

MSSU Athletics Report

1. Sport Program Reports

- a. **Men's and Women's Track and Field** – The Missouri Southern men's and women's track and field teams recently completed a highly-successful competition at the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championships. Both teams had a National Champion with freshmen Vincent Kiprop winning the men's 10k meter race, and Emily Presley winning the women's pole vault. In all, the men picked up four All-American honors. Vincent Kiprop won the 10k, while Jayce Thomas was an All-American in the decathlon. Jeff Fraley earned was All-American in the 100m and 200m. The women had four All-American performances from the five individuals they sent to Nationals. Emily Presley won a National Championship in the pole vault, while Kaylee Morgan took home All-American honors in the long jump. Desirea Buerge picked up honors in the discus, while Brittani Reagan was an All-American in the triple jump.
- b. **Baseball** – The Missouri Southern baseball team finished its season at the MIAA Baseball Tournament. The team finished the season 32-20 overall and 22-17 in MIAA play. The Lions had eight All-MIAA players with Jesse Rall and Payton Walker earning first-team honors. Rall and Walker was also an All-Region honoree, while Rall earned All-American honors. Rall was also an Academic All-American.
- c. **Softball** – The MSSU softball team finished the season 23-32 overall and had three individuals earn All-MIAA honors. Abi Corbett was a second-team selection, while Alana Hester and Ashley Lutz were honorable mention picks. Head coach Melissa Chmielewski was named the permanent head coach after serving this year in an interim capacity.
- d. **Golf** – The Missouri Southern golf team placed fourth overall at the MIAA Golf Championships in Kansas City. The team finished fourth overall in the final conference standings and Taylor Lansford was named an All-MIAA selection. Lansford qualified for the NCAA Super Regional that was played in Michigan.
- e. **End of Year Success** – The Missouri Southern Athletic Department had 137 student-athletes that maintained a cumulative 3.00 or better GPA this past year. The Department had 11 Academic All-MIAA honorees, while they had nine MIAA Academic Excellence Winners (4.00 cumulative or better GPA). The department had 67 All-MIAA athletes, 21 All-Region athletes, 21 All-Americans, six Academic All-Americans, and two National Champions. The department also boasted a team championship in Men's Outdoor Track and Field, while also having the MIAA Coach of the Year in that sport. Vincent Kiprop was the Cross Country and Outdoor Track Regional Athlete of the Year, while being named the Cross Country Academic All-American of the Year. Bryan Schiding was named the Outdoor Track and Field Men's Regional Coach of the Year, as well.

2. MIAA News:

- a. **Basketball Discussion:**
 - i. **Basketball Start Times for Double Headers on Saturdays:** On double header Saturday's the first game of the double header needs to start no later than 2PM unless a waiver is granted by the Conference Office for mitigating circumstances or mutually agreed upon by both institutions.
- b. **TIE BREAKERS:** the Basketball tiebreakers policy will be re-examined by an appointed Task Force and will consider the revision recommended by the women's coaches. The Task Force will meet in the next few months with its recommendations available for approval no later than October 1.

- c. **Future Scheduling Study:** The CEO's approved a **Recommendation** from the AAC to study the concept of a basketball schedule utilizing a **Thursday-Saturday-Monday** format. For the **2017-18** season the women would play on Thursday-Saturday and the men would play on Saturday-Monday. The results would be presented for *potential acceptance or rejection* at the December 2016 AAC meeting. The Commissioner was directed to lead this initiative and facilitate this study for AAC review and action.
- d. **Awards Recommendations from Women's Basketball Coaches:** proposal regarding all-conference team awards have been forwarded to the Awards Committee for review with approval accepted or rejected sometime this fall.
- e. Women's Bowling has been added as an official MIAA Sport
- f. The Football Schedule Draw was held and the finalized schedule for 2018 & 2019 is set.
 - i.

3. **NCAA News:**

- a. NCAA Reporting:
 - i. Academic Success Rate (ASR) was 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: The MIAA is supporting legislation to restrict any coach from having direct supervision of any Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) in order to better protect the health and safety of the student athlete.
- c. NCAA ISSG (Institutional Self Study Guide): The department has begun discussions on committee makeup in order to prepare for the report in 2018. This was also presented to the Lionbacker Steering Committee on Tuesday, April 12, 2016.

4. **Athletic Department Information:**

- a. Ticketing/Event Management
 - i. Ticketing Software Solution
 - 1. University Tickets was selected by our RFP panel as the best option for the athletic department's ticketing solution and was signed on for a 3 year contract
 - 2. In the process of implementing the new software and should be done by end of June in time for season ticket sales starting the first week of July
 - 3. Will have capability of doing season ticket cards/credentials
 - ii. Promotions
 - 1. Nathan Bramwell and Randon Coffey have come up with a promotional schedule for football and basketball
 - 2. This schedule includes giveaways, theme nights, community nights, etc.
 - iii. Group Sales
 - 1. Nathan Bramwell has been meeting with companies and organizations for group sales opportunities for the next athletic calendar
 - 2. Has already booked several groups in conjunction with sporting events, and is looking at doubling group sales numbers from this past year
 - 3. If anyone knows of organizations looking at doing a group outing at a sporting event, let Nathan know sometime this summer so he can meet with them
- b. NCAA Compliance:

- i. There is ongoing education with coaches, student-athletes, advisors, financial aid office, registrar office, and admissions regarding the new progress towards degree legislation that will be implemented in Fall 2016.
- c. Departmental Searches:
 - i. Asst. Football WR Coach was filled with the hiring of Josh Dalton (MSSU FB Alum).
 - ii. Asst. Track and Field is underway with interviews of the two finalists over the last week and this week. This position was created with
 - iii. Asst. Volleyball Coach Alyssa Hanley was hired from Concord University in Athens, WV. She hails from Denton, Texas.
 - iv. First Asst. Women's Basketball Coach Jordon O'Brien has been hired. She comes from the JUCO ranks but is from SWMO region (Parsons, KS). She was the Head Coach at Iowa Central CC last season.
 - v. Asst. Cheer and Dance Coach was hired; our new Head Cheer and Dance Coach, Christine Ellis is handled the search.
 - vi. Second Asst. Women's Basketball Coach is underway with the departure of Katie Frazier who was accepted in the highly prestigious University of Nebraska Sports Management Master Degree Program.
- d. Radio Contract: We have signed a two year agreement with ESPN Radio Joplin to carry all of our football, men's basketball, women's basketball games and select softball and baseball games. The agreement saves the university money and will carry our games on multiple frequencies.
- e. Fall Kickoff Event: Will be a new event created to help get fans and the community excited for the 2016 sports season. Food trucks will be at the stadium and fans can pick up tickets and booster apparel. The event will be on August 27th.
- f. Rod Smith Golf Tournament: We will host Rod Smith's golf tournament in the morning on August 27th at Eagle Creek Golf Course. Rod will be on hand and will encourage golfers throughout the morning round.
- g. North Endzone Signage: Multiple new graphics have been added to the North Endzone Facility including large lion heads in each of the gathering spaces as well as a map of the MIAA with the member schools on it.
- h. Kids Zone: At both football and basketball we will have a new kid's area inside of the stadiums to encourage families to let their kids run around and have fun while they watch the sporting events. All kids that are members of Roary's cub club will have free admission and all other kids will be a \$1 for all day.

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

- a. Membership Drive: The 2016-2017 Lionbacker Campaign will kickoff on June 1. The brochures have been mailed out.

6. **Upcoming Events:**

- a. MSSU Baseball Youth Team Camp: June 3-5 (Warren Turner Field)
- b. MSSU Baseball Team Clinic: June 9-12 (Warren Turner Field)
- c. MSSU Baseball Team Clinic: June 23-26 (Warren Turner Field)
- d. MSSU Baseball Team Clinic: July 7-10 (Warren Turner Field)
- e. Premiere Baseball World Series: July 20-24 (Warren Turner Field)
- f. Kinesiology Lifetime Sports Academy: June 6-9 (L&P/Young)
- g. Pole Vault Camp: June 10-12 (L&P)
- h. Men's Basketball Camp: June 13-16 (L&P/Young)
- i. Men's Basketball Elite Camp: June 17-19 (L&P/Young)

- j. Women's Basketball Camp: June 20-23 (L&P/Young)
- k. Women's Basketball Camp: June 26-29 (L&P/Young)
- l. Relay for Life: June 25 @ 12pm (L&P)
- m. Dance Camp: July 10-13 (L&P)
- n. Volleyball Camp: July 16-23 (L&P/Young)
- o. Crusader's Games: June 4th, 18th (if necessary), 25th (if necessary)
- p. MSSU Football Cub Camp: June 6-10 (Hughes Stadium/NEZ)
- q. MSSU 7 on 7 Camps: June 13, 20, 27, July 11 (Hughes Stadium)
- r. MSSU Track & Field Speed Camp: June 20-23
- s. USA Track & Field Regional Qualifier: July 7-10 (Hughes Stadium)
- t. Freeman/CMN Event: July 14 (NEZ/Hughes Stadium)
- u. Race 4 Hope: June 4 (Tom Rutledge XC Course)
- v. MIAA Advancement Conference: June 9 @ 7:30am-4pm (NEZ)
- w. Freeman Event: June 25 (NEZ Academic Center)
- x. Tri-State Area Contractors Assoc. Monthly Mtg: July 11 @ 4pm (NEZ Alumni Room)
- y. MSSU Softball Camp: June 6-7 & 13-14 (Pat Lipira Softball Complex)

7. Athletic Facility Updates:

- a. Fred G. Hughes Stadium:
 - i. Turf is being serviced in July as part of routine preventative measures
 - ii. Significant Water Leak under turf being repaired week of June 1
 - iii. Exploring idea of taking out row of seats and adding rails to more visibly separate student section from Lionbackers and to make a better walking row
- b. Leggett & Platt:
 - i. Received a cost estimate to replace lights in L&P with more efficient and cost effective LED lights
 - ii. Bleachers will be serviced Week of July 25
- c. Warren Turner Field
 - i. Exploring ways to prolong the life of the pitching runway
 - ii. Championship Banner Added to Entrance Area

