ELEVATE
ANNUAL REPORT
On December 11, 2014, The University of Tulsa selected Philip Montgomery as the school’s 29th head football coach. “Coach Montgomery has an outstanding background as a collegiate coach and recruiter. He is one of the bright offensive minds in college football and has coordinated explosive offenses at both Houston and Baylor” said Vice President and Director of Athletics Derrick Gragg.

A Texas native, Montgomery first began his association with Art Briles at Stephenville High School and has coached alongside Baylor’s head coach for 16 seasons. Montgomery moved with Briles to the University of Houston in 2003 and spent five years (2003-07) with the Cougars. “For more than 20 years, Philip has been a rising star in Texas football,” said TU President Steadman Upham. “We welcome Philip and his family to our campus and the Tulsa community.”

“I am truly honored to be the next head coach at the University of Tulsa,” said Montgomery. “I want to thank President Upham, Derrick Gragg and the Board of Trustees for this special opportunity. I was fortunate to be in a great position working with Coach Briles and the wonderful people at Baylor. I’ve always wanted to be a head coach, but my family and I knew that it would take the right opportunity to get me to leave Waco. Tulsa is that special opportunity.” Montgomery and his wife, Ashli, have two children, Cannon and Maci.

The University of Tulsa’s Golden Hurricane Athletics adopted a strategic plan to guide the department through 2018-19. Under the leadership of TU President Steadman Upham and Vice President and Director of Athletics Derrick Gragg, the university has set an ambitious course to focus on eight key areas that will elevate the athletics program and build upon a rich tradition and past successes.


“We want to provide the best opportunity for our student-athletes to grow, develop and prosper academically, athletically and socially. The expectations of student-athletes is key,” said Gragg. “We were the premier academic institution in Conference USA, and we intend to be at the top of the American Athletic Conference as well. The conference change is driving our new strategic plan. This is the most elite, prestigious conference in TU’s history. The competition is at a higher level. The populations and budgets in the American Athletic Conference are larger. Therefore, we need to make improvements in some key areas to continue our success on the playing field and in the classroom.

Despite being the smallest NCAA Division I institution, TU dominated Conference USA with 56 championships in nine years as a league member. However, the university has not only entered a new conference; it has entered a new era. By creating a plan for the future of Golden Hurricane Athletics, Gragg and his department are charting a course for innovation and advancement on and off the field. "The landscape for intercollegiate athletics is changing nationally, and it is crucial TU communicate our mission, our core values and our vision," Gragg said. "We require involvement and commitment from all levels of our program. We will measure our progress and adjust as needed to meet our goals." Gragg credited TU Professor Jim Senese in the Collins College of Business, an expert in strategy management, with helping to formulate the new plan. Through research, analysis and careful self-examination, TU was able to craft a road map that will elevate the Golden Hurricane within the American Athletic Conference and assist the university in its overall goal to become a Top 50 research institution.

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ELEVATE: GOLDEN HURRICANE ATHLETICS UNVEILS FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

TULSA NAMES PHILIP MONTGOMERY AS HEAD FOOTBALL COACH
The University of Tulsa and the Tulsa Sports Commission will serve as hosts for the 2016 NCAA Men’s and Women’s Division I Tennis Championships on May 19-30, 2016 at the Michael D. Case Tennis Center. “We’re excited the NCAA has given us the opportunity to host this championship tennis event once again. The Michael D. Case Tennis Center is a cut-above when it comes to facilities for college tennis and to have this world-class venue and tournament on our campus is prestigious for our University and community,” said University of Tulsa Vice President & Director of Athletics Dr. Derrick Gragg.

This will be the third NCAA Division I Tennis Championship hosted at the Case Tennis Center. Tulsa hosted the 2004 NCAA Men’s Championship and the combined 2008 NCAA Men’s & Women’s Tennis Championship.

