

**CENTRAL MICHIGAN ATHLETICS**

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2022-23 Annual Report





# 2022-23 CHAMPIONS



# A MESSAGE FROM ZYZELEWSKI FAMILY AVP/ATHLETIC DIRECTOR AMY FOLAN

In the three years that I have had the privilege to serve as the Zyzelewski Family Associate Vice President/Director of Athletics, we have continually strived to provide the best experience possible for our outstanding student-athletes along with our loyal supporters and fans.

Our focus remains on the development of our CMU student-athletes while setting the standard for excellence in the Mid-American Conference and providing an exceptional fan experience.

Once again, we have plenty in which to take pride as we look back on the 2022-23 school year, including a combined six MAC individual and team championships, plenty of historic accomplishments, and, as is always the case, an abundance of academic achievement.

Collectively, our student-athletes achieved a 3.34 cumulative average at the end of the 2023 spring semester. This was the 49th consecutive semester CMU student-athletes recorded a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better!

In May, 55 of our student-athletes representing 15 of our 16 varsity teams, received a diploma. Four of those graduates earned a master's degree and 51 earned a bachelor's. They represented 30 majors/fields of study across six academic colleges.

We celebrate our gymnastics and lacrosse programs, each of which claimed a repeat MAC title, the gymnastics team at the MAC Championships and the lacrosse squad at the league tournament. In addition, the Chippewa wrestlers captured the MAC West crown.

Individually, several of our student-athletes and coaches earned noteworthy honors in 2022-23:

- Gymnast Hannah DeMers was named the MAC Senior Gymnast of the Year.

- Luciana Alvarado-Reid earned the MAC Freshman of the Year Award for gymnastics.
- Tom Borrelli added to his legacy as one of the nation's most-respected names in wrestling in earning his 14th MAC Coach of the Year Award.
- Wrestlers Johnny Lovett and Alex Cramer captured MAC titles in their respective weight classes.
- Standout running back Lew Nichols III was selected by the Green Bay Packers in the NFL Draft, and three other Chippewas including Joel Wilson, Thomas Incoom, and Carlos Carriere signed free agent contracts with NFL teams.
- A combined eight CMU teams and individual student-athletes advanced to partake in NCAA Tournament/Championships during the 2022-23 season.

Our student-athletes' on-field and off-field successes bring me a tremendous amount of joy and pride. Our tremendous supporters and donors help us ensure that CMU student-athletes have the best possible experience during their time here, leaving with a diploma in one hand and a championship ring on the other.

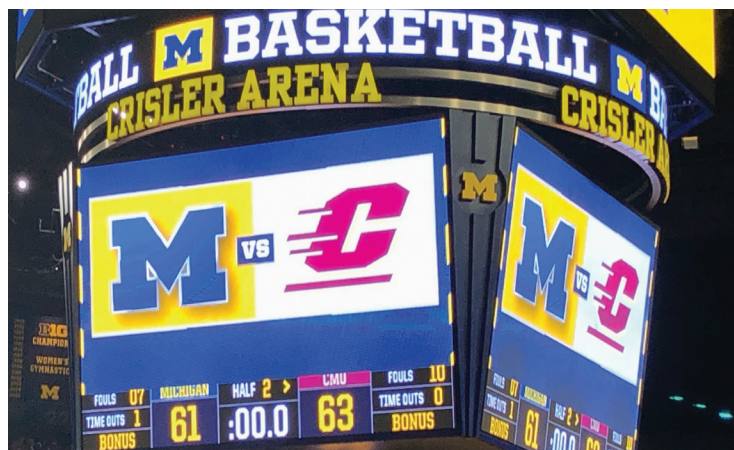
While we have much to celebrate, we are building on momentum to make ensuing years even better. We are proud to have you as a member of the CMU Athletics family, and I encourage you to remain involved by attending events, wearing your Action C gear, exploring the benefits of being a Chippewa Athletic Fund member, and/or supporting our student-athletes in their NIL efforts.

I look forward to connecting with you in the year ahead.

Fire Up Chips!







#### MEN'S BASKETBALL

Among the highlights in 2022-23 for coach Tony Barbee's CMU men's basketball team was a 63-61 upset at Michigan on Dec. 29, when the Chippewas knocked down a 3-pointer with just over 11 seconds remaining to go ahead for good at Crisler Center in Ann Arbor. It was CMU's first win in the Wolverines' home since 2007. A month later, the Chippewas would follow with a 70-69 come-from-behind win over Western Michigan in front of a standing-room-only crowd at McGuirk Arena on Toilet Paper Toss Night, a revival from the early 1980s. The Chippewas trailed for 39 of the game's 40 minutes and outscored the Broncos, 15-3, over the final 4 minutes in securing the victory in front of the largest crowd in McGuirk Arena history. Among those in attendance was Chippewa legend Dan Majerle, who played at CMU when the Toilet Paper Toss became a tradition in the 1980s before going on to a sensational 14-year NBA career.

#### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

One-time CMU assistant Kristin Haynie has taken over the Chippewa women's basketball program, bringing a fresh approach and a winning track record to the program in which she served as an assistant under legendary coach Sue Guevara from 2014-17. Haynie came to CMU from Michigan State, where she served as an assistant to longtime coach Suzy Merchant. As a standout player, Haynie led Michigan State to the 2005 NCAA Championship

game and then helped the Sacramento Monarchs to a WNBA championship. She also played professionally with the Atlanta Dream and Detroit Shock, and played in Italy, Lithuania, Russia and Greece.

