

NIU ANNUAL REPORT



NIU Athletics presents,
Victor E. Ball



2015-16

FROM THE DIRECTOR



FROM THE DESK OF SEAN T. FRAZIER

What a tremendous year for NIU Athletics in 2015-16!

On behalf of our over 400 student-athletes, our head coaches and staff at NIU Athletics, I would like to say THANK YOU! Let's take a look back at some of the many outstanding accomplishments for the Huskies during this past year.

One of the main pillars of focus at NIU is student success. Our student-athletes were extremely successful this past year in the classroom. The cumulative GPA of all our student-athletes was 3.14 and once again NIU led the MAC in Graduation Success Rate (GSR) at 86 percent. That is outstanding, and I applaud their efforts as well as those of our academic staff, but we have set our goals even higher for the upcoming year. Our teams are all very proud to be a part of this University and this community. Our continuous outreach and service efforts also reached an all-time high and are just a small way for us to say thank you to this community for their tremendous support.

What a year it's been! We have not only accomplished great things in the classroom, in the community, and in competition. NIU Football continued to punch its ticket to Detroit by winning the MAC West title for a record sixth straight season, the NIU Volleyball team won the MAC regular season championship, the softball program won the MAC West division championship, and the men's basketball program won 20 games for the first time since 1991 and qualified for the inaugural Vegas 16 post-season tournament. We are extremely proud of our student-athletes, coaches and staff and look to build on these successes in the 2016-17 seasons.

In the ever-changing landscape of intercollegiate athletics, your support is vital to maintaining NIU's place nationally as a top institution of academic and athletic success. Together, with our combined commitment to this institution, community, and student-athletes, we will continue to accomplish great things. We will move the agenda forward and cement the legacy of this wonderful university.

The 2015-16 Huskie Athletics Annual Report showcases what we are all about in athletics, real effort and positive outcomes. We expect even greater success in the upcoming seasons.

Thank you again for your commitment and support of our student-athletes and all of NIU Athletics!

Go Huskies,

Sean T. Frazier
Associate Vice President/Director of Athletics
Northern Illinois University

2015-16 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Huskies Honored.....	3
Victor E. Ball	4
Academic Success	5
In the Community	6
Honoring Tradition	7
Strategic Plan Update.....	8
Championship Course.....	9
Revenues & Expenses.....	10
Tremendous Support.....	11
Football.....	12
Volleyball.....	13
Cross Country.....	14
Women's Soccer	15
Men's Soccer	16
Women's Basketball	17
Men's Basketball.....	18
Gymnastics	19
Wrestling.....	20
Women's Golf.....	21
Men's Golf	22
Women's Tennis.....	23
Men's Tennis	24
Softball	25
Baseball	26
Track & Field.....	27
2015 Donors	28-30

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Men's Tennis, Women's
Tennis



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Football



LISA STOCKSDALE

Senior Administrative
Assistant

Director of Personnel



NIU HUSKIES HONORED

2016 Recipient of the NCAA-MOAA Award for Diversity and Inclusion

• The Northern Illinois University Department of Intercollegiate Athletics was named the recipient of the 2016 NCAA and Minority Opportunities Athletic Association (MOAA) Award for Diversity and Inclusion, in December and was presented with the honor at the NCAA Convention in January. The award recognizes initiatives, policies and practices of universities and/or athletic conference offices that embrace diversity and inclusion.



• NIU Athletics earned the award for its campus programs and partnerships in the community and its efforts to keep diversity and inclusion as a priority. Athletics recently revised its departmental vision statement to reflect a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion and dedicated one of its core values purposely to inclusion.

• NIU Associate Vice President and Director of Athletics Sean T. Frazier co-chaired NIU's inaugural diversity and inclusion task force co-presented an inaugural campus workshop called *The NIU Experience: A Journey of Discovery into Affirmative Action, Diversity & Equal Opportunity*; and appointed staff within athletics to monitor diversity, inclusion and equity. Athletics also hosted a campus conference on diversity and formed a task force to work on projects in this area.

• NIU Athletics provides its staff and campus administrators with professional development opportunities to include training seminars on Title IX and diversity/inclusion topics which are facilitated by external constituents and NIU's affirmative action staff. The group has also hosted webinars that cover gender and sexuality topics.

• At the 2016 National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) Convention in Dallas in June NIU staff, including Frazier, Senior Associate Athletic Director Jerome Rodgers and Associate Athletic Director Monique Bernoudy presented a seminar on NIU's Diversity and Inclusion efforts to their peers.



"Diversity and inclusion are core values of NIU. They are among the university's greatest strengths, and Sean and NIU Athletics are leaders on our campus and in our community in the area of diversity and inclusion."

– NIU President Doug Baker



Northern Illinois University and NIU Athletics celebrated the NCAA/MOAA Award for Diversity and Inclusion throughout 2015-16.

NIU INAUGURAL VICTOR E. BALL

• In the spring of 2015, an idea to hold a premiere event that would raise funds to benefit Northern Illinois University student-athletes was born. Eight months later, on the evening of November 7, 2015, the idea came to fruition as months of planning, meetings and hard work culminated in the **inaugural Victor E. Ball**. The black tie gala that benefitted and celebrated Huskie student-athletes and the NIU Athletics program was the brainchild of Associate Vice President and Director of Athletics Sean T. Frazier.

• All told, the live and silent auction totals for the Victor E. Ball far surpassed the \$50,000 goal. Overall net for the inaugural event generated more than **\$181,000**.

• More than **200 guests** joined NIU President Doug Baker, Frazier, the Huskie head coaches and student-athletes representing every sports program in a beautiful venue, **the Pavilion at Rich Harvest Farms** in Sugar Grove, Illinois.

• Guests enjoyed a cocktail hour in the atrium of the Pavilion, where the 80-plus items that had been made available through the silent auction were on display. The menu of high end Italian fare set the stage for a powerful program that was seamlessly led by emcee Dave Kaplan of Comcast SportsNet Chicago and radio station ESPN 1000.

• Kaplan and featured speaker Tom Izzo, head basketball coach of the Michigan State Spartans and one of the most accomplished coaches in intercollegiate athletics, generously volunteered their time to NIU for the Victor E. Ball. Izzo's tie to NIU runs through men's basketball coach Mark Montgomery, a long-time Izzo assistant at MSU.



Chicago TV and radio personality, and former NIU men's basketball assistant coach Dave Kaplan, did a fantastic job as the emcee at the inaugural Victor E. Ball.



MORE THAN

\$181,000

RAISED



Michigan State men's basketball head coach, Tom Izzo, (center) was the keynote speaker. Izzo hit many themes that resonated with both donors and student-athletes.



Several Huskie student-athletes, including Latesha Bigby of women's track & field, told their incredible personal stories to the room of Huskie supporters.

