2010-11 WKU ATHLETICS ANNUAL REPORT

Championship Effort

The WKU volleyball team tallied 27 wins in 2010, marking the ninth-straight season the program has won at least 25 matches. The Lady Toppers advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the fifth time in program history.



WKU outfielder Kes Carter was drafted in the supplemental first round of the 2011 Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft, becoming the highest draft pick in WKU baseball history. Carter was taken by the Tampa Bay Rays with the 56th pick of the draft.













WKU swimmer Claire Donahue turned in an incredible performance at the 2011 NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships, finishing second in the nation in the 100-yard butterfly. Donahue swam the event in a school-record 51.68 seconds, finishing just one second shy of a national championship, and her secondplace national finish is the highest individual result in WKU swimming history.



WKU running back Bobby Rainey finished third in the nation in 2010 in rushing yards per game (137.4) and led all of college football in rushing attempts (340). He was named the Sun Belt Conference Offensive Player of the Year and was an honorable mention All-American.

Decade of Excellence 2000-11

- 3.04 cumulative grade point average for all 378 student athletes in 2010-2011
 85 percent of student-athletes who completed their eligibility graduated
 76 Sun Belt Conference championships (34 more than the next closest program)



Dear Hilltopper Nation,

Greetings from the Hill! The last year has passed quickly, but the honor and privilege I feel every day serving as WKU's Director of Intercollegiate Athletics has never waned. The Hilltopper Nation is unique and passionate in numerous ways, especially in the loyal manner in which you support our program. The passion you exhibit on a consistent basis inspires all of us, and the consistent success we have achieved on the field and in the classroom would not occur without the tremendous role you play.

Since the year 2000, WKU has captured a Sun Belt Conference high 76 total team championships while graduating 85 percent of our student-athletes who have fulfilled their eligibility. We are very proud of the perfect blend of athletic and academic success we have achieved. In the past year, 71 student-athletes graduated and the current cumulative grade point average of our 378 student-athletes is an impressive 3.04. We captured four conference track championships, and our women's track program has now won 17 consecutive conference titles – the longest streak in the nation. Women's swimmer Claire Donahue finished second in the nation in the 100 meter butterfly, the highest individual finish in our program's history, women's volleyball received another NCAA at large bid, and Kes Carter was drafted in the second round of major league baseball's amateur draft by the Tampa Bay Rays to become our highest ever draft pick.

These accomplishments result from the combined efforts of many team players:

- A President and Board of Regents that share our "Championship Effort" vision
- Devoted coaches who recruit and develop true student-athletes
- Talented student-athletes motivated to succeed on and off the playing field
- Faculty and staff who understand how athletics assists the university's mission
- A loyal and passionate community who consistently supports the Hilltoppers
- Alumni, corporate sponsors and friends that provide crucial financial support

However, if we are only maintaining then we are falling behind. Therefore, we must continue to remain focused on our mission and demand excellence in all that we do. We have been able to sustain a high level of success on the field and in the classroom because of a total commitment from student-athletes, coaches, the administration and the community.

My pledge to you is that all of us within athletics will continue to produce a Championship Effort on a daily basis, and we have determined we cannot continue to succeed at a high level without your support in four vital areas:

One: Please renew or purchase season tickets at wkusports.com or by calling 1-800-5-BIG-RED;

Two: Please join our Power of One campaign by renewing your HAF membership by calling 270-745-5321, you can be a part of the Hilltopper family for as little as \$50;

Three: Please recruit 4-5 new people to join HAF and purchase season tickets to help ensure our continued growth. Go to wkusports.com for more information.

Four: Please refer to Western Kentucky University as WKU as much as possible in your daily conversations and correspondences. Nationally, while there are many universities with "Western" in their name, there is only one WKU and this will help us develop our unique branding name.

Continue to look for more exciting news each and every day from WKU Athletics as we pledge to operate a model athletics program. Your loyalty and dedication to WKU athletics has played a vital role in our accomplishments and growth. On behalf of our student-athletes, coaches, and staff, we thank you for all that you do for Hilltopper Athletics.

Cheers to you,

Ros Bjour

Ross Bjork

Director of Intercollegiate Athletics

CHAMPIONSHIP EFFORT

What Have You Done to be a Champion Today?

