

NIU

ATHLETICS



2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



MISSION

The mission of NIU Athletics is to inspire and sustain excellence in the principles of promoting athletes to champions while developing champions in the classroom, in competition and in life.

VISION

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.



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Data on Academic All-MAC/MAC Distinguished Scholar-Athletes for Spring Sports.

FROM THE DESK OF

Sean T. Frazier



Dear Huskie Nation,

I sit here humbled at the thought of completing my 10th season at NIU during the 2022-23 season. It was a year of great achievement. What a year it was - academically, athletically, and socially - as our teams and student-athletes continue to impress and amaze with what they accomplish in these areas.

The emphasis on academic excellence has extended throughout the department. NIU student-athletes finished the 2022-23 academic year with a cumulative GPA of 3.365, with all 16 teams recording a team GPA above 3.0. Every NIU sports program surpassed the Academic Progress Rate for the 15th straight year, and nearly 90 percent of student-athletes who have entered NIU over the last eight years have earned their degrees according to the latest Graduation Success Rate (GSR) figures.

In competition, the list of highlights starts with the Huskie men's golf team, which won the program's first conference championship since 1985. Head coach John Carlson was named MAC Coach of the Year, and two Huskies were named first team All-MAC, the first time that NIU has had two first team All-MAC selections in the same season. Wrestler Izzak Olejnik topped the list of NIU individual award winners as the two-time MAC Champion earned All-America honors at the 2023 NCAA Wrestling Championships. He won one of four individual MAC titles by Huskies in 2023, and both he and indoor track's Kadeja Campbell were named the most outstanding performers at their respective championships. In addition to men's golf, three gymnasts and three outdoor track and field student-athletes qualified for NCAA Regional competition.

In terms of revenue generation, records were broken in multiple areas, including unrestricted annual fund dollars and sports specific dollars and overall departmental revenue. The Huskies shattered the record for overall departmental revenue with \$7.79 million raised through donations, gift-in-kind and income from premium area sales, as well as game guarantees, licensing, and external agreements. The Huskie Athletic Fund also set a record in unrestricted dollars received with \$850,000, a 36 percent increase from the previous year. In five years, Huskies Invest: A Week of Giving has generated more than \$3.3 million, enabling NIU to make significant progress and complete several facility projects, including phase one of the newly renamed Ralph McKinzie Field at Walt & Janice Owens Park. The first phase of the project included installation of a turf infield, improvements to the drainage system and ADA accessibility. We also installed a new soccer turf field and progressed to the next phase of the Nelson Tennis Center. All are significant steps that will directly impact the experience of NIU student-athletes moving forward. We are so thankful to everyone who contributed in any way to the success of this year's fundraising efforts.

We continue to position NIU Athletics for future success. In the ever-changing world of college athletics, your support remains crucial for us to achieve these goals. My faith in our leadership, students, and staff remains strong and gives me confidence in our future. Please enjoy the Annual Report, which reviews these highlights and many more from the 2022-23 academic year.

Go Huskies,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean T. Frazier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sean T. Frazier
Vice President/Director of Athletics and Recreation

ATHLETICS STAFF



SEAN T. FRAZIER
Vice President
and Director of
Athletics and Recreation



JOHN CHENEY
Deputy Athletic Director
and Executive Associate
Athletic Director for Operations



LISA DERANGO
Senior Associate Athletic
Director of Human Resources
and Finance Administration



TJ FEUERBACH
Senior Associate Athletic
Director of Development and
Revenue Generation



ANTON GOFF
Senior Associate Athletic Director
and Director of Student-Athlete
Academic Support Services



RYAN SEDEVIE
Senior Associate Athletics
Director of Collegiate
Advancement and External Affairs



COURTNEY VINSON
Senior Associate Athletic Director
of Sports Administration and
Senior Woman Administrator



MIKE KUNIGONIS
Baseball



RASHON BURNO
Men's Basketball



LISA CARLSEN
Women's Basketball



JAMIE MORENO
Women's Cross County



THOMAS HAMMOCK
Football



JOHN CARLSON
Men's Golf



KIM KESTER
Women's Golf



SAM MORREALE
Gymnastics



RYAN SWAN
Men's Soccer



MICHAEL O'NEILL
Women's Soccer



CHRISTINA SUTCLIFFE
Softball



PATRICK FISHER
Men's Tennis



ERIC BURNS
Women's Tennis



CONNIE TEABERRY
Women's Track & Field



RAY GODDEN
Volleyball



RYAN LUDWIG
Wrestling

In 2022-23, NIU student-athletes won MAC Championships, advanced – and excelled – in NCAA competition and garnered recognition at the conference, regional and national levels. Five Huskie programs, women’s basketball, men’s golf, gymnastics, track and field and wrestling, competed in the postseason, either as teams or with individual qualifiers. Both NIU basketball teams advanced to the MAC Tournament in Cleveland, 42 Huskie student-athletes earned All-MAC honors while others were recognized with conference specialty awards.



Men’s Golf 2023 MAC Champions

The Northern Illinois University men’s golf team survived a charge from the Ball State Cardinals to claim its first Mid-American Conference Championship title in almost 40 years, winning by four strokes to earn an automatic berth into the NCAA Regionals. At the Regional in Salem, S.C., NIU narrowly lost out on a trip to the NCAA Championships.



Izzak Olejnik, All-American

Izzak Olejnik went from two-time MAC Champion to NCAA All-American at 165 pounds in 2023. After earning Most Valuable Wrestler honors at the 2023 MAC Championships while dominating his opponents at 165 pounds, Olejnik finished eighth at the NCAA Championships to become the ninth All-American in NIU's Division I history.



Diamond Riley

**OUTDOOR
TRACK & FIELD
MAC CHAMPION -
TRIPLE JUMP**

Diamond Riley won the triple jump at the 2023 MAC Outdoor Track & Field Championships with a mark of 12.94 meters and went on to compete in the event at the NCAA West Preliminary meet.



Emmalise Nock, Natalie Hamp, and Alyssa Al-Ashari

**NCAA GYMNASTICS
REGIONAL QUALIFIERS**

NIU sent three gymnasts to the 2023 NCAA Denver Regional. Sophomore Emmalise Nock made her first NCAA appearance on floor exercise, three-time qualifier Natalie Hamp competed on uneven parallel bars and Alyssa Al-Ashari made her NCAA debut on both bars and balance beam.



Kadeja Campbell, Christine Irving, Jahnetta Jones and Roshell Rowe

**INDOOR TRACK & FIELD
MAC CHAMPION - 4X400 METER RELAY**

Kadeja Campbell, Christine Irving, Jahnetta Jones, Roshell Rowe teamed to win the 4x400-meter relay at the MAC Indoor Championships. Campbell also won the 200 and 400 meters while being named the Most Outstanding Track Performer at the Championships.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

OUR GRADUATES



71

Student-Athletes graduated during the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 semesters.

