



Western Kentucky University

UA19 Athletics

Series 9 Mascots

Contact information:

WKU Archives

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Administrative History: Big Red was born in the fall of 1979, the creation of student Ralph Carey. Since then he has become a beloved symbol of WKU around the world and has sparked a trademark lawsuit with Gabibo of Italy.

The following students have served as Big Red:

Ralph Carey 1979-80

Mark Greer 1980-83

Skip Cleavinger 1983-84

O'Brian McKinley 1983-85

Jessica Rappaport 1984-86

Daniel Rodriguez 1985-87

Scott Vick 1985-86

Curtis Barman 1986-88

Rebecca Hack 1986-88

Greg Vincent 1987-89

Wayne Kraus 1988-89

Chuck Yager 1988-89

Susan Flowers 1989-90

Brian Thorpe 1989-91

Tabitha Aldridge 1990-91

Mount Davis 1990-91

Brian Mounts 1990-91

John Bruner 1991-92

Devin Delano 1991-92

Chrissie Mueller 1991-92

Marti Black 1992-93

Barbara King 1992-93

Tina Mock 1992-94

Kris Van Meter 1992-94

Laura McCauley 1993-94

Penny Wesley 1993-94

Joe Gregory 1994-95
Laura Sosh 1994-95
Greg Swack 1994-95
Jennifer Mills 1995-97
Chris Francis 1996-97
Lisa Schaad 1995-96
Heidi Stephenson 1995-96
Robert Carothers 1996-97
Thomas Westwood 1996-97
Amy Alverson 1997-98
Stacey Coy 1997-98, deceased
Scot Richardson 1997-98
Holly Russell 1998-99
Brad Sweatt 1998-99
Ryan Burnam 1998-99
Amanda Kirby 1999-00
Andrea Sanders 1999-00
Shay Smith 1999-00
Kate Stanton 2000-01
Wade Raymer 2000-03
Wes Mudd 2002-2003
Hillary Gunn
Eric Drake, deceased

Description: An artificial collection regarding the WKU mascot Big Red consisting of correspondence, awards and fan club materials.

Dates: 1979-present

Extent: .25 cu. ft., 8 dvds, 1 audiotape, oversize

Subject Analytics:

Athletics (WKU)
Big Red

Mascots
Western Kentucky University

Digital Commons:

Marketing
Public Relations and Advertising

Sports Studies

Accession Information: An artificial collection created by WKU Archives.

Access Restrictions: none

Allied Materials:

[UA1C8 WKU Symbols](#)

[UA1C11.5 Athletic Media Relations Photos](#)

[UA1E Memorabilia](#)

[UA94/6/1 Student/Alumni Personal Papers](#)

Preferred Citation: UA19/9 Mascots, WKU Archives, Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA.

Processing Information: Records processed and collection inventory created 2010, revised 2019.

Finding Aid Report

07/16/2019

UA19.9	Records	Date
Level	Series	Linked toUA19
Title	UA19 Athletics	
Collection	Series 9 Mascots	
Scope & Content	WKU Archives	
An artificial collection regarding the WKU mascot Big Red consisting of correspondence, awards and fan club materials.		

Container List

Container	Folder	Creator	Date	Title	
Box 1	1	WKU Archives	1979-2004	Correspondence	
Description	Carey, Ralph Cook, Paul Hanna-Barbera Productions Hensley, Fred Minton, John Rappaport, Jessica Scollon Productions, Inc. Selig, Wood Srl, Adfra Wilkins, Deborah			Subjects	Mascots Costumes
Box 1	2-7		1982	Correspondence	
Description	Children's letters sent to Big Red			Subjects	Mascots
Box 1	8		1980-1986	Awards	
Description	Big Red Hensley, Fred Lewis, Jerry Muscular Dystrophy Association Optimist Club (Bowling Green, KY)			Subjects	Mascots
Box 1	9	Athletics (WKU)		Fan Club	
Description	Big Red Rascals			Subjects	Mascots
Box 1	10		2004	25th Anniversary	
Description	Big Red			Subjects	Mascots
Box 1	11		2007	Capital One Challenge	
Description	Big Red, D4647 - https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/4751			Subjects	Mascots

Box 1	12	Athletics (WKU)	2007	Mascot Hall of Fame Nomination
Description	Big Red			Subjects Mascots
Box 1	13		2008	Capital One Challenge
Description	Big Red			Subjects Mascots
Box 1	14-16		2009	Capital One Challenge
Description	Big Red			Subjects Mascots
Box 1	17		2010	Capital One Challenge
Description	Big Red			Subjects Mascots
Box 2	1-2		2010	Capital One Challenge
Description	Big Red			Subjects Mascots
Box 8		Athletics (WKU)	1989-2004	Film/Video/Audio File - Big Red
Description	VHS tapes			Subjects Mascots Birthdays Video recording
	Big Red, nd - digitized Big Red 15th Birthday Party, 1994 - digitized Big Red Birthday Party, 1995 Big Red Final Four Entry, 1991 - digitized Big Red Highlights, 1989-1990 - digitized Big Red in New York, 1991-1992 - digitized Big Red; Ralph Carey; Ron Beck, 5/21/2004 - digitized			
CD Box 1	CD349		2009	Capital One Challenge
Description	Big Red Digital image			Subjects Mascots
CD Box 1	CD350		2010	Film/Video/Audio File - Capital One Challenge
Description	Do not copy, for viewing only. Big Red			Subjects Mascots Video recording Videodiscs
CD Box 3	CD1184	Athletics (WKU)	2004	Film/Video/Audio File - Big Red
Description	DVD Big Red: Ralph Carrey & Ron Beck Interviews 5/21/2004 - https://youtu.be/-sxEztANGBM Beck, Ron Big Red Carey, Ralph Topper			Subjects Mascots Video recording Videodiscs Interviews

