



Josh Goff | ECHO  
Stephin Booth looks for a bucket against Henderson State last Thursday. Booth has provided a big lift off the bench for the Bears, he is UCA's fourth-leading scorer.

## UCA bucks Bisons for 4th straight

BY KAI CADDY  
Sports Editor

The UCA Bears ran their winning streak up to four games after knocking off Harding 72-55 in front of just more than 1,000 fans Monday night at the Farris Center.

The Bears (16-7, 9-4) never trailed the Bisons (13-10, 4-8) and held them to just 32.7 percent shooting. The Bisons made just nine shots in each half.

"I'm really proud of our guys," coach Rand Chappell said. "When you hold Harding to just 55 points and 32.7

percent shooting – that's a pretty good defensive effort."

Coming into the game the Bisons were averaging 77.6 points per game and were shooting just less than 45 percent.

But the Bears didn't get it done only on the defensive end. In every game of the current win streak UCA has had balanced scoring. Monday night was no different as four Bears finished with double figures.

"We realized that in the first half [of the season] we had only one or two guys scoring for us," said Aubrey Bruner, who came off the bench to score 14 points. "Teams started scouting us and seeing that, so we've all stepped up and started to contribute. I truly think that if we get three or four guys in double digits we can win 80 to 90 percent of our games."

LeMar Phillips led UCA with 15 points. Chad Wise came off the bench to score 13 and Darryl Jones pitched in

**Bears Notes**  
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Coaches keep trying to figure it out, but recruiting is an ...

## Inexact Science

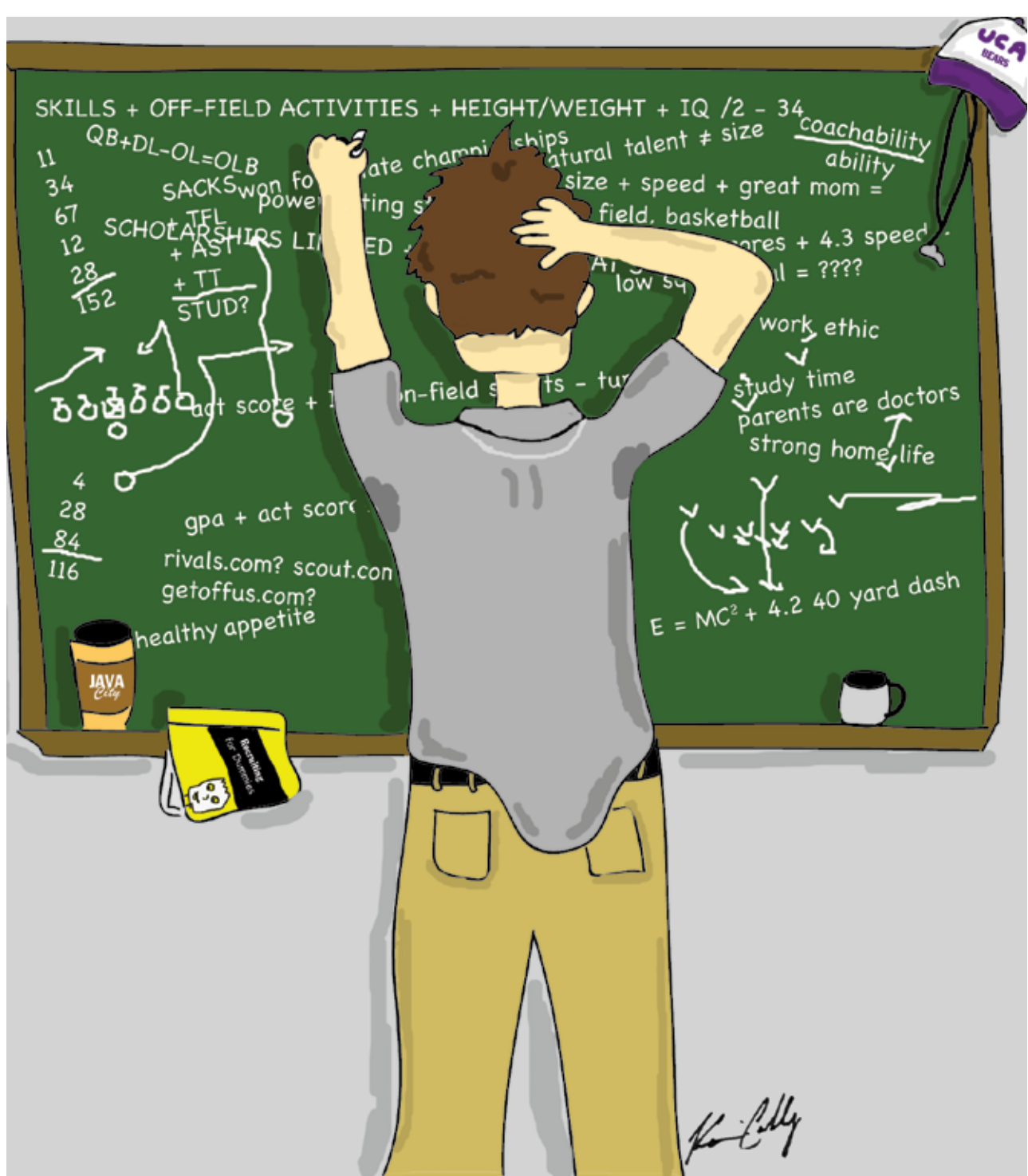


Illustration by Kai Caddy | ECHO

## A look back at UCA's 2004 football signing class

BY JOSH GOFF  
Editor

On Feb. 1, Clint Conque announced the 2006 signing class for the UCA football program to assembled fans and media in the Hall of Fame Room inside Estes Stadium.

Like every other college football coach in the nation, Conque's presentation of the newcomers – and the accompanying highlight video – provided a great source of excitement for the rabid group of fans

who follow recruiting year-round and often with more fervor than the games themselves.

At schools everywhere, coaches spout off all the great attributes and accomplishments of every player and list every imaginable award each one earned.

