

R O G E R S   S T A T E   U N I V E R S I T Y



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**HILLCAT ATHLETICS**  
**2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT**



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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# LETTER FROM THE AD

DR. CHRIS RATCLIFF | RSU VICE PRESIDENT, INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

Greetings from the Hill,



Year 17 of Hillcat Athletics will be remembered for a long time. We emerged from the COVID-19 Pandemic stronger than before, crossing new milestones and accomplishing new feats both in the classroom and on the field.

With the world somewhat returning to normal, I am very proud of our student-athletes' success in the classroom. The Hillcats had one of the best academic years in the history of our athletic program, with 165 student-athletes posting a GPA of at least 3.0 and 49 maintaining a 4.0.

We had 169 student-athletes named to MIAA Academic Honor Rolls in their respective sports. We also had seven All-American scholars as well as three Academic All-District selections.

As I mentioned earlier, this was year 17 of our athletic department, and it is a blessing to see how far our athletic program has come in such a short time on College Hill. The footprint of Hillcat Nation continues to expand every year, with current and former student-athletes coming from 39 different states and 39 countries. Our Hillcat Family is continuing to grow, and we are excited about the future.

Our athletic department saw unprecedented success this year, starting with our softball program, which claimed RSU's first-ever national championship by winning the 2022 NCAA Division II Softball National Championship while also capturing the first MIAA Tournament Championship in program history. Head Coach Andrea Vaughan and her staff guided the Hillcats to victory, broke multiple school records, and were named the NFCA National Coaching Staff of the Year for their efforts. They led a talented mix of veteran players and newcomers that was headlined by National Pitcher of the Year and First Team All-American Andrea Morales, who owns every pitching record in the book.

Men's golf won their first MIAA Championship, the first for RSU since joining the league, with eight-straight tournament wins. MIAA Coach of the Year Steve Brown led a team headlined by All-American and MIAA Player of the Year Luke Palmowski, MIAA Freshman of the Year Daniel Robles, and All-Region selection Aidan Gavey to the program's second-straight appearance in the NCAA Central/Midwest Regionals.

Women's golf also made great strides with their second-straight appearance in the NCAA Division II National Championship. MIAA Coach of the Year Whitney Hocutt guided a team headlined by All-Region and First Team All-MIAA selection Jessica Green and All-Region and MIAA Freshman of the Year Lydia Sitorus to a third-place finish in the NCAA Central Regional and a fourth-place finish in the MIAA Championships.

Several other teams also saw great success this past year. Men's soccer ranked in the top 25 for most of the season and appeared in the GAC/MIAA Tournament semifinals. Men's and women's cross country registered several top times, while men's and women's track and field saw multiple school records fall several times over this season. Men's basketball returned to the MIAA Tournament and finished in the quarterfinals. Baseball also reached the MIAA Tournament for the second-straight season.

The 2021-22 athletic and academic year saw the Hillcats break new ground as things began to return to normal. We are excited about the success we have shown, and we look forward to building on that success for an even better year in 2022-23, one we hope makes you proud to be a supporter of the Hillcat Nation.



# ROGERS STATE UNIVERSITY

*Students First*

Since being established as a four-year regional university in 1999, Rogers State University has quickly developed into a dynamic university widely recognized for its high-quality academic programs, distance learning options, and high-technology learning environment.

RSU stands as the only public, four-year, residential university in the Tulsa metropolitan area, which allows students the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in the college experience while living in one of its three on campus student apartment communities. Students also may live at home while enjoying the flexibility of taking classes at RSU's three physical campuses (Claremore, Bartlesville and Pryor) or through the nationally recognized RSU Online program.

Whatever a student's path, RSU provides rigorous educational preparation coupled with personalized attention attained through small class sizes and faculty committed to student success. RSU offers a wide variety of bachelor's and associate degrees, and it most recently added its first graduate program featuring a Master of Business Administration.

## **DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS**

Academic quality has long been a hallmark of the RSU experience, with highly regarded programs in health care, biological sciences, social sciences, criminal justice and business. RSU's nursing program is considered one of the most rigorous in the state with graduates consistently exceeding state and national averages for nursing exams.

The university has quickly established itself as an institution of choice in the Tulsa metro for students who plan to study biology and apply to medical school, dental school or other related medical-

professional graduate programs. In the past few years, more than 100 RSU students have been accepted into health-related graduate programs.

RSU students work closely with faculty members, many of whom hold doctoral degrees or the highest degrees available in their fields from esteemed institutions across the nation. The RSU Honors Program provides an atmosphere where scholars can challenge themselves academically through specialized courses, student/faculty joint research projects and a strong emphasis on service learning in the community. The President's Leadership Class (PLC), a four-year scholarship program that fosters personal and professional development, was designed for RSU students who have demonstrated leadership abilities.

Students are able to participate in a broad selection of internships, including The Washington Center Internship Program, a nationally recognized program placing students with private, public and nonprofit organizations in Washington, D.C. The university offers international study-at-large programs to provide students with opportunities to see the world, learn about other cultures and enrich their educational experience in locations that have included Italy, Wales, Scotland, Ireland and Korea.

## **GROWTH IN LEARNING FACILITIES**

Visitors to RSU's main Claremore campus are quick to praise its attractive, collegiate appearance that blends remodeled historic buildings alongside newly constructed facilities.

The Dr. Carolyn Taylor Center, which opened in 2009, has become the centerpiece of the main campus in Claremore. This two-level, 50,000-square-foot facility combines student services programs under one roof, serves as a central location for students to study



and socialize, and provides a focal point for the RSU campus in Claremore. The facility also offers ballrooms, conference centers, and meeting rooms for the community.

A major expansion and renovation of Baird Hall on the Claremore campus was completed in 2010. The new Baird Hall has doubled in size and contains many of the leading-edge features associated with higher learning today, including modern classrooms, a performance studio, a television production studio, an art gallery, and an outdoor classroom for learning outdoors on sunny days.

Opened in 2004, the Stratton Taylor Library features extensive printed and digital informational resources, electronic databases, multimedia collections, study areas, reading rooms, computer stations, and classrooms. Additional academic facilities include a full-powered public television station, a student-run radio station, a 100-acre conservation reserve, advanced nursing facilities, an EMS classroom featuring a full-sized ambulance, art facilities, and the historic Will Rogers Auditorium.

The Claremore campus houses RSU's residential community with capacity for more than 800 students in three student apartment communities (constructed in 2001, 2011 and 2015) and family housing. Residents can choose from several floor plans within the housing communities, which are adjacent to Chapman Dining Hall (opened in 2014). Chapman Dining Hall features a dedicated emergency generator for food preparation during long-term power outages and a basement storm shelter large enough to hold all campus residents.

The RSU campus in Bartlesville is located in a nine-story building in the heart of downtown and serves as the educational anchor for the revitalized business district. The Pryor campus is located in a two-story, 38,000-square-foot facility (opened in 2014) in the MidAmerica Industrial Park, which donated the facility to address the region's workforce needs. The largest single gift in the university's history, the approximately \$10 million project included site development and construction on the 83-acre property.

## A STORIED HISTORY

RSU holds a unique position as Oklahoma's newest four-year regional university, but with roots that extend back to the earliest days of statehood RSU was founded in 1909 as Eastern University Preparatory School in Claremore. The school prepared the daughters and sons of area residents to attend college. Historic Preparatory Hall, known for its iconic gold dome, was the first building on the school's campus.

However, the school closed only a few years after it opened. Taking its place was the storied Oklahoma Military Academy (OMA), which operated on the Hill from 1919 to 1971. Known as the "West Point of the Southwest," OMA has an extensive register of graduates who became great leaders, both in military and civilian life. More than 2,500 OMA graduates served in the Armed Forces of the United States during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. More than 100 graduates gave their lives in service to their country.

In 1971, OMA closed and Claremore Junior College opened on the Hill, serving more than 400 students. The junior college grew rapidly in the 1970s, and by the time it was renamed Rogers State College in 1982, the institution boasted a variety of associate degree programs, distance learning capabilities, a new radio and television station and intercollegiate athletics.

In 1999, the Oklahoma Legislature renamed the institution Rogers State University and charged it with seeking accreditation as a four-year university offering bachelor's and associate degrees. Its first graduate program, a Master of Business Administration, launched in 2014 and graduated its first class in May 2016.



# WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY



GLORIA BUTTS | SR.

## WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY QUICK FACTS

### COACHING STAFF

**Head Coach:** Matt Kennedy  
**Years (First):** 2 (2020)  
**Office Phone:** (918) 343-7689  
**Email:** mkennedy@rsu.edu  
**Assistant Coach:** Hunter Briggs (3rd)

### 2021 SEASON IN REVIEW

**Best Finish:** 2nd  
**MIAA:** 5th  
**NCAA Regional:** 10th

### HISTORY

**First Year (Total):** 2010 (12)  
**Individual Conference Titles:** 1  
*Brenda Felipe (2011)*  
**NAIA Nat'l Championship App.:** 1  
*Brenda Felipe (2011)*  
**5k Record:** 17:15.7  
*by Jillian Skalicky on 9/18/2021*  
**6k Record:** 22:01.2  
*by Jillian Skalicky on 11/6/2021*

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Individual Awards

- 1 - Conference Runner of the Year
- 1 - Conference Freshman of the Year
- 2 - All-MIAA Selections
- 8 - All-Heartland Conference Selections
- 4 - All-Sooner Athletic Conference Selection
- 4 - Conference Runner of the Week Selections

#### Academic Awards

- 3 - USTFCCCA All-Academic Athletes
- 62 - Academic All-Conference/Honor Roll Selections
- 2 - CoSIDA Academic All-District®
- 1 - Capital One Academic All-District®
- 4 - USTFCCCA All-Academic Team
- 9 - D2ADA Academic Achievement Honorees

## SEASON REVIEW

Head coach Matt Kennedy led the Hillcats to a successful season in his second full season at the helm. Rogers State faced stiff competition in their four regular season races, putting up a strong showing in the MIAA Championships and qualified for the NCAA Regionals to cap off the season.



**(From Left to Right, Top to Bottom) Row 1:** Hunter Briggs, Brya Nyberg, Cadence Schockemoehl, Elizabeth Ostermaier, Jocelyn Turney, Hannah Anello, Madison Bradshaw, Elena Fries, Riley Coleman, Katie Byrd, Ashley Rigenbach, Jillian Skalicky, Matt Kennedy **Row 2:** Jayden Abbott, Jayden Lazzari, Brianna DeAngelis, Tori Wood, Gloria Butts, Rylee Roberts, Madison Lemons, Callie Sellers, Aubrey Campos, Sara Crosley, Sydney Krehbiel

The Hillcats opened the season with their best finish as a team at the Orville Rogers Opener in September. Freshman Jillian Skalicky paced RSU with her first collegiate win out of the gate in the 5k race. All five scoring runners finished in the top 15 with Katie Byrd finishing fifth, Tori Wood close behind in seventh and Brianna DeAngelis in 10th. Madison Bradshaw in 12th and Riley Coleman in 13th rounded out the scoring group for RSU who finished second as a team with 35 points. The Hillcats set a new school record with an average time of 18:53.6.

In the next race, Skalicky would again pace the Hillcats at the Southern Stampede as she broke the school record with a time of 17:51.7 in the 5k race, which was nearly 17 seconds faster than the previous record set by Brenda Felipe in 2012. All top five scorers for the Hillcats finished with new personal best times including Byrd, DeAngelis, Bradshaw and Coleman.

RSU went on to finish fifth at the MIAA Championships as both Skalicky and Byrd earned Honorable Mention All-MIAA honors for their performance. Skalicky finished 13th with a time of 23:00.44 in the 6k race, with Byrd finishing in 19th with a time of 23:14.90.

At the NCAA Central Regionals, Skalicky made headlines again as she led RSU to a 10th place finish and broke the 10k school record. Her time of 22:01.2 broke the previous best time of 22:15.9 set by Andi Gourd in the 2013 Heartland Conference Championships.

In the classroom, 19 Hillcats were named to the MIAA Honor Roll. In addition to the team earning USTFCCCA All-Academic Team honors, Madison Bradshaw, Riley Coleman and Jillian Skalicky earned All-Academic Athlete honors for the first time in school history.





## MATT KENNEDY

HEAD COACH

Matt Kennedy wrapped up his second full season on the Hill in 2021-22.

This season, Kennedy guided the women's cross country team to a fifth place finish in the MIAA Championships and the men to a ninth place finish. Additionally, he also coached freshman Jillian Skalicky to new top school record times in both the 5k and 6k, culminating in her earning Honorable Mention All-MIAA honors.

Kennedy joined Rogers State in December of 2019 from Oklahoma Baptist, where he had served as Head Coach for the cross country programs and Assistant Coach for the Bison track & field programs.

Kennedy, who coached the track & field program in the winter and spring of 2020 before the pandemic, entered his first year as the Hillcat cross country coach in the fall of 2020.

In a limited season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Kennedy guided the women's cross country program to a victory in his first race as the head coach, as the Hillcats claimed the title at the Lions Club Bucks Overland Classic in Mena, Arkansas.

Under Kennedy, the Hillcats also claimed a top five finish in an unofficial conference team championship event and the Hillcats also earned an invitation to the D2 Cross Country National Invitational. Rogers State women's cross country placed eighth overall in the unofficial national championship event.

Kennedy, a native of Wichita Falls, Texas, came to College Hill after spending eight and a half years with the Oklahoma Baptist program. Kennedy had been the head coach of the women's cross country program since 2014 and took over the men's cross country program in 2018.

Kennedy guided the Bison to four Great American Conference Cross Country Championships and two NCAA National Championship appearances. Kennedy's teams swept the Great American Conference Team Championships in late October of 2019, with the Women's and Men's programs winning their respective conference titles in his final season with the program. Overall, Kennedy was named Great American Conference Coach of the Year four times and swept the honors in 2019.



## JILLIAN SKALICKY

Freshman Jillian Skalicky made an immediate impact in her first season on the Hill. The Bartlesville, Okla. native led the Hillcats in all five races during in the season.

Skalicky open the season strong, capturing RSU's third ever individual event win at the Orville Rogers Opener in Dallas, Texas. Her victory was the first individual win since teammate Gloria Butts won the Lions Club Bucks Overland Classic in 2020.

At the Southern Stampede, Skalicky would led the Hillcats as she broke the record for fastest 5k time, passing Brenda Felipe's 2012 mark by nearly 17 seconds with a time of 17:51.7. She would cap off the season by breaking the 6k record at the NCAA Central Regional by passing Andi Gourd's 2013 mark with a time of 22:01.2.

Skalicky was named Honorable Mention All-MIAA for performance at the MIAA Championships by finishing the 6k race in 13th with a time of 23:00.44.





# MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY



KORY WILSON | JR.

## MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY QUICK FACTS

### COACHING STAFF

**Head Coach:** Matt Kennedy  
**Years (First):** 2 (2020)  
**Office Phone:** (918) 343-7689  
**Email:** mkennedy@rsu.edu  
**Assistant Coach:** Hunter Briggs (3rd)

### 2021 SEASON IN REVIEW

**Best Finish:** 2nd  
**MIAA:** 9th  
**NCAA Regional:** 17th

### HISTORY

**First Year (Total):** 2010 (12)  
**NCAA Division II All-Americans:** 2  
*Baylor Harvey (2016 & 2017)*  
**Team Conference Titles:** 1 (2017)  
**Individual Conference Titles:** 3  
*Baylor Harvey (2014, 2016 & 2017)*  
**NCAA National Championship App.:** 3  
*2 – Baylor Harvey (2016 & 2017)*  
*1 – Team Appearance (2017)*  
**NAIA National Championship App.:** 1  
*Caleb Clark (2010)*  
**8k Record:** 24:07.6  
*by Baylor Harvey on 9/30/2017*  
**10k Record:** 30:52.3  
*by Baylor Harvey on 11/19/2016*

### HIGHLIGHTS

**Individual Awards**  
 2 - NCAA Division II All-American  
 2 - NCAA Division II All-South Central Region  
 3 - Conference Runner of the Year  
 1 - Conference Coach of the Year  
 2 - Conference Freshman of the Year  
 15 - All-Heartland Conference Selections  
 1 - All-Sooner Athletic Conference Selection  
 11 - Conference Runner of the Week Selections

### Academic Awards

2 - CoSIDA Academic All-American®  
 52 - Academic All-Conference/Honor Roll Selections  
 3 - CoSIDA Academic All-District®  
 1 - Capital One Academic All-District®  
 3 - USTFCCCA All-Academic Team  
 5 - USTFCCCA All-Academic Individuals  
 1 - Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete  
 - D2ADA Academic Achievement Honoree

## SEASON REVIEW

Head coach Matt Kennedy led the Hillcats to a successful season in his second full season at the helm. Rogers State faced stiff competition in their three regular season races, putting up a strong showing in the MIAA Championships and qualified for the NCAA Regionals to cap off the season.



**(From Left to Right, Top to Bottom) Row 1:** Matt Kennedy, Collin McHugh, Carlos Vallejo, Tyler Melton, Jon Biersdorfer, Joseph White, Hunter Hart, Preston Turner, Kory Wilson, Ian Scott, Bolton Fortune, Julius Oheim, Hunter Briggs  
**Row 2:** Caden Goss, Blake Phillippi, Blaine Phillippi, Jackson Stinnett, Garry Rose, Kyle Ginn, Garrison Blanton, Morne Scharnick, Austin Green, Jayden Newkirk

The Hillcats opened the season with their best finish as a team at the Orville Rogers Opener in September. Julius Oheim led RSU to a second place team finish as he finished in third with a time 25:48.0, which was good for the seventh best 8k time in program history. Caden Goss finished in 12th and was followed closely by Garrison Blanton in 13th. Jackson Stinnett set a new personal best with a time of 26:29.6 in 16th place.

In the Southern Stampede the next week, Oheim once again led the Hillcats as he topped his own seventh-best 8k time with a finish in 24:44.3. Caden Goss set a new personal best time of 26:15.6. Blanton, Stinnett and Kory Wilson rounded out the scoring group for RSU.

The Hillcats finished ninth at the MIAA Championships with a total team time of 2:13.22. Wilson led RSU with a new personal best 8k time of 26:18.1. Oheim, Blanton, Goss, and Scharnick rounded out the scoring team for the Hillcats.

At the NCAA Central Regionals, RSU finished as the second-best team from Oklahoma in 17th place out of 35 teams. Garrison Blanton led the Hillcats finishing with the third-best 10k time in school history at 31:59.5. Julius Oheim finished close behind with the fourth-best time in school history at 32:02.4. Caden Goss, Jackson Stinnett, Hunter Hart, Kory Wilson and Morne Scharnick all set new personal best times.

In the classroom, 27 Hillcats were named to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll. Additionally, RSU earned USTFCCCA All-Academic Team honors.





## MATT KENNEDY

HEAD COACH

Matt Kennedy wrapped up his second full season on the Hill in 2021-22.

This season, Kennedy guided the women's cross country team to a fifth place finish in the MIAA Championships and the men to a ninth place finish. Additionally, he also coached Garrison Blanton to the fourth-best 10k time school history and Julius Oheim to the seventh best 8k time in school history.

Kennedy joined Rogers State in December of 2019 from Oklahoma Baptist, where he had served as Head Coach for the cross country programs and Assistant Coach for the Bison track & field programs.

Kennedy, who coached the track & field program in the winter and spring of 2020 before the pandemic, entered his first year as the Hillcat cross country coach in the fall of 2020.

