Our skills are something to be proud of, as is our team spirit. We are all on a team, not just of sports, but we form a family of students bound by common experiences and hopes. We hope to win, and we hope to succeed. Our fellow teammates, mentors, and coaches make this hope a reality.
Q: How did you come to join the swim team?
A: My close friend Calvin Price and I trained together back home in South Africa. He got in contact with Coach Scott Teeters through a recruitment agency and suggested that I fill out a recruitment form. I did exactly that, and soon after I started speaking with Coach Teeters. As is said, “The rest is history.”

Q: What is the teamwork aspect of swimming?
A: We do everything together. We encourage and push each other every stroke of the way. Morning workouts, whether lifting or swimming, would be a lot tougher without the continued support of teammates. We also do “tough cookie” sets pretty regularly. These are all out sprint sets where you have to try to hit race pace at practice. The whole team is up and supporting each other through each of these “tough cookie” sets. Then at swim meets we are on our feet and screaming support for each other for each event because every person’s swim can be the difference between winning and losing a meet. Our individual event scores add up and decide whether we win meets or not. Without the willingness of each team member to do their best for the team we would not have achieved what we did.

Q: How does your work in your sport connect to your passions in everyday life?
A: Swimming has been a talent that God has blessed me with; therefore, I tried to approach training as a time to grow that talent and to approach racing as an opportunity to express the talent God gave me. To paraphrase Eric Liddel in Chariots of Fire, “I believe God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast. And when I swim I feel His pleasure.”

Q: What does a typical swim meet look like?
A: It is pretty busy with swimmers warming up before races and warming down afterwards. Dual meets obviously have less swimmers but are no less competitive with everyone backing each other. Bigger invitational and championship meets often have a large crowd, intense support from each team for their swimmers, and a whole lot of action in the pool.

Q: What do you plan to do with your sport in the future?
A: I am looking to carry on swimming for the summer of 2015. If I can convert what I have done in Short Course Yards swimming into Long Course Meters (the Olympic standard) then I shall proceed on to try to swim for South Africa.
“I believe God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast. And when I win, I feel his pleasure.”
As the track and field team works toward personal records, the National track meet, and All-American status, this is a challenging year of transition. Coaching changes have provided fresh perspectives on the events while also leading to adjustments for all team members. “There has been a lot of learning on both sides of the changes, but it’s good. Track is so much fun for all of us,” comments senior Kamaria Goedhart. Senior Lucas Limberg agrees, saying, “The coaches make it fun, but my favorite part is the competitive atmosphere because it is all about pushing yourself to do your best in the individual events to support the team as a whole.”

Although the team is composed of many diverse athletes, track and field participants enjoy support from representatives of all the different events. With runners, jumpers, and throwers all individually competing for the ONU track team, there is still a huge feeling of community and support between all team members.

So far this year, the track and field team as a whole has been very successful. The team is full of athletes with a lot of heart and determination, which has been evident in the achievements of the entire team thus far. With many athletes already qualified for the NAIA Indoor Track and Field National Championships, hopes are high for a successful finish for the season.
Above: With a running start to gain power and speed, Brian Michell launched himself into the air during the pole vault event.

Left: These determined women hurdlers sprinted and cleared each obstacle with speed and agility during a home meet.

Below: Cody Harper increased his running pace to expand the distance between him and his competitors.

Above: The ONU throwers practiced perfect form during the shot put event at a track and field meet.

Left: Andrea Wojciechowski ran with the baton during a relay and continued the steady pace that is needed to beat the competition.
Right: Ethan Gallagher, followed closely by the other Olivet runners, started the race strongly and pulled out ahead of the other schools for an early lead.

Below: Elizabeth Soper picked up the pace as she neared the finish line.

Above: Several of the Olivet athletes ran in a pack at the beginning of the race as Aspen Ridge Golf Course.

Right: The women’s cross country runners took off as the race began.

9/5/14 Midwest Classic at Aspen Ridge Golf Course
(Women: 2nd of 6) (Men: Cancelled)

9/14/14 Illinois Intercollegiate at Aspen Ridge Golf Course
(Women: 1st of 14) (Men: 1st of 14)

9/26/14 at Brissman Lundeen Invitational hosted by Augustana College at Saukie Golf Course
(Women: 2nd of 35) (Men: 3rd of 39)

10/11/14 at Fighting Bees Invite hosted by St. Ambrose University at Crow Creek Park
(Women: 3rd of 13) (Men: 2nd of 13)
For the first time in program history, the men’s cross-country team took third place at the 2014 NAIA National Championships. Despite the women’s team’s failure to make it to the podium at Nationals, coach McDowell will continue the theme of “unfinished business” that both teams initially adopted with the intent of getting both teams to the podium next year. “Naomi [Springer] and Alexa [Beezhold] were our two freshman that ran at Nationals, so we are expecting them to have a good season next year as well,” Moyer said. “A lot of the times there is a lot of improvement between freshman and sophomore year due to experience and they have made it through the survival period of just adjusting to college and higher mileage. Also I know that the upperclassmen are determined to have a better season as a team and will put the work in needed over the summer and keep each other accountable.”

The most memorable moment for McDowell was seeing ONU’s men’s track and field team leading in the National Championship three miles into the competition. “Their outright determination was something that will forever be etched in my mind and be a precedent for future teams to come,” McDowell said. “The impressive thing about their third place finish was that they lost returning All-Americans Ethan Gallagher and Mitchell Dale half way through the season. Rebounding from the loss of these two guys and being forced to create a whole new team identity was more than impressive.”

