

## **MSSU Athletics Report**

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

- a. **Men's Basketball** – The Missouri Southern men's basketball team is 14-11 and 11-8 in the MIAA. They are in fourth place in the MIAA. Taevaunn Prince has been named to the Bevo Francis Small College Player of the Year Watch list. He has made the first cut of 50 players with another cut of 25 coming in March. Finalists announced April 1. Prince currently leads Division II in free throw attempts, free throws made, points per game and total points.
- b. **Women's Basketball** – The Missouri Southern women's basketball team sits at 16-9 overall and 10-9 in the MIAA. They sit in 6<sup>th</sup> place in the MIAA at the moment. They have a road game this weekend at Central Missouri. The top four teams in the standings get an automatic bye to Kansas City for the 2016 MIAA Tournament. Teams 5-8 host the 9-12 seeds in first-round games of the MIAA Tournament on Feb. 29.
- c. **Men's Track and Field**– The MSSU men's track and field is in the middle of the indoor season. Vincent Kiprop broke the 3k record this week running an 8:20.26 in the event to win at Pitt State. Kennan Harrison also won the triple jump at Pitt. The team will be in action this weekend sending athletes to both the University of Nebraska and Central Missouri.
- d. **Women's Track and Field** – The MSSU women's track and field team had a successful meet this past weekend at Pittsburg State, breaking two school records. Melanie Bower broke the pole vault record with a jump of 13-01.75. That mark ranks 4<sup>th</sup> nationally. She was also named the MIAA Women's Field Athlete of the Week. Kaylee Morgan also broke a record, jumping 19-01.25 in the long jump, breaking a 21-year old mark. The team will be in action this weekend sending athletes to both the University of Nebraska and Central Missouri.
- e. **Baseball**– The MSSU baseball team is ranked No. 15 Nationally this week. The Lions started the season 4-0 this past weekend, sweeping a four-game series from Bemidji State at Warren Turner Field. Payton Walker and Joe Paulino were named the MIAA Pitcher and Player of the Week, respectively. The Lions host McKendree University this weekend.
- f. **Softball** – The MSSU Softball team is off to a 4-5 overall record this year. The Lions host Missouri S&T this Saturday.
- g. **Golf** - Taylor Lansford finished tied for 11<sup>th</sup> as the Lions competed at the San Antonio Shootout this past Monday and Tuesday. The Lions finished tied for 10<sup>th</sup> as a team. Southern will be back in action on March 7-8 at the Arkansas Tech Invitational.

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

- a. **MIAA Legislation and Handbook committee**. FAR Council will review the handbook annually. All the changes as presented were accepted by the CEO Council.
- b. **Bylaw changes**: The CEO Council voted to discontinue the restrictions on the 75% sports by allowing all the programs to be fully funded equivalency scholarship wise at the NCAA minimum. This was not supported by MSSU due to current financial climate with in the state for funding of Higher Education.
- c. **Scheduling Issues**: One committees 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.

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

#### **a. NCAA Reporting:**

- i. The NCAA Agreed Upon Procedures Audit was completed and the final report was accepted by the institution. There were no findings; which is truly and incredible feat. Clearly many people on campus have taken great time and effort to be accurate and detailed when working with the athletic department and the NCAA.

#### **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.

#### **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. Senior Day/Pitt State/Fan Appreciation Day – February 27<sup>th</sup>

##### **ii. Baseball**

##### **1. Ticketing**

- a. Season tickets were sent out Feb 1<sup>st</sup>.

- i. This will be the final week season tickets are on sale.

##### **b. Individual game tickets:**

- i. Ticket prices are \$5 for sections above dugouts/standing room
- ii. Ticket prices are \$6 for section above press box behind home plate
- iii. A weekend home-stand option is available for all three games of a series for \$12.

##### **2. Upcoming Events**

- a. We are planning promotional events on select home days including:

- i. March 12<sup>th</sup>, April 1<sup>st</sup>, April 8<sup>th</sup>, April 19<sup>th</sup>, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **b. NCAA Compliance:**

- i. MSSU's NCAA Compliance Committee met to recap last year's waivers, violations, policies, and cover new NCAA legislation
- ii. The "NCAA Agreed Upon Procedures Audit" was concluded on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. That report has been distributed today. Noted above.
- iii. Will be addressing the Lionbacker Steering committee in the March 2016 Lionbacker Steering Committee meeting. This is part of our ISSG and a good compliance practice to get discuss NCAA Compliance issues with senior booster club members.

