

Softball wins first conference championship



The Wesleyan softball team (30-13, 22-4 RRAC) secures its first ever Red River Athletic Conference championship with a pair of 6-0 wins against University of the Southwest April 24.

Joakim Soederbaum | Rambler Staff

Senior pitcher closes out

Jacqueline Wittman
jrwittman@mail.txwes.edu

Senior softball pitcher Ashley Oldham is ready to graduate from Texas Wesleyan, but she has a few records to break before she crosses the stage in May.

At the age of 9, Oldham gave up gymnastics and followed her father's path of stepping onto the mound.

"I wanted to be like my dad who played baseball in high school," she said.

Oldham sought out Wesleyan after playing at Haltom High School.

"Being with all the girls on the team and always having fun has given me many memories throughout my softball career at Wesleyan," Oldham said.

Sophomore first baseman Christina Kelley credits Oldham for being a key player and helping the team maintain the No. 1 spot in current RRAC softball standings.

"She stepped up as an outfielder at one point and has also taken on the role as one of our

stronger hitters after not hitting in close to four years," Kelley said. "She is just an all around wonderful person, and it has definitely been a privilege to be her teammate."

In her junior season, Oldham was named all-RRAC and led the conference with a 1.97 ERA. She was named pitcher of the week four times. She was also named to the RRAC all-conference team as a sophomore and led the Rams with nine wins as a freshman. This spring, she received the O.D. and Maurice Bounds Scholar-Athlete Award and the Gene and Ann Burge Sportsmanship Award at the Wesleyan athletic awards ceremony.

As her senior season comes to an end, Oldham is focused on finishing strong. In a victorious double header against Baccane College, Oldham tossed a perfect game. She holds a Texas Wesleyan career record of 17 shutouts and is eight strikeouts shy of 330 to break the record set by Gina Gotcher from 1992-95.

Off the mound, Oldham has

remained on the dean's list every semester. She is a mass communication major with a concentration in advertising and public relations and a business administration minor.

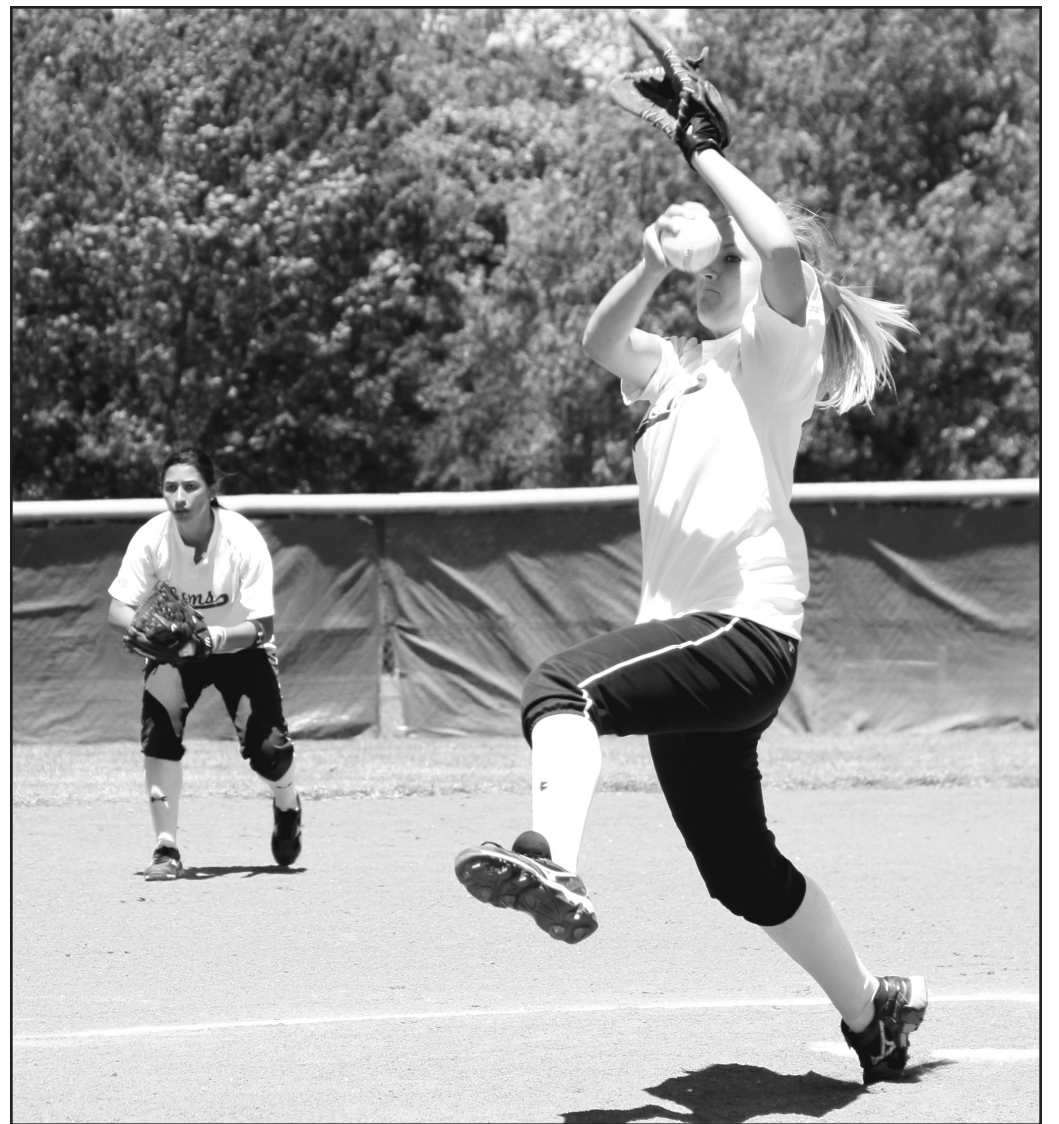
"Ashley is such a great example of an all around balanced student-athlete," Kelley said. "This year as a senior she has been a very strong leader taking on roles you never would've imagined her doing because of our team being reduced to such a small number of people."

