



# THE ARKANSAS TRAVELER



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SPECIAL COVERAGE:  
Inside Athletics

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## WINNING GAMES, LOSING MONEY

### Women's athletics receive less funding, lower salaries

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Despite a women's cross country NCAA championship win, a soccer championship bid and a promising basketball season, UA women's athletics consistently loses money, and the coaches are paid less than their men's team counterparts, according to Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act records. UA women's sports have lost money every year since 2010, including more than \$20 million between July 2018 and June 2019, compared to the UA men's profit of \$39 million in the same time period, according to the 2019 EADA.

Part of the reason for the deficit is that Razorback women's athletics tend to receive fewer donations and sell fewer tickets than men's sports, said Clayton Hamilton, senior associate athletics director and chief financial officer for Razorback Athletics.

Clayton thinks most NCAA schools cover the financial deficits of their women's programs through men's revenue and that schools with profitable women's teams are rare, he said.

The amount of money Razorback Athletics spent

The amount of money spent on the coaches' salary has doubled in the past 10 years

2009 \$10,989,919  
2018 \$22,857,684

Men's team assistant coaches  
Women's team head coaches

2018 \$260,607 \$328,556

2015 \$209,564 \$311,992

2012 \$190,341 \$282,343

2009 \$143,582 \$175,014

Parker Lane Staff Designer

on coaches' salaries has doubled in the past decade, from about \$10.9 million in the 2009 fiscal year to \$22.8 million in 2018, according to NCAA Membership Financial Reports.

This is not reflected in the average salaries of men's and women's team coaches, where head coaches of women's teams make less than assistant coaches of men's teams -- \$260,607 compared to \$328,556, according to the 2019 EADA.

For comparison, the average salary of UA men's teams head coaches is \$1,340,312, meaning that

full-time women's team head coaches make about 19% as much as their men's teams counterparts, according to the 2019 EADA.

Hamilton thinks the salaries offered to coaches are based on what other SEC schools are able to offer them, he said.

"Really, the salaries are often market-driven," Hamilton said.

Women's team head coaches' salaries made up about 23% of the total amount spent on head coaches' salaries, according to the 2019 EADA report.

Among NCAA Division I schools, women's teams

coaches salaries typically made up 30% of the amount spent on head coaches' salaries, about 7% higher than the UofA's percentage, according to the 2017 NCAA Title IX Report.

These pay discrepancies are not based on the gender of the coaches, because the UofA has a majority-male coaching staff.

Women occupied no more than four of 15 head coach positions each year in the past decade, according to the 2019 EADA. Among assistant coaching positions,

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## Olympic gymnast takes helm of Arkansas team

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A former world champion, Olympic gold medalist and sexual abuse victim advocate has entered uncharted territory at the UofA this year as the first Olympian to coach an NCAA gymnastics team.

Jordyn Wieber, 24, was named head coach of Razorback Gymnastics on April 24 following the retirement of former head coach and program founder Mark Cook. She chose to apply for the UA opening because she wanted the opportunity to grow a program of her own, she said. While Wieber thinks taking over from the program's founder at age 24 is a daunting task, she is prepared for the challenge, she said.

"I definitely feel the eyes on me," Wieber said. "A lot of people saying, 'Can she do it? She's only 24,' and I usually say, 'I don't feel like I'm 24,'" Wieber said. "I feel like I'm much older than that, just because of everything I've been through in my gymnastics career and in my life."

Wieber came to the UofA this summer after spending three years as a volunteer assistant coach at UCLA. Wieber said learning from now-retired UCLA head coach Valerie Kondos Field made her realize for the first time that she wanted to spend her career coaching.

The theme Wieber developed for the 2020 season, RISE (Ready, Ignite, Sizzle, Explode), breaks the months of training and competition into segments, and

athletes set personal and team goals for each portion of the year. She chose the theme because when she arrived at the UofA, she saw her athletes as "a team on the rise," she said.

Bailey Lovett, a freshman gymnast, said she appreciates the way RISE has brought the team together. Lovett was excited to learn Wieber would be head coach, she said. Learning from Wieber and assistant coaches Chris Brooks and Catelyn Orel has been unlike any of Lovett's previous experiences with coaches, she said.

"There's more young energy in the gym now, so it's more like she's trying to motivate us and really can relate to us," Lovett said. "They're helping me grow as a person in the gym, which is starting to go outside the gym as well."

Wieber is also bringing her elite competitive history and accompanying life experiences to the job. Wieber, who was named to the U.S. national team at age 11, won the 2011 World Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Tokyo. In 2012, she competed in the Summer Olympics in London as part of the Team USA delegation nicknamed the "Fierce Five," who won gold in the team competition.

Sarah Shaffer, a junior gymnast, thinks Wieber and her team have brought positive change because they have taken the time to learn about their athletes' lives in and out of the gym, she said.

