

1976

UA19/17/1/1 Baseball Media Guide

WKU Athletic Media Relations

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1976 SPRING SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Site
March 5	Valdosta State-Georgia	Away
March 6	Valdosta State-Georgia	Away
March 8	Mercer	Away
March 9	Mercer	Away
March 10	Jacksonville	Away
March 11	Jacksonville	Away
March 12	Georgia	Away
March 20	Vanderbilt	Away
March 23	Vanderbilt	Home
March 24	Louisville (DH)	Away
March 27	*Austin Peay (DH)	Home
March 29	Indiana-Purdue	Home
March 30	Louisville (DH)	Home
April 1	Kentucky (DH)	Home
April 3	*Murray (DH)	Home
April 5	David Lipscomb (DH)	Home
April 7	*Middle Tennessee (DH)	Away
April 10	*Middle Tennessee (DH)	Home
April 14	*Austin Peay (DH)	Away
April 17	*Murray (DH)	Away
April 20	Southern Illinois (DH)	Home
April 22	Kentucky Wesleyan (DH)	Home
April 26	Kentucky Wesleyan (DH)	Away

*Ohio Valley Conference Western Division games.

1975 SPRING RESULTS

Date	Opponent	Results	Date	Opponent	Results
3/21	Eastern	L4-5	4/12	*Austin Peay	L7-10
3/21	Eastern	L10-11	4/12	*Austin Peay	W6-2
3/26	Louisville	L2-12	4/16	Vanderbilt	L1-5
3/26	Louisville	L3-8	4/16	Vanderbilt	L4-12
3/31	Louisville	L3-4	4/17	David Lipscomb	L10-22
3/31	Louisville	L5-6	4/17	David Lipscomb	L1-5
4/01	Vanderbilt	L6-8	4/18	Bellarmino	W7-1
4/01	Vanderbilt	W5-4	4/18	Bellarmino	L0-3
4/02	Kentucky	L2-6	4/19	*Middle Tenn.	L1-3
4/02	Kentucky	L1-2	4/21	Centre	W8-0
4/05	*Murray St.	L9-10	4/21	Centre	W3-2
4/05	*Murray St.	L3-17	4/22	Southern Ill.	L1-6
4/08	Union (TN)	W5-0	4/22	Southern Ill.	L4-5
4/08	Union (TN)	W19-7			

1975 Spring Record: 7-20, 1-4 (OVC)

1975 FALL RESULTS

Date	Opponent	Results	Date	Opponent	Results
9/10	Ky. Wesleyan	L1-6	10/01	Ky. Wesleyan	W5-4
9/10	Ky. Wesleyan	L2-3	10/01	Ky. Wesleyan	W17-6
9/20	Ind. St.-Evansville	L4-6	10/02	Ind. St.-Evansville	W10-2
9/20	Ind. St.-Evansville	W7-3	10/02	Ind. St.-Evansville	W5-1

