

MSSU Athletics Report

1. Sport Program Reports

- a. **Men's Basketball** – The Missouri Southern men's basketball team qualified for the MIAA Tournament in Kansas City for the 19th-straight time. Taevaunn Prince was a unanimous All-MIAA selection. Charlie Brown was a third-team pick and Austin Wright was an honorable mention selection. Prince was named an All-Region pick and will participate in the NABC Division II All-Star Game in Frisco, Texas during the men's Elite Eight. Prince set an MIAA and MSSU record this season with 273 made free throws and he also set the MSSU single-season scoring record with 791 points.
- b. **Women's Basketball** – The Missouri Southern women's basketball team won a first-round MIAA Tournament game and advanced to Kansas City for the MIAA Tournament quarter finals this year. Sharese Jones was a first-team All-MIAA pick, while Deb Holcomb was a third-team pick.
- c. **Men's Track and Field**– The MSSU men's track and field recently competed at the 2016 NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Championships held at Pittsburg State. Jayce Thomas earned All-American honors in both the heptathlon and the high jump, while Kennan Harrison was an All-American in the triple jump. Thomas was the Regional Field Athlete of the Year after posting the fourth-highest heptathlon score in Division II history, while winning the MIAA title in the event. He was also named the MIAA High Point Award winner.
- d. **Women's Track and Field** – The MSSU women's track and field team recently competed at the 2016 NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Championships held at Pittsburg State. Melanie Bower and Emily Presley were All-American's in the pole vault where Bower finished second overall. Kaylee Morgan was an All-American in the long jump, while Emily Harris earned All-American honors in the mile.
- e. **Baseball**– The MSSU baseball team is ranked No. 21 Nationally this week. The Lions are 13-4 overall and are 5-4 in the MIAA. They recently took two out of three games from 19th ranked Emporia State this past weekend. Senior left hander Payton Walker was named the MIAA Pitcher of the Week after he shutout Emporia State. It was the first time ESU had been shutout in two years.
- f. **Softball** – The MSSU Softball team is 13-16 overall and is 3-5 in the MIAA. The Lions, under first-year head coach Melissa Chmielewski have nearly equaled the win total of 2015 (15) with two months left in the season.
- g. **Golf** - Taylor Lansford recently won the David Falconer Classic hosted by Arkansas Tech last week. He shot a six-under par to win the tournament and was named the MIAA Co-Athlete of the Week.

2. MIAA News:

- a. **Scheduling Issues**: An Ad hoc that was formed to review the 22 game basketball schedule as well as the 2017 & 2018 Football Schedules met in Kansas City and it was determined to have a random draw for fb scheduling and to not include rival weeks. The basketball schedule was determined to go to 19 games. These proposed changes were supported by the AAD on a conference call and thus approved. In addition, it was voted to not approve any scheduling changes for basketball for 2 years. This was approved by the CEO's so is now in effect for next season.
- b. **MSSU Television Contract**: On March 14, 2016 the CEO council met via conference call.
 - i. The MIAA TV Game of the Week and the broadcast of the MIAA Basketball Tournament will not be produced for the fall of the 2016 football season or the 2017 basketball tournament.
 - ii. **Follow-Up and Web streaming**: It was noted in the discussion that the conference current web-streaming contract runs through the 2016-17 school year. *The Council noted that it desired that*

every effort be made to produce each of these campus productions at a minimal level that is acceptable to all and that the MIAA develop those articulated standards. The CEO Council asked that the AAC take on the responsibility of ensuring that this review and process be completed.

3. NCAA News:

a. NCAA Reporting:

- i.** Academic Success Rate (ASR) is required to be submitted by June 1, 2016. This report will also include Graduation Rates Data. The ASR differs than the Federal Graduation Rate in that includes the transfers, non-scholarship SA's and walk-ons and also includes SA's whom leave academically eligible.
- b.** Potential Division 2 Legislation: A comprehensive survey was sent out by the NCAA to be distributed to those on campus impacted by athletic financial aid (i.e. Countable Aid). It is intended for the president, coaches, athletic staff, financial aid, senior leadership, etc. This is currently under review.
- c.** NCAA ISSG (Institutional Self Study Guide): The department has begun discussions on committee makeup in order to prepare for the report in 2018

