2007

UA19/9 Capital One Mascot Challenge

Western Kentucky University

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2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team Nomination

BIG RED
Western Kentucky University
Nomination & Consent Forms

BIG RED
Western Kentucky University
Nomination Form

Name of Mascot: Big Red

University or College: Western Kentucky University (WKU)

Conference Affiliation: Sun Belt Conference

Person Authorized to Submit Nomination

Name: Heather Soto

Title: Director of Marketing & Promotions

Address: 1605 Avenue of Champions Bowling Green KY 42101

Phone Number: (270) 745-6562

Fax Number: (270) 745-6830

E-Mail Address: heather.soto@wku.edu

Below, please list each member of your Mascot Team who participated during any time from Sept. 1, 2006 – June 1, 2007. Please indicate the dates that he/she participated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team Member</th>
<th>Dates of Participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>George Francis Cherwak</td>
<td>9/1/06 - 3/20/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua David Menzer</td>
<td>9/1/06 - Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Wayne Todorich</td>
<td>9/1/06 - Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryant Keen Blackett</td>
<td>9/1/06 - Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Camille Bodine</td>
<td>9/1/06 - Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loren Gregory Lawson</td>
<td>9/1/06 - 1/26/07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In partnership with ESPN
Consent and Release

1. WKU (hereinafter referred to as the "School") hereby grants to Capital One Services, Inc., its affiliates, subsidiaries and parent companies (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Capital One"), and any agents and others working for them or on their behalf and their respective licensees, successors, and assigns (hereinafter collectively called the "licensed parties") the absolute right and permission to use, publish, broadcast, and copyright the name, picture, and likeness of the School's mascot, any materials submitted by the School as part of the nomination process for the Capital One All-America Mascot Team Contest, or any material based upon or derived therefrom, or the right to refrain from so doing, in any manner or media whatsoever for purposes of advertising and promoting and publicizing Capital One's All-America Mascot Team and/or the Capital One Bowl on a nationwide basis.

2. The School agrees that any picture or likeness of the mascot, or anything derived therefrom created by or submitted to the licensed parties, is owned by them. If the School should receive any print, negative, or other copy, it shall not authorize its use by anyone else.

3. The School agrees to make the mascot available to appear in television advertisements relating to the All-America Mascot Team and at other specified publicity opportunities relating to the promotion of the All-America Mascot Team unless prohibited by law. Capital One shall be responsible for paying reasonable travel and related expenses incurred by the mascot in making such appearances.

4. The School shall have no right of inspection or approval, no claim to additional compensation, and no claim (including, without limitation, claims based upon invasion of privacy, defamation, or right of publicity) arising out of any use, alteration, distortion, or illusionary effect, or use in any composite form. The School also hereby releases, discharges, and agrees to hold harmless Capital One and its representatives, assigns, employees or any person or corporation acting under its permission or authority from and against any and all liability resulting from its use of the School mascot's name, picture or likeness, the use of any other materials submitted by the School in its nomination materials, and/or the mascot's appearance in advertisements or at other publicity events.

5. The School acknowledges that the decision of the judges is final.

6. The School acknowledges that Capital One has not arranged for, nor does it carry, any insurance of any kind in connection with participation in this contest.

7. The School agrees that this release does not in any way conflict with any existing contract or other commitment on its part.

I have read this release before affixing my signature below, and warrant that I fully understand the contents thereof and that I have the authority to bind the School in this manner.

By: __________________________

Name: Heather Soto

Title: Director of Marketing & Promotions

Name of School: Western Kentucky University (WKU)
Big Red ~ Western Kentucky University

Big Red seeks nomination into the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team
Community Relations

BIG RED
Western Kentucky University
### 2006-07 Big Red's Community Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Description of Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4th Annual Cincinnati Reds' Wiffle Ball Game</td>
<td>Mascot wiffle ball game held during halftime of a Cincinnati Reds' home baseball game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Evac Promotion with Air Evac Andy</td>
<td>Participated in the shooting of a video for a life-flight company with its' mascot, Air Evac Andy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aluvon Elementary School Visit</td>
<td>Promotion opportunity for &quot;Go Team&quot; author Julie Allen and Big Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnes &amp; Noble Bookstore Promotion</td>
<td>Book signing opportunity for Big Red and the author of &quot;Go Team&quot;, Julie Allen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birthday Party (Campbell Richey)</td>
<td>Birthday celebration for a Big Red fan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birthday Party (Ellie Gard)</td>
<td>Birthday celebration for a Big Red fan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birthday Party (Grace Forbes)</td>
<td>Birthday celebration for a Big Red fan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birthday Party (Jackson Harrell)</td>
<td>Birthday celebration for a Big Red fan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birthday Party (Kim Gumm)</td>
<td>Birthday celebration for a Big Red fan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birthday Party (Rachel Sowders)</td>
<td>Birthday celebration for a Big Red fan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birthday Party (Randy Lamastus)</td>
<td>Birthday celebration for a Big Red fan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birthday Party (Reed Hensley)</td>
<td>Birthday celebration for a Big Red fan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birthday Party (Stahl)</td>
<td>Birthday celebration for a Big Red fan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birthday Party (Zane Peay)</td>
<td>Birthday celebration for a Big Red fan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluegrass Cellular Blue/Red Basketball Bash</td>
<td>Event held in Elizabethtown, KY to benefit Junior Achievement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowling Green's &quot;Dancing with the Stars&quot;</td>
<td>Dance competition with local celebrities to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briarwood Elementary Chili Dinner</td>
<td>Fundraiser held to benefit a local elementary school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briarwood Elementary School's Fundraising Awards Banquet</td>
<td>Appearance to celebrate their fundraising accomplishments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristow Elementary School Visit</td>
<td>Appearance to morning assembly to motivate and entertain students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge Square Holiday Hodown</td>
<td>Christmas Holiday celebration held by local retailers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland Educational Support Center's Job In Transition Fair</td>
<td>Activities designed to better prepare people of the community when searching for a job</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaney's Dairy Barn's Celebrity Scoop Day</td>
<td>Fundraiser to benefit St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chase Bank Grand Opening</td>
<td>Ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of a new Chase Bank in the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chili and Cheese Pep Rally</td>
<td>Pep rally luncheon held at Presbyterian Church to involve community in Homecoming activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Parade</td>
<td>Community parade held in downtown Bowling Green to celebrate Christmas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Party for Potter's Orphanage Home</td>
<td>Celebrated Christmas with children from a local orphanage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Education Spell-A-Bration</td>
<td>Fundraiser for community education that provides after school childcare &amp; adult enrichment programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country Music Marathon</td>
<td>Big Red stood at the finish line of race in Nashville, TN &amp; greeted WKU Alumnus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime Stoppers' Commercial Shoot</td>
<td>Commercial made with the Bowling Green Police Department's Crime Stoppers Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland Trace Elementary School Visit</td>
<td>Pep rally to encourage students to do well on state's test (CATS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drakes Creek Middle School Visit</td>
<td>Pep rally to celebrate the state's test (CATS) being done</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Park Baptist Church's Amazing Race</td>
<td>Church youth group competition where members receive clues to lead them to a prize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gamaliel Elementary School Visit</td>
<td>Pep rally to encourage students to do well on state's test (CATS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilltopper Athletic Foundation/U.S. Bank Golf Tournament</td>
<td>Golf tournament held as a fundraiser for WKU athletic scholarships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilltopper Black Bag Classic</td>
<td>Fishing tournament held in Glasgow, KY to benefit The Dream Factory of Bowling Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillvue Heights Baptist Church's Upward Bound Basketball Banquet</td>
<td>Banquet &amp; awards ceremony held for a local church's basketball league</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houchens Industries' Football Promotion (Visited 5 locations)</td>
<td>Football promotions held at five locations of Houchens Industries or subsidiaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humane Society Promotion</td>
<td>Commercial made that aired on our local television station encouraging people to donate items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky Association of School Counselors' Casino Night</td>
<td>Conference held for school counselors across the state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky Derby Festival Mascot Party</td>
<td>Party held during Derby Festival in Louisville, KY for state mascots to meet &amp; greet fans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky Library &amp; Museum Christmas</td>
<td>Celebration of Christmas held at a local library &amp; museum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Description of Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten Junior Achievement</td>
<td>Junior Achievement introduced to kindergarten students at Cumberland Trace Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost River Elementary School Visit</td>
<td>Pep rally to encourage students to do well on state's test (CATS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macy's Department Store’s Grand Opening</td>
<td>Ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of Macy's Department Store in the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March of Dimes' Best of Bowling Green</td>
<td>Fundraising banquet to announce the best businesses that are determined by public voting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March of Dimes' Walk America</td>
<td>National fundraiser to raise money and awareness for premature babies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NBC40 Deal or No Deal Promotion</td>
<td>TV commercial to promote Big Red on Deal or No Deal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park City Elementary School Visit</td>
<td>Visit to promote &quot;Red Ribbon Week&quot; to encourage students not to use drugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pepsi Promotion</td>
<td>Promotion held at our local mall to encourage the use of Pepsi products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo Shoot for Business Week</td>
<td>Photo session for picture to appear on the cover of the January 2007 issue of Business Week magazine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potter's Orphanage Home Halloween Party</td>
<td>Attended a Halloween Party for children from a local orphanage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Press Conference to Promote Literacy Month</td>
<td>Promotion held in conjunction with the Bowling Green Public Library/WKU Library for Literacy Month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Cross Elementary School’s Red Ribbon Week</td>
<td>School's program to encourage students of all ages to refrain from drugs &amp; alcohol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rich Pond Elementary School Visit</td>
<td>Pep rally to encourage students to do well on state's test (CATS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rich Pond Elementary School’s Assembly</td>
<td>Appearance to afternoon assembly to motivate and entertain students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Kentucky Book Festival</td>
<td>Local festival featuring authors and promotion of their works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Sports Awards Show</td>
<td>Attended event that celebrated the best of sports in the south aired on Fox Sports Net</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph School Spaghetti Supper</td>
<td>Fundraiser held to benefit a local catholic school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph School Visit</td>
<td>Promotion opportunity for &quot;Go Team&quot; author Julie Allen and Big Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph School Visit</td>
<td>Visit to a NCAA Good Sport winner's classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Street United Methodist Church Fall Festival</td>
<td>Celebrated Fall Festival at a local church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland County High School (IN) Basketball Game</td>
<td>Performed at basketball game with their school's mascot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Fitness Connection's Mini Marathon</td>
<td>Fundraiser held to benefit the local Family Enrichment Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upward Bound Football League’s Banquet &amp; Awards Ceremony</td>
<td>Banquet &amp; awards ceremony held for local church football league</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Day Parade</td>
<td>Participated in the local Veterans Day Parade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBKO Halloween-A-Fest</td>
<td>Halloween trick-or-treating alternative sponsored by the local television station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBKO-TV Promotion for Capital One</td>
<td>Appeared on two programs to promote Big Red's involvement in Capital One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wedding Reception</td>
<td>Appearance at reception for two alumni in Bardstown, KY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Kentucky University Childcare College Colors Day</td>
<td>Held to encourage children at daycare to wear their favorite school's colors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WKU Basket Deliveries</td>
<td>Dr. Drobocky, a local Orthodontist, had Big Red deliver WKU baskets to some of his clients</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Articles and Additional Exposure

BIG RED
Western Kentucky University
2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team Nominating Committee:

Indeed, it is an honor to offer my encouragement and support for Big Red to participate in the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Challenge. WKU has been distinctly honored to have watched Big Red compete in several previous All-America Mascot Challenges. We hope to return to the competition in 2007. Big Red has always been competitive—this just might be the year!

Big Red’s participation in the Capital One competition is quite a testament to Big Red’s national popularity. As we all know, however, at WKU, Big Red’s national popularity is a result of Big Red’s own creative personality and charisma. Big Red is a little different. Big Red has an unusual capacity to be more animated than most mascots. Big Red is certainly the embodiment of the special spirit which WKU alumni and fans know and love. As someone who has been personally involved with Big Red since its creation twenty-seven years ago, I know how important Big Red is to our University family, friends, and fans.

Big Red is not only the energy behind WKU athletic events, but Big Red is also the lovable, cuddly favorite for thousands of children at all types of events throughout our region. As I told a recent CNN reporter, Big Red is like Santa Claus. Big Red can appear in numerous places at the same time! The enclosed children’s book is the second one published in recent years. This is testimony to Big Red’s popularity with the young and young at heart in the WKU family.

It is entirely fitting that Big Red continue to compete with America’s favorite mascots for the title of Capital One Mascot of the Year.

Big Red is always lovable, always competitive, and always unique. I hope we have the opportunity to watch Big Red go head to head once again with the great mascots in American higher education. Thank you.

Go Big Red,

Gary A. Randall

Enclosure
May 18, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to thank you for giving Family Enrichment Center the opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for Big Red and tell you why he should be accepted to the 2007 Capital One All-American Mascot Team. For the past 4 years, Big Red has participated in our Annual Run and Walk for Children. Big Red especially played a big part in the children’s one mile race with over 100 children participating. Big Red was the star of the show! He led the children in stretching exercises, danced with them and greeted them and the other racers at the finish line.

Big Red always makes people smile and adds warmth and enthusiasm to our event. His participation helped make the day fun and that keeps children of all ages coming back. This year the event raised over $57,000 for the prevention of child abuse in the Barren River Region and Big Red was a big part of making it such a success!

Again, we appreciate Big Red’s support not only to our race but to our community. We look forward to his participation next year.

If you need further information please do not hesitate to call us.

Sincerely,

Nickie Jones
Director of Operations
3/31/07: Big Red meets the Chick-fil-a cow during the Family Enrichment Center's Mini Marathon.

3/31/07: Big Red eats its race number at the starting line of the Family Enrichment Center's Mini Marathon.

Big Red seeks nomination into the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team
May 22, 2007

2007 Capital One
All-America Mascot Team
Nominating Committee

I serve on staff at Western Kentucky University (WKU) in the Division of Extended Learning and Outreach. Our mission is to reach out into the community in all kinds of ways. I want to share with you how Big Red, our beloved mascot, helped us do that and why he is so deserving of the nomination to the Capital One All-America Mascot Team.

In February of 2007, our division participated in a community wide event called Spell-a-Bration, which is an adult spelling bee requiring participants to work in teams to spell words.

