



WKU COACHES

10

20

30

40

50

40

30

20

10



Hilltopper Coaching Staff

David Elson Head Coach 30-17 (63.8%) Fifth Season

A member of the Western Kentucky University football staff since 1996, fifth-year head coach David Elson has known nothing but success on the Hill. The Hilltoppers have posted a 91-41 (68.9%) record over the last 11 years, advancing to the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs on six occasions, while putting together a 30-17 (63.8%) mark since he took over the helm of the program prior to the 2003 campaign.

As a result of that continued success, Elson has a contract that runs through the 2012 season.

Now, the 35-year-old native of Indianapolis has been entrusted by the administration to lead the program to historic heights after the WKU Board of Regents announced in November that the school will begin a two-year transition to the NCAA Division I-A (Football Bowl Subdivision) level.

While the Toppers will be eligible for the Sun Belt Conference championship and a bowl berth beginning in 2009, Elson has already experienced plenty of success in his 11 years at WKU. Not only have the Hilltoppers finished with a winning record in each of those seasons, they claimed the 2002 NCAA Division I-AA national championship while winning Ohio Valley and

Gateway Football Conference titles in 2000 and 2002, respectively. Since taking over as head coach, WKU has advanced to postseason play twice under Elson.



And, not only did the Hilltoppers reach the top spot in the national polls twice during the 2005 season, they posted top-15 finishes following both the '03 and '04 campaigns. WKU finished seventh at the end of his initial season after he matched the legendary E.A. Diddle for the most victories by a WKU first-year head coach. He led the Toppers to a 9-4 record, advancing to the quarterfinals of the NCAA playoffs. The following year, Elson was a finalist for the Eddie Robinson national Coach-of-the-Year Award after guiding WKU to a 9-3 finish, including a 6-1 mark in the Gateway Football Conference, despite losing 25 seniors from his first squad.

Although he started as a defensive backs coach and served as defensive coordinator in 2001 and '02 prior to his promotion, Elson has proven he can win relying on both sides of the ball while building a solid special teams unit.

Last year, the Hilltoppers led the Gateway in

passing, pass efficiency and total defense — ranking in the top 25 nationally in both pass defense categories — on their way to a 6-5 finish. The offense was 23rd in the country with 364.73 yards per game, and the kick return unit averaged 22.44 yards per run back to finish 13th in the nation, the highest the Toppers were in any category. The previous season, on the other hand, saw the WKU offense average 405.73 yards per contest — the fifth-highest total in school history — while scoring 30.82 points per game. Not only did both those figures rank among the top 30 in the country, but the Hilltoppers also finished 14th in rushing with 228.55 yards per outing. Defensively in 2005, the Toppers ranked 11th nationally — surrendering 113.1 yards per game on the ground, while the punt-return unit was fourth after recording an average of 16.13 yards per run back.

The '04 Toppers featured a balanced attack, finishing in the top 30 in the country in seven different statistical categories — two offensive, three defensive and a pair of special teams — while standing among the top three in the conference in 10 categories. WKU topped the league in both net punting (37.48 avg) as well as punt returns (11.32 ypr), and was in the top 20 nationally in turnover margin (+0.67) as well as

Elson vs. The Opposition

| Opponent | W-L |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Auburn | 0-2 |
| Austin Peay | 1-0 |
| Chattanooga | 1-0 |
| Concord (W.Va.) | 1-0 |
| Eastern Kentucky | 3-1 |
| Florida International | 1-1 |
| Georgia | 0-1 |
| Illinois State | 3-1 |
| Indiana State | 4-0 |
| Jacksonville State | 1-0 |
| Kansas State | 0-1 |
| Missouri State | 4-0 |
| Northern Iowa | 2-2 |
| Sam Houston State | 0-1 |
| Southern Illinois | 1-3 |
| Union (Ky.) | 1-0 |
| West Virginia Tech | 2-0 |
| Western Illinois | 3-1 |
| Wofford | 0-1 |
| Youngstown State | 2-2 |
| Totals | 30-17 |





Hilltopper Coaching Staff

in rushing yardage (226.17).

The 2003 Toppers became just the third unit to post more than 5,000 yards of total offense — ranking third in school history with 5,129 — while scoring 427 points, the fourth-highest total in the record books. And, although WKU attempted more passes than any year since 1988, it extended its streak of finishing in the top 10 nationally in rushing to 14 straight years. On the defensive side of the ball that fall, the Hilltoppers ranked in the top three in the Gateway Football Conference, and top 35 in the country, in all five statistical categories. WKU topped the league allowing only 283.69 total yards per contest, which stood sixth nationally (fourth among scholarship programs), and also paced the GFC by surrendering just 16.85 points per game to rank 14th among all NCAA I-AA institutions. In six of the Toppers' 13 games, the opposition managed to score a touch-down or less.

Not only has the team done well on the field, but numerous individuals have been honored during Elson's tenure. Curtis Hamilton, Marion Rumph, Greg Ryan and Chris Sullivan became the four most recent additions to the Hilltopper All-American list after earning honors last fall. Erik Losey (2005) and Buster Ashley (2003-04) have been selected first-team All-America by the American Football Coaches Association, while eight other individuals have been recognized over the last two seasons by other organizations as well.

In each of Elson's first four years, at least 10 individuals have earned Gateway Conference accolades, highlighted by Justin Haddix's selection as the league's Freshman of the Year in 2003. And, off the field Rumph has been honored for his work in the classroom after being named to the *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-District IV teams each of the last two years.

The Elson File

Born — Aug. 26, 1971, Indianapolis, Ind.
High School — Cathedral '89
HS Athletics — Football, SS, 3 letters (co-captain, all-city)
College — Butler '94 (BS), Southern Illinois '95 (MS)
College Athletics — Football, SS, 3 letters
Coaching Experience —
 Southern Illinois, graduate assistant (1994-95)
 WKU, assistant (1996-2002)
 WKU, head coach (2003-)
Family — Wife, Kathy; two daughters, Lauren (11) and Jessica (6).

