

Athletes *run ahead to perfect their* SUCCESS

Every day, athletes took steps to win the prize.

In I Corinthians 9:24 Paul said, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize."

During the year, teams and individuals spent time training their bodies and their spiritual lives. Athletes spent countless hours practicing, watching films of their sports and lifting weights. Many also made time to attend Bible studies, lead the student body during chapel, serve the community and show Christ to their friends and fellow teammates.

Being a Christian student athlete involved many responsibilities. Athletes had to conduct themselves, both on and off the field, in ways that exhibited respect for themselves, their opponents and most importantly, Christ.

Athletes came and competed in an atmosphere of sportsmanship with a high level of camaraderie. Student athletes strove for the crown on the field, while taking steps daily to receive the crown that would last forever.

—Ben Carrigan
Athletics Editor



Allowing the law of gravity to take control, junior Darren McCrillis comes back down to the ground after successfully dunking the basketball at Midnight Madness Oct. 14. At midnight, the team officially began practice for the season. (Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)

coach reaches the Finish Line

Cross country and track coach Bryan Phillips retired and began teaching full time in the kinesiology department this fall.

Phillips' motivation for the move from coach to full-time teacher, which was made possible by Dr. Karyl Bailey's retirement, was the opportunity to be able to spend more time with his wife and children. Phillips coached cross country and track for 11 years before retiring.

Phillips was highly regarded by the team.

"He was disciplined, held himself very well and showed integrity," junior Gary Luna said. "He had very strong beliefs followed by action."

Team members also appreciated Phillips' good attitude.

"He expected the best, but he had realistic expectations of the team," Luna said. "Other coaches I've had before have gone nuts because their athletes didn't perform, but he always kept a good attitude."

Phillips' talent as a coach was recognized not only by students, but also by his peers.

During his time as coach, Phillips earned seven coach of the year awards, four for the Gulf South Conference and three for the

South Region. He also coached more than 20 All-American athletes.

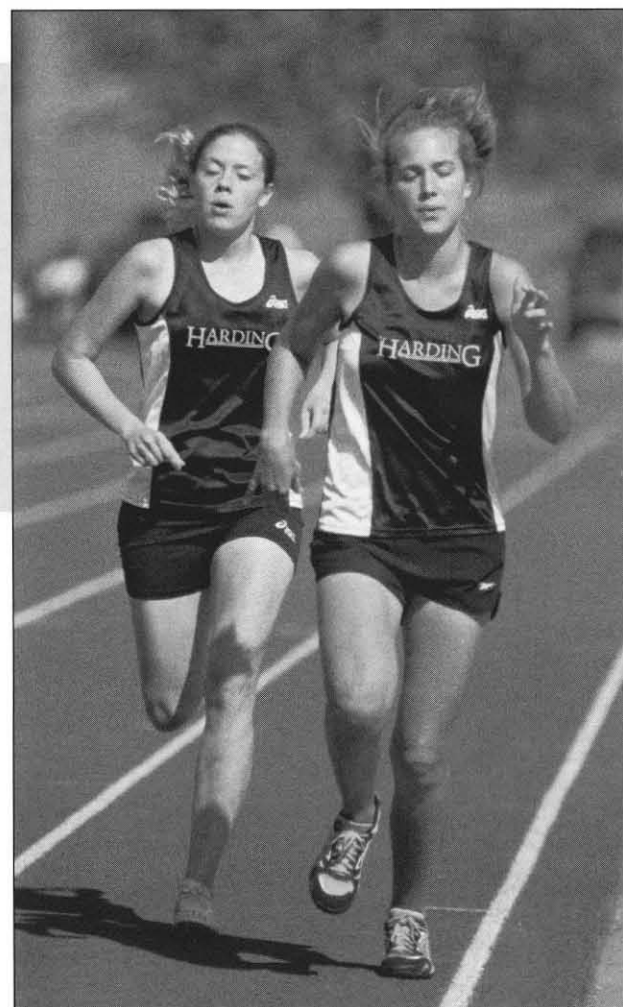
Phillips' hard work, combined with the abilities of the track team, led to an impressive final season in the spring of 2002. Senior David Scharff, juniors Jacob Rotich and Tyler Kemmerer all qualified and ran in the NCAA Division II Outdoor National Track Meet. Rotich set the school record for the 10,000 meter run and Kemmerer set the school record for the 400 meter run. Senior Hanna Ritakallio qualified and ran in the NCAA Division II Indoor National Track Meet.

Athletes also earned recognition for academic performance. Senior Scott Penick and Kemmerer were named to the 2002 Verizon Academic Men's Track and Field All-District VI Team.

The Division II Outdoor National Track Meet in May 2002 was Phillips' last meet as head coach. Steve Guymon, former head cross country and track coach at Cordova High School in Cordova, Tenn. and former assistant coach at the University of Kansas, took over the teams in August 2002.

—Marina Shannon

Sophomore Sarah Reeser and senior Britney Copeland share the inside lane at the Harding Invitational April 9. Reeser's best events were the 800 and 3,000 meter runs, while Copeland's success was found in the 5,000 meter run. (Photo by Daniel Dubois)



Scott Wietecha sophomore

"Every race I begin by warming up with three miles. I then stretch and watch who I am up against. I always say a prayer to keep first things first and then I finish by running some sprints."



(Photo by Daniel Dubois)

track

Indoor Meets

Jayhawk Invitational Lawrence, Kan.

Mule Relays Warrensburg, Mo.

LSU Invitational Baton Rouge, La.

NCAA Division II Nationals Boston, Mass.

Outdoor Meets

UALR Invitational Russellville, Ark.

Big Cat Classic Memphis, Tenn.

Texas Relays Austin, Texas

Harding Invitational Searcy, Ark.

John McDonnell Invitational Fayetteville, Ark.

Kansas Relays Lawrence, Kan.

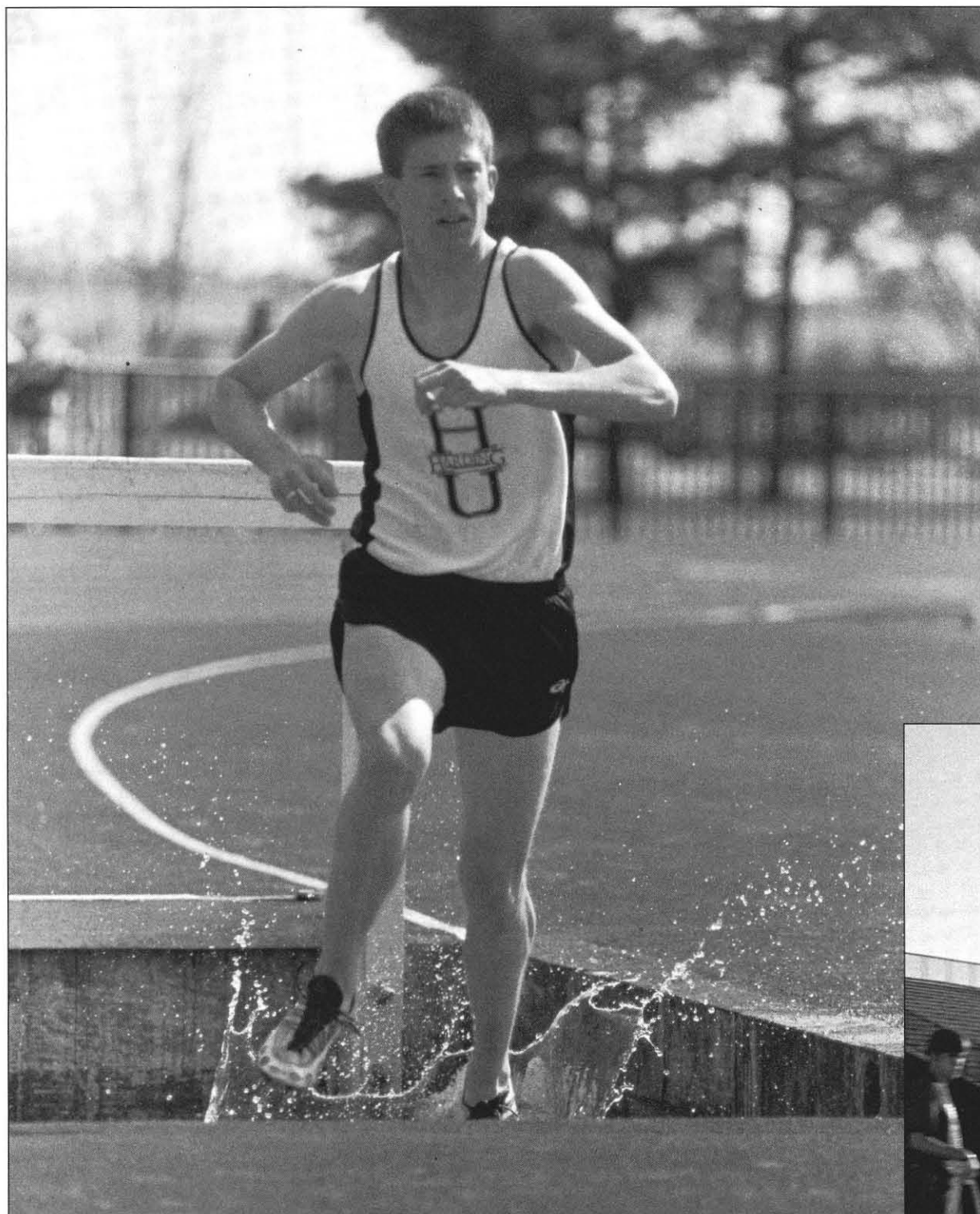
Drake Relays Des Moines, Iowa

UTA Open Arlington, Texas

ACU Open Abilene, Texas

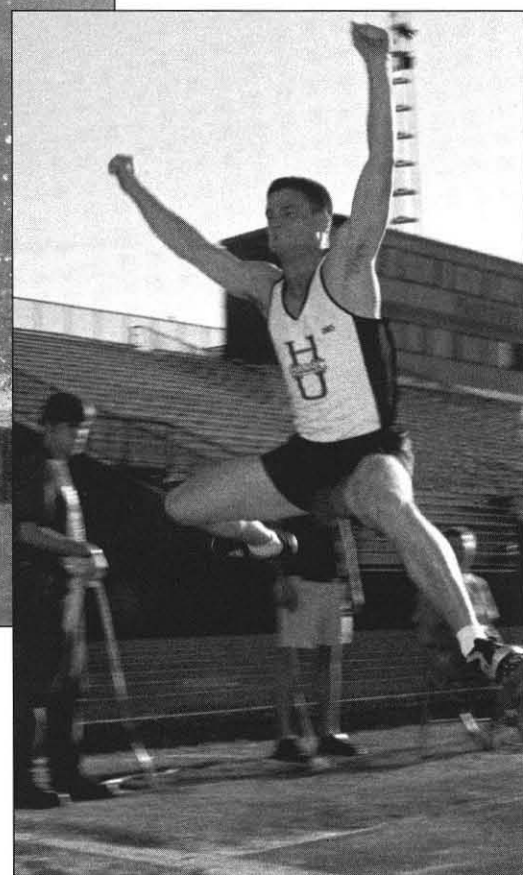
NCAA Division II Nationals San Angelo, Texas

(Photo by Daniel Dubois)



Water splashes around senior Andrew Scharff's feet as he runs the steeplechase April 9. Scharff finished the 3,000 meter steeplechase at the Harding Invitational with a time of 9:56. (Photo by Daniel Dubois)

Senior Adam Crane leaps into the sand pit as he attempts to beat the competition in the long jump. Crane's best jump of 19 feet and 10 inches came at the Harding Invitational April 9 which earned him a third place finish. (Photo by Daniel Dubois)



The Bisons line up for a practice run before the meet at Harding April 9. The men's team sent four runners to compete in the national preliminaries held May 23-25 in San Angelo, Texas. Senior David Scharff and junior Jacob Rotich advanced to the finals also held in San Angelo. (Photo by Daniel Dubois)





Senior Gary Albritton makes a force play at the plate as a Henderson State opponent slides in March 23. Albritton batted third and ended his college career batting .312. (Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)



Freshman Sean Camilleri rounds third base in the team's 14-0 victory over the University of Central Arkansas April 20. Camilleri started 43 games for the team in left field, finishing the season with a 14-game hitting streak, the team's longest of the season. (Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)

Senior Ben James slides into second trying to break up a double play. As a senior, James helped lead the Bisons to the first 30 win season in school history. (Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)



Matt Walter
sophomore

“The main thing is for me to get mentally focused and picture myself succeeding. Our team also finds time to get together and pray for the safety of the players.”



(Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)



Junior Aaron Gurley, rifles the ball to the plate in a game versus the Arkansas Tech Wonder Boys April 6. Gurley led the team to a win, improving his record to 6-2 for the year. (Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)

makin' **noise** *in the* **Nation**

The 2002 season was the most successful baseball season in school history. The Bisons finished the year 32-17 and earned their first national ranking since joining NCAA Division II in 1997.

The team, led by coach Shane Fullerton, won two games at the Gulf South Conference Tournament, despite being ranked last.

"We saw a lot of our goals realized during the season," Fullerton said. "From making the tournament to gaining a national ranking, the season was an exciting, breakthrough season for us."