This was the second year that our division participated, and we wanted to “push hard” to beat the competition. In addition to the spelling competition, there was a category for Best Team Spirit. How could WKU compete in anything regarding spirit without our now famous mascot, Big Red?

I worked with the WKU Athletic Marketing Department and arranged for Big Red to come and “cheer our team to victory”. However, when Big Red arrived, I clearly understood that he does not belong to WKU, but to the community!

Every young person at the event gravitated to him. He began to lead out in all kinds of dances. If you want a talented performer, Big Red is the one. He interacted with city and county officials, and he was GREAT!! You could just feel the emotion and respect that he brought to the event. With that kind of support, I am sure it is not a surprise to know that our team beat 17 other teams in the competition.

I believe that Big Red’s spirit represents what is good and fun in the world of sports! I can think of no other mascot who has the personality and the ability to change dynamics just by his presence.

Please carefully consider sharing Big Red with the world in 2007 by selecting him for the Capital One All-America Mascot Team!

Sincerely,

Marion Pardue
Director, Center for Training and Development
2/27/07: Big Red helps the WKU Division of Extended Learning and Outreach to victory in the community Spell-a-Bration event.
LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

TO: 2007 Capital One All-American Mascot Team Nominating Committee

FROM: Officer Barry Pruitt, Coordinator

DATE: May 21, 2007

REF: Western Kentucky University Mascot “Big Red”

On behalf of the Bowling Green-Warren County Crime Stoppers program, I take this opportunity to recommend Western Kentucky University’s mascot “Big Red” for the 2007 Capital One All-American Mascot Team.

Crime Stoppers is a community crime fighting program that solicits anonymous crime tips for a monetary reward to solve crimes. A “Crime of the Week” is featured weekly by our local media through newsprint, radio, Internet and television broadcasts. Finding a successful creative marketing avenue is often a challenge.

Big Red is a local celebrity icon both on and off campus. Its very presence evokes enthusiasm, energy and excitement. Children flock to Big Red’s side for a handshake or a hug. Adults are captivated by its larger than life personality and shenanigans. Big Red has recently aided Crime Stoppers by drawing attention to the local Crime of the Week segment.

The fact that Big Red is community-oriented and well-liked by children of all ages; you see why I am so positive about this entertaining and energetic college mascot. I endorse Big Red’s efforts with confidence and enthusiasm.

Crime Doesn’t Pay...Crime Stoppers Does!
May 18, 2007

2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team Nominating Committee:

The Kentucky Derby Festival was extremely proud and excited to include Western Kentucky University’s mascot, Big Red, to our jam-packed line up of events for 2007.

Big Red took part in Family Day at our brand new event, Kroger’s Fest-a-Ville on the Waterfront. To the delight of hundreds of kids of all ages, Big Red interacted and entertained the crowd only as the mischievously entertaining Big Red could. We were so please that he could take a day out of his busy schedule to spend with us, at one of the largest civic celebrations in the United States.

Big Red is such a terrific mascot, loved by not just those on the hill at WKU, but by the entire state of Kentucky.

The 2007 Capital One All-American Mascot Team should include Big Red, as he truly is a symbol of Hilltopper spirit and all-around sportsmanship.

With much regards,

Derrick J. Blevins
2007 Event Intern
Kentucky Derby Festival, Inc.
May 21, 2007

To: 2007 Capital One All-American Mascot Team Nominating Committee

Letter of Recommendation for BIG RED

It is my pleasure to recommend Western Kentucky University’s mascot, BIG RED, for the 2007 Capital One All-American Mascot Team.

In addition to invaluable service to Western Kentucky University, BIG RED has made many guest appearances at our WalkAmerica events over the past eight years. WalkAmerica is our largest fundraiser to help save babies from birth defects, prematurity and infant mortality. BIG RED dances with the children and parents, helps with our aerobics warm up as well as poses for photos with youngsters beaming with joy and pride to be in his presence. He is a real delight and enhances our events as well as other non-profit events in our community. A few of BIG RED’s volunteer accomplishments include graciously volunteering himself as a prize for our top youth fundraiser; the hit of our youth winner’s birthday party; BIG RED dance sensation at WalkAmerica events including this years “Macarena”.

As an alumnus of Western Kentucky University and a citizen of Bowling Green, Kentucky, I am honored to recommend BIG RED to the 2007 Capital One All-American Mascot Team.

GO BIG RED!!!

Sincerely,

Kathleen L. Kennedy
Division Director
Barren River Division
Greater Kentucky Chapter
4/28/07: Big Red poses with two volunteers at the March of Dimes "Walk America".

4/28/07: The March of Dimes race participants are welcomed to Phil Moore Park.

4/28/07: Big Red entertains race participants before March of Dimes "Walk America".

Big Red seeks nomination into the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team.
WALKAMERICA DAY

REGISTRATION & WALK DAY INFORMATION

- **Registration** – a registration area will be located at the site near The Medical Center tent. Registration is from 9:00 a.m. until 9:50 a.m. The walk begins promptly at 10:00 a.m.

- You (the team captain) **will not** need to go to the registration area **UNLESS** you have additional money to turn in for your team.

- If you have extra money to turn in, go to the registration table. **NO ONE** from your team, except for you, will be allowed to turn in money for your team. You should have with you: the White Team envelope with the extra sponsor envelopes and money inside, and your Yellow copy of the Team Incentive Report Form.

- Once you complete the registration procedure, you will be given the yellow report form back and will be able to claim incentives the week after walk day, if need be, and pick up any additional incentives for your team members. Only **YOU** can pick up these incentives.

- **Pre-Walk Activities** – All the fun starts at 9:00 a.m.! Team pictures are the responsibility of the team. Please bring a camera; designate a person, time and area to take your team’s photo. Encourage your team members to get to the Walk Site as soon as they can. Although the actual Walk starts at 10:00 a.m., they won’t want to miss everything that happens before then.

- **The Medical Center Start/Finish Sponsor.** Water located here courtesy of Southern Foods.

- **Kidzone** Sponsored by US Bank. Children’s activities at this tent.

- **Tim Livingston/Music for All Occasions** will be providing great music.

- **Gloria Owen/Gloria’s Massage Therapy for Women** will be pampering you with massages.

- **BIG RED** will be on site from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.! You may want to bring a digital/regular camera or video recorder to get pictures of your child and/or team with BIG RED.

- **Family Teams** will be able to share your pictures, stories, experiences and children with others under The Medical Center tent. Also, the Family Team Captain will be able to pick up a beaded necklace for each walker on your team this year.

- **Barren River District Health Department** will be providing Folic Acid information.

- **Refreshments** will be served from 9 am until 10 am. Bagels, Little Debbie’s, orange juice, water and bananas will be provided prior to the start of the walk.

- **Aerobics Warm-up** provided by The Medical Center Rehabilitation Services at 9:45 a.m.

- **Send Off** by Jim Johnson and/or Dr. Don Butler our Honorary WalkAmerica Chairs.
May 24, 2007

2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team Nominating Committee:

I'm writing a letter of recommendation for Western Kentucky University's mascot Big Red for the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team.

I'm a Western Kentucky University graduate and a long time member of the media here in Bowling Green. I would like to express the impact Big Red has on our community. Big Red is an integral part of so many events...not just in Bowling Green, but throughout South Central Kentucky. Big Red has been involved in WBKO's Halloween Fest for the past two years. The event reaches thousands of people in our area.

In planning events, Big Red is one of the first elements organizers try to secure, especially when the event involves children! Whether it's "Stand for Children Day" or one of the many fundraising walks in the area, you can bet Big Red will be on hand bouncing around and greeting the public.

In closing, I would like to reiterate the impact Big Red has made on the community throughout the years at Western Kentucky University.

Please consider Big Red for the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team.

Sincerely,

Amy Bingham
Assignment Editor
May 22, 2007

Capital One All-American Team Nomination Committee:

I am a retired high school guidance counselor who wrote college recommendations and scholarship recommendations for 20 plus years. Working in a high profile high school where 96% of our seniors attended college, THIS is a first for me. I've never written a recommendation for a mascot, but then again, Big Red is not just any mascot. HE'S something special!

Big Red, our mascot at Western Kentucky University, IS the best! At ballgames, I love watching Big Red with the little children. He's so good with the "little people". He's sorta like the Pied Pieper......the children are just following him around. They want to touch him, want to have their picture made with him and all the time they are laughing and talking. Now that's cute!

Big Red represents the spirit of our university. With Western's motto being, "The Spirit Makes The Master", Western has to have a mascot that is spirited and fun. Big Red is all that and then some. Personally, anytime that I see Big Red, I smile and laugh and usually say, "Big Red is here!" He's a person and not sure that person is the right word, but he's definitely a Western Spirit who makes me happy. I find him very intriguing. I say that because I never know what he's going to do next. He's so spontaneous and unpredictable. One also, never knows where he will appear next either. He may be at a wedding reception, on the golf course or at a baseball game, but wherever he is, HE is the show!

Recently, we invited Big Red to be our featured guest at our Kentucky Association of Secondary and College Admission Counselors (KASCAC) State Conference in Bowling Green. We thought it would be fun if Big Red joined us for our Opening Ceremonies/President's Reception and our Social/Casino Night. We had NO idea. Big Red was the hit of the night! I especially enjoyed the surprised looks on people's faces when he appeared and then the laughter anytime he got near them.

Big Red certainly knows how to work a crowd. I saw him take the waitress's tray. He looked at that empty tray, gave all of us that Big Red "roll your eyes" look and then just threw the tray in the air and let it hit the floor. It's obvious, he was taking anyone's order. Even Western's President joked that he needed to give his welcome to all of us before Big Red arrived because no one would listen to him once he arrived. At our Casino Night Social, I watched Big Red socialize with our counselors. He wanted to spin the roulette wheel, move the chips on the tables, take the player's cards and give them directions on how to bet. He was in the middle of the action. Of course, HE is the action, the main event so to speak.

Big Red graciously posed for pictures with anyone and everyone. Two of my dear friends, who attended another university in Kentucky, had to have their pictures made with Big Red. I asked one of the guys to help Big Red get into his suit. My friend told me he would if, "You take a picture of me with Big Red. My son loves Big Red." Another friend said, "Dian, I love Big Red! I've got to have my picture made with him. Will you take a picture of me with Big Red?"

I think that Big Red is a combination of all "the right stuff". He makes people happy! He's spirited, talented, competitive, clever, spontaneous and fun. Big Red is a feeling and he's ours! He represents all that is important to Western Kentucky University. After all these years, Big Red reminds me every time that I see him how glad that I am that I went to Western. Not only was Western the right college choice for me, Big Red is a match for Western Kentucky University.

Sincerely,

Dian Graham, Alumni Member
3/14/07: Big Red rubs the head of a participant in the conference for good luck.

3/14/07: Big Red attempts to snack on a conference participant during a break in the conference.
May 21, 2007

2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Nominating Committee:

On behalf of the Southern Kentucky Book Fest, I am delighted to recommend Western Kentucky University’s mascot, Big Red, for the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team.

Big Red has participated in the Book Fest’s opening ceremony for the past six years. Once again this year, he spent the morning having his photo taken with the winners of our writing contest as well as many other children from this region. He was up to his usual antics amusing the children as well as adults. Big Red is the crowd favorite, even with such serious competition as the Cat in the Hat and Clifford, The Big Red Dog! He has played a crucial role in getting school children from all over the region excited about reading.

Big Red has also assisted with our annual Books & Baskets in November. For this event, we partner with the WKU Athletics Department. New and gently-used children’s books are collected at a men’s home basketball game, and each person donating a book receives a ticket for admission to that game. Not only has Big Red promoted this event, he has actually been on hand to receive the books! Hundreds of books are collected, and these are given to children and schools in need in our community.

Big Red supports our mission of encouraging reading and the love of books. In Kentucky, we struggle with a rising literacy rate, and it’s a great help to have our favorite mascot promoting our mission to people of all ages. We appreciate Big Red and all he does for the Book Fest and our other literary projects. We’re proud to recommend him to you for the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team.

GO BIG RED!

Respectfully submitted,

Diana McQuady
Writer-in-Residence

encouraging the joy of reading and the love of books
WKU vs. Kentucky State
Tuesday, November 7, 7 p.m.
Diddle Arena (doors open at 6 p.m.)

Books & Baskets

Donate a new or gently used
Children's Book
and get a FREE
reserved seat ticket
on game day!

Support the team.
Support literacy.
Make a difference.

This event is sponsored by
Charles M. Moore Insurance
Agency, WKYU and the Southern
Kentucky Book Fest partners in
conjunction with Western
Kentucky University Athletics.
2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team
Nomination Committee

I am honored to recommend that Big Red, from Western Kentucky University, become a member of the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team. Big Red is a recognized symbol of Western Kentucky University Athletics, in our community, across the state, and nationally through Big Red's exposure by ESPN, Wheel of Fortune, and Deal or No Deal. Big Red plays a major role during our company's annual United Way Campaign Kickoff. Employees are greeted by handshakes and hugs, by Big Red, as they arrive to start their day. Big Red brings out the best in all of us. Its enthusiasm is contagious and adds momentum to our campaign each year.

I would enjoy seeing Big Red in the Capital One All-America Mascot Team again this year!

Sincerely

Richard W. Holloman
Cold Mill Maintenance Team Leader
2007 Capitol One All-America Mascot Team Nomination Committee:

Hello, my name is Andy Carr. I am writing you today to give my recommendation for Big Red of Western Kentucky University for the 2007 Capitol One Mascot of the Year. I have close ties to Big Red and Western Kentucky University. Big Red just recently did an event for my Youth Group. The kids loved him. The event that we did was called the Amazing Race. It is modeled after the TV show. We were to utilize E.A. Diddle Arena on Western’s campus and Big Red came out and was present to give clues to the kids and just interact with them.

As a resident of Bowling Green, KY, we hold Big Red in very high standing. Everyone knows and loves Big Red! I would venture to guess that more people know who Big Red is than the name of our mayor. That is how much we love Big Red. When you go to a sporting event at WKU, Big Red is always working the crowd, hugging the children, shaking hands, taking picture with fans and even crowd surfing! I have been to many sporting events and seen many mascots, and none of them compare to Big Red.

