



DEC. 11TH | 5:30/7:30 PM

**GAMEDAY**



ARENA



## From the President

Dear Evangel family,

If you speak to any student, faculty member, or alum of Evangel University, you will likely hear something about the “Evangel experience.” The truth is that our institution is more than a school where students come to be filled with knowledge; it is a training ground for each individual’s future vocational ministry. At EU, we provide an experience-driven environment to give young men and women the tools they need to prepare for their unique callings.

Our experiential learning model moves students from passive observers to active participants, and within this structure, Evangel’s faculty members serve as both drivers and sustainers. Traditionally, at mainstream universities, faculty members are primarily disseminators of knowledge, and students are passive recipients. The disengagement of students’ passion for real-world applications has often been a direct result of observing professionals teach theory without providing experiential learning opportunities or the sharing of their personal stories along the way.

EU professors provide opportunities for students to engage actively with knowledge every time their classes gather. EU has made the shift from merely being “providers of information” to fostering dynamic, active participation in the application of knowledge. As Christians, we know the journey of learning and discovery resides within each student and must be guided by the Holy Spirit, and only He knows the challenges and assignments that lie ahead for each one.

As you read through the pages of this magazine and review the successes we’ve celebrated over the last year, know that your prayers and support have played an important role. The university is focused on helping students keep pace with growing challenges and the integration of their intellectual, professional, and personal development. Here, learning is experiential, not just theoretical, and opportunity is around every corner and lies within every challenge they will face.

I pray that as you read this magazine, the Lord opens your eyes to the great work He is doing at Evangel University and invites you to discern where you may participate in the work of raising up the next generation.

May God bless you richly,

*Mike Rakes*

Dr. Mike Rakes  
President

## 2024-25 EVANGEL BASKETBALL

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Fri	Nov 1	Mission University (W)	AGFinancial Arena	5:30 PM
Fri	Nov 1	Columbia College (M)	AGFinancial Arena	7:30 PM
Tue	Nov 5	College of the Ozarks	AGFinancial Arena	5:30/7:30 PM
Wed	Nov. 13	William Woods	AGFinancial Arena	5:30/7:30 PM
Sat	Nov. 16	Friends*	AGFinancial Arena	12:00/2:00 PM
Wed	Nov. 20	Avila*	AGFinancial Arena	5:30/7:30 PM
Sat	Nov. 23	at Tabor*	Hillsboro, Kan.	2:00/4:00 PM
Mon.	Nov. 25	Williams Baptist (W)	AGFinancial Arena	5:30 PM
Sat	Nov. 30	Missouri Baptist	AGFinancial Arena	12:00/2:00 PM
Wed	Dec. 4	Saint Mary*	AGFinancial Arena	5:30/7:30 PM
Sat	Dec. 7	at Bethel*	Newton, Kan.	12:00/2:00 PM
Wed	Dec. 11	Ottawa*	AGFinancial Arena	5:30/7:30 PM
Sat	Dec. 14	at York*	York, Neb.	12:00/2:00 PM
Tues	Dec. 17	MidAmerica Christian (M)	AGFinancial Arena	6:00 PM
Thur	Dec. 19	vs. Warner University (W)	Lake Wales, Fla.	3:00 PM
Fri	Dec. 20	vs. Dakota State (W)	Lake Wales, Fla.	1:00 PM
Fri	Dec. 20	at Missouri Baptist (M)	St. Louis, Mo.	3:00 PM
Sat	Jan. 4	at McPherson*	McPherson, Kan.	12:00/2:00 PM
Wed	Jan. 8	Southwestern*	AGFinancial Arena	5:30/7:30 PM
Sat	Jan. 11	Bethany*	AGFinancial Arena	12:00/2:00 PM
Wed	Jan. 15	at Avila*	Kansas City, Mo.	5:30/7:30 PM
Sat	Jan. 18	Kansas Wesleyan*	AGFinancial Arena	12:00/2:00 PM
Wed	Jan. 22	at Oklahoma Wesleyan*	Bartlesville, Okla.	5:30/7:30 PM
Sat	Jan. 25	at Sterling*	Sterling, Kan.	1:00/3:00 PM
Wed	Jan. 29	at Ottawa*	Ottawa, Kan.	5:30/7:30 PM
Sat	Feb. 1	Bethel*	AGFinancial Arena	12:00/2:00 PM
Wed	Feb. 5	at Saint Mary*	Leavenworth, Kan.	5:30/7:30 PM
Sat	Feb. 8	York*	AGFinancial Arena	12:00/2:00 PM
Wed	Feb. 12	at Southwestern*	Winfield, Kan.	6:00/7:00 PM
Sat	Feb. 15	at Bethany*	Lindsborg, Kan.	1:00/3:00 PM
Wed	Feb. 19	Oklahoma Wesleyan*	AGFinancial Arena	5:30/7:30 PM
Sat	Feb. 22	Sterling*	AGFinancial Arena	1:00/3:00 PM
Feb.	27	KCAC First Round	Campus Sites	
March	1	KCAC Semifinals	Campus Sites	
March	3	KCAC Championship	Hartman Arena   Park City, Kan.	
March	14-15	NAIA Opening Round	Campus Sites	
March	20-25	NAIA Women's Final Site	Tyson Events Center   Sioux City, Iowa	
March	20-25	NAIA Men's Final Site	Municipal Arena   Kansas City, Mo.	

