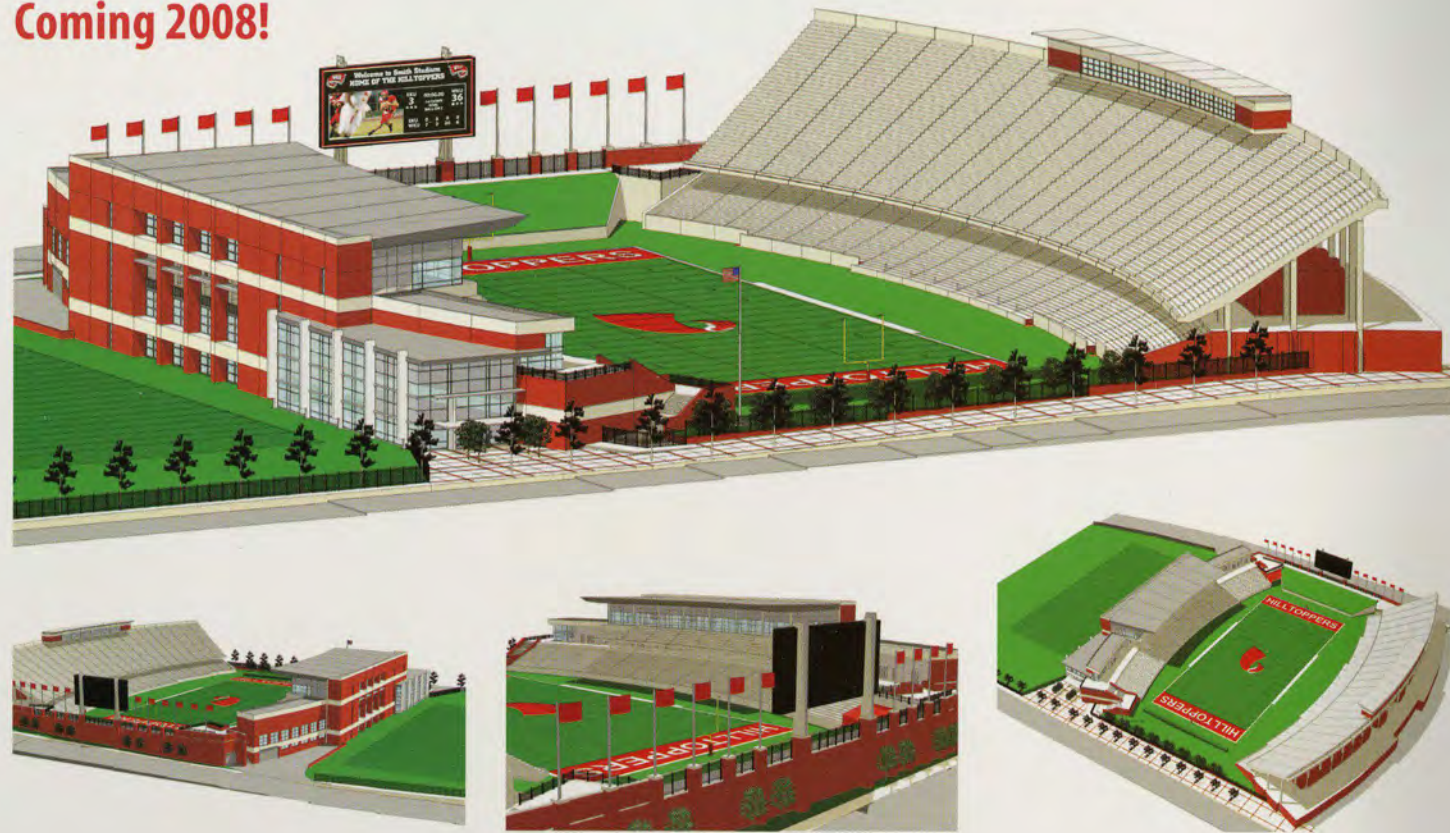




Western Kentucky University
2006 Football



Coming 2008!



Be Strong. Be Loud. **Be Ready.**

Western Kentucky University
2006 Football

- The phase of the \$37.5 million renovation to the Hilltoppers' football stadium currently underway involves improving the existing structure. In addition to power washing the entire stadium, construction workers are tearing up concrete on the concourse level in order to waterproof the deck. After the cleaning is finished, workers will repaint the underside of the upper deck.
- Other improvements planned for the existing structure also include better locker rooms for men's and women's soccer, and men's and women's track, and renovating the current weight room as well as office space and classrooms for the physical education department.
- Following the completion of the 2006 season, the Charles M. Ruter track will be moved across the street to the old football practice field.
- The final phase of the project will involve the construction of the West grandstand, which will include approximately 5,000 seats along with concessions and restrooms — the building will also house football offices and locker rooms, a weight room and a training room — and the development of the South end zone.



Western Kentucky University
2006 Football



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Program Philosophy	2	Strength & Conditioning	
Roster		Director Brad Ohrt	46
Alphabetical	3	Assistants	46
Numerical & Coaching Staff	4	Training	
Season Outlook	5	Head Athletic Trainer Bill Edwards	48
Depth Chart	6	Assistant Trainers	48
Meet the Toppers		Facilities	49
Seniors	7-17	Academics	50-51
Returning Payers	17-31	Campus	52-53
Newcomers	32-37	2002 Championship	54
Meet the Coaches & Staff		Hilltopper Tradition	55
David Elson, Head Coach	38-39	Gateway Football Conference	56
Willie Taggart, Assistant Head Coach/Quarterbacks	40	Hilltopper All-Americans	57
T. J. Weist, Offensive Coordinator/Wide Receivers	40	From the Hill to the Pros	58-59
Mike Dietzel, Special Teams Coordinator/Defensive Backs	41	Equipment	60
Walter Wells, Recruiting Coordinator/Offensive Line	41	Game Day	60
Cary Marquell, Inside Linebackers	42	Media Exposure	61
Eric Mathies, Defensive Line	42	Video Technology	62
Mike Chism, Outside Linebackers	43	ROTC	63
Stuart Holt, Running Backs	43	Players Unity Council	63
Steve Adams, Assistant Defensive Backs	44	Community Involvement & Ambassadors Group	64
Andy Richman, Tight Ends	44		
Kevin Dawson, Director of Operations	45		
Support Staff	45		

WESTERN KENTUCKY ATHLETICS MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Department of Athletics is to provide a broad-based athletics program which emphasizes the academic and personal development of the student-athlete, while upholding the principles of good sportsmanship and ethical conduct as defined by the NCAA, by conference affiliations and by the University. Fair and equitable opportunities will be a priority and will be provided for student-athletes and staff to participate in intercollegiate athletics at the Division I level regardless of gender or ethnicity. The sports programs of the Department of Athletics will be competitive regionally and nationally while serving the University's constituents through entertainment and public service.

CREDITS

- The 2006 Western Kentucky football recruiting guide is a production of the Western Kentucky Athletic Media Relations Office, Brian Fremund, Director.
- Layout and design by The Liberty Group of Bowling Green, Kentucky using Adobe Pagemaker 7.0, Adobe Illustrator CS, and Adobe Photoshop 7.0.
 - Written and edited by Fremund; editorial assistance by Ann Handy and John Brett Reynolds.
 - Photography courtesy of Dr. James Robinson, Joe Imel of the *Daily News*, Clinton Lewis of The Liberty Group and Faye Lash. Special thanks to the offices of the Chicago Bears (Bill Smith), Chicago Rush (Steve Woltmann), Cincinnati Bengals, Cleveland Browns, New England Patriots, and Washington Redskins (Don Wright) for providing photography from the professional ranks.
 - Printed by Gerald Printing of Bowling Green, Kentucky
 - Printed with state funds.



PROGRAM GOALS

1. Develop leaders who will leave Western Kentucky University and make a positive difference.
 - People - Community - Nation - World
 - By modeling and teaching our philosophy and values.
2. To all a meaningful degree and life long education.
 - By defining our purpose.
 - By implementing a system of accountability and teaching a progression of life skills.
3. Win Championships
 - Hard, Smart, and Together - THE WKU WAY.

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

A philosophy must meet these standards:

- a. The philosophy has a sound basic structure.
- b. It reflects the leader's vision and values.
- c. It is communicated and accepted throughout the organization.
- d. It remains in place long enough to allow success.

What is our philosophy?

Our philosophy is based first on a core set of values.

PROGRAM VALUES

- *Character - Do the right thing all the time. Make great decisions. Apply the "Golden Rule".*
- *Attitude - Positive and Competitive.*
- *Work Ethic - Do the "extra".*
- *Discipline - Do what needs to be done, when it needs to be done to the best of your ability.*
- *Education - Committed to a meaningful degree and life long education.*
- *Family/Tradition - Respect, Care and Love for those people in our family.*
- *Teamwork - Unselfishness. Accept your role.*
- *Trust - Coaches, Teammates and THE PLAN. Expect to be challenged.*
- *Leadership - Leadership is influence; positive or negative.*
- *Toughness - Mental and Physical.*
- *Improvement - Daily in all areas.*
- *Communication - Open, Honest, and Timely.*
- *Courage - Step up for the right way.*
- *Respect - Yourself and others. Get it by giving it.*

LIFE

Success is the satisfaction of knowing that you gave your personal best, defining and understanding your purpose, surmounting obstacles. Reaching the "Zone" of your utmost potential in all areas of your life while aspiring for balance. It has nothing to do with fortune and fate, and everything to do with controlling the things that you can control which is your attitude, work ethic and disciplined thinking that is directed towards "Finding A Way."

Go Toppers!

Coach Elson

Coach Elson



ALPHABETICAL

Acad./Ath.						Acad./Ath.							
No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Class-Exp.	Pos.	Hometown (Previous School)	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Class-Exp.	Pos.	Hometown (Previous School)
41	Philip Bates	5-10	210	Jr./So.-1L	RB	Nolensville, Tenn. (Centennial HS)	17	Jamison Link	6-0	190	Jr./So.-1L	WR	Gallatin, Tenn. (Gallatin HS)
36	Darius Baughman	6-1	205	Fr./Fr.-HS	OLB	Danville, Ky. (Danville HS)	93	Jon Marshall	6-2	235	So./Fr.-RS	DL	Shelbyville, Ky. (Shelby County HS)
53	Dusty Bear	6-1	265	Jr./Jr.-2L	DL	Osprey, Fla. (Venice HS)	24	Brandon Mason	6-0	195	Jr./Jr.-2L	S	Nicholasville, Ky. (East Jessamine HS)
92	Jon Belcher	6-0	265	Jr./So.-TR	DL	Somerset, Ky. (Ball State)	46	Darvis McBride	5-10	205	So./Fr.-RS	S	Fort Myers, Fla. (Fort Myers HS)
7	K.J. Black	6-4	210	Fr./Fr.-HS	QB	Louisville, Ky. (Fern Creek HS)	34	Andrew McCloud	5-8	195	So./Fr.-RS	RB	Harrodsburg, Ky. (Mercer County HS)
6	Blake Boyd	6-2	240	So./Fr.-TR	OLB	Madisonville, Ky. (Louisville)	67	Chris McConnell	6-6	310	Jr./So.-1L	OL	Carthage, Tenn. (Smith County HS)
47	Evan Brewer	6-2	245	Sr./Jr.-2L	DL	Bowling Green, Ky. (Warren East HS)	73	Jacob McLaurin	6-5	300	Fr./Fr.-HS	OL	Indianapolis, Ind. (Warren Central HS)
61	Troy Brooks	6-5	275	Fr./Fr.-HS	OL	Shelbyville, Ky. (East Jessamine HS)	89	David Miller	6-3	230	Jr./So.-SQ	TE	Fort Campbell, Ky. (Fort Campbell HS)
94	Chris Brunemann	6-3	235	Sr./Sr.-3L	TE	Covington, Ky. (Covington Catholic HS)	86	Zac Minturn	6-2	170	So./Fr.-RS	PK	Cincinnati, Ohio (Indian Hill HS)
57	Marquise Burns	6-0	210	Fr./Fr.-HS	ILB	Dayton, Ohio (Colonel White HS)	31	Orlando Misaalefua	6-0	190	Fr./Fr.-HS	ILB	Fort Campbell, Ky. (Fort Campbell HS)
62	Kale Butler	6-0	300	So./Fr.-RS	OL	Greenville, Ky. (Muhlenberg South HS)	23	Clint Mitchell	6-1	180	Fr./Fr.-HS	S	Stockbridge, Ga. (Stockbridge HS)
42	Jimmy Caldwell	6-0	230	So./Fr.-RS	ILB	Winter Springs, Fla. (Winter Springs HS)	21	Dennis Mitchell	5-8	180	Sr./Sr.-3L	CB	Indianapolis, Ind. (Warren Central HS)
64	Andrew Campbell	6-3	295	Jr./So.-1L	OL	Indianapolis, Ind. (Bowling Green)	60	Jeremy Moore	6-1	180	So./Fr.-RS	P	Indianapolis, Ind. (Cathedral HS)
29	Johnathan Carter	6-2	215	Sr./Sr.-3L	OLB	Murfreesboro, Tenn. (Oakland HS)	25	Lerron Moore	5-10	205	Sr./Sr.-3L	RB	Columbus, Ohio (Bishop Watterson HS)
39	Ross Cassity	6-2	245	Sr./Jr.-2L	FB/LS	Versailles, Ky. (Woodford County HS)	50r	Myron Moore	5-11	240	Jr./So.-SQ	OLB	Frankfort, Ky. (Frankfort HS)
95	Dan Cline	6-6	225	Jr./So.-1L	OLB	Centerville, Ohio (Centerville HS)	99	Munir Muwakkil	6-1	300	Jr./So.-JC	DL	Clearwater, Fla. (Pasadena City JC)
30	Brad Cloud	6-0	200	Jr./So.-1L	S	Danville, Ky. (Boyle County HS)	35	Alex Nance	6-1	220	So./Fr.-RS	TE	Glasgow, Ky. (Glasgow HS)
76	Ben Craig	6-2	285	So./Fr.-RS	OL	Waddy, Ky. (Shelby County HS)	14	Artis Neal	5-10	185	Sr./Sr.-3L	CB	Apopka, Fla. (Apopka HS)
45	Jacob Davis	6-0	210	Fr./Fr.-HS	OLB	Bowling Green, Ky. (Greenwood HS)	96	Mychal Patterson	6-4	275	Fr./Fr.-HS	DL	Norcross, Ga. (Meadowcreek HS)
90	Ross Dickens	6-3	260	Sr./Sr.-2L	DL/LS	Pelham, Ala. (Pelham HS)	51	Kevin Passaglia	6-3	230	Fr./Fr.-HS	ILB	Cary, Ill. (Cary-Grove HS)
56	Joe Dolchan	6-3	280	Sr./Sr.-3L	OL	Dexter, Ky. (Calloway County HS)	44	Karl Phillips	6-3	240	Sr./Sr.-3L	TE	Kissimmee, Fla. (Gateway HS)
72	Derrick Elder	6-2	310	Fr./Fr.-HS	OL	Louisville, Ky. (St. Xavier HS)	71	Lloyd Pressley	6-4	260	Fr./Fr.-HS	OL	Evansville, Ind. (Reitz HS)
9	Rashad Etheridge	5-8	165	So./Fr.-RS	CB	St. Petersburg, Fla. (St. Petersburg Catholic HS)	77	Sean Pugh	6-0	315	Sr./Sr.-3L	OL	Huber Heights, Ohio (Wayne HS)
49	Brandon Fitzgerald	6-0	245	Jr./Jr.-1L	FB	LaCenter, Ky. (Ballard Memorial HS)	81	Jessie Quinn	6-1	195	Jr./So.-SQ	WR	Bradenton, Fla. (Manatee HS)
28	Chris Franklin	5-6	165	Jr./So.-RS	CB	Louisville, Ky. (Southern HS)	84	Rannen Roberson	6-0	205	Sr./Sr.-3L	WR	Elkhart, Ind. (Elkhart Central HS)
11	Jake Gaebler	5-11	185	So./Fr.-RS	WR	Mundelein, Ill. (Mundelein HS)	10	Marion Rumph	6-1	195	Jr./Jr.-2L	S	Bradenton, Fla. (Manatee HS)
2	Kareem Garibaldi	6-0	190	Sr./Sr.-2L	WR	Tampa, Fla. (Gaither HS)	79	James Rusin	6-1	265	So./Fr.-RS	OL	Orlinda, Tenn. (East Robertson HS)
43	Brandon Goodwin	6-0	200	Jr./So.-SQ	ILB	Georgetown, Ky. (Scott County HS)	52	Greg Ryan	6-4	285	Jr./Jr.-2L	OL	Murray, Ky. (Calloway County HS)
38	Mike Gothard	6-1	225	Fr./Fr.-HS	ILB	Marietta, Ga. (Geo. Walton Comp. HS)	19	Sam Sexton	6-3	220	Sr./Sr.-3L	OLB	Ferguson, Ky. (Pulaski Southwestern HS)
87	T.K. Guess	6-0	175	Fr./Fr.-HS	WR	Marion, Ky. (Crittenden County HS)	37	Tanner Siewert	5-10	180	Jr./Jr.-1L	P/PK	Robards, Ky. (Henderson County HS)
59	Jason Hackley	6-0	215	Jr./So.-RS	ILB	Bradenton, Fla. (Manatee HS)	69	T.J. Sisler	6-2	275	Fr./Fr.-HS	OL/LS	Nicholasville, Ky. (West Jessamine HS)
16	Justin Haddix	6-0	215	Sr./Sr.-3L	QB	Jackson, Ky. (Breathitt County HS)	5	Bo Smith	5-10	190	Jr./Jr.-2L	S	Rockledge, Fla. (Rockledge HS)
15	Curtis Hamilton	6-0	195	Jr./Jr.-2L	WR	West Paducah, Ky. (Paducah Tilghman HS)	12	Brandon Smith	6-0	195	So./Fr.-RS	QB	Danville, Ky. (Boyle County HS)
54	L.J. Harbison	5-11	220	So./Fr.-RS	ILB	Edmonton, Ky. (Metcalfe County HS)	4	Tariq Smith	5-11	180	Sr./Sr.-1L	WR	Memphis, Tenn. (Melrose HS)
97	Neil Harrell	6-1	280	Fr./Fr.-HS	DL	Tampa, Fla. (Plant HS)	45r	Josh Smyth	6-0	225	Jr./So.-1L	ILB	Hoover, Ala. (Hoover HS)
63	Nick Hartnett	6-0	290	Fr./Fr.-HS	DL	Marietta, Ga. (Geo. Walton Comp. HS)	48	Ben Sowders	6-0	215	Jr./So.-SQ	OLB	Bowling Green, Ky. (Greenwood HS)
26	Tyrell Hayden	5-10	200	Fr./Fr.-HS	RB	Lexington, Ky. (Lexington Christian Academy)	20	Clay Stephens	5-8	190	Sr./Jr.-1L	S	Somerset, Ky. (Pulaski County HS)
32	Jon Hedges	6-0	230	Sr./Sr.-2L	ILB/LS	Murray, Ky. (Murray HS)	74	Chaz Stradley	6-6	280	Jr./So.-RS	OL	Corbin, Ky. (Corbin HS)
33	Brandon Hicks	6-0	250	Sr./Sr.-1L	FB	Beech Grove, Ind. (Beech Grove HS)	65	Chris Sullivan	5-11	265	Sr./Sr.-1L	OL	Louisville, Ky. (Pleasure Ridge Park HS)
88	Jared Holland	6-4	240	Sr./Jr.-2L	TE	Franklin, Tenn. (Franklin HS)	8	Seth Tamme	6-0	175	Fr./Fr.-HS	WR	Danville, Ky. (Boyle County HS)
55	Terrance Houston	6-4	275	Sr./Jr.-SQ	OL	Nashville, Tenn. (Mississippi)	75	Zach Thuney	6-4	285	Jr./Jr.-2L	OL	Dayton, Ohio (Archbishop Alter HS)
70	Cody Hughes	6-1	300	So./Fr.-RS	OL	Bradenton, Fla. (Lakewood Ranch HS)	91	Chris Walker	6-3	290	Sr./Jr.-2L	DL	Manchester, Ky. (Clay County HS)
83	Chris James	6-0	190	Sr./Jr.-2L	PK	Fayetteville, Ga. (Starr's Mill HS)	50	Gabe Wallace	6-1	230	Jr./So.-TR	ILB	Fort Campbell, Ky. (Kentucky)
98	Antonia Johnson	6-0	280	Fr./Fr.-HS	DL	Hamilton, Ga. (Harris County HS)	51r	Ricky Watkins	5-10	200	Sr./Jr.-1L	ILB	Louisville, Ky. (St. Xavier HS)
40	Jared Johnson	6-1	235	Jr./So.-1L	FB	Franklin, Tenn. (Battle Ground Academy)	18	Travis Watters	5-10	180	Jr./So.-1L	CB	Louisville, Ky. (Male HS)
58	Josh Johnson	6-2	235	Sr./Sr.-3L	DL	Franklin, Tenn. (Battle Ground Academy)	3	David Wolke	6-2	195	Jr./Jr.-TR	QB	Mount Juliet, Tenn. (Notre Dame)
27	Erik Jones	5-9	170	Fr./Fr.-HS	CB	Cincinnati, Ohio (Winton Woods HS)							
68	Preston King	6-6	270	Fr./Fr.-HS	OL	Bowling Green, Ky. (Greenwood HS)							
22	Ronnie Letcher	6-1	190	Fr./Fr.-HS	RB	Richmond, Ky. (Madison Central HS)							
13	Andre Lewis	6-1	215	Sr./Jr.-2L	ILB	Madison, Tenn. (Hunter's Lane HS)							



NUMERICAL

No. Name (Ht., Wt., Class, Pos.)

- 2 Kareem Garibaldi (6-0, 190, SR., WR)
- 3 David Wolke (6-2, 195, Jr., QB)
- 4 Tariq Smith (5-11, 180, SR., WR)
- 5 Bo Smith (5-10, 190, Jr., S)
- 6 Blake Boyd (6-2, 240, Fr., OLB)
- 7 K.J. Black (6-4, 210, Fr., QB)
- 8 Seth Tamme (6-0, 175, Fr., WR)
- 9 Rashad Etheridge (5-8, 165, R-Fr., CB)
- 10 Marion Rumph (6-1, 195, Jr., S)
- 11 Jake Gaebler (5-11, 185, R-Fr., WR)
- 12 Brandon Smith (6-0, 195, R-Fr., QB)
- 13 Andre Lewis (6-1, 215, Jr., ILB)
- 14 Artis Neal (5-10, 185, SR., CB)
- 15 Curtis Hamilton (6-0, 195, Jr., WR)
- 16 Justin Haddix (6-0, 215, SR., QB)
- 17 Jamison Link (6-0, 190, So., WR)
- 18 Travis Watters (5-10, 180, So., CB)
- 19 Sam Sexton (6-3, 220, SR., OLB)
- 20 Clay Stephens (5-8, 190, Jr., S)
- 21 Dennis Mitchell (5-8, 180, SR., CB)
- 22 Ronnie Letcher (6-1, 190, Fr., RB)
- 23 Clint Mitchell (6-1, 180, Fr., S)
- 24 Brandon Mason (6-0, 195, Jr., S)
- 25 Lerron Moore (5-10, 205, SR., RB)
- 26 Tyrell Hayden (5-10, 200, Fr., RB)
- 27 Erik Jones (5-9, 170, Fr., CB)
- 28 Chris Franklin (5-6, 165, So., CB)
- 29 Johnathan Carter (6-2, 215, SR., OLB)
- 30 Brad Cloud (6-0, 200, So., S)
- 31 Orlando Misaalefua (6-0, 190, Fr., ILB)
- 32 Jon Hedges (6-0, 230, SR., ILB/LS)
- 33 Brandon Hicks (6-0, 250, SR., FB)
- 34 Andrew McCloud (5-8, 195, R-Fr., RB)

No. Name (Ht., Wt., Class, Pos.)

- 35 Alex Nance (6-1, 220, R-Fr., TE)
- 36 Darius Baughman (6-1, 205, Fr., OLB)
- 37 Tanner Siewert (5-10, 180, Jr., P/PK)
- 38 Mike Gothard (6-1, 225, Fr., ILB)
- 39 Ross Cassity (6-2, 245, Jr., FB/LS)
- 40 Jared Johnson (6-1, 235, So., FB)
- 41 Philip Bates (5-10, 210, So., RB)
- 42 Jimmy Caldwell (6-0, 230, R-Fr., ILB)
- 43 Brandon Goodwin (6-0, 200, So., ILB)
- 44 Karl Phillips (6-3, 240, SR., TE)
- 45 Jacob Davis (6-0, 210, Fr., OLB)
- 45r Josh Smyth (6-0, 225, So., ILB)
- 46 Darvis McBride (5-10, 205, R-Fr., S)
- 47 Evan Brewer (6-2, 245, Jr., DL)
- 48 Ben Sowders (6-0, 215, So., OLB)
- 49 Brandon Fitzgerald (6-0, 245, Jr., FB)
- 50 Gabe Wallace (6-1, 230, So., ILB)
- 50r Myron Moore (5-11, 240, So., OLB)
- 51 Kevin Passaglia (6-3, 230, Fr., ILB)
- 51r Ricky Watkins (5-10, 200, Jr., ILB)
- 52 Greg Ryan (6-4, 285, Jr., OL)
- 53 Dusty Bear (6-1, 265, Jr., DL)
- 54 L.J. Harbison (5-11, 220, R-Fr., ILB)
- 55 Terrance Houston (6-4, 275, Jr., OL)
- 56 Joe Dolchan (6-3, 280, SR., OL)
- 57 Marquise Burns (6-0, 210, Fr., ILB)
- 58 Josh Johnson (6-2, 235, SR., DL)
- 59 Jason Hackley (6-0, 215, So., ILB)
- 60 Jeremy Moore (6-1, 180, R-Fr., P)
- 61 Troy Brooks (6-5, 275, Fr., OL)
- 62 Kale Butler (6-0, 300, R-Fr., OL)
- 63 Nick Hartnett (6-0, 290, Fr., DL)
- 64 Andrew Campbell (6-3, 295, So., OL)

No. Name (Ht., Wt., Class, Pos.)