#### WRESTLING

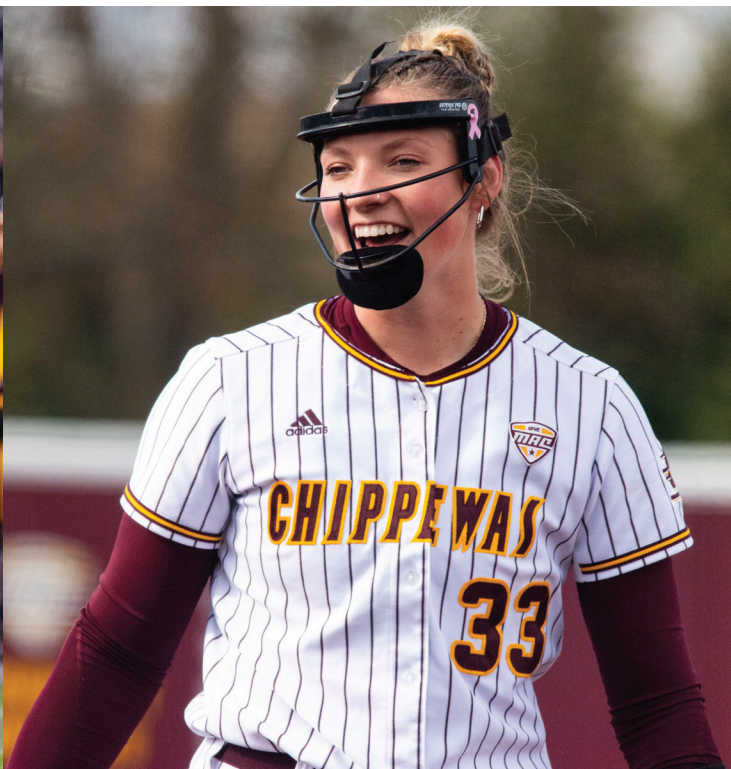
The Chippewa wrestling program put together one of its most successful seasons in recent memory, winning the Mid-American Conference West Division title and finishing second in the MAC Championships, just 2 ½ points out of first place. Two Chippewas, Johnny Lovett (149 pounds) and Alex Cramer (174), won MAC titles and they, along with teammate Corbyn Munson (157), qualified for the NCAA Championships. Tom Borrelli, CMU's legendary coach, completed his 32nd season in charge of the storied program and, for the 14th time, earned the MAC Coach of the Year Award.

#### GYMNASTICS

The storied Chippewa gymnastics program turned in another outstanding campaign, repeating its title at the Mid-American Conference Championships. Hannah DeMers won the all-around, the uneven parallel bars, and floor exercise in leading CMU to the crown, and in the process was named the MAC Senior Gymnast of the Year while the Chippewas' Luciana Alvarado-Reid earned the MAC Freshman of the Year Award after finishing third on vault and

# ATHLETIC SUCCESS





fourth in the all-around. Demers (all-around) and teammate Taylor Pitchell (floor exercise) competed in the NCAA Regional in Los Angeles.

#### **BASEBALL**

The CMU baseball team wrapped up another successful season, finishing 34-23 and in second place at 19-11 in the Mid-American Conference. The 34 wins brought Central Michigan's record over the last five years to 179-80 since 2019 with the nation's sixth-highest winning percentage during that time (.691). Five Chippewas, all of whom are expected to return in 2024, earned All-MAC honors, including left-handed pitcher Adam Mrakitsch and second baseman Luke Sefcik, both of whom were named to the first team.

#### **WOMEN'S GOLF**

The Chippewa women's golf team turned in its best season in history with a program-best third place finish in the 10-team Mid-American Conference Championship under first-year coach Ryan Williams. Individually, Ashley Goh shot a final-round 68 to finish fourth in the tournament. Her 68 tied the program record and her fourth-place finish – one of two top 10s for CMU in the MAC – was the best ever by a Chippewa in the league championship. The Chippewas set two program MAC Championship records, the first a final-round 295 and the second a 912 54-hole total. The 912 shattered by 46 shots the previous CMU best in the MAC Championship. Casilda Allendesalazar, who placed sixth in the MAC Championship, earned first team all-conference honors, becoming CMU's first such honoree.

#### **LACROSSE**

The CMU lacrosse team turned in another outstanding season, winning the Mid-American Conference Tournament and earning a berth in the NCAA Tournament for the second consecutive season. Under first-year coach Emilia Ward, the third-seeded Chippewas knocked off No. 2-seed Kent State, 18-7, and then top-seed Robert Morris, 15-12, on the Colonials' home field to win the tournament and the right to represent CMU in the NCAA Tournament. Sophomore goalkeeper Alexa Martel made a combined 22 saves in the two tournament games to earn the MAC Tournament Most Valuable Player Award. Four Chippewas -- Audrey Whiteside, Kelly Hoyt, Maggie Diebold, and Hallie Moore -- earned First Team All-MAC honors.

#### **SOFTBALL**

The Chippewa softball program finished in third place in the Mid-American



#### **MENS GOLF RETURNS AS CENTRAL MICHIGAN SPORT**

The CMU men's golf program made its return after a 37-year hiatus a successful one with a sixth-place finish in the nine-team Mid-American Conference Championship in May under coach Kevin Jennings. The Chippewas' Jeffrey Andrus, one of eight freshmen on the nine-player roster, went into the final day of the MAC tournament with a share of the lead and finished tied for 10th, a remarkable accomplishment for a first-year player in the nascent program.

"We're seeing glimpses of the future from everyone and looking forward to further tapping into that as we continue what we're doing," Jennings said. "The indicators of individual, as well as team, progress throughout the year are duly noted by myself and by members within the program and we look forward to moving forward with what we have and the foundation that we've laid."





Conference to earn a berth in the four-team league tournament under fourth-year coach McCall Salmon in 2023. Senior outfielder Kelsey Alexander, who led CMU with nine home runs and shared the team lead with 33 RBI, earned Second Team All-Region honors from the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. The Chippewas put together an 11-game MAC win streak en route to an 18-11 finish in league games. Junior pitcher Grace Lehto, who earned First Team All-MAC honors, fired a no-hitter on April 26 at Margo Jonker Stadium; it was the Chippewas' first no-no since 2009.

#### FIELD HOCKEY

Jennifer Johnstone made her debut as the CMU field hockey coach a successful one when she led the Chippewas to a 2-0 victory over Saint Louis

in the season opener. Led by senior Alice O'Hagan, the Chippewas made vast strides as a program under Johnstone, scoring 26 goals on the season. It was their highest goal total in more than 20 years and the third-highest number in the eight-team MAC. In addition, goalkeepers Maja Halasz, Katie Maxim and Coletta Beeler combined to make a league-high 180 saves.

