

AIR FORCE FALCONS

2023-24 HIGHLIGHTS

2023-24 RECORDS

Fall	Overall	Conf
Men's Cross Country	NR	
Women's Cross Country	NR	
Football	9-4	5-3
Men's Soccer	1-14-2	1-6-1
Women's Soccer	6-9-3	3-5-3
Volleyball	17-12	9-9
Water Polo	17-16	1-5
Total	50-55-2	19-28-4

Winter	Overall	Conf
Men's Basketball	9-22	2-16
Women's Basketball	15-17	8-10
Boxing	0-1-1	0-0
Men's Fencing	15-14	0-0
Women's Fencing	11-20	0-0
Men's Gymnastics	8-8	0-0
Women's Gymnastics	NR	
Ice Hockey	18-19-1	15-10-1
Rifle	12-6	0-0
Men's Swimming	3-5	2-1
Women's Swimming	5-8	1-3
Men's Indoor Track	NR	
Women's Indoor Track	NR	
Wrestling	5-7	2-6
Total	101-127-2	30-46-1

Spring	Overall	Conf
Baseball	27-28	18-12
Golf	NR	
Lacrosse	9-6	8-1
Men's Tennis	6-14	1-5
Women's Tennis	1-18	0-10
Men's Track	NR	
Women's Track	NR	
Total	43-66	27-28

Overall Yearly 194-248-4 76-102-5
NR- No team record

GENERAL INFORMATION

Location:Colorado Springs, CO
Enrollment: 4,300
Founded: 1954
Nickname: Falcons
Colors (PMS): Blue (661), Silver (421)
Superintendent:..... Lt. Gen. Richard Clark
Athletic Director:Nathan Pine
Athletic Phone: 719-333-4008
Athletic Fax: 719-333-4009
Ticket Phone: 719-472-1895
Website:goairforcefalcons.com
Mailing Address: 2168 Field House Dr.
 USAF Academy, CO 80840

AIR FORCE ATHLETICS

MISSION

To develop leaders of character through athletic experiences

VISION

- Inspire a lifetime of service to the Air Force, Space Force and nation
- Provide challenging leadership experiences in a mentally and physically demanding environment
- Forge a Warrior Ethos that instills the will to win
- Create exceptional stakeholder and public experiences to promote the Academy, Air Force and Space Force



DID YOU KNOW

- Air Force athletics is the front porch of the Academy. The national exposure gained through intercollegiate athletics is unmatched across the Academy. A typical football game on one of the national television partners is available in more than 80 million homes.
- Experiences gained by cadets through competitive athletics are a key component to the essence of USAFA, specifically by providing unique leadership, character development and competition opportunities.
- Air Force has 30 intercollegiate teams, 18 men's and 12 women's teams. There are 27 NCAA Division 1 programs (men's and women's boxing and cheer not included). The primary conference in the Mountain West Conference. Air Force is also a member of the National Collegiate Boxing Association (Boxing), NCAA West Regional (Fencing, Rifle), Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (Men's Gymnastics), Atlantic Hockey Association (Hockey), Atlantic Sun Conference (Lacrosse), Western Water Polo Association (Water Polo), Big 12 (Wrestling) and the Western Athletic Conference (Men's Swimming, Men's Soccer).
- The 2023-24 school year is the 25th anniversary of the Mountain West, which Air Force is a founding member. The Falcons have had several significant moments on and off the field, including playing in the 2016 Nova Home Loans Arizona Bowl vs. South Alabama, as the game was the first to be streamed live on Twitter and Facebook. In 2014, the MW became the first league to have student-athletes participate in a Board of Director's meeting. Falcon volleyball player Emma Dridge, chair of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, attended the meeting.
- Multiple studies show Air Force Academy graduates that participated in intercollegiate athletics were more likely to have achieved the rank of O-6 (colonel) and above than those who did not compete. Female athletes achieved higher ranks at a greater rate than female non-athletes (1980-1995 graduating classes). Women who served at least 18 years the rate for athletes achieving O-6 was 37.07 percent compared to non-athletes at 27.6 percent.

The Air Force Academy Athletic Corporation

- Created in 2013, the AFAAC is a non-federal, Colorado 501c3 non-profit corporation authorized by public law and owned by the Secretary of the Air Force, that exists to support Air Force Athletics. The AFAAC assists USAFA in the management, development, funding, and operation of its intercollegiate athletic programs to include revenue generation, recruiting support, community outreach, fundraising, marketing, development, ticketing and special events. Since its inception, the AFAAC took the lead on several nationally recognized events to include the NHL Winter Classic Game in 2020, Tim McGraw, Blake Shelton and Brad Paisley concerts and hosted several NFL teams (Patriots, Rams, Chargers, 49ers) prior to games in Mexico City.

