



# OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE



**OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE**  
 215 Centerview Drive, Suite 115  
 Brentwood, TN 37027  
 Phone - (615) 371-1698  
 FAX - (615) 891-1682  
 www.OVCSports.com

## STAFF

*Beth DeBauche, Commissioner*

*Kate Barnett, Assistant Commissioner for Championships & Compliance*  
 E-mail: kbarnett@ovc.org

*Stephanie Castera, Assistant Commissioner for Institutional Services/SWA*  
 E-mail: scastera@ovc.org

*Kyle Schwartz, Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Communications*  
 E-mail: kschwartz@ovc.org

*Travis Tellitocci, Asst. Commissioner for Football, Basketball & Officiating*  
 E-mail: ttellitocci@ovc.org

*Lauren Berst, Director of Administration*  
 E-mail: lberst@ovc.org

*Heather Brown, Director of Communications*  
 E-mail: hbrown@ovc.org

*Bryce Robinson, Director of Digital Media*  
 E-mail: brobinson@ovc.org

*Jonathan Owens, Assistant Director of Championships & Administration*  
 E-mail: lberst@ovc.org

*Jon Kuka, General Manager, OVC Sports Properties*  
 E-mail: jkuka@ovc.org

*Matt Young, Coordinator of Football Officiating*  
 E-mail: ovfootball@gmail.com

## MEMBERSHIP

**Austin Peay State University - Clarksville, Tenn.**  
 Member since 1962

**Belmont University - Nashville, Tenn.**  
 Member since 2012

**Eastern Illinois University - Charleston, Ill.**  
 Member since 1996

**Eastern Kentucky University - Richmond, Ky.**  
 Member since 1948

**Jacksonville State University - Jacksonville, Ala.**  
 Member since 2003

**Morehead State University - Morehead, Ky.**  
 Member since 1948

**Murray State University - Murray, Ky.**  
 Member since 1948

**Southeast Missouri State University - Cape Girardeau, Mo.**  
 Member since 1991

**Southern Illinois University Edwardsville - Edwardsville, Ill.**  
 Member since 2008

**Tennessee State University - Nashville, Tenn.**  
 Member since 1986

**Tennessee Technological University - Cookeville, Tenn.**  
 Member since 1949

**University of Tennessee at Martin - Martin, Tenn.**  
 Member since 1992

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Introduction

Media Information.....	2
OVC Style Guide .....	3
Conference History.....	4-5
OVC Honors/Awards .....	6
OVC Commissioner.....	7
OVC Staff .....	8-10
FCS Conference Alignment.....	11
Division I Football Information .....	12-13
Wilson/ESPN+ .....	14-15
2019 Season Preview/Notes .....	16-17
2019 Composite Schedule/2019 Schedule .....	18

### 2019 Team Information/Outlooks

Austin Peay .....	19-24
Eastern Illinois .....	25-30
Eastern Kentucky .....	31-36
Jacksonville State.....	37-42
Murray State.....	43-48
Southeast Missouri.....	49-54
Tennessee State.....	55-60
Tennessee Tech .....	61-66
UT Martin.....	67-72

### 2018 in Review

2018 All-OVC Teams .....	73
Final 2018 OVC Standings/Statistics .....	74-77
OVC Teams and Players in Final National Statistics.....	78
2018 OVC Players of the Week/Final FCS Top 25 polls .....	79

### OVC Records/History

Year-by-Year OVC Final Standings .....	80-81
Year-by-Year OVC Champions.....	82
Year-by-Year All-OVC Teams .....	83-89
All-Time OVC Player and Coach of the Year Winners.....	90-91
OVC First-Team All-Americans.....	92
Record Book - Individuals .....	93-96
Record Book - Team.....	97-98
Year-by-Year Statistical Leaders .....	99-101
All-Time OVC Players of the Week .....	102-107
All-Time OVC Preseason Polls.....	108-109
NCAA Division I Football Championship/Bracket.....	110-111
OVC Postseason History.....	112-113
Final FCS/I-AA Yearly Polls .....	114-115
Conference Series Game-by-Game .....	116-117
OVC Schools vs. FBS Teams.....	118
Largest Crowds in OVC History .....	119
Sgt. York Trophy.....	120-122
Delta Dental of Tennessee .....	123
Farm Bureau Health Plans.....	124
Embassy Suites/Millennium Maxwell House .....	125
All-Time Sports Network/STATS Award Winners.....	126-127
NCAA Overtime Rules/OVC Overtime History .....	128
Instant Replay .....	129
OVC Players in the NFL Draft .....	130
Jostens .....	131

Composite Schedule Grid..... 132

## CREDITS

This 2019 Ohio Valley Conference Football Media Guide was written, designed and edited by Kyle Schwartz, Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Communications. Assistance provided by and a special thanks to the sports information directors at the nine OVC football playing institutions for providing content and assistance.

The guide is available at OVCSports.com as a PDF download. Upon request it is also available on CD. The CD also contains the PDF media guides of all nine OVC football schools as well as a Logo/Headshot Library of the Conference office and member institutions. To request a copy, contact Kyle Schwartz in the OVC office.



# OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE



## SCHOOL WEBSITES

Ohio Valley Conference.....	www.OVCSports.com
Austin Peay .....	www.LetsGoPeay.com
Eastern Illinois .....	www.EIUpanters.com
Eastern Kentucky .....	www.EKUSports.com
Jacksonville State.....	www.JSUGamecockSports.com
Murray State .....	www.GoRacers.com
Southeast Missouri .....	www.GoSoutheast.com
Tennessee State .....	www.TSUTigers.com
Tennessee Tech.....	www.TTUSports.com
UT Martin.....	www.UTMSports.com

## OVC GAMES ON THE RADIO/INTERNET

### Austin Peay

On the Radio ..ESPN Clarksville (540 AM/104.1 FM)	
On the Internet.....	www.letsgopeay.com
Talent .....	Brian Rives, Van Stokes

### Eastern Illinois

On the Radio .....	Hit Mix 88.9 (WEIU)
On the Internet.....	www.weiuhitmix.net
Talent .....	Mike Bradd, Jack Ashmore

### Eastern Kentucky

On the Radio .....	WCYO-FM 100.7
On the Internet.....	www.wcyofm.com
Talent .....	Greg Stotemyer, Jim Tirey

### Jacksonville State

On the Radio .....	WLJS-FM 91.9
On the Internet.....	www.jsu.edu/92j
Talent .....	Mike Parris, Ray Hammett

### Murray State

On the Radio .....	WFGE-FM 103.7
On the Internet.....	www.GoRacers.com
Talent .....	Neal Bradley

### Southeast Missouri

On the Radio .....	ESPN 92.9 FM (KLSC)
On the Internet.....	GoSoutheast.com
Talent .....	Erik Sean, Rick Wieser

### Tennessee State

On the Radio .....	102.1 FM The Light
On the Internet.....	TSURadio.com
Talent .....	Greg Pogue, Albert Dawson

### Tennessee Tech

On the Radio .....	98.5 Kiss FM
On the Internet.....	www.TTUSports.com
Talent .....	Roger Ealey, Dylan Vazzano

### UT Martin

On the Radio .....	WCMT-FM 101.3/WUTM 90.3
On the Internet.....	www.UTMSports.com
Talent .....	Tom Britt, Chris Brinkley

*Note: All above radio listings are Flagship stations only and does not include radio network affiliates.*

## MEDIA INFORMATION

### OVCSPORTS.COM

The official website of the Ohio Valley Conference is OVCSports.com. The website is a direct partnership with SIDEARM Sports. The website contains all the latest news on the conference including releases, statistics and standings.

### OVC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

The OVC will name an Offensive, Defensive, Special Teams and Newcomer of the Week each Sunday afternoon during the regular season. A full report featuring league standings, statistics and weekly matchups will be available on Monday afternoons. The release will be posted on OVCSports.com and emailed to local and national media. If you would like to be added to the distribution list send an email to [kschwartz@ovc.org](mailto:kschwartz@ovc.org).

### OVC COACHES TELECONFERENCES

During the regular season a weekly teleconference featuring the league's nine head coaches will be held every Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. Central Time. The first teleconference will take place on Tuesday, August 27. A schedule of what times coaches will appear weekly is below. For information on how to access the call, please contact Kyle Schwartz in the OVC Office (615-690-6685 or [kschwartz@ovc.org](mailto:kschwartz@ovc.org)).

- 10:07 - Mitch Stewart, Murray State
- 10:14 - Tom Matukewicz, Southeast Missouri
- 10:21 - John Grass, Jacksonville State
- 10:28 - Mark Elder, Eastern Kentucky
- 10:35 - Mark Hudspeth, Austin Peay
- 10:42 - Jason Simpson, UT Martin
- 10:49 - Rod Reed, Tennessee State
- 10:56 - Dewayne Alexander, Tennessee Tech
- 11:03 - Adam Cushing, Eastern Illinois

### OVC AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Media and fans can get the latest updates on Ohio Valley Conference happenings by using the social media outlets of Twitter and Facebook. Followers and fans of the OVC on each application will get breaking news first and have the chance to access special content and receive special deals. The OVC can be found on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/ovcsports> and on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/ovcsports>. You can also check out the league's YouTube Channel at <http://www.YouTube.com/ohiovalleyconference> and the OVC's Blog at [OVCEXtra.com](http://OVCEXtra.com).

### FCS PLAYOFFS/OVC TIEBREAKER

The participants in the 2019 NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (formerly I-AA) Playoffs will be announced on Sunday, Nov. 24. In the event of a tie for the OVC Championship, the following procedures will be used to break all ties and to determine the league's NCAA playoff representative.

### TWO-WAY TIES

- 1.) A two-way tie shall exist only if the tied teams have the same number of losses.
- 2.) Should two teams have the same number of losses, and the two teams played each other during the regular season, the winner of the head-to-head contest shall be the league's postseason representative.
- 3.) If the two tied teams have the same number of losses, but did not play each other during the regular season, the following procedure shall be utilized to break the tie:
  - a.) A comparison of each team's head-to-head record against the team occupying the highest position in the regular-season standings that each team has played. If one team won its game against that team, the winning team shall be declared the representative.
  - b.) Should the procedure outlined in Item a. fail to break the tie, the process will continue to the next-place team and beyond until the tie is broken.
  - c.) When arriving at another group of tied teams, composite records between the tying teams shall be utilized to determine if one of the tied teams has won more games against the group of tied teams.
- 4.) If the procedures described previously fail to break the tie, the representative shall be determined by a coin flip.

### MULTIPLE TIES

- 1.) A multiple tie (three or more teams) shall exist only if the tied teams have the same number of losses.
- 2.) If all of the teams involved in the multiple tie played each other during the regular season, then the composite records among the tied teams shall be compared to break the tie.
- 3.) If the process outlined in Step 2 reduces the tie to a tie among two teams, the two-team tiebreaker formula shall then be utilized.
- 4.) If not all of the tied teams played each other during the regular season, or if step 2 does not break or reduce the tie, the following procedure shall be utilized:
  - a.) A comparison of each of the tied teams' head-to-head record against the team occupying the highest position in the regular-season standings that each team has played. If one team won its game against that team, the winning team shall be declared the representative.
  - b.) Should the procedure outlined in Item a. fail to break the tie, the process will continue to the next-place team and beyond until the tie is broken.
  - c.) When arriving at another group of tied teams, composite records between the tying teams shall be utilized to determine if one of the tied teams has won more games against the group of tied teams.
- 5.) If the procedures described previously fail to break the tie, the representative shall be determined by a blind drawing.

## OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE STYLE GUIDE

Official Institution Name "Nickname"	Preferred Athletics Reference	Unacceptable Usages	PMS Colors
Austin Peay State University "Governors" or "Govs"	Austin Peay, APSU	Austin Peay State, AP Lady Governors, Lady Govs	200 Red
Belmont University "Bruins"	Belmont	Lady Bruins	Red 186, Blue 281
Eastern Illinois University "Panthers"	Eastern Illinois, EIU	Lady Panthers	2945 Blue, 422 Gray White
Eastern Kentucky University "Colonels"	Eastern Kentucky, EKU	--- White	209 Maroon, 429 Gray
Jacksonville State University "Gamecocks"	Jacksonville State, JSU Jax State	Jacksonville, Jack State Lady Gamecocks	186 Red, 122 Gold
Morehead State University "Eagles"	Morehead State, MSU	Morehead, MU Lady Eagles	286 Blue, 116 Gold
Murray State University "Racers"	Murray State, MSU	Murray, Lady Racers	123 Gold, 289 Blue
Southeast Missouri State University "Redhawks"	Southeast Missouri State Southeast Missouri, Southeast	---	186 Red, 05 Cool Grey Black
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville "Cougars"	SIUE (preferred) SIU Edwardsville	Southern Illinois-Edwardsville SIU-E	485 Red, 462 Dark Brown 7505 Brown, 465 Gold 7504 Light Brown
Tennessee State University "Tigers", "Lady Tigers" (WBB only), "Tigerbelles" (W-Track only)	Tennessee State, TSU	---	Reflex Blue
Tennessee Technological University "Golden Eagles"	Tennessee Tech, TTU, Tech	Tenn. Tech, TT	266 Purple, 109 Gold
The University of Tennessee at Martin "Skyhawks"	UT Martin, UTM	Tennessee-Martin UT-Martin, Martin	289 Blue, 151 Orange
Ohio Valley Conference	Ohio Valley, OVC	Valley	194 Maroon, 874 Gold Black



Above are the primary logos for the Ohio Valley Conference member institutions. All logos are trademarks of their respective universities.

This reference is intended only for media-related, non-commercial use. For more information or to request access to logos, contact Kyle Schwartz, Assistant Commissioner for Media Relations, at the Ohio Valley Conference at (615) 690-6685 or [kschwartz@ovc.org](mailto:kschwartz@ovc.org).





# OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE



Now in its 72nd year, the Ohio Valley Conference continues to build on the success that has made it the nation's eighth-oldest NCAA Division I conference.

In May 2011 the Conference expanded for the second time in four years, adding Belmont University which began competition in the 2012-13 academic year. The addition of Belmont gave the OVC 12 members, the most the league has had at one time in its illustrious history. The move added a second team in the city of Nashville and was the first addition to the league since Southern Illinois University Edwardsville joined in 2008. Subsequently, the league has shown its stability over the past decade, seeing only one member institution depart over the past 19 years.

The 2009-10 school year saw a change in leadership as Beth DeBauche was named the seventh full-time Commissioner in league history on July 28, 2009. The last three commissioners of the OVC have moved onto jobs as the commissioner of the Big Ten, Big 12 and the Mid-American Conferences.

The OVC's proud history dates back to 1948, but seeds for the new league were actually planted in 1941. It was then that Roy Stewart, the athletics director at Murray State, Charles "Turkey" Hughes, the athletics director at Eastern Kentucky, and Kelly Thompson, the public relations director at Western Kentucky, first broached the idea of forming a new conference. Discussions were put on hold by World War II, but reemerged February 27-28, 1948 at the Kentucky Hotel in Louisville as the three original institutions combined with Morehead State, Louisville and Evansville to form the OVC.

In the 1950s, the OVC became a pioneer on a much more significant scale socially. During times of racial segregation, league member Morehead State became one of the first non-traditionally black mid-southern institutions to accept a black student. In 1958 Marshall Banks earned athletically-related aid at Morehead, which signed a second black athlete, Howard Murphy, a year later. In 1961 Murphy earned all-conference recognition as a halfback in football. With racial barriers broken, the rest of the institutions in the league began to provide educational and athletic opportunities to African-Americans.

After Title IX legislation passed in 1972, women's athletics began a rebirth on the national scene as the NCAA began sponsoring and marketing women's sports. Recognizing the need to provide increased opportunities for female athletes, the OVC began formulating plans for women's athletics in 1975 and established women's championships in the sports of basketball, tennis and track in 1977, with cross country and volleyball added over the next four years. Those sports were initially governed by the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW), but the overall strength of women's programs in the league was demonstrated by the automatic bids the OVC instantly received when the NCAA became the governing body in 1982. The conference added women's golf and softball in 1994 and women's soccer in 1998.

Through the past 71 years, 15 teams have won or shared the league's football title. The list is led by Eastern Kentucky, winner of 21 outright or shared football crowns, which is tied for the most in Football Championship Subdivision history (with Massachusetts). Among OVC teams, former member Middle Tennessee is next with 11 titles, followed by Tennessee Tech with 10, and Murray State and former member Western Kentucky with eight apiece. Jacksonville State has eight titles while Eastern Illinois has seven crowns while Morehead State, Tennessee State and former members Evansville and East Tennessee State have captured two apiece. Austin Peay, Southeast Missouri, UT Martin and former member Youngstown State have one title apiece.

Murray State and Evansville tied for the initial football championship, and the Racers participated in the first-ever bowl game by an OVC team, tying Sul Ross State 21-21 in the 1948 Tangerine Bowl. From 1948 to 1975, OVC teams played in 15 bowl games, winning eight of them. Eastern Kentucky and Western Kentucky were also participants in the NCAA Division II playoffs in the early and mid-1970s prior to the NCAA's reclassification of football programs into Division I-AA. The term "I-AA" lasted until the end of the 2006 season when it was changed to Division I Football Championship Subdivision (FCS).

The first Division I-AA/FCS football playoff was held in 1978 with only four teams, which is the only year through present day that the OVC did not field a playoff representative. In 1979, four of the nation's top teams were invited to the playoffs, and two of them - Eastern Kentucky and Murray State - were from the OVC. Murray dropped its semifinal game to Lehigh, but the Colonels nipped Nevada-Reno in double overtime and claimed the national championship a week later with a 30-7 victory over Lehigh. EKV was coached by former All-America quarterback Roy Kidd, who was in his 16th year at the helm of his alma mater and who skippered the Colonels to a second national title three years later. Following the 2002 season, Kidd retired after 39 years at EKV; upon retirement, he ranked sixth all-time among Division I coaches with 315 victories, earning him a spot in the College Football Hall of Fame. EKV's 21 FCS playoff appearances are the second most all-time (behind only Montana's 23 berths).

In addition to Kidd, other coaching legends in the OVC include Charles "Bubber" Murphy, who coached at Middle Tennessee from 1947-1968, Western Kentucky's Jimmy Feix (1968-83), Wilburn Tucker (1954-67) and Don Wade (1968-82) of Tennessee Tech, Bill Ferguson (1967-77) of Murray State, Guy Penny (1959-67) of Morehead State and Boots Donnelly (1977-78 at Austin Peay; 1979-1998 at Middle Tennessee). Following the 2011 season Eastern Illinois head coach Bob Spoo retired after 25 years at the school (the last 16 as members of the OVC). In his time as an OVC coach he compiled 92 total victories (fifth-most in league history) and 68 OVC wins (fourth-most in league history) and was inducted into the OVC Hall of Fame in 2012. In 2016 former Murray State head coach Frank Beamer (1981-86) was inducted into the OVC Hall of Fame; he introduced his wide tackle six defense to the OVC and compiled a 43-23-2 record with the Racers

before leaving for his alma mater Virginia Tech where he won 280 games in 29 seasons.

A sampling of former OVC football stars, some of whom were All-Americans during their collegiate careers before achieving stardom at the professional ranks, include Jim Youngblood and Larry Schreiber (Tennessee Tech), Phil Simms (Morehead State), Virgil Livers and Dale Lindsey (Western Kentucky), Myron Guyton and Chad Bratzke (Eastern Kentucky), Cortland Finnegan (Samford) and Tony Romo and Jimmy Garoppolo (Eastern Illinois). In 2008, former Tennessee State standout Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie became just the fourth NFL First Round draft pick in OVC history when he was selected 16th overall by the Arizona Cardinals. He would break into the starting lineup halfway through his rookie season and started at cornerback for the Cardinals in Super Bowl XLIII.

The 2007 season marked a return to scholarship football and the OVC for the Austin Peay Governors. Following the 1996 season the Governors dropped scholarship football and competed as both an independent (1997-00, 2006) and as a member of the Pioneer Football League (2001-05).

The 2007 season also brought new vernacular to the Ohio Valley Conference and the division formerly known as I-AA. Beginning with the 2006 National Championship game the term I-AA was changed to NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) in a decision by the Division I Board of Directors. The new label was chosen to communicate in a positive and clear manner the unique differences between Division I football categories (chiefly, the post-season opportunity) while still defining them within the Division I experience. The FCS includes programs that compete in an effort to participate in the NCAA championship postseason structure (one of 90 NCAA national championships) as opposed to the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) which competes in an effort to participate in the postseason bowl system (the 40 NCAA-licensed events which includes the College Football Playoff).

In 2010 Southeast Missouri State, picked to finish seventh in the preseason poll, compiled a 7-1 Conference record on the way to its first OVC Championship since joining the league in 1991. Overall the Redhawks were 9-2 during the regular season and earned a berth in the FCS Playoffs, its first playoff berth at any level in the program's 104-year history. Southeast would lose to eventual national champion Eastern Washington in the second round of the playoffs. Head coach Tony Samuel capped the year by winning the Sports Network's Eddie Robinson Award, given to the National Coach of the Year. Samuel was the second OVC coach to win the award (joining Murray State's Houston Nutt who won the award in 1995).

In 2012 Eastern Illinois became just the fourth football team in OVC history to go from worst-to-first in winning the OVC Championship. The Panthers were led by head coach Dino Babers who became just the fourth first-year head coach to win an OVC Championship (joining Boots Donnelly in 1977, Jason Simpson in 2006 and Dean Hood in 2008 - Jacksonville State head coach John Grass would become the fifth coach to achieve that feat in 2014). During the year Eastern Illinois junior wide receiver Erik Lora shattered the FCS single-season receptions record, hauling in 136 passes in 12 games; that mark was 13 more than the previous NCAA record and 44 more than the previous OVC mark.

In 2013 Eastern Illinois repeated as OVC Champions behind Walter Payton Award winner Jimmy Garoppolo. The quarterback became just the second OVC player to earn the National Player of the Year Award, joining former EIU signal caller Tony Romo (2002). Garoppolo passed for 5,050 yards (second most in NCAA single-season history) and 53 touchdowns (fourth in NCAA history) in leading the Panthers to a 12-2 record and berth to the quarterfinals of the FCS Playoffs. Garoppolo was drafted by the New England Patriots in the second round of the 2014 NFL Draft, becoming just the fifth OVC player selected in that round and just the fifth OVC quarterback ever selected (and first since 1998). Garoppolo was a part of Patriots teams that won Super Bowls in 2015 and 2017.

The 2013 season saw the OVC snap a 19-game playoff losing streak dating back to the 2000 season. Tennessee State shutout Butler (marking the first OVC road playoff victory since 1986) to snap the streak while later that day Jacksonville State smashed Samford in the first round. A week later Eastern Illinois beat Tennessee State while Jacksonville State won at McNeese State to each advance to the quarterfinals; that marked the first time the OVC put two teams in the quarterfinals in the same season since 1991. Overall the four total playoff wins in the same season established a new OVC record.

In 2015 Jacksonville State ascended to No. 1 in both major Top 25 polls, becoming the first OVC team to be ranked No. 1 since the 1999 season. The Gamecocks would go on to complete its second-straight 8-0 Conference mark and won three playoff games to become the first OVC team to advance to the Division I National Championship Game since 1982 (Eastern Kentucky). JSU lost to North Dakota State in the title game but finished the year 13-2 overall and ranked No. 2 in the final Top 25 polls. Head coach John Grass became the first OVC coach honored as the AFCA National Coach of the Year while quarterback Eli Jenkins was named the FCS ADA National Quarterback of the Year, finishing the year with 2,788 passing and 1,161 rushing yards (one of just three Division I quarterbacks - FBS or FCS - to achieve those numbers during the year).

Jenkins would conclude his career in 2016 with 3,796 rushing yards, the seventh-most ever by a FCS quarterback. Jenkins, who was named OVC Male Athlete of the Year in back-to-back seasons, capped his career with 11,448 yards of total offense, second-most in OVC history (behind only Garoppolo).

