

New Coach

Nwosu has hired a former head NFL Coach as new Defensive Coordinator.
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Basketball

Faith Simpson named GAC player of the week for the fourth time this season.
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Students bring their cultures to campus

By **KRISTEN KIRTLEY**
Assistant Editor

When it comes to celebrating cultural diversity, NWOSU plays their part, thanks to a handful of students who saw the importance of their culture and decided to make a positive impact.

Valerie Nzeakor, who earned her bachelors in nursing and is now in graduate school to earn her masters in general psychology, helped start a club called the African Student Association, also known as ASA, in the fall of 2022.

Nzeakor explained that in order to establish the club, her and some other students started by speaking with Olivia Yandel, the director of J.R. Holder Wellness Center and the student government association co-sponsor.

Yandel helped Nzeakor and students come up with bylaws for the club. The students then pitched their idea at a student government association meeting, and the association voted in favor of establishing ASA.

Nzeakor has served as the president of ASA since the beginning of the club.

She is from Friso, Texas and is of Nigerian ethnicity. She said when she first began attending



Photo provided

Students play Cards Against Humanity during a Black Student Union meeting.

NWOSU, she was surprised to find out that there wasn't an established ASA, so she decided to help start one.

"It's always nice to have that type of representation on campus," Nzeakor said. "The main focus of ASA is to show people a culture they may have not experienced themselves."

Nzeakor said that the club tries to meet once a month and do an activity together. Some of the activities the club has done in the past include: karaoke, game night and discussion panels.

Nzeakor said that when she

was growing up, the Nigerian community in her area would come together once or twice a month to eat and talk about important topics and issues. She said that that memory is another thing that inspired her to be a part of the establishment of ASA on campus.

Nzeakor said the ASA strives to bring diversity to the student body of NWOSU, and wants to show people that Northwestern is inclusive to people of different backgrounds and ethnicities.

"ASA brings a new level of culture to Northwestern," Nzeakor said.

kor said.

She also said that ASA collaborated with the Black Student Union, also known as BSU, for Black History Month. She said that for bigger events, both clubs often host together.

Shakira Lane, a senior majoring in health and sports science and a member of the Northwestern track team, began serving as the president of BSU in the fall of 2023. BSU was established at Northwestern in the fall of 2022, and Lane and her teammates were a part of the establishment.

Lane said that her and her

teammates wanted to have a place that people could go to and feel at home. All Northwestern students are welcome to join the club.

"It's really a place where everyone can have fun and talk to one another," Lane said.

Lane said the club tries to meet once a month on Friday's and have an activity. Some of the activities the club has done include: family feud, paint night, flag football, kickball and karaoke.

Lane mentioned that the club often has discussion panels where different topics such as mental health, world news and issues college students face are presented and discussed.

She said the club plans on handing out goodie bags that contain black history facts in them for black history month. She explained the club is still deciding what activities they'll be doing for black history month.

Lane grew up in Stillwater, and said there were only five African Americans, including her, in her graduating class.

She said BSU has given her and others a safe place to hang out and make friends while attending Northwestern.

"Being in this leadership role has helped me get out of my comfort zone," Lane said.

Remembering why Black History Month is celebrated

By **MALLORY PARUSZEWSKI**
Senior Reporter

Black History Month is celebrated annually to honor the achievements and history of African Americans all February.

It's time to reflect on the struggles, and the triumphs of African Americans through history, and recognize the contributions that they did for society.

Black History Month began as an organization in the summer of 1915. Carter G. Woodson, a longtime public school teacher and historian, put his efforts into educating others about African American life and history. Wood-

son and a few of his colleagues planned professional development events for African American teachers during the academic year.

He was in charge of promoting African American history and civics workshops, which took place as soon as he finished publishing the Journal of Black History—the first academic publication of its kind.

He created and edited the journal using the small salary he earned from teaching history, English and French at the public school.

About a decade later Woodson then created Black History Week in February, 1926. Woodson chose February to recognize

two great Americans who played a huge role in helping shape the history's importance.

Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 12th, 1809) and Frederick Douglass (Feb. 14th, 1818). Well before Woodson died in 1950, he believed that it would come to an end eventually. He pressed for others to learn and know the importance of Black History Week.

It became such an influence in schools across the world that it became a part of the curriculum.

In the 1960s the dramatic effect on the celebrations of black history showed that Black History Week was on its way to become Black History Month. 1976 was when the month was institutionalized to be celebrated all

February.