Senior Ethan Gallagher was not able to go to the national meet because he had Achilles tendonitis that did not heal in time. “I was thrilled that our team was able to attain a trophy, something that we’ve dreamed of since all the way back to my freshman year,” Gallagher added. “It was extremely unfortunate I couldn’t compete with the team at [Nationals]. Though, I did travel with them.” Gallagher, who is graduating, will “easily” miss relationships he has made both on and off the field. His favorite memories while running with ONU have come from years of training at a cross country camp in northern Michigan. “It’s a time that’s packed full of emotions, training mostly alone all summer then coming back together to do what we love best,” Gallagher said. “It’s great to catch up with my best friends there and meet new ones as well. The end of the week culminates in a tough but exciting workout that always allows us to realize our individual and team’s potential.”

McDowell will be sad to see all of his seniors leave—they will be greatly missed. “From the perspective of contributing at the National level, the presence of Ethan Gallagher, Marshall Hawn, Andy Cowen, Ian Lofgren and Mitchell Dale for the men, and Maddie Moyer for the women [will be missed],” McDowell stated.

10/11/14 at NAIA Preview Meet hosted by Lawrence Sports Corp at Rim Rock Farm [Women: 6th of 32] [Men: 1st of 31]
10/25/14 at NAIA Great Lakes Invitational hosted by Aquinas College at Riverside Park [Men: 1st of 35]
11/8/14 at CCAC Conference Meet hosted by Judson University at Wing Park Golf Course [Women: 2nd of 12] [Men: 2nd of 11]
11/22/14 at NAIA National Championship hosted by Lawrence Sports Corp at Rim Rock Farm [Women: 16th of 38] [Men: 3rd of 36]
Nothing indicates the return of fall to Olivet’s campus quite like the stomping and roaring underneath the bleachers of Ward Field preceding the burst of purple and gold uniforms onto the field.

“It’s Olivet’s own stamp. It’s not like typical college football,” stated senior spectator Sam Vroman. “It makes you feel like a part of the team in your own way.”

Tight end Colton Parker, a senior on Olivet’s football team, also took the time to reflect on his time as a player.

“Some seasons may not have gone the way we wanted them to, but I wouldn’t change it for the world,” reminisced Parker. “The team is like one big family. We celebrate with each other after a win, we’re there for each other after a loss, and we pick each other up.”

In addition to the teammates encouraging each other on and off of the field, Coach Brian Fish also encourages the team in their relationships with God.

“I try on a regular basis to draw off the experiences we have on the football field to the experiences we will face in our Christian walk,” explained Coach Fish. “I believe the game of football serves as an analogy to our faith journey, and I try to draw out those analogies to help guys grow in their understanding of what faith can look like.”

By being uplifted in this way through their battles as a team, the players are able to grow closer together.

“You get to make lifelong friends on the team,” said Parker. “I know we will keep in touch long after we leave Olivet.”

This camaraderie can be experienced whether you are on the field playing, marching in the band, or cheering in the stands. As Vroman stated, Olivet has left its stamp on Ward Field.

Scoreboard

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<tr>
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<td>at #20 University of St. Francis</td>
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<td>Robert Morris University</td>
<td>L 16-17</td>
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<td>W 36-29</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/11/14</td>
<td>at #6 Grand View University</td>
<td>L 2-32</td>
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238 Football
Left: Wide receiver Matt McDivitt caught an 8 yard pass and scored the first touchdown of the first home football game against Robert Morris University.

Below: Quarterback Gage Buckley ran the ball downfield past the competition.

Far Left: The offensive players ran the ball to gain yards in the game against Trinity International University.

Left: Offensive lineman Alan Knol prepared to hike the football to the quarterback.

10/18/14 St. Ambrose University 41-17
10/25/14 at Lindenwood University-Belleville 29-7
11/1/14 #16 William Penn University 21-13

11/8/14 at Menlo College 21-13
11/15/14 at #6 St. Xavier University 36-6
Above: The cheerleading team continued to rev-up the crowd regardless of the cold weather.

Meet the Team...

Rachel Anderson (Freshman)
Danielle Bell (Freshman)
Kristin Floyd (Senior)
Gabrielle Brosman (Junior)

Kati Brown (Sophomore)
Brandon Brown (Junior)
Megan Eylander (Junior)
Sydney Harris (Freshman)

Rachel Jones (Sophomore)
Ashley Longnecker (Junior)
Morgan McCormick (Junior)
Christina McCoy (Junior)

Below: After the Senior Night basketball game, the cheerleading squad revealed their true strength by lifting Brandon Brown.

Right: Stephanie Miller enthusiastically led the student section in a cheer at a home football game.

Rachel Anderson @rach2596
I'm so happy I get to cheer this year with such a wonderful team and great friends! #ONU #Cheer #onuyearbook
Olivet’s cheerleading squad is talented to stay the least. With phenomenal stunts and brilliant routines, the squad impresses onlookers on a regular basis as they perform at Tiger football and basketball games throughout the year. Olivet’s marching band and student section make a nice addition to the already highly enthused cheerleading squad—all three groups make home games an enjoyable experience.