\* denotes KCAC game

All times are central standard time and subject to change.

For ticket information visit [EvangelAthletics.com/Tickets](https://EvangelAthletics.com/Tickets)

# MEN'S GAME

## EVANGEL VALOR

**4-5**  
OVERALL

**Bert Capel**  
HEAD COACH

**1-4**  
KCAC

**70-35**  
RECORD AT EU  
(4TH SEASON)



VS

## (RV) OTTAWA BRAVES



**8-2**  
OVERALL

**Matt Cross**  
HEAD COACH

**4-1**  
KCAC

**8-2**  
RECORD AT OU  
(1ST SEASON)

## OPENING TIP

- ▶ Evangel Men's Basketball plays host to the Ottawa Braves, looking to bounce back after dropping a pair of conference games. Tip-off is set for 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday (Dec. 11) evening.
- ▶ Evangel fell on the road to Bethel College, 75-81, after a slow start in North Newton, Kansas.
- ▶ Four Valor athletes recorded double digit scoring on Saturday, with Josh Mason leading with 14 points.
- ▶ Carson Cavalier (13 pts.), Garrett Davault (13 pts.), and Bryce Ware (10 pts.) rounded out double digit scoring in last Saturday's loss to Bethel.
- ▶ Evangel was outshot in the loss on Saturday, making 38.3 percent of their shots in comparison to Bethel's 43.1.
- ▶ The Valor were outrebounded on Saturday, 43-31. Evangel is 0-3 in games they are outrebounded in.
- ▶ Evangel will take on Ottawa in their third all-time matchup, as EU trails all-time, 0-2. The Valor fell in both matchups last season, including at home, 81-90, last January.
- ▶ The Valor were selected to finish fourth in the KCAC preseason coaches poll, while Ottawa was picked to finish seventh overall.
- ▶ Evangel opponents currently shoot 46.0 percent against EU, the second highest mark allowed in KCAC.



# WOMEN'S GAME

## EVANGEL LADY VALOR

**3-6**  
OVERALL

**Jim Middleton**  
HEAD COACH

**2-3**  
KCAC

**19-16**  
RECORD AT EU  
(2ND SEASON)



VS

## OTTAWA LADY BRAVES



**5-5**  
OVERALL

**Hunter Bondurant**  
HEAD COACH

**2-3**  
KCAC

**20-19**  
RECORD AT OU  
(2ND SEASON)

## OPENING TIP

- ▶ Evangel Women's Basketball hosts the Ottawa Braves on Wednesday (Dec. 11) evening at 5:30 p.m., as the Valor look to build off their road victory against Bethel last Saturday.
- ▶ Evangel took a dominant 78-58 victory against Bethel on Saturday, after a strong fourth quarter where the defense allowed just eight points.
- ▶ Evangel was led by junior Carson Dillard, who scored a 16 points, while Emily Recker (11 pts.) and Jazzy Kirby (10 pts.) rounded out double digit scoring.
- ▶ The Valor shot 45 percent on Saturday, their third best shooting percentage of the season.
- ▶ Carson Dillard leads the Valor offensively so far this season, averaging 11.0 points per game, while Kamie Jenkins (10.3) rounds out double digit scoring averages. Jenkins also averages 10.3 rebounds per game.
- ▶ Evangel will take on Ottawa in their fourth all-time matchup, as the Valor leads all-time, 2-1. In their last matchup with Ottawa, the Valor fell in a tight battle on the road, 65-72.
- ▶ Evangel was picked to finish fourth in the KCAC preseason poll, with Ottawa picked to finish seventh in the conference.
- ▶ Wednesday night's game will be the final home game for the Lady Valor in 2024, returning to action on January 8th, 2025, against Southwestern College.



## HEAD COACH | 4TH SEASON | EVANGEL '05 & '08

### BERT CAPEL

Head Coach Bert Capel enters his fourth season at the helm of the Valor Men's Basketball team in the 2024-25 season.

Capel has enjoyed success in his first three seasons, leading the team to a trio of national tournament appearances, the first time making it to the national tournament in three consecutive years since the six year postseason run from 2009-15.

Last season, Capel led the Valor to their farthest finish since the 2002 national championship season, helping push the Valor to an Elite Eight finish where they fell to the number-one overall seed, Grace, by a slim margin, after a cinderella run as a 15-seed.

A member of Evangel's 2002 NAIA National Championship team during his standout playing career, Capel became the eighth head coach in the 64-year history of the EU men's basketball program after being selected to replace Hall of Famer Steve Jenkins, who announced his retirement at the conclusion of the 2020-21 season after 39 years at the helm.

Capel brings a wealth of coaching experience from multiple levels to the Evangel staff, including a total of six seasons spanning two separate stints on Jenkins' bench. Prior to his return to EU in 2019, Capel spent nine seasons at the NCAA Division I level on the coaching staffs at Florida State and Stetson, in addition to one year as an assistant coach at the junior college level with Jacksonville College.