In a limited season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Kennedy guided the men's cross country program to a victory in his first race as the head coach, as the Hillcats claimed the title at the Lions Club Bucks Overland Classic in Mena, Arkansas.

Under Kennedy, the Hillcats also claimed a top five finish in an unofficial conference team championship event and the Hillcats also had an individual, Garrison Blanton, earn an invitation to the D2 Cross Country National Invitational.

Kennedy, a native of Wichita Falls, Texas, came to College Hill after spending eight and a half years with the Oklahoma Baptist program. Kennedy had been the head coach of the women's cross country program since 2014 and took over the men's cross country program in 2018.

Kennedy guided the Bison to four Great American Conference Cross Country Championships and two NCAA National Championship appearances. Kennedy's teams swept the Great American Conference Team Championships in late October of 2019, with the Women's and Men's programs winning their respective conference titles in his final season with the program. Overall, Kennedy was named Great American Conference Coach of the Year four times and swept the honors in 2019.



## JULIUS OHEIM

Sophomore Julius Oheim made great strides in season with the Hillcats. The Halle Saale, Germany native led RSU in two races and was one of the top two runners in all five events during the season.

Oheim started the season strong as he led the Hillcats with a third place finish at the Orville Rogers Opener, and helped the team to a second place finish overall.

The sophomore set a personal best at the Southern Stampede as he led RSU with a time of 25:44.3 in the 8k race, which was good for the seventh-best time in school history. He capped off the season with another personal best in the NCAA Central Regional with a time of 32:02.4 in the 10k race, which was the fourth best time in school history.





# WOMEN'S SOCCER



KORI WATTERS | SR.

## WOMEN'S SOCCER QUICK FACTS

### COACHING STAFF

Head Coach:	Chris Jones
Years (First):	0 (2021)
Office Phone:	(918) 343-7996
Email:	cjones@rsu.edu
2021 Head Coach:	Josh Smith
Years (First):	2 (2020)
School Record (Pct.):	12-9-1 (.568)
Assistant (Year):	Luka Milicevic (1st) Kirk Emerine (2nd)

### 2020 SEASON IN REVIEW

Record:	9-8-1
Home:	6-3
Away:	2-5-1
Neutral:	1-0
MIAA (Finish):	4-7 (9th)

### HISTORY

First Year (Yrs):	2007 (15)
All Time Record:	136-113-22 (.542)
Home:	77-48-13 (.605)
Away:	54-63-7 (.464)
Neutral:	5-2-1 (.688)
Conference:	68-66-12 (.507)
- MIAA:	8-15-4 (.370)
- Heartland:	24-36-7 (.410)
- Sooner Athletic:	36-19-4 (.644)
Postseason:	8-5-2 (.600)

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Individual Awards

- 2 - NAIA All-Americans
- 3 - United Soccer Coaches All-Region
- 2 - NSCAA NAIA All-Southwest Region
- 3 - NAIA All-Region VI
- 1 - Conference Offensive Player of the Year
- 1 - Conference Newcomer of the Year
- 1 - Conference Goalkeeper of the Year
- 1 - Conference Coach of the Year
- 12 - All-MIAA Selections
- 9 - All-Heartland Selections
- 18 - All-Sooner Athletic Selections
- 3 - NAIA National Players of the Week
- 9 - Conference Offensive Player of the Week
- 18 - Conference Defensive Player of the Week
- 3 - Conference Goalkeeper of the Week

#### Academic Awards

- 60 - Academic All-Conference/Honor Roll
- 4 - CoSIDA Academic All-Americans
- 9 - CoSIDA Academic All-District
- 5 - NSCAA Scholar All-South Region
- 8 - Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athletes
- 28 - D2ADA Academic Achievement Honorees
- 1 - NSCAA Academic Team Award
- 1 - NAIA Scholar Team Award
- 1 - NAIA Scholar Team Award

## SEASON REVIEW

Rogers State women's soccer completed its first full season in 2021 under second-year head coach Josh Smith. The Hillcats increased their win total and finished with their best record since 2018. They ranked as high as No. 4 in the USC Central Region Poll during the season.



(From Left to Right, Top to Bottom) Row 1: Hailey Gunn, Maranda Kavan, Addison Anaya, Audrey Cook, Kaydree Rapp, Andrea Egerer, Brooklyn Buckminster, Reagan King, Riley Pfannenstiel, Hope Jensen, Libby Doyle, Ashton Shepperson, Emalie Clark, Brooke Amos, Mackenzie Smith Row 2: Morgan Martucci, Kori Watters, Jenna Burkham, Kaylee Bobbitt, Amaris Jasso, Tiffany Brittan, Alison Day, Cambree Towle, Savannah Harvey, Desiree Morgas, Vanessa Gonzalez, Sara Ovalle, Iris Seamster, Karina Gonzalez

The Hillcats opened the season with five-straight wins in the non-conference portion of the schedule for their best start since 2017 when they began the season 6-0. In the season opener, they battled East Central to a thrilling 2-1 win as freshman Vanessa Gonzalez found the back of the net twice in the second half to erase a 1-0 deficit.

They went on to finish the non-conference slate 5-1-1 with wins over William Jewell, Southeastern Oklahoma State, Sioux Falls, and Newman as well as a draw against Northeastern State and heartbreaking 3-2 loss to Central Oklahoma.

In the MIAA opener, RSU used a 2-0 first half lead thanks to the foot of Kori Watters and a strong, bend but don't break defensive effort to capture a 2-1 conference victory over Newman. After a dry spell during the middle of the season, RSU finished the season strong with a 3-1 record, including wins over Northeastern State and Fort Hays State, and just missed the MIAA Tournament. Kaydree Rapp earned Defender of the Week honors for anchoring the Hillcats in the 3-0 win over Newman and the 1-1 draw against Northeastern State in September.

Vanessa Gonzalez earned Second Team All-MIAA honors after tying for the team lead with seven goals, three of which were of the game winning variety, and two assists. Kori Watters and Brooke Amos earned Honorable Mention All-MIAA honors for their performances as well.

In the classroom, 13 Hillcats were named to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll.





**JOSH SMITH**  
2021 HEAD COACH

Josh Smith became the fifth head coach for the RSU Women's Soccer program after being named to the position in January of 2020.

The start to Smith's time in Claremore has been limited due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, with his first spring shutdown, followed by the traditional fall 2020 season being canceled. Despite the limitations, Smith guided the Hillcats to five wins in a non-counting extended spring season in 2021 with the NCAA and MIAA electing to allow competition, but not to hold official events or championships for the year.

After averaging just 1.00 goals per game in 2019, the Hillcats scored 15 goals in 10 games, averaging 1.50, during the spring season. Rogers State also picked up one of its biggest victories in program history with a 4-1 defeat of No. 14 Central Missouri.



**CHRIS JONES**  
HEAD COACH

Chris Jones became the sixth head coach in program history in December 2021. The Tulsa native spent the previous five years as the Assistant Women's Soccer Coach at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Jones was involved with all facets of the NCAA Division I program, spearheading the recruiting for the Islanders as the recruiting coordinator and working primarily with the goalkeepers on a day-to-day basis. In 2019, he coached the Southland Conference Goalkeeper of the Year. That same year, the Islanders tallied the most wins and best winning percentage in program history. The team earned United Soccer Coaches Team Academic Award in 2017 and 2018.

Prior to his time with the Islanders, Chris was the Head Women's Soccer Coach at Washburn for two seasons where he coached 11 MIAA All-Conference players. The Ichabods tallied a cumulative team GPA of 3.51 in the spring of 2015 and an overall GPA of 3.46. Under Jones, the Ichabods saw 22 players named to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll, two students named to the MIAA Scholar-Athlete list, and two student-athletes received the MIAA Academic Excellence Award after recording 4.00 GPAs.

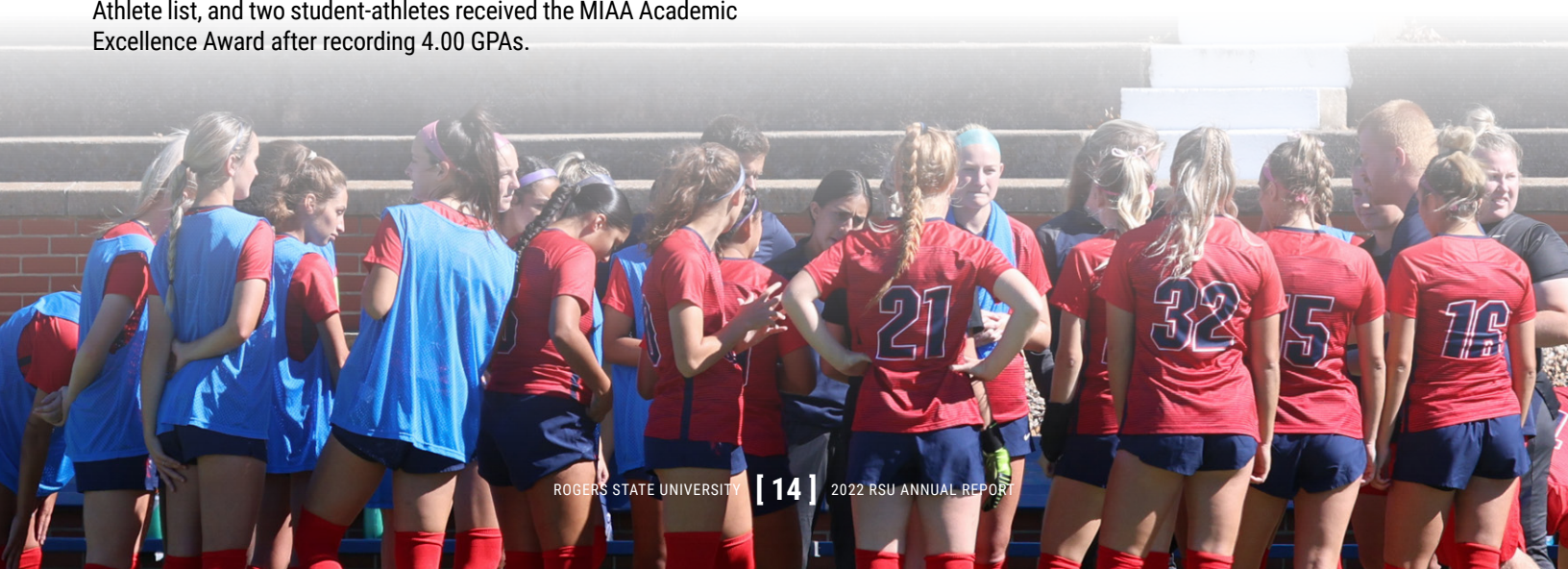


**VANESSA GONZALEZ**

Sophomore Vanessa Gonzalez had a breakout season in her second year on the Hill. As a freshman, the El Paso, Texas native only saw action in three games in the abbreviated season and scored her first career goal at Southwestern Oklahoma State in the 3-1 win.

However, the forward became an offensive juggernaut for the Hillcats in 2021, leading RSU with seven goal and two assists in 17 games with three of those goals proving to be game winners. Her best performance of the season came in the season opener as she powered the Hillcats to a 2-1 win over East Central, scoring both goals.

Gonzalez earned Second Team All-MIAA honors for her performance on the season. The sophomore finished ninth in the conference in both goals and game winning goals.





# MEN'S SOCCER



JORDAN WATSON | SR.

## MEN'S SOCCER QUICK FACTS

### COACHING STAFF

Head Coach:	Derek Larkin
Years (First):	15 (2007)
School Record (Pct.):	144-94-31 (.593)
Office Phone:	(918) 343-7995
Email:	dlarkin@rsu.edu
Assistant Coaches (Year):	Jake Simpson (2nd) Bryan Weygand (13th) Brandon Stone (2nd)

### 2021 SEASON IN REVIEW

Record:	11-5-3
Home:	6-2-1
Away:	5-2-2
Neutral:	0-1
GAC/MIAA (Finish):	7-3-2 (2nd)

### HISTORY

First Year (Yrs):	2007 (15)
All Time Record:	144-94-31 (.593)
Home:	88-38-14 (.679)
Away:	53-54-17 (.496)
Neutral:	3-2 (.600)
Conference:	84-60-21 (.573)
- GAC/MIAA:	20-8-4 (.678)
- Heartland:	29-29-9 (.500)
- Sooner Athletic:	26-18-8 (.577)
Postseason:	6-8-1 (.433)
Conference Championships:	2 (2019, 2020)

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Individual Awards

- 2 - United Soccer Coaches/D2CCA All-Americans
- 17 - United Soccer Coaches All-Region
- 15 - D2CAA All-Region
- 2 - NSCAA NAIA All-Region
- 1 - Regional Coaching Staff of the Year
- 2 - Conference Players of the Year
- 1 - Conference Newcomer of the Year
- 22 - All-GAC/MIAA Conference
- 10 - All-GAC/MIAA All-Tournament Team
- 17 - All-Heartland Conference
- 1 - Heartland All-Tournament Team
- 19 - All-Sooner Athletic Conference
- 1 - NAIA National Player of the Week
- 52 - Conference Players of the Week

#### Academic Awards

- 106 - Academic All-Conference/Honor Roll
- 2 - CoSIDA Academic All-Americans
- 7 - CoSIDA Academic All-District
- 2 - NSCAA/USC Scholar All-Americans
- 9 - NSCAA/USC Scholar All-Region
- 19 - D2ADA Academic Achievement Honorees
- 4 - Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athletes

## SEASON REVIEW

Coming off back-to-back conference championships, Rogers State men's soccer continued to uphold the standard of success they set since beginning competition in the GAC/MIAA. In the first full season since 2019, the Hillcats put together their ninth 10-plus win season and ranked inside the Top 25 all season, climbing as high as No. 9.



(From Left to Right, Top to Bottom) Row 1: Trindon Turner, Nathan Furbert, Matthew Sweetman, Zach Larkin, Donal Rahill, Joe Wainwright, Michael Turner, Luke Morgan, Frederik Koza, Grant King, David Meacham, Ruben Carrasco, Sebastian Hernandez Row 2: Matthew O'Reilly, Edgar Nino, Callum Hubble, Mateus Lara, Jaime Ponce, Kyle Easley, Paul Said, Harry Outerside, George Robinson, Zach Donohue, Jake Simpson, Derek Larkin Row 3: Brandon Stone, D'Waylan McIntosh, Kolby Bauer, Jordan Watson, Rodrigo Silva, Declan Viljoen, Blake Classen, Toss Fourkiller, Jonty Clarke, Jaxson Pitt, Josh Milla

In the season opener, RSU rolled to a dominant 5-0 victory over Rockhurst at Soldier Field. Ruben Carrasco, Harry Outerside, D'Waylan McIntosh and George Robinson all found themselves in the scoring column at the end of the night, with Carrasco sinking two goals in the match. Freshman Declan Viljoen was excellent in goal for his first match in the red and navy, turning in a clean sheet with three saves.

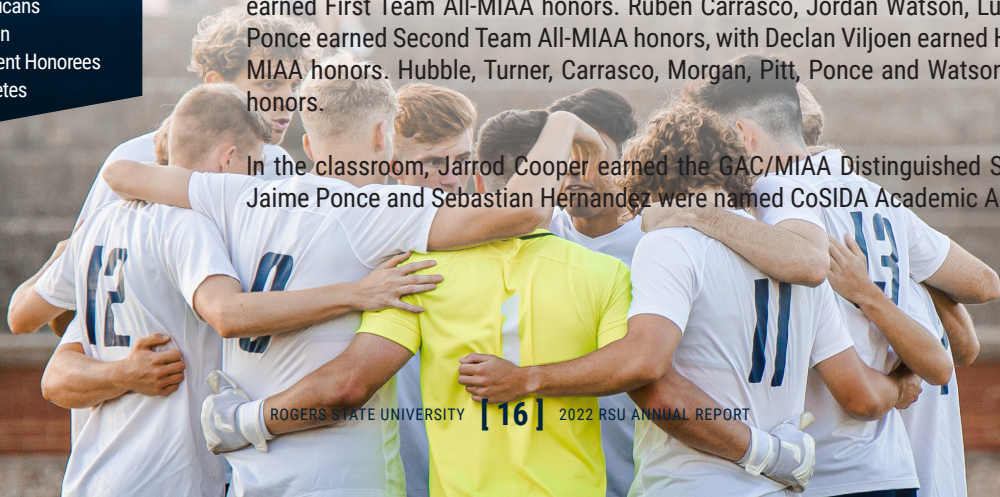
The Hillcats closed out the non-conference scheduled with a 4-2 record, the was capped off by a thrilling 1-0 double overtime win over UT Tyler. After what was a defensive stalemate for the entire match, The Hillcats finally began to break down the Patriots defense in the second overtime period. After a beautiful set of touches from D'Waylan McIntosh and Luke Morgan, Jordan Watson connected on the game winning goal in the 101st minute to give RSU the 1-0 victory.

After starting GAC/MIAA play 0-2, RSU roared to life they went on a 6-0-1 run in their next seven games, including a 2-0 win over eventual regular season champion Southern Nazarene and a 0-0 draw against eventual GAC/MIAA Tournament Champion Fort Hays State.

The Hillcats closed out the season in the GAC/MIAA Semifinal as they came up just short against Fort Hays State in a defense-heavy 1-0 match.

RSU hauled in the accolades in the postseason as Jaxson Pitt, Callum Hubble and Michael Turner earned First Team All-MIAA honors. Ruben Carrasco, Jordan Watson, Luke Morgan and Jaime Ponce earned Second Team All-MIAA honors, with Declan Viljoen earned Honorable Mention All-MIAA honors. Hubble, Turner, Carrasco, Morgan, Pitt, Ponce and Watson all earned All-Region honors.

In the classroom, Jarrod Cooper earned the GAC/MIAA Distinguished Scholar Athlete award. Jaime Ponce and Sebastian Hernandez were named CoSIDA Academic All-District.





## DEREK LARKIN

HEAD COACH

Derek Larkin wrapped up his 15th season leading the Rogers State men's soccer team after creating the program in 2007. Larkin has established a winning tradition on the Hill, leading the Hillcats to a 144-94-31 record in 15 seasons, including an undefeated season sweeping the GAC Regular Season and Tournament Championships in Spring 2021. The double came in defense of the program's first conference championship in 2019.

In 2021, Larkin guided the Hillcats back to the GAC/MIAA Tournament with an appearance in the tournament semifinal. RSU ranked in the Top 25 all season, climbing as high as No. 9. They finished the year ranked third in the GAC/MIAA with a record of 11-5-3 (7-3-2).

Over the last three seasons, Larkin has coached the program's first two NCAA All-America selections, forward Jake Simpson and goalkeeper Dillon Dean. Simpson was also named an Academic All-American. Hillcats have also earned 25 athlete of the week honors, 23 all-conference awards, two conference players of the year, and had 21 academic honor roll recipients.

During his 15 seasons with the men's soccer program, Larkin has amassed 13 seasons of .500 or better, including seven straight after this year. He also has guided the Hillcats to nine 10+ win seasons.

During his 15 years with Rogers State, Larkin has coached and guided four All-Americans, seven Conference Players of the Year (two Players, two Goalkeepers, two Newcomer, and one defender), 42 All-Region/District selections and 59 All-Conference selections. His athletes have also succeeded on the academic side, as he has coached eight Academic All-American selections, 36 Academic All-Region/District and Scholar-Athlete honorees, and had two teams earn an Academic Team distinction.

