

# Fields of Purple & Gold

**A Pictorial History  
of Intercollegiate  
Athletics at Montevallo**





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# University History

Nineteen ninety-six marked the 100th anniversary of the founding of what we know today as the University of Montevallo. Much has been written about the University in the aftermath of this historic anniversary, which is fitting. Little attention, however, has been devoted to the University's athletic heritage, and this publication will attempt to fit in that niche.

This book is not intended to be a historical account of the entire University, just a history of one dynamic aspect of the school, a part of the whole if you will. What follows is a brief history of the University in order for the reader to more easily place the contents of this publication in context.

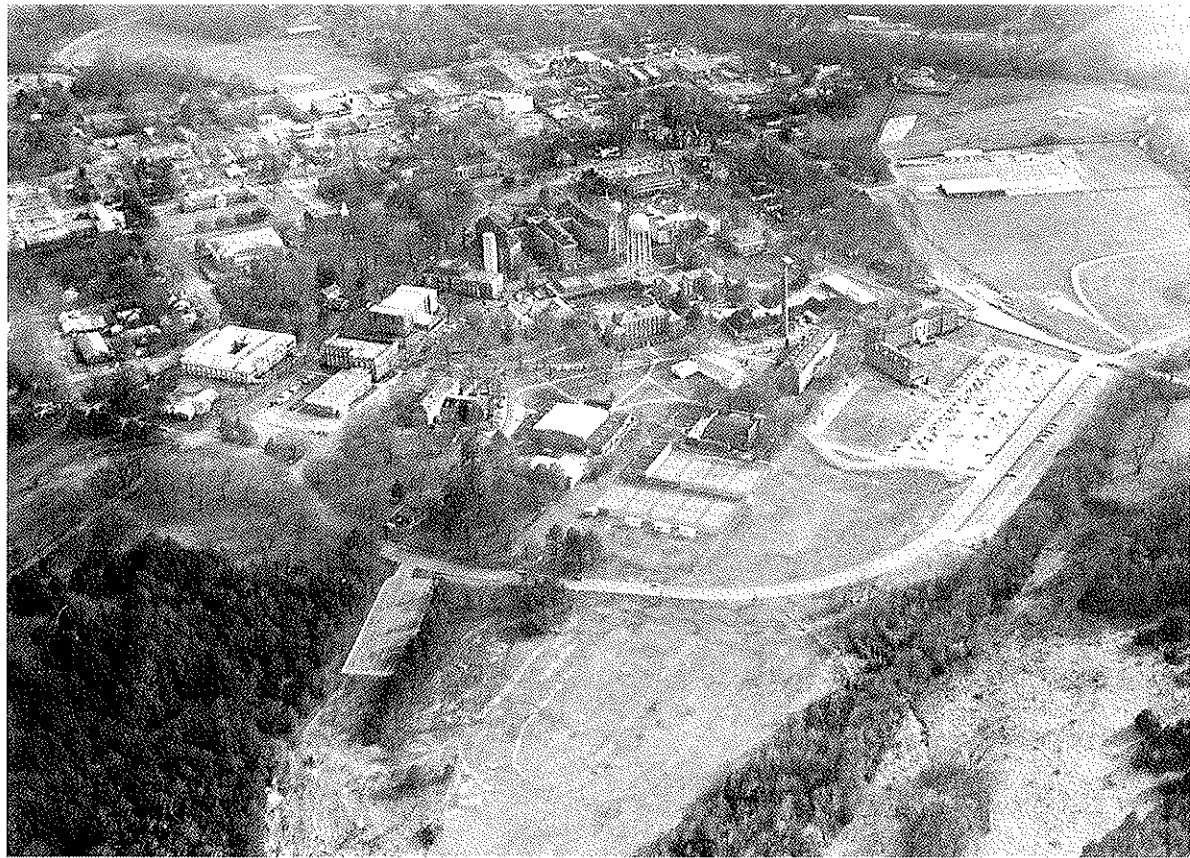
The University was established as the result of a bill introduced in the Alabama State Senate in 1892 by Sol D. Bloch of Camden. The bill was steered through the legislative process by John McQueen of Birmingham, and was passed the following year. In June 1895, after considerable competition from other parts of the state, the town of Montevallo was chosen as the site of the new university for female students, partly because of the town's location near the geographical center of the state, its healthful surroundings and from a substantial cash gift and property donation by local citizens who wanted to secure a public educational institution in their fast-growing town.

The University of Montevallo, which today is one of just 15 public, liberal arts colleges in the nation, first opened its doors on Oct. 2, 1896, with Henry Clay Reynolds of Montevallo as its initial president. The faculty consisted of just 10 people, which was more than adequate for the enrollment of 145 students. At the time, the Montevallo "campus"

consisted of only Reynolds Hall, which was erected in 1851 and had served as a hospital during the Civil War. Today, it is the oldest facility on the UM campus where classes are still held.

From the beginning, management of the University was vested in an 11-member Board of Trustees. The governor of Alabama, who serves as its president, and the state superintendent of education are both ex-officio members. All members are selected by the governor, with the advice and consent of the state Senate.

During the 100 years since its opening, the University of Montevallo has had 13 presidents. Reynolds, the first, had been a lieutenant in the Confederate Army and at the time of his appointment, was a successful merchant and planter. In 1889 he was succeeded by Dr. Francis Marion Peterson, a former professor of ancient languages at Southern University in Greensboro (now Birmingham-Southern). The third presi-



An aerial photo of the campus (c. 1980). Johnson Field top right, Myrick Hall center.

dent, Dr. Thomas Waverly Palmer, had been dean and professor of mathematics at the University of Alabama before coming to Montevallo in 1907.

Palmer presided over the construction of Flowerhill, the UM president's home, but never lived there. In 1926, Dr. O.C. Carmichael, dean of UM since 1922, became the school's fourth president. Dr. Arthur Fort Harman, former Alabama superintendent of education, served as the University's fifth president from 1935 till Sept. 1, 1947, when he was succeeded by Dr. John Tyler Caldwell, the school's sixth president.

On July 1, 1952, Dr. Caldwell was succeeded by Dr. F. Edward Lund, former dean of Florence State College (now North Alabama). In Aug. 1957, Dr. Howard Mitchell Phillips, dean of the graduate school at Emory University became Montevallo's eighth president.

Dr. Delos P. Culp, president of Livingston State College (now West Alabama), succeeded Dr. Phillips on June 1, 1963. He was succeeded by Dr. Kermit A. Johnson in March of 1968 as the University's 10th president. Dr. James F. Vickrey assumed office as the 11th president at Montevallo on Aug. 1, 1977.

Dr. John W. Stewart replaced Vickrey on Feb. 10, 1989 to become the school's 12th president. He had served as interim president since March 11, 1988. On July 1, 1992, Dr. Stewart was succeeded by Dr. Robert M. McChesney, who had served the University as provost since Jan. 1, 1991.

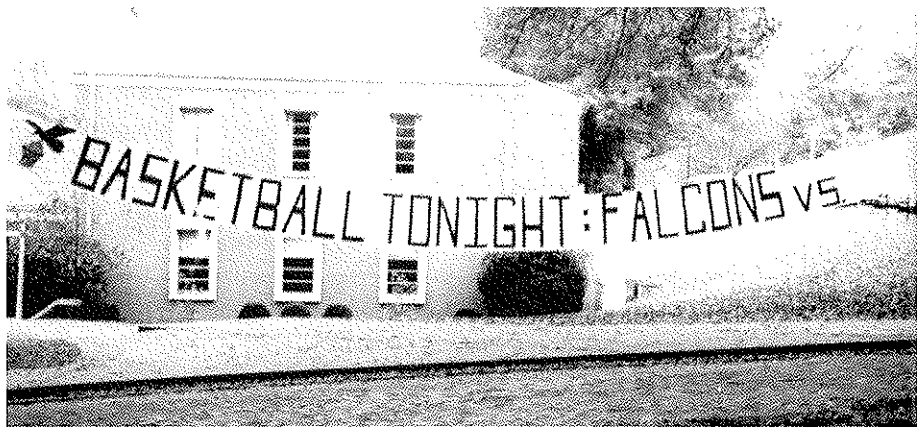
Long known unofficially as "Montevallo," the University has had several official titles, including the Alabama Girls Industrial School (1896-1911), the Alabama Girls Technical Institute (1911-1923), Alabama College (1923-1969) and the University of Montevallo (1969-present).

The all-female Alabama College even admitted a few male students on a temporary basis immediately following World War II because of the demand on Alabama and Auburn. Unlike many other colleges around the nation, in the years following the war Alabama College's enrollment actually dropped. Postwar competition from other in-state institutions was intense, with several of the larger schools opening branch campuses and expanding their course offerings and opportunities for female students.

Through the years the University has experienced several changes. In the fall of 1955, President Lund recommended to the Board of Trustees that the institution become a coeducational liberal arts college, offering standard courses in the arts and sciences and in the various professional fields in which it had historically pioneered in service. In response to the recommendation, which was passed unanimously, the state legislature passed the necessary enabling legislation to permit the University to begin admitting qualified male students and confer appropriate degrees on Jan. 17, 1956. The University thus opened its 61st session as a coeducational liberal arts college and experienced a boom in enrollment shortly thereafter.

The University has evolved from its beginning as a girls' school with a curriculum of little more than high school subjects into a well-regarded public university with four colleges granting undergraduate and graduate degrees.

# Men's Basketball



Since 1964, basketball games have always brought UM students and fans together on many winter nights.

The men's basketball program at Montevallo was initiated in 1964 and first coached by Dr. Leon Davis. The basketball program was originally scheduled to start play with the baseball team in 1958, but the lack of an adequate on-campus playing facility forced the postponement.

Thanks to support from the UM Board of Trustees, the program was able to offer tuition grants (scholarships) from the beginning and a new building for the physical education department, now Myrick Hall, gave the team one of the state's nicer facilities for its first season of competition. The building was named in honor of Geneva Myrick, who had served the department of health, physical education and recreation from 1952 until her death in 1966.

"The night they dedicated Myrick was a big deal," Wright Ingram, the only senior on the 1964-65 team said. "I was one of the people who got to go and pick up Gov. Wallace in a limousine, and we got to talk to him on the way over. We were pretty competitive in baseball by 1962. In



Alabama College President Dr. D.P. Culp and Governor George C. Wallace at the dedication of Myrick Hall, 1964.

basketball we managed to win a few, but we got beat handily quite often by some of the more established teams.

"Coach Davis got us some nice blazers that we wore on the road, and we always looked nice and were expected to be neat. We usually studied on the road because you had to have a "C" average to play any kind of sport. Off-season programs were non-existent. After the last game they just said, 'See ya next spring,' but most people would play summer ball or get involved in another sport or on campus. We had fun."

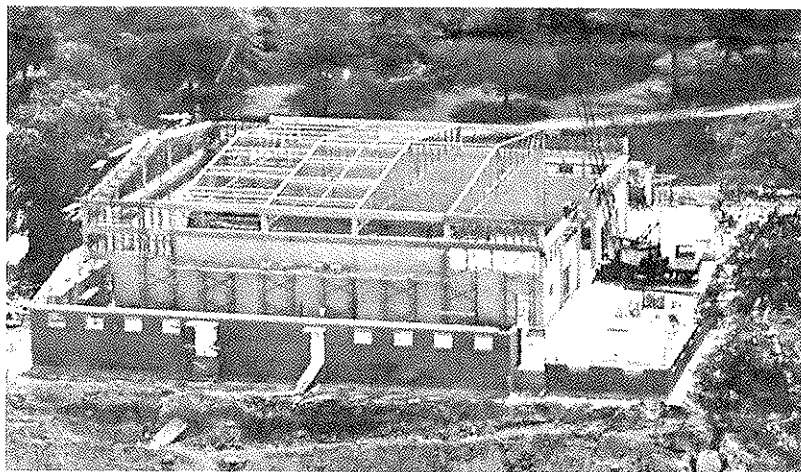
The team's first game in it's new facility was a win over Marshall-Atlanta. "This is a historic occasion and it is my hope that the game will be remembered as a significant step in the total development of Alabama College," D.P. Culp, president of the school, said at the time.

The support of men's basketball has paid off as the team has recorded 21 winning seasons in its 32-year history.

Davis coached the team for its first five seasons, the first four without the aide of an assistant.

In 1968-69 Bill Jones, a North Alabama graduate, became Davis' assistant, and took over coaching the team following the 1969 season. His teams were the first at UM to be successful on a state and regional basis and Jones led the team from 1969-1974 before leaving UM for the head coaching job at his alma mater, UNA.

Bill Elder became the new coach in 1974. Elder, who earned his doctorate during his spare time while he was at UM, left Montevallo after the 1984-85 season to start the Mobile College basketball program from scratch. His first team at UM, the 1974-75 Falcons, won the NAIA District 27 Championship and played in the NAIA National Tournament in Kansas City, Mo. He took four of his teams to the district playoffs, won 10 individual tournaments and claimed two Southern States Conference championships.



**Myrick Hall, here under construction, was completed in 1964.**

Rob Spivery was brought in as coach before the 1985-86 season. Spivery led the team to its first-ever back-to-back 20-win seasons in 1991-92 and 1992-93.

Spivery left UM following the 1994-95 season to become head coach and athletic director at Ashland (Ohio) University, his alma mater, before going to Alabama State prior to the 1996-97 season.

One of Spivery's assistants, Jeff Daniels, also a former player under Elder, was named the team's fifth coach before the 1995-96 season.

Daniels inherited a program in a rebuilding mode, and went 5-21 in his initial campaign. He hit the recruiting trail in a strong way after the season and seemed to have the program pointed in the right direction going into the 1996-97 season.

Elder is the winningest coach in Montevallo men's basketball history with 198 wins in 11 seasons. Spivery recorded 160 victories in 10 seasons as coach, followed by Jones (85 wins in five seasons), Davis (37 wins in five seasons) and Daniels (five wins in 1995-96, his only full season as head coach).