Teaching about African American life, history and culture wasn't just about the songs that were being sung, the poems that have been written or a few good stories of successful African Americans.

Woodson emphasizes relationships between educational content, and the true experiences of African American in the world.

Black History Month has four colors which each have a different meaning.

The colors are black, red, yellow and green. Black represents resilience, red indicates blood, yellow is optimism and justice and green symbolizes rich greenery.

Black History Month

- **Started by Carter G. Woodson in 1915**
- **Started as professional development events for teachers**
- **Celebrated in February to recognize Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas**
- **officially recognized in 1976**

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NEWS

Feb. 1st- Feb. 7th

WHAT'S UP?

1st Thursday

- Free lunch at The Wesley House starting at 11:30 a.m.
- Spanish club meeting at 5 p.m. in VH 118

Gold Night for childhood cancer in Percefull Fieldhouse

- Lady Ranger Basketball at 5:30 p.m.
- Ranger Basketball at 7:30 p.m.

- Forge Bible Study at 6 p.m. located at 324 College Ave. Free dinner will be provided
- Bible Chair Round Up Night at 7 p.m.

2nd Friday

- Submissions for Alabaster Echoes Literary Magazine Due.
- Ranger Baseball at 1 p.m.
- Sigma Tau Delta Meeting at 2 p.m. in VH 200
- Psychology Club Meeting at 2 p.m. in EC Conference Room

3rd Saturday

- Ranger Baseball at 1 p.m.
- Lady Rangers basketball at 1 p.m. at Percefull Fieldhouse
- Ranger basketball at 3 p.m. in Percefull Fieldhouse

4th Sunday

- Ranger Baseball at 1 p.m. at Glass Family Field

5th Monday

- Bible Chair Round Up at 7 p.m.
- BCM Women's Bible Study at 7:30 p.m.
- Wesley House Women's Bible Study at 8 p.m.
- BCM Men's Bible study at 10 p.m. in Coronado Hall 4th floor

6th Tuesday

- Free Lunch at the Bible Chair starting at 11:30 a.m.
- Writer's Roundtable Meeting
- Wesley House Bible Study at 7 p.m.

7th Wednesday

- BCM Free Lunch starting at 11:30 a.m.
- Bible Chair Bible Study at 7 p.m.
- BCM Bible Study at 8 p.m.

NWOSU prepares for spring showcase

Northwestern Oklahoma State University is offering a \$500 scholarship to transfer students and high school seniors who attend their Spring Showcase event Saturday, Feb. 17, at 10 a.m. in the Student Center at the Northwestern-Alva campus.

All students interested in transferring to Northwestern's Alva campus, as well as any high school seniors, are welcome to attend.

Students attending will be awarded the \$500 scholarship to Northwestern-Alva should they attend the university in the fall and live in Alva. Those attending

also will receive a free Northwestern T-shirt, and students will have the opportunity to tour the campus, meet faculty and student organization representatives, and get all questions answered first-hand.

Seniors who attended Ranger Preview in the fall cannot stack the \$500 Spring Showcase Scholarship on top of the \$600 Ranger Preview Scholarship. Students also must meet all scholarship eligibility requirements.

For more information please contact Tylar Thompson at (580) 327-8544 or by email at tthompson@nwosu.edu.

- University Relations

Upcoming scholarship deadlines for students

By **DERRICK GALINDO**
Student Reporter

Departmental scholarships for students have opened up recently, with the deadlines coming soon.

On Jan. 16, the scholarship page for the NWOSU Fall 2024 - Spring 2025 semester opened to students. This allows students access their department's available scholarships and apply for said scholarships.

Along with this, students can fill out their application for continuing student scholarships.

The application for departmental scholarships is due Feb.

15, and the continuing student scholarship application is due on March 15.

"Scholarships are imperative," says Taylor Phillips, LASSO Center Career Coach at NWOSU, "so even if you don't know if you qualify, fill them out."

To access departmental scholarships, go to NWOSU's website and locate the "costs, financial aid, scholarships" tab from either the main website scrolling down, looking under the "academics" label or using the search bar in the top left.

After this, click the "scholarships" tab and fill out the specific applications.

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OPINION

AI isn't taking your job

By NOAH PRIDE
Guest Columnist

Recently, there have been a lot of mentions
of Artificial intelligence or AI in the news.