The last week of the season, the hardballers were voted 27th in the national poll. At the same time, the Bisons were making progress at the GSC tournament, beating two ranked teams, Alabama-Huntsville and North Alabama.

Seniors Gary Albritton, Ben James, Ryan Lee and Kenny Sprenger led the team on the diamond.

"Gary, Ben, Ryan and Kenny were immeasurable as leaders," Fullerton said. "They started the tradition of the senior class leading by hard work."

Junior center fielder Stephen Smith, hitting .333 with eight home runs, earned the Bisons' only first-team all GSC spot. Freshman left fielder Sean Camilleri and junior pitcher Aaron Gurley were named to the All-Conference Second Team.

Freshmen also made an impact for the Bisons. Camilleri and designated hitter/pitcher Justin Cone set several school records for freshmen. Cone led the team in batting average, hitting .378 and tied the school home run record, blasting 11. Cone also led the team in earned run average (2.00) and compiled a 5-2 record. He took home the GSC tournament MVP award by going 6-for-15, hitting three home runs, earning a win and striking out seven in eight and two-thirds innings pitched.

"Coach helped me out quite a bit," Cone said. "It's totally different from playing in high school. In college, you have to change the way you do some things."

Sophomores Morgan Trotter and Ben Neely helped pull the infield together. Trotter, a third baseman, crushed the school RBI record, knocking in 54. Neely set a school record for most at bats in one season with 187 and also led the team with 47 runs scored.

Sophomores Matt Walter and Brandon Dension, and Gurley combined for a 19-10 record and started 36 of the Bisons' games.

"We worked hard," Walter said. "The mindset and attitude was always positive."

—Cody Usher

baseball

Williams Baptist	Loss 5-6, Win 3-2
Freed-Hardeman	Win 5-4
Williams Baptist	Win 16-5
East Central	Win 4-2, Win 4-3
Ozarks (Mo.)	Win 10-4
Crichton	Win 8-2
Missouri-Rolla	Win 5-3
Lyon	Loss 5-10
Northeastern State	Win 8-1, Win 10-7
Ozarks (Ark.)	Win 13-2
Christian Brothers	Win 5-4, Win 12-7, Win 13-8
Freed-Hardeman	Loss 1-5, Win 6-2
Arkansas-Monticello	Win 15-5, Loss 3-5, Loss 2-19
Southern Arkansas	Loss 3-10, Loss 6-7
Henderson State	Win 7-6, Win 4-3, Win 7-4
Ozarks (Mo.)	Loss 5-8, Win 7-6
Arkansas-Monticello	Loss 1-7, Win 13-2
Arkansas Tech	Win 6-2, Loss 2-5, Win 6-5
Ouachita Baptist	Win 16-7, Win 9-5, Win 7-5
Crichton	Win 12-1
Central Arkansas	Win 14-0, Loss 0-1, Win 8-3
Lyon	Loss 2-16, Win 7-6
Delta State	Loss 0-10, Loss 2-12, Loss 15-19

Gulf South Conference Tournament

North Alabama	Win 13-6	Alabama-Huntsville	Win 4-2
Valdosta State	Loss 4-7	Southern Arkansas	Loss 1-6

(Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)



singles *find* Success

The 2002 golf team had limited success on the course, but achieved much as individuals.

Coach Nicky Boyd said the golf team was more about opportunities.

"Golf being a non-scholarship sport [at Harding] makes it hard to compete," Boyd said. "We look at it as a chance to provide students on campus a chance for high quality competition."

The Bisons finished 13th out of 14 teams at the conference meet in Hot Springs, Ark., April 14-15. Senior Dustin Taylor played three of his best four rounds this year shooting 78, 78 and 79. Taylor also earned his highest finish of the year, tying for 40th place.

"We had our ups and downs," freshman Matt Blansett said. "I wish we could have ended on a higher note than we did, but it seemed like everyone put forth the highest effort that they could."

Senior Jared Smith was the most consistent of the Bisons. Smith, who was the top finisher for Harding in six of the eight meets, shot a Bison season low of 75 at the University of Central Arkansas Invitational Sept. 24-25. Smith also led the team at UCA, placing 30th.

Boyd said the team will miss Smith.

"Jared Smith was one of the best players

we had," Boyd said. "He was a team leader for four years and he will be hard to replace."

Senior basketball standout Aaron Farley showed his golfing skills this season. Farley participated in three events and shot his season-low of 79 at the Freed-Hardeman Invitational April 8-10.

"Farley got off to a late start for us due to basketball," Boyd said. "We're hoping he'll be a leader and have a bigger role next season."

In the classroom, graduate student Stephen Finley earned All-Gulf South Conference Academic Team honors. Finley had a 3.91 GPA while working on his Master of Business Administration.

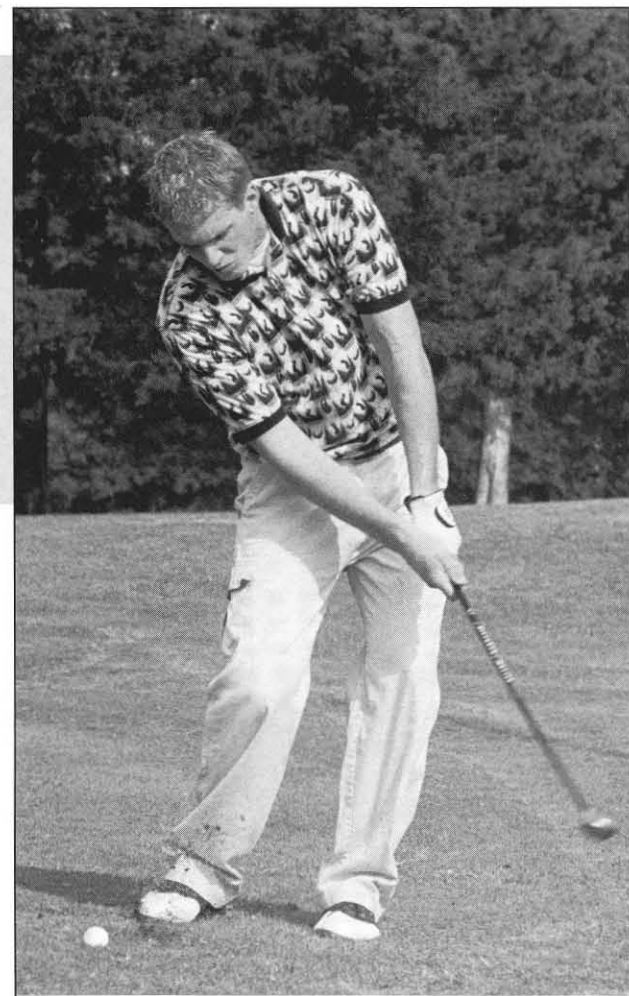
The Gulf South Conference provided difficult competition for non-scholarship programs. Two teams from the GSC finished in the top 10 at the NCAA Division II Finals. North Alabama took fourth place and West Florida finished ninth.

Three of the top 10 individual finalists came from the GSC.

"Competition is great in our league, we go up against many schools that are very good," sophomore Doug Sanders said.

—Cody Usher

Sophomore Bobby Bates swings his putter to finish the hole during a practice at the Searcy Country Club. The team practiced three times a week when they were not playing in a tournament. (Photo by Russ Phillips)



Travis Lauterbach freshman

"The night before a tournament, we just hang out as a team. I like to visualize certain shots and situations that I might be in during the match. And then I just go out and do it."



(Photo by Russ Phillips)

golf

UCA Invitational

Team: 12 of 14

St. Gregory's Invitational

Team: 16 of 18

Drury Classic

Team: 20 of 20

Doyle Wallace Classic

Team: 10 of 11

Arkansas Tech Collegiate Classic

Team: 10 of 11

UC Invitational

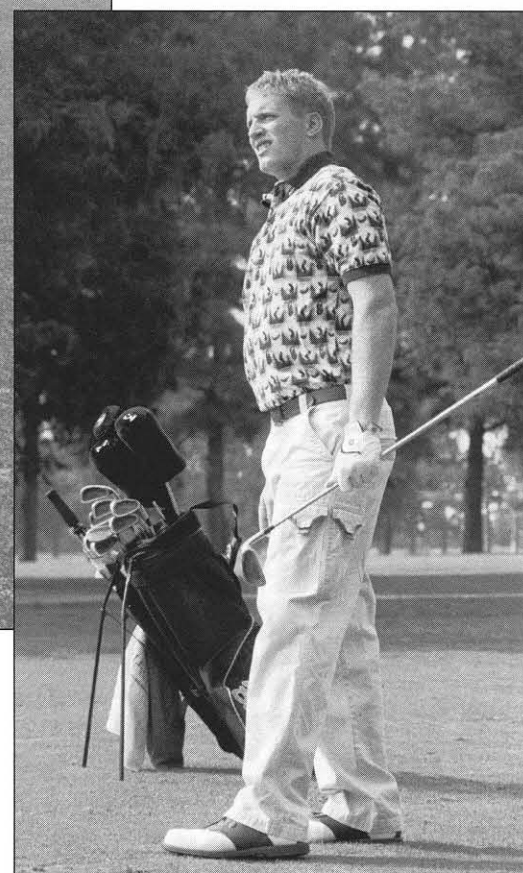
Team: 10 of 11

(Photo by Russ Phillips)



Sinking a putt, freshman Adrian Morgan, completes his round during a practice. Morgan was one of two freshmen to join the team this fall. (Photo by Russ Phillips)

As he watches his ball travel down the fairway, sophomore Bobby Bates decides on his next approach to the cup. The team competed in six different events during the season and placed as high as 10th. (Photo by Russ Phillips)



Sophomore Bobby Bates and freshmen Adrian Morgan and Travis Lauterbach discuss strategy as they travel to the next hole at the Searcy Country Club. Senior Jared Smith helped lead the team by participating in all six tournaments the team entered. (Photo by Russ Phillips)



Senior sisters Eva and Penny Axelsson encourage each other between points during a doubles match against the number two seeds from Ouachita Baptist March 23. The tandem filled the number two seed on the squad for the entire season. (Photo by Daniel Dubois)



Slamming the ball back across the net, junior Carolina Banuelos scores another point during practice. Banuelos ended the season with a record of 11 wins and 10 losses. (Photo by Jeff Montgomery)

Senior Eva Axelsson stretches for a shot during her singles match at the Harding courts against Ouachita Baptist April 15. Over her career, Axelsson won 53 of her matches, leaving school with a .726 winning percentage. (Photo by Daniel Dubois)



Laura Tollett
Senior

“I feel the most confident when I am in the best shape and the most prepared. I feel good and relaxed right after I’ve gone out and hit around on the court.”



(Photo by Daniel Dubois)



Junior Carolina Banuelos and senior Laura Tollett take a moment to celebrate during their doubles match at the Harding Invitational March 30. They defeated their opponents from Drury by an 8-5 margin. (Photo by Daniel Dubois)

the brains behind the Game

The 2001-02 Lady Bison tennis team established itself as a force to be reckoned with. The team's final ranking of 21st in NCAA Division II proved that hard work pays off.

The Lady Bison tennis team definitely boasted intelligence along with athletic ability. The team had a combined grade point average of 3.67 and each girl on the squad maintained a grade point average of at least 3.2.

Coach David Elliot agreed there was a correlation between the girls' high grades and their determination to play to the best of their abilities.

Several of the women were recognized for their academic achievements. Junior Daniela Corrales and senior Eva Axelsson made the Verizon Academic All-District VI team. Seniors Pernilla Axelsson and Laura Tollett and Corrales each received Academic All-Conference recognition.

The Lady Bison Tennis team completed the year with 21 wins and eight losses. Elliot attributed much of his team's success to the seniors.

"We had real good leadership this year, our seniors really made a difference," Elliot said.

Dedication was shown by several team members.

"The dedication shared by all of my teammates really encourages me to continue to work hard," sophomore Sara Campbell said. "We had four seniors last year, and they were all great leaders. The twins Eva and Penny Axelsson will be missed so much next season. They always encouraged all of us so much by the dedication they had themselves."

Along with academic and athletic success, the team formed relationships with each other that were remembered.

"We were really great friends," junior Carolina Banuelos said. "We were really close. We played as a team."

The team knew it would have big shoes to fill next season after the seniors left.

"They were great teammates. We will lose a big part of us," Banuelos said.

The team also believed Elliot contributed a great deal to their success, Banuelos said.

"He was a great supporter of us," she said. "During all of our ups and downs, he was always there trying to cheer us up."

The 2001-02 Lady Bison tennis team was more than just a group of girls who knew how to play tennis. It was a team that knew how to be supportive.

"Their closeness and togetherness was exceptional," Elliot said.

