

1974

UA19/17/1/1 Baseball Media Guide

WKU Athletic Media Relations

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1974 SPRING SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent (Games)	Site
March 19	Union (Tenn.) (2)	Home
March 21	Morehead State (2)	Morehead, Ky.
March 23	Vanderbilt (2)	Home
March 26	David Lipscomb (2)	Home
March 27	Louisville (2)	Home
March 30	*Middle Tennessee (2)	Home
March 31	Louisville (2)	Louisville, Ky.
April 1	Bellarmine (2)	Home
April 3	David Lipscomb (2)	Nashville, Tenn.
April 6	*Murray State (2)	Home
April 8	Kentucky (2)	Lexington, Ky.
April 10	Centre (2)	Danville, Ky.
April 13	*Austin Peay (2)	Clarksville, Tenn.
April 16	Kentucky Wesleyan (2)	Home
April 22	Kentucky Wesleyan (2)	Owensboro, Ky.
April 23	Bellarmine (2)	Louisville, Ky.
April 24	Southern Illinois (2)	Home

*Ohio Valley Conference Western Division game.
Home doubleheaders start at 1 p.m., CDT.

1973 SPRING RESULTS

	WKU	OPP.
March 21	8	University of Louisville 9
21	7	University of Louisville 2
24	0	David Lipscomb College 13
24	1	David Lipscomb College 4
31	1	Middle Tennessee State University 2
31	0	Middle Tennessee State University 1
April 1	2	Tennessee Tech 3
1	1	Tennessee Tech 0
3	6	Campbellsville College 1
3	10	Campbellsville College 2
6	5	Bellarmine College 7
6	8	Bellarmine College 0
14	2	Austin Peay State University 3
14	3	Austin Peay State University 4
15	4	Vanderbilt University 5
15	5	Vanderbilt University 9
17	3	Tennessee Tech 0
17	7	Tennessee Tech 4
21	2	Murray State University 12
21	0	Murray State University 3
24	5	Campbellsville College 1
24	7	Campbellsville College 0
26	0	Bellarmine College 2
26	4	Bellarmine College 5
28	3	University of Louisville 0
28	3	University of Louisville 7
30	5	Kentucky Wesleyan 4
30	2	Kentucky Wesleyan 6

Won 11, Lost 17

1973 FALL RESULTS

	WKU	OPP.
Sept. 17	3	Kentucky Wesleyan 0
17	8	Kentucky Wesleyan 2
19	8	Eastern Kentucky University 1
19	1	Eastern Kentucky University 1
26	6	Kentucky Wesleyan 1
26	3	Kentucky Wesleyan 4
28	8	Tennessee Tech 4
28	3	Tennessee Tech 5
Oct. 1	8	Eastern Kentucky University 1
1	5	Eastern Kentucky University 2
3	8	Tennessee Tech 6
3	3	Tennessee Tech 5
6	2	Middle Tennessee State University 1
6	5	Middle Tennessee State University 10
12	6	Murray State University 1
12	2	Murray State University 8
16	11	Morehead State University 10
16	6	Morehead State University 8
19	3	Austin Peay State University 5
19	4	Austin Peay State University 3

Won 12, Lost 7



1974

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

HILLTOPPER BASEBALL



OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

1952 1953
WESTERN DIVISION CHAMPIONS

1969

JIM PICKENS Head Coach



Jim Pickens is in his ninth season as head coach of the Hilltoppers. Both his background and experience fit him ably for the assignment.

The Princeton, Kentucky, native was a star pitcher, as well as an outstanding football quarterback, for Western Kentucky in his collegiate playing days. He later pitched professionally as a member of the Detroit Tigers organization.

Pickens came to Western in the fall of 1965 after a sparkling coaching career in the high school ranks, where he fashioned championship teams in both baseball and football. In six seasons at Bowling Green High School, his baseball teams won 118 games while losing only 20, a percentage of .855. He climaxed his coaching stint there by guiding the Purples to the State Championship in 1965.

Before coaching at Bowling Green, Pickens held similar positions at Danville and Elizabethtown High Schools. Over a 15-year span, his high school teams won 221 victories against just 59 losses, a .789 percentage.

