



2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

NIU ATHLETICS

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

HUSKIE FAMILY,

It is an understatement to say that over the past year, as a country, as a university and as individuals, we have been faced with unprecedented challenges. From a pandemic which cancelled sports seasons and left students and staff working from home, to an awakening to social justice issues, I saw the people of Northern Illinois University, and especially the people of NIU Athletics, step up.

In addition, we cannot forget the competitive victories and championships secured prior to the COVID-19 shut down, or the successful events – both live and virtual – held in 2019-20. This year's Annual Report chronicles the highs and lows, the challenges and the victories, of the past year.

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Huskie student-athletes continued to excel in the classroom, earning a record high cumulative grade point average of 3.33 for all sport programs with 15 of 16 teams posting a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above. For the Spring 2020 semester, while navigating a transition to remote learning, NIU student-athletes earned an astonishing 3.65 GPA. I could not be prouder of the way these students adapted and took advantage of the time away from their teams to excel academically.

Competitively, we saw two NIU student-athletes win individual Mid-American Conference Championships in MAC events hosted in DeKalb, men's basketball claim a share of the MAC West crown and a pair of head coaches – wrestling's Ryan Ludwig and indoor track & field's Connie Teaberry – earn MAC Coach of the Year honors.

In early November, Ashley Tutt became the first NIU women's cross country runner to win an individual MAC title while leading the Huskies to within two points of the team crown at the MAC Championships at the NIU North 40 Course. On the track, Tutt won a pair of distance races at the MAC Indoor Track & Field Championships and was named the meet's Most Outstanding Performer. In March, just days before COVID-19 cancelled hundreds of events, Huskie junior Brit Wilson became the first NIU wrestler to win an individual conference title since 2013 with his victory in the 184-pound championship match at the MAC Championships hosted by NIU at the Convocation Center. Wilson topped a group of four NIU wrestlers who qualified for the NCAA Championships before that event was called off.

The NIU men's basketball program finished the regular season with a record of 18-13 and won a share of the MAC West Division title while earning a first-round bye in the MAC Tournament in Cleveland.

While this has undoubtedly been one of the most challenging years for our entire university, I have faith in the resolve of our leadership, students and staff. During critical times like this, we stand together as a Huskie family. Our continued success on and off the fields of competition benefits the entire university and your investment in NIU student-athletes is critical to continuing the momentum of our programs.

We need you now more than ever to continue to step up to support NIU student-athletes. We absolutely could not do what we do without you. Thank you.

Associate Vice President/Director of Athletics

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION



JOHN CHENEY
Executive Associate AD
Facilities & Event Operations

Sport Administrator:
Baseball, Gymnastics, Football



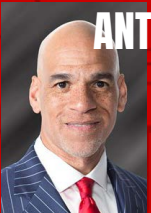
TJ FEUERBACH
Senior Associate AD
Development & Revenue Generation

Sport Administrator:
Men's Soccer, Men's & Women's Tennis



DEBRA BOUGHTON
Chief of Staff
Senior Associate AD
Finance and Operations
Senior Woman Administrator

Sport Administrator:
Women's Basketball,
Softball



ANTON GOFF
Senior Associate AD
Student-Athlete Academic Support Services

Sport Administrator:
Cross Country/Track & Field,
Volleyball



RYAN SEDEVIE
Senior Associate AD
Collegiate Advancement & External Affairs

Sport Administrator:
Men's & Women's Golf



LISA DERANGO
Associate AD
Human Resources & Administration



COURTNEY VINSON
Senior Associate AD
Sports Administration

Sport Administrator:
Men's Basketball, Wrestling,
Women's Soccer

NIU ATHLETICS STAFF

HEAD COACHES



ERIC BURNS
Women's Tennis



LISA CARLSEN
Women's Basketball



JOHN CARLSON
Men's Golf



JULIE COLHOFF
Women's Soccer



PATRICK FISHER
Men's Tennis



RAY GOODEN
Volleyball



THOMAS HAMMOCK
Football



KIM KESTER
Women's Golf



MIKE KUNIGONIS
Baseball



RYAN LUDWIG
Wrestling



MARK MONTGOMERY
Men's Basketball



SAM MORREALE
Gymnastics



ADRIAN MYERS
Cross Country



CHRISTINA SUTCLIFFE
Softball



RYAN SWAN
Men's Soccer



CONNIE TEABERRY
Track & Field



2019 -20 DEPARTMENT STAFF

BASEBALL
Head Coach
Asst. Coach
Asst. Coach
Volunteer Asst.

Mike Kunigonis
Andrew Maki
Luke Stewart
Josh Pethoud

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Head Coach
Assoc. Head Coach
Asst. Coach
Director of Player Development and Op.

Mark Montgomery
Lamar Chapman
Anthony Beane Sr.
Chris MacMartin

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Head Coach
Assoc. Head Coach
Asst. Coach
Asst. Coach
Director of Op.
Graduate Asst.

Lisa Carlsen
Adam Tandez
Alexis Lawrence
Jayne Stuart
Quinn Rear
Christina Ekhomu

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY
Head Coach

Adrian Myers

FOOTBALL
Head Coach
Assoc. Head Coach/Defensive Coord./Safeties
Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks
Exec. Asst. Coach/Co-Defensive Coord./Linebackers
Asst. Coach - Offensive Line
Asst. Coach - Defensive Line/Recruiting Coord.
Asst. Coach - Cornerbacks/Co-Special Teams
Asst. Coach - Defensive Ends
Asst. Coach - Wide Receivers
Asst. Coach - Tight Ends/Co-Special Teams Coord.
Asst. Coach - Running Backs/ Fullbacks
Asst. AD/Football Operations
Graduate Asst. - Linebackers
Graduate Asst. - Offensive Line
Graduate Asst. - Wide Receivers
Graduate Asst. - Defensive Backs
MEN'S GOLF
Head Coach
Assoc. Head Coach
WOMEN'S GOLF
Head Coach
Assoc. Head Coach
GYMNASTICS
Head Coach
Assoc. Head Coach
Asst. Coach
MEN'S SOCCER
Head Coach
Asst. Coach
Asst. Coach

Thomas Hammock
Derrick Jackson
Eric Eldsness
Robert Wimberly
Daryl Agpalsa
Jordan Gigli
Dan Jackson
Travis Moore
Tony Sorrentino
Aaron Wilkins
Nic McKissic-Luke
Dan Wolfe
TyQuan Hammock
Lucas Skibba
Jake Menage
Patrick Swanson
John Carlson
Andrew Frame
Kim Kester
Andrew Frame
Sam Morreale
Dawnita Teague
Chris Weiss
Ryan Swan
Andrew Bordelon
Jack Mathis

WOMEN'S SOCCER
Head Coach
Asst. Coach/Recruiting Coordinator
Asst. Coach

Julie Colhoff
Eddie Garza
Anne DiCanio

SOFTBALL
Head Coach
Assoc. Head Coach

Christina Sutcliffe
Ashley Wade

MEN'S TENNIS
Head Coach
Graduate Asst.

Patrick Fisher
Andrei Andrukhov

WOMEN'S TENNIS
Head Coach
Graduate Asst.

Eric Burns
Natalie Sayer

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD
Director of Track and Field & Cross Country
Asst. Coach
Asst. Coach

Connie Teaberry
Adrian Myers
Phil Wollbrinck

VOLLEYBALL
Head Coach
Asst. Coach
Asst. Coach
Director of Op.
Volunteer Asst. Coach

Ray Gooden
Yohannehs "Joe" Davidson
Morgan Salow
Trevor Weiskircher
Danny Mirda

WRESTLING
Head Coach
Assoc. Head Coach
Asst. Coach

Ryan Ludwig
Dominick Moyer
Kyle Springer

STUDENT-ATHLETE ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES
Assoc. Director
Huskie Experience Coord.
Tutor Coord.
Academic Coord.
Academic Coord.
Office Manager

Randi Napientek
Maureen Brady
Nick Coffman
Natalie Hall
Christopher Ilsley
Leonard LeGrand

ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS
Assoc. AD/Communications
Director of Communications
Director of Communications
Asst. Athletics Communications Director

Donna Turner
Jeremy Reid
Joe Summins
Mike Haase

COMPLIANCE
Asst. AD/Compliance
Director of Compliance
Asst. Director
Graduate Asst.

Matt Varnadoc
Scott Foelske
Krystal Collins
Caitlin Gorman

HUSKIE ATHLETIC FUND
Asst. AD/Development
Director of Premium Sales
Director of Advancement for Athletics
Administrative Asst.

Andrew Joannides
Clifford Bottigliero
Dane Walkington
Amy Schmidt

EQUIPMENT
Director of Equipment Services
Equipment Manager

Evan Klepec
Robert McVickar

FACILITIES AND EVENT OPERATIONS
Director - Convocation Center
Director - Facilities Operations
Director - Event Management
Senior Event Coord.
Program Asst. - Event Coord.
Parking Manager

Heather Katkus
Matt Gonzalez
Julie Ream
Jori McCullough
Sheri Voss
Luke Finnan

FOOD AND BEVERAGE - SODEXO
General Manager
Chef Manager

Barbara Clements
Amanda Lopez

MARKETING AND GAME EXPERIENCE
Asst. AD/Marketing & Game Experience
Asst. Director of Marketing & Game Experience
Graduate Asst.
Graduate Asst.

Morgan James
Anthony Sperando
Tiffany Busch
Jake Klein

HUSKIE SPORTS PROPERTIES
General Manager
Coordinator, Partnership Services

Tom Konczyk
Andrew Signa

SPORTS PERFORMANCE
Assoc. AD/Sports Performance
Director of Sport Performance - Football
Director of Olympic Sports Performance
Asst. Director of Sports Performance

Zach Cahill
Juney Barnett
Frances Stephenson
Sal Annoreno

TICKET OFFICE
Asst. AD/Ticket Operations
Events Administrator

Tom Reading
Brianna Tallitsch

3

4



UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

The first week of March, there were sports. There were games. There were even arenas packed with fans.

