

## **MSSU Athletics Report**

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

- a. **Track and Field** – The Missouri Southern men's and women's track and field teams concluded a successful outdoor season with the 2017 NCAA Division II National Championships held in Bradenton, FL. The Southern men finished sixth overall, just three points behind fifth-place Central Missouri. This ties the highest-ever finish in the outdoor championships for the men and is the second-most points (33) ever scored by a Missouri Southern men's team. The Southern women finished 25th with 11 points. In all, the men and women had seven All-American performances, led by three national championships. Vincent Kiprop had two (5k, and the 10k), while Emily Presley won the pole vault. Other All-American performances were Bryan Burns in the shot put and discus, Desirea Buerge in the discus and Daniel Hernandez in the javelin. Kiprop concluded the year by being named the Division II National Track Athlete of the Year by the coaches association. The men finished the year in third place in the Coaches' Association Program of the Year standings, the highest-ever finish for MSSU. Academically, between the men and the women, the program boasted 45 student-athletes on the MIAA Academic Honor Roll.
- b. **Baseball** – The Missouri Southern baseball team made the 2017 MIAA Baseball Tournament which the school hosted at Warren Turner Field and the Lions made it all the way to Championship Sunday, despite entering the tournament as the No. 8 seed. The Lions, however, fell one game shy of the championship. The Lions had eight named All-MIAA this year, led by MIAA Player of the Year, Max Hogan. Tyler Sutherland was also a first-team All-MIAA selection. Hogan and Sutherland were named to multiple All-Region teams, while Hogan earned All-American honors by three separate publications. The team also had 14 players named to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll with Tyler Sutherland being named Academic All-District.
- c. **Softball** – The Missouri Southern softball team finished the regular-season by going 14-4 down the stretch to secure the No. 4 seed in the MIAA Tournament. The Lions had five named All-MIAA, including Abi Corbett and Myranda Stewart picking up first-team honors. Both Corbett and Stewart were All-Region picks, while Corbett was named an Academic All-American. The softball team, as a whole, had ten players named to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll.
- d. **Golf** – The Missouri Southern golf team finished the season fifth in the MIAA points standings. Taylor Lansford was an All-MIAA selection, while Connor Neil qualified for the NCAA Regional. Neil finished the regional tied for 11<sup>th</sup> and was an All-Region selection after shooting under par in each of the three rounds. The team, as a whole, had five student-athletes named to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll.
- e. **Athletic Department Numbers** – During the 2016-17 Academic Year, the MSSU athletic department had 175 student-athletes named to the MIAA Academic Honor Roll, an increase of 40 from the previous year. Seventeen students were named Academic Excellence winners (4.00 cumulative GPA's), while 20 were named Scholar-Athletes (3.50 cumulative GPA and All-MIAA status). The department had 49 All-MIAA athletes, 36 All-Region athletes and 13 All-American's, including six Academic All-Americans. The department boasted the 2016 MIAA Men's Cross Country Individual and Team Champions, as well as the NCAA Division II Men's Cross Country Individual National Champion. The department saw National Championships in the indoor 5k, as well as the outdoor 5k, 10k and women's pole vault. The baseball team produced the MIAA Player of the Year.

## **2. MIAA News:**

- a. MIAA Championships meeting June 5th
  - i. Reviewing Head of Official's for sports
  - ii. Officiating rates
  - iii. Received many compliments on our hosting of the MIAA baseball tournament
- b. FARC, AAC and IRC meetings on Tuesday
- c. Schedules were reviewed, hardship waivers were considered

## **3. NCAA News:**

- a. NCAA Reporting:
  - i. New emergency legislation regarding preseason football schedule

## **4. Departmental News:**

- a. RFP for Athletic Insurance Broker
- b. Have accepted resignation from Mike Doty, Athletic Facilities Coordinator
- c. We have added men's and women's jv basketball
  - i. Great opportunity to assess new talent
  - ii. Promotes local talent
  - iii. Assist in driving enrollment
- d. Ticketing/Event Management:
  - i. Two week delay in ticketing software
- e. NCAA Compliance:
  - i. Rachel submitted final NCAA report for FY16-17
- f. Departmental Searches:
  - i. NCAA Compliance Officer
  - ii. (3) Sports Medicine Positions
  - iii. Internal Operations Position
  - iv. Athletic Facilities Coordinator
- g. SAAC:
  - i. Representatives are being selected by departments for 2017-18
  - ii. Won the MIAA Community Engagement Award
- h. Mobile Application: The "Lions GO" mobile app currently has 1,062 downloads since its creation in November of last year. This total is the highest of all division II schools the app company works with.
- i. Flag Giveaway: In July the department will be conducting a promotion in which Lions fans can request a free flag to display.

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

- a. Officially began June 1<sup>st</sup> and have been receiving a steady influx of membership applications
- b. Have expanded our mailing of Lionbacker brochures to MSSU athletics alums

## 6. Athletic Facility Updates:

- a. L&P: Bleacher Repair that was scheduled has been cancelled; Physical Plant doing the maintenance
- b. L&P/Young: Way finder signs set to be installed in the next month
- c. Warren Turner Field: Turf on the mound will need to be replaced
- d. Transition
  - i. Mike Doty has resigned his position at MSSU to take a position at another university effective June 22, 2017

## 7. Upcoming Events:

- a. Soccer Camp: June 12-16 @ 9am-4pm (Hal Bodon Field)
- b. Men's Basketball Camps: June 12-17 @ 9am-4pm (L&P/Young)
- c. Football Camps: June 13-18 @ 9am-4pm (Hughes Stadium)
- d. Easy Living Prom: June 15 @ 5pm-10pm (Academic Center)
- e. Baseball Camps: June 15-18, 22-25, 29-July 2, July 7-11
- f. That Shakespeare Thing: June 16 @ 6:30pm-10pm (Alumni Room)
- g. Women's Basketball Camps: June 18-22, 25-28 (L&P/Young)
- h. Softball Camps: June 19-20 (Lipira Softball Complex)
- i. MSSU Football 7v7 Passing Camp: June 19, 26, July 3, 10 @ 4pm-8pm (Hughes Stadium)
- j. Mercy Sports Med Clinic: June 20 @ 1-3pm (Hughes Stadium & Alumni Room)
- k. Joplin Globe Athletes Banquet: June 20 @ 6pm-9pm (Academic Center)
- l. Women's Basketball Coaches' Social: June 21 @ 7pm-10pm (Academic Center)
- m. AAU Track: June 22-25 @ 8am-7pm (Hughes Stadium & Alumni Room)
- n. Track & Field Speed Camp: June 26-29 @ 9am-12pm (Hughes Stadium)
- o. JV Basketball Tryouts: June 29, July 10 @ 5:30-7pm (L&P)
- p. Volleyball Camps: July 15-23 (L&P/Young)
- q. USA Track and Field: July 6-9 @ 8am-7pm (Hughes Stadium & Alumni Room)
- r. Foundation Board Focus Groups: July 11 @ 11:30am-2pm

