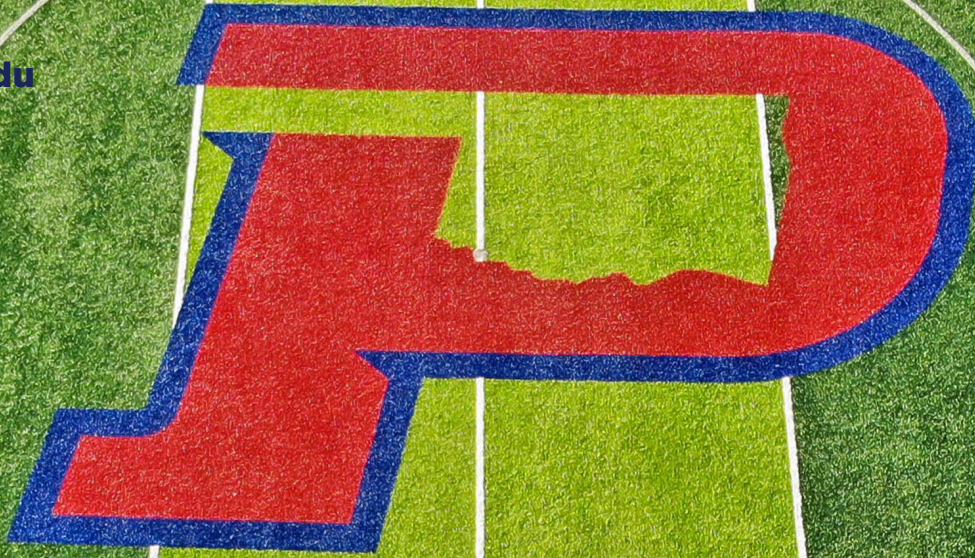


OCTOBER 2019

Panhandle

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ONE HUNDRED AND TEN
YEARS OF EXCELLENCE



/ CAMPUS /

ALUMNI HONORED FAMILY THARP FAMILY

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

The Panhandle State Association of Alumni and Friends is proud to announce the selection of the 2019 Honored Family, the Tharp Family. The Tharp family is native to the Hardesty Community. There are 26 members spanning four generations who attended Oklahoma Panhandle State University.

Henry Tharp was born in Virginia and when he was a young boy he rode a horse to Texas where he worked on ranches. While there, he married Minnie Howard and lived in Hereford, Texas. They had two sons, Joe and Jim. In 1905, Henry brought his family to the Oklahoma Panhandle and filed on land seven miles east and one-mile north of Hardesty.

Jim married Ina Graves and from this union they had 6 children (two of whom died in infancy), James, Bill, Ralph, and Agnes. The first generation who attended Panhandle State were Bill (1950) and his wife Geraldine. Bill taught math in Amarillo and had two children, Bret Tharp and Kay Lynn Preston, who will be accepting the award on behalf of their parents.

James and Gladys (Smart) Tharp had 8 children: James, Joy, Don, Gerald, Darrell, Marvin, Melvin, and Dixie. Four of their children and four spouses were the second generation to attend Panhandle State. They were James E. (1957), Joy (1964) and Husband Ronald Briggs (1968), Darrell (1963), Dixie, Jo Ann (Hinds) Tharp (1967), Barbara (McCurdy) Tharp, and Diana (Schott) Tharp.

James E. Tharp is retired and lives in Yukon, OK. Joy Briggs was a teacher

and school librarian for 35 years. Her husband, Ronald, was an accountant and John Deere salesman. They live in Ulysses, KS. Darrell Tharp lives in Hardesty. Dixie Tharp worked at the Amarillo VA hospital and retired in Ulysses, KS. Jo Ann was an Elementary teacher and is retired and living in Hardesty. Barbara Tharp taught English and retired in Santa Paula, CA. Diana Tharp worked as a rural carrier in Balko for 25 years before retiring in Hardesty in 2014.