Earned Media Value

- The advertising value equivalency (AVE) places a monetary value on media coverage. Air Force Athletics generated \$205.6 million in AVE during the 2022-23 academic year, a 59.8 percent increase over last year (\$128,600,000). Air Force generated \$63,300,000 in 2019-20 and \$80,700,000 in 2020-21 and \$128,600,00 last year.
- Potential reach gives insight into the number of potential viewers that have been exposed to Air Force Athletics during the past year. It is useful to understand reach because it helps you identify the size of the potential audience, as opposed to limiting the analysis to the number of articles a brand has been mentioned in. Air Force Athletics reached 22.1 billion, a 60.1 percent increase over last year (\$13.8 billion).
- The San Francisco 49ers visit to the Air Force Academy for practice produced an advertising value equivalency (AVE) of \$17.3 million. The potential viewers exposed to the visit was 12 million via broadcasts and 1.8 million via news posts.

INSIDE AIR FORCE ATHLETICS

- The Athletic Department is home to the **AF Combatives Program Center of Excellence**, which develops the combatives curriculum and instructor training programs for more than 104,000 Airmen across the Air Force. This year the team completed the syllabus and training plans, conducted the first Master Instructor course at USAFA, and plans to support training ops in AF Central Command later this year. The AFCP COE works closely with the 10 Special Forces Group at Ft Carson for combatives training and expertise. As part of this program, Air Force athletics created a 10-hour Self Protection Course available to cadets and across the Air Force.

- Air Force athletics developed and implemented the **Team Captain Enhancement Program** for all team captains to gain leadership skills and to facilitate cross talk amongst team captains to share best practices and discuss how they have dealt with challenges and successes on their teams. Team Captains visit Gettysburg each summer to prep for the upcoming season and reflect on leadership lessons of the past applied to leadership challenges they may face in their new roles.

- **Air Force athletics is home to the Air Force's Tactical Sports & Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapy Fellowship.** Started in 2015, the Athletic Department and 10MDG co-support this program. The 14 month Fellowship trains Board Certified and Licensed Physical Therapists in Sports, Orthopedics and Human Performance Optimization. Upon graduation, Fellows are embedded into Special Operations Units throughout the Air Force. To date we have graduated three classes, the fourth graduates in Aug 2020 and the fifth cohort starts classes in June 2020.

- o This Fellowship is one of only 31 nationally accredited Physical Therapy Fellowships in the US.

- o This Fellowship is one of only 3 nationally accredited Physical Therapy Fellowships in the DoD

- o This Fellowship is one of only 3 nationally accredited Physical Therapy Fellowships housed in a Division 1 Athletic Department

- **The Human Performance Laboratory (HPL)** has a primary mission of leveraging sport science to improve the performance of USAFA athletes and teams. The HPL synthesizes data from multiple physiologic, nutritional, and vision assessment testing modalities to establish, guide, and implement training, consultative, and education solutions for improved human performance. Testing and solutions were tailored to team or individual needs. The resources and expertise that support intercollegiate athlete performance were also available and utilized to support non-intercollegiate cadet athletes. Additionally, the HPL provided consultative, testing, research and training support to base personnel, the World Class Athlete Program, the 711th Human Performance Wing, Battle Field Airman and Army Special Forces training pipelines, and the Olympic Training Center.

- o Completed capital improvements and installation of new iDXA scanner, Alter-G treadmill, ELG (high speed) treadmill and new vision training boards (Reflexion and SVT)

- o Provided testing to over 2,000 clients; an estimated \$290,000 local market value

- o Conducted over 1,200 hyperoxic and vision training sessions

- o Ran Falcon Fuel, Training Table Meal and Travel Meal planning programs optimizing nearly \$1.5 Million

- o Proposed and implemented multiple innovations:

- RedCard cloud based campus dining system for Training Table Meal planning and accountability

- GyroStim multi-axis rotating chair for Neuro-sensory training

- Wearable inertial measurement device system (IMU) for assessment and rehabilitation of lower extremity injury

- Wearable heart rate and GPS tracking system for activity monitoring and training enhancement decision making support

FALCONS VS. ARMY/NAVY

- Air Force finished 15-7-1 this season vs. Army and Navy, including an 9-6 mark against Army and 6-1-1 record vs. Navy.
- Air Force is 78-39-2 overall against Army and Navy the last five years. The Falcons are 49-20-1 vs. Army and 29-19-1 vs. Navy.

Army-Navy Results (Last Five Years)

Year	Overall	Army	Navy
2023-24	15-7-1	9-6	6-1-1
2022-23	20-10	9-5	11-5
2021-22	21-8	14-4	7-4
2020-21	11-2	8-1	3-1
2019-20	11-12-1	9-4-1	2-8
Totals	78-39-2	49-20-1	29-19-1

