An undated photo of Jack Thacker teaching a class in Glasgow via satellite. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KENTUCKY MUSEUM ARCHIVES

BY SYDNEY RAE DAVIS HERALD@WKU.EDU

On Nov. 18, WKU’s students and campus suffered a loss with the passing of 75-year-old Jack Thacker, a professor in the history department since the 1980s.

Many remember Thacker for his kindness and his passion for teaching, said fellow history professor and friend David Serafini.

“Jack truly loved the art of history teaching and truly loved teaching. He loved recreating the past, especially in his classroom. I think it is fair to say that he did.”

Hunter said some students do not meet WKU’s college readiness requirements as determined by ACT and SAT scores. WKU wants to provide for-credit courses to students who may need additional help, Hunter said.

“For example; if we have students who fall two to four points off the cut-off for college readiness … we place that student in a college credit course,” Hunter said.

Offering students for-credit courses will reduce the produce cost for the university and the student, Hunter said. "Offering for-credit courses will benefit students as well as the university,” Hunter said.

Students would spend less time and money taking noncredit remedial courses,” Hunter said. “This would help retain additional students at the highest level and ultimately would raise graduation rates.”

Students who pay for noncredit courses may take them as an alternative in the future. Students who do not meet the required benchmarks mandated by ACT or SAT scores are enrolled in noncredit courses. Once they complete the noncredit remedial course, students can move on to courses that will count towards graduation.

According to the Western Kentucky University’s Report, “Remediation: High-Education Bridge to Success,” nearly 20 percent of those entering four-year universities are placed in remedial courses that do not count towards their postsecondary credits for graduation.

Sharon Hunter, coordinator of college readiness, said WKU is not removing noncredit courses but is in the process of making alternatives available for less prepared students.

“We are working toward a process where students will need to take a certain course with additional academic support is given that student,” Hunter said.

Students will have to pass four points off the cut-off for college readiness before the student is placed in a college credit course.

Students who do not meet the required benchmarks mandated by ACT or SAT scores are enrolled in noncredit courses. Once they complete the noncredit remedial course, students can move on to courses that will count towards graduation.

Sharon Hunter, coordinator of college readiness, said WKU is not removing noncredit courses but is in the process of making alternatives available for less prepared students.

“We are working toward a process where students will need to take a certain course with additional academic support is given that student,” Hunter said.

Students will have to pass four points off the cut-off for college readiness before the student is placed in a college credit course.

Students who do not meet the required benchmarks mandated by ACT or SAT scores are enrolled in noncredit courses. Once they complete the noncredit remedial course, students can move on to courses that will count towards graduation.

Sharon Hunter, coordinator of college readiness, said WKU is not removing noncredit courses but is in the process of making alternatives available for less prepared students.

“We are working toward a process where students will need to take a certain course with additional academic support is given that student,” Hunter said.

Students will have to pass four points off the cut-off for college readiness before the student is placed in a college credit course.

Students who do not meet the required benchmarks mandated by ACT or SAT scores are enrolled in noncredit courses. Once they complete the noncredit remedial course, students can move on to courses that will count towards graduation.

Sharon Hunter, coordinator of college readiness, said WKU is not removing noncredit courses but is in the process of making alternatives available for less prepared students.

“We are working toward a process where students will need to take a certain course with additional academic support is given that student,” Hunter said.

Students will have to pass four points off the cut-off for college readiness before the student is placed in a college credit course.

Students who do not meet the required benchmarks mandated by ACT or SAT scores are enrolled in noncredit courses. Once they complete the noncredit remedial course, students can move on to courses that will count towards graduation.
WKU receives awards for treatment of military students, veterans

BY SAMANTHA WRIGHT
HERALD NEWS WKU.EDU

Victory Media names WKU a Military Friendly School for the seventh year in a row, and the Military Times ranked campus buildings on its 2016 Best for Vets Colleges list.

WKU was also recognized as one of the Best Colleges for Veterans of Regional Universities in the South by U.S. News and World Report.

Tonya Daherty, the director of Military Student Services, said she believes WKU earned these awards through its multitude of programs.

