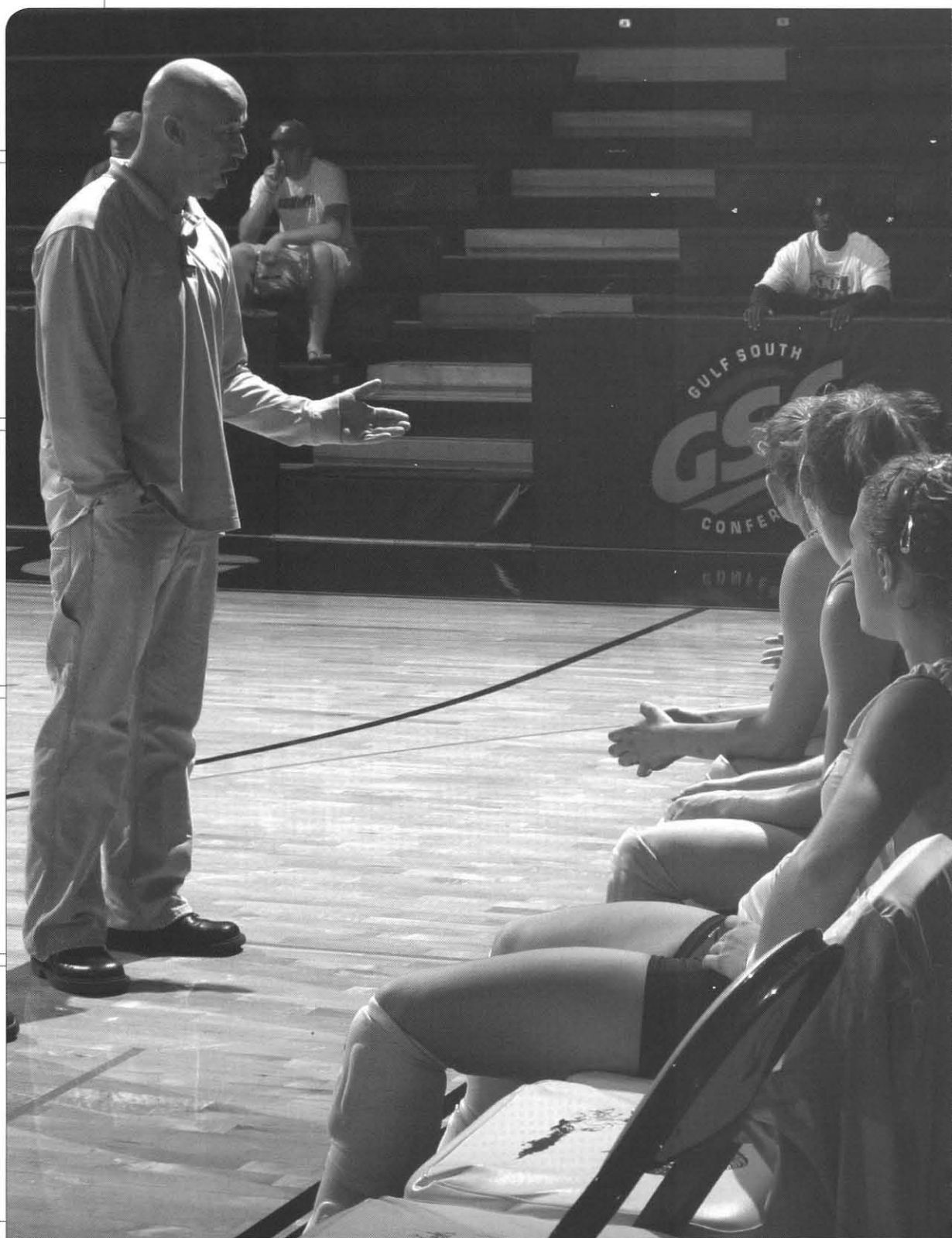


During the Sept. 9 season home-opener against Pittsburg State, Coach Keith Giboney shares strategies with the Lady Bisons volleyball team. The Lady Bisons ended their season in the Gulf South Conference with a record of 12-0. •Chelsea Roberson





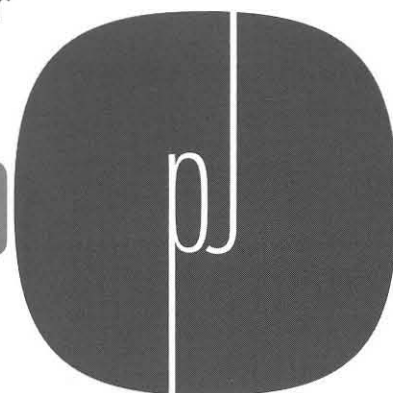
CHASING AFTER athletics

they have the determination to press
on, and whether they are the winners
or the ones who didn't give up, they
inspire us to work toward the goal



anna cline
athletics editor

Leaping over the barrier April 8, 2006, junior Matthew White competes in the 110 m hurdles at the Ted Lloyd Invitational. White finished first in the event with a time of 15.64 seconds. •Chelsea Roberson



track

Strategic planning helps runners take national titles

After intense workouts and countless miles, the training of junior outdoor track runners Julius Kosgei of Timbora, Kenya, and Przemek "Bob" Bobrowski of Bialystok, Poland, paid off. They each took home national champion titles in May of 2006 at the NCAA II Outdoor Track and Field National Championships. Harding placed sixth overall, the best performance in the school's history.

Sophomore Kosgei placed first in the 10,000-meter race while junior Bobrowski won the 1,500-meter race.

"I was not expecting to win because I didn't feel that I was in good shape," Kosgei said. "The guy whom I was expecting to win had the best time in the nation for that race."

Bobrowski was not sure of a victory either.

"I did not expect to win," Bobrowski said. "I knew I could; I knew there was a possibility for me to be the guy who would win the race, but I wasn't sure."

Although neither of the runners anticipated a win, Coach Steve Guymon held high expectations for them.

"Bob and Julius are just extremely smart runners," Guymon said. "You can have the best time at the national meet, but you may not win. They're not only the fastest, they're the smartest. They just did a tremendous job as far as strategy."

The runners endured immense amounts of training to work up to nationals, Bobrowski said.

"Some people think distance running is you just go out there and

you just run and keep in shape, but there's a lot involved," Guymon said. "They started back in the summer where they were putting probably 100 miles a week in. As the season progressed and got closer to outdoor, you don't do as much volume, and you do things a little quicker. They were able to handle that throughout the year and remain consistent, and it all came together."

Both Bobrowski and Kosgei said different types of training were involved in outdoor track.

"We ran quite high mileage," Bobrowski said. "At the beginning, it was like a build up: building strength, building endurance and obviously watching the speed. We were shooting for nationals — that was the main goal for the season. We actually changed it a little bit. Somewhere in the middle, we started to run a little faster and a little less mileage."

As Bobrowski said, nationals was the goal; however, the strategies the team used during the season were not the same strategies they used at nationals.

Although it was Bobrowski's last outdoor track season, he finished well, and Kosgei hoped to have a repeat of his success next season. They both gained experience, which, according to Guymon, helped many of the successful runners.

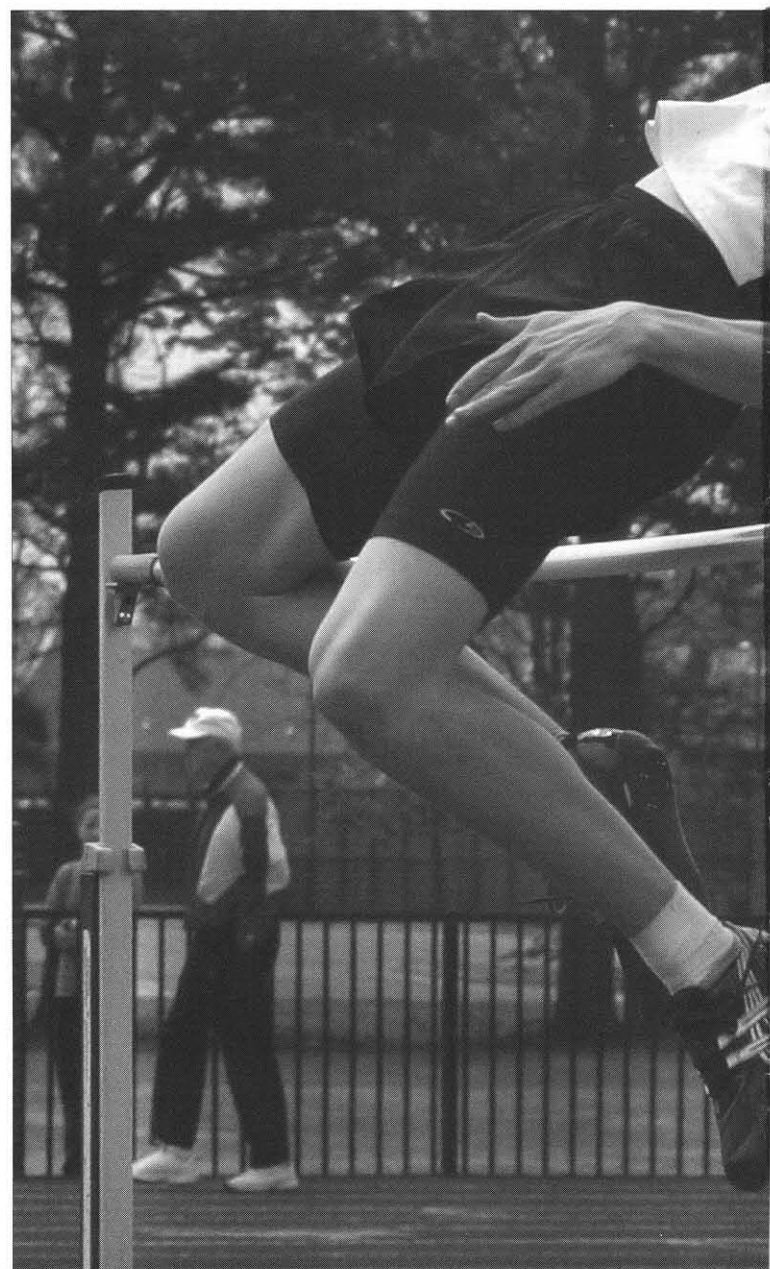
"Each year, you learn a little bit more about your event. You learn about your competition," Guymon said. "You have to know how to race, and that's what they did."

•Lauren Mitchell



Freshman Janee Jones, junior Kalina Szteyn and senior Vicky Echeverria run the 1,500-meter at the Ted Lloyd Invitational on April 8 in Searcy. Jones, Szteyn, Echeverria and sophomores Savita Chelimo and Gosia Drazkowska all competed at Nationals. •Chelsea Roberson

Soaring over the bar, sophomore John Langford competes in the high jump at the April 8 Ted Lloyd Invitational in Searcy. Langford won this event clearing the bar at 6-00.00. •Chelsea Roberson



At the Ted Lloyd Invitational on April 8 in Searcy sophomore Kreg Kell passes off the baton to sophomore Andrew Hall while keeping pace with the University of Central Arkansas runners in the 400-meter relay. The Bisons finished first in the event with a time of 43.25 seconds. •Chelsea Roberson



