

## Both A-State basketball teams suffer losses against Louisiana Announcement on an official makeup date for conference games

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This weekend both Arkansas State basketball teams played against the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns ending in losses for both A-State teams. Each game showed a different set of challenges between losing a key player and losing their lead in the second half. The following Monday The Sun Belt Conference announced official makeup dates for games earlier in the season that were postponed. Both teams are looking to face UT Arlington next weekend with the women's team traveling to Arlington and the men's team to defend at home.

The women's first game against Louisiana over the weekend was close with Louisiana winning after going into overtime stopping the Red Wolves from continuing their nine-game winning streak. In the third quarter of the game, Jireh Washington was injured and will stay out for 10-12 weeks following surgery on Monday. Washington is one of the highest scorers for the Red Wolves women's basketball team causing the time without her to be challenging.

"We battled," head coach Matt Daniel said. "We lost Jireh (Washington) in the third and went on a run of live-ball turnovers. We have to be better at that, but the story of the game is 16 offensive rebounds for 16 points and 19 turnovers for 20 points and still had a chance to win without our all-conference

point guard. We tried to battle back, we just didn't have enough."

The second game ended in another loss for the Red Wolves, this time with a 70-58 score. In both the first and the fourth quarter A-State didn't even score in double digits. Proving to be a challenging game for the Red Wolves, Peyton Martin still managed to become the 24th player in the program to score 1,000 points in a career. Karolina Szydlowska led the Red Wolves in points scored. Szydlowska scored 12 points, a career-high. Three other players also scored into double digits. The women's team is now 9-3 overall.

The women's next game will be at UT Arlington Jan. 29 at 6 p.m. Last season A-State lost with an ending score of 89-62. Jireh Washington was one of three leaders in points in last season's game earning 12 points during the match.

The first men's game proved to be difficult after the first half. In the first half, Arkansas State was leading the game 31-27 but it still ended in a loss for the Red Wolves with a final score of 81-68. Marquis Eaton scored 15 points for the Red Wolves during the matchup with two other players scoring in double digits. The second game was much closer but ended with another loss for the Red Wolves 77-74. The top scorers for the second game were Norchad Omier with 15 points and 13 rebounds. Christian Willis, Malcolm Farrington, and Marquis Eaton all scored in double digits.

Despite losing Arkansas State men's basketball had some accomplishments made by players over the weekend. Norchad Omier has now had eight straight games with 10 or more rebounds which is the most in the program since the 2015-16 season. Omier is the only true freshman in the country averaging a double-double this season. The men's team is now 5-8 overall. Marquis Eaton moved to the 20th all-time scoring players in the program with 1,124 points scored.

The next game for the men's team will be at home against UT Arlington. The first game will be held Friday at 6 p.m. Last season the men's team lost against UT Arlington with a 77-67 scoreline. Marquis Eaton was one of the top overall scorers in last season's game.

The Sun Belt Conference announced both teams have an official makeup date for some of the conference games missed. The men's basketball team will make up one game at Texas State on Feb. 16 after the initial games being postponed for COVID-19. Last season the men's team lost against Texas State in a 67-70 upset. The women's team rescheduled their home matches against the University of Louisiana Monroe for Feb 15 after also being postponed for COVID-19 concerns. Earlier in the season, the women's Red Wolves team won both games against ULM 64-50 in their first game and 59-44 in their second.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRAVIS CLAYTON | A-STATE ATHLETICS  
Christian Willis scored 15 points in A-State's 77-74 loss to Louisiana Saturday in Lafayette.