#### VOLLEYBALL

The CMU volleyball team in 2022 posted a 20-12 finish, earned a berth in the National Invitational Volleyball Tournament, made its first Mid-American Conference Tournament appearance in four years, and posted its first victory in a MAC Tourney match since 2011 under seventh-year coach Mike Gawlik. The Chippewas finished 12-6 in MAC play, a high-water mark for wins for the program under Gawlik. Chippewas Mallory Hernandez and



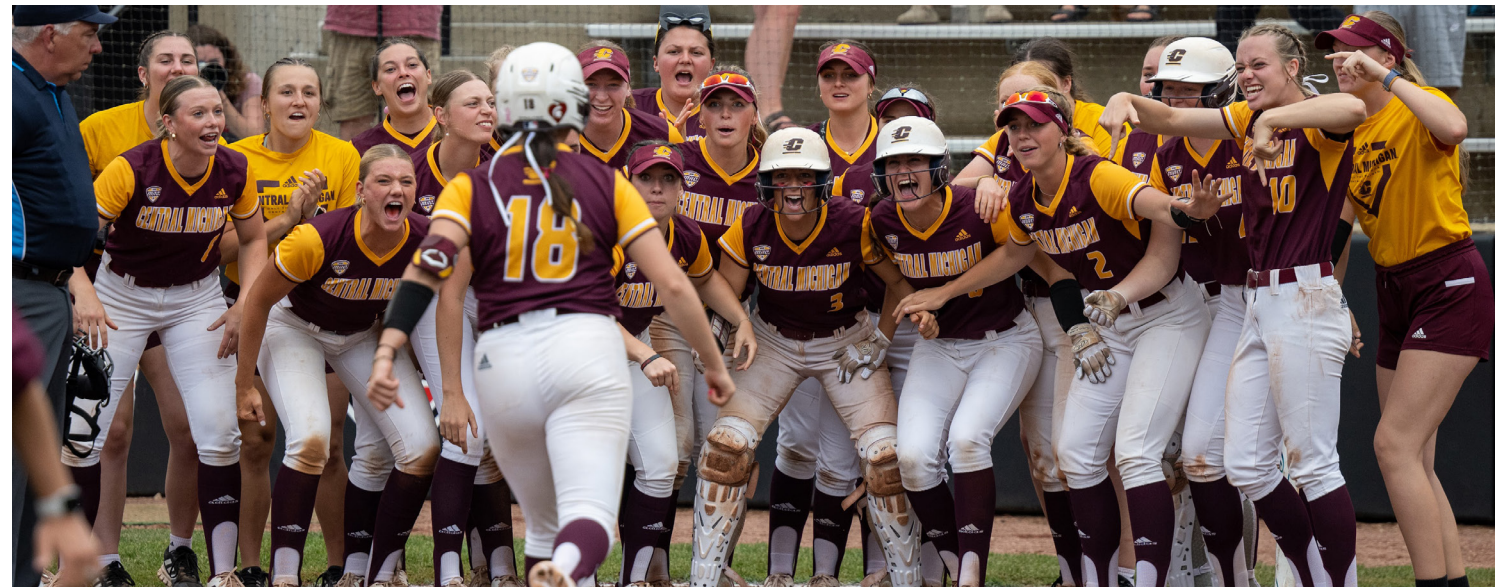
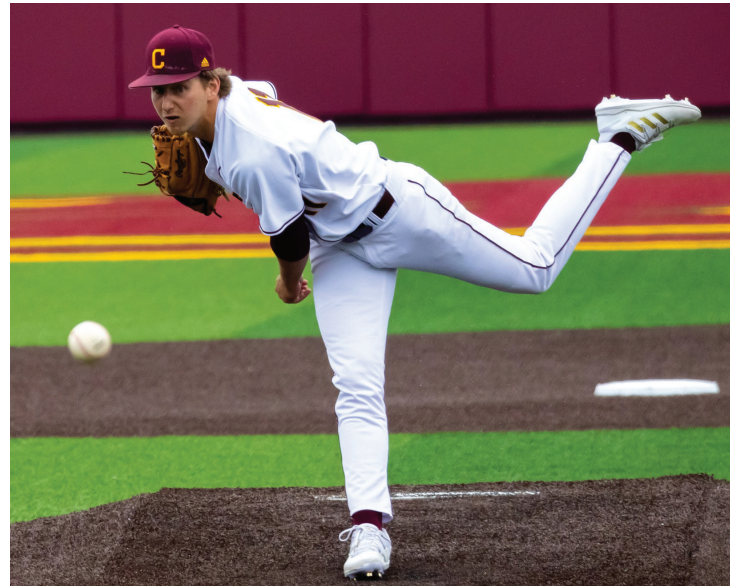
Claire Ammeraal earned First Team All-MAC honors.

#### CROSS COUNTRY/TRACK & FIELD

In track & field, CMU's Emily Paupore (steeplechase), Anya Turner (steeplechase) and Hayley Manners (long jump) qualified for the NCAA East Regional during the outdoor season. Paupore placed second and Turner was third in the steeplechase in the MAC Outdoor Championships, while Manners placed third in the long jump. Chippewa student-athletes posted a pair of top-three finishes at the MAC Indoor Championships, a second in the 4x400-meter relay and a third by Mohogany Wells in the shotput. The Chippewas combined to produce 18 times/distances/heights during the 2022-23 indoor and outdoor seasons that rank among the top 10 in program history. CMU's Adam Rzentkowski provided a big-time highlight in

# ATHLETIC SUCCESS





the fall when the senior placed 12th in the Mid-American Conference Cross Country Championships, marking the third time in his standout career that he earned All-MAC honors.

#### SOCCER

The Central Michigan soccer team registered its most impressive victory of the year, 1-0, against rival Western Michigan. Coach Jeremy Groves enters his fifth season at the helm and welcomes 20 newcomers to the program.

#### FOOTBALL

The Central Michigan football team saw the emergence of budding stars such as Deiyantei Powell-Woods, Donte Kent, Justin Whiteside and Kyle Moretti during the 2022 season, Jim McElwain's fourth at the helm of the program. While the aforementioned quartet continues to provide tremendous leadership, the Chippewas last fall saw two young quarterbacks Bert Emanuel Jr. and Jase Bauer both flash outstanding

potential during the season. Standout running back Lew Nichols III was selected by the Green Bay Packers in the NFL Draft, and three other Chippewas who completed their eligibility in 2022 – tight end Joel Wilson, wide receiver Carlos Carriere and defensive lineman and All-American Thomas Incoom – signed as free agents with the Buffalo Bills, the New York Giants and the Denver Broncos, respectively. Incoom, along with defensive back Donte Kent, who returns in 2023, earned First Team All-MAC honors. McElwain's 2023 class of recruits was ranked No. 1 in the MAC by 247sports.