	FALL	SPRING
College of Business	6	21
College of Education	2	11
College of Engineering and Engineering Technology	0	2
College of Health & Human Sciences	2	4
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences	1	21
Visual & Performing Arts	0	1
TOTAL	11	60

FALL 2022 ACADEMIC SUCCESS

FALL SEMESTER GPA

3.288

CUMULATIVE GPA

3.329

312 STUDENT-ATHLETES WITH A TERM GPA ABOVE A 3.0

15

TEAMS ABOVE A CUMULATIVE 3.0



14

TEAMS WITH A TERM GPA ABOVE A 3.0

59

STUDENT-ATHLETES WITH A 4.0 TERM GPA

HIGHEST MEN'S TEAM GPA : **3.624**
BASEBALL

HIGHEST WOMEN'S TEAM GPA : **3.842**
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



SPRING 2023 ACADEMIC SUCCESS

SPRING SEMESTER TERM GPA

3.337 HIGHEST IN DEPARTMENT HISTORY!

304

STUDENTS WITH A TERM GPA ABOVE 3.0

SPRING CUMULATIVE GPA

3.365 HIGHEST IN DEPARTMENT HISTORY!

STUDENTS WITH A 4.0 TERM GPA

58

TEAMS ABOVE A 3.0 CUMULATIVE GPA: **16** ALL OF THEM!

TEAMS ABOVE A 3.0 TERM GPA

15

HIGHEST MEN'S TEAM TERM GPA

MEN'S TENNIS
3.602

HIGHEST WOMEN'S TEAM TERM GPA

SOFTBALL
3.764



Community Service

NIU student-athletes participated in more than 4,700 approved community service hours during the 2022-2023 school year). This was an increase of over 2,200 hours from the 2021-22 year.



Habitat for Humanity

For the second consecutive summer, the NIU football team traveled en masse to Rockford, Illinois to participate in a build with Habitat for Humanity. Players carried supplies, helped frame a house and more, completing in just hours jobs that would have taken weeks without their assistance.

DeKalb Corn Classic

Student-athletes from multiple sports programs assisted and cheered race participants from water stations around the racecourse.

Soles4Souls

The Huskies contributed to the shoe drive that distributes donated items (shoes) to programs around the world to help those in need. Donated items are repurposed to either provide relief or to help create jobs through the selling of clothes or shoes in developing countries.

Operation Christmas Child Boxes

In collaboration with Athletes in Action, SAASS, and student athletes collected boxes for children in need in the surrounding communities.

Ronald McDonald House Charities

The student-athletes collected and donated approximately 95 lbs. of pop tabs. The funds generated from recycling these aluminum gems help offset the House's expenses and allow families to be close to their children when they are sick.



**The Victors celebrates
the accomplishments of NIU Student-Athletes.**



Outside of competition and the classroom, NIU student-athletes are exposed to programs which help them develop as leaders, community volunteers, mentees and more. Through programs like Game Plan, the Captain's Council and the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), student-athletes plan events like The Victors, the annual student-athlete awards show. In 2022-23, NIU Athletics added Dr. Shyann Beach to the staff as Director of Athletics Counseling with a permanent office in the Yordon Center.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- Hosted a 2022-23 McClendon Future Leader: Owen Maisva: Assistant Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion/Title IX.
- Athletics collaborated with The Division of Academic Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Student Affairs, and Alumni Affairs to sponsor 18 NIU students to tour Black Wall Street in Tulsa, Ok and attend the NIU vs. University of Tulsa football game.
- Student-Athlete Diversity and Inclusion Committee created a social Media series: Black History is American History, where student-athletes and coaches spoke about black people's contributions to American history and the importance of acknowledging Black History. The series was capped off with a discussion moderated by the Marketing graduate assistant and four student-athletes. They spoke about their experience of being a Black student-athlete at NIU.
- Student-Athlete Diversity and Inclusion Committee created a social media series paying respects to the women in the NIU athletics department that work behind the scenes for Women's History Month.
- Jen Fry presented to student-athletes and staff (separate days) about conflict and diversity, equity, and inclusion. D.I.G. members were invited along with Chief Diversity Officer for NIU.
- Courtney Vinson was named one of the 2023 Deacon Davis Diversity Award.



TRIP TO TULSA

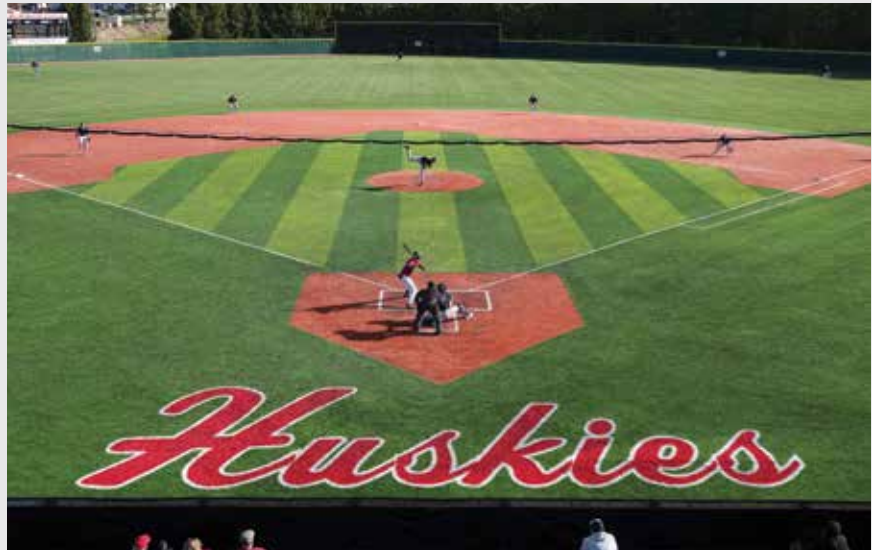


Prior to the 2022 soccer season, a new AstroTurf playing surface was installed at the NIU Soccer and Track & Field Complex. The LigaTurf soccer system is purpose-built for elite soccer play and offers the next best thing to a natural grass field, but without the maintenance requirements or the weather vulnerability issues.



Ralph McKinzie Field at Walt and Janice Owens Park

In the spring of 2023, phase one of Walt & Janice Owens Park was completed and on April 16, the facility was officially renamed Ralph McKinzie Field at Walt and Janice Owens Park. The natural grass infield and pitching mound, as well as the bullpen mounds, were replaced with AstroTurf. Improvements were also made to the infield drainage system and ADA accessibility and seating. New landscaping and fencing around the infield, backstop wall and netting systems were installed.