After suffering through three rather lean seasons in rebuilding Western's baseball fortunes, Pickens' last five Hilltopper clubs have been among the most respected in the OVC. His 1969 team won the Western Division championship.

Pickens' overall Western record, going into the 1974 campaign, shows 130 wins, 133 losses and four ties.

In addition to his coaching duties, Pickens is Director of University Centers. He received the B.S. and M.A. degrees from Western in 1951 and 1962, respectively.

BUCK SYDNOR Assistant Coach



Buck Sydnor is starting his third season as assistant baseball coach. He became Jim Pickens' assistant coach in the spring of 1972 after spending six seasons as a basketball assistant coach under John Oldham.

Sydnor, a star on Western's first two National Invitation Tournament basketball teams in 1942 and 1943, joined the Western staff in 1964.

Buck was a veteran of 15 years of high school basketball coaching at Daviess County, Hopkinsville,

and Bowling Green High Schools when he came to Western.

His Hilltopper basketball freshmen, over six seasons (1965-71), won 62 and lost 50 while playing some of the toughest schedules ever faced by the Western frosh.

Sydnor received his B.S. and M.A. degrees from Western Kentucky in 1948 and 1949, respectively.

1974 OUTLOOK

After coming off a good 12-7-1 record in the fall, Baseball Coach Jim Pickens feels that he has a much improved team this spring. He is fairly optimistic about his team's chances at the Ohio Valley Conference spring championship.

"The success of our team will rest squarely on the shoulders of our experienced pitchers, namely Mike Grubb, Marty Matusiak, Greg Stahl and Jeff Ralph," explained Pickens. "We must continue to get strong relief from Rick and Rob Parrent and Greg Shelton. If Rey Ford and Bill Scheckles continue to improve, we can play with anyone."

Pickens added, "Our overall outlook, both offensively and defensively, is sound. We may make some early position changes, but our club will be primarily the same as in the fall."

One of the major position changes will be the shift of first baseman Neil Mills to second base. Pickens will try to find a new first baseman in early drills.

He will also be looking for a new third baseman. Seniors Ken Justak and Phil Allen have decided not to play baseball this spring. Last fall, both shared the job of playing the hot corner. Justak is hitting the books, and Allen did not return to school.

At the catching position, Pickens has two candidates for the starting job. Freshman Wally Moss will battle sophomore Jim Feix for the job behind the plate. Both players are outstanding receivers. Hitting may decide who will start.

There is a good crop of outfielders on this year's squad. Terry Mitchell and Bob Bristow will contend for the job in leftfield; Steve Keck will be in centerfield; and Steve Tate and Mike Parker will be the candidates in rightfield.

Pickens indicated that Steve Carter, a multi-talented transfer, will help in both pitching and in the infield. Football player David Carter is trying his hand at catching and could be a help to the squad.

"With a little stronger pitching and a better overall offensive attack," explained Pickens, "we can be a contender. We are looking forward to the challenge."

FINAL 1973 FALL STANDINGS

OVC Western Division

	W	L	Pct.
Murray State University	4	2	.667
Western Kentucky University	3	3	.500
Middle Tennessee State University	3	3	.500
Austin Peay State University	2	4	.333

UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Location: Bowling Green, Kentucky
Conference: Ohio Valley, NCAA
Nickname: Hilltoppers Colors: Red and White
President: Dr. Dero G. Downing Enrollment: 11,736
Chairman, University Athletic Committee: Dr. John Minton
Athletic Director: John Oldham
Baseball Coach: Jim Pickens
Assistant Baseball Coach: Buck Sydnor
Athletic Office Phone: (502) 745-3542 or 745-3348
Home Field: Nick Denes Field

—FOR INFORMATION ON ALL SPORTS—
Assistant Public Relations Director: Ed Given
Phone: 745-4295

