

## What the transfer portal means to NCAA athletes



PHOTO COURTESY OF HEARTLAND COLLEGE SPORTS  
Oklahoma Sooners quarterback #6 Baker Mayfield



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SPUN  
LSU Tigers quarterback #9 Joe Burrow holding up the National Championship trophy.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CRIMSON AND CREAM MACHINE  
Oklahoma Sooners quarterback #1 Kyler Murray

**BRAYDEN MORSE**

**SPORTS EDITOR**

The NCAA Transfer Portal has been around since Oct. 15, 2018. This form of college free agency has changed the league in a drastic way.

Firstly, it gives the media more to talk about, especially when big-time players make a move to a different campus. If athletes do not feel their current team is a fit, then they enter their name into an online database declaring to transfer. Once their names are in the portal, coaches and staff members of other team have the opportunity to contact them and offer them scholarships and visits to the campus.

The reasons athletes enter the transfer portal could be because they feel mistreated by their coach, their family

feels that they could be better off somewhere else or they do not feel the team they are currently with is a fit for them, as mentioned previously. The biggest pro of the portal is the athlete getting to go to a bigger and better school to exploit their full potential and get their name out there for the media and the NFL.

The biggest con is taking away from the programs and its culture. The growth of the program could be jeopardized when big-time players transfer. A lot of coaches, players and fans ask themselves what could have been if the player stayed at the program? They wonder if their team could have won a national championship with high-caliber athletes leaving their school. Sometimes players can put a huge effect on a team, especially quarterbacks.

LSU quarterback Joe Burrow and Oklahoma quarterbacks Kyler Murray and Baker Mayfield were Heisman Trophy winners after they transferred. All three of those quarterbacks also went first overall in the NFL Draft. They all transferred, because they were not getting enough playing time at their previous school.

Burrow transferred to LSU after previously being with Ohio State. He had a spectacular Heisman season in 2019, where he and LSU won the National Championship. That 2019 LSU team is considered one of the best college football teams of all time, as they went a perfect 15-0. Burrow completed 76.3% of his passes with 5,671 passing yards and 60 passing touchdowns. In the National Championship

game, he threw for 463 yards and five touchdowns, with a rushing touchdown.

After his incredible senior season, he went on to get drafted first overall by the Cincinnati Bengals in the 2020 draft. Burrow tore his ACL in his rookie season, but came back the next year and took his team all the way to the Super Bowl.

"I do not like when people use the word luck. Luck has nothing to do with my success and I have worked for it. I put a mental log of when I went through the transfer portal," Burrow said.

Before Murray, there was Baker Mayfield at Oklahoma. Mayfield won the Heisman in 2017, where he threw for 4,340 passing yards and 41 passing touchdowns. Mayfield also led his team to a 12-1 record and Oklahoma's first

trip to the College Football Playoff in program history.

"If I was on another team or program, I would hate me too," Mayfield said.

Murray transferred from Texas A&M to Oklahoma where he won the Heisman in 2018. He threw for 4,053 passing yards and 40 passing touchdowns, leading his team to a 12-1 record and a berth to the College Football Playoff, in Oklahoma's second trip in program history.

"As a young kid coming into any school, you want to leave your mark on the school. With the help of the fans, my teammates and coaches I was able to leave an impact and leave a legacy," Murray said.

Arkansas State quarterback James Blackman and wide receiver Champ Flemings are two of several players

who transferred from other schools, within the Arkansas State football team. Blackman came from Florida State and Flemings came from Oregon State. In their case, they transferred to A-State which is considered a smaller football school compared to Florida State and Oregon State. They wanted to get more playing time, hence the reasoning of their transfer request.

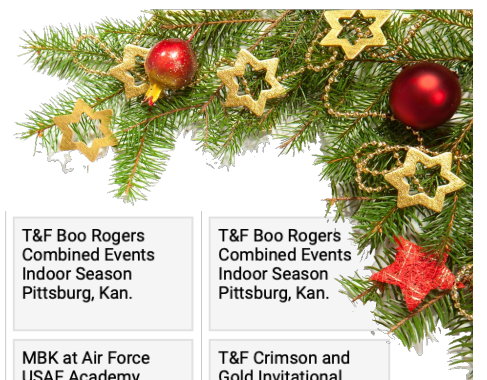
Without the transfer portal, these players would not have been able to leave their mark on their schools. History would not have been made, and there is no telling what would have happened if these players would not have transferred. As of now, over 1,000 players have entered the transfer portal for the 2023 cycle.