Larkin joined RSU in January 2007, tasked with being the University's first head soccer coach. Before coming to the Hill, Larkin enjoyed success as the head boys soccer coach at Bishop Kelley High School from 2004-06. He led the Comets to back-to-back state championships in 2005 and 2006.



## MICHAEL TURNER

Michael Turner has been a key part of the Hillcats and helped win conference championships in two of the last three seasons, anchoring the back line off one of the top defenses in the country.

This season, Turner was named to both the USC and D2CCA All-Region teams and was First Team All-GAC/MIAA as he led the Hillcats to a third place finish in the conference and the semifinals of the GAC/MIAA Tournament.

The Romford, England native has earned all-conference recognition each of the last three seasons, along with six Defensive Player of the Week honors. He was named first team all-region in 2019 and was recognized with the Player of Distinction Award by the United Soccer Coaches in 2020.

Over the last three seasons, Turner has led the defensive unit of the Hillcats to 21 shutouts and propelled the Hillcats to a five-game unbeaten streak during the 2021 season.





# WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



VANESSA GAJDOSOVA | SR.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL QUICK FACTS

### COACHING STAFF

Head Coach:	Kyle Bent
Years (First):	4 (2018-19)
School Record (Pct.):	35-71 (.330)
Office Phone:	(918) 343-7883
Email:	kbent@rsu.edu
Assistant Coaches (Year):	Ashlee Pitts (5th) Tysia Manuel (1st)

### 2021-22 SEASON IN REVIEW

Record:	11-17
Home:	6-8
Away:	4-8
Neutral:	1-1
MIAA (Finish):	7-15 (11th)

### HISTORY

First Year (Yrs):	2007-08 (15)
All Time Record:	205-230 (.471)
Home:	119-93 (.561)
Away:	72-122 (.371)
Neutral:	14-18 (.438)
Conference:	126-182 (.409)
- MIAA:	15-48 (.238)
- Heartland:	36-64 (.360)
- Sooner Athletic:	73-53 (.579)
Postseason:	8-12 (.400)

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Individual Awards

- 6 - NAIA All-Americans
- 3 - Conference Defensive Player of the Year
- 1 - Conference Newcomer of the Year
- 1 - NAIA National Championship All-Tournament
- 29 - All Conference Selections
- 4 - Conference All-Tournament Selections
- 9 - Conference Players of the Week

#### Academic Awards

- 58 - Academic All-Conference/Honor Roll
- 3 - D2ADA Academic Achievement Honoree
- 1 - Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete
- 1 - CoSIDA Academic All-District

## SEASON REVIEW

Rogers State women's basketball team continued to improve in their third year competing in the MIAA. In their first full season since 2019-2020, the Hillcats put together their best season since 2018-19.



(From Left to Right, Top to Bottom) Row 1: Kyle Bent, Jordan Lewis, Maisie Schroeder, Kloe Bowin, Kylee Day, Bailey Kliever, Tysia Manuel, Ashlee Pitts Row 2: Alyche Brown, Vanessa Gajdosova, Taryn Kelley, Taliyah Johnson, Briana Baker-Bruce, Julie Luna, Zoey Whiteley, Katrina Christian

Head coach Kyle Bent found success with a lineup that was a mixture of veteran players and newcomers. With this balanced roster, the Hillcats just missed out on the MIAA Tournament due to tie-breakers.

RSU opened the season with a dominant 85-63 win over MSU Moorhead in the annual MIAA/NSIC Challenge in Warrensburg, Mo. Julie Luna led the Hillcats with 17 points as she was a perfect 6-for-6 from the floor, including 3-for-3 from beyond the arch and 2-for-2 from the free throw line. Newcomer Jordan Lewis also put up 14 points, while returners Kloe Bowin and Bailey Kliever contributed 12 points apiece.

The Hillcats closed out the non-conference portion of the schedule at home with an 82-71 win over Ouachita Baptist. Kliever led the team with a double-double of 22 points and 10 rebounds, one of three during the season. Vanessa Gajdosova, Jordan Lewis and Katrina Christian also finished with double-digit points in the win.

RSU got their first MIAA win of the season in a 63-56 victory over rival Northeastern State. Kliever again led the way with 13 points in the road contest, with Luna, Christian and Lewis all adding double-digit points.

In the second half of the conference slate, the Hillcats pulled off a three game-win streak that included statement wins over Pittsburg State, Emporia State and Washburn. RSU fought for the 83-82 double-overtime, road win at Pittsburg State as Gajdosova drained the game-winning layup at the buzzer. Jordan Lewis logged a season-high 27 points in the game.

In the classroom, 13 Hillcats were named to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll.





**KYLE BENT**  
HEAD COACH

Kyle Bent wrapped up his fourth season with the Hillcats in 2021-22, leading RSU to its best season in the MIAA. His third season with the Hillcats in the new league saw the influx of a large recruiting class and the development of a couple freshman and newcomers into the rotation. Over the last three seasons, Bent has developed young talent to play a key role in his rebuilding effort.

In 2021-22, Bent led RSU to its best season in his tenure with an 11-17 record (7-15 MIAA). The Hillcats have increased their win total in each of the last three seasons under his guidance. This season was highlighted by two three-game win streaks in conference play, with upset wins over Pittsburg State, Emporia State and Washburn.

Under the guidance of Bent, 2020-21 freshman Shay Stone set the freshman block record at Rogers State with 40, despite playing just a 22 game season. She also fell one block shy of the school record with six in a game against Central Oklahoma.

2019-20 freshman Bailey Kliever became just the third Hillcat to make at least eight shots and shoot 100 percent from the field, as she went 8-for-8 in the program's first MIAA win against Lincoln.

After taking over the women's basketball program in August before the 2018-19 season, Bent and Rogers State reached the Heartland Conference Tournament as the No. 4 seed, the highest regular-season finish in the program's Heartland and NCAA history. Under Bent's guidance, the Hillcats finished the season 14-14 with a 7-7 record in conference play. Lauren Schuldt, who set multiple school records during her senior season, was also named the Heartland Conference Defensive Player of the Year.

Bent became Rogers State's fourth women's basketball head coach after spending four seasons as the head coach at Martin Methodist College in Pulaski, Tennessee. In his four seasons at MMC, Bent guided the RedHawks to four straight NAIA National Tournament appearances. Bent, with an overall record of 95-38, left Pulaski as the all-time winningest coach in MMC history. In four years at Martin Methodist, Bent coached five NAIA All-Americans and ten all-conference selections.

Bent started his coaching career by leading the University of Illinois Women's Club Basketball Team to the 2009-10 National Collegiate Club Basketball Championship, going 36-8 to lift the title.



**BAILEY KLIEWER**

Junior Bailey Kliever has been a vital offensive key for the Hillcats in each of the last three seasons, finishing as one of the top scorers each year.

This past season, the Harrisonville, Mo. native led RSU with 355 points and 152 rebounds, averaging 12.7 points and 5.4 rebounds per game. Her logged three double-doubles on the season scoring 22 points and 10 rebounds against Ouachita Baptist, 13 points and 10 rebounds at Emporia State and 16 points and 11 rebounds against Lincoln.

Kliever is etching her name in Hillcat history with name appearing all over the record book. She currently sits third in free throw percentage (.794), fourth in blocked shots (53), sixth in career points (726) and sixth in career rebounds (408).





# MEN'S BASKETBALL



DEVIN PULLUM | SR.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL QUICK FACTS

### COACHING STAFF

Head Coach:	Justin Barkley
Years (First):	12 (2010-11)
School Record (Pct.):	234-120 (.661)
Office Phone:	(918) 343-6804
Email:	jbarkley@rsu.edu
Assistant Coaches (Yr):	Tyler Wayman (6th)
	Levin Thornton (2nd)
	Connor Moore (3rd)
	Cole Kinnamon (1st)

### 2021-22 SEASON IN REVIEW

Record:	16-14
Home:	11-3
Away:	3-10
Neutral:	2-1
MIAA (Finish):	9-13 (10th)
MIAA Tournament Quarterfinals	

### HISTORY

First Year (Yrs):	2007-08 (15)
All Time Record:	307-143 (.682)
Home:	170-41 (.805)
Away:	101-84 (.546)
Neutral:	36-18 (.667)
Conference:	190-97 (.662)
- MIAA:	35-28 (.515)
- Heartland:	69-39 (.639)
- Sooner Athletic:	86-40 (.683)
Postseason:	16-14 (.533)

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Individual Awards

- 6 - NAIA All-Americans
- 3 - NABC All-District
- 2 - D2CCA All-Region
- 3 - Conference Player of the Year
- 1 - Conference Defensive Player of the Year
- 1 - Conference Newcomer of the Year
- 1 - Conference Coach of the Year
- 45 - All-Conference
- 1 - NAIA National Championship All-Tournament
- 1 - Conference Tournament MVP
- 5 - Conference All-Tournament
- 12 - Conference Player of the Week

#### Academic Awards

- 36 - Academic All-Conference/Honor Roll
- 1 - CoSIDA Academic All-America
- 3 - CoSIDA Academic All-District
- 4 - NABC Honors Court Selections
- 4 - D2ADA Academic Achievement Honorees
- 2 - NAIA Champions of Character Scholarship Honorees

## SEASON REVIEW

Rogers State men's basketball returned to form in 2021-22, as head coach Justin Barkley guided the Hillcats back to the MIAA Tournament and to the 11th winning season in his 12-year tenure.



(From Left to Right, Top to Bottom) Row 1: Cole Kinnamon, Jeff Paden, Levin Thornton, Brewster Peacock, Preston Lawrence, Ugo Obineke, Joey Saracco, Jared Pearre, Griffin Rogers, Mathew Jones, Caleb Starks, Justin Barkley, Conner Moore, Tyler Wayman Row 2: Jacob Paxson, Gerren Jackson, Marlo Fox, Josh Price, Tylan Dean, Devin Pullum, Shemar Walker, Grant Gessert, Jordan Coblin, Kofi Hamilton,

RSU got off to a hot start as they open the season on a 4-0 streak, including two wins in the MIAA/NSIC Challenge to begin the season. In the season opener, the Hillcats took a 63-54 victory over Southwest Minnesota State on the road. Senior Devin Pullum led the way with 14 points and joined by Brewster Peacock with 13 points.

The Hillcats were nearly untouchable at home as they posted an 11-3 record inside the Claremore Expo Center, including an 82-70 MIAA home opener win over Pittsburg State. Both Pullum and Tylan Dean led RSU with 19 points apiece in the win, which marked a new career-high for Dean. Peacock and Preston Lawrence also contributed 13 and 10 points, respectively.

RSU claimed major upset wins at home against Emporia State and Washburn down the home stretch. In the 82-81 overtime win over Emporia State, Pullum put up 23 points and was helped out offensively by Gerren Jackson, Jordan Coblin and Tylan Dean, who all finished with double-digit points.

Against No. 18 Central Oklahoma on Feb. 16, Brewster Peacock made history as he joined Jeylyn Sharpe as only the second player in school history to score 1,000 points and 500 rebounds.

In the MIAA Tournament, the Hillcats narrowly edged out Missouri Western in the opening round with a 52-49 victory. Pullum was once again the top scorer as he dropped 20 points in the win. RSU's season came to an end as they ran up against eventual National Champion Northwest Missouri State in the tournament quarterfinals and fell 72-50.

Devin Pullum earned Second Team All-MIAA honors with Brewster Peacock earning Honorable Mention All-MIAA honors.

In the classroom, seven Hillcats were named to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll. Jordan Coblin, Kofi Hamilton, Jared Pearre and Caleb Starks were all named to the NABC Honors Court.



**JUSTIN BARKLEY**  
HEAD COACH

Justin Barkley has been at the helm of the Rogers State men's basketball program for more than a decade, wrapping up his 12th season as the head coach in 2021-22.

Barkley's tenure with the Hillcats has been measured with excellence, leading the program to 11 winning seasons and the Hillcats first-ever NCAA Tournament in 2019-20. The Hillcats earned an at-large bid after finishing second in RSU's debut season in the MIAA.

Rogers State has hit several milestones during the MIAA era, including the highest-ranked victory in the NCAA era for the program, as the Hillcats snapped No. 11 Missouri Southern's 26-game home win streak. The win helped propel the Hillcats to their first-ever NCAA-era top 25 ranking at No. 23 two weeks later. The Hillcats have climbed as high as No. 15 in the NCAA-era under Barkley.

Under Barkley's guidance, the Hillcats finished second in the regular season standings in their first season in the MIAA in 2019-20, often referred to as the toughest league in Division II, behind only No. 1 and defending national champion Northwest Missouri State.

The Hillcats have advanced to the postseason in all six eligible years since moving to Division II, including three seasons in the MIAA and three-straight seasons in the Heartland Conference.

Barkley coached three-straight Heartland Conference Player of the Year recipients: Jeylyn Sharpe (2016-17), JC Hartzler (2015-16), and Frederico Santos (2014-15). Overall, he has also coached three All-Americans, five all-region/district honorees, three players of the year, one newcomer of the year, 26 all-conference selections and 12 conference player of the week selections.

As a player, Barkley led Inola High School to a state championship under the direction of his father in 1998. He continued his playing career at NSU, where he spurred the Redmen to a Division II National Championship in 2003.



**BREWSTER PEACOCK**

Brewster Peacock cemented himself as one of the all-time greats in Hillcat Basketball history over his five seasons on the Hill. The senior and Verdigris, Okla. native is one of the best to ever put on the navy and red.

Peacock reached rarified air on Feb. 16 as he joined Jeylyn Sharpe as the only two Hillcats to score 1,000 points and pull down 500 rebounds in a career. He also became the RSU three-point king as he broke J.C. Hartzler's record, finishing his career with 227 made shots from beyond the arch.

One of only two Hillcats to average 10+ points per game during the year, Peacock wrapped up the season at 10.0 ppg and was named Honorable Mention All-MIAA after helping RSU to the quarterfinals of the MIAA Tournament. He is also the all time leader in rebounds (532) as well as second in points (1,344) and free throw percentage (.885)

Peacock is also a key part of the program off the court as well, regularly seen doing community service projects and working with local area youth.





# SOFTBALL



★ NCAA DII SOFTBALL ★

# NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

2022

The logo is a shield-shaped emblem with a white background and a dark blue border. At the top is a small tiger head logo. Below it, the text "★ NCAA DII SOFTBALL ★" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. The words "NATIONAL CHAMPIONS" are prominently displayed in the center in a large, red, outlined font. At the bottom, a yellow circle with a black outline contains the year "2022" and a stylized softball.

ABBIE ROGERS | FR.

# SOFTBALL QUICK FACTS

## COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: Andrea Vaughan  
 Years (First): 7 (2016)  
 Record (Pct.): 230-135-1 (.630)  
 Office Phone: (918) 343-7562  
 Email: [avaughan@rsu.edu](mailto:avaughan@rsu.edu)  
 Assistant Coaches (Year): Malori Moss (6th)  
 Brent Payne (1st)  
 Danelle Day (1st)  
 Steve Scott (1st)

## 2022 SEASON IN REVIEW

Record: 58-10  
 Home: 22-1  
 Away: 12-7  
 Neutral: 24-2  
 MIAA (Finish): 20-6 (3rd)  
 NCAA Division II National Champions  
 NCAA Division II Central Region Champions  
 MIAA Tournament Champions

## HISTORY

First Year (Yrs): 2006 (17)  
 All-Time Record: 539-370-1 (.593)  
 Home: 246-122-1 (.668)  
 Away: 139-173 (.446)  
 Neutral: 154-75 (.673)  
 Conference: 175-196 (.472)  
 - MIAA: 42-16 (.724)  
 - Heartland: 62-88 (.413)  
 - Sooner Athletic: 71-92 (.436)  
 Postseason: 23-21 (.523)  
 NCAA DII National Championships: 1 (2022)  
 NCAA DII Regional Championships: 1 (2022)  
 NCAA DII Tournament Apps: 2 (2018, 2022)  
 NAIA National Tournament Apps: 1 (2013)  
 MIAA Tournament Championships: 1 (2022)  
 Heartland Tournament Championships: 1 (2018)

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Individual Awards

- 4 - NCAA All-American
- 1 - NAIA All-American
- 1 - NFCA National Pitcher of the Year
- 1 - NFCA National Coaching Staff of the Year
- 1 - Hero Sports Division II Coach of the Year
- 2 - Region Pitcher of the Year
- 10 - NCAA All-Region
- 5 - NAIA All-Region
- 3 - Conference Pitcher of the Year
- 1 - Conference Newcomer of the Year
- 2 - Conference Freshman of the Year
- 1 - Conference Coach of the Year
- 60 - All-Conference
- 9 - MIAA All-Tournament Team
- 1 - MIAA Tournament MVP
- 5 - Heartland All-Tournament Team
- 1 - Heartland Tournament MVP
- 4 - Sooner Athletic Gold Gloves
- 1 - National Pitcher of the Week
- 1 22 - Conference Pitcher of the Week
- 9 - Conference Hitter/Player of the Week

### Academic Awards

- 100 - Academic All-Conference
- 2 - CoSIDA Academic All-Americans®
- 5 - CoSIDA One Academic All-District®
- 14 - D2ADA Academic Achievement Honorees
- 4 - Daktronics-NAIA Scholar Athletes
- 1 - NAIA Scholar-Team Award

## SEASON REVIEW

Rogers State softball completed one of the most storied seasons in the history of Rogers State Athletics as they captured the 2022 NCAA Division II National Championship in dominant fashion, the first such title by any team in RSU history.



(From Left to Right, Top to Bottom) Row 1: Alexi Lane, Abbey Beasley, Courtney Hill, Alondra Natera, Kimberli Presnell, Callie Yellin, Marissa Smith, Chelsea Spain, Faren Walker, Natalie Gonzalez, Jaylan Gibson Row 2: Rebecca Bell, Rayna Rock, Elexis Watson, Makayla Bowman, Abbey Rogers, M'Kayla Hillman, Rylee DeLozier, Lana Gass, Bridgett Morales, Kaci Phelps, Jessica Watson Row 3: Nicole Price, Tailee Reding, Steve Scott, Malori Moss, Andrea Vaughan, Danelle Day, Brent Payne, Andrea Morales, Jackie Zaferes

After opening the season receiving votes in the Preseason Top 25, the Hillcats dashed out to a 17-2 record in non-conference play to start the season. Beginning with Week 1 of the NFCA Top 25, the Hillcats never sank lower than 14th and spent most of the season inside the Top 10.

Beginning on March 4 in a 1-0 win over Drury, RSU went on a 13-game win streak that included sweeps of Northeastern State, Southwestern Oklahoma State, Pittsburg State and Missouri Southern.