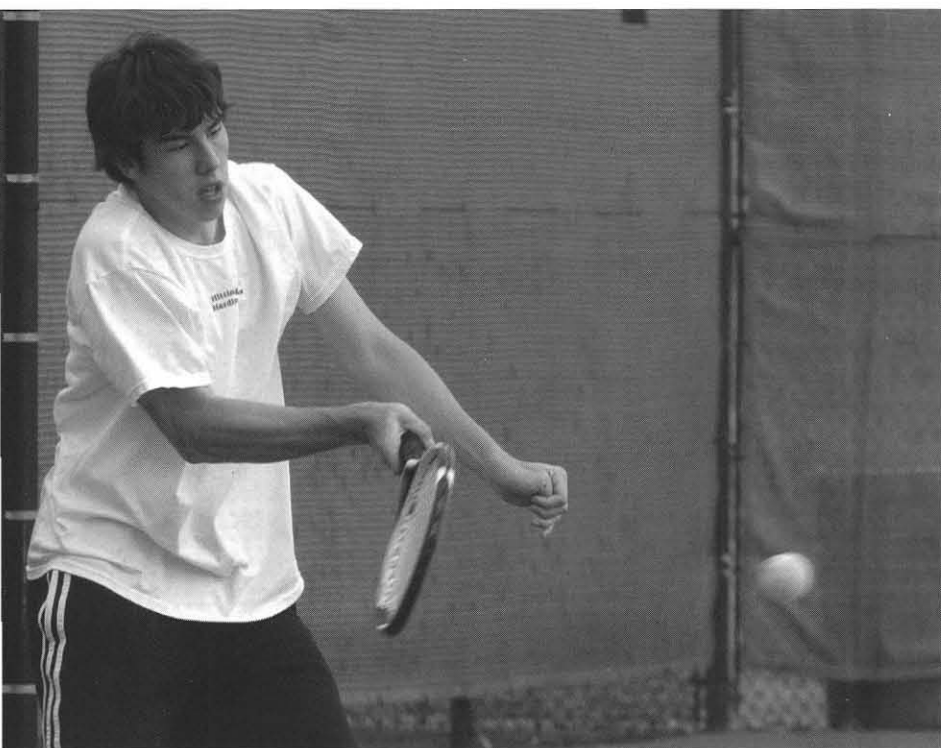
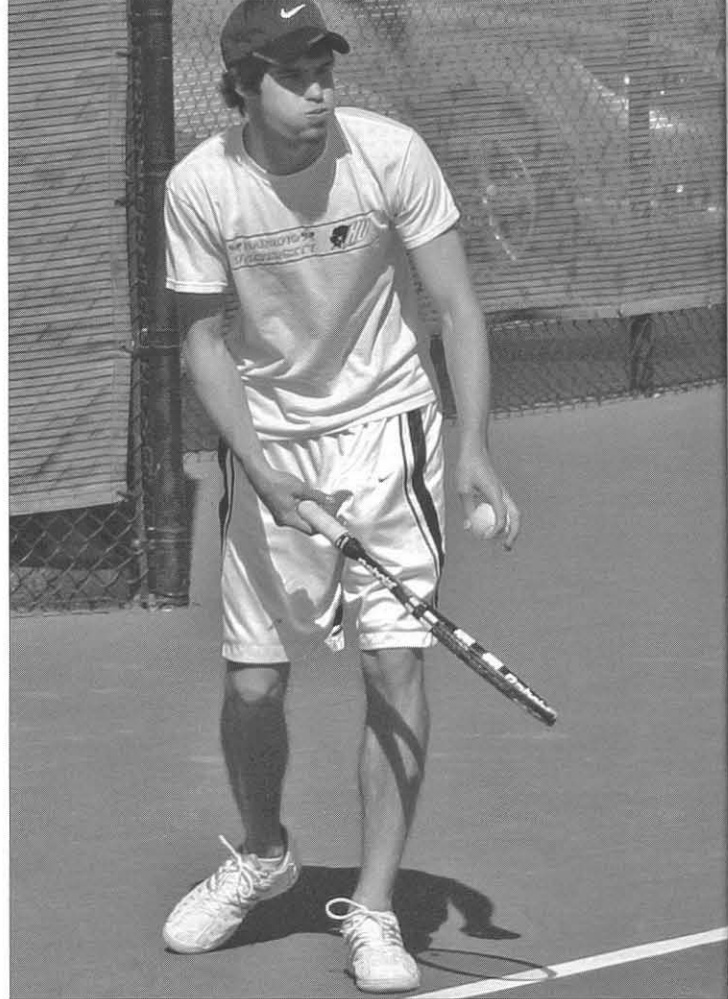
Row 1: Z. Starnes, K. Kell, J. Titlow, S. Arberry, L. Wellspring, N. Lehman, D. Morrissey, J. Kosgei. **Row 2:** W. Ellis, J. Cheruiyot, B. Jones, A. Hall, M. White, T. Davidson, P. Bobrowski, R. Fisher, A. Kern. **Row 3:** J. Conley, M. Riley, J. Conley, C. Sessions, J. Whetstone, R. Wood, M. Cregger, G. Lafave, J. Langford.



Row 1: M. Hatcher, M. Brown, S. Cheatham, V. Echeverria, J. Jones, K. Szteyn, S. Chelimo. **Row 2:** K. Kirby, M. Williamson, J. Medsker, A. Pruitt, T. Davidson, J. Fisher, G. Drazkowska.

SCORECARD

Hendrix	W 8-1
LeMoyne-Owen	W 9-0
Lyon	W 9-0
Arkansas-Little Rock	L 0-7
Hendrix	W 8-1
Southwest Baptist	W 7-2
Ouachita Baptist	L 0-9
Christian Brothers	W 9-0
Lyon	W 9-0
John Brown	W 8-1
Rhodes	L 1-8
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	W 9-0
Ozarks (Ark.)	W 7-0
LeMoyne-Owen	W 8-1
Dallas Baptist	W 7-2
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	W 7-0
Christian Brothers	W 9-0
LeMoyne-Owen	W 9-0
Ouachita Baptist	L 0-5
Delta State	L 2-7
Delta State	L 4-5
West Florida	L 0-5
Lincoln Memorial	L 0-5
West Florida	L 0-5



After getting into position, sophomore Brett Hoch rips a top spin forehand winner down the line on March 2 against Arkansas-Pine Bluff's No. 5 player. Hoch won his match 7-5, 6-0. •Jeff Montgomery

Senior Ryan Roberts reaches for an overhead smash against Arkansas Pine-Bluff's No. 2 on March 2. Roberts had a single season record of 16-5 and was 2-0 in conference matches. •Jeff Montgomery





Junior Ethan Bryant prepares to serve against LeMoyne-Owen's No. 3 player April 4. The Bisons had a 9-0 shutout against LeMoyne-Owens and Christian Brothers. •Chelsea Roberson

Row 1: R. Carter, P. Owens, E. Mendoza, R. Rios. **Row 2:** B. Hoch, I. Rodriguez, A. Giron, E. Bryant, R. Roberts.



MEN'S tennis

Senior's confidence, love for game help him thrive

Ryan Roberts was first introduced into the world of tennis at the young age of 7, when he began to play alongside his father and his younger brother. Roberts, a senior kinesiology major with a coaching emphasis, continued to play and mature in the sport despite some setbacks and began his fourth year as a member of the Bisons tennis team in 2006.

Born in Wickes, Ark., a small town of fewer than 700 people in the southwest part of the state, Roberts grew up in a place without recreational tennis courts.

"Tennis was definitely not popular in that town," Roberts said. "[My brother and I] had to drive to DeQueen, which was about 20 minutes away just to play."

However, Roberts continued to compete and excel in tennis throughout high school. While also playing basketball in high school, Roberts demonstrated a great interest in continuing to play tennis and his basketball coach became his tennis coach. Roberts said while his first two years of high school competition were a little slow, he found his niche his junior year.

"I made it to state and won my junior year, which was really awesome," Roberts said. "And I made it to the semifinals my senior year."

Roberts used this momentum to project him into playing tennis in college. After being recruited by Harding's tennis team, Roberts came to Searcy and began training to compete on the collegiate level.

Soon Roberts began to thrive and be competitive, like he had been in high school. Roberts said a capstone was achieved during the 2005-2006 season when he earned his second straight 1st Team All-Gulf South

Conference honor in addition to several other awards.

These honors gave Roberts more of the confidence he needed to continue thriving as an athlete. In fact, Roberts said that his entire game, desire to get better and ability to succeed in tennis directly correlated to his level of confidence.

"When I build up my confidence, I play much better," Roberts said. "If I'm not nervous, I won't choke."

Similarly, Roberts said when one person excelled on the team, it helped build up the confidence of all the other players. Coach Gary Elliott, head coach of the tennis team, also recognized the importance of confidence and how it affected the entire team.

"Right from the start, I noticed that Ryan had a strong intuition," Elliott said. "He had certain qualities that his teammates saw and worked hard to possess. He is a hard worker, and that is contagious."

In addition to the highlights that Roberts created while playing on the court, he said he also experienced some tennis highlights away from the court like watching sports icons Andy Roddick and Andre Agassi play.

Taking what he learned from several years of training, playing and competing, Roberts said he planned to coach after his graduation.

"I am just blessed to be able to play," Roberts said. "And right now, I am very content."

The Bisons finished their season with a 15-9 overall record and were ranked in the NCAA II South Region poll at No. 7. They made an appearance at the NCAA National Tournament, their fifth in the past six years, where they fell to West Florida in the first round.

•Jordan Dyniewski



Using her backhand, senior Catherine Carui competes March 31 against Central Arkansas' No. 4 player. Carui's season record was 17-5 singles and 18-6 doubles with partner junior Karina Gomes. •Jeff Montgomery



During a scrimmage, junior Karina Gomes practices her forehand April 4. Gomes had a 19-4 singles record for the season. •Chelsea Roberson



Hitting a backhand slice, sophomore Alicia Williams returns the ball to Arkansas Pine-Bluff's No. 1 on March 2. The Gulf South Conference named Williams as the GSC West Division Freshman of the Year and all 22 of her matches were played at No. 1. •Jeff Montgomery

WOMEN'S tennis

Coach wins 1,000th match, 31 winning seasons

When the Lady Bisons defeated Christian Brothers 9-0 on April 4, there was more to be excited about than a shut out of their opponents. With the Lady Bisons' win, men's and women's tennis coach David Elliott won his 1,000th career coaching victory, the fourth collegiate tennis coach to reach that milestone. Minutes later, Elliott won his 1,001st match when the Bisons swept their nine matches against Christian Brothers. It was Elliott's 1,000th men's match in his career.

Elliott began his coaching career at Harding in 1975 and became the women's coach in 1991. After being at Harding for 31 seasons, he was the longest tenured coach in Harding's athletics history and never had a losing season. At 58 years old, Elliott had a combined record of 1,006-375 and led both teams to 10 conference championships.

Junior Karina Gomes said she admired Elliott as her coach and was proud of his accomplishment.

"I know that only three or four coaches in the whole country could ever have 1,000 wins," Gomes said.

Sophomore Alicia Williams said she believed Elliott's success derived from his commitment to the team and the fact that Elliott is an "excellent mentor and coach."

"He has [been] with this tennis program for a long time," Williams said. "He has really helped women's tennis evolve here a lot."

Elliott was a four-year letter winner on the tennis team at Harding from 1965-1969 and was a three-time All-Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference honoree and won the Berryhill Award as Harding's top senior male athlete. Elliott graduated in 1969 with a degree in kinesiology and earned his master's in teaching in 1972.

The Lady Bisons tennis team not only saw the success of their coach, but three of their women, Williams, Gomes and senior Milena Chisaca, earned 1st Team All-Gulf South Conference honors. Williams became Harding's second straight GSC West Division Freshman of the Year honoree.

Williams had an 18-4 singles record with all 22 matches played at No. 1. Her 18 wins tied her with the record for victories at No. 1 set by Julie Gill in 1997 and Karla Mueller in

1999. She also beat the nation's 13th-ranked singles player at the GSC Tournament.

"It was an honor to achieve all-conference," Williams said. "But I think the trick was motivation from the great team members we have. Everyone on the team has unique talents they contribute, and we were able to motivate each other."

Gomes, a native of Brazil who had been playing tennis every day since she was 13, said she felt lucky to play tennis at Harding and get an education at the same time.

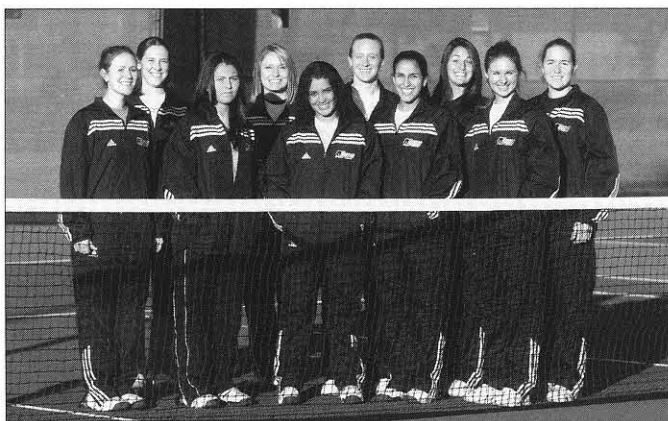
The tournament marked Chisaca's third all-conference honor. She led the team with a 20-4 singles record, playing mostly No. 2 and No. 3 and held a 10-match winning streak from March 21 to April 18.

The Lady Bisons ended their season 21-6 overall and continued the streak of 16 straight winning seasons. The Lady Bisons completed the year ranked in the NCAA II South Region poll at No. 7 and competed in the NCAA Tournament where they fell in the first round to Valdosta State for the third straight time.