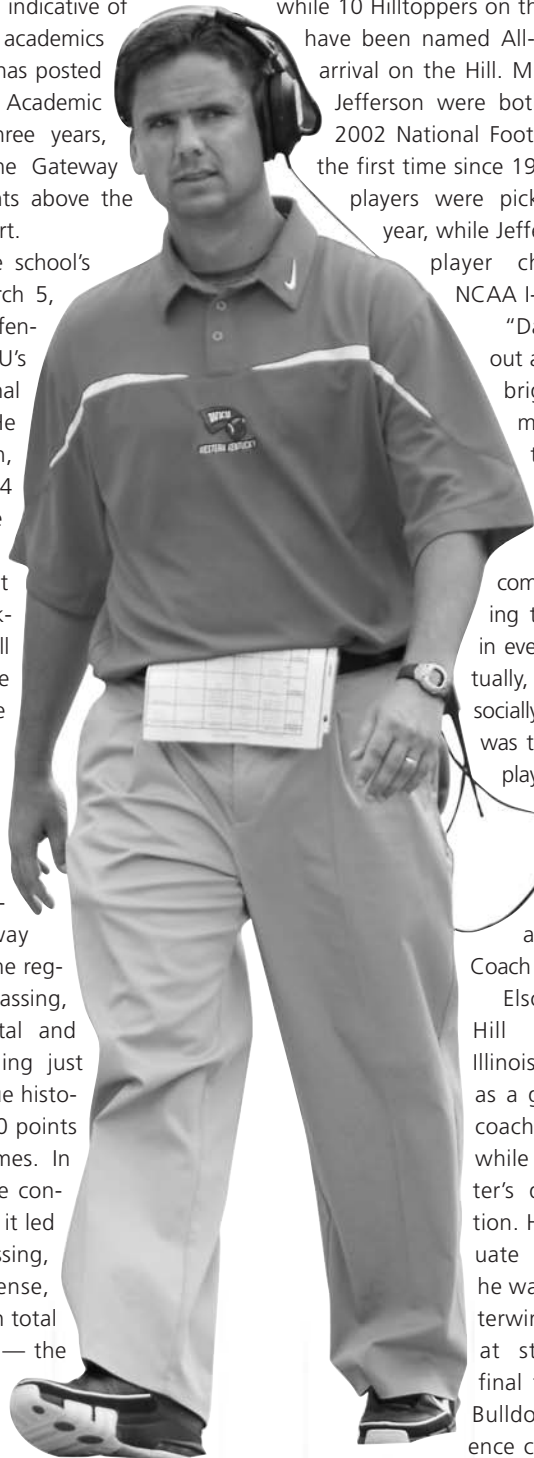
Actually, Rumph's work is indicative of the program's focus on academics under Elson. The school has posted a 942 score in the NCAA Academic Report over the last three years, which is the best in the Gateway Conference and 11 points above the NCAA average in the sport.

Elson was named the school's head football coach March 5, 2003, after serving as defensive coordinator for WKU's 2002 NCAA I-AA national championship team. He replaced Jack Harbaugh, who resigned after 14 years at the helm of the program. He was the longest tenured assistant on Harbaugh's staff, working seven years on the Hill with defensive backs, the last two as defensive coordinator.

At the time of his hiring, Elson was the youngest head coach in Division I football.

In 2002, the Hilltoppers led the Gateway Football Conference in the regular season in rushing, passing, pass efficiency, and total and scoring defense, becoming just the second team in league history to allow fewer than 10 points per contest in GFC games. In WKU's first season in the conference the previous fall, it led all teams in rushing, passing, total and scoring defense, setting a league record in total yards allowed per game — the Toppers ranked in the top 10 nationally in each category.

Nine defensive players earned first-team all-conference honors during Elson's two years as coordinator, with a total of 13 recognized by the voters. And, two defensive backs were selected consensus All-America — Bobby Sippio (2000) and Mel Mitchell ('01) —



while 10 Hilltoppers on that side of the ball have been named All-America since his arrival on the Hill. Mitchell and Joseph Jefferson were both selected in the 2002 National Football League draft, the first time since 1990 that two WKU players were picked in the same year, while Jefferson was the first player chosen from an NCAA I-AA institution.

"David Elson is without a doubt one of the brightest football minds in the country," WKU Director of Athletics Dr. Wood Selig said.

"Coach Elson is committed to developing the student-athlete in every area — intellectually, athletically and socially. If I had a son who was talented enough to play college football, I would want him to place his future under the guidance and direction of Coach Elson."

Elson came to the Hill from Southern Illinois, where he served as a graduate assistant coach in 1994 and '95 while earning a master's degree in education. He is a 1994 graduate of Butler, where he was a three-year letterwinner and started at strong safety his final two seasons. The Bulldogs were conference champions in both his sophomore and junior years.

A native of Indianapolis, Elson and his wife Kathy have two daughters, Lauren (11) and Jessica (6). Elson is the 16th head coach in the school's 88 years of football, but just the sixth since 1948.



Hilltopper Coaching Staff

Jim Nowell Director of Strength & Conditioning First Season

Jim Nowell is in his first season as WKU's Director of Strength and Conditioning. In addition to handling all strength and conditioning responsibilities with the football program, he oversees a staff of three full-time assistants that work with the school's 19 other sports.



He brings to the Hill seven years experience working at schools in Bowl Championship Series (BCS) leagues as the Hilltoppers make the transition to the NCAA Division I-A (Football Bowl Subdivision) level.

Nowell was the Director of Strength and Conditioning at Mississippi State the last three years, where in addition to developing and implementing a year-round program for football, he also was in charge of a staff of full-time and graduate assistants that worked with the rest of the Bulldogs' sports.

Prior to his time in Starkville, he spent two years as West Virginia's Director of Skill Development/Strength and Conditioning Coach during his tenure. The Mountaineers went 17-8 (68%) in his time with the program, winning the 2003 Big East championship and advancing to the Gator Bowl. WVU also made an appearance in the Continental Tire Bowl the previous season en route to a 9-4 finish. He also was in charge of strength and conditioning for the Mountaineer baseball program.

Nowell got his start on the collegiate level at Louisiana State, serving as assistant strength and conditioning coach for two years. As an assistant working with football, he helped the Tigers advance to the 2000 Peach Bowl before they would go on to win the Southeastern Conference championship and Sugar Bowl the next season while posting a 10-3 record.

He was the director of LSU's baseball and softball programs those two seasons as well. The Tiger baseball team won the SEC West Division in his first year with the program, while his efforts helped softball win the league



The Nowell File

Born — Aug. 2, 1966, Jackson, Miss.
High School — Magee (Miss.) '84
HS Athletics — Football, WR, 3 letters (all-conference); Baseball, OF, 2 letters (all-conference)
College — Southern Mississippi '90 (BS); William Carey '98 (MS)
Coaching Experience —
 Madison Central (Miss.) High, defensive coordinator and strength coach (1997-2000)
 Louisiana State, assistant strength and conditioning coach (2000-01)
 West Virginia, director of skill development and strength and conditioning coach (2002-03)
 Mississippi State, director of strength and conditioning (2004-06)
 WKU, director of strength and conditioning (2007-)
Family — Wife, Linda; son, Taylor (15) and daughter, Jordan (10)

title twice and advance to the Women's College World Series in 2001.

In his last job on the high school level, Nowell was an assistant athletic director, defensive coordinator and strength coach at Madison Central (Miss.) High. In addition to being on the staff for the state's 1999 Class 5A football champions, who finished 15-0 that year, MCHS also won state titles in powerlifting (1999 and 2000) and track (2000).

Nowell earned his bachelor's degree from Southern Mississippi in 1990 and a master's degree from William Carey in 1998.



Hilltopper Coaching Staff

Mike Chism Recruiting Coordinator / Tight Ends Fourth Season

Mike Chism — who brings both SEC and Big Ten experience to the Hilltopper staff — begins his fourth season on the Hill. After working with outside linebackers his first three years Chism will shift to coaching tight ends. He also has added the responsibilities of recruiting coordinator since the end of the 2006 campaign.