CD Box 3	CD1183	Athletics (WKU)	nd	Film/Video/Audio File - Big Red
Description	DVD Big Red, nd - https://youtu.be/Qx4K3r0x8yU Athletics (WKU) Diddle Arena (WKU)			Subjects Mascots Video recording Videodiscs Children Fans
CD Box 3	CD1182	Athletics (WKU)	1991-1992	Film/Video/Audio File - Big Red
Description	DVD Big Red in New York, 1991-92 - https://youtu.be/oV0qB1U2wzw NBC Studios New York City			Subjects Mascots Video recording Videodiscs Fans African Americans Blacks Statue of Liberty (New York, N.Y.)
CD Box 3	CD1181	Athletics (WKU)	1989-1990	Film/Video/Audio File - Big Red
Description	DVD Big Red Highlights, 1989-90 - https://youtu.be/ZVQBvBFWIE Athletics (WKU) Cheerleaders Diddle Arena (WKU) L.T. Smith Stadium (WKU)			Subjects Mascots Video recording Videodiscs Fans Birthdays Birthday parties Cheerleading Children Juggling
CD Box 3	CD1179	Athletics (WKU)	1994	Film/Video/Audio File - Big Red
Description	DVD Big Red Birthday, Kentucky Museum Exhibit, 1994 - https://youtu.be/MP2e4rebqc0 Beck, Ron Big Red Boogie Binder, Michael Carey, Ralph Hensley, Fred Kentucky Building (WKU)			Subjects Mascots Video recording Videodiscs Fans Birthdays Birthday parties Cheerleading Exhibitions Reunions
CD Box 3	CD1180	Athletics (WKU)	1991	Film/Video/Audio File - Big Red
Description	DVD Big Red Final Four Entry, 1991 - https://youtu.be/A3JV8_Se4jk Cheerleaders NBC Studios New York City			Subjects Mascots Video recording Videodiscs Fans Cheerleading Children Statue of Liberty (New York, N.Y.) African Americans Blacks

MC3	Drawer 1		1996	Birthday Card
Description	Big Red			Subjects Mascots Birthday cards Autographs
Tape Box 4	Drawer 12	Athletics (WKU)	1989	Film/Video/Audio File - Big Red Birthday
Description	Audiotape - 1 - digitized			Subjects Mascots Birthdays Audio recording Mayors Sheriffs Judges Bankers
	Local officials wishing Big Red a happy 10th birthday.			
	Aldridge, Bob m733.wav Bowling Green. Superintendent of Schools Brown, Joel m729.wav Gaines, Jerry aka Peanut m727.wav Griffin, Basil m732.wav Luster, Douglas m731.wav Sloan, Patsy m728.wav Wedge, Denny m730.wav			
Tube 13		Athletics (WKU)	1991	Birthday Greetings
Description	Big Red's 10th Birthday			Subjects Western Kentucky University Mascots Birthday cards Birthdays
	Community signatures and greetings on 11 large sheets.			
Tube 3		Athletics (WKU)	1991	Birthday Cards
Description	Big Red's 10th Birthday, painting of Big Red, 78 x 36			Subjects Birthday cards Mascots
	Big Red's 10th Birthday, sheet of signatures, 78 x 36			
	Adwell, Brian Barman, Curtis Beach, Anna Beach, Bennie Cannon, Tom Cassady, Elizabeth Chaffin, Justin Childress, Kevin Dinwiddie, Clarice Ford, Jennifer Ford, Julie Gipson, Lauren Glass, Chris Griffin, Salem Gulley, Taylor Herriford, Keith Hunsaker, Lori Hurley, Lee Hurst, Austin Jeffries, Shannon Johnson, Kuston Johnson, Larry Johnson, Linda Kitchens, Grant Loehr, Belinda Lowrey, Betsy			

McChesney, Justin
McCracken, Rob
McCubben, Missy
Miller, Jill
Minton, Anita
Minton, Daniel
Minton, Leslie
Morris, Leslee
Peterson, Matt
Pinstron, Devon
Simmons, Roberta
Stewart, Harper
Thompson, Nelson
Walker, John
Wallace, Eric
White, Fred
Willcox, Pam
Williams, James
Wilson, Leda
Wilson, Ryan
Woehler, Eric