



# ATHLETICS

A season in a collegiate sport brings players together to form a family, and individual athletes make sacrifices for the sake of their team. Long hours in the gym, ounces of sweat and relationships between teammates intertwine to create a family that fights for one another in competition. Every workout, practice and game improves an athlete physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually,

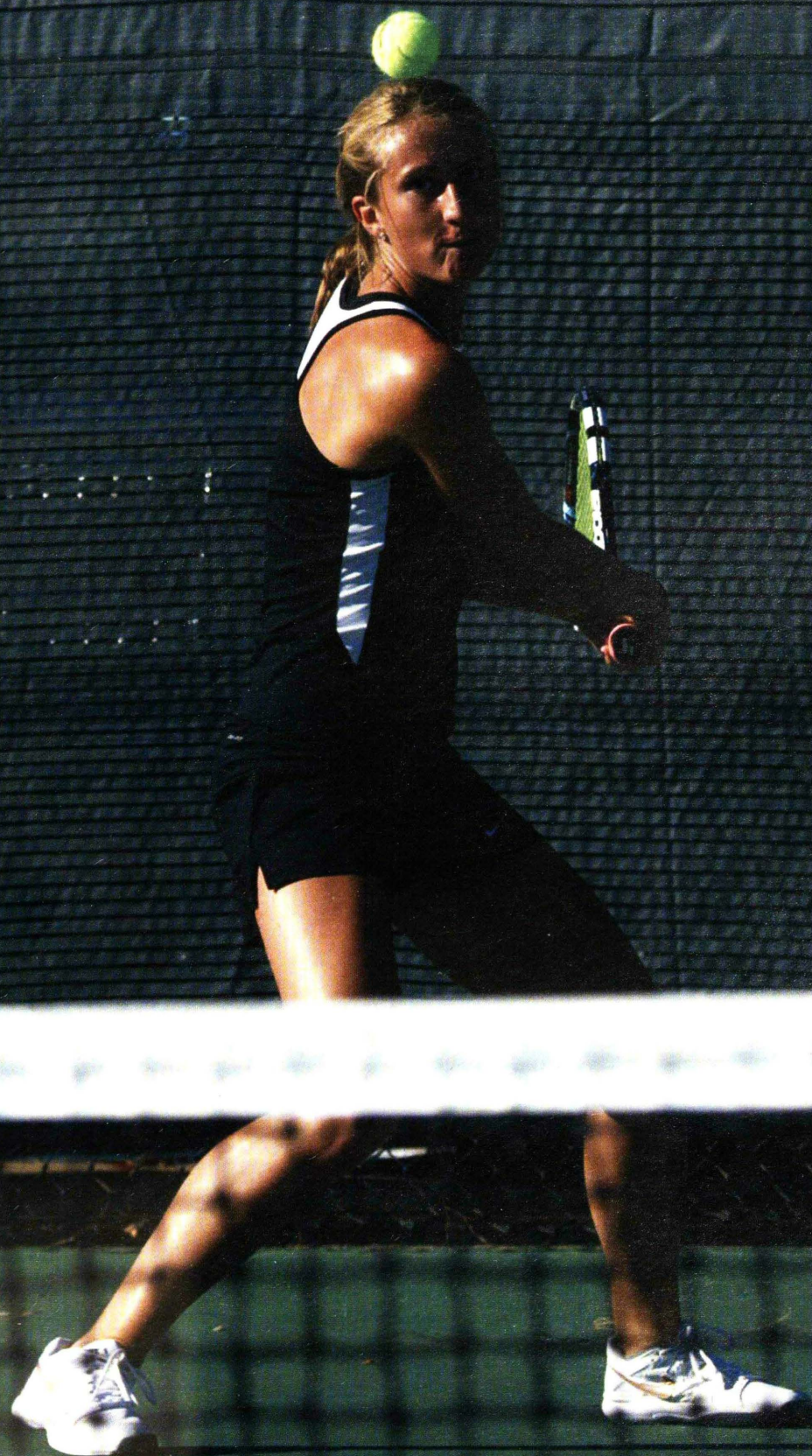
leading to successes and triumphs as teammates. Each team strove to earn the gold at the end of the season. Pushing for another rep, adding weight and spending extra time in practice all contribute to the changes players undergo in order to reach their goals. The small defeats and personal victories weave together to form a dynamic team and a powerful athletics program.

EDITOR, SAVANNA DI STEFANO



# set for success

**Sophomore Piper Huey** eyes the ball as she prepares to swing during her match on Oct. 3 against Rhodes College. Huey won both her singles matches and her doubles match, in which she was partners with junior Ali Bishop. **Photo courtesy of Jeff Montgomery**





The women's tennis team began the 2014 season with a strong showing at its first tournament, the United States Tennis Association and International Tennis Association's Central Region Championship, hosted by Southwest Baptist University. Considered by many as one of the most competitive in college tennis, the regional tournament brought together teams from the Great American Conference, the Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletic Association and the Northern Sun Conference. Players competed in a 64-player singles tournament and a 32-team doubles tournament.

"You have to remember that they are playing singles and doubles at the same time," head coach Marco Ruiz said. "It's very hard on the players because you have to play a lot of tennis. If you add up how much they play in one day, it could get up to eight hours of tennis."

Ruiz could not bring all 11 members of the team to the tournament; he was restricted to the team's top four singles players which would also makeup each of the team's doubles pairs. The team's lineup for the tournament included freshman Laura Golubic, freshman

Gabriella Alves, sophomore Piper Huey and junior Ali Bishop. Huey and Bishop formed one doubles team and Golubic and Alves formed the other.

Huey, the 2013-2014 GAC Freshman of the Year, was seeded No. 7 in the tournament. She advanced through her first three matches of the tournament without dropping a set, eventually losing in the quarterfinals to the No. 3 seed in a tiebreaker. Bishop, a 2013-2014 First Team All-GAC honoree, was seeded No. 15 and reached the final 16 in her regional tournament run. The unseeded doubles team of Golubic and Alves reached the doubles semifinals, upsetting the No. 5 seed doubles team in the process.

"It was a hard tournament, and there were a lot of good people in it, so I just try to take it one match at a time," Huey said. "It kind of gave me more confidence. One of the girls I lost to was the No. 1 at Drury. I lost to her really bad last year, but this year I did a lot better against her. It reminded me that it doesn't matter who I'm playing against — I just need to play my best."

Even after the successful tournament, Ruiz continued to push the team forward.

The offseason training and conditioning included weightlifting three times a week, agility workouts twice a week and cardio exercises twice a week. Bishop said she recognized that the key to her improvement was to get in better shape.

"Looking at the girls who are competing at the top level, they were in shape," Bishop said. "I wasn't ready for all of those matches, so I ended up getting hurt because I was playing so much in one day."

During the 2013 season, the Lady Bisons won the regular season conference title and the conference tournament championship, helping them end the season ranked No. 5 in the ITA Central Region Rankings. With an 18-6 overall record, the team advanced and competed in the NCAA Division II Tournament. Both coach and team desired to reach and to surpass the previous year's achievements.

"I'm expecting this to be one of the best seasons Harding tennis has ever seen," Ruiz said. "We were very competitive against every school at the tournament. We have a lot of potential."

**By Tin Nguyen**

## SCOREBOARD

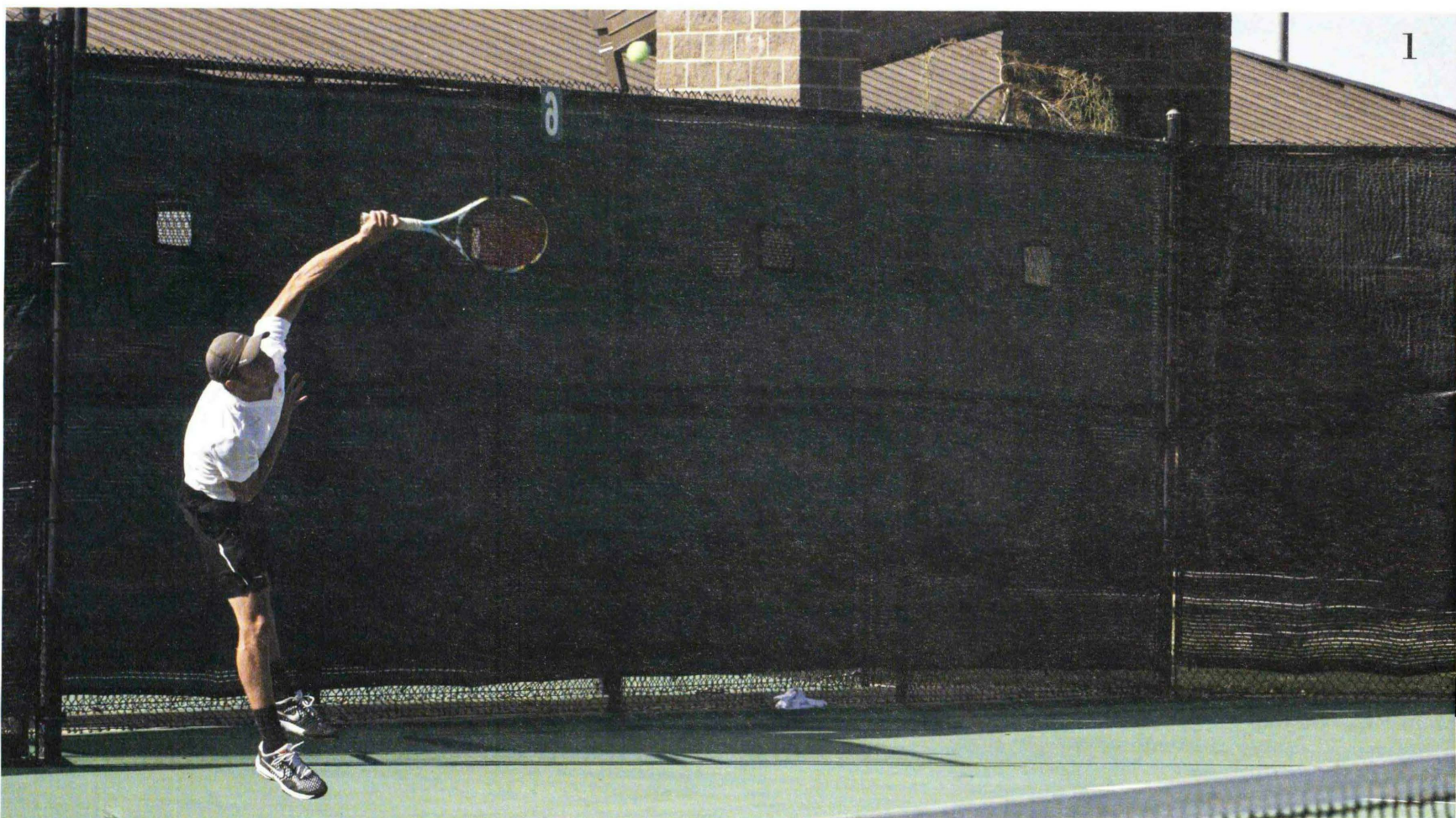
Hendrix 9-0 W  
Central Arkansas 1-6 L  
Lemoyne-Owen 9-0 W  
Delta State 9-0 W  
Missouri-St. Louis 4-5 L  
Lindenwood 6-0 W  
Southwest Baptist 1-5 L  
Drury 1-8 L  
Henderson 9-0 W  
Lane College 9-0 W  
Nebraska-Kearney 6-3 W

Northwest Missouri State 5-1 W  
Southern Nazarene 7-2 W  
Arkansas Tech 6-3 W  
Southeastern Oklahoma 8-1 W  
Ouachita Baptist 9-0 W  
Arkansas-Fort Smith 6-3 W  
East Central 5-3 W  
Arkansas-Pine Bluff 6-2 W  
Rhodes College 9-0 W  
Christian Brothers 9-0 W



**Row 1:** M. Moreno, K. Brown, A. Butler, B. Phumtip, L. Doversola, S. Sansom, G. Rowden **Row 2:** K. Huff, B. Burcham, P. Huey, A. Bradley, K. Wagner, T. Mare, A. Bishop, M. Ruiz (coach)





# Men's Tennis

## DOUBLED UP

Freshman David Korsten, from Germany, and freshman András Marics, from Hungary, both traveled a long distance to join the men's tennis team in the fall. Due to the separation, tennis coach Marco Ruiz received recruiting videos from Korsten and Marics before the fall semester to determine their eligibility for the team.

"It was obvious that I liked their videos," Ruiz said. "I began talking to them during the summer and saw that they were also really good people, not just great tennis players. The first day I put them together, and you could see that they had great chemistry, and they enjoyed playing as doubles partners."

Korsten, Marics and Ruiz all agreed that finding a doubles partner was no easy task. Marics said that partners needed compatible styles of play so that each player could rely upon the other during a volley. Korsten and Marics found that level of teamwork quickly.

"Before school started we were both here

on campus, so for fun we decided to play a double with my roommate and another guy from the tennis team," Korsten said. "The first time András and I played together, we knew that would be the perfect team for us."

According to Marics, Korsten had a stronger serve, allowing Marics to play more carefully at the baseline. Playing to their strengths, they learned to work together both on and off the court. Playing consistently as a team required a high level of trust. Ruiz kept that in mind when pairing his players together.

"Doubles is a little tricky because you need to find the best tennis partner, but you also need to find someone you can be friends with outside of the team," Ruiz said.

Marics said that he and Korsten formed a good friendship outside of tennis, which aided their continued success.

"If you have a bad relationship off-court with your partner, it can cause bad stuff on court," Marics said.

