

1977

## UA19/17/1/4 1977 Hilltopper Football

WKU Athletic Media Relations

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**1977 SCHEDULE**

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE/TIME (Central)
Sept. 10	UT-Chattanooga	Bowling Green, Ky., 1:00 p.m.
Sept. 17	Akron	Akron, Ohio, 6:30 p.m.
*Sept. 24	Austin Peay	Clarksville, Tenn., 7:30 p.m.
*Oct. 1	East Tennessee	Bowling Green, Ky., 1:00 p.m.
Oct. 8	Northern Michigan	Marquette, Mich., 12:30 p.m.
*Oct. 15	Tennessee Tech	Bowling Green, Ky., 1:00 p.m.
*Oct. 22	Eastern Kentucky	Richmond, Ky., 1:00 p.m.
*Oct. 29	Morehead State	Bowling Green, Ky., 1:00 p.m. (Homecoming)
*Nov. 5	Middle Tennessee	Murfreesboro, Tenn., 1:30 p.m.
Nov. 12	Open Date	
*Nov. 19	Murray State	Bowling Green, Ky., 1:00 p.m.
*Ohio Valley Conference game.		

**1976 RESULTS**

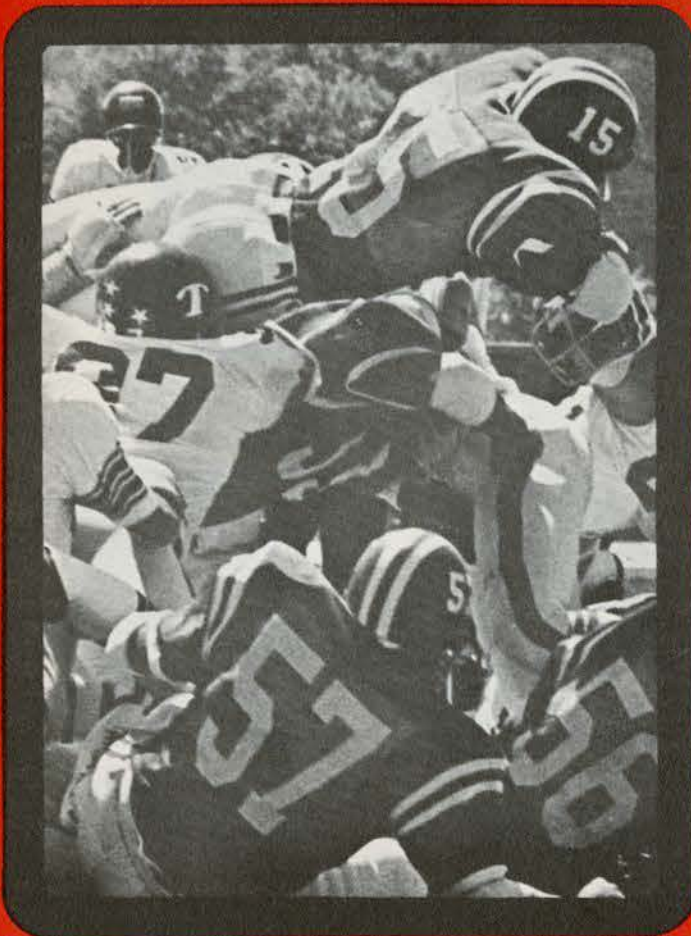
Overall Record: 4-5-1	OVC Record: 3-4-0 (4th, Tie)
OPPONENT (Crowd)	WKU-Opp.
Troy (Ala.) State (16,750)	10-10
at UT-Chattanooga (8,000)	10-7
*Austin Peay (13,300)	12-7
*at East Tennessee (5,739)	16-28
*at Tennessee Tech (15,500)	12-22
*Eastern Kentucky (18,000)	10-6
*at Morehead State (1,000)	0-21
*Middle Tennessee (20,000)	38-7
Akron (11,200)	16-29
*at Murray State (10,300)	6-16
Attendance—119,789 (Home-79,250; Avg.-15,850)	Total 130-153
*Ohio Valley Conference game.	

