

### **MSSU Athletics Report**

#### **1. Sport Program Reports**

- a. **Football** – Daryl Daye announced his resignation to take the Defensive Coordinator position at Division I Northwestern State University. Offensive Coordinator HT Kinney has been named the Interim Head Coach and a national search for a new football head coach will begin immediately.
- b. **Men's Basketball** – The MSSU men's basketball team is 15-10 overall and 9-7 in the MIAA. The Lions have clinched a berth to the 2015 MIAA Tournament. The top four teams will get an automatic bid to Kansas City, while the next eight teams will play first-round tournament games at home sites (seeds 5-8 hosting games). Southern currently sits in eighth place in the standings. The Lions play at Pittsburg State on Saturday at 5:30 pm.
- c. **Women's Basketball** – The MSSU Women's basketball team is 17-6 overall and 11-5 in the MIAA. The Lions have clinched a berth to the 2015 MIAA Tournament. The top four teams will get an automatic bid to Kansas City, while the next eight teams will play first-round tournament games at home sites (seeds 5-8 hosting games). Southern currently sits in fourth place in the standings, a game up on fifth-place Central Missouri. The Lions play at Pittsburg State on Saturday at 3:30 pm.
- d. **Men's Track and Field** – The MSSU men's track and field team currently is ranked 13th nationally in Division II. Senior sprinter Jeff Fraley has automatically qualified for nationals in the 60m dash and ranks in the top six nationally in the 60m (3rd), 200m (4th) and 400m (6th). The Lions currently have nine provisional marks, including a new school record set in the triple jump this week by Darion Boure (Boo-Ray). Boure broke his own school record by six inches and currently ranks third nationally in the event, earning MIAA Field Athlete of the Week honors this week. The Lions will be at multiple events this weekend with split squads traveling to Central Missouri, the University of Arkansas and the University of Nebraska.
- e. **Women's Track and Field** – The MSSU women's track and field team currently has 12 provisional marks in the national rankings. The Distance Medley Relay team of Dana Roberson, Amber White, Kindra Emberton and Emily Harris currently ranks sixth nationally and tops in the MIAA. Melanie Bower ranks 13th nationally in the pole vault. The Lions will be at multiple events this weekend with split squads traveling to Central Missouri, the University of Arkansas and the University of Nebraska.
- f. **Softball** – The MSSU softball team was defeated by Mother Nature this weekend and had their home-and-home series with Drury cancelled due to snow. That series has been re-scheduled for games in March and April. The Lions will play host to the Terri Mathis-Zenner Memorial Tournament next weekend. That tournament consists of 18 teams from seven states and three different conferences. The tournament will be played at the Joplin Athletic Complex on four fields at a time.
- g. **Baseball** – The MSSU baseball team opened the new Baseball Complex with an over-capacity crowd that saw the Lions sweep a double-header from Upper Iowa. The Lions won 4-3 in game one and 6-0 in game two. Southern is scheduled to play against Pittsburg State at home this weekend, however that series is in question due to snow on the field.
- h. **Golf** – The MSSU golf team will open its spring schedule on March 9 when they travel to the Arkansas Tech Tournament.

#### **2. MIAA News:**

- a. Rachel Burleson is representing MSSU on the MIAA Strategic Planning Committee. The 2015 MIAA Strategic Plan has been approved. Currently, the committee has assigned and prioritized the time line for the implementation process. The committee will meet in person in Kansas City on June 4<sup>th</sup> to monitor progress and make adjustments

### 3. NCAA News:

- a. At the National level there is discussion about stipends for student-athletes and how that impacts all three divisions.
- b. During the NCAA National Convention in Washington, D.C. a new moniker was voted in for Division II. The moniker *Make It Yours* will be implemented Fall 2015.