—Jenna LaCaze



women's tennis

Northeastern State	Loss 2-7
Hendrix	Win 9-0
Louisiana Tech	Win 4-3
Lyon	Win 9-0
Ouachita Baptist	Loss 1-7
Arkansas Tech	Win 9-0
Southern Illinois	Win 5-2
Henderson State	Win 9-0
John Brown	Win 9-0
Central Arkansas	Win 6-3
Christian Brothers	Win 9-0
Northeastern State	Loss 2-6
Drury	Win 5-1
Southern Arkansas	Win 5-0
Arkansas Tech	Win 9-0
Central Arkansas	Win 6-3
Oklahoma Christian	Loss 1-6
John Brown	Win 9-0
Delta State	Loss 4-5
Ouachita Baptist	Loss 3-6
Henderson State	Win 9-0
Arkansas-Monticello	Win 7-0
Gulf South Tournament	
Northern Alabama	Win 5-1
Ouachita Baptist	Loss 2-5

(Photo by Daniel Dubois)



another Smashing Season

The 2002 men's tennis team posted their best record since joining the NCAA in 1996, leading to a national ranking of 40th.

The Bisons went 17-6 overall with a third place finish in the Gulf South Conference-West Division.

A mix of senior leaders and freshmen helped the Bisons make their second appearance at the NCAA Division II South Regional.

Senior Jacobo Martinez finished up an outstanding career, compiling a 40-27 record in singles and a 40-24 in doubles matches during his three-year career. Martinez's 14-7 record for the season earned him his second straight spot on the GSC's first team. The San Luis Potosi, Mexico native kept a 3.35 grade point average in marketing, which qualified him for the Verizon Academic All-District VI squad, as well as the GSC academic all-conference team.

"Jacobo is a great person to have around," coach David Elliott said. "He always displayed a positive attitude and is one of my all-time favorite players that I have coached."

Freshmen David Ferreira and Andrew Giron went 10-3 as a doubles combination, leading the Bisons in doubles winning percentage. Ferreira won the Gulf South Conference-West Freshman of the Year and a spot on the All-Conference

Second Team with a 14-1 singles record. His .933 winning percentage is the highest of any Bison netter since Harding joined the NCAA in 1997. Giron went 9-4 and was also named to the All-GSC second team.

"David and Andrew are two of the most physically talented players we've had," Elliott said. "They showed great maturity for international, first-semester freshmen."

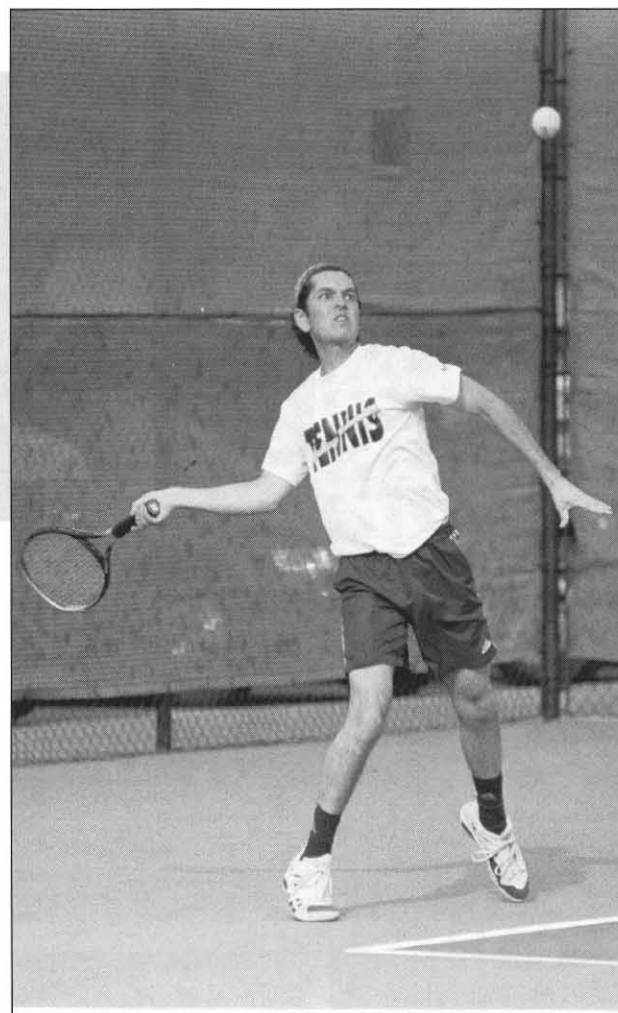
Junior Artur Sikora was another Bison to receive an All-Conference honor. Sikora finished the season with an 11-8 record, bringing his career win-loss total to 43-24. Sikora's .642 career winning percentage was the 23rd best in school history since 1972.

Two other seniors made contributions to the team in 2002. Klaus Schmidt played 14-3 in singles and 11-4 in doubles. Schmidt finished his career with a 41-23 singles record. Justin John ended his college tennis career finishing 14-4, the best single season of his career.

The Bison tennis team maintained a successful record, despite playing a more difficult schedule, Elliott said. All of Harding's losses were to nationally ranked opponents. Five losses came from foes ranking in the top 35 of NCAA Division II.

—Cody Usher

Senior Jacobo Martinez prepares to return a serve to his opponent at the Harding Invitational April 29. Martinez received Harding's Berryhill Award in May. (Photo by Daniel Dubois)



David Ferreira
Freshman

"I do a lot of research by reading up on my opponents so I will be as prepared as possible to play them. I also watch others that are playing and try to learn their style so I can implement the game plan that will be most effective."



(Photo by Jeff Montgomery)

men's tennis

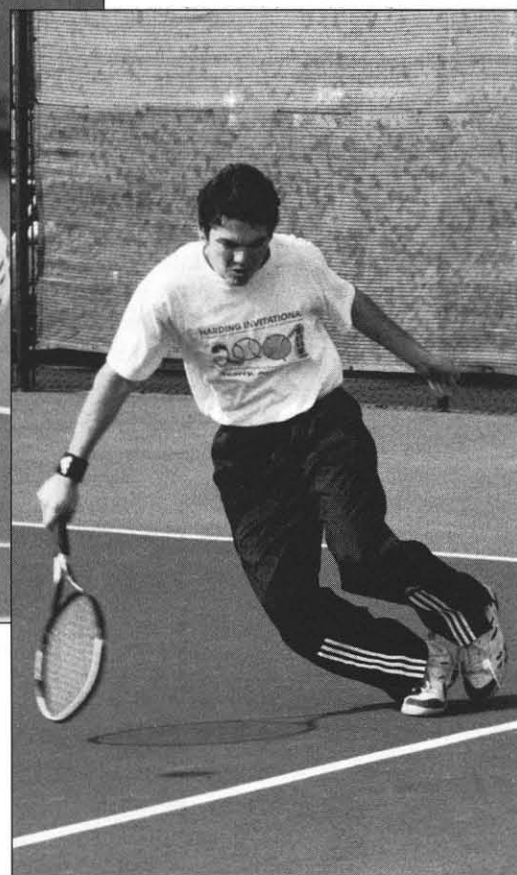
Oklahoma Christian	Loss 1-8
Hendrix	Win 8-1
Ouachita Baptist	Loss 0-5
Southwest Baptist	Win 6-3
Christian Brothers	Win 6-0
Southwestern Oklahoma	Win 7-2
Rhodes	Win 5-4
Lyon	Win 9-0
Texas-Tyler	Win 9-0
John Brown	Win 9-0
Christian Brothers	Win 9-0
Ozarks (Ark.)	Win 9-0
East Central	Win 6-0
Delta State	Loss 3-5
Christian Brothers	Win 9-0
Ozarks (Ark.)	Win 9-0
John Brown	Win 8-1
Delta State	Loss 1-7
Lyon	Win 9-0
Gulf South Tournament	
Lincoln Memorial	Win 5-0
West Florida	Loss 0-5

(Photo by Daniel Dubois)



Junior Klaus Schmidt smashes the ball across the net while practicing at the Harding courts. Klaus was undefeated as the number three seed for the team. (Photo by Daniel Dubois)

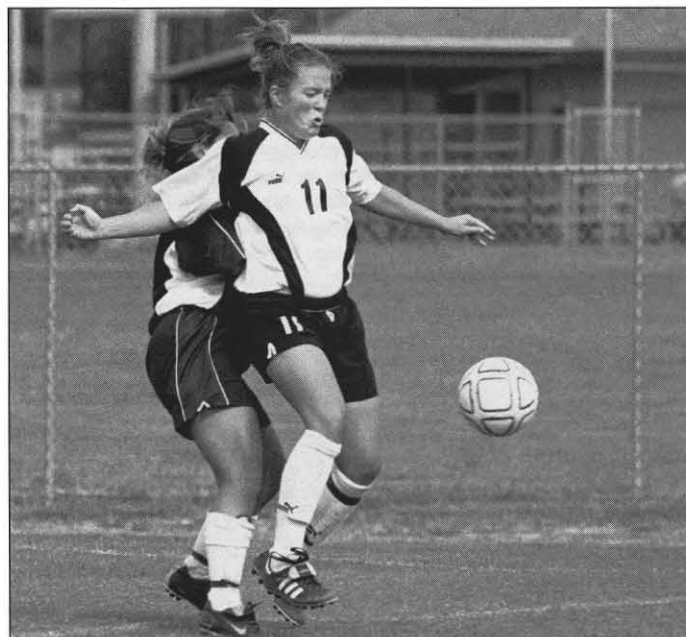
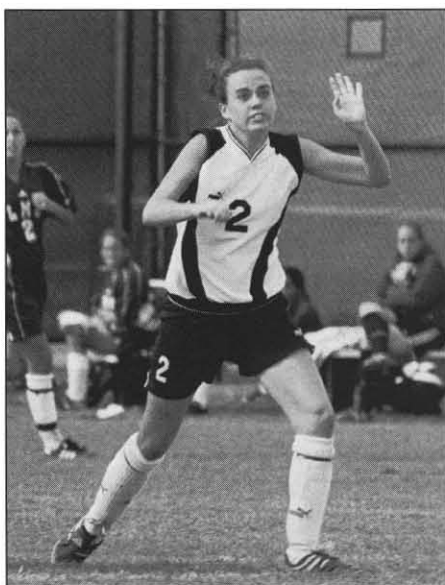
Stretching out, senior Jacobo Martinez, lunges for a ball that landed just outside of his reach. Martinez was voted to the 2002 Verizon Academic All-District VI College Division Spring Men's At-Large Team. (Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)



Getting into position, freshman Stephen Paine returns a ball over the net. During his first season with the team, Paine won nine matches and lost three. (Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)



Ready for the pass, sophomore Lori Boren signals that she is open to receive the ball during a home game against Lincoln Memorial Oct. 13. Boren scored two goals in the game, leading the team to a 4-1 win. (Photo by April Clem)



Junior Courtney Saul keeps her body between the ball and a Lincoln Memorial defender Oct. 13. The team's grit and determination proved successful, securing a 4-1 victory. (Photo by April Clem)

During halftime, coach Greg Harris gives directions for improving play in the second half of the Oct. 11 game against Alabama-Huntsville. The team lost 1-2. (Photo by April Clem)



Brooke Cockrell
junior

“I like to sit and focus by myself, and then we go out and warm up as a team.”



(Photo by April Clem)



Determined to stay ahead of the Alabama-Huntsville opponents, junior Lyndsey Garner keeps her eyes on the ball Oct. 11. Throughout the season, players sharpened their skills during practice in order to optimize their performance, during matches. (Photo by April Clem)

rebuilding a young Team

The Lady Bison soccer team looked to rebuild this year, after losing four seniors last year. Coach Greg Harris added 13 new freshmen to the roster in the fall.

With an overall record of 5-14, the Lady Bisons made good use of the home field advantage, taking three wins at home.

The new bleachers made it possible for larger crowds to watch games and help the team defeat Freed Hardeman University, Millsaps and Lincoln Memorial.

Freshman Megan Hatcher scored eight goals on the season while freshman Becky Oostenbrug made six goals and had four assists this season.

Along with the new talent, returning players sophomore Lori Boren and junior Lyndsey Garner combined for nine season goals.

"I thought we played a lot better as a team this year," Boren said. "All the new girls really added a lot to the team."

Junior Courtney Saul, team captain, and junior Brooke Cockrell both made first team All-Gulf South Conference. Boren made second team All-GSC.

"We had a really young team so it was a building year, but I am looking forward to playing next year," Cockrell said. "We'll have 10 starters returning and I really believe that we'll just perform better and play better."

Along with new offensive changes came defensive changes as well. Freshman Lindsey Kertes and junior Gracey Mathis worked together to make 113 saves at the goal.

All-conference defender Cockrell shot past midfield to score five season goals.

With the new improvements came typical building-year problems. The Lady Bisons went only two for eight in conference play. Though most of the six conference losses were heart-breakingly close, the team was outscored by only nine season goals.

"We were pretty much in every game, and we had that chance to win. We didn't get blown out by any one team," Cockrell said. "Hopefully next year we can score more. We need to work on the little things, and a lot of that will come with the freshmen from this year settling down."

The problem of finishing seemed to be the next area of focus.

"We are already competing, we just need to finish more," Boren said.