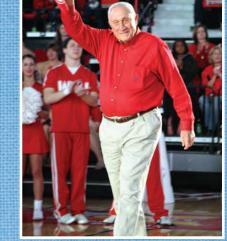


WKU recognized the 40th anniversary of its 1971 Final Four basketball team with a halftime ceremony when the Hilltoppers took on North Texas on February 12, 2011. The 1971 Hilltoppers finished third in the nation after winning the Ohio Valley Conference and were led by Jim McDaniels' 29.3 point- and 15.1 rebound-per game averages, and Jerry Dunn and Jim Rose each averaged 15.4 points per game. WKU finished the 1971 season with a 24-6 record.

WKU Athletics Core Values

- (1) academic excellence
- (2) student-athlete welfare
- (3) integrity
- (4) social responsibility
- 3 university integration
- 6 community engagement
- (7) competitiveness

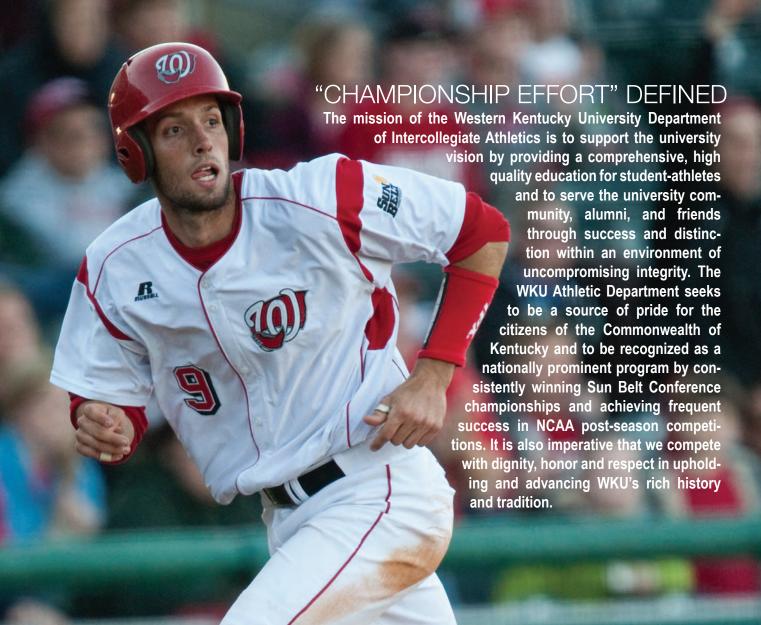
76 Conference Championships and 85% Graduation Rate since 1999-2000



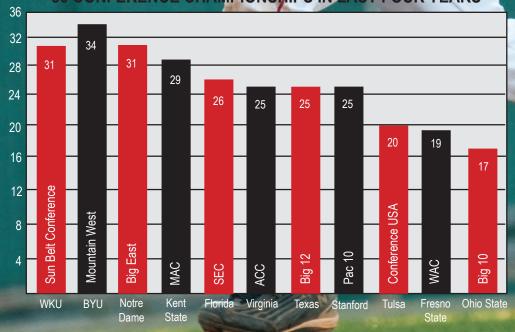
John Oldham, 1971 Final Four Head Coach



The WKU men's and women's track and field teams swept the Sun Belt Conference outdoor championships for the fourth-straight season. The victory for the women's team marked its 17th-straight league championship, the longest current streak in the nation. The Lady Toppers have won every conference cross country, indoor and outdoor team title dating back to the school's first women's indoor track team championship in 2006.



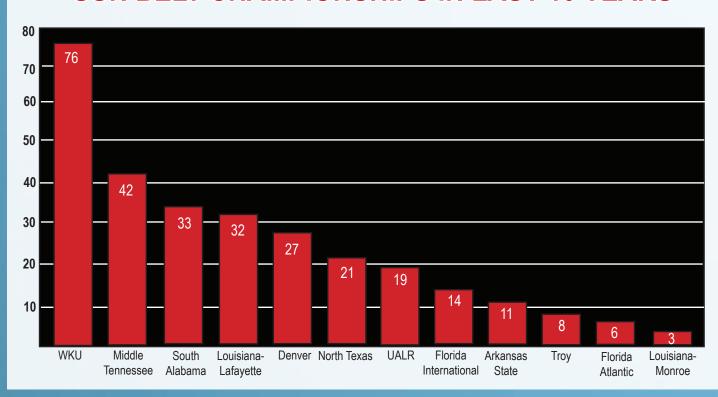
WKU ONE OF JUST THREE SCHOOLS IN NATION WITH 30 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS IN LAST FOUR YEARS



