

# Oglethorpe University

## Stormy Petrels

### MENS BASKETBALL NEWSLETTER

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## **Petrels Off to Best Start in 15 Years; Tied for 1<sup>st</sup>**

The Oglethorpe University men's basketball team is off to a 10-3 start, which is their best 13-game start in 15 years. At 3-1 in the conference, the Petrels are currently tied atop the SCAC East standings with Centre College and DePauw University, the pre-season #1 and #2 picks. The Petrels defeated DePauw 67-63 while losing to Centre 64-59. The Petrels offense continues to wreak havoc on opposing defenses, as Oglethorpe leads the conference in scoring by a wide margin. The Petrels also lead the SCAC in assists and assist/TO ratio, The Petrels are also 2<sup>nd</sup> in the conference in three-pointers made and three-point percentage. All five starters currently average at least 11.6 points per game, led by junior guard David Allison at 16.5 ppg (good for 4<sup>th</sup> in the conference) and sophomore forward Todd Ward at 15.9 ppg (good for 6<sup>th</sup> in the conference). Ward also leads the conference in rebounding with 9.7 rpg.

The upcoming schedule is going to be tough, with Hendrix (11-3) coming to town this Friday and an always scrappy Millsaps squad visiting on Sunday. The following weekend, the Petrels travel to Texas to face Southwestern and #10 Trinity (12-1).

## **Men "Run" Past Sewanee**

The Oglethorpe University men's basketball team defeated the Sewanee Tigers on Pinholster Court on Saturday night, 83-74. In a game that featured dominant stretches by both teams, the Petrels managed to put together the last run late in the game to claim the conference victory.

The Tigers started the contest on fire, burying their first three 3-point attempts on their way to racing to a 20-7 lead with 13:23 remaining in the first half. The Petrels responded, however, with a massive run of their own to seemingly take control of the game. Oglethorpe closed the half on a 30-10 run to take a 37-30 lead into the locker room.

The Petrels extended the run by scoring the first 10 points of the second half, and, with 17:41 remaining in the game, held a lead of 47-30 following the 40-10 run that spanned 15 minutes of clock time. That's when the pendulum swung back the other way, though, with the Tigers turning a 17 point deficit into a 5 point lead at the 10:03 mark after a 28-6 run of their own.

Oglethorpe managed to regroup and, fittingly, ended the game streaking on a 30-16 run to secure the 9-point, 83-74 victory.

David Allison led the Petrels with 22 points on the back of a scorching 8 of 10 shooting performance. Joe Kennedy piled up 20 points to go along with 5 assists and no turnovers and Todd Ward continued his stellar play with 17 points, 4 rebounds, 3 steals, 2 assists and one block. Junior Wade Weldon tallied a double-double in the victory with 13 points and 10 rebounds. *(Written by Hoyt Young)*

## **Men Stumble Down Stretch, Fall to Panthers**

The Oglethorpe University men's basketball team lost to Birmingham-Southern College in Alabama on Sunday afternoon, 74-63. *(continued on page 2)*

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The Petrels led the Panthers 56-54 after a Todd Ward basket with 4:45 to play but the Panthers closed the game on a 20-7 run to claim the victory.

With the exception of Ward (7 of 11) and Alex Richey (8 of 13), the Petrels struggled to shoot the ball as the remainder of the team combined to go 10 of 38 from the field in the tough conference loss. Birmingham-Southern won the battle of the boards 44-32 and Oglethorpe was not able to help itself at the free throw line, making only 3 of 12 attempts from the charity stripe.

Ward posted yet another double-double with 15 points and 13 rebounds to go along with 3 assists. Richey buried 6 of 10 shots from behind the arc on the way to piling up 22 points on the afternoon. *(Written by Hoyt Young)*

## Men Top Rhodes in Memphis

The Oglethorpe University men's basketball team defeated Rhodes College in Memphis on Friday night, 85-78. The Petrels jumped on the Lynx with hot shooting early in the game to race to a 49-24 halftime lead en route to the victory.

Oglethorpe won their first conference road game and did so by being deadly from beyond the 3-point arc where the Petrels buried 14 shots from downtown. Oglethorpe also managed to dish out 18 assists while only turning the ball over 6 times to control the outcome.

Wade Weldon and Joe Kennedy led the way for Oglethorpe by each tallying 21 points on the evening. Starters David Allison and Todd Ward rounded out the Petrels in double-figures by posting 17 and 16 points respectively. *(Written by Hoyt Young)*

## Petrels Play Host to Hendrix and Millsaps This Weekend

The Hendrix College Warriors travel to Dorrough Fieldhouse for a Friday night contest with the Petrels. Some would expect an exciting and high scoring match-up, as this game boasts the top two scoring teams in the SCAC. Oglethorpe leads the conference at 78.4 points per game while Hendrix ranks 2nd at 74.9 points per contest. Hendrix comes into this game with an 11-3 overall record and a 4-1 record in SCAC play. Hendrix also enters Friday night's contest on a 3-game winning streak. The Petrels will look to avenge last years SCAC tournament loss in which they lost to Hendrix in a game played on Hendrix's home floor. Andrew King is leading the way for the Warriors averaging 14.8 points and 8.5 rebounds per outing. On the perimeter, Hendrix relies on the outside shooting of Cal Rose, who is putting up 12.1 points per game while shooting 37% from the 3-point line. Hendrix returns a lot of depth and has added a few young players who have been productive thus far, so this could be a huge game for OU.

Millsaps College, and elite eight team a year ago, travels to Atlanta on Sunday for a 1pm match-up at Oglethorpe. Millsaps boasted a 28-4 record a year ago, but this years squad returns only 1 starter from that team and has a 3-10 record so far. Close losses have haunted Millsaps throughout the first half of the season as 7 of their 10 losses have come by 10 points or less. Leading the way for Millsaps is junior, Blake Martinez. Martinez is averaging 14.2 points per game and has hit 38 threes in just 13 games this season. Also averaging double figure points for the Majors is Chris Sanders. Thus far, Sanders is averaging 10.5 points and 6.4 rebounds per game. The Majors are always one of the hardest playing teams in the SCAC, so this also figures to be a tough game for the Petrels.