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WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Hilltoppers with Heart / Contact: Jessica Leifheit, WKU Athletic Communications/Media Relations

HILLTOPPERS START THE YEAR WITH OPEN HEARTS

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. – WKU Athletic teams rang in the new year of 2017 with open hearts. Numerous Hilltopper teams have strived to contribute to the community, even in the midst of prepping for their respective seasons.

One of the biggest events that Hilltoppers helped with thus far in 2017 was the National Girls and Women in Sports Day. Prior to the Lady Topper Basketball Game against Southern Miss on Feb. 4, several of the Lady Topper squads showed up to support young girls and their passions for sport. Both Lady Topper Volleyball and Soccer were amongst the different squads that contributed their time and talents to the day.

The national theme this year for the National Girls and Women in Sports day was “expanding opportunity”. The Lady Toppers led those efforts by hosting different activities like soccer, basketball, volleyball, and dance in the E.A. Diddle Arena auxiliary gyms. Big Red even joined in the fun with the girls for some jump rope. A variety of activities were provided so the young girls could see all the different opportunities in sport that they have in their future. Nearly 100 girls showed up for this encouraging event, learning that women and girls can do anything to which they put their minds. WKU Athletics and the Lady Topper squads are looking forward to hosting more National Girls and Women in Sports days in the future.

WKU Football looks to give back wherever it goes. While in Florida, the players took time out of their busy schedule during bowl season to take a trip to the Boca Raton Regional Hospital. The Hilltoppers wanted to give back to the host community of their bowl game by spreading some old-fashioned WKU spirit.

Rounds were made in the Toppel Family Place maternity unit, where the crew saw several newborn babies and their families; they passed out stuffed Big Reds and the signature WKU red towel. Families, children and nurses were all happy to have the visiting Hilltoppers spreading some Big Red love down in Boca Raton.

Although many of the WKU Athletic teams are wrapping up seasons soon or just getting their seasons underway, the Hilltoppers are always in the giving mindset. Look out for where the Hilltoppers will serve next!

Hilltoppers With Heart, sponsored by Passport Health Plan, was founded in 2011 and is designed to give WKU student-athletes, coaches and staff the unique opportunity to make an impact in the community by volunteering time and talent with numerous organizations including United Way, Boys and Girls Clubs, local schools and many more.

Passport Health Plan is a provider-sponsored, non-profit, community-based Medicaid health plan that has been contracted with Kentucky's Cabinet for Health and Family Services to administer Medicaid benefits since 1997. Medicaid members can choose Passport to be their health care provider, and as of

June 27, 2016, there are nearly 17,000 Passport members living in Region 4, which includes Warren County and the campus of Western Kentucky University.

Some New 2017 Community Involvement Stops

- Warren County Parks My Girl Dance
- National Girls and Women in Sports Day
- Center for Courageous Kids
- Potter Children's Home
- Boca Raton Hospital Trip
- Dishman McGinnis Super Bowl Party
- Bristow Elementary Leadership Party
- Dishman McGinnis Reading

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / March 29, 2017

Hilltoppers with Heart / Contact: Jessica Leifheit, WKU Athletic Communications/Media Relations

HILLTOPPERS KEEP BUSY IN SPRING SEMESTER IN THE COMMUNITY

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. – WKU Athletics jumped into the spring season with hearts ready to serve. Even with midterms on the horizon, the Hilltoppers still found ways to fit community service into their schedule.

WKU Football has been busy serving in the spring semester. The team has found itself helping in multiple elementary schools in the past several weeks. Quarterback Mike White spoke to some of the youngest leaders in Bowling Green at Bristow Elementary's Leadership Luncheon. Several Hilltoppers showed up to support the Special Olympics Basketball Tournament in February at Moxley Community Center. WKU Football, Softball, Baseball and Volleyball were out in full force at Jesus Prom, a dance to celebrate those in the Bowling Green community with special needs. Athletes danced the night away with their dates at this memorable gathering.

Hilltoppers also had a great time serving and celebrating Read Across America Day, a day to honor Dr. Seuss and his love for reading. WKU Football visited elementary schools around the city along with the Kidz Club, a daycare for children who are medically fragile. After their celebration of reading, the Hilltoppers could go outside for recess and play with the kids.

In addition to WKU Football, the Hilltopper Basketball team made time to serve in the community after its season ended. A few of the players spoke encouraging words to a youth basketball league and stayed to cheer on the teams. WKU Basketball also teamed up with Lady Topper Volleyball and WKU Football to spend time with Life Skills Inc., a care service in Bowling Green supporting people with mental illness, addiction or intellectual disabilities. The squads were happy to shoot hoops in E.A. Diddle Arena, take pictures, and spend time with their friends from Life Skills Inc.

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Some Spring Community Involvement Events

- Special Olympics Basketball Game
- Special Olympics Valentine's Day
- Curbside Ministries
- Brave Hearts, benefitting Norton Children's Hospital

- Warren County Food Distribution
- Jesus Prom
- Harley Davidson Chili Cookoff
- Life Skills Basketball
- Upward Basketball Games
- Big Red's Readers

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / April 4, 2017

WKU Athletics / Contact: Zach Greenwell, WKU Athletic Communications/Media Relations

WKU, KENTUCKY OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY PROMOTE DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — During the month of April, the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety will be promoting Distracted Driving Awareness Month at all WKU home events, and Hilltopper fans will have the opportunity to sign a pledge against distracted driving at various events and win prizes and tickets to WKU events.

The Kentucky Office of Highway Safety is the presenting sponsor for WKU's Spring Football Game on April 22. At the spring game and at the WKU Ticket Office, fans can sign the pledge and receive a free ticket to a WKU baseball game.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 3,477 people were killed and an estimated 391,000 injured in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers in 2015. That is a 9 percent increase in fatalities as compared to the previous year.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / April 6, 2017

Athletics / Contact: Kyle Neaves, WKU Athletic Communications/Media Relations

157 WKU STUDENT-ATHLETES EARN C-USA COMMISSIONER'S HONOR ROLL RECOGNITION

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — A total of 157 WKU student-athlete's earned Commissioner's Honor Roll recognition from Conference USA for maintaining a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better during the 2016-17 academic year, the league announced on Thursday. More than half of WKU's student-athletes received the honor.

A total of 2,851 student-athletes across C-USA received the recognition, and student-athletes with a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or better will also receive the Commissioner's Academic Medal. Those recipients will be announced on Friday.

Over the past calendar year, 111 WKU student-athletes received their diploma from the University with 77 graduating in May 2016 and 11 over the summer session while 22 received their degrees this past December. The cumulative GPA of the 111 graduates was 3.19.

A complete list of WKU's 157 members of the Commissioner's Honor Roll is attached.

WKU 2016-17 COMMISSIONER'S HONOR ROLL (157)

Evan Acosta	Baseball
Preston Boyd	Baseball
Caleb Bruner	Baseball
Leiff Clarkson	Baseball
Cody Coll	Baseball
Cody Cooper	Baseball
Kaleb Duckworth	Baseball
Kevin Elder	Baseball
Samuel Higgs	Baseball
Grayson Ivey	Baseball
Paul Kirkpatrick	Baseball
Steven Kraft	Baseball
Kevin Lambert	Baseball
Devon Loomis	Baseball
Nathan Methvin	Baseball
Benjamin Morrison	Baseball
Thomas Peter	Baseball
Chris Rogers	Baseball
Seaton Sheldon	Baseball
Bryson Smith	Baseball
Marshall Smith	Baseball
Jackson Sowell	Baseball
Logan Weins	Baseball
Dylan Wood	Baseball
Justin Johnson	Men's Basketball
Que Johnson	Men's Basketball
Ben Lawson	Men's Basketball
Junior Lomomba	Men's Basketball
Damari Parris	Men's Basketball
Nathan Smith	Men's Basketball
Pancake Thomas	Men's Basketball
Ima Akpan	Women's Basketball
Ivy Brown	Women's Basketball
Shauntasia Brown	Women's Basketball
Whitney Creech	Women's Basketball
Deandrea Givens	Women's Basketball
Micah Jones	Women's Basketball
Kendall Noble	Women's Basketball
Sarah Price	Women's Basketball
Kayla Smith	Women's Basketball
Donnie Fry	Men's Cross Country
Taylor Scarbrough	Men's Cross Country
Maor Seged	Men's Cross Country
Kyle Sprague	Men's Cross Country
Mark Stice	Men's Cross Country
Stephen Swindell	Men's Cross Country