### 4. Athletic Department Information:

- a. **Record High GPA:** During the home Basketball game on Wednesday Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, we will be recognizing our 175 student-athletes that have a 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA following the Fall 2014 semester.
- b. **2015-2016 Signees:** We have currently signed 49 new student-athletes to MSSU for next year.
- c. **Pack the Platt:** This event was very successful we had 2,714 people in attendance. Thanks to the Joplin Globe and Commerce Bank for purchasing those tickets.
- d. **Pride 4 Pink:** The Pride 4 Pink Basketball event was held during the game on Saturday, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>. So far the campaign has raised over \$15,000 that will go to the Freeman Foundation to support their cancer efforts.
- e. **Our Make-A-Wish campaign:** is well underway and we have raised over \$1500 as of now which is almost triple what we accomplished last year. This has been driven by our SAAC and their collective sport teams. They have done such things as trivia contests, 50-50, Bingo and other great activities. This week at the Basketball game they raffled a \$50 gas card and raised an additional \$248.
- f. **Operation College Bound:** This event will be held at the Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> basketball game. All Joplin elementary school students have been invited and will have discounted tickets to the game.
- g. **Game Tickets:** We have recently been restructuring season and individual game prices for next season for football, basketball, and baseball. Once these have been set, we will create manifests for the use of ExtremeTix so they can create the online graphics and ticketing components necessary to begin getting ready for the Fall. They won't be able to complete the ticketing component for football, however, until our exact schedule is set.
- h. **2015-2016 Game Scheduling:** We are currently reviewing next year's fall schedule in order to avoid direct conflicts with other sports on campus; this will allow us to be able to set our exact football schedule start times.
- i. **Game-day Parking Fees:** We have been doing research on parking fees from both around our area and around our conference. There is an attached document that covers several aspects of how MSSU would implement parking fees at football this upcoming Fall including the "why" and "how." Parking fees will begin in 2015 Football season. We anticipate an increase in Lionbacker memberships with the additional benefits including parking.
- j. **2015 NCAA Cross Country Regionals and Nationals:** We are preparing for Cross Country season next year, as MSSU will not only be hosting the annual Southern Stampede, but also the Regional meet and NCAA DII National Championships. College Heights has been secured as a bus drop-off spot for all three dates, and we will work with the physical plant and grounds-crew in upcoming months to get course ready for the Fall.

### 5. Lionbacker Annual Campaign:

- a. We currently have 276 Lionbackers Memberships paid for representing around 734 people. We have 55 new memberships this year and the rest are renewals. We are currently renewed at 78% of our total memberships from last year. We have our highest total of both Lionbacker donation dollars & Season Ticket dollars we have ever had.

- b. We are theming next year's Lionbacker Campaign, which will begin in April and May, "Grow the Pride". This year, any current Lionbacker who gets another person to join the Lionbackers, will receive a gift. We thought this would be a great way to engage our current supporters to help us grow our numbers.

#### 6. Recent Events:

- a. Lionbacker Track and Field Spaghetti Feed – On Friday Feb 6<sup>th</sup> our Lionbacker Steering Committee served a spaghetti dinner to the members of the men's and women's track and field teams at the conclusion of the first day of events at the their tournament. Over 100 athlete and coaches were served. Our athletes are extremely grateful for this event each year and our Lionbackers really enjoy interacting with and supporting them.
- b. 1985 Women's Basketball Reunion – We honored the 1985 Missouri Southern Women's Basketball Team who won the CSIC Championship. They were recognized at halftime and then joined our current women's team after the game in a pizza social. It was great seeing the alumni return and share stories with the current players and it was a very successful event.
- c. In Game Recognitions – Throughout the basketball season so far, we have had many in game recognitions honoring different groups on campus and in the community. We have had Endowment Day, Board of Governors Day, Local Legislators Day, City Council Day, & Student Senate Day. It gives us a great opportunity to recognize all these different groups and allow our fans the opportunity to honor them as well.

#### 7. Upcoming Events:

- a. Friday Feb 27<sup>th</sup> - Upcoming Lion Pride Luncheon. SMB Community Room. Lunch served at 11:30am – program starts at Noon.
- b. MIAA Basketball Tournament
  - i. Play-in Games at Campus Sites
    - 1. Monday March 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Men
    - 2. Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup> for the Women
  - ii. Kansas City Tournament
    - 1. Men's Basketball – March 5<sup>th</sup>, 7-8<sup>th</sup>
    - 2. Women's Basketball – March 6-8<sup>th</sup>
  - iii. Kansas City Social – Location, Date, and Time TBD
- c. Lionbacker Annual Campaign – April and May
- d. Spring Football Game – Saturday April 11 (subject to change)
- e. 110% Club Event – Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup> prior to the Spring Football game (subject to change if game day does)
- f. SouthernFest 2015
  - i. Dinner/Auction at Downstream Casino – Thursday July 30<sup>th</sup>
  - ii. Rod Smith Green & Gold Golf Classic – Friday July 31<sup>st</sup>
- g. See attached for complete upcoming event schedule:

#### 8. Athletic Facility Updates:

- a. **North End Zone Facility Project:** See Rob Yust, Vice President of Business for updated and detailed report.
- b. **Baseball Stadium Project:** MSSU baseball had its opening day this past weekend to a crowd well over 600. We had 500 commemorative tickets and MSSU hats that were all given away almost before first-pitch thrown by Dr. Alan Marble and Jared Bruggeman. Not all the bleachers were completed, and one flag pole hadn't been installed yet, but otherwise the event went off without issue and all the fans were very impressed with the quality of the stadium. There will be a Grand Opening event on April 18<sup>th</sup>.
- c. **Leggett & Platt:**