NIU ACADEMIC SUCCESS

- For the third year in a row, NIU Athletics ranks tops in the Mid-American Conference and among the national leaders in the most important statistic of all — graduating its student-athletes. According to the NCAA's Graduation Success Rate (GSR) report for 2015, NIU's 87 percent mark is four points above the national average for Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) schools.

- Each of Northern Illinois University's sport programs surpassed the academic progress standards set by the NCAA through its Academic Progress Rate (APR) measurement for the 10th consecutive year. Three Huskie teams — men's tennis, women's tennis and women's gymnastics — recorded perfect 1,000 multi-year APR scores and received the NCAA's Public Recognition Award for 2015-16.

- Six NIU teams finished with a perfect 100 percent GSR, while 13 Huskie programs finished above the NCAA FBS average for the 2014-15 GSR.

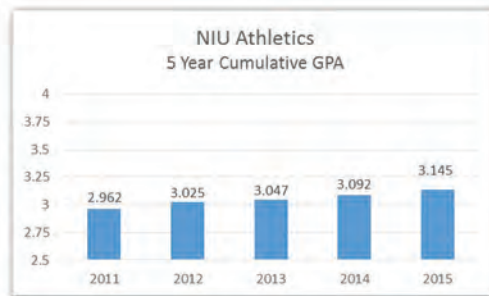
- Emily Naegele, a catcher on the NIU softball team, garnered CoSIDA Academic All-America® honors. With Naegele's selection to this year's team, NIU has placed five student-athletes on the first team in five different sports since 2010.

- Drew Hare (football) and Emily Naegele (softball) were honored with the MAC Medal of Excellence, given to student-athletes who exhibit academic and athletic excellence, leadership and service.

- NIU student-athletes posted a 3.14 cumulative grade point average and 13 teams scored a team GPA above 3.0 during the 2015-16 academic year.



NIU senior catcher Emily Naegele became the first Huskie softball player to earn first-team Academic All-America honors since 1995.

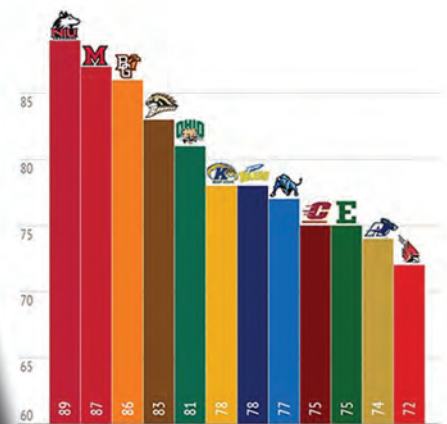


The NIU men's tennis team led all Huskie sports programs with a 3.682 cumulative GPA in 2015-16.

58

NIU student-athletes
earned their degrees
in 2015-16.

Travon Baker of men's basketball walked across the stage at the Convocation Center to receive his degree from NIU President Dr. Doug Baker.



NIU ranks first in the MAC in the 2015 All Sports Graduation Success Rate (GSR).

NIU IN THE COMMUNITY

- Northern Illinois University student-athletes performed over 5,000 hours of community service, averaging 12.4 hours during the 2015-16 academic year.

- Huskie student-athletes worked 58 different events with a wide variety of organizations in 2015-16 including – elementary schools, the DeKalb Senior Center, Kishwaukee YMCA, Salvation Army, TAILS Humane Society Adopt-A-Thon, Kite Fest, Corn Fest, Feed'em Soup and Feed My Starving Children.

- For the third straight year, the NIU women's basketball team hosted local elementary students on Education Day at the Convocation Center. Educational messages and questions were delivered by members of the NIU women's basketball team on the video board throughout the game. The Huskies defeated Miami, 92-73, in the midday match up.

- NIU Athletics continued its annual campaign to raise awareness for breast cancer as several teams wore pink at events throughout the course of the year. NIU volleyball and women's basketball teams wore their pink uniforms, while the Huskie football team displayed pink logos on their helmets. In the spring, the NIU softball team played host to Western Michigan in its StrikeOut Cancer Game, a nationwide initiative of the National Fastpitch Coaches Association.

- Associate Vice President/Director of Athletics Sean T. Frazier and Huskie coaches and administrators went out to meet the public in the third annual Huskie Summer Circuit. The Huskies made stops at Chicago, Schaumburg, Rockford and Aurora. Huskie fans got an insider's look at what is new and exciting with NIU Athletics.



The NIU baseball team paired up with the Chicago White Sox and KaBOOM! to help build a playground in the inner city. White Sox great Harold Baines and current Sox players Trayce Thompson and Tyler Saldino were there to lend a hand as well.



From fun fairs to reading days and welcome events, Huskie student-athletes take part in many activities at local elementary schools in the DeKalb-Sycamore area.

MORE THAN

5,000

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

COMMUNITY SERVICE LEADERS

(Hours per student-athlete)

Top 5 Teams

Baseball	27.94
Women's Golf	23.20
Women's Tennis	20.64
Softball	21.72
Track/Cross Country	12.40

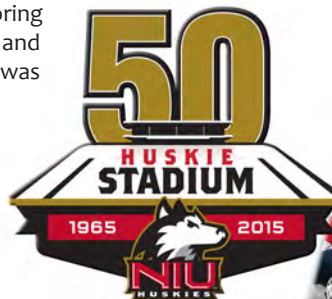


NIU HONORING TRADITION

From celebrating the anniversary of NIU's oldest athletics facility, honoring former NIU student-athletes who gave their life in service of their country and immortalizing one of NIU's greatest men's basketball players, Huskie tradition was on full display in 2015-16.

50th Anniversary of Huskie Stadium

- The 2015 football season marked the 50th Anniversary of Northern Illinois University's Huskie Stadium, the on-campus facility that has been the site of 163 wins by the NIU football team over the last 50 seasons, four MAC Championship teams and many of the greatest players in school history.



- As part of the yearlong celebration, NIU named the Top 50 Huskie players in stadium history, as selected by individual vote of a 13-person committee whose experience with Huskie Football collectively dates back 100s of years. To no one's surprise, Heisman Trophy finalist Jordan Lynch was named No. 1.



World War II Plaque Rededication

- A fully-restored plaque honoring eight NIU student-athletes, who made the supreme sacrifice during World War II, was rededicated at the NIU Convocation Center in October. The walnut plaque with brass nameplates was removed from the north lobby of Chick Evans Fieldhouse when NIU moved into the Convocation Center in 2002.

- In disrepair after more than 50 years of display, the plaque was placed in storage where it remained until the restoration project began in 2014. The restoration of the plaque, coordinated by NIU Athletics, was a joint effort between NIU's Architectural and Engineering Services Department, the Furniture Repair Shop and NIU's School of Visual Arts.



