach [Guymon] sacrifices a lot of his time preparing for practice and helping every runner individually," sophomore runner Rachel Conley said.

As of October, the team was ranked third in the NCAA. In the midst of this victorious season, Guymon said he felt honored and humbled to be coaching such talented students.

The athletes worked hard during the season to bring success to this team, running between 70 and 100 miles each week. Although thought of as an individual sport, members on the cross country team realized the importance of sticking together as a team.

"Cross country is so team-oriented," junior Katy Grant said. "You're all out there running the same race, and just knowing that your teammates are working as hard as you are for the team is encouraging."

The 2008 NCAA regional tournament took place on Nov. 8 at the Wyldewood Retreat Center in Searcy. This competition consisted of the men's 10K run and the women's 6K run. Both teams qualified for Nationals, with the men coming in first place with a perfect score and the women claiming second place.

Kosgei introduced a concept called "Defend the Spear" as inspiration at the regional championship. As the hosting team, they did not want to lose on their home ground. They used this idea of defending what was theirs to motivate them at their home meet.

This attitude and hard work showed the team what they could accomplish together.

"God has blessed our team so much this year," Conley said. "We have a great coach and a great group of athletes that are all willing to work hard for each other."

Bethany Loftis

Scoreboard

Missouri Southern	L 31-45
West Alabama	W 37-27
Southwest Baptist	L 31-43
Delta State	L 49-56 OT
North Alabama	L 0-52
Southern Arkansas	W 39-33
Ouachita Baptist	L 27-30
Valdosta State	L 13-21
Arkansas Monticello	L 43-46
Henderson State	L 32-33
Arkansas Tech	L 34-56

Sophomore Steve Hudson and junior Darren Newson make an effort to take down an Arkansas Monticello runner on Oct. 25. Hudson finished the season with 45 tackles while Newson finished the season with three interceptions.
Craig Rainbolt



second chances

Sophomore wide receiver Jordan Watson reaches over a Delta State defender to score a touchdown on Sept. 20. Watson piled up over 800 receiving yards for the season and scored five touchdowns. *Noah Darnell*

After suffering shoulder injury senior gets one more year on the field



Senior Sevohn Greer's football accomplishments could have covered an entire wall of the hallway in the Ganus Athletic Center, but the senior linebacker said it was not about personal accomplishments in the 2008 Harding Bison football season. Instead, it was about getting to play the game he loved. A complex shoulder injury in 2006 left Greer on the sideline for an extended period of time and left him wondering if he would ever step foot on the field again.

"It was devastating for me," Greer said. "The most frustrating part is that for a long time we couldn't pinpoint the problem. Once we finally figured it out, I was able to have surgery."

Bison coach Ronnie Huckleba said losing Greer for the season was a tremendous setback.

"It was hard for us as a team and a huge blow to Sevohn," Huckleba said. "He is a great competitor and was a big part of our plan for the season."

After a year of hard work and rehabilitation, Greer returned for the 2008 season and posted some of the best numbers of his career. Not only was he second in total tackles for the Gulf South Conference, Greer also led the entire nation in forced fumbles for NCAA Division II.

Huckleba said his ability to bounce back from an injury and perform well was attributed to his strong character and work ethic.

"His strengths are his passion, work ethic and accountability," Huckleba said. "He never takes a short cut. He leads by example, and

his teammates see how he goes about his business. Great players have passion, and that is absolutely the truth with Sevohn."

Senior and fellow defensive back Alex Scarborough said Greer was a major asset to the football team during his time at Harding.

"He is a great player, but he is also an awesome guy," Scarborough said. "He has excellent character and is always there for us on and off the field."

As far as what the future held for Greer, Huckleba said he felt Greer had a pretty good chance to continue to play if he wanted. Greer said he would love the opportunity to continue to play, but he was not sure how realistic that would be.

"I would love to play football at the next level, but I'm a little guy," said Greer. "It won't break my heart if this was the last season for me."

Greer said if he did not make it further playing football, he had his sights set on being a high-level sports agent for professional football.

Greer said he was excited to see what the future had in store and was also very grateful for everything he had the opportunity to experience during his career at Harding.

"The one thing I will take away from Harding is the relationships," Greer said. "Not just with my teammates but with all the [people] that have supported me and the rest of the program. It's been awesome."