I would like to thank you for your time and would like for you to consider Big Red for the 2007 Capitol One All-America Mascot Team.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John A. Carr
Youth Pastor
Forest Park Baptist Church
May 18, 2007

2007 Capital One
All-American Mascot Team
Nominating Committee

RE: Western Kentucky University
Big Red Mascot

Dear Committee:

It is with great pleasure to write this letter of support for the nomination of Big Red for the 2007 Capital One All-American Mascot Team.

I work for the City of Bowling Green in the Citizen Information and Assistance Department and coordinate the Bowling Green-Warren County Veteran's Day Parade every year. Big Red participated in our parade last year and showed his support to all veterans in our community by riding on top of a yellow fire truck. He was a huge hit with our spectators, ranging from public officials to small children to senior citizens.

Among many other community appearances, Big Red has also participated in a local neighborhood event celebrating National Night Out, a nationwide crime prevention event promoting police-community partnerships. Big Red rode in the National Night Out parade and attended a neighborhood block party.

Big Red exemplifies community spirit and enthusiasm everywhere he goes! Everyone in our community loves and supports him!

All of us here with the City of Bowling Green are grateful to Big Red for his willingness to be a part of various community activities that we sponsor. I hope you will consider his nomination on my behalf.

Sincerely,

Bobbi Jo Rice
City Central Coordinator
City of Bowling Green
11/4/06: Big Red rides atop a fire truck during the Bowling Green Veteran's Day Parade.

Big Red seeks nomination into the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team.
Attn: 2007 Capitol One All-American Mascot Team
Nominating Committee:

We are writing this letter of recommendation for Western Kentucky University's Mascot "Big Red". We are owners of an agritourism business in Bowling Green, where we have had opportunities to host several benefits. We hosted a celebrity scoop day to raise money for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital where "Big Red" was our special guest. He always comes with a comical spirit that entertains the young and old. We appreciate his willingness to be a community supporter in the events we feel passionate about.

"Big Red" is found all over Bowling Green at numerous events including all of Western's ballgames. He brings great joy and pleasure to our community with all his comedy antics. I hope you will consider him for this special honor based on his loving nature and passion for lifting heavy hearts.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra & Carl Chaney
Owners of Chaney's Dairy Barn
2/3/07: Big Red helps make ice cream during Chaney’s Dairy Barn’s Celebrity Scoop and Easter Egg Hunt.
2007 Capital One All-American
Mascot Nominating Committee,

Park City Elementary School celebrates Red Ribbon Week every year, to educate and tell our students the dangers of substance abuse and how making good choices can affect their entire lives. Each year we invite speakers to come and share with the children the things they have experienced. This past October we were privileged to get Big Red to come to our school. Also one of the coaches and a team player came with him. They spoke on how important it is to not do drugs or any other substance harmful to the body, and how if they had chosen to do drugs or other substances they would not be on the team at WKU. They also shared about making the decisions, (while they are young), to do the best they can do in school. They also spoke about taking care of the body, that exercise like playing football is important. He really got the children excited and had a big influence on them. He is the Best!!! The children love him!!!!

Mrs. England
Assistant Coordinator
May 16, 2007
May 17, 2007

2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team Nominating Committee

To Whom It May Concern:

I am submitting this letter to request your committee take pleasure in nominating Big Red, mascot for Western Kentucky University, for the All-America Mascot Team.

In my role of Community President for a large financial institution, I have had many opportunities to witness and directly involve Big Red in community events. Many of these events are geared towards the benefit of our local children, who immediately recognize Big Red and absolutely adore him. A recent example would be when Big Red visited Briarwood Elementary to participate in its annual Chili Supper. The moment Big Red entered the gym, everyone’s attention immediately turned to him and a multitude of kids ran up to give him hugs. I know of no other college mascot that resonates so much with little children than Big Red!

While obviously biased towards Big Red, I can say from years of living in other parts of the country that there is no college mascot more recognized or more memorable than Big Red. Even pro golfer Kenny Perry continues to wear a Big Red pin while on the PGA Tour.

Big Red epitomizes the charm and characteristic of the type of mascot you are searching for. I strongly urge you to consider Big Red for selection.

Yours truly,

Wm. Kevin Mays, CPA
Community President
National City Bank of Kentucky
May 30, 2007

2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team Nominating Committee:

I write this letter in recommendation of Western Kentucky University’s Big Red for consideration of the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team.

Big Red made his debut 27 years ago and has been a very valuable part of Western Kentucky University, the Bowling Green community, and the entire nation. He has endeared himself to millions by his outstanding participation on several levels. Previously he received the Key to Spirit Award by the Universal Cheerleading Association. He has reached the ESPN’s “Battle of the Mascots” Final Four; has made national television appearances on Wheel of Fortune and Deal or No Deal; has been featured in advertising campaigns for ESPN Sports Center, and has been selected for the Capital One All America Mascot Team for four of the last five years. He represents Western’s competitive spirit and community pride. He has proven himself by his outstanding participation in hundreds of appearances throughout the area, and numerous appearances on international television. Clearly he is loved by everyone across the country.

Thank you for this opportunity to nominate Big Red for the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team. Because of Big Red’s character, personality and lifelong experiences, Big Red will make a fitting and excellent choice for the team.

Cordially,

Dr. Camden Wood Selig
Director of Athletics
12/2/06: Big Red helps celebrate “A Kentucky Christmas” at the Kentucky Library and Museum.

2/23/07: Big Red helps kick off Junior Achievement in the kindergarten class of Cumberland Trace Elementary School.

Big Red seeks nomination into the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team.
4/21/07: Big Red celebrates “the big catch” with a fan at the Hilltopper Black Bag Classic fishing Tournament.

4/21/07: Big Red relaxes in a boat while awaiting results in the Hilltopper Black Bag Classic fishing tournament.

Big Red seeks nomination into the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team
Awards and Accomplishments

BIG RED
Western Kentucky University
AWARDS and ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

2006
- Appeared on the game show "Deal or No Deal" as a support member for a contestant
- Participated in the "Southern Sports Awards" Show
- Americasbestonline.net's Top Ten College Mascots
- Finalist for the Mascot Hall of Fame
- Capital One All-America Mascot Team

2005
- Nominated for Favorite Mascot for the Inaugural "Southern Sports Awards" Show
- NCAA Exhibit "Mascot Mania: Our Fascination With Collegiate Traditions"
- Americasbestonline.net's Top Ten College Mascots
- USA Today's Top Mascots in College and Professional Sports

2004
- CollegeHoopsnet.com's Favorite Team Mascot
- Capital One All-America Mascot Team

2003
- Capital One All-America Mascot Team

2002
- Was the centerpiece of an ESPN commercial for the 25,000th Sports Center airing
- Capital One All-America Mascot Team

Big Red seeks nomination into the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team
Big Red goes to Hollywood

Western alum a contestant on 'Deal or No Deal' this Monday and Wednesday

BY RACHEL ADAMS

The Daily News

It's been several years since Kate Mercer Miller graduated from Western Kentucky University, but when the Newburgh, Ind., woman was asked to be on NBC's hit game show "Deal or No Deal," there was one supporter she definitely wanted on her side: Big Red.

Miller and the energetic WKU mascot, along with Miller's friends and family, traveled to Los Angeles in December to tape the show, which will air on Monday and continues on Wednesday. For Miller, who earned a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism and marketing in 2003, the opportunity to tout her alma mater was priceless.

"In college I was very involved on campus," said Miller, who was a Spirit Master and a member of several committees and organizations. "I majored in campus life. I absolutely loved everything Western had to offer. I found my husband there and my best friend, so it's going to remain a huge part of my life no matter what road I take."

Miller originally auditioned in July. She'd always been a big fan, she said, and thought it would be fun to meet new people—which she did, in a 4 1/2-hour line. When it finally came time for her 30 seconds in front of the camera, she had to scrap her planned speech about how she wanted to use her prize money to help people in Newburgh whose homes had been damaged by a recent tornado—producers asked her to talk about something positive, so she talked about how much she loves to talk.

"I remember the camera guy being like, 'I'm pretty sure you're over your 30 seconds,'" Miller said. "If anyone knew me in college, they knew that talking wasn't an issue for me."

The next day, Miller received another call from the show's producers, asking her to come to Los Angeles for a second interview. She was to bring seven supporters with her—three of whom appear on the "supporter's bench," a cheering section that sits on the stage to advise the contestant—so Miller called her friend Rebecca DeSensi, who works as Western's public relations department. The two of them hatched the idea to get Big Red on the show and, once President Gary Ransdell agreed, Big Red was on his way to California.

"Even though he couldn't talk, he was definitely heard, that's for sure," Miller said. "Deal or No Deal," hosted by comedian Howie Mandel, premiered on NBC in December 2005. Contestants choose to open numbered suitcases that contain monetary amounts from $0.01 to $1 million, while keeping one suitcase for themselves. As each amount is chosen, it is eliminated from a large board near the stage. As lower amounts are eliminated, chances grow greater that the suitcase the contestant could have the $1 million grand prize, but periodic calls from "The Banker" offering varying amounts of money for the player to decide "Deal, or no deal?"—will they take the banker's offer and go home, or take a bigger risk for the chance of winning more money?

"(Being on the show) was altogether different for me because, watching it at home, I was that person that was like, 'Oh, my gosh, you came with nothing, you should just go for it,'" Miller said. "When you're there and you look at the amount that the banker has offered, you sit and think to yourself, 'That could literally be in my bank account.' I don't usually have thousands of dollars thrown at me in one day. It really did change my perspective."

Although Miller can't reveal how the show turned out, she did say she surprised herself at how cautious she became as the game progressed.

"I had a lot going on in my head that I didn't think I would," she said. "You think about how it would help people and yourself and your community. It was a surreal feeling."

The cameras didn't faze her as much as the banker did, she said, and Mandel was the perfect host.

"I thought he was a very sweet person, and you can really honestly tell the way he acts on camera is the way he is in person," she said. "He's very nurturing; he makes you feel at ease."

Miller plans to watch the first episode at home alone with her husband, but is throwing a viewing party at Jillian's in Evansville Wednesday evening—it begins at 6 p.m., with the show scheduled to air at 8 p.m. Big Red will be in attendance there, too.

This isn't Big Red's first brush with fame, said Paula Davids, athletics marketing assistant at Western. In conjunction with the Capitol One Mascot Challenge, he's traveled to "The Tony Danza Show," "The Early Show," "Wheel of Fortune," as well as to events in Virginia, Florida and Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. He's also visited the Mascot Hall of Fame in Philadelphia and has appeared on an ESPN "SportsCenter" commercial celebrating its 25,000th episode.

Big Red also gained fame when Western Kentucky University sued an Italian television show that featured Gabibbo, a character that's a dead ringer for Big Red, Davids said. In addition to being featured in some national media outlets, including USA Today, Big Red traveled to Italy to prove that children couldn't tell the difference.

"For people that didn't know who he was, that just gave us some added exposure," Davids said, then laughed, "Now we need to get London maybe covered ... maybe Montana. I don't know." As for Miller, she thanks everyone at her alma mater who made Big Red's appearance on "Deal or No Deal" a success.

"It was just a wonderful effort and I really, truly appreciate it because he made a huge part of my show," she said. "The reason it was a success was because of him."

— "Deal or No Deal" airs at 7 p.m. Monday and continues at 8 p.m. Wednesday on NBC-40, Insight Channel 2.

(The Park City Daily News, 2/11/07)
Big Red Participates in "Southern Sports Awards Show"
12/6/06

Big Red Attends Southern Sports Awards For Second Straight Year
Dec 12, 2006

Bowling Green, Ky. — Western Kentucky University's Big Red is one of the many celebrities that attended the second annual Southern Sports Awards last week, and now Hilltopper fans in Bowling Green will have the chance to see the school's mascot on television.

WBKO Fox (local cable channel eight) will air a two-hour show from the event, which was held at Davidson College's Duke Family Performance Hall, Saturday at 2 p.m. (CST), while the show will be broadcast at 1 p.m. on WQQQ-TV in Paducah.

It's the second time in as many years that Big Red has participated in the awards extravaganza.

— WKU —
12/6/06: Big Red poses with country music singer Rodney Atkins before his performance at the 2006 Southern Sports Awards.

12/6/06: Big Red poses with American Idol star Chris Daughtry during rehearsal of the 2006 Southern Sports Awards.

Big Red seeks nomination into the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team
Top 25 College Mascots - 2006

1. Monte, University of Montana - "Monte" was born in the mountains of Missoula in the Fall of 1991. The 2002-2003 Capital One National Champion Mascot of the Year has evolved into a motorcycle riding, break dancing, back flipping, slam dunking, movie making, crowd surfing, goal post smashing, prank pulling superstar that makes the women of Montana swoon. Monte's charitable and community service activities are unmatched in college athletics. Raising thousands of "fur made" dollars for local children's charities keeps this bear quite busy all year round, and that's how he likes it.

2. Aubie, Auburn University - A popular character among Auburn fans, kids, and one of the most animated mascots in the country, Aubie has been on the job since 1979. Aubie's began as a cartoon character that first appeared on the Auburn/Hardin-Simmons football program cover on October 3, 1959. In 1979, Aubie came to life at the Southeastern Conference basketball tournament. Aubie proudly marched into the Birmingham-Jefferson County Civic Center and helped lead first-year Auburn coach Sonny Smith's team to upset wins of Vanderbilt and Georgia in the SEC basketball tournament. Aubie is five-time national champion cheerleading mascots and has been on numerous 2004 Capital One All-American Mascot Teams. Aubie also writes a column for the local paper where he answers any question from local elementry school kids.

3. Buzz, Georgia Tech - Buzz is the world-famous and beloved mascot of the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets. Buzz gets Tech fans

http://americasbestonline.net/cmascots2.htm
Best College Mascots by America's Best and Top Ten

Football
Stadiums

Best College
Football
Rivalries

Best Party Colleges

Mascots
Top 6 Websites For
Mascots
www.picks-finder.com

Professional
Mascots
Professional
Mascot Costumes
and Custom
design's over 1,000
patterns
www_mascotscostumes.o

Mascot Designs
Highest Quality
Mascots For
School, Business,
Entertainment
www.mascotsupfront.com

College Mascots
Industry leader in
quality custom
inflatable college
mascots.
WalkAround.com

cheering at nearly all the Institute's intercollegiate sporting events. Although Buzz's origins are rather ambiguous, it is known that Buzz showed up at a game sometime in the early 1980s as an unofficial cheerleader, and was soon adopted by the GT cheerleading squad. Today Buzz is a member of the cheerleading squad, and attends all Football Games, all Home basketball games for the Men's & Women's Team, several Volleyball & Baseball games, as well as pep rallies and appearances throughout Georgia. In Fall 2005 and 2006, Buzz was named to the Capital One All-American Mascot Teams and competed for the title of the Capital One Mascot of the Year. Buzz also competes in the Mascot National Competition in Daytona, FL each April. In 2006 he received 2nd place.