•Cynthia Noah and Molly Morris

SCORECARD

Hendrix	W 9-0
Hendrix	W 9-0
Northeastern State	L 0-9
Henderson State	W 8-1
Arkansas-Little Rock	L 0-7
Southwest Baptist	W 6-3
Christian Brothers	W 9-0
Southern Arkansas	W 9-0
Lyon	W 9-0
Rhodes	W 7-2
Arkansas Tech	W 9-0
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	W 9-0
Central Arkansas	L 3-6
LeMoyne-Owen	W 6-0
Louisiana Tech	W 7-0
Dallas Baptist	W 8-1
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	W 7-0
Arkansas Tech	W 9-0
Central Arkansas	L 1-7
Southern Arkansas	W 9-0
Christian Brothers	W 9-0
LeMoyne-Owen	W 9-0
Ouachita Baptist	W 9-0
Henderson State	W 8-1
Delta State	L 3-6
Valdosta State	L 0-5
Central Arkansas	W 5-1
Valdosta State	L 0-5



Row 1: L. Jordan, M. Chisaca, K. Gomes, C. Carui, M. Dujimovic.
Row 2: V. Rech, A. Nowlin, C. Kelley, D. Pascuzzi, A. Williams.

baseball

New leadership changes team philosophy, dynamic

The baseball team underwent a change in management in the spring of 2006 when the Bisons competed under the direction of new head coach, Dr. Patrick McGaha. McGaha accepted the position of head baseball coach after the resignation of Coach Shane Fullerton, who became the assistant coach for the Lady Bisons basketball team.

"I was excited to be back at Harding and coaching where I played college ball," McGaha said. "It was great to inherit the program from [Fullerton] and build on what he had done."

McGaha, a Searcy native, attended Harding Academy and graduated from Harding University in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in physical education. He played baseball during his college years and lettered four seasons as an infielder. In 1993, he earned his master's degree in education from Harding and earned his doctorate in physical education in 2000 from Florida State University.

McGaha spent one year at Pepperdine University before coaching high school baseball for five years at Central Arkansas Christian and four years at the College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Mo. During his last season there, McGaha coached his team to 37 victories and a championship in the Midlands Collegiate Athletic Conference tournament.

McGaha said his first season as head coach was a bit of a struggle for him because of injuries that occurred during the season and because his

coaching philosophies were different from the previous coaching his players had received.

"One philosophy was to focus on putting pressure on the defense and making the pitcher uncomfortable," McGaha said. "The team likes to run and play small ball, which forced the defense to have to make plays."

Sophomore Ryan Moody said McGaha's coaching techniques made him become a more consistent player and taught him how to work better with his teammates.

"He inspires unity between the players," Moody said. "He coaches us in a way that makes us become better team players so we don't concentrate only on our individual playing."

During McGaha's first season of coaching, the team set a new school record with 89 stolen bases and led the Bisons to a 21-28 overall record and a 6-17 mark in Gulf South Conference West Division play.

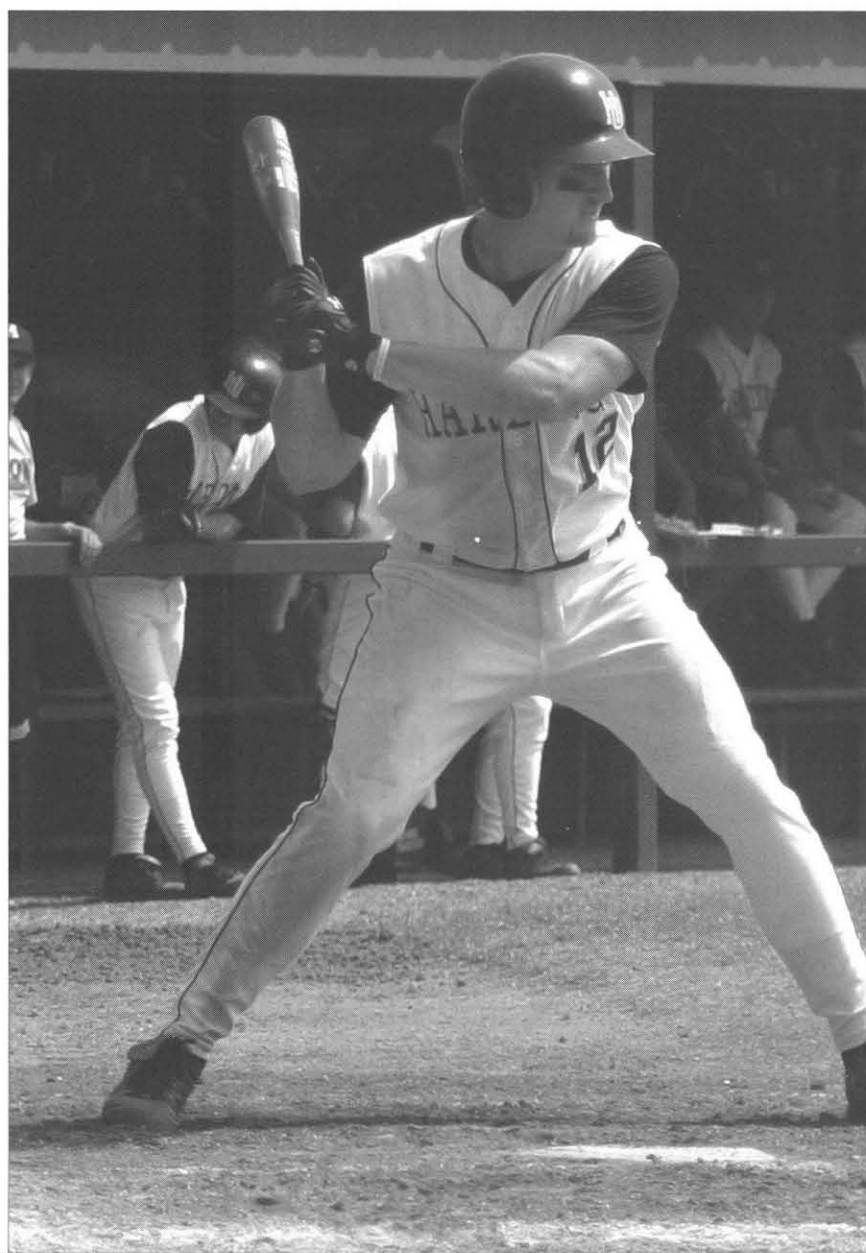
McGaha said the most challenging part of the 2007 season would be getting everyone to work together. He expected there to be more depth in pitching and improvements in the players' hitting strength.

"I am ready to see what will happen for this season with the new recruits," McGaha said. "Several of them proved they could hit at the junior college level, so we will see what they can do here."

•Krystle Boise

SCORECARD

Ozarks (Ark.)	W 11-7
Evangel	W 9-3, W 8-7
Arkansas-Monticello	L 4-16
Lyon	L 2-4, W 4-3
St. Edward's	W 7-5, L 1-6, L 0-4
Missouri Western	L 3-7, L 1-3
Crichton	W 10-2, W 7-6
Henderson State	L 0-10, L 2-11, L 2-6
Central Arkansas	L 2-16, L 4-5, W 2-1
MidAmerica Nazarene	L 7-8
Ozarks (Mo.)	W 4-0, W 3-2, L 7-13, L 0-4
Crichton	W 7-6
Southern Arkansas	L 0-10, W 7-4, L 7-12
Williams Baptist	W 17-3, W 5-2
Delta State	L 1-8, L 3-5, L 3-13
Central Baptist	W 6-3, W 7-1
Christian Brothers	W 2-1, L 0-2, L 6-9
Lyon	L 5-18, W 11-8
Arkansas-Monticello	W 7-2, L 1-11, L 1-8
Central Arkansas	L 5-6
Ouachita Baptist	L 9-10, L 1-4, L 1-7
Arkansas Tech	W 3-1, W 2-1





During a game Feb. 26, a Missouri Western player edges back to first base as freshman infielder Danny Bryant attempts to tag him. The Bisons lost both games of the double-header. •Jeff Montgomery

Row 1: J. Glenn, Z. Fisher, B. Whitaker, J. Sisk, H. Smith. **Row 2:** B. Robertson, C. Deltart, C. Bennicosa, C. McAfee, C. Chandler, N. Waggoner, C. Kiihnl. **Row 3:** R. Moody, B. Brock, M. Skinner, J. Blake, K. Barnett, J. Phillips, C. Williams, B. Wimberly, A. Darby. **Row 4:** B. McCrackin, D. Bryant, J. Davis, J. Laird, P. McGaha, J. Yant, T. Holbert, D. Watts, M. Davis.



Pitching against Christian Brothers in an April 8 match-up, senior hurler Jeff Davis delivers a strike to the CBU batter. Davis' went 2-3 as a starter. •Chelsea Roberson

In an April 1 game against Delta State, senior Clay Kiihnl awaits the ball from the Delta State pitcher. The Bisons went on to lose to Delta State in three games. •Chelsea Roberson

golf

Individual scores enhanced by team unification

The Bisons golf team won the Central Baptist College Invitational and finished third in the Bison Golf Classic, setting a record for the school's lowest score in the fall of 2006. Their secret ingredient: teamwork and dedication to the sport.

"We spend a lot of time on the course, obviously, about four or five hours a day," senior Ryan Applegate said. "After that we go to the cafeteria or out to dinner. We're all very close."

Head coach Nicky Boyd said the team grew closer in practice because of friendly competition.

Applegate said that in practice all 10 team members tried to qualify for tournaments, but only the five lowest scorers made the cut. He said this competition encouraged each team member to match the accomplishments of his fellow teammates.

"We're better for [the competition]," Applegate added. "By pushing each other, we get to that next [skill] level. We don't want to lose."

Although the team's points were combined to make a total score at the end of every tournament, each member was individually matched up against a golfer from an opposing school during the tournaments. Each team consisted of five players and the four lowest scores were used to determine which team won the match.

Despite the team being separated from each other on the green, Applegate said they still communicated with each other during matches.

"Mostly we'll communicate through the coach," Applegate said. "He drives around in a golf cart. He'll come by and ask how we're playing, bring us drinks and tell us how everyone else is playing."

Applegate also said team members communicated with one another using nonverbal communication.

"We'll know who's playing well and who isn't," Applegate said. "Passing hole-to-hole, we'll kind of wave at each other; we'll give each other a thumbs-up if we're playing well or a thumbs-down if we're playing badly."

Applegate said the positive team chemistry off of the green was helpful to the success of the team on the course.

"We all get along," Applegate said. "That makes it easier. You don't want drama on the team."

Coach Boyd said the Bisons would play in five or six matches in the spring, including the Gulf South Conference championship in April.

Applegate said this year's team played well.

"Overall for the team, this is probably the best we've played in a while, especially since I've been here," Applegate said.

