

# CHAMPIONSHIP EFFORT

WKU ATHLETICS  
2009-10 ANNUAL REPORT



*Erik Jenkins (left), Head Track/Cross Country Coach, and former head coach Curtiss Long (right), are pictured with trophies representing 12 of the 14 consecutive conference titles won by the WKU women's program, the longest current streak in the country.*

## CHAMPIONSHIP EFFORT

- *Decade of Excellence 2000-2010:* \$100 million in new athletics facilities or renovations, 85 percent of student-athletes who completed their eligibility graduated, 72 Sun Belt Conference championships (32 more than the next closest school)!
- 26 conference championships in last three years, more than any school in the nation!



Dear Hilltopper Nation,

Greetings from the Hill! I want to let you know what a privilege and honor it has been serving as WKU's Director of Intercollegiate Athletics since I officially came on board on April 26. The passion, excitement and enthusiasm everyone in the Hilltopper Nation consistently displays toward WKU athletics is inspiring and appreciated. There is no way WKU would have experienced such tremendous success on and off the playing field without you and the vital support you provide.

As you know, the past decade has been one of significant and noteworthy accomplishments. We have invested \$100 million in new facilities or renovations, graduated 85% of our student-athletes who have fulfilled their eligibility, and won 72 Sun Belt Conference championships – 32 more than the next closest university. Our 26 Sun Belt Conference titles over the last three years are the most in the nation. Nine of our 15 athletic programs have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher, and 50 percent of all student-athletes have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.

These accomplishments are a direct result of the combined efforts of Hilltopper Nation:

- A President and Board 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, while much has been accomplished, we must continue to raise the bar of success. As the saying goes, if you are only maintaining, you fall behind. Therefore, if we rest on our laurels, our progress will end and we will quickly lose our current standing as the best overall program in the Sun Belt Conference. We must and will continue to give our very best effort and demand excellence in everything that we do.

We have been able to sustain success at the highest level 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. In my initial assessment of WKU Athletics, I have determined we cannot continue to succeed at a high level without your support in four vital areas:

*One:* 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 position;

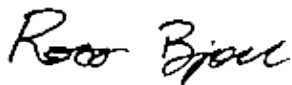
*Two:* Please renew or purchase season tickets at [wkusports.com](http://wkusports.com) or by calling 1-800-5-BIG-RED;

*Three:* Please join or renew your HAF membership by calling 270-745-5321, you can be a part of the Hilltopper family for as little as \$50;

*Four:* Please recruit 4-5 new people to join HAF and/or purchase season tickets to help ensure our continued growth.

Your unwavering support and loyalty has played an instrumental role in our success and growth. On behalf of our 412 student-athletes, the coaches and staff, we thank you for all that you do on behalf of WKU and Hilltopper Athletics.

Cheers to you,



Ross Bjork  
Director of Intercollegiate Athletics



# CHAMPIONSHIP EFFORT

## WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO BE A CHAMPION TODAY?

26 SUN BELT CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS IN LAST THREE YEARS  
MOST TEAM TITLES BY ANY BCS (I-A) SCHOOL



Lillie Mason, pictured with WKU Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Ross Bjork and WKU Associate AD/SWA Pam Herriford, became the 19th person with WKU ties to be inducted into the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame when she was honored on April 28, 2010. A four-year letterwinner at WKU (1982-83; 1985-86),



Mason was a three-time All-American, set 19 Lady Topper career, season and game records during her career on the Hill, and helped WKU reach the Final Four in 1985 and 1986.



Matt Ridings was the only WKU student-athlete to earn academic *and* athletic All-American honors. He was named first-team Academic All-America by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) and ESPN The Magazine while being named Sun Belt Conference Pitcher of the Year and earning third-team All-American honors by Louisville Slugger. Ridings' 34 career wins tied for the most in Sun Belt Conference history, and he helped WKU to two NCAA tournament appearances during his career.

