

First National Bank construction scheduled for completion in early May

BRAYDEN MORSE

SPORTS EDITOR

Sprinkler system pipes froze during winter break, causing damage at First National Bank Arena.

The damage was located on the red entrance of the arena, where the ticket office is. The red entrance was not used for both the men's and women's basketball seasons. The ticket office was temporarily moved to the Fowler Center until construction is complete.

"Numerous buildings on campus were damaged when pipes burst. Most were sprinkler system pipes. Many portions of the project are expected to be completed by Spring Commencement in early May," Bill Smith, Ph.D., chief communications officer, said.

Throughout the construction, tape was put up around the red entrance. The tape was torn down by construction workers, indicating work being done.

"The construction workers tore down the tape to have more room in the area. The red entrance is still closed, even with the tape down," Jim Brown, director of First National Bank Arena said.

First National Bank Arena is home to both the men's and women's Red Wolf basketball teams and volleyball. The arena is also used for concerts and events throughout the year.

The Harlem Globetrotters 2023 World Tour will be held Thursday at 7 p.m. The Globetrotters will face the Washington Generals. After the game, a meet and greet will take place on the court, with autographs for the Globetrotters ticket holders.

"The construction will not affect the Globetrotters event," Smith said.

Plans for building a multi-purpose arena in Jonesboro, Arkansas, were announced in 1985. Because it was built on Arkansas State University's campus, the arena was initially known as the ASU Convocation Center. The arena was designed by HOK Sport (now Populous) and constructed by Flintco.

The arena's construction began in 1986 and was completed in 1987 at a cost of \$15 million. On November 28, 1987, the arena opened with a basketball game between A-State and the University of Dayton.

The arena has a seating capacity of 10,563 for basketball



Photo by Brayden Morse | Sports Editor

First National Bank construction has been ongoing on the red entrance, since December 2022.

games and up to 11,000 for concerts and other events.

The arena underwent a major renovation in 2001, including luxury suites, an upgraded sound system and a video scoreboard. After First National

Bank purchased the naming rights in 2009, the arena was renamed the ASU Convocation Center at First National Bank Arena. The arena underwent another major renovation in 2019, including upgrades to

seating, lighting and sound systems. In addition, it included the installation of an upgraded center-hung video scoreboard.

Notable performers at the arena include Garth Brooks, Elton John and Metallica.

First National Bank Arena has become a central part of the Jonesboro community, providing entertainment and events for people of all ages and interests.

Baseball loses weekend series at Texas State in heartbreak fashion

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In game one, the Red Wolves lost 8-7, with both teams committing three errors.

A-State started off the game with three runs in the top of the first inning, while Texas State answered back with four in the bottom of the first inning.

Overall, the game was matched with runs inning by inning. Texas State eventually walked it off in extra innings, with an RBI single up the middle of the infield.

In game two, A-State won 5-4. The Red Wolves outthit the Bobcats 6-4.

Five runs were scored in the fifth inning by Arkansas State, to give a promising lead. Texas State scored four runs in the seventh inning, but it was not enough as they did not score another run the rest of the game.

In game three, Arkansas State lost 7-6, as the Bobcats only had four hits.

The Red Wolves produced offensively with double-digit hits, but the pitching gave up

seven walks to give Texas State free passes to the base path.

Sophomore infielder #10 Wil French, is leading the team with a .361 batting average. French is also leading the team with a .496 on-base percentage and 24 walks. Junior catcher #11 Brandon Hager is right behind French with a .337 average. Hager is also leading the team in homeruns with five. Graduate student #36 Kody Darcy, owns the team's most RBIs with 31.

Redshirt freshman #2 Kyler Carmack, leads the pitching

staff with a 2.97 earned run average, through 33.1 innings. A reminder that the pitching statistic leaders are determined with each pitcher, pitching 10 or more innings.

Senior pitcher #14 Tyler Jeans leads the pitching staff in strikeouts with 40 through 28 innings.

The Red Wolves will be back in action on Thursday at home against Troy, in a three-game series. First pitch is at 6 p.m. on ESPN+ and The Ticket Radio Network.



PHOTO COURTESY OF A-STATE ATHLETICS

Junior catcher #11 Brandon Hager awaiting the pitch.

Tennis team swept at James Madison

The Red Wolves were swept 7-0 at James Madison in a weekend road trip.

First-year Anna Borovinskaya and reshirt first-year Abigail Thurmer lost 6-1.

Junior Rebecca Brody and junior Yasmine Humbert also lost 6-1.

First-year Sarah Millard and sophomore Sofia Vdoychenko were trailing 5-3 when James Madison clinched the doubles point.

Humbert lost in the last match dropping the contest 6-1, 7-6 (7-2).

The Red Wolves will look to bounce back in a conference match against Coastal Carolina on Friday.



PHOTO COURTESY OF A-STATE ATHLETICS

Junior Yasmine Humbert following through her swing.

Women's golf claims fourth place at ULM Invitational



PHOTO COURTESY OF A-STATE ATHLETICS

First-year Olivia Coit

Arkansas State completed a 15-over par 303, totaling 902 (+38) in the final round of the tournament to place fourth. A-State will travel to Daytona Beach and LGPA International for the Sun Belt Conference Championship April 16-18.

Stats of women's golf team at ULM Invitational:

7th place first-year Morgan Beaulieu 73-73-76=222 (+6)

T9th place senior Olivia Schmidt 70-77-77=224 (+8)

T14th place junior Elise Schultz 74-77-74=225 (+9)

T22nd place junior Kayla Burke 79-75-75=229 (+13)

T33rd place sophomore Charlotte Menager 73-85-76=234 (+18)

T33rd place first-year Olivia Coit 77-79-78=234 (+18)

T42nd place senior Casey Sommer 79-82-78=239 (+23)

46th place Sydni Leung 81-82-80=243 (+27)