

## A weekend of record-breaking in baseball

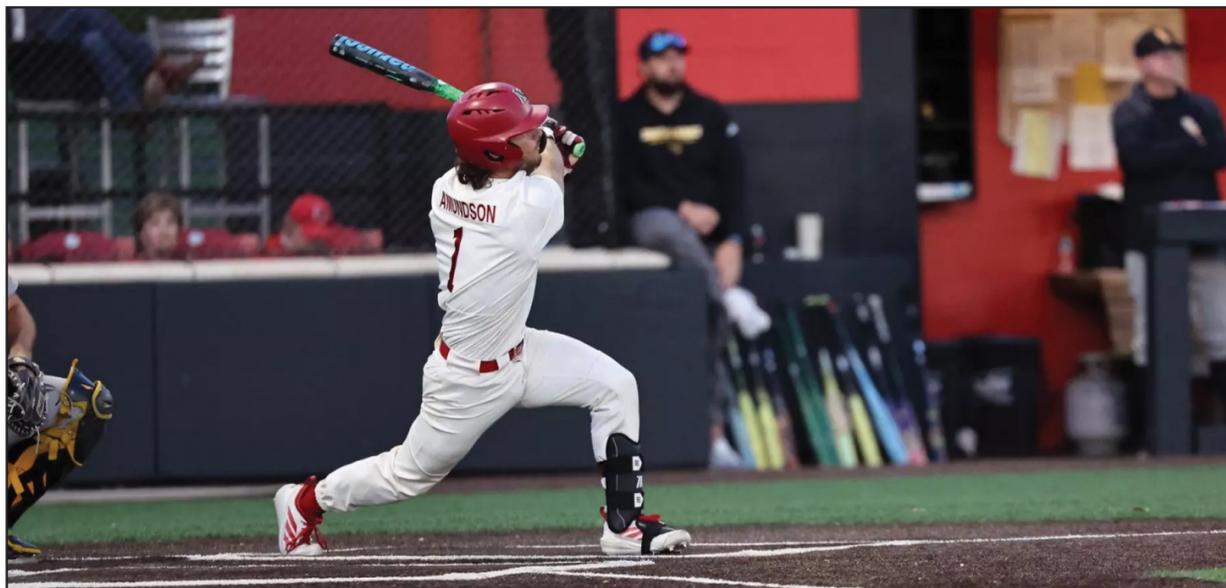


PHOTO COURTESY OF A-STATE ATHLETICS

Catcher Kaden Amundson swings at the Southern Miss pitch in game one of the weekend series. Amundson had two RBIs and a home run in Friday's win against the Golden Eagles.

ERIC FLUKE

SPORTS EDITOR

Arkansas State baseball made history this weekend with their first series win ever against the Southern Miss Golden Eagles, beating their second nationally ranked team this season and breaking attendance records on back-to-back days.

The Golden Eagles were ranked seventh in the nation going into Friday against an upset-hungry Red Wolves team in their first Sun Belt conference clash of the season. From the start of game one, it became obvious to Southern Miss that this series would not be an easy fight.

The first two innings left the scoreboard empty as the opposing pitchers continued to dish out strikeouts to batters and defenses locked up any base runners or fly balls. Both teams only gave up one hit as neither side could make a solid move on the bases. That was until the

third inning came around.

After moving two runners to first and second base on a crucial walk and throwing error from A-State pitcher Chase Richter, Southern Miss center fielder Joey Urban swung for the fences and sent the three Golden Eagles home, putting the visitors up 3-0 at the top of the third.

At the bottom of the inning, A-State responded with a run from catcher Kaden Amundson after hitting his own double and scoring on second baseman Lane Walton's single. Following a shutout against Southern Miss in the top of the fourth, Amundson acted as the offense's catalyst again with his first home run of the season. He sent himself and third baseman Raul Torres back home to even up the game at 3-3.

Amundson was the driving force of the offense through the first few innings, totaling up two RBIs and two runs without striking out. Despite his mistakes in the third, Richter made his mark on the defensive end, serving up

seven strikeouts and allowing only four hits through 6.1 IP.

Two more scoreless innings in the fifth and sixth from both teams followed Amundson's homer before A-State firmly grasped the lead.

After blowing a bases-loaded situation earlier in the game, designated hitter Aiden Houseworth redeemed himself in the seventh inning. With bases loaded, he sent a hit right up the left side foul line and sent three runners home. Head Coach Mike Silva chose to send out pinch runner Cougar Cooke in place of Houseworth, who added one more run to the inning following first baseman Cason Campbell's single.

The last two runs of the game came in the bottom of the eighth for the Red Wolves and top of the ninth for the Golden Eagles, bringing the game to a close with a 8-5 victory for the home team.

In the first-ever win against Southern Miss, the Red Wolves managed to bring in record attendance, packing Tomlinson

Stadium with 1,748 people. Evidently, fans were eager to see how the team fared in game two as the record was shattered the very next day with 1,972 people in the crowd.

