

MSSU Athletics Report

1. Sport Program Reports

- a. **Women's Track and Field** - The MSSU Women's Track and Field team received the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association's team academic award. This award goes to teams with a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher (the team had a 3.33). The team also had eight individuals named to the all-academic team. To earn this honor, an individual must have compiled a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 and have reached a provisional or automatic qualifying standard for the NCAA Championships in either indoor or outdoor seasons.
- b. **Men's Track and Field** - The men's track and field team had four individuals named to the all-academic team. To earn this honor, an individual must have compiled a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 and have reached a provisional or automatic qualifying standard for the NCAA Championships in either indoor or outdoor seasons.
- c. **Volleyball** - The volleyball team earned the American Volleyball Coaches Association team academic award. To earn this honor, a team must post a cumulative 3.30 grade point average (the team had a 3.38).
- d. **Soccer** - The MSSU soccer team will be the first in competition this year, when next week (August 23) they travel to the University of Tulsa for an exhibition game.
- e. **Football** - The MSSU football team will open up the 2015 season at home on September 3rd at 7 pm against Emporia State University at Fred G. Hughes Stadium.
- f. **Cross Country** - The Cross Country teams will host the Southern Stampede on September 19 and MSSU will also be the host of the 2015 NCAA Division II Central Region Championship and the 2015 NCAA Division II National Championship.
- g. **Golf** - The golf team will open up the fall season on Sept. 14-15 when they play host to an MIAA "points" event at Shangri-La Golf and Country Club in Monkey Island, Okla.

2. MIAA News:

- a. **MIAA Strategic Planning Committee**: Rachel Burleson is representing MSSU on the MIAA Strategic Planning Committee. The 2015 MIAA Strategic Plan has been approved. Currently, the committee has assigned and prioritized the time line for the implementation process.
- b. **MIAA Conference Call**: The University President's/CEO's will be joining a conference call this month to fully discuss some aspects of the MIAA Strategic Plan, including the philosophy of athletic grant-in-aid in all sports sponsored by the MIAA.

3. NCAA News:

- a. **NCAA Championship Changes**: At the National level there is discussion about changes to women's basketball including a significant shift to quarters versus two half's. These changes were formally accepted by the NCAA Championships committee creating a different game structure from that of the men's basketball game. The most significant changes will include the quarter system versus the 20 minute halves and therefore effecting the fouls before leading to free throw attempts. The "one and one" will no longer exist in Women's Basketball in the NCAA.
- 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.

4. Athletic Department Information:

- a. Season Tickets: The first wave of season tickets were mailed out to Lionbackers. For those Lionbackers remaining that do not pick up their tickets at the Lionbacker Town Hall meeting on Monday, August 24th, we will send those out later that same week.
- b. Individual game tickets: football Individual Game tickets will go on sale August 24th. Fans who purchase tickets online will save \$1 as opposed to purchasing them at the gate. This is to encourage fans to print at home and reduce ticket lines at the games. An informational email about this will be distributed on the 24th via constant contact.
- c. Concessions: Our Athletics Concessions Coordinator recently resigned and we are currently accepting applications. We have had a very limited response to this position (two applications). It is a part-time position starting off at \$12/hour and the position has been posted the last few weeks on our websites and has ran in the Joplin Globe twice.
- d. Sports Broadcasting schedules: We have talked to KGCS about the upcoming sports schedule next year, including in-house commercials during our broadcasts and supplying a student to work the video board for basketball games and special events. KGCS believes a student worker would be the best route, and KGCS will review students who they consider to be a good fit for the position. The position will be paid for through athletics.
- e. Student Athlete Advisory Council: We have our first SAAC meeting next week and are looking to have a "MOSO Kick-off" within the next month. Our President this year is Kaylee Morgan (Women's Track), Vice-President is Abby Finder (Volleyball), Treasurer is Michaela Altvater (Soccer), Secretary is (Emily Harris).
- f. New Student-Athlete Numbers: Currently we have 337 enrolled student-athletes on campus. Of those 141 are new to MSSU. An extra effort will be made to have the returners assist in learning the ropes to the new student-athletes.
- g. NCAA Institutional Self Study Guide (ISSG): We are in the process of working through/implanting our action plans that were developed through our Institutional Self-Study in 2013.
- h. NCAA Compliance:
 - i. Rachel presented the NCAA academic eligibility bylaw to the new academic advisors on campus.
 - ii. All of our student-athletes are on campus and getting ready for their upcoming seasons. Volleyball, Women's Soccer, Men's Cross Country and Women's Cross Country are all certified and cleared to compete. Football will be completed by next week. The remaining sports will then be evaluated and certified based on NCAA season declaration.