Indoor Putting Green at Rich Harvest Farms

In 2022-23, a new indoor putting green was installed at the practice facility at Rich Harvest Farms, the home of the NIU men's and women's golf teams. Features include a chipping area, the ability to practice a 75ft length putt, and an actual indoor sand trap. This area allows NIU golfers to hit putts from hundreds of different spots, from any distance, and any break.



During the 2022-23 school year, the Huskie athletics staff, led by Anton Goff and Courtney Vinson, worked to develop the 2023-26 NIU Athletics Strategic Plan. The third Strategic Plan published under NIU Director of Athletics Sean T. Frazier, the plan is built around the following five pillars. To see the complete plan, go to NIUHuskies.com.

Pillar One

Student-Athlete Experience

To make sure all student-athletes have a valuable experience.

Pillar Two

The Huskie Brand

To continue to grow the Huskie brand locally, regionally and nationally.

Pillar Three

Communication Connection

To ensure community relationships are transformational.

Pillar Four

Human Capital

To invest and improve the Huskie employee experience.

Pillar Five

Financial Stability

To promote departmental fiscal responsibility, while funding the organization's needs.





50th Anniversary of Title IX Celebration

In October 2022, NIU celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the passing of landmark Title IX legislation with a gathering of current and former Huskie student-athletes, coaches and administrators in the NIU Convocation Center. The event included a brunch, panel discussion and introduction of the “50 Huskie Greats” of the Title IX era.

NIU HUSKIE SUMMER CIRCUIT

- POLLYANNA BREWING CO.**
JUNE 5 | 5:30 PM
106 S Riverside Ave.,
St. Charles, IL 60174
- DITKA'S RESTAURANT**
JUNE 6 | 5:30 PM
2 Mid America Plaza #100
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181
- HARD ROCK OPENING ACT**
JUNE 7 | 5:30 PM
610 N. Bell School Road
Rockford, IL 61107

**MEET & GREET WITH
NIU COACHES & STAFF!**

A Full Schedule

From celebrating the past to honoring the greats, to a return to a full schedule of Huskie athletics, graduations and competitions, 2022-23 saw visitors back at NIU facilities and the Huskie staff back on the road. The coaches and staff once again met fans at the Summer Circuit, live music returned to the NIU Convocation Center and media gathered for special announcements, including the introduction of new volleyball head coach Sondra Parys (pictured).






AMY FOULKE

HALL OF FAME

On Oct. 7, 2022, NIU Athletics inducted its first new class since 2019 following a delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The class honored nine individuals, including seven student-athletes, and four families who made a significant impact on Huskie Athletics.




THOMAS HAMMOCK



CHANDLER HARNISH



KRISTIN HOFFMAN



SANDRA LUTZ



SCOTT SIMON



CHAD SPANN



ROBERT COLLINS



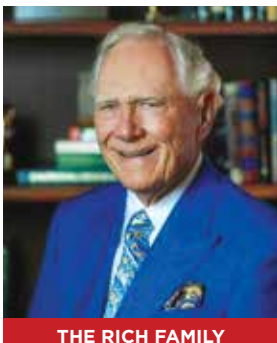
RICK CERRONE



THE BARSEMA FAMILY



THE CHESSICK FAMILY



THE RICH FAMILY



THE YORDON FAMILY

Event Operations

NIU Convocation and Huskie Stadium



Hosted 3 Cheerleading events, a dog show, Harlem Globetrotters, NIU College of Engineering Sr. Showcase, and NIU Fall/Winter and Spring Commencements at the NIU Convocation Center.

Hosting Rassmussen University, 15 School Districts and 20 High School graduations.

Expect to greet 80,000+ guests for our Graduation Season at Huskie Stadium and NIU Convocation Center.

Hosted 2 IHSA Basketball Super Sectional games, and IESA State Wrestling Finals.

Hosted FNBO Challenge Dekalb vs. Sycamore Football and Basketball games.

Hosted first live concert in Convo since 2017.





NIU Athletic Fund

Build Your Membership:

Introduced the Build Your Membership an a la carte model for creating for football, basketball(s), and volleyball game day experiences.

Huskies Invest:

A Week of Giving generated **\$1,052,720**

from **358 GIFTS** received, making this the

LARGEST AMOUNT RAISED in its six-year history.

\$3.3 million has been raised since 2017 during Huskies Invest.

Annual Fund:

\$849,207 generated making this the largest amount raised for unrestricted gifts in history.

Victor E. Bash:

Victor E. Bash held virtually from May 1-6, 2023 brought in **\$196,370**.

Gift-in-Kind: **\$365,149**

(restaurants, lodging and goods and services)

Sports: Sport-specific donations

TOPPED \$504,112.

Campaign to Sustain:

- Surpassed \$3,000,000 in gifts.
- Phase I of the Walt and Janice Owens Park at Ralph McKinzie Field infield turf project was completed and dedication held on April 16, 2023.
- New Convocation Center weight room completed.
- Second floor Yordon Center remodel completed (May 2023).
- New flooring in sports performance completed (June 2023).
- Phase II of the Nelson Tennis Center at Chick Evans Field House remodel is underway.

Tremendous Support

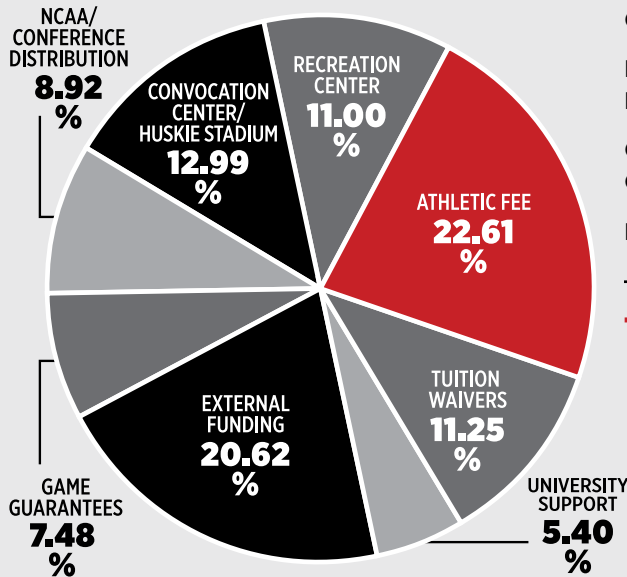
THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS
AND PARTNERS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!



