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In that loss, Rivers went 2-12 from the field for only five points.

The Tribe were also reeling after a last second defeat to Mississippi Valley State on Wednesday, 79-77.

"After a loss, we had to come out harder. Because we came out with no intensity in that Mississippi Valley State game. We just stuck together and decided we had to come out harder," Rivers said.

So, Miss is a team known for their defense. In their four games prior to Saturday, the Golden Eagles did not allow a team to score over 66 points.

They are also holding opponents to .406 percent from the floor. The Indians broke both trends Saturday by shooting exactly .500 percent from the field.

"I thought we did a great job of creating our own," Nutt said. "For two days we really hammered and really talked about their defense and they are a super defensive team in a lot of areas."

Junior point guard Odie Williams is settling right in at the point position. Williams was very effective, giving up only one turnover and creating opportunities with four assists. He also was third on the team scoring with 13 points while shooting .500 percent from the floor.

"Super job. You can't say enough about Odie. The leadership, the quality, the words that come out of his mouth to his teammates are critical," Nutt said.

Guard Tony Brown quietly made his contribution to the Indian squad. Brown finished the night with 11 points hitting 4-6 from the floor along with draining all three of his foul shots. He also bruised the boards with a game-high nine rebounds in his 29 minutes of play.

Senior forward Kolin Weaver continues to struggle in his last year at ASU.

Weaver went 2-5 shooting with only five points and four rebounds. Weaver also had five points in the Tribe's loss to MVSU.

Golden Eagle head coach James Green was not pleased with his teams performance and effort at the Convocation Center.

"We are a team that we don't know who we are or who we can be. We are completely lost. If start talking about all of the things that we didn't do then it takes away from



PHOTO BY BRIAN RODRIGUEZ

Indian point guard Odie Williams drives to the basket during Saturday's beating of Southern Miss 85-61.

what (ASU) was able to do," Green said.

"We were bad."

Golden Eagle senior forward Elvin Mims was USM's sole player in double figures with 24.

The Indians return to the road this week as they travel to Colorado Springs, Colo. to take on the Air Force Academy on Wednesday at 8:05 p.m. Air Force is led by Joel Gerlach who is shooting a remarkable .733 percent from the floor and is averaging 18 points a contest.

This will be the third meeting between the two schools with Air Force winning back in 1968, 76-58. The head-to-head series is tied at one win apiece.

The Falcons (3-3) are coming off a 68-52 loss to No. 24 Fresno State on Saturday.

Then on Saturday Dec. 8 at 2 p.m. the Tribe will be hosted by Southeastern Conference opponent Mississippi State (6-0).

The Bulldogs have beaten three Sun Belt Conference teams this season: South Alabama 73-66, Louisiana-Lafayette 79-71 and Arkansas-Little Rock 93-81.

Saturday's game will be the tenth meeting between the two schools with MSU leading the head-to-head 7-2.

ASU Athletic Dept. spending ranked in middle of Sun Belt

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Fewer than half of all Division I-A athletic programs were self-sustaining in 1999, meaning they didn't need subsidization by their schools to turn a profit, according to a biennial analysis of athletic finances conducted by Daniel Fulks, a certified public accountant who oversees the accounting program at Transylvania University in Kentucky.

For the majority of I-A schools in the red, the average loss was \$3.3 million.

When combined with comparisons of the ASU budget to other institutions, the study highlights the dual nature of athletics, both as producer and consumer.

Compared to other Arkansas institutions, the current \$8,265,232 athletic budget puts ASU behind only the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville who currently spends \$32,526,532. The large difference

between the two schools lies in the forms of revenue that are generated by the programs.

The athletic program at U of A generates 93.1 percent of its budget, \$30,276,532, from within its program. U of A only relies on \$500,000 to be generated by auxiliary means.

At ASU, the athletic budget operates from several different revenue sources, chief among these the projected \$3,100,000 generated by the student athletic fee allocation.

Comparing ASU with other schools within the Sun Belt conference, the budget ranks sixth out of 12 schools for the amount of money being spent. According to Collegiate Financial Services, in the fiscal year 1999-2000 ASU's athletic budget of \$6,813,057 ranked 113 among 115 Division I-A institutions and was in keeping with the conference average of \$6,222,373.