#### CMU ATHLETICS CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF TITLE IX

Central Michigan Athletics celebrated the 50th anniversary of Title IX this year as six legendary CMU former coaches and administrators served as Grand Marshals at Homecoming: Cristy Freese (field hockey), Sue Guevara (women's basketball), Margo Jonker (softball), Marcy Weston (volleyball), and posthumous honorees Mary Bottaro and Fran Koenig.

In addition, the athletic department hosted a recorded panel discussion about the legacy of Title IX, on women's athletics at CMU and beyond. Freese, Guevara, Jonker, and Weston, along with CMU Deputy Athletic Director for Administration and Senior Woman Administrator Tangela Cheatam, all participated.

"Title IX has changed so many lives over the past 50 years, including mine. Without this law, I wouldn't have had the opportunities I had to play as a student-athlete and now to be in a leadership role in athletics," said Amy Folan, Zyzelewski Family Associate Vice President and director of athletics. "At CMU, we are committed to advancing this so that even more lives will be positively impacted in the future."

Additionally, CMU Athletics celebrated the national milestone with a social media campaign, several on-field recognitions, and various special events.



#### ROY KRAMER TO BE INDUCTED INTO NFF HALL OF FAME

Former Central Michigan Head Football Coach Roy Kramer is one of 22 players and coaches selected to be inducted into the National Football Foundation College Football Hall of Fame, the NFF announced during a live broadcast live on ESPN. Kramer will be inducted during the 65th annual NFF Awards Dinner set to take place at the ARIA Resort & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada on December 5, 2023.

Kramer will join Herb Deromedi as the two Central Michigan coaches who have been inducted into the NFF College Football Hall of Fame. Deromedi was honored with the 2007 Hall of Fame Class. On Sept. 17, 2022, prior to its football game against Bucknell, Central Michigan recognized the close connection between the two coaches and their outstanding contributions to the Chippewa program by officially naming its football venue as the Kramer/Deromedi Field at Kelly/Shorts Stadium. Statues of both men stand proudly outside the Chippewa Champions Center, located at the north end of Kelly/Shorts Stadium, and both are members of the Central Michigan University Marcy Weston Athletics Hall of Fame.

During his 11 seasons heading the Central Michigan program (1967-77), Kramer won an impressive 71.8 percent of his games, including a 12-1 record in 1974, when the Chippewas won the Division II National Championship and Kramer was named NCAA National Coach of the Year. Kramer compiled an 83-32-2 record at CMU and led

# CHIPPEWA MOMENTS





the Chippewas to back-to-back Interstate Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championships in 1967-68.

#### JAKE SABOL HIRED AS NEW HEAD BASEBALL COACH

Former Central Michigan player and graduate Jake Sabol has been named the new baseball coach at CMU. Zyzlewski Family Associate Vice President/ Director of Athletics Amy Folan announced on June 27. Sabol, a 2011 Central Michigan graduate, becomes the 22nd coach in the 117-year history of the Chippewa baseball program.

"Jake has proven success over eight years as a head coach," Folan said. "As a player and coach, he has consistently figured out how to beat all odds. We are excited to welcome the Sabol family back to Central Michigan and excited for Jake to continue to build upon this great baseball legacy and tradition at CMU."

Sabol rejoins the Central Michigan program after serving as the head coach at Northwood University for the past five years (2018-23). In four full seasons, Sabol guided the Timberwolves to a 140-90-1 record, 77-35 conference mark, four NCAA Division II Regional appearances, including three straight from 2021-23, and two Great Midwest Athletic Conference titles (2023 regular season and 2023 tournament).

#### ROBI STUART, HANNAH DEMERS: MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS

Central Michigan student-athletes Hannah DeMers and Robi Stuart have been named the Mid-American Conference Medal of Excellence Award winners, the league announced. DeMers is a member of the CMU Gymnastics team, while Stuart plays on the Chippewa Football team.

The Medal of Excellence is presented to two standout student-athletes, one male and one female student-athlete, at each of the MAC's 12 full-time member schools. The selected student-athletes are required to achieve a minimum 3.50 grade point average and have exhibited athletics excellence, leadership, and service. Both honorees attended the MAC Honors Dinner which took place on June 1 at the Metropolitan Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio.



#### MADDY BOYD IS GOTEACH GRAND PRIZE AWARD WINNER

Central Michigan senior Maddy Boyd has been named the grand prize winner of the GO TEACH Dr Pepper Giveaway scholarship. The College Football Playoff Foundation and Go Teach Dr Pepper have awarded over 100 student-athletes aspiring to pursue a career in teaching and education. Each MAC institution selected one individual to earn \$2,500 with the grand prize winner earning another \$10,000.

Boyd is a member of the CMU cross country and track & field program. She is a psychology major, focusing on mental health and holds a 3.92 GPA. Boyd spent this past summer working with the Boys & Girls Club to improve her skills for her future job as a social worker. She has also started an organization called the Sunset Project, which helps youth that are in need of mental health resources.

CFPF and Dr Pepper are dedicated to growing the Go Teach initiative to place qualified teachers in classrooms across the nation. Over the next five years the CFPF and Dr Pepper are awarding a collective \$1.5 million in awards to provide support and recognition for student-athletes majoring in education.







The night had it all. The historical pregame Toilet Paper Toss. A matchup with rival Western Michigan. CMU legend Dan Majerle in attendance. A raucous, energetic standing-room-only crowd. A dramatic game-winning shot in the closing seconds. A Central Michigan comeback victory. Chippewas fans rushing the floor in wild celebration. Memorable moments and events like these are what makes Central Michigan great.

Before the largest crowd in McGuirk Arena history, Central Michigan rallied from an 11-point deficit with four minutes to play and senior Brian Taylor drained the game-winning 3-pointer with 6.6 seconds to go as the Chippewas claimed a dramatic 70-69 men's basketball victory over rival Western Michigan.