According to both Christina McCoy, a junior Elementary Education major, and Megan Eyelander, a junior Child Development and FACS major, Head Coach Karen Eyelander is like a second mom to everyone on the team. Christina explained, “She cares for each and every one of us more than I think we even know.” Eyelander added, “She’s one of the most caring, motherly figures I have ever met.” Junior Art major Coleman Sesson added that Eyelander is the “sweetest person ever” and went on to explain that the coach always willing to lend an ear to listen.

When the team was asked to describe their squad in three words, the most popular descriptions were hilarious, determined, family, capable, hard-working, and inspiring. With those qualities, it isn’t difficult to have a great experience as part of the team. Eyelander said her best experience has been getting to go to camps in the summer and learning new material for the year, while Sesson said the best experience that he’s had was when the team made history by being the first cheerleading squad at Olivet to perform at a cheerleading competition. McCoy agreed, adding that her best experience by far was competing her freshman year and getting the opportunity to compete at Nationals in Florida.

The team is always hard at work and wants the student body to know a few things about the sport that they may not already. McCoy shared, “I think other students would be surprised to know that cheering is a lot harder than it looks. Everything is so technical and precise. It takes a good amount of time to learn new stunts in order to perfect them before we can perform them in front of a crowd.” Eyelander added to that statement by explaining, “Cheerleading is the most dangerous sport and has the most injuries of any sport out there!” This experienced and down-to-earth team of crowd-pleasers loves what they do and the crowd loves them too!
When volleyball season began at Olivet this fall, the battle for victory became about more than just winning games. “Our goals are always to play for the Lord, play to the best of our ability, help make our teammates better, work hard to be the best prepared we can be, be a top conference team, and get back to the national level,” stated Coach Brenda Williams. Playing for a cause became part of that this year with Autumn’s Army, through which the team raised over $2,000 for cystic fibrosis research.

“Being on the team has allowed me to have a family at Olivet that helps me through my struggles and celebrates my successes,” said senior Haley Hatalla, reflecting on completing her fourth and final season on Olivet’s team. “One of our goals this season was to play selflessly. It’s all about putting yourself aside and focusing on someone else on the team and playing for her. When you can play for your teammates, and when you know your teammates are playing for you and are behind you 100%, it makes your job easy and everything flows.” Through the work that the team puts in both on and off of the court, it is easy to see that there is a greater purpose behind each serve.

Above: Renee Enz set the ball up for her teammate to spike.
The players came in to celebrate the point that they earned.

Tiffany Madura jumped up to spike the ball over the net.

Above: The coaches pose for a silly photo on the tiger statue.

left: Three of the team members went up to block the ball and prevent the other team from earning a point.
Right: Paddy Hoepp navigated through Trinity International University's defenders.

Far Right: Clay Selby went in for a penalty kick.

Below: Matheus Guimaraes, a freshman from San Paulo, Brazil, moved the ball downfield.

Far Below: Kyle Reopelle took three shots against Trinity International University.

Right: Brett Robertson set the ball up for a pass to one of his open teammates.

Scoreboard

8/29/14 University of Michigan-Dearborn W 3-0
9/5/14 at Huntington University W 4-0
9/6/14 at Spring Arbor University L 0-1
9/9/14 at #RV University of Northwestern Ohio L 0-1
9/12/14 at #12 Grand View University L 2-3
9/18/14 Marygrove College W 6-0
9/20/14 Moody Bible Institute W 5-0
9/24/14 Holy Cross College L 3-4
9/27/14 Judson University W 3-2 (OT)
9/30/14 at Purdue University-Calumet W 2-0
Men’s Soccer

“Instead of shutting down and accepting an average season, we worked hard in training and built our team chemistry,” senior team captain Kyle Reopelle said.

ONU’s men’s soccer team was tied 3-3 against Chicago’s Roosevelt University. The game went into overtime and became sudden death. “Roosevelt was undefeated in our conference and we had to win this game no matter what,” senior team captain Paddy Heopp said. Midfielder Heopp kicked the ball “20 to 23 yards out” to put the Tigers in first place in the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference (CCAC).

“You ask anyone on our team,” head coach David Blahnik said, “and that’s the goal they’ll remember most this season. Probably one of the biggest goals in the program history.”

The Tigers were the CCAC tournament champions for the third year in a row and gained the CCAC regular season title for the first time in over thirty years. Unfortunately, the team lost in penalty kicks in the opening round of nationals against Davenport University (Mich.). Davenport went on to win the national championship.

“Our guys know that if we tied the national champs, then we’re right at that level,” Blahnik said. “So it’s nice that our guys can take that into the off-season and the next fall as motivation to train.” The team led their conference in awards with six players achieving all-conference and in number of all-academic players. The team is losing four seniors: midfielder Tyler Gill, midfielder and defender Eliot Tosch, midfielder Paddy Heopp, and defender Kyle Reopelle. Returners who will help fill those spots include midfielder Richard Paret, midfielder and forward Miguel Fierro, midfielder and defender Ryan Tosch, and midfielder and forward Aaron Chatfield.

Coach Blahnik also believes that returning freshman will help fill the void of graduating seniors. “Our freshman group this year was one of the best we’ve ever had, not just as players, but transitioning into mature college athletes,” Blahnik said. “Our returning players did a great job of setting the tone of what our ONU men’s soccer culture is.”

