

There is not a moment to spare when it comes to bowling

CAROLINE AVERITT

STAFF WRITER

The Arkansas State Women's Bowling team finds itself ranked in the top ten in the nation with a current 37-17 win-to-loss ratio.

The team, coached by Head Coach Justin Kostick and Assistant Coach Taylor Bailey, will be traveling to Orlando for the Sunshine State Classic, Feb. 10-12. The team will play in several other tournaments for the remainder of the season, including the Mid-Winter Invitational at Hijinx Family Entertainment Center in Jonesboro, Feb. 17-19. Spectators can watch the Mid-Winter Invitational at Hijinx for free.

Though the team ranks highly, they have been working to climb higher.

"We're ranked about sixth or seventh in the country right now but ideally, we would like to be in the top four," Bailey said. "The past couple tournaments haven't gone to our liking so we've just been putting extra work in. Sixth and seventh is not a bad spot, but it's just not where we'd like to be."

This year marks Bailey's second season coaching at A-State. She bowled at McKendree University from 2016-2020. She helped her team with an NCAA national championship in 2017. She also made Junior Team USA



Sophomore Brooklyn Buchanan following through her roll.

Photo Courtesy of Arkansas State Athletics

in 2028 and got chosen to travel to the World Youth Championships where her team won the gold medal. One standout player, Brooklyn Buchanan, helped the team beat Vanderbilt by six points and McKendree by one point.

"She just amazes me every day," Bailey said, "she's pretty amazing at doing really big things."

Brooklyn Buchanan, a senior management major from Snohomish, Washington, said, "The women's bowling team at A-State is a top ranked program in the nation and I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to begin competing here as a freshman in 2020."

Buchanan began bowling when she was young due to its strong presence in her community and began taking

it seriously in order to win scholarships. She has earned many honors in bowling including All Tournament Team finishes, being named to the All Southland Conference 1st Team, and being named a 1st Team NTCA All-American.

Another notable player, Faith Welch, recently returned to the team after taking some time off after a surgery. "Faith is incredible. She just

came back from having wrist surgery. She took last semester off and now she is right back into the semester as if nothing ever happened. I think that is just amazing to do, I mean, it's not easy to overcome a major surgery, especially on a body part that really involves your sport," Bailey said.

Faith Welch, a senior psychology major from Hardin County, Tennessee,

began bowling her third grade year when her school started a team. She stuck with it through high school and her team won state every year.

Welch said, "I was injured last year and just had surgery on my right wrist August 12th, 2022 which has created a major setback for me this year. I had ECU tendon reconstruction and TFCC debridement as well as two anchors attaching my ECU tendon to my ulna."

Since recovering, she slowly began playing again. She said her favorite part of this season has been getting to play again for the first time since last season.

"There will always be hardships in life but how we deal with them will determine our future,"

The team will play in just five more tournaments this season. After those, the NCAA will host Regionals and then the Championship. The team is working hard to continue a successful season.

"Just like any other sports team on campus, we love support from and interacting with the community. Our home center is at The Social in Jonesboro and we would love to see more members of the community coming out to grab some lunch and see us practice," Buchanan said.

The team's goal for the remainder of the season: to win the National Championship.

Back in the win column

BRAYDEN MORSE

SPORTS EDITOR

The Arkansas State men's basketball team snapped their 10-game losing streak by beating Coastal Carolina 73-57.

For the first two and a half minutes, no one scored. Finally, a free-throw by Coastal Carolina junior guard #0 Kylan Blackman made it 1-0 with 18:34.

After that, it was a back and forth game. The Red Wolves ended up leading at halftime 28-24 due to first-year guard #11 Terrance Ford Jr. knocking down three three-point shots.

The second half was a lot similar to the first. A back and forth game until A-State got up 36-30, with that score remaining the same from 16:20 to 14:38. Almost two minutes without anyone scoring. Obviously great defense took place in this situation.

With 13:04 left in the game, a free-throw made by senior forward #22 Omar El-Sheikh

gave the Red Wolves a 10-point advantage, with a score of 43-33. After that, the lead and momentum took off for this team.

"Very proud of my guys in the stretch of adversity the last four weeks. It has been a tough month. What hurts me is the effort that they are putting in everyday is spectacular and I am trying to keep them positive," Head Coach Mike Balado said.

The heart and savior of this team and in this game was junior guard #0 Caleb Fields. He finished with a team-leading 19 points, three assists and was 6-10 from field-goal range.

"It feels good to win. We have not done it in a while, so it feels great," Fields said.

Ford Jr. and El-Sheikh both finished with 16 points. Ford Jr. also led the team with eight rebounds.

"Each game I am getting better and better. To come in and get a win makes it feel like we got our swagger back," Ford Jr. said. As a team, A-State shot

22-50 (44.0%) from field-goal range, 8-23 (34.8%) from three-point range, had 31 rebounds and 11 assists.

Arkansas State will travel to play Texas State on Thursday at 7 p.m. on ESPN+. The Bobcats, who are 11-14, have an 80.3% chance of winning according to ESPN Analytics. The Red Wolves have a chance to improve their winning streak and defy the odds.



Photo by Emiliano Ceballos | Sports Photographer

Junior guard #0 Caleb Fields slamming a dunk on a Coastal Carolina defender.



Photo by Emiliano Ceballos | Sports Photographer

Caleb Fields celebrating his dunk.

Pyeatt, Newton-Smith named SBC weekly honors

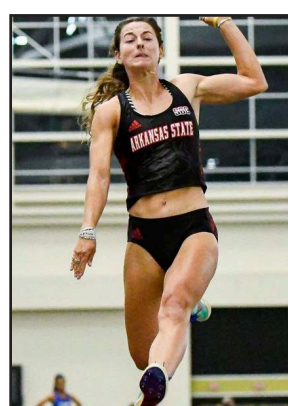


Photo Courtesy of Arkansas State Athletics

Senior Camryn Newton-Smith in mid-air.

Midway through the indoor season, Newton-Smith added Women's Field Athlete of the Week to her already impressive resume, while junior Jacob Pyeatt received the honor for Men's Track Athlete of the Week.

Pyeatt's second career weekly award, and third for Newton-Smith

At the UW Invitational last weekend in Seattle, Pyeatt ran the 3000 meters in the second-fastest time in school history. His time leads the Sun Belt Conference and was over 10 seconds faster than his previous best.

After an outstanding weekend at the Texas Tech Multis, Newton-Smith enters the week as one of the best pentathletes in the world. She is ranked fifth and has the best pentathlon score in the NCAA (4,356).