

The team that made their own history: Bison Dance team grows, looks to the future for innovation



COURTESY PHOTO/ THE BISON

The Dance Team supports the last game. Photo provided by Cinnamon Dilts.

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Oklahoma Baptist’s dance team has undergone some new additions as the season begins, including new events, new members, a new assistant coach and a very real sense of history and legacy.

Over the years, the dance team has grown drastically, causing more students to be recruited and subsequently to try out for the team.

As the dance team is a part of the athletic department,

it is fully funded like every other sport at OBU.

The dance team competes at NDA camp during the summer and at NDA nationals in the spring, one of their most prioritized events.

Over the summer, the dance team created a legacy with their program by working hard, involving themselves with NDA camp, receiving a gold paid bid to nationals and also the most collegiate team award, the best all-around team, the most spirited award and superior ratings on both

routines.

Through the 16-hour practices and sleepless nights, they worked hard and won big at the NDA camp.

The dance team continues training with morning workouts, long practices and team bonding experiences.

The team also has new athletes this season from all different backgrounds.

The team received nine rookies this year with all genres of talent, which creates a solid large group dance team to perform at all home

football games, basketball and OBU events.

The OBU dance team will continue working hard and achieving the impossible all year and working hard and practicing day and night to be the best they can be on the stage at nationals in the spring.

While reaching out to veterans on the team, a current senior, Marysa Rake, emphasized the love and bond the team has.

“I would say what sets this year’s team apart is their commitment and positivity,” she said.

“Everyone is always willing to put in the extra work and does it while encouraging their teammates around them. Our team is like a family, and everyone works hard for one another,” Rake said.

While the team counts down the days till nationals, they have some tough practices and workouts they must get through before all their hard work can pay off.

A freshman rookie, Audrey Gaines, said how excited this upcoming season is.

“I am excited to work with this new team, especially for nationals season and see how we can grow and learn as a team,” she said.

“Everyone is so nice and loving and pushes each other through all the hard practices we have. Everyone motivates each other, which is my favorite thing about this team,” Gaines said.

Though the team is excited

and thrilled for nationals, one crucial factor that holds a team together is the loving and positive energy.

While talking to other veterans on the team, a four-year, Gracie Curry, discussed how she emphasizes the Christ-like attitude the team gives to each other.

Not only do you need to have the ability to dance, but the spiritual side of friendship holds a vital part in it too.

“What makes this team stand out is something that has been true for the entire four years I have been here. It is something that has stood true,” she said.

“I have always admired Christ’s unity in the dance team, and I love that the team can maintain a positive attitude no matter the circumstance. I feel like the new team this year has a great attitude overall, and this is the best team chemistry I have experienced since being in OBU Christ brings,” Curry said.

While the OBU dance team worked hard for this season, they have had ups and downs.

Gaining information about this team shines a light on why they strive so hard throughout this season to push till nationals.

The dance team is working to create OBU history, and this goal motivates them daily to uplift each other to win a possible national title in the spring--the regular season.”

Women’s volleyball, golf tackling the ‘23 season

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Bison sports are in full swing, with soccer, volleyball, and golf, to name a few.

Alanna Bloomingdale was named Great American Conference Offensive Player of the Week in women’s soccer.

On Saturday, September 9th, Bloomingdale led the soccer team to a 2-1 victory over the UCO Bronchos.

Bloomingdale scored a career-high of two goals during this game, with her last goal winning the game.

The soccer team lost to the Midwestern State Mustangs 2-1 on Thursday, September 13th.

Middle Forward Kaylee Swaner scored the lone goal for the Bison, and goalkeeper Mia Pendleton secured five saves.

The next OBU Women’s soccer game will be Saturday, September 16th, at 7:00 p.m. against Dallas Baptist University.

Women’s volleyball lost to number 25 UCO Bronchos on September 12th.

A tough night for the green and gold, losing all three sets. They showed resilience, though, against a stacked UCO team.

