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UA1B2/1 Big Red's Buddies

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Methodology

- Main sources were Western Kentucky University by Lowell Harrison and the WKU website
- Also used www.hilltopperhaven.com
- University Archives weren't really necessary for us, most of our information had already been compiled (luckily)
- www.wku.edu/HOF
Opportunities for Ingenuity (a.k.a. Problems)

- Where does history stop?
- Too many teams for us to try to cover them all, no one e-mailed us back
- Limited coverage of only the major sports
Big Red's Buddies

The best coaches/athletes in WKU history

- first coach with 1000 games at one college
- ranks 4th all time in win percentage

E.A. Diddle
Coach 1922 - 64

- three time All-American
- OVC player of the year 3 straight years
- teams had .815 winning %
- Later returned to coach WKU

Jimmy Feix
Coach/football 1949-52

- first ever football All-American at WKU
- winningest football coach in WKU history
- nation’s top QB in '52
- Drafted by NY Giants but did not play due to injury

Clem Haskins
Basketball 1964-67

- One of the first female scholarship athletes
- first female WKU national champion
- narrowly missed berth to '76 US Olympic team

Adele Gleaves Haswell
Gymnastics 1973-76
Big Red's Buddies

*The best coaches/athletes in WKU history*

- **Nick Rose**
  - Track 1972 - 1976
  - All-American 4 years
  - First man in Kentucky to break four minute mile
  - Competed in '80 and '84 Olympics for UK

- **Brenda Chapman**
  - Basketball/Tennis 1974-1978
  - Named All-Conference 3 times
  - Played 2 seasons in women's professional basketball league

- **Tony Staynings**
  - Track 1973 - 1977
  - 10 time All-American
  - First WKU athlete to participate in Olympics while still student
  - Still holds 5th fastest indoor mile

- **Virgil Livers**
  - Football/Track 1971-1974
  - Still holds 4 WKU records as punt returner
  - Played 8 seasons in NFL
  - Also served as a basketball cheerleader
Big Red's Buddies

The best coaches/athletes in WKU history

Dickie Moore
Football - 1965-68
- Only WKU athlete to lead nation in rushing
- First athlete to rush for over 1000 yards in a season (1,055 his freshman year)
- Held over 22 records
- Named to All-Time OVC team

Hugh Poland
Football/basketball/baseball 1931-34

Kenny Perry
Golf - 1979-82
- 3 time All-OVC guard
- Nation's top rebounding guard junior and senior year
- Named to All-Time OVC team
- Killed in car accident after being first round draft pick of LA Lakers

Dwight Smith
Basketball 1965-67
- Currently competes on PGA tour
- Earned $2 mil first 8 years on tour
- Currently lives in Franklin

Hugh Poland
Football/basketball/baseball 1931-34

- Earned 9 varsity letters
- Played professional baseball for St. Louis and Cincinatti
- Played on Diddle's first team that posted 20 wins
**Big Red's Buddies**

**The best coaches/athletes in WKU history**

- **40-9 records in match play (81.6%)**
- **named to the All-Time OVC tennis team in 98**
- **won four KWIC titles**
- **still resides in Bowling Green**

**Katy Strozdas (Tinius)**

**Tennis 1976-78**

- **WKU career scoring leader (2,262 points)**
- **still holds 19 records including career scoring average (18.1), career FG% (.558) career rebounds (1,012), and career blocks (243)**

- **first center taken in 77 NFL draft**
- **three time All-OVC**
- **spent nine seasons in NFL**

**David Carter**

**Football 1973-73**

- **4 time OVC player of the year**
- **OVC singles champion four years straight**
- **35-2 match record**
- **Also served as basketball team manager**

**Lillie Mason**

**Basketball 1981 - 86**

**Roger Otten**

**Tennis 1950-53**
Big Red's Buddies
The best coaches/athletes in WKU history

Clemette Haskins
Basketball 1984-87
- career record holder for assists (also in game and season)
- named to '86 All-Final Four team
- owns career and season records for steals

Rick Green
Football 1973-75
- school record 213 tackles in '75 season
- 540 career tackles (WKU record)
- two-time all-American
- Led WKU to 2 national championship games

Terry Hassall
Tennis – 1968-71
- OVC player of the year '70 and '71
- three OVC team championships
- named to All-OVC half century team

Jack Glasser
Baseball 1970-73
- first ever WKU baseball player to be named All-American
- four year letter winner
- Hit better than .300 for career
- currently a physician in Bowling Green
Big Red's Buddies

The best coaches/athletes in WKU history

Steve Crocker
Swimming 1981-85

- set world record for 50M freestyle which is still American record
- collegiate record in 50M 32-1
- won titles at US National Championships and World Cup championships