Freshman, such as forward Adam Schafer, who did not play as much in the beginning of the season were level-headed and continued to work hard even while benched, Blahnik said.

In one of the “biggest” conference games at Judson University (Ill.), the Tigers were down 3-0 at halftime when Schafer was put on the field. Schafer then scored within the first minute of playing and later on tied the game with an assist. Blahnik said that the Tigers probably would not have won conference without Schafer’s performance. “Great example of a guy that, even though he wasn’t getting a ton of minutes before that time, continued to work,” Blahnik said.

10/14/14 Trinity International University [L 0-1]
10/18/14 at Trinity Christian College [W 4-1]
10/17/14 St. Xavier University [W 3-2 (OT)]
10/18/14 at Cardinal Stritch University [W 4-0]
10/18/14 at Calumet College of St. Joseph [W 2-1]
10/28/14 Roosevelt University [W 4-3 (2OT)]
11/1/14 at Robert Morris University [W 2-0]
11/5/14 University of Saint Francis [W 3-0]
11/12/14 Purdue University-Calumet [W 2-0]
11/15/14 Cardinal Stritch University [W 1-0]
11/22/14 at #7 Davenport University [T 0-0 (2OT)]
At halftime they “still had hope” Senior Captain Elisabeth Wahl said. Olivet’s Women’s soccer team was tied 2-2 against non-conference Siena Heights University (Mich.). Many of their seniors were out. The team, along with Head Coach Bill Bahr, began to encourage each other. But the Tigers lost 5-2 to the non-conference team. This loss became a “turning point” in their season. After Siena Heights, the Tigers achieved a 15-game winning streak. For the first time in Tiger history, the team grabbed both the regular season title and went undefeated in the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference becoming the conference tournament champions.

“The feeling of losing by that many goals was a terrible feeling, and we did not want to feel that way again,” Wahl said. “We were a young team and after that game we really came together and connected. We did have several injuries in the beginning of the season.” One of those injured was starter and team captain, Senior Katie Smith. “When Katie Smith got back into her game, the season really did turn around in so many ways,” Wahl said. “She was a true blessing this year on and off of the field.”

After their winning streak, the Tigers eventually fell, 1-0, in the first round of the national tournament against Hastings College (Neb.). “The last two years we’ve gone [to nationals] and haven’t played our best games,” Bahr said. “The trick is trying to get the team to peak at the right time. The last two years we peaked early”.

Despite the Tigers’ early loss, they gained valuable experience as freshman Tess Marcordes stepped into a leadership role as a sweeper—a roaming defensive position on a soccer team. Junior Michelle Ditchfield also gained experience as she moved from a middle to outside midfielder position. The team will have a returning senior class of seven players next season.

With a 30 player team and a 20 player traveling squad, the team was larger than usual and made more substitutions because of multiple injuries including Senior Team Captain Katie Smith. “One of the cool things about our conference season: we were beating teams 3-0, 4-0, 4-1, 9-1 … for most of the season and everyone played,” Bahr said. “There was not a girl on our team that didn’t get any minutes.”

As the freshmen became integrated into the team, so did new assistant coaches, Megan Traynor and Brandon Eylander. Bahr has an expertise in coaching midfielders, while Traynor focuses on defense along with assistant coach Joshua Macharia; Eylander concentrates on forwards. “Between the four of us, we are very complementary of each other,” Bahr said.

Scoreboard

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<tr>
<td>10/7/14</td>
<td>at Trinity Christian College</td>
<td>W 4-1</td>
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McKenzie Hengesh and Tess Marcordes fought for the ball against Trinity International University.

Katie Smith charges for the ball in order to pass it down the field.

Toby the Tiger decided to be goalie for a bit, playing against some younger athletes.

Above: Jordan Gunn set up a pass as Elisabeth Wahl moved through an open space to receive the pass.

Left: Midfielder Ellen West went for a head shot to get the ball away from the opponent.

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<tr>
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<td>at Calumet College of St. Joseph</td>
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<td>Roosevelt University</td>
<td>W 9-1</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/22/14</td>
<td>Hastings College</td>
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Right: Robert Wagner swung and moved his ball closer to the hole.

Far Right: Jordan Spay followed through on his swing as he sent the ball straight for the green.

Below: Luke Lambert tracks the path of his ball as he teed off.

Far Below: Cody Kinstner prepared to putt the ball into the hole.

Above: Michael Bork powerfully swung and sent his ball flying toward his target on the green.

Meet the team...

Michael Bork (Senior)
Kyle Dwyer (Freshman)
Cole Evenson (Sophomore)
Cody Kinstner (Freshman)
Luke Lambert (Sophomore)
Darin LaMont (Junior)
Golf is a mental game and this season, the men’s golf team improved on their work ethic and their mental approach to game making decisions. “I’ve been really working hard on my mental game because that’s the most important part of golf,” Sophomore Luke Lambert said. “And it’s also important to me to help out my teammates as much as I can.” Lambert cited his coach’s knowledge of the game and experience with the team at ONU as reasons for why he has improved this year. He still feels, however, that there is work to do. “My skills can always get better just like in any other sport, but my short game—chipping and putting—is really somewhere where I need to improve more and more. Every other part—physically—can always come around. And again, mental game is the most important part which goes with the short game hand in hand.”