This time around, the fans were treated to an unpleasant turn of events from Friday's win. By the time the Golden Eagles played their fourth batter in the first inning, they had already scored two runs on a homer from left fielder Davis Gillespie.

Meanwhile, A-State's offense was a shell of itself from Friday. Their only run of the day came in the bottom of the seventh, where Campbell hit his third home run of the season to send himself around the bases.

With how stagnant the offense played, pitcher Jack Nelson kept the Red Wolves in the game, throwing nine strikeouts with five hits allowed in 5.0 IP. Both sides continued to battle with their defense as neither team gave up any errors throughout the game.

Southern Miss scored their third run in the sixth

inning to create a 3-1 lead, but A-State was still within reach of a win most of the game.

Where things turned for the worst was the last inning on Saturday. After only giving up three runs throughout the match, the A-State defense allowed four runs in the ninth alone. Pitcher Collin Maloney, who had taken over for Nelson earlier in the game, gave up a walk and single, and from that point, at least two runners were on base during each at-bat until the end of the inning.

Even after switching pitchers twice, A-State could not contain the barrage of runners from Southern Miss, extending the deficit to 7-1. When given a chance to retaliate at the bottom of the ninth, the Red Wolves continued to stumble, with all three at-bats ending in an out to put the team out of its misery.

Despite the undesirable performance on Saturday, A-State used its last chance on Sunday to prove that its series opener win was not just a fluke.

Southern Miss entered the game looking gassed, going three and out at the plate in the opening inning before moving to defense. Their energy on offense carried over to the bottom of the first where A-State took the chance to capitalize on errors.

After right fielder Evan Griffis and shortstop Patrick Engskov advanced to first and second base, a fielding error on a Houseworth hit gave Engskov the chance to put the Red Wolves on the scoreboard. A wild pitch and another fielding error at the next two at-bats sent Griffis and Houseworth home as well, capping off a 3-0 start to game three.

Both teams eventually locked in to plateau the lead until the fourth inning, where a failed pickoff by Red Wolves pitcher Dylan Farley gave way for a Gillespie run to put

Southern Miss on the board. The score became 3-2 in the sixth inning where center fielder Joey Urban hit a solo homer to make it a single run game.

The Red Wolves decided to start a home run derby following Urban's score. To tack on the final points of the game, Griffis and Campbell sent two balls out of the park to bring themselves back to home plate. Griffis finished the game with a team-high two runs and tied with Campbell and the Eagles' Urban for a game-high of one RBI.

Southern Miss could not climb out of the 5-2 deficit at the top of the ninth, going scoreless to seal the series.

In a match-up where they came in as the heavy underdog, A-State stunned a top ten Golden Eagles team to further build their season resume after a win against number six Arkansas in late February. As of publication, A-State received its first national ranking from Baseball America, ending up as 22nd out of 25 on the list for week six of the collegiate season.

The Red Wolves look to keep up their hot streak and climb up the standings as they visit Georgia State for a three game series this weekend.

### What's Next:

**Opponent:**  
Georgia State

**Date:**  
March 20-22, 2026

**Where:** Atlanta, GA

**Tune in:** ESPN+

## Red Wolves fall to number 28 Wichita State 4-0

EVIE ELLIS

STAFF WRITER

The Red Wolves women's tennis team fell 4-0 to Wichita State after the Shockers secured the doubles point and three straight singles victories.

The Shockers entered the match ranked 28th nationally, but the Red Wolves ultimately came up short in their attempt to pull off the upset.

On court one, the Shockers' pairing of Giorgia Roselli and Xin Tong Wang defeated the Red Wolves' Anna Grigoreva and Carla Muro Castevelli 6-4.

Grigoreva entered the program with an impressive junior background, including multiple International Tennis Federation (ITF) titles and a career-high junior ranking of No. 209, the highest of any player to enter the Red Wolves program in school history. Not only did Grigoreva compete at the No. 1 position for the Red Wolves in doubles, but she also carried her position into singles for the third competition in a row.



PHOTO COURTESY OF A-STATE ATHLETICS

Hanmare McAslin prepares her stance to rally the ball. She led her singles match against Shockers' Kristina Kudryavtseva 7-6 and 5-0 before it was suspended following Wichita State clinching the competition win.

In singles play, Grigoreva faced another match-up against the Shockers' also nationally ranked opponent, Wang. Wang holds the title of the 2025 American Conference Doubles Champion, which she secured without a single loss in any set.

In a battle of some of the nation's best, Wang snatched the victory over Grigoreva in

straight sets, coming out 6-4 and 6-1 to extend the Shockers' lead during singles play.

Earlier in the doubles match-ups, the Red Wolves' Helena Bueno and Hanmare McAslin fell 6-1 on court two to Kris Kudryavtseva and Theodora Chantava.