Last fall, Chism not only helped fourth-year senior Sam Sexton post career-high totals with 42 tackles and 2 1/2 sacks, but his guidance helped Blake Boyd earn second-team all-Gateway Football Conference accolades while also being named to the league's All-Newcomer Team. His group contributed to WKU finishing first in the GFC in pass defense, pass efficiency defense and total defense.

Chism worked with a group in 2005 that overcame numerous injuries to see four players post more than 20 total tackles, led by second-team all-conference selection Deion Holts. He was part of a staff that helped the Hilltoppers lead the league and finish 11th nationally in rushing defense, giving up 113.1 yards per contest.

In his first year on the Hill, Chism was part of a defensive staff that saw the Toppers rank in the top three of the Gateway Conference in four of five statistical categories. His efforts helped Brandon Smith pick up honor-



able mention all-Gateway accolades for the first time in his career.

"Coach Elson offered an opportunity that I couldn't refuse — a chance to join a great program like WKU and move back to my home state made it an easy decision," Chism said. "We have a great staff full of quality coaches that are good people. With the business direction of most college athletic programs, this is becoming more and more uncommon.

"I have always been involved in football and believe the sport teaches a set of values and characteristics that people will use the rest of their lives," he said. "Discipline, hard work, a solid work ethic, teamwork, family, dedication — the list goes on. I have always believed that being part of a football team will pay dividends for a lifetime, whether you're a first-team player or a third-team player makes no difference. As a coach, I have a unique opportunity to help instill these values and characteristics into the players that I work with. There is a lot of self-satisfaction that is achieved watching the players that I coach grow into men."

Chism came to WKU after serving as associate director of strength and conditioning at Minnesota in 2003, as the Golden Gophers finished 10-3 with a 5-3 mark in the Big Ten Conference. UM defeated Oregon by a point in the Sun Bowl, and finished the year ranked 17th in the *ESPN/USA Today* coaches' poll.

He was the director of football operations at Kentucky from 2001-03, also assisting as recruiting coordinator. Chism earned his bachelor's degree in communications from UK in 1990 as well as a master's degree from the school in sports management in '97. A two-year letterman for the Wildcats, he was given the National Football Foundation Scholar Athlete Award in 1989, and he worked with the defense for two years as a graduate assistant in 1995-96.

Chism was an assistant at Kutztown (Pa.) from 1990-94, coaching the defensive line until his final season when he worked with the offensive line. He was the Golden Bears' special teams coordinator in 1991 and '92, and he was also responsible for recruiting. Chism also helped with the offensive line and special teams as a graduate assistant at Minnesota in 1997-98.

The Chism File

| |
|--|
| <p>Born — May 10, 1966, Louisville, Ky. High School — Oldham County (Ky.) '85 High School Athletics — Football, OL/DL, 3 letters (all-state); Baseball, 2 letters; Wrestling, 2 letters (state champion) College — Kentucky '90 (BA), '97 (MS) College Athletics — Football, DT, 2 letters Coaching Experience — Kutztown (Pa.), assistant (1990-94) Kentucky, graduate assistant (1995-96); director of operations (2001-02) Minnesota, graduate assistant (1997-98); associate strength & conditioning director (2003) WKU, assistant (2004-) Family — Wife, Crystal; son, Gaige Biroschik (10).</p> |
|--|



Hilltopper Coaching Staff

Mike Dietzel Special Teams Coordinator / Outside Linebackers Fifth Season

Mike Dietzel enters his fifth season on the WKU staff, where he will coach outside linebackers while also overseeing the special teams units again this year.

"I came to WKU because I wanted to be a part of a championship program," he said. "There is a strong tradition of success in recent years, beginning under Coach [Jack] Harbaugh and continuing with Coach [David] Elson."



His efforts helped the Hilltoppers finish 16th in the country a year ago in pass defense while leading the Gateway Football Conference in that category as well as pass efficiency and total defense. Marion Rumph was a first-team all-league selection for the second straight year — in fact, he was the only WKU player to earn first-team honors on defense — after pacing the team in tackles, and Rashad Etheridge was voted to the Gateway Conference All-Newcomer Team.

In 2005 two of Dietzel's four starting defensive backs were named first-team all-league, with Antonio Thomas collecting third-team All-America honors and Rumph adding second-team all-region accolades from Hansen's *Football Gazette*. As a group, defensive backs accounted for six of WKU's 10 interceptions.

Dietzel was WKU's defensive coordinator in 2004, when the Hilltoppers

finished among the top three in the Gateway Conference in four of five statistical categories, including ranking 16th nationally in scoring defense at 18.92 points per game. Thomas earned third-team All-America accolades and was a first-team all-league selection, while Rumph was on the conference's All-Newcomer Team.

In his first year on the staff at WKU, Dietzel helped the Hilltopper defense lead the Gateway Conference in total and scoring defense while finishing second in pass defense — the Toppers ranked eighth in the country in the last category. Individually, he helped Jeremy Chandler earn all-league and third-team All-America honors. He also was named the 2003 Division I-AA Special Teams Coordinator of the Year by *American Football Monthly*.

He spent the previous two years at Kent State as the defensive coordinator and secondary coach, also recruiting portions of Pennsylvania and Ohio. The Golden Flashes finished 6-5 in 2001 — their first winning season in 14 years — with 15 interceptions, the most recorded in 10 seasons.

Dietzel also has worked with running backs at the United States Military Academy from 1995-99, helping the Cadets to a school-record 10 wins, the Commander-In-Chief Trophy and a berth in the Independence Bowl in 1996. He also served as the junior varsity head coach from 1992-93.

He was the defensive coordinator and secondary coach at Johns Hopkins in 1994, while also holding assistant positions at Pennsylvania (inside linebackers, 1988 and '91), Michigan (outside linebackers, 1989-90), Earlham College (defensive coordinator/secondary, 1987) and Colorado (fullbacks/quarterbacks, linebackers, 1985-86).

He also coached for one season in the XFL, working with the defensive secondary and as the defensive pass game coordinator for the New York/New Jersey Hitmen in 2000.

"I knew when I was in high school that I wanted to coach," Dietzel said. "I had a passion for football and admired my high school coaches, and recognized the impact they made on my life. It was then that I decided that I wanted to enter the coaching ranks."

A 1985 graduate of Otterbein with a bachelor's degree in health and physical education, Dietzel lettered four years, starting three, as a defensive back for the Cardinals. He was selected honorable mention all-Ohio Athletic Conference as a senior.

Dietzel earned a master's degree in educational administration from Colorado in 1987.



The Dietzel File

Born — May, 28, 1962, Sarasota, Fla.
High School — Sharon (Pa.) '80
HS Athletics — Football, DB, 3 letters (all-conference); Basketball, 2 letters; Baseball, 1 letter
College — Otterbein '85 (BA); Colorado '87 (MA)
College Athletics — Football, DB, 4 letters (all-conference)
Coaching Experience —
 Colorado, graduate assistant (1985-86);
 Earlham, assistant (1987);
 Pennsylvania, assistant (1988, '91);
 Michigan, graduate assistant (1989-90);
 Army, junior varsity head coach (1992-93), assistant (1992-93, 1995-99);
 Johns Hopkins, assistant (1994);
 Kent State, assistant (2001-02);
 WKU, assistant (2003-)



Hilltopper Coaching Staff

Stuart Holt Running Backs Fourth Season

Stuart Holt enters his fourth season as the Hilltoppers' running backs coach.