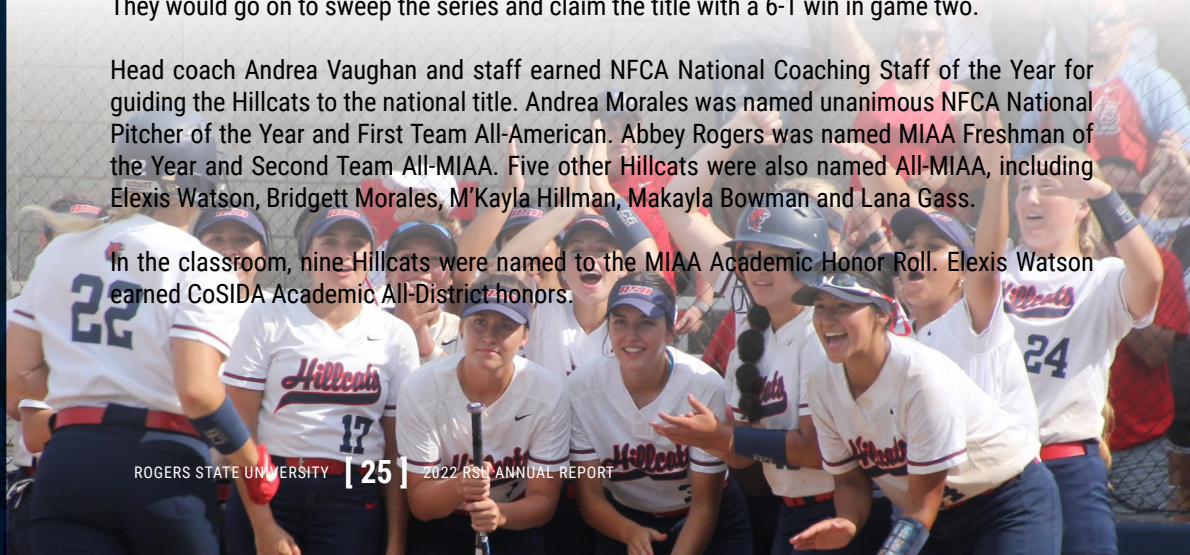
In MIAA play, the Hillcats were nearly untouchable as they swept all but four of their conference doubleheaders and were only swept once by Central Oklahoma on the road. RSU finished the regular season strong as Andrea Morales accomplished the extremely rare feat of tossing a perfect game against Fort Hays State and then no-hitting Nebraska-Kearney the next day.

In the postseason, the Hillcats continued to be almost unstoppable as they swept through the MIAA Tournament to claim their first conference title. Their only postseason loss came against Minnesota State in the regional tournament but rebounded to take down the Mavericks in a 15-inning, 8-2 affair that forced the if-necessary game that RSU won 4-0. The Hillcats would go on to sweep rival Central Oklahoma in the super regional to punch their ticket to the NCAA World Series.

In Denver, the Hillcats ran through every opponent they faced including consensus No. 1 UT Tyler. The only close game of the tournament came in the first game of the National Championship series as Callie Yellin launched a walk-off homer for the 6-5 win over Cal State Dominguez Hills. They would go on to sweep the series and claim the title with a 6-1 win in game two.

Head coach Andrea Vaughan and staff earned NFCA National Coaching Staff of the Year for guiding the Hillcats to the national title. Andrea Morales was named unanimous NFCA National Pitcher of the Year and First Team All-American. Abbey Rogers was named MIAA Freshman of the Year and Second Team All-MIAA. Five other Hillcats were also named All-MIAA, including Elexis Watson, Bridgett Morales, M'Kayla Hillman, Makayla Bowman and Lana Gass.

In the classroom, nine Hillcats were named to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll. Elexis Watson earned CoSIDA Academic All-District honors.





## ANDREA VAUGHAN

HEAD COACH

Andrea Vaughan wrapped up her seventh season as the head coach of the Rogers State softball team after being named the interim head coach a week before the 2016 season. Vaughan was officially named the fourth head coach in program history on April 25, 2016.

Vaughan accomplished a feat no other coach in RSU history has done by guiding the Hillcats to the 2022 NCAA Division II National Championship. She and her staff were recognized as the NFCA National Coaching Staff of the Year for leading the Hillcats to a 58-10 record.

In 2022, Vaughan helmed one of the most decorated rosters in school history, headlined by Andrea Morales as the unanimous NFCA National Pitcher of the Year and First Team All-American. Abbey Rogers was named MIAA Freshman of the Year and Second Team All-MIAA. Five other Hillcats were also named All-MIAA, including Elexis Watson, Bridgett Morales, M'Kayla Hillman, Makayla Bowman and Lana Gass.

Vaughan has guided the Hillcats to new heights, leading a growth in the softball program that has taken the navy and red to the national stage. Following a 2020 season that went down as one of the best in program history, only to be abruptly stopped by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hillcats raised the bar even further in 2021.

Vaughan guided RSU to its first NFCA top-25 ranking in the NCAA era with the first poll of the season in 2020. The Hillcats remained in the top 25 all season and closed the year at No. 17 before beginning 2021 at No. 18.

The Hillcats would go on to record a 5-3 record against top 25 opponents in 2021, including a win at No. 4 Texas-Tyler and then a doubleheader sweep of No. 2 Texas A&M-Commerce in arguably two of the three biggest wins in the program's NCAA-era history.

Under the guidance of Vaughan, the Hillcat offense has added plate presence to a powerful lineup, creating a mix that was unmatched in the NCAA in 2020. The Hillcats led all levels of the NCAA with 141 walks, with the next closest being Arizona State (NCAA D1) with 133. The Hillcats also set records for runs in an inning (14 at Newman) and runs in a game (21 vs Arkansas-Monticello) in 2020.

Vaughan guided the Hillcats to their first-ever Heartland Conference Tournament Championship and first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance in 2018. She was named the Heartland Conference Coach of the Year and voted the NCAA Division II National Coach of the Year by Hero Sports. Vaughan led the Hillcats to their best-ever record since transitioning to NCAA Division II with a 39-20 record, including an 18-game winning streak.



## ANDREA MORALES

Andrea Morales solidified her legacy as the greatest pitcher in RSU history as she holds every major record in Hillcat Softball history.

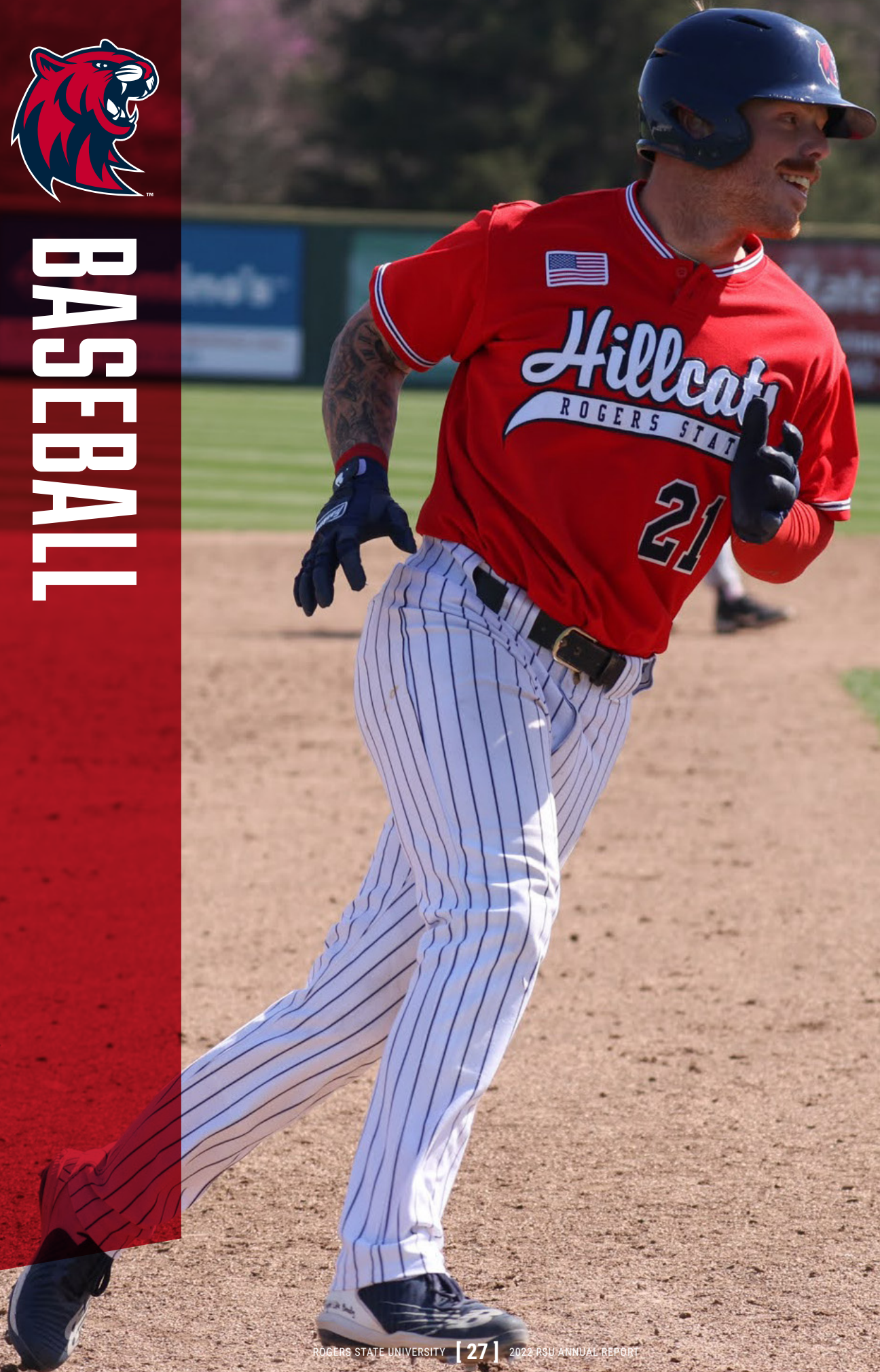
Morales was named the unanimous NFCA National Pitcher of the Year and First Team All-American as she was the catalyst behind the National Champion Hillcats and led the nation in wins (38), shutouts (13), complete games (33), and was third strikeouts (348).

Morales is the all-time winningest pitcher in RSU history, and finished her illustrious career with a 115-34 record. She owns the innings pitched (970.2) and strikeout records (1,040) at RSU. This season, she threw the first perfect game in school history on April 29 against Fort Hays State, and then turned around and held Nebraska-Kearney hitless the following day for the third no-hitter of her career, the seventh in school history.





# BASEBALL



SKYLER NELSON | SR.

# BASEBALL QUICK FACTS

## COACHING STAFF

Head Coach:	Chris Klimas
Years (First):	8 (2015)
Record (Pct.):	195-168 (.537)
Office Phone:	(918) 343-7787
Email:	cklimas@rsu.edu
Assistant Coaches (Yr):	Bob Fannin (2nd) Jeff Losornio (2nd) Dean Green (2nd)

## 2022 SEASON IN REVIEW

Record:	26-25
Home:	17-12
Away:	9-11
Neutral:	0-2
MIAA (Finish):	17-16 (7th)

## HISTORY

First Year (Yrs):	2006 (16)
All-Time Record:	476-356 (.572)
Home:	260-153 (.626)
Away:	177-174 (.505)
Neutral:	39-29 (.574)
Conference:	201-205 (.495)
- MIAA:	31-41 (.431)
- Heartland:	69-88 (.439)
- Sooner Athletic:	101-76 (.571)
Postseason:	24-22 (.522)
NCAA DII Tournament Apps:	1 (2019)
NAIA World Series Apps:	2 (2012, 2013)
Heartland Tournament Championships:	1 (2019)

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Individual Awards

- 2 - MLB First-Year Draft Picks
- 8 - All-Americans
- 18 - All-Region Selections
- 1 - Conference Player of the Year
- 1 - Conference Newcomer of the Year
- 1 - Conference Coach of the Year
- 50 - All-Conference Honors
- 13 - Conference Gold Gloves
- 3 - NAIA World Series All-Tournament
- 1 - NAIA World Series Gold Glove
- 2 - NCBWA Region Pitcher of the Week
- 1 - Conference Tournament MVP
- 6 - Conference Tournament Team
- 20 - Conference Hitter of the Week
- 15 - Conference Pitcher of the Week

### Academic Awards

- 127 - Academic All-Conference
- 1 - Capital One Academic All-District
- 1 - CoSIDA Academic All-American
- 10 - D2ADA Academic Achievement Honorees
- 4 - Daktronics-NAIA Scholar Athletes
- 6 - NABC Team Academic Excellence Award

## SEASON REVIEW

Rogers State baseball continued to succeed in the second full season in the MIAA as head coach Chris Klimas led the Hillcats to their fifth-straight 25-plus win season and second-straight appearance in the MIAA Tournament.



(From Left to Right, Top to Bottom) Row 1: Jonathan Soto, Jorge Martinez, Ethan Rivera, Carson Cheatwood, Andrew Howard, Jordan Blom, Brent Dickey, Zaccary Whisler, Marco Barrera, Gavin Mestas, Boone Lasater Row 2: Bob Fannin, Rece Parker, Skyler Nelson, Armando Navarro, Andrew McGlynn, Kyle Simms, Jerry Davis, Brett Karalius, Jordan Ewig, Octavio Sanchez, Jeff Losornio, Chris Klimas Row 3: AJ Folds, Jason Gomez, Joel Escalante, Dean Grisham, Nathan Chase, Victor Cenicerros, Jesse Holguin, Major Due, Prescott Horn, Vinny Riggio

After a slow start to the season, RSU came alive as they swept a four-game, non-conference series against Colorado Christian at the Diamond Sports Complex. The highlight of the series game in the 18-2 win in game two that saw Victor Cenicerros hit 2-for-3 at the plate with four RBI and Jesse Holguin drive in three RBI.

During a two-week stretch in March, the Hillcats went on a seven-game win streak that included series sweeps of Fort Hays State and Missouri Western as well as a thrilling, 10-inning midweek win over Missouri Southern. In the 9-7 win, down 7-6 in the bottom of the ninth, Skyler Nelson would score the game-tying run. He would later come back to the plate in the 10th inning and blast a two-run walk-off homer to claim the victory over the Lions.

The Hillcats would go on to get MIAA series wins over Emporia State, Washburn and Northwest Missouri to close out the regular season and earn a spot in the MIAA Tournament.

RSU entered the MIAA Tournament as the No. 7-seed and faced off against No. 2-seed and rival Northeastern State in a best-of-three series in the first round. The Hillcats season came to an end as they fell to the Riverhawks in the first two games of the series.

Jesse Holguin earned All-Region honors and was named First Team All-MIAA. Six other Hillcats earned All-MIAA honors including Jordan Ewig, Joel Escalante, Jonathan Soto, Octavio Sanchez, Skyler Nelson and Gavin Mestas.

In the classroom, 19 Hillcats were named to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll. RSU also earned the ABCA Team Academic Excellence Award for the fifth-straight season and sixth out of the last seven.





**CHRIS KLIMAS**  
HEAD COACH

Chris Klimas wrapped up his eighth season as the head coach of the Rogers State baseball team in 2022.

In their second year in the league, Klimas led the RSU to its second-straight appearance in the MIAA Tournament as the No. 7 seed this season.

After his first season in the MIAA came to an abrupt end due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Klimas guided the Hillcats into the MIAA postseason in his first chance, as the Hillcats went 2-2 to advance into the final four in 2021.

In 2019, Klimas guided the Hillcats to the Heartland Conference Tournament Championship and an NCAA National Tournament berth, advancing within one win of the NCAA Super Regional.

Klimas has overseen a steady rise of the baseball program back to regional and national prominence after being hired as the second head coach in program history in July 2014. Klimas has guided the Hillcats to five-consecutive 25-plus win seasons, which culminated with an NCAA-era best 36 wins in 2019 as the Hillcats claimed the Heartland Conference title in the final year of the league.

Klimas was named the Heartland Conference Coach of the Year as he led the Hillcats to their first NCAA-era postseason appearance. The Hillcats swept the Heartland Conference Tournament, including a pair of wins over the six-time defending champions of St. Edward's to win the title. In the NCAA Tournament, Klimas led the Hillcats to wins over #22 Lubbock Christian and #4 Angelo State in the opening two games, coming one win shy of the NCAA Super Regional.

The Hillcats have garnered 28 all-conference award winners, 18 all-region honors, and six All-American selections since Klimas took over the program.

A native of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, Klimas was a two-year starting catcher for Oklahoma Baptist from 1999-2001 and graduated from OBU in 2001 with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies. Before his time with the Bison, Klimas earned an Associate of Arts from Collin County CC (Texas), where he was a two-year starter, earning all-conference and all-region honors in 1999. Klimas earned a Master of Science in Secondary Education with an emphasis in Sports Administration from East Central in 2012.



**JESSE HOLGUIN**

In his first season on the Hill, junior Jesse Holguin was the driver behind the Hillcat offense. He helped guide RSU to their straight appearance in the MIAA Tournament with his high-powered slugging prowess.

The Colton, Calif. native led the team in average, hitting .357 in 207 at-bats. He also slugged a team-leading 25 extra base hits, including six home runs, while driving in 56 RBI. His best performance at the plate during the season came in a 15-14 mid-week win over Southeastern Oklahoma State as he went 4-for-6 at the plate with six RBI and two home runs.

As one of the most prolific hitters in the MIAA, Holguin earned ABCA and D2CCA All-Region honors and was named First Team All-MIAA. He also earned a spot on the MIAA Honor Roll and helped the Hillcats earn the ABCA Team Academic Excellence Award for the fifth-straight year and sixth out of the last seven.





# WOMEN'S GOLF



LYDIA SITORUS | FR.

## WOMEN'S GOLF QUICK FACTS

### COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: Whitney Hocutt  
 Years (First): 5 (2017-18)  
 Office Phone: (918) 343-7894  
 Email: whocutt@rsu.edu

### 2021-22 SEASON IN REVIEW

Head-to-Head Record: 147-29 (.835)  
 Individual Victories: 2  
 Team Victories: 6  
 MIAA Championship: 4th  
 NCAA Championships: 14th

### HISTORY

First Year: 2009-10 (.13)  
 All Time Record: 1022-537 (.656)  
 Tulsa Cup: 16-1 (.941)  
 Hillcat Classic: 42-11 (.792)  
 Conference Championships: 35-33 (.515)  
 - MIAA: 16-5 (.762)  
 - Heartland: 16-9 (.640)  
 - Sooner Athletic: 4-19 (.174)  
 Individual Tournament Victories: 10  
 Tournament Victories: 16  
 Low Round (Team): -1 (287)  
     *on 9/25/2019*  
 Low Round (Individual): -7 (65)  
     *by Jessica Green (5/3/2021)*

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Individual Awards

- 2 - WGCA All-American
- 5 - WGCA All-Region Selection
- 1 - Region Coach of the Year
- 8 - Tournament Individual Champions
- 9 - All-Conference Honors
- 2 - Conference Coach of the Year
- 1 - Conference Player of the Year
- 2 - Conference Freshman of the Year
- 14 - Conference Golfers of the Week

#### Academic Awards

- 48 - Academic All-Conference Selections
- 7 - D2ADA Academic Achievement Honoree
- 15 - WGCA All-American Scholars

## SEASON REVIEW

Rogers State women's golf continued to raise the bar for the program in 2021-22, as head coach Whitney Hocutt guided a mix of veterans and newcomers to the team's second-straight appearance in the NCAA National Championships.



(From Left to Right, Top to Bottom) Row 1: Haley Bundy, Ellen Loving, Jaelynn Unger, Raquel Flores, Jessica Osden, Whitney Hocutt Row 2: Marleda Ayal, Jessica Green, Paulina Flores, Kristin Gudmundsdottir, Lydia Sitorus

The Hillcats started the season running as they opened the campaign with a second place finish in the NSU Women's Classic. They proceeded to rack up two tournament wins in the following weeks, including freshman Lydia Sitorus claiming her first individual tournament win at the Golden Bear Classic.

RSU closed out the fall portion of the schedule hosting the first Tulsa Cup at Meadowbrook Country Club. The Hillcats would eventually finish second in the tournament, with Raquel Flores leading the way with a seventh-place finish of 11-over-par.

