

**Finding Aid for the
Billy C. Vining, Sr. papers
OBU.2022.001
February 2025**



**OUACHITA
BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

*Archives & Special Collections
Riley-Hickingbotham Library
Ouachita Baptist University
410 Ouachita Street
Arkadelphia, AR 71998*

Repository: Archives and Special Collections, Ouachita Baptist University

Title: Billy C. Vining Sr. papers

Inclusive Dates: 1965-2002

Bulk Dates: 1965-1989

Quantity: 3.44 c.f.; 4 document cases, 1 record storage carton, and 1 clamshell + 5 framed items.

Abstract

Correspondence, programs, speeches, press releases, newspapers clippings, scrapbooks, photographs, and ephemera kept by Ouachita Men's Basketball Coach Bill Vining, whose career at Ouachita spanned 34 seasons.

Identification: OBU.2022.001

Languages: English, Spanish, Cyrillic

Acquisition Information: Donated by Bill Vining via daughter, Molly Wallace, 2022.

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Preferred Citation: Billy C. Vining Sr. papers, Archives and Special Collections, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, AR.

Biographical Summary

Billy Coleman Vining (1929-) was born in Bayou Mason, Chicot County, Arkansas, the youngest of seven children to Thomas Ebenezer and Maude Vining. Vining began his long association with Ouachita in 1947 as a first-year student. He played basketball and football for Ouachita for four years, graduating in 1951 with a B.A. degree in Math and Physical Education. While at Ouachita, Vining was Senior class president, treasurer of Sigma Alpha Sigma, a men's social club, captain of the basketball team, and a member of Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities. At Ouachita, Vining met and married Mary Ann Strickland in 1950. The couple had six children. Ann Strickland passed away in 2009. Vining married Carolyn Davies in 2012.

After graduating from Ouachita, Vining served in the Korean War as 2nd Lt. Field Communications Chief, Infantry Division, U. S. Army for two years. Following military service, Vining completed a year of graduate school before returning to his alma mater to serve as head coach at age 24. Vining served as Ouachita's head basketball coach for 34 seasons before retiring in 1989. Under Vining, the Tigers won 532 games, six conference championships, and six district championships. Vining was named NAIA District 17 Coach of the Year five times, and Area V Coach of the Year three times. He finished his coach career with a 532-372-1record.

In addition to serving as head men's basketball coach at Ouachita, Vining coached a number of national and international competitions in Europe, Asia, Central and South America. In 1977, Vining served as an assistant coach for the gold-medal Team USA during the World Games in Bulgaria; and in 1978, coached Team USA during the Yuri Gagarin Cup in the Soviet Union. Vining coached some of basketball's greatest players during these years, including Earvin "Magic" Johnson, Sidney Moncrief, and Larry Bird.

Vining received numerous awards and recognitions throughout his distinguished career. He was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame (1979), the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame (1986), and the OBU Athletics Hall of Fame (2003). At Ouachita, the Vining Arena and the Vining Legacy Wall, both in the Sturgis Physical Education Center, are named in his honor.

Bill Vining died at the Little Rock on August 15, 2025. He is buried in Rest Haven Memorial Gardens in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

Scope and Contents and Arrangement

Papers consist of a small amount of correspondence, programs from various basketball events, OBU press releases, newspapers clippings on OBU basketball games and Vining's career (loose and in scrapbooks), biographies of former players (1929-1969), team rosters, Vining's playbooks, and documents and photographs from national and international games.

Box 2876: Correspondence, programs, speeches, publications, and certificates.

Box 2877: Ouachita Men's Basketball roster, player biographies, playbooks and notes.

Box 2875: Materials pertaining to Vining's national and international coaching and ephemera.

Box 2874: Photographs and slides, primarily international games.

Box 2873: Scrapbooks and artifacts (i.e., badges/patches and pins).

Box 2878: Oversize materials including sheets, a poster, and Ouachita alumni magazines. Score sheets are printed in Cyrillic alphabet.