**UNIVERSITY INFORMATION**

Location: Bowling Green, Kentucky  
 Conference: Ohio Valley, NCAA  
 Nickname: Hilltoppers Colors: Red and White  
 President: Dr. Dero G. Downing Enrollment: 13,352  
 Chairman, University Athletic Committee: Dr. John D. Minton  
 Athletic Director: John Oldham  
 Head Football Coach: Jimmy Feix  
 Assistants: Sam Clark, Clarence Baker, Butch Gilbert,  
 Bill Hape, Lee Murray  
 Football Office Phone: Area 502 745-3347  
 Athletic Office Phone: Area 502 745-3542

**—FOR INFORMATION ON ALL SPORTS—**  
 Assistant Public Relations Director: Ed Given  
 Phone: 745-4295.

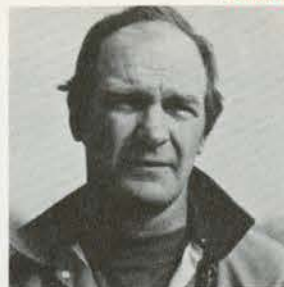
# 1977 HILLTOPPER FOOTBALL



**WESTERN KENTUCKY  
UNIVERSITY**

1952 1963 **OVC CHAMPIONS** 1970 1971 1973 1975

**Coach JIMMY FEIX**



The 1977 season will be Jimmy Feix's 10th year as head coach of the Hilltoppers, but his name has been closely connected with winning football at Western Kentucky for much longer than that. His association with Western gridiron successes began in September, 1949, when he came to the campus as a freshman quarterback from Henderson, Ky. As a player, he led Western to some of its greatest seasons ever. In his senior year, 1952, he and his Hilltopper teammates won almost everything in sight. They tied for the Ohio Valley Conference championship and added a Refrigerator Bowl win over Arkansas State to finish with a 9-1 record.

At the same time Feix was earning Little All-America honors for himself. When his collegiate playing days were over, the New York Giants of the National Football League drafted him, expecting him to become the back-up quarterback for All-Pro Charlie Conerly. Feix was impressive in pre-season drills with the Giants, but a serious injury early that fall ended his pro career.

In 1952 Feix set Western and OVC records with 1,546 yards total offense and 1,581 yards passing. His conference total offense record was unbroken until 1964 and his passing mark stood until the 1965 season.

Feix returned to Western in 1957 after four years of service in the U.S. Air Force. He served as a graduate assistant that first year while completing the requirements for the Master of Arts degree, then became a full-time member of the Western staff the following season.

Feix was named head coach in December, 1967, when the late Nick Denes retired from active coaching. In 1968, his "rookie" season as head coach, Feix led Western to seven wins against only two losses and a tie with nationally ranked—and bowl-bound—Akron.

In nine seasons, only once have Feix's teams suffered more than three losses in a single season and finished lower than second place in an OVC race. His Hilltoppers have won or shared the coveted league championship four times, in 1970, 1971, 1973 and 1975.

His 1973 team was the first undefeated, untied team in Western history, finishing the regular season with a perfect 10-0 record while leading the nation's Division II teams in scoring at 37.7 points per game.

The '73 Hilltoppers entered the first-ever NCAA Division II national championship playoffs and finished second. They defeated Lehigh and Grambling before losing to Louisiana Tech in the national title game in the Camellia Bowl at Sacramento, Calif., winding up the season with an overall 12-1-0 record.

Western went to the NCAA playoffs again in 1975 and again finished as the No. 2 team in the nation, dumping Northern Iowa and New Hampshire before being edged by Northern Michigan in the finals at Sacramento and finishing 11-2-0.

Feix was named Kodak College Division Coach-of-the-Year for Division Four in both 1973 and 1975. He also won OVC Coach-of-the-Year honors and was honored similarly by the Louisville Courier-Journal and Inside Kentucky Sports magazine in 1973.

Feix goes into the 1977 campaign with a career coaching record of 70 wins against only 22 losses and 4 ties, for a winning percentage of .750. His nine Hilltopper teams have won 47, lost 15 and tied 1 in Ohio Valley Conference competition, also a .750 percentage.

A frequent lecturer at football clinics, Feix has been a primary influence in the organization and continuation of the activities of Western's chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

He is married to the former Frankie Biggers. They have two sons, Jimmy, 23, a former member of Western's varsity baseball team, and Jeff, 16.

**1977 OUTLOOK**

Western Kentucky's Hilltoppers will have 14 of 22 starters returning from the 1976 team that finished 4-5-1, giving Head Coach Jimmy Feix and his staff a solid foundation with which to face the 1977 season.

However, that doesn't mean that the Hilltopper coaching staff didn't have a lot of work planned for spring practice and fall camp.

"With that kind of experience, we're not as likely to beat ourselves this fall," said Feix. "But we have plenty to get accomplished before we head into a new season."