OUR SPONSORS

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Allstate | Hy-Vee | Northwestern
Memorial Healthcare |
| Athletico Ltd. | Illinois Aviation Academy | Old National Bank |
| BioSteel | Illinois Community
Credit Union | PBR |
| Boom Enterprises (Sonic) | Illinois Department
of Human Services
(Division of Substance Use
Prevention and Recovery) | PepsiCo |
| Bosma Dental Sycome, IL | Illinois Department
of Transportation | Planet Fitness |
| Boston Beer Company | Illinois pork | Pollyanna Brewing Co |
| Dekalb Sycamore
Chevrolet Buick | Jimmy Johns | Protillo's |
| DK Investments
(Comfort Inn) LLC | Keg & Kernel | Raising Cane's |
| EO5 Hotels LLC | Kirhofer's Sports | Rosati's pizza |
| Euclid | Kune Auto Group | Superior Beverage |
| Fan Pours | Lakeshore Recycling
Systems | The Cosentino
Law Firm |
| First National Bank | Meiborg Trucking, Inc | Toyota |
| First State Bank | Meijer | U.S. Army
(Optimum Sports) |
| Follett Higher Education
Group Inc | MetroNet | University Plaza |
| Goodwill of Northern Illinois | Northern Illinois University -
Division of Student Affairs | University Sports
Publications |
| Hellcat Subs
(Jersey Mike's Subs) | | Vinny's Pizza |

FUNDING SOURCES



Athletic Fee	\$6,756,000
Tuition Waivers	\$3,362,439
University Support ...	\$1,614,507
External Funding	\$6,159,160
Game Guarantees ...	\$2,233,710
NCAA/Conference ...	\$2,663,859
Distribution	
Convocation	\$3,881,487
Center/Huskie Stadium	
Recreation Center ...	\$3,204,819
<hr/>	
TOTAL*	\$29,875,981

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, multi-media 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.

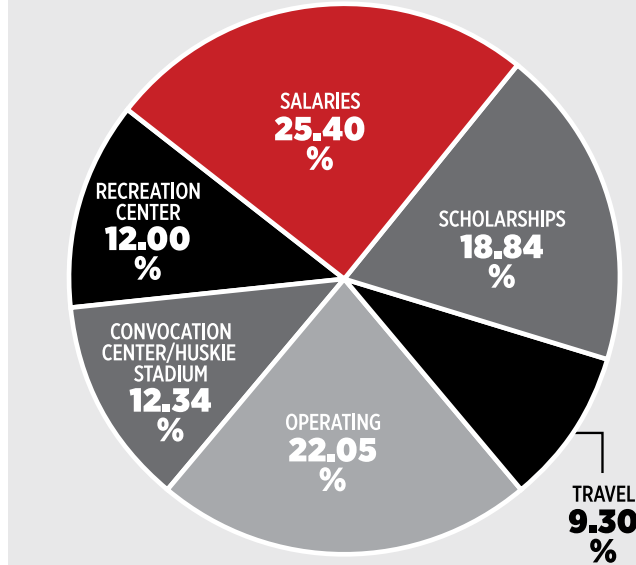
NCAA/CONFERENCE DISTRIBUTION refers to funds provided to institutions across the country by the NCAA through the Student-Athlete Opportunity Fund, the Academic Enhancement Fund, Sport Sponsorship and Grant-in-Aid distributions, as well as distributions directly from the Mid-American Conference.

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.

RECREATION CENTER is the net operating revenue from the Recreation Center and encompasses Chick Evans Field House, Outdoor Recreation Sports Complex, and Outdoor Adventures; these facilities are part of the overall student fee structure of the university and, thereby, fall under various institutional guidelines and use restrictions.

REVENUE

FUNDS ALLOCATION



Salaries	\$8,283,273
Scholarships	\$6,142,804
Travel	\$3,031,312
Operating	\$7,191,128
Convocation	\$4,022,534
Center/Huskie Stadium	
Recreation Center ...	\$3,935,373
<hr/>	
TOTAL*	\$32,606,424

ATHLETICS EXPENSES

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

SCHOLARSHIPS refers to all grant-in-aid awarded to student-athletes for fall 2022, spring 2023 and summer 2023; 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.

RECREATION CENTER is the direct operating expenses for the Recreation Center; these facilities are part of the overall student fee structure of the university and, thereby, fall under various institutional guidelines and use restrictions.

*Data was pulled from PSoft reports as of October 26, 2023.

Business Operations

- Reorganized duties within Recreation Business Office for cross-training and consistency
- Established individual cost centers for Recreation Center in lieu of “catch-all” accounts to better track revenue/expenses per unit
- Implemented on-boarding process to help new staff integrate and transition into new roles
- Strengthened rental polices to adhere to university policy and procedures



- Nutrition Coaching (1-on-1 & Groups): 68 clients and 346 sessions
- Huskie Fresh (Food Prep Boxes): 394 servings sold
- Healthy Eating Workshops: 181 participations in nutrition workshops
- 14 graduate Nutrition & Dietetics students gained experience as Nutrition Coaches
- 68 nutrition clients were served, totaling 346 nutrition coaching sessions
- The Nutrition Team collaborates across campus with Campus Dining, Counseling & Consultation Services, Student Wellness, CHHS Nutrition & Dietetics academic program area, KNPE program area, Athletics, & NM Health Services
- 113 nutrition education events were hosted, reaching 1,403 participations
- New offering: cooking classes! 11 cooking classes were hosted, with 100 participations

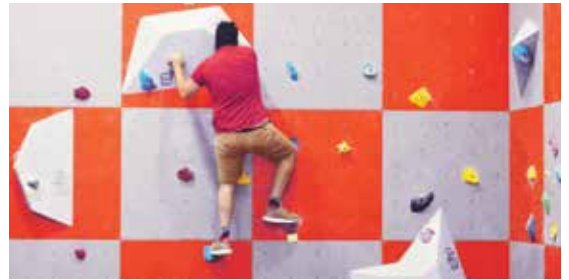
Outdoor Adventures

- 37 trips offered and 27 executions for 212 participants and 1,814 contact hours
- 68 teambuilding and custom programs provided for 2,241 participants and 5,245 contact hours; new organizations included Golden Apples, School of Music, BLAC Inc., Aurora University, Outdoor Afro, KNPE Project Flex and Tanzanian ENVEST, several Girl Scout Troops, College of Education Senate, and College of Liberal Arts Senate
- Hosted 22 free special events for 539 participants for 712 contact hours, new events included the Halloween Campfire for 137 participants, Winter Wonderland collaboration with Campus Activities Board, Climbing Club Bouldering Competition, and summer intern hikes
- Weekly service offerings included 16 weeks of bike service and 27 weeks of lagoon rentals
- Trained 4 new trip leaders over 11 weeks of the spring semester
- Assistant Director attended 10-day Wilderness First Responder Certification Course in March
- The Adventure Center had 230 camping items, 114 sport items, 291 water items, and 115 winter items for a total of 750 items rented