On Wednesday, March 11, 2020, despite the continuing news about the global pandemic known as COVID-19, games were still going on in America, including 69 NCAA Division I men's and women's basketball games. The Mid-American Conference women's basketball quarterfinals were played in Cleveland with attendance limited to family and essential personnel. In Greensboro, N.C., the Northern Illinois University softball team played a doubleheader at UNC Greensboro. NIU Baseball took on Missouri that night in the second game of a midweek series. It was during that night's game that sports in America started to come to a screeching halt.

As the Huskies were battling the Tigers, the National Basketball Association announced the immediate suspension of its season at 8:32 p.m. CT, roughly five minutes after news broke that a member of the Utah Jazz had reportedly tested positive for the novel coronavirus. With the Twitter world abuzz with that news, the Big Ten, Southeastern, and Big East Conferences all announced they would play their respective men's basketball tournaments with no fans in the stands.

Meanwhile in Columbia, Mo., the Huskies rallied from a 1-0 deficit to tie its game at Missouri 2-2 when Brendan Joyce scored on a passed ball in the top of the ninth. The Tigers eventually scored the game-winning run in the 12th inning to cap the nearly four-hour ballgame. It would be the last NIU athletics competition of the 2019-20 academic year.

Thursday, March 12 started out like any other day for the NIU athletic teams that were on the road during the university's spring break. The Huskie men's basketball team was scheduled to take on Miami in the MAC Tournament quarterfinals that day in Cleveland. Softball was in Virginia, getting ready to play in a tournament at Liberty University. Baseball was en route to St. Louis for a weekend series versus Saint Louis University. Men's Golf was in Jacksonville, Fla. for a morning practice and a day at the PGA Tour's PLAYERS Championship.

NIU men's basketball head coach Mark Montgomery: "It started off as an exciting day. We had an early shootaround and the team before us didn't take their time, so we stretched on the floor and you could tell there was an excitement in the guys' body language. They were so upbeat, so excited and we probably had the best shootaround of the year. After coming back (to the hotel), we went to breakfast. Everything was great, we did a highlight film and everybody went back to their rooms, got into their routine and we were planning to leave early enough to watch the first game. Then, we had to call the guys right back down and I remember Eugene German already being dressed for the game, and we were still an hour away from leaving."

NIU softball head coach Christina Sutcliffe: "The morning was just business as usual. We got to meet with Dr. Dot Richardson, who is the head coach at Liberty and a two-time Olympic gold-medalist. While we were in that

meeting, the tournament schedule was being rearranged as some schools couldn't get to the tournament."

Men's golf head coach John Carlson: "We'd spent about a day and a half in Jacksonville. We played Sawgrass Country Club, which is right across the street from the TPC Sawgrass where THE PLAYERS Championship is held. On Thursday, half of the team practiced in the morning and the other half went over to TPC Sawgrass and watched THE PLAYERS all the way until we met them. We ended up leaving there about 8:45 that night. Many of our guys had never seen the 17th hole at Sawgrass, which is one of the most iconic holes of golf in the world. To be able to watch the best players in the world, with a crowd about half the size of normal because everyone at that point kind of knew maybe the rest of the tournament was going to be cancelled - and be able to walk up close and personal with the best players in the game made for a really exciting conclusion to our season as I look back at it."

Baseball head coach Mike Kunigonis: "We had breakfast at eight a.m. and the plan was to leave the hotel by 9:30 to head to St. Louis for practice. We were executing that plan as things went down. Things started to evolve around 10:00 when I got a phone call from Saint Louis' head coach Darin Hendrickson basically saying that their campus was completely shut down, zero events going on. I asked the bus driver to pull over to give me a bit of privacy to have this phone conversation because I didn't want to have it in front of the team and create any panic. We pulled off into a little shopping plaza where I got off the bus and had that talk with the Saint Louis coach. He called me to let me know the Atlantic-10 [Conference], at that very moment, was pulling guys off the court at the Barclays Center at their tournament."

"I ended up getting on the phone with [Executive Associate Athletic Director] John Cheney, who informed me there was going to be a press conference from the MAC and that's kind of right when everything started to happen."

Sutcliffe: "We went to eat and by the time we got back to the hotel about an hour later, the tournament was cancelled. It was definitely a whirlwind. I spent three hours and 46 minutes on the phone with Southwest trying to change our flights. I think the uncertainty of it all was probably the hardest part."

Kunigonis: "Looking back now, it was maybe a little bit silly, but I was in the regular season mindset, so my question to Darin was if we could find another venue and play at a neutral site. Darin basically said 'Mike, this thing's gonna blow up here soon. Make sure you're on the phone and looking at Twitter and the news and all that stuff.' He was in the office so he probably had a little bit more access to news outlets than I did on the bus at that point. Once I realized exactly what was going on we needed to find the course of action for our guys. We got lunch because we were going to be on the bus for the next five hours. Once I heard anything, I told the guys what was going on because I try to be as transparent as possible with them."

Montgomery: "At first the question being asked from [Associate Vice President/Director of Athletics] Sean Frazier and [Senior Associate Athletic Director and sport administrator] Courtney Vinson was to see if [the guys] still wanted to play, because we didn't want to make any student-athlete play if they were worried about the coronavirus. All of our guys wanted to play, but then it changed. As we were still doing those meetings, some other conferences had canceled their tournaments and then we canceled our tournament. We had guys in separate rooms and in hallways, and you could see the guys, especially the seniors, lost it. Noah McCarty was real quiet in the corner where the team was, but we couldn't get Eugene German and Lacey James to come meet with the team. They were so disappointed that they were losing out on what they had been working four years for."

Sutcliffe: "I was trying to get some solutions and get some answers before I met with them. By the time I had gotten to the team, they had a lot of the answers as they saw what was going on. Any time you tell a team their season's over in March, it's never a good conversation or an easy one for sure. We were able to get a flight out Friday around noon. We got up, started driving to Raleigh and got on our flight."

Carlson: "Throughout the day I was following different cancellations via Twitter as they were coming in. Later in the afternoon, I saw something saying the NCAA looks like it's going to cancel spring sports. [Senior Associate Athletic Director] Ryan Sedeve called me as I'm at the range and that was the first time that it kind of set in that our season was over and we weren't going to compete in Orlando the next day in the Mission Inn event. It was probably even tougher for the families that had already made their way to Florida for the weekend."

Kunigonis: "There was some shock, a little bit of awe, and some non-belief from the guys, none of those things meaning in a bad way. As much as we think it was coming out of nowhere, we knew what was going on and everybody across the country knew. I think that was the day that it just finally hit and things boiled over. I think we were all hoping that something like this wouldn't have happened. One of the best things for us was we were still on the road. It's not like we were sitting at home watching this unfold. At this point, it wasn't anything different than what we were doing the week prior or what we'd been planning on doing in the weeks to come. It was definitely a unique experience for sure."

Montgomery: "It was emotional. There were a lot of hugs, a lot of crying, a lot of explaining to players that sometimes things aren't fair but your safety is the most important thing and we were not putting the safety of student-athletes before anything else. Then it was time to pack up and get on the road, get everyone back safe. We had a lot of angry, frustrated, sad student-athletes that wanted to go out and play."

Carlson: "Our guys were dispersed all around TPC Sawgrass. As you can imagine at a PGA Tour event, there's a lot to watch and everyone's got their favorites to see. Mike Mattas came up to me and said 'Coach, is this really happening?' We were at the back of the second hole and just didn't say anything for the first couple minutes, knowing that we were not going to compete the rest of the year. I talked to the guys at different times but spent the most time chatting with Mike a little bit after that."

"We were there until the last putt that was hit by Rafa Cabrera Bello, who's played on the European Ryder Cup team. That was the last putt hit in the dark to finish the day and then the PGA Tour was suspended. It was kind of fun for us because, looking back at it, we were the last spectators to watch a professional tour event but also kind of sad that there were so many events getting postponed."

Kunigonis: "I basically said to the guys 'listen, you're going to be getting the information as I am by just watching Twitter. Once I know how this is going to affect us, I'll let you know.' So we just watched and followed as Duke basketball said it wasn't going to go to the NCAA Tournament regardless of whether they got invited or not, then Kansas tweeted something like that and then all of a sudden we're

seeing the different Power 5 baseball conferences saying whether they were going to postpone until further notice or just completely shut it down as the Big Ten did."

Later that night, the MAC announced it was canceling the remainder of the spring sports season.

Kunigonis: "We officially didn't find out until we pulled into the Convocation Center on the bus. I just happened to refresh my Twitter feed. I was on the MAC Twitter feed, hitting refresh for all five hours of that ride because I was trying to deliver the news to the guys. I just thought it was my responsibility for the guys to get this information from me and not have to read it and it finally came through the second we pulled in. I told the guys we would reconvene in the locker room in 30 minutes because we were still in travel mode. I gave them a little bit more information other than just the hard-hitting 'this is what it is'."

Carlson: "We packed up Friday morning from Jacksonville and drove to Paducah, Kentucky and spent the night, then drove through a snowstorm in Champaign back to NIU that Saturday. It was a bittersweet end to the season because we had done well in our last round at the tournament we had just played, we'd had great preparation on the spring break trip and we were prepared to go to Mission Inn and get a win for our team. That's kind of the way that our team was trending, so I would say that it all kind of sunk in for me on the drive home a little bit more than our players because they were looking at what the next steps were for them for the next couple weeks."