AI has made waves in many areas of life
such as art, writing, computer coding, etc.

As with all new technologies, concerns
about how AI will affect the job market have
been rising. Powerful text based AI such as
Claude or Chatgpt have made writers in par-
ticular feel threatened.

So, will AI fully replace human writers,
authors and the like. The answer is probably
not. To delve deeper into why, one must un-
derstand what exactly is going on under the
hood of an AI. The general idea is that these
AIs work as text predictions.

They receive the input text, guess what
comes next, then output the new text. For in-
stance, if you would put in the statement "The
apple is".

An AI would output the word red. That
concept is then taken further into a neural net-
work. A neural network is designed to mimic
the human brain.

To do this, any text inputted into the AI
is encoded into numbers. The encoded text

is then run through something called hidden
layers. It's here where complex math is done.

The end result is that the AI has a list of
words that are most likely to come next. Go-
ing back to the example with the input "The
apple is", The AI might give red a 50% chance
to come next, a 25% chance to green, and a
15% chance to yellow.

The AI will do this for each word until it
completes its reply. In its current state, AI can
produce some amazing results.

For an example, I asked Chatgpt to write
about a girl eating an apple. Here is its reply.
"A young girl sat beneath a shady tree, enjoy-
ing the crisp afternoon breeze.

With each delicate bite, she savored the
sweet juiciness of a red apple, the sunlight
catching the sparkle in her eyes as she relished
the simple pleasure of the moment."

It is pretty understandable while some
might worry about AI taking over creative
endeavors. This however probably won't hap-
pen as AI is only predicating what comes next,
it's not creating a story.

A story written 100% by AI will be very
basic and bland. The AI can't hide informa-
tion as it's just predicting what word fits.
Twists like Darth Vader being Luke's father
will be very unlikely.



The Characters the AI write will be very
basic archetypes with no real journeys or
growth. AI in its current form will not take
over the writing industry. But AI can still be
used as a worthwhile tool. Spell checkers will
get better as AI progresses.

AI can also be a great writing tool with a
human editing it and offering it new prompts.
People who have great ideas but find the task
of sitting down to write a book daunting could
turn to AI to do most of the heavy lifting.

With the current technology we have, AI
will simply be just another tool for authors to
use.

Stand up for fellow peers

By CHLOE GRUSING
Editorial Editor

Today is February first, the be-
ginning of Black History Month.
This month is used to bring atten-
tion to success, achievements and
inequalities that have impacted
the black community.

Around the university there
will be many events and clubs for
students to celebrate the month. I
encourage poeple on campus to
become involved.

Students of Northwestern
should take time during the
month to be aware of what their
peers have experienced through-
out their life.

A student has the responsi-
bility to reflect and celebrate the
successes and trials that have oc-
curred throughout campus.

Though Alva is a wonderful
town, there is always good with
the bad.

Northwestern Oklahoma
State University has given many
great experiences to students, but
sometimes there are negative in-
teractions that occur.

The university has been open
for more than one hundred years
and in that time America has
changed greatly, with huge politi-
cal leaps forward.

The definition of discrim-
ination, as described by Mer-
riam-Webster, "prejudiced or
prejudicial outlook, action, or
treatment."

This means that a person expe-
riences different treatment due to
a judgment someone has against
them. Though this may not be



University Relations Photo

University students celebrating family day earlier this year.

something comfortable to talk
about, it must be discussed.

Every student at Northwestern
deserves to have a fair and enjoy-
able experience. The mistreat-
ment of others for something they
cannot control is abhorrent and
must be stopped.

The campus strives to treat
every student equally, but some-
times there are pitfalls within the
system.

There have been students at-
tending NWOSU that have expe-
rienced discrimination and judg-
ment simply based on skin tone.

It is important for the every-
day student at Northwestern to
treat everyone with respect and
dignity.

The responsibility of treating
others fairly depends upon the
willingness of peers to accept
their classmates as they are.

Practicing kindness and stand-
ing up for peers is key to helping

our campus become more wel-
coming to all.

As a student at Northwestern, I
believe reporting acts of discrim-
ination when witnessed will help
improve the overall student body.

This may be hard because
sometimes people do not want to
overstep a boundary, but asking
questions and getting more infor-
mation about what happened can
help make the report more accu-
rate.

The Northwestern Oklahoma
State University handbook states,
"Professionalism dictates that
there should be no discrimination
or harassment based on race, col-
or, sex, national origin, religion,
age, disability or sexual prefer-
ence."