Keywords

Arkadelphia (AR.)
Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference
Clark County (AR). – History
Coaching (Athletics)
Basketball
Basketball coaches
College sports
College sports – coaching
National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics

Olympics
Ouachita Baptist University
United States Collegiate Sports Council
Wilson, Virgil (1945-2012)
World University Games
Yuri Garagin Cup

Processed by Dr. Lisa Speer, February 2005.

Box/Folder Contents Inventory

Box 2876	Folder Title
2876/001	Correspondence, 1965-2022, and undated.
2876/002	Hand-made child's valentine card from "Andy," not dated.
2876/003	Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame remarks, 2 typed pages, circa 2003.
2876/004	OBU Basketball Reunion remarks and program, not dated.
2876/005	Event programs, 1978-1989.
2876/006	OBU Basketball camp materials, circa 1970s.
2876/007	Constitution of Ouachita College "IPSAY" organization, not dated.
2876/008	OBU press releases, 1983, 1984, 1994 and not dated.
2876/009-014	Newspaper clippings re. OBU basketball, various dates.
2876/015	Newspaper clippings re. Coach Vining and international games, various dates.
2876/016	<i>Estadio</i> magazine, August 1965.
2876/017	1977 Converse Basketball Yearbook.
2876/018	1978 Annual National Basketball Tournament program.
2876/019	Arkadelphia High School vs. Mills Comets football program, 1950.
2876/020	OBU vs. Harding University football program, 1980.
2876/021	<i>Tiger Talk Today</i> , 1981, 2003.
2876/022	<i>NAIA News</i> , January/February 1986.
2876/023	2005 Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame yearbook.
2876/024	Certificates, 1975, 1976.
Box 2877	
2877/001	OBU basketball pamphlets, 1978-1979 and circa 1980s.
2877/002	OBU basketball rosters, 1978-1979
2877/003	OBU player biographies, 1929-1949.
2877/004	OBU player biographies, 1950-1959.
2877/005	OBU player biographies, 1960-1969.
2877/006	OBU basketball prospectus, 1985-1986. 2 copies.
2877/007-010	Drills and plays, not dated.
2877/011	Manzano [LA] Basketball Handbook, circa 1976.
2877/012	Hand-lettered referee signs, not dated.
2877/013	Virgil L. Wilson resume and poster, circa 1983.
Box 2875	
2875/001	Team Rosters (not Ouachita), 1965, 1968, 1977-1978.
2875/002	AIC Championships lists, 1931-1989.
2875/003	NAIA fact sheet, list of officials, championships, etc.
2875/004	1963 AIC Invitational program.
2875/005	1968 Olympic trials.

2875/006	1972 Torneo Ano Del Turismo De Las Americas.
2875/007	1973 World University Games.
2875/008	1975 AAU South American Tour.
2875/009	1976-1977 United States Collegiate Sports Council Games.
2875/010-011	1977 World University Games.
2875/012	1978 NAIA Tournament program.
2875/013	1979 Olympic Games.
2875/014	1978 Yuri Garagin Cup.
2875/015	NAIA District 17 Basketball Tournament program, not dated.
2875/016	Ranger Classic program, not dated.
2875/017	Ephemera.

Box 2874

Item 001	Photographs and Slides Team USA, b/w, 8x10, not dated.
Item 002	Vining with Arkansas Governor and First Lady Mike and Janet Huckabee, color, 8x10, not dated. Signed by Mike Huckabee.
Item 003	Vining accepting award, b/w, 8x10, not dated.
Item 004	Vining with raised hand during game, b/w, 8x10, 2005. Signed by former players.
Item 005	Crowd at AAU game in South America, b/w, 8x10, circa 1965.
Item 006	Vining with unidentified group of men and women, b/w, 6.5x8, circa 1965.
Item 007	Vining shaking hands with unidentified woman; man in background also unidentified, b/w, 6.5x8, circa 1965.
Item 008	Unidentified crowd of people, b/w, 8x10, circa 1965.
Item 009	Vining with unidentified group of men, b/w, 5x7, circa 1965.
Item 010	Kyle Hensley headshot, b/w, 8x10, not dated.
Item 011	Team USA game, b/w, 6.25x8, not dated.
Item 012	Team USA game, b/w, 6.25x8, not dated.
Item 013	Team USA drill or demonstration; possibly Vining with back to camera, b/w, 8x10, not dated.
Item 014	Team USA game, b/w, 8x10, not dated.
Item 015a	Unidentified group of men and women, b/w, 8x10, circa 1965.
Item 015b	"The American stars of the United States Basketball Union are in Panama this week, along with teachers from the country's secondary schools. The team, which is touring Latin America under the sponsorship of the Cultural and Educational Exchange Program of the United States Department of State, arrived in Panama on Sunday before ... Guyana and will later travel to Panama. Here we can see the American players in action during a clinic at the

