

A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

A Historical Perspective of Women's Athletics At Western Illinois University

"A deep appreciation to the women that made history and those who worked so diligently to preserve it, including Bonnie Barker, Lisa Melz-Jennings, Kathy Orban and Kathy Veroni.

Western Illinois State Normal School (WISNS) was established in Macomb by the Illinois General Assembly on April 24, 1899.

Early 1900's

Sept. 23, 1902 was the first day of school.

President Henninger organized the first athletic board and the women's basketball team in 1903. The team quickly became the most integral part of the athletics program during those early years.

The women's basketball team was first managed by Dr. J. P. Drake and later by Dr. L. S. Smith. The best player in the initial season was team captain Mary Murphy. In a 6-5 loss against Monmouth College, she scored all of Western's points.

Due to construction of the gymnasium, the 1903 and 1904 basketball teams played their home games at the Macomb Opera House, owned by Western trustee C.V. Chandler.

The following persons made up the team for the season of 1903-04: Miss Wilson, (Captain, Center), Miss Murphy (Captain, Center), Miss Griffith (Forward), Miss Green (Guard), Miss Weatherhead, (Guard); Miss Sundine (Substitute), Miss Bonham (Substitute).

On November 11, 1927 an article appeared in the student newspaper, *The Western Courier*, entitled "Girls took a leading part in athletics in early years." In the article, Mrs. Mary Murphy (1904) Cunningham made an interesting comment at Homecoming on girls' athletics of her time. "In those days the girls were much more prominent in sports than the men. The girls' basketball teams played outside colleges and earned money for the men's track suits, basketball outfits, and other equipment."

1910's

In 1910, the Western Illinois State Normal School (WISNS) Athletic Association was organized. It developed a constitution, establishing rules for student participation in sports.

Under Helen Rockwell's leadership, field hockey, which demanded skills like "dribbling, driving, bullying, and lunging," was added as a female sport in 1914.

1920's

The changing role of women in the 1920s was evident in the development of women's athletics at Western. No one contributed more to that effort than Ruth Glassow. In 1920, President Morgan hired her as Director of Women's Physical Education.

On June 3, 1921, WISNS became Western Illinois State Teachers College (WISTC).

When Glassow arrived, the two most important female sports were field hockey and basketball. At that time, the students organized teams that competed on a regular, intramural schedule. In the spring and summer, a small number of women also played tennis. There was little else to offer female students, so in the spring of 1921, Glassow developed Western's first women's track team and baseball (softball) team which participated in the Field Day program.

In the fall of 1920, Glassow organized the Women's Athletic Association (WAA), which was open to female students with at least a "B" grade average who frequently participated in sports.

Dora Sharp was hired in 1925 to replace Glassow. Under Sharp's leadership, the WAA became the most important female organization at Western, where it remained so for decades. Volleyball, archery, and tennis soon became popular activities, and some young women even learned to play golf.

After years of clamoring for an additional gymnasium, President Morgan finally got the state legislature to provide \$180,000 for the new project, in June 1925. Construction on Morgan Gymnasium began in June 1927. The photograph below shows two gym floors: one for the men, measuring 120' by 90', and a smaller one for the women, measuring 90' by 60'. They could be separated by a folding partition, but when combined as shown here, they constituted the second largest gym in Illinois, at the time.

That same year, Dorothy Watson ('28 BA), who attended WIU in 1927 and 1928, earned a varsity letter in baseball (softball) as the leftfielder.

1930's

The largest student organization on campus in the 1930s was the Women's Athletic Association (WAA), which continued to promote all sorts of recreational activities. Women's athletics, sponsored by the WAA, were intramural during the 1930s, although there was an "invitational play day" in May, when colleges like Augustana, Carthage, and MacMurray sent teams for baseball (softball) and other sports. Field hockey remained popular and soccer was introduced into the women's sports program in 1933.

Perhaps the finest all-around female athlete of the 1930s was Evelyn Brackeveld, who was outstanding in field hockey, basketball, and baseball. The president of the WAA in

her junior and senior years, “Brackie,” as she was commonly called, was a model athlete. In June 1935, just before her graduation, she received the WAA’s highest award, a rarely presented gold pin, for her four years of athletic and scholastic achievement.