Zach Welch



Row 1: T. Brown, Z. Ross, B. McGahee, R. Carson, J. Watson, M. Solano, Z. Tribble, K. Adams, R. Rayner, D. Phipps, J. Bryan, K. Young, L. Tribble, T. Quinn, D. Knighton, A. Webster, Z. Caton, D. Newson. **Row 2:** L. Taylor, T. Luke, P. Nicks, M. Toline, S. Greer, D. Robinson, S. Woodason, S. Hudson, H. Hammond, R. Dolan, J. Wood, B. Rubey, A. Morton, A. Scarborough, C. Jamison, B. Maupin, R. Ferrell, J. Townsend, J. Thomasson. **Row 3:** B. Binkley, S. Smith, M. Jones, D. Edwards, N. Evans, K. Craft, R. Hurts, T. Taylor, B. Parker, H. Cruce, J. Stallings, J. DeYoung, C. Simmons, D. Palmer, W. Parsons, D. Dawson, J. Kee, J. Skaggs, E. Thies. **Row 4:** R. Conn, H. Finley, K. Kitchen, J. Greer, C. Montague, G. Taylor, J. Mahaffey, R. Hendricks, N. Ware, P. Burkhead, K. Smith, C. Baber, M. Canterbury, J. Firman, C. Caton, N. Roe, A. Jackson, A. Franklin, J. Brown. **Row 5:** M. Vanlandingham, T. Martin, D. Stringfellow, C. Rogers, D. Bonner, K. Reely, V. Daugherty, R. Williams, C. Robbins, T. Limmer, J. Baker, N. Juneau, J. Bodiford, M. Hickmon, C. Wilson, J. Holt, J. Price, K. Boesen, A. Gillaspie, J. Quinn. **Row 6:** K. Wildman, K. Gelles, N. Cope, K. Tackett, K. Henderson, J. Udeh, A. Smithey, A. Underwood, M. Hughes, T. Davis, L. Tarrant, C. Wood, E. Wilson, M. Cooper, A. Bailey, T. Yarbrough, M. Clary, J. Aldridge, E. Frazier.



Noah Darnell



Craig Rainbolt



Noah Darnell



Craig Rainbolt



Craig Rainbolt

alaska bound

Volleyball team travels to play in tournament

At the beginning of the fall 2008 semester, the Lady Bison volleyball team embarked on an adventure. Besides participating in a challenging tournament, the team was able to go white-water rafting, shopping and sightseeing around the beautiful countryside of Alaska.

"I loved the trip and would have liked to stay there longer," senior Shellie Rummer said. "Alaska is such a beautiful state, and the temperature was perfect — a nice escape from the 90 degree Arkansas weather."

Besides just a change in weather, the team got to experience several other things foreign to their college home in Searcy.

"We got to go white-water rafting, which was probably the funniest thing in the world. We got to see [Coach] Gib fall out of our raft," Rummer said. "We also [saw] a real glacier [and] ate great food."

Although the trip to Alaska could have been viewed as a vacation, the team had to earn this trip. They had long practices, repeated drills and worked out together. The girls even had to be back on campus 10 days earlier than other students in preparation for the trip.

"Every year, before school starts, we come on campus and have practices three times a day," junior outside hitter Manuela Nesheva said. "Once school starts we have only one practice a day, and by the NCAA rules we have to have one day off in the week."

That extra practice time allowed the team to begin working out any kinks in their game to get ready for the Alaska tournament and the rest of the season.

"Sometimes [in practice] when something was not working as it should have, we approached it in a different way," Nesheva said. "We tried and still try to make each other better and to figure out ways to do that."

The work that the girls put in for the Alaska trip resulted not only in being able to compete in a new place and enjoy breathtaking scenery, but also in becoming closer as a team.

"At the tournament I believe we really grew as a team, and this helped set the stage for the season to come," senior Leah Tepe said. "One of the unique characteristics about our team is that we train hard no matter the situation, and our team [also] has a very unique chemistry. We get along as teammates on the court [and] off the court."

Competing in the tournament and spending a whole week together was also a chance for the new freshmen on the team to begin their volleyball experience at the collegiate level and mesh with their older teammates.

"The trip definitely helped our team bond a lot faster than usual," Rummer said. "I think us older members helped the freshman feel [like] part of the team and helped them keep their minds off being away from home. Since we were together for so long, we got used to each other and really got to know each other."

Throughout the season, the team grew closer. However, most agreed that the Alaska trip was what initially brought them together and kept them together for the remainder of the season. Not only did they have a great time in Alaska, but they also learned about each other and became friends instead of just teammates.

