

**Minutes**  
**University of Kentucky Athletic Association**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**18<sup>th</sup> Floor Patterson Office Tower**  
**December 8, 2008**  
**1:30 p.m.**

**Meeting Opened and Roll Call**

President Lee Todd called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Secretary Barbara Jones called the roll. The following members of the Board were present: Bruno Agostinelli, Charles Arnold, Frank Butler, Charles Cassis, Dermontti Dawson, Luther Deaton, Alan DeSantis, Victoria Dunlap, Victor Hazard, Scott Kelley, Kathi Kern, Frank Shoop, Kumble Subbaswamy, Lee Todd, Bruce Walcott, and Lionel Williamson. Absent from the meeting were Bill Gatton, S. T. Roach, and William B. Sturgill.

Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart, members of his staff, and members of the various news media were also in attendance.

President Todd welcomed new members Bruno Agostinelli, Charles Arnold, Victoria Dunlap, Victor Hazard, and Lionel Williamson. He had Mr. Barnhart introduce the student-athletes, who are two of the most versatile, accomplished, dedicated athletes in the program, and say a few words about them.

**Approval of Minutes**

President Todd said that the May 1, 2008 Minutes had been circulated. He asked for any comments or corrections to the Minutes. Mr. Deaton made a motion that the Minutes be approved. Mr. Shoop seconded the motion, and it carried without dissent.

**President's Report**

President Todd reported that he is the president of the Southeastern Conference (SEC) this year, the third eldest serving president in the SEC. He informed the Board that the SEC had signed a CBS and ESPN television contract and provided the following highlights:

- CBS national game of the week for SEC football, including the SEC Championship Game.
- Every SEC home football game will be telecast, including 20 games on ESPN or ESPN2, and 13 on ESPNU.
- Every SEC conference basketball game will be telecast, including 24 on ESPN or ESPN2, 7 on ESPNU, 5 on CBS, and 2 on ESPN/ABC.
- The SEC Men's Basketball Tournament semifinals and finals will air nationally on ESPN/ABC.
- Sixteen SEC women's basketball appearances on ESPN or ESPN2, as well as the SEC Tournament finals.
- Sixteen SEC women's basketball appearances on ESPNU, as well as the SEC Tournament semifinals.

- ESPN/ESPN2 to air SEC championship finals for baseball, softball, and gymnastics.
- ESPNU to air 25 additional SEC regular-season events, as well as championship events for soccer, swimming and diving, and track and field.

In addition to the tremendous amount of exposure for the University, there are some other academic attributes that come with the contract. ESPN will hire one intern from each of the SEC schools to work with ESPN each summer, and they will also allow some UK students to participate in some of their productions when they visit campus. The contract is a major accomplishment, and the SEC universities will reap a lot of benefits going forward.

President Todd thanked Mr. Barnhart and Mr. Rob Mullens, Deputy Athletics Director, for their good work and said that SEC Commissioner Mike Slive is very complimentary of Mr. Barnhart and Mr. Mullens.

President Todd reported that 2008 was an unbelievable year for UK in terms of championships.

- Never before has Kentucky athletes reined as world champions in football, baseball, basketball, golf, soccer, and Olympics concurrently. The list of former Wildcats who have won a championship this year is staggering.
- Former UK basketball player Tayshaun Prince captured a gold medal in the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing.
- The game-four starter for the World Series Champion Philadelphia Phillies was UK's Joe Blanton. Mr. Blanton became the first pitcher to hit a home run in the World Series in more than 30 years.
- Brando Webb was second in the Cy Young award this year, having won it a couple of years ago.
- Former UK golfer J. B. Holmes was a member of the 2008 winning Ryder Cup team, helping to bring the trophy back to the United States.
- Former UK basketball player Rajon Rondo was the starting point-guard for the world-champion Boston Celtics, helping to lead that team to their 17<sup>th</sup> basketball title.
- Andy Gruenebaum was goalie for the Major League Soccer champion Columbus Crew's.
- Former UK quarterback Jared Lorenzen won a Super Bowl with the New York Giants.

President Todd said that he is excited about the student-athletes who represent the university. He specifically mentioned Tim Masthay who was named a finalist for the Senior CLASS Award as an outstanding student-athlete. Mr. Masthay became one of only 11 Division 1-A football players named to the National Good Works Team, recognizing community service, and is the 10<sup>th</sup> Wildcat in school history to earn a spot on the National Good Works Team, tying Kentucky with Georgia for second all-time in that category. Mr. Masthay was also named a first-team Academic All American.

President Todd said that UK's athletes are doing well on and off the field, and they give the administration a lot of pride.

### **Athletics Director's Report**

Mr. Barnhart congratulated President Todd and Dean Tom Lester, College of Engineering, on the announcement earlier that day of a \$6 million gift for the Digital Village from the Davis Marksbury family. He expressed appreciation to the Marksbury family for their incredible gift.

Mr. Barnhart said the renovation at Wildcat Lodge was the only action item on the agenda. He asked Mr. Russ Pear, Associate Athletics Director, to make a presentation about the project.

### **Joe B. Hall Wildcat Lodge Renovation Project**

Mr. Pear said that the Athletics Department was asking the Athletic Association Board for approval to move forward on the Joe B. Hall Wildcat Lodge renovation project. The renovations will be approximately \$1.5 million and will improve the entire appearance and functionality of the facility. Following the Athletic Board's approval, the request will be presented to the university's Board of Trustees, the state's Bond Oversight Committee, and the Council on Postsecondary Education for approval. The funding for this project will be from private funds and funds raised at the Bill Keightley Golf Tournament, which was held in September.