Dr. Kathleen Brophy, hired in 1936, taught physical education to all grades in the training school and all college courses. She chaired the women's Physical Education Department for 17 years, and Brophy Hall was later named in her honor. She remained at Western Illinois University for 31 years.

Up to this time, women had been denied the opportunity to compete at the intercollegiate level, many other national governing bodies such as the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), American Softball Association (ASA), United States Field Hockey Association (USFHA), and the United States Track and Field Association (USTFA) provided women the opportunity to compete at state, regional, national and international levels in the 30’s and 40’s.

1940’s

Women's intercollegiate athletics was first organized on a national basis in 1941, the year the first national collegiate championship was held for the sport of golf.

Gymnastics was added to the sports program during the 1947-1948 school year.

1950’s

When men and women began returning home from the war, competition levels on college campuses began to change. The men's teams, complete with coaches and intercollegiate schedules, continued to compete, while the University did not allow women to compete as a collegiate team against other schools.

The indoor pool allowed Western to develop its first swim team during the 1951-52 school year. A women’s synchronized swimming club, the Westerfins, organized in 1953, also used the new pool. It was coached by June Seebree and sponsored by the WAA.

In 1954, the Women’s Athletic Association was renamed the Women’s Recreation Association (WRA).

On July 5, 1957, the state legislature approves the name Western Illinois University.

In 1957, the National Joint Committee on Extramural Sports for College Women (NJCESCW) was formed to guide and administer women's intercollegiate athletic programs.

In the late 50's and early 60's Dr. Rosemary Aten ('57 BS-ED), who later became chair of the WIU Physical Education Department, a position she held from 1981-1993 participated in sports days and as an intercollegiate athlete in basketball and softball for Western Illinois University.

1960's

Women's intercollegiate athletics were reintroduced at Western with the formation of the WRA Extramural Club in the early 1960s.

By the mid-1960s, Western's women had intercollegiate competition in basketball, swimming, archery, volleyball, field hockey, gymnastics, tennis, softball, fencing, badminton, and golf.

On the national level, in 1965, with the desire to consolidate governance of women's intercollegiate athletics under one organization, the National Joint Committee on Extramural Sports for College Women (NJCESCW) agreed to let the Division for Girl's and Women's Sports (DGWS) assume control over competition and extramural events.

The first action the DGWS took was to establish the Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (CIAW) to assume responsibility for designing, sponsoring, and sanctioning women's intercollegiate sports and championships.

Dr. Ann Lamb was influential in the establishment of the women's intercollegiate athletic program through her position as the Chair of the Women's Physical Education Department from 1966-1981. She was instrumental in having coaches of women's athletic teams paid through the PE Department. These coaches were also required to teach classes. Beginning at this time, the men's and women's athletic departments were separate, with the men being housed in Western Hall and the women being housed in Brophy Hall.

During this time, women athletes received no scholarships and operating budgets were sparse.

Dr. Blackinton was hired as the Director of Women's Intramurals, the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (1967-1986), coached volleyball and was a founding member of the Gateway Conference.

1970's

The Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) developed from the CIAW in recognition of the need for institutional membership and elected representation. Western Illinois University became a Division I charter member of the AIAW during the 1971-72 school year.

Dr. Blackinton's volleyball team won the 1970 state tournament and participated in the first national tournament sponsored by the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) in 1971.

Laurie Meyers ('77 MS) Potter (Track and Cross Country, Field Hockey, Swimming) was a four-year athlete at WIU in the early 1970s and the first woman to represent WIU in national track and field competition. She later coached track and field at WIU from 1975-1977.

Coach Julie Seitz Standard's cross country and swimming and diving teams qualified individuals to nationals. Swimmer, Joan DePuy finished as high as 7th in 1972.

During the 1972-73 season, the first full academic year of its operation, the AIAW offered its first seven national championships in badminton, basketball, golf, gymnastics, swimming and diving, track and field, and volleyball.