Over the last two seasons, Capel has played a pivotal role in elevating Evangel's on-court success, including helping EU post a 10-win turnaround in 2019-20, marking its best single-season win improvement in 14 years. Evangel also earned its first postseason berth in five years in 2020, before garnering votes in the NAIA's Top 25 poll for the first time since 2015 this past season.

Prior to returning to Springfield, Capel spent six seasons as a full-time Division I assistant at Stetson, where he helped lead

### THE CAPEL FILE

#### PERSONAL

Hometown	Florence, Kentucky
College	Evangel '05 & '08, Florida St '11
Wife	Stacy
Children	Myla, Kinzli, Dru

#### YEAR-BY-YEAR

Year	School	Record
2021	Evangel	22-10
2022	Evangel	23-9
2023	Evangel	21-11

the Hatters to improved win totals in four of his first five seasons, as well as their first Atlantic Sun Conference Championship game appearance in 2016. He also helped coordinate Stetson's recruiting efforts, pre-and-postseason individual workouts and conditioning programs and managed the Hatters' summer camps.

Capel made the move to Stetson after serving as an assistant coach at Jacksonville (Texas) College for the 2012-13 season. Prior to joining the Jaguars staff, Capel was a graduate assistant (2009-11) and the recruiting assistant (2011-12) at Florida State for a total of three seasons. During his time at FSU, he was a part of the school's first ACC Tournament

championship and three-consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances, including a trip to the Sweet 16 in 2011.

Capel began his coaching career at Evangel in 2005, joining Jenkins' staff as an assistant. EU posted four-straight 20-win seasons, appeared regularly in the NAIA Top 25 poll and made two NAIA National Tournament trips, including a Sweet 16 appearance in 2008.

As a player for EU from 2000-04, Capel helped usher in perhaps the most successful periods in program history as part of a banner career that saw the Kentucky native earn All-Heart Conference honors. In all, he scored 1,060 points and grabbed 456 rebounds to help EU claim two regular-season Heart titles. Most notably, he was a member of Evangel's 2002 national championship team that finished 35-1 and was consistently the NAIA's top-ranked squad throughout the season.

A graduate of Heritage Academy in Florence, Ky., Capel was inducted into the Northern Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame in 2012 for his accomplishments in both basketball and baseball. He earned his Bachelor of Science from Evangel in 2005, a Master of Arts at Evangel in 2008, and a Master of Science from Florida State in 2011.

Capel and his wife, Stacy—a former Evangel volleyball student-athlete and a 2005 EU alumna—are the parents of two daughters, Myla and Kinzli, and one son, Dru.



## ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH | 4TH SEASON

# JACKSON CAPEL

Jackson Capel, the younger brother of the Evangel head coach, returned to his alma mater where he was a three-time NAIA All-American and remains the program's all-time leading scorer (2,337). A four-time All-Heart of America Athletic Conference selection, he still holds several Evangel records, including most three-pointers in a game, single-season, and career.

After earning his degree from EU, he played professionally for nine seasons in Spain, Germany, and Switzerland. He was part of a championship team in the Spanish LEB Gold League during the 2016-17 season and was named to Eurobasket.com all-league teams in Germany and Switzerland.

Most recently, he served as an assistant coach at NCAA Division II member Palm Beach Atlantic University during an abbreviated 2020-21 season.

Before heading to PBA, Capel spent two seasons as an assistant at Indiana University-East, where the Red Wolves went 23-10 and 26-9 with back-to-back trips to the NAIA National Tournament.

Prior to his time at IU-East, he coached one season at Cincinnati Christian in the River States Conference.

Capel has also been inducted into the Evangel Hall of Fame (2020) and the Northern Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame (2019).

He graduated from Evangel in 2009 with a degree in business management and earned his master's degree from the University of the Cumberland in 2020.

Newly named Evangel men's basketball coach Bert Capel wasted little time in selecting the first member of his coaching staff, announcing the addition of Jackson Capel as assistant coach.

"I'm excited that Jackson will be joining our staff, working alongside me to continue the tradition of excellence here at Evangel," Bert Capel said. "He's already had a significant impact on this program as a player, and I look forward to having him share his passion for EU with our student-athletes."



## HEAD COACH | 2ND SEASON | MISSOURI STATE '85 & '87

# JIM MIDDLETON

Head Coach Jim Middleton enters his second season leading the Valor Women's Basketball team in the 2024-25 school year.

Middleton put forth a big jump in just his first year at the helm, as the Valor went 16-10 in their first season under the Hall of Fame coach, qualifying for the conference tournament in his first season and nearly pulling off upsets of a pair of NCAA D-II teams.

The Missouri Sports Hall of Fame inductee returns to the basketball sidelines where he has experienced success for over 35 years. Middleton has enjoyed success in Southwest Missouri in women's basketball at the collegiate and high school levels starting at Missouri State under legendary head coach Cheryl Burnett that included a trip to the 1992 NCAA Final Four.

