

Black Excellence in Sports honored through basketball games

BRAYDEN MORSE
SPORTS EDITOR

The Black Student Association hosted Black Excellence in Sports in the Red Wolf Center to honor black history month. Several basketball games were held for students and anyone around town who wanted to register for the event. Players could even sign up together to form a team. The games started at 5:30 and ended after the last 9:30 game. “This event was to honor African Americans in sports. We had a watch party in the stands and enjoyed watching these players. There were several games and I think it was a great event,” Trey Hicks, Assistant Director of Campus Recreation and Wellness said. The stands were filled up with people cheering on the players which made the event exciting with a great atmosphere. There have been many great African American athletes who have made significant contributions to sports. Jackie Robinson broke the previous racial barrier in baseball by becoming the first African American to play in Major League Baseball in the modern era. He was a Brooklyn Dodgers player who enjoyed a distinguished career that saw him win several honors and trophies. Robinson cleared the door for other African American sportsmen to play in the professional ranks with his bravery and talent. One of the best boxers of all time, Muhammad Ali was renowned for his quick feet, strong punches, and outspoken



Photo by Emiliano Ceballos | Sports Photographer

One of many basketball games being played at the Black Excellence in Sports event.

demeanor. He was a multiple world champion and is considered as one of the 20th century’s most important sports stars. With 23 Grand Slam singles victories to her belt, Serena Williams is regarded as one of the best tennis players of all time. She is well recognized for her strength, athleticism, and competitive attitude and has won multiple Olympic gold. Williams has served as an example for many aspiring athletes, especially young African American women. Most people agree that

Michael Jordan is the best basketball player to ever play the game. He was well-known for his exceptional scoring prowess, athleticism, and competitiveness while playing for the Chicago Bulls, where he won six NBA championships. Jordan motivated many young African Americans to become athletes and contributed to the globalization of basketball. Tiger Woods, who has won 15 major championships, is among the greatest golfers of all time. He has also played a significant role in dismantling barriers in the

formerly primarily white sport of golf. Several young African American golfers have looked up to Woods as an example of how they too may excel in a sport that hasn’t always been inclusive of people of color. In today’s society the barrier is being broken with a diverse amount of players throughout every sport. It has been a proud American moment to allow these players to shine with their skills and talents.

Red Wolves baseball team opens season with series sweep against Pine Bluff

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The Arkansas State Red Wolves baseball team completed a series sweep on Sunday with a 12-8 victory over Pine Bluff. Sophomore infielder #10 Wil French went 3-4 in the first game, 1-4 in the second game and 3-4 again in the third and final game of the series. He also had five runs batted in, in the series and led the team with seven hits. Junior catcher #11 Brandon Hager combined for six hits and two runs batted in throughout the series. Hager averaged two hits in the three games.

Junior right handed pitcher #5 Austin Kapela, senior right handed pitcher #14 Tyler Jeans and junior left handed pitcher #18 Hunter Draper pitched at least five innings in their starts. Jeans had the most innings out of the three with 6.1 and the most strikeouts with seven. Kapela only gave up one earned run in his start. The bullpen was scattered between 13 different pitchers in the series. Nine out of the 15 relief pitchers did not give up a run. A strong bullpen will carry this team, because defense wins championships. “We are thrilled to play a lot of home games early in the season.

This is a group of 22 newcomers and 15 returners. They have meshed really well and we like what we see. Having the older guys with the experience teach the younger guys the experiences they have been through,” Head Coach Tommy Raffo said. As a team, A-State had 39 total hits compared to Pine Bluff’s 23. The Red Wolves also had 10 more runs batted in than Pine Bluff, with 23. The team’s batting average was .364 in the series, which is exactly what this team was hoping for. “We were able to string together quality at-bats to score runs. The offense was able to

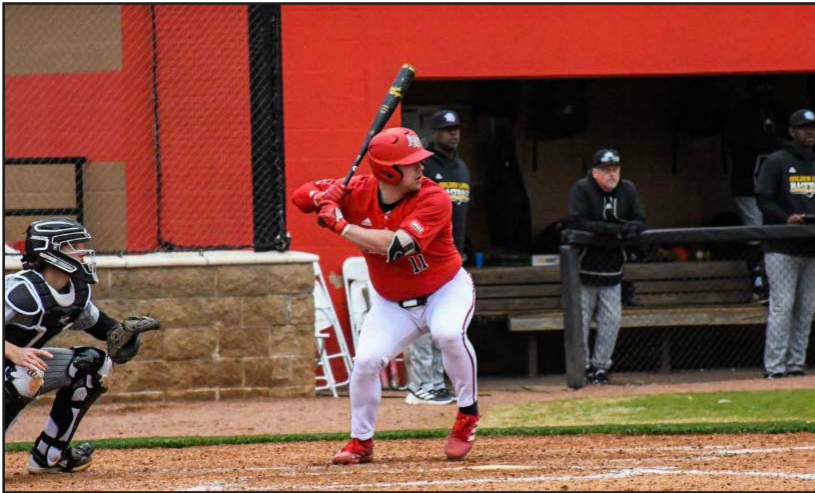


PHOTO COURTESY OF A-STATE ATHLETICS

Junior catcher #11 Brandon Hager awaiting the pitch against Pine Bluff.

produce more of the long ball on Sunday, because the first two days were windy,” Raffo said. Arkansas State will look to continue their winning streak as they travel to play against the College World Series defending champion Ole Miss Rebels on Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 4 p.m on SEC Network +. After that, the Red Wolves play a home series against Illinois State Feb. 24-26 on The Ticket Radio Network. First game at 6 p.m., the second at 3 p.m. and the third at 1 p.m.

Higginbottom’s season-high 25 points helps the Lady Red Wolves win 69–59



Photo by Emiliano Ceballos | Sports Photographer

Sophomore guard #0 Jade Upshaw with a three-point jump-shot. Sophomore guard #23 Izzy Higginbottom played one of her best games with 25 points, seven field-goals made, two three-pointers made and nine free-throws made. The Lady Red Wolves play at home against ULM on Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. on ESPN +.

Fields, Ford Jr.’s combined 43 points route to 75–70 win against Georgia State



Photo by Emiliano Ceballos | Sports Photographer

First-year guard #11 Terrance Ford Jr. dribbling down the court. In the men’s basketball team’s last home game, Ford Jr. had 22 points while junior guard #0 Caleb Fields had 21 points. As a team, they had 29 rebounds and 10 assists. The rest of the season is on the road, as they play Louisiana Lafayette on Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 7:30 p.m. on ESPN +.

A-State bowling produces first Baker 300 game in program history



PHOTO COURTESY OF A-STATE ATHLETICS

Sophomore Brooklyn Buchanan The Arkansas State bowling team finished fourth at the Mid-Winter Invitational. First-year Karli VanDuinen, junior Sarah Sanes, junior Emma Stull, junior Faith Welch and Brooklyn Buchanan were the five to complete the first Baker 300 game in program history.