In 1972, the WIU softball team, coached by Valerie Lindbloom, placed third in the nation. Then, under Coach Kathy Veroni, softball won two state championships, placed fifth nationally in 1975, 13th nationally in 1977 and 7th nationally in 1979. Veroni's field hockey team won the 1979, 1980, 1981 and 1982 state titles; in softball, her teams finished 5th in 1980 and 7th in 1982, at the AIAW national tournament. In 1984, 1987 and 1989 Coach Veroni's softball teams captured three GCAC titles but were unable to compete at the national tournament because the conference did not have an automatic bid. From 1992-1998, Coach Veroni's softball teams won the Mid-Continent Conference six times and won a record-setting 37 games in 1995. In 2000 and 2001, Veroni's softball teams won back-to-back Mid-Continent Conference titles and competed at the NCAA regional. Veroni was inducted into the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) Hall of Fame in 1998 and the WIU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2007. She ended her career ranked among the top-15 winningest coaches in NCAA history.

On a national level, in the early 70's, women leaders began to challenge discrimination on all fronts, not only on the athletic front, but also in the classroom and in the work force. Women did not receive equal pay for equal work, nor did they receive the same opportunities in higher education.

On June 23, 1972, President Richard Nixon signed the Higher Education Act, which included Title IX. Title IX states that "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

In 1974, women's athletics was granted departmental status at Western, and Dr. Blackinton was appointed the first Director of Women's Intercollegiate Athletics, a position she held until her retirement in 1986.

Women's athletics were bolstered by the opening of Brophy Hall in the fall of 1973. After a fire destroyed Morgan Gymnasium, a new \$4.5 million building was dedicated on

October 18, 1973 and named for Kathleen Brophy, a long-time Chair of the Women's Physical Education Department.

Women's athletic scholarships were initiated in 1974.

In 1975, Bonnie Barker ('77 MS), a graduate assistant, became the first "Sports Publicist" for women's intercollegiate athletics. In 1977, she was then named the first full-time Sports Information Director for women's athletics.

In 1976, WIU women's sports guides were introduced.

In 1976, fifteen female coaches and athletes filed suit in federal court against the Illinois Board of Higher Education, Board of Governors, WIU's president, provost and the Student Government Association in an effort to improve the resources (ie. scholarships and operating budgets) for women athletes at Western. The suit claimed "unlawful discrimination in educational opportunities" because women constituted forty percent of students engaged in the athletic programs, but women's sports received only eighteen percent of the available funds. The suit was dismissed by the judge on the basis that, (in his words), "Men and women are different."
(<http://www.student.services.wiu.edu/wc/westerwinds/history.asp>)

Despite this defeat in court, progress toward more equitable distribution of funds has been made as a result of the courage and tenacity of women at Western Illinois University.

In July 1977, a county-wide nickname contest was held to establish an identity for Western's female student-athletes. More than 100 entries were submitted, and the winning nickname, as voted on by female athletes and coaches was "Westerwinds", an entry submitted by Ms. Malea Kotter. "Westerwinds" represents "Western Winds," signifying a strong, powerful wind that blows forcefully into town, threatening to blow its opponents away.

Throughout the 1970s, the Westerwinds enjoyed top achievements at the state, regional and national levels.

Judith Gedney led some very talented gymnasts during the 70s-80s, including Cherie Wenninger ('81 BS) Wells and Melody Miller ('81 BS) Perrin.

Dr. Donna Phillips coached Western's winning badminton team for 13 seasons, guiding the Westerwinds to eight of nine national tournaments (AIAW). WIU placed in the top seven in each of those national championship appearances, including two that were hosted on WIU's campus (1975, 1981). Robin Bender ('75 BS) McGowan finished 2nd in the 1981 national singles competition.

Coach Kathy Veroni's softball teams captured state titles in 1975 and 1977, and competed in three national championships (1975- 5th, 1977- 13th and 1979- 7th).

Coach David Miller's ('67 BS-ED) 1977 cross country team finished 10th at nationals, with Melody Miller (also a gymnast) earning All-American honors. His cross country teams won five consecutive state titles from 1977 to 1981. His track and field teams won three straight state championships in 1979, 1980 and 1981. In 1986, Melody Miller participated in the U.S. Olympic Committee's Development of Elite Hurdlers camp. In 1989, Scyla Murray ('91 BA) and Pame 'La Ashford qualified for the Olympic Training Center camp in hurdles and sprints, respectively.

Gail Weldon (Athletic Trainer) was the first woman appointed to the U.S. Olympic Medical Team for the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal. She served as director of athletic training and physical therapy for the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

Sue Flanders ('77 BS) Quigg, coached by Julie McGrath ('75 MS) Meredith, claimed All-American Honors in the first National Intercollegiate Synchronized Swimming Championships held at Michigan State in 1977 and was named to the 1977 Women's Collegiate All-American Synchronized Swimming Team.