After interning during the summer, Oldham accepted a full-time position as a communication coordinator in the engineering department of Bell Helicopter in Hurst upon graduation.

Oldham said she will also tie the knot in July.

"I'm busy figuring out our wedding plans and where we are going to live," she said.

As for softball, Oldham plans to be a spectator at her two younger sisters' softball games as a Lady Ram.



Joakim Soederbaum | Rambler Staff

Senior pitcher Ashley Oldham

Athletes gain recognition

Jacqueline Wittman
jrwittman@mail.txwes.edu

The Texas Wesleyan athletic teams celebrated their 2009 accomplishments at the annual athletic awards ceremony for Rams' sports April 21.

The most outstanding male and female athlete awards went to senior basketball forward Jamel White, senior basketball forward Ashley Davis and national table tennis champion Mark Hazinski.

The crowd gave a long ap-

plause to Tim Bellmon, assistant basketball coach, who received men's basketball's Lewis and Dorothy Peek 3-D award for his desire, determination and dedication to the team after undergoing a kidney transplant during the season.

Margo Wring, captain of the Starlett dancers, was another recipient of the 3-D award.

"I'm thankful the athletic department recognizes all the hard work put in throughout the year by student-athletes

and coaches," she said.

The athletic department handed out a few honorary awards as well. The Ram mentor award was presented to Joe Brown for his support for the concept of the student-athlete. The Ram spirit award was presented to Jan Fersing, and the Ram administrator award was given to Kyle Morgan.

For a complete list of winners, visit www.therambler.org.

Upcoming Sports:		
	Game	Time/Place
Friday	Softball RRAC Tournament	Farmer's Branch
Saturday	Table Tennis TWU	Sid W. Rich.
	Open Baseball RRAC Tournament	LaGrave Field
Sunday	Baseball RRAC Tournament	LaGrave Field
Monday	Baseball RRAC Tournament	LaGrave Field
Tuesday	Baseball RRAC Tournament	LaGrave Field

Wesleyan Week-in-Sports

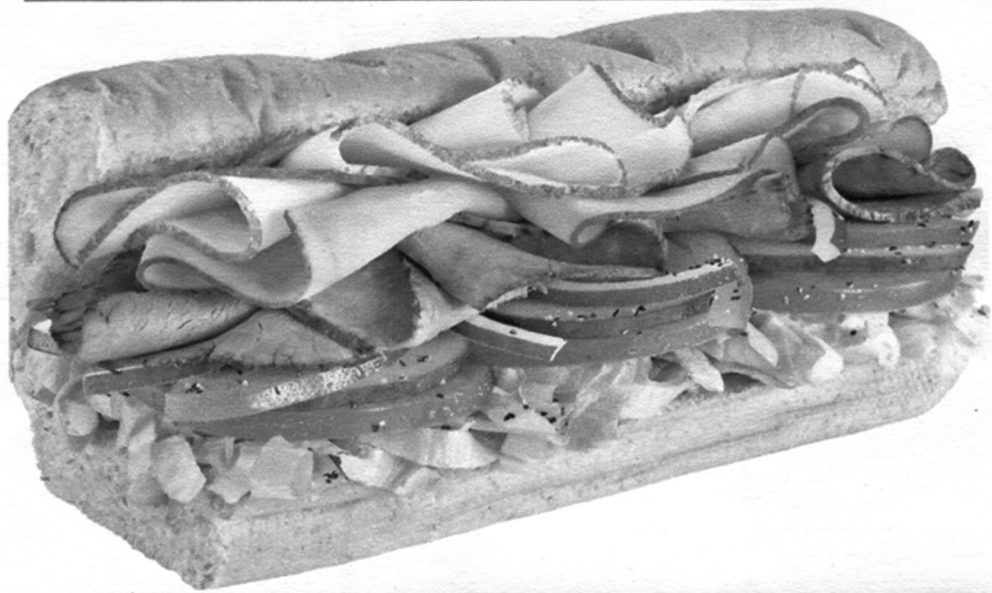
- The Rams Golf team won the NAIA Qualifier at Iron Horse Golf Course. The Rams also took its seventh consecutive Red River Athletic Conference Championship April 20.
- The Rams Baseball team (24-22, 10-2 RRAC) won its third Red River Athletic Championship with a doubleheader sweep (11-6, 19-1) of Southwestern Assemblies of God University April 23.

The Weekly Sports Quote

"Hey, the offensive linemen are the biggest guys on the field. They're bigger than everybody else, and that's what makes them the biggest guys on the field."

John Madden
football legend

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