4. Athletic Department Information:

a. Ticketing/Event Management

i. Ticketing Software RFP

- 1.** RFP requirements, wants, and pricing structure was submitted to Jeff Gibson. This document should be sent out to companies this week.
- 2.** Companies and contacts have been identified by talking to other schools in the region to see what they use for their ticketing solution and whether they'd recommend it.
 - a.** ExtremeTix (who we used previously), University Tickets, Glitnir Ticketing, Ticket Return, Vendini
- 3.** RFP evaluation committee created:
 - a.** Nathan Achey (IT), Landon Adams (Student Activities), Chris Owens (Card Services), Randon Coffey (Athletics) and Nathan Bramwell (Athletics)
 - b.** The Theater Department has signed their own agreement to an additional two-year contract with ExtremeTix, so they will not be part of the RFP process.

ii. Ticket Prices

- 1.** Last week, Jared Bruggeman, Rachel Burleson, Randon Coffey and Nathan Bramwell met to discuss and set individual and season ticket prices for the 2016-2017 seasons.
- 2.** Single-game football tickets will be slightly decreasing in price while season tickets for football and season tickets for basketball will be staying the same.
- 3.** More emphasis will be put on mini and flex packs for both football and basketball than in previous years
- 4.** Season ticket campaign is scheduled to kick-off on July 1st

b. NCAA Compliance:

- i.** Rachel Burleson met with the LionBacker steering committee to cover the basics of NCAA regulations and the importance of LionBackers adhering to the NCAA rules.
- ii.** Rachel has also been meeting with local high schools to speak with the counselors, parents and student-athletes regarding the new initial eligibility requirements for NCAA DII.
- iii.** The new certification/eligibility requirements for both transfers and continuing eligibility begins this fall, therefore, our student-athletes are now being held to a higher academic standard.

c. Departmental Searches:

- i. **New Coach** –The Head Cheer/Dance Coach and Academic Coordinator search was completed with hiring of Christine Ellis and she currently is a marketing teacher at Diamond High School. She has previously served as a cheer coach and teacher at Sarcoxie High School and she has over 20 years experience in the education field. She has a BS from Central Missouri in marketing education and a masters of secondary education/administration from William Woods University.
- ii. **New Asst.** Football Coach: The Missouri Southern football team has hired a new offensive line coach. Bill Bleil comes to Missouri Southern from the University of Rhode Island. He has been a coach at Iowa State, Akron, Western Carolina and Pittsburgh. Running backs coach John Johnson has accepted a position with the South Dakota State Football program.
- iii. **Search for Asst.** Football Running Back Coach is underway to replace John Johnson who accepted the same position asst. coach job at Division I South Dakota State University
- iv. **Search of Asst.** Volleyball Coach is underway with the departure of Lauren Noble who is pursuing a different career by accepting a position at Dick's Sporting Goods in Kansas City responsible for floor layouts with marketing and sales.
- d. **Student Athlete Advisory Committee:** (SAAC) Sent a representative to the MIAA conference meeting in Kansas City on February 21st. The meeting addressed professional development after their time as student athletes as well as how to increase Make-A-Wish participation. SAAC is planning to do another fundraiser for Make-A-Wish at the Lion's baseball game on April 1st.
- e. SouthernFest 2016: will be held on April 22nd instead of at the end of July like in previous years. This date will work better for attendees who go on vacation at the end of July as well as allow us to have more staff involvement with the event. The golf tournament will be held at Twin Hills at 9am and the Dinner/Auction will be held at the North End Zone Facility at 6pm. Invitations have been mailed out to athletics supporters. The goal is to have 100 golfers and 200 people attend the dinner/auction.

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

- a. **Membership Drive:** Currently we have 260 Lionbacker members in a variety of different giving levels. The Lionbacker Drive has officially concluded. We will kick off the 2016-2017 Lionbacker Campaign on June 1.
- b. **The Athletics Family and Friends Campaigns:** All sports teams have held annual fund family and friends campaigns to help offset expenses. All of these campaigns were concluded prior to December.
- c. **Lionbacker Appreciation Event:** We held a Lionbacker appreciation event prior to the last home game where we had over 150 Lionbackers in attendance. It was a great event and much appreciated by the Lionbackers!
- d. **110% Club Event-** April 30th at noon we will celebrate all who gave to the 110% club scholarship at the MSSU Lions Baseball Game.