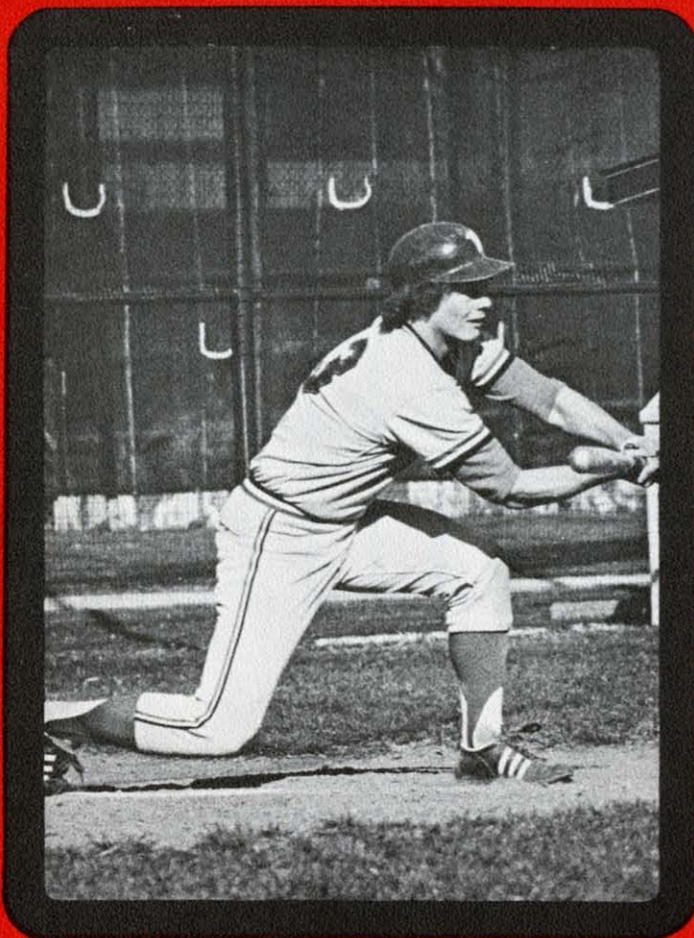
1975 Fall Record: 5-3

UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Location: Bowling Green, Kentucky
 Conference: Ohio Valley, NCAA
 Nickname: Hilltoppers Colors: Red and White
 President: Dr. Dero G. Downing Enrollment: 13,315
 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



1976 Western Kentucky University BASEBALL

JIM PICKENS Head Coach



Now in his 11th year as head coach of the Hilltoppers, Jim Pickens has molded Western Kentucky into one of the most respected teams in the Ohio Valley Conference. His 1969 team won the OVC Western Division title.

He enters the 1976 spring season with a lifetime collegiate record of 160 wins against 159 losses, a percentage of .502.

Pickens' baseball background is a solid one. He was a star pitcher, as well as an outstanding football quarterback and defensive back, for Western in his collegiate playing days. Later, the Princeton, Ky., native pitched professionally in 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 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.

In addition to his coaching duties, Pickens is Director of University Centers, a position he has held since 1970. He received the B.S. and M.A. degrees from Western in 1951 and 1962, respectively. He and his wife, Anna Jo, a former Hilltopper cheerleader, have one son, Jimmy, 16.

BUCK SYDNOR Assistant Coach



Buck Sydnor's experience and knowledge of the game have been definite factors in Western Kentucky University's baseball success the past few seasons.

He became Jim Pickens' assistant coach in the spring of 1972 after spending six seasons as a basketball assistant under John Oldham.

Sydnor, a native of Olmstead, Ky., was a star on Western's first two National Invitation Tournament

basketball teams in 1942 and 1943. Before returning to Western as a coach, Sydnor was a veteran of 15 years of high school basketball coaching at Daviess County, Hopkinsville and Bowling Green High Schools. He coached 13 years at Daviess County, taking the Panthers to the State Tournament in 1952, 1957 and 1958.

Sydnor received his B.S. and M.A. degrees from Western in 1948 and 1949, respectively. He and his wife, Deane, have four children.

1976 OUTLOOK

A young pitching staff is the primary reason the 1976 season should probably be labeled as a rebuilding year for the Hilltoppers.

Four of the five hurlers who are expected to carry the major pitching load for Western—Jim Cox, Paul Orberon, Kim Kirby, Bill Sheckles, and Terry Hackett—are sophomores. Sheckles is the lone upper classman.

"Pitching is such an important part of the game and that's where we have the least experience," said Pickens in trying to size up the current crop of Hilltoppers.

"We have, potentially, at least, almost as good a hitting club as we've ever had. Our defense is young in spots, but pretty capable overall.

"Our young pitchers will just have to mature in a hurry for us to have an outstanding season, that's all there is to it," he concluded.



Centerfielder Steve Keck gives the Hilltoppers one of the Ohio Valley Conference's top all-around performers. He hit .328, second best on the team, last year. He also covers centerfield and runs the bases with dazzling speed and has a fine throwing arm.

First baseman Terry Tedder, only a sophomore, rates with the best young hitters around after

batting .310 as a freshman. Both he and Keck hit from the left side.

