

Inside the life of a international student-athlete



PHOTO BY ARKANSAS STATE RUGBY FACEBOOK PAGE

Jared Germond running the pitch in a matchup last season.

BRAYDEN MORSE

SPORTS EDITOR

The meaning of bonding, especially as a team, means a lot to the rugby team. Brotherhood goes a long way towards success for a specific goal. It is not just about the team though. It is also about the culture that brings them together.

"We always sit together at lunch. We are always together in general. We have about 5-10 people who drive on the team. We carpool to restaurants, events, practice, etc. Rugby is not just a sport, but also a culture. Most people do not know about rugby here in America. It is easy to spot the rugby players here," Rugby player Jared Germond said.

A specific reason to come to America is important to these international student athletes. These student athletes have goals for their future.

"The reason why I came to Arkansas State University is because

of the education. I am trying to get a degree. Another reason is because of South Africa being a third world country," Germond said.

Many Americans could agree upon the idea that the country is divided in today's society, based on political views, race, stereotypes, etc. Americans are a lot more privileged than they realize. Many people take things for granted.

"Politics is a big thing back home. It is a big thing in a bad way. It is more of the country against the government. Everything is basically going downhill there," Germond said.

Family is important to most people, but being in a completely different country than one's family is stressful and difficult to deal with. Missing one's family and knowing they are not able to see them for long periods of time can be extremely tough.

"I talk to my family about three times a week. I am on the phone

with them for at least an hour and half each time. I am staying at Arkansas State over winter break, but I am going home for the summer," Germond said.

Classification:

Sophomore

From South Africa

Favorite food: Braai

Favorite rugby teams: Springboks Blues and New Zealand

Favorite current rugby player:

Malcolm Marx

Favorite all time rugby player:

René Ranger

Former A-State teacher and World War II veteran gives insight on upcoming men's basketball season

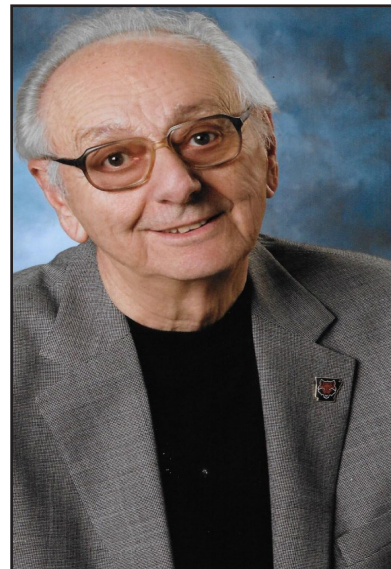
BRAYDEN MORSE

SPORTS EDITOR

Bob Ferralasco is a native of Jonesboro, who earned a bachelor's degree at Arkansas State University in 1949. He came from New Jersey to Jonesboro in 1946 and served as the football equipment manager, when he enrolled as a first year. He received his master's degree from New York University in 1950 and a doctorate in business at the University of Arkansas in 1961. He was a professor of administrative service and chair of the Computer Services and Administrative services for 37 years and retired in 1989. He also served on the Graduation Council and as chairman of the Faculty Leave Committee and The Tenure and Promotion Committee. He also served as a teacher in education screening and curriculum. He was active in the Sigma Pi fraternity for 25 years from 1948-1973, and received a placement of a bench for his service in the fraternity. A scholarship was put in his name and is open to all business majors. Ferralasco

co served on the Kays Foundation Board of Directors from 1996-2018 (22 years). He is also a World War II veteran.

Bob Ferralasco expressed his thoughts on the upcoming basketball season and his commitment to A-State sports when he said, "I have only missed three homecoming football games since 1946. I fell in love with Jonesboro when I moved here. I came from a small town in New Jersey that only had 800 people. I wear a 50 year old hat for good luck. I think Coach Balado is a good coach. We watched them practice, and they looked pretty good," Ferralasco said.

PHOTO FROM KAYFOUNDATION.COM
Bob Ferralasco in recent years.PHOTO FROM ASTATEREDWOLVES.COM
Bob Ferralasco in his early years.

Wooldridge's 5 passing touchdowns help Ragin' Cajuns defeat Red Wolves

BRAYDEN MORSE

SPORTS EDITOR

The Louisiana Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns defeated the Arkansas State Red Wolves football team 38-18. Louisiana Lafayette is now 4-3 overall and 2-2 in the Sun Belt Conference.