A native of southwest Missouri, Middleton was the head coach at Southwest Baptist University for 14 seasons where he was a two-time finalist for NCAA National Coach of the Year in 2001 and 2008 and named MIAA Coach of the Year in 2008. He guided the Lady Bearcats to six NCAA tournament appearances. He is still the all-time winningest coach in SBU women's basketball and holds the highest career winning percentage while impressively holding a 100 percent graduate rate during his 14 years at SBU.

Middleton returned to the high school ranks in 2009, leading the Nixa Lady Eagles to the Class 5 Missouri State Championship. That same season, Middleton was named the Class 5 Coach of the Year by the Missouri Basketball Coaches Association and the Missouri Sports Writers. His teams were ranked in the top 10 of the final Class 5 poll in four out of five seasons.

In 2013, Middleton served as an assistant coach for the Drury Lady Panthers, winning a regional championship and finishing with a 27-4 overall record. Middleton has also coached at West Plains High School and most recently coached girls track and girls' tennis at Nixa.

Coach Middleton and his wife Ronda reside in Nixa and have two sons, James and Jared.

## THE MIDDLETON FILE

### PERSONAL

Hometown	Nixa, Missouri
College	Missouri State '85 & '87
Wife	Ronda
Children	James, Jared

### COACHING TIMELINE

1985-87	Missouri State Graduate Asst.
1989-91	West Plains HS Head Coach
1991-94	Missouri State Assistant Coach
1994-2008	Southwest Baptist Head Coach
2009-13	Nixa High School Head Coach
	Drury Assistant Coach
2023-present	Evangel Head Coach



## ASSISTANT COACH | 2ND SEASON

# JENNIFER EIDEMILLER

Jennifer Eidemiller joined the Evangel women's basketball staff during the summer of 2023 and brings a wealth of basketball knowledge to the sidelines for the Valor.

During her first season at Evangel, she coached a pair of all-conference athletes in the post with Kamie Jenkins and Micah Clayton. Jenkins was named KCAC Freshman of the Year after leading the Valor in scoring and rebounding.

Her collegiate coaching including serving as Assistant Director of Operations at Florida State. During her time

with the Seminoles women's basketball program, she also served as the camp director and booster coordinator for three seasons in Tallahassee.

Eidemiller worked under Coach Semrau and Coach Close at Florida State, helping to gain experience in how to manage a team, day-to-day collegiate operations, practice planning, breaking down film, and recruiting.

Eidemiller also has coached at the high school level for eight seasons and has worked in the AAU coaching circuit for four years. She has coached at a 5A high school in Knoxville, as well as one in Tri Cities, Tennessee.

In addition to her coaching,

she also served as a sports program and facility director for four years. Eidemiller has also taught for seven years in the classroom.

A graduate from Florida State, Eidemiller and her husband of 22 years, Chad, have a son, Ty, and a daughter, Kenley. In her spare time, Coach Eidemiller helps to lead worship at her church in Mount Vernon, Missouri.



## ➤ EVANGEL WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	YR.	Hometown / Previous School
0	Micah Clayton	F/C	6-0	Sr.	Tulsa, Okla. / Lincoln Christian School / Southwest Baptist University
10	Lexi Berry	G	5-7	Sr.	Bolivar, Mo. / Bolivar HS
11	Carson Dillard	G	5-7	Jr.	Farmington, Ark. / Farmington HS / Southwestern Oklahoma Univ.
12	Macey Sult	G	5-10	Fr.	Ozark, Mo. / Ozark HS
13	Morgan Ross	G/F	5-11	Fr.	Centralia, Mo. / Centralia HS
14	Emma Mullings	G	5-4	Jr.	Strafford, Mo. / Strafford HS
15	Jazzy Kirby	G	5-8	Sr.	Republic, Mo. / Republic HS
20	Alyssa McCarty	G	5-8	So.	Gentry, Ark. / Gentry HS / Lincoln University
21	Emily Recker	G	5-7	Fr.	St. James, Mo. / St. James HS
22	Ali Kamies	G	5-6	Jr.	Nixa, Mo. / Nixa HS / Rockhurst University
23	Evin Montgomery	G	5-6	Fr.	Alton, Mo. / Alton HS
24	Amya Bonds	F	5-11	Jr.	Beebe, Ark. / Beebe HS
25	Resa Martin	G/F	5-8	Fr.	Rolla, Mo. / Rolla HS
30	Tara Masten	G	5-6	Fr.	Springfield, Mo. / Parkview HS
33	Ellison Mehrhoff	F	5-10	Fr.	Branson, Mo. / Branson HS
34	Kamie Jenkins	F/C	6-2	So.	Batesville, Ark. / Southside Charter HS