Jim Bradley Photo Display Unveiled

- NIU Athletics unveiled a multi-layered display at the Convocation Center to permanently commemorate the October 1971 Sports Illustrated photoshoot of NIU Basketball "Player of the Century," Jim Bradley, by world-renowned sports photographer Heinz Kluetmeier. Bradley was photographed by Kluetmeier for Sports Illustrated's "1971-72 College Basketball" issue in a cornfield west of campus.

- One of the images captured that day was featured as a full-page photo in the publication's November 29, 1971 issue, thrusting NIU's young basketball program into the national spotlight. Kluetmeier also captured several other images of Bradley that day which were never seen by the public – for nearly 45 years – until NIU received permission to use them for the display.



The Jim Bradley photo display unveiling was attended by special guests, including Bradley's son – Jamahl Fitzgerald – other family members and former teammates.

2015 Hall of Fame Class

- The 32nd class of the NIU Athletics Hall of Fame was inducted Oct. 9, 2015 as part of a weekend of festivities. The 2015 induction class included (from left to right): Bob Gregolunas (Football, 1973-75), Ben Heizer (Wrestling, 2001-04), Sandy Menard (Women's Gymnastics, 1995-98), Michael Turner (Football, 2000-03), Dr. Lou Jean Moyer (Women's Athletics Pioneer, 1962-92; Volleyball Coach, 1970-74), Scott Owen (Wrestling, 1999-2003) and Charmonique Stallworth (Women's Basketball, 1992-96).



NIU STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

NIU Athletics Mission Statement

The mission of NIU Athletics is to enhance the University, community and region through service and engagement while developing champions in the classroom, in competition and in life.

NIU Athletics Vision Statement

The vision of NIU Athletics is to be a nationally-recognized NCAA Division I program that wins championships and graduates student-athletes with integrity while engaging a diverse community.

Strategic Plan Goals Accomplished 2015-16

In June of 2015, the NIU Department of Athletics released its Strategic Plan for 2015-18, outlining the path to success the coaches, staff and administration have embarked upon in leading Huskie Athletics into the future. The Strategic Plan, and NIU's progress toward addressing the critical issues and accomplishing its goals, is evaluated throughout the year.

Over the past year, NIU has made measurable progress in accomplishing the following goals, which are associated with one of the four critical issues identified in the strategic planning process.

Critical Issues

Collaboration, Engagement & Planning

Engage constituents through collaboration, service, events and success. Design and implement department-wide planning practices that ensure the effective alignment of priorities and resources.

1. Align NIU Athletics with the University's mission, vision and strategic plan while implementing communication strategies to enhance campus collaboration.
2. Develop strategies that strengthen partnerships between the University, Community, and the Northern Illinois Region.
3. Implement quality control and management systems that ensure continuous assessment of our strategic plan.

Championship Standards

1. Attract/retain quality student-athletes, staff, coaches, and provide a positive experience while fostering an inclusive environment.
2. Promote the University and NIU Athletics' reputation both internally and externally.

Financial Sustainability

1. Improve the fan experience to generate further awareness and increase attendance at sporting and Convocation Center events.
2. Maximize current relationships and non-traditional methods to realize additional revenue streams.

Student-Athlete Experience

1. Inspire student-athlete leadership development.
2. Meet and exceed student-athlete well-being standards.
3. Provide optimal SA support services & programming through an infrastructure while preparing for life after graduation.
4. Strengthen athletics brand through student-athlete engagement with campus and community.



CORE VALUES

NIU F.A.M.I.L.Y.

Forward

Accountability

Maximize

Inclusive

Legacy

You!

NIU CHAMPIONSHIP COURSE

- In January of 2015, the NCAA Golf Committees announced Northern Illinois University and its home course Rich Harvest Farms will host the 2017 NCAA Men's and Women's Golf Championships. Over the past year, preparations have intensified ahead of this historic event.

- NIU Athletics and Rich Harvest Farms are currently seeking volunteers who are looking to get involved with the championships, which will be televised by The Golf Channel. A volunteer sign-up form and as well as ticket information will be available on NIUHuskies.com.

- The 2017 NCAA Men's and Women's Golf Championships will be the first NCAA Championship final NIU will host since becoming a major college program in 1969. The women's championship will be held May 18-24, 2017, followed by the men's finals May 25-31.

- Rich Harvest Farms, named one of America's 100 greatest golf courses by Golf Digest Magazine, was the site of NCAA Men's Regionals in 2007 and 2014. In addition, Rich Harvest Farms has been the site of the 2015 Palmer Cup and 2015 Western Amateur.



One of the flags as you enter Rich Harvest Farms proudly boasts the course's affiliation with NIU's golf programs.

"The NCAA Championships provide a wonderful opportunity for us to showcase Northern Illinois University and our partnership. NIU hasn't had the honor yet to host an NCAA Championship for any sport, so we are thrilled to be a part of this moment in NIU history."

– Jerry Rich, NIU alum & owner of Rich Harvest Farms



The NCAA's top golfers will enjoy scenic holes such as Covered Bridge (top) and challenging tee boxes like the one found on Devil's Elbow (left).

NIU REVENUES & EXPENSES

EXPLANATION OF FUNDING SOURCES

In 2015-16 (Fiscal Year 2016), NIU Athletics Funding Sources came from seven primary categories.

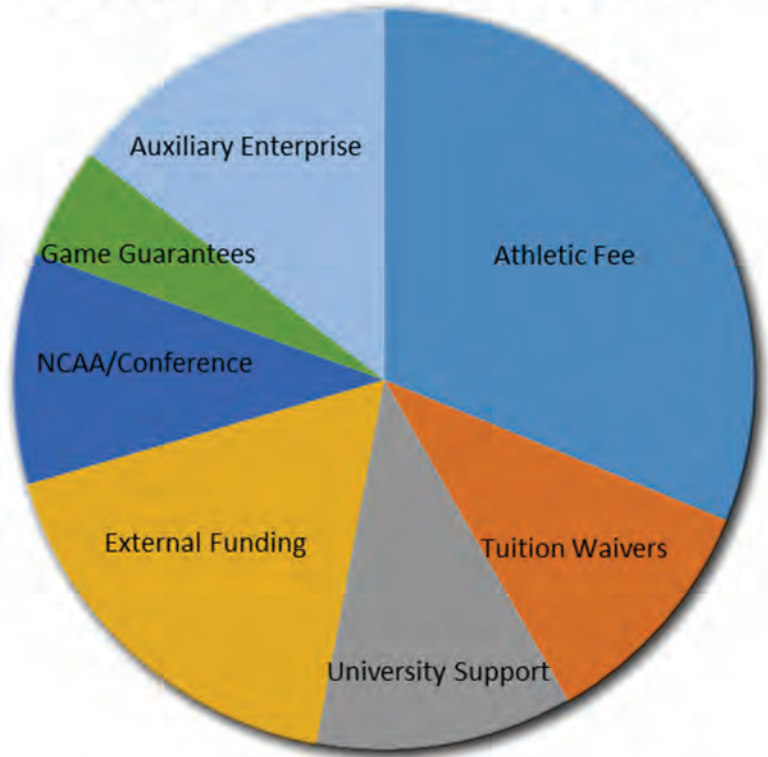
“External Funding” refers to revenues collected from ticket sales, licensing revenue, multimedia rights and donations received through the Huskie Athletic Fund, all premium areas and endowment distributions, as well as income collected through parking and concessions.