"I wish that there would have been a postponement of spring sports from an NCAA standpoint, but at the same time now that I see what the pandemic is doing all across the world, ultimately everyone's safer at home. I know our players are safer at home and that's what matters."

Sutcliffe: "Through the first several days we were trying to figure out what was going on as information was changing by the hour. It was tough to play chess while the pieces were moving so-to-speak. Once that settled down and we knew we were going to go to online classes, it became, what's the new norm? We set up an academic game plan for them. They're checking in with me every day as far as task lists and what not. We're staying in some sort of communication with them every day and just trying to keep them focused on school with what we can control the rest of the semester."

Kunigonis: "I went into the mode of how to move forward from here and trying to continue to get that message across to our players. This is where we're at and we can either fight it or we can overcome and adapt to it and continue to get better from it. In any crisis, or any time, you have an opportunity to make the best of it or allow that crisis to eat you up and let it take advantage of you. I'm in that mode right now where we need to make the best of this opportunity and try to find that silver lining as best we can."

This is certainly a momentous time in history. Fifty years ago, singer Joni Mitchell wrote in the chorus of "Big Yellow Taxi" "Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you got 'til it's gone." For now, sports are gone. Eventually they will return, but for those affected by the events of March 12, this time - and that day - will never be forgotten.

-Published on NIUHuskies.com, March 30, 2020

VIRTUAL VICTORS

While they couldn't gather together as one, that didn't stop the Northern Illinois University student-athletes from celebrating their accomplishments during the 11th annual Victors Award Show broadcasted on NIU Athletic YouTube channel Thursday night.

Huskie student-athletes from all over the world took part, submitting video clips and presentations that were compiled into one show. The show culminated in the always popular All Sports Video. Six repeat winners and a pair of student-athletes who took home multiple awards highlighted this year's list of 23 awards.

The NIU wrestling and softball teams were big winners on the evening. Both teams repeated as the Male and Female Victor's Cup winners, respectively. For the Huskie softball team, it was its eighth consecutive Victor's Cup award. The Huskie wrestling team also captured Male Team of the Year honors and their head coach, Ryan Ludwig, earned his second consecutive Male Team Coach of the Year award after leading the Huskies to their most wins since 2004-05 with four Huskies qualifying for the NCAA Wrestling Championships.

The Huskie track & field and baseball teams repeated as the Female and Male Community Service teams of the year, respectively, while Remy Amarteifio of track & field was crowned the Community Service Champion as she performed more than 136 hours of community service over the last year.



Play of the Year honors went to Enrique Banuelos of men's soccer. His golden goal helped lift NIU past Milwaukee and capture the Lewang Trophy.

Student-athletes who own a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher, including the 4.0 students, as well as the MAC President Award winners (seniors with a 3.5 or higher) and LEAd Huskies were also recognized.

The awards were given for the 2019 spring and fall sports seasons, and the 2019-20 winter sports. Most awards were selected by a vote of Huskie athletic department staff,

coaches and student-athletes while others were based on numerical metrics (academic and community service teams). The Victors Cup is a year-long competition based on multiple factors including community service hours, attendance at department-wide and university opportunities as well as supporting other programs.

2019-20 Victors Winners

Female Community Service Team – Track & Field

Community Service Champion – Remy Amarteifio, Track & Field

Unsung Huskie Hero – Ally May, Women's Basketball

Huskie Comeback Award – Courtney Woods, Women's Basketball

Male Academic Team of the Year – Men's Tennis

Male Presidential Award for Excellence – Jordan Steckler, Football

Female Presidential Award for Excellence – Allie May, Women's Basketball

Male Newcomer of the Year – Izzak Olejnik, Wrestling

Male Team Coach of the Year – Ryan Ludwig, Wrestling

Female Athlete of the Year – Ashley Tutt, xc

Male Team of the Year – Wrestling

Play of the Year – Enrique Banuelos - Men's Soccer

Miss Victor E. Huskie – Ashley Tutt, Track/Cross Country

Male Victor's Cup Winner – Wrestling

Male Community Service Team – Baseball

Huskie High Five – Mike Storandt, NIU Transportation

Female Academic Team of the Year – Gymnastics

Female Newcomer of the Year – Katie Keller, Softball

Female Team Coach of the Year – Adrian Myers, xc

Male Athlete of the Year – Eugene German, Men's Basketball

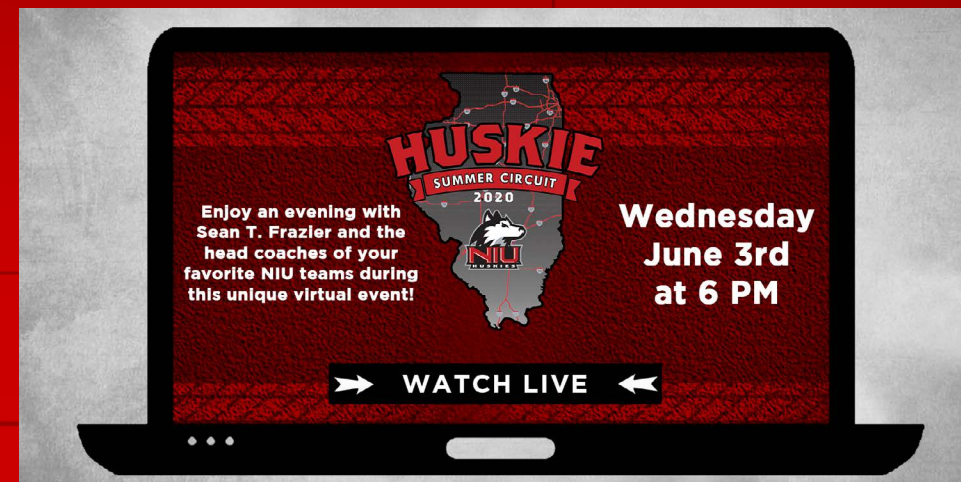
Female Team of the Year – Cross Country

Mr. Victor E. Huskie – Max Ihry, Wrestling

Female Victor's Cup Winner – Softball



The 2020 NIU VICTORS Student-Athlete Awards



VIRTUAL SUMMER CIRCUIT

The Huskie Summer Circuit went virtual in 2020 with all Huskie fans invited to join Northern Illinois University athletics coaches and Associate Vice-President and Director of Athletics Sean T. Frazier in the free online, interactive version of this annual gathering.

The 2020 Huskie Summer Circuit went live on the NIU Athletics YouTube channel on Wednesday, June 3rd at 6 p.m. Fans were able to ask questions via the YouTube Live Chat or can submit questions in advance by registering for free at NIUHuskies.com. Fans were able to enter a drawing for prizes, including pregame sideline access and Huskie gear, for registered fans.



Similar to the in-person Summer Circuit events held at different venues throughout Chicagoland over the last four years, the 2020 Summer Circuit included updates from every NIU head coach, a chance to submit questions, and the latest news from Frazier. Andy Garcia, co-host of the NIU Weekly Radio Show and member of the Huskie Radio Network team hosted the event.

Fans are encouraged to subscribe to the NIU Athletics YouTube Channel now to never miss a video from NIU Athletics as the channel is being consistently populated with plenty of past season highlights, fun promotional videos, student-athlete stories and more. For the past



month, the NIU Weekly show, featuring co-hosts Garcia and Frazier and guests like NIU head coaches Thomas Hammock, Mark Montgomery and Lisa Carlsen, has premiered on YouTube. The 2020 NIU Victors Student-Athlete Awards also were presented on YouTube. More features, including historical highlights, will be added to the channel in the coming months.

IN THE HISTORY BOOKS



Senior Eugene German became the first player in Northern Illinois University men's basketball history to reach 2,000 career points as his 21 points helped lead the Huskies to their fourth consecutive victory, 70-55, over Miami (Ohio) on Saturday, February 1 at the NIU Convocation Center.

German, who entered the contest 17 points behind T.J. Lux (1995-2000; 1,996 points) for the school scoring record, broke the mark with a driving layup through contact with 6:39 left to play, giving the Huskies an 18-point lead. The Gary, Ind., native's 21 points in the contest gave him exactly 2,000 in his career, he also finished with a season-high tying six assists.

"It is a blessing," said German of the record. "So much hard work over these past years. I couldn't do it without my teammates and my coaches, it is just a blessing and without God I wouldn't be able to achieve this goal. I want to give a huge shout out to Coach Monty for staying on me, believing in me, bringing me here, it is just a blessing."

Redshirt senior forward Courtney Woods became the third 2,000-point scorer in Northern Illinois University women's basketball history Wednesday night, February 5, as the Huskies fell 66-60 to the Central Michigan Chippewas at McGuirk Arena.

Woods is the first Huskie to reach 2,000 career points since Carol Owens reached the mark during the 1989-90 season. She reached that mark with a layup with 3:45 to go in the first quarter. Woods led NIU with 18 points and 10 rebounds, her first double-double since March 5, 2018. She now has 2,016 career points.



When Woods passed the 2,000-point mark, NIU became the only NCAA Division I program to have active career 2,000 point scorers on its men's and women's basketball teams.



NIU BASKETBALL

ONLY D-1 SCHOOL IN THE COUNTRY

TO HAVE AN ACTIVE CAREER 2,000 POINT SCORER IN BOTH MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

#10 EUGENE GERMAN
2,025 CAREER POINTS

#4 COURTNEY WOODS
2,016 CAREER POINTS



NIU Athletics, Huskie Sports Properties and longtime partner Fatty's Pub & Grille brought a new atmosphere to the South End Zone of Huskie Stadium before and during NIU home football games this year with the introduction of Fatty's Touchdown Village.