Kyle Wilson	Men's Cross Country
Alexa Brainard	Women's Cross Country
Callie Donaldson	Women's Cross Country
Lindsey Hinken	Women's Cross Country
Kyla Scanlon	Women's Cross Country
Briana Wolken	Women's Cross Country
Noah Brunner	Football
Nicholas Coffey	Football
Jacob Collins	Football
Kelton Davis	Football
Steve Donatell	Football
Nolan Dowling	Football
Steven Duncan	Football
Hunter Holland	Football
Parker Howell	Football
Joel Iyiegbuniwe	Football
Seth Joest	Football
Julien Lewis	Football
Marcelis Logan	Football
Travis McCollum	Football
Jared Nash	Football
Matthew Nord	Football
Ryan Nuss	Football
Joseph Occhipinti	Football
Charles Reynolds	Football
Skyler Simcox	Football
Jarrett Sippola	Football
John Vollmer	Football
Anthony Wales	Football
Marcus Ward	Football
Michael White	Football
Darrell Williams	Football
Tyler Witt	Football
Thomas Bevington	Men's Golf
Stuart Easton	Men's Golf
Colin Frizzell	Men's Golf
Kyle Jeffers	Men's Golf
Thomas Smith	Men's Golf
Nick Thompson	Men's Golf
Emily Alexander	Women's Golf
Georgina Blackman	Women's Golf
Elizabeth Cason	Women's Golf
Daniela Galassi	Women's Golf
Mary Joiner	Women's Golf
Abigail Smee	Women's Golf
Katharine Story	Women's Golf
Hannah Turner	Women's Golf
Chandler Backes	Women's Soccer
Haley Baldrige	Women's Soccer

Christina Bragado	Women's Soccer
Kaylyn Bryant	Women's Soccer
Hannah Cady	Women's Soccer
Hannah Chua	Women's Soccer
Makenzie Costner	Women's Soccer
Shayna Dheel	Women's Soccer
Iris Dunn	Women's Soccer
Olivia Fitzgerald	Women's Soccer
Taylor Fry	Women's Soccer
Sarah Gorham	Women's Soccer
Caitlin Hesse	Women's Soccer
Alexandria Hoefler	Women's Soccer
Nahyo Jalajel	Women's Soccer
Erin Jones	Women's Soccer
Aleksandra Kozovic	Women's Soccer
Andrea Larsen	Women's Soccer
Allison Leone	Women's Soccer
Megan Morris	Women's Soccer
Jenna Rohlin	Women's Soccer
Nicole Roseland	Women's Soccer
Keely Vincent	Women's Soccer
Kelsey Aikey	Softball
Cassidy Blackford	Softball
Kara Brewer	Softball
Paige Carter	Softball
Taylor Childress	Softball
Kathryn Downing	Softball
Adarian Gray	Softball
Kathleen Johnson	Softball
Jordan Mauch	Softball
Morgan McElroy	Softball
Kelsey McGuffin	Softball
Taylor Proctor	Softball
Brittany Vaughn	Softball
Andreanna Christopoulou	Women's Tennis
Natalia De Ugarte Munoz	Women's Tennis
Lisa Friess	Women's Tennis
Elpida Malamou	Women's Tennis
Cindy Oest Ortega	Women's Tennis
Violetta Shatalova	Women's Tennis
Julius Morris	Men's Track & Field
Stuart Nichols	Men's Track & Field
Jalen Olomu-Brown	Men's Track & Field
Davonte Payne	Men's Track & Field
Draven Sims	Men's Track & Field
Sandra Akachukwu	Women's Track & Field
Peli Alzola	Women's Track & Field
Shelby Chobot	Women's Track & Field
Getter Marie Lemberg	Women's Track & Field

Mary Lever	Women's Track & Field
Morgan McIntyre	Women's Track & Field
Rachel Anderson	Volleyball
Alyssa Cavanaugh	Volleyball
Sophia Cerino	Volleyball
Taylor Dellinger	Volleyball
Sydney Engle	Volleyball
Kaelin Grimes	Volleyball
Amara Listenbee	Volleyball
Jessica Lucas	Volleyball
Mary Martin	Volleyball
Georgia O'Connell	Volleyball
Margaret Singleton	Volleyball

KU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / April 7, 2017

Athletics / Contact: Kyle Neaves, WKU Athletic Communications/Media Relations

FIFTY-THREE WKU STUDENT-ATHLETES EARN C-USA COMMISSIONER'S ACADEMIC MEDAL

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Accolades for achievement in the classroom rolled in again today for the Hilltoppers as 53 WKU student-athletes were named to the 2016-17 Conference USA Commissioner's Academic Medal recipient list, an increase from 41 a year ago.

The 53 WKU student-athletes are a part of 672 student-athletes across the league who received the honor for achieving a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher

Over the past calendar year, 111 WKU student-athletes received their diploma from the University with 77 graduating in May 2016 and 11 over the summer session while 22 received their degrees this past December. The cumulative GPA of the 111 graduates was 3.19.

A complete list of WKU's 53 Commissioner's Academic Medalists is attached.

Attached is an updated version of the document, including four WKU Volleyball student-athletes.

WKU 2016-17 COMMISSIONER'S ACADEMIC MEDAL (53)

Kaleb Duckworth	Baseball
Nathan Methvin	Baseball
Benjamin Morrison	Baseball
Thomas Peter	Baseball
Bryson Smith	Baseball
Jackson Sowell	Baseball
Pancake Thomas	Men's Basketball
Micah Jones	Women's Basketball
Taylor Scarbrough	Men's Cross Country
Alexa Brainard	Women's Cross Country
Callie Donaldson	Women's Cross Country
Lindsey Hinken	Women's Cross Country
Kyla Scanlon	Women's Cross Country
Nicholas Coffey	Football
Nolan Dowling	Football
Jarrett Sippola	Football
John Vollmer	Football
Tyler Witt	Football
Thomas Bevington	Men's Golf
Colin Frizzell	Men's Golf
Mary Joiner	Women's Golf
Hannah Turner	Women's Golf
Christina Bragado	Women's Soccer
Kaylyn Bryant	Women's Soccer
Hannah Chua	Women's Soccer
Makenzie Costner	Women's Soccer
Iris Dunn	Women's Soccer
Olivia Fitzgerald	Women's Soccer
Sarah Gorham	Women's Soccer
Caitlin Hesse	Women's Soccer
Erin Jones	Women's Soccer
Andrea Larsen	Women's Soccer
Megan Morris	Women's Soccer
Jenna Rohlin	Women's Soccer
Nicole Roseland	Women's Soccer
Kelsey Aikey	Softball
Cassidy Blackford	Softball
Taylor Childress	Softball
Kathleen Johnson	Softball
Jordan Mauch	Softball
Morgan McElroy	Softball
Kelsey McGuffin	Softball
Taylor Proctor	Softball
Andreanna Christopoulou	Women's Tennis
Elpida Malamou	Women's Tennis
Cindy Oest Ortega	Women's Tennis

Stuart Nichols
Shelby Chobot
Mary Lever
Sophia Cerino
Sydney Engle
Kaelin Grimes
Mary Martin

Men's Track & Field
Women's Track & Field
Women's Track & Field
Volleyball
Volleyball
Volleyball
Volleyball

WKU 2016-17 COMMISSIONER'S ACADEMIC MEDAL (53)

Kaleb Duckworth	Baseball
Nathan Methvin	Baseball
Benjamin Morrison	Baseball
Thomas Peter	Baseball
Bryson Smith	Baseball
Jackson Sowell	Baseball
Pancake Thomas	Men's Basketball
Micah Jones	Women's Basketball
Taylor Scarbrough	Men's Cross Country
Alexa Brainard	Women's Cross Country
Callie Donaldson	Women's Cross Country
Lindsey Hinken	Women's Cross Country
Kyla Scanlon	Women's Cross Country
Nicholas Coffey	Football
Nolan Dowling	Football
Jarrett Sippola	Football
John Vollmer	Football
Tyler Witt	Football
Thomas Bevington	Men's Golf
Colin Frizzell	Men's Golf
Mary Joiner	Women's Golf
Hannah Turner	Women's Golf
Christina Bragado	Women's Soccer
Kaylyn Bryant	Women's Soccer
Hannah Chua	Women's Soccer
Makenzie Costner	Women's Soccer
Iris Dunn	Women's Soccer
Olivia Fitzgerald	Women's Soccer
Sarah Gorham	Women's Soccer
Caitlin Hesse	Women's Soccer
Erin Jones	Women's Soccer
Andrea Larsen	Women's Soccer
Megan Morris	Women's Soccer
Jenna Rohlin	Women's Soccer
Nicole Roseland	Women's Soccer
Kelsey Aikey	Softball
Cassidy Blackford	Softball
Taylor Childress	Softball
Kathleen Johnson	Softball
Jordan Mauch	Softball
Morgan McElroy	Softball
Kelsey McGuffin	Softball
Taylor Proctor	Softball
Andreanna Christopoulou	Women's Tennis
Elpida Malamou	Women's Tennis
Cindy Oest Ortega	Women's Tennis

Stuart Nichols
Shelby Chobot
Mary Lever

Men's Track & Field
Women's Track & Field
Women's Track & Field

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / April 10, 2017

Football / Contact: Kyle Neaves, WKU Athletic Communications/Media Relations

HILLTOPPERS TO HOST STUDENT APPRECIATION PRACTICE ON THURSDAY

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Free food, music, games and giveaways await the WKU student body as head coach Mike Sanford and the back-to-back Conference USA Champions have invited their fellow Hilltoppers to the program's Student Appreciation Practice on Thursday, April 13 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The first 250 students will receive free Zaxby's in the South Lawn Endzone, and following the practice, preliminary races for the inaugural Topper Dash will be held. Students with the fastest 40-yard dash times will compete at halftime of the Red vs. White Spring Game for a semester of free housing at Hilltop Club, a \$200 Best Buy gift card and a signed WKU mini helmet from Sanford.