	National Institute of Panama [translation of caption on reverse side], b/w, 8x 10, not dated.
Item 016	Vining with players, b/w, 5x7.25, circa 1965.
Item 017	Vining eating canape with other unidentified men, b/w, 6.25x8, circa 1965.
Item 018	Vining shaking hands with unidentified woman, b/w, 6.25x8, circa 1965.
Item 019	Vining with three unidentified men, b/w, 6.25x8, circa 1965.
Item 020	Vining talking with two unidentified men, b/w, 6.25x8, circa 1965.
Item 021	Vining talking with two unidentified men, b/w, 6.25x8, circa 1965.
Item 022	Three unidentified men, b/w, 6.25x8, circa 1965.
Item 023	Vining with unidentified group of men and women, b/w, 6.25x8, circa 1965.
Item 024	Two unidentified men, b/w, 8x10, circa 1965.
Item 025	Vining accepting plaque from unidentified man, b/w, 8x10, circa 1964.
Item 026	Vining kissing unidentified woman on cheek, b/w, 8x10, circa 1965.
Item 027	1968 NAIA Olympic All-Star basketball team photo, b/w, 8x10, 1968.
Item 028	Team USA player with other unidentified players, b/w, 6.25x8, circa 1965.
Item 029	Team USA photo with Vining, kneeling, b/w, 8x10, not dated.
Item 030	Two unidentified men, b/w, 5x7, inscribed on back "La Paz, Aug. 26, 1965."
Item 031	Vining with group of unidentified men, b/w, 5x7, inscribed on back "La Paz, Aug. 26, 1965."
Item 032	Unidentified basketball team, possibly South American, b/w, 3.25x5, not dated.
Item 033	Group of unidentified Team USA players, b/w, 3 7/8x4.75, not dated.
Item 034	Vining with team, b/w, 5x7, inscribed on back "La Paz, Aug. 26, 1965."
Item 035	USA Team, b/w, 5x7, inscribed on back "La Paz, Aug. 26, 1965."
Item 036	Vining and players with unidentified South American team, b/w, 5x7, inscribed on back "Huanuni, Aug. 29. [1965]."
Item 037	Vining with team in front of airplane, b/w, 5x7, inscribed on back "La Paz, Aug. 26, 1965."
Items 038a-b	Vining with team shaking hands with unidentified South American team, b/w, 5x7, inscribed on back "La Paz, Aug. 26, 1965."
Item 039	Unidentified USA team player with two South American children, b/w, 5x7, circa 1965.

