

hu:apocalypse



HARDING UNIVERSITY

Nickname: Apocalypse Enrollment: 5000

Location: Searcy, AR Team Est: 2004

2006 Record: 22-16 Ozark Section: 7th South Region: 9th

Key Losses (lost starters in **bold**): Luke Dockery, Brett Jordan, Whit Jordan, Kevin Kanzelmeyer, Paul Murphy, Jordan Walters, Adam Williams, Patrick Williams

RETURNING PLAYERS

(Probable Starters in **Bold**; * indicates captain)

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.
17	Stephen Bartley	Mid..	6'0"	Sr.
34	Jake Beveridge*	Mid.	6'2"	Sr.
22	Justin Bland	Hnd.	5'7"	Gr.
64	Branson Bridges	Hnd.	5'4"	Jr.
40	Kevin Burr	Hnd.	6'3"	Jr.
23	Landon Ganus*	Hnd.	6'2"	Jr.
14	Jonathan Lindsay	Hnd.	5'6"	Jr.
13	Brandon Stone*	Mid.	6'0"	Sr.
16	Daniel White	Deep	6'2"	Sr.

FRESH FACES

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.
3	Tad Dockery	Hnd.	5'10"	Jr.
19	Taylor Durham	Deep	6'2"	So.
33	Peter Jordan	Hnd.	5'10"	Fr.
10	Justin Kirk	Mid.	5'11"	So.
25	Brian Lancaster	Mid.	6'0"	Fr.
20	Josh Mills	Deep	6'0"	So.
xx	Nathan Smeal	Mid.	5'11"	So.
1	Chris Van Winkle	Hnd.	5'10"	So.
xx	Clay Williams	Deep	6'0"	Fr.



Few players are more vital to their teams' success than **Justin Bland** (above), who returns as one of the best and most experienced handlers in the South Region.

Brandon Stone (below), a returning All-Ozark Second Team selection and one of HU's team captains, is an outstanding defender, and has become extremely versatile on offense as well.



Ozark Preview: Harding Apocalypse

Intro

After a frustrating series of close losses to good teams, last year's season ended on a high note for Harding as they pulled off one of the bigger upsets of the college ultimate season when as a 15 seed, they defeated 2nd-seeded Texas State at South Regionals.

Although many key players from that team are gone, a very talented core group of players remains, as does the belief that they can challenge the best teams in the Ozark Section.

Handlers

Apocalypse lost a lot of experience and ability at the handler position with the graduation of Whit Jordan, Paul Murphy and Adam Williams, but an excellent trio of handlers remains.

Justin Bland is Harding's most experienced player, and as a primary handler, dictates the flow of the HU offense while rarely turning the disc. Bland has also greatly improved his long throws, making himself a more constant threat.

Co-captain Landon Ganus returns along with the full field hammer he is infamous for, and along with Kevin Burr, gives Harding a top-notch core group of handlers.

Burr, a second-year player, enjoyed a

breakout fall season, and joins Bland and Ganus as a legitimate hucking threat from any position on the field.

Though the experience level drops off significantly after the top three, Harding also returns Jonathan Lindsay and Branson Bridges from last year's team and has added a talented newcomer to the A-team in sophomore Chris Van Winkle. Tad "Alf" Dockery and freshman Peter Jordan will also handle in supporting roles.

Cutters

Harding lost two offensive mainstays with the departures of All-Section First Teamer Luke Dockery and former co-captain Jordan Walters, but Harding's mids will likely be its strongest point again this year, thanks in large part to the dynamite duo of co-captains Brandon Stone and Jake Beveridge.

Stone, who was on the All-Ozark Second Team a year ago, is an exceptional defensive player who has stepped up his decision-making this season and has seen his offensive game blossom as a result.

Beveridge's hustle and deceptive quickness make him an outstanding cutter who always seems to be open while also being a constant deep threat. Also a solid defender, Beveridge is a handler's nightmare in the center position of the Harding cup with his long wingspan and quick reflexes.

Remember the name of Apocalypse rookie Brian Lancaster; it is one you will likely be hearing in the Ozark Section for a long time. The freshman phenom emerged in the fall as an excellent receiver who plays like a savvy veteran. Though his all-around game is still raw in some areas, he has loads of potential, and will only improve with time.

Senior Stephen Bartley gives HU another speedy cutter with good all-around throws, and sophomores Justin Kirk and Nathan Smeal will come off the bench to work the mid position.

Deeps

Harding's deep rotation will look a lot different this season.

As the deep anchor of the HU zone and one of the team's top deep receivers, former co-captain Brett Jordan's departure leaves a big hole for Harding's current deeps to fill. Along with Jordan, Apocalypse also lost the speedy Patrick Williams and a solid deep receiver in Kevin Kanzelmeyer.

On offense, big Daniel White will likely emerge as the primary deep target. While "Whitey" is not the fastest player on the team, he makes up for it by hustling and playing with reckless abandon. White's ability to read the disc, get good positioning, and his soft hands will help him come up with big-time catches.

Sophomore Taylor Durham is another solid deep threat, but his impact will especially be felt on the defensive side of the disc, where he replaces Jordan as the team's premier deep defender. Durham possesses uncanny defensive instincts, and is an excellent help defender, using his extensive reach and formidable vertical leap to clog passing lanes and knock down deep throws.

Sophomore Josh Mills and freshman Clay Williams round out the deep position. Mills gained valuable experience playing on Harding's B-team last season, and Williams might be the fastest player on the team.

Final Analysis

Across all positions, the story for Harding is pretty much identical: a thin layer of very good core players backed up by talented but inexperienced and untested younger players. If the bench can step up and give solid minutes when the starters have to rest, Apocalypse could certainly finish in the top five and play toe-to-toe with any team on any given day. On the other hand, if the subs are still a year away from contributing and HU is forced to play with a shallow rotation, Harding will likely find itself in an all-too-familiar position of losing games down the stretch, and will once again find itself fighting to make the cut for Regionals.