—Ryan Saul

soccer

Minnesota Duluth	Loss 3-4
Millsaps	Win 9-0
Eckerd	Loss 0-3
Central Oklahoma	Loss 1-4
Midwestern State	Loss 0-3
Texas A&M-Commerce	Loss 0-6
John Brown	Win 5-1
Christian Brothers	Loss 0-3
North Alabama	Loss 1-4
Freed Hardeman	Win 7-0
Belhaven	Loss 1-2
Ouachita Baptist	Win 1-0
Alabama-Huntsville	Loss 1-2
Lincoln Memorial	Win 4-1
Northeastern State	Loss 1-2
Montevallo	Loss 1-2
West Florida	Loss 1-5
Central Arkansas	Loss 0-2
Dallas Baptist	Loss 3-4

(Photo by April Clem)



records were made to be Broken

The men's soccer team showed improvement this year and finished its third season with an overall record of 7-11-2 and 2-5 in the Gulf South Conference.

The team tied for fifth place in the GSC.

"We had the most wins in school history this season," senior Jon Ireland said.

Ireland was ranked first on the team in assists, with 11, and second on the team in points scored, with 20.

Greg Harris, coach of both men's and women's soccer, was proud of the team's hard work and focus.

"The men's team competed and played very well this year. They were very tough," Harris said. "They were a very focused and well-rounded team as far as skill and ability."

Harris said overall, the team was an experienced group, but also showed some freshmen talent.

Freshman Ben Faris became Harding's first to receive the GSC Fresh-

man of the Year award. Faris scored 13 goals, the most by any player in the GSC.

"Our freshman class was quality, but our veterans brought great leadership to the team," senior Jeff Ireland said.

Offense was not the only successful part of the men's game, however.

Junior Zach Dameron was named GSC Defensive Player of the Week Sept. 30.

Outstanding offensive players and a cohesive team were not the only things required to create a successful team.

Players also appreciated the show of support from fans.

"I know that I can speak for the team that we greatly appreciate the fan turnout this year," junior Jay Ellis said.

"Compared to other quality programs, our fan base was phenomenal and I know it will continue to grow as the years go on."

—Sarah Rabon

Avoiding the Freed-Hardeman defender, senior Mitch Jones drives the ball back to the forwards Oct. 1 at home. During the season, Jones helped the Bisons by assisting two goals as a defensive player. (Photo by Jeff Montgomery)



Ben Faris freshman

"Since we don't have a locker room, we just sit in a classroom and play some music and focus on our previous game. I sit in silence and replay the mistakes that I made in the last game and I try to visualize how I would fix them."

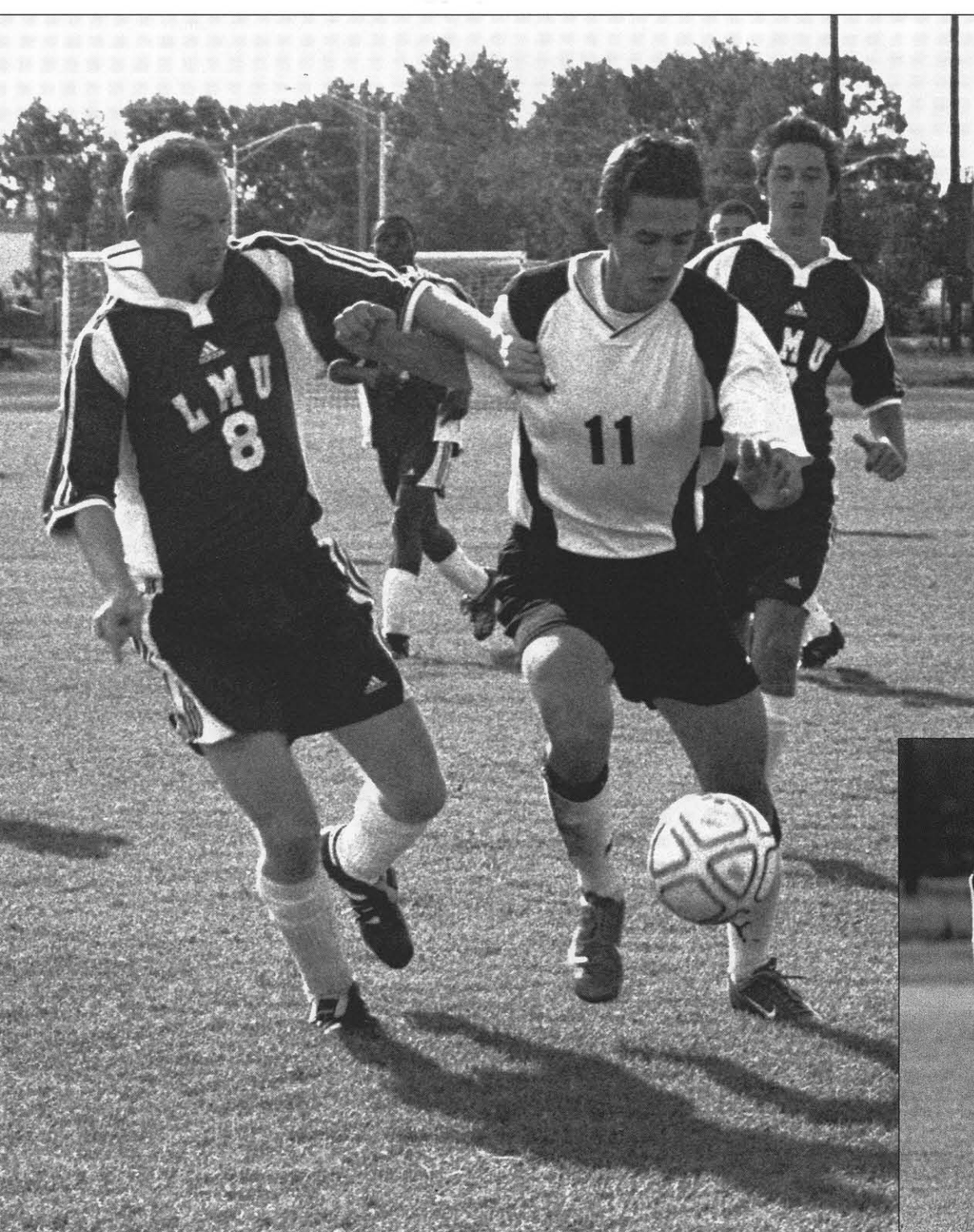


(Photo by Jeff Montgomery)

Soccer

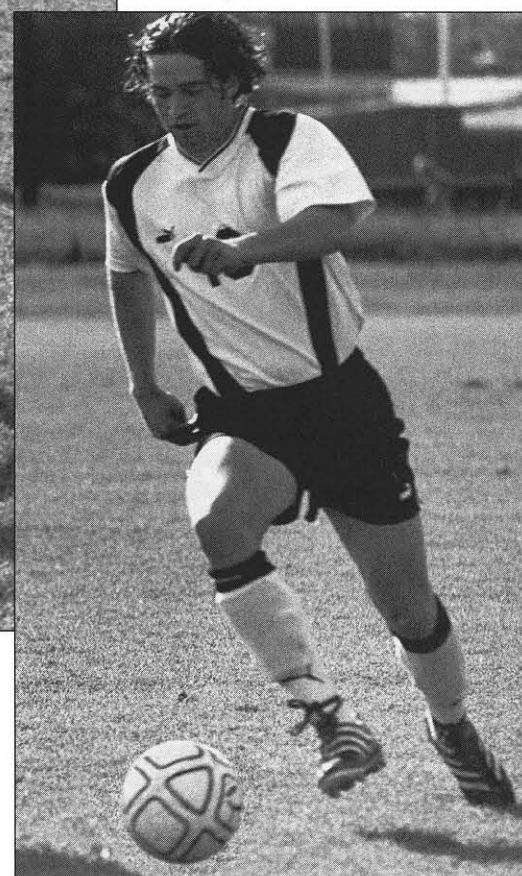
Assumption	Loss 1-3
Auburn-Montgomery	Loss 0-2
Lynn	Loss 1-3
Union University	Tie 1-1
Southern Nazarene	Loss 2-3
Williams Baptist	Win 11-0
John Brown	Win 2-1
Christian Brothers	Tie 1-1
Missouri-Rolla	Loss 0-1
Freed-Hardeman	Win 4-0
Belhaven	Win 3-0
Ouachita Baptist	Loss 1-2
Alabama-Huntsville	Win 3-0
Lincoln Memorial	Win 2-0
Northeastern State	Loss 0-5
Montevallo	Loss 0-3
West Florida	Loss 0-1
Central Arkansas	Loss 1-5
Dallas Baptist	Win 3-2

(Photo by Jeff Montgomery)

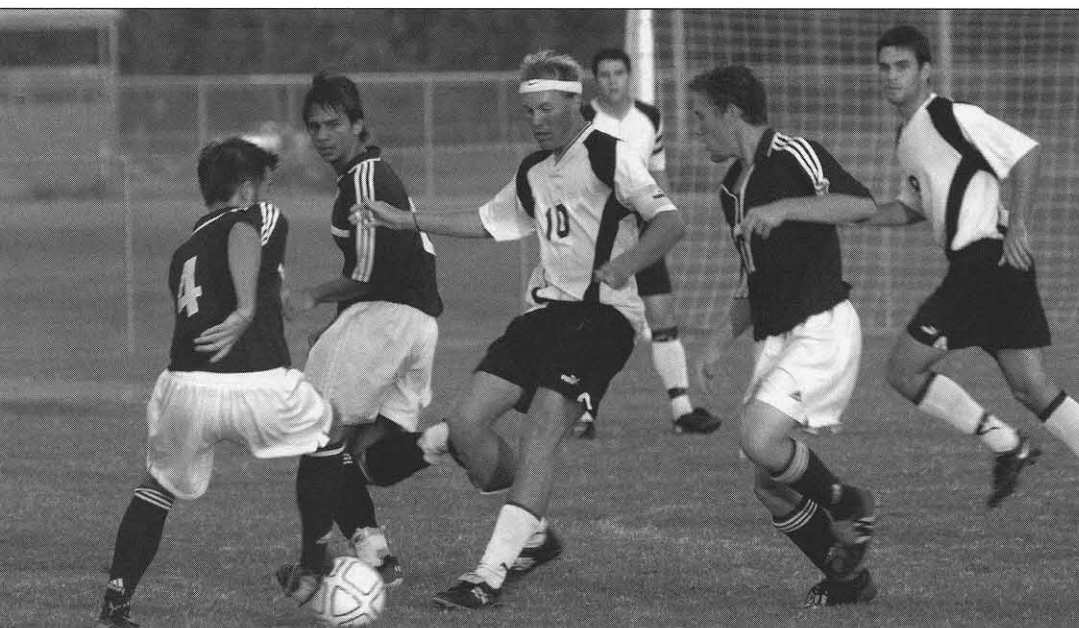


Sophomore Brian Day fights for ball control against a Lincoln Memorial defender Oct. 13. Day scored the first goal of the game, and the Bisons went on to a 2-0 victory. (Photo by April Clem)

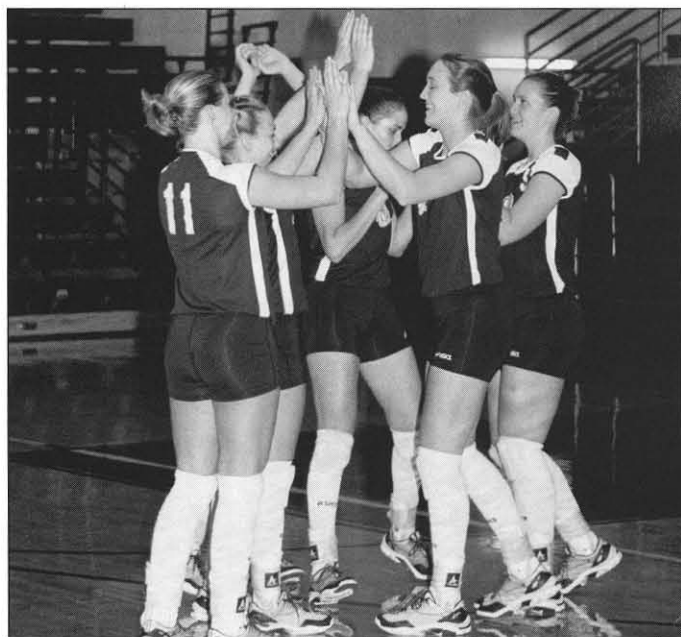
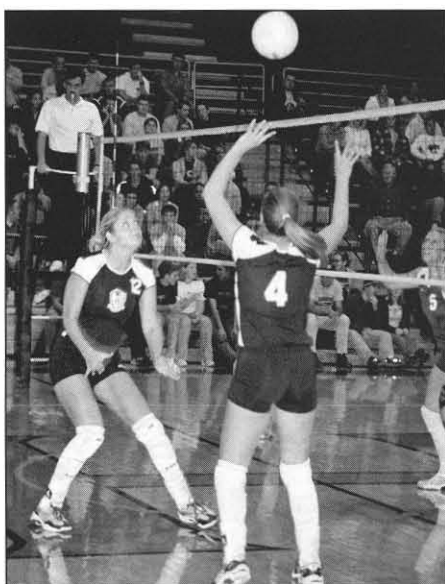
Junior Jay Ellis turns the ball and pushes it out of Bison territory against Lincoln Memorial Oct. 13. Ellis was a defensive threat, averaging more than four shots per game. (Photo by April Clem)