Dr. Bea Yeager's basketball coaching career record from 1971-1982 was 121-114. She coached four future WIU Hall of Famers: Carol Anderson ('85 BS-Kaskaskia), Wendy Hedberg ('74 BS), Kelle Lindbeck ('84 BS) Oest and Pat Stoffel ('82 BS).

1980's

1980 – Westerwinds' Sports Information Director Bonnie Barker and Assistant Athletic Director Ginger Nicholas developed and hosted the "Season of the Winds" radio program, which aired daily on WKAI Radio in Macomb.

In July 1982, Westerwinds Athletics combined with nine other universities to form the Gateway College Athletic Conference (GCAC), which included Eastern Illinois University, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Illinois State University, Bradley University, University of Northern Iowa, Drake University, Wichita State University, Southwest Missouri State University, Indiana State University and Western Illinois University. Patty Viverito was named GCAC's first and only commissioner.

At the start of the 1982-83 school year, women's athletics became part of the NCAA.

This same year, the Westerwinds Athletic Club was formed as the fund-raising arm of women's intercollegiate athletics. When the men's and women's athletic departments merged, the Western Athletic Club (WAC) became the fundraising organization for all WIU athletic teams.

In 1980, Diane Bruns ('79 BS) began her career at WIU as an Equipment Attendant and in 1994 became the first ever female Equipment Supervisor for both the men's and women's athletics' programs.

In the 80's, badminton, gymnastics, field hockey and golf were dropped because of a lack of institutional funding.

In 1982, Sheila Cooper (Volleyball) was the first African American head coach of a female sport at WIU.

Kathy Orban ('77 MS) (Coach/Administrator) joined Westerwinds athletics as an assistant field hockey coach in the early 80's. She was promoted to assistant athletic director in January 1985. In 1994, Orban was named Associate Athletic Director for Compliance and took on the role of Senior Women's Administrator until her retirement 16 years later.

1985 – Dr. Helen Smiley came to WIU as a professor and as the second Director of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women.

Coach Miller's 1985 cross country team won the GCAC title and later that same year the indoor and outdoor track and field teams won the 1986 GCAC title. In 1986, Coach Miller worked with an Olympic committee for the Development of Elite Women Hurdlers each year until 1992.

1987 – Patty Murray ('88 BB) became the first-ever Western Illinois University athlete to earn an NCAA Division I national title, winning the 10,000-meter run. That summer, she won a gold medal in the World University Games and a bronze medal in the Pan American Games. She also participated in the 1988 Olympic Trials. Patty still holds six WIU records (4 indoor, 2 outdoor).

1988 – The Westerwinds tennis team, coached by Judy Butterfield, had a string of 25 consecutive GCAC dual wins and won the GCAC title.

In 1984, 1987 and 1989 Coach Veroni's softball teams captured three GCAC titles but were unable to compete at the national tournament because the conference did not have an automatic bid.

Coach Kelly Hill coached 4 basketball members in the 1,000 point club: Robin Hasemann, Gail Dlask, Vicki Adelman and Amy Houtzel and one future Hall of Fame player, Robin Hasemann. Coach Hill was also an assistant coach in the US Olympic Festival in the late 80's.

In June 1989, the men's and women's athletic departments merged into the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. Gil Peterson was named director of athletics for development, and Helen Smiley was named director of athletics for operations.

When men's and women's athletics combined in June 1989, Bonnie Barker was Co-Sports Information Director, responsible for publicizing all of the Westerwinds sports and several of the Leatherneck teams. She held that position until October 1991, when she

moved to the WIU Office of University Relations. During her tenure in the athletic department, Barker also initiated the use of basketball and volleyball courtside computerized statistical programs in the mid-to late-1980s, placing WIU among the frontrunners to use the new technology.

1990s

1990 –The first women were inducted into the WIU Athletics Hall of Fame: Dr. Donna Phillips, former badminton coach, and Laurie Meyers ('77 MS) Potter, standout athlete and coach.

Lee Ann Majerle ('93 MS-ED) Kitchell, a three-year basketball and four-year track and field student-athlete, was named Western's Lincoln Academy of Illinois Student Laureate. The prestigious award, which is presented annually to an outstanding senior from each of Illinois' four-year degree-granting institutions, honors a student's overall academic excellence and extracurricular activities.