All WKU students are welcome to attend and may sign up for the Topper Dash prelims at the practice. Advance sign up is available [HERE](#).

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / April 5, 2017

WKU Athletics / Contact: Zach Greenwell, WKU Athletic Communications/Media Relations

TOPPERETTES, BIG RED HEAD TO DAYTONA BEACH FOR NATIONALS

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — The WKU Topperettes Dance Team and Big Red mascot will compete in the National Dance Alliance Championships this weekend in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Both the Topperettes and Big Red have created and perfected routines that they will perform in the Division IA program. The Topperettes squad is set to compete at 10:08 a.m. CT on Thursday morning, and 4:02 p.m. Thursday afternoon. Big Red is set to take the stage on Saturday morning at 10:52 a.m.

Full performance schedules for both squads can be found at tv.varsity.com. Don't forget to follow NCA & NDA on social media for up-to-the-minute information on the championship. Use the official hashtags #NCAanationals, #NDAanationals & #theworkisworthit to join the conversation!

Twitter: @VarsitySpirit | @NCAupdates | @NDAupdates

Instagram: @VarsitySpirit | @NCAcheer | @NDAdance

Facebook: Varsity Cheerleading & Dance | National Cheerleaders Association | National Dance Alliance

Topperettes are coached by Laura Iverson and Ginny MacHenry, and Big Red mascot coordinator is Paula Davids.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / April 20, 2017

WKU Athletics / Contact: Kyle Neaves, WKU Athletic Communications/Media Relations

Headshot of Bill Edwards is attached.

BILL “DOC E” EDWARDS ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT AFTER 47 YEARS OF SERVICE

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — After 47 years of service to Western Kentucky University Athletics, Associate Athletic Director for Athletic Training and Sports Medicine Bill “Doc E” Edwards has announced his retirement, effective June 30.

“We are thankful for “Doc E”’s countless contributions to WKU Athletics over his nearly five decades of commitment to our student-athletes and sport programs,” Director of Athletics Todd Stewart said. “His impact as a department head and mentor for hundreds of future athletic trainers leaves a sterling legacy.”

Edwards, a 2016 inductee into WKU’s Hall of Distinguished Alumni, was named Head Athletic Trainer at WKU in 1983 after six years as an assistant and was elevated to his current post in 2009. A two-time graduate of the University in 1974 and 1976, Edwards came to The Hill as a student in 1970 and began his career as a student athletic trainer. He received his degree in Physical Education in 1974 and was a member of Phi Delta Theta, where he served as fraternity president in 1973-74. Edwards followed his undergraduate curriculum by earning his graduate degree in Secondary Education and Health Education from WKU in 1976 and certification with the National Athletic Trainers Association, a distinction he has held since 1975.

Edwards will be honored for his contributions to Hilltopper Athletics during Saturday’s Red vs. White WKU Football Spring Game.

Under Edwards’ leadership, the athletic training program has grown from a staff of three to 12 certified athletic trainers who provide health care and athletic training for all 16 WKU sport teams. Edwards also coordinates a large group of sports medicine specialists, including team physicians and physical therapists, to ensure appropriate, time and state-of-the-art health care for WKU student-athletes. In addition to his daily athletic training duties, Edwards has served as a faculty member since 1977 and teaches in the School of Kinesiology, Recreation and Sport on The Hill, mentoring countless numbers of future sports professionals.

Over his time on The Hill, Hilltopper and Lady Topper teams have combined to win 164 total conference championships across the Ohio Valley, Sun Belt and now Conference USA.

Edwards was inducted into the Kentucky Athletic Trainers Society (KATS) Hall of Fame in 2010 and served as treasurer of the board for many years. Along with his KATS duties, Edwards is a member of the Alumni W-Club Board of Directors and has served as treasurer of that board since 1996.

He is married to the former Jennie Willoughby, and they have two daughters, Faith and Rachel. Between them, the family has six degrees from WKU. Including Faith’s husband, Corey Johnson, and Rachel’s husband, Will Conley, that degree number totals eight.

In a statement, Edwards said of his retirement:

“As I close out my career, I am extremely indebted to my mentor and our first full time athletic trainer, Russell Miller, who extended me an offer to become a student athletic trainer in the fall of 1970. I have been so fortunate to work at my alma mater my entire career. Through five presidents, nine athletic directors, seven years with basketball, 47 years with football, eight football coaches, and 533 football games, it’s time for a new chapter.

I am thankful to President Downing and coach John Oldham for hiring me and for the privilege of working with many of my heroes: Coach Jimmy Feix, “Butch” Gilbert, Jim Richards, Clem Haskins, Jack Harbaugh, Bill Powell, Burch Oglesby, Wes Strader and many others. I’ve been blessed to work with over 200 student athletic trainers, 29 associate athletic trainers and my team physicians who have been the best. I’m appreciative of the support our administration has provided to our Athletic Training and Sports Medicine Department.

I am thankful to my parents Bill and Patty Kinslow for giving me the opportunity to attend WKU. Most importantly, I appreciate the love and support of my wife, Jennie, and my daughters, Faith and Rachel, and son-in-laws, Corey Johnson and Will Conley, for allowing me to work in a great profession at the best university.

I am retiring from my position but not from my university and looking forward to great days ahead.”



WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / April 24, 2017

WKU Athletics / Contact: Kyle Neaves, WKU Athletic Communications/Media Relations

WKU, RUSSELL ATHLETIC MUTUALLY AGREE TO DISCONTINUE ON-FIELD SPONSORSHIP

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Russell Athletic and Western Kentucky University have mutually agreed to discontinue their exclusive On-Field Sponsorship agreement as of June 30, 2017. Russell Athletic will continue to partner with Western Kentucky University as an apparel licensee.

“We have enjoyed a terrific partnership with Russell Athletic over the last 10 years,” said Director of Athletics Todd Stewart. “Our athletics programs have experienced significant growth during this time, and we are deeply appreciative to Fruit of the Loom and Russell Athletic for their vital role. We look forward to continuing to work with them in growing our licensed apparel business.”

Details on WKU’s future apparel partner will be announced at a later date.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / April 25, 2017

WKU Athletics / Contact: Kyle Neaves, WKU Athletic Communications/Media Relations

WKU ATHLETICS AND NIKE TO ENTER FIVE-YEAR APPAREL AGREEMENT

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — WKU Athletics has reached an agreement with Nike to serve as the department's official apparel provider beginning on July 1, 2017, Director of Athletics Todd Stewart announced today. Beginning with the 2017-18 season, Nike will be the official apparel and shoe provider for each of WKU's 16 athletic teams.

"All of our sport programs and student-athletes will benefit from the relationship with Nike," Stewart said. "We are very excited to partner with the leading and most recognizable brand in athletics."

A full uniform reveal will occur this summer.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / May 3, 2017

WKU Athletics / Contact: Kyle Neaves, WKU Athletic Communications/Media Relations

THREE LADY TOPPER ATHLETIC TEAMS EARN NCAA PUBLIC RECOGNITION AWARDS

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Three Lady Topper athletic teams were honored on Wednesday for their success in the classroom as volleyball, women's golf and women's tennis received NCAA Academic Performance Program Public Recognition Awards for having a multiyear Academic Progress Rate (APR) scores in the top 10 percent nationally through the 2015-16 academic year.

It marks the 12th-straight year the Lady Topper volleyball program has ranked in the top 10 percent nationally, and WKU has now had multiple programs honored for three consecutive seasons for the first time since the program began. WKU's volleyball program is one of only 93 Division I sport programs across the country to earn the award in each of the 12 years of the program.

WKU is one of only four Conference USA member institutions to have three sport programs honored, joining Rice, UAB and UTSA. As a whole, the league had 27 sport programs honored on Wednesday, and 14 of those programs were repeat recipients of the award.