On the defense, senior Jon Ireland works to get the ball away from a trio of Freed-Hardeman players Oct. 1. While playing the midfield position, Ireland scored one goal and assisted two other scores in the game to give the Bisons a 4-0 victory. (Photo by Jeff Montgomery)

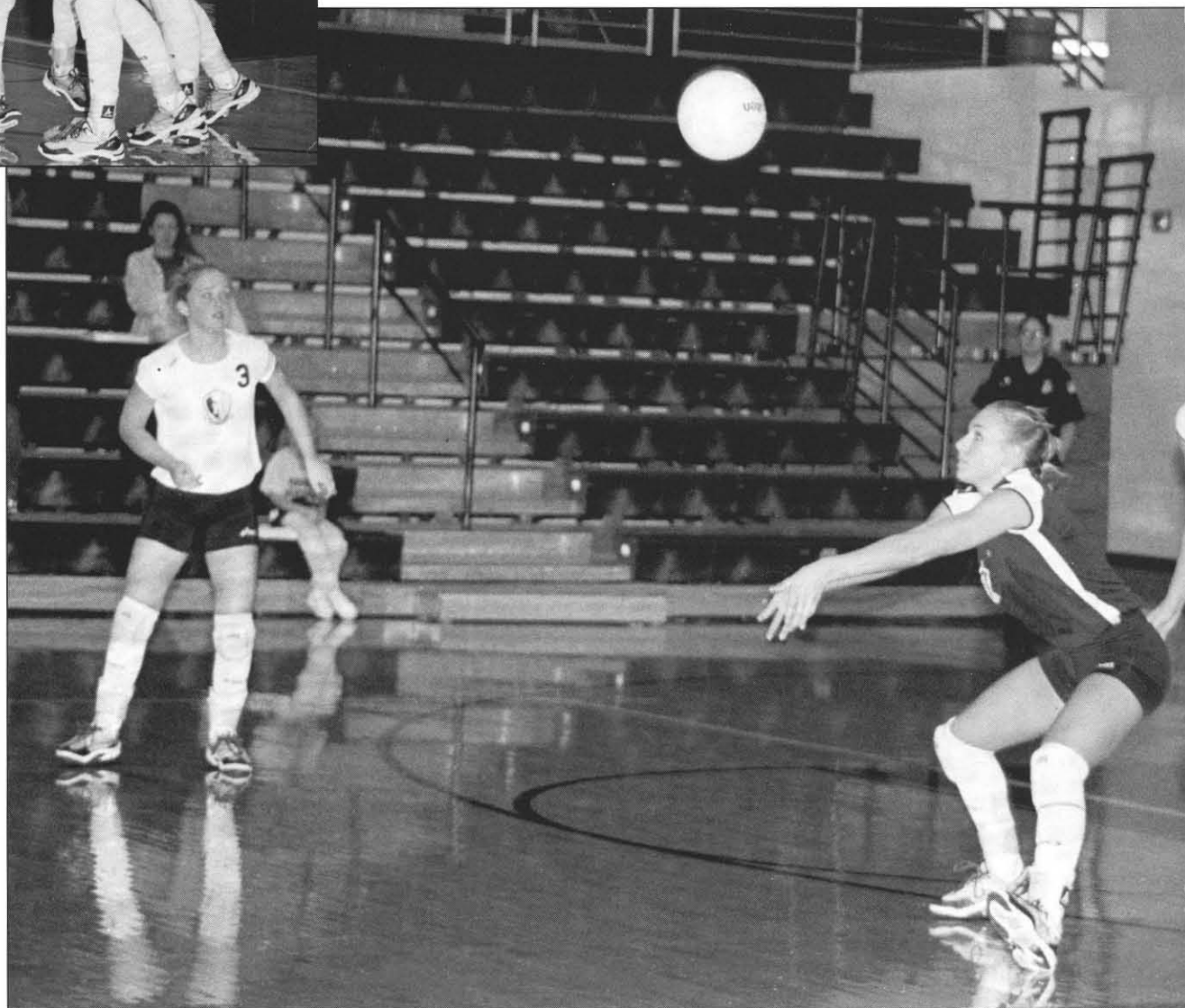


Junior Lydia Kelly sets the ball for freshman Lesley Maxwell in a match against Christian Brothers Oct. 18 in the Rhodes Field House. Kelly averaged 11.46 assists a game during the season, setting a school record. (Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)



After a match against East Texas Baptist Oct. 19, the team celebrates a 3-0 victory. The win was the 13th victory during a 17-game winning streak. (Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)

Junior Shaila Farley receives a serve from the Lady Buccaneers of Christian Brothers. With this victory, the Lady Bisons improved their lifetime record against Christian Brothers to 25-13. (Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)

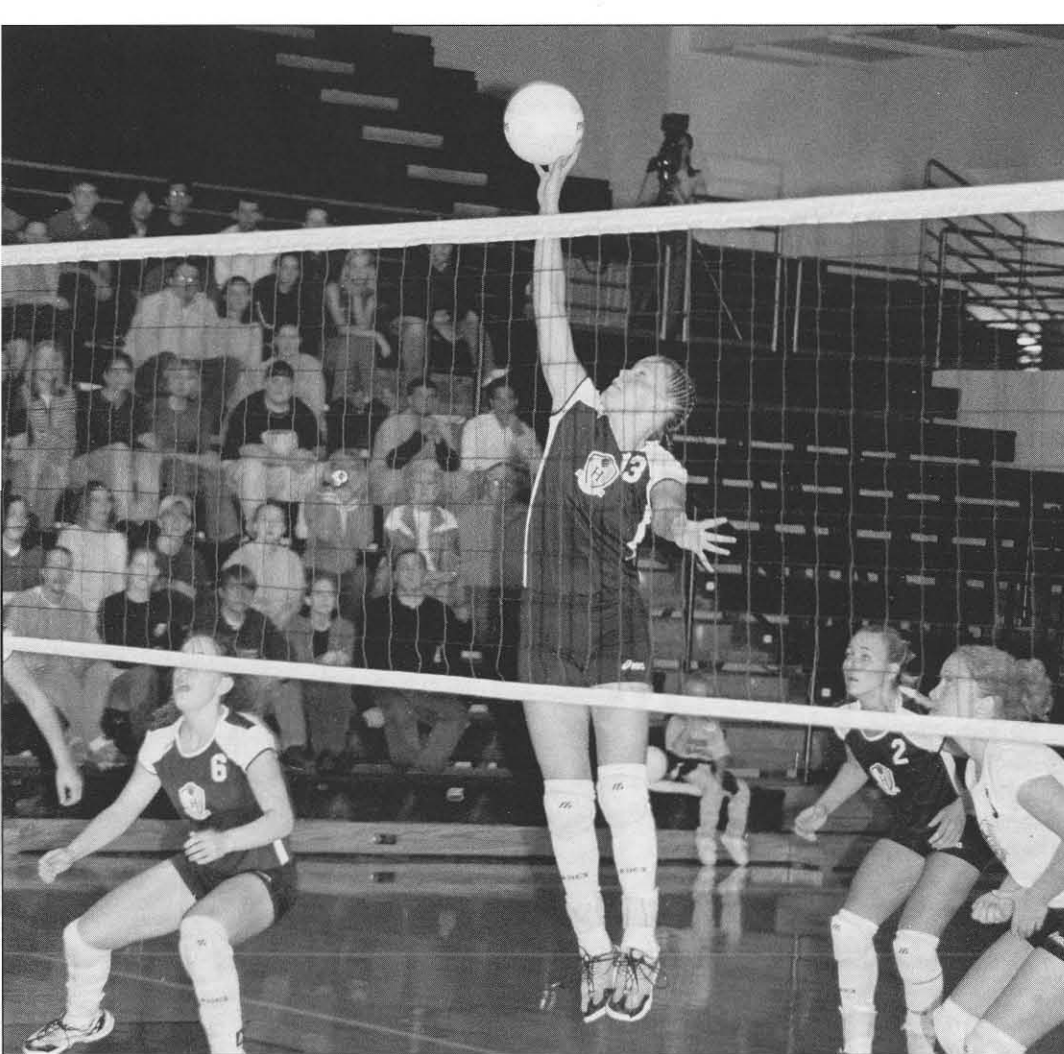


Shaila Farley
junior

“Coach scouts out the [opposing] team and what we’ll have to do to stop their big hitters. But then we don’t worry about the other team after that. We just focus on our game and then we know we can win.”



(Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)



Leaping and tipping the ball back to the East Texas Baptist Lady Tigers Oct. 19, freshman Synda Veitenheimer scores another point for the Lady Bisons. Veitenheimer played as the outside hitter, helping the team to a 3-0 victory. (Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)

living the Dream

The Lady Bison volleyball team progressed farther than any previous Harding volleyball team and won the Gulf South Conference West Division championship this year. Coach Keith Giboney also earned his first GSC Coach of the Year award.

The Lady Bisons received a bid to the first round of the South Central Regional Tournament in Topeka, Kan., hosted by top seed Washburn University. Central Missouri State knocked the Lady Bisons out of the tournament Nov. 21 with a score of 1-3.

"The season started off with us almost beating the number two team, and now, we are living a dream of being in the national tournament," Kennedy said. "We can look back on our season and say that we did great and have no regrets."

Giboney said the difference between this team and previous teams was the chemistry the girls had on and off the floor.

Sophomores Kate Kennedy and Shaila Farley and junior Veronica Piech earned spots on the All-GSC first team. Sophomore Amie Morrison earned second team All-GSC honors.

Kennedy believed the way the team worked together increased its power and potential.

"Everyone on the team has a role, but we come together to play volleyball and we work well together," Kennedy said. "Out of all the teams I have played on, there hasn't been as much team unity as this one."

The only senior on the team, Leslie Hollingsworth, was thrilled with the team's success this season.

"It is my senior year; every wish I have ever hoped for has come true," Hollingsworth said. "I've always wanted to finish on top."

The Lady Bisons had an overall record of 29-6 before the postseason tournament in Topeka, Kan.

"It was an amazing year," junior Lydia Kelly said. "We accomplished so many goals as a team and winning conference, our record and going to regionals was so great. And we're looking forward to next year because we're returning all but one starter. We're really excited about it."

Members contributed much of their success to Giboney.

"Coach Giboney, the team's backbone, succeeded at keeping the girls motivated," Hollingsworth said. "He has pushed me to be a better volleyball player, Christian and person."

Hollingsworth wasn't the only player convinced that Giboney's coaching role played a tremendous part in the team's success.

"Coach has been encouraging and has really motivated us a lot this year," Kennedy said. "He is a great coach and is building a great volleyball program here."

—Jenna LaCaze



volleyball

Cloud State	Win 3-0
Concordia-St. Paul	Win 3-0
Minnesota-Mankato	Loss 1-3
South Dakota State	Loss 2-3
Montevallo	Win 3-1
Southeast Oklahoma	Win 3-0
Ferris State	Win 3-1
Missouri Southern	Win 3-0
Lyon	Win 3-0; Win 3-0
Rhodes	Win 3-0
Missouri-St. Louis	Win 3-0
Incarnate Word	Win 3-2
Armstrong Atlantic	Loss 0-3
St. Edward's	Loss 0-3
West Georgia	Win 3-0
Christian Brothers	Win 3-0; Win 3-0
Southern Arkansas	Win 3-0; Win 3-0
Central Arkansas	Win 3-1; Win 3-0
Arkansas Tech	Win 3-2; Loss 2-3
Henderson State	Win 3-0; Win 3-1
Washburn	Win 3-0
West Alabama	Win 3-1
Mississippi-Women	Win 3-0
Alabama-Huntsville	Win 3-1
Ouachita Baptist	Win 3-0; Win 3-1
East Texas Baptist	Win 3-0
Gulf South Conference Tournament	
West Florida	Win 3-0
Arkansas Tech	Loss 2-3
NCAA South Regionals	
Central Missouri State	Loss 1-3

(Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)

Runners storm their way to Ashland

Snow and sub-freezing temperatures set the scene for the cross country NCAA Division II National Championship Meet in Ashland, Ohio, Nov. 23. Despite the cold weather, the men's cross country team tied for 14th. The tie marked Harding's third consecutive top 20 national finish.

"The team did well and did what they needed to in order to win," coach Steve Guymon said.

Harding's fastest finisher was sophomore Jacob Rotich, coming in 28th in the 10K event. This finish earned him his second All-American honor.

Sophomore Reed Fisher placed 43rd despite battling sickness and junior Maciej Mierczko took the 70th spot.

The men's cross country team clinched its third straight Regional Championship in Huntsville, Ala., Nov. 9. Rotich finished second. Fisher took fifth and junior Scott Wietecha finished in the ninth spot.

The team won five of the seven regular season meets. The runners' top finish at Huntsville allowed the team to advance to nationals.

The women's cross country team captured its third straight Gulf South Conference Championship, Nov. 2, in Huntsville, Ala.

Junior Janet Cherobon led the team, winning both the GSC and South Region Individual Championships. She was named the NCAA Division II South Region Athlete of the Year. Cherobon also placed 15th in the national meet, Nov. 23, in Ashland, Ohio.

Cherobon, along with senior Hanna Haavikko, earned All-American and All-Region awards. Sophomore Helen Singoei also received All-Regional recognition.