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS  
Senior forward #22 Omar El-Sheikh dunking the ball.

## HAPPY HOWLIDAYS

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| WBK at Arkansas Fayetteville, Ark.<br>3:00 PM<br>SEC Network<br>95.3 The Ticket<br>Radio Network<br><a href="#">Live Stats</a> |                                                                                                      |    | MBK vs Southeast Missouri<br>Jonesboro, Ark.<br>7:00 PM<br>ESPN+ 107.9 KFIN<br><a href="#">Live Stats</a>                                                  | WBK vs Grambling State<br>Jonesboro, Ark.<br>7:00 PM<br>ESPN+<br>95.3 The Ticket<br>Radio Network<br><a href="#">Live Stats</a>                                                                   |                                                                    |                                                                                                    |
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| WBK at Little Rock<br>Little Rock, Ark.<br>1:00 PM<br>ESPN+<br>95.3 The Ticket<br>Radio Network                                | MBK vs Alabama State<br>Jonesboro, Ark.<br>7:00 PM<br>ESPN+ 107.9 KFIN<br><a href="#">Live Stats</a> |    |                                                                                                                                                            | MBK vs Little Rock<br>Jonesboro, Ark.<br>2:00 PM<br>ESPN+ 107.9 KFIN<br><a href="#">Live Stats</a>                                                                                                |                                                                    |                                                                                                    |
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PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS

Sophomore guard #23 Izzy Higginbottom following through her shot.

## How the women's basketball team can beat North Alabama

JADE UPSHAW

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

BRAYDEN MORSE

SPORTS EDITOR

The Lady Red Wolves basketball team are 4-3 on the season thus far. A win against North Alabama will result in a three-game winning streak for the team.

Arkansas State is averaging 74.1 points per game, which went up after their 102 point performance against McNeese State. Using the same game plan that they used against McNeese State will help this team to continue to win.

To do so, they have to give the ball to sophomore guard #23 Izzy Higginbottom and senior guard #10 Keya Patton. Higginbottom scored 18 points while going 6-11 in field goal range in the win over McNeese State. Patton scored 20 points while making both of her free throws. They both played an equal amount of 24 minutes. Keeping these two in the game as much as possible, will result in an offensive spark for this Red Wolf team.

Higginbottom, an Arkansas native, sophomore transfer from the University of Missouri and the team's leading scorer

with 15.9 points per game, is excited to see the team gain more confidence and momentum throughout the rest of the non-conference.

"Our non-conference schedule has been made with strong, experienced teams, including nationally ranked Oklahoma, so those games have shown us things we can improve on and perfect so that we can excel in conference play. As the rest of the season goes on we can expect to see hustle and heart every night along with a lot of buckets," Higginbottom said.

Head Coach Destinee Rogers expresses how she would like to see her team continue to grow in chemistry and find what the team needs to get better at before conference play begins.

"We put together a tough schedule to prepare our team for the conference schedule. I've been excited to see the growth of the team through tough games. We are starting to figure out how to win the tough ones which will help us down the road. This is a team that works hard and has fun together on the floor. We want to be an uptempo team that dictates the opponent on defense as well," Rogers said.

With the new additions to the Sun Belt, A-State will see four new teams that add a

lot of competitiveness. Coach Rogers and her team are excited to take on the new challenges as the non-conference prepares for what's ahead.

A-State is only .302% from the three-point line. Increasing this percentage will create confidence in this team to shoot any three-point shot. Sometimes the best thing to do is to keep shooting three-pointers until it clicks with the team. Being scared of the shots will result in a lack of points.

The team's free-throw percentage is at .696. It is not a bad number, but could be increased. At the end of the game, the number of free-throws made determines a lot of outcomes in basketball games.