This policy ensures that no
student will be discriminated
against, and if it does happen then
there are grounds to report the in-
cident.

Ensuring the safety of all stu-
dents is key to creating a positive
college experience for all attend-
ees. To report an incident of dis-
crimination there are resources
available to you.

The student handbook states
to contact the Dean of Student
Affairs and Enrollment Manage-
ment, which can be reached at
(580) 327-8415.

The next contact in line would
be the Office of Civil Rights
which can be reached at (816)
268-0550.

Another way to report an in-
cident is to talk to a trusted staff
member, tell them what happened
and they can help get the proper
help.

Helping to end discrimination
is as simple as becoming educat-
ed on classmate's backgrounds.
Supporting people who may not
share the same culture as you is a
great way to introduce new ideas
to others.

Ensuring the safety and happi-
ness of each student is important,
so do not be afraid to speak up
when something unfair occurs.

The campus should be a safe
place for each student to learn and
by holding perpetrators of preju-
dice accountable, proper steps
can be taken to reprimand.

Every student deserves a safe
place to learn, and each one of
us can make that happen by sup-
porting and listening to peers that
have experienced different treat-
ment.

Don't be afraid to stand up for
what is right. Let's work to make
NWOSU a great experience for
everyone.

A day in the life of a toddler



Here is Zaylei Ingraham helping out her mom by emptying the muffin mix into the bowl so they can make muffins. She loves to help Mom make treats of all kinds.

Being 3 means having fun

Zaylei Ingraham is a busy 3-year-old toddler. She lives in Alva with her mom and dad, Cheyenne and Tyler Ingraham. Her daily activities are to play with her toys, play with her dog, make muffins and other treats, and watch “Bluey” on TV. A fun fact about Zaylei is that she absolutely loves the movie “Frozen,” which means her favorite dress features Elsa and Anna, and her favorite blanket has Elsa printed on it..



Top left, Zaylei pets her dog, Phoebe, whom she loves.

Above, Zaylei plays with her toys, her No. 1 activity each day.

Bottom left, Zaylei, tired from her busy day of playing and making muffins, crashes on the couch in a position only a toddler can sleep in.

Photos essay by Ingrid Maldonado

Winner Winner Chicken Dinner

SGA hosts Win-go, which consists of playing Bingo to win tons of prizes, including gift-cards to places around town. And eating chicken wings, of course.



Photos by Derrick Galindo

Fine arts faculty participate in concert



Above, members of the fine arts department take a bow after performing at the faculty recital on Tuesday.

Right, Dr. Eduardo Moreira plays the piano.



Photos by Derrick Galindo

Above, professors Lawana Newell and her husband Douglas Newell perform Gioachino Rossini's "Duetto Buffo di Due Gatti" (Duet by Two Cats). The song consists of both singing the same word over and over: MEOW. However, the actions, the cat tail as part of Douglas Newell's costume and tone of voice of the two singers make it clear what the song is about: finding cat love. Above right, professor Victoria Moreira performs Amanda Harberg's "Sonata" (2019) on the piccolo. Right, art professor Thomas Cornell watches a timer as he presents a piece by John Cage: "4'33". Although Cornell sat at the piano, he never touched the keys. Instead, he timed the silence, 4 minutes 33 seconds.



FEATURE

NWOSU hires new defensive coordinator

By ALLI SCHIEBER
Editor-in-Chief

NWOSU has recently hired a former NFL head coach as the new defensive coordinator.

Head coach Ronnie Jones hired Coach Jerry Glanville as the new defensive coordinator.

Glanville is a successful coach having coached as a head coach for the Houston Oilers (1985-1989) and Atlanta Falcons (1990-1993.)

Glanville has never quit coaching, though some of the news outlets make it sound like he has. Glanville said two years ago he was coaching 41-year-olds and last year he was coaching 15-year-olds and he said that he likes to coach because coaches are teachers not just coaches.

"If you are a coach you have to be a teacher and you have to teach things correctly," Glanville said. "The thrill for the coach is to see a player improve. A player that three weeks ago could not do it and now he excels at it."

Glanville has coached some Pro Football Hall of Fame athletes, Deion Sanders, Warren Moon and Bruce Matthews to name a few. Glanville said that all of them would have made the Hall of Fame whether he coached them or someone else did.