If a guy placed third at a cattle-judging contest at the local FFA convention, don't be surprised to see that on the capsules and hear coaches talking about how the guy is a leader, is analytical, pays great attention to detail and has a great mind.

As each signing class is announced hope springs eternal, everybody is undefeated, a lot of help is on the way, there are a bunch of difference-makers in the group, and various other clichés apply.

The Signing Day hoopla is a haven for hyperbole and a feel-good time that can often lead to a false sense of optimism for fans and unwarranted and unfair expectations for coaches and players.

But all that doesn't stop recruiting-

See **Science** ▶ Page 2B

NOTABLE SIGNEES FROM 2004	NATE BROWN • QB 6-1, 205 lbs.	AUSTIN CADE • TE 6-3, 252 lbs.	GREG MILLS • DT 6-1, 292 lbs.
	After redshirting in 2004, Brown came into the 2005 season as backup quarterback. Soon he stepped into the starting role and led the Bears to the NCAA quarterfinals.		Mills, another JUCO transfer, stepped in immediately also. He put together two solid years, despite his senior season almost being taken away due to off-the-field issues.

## Bears earn second sweep of '06

BY SCOTT STIRLING  
Assistant Sports Editor

After a three-game sweep of St. Edward's in Austin, Texas, this weekend, UCA moved into the No. 20 spot in the Collegiate Baseball Newspaper Division II poll.

The Bears (7-0) won two of the three games in comeback fashion, including an 8-7 win Saturday in which UCA scored four runs in the ninth inning, the last two coming on a squeeze bunt, to remain perfect on the season.

Coach Doug Clark said his team showed its character

battling back in two of the three games on the road.

"It just says that we have some makeup, we have some chemistry, we've got a little mojo going on; it means that it's important to these guys, you know," Clark said of the sweep. "They like being around each other, they like being on the field, they like practicing.



CLARK

You know they want this season to be the most important season of their life. They're having fun, and I think that's the way it should be – if you're gonna be out there you might as well have some fun."

Clark said that SEU (0-4) was comparable to teams the Bears will be facing in the Gulf South Conference later in the season and the Hilltoppers had one of the best offenses they are likely to face.

"We kinda beat the game in the sense that we battled and we had a weekend sweep," Clark

See **Baseball** ▶ Page 2B

## Listening to coach earns Lockett 2nd place finish

BY RACHAEL WALDEN  
Staff Writer

Freshman Tiffany Lockett sprinted to the front early for a second-place finish in the 400-meter dash last Friday at the Mule Relays hosted by Central Missouri State, earning UCA's first top-three finish of the season.

"She's learning how to listen to her coach," coach Richard Martin said. "She's been wanting to do it her way, but I told her that she had to

start out fast because it's hard to pass in indoor. Saturday she did it my way."

And finished the race in 58.98 seconds, knocking 0.67 seconds off her time from two weeks ago.

"Indoor is different than outdoor," Martin said. "It's like roller derby. Everything is happening to you while you're running. You've got to run tough so you don't get

See **Track** ▶ Page 3B



Kai Caddy | ECHO

UCA point guard Renita Dobbins saw increased minutes as the Sugar Bears broke a three-game losing streak with a 80-74 win over Harding.

## Sugar Bears make return to win column

BY JOSH GOFF  
Editor

After finishing a total of 25 points behind the opposition in their three-game losing streak, the Sugar Bears finally finished on the positive side and got back in the win column Monday night as they snapped the skid with an 80-74 win over the Harding Lady Bisons in the Farris Center.

"The only thing that can fix losing is just to win one," coach Checola Seals said. "Was it one of our greatest efforts? No, but it was good enough for us to get a win. We had some kids step up big for us and have big moments. Alicia Kellogg hit some big shots and Caronica Randle hit some big shots for us."

Randle, who scored a season-high 32 points and moved into seventh place on UCA's all-time scoring list, continued her dominance of Harding after scoring 26 against the Lady Bisons back on Jan. 16.

"Harding is always a pretty good game," said Randle, who hit 11-of-20 from the field and was perfect in eight shots from the free throw line. "Tonight they kind of stepped off and played us in a zone, and we took advantage of it. We decided to come together and win a ballgame. Before the game we talked about winning, and then we had a scripture we went over about how everybody has a prize in life they want to go for. We talked about that before the game and said we were gonna come out play, and we were ready."

The outburst from Randle, coupled with Harding's leading scorers Jasmine McClindon and Catherine McMenamy shooting a combined 14-of-40, proved to be just enough to get the Sugar Bears over the hump.

"We knew that Caronica had to step up for us and attack them," Seals said. "We've been trying to get balanced scoring and get other kids some opportunities to score. This was one of those game we knew we'd been struggling

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See **Goff** ▶ Page 3B

ECHO SPORTS TRIVIA

Q: When was the last time a UCA men's basketball team swept Harding prior to this season's sweep?

A: The last time UCA swept the Bisons was during the 2000-2001 season. They beat them 81-62 at Searcy and won 69-67 at the Farris Center. The Bears were 13-13 that year. 10-6 in the GSC.

OnTheScene

THIS WEEK'S GAMES

Table with 2 columns: Basketball and Softball. Basketball games: @ Delta State Tomorrow, @ Ark-Monticello Monday. Softball games: vs. NW Mo. State Friday, UCA Spring Clash 4 games Fri-Sat, 2 games Sun.

QUOTABLES

"I am not on suicide watch." - Sugar Bears' coach Checota Seals commenting on their recent three-game losing streak. "Let's just say I have a collective group of women who have a chemical imbalance all on the same week." - Seals trying to explain the losing streak. "You ever notice [Arkansas Tech coach Todd Schaefer] he has a bee or a buzzer in his pants? He won't sit down." - UCA Bear Backer and former coach Fletcher Lowry.