“Game Guarantees” are paid by opposing teams and include all sports’ contracts.

“NCAA/Conference” refers to funds provided to institutions across the country by the National Collegiate Athletic Association through the Student-Athlete Opportunity Fund, the Academic Enhancement Fund, as well as distributions from the Mid-American Conference.

“Auxiliary Enterprise” is the net operating revenue and expenses from the Convocation Center and Huskie Stadium and is new to this year’s report. These are bonded facilities and have some different institutional rules.

FUNDING SOURCES



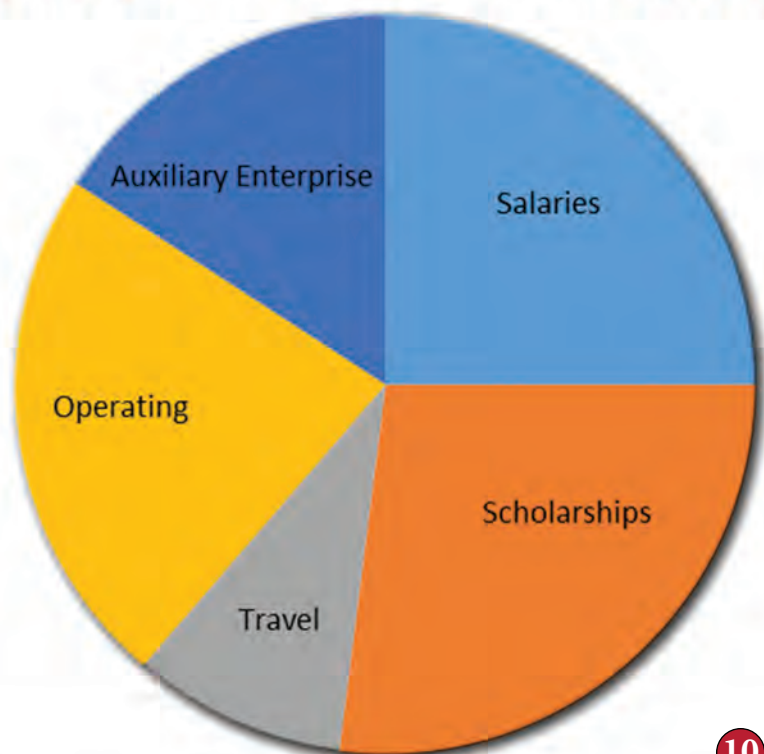
Source	Amount	Pct.
Athletic Fee	9,223,543.00	31%
Auxiliary Enterprise	4,311,259.00	15%
University Support	3,322,615.00	11%
Tuition Waivers	3,110,578.00	11%
External Funding	5,178,120.00	18%
Game Guarantees	1,445,464.00	5%
NCAA/Conference	2,979,766.00	10%

29,571,345.00

Use	Amount	Pct.
Salaries	7,561,849.00	25%
Scholarships	8,167,727.00	27%
Travel	2,819,274.00	9%
Operating	6,908,742.00	23%
Auxiliary Enterprise	4,787,324.00	16%

30,244,915.00

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

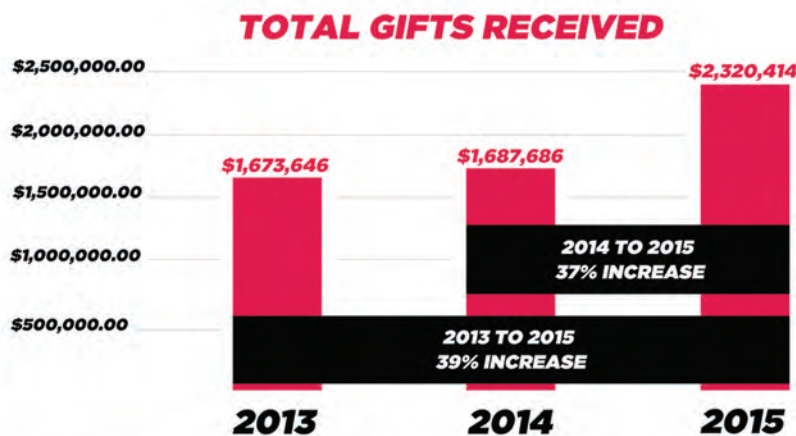


NIU REMENDOUS SUPPORT

- The **Huskie Athletic Fund**, the official fundraising unit of Northern Illinois University Athletics, enjoyed another banner year in 2015, raising a new record **\$2,320,414** in cash and commitments (gift-in-kind) to support NIU student-athletes.
- The Huskie Athletic Fund introduced the BUILD THE FUTURE campaign in January 2016, a movement aimed at sharing stories of student-athlete well-being and success.
- Thanks to the support of NIU's generous donors, the Huskie Athletic Fund surpassed the **\$2 million** mark in annual donations for the first time ever in 2015. The success of NIU Athletics' efforts to get fans, alumni and members of the community engaged has resulted in the Huskies being able to directly support student-athletes in greater numbers than ever before.
- At both Huskie Stadium and the NIU Convocation Center, **premium seating** options were once again a successful component of the fan experience. Premium area giving increased **19%** from year-end 2014 to year-end 2015. The revenue from these areas goes directly to support NIU student-athletes.
- Men's Basketball premium seating **sold out** in 2015-16, and as a result NIU Athletics has added additional courtside seating. These additions will both enhance the game-day experience while also providing critical revenue to support NIU student-athletes.
- Donor giving increased an average of **\$581** per account in 2015.



NIU Associate Vice President/Director of Athletics Sean T. Frazier expressed his gratitude to Huskie supporters at the inaugural Victor E. Ball.



NIU coaches and staff get a chance to meet and thank donors personally at various social events throughout the year, including the Huskie Summer Circuit.

2015-16 NIU CORPORATE SPONSORS

NIU would like to thank the 53 companies listed here for their sponsorship of Huskie Athletics in 2015-16. Through agreements with NIU's multimedia partner, Learfield Sports, these businesses, corporations and organizations from throughout the region are instrumental in supporting the continued growth of the NIU Athletics program.