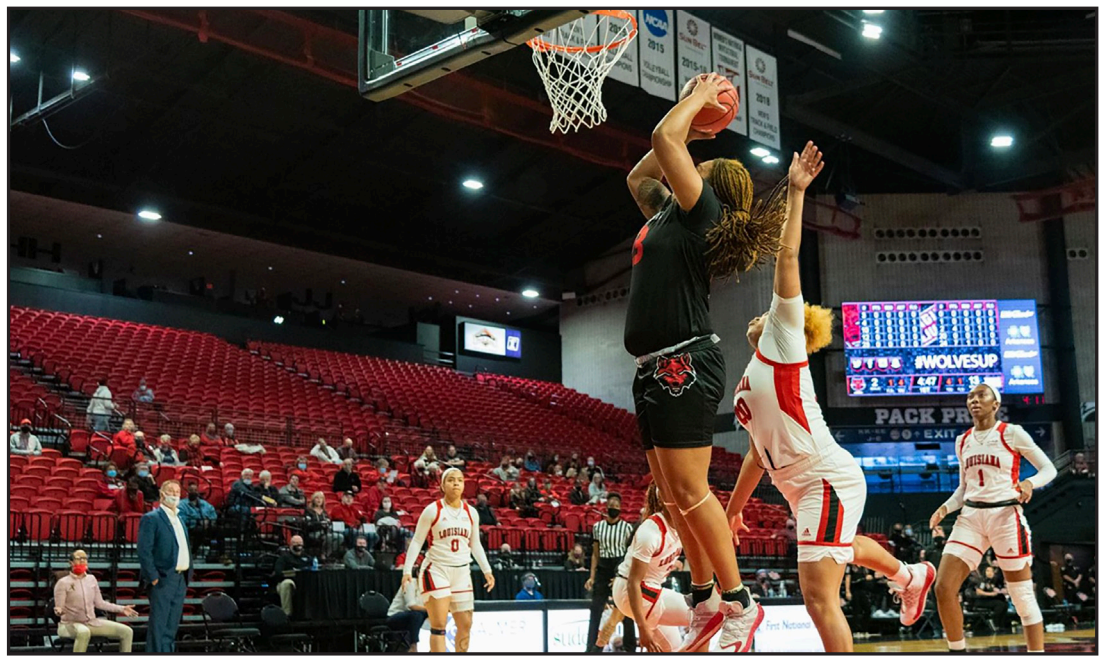


PHOTO COURTESY OF TRAVIS CLAYTON | A-STATE ATHLETICS  
The A-State women's basketball team lost both games to Louisiana over the weekend.

## A-State's all-time leading goal scorer has playing rights picked up by NWSL club

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A-State soccer's all-time leading goal scorer has earned a chance to go pro in the National Women's Soccer League.

Red Wolves forward Sarah Sodoma had her playing rights claimed by NWSL expansion team Racing Louisville FC the club announced Jan. 21. The NWSL is the highest division of women's soccer in the United States.

Sodoma actually had a chance of getting drafted by Louisville in the NWSL draft Jan. 13 after the club expressed interest in drafting the St. Louis native toward the beginning of January. Although the club did not end up drafting A-State's star goal scorer, the club was able to claim her playing rights after the draft.

"(Leading up to the announcement) it was exciting," Sodoma said. "I had never really realized that was something that was possible for me. Obviously I don't go to a huge school, I'm not in one of the bigger conferences. I just figured

they would be more interested in those kinds of players."

After the NWSL draft, teams around the league are able to claim undrafted players' playing rights. This means Sodoma belongs to Racing Louisville FC and in 2022 Sodoma will get a chance to earn a contract at the club.

"Just excitement (was running through my mind about getting an opportunity at the next level) and there's a lot of unknowns to it," Sodoma said. "Obviously I still have a lot of work to do to actually get a shot at playing. So there are some nerves behind it but mostly excitement just because it's a huge opportunity for me and something I always thought about as a little girl."

Due to COVID-19 giving collegiate athletes another year of eligibility, Sodoma will be coming back in the fall of 2021 to play in another season for A-State before heading to Louisville in 2022.

During this spring season and in the fall, Sodoma will look to keep improving her game to get ready for the next level. Sodoma is in contact with the



Photo by: Morgan Blankenship | Staff Photographer

Sarah Sodoma will play for the Red Wolves this spring and in the fall 2021 season before heading to Louisville for a shot in the pros. Racing Louisville coaching staff and what I want to improve weekly to talk about what she needs to work on in her game. "We're keeping open lines of communication on what they want me to improve on," Sodoma said. "So I'm going to kind of go off what they say to work on. I think my focus right now is refining my first touches, figuring out what the best runs to make up top will be, making sure when I get shots they're on goal and producing good opportunities for myself and other people." A-State head soccer coach Brian Dooley emphasized how important this season at A-State will be for Sodoma.

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