

## Gray team takes victory in football's Pack Day spring game.

REBECCA ROBINSON

SPORTS EDITOR

A-State football held its first Pack Day spring game under new head coach Butch Jones. The Red Wolves football team split into two teams, "red" and "gray", to face each other at Centennial Bank Stadium. The gray team took victory in a 20-7 ending score. This concluded the team's spring training camp.

The football team began their spring training camp March 9, and held their last practice April 15 before the spring game. The team had 14 practices total.

The spring game is a community event. There were different events planned throughout the day for fan engagement. The tailgating areas were open including the pines where many Arkansas State students tailgate. The dancers and band were also there. The turnout was the largest spring game A-State has had in many years.

"That means a lot because that's something that we are developing here," Jones said. "It's a culture and it's a mindset. We expect to sell out Centennial Bank Stadium."

With last fall season, many of the games were at limited capacity due to COVID-19. With things slowly opening back up more fans are starting to show in attendance.

"It was great. This was my fourth one here it definitely was the most fans out there since I've been playing and it's good,"

player Caleb Bonner said. "We're here to win and we're here to do it for them. It was great to see them out there supporting us."

The spring training camp and the spring game is a way to help gauge where the team is at and to help make adjustments before summer practices and the fall 2021 season starts. The team is set to take on Central Arkansas in A-State's 2021 season opener.

"I think this football team must take great strides this summer in our overall level of physicality, our endurance, the way we want to play, our expectations and our standards, our principles and values of how we are gonna play," Jones said.

Arkansas State hired new Athletic Director Tom Bowen as well as new head coach Jones meaning there could be some changes for the new season.

"I think this is a football team that is very determined," Jones said. "They want to please, they hang on to everything that you say. So we have to continue to demand our standard. We have to continue to demand what it takes to play winning football and continue to teach that. Everything is a learning process for them right now. We have to teach them how to win and what it takes to win football games and they're very eager."

Arkansas State's 2020 Larry Lacewell MVP Award winner was announced during the spring game and was awarded to Jonathan Adams. There were several spring-camp team awards that were given out honoring players



PHOTO COURTESY OF A-STATE ATHLETICS

The Arkansas State football team played their first spring game under new head coach Butch Jones. The gray team ended with the victory.

from the 2020 season. Senior Ivory Scott was presented with the 2020 Withrow Award for offensive lineman of the year which is presented annually.

"It felt great. I put in the work

every day, trying to get better every day just to accomplish all the goals I set before the season," Scott said. "That was definitely a goal set before last season and the year before that. I just had

to keep working to get to it." Bonner was recognized for "consistency in performance" as well as teammate Corey Rucker. Rucker is a wide receiver for the Red Wolves.

"It definitely felt good to be in a game environment again," Rucker said. "It's been a long time since we played. So it felt great to be in another game environment."

### Updates and events:

#### Track & Field:

- Bennett Pascoe breaks the A-State school record set by Bob Giersberg's 1968 record for the men's 1500m race with a time of 3:45.27.
- Pauline Meyer breaks the record for women's 1500m race with a time of 4:26.22.

#### Women's Golf:

- The A-State women's moment finishes sixth at the Sun Belt Conference Championship.

#### Men's Golf:

- Men's golf will head to El Dorado, Arkansas on Sunday to compete in the SBC Championship.

#### Baseball:

- The baseball team will compete in a three game series starting on Friday in San Marcos, Texas.

**Correction:** On last week's sports page, in the story "Rugby team gets ready to take on Life for the second time," the rugby player's name is Jalen Farmer and he is from St. Charles, Illinois.

## Baseball team loses two games against UT Arlington



PHOTO COURTESY OF A-STATE ATHLETICS

Arkansas State hosted UT Arlington at Tomlinson Stadium in a three game series that took place on Friday and ended on Sunday. The Red Wolves lost the first two games in the series. The final game on Sunday ended in a victory. This now puts the Red Wolves at 5-7 in conference games.

On Friday, the Red Wolves had an early run deficit of 4-0. A-State was able to take the lead during the seventh inning with five runs. The Red Wolves ultimately couldn't keep up in the ninth inning causing their loss. The first game against UT Arlington ended in a final score of 7-5. Drew Tipton, Liam Hicks, Ben Klutts, Tyler Duncan and Jaylon Deshazier all scored one run each for the Red Wolves.

The game on Saturday ended in a 9-2 victory for UT Arlington which meant A-State lost the series. Klutts and Brandon Hager both scored a run each for the Red Wolves. Will Nash pitched for four innings for the Red Wolves followed by Tyler Jeans with three and Max Charlton and Bryce Barlett with an inning a piece.

The last game in the series ended in a victory for the Red Wolves in a 5-3 score. Carter Holt pitched a season-long six innings. Hicks scored one run for the Red Wolves. Klutts and Duncan scored two runs each.