"I ran my best cross country time I have ever had, so the season was good," Haavikko said. "We had the best girl's team we have ever had."

The women's cross country team won three of the eight meets they competed in this year.

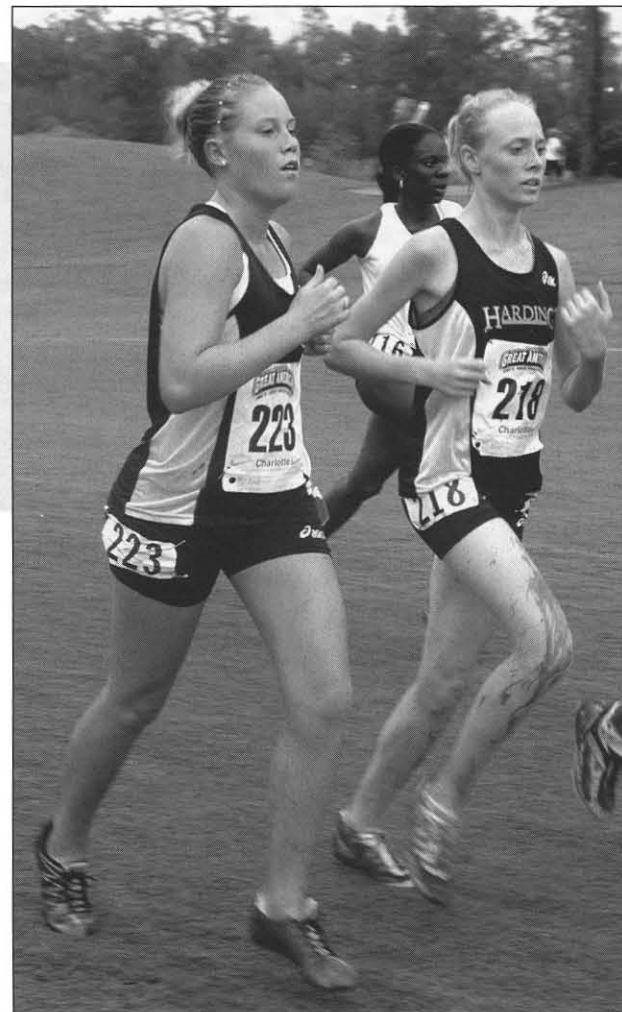
Guymon also contributed to the team's strong season. Guymon, in his first year of coaching at Harding, was named Men's South Region Coach of the Year.

While pleased with the team's success, Guymon and team members said the team had a higher level of potential.

"I know we have the talent on this team to bring some real success," Fisher said. "We all want it, now we just need to work individually and as a team to get it."

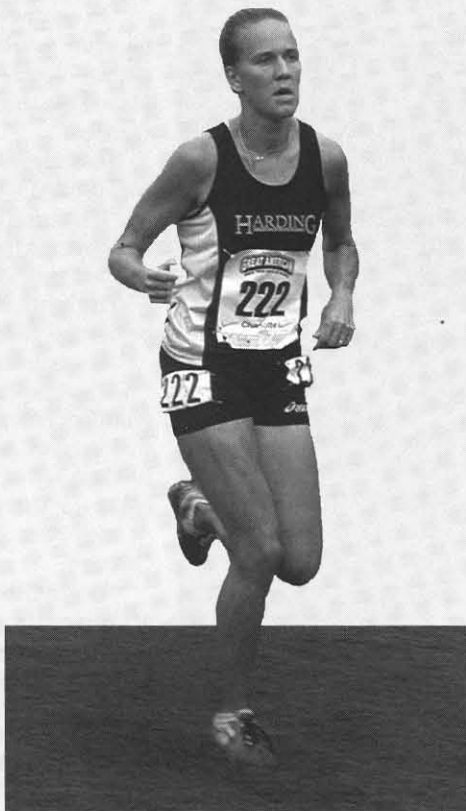
—Ryan Saul

Freshmen Abby Rodenbeck and Jessica Cornett keep up with the front runners at the Great American Cross County Festival Sept. 27 in Charlotte, N.C. They went on to finish sixth and fifth respectively out of the Lady Bison runners. (Photo courtesy of Jay Bawcom)



Hanna Haavikko senior

"Many athletes like to jog and warm up, but not me; I need to relax. The day before, I eat lots of carbohydrates and relax."



(Photo courtesy of Jay Bawcom)

Cross country

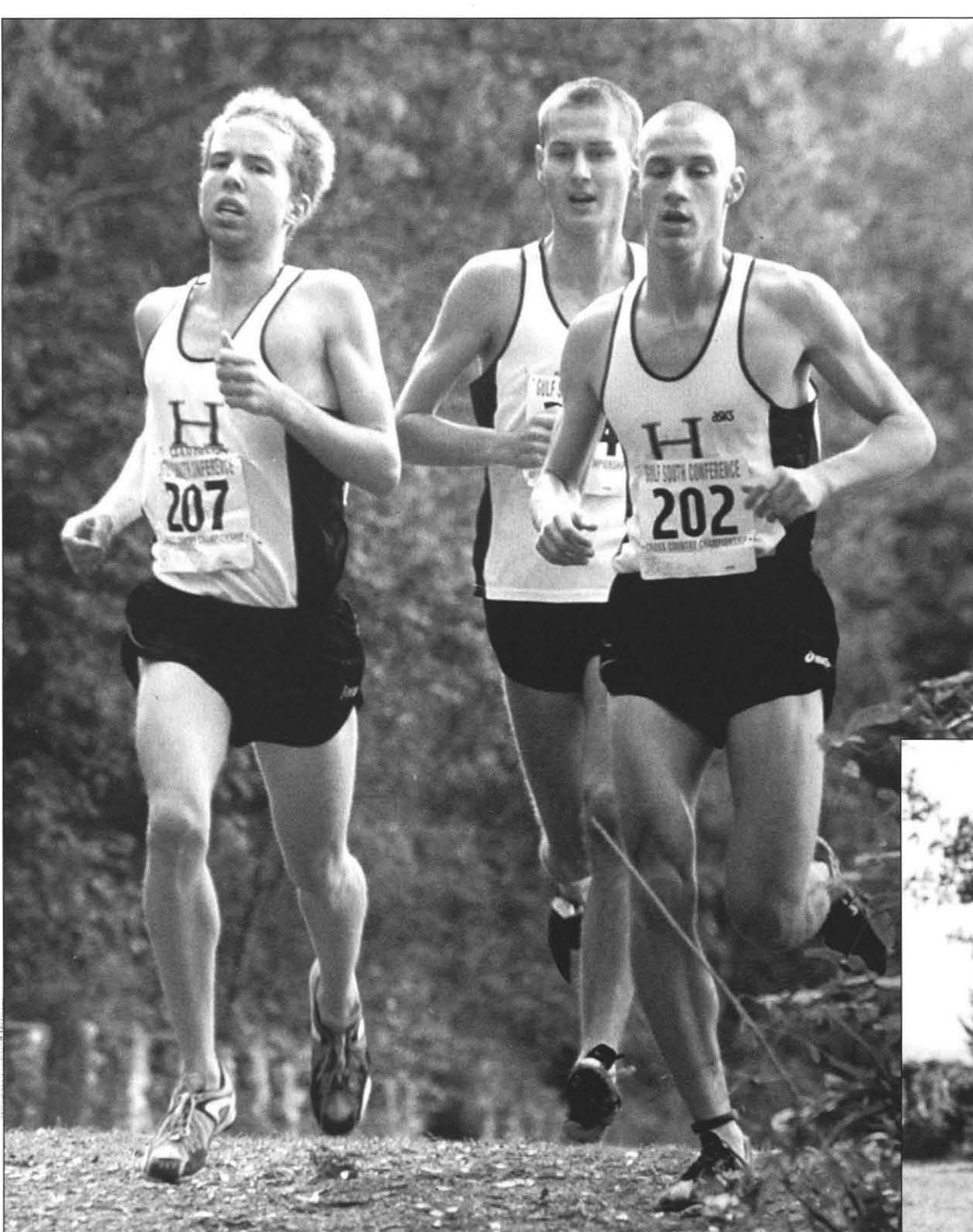
Men

Bob Gravette Invitational	1 st of 6
Missouri Southern Stampede	2 nd of 20
Great American CC Festival	1 st of 29
Lake Hamilton Invitational	1 st of 4
Chile Pepper Invitational	7 th of 26
Gulf South Conference Meet	1 st of 19
NCAA South Regional	1 st of 49
NCAA Division II Nationals	14 th

Women

Bob Gravette Invitational	1 st of 8
Missouri Southern Stampede	2 nd of 19
Great American CC Festival	4 th of 23
Lake Hamilton Invitational	1 st of 8
Chile Pepper Invitational	4 th of 25
Gulf South Conference Meet	1 st of 27
NCAA South Regional	3 rd of 74

(Photo courtesy of Jay Bawcom)



Junior Scott Wietecha, freshman Maciej Miereczko and sophomore Reed Fisher run together during the Nov. 2 Gulf South Conference Meet in Huntsville, Ala. The team placed first in the 8K race for the third consecutive year. (Photo courtesy of David Crouch)

Running in the Gulf South Conference Meet Nov. 2, junior Janet Cherobon pulls away from the crowd and is the first runner to cross the finish line. Cherobon was the third consecutive Lady Bison to finish first in the race. (Photo by David Crouch)



Sophomore Ezekiel Koech receives oxygen from the trainers after a race at the Great American Cross Country Festival Sept. 27 in Charlotte, N.C. Koech, the fifth Bison to cross the finish line, finished 16th overall. (Photo courtesy of Jay Bawcom)



After making the catch, senior Reid Smith runs the ball down the field in the Bisons' home opener against Missouri-Rolla Aug. 31. Smith had three receptions for 47 yards in the 23-15 victory. (Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)



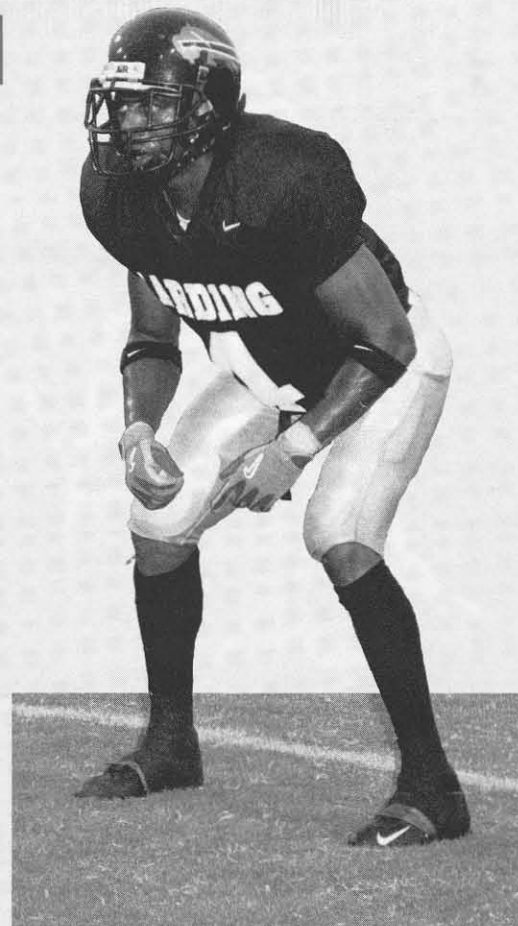
Junior Coy Nance, kicker, waits for senior Matt Underwood, place holder, at the Homecoming game Oct. 26 against Arkansas-Monticello. Nance earned the Gulf South Conference Special Teams Player of the Week honor Sept. 2. (Photo by Jeff Montgomery)

Freshman DeJuan Patton, running back, continues his run past the Delta State defense Nov. 2. Delta State beat the Bisons at First Security Stadium 49-25. (Photo by Jeff Montgomery)



Errick Wilson senior

“Everyone goes into their little zones before the game and has really serious looks on their faces. I just think about how I need to perform during each quarter and try to visualize my opponents.”



(Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)



Junior Fred Langston, quarterback, puts a play into action at the Homecoming game Oct. 26 against Arkansas-Monticello. The Bisons won 40-27 after rallying to score 20 points in the fourth quarter. (Photo by Jeff Montgomery)

to be the Best

The Bison football team began the year undefeated in the first six games. Although disappointing losses to Henderson State University and Delta State University kept Harding out of the NCAA Division II playoffs, the season stood as the most successful since 1972.

"The chemistry is better this year," sophomore Tobias Brown said. "Last year everyone was worried about their stats, but this year we are about just winning."

For the first time in years, Harding ranked in the top 25 teams in the Gulf South Conference.

"It was very exciting and productive to be able to play on a winning team for my first year of college ball," freshman Izzy Fieilo said. "I enjoyed playing with this group of guys and especially with my cousin [senior] Tulo [Lolohea]."

A loss to Henderson State Oct. 19 dampened the spirits of the team, but the Bisons came back with a win against Arkansas-Monticello Oct. 26, Homecoming weekend. Although the team lost its top 25 ranking, the Bisons still hoped to make it to the playoffs.

"I'm very happy to be on the team this year, being able to play with friends and winning," sophomore Tank Daniels said.