The right-hand hitting is getting a boost this spring with the addition of freshman Jim Atkinson. He comes over to the diamond brigade from the Hilltopper football team to provide some much-needed long-ball punch.

Transfer Harold Craft has moved into the shortstop slot and provides considerable stability to the defense.

Pickens sees perennial power Murray State as the team to beat in the OVC's Western Division. The Racers have won the past two consecutive league titles.

FINAL 1974-75 OVC STANDINGS

Western Division			Eastern Division				
W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.		
Murray State	6	0	1.000	Eastern Kentucky	4 1/2	1 1/2	.750
Western Kentucky	3	3	.500	Morehead State	4	2	.667
Austin Peay	2	4	.333	East Tennessee	2	4	.333
Middle Tennessee	1	5	.250	Tennessee Tech	1 1/2	4 1/2	.250

Western Division			Eastern Division				
W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.		
Murray State	5	1	.833	Morehead State	4	2	.667
Austin Peay	3	3	.500	East Tennessee	3	3	.500
Middle Tennessee	2	3	.400	Tennessee Tech	3	3	.500
Western Kentucky	1	4	.200	Eastern Kentucky	2	4	.333

Western Division: Murray State wins the division title by taking first place in both fall and spring play.

Eastern Division: Eastern Kentucky defeated Morehead State 8-7 in playoff for division title.

OVC Championship: Murray State won conference championship by defeating Eastern Kentucky 21-2 and 11-8 after losing the first game 5-6.



JEFF BAKER

An excellent defensive second baseman, Baker is a junior college transfer from Florida. He has good range and is a highly adept middle man on the double play. He is not a long-ball threat, but is a pesky hitter with a high on-base average.



STEVE KECK

One of the best all-around players in the Ohio Valley Conference, Keck can do it all. He hits, hits with power, runs and throws. He has batted well over .300 (usually closer to .350-plus) every season he has played for the Hilltoppers. He covers centerfield as well as anybody and has an extremely strong throwing arm.



KIM KIRBY

Kirby is a versatile player who can both pitch and play the infield. He has wide variety of pitches and has been used extensively in the past as a short-inning reliever. He is a solid hitter and can play at both shortstop and second base.



GARY LARIMORE

Usually stationed in right field, Larimore will probably hit in the No. 3 or No. 4 spot in the batting order. A sound defensive player, he is also a dependable RBI man with good power. He has a strong throwing arm.



BILL SHECKLES

A senior pitcher, Sheckles has usually ranked among the leaders in game appearances on the Hilltopper mound corps. He has a "live" arm and a good variety of pitches. Always among the squad's hardest workers, Bill is a great competitor.



TERRY TEDDER

Tedder, only a sophomore, is slated to bat in one of the prime RBI slots in the lineup—probably third or fourth—because of his tremendous hitting talent. He also hits with power and runs well and is a better-than-average defensive first baseman.

Name, Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	B-T	Class	Hometown
James Atkinson, inf	6-1	190	R-R	So.	Auburn, N.Y.
Jeff Baker, inf	5-8	145	R-R	Sr.	Owensboro, Ky.
Mark Biven, P	5-10	195	R-R	Fr.	Louisville, Ky.
Pat Bruce, P	6-0	165	R-R	Fr.	Campbellsville, Ky.
Billy Cann, P	6-2	170	R-R	Fr.	Leitchfield, Ky.
Larry Cave, of	5-8	160	L-R	So.	Elizabethtown, Ky.
Jim Cox, P	5-11	170	L-R	So.	Campbellsville, Ky.
Harold Craft, inf	5-10	150	R-R	Sr.	Huntsville, Ala.
Terry Hackett, P	6-0	195	R-R	So.	Merrillville, Ind.
Richard Hoffman, of	5-11	170	R-R	Sr.	Paducah, Ky.
Curtis Hopkins, P	5-8	140	R-R	Fr.	Glasgow, Ky.
Steve Keck, of	5-9	180	L-L	Sr.	Bowling Green, Ky.
David Kendell, C	5-11	180	R-R	So.	Bowling Green, Ky.
Kim Kirby, P-inf	5-11	180	R-R	So.	Bowling Green, Ky.
Jerry Kuzma, inf	6-1	200	R-R	So.	Merrillville, Ind.
Gary Larimore, of	6-0	175	R-R	Jr.	Horse Cave, Ky.
Walter Mantooth, P	5-10	165	R-R	Jr.	Valley Station, Ky.
Jeff McKinley, P	5-11	185	R-L	Fr.	Campbellsville, Ky.
Wally Moss, C	6-0	185	R-R	Jr.	Rineyville, Ky.
Paul Orberon, P	5-11	160	L-L	So.	Danville, Ky.
Steve Patton, C	5-8	165	R-R	Fr.	Hardinsburg, Ky.
Steve Robertson, of	5-8	158	L-L	So.	Bowling Green, Ky.
Bill Sheckles, P	5-11	175	R-R	Sr.	Bardstown, Ky.
Darrell Stevenson, of	5-11	170	L-R	Fr.	Leitchfield, Ky.
Terry Tedder, inf	5-10	175	L-L	So.	Knifley, Ky.
Dale Tucker, of	5-11	160	L-L	Fr.	Campbellsville, Ky.