"WKU offers courses credit for military training, flexible transfer credit from other universities, the only Veterans Reserve Officers Training Corps program in the state of Kentucky, an Air Force ROTC program, an Army ROTC program, a therapy dog (that is) the only one in the state, the nation's largest scholarship program of its type, textbooks for Troops, and much more," said. "Our personalized service and attention to their needs sets us apart."

Archer said military students face challenges different from the traditional student population, so universities need to provide additional services and programs to help them.

"I had the time to adjust to online and pace my workload better. It was easy to stay on top of work and participation, but in person I felt it was much harder to see what was going on in class and understand."

"Flexibility, and an understanding of their needs is an essential element in serving them properly," Archer said.

Jordan Smith, Military Student Services consultant, said these awards will provide excellent publicity.

"Prospective students searching for a school are going to read about WKU's high quality support provided without having to tell them," he said. "This is amazing publicity for WKU and all our departments serving this student group."

Smith added that the recognition shows faculty and staff thatMilitary Student Services are providing exceptional support.

"It tells our faculty and staff — whether they counsel, provide support, teach, advice and accommodate their calls to serve — they are providing exceptional service," he said.

Smith said these awards highlight the hard work put in to make sure military students, veterans and their dependents are taken care of.

"The awards and accolades we have received help spotlight this specific student population and the work that WKU has done to make sure that the military, veterans and their dependents are taken care of during their time with us," he said.

HOVERBOARDS

"Skateboards, skateboards and bicycles may be used on sidewalks for safe transportation purposes only. When using sidewalks, remember pedestrians have the right of way... motorized vehicles are not to be used on sidewalks or in pedestrian traffic areas," the University Student Code of Conduct reads.

"The Code of Conduct reads 'similarly motorized vehicles are not to be used on sidewalks or in pedestrian traffic areas,'" Smith said. "The code weighs about 20 pounds, and she has to pick it up and carry it when she gets around campus."

She said the policy allows students flexibility to carry their belongings. "It’s the main way I get around campus, as long as it’s not raining," she said.

She added that not allowing the hoverboards in buildings will not change the way she uses her own hoverboard, and she plans to continue to ride it to and from class.

"I can use the argument for safety," she said, regarding the policy. "However, personally, I would like them to be allowed in buildings. Twenty pounds is a lot to pick up and lug around."

Presently, there will not be a change in the current policy, just signs put up reminding students of and enforcing the policy, according to the Office of Judicial Affairs. Previously, students were riding the hoverboards and scooters in buildings on campus, including DSU and other academic buildings.

Charity Pride, director of Student Activities and Organizations, said the signs were put up to inform students that hoverboards are included in the current motorized vehicle policy.

"All motorized single person units are included in the vehicle policy," he said.

He went on to say that if a student is caught breaking the policy and riding a motorized vehicle in a building, they would first receive a warning.

"Fines, we want to educate people and let them know that it’s not an appropriate behavior and it’s against policy," he said. "If the behavior continues, that is when we will turn them over to the Office of Judicial Affairs."

The only change happening on campus is that signs were put up enforcing the current policy.

"I think that this will make people safer," Katelyn Essex, a sophomore from Louisville, said. "People zipping around on those things in buildings can be potentially dangerous." Essex said last week, she and some friends were on their way to dinner and saw a student on a hoverboard in DSU. The student was “weaving in and around people,” she said, and rode the hoverboard into Red Zone.

"We were walking across campus," she said. "A guy on a hoverboard was going faster than us, obviously, and rolled right around us and everybody just cut off in front of us in line for food. May as well be this stop that from happening again."
New advanced manufacturing program to launch Dec. 1

BY SAMANTHA WRIGHT
HERALDNEWS@WKU.EDU

A new competency-based advanced manufacturing program will be launching today, making a degree in advanced manufacturing a little easier. Students wishing to join this program, which is offered through WKU On Demand, need to have an associate degree in science from the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

The program is also offered through a partnership between the Division of Extended Learning and Outreach and the department of architectural and manufacturing sciences. Students also need to have completed four required courses: college algebra, trigonometry, statistics and persuasive speaking.

Tanya Vincent, coordinator for WKU On Demand, said this program is important to students because it allows flexibility.