It was an oh-so-fitting end to a dramatic, memorable, and historic night for Chippewa Athletics.

The event was organized in observance of the 40th anniversary of the first Toilet Paper Toss game. Fans were encouraged to wear white shirts and everyone participated in the previously well-known CMU tradition of throwing toilet paper rolls from the stands onto the playing floor. The toilet paper was provided to fans upon entrance to McGuirk Arena. White pompoms were distributed to the first 2,500 fans in the arena, and the first 250 students received a free Snake Pit t-shirt, an homage to an era

of CMU basketball when then-Rose Arena was colloquially known as the Snake Pit.

Majerle, a 14-year NBA veteran who is a member of the CMU Athletics and Mid-American Conference halls of fame, signed autographs pre-game and Qdoba provided a halftime meal to students in attendance. So popular was the entire night that some 500 people were turned away at the door.

Toilet Paper Toss was a moment to remember. After the Chippewas were introduced, university President Bob Davies sent a bounce pass to Dan Majerle, who then threw a bounce-pass to his son, CMU player Max Majerle, who dribbled once, elevated and threw down a dunk. At that moment, thousands of toilet paper rolls rained down on the McGuirk Arena floor. "Thank you to all our alumni, students, faculty, staff and community members who attended this memorable event," said Amy Folan, Zyzelewski Family Associate vice president and director of athletics. "We made history while celebrating history, and once again proved that CMU — hands down — has the best fans in the Mid-American Conference, and beyond."

The contest matched the intensity of the pregame festivities. The Chippewas trailed for 39 of the game's 40 minutes. Behind by two points, 69-67 after Western Michigan converted the first of two free throws, sophomore Nico Pavrette rebounded the missed free throw. Pavrette set a screen on

Taylor's defender, junior Jesse Zarzuela found Taylor in the corner, and Taylor spotted up and swished the game-winning 3-pointer with 6.6 seconds remaining.

Central Michigan outscored Western Michigan 15-3 over the game's final 4:07. The crowd of 5,425 surpassed the previous top McGuirk Arena crowds of 5,412 vs. Western Michigan on Feb. 3, 2017, and vs. Ball State on Feb. 18, 2017.

Second-year Chippewa coach Tony Barbee thanked the crowd for creating a decisive homecourt advantage.

"Today's game showed the homecourt advantage that this arena can give you," he said. "When the fans, students, alums, having some of our great former players back, Max's dad Dan being there, when all those groups are engaged, the crowd has just as big of an impact as Brian Taylor's shot. The crowd gave us a 15-point advantage today."

"We're going to keep doing our job to engage the students," Barbee said. "The students have to know that they set the atmosphere, the students, the fraternities, the faculty, they are a part of this team. They are part of this program, and they are just as important as my starting point guard and starting center. Just as I expect those players to show up every game,



# TOILET PAPER TOSS







# TOILET PAPER TOSS: BY THE NUMBERS

**5,500**  
Rolls of toilet paper placed on each seat.

**1,800**  
Students in the Snake Pit.

**200**  
Students fed at halftime, courtesy of Qdoba.

**5,425**  
Capacity sellout crowd and a McGuirk Arena attendance record.

**2,500**  
White pompoms distributed.

**250**  
Snake Pit T-shirts circulated.

**150**  
Dan Majerle autographs signed.

**6.6 seconds**  
Brian Taylor hits the game-winning 3-pointer with 6.6 seconds to play.

**70-69**  
CMU victory over Western Michigan.





It is Central Michigan Athletics' primary goal to develop young men and women who exemplify the definition of a student-athlete in its truest form. The department's mission also includes providing an authentic environment in which student-athletes can thrive both academically and athletically.

Over the 2022-23 academic year, continued success in both areas was undoubtedly achieved as student-athletes demonstrated dedication and determination to their academic pursuits.

Consider the following numbers:

- The 2022-23 academic year marked the 48th and 49th consecutive semesters in which CMU student-athletes collectively achieved a grade point average of 3.0 or higher.
- At the end of the spring 2023 semester, 327 student-athletes achieved cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher, 206 student-athletes achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher, and 12 had

a 4.0 GPA.

- At the conclusion of the spring 2023 semester, the CMU women's cross country squad compiled the highest team cumulative GPA of 3.70.
- This past spring, field hockey posted the highest semester team GPA with a 3.69.
- Thirteen of Central Michigan's 16 teams posted a team cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher.
- The CMU football team registered the highest team grade point average increase from the 2022 fall semester to the 2023 spring semester (+0.36).
- Seventy-five student-athletes graduated from Central Michigan University combining December 2022 and May 2023. Of the 75 December and May graduates, 62 notched cumulative GPAs of 3.0 or higher, 48 earned a 3.5 or higher, and one earned a 4.0 GPA.

# ACADEMIC SUCCESS



# 3.21

Our student-athletes' spring semester grade point average.

# 49

The 2023 spring semester marked the 49th consecutive semester that the athletics department had a GPA of 3.0 or better.

# 3.34

Our student-athletes' cumulative grade point average.

# 327

Student-athletes (71 percent) earned a 3.00 GPA or higher across both semesters.

# 227

Student-athletes (48 percent) earned a 3.50 GPA or higher across both semesters.

# 58

Student-athletes (13 percent) earned a perfect 4.00 GPA across both semesters.

# 3.70

Women's Cross Country maintained a department team-best 3.70 cumulative GPA.

# 3.69

Field Hockey posted the top team GPA in the 2023 spring semester.

# 0.36

Football had the highest team grade point average increase from fall to spring, increasing by 0.36.





Winners of the annual Chippewa Athletic Academic Awards were presented during a ceremony in McGuirk Arena on April 16, 2023.

**Newcomer of the Year** – Presented to the student-athletes in their first year of competition at Central Michigan who made a major impact and contribution to their team or sport program: Bert Emanuel, Jr., football; Claire Ammeraal, volleyball.

**Moment of the Year** – Presented to an individual or a team with the most outstanding moment or play of the year: Men's basketball toilet paper toss game vs. Western Michigan.

