

Report for Board of Trustees / Athletics Committee Meeting, September 14

It's good to be back with you as we begin a new school year. As we – once again – welcome the largest freshman class in school history, we feel the energy on campus and are striving to contribute to that enthusiasm.

Before we turn our attention to the new year, it's appropriate for us to wrap up the 2022-23 school year.

- When we last met in June, we had projected a finish in the top 20 in the country in the Directors' Cup national all-sports standings. That was indeed the case as we finished 18th among the 363 Division I schools, marking our sixth consecutive year to finish in the top 20.
- We finished the year with conference championships in volleyball, men's soccer, rifle and men's tennis.
- Academic accomplishments included –
 - 22 consecutive semesters of a 3.0 department-wide grade-point average
 - 167 graduates during the academic year, which is a school record; 19 of those students graduated with master's degrees.
 - 12 Academic All-Americans, which also is a school record; our total of 12 ranked fourth in the nation among the 363 Division I institutions.
 - That improves Kentucky's all-time total to 143 Academic All-Americans, which ranks 18th all-time in Division I
 - 388 Southeastern Conference (SEC) Academic Honor Roll honors
 - Five of our graduates were recipients of National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Post-Graduate Scholarships

News from the Summer

- The 2023 class of the UK Athletics Hall of Fame was announced in June:
 - Robin Ewing Bodem, All-America gymnast
 - Chris Chenault, one of our all-time leading tacklers in football
 - Danielle Galyer Day, national champion swimmer

- Dick Parsons, two-sport standout in basketball and baseball, including All-America honors in baseball; later became our baseball head coach and longtime assistant basketball coach.
 - Rajon Rondo from men's basketball, All-SEC player who went on to a 16-year career in the NBA.
 - Ryan Strieby, baseball All-American who led us to our first SEC championship in that sport.
 - We will have the annual Hall of Fame Dinner in two weeks.
- The men's basketball team served as the United States representative at the GLOBL Jam international tournament held in Toronto. The team brought home the gold medal for the United States by winning all four games.
 - We welcomed three new head coaches during the summer:
 - Gator Todd for men's golf
 - Shelley Jaudon for women's tennis
 - Bret Lundgaard for swimming and diving
 - Four UK golfers – Campbell Kremer and Solomon Petrie on the men's side and Laney Frye and Jensen Castle from the women's team – qualified for and competed in the U.S. Amateur Championships
 - 11 UK swimmers competed at the U.S. Nationals and Max Berg represented France at the World Aquatic Championships
 - Two baseball players, Reuben Church and Jackson Nove, were named all-stars in their summer leagues.
 - Masai Russell completed her UK track career and ran for the United States in the World Championships
 - Kayla Kowalik completed her UK softball career and went on to earn Rookie of the Year honors in the Women's Professional Fastpitch League
 - Three baseball players and two men's basketball players were drafted and signed in their respective professional leagues.

Fall Sports Roundup

- **Football** is 2-0 on the season and hosts Akron on Saturday. The Wildcats begin conference play next week at Vanderbilt.
- As of this writing, **Volleyball** is ranked No. 21 in the nation. By Sunday, the Wildcats will have played six ranked opponents, which will have them well-prepared to begin SEC play next week.
- **Men's Soccer**, ranked No. 19 in the nation, will begin Sun Belt Conference action 10 days from now.
- **Women's Soccer** has a 6-0-1 record, going undefeated in non-conference action for the first time in 16 years. The Wildcats open SEC action Friday night at Texas A&M.
- The **men's and women's cross country** teams begin their seasons Friday in Alabama.
- Our winter and spring sports are beginning practice and fall competitions as applicable.
 - One note from men's swimming, Levi Sandidge has become the first male swimmer in school history selected to the United States National Team and will represent our country during the 2023-24 competition cycle.

Additional Notes

- Tom Leach, our play-by-play announcer for football and men's basketball, along with UK women's sports pioneer Brigid DeVries, were enshrined in the Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame Tuesday night in Louisville.

- Two major construction projects continue:
 - The new indoor track and field building is expected to be completed by the end of the year.
 - The renovation of Memorial Coliseum continues. We hope to resume competition in that facility by this time next year.
 - Meanwhile, our volleyball, women's basketball and gymnastics teams will compete primarily in Rupp Arena this year, along with some events at Transylvania.