4. Sparty, Michigan State University - Sparty the Spartan is Michigan State University's fearless and loveable mascot, a figure known throughout the state of Michigan and recognized across the nation as well. Sparty is the heart of Michigan State, forever supporting its teams, bringing smiles to young and old and continually uplifting all who meet him. Sparty is big and strong, and was judged "Buffest Mascot" by Muscle and Fitness Magazine. Sparty is a two time national champion mascot after competing at the Universal Cheer Association Nationals Competition.

5. Smokey, University of Tennessee - Named to the 2005 and 2006 Capital One All-America Mascot Team, and was awarded the back-to-back National Champion for UCA Mascots. Smokey also get extra points for being the best dancer.

6. Big Red, Western Kentucky University - The huge, furry lovable red creature was designed and built by WKU student Ralph Carey ('80) of Cincinnati, and made its debut during the Hilltoppers' 1979-80 basketball season. "Big Red" has become a big hit with fans of all ages throughout the state and the nation. The ultimate fan and supporter of all WKU's intercollegiate sports, "Big Red" won the "Key to the Spirit" award - the highest honor presented to team mascots at the time - at the Universal Cheerleading Association competition in 1980, 1981 and again in 1983.

7. Cocky, University of South Carolina - Cocky first took action in 1980 when he came in to take over his father (Big Spur's) place. Cocky soon won the hearts off all the Gamecock fans all over and now is one of the most recognizable figures to young and old at USC. Cocky has also captured national attention in the UCA (Universal Cheerleading Association) Mascot Competitions. In 1986, Cocky brought home his first UCA Mascot Championship. He continued his success in the competitions each year and rose to the very top a second time in 1994 bringing home his second Championship.

8. Hairy Dawg, University of Georgia - Hairy Dawg was conceived in 1980 when Tom Sapp showed sketches of a bulldog(Hairy Dawg) to head football coach Vince Dooley. Dooley loved it so much that

http://americasbestonline.net/cmascots2.htm
he asked Sapp to have a costume rendition of the dog ready in three weeks for the Sugar Bowl. As legend has it, Hairy debuted in New Orleans against Notre Dame, helping the Bulldogs win their second national championship.

9. **Herbie the Husker**, University of Nebraska - Herbie the Husker first appeared on the cover of the 1974 summer football media guide, derived from a cartoon character of a Nebraska fan at the Cotton Bowl. In 2003 Herbie went through an extreme makeover. This once heavy husker is now fit and trim, and can be seen at games waving the UN flag or extending a helping hand in the community.

10. **Big Al**, University of Alabama - Big Al's debut as UA's mascot came at the 1979 Sugar Bowl, where the Crimson Tide turned back Penn State at the goal line to earn a 14-7 victory and a national championship. Today, the elephant is synonymous with the Crimson Tide and Big Al is one of the nation's most popular collegiate mascots.

11. **Butch T. Cougar**, Washington State University - Born in 1978 on a remote mountain top in the Cascades and named to the 2005 Capital One All-America Mascot Team and was mascot of the year.


13. **Mr. Wuf**, North Carolina State University - Mr. Wuf was named the winner of the mascots division of the Chick-Fil-A Collegiate Cheer and Dance National Championship, the first time since 1987 that the NC State mascot has won the national title.

14. **Sam the Minuteman**, University of Massachusetts - Definitely the most patriotic mascot in the country. Like the patriotic minutemen, Sam is ready to cheer for his school at a moment's notice. This proud mascot is the pride and joy of all UMass athletes and fans and is a symbol of strength, confidence and perseverance.

15. **Bucky Badger**, Wisconsin - Created in 1949, Bucky Badger has warmed the hearts of Wisconsin fans for over a half century. He has been on numerous Capitol One's All American Mascot Teams.

16. **Big Jay**, University of Kansas - A lively high flying bird who hyps up the KU crowd with his crazy dance moves. This Jayhawk is a combination of two birds - the blue jay, a noisy quarrelsome thing known to rob other nests, and the sparrow hawk, a stealthy hunter.

17. **Brutus Buckeye**, Ohio State - Brutus celebrates his 40th year as the Ohio State Mascot, one of the oldest in the country. Member of the 2003 Capitol One All-America Mascot Team.
18. **Otto**, Syracuse University - The big Orange has been around since 1990 and was selected to the 2006 Capitol One All American Mascot Team.

19. **Sooner**, University of Oklahoma - Part of the Boomer and Sooner Team. Boomer and Sooner were named "Most Collegiate Mascot" at the UCA College Summer Camp held on the campus of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

20. **Testudo**, University of Maryland - the official mascot of the University of Maryland, is not your ordinary Diamondback terrapin. For over sixty years, he has been the symbol for this campus, overseeing us in good times and bad. The costume Testudo has been cheering since the 1970's.

21. **Hokie Bird**, Virginia Tech - Today's HokieBird made its first appearance in 1987. HokieBird has won national mascot competitions and has been so popular that the mascot landed an appearance on Animal Planet's "Turkey Secrets," shown annually around Thanksgiving.

22. **Widcat**, University of Kentucky - The Wildcat mascot originated during the 1976-77 academic year at UK. Gary Tanner was the original Wildcat, dancing and entertaining thousands of UK fans at Commonwealth Stadium and Rupp Arena during athletics events. This year's Wildcat was a member of Capitol One All American Mascot Team.

23. **Sebastian the Ibis**, University of Miami - In 1957 San Sebastian Hall, a residence hall on campus, sponsored an Ibis entry in the homecoming celebration. The next year, student John Stormont performed at games in an Ibis costume that was glued, sewn and pinned together and was the forerunner of today's bird. Through the years, the Ibis has become one of the most recognizable college mascots in the United States. Sebastian was a member of 2005 Capitol One All American Mascot Team.

24. **Purdue Pete**, A Boilermaker if ever there was one, Purdue Pete first took the field to cheer on the Boilermakers in 1956. Initially, students were chosen to portray Pete because of tumbling ability. In those days, Pete had a papier mache head and a bit of padding but was expected to tumble along with the cheerleaders. Today, Pete's head is crafted in the same aviation technology lab that produced the locomotive body of the X-tra Special. Pete was a member of 2005 Capitol One All American Mascot Team.

25. **Goldy Gopher**, University of Minnesota - During the year, Goldy makes over 1000 appearances and is at virtually all home games for University Teams, usually wearing the appropriate sporting attire, and this year was nominated and made the 2004 Capital One All-American Mascot Team.
Big Red is Selected as a Finalist for the Mascot Hall of Fame

Welcome To WKU's Official Sports Site

Big Red has once again been named to the Capital One All-America Mascot Team. (photo by Clinton Lewis)

Big Red was one of six collegiate finalists for induction into the Mascot Hall of Fame.

Bowling Green, Ky. — Big Red, Western Kentucky University's athletic mascot since 1979, is one of six collegiate finalists for the Mascot Hall of Fame. Voting is open on-line at www.mascothalloffame.com through July 15.

Also on the ballot with Big Red is Aubie (Auburn), Bucky (Wisconsin), Monte (Montana), Sparty (Michigan State) and YouDee (Delaware). Six mascots are candidates from the professional ranks as well, with voting separated by category.

The Mascot Hall of Fame was created last year to "honor great mascot performers, performances and character branding programs that have inspired tradition and positively affected their communities," according to David Raymond, President of the Mascot Hall of Fame executive committee and the

p://www.wkusports.com/news.cgi?article=4570&sports=0

5/28/2007
Big Red is Selected as a Finalist for the Mascot Hall of Fame

The induction ceremony will take place on August 15 at Love Park in Philadelphia.

The Phillie Phanatic, Phoenix Gorilla and Famous Chicken were the members of the inaugural class inducted in 2005.

For more information, contact Christopher Bruce of the Raymond Entertainment Group at 302-731-2000 or chris@raymondeg.com.
Big Red Participates In The 2006 Capital One All-America Mascot Team

Welcome To WKU’s Official Sports Site

Big Red Participates In The 2006 Capital One All-America Mascot Team

SCOREBOARD SCHEDULES BIG RED ZONE TICKETS BIG RED SPORTS SHOP THE HILTOPPER TRADITIONS

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MEN’S SPORTS
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CROSS COUNTRY
FOOTBALL
GOLF
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SWIMMING
TENNIS
TRACK AND FIELD
WOMEN’S SPORTS
BASKETBALL
CROSS COUNTRY
GOLF
SOCCER
SOFTBALL
SWIMMING
TENNIS
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OPPERETTES
BIG RED
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Big Red is slated to appear on Wheel of Fortune Oct. 23-27.

Bowling Green, Ky. — Along with the other 11 members of the Capital One All-America Mascot Team, Western Kentucky University’s Big Red is set to appear on ABC’s game show Wheel of Fortune next week, Oct. 23-27. The show will be televised locally at 6:30 p.m. (CDT) on WBKO-TV (local cable channel nine).

The appearance is one of Big Red’s several cameos which are a part of Capital One’s promotion for its 2006 Mascot Challenge, and coincides with Wheel of Fortune’s themed “College Road Trip” week.

Big Red will also be participating in ‘Fur Factor’, a series of gravity defying (and fictitious) competitions, as part of the national advertising campaign.

Big Red is one of twelve collegiate mascots competing for the title of “Capital One National Mascot of the Year.” The Mascot of the Year will receive a $5,000 scholarship to help fund its school’s mascot program. One can vote for Big Red in its weekly head-to-head competitions with the other mascots at www.capitalonebowl.com.

—WKU—
Big Red ~ Western Kentucky University

2006 Capital One All-America Team

Big Red seeks nomination into the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team
Big Red Nominated for Favorite Mascot for the Inaugural “Southern Sports Awards”, 11/30/05

Welcome To WKU’s Official Sports Site

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TOPPERETTES
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IAF

SCOREBOARD SCHEDULES BIG RED ZONE TICKETS BIG RED SPORTS SHOP THE HILLTOPPER TRADITION

Big Red at the Southern Sports Awards with Dean Smith and Roy Williams. (photo courtesy of Jamie Kimbrough)

Big Red’s Appearance At Sports Awards Show Will Get Extensive Television Exposure
Dec 7, 2005

Bowling Green, Ky. — Fans of Western Kentucky University’s Big Red will have a chance to see the Hilltoppers’ mascot at the Southern Sports Awards, which will air on Fox Sports South Friday at 7 p.m. (CST).

Big Red was one of many mascots to participate in the event that honored sports excellence in the American South, including individuals such as Florida State football coach Bobby Bowden, former North Carolina basketball coach Dean Smith and NASCAR’s all-time wins leader Richard Petty. In addition to sports figures, celebrities were on hand from the worlds of movies, television and politics.

The two-hour show was taped at The Tabernacle in Atlanta on Nov. 30. Thirteen awards were presented in a variety of categories.

The Southern Sports Awards will be rerun on Fox Sports South on Dec. 14 (9:30 p.m.), Dec. 16 (7 p.m.) and Dec. 19 (7 p.m.). The show will also be broadcast on Fox Sports Southwest on Dec. 8 (6

http://www.wkusports.com/news.cgi?article=4086&sports=0

5/28/2007
Big Red Nominated for Favorite Mascot for the Inaugural “Southern Sports Awards”, 11/30/05

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Big Red Vette Raffle XIV

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p.m.), Dec. 11 (1 p.m.), Dec. 19 (6 p.m.) and Dec. 26 (11 a.m.), and will air on Comcast Sports Net
Dec. 8 (7 p.m.), Dec. 10 (1 p.m.), Dec. 14 (6 p.m.)
and Dec. 25 (3 p.m.).

— WKU —
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INAUGURAL "SOUTHERN SPORTS AWARDS" ON NOVEMBER 30TH TO HONOR THE BEST
IN AN ALL-STAR CELEBRATION FROM ATLANTA'S TABERNACLE

Richard Petty, Dean Smith, Bobby Bowden To Be Honored On Holiday Special
Featuring Performances By The Charlie Daniels Band, Young Jeezy And Clint Black

Holiday Cable Special To Be Televised From Virginia To Texas To More Than 30 Million Homes
Via Fox Sports Network South, Fox Sports Network Florida, Fox Sports Network Southwest,
And Comcast SportsNet Mid-Atlantic

Atlanta – Nov. 3, 2005 – The icons of sports excellence in the American South will come together for the South's biggest tailgate, Wednesday, November 30, 2005 at 7 PM EST in Atlanta, as the inaugural Southern Sports Awards (SSA) recognizes and honors the athletes, fans and the traditions that set the South above the rest in the sports world.

From Atlanta's hottest entertainment venue The Tabernacle (152 Luckie St.), Southern celebrities from the worlds of sports, movies, television and politics will lend their charismatic personalities to a night devoted to diverse musical entertainment and great sports memories in a "come-as-you-are" evening honoring the best.

Nominees, voted by the fans at www.southernsportsawards.com, range from Dale Earnhardt Jr., UNC/Duke basketball and Michael Vick to Shaquille O'Neal, Steve Spurrier and Ashley Judd (see attached). Atlanta native Young Jeezy, currently #1 on the R&B charts, will be joined by The Charlie Daniels Band and Clint Black to provide the entertainment. Awards will be presented in 13 categories including the BellSouth "Best Sports Experience" and the Pontiac "Team of the Year" awards.

The highlight of the SSA party will be the recognition of three proven icons that have honored the American South by their lifetimes of achievement. The recipients are Florida State football coaching giant Bobby Bowden, who has orchestrated more victories than any college coach in NCAA Division I-A history; stock car racing's undisputed "King," Richard Petty, the all-time wins leader in NASCAR; and one of the most revered college basketball gurus, former University of North Carolina coach Dean Smith, who is the game's unprecedented leader in the win column.