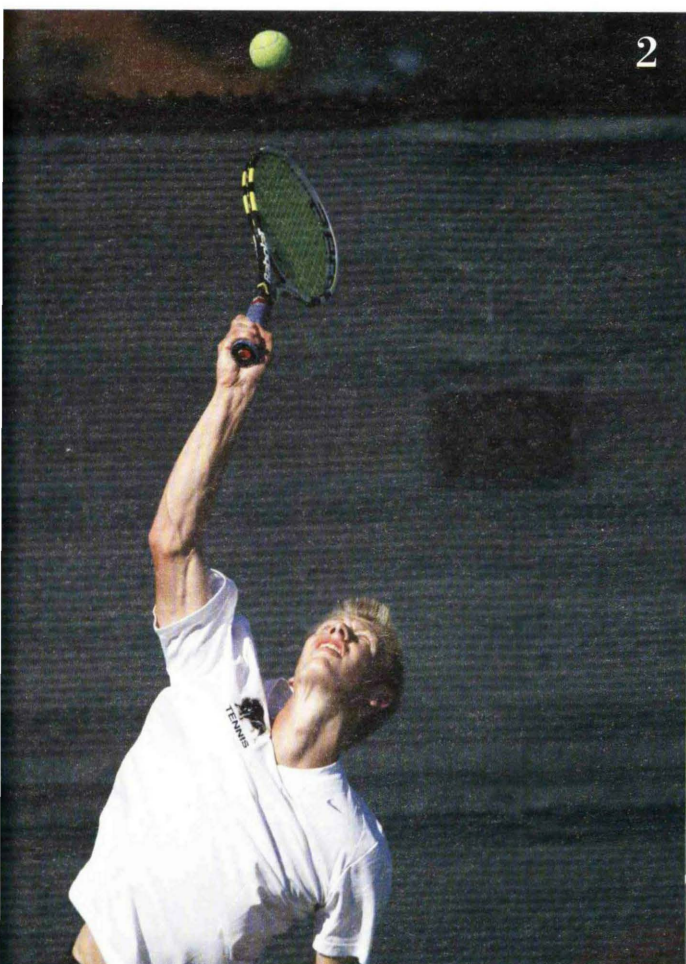
Ruiz was impressed when he saw how well the teammates worked together. Korsten added that Ruiz did not try to split them up or have them practice with anyone else. Korsten and Marics proved themselves over and over with each practice as they prepared for the upcoming Intercollegiate Tennis Association Central Regional Tournament.

"The tournament is really fun because you get to see the other players from the other schools," Ruiz said. "It tells you how you compare to the other schools and allows you to see how well you are doing."

As freshmen, the teammates had multiple years of playing ahead of them, and Marics said they hoped to improve quickly during that time. Having found such a successful doubles team so early, both Korsten and Marics were confident that they would end their first year of collegiate tennis in a good position for future success.

**By Alexa Stover**





**1. Springing towards victory**, senior Jon Rowden hits the ball with a powerful swing in a home match against Rhodes College on Oct. 3. Hurt won both singles matches played during the day. **Photo by DJ Lawson**

**2. Freshman Jared Bolt** stretches to reach the ball on Oct. 3. The Bisons won the match 7-2.

**Photo courtesy of Jeff Montgomery**

**3. Freshman David Korsten** encourages doubles partner freshman Andras Marics on Oct. 3. Korsten and Marics won their doubles match 8-2 against Rhodes College. **Photo by DJ Lawson**

## SCOREBOARD

Hendrix 9-0 W  
Delta State 5-4 W  
Missouri-St. Louis 2-5 L  
Lindenwood 2-5 L  
Southwest Baptist 5-4 W  
Drury 1-8 L  
Nebraska-Kearney 4-5 L  
Northwest Missouri State 4-5 L

Lemoyne-Owen 9-0 W  
Southeastern Oklahoma 3-6 L  
Ouachita Baptist 4-5 L  
Arkansas-Fort Smith 8-1 W  
East Central 6-3 W  
Arkansas-Pine Bluff 8-1 W  
Rhodes College 7-2 W  
Christian Brothers 9-0 W



**Row 1:** C. McReynolds, J. Rowden, Y. LeMat, M. Carrascosa, J. Hurt, B. Hogland **Row 2:** M. Ruiz (coach), G. Uglovs, A. Ford, M. Spiering, J. Vasquez, F. Carbonari, M. Claiborne





# men's & women's TRACK

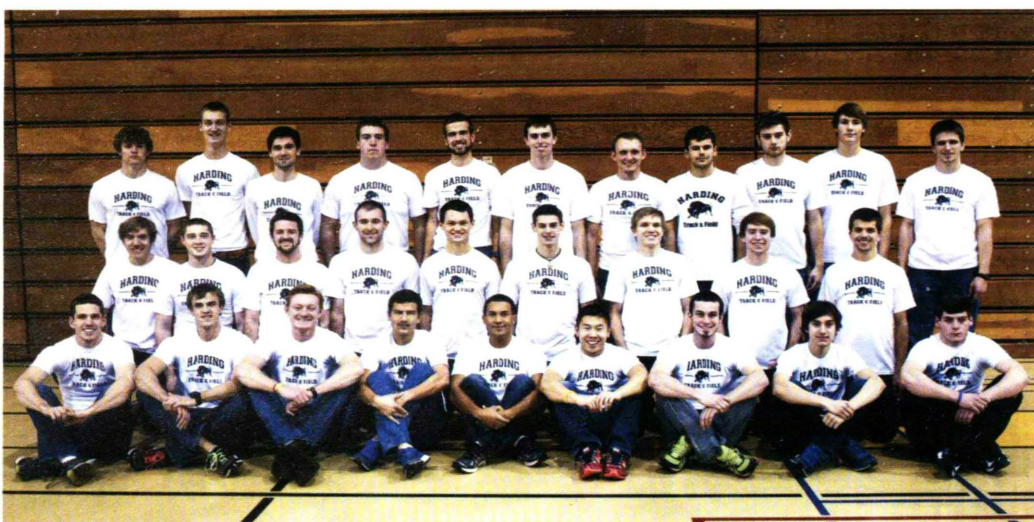


Leaping over hurdles, junior Kathryn Phillips leaves her opponents behind during the Bison Invitational on March 29. Phillips had four top-10 finishes in 400-meter hurdle competitions throughout the season.

Photo courtesy of Jeff Montgomery



**Row 1:** A. Webb, M. Vandygriff, E. Ames, K. Taylor, A. Priest, J. Rapowitz, A. Urban, K. Jacobs **Row 2:** T. Kim, B. Pearson, L. Gordon, S. Shepherd, D. Castro, D. Bailey, R. Price, C. McMinn, B. Engel, A. Ryan, K. Phillips  
**Row 3:** M. Srygley, B. McAleese, R. Domeyer, Z. Hardin, R. Roberts, S. Coleman, D. Wallace, E. Zaborowska, M. Kessler, K. Lassiter, C. Embry, S. Kauble



**Row 1:** D. Bagwell, L. Belcher, J. Koonce, D. Evans, D. Hulse, T. Ly, T. Adkison, L. Goodspeed, G. Campbell  
**Row 2:** S. Elander, P. Wheeler, M. Kessler, N. McClure, R. Chase, J. Pile, Z. Uhiren, M. Rice, M. Sherk  
**Row 3:** S. Hedlund, J. Hammond, L. Green, J. McDonald, A. Evans, R. Smith, T. Lively, L. Farkas, J. Dybowski, M. Allison, T. Holloway

In the spring, junior Corey Bassett became Harding's first 100-meter All-American, placing eighth in the NCAA Division II national championship with a time of 10.75 seconds. Bassett had recently set the Harding school record with a 10.43 in the preliminaries.

"To be the first All-American here is a huge accomplishment, and I look forward to repeating it next year," Bassett said.

Bassett, a native of Plano, Texas, started running track in the seventh grade, and he set several records in high school, including a 6.99 60-meter dash indoors, the eighth-fastest time among Texas high school athletes. Bassett said his dad was always his biggest supporter and motivator, both in high school and later in college. He planned to train hard for future

championships, and he had time to improve at the collegiate level. Also a defensive back on the Harding football team, Bassett said that though it was difficult to put so much time into track and football, his coaches made it easy to balance the two. Bassett was humbled but thrilled by his successes.

"Just to be the first in anything, it's crazy," Bassett said. "For little ol' me to be the first, it's pretty cool."

Bassett's runs left a big impression on junior De'Onte Garrett, one of his teammates on the track team.

"Ultimate speed — I ain't never seen nobody faster," Garrett said. "I was on track in high school, and we had some pretty fast dudes, but I ain't never seen nobody with

that Corey Bassett speed."

Senior Tory Day, who played football with Bassett, said that Bassett's character off the track contributed to his skill. Even the football team was impressed by Bassett's ability and encouraged by his victories on the track.

"Corey Bassett is probably not only one of the nicest guys I've ever met, but I can legitimately say he's a good friend," Day said. "It really spills over into his athletics. Because of his honesty, character and integrity, Corey doesn't cut corners ... He works really hard, and you see that in not only his form and the way he runs, but also you see that in the amount of times he wins."

**By Ashley Heastie**





## EARNING THE GOLD

In the 2014 baseball season, under the guidance of head coach Patrick McGaha and assistant coach Andy Schatzley, the Bisons finished fourth out of 11 teams in regular season conference and third in the conference tournament. Despite coming up barely short of conference victory, the team once again proved their worth with the many awards they garnered as a team.

"We knew if we could find a way into the conference, we were as good as anybody else," Schatzley said.

Alumnus second baseman Victor Guerra and junior third baseman Noah Chandler became the first two players since 1997 to earn the Central Region Gold Glove Awards. According to Schatzley, Gold Gloves were awarded to the best defenders in each position in the region. Though all college-level players in the Central Region were eligible for this award, only 18 Gold Gloves were handed out in all.

With half of the infield awarded Gold Gloves, the Bisons broke the school record for fielding percentage, ranking in the top 10 in NCAA Division II. Season practices began in mid-August with 50 games played

between February and May. Working through a tough year, they managed to make the most of it, focusing on their victories over their losses.

"Within our region, there are three conferences and over 34 schools," McGaha said. "It's a pretty high accomplishment."

Guerra and Chandler were not the only award recipients. Junior pitcher Collin Campbell was honored as a member of the 2014 All-Arkansas College Team, and 2014 alumnus Matt Calhoun also received an honorable mention. For the second year in a row, the Bisons received the GAC Sportsmanship Award and recognition for most scholar athletes, finishing with a cumulative GPA of 3.16.

Chandler found his real victory not in winning but in perfecting his game.

"Keep a level head and focus on doing things the right way. It's process over outcome," Chandler said. "You can't focus on winning; you have to focus on doing things the right way. If we are doing things the right way, we'll win."

**By Alexa Stover**

## SCOREBOARD

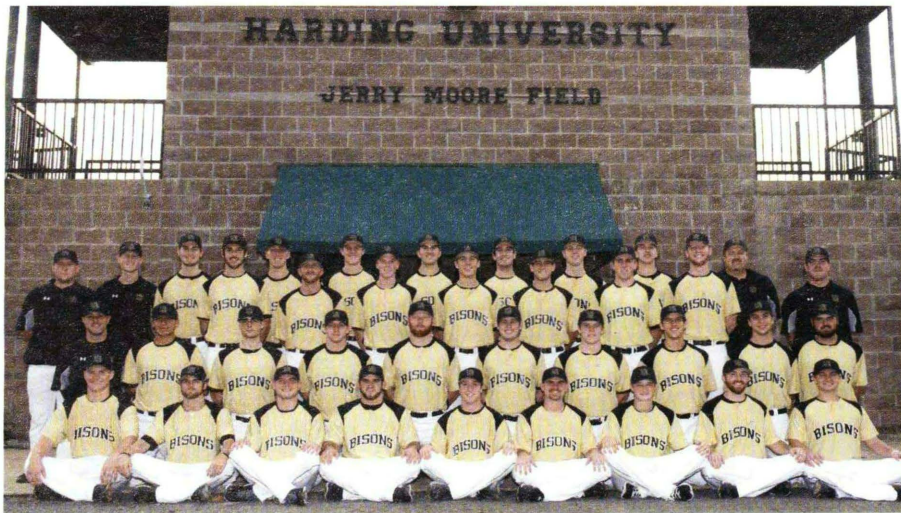
Lyon 1-0 W  
Lyon 3-2 W  
Northeastern State 0-5 L  
Northeastern State 2-3 L  
Truman State 7-3 W  
Truman State 3-2 W  
Truman State 9-4 W  
Ouachita Baptist 5-0 W  
Ouachita Baptist 5-6 L

Southern Nazarene 25-9 W  
Southern Nazarene 6-7 L  
Southern Nazarene 6-4 W  
Henderson State 0-1 L  
Southeastern Oklahoma 6-0 W  
Southeastern Oklahoma 11-1 W  
Southeastern Oklahoma 6-0 W  
East Central 5-7 L  
East Central 6-8 L

East Central 2-0 W  
Central Baptist 7-6 W  
Southern Arkansas 2-4 L  
Southern Arkansas 4-2 W  
Southern Arkansas 5-4 W  
Delta State 1-3 L  
Arkansas-Monticello 3-13 L  
Arkansas-Monticello 0-4 L  
Arkansas-Monticello 4-6 L

Arkansas Tech 2-3 L  
Northwestern Oklahoma 11-4 W  
Northwestern Oklahoma 10-5 W  
Northwestern Oklahoma 4-2 W  
Union 3-6 L  
Southwestern Oklahoma 2-8 L  
Southwestern Oklahoma 9-2 W  
Southwestern Oklahoma 10-7 W  
Union 6-3 W





**Row 1:** J. Belknap, C. Campbell, D. Richardson, R. Adams, Z. Stewart, C. Hardey, C. Walker, S. Kinnear, J. Anderson **Row 2:** A. Schatzley (asst. coach), V. Guerra, B. Hester, T. Wooldridge, M. Calhoun, H. Hunter, T. Stanford, E. McCarver, H. Lowe, H. Payne **Row 3:** J. Spears, B. Smith, M. Brashear, J. Chapman, K. Offenbacher, D. McKenzie, A. Fiddler **Row 4:** B. Ninemire (grad. asst.), K. Ganus (grad. asst.), N. Ford, J. Stripling, Z. Cambron, B. Ravener, L. Holthaus, A. Copeland, A. Ralston, P. McGaha (coach), A. Smith (grad. asst.)

