

Women's track and field earns multiple awards



PHOTO COURTESY OF A-STATE ATHLETICS

Senior Camryn Newton-Smith won Sun Belt Conference Women's Field Performer of the Year and became an All-American athlete after competing in the NCAA Division one Track and Field Championship.

BRAYDEN MORSE

SPORTS EDITOR

The Red Wolves reigned victorious in the Indoor Sun Belt Conference Championship on Feb. 21 while winning several awards based on their performances in the event and the overall season.

Dr. Jim Patchell, the Arkansas State director of track and field/cross country, won men's and women's Coach of the Year honors. Patchell has now received 17 men's awards and 18 women's awards. The Red Wolves have 24 conference titles under Patchell's tenure and became the SBC's winningest program indoors with 11 men's titles and eight women's titles.

Senior Camryn Newton-

Smith won SBC Women's Field Performer of the Year and became an All-American after competing in the NCAA Division One Track and Field Championships.

Newton-Smith competed in the pentathlon but withdrew due to injury. The three events she competed in were the 60-meter hurdles, shot-put and high jump. She is the first Red Wolf women's athlete with multiple All-American honors since Sharika Nelvis in 2013 and 2014.

"I am so proud to be a part of this team. My strength has definitely been my perseverance," Newton-Smith said. She totaled 2,644 points across the three events, and was leading in the high jump before her injury. She was

also sitting in third in shot put and posted a career-best 8.35 in the 60-meter hurdles.

"Our constant goal is to see her perform at a level she is capable of each day. I'm proud of her achievements because seeing her work at a level that most people can't take themselves I believe she deserves the payoff of the records she's achieved," Arkansas State track and field coach and Newton-Smith's event coach, Matt Vining said.

Newton-Smith ended her indoor season with the second-highest pentathlon score in the nation entering the NCAA Championships. The score of 4,356 points was good for a school record and SBC record.

First-year Rahel Broemmel won SBC Women's Freshman

of the Year while ending her first season as a silver medalist in both the mile and 3000 meters in the Indoor SBC Championship. The first-year had a league-leading 4:42.69 mile, which broke the first-year school record. Her 9:30.02 time in the 3000 meters awarded her second place in the conference.

Five women received all-conference honors. Sophomore Cheyenne Melvin and graduate student Pauline Meyer won first-team awards. Broemmel and graduate student Hannah Morris were awarded second-team honors. Newton-Smith earned third-team honors.

The outdoor season starts in Starkville, Mississippi at the Al Schmidt Bulldog Relays on March 23-25.

A-State baseball loses home series to Eastern Illinois

BRAYDEN MORSE

SPORTS EDITOR

The Arkansas State baseball team lost both games in series to Eastern Illinois after rain delayed game two for two days.

In game one A-State lost 11-8 as all 11 runs were earned for the Panthers. Senior right-handed pitcher #14 Tyler Jeans went five innings, gave up six hits and five runs with two walks. Jeans also threw over 100 pitches with 104 total.

Junior right-handed pitcher #25 Max Charlton had a tough game as he could not record an out in his outing. Charlton gave up two hits, four hits and two walks on only 15 pitches.

Even though the pitching was a concern, the offense was able to produce lots of runs. The Red Wolves outthit Eastern Illinois 14-13.

Sophomore infielder #10 Wil French, junior outfielder #9 Blake Burris and junior catcher #11 Brandon Hager each had three hits with four

runs batted in combined.

"Wil (French) has been growing. He was in the leadoff spot last year and then we had to move him down later in the year. He is a lot stronger now, a lot more mature and does a great job of getting on base," Head coach Tommy Raffo said.

Arkansas State was up 6-5 in the bottom of the fourth inning thanks to Hager's double to right center as French scored. After that, the Panthers took over. Eastern Illinois scored five unanswered runs due to their 10 runs batted in and A-State's eight walks defensively.

In game two, the Red Wolves lost 12-6 after the game was delayed in the fifth inning on March 11 and finished on March 13.

