

# Indians clip Golden Eagles' wings 85-61

Men's basketball improves to 6-1 by shooting 50 percent against So. Miss

## Game Stats

By Dustin Dearman  
The Herald Staff  
ddearman0@yahoo.com

### Men's Basketball

#### ASU vs. Southern Miss

##### Arkansas State 85

Scoring	FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	P
Rivers, N.	9-18	3-6	3-3	24
Jennings, J.	5-8	0-0	5-6	15
Williams, O.	4-8	1-1	4-4	13
Brown, T.	4-6	0-0	3-3	11
Team Totals	29-58	8-15	19-22	85

Rebounding	Off.	Def.	Tot.
Brown, T.	3	6	9
Jennings, J.	0	5	5
Weaver, K.	1	3	4
Adams, K.	0	4	4
Williams, O.	0	2	2
Team Totals	7	24	31

##### Southern Miss 61

Scoring	FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	P
Mims, E.	9-19	1-3	5-6	24
Team Totals	18-55	5-12	20-22	61

Rebounding	Off.	Def.	Tot.
Lambert, B.	2	5	7
Mims, E.	1	5	6
Carter, C.	3	2	5
Meneses, P.	1	3	4
Richardson, B.	0	3	3
Rigsby, C.	3	0	3
Team Totals	14	24	38

#### Sun Belt Scores

Manhattan **81**  
Denver (1-3) 71

Auburn **67**  
Florida International (4-2) 55

Arkansas- Little Rock (4-2) **61**  
St. Louis 58

Radford **72**  
Middle Tennessee St. (3-2) 53

New Mexico St. (4-1) **73**  
Texas-El Paso 71

Vanderbilt **80**  
#18 Western Kentucky (4-2) 75

Mississippi St. **73**  
South Alabama (2-3) 66

Houston **75**  
North Texas (1-3) 69

#### Sun Belt News

Western Kentucky University men's basketball center Chris Marcus will be sidelined 4-6 weeks recovering from an ankle stress fracture on his left foot. Marcus has been considered by many as the No. 1 player in the country.

It seems that winning is a little easier for the Indians when they play at home.

Arkansas State (6-1) had Southern Mississippi (2-3) on their heels all night as the Tribe cruised to a 85-61 victory in front of a season-high 5,187 fans at the Convocation Center, Saturday.

ASU guard Nick Rivers owned the scoreboard in the first half tallying 18 points on 7-10 shooting including 3-6 from behind the arc. The 6-1 senior from Memphis, Tenn. began the game hot scoring six of the Tribe's first eight points. Rivers finished the night shooting 50 percent with a game-high 24 points.

"I feel like I am the spark plug. If I start off hitting my shots, going to the hole, passing the ball, then it just gets everybody involved," Rivers said. "When I'm having fun it seems like everybody else is having fun."

Indian head coach Dickey Nutt had his club on overdrive coming out of the locker room. They went on a 15-2 run to start the game and Southern Mississippi didn't convert an attempt from the field until 13:48 remaining in the half.

"I thought our intensity level was a far cry from the other night. I am very proud to see that. I just can't say enough about our performance defensively," Nutt said.

That defensive effort showed as the Tribe forced So. Miss into 20 turnovers. Indian senior center Jason Jennings helped on the defensive end by not just contesting every shot but by swatting down seven Golden Eagle attempts.

"Coming out I just wanted to do whatever I could," Jennings said. "I think I started out pretty sluggish on the offensive end and I had on my mind I just wanted to do anything to help the team. So, I just started to play a little 'D' and get some blocks."

Jennings finished the night with 15 points and five rebounds.

With the win, ASU avenged a 76-71 defeat last season against So. Miss in Hattiesburg, Miss.