In the last eight years, the Michael D. Case Tennis Center has served as host site of more national collegiate tennis events than any other venue in the country. Tulsa has hosted the ITA All-American Championships and three NCAA Championships, including the 2004 men’s event and the 2008 men’s and women’s tournament.
WOMEN’S ROWING

The Tulsa rowers captured their ninth-straight Lawless Cup and won all five races against SMU in the regatta at White Rock Lake in Dallas, Texas.

“Tulsa’s rowers did really well today,” Head Coach Kevin Harris said. “We had great conditions for racing, so the times that we rowed were pretty accurate. SMU is a great team and a team that we are always pushing each other to be faster. We knew today was important for conference seeding at the end of the year. All the boats did a pretty good job. It was great to get a good start and execute our racing plan today.”

In the title race, the Varsity 8+ tallied a time of 6:44.6 for a 6.6-second lead over SMU. The TU boat featured Marcia Vidaurri, Emalia Seto, Lauren Vander Hoeven, Hannah Vissers, Emily Farrar, Jennifer Casson, Maria Gearing, Skylar Luttjehuisen and Phoebe Mulligan.

The TU’s Varsity 4+ ‘A’ captured a top time of 7:25.2 for a 6.4-second lead over SMU, while Tulsa’s ‘B’ boat was third.

The Hurricane’s largest advantage of the day came in the 2nd Varsity 4+ as TU posted a time of 8:11.3 for a 27.8-second advantage over the Mustangs.

The Lawless Cup Regatta was established in 2005 to recognize the outstanding contributions that TU President Emeritus Dr. Robert Lawless and his wife, First Lady Emeritus Marcy Lawless, made toward the success of the Tulsa women’s rowing program. Since the inception of the Lawless Cup, TU has gone undefeated in Cup races, the Varsity 8+, bringing home the trophy in 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

“Dr. Bob and his wife were huge fans of the rowing team while at Tulsa and one of our biggest supporters gave us great support in his honor, which is a great way to recognize him on a yearly basis,” Harris said. “We always try to win this for him and I am pleased that we could do that today.”

MEN’S SOCCER CLAIMS AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP ON PENALTY KICKS

It ended in tie, but the Tulsa men’s soccer team claimed the 2014 American Athletic Conference Championship over USF on penalty kicks, 6-5, and claimed the league’s automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

“Certainly proud of the guys,” Head Coach Tom McIntosh said. “They’ve been through a lot of adversity since losing last year in the conference championship, so I have to give credit to our senior leadership. They have been tremendous at keeping this team together and we’ve grinded it out all year, including today. We are a team that can win a number of different ways and tonight we had to go to PKs.”

Tulsa concluded the season with a 2-0 loss to Saint Louis in the NCAA first round, and finished with an 11-6-3 mark on the season.

INDIVIDUAL SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

On October 31, 2014 the Tulsa men’s and women’s cross country teams swept the American Athletic Cross Country Championships held at Mohawk Sports Complex.

The TU men’s team placed the top three runners, and secured its fifth consecutive conference championship, while the women’s team won its second straight. All seven Golden Hurricane men’s runners finished in the top-16 of the 8K race, while all seven women’s runners placed among the top-14 in the 6K run.

“It was an awesome day. I was very proud,” Tulsa Head Coach Steve Gulley said. “The girls started it off, and that was a big, big win for us. They weren’t expected to win, but they stepped up and had a great race. I think that really motivated some of the boys. We had three seniors that had a chance to finish (a run of) five conference championships, and I think that really got the teams going.”
colleges and universities nationwide. A total of 62 TU students have won Goldwater Scholarships since 1989. On the field, she has played in 56 games, earned five starting assignments and tallied two assists for two points.

MEN’S TENNIS SHOCKS NO. 1 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, 4-3
On February 28, 2015, the No. 51 University of Tulsa men’s tennis shocked the college tennis world, upsetting the No. 1 Southern California Trojans, 4-3, at Marks Stadium in Los Angeles, California. USC, the most dominant program in college tennis history, and having won five of the last six national championships, came into the afternoon as the heavy favorites against Tulsa. “This was by far the biggest win in our program’s history,” said Head Tennis Coach Vince Westbrook. “A lot of things fell into place for us. We knew we were going to be a better outdoor team and that showed today. Winning at their place is a big deal and the guys did a great job of holding on for the win in such a hostile environment. It was a great college tennis match.” The men’s tennis team saw its season come to a close in the second round of the NCAA Tournament, and concluded its 2015 season with an 18-13 record.