The third generation included 9 grandchildren of James and Gladys Tharp: Pat (1985) and Shelly (Sherrill) Steele (1985), Dena (Tharp) Weigand (1986), Jet Tharp (1989), Jeremy Tharp (1994), Jeannie (Tharp) Aton (1989), Christy (Tharp) Kelso (1994), Mitch Tharp, Brandy (Scott) Tharp, and Brandi (Tharp) Sutter.

Shelly Steele has been a computer teacher in Ponder, TX for 26 years. Her husband Pat Steele has been in agriculture, oil, and gas chemical sales for 35 years. Dena Wiegand is an executive director of operations in Fenton, MI. Jet Tharp is the General Manager of Farmers Coop of Western Oklahoma and lives in Custer City, Oklahoma. Jeremy Tharp is a principal in Hydro-Eakly as well as serving as the girls' basketball coach, special education director, and transportation director. Jeannie Aton has worked in the Guymon post office for 23 and lives in Hardesty. Christy Kelso is the postmaster and resides in Goodwell. Mitch and Brandy Tharp live

and work in Guymon. He is a lease operator for Scout Energy and she is an RN at the Memorial Hospital of Texas County. Brandi Sutter is the Director of Merchandise for the Amarillo Bulls.

The fourth generation to attend Panhandle State includes Tucker Beasley, Anthony Aton, Amanda (Aton) Steblay, Shaylee Kelso, Jasper and Shambri (Kelso) Smiley (2019).

Tucker Beasley is a mechanic and farmer in Hardesty. Anthony Aton is the youth pastor at Connection Church in Guymon and lives in Texhoma. Amanda Steblay is a stay at home mother. Shaylee Kelso is a Dental Assistant in Guymon. Shambri Smiley graduated in 2019 with a degree in Health and Physical Education. Her husband, Jasper Smiley, is currently attending Panhandle State and will graduate in 2020.

Panhandle State has been an important part of the Tharp family legacy. This family has contributed to their communities through both their service and vocations **P**

“There is 26 members spanning four generations who attended Oklahoma Panhandle State University.”

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On the cover: Members of the 2019 Freshman Class



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/ PANHANDLE MAGAZINE /

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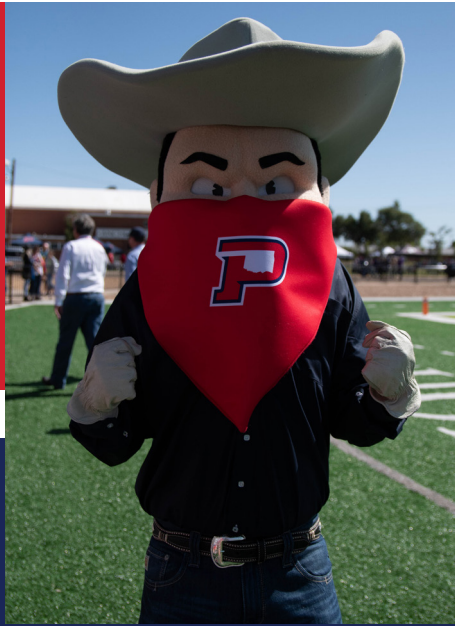
/ PHOTOGRAPHERS /

Natasha Eidson — Alyssa Fox — Taylor Jacobsen — Lauren Lagow
Sam Ortiz — Rylee Higgins — Hannah Bennett

/ CAMPUS /

HOMECOMING

OCTOBER 2019

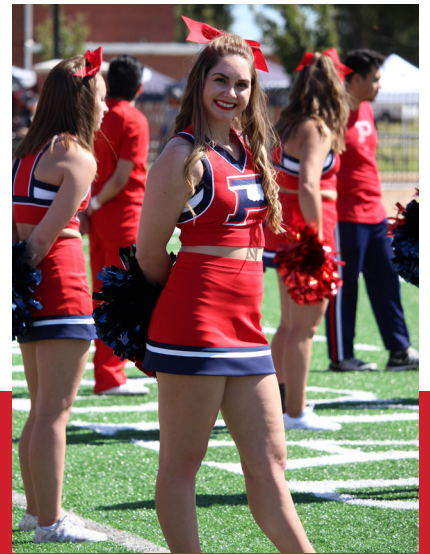




/ CAMPUS /

HOMECOMING

OCTOBER 2019







/ STAFF /

BRAILEY STRAIN

Brailey Strain is no stranger to the Goodwell area. Her entire family is spread across Texas County in the Oklahoma Panhandle. Originally from Goodwell, Okla., Strain graduated High School from Randall High School in Amarillo, Texas. She graduated in 2017 with a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries from Texas A&M University.