"The expense of an organization like ASU's creates strong demand to meet revenue needs," Abel said. "With current projections, it is nec-

essary to balance incoming money and expenses very carefully."

"If we play football, the dimension is expensive and complicated," said Dr. Les Wyatt, Arkansas State University president. "I am confident in our ability to manage a way out of this," Wyatt said.

There is a projected athletic deficit of \$2,100,000 in the October athletic budget analysis prepared by the Department of Finance. Some \$250,000 of that is attributed to unsatisfactory ticket and concession sales from the past football season. The projected deficit is in keeping with mid-year analysis, Abel said.

"I would underscore the word projection. The projected deficit is done monthly by finance based upon the best available data at that point and time," Abel said. "However, as you know things tend to change over time. For example, last year at this point and time the projected deficit was \$1.554 million. At the end of the year, the result was \$1.056 million," Abel said.

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Budgeted Expenses (Based on Oct. 2001)

Men's Sports	
Football	\$2,486,233
Basketball	\$959,285
Baseball	\$334,018
Track	\$259,388
Golf	\$100,339
Women's Sports	
Basketball	\$556,469
Soccer	\$282,056
Volleyball	\$280,425
Track	\$272,482
Golf	\$169,569
Tennis	\$137,858

travel and \$242,235 for equipment supplies and repair.

These shortfalls also can lead to other strains on the university. Most institutions stay out of the red with their athletic budgets by cutting corners elsewhere in the university structure, similar to crunches made by ASU in 1999 and 2000.

However in the current climate of statewide economic cuts, the university would find it hard to adjust the numbers if shortfalls become too large.

"At this point and time, we are tracking favorably on expenses but unfavorably on revenue," Abel said. "It is too early to make any definitive statements about deficits. Projections change."

The most recent budget analysis offered by the Department of

Finance, shows that athletics is still due much of the revenue projected for this year, with \$810,450 in game guarantees still yet to come.

Game guarantees come when ASU plays at other schools and are largely earned from football, and are guaranteed revenue sources due to contractual obligations. The game against Georgia Sept. 1 earned \$375,000.

"Guarantees that large are usually only possible in I-A competition," Abel said. "The game at Baylor paid \$250,000 and three conference road games paid \$50,000 each."

NCAA income, money paid to the institution based on the number of scholarships and number of sports ASU offers, totaled \$117,500, with Sun Belt conference income at \$116,000.




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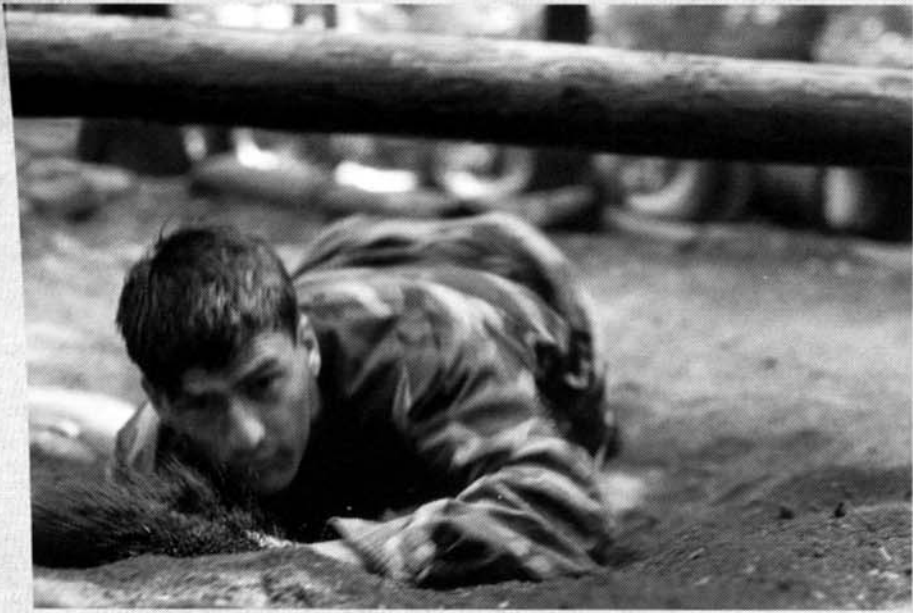


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