

Red Wolves bowling advances to NCAA Championship

BRAYDEN MORSE

SPORTS EDITOR

The Arkansas State Red Wolves bowling team defeated North Carolina A&T 2-0 advancing to the 2023 NCAA Championship for the fifth time in program history.

In the first match, A-State took a 1-0 lead with four Red Wolf bowlers scoring over 200.

Sophomore Brooklyn Buchanan had the highest score with a 237 followed by Junior Faith Welch with 235 points, Junior Emma Stull with 225 points and first-year Karli VanDuinen 204 points. The two-handed bowler, first-year Maggie Thoma downed 167 pins.

"We have been doing so much better in the second-half of the season. We have gained confidence, especially with this win," Thoma said.

In game one versus North Carolina A&T, the Red Wolves produced an 80-pin lead in Baker total pinfall, winning 248-168. A-State won a closely fought game two with a score of 222-203, increasing the lead to 99 pins. A-State efficiently won the match in game four, rolling an impressive 248 to the Aggies' 194 and leading by 132 pins going into the final game. Although the Aggies managed to cut the deficit to 78 pins in game three with a score of 225-204, they were still behind by 132 pins going into game four.

The Red Wolves maintained their superiority in game five, going 5-for-5 in 200 games with a score of 211-204, and winning the match 1,133-994 in total pinfall. Arkansas State's 1,133 total pinfall was the third-highest production for the team this season,

reflecting their outstanding performance in the matches.

With the victory, A-State improves its season record to 82-29 and boasts an impressive 29-3 record in its last 32 head-to-head matches.

"I like where we are at. It is always an honor to represent and play for a national championship. Hopefully we can do our best and bring one home," Head Coach Justin Kostick said.

Arkansas State finished runner-up in 2008 and 2021, with third-place awards in 2010 and 2013 the last four times in the NCAA Championship. The Red Wolves look to bring their first program title home in history.

The NCAA Championship will be played April 14-15 at South Point Bowling Plaza in Las Vegas, Nevada on YouTube TV. No. 3 A-State will face No. 2 Vanderbilt.



PHOTO COURTESY OF A-STATE ATHLETICS

Two-handed bowler, first-year Maggie Thoma following through her roll.

Men's and women's basketball land transfers



PHOTO COURTESY OF UB ATHLETICS

Senior forward LaQuill Hardnett



PHOTO COURTESY OF ULM WARHAWKS

Sophomore guard Bre Sutton

defensive rebounds, shoot mid-range and score inside the paint.

Newly hired A-State Head Coach Bryan Hodgson, coached for University of Buffalo from 2015-2019 which gave him a connection to Hardnett.

"LaQuill and I have known each other for the last five years as I recruited him to Buffalo. I've gotten to watch him compete from high school all the way through his college career and his growth is amazing. I look forward to finally getting the opportunity to coach him as he will add a lot of versatility to our front court. He will be able to play the three, the four and even the small-ball five at times. LaQuill's ability to stretch the floor and his tenacity on the glass will be a huge addition to Arkansas State," Hodgson said.

Dominguez and Hardnett look to improve Arkansas State's frontcourt as forward Markise Davis and forward Omar El-Sheikh graduated.

The Lady Red Wolves added ULM transfer, sophomore guard Bre Sutton and University of Denver transfer, junior forward Cheyenne Forney.

Sutton averaged 8.8 points per game, 4.2 rebounds and 3.8 assists per game. A-State plays ULM constantly throughout the season, allowing them to get plenty of film on Sutton. Her quickness down the court and play-making ability provides Arkansas State a spark in the guard position. She will replace former sophomore guard Jade Upshaw, as she transferred to University of Central Arkansas.

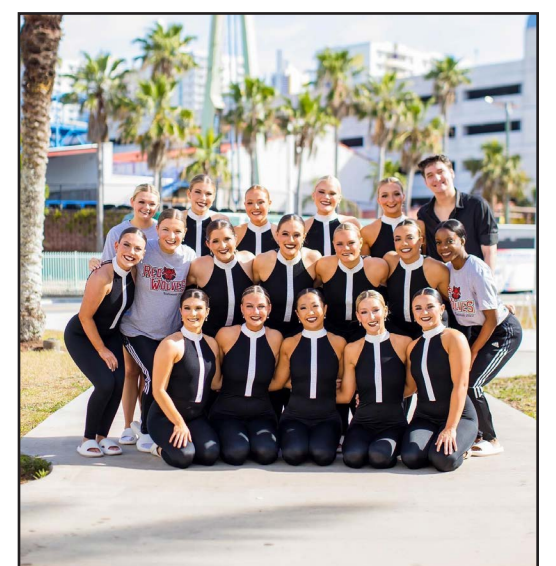
Forney has a height of 6'3", giving her the ability to make offensive and defensive rebounds along with the guards floating her the ball to score inside the paint. Forney is also the tallest player on the team for the 2023-24 season.

A-State cheer and dance finishes top-10 in the nation



BOTH PHOTOS COURTESY OF A-STATE SPIRIT SQUADS FACEBOOK PAGE

Arkansas State cheer (left) and Arkansas State dance (right).



Red Wolf cheer and dance competed in the National Cheerleaders Association and National Dance Association College Nationals in Daytona Beach, Florida for top-10 finishes in the nation. The cheer team finished third place in the D1A Advanced Small Co-Ed, the best overall score in program history. The dance team finished 8th place in the D1A Jazz Routine with a 93.4 score. The score was also their best overall score in program history. Their routine song was "My Way" by Frank Sinatra.

Baseball team travels to play Georgia State in weekend series



PHOTO COURTESY OF A-STATE ATHLETICS

Junior infielder #4 Jared Toler approaching the pitch.

April 14 (Fri) at 5 p.m.
April 15 (Sat) at 2 p.m.
April 16 (Sun) at noon
Tune in to listen to the series on The Ticket Radio Network

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SPORTS EDITOR

Both A-State basketball teams add transfer talent to their rosters for the 2023-24 season.

The men's team added UMass transfer, junior forward Dyondre Dominguez and University of Buffalo transfer, senior forward LaQuill Hardnett.

In the 2022-23 season, Dominguez averaged 8.7 points and 4.4 rebounds per game, along with a 73.1% from free-throws. Hardnett averaged 11.1 points and 7.3 rebounds per game.

Dominguez has a height of 6'9" to get up to the basket for rebounds, with nice left-handed shooting ability outside the arc. His height and aggressiveness to score, gives him an advantage inside the paint.

Hardnett has a height of 6'8". His fast-paced ability allows him to play everywhere on the court. He can shoot outside the arc, make offensive and