"For one thing, we've got to find some depth. We have, for the most part, reserve strength from last year to fill in the vacated spots in the starting lineup. But that means we'll have to find some more capable back-up people."

Another of the big tasks that must be completed before the season opener is the installation of a new offense. The Hilltoppers are scrapping the "I" formation they've run for several years now, going to a split backfield set.

"The 'I' has been good to us," Feix reflected, "but we lost our first two fullbacks via graduation—and you must have good, experienced fullbacks to be effective with that particular offensive set."

"Then, too, we feel the split backfield will allow us to play both Jimmy Woods and Lawrence Jefferson at the same time, giving us a lot more speed. It should also allow us to take better advantage of Doug Bartholomew's passing ability."

Woods, a nifty tailback, was named to the All-Ohio Valley Conference team last season after carrying the ball for 859 yards in 233 attempts. Jefferson led the 1975 Hilltoppers in rushing, also from the tailback slot, with 554 yards in 197 attempts, but missed nearly all of the 1976 season after undergoing knee surgery.

Both players will be juniors this fall. Bartholomew came off the bench late in the 1976 campaign to win the starting quarterback spot and racked up 585 yards passing in only three games.

Perhaps the biggest gap to be filled on offense is the one left by the graduation of Dave Carter, a four-year starter and one of the nation's premier centers. His loss will be lessened somewhat by the return of Chip Carpenter at guard, a senior who could well rank as a prime All-America candidate.

The Hilltoppers plan no changes in their defensive style, although there is some slack to be taken up with the loss of cornerbacks Steve Carrico and Roy Kesterson. Veteran Fred Kixmiller and Randall Burbage will be worked back into the defensive secondary after missing all of last season with injuries.

Senior linebacker Biff Madon, last year's OVC Defensive Player of the Year, will be back to set the defensive pace.

In summing up Western's prospects, Feix said, "Offensively, we should be more wide open, with more speed and more point production. Defensively, we should be fairly solid again. "The kick return game will come in for a lot of work. Eddie Preston will be back to return punts after missing most of last season with a broken leg, along with Mike Gray and Jimmy Thomas."

"As always, a lot will depend on our injury situation as the season progresses and how much depth we can find. We feel we signed some outstanding freshmen and we'll be disappointed if several of them can't come in and provide us some very capable reserves almost from the very beginning."

**WESTERN KENTUCKY'S  
1976 COLLEGE DIVISION  
ALL-AMERICAN SELECTIONS**

**SECOND TEAM  
(Associated Press)**

Player	Ht.	Wt.	'76 Class	Position
Dave Carter	6-2	250	Senior	Center

**SECOND TEAM**

(Kodak-American Football Coaches Association)

Dave Carter	6-2	250	Senior	Center
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**HILLTOPPERS'  
1976 ALL-OVC SELECTIONS**

Player	Ht.	Wt.	'76 Class	Position
Chip Carpenter	6-2	225	Junior	Off. Guard
Biff Madon	6-2	210	Junior	Linebacker
Keith Tandy	6-2	200	Senior	Def. End
Jimmy Woods	6-1	175	Sophomore	Tailback