July 1992 – The original Gateway College Athletic Conference (GCAC) disbands. Longtime women's rivals Bradley University, Drake University, Illinois State University, Indiana State University, the University of Northern Iowa, Southwest Missouri State University and Wichita State University join their male teams in the Missouri Valley Conference, while Western Illinois joins its men's program in the Mid-Continent Conference. WIU's women's teams were offered the opportunity to continue its affiliation with the women's teams of the Missouri Valley Conference; however, an administrative decision was made to realign with our men's teams.

The GCAC continued to operate with a new name and a new look. The league became the Gateway Football Conference in 1992.

Gateway Collegiate Athletic Conference (GCAC) Tenth Anniversary **All Decade Honorees from WIU**

Basketball	Robin Hasemann ('91 BS-ED)
Cross Country	Patty Murray ('88 BB)
Field Hockey	Melanie Orsi ('85 BA) Williamson
Softball	Brenda Heyl ('88 BB) Hayley
Swim/Dive	Gayle Gessner ('85 BS-ED) Samuels
Tennis	Kathy Gates ('90 BA) Washington
Outdoor Track	Sue Perkins ('86 BS)
Indoor Track	Scyla Murray ('75 BS)
Volleyball	Sue Orstrom ('88 BS)

Coach Juli Kartel's 1992 volleyball team stands as the only Western Illinois Volleyball squad to appear in a conference championship match.

In 1992, Andrea Shane ('92 BS) cross country and track was named the NCAA Woman Athlete of the Year for the state of Illinois.

In 1994, Dr. Helen Smiley was named Director of Athletics. At the time, she was one of very few women to hold that position at the NCAA Division I level. Smiley also served on numerous committees at both the national and conference levels and was named the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) Athletic Director of the Year in 2000. She was a founding organizer of the Mid-Continent Conference and was awarded the league's most prestigious honor – the Commissioner's Award of Merit. The Mid-Continent Conference All-Sport Awards was renamed the Dr. Helen Smiley Women's All-Sport Award in 2001. Dr. Smiley was inducted into the WIU Hall of Fame in 2010.

In 1995, the basketball team won its first Mid-Continent Conference title and competed in its first NCAA tournament under coach Regina Miller. The team's star was forward, Oberon Pitterson ('96 BA), who was named Mid-Continent Conference Player of the Year that same year.

In 1996, Coach Dave Miller's Women's Outdoor Track and Field team won the conference championship. He coached numerous All-American athletes and national qualifiers during his tenure.

In 1996, Susan Edwards ('96 BS) basketball was named the NCAA Woman Athlete of the Year for the state of Illinois.

In 1997, Women's soccer was added as an intercollegiate sport. Ashley Hoch ('10 BS-ED), who played from 2005-2009 is the school's all time points (76), goals (24) and assists leader (28).

The women's swim team, coached by Jerry Champer, won the 1999 conference championship and finished second in the conference in 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98.

From 1992-1998, Coach Veroni's softball teams won the Mid-Continent Conference six times and won a record-setting 37 games in 1995.

In the spring of 1998, softball played its first season at the new Mary Ellen McKee Stadium. A physical education professor for 28 years, until her retirement in 1984, Dr. McKee was a softball umpire for many years and was a dedicated fan of the Westerwinds. She contributed \$65,000 for the facility.

In 1998, Lisa Melz ('95 MS) was hired as the first full-time athletic academic coordinator for both male and female student athletes. In the Fall of 2009, after the retirement of Kathy Orban, she became the Senior Women's Administrator.

2000's

In 2000 and 2001, Coach Veroni's Westerwinds softball teams won back-to-back Mid-Continent Conference titles and competed at the NCAA regional. In the 2000 season, Holly Killion ('08 MS-ED) VanVlymen was a member of the team that won 25 straight games and finished with 46 victories. Veroni was inducted into the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) Hall of Fame in 1998 and the WIU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2007. She ended her career ranked among the top-15 winningest coaches in NCAA history.

In 2000, Holly Killion was named to the 3rd team for both the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) All America team and the GTE Academic All American team.