3 reasons why NBC's Olympic coverage is too much

Winter Olympics television coverage keeps increasing, but as the coverage skyrockets the ratings have just increased slightly. What is NBC thinking in giving us a record 400-plus hours of Olympic coverage this month? To be honest, I'm not quite sure. I respect the Olympics and I really can't find a Winter Olympic sport that I don't consider a sport. You do have to be pretty athletic to compete in any of these things. But people aren't watching and no matter what kind of promotional tricks NBC pulls I don't really see ratings hitting any record marks. And through several minutes of research I think I have stumbled upon

the reason why people in the United States don't really care about the Winter Olympics. There's just not enough head-to-head competition. The majority of the Winter Olympic sports are competitions against the clock or competitions against judges. Then the winners are ranked. Technically the athletes are competing against each other, but it's just not the same when you have them going at separate times. I mean, by the end of a competition you might not even remember the winning performance because it came way earlier. There's not enough team competition either. There's hockey. That's about it. And we know how Americans feel about hockey. Remember the NHL? I didn't think so. All of those team sledding competitions and pairs figure skating aren't the kind of teams Americans

want. Americans want two teams battling it out at the same time, on the same field or court, or whatever. The third thing that kills the Winter Olympics is the lack of races. Speedskating and cross country-skiing are the only times you get a bunch of athletes out on the course at the same time in a battle of who's the fastest. Americans love races. Track and field is usually one of the most compelling sports during the Summer Olympics and for some reason folks can't get enough NASCAR. Races are just about as American as apple pie, or something. Everyone

remembers being out on the playground and having that one big race during recess. It might have not been your choice, but there you were in the big race. P.E. teachers can't get enough of a good humiliating race between eight- and nine-year olds. The Winter Olympics are just not USA-friendly. Sure the US will probably win its fair share of medals, although not as many as it will during the Summer Olympics. People will probably watch, although not in any sort of Super Bowl-esque type numbers. Americans love football, basketball, baseball, NASCAR and to a lesser extent hockey. They want to see teams going head-to-head, races and a little violence. There's not enough of that in the Winter Olympics to compel the typical American to watch. Are the Winter Olympics a bad thing because of this? I don't think so. I think the winter games should stay the way they are. Because despite the fact they

don't get huge ratings like the summer games, it's still a huge spectacle of sport. People in other countries probably can't get enough of it. It's also still a pretty good collection of athletic tests. There's a lot of great athletes who probably can't come close to the things half of these guys pull off. So for those reasons the Winter Olympics shouldn't change. They should go on doing what they do best. But NBC's got to realize Americans aren't going to all of the sudden fall in love with these Olympics and shouldn't waste their resources. I mean, honestly, when some old British guy, a washed-up '80s pop star and some other guy no one really knows draws higher ratings for making fun of horrible singers than the Olympics, maybe it's just time to concede a little. How 'bout it NBC?



KAI CADDY Caddy Corner

HEAD BUSSA



Henderson State's Donald Austin finds Fernando Johnson's head rather than the basketball during last Thursday's matchup in Arkadelphia. Johnson finished with 2 points and 3 rebounds.

Baseball From Page 1B

Clark said. "That was fun, it was a fun weekend for us to go on the road down there — two years ago we got swept down there and they're a pretty good offensive club." Clark has gained confidence in all of his players thus far, and he said he isn't afraid to use the players on his bench, both in the field and on the mound. "You feel comfortable if you've gotta make a move that the guy in the dugout, the guy you're putting in the game is gonna be able to do the job," Clark said. "We can throw some arms at you, we can throw some guys out there that are strike throwers, some guys that have velocity and some guys that have some good breaking balls." Clark also said the three victories on the road have done a lot for the team mentally. "Overall, we overcame a mental hurdle, going on the road and getting a sweep, I think that's huge." UCA 13, St. Edwards 5 The Bears took advantage of five errors by the Hilltoppers in the first four innings, scoring 10 runs on only three hits by the time Sunday's game was halfway over. Four UCA pitchers teamed

up to hold SEU to five runs in the game; no UCA pitcher threw more than three innings. Jake Goodwin (1-0) picked up the win, relieving starter Jonathan Nichols in the third inning and only giving up one hit in his 2.1 innings of work. Right fielder Chris Houk led the Bears at the plate with three hits and 2 RBI. Roger Lenderman and Payton Seelinger each had contributed two hits. UCA 305 211 010 - 13 10 2 SEU 111 002 000 - 5 9 6 UCA 8, St. Edwards 7 Trailing 7-4 going into the ninth inning, it looked like the Bears might pick up their first loss of the season in Saturday's game. But thanks to a two-run squeeze bunt by Josh Charette, UCA remained unbeaten. Dallas Black scored from third on the play and Chris Davis came all the way from second base to score on the bunt play as the Bears took an 8-7 lead. "That was huge," Clark said of the game-winning bunt.

Ronnie Phillips (1-0) picked up the win for the Bears, throwing three scoreless innings in relief of Andy Jackson. Brian Blankenship pitched a scoreless ninth inning to accumulate his third save of the year. UCA 100 102 004 - 8 12 3 SEU 101 014 000 - 7 9 4 UCA 8, St. Edwards 7 A seven-run fourth inning propelled the Bears to a victory on Friday in their first game in Austin. UCA came into the inning down 4-0, but got some help from the Hilltopper's pitching and defense. Three hits by the Bears along with two hit batters, two passed balls, two walks, a wild pitch and two errors by SEU contributed to the big inning. UCA picked up one more run in the fifth on a Chris Houk walk to finish the scoring for the day. Matt Whitaker (2-0) threw seven innings to get the win and Brian Blankenship got the last out of the game and picked up the save. UCA 000 710 000 - 8 9 2 SEU 004 001 002 - 7 10 2 The Bears begin a four-game series on Friday at 1:30 p.m. at UCA Field against Northwest Missouri State.