SOFTBALL FALLS, 1-0, IN AMERICAN CONFERENCE FINALS
The Golden Hurricane ended their season 36-18 after advancing to the American Championship finals in its first season in the league, and playing in its fourth conference championship game in the last five years. A home run by UCF in the bottom of the seventh was the only run separating Tulsa and the No. 15 Knights, as UCF claimed a 1-0 victory in the American Athletic Conference Championship Game.

INDIVIDUAL SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

WOMEN’S TENNIS CAPTURES 2015 AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP
Saana Saarteinen clinched the match from the No. 5 position to lift the No. 3-seeded University of Tulsa women’s tennis team over the tournament’s top-seeded Houston Cougars, 4-3, to capture the 2015 American Athletic Conference Women’s Tennis Championship, hosted at the Michael D. Case Tennis Center. Marcelina Cichon, who won two singles and two doubles matches over the weekend, was named the tournament’s Most Outstanding Performer. With the win, the Golden Hurricane advanced to the NCAA Tournament, making it the ninth-straight season Tulsa has reached nationals.

RIOJAS AWARDED BARRY M. GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP
Junior women's soccer player Katy Riojas was awarded the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, as announced by The University of Tulsa. Riojas, a midfielder from Parkville, Mo., maintains a 4.0 GPA in mechanical engineering. The Goldwater Scholarship supports exceptional students who intend to pursue research careers in science, mathematics and engineering. Riojas was selected on the basis of academic merit from a field of more than 1,200 students nominated by the faculties of

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL RETURNS TO POSTSEASON
In their inaugural season in the AAC, TU finished with an 18-14 overall record and finished third in conference play with a 12-6 mark. “I am really proud of this group. To win 18 games, to have the success we had in the first WNIT game and to send Mariah and Kadan out on a note that they came into this program after a five-win season and they are leaving having went to postseason in two of their four years. I am really excited for them and thankful they chose to be a part of what we’ve done here,” said Tulsa Head Coach Matilda Mossman.

Tulsa has made five postseason appearances, including WNIT bids in 2004, 2005 and 2015, and NCAA bids in 2006 and 2013.
MEN’S BASKETBALL CAPS SEASON WITH POSTSEASON APPEARANCE

After a second place finish in the American Athletic Conference, the Golden Hurricane advanced to the second round of the NIT. “Starting the way we started and then finishing second in the American Conference, being 14-4 in league play, I'm so proud of these guys,” said Head Coach Frank Haith. The Golden Hurricane ended the season with an overall record of 23-11.

MABREY EARN ALL-CONFERENCE HONORS

Men’s golfer Matt Mabrey was selected to the American’s All-Conference team, and competed at the NCAA Men’s Golf Regional. Mabrey averaged 71.8 strokes-per-round in spring and placed in the top-20 in seven tournaments, never finishing worse than 31st. He won individual medalist honors at the UALR/First Tee Collegiate Classic, March 30-31, with a three-round total of 210. During his time at Tulsa, Mabrey received conference honors two other times. He was selected for second-team All-Conference USA last spring after winning the 2014 C-USA individual conference championship. He was also a part of the 2012 All-Freshman C-USA team his first season with the Hurricane.
**ALL-AMERICAN AWARDS**

Audrey Jean-Baptiste  
Women's Indoor Track & Field, Second Team

Bryce Robinson  
Men's Indoor Track & Field, First Team;  
Men's Outdoor Track & Field, Second Team

Marc Scott  
USTFCCCA All-American; Men's Indoor Track & Field, First Team; Men's Outdoor Track & Field, Second Team