- i. We have begun getting quotes for new basketball goals. We have no back-up goals, so if something were to happen to one of our goals or backboards during a game, we would not have a good contingency. We have currently received a quote from Spalding, and will be getting at least two more quotes from other companies. Spalding is the supplier of backboards/goals for Pitt State and Missouri State, and was requested by both MSSU men's and women's head basketball coaches.
  - ii. We are examining the cost of more useful lighting for pre-game introductions and other special events.
- d. **Softball Fields:** A new scoreboard for softball will be installed very soon, and with the cancelation of softball's games with Drury at home this weekend, should be completed before their first home game. The scoreboard is a Nevco brand, which is also what we have at baseball and basketball. Sign Designs will be installing it.
- e. **Young Gym:** The renovation of the floor in Young Gym has been approved. It will take place this summer and will start after our Sports Academy and be finished before our summer volleyball camps.
- f. **Fred G. Hughes Stadium:** MSSU is currently reviewing RFPs for football turf and drainage replacement.

## Upcoming event Schedule

02/20/15	Friday	Track		Nebraska Tune Up	All day			
02/20/15	Friday	Baseball		Pitt State	1PM	state farm		
02/21/15				MCDA CHEER	9am-4			
02/21/15	Saturday	Softball		Drury	1PM/3PM			
02/21/15	Saturday	Baseball		Pitt State	12PM/2PM	state farm		
02/21/15	Saturday	Basketball	B	At Pitt State University				
02/22/15				MCDA CHEER	9am-1			
02/22/15	Sunday	Softball		Drury	1PM/3PM			
02/22/15	Sunday	Baseball		Pitt State	1PM	state farm		
02/25/15	Wednesday	Basketball	B	Lindenwood University	5:30PM/7:30PM	IAC recognition	Pat Lipira recognition	LB steering recognition
02/26/15	Thursday	Baseball		SBU	2PM			
02/27/15	Friday	Baseball		SBU	2PM			
02/27/15	Friday	Track		MIAA Indoor Championships	All day			
02/27/15	Friday			Lion Pride Luncheon				
02/28/15	Saturday	Track		MIAA Indoor Championships	All day			
02/28/15	Saturday	Basketball	B	Lincoln University	1PM/3PM	2000 basketball team/reunion	Senior Night	2000 team honoring -MBB-Robert
02/28/15	Saturday	Softball		Wayne State	2PM			
02/28/15	Saturday	Softball		Sioux Falls	4PM			
02/28/15	Saturday	Baseball		SBU	12PM/2PM			
03/01/15	Sunday	Track		MIAA	All day			

15				Indoor Champions hips				
<b>03/01/ 15</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Softball</b>		<b>Northern State</b>	<b>1PM</b>			
<b>03/01/ 15</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Softball</b>		<b>Missouri S&amp;T</b>	<b>3PM</b>			
<b>03/03/ 15</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Basebal l</b>		<b>Missouri S&amp;T</b>	<b>1PM</b>			
03/04/ 15	Wednes day	Softball		Rogers State	2PM/4PM			
<b>03/06/ 15</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Softball</b>		<b>Pitt State</b>	<b>4pm/6pm</b>	state farm		
<b>03/06/ 15</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Baseabl l</b>		<b>Lindenwoo d University</b>	<b>3PM</b>			
<b>03/07/ 15</b>	<b>Saturda y</b>	<b>Basebal l</b>		<b>Lindenwoo d University</b>	<b>1PM/3PM</b>			
03/07/ 15	Saturday	Softball		Pitt State	2PM/4PM	state farm		
<b>03/08/ 15</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Basebal l</b>		<b>Lindenwoo d University</b>	<b>12PM</b>			
03/10/ 15	Tuesday	Basebal l		Ark.-Ft. Smith	1PM			
03/13/ 15	THursda y	Softball		Fort Hays State	2PM/4PM			
03/13/ 15	Thursda y	Basebal l		Fort Hays State	6PM			
03/14/ 15	Friday	Basebal l		Fort Hays State	1PM/3PM			
03/14/ 15	Friday	Softball		Neb- Kearney	noon/2pm			
03/15/ 15	Saturday	Basebal l		Fort Hays State	12PM			
<b>03/17/ 15</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Basebal l</b>		<b>College of the Ozarks</b>	<b>2PM</b>			