After graduation, Brailey traveled back to her roots. Strain commented, "After I graduated high school, my parents moved back to Goodwell. Upon completion of my undergraduate degree, I did not have a job lined up, so I did the stereotypical millennial thing and moved back in with my parents! I was fortunate enough to receive a position at Anchor D Bank, and while I love my bank family, I had known for a while that my heart was in higher education. The second I saw the Student Life Coordinator position open up, I knew Panhandle State was where I needed to be."

Brailey Strain accepted the reins as the Student Life Coordinator in April. She is in charge of planning and organizing events that happen on campus. These events include AggiestFest, Homecoming, and Dorm of Doom.

Dean of Student Affairs, Michael Harris commented, "Brailey hit the ground running this year. Her organization and execution of our largest New Student Orientation led straight into a dynamic Welcome Week with activities for students every night. She has built a great team of student workers that enable her to plan and run several activities at once. She has made our campus much more engaging to our current and prospective students."

One of her favorite things about Panhandle State is the students. She states, "I love how invested I get to be in their lives. My hope is that when they look back at their time at Panhandle State, they remember the fun they had at events and hopefully that they felt involved in their school."

Strain enjoys spending time away from Goodwell at her family cabin in Stonewall, CO. Aside from working life, she loves music, movies, and Harry Potter, but most importantly, she likes spending time with her friends. **P**



/ FACULTY /

CARL SELL

Assistant Professor of English, Carl Sell, boasts a somewhat nomadic teaching journey, but for him, Goodwell feels like home.

Sell earned his Bachelor's degree in English with a minor in History from Pennsylvania State University in 2013, and would continue on to obtain his Master's in English Literature from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2015.

His education pursuance took him to Penn State Altoona as well as his alma mater, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where he held the roles of adjunct learner and graduate student faculty member, respectively. When Sell began the search for a university to continue his growth as an education professional, he yearned for something that would be "the right fit", and soon, he set his sights on Panhandle State. "I saw OPSU had small class sizes, the ability to work one-on-one with students and other faculty members, and a supportive administration that all helped to create a place where I knew I could feel at home, even if it was half-way across the country," said Sell. He continued, "From the moment I got here, I felt as if I belonged. I chose OPSU because OPSU chose me."

Also specializing in British Literature and Composition, Sell teaches a variety of courses for the Communications Department, in addition to his role of Assistant Professor of English.

"I actually have two favorite things about OPSU so far," Sell says, "My students and the other faculty members." The passion for class success shown by the students and the welcoming presence displayed by the staff have bolstered Sell's desire to finally feel at home, and is a tribute to what the administration often refers to as the 'Panhandle State family.'

In his first year as part of the Panhandle family, Carl, his wife Sara, and their nicknamed "critter family" of a beagle and two cats, are enjoying life in Goodwell. Sell is a huge hockey fan, enjoys gaming in his spare time, and loves reading sci-fi/fantasy and horror. He is an avid lover of comic books and eagerly awaits students or staff wanting to stop by to talk comics.

While Sell is presently an ABD ('all but dissertation') PhD, he is currently working toward his Doctor of Philosophy degree in English Literature and Criticism, and will be defending his dissertation in 2020 from IUP. **P**



/ STUDENT /

ALLAN **GAMBOA**

Panhandle sophomore Allan Gamboa might be over three thousand miles from his home of Heredia, Costa Rica, but he is making his mark here in Goodwell.