"It was like being on a vacation with 14 of your best friends," Rummer said.

Rebecca Harrell



Senior middle blocker Shellie Rummer keeps her eye on the ball as she attempts a kill against the Texas A&M Commerce blockers in a game played on Sept. 12. Rummer finished the game with nine kills and during the season was second on the team in total kills with 301. *Noah Darnell*

Row 1: M. Nesheva, A. Smith, A. Parker, L. Tepe, S. Rummer, B. Townsend, S. Anderson, E. Tate, J. Heinrich, S. Smith. Row 2: K. Giboney, M. Giboney, L. Belt, L. Mesker, J. Smith, R. Reding, S. Phipps, M. Rosenbaum, A. Snow.



Scoreboard

Texas Women's College	L 1-3
Alaska-Anchorage	L 2-3
Ohio Valley University	W 3-0, W 3-0
West Georgia	W 3-0
Francis Marion	W 3-1
West Alabama	L 0-3
Alabama-Huntsville	W 3-0, W 3-0
Rhodes College	W 3-0
Nova Southeastern	L 1-3
Southwest Baptist	W 3-1
Texas A&M-Commerce	W 3-0
Puerto Rico-Mayaguez	W 3-2
Belhaven	W 3-0
Southern Arkansas	W 3-1, W 3-1
North Alabama	L 2-3
Arkansas Tech	L 1-3, L 1-3
Christian Brothers	W 3-1, W 3-0
Arkansas Monticello	W 3-2, W 3-0
Henderson State	W 3-0, W 3-1
St. Leo	L 1-3
Ouachita Baptist	W 3-0, W 3-0
Rollins	W 3-1
Lyon	W 3-0
GSC TOURNAMENT	
West Alabama	W 3-2
West Florida	L 0-3

Scoreboard

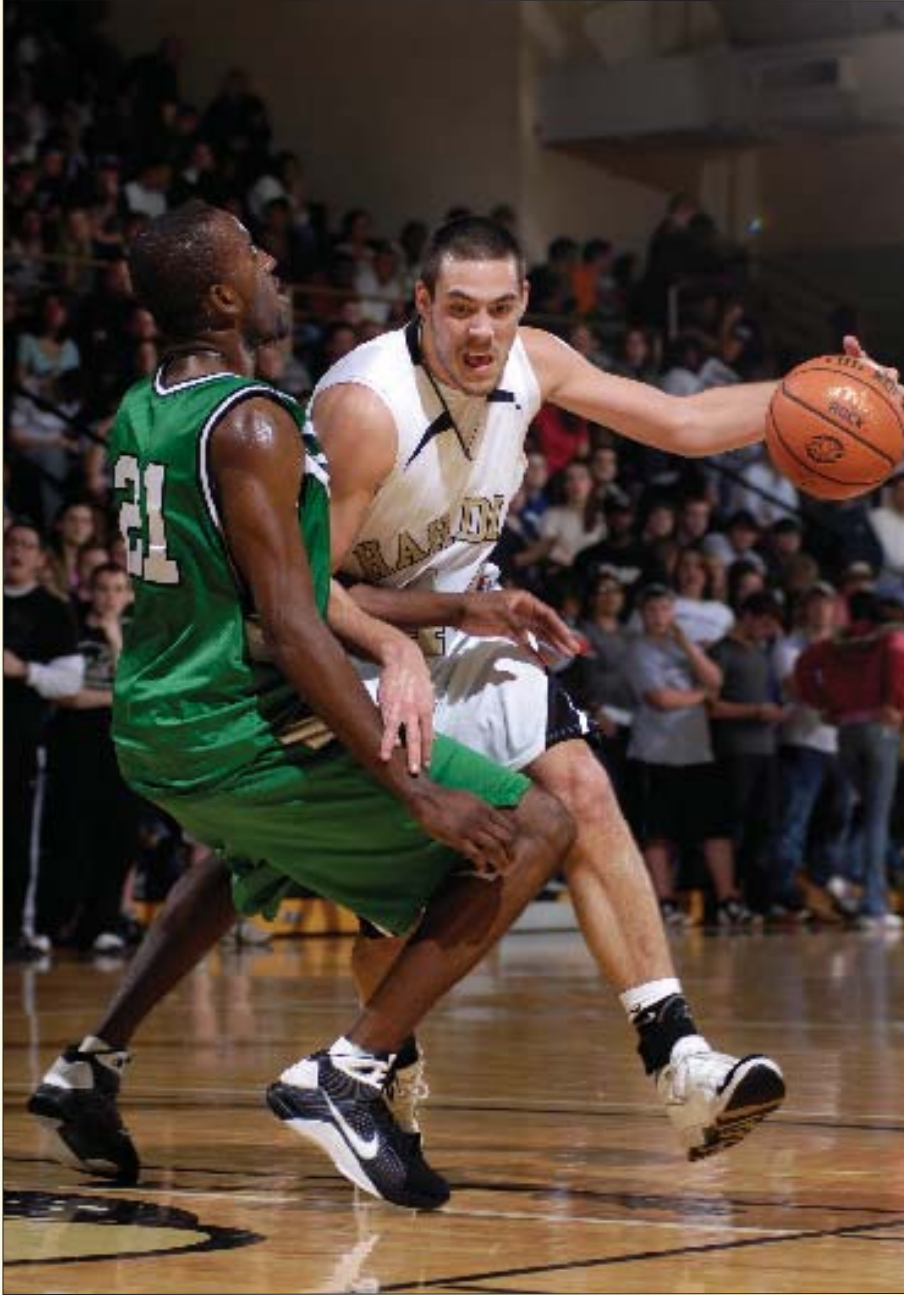
UALR (exhibition)	L 62-74
Missouri S&T	L 80-93, W 84-62
Champion Baptist	W 95-51
Incarnate Word	W 81-74
Alabama-Huntsville	W 66-58, W 78-57
Central Baptist	W 78-69
Ecclesia	W 87-38
North Alabama	W 80-66, L 92-98
Southeastern Oklahoma	W 72-64
St. Mary's (Texas)	L 66-72
Texas College	W 96-85
Henderson State	L 71-76, W 73-60
Southern Arkansas	W 77-61, L 69-78
Arkansas Tech	L 66-82, W 94-67
Christian Brothers	W 75-74, L 67-77
Arkansas Monticello	L 59-63, L 62-78
Delta State	L 70-72
Ouachita Baptist	W 69-67
<i>GSC TOURNAMENT</i>	
West Alabama	W 82-56
Christian Brothers	W 60-53
Arkansas Tech	L 63-73