### 2007-08 Champions

Baseball (Tournament)  
Men's Basketball (Tournament)  
Women's Basketball  
(Reg. Season & Tournament)  
Women's Cross Country  
Soccer  
Women's Swimming  
Men's Indoor Track  
Women's Indoor Track  
Men's Outdoor Track  
Women's Outdoor Track

### 2008-09 Champions

Baseball  
Men's Basketball  
(Reg. Season & Tournament)  
Men's Cross Country  
Women's Cross Country  
Women's Swimming  
Women's Indoor Track  
Men's Outdoor Track  
Women's Outdoor Track  
Volleyball (Tournament)

### 2009-10 Champions

Women's Cross Country  
Men's Swimming  
Women's Swimming  
Men's Indoor Track  
Women's Indoor Track  
Men's Outdoor Track  
Women's Outdoor Track



# CHAMPIONSHIP EFFORT



Catcher Matt Rice was named Academic All-American in 2010 and carries a 4.0 cumulative grade point average as a mechanical engineering major. Rice started all 58 games and made only two errors while leading WKU in batting average (.369), home runs (10) and RBIs (65). He was a semi-finalist for the prestigious Johnny Bench Award given annually to the nation's top catcher.

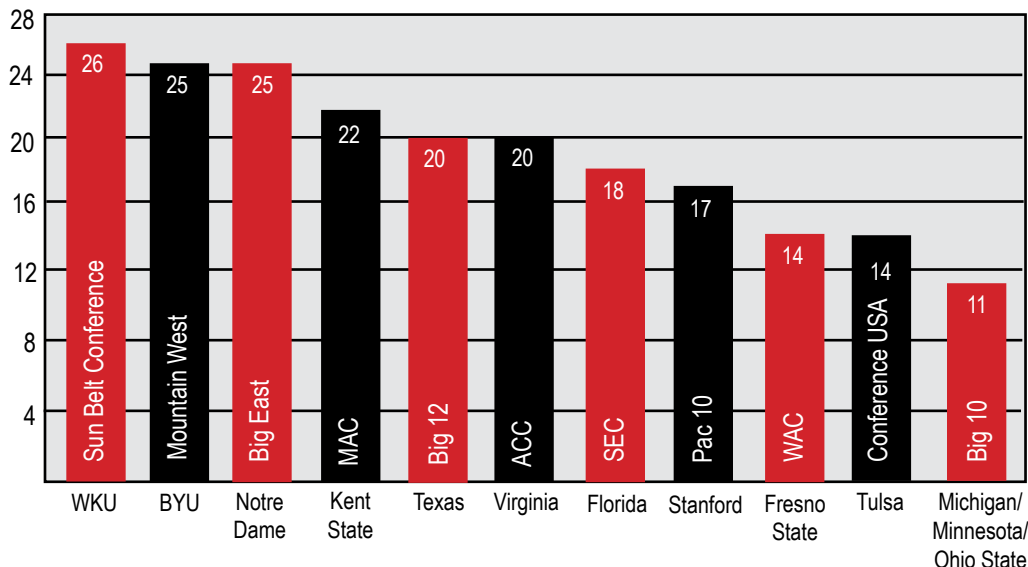
## “CHAMPIONSHIP EFFORT” DEFINED:

The goal of the Western Kentucky University athletic department is to help its student-athletes earn a meaningful degree, set and reach team and individual goals, and depart the Hill as a better and more well rounded person prepared to meet life's challenges. A major goal of all athletes and coaches is not just to compete for championships, but to win. Over the last three years, no D-1 athletic program in the United States of America did this with more frequency than WKU.

## 26 TITLES IN THE LAST THREE YEARS LEADS NATION

The Hilltoppers' seven team championship in 2009-10 trailed only WKU's 10 championships from 2007-08 and nine titles in 2008-09 for the most in the Sun Belt Conference's 33-year history.