Open Rec

- External and Internal signage installed throughout the facility
- Opened the Nelson Tennis Center in the Chick Evan Field house up for open recreation times
- New paint, hall lockers, and equipment
- Addition of Pickleball lines
- ORSC grounds redone
- New Badminton on Courts 4, 5, and 6
- Fusion Software (Recreation Management Software) is now fully functional with images
- Over 180,258 check-in swipes recorded for Recreation Facilities for FY23
- 3,141 purchased memberships and passes sold for FY23
- 19,486 total unique fee-paying student members throughout the FY23 year
- Opened up the Relaxation Room in one of the old racquetball courts
- Updated RecCard designed and implemented replacing the old community card



- Provided 14 group fitness classes each week including Strong and Stretched, Indoor Cycling, Vinyasa/Hatha Yoga, Weight Circuits, Dance Fitness, Reformer Pilates, Yin/Restorative Yoga, Barre, and more for a total of 737 class check-ins from August 2022-April 2023
- 24 Personal Training Bundles sold totaling 219 sessions (30-minute and 1-hour sessions)
- New event Hot Coco 5K had 12 participants
- Mind Body Bingo promotions had 10+ cards returned, and all prize PT sessions were utilized by the winner



Sport Clubs

- 19 active Sport Clubs: Archery, Baseball, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Cheerleading, Climbing, Equestrian, Esports, Fencing, Men's Gymnastics, Ice Hockey (2 teams), Lacrosse, Men's and Women's Rugby, Men's and Women's Soccer, Softball, Tennis, Men's and Women's Volleyball
- Over 750+ club members
- Clubs hosted over 45+ home competitions, games, and events
- Clubs raised over \$28,000 (to the sport club cost center account) of additional funding through fundraising, donations, etc.
- New Climbing Club started
- Men's Volleyball Club placed 9th out of 48 teams in their division at the National Collegiate Volleyball Federation (NCVF) national championship in Kansas City, MO
- Men's Gymnastics hosted their NIU Invitational Competition at the DuPage Fairgrounds with 6+ universities in attendance to compete
- Women's Rugby celebrated their 25th anniversary
- Huskie Gaming (Esports club) joined the National Esports Collegiate Conference (NECC) and competed in multiple video games



Intramurals

- Over 700 students, faculty, or staff participations
- 457 games played, 194 teams created, and 24 teams were crowned champions
- Fall and Spring Flag Football Championships were held in Huskie Stadium
- Spring Basketball Championships were held on Victor E. Court in the Convocation Center
- Hosted a table and foot dart activity at the Week of Welcome Kick Off in August
- Brought back the Huskie Cup to encourage Greek Life to participate in all Intramurals



Season Awards

All MAC

Nolan Potter - First Team
 C.J. Brown - Second Team
 Devonte O'Malley - Second Team
 James Ester - Third Team
 Michael Kennedy - Third Team
 Harrison Waylee - Third Team
 Logan Zschernitz - Third Team

Comeback Player of the Year, Semifinalist

Kyle Pugh

Academic Awards

Campbell Trophy Semifinalist

Michael Kennedy

Academic All-MAC

C.J. Brown, Evan Buss,
 Ivan Davis, Leif Engstrand,
 Tom Foley, Isaac Hatfield,
 Michael Kennedy,
 Brock Lampe, J.J. Lippe,
 Cyrus McGarrell, Pete Nygra,
 Pierce Oppong, Nolan Potter,
 Kyle Pugh, Nick Rattin,
 Dayven Shinhoster,
 Liam Soraghan, Tristen Tewes,
 Raishein Thomas, Cole Tucker,
 Jacob Waskow

CSC Academic All-District

Evan Buss, Brock Lampe,
 Pete Nygra, Nick Rattin,
 Tristen Tewes



SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

3-9/2-6 MAC



- In all 49 different players - second highest total among FBS teams - started games for the Huskies in 2022 and only four players - all on defense - started every game; the 49 players included four different quarterbacks.
- The Huskies ranked 10th nationally and led the MAC in fewest sacks allowed (1.00/game) and were first in the country in fewest fumbles lost (2).
- Linebacker Kyle Pugh became the first Football Bowl Subdivision player to spend eight seasons on a college football roster; his story was featured in the New York Times and Wall Street Journal.
- Five of the Huskies nine losses were by one possession (eight points or less), including a double overtime loss at Ball State.
- Tight end Liam Soraghan was selected as the male recipient of the 2023 MAC Medal of Excellence for NIU.
- Head coach Thomas Hammock, former NIU running back Chad Spann (2007-10) and quarterback Chandler Harnish (2008-11) were inducted into the NIU Athletics Hall of Fame in October.



Season Awards

MAC Defensive Player of the Year

Franki Bertucci

All-MAC

Charli Atiemo - Second Team

Franki Bertucci - Second Team

Academic Awards

Academic All-MAC

Charli Atiemo, Franki Bertucci,
Jada Cerniglia, Sophie Hurt, Katie Jablonski,
Ella Mihacevich, Brianna Scuric

CSC Academic All-District

Franki Bertucci, Ella Mihacevich, Brianna Scuric

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

17-11/10-8 MAC

- NIU ranked sixth in the nation with 17.39 digs per set, led by Franki Bertucci who was second in the country averaging 5.92 digs per set.
- The Huskies went a perfect 2-0 at the KC Roos Classic, defeating Kansas City and Wichita State, and also went 2-0 at the NIU Invitational, where they defeated Rhode Island and Southern Indiana.
- Katie Jablonski and Ella Mihacevich cracked 1,000-career kills and assists, respectively against Eastern Michigan on November 12, 2022.
- Sammi Lockwood ranked second in the MAC, and 54th nationally, with 1.22 blocks per set.
- Sondra Parys was tabbed as the seventh head coach in NIU history in December 2022.





SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

5-8-4/2-5-1 MAC



- NIU defeated Milwaukee, 3-2, to retain the Lewang Cup. The Huskies have held the trophy, (contested annually by the Huskies and Panthers), since 2018.
- The 11 Academic All-MAC honorees for the Huskies was a program record, bettering the previous best of nine set in 2016 and 2021.
- Following an announcement that the Mid-American Conference would no longer sponsor men's soccer beginning in the fall of 2023, it was announced that NIU would join the Missouri Valley Conference as a men's soccer affiliate member.
- NIU was named a recipient of the United Soccer Coaches Team Academic Award. It marked the sixth consecutive season the Huskies have earned the award.