Head coach Damon Jensen said that he is impressed with his returning players’ drive to succeed at conference and make it to the national tournament. He is also impressed with how the incoming freshman have developed into good teammates that encourage each other and the rest of the team.

Senior Darin LaMont has enjoyed his time during his last season with ONU golf. “I have made some awesome friends and have had some good times,” LaMont said. “I didn’t play as well as I liked sometimes, but I’m looking forward to my last chance to make something of it and enjoying this semester, making it fun and memorable.” LaMont’s most memorable time with the team was during spring break two years ago. “We drove down, 12 of us including coaches, and played 18 holes the first day. We were supposed to play 36 holes the next day and 18 holes the day after, but when we got back to our hotel it started to snow. The next day it was still snowing [and] raining on us so we weren’t able to play. The same was true for the next day as well, but even though we didn’t get to play much golf it was still a blast. We were able to just hang out, relax and go to the mall there. It was some of the most fun that I’ve had on the team to date.”

Stephen Lowe (Sophomore)
Ryan Muzlijkovich (Junior)
Jordan Spay (Sophomore)
Zach Thorson (Sophomore)
Robert Wagner (Junior)
This year, the Golf team worked incredibly well as a team and many friendships were formed. Team captain junior Kelsey Fisk is proud of her team’s attitude and commitment. “Some of our overall goals are to unite as a team, improve our personal scores, and improve our overall team score in competition,” Fisk said. “We know that we can only be our best by working together to improve our total score. One of our major goals is to make it to Nationals again this year.” Instead of focusing on how close the team is to making it to Nationals, they are focusing on one tournament at a time. The team has also been spending time working out in the gym and maintaining swings. “The hard work of every member of our team is what will allow us to be in good standing to make it to Nationals,” Fisk said.

Senior Jessica Eckerley believes that Olivet’s women’s golf program is headed in the right direction. “We have only been a program for five years, and we already have won multiple tournaments, been conference champs, and made an appearance at Nationals twice,” says Eckerley. She believes that she has significantly improved on her long game—drives and fairway shots made with wood, driver, and hybrid clubs. “My goal for this year is to help contribute to the overall team’s score and to be a part of the group that heads to Nationals,” Eckerley added. “The team’s goal is to get as close to our school record—scorewise—as possible, if not beat it, and, of course, go to Nationals again.” Eckerley’s best memory of playing golf with Olivet so far was scoring her career low in the last fall tournament of her 2014 fall season, and she hopes to beat that score in the spring season. Each member on the team continued to improve throughout the 2014-2015 academic year, and it’s obvious that they will continue to get better both individually as well as a team.
Left: Kelsey Fisk sent the ball flying as she teed off.

Below: Hannah Petraitis swung and moved her ball closer to the hole.

Far Below: Lyndsey Herndon putted her ball in the hopes of sinking it into the hole.

Above: Jessica Eckerley watched as her ball sailed toward the green.

Left: Madison Brown carefully lined up her putt before swinging.
Right: The swimming coaches as well as teammates stood along the side of the pool and cheered swimmers on as they swam the last lap.

Far Right: The swim team has incredible strength, ability, and power. Tiffany Ray demonstrated her skills as she dove off the block.

Below: Whitney Whitehead emerged from the water to take a breath while swimming the breaststroke.

Above: One event that swimmers participate in are relays. In a relay, several swimmers compete in a group. As one finished their lap, the next would dive off the block.

Right: Andrew Fischer swam the butterfly during a home meet.

Scoreboard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/10/14</td>
<td>at Notre Dame Relays</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/17/14</td>
<td>Intrasquad: Purple v. gold</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/7/14</td>
<td>Intrasquad: Purple v. Gold #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/14/14</td>
<td>at University of Chicago Invite</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1/10/15</td>
<td>at Lewis University</td>
<td>Men: L 122-139</td>
<td>Women: L 102.5-157.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/10/15</td>
<td>at UI-C Invite</td>
<td>Men: 4th of 8</td>
<td>Women: 6th of 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

252 Swimming and Diving
Two weeks after the start of the semester, the ONU swimming and diving has hit the ground running—or, shall we say, hit the water kicking. Olivet has only two meets left before the NAIA Swimming and Diving National Championships in Oklahoma City. Since the beginning of the swim season in October, Olivet’s swim team has been competing against NCAA teams in hopes of being podium contenders in Oklahoma City this March.

Head swim coach Scott Teeters says that Olivet’s competitive schedule—including meets against schools like Notre Dame, University of Chicago, and Ohio State—will better prepare his team for the championship meet. “They’re much better than NAIA teams,” he said. “We try to be as competitive as we can be. Our swimmers can compete at that level. They don’t doubt their abilities.”

Olivet’s NCAA schedule has not resulted in as much tournament success as it has in swimmers qualifying for Nationals. Although NAIA rules allow only 18 entrants from each team at Nationals, Teeters said that several more of the team’s 60 swimmers had qualifying times. “Our focus has been on swimming fast, not on winning tournaments,” Teeters said.

Since Christmas break, Coach Teeters has upped the intensity of his training program. “We get better every year,” he said. “As the swimmers keep improving, they can do more.”

Teeters also plans to give his team an edge through the use of tech suits, which can make swimmers significantly faster. “We didn’t have them during the first semester, but we will at Nationals,” he said. “All of our qualifying times were made without tech suits.” Freshman Nationals qualifier Austin Bennett has made changes to his routine as well in preparation for Nationals. “I’ve changed my diet by eating more healthy power foods, and I’m trying to get more sleep,” he said. “I’m just going to swim my heart out, do my best, try to hold my own and support the others. And, of course, make Coach happy.”