CHARETTE

Science From Page 1B

based Web sites like Scout.com and Rivals.com, and guys like Max Emfinger, Jamie Newberg and Otis Kirk from making a name and some serious cash for themselves in tracking a 17 year-old's every move for sometimes more than a year. For a select few, the hype carries on through their career. For most others, they're forgotten for good by the time their first fall practice starts and they're buried on the depth chart. The scrutiny and exposure for recruiting is much more intense at larger schools, but even at a school like UCA, the diehard fans want to know who

will comprise the next crop of freshmen before the kids' high school senior seasons have begun. But potential carries far more weight than results in the eyes of many. Recruiting classes are ranked, players are assigned stars, and the general populace uses that to determine the coaching staff's competence and ability to recruit, and also to gauge the program's future. Not nearly enough is adequate attention given to an after-the-fact analysis of a class. So, following the big announcement of the future of UCA's football program, we've decided to take a look at part of

what was the future of UCA's football program two years ago. In 2004, coming off a 5-6 season, the Bears signed 15 players with nine coming from the high school ranks and six in the form of transfers from other colleges and universities. Four of those signed were in-state kids, with two coming from Louisiana, one each from Florida and Mississippi and eight from the football-rich lands of Texas. In recruiting circles, it is widely accepted that getting players from Texas is the key to success. But, they do you no good if they don't or can't play. Of course, all that doesn't show up on Signing Day. Way back when, Conque announced the signing of the tight end that would fill Landon Trusty's large shoes - a guy from Brownsboro, Texas named Austin Cade. "He'll bring toughness to that position," Conque said at the time. "He's got a real mean streak and a defensive mentality." That played out pretty much as planned - as Cade rarely took the brunt of a hit and favored lowering his shoulder to juking. In his two years as a Bear, Cade caught 51 passes for 745 yards and 12 touchdowns in helping UCA to 19 wins during the span. Dathan Johnson, a cornerback from Allen, Texas,

drew praise from Conque on Signing Day as being "very disciplined and very productive" and that, too, came to pass as Johnson worked his way into a starting role as a freshman. Two other Texas natives -linebacker Dewayne Hall (Texarkana) and offensive lineman Thurston Hughes (Arlington) have also been solid contributors for the past two seasons with Hall ringing up 42 tackles and 3.5 sacks and Hughes providing valuable offensive line depth. The other half of Texas wasn't quite so kind to the Bears, however. The Bears did get one good year out of Edmundo Martinez, who was a key member of the offensive line in 2004. Tom Brown, who was brought in to compete for the center position, was a 2003 first-team All SWJCFC selection, and played for the Katy High School team that was ranked No. 3 in the nation by USA Today. But, he never played for the Bears. Darron Sheppard, another center prospect, was heralded as "one of the best football players his coach has had since going to Longview", "very strong", and "a fine young man who'll be a great ambassador and a fine football player for this university." Other than the last part, that may very well be dead-on.

Otis Walton, a linebacker from Hooks, was recruited by SMU and was an All-State, All-District, All-Northeast Texas and his conference's Most Valuable Player. He finished his brief career at UCA with fewer tackles than ex-UCA quarterback Zak Clark. Wide receiver Terrance Ard, a Grambling transfer, never panned out. Neither did most of the in-state guys. Nathan Brown, the Russellville native who was the last UCA signee to fax in his National Letter of Intent that day, redshirted during the 2004 season before taking over the starting job midseason in 2005 and guiding the Bears to the NCAA Division II quarterfinals while throwing for 2,410 yards and 25 touchdowns in split duty with senior Chris Reil. Bo Rhodes, a wide receiver from state champion Pulaski Academy, was recruited by Memphis and was an all-state selection in both football and track, and was all-conference in soccer. He finished his high school career with 153 receiving yards and three touchdowns in the state championship game. That was his last game. Carl Clites, from just down the road in Vilonia, was expected to redshirt from the outset, but was probably expected to play at some point. He is no longer with the team. Jeremy Ford redshirted last season and earned a starting spot along the UCA offensive line this year as a freshman and looks to be another solid contributor from the 2004 class. Thomas Garland took over the punting job immediately and kept it for two years, earning all-conference honors and averaging

better than 40 yards a punt in 2004. Greg Mills, a transfer from Troy listed at 305 pounds at the time of his signing, was a big cog in the Bears' defensive line the last two years. The status of his senior season was in doubt at one juncture due to a legal issue, but things worked out and he was able to come back and finish up. In his two years at UCA he recorded 54 tackles and four sacks. Of the 15 announced signees on Signing Day 2004, the Bears got what appears to be three key four-year contributors in Nathan Brown, Ford and Johnson. Cade, Garland, Hall, Hughes and Mills gave UCA two good years. UCA got one solid season from Martinez. The other six - Ard, Tom Brown, Clites, Rhodes, Sheppard and Walton - were never contributors. That's 40 percent. If you get four years of playing time for 15 players, you have 60 seasons. If the Bears get four from each of Nathan Brown, Ford and Johnson, in addition to the years from Cade, Garland, Hall, Hughes, Mills and Martinez - that's 23 seasons. That turns out to 38.3 percent of possible playing time used by that group. Is that good, bad, average? Without any comparison points, it's hard to say. Is it a negative reflection on the coaching staff or the individuals in the class? Not necessarily. Oftentimes, people are merely victims of circumstance. And circumstance is something that cannot be forecasted, and is never taken into account into the wild world of recruiting hype overkill.

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# Softball finally opens with two wins

BY ANDREW McCORMICK  
Staff Writer

Freshman Amanda Burgess's double in the bottom of the seventh inning scored Christy Holford to win the first of two games 6-5 for the softball Bears on Monday.

Going into the bottom of the seventh inning the Bears were tied 5-5 with Williams Baptist.

Holford singled to right-center to get the Bears started and next to bat was Burgess who found the left-field gap and scored Holford which won the game for the Bears 6-5.

"It was a good way to start the season," coach Steve Kissell said.

The Bears (2-0) jumped out to an early 5-2 lead but gave up 3 runs in the sixth inning of the first game.

Natalie Faulkner walked the leadoff hitter and Angela Byrd hit a single for the Eagles.

Heather Burnside hit an RBI single, prompting Kissell to bring Jessica Sanders into the game as the pitcher.