- Item 040 Unidentified USA team player surrounded by crowd, b/w, 5x7, inscribed on back, "Oruro, Aug. 28, 1965."
- Item 041 Unidentified USA team player shaking hands with children, b/w, 5x7, inscribed on back, "Huanuni, Aug. 29. 1965."
- Item 042 Unidentified USA team player holding child, b/w, 5x7, inscribed on back, "Oruro, Aug. 28, 1965."
- Item 043 Vining huddling with players wearing "Descomores" jerseys, b/w, 5x7, not dated
- Item 044 Ouachita Baptist University President Ralph Phelps presents trophy to unidentified team [not Ouachita], b/w, 5x7, not dated.
- Item 045 Three unidentified men, one holding basketball, b/w, 5x7, inscribed on back "Huanuni, Aug. 29. [1965].
- Item 046 Two unidentified men standing next to Ouachita College bus, b/w, 5x7, not dated.
- Items 047a-b Unidentified group of golfers possibly standing in front of Arkadelphia Country Club, b/w, 5x7, not dated.
- Item 048 Unidentified women's group, b/w, 5x7, not dated.
- Item 049 Vining with unidentified group of boys, possibly a basketball camp, b/w, 5x7, not dated.
- Item 050 Unidentified woman holding infant, color, 5x7, not dated.
- Item 051 Unidentified man, headshot, b/w, 5x7, not dated.
- Item 052 Vining and team seated at table, b/w, 4.25x6, circa 1965.
- Item 053 "Major Elton Hogan, Hqs. 'B' slams ball past the outstretched hands of Miyagi Prefecture Office blocker. Action took place in the first round of the Japanese-American Goodwill Volleyball Tournament on 14 Mar 53," b/w, 5x7, 1953.
- Item 054 Gold Tiger Day, Class of 1958, standing in front of Evans Student Center, Ouachita Baptist University, color, 5x7, 25 April 2003.
- Item 055 Vining and unidentified group on steps of building, b/w, 4x5, not dated.
- Item 056 Vining with USA team, color, 5x7, not dated.
- Item 057 Unidentified basketball game, possibly South America, b/w, 3.25x5, not dated.
- Item 058 Unidentified basketball game, b/w, 5x7, inscribed on back "La Paz, Aug. 26, 1965."
- Item 059 Unidentified basketball game, b/w, 5x7, inscribed on back "La Paz, Aug. 26, 1965."
- Item 060 Unidentified basketball game, b/w, 5x7, inscribed on back "La Paz, Aug. 26, 1965."
- Item 061 Unidentified teams shaking hands, possibly South America, b/w, 3.25x5, not dated.

Item 062	Two unidentified men, b/w, 5x7, inscribed on back "La Paz, Aug. 26, 1965."
Item 063	Vining with unidentified group, b/w, 5x7, inscribed on back "La Paz, Aug. 26, 1965, Bill Vining (with DCM [Deputy Chief of Mission] Robert Hurwitch)."
Item 064	Photograph Christmas Card inscribed to "My Coach" from Virgil [Wilson] showing the 1982 Monarch Classic Champions, color, 3.5x7, 1982.
Item 065	Unidentified group raising national flags, possibly South America, b/w, 3.25x5, not dated.
Item 066	USA Team photo, b/w, 3x4, stamped on back "Quito-Ecuador," circa 1965.
Item 067	Bill Vining with three unidentified men, color, 3x5, circa 1980s.
Items 068-084	18 color snapshots, 3.5x3.5, most not identified or dated. Two inscribed on back "Colon, Panama after demonstration autograph signing," and "Pacific side of Panama Canal." All photos appear to have been taken during the same time period.
Items 085-103	18 color snapshots, 3.25x4.25, all dated September 1977. Taken in Italy, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia during World University Games.
Items 103-176	Color slides of international travel, most not dated or identified.
Item 177	1949 Tigers reunion, Ink Jet Print, 8.5x11, not dated. Laminated.

Box 2873

Artifact Tray	NAIA plastic badge. USA Cultural Presentations cloth patch. NAIA cloth patch. NAIA Sam Houston National Golf cloth patch. UCLA cloth patch. KBBB/FRBSB cloth patch. Bill Vining "The Big 50" metal button. "See Arkansas First" plastic pin.
Loose	<i>The Signal</i>, 10 February 1989. Re. Vining retirement. Magic mount photo album of newspapers clippings re. OBU basketball and Vining, circa 1970s. Most not dated. Plastic binder of newspaper clippings re. OBU basketball and Vining. Most not dated. 3 scrapbooks of newspaper clippings re. OBU basketball and Vining, 1970s-1980s.

Box 2878**Oversize (not foldered)**

Possibly score sheets from Yuri Garagin Cup, 1978. Cyrillic.
1975 World University Games poster.