In 2017, Jacksonville State senior defensive end Darius Jackson became the first OVC player to win the Buck Buchanan Award, given to the FCS National Defensive Player of the Year. Jackson tallied 51 tackles, 19.0 tackles-for-loss, 7.0 sacks, 19 quarterback hurries, 3 forced fumbles and 2 fumble recoveries in 11 regular season games

## FORMER COMMISSIONERS OF THE OVC



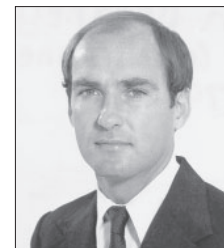
**Art Guepe**  
(1963-75)



**Paul Dietzel**  
(1975-76)



**Bob Vanatta**  
(1976-79)



**Jim Delany**  
(1979-89)



**Dan Beebe**  
(1989-2003)



**Dr. Jon Steinbrecher**  
(2003-09)



# OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE



2017 also saw the third OVC coach named the winner of the Eddie Robinson Award as the FCS National Coach of the Year. The honor went to Austin Peay second-year coach Will Healy who orchestrated a tremendous turnaround for the Gobs program. After going 0-11 during his initial season and starting 2017 with back-to-back losses to FBS opponents, the team's losing streak had reached 29 games and overall the team had won just one of its previous 48 games overall. But a win during week three catapulted the team to an 8-4 record and 7-1 OVC record and second-place league finish. The eight wins matched the school record, while the seven Conference wins established a new school record. Along the way the team snapped a 21-game OVC losing streak and a 45-game road losing streak and finished the year with four road victories, which was more than the program won in the previous nine years combined.

The OVC made it back-to-back Buck Buchanan Award winners in 2018, as Southeast Missouri junior linebacker Zach Hall took home the prestigious award. He finished the season with 168 tackles, the most of any FCS player and a new Southeast Missouri single-season record, while leading his team to just in second-ever playoff appearance.

Football wasn't the only sport in which the OVC was quickly gaining respect. In 1955, the OVC became only the second six-member league nationally to earn an automatic bid to the prestigious NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament, which, at that time, was limited to only 24 participants. The Conference quickly proved worthy of that bid, as Morehead State defeated Marshall (107-92) and Wayne State (95-84) in the 1956 tournament.

Over its 71 years, OVC teams have garnered national championships and bowl games in football, along with national team or individual titles in the sports of rifle, cross country, track and golf.

The OVC has also produced several Olympic athletes, including Murray State's Morgan Hicks, who was a member of the 2004 United States Olympic Rifle Team and Morehead State's Brian Shimer who competed in five Winter Olympics in bobsled (winning a bronze medal in 2002) and coached the 2010 United States bobsled team to its first gold medal since 1948. Former Morehead State football and Eastern Kentucky track and field athlete Dallas Robinson competed with the U.S. bobsled team during the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics. In addition, some of the greatest players in professional sports were educated at OVC institutions. The list includes former greats such as football's Phil Simms (Morehead State) and Tony Romo (Eastern Illinois), basketball's Clem Haskins (Western Kentucky) and Bubba Wells (Austin Peay) and two-sport star Steve Hamilton (Morehead State) to present-day standouts like basketball players Kenneth Faried (Morehead State) and Robert Covington (Tennessee State), football player Jimmy Garoppolo (Eastern Illinois) and baseball player Shawn Kelley (Austin Peay). Hamilton is the only athlete to ever play in the NCAA Basketball Championship, a Major League Baseball World Series (New York Yankees) and an NBA Championship Series (Los Angeles Lakers).

The playing field is not the only place where OVC athletes are working hard. The league also recognizes excellence in the classroom. Six Scholar-Athlete Awards are

presented yearly to male and female athletes, while others are commended for their academic success by being Medal of Honor recipients or earning a spot on the Commissioner's Honor Roll. Additionally, the league annually presents one institutional Academic Achievement Award, as well as separate team awards in each Conference-sponsored sport. Since the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-America program began, the Ohio Valley Conference has had **\*\*284\*\*** student-athletes honored with the award.

Through the early years of the league, administrators wrestled with fan behavior due to the close proximity of the Conference members and the intense rivalries which developed. Just as it did decades ago, the OVC took the leadership role on what has become a national issue. In 1995, the OVC implemented a first-of-its-kind "Sportsmanship Statement," a policy which promotes principles of fair play, ethical conduct and respect for one's opponent. The statement has become a model for others to follow across the nation and has answered the challenge of the NCAA Presidents Commission to improve sportsmanship in collegiate athletics.

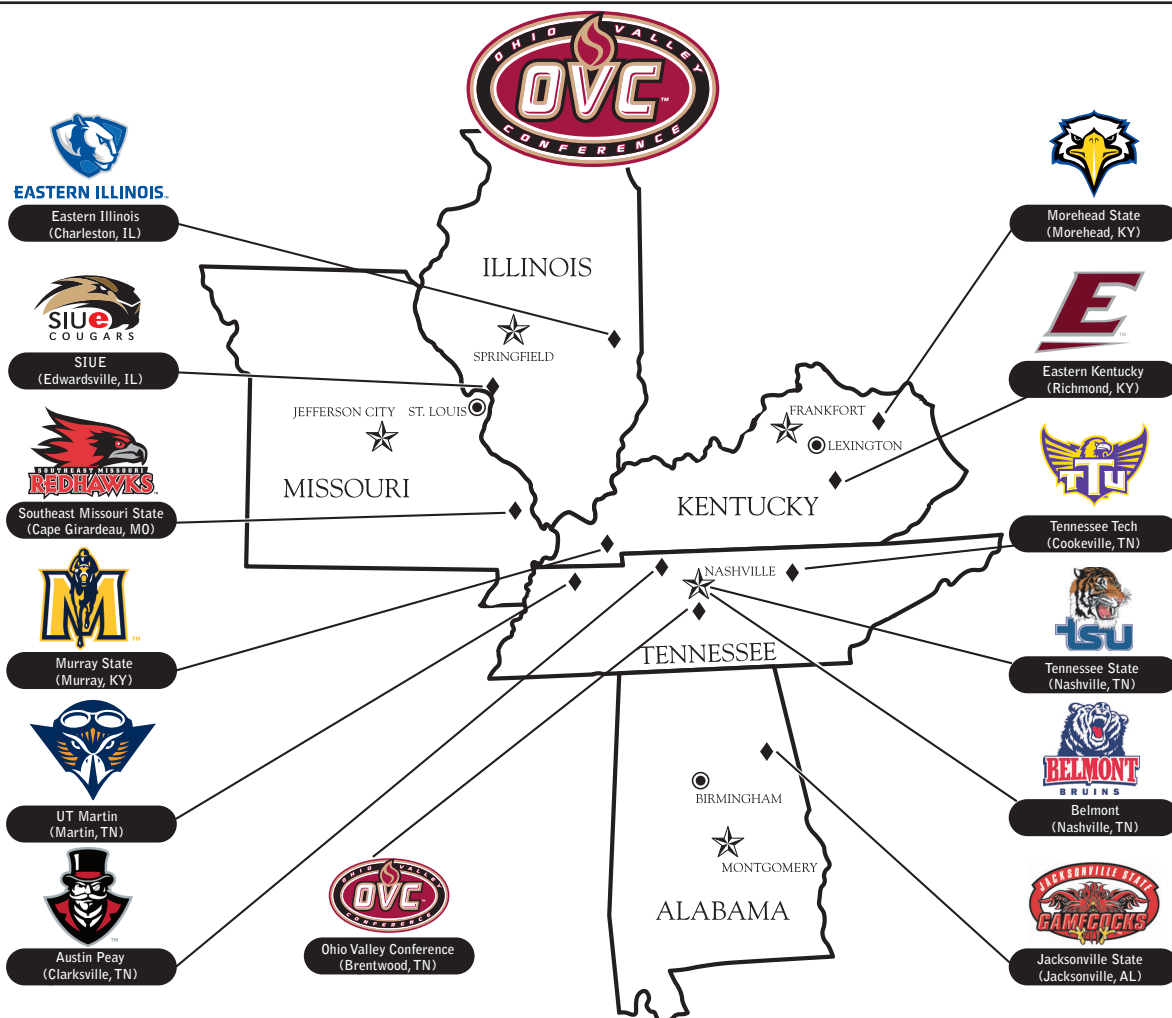
Additionally, the OVC annually presents the Steve Hamilton Sportsmanship Award, in honor of the former Morehead State student-athlete, coach and athletics director, to a junior or senior student-athlete with significant athletic contributions who best exemplifies the characteristics of sportsmanship and citizenship. Most recently, the Conference has also implemented the OVC Institutional and Team Sportsmanship Awards, which are presented to one institution and 18 sport-specific teams voted by their peers to have best exhibited the standards of sportsmanship and ethical conduct as outlined by the OVC and NCAA.

The vision of leadership demonstrated by the Founding Fathers in 1948 remains alive today as the Ohio Valley Conference prepares for the future. One example is in regard to the current trend in collegiate athletics administration for increased involvement of university presidents in setting policies and making rules. The presidents of OVC institutions, however, have always governed the Conference, long before presidential governance became a national theme.

The Ohio Valley Conference sponsors the following sports: baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, tennis and track for men, and basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, softball, tennis, track and volleyball for women. In addition, the OVC also sponsors the combined men's and women's sport of rifle.

Now in its seventh decade of competition, the Ohio Valley Conference has grown significantly from its humble beginnings while increasing the number of athletics opportunities it provides for students. Current league representatives include charter members Eastern Kentucky University, Morehead State University and Murray State University, along with Austin Peay State University, Belmont University, Eastern Illinois University, Jacksonville State University, Southeast Missouri State University, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Tennessee State University, Tennessee Technological University and the University of Tennessee at Martin.

## A LOOK AT THE OVC





## OVC HONORS AND AWARDS

The Ohio Valley Conference implemented a first-of-its-kind "Sportsmanship Statement," a policy promoting fair play, ethical conduct and respect for one's opponent in 1995. The statement answered a challenge of the NCAA Presidents Commission to improve sportsmanship in college athletics, and has become a model for others to follow across the nation.

The development of the OVC sportsmanship statement began in June 1993 at the direction of the league's presidents. A committee made up of athletics directors and faculty representatives drafted the initial statement, and all coaches and other administrators had the opportunity for input. The statement sets forth expectations for spirit groups, officials and fans, as well as the student-athletes and coaches. Here is a brief synopsis of each group's expectations within the sportsmanship statement.

**Administrators:** Institutional administrators will create an environment of hospitality for visiting teams, particularly for those individuals at Conference institutions. Administrators will treat the visiting teams and its fans in the same manner that they would want their teams to be treated.

**Coaches:** Coaches have the greatest amount of influence over whether young people in their programs are taught and follow the high principles of sportsmanship. The OVC has been benefited by coaches who have risked losing a contest by removing student-athletes who have demonstrated disrespect for their opponents. This discipline measure educates that individual about the importance of sportsmanship over participation and winning, and helps counteract the constant messages received from many professional athletes who demonstrate a lack of respect for opponents.

**Student-Athletes:** Student-athletes at OVC institutions will be expected to treat opponents with sportsmanship, and there will be no tolerance for taunting and baiting of opponents. OVC student-athletes must understand that they are perhaps the most visible representatives of their institutions and their behavior is observed and emulated by many who are younger. OVC student-athletes must honor the responsibilities that accompany the privilege of representing our schools by behaving with dignity and class on and off the field.

**Spirit Groups:** Like our student-athletes, spirit groups are visible representatives of our universities, and they are expected to show decent behavior. Cheerleaders, bands and other spirit groups are admitted to contests to support their teams and assist in creating a fun atmosphere, but they will not be allowed to disrupt or confront opposing teams.

**Officials:** Officials will enforce the rules regarding sportsmanship without tolerance for abuse. Players and coaches will receive their only warning prior to the contest, and once the contest begins, penalties will be assessed for violations of unsportsmanlike conduct.

**Fans:** We know all fans are embarrassed by the inappropriate behavior of a few who may engage in confrontational and threatening actions towards officials, visiting fans, players or coaches. Those individuals may be dismissed to provide a better environment for others.

The Conference believes that the effort to meet the expectations outlined in the sportsmanship statement will increase the attractiveness at our athletics events by creating a healthy environment for competition. A complete copy of the sportsmanship statement can be obtained by calling the OVC office at (615) 371-1698.

The OVC has a variety of awards to recognize sportsmanship by its student-athletes, coaches, administrators and teams. In 1998, the OVC established the Steve Hamilton Sportsmanship Award, presented annually to a male or female junior or senior student-athlete who best exemplifies the characteristics of the former Morehead State student-athlete, coach and administrator. Hamilton is the only individual to have ever played in a NCAA Basketball Championship, a Major League Baseball World Series (New York Yankees) and a National Basketball

Association Championship Series (Minnesota Lakers).