North Alabama has the same record as Arkansas State, at 4-3. All four of their wins are at home, where they are undefeated. The Red Wolves look to spoil that home undefeated record.

The Lions are only .397 from field goal range. Arkansas State needs to force North Alabama to shoot, while getting ready to get defensive rebounds. Out-rebounding the Lions is another key component to a winning formula.

North Alabama guard #2 Jade Moore is leading the team in points scored per game at 13.9.

That average is not that high, but the Red Wolves defense still needs to lock her down. The Lions have four players who average 10.9 points or more. That is the statistic that A-State needs to be worried about. Looking out for four different players to score points will make Arkansas State focus on detail of passes and different plays that North Alabama will have set up.

The game will be played tomorrow at 8 p.m. in Florence, Alabama. This will be Arkansas State's second-straight away game.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS  
Lady Red Wolves Head Coach Destinee Rogers

## Baseball camps for the winter have been announced

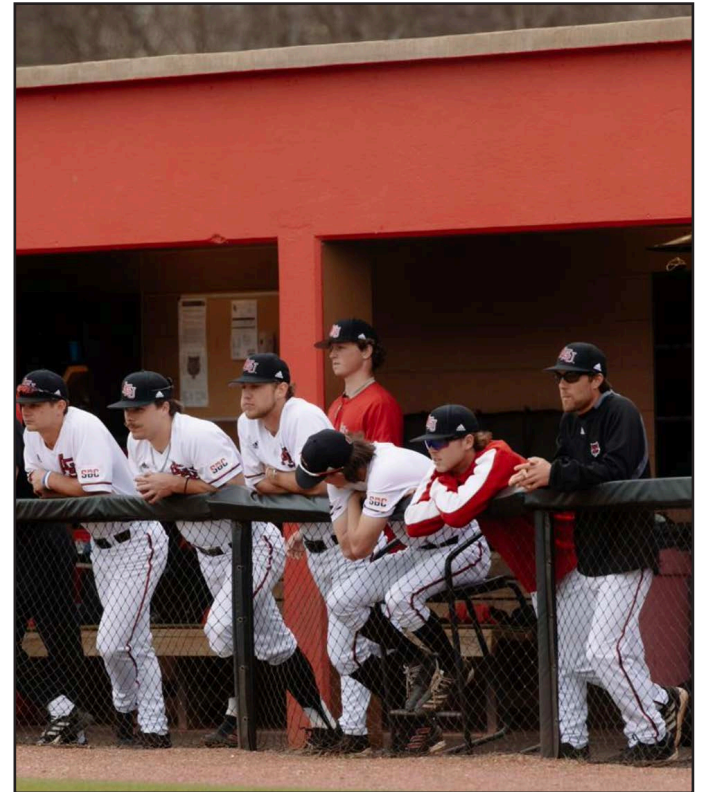


PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS

The baseball team is having a high school prospect baseball camp on Saturday, Jan. 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Check-in is at 8 a.m. The cost is \$150 per camper. To register, visit [www.arkansasstatebaseballcamps.com](http://www.arkansasstatebaseballcamps.com).

On Monday, Jan. 16, the Youth Specialty Camps will be held. The hitting session will go from 9 a.m. to noon. The pitching and defense session will go from 1:15 p.m. to 4 p.m. The cost for the camp will be \$75, while attending both camps will be for only \$125.

These camps will be held at Tomlinson Stadium-Kell Field. If inclement weather arises, camps will be moved to the Student Activity Center.

The only limitations are by age, grade level and/or gender for the specific camps.

## The track and field team prepares for first meet



PHOTO COURTESY OF @ASTATETRACK TWITTER

The track and field team will compete in the Boo Rogers Combined Events in Pittsburg, Kansas on Friday and Saturday.

## The small Arkansas D-1 battle between A-State and UCA



Photo by Jessica McMillan | Photo Editor

Senior guard #13 Dylan Arnette driving down the court. For the Arkansas State at UCA men's basketball statistics, go to [astatetheherald.com](http://astatetheherald.com)