The two-hour special will be produced by Edge Marketing and Jefferson Pilot Sports and will be telecast to more than 30 million households during the upcoming holiday season on FSN South, Sun Sports (serving FSN viewers in Florida), FSN Southwest and Comcast SportsNet Mid-Atlantic.

-more-
"We are honoring for the first time under one roof, the traditions, rivalries and passions that define the sports experience in the South," said Executive Producer Michael Burg. "The Southern Sports Awards are truly a celebration of the passions unique to this sports-fueled region of the country."

Fans can expect a gala with all lucky hats and favorite team colors and an audience immersed in the wonder of Southern sports. Throughout the evening many of the top stars of sports and entertainment will be on hand to recognize the best in a wide range of categories, including: Biggest Rivalry ... Biggest Celebrity Fan ... Best Place to Tailgate ... "Style" Award ... Pontiac Team of the Year ... Newcomer of the Year ... BellSouth Best Sports Experience ... Best Mascot ... Fan Favorite ... and Coach of the Year. Fans of Southern sports near and far can cast votes in all of the SSA "Best Of" categories at www.southernsportsawards.com.

Added Jefferson Pilot Sports President Ed Hull, "As long-time partners with the ACC and SEC, we know the power of sports in this part of the country and are convinced the SSA is the property that captures the essence of this passion."

"Much is said about the convergence of sports and entertainment, but with the debut of the Southern Sports Awards, we have proof that the marriage is real," said FSN South Vice President Jeff Genther. "This is a celebration of the South's unmatched passion and excellence in sports and music that is long overdue."

Attached is the full list of categories and nominees.

About Edge Marketing
Edge founder Michael Burg is the show's executive producer. Burg brings an impressive resume of Executive Producer credits including the Teen Choice Awards on FOX and the Kids Choice Awards on Nickelodeon. Edge creates, markets and produces a number of entertainment and sports specials for both network and cable outlets. Included in the Edge portfolio is The Menu on FOX, Celebration of Gold on FOX, and a soon-to-be announced Action Sports Awards show to debut in the fall of 2006.

About JP Sports

About Jefferson Pilot Corp.
Jefferson Pilot Corporation, the parent company of Jefferson Pilot Communications, a holding company (NYSE: JP), is one of the nation's largest shareholder-owned life insurance companies. Jefferson Pilot's life insurance and annuity companies, principally Jefferson-Pilot Life Insurance Company, Jefferson Pilot Financial Insurance Company, offer full lines of individual life insurance and group life, disability and dental insurance products, in addition to annuity and investment products. Jefferson Pilot Communications Company owns and operates three network television stations and 17 radio stations, in addition to producing and syndicating sports programming. Further information on Jefferson Pilot can be found at jplfinancial.com.

About FSN South
Atlanta-based FSN South, the nation's largest regional sports television network, reaches more than 11 million homes in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

For further information, contact:
Nancy Neil Adcock
828 584 2032
Big Red Participates in the NCAA Exhibit, “Mascot Mania: Our Fascination With Collegiate Traditions”
June 6, 2005 – September 24, 2005

Welcome To WKU's Official Sports Site

Big Red will be rubbing elbows with Pat Sajak and Vanna White on Wheel of Fortune Oct. 23-27.

Big Red To Take Part In NCAA’s “Mascot Mania” In Indianapolis
Jun 13, 2005

Bowling Green, Ky. — This summer the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Hall of Champions is playing host to the exhibit “Mascot Mania: Our Fascination With Collegiate Traditions” from June 6-Sept. 24, and Western Kentucky University’s Big Red is part of the summer-long celebration.

In fact, Big Red will be in Indianapolis Saturday when “Mascot Mania: Mascots LIVE!” takes place from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (CDT). Mascots will be available for visitors to take pictures with and get autographs from. The Hall of Champions is located in the White River State Park.

“Mascot Mania” shares stories of how schools selected their mascots, nicknames and school colors, and how some traditions have changed over the years. Visitors can test their knowledge of school mascots and nicknames during the event as well.

Big Red is one of the most popular figures in the NCAA, as it is one of two mascots to be named to the Capital One All-America Mascot Team each of the last three years. Big Red has also been featured in several ESPN commercials for “SportsCenter,” including one to promote the show’s 25,000th episode.
Big Red's suit on display at the "Mascot Mania: Our Fascination with Collegiate Traditions" exhibit from 6/6/05 to 9/24/05 at the NCAA Hall of Champions.

Big Red's suit seems to greet visitors while on display at the Mascot Mania: Our Fascination with Collegiate Traditions" exhibit.

Big Red seeks nomination into the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team
Best College Mascots
by America's Best and Top Ten

This listing of the Top College Mascots in the United States is constantly being revised as mascots graduate and new ones are being discovered. So, if you feel we are missing one, please email us and let us know!

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Mascot: Design, Creation, Repair We can custom craft any mascot.
www.iprmascots.com

Recycle Fund
Printer Cartridge Recycling Program Collect Cartridges and Earn Cash!
www.recyclefund.com

Sports Team Fund Raising
Candy, Cookie Dough, Pie, Pizza and More for Your Fundraiser
www.americas-favorite.com

Top 10 College Mascots - 2005

1. Aubie, Auburn University - A popular character among Auburn fans, kids, and one of the most animated mascots in the country, Aubie has been on the job since 1979. Aubie's began as a cartoon character that first appeared on the Auburn/Hardin-Simmons football program cover on October 3, 1959. In 1979, Aubie came to life at the Southeastern Conference basketball tournament. Aubie proudly marched into the Birmingham-Jefferson County Civic Center and helped lead first-year Auburn coach Sonny Smith's team to upset wins of Vanderbilt and Georgia in the SEC basketball tournament.

Aubie is a five-time national champion cheerleading mascot and has been on numerous 2004 Capital One All-American Mascot Teams. Aubie also writes a column for the local paper where he answers any question from local elementary school kids.

2. Monte, University of Montana - "Monte" was born in the mountains of Missoula in the Fall of 1991. The 2002-2003 Capital One National Champion Mascot of the Year has evolved into a motorcycle riding, break dancing, back flipping, slam dunking, movie making, crowd surfing, goal post

http://www.americasbestonline.net/cmascots2.htm

6/1/2006
smashing, prank pulling superstar that makes the women of Montana swoon.

Monte's charitable and community service activities are unmatched in college athletics. Raising thousands of "fur made" dollars for local children's charities keeps this bear quite busy all year round, and that's how he likes it.

3. **Sparty**, Michigan State University - Sparty the Spartan is Michigan State University's fearless and lovable mascot, a figure known throughout the state of Michigan and recognized across the nation as well. Sparty is the heart of Michigan State, forever supporting its teams, bringing smiles to young and old and continually uplifting all who meet him. Sparty is big and strong, and was judged "Buffest Mascot" by Muscle and Fitness Magazine. Sparty is a two time national champion mascot after competing at the Universal Cheer Association Nationals Competition.

4. **Big Red**, Western Kentucky University - The huge, furry lovable red creature was designed and built by WKU student Ralph Carey ('80) of Cincinnati, and made its debut during the Hilltoppers' 1979-80 basketball season. "Big Red" has become a big hit with fans of all ages throughout the state and the nation. The ultimate fan and supporter of all WKU's intercollegiate sports, "Big Red" won the "Key to the Spirit" award - the highest honor presented to team mascots at the time - at the Universal Cheerleading Association competition in 1980, 1981 and again in 1983.

5. **Cocky**, University of South Carolina - Cocky first took action in 1980 when he came in to take over his father (Big Spur's) place. Cocky soon won the hearts of all the Gamecock fans all over and now is one of the most recognizable figures to young and old at USC. Cocky has also captured national attention in the UCA (Universal Cheerleading Association) Mascot Competitions. In 1986, Cocky brought home his first UCA Mascot Championship. He continued his success in the competitions each year and rose to the very top a second time in 1994 bringing home his second Championship.

6. **Hairy Dawg**, University of Georgia - Hairy Dawg was conceived in 1980 when Tom Sapp showed sketches of a bulldog(Hairy Dawg) to head football coach Vince Dooley. Dooley loved it so much that he asked Sapp to have a costume rendition of the dog ready in three weeks for the Sugar Bowl. As legend has it, Hairy debuted in New Orleans against Notre Dame, helping the Bulldogs win their second national championship.
7. **Herbie the Husker**, University of Nebraska - Herbie the Husker first appeared on the cover of the 1974 summer football media guide, derived from a cartoon character of a Nebraska fan at the Cotton Bowl. In 2003 Herbie went through an extreme makeover. This once heavy husker is now fit and trim, and can be seen at games waving the UN flag or extending a helping hand in the community.

8. **Buzz**, Georgia Tech - Buzz is the world-famous and beloved mascot of the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets. Buzz gets Tech fans cheering at nearly all the Institute's intercollegiate sporting events. Although Buzz's origins are rather ambiguous, it is known that Buzz showed up at a game sometime in the early 1980s as an unofficial cheerleader, and was soon adopted by the GT cheerleading squad.

9. **Big Al**, University of Alabama - Big Al's debut as UA's mascot came at the 1979 Sugar Bowl, where the Crimson Tide turned back Penn State at the goal line to earn a 14-7 victory and a national championship. Today, the elephant is synonymous with the Crimson Tide and Big Al is one of the nation's most popular collegiate mascots.

10. **Sam the Minuteman**, University of Massachusetts - Definitely the most patriotic mascot in the country. Like the patriotic minutemen, Sam is ready to cheer for his school at a moment’s notice. This proud mascot is the pride and joy of all UMass athletes and fans and is a symbol of strength, confidence and perseverance.

**Honorable Mention**


12. **Smokey**, University of Tennessee - Named to the 2005 Capital One All-America Mascot Team, and was awarded the back-to-back National Champion for UCA Mascots.

13. **Butch T. Cougar**, Washington State University - Born in 1978 on a remote mountain top in the Cascades and named to the 2005 Capital One All-America Mascot Team.

14. **Big Jay**, University of Kansas - A lively high flying bird who hypes up the KU crowd with his crazy dance moves. This Jayhawk is a combination of two birds - the blue jay, a noisy quarrelsome thing known to rob other nests, and the sparrow hawk, a stealthy hunter.
The top mascots in college and professional sports

Trying to come up with the list of the top ten mascots at any level is in the eyes of the beholder. At the college level alone, there are over 1,700 mascots and nicknames from which to select.

But if one person is qualified to provide such lists, it is the man Sports Illustrated called "Mr. Mascot and the leading authority on mascotology." Roy Yarbrough has a Ph.D. in sports management studies and teaches at California University of Pennsylvania.

In his book, Mascots! The History of Four and Two Year College & University Mascots and Nicknames, Yarbrough answers every mascot question a sports fan could imaginably throw his way. It is a comprehensive history of sports mascots in the U.S.

What is a Wahoo? Or a Hoyas? What are the most widely used sports mascot names?

Yarbrough has your answers and a plethora of mascot lore to go along with them. Below are some of Yarbrough's lists of the most recognizable, strangest and most common mascots in American sports.

Top 10 overall most recognizable mascots

10. Banana Slugs: University of California - Santa Cruz
9. Big Red: Western Kentucky
8. Albert the Gator: University of Florida
7. Hairy Dawg (UGA): University of Georgia
6. Wooly Boul: Durham Bulls
5. Clutch: Houston Rockets
4. The Racing Sausages: Milwaukee Brewers
3. The Pirate Parrot: Pittsburgh Pirates
2. The Famous (San Diego) Chicken: San Diego Padres
1. The Phanatic: Philadelphia Phillies

Odds and ends:

The 12 most used names of four-year college mascots: Eagles (74), Tigers (46), Bulldogs (39), Panthers (33), Knights (32), Lions (31), Bears (30), Hawks (29), Cougars (27), Pioneers (27), Warriors (27) and Wildcats (25).

What two colleges are known as the Vulcans? California University of Pennsylvania and the University of Hawaii — Hilo

What two colleges are known as the Kangaroos? Austin College (Texas) and the University of Missouri — Kansas City

What two colleges as known as the Camels? Connecticut College and Campbell University (N.C.)

Which all-women's colleges are known as the Gators? College of Notre Dame (Md.) and Pine Manor College (Mass.)

War, fighting or military-related nicknames: Archers, Battlers, Blast, Bombers, Boxes, Bullets, Cadets, Captains, Chargers, Commodores, Defenders, Diplomats, Generals, Governors, Keydets, Knights, Lancers, Leathernecks, Mariners, Midshipmen, Minutemen, Patriots, Pilots, Presidents, Rangers, Senators, Spartans, Statement, Swordsmen, Titans.

Top 10 college mascots in action
10. Gus (gorilla): Pittsburgh State (Kan.)
9. Wings (hawk): St Joseph's (Pa.)
8. Hokie Bird: Virginia Tech
7. Scratch: Kentucky
6. Aubie (tiger): Auburn
5. Herbie: Nebraska
4. Big Red: Western Kentucky
3. Cocky: South Carolina
2. Hairy Dawg: Georgia
1. Monte: Montana

Top 10 non-threatening college mascots
10. Mule Riders: Southern Arkansas
9. Classics: Cedar Crest College (Pa.)
8. Quakers: University of Pennsylvania, Guilford College (N.C.), Wilmington College (Ohio), Earlham College (Ind.)
6. Squirrels: Mary Baldwin College (Va.)
5. Terrapins: Maryland — College Park
4. Violets: New York University
3. Vixen: Sweet Briar College (Va.)
2. Ichabods: Washburn University (Kan.)
1. Poets: Whittier College (Calif.)

Worst jobs in sports
No. 10: Mascot
- Photo gallery: Top 10 mascots
- Chat transcript: Former Orioles bird Bromley Lowe took your questions
- Expert 'mascotology' analysis from Roy Yarbrough, Ed.D.

Related stories
Quick question
- Vote: Which on our list is really the worst job in sports?

Top mascot in sports
Which is the top mascot in all of sports?
- Billy the Marlin (Florida Marlins)
- Brutus the Buckeye (Ohio State)
- Gorilla (Phoenix Suns)
- Harvey the Hound (Calgary Flames)
- Phillie Phanatic (Philadelphia Phillies)
- Rocky (Denver Nuggets)
- San Diego Chicken (San Diego Padres)
- The Tree (Stanford)
Collegehoopsnet.com’s Spirit Awards

The Spirit Awards is your chance to vote for the very best in college basketball. College basketball is a lot more than just the game, its the total experience of being a fan. The arena, the crowd, the band, the cheerleaders, the coaches and much much more. Vote now for your favorites in the 16 top categories listed below!