"I want to compliment Jonatan Berhane, Adam Gary, and Travis Hudson for their efforts and their program's efforts in producing successful student-athletes both on and off the field of play," said Director of Athletics Todd Stewart. "Their student-athletes work hard to be in the top 10 percent of all programs in the nation in the classroom, and as head coaches, they set that expectation every day."

The APR provides a real-time look at a program's academic success each semester by tracking the academic progress of each student-athlete on scholarship. The APR accounts for eligibility, retention and graduation and provides a measure of each team's academic performance.

The programs recognized Wednesday posted multiyear APRs in the top 10 percent of all squads in each sport. The full APR report will be released on April 10.

Over the past calendar year, 111 WKU student-athletes received their diploma from the University with 77 graduating in May 2016 and 11 over the summer session while 22 received their degrees this past December. The cumulative GPA of the 111 graduates was 3.19.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / May 5, 2017

Hilltoppers with Heart / Contact: Jessica Leifheit, WKU Athletic Communications/Media Relations

HILLTOPPERS CONTINUE SERVICE DURING BUSY SPRING

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. – While the last few months on The Hill can sometimes be the most stressful ones for student-athletes, Hilltopper squads continued to work in time to give back to the community before summer break.

WKU Football took a pause from Spring Ball to spend time at The Kidz Club, a daycare in Bowling Green for children who are medically fragile. The Kidz Club is just one of the many groups that WKU has been able to serve during the 2016-2017 school year.

Dance Big Red, a 12-hour dance marathon on WKU's campus benefitting Norton Children's Hospital in Louisville, was attended by multiple Hilltopper squads including Football and Women's Golf. The marathon raised over \$66,000 to benefit the kids and families that visit the hospital. Hilltoppers were able to interact with some of the families from Norton and dance with members of the Buddy House Rockerz dance team. The Buddy House provides support and activities for people with Down Syndrome in the south central Kentucky area.

In honor of National Student Athlete Day, Lady Topper Basketball player Micah Jones threw out the first pitch accompanied by Kendall Noble at Nick Denes Field when the WKU Baseball squad hosted Murray State.

A few of the WKU teams relieved end-of-the-year stress by playing outside with the kids at the Parker Bennett Community Center. Members of the WKU football team and women's soccer team partook in kickball, played on the monkey bars, and much more.

WKU Basketball junior Justin Johnson was honored with the C-USA Winter Spirit of Service Award. The award was created by Conference USA to recognize those with significant public service, good academic standing and participation in their sport. Johnson has made mission trips to both China and Belize in the past summers with the Sports Reach Program. Locally, he also volunteered with the Bowling Green Retirement Village where he recently completed an internship. Johnson has spent time at the Boys and Girls Club, delivered school supplies to local elementary school children and spoke to the Upward youth basketball league during the season.

Hilltoppers With Heart, sponsored by Passport Health Plan, was founded in 2011 and is designed to give WKU student-athletes, coaches and staff the unique opportunity to make an impact in the community by volunteering time and talent with numerous organizations including United Way, Boys and Girls Clubs, local schools and many more.

Passport Health Plan is a provider-sponsored, non-profit, community-based Medicaid health plan that has been contracted with Kentucky's Cabinet for Health and Family Services to administer Medicaid benefits since 1997. Medicaid members can choose Passport to be their health care provider, and as of June 27, 2016, there are nearly 17,000 Passport members living in Region 4, which includes Warren County and the campus of Western Kentucky University.

Some Spring Community Involvement Events

- Dance Big Red
- The Kidz Club
- Life Skills Inc.
- Big Red's Readers
- Jesus Prom
- Upward Basketball Games
- Special Olympic Events
- Parker Bennett Community Center
- National Girls and Women in Sports Day

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / May 10, 2017

WKU Athletics / Contact: Kyle Neaves, WKU Athletic Communications/Media Relations

ALL WKU SPORT PROGRAMS POST STRONG MARKS IN MULTI-YEAR APR FOR 2015-16

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Combined with strong performances on the playing fields, WKU's sport programs posted strong marks again this year in the NCAA's four-year comprehensive Annual Progress Rate (APR), which was released through the 2015-16 academic year on Wednesday by the organization.

The APR provides a real-time look at a program's academic success each semester by tracking the academic progress of each student-athlete on scholarship. The APR accounts for eligibility, retention and graduation and provides a measure of each team's academic performance. This year, the APR score was a multi-year average of the 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 academic years.

Every program exceeded the NCAA's mandated 930 minimum by at least 14 points with nine programs (out of 14) posting marks of 980 or higher, up from the 975 threshold at this time a year ago. WKU is one of nine C-USA member institutions to have all programs at 944 or higher in the 2015-16 APR report.

Last week, WKU's volleyball, women's tennis and women's golf teams were honored with the Public Recognition Award for having a perfect 1,000 APR score for the reporting year. It marked the first time since the Public Recognition Program began that WKU has had multiple teams receive the honor in three consecutive seasons. Travis Hudson's volleyball team has received the honor in 12 consecutive seasons, spanning the entirety of the Recognition program — one of only four Division I volleyball teams and 93 overall Division I sport programs in the nation to do so.

The Division I Board of Directors set a score of 930 as the threshold for teams to meet or face possible immediate and historical sanctions. Programs falling below the 930 benchmark face penalties such as practice time reduction, scholarship reduction and possible postseason bans.

Over the past calendar year, 111 WKU student-athletes received their diploma from the University with 77 graduating in May 2016 and 11 over the summer session while 22 received their degrees this past December. The cumulative GPA of the 111 graduates was 3.19. In April, 157 Hilltopper and Lady Topper student-athletes received C-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll recognition while 53 received academic medals for posting 3.00 and 3.75 cumulative grade point averages, respectively.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / May 11, 2017

Athletics / Contact: Kyle Neaves, WKU Athletic Communications/Media Relations

WKU ATHLETICS PARTNERS WITH IMG LEARFIELD TICKET SOLUTIONS

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — WKU Athletics has partnered with IMG Learfield Ticket Solutions for representation of its outbound ticket sales, as announced today by WKU Director of Athletics Todd Stewart and IMG Learfield Ticket Solutions' President Rob Sine.

"As our programs continue to win championships and compete at the highest level, we must continue to grow our brand and increase attendance across all our sports," Stewart said. "IMGLTS will provide first-class service to our fans as well as help us grow our attendance."

IMG Learfield Ticket Solutions, a joint venture between IMG College and Learfield, represents 41 collegiate partners for which the joint venture generated more than \$115 million in ticket sales and fundraising revenue in 2016.

"The goal of Western Kentucky's athletic administration is to create the most engaged fan base possible, and we are thrilled to bring our experienced sales and service team to campus in support of that effort," said Rob Sine, President, IMG Learfield Ticket Solutions. "WKU Athletics values its fan and donor base, and we are excited to begin helping them fill the stands this fall."

In 2016, IMGLTS added relationships with the Big Ten Conference, East Carolina, North Carolina, Purdue, Boise State, Oregon, Rutgers, the Mountain West Conference, Washington State, University of Alabama at Birmingham and Cal.

"We are very excited to start our partnership with IMGLTS," said Associate Athletic Director for Marketing and Ticket Sales Matt Morrison. "They are, without a doubt, the leader in the industry for sales and service. We look forward to giving our fans the best service and experience that they deserve."

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / May 12, 2017

Athletics / Contact: Kyle Neaves, WKU Athletic Communications/Media Relations

WKU SET TO GRADUATE 64 STUDENT-ATHLETES DURING SPRING COMMENCEMENTS

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — A total of 64 WKU student-athletes across 14 sports, boasting an average cumulative grade point average of 3.09, will graduate this weekend in spring commencement activities on The Hill.

Degrees obtained include exercise science, chemistry, finance, economics, accountancy, mechanical engineering, hospitality management, broadcasting, sport management and international business, among many others. Ten of the 64 are obtaining master's degrees with a cumulative graduate school GPA of 3.66 including three 4.0 marks.

A total of 88 WKU student-athletes have graduated in the past calendar year, with 22 others earning their degrees in December. The average cumulative GPA of the 88 is 3.08.

Earlier this spring, WKU was recognized by Conference USA as 157 Hilltopper and Lady Topper student-athletes, over half of WKU's student-athletes, received C-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll recognition while 53 received academic medals for posting 3.00 and 3.75 cumulative grade point averages, respectively.

In the NCAA's latest Academic Progress Rate (APR) released earlier this week, each of WKU's athletic teams achieved an APR score of 944 or higher for the third consecutive year, 14 points above the NCAA's mandated 930 minimum. WKU is one of nine C-USA schools to have every sponsored sport program achieve an APR of 944 or higher.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / May 18, 2017

Athletics / Contact: Kyle Neaves, WKU Athletic Communications/Media Relations

A headshot and action photo of Gaddie are attached.