All NIU students and East Side general admission ticket holders were invited to head into the stadium when gates open, 90 minutes before kickoff for every game, to enjoy the perfect pregame tailgating atmosphere in this free, field-level area. There was no charge to enter Fatty's Touchdown Village, which will remained open throughout the game, and provided easy access to restrooms, concession stands and seating in the East grandstand.

Inside Fatty's Touchdown Village, fans enjoy reduced pricing on beer and slices of a local partner's pizza. A D.J. provided music and fans also enjoyed a game of bags with friends.



NIU Athletics finalized a new contract with long-time partner adidas which continues the relationship with the Portland, Ore., based company as the official athletic footwear, apparel and accessory brand of the Huskies.

Under this contract, adidas will continue to supply the Huskies' 17-sport programs with all their sports apparel, footwear, headwear and accessory needs through June 2026, with a three-year optional renewal which would extend the agreement through 2029.

"We are extremely excited to continue our long-standing relationship with adidas and appreciate their reinvestment in furthering the NIU brand," said NIU Associate Vice-President and Director of Athletics Sean T. Frazier. "adidas is recognized worldwide as a leader in innovation and design, making it the right fit for NIU Athletics. It was imperative that we found a partner that would provide our student-athletes, coaches and fan base with the best products and customer service available in the marketplace today."

NIU Athletics also contracted Taymar Sales U., a college sports marketing company focused on driving new revenue while offering personalized service, to manage its outbound ticket sales. Taymar Sales U. will aggressively market NIU Athletics tickets to fans throughout the region, with a focus on building the season ticket base while also selling single game and group tickets.

Game experience and value inside the NIU Convocation Center at men's and women's basketball games was improved this year with the new Victor E. Pub, located on the west end of the concourse. All fans were invited to come by before or during the game, hang out in the comfortable seats or at the high-top tables, and watch the action while enjoying drink specials, a full-service bar featuring mixed drinks and a unique drink offering for each game.



IN THE CLASSROOM



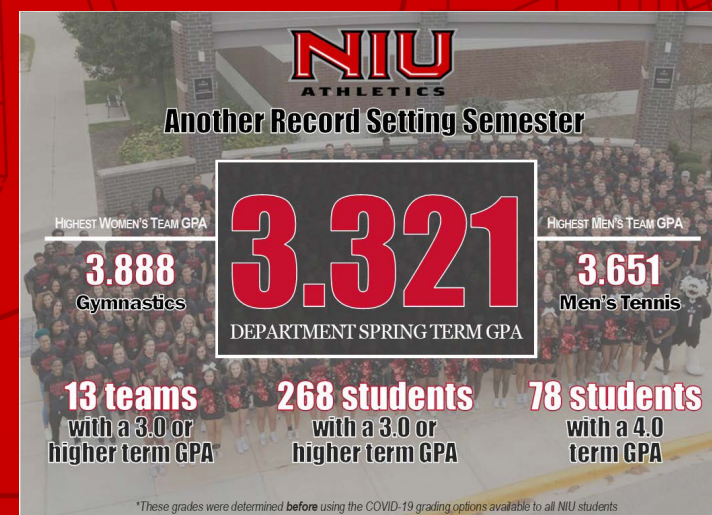
ter earning her nursing degree last spring, while volleyball's Amanda Krahl completed a double major in leadership and management and marketing.

In 2020, for the 14th consecutive year, Northern Illinois University athletics saw all 16 of its sports programs exceed the national standards for eligibility, graduation and retention of student-athletes as measured by the NCAA Academic Progress Rate.

The 2020 APR report was based on annual rates from 2015-16 through 2018-19; the NCAA and member institutions have established a minimum standard four-year APR of 930 for every sport program. This year, every Huskie squad posted an APR at least 21 points above the minimum, led by three teams – men's tennis, gymnastics and volleyball – with perfect 1,000 scores.

All three of those teams were honored by the NCAA with APR Public Recognition Awards as they ranked in the Top 10 of all programs in their respective sports in APR in the 2020 report.

The NIU men's soccer team saw the largest increase among all Huskie teams with a 17-point increase in its Academic Progress Rate from a year ago to rank tied for first among all Mid-American Conference programs. That increase continued a four-year trend that has seen the soccer program's APR rise from 942 in 2016 to 993 this year.



Fifty-seven student-athletes from across all 16 Northern Illinois University sports programs were among the thousands of NIU students who will earned their Huskie degrees and enter the ranks of alumni in Spring 2020, while another five 2020 seniors joined them following completion of summer coursework.

“We are so proud of our spring and summer 2020 graduates,” said NIU Associate Vice-President and Director of Athletics Sean T. Frazier. “Although the university was unable to host official ceremonies, that in no way diminishes this accomplishment for the Class of 2020. To see every team represented on this list of grads illustrates the commitment of every member of our department – especially our coaches and staff of the Student-Athlete Academic Support Services – to getting to this point for each of our student-athletes.”

While the university was unable to hold formal graduation ceremonies at this time due to the stay at home directive, NIU Athletics sent each graduate a “student-athlete graduate” stole and the university has put together a “Virtual Celebration Package” with downloadable graphics for social media or for print.

Of the 62 graduates, 15 were current or former members of the Huskie football team. Women's track and field graduated eight student-athletes, with four of those also participating in cross country who had six grads. Five members of both the women's basketball and gymnastics teams were also among the spring and summer 2020 NIU grads.

The 62 grads were in 28 different majors across the entire spectrum of the university with no major represented by more than five graduates. Three student-athletes – Jehvania Whyte of track and field, Scott Dunsire of men's golf and Dylan Thurston of wrestling – earned their master's in business administration. Women's basketball senior Ally May picked up her second major in health sciences af-



Junior Ashley Tutt of the Northern Illinois University women's cross country team won the individual title at the 2019 Mid-American Conference Cross Country Championships on Saturday, November 2, on NIU's North 40 Course, becoming the first runner in school history to earn a MAC individual championship. Tutt and the Huskies finished second in the team race, trailing MAC Champion Eastern Michigan by just two points.

“She is a special kid,” said NIU cross country head coach Adrian Myers of Tutt. “She wanted to make it an uncomfortable, tough race, she got just that and in that environment she always thrives. She woke up this morning knowing that she was going to win a MAC title.”

Tutt, who posted a conference championship winning time of 21:18.5, was joined on the All-MAC First Team by junior Mackenzie Callahan (Minooka, Ill./Minooka) who took third overall in 21:47.8. Senior Ericka Hibser earned All-MAC Second Team honors with a 13th-place overall finish in 22:22.9.

Sophomore Brit Wilson captured the conference title at 184 and helped lead the Northern Illinois University wrestling team to a third-place finish at the 2020 Mid-American Conference Championships at the Convocation Center on Sunday, March 8, 2020.



“We needed a strong finish,” said NIU head coach Ryan Ludwig. “The goal really was to punch as many guys through to NCAAs as we could.

“Brit Wilson being a MAC champion, we haven't had one of those for a while. So, for him to get rewarded for his leadership and hard work was just outstanding, especially avenging a loss from earlier in the year.”

STRATEGIC PLAN



The Northern Illinois University Department of Athletics released its Strategic Plan for 2018-21, outlining the path to success that NIU Associate Vice-President & Director of Athletics Sean T. Frazier, his administrative team and the coaches and staff will use to lead Huskie Athletics into the future. The second three-year plan under Frazier retains the original Athletics Vision Statement of being a nationally-recognized NCAA Division I program that wins championships and graduates student-athletes with integrity while engaging a diverse community. Below are goals from the outlined Strategic Plan which were achieved during the 2019-20 academic year.

IMPROVING THE MENTAL, EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING OF OUR STUDENT-ATHLETES, WHILE PROMOTING LEADERSHIP AND ATHLETIC COMPETITION

- ✓ Emphasize and establish metrics for student-athlete participation in NIU honors program, undergraduate research, NIU Jobs Plus and study abroad
- ✓ Increase awareness of opportunities for post-graduate scholarship awards
- ✓ Prioritize student assistance fund resources to partner with campus mental health services (counseling services and sport psychology) for team workshops, one-on-one mental health consultation and periodic testing of student-athletes to assess mental health areas of concern
- ✓ Maintain quality ESPN3 programming and research opportunities to increase the number of sport programs that have an opportunity for ESPN3 broadcasts or enhanced on-line productions with audio coverage
- ✓ Conduct annual review of operating budgets including recruiting budgets, using Mid-American Conference standards for measurable metrics; set metrics to address sport operating budgets that are not at least within 50% of the measurable standard

CELEBRATE THE ROLE OF ATHLETICS TO STRENGTHEN THE INTEGRATION, VISIBILITY AND COMMUNICATION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT AND NIU CAMPUS FAMILY

- ✓ Create and disseminate annual sport program marketing plans that communicate with specific NIU campus partners
- ✓ Partner with Marketing and Communications to produce more video elements to share story of NIU Athletics and/or prioritize department resources to enhance an internal unit that has this primary responsibility
- ✓ Program and communicate a faculty and staff appreciation event for each NCAA sports program that hosts a home event
 - ✓ Partner with Admissions Office to integrate into the NIU Tour Athletics Facilities. Completed implementation of virtual tour Athletics-virtual tour implementation
- ✓ Utilize MAC Diversity and Inclusion and internal Diversity Integration Group programming to connect with all cultural resource centers

- ✓ Identify and communicate to all coaches and staff available university and department committee opportunities and encourage annual participation in a minimum of one committee per year
- ✓ Require and report on department unit participation in campus pilot initiatives
- ✓ Revise meeting agendas to include dialog component at every meeting
- ✓ Share internal working group meeting agendas and summaries with all coaches and staff
- ✓ Implement department-wide use of Skype for Business (or relevant technology) for informal internal communication and impromptu group meetings
- ✓ Reinstate coaches and staff mentoring program within internal employee on-boarding process
- ✓ Share weekly home event updates with all coaches, staff and student-athletes via appropriate social media platforms and fully activate internal events calendar

