Winston Churchill was on to something the day he stood before the student body of Harrow School in October of 1941 and urged the schoolboys to “Never give in—never, never, never, never, in nothing great or small, large or petty, never give in.” A winning formula for any team requires that all members give above and beyond their comfort; not for themselves but for their team, never giving in when opposition stands at the doorway. Sporting a “never give in” attitude and steeped in a tradition of fierce but sportsmanlike competitiveness, Union University Athletics have become known for their display of teamwork and tenacity in the various fields of play year after year.

Some people may query as to what motivates athletes and coaches to clock in everyday, strapping on ankle braces, writing and rewriting playbooks, but one look into the eyes of these competitors will speak volumes of their love for their gifts and their loyalty to their university. It is not hard for Union University athletes to understand the importance of teamwork, seeing their administration and professors unselshly working together in their respective offices and classrooms, carrying on the university’s legacy of unity and service to others. Each team member must decide for him/herself to sacrifice self for team, and when a team of individuals makes this decision together, then the long practices and aching bodies are well worth it.

Union University Athletics 2002-2003 would see some of the highest points, as well as some of the lowest, in school history, but from intramural fields to TransSouth battles, this would prove to be a year of thrilling and memorable success for Union Athletics.
Men’s Fall Sports


Back: Team Assistant Bill Lean, Chad Peal, Adrian Yeung, Kyle McDiarmid, Redzi Stojiljkovic, Kekez Zivkovic, Christopher Deegan, Josue Tuchez, Kolo Goshi, Head Coach Darin White. Middle: Senior Assistant Coach Russ White, Grant Taylor, Joe Phiri, Chris Lean, Jeff Lean, Robert Stinson, Jared New, Daniel Lee, Graduate Assistant David DeLaughter. Front: Zeb Crane, Ricky Mena, Matthew Marshall, Clowie Simas, Brett Martin, Christopher Anthony.

Soccer record: 13-10-1/3-4

Union’s men’s soccer program finished sixth in the TranSouth Conference regular season standings. The Bulldogs also won the NCCAA MidEast Region Championship and played in the NCCAA National Tournament. Joe Phiri was named the NCCAA National Player of the Year. Adrian Yeung was named all-conference in the TranSouth, along with being named to the NAIA all-region team and the NAIA honorable mentioned All-American.


Back: Team Assistant Bill Lean, Chad Peal, Adrian Yeung, Kyle McDiarmid, Redzi Stojiljkovic, Kekez Zivkovic, Christopher Deegan, Josue Tuchez, Kolo Goshi, Head Coach Darin White. Middle: Senior Assistant Coach Russ White, Grant Taylor, Joe Phiri, Chris Lean, Jeff Lean, Robert Stinson, Jared New, Daniel Lee, Graduate Assistant David DeLaughter. Front: Zeb Crane, Ricky Mena, Matthew Marshall, Clowie Simas, Brett Martin, Christopher Anthony.

Cross Country

The men’s cross country team finished second in the TranSouth Conference and sixth in the NAIA Region meet. Chris Winter was named to the all-conference team.

Back: Team Assistant Bill Lean, Chad Peal, Adrian Yeung, Kyle McDiarmid, Redzi Stojiljkovic, Kekez Zivkovic, Christopher Deegan, Josue Tuchez, Kolo Goshi, Head Coach Darin White. Middle: Senior Assistant Coach Russ White, Grant Taylor, Joe Phiri, Chris Lean, Jeff Lean, Robert Stinson, Jared New, Daniel Lee, Graduate Assistant David DeLaughter. Front: Zeb Crane, Ricky Mena, Matthew Marshall, Clowie Simas, Brett Martin, Christopher Anthony.

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The women’s cross country team finished third in the TranSouth Conference and fourth in the NAIA Region XI standings. Union’s Janelle Royer became the second runner in Union history to run in the NAIA National Meet as an individual qualifier. Royer finished 109 out of 255 runners. Royer, along with Kate Graham, was named to the all-conference team. Royer was also selected as NAIA all-region.

Union finished the 2002 season tied for second in the TranSouth Regular Season standings. In the conference tournament, the Lady Bulldogs earned a third place finish which gave them an at-large bid to their fifth straight NAIA Region XI Tournament. In the NCCAA, Union won their fifth straight NCCAA MidEast Region Championship and participated in the NCCAA National Tournament for the fifth consecutive year. Union had four all-conference performers; Andrea Darr, Lindsay Stahlberg, Crystal Abel, and Erin Bayne. Andrea Darr was named to the NAIA All-Region team. In the NCCAA, Darr was named the MidEast Region Player of the Year. Coach Brian Dunn received the MidEast Region Coach of the Year award. Darr, Stahlberg, Abel, and Bayne each were named to the all-MidEast region team.
Union’s Lady Bulldog basketball team completed yet another successful season as they captured their eighth straight conference championship. Union finished 34-3 overall and 15-1 in the TranSouth. Their 30-2 regular season record was the best ever for a Union Lady Bulldog team. This marked the first time in Lady Bulldog history that a Union team had reached the 30-win mark in the regular season. Union put together a stretch of 19 consecutive wins during the season and each of their three losses came to NAIA top 20 opponents.

Union was 11-3 versus ranked opponents during the season. The Lady Bulldogs made the sweet sixteen of the NAIA National Tournament before being eliminated by Oklahoma Christian 65-64.

The Lady Bulldogs were ranked no. 2 in the NAIA. Junior guard Jessica Henson was named the WBCA-NAIA State Farm Player of the Year. She was also named an NAIA first team All-American along with a first team Kodak All-American selection. Junior forward Ginger Bryant was named an NAIA All-American honorable mentioned. Joining Henson and Bryant on the TranSouth All-Conference team was senior forward Allison Harrison.
Baseball
record: 35-19/11-10/8-7

Union baseball completed their 10th straight 30-win season but fell just short of 40 wins, a feat they’ve done three times in the past six years. They finished fourth in the conference with a very young team. Coach Rushing won his 600th career win on April 19, 2003 with a 3-2 win over Martin Methodist.

Softball
record: 45-13/16-2

The Lady Bulldog softball team was once again among the elite teams in the nation. Ranked No. 7, they finished 45-13 overall and 16-2 in the TranSouth Conference. Union won their fifth straight TranSouth Championship and earned a third straight trip to the NAIA Softball World Series.
Men’s Spring Sports

Golf

Union’s golf finished second in the TranSouth Golf Tournament and made the NAIA Region XI Tournament. The Bulldogs had outstanding fall and spring seasons. Union finished in the top 10 in all but one golf tournament this season. They posted one first place finish and two second place finishes overall.

Tennis

Record: 8-6/2-4

The Bulldogs finished the regular season 5th in the TranSouth after winning the championship last season. Union missed the NAIA Nationals for the first time in four years.
Cheerleading

Back: Brooke Bailey, Lindsay Grace Brown, captain Ami Culberson, Cam Armstrong, Kindle Walker.
Front: Alecia Robertson, Brittney Street, Crystal Leslie, captain Heather Day.

Women's Spring Sports

Tennis
record: 13-6/5-2

Union’s Lady Bulldog tennis program finished third in the TranSouth standings going into the conference tournament. They also finished third in the tournament and made the NAIA Region XI Tournament.
Men's Intramurals
Women's Intramurals