**1. Senior John Chapman** dives to safety on March 30 in a game against Northwestern Oklahoma State University. Chapman scored a total of 20 runs during the season. **Photo courtesy of Jeff Montgomery**

**2. Alumnus Bronson Smith** prepares to take a break during a doubleheader against Southeastern Oklahoma on March 1. Harding won the games 11-1 and 6-0. **Photo courtesy of Jeff Montgomery**

**3. Alumnus Erin McCarver** swings at the ball during the March 18 game against Delta State University. McCarver had 46 base hits throughout the season. **Photo by Matt Dobson**

Henderson State 3-4 L	Arkansas Tech 5-6 L
Henderson State 3-8 L	Arkansas Tech 0-2 L
Henderson State 7-0 W	Southern Arkansas 2-1 W
Arkansas-Monticello 13-3 W	Arkansas-Monticello 5-0 W
Ouachita Baptist 2-0 L	Arkansas-Monticello 1-7 L
Ouachita Baptist 10-7 W	Southern Arkansas 3-4 L
Ouachita Baptist 10-0 W	
Southern Arkansas 1-5 L	
Arkansas Tech 2-3 L	



# SOFTBALL

SETTLING INTO  
THE FIRST YEAR



**BA** THE  
BANK  
OF  
AUGUST



## SCOREBOARD

Northeastern State 6-4 W  
Tarleton State 7-5 W  
Emporia State 1-5 L  
Rockhurst 11-10 W  
Southwest Baptist 10-6 W  
Northwest Missouri 5-13 L  
Pittsburg State 2-6 L  
Oklahoma Panhandle 10-5 W  
Drury 5-4 W  
Southern Nazarene 4-2 W

Southern Nazarene 2-0 W  
Christian Brothers 5-1 W  
Southeastern Oklahoma 6-7 L  
Southeastern Oklahoma 2-14 L  
Southeastern Oklahoma 6-4 W  
Southeastern Oklahoma 1-7 L  
East Central 4-1 W  
East Central 8-2 W  
East Central 2-12 L  
East Central 8-6 W  
Delta State 5-7 L

Delta State 3-2 W  
Southern Arkansas 1-4 L  
Southern Arkansas 2-10 L  
Southern Arkansas 1-2 L  
Southern Arkansas 1-13 L  
Arkansas-Monticello 4-1 W  
Arkansas-Monticello 3-2 W  
Arkansas-Monticello 4-3 W  
Arkansas-Monticello 1-7 L  
Arkansas Tech 4-3 W  
Arkansas Tech 4-3 W

Northwestern Oklahoma 3-9 L  
Northwestern Oklahoma 3-11 L  
Northwestern Oklahoma 4-6 L  
Northwestern Oklahoma 13-9 W  
Southwestern Oklahoma 3-0 W  
Southwestern Oklahoma 7-3 W  
Southwestern Oklahoma 4-1 W  
Southwestern Oklahoma 10-2 W  
Arkansas Tech 3-6 L  
Henderson State 1-9 L  
Henderson State 5-9 L



Before the Lady Bisons softball team's first season of competition in the fall of 2013, head coach Phil Berry saw an opportunity for the women to make their mark on the stadium and seized it. As Harding's first intercollegiate softball team since 1985, they left their legacy near the home dugout. The initials and numbers of all 19 players were immortalized in the concrete, commemorating the inauguration of a new era of Lady Bisons softball.

Berry pointed out that while the 2014 members witnessed the construction and opening of brand new softball facilities, they also established what would become the enduring legacy of an entire program.

"They would lay a foundation. They would set the standards. They would set the first set of records," Berry said. "They would set the direction of the program."

The team did not take this responsibility lightly. Instead, they rose to the occasion and started the program on a promising note, putting together a 32-26 overall record.

Despite being selected to finish last in

conference by the preseason polls, the Lady Bisons turned a lot of heads as the season went along. Senior pitcher Amber Rollins said that the low preseason ranking served as motivation for the team throughout the season.

"We were picked to finish last in our conference, but we weren't going to let other teams think any differently," Rollins said. "We wanted to sneak up on some people and let them know what we were about."

At the season's start, the team set a goal to reach the conference tournament. They then continued to have success during the season, raising the bar by vying for one of the top four seeds in the tournament.

A highlight of the season came during a Tuesday doubleheader against Arkansas Tech University on March 25. The Lady Bisons managed to score walk-off homeruns in each game's seventh inning to win both games by the same margin of 4-3.

These victories secured a No. 4 seed in the Great American Conference tournament. Sophomore Kimmy Hendricks, a catcher from

Gilmer, Texas, said that they never lost sight of their goals and motivation throughout the year.

"We never used it being our first year as a program as an excuse not to perform and compete at a high level," Hendricks said. "Instead, it was something that we used to our advantage to catch teams off guard."

After winning a 10-inning battle against East Central University in the first round of conference tournament, the Lady Bisons fell to No. 1 seed Southeastern Oklahoma 3-1. They ended their season in a high-scoring battle, losing 11-8 to the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

Though they would have liked to go further in the conference tournament, senior outfielder Carolyn Clayton put the team's accomplishments into perspective.

"Anywhere nationwide, for a team to come by 30 wins in a season is really good, but to do it as a first year program set the bar really high for teams to come," Clayton said.

**By Jackie Bacon**

**1. Senior Amber Rollins** winds up a powerful pitch against Arkansas Tech University during a doubleheader on March 25. The Bisons won both games 4-3.

**Photo by Matt Dobson**

**2. Freshman Brookelynn Moon** reaches out to catch the ball on Feb. 21. Harding won against Southern Nazarene University with a score of 4-2. **Photo by Matt Dobson**

**3. Taking a break** from the game against Southwestern Oklahoma State University, the team comes together for a pep talk from head coach Phil Berry on April 5. The team played a doubleheader and won both games.

**Photo courtesy of Jeff Montgomery**

Henderson State 2-5 L  
Henderson State 5-6 L  
Ouachita Baptist 0-1 L  
Ouachita Baptist 6-1 W  
Ouachita Baptist 6-5 W  
Ouachita Baptist 9-1 W  
Delta State 7-3 W  
Delta State 2-7 L  
East Central 3-2 W  
Southeastern Oklahoma 1-3 L  
Arkansas-Monticello 8-11 L



**Row 1:** C. Chambers, J. Greene, E. Jones, C. Veteto, C. Burns, A. Rollins, M. Wickline, M. Edwards, H. Abston, B. Moon, C. Clayton **Row 2:** S. Berry (manager), P. Berry (coach), A. Berdon, C. Derrick, D. Hubbard, K. Hendricks, M. Hall, M. Gipe, K. Beck, M. Jones, M. Mitchell (grad. asst.), N. Shelnutt (manager)





**1.** Freshman Jordan Turney and sophomore Jim Pile stay ahead of the competition during the Great American Conference Championships on Nov. 8. The Bisons placed second out of five teams.

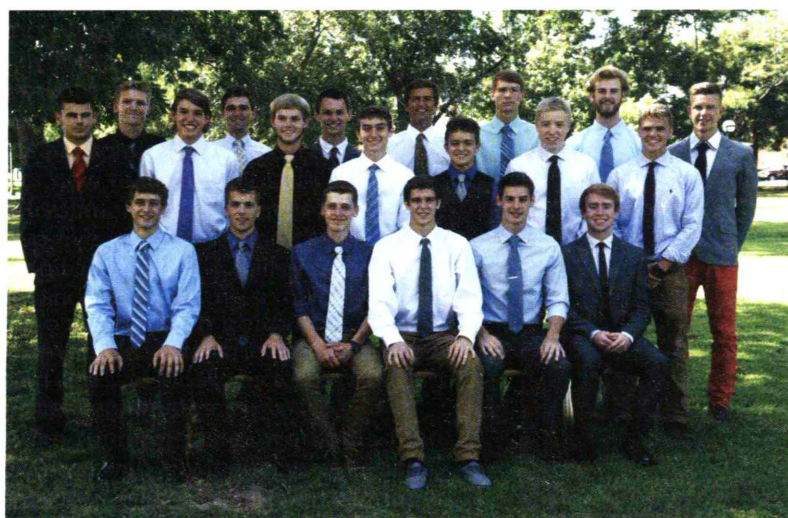
Photo courtesy of David Crouch

**2.** Senior Dallis Bailey pushes to finish strong in the race at the GAC Championships. Bailey led the rest of the team to victory and placed second in the competition.

Photo courtesy of David Crouch

**3.** The men's and women's cross-country teams congratulate each other after the GAC championship race. Together, the teams scored 79 points.

Photo courtesy of David Crouch



**Row 1:** J. Turney, M. Sherk, J. Jackson, D. Person, J. Pile, M. Rice **Row 2:** L. Farkas, J. Baker, S. Parker, L. Goodspeed, A. Saavedra, C. Miller, K. Tillman **Row 3:** Z. Uhiren, J. Green, R. Chase, D. Evans, M. Allison, L. Belcher, M. Golik



**Row 1:** S. Kauble, T. Kim, D. Bailey, C. Williams, K. Leonard, K. Jacobs, M. Jones **Row 2:** V. Hood, K. Smith, A. Priest, S. Shepherd, J. Rapowitz, K. Taylor, C. McMinn, A. Webb **Row 3:** E. Zaborowska, A. Whittington, C. Embry, M. Drennan, S. Mueller, D. Castro, S. Ballmann





# Rookie IN THE LEAD

For Steve Guymon, head coach of men's and women's cross-country, there was never a shortage of recruits trying to contact him. He estimated that he received an average of 10 emails per day from recruiting services or prospective student athletes. Applications came from students all across the country and, in some cases, from across the world. Thanks to a recruiting service working in Germany and France, Guymon came across a promotional video of sophomore Sylvie Mueller, a native of Darmstadt, Germany.

Members of the women's cross-country team introduced Guymon to Skype so he could communicate with prospective students who were too far away to visit campus. Impressed by Mueller's video, Guymon put his new technology skills to work and used Skype to get to know her. This medium also allowed Mueller to meet many of her future teammates.

"I really liked the coach when I spoke with him," Mueller said. "Then I got in contact with some people from the team, and I also liked them."

In her collegiate cross-country debut, Mueller

led as the top finisher for Harding in all five races prior to the GAC Championship. The highlight of her regular season came on Oct. 4 at the Chile Pepper Cross-Country Festival in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Mueller placed 13th out of 206 runners with a career-best 5K time of 18 minutes, 16.4 seconds.

The number of competitors in the races ranged from 75 runners at the Bob Gravett Invitational to 206 runners at the Chile Pepper Festival. Mueller enjoyed getting to race against such large fields of competition.

"At home, for normal cross-country races, there were maybe 30 or so runners," Mueller said. "For the German championships there may be 100 or so, but for here they have 200 or so, which is amazing."

Guymon knew that Mueller had good finish times prior to her college career, but he was pleasantly surprised to see her adjust so well and excel in each race. According to Guymon, international students were difficult to evaluate before they joined the team.

"When you don't know too much about them before they get here, you don't know what their toughness level is and how

disciplined they are," Guymon said. "She's extremely tough. She challenges herself on every workout and every meet."

Senior Dallis Bailey, a leader on the cross-country team, admired the impact that Mueller and other new teammates made.

"The freshmen make up over 50 percent of our top five, so as a senior it's like, 'How am I going to face this?'" Bailey said. "They push me, and they work me so hard, but they are making me so much better."

Guymon was pleased with the competitiveness of his team and said Mueller acted as a driving force for her teammates.

"They're running faster workouts than we've ever run with any team I've ever had," Guymon said. "Sylvie is a big part of that. If Dallis starts slowing down in a workout, then Sylvie picks it up, and she makes the group go and vice versa. They push each other."

Mueller's skill, Bailey's leadership and the team's overall work ethic paid off as the Lady Bisons cross-country program won three team titles and finished in the top three in all five races prior to the GAC Championship.

**By Jackie Bacon**





**1. Alumna Kristen Celsor** glides over the bar on March 29 at the Harding Invitational. Celsor competed in the high jump 16 times during her career.

**Photo courtesy of Jeff Montgomery**

**2. Sophomore Zach Shelley** takes off with the ball on Nov. 4 against Southern Arkansas University. Shelley scored on a run contributing to the Bisons' 56-13 win.

**Photo by Amanda Floyd**

**3. Senior Taryn Eubank** sets up the ball during a game against Ouachita Baptist University on Oct. 7. Eubank played 101 sets during the season.

**Photo by Amanda Floyd**

**4. Sprinting,** sophomore DeMarcus Murphy runs in a relay at the Bison Invitational on March 29. Harding placed first in 15 events.