With the bases loaded, Shauna Beth Lingle doubled to left field, scoring two runs to even the score at 5-5.

Sanders (1-0) picked up the win after relieving Faulkner in the sixth inning.

She gave up only one hit in two scoreless innings.

Left fielder Amy Sperle led the Bears with three hits and an RBI. Burgess also had two hits and two RBI.

Kissell said Williams Baptist (0-2), an NAIA school, played

very well against his team and the Bears would have liked to hit better but there was no lack of drama in the way the game ended.

"We played the whole game and it took a huge hit in the bottom of the seventh to win it," Kissell said.

Burgess (1-0), whose heroics propelled UCA to a victory in the first game, led the Bears to a win in the second game of the afternoon with a dominant pitching performance.

Burgess gave up only two hits and one unearned run.

The first inning was the only inning where Williams Baptist led the Bears, due to an early error.

In the second inning, Jessica Maland's single to right field drove in two runs to give the Bears their first led of the game.

The sixth inning sealed the deal for UCA when Maland hit a home run to left field which scored another two runs. Burgess finished as strong as she started, sitting three consecutive Eagles to close the game.

The Bears host the annual UCA Spring Clash this weekend at the Farris Softball Complex.

UCA will play four games Friday. They face Missouri-Southern at 9:30 a.m., Missouri Western at 11:30 a.m., then Rockhurst at 3:30 p.m., and Missouri-Rolla 5:30 p.m.

Saturday marks the first day of pool play in the tournament, all matchups and game times will be determined after Friday's action.



Kai Caddy | ECHO

Junior pitcher Natalie Faulkner lets go of a pitch Monday afternoon at Farris Field. Faulkner and the Bears opened up their 2006 season with Williams Baptist later than scheduled due to inclement weather.

## 2006 UCA BEARS WOMEN'S TENNIS SCHEDULE

Feb. 3	Nicholls State (in Little Rock)	W 5-2
Feb. 10	Abilene Christian (in Hot Springs)	L 9-0
Feb. 17	Midwestern State (in Arkadelphia)	TBA
Feb. 23	@ Arkansas-Little Rock	Noon
Feb. 24	@ Henderson State	TBA
Feb. 24	@ Ouachita Baptist	TBA
Feb. 25	Southern Arkansas (in Arkadelphia)	TBA
Feb. 25	Christian Brothers (in Arkadelphia)	TBA
March 7	Harding	2 p.m.
March 11	Southern Arkansas	11 a.m.
March 13	Delta State (in Fairfield Bay)	3 p.m.
March 15	Arkansas Tech	2 p.m.
March 31	@ Harding	1 p.m.
April 10	Arkansas Tech	2 p.m.
April 13	GSC Tournament (in Huntsville, Ala.)	TBA

## 2006 UCA BEARS MEN'S GOLF SCHEDULE

Feb. 27-28	Henderson State Doyle Wallace Classic
March 13-14	Arkansas Tech Intercollegiate
March 27-28	UCA Intercollegiate
April 3-4	UCA Spring Invitational
April 19-21	Gulf South Conference Championships

# Women's golf finishes second to start spring

Echo Sports

Junior Christina Lecuyer shot a 77-74-151, grabbing medalist honors and helping the UCA women's golf team to a second place finish at the Tusculum/Kiawah Island Women's Golf Intercollegiate at Cougar Point Golf Course on Feb. 4-5.



LECUYER

UCA, who won the event last year, shot 320-321-641. That's 25 strokes behind champion Nova Southeastern, who shot 616 for the weekend. Grand Valley State finished third with a 651.

Former Malvern high school great freshman Jenna Chadwick placed sixth, shooting 84-74-158 and freshman Nicole

Tusculum/Kiawah Island Team Top 10			
	Day 1	Day 2	Total
1. Nova SE	305	311	616
2. Central Ark.	320	321	641
3. G. Valley St.	322	329	651
4. Catawba	340	332	672
5. Pfeiffer	342	345	687
6. USC Upstate	343	346	689
7. Anderson	348	348	696
8. Wingate	355	346	701
9. Lenoir-Rhyne	353	352	705
10. Tusculum	335	374	709

Tusculum/Kiawah Island Individual Top 10	
	Score
1. Christina Lecuyer (UCA)	77-74-151
2. Lina Bjorlund (Nova SE)	76-76-152
3. Andrea Maldonado (Nova SE)	76-76-152
4. Paige Haverly (Catawba)	73-80-153
5. Elizabeth Bond (Nova SE)	77-77-154
6. Jenna Chadwick (UCA)	84-74-158
7. Melissa Riegle (G.V. St.)	83-77-160
8. Anne-Sophie Friis (Nova SE)	79-82-161
9. Jenni Mostrom (Nova SE)	76-85-161
10. Enid Gage (G.V. St.)	75-87-162

Forshner finished tied for 12th shooting 79-86-164. Senior Tanner Cangelosi tied for 17th place with an 81-87-168.

Up next for UCA is the Murray State Big River Lady Racer Classic in Murray, Ky on March 6-7.

## WOMEN'S GOLF SCHEDULE

March 6-7	Murray State Big River Lady Racer Classic
March 20-21	Texas A&M Cactus Lady Lion Invitational
April 3-4	Tusculum Agnes McAmis Memorial
April 19-20	Gulf South Conference Championships

## Track From Page 1B

boxed in. It will take them about two years to learn how to run this way."

Sophomore Lauren Merritt was another top finisher for UCA placing tenth in the mile run with a time of 5 minutes, 21.76 seconds. Freshman Lori Garside placed ninth in the high jump clearing 5 feet, 12th in the long jump with a jump of 15 feet, 9.75 inches, and eighth in triple jump with a jump of 34 feet, 4 inches. Freshman Jessica Norris jumped 32 feet, 1 inch for 14th place.

The distance medley team of Rene Hooper, Whitney Welch, Lockett, and Merritt placed sixth with a time of 13 minutes, 45.46 seconds, 36.29 seconds slower than last week.