#### **c. Departmental Searches:**

- i. **New Coach** –The Head Cheer/Dance Coach and Academic Coordinator search is currently underway.

#### **d. Student Athlete Advisory Committee:** (SAAC) held a "Miracle Minute" at the basketball game on February 11<sup>th</sup> to raise money for Make-A-Wish foundation. The group raised \$291 and is planning to do

another fundraiser at a baseball game. Two SAAC members will be attending the conference SAAC meeting in Kansas City on February 21<sup>st</sup>.

- e. SouthernFest: SouthernFest 2016 will be held on April 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 Endzone Facility at 6pm.

## 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.
- 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. 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!

## 6. Upcoming Events:

- a. Joplin Memorial Marathon Training Class: Feb. 16, 23, March 1, 8, 15 @ 6:30pm (L&P)
- b. Baseball Games: Feb. 17 v. Northeastern St. @ 2pm (Warren Turner Field)
  - 1. Feb. 19-21 v. McKendree (Warren Turner Field)
  - 2. Feb. 26-28 v. Lindenwood (Warren Turner Field)
  - 3. March 11-13 v. Emporia (Warren Turner Field)
- c. MCSAA Coaches Lunch: Feb. 18 @ 1pm (NEZ Alumni Room)
- d. College Heights Basketball Practice: Feb. 18 & 25 @ 6:30pm (Young Gym)
- e. Softball Games: Feb. 20 v. Missouri S&T @ 12pm & 2pm (Lea Kungle Field)
  - 1. March 5 v. Pitt St. @ 3pm & 5pm (Lea Kungle Field)
  - 2. March 8 v. SBU @ 1pm (Lea Kungle Field)
  - 3. March 12 v. Fort Hays @ 3pm & 5pm (Lea Kungle Field)
- f. MCDL Cheer and Dance Competition: Feb. 20-21 @ 7am (L&P)
- g. Crusaders Practices: Feb. 20, 27, March 5 @ 1pm (Hughes Stadium)
- h. Ozark Trails Boy Scouts: Feb. 25 @ 6:30am (NEZ Academic Center)
- i. MOSO Trivia Night: Feb. 25 @ 5:45pm (NEZ Academic Center)
- j. Lion Pride Lunch: Feb. 26 @ 12pm (NEZ Alumni Room)
- k. Pitt St. Pre-game: Feb. 27 (NEZ Alumni Room)
- l. Women's Basketball: Feb. 27 @ 1pm (L&P) v. Pitt St.
  - a. Feb. 29 @ 5:30/7:30pm (L&P) (depending on final record)
- m. Men's Basketball: Feb. 27 @ 3pm (L&P) v. Pitt St.
  - a. March 1 @ 7:30pm (L&P) (if needed)
- n. Bright Futures Poverty Simulation: March 3 @ 9am (NEZ Academic Center)
- o. Rotary Daybreak: March 4 @ 8am (NEZ Alumni Room)
- p. Lionbacker Steering Committee: March 8 @ 6pm (NEZ Alumni Room)
- q. Good Morning Joplin: March 9 @ 6:30am (NEZ Academic Center)
- r. Rotary Dinner: March 10 @ 5pm (NEZ Alumni Room)
- s. Foundation's Retiree Brunch: March 11 @ 10am (NEZ Alumni Room)

- t. Dept. of EMS Escaping Violent Encounters: March 11-12 @ 8am (NEZ Academic Ctr) & Alumni Room)

**7. Athletic Facility Updates:**

a. Fred G. Hughes Stadium:

- i. Examining the cost of putting chairs with seat backs in the Lionbacker seating area
- ii. Turf is being serviced in July as part of routine preventative measures

b. Leggett & Platt:

- i. We are still examining the cost of more useful lighting for pre-game introductions and other special events.
- ii. Setting dates to get the bleachers and their motors fixed this summer

c. Softball Complex:

- i. New gated and arched entry way has begun construction. Fence has been torn down and footings poured. Columns have been started on and flag pole has been moved to right-centerfield. 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 will be serviced March 3; checking infill, rips, and tears; routine preventative measures