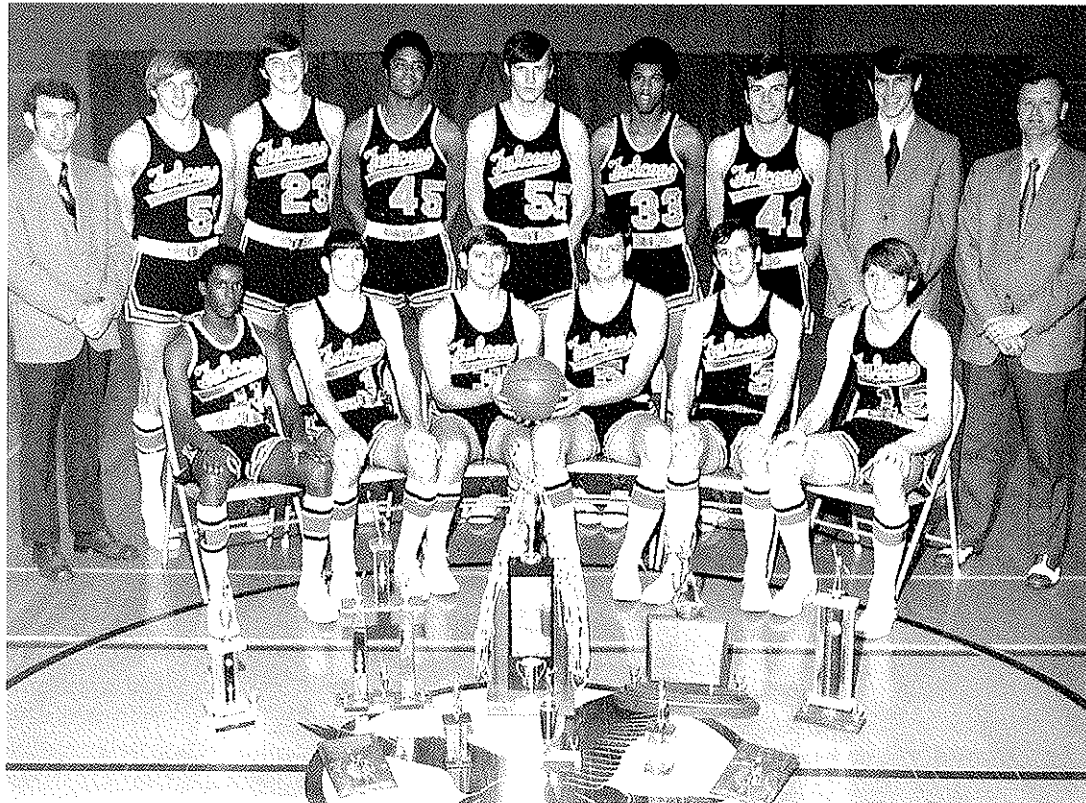
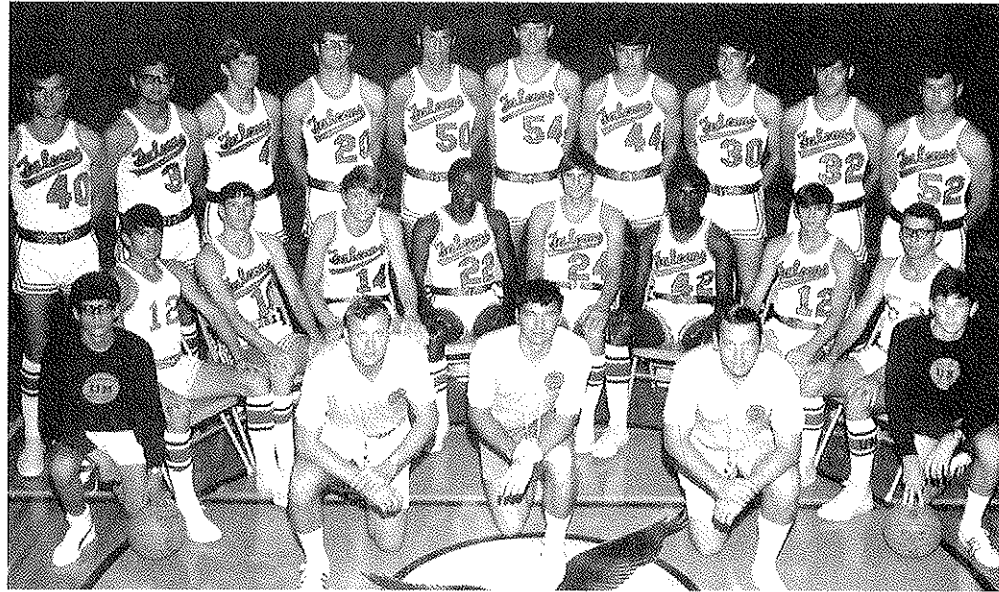
**The inaugural Alabama College Men's Basketball Team — 1964 Coached by Dr. Leon Davis (Not Shown)**

Front (L to R): Jeff Hipson, Jim Harris, Robert Towns, Wright Ingram, Miles Butler, Donnie Andrews.

Back: Wayne Purvis, Paul Kellogg, Ronnie Bell, John Goff, Phil Gleason, John Locklear.

**The 1970-71 Falcons,  
under coach Bill Jones,  
set a then school record for  
wins in a season with 18.**

Kneeling (L to R): Seth Snellgrove  
(manager), Bill Jones (head coach),  
Eddie Johnson (asst. coach),  
Dwight Norris (graduate asst.  
coach), Steve Lamon (manager).  
Seated: Bart Avery, Dale Hughey,  
Billy Cannon, Hansell Gunn,  
Larry Lough, Lonnie Edwards,  
Ben Anderson, Mike Newell.  
Standing: David Conway,  
Ken Dunaway, Jimmy Surface,  
E.B. Hanks, John Schlichtman, Bill  
Good, James Hobbs, Steve Cowart,  
Howard Von Hagel, Eddie Freeze.



**The 1971-72  
Alabama Collegiate  
Conference  
Men's Basketball  
Champions**

Front (L to R):  
Eddie McCarter,  
Dale Hughey, Ott Knight,  
Eddie Freeze,  
Bobby McCormack,  
Billy Cannon.  
Back: Mike Sellers  
(trainer), Gene Meadows,  
Owen Butts, Gerald  
Douglass, James Newman,  
Charles Averhart,  
David Conway,  
James Hobbs (asst. coach),  
Bill Jones (head coach).

The 1971-72 Falcons  
celebrating another  
victory.



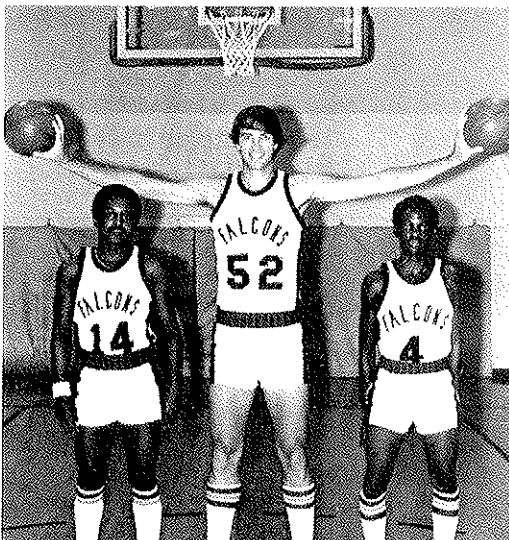
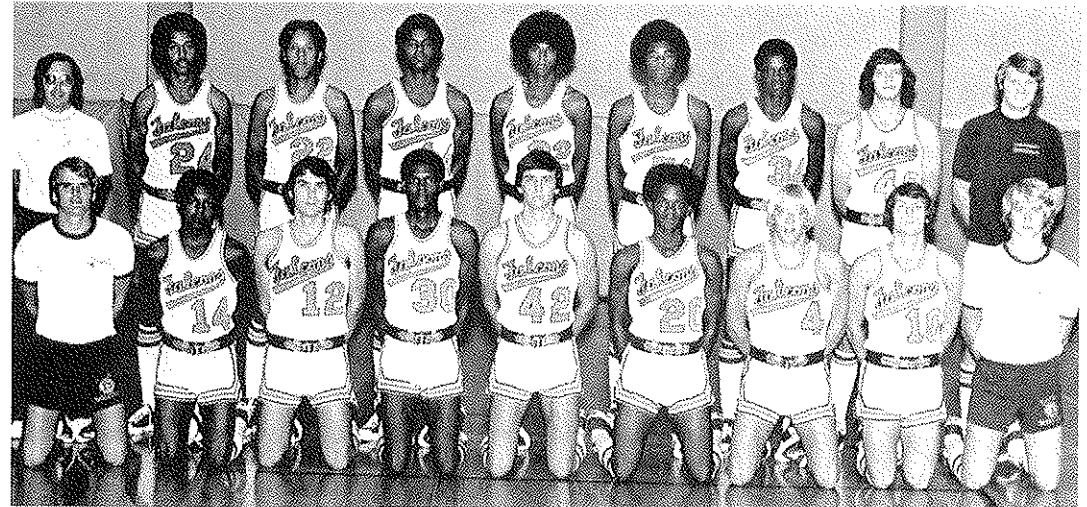


**1972-73 Southern States Conference Men's Basketball Co-Champions**

Front (L to R):  
 Chris Davis,  
 Danny Cunningham,  
 Eddie Cullop,  
 Dale Hughey,  
 Billy Cannon,  
 Sid Jones.  
 Back: Mike Sellers  
 (trainer),  
 Gene Meadows,  
 David Conway,  
 David Porterfield,  
 Charles Averhart,  
 James Newman,  
 Gerald Douglass,  
 Owen Butts, Ron Bell  
 (assistant coach),  
 Bill Jones (head coach).

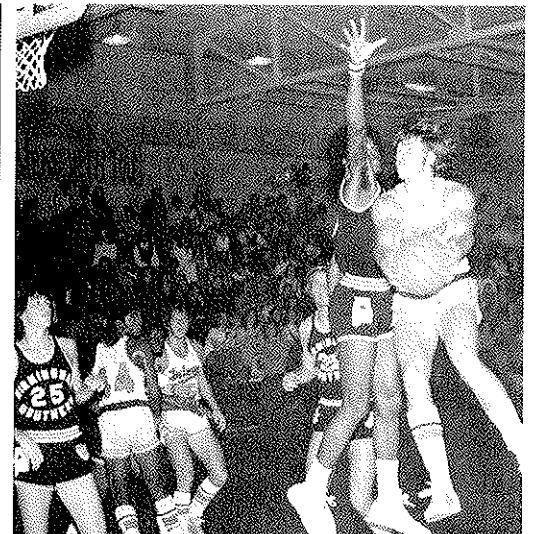
**1975 Men's Basketball Team**

Standing (L to R):  
 Bill Elder (head coach),  
 David Potterfield,  
 Kenny Mack, Gerald Douglass,  
 Charles Averhart, James  
 Arrington, Charles Dickinson,  
 Jack Kurtz, Billy Cannon  
 (asst. coach). Kneeling:  
 Randy Festavan (trainer),  
 Wylie Tucker, David Kilcoyne,  
 Thomas Johnson, Roger Miers,  
 Danny Cunningham,  
 Mark Adams, Eddie Barnes,  
 Steve Luker (asst. trainer).

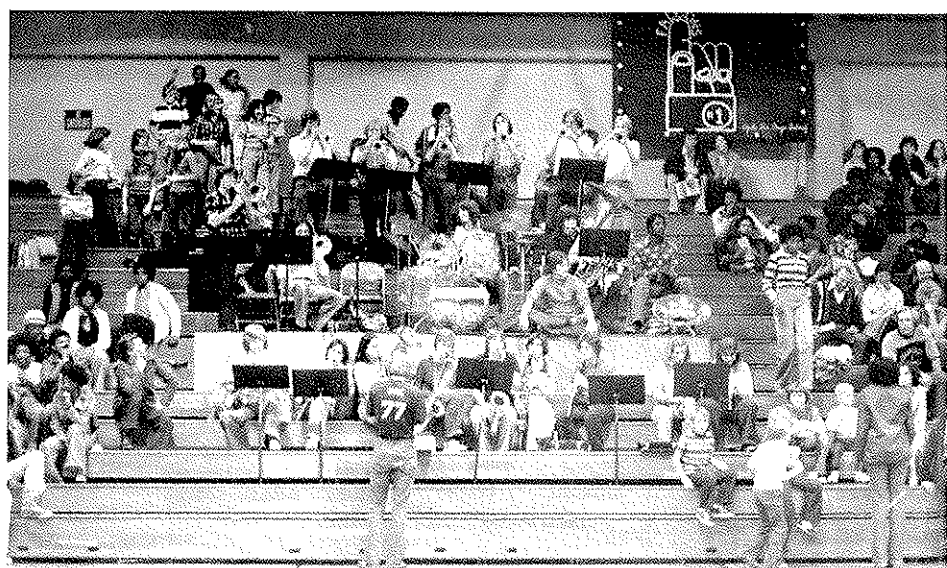
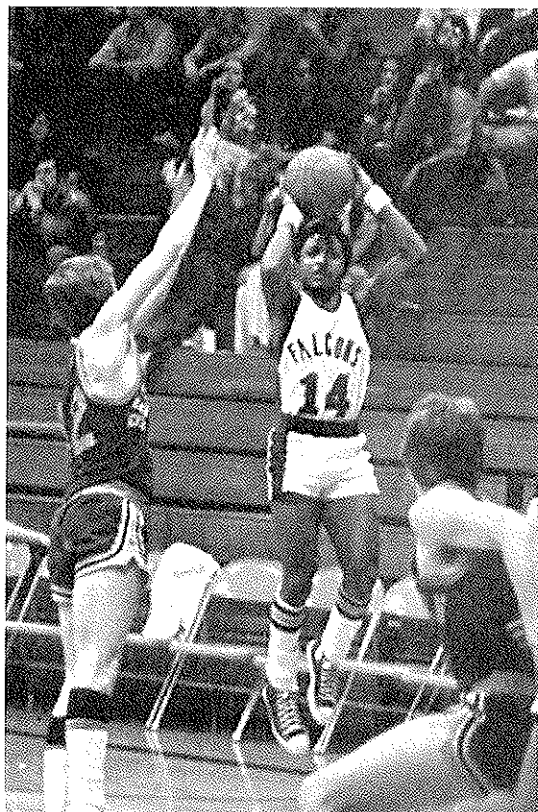


Owen Butts drives for two during the 1972 season.

Wylie Tucker and Dennis Crutcher help Robert Curry show off his wing span.



<b>Year</b>	<b>Record</b>	<b>Coach</b>	<b>MVP(s)</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1964-65	5-19	Dr. Leon Davis	Robert Towns/Wright Ingram	
1965-66	9-16	Dr. Leon Davis	Paul Kellogg	
1966-67	6-15	Dr. Leon Davis	Henry Ezell	
1967-68	9-17	Dr. Leon Davis	Henry Ezell	
1968-69	8-18	Dr. Leon Davis	Bill Roundtree	
1969-70	13-12	Bill Jones	James Hobbs	
1970-71	18-9	Bill Jones	James Hobbs	
1971-72	19-9	Bill Jones	Gene Meadows	ACC Champions
1972-73	18-11	Bill Jones	Owen Butts	SSC Champions
1973-74	17-12	Bill Jones	Gerald Douglass	
1974-75	23-9	Dr. Bill Elder	Gerald Douglass	NAIA District 27 Champions, SSC Champions NAIA Nationals. Handed Jacksonville State its first-ever loss in Matthews Coliseum.
1975-76	17-10	Dr. Bill Elder	Kenny Mack	
1976-77	16-12	Dr. Bill Elder	Charlie Dickinson	
1977-78	20-12	Dr. Bill Elder	Charlie Dickinson	
1978-79	18-13	Dr. Bill Elder	Wylie Tucker	
1979-80	18-12	Dr. Bill Elder	Reggie Harris	
1980-81	18-11	Dr. Bill Elder	Lester Brown	
1981-82	19-11	Dr. Bill Elder	Joe Hall	Gave BSC its first-ever loss at Battle Coliseum
1982-83	16-12	Dr. Bill Elder	Joe Hall	
1983-84	19-11	Dr. Bill Elder	Anthony Glaude	SSC Tournament Runner-Up
1984-85	15-14	Dr. Bill Elder	Dexter Walker	
1985-86	11-18	Rob Spivery	Sammy Jackson	
1986-87	9-19	Rob Spivery	Anthony Lawrence	
1987-88	19-10	Rob Spivery	Bobby Joe Jackson	
1988-89	23-5	Rob Spivery	Bobby Joe Jackson	
1989-90	13-15	Rob Spivery	Milt Robinson	
1990-91	15-14	Rob Spivery	Milt Robinson	
1991-92	20-10	Rob Spivery	Derron Murphy/Greg DeJarnett	
1992-93	20-10	Rob Spivery	Derron Murphy	
1993-94	21-12	Rob Spivery	Nate Driggers	
1994-95	9-20	Rob Spivery	Nate Driggers	
1995-96	5-21	Jeff Daniels	Romeo Penn	



A Pep Band, used at times in the 1970's and 80's (here 1977-78), gave the Falcons a decided home court advantage at Myrick Hall.