Merritt knocked off 6.4 seconds from last week's mile time, and Garside jumped 2.5 inches higher.

"We're improving, but we'll have to step it up next week, our last meet unless we have some women qualify for nationals," Martin said. "There will be a lot of tougher, D1 schools there, but if Tiffany can get in the right heat and knock 4 seconds off her 400-meter time, she might have a shot at nationals."

UCA is scheduled to compete at the University of Oklahoma Sooner Indoor on Saturday.

## WOMEN'S TRACK SCHEDULE

Feb. 18	Sooner Indoor (@ Oklahoma)
March 4	@ Jackson State
March 10-11	NCAA II Indoor Nationals @ Boston, Mass.
March 18	Rhodes Open
April 8	Harding Invitational
April 22	@ Mississippi Valley State
April 25-27	NCAA II Outdoor Nationals @ Emporia, Kan.

## Goff From Page 1B

the place and tears up the countryside in rental cars, his only companion is the 450-lb. monstrosity of a case that houses his equipment.

With the move to the Southland Conference next year, where the men's and women's basketball teams play on the same night but one is at home while the other is away, Monty's days of being on the air four hours straight twice a week is quickly coming to a

close. Beginning next year, he'll still be able to pad his UCA record for games called, just not quite at the same rapid pace. It should be interesting to see what happens. Will Monty take just the Bears or Sugar Bears and leave the other team to somebody new? Will somebody new be brought in to do home games while Monty goes on the road or vice versa? Or, will somebody step up, do the right thing, and clone him?

## FOUL, PLEASE?



Kai Caddy | ECHO

Allison Sample and Allicia Kellogg (11) look to the official Thursday night while their teammate Brittany Greer slides into the bench diving for a loose ball against Henderson State in Arkadelphia.

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February 6 - March 17	Applications available at the Student Center Information Desk or Bernard Hall 101
March 17	Deadline for submitting applications. Submit to Bernard 101
March 28-31	Interviews - Bernard 208
April 5	Announcement of the 2006-2007 Ambassador Staff

Students applying must have a 2.5 GPA and be enrolled as a full-time student for at least two semesters as of the interview. Students currently enrolled in their second semester are eligible to apply.

For Additional information, please contact Kasi Jones or Sean Flaherty in the admissions Office at 501-450-3128

# Bears Notes

- Kai Caddy

## Bears Turnaround

After two sub-par performances that resulted in losses to GSC foes Southern Arkansas and Christian Brothers, the Bears have won four straight by a combined 43 points.

That includes two 7-point victories (Ouachita Baptist and Arkansas Tech), a 12-point win over Henderson State and Monday night's 17-point win over Harding.

The Bears didn't have such success the first half of the GSC schedule. Their first meeting with OBU was a three-point win, it took two overtimes for the Bears to knock off Tech 81-77, they beat Henderson by six and needed a last-second three from Fred Campbell to knock off Harding by one.

"It doesn't hardly seem right does it," coach Rand Chappell said after the Bears' second-straight double-digit win. "I guess these interviews aren't as fun when you don't have some last minute play-by-play to talk about."

## Savadogo No Likey

With four tenths of a second left in the first half of Monday night's game against Harding, the Bisons' Alassane Savadogo took exception to Chad Wise stealing the ball from him.

Savadogo was making a move in the post when he stuck

the ball out ripe for Wise's taking. Wise started to head down court when Savadogo pretty much clotheslined him. Wise didn't like this, said something, but apparently what Savadogo said was worse and he got T'd up.

Wise stared Savadogo down for a few seconds before shooting his free throws. Savadogo probably isn't accustomed to being in a stare-down. The 6-10, 275-pounder is from Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Burkina Faso is a small land-locked country in West Africa with a population of just more than 13 million.

## The Mighty Okra

Delta State has put away an impressive 18 straight opponents. As of Monday night they were ranked No. 9 in the land and are clearly the favorites to win the GSC tournament and have even been mentioned as national championship contenders.

Tomorrow night the Bears will travel to Cleveland, Miss. to do battle with the Statesmen.

The Bears are coming off their two largest triumphs of the year and are pretty hot themselves, winning four straight. Delta struggled with Southern Arkansas on Monday night and only took the lead in the final minute to pull out a 67-63 win.

## Bucks From Page 1B

12 of his own points.

"Obviously a lot of people contributed," Chappell said. "I think that shows that we were able to get a lot of people involved. And when you get 14 points from Aubrey and 13 from Chad off the bench that really helps."

Stephin Booth had been a big role player off the bench, but was held scoreless Monday, but grabbed 6 rebounds for the Bears. Fernando Johnson led the Bears with 9 rebounds.

The Bears led by 11 at the half and came out sort of sluggish in the second. Their first field goal came with 15:11 left in the game when Bruner hit a three. The Bisons were able to slice the lead to five, 46-41 with 11:28 left to go.

That's as close as the Bisons would get as the Bears went on a 15-5 run over the next five minutes to pull out to a 61-46 advantage.

Scoring was sparse the rest of the way as Harding hit just two more 3s, a free throw and a field goal - their last coming with 2:13 to go.

Bruner scored 7 points in the last 3:42. Phillips and Joey Cortez added four free throws to wrap up the scoring for the Bears.

UCA closed out one of the better first halves of the GSC season on a 13-3 run to take a 36-25 lead into the locker room.

The half ended with three free throws from Chad Wise. Wise snuck in and took the ball from Harding center Alassane Savadogo, Savadogo didn't take kindly to the theft and hammered Wise. After the personal foul some jawing between Wise and Savadogo ensued and Savadogo was charged a technical foul. Wise hit one of two technical shots and hit both free throws for the personal foul. Wise ended the half with 8 points.

Reggie Bibb led the Bisons in scoring with 12 points, Patrick Andrepoint added 10.

The Bears' win streak will be put to the test tomorrow night as they travel to beautiful Cleveland, Miss. to take on No. 9 Delta State. The Statesmen are on an 18-game win streak and haven't lost a GSC game yet.