One area Teeters is hoping to improve is the diving team. Olivet currently has a limited number of divers, most of whom have little diving training. Because Olivet does not have diving facilities, the divers are forced to travel to Kankakee High School to practice. “They try to dive as much as they can, but there is frustration with the lack of practice time available. We work with what we have,” said Teeters.

Teeters hopes to be able to recruit more divers, but says that the lack of facilities makes recruitment difficult. A strong diving team is essential to the team’s success at meets: Three divers count as one entry at Nationals, where a poor result could cost the team 200 points.

The team does, however, have a major asset that other teams do not: A group of dedicated student assistants comprised of Samantha Elam, Bradley Adamson, Montana Case, and Jordan Epp. “I’m so blessed and fortunate to have them,” said Teeters. “They motivate me. Any one of them could be a head coach.”

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1/16/15 and 1/17/15 at Oakland University, Kenyon College, University of Cincinnati (Men: 4th of 4) (Women: 4th of 4)
1/20/15 at Wheaton College (Men: W 150-55) (Women: W 104-101)
1/31/15 Lake Forest University and Butler University (Men: W 177-82) (Women: Butler) W 176-81 and (Lake Forrest) W 176-74
ONU’s tennis program is great,” team captain junior Clara Ruesegger said. “It is very competitive and has been very successful over the years, both on the men’s and women’s side. It is a very close knit team with a lot of talent and love for the sport.” Ruesegger said that the team’s goals for this season include winning their conference and making it to nationals in May. “While the men qualified last year, the women lost in the final round, and we would love to be back in Alabama this May to have another shot in the NAIA tournament,” Ruesegger said. She added that her favorite memory of the season was the team’s fall trip to Joplin, Missouri for the regional tournament. “It was a really successful trip for individuals on both the men’s and women’s sides,” Ruesegger commented. “[Sophomore] Oscar Mancineras Cornella won the tournament and from there even went on to get through the second round of Nationals beating a No. 3 ranked player.”

ONU’s tennis program was a “big contributing factor” in team captain senior Peter Jensen choosing ONU. Jensen said that he has gained experience, gained more confidence in playing doubles matches, and become a better player overall. “I would like to make it to the 2nd round of Nationals,” Jensen said. “The last two years we lost 4-5 in the first round. Also I would like to work on being more aggressive.” For team goals, Jensen explained that ONU tennis would like to be a stronger team in doubles matches. “I think everyone on the team is really consistent,” Jensen continued. “So we have a lot of long matches. Also, most of us really like the sport and are constantly putting in extra work to get better.”

Sophomore Brooke Fraley believes that ONU’s tennis program is a “great experience” for anyone wanting to play collegiate tennis. “Our greatest strength as a team has to be just the amount of talent that adds up,” Fraley said. “We have a lot of diverse players from different places, and it’s really cool to see all these different people from different places coming together and working hard together to achieve our overall goals.” Fraley’s best memory of playing tennis with ONU was being able to pour cooler water on her coaches who were participating in the ALS Ice Bucket challenge. Both the Men’s and Women’s tennis teams have been very competitive and successful this year. A combination of a strong, as well as dedicated, team creates an atmosphere of cohesion, and allows the focus to be on improving their game.
Riley St. Clair returned a blistering shot back to his opponent.

Rodolfo Sanchez fired the ball back across the court.

Chloe Myers observed her shot as she prepared for the next return.

Victoria Monakhova prepared to send a strong shot back over the tennis net.

Sarephine Buchmann concentrated on her target and returned her opponent’s shot.

Parker Tibbs followed through and returned a tough serve.

Lucas Bolt (Freshman)
Derek Bradshaw (Sophomore)
Ryan Champlin (Freshman)
Adam Clark (Freshman)
Tyler Ellis (Sophomore)

Peter Jensen (Senior)
Tyler Lingle (Sophomore)
Juan Lopez-Isasi Morales (Sophomore)
Oscar Mancineiras Cornella (Sophomore)
Rodolfo Sanchez (Junior)
Right: Leke Solanke jumped up to dunk the ball.

Far Right: Alex Thorson took advantage of the open lane for a lay-up and scored two points.

Far Above: At the free throw line, Austin Davis added two points to the Tigers’ score.

Above: Aaron Larson broke away from the defense and headed straight for the hoop to score.

Above: Tyler Crater passed to Alex Thorson in the hopes of getting the ball away from the defense.

