

## **MSSU Athletics Report**

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

- a. **Football** – The MSSU Football team had seven players named All-MIAA. Will Gregory, Carson Day, Chad Nolan, Austin Minor, Johnquavious McBride and Ricky Green all picked up honors.
- b. **Cross Country** – The men's cross country team will have one participant in this weekend's 2015 NCAA Division II National Meet hosted by Missouri Southern. Vincent Kiprop won the Central Regional Meet and was named the Division II Central Region Athlete of the Year.
- c. **Volleyball** – The MSSU volleyball team had two players named All-MIAA as Callie Whetstone and Payton Graves picked up honors. The MIAA Academic Awards will come out next week.
- d. **Soccer** – The MSSU soccer team had two named All-MIAA with Carly Cecil and Ronise Miller picking up honors. In addition, 13 individuals were named to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll.
- e. **Men's and Women's Basketball** – Both Men's and Women's basketball programs opened the season up this past weekend. The women went 2-0 with wins over Oklahoma Baptist and Southwestern Oklahoma State. The men defeated St. Cloud State, but fell to Minnesota State. Sharese Jones is averaging 23.5 points and 7.5 rebounds for the women, while Taevaunn Prince is averaging 24.5 points and 13 rebounds for the men.
- f. **Division II Cross Country Championships** – The MSSU Athletic Department is serving as the host to the 2015 NCAA Division II Cross Country Championships this weekend at the Tom Rutledge Cross Country Course. It is the fourth time the University has hosted the event and second time in the last four years. There will be a banquet at the Leggett & Platt Athletic Center on Friday evening at 6 pm and the races will begin Saturday morning with the women at 10 am and the men at 11:15 am.

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

- a. **MIAA Legislation and Handbook committee.** Rachel has been assigned, as a member of the strategic planning committee, to the MIAA Legislation and Handbook Committee. They finished reviewing and updating the current MIAA handbook. The implementation process is now underway based on the MIAA president's recommendation.

### **3. NCAA News:**

- a. **NCAA Reporting:**
  - i. The Sports Sponsorship and Demographics report has been submitted
  - ii. Currently working on the Department of Education EADA report (Equity in Athletics Data Analysis) which is due in October
  - iii. The NCAA Agreed Upon Procedures Audit is beginning right now with appropriate preparation of the documents. The NCAA Agreed Upon Procedures Auditors are arriving and working the week of November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015.
  - iv. Have initiated the NCAA Academic Tracking Report
- b. **New Division 2 Branding:** 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 during the Fall 2015. We have received all the branding materials allocated for the new merchandise through the NCAA.
- c. **NCAA ISSG (Institutional Self Study Guide):** Per the NCAA, the Gender Equity Committee will be meeting bi-monthly to review, and make recommendations when needed, our action plans that were implemented during the ISSG in 2013.

### **4. Athletic Department Information:**

**a. Ticketing/Event Management**

**i. Basketball**

**1. Upcoming Events**

- a. Roary's Birthday Party – Dec 5<sup>th</sup>
- b. Joplin Area Catholic Schools Night – Dec 16<sup>th</sup>
- c. College Heights Day – Dec 19<sup>th</sup>
- d. Star Wars Day – Dec 19<sup>th</sup>

**2. Video Production**

- a. Hired Preston Jones as our Video Board Operator for basketball season (was video production intern for MSSU athletics from 2012-2014)

**ii. National XC**

1. Have been selling extra banquet tickets for past 2 weeks
  - a. Currently have less than 10 and expect to sell out by packet pickup on Friday morning
2. Created graphics for the video board to have on a loop when the banquet takes place
3. Gates for the XC race on Saturday open at 8:30 am, with the first race starting at 10 am
4. Will be running a concession stand for the event

**iii. Ticketing**

1. Paid season tickets for the 2015-2016 season have increased 52%
2. Ticket redemption rate for last year's opening men's basketball tournament (Chris Tucker Memorial Classic) averaged 34% while this year's MIAA-NSIC Cross-Over Challenge averaged a 51% ticket redemption rate.
3. Weekend Conference Ticket Packages are now on sale. This package includes men's and women's double header basketball games in January and February that take place on Saturday's. This all four of these games take place after the New Year (Jan 9<sup>th</sup>, Jan 30<sup>th</sup>, Feb 13<sup>th</sup>, Feb 27<sup>th</sup>) we will push this package hard towards the holiday season as a potential gift.

**b. NCAA National and Regional Championships 2015:** We continue to produce the necessary documents and packets in order to have a successful event(s). We estimate that each of the events will have approximately 900 student-athletes and coaches for several days. It is a great boost to the economy for the Joplin region.

**c. NCAA Compliance:**

- i. MSSU's NCAA Compliance Committee met to recap last year's waivers, violations, policies, and cover new NCAA legislation
- ii. Early Signing date was Wed. November 18<sup>th</sup> and we signed 38 new student athletes. The Early Signing date is only good for the sports of Volleyball, Softball, Women's Basketball, Women's Track, Men's Basketball, Golf, Men's Track and Baseball.
- iii. The NCAA Agreed Upon Procedures Audit was concluded on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. We will get the report during the Spring Semester.

