

Football down but not out

By **SHEALYN PRATT**
Features Editor

The home opener against Arkansas Tech left Ranger fans and players proud after the Harding loss. Despite concerns, the football team truly showed promise after last week’s game and an Instagram post from CBS sports went viral for a second year. The Wonderboys left our Rangers down, but not out.

“Week one wasn’t like us at all,” according to Koda Bridges, a senior wide receiver from Carrollton, Texas. “We are ready to bounce back.”

The energy in the stands was high as the game began. The Harding Wonder Boys scored the first touchdown with 11:08 remaining, but the Rangers ended the first quarter with a 12-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Jacob T. Jones to Bridges, putting Northwestern in the lead, 8-7.

“It felt good to give a little spark to the team when we needed it,” Bridges said. “I couldn’t have done it without my guys up front blocking, my wide receivers running hard to get me open and my QB putting it on the money for a chance for me to go get some plays.”

By the end of the second quarter, the Rangers were trailing with a score of 8-17. On a first down with 15 seconds to go, the Rangers completed a pass to wide receiver Merric Judd before kicker Sean Kallauner was trampled, and the Wonderboys took a 20-8 lead into intermission.

This lead had some Ranger fans concerned early in the game. Some students used the Rangers’ past results as a bar for the 2026 team’s expectations.

“I’ve been a student here since 2021 and they have only won like two games,” said senior Courtney Dennis.

Even some former football players had things to say about how the game was going at this point.

“It’s a whole new coaching staff from when I played,” said former defensive end Barrett Brown. “So, I was looking forward to them being better, but our quarterback plays seem to be



The Ranger football team huddles together at the end of the first quarter with the score 8-7 with Northwestern in the lead on Thursday. Photo by Victor Kinzie

doing better and he is mobile, which is good.”

Last spring, our athletics department introduced a new football coaching staff. The only returning coaches are wide receivers coach Kobe Martin, running backs coach John Flores and cornerbacks coach Ken Irving.

“We have a strong self-belief in our abilities and a strong urge to win,” said Martin.

This is Coach Martin’s second year coaching at Northwestern and he says that the team doesn’t back down when adversity hits, they just want to bring pride to the Ranger name.

“We just want to win for this University and bring pride to its name,” Martin said. “We have a great leader in Coach Partridge, who’s dedicated to making better men for society and good football players.”

Martin said that Head Coach Partridge is “restless and intentional” about everything he does and that the

team is in good hands. Players on the team also seem less concerned about coaching changes than anyone outside of the locker room.

“I trust what the new staff has planned and I’m ready to keep working,” Bridges said.

The team went inside for halftime deliberations as the GAC Championship-winning Lady Rangers walked onto the field for their ring ceremony. Some of the women’s basketball players who graduated last year and helped the team achieve the accolade of NCAA Great American Conference champions, like Summya Adigun and Camille Pritchard, returned to Alva to be honored with their championship rings. Halftime ended with a performance from the Ranger Band.

Northwestern’s first possession of the third quarter put together a two-play 60-yard scoring drive that ended in a 39-yard touchdown pass from Jones to wide receiver Bailee Daven-

port. Kicker Kash Shipley was brought out for the third quarter bringing us to 15-20.

The Wonderboys scored a touchdown soon after, putting Northwestern down 15-27.

With six minutes to go during the third quarter, Royal Kyle, a wide receiver, caught the ball on a 35-yard pass before Jacobs recorded his third touchdown of the night. A kick by Shipley brought Northwestern within five points, 27-22.

Brianna Wilson, student athletic trainer for the football team, said that she was happy with how the game was going after seeing all of the work the players have put in.

With the severe heat, practice schedules have been disrupted, leading to the team practicing and running drills until midnight during the week.

“I see the work they put in every single day,” Wilson said. “It’s finally
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NEWS

WHAT'S UP

September 17-23

- family day 8 am-6 pm businesses in Alva
- freshman frenzy 6-8 pm Ranger football field

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- family day 8 am-6 pm businesses in Alva

- family day 8 am-6 pm businesses in Alva
- JH HS All-State choir prep clinic 9 am-12:30 pm
- NWOSU upward bound Saturday Session 9 am- 3 pm VH 300

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- Intramural kickball tournament 6-9 pm Intamural field
- BCM Freshmonday 8-9:30 pm Ranger room

- Counselor Apperication Day 9:30- 11 am Ranger Room

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23

- Intramural kickball tournament 6-9 pm Intamural field
- BCM Worship 7:30-9:30 pm Ranger room

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Editor-in-Chief

The Northwestern Oklahoma State University Baptist Collegiate Ministry has encountered struggles as it finds its way through having a hole in its roof.

The NWOSU BCM is a Christian student organization on campus that meets on Wednesday nights.

They have events on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and sometimes on the weekends.

Over the summer, they encountered a disastrous problem, throwing a wrench in their day-to-day activities and business.

The roof of the building caved in because of water. Now, they are unable to use the BCM building located east of campus.

Throughout the start of the year, the BCM has found homes in different places on

campus. For their first two worship nights on Wednesdays, they used the NWOSU intramural field.

There, they had their usual worship and games, but under the setting sun. Last week, they moved into the ballroom in the Student Center on the second floor.

With all this moving around, it's been tough for the leaders and members of the BCM. Daniel Voth, the worship leader at the BCM, says it has had an impact on the organization, and it has been weird moving around. Despite that, he says it's a great opportunity for them.

"There's not the consistency of having a familiar place," Voth said. "It is a great opportunity, though, to spend more time outside of our building and get on campus to reach people."

Although it has been a struggle for the BCM, Voth thinks it is what it is, and may-

be how it's supposed to go.

"It's kind of an inconvenience for us," Voth said. "Ultimately, I think that this is all in the plans of how it's supposed to be working out. We're reaching more people because of it."

Voth says everyone's still having a good time, and he is enjoying it all despite the struggles.

Ann Cunningham is a host and an intern at the BCM, and was living there before the hole.

Cunningham took care of the BCM alongside another intern, Tobie Moore. Cunningham and Moore are no longer living in the BCM, as they work to repair the roof.

Despite the struggles, confusion and being put in a tough situation, there is a sense of hope and positivity around the BCM.

The BCM will continue as normal, with events on every day they had years before.

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BUT NOT WHAT WE MAY
BE."

– WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



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NEWS

Why should students care about elections?