A-State is now 2-6 overall and 1-4 in the SBC, while also being dead last in the West.

Louisiana junior quarterback #10 Ben Wooldridge obliterated the Arkansas State secondary all day long, as he went 21-34 with 316 passing yards and five passing touchdowns. He accounted for 35 of the 38 points that the Ragin' Cajuns scored. The other three points were by sophomore kicker #45 Kenneth Almendares, early in the first quarter.

The Lafayette offense had 522 total yards, with 316 of them being passing yards and 206 of them being rushing yards. They were 10-18 on third down efficiency, while the Arkansas State offense went 0-11.

The Red Wolf offense is still struggling on third down efficiency. They only had 271 total yards. A team can not expect to win games with total yardage like that. This team has not

been able to win for two main reasons. One is obviously the third down problems and the second reason is the offensive line. The offense is 41-117 on third down efficiency on the season, which is a percentage of 35.04. The offensive line gave up three sacks against Lafayette. Through eight weeks of the season, the offensive line has given up 26 sacks with 171 yards lost. Quarterback James Blackman has no protection to deliver passes down the field, nor run the football.

James Blackman did not play against Louisiana Lafayette due to injury. Junior quarterback #17 AJ Mayer had to step up for the Red Wolves. He finished the game going 8-23 with 155 passing yards, one passing touchdown and an interception. His completion percentage was a horrific 34.8. Mayer's only passing touchdown was to sophomore tight-end #18 Seydou Traore.

Traore finished with three receptions for 61 receiving yards and one receiving touchdown. He now has 31 receptions for 474 receiving yards and three receiving touchdowns on the season.

Arkansas State first year kicker #33 Dominic Zvada, stayed perfect on field goals going 2-2. He is now 12-12 on field goals this season.

Another reason why this Red Wolf team is not winning is because of the defense. They are allowing an average of 31.13 points through eight weeks. They are also allowing an average of 409.0 total yards through eight weeks. How long will it be before this team starts winning?

"We know we are here to win football games and it is frustrating, but the winning will come. We have made extreme progress since last year. Compared to last year, it is night and day. We are exploring everything we can do to better this football team," Head coach Butch Jones said.

The Red Wolves look to improve on both offense and defense next week, as they play a powerful South Alabama team. South Alabama is 5-2 on the season and 2-1 in the Sun Belt Conference. They are also second in the West.



COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS

Sophomore tight-end #18 Seydou Traore in mid-route against Southern Miss.

Sports Roundup:

Pyeatt named SBC Men's Runner of the Week



COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS

Jacob Pyeatt was named the Sun Belt Conference Men's Runner of the Week after finishing in the top 10 last Wednesday. He clocked a personal-best 24:03:3 in the men's 8K of the Arturo Barrios Invitational. Pyeatt placed ninth out of 374 runners, as the Red Wolves finished fourth overall among 40 teams. The Arkansas State cross country team will travel to the Graham Creek Nature Preserve in Foley, Alabama for the Sun Belt Conference Championship this Saturday.

Women's golf team finished the fall season with a runner-up finish



COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS

The women's golf team finished the fall season with a runner-up finish at the White Sands Bahamas Invitational. Arkansas State had a 4-under par 284. Lipscomb won the event with a 13-under par 851. A-State marked the fourth 4-under or better of the season, which has only been done three other times in program history. The top A-State competitor, Olivia Coit, finished in fifth place with a score of 219 that was three over par. Coit finished the season with her sixth round of par or better, shooting a 3-under 69. Elise Schultz had her second consecutive even-par round of 72 to place sixth overall at 5-over par 221. With her 39th consecutive round of par or better, Olivia Schmidt increased her program record. She shot a 2-under par 70 to finish at 6-over par 222 and tie for sixth. Casey Sommer (81-69-74) and Morgan Beaulieu (76-75-73) tied for 10th place with a score of 224, while Kayla Burke finished 44th with a total of 242. (81-80-81). With a stroke average of 293.33, the Red Wolves finished the fall part of the schedule on pace to surpass the current program record of 296.52 by three strokes. A-State has played five rounds of par or better as a team, one less than its total from the program-record-setting 2021-22 season. The spring schedule will begin Feb. 12-14 at the Tulane Classic in New Orleans, Louisiana.