2003-04 Spirit Awards Final Press Release

April 14th, 2004 - CollegeHoopsnet.com announced the winners of the 2003-04 Spirit Awards. The Spirits honor the very best in the world of college basketball, both on the court and off.

The University of Kentucky took home three Spirit Awards, including Best College Basketball Fans and Best Athletic Department Website, www.ukathletics.com. Duke University, which won two Spirit Awards, was voted the nation’s Ultimate College Basketball School.

The most popular winner, with 42% of the vote for Favorite Team Nickname, was the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Ragin’ Cajuns. The University of Arizona was well represented in The Spirits, as GoAZCats.com was chosen as the Best College Basketball Fansite and Lute Olson was voted Favorite Coach in College Basketball.

In the closest race for a Spirit Award, the University of Southern California barely edged out the University of Kentucky for Favorite Dance Team by just 3 votes.

56 teams, representing 20 conferences, were nominated in The Spirits’ 16 categories. The nominations were selected through an initial round of voting open to CollegeHoopsnet.com writers and message board readers. The final voting was open for 7 days, with fans from around the country voting by filling out a ballot on CollegeHoopsnet.com.

**FINAL SPIRIT AWARDS RESULTS - Percentage of vote received**

1) Best Arena for College Basketball - Butler, Connecticut, Duke, Kansas, Rutgers, St John's  
**WINNER - DUKE 25%, 2nd Place - RUTGERS 23%**

2) Best College Basketball Fans - Connecticut, Duke, Kansas, Kentucky, Oklahoma State, Rutgers  
**WINNER - KENTUCKY 32%, 2nd Place - RUTGERS 25%**

3) Favorite Team Nickname - Campbell, Louisiana Lafayette, St Louis, Texas, UC Irvine, UC Santa Barbara, Wichita State  
**WINNER - LOUISIANA LAFAYETTE 42%, 2nd Place - UC IRVINE 15%**

4) Favorite Team Logo - Delaware, Florida State, Gonzaga, Iowa, Providence, Richmond, Texas, Washington State  
**WINNER - GONZAGA 19%, 2nd Place - TEXAS 18%**

5) Favorite Team Mascot - Arizona, Georgia Tech, Oklahoma State, St Joseph's, Stanford, Syracuse, Western Kentucky  
**WINNER - WESTERN KENTUCKY 21%, 2nd Place - ST JOSEPH'S 20%**

http://www.collegehoopsnet.com/specials/spirit/041404.htm

5/28/20
6) Favorite Team Uniforms -
Cincinnati, Duke, Illinois, Michigan, North Carolina, Oregon, UCLA
WINNER - NORTH CAROLINA 22%, 2nd Place - OREGON 18%

7) Favorite Cheerleading Squad -
Arizona, Florida, Kentucky, Louisville, Morehead State, USC
WINNER - KENTUCKY 26%, 2nd Place - ARIZONA 21%

8) Favorite Dance Team -
CS Fullerton, Florida, Florida State, Kentucky, Louisville, Minnesota, USC
WINNER - SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 23%, 2nd Place - KENTUCKY 23%

9) Favorite Pep Band -
Arizona, Connecticut, Florida A&M, Illinois, Maryland, Stanford, Wisconsin
WINNER - FLORIDA A&M 20%, 2nd Place - STANFORD 19%

10) Best Athletic Department Website -
Austin Peay, Connecticut, Kentucky, Notre Dame, Pepperdine, Vanderbilt
WINNER - KENTUCKY 23%, 2nd Place - PEPPERDINE 14%

11) Best Conference Website -
Atlantic Coast Conference, Big 10 Conference, Big 12 Conference, Ivy League, Northeast Conference
WINNER - BIGTEN.ORG 26%, 2nd Place - IVYLEAGUESPORTS.COM 24%

12) Best College Basketball Fansite -
DukeBasketballReport.com, GoAZCats.com, GoldenEagles.net, MiamiHawkTalk.com, Phog.net, TigerBoard.com
WINNER - GOAZCATS.COM 27%, 2nd Place - MIAMIHAWKTALK.COM 21%

13) Game of the Year: 2003-04 -
Stanford/Arizona, Maryland/Duke, Ga Tech/OK State, UK/Miss St, OK State/St Joes, Stanford/Washington St
WINNER - OKLAHOMA STATE/ST JOSEPH'S 27%, 2nd Place - STANFORD/ARIZONA 26%

14) Favorite Coach in College Basketball -
Jon Chaney, Bob Knight, Mike Krzyzewski, Phil Martelli, Lute Olson, Rick Pitino, Roy Williams, Jay Wright
WINNER - LUTE OLSON 24%, 2nd Place - BOB KNIGHT 14%

15) Fans Choice: Coolest Team in Basketball -
Connecticut, Duke, Georgia Tech, Gonzaga, Louisville, Southern Illinois, St Joseph's, UAB
WINNER - ST JOSEPH'S 21%, 2nd Place - UCONN 17%

16) Ultimate College Basketball School -
Arizona, Connecticut, Duke, Kansas, North Carolina, Stanford
WINNER - DUKE 23%, ARIZONA 21%

Collegehoopsnet.com is a nationally respected college basketball website, featuring the work of over 30 writers covering dozens of conferences, recruiting, and NBA Draft news. Credentialed by many teams and NCAA conferences, CHN averages over 12,000 page views per day and has been featured in many national and regional newspapers.

For more info, visit http://www.collegehoopsnet.com
For Spirit Awards info, visit http://www.collegehoopsnet.com/specials/spirit/index.htm

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Miscellaneous / Contact: Brian Fremund, Director of Athletic Media Relations or Scott Davila at (804) 675-8152 or sdavila@crtpr.com

WKU'S BIG RED NAMED TO CAPITAL ONE ALL-AMERICA MASCOT TEAM

*Big Red* to compete for National Mascot of the Year via online polling and be featured in TV commercials.

Falls Church, Va. — Capital One today announced that Western Kentucky University’s Big Red was selected to the first-ever Capital One All-America Mascot Team. Big Red will be featured in an upcoming television advertising campaign and compete against the other 11 mascots for the title of Capital One National Mascot of the Year to be announced during the Capital One Bowl on Jan. 1, 2003.

"Each year the best college football players are named to All-America teams, and for the first time ever, college mascots will have their own team," said Pam Girardo, manager, consumer public relations at Capital One. "Capital One thinks it is time to give these true heroes the recognition they deserve."

Named to the inaugural mascot team are:

- Albert — University of Florida
- Big Al — University of Alabama
- Big Red — Western Kentucky University
- The Bird — U.S. Air Force Academy
- Buzz — Georgia Tech
- Monte — University of Montana
- Nittany Lion — Penn State
- Otto the Orange — Syracuse University
- Sebastian the Ibis — University of Miami
- Seymour — Southern Mississippi University
- Smokey — University of Tennessee
- Victor E. Bull — University at Buffalo

Starting today, these 12 feathered, furry and lovable creatures will compete for the title of Capital One National Mascot of the Year. Fans across the country now can vote for their favorite mascot through real-time, online polling at www.capitalonebowl.com. The National Mascot of the Year will be announced during the Capital One Bowl on Jan. 1, 2003.

"Mascots have a passion and an energy that keeps thousands of college football fans screaming and yelling and coming back each week for great football," said Girardo. "What better way is there to recognize these unsung heroes than to bring together the best of the best and then have the fans select online the National Mascot of the Year."

— more —
"We are so proud of Big Red being selected to the Capital One All-America Mascot Team," said Western Director of Athletics Dr. Wood Selig. "The university encourages Hilltopper fans to support his quest to become the National Mascot of the Year by voting online beginning today.

"Big Red has long been a Hilltopper fan favorite. With Big Red being featured throughout the month of August on television ads promoting the airing of ESPN's 25,000th Sports Center, Big Red has recently become much more of a national celebrity, a mascot icon if you will. The demand for Big Red at public events and for public appearances has gone through the roof. We expect Big Red to represent WKU alumni, fans, and friends well in Capitol One's All-America Mascot Team competition. Additionally, we feel that Big Red has the perfect cranium to wear the crown of National Mascot of the Year."

The Capital One All-America Mascot Team was opened to all NCAA Division I-A and I-AA school mascots representing football programs. Nomination kits, which were mailed to the Division I-A and I-AA athletic departments in late August, were due back on Sept. 18, 2002. A panel of judges, made up of representatives from ESPN, Capital One and the mascot community, selected and notified the 12 finalists on Sept. 21. Judging criteria included fan interaction, demonstration of good sportsmanship and community service involvement. Each of the 12 mascots will receive $5,000, payable to its school's athletic department, for use in scholarship and funding of the mascot program. The National Mascot of the Year winner will receive an additional $5,000 (total of $10,000).

Capital One Financial Corporation (www.capitalone.com) is a holding company whose principal subsidiaries, Capital One Bank and Capital One FSB, offer consumer-lending products. Capital One's subsidiaries collectively had 48.6 million accounts and $53.2 billion in managed loans outstanding as of June 30, 2002. Capital One, a Fortune 500 company headquartered in Falls Church, Va., is one of the largest providers of MasterCard and Visa credit cards in the world. Capital One trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "COF" and is included in the S&P 500 index. Capital One is proud to continue the college football bowl tradition that began in Orlando 57 years ago by sponsoring the Capital One Bowl, which will again feature teams from the Big Ten and Southeastern Conferences on Jan. 1, 2003.

— WKU —
Big Red seeks nomination into the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team
Big Red ~ Western Kentucky University

2002 Capital One All-America Team

2003 Capital One All-America Team

Big Red seeks nomination into the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team
Now 100, Overby has great WKU memories

By RACHEL ADAMS
The Daily News
radams@bgdailynews.com/783-3256

It’s fitting that both Grace Overby and Western Kentucky University turn 100 this year.

The Bowling Green resident, who celebrated her 100th birthday Saturday, spent nearly half her life working in various departments at the university. She was hired on July 1, 1928, and retired Sept. 30, 1976, according to Western’s Human Resources Department. She spent time working with university presidents Henry Hardin Cherry, Paul Garrett, Kelly Thompson and Dero Downing, and with the office of alumni affairs and placement services.

On Sunday, the university said “thank you” for her decades of service with a birthday open house held in conjunction with First Christian Church, where Overby is a longtime member.

“I just enjoyed (Western) and everything, and was proud to have a job there,” Overby said. “I

See OVERBY, 6A

(Photograph credit: Trevor Frey/Daily News)

(The Park City Daily News, 7/24/06)
OVERBY, from 1A

A bunch of red and white balloons tied outside the church and a red-and-white pom-pom clutched in Overby’s hand made clear where her allegiance lies – and a late-afternoon visit from Big Red himself inspired her to peck a kiss on his furry cheek as he cavorted with apparent joy.

“She really loved it up there,” said Overby’s niece, LaVerne Hannah of Bowling Green.

Overby was one of a group of women who’d attend every Western basketball game, said Lee Robertson of Bowling Green, who as the former director of alumni affairs and placement services was Overby’s boss for more than a dozen years. She knew all Western’s former presidents, he said, and was capable of running the entire office by herself even though her degree from Bowling Green Business University was in secretarial science.

“You couldn’t find a more loyal person in the world than Grace Overby,” Robertson said. “Western was her whole world back then.”

Friends and family members spoke of Overby as a Huckleberry to the core, a caring woman who enjoys cooking, flowers, animals, and helping those who can’t help themselves. Up until a few years ago, Hannah said, Overby’s Saturday routine included driving women who didn’t have cars to the grocery store or to the doctor’s office.

“She always loved to drive,” Hannah said.

A quote often heard by student athletes coached by E.A. Diddle sums up Overby’s character perfectly, Downing said.

“(Diddle) would say, ‘Remember one thing,’ ” Downing said, extending his index finger to mimic his former coach. “He’d pause – he had great timing – and say, ‘Don’t you represent your individual self; you represent the institution,’ and Grace Overby was that kind of person. She represented Western with a great deal of dignity, effectiveness and that old quality called class.”

In her church circle, Overby is known as a kind woman with a talent in the kitchen, said Overby’s good friend Evelyn Ray of Bowling Green. Overby’s culinary prowess was especially noticeable at her Bible study’s “eating meetings.”

“She always brought deviled eggs, and they were one of the first things to disappear,” Ray said.

Up until the last few years, Overby was a regular at Sunday church services, said the Rev. John Wesley of First Christian Church. Now that she doesn’t drive any more, a church representative takes Communion over to her house every Sunday.

Although her relatively good health must have something to do with it, Overby said she’s not sure there’s a secret behind her long life.

“I don’t know,” she said, smiling. “I’ve just been lucky I guess.”

(The Park City Daily News, 7/24/06)
Contest promotes Big Red

BY ALEX FONTANA
Herald reporter

Shepherdsville sophomore Sara Miller had a tough choice Tuesday — vote for Big Red or University of Kentucky's Wildcat.

"This is a little difficult for me to vote Big Red against the Wildcat," she said.

She logged on to the Capital One Mascot Bowl at the Helm Library computer lab to vote for Big Red in a 12-mascot tournament.

Voters can go online as mascots face each other for week-long series of battles to see who will be named "Mascot of the Year."

Many of Miller's friends go to UK and her grandmother is a UK fan.

But she stuck with Western spirit and voted for Big Red.

Big Red is so different from any other mascot, she said. Other teams use animals or people for mascots, which makes the amorphous red blob unique.

"Big Red just does whatever the heck it wants to," she said.

The signs next to each computer reminded her to vote.

Bowl marketing has been prevalent, Miller said. She's voted four times for Big Red because of the constant reminders.

Big Red will get $10,000 if it wins, Athletic Marketing Assistant Paula Davids said. Prize money will go to buy Big Red a new suit and needed supplies, she said. Big Red got $5,000 for entering the tournament and will get $5,000 if it wins.

Hopkinsville junior Heather Huber voted for Big Red after a football game because of school spirit, not for the money. There were screaming fans in the audience of Western's first home game yelling about the tournament.

She said Big Red ran across the field, waving a flag that said "Go Vote." So she did.