By ALLISON RUWALDT
Senior Reporter

The Oklahoma governor election will be on November 3, 2026, and many students are still deciding who to vote for. Although the race is quickly coming to an end, many students who are voting are taking their time to carefully consider who to vote for. However, it seems that more students are avoiding the vote entirely. “Absolutely,” said Ethan Hoggard, who is a freshman at NWOSU. “I’m not sure who I’m going to vote for yet, but I will definitely be voting” While some are feeling pressured to make a change in this election, others are not paying any attention. Elections can often be intimidating or boring for young voters, and the more serious they become, the more afraid people get of making the wrong decision. Students also find it hard to care about what is going on in politics. While the average student is busy with classes and work, plenty also have to worry about after-school activities such as sports, choir, band and others. With all the personal

stress that comes from activities like that, it can be hard to focus on the problems of the world. “No, I just don’t know much about it,” said Addison Mack, a NWOSU student. “I can’t really pay attention to it.” Another factor that leads to college students not voting is being away from their polling stations and elections occurring during class hours. The stress and limits on mail-in ballots make it almost impossible for a student away from home to send one in. “I probably will not because I have to go home to vote,” said Nathan Vaghn, a sophomore at NWOSU. “I don’t have time to.” Although many people aren’t voting or have not officially decided, plenty seem to favor issues that candidate Cindy Munsen is focused on. Students said they care about things like AI centers and policies, affordability, and helping the schools. “I think the biggest one for me right now is that data center they’re trying to build in Enid,” said Faith Oshiro. “That’s a big one to me especially because I live in Enid.” Even though plenty of students are choosing not to vote, those who plan to are carefully

looking into what each candidate is saying. Many have noticed what they call hypocrisy and false promises that are being made by candidate Mike Mazzei. “During a press conference, Mazzei said some dishonest things he said about changing tax laws and stuff,” said Sophie Jungman, a junior at NWOSU. “So that made me question his integrity a little bit.” Some also prefer Munsen to Mazzei because she has a less aggressive approach. Mazzei released many ad campaigns that defamed his opponents and attacked their character, while Munsen was respectful of those she was up against. “I really love her policies and the things she’s going for,” said Julious Cardinita, a senior at NWOSU who will be voting for Munsen. “She’s very pro public schools, and I really like that.” Although it is not at the front of every student’s mind, things like local elections affect each of them. Beginning to vote while in college can help build habits for future elections and help change the community for the better.

Football: not done yet

Continued from Page 1

paying off and it just feels amazing to watch them.” With 2:45 on the clock during the third quarter, Arkansas Tech scored a touchdown, bringing it to a score of 34-22 as they entered the final quarter of the game. At the start of the fourth quarter, the Rangers stopped the Wonderboys on fourth down and went on an eight-play, 76-yard scoring drive. With six minutes on the clock, Jones and Bridges came together again for another touchdown on a 19-yard pass. The touchdown brought us to the final score, 34-29. “All thanks to my Lord and savior Jesus Christ for allowing me and the team to go out there and play the game we love,” Bridges said. “It felt good to come out and show everybody just a glimpse of what we are capable of doing.” Win or lose, Ranger cheerleaders say they enjoy the game and are primarily focused on one thing. “It is just really good to see them doing well,” said



Photo by NWOSU Athletics

Head coach Jerry Partridge and linebackers coach Declan Haub discussing the game. Morgan Robinette, a Ranger cheer captain. “I hope in the weeks to come, we’ll just see them get better every game and beat SWOSU, dogs down.” Football will be home again for next week’s game as we welcome Rangers from far and wide to the home field for Family Day against Oklahoma Baptist University. The next couple games after Family day will be away with the team returning home October 10.

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NORTHWESTERN NEWS

FEATURES

Think you know sports? Prove it.

By JESSICA SCHIEBER
News Editor

Women who like sports or
who are in the sports industry
have been faced with a major
problem. That problem is Sydney
Sweeney’s ad for Novig. Novig
is a sports prediction market and
trading platform, but the issue
with this ad isn’t what Novig
is, but rather how Sweeney had
appeared in the ad.

The entire ad is Sweeney
appearing nude using different
equipment from various sports to
cover herself. This has set back
many steps of equality in the
eyes of many female athletes.

How are women supposed to
move forward when everyone
is holding them back, even they
hold themselves back?

Gymnasts, figure skaters,
swimmers, and rugby players
have all spoken about how they
dislike the ad and how it didn’t
show the truth about women in
sports.

This has also affected the
female athletes on campus.
Braxtyn Turner a junior mass
communication major and de-
fender for NWOSU soccer from
Yukon said, “As a woman who
plays sports, but also has interest
in sports marketing and broad-
casting, it definitely took me by
surprise and I feel like it definite-
ly sets back all the work women
have done to feel equal in the
sports world, whether it’s you’re
playing or working with it.”

Her opinion wasn’t all bad as
she pointed out “the ad did work.
I mean, people were talking
about it and before the ad, I had
never even heard of the brand.
So, it is working, but probably
not for the best.”

A senior cross-country runner,
Cadence Long said, “In my
opinion I don’t think it is a huge
backpedal for female athletes in
the context of being a woman in
sports. The ad is not necessari-
ly aimed to diminish women’s
sports and say women can’t or
shouldn’t be athletes. The ad is
aimed specifically to sexualize
the women who compete in
sports. This ad damages how
female athletes perceive them-
selves and what their body looks
like rather thanwhat their body
does for them to compete. The
sexualization of female athletes
is not what sports are about, and
that’s where Sydney Sweeney
and Novig messed up.”

Another cross country runner
Raley Hooper said, “Women



Photo of actress, Sydney Sweeney, who was involved in controversy.

are constantly sexualized in
sports, social media, and in many
other forms. This generation has
worked hard to remind the world
that women are more than just a
pretty face but they are athletic,
smart, talented, and full of won-
derful things. The new Sydney
Sweeney ad puses back on what
ffemal athletes have been trying
to undo. Femal athletes have
and will continue to advocate
for women’s sports to be less
sexualized and more about the
competition.”

Former UCLA gymnast

medals last month, Amy Hunt
said to BBC Sport, “Sydney
Sweeney, this is what women is
sport look like: 21.4. Muscles.
Hard work, blood, sweat, tears.
This is a beautiful evening.”

To many this ad just sticks
women back into the boxes
that they have fought so hard to
escape. The ad is just sickening
to many women who are trying
to prove they have a part in the
world of sports, and its equally
as sickening to the women who
have been told that they’re only
fans of a sport because the play-

“THE AD IS AIMED
SPECIFICALLY TO
SEXUALIZE WOMEN WHO
COMPETE IN SPORTS.”

— CADENCE LONG

Gracie Kramer made a response
on her Instagram, [gracie.kramer](https://www.instagram.com/gracie.kramer).
In that post she wrote “I’ve spent
my entire life competing in a
sport that taught me just how
strong, capable, resilient, and
powerful women can truly be.
And as my platform continues to
grow, I have an immense respon-
sibility to use it for good.”

After finishing fourth in the
200m at the World Athletics Ulti-
mate Championship on Sunday, a
British sprinter who has won four
European Championship gold

ers are good looking.

Not only athletes but females
who work within the sports
industry have had voiced that the
ad got a reaction from them that
wasn’t a pretty one.

