Higbee to plead not guilty

BY JACOB DICK
HERALD.NEWS@WKU.EDU
After an alteration Sunday that left a WKU student hospitalized, Tyler Higbee, a WKU senior, was charged with second-degree assault, second-degree evading police and public inimicability on Sunday morning after allegedly assaulting Nawal Alsaleh and causing a brain hemorrhage.

Attorney Brian Lowder of the Bowling Green law firm of Lewis & Gill said in an interview Tuesday that Mr. Alsaleh did everything he could to avoid a perceived threat.

"This is a case of justified use of force; reasonable force, under the circumstances," Lowder said. "Mr. Higbee, shoved his girlfriend and was shouting at him."

Alsaleh said. "You don't have to wait until someone hits you to utilize force against them. Mr. Alsaleh made physical contact with [Higbee], shoved his girlfriend and was shouting at him.

Alsaleh, an international student and sophomore at WKU, was in a critical care unit at Tristar Skyline Medical Center in Nashville Wednesday afternoon in connection with injuries sustained against him and his girlfriend, "Mr. Alsaleh was unresponsive after the altercation outside Trillium's music club on Morris Alley early Sunday morning and was rushed to Skyline"

"I could not release Alsaleh's condition because of medical privacy laws."

Higbee, a WKU junior, was taken to The Center on Morris Alley early Sunday morning in connection with injuries sustained against him and his girlfriend.

"We thought, 'Why not have this huge dinner?' Bruce said. "We looked back and evaluated that and thought, 'Why stop there?' The founder and chief advisor of the $100 Solution House, Bernie Strecely, said the house's goal can be put simply: work to make WKU and Bowling Green better places to live.

"If indeed you are fortunate enough to be able to attend a university, we have a moral responsibility to give back," Strecely said. "It's not an op- tion, it's a responsibility."

Strecely founded the $100 Solution House with the knowledge that not all social issues have to be solved with millions of dollars. That's the kind of thinking the house's residents hope to carry forward with their service-learning projects.

An additional $50 will be added to the prize pool for each competing team that can make a difference using exactly $100.

Residents of the house are required to make a difference for the community.

"We want this house to be a place where the community feels welcomed," Spears said. "We want the community to be comfortable with using us as a resource if they need us."

The house is co-sponsored by the Alive Center in Bowling Green, Housing and Residence Life and the $100 Solution organization.

One campus group is working to make it easier for students to find a home on campus while simultaneously making a difference in the community.

The $100 Solution House and its residents are trying to share their unique home with the greater WKU community.

"One of the reasons for the open house is so we can get out there, and people can see what we do and how we live here," Bruce said.

The group has focused on the issue of hunger by working with the Office of Sustainability to assist with distribution to students in need.

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**CONCRETE CANOE BUILDING REPORT**

The Medical Center at Bowling Green, Kentucky, was inhumane. It was built in Skyline on Sunday because of the severity of the first calls. Eyewitnesses to the altercation and wellness assessments in the report from Bowling Green police have said that Higbee and others with him used racial slurs regarding Alsaleh’s Arabic heritage. “Just because something is released in a police report or someone makes a statement, doesn’t mean it is true,” Lowder said. “We haven't been able to cross-examine the witnesses yet, so the claim is another one.” Lowder said accreditations that Higbee’s actions were racially motivated and that he evaded police are unfounded. “The truth of the matter is that all this is a long process,” Lowder said. “At the end of the day, we believe it will be apparent these statements aren’t factual.” When asked about how the respond- ing officer’s description of the bias mo- tivation as “anti-Islamic” in the police report would affect the case, Lowder said it was still unclear. “I can’t say how the case will be pro- cessed or someone will want to charge him with something else,” Lowder said. In previous statements released by Lowder and published in the local newspaper Daily News, he brought attention to Al- saleh’s two arrests in Bowling Green. Alsaleh was most recently arrested on Feb. 10 for driving under the influ- ence of alcohol and a bench warrant was issued for his arrest on March 2. “Yes, it has a negative impact on people who are of Arab descent,” Lowder said. “I have no criminal record other than traffic citations.” Higbee has a record of two traffic cita- tions in Tampa, Florida, according to records obtained by the Police Department. The arresting officer from Sunday night wrote that Higbee was intem- posed enough to be a danger to himself and others in the report of the incident.