Scoreboard

10/31/14 Indiana Institute of Technology [W 88-49]
11/5/14 #RV Huntington University [W 83-62]
11/7/14 Silver Lake College [W 111-65]
11/11/14 at #14 St. Ambrose University [W 76-74]
11/19/14 at Purdue University-Calumet [W 80-60]
11/22/14 #20 Evangel University [L 73-75 (OT)]
11/25/14 at University of St. Francis [L 59-75]
12/1/14 at Purdue University-North Central [W 82-68]
12/3/14 at #RV Lewis University [L 49-75]
12/6/14 Holy Cross College [W 72-69]
12/13/14 Calumet College of St. Joseph [W 74-71]
12/16/14 #11 St. Ambrose University [W 89-68]
12/19/14 vs. #24 Evangel University [L 58-67]
12/19/14 vs. #23 Southwestern Assemblies of God University [L 75-76]
1/3/15 at #15 Georgetown College [W 84-82]
1/1/15 vs. Southern Illinois University-Carbondale [L 60-76]
12/14/14 at Purdue University-North Central [W 72-55]
12/3/14 at #RV Lewis University [L 49-75]
12/6/14 Holy Cross College [W 72-69]
12/13/14 Calumet College of St. Joseph [W 74-71]
12/16/14 #11 St. Ambrose University [W 89-68]
12/19/14 vs. #24 Evangel University [L 58-67]
12/19/14 vs. #23 Southwestern Assemblies of God University [L 75-76]
1/3/15 at #15 Georgetown College [W 84-82]
This season Olivet’s men’s basketball team played host for the CCAC Tournament Championship, which seemed to bring them luck. By the time the horn blared signaling the end of their thirty-third game, the Tigers claimed their twenty-fifth victory. The mass of students, many of which had gone out of their way to decorate themselves patriotically, roared in celebration. In honor of the great win, each player got a chance to cut a piece of the net down. “Everybody get up there and cut! Everybody!” Olivet’s head men’s basketball coach, Ralph Hodge, said after the CCAC championship game. Both nets were cut down on the evening of Feb. 28 in McHie Arena after the Tigers beat Cardinal Stritch University 90-80.

Victory in the CCAC Tournament Championship took the team to the NAIA where their winning streak was cut short. Although they were unable to continue on to another victory, it is impressive to note that this was their seventeenth appearance in the national tournament.

In addition to winning the regular season title, the Tigers were named the 2015 CCAC Tournament Champions for their win in an after game awards ceremony. At the game’s 13-minute mark, the Tigers held the lead and did not relinquish it. In the last ten seconds of the game, sophomore Tyler Crater, who contributed two 3-pointers to the Tigers’ performance, tossed the ball in the air in triumph and smiled. “[Our game plan] is the same as it’s been all season long when we first started,” Hodge said. “We said it’s going to be a season of poise and purpose. That’s what we talked about all year long: staying in the moment—being in control of our emotions, our mental state. [Then], playing with a purpose of how we’ve practiced, how we’ve prepared, of our team’s abilities.”

At the end of the game, Hodge credited his team’s victory to their “poised and purposeful” overall performance. This year’s season was surely a time to remember as a celebration of all the male athletes and their passion for basketball.

1/10/15 at Judson University  
W 83-67

1/14/15 #25 Robert Morris University  
W 93-77

1/17/15 at St. Xavier University  
W 105-97 (OT)

1/19/15 Indiana University-South Bend  
W 84-56

1/21/15 Trinity International University  
L 78-81

1/24/15 Roosevelt University  
W 77-44

1/26/15 at Trinity Christian College  
W 87-76

2/1/15 Purdue University-Calumet  
W 88-65

2/4/15 #14 University of St. Francis  
W 72-65

2/7/15 at Holy Cross College  
L 66-62

2/11/15 at Calumet College of St. Joseph  
W 73-65

2/16/15 Purdue University-North Central  
W 97-61

2/18/15 #14 Cardinal Stritch University  
W 94-85

2/21/15 at Indiana University-South Bend  
W 95-70

2/25/15 Robert Morris University (quarterfinals)  
W 93-68

2/27/15 St. Xavier University (semifinals)  
W 90-79

2/28/15 #18 Cardinal Stritch University (championship)  
W 90-80

3/11/15 vs. #16 Warner Pacific College  
L 54-79

(Athletics) 257
"Embrace the Challenge" was the theme for Olivet’s women’s basketball season. "Tigerball" is the term coined to define the women's fast or “run-and-gun” style of play. This year, the Tiger’s ten-year anniversary, head coach Lauren Stamatis focused on “[teaching] everyone the speed and tempo of play” that Olivet’s team is known for.

“Our record this year was 20-11,” junior guard Jayne Stuart said. “While we had hoped to do better, with nine freshman and having little experience, we did pretty well. We set a national record in all divisions with a 108.3 points per game average.” The Tigers’ points per game average was 107.5 last season. This year, the Tigers breached the 100-point mark in 24 of their games. Despite a dominating first half of the season, the last game they played for the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference Tournament, against Cardinal Stritch University (Wis.), was missing ten players due to injuries. The Tigers did not make their goal of reaching the national tournament but are “very determined to be there next year as [they] are returning 13 players.”

Stuart said that one of her favorite memories this season was beating No. 5 ranked Cardinal Stritch University in the regular season. The Tigers beat the Stritch Wolves by 33 points staying ahead of the Wolves for the entire game aside from a tie 4 minutes in. Stuart contributed 24 points in the game against the Wolves. The Tigers’ run-and-gun style challenged the Wolves as the girls forced 38 turnovers—18 because of steals. “We played so well as a team and the crowd was awesome that game,” Stuart said.

As Wendy Reid writes on the team’s page: “When Olivet Nazarene University women’s basketball team takes the court, not even the scoreboard is safe.”