The Hillcats really found their stride in the spring as they won four of the five tournaments they played in and finished fourth in the tournament they didn't win. The highlight of this stretch came as Marelda Ayal battled teammate Raquel Flores in a playoff for the Hillcat Classic individual title, with Ayal taking the win on the second playoff hole with a long par putt.

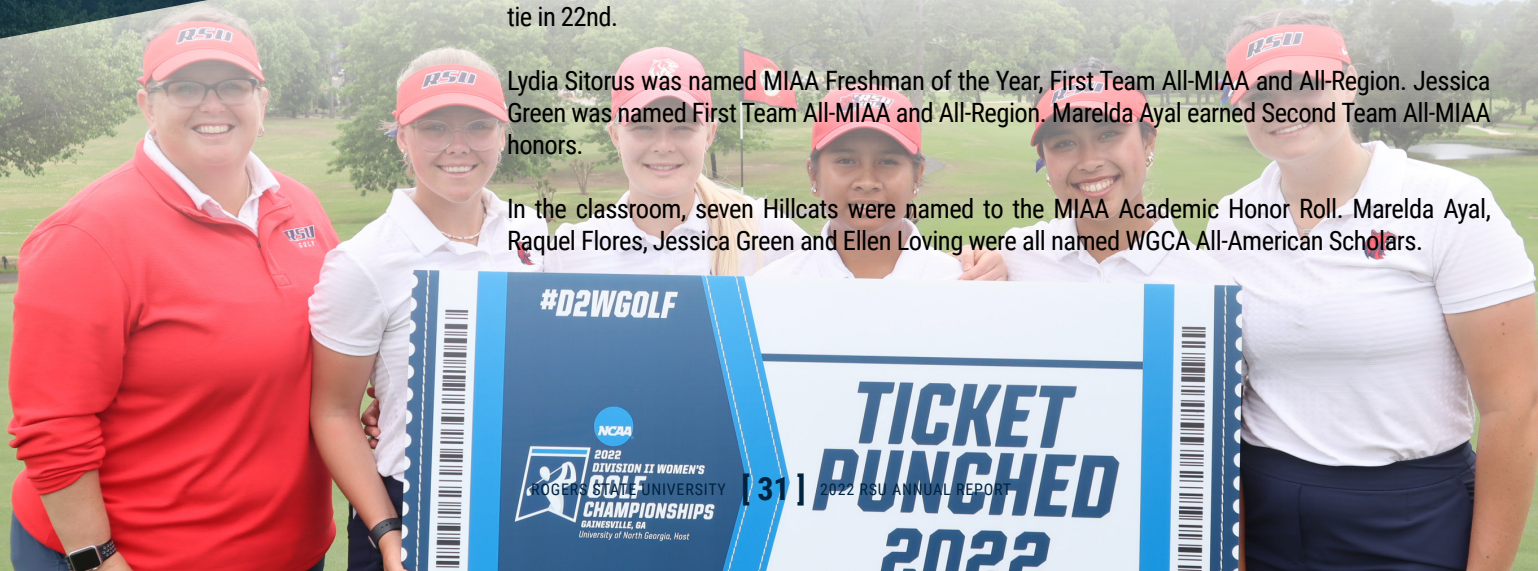
RSU had a successful showing in the MIAA Championships as they finished in fourth place. Senior Jessica Green led the team as she finished tied for third.

In the NCAA Central Regional, the Hillcats played well and finished third to punch their ticket to the NCAA National Championships for the second-straight year. Jaelynn Unger led RSU as she finished in a tie for eighth, with Marelda Ayal close behind in a tie for 10th.

In the NCAA National Championships at the Chattahoochee Country Club in Gainesville, Ga., the Hillcats would finished in 14th place out of 18 teams. Jessica Green led the team with a four-way tie in 22nd.

Lydia Sitorus was named MIAA Freshman of the Year, First Team All-MIAA and All-Region. Jessica Green was named First Team All-MIAA and All-Region. Marelda Ayal earned Second Team All-MIAA honors.

In the classroom, seven Hillcats were named to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll. Marelda Ayal, Raquel Flores, Jessica Green and Ellen Loving were all named WGCA All-American Scholars.





## WHITNEY HOCUTT HEAD COACH

Whitney Hocutt wrapped up her fifth season as the head women's golf coach for her alma mater at Rogers State in 2021-22. Hocutt was a student-athlete and assistant coach previously for the RSU golf program.

Under Hocutt's direction, the Hillcats have set program and individual records over the last four seasons.

The Hillcats continued to set new standards in 2021-22, with Hocutt leading RSU back to the NCAA National Championships for the second-straight year.

This season saw the Hillcats capture six team victories, including a pair of individual victories. Hocutt coached Jessica Green to All-Region honors and her second MIAA Golfer of the Year award. Additionally, she helped guide Lydia Sitorus to All-Region and MIAA Freshman of the Year honors.

Rogers State reached new heights in 2020-21, as Hocutt guided the Hillcats to their first trip to the NCAA Regionals, where they finished in the top three to earn a spot in the NCAA National Championships in Dearborn, Michigan.

In 2020-21, Hocutt led the Hillcats to a pair of team victories, as well as two individual titles. Junior Jessica Green was named an All-American and also won the NCAA Regional Individual Championship.

Under Hocutt, the Hillcats were on a roll in 2019-20 as well, with a pair of victories, a second, and a third-place finish to lead the results in seven tournaments. The Hillcats finished in the top half of the field in every event.

Hocutt was recognized off the golf course in 2019 as well, named to the Claremore Progress 40 Under Forty list in August for her work with RSU and in the Claremore community.

Hocutt joined the coaching staff after a four-year career with the Hillcats. She was a three-time selection as the most valuable player for the women's golf team and the Hillcat Award recipient from the athletic department as a senior.

Hocutt earned a bachelor's degree from Rogers State in medical/molecular biology in 2014. She completed her master's degree in education/sports administration from East Central in 2015.



## JESSICA GREEN

Senior Jessica Green capped off her illustrious career on the Hill by leading RSU back to the NCAA National Championships for the second-straight season.

Green, a native of Cape Town, South Africa, was named to the WGCA All-Central Region team after logging six top 10 finishes, including five in the top 3.

Green was named the MIAA Player of the Year for the second-straight season. She finished third in the MIAA Championships, and help the Hillcats to a third place finish in the NCAA Central Regional to punch their ticket to the NCAA National Championship.

Green also excelled in the classroom, being named an MIAA Scholar Athlete and a WGCA All-American Scholar.





# MEN'S GOLF



AIDAN GAVEY | SR.

## MEN'S GOLF QUICK FACTS

### COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: Steve Brown  
 Years (First): 5 (2017-18)  
 Office Phone: (918) 343-7888  
 Email: sbrown@rsu.edu

### 2021-22 SEASON IN REVIEW

Head-to-Head Record: 155-22 (.876)  
 Individual Victories: 3  
 Team Victories: 8  
 MIAA Championship: 1st  
 NCAA Regional: 12th  
 MIAA Regular Season Champions  
 MIAA Tournament Champions

### HISTORY

First Year: 2009-10 (13)  
 All Time Record: 917-650 (.585)  
 Tulsa Cup: 19-0 (1.000)  
 Hillcat Classic: 24-2 (.923)  
 Conference Championships: 43-33 (.566)  
 - MIAA: 16-2 (.889)  
 - Heartland: 11-14 (.440)  
 - Sooner Athletic: 16-17 (.485)  
 Conference Championships: 2 (2018, 2022)  
 Individual Tournament Victories: 13  
 Team Tournament Victories: 22  
 Low Round (Team): -10 (278)  
 on 4/22/2018  
 Low Round (Individual): -7 (65)  
 by Luke Palmowski on 4/19/2021

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Individual Awards

- 3 - GCAA PING All-American
- 6 - GCAA PING All-Region Selections
- 3 - Conference Golfer of the Year
- 2 - Conference Coach of the Year
- 3 - Conference Freshman of the Year
- 12 - All-Conference Selections
- 10 - Conference All-Tournament Team
- 15 - Conference Golfers of the Week

#### Academic Awards

- 54 - Academic All-Conference Selections
- 4 - GCAA All-America Scholars
- 3 - D2ADA Academic Achievement Honorees

## SEASON REVIEW

Rogers State men's golf set new records and raised the bar of excellence in their history-making 2021-22 season, as head coach Steve Brown guided the Hillcats to their first MIAA Regular Season and Tournament Championships and first team appearance in the NCAA Regionals for the first time since 2018.



(From Left to Right, Back to Front) Row 1: Carson Stookey, William Barnak, Ty Nicar, Gonzalo Chaves, Luke Palmowski, Niko Coccio, Steve Brown Row 2: Daniel Robles, Bradley Wright, Elliot Han-Montremal, Tyler Cornwell, Logan Meehan, Aidan Gavey

The Hillcats started the season off strong as they racked up three top five finishes in their first three tournaments of the season. RSU finished fourth at the Washburn Invitational to begin the season and followed that up with a third place finish at the MSSU Fall Invitational and fifth place finish at the Motor City Invite.

RSU kicked things into another gear at the Fort Hays Tiger Classic as they began eight-straight tournament wins. Senior Luke Palmowski led the Hillcats with a second place finish after shooting +4.

They closed out the fall hosting the first Tulsa Cup at the Club at Indian Springs and winning the tournament. Palmowski once again led the squad with a second place finish after carding back-to-back rounds of 68 to close out the tournament.

The Spring Bulldog Clash began a remarkable stretch for Palmowski that saw him take four-straight first place finishes and three individual wins, including the Hardscrabble Invitational, Hillcat Classic and the NSIC Preview.

The Hillcats carried their unstoppable momentum in the MIAA Tournament where they won the title by 16 strokes over second place. Aidan Gavey led the Hillcats as he finished in second place after shooting +1 for tournament with eight birdies.

RSU's season came to a close as they finished 12th out of 20 teams in the NCAA Midwest/Central Regional.

The Hillcats racked up the postseason accolades as Luke Palmowski was named Second Team All-American, MIAA Player of the Year and First Team All-MIAA. Aidan Gavey was named All-Region and First Team All-MIAA. Daniel Robles was named MIAA Freshman of the Year and First Team All-MIAA. Gonzalo Chaves was named First Team All-MIAA. Steve Brown earned MIAA Coach of the Year.

In the classroom, eight Hillcats were named to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll. Ty Nicar was named a Srixon/Cleveland Golf All-American Scholar.





## STEVE BROWN

HEAD COACH

Steve Brown wrapped up his fifth season as the Rogers State head men's golf coach in 2021-22, the most successful year for the program in the NCAA era.

Brown guided the Hillcats to their first MIAA Regular Season and Tournament Championships after winning eight-straight tournaments, including the MIAA Tournament. They capped off the season with their first-team appearance in the NCAA Regionals since 2017-18.

Brown coached an award-winning team headlined by Luke Palmowski, who took home his second All-American honor and MIAA Player of the Year. Daniel Robles earned MIAA Freshman of the Year and First Team All-MIAA Honors. Aidan Gavey was named All-Region and First Team All-MIAA. Gonzalo Chaves also earned First Team All-MIAA honors.

In 2020-21, Brown led RSU to five finishes in the top three, as well as leading individual Luke Palmowski to a MIAA Championships Individual title and a trip to the NCAA National Championships.

Palmowski went on to claim two individual victories en route to an All-American season for the navy and red.

In 2020, Brown guided the Hillcats to a victory and two runner-up finishes in three tournaments before the season ended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In early February, the Hillcats claimed a team victory at the Jack Brown Memorial in Laredo, Texas. Rogers State took second at the Battle at Hilton Head and finished as runners up at the LCU Chap Classic in Lubbock, Texas. The Hillcats were averaging 1.1 strokes over par per round in 2020, one of the top-scoring averages in Division II.

Brown made an immediate splash with the Hillcats, guiding the men's golf program to its first-ever Heartland Conference championship in 2018 and an appearance in the NCAA Division II Men's Golf Championship.

The Hillcats captured the league title with a school-record 54-hole tournament score of 845 to win by one shot. RSU advanced to the 2018 NCAA Division II Men's Golf Regional Championship for the first time since becoming full members of NCAA Division II.

Brown earned a bachelor's degree in social science from Chico State and played one season for the Wildcats. Brown also played two seasons of collegiate golf at Butte College before his move to Chico State.



## LUKE PALMOWSKI

Senior Luke Palmowski finished one of the most decorated careers in school history, earning his second All-American honor after leading the Hillcats to their first MIAA Regular Season and Tournament Championships as well as their first team appearance in the NCAA Regionals since 2018.

Palmowski, a native of Rotherham, England, led the Hillcats with three tournament wins and four first place finishes, with six top 3 finishes. He was named MIAA Golfer of the Week four times during the season, including three-straight weeks to close out the regular season.

Palmowski was named the MIAA Golfer of the Year and First Team All-MIAA as helped the Hillcats claim eight-straight tournament wins, including the MIAA Tournament.





# WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD



BRIANNA DEANGELIS | JR.

## WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD QUICK FACTS

### COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: Matt Kennedy  
 Years (First): 3 (2019-20)  
 Office Phone: (918) 343-7689  
 Email: mkennedy@rsu.edu  
 Assistant Coach: Hunter Briggs (3rd)

### 2021-22 SEASON IN REVIEW

MIAA Indoor: 12th  
 MIAA Outdoor: 12th  
 New School Records: 12 (6 indoor, 6 outdoor)

### HISTORY

First Year: 2014-15 (8th)  
 Individual Outdoor Conference Titles: 10

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Individual Awards

51 - All-Great American Conference  
 1 - Conference Runner of the Week

#### Academic Awards

55 - Academic All-Conference/Honor Roll  
 3 - CoSIDA Academic All-District  
 2 - USTFCCA All-Academic Team  
 2 - D2ADA Academic Achievement Honorees

## SEASON REVIEW

Rogers State women's track and field rewrote the record book in 2021-2022, the third season under head coach Matt Kennedy. In total, the Hillcats broke 12 different records, nine individual records and three relay records, during the season.



(From Left to Right, Top to Bottom) Row 1: Hunter Briggs, Brya Nyberg, Cadence Schockemoehl, Elizabeth Ostermaier, Jocelyn Turney, Hannah Anello, Madison Bradshaw, Elena Fries, Riley Coleman, Katie Byrd, Ashley Riggenbach, Jillian Skalicky, Matt Kennedy Row 2: Jayden Abbott, Jayden Lazzari, Brianna DeAngelis, Tori Wood, Gloria Butts, Rylee Roberts, Madison Lemons, Callie Sellers, Aubery Campos, Sara Crosley, Sydney Krehbiel

At the Rumble in the Jungle, freshman Katie Byrd broke her first of five individual records as she set a new top time of 1:26.21 in the 600 yard run, surpassing the record set by teammate Jocelyn Turney in the season-opening Crimson and Gold Invitational.

The Hillcats would break two more records at the Gorilla Classic. Byrd broke the record for the fastest mile with a time of 5:02.32, besting the previous time set by Jillian Skalicky earlier in the indoor season. Brianna DeAngelis toppled the 3,000 meter record with a time of 10:21.42, surpassing the previous best time set by Madison Bradshaw earlier in the season.

RSU saw great success at the MIAA Indoor Championships, as three individual records and one relay record fell. Katie Byrd set new top times in the 800 meter, Mile and 3,000 meter. The team of Byrd, Jayden Lazzari, Jocelyn Turney and Tori Wood set the new top time of 12:22.41 in the Distance Medley Relay, which was previously held by Byrd, Riley Coleman, Turney and DeAngelis earlier this season.

The outdoor season got off to a bang as Riley Coleman broke the 3,000 meter steeplechase record with a time of 11:52.25, besting the previous record of 12:25.49 set by Christi Dougherty in 2016.

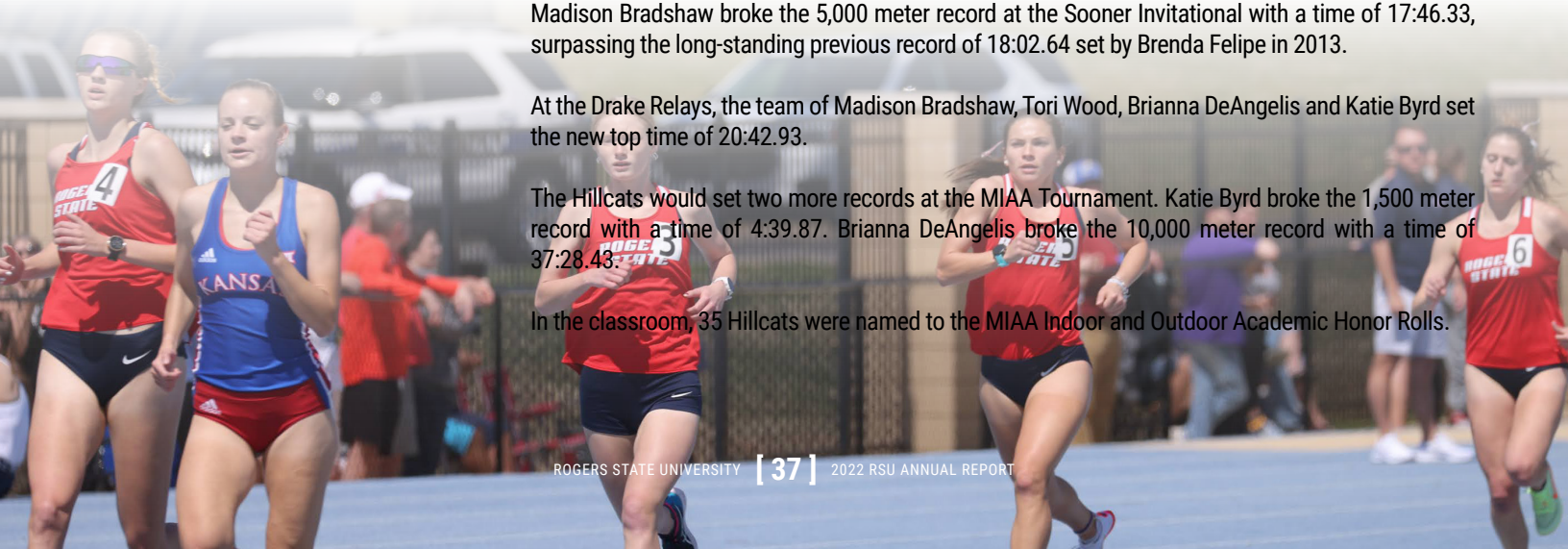
At the SCU Paul Parent Invitational, the team of Madison Bradshaw, Tori Wood, Jocelyn Turney and Riley Coleman set the record in the 4x800 relay with a time of 9:50.95, surpassing the previous best time of 9:57.63 set by Hannah Anello, Ashley Riggenbach, Brya Nyberg and Tayler Lee set in 2021.

Madison Bradshaw broke the 5,000 meter record at the Sooner Invitational with a time of 17:46.33, surpassing the long-standing previous record of 18:02.64 set by Brenda Felipe in 2013.

At the Drake Relays, the team of Madison Bradshaw, Tori Wood, Brianna DeAngelis and Katie Byrd set the new top time of 20:42.93.

The Hillcats would set two more records at the MIAA Tournament. Katie Byrd broke the 1,500 meter record with a time of 4:39.87. Brianna DeAngelis broke the 10,000 meter record with a time of 37:28.43.

In the classroom, 35 Hillcats were named to the MIAA Indoor and Outdoor Academic Honor Rolls.