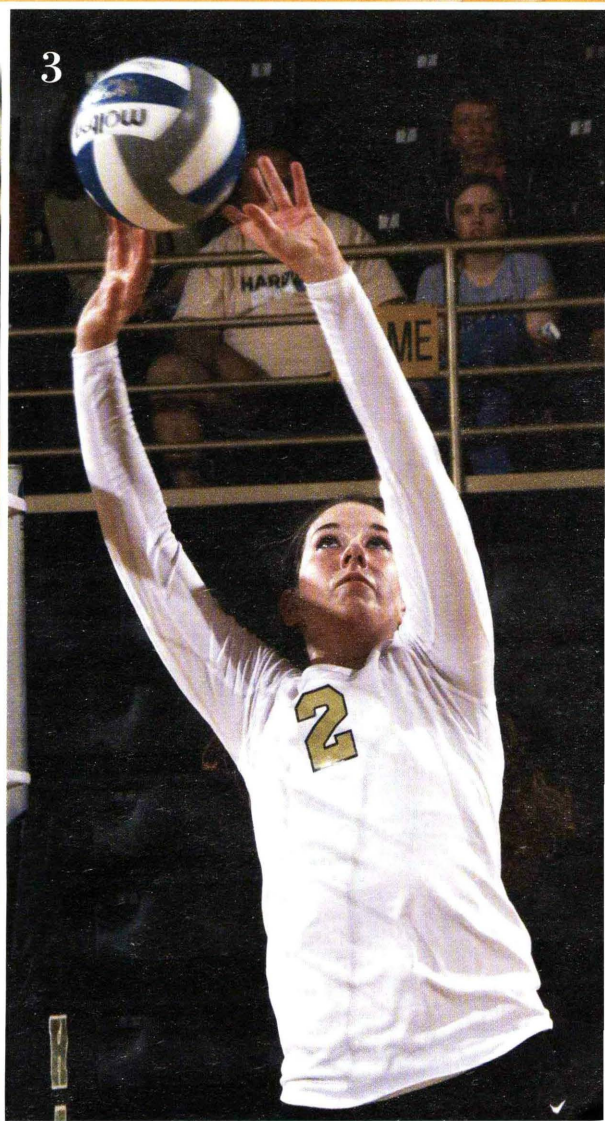
**Photo by Jeff Montgomery**

**5. Sophomore Andrea Haney** goes for a layup on Jan. 18 against Northwestern Oklahoma State. Haney had three steals and four assists during the game.

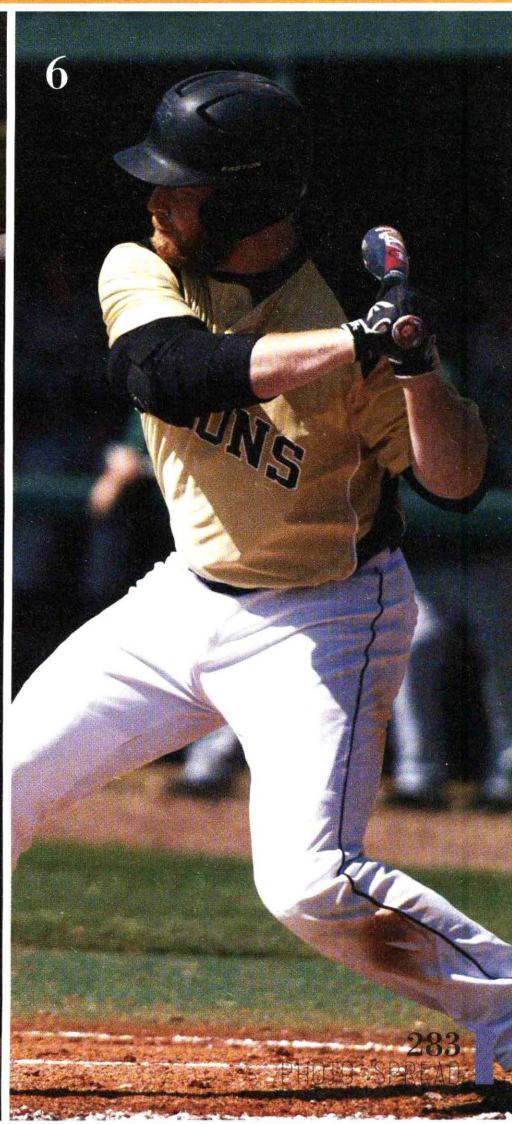
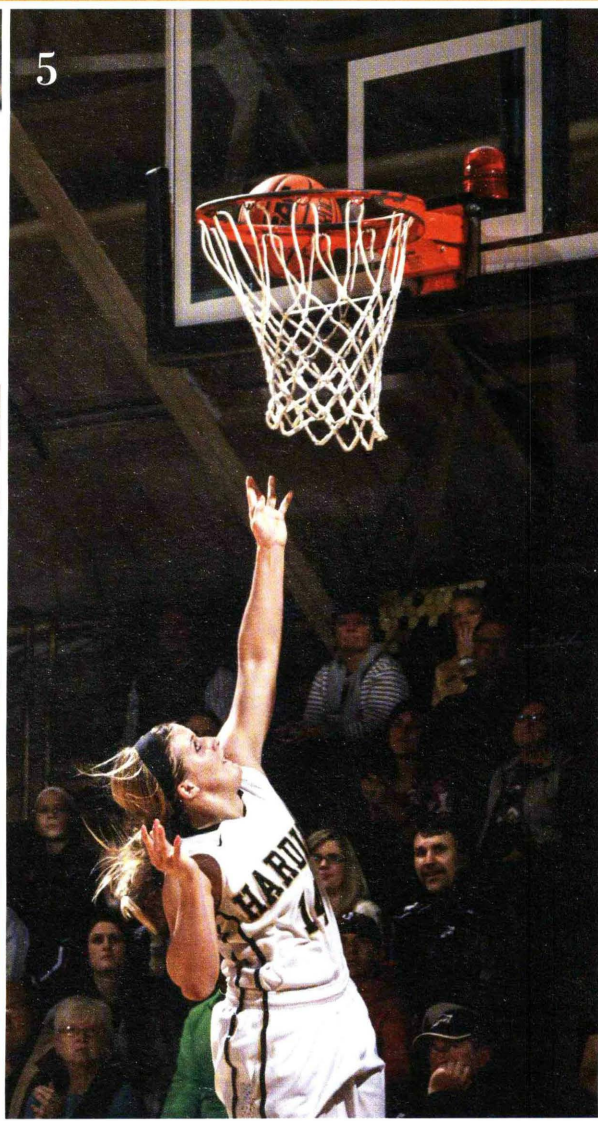
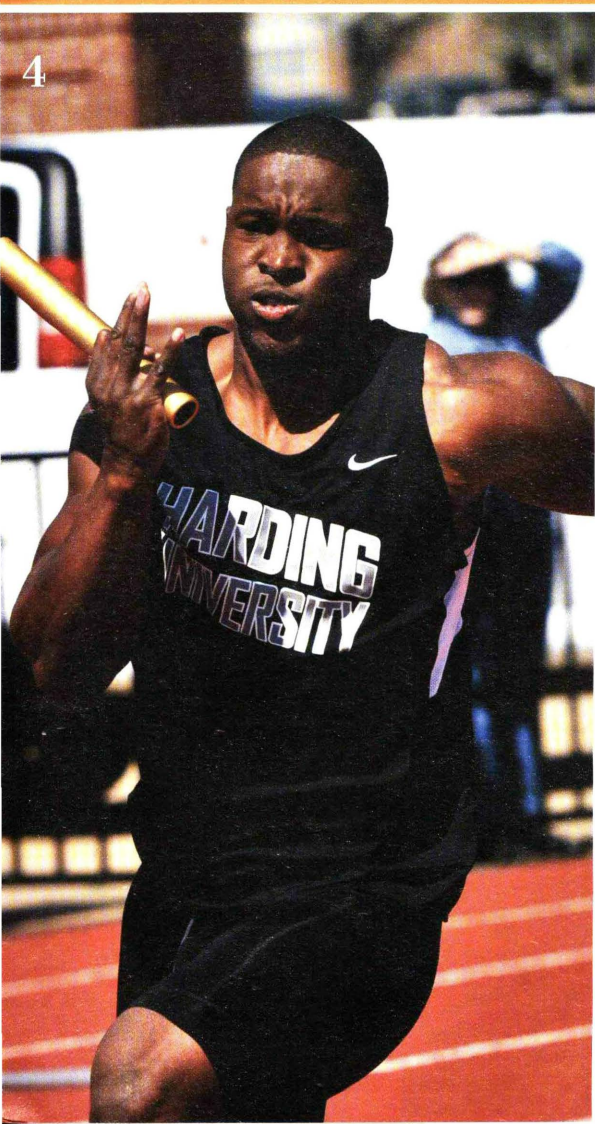
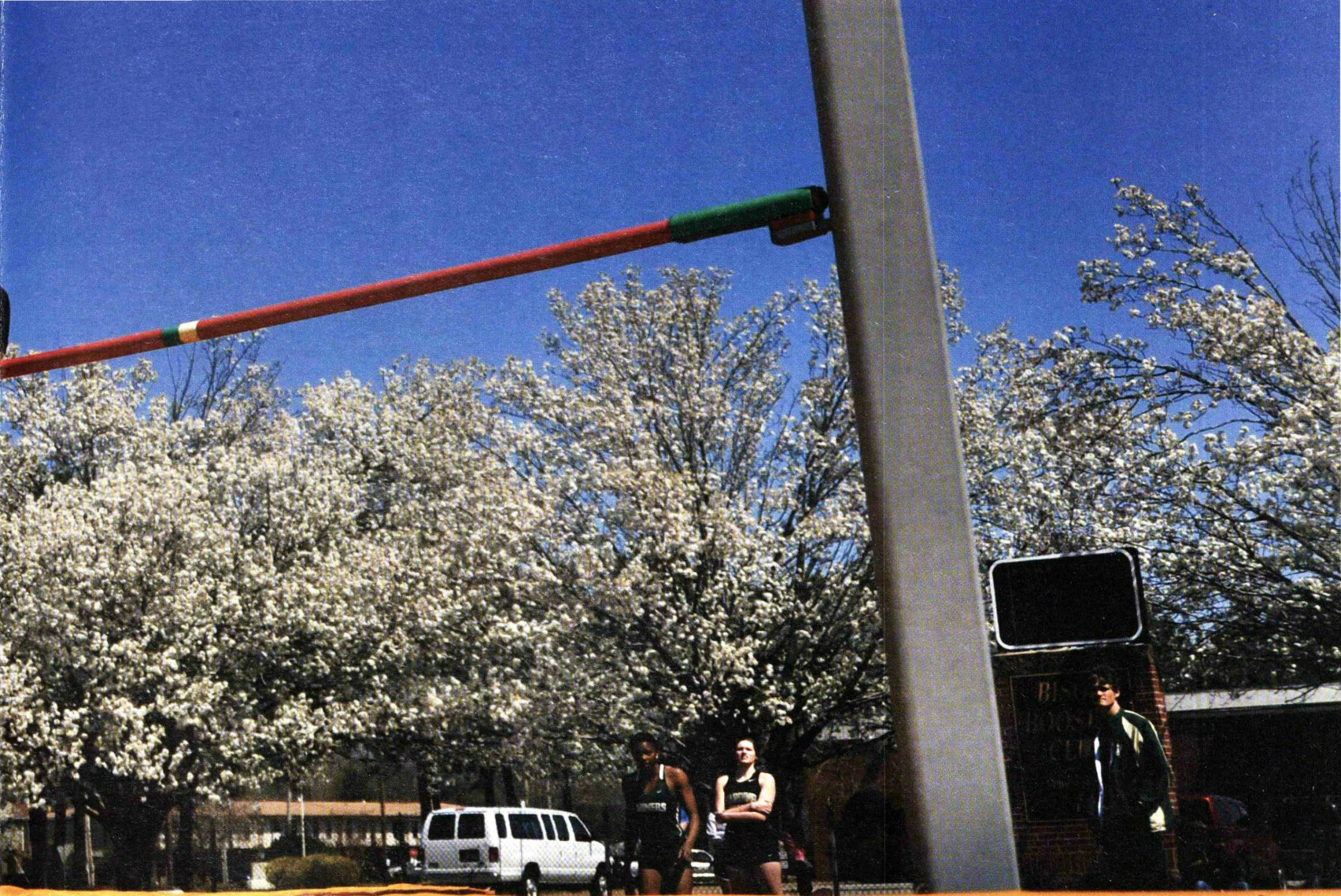
**Photo by Amanda Floyd**

**6. Focused on the ball,** senior Andrew Fiddler prepares to swing on March 18 against Delta State University. Fiddler had 22 hits during the season.

**Photo by Matt Dobson**









The Bisons stampede onto the field before the Oct. 4 home game against Southern Arkansas University. It was the eighth consecutive win, which tied the school record from 1972 and 1973. Photo by DJ Lawson

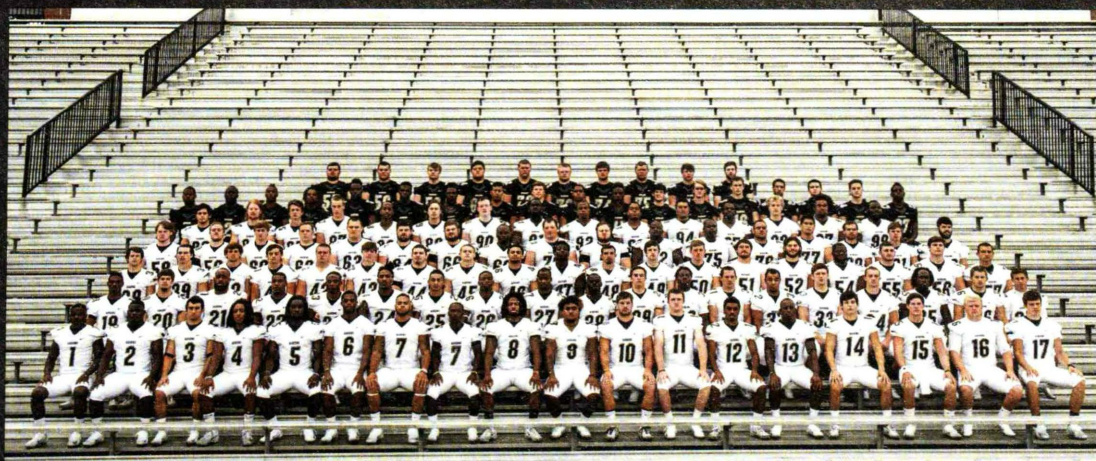


## SCOREBOARD

Southwestern Oklahoma | 42-6 W  
Northwestern Oklahoma | 45-7 W  
Southern Nazarene | 58-0 W  
Southern Arkansas | 56-13 W

Arkansas-Monticello | 55-15 W  
Ouachita Baptist | 28-31 L  
Henderson | 28-24 W  
Southeastern Oklahoma | 51-6 W