2023-24 Schedule/Results vs. Army and Navy

Head-to-head contests only

Date	Sport	Opponent	Time	Location	Result
Aug. 24	Men's Soccer	Army	5 p.m.	West Point	L 2-3
Sept. 7	Women's Soccer	Army	4 p.m.	West Point	L 1-2
Sept. 14	Water Polo	Navy	4:30 p.m.	Annapolis	L 7-11
Oct. 20	Boxing	Navy	6 p.m.	Annapolis	T 5-5
Oct. 21	Football	Navy	10 a.m.	Annapolis	W 17-6
Nov. 3	Boxing	Army	6 p.m.	Denver, CO	L 4-7
Nov. 4	Football	Army	12:30 p.m.	Denver, CO	L 3-23
Nov. 4	Rifle*	Army	8 a.m.	West Point	W 5,892-5,118
Nov. 4	Rifle*	Navy	8 a.m.	West Point	W 5,892-5,856
Nov. 5	Rifle	Army	7 p.m.	USAFA	W 4,716-4,697
Nov. 10	Hockey	Army	7 p.m.	USAFA	W 4-3 OT
Nov. 11	Hockey	Army	5 p.m.	USAFA	W 4-0
Nov. 17	Women's Basketball	Army	6:30 p.m.	USAFA	W 83-61
Jan. 19	Hockey	Army	7 p.m.	West Point	W 8-1
Jan. 20	Hockey	Army	4 p.m.	West Point	W 7-6
Feb. 10	Men's Gymnastics	All-Academies	8 a.m.	Frisco, TX	
		Navy			W 397.250-390.100
		Army			W 397.250-382.500
Feb. 17	Women's Tennis	Army#	1 p.m.	Orlando, FL	L 1-4
Feb. 17	Men's Tennis	Army#	5 p.m.	Orlando, FL	W 4-0
Feb. 23	Baseball	Navy	4 p.m.	Kingston, NC	W 7-1
Feb. 24	Baseball	Navy	10:30 a.m.	Kingston, NC	W 10-0
	Baseball	Navy	12:00 p.m.	Kingston, NC	W 4-2
Mar. 2	Baseball	Army	4 p.m.	Sugar Land, TX	L 2-13

* Annual President's Trophy between Air Force, Army and Navy

USTA College Match Day

All times MTN

AIR FORCE BY THE NUMBERS

Air Force Academy Athlete Highlights through the years

- 928 Athletes earned All-American awards for a total of 1,952 times
- 247 National Championship Titles
- 14 Rhodes Scholars
- 9 Olympians
- 2 Air Force Chiefs of Staff
- 1 Medal of Honor recipient

NCAA TOP 25 FINISHES (5)

Men's Cross Country -- 12th

Wrestling -- 21st

Fencing -- 12th

Rifle -- 5th

Men's Gymnastics -- 7th

- Air Force has had 25 top 25 finishes the last five seasons, including four in 2022-23, five in 2021-22, five in 2020-21 and six in 2019-20.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (1)

- Junior Patrick Hoopes won the NCAA national title in the pommel horse this season. The national title is the first in program history and first for a Falcon individual since 2022.
- Scott Rockett (then a freshman) became the first Falcon to ever win the air rifle national championship, taking the title during the 2022 NCAA Championships March 12 at the Academy. Rockett reached the finals with a 598, just one point off his career best, in the team competition. He then shot a 250.2 in the finals.
- Mahala Norris (then a senior) won the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the 2021 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Eugene, Ore. Norris is the first Air Force Division I female to ever claim a national title in a running event – and the first Falcon overall on the track since 1964.
- The men’s and women’s air rifle team won the national championship in 2018-19.

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS (3)

Lacrosse - ASUN

Men’s Outdoor Track and Field - Mountain West

Baseball - Mountain West

- Air Force has won 16 conference championships in the last five seasons.

Year	Championships
2023-24	3 - Lacrosse (ASUN), Men’s Outdoor Track and Field (MW), Baseball (MW)
2022-23	4 - Men’s Cross Country (MW), Men’s Soccer (WAC, regular season), Men’s Indoor Track (MW), Men’s Outdoor Track (MW)
2021-22	5 - Men’s Cross Country (MW), Football (MW Mountain Division Co-Champions); Men’s Indoor Track and Field (MW); Men’s Outdoor Track and Field (MW), Baseball (MW)
2020-21	3 - Water Polo (WWPA), Men’s Cross Country (MW), Men’s Soccer (WAC)
2019-20	1 - Men’s Swimming (WAC)

PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS (14)

Thaddaeus Dewing, senior (Men’s Soccer) - Western Athletic Conference (WAC) Preseason Offensive Player of the Year

Austin Schwartz, junior (Ice Hockey) - Atlantic Hockey Defensive Forward of the Year

Maggie Slife, freshman (Women’s Gymnastics) -- Mountain West Freshman of the Year

Jack Griffith, sophomore (Fencing) -- Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Fencer of the Year

Christina Watrall, freshman (Fencing) -- Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Women’s Newcomer of the Year

Victor Benitez, senior (Boxing) -- NCBA Outstanding Boxer

Mack Lucas, senior (Women’s Boxing) -- NCBA Outstanding Boxer

Turner Ashby, freshman (Lacrosse) -- ASUN Freshman of the Year

Texas Tanner (2), sophomore (Men’s Track and Field) -- Mountain West Field Athlete of the Meet, Men’s Mountain Region Outdoor Field Athlete of the Year by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches’ Association (USTFCCCA)

Christina Watrall, freshman (Fencing) -- United State Fencing Coaches Association Div. I Women’s Epee National Newcomer of the Year

Jay Thomason (2), senior (Baseball) -- Mountain West Co-Offensive Player of the Year, National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) District Player of the Year

Seyngmin Shin, senior (Baseball) -- Mountain West Pitcher of the Year

- Air Force cadet-athletes have been recognized as player of the year 54 times the last five years, including 11 last season. The Falcons won a school-record 14 in 2021-22, 10 in 2020-21, five in 2019-20.