Baseball's Matt Rice is the very definition of "Championship Effort" as it relates to both academics and athletics. Rice finished his fouryear WKU career ranked in the top 10 of seven offensive categories and is WKU's career leader in both hits and RBI. The Johnson City, Tenn., native accomplished everything on the field while maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA in mechanical engineering, and he was named the Capital One Academic All-American of the Year - an award given to the top baseball studentathlete in the entire country.

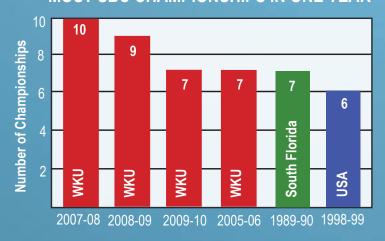
SUN BELT SUPERIORITY

SUN BELT CHAMPIONSHIPS IN LAST 10 YEARS



In sweeping the men's and women's outdoor track and field championships in May, WKU won its 75th and 76 conference championships since 1999-2000. Fourteen of WKU's 19 athletic teams have contributed to that total, 12 sports have won multiple titles and eight sports have won five or more championships. The 76 championships are 34 more than the next closest Sun Belt Conference school.

MOST SBC CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ONE YEAR





WKU has won or finished second in the conference's Bubas Cup in each of the past 10 years and is one of only four schools to win the Bubas Cup five or more times in its history. The Bubas Cup, named for the Sun Belt Conference's first commissioner (Vic Bubas), is awarded annually to the school that accumulates the most points based on its final standings in each of the conference's 19 sponsored sports.

























WKU ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Following the 2010-11 academic year, the overall cumulative GPA of all 378 WKU student-athletes is 3.04. An outstanding 53 percent of student-athletes, 200 of 378, are maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, and 10 of the university's 15 athletic programs have a cumulative team GPA of 3.0 or better.

WKU has had more individuals honored for their academic achievements by the Sun Belt Conference than any other league institution in each of the last six years and is one of only five conference schools to exceed the NCAA-required 925 Academic Progress Report Rate (APR) in every men's and women's sport.



Left to right: Basketball graduates Amy McNear, Keisha Mosley, Juan Pattillo, and Hope Brown. Sergio Kerusch and Steffphon Pettigrew also graduated.



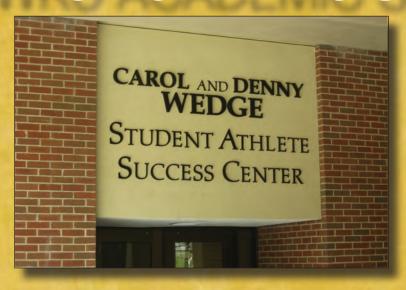
The Men's Scholar Team of the Year for 2010-11 was a tie between the baseball (Matt Rice, left) and tennis (Currie Martin, right) programs, while the Women's Scholar Team of the Year was the tennis program (pictured below).





WKU's Graduate Scholar-Athlete of the Year is Rachel Friedman (pictured left with Tanner Siewert, WKU Academic Advising) who was an Academic All-American as a junior and senior on the soccer team before entering graduate school and joining the cross country program. She will start on her PhD at Washington University in St. Louis in the fall of 2011 and is one of only two people accepted into the university's movement science PhD program. She had a perfect 4.0 GPA as both a graduate (physical education) and undergraduate (exercise science) student.

WKU ACADEMIC SUCCESS



WKU's Carol and Denny Wedge Student-Athlete Success Center opened in January of 2009. The 10,000-square foot complex features numerous computer labs, along with break out rooms for WKU student-athletes to study, work on school projects and receive tutorial assistance and academic advising.

"Our combined successes in academics and athletics validates that those who wear 'WKU' on the uniform are truly student-athletes and that we are providing the proper resources and support for them to succeed. There is a perfect blend of academic and athletic success here at WKU."