"I didn't even know about the money," Huber said.

The athletic department is pushing this program because it gets Big Red's name out and shows school spirit, Davids said.

"Big Red isn't afraid to back down against bigger universities' mascots," she said.

"It's a way for us to show that, hey, we can go head to head with you no matter how big you are," Davids said.

Syracuse University's Otto the Orange mascot bruised Big Red during the last round. Now Big Red, down by about 6,000 votes on Wednesday, is getting clawed by the Wildcat. Next, Big Red will try not to get stung by Buzz, Georgia Tech's bee.

"Big Red will be in a six-mascot sudden death round if it squeezes by until Nov. 27."

Reach Alex Fontana at news@wkuherald.com.

(College Heights Herald, 10/19/06)
Enjoy new inflatable games and children's activities.

Meet the Hilltopper Football Team and Big Red!

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CITIZENS FIRST Bank

FRIDAY OCTOBER 27th

5:30 pm - Homecoming Parade
Normal Drive from College Heights Blvd. to Regents Ave.

6:30 pm - Immediately following the Parade
Big Red Street Fest
DUC South Lawn at the Guthrie Tower
After the Street Fest don’t miss Big Red's Roar!

For more information, contact the WKU Alumni Association at 745-4395 or e-mail alumni@wku.edu.
Vote for Big Red, Wildcat for mascot of the year

Western Kentucky's Big Red and the University of Kentucky's Wildcat are featured in commercials for Capital One and are in the running for national mascot of the year. Readers may vote by going to www.capitalonебowl.com. The winner will be announced during the Capital One Bowl on Jan. 1.

Brainy Lexington

What does Lexington have that thousands of U.S. cities do not? Apparently, a few more residents with college degrees, according to CNN.

The news network ranks the Lexington-Fayette County metro area as the 10th "brainiest city" in the nation. It beat out Denver and came in one step below San Diego. Rankings are based on the percentage of residents holding bachelor's degrees.

"The collaboration between Lexington residents and the University of Kentucky in the arts, industry and economic development make it no surprise that Lexington would be near the top of any list of smart cities in the U.S.," UK President Lee Todd said. Currently more than 34,000 UK alumni live and work in Lexington.

Be an Angel.
Be a Kentucky organ & tissue donor.

- Organ transplantation saves lives, but only when there is generous organ donation!
- There are now more than 700 Kentuckians on waiting lists for life-saving transplants.
- You can indicate your willingness to be an organ donor on your Kentucky drivers license and by telling your family.

(Kentucky Monthly, November 2006)
Holiday Ho-Ho-Ho-Down

Saturday, November 4th • 11am-4pm • Cambridge Square, 830 Fairview Avenue
Meet WKU’s Big Red & Joey the Kangaroo • Red River Fiddlers 12-2pm

REGISTER TO WIN A CAMBRIDGE SQUARE PRIZE PACKAGE VALUED AT $500!

Imagination Stations
Holiday Photos, 1/2 Price Open Play
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Nation’s Medicine
All Day Open House
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Chaney’s Ice Cream
$1 Scoops All Day!
40% Off All Lang Christmas Items
Drawing for 2 FREE Gift Baskets

Visit each of our merchants & enjoy special offers & activities!

(The Park City Daily News, 11/1/06)
11/16/06: Big Red is photographed during the Students in Technology Leadership Program's promotion to help save the rain forest.

Big Red seeks nomination into the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team
Are you ready for Winter?

Classes Held
January 2 - January 19

Get 3 Credit Hours in
3 weeks!

Register Now!

All Courses Available
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www.topnet.wku.edu

Questions: 745-2478
www.wku.edu/winter

Big Red appears in a College Heights Herald
Ad for the 2007 Winter Term Classes

Big Red seeks nomination into the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team
Big Red covers a lot of ground

Western Kentucky mascot can steal the show at games

By MIKE KNOBLER
mknobler@ajc.com

Bowling Green, Ky. Western Kentucky's biggest star is officially listed at 6 feet and appears regularly on ESPN.

His name: Big Red.

His position: Mascot.

The Worldwide Leader in Sports flew him to its Bristol, Conn., studios to shoot commercials. Western Kentucky alumna Kate Miller brought him with her as part of her in-studio cheering section when she appeared this month on NBC's "Deal or No Deal."

He has been in weddings. He has helped men propose. He rides in Christmas parades. And he appears at birthday parties, for little kids and 100-year-olds and all ages in between.

He's not an animal, not a person, more like a thing.

"He's a big red blob. Nobody else has a mascot like that," said freshman softball player Lindsay Antone, who suddenly found him sitting next to her, hugging her and mussing her hair Tuesday night at Western Kentucky's basketball game against Kentucky Wesleyan.

Big Red caught miniature basketballs in his mouth, crowd-surfed the student section, slid down banisters, made snow angels in the postgame confetti and high-fived, hugged or shook hands with almost every one of the 4,301 fans in attendance at E.A. Diddle Arena.

Through other gestures he communicated that he works as many as four days a week, including summers, and that he got the job 2½ years ago by winning a 12-person tryout.

In fact, he's so busy there are two full-time Big Reds, four helpers and three suits, said Heather Solo, WKU's marketing and promotions director. They combine to make 120 appearances a year.

You can hire him for $50 an hour, half off for non-profit groups. And if you buy a ticket to a WKU game, the Big Red show comes right along with it.

That was a good thing in the first half Tuesday night when preseason Sun Belt Conference player of the year Courtney Lee scored only four points. He added 16 in the second half of the 74-67 victory.

Lee, a 6-5 junior, jumps so high his shoulders were nearly rim-level on a first-half dunk. But he ranks only sixth in the Sun Belt in scoring, and Western (20-10) trails South Alabama by three games in the loss column in the Sun Belt's Eastern Division.

Expectations are high here, where the nine coaches before Darrin Horn each took the Hilltoppers to the NCAA tournament at least once. Diddle won 759 games, lost 302 and retired in 1964 as the winningest coach in college basketball.

A statue outside E.A. Diddle Arena shows him waving the red towel that has literally become the WKU trademark (the school's athletic logo is a hand waving a red WKU towel). "He chewed on it, threw it, cried on it, waved it at fans, and used it to signal his players," an inscription at the statue reads.

When Gene Keady, the guy who went on become King of the comb-overs at Purdue, coached here, he thought the school needed a mascot because nobody knew what a Topper was.

A student named Ralph Carey came up with the idea of Big Red, made his own costume and performed the role in 1979-80 and 1980-81.

"It caught on because Ralph Carey was a fun-loving guy whose own personality became larger than life in a big, red, furry costume," said Jim Pickens, sports editor of the Owensboro Messenger and a Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity brother of Carey's.

A generation later, Big Red is bigger than ever.

"Big Red's just the spirit of Western," senior Scott Jaggers said. "Everybody loves Big Red."
Cuteness, ambiguity catapult Big Red to national stardom

BY COREY PAUL
Herald reporter

Joan Krenzin was amazed that the little girl, who looked about 3 years old, wasn’t crying.

Instead of bowing, the girl took the hand of Big Red and looked calmly at his large, googly eyes.

"Did you see that girl go off with Big Red not crying?" Krenzin asked. Big Red is, after all, a monster, Krenzin said she thought.

But Shoenefelt told her that Big Red’s big eyes, his high forehead, his large mouth and even his color have a psychological effect of making him seem nurturing to children.

In other words, Big Red is cute. And cute equals comfortable.

None of the six students who don the Big Red costume remembered the encounter Krenzin and Shoenefelt witnessed.

"It happens about twenty times a game," said Gef Cherwak, a Bowling Green senior who’s played Big Red for three years.

Western's mascot is a source of identity for the university. He entertains crowds at games and at community events. His picture on merchandise brings in millions of dollars of revenue.

"A lot of people, when they think of Bowling Green, think of Big Red and Western," said Paula Davids, an athletic marketing assistant and the adviser to Western's mascot program.

Big Red's been recognized nationally too. He's appeared in commercials on ESPN and been on NBC's "Deal or No Deal." He's been in a children's book. He also placed in the top four in the 2006 Capital One Bowl "Mascot of the Year" competition.

Big Red seeks nomination into the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team
The crowd loved him.
Big Red won the "Key to the Spirit" award at the Universal cheerleading competition for three consecutive years after his conception.

Since, there have been about 63 Big Reds, Davids said.
Big Red is smaller now. He has a nose now, bigger eyes and "WKU" on his chest.

But fans, especially children, still flock to the character, who remains a cartoonish, energetic furball, said Brandenburg junior J.D. Menser, another student who has played Big Red for three years.

Some children throw fits when Big Red approaches them, so actors have to know when to back off, Menser said.

He said they fear being approached by a stranger more than the character, though, and usually seem to like Big Red from a distance.

Cherwak agreed.
"All little kids are going to be scared of a wildcat or a pirate or a colonel, or a gator, but who's going to be afraid of a lovable furball?" Cherwak said.

Reach Carey Paul at features@whherald.com.

(College Heights Herald, 3/22/07)
Registration still open for Run & Walk for Children

By RACHEL ADAMS
The Daily News

There is still time to register for this weekend’s Total Fitness Connection Run & Walk for Children, an annual event that benefits the Family Enrichment Center.

Almost 500 people are registered for the race, which drew 650 participants last year, said Jennifer Bryant, director of development at the Family Enrichment Center. Runners may register online at www.familyenrichmentcenter.com, as well as at the Friday night pasta party and before the race Saturday.

“We have, in the past, doubled our numbers on the day of the race, depending on the weather,” she said. “That has a lot to do with it.”

The ninth annual event includes a 5K walk and run, mini-marathon, one-mile children’s race and “Pump & Run,” in which runners get a one-minute deduction in their 5K time for every time they can lift their body weight, Bryant said. So far, 19 people have signed up for the Pump & Run, while about 70 children are registered to participate in the 1-mile race, which is open to kids age 5 to 12.

Festivities begin at 5 p.m. Friday at Total Fitness Connection Three Springs Road with a weight-in and the "pump" part of the Pump & Run competition, and continues with a 6 p.m. pasta party featuring the Ernie Small Blues Band. A silent auction — including more than $6,000 in items like helicopter rides for two, a Sun Suites Royal Suite Treatment, golf packages and local artwork — begins Friday night and continues at the race Saturday.

Saturday’s events at Basil Griffin Park on Three Springs Road are:
• 5:30 a.m. — Check-in, late registration and light breakfast from Chick-fil-A
• 7:30 a.m. — Children’s Breakfast with Champions
• 8 a.m. — Mini-Marathon start at Trinity Free Will Baptist Church, 4550 Smallhouse Road
• 8:05 a.m. — 5K Run, 5K Walk and Pump & Run start
• 8:45 a.m. — Malchow & Lawless Orthodonties Run to be Fit one-mile children’s race start

The children’s breakfast includes local characters, such as Western Kentucky University’s Big Red, and athletes from the area demonstrating their respective sports, Bryant said. Each child who participates in the 1-mile race receives a T-shirt and ribbon, with the top male and female finishers in two age categories receiving special awards.

Road closings are temporary and will include areas on Three Springs Road, Smallhouse Road from Elrod Road to Three Springs Road, Matlock Road, Carter Springs Road, Baldock Road and Plano Road. Motorists traveling in those areas between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Saturday are asked to exercise extreme caution, as runners and supporters will be out in force.

Families are encouraged to participate together, Bryant said, and residents are urged to cheer for the runners, some of whom may be competing in a race for the first time. Prizes are awarded for the winning male and female runners in various age categories, and everyone receives a T-shirt.

Child abuse is a constant issue in southcentral Kentucky, but recent events have brought more awareness to the need for places like the Family Enrichment Center, which provides safe visitation and parenting classes to discourage abuse, Bryant said. Nearly 3,700 cases of child abuse were documented in this region last year.

“I think the awareness is that much more important because when we have incidents of babies being left or babies being shaken or children being injured, it just brings to light the information that is needed to help parents cope and give parents information so those things don’t happen,” she said.

— For a complete list of silent auction items, visit www.bigdailynews.com.

(The Park City Daily News, 3/28/07)
Introducing WKU Email for Life!

Tired of changing your e-mail address and having to notify your friends and family of the change? Now alumni can have an address that is available to you for life! In response to popular demand, the WKU Alumni Association is offering all alumni a permanent wku.edu e-mail address, free for life!

E-Mail for Life Features:
50 Megabytes account, POP access (Outlook, etc.), Web Mail access, forwarding to another email address, and monthly E-Newsletter from WKU. Visit www.wku.edu/Alumni for more information and to request your E-Mail for Life address.

Katie (Cazalet) Brinser ('99) and her husband, Tech Sgt. Charles Brinser, of Fort Dix, N.J., are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Riley Elizabeth, on April 17, 2006.

Chris Geoghegan ('99) of Louisville, Ky., married Jeni-Rebecca on July 22, 2006 as Big Red made a special appearance at the reception.

Jerome Keith Miller ('99) of Bowling Green, Ky., received a Ph.D. in Physics from Vanderbilt University on Aug. 11, 2006. He accepted a position at the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division in China Lake, Calif.

Chris Wedding ('99) of Chapel Hill, N.C., published a book titled "Three Years in Asia: Forgotten Buddhist Temples, Barefoot Children, and Unexpected Romance" chronicling his experiences with the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program.

2000's

Gabriel Fancher ('00) and his wife, Christy, of Franklin, Tenn., are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Carly Gabrielle, on July 6, 2006.

Charmaine Hunt ('00) of Nashville, TN, has been nominated for "Woman of the Year" with The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Hunt will compete with other candidates to raise money to fund blood cancer research, education, and patient services.

Brandi Meredith ('00) of Washington, D.C., completed an LL.M. in International Law with International Relations at the University of Kent at Brussels, in Brussels, Belgium in 2006. She is employed by the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd. in Washington.

Steve ('00) and Sara (Shaver) Ringle ('99) of Creston, Ohio, are proud parents of their second son, Cooper Isaac, who was born Oct. 17, 2006. Big brother, Hayden, is very proud.

David ('00) and Erin (Cable) Stiers ('99) of Topeka, Kan., are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Jane Elizabeth, who was born on Aug.14, 2006.

Christopher ('00, '03) and Georganne (Smith) Stepp ('97) of Bowling Green, Ky., are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Faith Elaine, on March 1, 2006.