The future 2022 graduate is majoring in Business Administration, and had a number of reasons why Panhandle State ultimately felt like the right place for him. “When I was looking at universities, I considered Panhandle State one of my options because it is a place where I can grow up as a person and learn every day something new,” said Gamboa. He continued, “Also, I wanted to be a student-athlete and Panhandle State is a great opportunity to do it.”

Gamboa is already making history in his first year as an Aggie, as he plays striker for the first-ever OPSU men’s soccer team. Soccer made its debut at Panhandle State just this year. Gamboa was named Sooner Athletic Conference Player of the Week after the team’s 2-1 road victory over Oklahoma City University on October 1st. He scored both of OPSU’s goals that game, including the 48th-minute game-winner to pull ahead. Three days later, Gamboa helped the Aggies take a 4-0 victory over Texas Wesleyan as he scored another go-ahead goal and boasted an assist late in the match.

When he is not in the classroom or on the field, Gamboa also spends his time as a student-worker for the Communications Department. With the opportunity to meet people all around campus, Gamboa says, “The people are amazing, especially those in the student union, they try to help every single one of us all the time and the environment makes me feel at home.”

Gamboa also loves swimming, but notes that the idea of traveling would be his favorite hobby, saying he would love to the opportunity to go visit his parents, or “go somewhere I have never been.” **P**

/ ALUMNI /

JORDAN **LONG**

Pursuing his dreams one degree at a time, Jordan Long is on the road to greatness in the art world.

Originally from Guymon, Okla., Jordan graduated from Guymon High School and the down home atmosphere seemed to be just the fit he was looking for in continuing his education. He graduated in 2013 with a Bachelor’s degree in Fine Art.

“All of the faculty in the art department helped me tremendously and gave me support and believed in my choice to pursue art.” Jordan credits the personal learning experiences he had at Panhandle with the superior education he feels he received. “Larry Wiggins, Bryon Test, David Elder, Brent Shoulders, and Yvonne Sangster are just a few of who helped me with his passion.”

Some of his favorite memories from Panhandle State come from events that the art department held. The art club potluck, gumbo potluck, critter feast, and numerous art shows are just a few.

“Without the foundation and belief in myself that was deeply rooted through my time at Panhandle State I do not think I would have made it as far as I have in my pursuit towards my master’s degree.”

Jordan is currently pursuing his Masters in Painting and Sculpture at West Texas A&M University. Alongside trying to complete his last year in the program, he is also teaching a 3D design class.

As for time spent outside of graduate school and teaching, Jordan enjoys spending time with his family. His family owns a farm outside of Optima, where his mother raises French bulldogs. This is where Jordan was introduced to animal handling. He also enjoys painting murals and trying to constantly learn more about art.

“Most of my passion for art comes from watching my family make art and being inspired by all of the artistic people in my life.” **P**

BRETT MUNSCH & LARA ALLEN NAMED MR. & MISS. PANHANDLE STATE

Submitted by Panhandle State Campus Communications

Another year at Oklahoma Panhandle State University is well under way, and the Mr. & Miss Panhandle State Scholarship Competition has once again come to a close. On Wednesday the 18th, spectators gathered at the Centennial Theater to see who would be crowned Mr. and Miss Panhandle State. With excitement in the air, the contestants took to the stage to compete for a \$2,000 scholarship and the opportunity to represent Oklahoma Panhandle State University at numerous events throughout the year. However, there could be only one set of winners. Coming in the 3rd place for Mr. Panhandle State was Jake Hawkins, while Zion Byrd came in 2nd. For Miss Panhandle State, MacKenzie Leach came in 4th, with Sarah Wood in 3rd, and Calie Rutherford coming in 2nd.

The winner of Miss Panhandle State is none other than Lara Allen. Lara is a junior from Cushing, OK. She is majoring in Ag Education. Her future career plans include becoming an Agriculture Education instructor and FFA adviser for high school students. She plans to stay in Oklahoma as a teacher after graduating, and advocate for vocational education on the local and state levels. While this is her first semester at OPSU, she has already become active on campus by becoming an OPSU Student Ambassador, Student Government Representative, and a member of the Collegiate FFA Chapter. Lara enjoys working with her hands and is practicing leather working. In fact, if you take a look in some of her notebooks you'll see an array of patterns she has sketched. So far, Lara loves the feeling of acceptance and encouragement that you get from faculty and staff as soon as you step on the OPSU campus. She said, "Everyone here genuinely wants to see you succeed and is willing to do what they can to help you do that."