Season Awards

All MAC

Adrian Corona - Second Team

Adrian Lara - Second Team



Academic Awards

Academic All-MAC

Dylan Banker, Enrique Banuelos, Camilo Estrada, Kevin Galiano, Parker Jeppson, Harry Jolley, Adrian Lara, Diego Maynez, Miguel Maynez Jr., Zachariah Thomas, Malcolm Ward

CSC Academic All-District

Dylan Banker, Enrique Banuelos, Kevin Galiano, Parker Jeppson, Harry Jolley, Diego Maynez

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Season Awards

MAC All-Freshman Team

Amber Best



Academic Awards

Academic All-MAC

Abby Adams, Madison Frazer, Sadie McGill, Abby McHugh, Kierah Meier, Claudia Muessig, Amara Thompkins, Jamie Ward, Abby Zipse

CSC Academic All-District

Abby McHugh, Kierah Meier, Claudia Muessig, Amara Thompkins, Jamie Ward

- NIU's six wins overall and three conference victories are both the most for the program since 2017 while the eight losses are the fewest for NIU in a season since 2008.
- First-year Huskie head coach Michael O'Neill picked up his first career win at NIU in the season opener at Eastern Kentucky on Aug. 18 as the Huskies defeated the Colonels, 2-1.
- Deighton Wamer was named MAC Defensive Player of the Week on Sept. 20. Wamer did not allow a goal in 135 minutes of action against Wisconsin and Chicago State.
- Amber Best was named to the MAC All-Freshman Team after tying for the team lead with four goals and 10 points. Best is the 10th Huskie to earn MAC All-Freshman Team honors, and the first since the 2020-21 season.





CROSS COUNTRY

Academic Awards

Academic All-MAC

Julia Finegan, Joy Jackson, Emma Vorpapel

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS



- The Huskies finished second as a team at the First State Bank Huskie Challenge with Brooke Valentine finishing seventh and Katelyn Robbins finishing 10th.
- NIU had two top-10 finishers at the Tom Hoffman Invitational. Brooke Valentine earned a sixth-place finish while Joy Jackson claimed ninth.
- Brooke Valentine led the Huskies at the Mid-American Conference Championships with a 51st-place finish.
- In April, Juan Carrillo was named as the new NIU women's cross country head coach. Carrillo returns to DeKalb after working as an assistant with the Huskie program from 2015-17.



INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

Season Awards

MAC Most Outstanding Track Performer

Kadeja Campbell

MAC Champions

Kadeja Campbell -

200 Meters, 400 Meters, 4x400-Meter Relay

Christine Irving - 4x400-Meter Relay

Jahnetta Jones - 4x400-Meter Relay

Roshell Rowe - 4x400-Meter Relay

Academic Awards

Academic All-MAC

Kadeja Campbell, Kennedy Crawford, Julia Finegan, Kayla La Fontain, Scout Regular, Katelyn Robbins, Roshell Rowe, Emma Vorpapel

CSC Academic All-District

Kadeja Campbell, Julia Finegan, Joy Jackson, Roshell Rowe, Emma Vorpapel



SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- Kadeja Campbell won three conference titles at the MAC Indoor Championships (200 meters, 400 meters, 4x400-meter relay) to earn the MAC Most Outstanding Track Performer Award. She became the second Huskie to win three MAC titles at the same indoor championship, joining Ashley Tutt in 2021.
- In the 200 meters, Campbell ran a converted school record time of 23.71 seconds in the final, becoming the first Huskie to win the 200-meter dash at a MAC Indoor Championship.
- NIU has earned a Most Outstanding Performer Award at four of the last six indoor conference championships with Campbell joining Jehvania Whyte in 2018 as well as Ashley Tutt in 2020 and 2021.
- The Huskies finished eighth at the MAC Indoor Championships with 50.5 points.

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

13-9/9-9 MAC



- The Huskies finished league play second in the MAC in field goal percentage (48 percent), third in three-point percentage (36.8 percent), third in field goal defense (44.5 percent), third in three-point defense (32.5 percent) and third in assists (13.8 pg).
- Kaleb Thornton led the conference in assists (6.7 pg) and steals (2.2 pg) in league games while Harvin Ibarguen led the MAC in field goal percentage in conference play (81.7 percent).
- The Huskies defeated eventual MAC Tournament champion Kent State, 86-76, on Jan. 24, snapping the Golden Flashes' 10-game win streak, which was the third-longest win streak in the country at the time.
- NIU finished the season with the sixth-most single-season points in school history (2,304) and the second-most three-point field goals (236).
- Kaleb Thornton ranked 29th in the nation with 5.3 assists per game.

Season Awards

All-MAC

David Coit - Third Team
Kaleb Thorton - Honorable Mention

NABC All-District

David Coit - Second Team



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Season Awards

MAC Sixth Player of the Year

Janae Poisson

All-MAC

A'Jah Davis - First Team

Chelby Koker - Second Team

Academic Awards

Academic All-MAC

A'Jah Davis, Grace Hunter, Chelby Koker, Jayden Marable, Sidney McCrea, Emily Meinert, Laura Nickel, Janae Poisson, Brooke Stonebraker

CSC Academic All-District

A'Jah Davis, Chelby Koker, Jayden Marable, Laura Nickel

- NIU had the third-highest grade point average in NCAA Division I women's basketball for the 2022-23 academic year with a team cumulative GPA of 3.778.
- Women's Basketball qualified for a national postseason tournament for the first time since 2017 with an appearance in the Women's Basketball Invitational in Lexington, Ky.
- The Huskies sparked an eight-game winning streak with an 86-79 win over DePaul at the Convocation Center on Nov. 12, NIU's first win over the Blue Demons since 1994.
- A'Jah Davis set the NIU women's basketball single-season rebounds record with 363 and finished her career as NIU's career leader in double-doubles (54) and second in career rebounds (1,048).
- Janae Poisson earned MAC Sixth Player of the Year for the second time in three seasons.



SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

16-17/8-10 MAC



Season Awards

NCAA All-American

Izzak Olejnik

MAC Champion

Izzak Olejnik

MAC Most Outstanding Wrestler

Izzak Olejnik

Academic Awards

Academic All-MAC

Lucian Brink, Jacob Christensen, Anthony Gibson, Izzak Olejnik, Hayden Pummel, Blake West, Bryce West