COACH OF THE YEAR AWARDS (4)

Josh Loeser (Men’s Gymnastics) -- USAG

Sergey Resnick (Men’s Gymnastics) -- USAG Assistant

Ryan Cole (Men’s Track and Field) -- Mountain West

Mike Kazlausky (Baseball) -- Mountain West

- Air Force coaches have earned 21 coach of the year awards the last five years, including six last season. The Falcons earned five in 2021-22, three in 2020-21, three in 2019-20.

ALL AMERICAN HONORS (61)

Luke Combs, senior (Men's Cross Country) -- 12th place finish at NCAA Cross Country Championships

Tom Leggett, freshman (Water Polo) -- Association of Collegiate Water Polo Coaches Honorable Mention

Trey Taylor (2), senior (Football) -- American Football Coaches Associate (AFCA) First-team; Associated Press Third-Team

Sam Kulasingam (2), senior (Baseball) -- National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) Preseason Third Team; Perfect Game Preseason Third Team All-American

Jay Thomason, senior (Baseball) -- National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) Preseason Third Team

Morgan Kreb (3), senior (Rifle) -- Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association Third-Team aggregate; Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association Second-Team smallbore; Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association honorable mention air rifle

Lauren Hurley (3), junior (Rifle) -- Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association Third-Team aggregate; Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association Second-Team smallbore; Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association Second-Team air rifle

Scott Rocket, junior (Rifle) -- Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association Second-Team smallbore

Peninah D'Souza (2), senior (Rifle) -- Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association First-Team air rifle; Honorable Mention smallbore

Wyatt Hendrickson, senior (Wrestling) -- NCAA Third Place finish

Garrett Braunton (4), senior (Men's Gymnastics) -- USAG All-American, parallel bar, horizontal bar, floor, still rings

Oliver Zavel (2), senior (Men's Gymnastics) -- USAG All-American, floor, vault

Erich Upton (3), junior (Men's Gymnastics) -- USAG All-American, vault, all-around; College Gymnastics Association (CGA) all-around

Patrick Hoopes (3), junior (Men's Gymnastics) -- USAG All-American, pommel horse; College Gymnastics Association (CGA) pommel horse; NCAA Champion on pommel horse

Sam Brown, sophomore (Men's Gymnastics) -- USAG All-American, pommel horse

Jack Griffith, sophomore (Fencing) -- NCAA Honorable mention

Victor Benitez, senior (Boxing) -- NCBA National Champion/All-American

Luke Kohout, junior (Boxing) -- NCBA National Champion/All-American

Chinonye Mbanugo, sophomore (Boxing) -- NCBA National Champion/All-American

Mack Lucas, senior (Boxing) -- NCBA National Champion/All-American

Payton Glenn, junior (Boxing) -- NCBA All-American, Silver medal

Malaika Ndifang, sophomore (Boxing) -- NCBA All-American, Silver medal

Jacob Mendoza, senior (Boxing) -- NCBA All-American, Silver medal

Leo Camacho, senior (Boxing) -- NCBA All-American, Silver medal

Carson Watkins, sophomore (Boxing) -- NCBA All-American, Bronze medal

Angelo Ganac, senior (Boxing) -- NCBA All-American, Bronze medal

Naomi Brabham, freshman (Boxing) -- NCBA All-American, Bronze medal

Charlotte McPhee-Gillum, sophomore (Boxing) -- NCBA All-American, Bronze medal

Julianna Morris, freshman (Boxing) -- NCBA All-American, Bronze medal

Katie Bush, senior (Boxing) -- NCBA All-American, Bronze medal

Maggie Slife (3), freshman (Women's Gymnastics) -- USAG first-team all-around; first-team bars, first-team floor

Clara Wallace (2), freshman (Women's Gymnastics) -- USAG first-team all-around; first-team balance beam

Kylee Greene, sophomore (Women's Gymnastics) -- USAG first-team beam

Kimberly Kinkade (2), senior (Women's Gymnastics) -- USAG second-team beam, second-team all-around

Ayla McKean (2), junior (Women's Gymnastics) -- USAG second team beam, second-team all-around

Chris Bardak, senior (Lacrosse) -- USA Lacrosse honorable mention

Darek Hackett, junior (Men's Track and Field) -- NCAA 24th place finish, 400-meter hurdles, honorable mention

Kinzie Etzelmiller, senior (Women's Swimming and Diving) -- College Swimming & Diving Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) Scholar All-America second-team

Sam Brennan, senior (Ice Hockey) College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-America At-Large third team

Brian Hubbard, senior (Men's Track and Field) -- Second-team Academic All-America by College Sports Communicators

Philip Hundl, senior (Men's Track and Field) -- Third-team Academic All-America by College Sports Communicators

- Air Force has had 278 All-Americans awards the last five seasons, including a school-record 61 this season. This season breaks the record of 55 set last season. Air Force also had 55 in 2021-22, 44 in 2020-21, 29 in a shortened 2019-20 and 34 in 2018-19.