—WKU Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, Ross Bjork

Carol and Denny Wedge, whose gencontribution erous helped fund the Student-Athlete Success Center, were given special recognition at the student-athlete academic celebration banquet. The Carol and Denny Wedge Student-Athlete Success Center continues to impact countless lives on a daily basis.



Left to right: Denny Wedge, Carol Wedge, Dixie Mahurin (WKU Academic Advising)

SINCE 2000, 85% OF ALL STUDENT-ATHLETES WHO HAVE FULFILLED THEIR ELIGIBILITY HAVE GRADUATED

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Making an impact in Bowling Green and the surrounding communities is an integral part of Hilltopper and Lady Topper athletics. Student-athletes, coaches and administrative staff frequently dedicate their time to visit schools, work with youth groups, speak to young men and women and participate in various gameday events and post-game autograph sessions.











UNIVERSITY INTEGRATION

The integration of athletics and academics is a key component of the university, and the academic advising structure for WKU student-athletes reports directly to the Office of the Provost. The athletic department also takes great pride in highlighting university and academic achievements throughout the WKU campus. Geography professor John All, who climbed Mount Everest in May of 2010, was recognized at the WKU-Indiana football game, the nationally acclaimed Forensics team was honored during football's Homecoming contest and the achievements of the WKU Engineering Department were featured at a basketball game on February 24. The University's Distinguished Professors, Gordon Ford College of Business and ROTC cadets were among other campus groups recognized at athletic events during the 2010-11 year.









A \$33 million renovation of E.A. Diddle Arena in 2003 featured the addition of state-of-the-art video replay scoreboards and 16 luxury suites, refurbished men's and women's basketball locker rooms and team rooms and two practice courts. Facility improvements are continuing as new graphic and branding elements, highlighting both current players and coaches along with each program's rich history, were recently added to the Hilltopper and Lady Topper practice facilities. New lockers, carpeting and graphics have been added to the men's locker room and team lounge, and courtside LED message boards were added to E.A. Diddle Arena for the first time during the 2010-11 season. The Hall of History, celebrating WKU's more than 100 years of rich tradition, is an added attraction on the arena's second level concourse.



Since 2002, WKU has invested \$3 million in renovations to Nick Denes Field. This includes the brand new, \$1 million Paul C. Orberson clubhouse, which opened prior to the 2010 season. Other improvements include playing surface upgrades, fan-friendly party decks down the baselines and a new speaker system for the ballpark.



WORLD CLASS FACILITIES



Nearly \$50 million has been invested in the recent renovation and expansion of Houchens Industries-L.T. Smith Stadium, resulting in the Topper Club level, new locker rooms, meeting rooms, weight rooms and training rooms along with an expanded academic advising center. The stadium also features club seating, a \$1.5 million video replay scoreboard and a state-of-the-art playing surface that was installed in the spring of 2009. WKU also hosted all six Kentucky High School Athletic Association State Championship football games in 2009 and 2010.

A\$2.5 million Phase 1 renovation of the Charles M. Ruter Track and Field Complex was completed in the spring of 2008.

WKU's softball facility is one of the finest in the Sun Belt Conference.



The Bill Powell Natatorium was renovated in the summer of 2009, and the on-campus facility is the site of all WKU home matches.

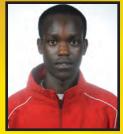


WKU hosted the 2010 Sun Belt Conference Soccer Championships and consistently attracts top competition to the WKU Soccer Complex.