Ouachita Alumni newsmagazine:

May 1975

October 1978

May 1979

June 1986

September 1986

April 1987

Plastic AAU portfolio.

Framed Items

- FR.009 NAIA Basketball Area 4 Coach of the Year certificate, 1973.
- FR.010 NAIA District 17 Coach of the Year certificate, 1972-1973.
- FR.017 NAIA District 17 Coach of the Year certificate, 1971-1972.
- FR.018 NAIA District 17 Coach of the Year certificate, 1982.
- FR.020 NAIA All-Stars vs. Mexico certificate, 22-29 September 1975.

Deaccessioned items

Loose clippings from newspapers held in the OBU Library on microfilm or available through OBU online databases were withdrawn and discarded. Those items were:

“The Slam Dunk,” *Daily Siftings Herald*, 28 February 1978, 3.

“NAIA Notes,” and Parkside Survives Scare,” *Kansas City Times*, 14 March 1978, 4C.

“Vining Named to Hall of Fame,” *Daily Siftings Herald*, 26 January 1979, 1 & 4.

“Tigers Slide by Tech,” *Daily Siftings Herald*, 26 January 1979, 4.

“Local Colleges End Regular Season with Wins,” *Daily Siftings Herald*, 7 February 1979.

“Modest Man,” *Arkansas Democrat*, 16 March 1979, 2D

“Reddies Upset, Tigers Survive Just Barely,” *Daily Siftings Herald*, 8 February 1980, 4.

“The Big Upset – Second Time Around,” *Daily Siftings Herald*, 19 February 1980, 4.

“Hendrix-OBU Face-Off Slated for Tonight,” *Signal*, 21 February 1980, 7.

“Tigers Take Battle of the Ravine,” *Signal*, 21 February 1980, 7.

“A Long, Long, Day at the Playoffs,” *Daily Siftings Herald*, 3 March 1980, 4.

“Vining, Neusch Get NAIA Hall Honors,” *Arkansas Democrat*, 16 March 1979, 2D.

“People in Sports,” *Daily Siftings Herald*, 20 March 1980, 4.

“UCA Escapes Tigers’ Trip by 42-35,” *Arkansas Democrat*, 26 October 1980, 2B.

“Reddies Romp, but Tigers Stunned,” *Daily Siftings Herald*, 10 November 1980.

“Bisons Stampede Ouachita by Count of 34-20,” *Daily Siftings Herald*, 17 November 1980, 1A

“OBU Wins ‘The Battle of the Ravine’,” *Southern Standard*, 27 November 1980, 10.

“UCA Trips OBU 61-57,” *Arkansas Democrat*, 2 December 1980, 2C

“Conway Rules the Roost in Openers,” *Daily Siftings Herald*, 2 December 1980, 4.

“HSU Hangs on in Overtime,” *Daily Siftings Herald*, 13 [ary – January or February] 1981.

“Football ’81,” [special section], *Arkansas Gazette*, 16 August 1981.

“Football ’81,” [special section], *Daily Siftings Herald*, 28 August 1981.

“It’s Old, the New, the Same,” *Daily Siftings Herald*, 8 December 1981, 5.

“Five Selected for Induction into Sports Hall of Fame,” *Arkansas Gazette*, 22 February 1985, 3F.

“Ouachita’s ‘Deacon Bill’ Takes Aim at No. 500,” *Advance Monticellonian*, 13 November 1985, Section 1-7.

“Bears Rally to Curtail Losing Streak at OBU,” *Log Cabin Democrat*, 9 January 1987, 6.

“Number of AIC Teams Already Face Must-Win Games,” *Arkansas Democrat*, 12 January 1987, 3E.

“AIC This Week,” and AIC Roundup,” *Arkansas Democrat*, 24 January 1987, 3B.

“Departing Widner May Motivate Tech,” *Arkansas Gazette*, 26 February 1987, 2D.

“Pippin Sparks UCA to Victory over OBU 68-66,” not dated, 3C.