Row 1: D. Morgan. Row 2: C. Rayford, S. Brown, T. Morgan, S. Barnett, S. Blake, B. Spencer, M. Walters, T. Hall. Row 3: J. Morgan, B. Burton, N. Ramirez, K. Porter, B. Howard, Z. Roddenberry, K. Brown, M. Garner, C. Dixon, J. Street, R. Woods.

a new look

Bisons rely on transfers, young players to compete



Sophomore forward **Matt Ragsdale** looks to drive around an Arkansas Monticello defender in a game played Jan. 24 in the Rhodes Field House. Ragsdale finished the season averaging 5.4 points and played almost 15 minutes per game. *Craig Rainbolt*

Sophomore forward **Kevin Brown** soars high above the Texas College defenders for two points in a game played on Jan. 5. Brown led the Bisons in free throw attempts and finished second in rebounds per game. *Craig Rainbolt*

As the 2008-09 season began, the Harding Bisons men's basketball team had a lot of unanswered questions when it came to team dynamics. Losing their number one scorer along with four other seniors the previous season, the minds of coaches, players and fans were clouded with thoughts of what was to come. Despite the loss of these key components from last year's Gulf South Conference West Championship team, Coach Jeff Morgan remained optimistic about the team's desire to succeed.

"Going into the season, the team had a chance to be better defensively and play quicker and more athletically," Morgan said. "Coming into the year we wanted to see how well the players developed and progressed throughout the year."

The 2008-09 team came into the season with three seniors and only two returning starters, joined with three freshmen, three transfer students and only one player that had any significant amount of playing time. The team looked to some fresh faces to provide momentum. The Bisons relied on solid play from sophomore transfers Sam Brown and Steven Blake, with sophomore Matt Garner also receiving a boost in playing time.

"The transfers have played an important part to the team's success," Morgan said. "They have come in and played really hard both offensively and defensively."

As one of the three seniors on the team and the only one with starting experience, senior guard Steven Barnett became a foundation for the team's success.

"Steven Barnett has become a better decision maker throughout his four years here," Morgan said. "[He] has become more of an offensive threat and is able to get his teammates open with his penetration and passing skills."

Barnett started a few games during his freshman year and started the past three years full-time.