Jack Harbaugh
Coach - football

- led WKU football to first national championship (2002)
- national I-AA Coach of the Year (2002)
- 91-68 on the Hill
- coached longest win streak in WKU football history (10 games)

Romeo Crennel

- two time Super Bowl champion as defensive coordinator for New England Patriots

“He Hate Me”
Football 1995-98

- most well-known player from the now defunct XFL
- played in Super Bowl 38 with the Carolina Panthers
Big Red's Buddies
The best coaches/athletes in WKU history

Bill Powell
Swimming coach

- recorded undefeated season (2003)
- 2nd all-time, all NCAA victories
- built WKU swim team from scratch

Mary Koeckert (Godlove)
Rifflery 1976-1980

- All-American her senior season
- has won eight medals in international competition
  three gold, three silver, two bronze
- top 5 finishes in 21 of 28 tournaments

Dr. Andrew McMichael
-courses taught
  - Western Civ.
  - Colonial America
  - History and the Internet
Football

- Firsts:
  - Team: 1913
  - Game: December 1913, when Tops defeated E'Town High 20-0.
  - Pre-WWI record was 7-7-2.
- In 1920, L.T. Smith became the first coach of the post-war teams, compiling a 2-5-1 record in his first two years.
- The teams were much smaller at this time; only 25 "Pedagogues" played against U of L in 1926. In the 1927 Homecoming game against U of L, no substitutions made.
- Between 1930-36, the team compiled a record of 48-16-2, a 75% winning percentage.
- Team once again suspended due to war for the 1943-45 seasons—by late Spring 1943, 21 of 29 players were in military service and the other eight were scheduled to be called up in July.
- In the late 40s, the Bowling Green Ministerial Association objected to the playing of the game on Sundays, but President Garrett largely ignored this protest.
- Jimmy Feix made coach and the new football stadium named after L.T. Smith opened in 1968 (previously games had been played on the area of campus now known as the Colonnade).
- Slump in the 70s, with worst record being 1-8-1 in 1977.
- Coach Feix retired in 1983 after 16 years following several roller coaster seasons.
- Future in question, but it continued, and since has been quite successful, even winning the NCAA Division I-AA Championship in 2002.
Men's Basketball

- First team organized in November 1913, first games by January 1914
- Team first known as "Pedagogues" (which, according to Webster's Dictionary, means "a dull, formal teacher")
- Suspended between 1915 and 1921 due to the war, lack of funds, and low standing on H.H. Cherry's priority list
- 1920—building of "Old Red Barn" using student labor; it seated 250 fans
- E.A. Diddle coached the team from 1922-1964 with an overall winning percentage of 71.5%
- Diddle Arena opened in 1963 and remodeled in 2003—"the best damn E. A. Diddle Arena in America" (Coach Diddle, 1963)
- During the seventies, two separate NCAA investigations, one involving a player that had signed an NBA contract while still playing college ball and another involving recruiting violations, improper testing procedures, and illegal tryouts.
- The program ranks among the ten winningest in NCAA history.
Women's Basketball

- First game: March 1, 1915—"Normalites" beat "Amazons" of Logan College, Russelville 12-8.
  - Josephine Cherry was part of this team.
  - Uniform: bloomers that fell below the knee, stockings, and white shoes.
  - Men were not allowed to watch.

- Basketball was the only women's intercollegiate sport played on the Hill until 1930, at which time it was discontinued in state high schools and subsequently dropped by WKU.

- Reintroduced in the 1970's because of Title IX.


- Four coaches in the next nine years, but still managed to compile a record of 120-109.

- Consistently ranked among the nations Top Twenty; three NCAA Final Fours; championship game in 1992.

Pam (Kordenbrock) Hart—first female in state to earn full college scholarship.
Title IX

- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 stated that "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation, be denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under an educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."
- A formal grievance procedure was set up by the University in 1976 to make it easier to enforce this policy.
- By the Spring of 1973, Western had already joined the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Woman and the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletics for Women.
- In Fall of 1973, Western had women's teams in five sports: gymnastics, tennis, golf, track and field and basketball. Riflery did not require a women's team because it was already co-ed.
- The first athletic scholarships were granted to women in 1975-76.
- Western currently has 10 men's teams and 10 women's teams.
Traditions

- Coach Diddle: [http://www.wku.edu/diddle.html](http://www.wku.edu/diddle.html)
- The "Hilltoppers": [http://www.wku.edu/Alumni/nickname.htm](http://www.wku.edu/Alumni/nickname.htm)
- Fight Song: [http://www.wku.edu/tradition/fight.html](http://www.wku.edu/tradition/fight.html)
Importance

- Brings money to the University
- Brings national recognition to the University
- Helps create the "Western Spirit" among students and faculty