**BUDGET LAWSUIT ACCOUNTING**

Beshear and Senate President Robert Stivers have been adamant that the fiscal session day not be changed to April 12 despite pleas from the House. “We’re going to keep the public informed,” Beshear said. “We’ll take a little bit our design paper just to fix a couple of things, and we’ll get on to our next fiscal year to practice paddling as well.” Shane Palmquist, the faculty advisor to the entire university, said it was still unclear. “I will not reward the inability to do our job, the inability to meet the payments by paying them extra money,” Beshear said. “It is granted to him by the law. The Kentucky Constitution and our laws say there must be either an actual or forecasted shortfall in order for a budget to be created.” Without a budget, parts of the govern- ment will shut down during the next fiscal year, which will begin on July 1.

The Louisville senior David Miller, co-cap- tain for the concrete canoe team, is very difficult, but they did it.” Palmquist said, “The students came to me and said they wanted to build a true curved bridge.” Palmquist said, “It is very difficult, but they did it.” The chance to compete in these compe- titions is a special status of pride for Louisville senior David Miller, co-cap- tain for the concrete canoe team.

“Each student gets a chance to be a part of that,” Miller said. Both teams have been working on their design concepts and applications since August 2015. Disagreements are their design concepts and application.

**CRIME REPORT**

Due to a Herald error, a story and an editorial regarding the release of online voting registration for Kentucky voters last year was approved by the state three weeks ago. The system was actually taken out of service last year.

The College Heights Herald corrects all confirmed errors that are brought to reporters’ or editors’ attention. Please call 745-6011 or 745-9044 to report a correction, or e-mail us at herald.editor@wku.edu.

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Students meet with third Honors College associate director candidate

BY MONICA EAST
HERALD NEWS@WKU.EDU

The Honors College hosted its final open student session for the third candidate for the position of Honors College associate director and Honors Academy department head.

The Honors College associate director will oversee the Honors College curriculum, staff and development within the Honors College. Additionally, the director will teach one course annually. Russellville sophomore Joseph Fox facilitated the discussion and opened the session.

Dana Bradley is currently serving as the interim associate director of the WKU Honors College and as the Honors Academy department head. She also serves as the director of the WKU Center for Gerontology. Bradley said she has been with WKU for about 10 years and was on the original Honors Development Board.

At the open student session, current honors students were able to meet with Bradley and ask questions about her and her plans for the Honors College if selected for the position.

"In this role, I would like to see more freedom in the honors capstone thesis project. Bradley also said she would like to focus on retention within the college because upperclassmen have been dropping out of the college as they approach graduation."

"I think that we do a great job with the freshmen," Bradley said, adding that "we seem to be missing something in the junior and senior years."

"With Bradley and other candidates, students brought up issues they've faced with the honors capstone thesis," Fox said if she were selected for the position, she would like to see more freedom in the thesis track and more students coming up with creative ideas for their theses.

Bradley was the final candidate for the position, Fox said. She was received positively by the selection committee, and it was decided that the chosen candidate would be named as quickly as possible.

"Ultimately, the decision is up to Dr. Cobane," Fox said in an email. "Even after he selects, however, the chosen candidate will meet with planning, Design and Construction to discuss the new position and the encumbent. The candidate will be up to Dr. Cobane, however, to make the decision."

International Center on April 4.

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Let’s just start by stating that the cinematography and visual style in this film are superb, but just about every scene looks like it came straight out of a graphic novel. There’s no shortage of artful vision in the movie, and I don’t think enough people are thanking Snyder for that. The man isn’t great at plot exposition, but he can sure make a scene look like it came straight out of a graphic novel. There’s no shortage of artful vision in the movie, and I don’t think enough people are thanking Snyder for that. The man isn’t great at plot exposition, but he can sure make a scene look like it came straight out of a graphic novel.