For the last three years Holt coached starter Lerron Moore, who wound up his career as the first person in school history to compile more than 4,000 rushing yards and also ranks among the all-time leaders in all-purpose yards. In addition to helping Moore collect all-Gateway Football Conference honors for the third time in as many years, redshirt freshman Andrew McCloud was selected to the league's All-Newcomer Team last fall. Three Hilltoppers rushed for more than 300 yards, with freshman Tyrell Hayden also contributing, as Holt's rushing attack racked up better than 160 yards per game.



In 2005, Moore rushed for more than 1,000 yards for the second time in his career in earning first-team all-Gateway Conference honors, while Stephen Willis also ranked 10th in the league with 55 yards per game. The Hilltoppers ended the season leading the conference and ranking 14th nationally with 228.55 yards per game on the ground.

Holt also served as WKU's special teams coordinator for the '05 campaign. His direction helped placekicker Chris James to be named first-team I-AA.org All-Star and All-Gateway after pacing the league with 1.36 field goals and 7.91 points per contest, while Dennis Mitchell was a second-team all-conference choice as a return specialist after finishing sixth in the country with an average of 16.13 yards per punt return. The Toppers were fourth nationally as a team in punt returns.

In his first season with the program, Holt's unit helped the Toppers rush for an average of 226.17 yards per contest (a figure that ranked 14th in the nation) while compiling 35 touchdowns. Moore was a second-team All-Gateway Conference selection and Brian Porter was a member of the league's All-Newcomer Team under his direction.

Holt was the coach at New Smyrna (Fla.) High School two seasons (2002-03) prior to coming to WKU.

He has collegiate experience as well. In 2001, he was the inside linebackers and special teams coach at Bethune-Cookman — the Wildcats finished 6-4, including 5-3 in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference.

The previous season, he worked with the defense and special teams at Cumberland (Tenn.). Holt was responsible for recruiting at both schools.

Holt was a graduate assistant — working with the defensive line and adding recruiting coordinator duties — at Western Carolina during the 1998 and '99 seasons, where he earned his master's in education administration in 2000.

He started in the coaching ranks at Norwich (Conn.) assisting with linebackers and specialists in 1996, and also has worked at Mainland (Fla.) High during the '97 season.

Holt earned his bachelor's degree from North Carolina in 1995, where he participated in football as a walk-on. He lettered each of his final two seasons in Chapel Hill.

"I was impressed with our leadership from the beginning," Holt said. "Coach Elson is always thinking of ways to improve our program. He has a vision. Once I arrived in Bowling Green for my interview, I quickly realized WKU had all the ingredients needed to be successful — we have smart and aggressive players, professional coaches and strong guidance from our administration. I've enjoyed every moment of my experience here at WKU.

"We spend a lot of time preparing, but it never feels like work. I also enjoy the level of commitment and maturity our kids show on a daily basis."



The Holt File

Born — Dec. 13, 1972, Louisburg, N.C.
High School — Starmount (N.C.) '91
High School Athletics — Football, OL/DL, 3 letters (all-conference); Baseball, 3 letters (all-conference); Wrestling, 3 letters
College — North Carolina '95 (BA), Western Carolina 2000 (MEA)
College Athletics — Football, LS, 2 letters
Coaching Experience —
 Norwich (Conn.), assistant (1996)
 Mainland (Fla.) High, assistant (1997)
 Western Carolina, graduate assistant (1998-99)
 Cumberland (Tenn.), assistant (2000)
 Bethune-Cookman, assistant (2001)
 New Smyrna Beach (Fla.) High, head coach (2002-03)
 WKU, assistant (2004-)
Family — Wife, Kim; daughter, Payton (9).



Hilltopper Coaching Staff

Cary Marquell Inside Linebackers Third Season

Cary Marquell (pronounced mar-KWELL) begins his third season as inside linebackers coach at WKU.

In his first year on the staff, Marquell's unit helped contribute to a defense that led the Gateway Football Conference and ranked 11th in the country, allowing just 113.1 yards per game rushing. Under his direction, Andre Lewis tied for second on the team with a career-best 84 tackles, Jenkins Reese was named to the league's All-Newcomer Team and Jon Hedges posted a career-high tackle total after making only six stops the previous two years.



The Hilltoppers ranked first in the league in pass defense, pass efficiency defense and total defense a season ago as Lewis earned second-team all-GFC honors after finishing second on the squad in tackles despite missing two games. Marquell also improved the production of Hedges, who was credited with a career-best 61 stops in his fifth year on the Hill, while he helped redshirt freshman L.J. Harbison make an immediate impact as he collected 35 tackles in nine outings.

He came to WKU from Hillsdale (Mich.) College, where he was the defensive coordinator his final three seasons. He worked with linebackers the last two years, leading a unit that ranked in the upper half of the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. In his first year at HC, Marquell coached defensive backs. Five HC players earned all-conference honors during his stint.

He has also worked with special teams, coordinating the Chargers' punting game, while handling recruiting duties as well.

"I joined the WKU staff because of the high standards, family atmosphere, and the winning tradition," Marquell said. "Coach Elson and the many great coaches who came before him have made WKU Football a very



The Marquell File

Born — Dec. 8, 1973, Muncie, Ind.
High School — Delta (Ind.) '92
HS Athletics — Football, LB, 2 letters (all-area, all-county)
College — Ball State '96 (BS), '99 (MA)
College Athletics — Football, LB
Coaching Experience —
 Ball State, graduate assistant (1997-98)
 SUNY Cortland, assistant (1999-2000)
 Ferris State, assistant (2001)
 Hillsdale, assistant (2002-04)
 WKU, assistant (2005-)
Family — Wife, Meredith; son, Leo (born Aug. 29, 2006).

special part of an already exceptional campus. My family and I are blessed to be a part of it."

Marquell was the special teams coordinator and secondary coach at Ferris State (Mich.) in 2001, as the Bulldogs ranked first in the GLIAC in pass and total defense as well as punt returns after finishing 7-4 overall, including a third-place finish in the conference — three of his four members of the secondary picked up all-league accolades at the end of the year. He spent his first two seasons as a full-time coach at SUNY Cortland, working with the secondary while earning a promotion to assistant head coach after his first year on the staff. He was also responsible for recruiting and academics off the field for the Red Dragons.

A 1996 graduate of Ball State, Marquell began his coaching career as a student assistant in 1995, later serving as a graduate assistant for the Cardinals before earning his master's degree in 1999. He played two years at linebacker at BSU, helping the Cards advance to the 1993 Las Vegas Bowl after claiming the Mid-American Conference championship.

"I got into coaching to make a difference in the lives of young men, physically, mentally and spiritually," said Marquell. "Coaching at the collegiate level has afforded me the opportunity to reach young men who come from various places and backgrounds, but who are all focused on one goal — winning. I believe my role as a coach is to guide them toward winning in all areas of their life."