**CAPITAL ONE ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN**

Valerie El Houssine  
Volleyball, Third Team

Julie Kernen  
Softball, First Team

Quinn Starker  
Men's Soccer, Second Team

**CAPITAL ONE ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT VII**

Valerie El Houssine  
Volleyball, First Team

Julie Kernen  
Softball, First Team

Abé Matamoros  
Men's Soccer, First Team

Katy Riojas  
Women's Soccer, Second Team

Craig Suits  
Football Writers Freshman All-American

Garrett Stafford  
Football

Quinn Starker  
Men's Soccer, First Team

**AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS**

Men's Cross Country  
Women's Cross Country  
Women's Tennis  
Men's Soccer

**AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE**

**FIRST TEAM**

Otugo Ananaba—Men's Indoor Track & Field (4x400m Relay; 60m Dash)

Rachel Baptist—Women's Indoor Track & Field (3,000m Run)

Anna Bears—Women's Cross Country

Erica Bohannon—Volleyball

Bradley Bourgeois—Men's Soccer

Marcelina Cichon—Women's Tennis

Roos-Sanne Claassen—Women's Indoor Track & Field (Distance Medley)

Natasha Cockram—Women's Cross Country

Alejandro Espejo—Men's Tennis

Cydney Fogle—Women's Indoor Track & Field (4x400m Relay)

Emma Galbraith—Women's Indoor Track & Field (Distance Medley)

Simon Greiner—Men's Indoor Track & Field (Distance Medley; 800m Run)

Simon Greiner—Men's Outdoor Track & Field (800m Run; 1,500m Run)

Dennis Hodapp—Men's Cross Country

Grey Howard—Men's Indoor Track & Field (4x400m Relay)

Audrey Jean-Baptiste—Women's Indoor Track & Field (4x400m Relay; 400m Dash)

Colt Johnson—Men's Indoor Track & Field (Distance Medley)

Julie Kernen—Softball

**SECOND TEAM**

Brandi Krieg—Women's Cross Country

Renata Kuricova—Women's Cross Country

Clara Langley—Women's Tennis

Nicole Lee—Women's Cross Country

Rongrong Leenabanchong—Women's Tennis

Olivia Lopez—Women's Cross Country; Women's Indoor Track & Field (Distance Medley)

Alex Lybarger—Men's Indoor Track & Field (Weight Throw); Men's Outdoor Track & Field (Hammer Throw)

Candalyn Lyon—Women's Indoor Track & Field (4x400m Relay)

Matt Mabrey—Men's Golf

Olivia O'Hare—Women's Indoor Track & Field (Distance Medley); Women's Outdoor Track & Field (1,500m Run)

Adam Palamar—Men's Indoor Track & Field (Mile Run); Men's Outdoor Track & Field (1,500m Run)

Tim Rackers—Men's Cross Country; Men's Indoor Track & Field (5,000m Run; 3,000m Run); Men's Outdoor Track & Field (5,000m Run; 10,000m Run)

Or Ram-Harel—Men's Tennis

Sarah Ringler—Rowing

Bryce Robinson—Men's Indoor Track & Field (200m Dash; 400m Dash; 4x400m Relay); Men's Outdoor Track & Field (100m Dash; 200m Dash)

Adam Roderique—Men's Cross Country

Isaac Sanders—Men's Indoor Track & Field (Distance Medley; 4x400m Relay)

Saana Saarinen—Women's Tennis

Marc Scott—Men's Cross Country; Men's Indoor Track & Field (5,000m Run; 3,000m Run); Men's Outdoor Track & Field (5,000m Run; 10,000m Run)

Emilia Seto—Soccer

Elijah Silva—Men's Cross Country; Men's Indoor Track & Field (Distance Medley; 800m Run); Men's Outdoor Track & Field (1,500m Run)

Stacie Taylor—Women's Cross Country

Danny Thater—Men's Cross Country

Lauren Thomas—Women's Indoor Track & Field (4x100m Relay)

Rachel Thun—Women's Soccer

Maddie Withee—Softball

James Woodard—Men's Basketball

**AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE COACH OF THE YEAR**

Steve Gulley—Men's Cross Country; Women's Cross Country; Indoor Track & Field

Dean Orford—Women's Tennis