"Students should care about this program because it offers a new bill of rights and confidence in completing courses at their own pace and taking their existing knowledge into consideration," she said.

"It allows them to progress through coursework at their own pace — which all WKU On Demand courses do — and skip over information they already know," Vincent added that students are tested on their knowledge and do not have to relearn material they are already familiar with.

"They do this by taking competency assessments which prove they have mastered in formation," she said. "This means that students who already have knowledge regarding certain aspects of the course can move on to the next course without having to relearn what they already know." Greg Arbuckle, department chairman of architectural and manufacturing sciences, said classes are divided into modules, all of which have a final competency measure.

"So what we did was we broke each three-credit-hour course down into three different modules," he said. "Each module has a final competency examination; sometimes it is an examination; sometimes it can be a laboratory. It can be a paper: it can be a report, but each course has one final competency measure." He added that the home-work and quizzes available are for the students' benefit.

"While there are homework quizzes along the way, those are self-checks for the students only. Students can go backwards if they're not comfortable with the material," he said. "It's for them only. The only grade that matters is what they score on that final competency." Arbuckle said the minimum level of competency is 80 percent, and the mastery level is 94 percent.

"We set the minimum competency level at 80 percent, so if they do not attain a minimum of 80 percent, then they must go backwards and start picking up those skill sets that they need to move forward," he said. "There are two levels, 80 and 90, and that is competency and mastery." Mark Doggett, associate professor of architectural and manufacturing sciences, said in an email interview that the number of advanced manufacturing jobs is rapidly increasing.

"In Kentucky, there are 500 jobs projected to be over 4,000 skilled jobs in manufacturing in the next three years," he said. "This need will go to over 5,000 jobs in the next three years."

He added this program increases the number of job opportunities for its graduates.

"This degree program significantly increases advanced manufacturing opportunities for graduates to obtain entry level manufacturing engineering and manufacturing management jobs that pay $35,000 to $65,000, and up," he said.

Doggett said WKU is one of very few institutions that offer this type of program.

"WKU is on a select group of universities across the nation that has been approved by the Department of Education to offer competency-based education," he said. "This means that students can apply for financial aid like any other traditional college program." He added that WKU is currently the only university in the nation to have a competency-based advanced manufacturing program.

"In addition, the advanced manufacturing program is the only one in the nation to offer this degree using a competency-based education approach at this time," Doggett said. "We are truly one of a kind in this regard.

"We are truly one of a kind in this regard."

As students purchased clothes and school supplies for the start of the semester, photojournalist student Emily Kask from Glastonbury, Connecticut, began a transient journey documenting the "Homefree" across America.

"Train hopping, hitchhiking, rubber tramping and panhandling are just a few ways Kask and her traveling companions were able to journey to destinations," he said. "These kids ended up on the streets … to avoid homelessness, others to leave the rough life of homelessness, others to leave the rough life of child labor and to skip over information they already know." Kask plans to conclude her documentation in December and return to WKU this spring.

You can follow Kask’s journey on Instagram by following the account @ek_the_pj.

"Students should care about this program because it offers a new bill of rights and confidence in completing courses at their own pace and taking their existing knowledge into consideration," she said.

"It allows them to progress through coursework at their own pace — which all WKU On Demand courses do — and skip over information they already know," Vincent added that students are tested on their knowledge and do not have to relearn material they are already familiar with.

"They do this by taking competency assessments which prove they have mastered in formation," she said. "This means that students who already have knowledge regarding certain aspects of the course can move on to the next course without having to relearn what they already know." Greg Arbuckle, department chairman of architectural and manufacturing sciences, said classes are divided into modules, all of which have a final competency measure.

"So what we did was we broke each three-credit-hour course down into three different modules," he said. "Each module has a final competency examination; sometimes it is an examination; sometimes it can be a laboratory. It can be a paper: it can be a report, but each course has one final competency measure." He added that the home-work and quizzes available are for the students' benefit.

"While there are homework quizzes along the way, those are self-checks for the students only. Students can go backwards if they're not comfortable with the material," he said. "It's for them only. The only grade that matters is what they score on that final competency." Arbuckle said the minimum level of competency is 80 percent, and the mastery level is 94 percent.