Ten players earned All-GSC Honors, one more than the team received in its first two GSC seasons combined. Seniors Chad Eason and Floyd Black, junior Tim Love and sophomore Tim Polk received first team honors. Seniors Robert Lolohea, Jamie Doyle and Errick Wilson and juniors Freddie Langston, Justin Beller and Coy Nance earned second team honors.

Although the Bisons didn't make it to the playoffs, players remained pleased with the season.

"I'm sad that this is my final year to play, but I'm happy that my senior year was a winning season," Lolohea said.

The Bisons defeated rival Ouachita Baptist University Nov. 16 to end the season with a winning game.

They ended the season ranked sixth in the NCAA Division II South Region Poll.

—Heidi Walden

football

Missouri-Rolla	Win 23-15
East Central	Win 34-25
North Alabama	Win 45-38
Arkansas Tech	Win 32-14
West Alabama	Win 38-10
West Georgia	Win 13-0
Henderson State	Loss 8-29
Arkansas-Monticello	Win 40-27
Delta State	Loss 25-49
Southern Arkansas	Win 33-13
Ouachita Baptist	Win 42-30

(Photo by Jeff Montgomery)



freshmen *make the* Transition

Five new freshmen and winning records for the football and basketball teams made this year a unique season for the Harding cheerleaders. More than half the 14-member squad was new to cheerleading at Harding, making this a transition year for the squad.

"This is the youngest squad ever," coach Kellee Blickenstaff said.

Each of the new girls cheered for her high school and dealt with the adjustment of cheering in college.

"Cheerleading in college takes a lot of time and dedication," freshman Whitney Heid said. "We practice every day and cheer every weekend. If my friends are going home or to a Razor-back game, I can't. Your heart has to be in it."

For Heid, the main difference between cheering in high school and college was the Christian atmosphere, she said.

"In high school, girls on the squad didn't really get along," Heid said. "Here at Harding, it is really neat being on a squad with a group of Christian girls. They are not only my teammates, but also my support system. We put in so much work together and we know each other so well."

Senior Hailee Augsburger, captain of the squad, tried to keep the squad members on task.

"I have really enjoyed working with all the

girls," Augsburger said. "With so many new members of the team, we have spent a lot of time working with stunt groups and getting used to each other."

With the football and basketball teams' winning seasons, enthusiasm was not difficult to find on the squad.

"We have had compliments on our level of enthusiasm this season," Augsburger said. "I think that more of the girls think of being on the squad as a privilege and not an obligation. Instead of thinking 'I have to be there,' more of them think 'I get to be there.' This makes a big difference."

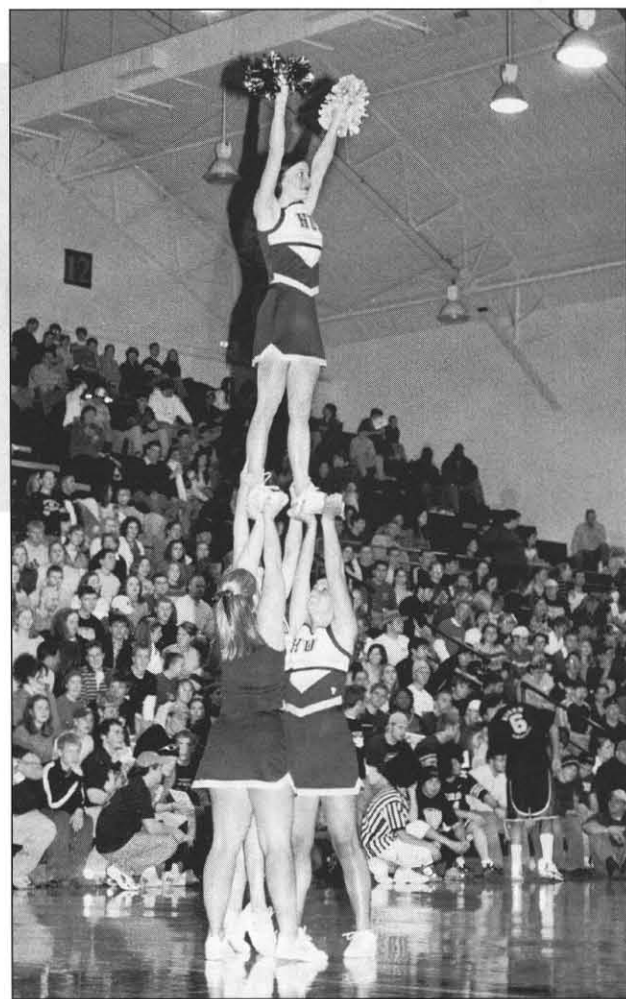
The cheerleaders also modeled school spirit between games. They decorated cars and locker rooms, made banners and filled spirit bags with candy to motivate the teams.

The squad hoped its success would continue for years to come.

"If it continues how it's going, we will continue to better ourselves as a squad," Blickenstaff said. "Interest is increasing and I think that cheerleading is doing a great thing for school spirit. The cheerleaders show that having school spirit is something fun to be a part of."

—Kerri Dutile

A trio of cheerleaders lifts junior Jamie Hughes during a break in the action at the basketball game against Arkansas Tech Jan. 30. Hughes, in her third year of cheering at Harding, led as one of the captains of the squad. (Photo by Linsley Taliaferro)



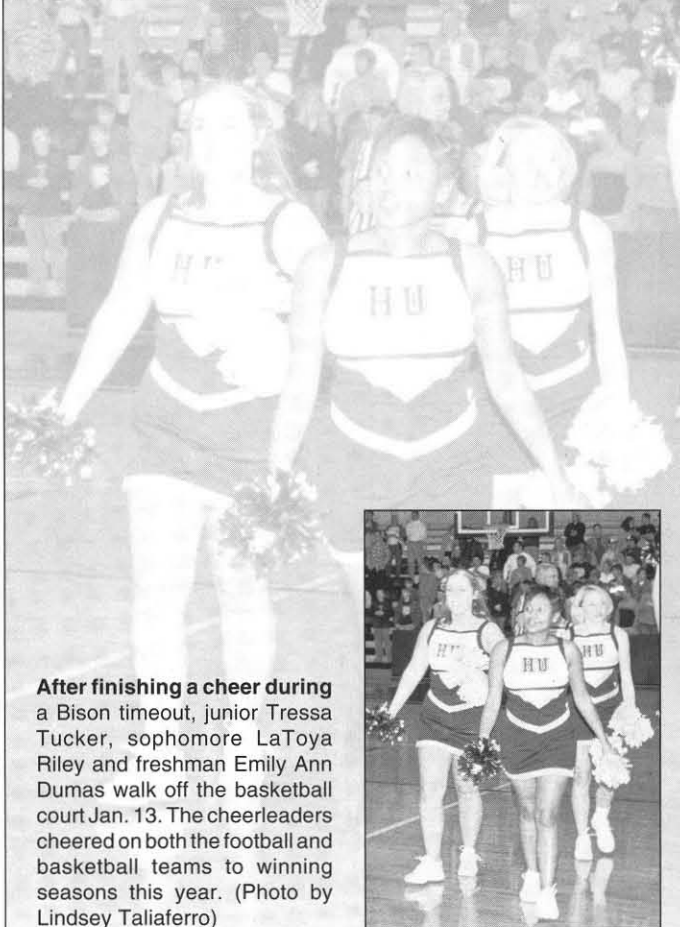
Cali Anderson
freshman

"We always stretch, warm up our tumbling and practice our stunts. And we always pray before each game starts."

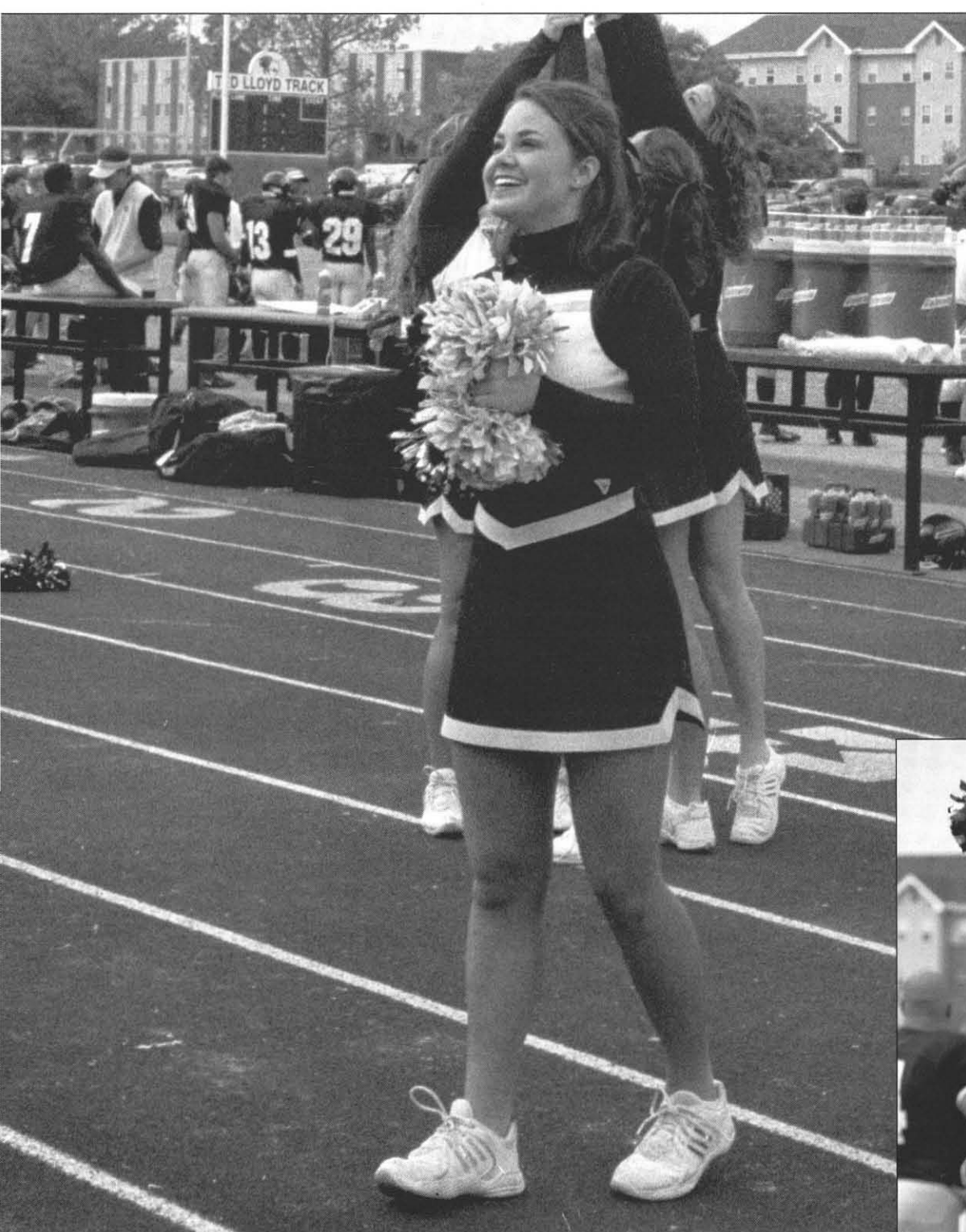


(Photo by Chrissy Ingram)

cheerleaders



After finishing a cheer during a Bison timeout, junior Tressa Tucker, sophomore LaToya Riley and freshman Emily Ann Dumas walk off the basketball court Jan. 13. The cheerleaders cheered on both the football and basketball teams to winning seasons this year. (Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)