MIKE GADDIE PROMOTED TO ASSOCIATE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR FOR SPORTS MEDICINE AND ATHLETIC TRAINING

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Mike Gaddie, an 18-year veteran of the WKU Athletic Training Staff and 29-year veteran of the profession, has been named Associate Athletic Director for Sports Medicine and Athletic Training. Gaddie succeeds Bill Edwards, who will retire effective June 30, and will assume his new role July 1.

"We are excited to name Mike Gaddie our next Associate Athletic Director for Sports Medicine and Athletic Training," Director of Athletics Todd Stewart said. "For nearly two decades, Mike has been an integral member of our athletic training operation and has positively impacted the lives of so many WKU student-athletes. I have the same faith in Mike's ability to care for our student-athletes as they do, and it is a well-earned promotion for Mike and his family."

Gaddie joined the Hilltopper athletic training staff in 2000 and has focused primarily on the men's basketball team in his current role as Associate Director of Athletic Training. Over his time on The Hill, Gaddie has assisted with other WKU athletic teams as well as coordinated team travel schedules for the Hilltopper basketball team.

"I am honored and privileged to be selected to lead our athletic training department," Gaddie said. "To follow in the footsteps of one of my mentors, Bill Edwards, is a dream come true. I would also like to thank Director of Athletics Todd Stewart and Associate Athletic Director Craig Biggs for their support and belief in my ability to lead our department."

Gaddie came to WKU from DiversiCare Rehab Service, Inc., where he served as Director of Sports Medicine from 1996-2000. Prior to that, Gaddie was Coordinator of Outreach Services at the Regional Medical Center in Madisonville from 1992-96.

"This is has been a lifelong career goal of mine at a university I love," Gaddie added. "Over my time at WKU, I have been so fortunate to work with countless student-athletes and medical staffers on The Hill who have made every day in the training room a pleasure. To my wife and children, thank you for supporting me in this walk every day. I look forward to continuing to serve our University, a place I consider my home, as we move forward to even more success."

A native of Hodgenville, Ky., Gaddie spent five summers in the St. Louis Cardinals organization, handling the athletic training assignments for the team's minor league clubs in Peoria, Ariz., (1989) and Johnson City, Tenn. (1990-93).

A graduate of Murray State University in 1992, Gaddie spent his undergraduate years (1987-92) as a student trainer of the Racer staff under the tutelage of another of his mentors, the late Tom Simmons.

He earned his Master's in exercise science from WKU in 2006. Gaddie, a 1987 alumnus of Caverna High School, lettered two years in both football and tennis.

He is married to the former Connie Logsdon of Horse Cave. The couple's family includes sons Andrew and Jacob; Andrew's wife, Amber and son Aiden; and Jacob's wife, Ashley.





WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / June 12, 2017

Athletics / Contact: Kyle Neaves, WKU Athletic Communications/Media Relations

Photos of Patton and Sondergeld are attached.

PATTON, SONDERGELD TABBED TO LEAD WKU TOPPERETTES DANCE SQUAD

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — A pair of WKU Topperettes alums have been tabbed to lead their former squad heading into the 2017-18 year as Nicole Patton and Morgan Sondergeld have been hired as co-head coaches of the program, the team announced on Monday.

“I’m very excited to add Nicole and Morgan as co-head coaches to our Topperettes Dance Team,” said Zack McKay, Assistant Athletic Director for Marketing. “They are exceptional young women, who bring tons of energy and passion to the position. As former members of the program, they understand what is required to have a successful dance program. They will not only be great coaches but great representatives of WKU in the community.”

“We are so thrilled to be a part of something bigger than ourselves,” Patton and Sondergeld said in a joint statement. “We are looking forward to sharing our mutual passion for dance even more to a program we have been a part of for years. Being a part of the WKU Topperettes through college taught us both so much about leadership, team building, and discipline. The program has inspired and shaped us both into the coaches we are today, and we cannot wait to get started.”

Patton graduated from Western Kentucky University in 2016 with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, and is currently a second-grade teacher in Warren County. She has choreographed for local high school dance teams and Beech Melodic Impact show choir, winning “Best Choreography” awards in 2012 and 2013. Patton has danced for over 19 years in a variety of competitive teams and was a member of the Topperettes for four years as an undergraduate.

Sondergeld, a 2017 graduate of Western Kentucky University, earned her Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science with a minor in Psychology. She currently teaches for Tippi Toes Dance Company in the surrounding Bowling Green area. Sondergeld graduated with a diploma in dance from the Youth Performing Arts High School in her native Louisville. She also danced for Studio 4 Dance Company in Louisville for six years, as well as taught for over four years. Sondergeld is in her second year teaching at the National Dance Alliance teaching camps of all ages, all across the United States. She was a member of the Topperettes for three years as an undergraduate.

Tryouts for the 2017 Topperettes squad will be held from Noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 25 and from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday, June 26 inside E.A. Diddle Arena. For more information, visit the Topperettes page on WKUSports.com or click [HERE](#).





WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / June 13, 2017

Athletics / Contact: Kyle Neaves, WKU Athletic Communications/Media Relations

Headshots of Lamp and Cavanaugh, as well as our "At The Top" graphic, charting all C-USA titles won since 2014, are attached.

WKU TOPS C-USA IN TITLES; CAVANAUGH, LAMP NAMED ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Three years of Conference USA membership. Three years of leading Conference USA in championships. And, not only that, WKU student-athletes have also contributed to the highest cumulative grade point average across the board in program history to wrap up one of the most well-rounded athletic years in school history in 2016-17.

At the top of those accomplishments, two student-athletes stood tallest as football's Forrest Lamp and volleyball's Alyssa Cavanaugh have been named WKU's John O. Oldham Student-Athletes of the Year for 2016-17.

"Our coaches and student-athletes deserve enormous credit for their many successes, unprecedented in some cases, on and off the playing field," said Director of Athletics Todd Stewart. "Three years ago, we became the 14th and final member of the current Conference USA alignment. We only had one chance to make a first impression. Now, three years later, to have more than twice as many total conference championships as any other league member is quite an accomplishment. Coupled with a cumulative grade point average for student-athletes and a spring semester GPA that were each the highest in program history, WKU Athletics has much to be proud of. However, each year brings new challenges and loftier goals remain. A rising tide lifts all boats, and we take pride in helping to shine a favorable light on our great university."

Conference Leaders

When WKU joined C-USA to begin the 2014-15 year, Stewart's mantra was, "You only have one chance to make a first impression." If WKU's record-tying eight titles that year didn't put the league on notice that the new kids on the block were for real, the two years to follow it certainly did. Since 2014-15, the Hilltoppers have led C-USA in total championships for three consecutive years and have as many total championships (21) as seven other teams in the league combined. Rice is the only other league school with even double-digit championships as the Owls have secured 10 championships over that span, less than half WKU's total.

This past athletic year, WKU won seven C-USA titles including two in football, two in volleyball, two in women's basketball and one in track and field. And the manner in which the Hilltoppers secured those titles was even more impressive. On the gridiron, WKU defeated C-USA opponents by a margin of 29.1 points, passing the 2015 team as the second-most dominant championship team in league history. On the hardwood, the Lady Toppers tied the record for most league wins in a season, becoming just the fifth team in C-USA's 20-year history to finish with 16 conference victories. In volleyball, the Lady Toppers have not lost a home match to a league opponent since joining C-USA and became the first team since Tulsa's 2011 squad to sweep more than 62 percent of matches played last season.

Record Highs in Academics

When it comes to getting a degree and a winning culture on the playing field, there has never been a better time to be a Hilltopper. For the 2016-17 academic year, WKU's student-athletes combined for the highest cumulative GPA (3.06) in history, including a record-high percentage of student-athletes with a semester GPA of 3.0 or higher at 65 percent. All of this was aided by a record semester this past spring when WKU student-athletes posted a 3.10 cumulative semester GPA.

For the 2016-17 academic year, 88 WKU student-athletes earned the ultimate prize, their college diploma, and posted a cumulative GPA of 3.08. Conference USA recognized 157 student-athletes with Commissioner's Honor Roll accolades for posting 3.0 or higher cumulative GPAs and 53 of those student-athletes received academic medals for posting GPAs of 3.75 or higher.

At the annual TOPSY awards, WKU's annual academic awards ceremony, the men's golf team and women's soccer teams were honored as the top academic teams, while Colin Frizzell (men's golf) and Andreanna Christopoulou (women's tennis) were named the male and female academic student-athletes of the year.

Winning Culture Continues

For the third consecutive season, WKU ranked in the top five nationally in combined winning percentage across football, men's basketball, women's basketball and volleyball. And, in 2016-17, no one in the country has won as many matches across those four sports (262) than the Hilltoppers while the program's 75.1 winning percentage is second nationally behind only Florida State (76.2).