SUN SHINING ON THE HILL



Cross Country



Vasity Chemweno Shadrack Kipchirchir Cross Country



Matt Rice Baseball



Monteka Flowers— Track

2010-11 ALL-AMERICANS



Justin Hageman— Baseball



Ignacio Guerra Track and Field



Claire Donahue Swimming



Willie McNeal Football



Laura Iquane Track and Field



Shadrack Kipchirchir Bobby Rainey Cross Country/ Track





Melanie Stutsman Volleyball

2010-11 SUN BELT C **AWARD WINNERS**



Claire Donahue **Swimmina** SBC Female Swimmer of the Year



Monteka Flowers Indoor Track SBC Field Performer of the Year



Justin Hageman Baseball SBC Freshman of the Year



Bobby Rainey Football SBC Offensive Player of the Year



Vasity Chemweno— Track

SUN SHINING ON THE HILL

2010-11 FIRST-TEAM ALL-SUN BELT ONFERENCE PERFORMERS



Arnika Brown Basketball



Kes Carter Baseball



Karavin Dew Softball



Tiffany Elmore Volleyball



Sergio Kerusch Basketball



Carrie True— Tennis



Mallory Outerbridge Steffphon Pettigrew Soccer



Basketball



Bobby Rainey Football



Matt Rice Baseball



Jordyn Skinner Volleyball



Carrie True Tennis

2010-11 SUN BELT



Erik Jenkins Women's Outdoor Track



Michelle Scott Women's Cross Country



Mallory Outerbridge— Soccer

HILLTOPPER NATION

"The Hilltopper Nation is unique and passionate in numerous ways, especially in the loyal manner in which you support our program. The passion you exhibit on a consistent basis inspires all of us, and the consistent success we have achieved on the field and in the classroom would not occur without the tremendous role you play."

- WKU Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, Ross Bjork

A crowd of 20,772 was on hand to see WKU host a Big Ten Conference opponent for the first time, Indiana, on September 18, 2010, which was the second-largest crowd in the history of Houchens Industries-L.T. Smith Stadium.

On Spread the Red Education Day on February 2, 2011, 7,094 fans packed E.A. Diddle Arena to watch the WKU women's basketball team take on South Alabama. The crowd was the largest since the renovation of E.A. Diddle Arena and the fourth-largest Lady Topper crowd of all time. The "Education Day" game was the culmination of a month long program between the WKU Athletics Department and the **Bowling Green and Warren** County school systems creating a synergy between education and athletics.



HILLTOPPER NATION

For the second-straight season, a capacity crowd showed up at Bowling Green Ballpark in downtown Bowling Green for a base-ball showdown between WKU and Kentucky. On April 19, 2011, 5,142 fans jammed the 4,500-seat ballpark, home of the Class-A Bowling Green Hot Rods, to comprise the largest crowd to see a baseball game in the Commonwealth of Kentucky in 2011.

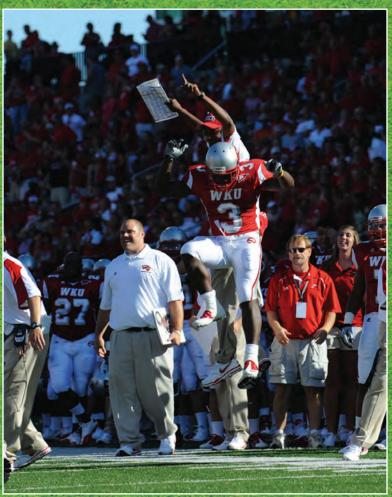


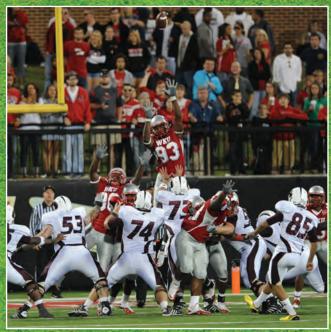


WKU FOOTBALL CHASING GREATNESS



WKU football entered a new era with the hiring of former Hilltopper star Willie Taggart as head football coach prior to the 2010 season. Each of WKU's first two recruiting classes under Taggart was rated No. 1 in the Sun Belt Conference by Rivals.com.







WKU FOOTBALL

- 513 All-Time Wins (best in Sun Belt Conference and 26th out of 120 FBS schools)
- 66 All-Americans
- 12 Conference Championships
- 2002 I-AA National Champions

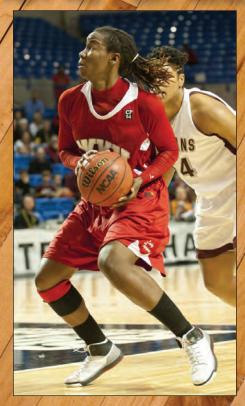
TAGGART BLEEDING WKU RED

- Set 11 school records at quarterback from 1995-98
- One of only four players in WKU's 92-year football history to have his jersey retired
- Spent eight seasons as assistant coach from 1999-2006
- Co-offensive coordinator for WKU's 2002 I-AA National Championship team

TRADITION-RICH BASKETBALL

Hilltop-Steffphon Pettigrew concluded his four-year WKU career in 2011 as the 13th-leading scorer in WKU history. Pettigrew, a former Kentucky Mr. Basketball award-winner, won two conference championships and three NCAA **Tournament** games while at WKU.