Aside from nitpicks, though, there is one big gripe: there’s no time for a break. DC is trying hard to get into the game after we’ve seen Marvel completely crash it, but that also means we’re cramming too much sequels positioning in this movie. It’s a pity, but it’s forgivable, just try to swallow that pill and move on. Ben Affleck kills it in this movie, he’s the man, he’s easily the best part of it. An angry, wrathful Batman pitted against a young, clumsy Superman? It’s good stuff, people. Though I wish the movie had spent more time developing the antagonism between them, what audiences get is passable. The climactic duel between the two characters is intense and satisfying. The end fight? Not so much.

As an aside, Jesse Eisenberg’s Lex Luther is ridiculous. You can’t even take him seriously. They could have had Brian Cranston and they could have had Zack Zurneck! The guy is barely a unique and edgy film is getting to be too much for me.

Unfortunately, the end result of “Batman v Superman” is too concerned with sequels to take flight on its own. There’s a lot of missed potential, but the end result isn’t horrible: we’re still watching Batman and Superman, after all.
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THE FUN PAGE

APRIL 14, 2016

Start your engines! It's time to win some money with our crossword puzzle! Check your answers with the solution on page 85.

The Corner Bakery Café is now hiring cashiers, service assistants, & kitchen help! A place where growth, better hours, and great potential is an offer most people can’t refuse.

Apply in person any day or www.cornerbakerycafeapply.com

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

Across
1 Way back when 8 __ top
8 __ top
14 Winnipeg’s province 16 Doubleheader half
17 1986 movie set partly in the Australian Outback 19 Shoe parts
20 Loch with a legend 21 One-named singer
24 Biol. or ecol. 25 Under attack
26 Co-star of the 2015 film “Joy” 28 Boot attachment
30 “Bridge of Spies” actor Alan
31 Onion rings are fried in it
34 Worldwide economic org.
37 1988 movie set in a Southern California high school
40 Tam or trilly
41 Pencil tip
42 Time in ads
43 FBI agent
44 __ of influence
46 Start of el año
49 Record players, briefly
52 Improve a lawn
53 Roman baker’s dozen
54 More sudsy
56 1996 movie set in Nevada’s Area 51
61 Nicks on many albums
62 1967 Temptations hit
63 Like some movies... literally including 17-, 37- and 56-Across
64 Wine competition attendees

Down
1 “Better Call Saul” network
2 Long-nosed fish
3 “Microsoft sound” composer
4 Like cannoli
5 One making amends
6 Mars and Venus
7 Bis are often part of them
8 Vanilla containers
9 “The Simpsons” shopkeeper
10 Star of E!’s network’s “I Am Cait”
11 Machu Picchu’s range
12 Attorney general under Reagan
13 “Give it ___”
15 Novelist Waugh
18 Single show
21 Cookbook measuring words
22 Fourth of 24
23 Run until
25 Calif father
27 Tara family name
29 Harbor side strolling spots
32 Without end
33 NFL scores
34 Green climbers
35 D.C. underground
36 Set loose
38 Sample in a product pitch
39 Hard-wired
43 Mourn
45 Summary
46 Have a place in the world
47 Critical

80 (In a) bridge
82 Smurf
84 Meander
85 Coffee キャプテン

End of clues... and the solution on page 85.
Story and photos by Abby Potter

G litter, pounding music, sparkling high heels and wadded dollar bills: all sounds and sights one would not initially associate with Joshua Finn, a religious studies major. Despite appearances, Finn performs in drag on many weekends under the stage name Geneva LaDiva.

“Growing up, I wanted to be an actor, a rock star or a supermodel,” Finn said through a puff of smoke after a drag show in Nashville. “Drag allows me to be all of those, but I get to take it off at the end of the day.”

Finn has a support group of friends and family in the drag community. When it comes to his biological family, the support is not always present. “My younger sister is amazing and usually comes to my shows,” he said, “but I had to keep drag a secret from a lot of my family for a long time.”