POSITION-BY-POSITION BREAKDOWN

PITCHER: Mark Biven, Pat Bruce, Billy Cann, Jim Cox, Terry Hackett, Curtis Hopkins, Kim Kirby, Walter Mantooth, Jeff McKinley, Paul Orberon, Bill Sheckles.

CATCHER: David Kendell, Wally Moss, Steve Patton.

INFIELD: James Atkinson, Jeff Baker, Harold Craft, Jerry Kuzma, Terry Tedder.

OUTFIELD: Larry Cave, Richard Hoffman, Steve Keck, Gary Larimore, Steve Robertson, Darrell Stevenson, Dale Tucker.



TERRY HACKETT

A youngster slated to pitch some important games this year, Hackett has what Pickens describes as an "overpowering" fast ball. He pitches with an aggressive style that should endear him to Hilltopper fans.



HAROLD CRAFT

A transfer from Martin Junior College in Pulaski, Tenn., Craft should help solidify the Hilltopper infield from his shortstop position. He has good range and a fine throwing arm.

1976 ROSTER

1975 SPRING STATISTICS
BATTING

Player	G	AB	H	R	RBI	2B	3B	HR	Avg.
Dee Deener	27	93	34	18	14	7	1	1	.366
Steve Keck	20	61	20	15	17	5	0	4	.328
Terry Tedder	26	84	26	11	11	6	1	1	.310
Dave Carter	21	64	19	9	10	2	1	0	.297
Terry Mitchell	12	17	5	5	4	1	0	2	.294
Richard Hoffman	23	62	18	12	15	6	0	2	.290
Greg Nabors	19	54	15	6	5	1	0	0	.278
Gary Larimore	19	55	15	8	10	2	0	1	.273
Jeff Baker	15	26	7	3	0	0	0	0	.269
Harold Craft	21	52	13	11	7	0	0	1	.250
Bill Kiessling	14	32	8	7	8	3	0	1	.250
Jim Feix	17	31	7	2	2	1	0	0	.226
Mike Hurst	10	18	4	3	5	3	0	0	.222
Terry Hackett	15	27	6	3	4	1	1	0	.222
Larry Cave	10	5	1	4	1	1	0	0	.200
Steve Robertson	11	12	2	0	0	0	0	0	.167
Wally Moss	13	20	3	4	4	1	0	1	.150
Kent Kirby	13	23	3	5	1	0	0	0	.130
Bob Bristow	12	9	1	1	0	0	0	0	.111
Mike Parker	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Larry Donninger	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	.000
Bill Sheckles	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Paul Orberon	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	.000
Totals	27	748	207	129	118	40	4	14	.277