East Central | 41-14 W  
Arkansas Tech | 41-7 W  
Pittsburg State | 43-59 L



**Row 1:** T. Stevenson, D. Buckner, J. Oller, A. Scott, J. Coleman, D. Luckett, J. Bracken, E. Simmons, R. Westbrook, A. Magalei, K. Kellett, D. Holliman, C. Bassett, E. Jones, A. Stock, P. Parish, M. Markham, C. Witt **Row 2:** C. Douglas, E. Kelly, V. Jackson, D. Morgan, D. Britt, D. Lane, F. Herbert, T. Blevins, V. Placide, Z. Shelley, C. Pletta, J. Alleyne, M. Tenison, D. Markham, A. Brackins, L. Best, D. Carter, C. Webb, C. Harper **Row 3:** J. Gay, C. Parker, R. Jones, D. Rocca, T. Parsons, B. Shields, D. Skidmore, J. Cantrell, C. Sarkissian, A. Akers, B. Griffith, B. Theisen, D. Lee, S. McBride, B. Alsup, T. Day, R. Davis, E. Mitchell, G. De Los Santos, A. Morales **Row 4:** M. Gragg, C. Lockwood, T. Kuntz, M. Gallaway, S. Schreiber, N. Cash, D. Hudson, L. Smith, C. Boatright, L. Purtle, D. Garrett, P. Bingham, J. Cooper, M. Thompson, T. Parsley, J. Clark, L. Rodgers **Row 5:** J. Campbell, R. Hawkins, A. Dather, D. Huddleston, T. Biglow, G. Simmons, M. McKeown, D. Carter, R. Roberson, L. Daranda, C. Zalenski, K. Johnson, A. Balbin, M. Cain, J. Jackson **Row 6:** T. Dingle, C. Tolbert, T. Becton, D. Melton, S. Bowens, A. Henderson, J. Evans, E. Timarky, B. Weddle, D. Smith, L. Hill, J. Howell, K. Blickenstaff, S. Blankenship, I. English, E. Chapin Kemna, B. Gates, Q. Houston **Row 7:** T. Beard, C. Dreger, A. Jarrett, R. Hobdy, H. Pledger, B. Bray, E. Eads, K. Pledger, S. Sibert, J. Stein





# A Milestone Win

On Sept. 27, the football team reached its 300th victory in the history of the program, defeating Southern Nazarene University with a score of 58-0. Head coach Ronnie Huckleba expressed gratitude for the legacy left by previous teams, saying this milestone brought to mind those who helped pave the way in the football program.

"There are some guys who have been on teams that were not successful on the field, but their spirit as a Harding University football player and athlete was tremendous," Huckleba said. "Very competitive, never quit, love your teammates, be unselfish — all of those character traits were exemplified by those guys, even though they weren't all on really good teams."

In 2010, Huckleba changed the team's offensive style from its former pass-heavy, up-tempo plays to run-oriented plays

and ball possession. Though this "old-school" strategy did not win Harding as many individual statistical leadership spots in the NCAA conference, Huckleba said it helped achieve top rankings in most of the team categories.

According to senior running back Eric Kelly, this approach contributed to the team's success. He said the long drives against the opposing team usually wore down the enemy's defense faster, lowering their confidence levels.

Huckleba said the new strategy did not elevate any players above the rest. Instead of allowing players to seek personal glory on the field, the new strategy developed a team-wide dedication to success. Senior running back Ahmad Scott said that spirit of selflessness supported a positive dynamic among the players.

"We have a lot of people on the

offensive side of the ball who are unselfish, whose main goal together is to win a game rather than stats and all of that," Scott said. "So that makes that bond closer."

However, this selfless team attitude did not keep individual players from achieving personal victories. Scott said one of his favorite moments of the 300th victory game was scoring a 55-yard touchdown, his first score on such a long run.

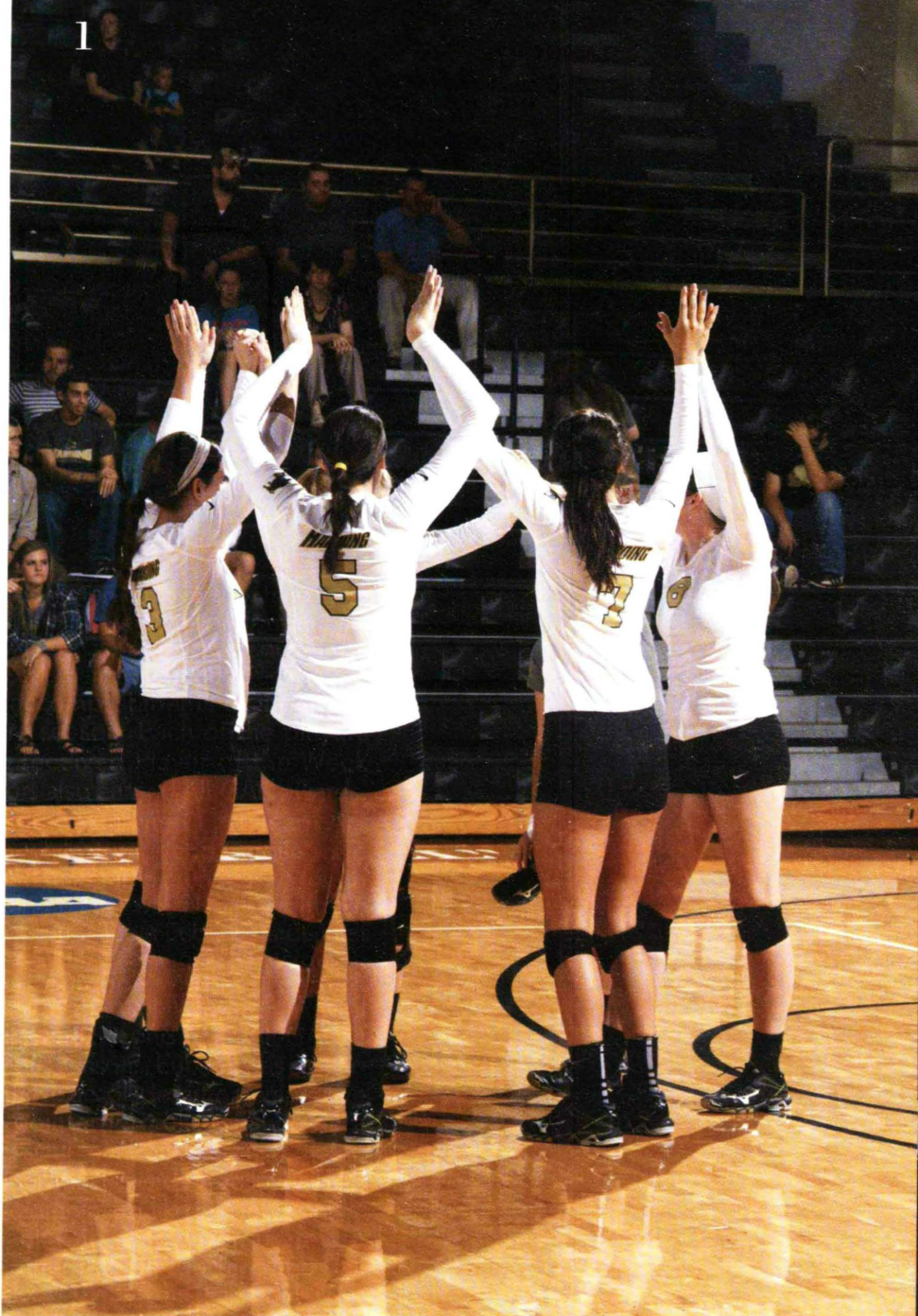
Kelly said the team would continue to push its limits, succeeding where past Harding teams had fallen short.

"I guess we're going to try to make them proud," Kelly said. "The rate of success that we're going at now is unlike the teams before us, so we want to honor them for putting down the foundations before us to get to where we are now."

**By Daniel Casella**



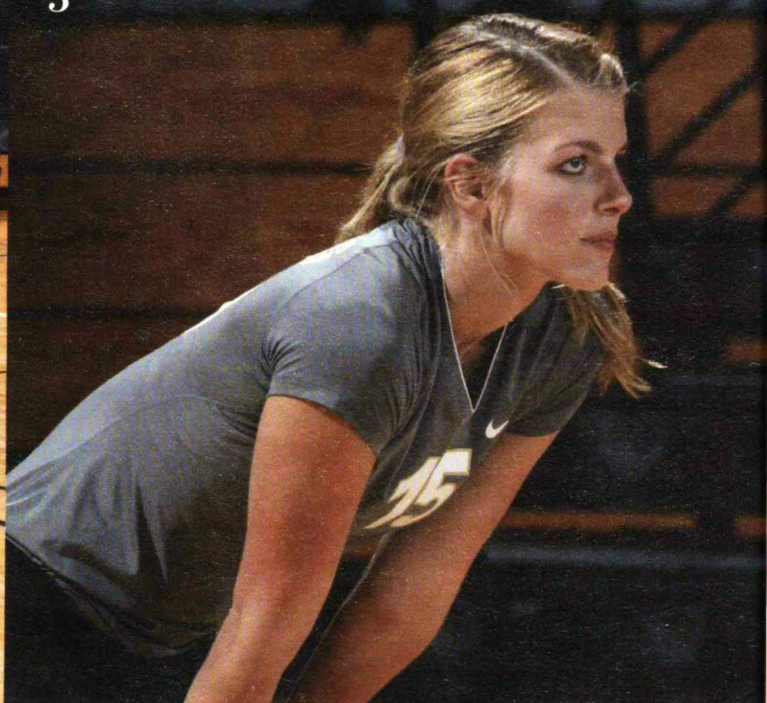
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2



3



**1. The Lady Bisons circle up** before a home game against Ouachita Baptist University on Oct. 7. The team came together between every play for encouragement during games. **Photo by Amanda Floyd**

**2. Sophomore Anna Leigh Cargile** serves the ball during a game against Ouachita Baptist University on Oct. 7. Winning 3-0, the Lady Bisons scored their 10th win of the season. **Photo by Amanda Floyd**

**3. Standing ready with concentration**, senior Erica Heim focuses during a game against Southern Arkansas University on Sept. 18. The team won 3-0, marking the 25th consecutive home win and the second-longest winning streak in Harding volleyball history. **Photo by Janae Callicoat**



**Row 1:** J. Launius, C. Morris, B. Bingaman, M. Turner, M. Howard, B. Garcia, L. Savage, T. Mounts **Row 2:** R. Fear (asst. coach), M. Fear (coach), B. Trevino, T. Eubank, S. Smith, E. Heim, A. Cargile, A. Glosup, M. Welch (student asst.), H. O'Hearn (manager)



# getting NOTICED

In her third year with the volleyball program, head coach Meredith Fear led the Lady Bisons to their third consecutive winning season with 20 wins or more. The team was 20-9 in the 2014 season, improving Fear's overall coaching record while at Harding to 75-23.

The success surrounding Harding volleyball attracted talented players. Senior middle blocker Liv Savage said she enjoyed being a part of the exceptional environment Fear maintained.

"They've always had a really solid program, so it's kind of nice being a part of a program that hasn't gone without having a winning streak or a winning record," Savage said.

In addition to team success, various players earned individual accolades throughout the season. Each week, coaches in the Great American Conference voted on GAC Player of the Week awards given in three categories: defensive players, offensive players and setters. In the fall of 2014, three Lady Bisons earned Player of the Week recognition. Savage earned this distinction three times, claiming the co-offensive award once and the defensive award twice. She

ranked fourth in the GAC in blocks with 1.12 per set and third in the GAC in service aces with 0.46 per set. The key for Savage was to avoid letting these awards affect her mindset when she played.

"I just play as hard as I can," Savage said. "If I get an award, that's awesome, but if I don't, it's still okay. It keeps me humble. I try to reach a goal, but not to where I'm thinking, 'Oh, I need to be awarded for this or acknowledged for it.'"

The other two players honored were senior outside hitter Marindia Turner, an offensive player of the week, and sophomore defensive specialist Anna Leigh Cargile, a defensive player of the week. Turner led the team and ranked ninth in the GAC in kills, averaging 2.99 per set. Cargile played every set as a libero for Harding and finished seventh in the GAC in digs, averaging 4.33 per set. Cargile said that the awards benefited not only the individual but also the team as a whole.

"When we saw someone getting noticed for their hard work, it seemed to make everyone want to get noticed and work harder as well," Cargile said.

While the GAC Player of the Week

awards honored players for having an outstanding week of performances, the All-GAC awards given out at the GAC tournament banquet recognized the accomplishments of a player's entire season. Each of the players who received Player of the Week honors also earned All-GAC awards. Savage was named First Team All-GAC while Turner and Cargile were named honorable mentions. A fourth Harding player was also recognized; senior setter Taryn Eubank made First Team All-GAC alongside Savage.

As someone who had earned Setter of the Week awards as well as First and Second Team All-GAC in previous seasons, Eubank was able to put these accolades into perspective and pointed out her reliance on a successful team effort.

"Individual awards in volleyball can cause drama just like in every sport," Eubank said. "However, there are two other people touching the ball besides you when the ball comes over the net — the pass, the set, and the hit. Without your team, the individual award would never be possible, and I think we as a team had a good grasp on that concept."

**By Jackie Bacon**

## SCOREBOARD

Lindenwood 3-2 W  
Alderson Broaddus 3-0 W  
Drury 0-3 L  
Christian Brothers 3-0 W  
Arkansas-Monticello 3-0 W  
Tarleton 2-3 L  
Angelo 0-3 L  
Midwestern State 3-0 W  
Arkansas-Fort Smith 3-1 W  
Southern Arkansas 3-0 W

Arkansas Tech 2-3 L  
Southern Nazarene 3-0 W  
East Central 3-0 W  
Southeastern Oklahoma 1-3 L  
Ouachita Baptist 3-0 W  
Henderson 3-0 W  
Truman 0-3 L  
Missouri S&T 3-2 W  
Arkansas-Monticello 3-0 W  
Lyon College 3-0 W

Northwestern Oklahoma 3-1 W  
Southern Arkansas 3-2 W  
Henderson 3-2 W  
Arkansas Tech 2-3 L  
Southwestern Oklahoma 3-0 W  
Arkansas-Pine Bluff 3-0 W  
Ouachita Baptist 1-3 L  
Ouachita Baptist 3-1 W  
Arkansas Tech 1-3 L





**Senior Brittany Marquez** putts the ball during practice at the Searcy Country Club on Aug. 25. Marquez had a successful season with several accomplishments, including breaking the school record for her 13th career top-five finish.