Hilltopper Coaching Staff

Eric Mathies Defensive Line Third Season

Eric Mathies (pronounced MATH-is) is beginning his third season on the Hilltopper staff as defensive line coach.

One season after having two-thirds of his starting front honored by the Gateway Football Conference — Daniel Williams was a second-team all-league selection and Charlie Phillips earned honorable mention all-conference accolades — he helped Dusty Bear earn recognition for the first time in his career as he was a second-team all-GFC choice following his junior season.



In his first year with WKU, Mathies worked with a group that ended the season accounting for 17 of the Toppers' 30 sacks as well as 35 1/2 stops behind the line of scrimmage. Last fall, not only did Bear lead the team in sacks, Chris Walker tied for second on the squad in the category.

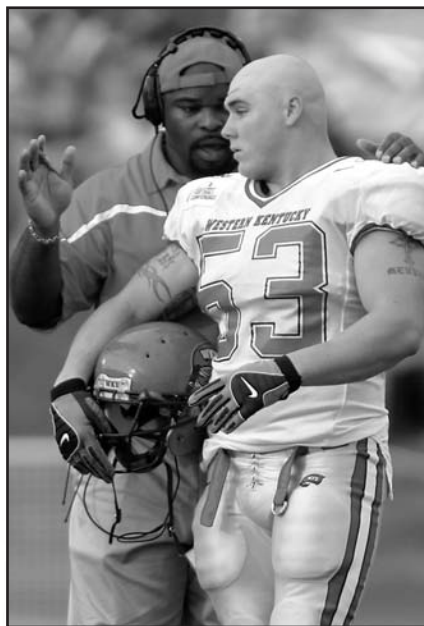
Mathies' efforts helped the Hilltoppers rank 11th in the nation in 2005 allowing 113.1 yards per game on the ground, a figure that led the conference as well. Last fall they paced the league in pass, pass efficiency and total defense.

He had coached at two schools on the collegiate level over the six seasons prior to coming to the Hill, the last two at Tennessee State where he worked with defensive tackles in addition to handling recruiting responsibilities. He helped the Tigers to a 7-5 finish in 2003 as the defense recorded 28 sacks.

Prior to working at TSU, he was the defensive line coach at Midwestern State (Texas), where he was also the strength and conditioning coach in addition to handling recruiting duties. The Indians finished 7-4 in each of his final three years on the staff, posting a cumulative 11-5 mark in the Lone Star Conference — they won the league's North Division title in 2001 after going 4-1 in league action.

He got his start in coaching at Murray High School in 1998, helping the Tigers to a 7-4 mark as they advanced to the second round of the Kentucky state playoffs.

"Plain and simple, I got into coaching because I wanted to influence the lives of young people in a positive way," Mathies said. "I love being at WKU because of the commitment



to athletics and academics. With hard work, we have the chance to win championships every year."

Mathies was a four-year letterwinner in football, beginning his career at Kansas — the Jayhawks were 6-5 in his only season of action in 1994 — before transferring to Murray State. A defensive lineman, he helped the Racers to a pair of Ohio Valley Conference championships as MSU qualified for the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs in both 1995 and '96, advancing to the second round in their second appearance. The Racers went 29-7 in his three years with a 21-2 league record during that span.

Mathies, who earned his bachelor's degree from Murray State in 1998, also has completed an internship with the Dallas Cowboys.

The Mathies File

- Born** — Oct. 29, 1975, Chicago, Ill.
- High School** — St. Joseph (Ill.) '93
- HS Athletics** — Football, OL/DL, 4 letters (all-area, all-conference); wrestling, 4 letters
- College** — Murray State '98 (BS)
- College Athletics** — Football, DL, 4 letters (Kansas, 1994; Murray State 1995-97)
- Coaching Experience** —
 Murray (Ky.) High, assistant (1998)
 Midwestern State (Texas), assistant (1999-2002)
 Tennessee State, assistant (2003-04)
 WKU, assistant (2005-)



Hilltopper Coaching Staff

Dennis Springer Assistant Head Coach / Defense / Defensive Backs First Season

Although he is in his first season at WKU working with defensive backs, Dennis Springer brings a wealth of experience from the NCAA Division I-A Football Bowl Subdivision level. In addition to spending the last four years at Bowling Green, he was on the staff at Ball State for 10 years as both a full-time coach and graduate assistant.



"There is a vision in place and a commitment to make that vision a reality here at the WKU," he said upon coming to the Hill. "It starts with President [Gary] Ransdell, Dr. [Wood] Selig and Coach Elson. From the moment my wife and I sat foot on WKU's campus, everything was done in a first-class manner by first-class people. The football staff consists of a great group of people with strong family values, which has made the transition very easy for our family. I believe there are great things happening here at WKU, and I am grateful to have the opportunity to be a part of the WKU vision."



Springer — who played collegiately at Butler with Hilltopper head coach David Elson — was the defensive safeties coach at BGSU last season, and he was the Falcons' running backs coach during the three previous campaigns.

His responsibilities during that time included developing and implementing practice and game-day strategies, recruiting and serving as the coordinator of team community service projects. He coached in two bowl games after helping BGSU to an 11-3 finish — including claiming the Mid-American Conference West Division crown with a 7-1 mark — a 28-24 victory over Northwestern in the Motor City Bowl his first year and a 52-35 win over Memphis in the 2004 GMAC Bowl. The Falcons went 9-3 that season, and they also won the 2005 MAC East Division title while he was on staff.

While at Ball State, Springer assisted with game day and practice planning and recruiting while serving as the liaison for both the Student Athletic Advisory Board and the strength and conditioning staff. He coached defensive backs his final two years in Muncie, also working with outside linebackers for two seasons and wide receivers for four after earning a promotion from his graduate assistant position.

The Cardinals earned a berth to the Las Vegas Bowl in 1993 and '96 with Springer on the staff.

He earned his undergraduate degree in secondary education from Butler in 1993 after helping lead the Bulldogs to three conference championships, serving as captain during the 1991 season.

"Like many coaches, the game of football afforded me many opportunities as a student-athlete at the collegiate level, many of which I would have never had if not for being involved in football," he said on his decision to enter the coaching profession. "Being blessed enough to have the opportunity to give back and teach the young men of today the many lessons — on and off the field — that were taught and shared with me is why I became a college football coach. It's a very rewarding profession when you see your players learn, grow and become champions on the field and in life."

The Springer File

Born — Oct. 5, 1969, Fort Wayne, Ind.
High School — Northrop (Ind.) '88
HS Athletics — Football, DB, 3 letters (all-state, all-conference, team captain); Wrestling, 2 letters (all-state, state qualifier, all-conference)
College — Butler '93 (BS)
College Athletics — Football, DB, 3 letters (all-conference, team captain)
Coaching Experience —
 Ball State, graduate assistant (1993-94); assistant (1995-2002)
 Bowling Green, assistant (2003-06)
 WKU, assistant (2007-)
Family — Wife, Nicole; daughter, Sophia (1)



Hilltopper Coaching Staff

T.J. Weist Assistant Head Coach / Wide Receivers / Passing Game Coordinator Sixth Season

T.J. Weist (pronounced WEEST), currently the longest-tenured assistant on the Hilltopper staff with six years of service, begins his first as head coach David Elson's assistant head coach — he will continue to work with wide receivers in his new role. He has been WKU's offensive coordinator the last four years, calling plays for one of the most prolific units in school history.