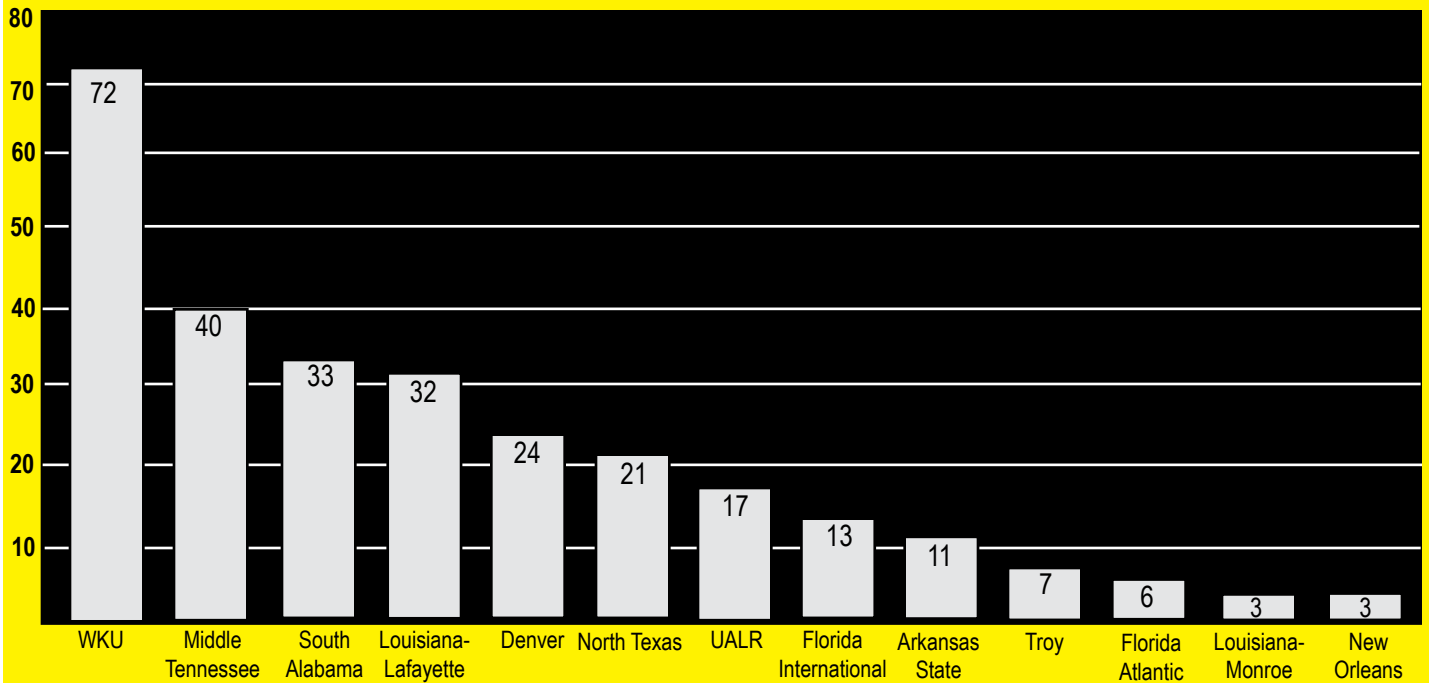
### SCHOOLS AND CONFERENCE AFFILIATION



WKU's 26 total team championships over the last three years (2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10) are more than any school from one of the 11 BCS Conferences (I-A) during this period.

# SUN BELT SUPERIORITY

## SUN BELT CHAMPIONSHIPS IN LAST 10 YEARS

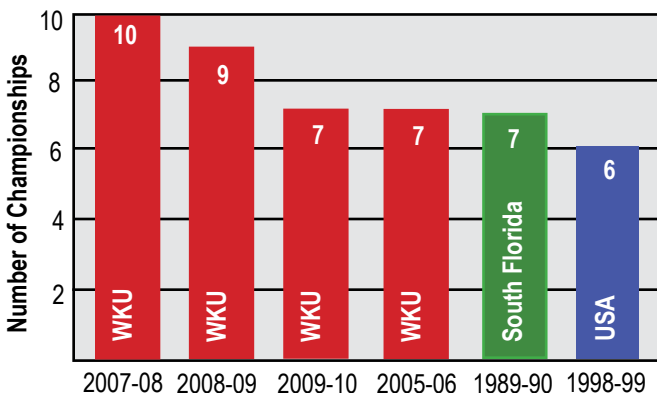


### WKU WINS 7 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

WKU's seven Sun Belt team championships in 2009-10 led the conference for the fifth consecutive year and tied for the third-highest total in conference history, trailing only the Hilltoppers 10 titles from 2007-08 and nine titles in 2008-09. WKU claimed regular season championships in men's and women's swimming and diving, men's and women's indoor and outdoor track, and women's cross country.

WKU has won 26 of the last 55 Sun Belt Conference team titles dating back to the start of the 2007-08 year. The 47% conference title success streak is the highest percentage in the nation during this period.