Women who do sports are
already sexualized especially in
sports like figure skating. This
ad isn’t justice for women, and
it justifies what men already do.
The ad wasn’t made for females;
it was made for the male gaze.

Many athletes have fought
to prove that they are more than

their bodies, and this ad isn’t
about the sport; it isn’t about the
trading platform that Novig is.
It’s about a woman whose body
is being used to make money.
It’s about a group of people who
don’t actually care about sports.

In part of the ad, Sweeney
says, “Think you know sports?”
A phrase that many female fans
have heard their entire lives.
That along with people saying,
“name five players then.” This is
another reason that female fans
are turned off from the sports in-
dustry and sports life. It becomes
near impossible for a woman to
be a fan without a man looking
down on her for being one.

I witnessed this behavior
when I tell people that I am a fan
of the New Jersey Devils. People
instantly go “well, it’s because
Jack Hughes is attractive, isn’t
it?” The attractiveness of a player
doesn’t draw me closer to the
sport, but because I’m a female it
becomes everyone’s first guess.

Fans of female sports and ath-
letes are also disappointed with
the ad. Some even creating their
own “Think you know sports”
posts on TikTok. I saw many of
these TikToks before I ever saw
Sweeney’s ad.

Seeing all these fans gather
and correct a wrong made me
feel proud to be a female who
has an interest in sports. Many
fans have posted videos of wom-
en in sports and have made cap-
tions that say, “This is women in
sports” or “Instead of watching
Sydney Sweeney’s ad let’s watch
actual women in sports.” These
responses have raised popularity
on my own TikTok account, and
I’m sure it’s the same for many
others.

Women are fighting to keep
the length that they have but
Sweeney’s ad is making that
length a smaller distance.

Novig could have reasonable
made an ad that showcased real
women in sports and there are
some many options they had on
who could have done the voice
over for the ad. Instead, they
decided to sexualize the female
body and gain traction by having
a well-known actress get nude.

This should be discussed as
well because while Sweeney is in
part to blame, most of the blame
lands on the creator of the ad.
However, many don’t think about
the creator rather than the face of
the ad, so Sweeney is catching a
lot of earned fire because she had
to have some knowledge on what
this would do the female sports
base.

More about Sweeney

- She has a passion for mechanics
- She was an athlete in school
- She didn’t want to dat anyone in the entertainment industry
- She is a passionate mental health and well being advocate

FEATURES

Did the pandemic also kill creativity?

By **SHEALYN PRATT**
Features Editor

The seven-year anniversary of the global COVID-19 pandemic is approaching. COVID-19 killed over 7 million people worldwide, with more than 1.2 million deaths in the United States, according to the World Health Organization. Did the pandemic also kill creativity?

For months, the world was unusually quiet and still. Crowded hallways were left empty, movie theatres and arcades went dark and classrooms moved from desks to screens. For many, boredom was a part of the daily routine. With nowhere to go due to lockdowns and little to do because of the fear of catching the virus, people turned to the internet for entertainment, connection and eventually for inspiration.

The South China Morning Post said the earliest case was detected on Nov. 17, 2019, which would make the seven-year anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic exactly a month from today.

The virus was officially reported in China on Dec. 31, 2019. A few weeks later on Jan. 19, 2020, a man from Wuhan, China, checked into an urgent care and was diagnosed the following day. From the emergency declaration of COVID-19 in January 2020

to the end of the declaration in May 2023, there were 7.1 million deaths in the United States.

Once this pandemic hit the United States, everything halted. Schools closed, businesses shut down, the world was on a brief pause and so was the media. Production sets emptied almost overnight. Actors, writers, directors and crew members were left waiting, unsure if they would return to work. The stories were left on inevitable cliffhangers, leaving viewers waiting impatiently. The world of film and television was just as immobilized as the rest of us.

Movies like “Top Gun: Maverick” and “The Batman” had release dates pushed back years.

“It was originally supposed to release in 2019, it was delayed once for production reasons, rescheduled for June 2020 and then delayed a half-dozen times more because of the coronavirus,” Mick LaSalle said to the San Francisco Chronicle. These movies weren’t released until 2022.

Critically acclaimed series like “The Society” on Netflix halted production with scripts already made and another season confirmed. Even after six seasons on air, the Comedy Central series “Drunk History” was cancelled. The end of such series resulted in backlash toward the production and streaming services. De-

spite this, it didn’t stop consumers from downloading streaming platforms. With people confined to their homes, entertainment became something that had to be accessed from beds and sofas rather than the uncomfortable movie theater seats. This may sound like a luxury but the absence of the smell of buttery popcorn and the sound of arcade games became too overwhelming to ignore. Streaming filled the silence left behind by canceled plans and closed businesses. According to Yahoo Finance, global streaming subscription revenue rose to around \$50 billion dollars worldwide in 2020.

While many forms of media struggled, other forms of digital media thrived. Social media saw a boom, many news publications went digital and app stores were working overtime.

According to industry data, daily news app installs rose significantly by 53% in the U.S. between January and April 2020. Considering we were isolated, many news outlets scaled back their physical editions, shifting from daily printing to weekly runs or going completely digital to save on distribution and printing costs.

The change in media didn’t just stop at movies, television or news. Things like music and trends saw a shift like never be-

fore. TikTok Revenue and Usage Statistics reported that TikTok was downloaded approximately 850 million times globally in 2020. The platform generated 113 million downloads in February 2020 alone.

Billboard Year-End Hot 100 showed that the Top 10 Songs of 2020 were: “Blinding Lights” by The Weeknd, “Circles” by Post Malone, “The Box” by Roddy Rich, “Don’t Start Now” by Dua Lipa, “DaBaby feat. Roddy Rich” by Rockstar, “Bluedface” by Lil Mosey, “Watermelon Sugar” by Harry Styles, “Say So” by Doja Cat, “Mood” by 24kGoldn featuring iann dior, and “Someone You Loved” by Lewis Capaldi.

Each of these songs has a viral TikTok trend and/or dance associated with them.

Was the boredom of the adolescent generation bleeding into the charts?

Music was no longer just something you listened to on the way to work. It became something to participate in. A song could easily become a dance, meme, or a challenge overnight. Creativity was still happening, and quickly, but it was happening differently and through a screen.

Studies from the Paris Brain Institute show that having more free time is a driver of creativity. Albert Einstein is credited with the sentiment that “creativity is

the residue of time wasted,” essentially that boredom sparks creativity - but what does a society do when it is bored?

Online classes and remote work forced adults and children to spend more hours staring at screens. Once classes or work ended, there were no third spaces to spend time at, and so buried your face into another digital platform.

To this day, studies from NPR say about one in four adults in the U.S. say they’re on their phones “almost constantly.”

With a social media surge during a time of intense social distancing, how did we make the shift back to the reality we once knew?

