

Department of Athletics

Jacksonville State athletics continued to dominate on the field of competition as the Gamecocks won numerous Ohio Valley Conference Championships and advanced to NCAA Championships, while also excelling in the classroom, during the 2013-14 year.

The Gamecocks won five Ohio Valley Conference Championships and finished fourth in the OVC Commissioner's Cup, marking the sixth straight year the Gamecocks have finished in the Top 6 in the standings.

The Gamecock football team advanced to the NCAA Quarterfinals and posted an 11-4 overall record and was ranked No. 10 in the final The Sports Network football poll. JSU also set 49 school records, 13 OVC records and three NCAA records during the 2013 season. Jacksonville State earned the school's 14th NCAA Playoff Appearance with an at-large berth and defeated Samford 55-14 to earn the school's first-ever Division I playoff win. The Gamecocks then defeated No. 6 McNeese State 35-10 in the second round to advance to play No. 2 Eastern Washington in the quarter-final round.

The Gamecock baseball team became the first school in Ohio Valley Conference history to win six-straight elimination to win the 2014 OVC Baseball Championship. After losing 2-1 in the opening round to fall into elimination bracket, JSU reeled off six straight wins – the longest winning streak of the season – to eliminate every single team to win the school's fourth OVC Championship and earn a trip to the NCAA Regionals at Ole Miss.

The Gamecock rifle team claimed the school's eighth OVC Rifle Championship to advance to the NCAA National Championship, where they posted an eighth-place finish. Individually, Cole Tucker finished second in the Air Rifle competition at the NCAA National Championship.

The JSU men's tennis team won the OVC regular-season and Tournament Championship to claim the program's fourth OVC crown. It marked the second time in school history that JSU won both the regular season and tournament title, as it won both in 2007. Steve Bailey was named the OVC Coach of the Year as the Gamecocks advanced the NCAA Regionals at the University of Georgia.

The Jax State softball team claimed its fourth OVC regular season championship after posting a 40-15 and a 22-5 mark in the OVC. Head coach Jana McGinnis was named the OVC Coach of the Year for the fourth time in her 11 seasons in the league, while Tiffany Harbin was named Pitcher of the Year and Sara Borders was tabbed as the OVC Player of the Year. The team also claimed the OVC Sportsmanship Award, the sixth time the Gamecocks have claimed this prestigious award.

The Gamecock men's golf team claimed the school's fifth Ohio Valley Conference title and third in the last four years after winning the OVC Tournament at The Shoals. Jax State advanced to the NCAA Regionals for the seventh time in school history, and posted their best NCAA regional finish at the Division I level with an eighth place finish.

Jacksonville State had five OVC Player or Most Valuable Player of the Year Awards, nine NCAA All-Americans, 61 OVC All-Conference honorees, two teams claimed OVC Team Academic Achievement honors, and four OVC Coach of the Year Award winners.

Since joining the Ohio Valley Conference in 2003-04, Jacksonville State has solidified itself as the preeminent athletic program in the conference.

The Gamecocks have won 58 OVC Championships over the last 10 years, which is nine more than the next OVC school. JSU has seen nine of its 15 programs bring home various titles and combine for 38 trips to the NCAA post-season play.

Gamecock student-athletes also excelled in the classroom after 10 teams posted a grade point average of 3.0 or higher, and it marked the third-straight year the department finished above a 3.0. Additionally, 113 student-athletes were named to the OVC Commissioner Honor Roll and 18 were named to the OVC Medal of Honor Roll, while 131 student-athletes posted a 3.0 grade point average or higher during the academic year.

Cumulative Awards by JSU during the 2013-14 Year

Five OVC Championships

Baseball (Tournament), Softball (Regular-Season), Men's Tennis (Regular-Season and Tournament), Men's Golf (Tournament), Rifle (Tournament)

OVC Coach of the Year Awards

Rick Pietri, Women's Basketball
Jana McGinnis, Softball
Steve Bailey, Men's Tennis

Individual Awards

Samantha Bullard, OVC Smallbore Athlete of the Year
Anne Kathrin Albrecht, OVC Women's Golf Freshman of the Year
Josh Barge, Football Freshman All-American
Max Holcombe, Football All-American
DaMarcus James, Football All-American
Eli Jenkins, Football Freshman All-American
Griffin Thomas, Football All-American
Sara Borders, OVC Softball Player of the Year
Tiffany Harbin, OVC Softball Pitcher of the Year
Griff Gordon, Baseball ABCA/Rawlings All-Region
Sara Borders, CoSIDA Academic All-American
Melania Bajo Geijo, Women's Collegiate Golf-All-American Scholar

Team Academic Honors

All-Academic, Women's Cross Country by the United States Track & Field and
Cross Country Coaches
All-Academic, Soccer by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America