Not only did four-year starters Justin Haddix and Lerron Moore etch their names in the WKU record book in numerous categories. Last fall Curtis Hamilton became the first Topper wideout to be selected to an All-America team since 1996.

WKU ranked 23rd in the country in total offense, also finishing 17th in pass efficiency rating, while posting more than 4,000 total yards for the fifth consecutive season. Weist's passing attack averaged better than 200 yards per outing for the first time since 1986, as the 2,248 yards racked up by the unit through the air were the fifth most in WKU history.

In addition to Hamilton's performance, redshirt freshman Jake Gaebler was selected to the Gateway Football Conference All-Newcomer Team in his first season of action while Hamilton, Haddix, Moore and Chris Sullivan earned all-league honors, and Andrew McCloud was also a member of the All-Newcomer squad.

Weist helped direct an offense that averaged 405.73 yards per game, which was the fifth-highest mark in school history, while scoring more than 30 points a contest in 2005. The Hilltoppers ranked in the top 30 nationally in four different categories, which included leading the Gateway Conference and standing 14th in rushing offense.



Three Hilltoppers were named first-team all-league on offense that year, while two others made the conference's All-Newcomer Team.

Weist's unit stood second in the Gateway Conference in 2004 after averaging 396.42 yards per game and ranked third with 29.17 points per contest, with the offense throwing for more than 2,000 yards for the first time since 1986. Both Haddix and Moore were able to pick up second-team all-league honors in his offense.

In 2003, Weist directed a unit that averaged 32.8 points and 394.5 yards per

contest, with the former the fifth-highest per-game figure in school history. His efforts in shifting to a more balanced attack led to the Toppers throwing for 1,974 yards, the most by a WKU offense since the 1986 season. Haddix was selected the Gateway Conference Freshman of the Year, while Moore was an honorable mention all-league selection.

Also, Casey Rooney was selected first-team all-conference after posting the third-highest season reception total in school history.

In his first year at WKU, Weist coached second-team all-Gateway Conference selection Jon Frazier — who tied a school season record with nine 100-yard games and posted the second-best season mark with 1,537 rushing yards — as well as Jeremi Johnson and Rooney, both members of the league's All-Newcomer Team. Three running backs collected more than 500 yards as the team recorded the second-best season rushing total in school history, while three wide receivers averaged more than a catch per contest for the first time since 1998.

"It's an honor to coach football at WKU with its rich tradition of winning and coaching legacy," he said. "The goal to be the best — to win a national championship — is embedded in every action of all invested in the program. There is a great sense of pride that you feel when you step on campus, a first-class setting under the direction of President Ransdell, that makes you realize how special it is. You feel that same attitude from the former players and coaches, many of whom have gone on to play and coach at the highest level in the NFL."

Weist came to the Hill from Indiana, where he served as wide receivers coach from 1997-2001. While at IU, he also held special teams responsibilities with the return units and was the recruiting coordinator his first two years.

He also was the receivers coach at Tulsa (1996), Southern Illinois (1994-95), Michigan (1990-93) and Alabama (1988-89), serving as SIU's recruiting coordinator as well.

The Wolverines reached four postseason bowl games during his tenure, including two Rose Bowl appearances, while the Crimson Tide appeared in a pair of postseason contests while he was on the coaching staff, including the 1990 Sugar Bowl.

"I chose to coach college football to stay involved in the game that I think can have the greatest impact on a young man's life," Weist said. "The daily challenge to make yourself better and the weekly battle during the season tests the character of the individual and the team, and teaches lessons that no other area of life can accomplish."

A native of Bay City, Mich., Weist was a wide receiver at Alabama from 1984-87, taking part in three postseason bowl games. He earned a bachelor's degree in health and physical education in 1988, then added an exercise physiology master's degree one year later.

The Weist File

Born — June 25, 1965, Bay City, Mich.
High School — Bay City All Saints (Mich.) '83
High School Athletics — Football, WR, 1 letter; basketball, 1 letter; track, 1 letter
College — Alabama '88 (BS), '89 (MA)
College Athletics — Football, WR, 1 letter
Coaching Experience —
 Alabama, graduate assistant (1988-89);
 Michigan, volunteer assistant (1990-91); graduate assistant (1992-93);
 Southern Illinois, assistant (1994-95);
 Tulsa, assistant (1996);
 Indiana, assistant (1997-2001);
 WKU, assistant (2002-06); assistant head coach (2007-)
Family — Wife, Karen



Hilltopper Coaching Staff

Walter Wells Offensive Line / Running Game Coordinator Fifth Season

Walter Wells enters his fifth year coaching the Hilltoppers' offensive line.

Not only did he have two players, Greg Ryan and Chris Sullivan, earn All-America honors last fall, but those two, along with Joe Dolchan and Zach Thuney combined to claim Offensive Lineman-of-the-Week accolades from Hansen's *Football Gazette* on seven occasions. His line helped the Topper offense collect more than 4,000 yards as WKU ranked in the top 25 nationally in a pair of statistical categories.



In 2005, Wells' unit helped pave the way as the Hilltoppers averaged 30.82 points and 405.73 yards of total offense per contest, both figures that ranked among the top 30 in the nation. That included a Gateway Football Conference-best 228.55 yards per game on the ground, which was 14th in the country.

Erik Losey earned first-team All-America honors from the American Football Coaches Association under Wells' direction in 2005, while Ryan was an honorable mention all-conference selection. And, two of his linemen — Andrew Campbell and Chris McConnell — were named to the league's All-Newcomer Team.

The previous year his efforts helped Buster Ashley become the first two-time consensus All-American on the Hill, as he also earned the distinction

of being one of the first linemen in Gateway Conference history to be selected first-team all-league on three occasions.

Plus, both Losey (second-team all-GFC, Gateway All-Newcomer Team) and Ryan Thomas (honorable mention all-conference) were honored under his direction.

Wells' line allowed just nine sacks on 222 pass attempts as the Toppers ranked 14th nationally with 226.17 yards per game on the ground while piling up just under 400 yards of total offense per outing.

In his first season on the Hill, Wells helped Ashley become the second consecutive WKU offensive lineman to earn consensus All-America honors, while Anthony Oakley and Daniel Withrow were voted second-team all-conference.

His line helped pave the way for a unit that gained 5,129 total yards and scored 427 points, both figures that rank in the top five in the school record books. The Toppers allowed only 13 sacks in 13 games.

He came to WKU after working with the line and tight ends at Eastern Kentucky the previous six years, where he was a part of three teams that won eight games and earned an Ohio Valley Conference championship, coaching seven all-league players and an All-American. Wells also was responsible for recruiting in the Southeast and was the strength and conditioning coach for two-and-a-half seasons. ECU ranked in the top 10 in the nation in rushing the last two years.