PITCHING

Pitcher	G	IP	ER	ERA	H	R	BB	SO	W	L
Larry Donninger	4	7 2/3	1	1.17	7	4	11	5	0	1
Steve Keck	2	13	2	1.38	4	5	6	5	1	1
Ray Ford	7	25	5	1.80	17	8	8	14	1	1
Steve Carter	5	17 2/3	5	2.55	18	8	9	9	0	2
Paul Orberon	5	25 1/3	12	4.26	34	21	10	11	1	3
Terry Hackett	2	7 2/3	4	4.69	8	6	7	4	0	0
Kim Kirby	6	24	16	6.00	35	23	18	5	1	3
Bill Sheckles	8	22 1/3	19	7.66	26	23	15	12	2	1
Terry Tedder	2	1 2/3	2	10.78	5	5	2	0	0	0
Greg Shelton	4	6	8	11.99	13	11	6	6	0	1
Jeff Ralph	5	16	23	12.94	26	28	14	6	0	4
George Brooks	5	10	16	14.40	19	19	7	9	1	2
Rick White	2	3	5	15.00	10	9	3	2	0	1
Bernie Hastings	2	2	4	18.00	1	4	4	0	0	0
Rick Johnson	1	0	2	18.00	0	2	1	0	0	0
Totals	27	181 1/3	124	6.16	223	176	121	88	7	20

HILLTOPPER BATTING LEADERS
Past Five Years

Year	Name, Pos.	AB	H	R	Avg.
1971	Jim Zwiesler, OF	130	42	24	.323
1972 Spring	Steve Long, RF	76	31	21	.408
1972 Fall	Steve Long, RF	45	20	10	.444
1973 Spring	Jack Glasser, C	72	27	6	.375
1973 Fall	Neil Mills, 2B	54	22	12	.407
1974 Spring	Steve Keck, CF	92	34	20	.370
1974 Fall	Neil Mills, OF	56	22	10	.375
1975 Spring	Dee Deener, SS	93	34	18	.366

OVC BASEBALL CHAMPIONS

1949 Tennessee Tech	1962 Eastern Kentucky
1950 Eastern Kentucky	1963 Morehead State, Murray State
1951 Undetermined	1964 Murray State
1952 Western Kentucky	1965 Murray State
1953 Western Kentucky	1966 Eastern Kentucky
1954 Eastern Kentucky	1967 Eastern Kentucky
1955 Tennessee Tech	1968 Middle Tennessee
1956 Tennessee Tech	1969 Morehead State
1957 Morehead State	1970 Murray State
1958 Murray State	1971 Austin Peay
1959 Murray State, Eastern Kentucky, Middle Tennessee	1972 No Champion
1960 Eastern Kentucky	1973 Morehead State
1961 Murray State	1974 Murray State
	1975 Murray State

OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE

Coach of the Year	Year	Player of the Year
Charles Hughes, Eastern	1962	No Selection
John Reagan, Murray; Rex Chaney, Morehead	1963	George Dugan, Murray; Dave Quick, Eastern
John Reagan, Murray	1964	George Dugan, Murray
John Reagan, Murray	1965	George Dugan, Murray
Charles Hughes, Eastern	1966	Dave Pratt, Tenn. Tech; John Beaton, Murray
Charles Hughes, Eastern	1967	Don Lee, Murray
Jimmy Earle, Middle Tenn.	1968	Greg Cunningham, Middle Tenn.
Sonny Allen, Morehead	1969	Eddie Wallinford, Morehead
John Reagan, Murray	1970	David Porter, Murray
Tom Wonderling, Austin Peay	1971	Ed Inman, Austin Peay
No Selection	1972	No Selection
Sonny Allen, Morehead	1973	No Selection
John Reagan, Murray	1974	No Selection
John Reagan, Murray	1975	No Selection

HILLTOPPER MAJOR LEAGUERS

J.D. "Big Jim" Weaver ('27)
Pitcher

Washington Senators	Chicago Cubs
New York Yankees	Pittsburgh Pirates
St. Louis Browns	Cincinnati Reds

Boston Braves	Hugh Poland ('34) Catcher	New York Giants
Cincinnati Reds		Philadelphia Phillies

St. Louis Cardinals	Don Durham ('70) Pitcher	Texas Rangers
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