When not in drag, Finn, 36, of Franklin is usually studying. He is back at WKU this semester after a 14-year hiatus from school. Previously a public relations major, Finn is now pursuing a degree in religious studies and hopes to one day teach religion classes.

“I’m trying to find myself, and religion fascinates me,” Finn said.

Finn said he is in no way ashamed of the drag side of his life, but he doesn’t mention it to most people at school. Although he plans to keep up drag as a side job for many years, he said he sees “the goal of graduating as my guiding force for the next few years.”

A refrigerator for a week.

ABOVE: Joshua Finn, 36, touches up his makeup at a friend’s house in Franklin on April 2 before completing his transformation into his drag persona Geneva LaDiva for a drag show at Play Dance Bar in Nashville.

BELOW: Drag queen Geneva LaDiva smokes outside Play Dance Bar in Nashville on April 2. LaDiva said she has been trying to quit, but the stress of classes has made it hard to drop the habit.
JC's Barber Shop is a cut above the rest

BY ABBEY TANNER
HERALDFEATURES@WKU.EDU

With a can-do attitude, Junius Car-

penter, owner of JC's Barber Shop, recently cut ties with his previous business location in favor of one that better highlights the business.

JC's Barber Shop, recently located at 1343 Second St., for over half a cen-
tury, picked up its storefront and re-
turned to 1403 Adams St. Carpenter said, "We knew a move would be a dif-

ficult change to get everyone to sup-
port, but it was the best move for the fami-
ly business. The business con-
itns to thrive."}

The shop's previous location was in the same building as Junius Car-
penter's wife's day care business. He soon realized his business could benefit from relocating to a more central location. While business was thriving, and they were low on space.

From Cabin two-tri-graced green plan-
tains to steamdeclamps cooked in

Bhutan, these cultural comfort foods have taken root in different regions of the world to impact global cultures and traditions. Many of these cultures, traditions and foods are brought to the U.S., in-
cluding Kentucky, by refugees from around the world.

University Libraries is hosting an op-
portunity to hear about these foods and at these unique experiences in the last five out of five stars from the San Francisco Book Review.

Many of these cultures, traditions

and foods are prefaced with a portrayal of

their importance to refugees at the last

opportunity to hear about these foods and

their way of life that goes beyond providing us

with nutrients and energy in die.

"Flavors from Home" is important in

"Not only are the cuisines richly de-

scribed, but the stories they

tell are prefaced with a portrayal of

the plight of the refugees themselves,"

said Brian Coutts, a sophomore in the

Department of Sociology. "I was well aware of [Groves' s] interest in

China, and he had done some work

with kites, so I decided to get [Groves and Laffoon] connected," Meier said. "I didn't just wake up and say, 'Hey, this is something I want to research,'" Laffoon said.

Laffoon had the help of two profes-
sors on campus: Albert Meier, biology professor, who had been her advisor, and Chris Groves, the director of the Hoffman Environmental Research Insti-
tute.

"I learned about Laffoon's interest in China and He had done some work with kites, so I decided to get [Groves and Laffoon] connected," Meier said. "I didn't just wake up and say, 'Hey, this is something I want to research,'" Laffoon said.

Meier thought that this could

SEE KY LIVE! PAGE B3

A hugelkulture is a pile of logs buried under a soil mound that produces better soil, food, and water. According to Laffoon, Meier thought that this could

SEE RESEARCH PAGE B2

It actually became a better loca-
tion for the day care than it was for the barber shop," Junius Carpenter said. "With a barber shop, you need community around it."

Because the location was a vital

part of his family history, Junius Car-
penter knew a move would be a dif-

ficult change to get everyone to sup-
port. However, he was sure it was the best move for the fami-
ly business. The business con-
itns to thrive."

"The question was, 'How can we

make this better?'" Carpenter said. After scoping it out, researching the

location it takes for a barber shop to

thrive," Junius Carpenter said.