Society shifted into a post-pandemic era consisting of a greater dependence on technology, a revised outlook on health and modifications in global supply chains, according to the National Library of Medicine.

Before 2020, boredom often meant exploring worlds outside of the screen and engaging in something bigger than yourself. After 2020, boredom could be cured with the swipe of a finger and the switch from your main to your spam account. The difference may seem insignificant but the way that we consume, create and interact with media has changed dramatically.



OPINION: Remembering Charlie Kirk

By **JOHN STOWERS**
Design and Photo Editor

Thursday, America marked one year after famous right-wing political commentator and founder of Turning Point USA, Charlie Kirk, was assassinated.

In the year after Charlie Kirk’s murder at Utah Valley University was broadcast for the world to see, we have seen an outpouring of love for his family and his organization, but we have also seen a level of vitriol rarely seen before. We have seen conspiracy theories aimed at TPUSA, Erica Kirk, the Israeli government and even the US government. We have seen people mock Charlie’s grieving widow and even go so far as to mock the manner his death. This past week, the internet has seen people of all ages and of one political bent partying at “Kirkiversary” parties, which celebrate Charlie’s assassination.

My question to the “Kirkiversary” partiers and to the NW News readers who maybe didn’t like Charlie, have you ever watched one of his videos?

Most people on the college campuses he would visit would call him a vicious racist, or a homophobe, or a transphobe or any

number of insults that would — had those words not lost their meaning to almost half of Americans — publicly discredit that person and, in some cases, cause them to be rightfully ostracized from public discourse. But Charlie was none of those things.

He cared deeply about those who he talked to, and that’s why he talked to them. Charlie sought to debate with people on college campuses; to bring different or entirely new ideas to people who have lived in a bubble and had not experienced a serious presentation or defense of these ideas for most of their lives.

Charlie fought for equality amongst all peoples, regardless of race. He even went so far as to say that race is a societal construct and that there are no differences between the races, there are only cultural differences between people. When approached by a woman asking about transgenerism, Charlie said that he didn’t want her pumping herself full of drugs in a vain attempt to “fix” herself. Instead, he said that she should sort out whatever mental issue was making her feel that way and then learn to be comfortable in her own body.

On the multiple occasions that he was confronted on his stance

on gay marriage and the LGBTQ, he said how can I hate that which I have a heart for. Charlie wanted to turn people away from a lifestyle that is biblically considered to be sinful. He did not want to ostracize them, or segregate them or in some other way get rid of them.

I will close with a comment adjacent to a lyric from an AI song that was generated after Charlie’s death and proceeded to go viral called “We are Charlie Kirk.” We are not Charlie Kirk. No one alive can fill his shoes. No one could command that kind of attention, gain that sort of influence, spread that kind of message as eloquently and with as much grace and kindness as he did. And yet we must. We are not Charlie Kirk, but we must be Charlie Kirk.

Those who believe in his message and in the God he professed must pick up his torch and carry on where he left off. Even those who don’t believe in Charlie’s conservative principles but still believe in free speech and free debate in society should stand up with those in his movement in the same way that he did and are invited to do so. No one can replace him, but we must try. The furtherance of the message he spread depends on it.

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Fans have fun at the first home game



Above: Members of the BCM pose for a photo on the hill during Thursday night's game.

Right: The United States Flag and the Northwestern Oklahoma State flag fly high overlooking Ranger field in the game against the Wonderboys



Photos by Victor Kinzie

Several NWOSU football fans sit on their tailgates to watch the first Ranger football home game.



Rangers and Wonderboys pile into each other in hopes of gaining an advantage



Ranger fans look on the game as they rest in the bed of a truck.



The BCM tailgate on the hill as play continues against ATU

FEATURES

New counselor talks suicide prevention

By SHEALYN PRATT
Features Editor

When a mental health crisis strikes, Northwestern students have resources readily available to help them through the moment and remind them they are not alone.

As we complete Suicide Awareness Week, it is important to remain informed on mental health resources on campus. Northwestern’s counseling services offer several different resources and licensed professionals who are here to help.

Leah Brady, MSW, LCSW, is a Northwestern graduate who recently came back to Alva to take over the counseling department. Brady graduated from NWOSU in 2008 with her bachelors in social work before receiving her master’s degree from the University of Oklahoma.

Brady came back to the Ranger family in mid-July and said she is happy to be back and serving students. She is here to provide free, confidential counseling services for currently enrolled students on all Northwestern campuses.

“It’s so needed, college is hard,” Brady said. “It is exciting but sometimes when you get here, our expectations may be a little different and it can be a little difficult adjusting. I really just love being that person to provide that help and help students get over that hump.”

Brady is a licensed clinical social worker of 20 years, providing

anywhere from case management to outpatient services. She noted that her experience and perspective are wide-ranging.

“I have a variety of experience in different populations and settings. I’ve provided outpatient counseling for community mental health, youth and family services, inpatient substance abuse treatment, and also some public health.”

She hopes to continue to promote Northwestern’s counseling services and make them more visible, accessible and approachable to students.

Brady emphasized the importance of sharing resources with students.

“Even though we are kind of constantly talking about it (counseling resources), it is something that should always be visible.”

Taylor Wilson, the previous director of the counseling services, is still at Northwestern part time and is doing “Ranger Ready Wellness Check-Ins.” Wilson is offering walk-in services on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

“Anybody can walk in,” Brady said, “Maybe they don’t even know what they want, they’re just struggling and want someone to talk to, she can talk to them, do some screeners and see what will help them the most.”

Brady also mentioned TimelyCare as a resource for any students who may be struggling. TimelyCare is a form of virtual care that is free of charge. Northwestern students don’t need in-

surance or any other form of payment to receive care.

Whether it is for a crisis conversation for suicidal thoughts at 2 in the morning or you’re just wanting to talk to someone on a random afternoon, someone will be there.

You do not have to handle hard, confusing emotions alone. Brady mentioned that one in five students struggle with suicidal ideation, particularly college freshmen.

“It’s okay to talk about suicide,” Brady explained. “Just asking somebody, are you thinking about hurting yourself or are you thinking about suicide, does not put that idea on their head. If they say yes, you know, and especially if they’re an immediate danger, don’t leave them alone, but if they say yes, just help connect them somewhere.”

Being extra vigilant about the well-being of your friends, family and yourself is a preventative measure to protect from mental health struggles. Be present. Be kind. Have conversations with your friends, even if they’re short.

“You don’t have to have all the right words,” Brady said. “Just to have somebody notice it and to spend some time with them and talking with them in a nonjudgmental way.”

Brady also mentioned campus police as a resource for any mental health emergencies. If you’re on any of the Northwestern campuses, contact the campus police and they will show up to you with an iPad that is connected to

a licensed crisis counselor that’s trained specifically for crisis situations.

