

ONU NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS APPEARANCES RECAPS

2010 - Kansas City, Mo. (Municipal Auditorium)

After a one-year absence, the Tigers returned to the national tournament to face 12th-seed Lee University (Tenn.) in the first round. The Tigers struggled against Lee, which entered the tournament winning 13 of its last 14 games. Freshman Jordan Harks scored 10 and grabbed nine rebounds, but the effort wasn't enough in the 21-point loss.

The first-round loss ended the Tigers' career of NAIA All-American Tyler Wallenfang, who finished 15th in points (1,438) and 14th in rebounds (632). Josh Broken ended his career 10th in three-pointers (157) and 16th in assists (332). The Tigers finished 19-11.

2011 - Kansas City, Mo. (Municipal Auditorium)

The Tigers returned to the national tournament for the fifth time in six years and faced Georgetown College (Ky.), ranked No. 7 in the NAIA Top 25 poll.

Thanks to sharp three-point shooting and solid bench play, the Tigers kept the game close. But Georgetown, winner of both its conference's regular-season and tournament titles, pulled away late to hand Olivet an 83-76 loss. Junior Antonio Marshall led the Tigers with 18 points, while seniors Nick Klomstad and Cory Hainlen added 14 and 11, respectively.

Hainlen ended his Tigers' career with 143 three-pointers, 13th on the school's all-time list. Matt Mitchell finished his with 106 three-pointers, the 18th-best mark in school history.

2015 - Point Lookout, Mo. (Keeter Gymnasium - College of the Ozarks)

For the first time in program history, the Olivet Nazarene University men's basketball team earned a trip to the NAIA Division II National Championships. It was the 17th overall appearance and first since 2011 for the Tigers in national tournament play.

The Tigers (25-9, 16-3) won Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference (CCAC) Regular Season and Tournament titles, earning an automatic bid to the postseason tournament. ONU had not won the regular season (12th overall) since 2006 and tournament (6th overall) since 2000.

In the first round, the Tigers played Warner Pacific College (Ore.), ranked No. 16 in the NAIA Top 25 poll. Warner Pacific entered the tournament with a 25-7 record and had finished in a three-way tie for first in the Cascade Collegiate Conference — arguably the toughest league in NAIA Division II — sending four teams to the national tournament.

Olivet drew the late game on Wednesday, March 11, but was ready to gain a first round win nonetheless. The Tigers led early through a sloppy group of opening minutes, but costly turnovers and streaking shooting by the Knights gave them the lead. Olivet was able to keep it close until five minutes to go in the first half when Warner Pacific took a double-digit lead for the remainder of the game. Olivet was unable to get back any momentum and fell 79-54.

The Tigers were led by junior forward Aaron Larson's 13 points and eight rebounds. Senior Austin Davis chipped in 12 points, including three from long distance. Junior Zach Wagner added six points and three rebounds. Senior Hunter Jacobs had two points and two rebounds. Matt Ryan had three rebounds.

The first-round loss ended the career of five Olivet seniors: Austin Davis, Matt Ryan, Hunter Jacobs, Seth Johnson and Riley Johnson. Davis was named All-CCAC Second Team, and Matt Ryan was a Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete. Davis became the 40th player in school history to reach 1,000 points, finishing with 1,239 (29th all-time). He also ended his career with 250 three-pointers, second on the school's all-time list. He also made 102 three-pointers his senior year, breaking ONU's single season record.

2016 - Point Lookout, Mo. (Keeter Gymnasium - College of the Ozarks)

Not since 2010 and 2011 had the Olivet Nazarene University men's basketball team made back-to-back national postseason appearances. In 2016, the Tigers made a return trip to the NAIA Division II National Championships, their 18th overall appearance.

The Tigers (18-11, 17-4) finished second in the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference (CCAC) regular season standings, forcing them to earn an automatic bid by winning the postseason tournament. However, the Olivet slipped up in the quarterfinals, falling to IU-South Bend 90-75. Yet, the season wasn't over for the Tigers as an at-large bid awaited them due to their No. 21 national ranking.

In the first round, the Tigers played a familiar foe, No. 9 Keiser University (Fla.), whom the Tigers had played previously during the season on December 30 in West Palm Beach, Fla. The Seahawks defeated the Tigers 72-66 on their home court. Keiser entered the tournament with a 28-4 record and had finished as runner-up in the Sun Conference Tournament championship game after winning the regular season title. The Seahawks are coached by Rollie Massimino, long-time head coach and National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Famer.

Olivet drew the first game of the tournament on Wednesday, March 9, but nonetheless was to gain a first round win. The Tigers stayed with the Seahawks early despite shooting poorly from the field. Yet, a couple of big shots from Andrija Sarenac late in the half stretched Keiser's lead to 37-27 before the break. In the second half, the Tigers had chances to break through and possibly take a lead, but Keiser was too much offensively. ONU failed to take advantage of the possessions they had, resulting in a 77-66 loss.

The Tigers were led by junior guard Tyler Crater's 18 points (3-for-6 on three-pointers) and three rebounds. Aaron Larson added 14 points (6-for-14) and six rebounds. Zach Wagner had 14 points (7-for-11), adding seven rebounds and three steals. Sophomore Chris Green finished with 10 points on 4-for-10 shooting. Alex Thorson had five points, 11 assists and six rebounds.

The first-round loss ended the career of seven Olivet seniors: NAIA Second Team All-American Aaron Larson, All-CCAC Honorable Mention selection Zach Wagner, Alex Thorson, Reid Farchmin, Leke Solanke, Taylor Tucker and Luke Steelman. Farchmin and Tucker were named Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athletes. Larson finished his career in the top 10 of six categories among the top 20 in ONU history, finishing third in points (2,132). Wagner finished with 1,127 points to become the 41st Tiger in history to record 1,000 career points.