Glanville said one of his all-time favorite players was Scott Case who was from Waynoka Oklahoma and went to high school in Alva his freshman and sophomore year before transferring to Edmond high school. He also played safety for Glanville with the Falcons.

Glanville has also coached with some all-time great coaches including the recently retired Nick Saben, he said at the time he coached with him he knew he was a great coach and Glanville even helped Saben get his first college head football coach job with Toledo, but had no idea he would be as successful as he was in his career.

While coaching, Glanville was notorious for leaving tickets for Elvis at the gate. He said



Coach, Jerry Glanville poses in his ranger gear on campus, Friday morning.

Photo by: Alli Schieber

that this started when he was at the Houston Oilers getting ready for a pre-season game against the New England Patriots in Memphis. As they were driving to Memphis someone said they spotted Elvis working at a Burger King in Michigan. So, his coaching friend suggested they leave him two tickets at the box office because the whole halftime was dedicated to Elvis. All types of Elvis impersonators came to pick them up.

Glanville said the reason he came to Alva was the coach and he would not be here without Jones because of Jones to introduce to the athletic director and the president. So, he had three people that had the same vision. Which was not to participate but to be the best.

"We don't want the best defense in the conference," said Glanville. "We want the best defense in the world."

Coach Jones said that when the position came open, he knew he wanted someone who had experience as a defense coordina-

tor, not necessarily someone who was younger because he has a young staff and wanted someone to teach them. A friend of Jones who worked for Glanville at three different places saw the position was available and told him to call Glanville.

"EVERY PLACE HE HAS BEEN HE ALWAYS TAKES DEFENSE FROM WORST TO BEST."
— RONNIE JONES

"Every place he has been he has always taken a defense from worst to first," Jones said.

Jones said that there is no doubt about it after being around him for a couple of weeks that Glanville is all football.

"I asked him before I brought him up, do you fish, do you hunt, do you golf and he almost

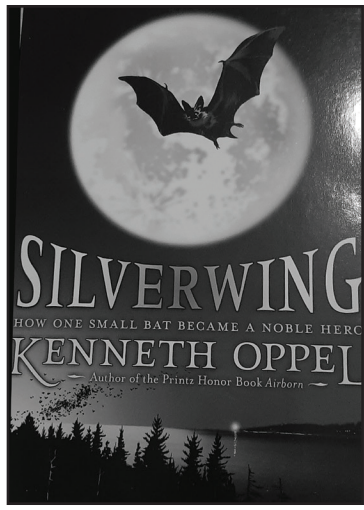
stopped me short and said I coach football," Jones said. "And that's what he does from daylight to dark he is thinking and teaching football."

Coach Jones said that is not about what formation or schemes you run that it's about changing people's lives.

"If we are better playing man to man we will play man, I've coached everything so, if their zone players will play zone," Glanville said. "If we have more linebackers than down lineman will play 3-4 if we have more down lineman, then linebackers will play 4-3. Our scheme will depend on the strength of our players."

Glanville is not just known for football though, he also raced in NASCAR for 15 years. He said that he visualizes himself racing in NASCAR every day.

When he watches races, he is working his foot like it is on the brake and the right rear tire how you turn the car all while watching the race he said. His whole family also raced in NASCAR.



Still worth reading: 'Silverwing' an enjoyable read

WORDS WITH MR. KAUMANS



KEVIN KAUMANS

We've decided to start a series called Still Worth Reading, where I discuss books written at least 10 years ago that have fallen out of popularity over time.

This week, I'll be talking about "Silverwing," by Kenneth Oppel. The book is about a young silverwing bat named Shade, who gets separated from his colony during a storm and teams up with a brightwing named Marina in order to find his way back home. To make matters worse, Goth, a cannibalistic vampyrum spectrum, has escaped from a lab after being captured by humans and is now wreaking havoc all over Canada.

Despite being aimed at middle schoolers, the book contains very dark elements. For example, in one scene, Shade and Marina are captured by a flock of pigeons, who believe the duo are responsible for killing their own. The pigeons sharpen their beaks and attempt to hold the bats down in order to brutally peck off their wings. There's also a scene where Shade is forced to participate with Goth and Throbb in the act of consuming the flesh of another bat in order to get them to trust him.

While these events make the book quite graphic at times, I can still say with full confidence that if I were a parent, I'd be perfectly content to let my child read this book. It has themes of friendship, using your smarts instead of strength to get out of a situation, and why discrimination is both wrong and illogical. And while the grammar isn't up to par with the higher-level books that us college students are used to, "Silverwing" is a quick and enjoyable read.