Arkansas State was outthit 14-10 with Eastern Illinois scoring six runs in extra innings. The Panthers scattered five runs in the seventh inning, only scoring in two innings of the game.

Junior left-handed pitcher #18 Hunter Draper had

a good outing with four innings and only one earned run. Draper only gave up five hits through 88 pitches.

Redshirt first-year right-handed pitcher/outfielder #2 Kyler Carmack pitched two and two-thirds innings. Carmack gave up two runs but led the pitching staff with three strikeouts.

Only nine of the 12 runs scored for Eastern Illinois were earned as A-State had one crucial error in the top of the seventh with two runs scored.

Graduate student infielder #36 Kody Darcy was the highlight of the game for the Red Wolves going 2-4 with three runs batted in and one walk. 13 different players had at-bats for Arkansas State with lots of substitutions.

The offense continues to produce runs as the defense continues to lack on the mound. The Red Wolves have given up at least five runs in the last five games. In those five games, A-State has won

just one game with four losses.

Game three was supposed to be played right after game two but got canceled.

A-State is now even at .500 with a 7-7 record on the season.

Arkansas State will travel to Lafayette, Louisiana to play the Ragin' Cajuns Friday-Sunday in their first conference series. First game is at 6 p.m., second is at 2 p.m. and the third is at 1 p.m. The series will be on ESPN+



PHOTO COURTESY OF A-STATE ATHLETICS

Sophomore infielder #10 Wil French

House Energy and Commerce Committee to hold a hearing on name image likeness rights



PHOTO COURTESY OF ESPN

The House Energy and Commerce Committee told ESPN it plans to hold a hearing to discuss NIL rights of college athletes on March 29.

New NCAA president Charlie Baker has been asked by NCAA member schools to convince Congress to give them control over how college athletes make money. Baker started his tenure on March 1 and plans to make several changes.

NIL stands for name, image and likeness. It describes how college athletes are allowed to receive financial compensation. Athletes can be sponsored through marketing and promotional set outs.

"I think the conversation with Congress will inform the conversation with membership about this stuff, and vice versa. I understand and appreciate the difficulties of working something through a legislative process," Baker said.

The last time a hearing was held was in 2021. Both the House and Senate were not able to come to an agreement on a new federal law. In the past three years, more than half a dozen different federal bills have been proposed.

Schmidt Finishes Runner-Up to Lead A-State at Spring Break Shootout



Finishing second individually, senior Olivia Schmidt led the Arkansas State women's golf team to a tie for fifth place finish at the Spring Break Shootout at Lake Jovita Golf & Country Club.

Schmidt turned in an even-par 71 in the final round to finish up with an even-par 213 for the event, three strokes shy of Ruth Toennesen of Morehead State for individual medalist honors. For Schmidt, it marked her 11th par or better round this season and 43rd career.

Elise Schultz earned a top-25 finish placing 23rd with a total of 223 (72-78-73) following a final round 2-over par 73. Morgan Beaulieu tied for 25th with a total of 224 (77-74-73) also posting a 2-over par round Tuesday. Kayla Burke carded a 5-over par 76 to finish up tied for 44th with a total of 228 (75-77-76) while Casey Sommer was 4-over par 75 to finish tied for 48th with a total of 229 (80-74-75). Playing as an individual, Charlotte Menager turned in a final round 1-over par 72 to move up 17 spots and tie for 30th with a total of 225 (75-78-72).

A-State posted its lowest round of the event with an 8-over par 292 to tie for fifth with Jacksonville State. Western Kentucky was 2-under par in the final round and won the event at 10-over par 862. Florida Gulf Coast totaled 868 (+16) to finish second while Troy (+20) and Morehead State (+27) finished third and fourth, respectively.

PHOTO & STORY COURTESY OF A-STATE ATHLETICS

Correction: The Esports graphic is last weeks paper was made by Spencer Mccorkle. Chase Irvin should have been identified as Chase Ervin.