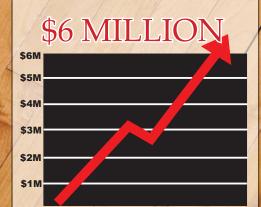




Arnika Brown ended her illustrious Lady Topper career ranked second in career rebounding, and she was honored as a first-team All-Sun Belt Conference performer in three-straight seasons.



Of the 821 wins in the history of the Lady Topper program, Mary Taylor Cowles has been a part of 441 of those victories – more than half of the program's all-time total. Cowles was a part of 94 wins as a player (1987-90), 157 as an assistant coach (1995-2001) and has led WKU to 190 more as head coach (2002-present).



By defeating Big Ten Conference runner-up Illinois in the 2009 NCAA Tournament and reaching the Sweet 16 in 2008, WKU men's basketball is responsible for generating over \$6 million in total revenue for the Sun Belt Conference and its members. This figure includes approximately \$750,000 directly to WKU athletics.



In Ken McDonald's eight total seasons at WKU, five as an assistant coach (1999-2003) and three as head coach (2009-present), WKU has won four Sun Belt Conference titles and been to four NCAA Tournaments.

WKU ATHLETICS LEADERSHIP

Ross Bjork completed his first year as WKU's Director of Intercollegiate Athletics in 2010-11.



Operating at full speed from the onset, Bjork has kept WKU moving forward by:

- Creating full-time coaching positions for both men's and women's golf
- Implementing a strategic budgeting process
- Starting a master facility plan
- Restructuring several key administrative units
- Creating a new mission statement and core values to guide the athletics program

He also leads the "Toppers on Tour" caravan each summer, in which coaches and administrators from the WKU athletic department visit six cities outside of the Bowling Green area in three weeks covering over 1,000 total miles. His team also launched the Power of One membership campaign to accelerate growth for the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation and a new telemarketing program for ticket sales has also seen immediate success in new customers for WKU Athletics.

LEADERSHIP TEAM



Dr. James BrownFaculty Athletic
Representative



Todd Stewart Senior Associate AD-Communications/ Media Relations



Craig Biggs Associate AD-Operations



B.J. Burton
Associate ADAdministration



Jim Clark Associate AD-Development



Pam Herriford Associate AD-SWA



Darrell Horn Associate AD-Business Affairs/ CFO



JaShard Justice
Director- Athletic
Academic Advising



Dixie MahurinAcademic AdvisorSupport Services



Lindsay ThomasAssistant AD- Marketing
and Ticket Sales

ATHLETIC IMPACT



- E.A. Diddle Arena, which annually hosts over 40 WKU basketball and volleyball events, has also hosted the Kentucky High School Athletic Association's Girls Sweet 16 tournament each year since 2001.
- WKU hosted the Sun Belt Conference's cross country and soccer championships in 2010-11 after being selected to host the volleyball and swimming and diving championships in 2009-10. Next year, WKU will see the Sun Belt Conference's cross country and baseball championships come to Bowling Green.

WKU Athletics' annual \$21 million budget represents approximately 5% of the university's overall \$385 million budget. WKU Athletics returns this investment with a financial impact on both WKU and south-central Kentucky. National, regional and local media coverage of WKU sporting events results in tremendous exposure for the university and region. The over 100,000 people who attend on-campus sporting events each year help local businesses, hotels and restaurants with their patronage and the resulting increased tax revenue.



Through an arrangement with the Hilltopper Sports Satellite Network, Fox College Sports and DirecTV, over 30 live broadcasts of WKU basketball games were syndicated nationwide in 2010-11, making the Hilltoppers and Lady Toppers two of the most televised programs in the nation. WKU games and coaches shows reach 47 of the nation's top 50 markets and in excess of 25 million homes on a consistent basis. The WKU men's basketball program has made 121 television appearances in the last four seasons.

CHAMPIONSHIP EFF



Head Softball Coach Tyra Perry

from Bowling Green and Warren County elementary schools who packed E.A. Diddle Arena to watch a women's basketball game on Spread The Red Education Day on February 2, 2011

fans per game in two baseball meetings between WKU and Kentucky played at Bowling Green Ballpark in downtown Bowling Green.

million dollars invested in new construction or renovations of athletic facilities since 2000.