“They’re not gonna show up in handcuffs and haul somebody off anywhere,” Brady said.

“Just because somebody’s having suicidal thoughts doesn’t always mean they need to go somewhere,” Brady continued. “Maybe they just need to be connected with somebody at that time and so they will determine that together.”

If you are not in a crisis situation, the counselors office is located on the second floor or Ryerson Hall.

In front of the door, you will find a resource table containing lock pouches for medication, drug deactivation kits and suicide prevention resources.

The drug deactivation kits can be used for disposal of expired medication or medications of any kind by following the instructions on the back of the pouch. On the resource table, you’ll be able to find a paper with the locations of places that allow for safe disposal of any kind of medication.

“Dispose of them properly, rather than throwing them in the trash where they might get in the hands of somebody it shouldn’t,” Brady warned.

These resources tables are also located outside of the Lasso center, on the first floor of Ryerson Hall, and by the vending machines in the Student Center.

Naloxone, previously seen on these resource tables, are now located in the counselors offices.

Naloxone is an emergency treatment for an opioid overdose. If you suspect that someone may be having an overdose of any kind, administering the naloxone can reverse the effects.

“They look like a nose spray, you tilt the head back and insert,” Brady said.

There are directions on the back of the naloxone box and an example video on the counseling service website that you can watch to see how to administer it.

You don’t have to know for sure that a person is suffering from an opioid overdose. They could be having another medical episode, but naloxone will not harm them if they are not having an opioid episode and it’s something else.

“It’s a good thing to just have your car or in your dorm, in your home, just on hand,” Brady said. “Anybody can come up here and get one. They are free as well.”

Whether it is a friend or a stranger, it is important to be prepared and ready to help someone during a time of crisis. Mental health is unpredictable. Suicidal thoughts and mental health struggles can effect anyone.

“Those thoughts and those things are normal,” Brady said.”-To feel stressed during those times times, and if those lead to suicidal ideation, you have services here.”

If you or someone that you know is battling with depression, anxiety or any other struggle that you don’t want to deal with alone, know that you don’t have to.



Leah Brady, the director of counseling services, is available to any student, via in-person meeting, phone or email. Her office is located on Ryerson second floor in room 209.



Resources are available for students at any of the tables located on the second floor of Ryerson Hall.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Story telling through angles

By KEVIN KAUMANS
Entertainment Editor

Before even writing this article, I am going to go on a limb here and assume that most people reading this article find film to be more intriguing than opening up a dusty book and trying to imagine the amazing action scenes in their minds. If I am being honest, as an English major, I genuinely get the appeal. Watching a movie takes less brain power than reading, and that is why many see the act of reading in of itself as a chore rather than something fun to train their brain.

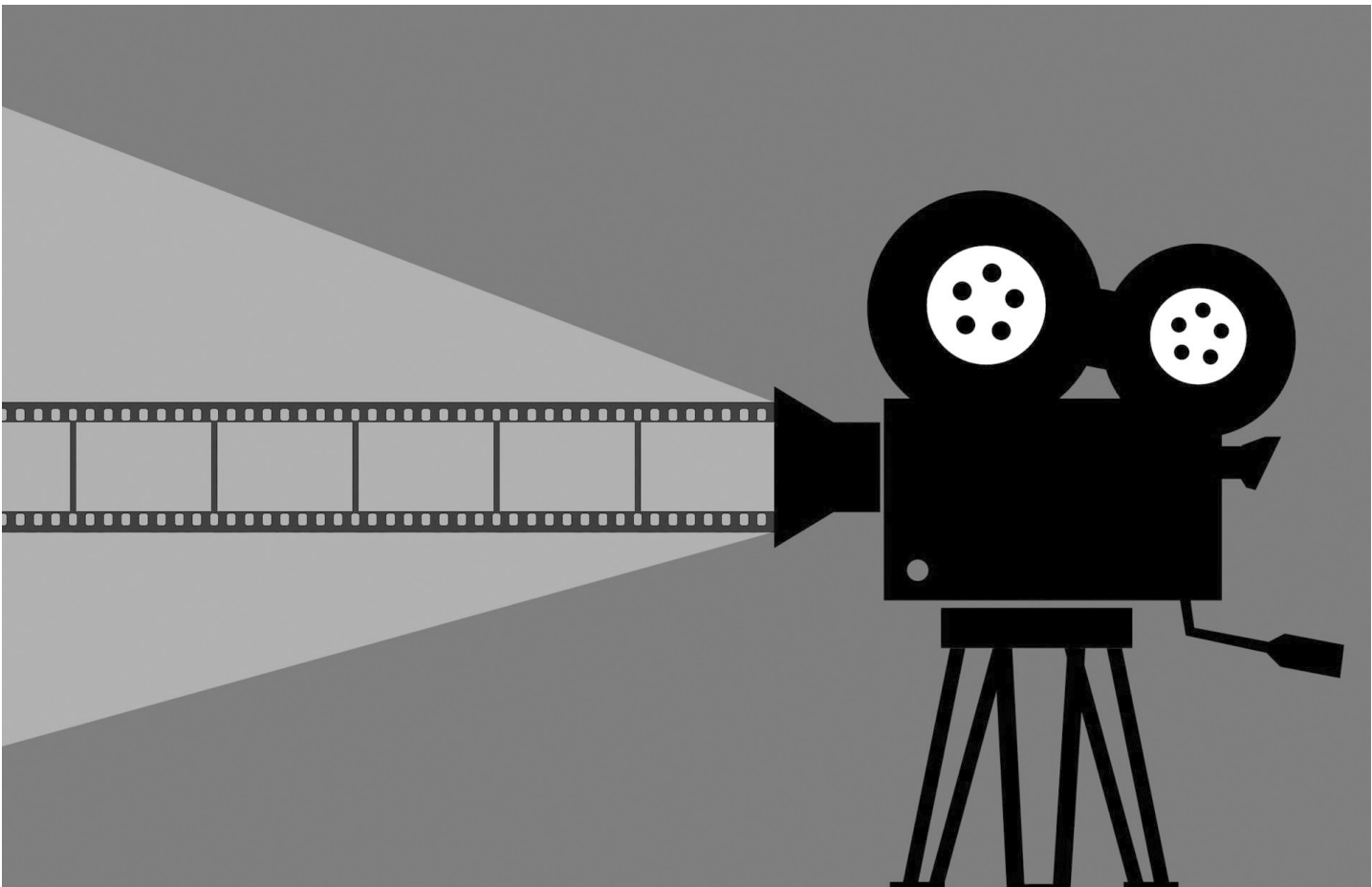
But on the topic of films, there is something I want to address. How does the camera play into a story? This may seem trivial at first. I mean, I do not doubt that most of the people reading this tend to focus more on the characters and special effects of a movie than where the camera is pointed.