The Red Wolves showed more promise on court three,

where Lily Cvanciger and Sarah Millard held a 5-4 lead, but the game ultimately ended unfinished with the Shockers claiming the point in doubles.

The Red Wolves remained unable to pick up any momentum during their singles matches following Grigoreva's loss, resulting in the Shockers' Theodora

Chavta defeating Bueno 6-4.

Roselli secured the final point for the Shockers to walk away with the victory on the day, ringing up a 6-2 and 6-4 win over Lily Cvanciger.

Roselli has played at the No. 2 singles position for her past five games leading up to the contest against the Red Wolves

and also partners with Wang in doubles. The pair entered the season ranked No. 31 in preseason doubles rankings, which further highlights her importance to the team.

Many other singles matches went unfinished after the Shockers secured the point. The Red Wolves' McAslin held a strong 7-6 and 5-0 lead before play was halted.

McAslin holds a 20-17 career singles record and a 21-15 record in doubles, which shows her versatility in both formats. Prior to becoming a Red Wolf, McAslin won two ITF J30 singles titles and two of the same awards in doubles.

In addition to McAslin's lead on court four, play was also stopped on courts five and six for players Meghna Arun Kumar and Carla Muro Castellvi, where both Red Wolves trailed behind their opponents.

Despite the disappointing result, A-State will look forward to their next match-up against the Georgia Southern Eagles on March 20.

## Men's Golf finishes fifth at Seminoles Invitational



PHOTO COURTESY OF A-STATE ATHLETICS

Men's golf member Thomas Schmidt follows through with his swing. The team participated in the Seminoles Invitational this past weekend where they placed fifth. Schmidt finished in a tie for 11th where he finished with a 54-hole total of 2-over par 218. The golf team will compete at the Pay It Forward Collegiate competition in Arizona starting on March 23.

## Rating Pannone's first year



PHOTO COURTESY OF 93.5 THE TICKET

Ryan Pannone holds a jersey as he is introduced as the new men's basketball head coach. In his first year with the team, he led the Red Wolves to a 20-11 record.

### ALLIE CARSON

#### NEWS EDITOR

Men's Basketball Head Coach Ryan Pannone ended his first year with the Arkansas State Red Wolves tied for second and seeded seventh in conference, with a record of 20-12. While some may doubt his leadership and outcome, I believe his first will be his worst year with this team.

But for next year, I see the Arkansas State Red Wolves going 25-7 in the regular season, losing both games to South Alabama because we can't seem to figure them out, splitting the series with Troy and Georgia Southern, two random out of conference losses and a MAC-Challenge loss.

The Red Wolves will make it to the finals in the tournament, getting their get-back against Georgia Southern and South Alabama before ultimately getting bounced by Troy in the finals because, well, it's Troy.

Ever since his first press conference at A-State, I knew he'd be a coach we can count on and root for.

Pannone began his time in Jonesboro by meeting students and community members, getting to know them. Chancellor Todd Shields said they made the right call in their hire choice.

"His actions and values will help not only men's basketball, but A-State athletics, the university and our entire community," Shields said.

Pannone has always been focused on who his players are as people, ever since before the introductory Hoops and Howls event.

"We had to do a really good job of, number one, evaluating character, who they are as human beings. Number two, evaluating who they are as a player and their talent. And then how do they fit as pieces to our system?" Pannone said.

While a coach should

be focused on the outcome of the games and the season, which Pannone is, the Red Wolves coach is also focused on his players' futures and their character.

This is something Pannone has drilled continuously throughout his press conferences.

"The character that they showed and the perseverance that they showed, I'm incredibly proud of because at the end of the day, basketball ends for all of us and who you are as a man and how you impact this world," Pannone said. "Our job is to win because if we do not win as college coaches, for sure we get fired. But I'm proud of them as people because that's going to be far more important in the realms of their life."

Ryan Pannone is the man for the job because he's not just creating good players. He's developing good men and good relationships, something that carries to the gameday hardwood.

A 20-win record with a

whole new team and new staff is nothing to scoff at, either. Sure, there were some games the team definitely should've won, but don't forget Pannone and company broke program records this season.

For instance, Pannone led the Red Wolves to their first 20 win season since 2019 and had one of the best first-year coaching performances in program history, surpassing the win totals of several previous head coaches, including current South Florida Bulls head coach Bryan Hodgson.

A program record of nine road wins was another notable accomplishment by the former Alabama assistant coach.

Pannone has a bright future ahead as basketball head coach with the Red Wolves. Looking ahead, I see him finishing the season with a Sun Belt tournament win and entry into the post-season bracket.

## Rugby nabs the win against Penn State



Photo by Shay Sayeed | Opinion Editor

Men's rugby snatched the victory against number 14th Penn State 32-17 this Saturday. The team has climbed in the rankings to number eight in the nation. Their final regular season match will take place on March 21 against Life University.

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