IDENTIFY AND PRIORITIZE COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS THAT COULD ENHANCE DONOR ENGAGEMENT, FAN BASE INTERACTION AND GROWTH AND INTENTIONAL INVOLVEMENT WITHIN SERVICE TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

- ✓ Establish survey process that will be managed by HFAB to evaluate fan outcomes and preferences
- ✓ Within HFAB, assign subcommittees that match desired outcomes of the HFAB and include coaches and staff within subcommittees
- ✓ Utilizing employee on-boarding plan and department e-news, share updates on department vendor partnerships (HAF, Huskie Sports Properties)
- ✓ Fully utilize Ticketmaster, Archtics and Millenium database information
- ✓ Utilize Huskie Sports Properties inventory to activate local community events

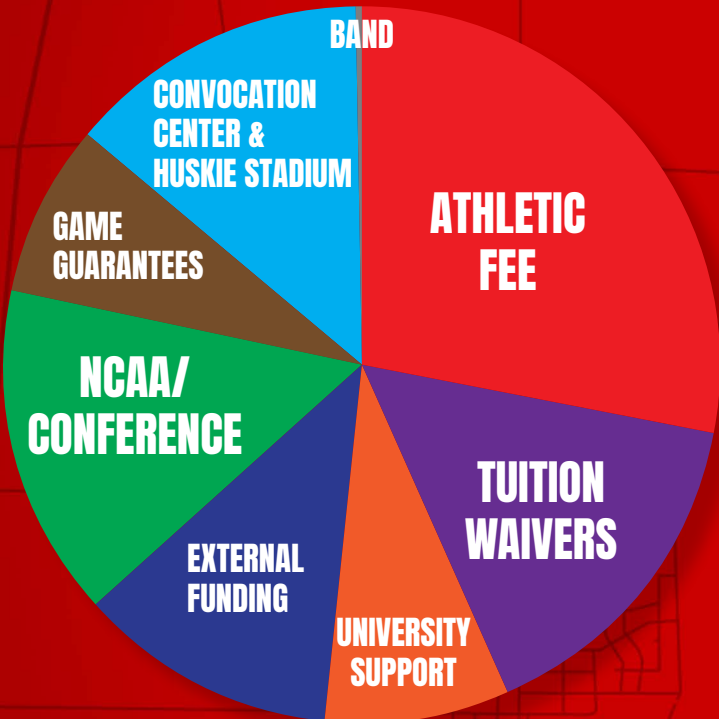
ENSURE STABILITY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND OPEN PROCESSES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ALL DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

- ✓ Continue to host Victor E. Ball/Bash annual department fundraiser
- ✓ Increase profitability of department events and opportunities
- ✓ Create and implement season ticket holder referral program for all NCAA ticketed sports programs
- ✓ Review effectiveness of HAF, including priority points plan, unrestricted giving and sport-specific enhancement fund initiatives
- ✓ In partnership with Learfield, identify new gift-in-kind (trade) partners to offset annual department programming expenditures
- ✓ Review, refine and electronically publish department P&P manual
- ✓ Enhance annual budget development and reporting process
- ✓ Review new and existing purchasing agreements to identify maximum operational efficiencies
- ✓ Conduct review of salaries for coaches and staff using MAC and/or regional standards; research opportunity to fund all sport programs to assistant coach countable limits; set metrics to address sport programs and support units that are not at least within 50% of the measurable standard
- ✓ Research and, if able, prioritize opportunities to promote internal candidates within department
- ✓ Prepare timeline and proposal for options to outsource camp ownership to coaches and staff to present to campus partners for approval
- ✓ Research and propose operational plan to implement credit cards for coaches and staff for individual recruitment and conference travel



REVENUES

FUNDING SOURCES



Source	Amount	Pct.
Athletic Fee	6,821,635	28.08%
Convocation Center & Huskie Stadium	3,756,699	15.47%
University Support	2,034,679	8.38%
Tuition Waivers	2,812,242	11.58%
External Funding	3,635,907	14.97%
Game Guarantees	1,921,500	7.91%
NCAA/Conference	3,286,342	13.53%
Band	21,104	0.09%

Athletic Fee refers to the per credit hour fee charged to all general students.

Tuition Waivers refers to tuition waived on behalf of student-athletes from two allocations, general waivers, and gender equity waivers.

University Support refers to funds prioritized from central campus resources for the purposes of intercollegiate athletics; primarily these funds source administrative units of the department.

External Income refers to revenue collected from ticket sales, licensing, multimedia rights, parking, concessions, donations received through the Huskie Annual Fund, all premium area donations and endowment expendable funds.

Game Guarantees are paid by opposing teams.

NCAA/Conference Distribution refers to funds provided to institutions across the country by the NCAA through the Student-Athlete Opportunity Fund, the Academic Enhancement Fund, Sport Sponsorship and Grant-in-Aid distributions, as well as distributions directly from the Mid-American Conference.

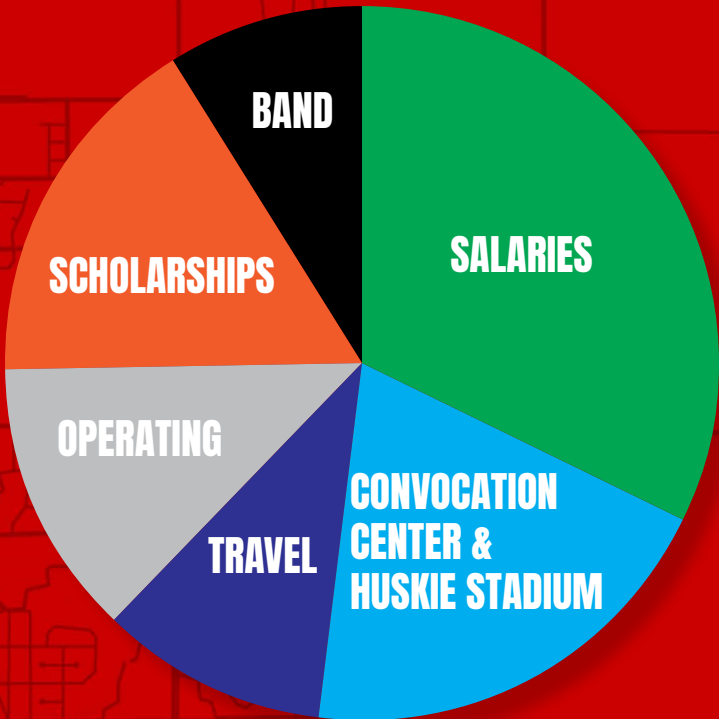
Convocation Center/Huskie Stadium is the net operating revenue from the Convocation Center and Huskie Stadium; these facilities are bonded, are part of the overall student fee structure of the university and, thereby, fall under various institutional guidelines and use restrictions.

Band refers to the NIU Marching Band.



EXPENSES

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS



Use	Amount	Pct.
Salaries	7,166,413	27.76%
Convocation Center & Huskie Stadium	4,364,455	16.91%
Travel	2,270,515	8.80%
Operating	2,812,242	11.58%
Scholarships	3,635,907	14.97%
Band	1,921,500	7.91%

Salaries refers to all coaches, staff and student salaries; including salaries sourced by resources managed by the NIU Foundation.

Scholarships refers to all grant-in-aid awarded to student-athletes for fall 2018, spring 2019 and summer 2019; a matching expense for tuition waived is accounted for in this total figure; note this figure includes providing cost of attendance to all scholarship student-athletes (up to sport program equivalency limits); also includes fifth- year and medical scholarships.

Travel refers to all team, recruiting, professional development and donor cultivation travel.

Operating refers to all of the other operational costs of the athletic department (except as captured in the "Auxiliary Enterprise" category); examples include game operations, game guarantees paid to visiting institutions, medical insurance and expenses for student-athletes and equipment for all sports programs.

Convocation Center/Huskie Stadium is the direct operating expenses for the Convocation Center and Huskie Stadium. These facilities are bonded, are part of the overall student fee structure of the university and, thereby, fall under various institutional guidelines and use restrictions.

Band refers to the NIU Marching Band.



The Illinois high school state football championships came to Huskie Stadium, November 29-30th, 2019. Over two days, NIU played host to eight games featuring 16 teams and thousands of football fans from across the state. NIU and DeKalb County hosted the IHSA State Football Championships for the fourth time in 2019, and despite less than ideal weather conditions throughout the weekend, the feedback about the event that the IHSA Destination DeKalb Host Committee received from IHSA officials, fans and participants was overwhelmingly positive.

COMMUNITY SERVICE LEADERS

Women's Track - 25.5 hours per student-athlete

Baseball - 19.5 hours per student-athlete

Volunteering is important to Northern Illinois University. It allows our student-athletes to give back and connect with the surrounding community. The dedication to community service extends throughout all 17 teams and 400 student-athletes.



HALL OF FAME



Topping the list of Homecoming events was the induction ceremony for the 2019 Class of the NIU Athletics Hall of Fame. Kristina Campos (Women's Gymnastics, 2002-05), Larry English (Football, 2004-08), Ashley Morrow (Women's Track and Field, 2004-07), Jerry Pettibone (Football Head Coach, 1985-90), Stephanie Raymond (Women's Basketball, 2003-07), Allison Wade Shepherd (Women's Soccer, 1996-97) and the 1990-91 NIU men's basketball team were welcomed into the Hall of Fame. The event was held at the Duke Ellington Ballroom at the Holmes Student Center on Friday, October 25th.