- 65 Chris Sullivan (5-11, 265, SR., OL)
- 67 Chris McConnell (6-6, 310, So., OL)
- 68 Preston King (6-6, 270, Fr., OL)
- 69 T.J. Sisler (6-2, 275, Fr., OL/LS)
- 70 Cody Hughes (6-1, 300, R-Fr., OL)
- 71 Lloyd Pressley (6-4, 260, Fr., OL)
- 72 Derrick Elder (6-2, 310, Fr., OL)
- 73 Jacob McLaurin (6-5, 300, Fr., OL)
- 74 Chaz Stradley (6-6, 280, So., OL)
- 75 Zach Thuney (6-4, 285, Jr., OL)
- 76 Ben Craig (6-2, 285, R-Fr., OL)
- 77 Sean Pugh (6-0, 315, SR., OL)
- 79 James Rusin (6-1, 265, R-Fr., OL)
- 81 Jessie Quinn (6-1, 195, So., WR)
- 83 Chris James (6-0, 190, Jr., PK)
- 84 Rannen Roberson (6-0, 205, SR., WR)
- 86 Zac Minturn (6-2, 170, R-Fr., PK)
- 87 T.K. Guess (6-0, 185, Fr., WR)
- 88 Jared Holland (6-4, 240, Jr., TE)
- 89 David Miller (6-3, 230, So., TE)
- 90 Ross Dickens (6-3, 260, SR., DL/LS)
- 91 Chris Walker (6-3, 290, Jr., DL)
- 92 Jon Belcher (6-0, 265, So., DL)
- 93 Jon Marshall (6-2, 235, R-Fr., DL)
- 94 Chris Brunemann (6-3, 235, SR., TE)
- 95 Dan Cline (6-6, 225, So., OLB)
- 96 Mychal Patterson (6-4, 275, Fr., DL)
- 97 Neil Harrell (6-1, 280, Fr., DL)
- 98 Antonia Johnson (6-0, 280, Fr., DL)
- 99 Munir Muwakkil (6-1, 300, So., DL)

Note: SR. indicates player is in final season of eligibility

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

DariusBaughman	BOFF • man
Chris Brunemann	BROON • eh • man
Marquise Burns	mar • KEYS
Assistant coach Mike Dietzel	DEETZ • ell
Joe Dolchan	DOLE • shan
Jake Gaebler	GABE • ler
Assistant coach Cary Marquell	mar • KWELL
Assistant coach Eric Mathies	MATH • is
Orlando Misaalefua	miss • AH • lah • foo • ah
Lerron Moore	leh • RON
Munir Muwakkil	moo • NEAR MOO • wah • kill
Kevin Passaglia	PUH • sahl • ee • ah
Rannen Roberson	RAH • ber • son
Tanner Siewert	SEE • wert
Tariq Smith	tah • REEK
Josh Smyth	smith
Ben Sowders	SAU • ders
Seth Tamme	Tammy
Zach Thuney	TWO • knee
Assistant coach T.J. Weist	WEEST
David Wolke	WOL • key

COACHING STAFF

Coaching staff
Head coach: David Elson (Butler '94), third season
Assistant head coach: Willie Taggart (Western Kentucky '98), quarterbacks
Assistant coaches:
 T.J. Weist (Alabama '88), offensive coordinator/wide receivers
 Mike Dietzel (Otterbein '85), special teams coordinator/defensive backs
 Walter Wells (Belmont '93), recruiting coordinator/offensive line
 Cary Marquell (Ball State '96), inside linebackers
 Eric Mathies (Murray State '98), defensive line
 Mike Chism (Kentucky '90), outside linebackers
 Stuart Holt (North Carolina '95), running backs
 Steve Adams (Western Kentucky '00), assistant defensive backs
 Andy Richman (Wisconsin-Stevens Point '02), tight ends
Director of Operations: Kevin Dawson (Morehead State '00)
Asst. Director of Operations/Equipment Manager: Matt Burch (Kentucky '06)
Strength & Conditioning Coach: Brad Ohrt (Appalachian State '94)
Strength & Conditioning Assistants: Irele Oderinde, Duane Hall, Alvin Futrell



The Western Kentucky University football team enters the 2006 season looking at an experienced roster — 41 letterwinners return from a year ago — as the Hilltoppers aim to record their 11th consecutive winning season.

An explosive offense could be even more dangerous this fall as quarterback **Justin Haddix** and running back **Lerron Moore** return for their fourth season as starters. Haddix threw for nearly 2,000 yards and 15 touchdowns in 2005, while Moore recorded his second 1,000-yard season and reached the end zone 10 times. Depth will be provided in the backfield from a pair of redshirt freshmen, quarterback **Brandon Smith** and running back **Andrew McCloud**, while fullbacks **Ross Cassity**, **Jared Johnson** and **Brandon Fitzgerald** should help clear the way for Moore — Cassity also presents a receiving threat in the flat.

"I think that we definitely have the potential to be as explosive and as productive as we've ever been. We really could be an exciting offense to watch," said fourth-year head coach **David Elson**. "We like to run the ball to set up the pass, and play-action passing has been very good to us — Justin is obviously very good in that phase of the game. That's the whole idea behind being balanced. If you have the ability to do both and somebody is taking away the run, then you can go to your passing game and vice versa."

Haddix will rely on the trio of **Curtis Hamilton**, **Jamison Link** and **Jake Gaebler** as key targets, while **Rannen Roberson**, **Jessie Quinn** and **Tariq Smith** can also contribute. Hamilton is the Toppers' leading returning receiver after grabbing 20 passes for 408 yards, as he paced the team with four touchdowns and an average of 20.4 yards per reception. Link added nine catches for 123 yards and a score in eight contests before suffering a season-ending injury, and Roberson collected five receptions for 59 yards and a score. WKU will also be looking for improved production in the passing game from tight ends **Chris Brunemann**, **Jared Holland** and **Karl Phillips**.

"I feel really good about this group even though they haven't been tested in game situations as much as we'd probably like them to be," Elson said. "We've seen enough in practice that tells us we have some playmakers, guys who can do the things we want to do like go deep, run good intermediate routes and also block. I think that Justin is going to find a comfort level with those guys."

Left guard **Greg Ryan** headlines an offensive line that should be improved with additional depth. **Joe Dolchan**, who will handle the duties at right tackle, returns after missing most of last season with an injury, with **Chris McConnell** expected to protect Haddix' blind side. A pair of players shifting from tackle should round out the starting lineup, with **Andrew Campbell** moving to right guard and **Zach Thuney** taking over for All-American **Erik Losey** at center. Seniors **Sean Pugh** and **Chris Sullivan** have seen action in each of the last two seasons, and **Terrance Houston** gained experience last fall after switching from the defensive line.

"The line is where it all begins. Really, all those skill guys don't amount to a whole lot if they don't have somebody blocking for them up front," Elson stated. "If we can keep our top five to seven players healthy on the offensive line, then it just adds to that excitement of what we could possibly do on that side of the ball. With the amount of snaps in games that guys like Greg, Zach, Chris and Andrew have gotten, plus the healthy return of Joe, I think we have a chance to be very, very powerful, a dominating presence up front."

The strength of the defense lies in the secondary, where first-team all-Gateway Football Conference selection **Marion Rumph** is coming off a season in which he led the team with 93 total tackles. **Dennis Mitchell** broke up 11 passes handling one corner last season, and **Travis Watters** is coming off a spring practice in which he intercepted four passes in scrimmages. **Brad Cloud**, **Brandon Mason** and **Bo Smith**, a trio that combined to make 42 stops a year ago, will compete for the starting spot at strong safety, while redshirt freshman **Darvis McBride** could also see action there. Senior **Artis Neal** and redshirt freshman **Rashad Etheridge** should provide depth at the corners as well.

"It will be critical for us to get leadership out of both Dennis and Marion, and we also need to see improved play and productivity from the secondary," Elson said. "The one thing we figured out last year was that we need to get more production out of the strong safety position — Brad ended the spring with the first team, but he's going to have competition from both Bo and Darvis."

Johnathan Carter and **Sam Sexton** are both experienced outside linebackers, and **Jon Hedges** and **Andre Lewis** combined to record 118 stops last fall manning the middle. The linebacking corps should be strengthened by the additions of **Jimmy Caldwell**, who sat out last season as a redshirt, inside and **Blake Boyd** — a transfer from Louisville who will have four years of eligibility remaining — on the outside.

"We lost a lot of guys, but it seems like we have four starters returning because Carter, Hedges, Lewis and Sexton



Dennis Mitchell



Lerron Moore

are familiar names who have played a significant amount of snaps for us," said Elson. "They need to continue to improve, and there will be guys coming in competing for their jobs. We may have to get into more situational substitutions to take advantage of everyone's strengths. We're going to try and get the best people on the field for what we're trying to do, so each individual is going to have to understand what their role is going to be so that they can accept and excel in it."

"Blake and Jimmy will add to the group immediately simply by providing competition and depth," he added. "I don't have the first clue as to what Blake can do, but we will certainly find out once we get the pads on. Jimmy showed some really good signs at times, however, he has had trouble staying healthy and will need to be more durable."

The defensive line is where the Hilltoppers face their biggest question mark. All three starters from last fall, **Charlie Phillips**, **Daniel Williams** and **Joe Woolridge** — who combined to record 102 total tackles, including 22 1/2 behind the line of scrimmage — have departed. **Dusty Bear**, **Evan Brewer**, **Ross Dickens** and **Chris Walker** have all seen action in more than 20 games on the Hill, while Josh Johnson is in his final season of eligibility and **Jon Marshall** should contribute this fall after sitting out the 2005 campaign as a redshirt.

"It seems similar to the linebacker spot in that you lose three starters, but you feel like you have three starters coming back," said Elson. "I feel really, really good about Dusty, Evan, Ross and Chris with the amount of time they have played in the last couple of years. We will need to have some young guys come in and step up — we don't know who it's going to be, or at what position it's going to be, but I'm impressed with the size and the athleticism of the new players. Now we have to get them out there and see if they can produce and help our defensive line develop into a force."

Chris James highlights the Toppers' special teams units, as he was an All-America selection after converting 15-of-17 field goal attempts as well as all 42 extra-point tries last season, and Mitchell ranked sixth in the nation a year ago with an average of 16.1 yards per punt return. **Tanner Siewert** should handle the punting duties for the second year in a row after averaging 37.4 yards per kick in '05.

"Chris and Dennis are two guys who are proven that we can definitely count on," said Elson. "Where our issues come on special teams is with everyone else. We lost a couple of games last year that I think had a lot to do with our special teams play. We need to coach it better and we've got to execute better in each phase — especially the coverage and the protection parts — because I feel really good about our return game and Chris gives us a weapon any time we cross the 50-yard line."

WKU will face a tough schedule again in 2006, opening the year at I-A Georgia before travelling to take on Eastern Kentucky in the "Battle of the Bluegrass" in week two. The Hilltoppers will play host to Chattanooga from the Southern Conference and Austin Peay in non-conference action — it's the first time since 2000 that they will play an entire Division I schedule — while facing a Gateway Football Conference slate that features four opponents that are expected to open the season ranked in the top 25. That includes trips to defending league champions Southern Illinois and Northern Iowa in a three-week span beginning Oct. 21.

"I don't know that I can remember the schedule being quite as challenging when you look at the big picture as it is this year," Elson stated. "Not only do we open at Georgia, which would be tough for anyone, but Eastern Kentucky is a rival who seems to be improving and is highly rated going into the season, and Chattanooga is a program that has things going in the right direction. And, Austin Peay has some momentum after bringing back scholarships."

"All we are approaching is preseason camp," he continued. "The schedule sign in our locker room is completely blank for a reason — we're going to concern ourselves with Western Kentucky football, and getting better individually and as a team. When we get to the point that we are ready to switch into game week, then we will begin to focus on Georgia. One of the things I think coaches always talk about, but that is hard to do, is to put a major emphasis on taking it one day at a time and not looking too far into the future."

With the experience of 14 returning starters as well as a number of underclassmen with the potential to contribute, the pieces are in place for WKU not only to post another winning campaign, but to return to the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs for the sixth time in the last seven years.



HILLTOPPER OFFENSE

LT

67 — CHRIS McCONNELL
(6-6, 310, So., Carthage, Tenn.)
79 — James Rusin
(6-1, 265, Fr., Orlinda, Tenn.)

LG

52 — GREG RYAN
(6-4, 285, Jr., Murray, Ky.)
70 — Cody Hughes
(6-1, 300, Fr., Bradenton, Fla.)

C

75 — ZACH THUNEY
(6-4, 285, Jr., Dayton, Ohio)
65 — CHRIS SULLIVAN
(5-11, 265, Sr., Louisville, Ky.)

RG

64 — ANDREW CAMPBELL
(6-3, 295, So., Indianapolis, Ind.)
77 — SEAN PUGH
(6-0, 315, Sr., Huber Heights, Ohio)

RT

56 — JOE DOLCHAN
(6-3, 280, Sr., Dexter, Ky.)
55 — Terrance Houston
(6-4, 275, Jr., Nashville, Tenn.)

TE

94 — CHRIS BRUNEMANN
(6-3, 235, Sr., Covington, Ky.)
44 — KARL PHILLIPS
(6-3, 240, Sr., Kissimmee, Fla.)
88 — JARED HOLLAND
(6-4, 240, Jr., Franklin, Tenn.)

QB

16 — JUSTIN HADDIX
(6-0, 215, Sr., Jackson, Ky.)
12 — Brandon Smith
(6-0, 195, Fr., Danville, Ky.)

WR

15 — CURTIS HAMILTON
(6-0, 195, Jr., West Paducah, Ky.)
4 — TARIQ SMITH
(5-11, 180, Sr., Memphis, Tenn.)

WR

11 — Jake Gaebler
(5-11, 185, Fr., Mundelein, Ill.)
17 — JAMISON LINK
(6-0, 190, So., Gallatin, Tenn.)
81 — Jessie Quinn
(6-1, 195, So., Bradenton, Fla.)

FB

39 — ROSS CASSITY
(6-2, 245, Jr., Versailles, Ky.)
40 — JARED JOHNSON
(6-1, 235, So., Franklin, Tenn.)

RB

25 — LERRON MOORE
(5-10, 205, Sr., Columbus, Ohio)
34 — Andrew McCloud
(5-8, 195, Fr., Harrodsburg, Ky.)

HILLTOPPER SPECIALISTS

- Placekicker — FGs, PATS
83 — CHRIS JAMES (6-0, 190, Jr., Fayetteville, Ga.)
- Punter/KO
37 — TANNER SIEWERT (5-10, 180, Jr., Robards, Ky.)
- Snappers
FG/PAT: 39 — ROSS CASSITY (6-2, 245, Jr., Versailles, Ky.)
Punt: 32 — JON HEDGES (6-0, 230, Sr., Murray, Ky.)
- Holder
37 — TANNER SIEWERT (5-10, 180, Jr., Robards, Ky.)
- Kickoff Returns
21 — DENNIS MITCHELL (5-8, 180, Sr., Indianapolis, Ind.)
5 — BO SMITH (5-10, 190, Jr., Rockledge, Fla.)
- Punt Returns
21 — DENNIS MITCHELL (5-8, 180, Sr., Indianapolis, Ind.)

DEPTH CHART NOTES

- This depth chart information is *definitely* subject to continual change.
- Returning Hilltopper lettermen are designated by ALL CAPS.

HILLTOPPER DEFENSE

LE

53 — DUSTY BEAR
(6-1, 265, Jr., Osprey, Fla.)
93 — Jon Marshall
(6-2, 235, Fr., Shelbyville, Ky.)

NT

91 — CHRIS WALKER
(6-3, 290, Jr., Manchester, Ky.)
90 — ROSS DICKENS
(6-3, 260, Sr., Pelham, Ala.)

RE

47 — EVAN BREWER
(6-2, 245, Jr., Bowling Green, Ky.)
58 — JOSH JOHNSON
(6-2, 235, Sr., Franklin, Tenn.)

OLB

19 — SAM SEXTON
(6-3, 220, Sr., Ferguson, Ky.)
48 — Ben Sowders
(6-0, 215, So., Bowling Green, Ky.)

ILB

32 — JON HEDGES
(6-0, 230, Sr., Murray, Ky.)
54 — L.J. Harbison
(5-11, 220, Fr., Edmonton, Ky.)

ILB

13 — ANDRE LEWIS
(6-1, 215, Jr., Madison, Tenn.)
42 — Jimmy Caldwell
(6-0, 230, Fr., Winter Springs, Fla.)

OLB

29 — JOHNATHAN CARTER
(6-2, 215, Sr., Murfreesboro, Tenn.)
95 — DAN CLINE
(6-6, 225, So., Centerville, Ohio)

CB

18 — TRAVIS WATTERS
(5-10, 180, So., Louisville, Ky.)
9 — Rashad Etheridge
(5-8, 165, Fr., St. Petersburg, Fla.)

SS

30 — BRAD CLOUD
(6-0, 200, So., Danville, Ky.)
5 — BO SMITH
(5-10, 190, Jr., Rockledge, Fla.)

FS

10 — MARION RUMPH
(6-1, 195, Jr., Bradenton, Fla.)
20 — CLAY STEPHENS
(5-8, 190, Jr., Somerset, Ky.)

CB

21 — DENNIS MITCHELL
(5-8, 180, Sr., Indianapolis, Ind.)
14 — ARTIS NEAL
(5-10, 185, Sr., Apopka, Fla.)



94
Chris
Brunemann

6-3 • 235
Senior — 3L • TE
Covington, Ky.
Covington Catholic HS

On The Hill: Expected to start at tight end for the second consecutive season ... **2005:** Started eight of WKU's 11 contests while appearing in every game ... Caught a career-high four passes for 69 yards ... Graded out at 92 percent overall while leading the team's tight ends with 63 knockdown blocks ... Had two receptions for 39 yards in victory over rival Eastern Kentucky while recording a season-high 94 percent grade with 10 pancakes ... Caught a 4-yard pass at I-A Auburn, finishing with a grade of 93 percent against the Tigers ... Graded out at 93 percent in wins over Illinois State and Missouri State ... Recorded a 26-yard reception — the longest of his career — in Gateway Football Conference finale at Youngstown State ... Credited with a 92 percent grade and season-best 13 knockdowns at I-A Florida International ... **2004: Named to the Gateway Conference Academic Honor Roll** ... Appeared in all 12 games, earning eight starts ... Caught a 6-yard touchdown pass in win over Illinois State ... Led all tight ends with 64 knockdown blocks ... Graded out at 85 percent or better in five contests, including four straight from Oct. 2-23 ... Had a season-best 89 percent grade in Youngstown State victory ... **2003:** Played in all 13 contests, including starting the first game of his collegiate career against Union (Ky.) ... **2002:** Was a redshirt.

HS/Misc: Started and lettered for three years at Covington Catholic HS ... Selected honorable mention all-state by the Louisville *Courier-Journal*, and first-team all-Northern Kentucky and all-league as a senior ... A member of both the Northern Kentucky Football Coaches Association and *Kentucky Inquirer* All-Star teams ... Posted 118 tackles (80 unassisted) with 22 stops for loss and eight sacks his last year to help lead the Colonels to nine wins and the semifinals of the AAA playoffs ... Recorded 68 tackles including eight sacks as a junior ... Also lettered twice in track.

The Brunemann File: Full Name — Christopher James Brunemann; Parents — James and Mary Lynn Brunemann (father, construction company vice president; mother, salesperson); Birth — Jan. 10, 1984, Cincinnati, Ohio; HS — Covington Catholic '02; HS Coach — Lynn Ray (Eastern Kentucky); HS Letters — football 3, track 2; Major — management; Ambition — pursue a professional career, have a family; Hobbies — hunting, lifting weights, socializing.

RECEIVING TOTALS

Year	GP	No-Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	YPG
2004	12	1-6	6.0	1	6	0.5
2005	11	4-69	17.2	0	26	6.3
Totals	23	5-75	15.0	1	26	3.3



29
Johnathan
Carter

6-2 • 215
Senior — 3L • OLB
Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Oakland HS

On The Hill: Should see action at outside linebacker — he's listed as the starter on the weak side — as well as on special teams ... **2005: Named to the Gateway Conference Academic Honor Roll** ... Appeared in all 11 games, picking up the first three starts of his career ... Finished with career highs of 21 tackles and four stops behind the line of scrimmage (for 17 yards) ... Had one forced fumble and also recovered a fumble ... Posted three stops including a sack while forcing and recovering a fumble in season-opening win over West Virginia Tech ... Collected season-high four tackles in victory over Eastern Kentucky, matching that total two weeks later while making his first career start at I-A Auburn ... Credited with three tackles in road wins over Indiana State and Western Illinois ... Recorded two solo stops for loss in season finale at I-A Florida International ... **2004: Earned Gateway Conference Academic Honor Roll accolades** ... Played in all 12 contests ... Credited with 11 total tackles, including an assist behind the line of scrimmage ... Posted a season-best three stops in season opener at I-A Kansas State ... Also had multiple tackles in wins over Eastern Kentucky and Indiana State ... **2003:** Played in the Hilltoppers' first 10 games, collecting 13 total stops ... Recorded a sack in his collegiate debut in victory over Union (Ky.), and had three tackles the following week against West Virginia Tech ... Posted career-best eight stops at I-A Auburn.

HS/Misc: A two-year starter and letterwinner at Oakland High ... Named all-region his senior year, when he was also voted the team's Most Valuable Player and captain.

The Carter File: Full Name — Johnathan Eugene Carter; Parents — Robert and Renee Haley (father, brake-press operator; mother, IRS employee); Birth — Nov. 29, 1984, Clarksville, Tenn.; HS — Oakland '03; HS Coach — Marty Euerard (Middle Tennessee); HS Letters — football 2; Major — turf management.

DEFENSIVE TOTALS

Year	GP	U-A-T	TFL	Sacks	Int	BPU	FF/FR
2003	10	5-8-13	2.0-11	1.0-4	0-0	0	0/0
2004	12	4-7-11	0.5-1	0.0-0	0-0	0	0/0
2005	11	9-12-21	4.0-17	1.0-11	0-0	0	1/1
Totals	33	18-27-45	6.5-29	2.0-15	0-0	0	1/1





**90
Ross
Dickens**

6-3 • 260
Senior — 2L • DL/LS
Pelham, Ala.
Pelham HS

On The Hill: Should see action on the defensive line, where he is listed as the backup at nose tackle after the spring ... **2005:** Appeared in each of WKU's 11 contests ... Finished with 16 total tackles, half solo ... Credited with four stops for loss including a pair of sacks ... Also broke up one pass ... Had a season-high four tackles — half of which came behind the line of scrimmage for a loss of 6 yards — in season-opening victory over West Virginia Tech ... Posted three stops, including a 12-yard sack, and a pass defensed in Homecoming win over Missouri State ... Collected a pair of tackles including a sack in Western Illinois victory ... Had two solo stops in Gateway Conference finale at Youngstown State ... **2004:** Saw action in all 12 games, starting both the Illinois State and Western Illinois contests ... Collected 18 total stops with 4" behind the line of scrimmage ... Credited with one sack in Homecoming win over Indiana State ... Had two tackles, one for loss, in home-opening victory over Concord (W.Va.) ... Posted three tackles in Eastern Kentucky win ... Had a career-high seven stops against INS, with 1" behind the line including that sack ... Recorded a pair of assisted tackles in win at SMS ... **2003:** Played in the Toppers' first four games before suffering a season-ending injury at I-A Auburn ... Collected four tackles including a sack for a loss of 4 yards ... Made a pair of stops in his collegiate debut, a 51-3 win over Union (Ky.) ... Posted his first career sack in West Virginia Tech victory ... Credited with one assist at Auburn. **HS/Misc:** Earned four letters at Pelham HS, starting every season ... Was all-state selection as a senior ... Named all-conference each of his last two years ... Posted 73 tackles, including 13 for loss with nine sacks, in 2002 ... Lettered in basketball and baseball as a freshman and sophomore ... Father, Mike, played football at Murray State.

The Dickens File: Full Name — John Ross Dickens; Parents — Mike and Jody Dickens (father, sales representative; mother, teacher); Birth — March 8, 1985, Lawrence, Kan.; HS — Pelham '03; HS Coach — Sammy Queen (UAB); HS Letters — football 4, basketball 2, baseball 2; Major — management; Hobbies — golf, movies, drawing and painting.

DEFENSIVE TOTALS

Year	GP	U-A-T	TFL	Sacks	Int	BPU	FF / FR
2003	4	2-2-4	1.0-4	1.0-4	0-0	0	0 / 0
2004	12	4-14-18	4.5-11	1.0-5	0-0	0	0 / 0
2005	11	8-8-16	4.0-22	2.0-16	0-0	1	0 / 0
Totals	27	14-24-38	9.5-37	4.0-25	0-0	1	0 / 0



**56
Joe
Dolchan**

6-3 • 280
Senior — 3L • OL
Dexter, Ky.
Calloway County HS

On The Hill: Expected to start at right tackle ... **2005:** Appeared in each of the first five games, starting four, before suffering a season-ending knee injury ... Graded out at 92 percent overall ... Posted 38 knockdown blocks ... Had a 98 percent mark in regular-season opener against West Virginia Tech ... Recorded an 89 percent grade and nine pancakes in victory over rival Eastern Kentucky ... Received a 93 percent grade in Indiana State win while grading out at 92 percent the following week in victory at Illinois State ... Credited with 13 knockdowns in both those contests as well ... **2004: A member of the Gateway Conference Academic Honor Roll** ... Started all 11 contests in the regular season, but missed the Hilltoppers' NCAA I-AA playoff game after suffering an injury at Florida International ... Graded out at 88 percent overall while recording 109 pancake blocks ... Had a season-high 91 percent grade in wins over Southwest Missouri State and FIU ... Also graded out at 90 percent in victories over Concord (W.Va.), Youngstown State and Western Illinois ... Recorded an 87 percent grade with 10 pancakes in victory at No. 21 Northern Iowa ... Credited with a grade of 86 percent and 12 knockdowns at top-ranked Southern Illinois ... Graded out at 89 percent with a season-best 15 pancake blocks in Homecoming win over Indiana State ... **2003:** Appeared in 10 games ... Contributed both on the offensive line and field goal units ... Recorded an 81 percent overall grade ... Credited with 20 knockdown blocks ... **2002:** Sat out as a redshirt his first year on the Hill.

HS/Misc: Lettered and started for three years at Calloway County HS ... Was a first-team all-state and all-Western Kentucky Conference selection his final season ... Named second-team all-state and first-team all-league following his junior season ... Selected first-team all-conference and honorable mention all-state as a sophomore ... Earned the Lakers' Offensive Lineman of the Year award each season.