The Mr. Panhandle State winner is Brett Munsch. Brett is a senior this year at OPSU. Originally from Boise City, OK, Brett is majoring in Animal Science with a minor in History. After college, Brett hopes to become a USDA Meat Grader and/or Inspector.



"We are so excited to have two great students as Mr. and Miss Panhandle State. Kim Smith and Dr. Hitch did an excellent job breathing life back into this competition."

— Dr. Tim Faltyn,
University President

On campus, Brett is involved with the History Club and Student Senate. Brett is active in the community serving as a lector and helping to maintain the grounds and facilities of his church. He also helps at the local food pantry whenever possible. His favorite thing about OPSU is the close-knit community of OPSU's student body.

The Mr. and Miss Panhandle State Competition is hosted by OPSU's Phi Beta Lambda business club, and is sponsored by the Student Government Association under the direction of Kim Smith and Dr. Sara Hitch.

OPSU President, Dr. Tim Faltyn, was also happy with the way the competition turned out saying, "We are so excited to have two great students as Mr. and Miss Panhandle State. Kim Smith and Dr. Hitch did an excellent job breathing life back into this competition."

When asked about the competition, Mrs. Smith had this to say, "It has been really exciting to see this program evolve and grow since last year. All of the candidates find this program to be a positive experience where they are challenged to get out of their comfort zone. Plus, the candidates make new connections with like-minded high achieving students from across all areas of campus. I am honored to be a part of this rejuvenated tradition and look forward to the opportunities Lara and Brett will have as the new titleholders." **P**

/ CAMPUS /

STUDENT UNION TO RECEIVE RENOVATION

Released by Panhandle State Campus Communications

In June, the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges approved a new Student Union Fee that will be dedicated to the renovation and upkeep of the OPSU Student Union Building. Opening in January 1964, the current Student Union Building has never undergone significant renovation, but that is about to change as the initial structural and architectural assessment is underway.

“For the past 55 years, the Student Union has served as the hub of campus life,” said OPSU President, Dr. Tim Faltyn. “In the next few years, we will give this building a much needed refresh that will highlight the central role it serves on our University campus.”

Studio Architecture has been selected to develop conceptual plans for the Student Union renovation and architects were on campus recently to begin the assessment process. After the initial assessment of the building, OPSU and Studio Architecture will begin a design conceptualization phase to examine potential designs and uses of the Student Union.

“Studio Architecture is very excited about the upcoming Student Union Renovation project at OPSU,” said James Hasenbeck, Principal, Studio Architecture. “The potential of redesigning the Union to create a new culture and sense of community for the students, faculty, and staff is even more exciting.”

OPSU Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. Julie Dinger said the design planning will be a community process. “We want to be sure that we include the needs and ideas of every group that uses this building, from students, faculty, staff, as well as our alumni and community members.”

Hasenbeck added “We believe that the Student Union will become a hub of activity for the campus. A place where different activities will occur, and where lifelong friendships will be made. Studio looks forward to working with the University to assist you with making this a very special place.”

Faltyn added, “This is an opportunity to ensure the Student Union meets the needs of our OPSU community for many more years to come.” **P**



“This is an opportunity to ensure the Student Union meets the needs of our OPSU Community for many more years to come. ”

— Dr. Tim Faltyn,
University President





Norman Deckman inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame (middle) and poses with University President, Dr. Tim Faltyn (left) and Athletic Director, Meghan Mulcahy (right).