CLASS OF 2019



1. LARRY ENGLISH | FOOTBALL '04 - '08 2. ASHLEY MORROW | WOMEN'S T&F '04 - '07
3. ALLISON WADE | WOMEN'S SOCCER '96 - '97 4. STEPHANIE RAYMOND | WOMEN'S BASKETBALL '03 - '07
5. JERRY PETTIBONE | HEAD FOOTBALL COACH '85 - '90 6. KRISTINA CAMPOS | WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS '02 - '05
7. 1990 - 1991 MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Of the thousands of student-athletes, coaches and administrators that have participated in intercollegiate athletics at Northern Illinois University since 1899, just 212 individuals, 18 teams and one family have been inducted into the NIU Athletics Hall of Fame in 33 induction classes since 1978. The Athletics Hall of Fame is located in the north lobby of the NIU Convocation Center and is open to the public during regular business hours and during Athletics events.

TREMENDOUS SUPPORT



CORPORATE SPONSORS

NIU would like to thank the companies listed here for their sponsorship of Huskie Athletics in 2019-20. 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 NIU Athletics.

Allstate
Athletico
BIO Life Plasma
Boom Enterprise (Sonic)
Case IH
DeKalb Taylor Airport
Euclid Beverage
Fatty's Pub & Grill
First Midwest Bank
First National Bank
First State Bank
Follett Higher Education Group Inc.
Holiday Inn Express & Suites
Hy-Vee
Ideal Industries
Illinois Department of Transportation
Jamrah Middle Eastern Cuisine
Jimmy Johns
Ken Spears Construction
Kennay Farms Distilling
Kirhofer's Sports
Meijer
National Safety Education
Newman Catholic Student Center
NIU ROTC
Northwestern Medicine
Planet Fitness
Red Hot Chicago
Superior Beverage Co., Inc.
The Cosentino Law Firm
Toyota
Tune-In
VCB
Vinnys's Pizza
Wendy's



TRADE PARTNERS

102.3 The Coyote
Rochelle News Leader
Le Print Express
Mid-West Family Broadcasting
Shaw Media

GIFT-IN-KIND PARTNERS

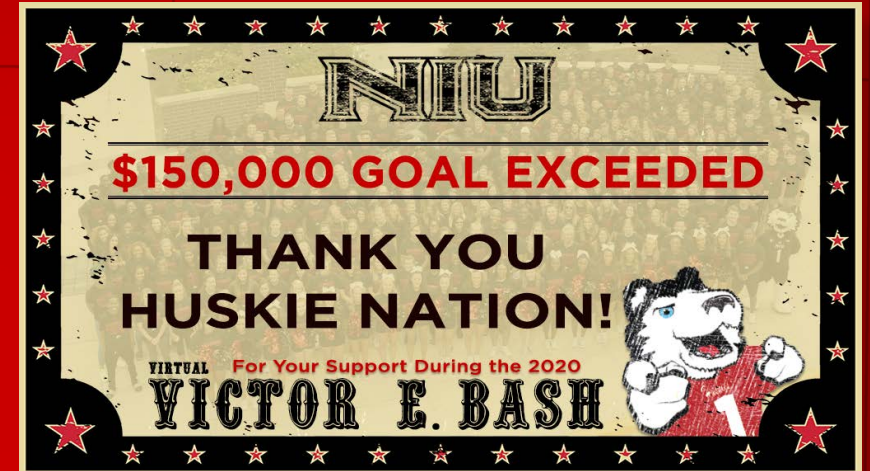
ACP CreativIT
Athenex Pharmaceutical Division
Berg Industries
Mr. Ronald and Mrs. Carol Biddle
Brad Manning Ford
Cambridge Square Townhomes
Mr. John and Mrs. Anne Cheney
Chipotle Mexican Grill
Clarksville Elite Gymnastic Center
DeKalb-Sycamore Chevrolet, Cadillac, GMC
Dena Martz Photography
Mrs. Lesslie and Mr. John Erickson
Mr. Henwood and Mrs. Cathy Flesher
Giordano's
Glanbia Performance Nutrition
Harley's Floor Installation, Inc.
Mr. Bradley J. Hoey
Lincolnshire West Apartments
Mr. Gregory and Mrs. Yumiko Lindgren
Mr. Vinay Mullick and Ms. Mia Deanne Sarkesian
Pizza Pros
Pizza Villa, Inc.
Red Roof Inn
The Rich Foundation
Rich Harvest Farms
Ristorante De Acquaviva
Ms. Nancy Schmidt
Siepert West Financial Consulting, L.L.C.
Tapa La Luna
Whole in One Physical Therapy

VIRTUAL VICTOR E. BASH

A true team effort by Northern Illinois University Athletics donors, alumni and athletics alumni, staff, coaches and student-athletes, resulted in the resounding success of the 2020 Virtual Victor E. Bash, NIU's annual premiere fundraiser.

Despite moving to a completely online format due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 10-day event featuring five nights of YouTube programming, an online auction, raffle and gear sale, and a virtual wine and spirits pull, resulted in \$156,000 in revenue to support NIU student-athletes. That total exceeded the \$150,000 goal - established prior to the coronavirus shutdown and subsequent move to a virtual event - and even surpassed previous editions of the Victor E. Bash, the precursor to this year's Victor E. Bash.

"Congratulations to everyone associated with the success of this year's Virtual Victor E. Bash," said NIU Associate Vice-President and Director of Athletics Sean T. Frazier. "We cannot thank our dedicated donors and supporters enough for stepping up during these unprecedented times to support Huskie student-athletes. Each and every purchase, bid and donation will make a difference as we move forward."



English, Max Scharping and Chad Beebe."

Between June 10-19, NIU premiered five "shows" on the NIU Huskies YouTube channel for the Virtual Victor E. Bash which drew more than 3,500 views from 2,481 unique viewers and nearly 823 watch hours (as of June 22). Topping the list was a "Watch Party" of NIU Football's 2003 upset of Maryland with commentary from former head coach Novak that even had current head coach Thomas Hammock on the edge of his seat as the Huskies' triumphed in overtime.

Lynch and Frazier took fans back to the 2013 season as the Huskie All-American quarterback made his run for the Heisman Trophy, while Hammock hosted a Huskies in the Pros Panel featuring Turner, English, Scharping and Beebe as they reminisced about their favorite NIU memories and shared stories of their time in the NFL. The Victor E. Bash Kickoff with Frazier and Voice of the Huskies Bill Baker opened the 10-day event, and included NIU head coaches and student-athletes, as did the finale and "Thank You" on the final day. NIU head coaches and staff interacted with fans via the YouTube chat stream and answered their questions during the events.



\$156,000 RAISED

"I also want to commend our entire staff, and especially Patrick Gorman and his team at Huskie Vision for their work on the YouTube programming. Thanks also go out to the NIU football greats who joined us during the week, including Jordan Lynch, Joe Novak, Michael Turner, Larry



The Northern Illinois University Convocation Center is a multi-use facility that opened in 2002 and serves the NIU campus and region. Fiscal year 2019 saw 131 community, university, entertainment and athletic events held in the Convocation Center.

COVID-19 EFFECTS

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Convocation Center cancelled 37 scheduled community and academic events for FY20.

- All 16 high school graduations scheduled to be held at the NIU Convocation Center in 2020 were canceled.

- Greeted 172,097 fans and guests as of March 2020. Attendance numbers include Huskie Stadium and NIU Convocation Center events. At the same point in the previous year, the venue had greeted approximately 139,813 fans and guests.

- Welcomed the world-famous Harlem Globetrotters on January 29th, 2020.

- Comedian Trevor Noah entertained fans on October 12, 2019.

- American rock band "Young the Giant" kicked off 2019 Homecoming Weekend at the Convocation Center.

- Recorded NIU's largest IHSA Boys Basketball Supersectional crowd at just over 4,200 people for the 1A and 2A games.

- Hosted IHSA State Football Championships and 18,386 fans in Huskie Stadium.

- Hosted the MAC Wrestling Championships, featuring a record 15 schools, for the first time.

- Transformed the Convocation Center to host the Northwestern Medicine Kish Gala for the second time.



STAFFING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Continued mandatory bi-annual event staff training to increase customer service and overall safety and security of the facility.

- Started accessibility curb cut out project, set to be completed Spring 2021.

- Striped Convocation Center Lot parking spaces



SEASON AWARDS

ALL-AMERICAN

Jack Heflin - PFF Honorable Mention

ALL-MAC

Jordan Steckler - First Team

Mykelti Williams - Second Team

Jack Heflin - Second Team

Mitchell Brinkman - Third Team

Tre Harbison - Third Team

John Richardson - Third Team

ACADEMIC AWARDS

ACADEMIC ALL-MAC

Erik Abrell, Michell Brinkman, Matt Ference, Trayshon Foster, Nathan Harman, Corey Lersch, Benn Olson, Liam Soraghan, Jordan Steckler, Rahveon Valentine, Austin Warner

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

Mitchell Brinkman, Jordan Steckler

SPECIALTY AWARDS

William V. Campbell Trophy Semi-Finalist

Jordan Steckler

NFF Hamshire Honor Society

Andrew Starr, Jordan Steckler

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

5-7 / 4-4 MAC

- NIU graduate and former Huskie player and assistant coach Thomas Hammock became the 23rd head coach in the history of the NIU football program.

- Hammock won his first career game as head coach, defeating Illinois State in the season opener.

- Jordan Steckler was a semifinalist for the William V. Campbell Trophy, the "Academic Heisman" and a nominee for the National Football Foundation Scholar-Athlete award with a 3.62 GPA.