**Photo courtesy of Jeff Montgomery**



# AN INTERNATIONAL LEADER

Senior Brittany Marquez began playing golf at the age of 12 in her hometown of Cascade, Trinidad. A year later she joined Trinidad's national team.

"My dad and brother started playing at first, and I didn't really want to," Marquez said. "I was going to ballet and dancing, but when I quit ballet, I didn't want to quit anything else, so I just stuck with golf. Then I made the national team."

Marquez moved to Florida to play golf for Montverde Academy her senior year of high school. She then chose to continue her golfing career at Harding, where she had immediate success. She placed in the top five at the conference championship tournament all four years and returned with the conference victory both her freshman and sophomore years. By her senior year, Marquez held several university records, including the best 36-hole score of 143 and the best 54-hole score of 227.

Sophomore Loren Cheatham said Marquez was a great team leader on and off the golf course.

"We have three freshmen this year, and she's put together team dinners for all of us," Cheatham said. "When we're on the course, we struggle sometimes individually, but she's still there. She's always encouraging and giving us tips on what we can work on."

According to Cheatham, Marquez had the idea of setting team goals for the season rather than personal goals.

"Brittany thought it would be a good idea to sit down as a team and talk it out and write it down," Cheatham said. "To basically start the season with, 'This is where I want to be at this time in the fall,' and say it out loud to be held accountable by the team."

Marquez described her teammates as her best friends and family at Harding. She said they did everything together.

"It was tough for me at the beginning of my freshman year, just being at a new school with strangers and a new culture," Marquez said. "But then the old team took me in. The team has changed along the way, with everyone either graduating or transferring, which was really hard on me, but the new team has become my family as well."

Women's golf coach Christy Morgan said Marquez upheld the team with her work ethic.

"She has really poured herself into trying to make them better and letting them ask her advice and trying to be as helpful as she can to those who are behind her," Morgan said. "She has just been a really great teammate and leader for our team."

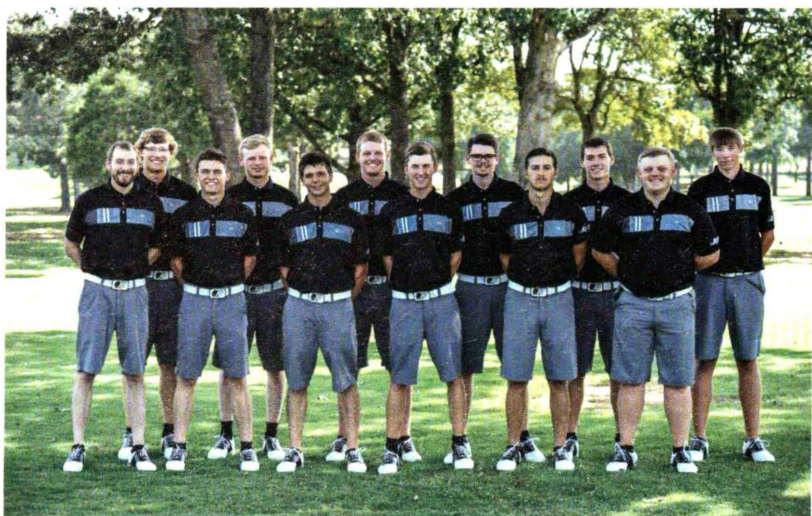
Marquez said her greatest asset in golf was her ability to remain mentally strong.

"I think if I was having a bad day, I would want to give up, but I tell myself I can't and fight on," Marquez said. "It's really difficult for people to be mentally tough. People think it's an easy sport, but it's easy to get to yourself, so it's hard to play well. I try to fight, and I think that's a good thing."

Morgan said Marquez established a model for future teams to admire.

"I think after she's gone they are going to say, 'Let's practice really hard like Brittany and play really hard like Brittany did,'" Morgan said.

**By Elizabeth Harper**



**Row 1:** D. Howell (coach), C. Murry, J. Sanchez, M. Banger, N. Monan, K. Evans (grad. asst.) **Row 2:** N. Kannenberg, N. Jackson, A. Williamson, C. Farmer, L. Handy, B. Lamb



**Row 1:** C. Morgan (coach), S. Creeley, K. Walker, B. Marquez, L. Cheatham, C. Freeman, K. Ramey



## SCOREBOARD

Missouri Western 0-1 L  
 Emporia State 2-4 L  
 Drury 0-2 L  
 Christian Brothers 0-1 L  
 Texas Woman's 0-4 L  
 Hendrix College 0-1 L  
 Mississippi College 1-2 L  
 Ouachita Baptist 6-1 W  
 Northeastern State 0-2 L  
 Southwestern Oklahoma 2-1 W  
 Northwestern Oklahoma 2-1 W  
 East Central 3-0 W  
 Southern Nazarene 0-3 L  
 Ouachita Baptist 3-5 L  
 Southwestern Oklahoma 0-0  
 Northwestern Oklahoma 2-1 W



**Row 1:** M. Pritchett, A. Albright, A. Sampson, L. Hatcher, A. Hudson, K. Miller, K. Tschiggfrie, E. Buttram, A. Adkison, S. Jay **Row 2:** L. Schwartz (trainer), J. Eubanks (trainer), K. Patterson (trainer), H. Wilhelm, C. Stevens, M. Minnich, A. Fitzgerald, A. Schmidt, R. Thoroughman, H. Hatcher (asst. coach), J. Taylor (asst. coach), D. Nonaka (student manager) **Row 3:** G. Perry (trainer), A. Kirkman, M. Kirkman, M. Sutherland, E. Chilton, P. Sumners, M. Griffith, A. Mullican, D. Patterson, G. Harris (coach)

When women's soccer head coach Greg Harris described the 2014 season, one image dominated his perception: a roller coaster. According to Harris, the season had its ups and downs, its successes and failures, and its wins and losses, but more importantly it provided lessons for the future of the team. From the beginning, the season presented particular challenges.

"We hit a tough patch at the beginning of the season where we lost our first game in overtime, and that hurt," Harris said. "You come back and you play a good game on Sunday, but you lose, and then the games come fast and furious after that. We didn't get much of a break for three weeks."

During that rough patch, the team averaged three games per week, finding it hard to recover from their initial losses. According to junior Ellie Buttram, the team had the skill to win — they simply lacked confidence after a few unlucky breaks. Entering conference play, however, the Lady Bisons got back on their feet with an early 6-1 victory against Ouachita Baptist University on Sept. 25. Several more conference wins followed the victory, countering the losing streak that dominated pre-conference games.

"I was just frustrated because I knew we were a much better team than we were portraying through our games," Buttram said. "Finally, when we started winning, I was very excited to see what the rest of the season would

bring."

On entering the conference tournament, the team was ranked No. 2 in their conference, the highest rank at which Harding had ever completed a season. Despite their rank, the Lady Bisons lost 1-0 to OBU on Nov. 7 in the first round of the conference tournament. Senior Katelyn Tschiggfrie, a defensive midfielder, said that the game against OBU left the team feeling unfulfilled, especially for the seniors playing their last game.

"It was one of those things where afterwards it was just surreal," Tschiggfrie said. "That's been everything I've worked for my whole life, and it's over."

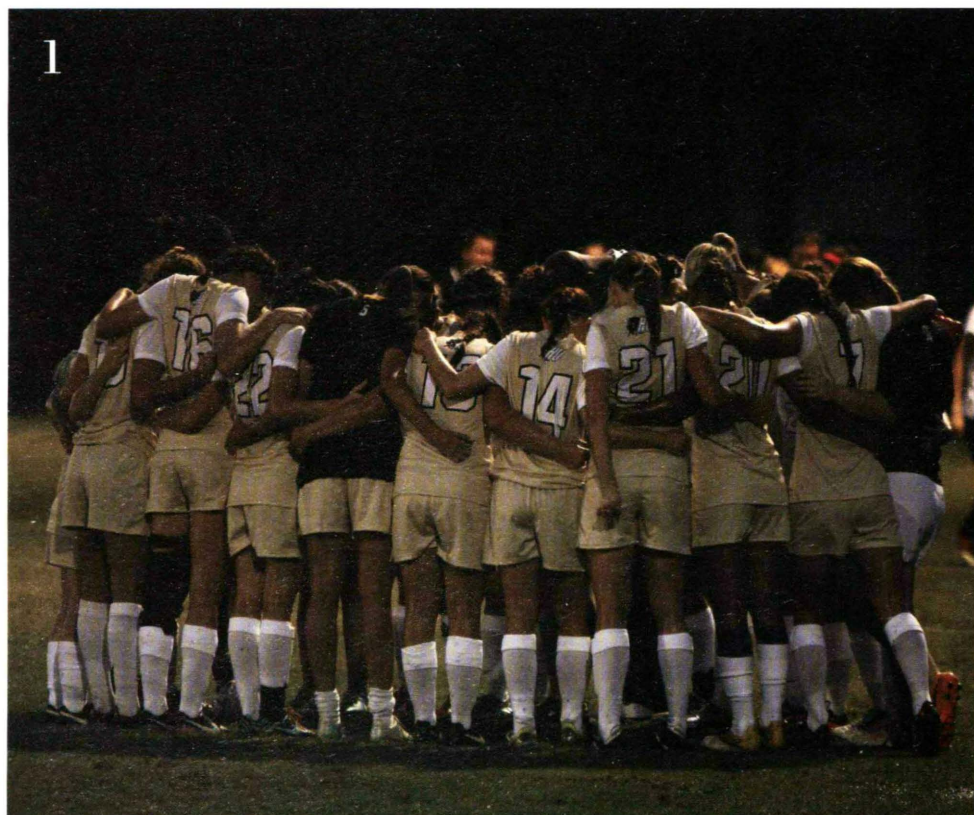
According to Harris, the final game and the feeling of a season left unfulfilled defined the team's goals for the future. For him, the season was not about winning or losing. It was about being a team and building relationships with one another; the season was too short to focus on the scoreboard alone. Nonetheless, the team felt driven to train harder than ever in preparation for a new beginning in 2015.

"We didn't like the way some of this season went, and we didn't like the way we finished," Harris said. "We know we're better. We take that away with a determination to work hard throughout the rest of the year so we don't feel this way again."

**By JP Baker**

# WOMEN'S SOCCER





**1. The Lady Bisons** huddle together for a prayer on home field after the first game of the season on Sept. 5. The team went into double overtime against Missouri Western. **Photo by DJ Lawson**

**2. Sophomore Anna-Grace Kirkman** fights with an East Central opponent for control of the ball on Oct. 9. Kirkman started four out of the 13 games she played during the season. **Photo by Amanda Floyd**

**3. Fans line the field** to watch the Lady Bisons play on Oct. 9. On average, 200-300 people attend each game. **Photo by Amanda Floyd**



# BLESSED IN A NEW POSITION

In the fall, the Harding men's soccer team added Burma-born freshmen Van Thang and Van Cung to the team. Both Cung and Thang immigrated to the United States from Burma when they were children.

"Burma is located right under China, east of India and very close to Malaysia," Cung said. "Burma is not a very good country politically. The government is not good, and it is not safe to be there. Since the government is corrupted, we don't have many opportunities in education. That's one of the main reasons why my dad decided to move to the States."

Cung and Thang lived in Burma until around the age of 9 without any knowledge of each other. Both of their families immigrated to the U. S. as the boys were starting middle school. They eventually settled in Lewisville, Texas, where the two met and befriended one another.

"We went to the same church, and that's how we met each other, at youth group events and choir and all that fun stuff," Cung said. "We ended up playing soccer together in

high school, and that's how we ended up becoming best friends."

Head soccer coach Odie Guzman attended Lewisville High School where Cung and Thang played high school soccer. Guzman checked with his former team for any potential recruits that could fit in well with the Harding team.

"I went out there and saw a couple of guys, but both of the Vans really stuck out," Guzman said. "They will be coming in and helping us out a lot this next year. Thang is the midfielder, and he will be coming in and breaking down attacks. Cung, he's a forward. He is going to be scoring goals for us."

At the beginning of the 2014 season, neither Cung nor Thang were starting players. According to Guzman, players normally took about a year to make the transition into their new roles at the collegiate level.

"By the end of the season I want to be in the starting spot because I am a freshman right now, and I don't have a lot of playing time," Thang said. "We both have to work hard and give everything we can in practice

and in games. We'll do whatever we can in order to make Harding University's soccer team better."

Guzman believed that both players were not only good additions to the team but also good fits for Harding. He described them as typical Harding freshmen: shy, but also friendly, welcoming and dependable.

"I love it. I really enjoy Harding," Cung said. "I enjoy going to chapel and Bible classes every day. I thank God so much that I can learn more about Him."

Though both Cung and Thang expressed a desire to visit Burma again one day, they were extremely grateful for their blessings in the States.

"I'm blessed to be here in this position," Cung said. "I can't even thank God enough for what He has done for me. He blessed me with more than I deserved. He has all the plans laid out for us already, and we just have to be patient and wait for Him. Everything happens for a reason."