Wylie Tucker, now the head men's basketball coach at Talladega College and a member of the UM Athletic Hall of Fame, takes a jump shot.

# The 1920's

Founded in 1896, the University of Montevallo is essentially a 20th century phenomenon. Looking back on the historical record, it seems as if athletics were wrapped in the fabric that became the University from the beginning.

Indeed, as early as 1907 there are references to the new sport of "basket ball" being played on campus, which was interesting considering that James Naismith had invented the game in Springfield, Mass., just 16 years earlier.

Again, it must be noted that this book deals only with intercollegiate athletics at the University. Intramural athletics, or sports played only against campus competition, have always been strong at UM, often outdrawing the varsity teams.

Other sports played at Montevallo in the early years included tennis, track, archery, volleyball, baseball and "hockey" (field hockey), which might have been expected considering the school, then called the Alabama Girls Technical Institute, was one of the first institutions in the South to offer women's physical education classes and teacher training in p.e.



**Intramural sports and activities like archery (left) and dance (below) replaced intercollegiate athletics, or extramurals as they were called, at Montevallo following the 1926-27 school year. The administration wanted to offer activities that would appeal to a larger segment of students.**



The school's first intercollegiate game of any kind was a basketball game on Dec. 16, 1921, against the Women's College of Alabama in Montgomery. Although Montevallo lost the contest, 23-18, much was written about the excitement it caused. The 1921 *Technala*, the forerunner to the *Montage*, described the students on campus as "very excited" that the University had decided to allow intercollegiate competition.

Women's basketball lasted on campus until the end of the 1926-27 season. At the time many schools decided to abolish women's intercollegiate athletics and concentrate their resources on physical education programs that would involve more students. Montevallo did not participate in intercollegiate athletics in any sport from 1927-1958. The school did, however, earn a reputation as a fine institution at which to study physical education.

By the spring of 1958 when Alabama College fielded its first men's baseball team, many had entirely forgotten that a period of intercollegiate athletics had existed on campus some 30 years prior. Judging from historical descriptions, however, the events were just as spirited in the 1920's as we would expect today.

The first-ever win in intercollegiate basketball competition at the University of Montevallo came on Feb. 22, 1922, in a 15-12 win over Troy Normal in Montevallo. Miss Rebecca Funk and Miss Beulah Putnam coached the team in those early years. The team's mascot was a young boy by the name of Sam Morgan who dressed in purple and gold.

The results of each season, if available, are listed below, with the dates, if they were recorded.



GLADYS MARTIN



LILLIE BURLESON



LILLIAN STEWART

**Athletes were the center of attention at UM in the 1923 *Technala*.**

<u>Year Date</u>	<u>Winning Team Score, Losing Team Score, and Location of Game</u>
<b>1921-22</b>	
12-16-21	Women's College 23, Alabama College 18 at Montevallo
1-19-22	Women's College 22, Alabama College 14 at Montgomery
2-11-22	University of Alabama 10, Alabama College 8 at Montevallo
2-22-22	Alabama College 15, Troy Normal 12 at Montevallo
<b>1922-23</b>	
12-16-22	Alabama College 42, Athens College 7 at at Montevallo
1-20-23	Women's College 23, Alabama College 16 at Montgomery
2-1-23	Alabama College 16, Troy Normal 12 at Montevallo
n/a	Alabama College 18, Troy Normal 16 at Troy
2-16-23	Alabama College 22, Women's College 17 at Montevallo
<b>1923-24</b>	
n/a	Alabama College 59, Athens College 9 at Athens
n/a	Alabama College 41, Women's College 15 at Montgomery
n/a	Alabama College 26, Women's College 19 at Montgomery
n/a	Alabama College vs. University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa
n/a	Alabama College vs. Women's College at Montevallo
Although the <i>Technala</i> went to press before the conclusion of the season, the 1924 student yearbook has the '24 team playing a five-game schedule and going 3-0 with two games left to play.	
<b>1924-25</b>	No Records
<b>1925-26</b>	No Records
<b>1926-27</b>	
n/a	Alabama College 29, Birmingham-Southern 23 at Montevallo
2-6-26	Alabama College 37, Jacksonville Normal 27 at Jacksonville
2-13-26	Alabama College 31, Howard 7 at Montevallo



# Women's Basketball

The first women's basketball team since the 1926-27 season took the court in 1972-73 under coach Beverly Warren. As if on cue, the team placed second in the state and went to the regional tournament at West Georgia. The 1973-74 team recorded a fourth-place finish at the state tournament, just two years after the program was reinstated.

Although Warren guided the basketball team to two successful seasons, compiling a 13-9 record, she is, perhaps, best remembered as volleyball coach at UM, a position she held from 1977-86.

Melinda Voorhies led the team from 1974-79 and was the first women's coach at Montevallo to offer scholarships, which began just before the 1977-78 season.

After Voorhies left to join the Red Cross in Baton Rouge, La., Becky Glass, a former UM player under Warren, became the team's coach from 1979-83, going 25-67 over a four-season span.

Bud Childers was the team's coach for the 1983-84 season when the team went 15-13 and won the Southern States Conference regular season title.

Christy Earnhardt became the team's fifth coach in the modern era, coaching two seasons, 1984-86, and recording a 27-28 record. Her 1985-86 team won the NAIA District 27 championship.

Joe Hagan coached the team from 1986-89 and went 50-39 over three seasons. His 1986-87 and 1988-89 teams won SSC regular season titles and his 1987-88 team claimed the District 27 title.

## Montevallo's 1973-74 Women's Basketball Team, the first since 1926-27.

Front (L to R): Fran Hunter, Dianne Van Zant, Cathy Foster, Becky Glass, Connie Clemmons, Joni Pepper.

Back: Kay Covington, Vickie Portis, Leila Nabor, Beverly Warren (head coach), Kathy Storey, Newey Wilhite, Liz Johnson, Margaret Kneisley (manager).



## The 1990-91 Women's Basketball Team finished as District 27 Runner-Up

Left: Catherine Reed, Rhonda Hall.

Center: Jamie Jones, Lisa Tubbs, Bethany Forslund, Tonya Hinton, Tammie Tobitt, Tracy York, Cathy Vaughan. Right: Crisla Herchenhahn, Angel Allen.

Gary Van Atta became coach of the women's basketball team in 1989, and managed to take the program to its apex. From 1989-96, Van Atta had a 166-49 record at UM and became the winningest coach in the history of the program after only three seasons. He passed the 100 career win mark in the 12th game of his fifth season.

Van Atta also took the women's team to its first-ever national tournament in 1991-92. The following season, 1992-93, the team reached the NAIA's "Elite Eight." In 1993-94 the team made its first appearance in the NAIA's "Final Four." Another "Sweet 16" trip came in 1994-95, followed by a second trip to the "Final Four" in 1995-96. In all, Van Atta coached four NAIA All-Americans, 19 all-conference/region players and a two-time National "Player-of-the-Year" in Sheena Bowling.

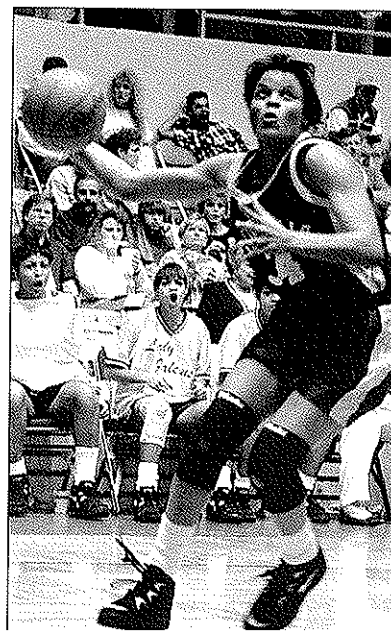
After Van Atta left to become head women's coach at Tennessee-Martin in the summer of 1996, Todd Buchanan, an assistant at Oral Roberts, became the head coach of the women's team prior to the 1996-97 season.



The 1987 Women's Basketball Team accepts the District 27 championship trophy.



Coach Joe Hagan takes time out to discuss strategy with the Lady Falcons. Hagan led the team from 1986-89, compiling a 50-39 record.



<u>Year</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1972-73	7-4	Beverly Warren	AIAW Regionals
1973-74	6-5	Beverly Warren	
1974-75	n/a	Melinda Voorhies	
1975-76	n/a	Melinda Voorhies	
1976-77	n/a	Melinda Voorhies	
1977-78	n/a	Melinda Voorhies	
1978-79	2-18	Melinda Voorhies	
1979-80	13-15	Becky Glass	
1980-81	6-14	Becky Glass	
1981-82	4-19	Becky Glass	
1982-83	2-19	Becky Glass	
1983-84	15-13	Bud Childers	Only second-ever winning record SSC Regular Season Champions
1984-85	10-16	Christy Earnhardt	
1985-86	17-12	Christy Earnhardt	District 27 Champions
1986-87	15-13	Joe Hagan	SSC Regular Season Champions
1987-88	16-14	Joe Hagan	District 27 Champions
1988-89	19-10	Joe Hagan	SSC Regular Season Champions
1989-90	24-6	Gary Van Atta	SSC and District 27 Champions
1990-91	18-11	Gary Van Atta	District 27 Runner-Up
1991-92	23-7	Gary Van Atta	NAIA Nationals
1992-93	26-5	Gary Van Atta	NAIA "Elite Eight"
1993-94	28-7	Gary Van Atta	NAIA "Final Four"
1994-95	22-10	Gary Van Atta	NAIA "Elite Eight"
1995-96	25-4	Gary Van Atta	NAIA "Final Four" GSC East Champions

Sheena Bowling, Montevallo's only four-time All-American basketball player.



Players like Annette Brabham helped make women's basketball one of the most exciting sports on campus.

# Men's Soccer

Men's soccer was added to the list of Montevallo athletic programs in the fall of 1994, bringing the number of varsity sports at UM to eight.

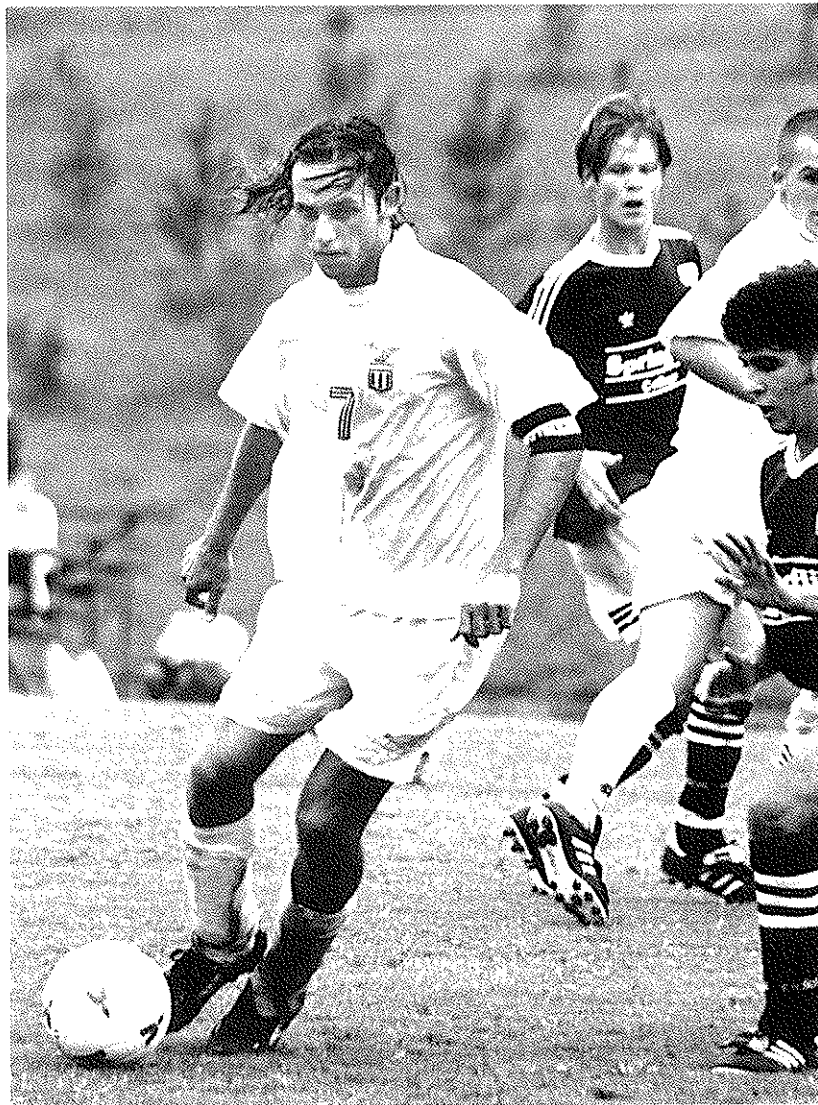
The team went 4-11-2 in its first season with David Agee serving as the team's first coach and Chris Stockley as his assistant.

Rob King, an assistant at Alabama-Huntsville, took over the program as coach in 1995, and managed to turn in a winning season right away, going 10-8-1 that season.

When King was hired, he said, "As far as I'm concerned, we are the football team at the University of Montevallo," and the team has quietly become one of the biggest draws on campus.

In 1996, the Falcons posted a second-consecutive winning record at 8-7-3 and were one of just four Gulf South Conference teams to be invited to the conference tournament in Pensacola, Fla., where the team finished as the GSC runner-up.

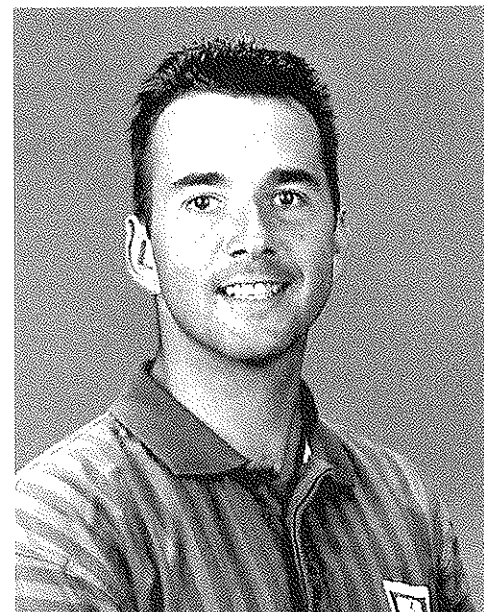
In addition, the team began to attract larger and larger crowds each season, taking advantage of the spotlight Olympic soccer brought to Birmingham and providing UM soccer fans with reason to be optimistic about the program's future.



By bringing in talented athletes like Clint Roper, the Montevallo men's soccer team has recorded winning seasons in two of its first three years on campus.