Mr. Pear provided background information about the facility and reviewed the proposed renovations. He said that the renovation would be a cosmetic and upgrade to the facility. The project is to modernize the lodge, make it more comfortable for the student-athletes, and address some of the internal issues. He noted that the facility houses the basketball student-athletes as well as some other students on campus.

On motion made by Mr. Deaton and seconded by Mr. Shoop, the Joe B. Hall Wildcat Lodge Renovation Project was approved without dissent.

### **Athletics Director's Report Continued**

Mr. Barnhart continued his report by reporting that there are other projects being considered to help programs be competitive and maintain the progress of the programs. He said that some work had been done in the football locker rooms and on the football fields. He noted that the Joe Craft Center has impacted a lot of the sports programs, primarily basketball in terms of practice.

Mr. Barnhart said that Coach Brooks is now third in the league of football coaches with six years tenure. He noted that the turnover in college football has been massive this year with 15 jobs open out of 120 Division I football programs.

He gave a brief update on the fall sports programs.

- Women's Cross Country team went to the national championships for the first time in 19 years and finished 31<sup>st</sup> in the country.
- Women's Volleyball team went to the NCAA for the fourth straight year. Sarah Rumely was named SEC Volleyball Player of the Year. Volleyball Coach Craig Skinner was given a new contract for five years.
- Men's Football team accepted a bid to go to the Liberty Bowl. UK is one of five teams in the league that has been to a bowl game each of the last three years. The other

Mr. Barnhart announced that there is a search for the Women's Soccer coach, and the search should be completed soon.

He distributed an article that appeared in the *Wall Street Journal* about college football and the impact it has had on the league. He said that the CBS and ESPN television contract would not have happened had it not been for the strength of the league and the impact it has on television ratings.

Mr. Barnhart reflected on his years at UK and mentioned some of the challenges and obstacles.

- Challenges with inherited football probation situation.
- Challenges with the integrity of the Athletics Department.
- Challenges with competitiveness in the various programs.
- Challenges with the budget being in the bottom third in the league.

He said the important challenges were to get better competitively, as well as academically, and to make sure the administration was good stewards of the money. His objective was to lay a solid foundation that would not crumble after a short period of time. He put together an administrative staff that would give the department the best opportunity to do that, and he is very pleased with the staff.

Mr. Barnhart said it was necessary to restructure the K Fund and make ticket price adjustments. The price adjustments allowed the department to invest in student-athletes and upgrade the programs. Since making those price adjustments, the programs have had a lot of victories and won championships that have never been won.

He explained the Athletics Departments' new 15 x 15 x 15 mission, which is to earn 15 championships by 2015 and place UK in the top 15 in the nation. This is a very aggressive move for the program based upon the current resources and facilities. Mr. Barnhart said that he wants to mirror President Todd's blueprint plan for a Top 20 research institution and be as equally successful athletically as President Todd wants the university to be academically.

Mr. Barnhart reported that the Athletics Department has a decent budget now. It has great resources, and the facilities are substantial and very good. The Department is in good shape in terms of partnerships going forward, and there are good long-term relationships with IMG College, Nike, ESPN, and Gatorade.

The Athletics Department has great people in place that are passionately committed to moving the programs forward and having championship teams. UK has improved from 50<sup>th</sup> in the country in total program standings to 33<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Barnhart said that the coaches have been challenged to recruit athletes who have an opportunity to graduate. Some athletes will be very capable of achieving at the highest academic

level, but some will struggle to graduate. The student-athletes have made progress in the APR and GSR numbers, the federal graduation rates, and the exhausted eligibility rates. Every team has made the APR score in the four years that it has been implemented, and UK is one of the few universities that has done that. The goal is to have a 3.0 accumulative GPA for all programs across the board. Of the 22 teams, all are achieving that kind of success and moving in that direction.

Mr. Barnhart talked about athletes giving to community service. He reported that a group of staff visited eastern Kentucky to understand some of the challenges in that area. They are working on a plan to use some of the resources that have been given to Athletics and give back in some way to the university and the state. The purpose of this plan is to help augment President Todd's plan to be more socially responsible for the state. He noted that the Athletics Department has been blessed with some resources recently. The staff wants to find a way to use those resources and help the athletes understand the responsibility of giving back. The student-athletes are good stewards and great ambassadors for the University, and they have given a lot already.

IMG College, a leading collegiate marketing, licensing, and media company, has presented a very unique idea about a new relationship that would augment the facilities by \$250 million to \$400 million. The idea is to give Athletics the backdrop of a new basketball arena and provide some construction work to the football and baseball stadiums, which would impact the men's and women's soccer field and move softball as well. The idea is in the informational stage, and it will probably be a couple of months before seeing if the idea is even possible. It involves a very unique funding model. If this happens, it will be a huge impact on Athletics and accelerate the program very quickly to where it gives the coaches and athletes a chance to compete at a higher level and allow the program to get to the division that it wants to go to.

#### **Other Business**

Mr. Shoop said that the Athletic Association Board and the Board of Trustees owe Mr. Barnhart and President Todd a huge vote of gratitude for their accomplishments with the Athletics Department. He added that their tremendous staff is one of the reasons for their success. Mr. Barnhart, President Todd, and the Athletics staff received a round of applause.

#### **Meeting Adjourned**

With no further business, the Athletic Association Board meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara W. Jones  
Secretary