## MATT KENNEDY

HEAD COACH

Matt Kennedy wrapped up his third full season on the Hill in 2021-22.

This season, Kennedy guided the women's track and field program to a record-breaking season with nine individual records falling and three relay top times being set. Kennedy coached freshman Katie Byrd to setting five of those new individual records and two of the relay records.

Kennedy joined Rogers State in December of 2019 from Oklahoma Baptist, where he had served as Head Coach for the cross country programs and Assistant Coach for the Bison track & field programs.

Taking over the Track program immediately before the indoor season, Kennedy guided the Hillcat Women to three different school records, including the 600-meter run, the 3k, and the 5k. Both Katelyn Alexander and Brianna DeAngelis broke the 5k record, with DeAngelis setting it first before Alexander topped the mark at the conference championships.

The 2020 outdoor season was canceled for the women before they could compete, due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic forcing the NCAA to cancel the season.

In 2020-21, Kennedy completed his first full track season at the helm of the Hillcats and his development of the navy and red continued to show as three indoor school records were set, along with four outdoor school records on the women's side. Six different Hillcats contributed to the seven women's school records on the year.

Kennedy, a native of Wichita Falls, Texas, came to College Hill after spending eight and a half years with the Oklahoma Baptist program. Kennedy had been the head coach of the women's cross country program since 2014 and took over the men's cross country program in 2018.

Kennedy guided the Bison to four Great American Conference Cross Country Championships and two NCAA National Championship appearances. Kennedy's teams swept the Great American Conference Team Championships in late October of 2019, with the Women's and Men's programs winning their respective conference titles in his final season with the program. He was named the GAC Coach of the Year in 2019.



## KATIE BYRD

Freshman Katie Byrd made a major impact during her freshman year on the Hill. She practically rewrote the indoor track record book setting new top times in five different events.

At the Rumble in the Jungle, Byrd broke her first record a time of 1:26.21 in the 600 yard run. She went on to claim four more record at the MIAA Indoor Championships with new top times in the 800 meter, Mile, 3,000 meter and was part of the team that broke the Distance Medley Relay record.

The Moore, Okla. native continued her dominance in the outdoor season as she toppled two more school records. At the Drake Relays in April, Byrd ran the anchor leg of the 4x1,600 relay that set a new record time of 20:42.93. At the MIAA Outdoor Championships, she broke 1,500 meter record with a time of 4:39.87.





# MEN'S TRACK & FIELD



JACKSON STINNETT | JR.

## MEN'S TRACK & FIELD QUICK FACTS

### COACHING STAFF

Head Coach:	Matt Kennedy
Years (First):	2 (2019-20)
Office Phone:	(918) 343-7689
Email:	mkennedy@rsu.edu
Assistant Coach:	Hunter Briggs (2nd)

### 2019-20 SEASON IN REVIEW

MIAA Indoor:	11th
MIAA Outdoor:	11th
New School Records:	7 (5 Indoor, 2 outdoor)

### HISTORY

First Year:	2015-16 (7th)
NCAA Division II All-Americans:	7
Alfred Thomas - 2019, 200 meters (indoor)	
Alfred Thomas - 2019, 100 meters	
Alfred Thomas - 2019, 200 meters	
Ricky Bell - 2018, 60 meters (indoor)	
Baylor Harvey - 2017, 5,000 meters	
Quintin Powell - 2017, 400 meters	
Quintin Powell, Ricky Bell, JaQuan Johnson and DJ Lilley - 2017, 4x100 meter relay	
Individual Indoor Conference Titles:	3
Individual Outdoor Conference Titles:	10

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Individual Awards

- 7 - NCAA Division II All-Americans
- 56 - All-Great American Conference
- 10 - USTFCCA All-South Central Region
- 4 - Conference Track Athlete of the Week
- 1 - Conference Field Athlete of the Week

#### Academic Awards

- 2 - CoSIDA Academic All-Americans
- 53 - Academic All-Conference/Honor Roll
- 3 - CoSIDA Academic All-District

## SEASON REVIEW

Rogers State men's track and field made great strides in 2021-2022, the third season under head coach Matt Kennedy. In total, the Hillcats broke five individual records and two relay records during the season.



(From Left to Right, Top to Bottom) Row 1: Matt Kennedy, Collin McHugh, Carlos Vallejo, Tyler Melton, Jon Biersdorfer, Joseph White, Hunter Hart, Preston Turner, Kory Wilson, Ian Scott, Bolton Fortune, Julius Oheim, Hunter Briggs  
Row 2: Caden Goss, Blake Phillippi, Blaine Phillippi, Jackson Stinnett, Garry Rose, Kyle Ginn, Garrison Blanton, Morne Scharnick, Austin Green, Jayden Newkirk

At the Rumble in the Jungle during the indoor season, Jon Biersdorfer broke the 600 yard record with a new top time of 1:15.76, besting the previous record of 1:16.53 set by Carlos Vallejo in 2021.

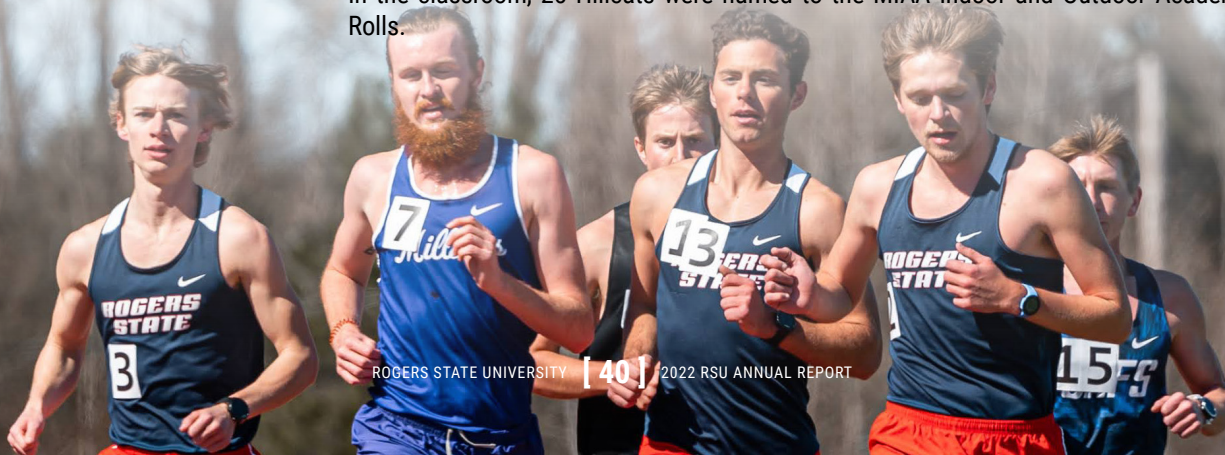
Biersdorfer would go on to break the 800 meter record at the Gorilla Classic with a time of 1:56.37, surpassing Vallejo's 2021 time of 1:56.67.

The Hillcats would break three records at the MIAA Indoor Track and Field Championships. In the 5,000 meter, Julius Oheim set a new top time of 14:56.62 that passed the previous record of 15:02.90 set by Nick Williams in 2020. Carlos Vallejo ran a new fastest mile with a time of 4:21.59, edging out the previous best time of 4:21.69 set by Jackson Stinnett earlier in the season. Finally, the team of Vallejo, Garry Rose, Biersdorfer and Jackson Stinnett broke the distance medley relay record with a time of 10:18.38, besting their own record of 10:22.15 set earlier in the season.

In the outdoor season, Carlos Vallejo broke the 800 meter record with a time of 1:54.86, which surpassed his own previous best time of 1:56.22 that he set in 2021.

At the Drake Relays, the team of Jon Biersdorfer, Jackson Stinnett, Hunter Hart and Carlos Vallejo finished the 4x800 relay with a new record time of 7:55.41 even after Biersdorfer was tripped and fell in the leadoff leg. This time surpasses the previous record of 8:02.89 set earlier this season by Biersdorfer, Collin McHugh, Preston Turner and Vallejo.

In the classroom, 25 Hillcats were named to the MIAA Indoor and Outdoor Academic Honor Rolls.





**MATT KENNEDY**  
HEAD COACH

Matt Kennedy wrapped up his third full season on the Hill in 2021-22.

This season, Kennedy guided the men's track and field program to a record-breaking season with five individual records falling and two relay top times being set. Kennedy coached Jon Biersdorfer and Carlos Vallejo to setting two of those new individual records apiece and both combining for the new relay records.

Kennedy joined Rogers State in December of 2019 from Oklahoma Baptist, where he had served as Head Coach for the cross country programs and Assistant Coach for the Bison track & field programs.

Taking over the Track program immediately before the indoor season, Kennedy guided the Hillcats to five indoor school records, including the 600 and 800-meter runs, the mile, the 5k, and the distance medley relay.

Under Kennedy's guidance, Nick Williams ran the fifth-fastest time in Division II in the 3000-meter Steeplechase before the COVID-19 pandemic canceled the outdoor season.

In 2020-21, Kennedy completed his first full track season at the helm of the Hillcat men and his development of the navy and red continued to show as two indoor school records were set, along with four outdoor school records. Five different Hillcats contributed to the six men's school records on the year.

Kennedy, a native of Wichita Falls, Texas, came to College Hill after spending eight and a half years with the Oklahoma Baptist program. Kennedy had been the head coach of the women's cross country program since 2014 and took over the men's cross country program in 2018.

Kennedy guided the Bison to four Great American Conference Cross Country Championships and two NCAA National Championship appearances. Kennedy's teams swept the Great American Conference Team Championships in late October of 2019, with the Women's and Men's programs winning their respective conference titles in his final season with the program. He was named the GAC Coach of the Year in 2019.



**JON BIERSDORFER**

Sophomore Jon Biersdorfer made great strides in his second year on the Hill, setting four new schools record during the 2021-22 season.

At the Rumble in the Jungle, the Bixby, Okla. native broke the 600 yard record with a time of 1:15.76. At the Gorilla Classic in the February, he set a new top time of 1:56.37 in the 800 meter run. He also ran the third leg of the Distance Medley Relay team that set a record time of 10:18.38 at the MIAA Indoor Championships.

In the outdoor season, Biersdorfer overcame adversity as he was part of the new 4x800 meter relay record time of 7:55.41, even as he was tripped and fell during the leadoff leg of the race.





# CHEER & DANCE



CAMDYN ELLIS | SR.



MORIAH RAKE | SR.

## CHEER QUICK FACTS



### COACHING STAFF

Head Coach (Yrs.): Titus Massey (5th)  
 Office Phone: (918) 343-7782  
 Email: tmassey@rsu.edu

## DANCE QUICK FACTS



### COACHING STAFF

Head Coach (Yrs.): Amy Alt (5th)  
 Office Phone: (918) 343-7789  
 Email: aalt@rsu.edu

## CHEER SQUAD



(From Left to Right, Top to Bottom) Row 1: Juan Paulo Ortiz-Torres, Kaiya Bemo, Kacey Holt, Alexi Hastings, Jacqueline McKinney, Kelsey McElhaney Row 2: Sydney Callender, Alexa Herrick, Phallen Clark, Jaden Jones, Bobby Case Row 3: Keeley Bagby, Annaston Wiseley, Camdyn Ellis, Paige Leatherman, Cilicia Stokes, Shayna Sanders

## DANCE TEAM



(From Left to Right, Top to Bottom) Row 1: Makenzie Foutch, Bailee Bilyeu, Bianca House, Moriah Rake, Sami Pickerill, Kendall Fudge, Lauren fisher Row 2: Summer Tate, Avery Taylor, Gracie Roe, McKenna Mitchell, Teah Ellard, Ryanne Wolff





## **ROGERS STATE ACCEPTS FULL MEMBERSHIP TO MIAA**

After a vote by the league's presidents, Rogers State University has accepted an offer of full membership to the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) after holding Associate Member status since joining at the start of the 2019-2020 academic year.

"Today is a historic day for Rogers State University as we accept full membership into the MIAA," Dr. Larry Rice, university president, said. "The MIAA is the preeminent athletic conference in NCAA Division II and full membership for RSU not only enhances the standing of our athletic teams, but the reputation of the University as well. I am proud of the work of our athletic staff and coaches, along with the efforts of our student-athletes, in achieving full membership. We are grateful to the other league members who demonstrated confidence in our ability to add new chapters to its history of excellence."

Since joining the MIAA, RSU has made an impact in the league claiming two team conference titles (2022 Men's Golf, 2022 Softball) and one individual conference title (Luke Palmowski, 2021 Men's Golf) as well as competing in 25 conference championships. Additionally, the Hillcats have represented the MIAA well on the national stage winning the 2022 NCAA Division II Softball National Championship and competing in the 2021 and 2022 NCAA Division II Women's Golf National Championships and the 2021 NCAA Division II Men's Golf National Championships. RSU men's basketball also earned an at-large bid to the 2020 NCAA Tournament before the event was canceled due to COVID-19. "We are excited to continue our relationship with the top

conference in NCAA Division II after being extended an offer for full membership today," said Dr. Chris Ratcliff, Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics. "As I said in 2018 when it was announced we would be joining the league, the MIAA's reputation for championship-caliber athletic programs, emphasis on academic excellence and a commitment to community service perfectly mirror the traits we strive to uphold in our vision for Hillcat Athletics. Thank you to our fellow members for displaying their confidence in us to add value to the league and help continue to build on this next chapter of excellence in its storied history."

In the classroom, the Hillcats have also made great strides to uphold the MIAA's high standards for academic excellence. Since Fall 2019, RSU has placed 321 student-athletes on the MIAA Academic Honor Roll in their respective sports. To be recognized on the Academic Honor Roll, a student-athlete must have a grade point average used by the institution for purposes of NCAA academic certification of 3.00 at the certifying member institution. Additionally, 103 Hillcat student-athletes and nine teams have earned regional and national academic honors during that same time period.

The MIAA is a 14-school, NCAA Division II athletic conference featuring public and private institutions in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma. The conference includes area schools such as Northeastern State, Central Oklahoma, Pittsburg State and Missouri Southern. Other MIAA schools include Central Missouri, Emporia State, Fort Hays State, Lincoln, Missouri Western, Nebraska-Kearney, Newman, Northwest Missouri, and Washburn.



## MORALES NAMED NATIONAL PITCHER OF THE YEAR



### MORALES NAMED SCHUTT SPORTS/NFCA NATIONAL PITCHER OF THE YEAR

Rogers State softball's Andrea Morales has been named the Schutt Sports/National Fastpitch Coaches Association Division II

National Pitcher of the Year by a unanimous vote, the organization announced on Thursday. She is the first player in program history to win this award.

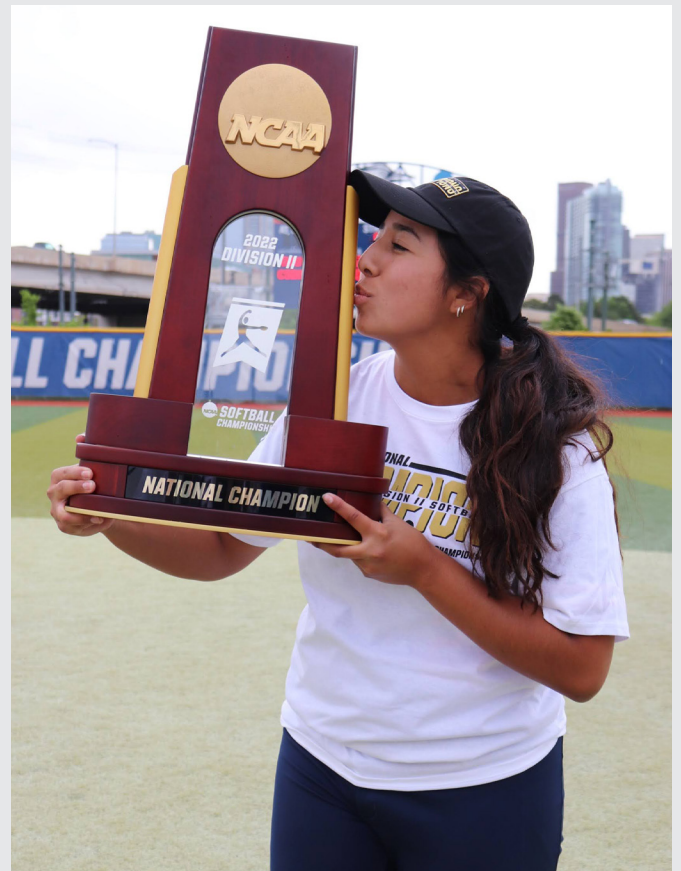
A native of El Paso, Texas, Morales holds every major pitching record in RSU softball history. The 2022 MIAA Player of the Year finished her final campaign with a NCAA-best 38-4 record and a 1.20 ERA as well as 348 strikeouts with only 43 walks in 280.1 innings pitched. The NFCA and D2CAA First Team All-American is one of only 17 NCAA Division II pitchers in history to log 110 wins and 1,000 strikeouts and was only of two active pitchers across all levels of the NCAA (I, II, III) to accomplish this feat, joining Division I USF's Georgina Corrick.

Morales played a critical role in helping the Hillcats to their first-ever NCAA Division II Softball National Championship earlier this week. She went 4-0 in the tournament with a 2.60 ERA in 31.2 innings with four complete games in five appearances.

The Player of the Year award was created in 2015 to honor the outstanding athletic achievements among softball student-athletes throughout NCAA Division II. In 2019, the Association expanded the award to include a Player and

Pitcher of the Year.

The awards are voted on by the elected members of the NFCA Division II All-American Committee with one head coach representing each of the eight NCAA regions. To be eligible, a student-athlete's head coach must be a member.





## **PALMOWSKI EARNS GCAA PING SECOND TEAM ALL-AMERICAN**



### **PALMOWSKI RECEIVES HIGHEST GCAA ALL-AMERICAN HONOR IN RSU HISTORY**

Rogers State men's golf's Luke Palmowski has been named a Second Team PING All-American, the Golf Coaches

Association of American announced on Monday. This is his second career All-American honor.

A native of Rotherham, England, Palmowski was the catalyst for the Hillcats during their successful 2021-2022 campaign.

The 2022 MIAA Player of the Year and First Team All-MIAA selection finished his illustrious career with four first place finishes and three tournament individual wins.

In the four-straight tournaments in which he finished in first place, Palmowski shot an average score of 183 over 144 holes. In those eight rounds, he sank 44 birdies and one eagle.

In addition to his individual success, the senior led RSU to its first MIAA Championship and led the team to a berth in the NCAA Division II Midwest/Central Regional Championship.

Palmowski also helped the Hillcats win a program-best seven-straight tournament wins during the regular season.





## **RSU NAMED NFCA NATIONAL COACHING STAFF OF THE YEAR**

### **RSU NAMED NFCA NATIONAL COACHING STAFF OF THE YEAR**

Rogers State Softball Head Coach Andrea Vaughan and staff have been named the National Fastpitch Coaches Association National Coaching Staff of the Year, the organization announced on Tuesday.

After leading the Hillcats to their first NCAA Division II Softball National Championship, Vaughan along with assistant coaches Malori Moss, Brent Payne, Danelle Day and Steve Scott earned their first National Coaching Staff of the Year award after being named the Central Regional Coaching Staff of the Year earlier this season. They shattered the school record for wins finishing with a 58-10 mark, besting the previous best of 42 wins set in the 2008 season.