Allstate Insurance	DeKalb Taylor Municipal Airport	Illinois National Guard	Quality Inn – Sycamore, Illinois
American Realty	Edward Jones Investments	Ken Spears Construction	Rixon Custom Equipment Company
Aramark Uniform Services	Elburn Cooperative Company	Kish Health System, A Part of Northwestern Medicine	Schuring & Schuring Distributors
Athletico	Fatty's Pub & Grille	Land of Lincoln Health	Shaw Media
Barnaby Printing Services	Finest Furniture	Law Office of Amato & Sheen, PC	Supercuts
Baymont Inn & Suites	First Midwest Bank (formerly NB&T)	Lukulos	TCF Bank
Berg Industries	First National Bank	Mason Properties	Tool Time Rental
Blackhawk Moving & Storage Inc.	Frontier Communications	Midwest Orthopedic Institute	Top Golf of Naperville
Blain's Farm & Fleet	Heartland Bank	Molly's	Turner Law Offices
Buffalo Wild Wings	Holiday Inn Express – Rochelle, Illinois	NISSAN Car Dealers	UPS
Comfort Inn & Suites – Rochelle, Illinois	Holiday Inn Express & Suites – Sycamore, Illinois	NIU Career Services	Village Commons Bookstore
The Cosentino Law Firm	Hy-Vee	NIU Student Association	Vinny's Pizza
DeKalb Sycamore Chevrolet		Northern Rehab	Waste Management
Cadillac GMC		Pardridge Insurance	WLBK Radio

NIU FOOTBALL

8-6 Overall // 4-2 MAC // MAC West Champions // 2015 Poinsettia Bowl

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- The Huskies won its sixth-consecutive Mid-American Conference West Division Championship to tie Marshall (1987-2002) for the most division titles by any school in Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) history.
- NIU extended its MAC record for consecutive bowl appearances to eight when they faced Boise State in the 2015 San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl.
- The Huskies boast a MAC-best 86 percent Graduation Success Rate as measured by the NCAA. The Huskie football program leads the MAC by 12 percentage points and is tied for 11th nationally among all FBS programs.
- A league-leading eight Huskies earned first-team All-MAC honors in 2015, including kickoff return man Aregeros Turner (Akron, Ohio), who was named the MAC Special Teams Player of the Year after breaking the NIU single season records for kickoffs and kickoff return yards.
- Sophomore Shawun Lurry (West Palm Beach, Fla.) earned first team All-America honors from the Football Writers Association of America, second team accolades from the Walter Camp Football Foundation and was a third team Associated Press All-American.

SEASON HONORS

All-American

Shawun Lurry	So.	CB	First Team, FWAA Second Team, Walter Camp Third Team, AP Honorable Mention, SI.com
Max Scharping	Fr.-RS	RT	Freshman, FWAA

All-MAC

Joel Bouagnon	Jr.	TB	First Team
Aidan Conlon	Sr.-RS	LG	First Team
Christian Hagan	So.	K	First Team
Perez Ford	Sr.	DE	First Team
Shawun Lurry	So.	CB	First Team
Boomer Mays	Sr.-RS	LB	First Team
Andrew Ness	Sr.-RS	C	First Team
Aregeros Turner	Jr.	WR/KOR	First Team
Kenny Golladay	Jr.-RS	WR	Second Team
Levon Myers	Jr.-RS	LT	Second Team
Marlon Moore	Sr.	S	Third Team

MAC Specialty Awards

Aregeros Turner	Jr.	KOR	Special Teams Player of the Year
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ACADEMIC HONORS

Academic All-MAC

Cameron Clinton-Earl, Shane Evans, Ryan Graham, Christian Hagan, Drew Hare, Bobby Jones IV, William Lee, Andrew Ness, Alex Schwab, Max Scharping, Luke Shively and Shane Wimann.

Distinguished Scholar-Athletes

Cameron Clinton-Earl, Christian Hagan, Drew Hare, Andrew Ness, Max Scharping and Shane Wimann.

SHAWUN LURRY

First Team All-American, FWAA

Second Team All-American, Walter Camp

Third Team All-American, AP

Honorable Mention All-American, SI.com



SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- NIU won its second Mid-American Conference regular season Championship in the last five seasons, with a 14-2 MAC record.
- The Huskies advanced to the MAC Tournament Championship match for the seventh time in program history and the first time since 2012.
- NIU swept Ohio to end the Bobcats 33-match conference-winning streak on Homecoming, 3-0.
- Senior Alexis “Pookie” Gonzalez (Fresno, Calif.) finished her career second all-time in assists with 4,793. She also ranks No. 10 in Mid-American Conference history in assists.
- Gonzalez became the second Huskie to be named MAC Setter of the Year, while T’ara Austin (Joliet, Ill.) earned MAC Player of the Year recognition.

SEASON HONORS

All-Region

T’ara Austin	Jr.	OH	First Team AVCA Midwest Region
Jenna Radtke	Jr.	MB	Honorable Mention AVCA Midwest Region

All-MAC

T’ara Austin	Jr.	OH	First Team
Alexis Gonzalez	Sr.	S	First Team
Jenna Radtke	Jr.	MB	First Team
Lauren Zielinski	Jr.	MB	First Team

MAC Specialty Awards

T’ara Austin	Jr.	OH	MAC Player of the Year
Anna Brereton	So.	DS/L	MAC All-Tournament Team
Alexis Gonzalez	Sr.	S	MAC Setter of the Year
			MAC All-Tournament Team
Meg Wolowicz	Fr.	MB	MAC All-Freshman Team
Ray Gooden			MAC Coach of the Year

ACADEMIC HONORS

Academic All-MAC

Anna Brereton, Paige Dacanay, Mary Grace Kelly, Taylor Krage and Lauren Zielinski.

Distinguished Scholar-Athletes

Anna Brereton, Mary Grace Kelly and Lauren Zielinski.

ALEXIS GONZALEZ

MAC Setter of the Year

First Team All-MAC

MAC All-Tournament Team

NIU CROSS COUNTRY

7th at MAC Championships // 24th at NCAA Regionals

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- NIU finished seventh at the MAC Cross Country Championships, the program's highest finish ever.
- Kelsey Hildreth (Byron, Ill.) earned first team All-MAC honors for the second straight year after finishing second at the 2015 MAC Championships, while freshman Ericka Hibser (Lewistown, Ill.) also earned second team All-MAC at the event.
- The Huskies claimed 24th at the NCAA Midwest Regionals despite running the meet without Hildreth, who was out due to injury.
- Four Huskies were named to the Academic All-MAC Team, including MAC Distinguished Scholar Athletes Hildreth and Carly Pederson (Bloomington, Ill.), along with Lorena Martin (Salamanca, Spain) and Taylor Perkins (Lakeville, Minn.).