/ATHLETICS/

2019 PANHANDLE STATE ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME BANQUET

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

On October 11, the Oklahoma Panhandle State University Athletics added four members – Carroll Gribble (football/baseball, assistant football coach, head baseball coach and administrator); Caleb Holbrook (football); Norman Deckman (men’s basketball), and Gary Cornelsen (football/track) - to the Aggie Hall of Fame. That brings to 31 the number of former standouts in the Crimson and Blue who have been enshrined during the eight ceremonies over the years.

Gribble – a four-year letterman in both football and baseball from 1950-54 – also served the Aggies as an assistant football (1968-79) and head baseball coach (1972-79). Gribble grew up in nearby Straight, Oklahoma. He came to what was then Panhandle A&M College, thanks to the assistance of a scholarship, under football coach Kenneth Hoyt.

“The real reason for life’s work is the relationship I’ve shared with coaches, faculty, students and athletes. Again, many thanks to the committee. Names and faces may change, but one thing never changes,” Gribble cheered. “GO AGGIES!”

When Caleb Holbrook came to the Oklahoma Panhandle State University program, he truly ushered in a new brand of football with a high-octane passing attack and a crowd-pleasing brand. Buoyed by a self-proclaimed intense leadership style, Holbrook became the centerpiece of the recent upswing of Aggie Football from 2012-14.

When you consider his entire career in the Crimson & Blue, Holbrook threw for 6,334 yards. That’s better than 3 miles of aerial

offense in his 29 games as an Aggie! Holbrook was also responsible for 396 points – either via the pass or a rush – in his tenure, which was 41 percent of the Panhandle teams’ scoring during those three seasons.

“I absolutely wouldn’t be able to do it without what we built here at Panhandle,” Holbrook continued of his career as a professional quarterback, which has yielded three championships in his four years playing indoor football. “I’m very grateful. This (Hall of Fame induction) is a great honor.

Norman Deckman never failed to answer the bell in his four seasons in the Crimson and Blue. From the time he suited up for the first game of his career versus Kansas Conference champion Southwestern Kansas in 1960, until his final contest lacing it up versus Oklahoma Baptist University at home, Deckman started every game as an Aggie. In all, that run covered 98-consecutive contests of having his name checked off for the starting five by Head Coach Jerry Anderson.

By the time Deckman’s career – one of the most prolific in school history - came to a close, he had established himself among the premiere men’s basketball athletes in Panhandle State history. He earned three all-OIC awards and was an All-America honorable mention as a senior.

“To the guys I had the pleasure of playing ball with,” Deckman closed his induction speech. “Many of them are lifetime friends. Either way folks, this is about ‘we’ not ‘me’. I accept this on behalf of my teammates.

Weened in the college football game for his first three years at Panhandle State by Hall of Fame coach Oscar Williams, Gary Cornelsen also excelled as a member of the track team. He was a four-year letterman (1969-72) as a defensive back for Panhandle State and earned all-conference recognition, as well as a sprinter for track.

After graduating, Cornelsen would pay the highest compliment he could to Williams, Gribble, Tom Cross, et al., by embarking on a coaching career of his own. Prowling the football sidelines or standing in the middle of the infield for track and field – or sometimes both – at the high school level, with the bulk of those years at nearby Liberal (Kan.) High School. During his time coaching at Liberal he had a total of 31 state trophies, in all.

“I’m proud to be an Aggie. Enough said. Thank you.” And with that, Cornelsen fittingly capped the induction of the Class of 2019 members to the Aggie Athletics Hall of Fame.



“Outside of someone’s love the greatest thing that someone can give is their labor,” Dr. Faltyn summarized about the four new inductees. “The thing that I’ve noticed about our inductees is that they’re not afraid to work. They’re not afraid to give of themselves. And they never take all of the credit for themselves. There’s a great deal to learn from people who are like this.

“It is true – based on four inductees that I saw tonight – that we are truly standing on the shoulders of giants.” P



/ATHLETICS/

HOMECOMING FOOTBALL WIN OVER TWU

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

A Homecoming crowd of nearly 1,700 fans were treated to a thrilling double-overtime win by the Oklahoma Panhandle State University football team, 34-28, over Texas Wesleyan University. With newly-minted Homecoming King Zion Byrd and Homecoming Queen Jena Konieczka in attendance, the Aggies improved to 2-4 overall and 2-2 in the Sooner Athletic Conference.