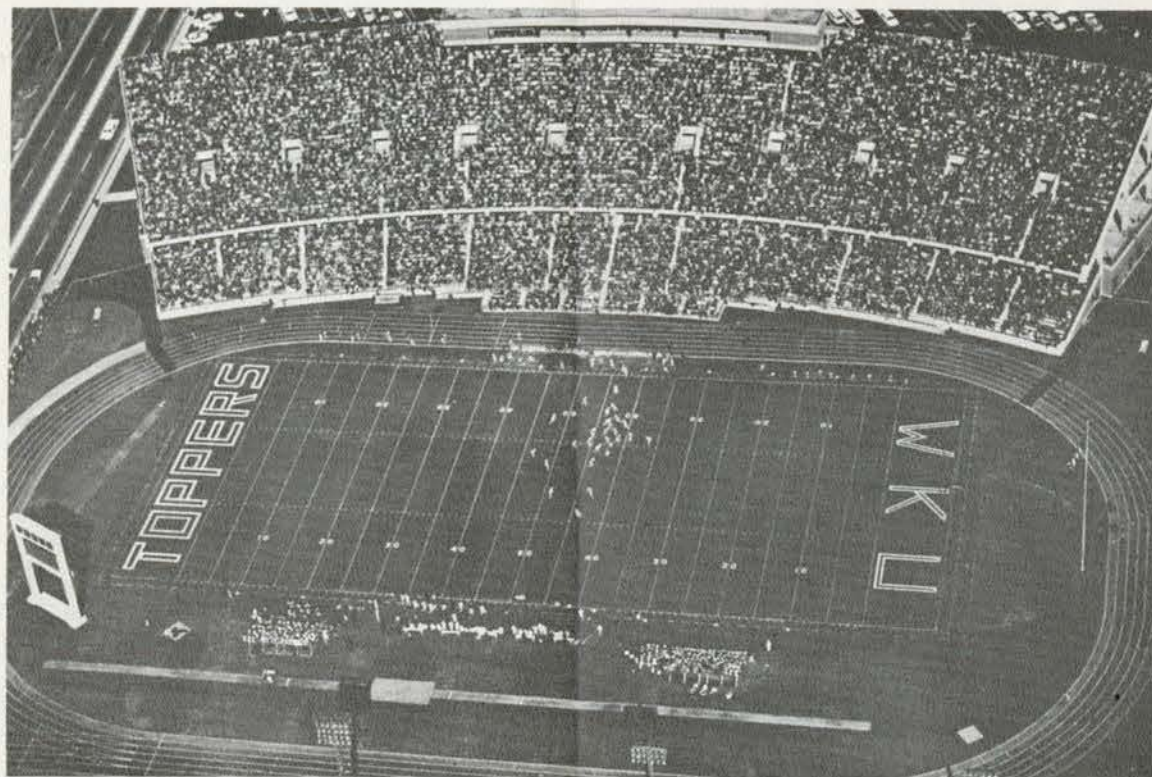
**NCAA DIVISION II AND III LEADERS  
IN ALL-TIME WINNING PERCENTAGE**

From a Total of 333 Schools

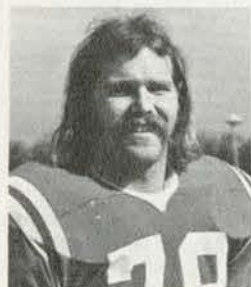
Rank/School	Won	Lost	Tied	Percentage
1. Florida A&M	310	91	15	.763
2. Tennessee State	302	89	22	.758
3. West Chester	306	101	15	.743
4. Grambling	254	87	11	.737
5. Morgan State	308	118	27	.710
6. Southern University	318	160	21	.658
7. Central Oklahoma	386	199	40	.650
8. Tuskegee Institute	389	199	49	.649
9. WESTERN KENTUCKY	316	171	27	.641
10. Virginia State	322	174	43	.637
11. Gustavus Adolphus	285	160	20	.634
12. Southern Connecticut	158	90	8	.633
13. Northeast Missouri	339	190	34	.632
14. St. John's (Minn.)	273	157	20	.629
15. Umd.-Eastern Shore	150	87	9	.628
16. Fordham	336	192	50	.625
17. East Stroudsburg	240	141	17	.624
18. Indiana (Pa.) State	230	142	19	.613
19. Middle Tennessee	315	196	26	.611
20. Jackson State	174	112	7	.606

(Courtesy of NCAA Statistics Service)

FANS JAM 19,250-SEAT L. T. SMITH STADIUM



**WITH THE PROS**



**JOHN BUSHONG**  
Defensive End  
New York Giants



**CLARENCE JACKSON**  
Running Back  
Cleveland Browns



**VIRGIL LIVERS**  
Defensive Back  
Chicago Bears



**BRAD WATSON**  
Linebacker  
Tampa Bay Buccaneers

**OVC PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

Offense

Dickie Moore, Fullback-1967

Defense

John Mutchler, End-1963  
Lawrence Brame, End-1969  
Lawrence Brame, End-1970  
Lonnie Schuster, Tackle-1973

Virgil Livers, Back-1974  
Rick Green, Linebacker-1975  
Biff Madon, Linebacker-1976

**COLLEGE DIVISION ALL-AMERICANS**



**Jimmy Feix**  
QB - 1952



**Jim Hardin**  
G - 1957



**John Mutchler**  
E - 1963



**Dale Lindsey**  
FB - 1964



**Jim Burt**  
HB - 1964



**Lawrence Brame**  
E - 1970



**Jimmy Barber**  
LB - 1971



**Mike McCoy**  
DB - 1973



**Porter Williams**  
E - 1973



**John Bushong**  
DT - 1974



**Virgil Livers**  
DB - 1974



**Rick Green**  
LB - 1975