Right-side hitter Jh’Kyah Head



CLAYTON COFFMAN/ COURTESY PHOTO

Above: Bison Volleyball match with Northwestern and East Central.

secured the most kills for the team with nine kills.

Middle blocker Jill Leslie had 2.5 blocks and three digs during the game.

Setter Emily Boyer had a whopping 14 assists and six digs as well.

Libero Kaelyn Ina secured the team high in digs with a whopping 11.

The Bison beat Missouri University of Science and Technology 3-2 on Thursday, September 14th.

Leslie had 14 kills. Libero Maci Langford had 25 digs. Setter Rylee

Martin had 33 assists.

The team secured another victory on Friday, September 15th, beating the Upper Iowa University Peacocks with a score of 3-0.

Outside hitter Lauren Safrit got her third career double-double with an astounding 10 kills and 10 digs. Boyer had three aces and 14 assists, and Martin added to the assist total 18.

The volleyball team is 6-5 at this point in the season.

The next opponent will be the Northwestern Oklahoma State Rangers on September 19th.

The women’s golf team finished sixth place on September 12th at the NSU Classic, OBU’s best finish since their last sixth place finish in 2021.

Morgan Becker shot one over par and tied for fifth place, marking her second consecutive top-five placement.

Additionally, the All-Tournament team’s name went to Becky. Gimena Errecart and Josefina Serres finished 31st and 40th, respectively.

The next tournament for the Bison will be September 25th at the Hillcrest Country Club in Bartlesville for the NCAA Central Regional Preview.

Be sure to wish the Bison athlete’s good luck!

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If fans are to be critical this early in the season, converting drives into touchdowns instead of field goals may be a common concern. If the Bison want to continue winning games, they must capitalize on scoring opportunities.

Certainly, Offensive Coordinator Daniel Eaton will continue searching for ways to improve the offense's scoring ability as the season continues. Defensively, it is of the utmost importance to stop the air attack of opposing teams. In the season's first game, OBU allowed twice as many passing yards as rushing yards.

Both sides of the ball must clean up unnecessary penalties. If the team wants to improve from last season and sustain long-term success, the coordinators must focus on the little costly mistakes that can add up over time. If the team addresses the small error early, it could benefit them as the

season progresses.

Overall, the future of the Great American Conference is bright as it includes many strong teams and exciting games to watch this season. Many big games are coming up for the green and gold, including the away game at East Central University, which finished last season with an overall record of 9-3. That game will be played in Greenville, North Carolina, on Saturday, September 23rd.

The next week, OBU gets the home-field advantage over the Henderson State Reddies, who finished fourth in the GAC last season. Of course, later in the season, mark your calendars for the big rivalry game against the other OBU boys, Ouachita Baptist University, at Carpenter-Haygood Stadium in Arkansas on November 4th.

Students and fans of football have plenty of reason to be excited for this new season as OBU attempts to make a turnaround. The beginning of the season has left many people questioning what is to come. Will the Bison finish this season with

a winning record? Can they sustain the run game and use it to their advantage? How will they perform in close game situations? All left to do is wait and watch the answers unfold on Saturdays.

In other sports news, Germany has eliminated Team USA from the FIBA World Cup in the semi-finals. Germany, who has gone undefeated this year, beat USA 113-111 in a nail-biting ending where Anthony Edwards and Austin Reeves combined for 44 points. Led by NBA all-stars Anthony Edwards and Jaren Jackson Junior, Team USA won 5 games and lost only 2 games this year. The team looked solid this year, hoping to gear up for next year's Olympics.

As sports fans, we want to invite as many students as possible to attend the games and support our teams every week. Crowds play a big role in college athletics, and your participation can help lead the Bison to a successful season. Show your school spirit, be as loud as possible, and this autumn, be sure to pray for our quarterback and kicker underneath the wind-swept sky. See you at the games. ZIP! BANG!