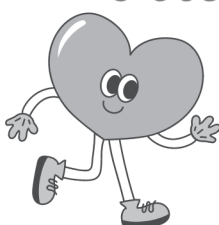
My name is Kevin A. Kaumans, thank you for tuning into this week's column.

Make sure to pick up a new newspaper from Northwestern News every week, and until next time friends:

Stay Educated

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Presents:

Valentine's
Shout outs



Email request to
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in by noon on
Monday, Feb. 5



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SPORTS

Track continues to set records

Both NWOSU's men's and women's track teams set records last weekend.

Women's track and field

The women turned in 12 personal best and three school records during the Wilson Invitational at Wichita State.

Top 20:

TRIPLE JUMP:

9th Maryam Dianka 10.13M

POLE VAULT:

18th Olivia Saner 2.75M

5000 METERS:

5th Asia Williams 20:10.33

9th Reina Gonzales 23:19.50

LONG JUMP:

10th Maryam Dianka 4.80M

SHOT PUT:

19th Hannah Appleton 10.94M

60 METERS:

1st. Shackera Douglas 7.57

1 MILE RUN:

7th Cadence Long-Torres

5:39.31

400 METERS:

16th Diamond Hilton 1:03.30

20th Shakira Lane 1:04.09

200 METERS:

2nd Shackera Douglas 26.22

18th Shakira Lane 27.58

20th Renaja Engermann 27.62

3000 METERS:

2nd. Cadence Long-Torres

11:26.45

14th Jamie Torres-Franco

13:27.67

4x400M Relay:

4th Renaja Engermann, Diamond

Hilton, Brianna Brantley, Shakira

Lane 4:12.98

Men's track and field

The men had a split squad last weekend, attending the Wilson Invitational in Wichita, Kansas, as well as the Pittsburg State Invitational in Pittsburg, Kansas.

The men set two new school records: Trevor Montayne in the 60M dash at 7.08, and the distance medley run by Riley Herndon, Jayden Geathers, Christian Franklin and Brandon Adolphus.

Top 20:

Wilson Invitational

HEPTATHLON:

16th Isai Aguilar 3725 points

5000 Meters:

13th Salat Ibrahim 16:15.08

1 MILE RUN:

13th Crispus Atukwatse 4:43.19

18th Muneer Suied 4:50.18

1000 METERS:

19th Crispus Atukwatse 2:43.78

20th Basheer Suied 4:52.12

3000 Meters:

9th Salat Ibrahim 9:05.97

20th Edward Robledo-Gonzalez

9:28.40

Pittsburg Invitational

Distance Medley:

11th Herndon, Hall, Franklin,

and Adolphus 10:36.58

Upcoming:

- Friday and Saturday: Washington University, in Topeka, Kansas.
- Feb. 9-10, Pittsburg State, in Pittsburg, Kansas.
- Feb. 16, University of Nebraska, in Lincoln, Nebraska
- March 8, NCAA at Pittsburg State, in Pittsburg, Kansas



Photo by Christian Franklin

At right, Trevor Montayne, a freshman health and sports science major from Prosper, Texas, sets a new school record in the 60-meter dash: 7.08. He placed 40th at the meet.

Baseball ready for season opener

By **KAROLINA JURESIUTE**
Student Reporter

Northwestern Rangers baseball team opens the 2024 season on Friday, hosting Metropolitan State University of Denver at 1 p.m.

The series continues Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m.

Head coach Ryan Bowen discussed the team's goals for the season.

"We want to get off to a good start," he said. "Last year we were really inconsistent at the beginning of the season; [we] had up and downs. We want to be more consistent this year.

"We want to lengthen our good stretches and shorten our bad stretches. Be tougher and be ready to be good on any day, no matter the conditions. Another really big focus for us is that we want to be better on the road this year."

The Northwestern Rangers will open their season with 12 straight home games.

"It definitely helps us because we are playing good competition," Bowen said. "Even though we are at home it is definitely an advantage. It is nice to be able to play in front of our home fans, get more familiar with our field."

The weather is not the only challenge for Northwestern baseball every year.