6. **Upcoming Events:**

- a. **Lion Pride Lunch:** March 17 & April 1 @ 12pm (NEZ Alumni Room)
- b. **McAuley Track Practice:** March 17, 21-25, 28-April 1, 4-8, 11-15 (Hughes Stadium)
- c. **Show Me Gold Morning PT:** March 18, 21, 23, 25, 28, 30, April 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15 (L&P)
- d. **Joplin Memorial Marathon Training Class:** March 22, 29, April 5, April 12, April 19 @ 6:30pm (L&P)
- e. **Baseball Games:** March 22 v. UCO @ 5pm (Warren Turner Field)
 1. March 23 v. Wisconsin-Parkside @ 1pm (Warren Turner Field)
 2. April 1-3 v. SBU (Warren Turner Field)

- 3. April 5 v. UCO @ 5pm (Warren Turner Field)
- 4. April 8-10 v. NWMSU (Warren Turner Field)
- f. Softball Games: March 25 v. Washburn @ 2pm & 4pm (Kungle Field)
 - 1. March 26 v. Emporia St. @ 12pm & 2pm (Kungle Field)
 - 2. April 2 v. Lincoln @ 1pm & 3pm (Kungle Field)
 - 3. April 3 v. Lindenwood @ 1pm & 3pm (Kungle Field)
 - 4. April 6 v. Rogers St. @ 4pm (Kungle Field)
- g. Missouri Trampoline and Tumbling State Championships: March 26 @ 8am (L&P)
- h. UMKC Law Dean on the Road: March 29 @ 12pm (NEZ Alumni Room)
- i. MSSU Intramural Softball: March 29, 31, April 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26 (Gene Wilder Field)
- j. Softball Team Reunion: April 2 (NEZ Alumni Room)
- k. Zumbathon: April 2 @ 12pm (Young Gym)
- l. Crusaders Games: April 2, 23 @ 6pm (Hughes Stadium)
- m. Pat Lipira Softball Complex Dedication: April 3 @ 11am (NEZ Academic Center & Kungle Field)
- n. Southern Social: April 5 (NEZ Academic Center)
- o. MSSU Career Fair: April 6 (L&P)
- p. New Faculty Gathering: April 7 (NEZ Alumni Room)
- q. Missouri Creative Adventures (MOCA): April 9 (L&P and Young)
- r. Tomorrow's Leaders Today Graduation: April 12 @ 5pm (NEZ Academic Center)
- s. Lionbacker Steering Committee: April 12 @ 6:30pm (NEZ Alumni Room)
- t. Basic Archery Instruction Class: April 13 & 14 (L&P)
- u. Kinesiology Health Fair: April 14 @ 12:30pm (Young)
- v. Ronald McDonald House Recognition: April 16 @ 5pm (NEZ Academic Center)
- w. MSSU Women's Basketball Spring Fling: April 16 (L&P and Young)
- x. MSSU Student Veterans Race for Cancer Research: April 16 @ 6pm (Hughes Stadium)
- y. Sophomore Day: April 19 (NEZ, Hughes Stadium, L&P, Young, Hal Boldon Field)
- z. Leadership Joplin: April 20 @ 1-5pm (NEZ Alumni Room)
- aa. Southern Fest: April 22 (NEZ)
- bb. Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet: April 21 (L&P)
- cc. Autism Walk: April 23 @ 7am (L&P)
- dd. Kappa Alpha 5K: April 23 @ 8am (Tom Rutledge XC Course)



7. Athletic Facility Updates:

a. Fred G. Hughes Stadium:

- i. Received final estimate to put seat backs in Lionbacker section
- ii. Turf is being serviced in July as part of routine preventative measures

b. Leggett & Platt:

- i. Received a cost estimate to replace lights in L&P with more efficient and cost effective LED lights
- ii. Setting dates to get the bleachers and their motors fixed this summer

c. Softball Complex:

- i. Dedication is set for April 3.
- ii. Examining the possibility of altering Gene Wilder Field (lower softball field) into a field that can be used by little league baseball teams in the area

d. Warren Turner Field

- i. Turf was serviced March 3; field is in the 99% for wear and tear and upkeep

e. Young Gym

- i. Examining cost to paint ceiling black to enhance gym for volleyball games