•Carson Fant

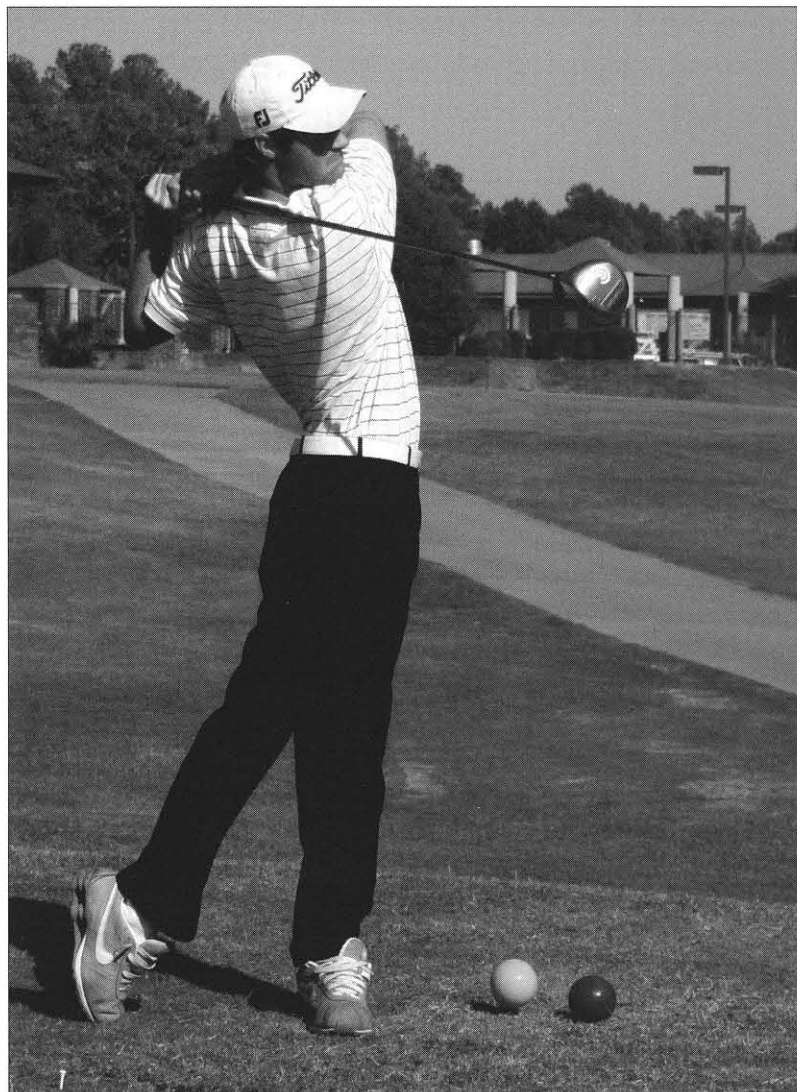
SCORECARD

Bisons

CBC Invitational	1 of 8
OBU Invitational	4 of 9
Bison Fall Classic	3 of 11
Derrall Foreman Invitational	10 of 22

Lady Bisons

CBC Golf Classic	1 of 3
Bubb Watson Invitational	11 of 12
OCU Star Classic	12 of 12

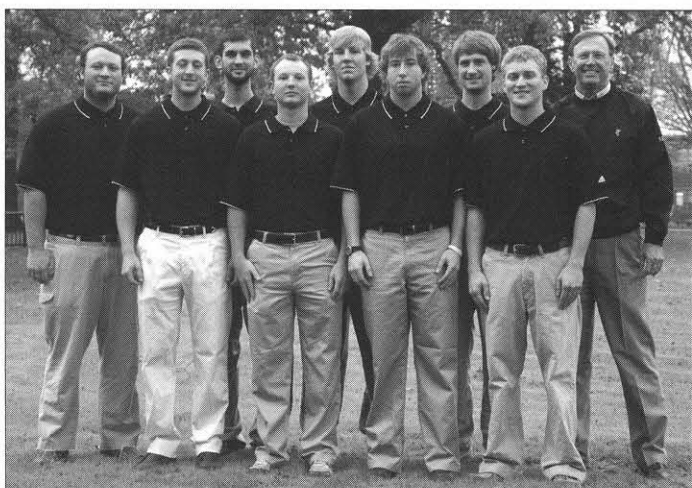


In a practice swing, senior Ryan Applegate follows through Oct. 20. The men's team placed first of eight teams in the Central Baptist Invitational on Sept. 4. •Amber Bazargani



At a practice session Oct. 20, sophomore Natalie Gay sets up a drive at No. 1. Gay's average after competing in all four tournaments was 91.2. •Amber Bazargani

Freshman Emily Hauptli practices putting her 3-footer Oct. 20. Hauptli walked onto the team after the first tournament. •Amber Bazargani

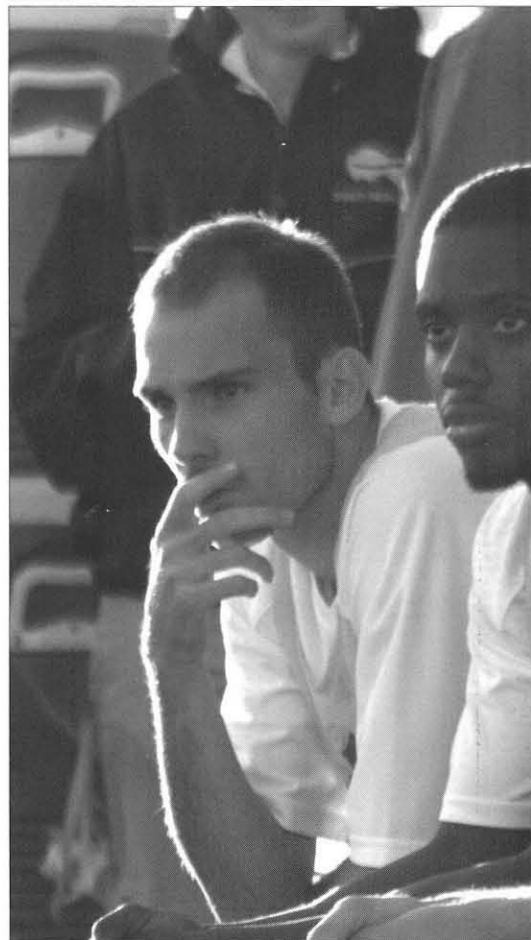


Row 1: R. Carter, A. Reynolds, A. Warder, J. Wade. **Row 2:** A. Osburn, C. Carstensen, D. Gourley, R. Applegate, N. Boyd.



Row 1: N. Gay, C. Napierala, T. Massey. **Row 2:** A. Smith, H. Skelton, V. Borsheim, L. Trotter, A. Baker.

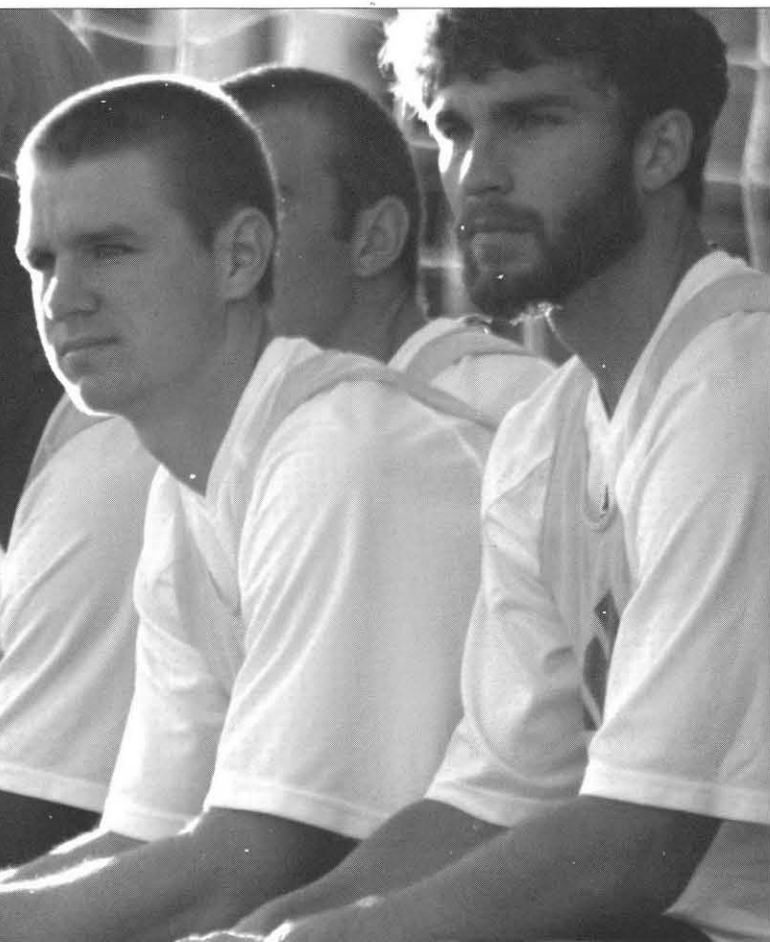
During a game against the University of Missouri-St. Louis on Aug. 27, junior midfielder Brady Wallace plays a ball over the top of the defense. The Bisons lost their second game of the season 2-0. •Craig Rainbolt



Row 1: K. Nix, S. Crouch, C. Marshall, A. Flesher, R. Hamilton, J. Thurmond, O. Guzman, L. Close, J. Emery. **Row 2:** S. Hedenman, T. Grant, C. Jordan, D. Nowlin, R. Bourdeau, C. Wilson, D. Mainprize, J. Ireland, S. Coleman, B. Wallace, D. Graves, B. Miller. **Row 3:** J. Carter, H. Hutson, R. Corley, J. Long, J. Bragg, C. Fowler, T. Brunton, B. Williams, C. Truax, J. Skinner, C. Coughlin, J. Edwards, G. Harris.

Flying down the field Oct. 17, junior forward Brock Williams makes a breakaway across the field toward the goal defended by John Brown University. Williams scored three goals and had an assist in the game making it his highest scoring game of the season. •Chelsea Roberson





During a game against College of the Ozarks, freshman midfielder Stephen Crouch, junior forward Chris Jordan, freshman defender Jay Skinner and junior forward Jedda Bragg intently watch their team play Sept. 19. Following NCAA rules, team members on the sidelines were required to wear different colored jersey's while they were not playing. •Jon Byron

SCORECARD

Drury.....	L 1-2
Missouri-St. Louis	L 0-2
Northeastern State	L 3-4
Tampa.....	L 2-3
Lynn	L 0-4
Ozarks (Ark.)	L 1-2
Montevallo	L 1-3
West Florida	L 1-5
Delta State	L 0-1
Alabama Huntsville	L 1-7
Belhaven	L 1-2
Lyon	W 5-0
Hannibal-LaGrange	L 1-4
Christian Brothers.....	L 0-1
John Brown.....	W 4-0
Ouachita Baptist	W 6-1

MEN'S SOCCER

Coach says on-field chemistry affects game

The feel of cooler weather, the changing colors of the leaves in the trees, the cheering of fans in the bleachers, the thump-thump-thump of a soccer ball being kicked down the field — all were signs of one thing: the beginning of Bisons and Lady Bisons soccer season.

Players like sophomore Odracir "Odie" Guzman said they could expect that anything was possible for their team under the coaching of Dr. Greg Harris.

"The only thing that's stylish about my coaching is that I love the kids I coach first and foremost, and that impacts me and who I am along with how I try and relate to them," Harris said.

He said he constantly changed his coaching styles depending on the needs of the team.

"I can't be a yelling coach every day — yelling and demanding because that's not what they need all the time; but I can't be laid back, laugh and joke with them every day, because there's times when they need you to be more serious," Harris said. "I can see this year's team being one of the most talented teams I've ever had as far as players are concerned."

In 2005, Odracir 'Odie' Guzman joined the Bisons, an addition Harris said significantly helped the team.

"Odie, in terms of on the ball skills, is probably as sound as they come," Harris said. "He usually makes good decisions when he has the ball. When he plays his best he is possibly able to control the pace of the whole game — when he gets the ball and is able to spread it around."

Guzman said the team was very dedicated on the field.

"We are a very hard working team; we play from the heart," Guzman said. "I love the way everyone pushes themselves, especially during preseason."

Sophomore Carter Truax said the team had a close bond off the field.

"All of us get along really, really well," Truax said. "We're a really close group. I hang out with these guys a lot."

Truax said the team's chemistry helped them play better.

"I think the fact that we're such good friends helps us play as a team," Truax said. "Team chemistry is the most important thing."

He also said the team improved since last year.

"We played better this year; we were a lot better team," Truax said. "This year our relationships grew even more. I think next year we'll be even better."

•Darin Sackett

Competing for the ball with a member of West Georgia University's team, freshman midfielder Minnie Guzman gets ready to head the ball during the Oct. 8 game. Guzman went on to earn the National Soccer Coaches Association of America Second Team All-South Region honors Nov. 29. •Craig Rainbolt

Row 1: C. Smith, L. Dowdy, J. Sears, W. Wash, C. Hornbeck, M. Guzman, A. Durgin, S. Varner. **Row 2:** A. Durgin, L. Pierce, T. Bragg, A. Langston, S. Williamson, E. Currie, K. Washburn, B. Bowie, C. Piselli, K. DeAtley. **Row 3:** R. Corley, H. Hutson, B. Bailey, J. Long, E. Currie, K. Taylor, L. Clissold, K. Rankin, L. Bullington, A. Sullivan, K. Bailey, G. Harris.



SCORECARD

Drury	T 1-1
Northeastern State	T 2-2
Texas A&M-Commerce	L 0-1
Newman	L 1-3
Barry	W 3-0
Texas Woman's	T 2-2
Montevallo	W 3-0
West Florida	L 0-1
Delta State	W 5-1
Alabama-Huntsville	W 2-0
North Alabama	W 4-0
West Georgia	W 1-0
Lyon	W 2-0
Christian Brothers	W 2-0
Ouachita Baptist	L 1-3
Ouachita Baptist	L 0-1



WOMEN'S SOCCER

Sophomore ties record goals scored in one game

When the Lady Bisons soccer team stepped out onto the field to play against Delta State in Cleveland, Miss., on Sept. 29, none of them knew the game would go down in Harding history.