SEASON HONORS

All-MAC

Kelsey Hildreth	So.	First Team
Ericka Hibser	Fr.	Second Team

ACADEMIC HONORS

Academic All-MAC

Kelsey Hildreth, Lorena Martin, Carly Pederson and Taylor Perkins.

Distinguished Scholar-Athletes

Kelsey Hildreth and Carly Pederson.

KELSEY HILDRETH

First Team All-MAC

NIU WOMEN'S SOCCER

3-12-3 Overall // 2-6-3 MAC

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- NIU finished the season on a four-game unbeaten streak to tie for eighth place in the MAC, the program's fourth consecutive top-eight finish.
- Midfielder Lauren Gierman (Prospect Heights, Ill.) was named First Team All-MAC, NIU's first selection since 2010.
- Gierman led the Huskies with 15 points as a sophomore on six goals and three assists.
- NIU earned ties in the regular season against Miami and Western Michigan, the two teams who played in the MAC Championship Game.
- The Huskies beat Bowling Green and Toledo in conference play – both with 2-0 victories.

SEASON HONORS

All-MAC

Lauren Gierman So. M First Team

ACADEMIC HONORS

Academic All-MAC

Amy Annala, Haley Cummings, Alex Elias, Lauren Gierman, Jess Wooldridge, Ashley Auble, Nicole Gobbo, Marisa Knott, Mackenzie Lewis, Delaney Loprieno, Cassidy Page, Natalia Pena, Jackie Wandt and Kate Wirthlin.

Distinguished Scholar-Athletes

Amy Annala, Haley Cummings, Alex Elias, Lauren Gierman and Jess Wooldridge.

LAUREN GIERMAN

First Team All-MAC

NIU MEN'S SOCCER

7-7-1 Overall // 1-3-1 MAC

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- NIU earned four National Team of the Week honors. Luke Read (Ilford, England) was named to the Top Drawer Soccer National Team of the Week on Sept. 15 and Oct. 6, along with the College Soccer News National Team of the Week on Sept. 14. Richard Hall (Billericay, England) was named to the College Soccer News National Team of the Week on Aug. 31.
- Kevin Rodriguez (Pasadena, Texas) was named the MAC Freshman of the Year, NIU's third Freshman of the Year all-time and first since 2006.
- NIU tied a school-record with four overtime wins in 2015 as the Huskies were a perfect 4-0 in games that went to overtime.
- Read was named to the All-MAC second team, becoming NIU's first defender to win all-conference honors since 2011.
- The Huskies recorded a new single-game high with 21 corner kicks in a victory against Eastern Illinois (Sept. 29). The mark broke the previous record of 18 set in 2008 versus Eastern Illinois.

SEASON HONORS

All-MAC

Luke Read	So.	D	Second Team
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MAC Specialty Awards

Kevin Rodriguez	Fr.	M	MAC Freshman of the Year
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ACADEMIC HONORS

Academic All-MAC

Taylor Cole, Giovanni Garcia, Andrew Glaeser, Richard Hall and Luke Read.

Distinguished Scholar-Athletes

Richard Hall

LUKE READ

Third Team NSCAA All-Great Lakes Region

Second Team All-MAC

NIU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

11-19 Overall // 4-14 MAC

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- First-year Head Coach Lisa Carlsen led the Huskies to a 7-4 mark in non-conference games, their best record in non-conference since 2006-07.
- Ally Lehman (Nineveh, Ind.) set the single season record for rebounds (329) to lead the MAC and was the second-best rebounding guard in the country (11.0 RPG).
- Lehman also tied the single-game record for points in a game at Western Michigan on Feb. 24, scoring 41 points with 12 rebounds to lead NIU to an 80-70 victory.
- The Huskies rallied from deficits of 10-or-more points three times during the season, including a 15-point first-half deficit against Drake.
- Trailing Buffalo, 74-73, with 0.8 seconds left in the game, Courtney Woods (Brisbane, Australia) drained a three-pointer at the buzzer to give NIU the win.

SEASON HONORS

All-MAC

Ally Lehman Jr. G Third Team

ACADEMIC HONORS

Academic All-MAC

Georgia Breunig, Cassidy Glenn, Lacia Gorman, Amber Gray and Kelly Smith.

Distinguished Scholar-Athletes

Lacia Gorman and Kelly Smith.

ALLY LEHMAN

Third Team All-MAC

NIU MEN'S BASKETBALL

21-13 Overall // 9-9 MAC

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- NIU made its fourth postseason appearance, and first since 1996, when the Huskies played in the inaugural Vegas 16 Tournament.
- NIU's 21 victories are tied for the second-most in school history and were the most since the 1990-91 season when the Huskies won a school-record 25 games.
- Senior guard Travon Baker (Detroit, Mich.) set a school-record with 184 career steals. He played in a school-record 126 games, never missing a game in his Huskie career, and finished second in NIU history with 357 career steals.
- The Huskies went 18-1 at home, setting a new school-record for home wins in a season. NIU won its first 13 home games of the year to set a new school record for consecutive home wins as the Huskies won 15-straight home games dating back to the 2014-15 season.
- NIU led the MAC in field goal percentage defense (40.4 percent), rebounding offense (39.1 per game) and rebounding margin (+4.3).
- NIU set new single season records for three-point field goals made (238) and assists (475).

SEASON HONORS

All-MAC

Marin Maric	So.-RS	C	Third Team
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MAC Specialty Awards

Aaric Armstead	Jr.	G	MAC All-Defensive Team
Marshawn Wilson	Fr.	G	MAC All-Freshman Team

Chuks Iroebgu	Sr.-RS	G	Dark Horse Dunker Quarterfinals
Mark Montgomery			Hugh Durham Midseason National Coach of the Year

AARIC ARMSTEAD

MAC All-Defensive Team

NIU GYMNASTICS

9-10 Overall // 2-4 MAC // 6th at MAC Championships // Four NCAA Qualifiers

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- NIU gymnasts set the school record for scoring average, posting a 194.288 in 12 meets, including a season-high 195.475 at Bowling Green.
- The Huskie gymnastics program received its fourth NCAA APR Public Recognition Award with a perfect score of 1.000. The award honors teams with multiyear Academic Progress Rates in the top 10 percent of their sport.
- A team-record six gymnasts qualified for the NCAA Regionals, four as individual competitors and two alternates.
- The Huskie bars squad set the school record, posting a 49.275 against Ball State and Seattle Pacific, and surpassed the 49.000 mark on uneven parallel bars three times.
- NIU finished sixth at the 2016 Mid-American Conference Championships, posting a 194.975, a school-record for a MAC Championship Meet.