"Our conference is really

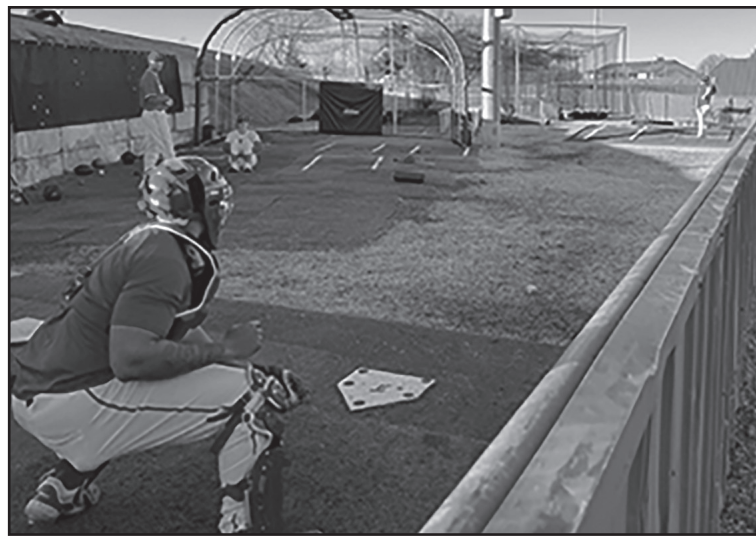


Photo by Gavin Mendoza

Justin Dunlap warms up in the bullpen to pitch in a practice scrimmage as he throws to catcher Aiden Faison at left.

good," Bowen said. "It is one of the best baseball conferences in all division II, so it is tough. The challenges for us are to continue to be more consistent and find a way

to get to the top half and make the post season. We have been able to do a lot of great things at my time here. We knocked a lot of doors out; we have done a lot of things

that haven't been done since we became a NCAA school. We want more than a postseason."

The 2024 Northwestern Baseball probably has the most returning group since 2021.

"We have a lot of key returners, especially on the mound," he said, "and it is exciting to have that veteran presence on the mound, but also position-player wise. We returned several outfielders, a couple of infielders, and both of our catchers.

"We expect those guys to help our new players and we are also really excited about several of our new players as well. I feel like we have a really deep roster, a deepest one we had in several years and I am excited to compete with them."

Bowen said the team really is a different team this year.

"Offensively, we are much

more athletic, faster group, so our offense will look a little different," he said. "Last year we led the conference in homeruns; I don't know that we are going to hit as many homeruns, but I feel like we are going to score a lot of different ways, steal a lot of bases. We will do a lot of things differently on offense."

This season the team will have 50 games, including 27 home games and 23 on the road. The first eight games will be non-conference. The team starts the conference games Feb. 16 against Ouachita Baptist University at 1 and 4 p.m.

Up next at home:

Tuesday, vs. Newman, 1 p.m.

NWOSU vs. Truman State

Feb. 9: 1 p.m.

Feb. 10: noon and 3 p.m.

Feb. 11: noon

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SPORTS

Women recover from 2 losses

By **KENNETH IRVING**
Student Reporter

The 16-3 (8-3) Lady Rangers defeated the 5-10 (1-10) East Central Tigers 66-55 on Saturday.

Payton Jones and Faith Simpson both had 17 points and 5 rebounds. Camille Thomas had 14 points and 7 rebounds. Carly Craig had 11 points.

After uncharacteristically losing back-to-back games, the Lady Rangers finally got back in the win column Thursday. They were back in action at home, Saturday and they did not disappoint.

Junior guard Payton Jones kicked the game off with a 3-pointer, forecasting what was to come. She scored 17 points and shot 100% from the field for the Lady Rangers.

The Lady Rangers were attempting to take off with this game, but the Lady Tigers did not let that happen easily. For every 3-pointer the Lady Rangers shot, the Lady Tigers retaliated with their own.

Junior guard Carly Craig had eight first-quarter points as she



Left to right, juniors Payton Jones and Carly Craig defend the ball.

led the game with her own 3-pointer.

The 3-pointers continued to rain down from both teams at the beginning of the second quarter as freshman guard Summya Adigun buried one from deep.

The Lady Tigers tried to suffocate the Lady Rangers with the 3-point shot as they held a 24-20 lead with 4:24 remaining in the

second quarter.

The Lady Rangers remained firm and began to feed the ball into the paint. Junior forward Camille Thomas sank 2 free throws to get the Rangers within two points.

Carly Craig came off the bench and immediately made an impact by knocking down a 3-pointer in the corner of the court, forcing

the Lady Tigers to call timeout.