During the game, sophomore forward Lynsey Clissold scored four goals, tying the current Harding record that Lori Boren set in 2003 for most goals scored in one game.

"Lori Boren is an amazing player," Clissold said. "To tie with her was really cool."

The Lady Bisons won the game 5-1, giving the team a record of 3-3-3. Dr. Greg Harris, head soccer coach, said the team worked very hard together and Clissold proved to be one of the Lady Bisons' best players.

"Lynsey has always been very talented," Harris said. "I think skill-wise, she's one of our best players. The thing we had to do was to get her work-rate to match her talent, and I think this year, what we're seeing from her is that her work ethic on the field has improved leaps and bounds over the last two years."

Clissold's roommate and fellow teammate junior Katie Rankin said she was very proud of Clissold for her achievement.

"I was excited because it helped us in the game," Rankin said. "That's a big deal, and I was really happy for her."

Clissold said she had worked hard to improve in specific areas.

"In spring training, coach worked with me a lot on speed and

techniques with the ball," Clissold said.

Although Clissold scored the goals, she had much of help from her teammates. After junior Kendyl Washburn scored the first goal with an assist by Clissold, Washburn, in return, gave Clissold the assist. Freshmen Minnie Guzman, Kellie DeAtley and Chelsea Smith also assisted Clissold in scoring the goals.

Clissold said the large number of freshmen contributed to their successes of the year as well.

"On the field, we have a lot of great freshmen that help us," Clissold said. "We have a really talented team, and it's easy to work with them. The girls are all amazing on and off the field. We all click really well together."

The team agreed they meshed very well together this year.

"We definitely work together better because our communication is better," Rankin said. "We're jelling together better. We have a really strong offense and a really strong defense."

Harris said the team was in good standing and Clissold helped in that aspect.

"Honestly, she is a big piece of the puzzle for us in the fact that she's just one of the players that we can count on to step up in the game and play well," Harris said.

The Lady Bisons scored 29 goals in all this season, had 266 shot attempts and ended with eight wins, five losses and three ties.

•Lauren Mitchell



In a game against Montevallo on Sept. 22, junior midfielder Katie Rankin challenges her competitor for the ball. The Lady Bisons scored three points in the shut out. •Amber Bazargani

Junior forward Lynsey Clissold passes the ball through the West Georgia defense during the Oct. 8 game. West Georgia was defeated by the Lady Bisons with a score of 1-0. •Craig Rainbolt

CROSS Country

Far from home, Kenyan runners' talent shines on

Kenyan sophomores James Cheruiyot and Savita Chelimo and junior Julius Kosgei attended Harding on athletic scholarships for their ability to run long distances and their performance as stand outs amongst their competitors, but the irony of the runners' stories was prior moving to America and attending college, each of them had limited training in cross country running.

Cheruiyot, Chelimo and Kosgei each said they had only been running for a few months to a few years before they were recruited to attend the university.

While competing on the cross-country team gave the foreign athletes an opportunity for an American college education, they said adjusting to American culture was not an easy process for them.

Cheruiyot said coming to America was hard for him at first because the teaching style was different from what he was used to.

"It was very difficult for me to adjust to my studies here because we use a lot of different languages back home and not just English," Cheruiyot said. "But when you come here, its English all the time."

Chelimo said the biggest adjustment she had to get used to was the difference in the sense of community.

"Back home people live more social lives, more like a community," Chelimo said. "Here I think people are more individualistic."

Kosgei said he also thought Americans were much more individualistic than Kenyans.

"I came to learn that when I was here, if you asked the name of your neighbor they cannot tell you," Kosgei said. "But when you are in Kenya you can ask someone who their neighbor is five miles away and they can name them."

Each of the runners agreed they really missed home, especially since none of them had been back to visit their family in more than two years.

"I have never been home since I came here," Kosgei said. "My family is the number one thing I miss. Every time I call them they ask when am I coming home. I tell them, 'I don't know maybe sometime next year.'"

Cheruiyot said although being away from home was not easy, his teammates made the transition to American culture smoother.

"Having teammates is very helpful," Cheruiyot said. "When I write a paper, I really like my friends to go through it. I can take it to four or five guys to look at it so when I finally take it to the teacher, I can get a 100 [percent] on it."

Cross country coach Steve Guymon said each of the runners played a different role in the overall team makeup.

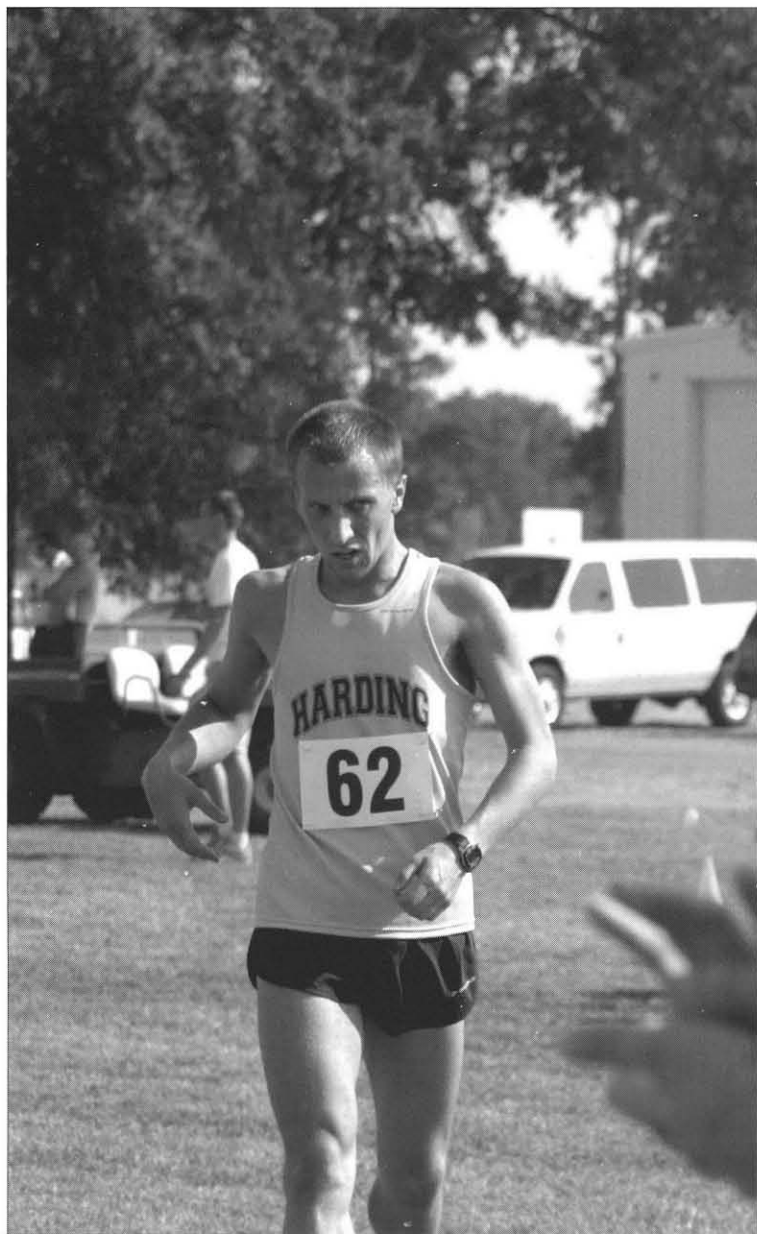
"Julius is a more vocal leader," Guymon said. "He keeps everyone positive. James is friendly and always smiling and Savita is like a little mom. I am fortunate to have each of them not only because of their talent but they each have a wonderful personality and contribute so much to this program."

•Brian Hall

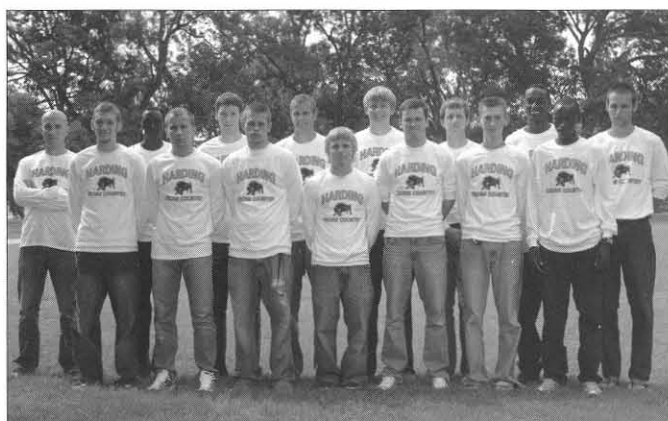


Junior Julius Kosgei checks his time as he and sophomore James Cheruiyot finish their race Sept. 9 at the Ted Lloyd Stampede. Kosgei achieved his first career win with a time of 20:24.68 and Cheruiyot finished second with a time of 20:24.88 in the four-mile race. •Chelsea Roberson

As an onlooker cheers him on, senior Artur Kern finishes the Ted Lloyd Stampede on Sept. 9. The Bisons placed first of three overall for the race. •Chelsea Roberson



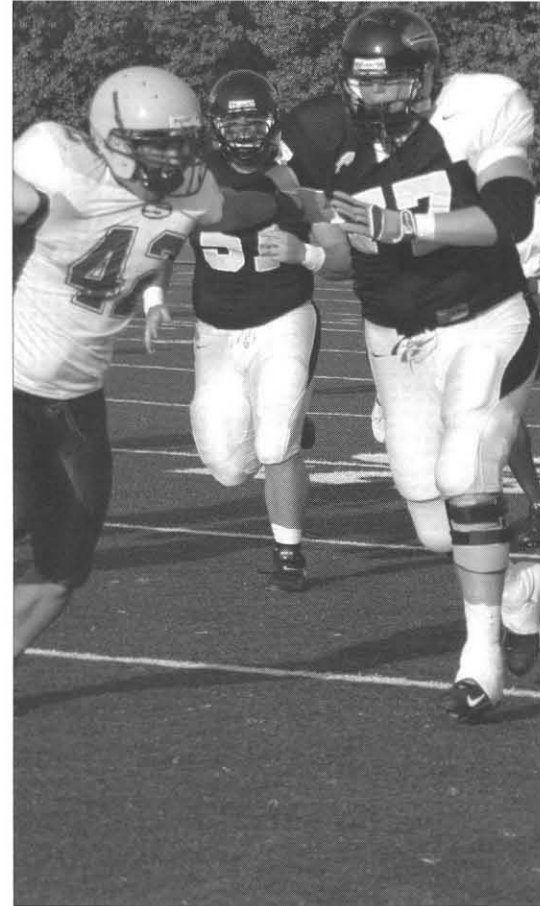
Mid-race Sept. 9, freshman Janee Jones and sophomore Savita Chelimo run at the Ted Lloyd Stampede. Jones finished first with a time of 11:08 and Chelimo second with a time of 11:15 in the two-mile race. •Chelsea Roberson



Row 1: T. Shelton, A. Kern, C. Pike, G. White, F. Bolling, S. McNichols, J. Kosgei. **Row 2:** P. Bobrowski, J. Cheruiyot, J. Conley, W. Ellis, J. Adams, T. Davidson, T. Cheum, M. Cregger.

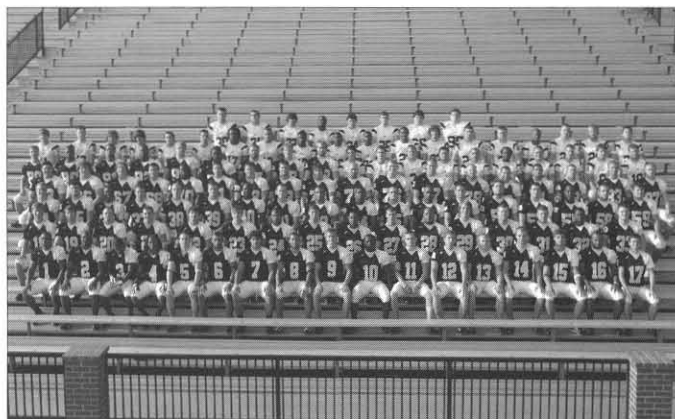


Row 1: K. Szteyn, C. Finn, D. Timmerman, J. Jones, V. Echeverria, M. Brown, T. Davidson. **Row 2:** B. Anderson, S. Chelimo, J. Fisher, M. Williamson, G. Drazkowska, K. Grant, J. Cheptum.