He was the assistant head coach and offensive coordinator at Cumberland (Tenn.) from 1994-96, leading an offense that topped the NAIA in rushing two years while helping the Bulldogs to a top-15 ranking and eight wins in their best season. Five CU players were selected to the all-conference team, with one collecting All-America honors. He also has two years experience as an assistant at Smyrna (Tenn.) High School.

"I entered the coaching ranks in order to help young men mature into what they want to be in life, and still be able to compete on a high level," Wells said. "WKU provided a great opportunity to coach at a wonderful institution, a new start with coach Elson, a successful program and the ability to be involved with a growing community."

Wells earned a bachelor's degree in finance from Belmont in 1993 after transferring from Austin Peay, where he was on the football team for four years — he started and lettered twice. He added a master's degree in human relations management in 1995 at Cumberland.



The Wells File

Born — Oct. 26, 1967, Nashville, Tenn.
High School — McGavock (Tenn.) '85
High School Athletics — Football, OL/DL, 2 letters
College — Belmont '93 (BA), Cumberland (Tenn.) '95 (MS)
College Athletics — Football, OL, 2 letters (Austin Peay, 1988-89)
Coaching Experience —
 Smyrna (Tenn.) High, assistant (1992-93)
 Cumberland (Tenn.), assistant (1994-96)
 Eastern Kentucky, assistant (1997-2002)
 WKU, assistant (2003-)
Family — Wife, Jennifer; daughter, Madison (7) and son, K.J. (2).



Hilltopper Coaching Staff

Kevin Wright Offensive Coordinator / Quarterbacks First Season

Although entering his first season at WKU as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, Kevin Wright is no stranger to the Hill and the Topper football program. In addition to being on the roster for four years, Wright coached four Hilltoppers currently on the roster during their high school careers.



With 16 years experience as a high school head coach, Wright spent his first spring on the WKU staff helping to implement a new spread offense formation.

"I decided to become an assistant coach at WKU for several reasons. First, it was an opportunity to be a part of a program in the process of making history as we transition to the Division I-A level," Wright said. "As a former player and graduate of WKU, that was very important to me — I understand how special being part of the Hilltopper tradition really is, and to have the opportunity to come back and be a part of the program at this time is not only exciting, but also personally inspiring."

Not only did he earn 23 different Coach of the Year Awards during his high school career, he was named one of the 80 "Hottest Coaches" from the National Football League to High School by *American Football Monthly* and LRS Sports Software in 2005 and '06.

Last season, Wright was the Oklahoma Class 6A District 3 Coach of the Year after leading Tulsa Union High to an undefeated district championship. He was also the school's athletic director in addition to serving as



head coach.

Wright was the head coach at Warren Central HS in Indianapolis from 2000-05, helping lead the Warriors to three consecutive Class 5A state titles. His WCHS teams were ranked in the top 25 in the country four straight seasons, reaching the No. 1 spot in the Cal Preps poll as well as ending fifth in the Max Preps Final Accumulative rankings.

Warren Central set the National Federation record with 756 rushing yards in a game as well as 22 Indiana state championship game standards, including one with 50 points in a half in its 2003 victory over Penn High. The Warriors paced the state in scoring four times, and also set season records for rushing yards and total offense.

Wright also led Louisville (Ky.) Trinity HS to a district title as he took three teams in three states to eight district championships. His overall record as a high school coach was 134-54 (71.3%), as he averaged better than 10 wins per season over the last 11 years.

He also served as head coach at Noblesville (Ind.) High from 1992-98 and Frankfort (Ind.) HS in 1991.

"I got into the coaching profession because I thought it was a great opportunity to continue to be a part of the game I love, and at the same time have the ability to influence young people in a positive way," he said. "Growing up the son of a high school coach, I saw first-hand the positive impact a coach can have not only on the individuals they coach, but on the community that they live in. It is my hope that I may have the same type of positive impact on the young men I come into contact with here at WKU."

Wright, who earned his bachelor's degree from WKU in 1987 and a master's degree in 1996 from Indiana Wesleyan, has been a guest speaker at numerous camps, including those run by Notre Dame, Michigan, Iowa and Purdue, as well as the Indiana High School Coaches and NIKE Coach of the Year clinics. He also has had articles published in *American Football Monthly* and NIKE Coach of the Year manuals.

Wright was on the WKU football roster from 1983-85, he was recruited by and played his first season for the legendary Jimmy Feix.

The Wright File

Born — June 27, 1964, Tipton, Ind.

High School — Sheridan (Ind.) '83

HS Athletics — Football, WR/DB, 3 letters (two-time first-team all-state); basketball, G, 3 letters (honorable mention all-state); track, 2 letters (honors)

College — WKU '87 (BA); Indiana Wesleyan '96 (ME)

College Athletics — Football, WR

Coaching Experience —
 Frankfort (Ind.) High, head coach (1991)
 Noblesville (Ind.) High, head coach (1992-98)
 Trinity (Ky.) High, head coach (1999)
 Warren Central (Ind.) High, head coach (2000-05)
 Tulsa Union (Okla.) High, head coach and athletics director (2006)
 WKU, assistant (2007-)

Family — Wife, Elizabeth; daughter, Trinity (5) and son, William (1).



Hilltopper Coaching Staff

Andrew Koon Graduate Assistant (Defense) First Season

Andrew Koon joins the Hilltopper staff as a graduate assistant on defense after earning his undergraduate degree from WKU in 2006. He was a part of the program for two seasons, redshirting in 2002 as the Toppers won the NCAA Division I-AA national championship before appearing in all 13 contests a year later as WKU finished 9-4 while advancing to the quarterfinals of the NCAA I-AA playoffs.



Since then, Koon has been an assistant working with the offensive line at Bowling Green (Ky.) High. In his three years on the staff, the Purples posted a 38-5 (88.4%) mark while twice reaching the Class AAA state championship game. Koon also assisted with the school's weightlifting and off-season conditioning programs.

A 2002 graduate of BGHS, Koon earned four letters — starting three seasons — for the Purples. He earned honorable mention all-state and

first-team all-conference accolades as a senior after helping the team to a 10-3 finish and a berth in the quarterfinals of the state tournament — BGHS averaged more than 30 points and 300 yards per contest that fall. Following that season, Koon was named the team's Outstanding Offensive Lineman and the Monie Beard Leadership Award winner.



The Koon File

Born — Aug. 13, 1983, Bowling Green, Ky.
High School — Bowling Green (Ky.) '02
HS Athletics — Football, OL, 4 letters (honorable mention all-state, first-team all-conference)
College — WKU '06 (BA)
College Athletics — Football, OL, 1 letter
Coaching Experience —
 WKU, graduate assistant (2007-)

Erik Losey Graduate Assistant (Offense) First Season

After earning his degree from WKU last year, former All-American Erik Losey begins his first season as a graduate assistant. Losey — who served as a student assistant during the 2006 campaign — will help the Hilltopper staff on the offensive side of the ball.



