

## Men's basketball hosts Red Wolves Classic

### Red Wolves play three games at home in classic

KRISHNAN COLLINS

SPORTS EDITOR

The Arkansas State men's basketball team hosts the Red Wolves Classic starting Thursday after the Red Wolves opened the regular season with a win over Arkansas-Monticello and a loss to Ole Miss.

The Red Wolves Classic includes three A-State basketball games spanning throughout the duration of the event. First, A-State takes on the Virginia Military Institute Thursday. Friday, the Red Wolves play UC Davis before finishing the classic on Sunday against Idaho.

VMI struggled in its first three games of the season. VMI holds an 0-3 record on the year with losses coming to East Carolina, Marist and Presbyterian. The Keydets entered this season on the back of an 11-21 previous regular season. Tip off Thursday is set for 7:30 p.m.

UC Davis opens the Red

Wolves classic with Idaho on Thursday before taking on the hosts. The Aggies suffered a major 82-48 loss at the hands of Loyola Chicago to open their season but rebounded with a big win of their own taking down William Jessup 109-63. The Aggies also had a rough 2018-19 season registering only 11 wins compared to 20 losses. Tip off Friday is set for 7:30 p.m.

A-State caps off the Red Wolves classic against the Idaho Vandals. Idaho, like UC Davis and A-State currently holds a 1-1 record on the season. The Vandals took down Evergreen State College in an 88-82 contest before falling to UC Riverside 58-51. Idaho had an atrocious 2018-19 season. The Vandals finished the season with a 5-27 overall record. Tip off Sunday is set for 1 p.m.

A-State's most recent game came against Southeastern Conference opponent Ole Miss. The Red Wolves fell to the Rebels 71-43 as Canberk Kus continued what looks to

be a promising season for the Turkey native.

Kus was only one of two Red Wolves to register in double digit points as he accounted for 10 on the night. J.J. Mathews also contributed 10 points in the effort against Ole Miss. A-State was outrebounded 40-28 and no A-State player registered double digit rebounds or assists.

Just two games into the season with a lot of basketball left to play, Kus leads the Red Wolves in total scoring with 27 points on the young season. J.J. Matthews is close behind with 20. As head coach Mike Balado said towards the beginning of the season, there is really no offensive superstar on the team this year. Really anyone can chip in on any given night.

All three of A-State's games in the Red Wolves Classic are very winnable on paper.

Three games at home early on in the season could be just what the Red Wolves need to push their season in the right direction.



COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS | HANNAH DOLE

Canberk Kus started the season on fire as he leads the Red Wolves with 27 points.

## Volleyball closes Restrepo's first regular season at home

BRAD BREWER

SPORTS WRITER

A bid into the Sun Belt tournament is all but locked for the Arkansas State Volleyball team, but there's potential for even more as Appalachian State and UT-Arlington are within reach to pass in the final weekend of regular season play.

The Red Wolves currently sit at 6-8 in conference play this season after winning a five set thriller against UT-Arlington last weekend and falling to Texas State, who have already clinched the regular season championship, in four sets. The Mavericks from Arlington currently sit at 8-7 with one match left against Texas State, and after falling to the Red Wolves twice this season, are vulnerable to give up their spot in the tournament. The same is true with Appalachian



COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS | TRAVIS CLAYTON

Macey Putt and the Arkansas State volleyball team look to finish out the regular season with wins over Louisiana and Louisiana-Monroe.

State who sit 7-7, but they would have to lose to both Troy and South Alabama for A-State to have a chance at a potential sixth seed.

First, it is time to focus on this weekend at First National Bank Arena. First up, it's the Louisiana Ragin'

Cajuns on Friday night, who currently hold a 8-6 record in the conference and a head-to-head advantage after sweeping the Red Wolves in Lafayette in late October. The Ragin Cajuns are the only other team than the Red Wolves that have defeated

Texas State this season, and junior outside hitter Hali Wisnoskie has been a huge part of their success this season. She registered 25 kills against the Bobcats, and led the Cajuns with 12 kills in their sweep over the Red Wolves earlier this year.

While Louisiana will be a test that could go either way, ULM poses much less of a threat, but after dropping games to both Georgia Southern and Georgia State, A-State can't take the Warhawks lightly. ULM only has one conference victory

this season against Georgia Southern, and even though the Red Wolves have already defeated them this season, it was in a five-set match that could've ultimately ended up going either way. Junior middle blocker Alix Christie did put up some problems for A-State earlier this year, scoring 10 kills on 22 attempts and led the game in blocking, but the Red Wolves have started to find a bit of rhythm, especially at home and should ease past ULM.

Regardless of what happens this weekend, a fan can expect the Red Wolves to have a shot at postseason play, and this weekend will be the last time in 2019 that the volleyball squad will play at First National Bank Arena. It will definitely be worth it to come out and see how the team finishes their first season under head coach Santiago Restrepo.

## Women's basketball looks to rebound after loss to Tulsa against SEMO

KRISHNAN COLLINS

SPORTS EDITOR

The Arkansas State women's basketball team hosts Southeast Missouri State tonight in the Red Wolves' third game of the regular season.

A-State has a 1-1 record on the year so far after beating Central Baptist College 88-63 and losing a very narrow contest to Tulsa 79-77.

Jireh Washington led the Red Wolves with 24 points at Tulsa while Peyton Martin and Morgan Wallace also chipped

in with double digit points. Martin registered 18 points while Wallace scored 12.

Tulsa led the matchup by 18 points but the Red Wolves battled back as A-State outscored Tulsa 31-20 in the fourth quarter. Despite this push by the Red Wolves, their comeback fell just short.

Looking ahead to SEMO, the Redhawks are off to a perfect start this season. SEMO took down the University of Missouri-St. Louis before beating the University of Evansville. SEMO had a rough 2018-2019 season after ending the year with a 13-17 overall record.

This will be the 10th matchup between A-State and SEMO in program history but the two teams have not met since 2012.

The Redhawks have a slight 5-4 series advantage over A-State.

Multiple A-State players are already in double digit points

on the season. Washington and Payton Tennison lead the team with 33 points each and Martin is close behind with 29.

The Matt Daniel era is just getting underway at A-State. A win against SEMO would get the Red Wolves off to a favorable start. Tip off is set for 7 p.m.