LEARFIELD DIRECTOR'S CUP STANDINGS

• Air Force leads the Mountain West and is the top service academy in the final Learfield Director's Cup standings for 2023-24. The Falcons scored 304 points to rank 76th nationally. Air Force is the top service academy for the 13th consecutive year and No. 1 in the Mountain West for the fourth straight year (fifth overall). Air Force scored points in men's cross country (12th, 64.5), football (26th, 45), fencing (12th, 54), rifle (5th, 55), wrestling (21st, 53) and men's gymnastics (7th, 32.5).

2023-24 Mountain West Standings

# School	Nat'l	Points
1. Air Force	76.....	304.0
2. San Jose St.	85.....	256.0
3. New Mexico	88.....	217.5
4. Colorado State ...	91.....	211.0
5. Fresno State	116.....	160.0

2023-24 Service Academy Standings

# School	Nat'l	Points
1. Air Force	76.....	304.0
2. Navy	102.....	183.5
3. Army	196.....	64.5

Year	Points	MW	SA	Nat'l	Fall	Winter	Spring
2023-24	304.00	1st	1st	76th	109.50 (61)	304.0 (48)	
2022-23	350.00	1st	1st	66th	117.0 (49)	350.0 (42)	350.0 (66)
2021-22	354.00	1st	1st	67th	102.0 (63)	184.5 (55)	68 (67th)
2020-21	325.25	1st	1st	65th	86.0 (55)	267.5 (49)	57.75 (65)
2019-20*	121.5	2nd	1st	51st	121.5 (51)	--	--
2018-19	339.50	2nd	1st	67th	146 (40)	171.5 (48)	22 (67)
2017-18	345.50	3rd	1st	68th	85 (83)	225.5 (49)	35 (68)
2016-17	347.00	2nd	1st	67th	94(78)	228(47)	25(67)
2015-16	427.50	1st	1st	55th	51(109)	307(44)	69.5(55)
2014-15	249.50	4th	1st	77th	45(133)	163.5(67)	41.0(77)
2013-14	217.50	4th	1st	87th	82(76)	110.5(72)	25(87)
2012-13	293.00	3rd	1st	73rd	75.0(74)	175(57)	43(73)
2011-12	209.00	5th	1st	90th	25 (132)	118 (86)	19.5 (90)
2010-11	188.00	6th	2nd	92th	45 (120)	137 (70)	6 (92)
2009-10	179.00	6th	3rd	96th	45 (115)	94.5 (91)	39.5 (96)
2008-09	166.10	6th	3rd	105th	25 (136)	118 (86)	23.5 (105)

* - Competition not completed in 2019-20; national ranking, MW and SA ranking does not count in historical rankings.

INDIVIDUAL SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS**FALL****Football (9-4, 5-3 MW)**

Air Force ended the season 9-4 overall and finished fourth in the Mountain West with a 5-3 record. The Falcons capped the season with a 31-21 win over #24/25 James Madison in the Armed Forces Bowl in Fort Worth, Texas. The bowl win marks a program-record fifth straight and second straight in the Armed Forces Bowl. The victory over a ranked team is the first by the Falcons since 2016 and first-ever in a bowl. Air Force improved to 40-12 the last four full seasons, including a 23-9 mark in conference games over the same stretch. Air Force senior Trey Taylor earned the Jim Thorpe Award, as the nation's top defensive back, marking just the second major award in program history and first since 1987. He also earned the Defender of the Nation Award and was the program's first first-team All-American since 2010.

Water Polo (17-16, 1-5 WCC)

Air Force men's water polo went 17-16 overall and 1-5 in West Coast Conference play. The Falcons tied for fifth place at the WCC Men's Water Polo Championships. The Falcons finished with a winning record for the third-consecutive season. Freshman Tom Leggett led the WCC in goals and points with an Air Force freshman record 114 goals and 143 points. Leggett earned First-Team All-WCC honors.

Men's Soccer (1-14-2, 1-6-1 WAC)

Men's soccer concluded the season ninth in the Western Athletic Conference, picking up the only win of the season against Grand Canyon. Men's soccer was not eligible for the league tournament. Thaddaeus Dewing was selected as the Western Athletic Conference Preseason Offensive Player of the Year. The Falcons were voted to finish third in the league in the preseason coaches' poll.