**Teammate of the Year** – Presented to individuals who are instrumental leaders, dedicated to improving their team every day. These athletes are the heartbeat of the team and exemplify the culture of CMU Athletics with consistent hard work, dedication and integrity: Tracy Hubbard, wrestling.

**Spring Impact Player of the Year** – Presented to a student-athlete who demonstrated outstanding athletic performance and achievement while significantly contributing to the success of the team amongst all spring sports: Hayley Manners, track & field.

**Spark Player of the Year** – Presented to the student-athlete who contributes to and increases the team's energy, demonstrating discipline, drive, and the willingness to do the little things to assist with their team's game performance: Anya Turner, women's cross country/track & field.

**Game of the Year** – Presented to the team with most outstanding performance or game of that year: Men's basketball win at Michigan.

**Chippewa Legacy Award** – Presented to a distinguished Chippewa who has been a major contributor to CMU Athletics and continues

to positively represent the CMU family: Sammi Mills, softball.

**Coach of the Year** – Presented to a coach who continually inspires student-athletes through their story, their actions, and their words. This incredible individual has emerged as a valuable role model and displays unfaltering dedication to student-athlete well-being: Christine MacDonald, gymnastics.

**Athlete of the Year** – Presented to the male and female student-athletes who demonstrated outstanding athletic performance and achievement while significantly contributing to the success of the team: Adam Rzentkowski, men's cross country; Audrey Whiteside, lacrosse.

**Athletic Director Leadership Award** – Presented by Amy Folan, Zyzelewski Family Associate Vice President/Director of Athletics:

# CHIPPEWA ATHLETIC ACADEMIC AWARDS





Garrett Navarra, baseball; Hannah DeMers, gymnastics.

**Team of the Year** – Presented to the team that has achieved the most notable success throughout its season and inspired the Chippewa family through hard work, teamwork, and awe-inspiring performances: Gymnastics.

**Community Impact Award** – Presented to a team or teams that have completed their highest average amount of service hours amongst all sports: Volleyball, Softball.

**Dick Enberg Team Leadership Award** – Presented to the team that demonstrates academic excellence, community involvement and success in the athletic arena: Volleyball.

**Top Scholar-Athlete Academic Awards** – Presented to the top scholar-athlete on each of CMU's varsity teams: Drew Alsobrooks, baseball; Jnaya Walker, women's basketball; Caleb Hodgson, men's basketball; Lauren MacDonald, women's cross country; Steven Porter, men's cross country; Hannah Havrilla, field hockey; Marcus Young, football; Rachel Kauflin, women's golf; Arie Jackman, men's golf; Savana Kotas, gymnastics; Emma Potter, lacrosse; Mariana Marcotti, soccer; Abbey Tolmie, softball; Sarah Daniel, women's track & field; Linnea Willer, volleyball; Alexander Jacobs, wrestling.

**Dick Enberg Scholar-Athlete Award: Nominees** – Nick Dardas, baseball; Anya Turner, women's cross country; Kate Biglin, field hockey; Robi Stuart, football; Ashley Goh, women's golf; Ashley Veglucci, gymnastics; Makenna Huhn, lacrosse; Abbey Tolmie, softball; Grace Williamson, women's track & field; Elly Medendorp, volleyball; Benjamin Cushman, wrestling.

**Bill Boyden Leadership Award: Nominees**: Danny Wuestenfeld, baseball; Markus Harding, men's basketball; Emily Paupore, women's cross country; Hunter Fougner, men's cross country; Hannah Havrilla, field hockey; Robi Stuart, football; Rachel Kauflin, women's golf; Arie Jackman, men's golf; Lia Kmiecik, gymnastics; Sandy Edwards, lacrosse; Grace Lehto, softball; Annie Laurenz, women's track & field.

**Outstanding team grade point average** – Women's Cross Country, Men's Cross Country.

**Pat Podoll Outstanding Academic Achievement Award** – Kendall Hoyt, lacrosse; Cole Johnson, football.

**Academic Achievement Award** – Mohogany Wells, women's track & field; Daniel Motowski, football.

**Chippewa Impact Award** – Bob Stebbins.

**Staff Award** – John Belco, Kaitlyn Gadsby.







# COMMUNITY SERVICE & ENGAGEMENT





Central Michigan University student-athletes engage with the community in many different ways, including but not limited to volunteering, speaking engagements, and hosting clinics and camps for the youth. Over the course of the years, CMU student-athletes have averaged over 4,000 community outreach hours.

One of the major events in the past year was in celebration of National Reading Month in March. Student-athletes from multiple programs went into the local elementary schools to read and mentor the children in the classroom. The classrooms selected a book for the student-athletes to read, then followed up with questions about life of a student-athlete, the importance of education, and much more.



Central Michigan Athletics is currently in the process of streamlining all community outreach initiatives in order to efficiently and effectively market, register and track what the student-athletes are doing within the local and national community. This will allow for both better engagement and more opportunities to make an impact.

#### AMONG THE AREA ORGANIZATIONS/EVENTS SERVED IN RECENT YEARS:

- United Way of Gratiot and Isabella Counties
- Special Olympics Michigan – Summer & Winter Games
- Habitat for Humanity
- Community Compassion Network
- Mt. Pleasant Parks & Recreation's PEAK Program
- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe After School Program
- Isabella Community Soup Kitchen
- MAC Diversity and Inclusion Reading Tour – Mt. Pleasant Public Schools elementary schools
- Mt. Pleasant Public Schools
- Be the Match
- Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation
- Mt. Pleasant Rotary Club
- American Red Cross Blood Drive







**Central Michigan Athletics experienced a top fundraising year in 2022-23 with increases in cash annual giving and total giving. CMU's cash annual giving total was its highest in the last seven years.**

**1.27** **MILLION**

**Total cash annual fund giving**

**3.3** **MILLION**

**Total giving in 2022-23**

**FUNDRAISING SUCCESS**





# FIRST-CLASS PREMIUM SPACES

Central Michigan unveiled the Isabella Bank VIP Club and the Bolle Patio Loge boxes for the 2021 football season, and these premium spaces are the best in the Mid-American Conference. For the second straight year, they were sold out for the season.