The Dolchan File: Full Name — Joseph James Dolchan; Parents — Joseph and H. Marie Dolchan (father, chemical operator; mother, teacher); Birth — Sept. 11, 1983, Murray, Ky.; HS — Calloway County '02; HS Coach — Joe Stonecipher (Murray State); HS Letters — football 3; Major — social studies/history.



**2
Kareem
Garibaldi**

6-0 • 190
Senior — 2L • WR
Tampa, Fla.
Gaither HS

On The Hill: Could see time in the defensive backfield or playing special teams ... **2005:** Did not see action due to injuries ... **2004:** Played in 10 games, making seven tackles ... Broke up the first two passes of his career ... Recorded a career-high four tackles and defensed a pair of passes in home-opening win over Concord (W.Va.) ... Credited with two assisted stops at No. 1 Southern Illinois ... **2003:** Saw action in all 13 contests ... Finished with 10 tackles (seven unassisted) and a blocked kick ... Recorded a solo stop in his collegiate debut against Union (Ky.) ... Posted a season-best three tackles in West Virginia Tech victory ... Collected a pair of unassisted stops in league win at Indiana State ... Picked up a blocked kick against third-ranked Southern Illinois ... **2002:** Was an academic redshirt.

HS/Misc: Started three seasons and earned four letters at Gaither High ... Posted 15 interceptions and 125 total tackles in his career ... A first-team all-conference selection as a senior ... Named all-county following his junior season ... Voted second-team all-league as a sophomore, his first year as a starter ... Also was a team captain ... Earned three letters in basketball, averaging 19.7 points, 6.8 rebounds and 3.1 blocks per game ... A second-team all-county pick on the court ... Lettered twice in track, participating in the 100- and 200-meter dashes as well as part of the 4x100-meter relay squad.

The Garibaldi File: Full Name — Kareem A. Garibaldi; Parents — Fermin Garibaldi (car salesman) and Rona Williams (secretary); Birth — Aug. 11, 1983, Panama; HS — Gaither '02; HS Coach — Howie Decristofaro (Miami); HS Letters — football 4, basketball 3, track 2; Major — psychology; Ambition — play in the NFL; Hobbies — PlayStation, basketball.

DEFENSIVE TOTALS

Year	GP	U-A-T	TFL	Sacks	Int	BPU	FF / FR
2003	13	7-3-10	0.0-0	0.0-0	0-0	0	0 / 0
2004	10	2-5-7	0.0-0	0.0-0	0-0	2	0 / 0
Totals	23	9-8-17	0.0-0	0.0-0	0-0	2	0 / 0



**32
Jon
Hedges**

6-0 • 230
Senior — 2L • ILB/LS
Murray, Ky.
Murray HS

On The Hill: Will see time at inside linebacker — he's listed as one of two starters at the position following spring practice — while also handling snapping duties on punts ... **2005:** Saw action in all but one game, starting the first four contests of his career ... Totaled 34 tackles, which ranked eighth on the team, while posting 3" stops for loss including a pair of sacks ... Had one forced fumble and the first interception of his career ... Credited with seven stops in win over rival Eastern Kentucky ... Posted three tackles (two solo), a forced fumble and an interception he returned 4 yards in victory at Illinois State ... Collected five stops, including a pair behind the line of scrimmage, against No. 8 Southern Illinois ... Recorded six tackles against 14th-ranked Northern Iowa ... Had a career-best eight tackles in Gateway Football Conference finale at Youngstown State, including a sack for a loss of 8 yards ... **2004: Named to the Gateway Conference Academic Honor Roll** ... Played in 11 of 12 contests, contributing mostly on special teams ... Had six total tackles (five unassisted) including a sack ... First career stop was a solo tackle in collegiate debut at I-A Kansas State ... Recorded two solo tackles, including a sack for a loss of 6 yards, in Eastern Kentucky victory ... Had a stop in Gateway Conference victories over Youngstown State, Northern Iowa and Indiana State ... **2003:** Missed the season after suffering an injury during preseason practice ... **2002:** Redshirted.

HS/Misc: Started and lettered for four years at Murray High ... Was named honorable mention all-state and first-team all-Western Kentucky Conference his last season after leading the Tigers with 92 tackles (69 unassisted) despite missing three contests with an ankle injury ... Also rushed for 564 yards and caught four passes for 23 more ... Murray High finished 10-3 and reached the second round of the state A tournament ... An honorable mention all-state and first-team all-conference selection as a junior after leading MHS with 106 tackles and rushing for 617 yards on 95 carries (an average of 6.5 yards per attempt) ... As a sophomore, a first-team all-league pick after leading team with 101 tackles and three fumble recoveries ... Also earned letters in weightlifting, track, baseball and swimming.

The Hedges File: Full Name — Jonathan Carl Hedges; Parents — Joe and Janice Hedges (father, professor; mother, financial secretary); Birth — Oct. 18, 1983, Paris, Tenn.; HS — Murray '02; HS Coach — Rick Fisher (Murray State); HS Letters — football 4, weight lifting 4, track 4, baseball 2, swimming 1; Major — physical education; Ambition — coaching; Hobbies — weightlifting, swimming.

DEFENSIVE TOTALS

Year	GP	U-A-T	TFL	Sacks	Int	BPU	FF / FR
2004	11	5-1-6	1.0-6	1.0-6	0-0	0	0 / 0
2005	10	12-22-34	3.5-13	2.0-11	1-4	0	1 / 0
Totals	21	17-23-40	4.5-19	3.0-17	1-4	0	1 / 0





16 Justin Haddix

6-0 • 215
Senior — 3L • QB
Jackson, Ky.
Breathitt County HS

On The Hill: Enters his final year as the Toppers' starting quarterback ... Begins the season as the school's career record holder in both completion percentage (55.4%) and pass efficiency rating (137.29) ... Also stands second among the all-time leaders at WKU with 370 completions, 5,743 passing yards and 36 touchdowns, and is third with 6,679 yards of total offense ... Enters the year 10th in the Gateway Conference record book in total offense ... Is fifth among the active career leaders in NCAA Division I-AA football in total offense while ranking seventh in both passing yards and pass efficiency rating ... **Ranked 16th among the top 20 returning quarterbacks in I-AA football by The Sports Network ...** **2005: Named honorable mention all-Gateway Football Conference ...** Ranked 19th nationally in pass efficiency and 50th in total offense ... Among the Gateway leaders in pass efficiency (fifth), total offense (sixth) and passing yards (seventh) ... Completed 131-of-230 pass attempts for 1,892 yards and a career-best 15 touchdowns ... Also finished with 328 yards and a career-high-tying eight scores on the ground ... Collected one reception for 28 yards as well ... Completed 7-of-10 passes for 169 yards and two touchdowns in season-opening win over West Virginia Tech ... Was 12-of-18 for 191 yards and rushed for two scores in victory over rival Eastern Kentucky ... Rushed for a career-high 82 yards and threw for another 187 at I-A Auburn ... **Selected the Gateway Conference Offensive Player of the Week** after posting a season-best 290 yards of total offense while accounting for four scores in Indiana State win ... Finished 15-of-22 for 228 yards and three touchdowns against the Sycamores while rushing for an additional 62 yards and a score on 12 carries ... Ran for two touchdowns in Homecoming victory over Missouri State ... Was 10-of-17 for 192 yards and three touchdowns in win at Western Illinois, finishing with four total scores after also rushing for a touchdown ... Accounted for 226 yards of total offense against eighth-ranked Southern Illinois ... Completed 11-of-14 passes for 125 yards and three scores in season finale at I-A Florida International ... **2004: A second-team all-Gateway Football Conference selection ... Also was on the GFC Academic Honor Roll ...** Ranked third in the league and 21st nationally with a 138.78 pass efficiency rating ... Also was fourth in the conference in total offense and sixth in passing yards ... Completed 126-of-215 pass attempts for 1,976 yards and eight touchdowns ... Added 315 yards on 86 carries to lead all Gateway quarterbacks in rushing ... Also caught two passes for 29 yards ... Had 182 yards passing and threw for one touchdown at I-A Kansas State in the season opener ... Was 13-of-26 for 179 yards passing and added 22 yards on the ground in win at instate rival Eastern Kentucky ... Completed 7-of-10 passes for 172 yards and a score in conference-opening victory over Youngstown State ... Went 11-of-15 passing for 192 yards in win at No. 21 Northern Iowa ... Recorded first 200-yard game of the season at top-ranked Southern Illinois, going 16-of-25 for 202 yards ... Threw for a career-best 276 yards and a touchdown — he was 12-of-18 — in Homecoming victory over Indiana State, adding 26 yards on the ground for 302 yards of total offense ... Threw for two scores and 140 yards in Illinois State victory after completing 13-of-22 attempts ... Ran for a season-high 77 yards in win over Western Illinois ... Was 14-of-26 for 242 yards passing in NCAA I-AA playoffs at No. 9 Sam Houston State, adding 11 carries for 49 yards and a touchdown ... **2003: Selected the Gateway Football Conference Freshman of the Year after starting all 13 contests his first season on the Hill ...** Was 113-of-223 passing for 1,875 yards and 13 touchdowns ... Finished fifth in the conference in yards per game as well as with a 134.26 pass efficiency rating — the latter figure was 31st nationally ... Added 293 yards on the ground with eight scores as he ranked third on the team in rushing ... Ranked fifth in the GFC with 166.8 total offense yards per contest ... Second on the squad with eight touchdowns as he was third overall in scoring with 48 points ... Both his passing and total offense yardage ranked fifth in the WKU season record book ... Threw for 181 yards and a touchdown, completing 8-of-16 passes, in his collegiate debut against Union (Ky.) ... Accounted for two scores (one rush, one pass) in defeat of No. 22 Eastern Kentucky ... Passed for 185 yards at second-ranked Western Illinois in his first Gateway contest ... Was 7-of-10 passing for 109 yards and a touchdown, adding 80 yards on 13 rushes, in victory at Illinois State ... Completed 13-of-23 passes for 182 yards and a touchdown in Homecoming game against No. 3 Southern Illinois ... Had a career-best 279 yards of total offense, also adding his first reception for 31 yards, in 24-3 victory over No. 6 Northern Iowa ... Was 6-of-10 for 181 yards and a career-high three touchdowns in NCAA Division I-AA first-round playoff victory over 17th-ranked Jacksonville State ... Accounted for 235 yards of total offense (40 rush, 195 pass) in NCAA I-AA quarterfinals at No. 2 Wofford.
HS/Misc: A four-year letterwinner, starting three seasons, at Breathitt County High ... Went 4-of-5 for 51 yards in the Kentucky-Tennessee All-Star Game after his senior season, also completing a two-point

conversion ... Was runner-up in the voting for Mr. Football after leading the Bobcats to a 15-0 record and the state 2A championship ... Named to the Lexington Herald-Leader's Class of the Commonwealth ... A second-team all-state selection and the district Player of the Year as a senior after completing 270-of-410 passes for 4,359 yards and a state-record 58 touchdowns ... Also collected 1,115 yards and 19 scores on 158 rushing attempts ... Appeared in Sports Illustrated's "Faces in the Crowd" ... Was 156-of-270 for 2,057 yards and 32 touchdowns as a junior ... Lettered four years on the basketball court, starting at point guard to help lead BCHS to the regional finals.
The Haddix File: Full Name — Justin Cole Haddix; Parents — Daniel Haddix (self-employed) and Debbie Haddix (teacher); Birth — June 9, 1984, Lexington, Ky.; HS — Breathitt County '03; HS Coach — Mike Holcomb (Eastern Kentucky); HS Letters — football 4, basketball 4; Major — physical education; Ambition — be a civil engineer; Hobbies — fishing, hunting, lifting weights, basketball.

RUSHING TOTALS						
Year	GP	Att-Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	YPG
2003	13	106-293	2.8	8	36	22.5
2004	12	86-315	3.7	3	33	26.2
2005	11	113-328	2.9	8	51	29.8
Total	36	305-936	3.1	19	51	26.0

PASSING TOTALS								
Year	GP	Eff	A-C-I	Pct	Yds	TD	Lg	YPG
2003	13	134.26	223-113-7	50.7	1,875	13	82	144.2
2004	12	138.78	215-126-10	58.6	1,976	8	62	164.7
2005	11	138.88	230-131-10	57.0	1,892	15	73	172.0
Total	36	137.29	668-370-27	55.4	5,743	36	82	159.5

TOTAL OFFENSE						
Year	GP	Plys	Rush	Pass	Tot	YPG
2003	13	329	293	1,875	2,168	166.8
2004	12	301	315	1,976	2,291	190.9
2005	11	343	328	1,892	2,220	201.8
Totals	36	973	936	5,743	6,679	185.5

SCORING					
Year	GP	TD	FG	PAT	Points
2003	13	8	0-0	0-0	48
2004	12	3	0-0	0-0	18
2005	11	8	0-0	0-0	48
Totals	36	19	0-0	0-0	114



33 Brandon Hicks

6-0 • 250
Senior — 1L • FB
Beech Grove, Ind.
Beech Grove HS

On The Hill: One of six fullbacks on the roster ... **2005:** Saw his only action of the season in the Hilltoppers' season-opening win over West Virginia Tech, carrying one time for 3 yards ... **2004:** Appeared in six contests, starting four in a row from Oct. 2-23 ... Had one carry for 2 yards in Youngstown State victory ... Added a 7-yard reception at No. 1 Southern Illinois.
HS/Misc: Started and lettered four years at Beech Grove HS ... Holds the school's career rushing record with 3,377 yards ... Named honorable mention all-state and all-county three years ... A two-time all-conference selection ... Earned four letters in track.
The Hicks File: Full Name — James Brandon Hicks; Parents — the late Michael and Katherine Hicks; Birth — Nov. 22, 1983, Beech Grove, Ind.; HS — Beech Grove '02; HS Coach — Joe Moore (Purdue); HS Letters — football 4, track 4; Major — physical education; Ambition — teach and coach.



58 Josh Johnson

6-2 • 235
Senior — 3L • DL
Franklin, Tenn.
Battle Ground Academy

On The Hill: Expected to contribute on the defensive line after concluding spring practice as the backup at right end ... **2005: Picked up the Gateway Football Conference Commissioner's Academic Excellence Award in addition to making the league's Academic Honor Roll ...** Saw action in all 11 games ... Posted seven total tackles, with 2" coming behind the line of scrimmage ... Had an assist for loss in West Virginia Tech victory to open the season ... Recorded a pair of assists in back-to-back weeks at I-A Auburn and Indiana State, a season high ... Credited with a sack for a loss of 3 yards in win at Western Illinois ... **2004: Earned Gateway Conference Academic Honor Roll accolades ...** Played in all 12 contests ... Recorded 10 stops (five unassisted), including one behind the line of scrimmage ... Had a season-high three tackles on two occasions — in the regular season opener at I-A Kansas State and in a win over Indiana State ... Credited with an assisted tackle for loss in home-opening victory over Concord (W.Va.) ... Posted a half sack at No. 9 Sam Houston State in NCAA Division I-AA playoff opening-round contest ... **2003:** Appeared in seven games, making 10 tackles while also recovering a fumble ... Recorded three tackles and a fumble recovery in his collegiate debut against Union (Ky.) ... Had two assisted stops the following week in victory over West Virginia Tech ... Posted a career-best four tackles in Indiana State road win ... **2002:** A redshirt.
HS/Misc: A four-year letterwinner, starting three seasons, at Battle Ground Academy ... Collected 138 tackles including four sacks and grabbed two interceptions to be named first-team all-county ... Also had 12 catches for 194 yards and three touchdowns as a tight end ... Earned four letters in basketball as well as one each in baseball and track.
The Johnson File: Full Name — Joshua Wayne Johnson; Parents — Barry and Barbara Johnson (father, engineer; mother, teacher); Birth — Sept. 1, 1983, Franklin, Tenn.; HS — Battle Ground Academy '02; HS Coach — Tim Moore (Vanderbilt); HS Letters — football 4, basketball 4, baseball 1, track 1; Major — physical education; Ambition — own a business.

DEFENSIVE TOTALS							
Year	GP	U-A-T	TFL	Sacks	Int	BPU	FF/FR
2003	7	4-6-10	0.0-0	0.0-0	0-0	0	0/1
2004	12	5-5-10	1.0-6	0.5-5	0-0	0	0/0
2005	11	1-6-7	2.5-7	1.0-3	0-0	0	0/0
Totals	30	10-17-27	3.5-13	1.5-8	0-0	0	0/1





**21
Dennis
Mitchell**

5-8 • 180
Senior — 3L • CB
Indianapolis, Ind.
Warren Central HS

On The Hill: Will start at right cornerback for the second straight season ... Also handles return duties on both kickoffs and punts ... Enters his final season at WKU ranked second in school history with 1,046 kick return yards and an average of 13.7 yards per punt return ... Is fifth among all active players in NCAA Division I-AA football with 574 punt return yards ... Also a member of the Hilltopper track team ... Earned all-Sun Belt Conference honors during the indoor season in the 100- and 200-meter dashes after posting top-three finishes at the league championships ... Qualified for the NCAA Midwest Regional in the 100-meter dash during the 2005 outdoor campaign ... **2005: Voted second-team all-Gateway Football Conference as a return specialist** ... In his first season as a cornerback, posted 55 total tackles, including six (for a loss of 17 yards) behind the line of scrimmage ... Led the team with 11 passes defended after recording four in his first two years on the Hill combined — he finished the season ranked 32nd in the country with 1.09 passes broken up per game ... Collected one interception, one forced fumble and one fumble recovery ... Led the league and was sixth in the country with an average of 16.13 yards per punt return ... Also averaged 17.7 yards per kick return ... Tied for second on the team with 703 all-purpose yards ... Returned a punt 64 yards for a score in season-opening victory over West Virginia Tech ... Had five tackles and broke up two passes in win over Eastern Kentucky ... Posted season-high 12 stops, adding a pass defended in road victory over Illinois State ... Was **selected the GFC Special Teams Player of the Week** after recording 107 yards in returns in Missouri State Homecoming win, including running back two punts for 95 yards ... Also had six tackles against the Bears, including his only sack of the season, a fumble forced and a fumble recovery ... Credited with five solo tackles, including two for loss, and broke up a pair of passes in Western Illinois win ... Collected five stops (four solo) in season finale at I-A Florida International ... **2004: An honorable mention all-Gateway Conference selection as a return specialist ... A member of the league's Academic Honor Roll** ... Started all 12 contests, posting a career-best 64 tackles ... Had 4 stops behind the line of scrimmage ... Had two interceptions and broke up a pair of passes ... Credited with a pair of fumble recoveries ... Led the conference and ranked 19th in the nation with an average of 11.4 yards per punt return ... Also was seventh in the GFC after averaging 21.3 yards per kick return ... Recorded 10 tackles, including a stop for an 8-yard loss, in season opener at I-A Kansas State ... Picked off first pass of season in win at rival Eastern Kentucky ... Collected season-best 11 tackles (seven unassisted) and a fumble recovery in Youngstown State victory ... Returned a punt 68 yards for the game-winning touchdown at No. 21 Northern Iowa — he also had six tackles in that contest ... Posted five tackles (four unassisted) and an interception to go along with 137 yards in kick returns at top-ranked Southern Illinois ... Recorded 81 yards on five punt returns in victory over Illinois State, including a 47-yard return late in the third quarter that set up the game-clinching touchdown drive ... **Named the Gateway Special Teams Player of the Week** after returning a kickoff 38 yards to set up the game-winning score at Florida International and later blocking a field-goal attempt with the Hilltoppers leading by seven points early in the fourth quarter — he added eight tackles (seven unassisted), one stop behind the line of scrimmage and a pass defended against the Golden Panthers ... Had six tackles, a fumble recovery and a career-best 146 yards in kick returns in NCAA I-AA Playoff game at No. 9 Sam Houston State ... **2003:** Appeared in all 13 contests, starting the final four ... Recorded 51 tackles, including six behind the line of scrimmage with three sacks ... Second on the team with three interceptions, leading WKU with 109 yards in returns ... Forced two fumbles ... Broke up a pair of passes and blocked one kick ... Added five kick returns for 137 yards, an average of 27.4 yards per runback ... Returned three punts for 59 yards ... Ranked seventh on the squad with 305 all-purpose yards, standing second among defensive players ... Had three tackles and a 52-yard kickoff return in his collegiate debut against Union (Ky.) ... Collected five stops and broke up a pass in win over West Virginia Tech ... In first career start, was credited with seven tackles (six unassisted), a forced fumble and a pass defended in victory over sixth-ranked Northern Iowa ... **Named the Gateway Conference Defensive Player of the Week following the regular-season finale at Youngstown State** after posting nine stops (seven unassisted) and an interception he returned 84 yards for a touchdown that gave Western the lead for good ... Had eight tackles in NCAA Division I-AA playoff opening round victory over No. 17 Jacksonville State, with half of those coming behind the line of scrimmage — he recorded three sacks (for a loss of 20 yards) and also forced a fumble ... Made a career-best 13 stops, including two for loss, to go along with an interception and a blocked kick in quarterfinals at third-seeded Wofford ... **2002:** Was an academic redshirt.

HS/Misc: Lettered for four years, starting the final three, at Warren Central High ... Participated in the Indiana North-South All-Star Game, earning Most Valuable Player honors ... Was also an all-state and all-conference selection ... A member of the track team that finished fourth in the state ... Part of a 4x100-meter relay team that placed third while also earning top-five finishes in both the 100- and 200-meter dashes.
The Mitchell File: Full Name — Dennis Dejuan Mitchell; Parent — Doris Hutchinson; Birth — April 7, 1983, Tennessee; HS — Warren Central '02; HS Coach — Kevin Wright (Western Kentucky); HS Letters — football 4, track; Major — physical education; Hobbies — video games.

DEFENSIVE TOTALS

Year	GP	U-A—T	TFL	Sacks	Int	BPU	FF/FR
2003	13	33-17—50	6.0-25	3.0-20	3-109	2	2/0
2004	12	38-26—64	4.5-17	0.0-0	2-6	2	0/2
2005	11	33-22—55	6.0-17	1.0-7	1-0	11	1/1
Totals	36	104-65—169	16.5-59	4.0-27	6-115	15	3/3

PUNT RETURNS

Year	No-Yds	Avg	TD	Lg
2003	3-59	19.7	0	28
2004	24-273	11.4	1	68
2005	15-242	16.1	1	64
Totals	42-574	13.7	2	68

KICK RETURNS

Year	No-Yds	Avg	TD	Lg
2003	5-137	27.4	0	52
2004	21-448	21.3	0	66
2005	26-461	17.7	0	39
Totals	52-1,046	20.1	0	66

ALL-PURPOSE YARDS

Year	GP	Rush	Rec	P/KRet	I/FR	Total	YPG
2003	13	0	0	196	109	305	23.5
2004	12	0	0	721	6	727	60.6
2005	11	0	0	703	0	703	63.9
Totals	36	0	0	1,620	115	1,735	48.2



**25
Lerron
Moore**

5-10 • 205
Senior — 3L • RB
Columbus, Ohio
Bishop Watterson HS

On The Hill: Expected to start at running back for the fourth straight season ... One of only three running backs in school history to post two 1,000-yard seasons ... Stands fifth on the school's all-time rushing list with 3,505 yards entering the year, which also ranks sixth in the Gateway Football Conference record books ... Has 17 100-yard games, which is tied for second on the WKU career list and is tied for fifth all-time in the league ... 34 career touchdowns are tied for third in school history, as he stands seventh with 204 total points ... Ranks third among all active NCAA Division I-AA players in rushing yards and is fourth in touchdowns ... **Ranked eighth among the top 25 returning running backs in I-AA football by the Sports Network ... 2005: A third-team all-Northwest Region by Hansen's Football Gazette ... Named first-team all-Gateway Conference** ... One of two players in the league to average better than 100 yards per game, he ranked 22nd nationally after posting 1,037 yards and 10 touchdowns on the ground ... Also finished ninth in the GFC with 104.9 all-purpose yards per contest — he added three receptions for 12 yards — and was 10th in the league in total offense ... Led the team with 1,049 all-purpose yards ... Rushed for 138 yards and three scores in season-opening victory over West Virginia Tech ... Carried 22 times for 162 yards in win over rival Eastern Kentucky ... Recorded 138 yards and a score on 20 attempts in Indiana State win ... **Selected a I-AA.org Weekly All-Star** after collecting a season-best 190 rushing yards while adding a 19-yard catch in victory at Illinois State ... Had 43 yards and two touchdowns on only five carries in the first quarter of Western Illinois road win — he would leave with an injured hamstring that would limit his action in the next two contests ... Ended season with 181-yard, two-touchdown performance at I-A Florida International, **earning GFC Offensive Player-of-the-Week honors ... 2004: Was a second-team all-West Region selection by Hansen's Football Gazette, also earning second-team all-Gateway Conference honors** ... Led the team with 978 yards rushing, ranking fourth in the league and 32nd in the nation ... Also stood fourth in the league with 104.4 all-purpose yards per contest and eighth in scoring after recording 11 touchdowns ... Added seven receptions for 66 yards ... Started all 10 games he appeared in ... Had 63 yards and a touchdown in season opener at I-A Kansas State ... Recorded first 100-yard game of the season with 113 yards and all three scores in Hilltoppers' 21-8 victory at rival Eastern Kentucky ... Posted 173 yards and a touchdown on 17 carries in Youngstown State victory ... Had 13 rushes for 93 yards in win at No. 21 Northern Iowa, adding a season-long 13-yard reception ... Ran for 114 yards and a touchdown at SMS ... **Named the Gateway Conference co-Offensive Player of the Week Nov. 13** after tying the school record with four touchdowns in victory over Western Illinois, finishing the day with a career-best 219 yards on 34 attempts ... Collected 74 yards on 19 carries in regular-season finale at Florida International to go along with 20 yards on two catches ... **2003: Voted honorable mention all-Gateway Conference and was a member of the Gateway All-Newcomer Team** ... Ranked second in the league and 17th in the country with 114.6 yards per contest after rushing for 1,490 yards, the third-highest season total in school history ... Also was fifth in the league in all-purpose yards and 10th in total offense ... Finished ninth in the conference in scoring after leading the team with 13 touchdowns ... Tied for third on the season record list with eight 100-yard games, standing second in the record books with five consecutive 100-yard efforts from Oct. 4-Nov. 1 ... Western's leading rusher in 10 contests, including each of the last five ... Ran for 59 yards and two touchdowns in his collegiate debut, a 51-3 victory over Union (Ky.) ... Had 86 yards and a pair of scores the following week in West Virginia Tech win ... Posted a game-high 134 yards and a touchdown in win over nationally ranked Eastern Kentucky ... Collected 136 yards at second-ranked Western Illinois ... Ran for a season-best 192 yards in three-point win over SMS ... Recorded 115 yards in Illinois State victory ... Needed only 12 carries to rush for 148 yards and a touchdown in win at Indiana State ... Posted 142 yards and a score against No. 3 Southern Illinois, including a 91-yard touchdown run that was the third-longest rushing play in school history ... Had 134 yards and two touchdowns in regular-season finale at Youngstown State ... In first round of NCAA Division I-AA playoffs, recorded 137 yards and a touchdown on only five carries ... **2002:** Sat out as an academic redshirt.
HS/Misc: Earned three letters, starting his final two years, at Bishop Watterson HS ... Holds the school career rushing record with 3,673 yards ... Selected first-team all-state, all-district, all-metro and all-Central Catholic League his last year after running for 2,350 yards while averaging 8.1 yards per attempt as he helped the Eagles to an 11-4 finish and a berth in the Division II state finals ... High game was 304 yards against DeSales High ... Collected 1,323 yards as a junior as BWHS finished 9-4 and reached the regional finals — he was an honorable mention all-state and first-team all-conference selection ...