Women's Soccer (6-9-3, 3-5-3 MW)

The Falcons concluded the 2023 season with a 6-9-3 record, including a 3-5-3 Mountain West finish. Air Force players were responsible for 53 points in 2023 as compared to 39 points in 2022, Coach Laura Busby's first season at the helm. Mia Otero, a Second Team All-Mountain West selection, led Air Force in goals (5), assists (4) and points (14). The midfielder totaled 992 minutes in 18 matches in 2023, sharing the team lead in shots with 43. Her 14 points this season were the most by an Air Force player since 2019. Ava Carpentier and Addie Doyle, a pair of freshmen, were also named to the conference's All-Newcomer team. By virtue of a scoreless tie in the City for Champions Cup match vs. Colorado College at Weidner Field on October 26, the Falcons retained the trophy. Air Force has maintained ownership of the cup since its inception in 2022.

Volleyball (17-12, 9-9 MW)

Air Force had its best season ever at the Division I level in 2023, as it recorded program-high win totals in overall (17, tie) and conference (nine) contests. Highlighted by all-Mountain West performances from senior Joi Harvey, senior Caroline Reinkensmeyer and junior Mac Russ, the Falcons recorded just the second .500-or-better conference season at DI – and their second in four years. Air Force matched its longest win streak at the DI level (six) during a non-conference run that included two tournament titles and a perfect 4-0 slate in neutral site matches, while the conference season featured the Falcons' first-ever victory at Boise State and a program-record six true road wins.

Men's Cross Country

Highlighted by an All-America performance from Luke Combs (28th), the men finished 12th at the NCAA Championships and posted the squad's second-highest national finish since 2003. The men, who were ranked as high as eighth in the NCAA during the season, saw all five scoring runners finish within the top 10 of the Mountain West Championships, as sophomore Max Sannes (fourth), senior Sean Maison (sixth), junior Jason Renze (seventh), senior Eli Bennett (ninth), and Combs (10th) earned all-conference honors during a runner-up team finish.

Women's Cross Country

Highlighted by a third-place finish from junior Halle Hamilton and an additional all-MW run from classmate Ally Peterson, the women finished third at the Mountain West Championships – their highest conference placement in four years. In addition to recording the program's second-highest finish at a conference meet, Hamilton also claimed all-region honors and represented the Academy at the NCAA Championships for the second time in as many years.

WINTER**Boxing (0-1-1)**

The Air Force boxing team capped the 2024 campaign with four national titles at the NCBA Championships, as senior Victor Benitez (men's heavyweight), junior Luke Kohout (men's 147 pounds), senior Mack Lucas (women's 147 pounds) and sophomore Chinonye Mbanugo (women's 132 pounds). Benitez and Lucas, who captured Outstanding Boxer honors for the upper weight divisions, helped the Falcons to top-three finishes in the team standings (men: third; women: second). Air Force swept the team titles at the NCBA Western Regional, while hosting a dominating performance at the USAFA West Invitational (19-5).

Women's Basketball (15-17, 8-10 MW)

Air Force went 15-17 overall and 10-6 in Clune Arena, marking the second season in three years of ten or more home victories. Air Force's season successes were underscored by the sudden prominence of All-Mountain West selection Milahnie Perry, who, with 535 points scored in 2023-24, became the single-season points leader in the program's Division I history. Freshman pair Keelie O'Hollaren and All-Freshman honoree Jayda McNabb both left their marks in the freshman records, as O'Hollaren earned the most three-pointers for a freshman in Air Force history (60), and McNabb the most rebounds for a newcomer in the program's Division I history (201). The Falcons closed the year leading the Mountain West in steals per game (10.8, 19 nationally), turnover margin (4.41, 25th nationally), turnovers forced per game (19.19) and led the league in three-point production through conference play (.350).

Men's Basketball (9-22, 2-16 MW)

Air Force men's basketball went 9-22 overall and finished tied for 10th in the Mountain West with a 2-16 record in conference play. Air Force won the 2023 Air Force Classic by going 3-0 in the tour-nament. The Falcons had one of its biggest Mountain West wins ever when they defeated UNLV 90-58 in Las Vegas. It was the first win against The Runnin' Rebels in Las Vegas in 14 tries, dating back to 2014. It was also the biggest conference road win ever in program history. Air Force made 166 three's in Mountain West play, to set a new school record for most three's in a conference season.

Fencing (Men 15-14, Women 11-20, 12th at NCAA)

Air Force men's fencing went 15-14 and the women's team went 11-20 in team competition in 2023-24. The Falcons had four NCAA qualifiers, finishing 12th overall at the NCAA Fencing Championships with 43 wins. Air Force capped the season with a 4-0 sweep of service Academy rivals Army and Navy at the All-Academy Duals. Sophomore Jack Griffith claimed the NCAA West Regional Men's Foil Title and the MSPF Men's Foil Title for the second-consecutive season, earning MSPF Men's Fencer of the Year honors. Griffith also earned All-American honorable mention honors with a ninth-place finish at the NCAAs. Freshman Christina Watrall earned MSPF Women's Newcomer of the Year honors after winning the NCAA West Regional Women's Epee title.