It was the first overtime game for the Aggies since the 2015 campaign, when they scored a 36-35 win in the first overtime at McMurry University (Texas).

Byrd, also the 6-foot-4, 325-pound junior starting offensive tackle for OPSU (from Cedar Hill High School in the Metroplex) - along with fellow o-line members Derek Smith, Sergio Sosa, Romario Martinez and Tony Redmond - cleared the path for Aggie running backs to amass 254 rushing yards.

As has been the norm for Panhandle, sophomore quarterback led the ground game. Brown had 155 yards on 35 carries, scoring three times, including the game-winner in the second extra segment. He also completed 10-of-28 passes for 84 yards and two aerial touchdowns, as well.

And none was larger than his final carry of the day - a one-yard plunge behind his offensive line - for the score to cap the Aggies second overtime series. The Rams drove down to the Panhandle 16 on their possession in the second overtime, before its drive was thwarted, thanks to a tackle for a loss of two yards by Diamante Pounds on a huge hit and a pass break-up by Antonio Vaughn.

It was a great finish for OPSU after fighting back to force overtime. However, the Aggies started the day off like it might get out of hand in their favor.

Brown had a six-yard run for a touchdown at the 8:18

mark of the opening period. His jaunt capped an eight-play, 60-yard series that made it 7-0, after Luis Rivas' extra point kick. The drive was set up when, on its first possession of the day, an errant center snap by TWU was recovered by the Aggies' Anthony Taylor at the Rams' 40.

Panhandle State upped its advantage to 14-0 at the 11:34 juncture of the second quarter, thanks to an amazing 38-yard catch-and-run by running back Danny Valverde Jr. On a third-and-10, Brown took the snap from the shotgun formation, rolled to his left and flipped the ball ahead to Valverde, who hauled it in at the 24 yard line. Valverde caught the ball in stride on the near sideline, twirled to avoid one would-be tackler at the 15, side-stepped another at the six and drug a third with him across the goal line to make it 14-0, after a SportsCenter top-10 nominated effort.

The score stood until 5:08 left in regulation, when Panhandle tallied the equalizer. Brown found Jaishone Brown on a seven-yard strike in the right-hand corner of the end zone to make it 28-28 and force overtime.

In overtime number one, TWU went first and, on a fourth-and-11 from the 26, had its series ended when the Aggies' Malik Brown intercepted the ball in the end zone. Panhandle could do nothing against the Ram front, forcing the second overtime set.

Brown opened with a 16 yard run down to the TWU nine. That was followed by carries of five, three and finally the one-yard touchdown dive that, after TWU failed to score, put the win in Panhandle's column. **P**

/ ATHLETICS /

2019-20 BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

The Oklahoma Panhandle State University basketball 2019-20 campaigns promise to be exciting and entertaining, with plenty of familiar faces – as well as some talented newcomers – on both rosters.

Entering his third season at the OPSU helm, women's head coach Victor Esparza will have a blend of some returning talent to go along with a healthy recruiting class. Although Esparza lost four of his top five scorers to graduation, he also welcomes back five experienced members from last season's SAC playoff team.

On the men's side, first-year head coach Mark Laird is going through a large rebuilding effort in 2019-20. The Aggie men have just three players returning who saw playing time, as well as a redshirt.

The Aggie women will host 15 home games this season. Panhandle's women takes on Manhattan Christian (Kan.), Randall and Bacone in a non-conference tilts, as well as both Northern New Mexico and University of the Southwest in the Aggie Classic, as well as its SAC games. Panhandle State's men's squad will have 13 bouts at Anchor D Arena. In addition to its Sooner Athletic Conference games, OPSU will have non-conference games versus the University of the Southwest, Barclay and Bacone.