"We set the minimum competency level at 80 percent, so if they do not attain a minimum of 80 percent, then they must go backwards and start picking up those skill sets that they need to move forward," he said. "There are two levels, 80 and 90, and that is competency and mastery." Mark Doggett, associate professor of architectural and manufacturing sciences, said in an email interview that the number of advanced manufacturing jobs is rapidly increasing.

"In Kentucky, there are 500 jobs projected to be over 4,000 skilled jobs in manufacturing in the next three years," he said. "This need will go to over 5,000 jobs in the next three years."

He added this program increases the number of job opportunities for its graduates.

"This degree program significantly increases advanced manufacturing opportunities for graduates to obtain entry level manufacturing engineering and manufacturing management jobs that pay $35,000 to $65,000, and up," he said.

Doggett said WKU is one of very few institutions that offer this type of program.

"WKU is on a select group of universities across the nation that has been approved by the Department of Education to offer competency-based education," he said. "This means that students can apply for financial aid like any other traditional college program." He added that WKU is currently the only university in the nation to have a competency-based advanced manufacturing program.

"In addition, the advanced manufacturing program is the only one in the nation to offer this degree using a competency-based education approach at this time," Doggett said. "We are truly one of a kind in this regard.

As students purchased clothes and school supplies for the start of the semester, photojournalist student Emily Kask from Glastonbury, Connecticut, began a transient journey documenting the "Homefree" across America.

"Train hopping, hitchhiking, rubber tramping and panhandling are just a few ways Kask and her traveling companions were able to journey to destinations," he said. "These kids ended up on the streets … to avoid homelessness, others to leave the rough life of homelessness, others to leave the rough life of child labor and to skip over information they already know." Kask plans to conclude her documentation in December and return to WKU this spring.

You can follow Kask’s journey on Instagram by following the account @ek_the_pj.
Have an opinion? Tweet us @WKUherald or find us on Facebook at WKU HERALD. As well. We let know your thoughts about the editorial, or write us with what is on your mind.

How to dress this holiday season

The holidays are upon us. People are sipping wine by the fireside, exchanging stock notices with care and fake fur, and making sweet invitations for parties. As your excitement builds and your mailbox fills, ask your- self the big question: “What should I wear?” Don’t rush into any invitation because you have nothing to wear. You’ll be looking good on any wish list. With dressing for a holiday soirée, come the way you are. The look of the event in question. There is nothing wrong about showing up in a dress coat and a cocktail dress. Being unprepared is not a good look, so you are not going to put up. With a few easy steps, you are looking good on any wish list.

The stars are aligning this December

BY MOLLIE MOORE
HERALD OPINION@WKU.EDU

December 1, 2015 • Western Kentucky University

The stars are aligning this December

The stars are aligning this December

The stars are aligning this December
Students are making waves with WKU athletics

BY KALEE CHISM
HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU

One organization on campus, WKU Red Wave, is focusing on keeping a special atmosphere at all WKU athletic events.

Jared Glenn Ward, the executive director of Red Wave and a junior from Litchfield, says being a member of Red Wave is difficult for each person, but they all come together for a common goal.

"What Red Wave means to me is that we get students more involved in athletic events. We also wanted to offer special programs for our students that would bring them to games and also be more involved on campus," Ward said.

"It is a way for students to earn points by coming to games and have those points earned in forestry," he said.

Red Wave began after a decrease in student attendance at sporting events. Organizers believed that having a set group of students keep the spirit alive would help stop that decline.

"We also wanted to offer special programs for our students that would bring them to games and also be more involved on campus," Ward said.

"Red Wave brings people who root for the Tops in the Hill together," Ward said.

Red Wave has a membership fee of $5, Ward said, which provides students with an official Red Wave shirt and an opportunity to join in the point system.

"It just gives you the opportunity to get involved at the events and jobs by coaching the games and jobs and have an opportunity to support what they do for this university," Ward said.

Red Wave allows members to meet students from different backgrounds while participating in WKU athletics while earning points and creating unforgettable memories, according to Jackson.

"Red Wave brings people who root for sports and students involved in sports together," Jackson said.

"Red Wave focuses on bringing students together to create a one-of-a-kind atmosphere and to offer athletics as much support as possible at home games," Jackson said.