**Head Coach:** Jim Middleton

**Assistant Coach:** Jennifer Eidemiller

## ➤ OTTAWA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

No.	Name	Pos.	YR.	Ht.	Hometown / Previous School
1	Anna Eldridge	G	5-8	Jr.	Valley Center, Kan./Butler Community College
2	Grace McPhail	G	5-8	Fr.	Bartlesville, Okla./Bartlesville
3	Kiana Peveler	G	5-7	Fr.	Stillwater, Okla./Olive
4	Kimberly Cruz	G	5-4	So.	El Paso, Texas/Canutillo
10	Kaelyn Duncan	G	5-7	Fr.	Bartlesville, Okla./Bartlesville
11	Tiyani Rollins	G	5-4	Jr.	Lee's Summit, Mo./Blue Springs South
12	Janiyah Hendricks	G	5-2	Sr.	Tulsa, Okla./Union
13	Nayeli Acosta	G	5-7	Sr.	Hereford, Texas/Northwest College
14	Dominique Schutte	G	6-0	Fr.	Halstead, Kan./Halstead
15	Naqua Barnett	G	5-8	Fr.	Denver, Colo./Washington
20	Nora Ford	G	5-5	Sr.	Hamilton, Mo./Rockhurst University
22	Desiree Marshall-Penny	G	5-5	Jr.	Tulsa, Okla./Union
23	Abbie Sextro	F	6-0	Fr.	St. Peters, Mo./Incarnate Word Academy
25	Katelyn Alatini	G	5-7	Sr.	Spring, Texas/Colby Community College
32	Sydney Scott	F	6-0	Jr.	Augusta, Kan./Augusta
42	Kiersten Markos	F	6-0	Jr.	Gardner, Kan./Gardner Edgerton

**Head Coach:** Hunter Bondurant

**Assistant Coach:** Robin Stahl

## ➤ EVANGEL MEN'S BASKETBALL

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	YR.	Hometown / Previous School
0	Manrique Alvarado	G	5-11	Sr.	Cartago, Costa Rica / Freedom Christian (N.C.) Academy
1	Carson Cavalier	G	6-0	Sr.	Waynesville, Mo. / Waynesville HS / Missouri Valley College
2	Isaac Wootton	G/F	6-6	R-Fr.	Edmund, Okla. / Homeschool
3	Garrett Davault	G	6-3	Jr.	Norwood, Mo. / Norwood HS
5	Ty Lyon	G	6-2	R-So.	Springfield, Mo. / Springfield Catholic HS
10	Bryce Ware	G	6-2	Jr.	Houston, Texas / Dawson HS / Jacksonville College
11	Josh Mason	G	6-3	Sr.	Nixa, Mo. / Nixa HS / Henderson State University
12	Jarren Harrell	G	5-8	Sr.	Houston, Texas / Link Year Prep
14	Cole Griesemer	G	6-5	R-Fr.	Springfield, Mo. / Hillcrest HS
15	Harrison Doennig	F	6-7	R-Fr.	Springfield, Mo. / Kickapoo HS
20	Stephen Salvi	G	6-4	Sr.	Boca Raton, Fla. / Westlake Prep
21	Kaleb Wofford	G	6-3	Jr.	Nixa, Mo. / Nixa HS / Southwest Baptist University
22	Dane Foster	G/F	6-5	Jr.	Sedalia, Mo. / Smith-Cotton HS / Lincoln Land CC
23	Logan Rodgers	G/F	6-9	Sr.	Washington Court House, Ohio / Miami Trace HS
24	Troy Peitzman	G	6-2	R-So.	Grimes, Iowa / Dallas Center-Grimes
25	Kit Zervas	G	6-0	Fr.	Bartlesville, Okla. / Homeschool / Link Year Prep
32	Gentry Lawton Jr.	G	6-2	Fr.	Wylie, Texas / Wylie East HS
33	Akarius Staten-Ballance	G	6-0	Fr.	Springfield, Mo. / Hillcrest HS
40	Luke Foster	F/C	6-8	R-Fr.	Rolla, Mo. / Rolla HS
42	Cade Sutton	G	6-4	R-Fr.	Bunker, Mo. / Bunker HS
44	Joe Graves	F/C	6-6	Fr.	Ozark, Mo. / Homeschool
45	Ty Campbell	G	5-8	R-Jr.	Crane, Mo. / Crane HS

**Head Coach:** Bert Capel

**Associate Head Coach:** Jackson Capel

## ➤ OTTAWA MEN'S BASKETBALL

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	YR.	Hometown / Previous School
1	Braylon Wheeler	G	5-11	Fr.	Lorton, Va./Old Dominion University
2	Deondre Buggage	G	5-9	Sr.	Gray, La./Hinds Community College
3	AJ Hof	G	6-4	Jr.	Milton, Fla./Central
4	PJ Twa	G	6-5	Jr.	McKinney, Texas/Northern Oklahoma College
5	CJ Brown	G	6-2	Jr.	San Antonio, Texas/John M. Harlan
7	Landyn Tyler	G	6-1	Jr.	Silsbee, Texas/Lamar State College
8	Najee Jones	G	6-3	Sr.	Baton Rouge, La./Texas College
10	Payton Kaiser	G	6-3	Sr.	Colorado Springs, Colo./Clark College
11	Alex Riddick	F	6-7	Fr.	Aurora, Colo./Grandview
12	Trey Twa	F	6-9	Sr.	Dallas, Texas/Dalton State College
13	Parker Williams	G	6-1	Jr.	Birmingham, Ala./Coastal Alabama North Community College
14	Tadas Gudonis	C	7-0	Fr.	Garliava, Lithuania/Our Lady of Mount Carmel School
15	Keith Robinson	F	6-7	Sr.	San Remo, Victoria, Australia/Saint Anselm College
20	Sam Williams	G	6-2	Jr.	Las Vegas, Nev./College of Southern Nevada
22	Jayden Hibbitt	G	6-6	Sr.	Woodbridge, Va./Washburn University
30	Sam Rollins	G	5-9	So.	Castle Pines, Colo./Valor Christian
31	Micah Willis	G	6-3	Jr.	Slidell, La./Coastal Alabama North Community College