**By Tin Nguyen**



**Row 1:** V. Cung, J. Rector, G. Haberstock, T. Melson, T. Shults, J. Ogburn, C. Walker, B. Foster, V. Thang **Row 2:** W. Lynn (grad. asst.), I. Berns, T. Seibert, D. Sherrill, J. Buchanan, C. Avery, J. Ireland, A. McAlister, K. Pineda, O. Guzman (coach) **Row 3:** I. Park, G. Harris, C. Walker, A. Craig, P. White, C. Hunt, J. Stevens, D. Roberts, D. Gamboa

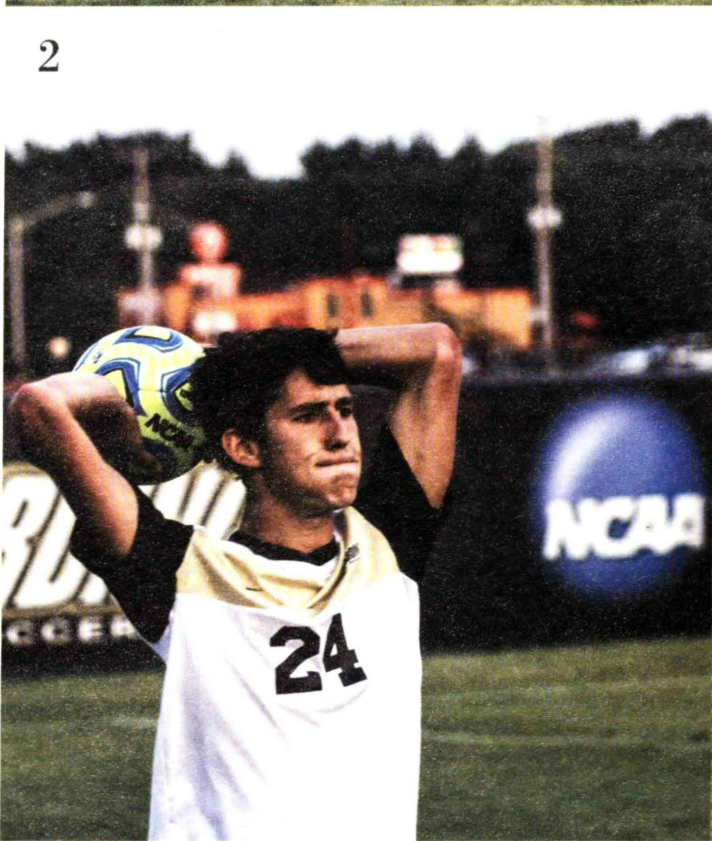
## SCOREBOARD

Dallas Baptist | 1-2 L  
 Quachita Baptist | 2-4 L  
 Southern Nazarene | 2-1 W  
 Oklahoma Christian | 1-1  
 Southwest Baptist | 6-1 W  
 Northeastern State | 0-4 L  
 Upper Iowa | 1-2 L  
 Fort Hays State | 0-4 L  
 Lindenwood | 1-1  
 Northeastern State | 0-3 L  
 Fort Hays State | 0-2 L  
 Quachita Baptist | 0-0  
 Southwest Baptist | 4-1 W  
 Southern Nazarene | 2-0 W  
 Lindenwood | 0-5 L  
 Upper Iowa | 1-2 L





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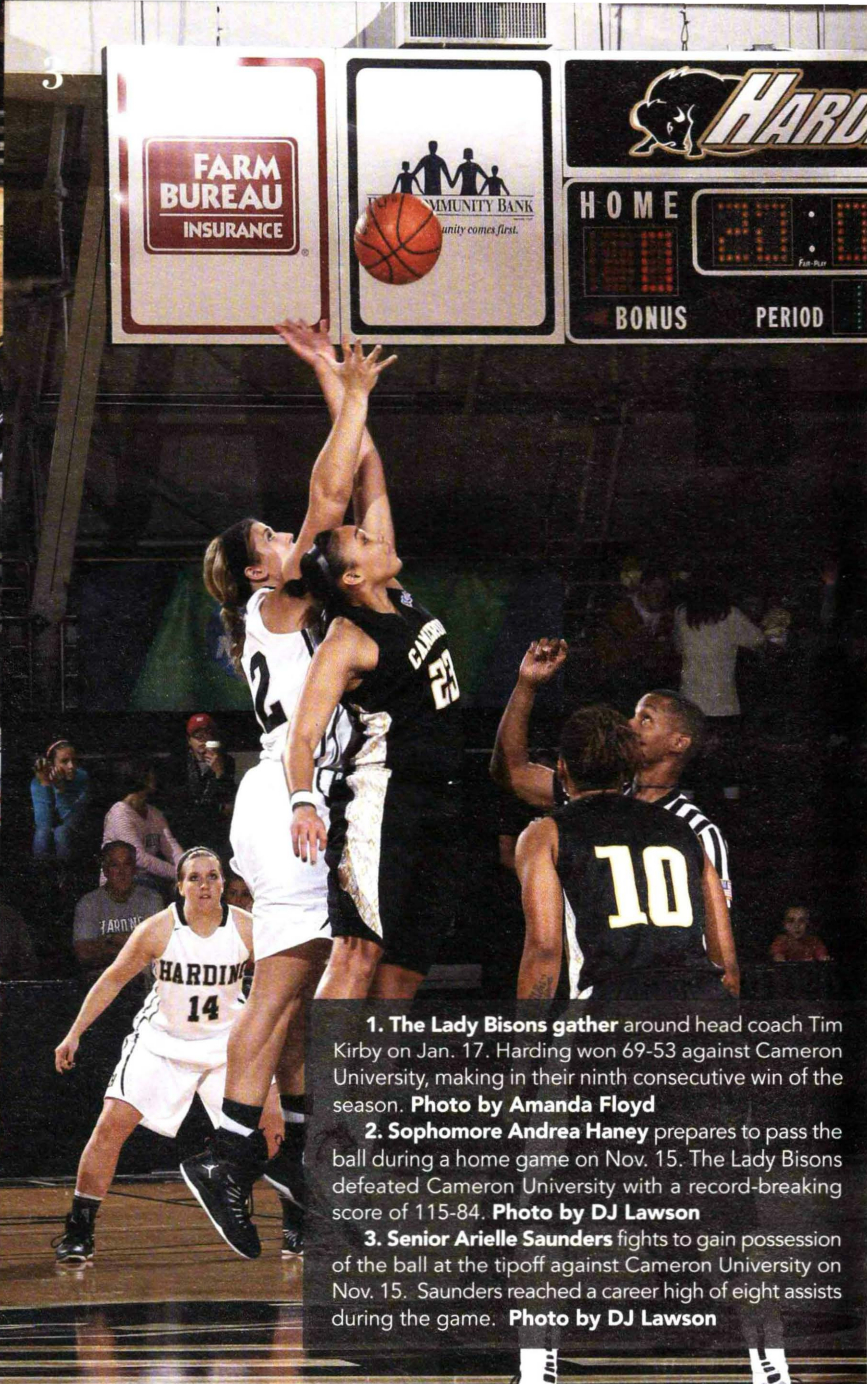
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**1. Junior Christopher Walker** goes in for a fierce kick on Sept. 9 against Ouachita Baptist University. The team scored two goals during the game. **Photo by DJ Lawson**

**2. Holding his breath,** sophomore Curtis Hunt throws the ball in bounds on Sept. 9. This was Harding's first home game of the season. **Photo by DJ Lawson**

**3. Sophomore Barry Foster** protects the ball from a Ouachita Baptist University player on Sept. 9. Foster gained one shot at the goal on the drive. **Photo by DJ Lawson**





**1.** The Lady Bisons gather around head coach Tim Kirby on Jan. 17. Harding won 69-53 against Cameron University, making in their ninth consecutive win of the season. **Photo by Amanda Floyd**

**2.** Sophomore Andrea Haney prepares to pass the ball during a home game on Nov. 15. The Lady Bisons defeated Cameron University with a record-breaking score of 115-84. **Photo by DJ Lawson**

**3.** Senior Arielle Saunders fights to gain possession of the ball at the tipoff against Cameron University on Nov. 15. Saunders reached a career high of eight assists during the game. **Photo by DJ Lawson**



**Row 1:** K. Wiedower, A. Shearmire, A. Haney, T. Haney, J. Bacon, L. Williams, S. Layrock **Row 2:** T. Kirby (coach), M. Mullin (student asst.), M. Lewis, C. Moyer, K. Adcock, A. Saunders, M. McNamara, F. Miller, E. Smith (student asst.), D. Walker (asst. coach)



# A LEGACY

On Nov. 14, the Lady Bisons broke the school scoring record, achieving a 115-84 victory against Cameron University. According to head coach Tim Kirby, the team paced themselves by approaching the season one game at a time, paving the path for an effective and unforgettable year. Kirby, who was in his 10th season of coaching the Lady Bisons, said he did not know it was a record-breaking game until he was interviewed afterward.

"We were playing a team that shoots the ball quick, which allows for a high scoring game," Kirby said. "We were able to get a lot of open shots by attacking them inside, and we also out-rebounded them 60-32. I thought we were doing some good things offensively, but most of the time my thoughts during a game are, 'We need to stop them from scoring.'"

Kirby explained that one victory could not define a season — the team's commitment to playing hard did not change from game to game.

"We have a lot of new players that we are looking forward to their progress," Kirby said. "We have a lot of great girls that are fun to be around, and we look forward to improving daily."

Senior guard Montana Lewis explained that a victory like their high-scoring game against Cameron required a joint effort by everyone on the team.

"If our opponent tried to stop one individual, another player stepped up to answer their challenge," Lewis said. "We had threats all over the floor that night."

Lewis said that though the Lady Bisons had not started the game with strong defense, the team rallied to an impressively high-scoring victory.

"Over the course of the game everyone stepped up, and we came together as a team to stop our opponent," Lewis said. "After the game I was just in shock at our performance because it was the first time so far in our season that we could really see our team chemistry and what our team is capable of when we start playing together."

Senior forward Arielle Saunders said that she was honored to be part of a record-breaking team. According to Saunders, home game wins were always appreciated, but more importantly, this victory established a habit of excellence.

"That game was mostly just a solid home victory for us," Saunders said. "Every game is important at this time, no matter the score, and we're always happy to get the win against a good opponent. It was a part of our sequence of four home games to open the season that hopefully sets the tone for the rest of the year."

Saunders added that the team still had much of the season ahead of them, and a good conference season required both long-term and short-term focus.

"This game was another step in the journey for us," Saunders said. "It inspired us to play at a high level but also reminded us that we have to focus on the little things in order to be the kind of team we want to be."

**By Taylor Gleaves**

## SCOREBOARD

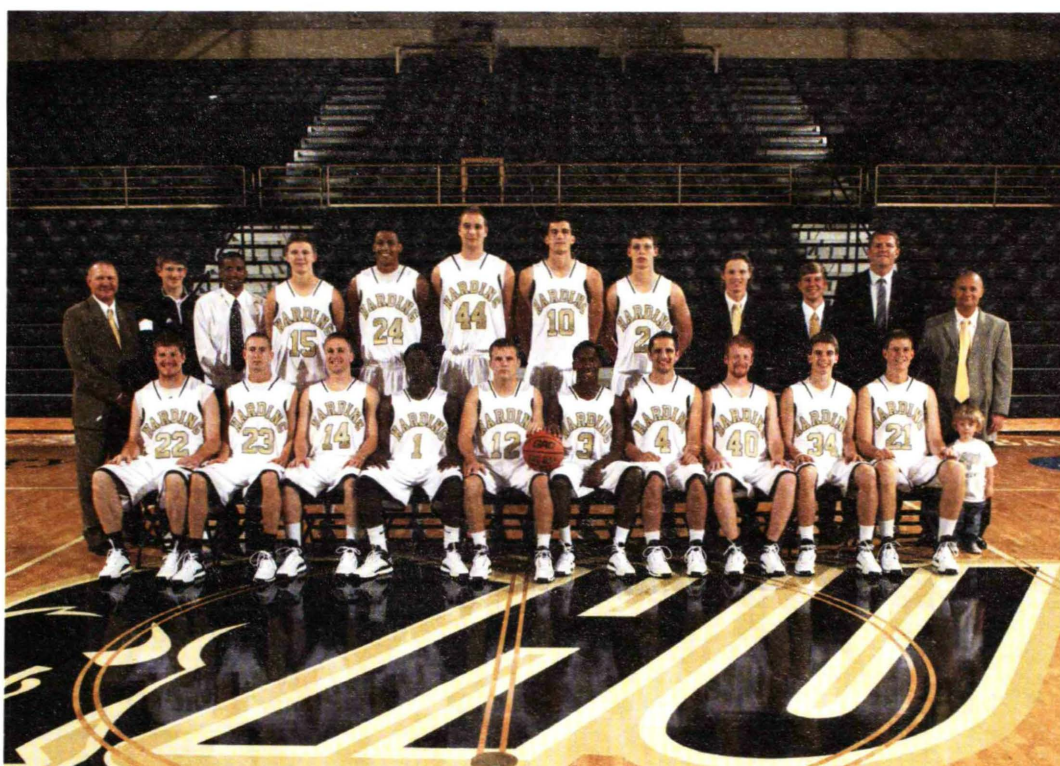
Christian Brothers 70-56 W  
Cameron 115-84 W  
Delta 65-40 W  
Southwestern Oklahoma 105-69 W  
Cameron 70-76 L  
West Texas A&M 65-67 L  
Southern Arkansas 74-53 W  
Arkansas-Monticello 69-49 W  
Henderson 66-48 W  
Northwestern Oklahoma 73-57 W  
Christian Brothers 69-42 W  
Ouachita Baptist 70-45 W  
Southeastern Oklahoma 76-67 W

East Central 62-50 W  
Southern Nazarene 69-53 W  
Arkansas Tech 74-61 W  
Arkansas-Monticello 82-58 W  
Henderson 85-91 L  
Southern Arkansas 72-61 W  
Northwestern Oklahoma 64-45 W  
Southwestern Oklahoma 65-78 L  
Southeastern Oklahoma 59-67 L  
Southern Nazarene 74-73 W  
East Central 58-53 W  
Arkansas Tech 73-85 L  
Ouachita Baptist 81-56 W



## SCOREBOARD

Champion Baptist 95-65 W  
 Christian Brothers 61-72 L  
 Northwestern 100-89 W  
 Southwestern Oklahoma 64-52 W  
 West Texas A&M 80-81 L  
 Eastern New Mexico 73-76 L  
 Southern Arkansas 62-64 L  
 Arkansas-Monticello 68-71 L  
 Henderson 92-83 W  
 Northwestern Oklahoma 92-72 W  
 Christian Brothers 68-92 L  
 Ouachita Baptist 75-81 L  
 Southeastern Oklahoma 67-71 L  
 East Central 87-80 W  
 Southern Nazarene 80-55 W  
 Arkansas Tech 89-80 W  
 Arkansas-Monticello 86-70 W  
 Henderson 74-61 W  
 Southern Arkansas 75-71 W  
 Northwestern Oklahoma 65-66 L  
 Southwestern Oklahoma 79-52 W  
 Southeastern Oklahoma 74-79 L  
 Southern Nazarene 90-96 L  
 East Central 76-78 L  
 Arkansas Tech 76-77 L  
 Ouachita Baptist 91-71 W



**Row 1:** J. Hudson, B. McNair, D. Yates, J. McGee, J. Roark, R. Anthony, Z. Ward, M. Kirby, J. Miller, W. Francis  
**Row 2:** J. Morgan (coach), D. Morgan (coach's son), N. Mason (student asst.), J. Gibson, A. Burrell, A. Kavas, M. Boskailo, M. Bailey, M. Wright (student asst.), A. Harrell, J. Duke (volunteer asst.), R. Woods (asst. coach)

In 1949, Dr. George Benson, president of the university at the time, purchased a World War II airplane hangar originally designed for an airfield in France. That building, the Rhodes Field House, later earned fame from CBS in 2013 as the top road trip destination in college basketball. However, the venue drew interest not only because of its history but also because of its fanatical "Rhodes Rowdies." The faculty and student support at games made for an exciting atmosphere for the audience and a distinct home-court advantage.