As both of the Aggie teams continue to prepare for their respective seasons, the excitement and anticipation of OPSU Basketball 2019-20 by the fans and community is exploding, as well. Schedules for both programs are available on the Aggie Athletics web site (www.opsuaggies.com). Those interested in season tickets should contact Victor Esparza at (580) 349-1324 or via e-mail (coachvic@opsu.edu). It's always a great day to be an Aggie! **P**



/ ATHLETICS /

KENDRA BUTLER DOMINATES THE VOLLEYBALL COURT

Released by Panhandle State
Sports Information

As a senior volleyball player for OPSU in 2019, Kendra Butler is closing out her four-year stint for Aggie with the same excellence she demonstrated from the beginning when she came to Goodwell from Conroe, Texas. She continues to achieve both on the court and in the classroom, exactly as she has done since 2016, now closing the books on a career that ranks her among the best to ever suit up for the Aggies.

Butler has already been honored twice by the Sooner Athletic Conference on its post-season team and is making a strong bid for a third-straight all-conference recognition in 2019. As of press time, Butler ranked third in the SAC in hitting percentage (.309), 19th in kills per set (2.2) and fourth in blocks per set.

For her career, Butler has also been the Aggies' "gold standard." In 104 matches played (out of a possible 106), Butler has amassed nearly 800 kills and better than

200 blocks. Those numbers, along with her classroom prowess, have placed Butler in a class all by herself in Aggie volleyball history.

Butler – a biology major – carries one of the highest grade point averages among all Panhandle State student-athletes. She is aiming for her fourth-consecutive academic all-conference award this season, as well. After she finishes at OPSU, Butler plans on helping others in a career as a pediatrician. **P**





/ ATHLETICS /

ADDITION OF SOCCER AT OPSU HAD GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

The recent upswing in popularity for soccer – often called the “beautiful game” by the sport’s aficionados - in the United States, along with its broad cultural appeal to both men and women alike, make it a great fit for Panhandle State’s mission to provide “Progress through Knowledge,” with its commitment to promoting excellence in the preparation of students for success in a global community. What can be more “global” than the opportunities offered by the addition of soccer to Panhandle State?

“The addition of men’s and women’s soccer to our athletics profile goes way beyond on-field competition,” Panhandle State President Dr. Tim Faltyn explained. “We have a diverse campus and community. Soccer will offer opportunities for athletes, as well as an activity that crosses many cultures already living in our region. Anytime you can both bolster our athletics program, while also serving a broad segment of our region, it’s a win-win situation.”

Currently, Panhandle State international students represent countries that, most of which, would list soccer (or non-American “football”) as its sport of choice. On the Panhandle State men’s soccer team alone, there are 22 different countries represented, including: Panama, Chile, Italy, Scotland, Jamaica, South Africa, Colombia, Costa Rica, Spain, Brazil, England, Australia, Germany, France, Mexico, Haiti, Peru, Belgium, Guatemala, Ivory Coast, Malaysia and the United States.

And at each home match, OPSU Head Coach Brandon Misuraca has each player place a flag from his home country behind the team’s bench. It is not only a reminder that the Aggies now engage in a sport that has world-wide appeal, but also that the University itself is a place that is welcoming to all cultures. **P**



/ ATHLETICS /

JADE TATON ALL AROUND RODEO CHAMP

Released by Panhandle State Sports Information

Panhandle State senior Jade Taton has picked up this season, right where he left off. In the first three rodeos of the fall, Taton has been a perfect three-for-three in the Bareback competition.

Taton has won the Bareback buckles at Colby College, Southeastern Oklahoma State and at Oklahoma State, thus far. At Colby, Taton also won the men’s all-around, after getting sixth in Saddle Bronc, as well. It also marked the second-consecutive year that Taton was tops in Bareback at the Colby rodeo.

Taton was the 2018-19 regional all-around winner, as well. With one rodeo remaining in the fall portion of 2019-20, the Aggie cowboy is well on his way to a repeat performance when the spring rodeos commence in 2020. **P**



13TH ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH

CHILI JUDGING AT 11AM

FOOTBALL GAME VS. LYON COLLEGE