- Tre Harbison posted back-to-back 1,000-yard rushing seasons after amassing 1,021 yards on 230 carries. He ranks 14th all-time in NIU history with 2,345 career rushing yards.

- Three of the Huskies' seven losses came by seven points or less and the wins included a trio of three-point wins with kicker John Richardson making a pair of game-winning field goals.

- Jordan Steckler signed a free agent contract with the New Orleans Saints.



VOLLEYBALL

SEASON AWARDS

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM
Grace Balensiefer - Dayton Invitational
Kat Bell - NIU Invitational

ACADEMIC AWARDS

ACADEMIC ALL-MAC
Grace Balensiefer, Angie Gromos, Miranda Karlen, Jasmine Kemp, Brinley Milbrath, Amanda Rullan Vilanova, Kennedy Shelley, Kennedy Wallace

AVCA TEAM ACADEMIC AWARD



CROSS COUNTRY

SEASON AWARDS

All-MAC
Mackenzie Callahan - First Team
Ashley Tutt - First Team
Ericka Hibser - Second Team

ACADEMIC AWARDS

ACADEMIC ALL-MAC
Sara Atkins, Maggie Cavanaugh, Ericka Hibser, Mercer Mack, Vivian Overbeck, Hannah Ricci, Ashley Tutt, Sarah Virgo

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR-ATHLETES
Ashley Tutt

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS 8-22 / 5-11 MAC

- Sophomore middle blocker Jasmine Kemp was named MAC West Defensive Player of the Week on Nov. 4 after totaling 13 blocks against Eastern Michigan and Central Michigan.
- Junior libero Miranda Karlen earned MAC West Defensive Player of the Week honors on Oct. 28 after averaging 5.50 digs per set in NIU's wins over Kent State and Ohio.
- Sophomore setter Grace Balensiefer also earned MAC weekly honors on Oct. 28 with the MAC West Setter of the Week award. She averaged 11 assists per set in the Huskies' wins over Kent State and Ohio.

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- Ashley Tutt became the first Huskie to win the MAC Individual Cross Country Championship, helping NIU to a second-place finish, tied for the best team finish in school history, as the Huskies hosted the MAC Championship on the North 40 Course.
- Tutt finished fourth at the NCAA Midwest Regional to automatically qualify for the NCAA Championship while the Huskies finished ninth at the Midwest Regional, tied for the best finish in school history.
- Tutt, who was just the second Huskie to ever compete in the NCAA Division I Cross Country Championship, finished 50th out of 254 runners, marking the best finish ever by a Huskie.
- NIU won three regular season meets, taking top honors at the Western Illinois Early Bird, the NIU Huskie Challenge and the Loyola Lakefront Invitational.



MEN'S SOCCER

SEASON AWARDS

All-MAC
Anthony Markanich - First Team
Nick Markanich - First Team
Alex Welch - First Team
Jan Maertins - Second Team

ACADEMIC AWARDS

ACADEMIC ALL-MAC
Jan Maertins, Christian Molina, Ethan Pitre, Louis Sala, Alex Welch

MAC MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE
Jan Maertins

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR-ATHLETES
Jan Maertins

CoSIDA ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN
Jan Maertins

United Soccer Coaches Team Academic Award

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

7-10-1 / 2-3 MAC

- Jan Maertins was named to the CoSIDA Academic All-America First Team, becoming the sixth Academic All-American in program history.
- NIU retained the Lewang Trophy with an overtime win over Milwaukee and earned its first win at West Virginia in program history.
- The Huskies earned the United Soccer Coaches Team Academic Award for the fourth consecutive season.



WOMEN'S SOCCER

ACADEMIC AWARDS

ACADEMIC ALL-MAC
Sarah Avery, Kelsey Chope, Amanda Czerniak, Megan Donnally, Kylee Hermeyer, Madison Kaufmann, Julia Lentz, Jenna Lewey, Jennie Nailor and Lauren Neslund

UNITED SOCCER COACHES TEAM ACADEMIC AWARD

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

2-14-2 / 0-10-1 MAC

- NIU earned an overtime win at Marquette, its first win over a Big East foe in 14 years.
- The Huskies had 83 percent of their goals scored by freshmen and sophomores.
- Trudy Quidzinski registered the eighth hat trick in school history, and the first since 1998, when she netted three goals in a 4-4 tie against Louisiana-Lafayette.
- NIU received the United Soccer Coaches Team Academic Award for the first time since the 2013-14 academic year.



MEN'S BASKETBALL

SEASON AWARDS

NABC ALL DISTRICT

Eugene German - First Team District 14

ALL-MAC

Eugene German - First Team

LOU HENSON ALL-AMERICA TEAM

Eugene German

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS 18-13 / 11-7 MAC

- Won a share of the MAC West Division title for the first time since 2006.
- Finished the season with an 18-13 overall record, the sixth-most wins in a single-season in school history, despite having its season shortened by the coronavirus pandemic, and an 11-7 mark in conference play.
- Eugene German became NIU's all-time leading scorer, finishing his career with 2,203 points, fifth-most in Mid-American Conference history.
- German became the eighth All-American in program history when he was named to the Lou Henson All-American Team.
- The Huskies had a school-record six-game MAC win streak (Jan. 21-Feb. 7) and its 11 conference wins were the most for the program since 2006.
- NIU recorded a winning record in non-conference play for the seventh consecutive season.
- NIU finished the season ranked in the top 50 nationally in rebounding (35th), scoring defense (43rd) and field goal percentage defense (44th).
- The Huskies won on the road at Buffalo for the first time since 2003 and recorded a season sweep of Kent State for the first time since 1985-86.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

SEASON AWARDS

ALL-MAC

Courtney Woods - First Team

ACADEMIC AWARDS

ACADEMIC ALL-MAC

Ninni Salmi, Courtney Woods, Ally May, Riley Blackwell, Myia Starks, Mikayla Brandon, Gabby Nikitinaite, Abby Woollacott

MAC DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR-ATHLETE

Courtney Woods,

WBCA ACADEMIC TOP 25 HONOR ROLL

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS 11-19 / 7-11 MAC

- Senior Courtney Woods was named to the All-MAC First Team for the second time in her career. She earned MAC West Player of the Week three times and MAC Female Scholar-Athlete of the Week twice during the season.
- Woods became NIU's all-time leader in three-pointers made against Eastern Illinois on Dec. 19. She finished her career with 323 career threes.
- On Feb. 5, Woods became the third player in NIU women's basketball history to reach 2,000 career points. She finished her career second on the NIU all-time scoring list with 2,216 points.
- Junior forward Riley Blackwell was named MAC West Player of the Week on Nov. 19 after leading NIU with a career-high 18 points in an 80-75 overtime win at Colorado State.
- Seniors Abby Woollacott and Myia Starks honored with NIU Outstanding Women Student Awards.
- NIU led the MAC with eight Academic All-MAC selections and earned a spot on the WBCA (Women's Basketball Coaches Association) Academic Top 25 Honor Roll.



GYMNASTICS

SEASON AWARDS

All-MAC
Mia Lord - Second Team

ACADEMIC AWARDS

ACADEMIC ALL-MAC
Amanda Bartemio, Catherine Biddle, Lauren Gomes, Morgan Hooper, Tara Kofmehl, Cinny Lamberti, Mia Lord, Nina Martucci, Allison Richardson, Zoie Schroeder, Gabby Welch

MAC DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR-ATHLETE
Mia Lord

WCGA SCHOLASTIC ALL-AMERICANS
Mia Lord, Amanda Bartemio, Lauren Gomes, Cinny Lamberti, Allison Richardson, Nina Martucci, Catherine Biddle, Zoie Schroeder, Gabby Welch, Nicolette DiPrisco, Morgan Hooper, Kelsey Martz, Tara Kofmehl, Gillian Dolitsky, Jacklyn Dolitsky, Natalie Hamp, Ciara Ryan, Brookelyn Sears



WRESTLING

SEASON AWARDS

MAC CHAMPION
Brit Wilson - 184 Pounds

All-MAC
Brit Wilson - 184 Pounds

CO-MAC COACH OF THE YEAR
Ryan Ludwig

MAC FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR
Izzak Olejnik

NCAA QUALIFIERS
Gage Braun - 197 Pounds
Max Ihry - 285 Pounds
Izzak Olejnik - 165 Pounds
Brit Wilson - 184 Pounds

ACADEMIC AWARDS

ACADEMIC ALL-MAC
Gage Braun, Caleb Brooks, Mason Kauffman, Bryce West

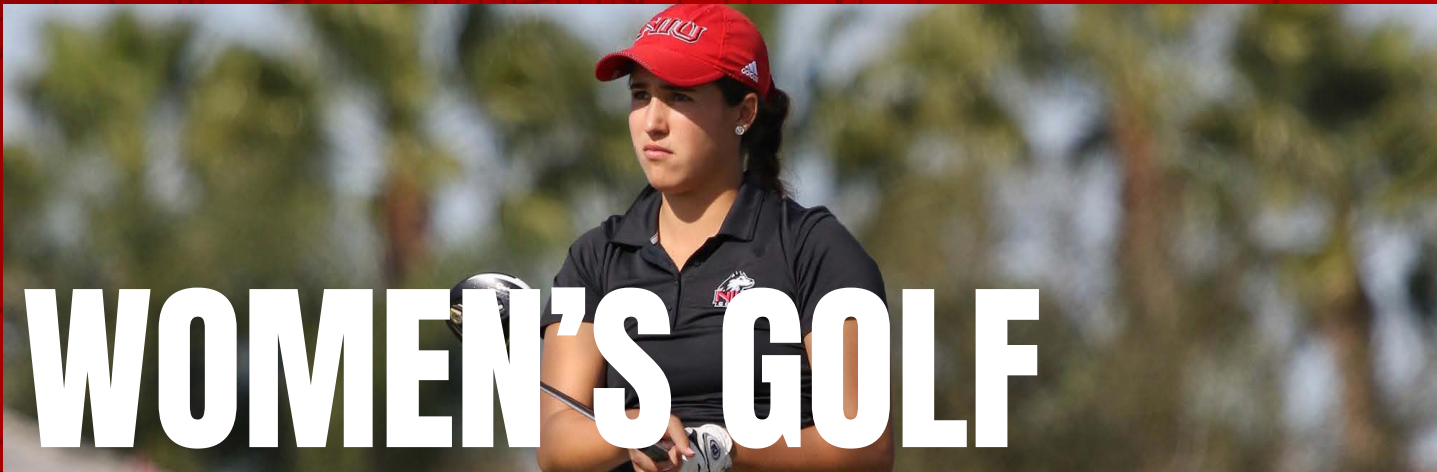
NWCA SCHOLAR ALL-AMERICANS
Gage Braun, Max Ihry, Bryce West