"A year or two ago, I told myself that was the main premise of the research, Laffoon wanted to do more than simply

explain it; she also wanted to try to find a solution.

Her idea for a solution came at the perfect time, according to Meier:

"A friend of my wife asked if we

wanted to come over and plant clo-

vers. Sounded boring, but I obliged," Meier said.

Though karst rocky desertification

was the main premise of the research, Laffoon wanted to do more than sim-
ply explain it; she also wanted to try to find a solution.

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"A hugelkulture is a pile of logs buried under a soil mound that produces bet-

ter soil, food, and water. According to Laffoon, Meier thought that this could
One of the songs that moved Cook was “Versos pra Teresa,” which means “Verses for Teresa,” a piece from Brazil. The band also showcased reggae music from Jamaica with a piece called “Light Brigade." Berry said he has been playing steel drum music for about 25 years. He arranged some of the selections that were played Tuesday. Before starting the steel drum band 11 years ago and from his experience believing students would like it. “I began to play more and more through college, and it was becoming more popular,” Berry said. “I knew that students here would value it.”

“Everyone deserves water,” Laffoon said. “It’s just a basic human right.” She was invited to be the keynote speaker for the conference. Laffoon said she was just happy to come together to produce something.”

“Steel drum music is derived from Trinidad and Tobago, according to Mark Berry, the ensemble’s director. “The steel drums aren’t an easy instrument to play, but the students really pulled it off,” Berry said. Leitchfield freshman Aaron Meador expected to hear some new music in the concert. Meador came for a class assignment, but he said he was interested to see a genre of music being performed that was different from what he typically enjoys. Meador was satisfied with the display showcased at the concert. “It was a learning experience and something new,” he said.

BARBER SHOP

“Steel band performs final show for semester

Meador said he loved the history of steel drums, arranging music and seeing students grow. “I have a passion for general music and it’s great to teach students how to play the steel drums,” he said.

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BY EMMA AUSTIN
SPECIAL OLYMPIC SPRING GAMES
Bowling Green’s annual Special Olympics Spring Games will be held on April 14 at the Bowling Green High School, bringing all of the community together in support of its athletes.

Tiana Qualls, Burlington, Bowling Green and surrounding counties and cities will be competing for the "Special Olympics in the event this year at Eastern Kentucky University. She way they path they want to go," Kellersberger said.

Kellersberger said the festival promotes a platform for students to try new things and possibly find a new passion. "This could open up a whole new world," Bailey Vincent is one of these students. She will be directing her first show for the second New Works Festival. In the first New Works Festival, she was a performer. "I think it is growing more with every production we do. It is really important for people to experience live theater," Kellersberger has kept up with the "absolutely crazy" world of theater, she said. "I wake up with the same passion I had when I was a kid."

"I've known ever since," she said. "I was a performer, a writer, or director or finally see what their piece looks like trans- lated from paper to stage," she said. "It’s truly amazing to sit down in the audience and see how your friends have created on the stage." Eden said directing and being assistant student producer is something that is only and definitely a time commitment, but she remains passionate about it. "I get to do what I love," she said. "The only thing I can do is see myself doing. I am preparing myself for a career in the theater, and you need to know how to balance things." Eden said her friends in the departments go through the same path. "They understand what I’m talking through," she said. "They will get cast."

"As a kid I always loved musical theater," she said. "I think it is the only thing I can do." Eden said that the theater community is a very passionate group. "Talking about the theater community is my favorite thing to do," she said. "I think it is growing more with every production we do. It is really important for people to experience live theater." By Anna Larson

Bowling Green annual Special Olympics Spring Games will be held on April 14 at the Bowling Green High School, bringing all of the community together in support of its athletes.

Kirsten Kellersberger is the artistic director for the New Works Festival. She had the same role for the 2014 festival that she did in the first festival. Kellersberger’s role includes communicating with professors and students, publicizing the festival and overseeing the festival as a whole.

Kellersberger talks a lot about acting. "acting, she said. "I have had the first act role in ‘Dais- hy Day Marinier’ by Dr. Seuss.”