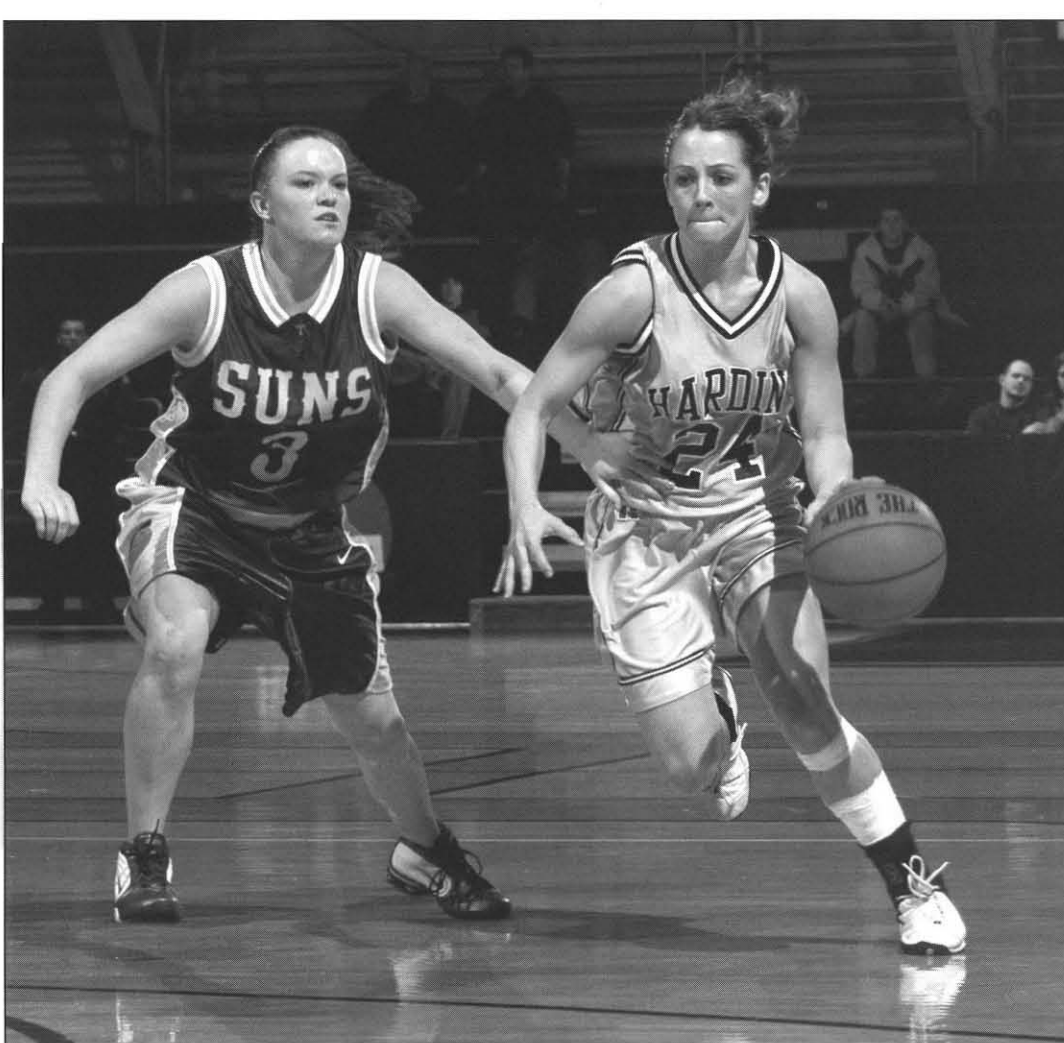
Sophomore Kristen Carroll pumps up the crowd at the Homecoming game Oct. 26. Carroll only cheered during the fall semester due to studying at Harding University in Greece in the spring. (Photo by Amy Beene)

Experiencing her first Homecoming game as a cheerleader, freshman Emily Ann Dumas leads the Bison fans in a cheer. With the help of the cheerleaders, the Bisons defeated Arkansas-Monticello 40-27 Oct. 26. (Photo by Amy Beene)



Junior Starla Robinson performs a routine for the student body during Midnight Madness Oct. 14. The cheerleaders were chosen each spring and cheered for both the football and basketball teams. (Photo by Jeff Montgomery)





Senior guard Julie Hammitt drives past an Arkansas Tech defender in a Gulf South Conference matchup Jan. 30. The Lady Bisons lost to Arkansas Tech, giving the team its first loss at home and ending an eight-game winning streak. (Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)

season halts at one win Short

Although the Lady Bisons fell one game short of gaining a spot in the Gulf South Conference tournament, the team's finish of 17-10 resulted in the first winning season in three years.

Their winning record, along with other accomplishments during the season, displayed the team's efforts and abilities to overcome low expectations resulting from the struggles of last season.

"After you look at the results of last year, you see more positives from this year," Brad Francis, head coach, said.

The Lady Bisons returned four players to the court as seven newcomers joined the team.

With a young team, the Lady Bisons were picked to finish seventh out of nine teams in the GSC West Division. However, the team exceeded expectations as they finished fifth.

"This team had an excellent chemistry that helped the younger players to immediately be incorporated into the team," senior Julie Hammitt said.

Each game, team members recognized their abilities, and they knew their determination could push them into a dominating position in the conference.

"A major difference for this year's team was an attitude that said 'we could do it,'" freshman Kendra Beard said. "We wanted to win."

Senior Susan Berry, one of three returning starters, missed the majority of the season due to an ACL injury. Junior Tiffany Phillips, the team's top scorer with 13.3 points per game, sat the bench for one-and-a-half games after fracturing her index finger.

"Though our season was full of injuries, the girls on this team were always willing to take up the slack," Francis said.

Seniors Heather Lawrence and Hammitt provided leadership for the team as they ended the season as two of Harding's top three scorers.

"This was the best season we've had since I've been at Harding," Lawrence said. "Each game brought new excitement."

The Lady Bisons triumphed over the 11th ranked University of Central Arkansas Feb. 17. Defeating the UCA Sugar Bears, the Lady Bisons shocked fans at home as they beat their highest ranked opponent since Harding joined the NCAA in 1997.

To conclude their season of overcoming expectations, the Lady Bisons topped the GSC record crowd for a women's basketball game. Around 3,250 people filled the Rhodes Field House for the Henderson State game March 1.

—Emily Sane

women's basketball

North Alabama	Loss 54-71
Lyon	Win 82-72
Texas A&M-Commerce	Win 62-60
Alabama-Huntsville	Win 60-51
Missouri-Rolla	Win 70-46
Lyon	Win 74-48
Southwest Baptist	Loss 53-74
West Alabama	Win 80-69
Mississippi-Women	Win 75-62
Williams Baptist	Win 83-55
Delta State	Loss 54-58; Win 65-56
Arkansas-Monticello	Win 48-44; Loss 57-79
Southern Arkansas	Win 73-71; Win 62-60
Central Arkansas	Loss 50-80; Win 75-68
Christian Brothers	Win 61-38; Loss 77-83
Ouachita Baptist	Win 64-58; Win 91-71
Arkansas Tech	Loss 44-52; Loss 49-52
Henderson State	Loss 54-75; Loss 65-78
Central Baptist	Win 67-50

(Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)

march madness infects Rowdies

The Bison basketball team stirred up an outbreak of spring fever on campus in the form of March Madness.

The Bisons (21-9) made their first trip to the NCAA Division II National Tournament in Orlando, Fla., but lost 59-67 to Henderson State University in the first round March 14.

Despite the loss, coach Jeff Morgan said the trip to the "Little Big Dance" was exciting.

"It's an awesome feeling," he said. "It's opening doors for our program. I'm really excited for this group of players."

Harding and Henderson State met twice during the regular season, when the Reddies handed the Bisons losses Feb. 1 and March 1.

At the Gulf South Conference Tournament, Harding and Henderson State hooked up for a third time in the semifinals March 8, where Henderson came out with a 50-47 win.

Senior point guard Aaron Farley, Harding's leading scorer and the GSC-West Player of the Year, said making it to nationals was a culmination of four years of work.

"It's a dream come true for me and my teammates," Farley said. "We've been working on it for four years."

Farley averaged 18.6 points per game and shot a school season record of 93.8 percent

from the free-throw line. Farley's streak of consecutive free throws, which started last season, ended Jan. 30 at 88. The streak, which harvested national media attention, was the longest in the nation for the year and was 10 short of the national record.

"It was something unexpected," Farley said. "I didn't pay attention until the media took it over."

Seniors Jason Malek, Chris Campbell, Carl Vault and Regimantas Butvydas also helped lead the Bisons.

Morgan was proud of the leadership that the five seniors provided.

"Those guys have done an awesome job," Morgan said. "They're all competitive and worked hard."

Junior Darren McCrillis agreed.

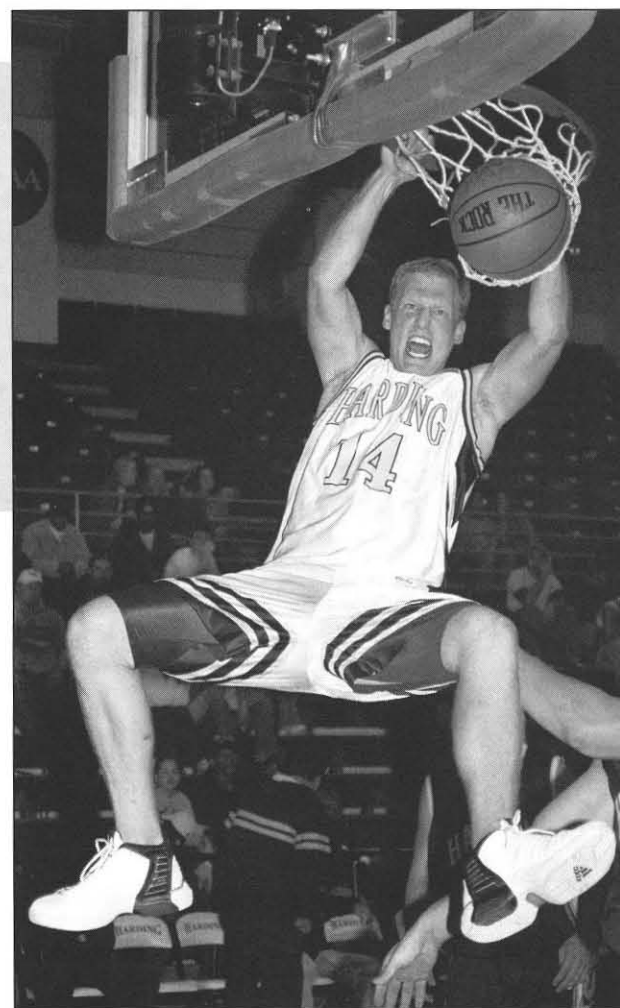
"They are a great group of guys," McCrillis said. "They lead us every day in practice and on the floor during games."

Teamwork and great chemistry proved to be the major factor in the team's success.

"It's great to have a team like this," Farley said. "Not only talent-wise but with the team chemistry. That has a lot to do with the success we've had."

—Cody Usher

Junior Chad Ware dunks the ball during a scrimmage at Midnight Madness in the Rhodes Field House Oct. 14. Midnight Madness was the first official day of practice for the basketball teams and a time to show off for the Rhodes Rowdies. (Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)



Aaron Farley senior

"I try to get an important pregame meal from Lenny's. Then I just stretch and listen to music to clear my head of everything except the game. I've finally got to go over my plan to defeat the other team."



(Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)

men's basketball

Montevallo	Win 105-84
Alabama-Huntsville	Win 83-80
Arkansas Baptist	Win 111-75
Central Baptist	Win 96-59
Montevallo	Win 95-66
Southwest Baptist	Win 87-61
Louisiana Tech	Loss 55-76
Fort Valley State	Loss 86-87
Lane	Win 107-64
Arkansas-Little Rock	Loss 80-82
Delta State	Loss 66-67; Win 90-71
Philander Smith	Win 106-72; Win 84-71
Arkansas-Monticello	Win 88-67; Win 84-71
Southern Arkansas	Win 95-71; Win 98-73
Central Arkansas	Win 105-97; Win 105-74
Christian Brothers	Win 85-80; Win 107-101
Ouachita Baptist	Win 82-78; Win 94-72
Arkansas Tech	Win 91-66; Win 94-71
Henderson State	Loss 75-84; Loss 47-50

Gulf South Conference Tournament

N. Alabama	Win 88-66
Henderson State	Loss 47-50

NCAA Tournament

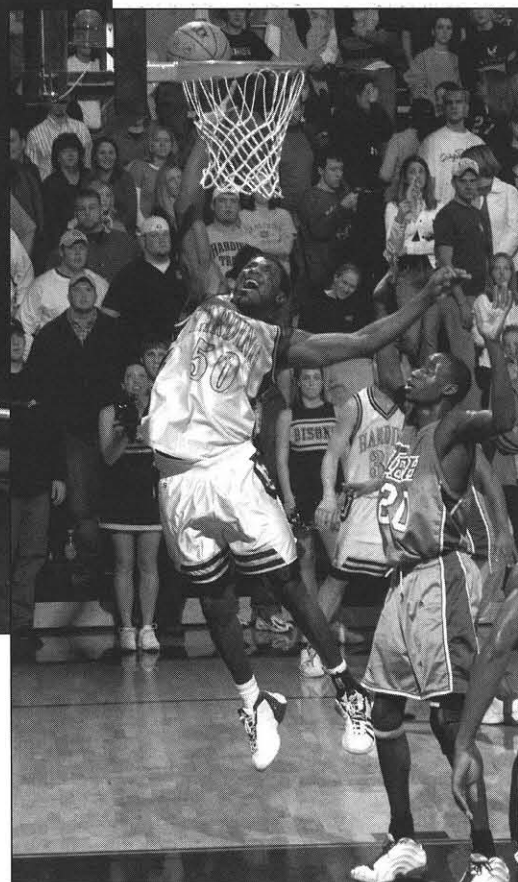
Henderson State	Loss 59-67
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(Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)



Seniors Jason Malek and Chris Campbell converge and trap the Arkansas Tech defender Jan. 30, keeping him from reaching the basket. Malek finished the game with five rebounds and one steal, while Campbell contributed with three rebounds and two steals. (Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)

Going up for the tip-in, junior Yahaya Ibrahim scores two points against Arkansas Tech Jan. 30. Ibrahim's two points came early in the second half, giving the team a 14-point lead. The Bisons beat the Wonder Boys 91-66. (Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)



Senior Jason Malek sets a screen for senior guard Aaron Farley against the Delta State Statesmen in front of a packed Rhodes Field House Feb. 6. The Rhodes Rowdies, commonly referred to as the "sixth man," filled the stands every night and helped the team to its 11-1 record at home. (Photo by Lindsey Taliaferro)