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS 5-6 / 3-2 MAC

- Did not complete season (one regular season meet and MAC Championships cancelled due to COVID-19).
- Ranked 39th nationally when the season ended with an NQS of 195.355
- Earned three of the top eight team scores in school history, including a 196.125 at Eastern Michigan (2/7), second-best all-time.
- Broke the team record on balance beam at EMU (2/7) with a 49.325
- Earned three of the top five team vault scores in school history.
- Team earned APR Public Recognition Award for the sixth time in last seven years.
- The Huskies were named one of the top three academic teams in women's gymnastics according to data compiled by the Women's Collegiate Gymnastics Association.

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS 13-4 / 7-2 MAC

- The Huskie wrestling team finished third at the 2020 Mid-American Conference Championships, hosted by NIU.
- NIU's 13 wins on the season were the most by a Huskie wrestling team since 2004-05.
- Four wrestlers - Gage Braun (197), Max Ihry (285), Izzak Olejnik (165) and Brit Wilson (184) qualified for the 2020 NCAA Wrestling Championships, which were cancelled due to the COVID-19.
- Brit Wilson won the MAC championship at 184 pounds, the Huskies' first conference champion since 2013, and earned first team All-MAC honors in the process.
- Izzak Olejnik was named MAC Freshman of the Year after wrestling to a 19-10 record and a second-place finish at the 2020 MAC Wrestling Championships.
- The Huskies defeated then-No. 24 Central Michigan, 19-12, at home. It was the first win over the Chippewas since 2003.



WOMEN'S GOLF

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- Did not complete season (two regular season tournaments and MAC Championship cancelled due to COVID-19).
- No postseason awards (MAC) presented for golf.
- Newcomer Caroline Klomp took the individual title at the season-opening Redbird Invitational (9/8-9).
- Huskies' took second place (18-team field) at Rio Verde Invitational (2/21-23) in penultimate tournament played.
- Team's season-ending stroke average of 302.7 ranked third all-time.
- Klomp's single season stroke average of 74.94 ranks as the Huskies' second- lowest all-time by percentage points.
- Senior Isabella Samudio garnered Outstanding Woman Student Award from NIU.



MEN'S GOLF

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- Did not complete season (three regular season tournaments and MAC Championship canceled due to COVID-19)
- Finished second at the Musketeers Classic on Oct. 21-22. Huskies had three golfers finish in the top-20, led by a sixth-place finish from Jordan Less.
- Less tied the NIU single-round scoring record on Nov. 2 at the White Sands Intercollegiate, posting a seven-under par 65. The senior finished the tournament in second place at 14-under par to set a career best.
- Michael Mattas was named MAC Golfer of the Week on Feb. 28 after tying for fourth place at the Loyola Intercollegiate. The senior carded a career-best six-under par 66 in the final round to move to nine-under for the tournament for a career-best 54-hole score of 207.
- Jordan Less' career stroke average of 74.2 ranks second in NIU history.



MEN'S TENNIS

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- Posted a 6-6 overall record, 1-0 in conference play, in dual matches before the spring portion of the season was cut short by the coronavirus pandemic.
- Bor Schweiger Muzar was named MAC Singles Player of the Week while Mikko Malinen and Victor Spolidorio claimed MAC Doubles Team of the Week on March 11.
- Muzar and David Pata earned MAC Doubles Team of the Week recognition on January 22.
- Shao-Yu Yu and Kristopher Ortega paired to win the flight two doubles title at the Mid-American Conference Indoor Invite to close the fall portion of the season.
- Ortega and Yu also finished second in their doubles flight at the River Forest Collegiate Tennis Invitational.



WOMEN'S TENNIS

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- Spring portion of the 2020 season was cut short by the coronavirus pandemic.
- First-year head coach Eric Burns led the Huskies to 12 wins, more victories than NIU had in the previous two seasons combined.
- The win total in 2020 were the most for NIU since 2015 when the Huskies won 11 matches.
- NIU was recognized for its success in the classroom as it was named to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's All-Academic Team and five Huskies – Iuliia Dmitrieva, Maria Potsi, Lara Slisko, Brodie Walker and Paula Veyhle – garnered ITA Scholar-Athlete honors.



BASEBALL

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- Season canceled after 17 games due to COVID-19.
- The Huskies 12-3 victory over Boston College on Feb. 16 marked their third victory ever against an Atlantic Coast Conference opponent, and second in three years.
- Senior first baseman Jordan Larson was named the MAC Co-Player of the Week on Feb. 18 after hitting .583 against Boston College in NIU's first series of the season. In NIU's 12-3 win over the Eagles on Feb. 16, Larson was 4-for-4 with two RBI, two doubles, a triple, and a walk.
- Baseball took home their fifth Community Service Award in six years, a nod to their year-long 19 Ways DeKalb volunteer program.



SOFTBALL

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- Season was cancelled after 22 games due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- The Huskies posted a 4-1 mark at the 2020 Battle at the Beach hosted by Coastal Carolina.
- Sophomore Katie Keller was named to the CoSIDA Academic All District Team after hitting .394 on the season with eight doubles and three home runs.
- The Huskies broke the school record for hits in a game when they tallied 23 in a 16-15 win over Jacksonville State.



TRACK & FIELD

SEASON AWARDS

INDOOR ALL-MAC
 Ashley Tutt - First Team and Second Team
 Jehvania Whyte - First Team
 Meagan Biddle - Second Team
 NeShay Curtis - Second Team
 Nora Finegan - Second Team
 Grace Harris - Second Team
 Jahnetta Jones - Second Team
 Kaitlyn Jones - Second Team
 Brooke Lytle - Second Team
 Diamond Riley - Second Team

MAC CHAMPIONSHIPS MOST OUTSTANDING PERFORMER

Ashley Tutt

INDOOR MAC COACH OF THE YEAR

Connie Teaberry

INDOOR MAC ASSISTANT COACH OF THE YEAR

Adrian Myers

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- NIU had a program-best second-place finish at the 2020 MAC Indoor Championship, accumulating a program-record 102 points.
- Ashley Tutt won a pair of MAC championships, winning at 3,000 and 5,000 meters, while being named the Most Outstanding Performer of the 2020 Indoor Championship.
- Jehvania Whyte won the triple jump at the 2020 MAC Indoor Championship, her third consecutive title in the event. Whyte also broke her own meet record for the triple jump.
- New school records were set in three events as Ashley Tutt set new marks in the 3,000 meters (at the GVSU Holiday Open) and the 5,000 meters (at the Iowa State Classic), while Jazmyn Smith set a new school record in the long jump at the MAC Championship.
- A program-high 14 student-athletes earned Academic All-MAC recognition.
- Seniors Remy Amarteifio and Vivian Overbeck both received the NIU Outstanding Woman Student Award.
- Jehvania Whyte was honored with the Mid-American Conference Medal of Excellence.

ACADEMIC AWARDS

INDOOR ACADEMIC ALL-MAC
 Remy Amarteifio, Sara Atkins, Brynn Bartlett, Maggie Cavanaugh, Nora Finegan, Grace Harris, Kaitlyn Lewis, Mercer Mack, Kenya Majors, Vivian Overbeck, Hannah Ricci, Ashley Tutt, Sarah Virgo, Jehvania Whyte

INDOOR MAC DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

Nora Finegan, Grace Harris, Kaitlyn Lewis, Ashley Tutt

THANK YOU DONORS

The Huskie Athletic Fund gratefully acknowledges its members and donors who contribute annual gifts and make it possible for more than 400 NIU student-athletes to receive athletics scholarships.

On behalf of NIU Athletics and all Huskie student-athletes, THANK YOU and as always, GO HUSKIES!

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Over seven weeks, NIU Athletics honored its 33 student-athletes from seven spring sports who were scheduled to complete their NIU careers this semester by featuring one senior per day on its official social media channels.

Baseball
Ryan Anderson
Jake Dunham
Eric Hammer
Brendan Joyce
Jordan Larson
Dylan Lonteen
Tristan Michaels
Tommy Szczasny
Nate Thomas
Blake Walker

Men’s Golf
Scott Dunsire
Jordan Less
Russell Matos
Michael Mattas

Men’s Tennis
Bor Schweiger Muzar
Shao-Yu Yu

Softball
Anne Allen
Kayla Scaperrotta

Women’s Golf
Isabella Samudio

Women’s Tennis
Mary Ellen Green
Jovana Peric
Brodie Walker

Women’s Track & Field
Tristyn Allen
Remy Amarteifio
NeShay Curtis
Grace Harris
Britney Hew
Ericka Hibser
Mercer Mack (March 23)
Vivian Overbeck
Melissa Ricci
Sarah Virgo
Jehvania Whyte



THANK YOU!

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