# CENTRAL MICHIGAN ATHLETICS

## THE 1896 SOCIETY

CMU Athletics' 1896 Society continued to grow over the past year. Named in honor of CMU's first year of intercollegiate athletics, the 1896 Society recognizes top supporters who make commitments of \$25,000 or more to CMU Athletics. Members receive exclusive benefits and opportunities in recognition of their generous support.



Isabella Bank  
 CMU Alumni Association  
 Paul and Maryanke Alexander  
 Todd Allam  
 Todd and Teresa Anson  
 Tim and Kristi Anson  
 Tim and Mary Averill  
 Marty Bartnick  
 Nick and Rachel Bellore  
 Steve and Lori Blackwell  
 Mark Bolle  
 Andy and Cathy Claes  
 Todd and Missy Cleveland  
 Kyle and Jackie Curtiss  
 Dean Darby  
 Sandy and Patrick Dean  
 John and Didi DeBoer  
 Bob DeMarco  
 Herb and Marilyn Deromedi  
 Drew and Morgan Donaldson  
 Mike and Gay Franckowiak  
 Ron Ellison  
 Jim and Kelly Fabiano

Jim and Lee Fabiano  
 Dick and Audrey Featheringham  
 Mike and Kellie Ferrantino  
 Bob Fisher  
 Cristy Freese and Annie VanDyke  
 Matt Golden  
 Jerry and Joanne Trudell  
 Tom and Nanette Grobbel  
 Don and Mary Harter  
 Mike and Laura Harter  
 Bill and Carla Kanine  
 Dave and Sue Keilitz  
 Craig and Jane Keilitz  
 Phil Kintzele  
 Andy and Sarah Korythowski  
 Dave and Debra Kring  
 Nick Krzyzaniak and Serina Pak  
 John and Carole Kulhavi  
 Bart and Sarah LaBelle  
 Ed and Kathy Langenburg  
 Tom Lapka  
 Denny and Vicki Lautzenheiser  
 Bob and Jeanne Long

Jeff and Beth Lundquist  
 Tim and Sherry Magnusson  
 Dominic Mancini  
 Rob and Sue Mason  
 Rick and Julie McGuirk  
 Chuck and Jen McGuirk  
 Jerry and Lori McKay  
 Jason Mitchell  
 Mike and Barb Crapo  
 Mike and Pam Murray  
 Bill and Pam Myler  
 Brian Nuskowski  
 Mike and Franci  
 Kristopher Page  
 Doug Parker  
 Dan and Jennifer Pohl  
 Kelly Preston  
 Rocky and Traci Ricelli  
 Mike and Kathy Sandler  
 Kelly and Nicole Skinner  
 Terry and Marcy Stacy  
 Bob and Ann Stebbins  
 Mark Suarez

Kevin and Sharon Tapani  
 Joe and Rosalie Vicari  
 Jon and Terri Voigtman  
 Elmo and Kelli Walton  
 Bill and Molly Weideman  
 Tom and Sharon Weirich  
 Kyle and Carrie White  
 Audrey Zavodsky  
 Ron and Jean Zyzelewski





Over the past year, Central Michigan Athletics has introduced several new initiatives in a variety of areas.

#### OPENDORSE

This fall, Central Michigan Athletics partnered with Opendorse, creating an all-in-one Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) platform for the department with one of the industry's leaders in the NIL space.

Through an online hub and mobile app, Opendorse provides the technology and services to cover student-athletes and staff with compliance, content, and educational tools that will be used in developing NIL landscape.

"We are pleased to partner with Opendorse," Director of Athletics Amy Folan said. "The all-in-one platform aligns with our mission of preparing student-athletes for life after sports and will assist each student-athlete in optimizing their name, image, and likeness. Our coaches and staff fully support this initiative to enhance the Central Michigan student-athlete experience."

Student-athletes receive on-demand access to photos, videos, and content suggestions from their teams and the department, helping the student-athletes engage with fellow students and fans. Opendorse also provides education sessions both in-person and virtually with industry leaders at companies including Meta, Overtime, The Players' Tribune, Opendorse, and more. The partnership also ensures student-athlete eligibility by enabling student-athletes to disclose any NIL deals with the CMU compliance office.

#### AMY FOLAN PODCAST

In other to further tell the story of Central Michigan Athletics, Zyzelweski Family Associate Vice President/Director of Athletics Amy Folan introduced a new monthly podcast in September 2022. Previous guests on her podcasts have included former CMU basketball great Dan Majerle, former CMU coaches and legendary college athletics administrators Kevin White (former Athletic Director at Notre Dame, Duke) and Roy Kramer (former SEC Commissioner), and various CMU student-athletes, while various subjects that have been discussed include CMU's entrepreneurship program, mental health, medical and health services, and graduation.

The podcast can be accessed on the Central Michigan Athletics' website at [www.cmuchippewas.com](http://www.cmuchippewas.com). Stay tuned for upcoming monthly podcasts.

#### HILINSKI'S HOPE

In order to emphasize and educate Central Michigan student-athletes on the importance of mental health, Mark and Kym Hilinski visited Mount Pleasant in February to speak and share the story of their son Tyler, who played quarterback at Washington State and passed away on January 16, 2018.

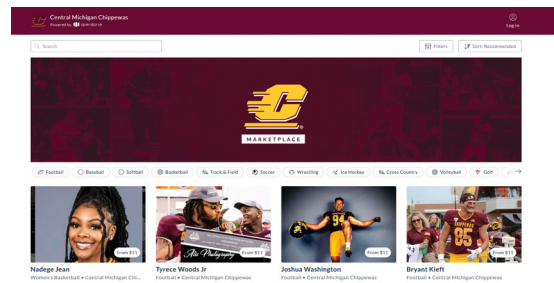
The Hilinski's Hope Foundation (H3H) was founded in 2018 by the Hilinski's to honor the life of their son Tyler. H3H helps colleges and universities save lives, eliminate stigma, and scale mental wellness programs for student-athletes. H3H does this by sharing Tyler's story, connecting students with mental health resources, and assisting universities to institutionalize best practices.

Hilinski's Hope Foundation is a non-profit organization formed to promote awareness and education of mental health and wellness for student athletes. The Foundation's mission is to educate, advocate, and eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness, while funding programs that provide student-athletes with the tools and resources that support their mental health and wellness.