"Red Wave helps students stay on top of their academics by offering advising and tutoring services, Jackson said. She believes student parents who seek help are encouraged to continue with their education.

SEE PARENTAL PAGE A7

PARENTAL ADVISORY

Finding a balance between finishing a Political Science degree and raising her seven-month-old daughter, Promise, can be an arduous task, but Quanisha Humphrey believes that it is important. "It won't be easy, but it was worth it," Humphrey said.

Humphrey plans on pursuing a career as a police officer after graduating from WKU.

Humphrey isn't the only student at WKU trying to find the balance between parenthood and academic success.

The experience Knipp will gain from this internship will aid her future career as an archeologist and showcase Hilltopper spirit at athletic events.

"Red Wave has given me confidence about being a student," said Ward.

"Red Wave brings people who root for sports and students involved in sports together," Jackson said. She believes student parents who seek help are encouraged to continue with their education.

SEE PARENTAL PAGE A7

Students find the balance between studying and parenting

BY SHANTEL ANN PETTWAY
HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU

A WKU student will be spending her next two summers learning the "ins and outs" of the U.S. State Department while focusing on foreign policy.

Olive Hill sophomore Alexandria Knipp was recently awarded the U.S. Foreign Service Internship from the U.S. Department of State.

This is not Knipp's first time in a leadership position. She has also earned the Presidential Volunteer Service Award, provided over 2,000 hours of service and is the president of the Model Arab League chapters, according to David DiMeo, an assistant professor of Arabic.

Knipp worked with WKU's Diplomate-in-Residence Michael McCollum for other State Department scholarships. After a recommendation from the diplomat-in-residence in Michigan, Knipp created an application for the State Department scholarship.

"This is a special internship program offered by the State Department launched in 2014 that is targeted at high-achieving undergraduates interested in one day working for the Foreign Service and serving overseas as U.S. diplomats," McCollum said in an email.

Knipp will be spending summer 2015 at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C., at the Department of State. She will then spend summer 2016 in Washington, D.C., at the Department of State. She will then spend summer 2017 at an embassy overseas.

"The goal of the internship is to provide students with insight into the workings of U.S. foreign policy and how the State Department functions both at home and abroad," McCollum said.

Knipp believes one of the key factors that helped land the internship was her background in a small Appalachian city in Kentucky.

"I knew it had a lot to do with where I came from," said Knipp. "I'm from Appalachia and there's a very small town and there aren't a lot of diplomats from the mountains of eastern Kentucky. So I know that diverse geographic location helped me.

McCollum similarly believes Knipp's background helped her land the internship.

"Her Kentucky roots and deep understanding of our local culture and history was also a factor as the Foreign Service wants an officer corps that represents the entirety of the United States," he said in an email.

Knipp is double-majoring in international studies and Arabic. DiMeo believes her language skills and her degree in international studies represents the entirety of the United States. DiMeo in an email. "This is the first step in what is going to be a career of accomplishing and impact.

The experience Knipp will gain from this internship will aid her future career goals immensely. "This is a special internship program offered by the State Department launched in 2014 that is targeted at high-achieving undergraduates interested in one day working for the Foreign Service and serving overseas as U.S. diplomats," McCollum said in an email.

"It gets crazy sometimes being a student and having a child because I have mommy brain, and I just forget everything that doesn't concern Promise," she said. "I'm the second person in my family to attend college, so I know I just can't quit.

Humphrey isn't the only student at WKU trying to find the balance between parenthood and academic success.

The university offers on-campus child care services with WKU Child Care Centers. More than half of the parents whose children are enrolled in the campus program are WKU students, according to Thelma Jackson, associate director of WKUCCC.

"Her Kentucky roots and deep understanding of our local culture and history was also a factor as the Foreign Service wants an officer corps that represents the entirety of the United States," DiMeo in an email. "This is the first step in what is going to be a career of accomplishing and impact.

The experience Knipp will gain from this internship will aid her future career goals immensely. "This is a special internship program offered by the State Department launched in 2014 that is targeted at high-achieving undergraduates interested in one day working for the Foreign Service and serving overseas as U.S. diplomats," McCollum said in an email.