CSC Academic All-District

Lucian Brink, Hayden Pummel, Blake West, Bryce West

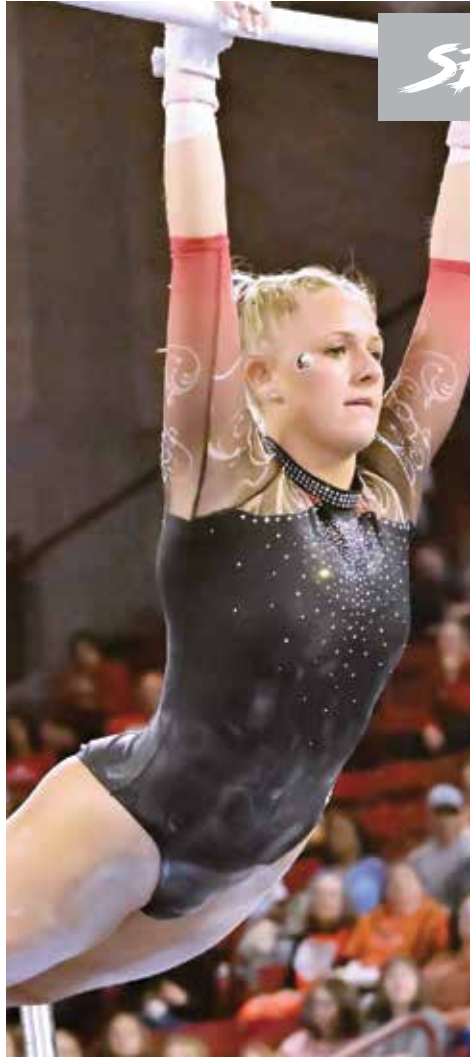
NWCA Scholar All-American

Lucian Brink, Jacob Christensen, Izzak Olejnik, Hayden Pummel, Blake West



- Izzak Olejnik won his second consecutive 165-pound MAC Championship and was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Wrestler. Olejnik earned All-American honors with his eighth-place finish at the NCAA Championship, becoming NIU's second All-American in the last three years to cap a 31-6 individual season.
- Terrese Aaron was the MAC runner-up at 285 pounds, beating the number-two seed Isaac Reid of Lock Haven 5-1 in the semifinals. Blake West (125) and Jaivon Jones (141) both finished third at the MAC Championships.
- NIU took eighth place at the MAC Championships with 77.5 points and the Huskies closed the dual meet portion of its schedule winning four of their last six.
- The Huskies took 13th place out of 46 teams at the prestigious Midlands Championships.
- Izzak Olejnik earned two MAC Wrestler of the Week nods and Blake West took home one.

WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS



SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

8-11/3-3 MAC

- The Huskies scored a season best 195.950 twice (at Ball State, at Lindenwood), tied for the seventh highest score in school history.
- NIU achieved a team score of 49 or above on all four events during the season for the first time since 2018. Those scores were good enough to rank in the Huskies' Top 10 all-time on each of those events.
- NIU ranked eighth as a team on the Women's Collegiate Gymnastics Association academic rankings with a cumulative GPA of 3.7552. The Huskies ranked among the Top 10 academic teams in the nation for the fifth consecutive year and matched their 2022 ranking.
- Natalie Hamp (Jan 10, Jan. 31) and Alyssa Al-Ashari (Jan 17, Feb. 7) each collected two MAC Specialist of the Week honors during the season and Al-Ashari was voted the MAC Scholar-Athlete of the Week (Feb. 7) by league FARs.
- Natalie Hamp was selected as the female recipient of the 2023 MAC Medal of Excellence for NIU.

Season Awards

All-MAC

Alyssa Al-Ashari - Second Team
Natalie Hamp - First Team

All-MAC Tournament Team

Isabella Sissi

NCAA Qualifiers

Alyssa Al-Ashari - Beam and Bars
Natalie Hamp - Bars
Emmalise Nock - Floor



Academic Awards

Academic All-MAC

Alana Anderson, Alyssa Al-Ashari, Jenna Blair, Emma Brkljacic, Jacklyn Dolitsky, Kendall George, Natalie Hamp, Olivia Lynd, Emmalise Nock, Ciara Ryan, Brookelyn Sears, Isabella Sissi, Ellery Werner, Isabelle West

CSC Academic All-District

Alyssa Al-Ashari, Natalie Hamp, Brookelyn Sears, Isabella Sissi

WCGA Scholastic All-Americans

Alyssa Al-Ashari, Alana Anderson, Jenna Blair, Emma Brkljacic, Sami DiFabrizio, Gillian Dolitsky, Jacklyn Dolitsky, Hannah Drielick, Kendall George, Natalie Hamp, Jocelyn Harbeck, Grace Humphrys, Maddie Kees, Olivia Lynd, Samantha Nickle, Kiera O'Shea, Ciara Ryan, Brookelyn Sears, Isabella Sissi, Ellery Werner, Isabelle West

Academic Awards

Academic All-MAC

Nick Bonk, Andre Demetral, Eric Erato, Aaron Harper, Mason Kelley, Regan Klawiter, Conner Lutes, Brandon McPherson, Tommy Meyer, Mason Ruh, Matt Salomonson

- NIU Baseball played its first game on the new turf infield at Ralph McKinzie Field at Walt and Janice Owens Park on March 24, 2023, against Ohio.
- The Baseball program held a formal dedication of Ralph McKinzie Field at Walt and Janice Owens Park on April 16.
- Junior outfielder Eric Erato led the MAC with an NIU single-season record 53 walks and was second in the league with 25 stolen bases.
- The Huskies earned the American Baseball Coaches Association Team Excellence Award for the fourth consecutive season.
- Ryan Copeland was appointed as the new head coach on June 13.



SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

10-43/5-23 MAC

BASEBALL

Season Awards

All-MAC

Kiley Conner - Second Team
Danielle Stewart - First Team
Kelly Walinski - First Team

Nan Harvey Award

Kelly Walinski

MAC Freshman of the Year

Kiley Conner

MAC All-Freshman Team

Kiley Conner
Danielle Stewart

NFCA All-Region

Sam Mallinder - Third Team
Danielle Stewart - Third Team

Academic Awards

Academic All-MAC

Courtney James, Sam Mallinder, Delaney Ostrowski, Caitlyn Shumaker, Kelly Walinski

NFCA All-America Scholar-Athlete Award

Avery Carnahan, Lily Cassell, Fiona Crane, Cara Cruthers, Emily Dato, Emma Giese, Rylie Hartman, Courtney James, Trinity Jones Estrada, Sam Mallinder, Madison Mathews, Claire Norred, Delaney Ostrowski, Brianna Pechman, Kacie Quick, Ally Rodriguez, Mia Ruder, Isabel Shafer, Caitlyn Shumaker, Danielle Stewart, Kelly Walinski

CSC Academic All-District

Sam Mallinder, Caitlyn Shumaker, Kelly Walinski



SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

26-25/15-13 MAC

- NIU recorded the fourth-highest team grade point average in the country for the 2022-23 academic year as the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) revealed its Easton Top 10 GPAs in August 2023. NIU recorded a team GPA of 3.753 for this past academic year.
- The Huskies had a batting average of .273 with a 3.98 ERA. The Huskies have the fourth highest fielding percentage in the MAC at .963. Walinski had the eighth best batting average in the MAC at .354, while Stewart was in the top-10 for action on the mound in the league. Stewart was the second best in fielding percentage in the MAC at .994 with Aly Rodriguez sitting in the top-10 with a fielding percentage of .990.
- NIU first baseman Caitlyn Shumaker set the single season stolen base record for an individual with her 34 stolen bases, which ranked 16th in the nation.
- The Huskies led the MAC, and ranked 10th in the country with 132 stolen bases. NIU averaged 2.59 stolen bases per game, which ranked fifth in the country.