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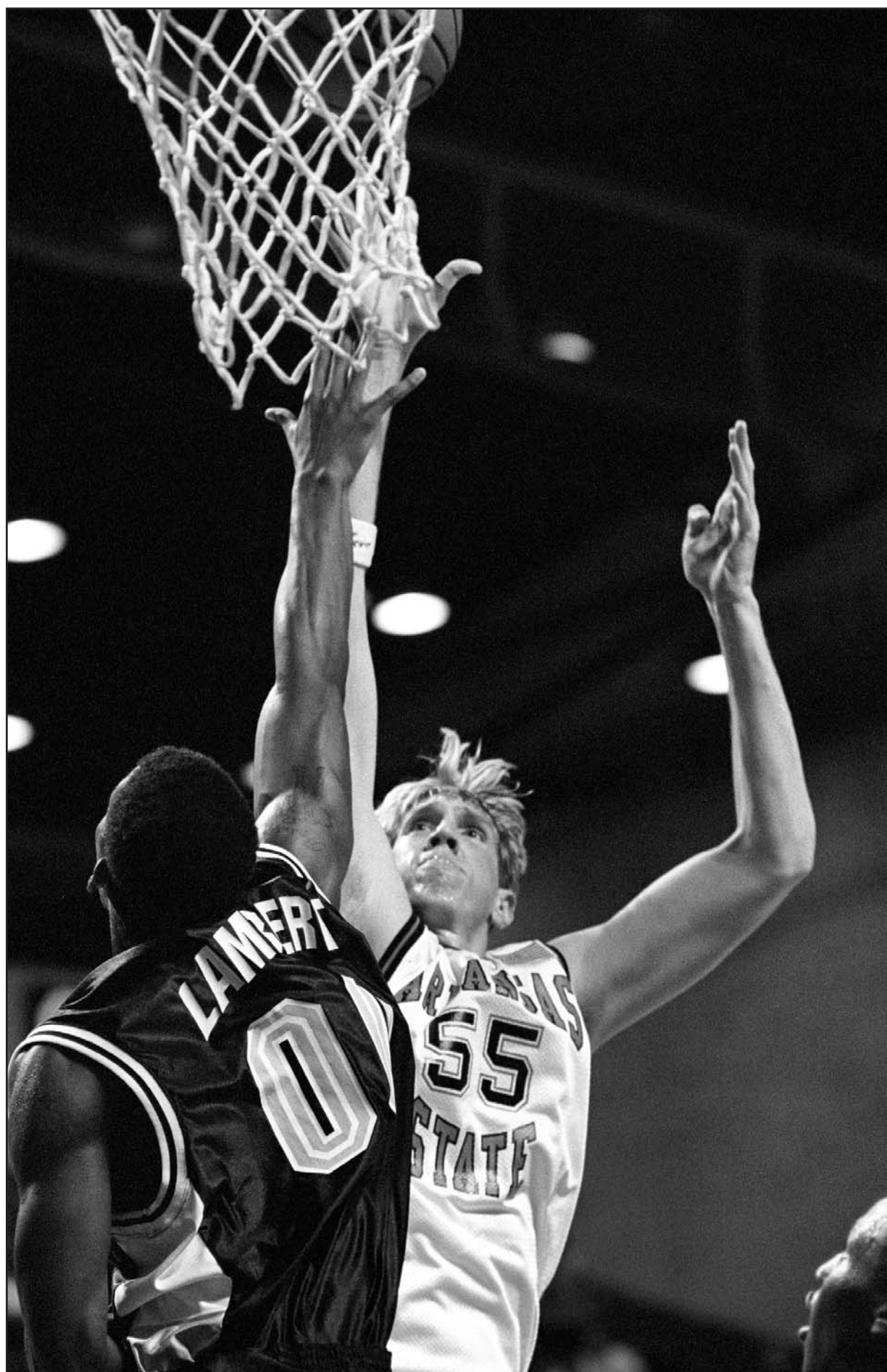


PHOTO BY BRIAN RODRIGUEZ

Indian center Jason Jennings (55) shoots over Southern Miss forward Ben Lambert in ASU's victory over the Golden Eagles. Jennings scored 11 points and had seven blocks in the win.

# Smith has perfect second half at East Carolina

Senior guard Rae-Anne Smith scored a career-high 29 points, including 22 in a perfect-shooting second half, to lead Arkansas State to a 72-69 victory over host East Carolina in the consolation game of the U.S. Cellular Classic at Williams Arena on Sunday.

Smith was 6-of-6 from the field and 9-for-9 from the free throw line in the final 20 minutes as ASU came back from a seven-point second-half deficit.

"This was incredible," said ASU head coach Brian Boyer of Smith's performance.

"I've seen some very good individual performances in my seven seasons at Arkansas State, and that will stand up with some of the best. Rae really took it on her shoulders. It was just an incredible job. She was key for us in some big spots."

The Lady Indians evened their record at 4-4 with the win.

Junior forward Jolie McKeirnan scored 12 points and pulled down 10 rebounds for ASU, which shot 56 percent in the second half and 47 percent for the game.

ECU dropped to 1-5 with the loss. The Pirates were led by Kim Enoch's 15 points and 10 rebounds.