WKU's success was not limited to just the regular season, either. Hilltopper and Lady Topper teams were regular representatives in postseason play as volleyball, football, women's basketball and softball all extended their seasons past the regular schedule while track and field had multiple individual qualifiers at the NCAA regional and national meets.

John O. Oldham Student-Athletes of the Year

WKU's success as a whole is represented on the team level to an even greater degree. And, individually, two student-athletes put together seasons that will have them in consideration for all-time Hilltopper greats: Forrest Lamp and Alyssa Cavanaugh.

Cavanaugh put together a tremendous junior campaign on The Hill in 2016 as she became the first Lady Topper Volleyball player ever to earn three All-America accolades in a single season (AVCA, PrepVolleyball.com, VolleyballMag.com). Additionally, Cavanaugh was tabbed Conference USA's Player of the Year after collecting her third First-Team All-Conference accolade in as many years. The Louisville, Ky., native also picked up C-USA All-Tournament Team honors for the second time of her career. Academically, Cavanaugh earned a spot on the C-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll for her efforts in the classroom. She put together arguably one of the best seasons by an offensive player across the board, becoming the only outside hitter in the nation to hit .343 or better on more than 1,000 swings. In addition, Cavanaugh led C-USA with 516 kills on the season, a mark that ranked No. 18 nationally and No. 6 on the WKU single season list. Cavanaugh is the first Lady Topper volleyball student-athlete to win the award since Ashley Potts in 2013-14 and the

Lamp laid his claim to the mantle of greatest offensive lineman, and some would also argue greatest player, in program history in 2016, wrapping up an incredible career protecting the quarterbacks on The Hill. A two-time All-American and three-time All-Conference performer at left tackle, Lamp started all 51 games of his career, third-most in school history, and started 49 consecutive games beginning with his

first game as a redshirt freshman in 2013. The Venice, Fla., native did not allow a sack of WKU quarterbacks over his final two seasons, and left WKU with three consecutive bowl championships and consecutive C-USA titles while also captaining WKU's offense to the highest scoring offense in the nation in 2016. Not only that, he also earned his degree from the University in December. Following the season, Lamp made history yet again, becoming WKU's highest-ever draft selection when he was picked No. 38 overall by the Los Angeles Chargers, wrapping up a whirlwind postseason which included trips to the 2017 NFL Scouting Combine and 2017 Reese's Senior Bowl. Lamp is the first Hilltopper offensive lineman to win the award since Brian Bixler in 1995-96.





21

AT
THE



CUSA

TOP

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Total Conference USA Championships since 2014

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / July 27, 2017

Hilltoppers with Heart / Contact: Jessica Leifheit, WKU Athletic Communications/Media Relations
[Stuff The Bus Gallery](#) | [Camp Happy Days Gallery](#) | [Day of Caring Gallery](#)

DAY OF CARING, STUFF THE BUS IN THE BOOKS

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. – While there may not be any sports currently in season, giving back is always in season on The Hill. In the last week alone, Hilltoppers With Heart has been involved with United Way Day of Caring, Stuff the Bus and Camp Happy Days, racking up more than 250 hours of service in the Bowling Green community.

Leading up to the weekend, several WKU Athletics teams joined the 12th annual Stuff the Bus efforts that saw local radio personality Tony Rose fill five school buses with school supplies that will end up in classrooms across 10 local counties. WKU Football, Soccer, Volleyball, Men's Basketball and Women's Basketball all donated time and supplies, helping Stuff the Bus accumulate over 16 tons of supplies for the upcoming year. In total, more than 75,000 crayons, 800,000 sheets of paper, 50,000 pencils and 1,500 backpacks were donated. Rose was able to award two \$1,000 Stuff the Bus scholarships thanks to the efforts and support of the community. Hilltoppers spent nearly 100 hours volunteering with Stuff the Bus.

On Tuesday, both the Hilltopper basketball and football teams took part in Camp Happy Days. In Diddle Arena on the hardwood, WKU student-athletes spent time with campers playing knockout, shooting around and even showing off some trick shots. Camp Happy Days is an opportunity for any individual ages 6-35 years old with an intellectual and/or physical disability to get out in the community and experience new things while making new friends.

Then on Wednesday, Hilltoppers with Heart switched gears again, spending more than 130 hours taking part in the United Way Day of Caring. Student-athletes, coaches and athletics staff hosted more than 500 new friends from numerous area summer camps on the South Lawn of the WKU campus. Across six hours of activities, volunteers from WKU Women's Basketball, Men's Basketball, Topperettes, Volleyball, All-Girl Cheer and Co-Ed Cheer were stationed at different activities including volleyball, soccer, football and cornhole boards.

Hilltoppers With Heart, sponsored by Passport Health Plan, was founded in 2011 and is designed to give WKU student-athletes, coaches and staff the unique opportunity to make an impact in the community by volunteering time and talent with numerous organizations including United Way, Boys and Girls Clubs, local schools and many more.

Passport Health Plan is a provider-sponsored, non-profit, community-based Medicaid health plan that has been contracted with Kentucky's Cabinet for Health and Family Services to administer Medicaid benefits since 1997. Medicaid members can choose Passport to be their health care provider, and as of June 27, 2016, there are nearly 17,000 Passport members living in Region 4, which includes Warren County and the campus of Western Kentucky University.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / August 6, 2017

Athletics / Contact: Kyle Neaves, WKU Athletic Communications/Media Relations

JUSTIN JOHNSON TO RETURN TO HILLTOPPER BASKETBALL PROGRAM

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — WKU student-athlete Justin Johnson will return to the Hilltopper Basketball program and travel with the program on their foreign trip to Costa Rica this week.

Johnson, who spent the spring and first week of fall practice with the football program, will enter his senior season with the Hilltopper Basketball program and complete his basketball eligibility in 2017-18.

A statement from head football coach Mike Sanford is below:

Head Football Coach Mike Sanford

“From the beginning, we wanted to help Justin in this pursuit to see if playing football was the right opportunity for him and his future. Ultimately, Justin decided that returning to the basketball court was in his best interest, and we are fully supportive of him in that decision. He was a tremendous teammate and addition to our locker room during his time with the program. We look forward to supporting Justin and the rest of the basketball team this upcoming season.”

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Sept. 13, 2017

W-Club / Contact: Paul Just, WKU Athletic Communications/Media Relations

A collection of photos, including a headshot and action photo of the Class of 2017 is attached.

THREE HILLTOPPER GREATS TO BE INDUCTED INTO WKU ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Three great names in the history of Western Kentucky University Athletics will be inducted as the 27th class into the WKU Athletic Hall of Fame in ceremonies set for Homecoming Weekend, set for Oct. 14 vs. Charlotte, this fall.

The 2017 class includes ShaRae Mansfield (women's basketball), John Mutchler (football) and Jim Rose (men's basketball) and will bring the number of former WKU athletes and coaches to earn berths in the school's Athletic Hall of Fame to 149 since its founding in 1991.

The 2017 class will be inducted in a ceremony highlighting the annual W-Club Homecoming Brunch, set for 10 a.m. (CDT), Saturday, Oct. 14, on John Oldham Court inside E.A. Diddle Arena.

Tickets for the event, which is open to the general public, are \$15 each and can be purchased and/or reserved:

- online at alumni.wku.edu/wclubbrunch17 (then click on the "Registration" box and fill out the reservation form)
- by calling 1-888-WKU-ALUM (1-888-958-2586) or, locally in the Bowling Green area, 270-745-4395;
- or, by contacting either W-Club Treasurer Bill Edwards (270-745-6026; bill.edwards@wku.edu) or W-Club Secretary Paul Just (270-792-4247; paul.just@wku.edu).

Each W-Club member who has paid his/her 2017-18 dues may claim two complimentary tickets to the event; however, seating is limited and reservations **MUST** be made — either online, by phone with the Alumni Association, or with Edwards or Just — to ensure seating is available. Non-members, and the general public, are welcome, but must purchase tickets (see above). Letterwinners who have not yet paid their '17-18 dues may do so online via credit card (at alumni.wku.edu/joinwclub) or at the door with a prior reservation.

The inductees will also be honored in ceremonies on Jimmy Feix Field at halftime of the annual Homecoming Football Game, set to kickoff at 3:30 p.m. W-Club members with a valid 2017-18 membership card may claim one complementary ticket to the football game and purchase additional tickets at a discounted rate.