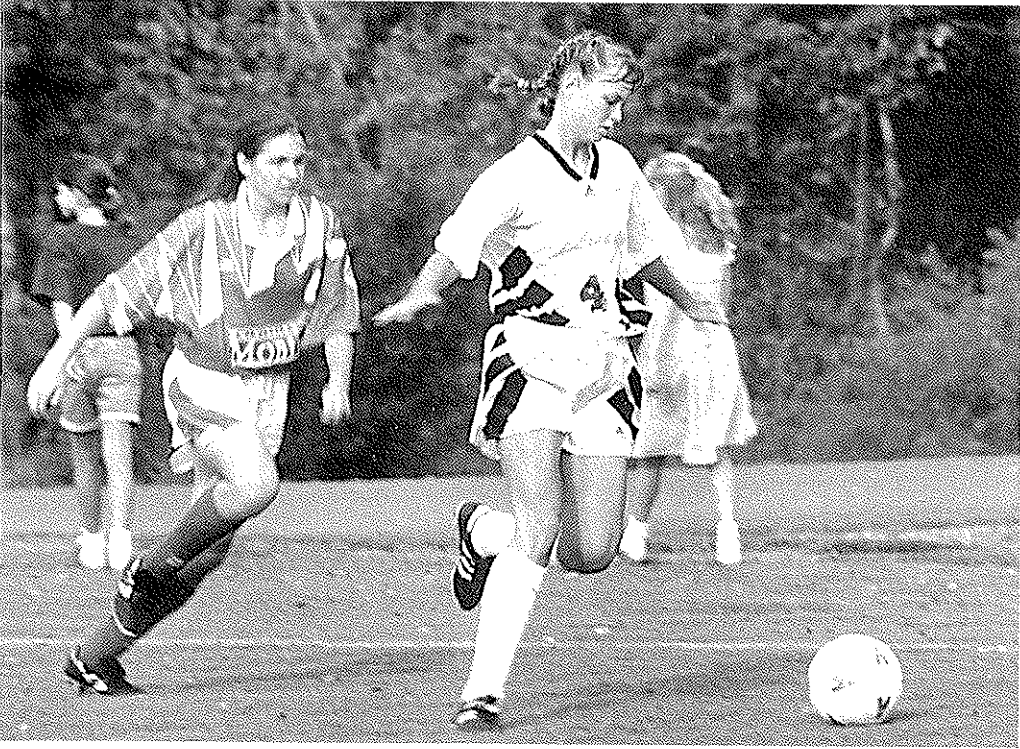
<b>Year</b>	<b>Record</b>	<b>Coach</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1994	4-11-2	David Agee	
1995	10-8-1	Rob King	
1996	8-7-3	Rob King	GSC Runner-Up

Rob King has coached the men's and women's soccer teams at UM from 1994-present.



# Women's Soccer

<u>Year</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1995	3-14-1	Rob King	
1996	5-10	Rob King	Tied for 3rd GSC



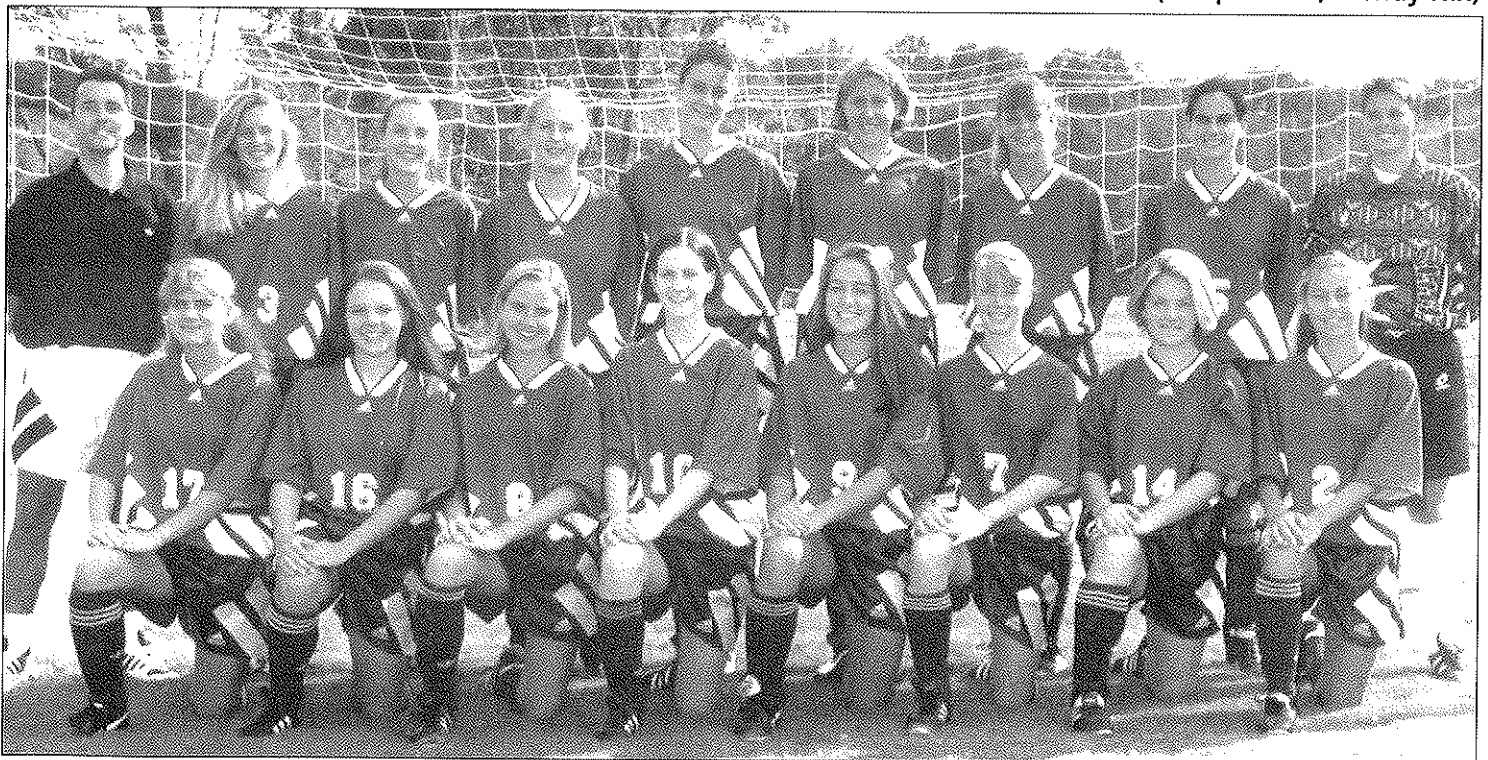
Women's soccer came to Montevallo in the fall of 1995 with Rob King serving as the team's first head coach and Patricia Hughes as his primary assistant, bringing the number of intercollegiate athletic teams at UM to nine.

The women's team finished 3-14-1 in its inaugural season, and improved to 5-10 in year two.

### **The First Women's Soccer Team at Montevallo, 1995.**

Front (L to R): Amanda Chamblee, Malinda Lombard, Jenny Dorgan, Ryan O'Boyle, Natalie Bell, Courtney Adams, Jennifer Young, Natalie Wehby. Back: Rob King (head coach), Molly James, Lucia Beal, Sarah Brown, Jamie Case, Carrie Wyrick, Susan Osborne, Laurie Payne, Kelly Harris. (not pictured, Wendy Nix)

Women's soccer is the newest of Montevallo's nine intercollegiate athletic programs. Susan Osborne, above, dribbles the ball down the field.



# Falcons

Beginning in 1959, Alabama College began calling its team the "Falcons."

The *Alabamian*, Montevallo's student newspaper, held a contest to select a nickname and mascot for the former women's school in 1959. The paper offered a \$25 prize to the person or organization that submitted the best nickname and 50-word essay on why their choice was best.

Ronald Smith, an undergraduate at the time, won the prize money for submitting "Falcons." At the time the school only sponsored two sports, baseball and men's golf, and the teams were often called the "Purples" in local papers until the new name was chosen.

In 1967, an actual falcon was given to the school by the Delta social club. The bird, named "Ace," died in 1970, and was buried on campus and not replaced. Today a human mascot in a falcon costume, dubbed "Freddy," entertains fans of all ages at Montevallo sporting events. Each year tryouts are held and a

new "Freddy" is selected to don the oversized Falcon suit.

There are three species of falcons indigenous to the state of Alabama: the Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*), the Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) and the most common, the American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). The Kestrel looks similar to a swallow when flying and is about the size of a Blue Jay. Shelby County, with its many thickets, creeks and hills, was an ideal habitat for all three at one time.

The Merlin is a bit larger than the Kestrel, though not quite as common, and looks like a miniature Peregrine. Perhaps the fastest-flying bird in the world, the Peregrine is about the size of a crow and is renowned for its migrating ability. Indeed, the Peregrine is found worldwide, but was almost eliminated in the United States in the 1960's and 70's due to widespread use of the pesticide DDT. Thanks to captive-breeding programs, the raptor has made a strong comeback in the States and some have even been reintroduced to Alabama.

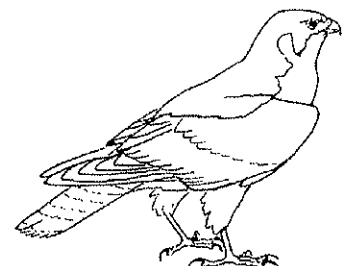
Peregrines have been clocked flying at speeds of 110 miles per hour when diving.

Falconry, or the sport of training falcons and hawks to hunt animals and other birds, was popular among nobles in Europe and the Middle East for centuries.

Buteos, or birds with medium to long wings like the Peregrine, are used in open country and swoop on their prey from the air, while accipiters, birds with short, rounded heads, rounded wings and long tails, perch on a falconer's glove or tree branch until the prey is spotted, then rely on their speed to catch their quarry. The birds are usually kept hooded when not hunting. All three species of falcon native to Alabama are now Federally-protected species.



Montevallo's athletic teams became the "Falcons" in 1959. Here Delta brother Johnny Shiver with "Ace," an actual falcon that was given to the school.



# Volleyball

Volleyball got its start at the University of Montevallo in the 1972 season, though the sport was always popular in the school's intramural program. As one writer in the *Montage* put it, before intercollegiate athletics "the sport mainly existed as a way for the students to have fun."

UM joined the American Intercollegiate Association for Women (AIAW) in the early 1970's, ushering in a new era in women's athletics at Montevallo with Margaret Blalock as head coach of the volleyball team.

In just its third season of competition, the 1974 UM volleyball team went 33-11 and earned a berth in the AIAW Region Tournament, where it placed third. This unprecedented finish marked the beginning of Montevallo's athletic program focusing on being successful at the national, not just the state, level. According to reports at the time, many people on campus were talking about how much emphasis athletics should have at Montevallo.

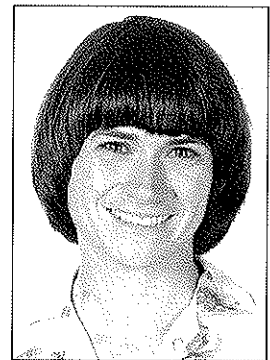
Beverly Warren took over the reins as coach of the volleyball team in 1977, which she held until Judy Green became coach in 1986. Warren coached the team for nine seasons and compiled an outstanding 303-108 record before leaving UM for Smith College in Northampton, Mass. She was the NAIA District 27 "Coach of the Year" four times and the Alabama AIAW "Coach of the Year" twice.

With the program seemingly at its apex, Green managed to take the program to an even higher level. Under Green the Falcon volleyball program developed into one of the most successful small-college athletic teams in the nation, regardless of sport.

Montevallo attended a record 14 consecutive national tournaments between 1982 and 1995 and regularly attracted state and national attention for its outstanding volleyball teams. Green went 396-74 at UM from 1986-96 before leaving UM to become head volleyball coach at the University of Alabama.



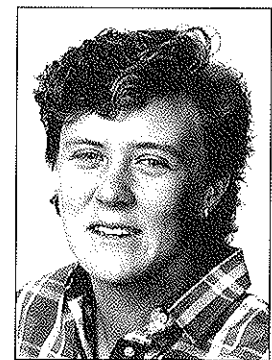
**Dr. Margaret Blalock, the mother of Montevallo women's intercollegiate athletics.**



**Beverly Warren coached both women's basketball and volleyball at Montevallo and is responsible for the Falcons' first national success in volleyball.**

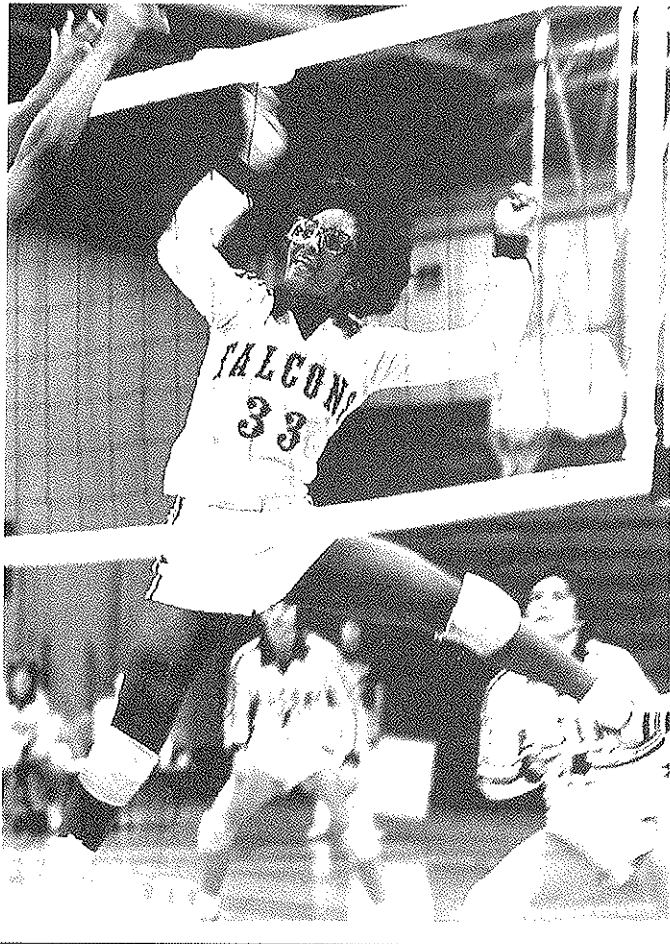
Valeria Hackett, a former UM player under Green, became head coach prior to the 1996 season and led the team to a 35-16 record in her initial campaign.

**The First Montevallo Volleyball Team. The Lady Falcons finished 17th in the nation in Provo, Utah.**  
**Front (L to R):** Connie Clemons, Linda Moore, Kiki Maestrales, Susan Cullen. **Second Row:** Kathi Sorey, Cindy Owens, Vicki Hester. **Back Row:** Jan Curry, Joannie Howard, Marti Crawford, Gilda Lyon, Chris Campbell.



**Judy Green led the UM volleyball program from 1986-95, compiling an amazing 396-74 record and winning seven "Coach-of-the-Year" awards.**

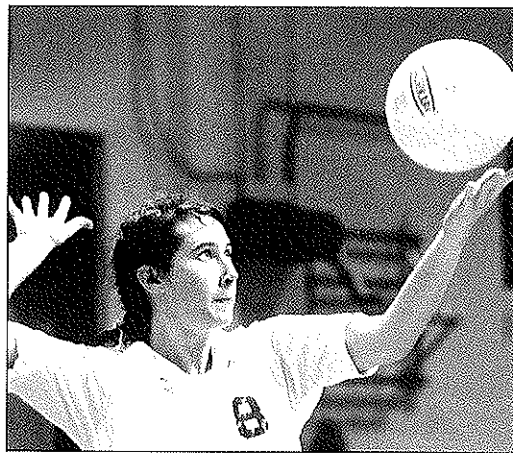




Deborah Miller is one of many outstanding volleyball players to wear the Purple and Gold.