"To be a factor in the conference tournament we're going to have to step up and beat a team like Delta," Chappell said. "It's probably going to take an 'A' game, anything less won't be good enough."

The Bears had Delta down by 10 in the second half of the teams' first meeting on Jan. 19, but Delta went on a 22-4 run to snag victory out of the Bears' grasp.

"We've got lots of

momentum right now," Bruner said. "I really feel like our team's hungry right now. We feel like we should have beat them the first time around and we're looking to get us a big win."

## UCA 57, Henderson State 45

ARKADELPHIA — UCA found itself with a three-game win streak and its biggest win of the Gulf South season at the end of last Thursday's battle with Henderson State.

The Bears picked up the 12-point win, 57-45, over a scrappy Henderson (10-11, 6-6) team that's fighting for position in the GSC West.

Coming into the game, the teams were No. 1 and No. 2 in scoring defense and it showed in the low-scoring physical matchup.

UCA shot 47.8 percent in the second half and 40 percent from beyond the arc in outscoring the Reddies 33-25. They held HSU to 8-for-22 shooting in the half and 0-for-6 shooting from the 3-point line.

HSU scored its final bucket with two minutes to go after a Kelvin Brown free throw to cut the Bears' lead to 49-45. But from there the Bears shut down the Reddies and scored one more layup before Henderson was forced to foul the rest of the way.

The Bears took the lead for good with 6:30 to go when Johnson converted a pair of free throws and put UCA up 43-40.

The first half was close most of the way, at least after the first two minutes of play. Henderson actually stormed out to a 7-0 lead and held on to it until the Bears finally scored with 16:47 left in the half.

UCA tied the game with 11:39 left when Stephin Booth hit a jumper in the lane to make the score 11 all. After more traded buckets, the Bears grabbed their first lead with 6:52 left on a Fred Campbell layup that gave UCA the 16-15 lead.

The Bears led the rest of the half and by as much as six, before Henderson cut the UCA lead to 24-20 to end the half.

Senior center Alexi Korolev provided a lift for the Bears, with 7 points. Korolev came into the game averaging just 1.6 points per contest. The Bears found balanced scoring with Phillips leading the way with 13, Cortez had 11 and Booth had 10. Campbell and Jones both added 6.

Henderson did not have the same luck in finding that balanced scoring. Brown led with 17 points, Demontrian Drake had 10 and Donald Austin poured in 7. No one else made a huge impact for the Reddies.

# Sugar Bears Notes

- Josh Goff

## Randle's Rank Rises

Caronica Randle scored 32 points in Monday's win against Harding, her high for the season and just two points off her career high of 34 against Fort Valley State in the NCAA South Regional last year.

Those 32 points raised her average half a point to 21.5 points per game for the season.

It was also the 69th time Randle has scored in double figures as a Sugar Bear.

UCAhas played 91 games since Randle's career began.

Prior to Monday, the highest single-game point total by a Sugar Bear this year was when Randle dropped 29 on Southeastern Oklahoma on Nov. 25.

The last time a Sugar Bear scored 30 or more was Carone Harris' 33-point effort against Washburn in the national semifinals last year.

With Monday's output, Randle passed Bekka Middleton (2000-04) for seventh on the UCA career scoring list with 1,493 points.

She needs just 13 to pass Genai Walker (2000-04) for sixth. She will pass Kim Powell (1986-90) and move into the top five with 54 more points.

Fourth place will probably have to wait until next year, with Angela Watson (1992-96) still 411 points away.

Sugar Bears coach Checola Seals, who played from 1988-92, holds the record with 2,459 points.

Harris, who ended her career last March, finished just 12 points shy of Seals with 2,447.

Terri Conder (1981-85) is the only other member of the 2,000-point club - finishing her career with 2,020.

## Free Throws Cost Lady Bisons

In the first meeting between the teams this season, Randle hit 17-of-18 free throws and the Sugar Bears combined to knock down 33-of-44 as UCA won 88-76.

This time around Randle went to the line just eight times, but made them all. The team had its highest percentage from the line, though, making 93.8 percent for the game.

The lone miss came from Micaela Thomas, who went 1-of-2 in a pair with .5 seconds remaining in the game.

Randle and Dobbins, the only other Sugar Bears to make it to the line, were both perfect.

## Second Half Bison Beaters

In the two games against Harding this season, the Sugar Bears have scored 95 points combined in the two second halves.

In Searcy, UCA dropped 50 after halftime and followed that with 45 Monday night in the Farris Center.

The Sugar Bears scored 54 in the first half at Texas-Tyler on Dec. 5 for their highest single-half point total this season. The most they've given up was 47 in the second half at Henderson State last week in an 80-70 loss.

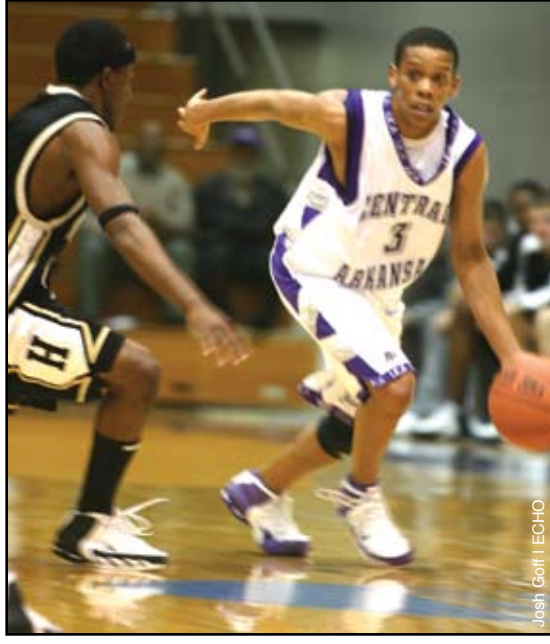
## On The Record

Monday's game was the first time the Sugar Bears went into halftime tied.