"Knowing that I have a heads-up on [the] style and speed of play in the GSC really makes a difference in my game," he said. "Learning that we are all in this together as a team and that there is a good group of coaches here willing to help you has had a real impact on my time here at Harding."

Alongside Barnett, getting his first real taste of GSC play was senior forward Brian Howard. Howard had been with the team since the 2005-06 season, but really only began seeing an increase in the amount of his playing time in the 2008-09 season.

"It has been a different experience being able to start this year," Howard said. "I feel like I have taken on more of a leadership role."

With all the adjustments, the goal remained unchanged for the Bisons.

"Our goals for each year are the same; win championships and make it to the national tournament," Morgan said. "With the group of guys we have this year, we feel like we have a good chance to accomplish those goals and to build for future success."

Even though the team had a different look and style of play about them, each player was determined to achieve the goals set out before them at the beginning of the year by the team and the coaches.

Nathan Ramirez

Tropical Tip-off

Lady Bisons travel to Hawaii, share wins and experiences

When presented with the good fortune to travel to Hawaii and participate in a tournament over Christmas break, women's basketball head coach Tim Kirby immediately jumped at the chance.

"As a coaching staff we felt that this was a great opportunity for our girls to grow and experience new things as a team," Kirby said.

The team left from the Little Rock Airport on Dec. 19. Following a layover in Houston, the team took-off on an eight-hour flight to Honolulu on the island of Oahu. Changing time zones, a concern for the team, proved not to be a problem.

"We dealt with the time change going to Hawaii fine," Kirby said. "The problem was coming back to Searcy and losing those four hours that we had gained."

Despite the distractions that a place like Hawaii could bring, the team showed up at the tournament ready to play. They played two games within three days of their arrival, beating both Hawaii Chaminade and Hawaii Pacific. While the Lady Bisons won their first game fairly easily, the second proved more difficult.

"It came down to the last seven seconds," junior Kaitlin May said. "But we found a way to win and really came together as a team."

Kirby understood the circumstances he was placing his team in by accepting the invitation to play in this tournament and prepared accordingly.

"We prepared our scouting reports and gathered our game clips before we left, which really saved us a lot of time when we actually arrived," Kirby said. "It allowed us to spend time experiencing the different things that Hawaii has to offer."

After notching two wins in the tournament, the team was excited to get out and explore the island before returning home. The group drove around and indulged in the cultural and tourist attractions that Hawaii offered.

"We all had a good time just riding around the island and going to the beach," senior guard Katherine McMenamy said. "I couldn't have asked for a better group of girls to go with. We now share a special experience that we will remember for the rest of our lives."

The trip to Hawaii gave the Lady Bisons a chance to mold as a team and prepare for the season ahead. Returning home, the team continued their pursuit of making the Gulf South Conference tournament. With the help from some new faces like transfers senior Ashley Anderson and sophomore Makala McNair, the Lady Bisons looked to accomplish their goal.

"Starting out we wanted to give the new players the expectations that we had for them," Kirby said. "We wanted to let them know what the Lady Bison basketball team is all about."

With the combination of many newcomers and a load of experience, the Lady Bisons were able to face any challenge that came their way.

Nathan Ramirez



Senior post Ashley Anderson attempts a layup in front of the Alabama-Huntsville defenders in a game played Dec. 13. Anderson finished the year second on the team in both rebounding and scoring. *Craig Rainbolt*

Freshman guard Sierra Rollins maneuvers around a North Alabama defender to get to the basket in a game played Dec. 2. Rollins scored seven points in the game and had seven rebounds in the contest. *Craig Rainbolt*



Scoreboard

Lipscomb (exhibition)	L 66-84
West Florida	W 75-66
Tuskegee	W 70-56
Alabama-Huntsville	W 81-78, W 94-67
Central Baptist	W 100-64
Midwestern State	W 71-60
North Alabama	W 76-73, W 70-63
St. Edwards	W 91-87
Incarinate Word	W 73-69
Hawaii Chaminade	W 83-65
Hawaii Pacific	W 79-77
West Alabama	W 99-54
Ecclesia	W 87-43
Henderson State	L 77-91, W 77-76
Southern Arkansas	W 89-77, W 79-61
Arkansas Tech	L 59-69, W 80-48
Christian Brothers	L 79-80, W 72-57
Arkansas-Monticello	L 89-94, L 74-86
Delta State	L 42-71
Ovachita Baptist	L 104-108
GSC TOURNAMENT	
West Alabama	W 78-68
Delta State	L 53-79



Row 1: C. Fullerton. **Row 2:** S. Rollins, R. Carter, C. Bartee, J. Stevens, K. May, M. McNair, L. Fugett, A. Troxler, C. McMenemy, P. Fullerton, J. Fullerton. **Row 3:** T. Kirby, J. Pearson, J. Walker, R. Williams, S. Stajduhar, S. Owens, L. Root, N. Mynatt, A. Ingle, A. Anderson, A. Garcia, B. Moody, C. Bailey, S. Hancock, S. Fullerton.