### MOST SBC CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ONE YEAR



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

# WKU ACADEMICS



A May 2010 graduate with a Biology degree, cross country standout Patrick Jenkins was awarded a \$7,500 Post Graduate Scholarship by the NCAA. He also received the Sun Belt Conference's Post Graduate Scholarship Award and will be attending medical school at the University of Kentucky. Jenkins also represented WKU and the Sun Belt Conference on the NCAA's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee each of the last two years.

WKU's women's volleyball and women's golf teams were honored by the NCAA for their academic superiority after each posted a multi-year Academic Progress Rate (APR) in the top 10 percent of all NCAA Division I teams in their respective sports. It marked the second consecutive year WKU's women's volleyball program has been recognized for the top 10 percent distinction.

A total of 48 student-athletes (11.7%) had a 4.0 GPA for the spring 2010 semester.

Student-athletes in the university's 19 sports are majoring in 76 different programs. *Nine of the university's 15 athletic programs have a cumulative team GPA of 3.0 or better*, and women's track and field (representing cross country, indoor track and outdoor track) has a 2.99 cumulative GPA.

WKU's women's golf (1,000 APR) and women's volleyball (995 APR) teams posted two of the six APR scores of 995+ registered from all sports in the state of Kentucky, joining the University of Kentucky (two), Morehead State (one) and Murray State (one) with that distinctive claim.

The overall cumulative average GPA for WKU's 412 student-athletes is 2.95, and 207 student-athletes (50.2%) are maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.

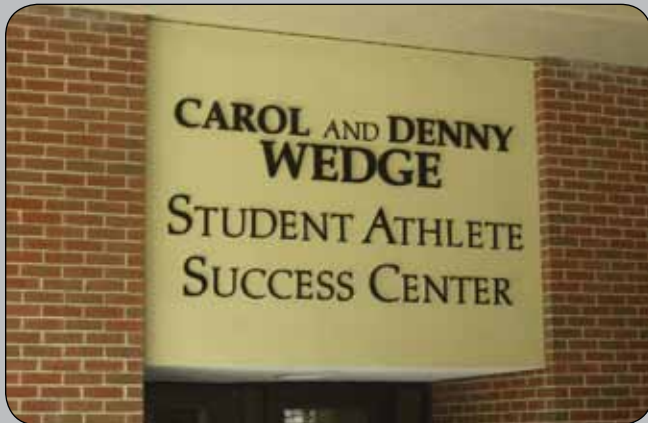
83 student athletes, representing 18 sports, graduated in the past year. They obtained degrees in 26 different majors in diverse programs including accounting, business, economics, chemistry, civil engineering, hospitality management/dietetics, nursing, social work and Spanish.





# WKU ACADEMICS

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."*

*— Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Ross Bjork*

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 five years and is one of only six conference schools to exceed the NCAA required 925 Academic Progress Report Rate (APR) in every men's and women's sport.



85% of all student-athletes who have exhausted their eligibility this decade have graduated.

# WORLD CLASS FACILITIES



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, will be added to the Hilltopper and Lady Topper practice facilities by the fall of 2010. New lockers, carpeting and graphics are also being added to the men's locker room and team lounge, and LED message boards will be featured in Diddle Arena for the 2010-11 season. The Hall of History celebrating WKU's more than 100 years of rich tradition will be an added attraction on the arena's second level concourse.

*WKU has invested \$100 million in new construction or renovations of athletic facilities in the last 10 years.*



\$2.5 million toward Phase I of the new Charles M. Ruter track and field complex was completed in the spring of 2008.



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



# 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 seats, 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 will again serve as host in 2010.



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



WKU's soccer field will be the host site of the 2010 Sun Belt Conference Soccer Championships.



WKU has put \$3 million into baseball stadium renovations since 2002 including the \$1 million Paul C. Orberson clubhouse that opened prior to the 2010 season. The new clubhouse features a spacious locker room, player lounge and coaches' offices along with additional laundry and storage areas.

# A NEW ERA



Ross Bjork, pictured with President Gary Ransdell, was named Western Kentucky University's Director of Intercollegiate Athletics on March 12, 2010. He worked the last five seasons as the Senior Associate Athletic Director for Development and External Relations at UCLA and has 18 years of intercollegiate athletics experience as an administrator and student-athlete, having also worked on the senior staffs at the University of Miami and the University of Missouri. He also served as Assistant Development Coordinator at WKU in 1996-97. Bjork is the youngest Athletics Director among the 120 members of the Football Bowl Subdivision.