**Head Coach:** Matt Cross

**Assistant Coaches:** Jamie Batish, Hunter Lewis, Ty Bland

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Sports  
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# AROUND THE KCAC

## KCAC MEN'S BASKETBALL STANDINGS

RK	TEAM	KCAC		OVERALL		STREAK
		W-L	PCT	W-L	PCT	
	University of Saint Mary	5-0	1.000	7-3	.700	W5
	Sterling College	4-1	.800	9-2	.818	W2
<b>RV</b>	<b>Ottawa University</b>	<b>4-1</b>	<b>.800</b>	<b>8-2</b>	<b>.800</b>	<b>W1</b>
	Friends University	4-1	.800	7-2	.778	W3
16	Oklahoma Wesleyan University	4-1	.800	7-3	.700	L1
	Southwestern College	3-2	.600	8-2	.800	W3
	Avila University	3-2	.600	6-4	.600	L2
	Bethel College	2-3	.400	6-5	.545	W1
	Bethany College	2-3	.400	5-5	.500	L1
	Kansas Wesleyan University	1-4	.200	6-5	.545	L2
	<b>Evangel University</b>	<b>1-4</b>	<b>.200</b>	<b>4-5</b>	<b>.444</b>	<b>L2</b>
	York University	1-4	.200	4-6	.400	W2
	Tabor College	1-4	.200	1-7	.125	L1
	McPherson College	0-5	.000	2-7	.222	L6

## KCAC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STANDINGS

TEAM	KCAC		OVERALL		STREAK
	W-L	PCT	W-L	PCT	
Kansas Wesleyan University	5-0	1.000	9-2	.818	W7
RV Tabor College	5-0	1.000	7-2	.778	W5
University of Saint Mary	5-0	1.000	6-5	.545	W2
Sterling College	4-1	.800	8-2	.800	W1
Friends University	3-2	.600	5-5	.500	L2
Bethany College	3-2	.600	5-6	.454	W2
Bethel College	3-2	.600	4-7	.363	L1
<b>Ottawa University</b>	<b>2-3</b>	<b>.400</b>	<b>5-5</b>	<b>.500</b>	<b>L1</b>
<b>Evangel University</b>	<b>2-3</b>	<b>.400</b>	<b>3-6</b>	<b>.333</b>	<b>W1</b>
Oklahoma Wesleyan University	1-4	.200	3-7	.300	L1
Southwestern College	1-4	.200	1-6	.143	L4
Avila University	1-4	.200	1-7	.125	W1
York University	0-5	.000	2-6	.250	L5
McPherson College	0-5	.000	0-11	.000	L11





The Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference, commonly called “The Kansas Conference,” is a prominent intercollegiate athletics conference comprised of ten outstanding independent or private institutions of higher education in the state.

The origins of the KCAC are traced to February 15, 1890, when the Kansas Intercollegiate Athletic Association became the result of the first successful attempt at organization among Kansas colleges, “to promote and regulate amateur intercollegiate athletics.”

At that time the association or conference included not only private universities and colleges but also Kansas Agriculture College (now KSU), Kansas University, and Washburn University. Football seems to have been the major sponsored sport, and Baker University won the championship for the first three or four years.

In about 1902 this early association became allied with the Kansas College Athletic Conference, a group which was the first to adopt a definite set of rules and regulations. It also promoted an annual track and field meet which has continued yearly since, except for World War years. Basketball has been sponsored since 1904. Football was revived in 1907. Tennis began as early as 1912. Golf was added in 1923. By this time the name of the conference had been altered to the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference; it had grown to 17 college members and two allied members: Baker, Bethany, Bethel, College of Emporia, Fairmount (now WSU), Friends, Kansas Wesleyan, KSTC of Emporia (now ESU), KSTC of Hays (now FHSU), KSTC of Pittsburg (now PSU), McPherson, Ottawa, St. Benedict’s (now Benedictine), St. Mary’s, Sterling (formerly Cooper), Southwestern, and Washburn, and with St. John’s and Kansas City University (Kansas) as allied members. Kansas University and Kansas Aggies had dropped out earlier to join other conferences. In 1923 the College of Emporia, KSTC of Emporia, KSTC of Hays, KSTC of Pittsburg, Wichita (formerly Fairmount), Southwestern, and Washburn withdrew to form the Central Conference.