Season Awards

Kermit Blosser MAC Coach of the Year

John Carlson

All-MAC

Tommy Dunsire - First Team

Ben Sluzas - First Team

MAC All-Tournament Team

Zach Place

Academic Awards

Academic All-MAC

Tommy Dunsire, Zach Place, Ben Sluzas

CSC Academic All-District

Zach Place

GCAA All-America Scholars

Tommy Dunsire, Zach Place, Ben Sluzas,

Campbell Wolf



- Men's Golf won the MAC Championship for the first time since 1985 and its first conference title since the 1994 Mid-Continent Conference Championship.
- The Huskies tied for ninth at the NCAA Regional in Salem, S.C., tying a team 18-hole scoring record in the first round with a 13-under par 275 on May 15.
- A Huskie was named MAC Golfer of the Week five times during the season with Ben Sluzas earning the honor a league-high three times.
- Ben Sluzas won two events during the season, tying for first place at the Badger Invitational on Sept. 13 and winning the Robert Kepler Intercollegiate on April 23.
- Tommy Dunsire set an NIU single-season scoring average record of 71.9 and also the individual 18-hole scoring record with a round of 64 at the Quail Valley Collegiate Invitational on Oct. 16.

MEN'S GOLF

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS



- Jasmine Ly competed in all 11 of NIU's tournaments and secured her sixth top-10 at the MAC Championships to put a bow on her junior campaign. She achieved her best performance of the season with a second-place finish at the Falcon Florida Classic, contributing to NIU's first place showing.
- The Huskies finished in second place at the Mid-American Conference Championships. Ahra Ko led the team with a top-10 finish. Jasmine Ly finished in the top-10 for the Huskies.
- Prior to the conference championships, the Huskies had six top-5 finishes, including winning the Falcon Florida Classic.
- The Huskies recorded their second-straight year the team has had six representatives on the Academic All-MAC Team, a program record.



WOMEN'S GOLF

Season Awards

All-MAC

Jasmine Ly - First Team
Sydney Naro - Second Team
Emily Romancew -
Second Team

Academic Awards

Academic All-MAC

Ahra Ko, Karen Liu, Jasmine Ly, Sydney Naro, Emily Romancew

CSC Academic All-District

Jasmine Ly

WCGA All-American Scholar

Jóhanna Lúðvíksdótti, Jasmine Ly, Sydney Naro,
Emily Romancew



MEN'S TENNIS

Season Awards

MAC Freshman of the Year

Iker Gaztambide Arrastia

All-MAC

Oliver Valentinsson - Second Team

Mikael Vollbach - Second Team

Academic Awards

All-MAC Academic

Armin Koschjotan, Oliver Valentinsson

Mikael Vollbach

CSC Academic All-District

Armin Koschjotan, Oliver Valentinsson

Mikael Vollbach

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

13-10/4-6 MAC

- This marked the 12th consecutive season in which the Huskies won at least 11 dual matches (not including the COVID-shortened 2019-20 campaign).
- NIU had two doubles teams, Mikael Vollbach and Cheng En Tsai along with Armin Koschtojan and Oliver Valentinsson, advance to the Round of 16 at the ITA Midwest Regional.
- Iker Gaztambide Arrastia won the flight four singles title and Armin Koschtojan and Oliver Valentinsson earned the flight two doubles crown at the River Forest Collegiate Tennis Invitational.
- Oliver Valentinsson was named MAC Singles Player of the Week on March 16 while Mikael Vollbach and Cheng En Tsai were named the MAC Doubles Team of the Week on Feb. 16.

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

12-16/2-8 MAC



- NIU recorded double digit wins for the fourth consecutive season, the longest stretch of double digit win seasons since 1987-90.
- NIU defeated Marquette, Northern Iowa, Bradley and Western Illinois in non-conference play and were 10-8 overall in non-conference action, including a 5-1 mark versus in-state opponents.
- Junior Diana Lukyanova was named second team All-MAC after posting a 16-12 record, including a team-best 5-5 record in league play, while competing at the No. 1, 2 and 3 singles positions.
- NIU did not have a senior on the roster as the starting line-up included just one upperclassman, with the remainder freshmen and sophomores; freshman Nataly Ninova led the Huskies in singles wins with an 18-10 mark.
- The Huskies hosted a pair of invitationals in the Nelson Tennis Center at Chick Evans Field House in the fall and posted an 8-7 record at home in dual matches.

Season Awards

All-MAC

Diana Lukyanova - Second Team

Academic Awards

All-MAC Academic

Erika Dimitriev, Diana Lukyanova,
Reagan Welch

CSC Academic All-District

Erika Dimitriev, Reagan Welch

ITA All-Academic Team

ITA Scholar-Athletes

McKenna Chudy, Erika Dimitriev,
Diana Lukyanova, Anastasia Rakita,
Isabella Righi, Reagan Welch



WOMEN'S TENNIS

OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD

Season Awards

MAC Champion

Diamond Riley - Triple Jump

All-MAC

Skylynn Blue - Second Team
Suerethia Henderson - Second Team
Kimone Hines - Second Team
Diamond Riley - First Team
Scout Regular - Second Team
Talayssia Sanders - Second Team

NCAA Preliminary Qualifiers

Skylynn Blue
Diamond Riley
Scout Regular



Academic Awards

Academic All-MAC

Julia Finegan, Kimone Hines, Joy Jackson, Kayla La Fontain, Kendal Only, Katelyn Robbins, Roshell Rowe, Emma Vorpapel

CSC Academic All-District

Kadeja Campbell, Julia Finegan, Joy Jackson, Roshell Rowe, Emma Vorpapel



- Diamond Riley won the MAC Championship in the triple jump. Riley posted a personal best mark of 12.94 meters (42-05.50) to become the second Huskie to win the MAC triple jump title, joining Jehvania Whyte who claimed the title twice (2018, '19).
- The NIU quartet of Kimone Hines, Skylynn Blue, Scout Regular and Suerethia Henderson ran a school record time of 45.10 seconds in the 4x-100-meter relay at the MAC Championships, finishing second.
- Skylynn Blue set a school record in the 100-meter dash at the Huskie Classic, running a time of 11.41 seconds.
- NIU finished fifth as a team at the MAC Outdoor Championships, scoring 76 points. It marked the fourth consecutive championship, and the seventh in the last eight, in which NIU has scored 70-or-more points.



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THANK YOU and as always, GO HUSKIES!**

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