Behind the line of scrimmage, senior defensive lineman Justin Currie sacks the Henderson State quarterback Oct. 28 as junior linebacker Carlilse Johnson assists. The Bisons won the Homecoming game 34-28 in overtime. •Chelsea Roberson

After gaining 14 yards for the first down, a University of Arkansas-Monticello player tackles senior wide receiver Darrick Ware. For the season, Ware had 21 receptions, gained 280 yards and scored two touchdowns. •Jeff Montgomery



Row 1: P. Nicks, C. Johnson, D. Link, I. Gayles, R. Hall, R. Towns, M. Solano, D. Ware, K. Adams, T. Luke, D. Phipps, B. Moreland, C. Clark, H. Adams, A. Brewer, D. Knighton, B. Davis. **Row 2:** C. Rowan, T. Watts, L. Taylor, J. Huckleba, C. Chapman, M. Toline, S. Greer, L. McWilliams, A. Briggs, S. Woodason, K. Wess, J. Paulson, M. Whitlow, R. Dolan, R. Kimmons, H. Cruce. **Row 3:** C. Quattlebaum, L. Ingram, D. Robinson, A. Morton, A. Scarborough, A. Norman, J. Blanchard, R. Ferrell, J. Townsend, M. Mealing, K. Carlton, R. Hatfield, R. Conn, J. Wilson, T. Taylor, B. Parker, D. Saunders, H. Smith. **Row 4:** B. Thomas, C. Boatright, W. Parsons, T. Conn, S. Elleby, J. Skaggs, J. Walker, R. Conn, D. Walker, B. Potter, J. Greer, B. Tittle, J. Mahaffey, R. Hendricks, N. Ware, J. Firman, N. Wildman, D. Sloan. **Row 5:** C. Caton, J. Currie, A. Bryant, A. Jackson, N. Hoffman, K. Wakwe, C. Melson, P. Morse, C. Brown, E. Koch, M. Morningstar, T. Arnold, J. Medley, J. Black, A. Bommer, J. McCoy, B. Frye, K. Smith, C. Jamison. **Row 6:** Z. Tribble, J. Adkinson, L. Walker, J. Watson, C. Langley, L. Johns, A. Webster, B. Binkley, E. Peyton, L. Rucker, R. Mack, A. Franklin, Z. Caton, S. Adams, A. Mutchler, S. Hudson, P. Habegger, W. Pettit, D. Gage. **Row 7:** J. Brown, M. Colley, J. Thomasson, D. Williams, M. Weatherford, M. Canterbury, D. Feruson, R. Hennessey.





After catching a screen pass from junior quarterback David Knighton, senior running back Kyle Wess runs for a gain of 73 yards. Wess became the first Harding player to earn the GSC's rushing title, averaging 91.5 yards per game, and his 915 total rushing yards for the season was the ninth highest in the history of the program. •Chelsea Roberson

SCORECARD

Southwest Baptist	•W 42-30
Missouri Southern	•L 27-30
North Alabama	•L 14-41
Arkansas-Monticello	•W 29-21
West Alabama	•W 24-16
West Georgia	•W 34-16
Southern Arkansas	•W 17-6
Henderson State	•W 34-28
Arkansas Tech	•L 3-26
Ouachita Baptist	•L 20-34

Football

Seasoned players, coach help train underclassmen

Adorned in jerseys and helmets, the Bisons football team made their way onto the field for the beginning of another season. Led by Coach Randy Tribble, the Bisons were ready to pass, rush, kick and tackle their way towards the playoffs.

With the graduation of many seniors in the spring of 2006, the Bisons were left with a unique mix of veteran players and fresh faces. Among those veteran players was junior defensive back Robert Towns. Having set several national records, Towns had already established himself as a key player for the Bisons. However, during the 2006 season, Towns achieved some of his most noteworthy accomplishments, including becoming the first Bison ever to have three interceptions in two games. Although he earned the accomplishments himself, Towns knew that he could never win games by himself.

"I'll do anything for my teammates," Towns said. "If they are slacking in some way I try to give extra because they would do the same for me."

During games, Towns said he always tried to remember the family he found on the team and did everything he could to support them.

After the first few games of the season, when the team was still striving to unify, Towns was active in drawing on his experience to provide any help and guidance he could.

"We had some young talent this year, which was slightly different than the other seasons I have played," Towns said. "We made some changes after the first few games and then we were rolling."

Kyle Wess, a senior running back from Dallas, was another veteran on the team. Within the first few games of the season, Wess was nationally ranked in the top 20 for rushing yards and all-purpose yards. Wess showed ambition and desire to play his best, but also remembered his teammates.

"I always gave it all I could," Wess said. "But it was definitely nice to see my skills combined with others. This is a team effort, not an individual sport."

Tribble was grateful for Wess' team spirit. "There is not a bigger team player than Kyle Wess, and everyone knows it," Tribble said. "He is the hardest working, greatest person you could want to meet."

Tribble had great expectations as he headed into his 13th season. Just as many of his players

stood out on the field, Tribble was noteworthy for being the longest tenured head football coach in Arkansas and in the Gulf South Conference.

"This season was different for me," Tribble said. "I had 26 seniors last year, and when you lose those guys, you have a whole new team. I had to constantly think, 'What are these guys ready for?'"

In addition to the challenges Tribble gave to the new players, he continued challenging his veteran players to bring everyone closer together. According to Tribble, Towns wanted to step up his defensive playing.

"We gave Robert several challenges and he won all of them," Tribble said. "It is good for the whole team when anyone gets honor, especially when the player is such a team oriented player, just like Robert."

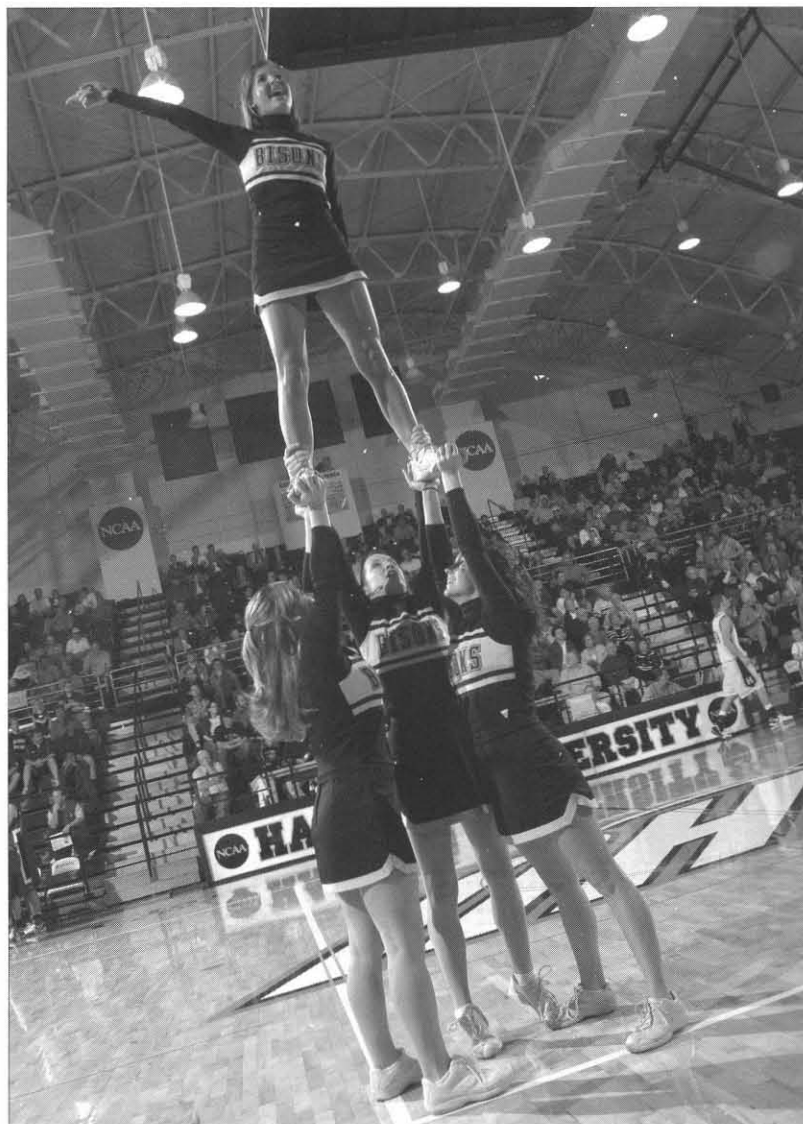
Even though completing passes, making tackles and scoring touchdowns were the essentials of the game, Tribble said he had an even greater objective in mind.

"Stay focused," Tribble said. Keep them focused and we will get better every day. Daily, we are taking care of business."

•Jordan Dyniewski

During their halftime performance Nov. 27, junior Blaze Chapman is lifted by freshman Bethany Blackburn, and sophomores Nikki Oakes and Carrine Snyder in a full extension. Though the excitement was high at basketball games, the girls were able to do more tumbling during the football season. •Chelsea Roberson

Row 1: B. Chapman, J. Gaul. **Row 2:** H. Threm, L. Weeks, A. Millican. **Row 3:** C. Snyder, K. Mitchell, T. Goynes, N. Oakes. **Row 4:** S. McVay, H. Light, A. Clarke, B. Blackburn, J. Carroll.



After making a pyramid at the Oct. 28 football game, sophomore Shanna McVay drops into the cradle. "Football games are more about cheers whereas at the basketball games we just try to get the crowd going," freshman Haley Light said. •Chelsea Roberson

Cheerleading

Captains lead squad on despite coach's leaving

The Harding cheerleading squad overcame the difficulties of losing a coach by growing closer as a squad. During the fall of 2006, cheerleading coach Tressa Tucker left her position. However, she left behind two strong captains: junior Blaze Chapman and senior Jamie Graul.

"They have been wonderful captains and really stepped up," freshman Leslie Weeks said. "When you have a coach, you have that person to do everything, but now that our coach is gone, the captains have really taken control of everything."

The captains took on many of the squad's organizational responsibilities, including running practices, making routines and bringing footballs to the games to throw out at the crowd. The captains were also faced with the difficulty of maintaining the respect of the squad.

"We are really lucky because of our two captains," sophomore Shanna McVay said. "They make up routines and everything we need to make sure we are always practicing as hard as we can, and they always get the routines done on time."

The squad had to adapt to not having a coach and learn to take care of things on its own.

"We have had to become more independent, not relying on someone to tell us what to do," freshman Ali Millican said. "We have had to take the initiative and listen to our captains more and respect them."

Junior Kristin Mitchell said she appreciated the work Chapman and Graul put into helping the squad become better organized. She said the captains helped put together a set schedule for the squad, which helped them accomplish more in practice and made it easier to juggle cheerleading with college life.

"This year, more than any other year, has been more organized and structural," Mitchell said.

The cheerleading squad benefited in another way after the loss of their coach; they became closer as a group.

"We are a lot more unified just because we have to work so hard together to get routines and football stuff done," Weeks said. "We really have had to cooperate and work together and that has made us closer as a squad and as friends."

Mitchell said the loss of Tucker was difficult because of the role model she was to the group. However, because of the changes the squad underwent, they had to work together and learn to respect each other's leadership more in order to grow as a group.

"We have come closer just because we have had to help each other out more than usual," Millican said.

Despite the difficulties they faced, the cheerleading squad relied on teamwork to get the job done.