## What they are saying about Ross Bjork...

"During his four-plus years here, we saw measurable improvement in our fundraising, sponsorship and other revenue generating efforts. As a member of my senior administration, Ross proved to be well-versed in all of the various areas of an athletic program, including sport supervision, budgeting, marketing, donor relations and fundraising. He is a rising star in our business, and I know that he will do a great job at WKU."

*DAN GUERRERO*  
Director of Athletics  
UCLA

"I am a huge advocate of Ross Bjork and his family, and WKU has certainly hired a terrific person as their new Director of Athletics. He has great leadership and team building skills and just has a great overview of college athletics in general. He has great core values and will be focused and locked on to the student-athlete experience in a positive way."

*MIKE ALDEN*  
Director of Athletics  
University of Missouri

"Ross is a charismatic, high-energy professional with the dedication and passion integral for leading a department to even higher levels of achievement. Without a doubt, he is a "cando" administrator who has shown he can make things happen in every job that he has held."

*FRANK HAITH*  
Head Men's Basketball Coach  
University of Miami

"Ross has earned the reputation and respect of our profession for his ability to lead an intercollegiate athletics department. He displays a genuine and admirable balance between his professional ability and his personal character."

*DUTCH BAUGHMAN*  
Executive Director  
Division I-A Athletic Directors' Association



# WKU FOOTBALL “CHASING GREATNESS”



Willie Taggart was named head football coach on November 23 after working as running backs coach at Stanford from 2007-09. He previously spent eight seasons as an assistant coach at WKU from 1999-2006 and served as co-offensive coordinator for WKU's 2002 I-AA National Championship team.

• A standout player at quarterback who set 11 school records for the Hilltoppers from 1995-98, Taggart is one of only four players in WKU's 91-year football history to have his jersey retired.

• Taggart graduated from WKU with a bachelor's degree in social sciences in 1998.

“WKU is in my DNA, and I will bring passion, dedication, enthusiasm and competitiveness to everything I do. That is what WKU will get from me every single day. This is a tremendous university with first-class facilities, and we will chase greatness and catch excellence in the process.”

— Willie Taggart

Taggart helped running back Toby Gerhart rank second in the nation in rushing (144.7 ypg.) last season and earn the Doak Walker Award given to the nation's top running back. Gerhart finished second in the final 2009 Heisman Trophy balloting in the closest race in the award's 75-year history and graduated with a cumulative 3.25 grade point average as a management, science and technology major. He was drafted in the 2nd round of the 2010 National Football League Draft by the Minnesota Vikings.



**2002**

I-AA National Champions

**64** All-Americans

**12** Conference Championships

**.591** all-time winning percentage, highest in Sun Belt Conference



# SUN SHINING ON THE HILL

WKU had 9 All-Americans, 8 Player of the Year Honors and 7 Coach of the Year Honors

## 2009-10 ALL AMERICANS



**Claire Donahue**  
*Swimming*



**Janet Jesang**  
*Cross Country*



**Matt Ridings**  
*Baseball*



**Matt Payton**  
*Baseball (academic)*



**Matt Rice**  
*Baseball (academic)*



**Matt Ridings**  
*Baseball (academic)*



**Shannon Smith**  
*Softball (academic)*



**Rachel Friedman**  
*Soccer (academic)*

*Not pictured:* Andrejs Maskancevs  
*Outdoor Track*



# SUN SHINING ON THE HILL



**SHANNON SMITH**

## SUN BELT CONFERENCE PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



**Claire Donahue**  
*Swimming*



**Sean Penhale**  
*Men's Swimming*



**Brian Sovers**  
*Indoor Track  
Outdoor Track*

## SUN BELT CONFERENCE COACHES OF THE YEAR



**Matt Ridings**  
*Baseball*



**Janet Jesang**  
*Indoor Track  
Cross Country*



**Kellie Walker**  
*Soccer*



**Bob Benson**  
*Women's Diving*



**Michelle Scott**  
*Women's Cross Country*



**Erik Jenkins**  
*Women's Indoor Track  
Men's Outdoor Track  
Women's Outdoor Track*



**Bruce Marchionda**  
*Women's Swimming  
Men's Swimming*



**KELLIE WALKER**



# IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY



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 game day events and post-game autograph sessions.