ShaRae Mansfield (Women's Basketball, 4 letters, 1998-01)

An All-American as a senior and a three-time All-Sun Belt Conference First Team selection, ShaRae Mansfield was WKU's Female Athlete of the Year both her junior and senior seasons — just the second WKU athlete to be so honored on two occasions; and the first women's basketball athlete. She was also named to the All-SBC Tournament Team as a senior. At the end of her Lady Topper career, she was just the second player in program history to score 1,000 points and grab 1,000 rebounds. Mansfield currently ranks seventh on the all-time scoring list (1,804 points) and fifth in total rebounds (1,000). She also ranks ninth in career scoring average (14.2 ppg), seventh in field goals made (700), fifth in field goal

percentage (53.6%), seventh in free throws made (403), eighth in rebounding average (7.9 rpg) and fifth in blocked shots (133). Her four Lady Topper teams won 88 games and made three postseason appearances (two in the NCAA and one in the WNIT). She was drafted in the third round by the Houston Comets of the WNBA in 2001, but injury ended her pro career after a short stint playing in Israel. She currently resides in her native Louisville, Ky.

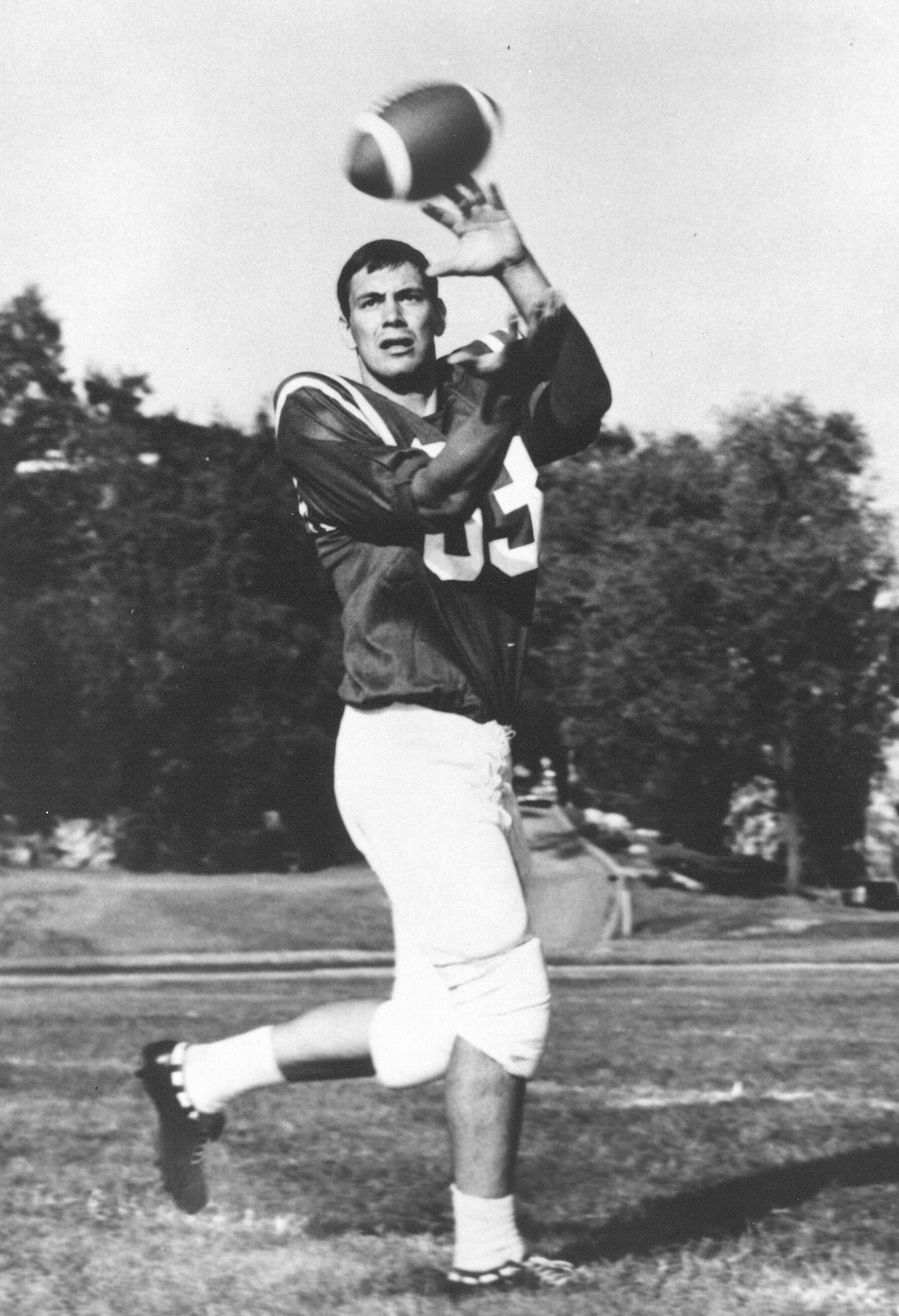
John Mutchler (Football, 1 letter, 1963)

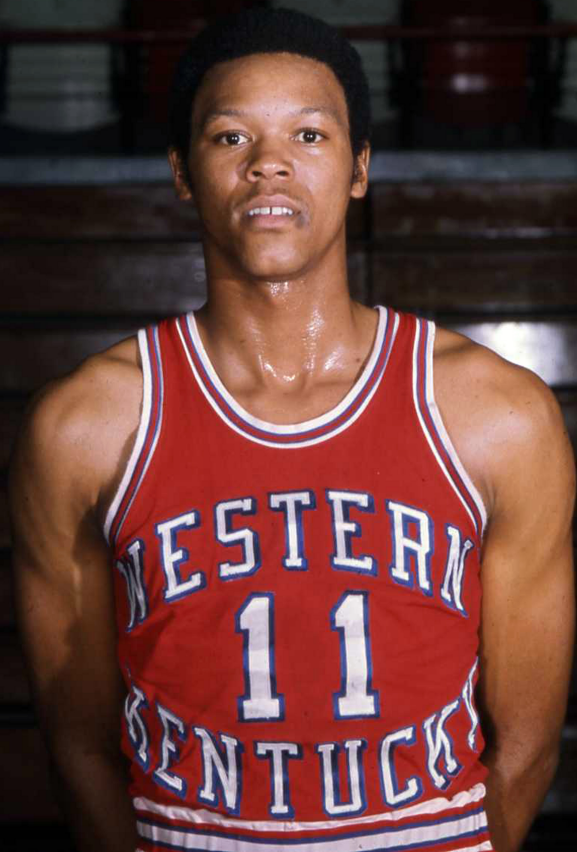
John Mutchler transferred to The Hill from Kentucky in 1962 and played just one season as a Hilltopper, but made the most of that opportunity, earning All-America honors as an end (playing both offense and defense) on the 1963 team. That club, the only undefeated squad in WKU football history, went 10-0-1, won the Ohio Valley Conference crown and posted an impressive 27-0 shutout victory over the Otto Graham-coached Coast Guard Academy in the Tangerine Bowl in Orlando. A key factor on a defense that gave up just seven points a game and an offense that scored 28 per outing, he was an All-OVC pick and was honored as the league's Defensive Player of the Year. His selection on the Williamson Mid-Bracket All-America Team was, at the time, the highest honor ever bestowed on an OVC football athlete. College football in the 1960s had just two divisions, the College Division and the University Division. WKU and the OVC competed at the college division level. The Williamson Team honored athletes representing both divisions. He was also a second-team selection on the AP All-America Team. Mutchler is the son of WKU Athletic Hall of Famer Brad Mutchler, a stellar basketball and baseball athlete in the mid-1930s. Mutchler, who grew up in Paducah, Ky., lives in Foley, Ala.