In 2003-04 the League began awarding the Institutional Sportsmanship Award, given to the OVC member institution selected by its peers to have best exhibited the standards of sportsmanship and ethical conduct as outlined by the OVC and NCAA. In 2005-06 the League expanded the sportsmanship award program by adding the Team Sportsmanship Award. An award is given to each sport sponsored by the OVC and is voted on by the student-athletes and coaches of the respective sports.

## OVC SPORTSMANSHIP HONOREES

### Steve Hamilton Sportsmanship Award Winners

1998-99	Julie Virta (women's basketball), Austin Peay
1999-00	Michael Turner (men's basketball), Murray State
2000-01	Kelly Pendleton (women's basketball), UT Martin
2001-02	Grant Swallows (football), Tennessee Tech
2002-03	Brooke Armistead (women's basketball), Austin Peay
2003-04	Kandi Brown (women's basketball), Morehead State
2004-05	Cassandra Peek (women's basketball), Austin Peay
2005-06	Zac Schlader (men's basketball), Austin Peay
2006-07	Adonia Bivins (women's soccer), Austin Peay
2007-08	Beth Boden (softball), Tennessee Tech
2008-09	Carrie Burggraf (track & field), Austin Peay
2009-10	Carrie Burggraf (track & field), Austin Peay
2010-11	Abby O'Connor (volleyball), Eastern Kentucky
2011-12	Jon Clinard (baseball), Austin Peay
2012-13	Sean Bailey (tennis), Austin Peay
2013-14	J.J. Mann (basketball), Belmont
2014-15	Alison Alcott (soccer), Belmont
2015-16	Dalton Screws (football), Jacksonville State
2016-17	Jessica Twaddle (softball), Murray State
2017-18	Sally McCabe (basketball), Belmont
2018-19	Josh Pearson (football), Jacksonville State

### Institutional Sportsmanship Award Winners

2003-04	Southeast Missouri State University
2004-05	Samford University
2005-06	Samford University
2006-07	Morehead State University
2007-08	Austin Peay State University
2008-09	Eastern Kentucky University
2009-10	Eastern Kentucky University
2010-11	Southeast Missouri State University
2011-12	Tennessee Tech University
2012-13	Eastern Kentucky University
2013-14	Belmont University
2014-15	Belmont University
2015-16	Belmont University
2016-17	Austin Peay State University
2017-18	Murray State University
2018-19	Belmont University

### Football Team Sportsmanship Award Winners

2005-06	Samford University
2006-07	Eastern Illinois University
2007-08	Austin Peay State University
2008-09	Austin Peay State University
2009-10	Eastern Illinois University
2010-11	Southeast Missouri State University
2011-12	Austin Peay State University
2012-13	Southeast Missouri State University
2013-14	Eastern Kentucky University
2014-15	Eastern Kentucky University
2015-16	Tennessee Technological University
2016-17	Murray State University
2017-18	Murray State University
2018-19	Tennessee Technological University

## OVC HALL OF FAME

The Ohio Valley Conference organized a Hall of Fame in 1977. Membership is limited to coaches, administrators, faculty and staff members who have been associated with the OVC for at least five (5) years and have had extensive outstanding service to the Conference. Unless a tie in the selection procedure occurs, there shall be no more than three (3) inductees annually. Voting for the award is done in the spring and the induction takes place at the OVC Honors Luncheon, which is held annually at the end of May. Following the 2019 ceremony, the Hall of Fame now has 86 members.

Dr. Joe Morgan, APSU (1977)  
Mr. Charles Hughes, EKU (1977)  
Dr. Robert Martin, EKU (1977)  
Dr. Adron Doran, MOR (1977)  
Mr. Roy Stewart, MUR (1977)  
Dr. W.E. Deryberry, TTU (1977)  
Mr. Hooper Eblen, TTU (1997)  
Dr. Kelly Thompson, WKU (1977)  
Mr. Ed Diddle, Sr., WKU (1977)  
Mr. L.T. Smith, WKU (1977)  
Dr. Dave Aaron, APSU (1978)  
Mr. Bob Laughlin, MOR (1978)  
Mr. Ted Hornback, WKU (1978)  
Dr. Quill E. Cope, MTSU (1978)  
Mr. J.D. Rayburn, MUR (1979)  
Mr. Nick Denes, WKU (1979)  
Mr. Raymond H. Brown, TTU (1980)  
Dr. Dero G. Downing, WKU (1980)  
Mr. P.V. Overall, TTU (1981)  
Mr. Arthur L. Guepe, OVC (1982)  
Mr. Charles M. Murphy, MTSU (1982)  
Mr. Malcolm P. Quillen, TTU (1984)

Mr. Ellis T. Johnson, MOR (1985)  
Mr. John "Sonny" Allen, MOR (1987)  
Mr. Wilburn Tucker, TTU (1987)  
Mr. Johnny Reagan, MUR (1988)  
Dr. George Fisher, APSU (1988)  
Mr. John Oldham, WKU / TTU (1989)  
Mr. Jimmy Earle, MTSU (1989)  
Dr. Sam Ingram, MTSU (1990)  
Mr. Bennie Purcell, MUR (1990)  
Mr. Donald G. Combs, EKU (1991)  
Mr. Steve Hamilton, MOR (1991)  
Mr. James E. Delany, OVC (1992)  
Mr. E.K. Patty, MTSU (1993)  
Ms. Marynell Meadors, TTU (1993)  
Mr. Edward S. Temple, TSU (1995)  
Mr. John Ogles, APSU (1996)  
Dr. Guy Penny, MOR (1996)  
Dr. Arliss Roaden, TTU (1996)  
Mr. John Stanford, MTSU (1997)  
Dr. Kala Stroup, MUR / SEMO (1997)  
Dr. Margaret N. Perry, UTM (1998)  
Dr. Leon Bibb, APSU (1999)

Mr. Cal Luther, MUR / UTM (2000)  
Mr. R.L. "Buddy" Patey, OVC (2000)  
Dr. Nolan Fowler, MOR / TTU (2001)  
Dr. Angelo Volpe, TTU (2001)  
Mr. Jim Ward, EKU (2002)  
Mr. Roy Kidd, EKU (2003)  
Dr. Bobby Barton, EKU (2004)  
Mr. Wayne Martin, MOR (2004)  
Mr. Bill Cornell, MUR (2005)  
Dr. David Larimore, TTU (2005)  
Mr. Karl Park, EKU (2005)  
Dr. Geri Polvino, EKU (2005)  
Mr. Dan Beebe, OVC (2006)  
Mr. Paul McBrayer, EKU (2006)  
Mr. Don Wade, TTU (2006)  
Dr. Thurston Banks, TTU (2007)  
Mr. Steve Newton, MUR (2007)  
Mr. Bill Worrell, TTU (2007)  
Mr. Elvis Green, MUR (2008)  
Mr. Joey Haines, SEMO/AP (2009)  
Mr. Larry Inman, EKU/MTSU (2009)  
Mr. Chuck Kimmel, APSU (2010)

Mr. David Mays, TTU (2010)  
Mr. Ron English, OVC (2011)  
Mr. Bobby Nichols, TTU (2011)  
Mr. Bob Spoo, EIU (2012)  
Dr. Martha Mullins, EKU (2013)  
Dr. Robert "Bob" Bell, TTU (2014)  
Margaret Simmons, MUR (2014)  
Dr. Rex Chaney, MOR (2015)  
Jim Skidmore, JSU (2015)  
Dr. Doug Whitlock, EKU (2015)  
Frank Beamer, MUR (2016)  
Dr. Gaines Hunt, APSU (2016)  
Dr. William Meehan, JSU (2016)  
Dr. Sherry Hoppe, APSU (2017)  
Mr. Mike Strickland, BEL/MUR (2017)  
Mr. Dave Loos, APSU (2018)  
Dr. Wayne Andrews, MOR (2018)  
Dr. Kenneth W. Dobbins, SEMO (2019)  
Mr. Rick Erdmann, EKU (2019)  
Ms. Cheryl Holt, APSU (2019)

## Beth DeBauche - Commissioner



Elizabeth (Beth) DeBauche was named commissioner of the Ohio Valley Conference on July 29, 2009, becoming the seventh full-time commissioner in the history of the OVC.

As commissioner, she answers to each of the 12 OVC schools' presidents and works with them to set the strategic direction of the conference.

DeBauche (pronounced De-Bush), a Green Bay, Wisconsin native, received her Bachelor of Arts degree in history and government from Saint Mary's College in Indiana, and her master's degree in communications from Notre Dame. She went on to complete her juris doctorate from the Notre Dame School of Law.

After a brief stint in the field of law, DeBauche turned her attention to the world of college athletics. She got her start at Vanderbilt University, where she was the assistant athletic director for compliance from August 1994 to November 1996. From there, she worked as an assistant and later associate commissioner for the Southeastern Conference in Birmingham, Alabama, from November 1996 through August 2002.

In 2002, she relocated to Indianapolis to work in the home office of the NCAA, where she was responsible for coordinating Division I initiatives through the NCAA governance structure, as well as helping to manage the Division I agenda. She was also a liaison to governance representatives, external constituent groups and NCAA staff regarding legislative and governance activities.

After seven years with the NCAA, she made her way back to the South and took the commissioner position for the OVC in 2009.

The conference has seen several changes under DeBauche's leadership, including expanding the conference to 12 member institutions, the implementation of a revised governance structure to enhance efficiencies and collaboration and the launch of a branding initiative and the league's first tagline: "Inspiring Excellence Since 1948." She also negotiated the largest national media contract in league history and played a key role in upgrading the OVC Digital Network to HD video and expanding viewership.

During DeBauche's time with the OVC, student-athletes have achieved high levels of success, not only on the field, but also in the classroom. The league has consistently seen a record number of honorees on the OVC Medal of Honor and OVC Commissioner's Honor Roll. In order to help students succeed, DeBauche sponsors comprehensive leadership programming for OVC student-athletes and coaches through on-campus summits.

DeBauche serves on the NCAA Committee on Academics, the National Letter of Intent (NLI) Appeals Committee and is President of the Collegiate Commissioner's Association (CCA). She has served on the Committee on Institutional Performance, the Division I Strategic Vision and Planning Committee and the Division I Management Council. She served as the FCS representative to the "Coalition To Protect the Student-Athlete Experience" communications steering committee and serves as the FCS liaison to the FCS AD's Association.

She is a board member with the Nashville Sports Council, the Nashville YWCA and the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, the International Women's Forum of Tennessee, and a graduate of Leadership Nashville. She is also in the 2019-20 Class of Leadership Tennessee.



## **Kate Barnett - Asst. Commissioner/Championships & Compliance**



Barnett began her role as Assistant Commissioner for Championships and Compliance in September 2016.

Barnett joined the OVC after serving as the Director of Championships at the Southern Conference for two years (2014-16). There she was directly responsible for the coordination of 13 Southern Conference championships. In her role she served as the liaison for several sports, facilitated the championship bid process and collaborated with other staff members on the marketing, promotions and sponsorships fulfillment for each championship.

Prior to joining the Southern Conference Barnett was an intern for the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA)

during the 2013-14 academic year. There she assisted with the management of the Division 2 Athletics Directors Association (D2 ADA), the Minority Opportunities Athletic Association (MOAA) and the National Association of Collegiate Marketing Administrators (NACMA).

From August 2011 to May 2013 Barnett served as a graduate assistant in game operations at Belmont, where she helped develop game management procedures and assisted with arena and field setup for each athletic contest. She also served as the Bruins' volleyball operations intern from 2011-12, coordinating team travel, meals and bus contracts. She earned her Master's of Sports Administration from Belmont in May 2013.

Prior to her arrival at Belmont, Barnett was a recipient of the NCAA Division III Ethnic Minority and Women's Internship Grant at Ripon College. There, she held a variety of roles, including assisting with game management, NCAA Division III compliance, marketing, hosting the Men's Soccer and Softball Midwest Conference Championships and sport-specific budgets. She also served as a co-advisor for the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and was the assistant volleyball coach.

Barnett also served internships with the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame and with the Mahoning Valley Scrappers, the Class "A" affiliate of the Cleveland Indians.