# TRADITION RICH BASKETBALL



Crystal Kelly ended her Lady Topper career as WKU's all-time leader in points (2,803), rebounds (1,258) and games started (130). She was drafted by the Houston Comets with the 31st overall selection in the 2008 WNBA Draft.

In Ken McDonald's seven total seasons at WKU, five as an assistant coach (1999-2003) and two as head coach (2009-2010), WKU has won four Sun Belt conference titles and been to four NCAA Tournaments.

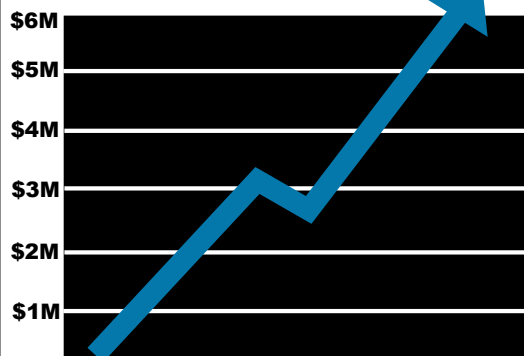


Of the 806 wins in the history of the Lady Topper program, Mary Taylor Cowles has actually been a part of 426 of those victories, more than half of the program's all-time total. Cowles was a part of 94 wins as a player (1987-90), 157 as an assistant coach (1995-2001) and 175 as head coach.



Courtney Lee (left) and Jim McDaniels (right) are tied for the WKU career points scored record (2,238 points). McDaniels was a three-time All-American who led WKU to the 1971 Final Four, while Lee led the Toppers to the 2008 "Sweet 16" and was selected by Orlando with the 22nd pick in the first round of the 2008 NBA Draft.

## \$6 MILLION



By defeating Big 10 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 including approximately \$750,000 directly to WKU athletics.



WKU Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Ross Bjork (far left) and Head Men's Basketball Coach Ken McDonald (right) receive a \$333,000 check from the Sun Belt Conference. WKU athletics received the money as a result of reaching the second round of the 2009 NCAA Basketball Tournament.

# ATHLETIC IMPACT



## HOSTING MAJOR EVENTS

- 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, which hosted the Sun Belt Conference's volleyball and swimming and diving championships this past year, will also host the conference's cross country and soccer championships in 2010-11, and cross country and baseball in 2011-12.

WKU Athletics' annual \$19 million budget represents approximately 5% of the university's overall \$381,723,000 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.

RUSSELL ATHLETIC, a division of FRUIT OF THE LOOM, formed an exclusive relationship with WKU in 2007 that was recently extended to 2016. The \$2 million partnership provides first-class apparel and uniforms for WKU players, coaches and staff and is one of the finest arrangements of its kind in the country.



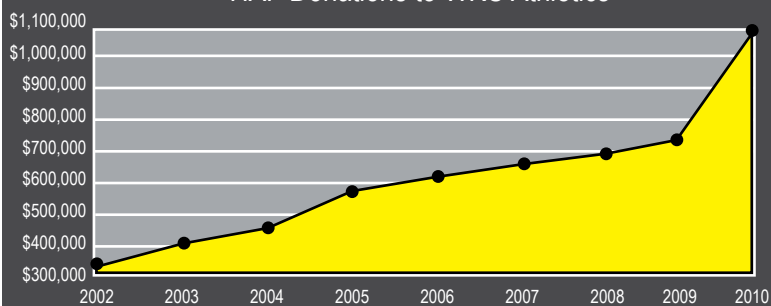
PEPSI and WKU have an exclusive multi-million dollar beverage agreement, providing resources that enable WKU student-athletes to succeed on the field and in the classroom.

HOUCHENS INDUSTRIES provided \$5 million toward the renovation of Houchens Industries – L.T. Smith football stadium and also makes a substantial annual commitment toward marketing and television exposure for WKU basketball.



IMG and WKU have a ten year agreement generating in excess of \$10 million for Hilltopper Athletics – IMG also funded a \$1.5 million video board at Houchens Industries – L.T. Smith Stadium.