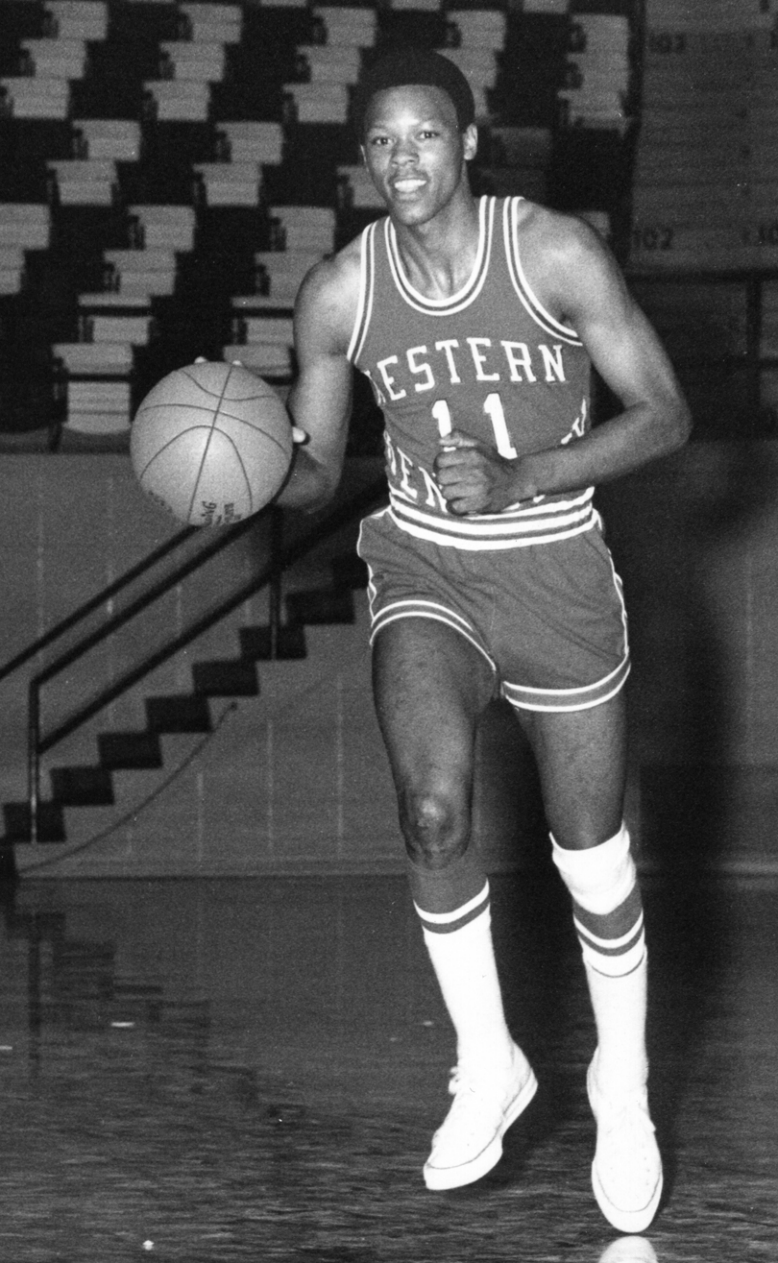
Jim Rose (Men's Basketball, 3 letters, 1969-71)

Jim Rose came to The Hill from Hazard, Ky., as a highly touted member of the 1967 recruiting class and went on to help lead the 1971 Hilltoppers to third place honors in the NCAA Final Four, earning All-America honors as a senior. He was a second round draft pick of the NBA Boston Celtics (the 28th overall selection) in '71; and, he was also drafted by the Memphis Tams in the second round of the ABA draft. Rose was twice named to the All-Ohio Valley Conference Team (1970 and 71). A great outside shooter in the days before the three-point field goal, he finished his three-year varsity career with 1,133 points. He was a key factor in leading his junior and senior teams to a combined 46-9 record (83.6%), back-to-back OVC championships and two appearances in the NCAA Tournament, including that Final Four trip in '71. Rose, the third member of the '71 club to be inducted into the WKU Athletic Hall of Fame (along with Jim McDaniels and Clarence Glover), passed away in 2009.













WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / November 8, 2017

WKU Athletics / Contact: Kyle Neaves, WKU Athletic Communications/Media Relations

HILLTOPPERS AND LADY TOPPERS EXCEL IN LATEST NCAA GRADUATION SUCCESS RATE

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Three teams posted perfect scores and all Hilltopper and Lady Topper sport programs scored well above the Federal Graduation Rate in the NCAA's most recent release of the Graduation Success Rate Report (GSR).

WKU Athletics posted an overall GSR of 82, maintaining its standing as one of the top producers of graduates in the NCAA. Led by perfect scores by softball, women's tennis, and women's volleyball, the Hilltoppers and Lady Toppers posted eight scores of 81 or higher. It is the third consecutive mark of 82 overall or better for WKU.

Volleyball (12) has posted a perfect GSR score every year the program has been eligible to report while softball posted its fifth consecutive perfect score. Women's tennis posted a perfect GSR score for the third consecutive year and for the fifth time in program history.

WKU's largest jumps over the federal rate came on the hardwood as both men's basketball (75) and women's basketball (90) nearly doubled the nation's average rate. Men's basketball federal rate was a 42-point improvement over the federal rate of 33 while women's basketball improved on the federal rate of 47 by 43 points.

The GSRs released Wednesday are based on the four freshmen classes in Division I entering from 2007 to 2010. The NCAA calculates the rates based upon the number of student-athletes who graduated within six years after initially enrolling, in addition to those who left an institution prior to graduating but would have been academically eligible to compete.

About the NCAA Graduation Success Rate

The Division I Board of Directors created the GSR in response to Division I college and university presidents who wanted data that more accurately reflected the mobility of college students than the federal graduation rate. The federal rate counts any student who leaves a school as an academic failure, no matter whether he or she enrolls at another school. Also, the federal rate does not recognize students who enter school as transfer students.

The GSR formula removes from the rate student-athletes who leave school while academically eligible and includes student-athletes who transfer to a school after initially enrolling elsewhere. This calculation makes it a more complete and accurate look at student-athlete success. The rate also allows for a deeper understanding of graduation success in individual sports than the federal metric, which provides only broad groupings.

The federal graduation rate, however, remains the only measure to compare student-athletes with the general student body. Using this measure, student-athletes graduate at a rate 2 percentage points higher than the general student body — 68 percent compared with 66 percent.

WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / November 20, 2017

Athletics / Contact: Kyle Neaves, WKU Athletic Communications/Media Relations

Two photos of the late Willie Johnson are attached.

HILLTOPPER TRACK AND FIELD ASSISTANT COACH WILLIE JOHNSON PASSES AWAY

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — With great sadness, WKU Athletics shares the news of the passing of Hilltopper Track and Field assistant coach Willie Johnson. Johnson, 34, passed away in the early hours of the morning on Sunday.

The track and field program will host a candle light vigil in memory of Coach Johnson on Monday night at 7 p.m. at the WKU Track and Field Complex.

“I lost a true friend on Sunday,” head track and field coach Erik Jenkins said. “His friendship was invaluable, and I will dearly miss him. He gave so much to this program and cared deeply for his student-athletes. He was a great father, husband, friend and coach to many. We are here for Lacee and Ace as they process this very difficult time.”

Johnson, who assisted Jenkins with the Hilltopper and Lady Topper sprinters, hurdlers, and jumpers, was in his fifth season on the WKU staff and coached 28 student-athletes to All-America honors and 105 to All-Conference honors. Combined, 84 of Johnson’s student-athletes set program records.

“We are heartbroken as a WKU family at the loss of Coach Johnson,” Director of Athletics Todd Stewart said. “He was a valued member of our family, contributing to our student-athlete’s success both on and off the field, and our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Lacee, and Coach Johnson’s family during this time.”

His work with Conference USA Female Track Athlete of the Year Chioma Agwunobi, First Team All-American Ventavius Sears and Second Team All-American Emmanuel Dasor in 2015 was the driving force behind a dominant C-USA debut for WKU. Agwunobi won league titles and established school records in the 200-meter dash (22.68) and long jump (22'4"), and also became the first Lady Topper in program history to advance to the NCAA Championships in two sprinting events. She also ran a leg on WKU's 4x100 relay that finished 19th at the NCAA Championships to capture three overall Honorable Mention All-America honors on the season.

A native of Orlando, Fla., and two-time All-American and four-time All-ACC triple jumper at Florida State from 2002-05, Johnson came to WKU from Marshall where he was an assistant coach from 2009-13. Johnson and his wife, Lacee, have one son, Ace.





WKU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / December 12, 2017

Athletics / Contact: Kyle Neaves, WKU Athletic Communications/Media Relations

THIRTY-FIVE WKU STUDENT-ATHLETES RECEIVE DIPLOMAS DURING FALL COMMENCEMENT

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Thirty-five current and former Hilltopper and Lady Topper student-athletes received their diplomas from Western Kentucky University over the weekend, and the cumulative grade point average of the 35 was a 3.01.

The 35 student-athletes represented 11 different sport programs with degrees ranging from criminology and management to finance and biology.

During the past calendar year, a total of 99 student-athletes have received their degree on The Hill as 46 graduated during the commencement ceremonies last spring and 18 graduated over the summer. The cumulative grade point average of the 99 who received their degrees in 2017 is a 3.06.

It continues a strong academic trend for WKU Athletics as A total of 157 WKU student-athlete's earned Commissioner's Honor Roll recognition from Conference USA for maintaining a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better during the 2016-17 academic year, the league announced in the spring. More than half of WKU's student-athletes received the honor.

Additionally, last month, the Hilltoppers and Lady Toppers combined to post an overall Graduation Success Rate of 82, exceeding the federal graduation rate by more than 30 points, and every WKU exceeded the NCAA's mandated Annual Progress Rate by at least 14 points with nine programs posting marks of 980 or higher.