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Adarian Gray

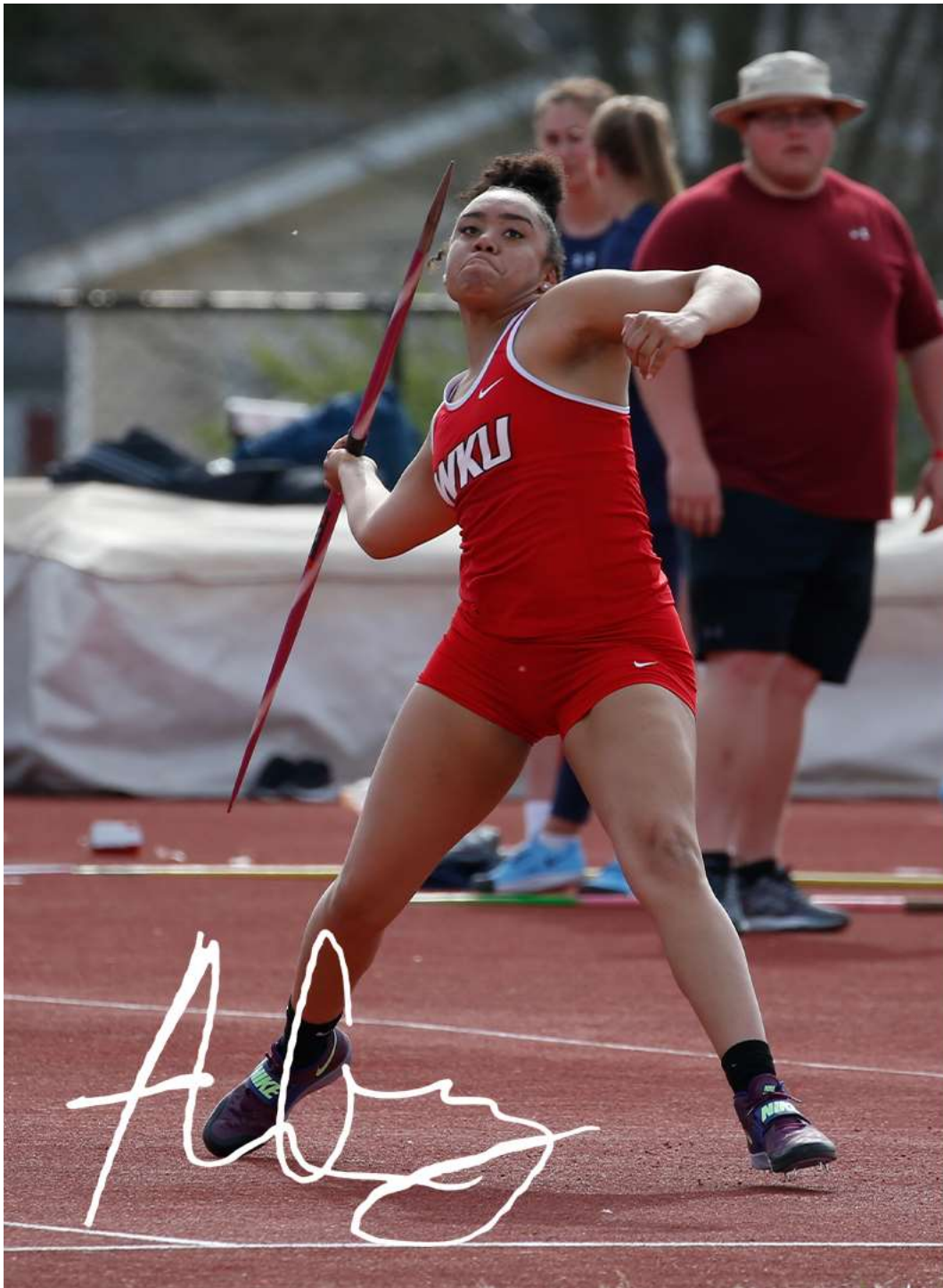
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Western Kentucky University Athletics



My Story: Track & Field's Adarian Gray

'My Story' is a new series on WKUSports.com of first-person feature articles written by WKU student-athletes. The student-athletes will be telling their own stories in their own words. Our 11th article in the series was written by track & field's senior thrower Adarian Gray, who has represented both WKU Softball and Track & Field during her career on The Hill.

Track & Field

Posted: 6/3/2020 9:00:00 AM

Hilltopper Nation!

Thank you! Thank you for an incredible four years. Thank you for welcoming me with open arms and being the best fan base in the country.

I never would have imagined my senior year would have ended due to a global pandemic. As the spring semester was beginning, I was going into outdoor season with a lot of confidence and determination to throw my way into Regionals. My teammates were just as excited. We had a lot of freshmen from Atlanta who were excited to run their first collegiate race in their hometown. My fellow senior, Kevin [Johnson], probably was the most excited between us all. He couldn't stop talking about outdoor season.

We lost a lot of teammates last year, so this year was definitely a rebuilding year and we knew that. However, everyone was determined and ready to make a statement during outdoor season. I was proud of the way every every member was pushing themselves both on and off the track to rebuild the team. We were one week away from

our first first meet when Coach Chumbley informed us that the meet would be canceled. I had seen where a lot of sporting events were being canceled and honestly, I wasn't surprised when ours was next.

Throughout the year, I was debating on returning for my fifth year. COVID-19 gave me an ample amount of time to reflect on my time as a Hilltopper and if I was ready to be spectator in the stands. I ultimately decided that my time on The Hill has come to an end and I will not be returning for my fifth year. I am extremely grateful for everyone who helped me along the way. I came to Western on a softball scholarship but it was God's plan to end my final two and half years on a track scholarship. I'm so thankful for my teammates who welcomed and made me feel a part of the team. I had never thought about being a member of the track team but being part of the WKU T&F team is more than just a team, it truly is a family and some of the bonds I have built over the past few years will remain forever.

I'm glad that Coach Jenkins wanted me to be a part of his team two years ago. I am forever grateful for Coach Murphy for taking me, someone who had never touched a javelin, and turning me into a 43-meter, conference-scoring thrower. Thank you to Coach Chumbley for not only being my coach, but being an ear when I needed someone to talk to. We created a great bond that I am thankful for. Thank you to the athletic trainers I have had over the years. You are greatly appreciated. Thank you to Ms. Dianna for being more than just my academic advisor and treating me like one of her own, both good and bad! Thank you to my teammates over the years. You all were amazing and I appreciate every single of you. You all have impacted my life more than you know. Lastly, thank you Hilltopper Nation! It was the best four years I've yet to experience and that is because you all made it easily enjoyable! GO TOPS!

Sincerely,

[Adarian Gray](#)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adarian Gray', with a stylized, cursive script.

[My Story: Women's Basketball's Sandra Skinner \(March 26\)](#)

[My Story: Men's Basketball's Taveion Hollingsworth \(April 1\)](#)

[My Story: Baseball's Ray Zuberer III \(April 8\)](#)

[My Story: Women's Golf's Mary Joiner \(April 15\)](#)

[My Story: Softball's Morgan McElroy \(April 22\)](#)

[My Story: Cross Country's Dedrick Troxell \(April 29\)](#)

[My Story: Women's Basketball's Whitney Creech \(May 6\)](#)

[My Story: Baseball's Kevin Lambert \(May 13\)](#)

[My Story: Football's Malik Staples \(May 20\)](#)

[My Story: Men's Basketball's Kenny Cooper \(May 27\)](#)

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