SEASON HONORS

NCAA Qualifiers

Lauren Africano	Sr.	Uneven Parallel Bars
Jamyra Carter	Jr.	Uneven Parallel Bars
Megan Greenfield	Jr.	Balance Beam
Andie Van Voorhis	So.	Vault
Ashley Potts*	So.	Uneven Parallel Bars
Anna Martucci*	Fr.	Floor

All-MAC

Lauren Africano	Sr.	Second Team
Jamyra Carter	Jr.	Second Team

All-State

Lauren Africano	Sr.	Uneven Parallel Bars
Courtney Dowdell	Jr.	Vault
Ashley Potts	So.	Uneven Parallel Bars

* - Alternate

ACADEMIC HONORS

Academic All-MAC

Natalie Amadio, Kylie Clark, Jamyra Carter, Taylor Crumley, Megan Gilliam and Megan Greenfield.

MAC Distinguished Scholar-Athletes

Megan Greenfield and Jamyra Carter.

JAMYRA CARTER

NCAA Regional Qualifier

Second Team All-MAC

NIU WRESTLING

6-10 Overall // 1-7 MAC // 6th at MAC Championships // Four NCAA Qualifiers

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- NIU wrestling sent four Huskies to the NCAA Championships for the first time since 2007 after Austin Eicher (Fenton, Mich.), Shawn Scott (Holly, Mich.), Steve Bleise (Chelsea, Mich.) and Andrew Morse (Alto, Mich.) all automatically qualified for nationals.
- Scott went on a remarkable run at the NCAA Championships to advance to the Round of 12 at 197 pounds, just one win shy of becoming NIU's first All-American since 2004.
- NIU scored 65 team points to finish sixth at the MAC Championships, its highest points total at the conference's postseason event since 2004.
- Eicher won the 133-pound title at the MAC Championships, becoming NIU's first MAC wrestling individual champion since 2011 as a redshirt freshman.
- Bleise, Scott and Morse all won their consolation brackets to take third at the MAC Championships and qualify for nationals.
- Bleise advanced to the 141-pound final of the prestigious Midlands Championships as a redshirt freshman and was nationally ranked throughout the season after starting with 11 consecutive wins.

SEASON HONORS

NCAA Qualifiers

Steve Bleise	Fr.	141
Austin Eicher	Fr.	133
Andrew Morse	Sr.	157
Shawn Scott	Jr.	197 Advanced to NCAA Round of 12

MAC Champion

Austin Eicher	Fr.	133
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All-MAC

Austin Eicher	Fr.	First Team
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ACADEMIC HONORS

Academic All-MAC

Quinton Rosser

SHAWN SCOTT

NCAA Qualifier

Advanced to NCAA Round of 12



NIU

WOMEN'S GOLF

6th at MAC Championships

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- NIU finished sixth at the 2016 MAC Championships, carding three-round total of 905, a school record for a MAC Championships.
- Lena Gautier (La Celle Saint Cloud, France) became the first Huskie golfer to earn second team All-MAC honors in back-to-back seasons.
- The Huskies set the school record for an 18-hole round, shooting a 292 in the final round of the 2016 Cardinal Classic (Sept. 21-22).
- Senior Connie Ellett (Hampshire, Ill.) set the school record for 18 holes and the NIU all-time mark for a 36-hole event with a 68 and 145, both at the Lady Thunderbird Invitational.

SEASON HONORS

All-MAC

Lena Gautier

Jr.

Second Team

ACADEMIC HONORS

Academic All-MAC

Sydney Brickey, Connie Ellett and Lena Gautier.

MAC Distinguished Scholar-Athlete

Connie Ellett and Lena Gautier.

WGCA All-American Scholar

Kelly Anderson, Connie Ellett, Lena Gautier and Brielle Ward.

LENA GAUTIER

Second Team All-MAC

NIU MEN'S GOLF

4th at MAC Championships

JOO-YOUNG LEE

GCAA All-Region

First Team All-MAC

MAC All-Tournament Team

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- NIU finished fourth at the Mid-American Conference Championship for the second-straight season.
- Joo-Young Lee (Hilliard, Ohio) finished runner-up at the MAC Championship, the highest place by a Huskie at the championship since 1983.
- Jordan Wetsch (St. Charles, Ill.) finished ninth at the MAC Championship, giving NIU two top-10 finishers in the tournament.
- The Huskies posted four top 10 finishes during the season, including three top-five finishes during the spring.
- NIU set new team records for 18-hole, 36-hole and 54-hole performances at the Desert Shootout March 18-19 in Goodyear, Ariz., to finish fourth in the tournament.
- Lee set the program's single-round low of 65 in the opening round of the Desert Shootout and earned medalist honors. He became NIU's first tournament winner since 2013.
- Lee is the first player in program history to earn All-Region honors from the Golf Coaches Association of America.

SEASON HONORS

All-Region

Joo-Young Lee Jr. Golf Coaches Association of America

All-MAC

Joo-Young Lee Jr. First Team

MAC Specialty Awards

Joo-Young Lee MAC All-Tournament Team

ACADEMIC HONORS

Academic All-MAC

Pierrick Fillon and Joo-Young Lee.

MAC Distinguished Scholar-Athlete

Joo-Young Lee





NIU WOMEN'S TENNIS

6-14 Overall // 1-7 MAC

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- NIU won six dual matches and claimed a victory over Bowling Green for the second consecutive season.
- Adey Osabuohien (Hazel Crest, Ill.) was named first team All-MAC after posting a 16-3 (5-1 MAC) individual record as NIU's top singles player throughout the season.
- The NIU women's tennis program earned the NCAA APR Public Recognition Award with a perfect score of 1,000. The award honors teams with multiyear Academic Progress Rates in the top 10 percent of their sport.
- Cristina Alvarez (Zaragoza, Spain) was selected to the CoSIDA Academic All-District At-Large Team as the senior started every match for the Huskies at No. 2 singles while maintaining her 3.95 GPA in electrical engineering.
- Alvarez also became the 13th member of NIU's 100-wins club after she reached the century mark with a singles victory that clinched a team win at Milwaukee.

SEASON HONORS

All-MAC

Adey Osabuohien Jr. First Team

ACADEMIC HONORS

Cristina Alvarez CoSIDA Academic All-District At-Large

Academic All-MAC

Cristina Alvarez, Abigail Dekkinga and Evelyn Youel.