That being said, there is actually more to filming a scene than just making sure the camera is pointed at the actors. If it were that easy, anyone could just apply to be a Hollywood director. But when you watch a final product, it is important to remember that almost every little detail you see was approved by the director. This includes every little angle and scene.

For example, let us say one character is talking to the other, and the camera is looking up at the person speaking.

This can be interpreted as the director’s way of giving power to the character. The camera being down gives the audience a taste of powerlessness the other character in the scene might feel. A long far distance shot can be used to show a scene or area. You will usually see something like this when the main characters are in vehicle, arriving somewhere knew.

This camera angle is especially likely to be shown in a movie if the place the characters are going to is a different country.



Close-up shots are also just as important. Usually reserved for dramas, close-up shots are used to help the audience focus on the face of a character and all the important details. These details can include the way their skin wrinkles or how their eyes twitch.

Color is also a good way to tell a story through cameras. Many movies over the years have included dream sequences that are less about the imagery and moreso about the scheme in which takes place in the scene. Sometimes the colors are bright and happy, overwhelming the audience with the flashes. Other times, they become dark and creepy, making the watchers feel unsafe.

While special effects can help add to a movie, it can also take away from it. After-all, when your film has bad CGI, the audience will eventually notice it more than the story you are trying to tell.

Cameras can play tricks on your viewers without any of that fancy “movie magic”. Sleights of hands, for instance, encourages you when rewatching the show to pay more attention to detail in order to catch what happened.

Films are, and have always been, a way to create art through unconventional means. However, due to film classes having a reputation for being boring, many young people brush filming inside like it is nothing important. But that is the problem

with assuming, is it not? If something is assumed not to be useful, we miss the things it can teach us.

It is easy to call something a waste of time when one does not have the proper discipline to truly appreciate it. They see something beautiful and discard it because they cannot see it for what it is.

It is through our own bias and beliefs that we come to the conclusion that certain things in our world have no value just because they personally do not get it. It is a slippery slope, one that leads to us forgetting out history.

It is important to always keep our minds open. Maybe we should all watch some more moves.

The decline of mass paperbacks

By KEVIN KAUMANS
Entertainment Editor

On rare occasions, I accept requests for what I talk about this week. Granted, in order for me to be able to accept it, it needs to be something related to books, movies, or other forms of entertainment.

It also has to be something I believe my readers might be interested in. So, before you ask: No, I refuse to review your cousin’s self-published book that he “wrote” using AI.

That being said, I was given an interesting recommendation this week. Let us get to it, shall we?

Sophie Jungman asked: Can you talk about the decline of mass market paperbacks?

For those of you who are unaware, mass market paperback is a type of book cover publishers have used in the past to save money. The process involves taking your normal paperback, shrinking it down to where it could easily fit in someone’s coat

pocket and selling it at a price cheaper than any other form of physical publishing.

Even if you have never owned a mass market paper book, odds are you have seen them before. Used book stores, dollar stores and general stores are often seen with these types of books posted up in a rack that kinda looks like a coat hanger. I know it is not exactly the late 1900s; most stores today have updated their buildings and have mostly removed these racks in a lot of places.

However, being that I have spent my entire childhood in rural Kansas, I can say with full certainty that these things still exist in some places.

Though they come in many genres, my main collection of mass market paperback books are in the fantasy genres. This is because many fantasy series can be up to over ten books and thousands of pages long.

Needless to say, most publishers might want to spend the bare minimum on printing the books of less well-known fantasy authors, so they often tend to use the cheapest option possible when publishing

their twenty-book series. They are not going to cash out a bunch of money on someone and end up losing a bunch of money.

This is not to mention that fact that your average middle-class reader is not going to want to shrill a hundred dollars for single book series, and you have a near-perfect way for books to be published.

As a matter of fact, most of my collection of mass market paperback is that of the fantasy genre. In total, I would guess that I own over thirty mass paperbacks alone in the fantasy genre.

Of course, after the internet and e-books came to be, mass paperbacks began fading out of popularity. E-books, like mass paperbacks, are presented as authors as a cheap and easy way to get their work out there. Combine this with the growing rise of being able to self-publish your book instead of having a company do it, it is no wonder why Mass paperbacks have fallen out of favor over the years.

Another problem you have to face with mass paperbacks is that they are very easy to rip and tear. You may not see that as a

big deal, but if you give it enough time in your backpack than trust me: You will start noticing the edges of the cover breaking apart. It does not take much to ruin the paper a little too fast before it starts falling out of the book.

The sad truth of the matter is that mass paperbacks are dying out. Less people are buying them, inflation has made them less expensive and the number of students that read less all mean almost no one is buying them anymore. It is very likely that mass paperbacks will go extinct in a few decades from now.

All of this being said, I still have a soft spot for mass paperbacks in my heart. There is something nostalgic about finding some in a dollar store while shopping and feeling them beneath my fingers.

The smell of physical paper can never compete with the feeling of your hone in your hand and reading a book that way. Even if they are not perfect, this type of publishing will always be remembered in good faith by me.

SPORTS

Volleyball goes even

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Editor-in-Cheif

The Lady Rangers faces three teams while in Kentucky, and had a conference game when they came back to Oklahoma, winning two and losing two.

The three teams the volleyball team faces in Kentucky were William Jewell College, the University of Nebraska at Kearney and Hastings College. After their trip to Kentucky, they faced Southern Nazarene University in Bethany.

Northwestern won their first game, lost their second, won their third and lost their fourth.

The Lady Rangers defeated William Jewell easily, with the first set going to NWOSU 25-10. The Cardinals won set two 25-17.

Then, Northwestern won sets three and four to finish off the game. Tess De Zanet had the most kills with 17. Ivanny Blackwood had five blocks and two aces. Jadyn Padilla had 25 digs.