Barnett graduated from Bluffton University with a bachelor's degree in sport management and business administration in May 2009. There she was a volleyball student-athlete and member of the SAAC.

## **Stephanie Castera - Asst. Commissioner/Institutional Services**



Castera was named Assistant Commissioner for Institutional Services on November 22, 2013 and began her duties with the OVC in January 2014. In February 2015 she added the role of Senior Woman Administrator (SWA).

Castera manages NCAA Division I governance, legislative and policy matters on behalf of the OVC while overseeing legislative issues such as rules interpretations and education and outreach initiatives. She also serves as a liaison to the OVC Senior Compliance Administrators, Faculty Athletic Representatives (FAR's), Senior Woman Administrators (SWA's), Academic Services Administrators, the NCAA Academic and Membership Affairs staff and to the governance and administration and academics and well-being cabinets in the OVC governance structure.

Castera also manages the NCAA Student Assistance Fund Program on behalf of OVC membership, coordinates the nomination and selection process for OVC Academic Awards and serves as the assistant tournament manager for the OVC Men's & Women's Basketball Championship.

In March 2017 she was named to the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Board of Directors to a three-year term.

Castera joined the OVC staff after spending six-plus years working at the NCAA in several different roles. She started as an intern in the NCAA Eligibility Center in June 2007 and was in that role for a year before being hired as a coordinator in Academic and Membership Affairs. After nine months in the role as coordinator, Castera was promoted to assistant director, a position she has held until joining the OVC staff.

In her role at the NCAA she was a member of the Division I legislation team where she drafted proposals, editorial revisions and question and answer documents and assisted in NCAA Manual production. Castera is also a liaison to the NCAA Division I Amateurism Cabinet, the Amateurism Fact-Finding Committee and the Division I National Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), as she provided legislative, interpretive and membership expertise to each group.

She was also an internal liaison to the NCAA Eligibility Center's Amateurism Certification Team, a member of the Interpretation Leadership Development Team, a Rules Working Group member and the primary liaison to the AVCA. Castera also helped evaluate Division I APR Improvement Plans as well as analyzing and processing Division I penalty waivers. Castera has extensive experience in academic issues, including initial-eligibility issues, and was a regular presenter at NCAA regional rules seminars.

Castera received her undergraduate degree in sport administration from Ball State University in June 2006. At Ball State she was a student-athlete on the volleyball team. Following graduation she served a summer internship with the AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour.

Castera received her Master's degree in sports administration higher education from Ball State in December 2007. During that time she served as a graduate assistant, teaching physical education/wellness classes in the Ball State Physical Education, Sport and Exercise Science Department.

A native of Remsen, Iowa, the former Stephanie Bacan and her husband Luis Castera were married in March 2010. They welcomed their first child, Luis Andrew, in May 2016.

## **Kyle Schwartz - Asst. Commissioner/Strategic Communications**



Kyle Schwartz joined the OVC as Assistant Commissioner for Media Relations in November 2006. In August 2016 his title changed to Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Communications to better reflect the changing job responsibilities associated with collegiate athletics.

He is in charge of publicity efforts for the Conference and is the primary media relations contact for football, men's basketball, baseball, men's and women's cross country and men's and women's golf. He serves as the media coordinator for the OVC's annual basketball and baseball tournaments and is also in charge

of coordinating special events for the Conference, including the league's Honors Brunch and Hall of Fame and the annual Football and Basketball Media Days. Schwartz also oversees the OVC's official website and social media platforms as well as the Conference's OVC Extra blog and its Campus Correspondent's program. Beginning in 2015 he took over as the staff liaison to the men's and women's golf coaches groups and serves as tournament director for the OVC Men's & Women's Golf Championships.

In 2014 Schwartz served as the Local Media Coordinator for the 2014 Women's Basketball Final Four which was held at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville. The year prior he had served on the Media Coordination Committee for the Women's Basketball Final Four in New Orleans. In 2012 and 2018 he served as the Media Coordinator for the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship First/Second Rounds that the OVC hosted at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville.

Schwartz served as a timeout coordinator for the 2009-13 and 2015-19 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournaments and worked with the ConSIDA group at the Final Fours in each of those years.

Schwartz is active with the promotion of the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) and serves as a voter in the FCS Top 25 poll in addition to also being a pollster in the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) Top 30 poll.

Schwartz came to the OVC after spending four and a half years at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colorado. There he served as the Assistant Director of Media Relations for two years, was promoted to Media Relations Coordinator in July 2004 and served as Director of Media Relations in his final year.

At Northern Colorado, Schwartz helped coordinate the media efforts of two NCAA, two conference and six independent championships, including four during the 2005-06 school year. Schwartz was honored by Collegiate Volleyball Update (CVU.com) with the first RESPECTing Volleyball (Recognition for Excellence in Supporting and Promoting Volleyball) Award in 2005 and was ranked the No. 3 soccer SID in the country by *Soccer Buzz* magazine in 2004. The 2003 Northern Colorado volleyball guide he wrote, designed and edited won third place honors nationally in the CoSIDA publications contest.

Schwartz also spent two years as a graduate assistant in the Southeast Missouri State sports information department (2000-02). It was at SEMO that Schwartz received his master's degree in athletic administration, graduating with honors. Schwartz received his bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Kentucky in May 2000, graduating cum laude. As an undergraduate, he interned with the Host Communications publishing group and also worked with the Kentucky Thoroughblades minor league hockey team.

Schwartz, a native of Flemingsburg, Kentucky, is a member of the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA), the United States Basketball Writer's Association (USBWA), the Football Writers Association of America (FWAA) and the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA). He also serves on the NCAA Media Coordination/Statistics Advisory Group. For 11 years (June 2003-2014) he was a member of CoSIDA's Academic All-American committee, serving as a district coordinator for football and the men's at-large teams for the university division.

Schwartz and his wife, Angella, were married in June 2004. They welcomed their first child, Harrison Alexander, in August 2014.

## Travis Tellitocci - Asst. Commissioner for Football, Basketball, Officiating



Travis Tellitocci joined the Ohio Valley Conference as Assistant Commissioner for Football, Basketball and Officiating in September 2016.

Tellitocci (pronounced Tella-toss-see) serves the primary staff liaison to the head football, men's and women's basketball and baseball coaches. He is also the Tournament Manager for the OVC men's and women's basketball championships and baseball championship. Tellitocci served as the Tournament Manager for the 2018 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament First and Second Round games at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee.

Tellitocci joined the OVC staff after serving as Deputy Athletics Director at Marist College

in Poughkeepsie, New York. He worked with all 23 Division I sports at Marist and was responsible for the oversight of the athletics department's business operations, marketing, media relations, broadcasting, licensing, ticketing, club sports, intramurals and recreational activities. Tellitocci joined the Marist staff as Assistant Athletics Director for External Affairs in 2006, was promoted to Associate Athletics Director for Internal Affairs in 2008, became the Senior Associate Athletics Director for Internal Affairs in 2013 and was promoted to Deputy Athletics Director in 2016.

During his time at Marist, Tellitocci played an integral role in the design and management of numerous capital projects, including a multi-sport stadium, basketball office and locker room addition and arena renovation. He also restructured the Red Fox Club, the department's fundraising arm, which led to the highest revenue in its 35-year history. Tellitocci oversaw a significant digital media implementation, which included the creation of the Red Fox Network. He served as the executive producer and director for the first college-produced live HD broadcast on ESPN3 and directed the 2016 Bernie Sander's Presidential campaign event hosted at McCann Arena.

Tellitocci also led a successful redesign of the athletic spirit marks and development of brand management guidelines for Marist College. As part of the rebranding effort, he negotiated and obtained a contract with Nike to serve as the athletics department's exclusive outfitter. The process led to the highest licensing revenue in the College's history. Tellitocci was instrumental in helping Marist record the first sellout in its women's basketball history and was nationally recognized by the NCAA as the 2010-11 overall champion of the "Pack the House" women's basketball marketing initiative from 179 participating institutions.

Tellitocci was recognized as a Forty Under 40 honoree by the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce in 2014 as one of the top 40 people under the age of 40 helping to shape the future of the Hudson River Valley.

Before joining the Marist athletics department, Tellitocci worked as Associate Producer for Scoreboard and Entertainment for the New York Mets. In that role, he directed pre-game presentation on the field at Shea Stadium for all Mets home games. Tellitocci acquired and supervised the pre-game entertainment, National Anthem singers, color guard, military flyovers and first pitch participants in addition to creating and executing game-day scripts and timelines. He also was responsible for the content and operation of Shea Stadium's 11 LED video displays.

Tellitocci earned his bachelor's degree in communication with a minor in writing from Marist in 2004. He completed his Master's degree in integrated marketing and communication at Marist in 2014.

A Benwood, West Virginia, native, Tellitocci and his wife Bobbi Sue are the parents of two sons, Tyler and Hudson, and reside in Nashville, Tennessee.

## Lauren Berst - Director of Administration



Lauren Berst joined the OVC staff in the fall of 2015 moving to Nashville after living in New York for 15 years.

When in New York, Berst worked primarily as an actor on stage and on camera and voiced many commercials for television and radio. Berst has extensive experience as an office manager, and worked for years as a personal and professional organizer. She is also a wine nerd, passing her Level 2 test with merit from the Wine and Spirits Education Trust.

Berst grew up around college athletics – her father worked at the NCAA for 43 years and her brother builds sports arenas.

A native of Kansas City, Berst got a

B.F.A. in acting from the University of Evansville and an M.F.A. in acting from the National Theatre Conservatory.

## Heather Brown - Director of Communications



Heather Brown is in her 14th year with the Ohio Valley Conference in 2018-19. After the completion of a 10-month internship with the OVC, she served in the position of Assistant Director for Media Relations until her promotion of Director of Media Relations in December 2006. In August 2016 her title changed to Director of Communications to better reflect the changing job responsibilities associated with collegiate athletics.

Brown, the longest tenured member of the OVC staff, is the primary contact for soccer, volleyball, women's basketball, softball, men's and women's track and field, men's and women's rifle and men's and women's tennis.

She also serves at the Media Coordinator for the OVC Softball Championship which was held at a neutral site (Oxford, Alabama) for the first time in 2016. She also serves as the Assistant Media Coordinator for the OVC's Basketball and Baseball Championships, including serving as the Baseball Championships official photographer. Brown is also the editor of the OVC Handbook which is published annually.

In 2014, she served as the Local Media Coordinator for the 2014 Division I NCAA Women's Final Four which was held at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville. Along with that role she has served on the Legacy Committee for the event including working with Junior Journalism and Women's Portrayal in the Media.

Brown has done extensive work with NCAA Championships, first serving as the assistant media relations coordinator for the first and second rounds of the 2005 and 2018 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship and the second and third Rounds of the 2012 Championship in Nashville. She has also worked the first and second round of the NCAA Women's Tournament in each 2004, 2006 and 2007 and the Men's Basketball Tournament in 2008 and 2011. In 2012, she worked the Women's Final Four in New Orleans.

Brown was instrumental in getting the OVC started in social media, starting both Facebook and Twitter accounts for the league.

In 2013, she helped plan the OVC's Title IX Celebration Luncheon, an event that capped off a year-long celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Title IX. Each of the OVC's 12-member institutions identified a pioneer in women's athletics from their school to be honored during the year and celebrated at a home athletic event on their campus as well as the luncheon.

Prior to working with the Conference, the West Liberty, Ohio, native served a three-month internship in the sports information office at The Ohio State University after a one-year stint as a student assistant in the Bowling Green State University sports information office.

A 2003 graduate of BGSU, Brown earned a bachelor's degree in sports management with an emphasis in sports information. She is a member of the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) and the United States Basketball Writers Association (USBWA).

## Jon Kuka - General Manager, OVC Sports Properties



Jon Kuka joined the Ohio Valley Conference staff in April 2010 as the General Manager for OVC IMG Sports Marketing. Kuka has over 15 years in sales and sports marketing experience.

He joined the Conference staff as part of the OVC's agreement with IMG College which was signed in February 2008. With the deal, IMG represents the OVC through category exclusive corporate partnership sales, as well as multimedia rights for the men's basketball championship and other championship events.

In 2011 and 2012 Kuka was the recipient of the prestigious IMG Chairman's Cup Award.