•Sarah Cummings

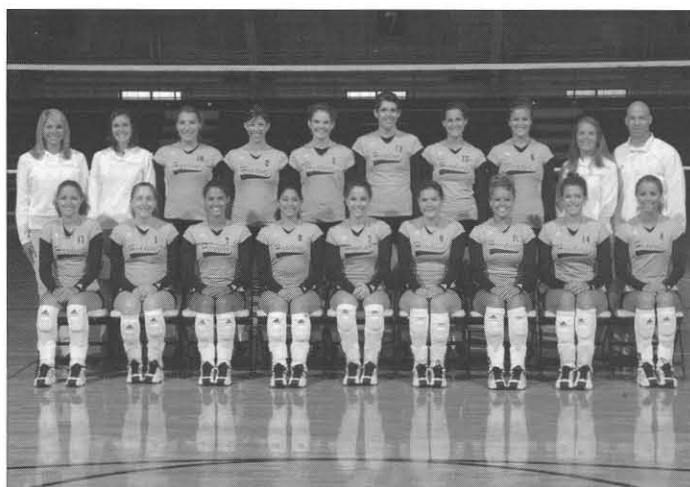


At the Nov. 27 basketball game, the squad rallies the Rhodes Rowdies in support of the Bisons who took on Alabama-Huntsville. The majority of the squad this year were freshman and sophomores with only two juniors and two seniors. •Chelsea Roberson

During a cheer Oct. 28, sophomore Jonathan Gehrich supports the cheerleaders by waving the Harding flag and running along the sidelines when the Bisons scored. For the first time, the cheerleaders were required to be able to do a back-handspring to count the points after the team scored. •Chelsea Roberson

SCORECARD

Bemidji State	W 3-0
New Mexico Highlands	W 3-1
Dallas Baptist	W 3-1
West Texas A&M	L 1-3
Pittsburg State	L 1-3
Texas A&M-Commerce	W 3-0
Southeastern Oklahoma State	W 3-0
West Georgia	L 2-3
West Alabama	W 3-0
Alabama-Huntsville	W 3-0
Valdosta State	W 3-0
Christian Brothers	W 3-2
Southern Arkansas	W 3-0
Arkansas-Monticello	W 3-0
Drury	W 3-0
Missouri Southern State	L 0-3
Henderson State	W 3-0
Arkansas Tech	W 3-0
Ouachita Baptist	W 3-0
Christian Brothers	W 3-0
North Alabama	L 0-3
Southern Arkansas	W 3-0
Arkansas-Monticello	W 3-0
Emporia State	L 1-3
Pittsburg State	L 0-3
Washburn	L 2-3
Southwest Baptist	W 3-0
Henderson State	W 3-1
Arkansas Tech	W 3-0
Ouachita Baptist	W 3-1
Gulf South Conference Tournament	
West Georgia	W 3-1
West Florida	W 3-0
North Alabama	L 0-3



Row 1: M. Nesheva, L. Tepe, K. Copeland, N. Trevino, P. Good, M. Rosenbaum, S. Phipps, T. Morrison, A. Copeland. **Row 2:** C. Schoenberger, L. Lackey, S. Rummer, S. Anderson, K. Westmoreland, Z. Hardin, B. Townsend, K. Parks, M. Giboney, K. Giboney.

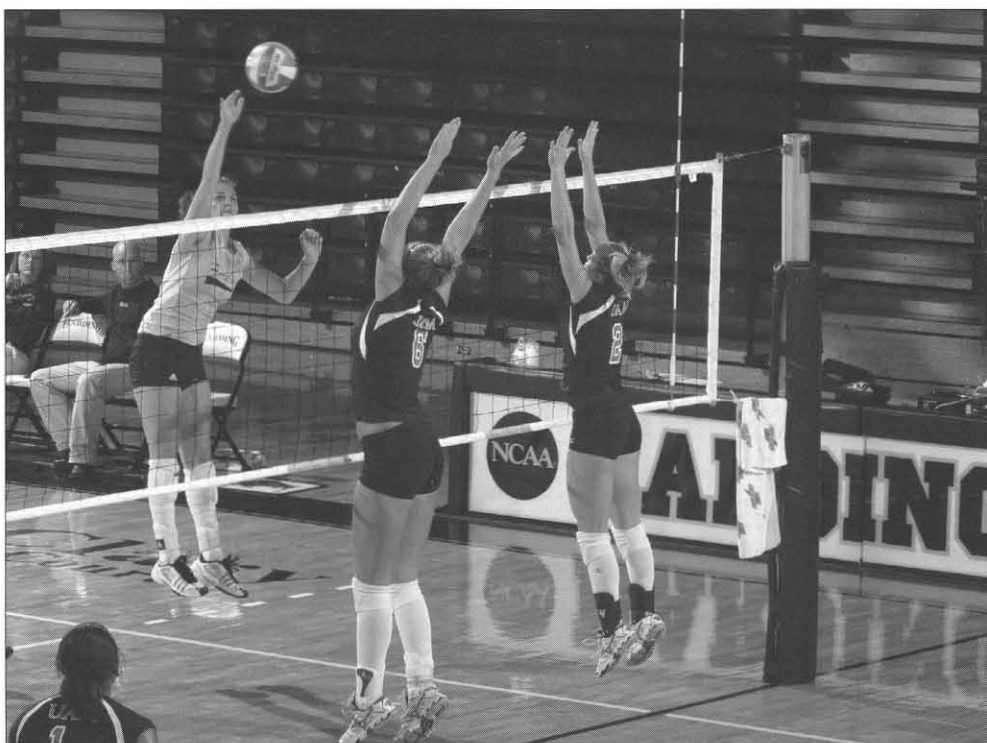
Senior right-side hitter Tiffany Morrison sets the ball as senior sophomore middle blocker Shellie Rummer prepares to hit in the Sept. 9 Alabama-Huntsville game. The Lady Bisons won all three matches scoring 30-23 in the first, 30-28 in the second and 30-14 in the third. •Chelsea Roberson





Diving for the ball Oct. 5, senior middle blocker Katie Westmoreland digs in the game against Christian Brothers University. Westmoreland led the Lady Bisons with a .320 hitting average and was the first Harding volleyball ever to receive the CoSIDA Academic All-America 1st Team honors. •Craig Rainbolt

Freshman outside hitter Manuela Nesheva spikes the ball against Arkansas-Monticello on Sept. 19. Nesheva made nine kills in this Gulf South Conference game. •Chelsea Roberson



volleyball

Lady Bisons dominate Gulf South Conference

The Lady Bisons volleyball team showed what they were truly made of this season when they ended the regular season with a perfect 12-0 Gulf South Conference record. Coach Keith Giboney said the girls entered the season knowing they were expected to win.

"We expect to win and we don't lose," senior Tiffany Morrison said. "Other teams know that we expect to win, and that is all there is to it."

The team attributed their wins to diligent players and their confident attitude.

"We have had a successful program for the last few years," senior Katie Westmoreland said. "There is a lot of talent, but you don't just need talent. The reason we work so well together is because we have talent and hard workers."

Coach Keith Giboney said going 12-0 was really tough because elements such as playing on the road in different gyms, as well as other fans made the season difficult.

"You always expect to have an off night," Giboney said. "So to go undefeated really shows complete dominance and that is a tribute to the players themselves."

The perfect conference season was not the end for the team. After

the 12 regular season wins came some post season victories in the Gulf South Conference Tournament with wins over West Georgia and West Florida.

"I love the intensity of post season," graduate student Paige Good said. "There is a different feel to these games. We are playing for something and everyone has their sights on getting it."

Giboney said there was an extra excitement during playoffs. Regardless of whom they were playing or when they were playing, each game could have been their last.

"We like being on top and the team to beat," Giboney said. "What goes up must go down though, and we have a bulls-eye on us because everyone knows we are the team to beat."

The Lady Bisons ended the tournament with a loss to North Alabama. Their overall record was 24-9.

Even though the post season did not end as well as the regular season, it was all an accomplishment that was made as a team and as a group of friends, Good said.

"The most important reason for our success, though, is that we get along so well on and off the court," Morrison said. "The best part of being on this team is the lifelong friends that I have made."

•Brooke Light

MEN'S basketball

Midnight Madness displays general rowdiness

It was an evening anticipated by both the men's basketball team and the face-painted mob known as the Rhodes Rowdies. For much of the student body, the evening of Oct. 16 was not just any other night; it marked the basketball team's first practice, the official beginning of their season. In an event known as "Midnight Madness," the team got a chance to have some improvisational fun, which involved both fans and players.

Head Coach Jeff Morgan said the atmosphere for the event was more celebratory than competitive.

"It's a first time for us to take the floor for the year," Morgan said. "It's a time to show off a little bit while showing the fans how much we appreciate them."

Midnight Madness fell during Club Week this year. Some were afraid the week's activities would draw students away from the event. However, prior to midnight, all of the social clubs gathered in the Rhodes Field House for All Club Devo and many students stayed for Midnight Madness.

"I'm glad all the clubs came in for the All Club Devo and a lot of them stayed for Midnight Madness," Morgan said. "It's an exciting time."

Morgan said the team spirit this year was high as they looked toward another year of basketball.

"We have several guys coming back this year," Morgan said. "They're hungry for the year coming up and working very hard."

Even though the Rhodes Rowdies were especially known for their invigorating chants and stimulating cheers, Morgan said he hoped everyone who attended the games would get into this spirit of competition.

"I know a lot of people equate the Rhodes Rowdies with the people that paint their faces, but to me everybody that comes to the games is a Rhodes Rowdy," Morgan said. "Every section has its own personality, but it's very humbling to see so many people come out and support you."

Junior guard Rick Hamilton was new to the team. He experienced the Rhodes Rowdies' cheering for the first time at Midnight Madness.

"The crowd was crazy," Hamilton said. "They were jumping up and down when we were dunking. They were screaming and hollering every time we hit a three. It was crazy. From what I've heard, I expect that [the Rhodes Rowdies] will get everyone hyped."

Senior forward Matt Hall had high expectations for this year's season.

"I expect to have a really good year as a team, so I think that it will help the fans to get excited about the games," Hall said. "I don't even think you can explain how much [crowd support] helps us. Without them, we wouldn't be nearly as good as we have been and will be."

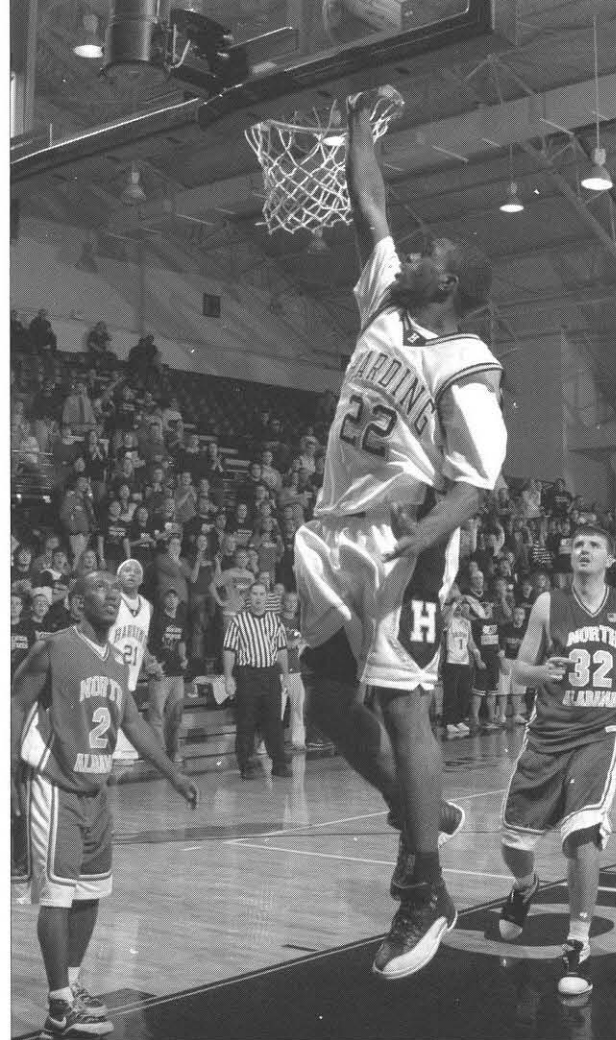
The Bisons ended their season with a record 17-12. Their season ended with a loss to Henderson State during the Gulf South Conference Tournament semifinals. It was the first-ever trip to the GSC semifinals for the Bisons. The season saw the 250th victory for Morgan when the Bisons defeated the Arkansas Tech Wonder Boys on Feb. 15.