"There's so much energy out there during a game, and it makes game day special," men's basketball head coach Jeff Morgan said. "I think that it gets the players' heart rates faster and makes them excited about playing. There's a great connection, there's great energy, and we feed off of that."

Coming together as one, the Rowdies expressed their pride for their team as well as their appreciation for the sport of basketball. Fans showed their support by sporting black and gold, wearing face paint and chanting cheers for various plays.

"They just get us pumped up because they're so passionate about it," freshman forward Mak Boskailo said. "It just makes an environment where everyone is passionate about basketball and about winning."

The Rowdies drove the team to succeed not only on game day but also in the preparation process.

"We talk a lot about playing hard for the guy next

to you, your teammate," Morgan said. "We consider everyone out there our teammates. I think that fuels their energy to play even harder. It makes a difference."

The pep band and cheerleaders also played a vital role in adding life to the Rhodes Field House. Freshman band member Melody Martino, who attended every home game of the season, loved contributing to the festive atmosphere.

"Whenever we play, [the fans] get riled up because they know the songs, too," Martino said. "I think everyone kind of feeds off each other's excitement, and it makes it a blast."

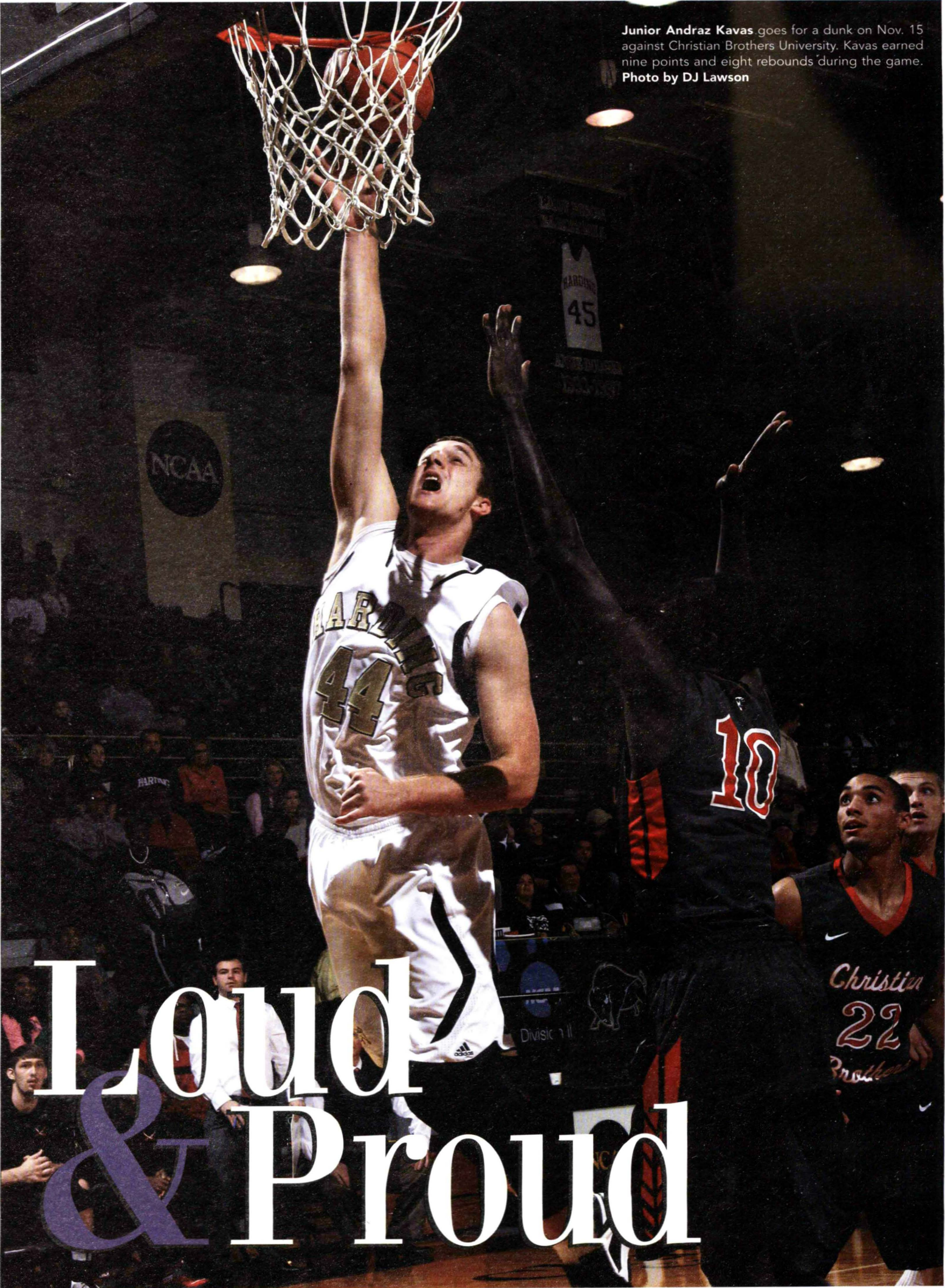
Both the players and the coaches believed the fans made a vital contribution to the team's wins. However, senior Ben Hansen, a dedicated member of the Rhodes Rowdies, said that much of what made the experience special was the environment created by the coaches.

"The coaches ... have been here so long and have created this community around their program," Hansen said. "It's really fun to buy in and be a part of their system and community."

According to Hansen, the Rhodes Rowdies welcomed anyone who was passionate about supporting the Bisons. That inclusive attitude brought together coaches, players and students to participate in the thrills of the basketball season as one unified team that extended beyond the boundaries of the court.

**By Savanna Di Stefano**

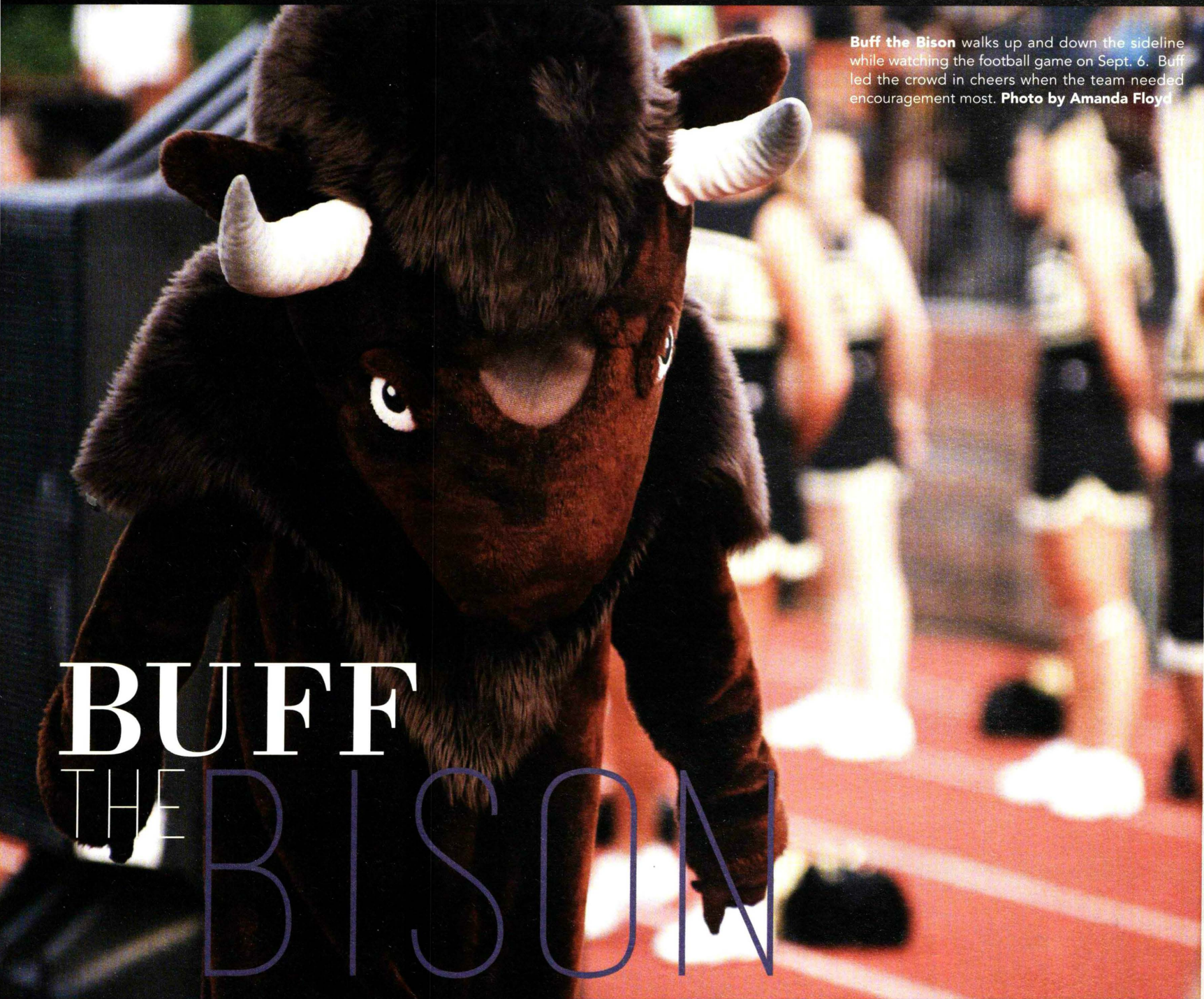




Junior Andraz Kavas goes for a dunk on Nov. 15 against Christian Brothers University. Kavas earned nine points and eight rebounds during the game. Photo by DJ Lawson

# Loud & Proud





**Buff the Bison** walks up and down the sideline while watching the football game on Sept. 6. Buff led the crowd in cheers when the team needed encouragement most. **Photo by Amanda Floyd**

# BUFF THE BISON





# THE NAME'S BUFF

Buff the Bison endured a long road to glory, but the end result was well worth the wait. In the few years leading up to 2004, the original "Bobby the Bison" lacked a stable presence on Harding's campus. With an old, raggedy costume and no clear purpose, the mascot desperately needed a facelift.

In 2004, Bobby's outlook started to improve. According to Liz Howell, the assistant to the president for alumni and parent relations, a committee was formed to redesign the university's logo and revamp the mascot. In true Harding community fashion, the student body played a vital role: they picked the new name. After a campus-wide vote, they chose "Buff," leaving his competitors "Bo" and "Basil" in the dust.

Buff flourished under the direction of an anonymous student who made the mascot his personal project. Howell said Buff began to find stability, love and support from the student body. Unfortunately, after this student graduated in 2008, Buff lacked a sense of direction. According to Howell, he went through a "dry spell" until, in 2010, official mascot coach Robbie Dunning came to campus. With a brand new custom-made costume, Buff was finally comfortable in his own skin and became an integral part of the "Harding brand."

"He's not just the face of Harding at sporting events; he's the face of Harding all over," Dunning said.

"Everyone associates Harding with Buff. When you see Buff, you know you're at Harding or you're at a Harding event."

His energy became a staple at sporting events. He ran with fervor up and down the sidelines, encouraging the crowd to do the wave. He danced with the cheerleaders. He did one-armed pushups every time Harding scored. The student body fed off of his enthusiasm, embracing him with open arms and words of affirmation.

"I love Buff the Bison because he generates tons of energy and keeps us excited about the games," senior Phil Habegger, Student Association president, said.

According to Dunning, Buff and the Rhodes Rowdies often coordinated before basketball games to ensure the highest form of entertainment and creativity.

Not limiting himself to sporting events, Buff found new ways to show his Harding pride all over the community.

"He does a lot for the Admissions Office, like during Stampede and Impact, and the Alumni office," Dunning said. "He does an appearance each Halloween for the Heritage Inn, Downtown Searcy, and he appears in the White County Fair Parade."

After a hard-fought journey, Buff and his antics at last found their place among swings, squirrels and camaraderie as an unforgettable part of Harding culture.

**By Rachel Brackins**