HAF Donations to WKU Athletics



The Hilltopper Athletic Foundation enhances WKU Athletics through private support and visibility while also providing scholarship funding for student-athletes. Since 2002, HAF's annual donations to the athletic department have increased more than 300%, illustrating the significant advancement of the foundation and tremendous support from the WKU family.





# NATIONAL EXPOSURE

WKU and the University of Kentucky have agreed to an unprecedented four-year football series. The schools will meet in Lexington on September 11th this season and again in 2012 and at LP Field in Nashville, Tenn., in 2011 and 2013. The games in the Music City are designated as home games for the Hilltoppers.



WKU's 68-54 win over No. 3 Louisville on November 30, 2008 in the Sommet Center in Nashville marked the first game of a four-year series in men's basketball. The Cardinals topped WKU this past season in Louisville's Freedom Hall and will travel to E.A. Diddle Arena in Bowling Green this year. The unique series, featuring four games in four arenas, concludes with a match up in Louisville's new downtown arena during the 2011-12 season.

Through an arrangement with the Hilltopper Sports Satellite Network, Fox College Sports and Direct TV, over 30 live broadcasts of WKU basketball games were syndicated nationwide in 2009-10, making the Hilltoppers one 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.



Following their 76-72 NCAA Tournament win over Big Ten runner-up Illinois in 2009, WKU was featured on the front page of the Friday, March 20 edition of *USA Today*. WKU's football program was the topic of a *USA Today* cover story by nationally acclaimed writer Steve Wieberg on October 6, 2008, enabling millions of readers nationwide to learn about the Toppers transition to I-A football. Purchasing ad space of this size in *USA Today* would have cost in excess of \$2 million.



Kenny Perry, a WKU Hall of Famer who lettered on the golf team from 1979-1982, is a 28-year veteran of the PGA Tour. He was a member of the U.S. Ryder Cup team in 2004 and 2008, finished second in the 1996 PGA and 2009 Masters tournaments, and has 14 career PGA wins.

**"The arrangement between HSSN and WKU is truly unique. The school's men's and women's basketball programs receive tremendous national exposure, while WKU students gain invaluable experience using innovative and state-of-the-art technology. Simply put, everybody wins."**

—David Brinkley,  
HSSN Executive Producer



Jeremy Evans, one of only two players in school history with 1,000 career points, 750 rebounds and 200 blocked shots, helped WKU to 97 wins during his four-year career and was selected in the second round of the 2010 NBA Draft by the Utah Jazz. It marked the second time in the last three years a Hilltopper was picked in the NBA Draft, as Evans' former teammate Courtney Lee was taken in the draft's first round in 2008 by Orlando and played the 2009-10 season with the New Jersey Nets. A.J. Slaughter, a two-time all Sun Belt Conference performer, signed a free agent contract with the Detroit Pistons.



# CHAMPIONSHIP EFFORT COUNTDOWN

**100 million** amount invested in new construction or renovations of athletic facilities this decade.

**426** number of wins that Mary Taylor Cowles has been a part of as a player, assistant coach and head coach at WKU, 53% of Lady Topper program's all-time total of 806.

**925** Academic Progress Rate mandated by NCAA which WKU exceeds in all 19 sports.

**6,183** fans attending WKU's 24-8 baseball win over Kentucky on April 20 at Bowling Green Ballpark (pictured below), the largest crowd to ever see a college baseball game in the state of Kentucky.



JASON NEIDELL



**76** different majors among 412 WKU student-athletes.

**68** percent of career matches won by Lady Topper volleyball head coach Travis Hudson with a 349-163 record.

**106** career wins for soccer head coach Jason Neidell, who started the Hilltoppers program in 2001, including 43 wins over the last three years.

**73** all-time All-American honors earned by a WKU track and field athlete after Andrejs Maskancevs placed seventh in the long jump in 2010.