1973 FALL STATISTICS

BATTING

PLAYER	G	AB	H	R	RBI	BB	TB	1B	2B	3B	HR	SO	AVG.
Mike Grubb	9	16	8	2	3	5	13	4	3	1	0	5	.500
Neil Mills	17	54	22	12	7	4	29	17	4	0	1	4	.407
Bob Bristow	20	13	6	20	3	2	9	5	0	0	1	4	.385
Phil Allen	14	36	11	7	7	10	13	9	2	0	0	12	.306
Steve Tate	19	48	14	10	11	12	15	13	1	0	0	6	.291
Terry Mitchell	18	45	13	10	6	5	24	8	2	0	3	11	.288
Gary Larimore	18	58	16	7	4	1	19	13	3	0	0	17	.276
Steve Keck	20	63	16	12	5	7	20	13	2	1	0	9	.255
Ken Justak	11	29	7	2	7	2	7	7	0	0	0	7	.242
Dee Deener	16	55	13	5	8	6	20	10	1	0	2	10	.240
Jimmy Feix	13	25	6	4	3	7	6	6	0	0	0	2	.240
Marty Matusiak	13	21	5	2	7	3	12	2	1	0	2	10	.238
Mike Hurst	10	21	5	1	2	5	9	2	2	1	0	6	.238
Joey Bunch	6	9	1	1	2	2	2	0	1	0	0	1	.111
Keith Skaggs	8	5	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Mike Parker	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	.000
Wally Moss	4	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	.000
Dirk Knight	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
TEAM TOTALS	20	503	143	98	75	74	198	109	22	3	9	106	.284



NEIL MILLS

Senior **Infield**
Coach Jim Pickens calls Neil Mills a very talented player who can handle any position. Mills is a tough competitor and dedicated to the game. He is an outstanding leader, both on the field and off. Pickens feels he could be the best all-round player in the Ohio Valley Conference.

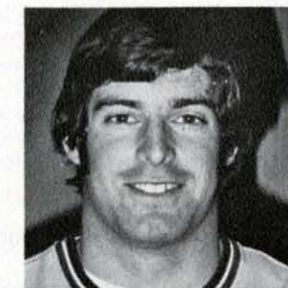
STEVE TATE

Senior **Rightfield**
Steve Tate is one of the smallest men in the league, but Pickens calls him one of the most determined competitors around. Tate was named All-OVC at shortstop last year. He has batted above .300 for three years and has a great arm and range in the outfield. He should be one of the best outfielders in the league this spring.



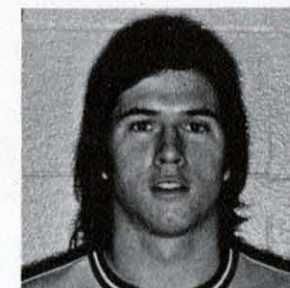
MIKE GRUBB

Senior **Pitcher**
Coach Jim Pickens thinks Mike Grubb a young man of versatile talent who should be a big winner for Western's baseball team. Grubb throws hard with good control and can be an outstanding hitter when needed. He was an all-round athlete in high school. Pickens said he should have a good spring both on the mound and at bat.



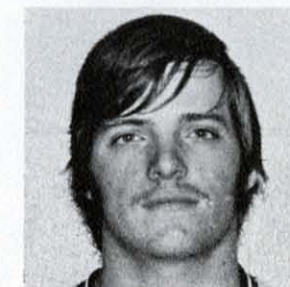
JEFF RALPH

Junior **Pitcher**
Jeff Ralph is a right-handed pitcher with a great competitive will to win. He has a fine assortment of pitches and can be a big winner when he keeps the ball down. He won two games and lost one with an earned run average of 2.54 during the '73 fall baseball season.



GREG STAHL

Senior **Pitcher**
Greg Stahl is a right-handed pitcher with all the tools to become one of the best pitchers in the league. Coach Pickens said Greg has a great deal of talent and, with more work and determination, could become a big winner. He has a good fastball and overhand curve. He rates as a good hitting pitcher.



MARTY MATUSIAK

Senior **Pitcher**
A junior college transfer, Marty Matusiak joined the Hilltoppers' baseball squad last fall. Marty has a good fast ball and a sharp-breaking curve. The big, strong right-hander is also a long-ball hitter when not pitching. He will see a lot of action even when he is not on the mound.