The present legal entity comes from a reorganization of the conference when the predecessor Kansas Intercollegiate Athletic Conference formally disbanded on December 1, 1928, and a new conference was formed which again was called the Kansas College Athletic Conference. The members were Baker, Bethany, Kansas Wesleyan, McPherson, Ottawa, and St. Mary’s colleges. At that time sportswriters quickly gave the KCAC league a nickname: the “Little Six,” in contrast to the Big Six (which became Big Eight, now Big 12) which also was organized in 1928. St. Mary’s College was discontinued in 1931. The College of Emporia returned to the fold in 1933, and Bethel was readmitted in 1939. Friends, a former member of the KIAC, was admitted in 1953. Sterling and Southwestern were approved for membership in 1958. In 1968 Tabor College and St. Mary of the Plains College were admitted to make twelve members in the conference, and the conference was organized into Southern and Northern divisions until 1970 -- when Baker, College of Emporia, and Ottawa withdrew to join two separate Missouri-based conferences. In the mid-1970s the formal name was changed again to Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference. In 1975 women’s intercollegiate athletics were incorporated into programs of the KCAC. Ottawa was readmitted in 1981, bringing the conference membership to 10. In 1992 St. Mary of the Plains College in Dodge City left the conference and eventually closed. In 1999 Saint Mary College-Leavenworth joined to return the KCAC membership to 10 institutions. The conference increased to 12 institutions when it added Oklahoma Wesleyan University and York College to the lineup.

The KCAC is an affiliated conference of the National Association of intercollegiate Athletics with headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri. Today the KCAC sponsors conference intercollegiate athletics in football, volleyball, men’s cross country, women’s cross country, men’s soccer, women’s soccer, men’s basketball, women’s basketball, men’s indoor track and field, women’s indoor track and field, men’s outdoor track and field, women’s outdoor track and field, baseball, softball, men’s golf, women’s tennis, and men’s tennis.



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# 2023-24 HIGHLIGHTS

## EVANGEL ATHLETICS CELEBRATES UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS THIS YEAR

The 2023-24 season was a banner year for Evangel Athletics! The Valor stampeded into the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference (KCAC), taking the competition by storm. Read on for some of this season's greatest wins!



### Playing to Win

Valor Athletics made a splash during the first full year in the KCAC, with multiple teams qualifying for postseason conference tournaments! Valor Football, Men's Basketball, Softball, Cross Country, and Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field all qualified for NAIA National Tournament appearances, with Men's Basketball achieving a Cinderella-story run all the way to the Elite Eight, the team's furthest finish since the 2002 national championship season.



### Competing for Christ

In the middle of a historic undefeated regular season, Valor Football saw 40 players and three staff members baptized in water after a fall practice. This event led to a renewed desire for baptism across EU's campus that resulted in a special chapel service and a total of 69 baptisms in the Valor community.



### Top Honors

Valor Athletics received several major recognitions in the 2023-24 season, with four Conference Coach of the Year honors, including Chuck Hepola (football), Jay Halbrook (softball), Brandon Staley (track and field), and Joshua Saak (track and field). Three athletes earned Player of the Year awards, including Maddy Meierer (softball), Dillon Hester (football), and Bradley Myers (football). Track and field athletes Joshua Blakely and Koby Graham and football athletes Dillon Hester, Bradley Myers, and CJ Anoa'i were all named NAIA All-Americans.

*Clockwise from top: Members of the Evangel Valor football team who participated in water baptisms gather for a group photo; EU student Preston Rosenberg celebrates after being water baptized by fellow EU student and co-leader of Evangel's traveling ministry team Catalyst Luke Perkins, who smiles on in the background; EU student discipleship administrator Glori Hammye prays over fellow EU student Analise Davila as she prepares to be water baptized. EU student Dwaylen Reed prepares to be water baptized by fellow football teammate Chris Attyberry.*





## NAIA ALL-AMERICANS

Joshua Blakely (High Jump - Indoor T/F)  
Koby Graham (Javelin - Outdoor T/F)  
Dillon Hester (Wide Receiver - Football)  
Bradley Myers (Linebacker - Football)  
CJ Anoa'i (Offensive Lineman - Football)

## KCAC COACHES & PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

Maddy Meierer (Pitcher - Softball)	Bradley Myers (Linebacker - Football)
Jay Halbrook (Coach - Softball)	Brandon Staley (Coach - Indoor T/F)
Chuck Hepola (Coach - Football)	Joshua Saak (Asst. Coach - Indoor T/F)
Dillon Hester (Wide Receiver - Football)	

## KCAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Bradley Myers (Football) 2x	Alex Richardson (T/F)
Broc Lyle (Football)	Abby Beets (T/F)
Nate Swofford (Football)	Maddy Meierer (Softball) 2x
Delaney Weimer (T/F)	Josh Pritchett (MBB)
April Phillips (T/F) 3x	Susannah Blackwell (Women's Golf) 2x
Jonah Edwards (Football) 2x	Colby Vavruska (Baseball)
Anthony Morales (Men's Soccer)	Jacob Gillies (T/F)
Ted Okoroh (Men's Soccer)	Taylor McLeod (Baseball)
Eric Williams (Football)	Joshua Blakely (T/F)
Kenna Wise (Volleyball)	