**d. Departmental Searches:** We are currently undergoing two department searches; The Head Cheer/Dance Coach and Academic Coordinator and our Head Women's Soccer Coach Position.

**e. Student Athlete Advisory Committee:** (SAAC) has their annual Talent Show for the Make a Wish Foundation. We generated over \$600 for the cause and had a great time! We have really talented athletes!

**5. Lionbackers & Annual Campaign(s):**

- a. Membership Drive: Currently we have 237 Lionbacker members in a variety of different giving levels.

- b. The Athletics Family and Friends Campaigns: Volleyball, Men's Basketball, Golf and Softball will all hold annual fund family and friends campaigns to help offset expenses. Some of these campaigns are underway.

#### 6. Recent Events:

- a. Men's Basketball MIAA-NSIC Tournament: We hosted a men's basketball tournament that included the teams of SCSU (in Minnesota), Minnesota State University, Pittsburg State and us. It was a very successful event that we are looking forward to participating next season in St. Cloud.
- b. Home Football Game Activities: We had many activities surrounding the game including pregame socials, mass band day, Joplin recognition, tailgate concert series, etc. A very successful season of events.
- c. MOSO Madness: We changed the name and format of what used to be our Meet the Lions basketball kickoff event. Over 500 people attended the event which featured a celebrity basketball game with many local and Missouri Southern figures.
- d. Brandon Williams Day: We hosted Brandon and his family during our home football game on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Over 750 bobble heads featuring Brandon were given out to the fans and Brandon signed autographs for over an hour inside the stadium and North Endzone facility.
- e. Canned Food Drive: The student athletes organized a canned food drive in order to help people in need during this holiday season. Each team picked a neighborhood in the area and went during the week of Halloween. The athletes collected 5,000 cans that were donated to Soul's Harbor in Joplin. When Soul's Harbor was notified that the school would be delivering them the director cried and was very grateful.
- f. Talent Show: The student athletes hosted a talent show this past week in order to raise money for Make-A-Wish Foundation. The night featured 8 different acts and raised \$600 towards Make-A-Wish.

#### 7. Upcoming Events:

- a. Roary's Birthday- December 5<sup>th</sup> basketball game: 1 & 3pm
- b. Whiteout Game and Baseball Rings Celebration- December 9<sup>th</sup> basketball game: 5:30 & 7:30pm
- c. Star Wars Day- December 19<sup>th</sup> basketball game: 1 & 3pm
- d. Crusaders Practices: Hughes Stadium Nov. 22, Dec. 5, 12, 19, Jan. 9, 16, 23 @ 1pm
- e. Show-Me-Gold Morning PT: Hughes Stadium Nov. 23, 25, 30, Dec. 30, 2, 4, 7, 9, 11 @ 6am
- f. Lion Pride Lunch: NEZ Alumni Room; Dec. 4, 18, Jan. 8 @ 12pm
- g. Dept. of EMS Regional Conference: NEZ Alumni Room; Nov. 30-Dec. 1 @ 8am
- h. Workforce Investment Board Meeting: NEZ Alumni Room; Dec. 15 @ 8am
- i. Track & Field Alumni Event: NEZ; Jan. 22-23
- j. Softball Academy: Kungle Field/Young Gym; Nov. 22, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27, Jan. 16 @ 10am
- k. NCAA XC National Championships: Nov. 21 @ 10am & 11:15am
- l. XC Nationals Banquet: L&P; Nov. 20 @ 6pm
- m. College Heights Basketball Practice: Young Gym; Dec. 1, 8, 15, 17, 29, Jan. 7, 14 @ 6:30pm
- n. MSSU Commencement: L&P/Young; Dec. 12
- o. Epic Brands Cheer: L&P; Jan. 16 @ 8am
- p. Women's Basketball: L&P; Nov. 18, 24, Dec. 3, 9, 16 @ 5:30pm
  - a. Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 19, @ 1pm
- q. Men's Basketball: L&P; Nov. 18, Dec. 3, 9, 16 @ 5:30pm
  - a. Dec. 5, 19 @ 1pm

#### 8. Athletic Facility Updates:

- a. Fred G. Hughes Stadium:

- i. Examining the cost of LED light fixtures on the outside of Hughes Stadium so they don't burn out so quickly during the year
- b. Leggett & Platt:
  - i. New basketball goals will be arriving Dec. 19; shot clocks delayed their arrival
  - ii. We are still examining the cost of more useful lighting for pre-game introductions and other special events.
  - iii. New LED Scorers Tables are scheduled to come in over Thanksgiving Break
- c. Softball Complex:
  - i. New gated and arched entry way has begun construction. Fence has been torn down and footings will be poured this week or next