Prior to joining the OVC Kuka was the Director of Sales for Nelligan Sports Marketing at Middle Tennessee State University for two years. In that position he managed corporate sponsorships and initiated multimedia marketing rights for the Blue Raiders athletic department.

From 2001-07 Kuka worked in Knoxville with the Tennessee Smokies baseball club, the AA affiliate of the Chicago Cubs. He began as a group sales representative and was promoted to Director of Group Sales and eventually Director of Sales. As the Director of Sales, Kuka oversaw ticket sales and corporate sponsorships sales.

Kuka received his bachelor's degree in sports administration from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in 2000. While in school Kuka interned with the Chattanooga Sports & Events Committee that assisted in marketing the city for attracting events such as the NCAA Division I Football National Championship. He was also a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity, the university cycling club and a participant in the 1999 Collegiate Mountain Bike National Championships.

Kuka completed his MBA from Ohio Valley Conference member Tennessee Tech University in 2009.

A native of Chattanooga, Kuka resides with his wife, Alicia, daughter, Leah, and son, Andrew, in the Greater Nashville area.

## **Bryce Robinson - Director of Digital Media**



Bryce Robinson joined the OVC staff full-time in June 2014 as the Director of Digital Media after serving as an intern for the 2013-14 school year.

In his role Robinson is a liaison for OVC member institutions for matters pertaining to the OVC Digital Network as well as the OVCDN Assessment and Accountability Group. He also produces video content from OVC Championships in addition to producing ancillary content and video spots for the Conference.

In 2013-14 Robinson served as the leagues broadcasting and multimedia production intern. In that role he had oversight in producing, directing and filming six OVC

Championships during the year, including baseball, men's and women's basketball, soccer, softball and volleyball. Each of those championships were broadcast on the OVC Digital Network while the volleyball and women's basketball championships were also streamed on ESPN3. In addition Robinson assisted in editing and developing multiple video series for OVC platforms including "OVC Road Trip" and "What Inspires You" in addition to producing highlights of championship events.

Robinson, a native of Berea, Kentucky, obtained his bachelor's degree in telecommunications from the University of Kentucky in 2010. He completed his master's degree in sport administration from Belmont in May 2014.

At Belmont Robinson served as a graduate assistant where he worked directly with Belmont's Director of Broadcasting and Media Relations as the Video Services Director, producing and directing OVC Digital Network broadcasts for home sporting events as well as other ancillary content and video spots.

## **Jonathan Owens - Asst. Director Championships/Administration**



Jonathan Owens joined the OVC staff on a full-time basis in September 2016 as Assistant Director of Championships and Administration.

Owens served as a Digital Production intern for the OVC in 2014-15 school year in addition to helping with OVC Digital Network broadcasts during the 2015-16 year. In his role he assisted with all aspects of OVC Digital Network broadcasts during OVC Championships including as a producer. He also captured and edited footage for OVC communications platforms.

Since August 2012 Owens worked with the Tennessee State sports production department serving as the lead video producer. In

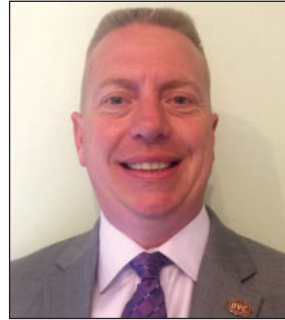
his role in video production he was in charge of producing broadcasts for the OVC Digital Network in addition to assisting with the teaching and development of sports production students.

Owens has assisted with numerous OVC championship events over the past two years and was a part of the local organizing staff for the 2014 NCAA Division I Women's Final Four which was hosted by the OVC in Nashville.

Owens, a Georgia native, earned his bachelor's degree in communications (with an emphasis in integrated marketing) and his Master's degree in sports administration from Tennessee State University.

While at TSU Owens was the captain of the Tigers cross country team his junior and senior years. He was also selected as a recipient of the Arthur Ashe student-athlete award (2011) and also Male Student-Athlete of the Year (2013).

## **Matt Young - Coordinator of Football Officiating**



Matt Young was named Ohio Valley Conference Coordinator of Football Officiating on March 23, 2017.

Young is in charge of recruiting, training and developing the OVC football officials, as well the game selection and assignment and evaluation of those officials and oversight of an officials' observation program. In 2017, Young oversaw the successful implementation of instant replay in the OVC and the expansion of the staff to include instant replay officials, communicators, and technicians.

Young served as an on-field Ohio Valley Conference official from 2006-16, beginning as a supplemental referee in 2006, and becoming a staff referee in 2007. Over his final two years,

he served as an OVC position chief. Young worked seven FCS Playoff games, including the 2009 National Championship game between Montana and Villanova played in Chattanooga. In 2011 he was awarded the OVC's Haley-Heriges Award for Outstanding Officiating. He has also served as President of the OVC Football Officials' Association.

Young has also served as a supplemental referee for the Sun Belt Conference (2011-13), referee in the Mid-South Conference (2004-06), the Arena Football League 2 (2009) and the National Indoor Football League (2006-07). He was named Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA) Official of the Year in 2006.

In 2017 Young accepted a position on the Board of Directors for the Blanton Collier Sportsmanship Group. He is also the Coordinator of High School Football Officials for the Northern Kentucky Officials Association of the KHSAA as well as the Coordinator of High School Basketball Officials for the 9th Region Basketball Officials Association of the KHSAA. He has been the Director of Training and Development for the Northern Kentucky Officials Association since 2003 and has been an evaluator for the KHSAA for the state football championships and the Girls Sweet 16 Basketball Tournament.

Young received his bachelor's degree from Wittenberg University in 1994. He received his Masters of Divinity degree and is currently a candidate for the Doctor of Ministry degree from Trinity Lutheran Seminary. He currently serves as Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Newport, Kentucky. Young also serves as chaplain for the Newport Fire/EMS Department and the Newport Police Department.



# OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE



## FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SUBDIVISION (FCS) CONFERENCE ALIGNMENT

### **BIG SKY (13)**

Cal Poly  
 Eastern Washington  
 Idaho  
 Idaho State  
 Montana  
 Montana State  
 Northern Arizona  
 Northern Colorado  
 Portland State  
 Sacramento State  
 Southern Utah  
 UC Davis  
 Weber State

### **BIG SOUTH (8)**

Campbell  
 Charleston Southern  
 Gardner-Webb  
 Hampton  
 Kennesaw State  
 Monmouth  
 North Alabama  
 Presbyterian College

### **CAA FOOTBALL (12)**

Albany  
 Delaware  
 Elon  
 James Madison  
 Maine  
 New Hampshire  
 Rhode Island  
 Richmond  
 Stony Brook  
 Towson  
 Villanova  
 William & Mary

### **IVY (8)**

Brown  
 Columbia  
 Cornell  
 Dartmouth  
 Harvard  
 Penn  
 Princeton  
 Yale

### **MID-EASTERN (9)**

Bethune-Cookman  
 Delaware State  
 Florida A&M  
 Howard  
 Morgan State  
 Norfolk State  
 North Carolina A&T  
 North Carolina Central  
 South Carolina State

### **MISSOURI VALLEY FOOTBALL (10)**

Illinois State  
 Indiana State  
 Missouri State  
 North Dakota State  
 UNI  
 South Dakota  
 South Dakota State  
 Southern Illinois  
 Western Illinois  
 Youngstown State

### **NORTHEAST (8)**

Bryant  
 Central Connecticut State  
 Duquesne  
 LIU  
 Robert Morris  
 Sacred Heart  
 St. Francis (Pa.)  
 Wagner

### **OHIO VALLEY (9)**

Austin Peay  
 Eastern Illinois  
 Eastern Kentucky  
 Jacksonville State  
 Murray State  
 Southeast Missouri  
 Tennessee State  
 Tennessee Tech  
 UT Martin

### **PATRIOT (7)**

Bucknell  
 Colgate  
 Fordham  
 Georgetown  
 Holy Cross  
 Lafayette  
 Leigh

### **PIONEER (10)**

Butler  
 Davidson  
 Dayton  
 Drake  
 Jacksonville  
 Marist  
 Morehead State  
 San Diego  
 Stetson  
 Valparaiso

### **SOUTHERN (9)**

Chatanooga  
 Citadel  
 East Tennessee State  
 Furman  
 Mercer  
 Samford  
 VMI  
 Western Carolina  
 Wofford

### **SOUTHLAND (11)**

Abilene Christian  
 Central Arkansas  
 Houston Baptist  
 Incarnate Word  
 Lamar  
 McNeese State  
 Nicholls  
 Northwestern State  
 Sam Houston State  
 Southeastern Louisiana  
 Stephen F. Austin

### **SOUTHWESTERN (10)**

#### **East**

Alabama A&M  
 Alabama State  
 Alcorn State  
 Jackson State  
 Mississippi Valley State

#### **West**

Arkansas-Pine Bluff  
 Grambling State  
 Prairie View A&M  
 Southern  
 Texas Southern

### **INDEPENDENT**

Merrimack #  
 North Dakota

# - Reclassifying to FBS



***Every Down.  
Every Day.™***



**NCAA.com/FCS**

Big Sky Conference • Big South Conference  
Colonial Athletic Association • Ivy League  
Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference • Missouri Valley Football Conference  
Northeast Conference • Ohio Valley Conference • Patriot League  
Pioneer Football League • Southern Conference • Southland Conference  
Southwestern Athletic Conference



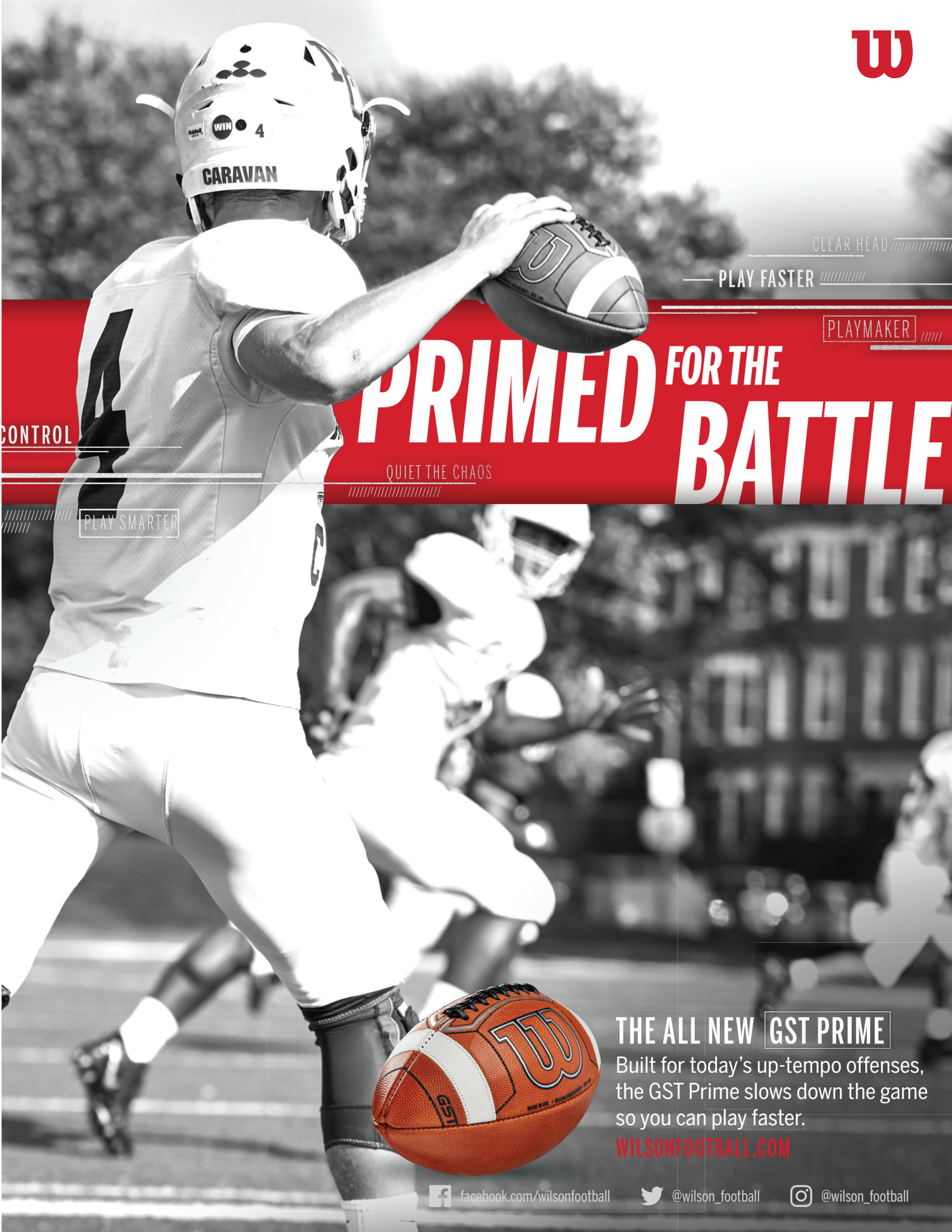
**150**<sup>®</sup>

**COLLEGE FOOTBALL**

**CELEBRATING THE GOOD IN THE GAME.**

**EDUCATION. LEADERSHIP. COMMUNITY.**

**#CFB150 • @CFB150 • CFB150.ORG**



CLEAR HEAD

PLAY FASTER

PLAYMAKER

# PRIMED FOR THE BATTLE

CONTROL

QUIET THE CHAOS

PLAY SMARTER



## THE ALL NEW GST PRIME

Built for today's up-tempo offenses, the GST Prime slows down the game so you can play faster.