In the record-breaking season, the Hillcats cruised to a 5-0 record in the NCAA Division II Softball Championships in Denver last month claiming their first national championship. The road to the championship was not easy as RSU had to defeat Minnesota State twice in the Central Region Championship before going on to sweep conference-rival Central Oklahoma twice in the Super Regional. The Hillcats also won their first MIAA Tournament Championship in just their third season in the league.

Vaughan, who just completed her seventh season at the helm and 10th overall with the program, is the Hillcats' all-time wins leader. She earned her 200th career victory on April 1 at home against Lincoln and finished 2022 with 230 wins.

The National Coaching Staff of the Year award is voted on by NCAA DII member head coaches. Vaughan and her staff will be honored at the NFCA Awards Brunch, Dec. 10 at the 2022 NFCA Convention in San Antonio, Texas.





## **HOCUTT, BROWN NAMED MIAA COACH OF THE YEAR**

### **WOMEN'S GOLF COACH WHITNEY HOCUTT AND MEN'S GOLF COACH STEVE BROWN NAMED MIAA COACH OF THE YEAR IN RESPECTIVE SPORTS**



For the second-straight season, Rogers State women's golf coach Whitney Hocutt has been named the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association's Women's Golf Coach of the Year.

Hocutt, who is in her fifth season at the helm of the Hillcats, was received her second conference coach of the year honor after leading RSU to its second-straight appearance in the NCAA Division II National Championship.

Rogers State recorded six team victories on the season, as well as three more top-three finishes. The Hillcats only finished outside the top five once during the regular season and finished third overall at the NCAA Central Region Championships to earn a bid to the National Championships for the second season in a row, where they finished 12th overall.

Hocutt coached Jessica Green to All-Region honors and her second MIAA Golfer of the Year award. Additionally, she helped guide Lydia Sitorus to All-Region and MIAA Freshman of the Year honors.



Rogers State men's golf coach Steve Brown was named the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association's Men's Golf Coach of the Year.

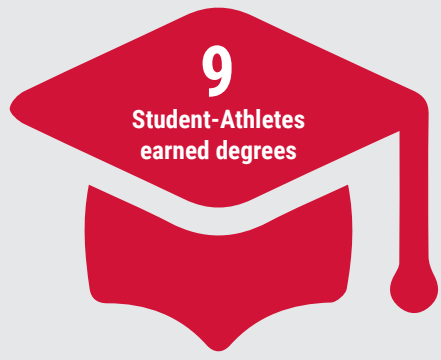
In his fifth season on the Hill, Brown received his first conference coach of the year award after guiding RSU to their best season in program history which included MIAA Regular Season and Tournament Championships as well as a team bid to the NCAA Regionals for this first time since 2018.

Rogers State tore threw the regular season with seven-straight tournament wins and never finished worse than fifth. They capped it all off with a wire-to-wire win in the MIAA Championship, and took home their first conference title in program history.

Brown coached an award-winning team headlined by Luke Palmowski, who took home his second All-American honor and MIAA Player of the Year. Daniel Robles earned MIAA Freshman of the Year and First Team All-MIAA Honors. Aidan Gavey was named All-Region and First Team All-MIAA. Gonzalo Chaves also earned First Team All-MIAA honors.

# 2021-2022 ACADEMIC SUCCESS

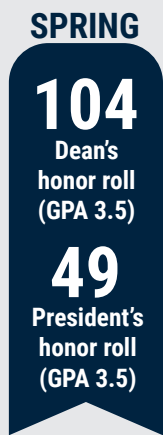
BY THE NUMBERS



## Academic Honor Roll

### TOP TEAM GPA:

- 3.56** Women's Cross Country/Track
- 3.47** Women's Golf
- 3.35** Softball
- 3.35** Men's Soccer



## Academic Honor Roll



\*Fall and Spring cumulative GPA of 3.0+





### **HILLCAT BASEBALL EARNS 2021-22 ABCA TEAM ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD**

Rogers State baseball has earned the American Baseball Coaches Association Team Academic Excellence Award for their efforts in the classroom during the 2022 season, the organization announced on Wednesday.

The Hillcats were one of five MIAA teams to receive this honor and one of just 87 Division II teams. This is RSU's fifth-straight year to win the award and sixth out of the last seven. To qualify, teams must maintain a minimum of GPA of 3.00 on 4.0 scale and the head coach must be a current ABCA member.

The ABCA has a long tradition of recognizing the achievements of baseball coaches and student-athletes. The ABCA/Rawlings All-America Teams are the nation's oldest, founded in 1949, and the ABCA's awards program also includes the ABCA/Rawlings All-Region Awards, the ABCA/ATEC Regional & National Coaches of the Year and several other major awards such as the ABCA Hall of Fame and the Dave Keilitz Ethics in Coaching Award.

### **NICAR NAMED SRIXON/CLEVELAND GOLF ALL-AMERICAN SCHOLAR**

Rogers State men's golf's Ty Nicar has been named a Srixon/Cleveland Golf All-American Scholar, the Golf Coaches Association of America announced on Thursday.

Nicar, a sophomore from Kingwood, Texas, earned the honor for his hard work in the classroom and on the course during the 2021-22 season. To be recognized as an All-American Scholar, an individual must be a sophomore, junior or senior both academically and athletically. In addition, they must participate in 50 percent of their team's competitive rounds, have a stroke average under 78.0 and maintain a minimum cumulative career grade-point average of 3.2. A recipient must also be of high moral character and be in good standing at his college or university.

Nicar was one of six MIAA men's golfers to earn a spot on the All-American Scholar team. He was also named to the MIAA Men's Golf Academic Honor Roll earlier this year.

### **FOUR HILLCATS NAMED WGCA ALL-AMERICAN SCHOLARS**

Four Rogers State women's golfers have been named Women's Golf Coaches Association All-American Scholars, the organization announced on Tuesday.

Marelda Ayal, Jessica Green, Raquel Flores and Ellen Loving all received the honor after their excellent work in the classroom during the 2021-2022 season. The criteria for selection to the All-American Scholar team are some of the most stringent in all of college athletics. Recipients must have earned a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.50.

These four were among 17 MIAA women's golf student-athletes named to the All-American Scholar team. Rogers State tied with Fort Hays State for the most MIAA student-athletes to receive this honor. All four of these student-athletes were also named to the MIAA Women's Golf Honor Roll this year, with Green and Ayal being named MIAA Scholar-Athletes.

### **WATSON NAMED COSIDA ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT**

Rogers State softball's Elexis Watson has been named a First Team CoSIDA Academic All-District® selection, the organization announced on Thursday.

Watson was one of 11 student-athletes from District 7 that earned the honor. District 7 is made up of schools from the MIAA, Great American Conference and Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference. Academic All-District® honorees advance to the CoSIDA Academic All-America® ballot. First-, second- and third-team Academic All-America® honorees will be announced in June.

To be nominated for the award, student-athletes must be a starter or an important reserve, hold a GPA of at least 3.30 after completing one full calendar year at their current institution. Student athletes must also have competed in at least 50 percent of the team's games during the season.

An allied health major from Muskogee, Okla., Watson has started in all 56 games this season, and leads the Hillcats with a .362 batting average with 12 home runs and 26 RBI. The senior also earned Second Team All-MIAA honors and was the Gold Glove winner for first base in the league.

### **FOUR HILLCATS EARN MIAA OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD**

Four student-athletes earned MIAA Academic Excellence Awards for their performance in the classroom, with Aubrey Campos, Rylee Roberts, Blaine Phillippi and Blake Phillippi receiving the honors. MIAA Academic Excellence Award recipients must have a

grade point average used by the institution for purposes of NCAA academic certification of 4.00 or better at the certifying member institution. The honoree also must have at least two terms of attendance at the certifying member institution, excluding summer terms.

### **FOUR HILLCATS NAMED TO NABC HONORS COURT**

Four Rogers State men's basketball student-athletes have been named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches Honors Court, the organization announced on Tuesday.

Jordan Coblin, Kofi Hamilton, Jared Pearre and Caleb Starks all received the distinction for their excellent work in the classroom during the 2021-22 season. The NABC Honors Court recognizes junior, senior and graduate student men's basketball players who finished the year with a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher.

These four were among 26 MIAA men's basketball student-athletes named to the Honors Court. Rogers State tied with Northeastern State and Washburn with the second most honorees behind Fort Hays State with seven.

### **TWO HILLCATS EARN MIAA INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD**

Two student-athletes earned MIAA Academic Excellence Awards for their performance in the classroom, with Aubrey Campos and Rylee Roberts receiving the award. MIAA Academic Excellence Award recipients must have a grade point average used by the institution for purposes of NCAA academic certification of 4.00 or better at the certifying member institution. The honoree also must have at least two terms of attendance at the certifying member institution, excluding summer terms.

### **HILLCAT MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY EARN USTFCCCA ALL-ACADEMIC HONORS**

Rogers State men's and women's cross country earned multiple U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association All-Academic honors, the organization announced on Thursday.

Three women's cross country runners earned All-Academic Athlete honors, a first in school history. Madison Bradshaw, Riley Coleman and Jillian Skalicky all received the distinction, which is given to student-athletes who hold a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 on a 4.0 scale and finish in the top 30 percent of their respective regional championship meet, among other qualifiers.

The Hillcat men's and women's team were both named All-Academic Teams. This award is given to teams that have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, including the most recent grading period and compile a team score at their respective regional championship meet, among other qualifiers.

### **FOUR HILLCATS EARN MIAA CROSS COUNTRY ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD**

Four student-athletes earned MIAA Academic Excellence Awards for their performance in the classroom. For the men, Blake Phillippi and Blaine Phillippi earned the award. On the women's side,

Aubrey Campos and Rylee Roberts received the award. An MIAA Academic Excellence Award recipient must have a grade point average used by the institution for purposes of NCAA academic certification of 4.00 or better at the certifying member institution. The honoree also must have at least two terms of attendance at the certifying member institution, excluding summer terms.

### **PONCE AND HERNANDEZ NAMED COSIDA ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT**

Rogers State men's soccer's Jaime Ponce and Sebastian Hernandez have been named College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-District® for men's soccer, the organization announced on Thursday.

Ponce and Hernandez were among 10 student-athletes from District 7 that received the honor. District 7 is made up of schools from the MIAA, Great American Conference and Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference. Academic All-District® honorees advance to the CoSIDA Academic All-America® ballot. First-, second- and third-team Academic All-America® honorees will be announced in early December.

To be nominated for the award, student-athletes must be a starter or an important reserve, hold a GPA of at least 3.30 after completing one full calendar year at their current institution. Student athletes must also have competed in at least 50 percent of the team's games during the season.

A native of Enid, Okla., Ponce is majoring in accounting and started in all 16 games that he appeared in. In those games, the senior scored two goals on four shots on goal and anchored a defense that logged eight shutouts.

A product of Broken Arrow, Okla., Hernandez is majoring in pre-physical therapy and appeared in 12 games with three starts. In those games, he played 481 minutes with seven shots.

# STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE



## SAAC LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello!

At Rogers State University, our student-athlete community is made up of strong dedicated individuals. Being a student-athlete, I have learned the importance of speaking up and using your voice. Our Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) allows us to accomplish this. SAAC is made up of leaders from every single RSU team. These leaders represent their teams and give them a voice. Together, we unite and create the student-athlete voice!

It has been amazing to be a part of this committee and seeing how our voices impact the entire community. SAAC has taken part in various activities within the community. We have helped better the lives of two individuals by making their wishes come true. Working with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, every team did a workout dedicated to two individuals. People then donated on our social media pages. That money was collected to make those kid's dreams true.

SAAC also organized a Trunk-or-Treat. Here, the kids and families of our community came dressed up in their Halloween costumes. There was a costume contest and candy was given out. This was a great activity for our entire community to get together. Additionally, it was held during the halftime of one of our women's soccer games, so it was good way for the community to enjoy the game and support our athletes!

Another activity where SAAC participated was the Claremore Christmas Parade. Our SAAC representatives organized a Hillcat float and wished the community a happy holiday! We gave out balloons and candy to the kids and you could see how this put everyone be in the holiday spirit!

During Random Act of Kindness Day, the SAAC representatives invited all RSU students and faculty to join them and write letters to residents of Brookdale Senior Living in Claremore and Claremore Skilled Nursing & Therapy. This was a success and together we wrote more than 200 letters!

Our Student-Athlete Advisory Committee had a very successful school year. Our goal was to be the change within athletics and our community, and we believe that we accomplished it. This upcoming year, we have a lot of activities planned, and our community will be able to be a part of them as well. SAAC believes that our student-athletes are strong minded and have the opportunity to a force for change in our community! Being the president of this committee has been an amazing opportunity, and I cannot wait for this upcoming year. I hope that together we can continue to grow and impact the lives of those in our community!

Sincerely,  
Raquel Flores

## GREEN BECOMES LATEST HILLCAT INVITED TO NCAA LEADERSHIP FORUM

Rogers State women's golfer and 2021-22 Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Secretary Jessica Green was selected to participate in the 2022 NCAA Leadership Forum. She was joined by Grant Farris, Assistant Athletic Director for Development, who served as a facilitator representing the MIAA. The conference was held in Houston, Texas in November 2021.

The Cape Town, South Africa native has been a member of the RSU's women's golf team for five years and has also contributed heavily to SAAC during her time on the Hill. Green joins a growing list of Hillcats invited to the event in a short time as members of the NCAA. She is one of seven representatives selected a total of eight times to take part in the NCAA Leadership Forum.

The goal of the leadership forum is to provide student-athletes with invaluable leadership skills, a refined understanding of the relationship among personal values, core beliefs and behavioral styles, and the support of a close personal network of like-minded peers to provide continued connection and dialogue after the program concludes. This best-in-class programming experience serves as a transformational opportunity for student-athletes and administrators to build a leadership toolkit and develop vital self-awareness that allows them to realize their potential.

## FLORES INVITED TO 2021 NCAA SAAC SUPER REGION CONVENTION

Rogers State women's golfer and 2021-22 Student-Athlete Advisory Committee President Raquel Flores was invited to represent the MIAA at the 2021 NCAA SAAC Super Region Convention. She was joined by Mariana Flores, Graduate Assistant for Student-Athlete Development and Wellness and SAAC Advisor. The conference was held in Chicago, Illinois in November 2021.

The purpose of the convention is to bolster student-athlete participation in the Division II governance structure and foster communication among SAACs at the campus, conference and national levels. The super region convention debuted in November 2017 as part of the division's Foundation for the Future initiative. Since then, the program has been approved by the Division II governance structure to occur annually.

Student-athletes selected to attend will return to campus with invaluable leadership skills, ways to strengthen the student-athlete voice, an action plan to further promote mental health on campus, and knowledge of Division II student-athlete initiatives and the Make It Yours brand. The program will engage a diverse representation of student-athletes and administrators from the campus and conference levels. Participants will grow personally and professionally, gain a network of friends and return to campus with ideas they can implement to boost their SAAC.

## RSU SAAC REPRESENTATIVES FOR 2021-2022



**RAQUEL FLORES**  
President  
Women's Golf



**GRANT KING**  
Vice President  
Men's Soccer



**JESSICA GREEN**  
Secretary  
Women's Golf



**BROOKLYN BUCKMINSTER**  
Treasurer  
Women's Soccer



**GONZALO CHAVES**  
Men's Golf



**BRIANNA DEANGELIS**  
Women's Cross  
Country/Track



**ANDREA EGERER**  
Women's Soccer



**AJ FOLDS**  
Baseball



**LANA GASS**  
Softball



**JAYLAN GIBSON**  
Softball



**HUNTER HART**  
Men's Cross Country/  
Track



**PRESCOTT HORN**  
Baseball



**BAILEY KLIEWER**  
Women's Basketball



**PRESTON LAWRENCE**  
Men's Basketball



**LUKE PALMOWSKI**  
Men's Golf



**DEVIN PULLUM**  
Men's Basketball



**ASHLEY RIGGERBACH**  
Women's Cross  
Country/Track



**MATTHEW SWEETMAN**  
Men's Soccer



**PRESTON TURNER**  
Men's Cross Country/  
Track



**ZOEV WHITELEY**  
Women's Basketball



**SARA BRAUN**  
SWA/Associate AD for  
External Operations



**MARIANA FLORES**  
Graduate Assistant,  
Student-Athlete  
Development

### RSU STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

The Rogers State University Hillcat Student-Athlete Advisory Committee's (SAAC) mission is to foster open communication between student-athletes and the athletic department administration, and to enhance the student-athlete experience by developing leadership skills, promoting a positive student-athlete image, and improving the day-to-day life of all student-athletes through activities, social events, and community service

# ATHLETIC STAFF & COACHES DIRECTORY

NAME	POSITION	EMAIL	PHONE
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>			
Dr. Chris Ratcliff	Vice President, Intercollegiate Athletics	cratcliff@rsu.edu	918-343-7782
Dawn Tatro	Associate AD for Internal Operations/SWA	dtatro@rsu.edu	918-343-7884
Derek Larkin	Assistant AD for Athletic Facilities and Events	dlarkin@rsu.edu	918-343-7995
Trey Robertson	Assistant AD for Sports Medicine	trobertson@rsu.edu	918-343-5203
Jake Hudspeth	Assistant AD for Communications	jhudspeth@rsu.edu	918-343-7839
Justin Noble	Assistant AD for Marketing	jnoble@rsu.edu	918-343-7989
Kim Bagwell	Executive Assistant to the Director of Athletics	kbagwell@rsu.edu	918-343-7782
Dr. Brian Andrews	Faculty Athletic Representative	bandrews@rsu.edu	918-343-7684
<b>ATHLETIC TRAINING</b>			
Trey Robertson	Assistant AD for Sports Medicine	trobertson@rsu.edu	918-343-5203
Jeff Paden	Assistant Athletic Trainer/ Conditioning Coordinator	jpaden@rsu.edu	918-343-6808
<b>BASEBALL</b>			
Chris Klimas	Head Coach	cklimas@rsu.edu	918-343-7787
Bob Fannin	Assistant Coach	bfannin@rsu.edu	918-343-6815
Jeff Losornio	Assistant Coach	jlosornio@rsu.edu	918-343-6815
<b>BASKETBALL (M)</b>			
Justin Barkley	Head Coach	jbarkley@rsu.edu	918-343-6804
Tyler Wayman	Assistant Coach	twayman@rsu.edu	918-343-7678
Cody Johnson	Assistant Coach		918-343-6864
Jimmie Flores	Assistant Coach		918-343-6864
Cole Kinnamon	Assistant Coach		918-343-6864
<b>BASKETBALL (W)</b>			
Kyle Bent	Head Coach	kbent@rsu.edu	918-343-7883
Ashlee Pitts	Assistant Coach	apitts@rsu.edu	918-343-7881
Tysia Manuel	Assistant Coach	tmanuel@rsu.edu	918-343-7757
<b>CROSS COUNTRY/TRACK (M&amp;W)</b>			
Matt Kennedy	Head Coach	mkennedy@rsu.edu	918-343-7689
Hunter Briggs	Assistant Coach	hbriggs@rsu.edu	918-343-7288
<b>GOLF (M)</b>			
Steve Brown	Head Coach	sbrown@rsu.edu	918-343-7988
<b>GOLF (W)</b>			
Whitney Hocutt	Head Coach	whocutt@rsu.edu	918-343-7894
<b>SOCCER (M)</b>			
Derek Larkin	Head Coach	dlarkin@rsu.edu	918-343-7995
Jake Simpson	Assistant Coach	jsimpson@rsu.edu	918-343-7995
Bryan Weygand	Assistant Coach		918-343-7995
<b>SOCCER (W)</b>			
Chris Jones	Head Coach	cjones@rsu.edu	918-343-7996
	Assistant Coach		918-343-7290
<b>SOFTBALL</b>			
Andrea Vaughan	Head Coach	avaughan@rsu.edu	918-343-7562
Malori Moss	Assistant Coach	mmoss@rsu.edu	918-343-6813
Brent Payne	Assistant Coach		918-343-6813
<b>CHEERLEADING</b>			
Titus Massey	Head Coach	tmassey@rsu.edu	918-343-7782
<b>DANCE</b>			
Amy Alt	Head Coach	aalt@rsu.edu	918-343-7782

# RSU HILLCAT COMPLIANCE

Rogers State University is responsible for the actions of its coaches, student-athletes and staff, as well as its alumni, boosters and fans. The following information is intended to help educate athletic boosters and organizations, so they can best support RSU athletes without putting the institution or the individual student-athletes at risk. If you have any questions or would like to seek clarification regarding your actions as a supporter of Hillcat athletics, please call the athletic compliance office at 918-343-7884 or email RSU's NCAA Compliance Coordinator, Dawn Tatro at dtatro@rsu.edu.