The volleyball team moments after winning the 1979 AIAW Division II championship.



Gretchen Koppersmith, one of the most-honored players in Montevallo volleyball history, helped lead the Falcons to a record 14 consecutive national tournaments between 1982-95.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Record</b>	<b>Coach</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1972	n/a	Dr. Margaret Blalock	17th AIAW Nationals
1973	19-5	Dr. Margaret Blalock	Conference Champions/AIAW Regionals
1974	n/a	Dr. Margaret Blalock	
1975	6-2	Dr. Margaret Blalock	
1976	n/a	Dr. Margaret Blalock	
1977	19-13	Beverly Warren	
1978	33-8	Beverly Warren	AIAW Region III Tourney
1979	42-13	Beverly Warren	AIAW Div. II Champions/Region III Tourney
1980	36-19	Beverly Warren	AIAW Region III Tourney
1981	42-12	Beverly Warren	AIAW Region III Tourney
1982	37-16	Beverly Warren	NAIA Elite Eight (No. 7)
1983	29-21	Beverly Warren	NAIA Nationals
1984	49-14	Beverly Warren	NAIA Elite Eight (No. 7)
1985	49-13	Beverly Warren	NAIA Elite Eight (No. 7)
1986	38-5	Judy Green	NAIA Nationals (No. 12)
1987	32-5	Judy Green	NAIA Nationals (No. 12)
1988	41-7	Judy Green	NAIA Final Four (No. 4)
1989	40-7	Judy Green	NAIA Elite Eight (No. 7)
1990	29-18	Judy Green	NAIA Nationals (No. 12)
1991	43-7	Judy Green	NAIA Nationals (No. 9)
1992	41-9	Judy Green	NAIA Nationals (No. 9)
1993	44-5	Judy Green	NAIA Nationals (No. 9)
1994	50-5	Judy Green	NAIA Elite Eight (No. 5)
1995	38-6	Judy Green	1st place GSC East/NAIA Nationals (No. 7)
1996	35-16	Valeria Hackett	Tied for 3rd place GSC East NAIA Sectional Champions



**Judy Green's last team at Montevallo went 38-6 and attended the national tournament for a record 14th-consecutive season.** Kneeling (L to R): Heather Phifer, Yvette Williamson, Kristy Kellick, Sara Keesling, Sandy Sciascia. Standing: Judy Green (head coach), Gretchen Koppersmith, Carla Sester, Sarah Yeager, Laurie Dahl, Chris Pittman, Alisha Henricksen, Brijin Hales, Shawna Sauls (asst. coach).

# Track

Cross country track made its debut in 1961, followed by a standard outdoor season in 1962. The sport lasted only until 1966, when it was discontinued. According to reports, a number of ex-Marines and some other students interested in staying physically fit participated in the meets. Floyd Anderson and Joseph Ruffner coached the team during its years on campus.

Detailed information on how the team performed is difficult to come across, but the team attracted a devoted group of runners.



Though Montevallo fielded a cross country program for less than a decade, the team attracted a dedicated group of athletes. **The 1964 Team.** Front (L to R): Sidney McLaughlin, Jim Martin, Dennis Miller, Joe Campbell. Back: David Boulter, John Isbell, Floyd Anderson (head coach), Ronnie Lewis, Ken Glover.

# Swimming

The University of Montevallo tried on several occasions in the 1960's to form a swimming program, but was never successful. The school was blessed with a nice swimming facility, built in the 1950's and named in honor of Dr. Margaret McCall on Oct. 12, 1959. Few other Southern institutions had teams, which made travel difficult and expensive, and few, if any, high schools in the state sponsored the sport so finding participants with experience would have been rare.

# Men's Baseball

After Montevallo became a coeducational institution in 1956, baseball was the first intercollegiate athletic activity at the University. The sport made its debut on campus in the spring of 1958 under the direction of Frank K. Lightfoot, a professor in the physical education department. In 1959 Jim Wilinson became his assistant. Lightfoot had previously worked at Notasulga High School in Macon County.



**Dr. Frank Lightfoot, the first baseball coach of Alabama College. Lightfoot led the Falcons from 1958-67.**

A field was constructed for the team just before the 1958 season right off the main campus. We know it today as Kermit A. Johnson Field, named after the former UM president who came to Montevallo in 1968.

The new field, however, wasn't completed in time for the team's season, and the Falcons played all of their home games at the Montevallo High School baseball field, except for the last one.

The field itself was officially designated in honor of Johnson, the University's 10th president, on April 6, 1981. Hall of Fame baseball player Joe Sewell spoke at the ceremony.

According to Lightfoot, the high school field was so small that all hits that cleared the left field fence were ruled to be doubles.

Montevallo lost its first baseball game, 23-1 to Howard (now Samford) and lost another game that season 38-1 to Florence State (now North Alabama). The program soon grew into one in which scholarships were offered and, eventually, into one which competed for conference and district titles. That first team won only once all season, but set the stage for all the success that was to follow. In those early years the team packed sack lunches for road trips, which were always an adventure, Lightfoot remembered, because the University vehicles the team used to travel often broke down.

"We'd all pile into three or four cars, and sometimes I ended up taking my own," he said. "Times were different then. They gave us about two dollars to eat off of the whole trip, and that wasn't even enough back then. We'd always pack lunches or something to stretch the dollar.



**Dr. Kermit A. Johnson speaking at the dedication of Johnson Field, April, 1981.**

"We always tried to make the trips as educational as possible," he said. "There were two reasons. Number one, we wanted the boys to have an educational experience. The second reason was because a lot of people didn't think we should be using school money to play road games and by making the trips into more than just athletic events, we could justify them better. I remember one time we were playing down at Troy and we stopped off at the Statehouse on the way to see the Legislature in action. That really opened some of our boys' eyes."

The Falcons, newly named in 1959, entered the Alabama Collegiate Conference, a coalition of small colleges in the state, in 1962, a year after the league was formed.

After coaching the team for its first 10 seasons, Lightfoot took a leave of absence in 1967 to attend graduate school and work on his doctorate at the University of Alabama. He later returned to UM and worked at the school until retiring in 1991.

Tom Fleming became the team's new head coach before the 1968 season and coached the team for three seasons until 1970.

Dr. Fred Weems became the school's new coach for the 1971 season. By this time, the coaches were allowed to give a few tuition grants, but there weren't enough students interested in playing in 1971 to even field a team, thus Montevallo had no baseball squad in the spring of '71. The team bounced back the next season, however, and even claimed the ACC title.

Weems stayed as coach until after the 1973 season when current coach Bob Riesener took the job. Riesener had been a successful coach at Livingston (now West Alabama) and brought UM's program instant credibility, and soon, its greatest success.



Tom Fleming, a professor at UM, led the baseball team for three seasons, 1968-70.



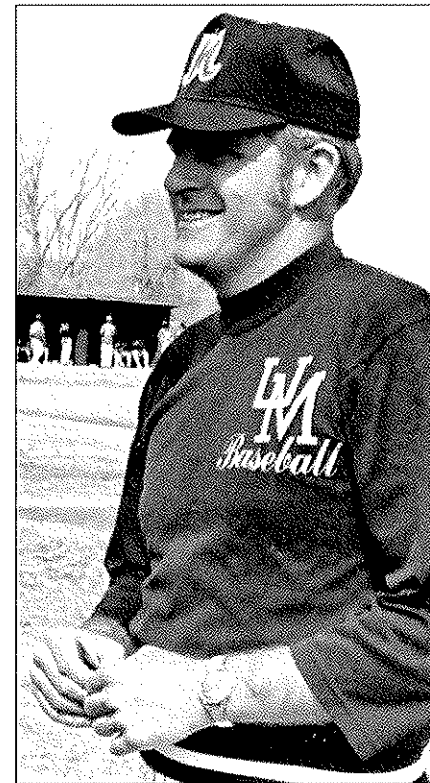
Dr. Fred Weems led the UM baseball program during the 1972 and '73 seasons.

**The 1967 Montevallo Baseball Team finished 6-12.**

Kneeling (L to R): Kenny Carr, James Carter, Larry Patterson, Ed Briggs, Sam Heide, John Ed Lynum, John Grimes, John Shivers, Bubba McGuire.  
 Standing: Steve Bruner, Junior Murray, Mike Hays, Bob McGurk, Walter Ruzic, Don Stone, Frank Bruce, Buddy Eslava. Not pictured: Coach Frank Lightfoot.



**Bob Riesener came to Montevallo in 1974 and has led the Falcons to more than 700 wins in 23 seasons.**



<b>Year</b>	<b>Record</b>	<b>Coach</b>	<b>MVP(s)</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1958	1-10	Dr. Frank Lightfoot		
1959	4-11	Dr. Frank Lightfoot		
1960	2-9	Dr. Frank Lightfoot	C. D. Galloway, Ralph Thrasher	
1961	8-8	Dr. Frank Lightfoot	Johnny Weldon, Lothian Smallwood	
1962	6-10	Dr. Frank Lightfoot		1st season in Alabama Collegiate Conference Team got to ride bus to away games
1963	8-8	Dr. Frank Lightfoot		
1964	2-13	Dr. Frank Lightfoot		
1965	2-16	Dr. Frank Lightfoot	Phillip Agricola, Wright Ingram	
1966	4-14	Dr. Frank Lightfoot	Jerry Gill, Don Stone, John Ed Briggs	Fence and bleachers added to field
1967	6-12	Dr. Frank Lightfoot	John Ed Briggs	
1968	n/a	Tom Fleming	Mike Hays	
1969	n/a	Tom Fleming	Mike Hays	
1970	8-14	Tom Fleming	Rick Cairns	
1971	No team			
1972	19-11	Dr. Fred Weems	Billy Morrison	ACC Champions
1973	n/a	Dr. Fred Weems	Lee Bragan	
1974	15-25	Bob Riesener	David Williams	
1975	19-30	Bob Riesener	Kenny Wright	
1976	31-21	Bob Riesener	Steve Brown	2nd place NAIA District 27
1977	36-21	Bob Riesener	Billy Woodham	
1978	34-27	Bob Riesener	Randy Morrow	District 27 Champions
1979	32-21	Bob Riesener	Randy Morrow	
1980	28-27	Bob Riesener	Mike Dunn	SSC Champions
1981	37-21	Bob Riesener	Bob Hendershot	District 27 Champions
1982	33-21	Bob Riesener	Nelson Garcia	
1983	32-19	Bob Riesener	Steve Smitherman	
1984	43-11	Bob Riesener	Steve Smitherman	SSC Champions District 27 Champions
1985	33-22	Bob Riesener	John Daniell	
1986	28-25	Bob Riesener	Steve Franklin	
1987	31-23	Bob Riesener	Chris Walker	
1988	35-21	Bob Riesener	Chris Walker	District 27 Champions SSC Champions
1989	32-25	Bob Riesener	Jeff Peterson	
1990	26-26	Bob Riesener	Rusty Greer	
1991	34-15	Bob Riesener	Heath Galloway, Joe Myers	
1992	32-22	Bob Riesener	Steve Gongwer	SSC Champions
1993	35-16	Bob Riesener	Brad Swanner	
1994	35-21	Bob Riesener	Tony Bass	
1995	36-18	Bob Riesener	Bernard Hutchison	
1996	32-23	Bob Riesener	Bernard Hutchison	

As the longest-tenured baseball coach in the state of Alabama, Riesener's name has become synonymous with Falcon baseball. In the past 15 seasons 10 UM teams have finished in the NAIA top 25. In the last 20 seasons 17 Falcons have been drafted into professional baseball and during his tenure at UM, 23 of his UM players have been chosen as NAIA All-Americans and countless others have won all-conference awards.

Riesener led the team to NAIA District 27 Championships in 1978, 1981, 1984 and 1988 and to Southern States Conference titles in 1980, 1984, 1988 and 1992. The team began play in the NCAA's Division II in 1995 as a member of the Gulf South Conference.

In addition to his baseball duties, Riesener has served as Montevallo's athletic director since April of 1995 and as director of the Falcon Club since 1975, when he founded the booster organization to help increase funding for UM athletics. Through his work with the

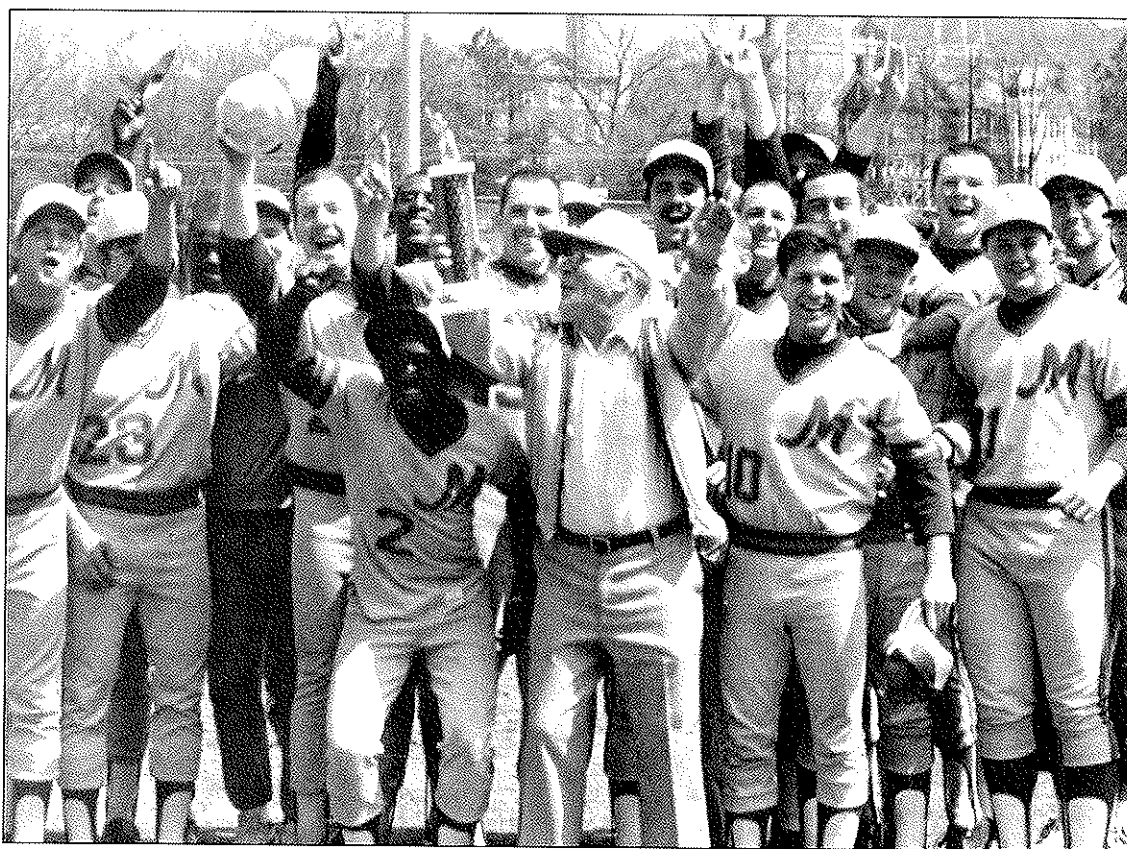
Falcon Club, Riesener has built Montevallo's Johnson Field into one of the premier baseball facilities in the state and provided all the UM athletic teams with luxuries they otherwise would have to do without.