MAC Distinguished Scholar-Athlete

Cristina Alvarez

ADEY OSABUOHIE

First Team All-MAC

NIU MEN'S TENNIS

15-9 Overall // 3-4 MAC

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- NIU finished the season with a 15-9 overall record, marking the fifth consecutive season that the Huskies have won at least 15 dual matches.
- The Huskie men's tennis program earned the NCAA APR Public Recognition Award with a perfect score of 1,000. The award honors teams with multiyear Academic Progress Rates in the top 10 percent of their sport.
- Georg Lundkvist (Linkoping, Sweden) was named to the All-MAC Second Team after finishing with a 22-7 singles record, including 17-6 in dual matches.
- Tom Hjertonsson (Gothenburg, Sweden) recorded a team-high 25 singles wins, including a 19-5 record in dual matches, with two wins playing at number two, six wins at number three and 11 wins at number four.

SEASON HONORS

All-MAC

Georg Lundkvist So. Second Team

ACADEMIC HONORS

Academic All-MAC

Kevin Dunn, Louis-Philippe Hamel, Tom Hjertonsson, Georg Lundkvist and Carlos Manzananas.

MAC Distinguished Scholar-Athlete

Carlos Manzananas

GEORG LUNDKVIST

Second Team All-MAC



NIU **SOFTBALL**

35-20 Overall // 13-10 MAC // MAC West Champions

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- NIU won the Mid-American Conference West Division Championship for the first time since 2000.
- The Huskies posted a 35-20 overall record to record the most wins by an NIU team since 1999.
- NIU broke four team records; home runs (59), runs scored (306), RBIs (283) and slugging percentage (.894) in a season.
- Senior catcher Emily Naegele (Oak Forest, Ill.) broke five single-season school records and two career records en route to earning third-team All-America honors from the National Fastpitch Coaches Association.
- Naegele became the fifth Huskie softball player in school history to earn first-team CoSIDA Academic All-America® honors.
- Naegele, junior Kayti Grable, and freshman Alex Frenz earned National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-Region first-, second- and third-team honors, respectively.

SEASON HONORS

All-American

Emily Naegele	Sr.	C	Third Team, NFCA
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All-Region

Emily Naegele	Sr.	C	First Team NFCA All-Great Lakes Region
Kayti Grable	Jr.	INF	Second Team NFCA All-Great Lakes Region
Alex Frenz	Fr.	P	Third Team NFCA All-Great Lakes Region

All-MAC

Kayti Grable	Jr.	INF	First Team
Emily Naegele	Sr.	C	First Team
Alex Frenz	Fr.	P	Second Team
Kali Kossakowski	Jr.	INF	Second Team
Caitlyn Warren	Sr.	OF	Second Team

MAC Specialty Awards

Alex Frenz	Fr.	P	MAC Freshman of the Year MAC All-Freshman Team
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ACADEMIC HONORS

Emily Naegele	Sr.	C	CoSIDA Academic All-America® First Team CoSIDA Academic All-District Team
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Academic All-MAC

Jordyn Bowen, Kayti Grable, Bekah Harnish, Kali Kossakowski, Emily Naegele, Tara Thacker, Caitlyn Warren and Alaynie Woollard.

MAC Distinguished Scholar-Athlete

Kayti Grable, Kali Kossakowski, Emily Naegele, Tara Thacker and Caitlyn Warren.

EMILY NAEGELE

Third Team All-American

First Team Academic All-American

First Team All-MAC



NIU BASEBALL

24-32 Overall // 14-10 MAC

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- NIU tallied a 24-32 record, the most wins for the Huskies since 2011.
- The Huskies won seven of their last nine weekend series' against league foes and recorded a 14-10 mark in the Mid-American Conference to finish second in the MAC West.
- NIU posted a seven-game winning streak during the season, the team's longest since 1977.
- NIU's 9-3 win over Illinois on March 19, gave the program a seven-season winning streak over a Big Ten team.
- Brian Sisler hit for the cycle on March 13 at Belmont, becoming the first Huskie since 2000 to accomplish the feat. It was voted the NCAA's Baseball Performance of the Week.
- NIU set the program's single game record for walks on April 29 at Bowling Green with 15, including 10 in the ninth inning, to fall just one base on balls shy of tying the NCAA's record for walks in a single inning.

SEASON HONORS

All-American

William Anderson	Fr.	P	Freshman, Louisville Slugger
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All-MAC

Brad Wood	So.	INF	First Team
Stephen Letz	Sr.	OF	Second Team

MAC Specialty Awards

William Anderson	Fr.	P	MAC Freshman of the Year
Tommy Hook	Jr.-RS	INF	MAC All-Defensive Team

ACADEMIC HONORS

Academic All-MAC

Tony Brandner, Justin Fletcher, Stephen Letz, Brandon Mallder, Brian Sisler and Johnny Zubek.

MAC Distinguished Scholar-Athlete

Justin Fletcher and Johnny Zubek

WILLIAM ANDERSON

Freshman All-American, Louisville Slugger

MAC Freshman of the Year

NIU TRACK & FIELD

4th at MAC Indoor Championships // 3rd at MAC Outdoor Championships

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- NIU set a program record with a third-place finish and 110.5 points at the MAC Outdoor Championships, winning three events with finishing second in four others.
- Kedisha Dallas (Ocho Rios, Jamaica) became the first Huskie to be named the MAC's Most Outstanding Track Performer. She won the 100- and 200-meter dashes at the conference's outdoor meet at Toledo.
- Hope Schmelzle won the 3,000-meter steeplechase and is NIU's first winner in the event all-time.
- The Huskies placed fourth at the MAC Indoor Championships with Le'Tristan Pledger bringing home a gold medal by winning the 60-meter hurdles.
- NIU track & field set 11 indoor and four outdoor school records in 2016.

SEASON HONORS

MAC Champions

Indoor

Le'Tristan Pledger	Sr.	60m Hurdles
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Outdoor

Kedisha Dallas	Jr.	100m, 200m
Hope Schmelzle	Jr.	3,000m Steeplechase

All-MAC

Hope Schmelzle	Jr.	Distance	First Team
Jourdan Doffeny	Jr.	Multi-Events	Second Team
Alison Olson	Sr.	Distance	Second Team
Kelsey Hildreth	So.	Distance	Second Team
Ashanti Hutton	So.	Sprints	Second Team
Cheyenne Hoerr	Jr.	Sprints	Second Team
A'Iesha Irvin-Muhammad	Jr.	Sprints	Second Team

MAC Specialty Awards

Kedisha Dallas	MAC Most Outstanding Outdoor Track Performer
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ACADEMIC HONORS

Academic All-MAC

Alison Olson (I/O), Carly Pederson (I/O), Hannah Savage (I/O), Logan Tillmon (I/O), Kelsey Hildreth (O), Lorena Martin (O) and Ashley Sicard (O).

MAC Distinguished Scholar-Athlete

Kelsey Hildreth (O), Carly Pederson (I/O) and Hannah Savage (I/O).

KEDISHA DALLAS

MAC Most Outstanding Outdoor Performer

MAC Champion 100m, 200m

First Team All-MAC

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