Hockey (16-17-1, 13-10-1 AHA)

The 2023-24 Air Force hockey team was picked to finish eighth in the Atlantic Hockey preseason poll. The Falcons exceeded expectations by finishing in fourth place, earning a first-round playoff bye and hosting a quarterfinal series. Air Force finished the season with an 18-19-1 overall record and a 15-10-1 mark in Atlantic Hockey. The fourth-place finish was the best since 2019 and the 18 wins were the most since 2018. The season came to an end when AIC, the eventual AHA runner-up, swept the Falcons in a quarterfinal series, 3-1 and 3-2 in overtime. Forward Will Gavin led the league with 19 goals and 11 power-play goals and earned first-team all-conference honors. Defenseman Chris Hedden led the team with 37 points and led the league with 29 assists, earning second-team all-league honors. Defenseman Luke Rowe was named third-team all-conference. Junior Austin Schwartz, who led the nation with four short-handed goals, was named the league's best defensive forward. Senior defenseman Luke Robinson earned the Derek Hines Unsung Hero award, the third Falcon to win the award since 2007, the most of any team in the country. Late in the season, head coach Frank Serratore earned his 500th career win. He became just the 16th coach in the history of NCAA Division I hockey to reach 500 Division I wins, and only the third active coach in the nation.

Women's Gymnastics

Air Force closed the 2024 season sporting its highest-ever National Qualifying Score (195.155). The Falcons finished fourth at the 2024 Mountain West Championship, scoring 195.450. Freshman Maggie Slife was named Mountain West Freshman of the Year and was crowned conference champion in the all-around (39.350) and co-champion on vault (9.825). Three competitors (Slife, Ayla McKean, Clara Wallace) earned All-Mountain West superlatives in 2024: Slife was a first-team selection in the all-around, vault and bars. McKean earned second-team recognition on bars, and Wallace was second team in the all-around. Slife, finishing with the highest all around NQS in the Mountain West, is the first Falcon since 2019 to qualify for an NCAA Regional, and the first freshman to do so since 2015.

Men's Gymnastics (8-8)

The Air Force men's gymnastics team had yet another record-breaking year in the wake of the 2024 NCAA Men's Gymnastics National Championships. Falcon junior Patrick Hoopes immortalized his name in Air Force Academy history as the first men's gymnast to win an individual NCAA national title after claiming gold on the pommel horse. Four Falcons qualified to the national finals session where Hoopes and junior Erich Upton qualified for the U.S. National Championships in Fort Worth, Texas. Oliver Zavel, Hoopes, Jacob Bechetti, Tai Gopaul, and Garrett Braunton earned ALL-MPSF honors in the wake league championship.

Rifle (12-6)

The Air Force rifle team closed out the 2023-24 season by placing fifth at the 2024 NCAA Rifle Championships. The fifth-place finish matched the 2022 finish and tied as the best since the 2019 team placed third. The team's 4709 score is the second-best ever at the NCAA Championships. Air Force qualified for the NCAAs for the 10th straight season and the 22nd time overall. Early in the season, the Falcons defeated Army and Navy to win the President's Trophy for the 10th straight season. The Falcons also placed second at the Patriot Rifle Championships, tying as the best finish in five seasons. Four Falcons claimed nine All-America honors. Morgan Krebs and Lauren Hurley earned third-team aggregate honors. Krebs, Hurley and Scott Rockett earned second-team honors in smallbore. Peninah D'Souza was named honorable mention in smallbore. In air rifle, D'Souza earned first-team All-America honors while Hurley was named to the second team and Krebs was named honorable mention.

Women's Swimming & Diving (5-8, 1-3 MW)

Air Force finished the 2023-24 season with a 5-8 dual record, including two-consecutive dual wins to end the campaign. In a resounding manner, Air Force was victorious at the Liberty Invitational in Lynchburg, Virginia in November following a score of 2540.00 to win the seven-team meet. There, Naomi Furman recorded the fastest 200 Breaststroke time in program history following her 2:13.31. As well, Kinzie Etzelmiller's 313.65 in the 3-Meter Dive that same weekend became the school record in the event. Air Force would eventually place seventh among the nine teams at the Mountain West Championships following a team score of 769.00 points. Anna Ashley and Katie Andrist earned All-Conference honors, while Alex Clark broke the school record in the 200 Backstroke with a 1:59.85. Clark, as well as Ryan Mills, Ella Martin, and Abby Turner would later reset the Air Force 400 Freestyle Relay record with a 3:21.69.

Men's Swimming & Diving (3-5, 2-1 WAC)

The Falcons ended the 2023-24 campaign with a 3-5 dual record, ending the year with a three-dual winning streak. At the 2024 WAC Championships, Air Force placed fifth among the six teams, garnering 456.00 team points. Featuring a young roster that progressed as the season continued, Air Force was responsible for three podium finishes at the 2024 WAC Championships, including Tommy Nagle's third-place standings in the 100 and 200 Breaststroke, as well as Camden Swigart's bronze finish in the 400 IM.