Eagles went 13-2 and reached the state championship game his sophomore season ... Father Jimmy played at Ohio State and later with the Baltimore Colts in the NFL.

The Moore File: Full Name — Lerron Moore; Parents — Jimmy and Karen Moore (father, self-employed insurance; mother, insurance); Birth — Oct. 5, 1983, Columbus, Ohio; HS — Bishop Watterson '02; HS Coach — Mike Golden (Ohio State); HS Letters — football 3; Major — communications studies; Hobbies — martial arts, video games.

RUSHING TOTALS

Year	GP	Att-Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	YPG
2003	13	273-1,490	5.5	13	91	114.6
2004	10	186-978	5.3	11	50	97.8
2005	11	1,017-1,037	6.0	10	54	103.7
Totals	33	3,633-3,505	5.5	34	91	106.2

RECEIVING TOTALS

Year	GP	No-Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	YPG
2003	13	2-4	2.0	0	3	0.3
2004	10	7-66	9.4	0	13	6.6
Totals	23	9-70	7.8	0	13	3.0

TOTAL OFFENSE

Year	GP	Plys	Rush	Pass	Tot	YPG
2003	13	273	1,490	0	1,490	144.6
2004	10	186	978	0	978	97.8
2005	11	174	1,037	0	1,037	103.7
Totals	33	633	3,505	0	3,505	106.2

ALL-PURPOSE YARDS

Year	GP	Rush	Rec	P/KRet	I/FR	Total	YPG
2003	13	1,490	4	0	0	1,494	114.9
2004	10	978	66	0	0	1,044	104.4
2005	11	1,037	12	0	0	1,049	104.9
Totals	33	3,505	82	0	0	3,587	108.7

SCORING

Year	GP	TD	FG	PAT	Points
2003	13	13	0-0	0-0	78
2004	10	11	0-0	0-0	66
2005	11	10	0-0	0-0	60
Totals	33	34	0-0	0-0	204





**14
Artis
Neal**

5-10 • 185
Senior — 3L • CB
Apopka, Fla.
Apopka HS

On The Hill: Listed as the backup at right cornerback following spring practice ... Should also see time contributing to the special teams unit ... **2005:** Appeared in all 11 games, starting the season opener against West Virginia Tech ... Collected 12 stops (six solo) and recovered one fumble ... Finished with a season-best four tackles in the win over the Golden Bears ... Collected a pair of stops in Gateway Football Conference finale at Youngstown State ... **2004:** Started all 12 contests ... Posted 47 total tackles (32 unassisted) and three interceptions, ranking third on the team in the latter category ... Second on the squad with six passes defended ... Had two unassisted stops in first collegiate start at I-A Kansas State ... Grabbed first career interception in home-opening victory over Concord (W.Va.) ... Collected four tackles, an interception he returned 9 yards and two passes broken up in win at Eastern Kentucky ... Posted five stops in Gateway Conference victories over Youngstown State and No. 21 Northern Iowa ... Recorded a career-best six tackles (four unassisted) in Illinois State win ... Broke up a pair of passes and added two assisted tackles in victory at SMS ... Made three solo stops and had an interception in victory at Florida International to wrap up regular season ... **2003:** Appeared in eight games, mostly seeing action on special teams ... Recorded an assist in West Virginia Tech victory ... **2002:** Sat out as an academic redshirt.

HS/Misc: Lettered and started for three years at Apopka High ... Earned all-state and all-conference honors ... Selected the team's most valuable player ... Posted 61 stops, four tackles for loss and an interception in helping lead the Blue Darters to the 6A state championship his senior season.

The Neal File: Full Name — Artis Nathaniel Neal; Parents — Kenneth and Elean Neal; Birth — Oct. 4, 1983, Orlando, Fla.; HS — Apopka '02; HS Coach — Rick Darlington (Stetson); HS Letters — football 3; Major — sociology.

DEFENSIVE TOTALS

Year	GP	U-A-T	TFL	Sacks	Int	BPU	FF / FR
2003	8	0-1-1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0-0	0	0 / 0
2004	12	32-15-47	0.0-0	0.0-0	3-15	6	0 / 0
2005	11	6-6-12	0.0-0	0.0-0	0-0	0	0 / 1
Totals	31	38-22-60	0.0-0	0.0-0	3-15	6	0 / 1



**44
Karl
Phillips**

6-3 • 240
Senior — 3L • TE
Kissimmee, Fla.
Gateway HS

On The Hill: Expected to see significant action at tight end, where he was listed as the backup on the depth chart at the conclusion of spring practice ... **2005: A member of the Gateway Football Conference Academic Honor Roll, he also was given the Commissioner's Academic Excellence Award** ... Saw action in all 11 contests ... Posted a 7-yard reception in Homecoming win over Missouri State for his only catch of the year ... Received a 91 percent grade and added 26 knockdown blocks ... Graded out at 91 percent at I-A Auburn ... Had an 89 percent mark and six pancakes in Indiana State victory ... Posted 93 percent grade in win at Illinois State ... Graded out at 92 percent against MSU ... Credited with season-high 94 percent grade against No. 8 Southern Illinois ... Recorded 92 percent mark the following week against 14th-ranked Northern Iowa while finishing up Gateway Football Conference action with a grade of 90 percent at No. 19 Youngstown State ... Had a 93 percent grade and seven knockdowns in season finale at I-A Florida International ... **2004:** Played in 11 games, starting the first eight ... Caught four passes for 92 yards ... Had a 21-yard reception at I-A Kansas State in the season opener ... Collected two catches for 29 yards in win at instate rival Eastern Kentucky ... Recorded a 42-yard catch in Homecoming victory over Indiana State, the longest reception of his career ... Also graded out at 85 percent or better in five contests, collecting 34 knockdown blocks ... Posted season-best 88 percent grade following victory over Youngstown State ... Graded out at 87 percent with five pancakes at No. 1 Southern Illinois ... Had season-high seven knockdowns in INS win ... **2003:** Appeared in all 13 contests with nine starts ... Caught one pass for 15 yards at No. 2 Western Illinois ... **2002:** Sat out as a redshirt.

HS/Misc: Earned three letters while starting his last two seasons at Gateway High ... A two-time all-conference selection ... Named the Panthers' best lineman ... Team captain.

The Phillips File: Full Name — Karl Phillips; Parents — Vernon and Lucilia Phillips (father, retired; mother, nurse); Birth — May 30, 1980, St. Croix, V.I.; Child — Dyvon (9); HS — Gateway '98; HS Coach — Lonnie Beckel; HS Letters — football 3; Major — physical education; Hobbies — basketball, weight training.

RECEIVING TOTALS

Year	GP	No-Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	YPG
2003	13	1-15	15.0	0	15	1.2
2004	11	4-92	23.0	0	42	8.4
2005	11	1-7	7.0	0	7	0.6
Totals	35	6-114	19.0	0	42	3.3



**77
Sean
Pugh**

6-0 • 315
Senior — 3L • OL
Huber Heights, Ohio
Wayne HS

On The Hill: Adds depth on the offensive line ... Ended spring drills as the backup at right guard ... **2005:** Appeared in seven games including each of the last five ... Graded out at 90 percent for the season with 17 knockdown blocks ... Posted 93 percent mark in season-opening victory over West Virginia Tech ... Had a season-high 94 percent grade against eighth-ranked Southern Illinois ... Recorded a season-best five pancakes against No. 14 Northern Iowa and 19th-ranked Youngstown State in Hilltoppers' final two Gateway Football Conference outings ... Credited with a 92 percent grade in season finale at I-A Florida International ... **2004:** Played in the final 10 contests after missing the first two games with an injury ... Credited with an overall grade of 87 percent and 15 pancakes for the season ... Graded out at 96 percent in win over Youngstown State ... Had a perfect 100 percent score in Homecoming win over Indiana State ... Posted a grade of 87 percent with a season-high six knockdown blocks in Western Illinois win ... **2003:** Saw action in 10 games on both offense and special teams ... Graded out at 81 percent with 15 pancake blocks ... Did not allow a sack all season ... **2002:** Was an academic redshirt.

HS/Misc: Started and lettered for three years at Huber Heights HS ... Selected all-region and all-Greater Western Ohio Conference ... Voted the league's Lineman of the Year ... Also lettered four years in track, where he was selected All-America in the shot put ... Helped the Warriors to a state championship his sophomore year and to a runner-up finish as a senior.

The Pugh File: Full Name — Sean Pugh; Parents — Wiley Pugh (radiation therapist) and Debra Pugh (cosmetologist); Birth — Nov. 14, 1983, Wichita Falls, Texas; HS — Wayne '02; HS Coach — Jay Minton (Florida Atlantic); HS Letters — football 3, track 4; Major — physical education; Hobbies — watching television.



**84
Rannen
Roberson**

6-0 • 205
Senior — 3L • WR
Elkhart, Ind.
Elkhart Central HS

On The Hill: In his final season on the Hill, should contribute at wide receiver ... **2005:** Saw action in 10 of 11 games, all off the bench ... Recorded career highs with five receptions for 59 yards ... Had an 18-yard reception in season-opening victory over West Virginia Tech ... Caught a pass for career-long 21 yards in Western Illinois win ... Collected a pair of catches for 15 yards in season finale at I-A Florida International — the first time in his career he had multiple receptions — while scoring his first-ever touchdown on a 5-yard pass just before intermission ... **2004: A member of the Gateway Conference's Academic Honor Roll** ... Played in all 12 contests, starting the home opener against Concord (W.Va.) ... Recorded three receptions for 27 yards ... Collected 4-yard reception in home-opening victory ... Had a 15-yard catch in win over Youngstown State ... Posted an 8-yard catch in win over Western Illinois ... **2003:** Appeared in six games with a start in the Western Illinois contest ... Caught three passes for 30 yards ... Had a 16-yard reception in his collegiate debut against Union (Ky.) ... Posted a 7-yard reception in WIU game ... Caught a 7-yard pass in the quarterfinals of the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs at No. 2 Wofford.

HS/Misc: Earned three letters while starting his final two years at Elkhart Central High ... Ended his career with 82 receptions for 1,251 yards and 12 touchdowns ... Caught 38 passes for 673 yards and seven scores his last year to earn second-team all-Northern Indiana Conference accolades ... Won the Blazers' senior leadership award ... Team captain his last season ... Was a second-team all-league selection as a junior as well ... Earned three letters in basketball, helping ECHS to the regional tournament last year ... Also lettered in track twice and baseball once ... Father, Rod, was an all-Big Ten basketball player at Northwestern ... Uncle, Garvin, earned all-Big Ten honors in football at Illinois ... Cousin, Daimon Beathea, was selected all-Big Ten in basketball at Michigan State.

The Roberson File: Full Name — Rannen Juan Roberson; Parents — Roderic Roberson (sales manager) and Mary Roberson (paralegal), stepmother Regina Roberson (social worker); Birth — March 28, 1985, Chicago, Ill.; HS — Elkhart Central '03; HS Coach — Mike McClure; HS Letters — football 3, basketball 3, track 2, baseball 1; Major — psychology; Ambition — psychologist/therapist; Hobbies — music, collecting sports cards.

RECEIVING TOTALS

Year	GP	No-Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	YPG
2003	6	3-30	10.0	0	16	5.0
2004	12	3-27	9.0	0	15	2.2
2005	10	5-59	11.8	1	21	5.9
Totals	28	11-116	10.5	1	21	4.1





19 Sam Sexton

6-3 • 220
Senior — 3L • OLB
Ferguson, Ky.
Pulaski Southwestern HS

On The Hill: Expected to contribute again at outside linebacker, where he ended spring practice lasted as the starter on the strong side ... **2005:** *Made the Gateway Football Conference Academic Honor Roll* ... Started seven of the 10 games he appeared in, missing the Indiana State contest with an injury ... Posted a career-best 33 total tackles — two more than his two-year total entering the season — two forced fumbles and a fumble recovery ... Credited with 3" stops behind the line of scrimmage including a sack ... Recorded four assists in season-opening victory over West Virginia Tech ... Followed that game with a five-tackle performance in win over rival Eastern Kentucky while also forcing a fumble ... Had four stops at I-A Auburn ... Collected a career-high eight stops in Illinois State road victory, which included a 5-yard sack, while also recording a forced fumble ... Returned a fumble 21 yards for a touchdown at Youngstown State ... Posted three stops in season finale at I-A Florida International ... **2004:** *Earned the Gateway Conference Commissioner's Academic Excellence award and was also on the league's Academic Honor Roll* ... Played in all 12 contests ... Recorded 23 total stops, with 3" for loss including 1" sacks ... Posted three tackles in home-opening victory over Concord (W.Va.) ... Had a season-best six stops (four unassisted) in Youngstown State win to open Gateway Conference play ... Collected two solo stops, including one for a loss of 2 yards, in victory at No. 21 Northern Iowa ... Had a 4-yard sack in regular-season finale at Florida International ... Posted four tackles in NCAA I-AA playoffs at ninth-ranked Sam Houston State ... **2003:** Made 12 appearances in his first year on the Hill, earning a pair of starts ... Collected eight tackles with a sack and a pass defended ... Recorded two assists in his first collegiate start, a 67-3 win over West Virginia Tech ... Responsible for a pair of solo stops in defeat of nationally ranked Eastern Kentucky ... Had a season-high four tackles, including a sack for a loss of 6 yards, in Gateway Conference victory at Indiana State. **HS/Misc:** Lettered all four years, starting the final three, at Pulaski Southwestern HS ... Recorded four assists in the 2003 Kentucky-Tennessee All-Star Game ... Holds school career records with 2,107 yards and 22 touchdowns passing ... A third-team all-state, Lexington *Herald-Leader* "Class of the Commonwealth" and Mid State Coaches Association Player of the Year after his senior season ... Also voted first-team all-region, all-district, all-county and all-city after becoming the first Warrior ever to both run (1,087 yds, 15 TDs) and pass (1,049 yds, 13 TDs) for more than 1,000 yards in a season ... Added 87 tackles and three interceptions on defense ... Earned honorable mention all-state, and first-team all-region, all-district, all-county and all-city honors both his sophomore and junior seasons ... Earned three letters in track, helping PSHS to back-to-back region championships ... An all-county selection ... A state finalist in the 100- and 200-meter dashes as well as in the 4x100- and 4x200-meter relays.



The Sexton File: Full Name — Samuel Thomas Sexton; Parents — Joe and Carol Sexton (father, power plant operator; mother, children's librarian); Birth — June 3, 1985, Somerset, Ky.; HS — Pulaski Southwestern '03; HS Coach — Dale Anderson (Louisville); HS Letters — football 4, track 3; Major — management; Hobbies — lifting weights.

DEFENSIVE TOTALS

Year	GP	U-A-T	TFL	Sacks	Int	BPU	FF / FR
2003	12	3-5-8	1.0-6	1.0-6	0-0	1	0 / 0
2004	12	11-12-23	3.5-12	1.5-9	0-0	0	0 / 0
2005	10	11-22-33	3.5-12	1.0-5	0-0	0	2 / 1
Totals	34	25-39-64	8.0-30	3.5-20	0-0	1	2 / 1



4 Tariq Smith

5-11 • 180
Senior — 1L • WR
Memphis, Tenn.
Melrose HS

On The Hill: Enters his final year as the backup at one of two wide receiver spots ... **2005:** Saw action in nine contests, mostly on special teams ... Did not catch a pass but was credited with five tackles ... **2004:** Was expected to be part of the rotation at wide receiver, but injured his knee during preseason camp and missed the entire season ... **2003:** Played in the Hilltoppers' victories over Union (Ky.) and West Virginia Tech ... **2002:** Was an academic redshirt. **HS/Misc:** A four-year letterwinner at Melrose High ... Started for two years ... Averaged 6.0 yards per carry as a running back his senior season after missing the first three games with injury. **The Smith File:** Full Name — Tariq Jabir Smith; Parent — Patsy Smith (hospital cook); Birth — Aug. 23, 1983, Memphis, Tenn.; HS — Melrose '02; HS Coach — Tim Thompson (Tennessee State); HS Letters — football 4; Major — management.



65 Chris Sullivan

5-11 • 265
Senior — 1L • OL
Louisville, Ky.
Pleasure Ridge Park HS

On The Hill: Ended the spring as the backup at center ... **2005:** Played in three games ... Received a 79 percent grade for the year ... Posted five knockdown blocks ... Graded out at 93 percent while recording four pancake blocks in season-opening win over West Virginia Tech ... Also received a 93 percent mark following game at I-A Auburn ... **2004:** Made his collegiate debut in home-opening victory over Concord (W.Va.) ... Graded out at 75 percent in that contest with five knockdown blocks on 23 snaps ... **2003:** Did not play in a contest ... **2002:** Sat out as a redshirt. **HS/Misc:** Earned three letters as a starter at Pleasure Ridge Park High ... Selected for the Kentucky East-West All-Star Game ... Earned all-district honors ... Voted team captain ... Lettered four years in wrestling ... Ranked first in the state ... Also received three letters in track, competing in the discus and shot put. **The Sullivan File:** Full Name — Chris Sullivan; Parent — Cary and Lynda Sullivan; Birth — Nov. 25, 1983, Louisville, Ky.; HS — Pleasure Ridge Park '02; HS Coach — Dan Leasor; HS Letters — football 3, wrestling 4, track 3; Major — physical education; Ambition — attend chiropractic school.



41 Philip Bates

5-10 • 210
Sophomore — 1L • RB
Nolensville, Tenn.
Centennial HS

On The Hill: Adds depth in the offensive backfield, where he is listed as a fullback but can also play running back ... Gained ___ yards on ___ attempts in the Red-White game after WKU's top three running backs were lost to injury in spring practice ... **2005:** Made his collegiate debut against West Virginia Tech, collecting 42 yards on three carries in the Hilltoppers' 63-3 victory ... Had a long run of 25 yards ... **2004:** Was a redshirt. **HS/Misc:** Started and lettered four years at Centennial High ... Collected second-team all-state honors ... A three-time all-region selection ... Twice named all-county ... Also earned letters in basketball and track. **The Bates File:** Full Name — Philip Christopher Bates; Parents — Rick and Mellie Bates (father, U.S. Postal Service employee; mother, graphic arts producer); Birth — July 14, 1985, Nashville, Tenn.; HS — Centennial '04; HS Coach — Greg Gregory (Arkansas State); HS Letters — football 2; Major — agriculture; Ambition — own a business.

RUSHING TOTALS

Year	GP	Att-Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	YPG
2005	1	3-42	14.0	0	25	42.0



53 Dusty Bear

6-1 • 265
Junior — 2L • DL
Osprey, Fla.
Venice HS

On The Hill: Listed as the starter at left end following spring practice ... Could also see time on the kickoff coverage unit ... **2005:** Appeared in all 11 games as part of the second unit on the defensive line ... Posted 21 tackles including two for loss ... Also credited with a forced fumble in season-opening victory over West Virginia Tech ... Also had three stops in WVU Tech win ... Collected career-best four tackles, including a half sack, in road victory at Indiana State ... Posted a pair of stops in wins over Eastern Kentucky, Illinois State and Western Illinois ... Had three assists against nationally ranked Southern Illinois ... Recorded a pair of tackles, including a sack, in Gateway Football Conference finale at Youngstown State ... **2004:** Saw action in 11 of 12 contests as a true freshman ... Recorded seven tackles, including 1" sacks ... Had a solo stop in his collegiate debut at I-A Kansas State ... Posted a sack for a loss of 12 yards in Homecoming victory over Indiana State ... Credited with two assisted tackles, including a half sack, in SMS win ... Added two assists the following week in win over Western Illinois. **HS/Misc:** Started and lettered for four years at Venice HS ... Earned all-state honors in each of his last two seasons ... A three-time all-area selection ... Had 11 sacks in his best year ... Helped lead the Indians to a 9-4 finish and the quarterfinals of the state 5A playoffs in 2003. **The Bear File:** Full Name — James Dustin Bear; Parents — Jim Bear and Barbot Frost; Birth — Oct. 22, 1985, Sarasota, Fla.; HS — Venice '04; HS Coach — Nick Coleman; HS Letters — football 4; Major — interdisciplinary studies; Hobbies — hunting.

DEFENSIVE TOTALS

Year	GP	U-A-T	TFL	Sacks	Int	BPU	FF / FR
2004	11	2-5-7	1.5-13	1.5-13	0-0	0	0 / 0
2005	11	6-15-21	2.0-7	0.5-3	0-0	0	1 / 0
Totals	22	8-20-28	3.5-20	2.0-16	0-0	0	1 / 0

RETURNING PLAYERS



**Western Kentucky University
2006 Football**



**47
Evan
Brewer**

6-2 • 245
Junior — 2L • DL
Bowling Green, Ky.
Warren East HS

On The Hill: Slated to start at right end following the conclusion of spring drills ... **2005:** Saw action in every game, earning his first career start in win at Indiana State ... Finished with 20 total tackles, which included 1* behind the line of scrimmage ... Intercepted a pass and also recovered a fumble ... Collected three stops and a fumble recovery in season-opening win over West Virginia Tech ... Credited with three stops at I-A Auburn ... Had a pair of solo tackles and the first interception of his career in victory at Indiana State to open Gateway Football Conference action ... Matched a career high the following week with six stops in win at Illinois State ... Posted three tackles in Homecoming victory over Missouri State ... **2004:** Appeared in all 12 contests recording 22 stops, including one for loss ... Also added a fumble recovery in Homecoming win over Indiana State ... Had three tackles, with one behind the line of scrimmage, in collegiate debut at I-A Kansas State ... Posted career-best six stops (four unassisted) the following week in home-opening win over Concord (W.Va.) ... Collected three stops in victory at Eastern Kentucky ... Credited with three assisted tackles in Illinois State win ... **2003:** Sat out as a redshirt.

HS/Misc: A four-year starter and letterwinner at Warren East High ... The lone Raider selected first-team all-SKY Conference his senior season after posting 170 total tackles, 15 behind the line of scrimmage ... Also earned all-conference accolades as a junior ... Holds school career records for tackles, fumbles caused and fumbles recovered ... Twice selected team captain ... Earned four letters in track, winning the region title in the shot put ... Also lettered once in basketball.

The Brewer File: Full Name — Evan Gregory Brewer; Parents — John and Liz Brewer (father, teacher; mother, guidance counselor); Birth — July 28, 1985, Ft. Pierce, Fla.; HS — Warren Central '03; HS Coach — Robert Smith (Western Kentucky); HS Letters — football 4, track 4, basketball 1; Major — physical education.



**62
Kale
Butler**

6-0 • 300
RS Freshman • OL
Greenville, Ky.
Muhlenberg South HS

On The Hill: Adds depth on the offensive line ... **2005:** Sat out as a redshirt.
HS/Misc: Started and lettered all four years at Muhlenberg South High ... Was a two-time all-state selection, earning all-district honors twice ... Named all-area each of his final three seasons ... Led the team in tackles as a junior (84) and a senior (96) ... Helped lead MSHS to a berth in the state 2A playoffs in 2001 ... Set the Suns' game record with 12 solo stops against rival Muhlenberg North HS ... Also tied for the school's all-time record with 226 career tackles ... A two-time team captain ... Also lettered in track & field three times.

The Butler File: Full Name — Jordan Kale Butler; Parents — Mike and Caron Butler (father, TVA employee; mother, doctor's assistant); Birth — June 29, 1986, Greenville, Ky.; HS — Muhlenberg South '05; HS Coach — Matt Mueller; HS Letters — football 4, track & field 3; Major — corporate/organizational management; Hobbies — fishing.



**42
Jimmy
Caldwell**

6-0 • 230
RS Freshman • ILB
Winter Springs, Fla.
Winter Springs HS

On The Hill: Should make an immediate contribution at inside linebacker, where he ended spring practice listed as one of two starters ... **2005:** Redshirted.

HS/Misc: Started and lettered for three seasons at Winter Springs HS ... Set school season (147) and career (331) tackle records ... A PrepStar All-American in 2004 ... Named first-team all-district, all-county and all-Seminole Athletic Conference as a senior ... Also selected the team most valuable player ... Helped lead the Bears to a 7-3 finish and a berth in the state 5A playoffs his final season ... Earned first-team all-league accolades his junior year after helping WSHS win a first-round playoff contest en route to a 7-5 record ... Also earned two letters in baseball while lettering in track, wrestling and weightlifting.

The Caldwell File: Full Name — James Andrew Caldwell; Parents — Jim Caldwell (Capitol Broadband employee) and Valerie Turner (screen printing); Birth — March 26, 1987, Winter Park, Fla.; HS — Winter Springs '05; HS Coach — Steve Katz (Georgia); HS Letters — football 3, baseball 2, track, wrestling, weightlifting; Major — construction management; Hobbies — baseball, television, working out.

THE TOPPERS BY CLASS

Seniors	18
Juniors	19
Sophomores	20
Freshmen	39

Note: Class designation is based on athletic eligibility. Sixteen freshmen redshirted last season, while twenty-three are in their first year of collegiate competition.