In July 2001, Dr. Tim Van Alstine was hired as the Director of Athletics. Under Van Alstine, Western's women's teams have won 10 conference championships and 12 "Coach of the Year" accolades.

2001 – Women's golf was reinstated as an intercollegiate sport, raising the number of women's intercollegiate teams to 10. This equaled the number of men's sports and gave Western a total of 20 sports.

Coach Leslie Crane (Basketball) led the Westerwinds to four-straight Mid-Continent Conference Regular Season titles in 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, and 2005-06. She also led Western to a 46-game home winning streak from 2001-2006, the longest in the nation for both men and women during that time. Zane Teilane ('06 BA), the starting center for those teams, still holds many WIU records.

Teilane ('06 BA) was the first ever Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) draft pick from WIU. She was chosen 35th overall by the Detroit Shock in 2006.

In 2005-06, junior golfer Karra Johnson won the Mid-Continent Conference Championship.

2005 – Coach Mike Stevenson's ('91 MS-ED) women's outdoor track and field team won the conference championship. Standout thrower, Aubrey Martin ('06 BS) was a four-time All-American shot putter, eight time Mid-Continent Conference Champion, finished fifth in the NCAA Nationals as a senior and 7th at the 2006 Olympic Trials.

As of June 1, 2007, the Mid-Continent Conference changed its name to The Summit League. "The Summit League provides a mental image to reach for the top, both academically and athletically," Commissioner Tom Douple said. "The new name fits in

perfectly with the Presidents Council's vision for the continued improvement and growth of the league.”

In 2007, Coach Tony Guinn's women's soccer team won the The Summit League conference title.

In Spring 2007, Coach Holly Killion ('08 MS-ED) VanVlymen's softball team won The Mid-Continent Conference championship. In 2008, her team won The Summit League conference tournament and advanced to the NCAA regionals.

ChrisDell Harris ('10 BA) earned all-league in both indoor and outdoor track in 2007-2008 and 2008-2009. She was The Summit League Indoor Champion in 60-meter dash in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10, and the league's Outdoor Champion in 100-meter dash in 2008. Harris also holds the WIU Record in the 60-meter dash.

2009 – Coach VanVlymen's softball team won The Summit League conference title.

In June 2009, the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees voted and approved the unification of the University's nickname and identity as “The Fighting Leathernecks”.

Commissioner's Cup winners

1995-96
1996-97
1998-99
2002-03
2003-04
2004-05

The Commissioner's Cup is given annually to the member institution that collects the most combined points in relationship to placement in league-sponsored sports between its men's and women's athletic programs.

Dr. Helen Smiley All-Sports Award winners

1995-96
1996-97
2002-03
2004-05

The Dr. Helen Smiley All Sports Award is given to the institutions that accumulate the most points in women's sports.

Retired Westerwinds jersey numbers

Basketball

30 Kelle Lindbeck ('84 BS) Oest

Softball

- 13 Brenda Heyl ('90 MBA) Hayley
- 16 Kendra DeRosa ('00 BS), Mindy Dessert ('95 BS)
- 44 Holly Killion ('08 MS-ED) Van Vlymen

Volleyball

- 10 Sue Orstrom ('88 BS)

Past Head Coaches of currently offered WIU women's sports

Basketball – Dr. J.P. Drake (03-05), Dr. L. S. Smith, Dr. Fae Witte, Dr. Mary Ellen McKee, Dr. Aimee Loftin, Dr. Beatrice Yeager (71-82), Terry Check (82-86), Kathy Markey (86), Kelly Hill (87-92), Regina Miller (92-97), Leslie Crane (98-2011)

Golf – Virginia Hayter, Andrea Keene, Lia Biehl Lukkarinen (2005-

Soccer – Jennifer Daniels (1998- , Richard Moeller, Kevin Sherry, Tony Guinn (2006-

Softball – Dr. Aimee Loftin, Valerie Lindbloom, Kathy Veroni (1973-2005), Holly VanVlymen (2005-

Swimming – Julie Seitz Standard (71-77), Julie McGrath Meredith, Nancy Hinrichs ('84 MS), Tom Schweer ('79 MS), Preston Hobbie, Brian Sharar, Jeff Pentzien, Jerry Champer, Kelly Byrne ('02 MS), Nathan Mundt, Sean Raffile, Greg Naumann ('06 MS), (2010-