TRAVIS HUDSON

**85 percent** of student-athletes who have fulfilled their eligibility this decade have graduated.

# CHAMPIONSHIP EFFORT COUNTDOWN

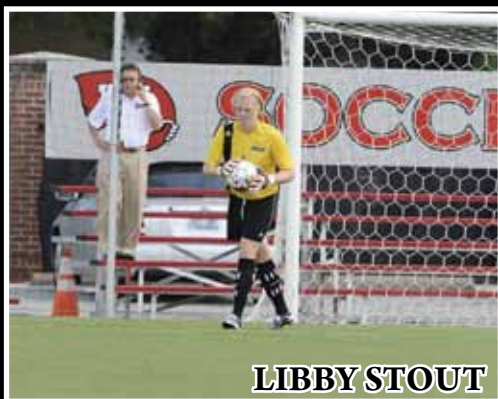
**41** conference championships for men's basketball program, third-most in NCAA history trailing only Kansas and Kentucky.

**34** career wins for WKU pitcher Matt Ridings, tying him for the highest total in Sun Belt Conference history.

**28** consecutive years with at least one Sun Belt Conference championship (1983-2010), a league record.



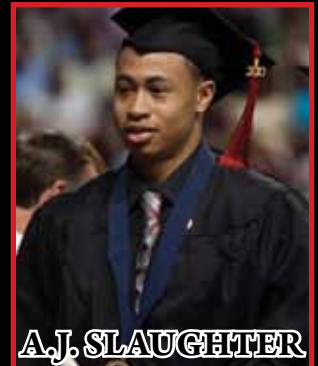
AQUILA ORR



LIBBY STOUT

**21** school record shutouts as soccer goalie in just two seasons for Libby Stout.

**26** conference team championships over the last three years, more than any school from one of the 11 BCS Conferences during this period.



A.J. SLAUGHTER

**15** women's cross country titles since 1985, five more than the rest of the conference combined

**14** consecutive Sun Belt Conference titles for women's track program, nation's longest current streak

**10**th percentile top APR national ranking for volleyball in each of last two seasons

**6**th in career rebounds after three seasons for Lady Topper Arnika Brown (876)

**3** consecutive seasons of 33+ wins for baseball for only third time in program's history

**13** Lindsay Antone's number, who leaves the Hill with a WKU softball record 32 career home runs

**12**th most points in WKU history for men's basketball stand-out A.J. Slaughter (1,581)

**9** All-Americans

**7** conference coach-of-the-year honors

**5** all-time Bubas Cup conference all sports titles, four in last nine years

**2.95** cumulative grade point average for all 412 WKU student-athletes

**11** baseball players selected in Major League Baseball draft over last two years

**8** conference player-of-the-year honors

**4**th place national finish in 100 Fly by women's swimmer Claire Donahue

**1 MISSION:**

**"CHAMPIONSHIP EFFORT"**



# CELEBRATING CHAMPIONSHIPS



**WKU named Erik Jenkins Head Track and Field Coach in January of 2008. Since then, the Hilltoppers have captured Sun Belt Conference championships in 14 of 16 sports under his direction and Jenkins has picked up 11 conference Coach of the Year honors.**



Four-time All-American Janet Jesang is one of only six WKU athletes – and the only female – to earn All-America honors in all three track disciplines (cross country, indoor, outdoor). A May 2010 graduate with a degree in Social Work, Jesang earned 20 All-Sun Belt Conference honors in her career including five Most Outstanding Track Performer honors.

Brian Sovrens was named the 2010 Sun Belt Conference Most Outstanding Performer in both Indoor Track and Outdoor Track.



**WKU's women's track program has captured 14 consecutive titles, winning every cross country, indoor and outdoor title dating back to 2006.**

Sean Penhale was named 2010 Sun Belt Conference Swimmer of the Year after setting a meet record in the 1650 freestyle (15:11.30) at the 2010 conference championships.

## Sean Penhale



## Claire Donahue



Claire Donahue was one of only 16 female swimmers in the nation to be named All-American by CollegeSwimming.com after finishing 4th in the nation in the 100 Fly at the 2010 NCAA Swimming Championships. She became the first female swimmer and only the second person in WKU history to qualify for the finals session at an NCAA Championship meet (Steve Crocker, 4th in 50 freestyle in 1985). She also finished 9th nationally in the 200 Fly.



**Bruce Marchionda, a 27-year coaching veteran, has served as the Hilltopper and Lady Topper head swimming coach the last five seasons. He has been named Sun Belt Conference Coach-of-the-Year six times, including earning men's and women's coach of the year honors in 2010. Marchionda has led WKU to six conference swimming titles during his tenure, three each for the men and women, and the WKU women have captured the last three conference swimming championships.**