

ONU NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS APPEARANCES RECAPS

1989 - Kansas City, Mo. (Kemper Arena)

The Tigers made their first-ever trip to the NAIA national tournament following a sweep in the NAIA District 20 Championship. However, the Tigers' trip was short-lived as they were defeated by fourth-seeded College of Charleston (S.C.) 79-64.

The loss ended the brilliant careers of Jeff Prather and Dave DeFries. Prather left Olivet as the school's second all-time leading scorer with 1,948 points, while DeFries was eighth all time in points with 1,393 and 10th all-time in rebounds with 605. Prather had his No. 40 jersey retired and became Olivet's first-ever NAIA All-American with honorable mention accolades. The Tigers finished 22-9.

1990 - Kansas City, Mo. (Kemper Arena)

The Tigers were repeat winners of the NAIA District 20 Championship and earned a second straight invitation to the national tournament. The opponent this time was 10th-seeded Alderson-Broaddus College (W.Va.), and the Tigers nearly pulled off the upset before falling 75-74.

Junior Mike Carr led the Tigers with 21 points, while seniors Steve McCarty and Scott Hollywood ended their careers by grabbing a team-high nine rebounds.

McCarty wrapped up his career with 1,423 points, the seventh-most in school history at the time, and 816 rebounds, third-most. Following the season, he was named a NAIA All-American Honorable Mention. The Tigers finished 26-10.

1991 - Kansas City, Mo. (Kemper Arena)

The Tigers won the NAIA District 20 Championship at McHie Arena to qualify for the national tournament, but they experienced another first-round loss. Fifth-seeded Central Arkansas University handed the Tigers a 75-66 defeat and went on to finish as the national runner-up, after falling to Oklahoma City University in the championship.

For the second year in a row, Mike Carr paced the Tigers, and the senior scored a team-high 24 points. Senior Warren Brent pulled down a team-best 13 rebounds.

Carr's 1,538 career points ranked him fifth in school history while Brent's 494 rebounds ranked him in the top 20. Kent Chezem, meanwhile, is still the school's all-time assists leader with 687. The Tigers finished 22-13.

1992 - Kansas City, Mo. (Kemper Arena)

The Tigers made their fourth straight national tournament appearance — only one of two schools to do so over that time frame — and this time, they earned their first win.

The Tigers turned back eighth-seeded Wayland Baptist University (Texas) with a 75-66 win. Junior Bob Cook led the way with 17 points, and junior Jeff Residori grabbed a team-high eight rebounds.

Qualifying for their first Sweet 16, the Tigers fell 76-62 to unseeded Cumberland College (Ky.), a team that had upset Taylor University (Ind.) in the first round. Sophomore Tom Sennett scored 12 points, while Cook and freshman Corey Zink grabbed a team-high nine rebounds.

Shane Davis, the team's lone senior, concluded his career with 142 three-pointers, which ranks him sixth all time in school history. The Tigers finished 25-11.

1995 - Tulsa, Okla. (Mabee Center)

After a two-year absence from the national tournament, the Tigers won at Purdue University-Calumet (Ind.) in the CCAC Tournament Championship, they defeated the same Purdue-Calumet team at home two days later.

Those wins sent the Tigers to nationals for the first time since the tournament had been moved to Oklahoma, but they ran into fourth-seeded Georgia Southwestern State University in the first round and lost 92-83.

Senior Tony Baker led the Tigers with 23 points, while fellow senior Corey Zink recorded a double-double with 15 points and 14 rebounds.

Olivet's first two-time NAIA All-American, Zink concluded his career with 1,801 points and 986 rebounds, which ranked him fourth and second, respectively, in school history. Baker finished with 1,345 career points and 187 three-pointers, the seventh-highest total. The Tigers finished 21-15.

1997 - Tulsa, Okla. (Mabee Center)

After a 1-8 start to the season, the Tigers bounced back by winning 11 of 12 conference games and another CCAC Tournament Championship, which earned them a berth in the national tournament.

In the first round, the Tigers hung close against sixth-seeded University of Findlay (Ohio) but fell 72-61. Sophomore Jack Michaels led the Tigers with a double-double — 15 points and 10 rebounds — and was named a NAIA All-American Honorable Mention.

Senior Jeff Dillingham left as the Tigers' 20th all-time leading scorer with 1,149 points and fourth all time in assists with 510. He also ranked sixth in career three-pointers with 145. The Tigers finished 21-14.