[WILSONFOOTBALL.COM](http://WILSONFOOTBALL.COM)

facebook.com/wilsonfootball

@wilson\_football

@wilson\_football

# ESPN+

MORE SPORTS. MORE LEAGUES.  
MORE TEAMS. MORE FILMS AND SHOWS.  
MORE ESPN.



*\$4.<sup>99</sup>/mo*



*Thousands of  
Live Events*



*Exclusive  
Original  
Programming*



*No Long-Term  
Contract*

Fans can stream ESPN+ content on the ESPN App on mobile and TV-connected devices and on ESPN.com. For more information, visit [ESPNPlus.com](https://ESPNPlus.com).



## PRESEASON ALL-OVC HONORS

### Predicted Order of Finish

1. Jacksonville State (14 first-place votes)	126
2. Southeast Missouri (4)	115
3. Eastern Kentucky	98
4. Austin Peay	70
5. Murray State	61
Tennessee State	61
7. UT Martin	60
8. Eastern Illinois	35
9. Tennessee Tech	22

For the sixth year in a row and eighth time in 10 years, Jacksonville State has been picked the preseason favorite in the Ohio Valley Conference. The Gamecocks, who won its fifth-straight league crown a year ago, received 14 of a possible 18 first-place votes in a poll of league head coaches and communications directors.

### Preseason All-OVC Team

QB	Zerrick Cooper, Jacksonville State
QB	Daniel Santacaterina, Southeast Missouri
RB	Kentel Williams, Austin Peay
RB	Daryl McCleskey Jr., Eastern Kentucky
WR	Josh Pearson, Jacksonville State
WR	Kristian Wilkerson, Southeast Missouri
WR	Chris Rowland, Tennessee State
TE	Trae Barry, Jacksonville State
C	Thomas Burton, Tennessee State
OG	Darius Anderson, Jacksonville State
OG	Raekwon Allen, Tennessee State
OT	Hunter Sosebee, Jacksonville State
OT	Kyle Anderton, Austin Peay
OT	Terry Fultz, UT Martin
DL	Aaron Patrick, Eastern Kentucky
DL	Julian Crutchfield, UT Martin
DL	Clarence Thornton, Southeast Missouri
DL	Terrell Greer, Eastern Illinois
DL	Austin Pickett, UT Martin
LB	Zach Hall, Southeast Missouri
LB	Jalen Choice, Jacksonville State
LB	Justin Swift, Southeast Missouri
DB	Marlon Bridges, Jacksonville State
DB	Dyddarius Knighten, Southeast Missouri
DB	Dajour Nesbeth, Tennessee State
DB	Leodis Moore III, Eastern Kentucky
K	Gabrel Vicente, Murray State
P	Steve Dawson, Murray State
RS	Malik Honeycutt, Murray State

### Preseason Offensive Player of the Year

Zerrick Cooper (QB), Jacksonville State

### Preseason Defensive Player of the Year

Zach Hall (LB), Southeast Missouri

Jacksonville State junior quarterback Zerrick Cooper and Southeast Missouri senior linebacker Zach Hall were named the 2019 OVC Preseason Offensive and Defensive Players of the Year.

Jacksonville State led the way with seven total preseason selections, while Southeast Missouri followed with six picks, Tennessee State had four selections, Eastern Kentucky, Murray State and UT Martin had three apiece, Austin Peay had two picks and Eastern Illinois had one.

Returning players who were first-team All-OVC selections last year (15 in total) were automatic selections to the preseason team this year. The squad also included eight players who were second-team picks in 2018. Of the 29 total selections, 26 were seniors and three were juniors.

## 2019 OVC SEASON NOTES/PREVIEW

**Let's Get It Started:** The 72nd season of Ohio Valley Conference football will get underway on Thursday, August 29 as seven of the league's nine teams will see action. The remaining two teams will open on Saturday, August 31. The OVC is made up of nine football-playing schools in 2019. Since its beginning, 15 of the 18 total schools that have played football in the league have claimed at least one championship.

**Recent Playoff Success:** Beginning with the 2001 season the OVC went until 2013 without a FCS Playoff victory. But over the past six seasons OVC teams have performed well in the playoffs. In 2013 the OVC placed three teams in the field for the first time and each won at least one game with Eastern Illinois and Jacksonville State advancing to the quarterfinals (the first time that had happened in the league since 1991). In 2015 Jacksonville State (who during that year became the first OVC team ranked No. 1 in the Top 25 since 1999) won three playoff games to become the first OVC team to advance to the National Championship game since 1982. Along the way JSU set an OVC record for points in a playoff game with 58 against Charleston Southern in the quarterfinals, and then broke the record a week later in a 62-10 victory over Sam Houston State in the semifinals. A year ago Jacksonville State and Southeast Missouri each won a game in the playoffs.

**The FCS Playoffs:** In 2010 the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) playoff field expanded to 20 teams, up from 16 previously, and in 2013 the field increased to 24 for the first time. The expansion in 2010 to 20 teams was the first since the field grew from 12 to 16 teams in 1997. The 24-team field is comprised of 10 automatic bids and 14 at-large berths. There are eight first round matchups (16 total teams), while eight (8) teams receive a bye into the second round. For the 10th time in 2019, the championship game will be played in Frisco, Texas at Toyota Stadium, a 20,500-seat multi-purpose stadium. The Southland Conference will serve as the host of the championship, which will be held on Saturday, January 11.

**Back-to-Back Buchanan Winners:** A year ago Southeast Missouri linebacker **Zach Hall** was named the winner of the Buck Buchanan Award, given to the National Defensive Player of the Year by STATS. After not previously having an award winner (the award began in 1995), this marked the second-straight season an OVC player won the award (Jacksonville State's Darius Jackson was the 2017 winner). Hall picked up 28 first-place, 31 second-place, 19 third-place, 13 fourth-place and seven fifth-place votes to finish with 354 points, 113 more than second place. Hall was also named the FCS ADA National Defensive Player of the Year, the first OVC player to win that award (which began in 2013).

**CFB150:** This year marks the 150th anniversary of college football which began on November 6, 1869 when Princeton played Rutgers. The commemoration will showcase the rich history and traditions of the sport and its positive impact on lives and communities, while also promoting the opportunity it continues to provide to thousands of student-athletes across all levels of the sport. Follow the campaign @CFB150 and take part in the conversation with the hashtag #CFB150.

**ESPN3/ESPN+:** For the seventh-straight year the OVC is producing a "Game of the Week" package that will air on ESPN3 this fall. The eight-game schedule is once again in conjunction with Tupelo Raycom. Kevin Ingram, host of "The Wake Up Zone" on 104.5 The Zone in Nashville, will handle play-by-play duties while Bob Belvin, on-air talent and contributor at ESPN Clarksville, will provide analysis. The duo has worked together each of the past seven years in the league's TV package. The remainder of the league's home schedule (approximately 44 contests) will be broadcast on ESPN+ for the second-straight year. ESPN+ is the first-ever multi-sport, direct-to-consumer subscription streaming service from The Walt Disney Company's Direct-to-Consumer and International group, in partnership with ESPN. It offers fans thousands of additional live events, on-demand content and original programming not available on ESPN's linear TV or digital networks. This includes hundreds of MLB, NHL and MLS games, Grand Slam tennis, Top Rank boxing, PGA Tour golf, college sports, international rugby, cricket, the full library of ESPN Films including 30 for 30, and more. Fans can subscribe to ESPN+ for just \$4.99 a month (or \$49.99 per year) and cancel at any time. ESPN+ is an integrated part of the completely redesigned ESPN App and also available on the web, iPhone, iPad, tvOS, Android Handset, Apple TV, Roku, Chromecast and FireTV. More information can be found at [www.OVCsports.com/ESPN](http://www.OVCsports.com/ESPN).

**Sgt. York Trophy Presented by Delta Dental and Farm Bureau Health Plans:** Beginning in 2014 Delta Dental of Tennessee became the presenting sponsor of the Sgt. York Trophy. They were joined by Farm Bureau Health Plans of Tennessee in 2019. The trophy (founded in 2007 by the Nashville Sports Council and OVC) goes to the winner of the quadrangular season football series between the four OVC football-playing schools located in the state of Tennessee (Austin Peay, Tennessee State, Tennessee Tech and UT Martin). The award is only the second traveling trophy that involves more than two teams in college sports; the other is the Commander in Chief's Trophy which has been contested between Air Force, Army and Navy annually since

1972. The award is named in honor of Alvin C. York, the most noted Soldier of World War I. As a corporal in the 2nd battalion, 328th Infantry, in the Battle of the Meuse River-Argonne (Oct. 8, 1918), York and seven other soldiers captured 132 prisoners, was promoted to sergeant and received the Distinguished Service Cross, the French Croix de Guerre, the French Legion of Honor, the Croce di Guerra of Italy and the War Medal of Montenegro. Upon his return to the United States in 1919, he was bestowed the Congressional Medal of Honor.

**The OVC vs. the FBS:** In five of the past seven and six of the past nine seasons, an OVC team has knocked off a team from the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS). OVC teams are 35-237-1 all-time against FBS opponents with nine games on the 2019 schedule.

**A Look at the Coaches:** Seven of the nine OVC coaches from last season return to their respective teams in 2019. Jacksonville State's **John Grass**, Tennessee State's **Rod Reed** and Tennessee Tech's **Dewayne Alexander** are currently coaching at their alma maters. The longest tenured coach in the league is UT Martin's **Jason Simpson** who enters his 14th season with the Skyhawks in 2019; Simpson is the seventh-winningest coach in OVC history (80 total victories) and can move up to sixth with one more victory.

**Preseason Forecasts:** Jacksonville State has been tabbed the favorite heading into the 2019 season. Is being picked first in the preseason poll necessarily a good thing? In the past 42 years of preseason polls (all that were available), the preseason predicted champion has only gone on to win the OVC Championship 19 times (45.2%). Each of the past six years the preseason favorite has gone on to win the title.

Year	Predicted Champion	Actual Champion
2009	Eastern Kentucky	Eastern Illinois
2010	Jacksonville State	Southeast Missouri
2011	Jacksonville State	Eastern Kentucky/Jax State/Tennessee Tech
2012	Eastern Kentucky	Eastern Illinois
2013	Eastern Illinois	Eastern Illinois
2014	Jacksonville State	Jacksonville State
2015	Jacksonville State	Jacksonville State
2016	Jacksonville State	Jacksonville State
2017	Jacksonville State	Jacksonville State
2018	Jacksonville State	Jacksonville State
2019	Jacksonville State	?



Southeast Missouri senior linebacker Zach Hall led all FCS players with 168 tackles, which established a new SEMO single-season record. For his efforts he was named the winner of the Buck Buchanan Award given by STATS to the National Defensive Player of the Year, as well as the FCS ADA National Defensive Player of the Year.

## RETURNING STATISTICAL LEADERS

Following are a look at the top statistical returners this season based on their production during the 2018 season (current year of eligibility indicated in parenthesis).