The festival will feature an array of different types of live performances. “There is something for everyone,” Kellersberger said. “If someone doesn’t like the play, they can watch something else. The festival will feature many different types of live performances. ‘We attract students, faculty and other people to try new things and possibly find a new passion. This could open up a whole new world,' Bailey Vincent is one of these students. She will be directing her first show for the second New Works Festival. In the first New Works Festival, she was a performer. "I think it is growing more with every production we do. It is really important for people to experience live theater," Kellersberger has kept up with the “absolutely crazy” world of theater, she said. “I wake up with the same passion I had when I was a kid."
Lady Toppers prepare for C-USA Championships

BY JONATHAN PHILLIPS
HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU

This weekend the Lady Top- per golf team will travel to Fort Myers, Florida, to compete in the Conference USA Championships April 15-19.

The championships come off the back of an object showing, No. 1465 on the Pegasus Rankings. Bailey hosted by Ole Miss on April 13.

In Oxford, Mississippi, the Lady Toppers managed just an 11th place finish in a field of 15 and behind all five FBS-U.S. rankings.

With the 11th place finish behind them, the Lady Toppers will attempt to show improvement in their next performance, more encouraging performances from this spring season.

These include a second place finish at the John Kim Panther Invitational held by Georgia State in late March. A tie for first place one week before Georgia State in the Cusco Challenge Invita- tion held by Morehead State.

Second-year WKU Head Coach Adam Gary said the team was originally handicapped by lost form this spring. But the Lady Toppers are now taking a full swing at the Conference USA Championship.

While the Rebel Intercol- lege two weeks ago did not see any Lady Toppers finish in the top 25, the team did see sophomores Emily Alexander lead the Lady Toppers with a score of 13 over par, which tied her for 30th place. Alexander’s best performance from WKU at Ole Miss wasn’t a first for the sophomores.

Alexander, a Glasgow native, pulled in the Lady Toppers’ best C-USA Women’s Golfer of the Week award on the week of March 23 for the spring camp- aign after leading the squad in scoring when she tied for 10th in a field of 118.

While the honor is the only C-USA Women’s Golfer of the Week award that more athletes at this universi- ty will discover how to enjoy their experiences without being the unfortunate subject of a sports- writer’s newspaper column.

I fully realize I might come off as preachy in this column, but this situation comes not too long after three basketball players and a head basketball coach left the university under unpleasant cir- cumstances. I feel like all of this needs to be said. The end of the day, all make mistakes in life. I hope this unfortunate mistake can be learned from and that more athletes at this universi- ty will discover how to enjoy their experiences without being the unfortunate subject of a sports- writer’s newspaper column.

"It wasn’t a perfect meet, but it was a meet for us to go out and take care of some things" Jenkins said. "We also saw the limits of our team, so we need to work on in order to be prepared for the Conference USA Championship and the NCAA.”
The Lady Topper softball team will make a road trip to Charlotte, North Carolina, this weekend to face the Charlotte 49ers in a three-game series.

WKU’s last three-game series against MTSU proved successful. The Lady Toppers split the first two games of the series then came back swinging in the final match Sunday.

This weekend, the Lady Toppers will have the home advantage.

Freshman outfielder Kelsey McGuffin (15) smiles as she rounds third base following a bases empty walk-off home run in extra innings against MTSU Saturday, April 9, at the WKU Softball Complex. McGuffin hit her fourth home run of the season on Sunday. The Lady Toppers will need to bring that to the match this upcoming weekend.

Looking to continue their stellar seasons against Charlotte, the Lady Toppers are a powerhouse at their home field. These athletes have found they can mentally and physically improve their abilities. Ferby is still finding ways to run back to life over the spring training.

One young running back who has made an impact in spring practice is redshirt freshman Marquez Trigg, who has gotten some significant playing experience with the starting back Quinton Baker went down with injury.

Ferby has not let these reps go to waste as both Wales and Ferby have praised his game in spring practice.