5. Lionbacker Annual Campaign:

- a. New Leadership:
 - i. Elisa Bryant has taken over many of the aspects of the Lionbacker Annual Campaign and has done an excellent job.
 - ii. Carlos Haley has become the past president after a two year stint. Chris Dumm is the now acting president for the 2015-16 and 2016-2017 academic years. A special thanks to Carlos for his service.
- b. Membership Drive: Currently we have 197 Lionbacker members in a variety of different giving levels.
- c. The 2015 Lionbacker Town Hall meeting: The LB Town Hall meeting will be on August 24th at 5:30 pm in the Connor Ballroom within the Billingsly Student Center. There will be Hors D'oeuvres, fellowship and information regarding the Lionbacker membership from 2014-15 and departmental information.

6. Recent Events:

- a. Roary's Cub Club: Our first ever Roary's Cub Club Clinic was this past Saturday, on August 15th. We had 11 Cub Club members RSVP and participate in drills with the MSSU volleyball, soccer, and T&F teams, while getting to watch football practice afterwards. Pictures and autographs were available throughout the day. The kids and parents clearly had a good time, and the event is considered a success. We will be hosting another one in the spring with our spring sports, and are looking to grow the number of Cub Club participants for that event.
- b. SouthernFest 2015: The 2015 SouthernFest event was held on the site of Downstream Casino and Eagle Creek Golf Course on July 30 and 31, 2015. It was a very successful event from donor engagement and fundraising perspective.

7. Upcoming Events:

- a. Lionbacker Town Hall Meeting: BSC Connor Ballroom at 5:30 PM on Monday, August 24th
- b. Men's Basketball Golf Tournament Fundraiser: Thursday, August 27th @ 1PM at Twin Hills Country Club
- c. LionPride Luncheon: RESERVATIONS REQUIRED; CONTACT KAREN HOFFMAN, ATHLETICS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
 - i. Tuesday, September 1st @ noon at the North Endzone Facility Alumni Room
 - ii. Friday, September 18th @ noon at the North Endzone Facility Alumni Room
- d. Tom Rutledge Course Unveiling: Saturday, September 19th @ 7:30AM at XC Course Finish Line
- e. Hall of Fame Social: Friday night, September 18th @ noon at the Mansion
- f. Hall of Fame Brunch: Saturday, September 19th @ 11:30 AM at the North Endzone Facility Academic Center

8. Athletic Facility Updates:

- a. North End Zone Facility Project: See Rob Yust, Vice President of Business for updated and detailed report.
- b. Fred G. Hughes Stadium Turf Project: See Rob Yust, Vice President of Business for updated and detailed report.
- c. Leggett & Platt:
 - i. Currently going through the RFP process for new basketball goals.
 - ii. We are still examining the cost of more useful lighting for pre-game introductions and other special events.
- d. Young Gym: The renovation of the floor in Young Gym has been completed. Thanks to everyone who assisted making that such a great project.
- e. Warren Turner Field/Baseball Stadium: The Joplin Outlaws season ended at Warren Turner Field last month. The turf was inspected and minor repairs were completed.