JACK GLASSER

1973
Academic
All-American



STEVE TATE

1973
All-OVC
Shortstop



PITCHING

PLAYER	G	GS	GC	IP	ER	ERA	H	R	BB	SO	HB	RECORD
Mike Grubb	4	4	3	26	8	2.77	22	9	14	16	0	3-1
Marty Matusiak	6	3	2	22 1/3	8	3.23	19	15	20	25	0	2-2
Greg Stahl	4	3	1	18 1/3	6	2.95	10	6	15	14	2	1-0
Jeff Ralph	5	2	1	17 2/3	5	2.54	14	8	8	11	1	2-1
Bill Scheckles	4	3	0	10 2/3	6	5.05	15	10	6	5	1	1-0
Rey Ford	3	2	1	16 2/3	5	2.70	18	11	2	4	0	1-2
Greg Shelton	7	0	0	10 1/3	4	3.49	7	6	6	9	2	1-0
Rob Parrent	3	1	0	12 1/3	1	0.73	13	1	3	6	0	1-0
Rick Parrent	2	1	0	4	6	13.50	11	9	2	3	0	0-1
TOTALS	20	19	8	138 1/3	49	3.19	129	75	76	93	6	12-7

1974 SPRING BASEBALL ROSTER

Name, Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Bat	Throw	Class	Hometown	Name, Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Bat	Throw	Class	Hometown
Bob Bristow, of	6-0	175	R	R	Fr.	Shepherdsville, Ky.	Marty Matusiak, p	6-2	205	R	R	Sr.	Elizabethtown, Ky.
Joey Bunch, inf	6-1	180	R	R	Fr.	Bowling Green, Ky.	Neil Mills, if	6-1	170	R	R	Sr.	Greensburg, Ky.
Dave Carter, c	6-3	235	L	R	So.	Vincennes, Ind.	Terry Mitchell, of	5-11	165	R	R	So.	Campbellsville, Ky.
Steve Carter, p-inf	6-3	170	R	R	Jr.	Bowling Green, Ky.	Bill Moore, of	5-11	185	L	L	So.	Bowling Green, Ky.
Dee Deener, inf	5-10	175	R	R	Fr.	Campbellsville, Ky.	Wally Moss, c	6-0	180	R	R	Fr.	Elizabethtown, Ky.
Jim Feix, c	5-11	160	R	R	So.	Bowling Green, Ky.	Richard Newton, c	6-0	155	R	R	Fr.	Campbellsville, Ky.
Rey Ford, p	6-0	175	R	R	Fr.	Owensboro, Ky.	Rick Parrent, p	6-0	170	R	R	Sr.	Bowling Green, Ky.
Mike Grubb, p	6-2	200	L	L	Sr.	S. Lebanon, Ohio	Rob Parrent, p	6-1	170	R	L	Sr.	Bowling Green, Ky.
Mike Hurst, of	6-0	180	L	R	Jr.	Williamstown, Ky.	Mike Parker, of	5-9	170	L	L	Fr.	Owensboro, Ky.
Ricky Johnson, p	5-10	165	R	L	So.	Symsonia, Ky.	Jeff Ralph, p	5-11	173	R	R	Jr.	Owensboro, Ky.
Steve Keck, of	5-8	175	L	L	Jr.	Bowling Green, Ky.	Greg Shelton, p	5-9	140	L	L	Jr.	Lewisburg, Ky.
Bill Kiessling, of	5-11	180	R	R	So.	Edison, N.J.	Greg Stahl, p	5-10	175	R	R	Sr.	Leitchfield, Ky.
Dirk Knight, c	5-11	218	R	R	Fr.	Slaughters, Ky.	Bill Scheckles, p	5-10	165	R	R	So.	Bardtown, Ky.
Gary Larimore, inf	5-11	175	R	R	Fr.	Horse Cave, Ky.	Steve Tate, of	5-7	155	R	R	Sr.	Bowling Green, Ky.
John Leonard, p	6-3	195	R	R	Jr.	Bowling Green, Ky.	David Tucker, p	6-0	170	R	R	Fr.	Madisonville, Ky.