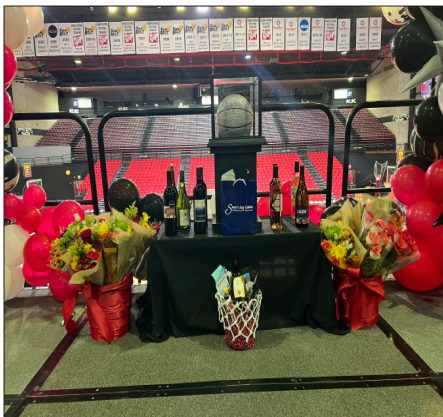
A-State vs. USM ends in a 2-2 draw



COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS

The Arkansas State soccer team tied Southern Miss 2-2 this past Sunday at the A-State Soccer Park with a goal from Aliyah Williamson in the 81st minute, sealing a second-half comeback. In the penultimate game of the regular season, the Red Wolves (8-5-3, 6-2-1 SBC) overturned a 1-0 deficit by scoring two match-tying goals to force a draw. With a goal by Esmeralda Figueroa in the 22nd minute, USM (1-9-4, 1-5-3) took the lead. Alex Helbing, the goalkeeper for the Golden Eagles, stopped two shots from A-State. Sydoney Clarke put a shot in the back of the net in the 45th minute, but the goal was disallowed for offside, keeping the score 1-0 at the half. A-State made it 1-1 in the 54th minute when Williamson set up Emma Riley, who fired a ball just inside the right post. In the 62nd minute, Nolubabalo Sishuba scored to give the Golden Eagles a 2-1 advantage once more. This result remained unchanged until Williamson scored the equalizer in the 81st minute with her fourth goal of the season. Thursday's regular-season finale for Arkansas State will be played at home against South Alabama, who leads the Sun Belt West Division standings by two points above the Red Wolves. ESPN+'s kickoff is scheduled for 3 p.m.

Boots and Ballers event coverage



DIAMOND BASKETBALL WITH WINES



SIGNED BASKETBALLS BY THE MEN'S BASKETBALL



MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM PRACTICING
ALL PHOTOS BY BRAYDEN MORSE

The 5th annual Boots and Ballers event was hosted on Oct. 20. The event is a fundraiser to raise money for the men's basketball team. Head coach Mike Balado started the event when he started his tenure at Arkansas State. The event helps with travel costs, additional meals, new equipment, etc. The pre entertainment was the basketball practice, then the players rotated between the donated tables. The tables were bought and donated by many people to support the basketball team. When the players rotated between the donated tables, the people got to communicate with the players and got to know them on a personal level. There was also an auction for the people donating at the event.

Cori Keller, ESPN Sideline Reporter/Analyst, was at the event and expressed her thoughts on the event and the upcoming men's basketball season when she said, "Not only is the team wanting you to fundraise, but they want you to be truly invested into this program. They are trying to build that fan base and get more fans here on game day. They have a lot of new faces this season. Coach Balado has been here, and he knows what it is like to go through a season with new players, but also have those strong veterans to lead the way. Some of the transfers are older and have division one experience, to help the younger guys. I really think they can do well," Keller said.

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, Nov. 2

- The men's basketball team opens up their season against Voorhees College at home at 7 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 4

- The volleyball team matches up against ULM at home at 6 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 5

- The volleyball team matches up against ULM at home at 1 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 7

- The men's basketball team will play against Harding at home at 7 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 10

- The women's basketball team opens up their season on the road against Louisiana Tech in Ruston, Louisiana at 11:30 a.m.

- The volleyball team travels to play Marshall in Huntington, West Virginia at 5 p.m.



COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS

The Arkansas State Athletics Department is offering another tailgating package for the next home football game this Saturday against South Alabama. The themes will be "Howl-O-Ween" and an "Extra Yards for Teachers" presentation that will be a nationally-televised contest.

All kids, families and fans can dress up in costumes at the Howl-O-Ween activities that will begin at 12 p.m. The Red Wolf student athletes will be passing out candy and signing autographs and taking pictures located at Tailgate City. Face-painting, arts and crafts and extra photograph opportunities will be available in Tailgate City located on the far west side in a tent. The A-State Athletics Department is also offering \$10 tickets in the east stands.