Passing	Comp.-Att.	Yds.	TD/Int.
Zerrick Cooper, JSU (Jr.)	251-417	3416	32/14
Daniel Santacaterina, SEMO (Sr.)	232-393	2844	28/11
Johnathan Brantley, EIU (Sr.)	200-307	2016	14/2
Bailey Fisher, TTU (So.)	139-268	1681	11/7
Jeremiah Oatsvall, APSU (Jr.)	104-201	1631	20/10

Rushing	Att.	Yds.	TD's
Kentel Williams, APSU (Sr.)	104	831	7
Daryl McCleskey, EKU (Sr.)	144	651	5
Te'kendrick Roberson, TSU (Sr.)	100	527	1
Jaelen Greene, JSU (Jr.)	134	723	4
Jeremiah Oatsvall, APSU (Jr.)	85	517	6

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	TD's
Josh Pearson, JSU (Sr.)	67	1123	17
Terry Williams, UTM (Sr.)	67	736	3
Kristian Wilkerson, SEMO (Sr.)	61	894	14
Chris Rowland, TSU (Sr.)	57	727	5
Jamari Hester, JSU (Sr.)	59	864	11

Tackles	UT	AT	Total
Zack Hall, SEMO (Sr.)	67	101	168
Deontay Wilson, TTU (Sr.)	44	59	103
Shannon Fayne, TTU (Sr.)	38	51	89
Justin Swift, SEMO (Sr.)	58	56	114
Joe Caputo, EIU (Sr.)	45	41	86

Sacks	Sacks	Yds.
Justin Swift, SEMO (Sr.)	8.5	62
Aaron Patrick, EKU (Sr.)	7.5	43
Tre Threat, JSU (Sr.)	5.0	40
Mekhi Brown, TSU (Sr.)	4.0	31
Jeremiah Caine, TSU (Jr.)	4.0	29

Interceptions	Int.	Yds.	TD's
Leodis Moore III, EKU (Sr.)	5	50	1
Dajour Nesbeth, TSU (Sr.)	4	152	1
Justin Swift, SEMO (Sr.)	4	121	1
Traco Williams, JSU (Sr.)	4	63	0
Zach Hall, SEMO (Sr.)	4	56	0

## ALL-TIME COACHING VICTORIES

Former EKU coach Roy Kidd, who is in the College Football Hall of Fame, finished his career with 315 overall and 207 OVC victories, both of which are OVC records. In total 95 coaches have led programs while a member of the OVC from 1948 to the present.

Coach	Years	Record
1. Roy Kidd (EKU)	1964-02	315-123-8 (.715)
2. Boots Donnelly (AP/MT)	1977-78, 79-98	154-94-1 (.620)
3. Charles Murphy (MTSU)	1952-68	117-53-5 (.683)
4. Jimmy Feix (WKU)	1968-81	99-43-5 (.690)
5. Bob Spoo (EIU)	1996-11	92-82 (.529)
6. Don Wade (TTU)	1968-82	81-78-3 (.509)
7. Jason Simpson (UTM)	2006-present	80-68 (.541)
8. Jack Crowe (JSU)	2003-12	73-39 (.652)
9. Wilburn Tucker (TTU)	1954-67	70-66-5 (.514)
10. Bill Furgerson (MUR)	1967-77	60-49-4 (.549)
14. Rod Reed (TSU)	2010-present	53-47 (.530)
15. John Grass (JSU)	2014-present	52-12 (.813)
41. Tom Matukewicz (SEMO)	2014-present	24-34 (.414)
59. Mitch Stewart (MUR)	2015-present	15-29 (.341)
62. Mark Elder (EKU)	2016-present	14-19 (.452)
88. Dewayne Alexander (TTU)	2018-present	1-10 (.091)
- Adam Cushing (EIU)	2019-present	0-0 (.000)
- Mark Hudspeth (APSU)	2019-present	0-0 (.000)

Note: Wins are in all games while team has been a member of the Ohio Valley Conference.



## 2019 COMPOSITE OVC SCHEDULE

### Thursday, August 29

**Eastern Illinois** at Chattanooga, 6:00 p.m.  
**Pikeville** at **Murray State**, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)  
**Valparaiso** at **Eastern Kentucky**, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)  
**Northwestern State** at **UT Martin**, 6:30 p.m. (ESPN+)  
**Southern Illinois** at **SE Missouri**, 6:30 p.m. (ESPN+)  
**Jacksonville State** at Southeastern Louisiana, 7 p.m.  
**N. Carolina Central** at **Austin Peay**, 7 p.m. (ESPN+)

### Saturday, August 31

**Samford** at **Tennessee Tech**, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)  
**Miss. Valley St.** at **Tennessee State**, 6 p.m. (ESPN+)

### Saturday, September 7

**Tennessee Tech** at Miami (Ohio), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN+)  
**Central Arkansas** at **Austin Peay**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)  
**Eastern Illinois** at Indiana, 2:30 p.m. (BTN)  
**Murray State** at Georgia, 3:00 p.m. (ESPN2)  
**Chattanooga** at **Jacksonville State**, 6 p.m. (ESPN+)  
**Eastern Kentucky** at Louisville, 6 p.m. (ACC Net. Extra)  
**Tennessee St.** at Middle Tennessee, 6 p.m. (ESPN3)  
**UT Martin** at Florida, 6:30 p.m. (ESPNUSEC Net. Alt.)  
**Southeast Missouri** at Montana State, 7:00 p.m.

### Saturday, September 14

**Eastern Kentucky** at Indiana State, 12:00 p.m.  
**Illinois State** at **Eastern Illinois**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)  
**Eastern Washington** at **Jacksonville St.**, 3 p.m. (ESPN+)  
**UVa-Wise** at **Tennessee Tech**, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)  
**UT Martin** at Southern Illinois, 6:00 p.m.  
**Murray State** at Toledo, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN3)  
**Tennessee St.** vs. Jackson St., 6 p.m. (Memphis, TN)  
**Austin Peay** at Mercer, 6:00 p.m.  
**SE Missouri** at Missouri, 6:30 p.m. (SEC Network Alt.)

### Saturday, September 21

**Eastern Illinois** at Indiana State, 12:00 p.m.  
**Eastern Kentucky** at Presbyterian, 12:00 p.m.  
**West Virginia State** at **SE Missouri**, 1 p.m. (ESPN+)  
**Tennessee Tech** at Western Illinois, 3:00 p.m.  
**Ark.-Pine Bluff** at **Tennessee State**, 4:30 p.m. (ESPN+)  
**North Alabama** at **Jacksonville State**, 6 p.m. (ESPN+)  
**Morehead State** at **Murray State**, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)  
**Austin Peay** at East Tennessee State, 6:30 p.m.

### Saturday, September 28

\***Jacksonville State** at **Austin Peay**, 2 p.m. (ESPN+)  
 \***Tennessee Tech** at **Eastern Illinois**, 4 p.m. (ESPN3)  
 \***Tennessee State** at **Eastern Ky.**, 5 p.m. (ESPN+)  
 \***Murray State** at **UT Martin**, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

### Saturday, October 5

\***Eastern Illinois** at **Murray State**, 1:00 p.m. (ESPN+)  
 \***UT Martin** at **Eastern Kentucky**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN3)  
 \***Tennessee State** at **Jacksonville State**, 6 p.m. (ESPN+)  
 \***Tennessee Tech** at **SE Missouri**, 6 p.m. (ESPN+)

### Saturday, October 12

\***Jacksonville St.** at **Eastern Illinois**, 12 p.m. (ESPN+)  
 \***Southeast Missouri** at **Austin Peay**, 2 p.m. (ESPN+)  
 \***Murray State** at **Tennessee State**, 2 p.m. (ESPN+)  
 \***UT Martin** at **Tennessee Tech**, 6:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

### Saturday, October 19

\***Eastern Illinois** at **UT Martin**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)  
 \***Eastern Kentucky** at **Murray State**, 2 p.m. (ESPN+)  
 \***SE Missouri** at **Jacksonville State**, 3 p.m. (ESPN3)  
 \***Austin Peay** at **Tennessee St.**, 4:30 p.m. (ESPN+)

### Saturday, October 26

\***UT Martin** at **Southeast Missouri**, 1 p.m. (ESPN+)  
 \***Austin Peay** at **Tennessee Tech**, 1:30 p.m. (ESPN+)  
 \***Eastern Kentucky** at **Eastern Illinois**, 2 p.m. (ESPN+)  
 \***Murray State** at **Jacksonville St.**, 3 p.m. (ESPN3)

### Saturday, November 2

\***Austin Peay** at **Eastern Kentucky**, 12 p.m. (ESPN+)  
 \***Tennessee Tech** at **Murray State**, 1 p.m. (ESPN+)  
 \***Jacksonville State** at **UT Martin**, 2 p.m. (ESPN+)  
 \***SE Missouri** at **Tennessee State**, 2 p.m. (ESPN3)

### Saturday, November 9

\***Eastern Kentucky** at **SE Missouri**, 1 p.m. (ESPN3)  
 \***Jacksonville St.** at **Tenn. Tech**, 1:30 p.m. (ESPN+)  
 \***UT Martin** at **Austin Peay**, 3:00 p.m. (ESPN+)  
 \***Eastern Illinois** at **Tennessee St.**, 2 p.m. (ESPN+)

### Saturday, November 16

\***SE Missouri** at **Eastern Illinois**, 12 p.m. (ESPN+)  
 \***Tennessee Tech** at **Eastern Ky.**, 12 p.m. (ESPN+)  
 \***Austin Peay** at **Murray State**, 12:00 p.m. (ESPN3)  
 \***Tennessee State** at **UT Martin**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)

### Saturday, November 23

\***Murray State** at **SE Missouri**, 1 p.m. (ESPN+)  
 \***Eastern Ky.** at **Jacksonville State**, 1 p.m. (ESPN3)  
 \***Tennessee St.** at **Tenn. Tech**, 1:30 p.m. (ESPN+)  
 \***Eastern Illinois** at **Austin Peay**, 2:00 p.m. (ESPN+)  
 \***UT Martin** at Kentucky, TBA

### Saturday, November 30

FCS Playoffs First Round (campus sites)

### Saturday, December 7

FCS Playoffs Second Round (campus sites)

### Friday, December 13/Saturday, December 14

FCS Playoffs Quarterfinals (campus sites)

### Friday, December 20/Saturday, December 21

FCS Playoffs Semifinals (campus sites)

### Saturday, January 11

Division I National Championship, TBA (Frisco, Texas)

## 2020 OVC SCHEDULE

### September 26

**Eastern Illinois** at **UT Martin**  
**Eastern Kentucky** at **Tennessee Tech**  
**Jacksonville State** at **Tennessee State**  
**Murray State** at **Southeast Missouri**

### October 3

**Austin Peay** at **Eastern Illinois**  
**UT Martin** at **Eastern Kentucky**  
**Tennessee Tech** at **Jacksonville State**  
**Tennessee State** at **Murray State**

### October 10

**Eastern Kentucky** at **Austin Peay**  
**Jacksonville State** at **UT Martin**  
**Murray State** at **Tennessee Tech**  
**Southeast Missouri** at **Tennessee State**

### October 17

**Austin Peay** at **Jacksonville State**  
**Eastern Illinois** at **Eastern Kentucky**  
**UT Martin** at **Murray State**  
**Tennessee Tech** at **Southeast Missouri**

### October 24

**Murray State** at **Austin Peay**  
**Jacksonville State** at **Eastern Illinois**  
**Southeast Missouri** at **UT Martin**  
**Tennessee State** at **Tennessee Tech**

### October 31

**Austin Peay** at **Southeast Missouri**  
**Eastern Illinois** at **Murray State**  
**Eastern Kentucky** at **Jacksonville State**  
**UT Martin** at **Tennessee State**

### November 7

**Tennessee State** at **Austin Peay**  
**Southeast Missouri** at **Eastern Illinois**  
**Murray State** at **Eastern Kentucky**  
**Tennessee Tech** at **UT Martin**

### November 14

**Austin Peay** at **Tennessee Tech**  
**Eastern Illinois** at **Tennessee State**  
**Eastern Kentucky** at **Southeast Missouri**  
**Jacksonville State** at **Murray State**

### November 21

**UT Martin** at **Austin Peay**  
**Tennessee Tech** at **Eastern Illinois**  
**Tennessee State** at **Eastern Kentucky**  
**Southeast Missouri** at **Jacksonville State**