**Western Kentucky University
2006 Football**



RETURNING PLAYERS



**64
Andrew
Campbell**

6-3 • 295
Sophomore — 1L • OL
Indianapolis, Ind.
Bowling Green/Warren Central HS

On The Hill: Listed as the starter at right guard on the preseason depth chart after playing both tackle slots in his first year on the Hill ... **2005: One of three Toppers to be named to the Gateway Football Conference All-Newcomer Team** ... Appeared in 10 of 11 contests ... Earned seven starts, which included each of WKU's last five games ... Graded out at 86 percent overall while posting 81 pancake blocks ... Had 11 knockdowns and received an 86 percent grade in WKU debut against West Virginia Tech ... Recorded an 85 percent mark and 11 knockdown blocks in Indiana State victory ... Had an 87 percent grade in victory at Western Illinois ... Graded out at 89 percent with seven pancakes against eighth-ranked Southern Illinois ... Against No. 14 Northern Iowa, was credited with a season-high 17 knockdown blocks while finishing with an 85 percent grade ... 90 percent grade at 19th-ranked Youngstown State was highest mark of the year ... Credited with 89 percent grade and 15 pancakes at I-A Florida International in regular season finale.

College/HS/Misc: Attended Bowling Green for the fall 2004 semester, but sat out the football season as a redshirt ... Lettered three years, starting the final two, at Warren Central High ... Named Indiana's Offensive Line Mr. Football in 2003, adding first-team all-state, all-county and all-Metropolitan Interscholastic Conference accolades ... Served as a team captain his senior season as the Warriors finished 13-2 and claimed the state 5A championship ... A member of the Bloomington Herald Times' junior all-state team in '02 after helping WCHS post a 12-1 mark while reaching the quarterfinals of the state tournament ... Warriors were 10-2 his sophomore season ... Also earned three letters in track, where he twice earned all-region, all-section and all-county honors ... Was the sectional champion in the discus.

The Campbell File: Full Name — Andrew Michael Campbell; Parents — Rocky Campbell (Rolls Royce employee) and Gloria Byrd (bakery manager); Birth — Nov. 21, 1985, Indianapolis, Ind.; HS — Warren Central '04; HS Coach — Kevin Wright (Western Kentucky); HS Letters — football 3, track 3; Major — physical education; Ambition — coach; Hobbies — music, video games.



**39
Ross
Cassidy**

6-2 • 245
Junior — 2L • FB/LS
Versailles, Ky.
Woodford County HS

On The Hill: Should start at fullback for the second year in a row ... Also expected to handle snapping duties on field-goal and extra-point attempts ... **2005: Earned Gateway Conference Academic Honor Roll accolades** ... Saw action in all 11 games, picking up six starts (including four of the last five contests) ... Rushed for 19 yards on five attempts ... Led all fullbacks with seven receptions for 65 yards, which included one touchdown catch ... Also credited with three solo tackles on special teams ... Had a 4-yard run and caught one pass for 13 yards in season-opening win over West Virginia Tech ... Had a 9-yard carry, the longest of his career, in road victory at Indiana State ... Posted a 13-yard reception in Illinois State win ... Caught a 12-yard pass and added a rush for 4 yards in victory at Western Illinois ... Recorded a career-best three catches for 23 yards and a score — the first of his career — in season finale at I-A Florida International ... **2004:** Started each of the last four contests, making six appearances overall ... Collected seven yards on three carries, and also had five catches for 37 yards ... Had best game of season in victory over Illinois State after posting 26 all-purpose yards — he had two carries for seven yards and added a pair of receptions for another 19 (including a career-long 12-yard catch) ... Posted two catches for 15 yards in regular-season finale at Florida International ... Had a 3-yard reception in NCAA playoffs at Sam Houston State ... **2003:** Caught an 11-yard pass out of the backfield in his collegiate debut, but was injured on the play and missed the rest of the season.

HS/Misc: A four-year starter and letterwinner for father, Dan, at Woodford County HS ... Posted two stops on defense in the Kentucky-Tennessee All-Star Game following his final year ... Named honorable mention all-state each of his last two seasons ... Earned first-team all-district honors as well ... Caught 15 passes for an average of 17 yards per reception and three touchdowns his senior season ... Selected to the state all-academic team every year ... Lettered three times in wrestling, with his best finish a runner-up showing at the state tournament ... Helped the Yellowjackets win the 2002 state title.

The Cassidy File: Full Name — Ross Landan Cassidy; Parents — Dan and Sharon Cassidy (father, administrator; mother, teacher); Birth — Aug. 25, 1984, Versailles, Ky.; HS — Woodford County '03; HS Coach — Dan Cassidy (Morehead State); HS Letters — football 4, wrestling 3; Major — mechanical engineering; Ambition — engineer; Hobbies — roller coasters, amusement parks.

RUSHING TOTALS

Year	GP	Att-Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	YPG
2003	1	0-0	0.0	0	0	0.0
2004	6	3-7	2.3	0	5	1.2
2005	11	5-19	3.8	0	9	1.7
Totals	18	8-26	3.3	0	9	1.4

RECEIVING TOTALS

Year	GP	No-Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	YPG
2003	1	1-11	11.0	0	11	11.0
2004	6	5-37	7.4	0	12	6.2
2005	11	7-65	9.3	1	13	5.9
Totals	18	13-113	8.7	1	13	6.3

DID YOU KNOW?

WKU was ranked #1 in the nation three weeks during the 2005 regular season, marking the first time that the Hilltoppers accomplished the feat since 1980.



95 Dan Cline

6-6 • 225
Sophomore — 1L • OLB
Centerville, Ohio
Centerville HS

On The Hill: Should contribute both at outside linebacker and on special teams ... **2005:** Earned the Gateway Conference Commissioner's Academic Excellence Award ... Also on the Gateway Conference Academic Honor Roll selection ... Made nine appearances in his first season of action on the Hill, finishing with 10 stops and an interception ... That included making his first career start at Indiana State ... Collected three assists, including one for loss, in collegiate debut against West Virginia Tech ... Had two assisted tackles at I-A Auburn ... Made career-best four tackles in INS victory, posting the first interception of his career as well (which he returned 7 yards) ... Credited with an assist behind the line of scrimmage in win at Illinois State ... **2004:** Sat out the season as a redshirt ... A Gateway Conference Academic Honor Roll selection.
HS/Misc: Started and lettered his final two years at Centerville HS ... Recorded 80 tackles, an interception and a fumble recovery his last year to help lead the Elks to a 7-3 record, including a 5-1 mark in the Greater Western Ohio Conference ... Had 22 tackles for loss, including 12 sacks ... A first-team all-league and all-Greater Dayton selection ... Also named second-team all-Southwest Ohio ... The Elks' Defensive MVP ... Efforts helped CHS rank as the top defense in the GWOC, allowing only 12 points and 209 total yards (71 rush) per contest ... Posted 41 tackles, including a pair of sacks, as CHS finished 8-2 (4-2 conference) his junior season ... Earned a letter in track as a senior.
The Cline File: Full Name — Daniel Kenneth Cline; Parents — Doug Cline (financial advisor) and Jean Cline (manager); Birth — Feb. 25, 1986, Kettering, Ohio; HS — Centerville '04; HS Coach — Ron Ullery (Bowling Green); HS Letters — football 2, track 1; Major — corporate/organizational management; Hobbies — family, music, movies, travelling.

DEFENSIVE TOTALS

Year	GP	U-A—T	TFL	Sacks	Int	BPU	FF / FR
2005	9	2-8—10	1.0-5	0.5-4	1-7	0	0 / 0



30 Brad Cloud

6-0 • 200
Sophomore — 1L • CB
Danville, Ky.
Boyle County HS

On The Hill: Won the starting job at strong safety in spring practice ... Also should see time playing special teams ... **2005:** Made 11 tackles and forced a fumble while appearing in all 11 games ... Posted a career-best five stops in victory over Indiana State to open Gateway Football Conference action ... Also credited with a pair of tackles while forcing a fumble in win at Western Illinois ... **2004:** Was a redshirt.
HS/Misc: Lettered all four years, starting the final three, at Boyle County High ... Helped lead the Rebels to the state championship in each of his four seasons on the squad — BCHS had a 58-2 (96.7%) record during his varsity career ... Selected to play in the Kentucky-Tennessee All-Star Game following his last year ... A first-team Associated Press and Louisville Courier-Journal all-state selection as a senior after recording 117 tackles, six fumble recoveries and five interceptions ... Rebels went 15-0 en route to the state title ... Also posted 46 receptions for 744 yards and nine touchdowns as a wide receiver ... Had 68 tackles, six interceptions, 10 passes defended and five blocked kicks as a junior, helping BCHS to a 13-2 finish ... Added 11 receptions for 263 yards and three scores, also averaged 20.3 yards on 12 kick returns ... Team won all 15 contests in both his freshman and sophomore seasons as well ... Also lettered four times in baseball, leading BCHS in home runs as a sophomore ... Helped the baseball team to four district championships and a region title.
The Cloud File: Full Name — Bradley Thomas Cloud; Parents — Thomas Cloud (mechanical engineer) and Cathy Droltz (dental hygienist); Birth — June 11, 1986, Ogdensburg, N.Y.; HS — Boyle County '04; HS Coach — Chuck Smith (Kentucky); HS Letters — football 4, baseball 4; Major — mechanical engineering; Hobbies — hunting.

DEFENSIVE TOTALS

Year	GP	U-A—T	TFL	Sacks	Int	BPU	FF / FR
2005	11	6-5—11	0.0-0	0.0-0	0-0	0	1 / 0



76 Ben Craig

6-2 • 285
RS Freshman • OL
Waddy, Ky.
Shelby County HS

On The Hill: Adds depth on the offensive line, where he is one of three redshirt freshmen.
HS/Misc: Prepped at Shelby County HS ... Earned honorable mention all-district accolades ... Helped the Rockets qualify for the state playoffs three times, where they earned first-round victories in the 4A bracket in both 2001 and '03 ... Team captain ... Also lettered in track & field, where he finished second in the region in the shot put.
The Craig File: Full Name — Benjamin A. Craig; Parents — Bradley and June Craig (father, maintenance worker; mother, corrections officer); Birth — Oct. 2, 1986, Frankfort, Ky.; HS — Shelby County '05; HS Coach — Todd Shipley (Georgetown [Ky.]); HS Letters — football, track & field; Major — sociology.

THE TOPPERS BY STATE

Kentucky	46
Florida	14
Tennessee	12
Indiana	7
Ohio	7
Georgia	6
Alabama	2
Illinois	2

Note: The Hilltoppers have 96 players on the preseason roster hailing from eight states. The Commonwealth of Kentucky accounts for 46 players, more than triple the amount from any other state — Florida and Tennessee are the only other states to account for 10 or more Toppers.



9 Rashad Etheridge

5-8 • 165
RS Freshman • CB
St. Petersburg, Fla.
St. Petersburg Catholic HS

On The Hill: Ended the spring as the backup at left cornerback ... **2005:** Was a redshirt.
HS/Misc: Started and lettered four years at St. Petersburg Catholic HS ... Was a second-team all-state selection, and first-team all-area, all-county and all-conference choice following his senior season ... Helped the Barons finish 8-2 while advancing to the semifinals of the state 2B tournament — SPCHS claimed the region championship his senior season ... Helped lead the Barons to a 7-4 mark and a berth in the state playoffs as a junior ... As a sophomore, SPCHS posted a 6-5 record while advancing to the state 2A playoffs.
The Etheridge File: Full Name — Rashad Jamal Etheridge; Parents — Eimmitte Brown and Renita Etheridge; Birth — Feb. 19, 1987, St. Petersburg, Fla.; HS — St. Petersburg Catholic '05; HS Coach — Dan Mancuso; HS Letters — football 4; Major — management; Ambition — have own business; Hobbies — playing sports.



49 Brandon Fitzgerald

6-0 • 245
Junior — 1L • FB
Lacenter, Ky.
Ballard Memorial HS

On The Hill: Could contribute at fullback for the second year in a row ... **2005:** Played in all 11 games last year, starting four ... Ranked fifth on the team with 99 rushing yards ... Added five catches for 29 yards ... Scored a pair of touchdowns ... Rushed for 63 yards on just six attempts in season-opening win over West Virginia Tech, including a 26-yard dash for a score ... Caught a pass in four straight games from Sept. 10-Oct. 8 ... Recorded 17 yards and a touchdown on a pair of carries in Illinois State road victory ... Sat out the 2004 season as an academic redshirt.
HS/Misc: Started and lettered for three seasons as Ballard Memorial High ... Played in both the Kentucky-Tennessee All-Star Game and the East-West All-Star Game — starting the latter — following his senior campaign ... Named second-team all-state and first-team all-conference in 2003 ... Was a first-team all-state selection both his sophomore and junior seasons ... Also lettered in baseball and tennis.
The Fitzgerald File: Full Name — Brandon James Fitzgerald; Parents — James Reeves and Evangeline Tucker; Birth — Dec. 11, 1985, Carbondale, Ill.; HS — Ballard Memorial '04; HS Coach — Jeff Rush; HS Letters — football 3, baseball, tennis; Major — sociology; Ambition — sports photographer; Hobbies — fishing, hunting, music.

RUSHING TOTALS

Year	GP	Att-Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	YPG
2005	11	14-99	7.1	2	26	9.0

RECEIVING TOTALS

Year	GP	No-Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	YPG
2005	11	5-29	5.8	0	8	2.6



11 Jake Gaebler

5-11 • 185
RS Freshman • WR
Mundelein, Ill.
Mundelein HS

On The Hill: Earned one of the starting nods at wide receiver after performing well in spring practice ... **2005:** Redshirted.
HS/Misc: Was a four-year starter and letterwinner at Mundelein HS ... Set 16 school records including career receiving yards (2,088, also 16th in state history), receiving touchdowns (29, 11th in the Illinois record books), total touchdowns (51) and points (402) ... Selected first-team all-state, all-county and all-North Suburban Conference after rushing for 1,386 yards and 24 scores as a senior ... Was named the Daily Herald Player of the Year as the Mustangs earned a berth in the state 7A playoffs — they lost in the opening round to the eventual champion ... Also set school season records his final year with five interceptions, 180 total points (he hit two field goals and 28 extra points as well), and a 34.2 average per punt, while setting a game standard with five touchdowns against Wauconda High ... Caught 56 passes for 957 yards and 15 touchdowns — all MHS season records — in 2003 en route to earning first-team all-state, all-county, all-area and all-league accolades ... Was the only sophomore to be named all-conference in '02, adding all-area honors after recording 33 receptions for 608 yards and 11 scores to help the Mustangs to a 6-4 finish and a berth in the state playoffs ... Named Academic All-State as both a sophomore and junior ... Was a four-year letterwinner in basketball, earning all-area and all-conference honors ... Lettered twice in track.
The Gaebler File: Full Name — Jake Gaebler; Parents — Randy and Cathy Gaebler (father, sales; mother, teacher); Birth — June 1, 1986, Lexington, Ky.; HS — Mundelein '05; HS Coach — Dave Whitson; HS Letters — football 4, basketball 4, track 2; Major — finance; Ambition — teach and coach high school football; Hobbies — music, movies.



43 Brandon Goodwin

6-0 • 200
Sophomore — Squad • ILB
Georgetown, Ky.
Scott County HS

On The Hill: Could contribute on special teams or at inside linebacker ... **2005:** Made his collegiate debut in the Hilltoppers' season-opening victory over West Virginia Tech, collecting three assisted tackles including a pair behind the line of scrimmage ... Was credited with a half-sack against the Golden Bears ... **2004:** Sat out the season as a redshirt.
HS/Misc: Started and lettered his final two seasons at Scott County HS ... A state champion in powerlifting as well in 2004.
The Goodwin File: Full Name — Brandon Ray Goodwin; Parents — Robert and Judy Geers (father, business owner; mother, office assistant); Birth — Nov. 18, 1985, Lexington, Ky.; HS — Scott County '04; HS Coach — Jim McKee (Centre); HS Letters — football 2, weightlifting; Major — accounting; Ambition — start a business.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Hilltoppers are 85-36 (70.2%) over the last 10 years and has reached the NCAA A-AA playoffs in six of the last nine seasons.



**15
Curtis
Hamilton**

6-0 • 195
Junior — 2L • WR
West Paducah, Ky.
Paducah Tilghman HS

On The Hill: Should see plenty of action at wide receiver in the fall ... **2005: Named to the Gateway Conference Academic Honor Roll** ... Appeared in every game last year, starting three ... Recorded 20 catches for 408 yards and a team-leading four touchdowns ... Also paced the squad with an average of 20.4 yards per reception ... Ran the ball five times for 93 yards and two scores ... Ranked fourth on the team in scoring with 36 points ... 501 all-purpose yards were fifth on the squad ... Was the only Hilltopper to catch a pass in all 11 contests ... Opened the season with a 50-yard touchdown reception in win over West Virginia Tech ... Had a 24-yard catch in win over rival Eastern Kentucky and followed with a 21-yard reception at I-A Auburn ... Recorded a season-best four receptions for 48 yards in Indiana State victory, including a 30-yard scoring pass with less than five minutes remaining that helped seal the win ... Had four catches for a career-high 77 yards and a touchdown the following week in win at Illinois State ... 55-yard touchdown run with just over a minute remaining helped clinch Homecoming victory over Missouri State ... Posted two receptions for 51 yards against eighth-ranked Southern Illinois ... Carried three times for 48 yards and a score, adding two catches for 30 yards, against No. 14 Northern Iowa ... Grabbed a 48-yard touchdown reception in season finale at I-A Florida International ... **2004: On the Gateway Conference Academic Honor Roll** ... Played in 11 of 12 contests (he missed the FIU game with an injury), making his first collegiate start against Illinois State ... Started the final three Gateway Conference games ... Ranked second on the team with 202 yards receiving and was third on the squad with 11 catches ... First collegiate reception went for 28 yards and a score in home-opening victory over Concord (W.Va.) ... Had two catches for 59 yards in win at instate rival Eastern Kentucky ... Caught a season-best three passes for 29 yards at No. 1 Southern Illinois ... Longest catch was a 35-yard reception in Homecoming win over Indiana State ... Posted two receptions for 34 yards in Illinois State victory.

HS/Misc: A four-year starter and letterwinner at Paducah Tilghman HS ... Helped the Blue Tornado lead the state with an average of 53.1 points per game his final season ... PTHS finished 13-1 in advancing to the semifinals of the state Class 3A tournament ... An all-state selection as a junior after catching 61 passes for 1,038 yards and 10 touchdowns in leading the Blue Tornado to a 10-3 mark and the quarterfinals of the state tournament ... PTHS advanced to the second round of the state tournament, finishing 8-4 overall, his sophomore season ... Helped the Blue Tornado finish 9-3 with a first-round victory in the state playoffs his first season ... An all-district and all-region selection in baseball ... Also earned all-district honors in basketball ... Younger brother of former Hilltopper Curtis Hamilton (1999-02, a tight end on the 2002 national championship team).

The Hamilton File: Full Name — Curtis Adell Hamilton; Parents — Curtis and Linette Hamilton (father, entrepreneur; mother, teacher); Birth — Nov. 15, 1985, Pordenone, Italy; HS — Paducah Tilghman '04; HS Coach — Perry Thomas; HS Letters — football 4, baseball, basketball; Major — architectural design; Hobbies — travelling with family.



RECEIVING TOTALS

Year	GP	No-Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	YPG
2004	11	11-202	18.4	1	35	18.4
2005	11	20-408	20.4	4	50	37.1
Totals	22	31-610	19.7	5	50	27.7



**88
Jared
Holland**

6-4 • 240
Junior — 2L • TE
Franklin, Tenn.
Franklin HS

On The Hill: One of three tight ends who should see significant action ... Also could contribute on special teams ... **2005: Made the Gateway Football Conference Academic Honor Roll** ... Appeared in each of the first nine games, picking up the first start of his career against No. 14 Northern Iowa ... Collected two receptions for 19 yards ... Graded out at 87 percent with 14 knockdown blocks ... Received an 87 percent grade after each of WKU's first two victories over West Virginia Tech and Eastern Kentucky, adding a 12-yard catch — the first of his career — against the Golden Bears ... Returned a kickoff 12 yards in Homecoming win over Missouri State ... Credited with an 88 percent mark following Western Illinois win ... Graded out at a season-best 91 percent against UNI while also grabbing a 7-yard reception ... Posted a season -high three pancakes against EKV, Indiana State and UNI ... **2004: Received the Gateway Conference Commissioner's Academic Excellence Award and was on the league's Academic Honor Roll** ... Played in all 12 contests, earning the first start of his career in NCAA Division I-AA playoff game at ninth-ranked Sam Houston State ... Had an overall blocking grade of 71 percent with four pancake blocks ... Graded out at a season-best 83 percent in victory over Youngstown State ... **2003:** Sat out as a redshirt.

HS/Misc: A four-year letterwinner at Franklin HS, starting his final two seasons ... Earned all-region and all-county honors ... Selected the most valuable player on the Rebels' offensive line ... Also lettered in track — where he cleared 6 feet, 4 inches in the high jump — and basketball ... Helped lead FHS to a third-place finish in the region as a freshman, and the district championship a year later.

The Holland File: Full Name — Jared Robin Holland; Parents — William and Robbin Holland (father, sales representative; mother, marketer); Birth — June 18, 1984, Statesville, N.C.; HS — Franklin '03; HS Coach — Tim Johnson (Vanderbilt); HS Letters — football 4, track, basketball; Major — management; Ambition — teach and coach football; Hobbies — reading, working with kids.



**55
Terrance
Houston**

6-4 • 275
Junior — Squad • OL
Nashville, Tenn.
Mississippi/Hillsboro HS

On The Hill: Ended spring practice listed as the backup on the depth chart at right tackle ... Made the switch from defensive line in the middle of last season ... **2005:** Made his Hilltopper debut in season-opening victory over West Virginia Tech, also appearing in contest at I-A Auburn ... Had two tackles (one unassisted) against the Tigers.

College/HS/Misc: On the roster at Mississippi for two seasons ... Did not see action in 2004 and was a redshirt in '03 ... Following his three-year career at Hillsboro High, was selected to represent Tennessee in the annual Kentucky-Tennessee All-Star Game ... Most Valuable Player in the region and a first-team all-region selection ... Credited with 50 tackles, including seven sacks, while grading out at 98 percent on the offensive line.

The Houston File: Full Name — Terrance Leonard Houston; Parent — Sherry Houston (nurse); Birth — May 10, 1985, Nashville, Tenn.; HS — Hillsboro '03; HS Coach — Ron Aydelott; HS Letters — football 3; Major — interdisciplinary studies; Ambition — be a sports agent; Hobbies — rap music.



**70
Cody
Hughes**

6-1 • 300
RS Freshman • OL
Bradenton, Fla.
Lakewood Ranch HS

On The Hill: Listed as the backup at left guard at the end of the spring ... **2005:** Was a redshirt. **HS/Misc:** Earned three letters, starting each season, at Lakewood Ranch HS ... A two-time all-state selection who was named the Class 5A Offensive Lineman of the Year ... Posted 82 pancake blocks as a senior, including 19 in one contest ... A three-year letterwinner in wrestling, where he won district and regional championships ... Lettered twice in weightlifting, earning a state championship ... Holds the state record for total weight (820 pounds) in the heavyweight division ... Also won two letters in track ... Finished third in the state in the shot put.

The Hughes File: Full Name — Cody Michael Hughes; Parents — Verlan and Janice Hughes (mother, CNA); Birth — Aug. 1, 1987, El Dorado, Ark.; HS — Lakewood Ranch '05; HS Coach — Josh Hunter (Eastern Kentucky); HS Letters — football 3, wrestling 3, weightlifting 2, track 2; Major — undeclared; Ambition — teacher or musician; Hobbies — guitar.



**40
Jared
Johnson**

6-1 • 235
Sophomore — 1L • FB
Franklin, Tenn.
Battle Ground Academy

On The Hill: Should contribute at fullback, where he ended the spring listed as the backup ... **2005: On the Gateway Football Conference Academic Honor Roll** ... Made 10 appearances ... Carried twice for 14 yards — with a long run of 8 yards — in his collegiate debut against West Virginia Tech ... **2004:** Was a redshirt.

HS/Misc: Earned four letters at Battle Ground Academy, starting three years ... An all-state and all-county selection ... Recorded 132 tackles (67 unassisted) with two forced fumbles as a senior ... Also carried eight times for 52 yards ... Named Player of the Week after posting 14 tackles against rival Knoxville Webb, later collecting 18 stops against the same school in the state playoffs ... Also earned four letters in basketball and baseball ... Younger brother of sophomore defensive lineman Josh Johnson.

The Johnson File: Full Name — Jared Ryan Johnson; Parents — Barry and Barbara Johnson (father, engineer; mother, teacher); Birth — July 4, 1985, Franklin, Tenn.; HS — Battle Ground Academy '04; HS Coach — Tim Moore (Vanderbilt); HS Letters — football 4, basketball 4, baseball 4; Major — pre med; Ambition — become a doctor or own a business; Hobbies — lifting weights, working on cars.