1544 career points scored by basketball standout Steffphon Pettigrew, who leaves the Hill ranked 13th on WKU's career scoring list.

373 victories by the softball program in 12 seasons of play, an average of 31 per year.

Win for women's tennis coach Jeff True came on March 20 as the Lady Toppers took down Tennessee State.



Director of Tennis Jeff True



Student-Athletes of the Year Matt Rice (Baseball) and Claire Donahue (Swimming)

percent of student-athletes who have fulfilled their eligibility since 2000 have graduated.

79 all-time track and field All-Americans

75 Sun Belt Conference championships for WKU since 2000, nearly twice as many as the next closest school.

54 points scored by WKU in its football win at Louisiana-Lafayette on October 23, 2010, giving Willie Taggart his first win as Hilltopper head coach.

ORT COUNTDOWN



Head Soccer Coach Jason Neidell

7 consecutive conference championships for the women's track program, which is the longest current streak in the nation.

Jersey number of
Hilltopper baseball legend
Jack Glasser, who on April
19, 2011 became the first
WKU baseball player to
have his jersey retired.

seasons of 25 or more wins for volleyball program under direction of head coach Travis Hudson.

men's basketball home games in 2010-11 drew an average of 3,821 fans to E.A. Diddle Arena.

volleyball freshman Melanie Stutsman in 2010, which helped her to All-American and second-team All-Sun Belt Conference honors.

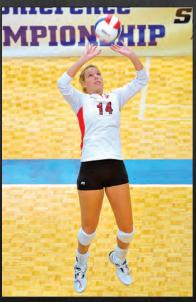
seniors on the football team will be looking to lead the way in 201° and build off last season's successes.

errer victories on the foreign PCA Tour for means golf coach Phillip Herchett, who was named the head coach at his alma mate er on August 23, 2010. shutouts for women's soccer goalkeeper Libby Stout in 2010, giving her a school-record 29 entering her senior season in 2011.

5.8 assists per game for women's basketball senior Amy McNear in 2010-11, which ranked fourth in the nation.

Th-place national finish in the men's javelin at the 2011 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships for Ignacio "Nacho" Guerra, who became the first javelin thrower in Hilltopper history to score at the NCAA meet.

first- or second-place tournament finishes by the women's golf team in 10 events played in 2010-11.



Volleyball Freshman All-American Melanie Stutsman

all-time Sun Belt Conference Bubas Cup all-sports titles for WKU, four of which came in the last 10 years.

3-straight seasons with at least 16 Sun Belt Conference wins for the baseball program.

2nd place finish in the nation in the 100-yard butterfly for swimmer Claire Donahue, who set a new school record with her time of 51.68 seconds – just 1.2 seconds shy of a national championship.

1 MISSION: CHAMPIONSHIP EFFORT!

CELEBRATING TOP PERFORMANCES

WKU fans were treated to outstanding individual performances on the fields of competition in 2010-11. Some placed the Hilltopper athletic program in the national spotlight, and others propelled WKU student-athletes to historic heights rarely seen on the Hill.

bobby rainey

Bobby Rainey spent the 2010 football season rushing to levels seen by few people in all of college football, as he finished the season as the nation's third leading rusher (137.4 yards per game). He was also named an All-American by Sl.com and the Sun Belt Conference's Offensive Player of the Year.



women's golf

The WKU women's golf team captured the Troy Women's Invitational crown in 2011, its first tournament victory since 2006. In the tournament, WKU saw three individuals earn topfour finishes. WKU topped the field by eight strokes over the three-round tournament.



libby stout

Lady Topper goalkeeper Libby Stout has already written her way into the WKU soccer record books after just three seasons on the Hill. Entering her senior season in 2011, Stout is five wins away from becoming the career leader at WKU and already has 15 more shutouts than the next closest Lady Topper net-minder.



track and field

WKU's track program had three All-Americans in 2011, raising the program's all-time total to 79. Ignacio "Nacho" Guerra placed seventh in the men's javelin, Laura Igaune placed seventh in the women's hammer, and Shadrack Kipchirchir placed 16th in

