

Red Wolves bowling finishes as National runner-ups

BRAYDEN MORSE

SPORTS EDITOR

Arkansas State bowling took runner-up honors in the NCAA National Championship as Nebraska won the best-of-seven series trailing 3-1 deficit early.

The Red Wolves took games one and two quickly to take a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven series. Arkansas State won game one, 191-156 and game two, 189-171. Vanderbilt fought back in game three with a 215-198 victory, but A-State won game four 196-159 to take a 3-1 series lead.

Vanderbilt won game five 205-156. A 3-10 spare conversion in the 10th minute enabled the Commodores secure a 193-187 victory in game six to force the deciding game seven. With a score of 193-160, Vanderbilt won the championship.

“We have to build off this momentum and learn from this match. When you put yourselves in this position year after year, good things will happen, but we have to work for it,” Head Coach Justin Kostick said.

A-State has finished as runner-ups three times. First in 2008 and second in 2021.

“I think what really stands out is how far we’ve come. I think it was a rough start for a little bit, but we’ve worked hard together. Our grit and



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE WOMEN'S BOWLING FACEBOOK PAGE

Junior Emma Stull had three traditional matches of 259 points or better this season.

determination is impressive,” Junior Emma Stull said.

Arkansas State has been used to producing a large lead early in almost every tournament this season. A-State had only two losses in its last three tournaments, whether it is mega matches, traditional

or baker, not counting the National Championship, the team has won every mega match with two points in its last two tournaments.

Sophomore Brooklyn Buchanan came up big for her squad, with 17 strikes despite the loss. Buchanan and Stull earned

All-Tournament Team honors.

Buchanan’s stellar season ended with seven tournaments of more than 1,000 points. Buchanan also had season high performances with a 265 score in the Mid Winter Invitational (Stephen F. Austin) and 259 score in the Mid

Winter Invitational (BYE).

Stull had a team-leading individual score of 279 in the Sunshine State Classic (Monmouth) and 259 score in the Sunshine State Classic (Florida A&M).

The team’s overall best performance was in the Sunshine

State Classic (UAB), with a score of 1,206. A-State’s second best performance was in the NCAA Rochester Regional (Sacred Heart), scoring 1,151 points.

Arkansas State finished with an 82-30 record.

Women’s golf places third in Sun Belt Conference Championship



PHOTO COURTESY OF A-STATE ATHLETICS

Senior Olivia Schmidt tied for sixth overall in the SBC Championship, scoring 220 (+4).

It is the sixth time in program history that the Arkansas State women’s golf team has finished in the top three of the SBC Championship.

A-State totaled 888 (+24) for the lowest total in the conference championship in program history.

Junior Elise Schultz placed fifth with a score of 218 (+2). Sophomore Charlotte Menager finished 27th overall with a score of 228 (+12). First-year Morgan Beaulieu tied for 28th place, scoring 229 (+13). Senior Casey Sommer tied for 36th place, scoring 232 (+16).

Spring game quarterback battle for 2023 season

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The starting quarterback battle is in action as two A-State quarterbacks competed in the football spring game with the black team beating the red team 34-20.

Redshirt first-year quarterback #15 Jaxon Dailey threw for 240 yards, two touchdowns and one interception.

First-year quarterback #1 Jaylen Raynor threw for 333 yards with a touchdown, but had four interceptions in the second half.

“Definitely some upside. There were a couple sloppy patches at times. It was good to see the black and red team put points on the board. We’re pleased but not satisfied,” Dailey said.

UT Martin junior transfer #21 Zak Wallace led the running backs with 60 rushing yards. Sophomore running back #5 Ja’Quez Cross rushed for 57 yards and a touchdown. Senior #14 Jeff Foreman led the receivers with six receptions for 138 yards and two touchdowns.

Dailey threw a 69-yard touchdown pass to Foreman

in the second quarter.

The defense looked stellar with six turnovers in the second half. Five of them being interceptions and the other being a fumble. Both red and black defenses had nine sacks each.

“The workload has increased and I think it’s going to make us a tougher football team. It’s going to benefit us in the long run, trying to get through a 12-game season,” redshirt junior linebacker #36 Charles Willekes said.

Sophomore kicker #33 Dominic Zvada had two field goals. Zvada is coming off a season going 17-18 (94.4%) on field goals made and a Lou Groza semifinalist award. His longest kick of the 2022 season was 56 yards. He was also 5-5 from 20-29 yards, 6-6 from 30-39 yards, 5-5 from 40-49 yards and 1-2 of 50-plus yards.

A-State is coming off two seasons with a total of five wins and 19 losses. Last season, the Red Wolves went 3-9 and 1-7 in Sun Belt Conference games.

The team’s biggest need is the development of the quarterback position, with James Blackman graduating

and entering the NFL Draft.

Dailey is not your typical quarterback, being left-handed with a catapult arm slot. He makes up for it with his pinpoint accuracy and ability to move around in the pocket to deliver passes downfield, as shown in the spring game.

Raynor is a dual-threat quarterback with a 4.59 40-yard-dash that he completed in the 2022 Shrine Bowl combine. His shuttle time is 4.39, which gives him the ability to extend plays with his feet. His arm strength helps deliver the ball with a quick arm action. Raynor’s biggest issue right now is his turnovers. As mentioned previously, he had 4 interceptions in the second half. It is early in the offseason, so Raynor has plenty of time to minimize turnovers and get better reads downfield.

“I think they have maintained a great attitude through the course of the spring, but we have to have the best summer we have ever had,” Head Coach Butch Jones said.



Senior wide receiver #14 Jeff Foreman looks to have a breakout year.

Photo by Jessica McMillan
Cutout by Sydney Green