AIR FORCE ATHLETICS HIGHLIGHTS

Wrestling (5-7, 2-6 Big 12)

Wrestling concluded the 2023-24 season ranked 21st in the nation with senior heavyweight Wyatt Hendrickson garnering his second All-America honor with a third-place finish at the 2024 NCAA Championships. Hendrickson, one-of-three Falcons to qualify for the national tournament, earned his third-consecutive NCAA Most Pins Award. Three Falcons earned podium spots at the Big 12 Conference Championships marking the highest championships podium finishes to date (2nd, 3rd, 5th), highlighted by Hendrickson's runner-up placing. The Falcons capped their dual slate at 5-7, 2-6 Big 12, and finished ninth in the league.

SPRING

Golf

The Air Force golf team fielded one of the youngest teams in the nation in 2023-24 and showed tremendous improvement over the 2022-23 season. The team season stroke average was 20 strokes per round better than last season and the individual average was five strokes better than last season. In the season-opening tournament, the Falcons placed ahead of both Army and Navy at the Folds of Honor Tournament. The team's best score and place came at the Loyola Intercollegiate in February with a team score of 861 (-3). Sophomore Alvaro Fonseca led the team with a 74.23. Fonseca placed 12th at the Mountain West Championships with a 215 (-1), the best score and highest finish by a Falcon since 2017.

Women's Tennis (1-18, 0-10 MW)

Air Force finished the 2023-24 dual season with 20 combined singles wins and 11 doubles victories. In singles, freshman Nadia Kojonroj finished with a 7-6 record to lead the Falcons, with Isabella Flodin, Alexis Odom and Arianna Van Houweling each following up with seven apiece. Doubles duo Kojonroj/Odom led Air Force with four wins. The Falcons finished 2023-24 with a first-round exit in the Mountain West Championships, falling 4-0 to No. 6 Colorado State.

Men's Tennis (6-14, 1-5 MW)

Air Force men's tennis posted a 6-14 overall record and finished seventh in the Mountain West. The Falcons faced one of its toughest schedules in program history, facing five national-ranked opponents, including three in a row to close out the season. Air Force defeated Army for the third-straight time, 4-0, at the USTA College MatchDay event at the USTA Center in Orlando, Fla. Junior Arjun Kersten earned All-Mountain West singles and doubles for the second-consecutive season. Sophomore Jack Brown earned All-MW doubles honors as Kersten's partner.

Lacrosse (9-6, 8-1 ASUN)

Air Force capped its season with a 9-6 overall record and an 8-1 ASUN Conference record, earning a share as one-of-three regular season conference champions. Freshman attacker Turner Ashby was tabbed ASUN Freshman of the Year, while Chris Bardak and Josh Yago earned All-ASUN first team nods. The Falcons earned their third-straight ASUN Conference Tournament appearance.

Baseball (27-28, 18-12 MW)

Air Force capped the 2024 spring with its first regular season Mountain West Championship, as the Falcons 18 conference wins were the most in the league. Air Force took home three of the four individual conference awards, including Jay Thomason earning Co-Player of the Year honors, Seungmin Shim being named Pitcher of the Year, and head coach Mike Kazlauskys picking up his first Coach of the Year distinction. Thomason's 21 home runs this spring account for 58 career home runs, as he became the all-time career home run leader in Mountain West history. Sam Kulasingam paved his way as the Falcons all-time hits leader on Friday, May 24, as he closes his career with 305 total hits. His 77 career doubles also tie the Air Force record. The Falcons managed a series win over #15 Dallas Baptist on April 12-14, the first series win over a ranked team since 2014. Air Force also took claim of all three games against Navy at the Freedom Classic from February 23-25, recording three series sweeps in 2024.

Men's Track and Field (MW Indoor Runner-Up, MW Outdoor Champions)

(as of 28 May) Air Force captured its third-straight Mountain West Outdoor title in 2024, sweeping the first five individual titles, enroute to a dominating 69-point victory over the rest of the field. Ryan Cole was named Coach of the Year, while Texas Tanner was named Field Performer of the Meet after winning both the discus and hammer titles. The men, who also earned MW titles from Luke Combs (10,000-meter run), Darek Hackett (400-meter hurdles), Jalan Rivers (high jump), Joe Nizich (javelin throw) and Braeden Holcombe (decathlon), qualified 15 to the opening round of the NCAA Outdoor Championships – with Hackett advancing to the national meet on June 5-8. Backed by two conference titles (Rivers: high jump; Holcombe: heptathlon) and 11 all-conference finishes, the men finished second at the MW Indoor meet. Junior Javin Bostic (60-meter dash) and Tanner (shot put, weight throw) recorded Academy Records during the indoor campaign, with Bostic's time of 6.66 serving as the fastest by any service academy sprinter.

Women's Track and Field (8th at Mountain West Indoors, 11th at Mountain West Outdoors)

The women accounted for eight Academy Records in 2024, including a pair of relay marks that took down standards that had stood for 40 years. Brooke Coleman and Taylor Rioux combined for four of the program's new standards, while Rioux – MVP for the second-straight year – ran on three of the four record-setting relays. The women accounted for three all-conference performances during the indoor season, enroute to an eighth-place finish, while Ally Peterson represented the Falcons on the conference's awards podium during the outdoor season and Air Force qualified three to the opening round of the NCAA Outdoor Championships.