Kathryn M. Thomas ('00) of Smith Grove, Ky., was sworn in Aug 21, 2006 as an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for the 43rd Judicial District of Kentucky, which encompasses Barren and Metcalfe counties. Thomas was sworn in by the...
Honorable Phil Patton, Barren and Metcalfe Circuit Court Judge.

Anthony ('01) and Katie (Fleming) Frassinelli ('02, '03), of Bowling Green, Ky, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Sophia Elizabeth. She was born April 3, 2004, and weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces and was 20 inches.

Ryan Morrison ('01) of Alexandria, Va., was appointed special counsel and special assistant to the general counsel of the United States Air Force.

Jason Nemes ('01) of Louisville, Ky., was named acting director of the Administrative Office of the Courts Jan. 1, 2007.

James Bilodeau ('02) of Bowling Green, Ky., released his first book, Free Kentucky. Published by Xavier House Publishing, Free Kentucky is the only book on the market dealing specifically with Kentucky's many free attractions and lists more than 85 places to visit. The book is currently available at all 17 Kentucky State Resort Parks, as well as major online booksellers and various bookstores across Kentucky, Indiana and Tennessee.

Jame Bilodeau ('02) of Bowling Green, Ky., released his first book, Free Kentucky. Published by Xavier House Publishing, Free Kentucky is the only book on the market dealing specifically with Kentucky's many free attractions and lists more than 85 places to visit. The book is currently available at all 17 Kentucky State Resort Parks, as well as major online booksellers and various bookstores across Kentucky, Indiana and Tennessee.

Karen (Beckner) Grace ('02) of Lexington, Ky., earned the teaching profession's top credential by achieving National Board Certification in 2006. Karen teaches Mathematics half-time at West Jessamine High School in Nicholasville, Ky., and also works with teachers half-time as a mathematics coach. She has been a teacher for five years and holds a Masters of Arts in Education from Georgetown College.

Alan ('02) and Melissa (Grace) Grimes ('02) of Nashville, Tenn., are proud to announce the birth of their son, Charles Alan on Oct. 25, 2006. Charles was born in Nashville and weighed 8 pounds and 9 ounces.

Alison Sexton ('02) and her husband, Mark, of Bowling Green, Ky., are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Ann-Riley. She was born April 1, 2006 and weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce and was 19 inches long.

Eric ('03) and Melissa (Nason) Allgeier ('02) of Louisville, Ky., are happy to announce their marriage on Oct. 14, 2006, in Louisville.

Two former Hilltoppers in Super Bowl XLI

Chicago Bears wide receivers coach Darryl Drake ('80, '84) and backup offensive lineman Anthony Oakley were part of the Bears' NFC Championship run to the Super Bowl, where the Bears lost to the Indianapolis Colts on Feb. 4, 2007.

Go Tops!

The Hopkinsville/Pennyville Chapter Area celebrated a Hilltopper Football victory over Missouri State on October 14, 2006 at the home of Tommy and Jackie Jones.

(WKU Spirit, Alumni Magazine, Spring 2007)
from Wilmington College. Miller
served as head athletic trainer for
WKU from 1969-79.

Dr. Joe E. Winstead of Magnolia,
Ark., is the 2006 recipient of the
Elizabeth Ann Bartholomew Award
from the Southern Appalachian
Botanical Society. Winstead credits
WKU undergraduates and his former
colleagues at WKU for the award.

Dr. Curtiss
Long, of Bowling
Green, Ky., was
inducted into the
Kentucky Track
and Cross-
Country Coaches
Association hall of
fame in January.

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**WKU MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM**

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Amount enclosed $

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Bowling Green, KY 42101-1016
Or call toll free 1-888-958-2586

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(WKU Spirit, Alumni Magazine, Spring 2007)
Introducing Our New 2007 Line-up.

Don't Miss the "Bedding Extravaganza" Saturday, May 12th

Tremendous Prices!
Balloons
Refreshments will be served!

Savings you won't believe!

FREE Set Up
FREE Delivery
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Register For Prizes to be Given Away!

Come see the stock of mattresses that have been drastically reduced!

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Located at the entrance to Greenwood Mall

(The Park City Daily News, 5/09/07)
’Dancing with Bowling Green’s Own’ is Tuesday

By RACHEL ADAMS
The Daily News

WUHU 107 on-air personality Brooke Summers may be known around southeastern Kentucky for her morning show “Summers and Winter,” but on Tuesday, she and co-host Adam Winter — along with other local celebrities — will buckle up their dancing shoes for “Dancing with Bowling Green’s Own.”

The friendly competition, a spinoff of the popular “Dancing with the Stars,” is a fundraiser for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and is sponsored by WUHU 107, Summers said. Familiar faces like Bella Salon & Spa owner Beth Hazel and WBKO’s Gene Birk, Courtney Lassiter, Brandon Locketts and others have been paired with accomplished dancers from Dance Images, and have spent the past month perfecting their moves.

“Everyone has really put their all into this,” she said. “People are going all out with props and little skits. ... This is the first time it’s ever been done, and we’re hoping that it will be a big success so that we can continue to do it.”

Admission costs, donations and the proceeds from a silent auction, which includes a dance with Big Red, dance lessons, concert tickets to see The Fray and an overnight stay at Gaylord Opryland Hotel, will benefit Make-A-Wish, Summers said, and one child in particular.

“We have a little boy, he’s 3 years old, his name is Tyler and he’s at Fort Campbell,” Summers said. “He has a rare form of leukemia, and his wish is just to go to the beach.”

It was Summers’ idea to turn a popular TV show into a fundraiser for the foundation, which grants wishes to critically ill children.

“I’m a mom — I have two little girls — so I can only imagine how it would feel to have a sick child,” she said. “I know that I would want to do everything possible if my little girls were sick to make their dreams come true.”

In the first round, female dancers will compete in swing dancing and the men in the tango; in the second round, the top three dancers in each gender will perform the dance they didn’t do in the first round. While judges will be present, the audience will be able to cast their own votes for the winner, Summers said.

“(Rehearsing) has been a lot of fun,” she said with a laugh. “I would do it again in a heartbeat and everyone else — so far they’ve said the same thing. I don’t know if they mean it or not.”

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(The Park City Daily News, 5/14/07)
‘Dancing’ an effort for Make-A-Wish

Local celebrity contestants train, then compete in Tuesday charity fundraiser

By RACHEL ADAMS
The Daily News
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WBKO’s Laura Rogers hit her head on partner Shawn Finney’s butt as he tried to pull her between his legs during a rehearsal, prompting them to drop the stunt from their routine.

Tyler Reed, paired with WUHU 107’s Brooke Summers, had about three weeks of experience when he was tapped to be Summers’ “expert” partner, so the two learned to swing dance together.

And Anna Irons learned how to leapfrog when WBKO’s Brandon Lokits took a running start, placed his hands on her shoulders and vaulted over her head – both in rehearsal and on the stage Tuesday night.

These and other potentially embarrassing secrets were broadcast in a series of vignettes about local celebrities and their dancing partners during Tuesday night’s “Dancing With Bowling Green’s Own,” a fundraiser for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Between dances – 10 personalities from WUHU, WBKO and Bella’s Salon and Spa were paired with professionals from Dance Images – contestants appeared on the screen to talk about practicing, issue challenges to fellow dancers and explain the trials and tribulations teams went through while learning.

See CONTESTANTS, GA

“The Dancing With Bowling Green’s Own” contestants Ashley Long and Adam Winter dance the tango during Tuesday night’s event at Western Kentucky University’s Downing University Center.

(The Park City Daily News, 5/16/07)
Contestants thrill, entertain audience at Tuesday night’s event at WKU

to dance.

But behind the lighthearted atmosphere of the competition was the constant reminder of why the fundraiser was happening: Three-year-old Tyler, a Fort Campbell boy with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, and his wish to go to the beach this summer.

This morning, organizers were still tallying funds raised from admission tickets and the silent auction, but Summers said they were nearing $5,000, money that will be used to send Tyler, his parents and sister to Outer Banks, N.C. in June.

It costs about $6,000 to grant a child’s wish, said Karrie Harper, development associate with Make-A-Wish of Kentucky and southern Indiana. Children ages 2½ to 18 with life-threatening illnesses are eligible for wishes, which can be to meet someone, go somewhere, be something or have something. Fundraisers like Tuesday night’s event are critical to the success of Make-A-Wish, as are their volunteers, who work to provide children with “hope, strength and joy,” she said.

A legion of supporters from Bella’s Salon and Spa were among the first to enter the Downing University Center theater, carrying noisemakers, pompoms and shiny stars painted with good-luck slogans for dancer and co-owner Beth Hazel. Amanda Flynn of Bowling Green, a receptionist at the spa, said “everybody and their families” turned out to support Hazel, who danced the swing with Dave Curran.

“It’s for a great cause, No. 1, and we’re all a really close-knit bunch anyway, so to get out and do something outside of work is really great,” said Flynn, holding a star that said “Bella is Bella.”

“We’re not a quiet group, so don’t expect us to be quiet.”

As the theater filled with excited audience members, dancers and their partners goofed off backstage, adjusted each other’s outfits and practiced their dance steps. Elizabeth Slattery, a dance instructor with Dance Images and WBKO anchor Gene Birk’s partner, said she’s supported the Make-A-Wish Foundation since her cousin, who had childhood leukemia, had her wish to go to Disney World granted.

“It’s not just granting the wish, it’s granting the wish with all the ribbons and bows,” Slattery said.

Teaching competitors to dance over the last four weeks has been “chaos, but organized chaos,” Slattery said, adding that conflicting schedules meant some teams could only practice early in the morning, late at night or on weekends.

“I’ve loved it,” she said. “If we do this next year, make sure I’m on board because I’d do it again in a heartbeat.”

Lokits who, along with Irons, wowed the judges during their performance, admitted to a slight case of butterflies backstage.

“It’s scary to perform in front of real people instead of a camera,” he said. “Real people can throw things.”

In the first round of competition, men performed the tango while ladies did the swing, sometimes incorporating props—like WBKO’s Cliff Cothren, who donned gypsy glasses and a perpetually delighted expression as he tangoed with Jane Embry Watts to the tune of “Whatever Lola Wants.” WUHU’s Roxy Morgan did a cartwheel during her swing dance with partner Alex Koller. Shane Holinde, also of WBKO, and his partner Hannah Slattery staged a swordfight in the middle of their performance, while Birk and Elizabeth Slattery earned the only perfect score for their steamy tango.

Judges for Tuesday’s event—Alan Austin, on-air personality at The Beaver; Tamara Evans, WBKO weekend anchor and reporter; and audience member Elaine Good—had score cards from 1 to 10 at their disposal, although all three were kind enough not to let scores dip below an 8. Good, a former ballroom dance teacher from Bowling Green, won the chance to be the third judge in the silent auction and said she was excited to support such a good cause.

“I just thought it would be a cool thing to do,” said the self-professed “Dancing with the Stars’ freak,” who also won a dance with Big Red in the auction. “I’m so glad this happened—this is really neat.”

With the help of the judges, the 10 teams were whittled to four—Birk and Elizabeth Slattery, Lokits and Irons, WBKO’s Courtney Lassiter and partner Nicholas Slattery and WUHU 107’s Adam Winter and partner Ashley Long, who won an audience scream-off against Lokits and Irons to take home the trophy.

“It feels very weird, but honestly the best thing about tonight is that we raised a lot of money for Tyler,” Winter said following the competition. “Win or not—that’s all kind of secondary.”

His partner agreed.

“I’m really excited, but Adam’s right—the most exciting part of it is what we’re here for,” she said.

(The Park City Daily News, 5/16/07)
Through special arrangements with the publisher, this Western Kentucky University promotional cover wrap has been placed on a limited number of copies of BusinessWeek, and no endorsement is implied.
2007 Big Red Spirit Calendar
Happy Birthday!

Birthday Card Sent to Red’s Rascals Members (Youth Fan Club) – Inside Reads, “Have a belly slide of a day! Happy Birthday!”
Pennant, decal, pin, and pencil sent to Red's Rascals Members (Youth Fan Club) as a part of their membership packet
Fan Interaction

BIG RED
Western Kentucky University
Big Red leads the WKU Dance Team, Cheerleaders, Marching Band and Football Team down Avenue of Champions through Hilltopper Fans to L.T. Smith Stadium on a Saturday of a home football game.

Big Red seeks nomination into the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team
Big Red “takes the nose” of a young fan during a football game.

Big Red entertains a young fan by pretending to “eat him” during a football game.

Big Red seeks nomination into the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team.
Big Red begins his walk through the inflatable tunnel and football helmet to lead the WKU Football Team onto the field during pre-game introductions.

As part of tradition, Big Red leads the football team onto the field before a home game.

Big Red seeks nomination into the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team.
11/16/06: Big Red and J.J. Jumper, NCAA Mascot, perform during halftime of a basketball game.

Even the smallest of fans are captivated by Big Red!

Big Red seeks nomination into the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team
Cheerleaders get ready to create a spinning top with Big Red during a basketball game.

Big Red stands tall as the centerpiece of our WKU traditional pyramid.

Big Red seeks nomination into the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team
Our student section, The Red Rage, gets ready to lift Big Red to crowd surf.

Big Red performs its traditional crowd surfing, with the help of our student section, during a game.

Big Red seeks nomination into the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team.
9/2/06: Big Red is photographed with Hairy Dog, Georgia's mascot, during the Georgia vs. WKU game in Athens.

9/2/06: Big Red communicates with UGA, Georgia's bulldog, during the Georgia vs. WKU game in Athens.

Big Red seeks nomination into the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team
Big Red practices its shooting skills during a break of a basketball game.

Big Red waves the Capital One flag during a public address announcement asking fans to “Vote for Big Red!”

Big Red seeks nomination into the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team
Suris Up! Big Red gets ready to surf the floor with the help of the cheerleaders as halftime entertainment.

The 2006-07 Big Red Mascot Program performers. (left to right) Bryant Blodgett, JD Menser, Loren Lamson, Sam Todorich, Gef Cherwak, and Rachel Bodine.

Big Red seeks nomination into the 2007 Capital One All-America Mascot Team.
Big Red's Spirited Adventure

Julie Hannah Allen
Illustrated by Philip & Stephan Earnhart