1981

UA19/17/1/4 1981 Hilltopper Football

WKU Athletic Media Relations

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The 1981 season will be Jimmy Feix's 14th 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, 1945, when he came to the campus as a freshman quarterback from Henderson, Ky. In his senior year, 1952, he and his Hilltopper teammates tied for the Ohio Valley Conference championship and added a fifth consecutive Bowl win over Arkansas State, finishing with an 8-1 record.

At the same time, Feix was winning Little All-America honors for himself. When his collegiate playing days were over, the New York Giants of the National Football League drafted him and he was impressive in pre-season drills, but a serious injury early that fall ended his pro career.

Feix returned to Western in 1957 after four years in the U.S. Air Force. He served as a graduate assistant that first year while completing the requirements for the Master's degree, then became a full-time assistant under former Hilltopper Head Coach Dick Nonn during the following season.

Feix was named head coach in December, 1967, when Daniels 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—ewb-bowl-bound—Akron.


His 1973 team was the first undefeated, untied team in Western history, finishing the regular season with a perfect 10-0 record while landing the nation's Division II teams in scoring at 377.7 points per game.

The '73 Hilltoppers then entered the first-overall NCAA Division II national championship playoffs and finished second, winding up the season with an overall 12-1-0 record.

Western went to the Little College Clarence "Stumpy" Baker

Defensive Backfield Coach: Larry Walker

Defensive Coordinator: Bill Hape

Offensive Coordinator: Jimmie Feix

Sports Information Director: Paul Just

Assistant Athletic Director: John Oldham

Athletic Director: John Oldham

Football Office Phone: Area 502 745-2984

Athletic Office Phone: Area 502 745-3942

For Information on All Sports—Sports Information Director: Paul Just

Office Phone: Area 502 745-4285

Home Phone: 502 781-4852

University Information

Location: Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101
Conference: Ohio Valley, NCAA
Nickname: Hilltoppers
Colors: Red and White
President: Dr. Donald W. Zachary
Enrollment: 15,399
Chairman, University Athletic Committee: Dr. John D. Minton
Athletic Director: John Oldham

Head Football Coach: Jimmy Feix
Assistant Head Coach: Butch Gilbert
Defensive Coordinator: Bill Hape
Defensive Line Coach: Clarence "Stumpy" Baker
Offensive Coordinator: Jimmie Feix
Defensive Backfield Coach: Larry Walker
Receiver Coach: Bob Rafferty
Scheduler: Ken Dunlop
Assistant Trainer: Bill Edwards

For Information on All Sports—Sports Information Director: Paul Just

Office Phone: Area 502 745-4285

Home Phone: 502 781-4852

Ohio Valley Conference Champions


Jimmy Feix

1980

OVC Coach of the Year

All-American

Defensive End

1981 Hilltopper Football

3 . Bucknell .................. 425
8 . Southern ............... 336

6 . Bob Cunis, Bucknell . ............. 10
4 . Jimmy Feix, Western Ky .......... 13
5 . Roy Kidd, Eastern Ky . . . . . . . . . 17
1 . Harold Raymond, Delaware ........ 15
2 . Eddie Robinson, Grambling St . ..... 38
7 . Western Kentucky ................ 57
3 . South Carolina State .. ........... 54
6. Jackson State State .............. 32
5 . Massachusetts ........ 353
2 . Lehigh ............... 432
9 . Middle Tennessee ............... 64

Total Victories

Wins 5
School Wins 1st
Bucknell 425
Florida A&M 48

Yrs Won Lost Tied Pct.
1st
Bucknell 425
Florida A&M 48

Yrs Won Lost Tied Pct.
1st
Bucknell 425
Florida A&M 48

Yrs Won Lost Tied Pct.
1st
Bucknell 425
Florida A&M 48

Yrs Won Lost Tied Pct.
1st
Bucknell 425
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1st
Bucknell 425
Florida A&M 48

Yrs Won Lost Tied Pct.
1st
Bucknell 425
Florida A&M 48
Western Kentucky University will put many of last year's successful youngsters onto the football field as a group of seasoned veterans, when it opens its 1981 grid season in September.

The Hilltoppers will be returning 16 starters from last year's 9-1 outfit, including all but one regular from the defense that yielded only 12 points a game through its first nine contests.

Gone will be linebarker Bryan Gray, but the 'Toppers' top four tacklers return. Heading the list is All-American linemen Tim Ford. As a junior, the Valley Station native led WKU in tackles with 111, including seven for losses. Ford was one of only four juniors on the Kodak national All-AAC all-star squad.

The Hilltoppers will return three other All-OVC performers on defense—endeavor Davis (68 tackles including eight for losses), comeback Lamont Meacham (four interceptions and eight passes broken up) and safety Barry Bumil (51 tackles including two for losses and two interceptions).

Western will return the bulk of its offensive lineup but the vacancies will be tough to fill. WKU lost two-time All-OVC quarterback John Hall, the conference Offensive Player-of-the-Year in 1979.

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