Riesener reached another milestone in a storied career during the 1995 season, picking up his 800th career win. His career accomplishments allowed him to be inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame and Montevallo's Hall of Fame.

Long known for his quick wit and storytelling ability, Riesener is also renowned as a disciplinarian. UM baseball players caught stepping out of line must attend punitive running sessions, which he affectionately calls "the Right Reverend Robert Riesener's Right Field Revivals." Naturally, not too many players have had to attend the revivals more than once.

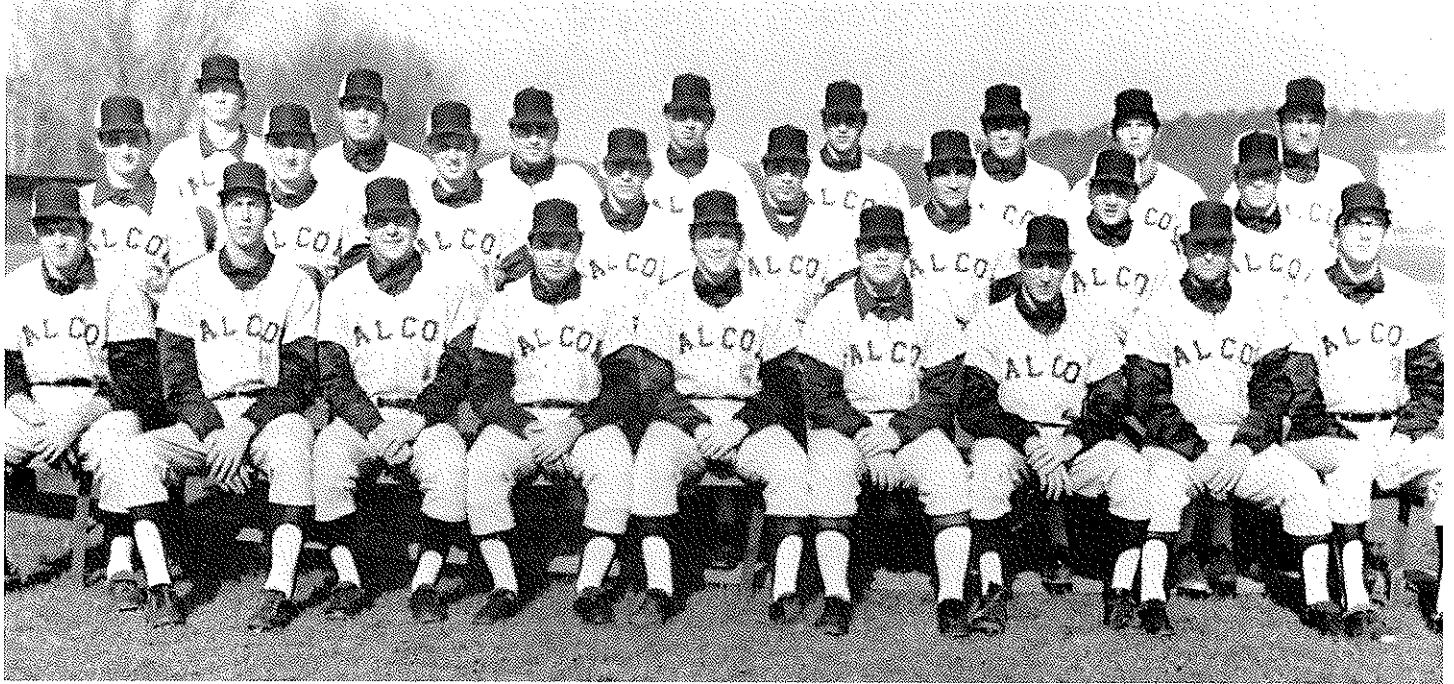
Through the years Montevallo has consistently fielded competitive baseball squads that, more often than not, contended for conference and district championships, but always played an aggressive brand of baseball that was fun to watch and play.

**The baseball team celebrates winning the 1980 Southern States Conference title.**



**The 1984 Baseball Team won conference and district titles and set a school record for wins in a season (43) that still stands. Falcon superfan Harvey Lee Riffe, center, helps the team celebrate a championship.**





**Coach Riesener's First Team at Montevallo, 1974**

Front (L to R): Billy Vann, Frank Murphy, Steve Kelly, Lee Bragan, George Smith, Perry Messner, Terry Jones, Danny Campbell, Billy Morrison. Middle: Bo Owens, Bobby Thomas, Steve Wald, Boyd White, James Haskins, Terry Braseale, Tommy Patterson, Richard Graddick. Back: Brad Drake, David Williams, Johnny Plan, Sammy Dunn, George Hudson, Rusty Haynes, Sammy Flynt, Bob Riesener (head coach).

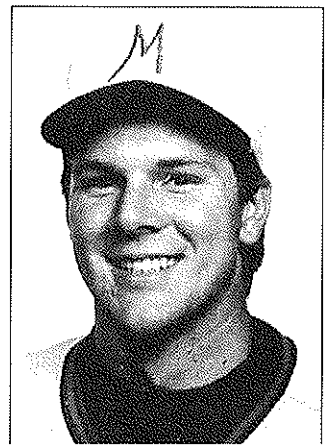


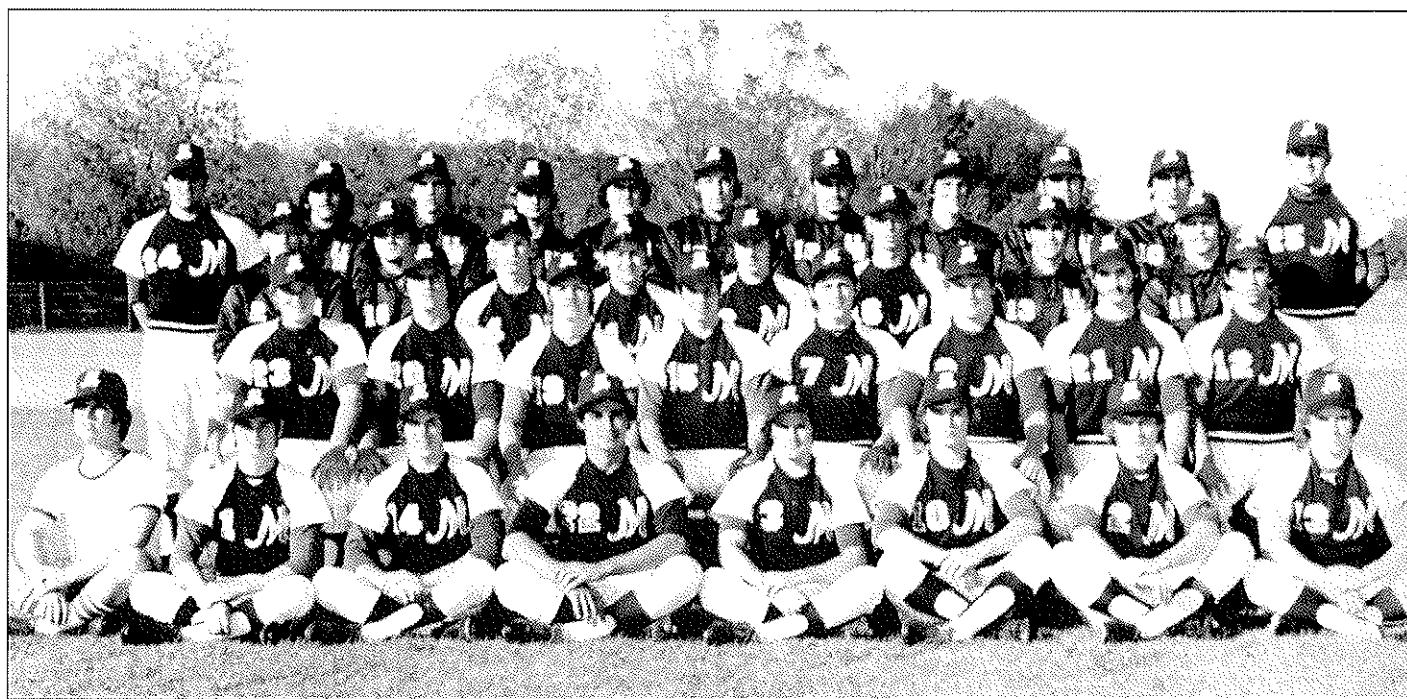
Coach Riesener and one of his famous "Sermos on the Mound"



A 1969 Alabama College baseball player makes a dive for the bag.

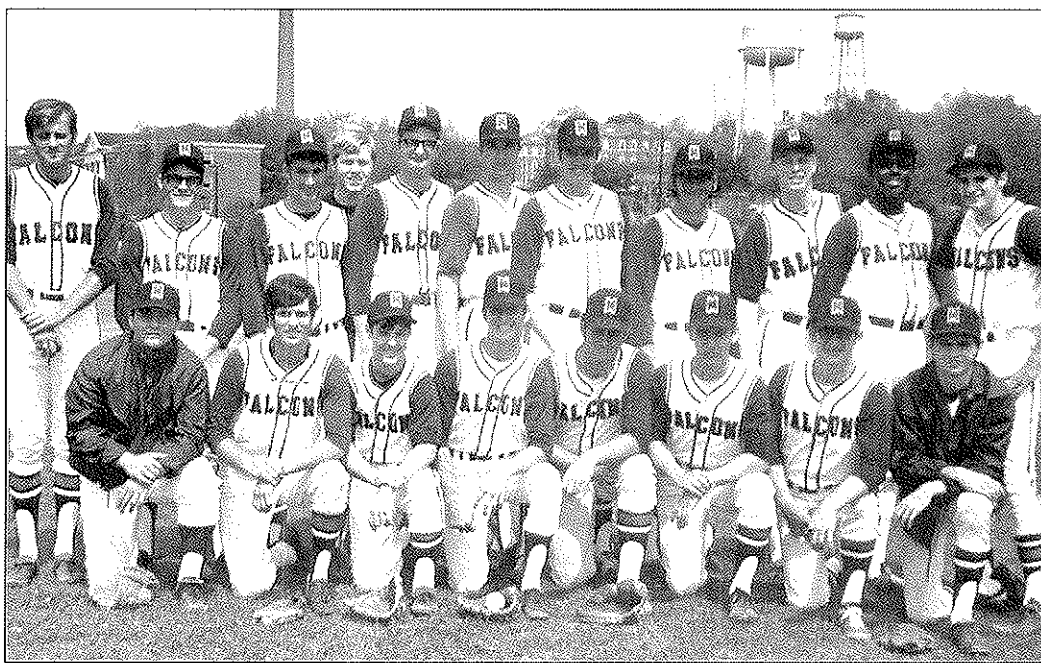
Two-time All-American Chris Walker holds UM's career records for batting average (.395) and home runs (54)





**The 1976 Falcon Baseball Team went 31-21, setting a then-school record for wins in a season.**

First Row (L to R): David Shiflett (manager), Jeff Jones, Mike Morgan, Terry Braseale, Billy Vann, Harold Yelverton, Keith Luker, Billy Woodham. Second Row: Mike Cupps, Steve Brown, Kenny Wright, James Haskins, George Hudson, Randy Morrow, David Wagner, Larry Pardi. Third Row: James Turner, Billy Fultz, Alan Davenport, Tom Johnston, Bobby Sherer, Marty Sargeant, Jim Etheridge, David Ellis. Fourth Row: Ken Gonzales (asst. coach), Johnny Raybon, Vic Pugh, Bobby Thomas, David Reed, Rick Darby, Dale Walker, Larry Hirsche, Charlie Stano, Brad Strickland, Bob Riesener (head coach).



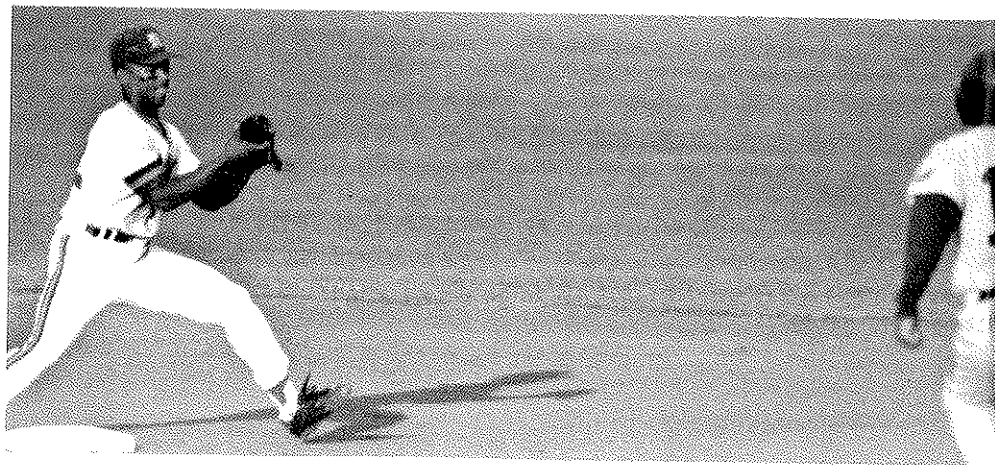
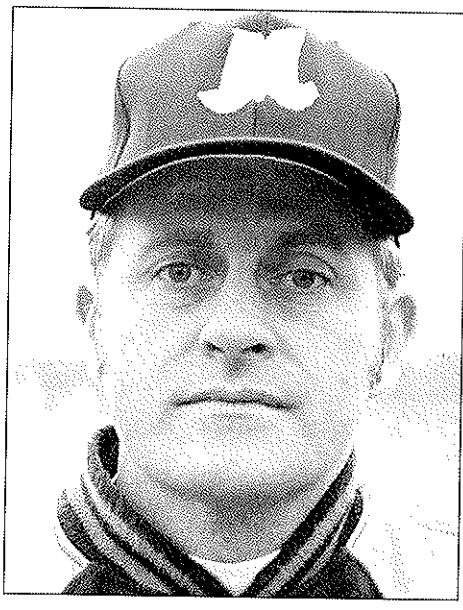
The 1970 Falcons under coach Tom Fleming.



Rusty Greer, now a star outfielder for the Texas Rangers, played baseball at UM from 1988-90.



The 1972 Falcons finished 19-11 under coach Fred Weems.



Tony Bass, team MVP in 1994, turns one of his patented double plays for the Falcons.

Riesener-coached teams have claimed eight district and conference titles.

# Men's Golf

Men's golf came to the Montevallo campus in 1960 and is the third-oldest men's sport on campus after baseball and tennis. Under the leadership of Dr. Chester L. Palmer, who came to UM as the chairman of the HPER department, the team has built a successful reputation over the years.

Kermit Mathison took over as coach in 1966 and coached the team for one season, with Dr. Leon Davis filling in as needed.

In 1967, Dr. J. Ward Tishler took over the program and led it until after the 1971 season, when Dr. Davis became the coach.

Davis coached 20 seasons, from 1972 until he retired in 1991. The program experienced some of its greatest years during Davis' tenure, most notably the three-year run the team made to the NAIA National Tournament in 1980, 1981 and 1982. The team claimed the Southern States Conference and NAIA District 27 titles each of those three seasons.