•Andrew Leeper

SCORECARD

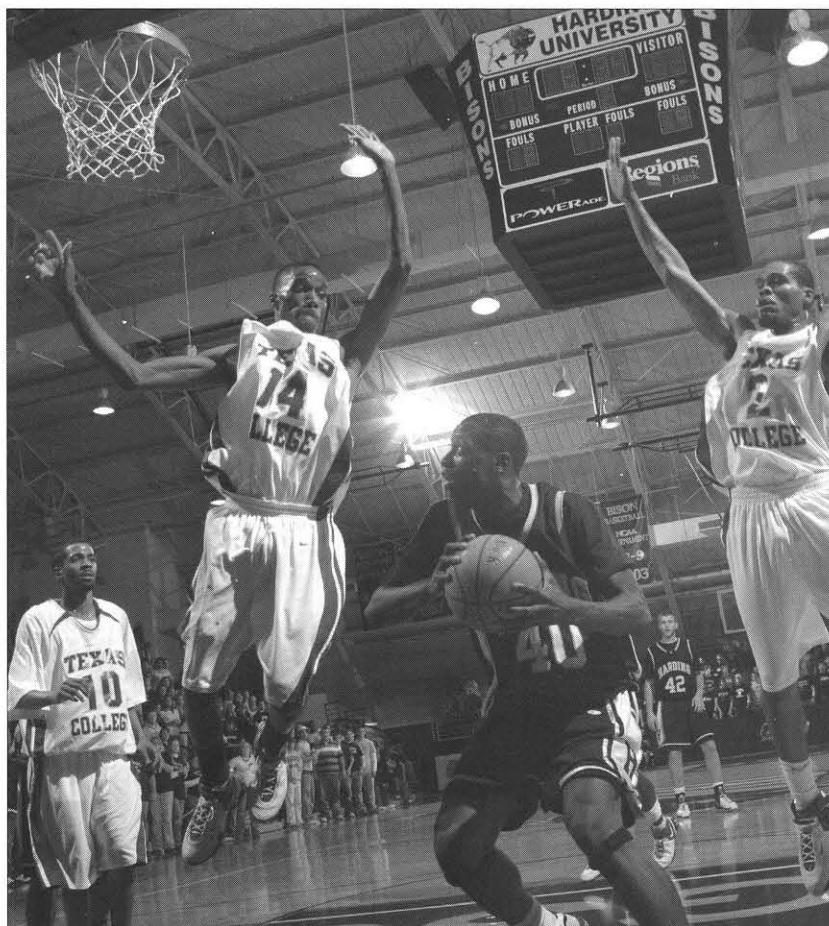
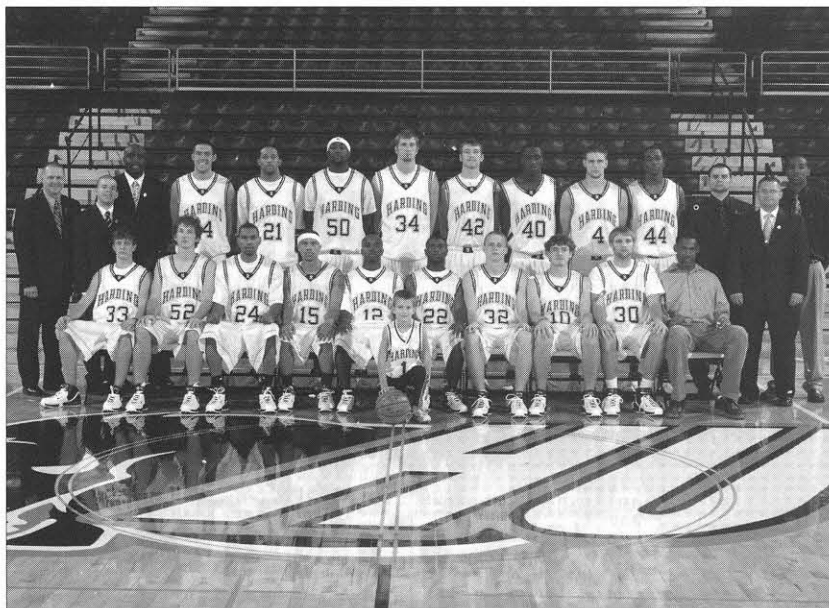
Northwestern State	L 100-103
Lipscomb	L 63-81
St. Edward's	W 91-89
Incarinate Word	L 70-79
Alabama-Huntsville	W 68-55, L 54-71
Ecclesia	W 109-50
Texas College	W 94-71
North Alabama	W 103-96, L 68-79
Champion Baptist	W 97-44
Drury	L 82-85
BYU-Hawaii	L 72-75
Hawaii Pacific	L 65-67
Central Baptist	W 99-78
Arkansas-Monticello	W 87-76, W 79-70
Delta State	L 65-78, L 83-87
Ouachita Baptist	L 76-77, W 77-68
Arkansas Tech	W 77-69, W 86-74
Henderson State	L 58-60, W 58-55
Southern Arkansas	W 65-55, W 64-61
Christian Brothers	W 64-52, L 71-76
Gulf South Conference Tournament	
Valdosta State	W 73-72
Henderson State	L 71-76





In the Dec. 2 game against North Alabama, sophomore guard Steven Barnett makes a layup. The Bisons beat the Lions after being down by 10 points in the second half and scoring 20 in overtime. •Chelsea Roberson

Row 1: J. Wise, P. Groves, P. Andrepont, R. Hamilton, R. Bibb, S. Barnett, T. Morgan, K. Morgan, M. Hall, S. Wilson. **Row 2:** J. Morgan, T. McFadden, J. Green, M. Ragsdale, B. Sims, T. Foster, J. Bynum, J. Thies, B. Howard, C. Kee, A. Anderson, B. Stanley, R. Woods, C. Dixon.



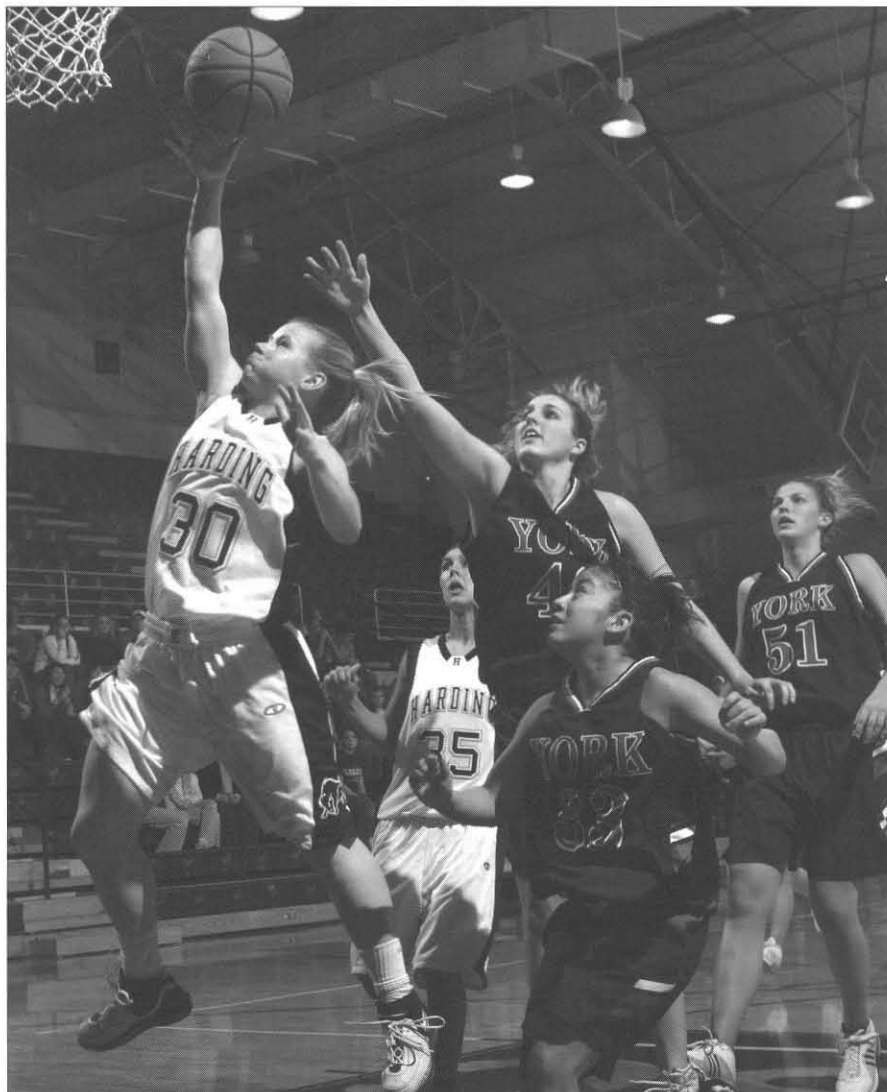
Waiting for the right moment to shoot, sophomore forward Brian Howard fakes out his Texas College defenders Dec. 1. In the 11 minutes Howard played, he scored 11 points and had four defensive rebounds. •Chelsea Roberson

Despite a Southern Arkansas defender's attempt to block his shot, freshman Trent Morgan goes for the layup Jan. 25. The team averaged a 90 percent shooting average in the second half and had an average of 88.5 percent of free throws overall with junior forward Matt Hall having the second most free throws made for a Bison in a game at 16-17. •Chelsea Roberson

Guarded by a Henderson State University player Jan. 20, freshman guard Kaitlin May looks for an open teammate. Henderson State was ranked No. 12 in the nation when the Lady Bisons defeated them 80-62. •Jeff Montgomery



Playing against Alabama-Huntsville on Dec. 2, sophomore guard Catherine McMenemy takes a jump shot from the outside right. McMenemy made 14 points and three assists overall in the game. •Chelsea Roberson



Having outrun her York College opponents, junior guard Kinsey Tucker goes for the layup Dec. 1. Tucker led the Lady Bisons in scoring with 18 points for the game. •Chelsea Roberson

WOMEN'S basketball

Lady Bisons share leadership role on team

For some campus organizations, seniority was a large factor in the leadership of the group. But for the Lady Bisons basketball team, even the most seasoned players were relatively new to the coaching staff of Head Coach Tim Kirby and Assistant Coach Shane Fullerton. However, according to sophomore guard Catherine McMenemy, every player shared a leadership role.

"Coach Kirby does a good job of letting us pick each other up," McMenemy said.

McMenemy said that while older girls naturally stepped up and took leadership roles, a senior and freshman had equal status when it came to making sure everyone was playing to her potential.

Four players were on the roster who played for previous coach Scott Francis: senior forwards Chelsea McCarty and Jana Pearson and juniors Jacque Fredendall, forward, and Kinsey Tucker, guard.

"They are awesome girls," Kirby said. "Whatever we tell them, they never balk."

Kirby said the older players also helped

the younger players adapt to the game and college life in general.

"Sometimes older players kind of ignore the younger players and don't include them in their everyday life," Kirby said. "It's totally the opposite with these girls."

Pearson said unity in the team was built into the program through the things they experienced together and the guidance of the coaches.

"I guess a really big part to that [unity], too, would be that we all go to Bible study together," Pearson said. "We started this last year, and I feel that has been huge in us getting to know one another better."

The younger players included a talented freshmen class. Guard Kelsea Lyda led the team in scoring, averaging 15.5 points per game. Guard Kaitlin May led the team with six assists per game.

Kirby said the freshmen handled the challenges of college basketball well.

"Our girls have really done a good job of coming in and trying to do whatever we ask them to do," Kirby said. "There will be

peaks and valleys, hopefully more peaks than valleys."

Lyda said the closeness of the freshmen class and the team as a whole helped them be successful.

"We're pretty tight," Lyda said of the freshmen class. "We have a lot of fun."

She also said the upperclassmen were an encouragement.

"They look after us," Lyda said. "You know that they care about you, and they care about making the team better."

Kirby said the early success had already translated into signing more recruits for next year.

The Lady Bisons ended their season with a loss of 69-42 to Valdosta State in the quarterfinals of the Gulf South Conference Tournament. It was their first appearance in the conference tournament in the seven seasons they've been a part of the GSC. The team ended its season at 19-10 overall, which was its most successful season since the 1998-1999 season.

•Carson Fant and Jennifer Merrill

SCORECARD

North Alabama	•••••W 106-98, L 72-77
West Alabama	•••••L 78-85
Alabama-Huntsville	•••••W 90-70, W 76-55
Williams Baptist	•••••W 88-54
York	•••••W 92-61
Montevallo	•••••W 66-64, W 61-46
Lincoln	•••••W 73-53
West Florida	•••••W 71-47
Arkansas-Monticello	•••••W 76-66, L 70-72
Delta State	•••••L 51-57, L 55-77
Ouachita Baptist	•••••W 70-69, W 61-53
Central Baptist	•••••W 87-68
Arkansas Tech	•••••L 54-63, L 47-70
Henderson State	•••••W 80-62, W 62-61
Arkansas-Little Rock	•••••L 51-96
Southern Arkansas	•••••W 74-50, L 82-86
Christian Brothers	•••••W 80-68, W 71-58
Gulf South Conference Tournament	
West Florida	•••••W 86-82
Valdosta State	•••••L 42-69



Row 1: M. Kirby, M. Bewley, J. McClindon, J. Pearson, K. May, J. Stevens, K. Lyda, E. Henderson, K. Tucker, J. Fullerton, P. Fullerton. **Row 2:** T. Kirby, B. Bailey, S. Owens, J. Fredendall, C. McCarty, A. Jones, C. McMenemy, C. Bailey, A. Taylor, S. Fullerton.