FIELD GOALS

Year	M-A	Pct	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Lg	Blkd
2004	9-12	75.0	0-0	5-5	3-4	1-3	0-0	44	0
2005	15-17	88.2	0-0	5-5	5-6	4-5	1-1	52	1
Totals	24-29	82.8	0-0	10-10	8-10	5-8	1-1	52	1

SCORING

Year	GP	TD	FG	PAT	Points
2004	10	0	9-12	34-34	61
2005	11	0	15-17	42-42	87
Totals	21	0	24-29	76-76	148



**83
Chris
James**

6-0 • 190
Junior — 2L • PK
Fayetteville, Ga.
Starr's Mill HS

On The Hill: Will handle placekicking chores for the third year in a row ... Holds the school record with 76 consecutive successful extra-point attempts ... Enters the season ranked fourth on WKU's career record charts with 24 field goals and 76 PATs ... His 148 total points are the fourth most in school history by a kicker ... Is the career active leader in NCAA Division I-AA football entering the year converting 82.76 percent of his field goal attempts ... **Ranked first among the top five returning placekickers in NCAA Division I-AA football by The Sports Network** ... **2005: Selected to I-AA.org's All-Star Team ... A third-team all-Northwest Region choice by Hansen's Football Gazette ... Named first-team all-Gateway Football Conference and was voted honorable mention All-Academic Team ... Also selected to the league's Academic Honor Roll** ... Led the Hilltoppers in scoring with 87 points, which tied for ninth on the school's season record list and was tied for fourth for most points by a kicker in a year ... Converted 15-of-17 field-goal attempts and all 42 extra-point tries ... The 15 field goals tied for fourth on the season record charts ... Finished 11th in the country with 1.36 field goals per game and was 22nd nationally with 7.91 points per contest — both figures led the league ... Set a Topper record by making 10 consecutive field goals from Oct. 1-Nov. 5 ... Tied a school game record with nine extra points in season-opening win over West Virginia Tech ... **Chosen The Sports Network national and GFC Special Teams Player of the Week** after hitting the game-winning 27-yard field goal as time expired against rival Eastern Kentucky ... Also connected from 20 and 36 yards out against the Colonels while making both PATs ... Hit game-tying 43-yard field goal as time expired at Illinois State, then kicked the game-winner from 33 yards out in overtime to earn TSN and Gateway Conference Special Teams Player-of-the-Week accolades ... Also hit a 45-yard field goal and all four extra-point attempts in scoring a season-best 13 points ... Matched that total a week later in victory over Missouri State, going 3-of-3 on field goal tries — including a long of 46 yards — while hitting all four PATs ... Converted all six extra-point tries in victory at Western Illinois ... Made both field goal attempts against No. 8 Southern Illinois ... Kicked a career-long 52-yard field goal attempt a week later to open the scoring against 14th-ranked Northern Iowa ... Ended the year going 5-of-5 on extra-point attempts at I-A Florida International ... **2004: Earned the Gateway Conference Commissioner's Academic Excellence Award ... A member of the Gateway's Academic Honor Roll** ... Played in 10 of 12 contests after earning the placekicking job entering Gateway Conference play ... Scored 61 points after hitting 9-of-12 field-goal attempts while connecting on all 34 PATs ... Ranked fifth in the league in field-goal percentage, sixth in scoring among kickers and seventh in field goals per contest ... Finished 37th in the country with 0.9 field goals per outing ... Scored first collegiate point with PAT in home-opening victory over Concord (W.Va.) ... Scored a season-high 14 points in win over Youngstown State in first game after taking over kicking duties, hitting 5-of-5 extra-point attempts and all three field-goal tries ... Hit at least one field goal in five straight games from Oct. 2-30 ... Converted season-long 44 yard field goal in Western Illinois win ... **2003:** Sat out the season as a redshirt.

HS/Misc: Earned three letters while holding the starting job in his final year at Starr's Mill High ... Hit 52-of-54 extra-point attempts and 9-of-14 field goals to earn first-team all-region and all-county honors ... Holds school records for most field goals and extra points in a game as well as for the longest punt ... Earned two letters in soccer and another in basketball ... Father, Keith, played baseball at DeKalb College.

The James File: Full Name — Christopher Ryan James; Parents — Keith and Anna James (father, recreation; mother, scheduler); Birth — Feb. 7, 1985, Atlanta, Ga.; HS — Starr's Mill '03; HS Coach — Mike Earwood; HS Letters — football 3, soccer 2, basketball 1; Major — computer information systems; Hobbies — cars, computers, technology.





13
Andre Lewis

6-1 • 215
Junior — 2L • ILB
Madison, Tenn.
Hunter's Lane HS

On The Hill: Missed part of spring practice with an injury, but still expected to see time at one of two inside linebacker slots... **2005:** The only linebacker on the squad to start all 11 games... Tied for second on the team with 84 total tackles... Finished fourth on the squad with 6 stops for loss, which included 2 sacks... Tied for the team lead with two fumble recoveries... Also added an interception and two passes broken up... Had three tackles in season-opening victory over West Virginia Tech — 1 were behind the line of scrimmage — to go along with a pair of passes defended... Posted a team-leading 10 tackles in Eastern Kentucky victory... Credited with eight stops (six solo) at I-A Auburn... Made a career-high 11 tackles in victory at Indiana State to open Gateway Football Conference play... Recorded nine stops and a fumble recovery in win at Illinois State... Had seven tackles in wins over Missouri State and Western Illinois... Collected 10 stops against eighth-ranked Southern Illinois... Finished with five tackles, including a pair of sacks for a loss of 8 yards, against No. 14 Northern Iowa... Posted seven stops in last two contests of the year at 19th-ranked Youngstown State and I-A Florida International... **2004:** Appeared in five of the Hilltoppers' first six contests... Credited with four tackles, two unassisted, on the season... Posted three stops (two solo) in home-opening victory over Concord (W.Va.)... Had an assisted tackle at No. 1 Southern Illinois... **2003:** Redshirted.

HS/Misc: Started his final two-plus seasons at Hunter's Lane HS... Earned all-city honors... Named the Warriors' most valuable player.

The Lewis File: Full Name — Andre Stephen Lewis; Parents — Clinton and Kathy Britt (father, taxi driver; mother, hospital employee); Birth — Nov. 9, 1984, New Haven, Conn.; HS — Hunter's Lane '03; HS Coach — Gregg Abner; HS Letters — football; Major — corporate/organizational management; Ambition — start own business; Hobbies — basketball.

DEFENSIVE TOTALS

Year	GP	U-A—T	TFL	Sacks	Int	BPU	FF / FR
2004	5	2-2—4	0.0-0	0.0-0	0-0	0	0 / 0
2005	11	35-49—84	6.5-27	2.5-12	1-0	2	0 / 2
Totals	16	37-51—88	6.5-27	2.5-12	1-0	2	0 / 2



17
Jamison Link

6-0 • 190
Sophomore — 1L • WR
Gallatin, Tenn.
Gallatin HS

On The Hill: Listed as the backup at one of two wide receiver spots at the end of spring drills... **2005:** Saw action in the first eight contests of the year before suffering a season-ending injury... Started each of the first six games... Caught nine passes for 123 yards, ranking fourth on the team in both categories... Had one touchdown... Pulled in a 14-yard reception in his collegiate debut against West Virginia Tech... Posted career-best three catches for 34 yards in win over rival Eastern Kentucky... His 47-yard touchdown catch with just over nine minutes to go at Indiana State gave WKU the lead for good — it was the longest play of his career... Redshirted in 2004.

HS/Misc: A three-year starter and letterwinner at Gallatin HS... Selected the *News-Examiner* Player of the Year as well as first-team all-state, all-midstate, all-region, all-conference and all-county as a senior after helping the Green Wave to an 8-2 finish and the region championship... Rushed for 1,129 yards and threw for another 509... Caught six passes for 178 yards... Posted 62 tackles and four interceptions... Averaged 40.2 yards per punt... Named first-team all-region and second-team all-midstate his junior season after helping GHS go 11-1 and reach the second round of the state playoffs... Helped the Green Wave finish 10-3 in advancing to the quarterfinals of the state tournament as a sophomore... Also earned four letters in baseball.

The Link File: Full Name — Jamison Fleming Link; Parents — Benny Link (construction) and Cindy Link (teacher); Birth — July 8, 1985, Gallatin, Tenn.; HS — Gallatin '04; HS Coach — Robert Lassiter (Tennessee); HS Letters — football 3, baseball 4; Major — physical education; Hobbies — fishing, basketball, spending time with friends, music.

RECEIVING TOTALS

Year	GP	No-Yds	Avg	TD	Lg	YPG
2005	8	9-123	13.7	1	47	15.4



24
Brandon Mason

6-0 • 195
Junior — 2L • S
Nicholasville, Ky.
East Jessamine HS

On The Hill: Should see action both in the secondary as well as on special teams... **2005:** Appeared in every contest... Finished with a career-best 11 stops, adding an interception he returned 22 yards against West Virginia Tech in the season opener... Also credited with three tackles against the Golden Bears... Collected career-high four tackles against eighth-ranked Southern Illinois... Posted a pair of tackles in season finale at I-A Florida International... **2004:** Played in all 12 games in both the secondary and on special teams... Finished the season with six tackles and an interception... Only solo stop of the year came in collegiate debut at I-A Kansas State... Had season-best two tackles and the first interception of his career the following week in win over Concord (W.Va.)... Also credited with an assist in games against top-ranked Southern Illinois, Indiana State and No. 9 Sam Houston State.

HS/Misc: A four-year starter and letterwinner at East Jessamine HS... Named honorable mention all-state as well as first-team all-district and all-conference as a senior after posting 39 receptions for 957 yards and 13 touchdowns while leading the Jaguars to a 10-2 record and a first-round victory in the state 3A playoffs... Also led the squad with seven interceptions... Voted all-conference and all-district as a junior after leading EJHS to an 8-4 finish and the second round of the state tournament... Posted a team-leading eight interceptions... An all-district selection his freshman and sophomore seasons... Holds school career records for catches, yards and touchdowns receiving... A four-year letterwinner in basketball.

The Mason File: Full Name — Brandon Clay Mason; Parents — Adrian and the late Lisa Mason (father, self-employed); Birth — Dec. 8, 1985, Lexington, Ky.; HS — East Jessamine '04; HS Coach — David Hensley (Eastern Kentucky); HS Letters — football 4, basketball 4; Major — construction management; Ambition — have own appraisal company, rental property; Hobbies — spending time with family and friends.

DEFENSIVE TOTALS

Year	GP	U-A—T	TFL	Sacks	Int	BPU	FF / FR
2004	12	1-5—6	0.0-0	0.0-0	1-0	0	0 / 0
2005	11	2-9—11	0.0-0	0.0-0	1-22	0	0 / 0
Totals	23	3-14—17	0.0-0	0.0-0	2-22	0	0 / 0

THE TOPPERS BY POSITION

Quarterbacks	4
Running backs	9
Wide receivers	9
Tight ends	5
Offensive line	19
Defensive line	12
Linebackers	21
Defensive backs	13
Kickers / Punters	4

Note: Offensive line is the most frequently listed position on the roster with 19 individuals, while 21 linebackers are the most at any position on the other side of the ball.



46
Darvis McBride

5-10 • 205
RS Freshman • S
Fort Myers, Fla.
Fort Myers HS

On The Hill: Could contribute in the defensive secondary or on special teams... **2005:** Was a redshirt.

HS/Misc: Earned three letters at Fort Myers HS, starting his final two seasons... Was a unanimous first-team all-district and all-conference selection as a senior after posting 94 tackles, an interception and a fumble recovery... Helped the Green Wave to a 7-4 finish after FMHS picked up a first-round victory in the state 4A playoffs... Also selected first-team all-league his junior season... Recorded 103 stops and a forced fumble that year as FMHS earned an opening-round win in the state playoffs en route to a 7-4 finish... The Green Wave went 9-2 and advanced to the state playoffs his sophomore season.

The McBride File: Full Name — Darvis Omar McBride; Parent — Anna McBride (social worker); Birth — May 20, 1987, Fort Myers, Fla.; HS — Fort Myers '05; HS Coach — Sam Sirianni (South Florida); HS Letters — football 3; Major — physical education; Hobbies — playing the drums, spending time with family and friends.



34
Andrew McCloud

5-8 • 195
RS Freshman • RB
Harrodsburg, Ky.
Mercer County HS

On The Hill: Listed as the third string running back on the depth chart at the conclusion of spring practice... **2005:** Was on the Gateway Football Conference Academic Honor Roll... Sat out as a redshirt.

HS/Misc: Lettered for four years, starting the final three, at Mercer County HS... The first individual to have his jersey retired at MCHS... Set school career standards with 6,812 all-purpose yards, 5,341 rushing yards and 65 touchdowns... A two-time district Player of the Year... Was named the state's Class AA Roy Kidd Player of the Year as a senior after rushing for 2,150 yards — a total that ranked fifth in Kentucky — and 24 touchdowns... Also ranked 11th in the Commonwealth with 15.3 points per contest en route to earning third-team all-state as well as first-team all-district, all-area and all-conference accolades... Named first-team all-district, all-area and all-league as a junior after posting 1,908 yards and 23 touchdowns in 250 carries... Was a first-team all-area and all-conference selection after posting 1,098 yards and 12 scores his sophomore season... Helped the Scotties advance to the state playoffs in each of his four seasons, as MCHS won 27 contests during his career... Also lettered all four years in track... Finished third in the 100-meter dash (11.13 secs) at the state meet as a senior, also placing third in the race his junior season... Lettered three times in baseball and twice in basketball as well.

The McCloud File: Full Name — Robert Andrew McCloud; Parents — Greg and Karen McCloud (father, banker; mother, banker/retailer); Birth — Aug. 25, 1986, Danville, Ky.; HS — Mercer County '05; HS Coach — Duane Hammons (Union [Ky.]); HS Letters — football 4, track 4, baseball 3, basketball 2; Major — physical education; Hobbies — golf, riding ATVs.



67
Chris McConnell
6-6 • 310
Sophomore — 1L • OL
Carthage, Tenn.
Smith County HS

On The Hill: Slated to start at left tackle at the end of spring practice ... **2005:** *Named to the Gateway Football Conference All-Newcomer Team* ... Appeared in all but the season opener, starting seven contests while seeing action at both tackle spots ... Received an overall grade of 86 percent while finishing with 49 pancake blocks ... Graded out at 86 percent at I-A Auburn in the first start of his career ... Also credited with an 86 percent grade the following week in win at Indiana State ... Graded out at 90 percent with nine knockdowns in Illinois State victory ... Had an 88 percent mark and eight pancakes in Homecoming win over Missouri State ... Received a 90 percent grade while recording a season-best 10 knockdown blocks against No. 14 Northern Iowa ... Posted a season-best 92 percent grade in season finale at I-A Auburn, collecting eight pancakes ... **2004:** Was a medical redshirt after suffering an injury in practice prior to the Hilltoppers' contest at Eastern Kentucky ... Graded out at 73 percent in his collegiate debut the previous week in a win over Concord (W.Va.).

HS/Misc: Lettered four years, starting three, at Smith County HS ... Graded out at 92 percent overall while adding 70 total tackles on defense to earn second-team all-state and first-team all-midstate and all-region honors as a senior ... Named the region's MVP on the offensive line ... Helped the Owls finish 10-3 while advancing to the quarterfinals of the state 3A tournament ... Had an 86 percent overall grade and 65 tackles to be voted all-region his junior season ... SCHS went 11-2 and reached the quarterfinals of the state playoffs ... Owls were 9-3 and earned a first-round win in the state playoffs as a sophomore ... Helped SCHS go 8-3 and advance to the state tournament his freshman season.

The McConnell File: Full Name — Christopher Ryan McConnell; Parents — Greg and Laura McConnell (father, accountant; mother, retail manager); Birth — Jan. 22, 1986, Atlanta, Ga.; HS — Smith County '04; HS Coach — Jimmy Maynard (Tennessee Tech); HS Letters — football 4; Major — management; Hobbies — audio electronics, fishing.



89
David Miller
6-3 • 230
Sophomore — Squad • TE
Fort Campbell, Ky.
Fort Campbell HS

On The Hill: Could contribute at tight end in the fall ... **2005:** Made his collegiate debut in WKU's season-opening victory over West Virginia Tech ... Also appeared in Gateway Football Conference finale at 19th-ranked Youngstown State ... Graded out at 92 percent on the year ... **2004:** Sat out as a redshirt in 2004, but saw plenty of action in spring practice.

HS/Misc: Earned three letters at Fort Campbell High, starting his last two seasons ... A two-year all-Western Kentucky Conference selection ... Named the Falcons most valuable player ... Also lettered once in basketball and once in track.

The Miller File: Full Name — David Miller; Parents — Michael and Maxine Miller (father, retired Army veteran); Birth — Jan. 3, 1986, Fayetteville, N.C.; HS — Fort Campbell '04; HS Coach — Shawn Berner (Cumberland [Tenn.]); HS Letters — football 3, basketball 1, track 1; Major — computer science; Ambition — design security systems for computers; Hobbies — video games, computers.

60
Jeremy Moore

6-1 • 180
RS Freshman • P
Indianapolis, Ind.
Cathedral HS

On The Hill: Has the chance to battle for the punting job in the fall ... **2005:** Made the Gateway Football Conference's Academic Honor Roll ... Redshirted.

HS/Misc: Started and lettered three years at Cathedral High ... Was named to the *Indianapolis Star's* Super Team and was a first-team all-state and all-city selection by the newspaper ... Averaged 39.6 yards per punt as a senior ... Also a three-year letterwinner in baseball, earning *Indianapolis Star* first-team all-city accolades as a junior and a senior.

The Moore File: Full Name — Jeremy Shane Moore; Parents — Mike and Sindy Robb (father, company vice president; mother, regional manager); Birth — Aug. 4, 1986, Thermopolis, Wyo.; HS — Cathedral '05; HS Coach — Jim O'Hara (Dayton); HS Letters — football 3, baseball 3; Major — undeclared; Hobbies — baseball, snowmobiles.



50r
Myron Moore
5-11 • 240
Sophomore — Squad • OLB
Frankfort, Ky.
Frankfort HS

On The Hill: Could see time at outside linebacker or on special teams ... **2005:** Made his collegiate debut in season-opening win over West Virginia Tech ... **2004:** Sat out as a redshirt. **HS/Misc:** Started and lettered all four years at Frankfort HS ... Was selected both all-state and all-county ... Also earned letters in basketball and baseball.

The Moore File: Full Name — Myron Brooks Moore; Parents — Ronald and Virginia Moore (father, retired Army veteran); Birth — March 14, 1986, Frankfort, Ky.; HS — Frankfort '04; HS Coach — Craig Foley (Georgetown [Ky.]); HS Letters — football 4, basketball, baseball; Major — physical education; Hobbies — cutting hair.



81
Jessie Quinn
6-1 • 195
Sophomore — Squad • WR
Bradenton, Fla.
Manatee HS

On The Hill: Ended the spring third on the depth chart at one of two wide receiver slots ... **2005:** Saw action in a pair of contests, against West Virginia Tech and No. 14 Northern Iowa ... **2004:** Was a redshirt.

HS/Misc: Lettered for three years, starting the final two, at Manatee HS ... Helped the Hurricanes to an 8-5 finish and an appearance in the region championship game as a junior ... Also earned three letters in basketball and three in track, where he was part of the 4x100-meter relay team that qualified for the state meet.

The Quinn File: Full Name — Jessie James Quinn, Jr.; Parents — Jessie Quinn, Sr. (retired military) and Jennifer Walker (program director); Birth — Aug. 14, 1986, Nuremberg, Germany; HS — Manatee '04; HS Coach — Howie Decristofaro (Miami); HS Letters — football 3, basketball 3, track 3; Major — accounting; Ambition — start a dance studio; Hobbies — dancing.



10
Marion Rumph
6-1 • 195
Junior — 2L • S
Bradenton, Fla.
Manatee HS

On The Hill: Expected to start at free safety for the third year in a row ... **2005:** *Earned second-team all-Northwest Region honors from Hansen's Football Gazette ... Was a first-team all-Gateway Football Conference selection ... A second-team ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District IV honoree, he was also picked to the first-team Gateway Conference All-Academic Team ... Earned the Gateway Conference Commissioner's Academic Excellence Award and made the league's Academic Honor Roll* ... Paced WKU with 93 total tackles, becoming the first defensive back to accomplish the feat on the Hill since the 1989 campaign ... Ranked fourth in the league with 8.6 stops per contest ... Broke up four passes, which was tied for second on the team, and added an interception he returned 24 yards in win at Western Illinois ... Paced the squad in tackles a team-high five times ... Had six assisted stops in win over rival Eastern Kentucky ... Recorded a career-best 15 tackles — leading all players — at I-A Auburn ... Posted 13 stops in win at Illinois State ... Credited with seven tackles in victories over Missouri State and WIU — they were all solo stops in the latter contest ... Matched career high with 15 tackles against eighth-ranked Southern Illinois, leading all players in the category ... Collected eight total tackles in games against nationally ranked Northern Iowa and Youngstown State ... Paced the Toppers with 11 stops in season finale at I-A Florida International ... **2004:** *An honorable mention all-Gateway Conference selection and a member of the league's All-Newcomer Team ... Also was named to the conference's Academic Honor Roll* ... The only true freshman to start all 12 contests ... Led all defensive backs with 76 total tackles (41 unassisted), ranking 20th in the league with 6.3 per outing ... Tied for seventh in the conference with 0.33 interceptions per game as his four picks were tied for fourth best among Gateway players ... Also broke up a pair of passes ... Recorded eight stops in collegiate debut at I-A Kansas State ... Posted four stops and two interceptions at rival Eastern Kentucky ... Made seven tackles in win at nationally ranked Northern Iowa ... Credited with season-high 14 tackles to lead the WKU defense at No. 1 Southern Illinois, adding a pass defended ... Collected eight stops in Homecoming victory over Indiana State ... Recorded interception in Illinois State win ... Had six tackles and a pick in victory at Florida International ... Posted 12 stops in NCAA I-AA playoffs at No. 9 Sam Houston State.

HS/Misc: Started two years while lettering four times at Manatee High ... An all-district, all-area and all-county choice as a senior after recording 34 tackles, four interceptions and six passes defended ... Earned all-district honors his junior season after helping the Hurricanes finish 8-5 and advance to the region championship game ... Lettered four times in basketball and three times in track.

The Rumph File: Full Name — Marion Rumph III; Parents — Marion, Jr., and Shirley Rumph (father, cement truck driver; mother, hospital supervisor); Birth — Nov. 21, 1986, Bradenton, Fla.; HS — Manatee '04; HS Coach — Howie Decristofaro (Miami); HS Letters — football 4, basketball 4, track 3; Major — computer science; Hobbies — video games.

DEFENSIVE TOTALS							
Year	GP	U-A-T	TFL	Sacks	Int	BPU	FF / FR
2004	12	41-35-76	0.0-0	0.0-0	4-2	2	0 / 0
2005	11	41-52-93	1.0-0	0.0-0	1-24	4	0 / 0
Totals	23	82-87-169	1.0-0	0.0-0	5-26	6	0 / 0



52
Greg Ryan
6-4 • 285
Junior — 2L • OL
Murray, Ky.
Calloway County HS

On The Hill: Listed as the starter at left guard at the end of the spring ... The only returning player who started all 11 contests on the offensive line in 2005 ... **2005:** *Named honorable mention all-Gateway Football Conference following his first season as a starter* ... Led the squad with 126 pancake blocks ... Graded out at 91 percent overall, including receiving a 90 percent or better mark in seven contests ... Credited with a 92 percent grade and 14 knockdowns in victory over rival Eastern Kentucky ... Collected 92 percent mark and 11 pancakes at I-A Auburn ... Graded out at 90 percent with 14 knockdown blocks in Indiana State win ... Received a season-best 96 grade following win over Illinois State, adding 11 pancakes ... Posted a 94 percent mark with 13 pancake blocks in Homecoming victory over Missouri State ... Credited with 92 percent grade while recording 10 knockdowns in win at Western Illinois ... Had 15 pancake blocks against No. 1 Northern Iowa ... Was selected the final GFC Offensive Lineman of the Week after grading out at 90 percent with a season-best 16 pancake blocks in regular season finale at I-A Florida International ... **2004:** Appeared in all 12 contests on both the offensive line and special teams ... Recorded an overall grade of 78 percent to go along with 24 knockdown blocks in his first season on the Hill ... Posted a season-best 87 percent grade in win at Florida International ... Had a season-high 11 pancakes in Western Illinois victory.

HS/Misc: Earned four letters at Calloway County HS ... A three-year starter ... Selected honorable mention all-state his final two seasons ... A three-time first-team all-Western Kentucky Conference choice ... Posted 120 tackles (75 unassisted) with 17 for loss including 6 sacks his final year ... Also blocked four kicks, forced a pair of fumbles and broke up a pass in 2003 ... As a junior was credited with 94 stops (56 unassisted), 12 tackles behind the line, nine sacks, a forced fumble, a pass defended and a blocked kick ... Recorded 76 total tackles (36 unassisted), 12 stops for loss including eight sacks, and three forced fumbles as a sophomore ... Scored two touchdowns during his career ... A four-year letterwinner in baseball, where he was voted the team's most valuable player ... Brother, Tony, is currently on the football roster at Murray State ... Grandson of Johnny Reagan, former Murray State baseball coach and athletic director who is a member of the school's Athlete Hall of Fame.

The Ryan File: Full Name — Gregory L. Ryan; Parents — Mike and Lyn Ryan (father, sales representative; mother, registered nurse); Birth — Sept. 22, 1985, Murray, Ky.; HS — Calloway County '04; HS Coach — Joe Stonecipher (Murray State); HS Letters — football 4, baseball 4; Major — civil engineering; Hobbies — hunting.





79 James Rusin

6-1 • 265
RS Freshman • OL
Orlinda, Tenn.
East Robertson HS

On The Hill: One of two freshmen listed on the depth chart on the offensive line at the end of spring drills after earning the backup spot at right tackle ... **2005: On the Gateway Football Conference Academic Honor Roll** ... A redshirt.

HS/Misc: An all-state and all-conference selection at East Robertson HS ... Set a school record with 13 sacks.

The Rusin File: Full Name — James Francis Rusin, Jr.; Parents — James, Sr. and Lynn Ann Rusin; Birth — July 24, 1987, Nashville, Tenn.; HS — East Robertson '05; HS Coach — Jeff Chatman (Austin Peay); HS Letters — football; Major — undeclared; Ambition — coach high school football.



12 Brandon Smith

6-0 • 195
RS Freshman • QB
Danville, Ky.
Boyle County HS

On The Hill: Is the Hilltoppers' backup quarterback heading into the fall ... **2005: Amemberofthe Gateway Football Conference Academic Honor Roll** ... Sat out his first year on the Hill as a redshirt.

HS/Misc: Earned four letters at Boyle County HS, starting his final three seasons ... Ranks third all-time in Kentucky with 116 career touchdowns, is fourth with 8,796 yards passing and seventh with 547 completions ... In four years, helped lead the Rebels to a 55-5 record and three state AAA championships from 2001-03 (BCHS advanced to the state championship contest last fall) ... Named the Frank Camp Award winner — presented by the Johnny Unitas Foundation to the top high school player in Kentucky — as a senior after completing 216-of-356 attempts for 3,401 yards and 44 scores, ranking seventh in the state in passing ... Also picked up first-team all-state and all-area honors, and was selected to the Lexington *Herald-Leader's* Class of the Commonwealth, after adding 911 yards and 16 touchdowns on the ground ... Played in the Kentucky-Tennessee All-Star Game following the end of his career, leading the team with 38 yards and a touchdown on five carries while also completing four passes for another 52 yards and a score ... As a junior, was 185-of-316 passing for 2,971 yards and 40 touchdowns to earn second-team all-state and first-team all-area accolades ... A three-time Academic All-State honoree ... Earned two letters in basketball as well ... Father, Chuck, is currently an assistant football coach at Kentucky.

The Smith File: Full Name — Brandon Charles Smith; Parents — Charles and Jackie Smith (father, football coach; mother, high school counselor); Birth — July 13, 1986, Louisville, Ky.; HS — Boyle County '05; HS Coach — Chuck Smith (Kentucky); HS Letters — football 4, basketball 2; Major — physical education; Hobbies — fishing, video games.