Jeff Daniels led the men's golf program at UM from 1992 until 1995, and Falcon golfers continued to show well at tournaments. During Daniels' tenure as coach the Falcons won several tournament titles and were competitive on a regional and national level.

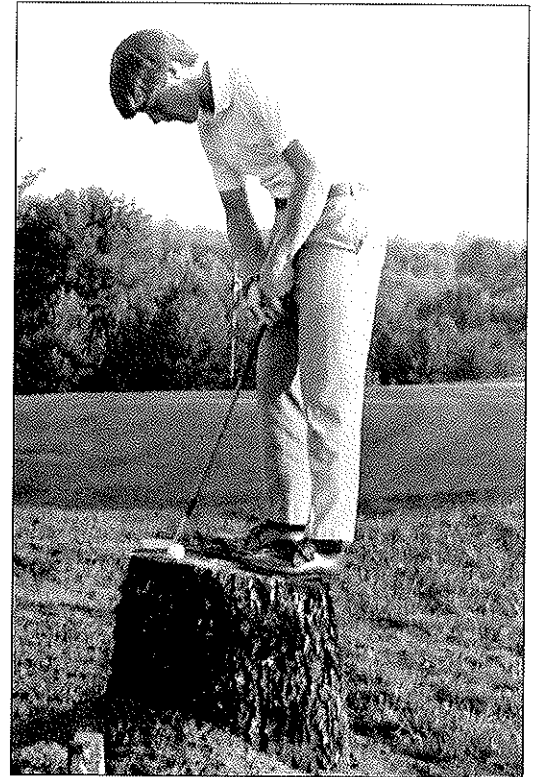
<b>Year</b>	<b>Record</b>	<b>Coach</b>	<b>MVP</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1960	n/a	Chester Palmer		
1961	n/a	Chester Palmer		
1962	n/a	Chester Palmer		
1963	n/a	Chester Palmer		
1964	5-4-1	Chester Palmer		
1965	6-4	Chester Palmer	Ron Minson	
1966	4-1-4	Kermit Mathison	Ron Minson	ACC Runner-Up
1967	n/a	Dr. J. Ward Tishler	Ron Minson	
1968	n/a	Dr. J. Ward Tishler	Jay Jaxon	
1969	n/a	Dr. J. Ward Tishler	Jim Threet	
1970	12-8	Dr. J. Ward Tishler	Jim Threet	
1971	8-9	Dr. J. Ward Tishler	Eddie Beckman	
1972	8-12	Dr. Leon Davis	David Schulz	
1973	n/a	Dr. Leon Davis	Otey Crisman, III	
1974	18-10	Dr. Leon Davis	George Walker	
1975	n/a	Dr. Leon Davis	Bill Conwell	District 27 Runner-Up
1976	n/a	Dr. Leon Davis	Cal Stanford	
1977	n/a	Dr. Leon Davis	Steve Wright	
1978	n/a	Dr. Leon Davis	Harry Britton	
1979	n/a	Dr. Leon Davis	Norm Tums	
1980	n/a	Dr. Leon Davis	Larry Adams	District 27 Champions/SSC Champions/NAIA National Tournament (# 8)
1981	n/a	Dr. Leon Davis	Larry Adams	District 27 Champions/SSC Champions/NAIA National Tournament (# 10)
1982	n/a	Dr. Leon Davis	Harold Breen	District 27 Champions/SSC Champions/NAIA National Tournament
1983	n/a	Dr. Leon Davis	Don Hancock	
1984	n/a	Dr. Leon Davis	Don Hancock	
1985	n/a	Dr. Leon Davis	Don Hancock	
1986	n/a	Dr. Leon Davis	Gordon Saunders	
1987	n/a	Dr. Leon Davis	Shay Shelnut	
1988	n/a	Dr. Leon Davis	Shay Shelnut/Jeff Layton	
1989	n/a	Dr. Leon Davis	Karlo Cotney	
1990	n/a	Dr. Leon Davis	Shay Shelnut	NAIA Nationals (# 13)
1991	n/a	Dr. Leon Davis		
1992	n/a	Jeff Daniels		
1993	n/a	Jeff Daniels		NAIA Nationals (# 18)
1994	n/a	Jeff Daniels		
1995	n/a	Jeff Daniels		
1996	n/a	Andy Brindley	Jerker Schulstad	No. 6 GSC



A Falcon golfer looks to sink a putt. Montevallo, one of the first schools in the state to have its own course, has fielded a golf team since 1960 and has won scores of tournaments through the years.

Andy Brindley took over the men's golf team as coach for the 1996 season.

The program has had a multitude of successful golfers come through its ranks, including Rusty Stephens (a District 27 individual medalist), Greg Miller (who had four consecutive rounds under par during Daniels' tenure), Larry Adams (73.7 season stroke average in 1980-81) and Don Hancock (74.2 season stroke average in 1984-85). As a team, the Falcons have won more than 25 tournaments since the 1977 season in what is, perhaps, the sporting world's most individual sport.



The Montevallo golf course was built in 1955, and offers many shots easier than this. Under Dr. Leon Davis, the men's golf team emerged as a perennial contender for regional and national honors.

# Women's Golf

Women's golf got its start at Montevallo in 1995 under the direction of Judy Green, and the team immediately found success.

Former UM men's golfer Shay Shelnett coached the team in the spring of 1996. Both Green and Shelnett led the team to No. 7 finishes in the NAIA its first two seasons.

Andy Brindley became the team's coach for the 1996-97 school year.



Coach Judy Green (right), Christy Nolan and parents. Nolan became the first women's golf team signee before the team started play in 1995.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Coach</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1995	Judy Green	NAIA Nationals (#7)
1996	Shay Shelnett	NAIA Nationals (#7)
1997	Andy Brindley	

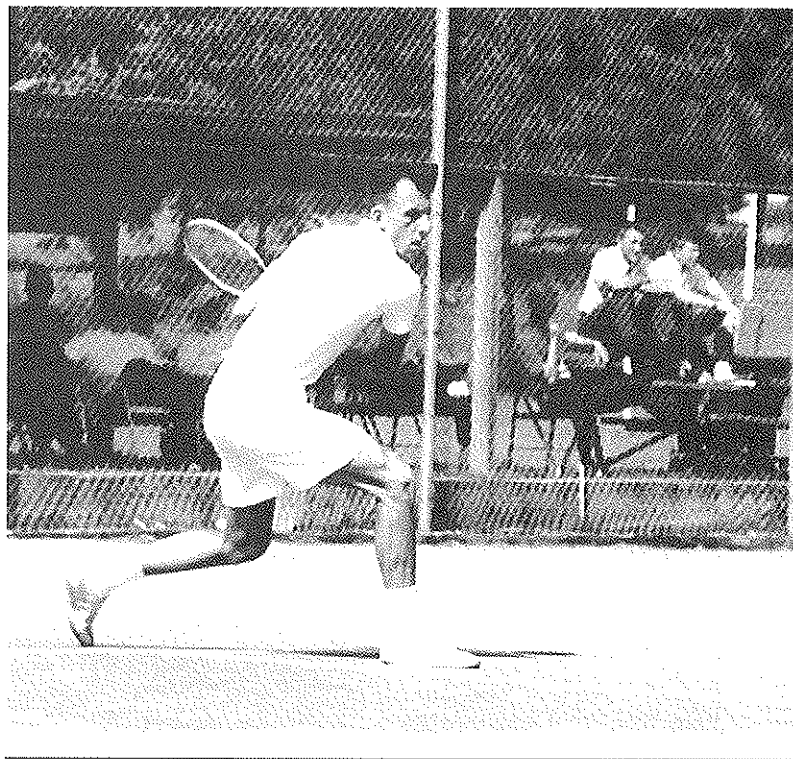
# Men's Tennis

Men's tennis made its debut at Montevallo in 1959 under coach Floyd Anderson, the third intercollegiate sport at the University in the modern period.

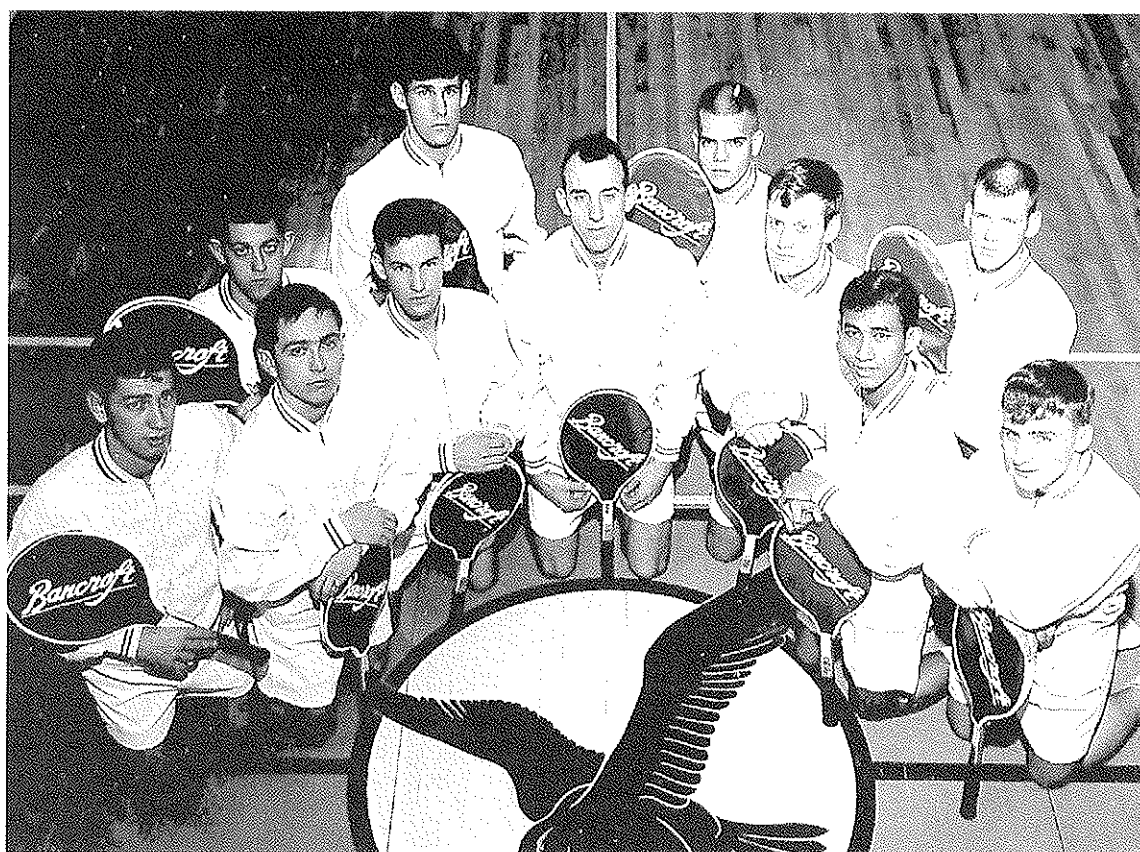
The program was discontinued after the 1980 season, despite a successful history. The team won championships in 1964, 1966 and 1970, and had a multitude of talented athletes come through its ranks. Many of these players, like Donnie Andrews, also participated in other varsity athletics, but also happened to be superior athletes. Andrews even played professional tennis for a time.

The Montevallo men's tennis team made history on April 8, 1966, when the team defeated Auburn, 5-4, becoming the first Alabama Collegiate Conference school to ever beat a Southeastern Conference team.

Anderson, a former football coach, left the team after the 1966 season. His final team went 21-0 and was the conference and tournament champion. Perhaps the greatest team in school history, the starting six players in 1966 were Donnie Andrews at No. 1, James Peavy at No. 2, Jim Taylor at No. 3, Ed Kridakorn at No. 4, Bill Toms at No. 5 and Paul Kellogg at No. 6.



One of the top tennis players in Montevallo history, Donnie Andrews eventually played at the professional level.



**The 1966 Falcons Tennis Team Finished 21-0 under coach Floyd Anderson.**  
Front (L to R): H.C. Walters, James Peavy, James Taylor, Donnie Andrews, Ronnie Lewis, Ed Kridakorn, Bill Toms.  
Back: Joe Barrick, Paul Kellogg, Mike Malone, Sid McLaughlin.



According to the *Montage*, the 1970 men's tennis team went 13-1, won the ACC and NAIA District 27 titles and played in the national tournament.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Record</b>	<b>Coach</b>	<b>MVP/Captain</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1959	n/a	Floyd Anderson	Yaco Avila, Arthur Garrett	Played 10 matches
1960	n/a	Floyd Anderson		
1961	n/a	Floyd Anderson		
1962	n/a	Floyd Anderson		
1963	n/a	Floyd Anderson		
1964	16-2	Floyd Anderson		ACC Champions
1965	n/a	Floyd Anderson	Donnie Andrews	
1966	21-0	Floyd Anderson	Jim Taylor, Donnie Andrews	ACC Champions and Tournament Champions
1967	10-4	Joseph Ruffner	Donnie Andrews	
1968	n/a	Joseph Ruffner	Bill Toms	
1969	16-0	Joseph Ruffner	Mike Lewanski	1st Alabama College team to go to Nationals
1970	13-1	Dr. Leon Davis	Mike Lewanski	ACC Champions NAIA District 27 Champions NAIA Nationals
1971	3-8	Dr. Leon Davis	Mike Roberson	
1972	3-12	Dr. J. Ward Tishler	Terry Tant	
1973	n/a	Dr. J. Ward Tishler	Mark Scott	
1974	n/a	Dr. J. Ward Tishler	Mark Scott	2nd SSC
1975	n/a	Dr. J. Ward Tishler	Terry Bailey	3rd SSC
1976	n/a	Dr. J. Ward Tishler	Terry Bailey	
1977	n/a	Dr. J. Ward Tishler	Lecky Walker	3rd SSC
1978	n/a	Dr. J. Ward Tishler	Lecky Walker	
1979	n/a	Boyd Mason	Tim Ray	
1980	11-5	Boyd Mason	Greg Butke	5th SSC

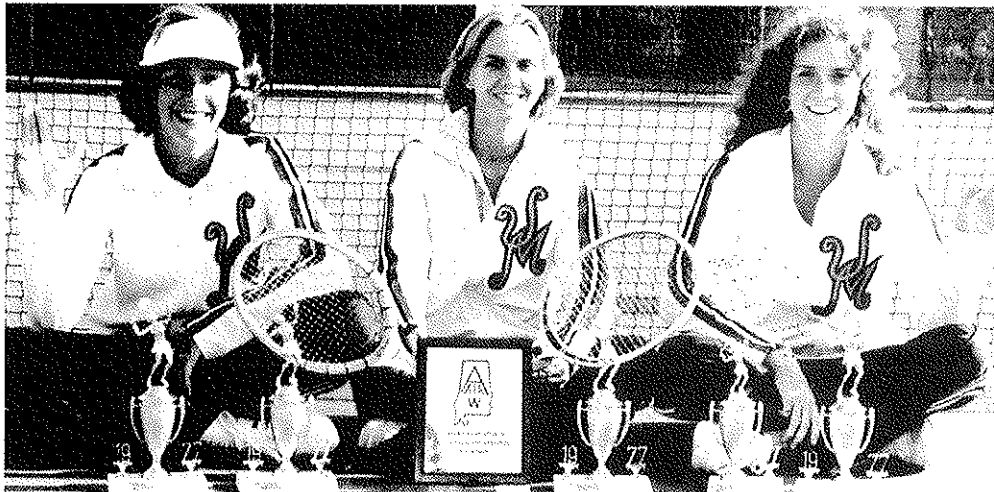
# Women's Tennis

Dr. Margaret Blalock began a non-scholarship tennis program for women at Montevallo in 1973.