"I think they've both done a good job caring about our

See "New head" on page 5

## Basketball head coach lands top tier recruiting class with 'Fantastic Four'

Mason Choate  
Staff Reporter  
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Within a few months of coming to Fayetteville, Arkansas's new men's basketball head coach has managed to land one of the highest rated recruiting classes in Razorback basketball history.

By the start of December, Eric Musselman has accrued a wealth of talent that is already being dubbed Arkansas's "Fantastic Four." K.K. Robinson, Moses Moody, Davonte Davis and Jaylin Williams, all four-star recruits, make up the newest crop of incoming Razorback basketball athletes.

When Arkansas hired Eric Musselman in the spring, the Razorbacks had only one commitment for the 2019 recruiting class: Justice Hill, who is no longer enrolled at Arkansas.

With the signing of K.K. Robinson on Thanksgiving

Day, Musselman and his staff completed a recruiting class that has taken the state by storm.

Davis said that he was recruited much harder once Musselman took over the program, showing that Musselman made recruiting a priority as soon as he took over the program.

Arguably the most highly anticipated recruit in the state of Arkansas since the likes of Malik Monk and Bobby Portis is Moses Moody. Though Moody has played at the prestigious Montverde Academy in Florida for his junior and senior seasons, North Little Rock is his home.

Moody is rated as a four-star prospect and he is 29th in the ESPN top 100.

Moody said Musselman was a big factor in his commitment.

"I just love his aggressive mentally and the way he approaches the game and how energetic he is," Moody said. "He's really modern. He's really trying to turn the program around and take it in a positive direction."

Moody averaged 17.7 points and 3.9 rebounds for the Bradley Beal Elite on the



Nike EYBL circuit this spring and summer. In Montverde Academy's first game of the season, he shot 100% from the field for 22 points.

Davis, who was originally committed to Oklahoma State University but decommitted in October, is rated 80th on the ESPN top 100. The six-foot-four guard out of Jacksonville, Arkansas, is rated the No. 3 player in the state of Arkansas by 247sports.

Davis announced his commitment to the Hogs on Oct. 12 and signed his letter of intent on Nov. 19.

The three-time Arkansas

All-State selection averaged 18.5 points, five rebounds and six assists per game as a junior for Jacksonville High. Davis was named to the All-Arkansas first team by USA Today as a junior.

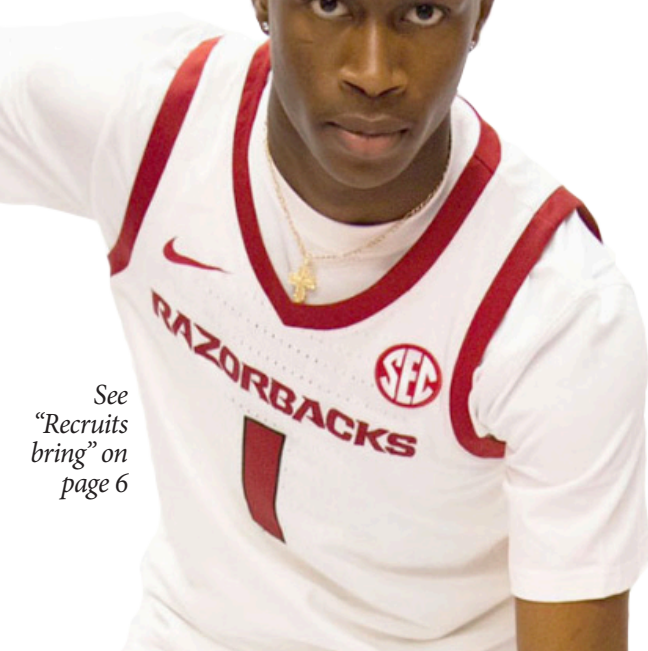
"The

coaching staff was wonderful, and the culture of the school is amazing," Davis said.

Jaylin Williams made a name for himself by averaging 16 points, 11 rebounds and three blocks during his junior season for Fort Smith Northside. He led the Grizzlies to a state championship victory over K.K. Robinson and the Bryant Hornets.

Williams, a former teammate of Razorback star shooting guard Isaiah Joe, stands at six-feet-nine inches and is classified as a stretch five, meaning he is big but can shoot well.

His recruiting stock took a big leap over the summer while he played for the Woodz Elite, along with future teammate Davis. Williams started appearing on many recruiting boards, and is now rated as 87th



See "Recruits bring" on page 6

Courtesy of Arkansas Razorbacks  
Davonte Davis, the No. 3-rated recruit in Arkansas, committed to the Hogs in November.

### Little Rock School District continues with high school division



The Little Rock School District stopped proceedings on elementary-level district division Nov. 22 but plans to move forward with high school rezoning.

### Concussions affect football players



Despite protocol, UA football players feel pressure from themselves and their teammates to get back on the field quickly.

### Witches find spiritual connection in NWA



A metaphysical and spiritual goods shop in Fayetteville creates an accepting space for local witches.