DID YOU KNOW?

WKU opens the year at I-A Georgia and travels to Eastern Kentucky in the "Battle of the Bluegrass." The Hilltoppers will play host to Chattanooga and Austin Peay in non-conference action — it's the first time since 2000 that they will play an entire Division I schedule — while facing a Gateway Football Conference slate that features four opponents that are expected to open the season ranked in the top 25.



37 Tanner Siewert

5-10 • 180
Junior — 1L • P/PK
Robards, Ky.
Henderson County HS

On The Hill: The front-runner to handle punting duties for the second straight season ... Will also hold on field-goal and extra-point tries ... **2005: Earned the Gateway Football Conference Commissioner's Academic Excellence Award** ... Also a member of the league's *Academic Honor Roll* ... Saw action in all 11 contests in his first season as the team's punter ... Ranked fourth in the league with an average of 37.4 yards per kick ... Had nine punts downed inside the opponent's 20-yard line ... Also made four tackles (two unassisted) ... Averaged 41 yards per kick with a long punt of 46 yards in season-opening victory over West Virginia Tech ... Posted a season-best average of 42.8 yards per punt in win over rival Eastern Kentucky, with two of his three efforts covering at least 40 yards (the long was 48) ... Kicked four times for an average of 40.5 yards at I-A Auburn ... Averaged 38.5 yards per punt in Homecoming victory over Missouri State, including a career-long kick of 63 yards ... Recorded an average of 39 yards in Western Illinois win ... Had two of four punts downed inside the 20-yard line in Gateway Football Conference finale at No. 19 Youngstown State ... Two of his three efforts in season finale at I-A Florida International ended inside the 20 ... **2004: A member of the Gateway Conference Academic Honor Roll** ... Held the Hilltoppers' placekicking duties through the first three games of the season ... Converted 1-of-2 field-goal attempts and 10-of-12 extra-point tries ... Ranked sixth on the team with 13 points ... Scored first collegiate point with PAT in fourth quarter at I-A Kansas State in the season opener ... Hit 6-of-7 extra-point attempts and a 19-yard field goal — the first of his career — in home-opening win over Concord (W.Va.) ... Successful on all three PATs in victory at instate rival Eastern Kentucky.

HS/Misc: Started and lettered all four years at Henderson County High ... Holds school career records with 361 points and 29 field goals ... Named second-team all-state and first-team all-conference after converting 39-of-43 extra points while adding nine field goals his senior season ... Caught a team-best 50 passes for 817 yards and six touchdowns ... Added 21 carries for 83 yards and three scores ... Posted a team-leading five interceptions ... Averaged 42.1 yards per punt ... Efforts helped the Colonels finish 9-4 and advance to the quarterfinals of the state 4A tournament ... An honorable mention all-state and first-team all-league selection as a junior after helping HCHS to a 13-2 record and the semifinals of the state playoffs ... Voted first-team all-state as a sophomore ... A four-time first-team academic all-state selection in both football and baseball ... Lettered four seasons on the diamond, starting three.

The Siewert File: Full Name — Tanner Alden Siewert; Parents — Jake and Dianne Siewert (father, welder; mother, professor of nursing); Birth — Sept. 17, 1985, Henderson, Ky.; HS — Henderson County '04; HS Coach — Tom Duffy (Kentucky); HS Letters — football 4, baseball 4; Major — management; Hobbies — playing cards, ping pong.

PUNTING							
Year	No-Yds	Avg	Lg	TB	FC	I-20	Blkd
2005	39-1,459	37.4	63	3	5	9	1



5 Bo Smith

5-10 • 190
Junior — 2L • S
Rockledge, Fla.
Rockledge HS

On The Hill: Should compete for the starting strong safety job in the fall ... Also will contribute on special teams, where he is one of two players expected to return kickoffs ... **2005: A member of the Gateway Football Conference Academic Honor Roll** ... Appeared in all 11 contests, earning his first career start in win at Indiana State ... Collected a career-best 20 total stops ... That included 1" tackles behind the line of scrimmage ... Had first career sack — for a loss of 7 yards — at No. 19 Youngstown State ... Broke up a pair of passes ... Collected four tackles in season-opening win over West Virginia Tech ... Had two assists, one of which was for loss, at I-A Auburn ... Credited with three stops in win at Indiana State ... Recorded career-high six tackles (four solo) and defended a pass in season finale at I-A Florida International ... **2004: On the Gateway Conference Academic Honor Roll** ... Saw action in all 12 games, recording 12 tackles (nine unassisted) ... That included one stop behind the line of scrimmage ... Intercepted one pass and broke up another ... Credited with one forced fumble ... Added one kick return for 18 yards ... Had a pass broken up in his collegiate debut at I-A Kansas State ... Collected two solo stops, the first interception of his career and a forced fumble in victory over Concord (W.Va.) ... Credited with a pair of unassisted tackles in win at instate rival Eastern Kentucky ... Had an assisted stop at top-ranked Southern Illinois ... Posted a season-best three tackles (all solo), including one for a loss of 3 yards, in Homecoming victory over Indiana State ... Made two tackles in NCAA Division I-AA playoff game at No. 9 Sam Houston State.

HS/Misc: A three-year starter and letterwinner at Rockledge High ... Voted all-district, all-Cape Coast Conference and to the *Florida Today's* All-Space Coast team after posting 65 tackles (38 unassisted) and an interception his last year ... Averaged 21 yards per punt return while running back three kicks for scores ... Helped the Raiders to an 8-2 record ... Team captain his final year ... An all-league selection as a junior after recording 63 stops (36 unassisted), two interceptions and a fumble recovery ... RHS finished that season 14-1, claiming the state 3A championship ... Collected a career-best 71 tackles (38 unassisted) with five interceptions and two recovered fumbles his sophomore season, helping the Raiders to a 14-1 mark and the state championship ... Earned three letters in track and also added one in soccer ... Attended the same high school as former Topper defensive back **Mel Mitchell**, currently a member of the NFL's New England Patriots.

The Smith File: Full Name — Rhaumon L. Smith; Parents — Lee and Faye Smith (mother, tax collector); Birth — Nov. 20, 1985, Melbourne, Fla.; HS — Rockledge '04; HS Coach — Chuck Wood (Mississippi); HS Letters — football 3, track 3, soccer 1; Major — health care administration; Ambition — begin a business; Hobbies — music, video games, movies, family gatherings.

DEFENSIVE TOTALS							
Year	GP	U-A—T	TFL	Sacks	Int	BPU	FF / FR
2004	12	9-3—12	1.0-3	0.0-0	1-5	1	1 / 0
2005	11	9-11—20	1.5-8	1.0-7	0-0	2	0 / 0
Totals	23	18-14—32	2.5-11	1.0-7	1-5	3	1 / 0



45r Josh Smyth

6-0 • 225
Sophomore — 1L • ILB
Hoover, Ala.
Hoover HS

On The Hill: Adds depth at inside linebacker ... **2005:** Participated in six contests, posting three total tackles ... Recorded a pair of stops (including one solo) in win at Indiana State, adding an assist in at No. 19 Youngstown State in the Toppers' Gateway Football Conference finale ... **2004:** Sat out as a redshirt.

HS/Misc: A three-year starter and two-year letterwinner at Hoover HS ... Helped lead the Buccaneers to back-to-back state 6A championships his final two years as well as an appearance in the title game in 2001 ... Named honorable mention all-state his final two seasons after scoring 21 touchdowns ... Selected second-team all-metro by the *Birmingham News* on defense ... Made nine tackles, including a sack, in 2003 state championship contest.

The Smyth File: Full Name — Joshua Tyler Smyth; Parents — John and Dian Smyth (father, sales representative; mother, flight attendant); Birth — Jan. 8, 1986, Salem, Mass.; HS — Hoover '04; HS Coach — Rush Probst (Jacksonville State); HS Letters — football 3; Major — management; Hobbies — weightlifting, video games.



48 Ben Sowders

6-0 • 215
Sophomore — Squad • OLB
Bowling Green, Ky.
Greenwood HS

On The Hill: Could see time at outside linebacker — where he's listed as the backup on the strong side following spring practice — or on special teams **2005:** Saw action in each of the Hilltoppers' first four games ... Collected four total tackles, including an assist behind the line of scrimmage ... Had two stops (one unassisted) in his collegiate debut against West Virginia Tech ... Credited with a solo stop at I-A Auburn ... Posted an assisted tackle in Gateway Football Conference victory at Indiana State ... **2004:** Redshirted his first season on the Hill.

HS/Misc: Earned four letters while starting three years at Greenwood High ... Ended career with 280 total tackles and three scores (two interception returns, one fumble) ... Selected honorable mention all-state by both the *Associated Press* and *Louisville Courier-Journal* as a senior after posting 108 tackles with 23 stops behind the line of scrimmage, including seven sacks, to go along with three interceptions ... Also voted first-team all-SKY Conference ... A first-team all-league selection his junior season ... Named team MVP twice ... Lettered three times in both basketball and baseball, helping the Gators to the Fourth Region crown on the diamond in 2002.

The Sowders File: Full Name — Benjamin Alton Sowders; Parents — Ricky and Cindy Sowders (father, Best Western employee; mother, Fruit of the Loom employee); Birth — Dec. 20, 1985, Bowling Green, Ky.; HS — Greenwood '04; HS Coach — Mark Nelson (Western Kentucky); HS Letters — football 4, basketball 3, baseball 3; Major — physical education; Ambition — college football coach; Hobbies — fishing, water skiing.

DID YOU KNOW?

Since joining the Gateway Football Conference, the Hilltoppers have made 17 appearances on regional or national television over the last five years.



20 Clay Stephens

5-8 • 190
Junior — 1L • S
Somerset, Ky.
Pulaski County HS

WKU Notes: Listed as the backup at free safety at the conclusion of spring workouts ... **2005:** A member of the Gateway Football Conference Academic Honor Roll, he also picked up the Commissioner's Academic Excellence Award ... Recorded eight tackles in eight contests ... Tied for the team lead with a career-best five stops in season-opening win over West Virginia Tech ... Followed up with a pair of stops in Eastern Kentucky victory ... Recorded a solo tackle in league win at Illinois State ... **2004:** Earned the Gateway Conference Commissioner's Academic Excellence award and was on the GFC Academic Honor Roll ... Made his collegiate debut in the Hilltoppers' victory over Concord (W.Va.) ... **2003:** Redshirted. **HS/Misc:** Earned four letters, starting each season, at Pulaski County High ... Selected honorable mention all-state each of his final two years ... An all-county and all-city choice as a junior and senior ... Named all-district in three of his four seasons ... The Maroons' team MVP as a senior ... Led the team in rushing all four years and was the top receiver his final season ... Lettered three times in track and twice in baseball.

The Stephens File: Full Name — Daniel Clay Stephens; Parents — Danny and Tammy Stephens (father, construction; mother, teacher); Birth — June 17, 1984, Glasgow, Ky.; Wife — Amber Beckham-Stephens; Child — Charlie Paige (3); HS — Pulaski County '03; HS Coach — John Himes (Georgetown [Ky.]); HS Letters — football 4, track 3, baseball 2; Major — physical education; Ambition — high school teacher and coach; Hobbies — PlayStation, spending time with family.



74 Chaz Stradley

6-6 • 280
RS Sophomore • OL
Corbin, Ky.
Corbin HS

On The Hill: Could make a contribution on the offensive line ... Redshirted in 2004, then transferred to Cumberland (Ky.) in the fall of '05 to be closer to family before returning to WKU over the summer.

HS/Misc: Started three years and lettered four at Corbin HS ... A second-team all-state selection by both the Associated Press and Louisville Courier-Journal on offense his final season ... Also earned first-team all-league and all-district accolades ... Named the SEKC's Defensive Lineman of the Year ... Posted 65 tackles, with 17 for loss including nine sacks, and broke up seven passes ... Helped lead the Redhounds to a 10-3 finish ... Collected 56 stops — 13 behind the line including six sacks — and four passes defended as a junior to be voted first-team all-conference and all-district ... CHS went 11-3 and reached the state 2A championship game ... Aided the Redhounds to a 10-2 mark and the district title his sophomore season.

The Stradley File: Full Name — Charles Thomas Stradley IV; Parents — Tom and Jennifer Stradley (father, investigator; mother, property manager); Birth — April 3, 1986, Barbourville, Ky.; HS — Corbin '04; HS Coach — Steve Jewell (Tennessee Tech); HS Letters — football 4; Major — management; Ambition — play in the NFL; Hobbies — basketball, computers.



75 Zach Thuney

6-4 • 285
Junior — 2L • OL
Dayton, Ohio
Archbishop Alter HS

On The Hill: Ended spring practice as the starter at center ... **2005:** Started four of the 11 games he appeared in ... Graded out at 85 percent for the year with 32 knockdown blocks ... Credited with a season-high 88 percent mark in contests against West Virginia Tech, Indiana State and I-A Florida International ... Had season-best eight pancakes in the FIU contest ... Recorded an 87 percent grade at I-A Auburn ... Posted 85 percent grade in Homecoming victory over Missouri State ... Collected six knockdowns in Western Illinois win and five the following week against No. 8 Southern Illinois ... Graded out at 85 percent against 14th-ranked Northern Iowa ... Received an 86 percent mark following Gateway Football Conference finale at No. 19 Youngstown State ... **2004:** Played in all 12 contests, making the first start of his collegiate career in NCAA I-AA first round playoff game at ninth-ranked Sam Houston State ... Graded out at 80 percent with 20 pancake blocks on the season ... Posted season-best eight knockdowns in NCAA playoffs at SHSU ... Recorded a season-high 88 percent grade, adding seven pancakes, in regular-season finale at Florida International ... Received an 85 percent grade following SMS victory.

HS/Misc: Earned three letters, starting his final two years, at Archbishop Alter HS ... Graded out at 85 percent with 112 knockdown blocks his senior season to earn first-team all-Greater Catholic League as well as second-team all-Southwest Ohio and all-Greater Dayton honors ... Helped the Knights finish 10-2 and advance to the quarterfinals of the state tournament ... Posted 85 knockdown blocks as a junior ... AAHS won conference titles each of his last two years and was the region champion his sophomore and junior seasons ... Knights qualified for the state playoffs each of his three seasons ... A three-time letterwinner in track, where he was selected all-state and all-GLC North in the discus ... Ranked first in the league and eighth in the state in the event.

The Thuney File: Full Name — Zachary Lee Thuney; Parents — Mark and Teresa Thuney (father, contractor; mother, retailer); Birth — Feb. 22, 1986, Kettering, Ohio; HS — Archbishop Alter '04; HS Coach — Ed Domsitz (Ohio State); HS Letters — football 3, track 3; Major — management; Hobbies — watching sports.



91 Chris Walker

6-3 • 290
Junior — 2L • DL
Manchester, Ky.
Clay County HS

On The Hill: Should contribute as part of the rotation on the defensive line as he ended spring drills listed as the starter at nose tackle ... **2005:** Saw action in 10 of 11 games ... Posted 12 total stops, including three for a loss ... That included a 7-yard sack against 14th-ranked Northern Iowa ... Collected three tackles (two unassisted) including one for a loss of 3 yards in season-opening victory over West Virginia Tech ... Credited with first fumble recovery of his career, returning it 3 yards, at I-A Auburn ... Recorded a career-best seven stops in the UNI contest, finishing with 1" tackles behind the line ... Also had a pair of assists, including one for loss, at 19th-ranked Youngstown State ... **2004:** Redshirted after missing both spring practice and fall camp with an injury ... **2003:** Appeared in all 13 games in his first season on the Hill ... Made 12 tackles, including three behind the line of scrimmage for a loss of 18 yards ... Credited with a 14-yard sack at second-ranked Western Illinois ... Collected an assisted tackle in collegiate debut against Union (Ky.) ... Had an assisted stop in Gateway Conference games with SMS, Illinois State and No. 3 Southern Illinois ... Posted a season-high four tackles (two unassisted), with two stops for loss, in regular-season finale at Youngstown State ... Made two solo stops in NCAA playoff victory over Jacksonville State. **HS/Misc:** Started and lettered four years at Clay County HS.

The Walker File: Full Name — Chris Walker; Parents — Rick Walker and Lesa Walker; Birth — Jan. 29, 1985, Manchester, Ky.; HS — Clay County '03; HS Coach — Aaron Stepp (Morehead State); HS Letters — football 4; Major — corporate/organizational management; Hobbies — video games.

DEFENSIVE TOTALS

Year	GP	U-A-T	TFL	Sacks	Int	BPU	FF/FR
2003	13	5-7-12	3.0-18	1.0-14	0-0	0	0/0
2004		Redshirted					
2005	10	5-7-12	3.0-11	1.0-7	0-0	0	0/1
Totals	23	10-14-24	6.0-29	2.0-21	0-0	0	0/1



51r Ricky Watkins

5-10 • 200
Junior — 1L • ILB
Louisville, Ky.
St. Xavier HS

On The Hill: Could contribute at inside linebacker and on special teams ... **2005:** Did not appear in a game ... **2004:** Appeared on the Gateway Conference Academic Honor Roll ... Played in eight contests, appearing in each of the Toppers' final seven outings ... Credited with a pair of stops including one unassisted ... Had an assisted tackle in league victory at SMS ... Recorded a solo stop in regular season finale at Florida International ... **2003:** Was a redshirt.

HS/Misc: Started and lettered all four years at St. Xavier High ... Named honorable mention all-state and first-team all-district, all-county and all-conference after posting 111 tackles his final year ... Also voted team most valuable player.

The Watkins File: Full Name — Richard Herman Watkins, Jr.; Parents — Richard, Sr., and Cery George Watkins (father, special assistant to MSD director; mother, real estate broker); Birth — Dec. 17, 1984, Louisville, Ky.; HS — St. Xavier '03; HS Coach — Mike Glaser (Bellarmine); HS Letters — football 4; Major — management; Ambition — sports marketing; Hobbies — basketball, video games.



18 Travis Watters

5-10 • 180
Sophomore — 1L • CB
Louisville, Ky.
Male HS

On The Hill: Ended spring practice as the starter at left corner ... **2005:** Made 10 appearances in his first season of action at WKU ... Collected 11 tackles (eight unassisted) and also broke up a pass ... Recorded a career-high five stops while adding a pass defended in his collegiate debut against West Virginia Tech ... Had two solo stops at I-A Auburn ... Credited with a pair of tackles against nationally ranked Southern Illinois ... **2004:** A member of the Gateway Conference Academic Honor Roll ... Sat out the campaign as a redshirt.

HS/Misc: Prepped at Male High, where he lettered in football, basketball and track ... Was a first-team all-state and all-district selection as a senior after he ranked among the state's leaders with 164 points — he scored 27 touchdowns in 13 contests to go along with a two-point conversion ... Named the team's most valuable player.

The Watters File: Full Name — Travis Sinclair Watters; Parent — Tanya Sallee-Watters (network supervisor); Birth — Dec. 16, 1985, Louisville, Ky.; HS — Male '04; HS Coach — Bob Redman; HS Letters — football, basketball 2, track 2; Major — marketing; Ambition — be a sports agent; Hobbies — PlayStation.

DEFENSIVE TOTALS

Year	GP	U-A-T	TFL	Sacks	Int	BPU	FF/FR
2005	10	8-3-11	0.0-0	0.0-0	0-0	1	0/0



36 Darius Baughman

6-1 • 205
Freshman • OLB
Danville, Ky.
Danville HS

HS/Misc: A three-year starter and letterwinner at Danville High ... Participated in the Kentucky-Tennessee All-Star Game over the summer ... Named honorable mention all-state by both the Associated Press and Louisville *Courier-Journal* and was selected to the "Class of the Commonwealth" last season after recording 79 tackles, including seven for loss, and a pair of interceptions ... On offense, rushed for 671 yards and 14 touchdowns, caught 20 passes for 399 yards and 10 scores while finishing with 172 total points in earning region and district player-of-the-year honors ... Was also chosen the Class A Player of the Year ... Helped the Admirals to an 11-2 finish as the advanced to the quarterfinals of the state A playoffs ... Posted 82 stops — 11 were behind the line of scrimmage including four sacks — two interceptions and two passes broke up his junior season as DHS won four postseason contests to reach the state title game en route to a 10-5 mark ... Also rushed for 321 yards and caught 10 passes for 53 yards while scoring six touchdowns ... As a sophomore, was credited with 65 tackles, seven stops for loss, four sacks and two interceptions ... Efforts helped the Admirals win the state championship while recording a 14-1 final mark ... Lettered four years in basketball, starting three seasons ... Made the all-area team as a junior ... Also earned four letters in track, where he qualified for the state meet both his sophomore and junior seasons ... Finished fifth in Kentucky in the high jump as a junior.

The Baughman File: Full Name — Darius Lovell Baughman; Parents — Bernard Whitley and Tonya Baughman; Birth — March 28, 1987, Danville, Ky.; HS — Danville '06; HS Coach — Sam Harp (Kentucky State); HS Letters — football 3, basketball 4, track 4; Major — undecided; Ambition — be an actor.

92 Jon Belcher

6-0 • 265
Sophomore Transfer • DL
Somerset, Ky.
Ball State / Southwestern Pulaski HS

On The Hill: Participated in spring practice after transferring from Ball State ... Adds depth on the defensive line.
College/HS/Misc: After sitting out the 2004 season as a redshirt at BSU, did not see action last fall ... A four-year letterwinner at Pulaski Southwestern HS ... Named first-team all-state by both the AP and *Courier-Journal* following his senior season when he recorded 83 total tackles, which included eight sacks ... Also was the Mid-State Coaches Association Player of the Year and was an all-district and all-region choice ... Was a *News Journal* first-team all-county selection each of his final three years and also earned first-team all-city accolades three times ... Brother, Scott, lettered at The Citadel from 1993-96, earning third-team Sports Network All-America honors as a junior.
The Belcher File: Full Name — Jonathan Allen Belcher; Parents — David and Debbie Belcher; Birth — Feb. 1, 1986, Kannapolis, N.C.; HS — Southwestern Pulaski '04; HS Coach — Dale Anderson (Louisville); HS Letters — football 4, track 4, basketball 1; Major — interdisciplinary studies; Ambition — become a state trooper.



7 K. J. Black

6-4 • 210
Freshman • QB
Louisville, Ky.
Fern Creek HS

HS/Misc: Lettered for four years, starting the final three, at Fern Creek HS ... Accounted for 83 touchdowns (63 pass, 20 rush) and nearly 10,000 yards of total offense during his career ... Participated in the Kentucky-Tennessee All-Star Game this summer ... The Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Scholarship winner and an honorable mention all-state selection by the Louisville *Courier-Journal*, he was also named to the Lexington *Herald-Leader's* Top 22 seniors in Kentucky following his senior season ... Was chosen both the region and district player of the year, earning all-region, all-district and all-county accolades ... Ranked 12th in the state in the regular season with 206.8 yards per game passing, he finished with 2,421 yards and 18 touchdowns through the air ... Led the Tigers to an 8-4 finish last year and a first-round victory in the 4A state playoffs before losing to the eventual champion ... As a junior, ranked fifth in the state with 241.7 yards passing per contest in the regular season, completing 126-of-201 attempts while connecting on 22 touchdowns ... Earned honorable mention all-state, and first-team all-district and all-county honors ... Among the leaders in the state his sophomore after going 152-of-232 for 2,149 yards and 21 scores.

The Black File: Full Name — Kenneth Clark Black, Jr.; Parents — Kenneth, Sr. and Rebecca Black (father, middle school principal; mother, property manager); Birth — Oct. 5, 1988, Jacksonville, Fla.; HS — Fern Creek '06; HS Coach — Bob Bronger (Marshall); HS Letters — football 4; Major — undecided.

6 Blake Boyd

6-2 • 240
Freshman Transfer • OLB
Madisonville, Ky.
Louisville / Madisonville-North Hopkins HS

On The Hill: Enrolled in school in January but missed spring practice after suffering an injury ... Should contribute at outside linebacker in the fall.

College/HS/Misc: Attended Louisville in the fall but sat out the season as a redshirt ... Prepped at Madisonville-North Hopkins High, where he was a three-time first-team all-conference selection and twice earned all-district accolades ... Named first-team all-state by both the Associated Press and the Louisville *Courier-Journal* as a senior after posting 90 tackles including six sacks ... Helped lead the Maroons to a 10-3 mark and the berth in the quarterfinals of the state 3A playoffs.

The Boyd File: Full Name — Blake Boyd; Parents — Randy and Gina Boyd (father, business owner); Birth — May 28, 1987, Madisonville, Ky.; HS — Madisonville-North Hopkins '05; HS Coach — Dixie Jones; HS Letters — football 4; Major — computer information systems; Ambition — take over father's business; Hobbies — video games.



61 Troy Brooks

6-5 • 275
Freshman • OL
Shelbyville, Ky.
East Jessamine HS

HS/Misc: Started and lettered for three years at East Jessamine HS ... Earned honorable mention all-state honors from the Louisville *Courier-Journal* and was a first-team all-district selection ... Helped the Jaguars to a 9-3 finish and first-round victory in the state 3A playoffs his junior season ... EJHS went 10-2 and won its opening-round contest in the state playoffs in his first year on the varsity ... Brother, Mike, is a junior offensive lineman at Eastern Kentucky.

The Brooks File: Full Name — Troy Allan Brooks; Parents — Virgil and Judy Brooks (father, truck driver; mother, student); Birth — Dec. 19, 1987, Shelbyville, Ky.; HS — East Jessamine '06; HS Coach — Mike Bowlwin (Eastern Kentucky); HS Letters — football 3; Major — undecided; Hobbies — hunting.



57 Marquise Burns

6-0 • 210
Freshman • ILB
Dayton, Ohio
Colonel White HS

HS/Misc: Started and lettered four years at Colonel White High ... Was selected conference Player of the Year and first-team all-league after leading the Cougars in sacks and total tackles a year ago ... Also was a second-team all-area selection ... Named Team MVP and served as captain as a senior ... CWHS finished 7-3 his last year while racking up 21 victories during his career.

The Burns File: Full Name — Marquise E.E. Burns; Grandmother — Betty Burns; Birth — Sept. 14, 1987, Dayton, Ohio; HS — Colonel White '06; HS Coach — Earl White (Central State); HS Letters — football 4; Major — undecided.