## NAIA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES

Football (Fell in 2nd Round)  
Men's Basketball (Fell in Elite Eight)  
Cross Country (2 competitors)  
Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field (17 total competitors)  
Softball (Fell in opening rounds)

## EU ATHLETICS RECORDS BROKEN

Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field (20 broken records in each)  
Steals in a career (MBB - Josh Pritchett)  
Stolen bases in a single season (Baseball - Riley Mitchell)

## 2024 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Wendy Neibuhr (Softball)  
Eric Black (Football)  
Mary Whitehead (Volleyball Coach)  
1984 Football Team (Legacy Award Honorees)







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- **AND MORE...**

**3** COACH  
OF THE  
YEAR



**ATHLETICS**

**32** STUDENT-ATHLETES  
FALL & SPRING SEMESTERS  
WITH A 4.0

**OVER**

**14,000**

**FOOTBALL  
ATTENDANCE**

**3** CHAMPIONSHIPS




**SIX**  
ALL-AMERICANS

**ACADEMICS**

**32** STUDENT-ATHLETES  
FALL & SPRING SEMESTERS  
WITH A 4.0

**LOCATED**  
SPRINGFIELD, MO.

**MORE THAN  
100**   
SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

**45**  
ACADEMIC  
ALL-DISTRICT

**1** ACADEMIC  
ALL-AMERICAN

 **AGFinancial ARENA**  
**INAUGURAL SEASON**

**3.37 CUMULATIVE GPA**

## 2023-24 Comprehensive University Facts and Figures

TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS:

**2,521**AVERAGE  
CLASS SIZE:**15**STUDENT-FACULTY  
RATIO:**15:1**NUMBER OF REGISTERED  
ORGANIZATIONS:**39**

GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF STUDENT BODY

**50 states + Saipan**  
**40 countries**

### Top Five Majors

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION  
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT  
ALLIED HEALTH  
HEALTHCARE  
PSYCHOLOGY

**1,427**

TRADITIONAL UNDERGRADUATE

**266**ONLINE  
UNDERGRADUATE**98**JAMES RIVER  
CAMPUS**375**

EU MASTER &amp; DOCTORAL

**355**

AGTS MASTER &amp; DOCTORAL

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**EST. 1955****100+ ACRES**

**84**

**TRADITIONAL  
UNDERGRADUATE  
PROGRAMS**  
(MAJORS AND AAS)

**16**

**ONLINE  
UNDERGRADUATE  
PROGRAMS**  
(BACHELORS AND AAS)

**8**

**EU GRADUATE  
PROGRAMS**

**10**

**AGTS  
PROGRAMS**

**11**

**CERTIFICATE  
PROGRAMS**  
(UNDERGRADUATE  
AND MASTERS)

**10**

**PRE-PROFESSIONAL  
TRACKS**

## AN ENGAGED CAMPUS

**5 club sports**

**6 intramural sports**

**20+ service opportunities**

**19 global service trips**

**16 NAIA varsity  
sports teams**

**900+ community  
and spiritual  
life events**



## 6 centers:

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**CENTER FOR FAITH, WORK & ECONOMICS**

**CENTER FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES**

**CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS**

**CORDAS C. BURNETT CENTER FOR  
BIBLICAL PREACHING**

# GETTING TO SPRINGFIELD

## MILES TO SPRINGFIELD FROM...

Bentonville, AR.....	120	Minneapolis, MN.....	600
Branson, MO.....	45	Nashville, TN.....	440
Chicago, IL.....	515	Oklahoma City, OK.....	290
Dallas, TX.....	420	Omaha, NE.....	360
Des Moines, IA.....	360	St. Louis, MO.....	220
Indianapolis, IN.....	460	Tulsa, OK.....	185
Kansas City, MO.....	170	Wichita, KS.....	270
Little Rock, AR.....	215		
Memphis, TN.....	285		

## Drive Time to Springfield, Missouri







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# University Mission, Vision, and Core Values

## OUR MISSION

Evangel University is a comprehensive Christian university committed to excellence in educating and equipping students to become Spirit-empowered servants of God who impact the Church and society globally.

The Assemblies of God Theological Seminary shapes servant-leaders with knowledge, skill, and passion to revitalize the Church and evangelize the world in the power of the Spirit.

## OUR VISION

EU's vision is to be identified among the most respected Christ-centered universities and as a premier Assemblies of God institution of higher learning.

## OUR CORE VALUES

**TRUTH** – the pursuit and understanding of God's truth drives our academic, spiritual, and institutional identities.

**INTEGRITY** – as members of a Christian community, we are committed to living lives of Christ-like virtue and valor as the Holy Spirit transforms us daily.

**SERVICE** – we recognize and answer Jesus' call to selflessly love and serve our neighbors on our campus, in our city, and across the world.

**COMMUNITY** – because isolation is not a reality of the Spirit-led life, we provide opportunities for students to share fellowship with each other in every aspect of their experience.

## CORE STRATEGIES

**EMPOWER** ongoing discovery and development of vocational calling.

**CULTIVATE** a Pentecostal community of scholars, learners, and professionals.

**NURTURE** rigorous academic inquiry within a Christian worldview.





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