Craig Rainbolt



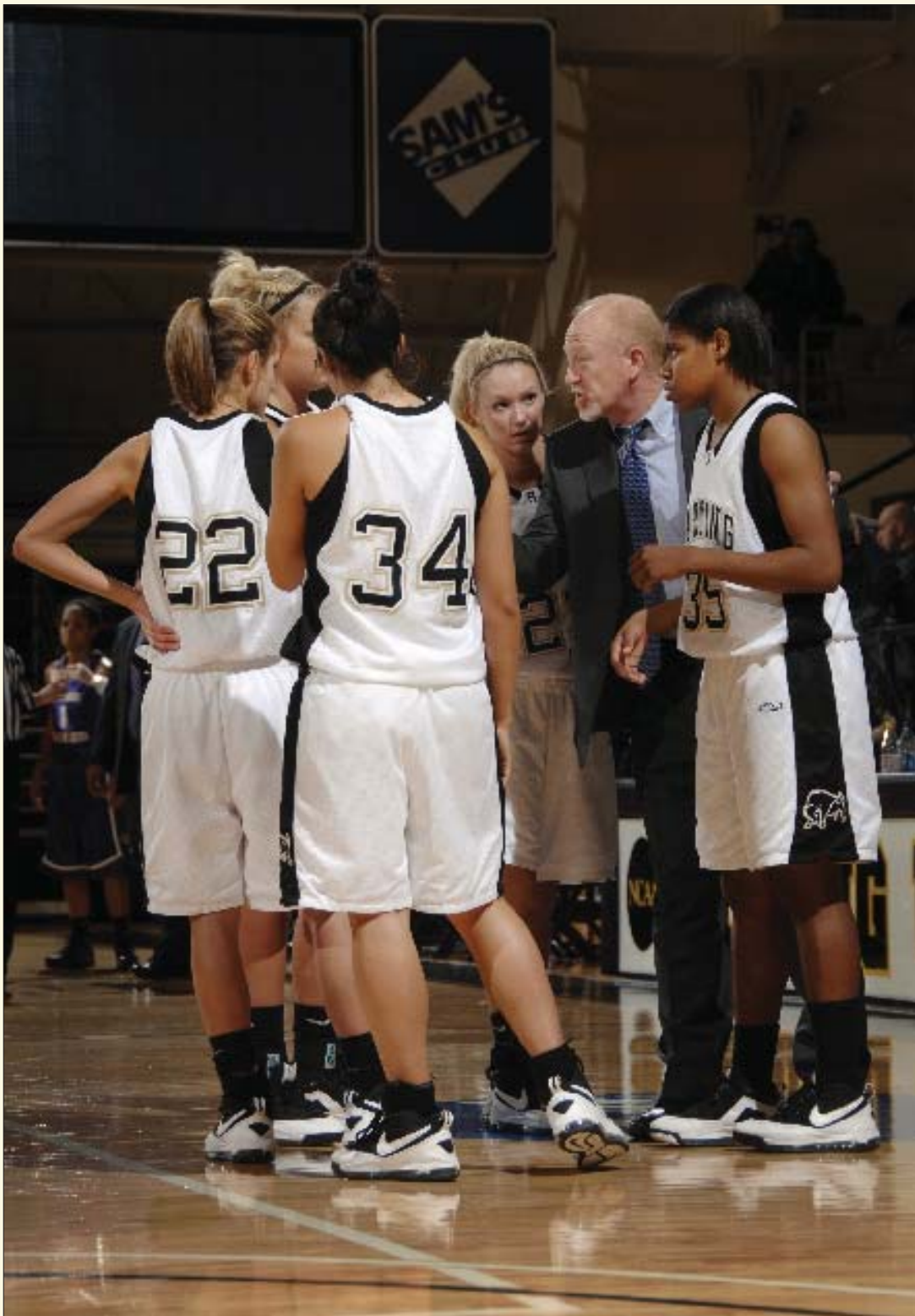
Craig Rainbolt



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