Scoreboard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/31/14</td>
<td>Indiana Institute of Technology</td>
<td>W 136-94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/5/14</td>
<td>at Marian University</td>
<td>L 124-136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/8/14</td>
<td>Lindenwood University - Belleville</td>
<td>L 88-98</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/12/14</td>
<td>Missouri Baptist University</td>
<td>W 115-84</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/15/14</td>
<td>Grace College</td>
<td>W 122-87</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/19/14</td>
<td>at Purdue University - Calumet</td>
<td>L 91-122</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/21/14</td>
<td>Indiana University - Northwest</td>
<td>W 104-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/22/14</td>
<td>Ashford University</td>
<td>W 101-90</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/25/14</td>
<td>at University of Saint Francis</td>
<td>W 126-112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/3/14</td>
<td>at Clarke University</td>
<td>W 101-78</td>
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<td>12/6/14</td>
<td>Holy Cross College</td>
<td>W 108-74</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/10/14</td>
<td>Calumet College of Saint Joseph</td>
<td>W 121-61</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/13/14</td>
<td>at No. 26 Huntington University</td>
<td>L 106-124</td>
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<td>12/17/14</td>
<td>vs. William Penn University</td>
<td>W 120-103</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/18/14</td>
<td>vs. Buena Vista University</td>
<td>W 116-110</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sophomore Ashley Freeman shot a free throw.

Below: Freshman Lauren Rouse, cornered by defenders, searched for a teammate who was open for a pass.

Above: The Tigers came together as a team to celebrate their win. The team ended with a 20-11 record.

Left: Junior Abbey Hengesbach ran after the ball. She led her team in rebounds this season.
Right: A Tiger batter took a swing at the pitch during one of the team’s games in Tuscon, Arizona over spring break. The Tigers won 9 out of 12 games in Tuscon.

Below: A Tiger player slides into third base to avoid being tagged out by his opponent.

Far Above: Junior Katie Megyesi waited for the perfect pitch in the game against Purdue University-Calumet. The Tigers won their first game against Purdue by 10 runs.

Above: The Tiger catcher played hard against Robert Morris University. The Tigers swept Robert Morris in the regular season.

Above: Jonathan Hentschel, one of Olivet’s pitchers, wound up to hurl the ball toward the opposing team’s batter.
Q: What is your favorite memory on the team?
A: I transferred to ONU after playing at KCC and I enjoyed getting to play against old teammates last year.

Q: How does playing baseball relate to life?
A: Baseball has helped me understand what it means to be a part of a team and how to work together for a common goal as well as how to balance work, school, and sleep.

Q & A with Ashley McKnight, Softball Left Fielder, Junior Exercise Science Major
Q: Why did you choose Olivet?
A: I chose Olivet because of the highly accredited academies, but more importantly, for the opportunity to grow in my faith during college.

Q: What has playing softball taught you?
A: It has taught me that the amount of time and effort that you put into something is directly related to the predicted outcome.

Q & A with Ken DeCook, Baseball Pitcher, Senior Religious Studies Major
Q: What is your favorite memory on the team?
A: I transferred to ONU after playing at KCC and I enjoyed getting to play against old teammates last year.

Q: How does playing baseball relate to life?
A: Baseball has helped me understand what it means to be a part of a team and how to work together for a common goal as well as how to balance work, school, and sleep.

Q & A with Parker Shelton, Baseball Pitcher, Junior Mechanical Engineering Major
Q: Why did you choose Olivet?
A: I wanted the opportunity to play collegiate baseball and study engineering while in a Christian atmosphere.

Q: How does playing baseball relate to life?
A: Sometimes in the game, you can make a great pitch and do everything right and the opponent still misses it. That is true in life. Sometimes you can do everything right and it just doesn’t go your way.

Q & A with Megan Butler, Softball Catcher, Senior Elementary Education Major
Q: Why did you choose Olivet?
A: I met Coach Ritchie when I was 12 years old at a softball camp hosted by Olivet and loved his coaching style.

Q: What is one of your goals for this season?
A: To finish it alive! I would love to see the team head to Nationals and also to finish my last year playing strong in order to look back with no regrets.
Intramurals is one of the things that makes Olivet stand out. With over 80 percent of students participating in these extracurricular sports, it is something that brings the Olivet community together through friendly competition. “Intramurals definitely have a strong sense of community,” explained participant Amanda Aldeir. “I love being on a team with students I wouldn’t have met if it weren’t for intramurals.” Aldeir also explained that through intramurals, she is able to continue to participate in sports that she once played in high school but didn’t pursue into college.

To form an intramural team, students must choose a team captain, sign-up as a group, choose the league based on the ability levels of the players, and then they are ready to compete! Intramurals has several leagues which vary in skill level from players who are brand new to the sport and just want to have fun to those who played in high school and are highly competitive. Everyone can find something that suits their skill level and interests within Olivet’s intramurals program.

Most intramural participants have their eye on the intramural championship t-shirt – a prize every team looks forward to working towards. With options to play basketball, dodgeball, euchre, flag football, billiards, tennis, racquetball, soccer, softball, volleyball, table tennis, and ultimate frisbee, there are endless opportunities for students to win one of the coveted t-shirts.
Left: An intramural volleyball game got heated when a powerful spike was blocked.

Below: Intramurals allow students to come together and decompress from a busy academic schedule with the occasional competitive game.

Left: A close shot was blocked by the skilled intramural indoor soccer goalie.

Neil Ipock @neil_ipock

B-league Champions. Had a blast playing with these guys and bringing home those T-shirts is a great feeling. #Apostles #lifeatolivet #basketball #squad