"It gets crazy sometimes being a student and having a child because I have mommy brain, and I just forget everything that doesn't concern Promise," she said. "I'm the second person in my family to attend college, so I know I just can't quit.

Humphrey isn't the only student at WKU trying to find the balance between parenthood and academic success.

The university offers on-campus child care services with WKU Child Care Centers. More than half of the parents whose children are enrolled in the campus program are WKU students, according to Thelma Jackson, associate director of WKUCCC.

"Her Kentucky roots and deep understanding of our local culture and history was also a factor as the Foreign Service wants an officer corps that represents the entirety of the United States," DiMeo in an email. "This is the first step in what is going to be a career of accomplishing and impact.

The experience Knipp will gain from this internship will aid her future career goals immensely. "This is a special internship program offered by the State Department launched in 2014 that is targeted at high-achieving undergraduates interested in one day working for the Foreign Service and serving overseas as U.S. diplomats," McCollum said in an email.
We have players that play well for us. We do the best we can to develop them, but they have become great playmakers.

Head Coach Jeff Brook turned the evening kickoff 37 yards for their first score of the game, just before halftime, a 10-yard touchdown strike from Doughty to junior receiver Antwane Taylor brought the score to 35-14. The score marked Doughty’s fourth touchdown of the first half.

Coming out of halftime, the Hilltoppers forced three turnovers in the first three drives: one fumble recovery by senior defensive lineman G‘Mancini forced by Holt, a second interception by Holt and a strip sack by sophomore Derek Overstreet.

The takeaways set up two field goals from 38 and 29 yards by senior kicker Garrett Bivort to extend the lead to 41-14. After a pair of punts, Marshall found some success in the form of a 32-yard touchdown pass from freshman quarterback Chase Litton to junior receiver Justin Hunt.

The Hilltoppers immediately responded with a 23-yard touchdown strike, Doughty’s fifth of the day, from Doughty to senior receiver Iahvonie Grant. After a completed two-point conversion attempt, the Hilltoppers held a 49-21 lead just after the start of the fourth quarter.

The game ended 49-21 and marked the worst conference loss for Marshall since a 54-17 loss at Central Florida in 2014.

“This is a great place, and I think we have a chance to build a great program,” said Hudson. “We have players that play well for us. We are so excited to develop them, but they have become great playmakers. It’s not all coaching; it’s guys that seek hard, believe in each other and the system … Whether we’re at practice or preparing to play, everybody wants to win, and we get better each week.”

The title game will be played at Smith Stadium at 11 a.m. and be aired on ESPN.

Head Coach Travis Hudson

Hudson said he believed he initially landed on the interview list out of curiosity and because it was low-key, WKU didn’t have a coach to pay to fly to his home state. Hudson was also familiar with the program and had support from players and their families. Supporters even drove from Marshall to Kentucky to get the job because it was convenient. The players were supportive, and he knew they would support him at any cost.

“T’ll say we saw a star in the making,” Hudson said. “The first time I met the man for the job.

When Hudson got the permanent job early with the team. “You keep getting better and better, and people begin to forget that quote because it is so true,” said Hudson.

Hudson and the Lady Toppers hosted an NCAA selection show party this Saturday at Overtime Sports Bar for fans and coaches to find out who and where they will play in the tournament.

The Lady Toppers were selected to play Arkansas in an NIT matchup on the road at Raleigh’s won, the Lady Toppers will play the winner of Ohio and East Carolina.

Kelsey Barnes, Graduate Student
Organizational Leadership
West Virginia, Kentucky

DeVerying King, Graduate Student
Business Administration
Malta, Ohio

Head Coach Travis Hudson

Hudson said he believed he initially landed on the interview list out of curiosity and because it was low-key, WKU didn’t have a coach to fly to his home state. Hudson was also familiar with the program and had support from players and their families. Supporters even drove from Marshall to Kentucky to get the job because it was convenient. The players were supportive, and he knew they would support him at any cost.

“T’ll say we saw a star in the making,” Hudson said. “The first time I met the man for the job.