Blalock led the team until Jeanette Crew became the team's coach in 1978. Crew began to offer scholarships in women's tennis in 1980 and led the team until the program was discontinued after that 1980 season.

Women's tennis was reinstated in 1995 and coached by Kim Van Atta in its first season.

In the summer of 1995 Glen Fanelli became the team's coach. Fanelli led the team in the spring of 1996, when Tonya Helm, a former UAB tennis player, became the team's head coach in the fall of 1996.



Toni Leo, Tommie Worrell and Debbie Cisnip after placing second in the state in 1978.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Record</b>	<b>Coach</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1978	10-4	Jeanette Crew	AAIAW Div. II Tournament 2nd Place in AAIAW
1979	8-3	Jeanette Crew	AAIAW Div. II Tournament 3rd Place in AAIAW
1980	9-8	Jeanette Crew	AAIAW Div. II Tournament
1995		Kim Van Atta	
1996	3-17	Glen Fanelli	

**The 1980  
UM Women's  
Tennis Team**  
Front (L to R):  
Kathryn Perely,  
Karen Janert,  
Danalu Newman,  
Kim Vandergriff,  
Coach Jeanette Crew,  
Melanie Showalter,  
Julie Janert,  
Terry Martin,  
Toni Leo.



# Facilities

Myrick Hall, home of the UM men's and women's basketball teams and the volleyball team, was built in 1964.

The building was originally scheduled to be constructed at the present site of Peck Hall, but a water table problem would have caused the building to cost much more than was necessary. The Falcons' home debut at Myrick was against Marshall-Atlanta on December 5, 1964.

Gov. George Wallace was on hand the night the gymnasium and field house, as it was then called, was dedicated. The arena has hosted scores of thrilling high school and collegiate sporting events, and has earned a reputation around the state as one of the loudest places to play when filled to capacity, which is 2,000.

Kermit A. Johnson Field was named after the former UM president who came to Montevallo in 1968.

A former cotton field and farming area rising just above Shoal Creek, Johnson Field has gradually matured to the baseball facility we know today. The original field consisted of a wire backstop, benches for dugouts and a pebble-laced dirt field. Sliding into bases and diving for balls was strictly an "at-your-own-risk" proposition.

A fence and bleachers that could seat 240 spectators were added in 1966. The field has since been renovated and stands have sprouted with capacity to seat 1,500 spectators. Lights were added in 1981.

A permanent building was constructed in 1980, and dedicated in the honor of Ernest E. "Billy" Cotton in April of 1983. Cotton, a former UM player, was so honored for his outstanding support of Falcon athletics.

The field itself was officially designated in honor of Johnson, the University's 10th president, on April 6, 1981. Hall of Fame baseball player Joe Sewell spoke at the ceremony.

The field was built in 1958 on the edge of campus on land that used to be used for farming.

The new Montevallo soccer teams have played in several areas around campus including the fields near the UM Police Station and the fields between Johnson Field and the Traffic Safety Center.

The Montevallo golf teams' home course is the UM Golf Course, which was built in 1955. The course has undergone extensive renovation through the years, and with the booming popularity of the sport of golf, the Falcons have hosted and played in tournaments all over Shelby County and the state of Alabama.

The teams at Montevallo have also used a variety of intramural fields and courts around campus, many that are no longer standing, specifically the tennis courts in what is now a parking lot behind the old gym, Bibb Graves Hall.

# Association

After starting to play intercollegiate athletics in 1958, Montevallo regularly played the state's other small college teams like Troy, Athens State, Samford, Jacksonville, Florence (now North Alabama), AUM, Livingston (now West Alabama) and Birmingham-Southern.

By scheduling one another, the state's small college athletic teams saved money on travel, and since the schools were relatively the same size, the competition was usually even. These were some of the teams that joined together to form the Alabama Collegiate Conference (ACC) which was formed in 1962. The conference lasted until the mid 1970's, when some of the schools joined the Mid-South Conference, and others formed the Southern States Conference.

UM joined the National Association for Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) in 1966, and was a member of District 27 and Area V in that organization. Redistricting occurred in 1964, moving some of the other Southern schools that had been in District 27 to another district. The NAIA was the first national organization to integrate, and for many years was considered the equal of the better-known NCAA.

Montevallo has been fortunate through the years to have the services of a variety of dedicated coaches who have served on conference and national committees.

One of the most dedicated was Dr. Leon Davis. Davis was highly involved with the NAIA and its success from the beginning. The UM athletic director from 1971-91, Davis' name became synonymous with the national organization. Davis served a year on the organization's executive committee and filled the role of district chairperson until 1975. After that stint, Davis served a four-year term each as fourth, third, second and first vice president of the NAIA, all this in addition to his teaching responsibilities and coaching time constraints. Davis was president of the NAIA in 1982-83. For his efforts, he was voted into the NAIA Hall of Fame in March of 1985 at the national convention in Kansas City, Mo.

The Southern States Conference, essentially the same teams that made up District 27 in the NAIA, was formed in 1972, with UM as a member until 1986.

From 1995-97 Montevallo was a dual member of both the NAIA and the Gulf South Conference of the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) Division II. The school was scheduled to become a full-member of the NCAA in 1997.

# Purple (or Navy) and Gold

Evidence of when or why the colors of purple and gold were chosen as Montevallo's school colors are, as far as anyone can tell, non-existent, although references to the colors were made as far back as 1909 and were used commonly in association with the basketball teams of the 1920's.

Montevallo athletic teams, however, have not always worn purple and gold uniforms. For years, "letters" awarded to athletes were navy blue with gold trim and a student-athlete handbook from the early 1970's begins with these words, "For those who wear the Old Gold and Navy Blue..."

Falcon basketball teams in the 1970's often sported Navy Blue and Old Gold uniforms. According to Dr. Leon Davis, athletic teams at the University were never outfitted in purple until after Dr. Jim Vickery became president of the school in the 1977.

There are a variety of reasons Montevallo's athletic teams never wore purple. As a color, purple is difficult to find, thus costing more, and even more difficult to match. When coaches order uniforms in the off-season, they sometimes just replace the worn out suits instead of ordering entirely new sets for the whole team. Purple from one year may be a different shade than purple from a different year. Also, different companies have different shades of purple, which adds to the problem. One uniform company's purple may, in fact, be lavender, while another's may be closer to maroon or navy.

Davis' basketball teams in the early 1960's wore navy blazers when they traveled. He said he received compliments about how good the team looked and behaved almost every trip, which made him proud.

"On one trip someone said to me, 'Coach Davis, you've got to have the finest looking bunch of boys in the conference.' I told him, 'I appreciate the compliment, but we just take pictures once a year. I need some boys who can play.'"

Today Montevallo's official colors are purple PMS #267 and gold PMS #123.



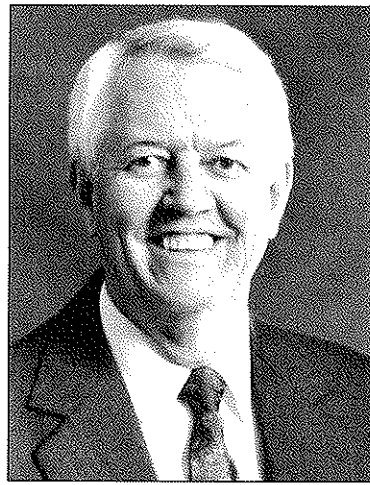
Montevallo student-athletes are known for their scholarship. The school graduates more than 90 percent of its athletes, far ahead of the state and national averages.

# Athletic Directors

The University has had just a few athletic directors in its 38-year history of intercollegiate athletics. Exactly how many athletic directors the school has had is debateable because several people have held the title as part of other jobs.

In the early years of the intercollegiate athletic program, whomever served as chairperson of the physical education department was, in essence, also the director of athletics.

Dr. Leon Davis assumed the duties of athletic director in 1971 and held the job until retiring in 1991. Davis became both the men's and women's athletic director in 1986.



**Dr. Leon Davis, longtime UM Athletic Director and the school's first men's basketball coach.**

Rob Spivery

became the Falcons' athletic director in 1991 and kept the job until 1995, when Bob Riesener became athletic director, a position he holds today.

Prior to Davis becoming the athletic director in 1971, Dr. Chester Palmer served as athletic director after being appointed chairperson of the health, physical education and recreation department in 1959. Palmer served until 1965, when Dr. Bernice Finger became the department's new chairperson following Palmer's resignation.

Dr. J. Ward Tishler was named chairperson of the department beginning with the fall term of the 1966-67 school year and served as director of athletics until Davis' appointment in 1971.

Beginning with the 1975-76 school year the men's intercollegiate athletic program became a separate departments. An "A" Club was established in 1958-59 for male athletes and changed names to the "M" Club in 1978.

The women's intercollegiate athletic department became a separate department in 1978-79 with Beverly Warren as athletic director.

From the time of their inceptions, the two divisions of intercollegiate athletics functioned as separate entities and both directors reported directly to the UM president.

# Hall of Fame

In 1989 the University of Montevallo established an athletic Hall of Fame to honor former players, coaches and friends of Falcon athletics.

The University inducted the first group into its Athletic Hall of Fame in the spring of 1990. Members of the UM Athletic Hall of Fame are as follow.

1989

Larry Adams (men's golf), Margaret Blalock (deceased, service), Billy Cotton (meritorious service), Gerald Douglass (men's basketball), Randy Morrow (baseball), Billy Vann (baseball).

1990

Dr. Leon Davis (meritorious service), Bob Riesener (meritorious service), Wylie Tucker (men's basketball).

1991

Sandra Sims (volleyball), Donnie Andrews (men's tennis), Beverly Warren (meritorious service).

1992

Lonnie Edwards (men's basketball), James Hobbs (men's basketball), Toni Leo (women's basketball), Ed Patridge (meritorious service).

1993

Mike Dunn (baseball), Henry Ezell (men's basketball), Agee Kelly (meritorious service), Travis Kirkpatrick (deceased, meritorious service), Candi Nicholas Skipper (volleyball).

1994

Dr. Bill Elder (meritorious service), Gene Meadows (men's basketball), Neal Shirley (meritorious service), Charlie Stano (baseball), Theresa Straughn (volleyball).

1995

Kenny Gonzales (deceased, meritorious service), Latanja Thomas (volleyball), Everett Charles Averhart (baseball), Wright Ingram (men's basketball), Chris Walker (baseball), Bill Jones (meritorious service).

1996

Rusty Greer (baseball), Bobby Joe Jackson (men's basketball), Sheila Young (volleyball), Judy Green (meritorious service), Fred Blackmon (meritorious service), Paul Kellogg (men's basketball).



# Circle-K Sportsmanship Trophy

This award, given by the Alabama College, and later, UM Circle K Clubs, was awarded to the student-athlete that exhibited exemplary sportsmanship characteristics. The last award was given in 1991.

1965	James Taylor
1966	James Harris
1967	James Carter
1968	Mike Hays
1969	Herman Watts
1970	Herman Watts
1971	Lonnie Edwards
1972	Mike Sellers
1973	Torrey Revel
1974	Ed McCorkle
1975	Charles Averhart
1976	
1977	Kent Keller, James Haskins
1978	Vanard Dinkins, Charles Smith
1979	Ronald Fantrog
1980	Danny Bailey
1981	Mike Daniel
1982	Milton Smith
1983	David Bailey
1984	Tim Eberhart
1985	Dexter Walker
1986	
1987	James Sims
1988	Lewis Brooks
1989	John Twyman
1990	Rusty Greer
1991	Joey Myers

# Credits...

Like any other institution, the University of Montevallo has experienced a multitude of changes since its birth way back in 1896. Many informative and interesting accounts of the University's history have been written, most notably Mary Frances Tipton's *Years Rich and Fruitful* and Dr. Lucille Griffith's *Alabama College, 1896-1969* and *White Columns and Red Bricks*. The books are seminal works and were critical for this book to be completed.

There are numerous people that contributed to this publication coming to fruition. When this project was proposed to me in early November, 1996, I was unsure if we could do it - and do it well - by the February, 1997 Centennial Homecoming, but I think we have.

There are so many people to thank, and I will, undoubtedly, miss some, which I regret.

Many thanks go to David Aiken, who proposed the project and saw that it got done, and to Cynthia Shackelford, who always remained calm in the face of impending deadlines. I would like to thank Diane Kennedy-Jackson, Earline Howell, Jason Green, Crisla Herchenhahn, Rick Salter and Katherine Turnbow of the UM Public Relations Office, who picked up the slack when I was away from the office and made it possible for me to have time to research. Cynthia, in particular, scanned the photos for this book.

Although they rarely get recognized because of the nature of their work, the University of Montevallo has been fortunate over the years to have a large number of first-rate sports information directors. People like Kent Partridge, Blair Cash, Charles Callaghan, Mike Oakley and Ronnie Holsomback left detailed records that made this publication possible. Photographers, such as Matt Orton, have also proved invaluable.

Patsy Sears and Rachel Pohill of Carmichael Library were invaluable guides through the University archives, and I would like to thank them for their dedication and generosity. Patsy and Rachel make Montevallo what it is - a special place.

The entire Montevallo coaching staff, under the leadership of Bob Riesener, helped me in numerous ways. This University has a long athletic history, and valuable pieces of information can sometimes be hard to find. If they didn't remember when something happened, they pointed me in the right direction.

Dr. Leon Davis, Dr. Frank Lightfoot, Dr. J. Ward Tishler, Jeanette Crew, Dr. Miriam Collins, Dr. Syble Brindley, Neal Shirley, Wright Ingram and Coach Bob Riesener provided much of the information for this book from their memories. Often, anecdotal evidence is the most important kind. Also, thanks also to all former editors and writers of the *Montage*, *Alabamian* and *Technala*. So many of you through the years have done good work.

Think of this book as a work in progress. What we have tried to do is provide a historical foundation for anyone who may be interested in Montevallo athletics. There were many great teams and players in the first 100 years of this institution, and not all were able to be included. Unfortunately, not every record, trophy or letterwinner's list was kept or recorded, so some years are, naturally, represented more than others. As one coach said to me, "Back when this thing started, we had no idea that we should record everything."

When another book like this one is published in 2096, the authors should have a better idea of the great men and women associated with the University of Montevallo thanks to this book. All spellings have been researched as well as possible. The spellings you see in this book were printed that same way originally. When a name was spelled more than one way in different places, we went with the most common spelling.

Undoubtedly, more information on the University's intercollegiate athletic history will surface after the publication of this book. I hope this is the case.

In some cases, we have tried to fill in historical "holes" as well as possible. As you will notice, some sports, usually the ones with the least amount of turnover among head coaches, have left better records than others, so they are better represented in this publication than the teams whose records are more difficult to find. Naturally, team sports are easier to record than individual sports.

I appreciate everyone who's worked to make Montevallo a better place.

Most of all, thank you to my wife Julie, my parents and Carolyn for putting up with me. As Julie will tell you, that's no easy task.

And last, but certainly not least, a special thanks to Melanie Poole '86, for the design and layout of this book. Melanie's first-rate professionalism made working on this publication a joy.

- Adam Kelley