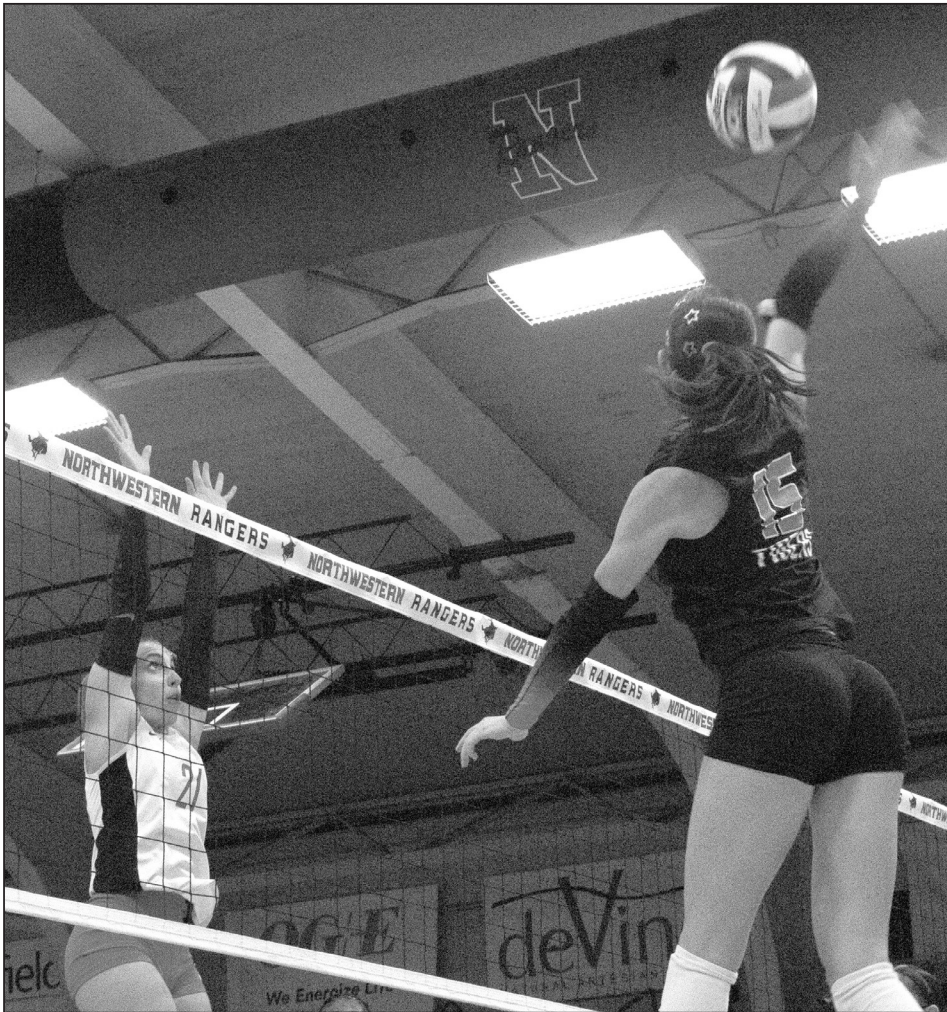
Game two for the Lady Rangers was not as successful. Kearney swept Northwestern and didn't allow the Lady Rangers to earn more than 14 points in a single set. In set one, Kearney won 25-9. Set two was 25-14 and set three was a disastrous 25-6.

The Lady Rangers seemed to be unable to find a way to block Kearney, as they only had two throughout the game.

De Zanet and Kemelly Baez Miecznikoski had the two lone blocks. De Zanet had the most kills again with eight. Katie Wadas had nine digs, 11 assists and one ace.

Game three was much easier for the Lady Rangers, as they turned around from being swept to sweeping their next opponent.

Northwestern took down Hastings 3-0. Set one wasn't very close, with Northwestern winning 25-15. Set two



Lady Ranger Katie Wadas, jumps to block ECU player Raegan Hutchinson on September 8. *Photo by Tierra Green*

was the closest with the ending score being 25-22 for NWOSU.

Set three wrapped it up with a win for the Lady Ranges 25-19, winning the game.

De Zanet continued to lead in the kills as she had 15 against Hastings. De Zanet also had two aces and seven digs.

Baez Miecznikoski had seven blocks. Padilla had 16 digs and seven assists.

The Lady Rangers came back home to Oklahoma and faced Southern Nazarene University on enemy territory. The Lady Rangers won the first set, but were unable to find another set win and lost the game 3-1.

Each set was incredibly close as

neither team scored less than 20 points in any set.

The loss against SNU shouldn't dampen the Lady Rangers' spirits. On any other day, they could have come home with the win just as easily as they took the loss. It was a hard fight against the conference rival, but the team that won was just better on that day.

De Zanet led in kills again with 16. Blackwood was a close second with 14. Wadas had 31 assists. Padilla had 29 digs.

Next for the Lady Rangers will be Southeastern Oklahoma State University at home on Thursday. Then, they face Oklahoma Baptist on Tuesday at Shawnee.

Rodeo tops events in Colby

The Northwestern rodeo teams placed in six of the nine events at the Colby Community College Rodeo over the weekend, ending in two podium finishes for both teams.

The Lady Rangers finished second out in the overall finish. Fort Hays topped the Lady Rangers, and Southwestern finished below NWOSU. The men finished third. Panhandle and Western Oklahoma State was above.

14 Rangers scored points for Northwestern throughout the events. The only events where Rangers did not score were the roughstock events: saddle bronc, bareback and bull riding. The breakaway event had the most Rangers with five of the nine in the event being Rangers. It was the only event with a Ranger at the top of the board.

Brylee Zook was the winner of the breakaway event. Zook had a time of 4.5 seconds. Bleu Hall sat second just one tenth of a 2nd behind. Ally Brenaman finished 3rd with a time of 5.8. Carsyn Haddock tied for 4th with a SWOSU roper. Brana Thomson finished 6th.

Carter Anderson was the lone Ranger in the tie down event. Anderson finished 2nd just barely behind a Northeastern roper.

Nathan Duvall and Sam Daly return to being top performers in the steer wrestling event. Duvall finished 3rd and Daly finished 4th with almost identical times. Creyo Koop also finished in the steer wrestling event, finishing 7th.

Laynee Ohm was the highest finishing Lady Ranger in the goat tying event with a 2nd place finish. Payton Dingman just barely missed out on a podium finish. Dingman finished 4th just three tenths of a second slower than a SWOSU goat tyer.

Only one Ranger finished in the team roping event. Treagyn Duarte finished 7th. Sadie Rempel was the only Lady Ranger that finished in the barrel racing event. She finished 5th.

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SPORTS

Soccer leads GAC standings

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Editor-in-Cheif

The Lady Rangers went undefeated in their trip west, defeating Oklahoma Panhandle State University and New Mexico Highlands University, putting them at 4-1-1.

On Thursday, the Lady Rangers went west, with a team from the flat ground in the panhandle and another from the rugged foothills of New Mexico.

Panhandle State was first on their trip, where the Lady Rangers defeated the Aggies 2-1 with two goals within two minutes of each other.

Mylee Yuill and Braxtyn Turner scored the two goals for Northwestern. Yuill's goal was in the 11th minute of the game. Turner's was just at the end of the 12th minute.

Cambell Tabor assisted Yuill and Jazelle Alvarado assisted Turner.

There was a goal from Panhandle State in the 25th minute with a penalty kick, but no other goals were scored.

Turner earned her second yellow card of the season against the Aggies in the 79th minute. Turner is the only player on the team to earn a booking throughout the start of 2026.

Alexa Flores was in goal against the Aggies, she recorded three saves. Katy Jo Werner had the most shots with four, two of those on goal. Altogether, the Lady Rangers had 19 shots and six on goal, being the most offensive team of the game by far.