Losey earned All-America honors from the American Football Coaches Association and the Associated Press as well as first-team all-Gateway Football Conference accolades after completing his second and final season on the Hill. He led an offensive line that helped WKU average better than 400 yards and 30 points per game, picking up league Offensive Lineman of the Week honors twice along the way.

In his first season in the program, Losey was named second-team all-league and to the conference's All-Newcomer Team as the Toppers ranked in the top 25 nationally in rushing and pass efficiency offense on their way to

a 9-3 finish and a berth in the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs. WKU was ranked as high as third in the country that year in the national polls.

Losey transferred from East Tennessee State, where he was a two-year starter before the program was discontinued. He was twice selected all-state and was a three-time all-region choice at Soddy-Daisy (Tenn.) High, where he was the runner-up in the voting for Mr. Football and was named the Class 5A Lineman of the Year as a senior.



The Losey File

Born — Nov. 28, 1983, Chattanooga, Tenn.
High School — Soddy-Daisy (Tenn.) '02
HS Athletics — Football, OL, 3 letters (two-time all-state, three-time all-region)
College — WKU '06 (BA)
College Athletics — Football, OL, 4 letters (first-team All-American, first-team all-conference)
Coaching Experience —
 WKU, graduate assistant (2007-)



Hilltopper Athletics Staff

Nick Uhlenhopp Director of Football Operations First Season

Nick Uhlenhopp begins his first year on the Hill as the director of football operations after spending the last five years in the Boston College football office assisting with recruiting.

Uhlenhopp managed the day-to-day operations of the BC recruiting office last season, supervising a staff of nine graduate and undergraduate students who assisted as the Eagles put together a nationally ranked recruiting class. In addition to handling all aspects of recruit's official visits — including arranging lodging, food and travel accommodations — he managed ticket requests from high school coaches and prospects for home games and was responsible overseeing all correspondence sent out to potential student-athletes.

He began working at BC the previous season, helping the staff as the Eagles' recruiting class ended up ranked 14th by both *SuperPrep* magazine and ESPN.com. That year, he also had responsibilities monitoring study hall for incoming freshmen in the football program.

Uhlenhopp earned his bachelor's degree from Graceland (Iowa) University in 2002 after starting for four years at center for the Yellowjackets. In addition to twice being named an Academic All-American, he was honored four times on the Heart of America Athletic Conference team including first-team honors each of his last two years. He also played in the HAAC-GPAC All-Star Game. Uhlenhopp competed on the track team for four seasons, qualifying for the national championship in the shot put twice during the outdoor campaign and once during indoor competition. A four-time all-HAAC honoree in the event, he was also an Academic All-America selection in track as well.

He was awarded his master's degree from BC in 2004.



Mark Harris Director of Equipment and Facility Operations First Season

A longtime supporter of WKU Athletics, Mark Harris begins his first season as the football program's assistant director of football operations/equipment manager.

Harris was a longtime administrator on the Hill, beginning as a shipping clerk in WKU's Shipping and Receiving Department before working his way up to manager — he served in that position for five years before entering the sales profession. After beginning as a sales representative for Frito-Lay, Inc., in 1999, Harris also coordinated sales for Rental Services Corporation and Heartland Equipment before moving to Wayne Supply Company. He started with the organization as a sales representative in 2003 and worked his way up to district sales representative.

A 1979 graduate of Warren Central High, the Bowling Green native and his wife LaDonna have a seven-year-old daughter, Sydney.



The Uhlenhopp File

Born — Oct. 16, 1979, Nevada, Iowa
High School — Nevada (Iowa) '98
HS Athletics — Football, OL/DL, 3 letters (all-state, all-conference); Track & Field, shot/discus, 3 letters (state qualifier, all-conference); Baseball, 3 letters, C (all-conference); Wrestling, heavyweight, 3 letters (sectional champion)
College — Graceland (Iowa) '02 (BA); Boston College '04 (MS)
College Athletics — Football, OL, 4 letters (Academic All-American, all-conference); Track & Field, shot, 4 letters (Academic All-American, indoor and outdoor national qualifier, all-conference)
Experience —
 Boston College, graduate assistant recruiting assistant (2002); recruiting assistant (2003-06)
 WKU, director of operations (2007-)

The Harris File

Born — Jan. 6, 1961, Bowling Green, Ky.
High School — Warren Central (Ky.) '79
HS Athletics — Basketball, G, 2 letters
Experience —
 WKU, assistant director of operations/equipment manager (2007-)
Family — Wife, LaDonna; daughter, Sydney (7).



Hilltopper Athletics Staff

Chris Zuccaro Video Coordinator First Season

Chris Zuccaro begins his first year as the Hilltoppers' video coordinator, a role that will have him and his student assistant staff filming and editing practices and games, handling WKU's XOS video editing system, maintaining all video equipment, and exchanging video with the Toppers' future opponents.

He has worked with video at a pair of NCAA Division I-A Football Bowl Subdivision schools, gaining experience at both Mississippi and Southern Mississippi before earning his bachelor's degree from the latter school in 2006.

At USM, Zuccaro filmed and edited games and practices, prepared his coaches' video cut-ups, processed opponent film and was responsible for media equipment at road games and bowls. He also helped coordinate the Sports Video Department's coverage assignments for all programs.



Zuccaro assisted in filming games and practices, and was responsible for media equipment at road contests and bowl games while at Ole Miss as well.



The Zuccaro File

Born — Nov. 1, 1980, Natchez, Miss.
High School — Cathedral (Miss.) '99
HS Athletics — Golf, 3 letters
College — Southern Mississippi '06 (BS)
Video Experience —
 Mississippi, sports video student assistant (1999-04)
 Southern Mississippi, sports video graduate assistant (2004-06)
 WKU, video coordinator (2007-)

Bill Edwards Head Athletic Trainer

Bill Edwards — affectionately known as "Doc E" on the Hill — has been a part of the athletic scene at his alma mater since 1970. He was named the Hilltopper head trainer in 1983 after spending six years as an assistant. He had previously worked as a student trainer and then as a graduate assistant.

An active member of the National Athletic Trainers Association, he coordinates the sports medicine program for all WKU sports. His family ties with Hilltopper athletics go back two generations. His grandfather, B.J. White, earned letters in football (1923-26) and basketball (1924-25). His stepfather, Bill Kinslow, played football at WKU in 1954.

Edwards, who holds a bachelor's ('74) and master's ('76) degree from WKU, also teaches in the Department of Physical Education and Recreation.

He and his wife, Jennie, have two daughters, Faith (16) and Rachel (13).



The Edwards File

Born — Nov. 7, 1952, Franklin, Ky.
High School — Franklin-Simpson (Ky.) '70
HS Athletics — Football trainer, 4 letters; Baseball, 1 letter
College — WKU '74 (BS), '76 (MA)
Training Experience —
 WKU, student (1970-74)
 WKU, graduate assistant (1975-76)
 WKU, assistant (1977-83)
 WKU, head trainer (1983-)
Family — Wife, Jennie; daughters, Faith (16) and Rachel (13).