“I’ve been getting better and better. I’ve been getting better each and every day,” Wales said. “He has answered the challenge of leadership.”

“[Trigg] has been getting a lot of reps,” Wales said. “He has played hard each and every day.”

With the news that Baker will not be returning, Trigg is stepping up and leading the way.

Prior to this weekend’s match, WKU took on Tennessee Tech at the WKU Softball Complex — a midweek warmup for the upcoming three-game series. Tennessee Tech entered the game 14-24 after two away conference doubleheaders against Southeast Missouri State and the University of Tennessee, Martin this past weekend.

The game had not concluded as of press time. The first two games of the conference series will be played at Charlotte on Saturday at 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. The third will begin on Sunday at noon.

**FOOTBALL**

WKU’s football team may have a few missing pieces at the puzzle right now, but with young players like Trigg stepping up behind Wales, Ferby and Trigg’s play from the starting back is definitely on the right track.

**SOFTBALL**

This year with [Brandon] Doughty being gone, we’re probably going to have to run a little more. So we just want to be ready and be there for our team when they need us.”

Running back D’Andre Ferby

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“For as myself, I’m seeing stuff before the play comes, like reading safeties, so far as pass protection,” Ferby said. “I’m still working on my gaps, so I’m not making good reads as far as my run tracks, but as the spring has progressed, I’m starting to see everything with a little more clarity.”

In terms of the running backs as a whole, Ferby reveals that they need to fix the little things like pass takes, pass protections, and other moves, and others.

“[Trigg] has been getting a lot of reps,” Wales said. “He has been getting better and better. He plays hard each and every day.”

“This last scrimmage we had Trigg had 30-40 carries,” Ferby said. “He has answered the challenge of leadership.”

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Running backs return dependability in spring practice

BY BAILEY TOWNSEND
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When describing WKU’s running backs in spring practice, one word predominately stood out: experienced.

Many aspects of this year’s team will be centered on finding players to fill important positions that are missing, like the quarterback position for instance.

However, for the running backs, this will not be the case due to a preseason injury, he definitely took a hit with his injury.

Luckily a solution was found, and, according to the Hilltoppers, that solution went by the name of “Thunder and lightning,” D’Andre Ferby and Anthony Wales.

Even through Wales saw little playing time in the beginning due to a preseason injury, he eventually became an effective force.

In just nine full games of action with four starts, Wales became WKU’s sixth consecutive 100-yard rusher, recording 1,091 yards on 155 carries and nine touchdowns. Ferby also proved to be a significant factor in WKU’s high-scoring offense last season, displaying an impressive season with 610 yards on 135 carries and 11 touchdowns.

With all three of these players returning this season, this is bound to entice the coaching staff, Head Coach Coach Pawlowski knew WKU needed to become more of a force at the plate.

“We just weren’t able to manufacture any runs,” Pawlowski said after the Louisiana Tech series. “We have to be able to manufacture runs with our offense.

To Pawlowski’s disappointment, the Hilltoppers again put forth a poor performance in the category of scoring as the Cardinals once again dominated the plate and from the mound as they cruised to a 14-2 victory. After not scoring a single run in the previous matchup, senior infielder Danny Hudzina made sure there would be no shutout in round two.

With sophomore infielder Steven Krait on second base, Hudzina ripped a double into right centerfield to bring in Kraft for the game’s opening run. However, the Cardinals answered right back in the bottom of the first with a three-run home run. At the end of the inning, WKU was down 4-0.

In the second, the Cardinals continued to dominate as they added two more runs, led off by senior pitcher Hunter Smith. WKU was down 6-0 after the game’s second.

The Cardinals went on to add to their lead this team to success.

Early last season, the Hilltoppers had to overcome the unfortunate knee injury of star running back Leon Allen during a game against Louisiana Tech.

Allen was granted a medical waiver that restores his eligibility, and he will be returning for the upcoming season.

Before that unlikely injury, Allen had rushed 137 yards on 27 total carries with a pair of touchdowns while also catching five passes over a total of 74 yards.