When Hudson got the permanent job early with the team. “You keep getting better and better, and people begin to forget that quote because it is so true,” said Hudson.
The Hilltoppers thrash Marshall, claim East Division title

BY BILLY RUTLEDGE
HERALD SPORTS@WKU.EDU

The Hilltoppers punched their ticket to the Conference USA Championship Game by beating 2014 C-USA East Division Champions Marshall Saturday with a perfect 6-0 record in league play, the Hilltoppers claimed the East Division title and earned the right to host Southern Methodist (9-7-1) in the championship contest this Saturday at Smith Stadium.

In a rematch of a game last season that resulted in a Hilltoppers overtime, WKU hosted the Beavers (6-2-6) and had control of the entire contest.

The win also gave the Hilltoppers their 10th win of the season, marking only the seventh time in WKU football history that this has happened and the first time since 2002.

"This is a huge win for our team, something that we’ve worked very hard for all year long," Head Coach Jeff Brohm said. "We are extremely happy. We are going to enjoy this one.

"Bremen remembered how much the win meant for the program last season when WKU beat them in 19. Marshall in Huntington, West.Virginia, where he knew the team was capable of pulling out a win again.

"Marshall is a good football team," Bremen said. "We wanted to try and upset them. We wanted to change the game and get ourselves in the championship game."

In the win, sixth-year quarterback Brandon Doughty threw for 376 yards and five touchdowns, and redshirt junior Anthony Wales rushed for 15 yards and a touchdown. It was the sixth straight game in which Wales has tallied over 100 yards against C-USA opposition.

Redshirt senior tight end Tyler Hager II caught six catches, 52 yards and two touchdowns in his first game back since he sustained a knee injury against North Texas in mid-October. Defensively, WKU had one of its strongest outings of the season, holding one of the best offenses in C-USA to just 273 total yards.

The Hilltopper defense, which forced four turnovers, three sacks and seven tackles for a loss, was led by redshirt senior linebacker Nick Holt. Holt

Hudson leads Lady Toppers to new heights

BY MATTHEW STEWART
HERALD SPORTS@WKU.EDU

As he wraps up his 21st basketball season at the helm of the WKU volleyball program, Coach Travis Hudson and his Conference USA Championship team found themselves celebrating Sunday night that they were slated against Arkansas (19-13) and Miami (Ohio) this upcoming Friday in the opening round of the NCAA tournament.

The team is ranked 16th nationally heading into the tournament and has finished four of its last five seasons with 20 wins or more—a track record Hudson is proud of considering where the program was just two decades ago.

It hasn’t always been 20-plus win seasons with national attention, and the journey to building a program that demands respect began with his days at the junior college level. "I had never touched a volleyball until the summer after I graduated high school," Hudson said, who captained his high school football and basketball teams. "Where I grew up, there was no volleyball in high school.

"After high school, Hudson seemed for the competitive environment that football and basketball are comfortable. Hudson found it in an unexpected place.

"I was looking for a competitive outlet, and I met some guys that played volleyball and I knew myself in it and quite honestly their passion for the bag for the longest time," Hudson said. "I was terrible, terrible but competitive, until I started picking up on the game.

Playing locally with a group of friends was enough to spark interest in Hudson. Through these games, he met Jeff Hulsmeyer, who was then the head coach of WKU volleyball.

"He had never had an assistant coach at the time and asked me if I would help him in the gym, and that’s how it all started," Hudson said.

However, the transition into Head Coach Travis Hudson directly his players during the Lady Top- perts’ win over 27-27 on Oct. 5 at Diddle Arena. "It’s not the first game of the week, and Hudson was demotiv- ated to student assistant coach or manage—whatever you want to call it," Hudson said of Hardaway. "I never forget my response, which I appreciate you letting me know that, and I hope you know that there’s not anything else," Hudson said. "They’ll never forget having a conversation with an administra- tor who said to me, ‘You’re first one to be told of any bad news for the program, but I hope you un- derstand you’re probably not the last one to be told of any good news for the program,’ Hudson said. "I’ll never forget my response, which I appreciate you letting me know that, and I hope you know that there’s not anything else," Hudson said.

The Major in Diversity & Community Studies requires a minor—such as African American Studies, Criminal Justice, or Gender & Women’s Studies, but any minor (or second major) will work!

For more information, please email DCStudies@wkku.edu or call 270-745-6477.