Tennis – Dr. Delores Hinds, Pam Schroder, Michelle Gelfman, Judy Butterfield, Art Peterson, Dann Nelson, Michael Hunt, Chris Kane (2010-

Track and Field – Julie Seitz Standard (71-75), David Miller, Mike Stevenson, David Beauchem (2010-

Volleyball – Dr. Marion Blackinton (67-71), Lola Westendorf (72-76), Connie Truelove (77-81), Sheila Cooper (82-84), Mike Sapienza (85), Juli Kartel (86-92), Jolene Vinson (93-98), Michelle Gomez (99-01), Kym McKay (2001-

Women in the WIU Athletics Hall of Fame and induction years

Administration – Dr. Marion Blackinton (AD), 1990; Dr. Helen Smiley (AD), 2010; Bernadine Mings (Academic Advising), 1992; Gail Weldon (Athletic Training), 1996

Coaches – Juli Kartel (Volleyball), 2006; Kathy Veroni (Softball, Field Hockey), 2007; Judy Gedney (Gymnastics), 2003; Donna Phillips (Badminton), 1989; Laurie Meyers Potter (Track), 1989, posthumous; Cherie Wenninger Wells (Gymnastics), 1993

Contributor – Kathy Clayton, 2004; Cathy Early, 2003

Basketball – Carol Anderson, 2005; Robin Hasemann, 2003; Kelle Lindbeck Oest, 1994

Field Hockey – Melanie Orsi-Williamson, 2007

Softball – Jackie Crescio, 2008; Sandy Fischer, 1990; Brenda Heyl Hayley, 2000; Gail Scott, 2001; Venus Taylor, 2009

Swimming – Diane Heydt, 1999; Nancy Hinrichs, 1993; Gayle Gessner Samuels, 2008

Tennis – Kathy Gates Washington, 2000; Mary McGeehan, 2002

Track and Cross Country – Pame ‘La Ashford, 2004; Beverly Roland-Enslow, 1997; Patty Murray, 1995; Scyla Murray, 2005; Sue Perkins, 2006; Sheila Barney Shannon, 2001; Kathy Turley, 2002

Volleyball – Diane Ellefritz, 2005; Linda Miskovic, 2004; Daralyn Niedospial-Duffy, 2009; Susan Orstrom, 2000

Multiple Sports –

Wendy Hedberg (Softball, Basketball, Field Hockey), 1997

Robin Lindley McConnell (Basketball, Softball), 1995

Lauren Hoge Meachem (Badminton, Tennis), 1996

Pat Stoffel (Softball, Basketball), 1999

Laurie Meyers Potter (Track/Cross Country, Field Hockey, Swimming, Track Coach), 1989, posthumous.

Monica Malone Pontow (Badminton, Volleyball), 2005

Robin Bender McGowan (Badminton, Softball), 2000

Jean Rezny (Badminton, Golf), 1994

WIU Professional female athletes:

(Basketball) Zane Teilane ('06 BA)

(Golf) Lia Biehl Lukkarinen, coach

(Softball) Sandy Fischer ('75 BS), Holly Killion ('08 MS-ED) Van Vlymen, Wendi Krejca ('01 MS) Neal, Cara Johnson-Hirsch ('98 BA), Venus Taylor ('98 BS), Kathy Veroni.

(Track) ChrisDell Harris ('10 BS) (Nike contract)

WIU female Olympians:

(Basketball) Zane Teilane ('06 BA), Latvia

(Softball) Kara McGaw ('90 BS), Canada

(Softball) Dr. Dot Richardson, USA

WIU female All Americans:

(Track) Aubrey Martin ('06 BS) Shot put

(Track) Jennifer Gilson ('06 BS-ED) Shot put

WIU female National Team members:

(Soccer) Ali Smyth, Demi Vance (Northern Ireland)

(Soccer) Loes Geurts (Holland)

(Softball) Kamren Ferguson (Puerto Rico)

Sources: The Sequel, The Western Courier, The Macomb Journal, The Purple and the Gold by Dr. Victor Hicken, A First Century by Dr. John E. Hallwas, Malpass Library Archives, WIU Sports Information and WIU Media Services, Bonnie Barker's writing regarding history of women's athletics, Kathy Veroni (2002, revised 2007 "The Rich History and Tradition of Women's Athletics at Western Illinois University: A Partial History").