Enoch was one of four ECU players scoring in double figures.

Shanita Sutton scored 14 points, Jennifer Jackson added 11 points and Tali Robich scored 10 points, all in the second half.

ASU led by five points, 28-23, at intermission despite shooting 39 percent from the field and turning the ball over 10 times in the opening half.



PHOTO BY BRIAN RODRIGUEZ

Senior guard Rae-Anne Smith (23) tallied a career high 29 points against the Lady Pirates of East Carolina, Saturday.

Smith had seven at halftime and McKeirnan had seven rebounds. ECU shot 31 percent in the opening half and turned the ball over 14 times but stayed close by outbounding the Lady Indians, 23-17,

including 10 offensive boards. A 9-0 run midway through the second half took the Pirates from a six-point deficit to a four-point advantage, 41-37, with 11:34 left in the game.



Lady Indians E. Carolina  
**72 69**

ECU built a seven-point advantage at 48-41 on a Jackson basket with 9:38 to play at 48-41.

But Smith heated up, scoring 19 points in the final 8:37 of the contest as Arkansas State battled back.

A pair of free throws by Smith with 3:27 to play cut ASU's deficit to 59-57 and senior center Chiquita Tucker followed with a lay-up with 3:13 left to tie the game at 59-all.

Freshman guard Amber Abraham capped a 7-0 run by ASU with a 3-pointer with 2:38 to play to put the Lady Indians up, 62-59.

ECU scored back-to-back baskets off Lady Indians turnovers to go ahead 63-62 with 1:37 to play, but Smith's steal and lay-up gave the Lady Indians the lead for good, 64-63, with 1:32 to play.

Tucker followed with a lay-up with 53.7 to play for a three-point advantage and Smith hit six free throws in the final 30 seconds to seal Arkansas State's victory.

ASU returns to action on Wednesday night, taking on Northern Iowa at the Convocation Center at 7:05 p.m.

## Game Stats

### Women's Basketball ASU vs. East Carolina

#### Arkansas State 72

Scoring	FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	P
Smith, R.	9-16	2-4	9-9	29
McKeirnan	5-12	0-0	2-4	12
Team Totals	27-58	5-10	13-21	72

Rebounding	Off.	Def.	Tot.
McKeirnan, J.	6	4	10
Tucker, C.	0	4	4
Lowman, C.	0	4	4
Smith, R.	1	3	4
Humphries, Z.	2	2	4
Team Totals	11	21	32

#### East Carolina 69

Scoring	FG-FGA	FG-FGA	FT-FTA	P
Enoch, K.	6-8	1-3	3-4	15
Sutton, S.	6-13	0-1	2-4	14
Jackson, J.	4-6	3-4	0-0	11
Robich, T.	3-7	2-6	2-2	10
Team Totals	25-56	6-19	13-19	69

Rebounding	Off.	Def.	Tot.
Enoch, K.	3	7	10
Sye, A.	2	4	6
Cosby, R.	4	2	6
Sutton, S.	2	2	4
Renfro, B.	1	3	4
Team Totals	13	25	38

#### Sun Belt Scores

Nebraska **87**  
New Orleans (3-4) 58

Texas Tech **67**  
North Texas (4-3) 53

South Alabama (6-1) **63**  
Nicholls State 49

## Just give Nick the ball

### Beyond the arc

By Dustin Dearman



The 2001 version of Nick Rivers is a total revamp from last season's model.

His improved handling, vision and touch has lifted him to J.D. Power and Associates status of Arkansas State basketball.

Let's not forget a standard feature this season that was completely optional last year. Climate control.

Unfortunately for opposing defenses, Rivers likes the temperature hot.

Hot as in a balmy .508 shooting percentage for the season. Time after time, Rivers has kept the momentum on the Indians side. Whether he is dropping three-pointers in succession or embarrassing opponents on a drive to the rim, Rivers is a player that the Indians can count on.

Last season, when Nick received a pass I could have bet money that he was going to put up a shot. His play was selfish and unsubstantial at times, but this year's Nick has grown and matured into an all-around guard.

He is still taking 18 shots a game, but now he actually looks at the basket. The 2001 Nick Rivers is the poster child which shows that being charitable with the basketball can, in turn, help your own game.

By charitable, I mean he is passing the ball. I never thought I would use Nick Rivers and passing in the same paragraph other than to describe someone else passing it to him. This season he has accumulated 11 assists. He had only 44 all of last season.

Just give "Money" the ball and the Indians will succeed.

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