Senior forward Nikya Orange gave the Lady Rangers the lead with a mid-range jump shot. They ended the half on a 9-0 run with the score 31-26

Payton Jones started the half just how she started the game — on fire from the field. She extended the Lady Rangers lead with a 3-pointer.

Craig dashed down the court with a flashy behind-the-back assist from Jones, and the Lady Rangers are up by 12.

The Lady Tigers finally stopped the bleeding with a layup, but the Lady Rangers were on a 16-0 run at this point in the third quarter.

Despite the Lady Rangers being ahead, turnovers and foul calls led to the Lady Tigers rallying to within one point with 6:37 left to play in the game.

Senior Forward Faith Simpson went on to impose her dominance in the paint, which has earned her honors all season.

She made back-to-back buckets in the paint and her free throws cemented the Lady Rangers' win 66-55.



Photo by Northwestern Athletics

Senior Faith Simpson ready for hooping.

Faith Simpson four-time GAC player of week

Faith Simpson, a senior forward, earned her fourth conference player of the week award this season on Monday.

In the win against Southwestern Oklahoma State University on Thursday, she scored 44 points, which took her over 2,000 for her collegiate career. Five rebounds on Saturday against East Central University put her over 1,000 for college career.

How she did it:

Jan. 24	Jan. 27
• PTS 44	• PTS 17
• FGM 17	• FGM 5
• FTM 10	• FTM 7
• MIN 34	• MIN 24

Total 2023-2024 season:

- PTS 423
- FGM 172
- FGA 304
- FTM 79



Northwestern Athletics

Men's basketball team takes a time out during Saturday's game.

The Scoreboard

Lady Rangers 17-3, 9-3 Men's basketball 9-9, 7-5

Jan. 25 @ SWOSU Jan. 25 @ SWOSU
NWOSU 66 — SWOSU 52 NWOSU 72 — SWOSU 75

Jan. 27 vs ECU Jan. 27 vs ECU
NWOSU 66 — ECU 55 56 NWOSU 56 — ECU 50

Next Games:

Southern Arkansas University
Thursday
Women 5:30 p.m. & Men 7:30 p.m.

Home win for Ranger men against ECU

By **KENNETH IRVING**
Student Reporter

The 8-9 (6-5) Rangers defeated the 9-8 (5-6) East Central Tigers by a score of 50-56 Saturday.

Brian Free and Camron McDowell each had 14 points and Chance Love had 12 points.

After winning five straight games, the Rangers found themselves on the losing ends of back-to-back games.

On a night where new and former Ranger Hall of Famers were honored, the Rangers looked to live up to their expectations and get back into the win column Saturday.

Although graduate guard Brian Free started off hot for the Rangers with back-to-back 3 pointers to start the game, it would be senior forward Chance Love's night as he started the game off with eight points for the Rangers.

Free and Love's scoring put

the Rangers ahead 16-6, but that lead diminished quickly with a 5-0 run by the Tigers.

Redshirt sophomore guard Camron McDowell knocked down a mid-range jumper to put an end to the Tigers run.

Brian Free continued his onslaught of 3 pointers by nailing another three, and the Rangers went into the half up 29-19.

A Tiger 3-pointer and layup cut the Rangers lead to five coming out of halftime. A step back 3-pointer by the Tigers cut the Ranger lead to two points.

McDowell once again put an end to the Tigers run with back-to-back 3-pointers.

After two horrendous foul calls and an and one layup, the Tigers closed in on the Rangers' lead.

As momentum was shifting, Coach Robbie Harman drew up the perfect play that led to a Ranger alley hoop slam to gain back the crowd's attention.

The Tigers then drove the ball



Photo by Malcom Smith

Junior Jabiri Smith (10) runs to support redshirt freshman Justin Norris (2) who is ready to make the shot.

into the paint, but redshirt senior forward Larry White sent back the Tiger layup attempt.

Free sunk another 3-pointer to increase the Ranger lead to eight points, and Percefull Fieldhouse was rocking.

The Tigers scored back-to-

back buckets, and after a Ranger turnover, they were within two points with 36.6 remaining.

The Tigers then sent the Rangers to the free throw line, the Rangers made them all, which ended the night with a perfect 17-17 at the line.

Playmakers:

- Camron McDowell —14 pts./269 for the season
- Brian Free —14 pts./238 for the season
- Chance Love —2 pts./115 for the season.