## BOOSTERS

You are a Booster or Representative of Athletic Interests, if you:

- ▶ Have participated in, or ever have been, a member of a booster organization that supports RSU athletics;
- ▶ Have made any financial contribution to the RSU athletic department or any athletic organization of the University;
- ▶ Have been involved in the recruitment of a prospect or have been asked to assist in the recruitment of a prospective student-athlete;
- ▶ Have provided or are providing benefits to an enrolled student-athlete or his or her relatives or friends;
- ▶ Have otherwise been involved in promoting the RSU athletic program;
- ▶ Have helped arrange employment for student-athletes;
- ▶ Are a parent or guardian of an enrolled student-athlete;
- ▶ Are or have ever been a season-ticket holder.

**NOTE:** Once someone has been identified as a Booster, they will retain that identity forever.

## RECRUITING

A prospective student-athlete is any person who has begun classes in the ninth grade. A prospective student-athlete remains so even after signing a National Letter of Intent or accepting financial aid and until they report for the first day of classes.

### What are Boosters prohibited from doing?

- ▶ Contacting a prospect in person on or off campus
- ▶ Writing or telephoning a prospect or member of the prospect's family
- ▶ Making arrangements for the prospect or the prospect's relatives or friends to receive money or financial aid
- ▶ Providing transportation for a prospect or the prospect's family or friends to visit the campus
- ▶ Providing free tickets or reduced priced tickets to attend an athletic event to the prospect or the prospect's family or friends
- ▶ Entertaining coaches of prospects

### What are Boosters permitted to do?

- ▶ Notify coaches about prospects in your area
- ▶ Attend athletic contests where prospects compete, but may not contact the prospect or the prospect's relatives
- ▶ Continue existing friendships with families of prospects, but not attempt to recruit
- ▶ Participate with prospects in organized institutional community engagement activities when prospects reside within 100-mile radius of location (Effective 8/1/07)
- ▶ Provide a student-athlete or the entire team in a sport an occasional meal, provided the meal is in the individuals home, on campus or at a facility that is regularly used for home competition and may be catered.

## ENROLLED STUDENT-ATHLETES

A booster may not provide a student-athlete any benefit or special arrangement that would not be offered to the rest of the general student population. This would include:

- ▶ May not entertain student-athletes or their friends or family;
- ▶ May not use the name or picture of an enrolled student-athlete to advertise, recommend, or promote any product or service;
- ▶ May not provide awards or gifts to student-athletes;
- ▶ May not allow a student-athlete to use a telephone to make free calls, or allow use of a free or discounted auto mobile;
- ▶ May not provide a student-athlete free or reduced cost goods or services;

## EMPLOYMENT

A student-athlete may be employed so long as compensation is only for work actually performed, at a rate commensurate with the going rate in that locality for similar work, and the student-athlete was not hired based on athletics ability.

**NOTE:** Employment may be arranged for a prospect provided the employment does not begin before the completion of the prospect's senior year of high school.

## INSTITUTIONAL CONTROL

RSU is responsible for the actions of its boosters and booster support groups. Boosters are regulated by the same NCAA rules and regulations placed upon all institutional athletics staff members.

## CONSEQUENCES

If a booster provides an impermissible benefit to a prospect, a student-athlete, or their relatives or friends, institutions may be subject to penalties, even if the student-athlete has completed his or her eligibility. A prospect or student-athlete who accepts an impermissible benefit faces the loss of eligibility.

# ABOUT NCAA DIVISION II



Higher education has lasting importance on an NCAA individual's future success. For this reason, the emphasis on the student-athlete experience in Division II is a comprehensive program of learning and development in a personal setting. The Division II approach provides growth opportunities through academic achievement, learning in high-level athletics competition and development of positive societal attitudes in service to community. The balance and integration of these different areas of learning opportunity provide Division II student-athletes a path to graduation, while cultivating a variety of skills and knowledge for life ahead.

NCAA Division II has 284 active member institutions, ranging in size from less than 2,500 to over 15,000, with the average enrollment being around 4,500. The division has almost 90,000 student-athletes competing and providing an intersection where athletically gifted students can compete at a high level, while maintaining much of a traditional student experience. Additionally, the athletics programs are properly aligned with the educational mission of the institution and higher education. This balance is what distinguishes Division II from the other divisions.

- Division II teams usually feature a number of local or in-state student-athletes.
- Many Division II student-athletes pay for school through a combination of scholarship money, grants, student loans and employment earnings.
- Division II athletics programs are fully integrated into the institution's operations and budget, like other academic departments on campus.
- The Division II membership is focused on an "academics first" philosophy and the division's commitment to academic excellence supports the primary mission for NCAA schools: We are preparing student-athletes to go pro in something other than sports.
- A regionalization philosophy is used to select teams for Division II national championships. This emphasis on being the best team in your geographic region helps schools prioritize scheduling of regional opponents, limit missed class time, and manage travel expenses.

## DIVISION II ATTRIBUTES

- Learning – multiple opportunities to broaden knowledge and skills
- Service – positive societal attitude through contributions to community
- Passion – enthusiastic dedication and desire in effort
- Sportsmanship – respects for fairness, courtesy; ethical conduct toward others
- Resourcefulness – versatile skill set drawn from broad range of experiences
- Balance – emphasis on collective knowledge; integration of skills

## WHAT IS NCAA DIVISION II

- NCAA Division II offers intercollegiate athletics in a fiscally responsible way and, in the process, offers all the student-athletes a positive intercollegiate athletics experience.
- In Division II, a "balance" exists that emphasizes both academic excellence and athletics achievement, and an environment is created that leads to the student-athlete's total personal development, emphasizing the integration of athletics into the learning environment in ways that allow institutional members to focus on the total and comprehensive co-curricular experience of their student-athletes.
- Student-athletes are valued for their athletics contribution and for being an important part of the overall student body.

Division II provides an intersection where athletically gifted students can compete at a high level, while maintaining much of a traditional collegiate undergraduate experience. This balance, where students are recognized for their academic success, athletics contributions and campus/community involvement, is at the heart of the Division II student-athlete experience.

## ACADEMIC SUCCESS

The latest figures show a 73 percent Academic Success Rate (ASR) for Division II. This means that 73 percent of all Division II student-athletes (scholarship and nonscholarship) receive a degree within six years of initial full time collegiate enrollment.

The division's "comprehensive program of learning and development" and research-based initial- and continuing-eligibility standards result in Division II student-athletes consistently graduating 10 to 15 percentage points higher than the total student body.

The gap between the Division II student-athlete and the student body graduation rate is bigger than at both the Division I and Division III levels.

## FINANCIAL AID

Nearly 50 percent of all Division II student-athletes receive some amount of athletically related financial aid. Many Division II student-athletes pay for school through a combination of scholarship money, grants, student loans and employment earnings.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Division II institutions have embraced a philosophy whereby athletics is positioned as the institution's front porch to community. By engaging community in this way, all programs, departments, and events that a campus has to offer can be showcased in a strategic way.

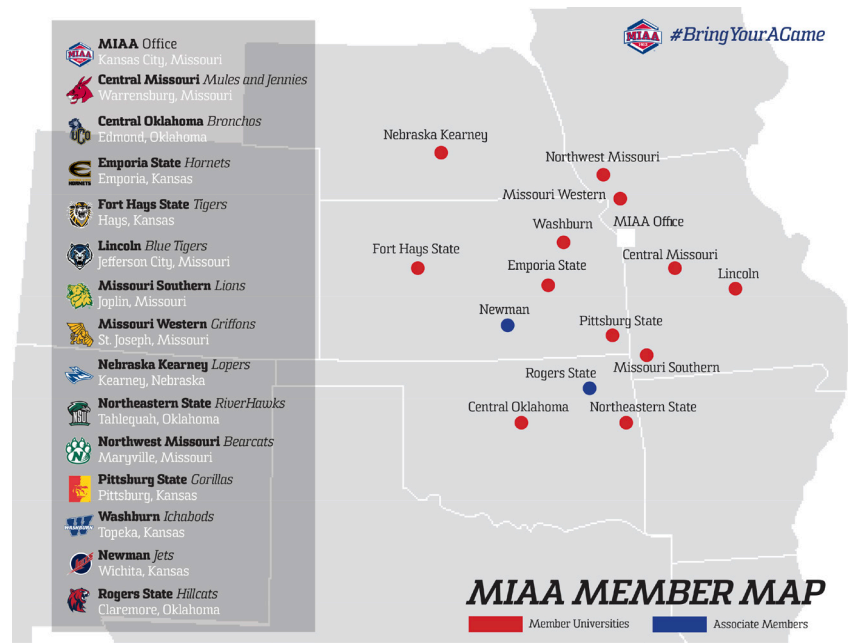
Division II institutions have intentionally focused on creating a civil, comfortable and entertaining game environment for its athletics events that are affordable, puts fans in close proximity to the action, and the environment is "fan friendly."

The Division II National Student-Athlete Advisory Committee has committed its fundraising activities to the Make-A-Wish Foundation since 2003. The overall amount raised during this timeframe is more than \$1.5 million. It is estimated that more than 150 wishes have been granted from these Division II dollars.

# ABOUT THE MIAA

Rogers State begins its third season as a member of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA) in 2020-21. The MIAA is a 14-school collegiate athletic conference headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri. It is a member of the NCAA's Division II for all sports. Its fourteen members, located in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Oklahoma, include 12 public and two private schools.

Over the past 107 years, the MIAA has gained the reputation of being one of the best NCAA Division II conferences in the nation. Student-athletes have won 45 NCAA team championships and well over 300 individual national titles. In the classroom, hundreds of student-athletes have earned Academic All-America and All-District honors. The MIAA has seen its members claim 27 NCAA team championships in the last 12 athletic years with at least one championship every year. Over the past three athletic years, MIAA teams have won eight NCAA team championships with two undefeated seasons.



## The MIAA Identity:

**An Historic Conference...**The MIAA is one of the nation's oldest athletic conferences, founded in 1912. Seven of the 14 member schools were founded in the 1800's. Every institution was founded more than 80 years ago.

**By the Numbers...**The MIAA has more than 5,000 student-athletes competing on its 14 campuses every academic year. MIAA schools enroll more than 120,000 undergraduate students on its 14 campuses each year. There are more than 700,000 alumni throughout the world from MIAA member schools.

**Student-Centered Athletics...**The MIAA cares about its student-athletes. MIAA institutions are committed to helping student-athletes develop life skills and competencies, which prepare students to be successful in college and after graduation. MIAA institutions feature some of the nation's best facilities, most innovative teachers/coaches and most dedicated student-athletes in the country.

**Higher Education Success...**The MIAA is also one of the NCAA's most successful athletic conferences, winning 45 NCAA team championships and more than 300 individual national championships. The 14 institutions in the MIAA are consistently ranked among the top academic universities in the Midwest.

## MIAA, We Care:

The MIAA cares about its student-athletes. Nothing illustrates this more than the WE CARE initiative the MIAA Student-Athlete Advisory Committee oversees to provide a comprehensive program of learning and development, which is at the heart of the MIAA student-athlete experience. Each letter in **WE CARE** represents a "pillar," or focal area in which MIAA institutions commit to developing students who are prepared to be successful in college and after graduation:

**Wellness:** We care about student-athlete wellness, with a focus on health and well-being. The MIAA expects student-athletes to make informed decisions that protect and enhance their health and fitness. The MIAA promotes an environment in which student-athletes are open to seeking help or assistance when wellness issues need to be addressed.

**Education:** We care about providing student-athletes with educational opportunities in their chosen curricula and support their path to graduation. The MIAA expects student-athletes to be successful in their educational goals and be aware of campus resources to help them achieve these goals.

**Compassion:** We care about developing student-athletes who demonstrate a capacity for compassion, and we provide opportunities for them to serve others and engage in their community. The MIAA expects student-athletes to think beyond themselves, be good role-models and serve those with need.

**Athletics:** We care about student-athlete skill development, and opportunities to excel and achieve in their chosen sport. The MIAA provides outstanding coaches, state-of-the-art facilities and nationally competitive programs. The MIAA expects student-athletes to take advantage of these resources to achieve their athletics goals.

**Respect:** We care about promoting a culture in which student-athletes respect their teachers, students, coaches, administrators, teammates, opponents and officials. The MIAA expects student-athletes to demonstrate behavior that is appropriate as part of an activity sponsored by a higher education institution.

**Engagement:** We care about student-athlete engagement at their institution and in their community.

Engagement and involvement are the keys to success for college students. The MIAA expects student-athletes to take advantage of the many activities, clubs, events and leadership programs offered on their campus and in their community. The MIAA SAAC takes a leadership role in working with institutional SAACs to ensure that these "pillars for success" are being discussed and enhanced on each campus.

# HILLCAT FACILITIES

## BUSHYHEAD FIELDHOUSE

Bushyhead Fieldhouse serves as the on-campus practice facility for RSU's basketball teams. The gym features six goals, digital scoreboards, and portable seating with a capacity of 300. Bushyhead is also the home of the athletic department offices as well as the RSU Wellness Center - a private weight training facility for student-athletes. Bushyhead houses both the men's and women's basketball locker rooms, an athletic training room, the Hillcat Academic Center for student-athletes, and public restrooms.



## CLAREMORE EXPO CENTER

Claremore Expo Center serves as the home of Hillcat basketball on game nights and is utilized as a secondary practice facility for the basketball teams. The Expo Center features arena seating on all four sides of the court for up to 2,000 fans. A four-sided digital scoreboard adorns center court accompanied by professional playing goals with three-sided shot clocks on each end of the floor. A state-of-the-art sound system helps produce a fun atmosphere for fans and often creates a hostile environment for opponents.



## DIAMOND SPORTS COMPLEX

The Diamond Sports Complex features a professional playing surface, lights, a large inning-by-inning scoreboard, batting cages, and grandstand seating for 1,200. A spacious locker room is located adjacent to the Hillcat dugout featuring individual lockers, coaches' offices, and an area for athletic training. The first floor of the centerpiece, two-story building, includes concessions, restrooms, and umpire dressing rooms. The second floor features separate baseball and softball press boxes, offices, and a donors' suite with indoor and outdoor seating.



## SOLDIER FIELD

Soldier Field is located in the heart of the RSU campus with a new digital scoreboard added in the south end zone. It features a large press box, lights, a public address system, and stadium seating for a great view of the action capable of supporting 2,000 fans. The installation of artificial turf at Soldier Field was completed in May 2012, allowing RSU to maximize the availability and functionality of historic Soldier Field.



## HILLCAT ATHLETICS CENTER

Located in the north end zone of Soldier Field, the 8,986 square-foot Hillcat Athletics Center was completed in the summer of 2012. The facility features spacious locker rooms for the men's and women's soccer teams as well as the men's and women's cross country and track teams. Coaches' offices and an athletic training room are located in the central area of the building. The facility also includes permanent concessions and restrooms for patrons and a paved concourse area with sightlines to the field.



KEEPING UP WITH THE  
**HILLCATS**

**RSU ATHLETICS**

 /RSUHillcatAthletics  
  /RSUHillcats  
 RSUHillcatAthletics  
www.RSUHillcats.com


**COMPLIANCE**

 /rsucompliance

**BASEBALL**

 /rsubaseball

**MEN'S BASKETBALL**

 /HillcatMensBasketball  
  /rsumbb

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

 /HillcatWomensBasketball  
  /rsuwbb




**CROSS COUNTRY/TRACK AND  
FIELD**

 /HillcatXCTF  
 /hillcatxctf

**WOMEN'S GOLF**

   /rsuwgolf

**MEN'S GOLF**

 /HillcatsGolf  
  /rsumgolf

**MEN'S SOCCER**

 /HillcatMensSoccer  
 /rsumsoccer

**WOMEN'S SOCCER**

 /HillcatWomensSoccer  
  /rsuwsoccer

**SOFTBALL**

  /RSUsoftball

**CHEER**

 /HillcatCheer  
 /rsucheer

**DANCE**

 /HillcatDance  
 /rsudance

# HILLCAT ATHLETIC FUND

2021-2022

## HALL OF FAME

Chad and Misty Choat  
Advanced Orthopedics of Oklahoma

## LEGEND

James and Norma Morrison  
RCB Bank - Claremore  
Robson Properties  
TTCU - Claremore

## CHAMPION

BancFirst  
David Merriman Insurance Agency  
Rockstar Championships LLC  
Whataburger

## ALL-AMERICAN

Advanced Orthopedics of Oklahoma  
Celebrity Championships, LLC  
Chris and Andrea Ratcliff  
Community Home Health, Inc.  
David and Krista Merriman  
Dearinger Printing & Trophy, Inc.  
Elliot-han Monteremal  
Guy and Amy Unger  
Hillcrest Health Care Systems  
Jeff Johnson  
Luther and Judy Martin  
OK Wings, LLC

Pixley Lumber Company  
Robertson Tire  
Steven and Kay Burrus  
Subway of Claremore, Inc.  
Village Charters, Tours and Travel

## MVP

Active Ice, Inc.  
Dave and Mary Faulkner  
Dawn Tatro  
Dr. and Mrs. Larry D. Rice  
Dr. Heidi Hoskinson  
Dr. Mark Rasor  
Gary and Terri Wayman  
Gregory and Deena Braun  
Heather Roberts  
Jack Kisse Ford, Inc.  
Jason and Jackie Sternberger  
Justin and Emily Barkley  
Loyd Phillips  
Max and Bailey Weis  
Oklahoma Ordnance Works Authority  
Paul and Adele Simpson  
Phillips 66  
Red Crown Credit Union  
Shirley Ewton  
Tim and Stephanie Anello  
Tom and Andrea Volturo  
Vaughn Graham Jr  
Zaccary Whisler



## HILLCAT ATHLETIC FUND MISSION:

The mission of the Hillcat Club is to generate financial support for all Rogers State student-athletes by fostering the growth of philanthropy from RSU alumni and friends who share our passion for Hillcat Athletics. The Hillcat Club strives to provide every RSU student-athlete with the opportunity to have the best possible athletic and academic experience.

To **JOIN THE TEAM** call the RSU athletic department at **918-343-7984** or visit  
***WWW.RSUHILLCATS.COM***



1701 W. Will Rogers Blvd. | Claremore, Oklahoma 74017  
[www.RSUhillcats.com](http://www.RSUhillcats.com) | [www.RSU.edu](http://www.RSU.edu)