Game two for the Lady Rangers sent them further west into New Mexico. The New Mexico Highlands University Cowgirls in Las Vegas, New Mexico, awaited the Lady Rangers in hopes of taking them down at home.

Northwestern crushed their hopes by defeating them 2-0 with a goal in each half.

Jenna Mills scored in the 43rd minute. Alvarado scored goal number two for the Lady Rangers in the 50th min



Photo by Tierra Green
Lady Ranger No. 14 Mylee Yuill, in possession as Fort Hays defender Ella Edwards moves in to attack on September 5 at Alva Soccer Field.

for the Lady Rangers in the 50th minute. Both teams had the same amount of shots, 12, but NWOSU had more on goal with six against the Cowgirls' three.

Taylor Annen was in goal against the Cowgirls, she made three saves in the shutout.

The Lady Rangers currently lead the Great American Conference standings, although no conference games have been played.

The Lady Rangers are two wins above Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

Wednesday will be the conference opener for Northwestern. The Lady Rangers will face the Southern Nazarene University Crimson Storm at Ranger Soccer Field at 6pm.



Mylee Yuill



Braxtyn Turner



Jenna Mills



Jazelle Alvarado

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Lady Ranger golf starts rough in Talequah at Northeastern

The Lady Rangers finished 9th out of 12 in the season opening tournament at the NSU Women's Classic on Monday and Tuesday.

Eight Great American Conference teams showed up to the NSU Women's Classic including South-eastern Oklahoma State, Harding, Oklahoma Baptist, Arkansas at Monticello, Southwestern Oklahoma State,



Amanda Lane

Northwestern Oklahoma State, Southern Arkansas and East Central University. Out of the GAC teams, the Lady Rangers finished 6th out of eight.

Amanda Lane was the top Lady Ranger. Lane finished in 24th with a score of +6. Veronica Rodriguez and Heather Hunkele had the same score. They finished 40th with scored of +10.

Olivia Platow finished 50th with a score of +13. Kelsey Hoy-Pollard finished 63rd with a score of +20.

The Lady Rangers will be back on Monday and Tuesday, when they compete in the Newman Invitational in Andover, Kansas.

SPORTS

Football loses, just barely

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**
Editor-in-Cheif

The Rangers had an amazing turn around from their weekend against Harding with a close loss against the Arkansas Tech University Wonderboys on Thursday night.

The Rangers came close to taking down the Wonderboys as they took the Great American Conference by surprise after a 76-0 loss to Harding University in week one. Most people expected a similar result for the Rangers when they were ready to face Arkansas Tech, but the Rangers flipped the script.

Sophomore quarterback Jacob T. Jones, threw for 302 yards against the Wonderboys. Jones threw three touchdowns, two to Koda Bridges and one to Bailee Davenport. Bridges had the most receiving yards for the Rangers with 73. Royal Kyle had the longest reception as he ran for 46 yards in the 3rd quarter after a catch thrown by Jones.

The Rangers had the lead at the end of quarter one by one point. The Rangers scored a two-point conversion after a touchdown to lead 8-7 going into quarter two.

In the second quarter, the Wonderboys scored two touchdowns and the Rangers scored nothing. Entering the half, the Rangers were down 20-8.

Despite the Rangers losing their grip on Arkansas Tech in the second quarter, there was still a feeling of hope around the stadium. Fans stayed glued to their seats and the team came back out like nothing had happened.

In the third quarter, the two teams were even in the scoring, both with two touchdowns PAT completions. Coming down to the final quarter, the Rangers had one goal and that was to win.

The fourth quarter started in the possession of the Wonderboys. After six plays, the Wonderboys went for it on a 4th and 2 on the Ranger's end. The Northwestern defense acted as a brick wall and stopped



Photo by Victor Kinzie

NWOSU defense trys to get past the Arkansas Tech University offensive line on Thursday, the Ranger defense stepped up in their performance.

Arkansas Tech in their steps. The Rangers earned possession and started back down the field.

After eight plays, the Rangers made up 62 yards to get into the Wonderboy red-zone. The Rangers had a penalty against them for an illegal formation and were sent back five yards to the 19-yard line on a 4th and 7. Despite the obstacles and pressure on them, the Rangers scored a 19-yard touchdown with a throw from Jones to Bridges. The PAT was good and there was only 6:48 left on the clock.

On the game-changing drive for the Wonderboys, the Ranger defense stepped up again to give their offense a chance to win the game. The defense stopped the Wonderboys in four plays and sent the of-

fense right back out.

With five minutes left and 61 yards to go, the Ranger offense had work to do. They drove down the field, making first down after first down until they got stuck at the 31-yard line with a 4th and 14. The two-minute warning went off, and the Rangers were given a free timeout to setup a play.

One play to win it and it was given to Jones and Kyle. Jones waited for the right time as Arkansas Tech defenders hung back to attempt to defend the pass. Jones saw an opportunity to throw to Kyle and gave it a shot. Kyle just barely lost the ball, giving the Wonderboys the ball, ending the game.

Ranger defensive player Wyatt Potter said the defense feels good and is in high

spirits after the close loss to Arkansas Tech.

"I'm feeling good defensively," Potter said. "After giving up 76 the week before, and then holding them to 34-29, we feel good defensively. We need to come up with more stops, but it was much better this week."

Potter said they need to have more stops to help out the offense.

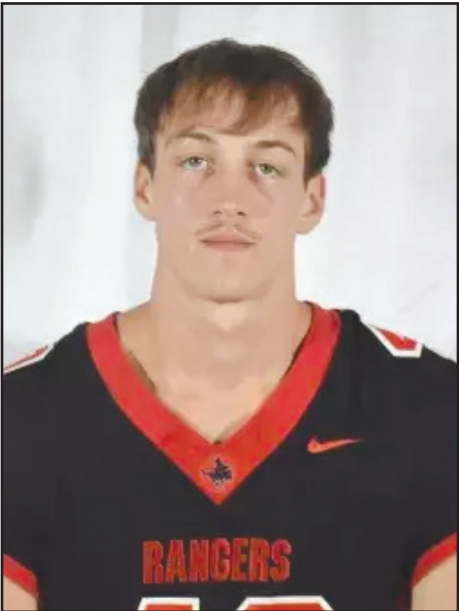
"Just get more stops, help the offense out more in the first half and play more complimentary football," Potter said. "Gotta get our run stuff fixed, start stoning the run, but overall a lot better than Harding, but a lot of work to do."

The Rangers face Oklahoma Baptist on Saturday for Family Day. The game will be at home at Ranger Field at 6pm.

FOOTBALL PLAYMAKERS



Jacob T. Jones
302 yds thrown, 3 TD



Aiden Lewis
7 solo tackles, 8 assisted, 15 total



Casen Olson
6 solo tackles, 8 assisted, 14 total



Wyatt Potter
4 solo tackles, 10 assisted, 14 total