They are now 1-0 when tied at halftime, 14-0 when leading at halftime, and 1-8 when trailing at halftime.

They are also now 10-0 when they rebound their opposition, 5-8 when they are outrebounded, and 1-0 when the teams tie on the glass.

The Sugar Bears also move to 5-0 when scoring 80 or more points.



Point guard Aubrey Bruner looks to penetrate during Monday night's 72-55 win over Harding. Bruner scored 13 points coming off the bench.

## MEN'S GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE STANDINGS

	GSC			OVERALL		
	W	L	PCT.	W	L	STRK
Delta State	12	0	1.000	22	1	.957 W-18
Central Arkansas	9	4	.750	16	7	.696 W-4
Arkansas-Monticello	8	4	.667	15	8	.652 L-1
Christian Brothers	7	5	.583	13	10	.565 L-1
Henderson State	7	6	.538	11	11	.500 W-1
Harding	4	8	.308	13	10	.565 L-1
Ouachita Baptist	4	8	.308	12	13	.480 W-1
Southern Arkansas	3	10	.300	6	19	.240 L-6
Arkansas Tech	2	11	.154	11	13	.458 L-3

## WOMEN'S GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE STANDINGS

	GSC			OVERALL		
	W	L	PCT.	W	L	STRK
Henderson State	11	2	.846	21	3	.875 W2
Delta State	10	2	.833	21	2	.913 L1
Central Arkansas	8	5	.615	16	8	.667 W1
Southern Arkansas	7	6	.538	12	12	.500 L2
Arkansas Tech	6	7	.462	14	10	.583 W4
Arkansas-Monticello	5	7	.417	11	12	.479 W1
Ouachita Baptist	4	8	.333	15	8	.652 L2
Christian Brothers	3	9	.250	10	13	.435 L2
Harding	2	10	.167	10	13	.435 L1

## Return From Page 1B

as a team and you've always got one person you know is going to step up and put points on the board."

The teams battled back and forth all night in a tightly contested affair in which the biggest lead for either team was never more than eight.

The Sugar Bears took a 69-61 lead on a Randle 3, but Harding answered back with one of their own from McMenamy.

A moment later Randle scored again to put UCA up seven, but with 4:03 remaining Harding got a bucket inside from Chelsea Simpson then got a 3 from Kinsey Tucker after a traveling call on the Lady Bisons was overturned and Harding was granted a timeout.

Randle made it a two possession game again with a pair of free throws, and after three straight Harding points, Randle came down the floor and looked to answer once again - but missed. Victoria Richards was there to pick up the miss, and gave UCA a three-point lead with 53.2 seconds to go.

McClindon missed on Harding's next possession and Brittany Greer pulled down the big defensive rebound for UCA.

Renita Dobbins came away with a steal and hit two free throws to put UCA up five with just 13.7 seconds to go.

Thomas finished the scoring with a free throw with .5 seconds left.

Dobbins, who played 21 minutes, broke out of a slump and scored 10 points had six assists to three turnovers and came away with three rebounds and three steals.

"Renita played a good game for us tonight," Seals said. "She earned those minutes. She played well in the game and when you play well you earn your time. With her quickness she was able to penetrate and get past that press and forced them

"The only thing that can fix losing is just to win one. Was it one of our greatest efforts? No, but it was good enough for us to get a win."

- Sugar Bears coach Checola Seals

out of it. She directed traffic and that's what you ask for in a point guard."

Dobbins had success finding Kellogg, who was 3-of-8 from outside for the game and finished with nine points.

"Renita was really getting the ball to me well and I was able to knock a few down for her," Kellogg said. "They were leaving me open tonight and I was feeling good, so I was letting it fly and they were going down. It always feels good for me making a big impact."

The win keeps the Sugar Bears from heading into Thursday's game against No. 10 Delta State dealing with four straight losses.

"We really needed this win to help carry us into these last three games of the season and take us into the postseason," Kellogg said. "We're going to try to get a winning streak going now."

## Henderson State 80, UCA 70

ARKADELPHIA — The Sugar Bears' losing streak reached three games for the first time since the first four games of the 2004-2005 season, and it was the first in conference play since Seals' senior season in 1991-92 as they lost 80-70 to the Henderson State Lady Reddies at the Duke Wells Center, completing Henderson's season sweep of the Sugar Bears.

"We've just got to fight harder," said Caronica Randle, who scored a game-high 23 points for UCA. "We've got to get a win. But we fought hard and even in the last 30 seconds we kept fighting because we know anything's possible."

Despite falling behind as many as 14 with just more than

3:30 to play, the Sugar Bears drew as close as six with 57.8 seconds remaining when Victoria Richards hit a pair of free throws to make it 74-68.

Henderson's Sondra Bush, who led the Lady Reddies with 20 points, hit the first of two free throws the next trip down the floor, and Henderson rebounded the miss on the second and Bush again hit one of two.

Down eight, Lauren Williams hit a layup with 15.9 seconds left but Henderson closed the game out with four more free throws to secure the 10-point win.

"You've got to hit the easy shots and that's something we didn't do consistently," Seals said. "We were not happy with our rebounding situation. We weren't able to get the rebounds like we needed to and we didn't box out like we needed to."

Coming on the heels of a 14-point home loss against Arkansas Tech, the Sugar Bears came out of the loss to Henderson with their heads held a little higher.

"Everybody played together and our team chemistry was coming along," Randle said. "If we keep coming together like that we'll be alright. If we keep our heads up, anything's possible. We're going to step it up - we've just got to stay positive."

Even if not in the result, Seals saw encouraging signs in the effort.

"I can honestly say we did play harder tonight and the effort was better than it's been the last couple games," Seals said. "It seems like we're starting to climb out of this monster hole we've been in. We're just going to keep fighting and see what happens."



Micaela Thomas fights for a loose ball during the second half of Monday night's game with Harding. Thomas finished with 9 points and 3 rebounds in 22 minutes of action as she helped the Sugar Bears break a three-game losing streak with the 80-74 win.

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