#### SOCIAL MEDIA GROWTH

Over the last year, Central Michigan Athletics has experienced substantial growth in its social media accounts with an emphasis on providing Chippewas fans with much-improved and far-reaching content. The Chippewas saw increases and account growth in football, men's basketball, women's basketball, and baseball.

Some of the top social media posts of the 2022-23 academic year have included CMU's men's basketball victory over Michigan (452k impressions), CMU football coaching staff post (105k impressions), Kristin Haynie announcement (100k impressions), and the Tony Barbee locker room speech after the win over Michigan (74k impressions).



# NEW INITIATIVES





#### PLAYING SURFACE AT KELLY/SHORTS STADIUM NAMED KRAMER/DEROMEDI FIELD

In a pregame ceremony on Sept. 10, 2022, Central Michigan University honored two of the giants of its storied football history by naming the field at Kelly/Shorts Stadium in their honor. The playing surface at the stadium is now named Kramer/Deromedi Field, in recognition of legendary coaches Roy Kramer and Herb Deromedi.

"We are proud to honor the rich tradition and football history at CMU by dedicating our field to coach Roy Kramer and coach Herb Deromedi," said Amy Folan, Zyzelewski Family associate vice president and director of athletics. "The indelible imprint of these two legendary CMU leaders has benefited so many throughout the years and will continue to benefit future generations. It is befitting that this prominent space they helped build will carry their names."

Kramer, with Deromedi as his defensive coordinator, led the Chippewas to the NCAA Division II national championship in 1974. Statues of both men stand proudly outside the Chippewa Champions Center, located at the north end of Kelly/Shorts Stadium, and both are members of the Central Michigan University Marcy Weston Athletics Hall of Fame. Kramer will join Deromedi as the two CMU Football representatives in the NFF Hall of Fame as he will be inducted in December.

Kramer guided the Chippewas to an 83-32-2 record in his 11 seasons as coach and in 1974 he earned the NCAA Division II National Coach of the Year Award. Kramer went on to serve as the athletic director at Vanderbilt and later became the commissioner of the Southeastern Conference.

"I am honored and very humbled by this recognition of my days at Central Michigan University," Kramer said. "I am particularly honored to share this recognition with Herb Deromedi. However, this

is really a celebration and recognition of the hundreds of young men who represented the pride and tradition of the maroon and gold of the Chippewas."

Deromedi joined Kramer's coaching staff as an assistant in 1967 and then succeeded his longtime mentor as the head coach in 1978.

He posted a remarkable 110-55-10 record over 16 seasons, leading the Chippewas to Mid-American Conference titles in 1979, '80 and '90. He was twice named MAC Coach of the Year and was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2008. After hanging up his whistle, Deromedi served with distinction for 13 years as CMU's director of athletics and was a member of the College Football Playoff Committee from 2016-18.

"It is a tremendous honor, and very humbling, to be recognized alongside my mentor back then, and still now, Roy Kramer," Deromedi said. "I am so grateful for my time at Central Michigan and all of the men I was able to coach and all of the people that have been so impactful in my life."

The naming of the field in honor of Kramer and Deromedi was the result of a \$1 million fundraising effort supported by numerous CMU football alumni and friends of Kramer and Deromedi.

#### SOFTBALL TURF DEDICATION

On April 15, before a softball doubleheader with Western Michigan, Central Michigan hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to honor and celebrate the donors who made the installation of new FieldTurf possible at Margo Jonker Stadium.

# FACILITY UPGRADES





CMU President Bob Davies and CMU Athletics Deputy Athletic Director for External Operations Chris Walker both threw out the first pitch and coach McCall Salmon cut the ribbon.

"Installing new FieldTurf is great for our student-athletes and for our softball program," said Amy Folan, Zyzelewski Family Associate vice president and director of athletics. "We now have the ability to practice in the winter. On behalf of everyone here at Central Michigan Athletics, thank you to the many donors that helped make this important addition to our facility possible."

### BASEBALL TURF DEDICATION

On April 29, 2023, Central Michigan hosted a turf dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony at Keilitz Field at Theunissen Stadium after FieldTurf was installed during the previous summer. The ribbon cutting ceremony honored all major donors who contributed to the project.

"This is something I had hoped for and worked for for many years," field namesake and CMU Athletic Hall of Fame member Dave Keilitz said. "Amy Folan, President Bob Davies, the board of trustees, and all the major donors stepped up and we were able to get it installed. It is a huge factor for our program, and for the recruitment and the development of players, it is huge. It is beautiful and I could not be more pleased with the new turf."

"It's great for our student-athletes and our program," said Amy Folan, Zyzelewski Family Associate vice president and director of athletics. "As he does with everything CMU Baseball, Dave Keilitz led the way. It is great, with all the success that the program has had under coach Jordan Bischel, and then to have Dave bring all the generations together and help move us forward and elevate the standard we've had here for CMU Baseball."

### VOLLEYBALL LOCKER ROOM UNVEILING

On March 16, the Central Michigan Volleyball student-athletes received their first glimpse of their newly-renovated team and locker room in McGuirk Arena. The upgrades included new branding, a wall depicting program honorees and awards, upgraded locker room with additional branding, new furniture and new kitchen in the team room containing a nutrition station, and new upgrades in the bathroom and shower room.

"We want to thank all of our outstanding supporters and donors in Chippewa Nation for making this new locker room possible," Central Michigan Head Coach Mike Gawlik said. "Without their support, none of this would have been possible."







Central Michigan Athletics has been a longtime partner with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and that relationship continues to thrive and grow.

Members of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe performed during a pair of athletic competitions this past season. A drum ceremony in conjunction with tribal leaders, youth and the CMU football team was the highlight of Traditions Day against Bucknell on Sept. 17. Drummers and dancers also performed during halftime of home men's and women's basketball games. These events provided the opportunity to expose CMU students, fans and friends to tribal culture and our partnership.

Other events include:

- Student-athlete visits to the SCIT after-school recreation programs
- SCIT history and Native American mascot presentation to all incoming student-athletes
- Hoops for Hunger



# SAGINAW CHIPPEWA INDIAN TRIBE PARTNERSHIP