45 Jacob Davis

6-0 • 210
Freshman • OLB
Bowling Green, Ky.
Greenwood HS

HS/Misc: Lettered all four years at Greenwood HS, starting the final three ... Posted 2,523 yards rushing, 307 yards receiving, 650 yards running back kicks, 137 punt return yards and 28 touchdowns in his career ... Was a three-time all-SKY Conference selection, earning team MVP honors his final season ... Recorded 112 total tackles (78 unassisted), five interceptions and six fumble recoveries in his career ... Ran for 1,030 yards and nine touchdowns as a senior ... Ranked among the top 50 in the state his junior season after collecting 1,050 yards and 15 scores ... Also returned 20 kicks for 630 yards and averaged 38.5 yards per punt in his career ... Helped lead the Gators to a pair of berths in the state 4A playoffs ... Also earned four letters in basketball, where he finished among the top 10 all-time at GHS in scoring (fifth, 851), rebounding (seventh, 366), assists (eighth, 207) and steals (10th, 108) ... Led the Gators to the semifinals of the region tournament his final season ... Lettered three years in track as well.

The Davis File: Full Name — Jacob Thomas Davis; Parents — Mark and Kim Davis (father, Greenwood High principal; mother, student services coordinator); Birth — July 25, 1987, Glasgow, Ky.; HS — Greenwood '06; HS Coach — Mark Nelson (WKU); HS Letters — football 4, basketball 4, track 3; Major — undecided; Hobbies — music, video games.



72 Derrick Elder

6-2 • 310
Freshman • OL
Louisville, Ky.
St. Xavier HS

HS/Misc: A three-year starter and letterwinner at St. Xavier High ... Helped St. X to a 40-5 record in his three seasons on the varsity ... Played in the Kentucky-Tennessee All-Star Game following the conclusion of his career ... Was a second-team all-state selection, earning first-team all-district, all-county and all-metro honors after helping the Tigers to an undefeated regular season, a berth in the state 4A playoff game and a final record of 14-1 ... St. X won the state title his junior year while going 14-1 ... The Tigers finished 12-3 in 2003, falling by a field goal in the state championship game ... Also earned two letters in wrestling and one in baseball.

The Elder File: Full Name — Derrick James Elder; Birth — Sept. 11, 1987, Louisville, Ky.; HS — St. Xavier '06; HS Coach — Mike Glaser (Bellarmine); HS Letters — football 3, wrestling 2, baseball 1; Major — undecided; Ambition — coach high school or college football; Hobbies — video games.



28 Chris Franklin

5-6 • 165
RS Sophomore • CB
Louisville, Ky.
Southern HS

On The Hill: Not on the roster last season, but participated in spring drills.

HS/Misc: Lettered for four years, starting the final three, at Southern High ... Was a two-time all-district selection ... Won the team's Iron Trojan Award ... Also lettered for four years in track.

The Franklin File: Full Name — Christopher DeShawn Franklin; Parents — John Shellman and Marilyn Elliot (secretary); Birth — May 28, 1986, Detroit, Mich.; HS — Southern '04; HS Coach — Bart Bruner; HS Letters — football 4, track 4; Major — undecided; Hobbies — video games, basketball.



38 Mike Gothard

6-1 • 225
Freshman • ILB
Marietta, Ga.
George Walton Comprehensive HS

HS/Misc: Earned three letters, starting the final two seasons, at George Walton Comprehensive High ... Was named Cobb County's Linebacker of the Year, adding first-team all-region and all-county honors, after recording a team-leading 126 total tackles (73 solo), 10 stops behind the line of scrimmage, and forced fumbles ... Also ran for 425 yards and two scores, adding seven receptions for 126 yards and three more scores, to help the Raiders advance to the second round of the state 5A playoffs ... Served as team captain ... Lettered one season each in lacrosse and track.

The Gothard File: Full Name — Michael Taylor Gothard; Parents — Mike and Denna Gothard (father, director of purchasing; mother, yoga); Birth — Aug. 26, 1987, Ashland, Ky.; HS — George Walton Comprehensive '06; HS Coach — Ed Dudley (Rhodes [Tenn.]); HS Letters — football 3, lacrosse 1, track 1; Major — undecided; Ambition — own a small business; Hobbies — fishing, golfing, swimming.

87 T. K. Guess

6-0 • 185
Freshman • WR
Marion, Ky.
Crittenden County HS

HS/Misc: Earned four letters, starting each season, at Crittendon County High ... Set school season and career records for both receiving yards and interceptions ... Earned honorable mention all-state accolades from the Louisville *Courier-Journal* following his senior season ... Was selected all-WKY Conference three times while twice earning the team's most valuable player award ... Helped CCH compile a 33-14 record during his career as the Rockets advanced to the state A playoffs each season — they advanced as far as the quarterfinals his freshman year ... Lettered twice in basketball, ranking in the top 30 in the state with a 20.3 scoring average his senior season ... Helped lead the Rockets to the district championship contest and a berth in the region tournament ... Also lettered in track as a sophomore.

The Guess File: Full Name — Tyler Keith Guess; Parents — Terry and Lisa Guess (father, laborer; mother, mail carrier); Birth — March 15, 1988, Paducah, Ky.; HS — Crittenden County '06; HS Coach — Al Starnes (Murray State); HS Letters — football 4, basketball 2, track 1; Major — undecided.



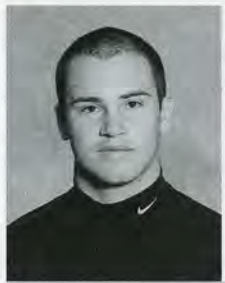
59 Jason Hackley

6-0 • 215
RS Sophomore • ILB
Bradenton, Fla.
Manatee Comm. College / Manatee HS

On The Hill: Did not play during the 2005 season but participated in spring practice.

HS/Misc: Attended Manatee Community College during the 2004-05 academic year ... Was a three-year starter and letterwinner at Manatee HS ... Earned all-conference accolades ... Recorded a high of 12 solo tackles against Riverview High ... Earned four letters in weightlifting as well.

The Hackley File: Full Name — Jason Hackley; Parents — Robert and Kim Hackley (father, mechanic; mother, nurse); Birth — March 23, 1986, Bradenton, Fla.; HS — Manatee '04; HS Coach — Howie Decristofaro (Miami); HS Letters — football 3, weightlifting 4; Major — physical education; Ambition — become either an athletic trainer, strength coach or personal trainer; Hobbies — cars.



54 L.J. Harbison

5-11 • 220
RS Freshman • CB
Edmonton, Ky.
Metcalf County HS

On The Hill: Sat out as a redshirt in 2005.

HS/Misc: A four-year letterwinner, starting two seasons, at Metcalfe County HS ... Recorded 96 tackles his sophomore season for the Hornets, adding 1,305 yards rushing and 147 points on offense, to earn all-conference accolades ... Earned four letters in basketball, where he helped MCHC to a region championship ... Was a three-time all-region and all-district honoree in baseball ... Was part of three district champions and a region title winner in his four years on the diamond.

The Harbison File: Full Name — Larry Wayne Harbison, Jr.; Parents — Larry, Sr., and Karen Harbison (father, teacher/coach; mother, teacher); Birth — Aug. 24, 1986, Glasgow, Ky.; HS — Metcalfe County '05; HS Coach — Larry Harbison (WKU); HS Letters — football 4, basketball 4, baseball 4; Major — undecided; Ambition — coach; Hobbies — fishing.



97 Neil Harrell

6-1 • 280
Freshman • DL
Tampa, Fla.
Plant HS

HS/Misc: Had 91 total tackles, including 27 behind the line of scrimmage, 11 sacks and two fumble recoveries, one of which he returned for a touchdown while leading Plant High to the 2005 district championship and a 9-3 finish ... In his only year with the Panthers, he was a first-team all-conference selection and was voted second-team all-county ... Was also selected to participate in the Hillsborough County All-Star Game.

The Harrell File: Full Name — Cornelius Harrell; Parent — Evalio Harrell; Birth — Oct. 23, 1987, Tampa, Fla.; HS — Plant '06; HS Coach — Robert Weiner (Boston College); HS Letters — football 4, track; Major — undecided.



26 Tyrell Hayden

5-10 • 200
Freshman • RB
Lexington, Ky.
Lexington Christian Academy

HS/Misc: Was a four-year starter and letterwinner at Lexington Christian Academy ... LCA advanced to the state playoffs in each of his final three seasons while compiling a 27-8 overall mark — 16-2 in district play — during that span ... Finished his career with over 4,500 yards rushing and 80 touchdowns ... Named honorable mention all-state by the Louisville *Courier-Journal*, first-team all-district and all-city as well as the district player of the year last fall ... Ranked among the top 15 in the Commonwealth with 141.6 yards per game and 23 touchdowns in the regular season ... Efforts helped the Eagles advance to the quarterfinals of the state A playoffs while posting an 11-2 final mark, which included a perfect 6-0 record in district action ... As a junior, earned all-district and all-city accolades while being selected the team's most valuable player ... Also earned four letters in track, qualifying for the state meet in the 100-meter dash and long jump, and as part of LCA's 4x100-meter and 4x200-meter relay teams in the spring ... Participated in the state championships in the 100-meter dash his junior season ... Lettered twice in basketball as well.

The Hayden File: Full Name — Tyrell William Hayden; Parents — Lance and Monique Hayden (father, construction worker; mother, courthouse employee); Birth — Jan. 3, 1988, Mt. Sterling, Ky.; HS — Lexington Christian Academy '06; HS Coach — Paul Rains (Cumberland [Ky.]); HS Letters — football 4, track 4, basketball 2; Major — undecided; Hobbies — movies.



27 Erik Jones

5-9 • 170
Freshman • CB
Cincinnati, Ohio
Winton Woods HS

HS/Misc: Started and lettered all four years at Winton Woods High, where he helped the Warriors to 26 wins during his career ... Selected to play in Ohio's North-South All-Star Game following his senior season ... Named first-team and all-Fort Ancient Valley Conference and all-city as a senior after recording 42 solo tackles, 10 passes broken up, an interception and a forced fumble ... Added 11 receptions for 233 yards and 20 carries for 219 yards and four touchdowns as WWHS advanced to the state Division II playoffs ... Also was a second-team all-district selection ... Earned four letters in track and three in basketball.

The Jones File: Full Name — Erik Michael Jones; Parents — Robert and Geraldine Jones (father, retired; mother, credit manager); Birth — Oct. 21, 1987, Cincinnati, Ohio; HS — Winton Woods '06; HS Coach — Troy Everhart (St. Joseph's); HS Letters — football 4, track 4, basketball 3; Major — undecided; Hobbies — reading, spending time with family.



68 Preston King

6-6 • 270
Freshman • OL
Bowling Green, Ky.
Greenwood HS

HS/Misc: Was a two-ear starter and three-year letterwinner at Greenwood High ... An honorable mention all-SKY Conference selection who also was named the team's defensive lineman of the year ... Caught 17 passes for 241 yards and a touchdown on offense as a senior, adding 63 total tackles — including 10 for loss — on the other side of the ball ... Helped the Gators to a pair of state 4A playoff appearances ... Earned three letters in basketball — GHS advanced to the semifinals of the region tournament last winter — as well as two in track ... Father, Jim, lettered on the Hill from 1980-83.

The King File: Full Name — Preston James King; Parents — Jim and Lisa King (father, sales representative; mother, teacher's aid); Birth — Aug. 22, 1988, Elk Grove Village, Ill.; HS — Greenwood '06; HS Coach — Mark Nelson (WKU); HS Letters — football 3, basketball 3, track 2; Major — undecided; Ambition — to own an sporting goods store; Hobbies — fishing, boating.



22 Ronnie Letcher

6-1 • 190
Freshman • RB
Richmond, Ky.
Madison Central HS

HS/Misc: A three-year starter and letterwinner at Madison Central High ... Played in the Kentucky-Tennessee All-Star Game over the summer ... Was chosen the district player of the year — also earning honorable mention all-state accolades — following his senior season after posting 42 tackles (24 solo), six stops for loss, four sacks, a team-leading six fumble recoveries and three passes defended ... On offense, rushed for a team-high 881 yards and eight scores on 101 carries ... Caught five passes for 161 yards and a pair of touchdowns ... Led the Indians in scoring with 68 points as MCHS finished 7-4 while winning the district title ... Indians combined to go 22-4 his first two years on the varsity, as they advanced to the quarterfinals of the state 4A playoffs on both occasions ... Lettered one year in track, qualifying for the state meet after running the lead leg in both the 4x100-meter and 4x200-meter relays.

The Letcher File: Full Name — Ronald W. Letcher, Jr.; Parents — Ronald, Sr. and Rebecca Letcher (father, truck driver; mother, senior programmer/analyst); Birth — March 18, 1988, Richmond, Ky.; HS — Madison Central '06; HS Coach — Kenny Turner (Morehead State); HS Letters — football 3, track 1; Major — undecided; Hobbies — video games.



93 Jon Marshall

6-2 • 235
RS Freshman • DL
Shelbyville, Ky.
Shelby County HS

On The Hill: Listed as the backup at left end following spring practice ... Not on the roster during the 2005 season.

HS/Misc: Played two seasons at Shelby County HS, starting as a senior ... Earned all-district honors ... Helped lead the Rockets to a berth in the state 4A playoffs his last year.

The Marshall File: Full Name — Jon Michael Lee Marshall; Parents — Harry Galbreath and Gwenella Marshall (father, football coach; mother, factory worker); Birth — Nov. 17, 1986, Shelbyville, Ky.; HS — Shelby County '05; HS Coach — Todd Shipley (Georgetown [Ky.]); HS Letters — football 2; Major — marketing; Ambition — be a sports agent; Hobbies — music, drawing.



73 Jacob McLaurin

6-5 • 300
Freshman • OL
Indianapolis, Ind.
Warren Central HS

HS/Misc: A three-year starter and letterwinner at Warren Central High, where he helped lead the Warriors to three straight class 5A state championships ... WCHS compiled a 41-4 record in his time on the varsity ... Recorded a grade of 93 percent in earning all-conference and all-area accolades as a senior ... Posted a high with 12 pancake blocks in one game ... WCHA finished 14-1 in each of his final two seasons.

The McLaurin File: Full Name — Jacob Samuel McLaurin; Parents — Keith and Laurie McLaurin (mother, medical billing); Birth — Nov. 11, 1987, Indianapolis, Ind.; HS — Warren Central '06; HS Coach — Kevin Wright (WKU); HS Letters — football 3; Major — undecided; Ambition — own an advertising agency.



98 Antonia Johnson

6-0 • 280
Freshman • DL
Hamilton, Ga.
Harris County HS

HS/Misc: Started and lettered for four years at Harris County High ... Recorded 45 tackles, including six sacks, as a senior to earn second-team all-conference honors ... Was the Tigers' Most Valuable Player and team captain in 2005 ... Also was given the Golden Helmet Award for Leadership ... Earned the Coaches' Award his freshman and sophomore seasons ... Earned one letter in track and field.

The Johnson File: Full Name — Antonia Johnson; Parents — Wilburt Gay and Delories Johnson (private nurse); Birth — Aug. 8, 1987, Columbus, Ga.; HS — Harris County '06; HS Coach — Tommy Parks (Berry); HS Letters — football 4, track 1; Major — undecided; Ambition — start own apartment complex; Hobbies — racing.



86 Zac Minturn

6-2 • 170
RS Freshman • PK
Cincinnati, Ohio
Indian Hill HS

HS/Misc: Started and lettered for four years at Indian Hill HS ... Was a three-time all-state and all-league selection ... Set school record with 47-yard field goal ... Played on a team that posted a 30-13 record during his varsity career ... Helped the Braves to a 10-2 mark and first-round playoff victory in the Division III playoffs as a senior ... IHHS finished 7-4 while earning a berth in the state Division III playoffs his freshman season.

The Minturn File: Full Name — Zachary Franklin Minturn; Parent — Anita Minturn; Birth — Nov. 7, 1986, Torrance, Calif.; HS — Indian Hill '05; HS Coach — Kevin Siple (Georgetown [Ky.]); HS Letters — football 4; Major — undecided; Hobbies — video games.



31 Orlando Misaalefua

6-0 • 190
Freshman • ILB
Fort Campbell, Ky.
Fort Campbell HS

HS/Misc: Lettered for three seasons, starting two, at Fort Campbell High ... Participated in the Kentucky-Tennessee All-Star Game last summer ... Earned first-team all-state honors from both the Associated Press and Louisville *Courier-Journal* following his senior season ... Also was a first-team all-region and all-district selection ... Named to the *Kentucky New Era* All-Star Team as well ... Was team MVP and captain as a senior ... Also earned two letters in track, where he was part of the Falcons' 4x100-meter relay team that won the state championship last spring ... Efforts helped FCHS finish second in class A.

The Misaalefua File: Full Name — Orlando Felei Cinque Misaalefua; Parents — Errol and Donna Freeman (father, retired military; mother, military); Birth — March 31, 1988, Landstuhl, Germany; HS — Fort Campbell '06; HS Coach — Shawn Berner (Cumberland [Tenn.]); HS Letters — football 3, track 2; Major — undecided; Ambition — be a physical therapist.



23 Clint Mitchell

6-1 • 180
Freshman • S
Stockbridge, Ga.
Stockbridge HS

HS/Misc: Started and lettered for three years at Stockbridge HS ... Was named first-team all-area following his senior season after recording a team-high 74 total tackles (63 unassisted), a pair of stops behind the line of scrimmage, one interception and three passes defended ... Also forced one fumble and recovered another ... Named the Tigers' MVP on defense ... Earned two letters in basketball and one in baseball.

The Mitchell File: Full Name — Anthony LeClinton Mitchell; Parents — Lawton and Debbie Frazier (father, systems engineer); Birth — July 5, 1987, Danville, Va.; HS — Stockbridge '06; HS Coach — Steve Collins; HS Letters — football 3, basketball 2, baseball 1; Major — undecided; Ambition — commercial design; Hobbies — video games, music, designing computer art.



99 Munir Muwwakkil

6-1 • 300
Sophomore TR • DL
Clearwater, Fla.
Pasadena City Jr. College / Pinellas Park HS

On The Hill: Transferred to the Hill in the fall but did not see action either during the 2005 campaign or in spring practice last semester.

JC/HS/Misc: In his only season at Pasadena City JC, he recorded 32 tackles (21 unassisted) and 3⁺ sacks, which ranked second on the squad ... Also broke up three passes, had an interception and recovered one fumble ... Earned first-team all-Mission Conference National Division accolades ... Started and lettered four years at Pinellas Park HS ... Earned all-state, all-region and all-conference honors ... Helped the Patriots qualify for the 2001 state 5A playoffs ... Also lettered in track & field and weightlifting ... Ranked first in the county in the discus and was third in the shot put ... Earned all-county honors in weightlifting.

The Muwwakkil File: Full Name — Munir Muwwakkil; Parents — Jihad and Renata Muwwakkil (father, contractor); Birth — May 13, 1986, Silver Springs, Md.; HS — Pinellas Park '04; HS Coach — Luke Kademoff (South Florida); HS Letters — football 4, track & field, weightlifting; JuCo — Pasadena City Junior College; JuCo Coach — Tom Mohar; Major — physical education; Ambition — become a physical education teacher or a personal trainer; Hobbies — working with children.



35 Alex Nance

6-1 • 220
RS Freshman • TE
Glasgow, Ky.
Glasgow HS

On The Hill: Not on the roster during the 2005 season, but participated in spring drills.

HS/Misc: Started and lettered for three years at Glasgow High ... Earned all-district and all-SKY Conference honors ... Helped the Scotties post a 9-4 record while advancing to the quarterfinals of the state 2A playoffs as a senior ... GHS finished 9-3 and won its first-round playoff contest his junior year ... As a sophomore, helped the Scotties go 7-4 — they earned a win in the opening round of the state playoffs that season as well ... Also lettered in baseball.

The Nance File: Full Name — Alexander Rhoads Nance; Parents — Mitchell and Ann Nance (father, judge; mother, teacher); Birth — April 7, 1987, Glasgow, Ky.; HS — Glasgow '05; HS Coach — Jerry Eubank (WKU); HS Letters — football 3, baseball; Major — management; Ambition — own a business.



78 Mychael Patterson

6-4 • 275
Freshman • DL
Norcross, Ga.
Meadowcreek HS

HS/Misc: Was a two-year starter at Meadowcreek HS ... Posted 62 total tackles (41 unassisted) including four sacks his senior season.

The Patterson File: Full Name — Mychal Edward Patterson; Parent — Cindy Patterson (HR consultant); Birth — Sept. 30, 1987, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; HS — Meadowcreek '06; HS Coach — Reginald Perry (Concord [W.Va.]); HS Letters — football; Major — undecided.



71 Lloyd Pressley

6-4 • 260
Freshman • OL
Evansville, Ind.
Reitz HS

HS/Misc: Started and lettered three years at Reitz High ... Helped lead RHS to three straight Southern Indiana Athletic Conference titles ... After posting the Panthers' highest grade for an offensive lineman in five years, was named first-team all-state by the Bloomington *Herald Times* as well as to the Indiana High School Athletic Association's top 50 players in the state ... Also was selected first-team all-area, all-conference and all-city ... Broke his own school record with 101 pancake blocks last year ... Earned first-team junior all-state accolades from the Indiana Football Coaches Association as a junior after helping RHS to an 11-2 finish and the section championship ... Added first-team all-area, all-SIAC and all-city honors ... Set school record with 71 pancake blocks his sophomore season ... A three-time academic all-city selection ... Earned one letter in track.

The Pressley File: Full Name — Lloyd Michael Pressley; Parents — Scott and Susan Pressley (father, union pipefitter; mother, accountant); Birth — Feb. 13, 1988, Evansville, Ind.; HS — Reitz '06; HS Coach — John Hart (Eastern Illinois); HS Letters — football 3, track 1; Major — undecided; Ambition — pursue a career in automotive or mechanical engineering; Hobbies — automobiles, ATVs.



50 Gabe Wallace

6-1 • 230
Sophomore TR • ILB
Fort Campbell, Ky.
Kentucky / Fort Campbell HS

College/HS/Misc: Attended Hopkinsville CC last year, but did not play football ... Redshirted during his freshman season at Kentucky in 2004 ... Earned four letters at Fort Campbell HS, starting three seasons ... Participated in the Kentucky-Tennessee All-Star Game in the summer of 2004 ... *SuperPrep* magazine had him ranked as the No. 12 player in Kentucky following his final campaign ... Collected 140 total tackles, including a pair of sacks, six forced fumbles and an interception as a senior to earn first-team all-state accolades from both the Associated Press and Louisville *Courier-Journal* ... Efforts helped the Falcons post an 11-2 mark as they advanced to the quarterfinals of the state 2A playoffs — they led the state allowing just 35.3 passing yards per contest that year, were second in points allowed (7.0) and 20th in rushing defense (98.7 ypg) ... Posted 84 stops his junior season ... A two-time all-area selection by both the *Kentucky New Era* and *Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle*, he was also twice selected all-Western Kentucky Conference ... Lettered two times in track as well as once in wrestling.

The Wallace File: Full Name — Gabriel Wallace; Parents — Frederick, Sr. and Karen Wallace (father, retired military; mother, postal worker); Birth — Aug. 31, 1986, Greenville, Ky.; HS — Fort Campbell '04; HS Coach — Shaun Berner (Cumberland [Tenn.]); HS Letters — football 4, track 2, baseball 1; Major — undecided; Ambition — give back to the community; Hobbies — video games, music, poetry.

69 T. J. Sisler

6-2 • 275 • Freshman • OL/LS
Nicholasville, Ky.
West Jessamine HS

HS/Misc: Started and lettered for four seasons at West Jessamine HS ... Participated in the Kentucky North-South All-Star Game ... Helped lead the Colts to 19 total victories and a pair of berths in the state 3A playoffs field during his career ... WJHS advanced to the 2005 state playoffs his senior season ... Helped lead the Colts to a 5-5 finish as a junior ... His freshman season, WJHS posted a 7-4 mark — including winning four of six district contests — while advancing to the state playoffs ... Also lettered in basketball and weightlifting.

The Sisler File: Full Name — Teddy Joseph Sisler; Parents — Kevin and Cindy Sisler (father, senior field inspector/project manager; mother, registered nurse); Birth — March 20, 1988, Ashland, Ky.; HS — West Jessamine '06; HS Coach — Wes Johnson; HS Letters — football 4, basketball 1, weightlifting; Major — undecided; Ambition — start a business.



8 Seth Tamme

6-0 • 175
Freshman • WR
Danville, Ky.
Boyle County HS

HS/Misc: Lettered all four years at Boyle County HS, starting his final three seasons ... Set school career records with 177 receptions, 3,205 receiving yards and 39 touchdown catches ... Added 14 interceptions on defense ... Helped the Rebels post a 51-7 record during his career, leading them to a pair of state championships ... Played in the Kentucky-Tennessee All-Star Game last summer ... Posted 69 receptions for 1,237 yards and 16 scores as a senior to be named first-team all-state by both the Associated Press and Louisville *Courier-Journal* ... Was also selected to the Lexington *Herald-Leader's* Class of the Commonwealth while earning district player-of-the-year honors ... Ranked among the top 25 in the state during the regular season with 75.9 receiving yards per contest ... Efforts helped BCHS record an 11-2 mark as it advanced to the quarterfinals of the state 3A playoffs ... Picked up second-team Associated Press all-state honors as a junior after finishing with 73 catches for a school season-record 1,419 yards and 15 touchdowns ... Was sixth in Kentucky with 94.6 yards per game ... The Rebels went 12-3, advancing to the state championship game — he had four receptions for 72 yards and a score in that contest ... Had 35 catches for 548 yards and eight scores his sophomore season as BCHS won the state championship after posting a perfect 15-0 mark ... Helped the Rebels win the state title while finishing with a 13-2 record as a freshman ... Lettered four times in basketball, earning all-district and all-region tournament accolades his final season after leading the Rebels to the region championship and a berth in the state Sweet 16 tournament ... Also earned a pair of letters in track and one in baseball ... Brother, Jacob, is a redshirt junior tight end at Kentucky.

The Tamme File: Full Name — Seth Brown Tamme; Parents — Theo and Pam Tamme (father, system analyst; mother, psychologist); Birth — May 17, 1988, Lexington, Ky.; HS — Boyle County '06; HS Coach — Chris Pardue (Morehead State); HS Letters — football 4, basketball 4, track 2, baseball 1; Major — undecided; Ambition — coach football.

3 David Wolke

6-2 • 195 • Junior TR • QB
Mount Juliet, Tenn.
Notre Dame / Smyrna HS

College/HS/Misc: Played the last two seasons at Notre Dame ... Saw action in six contests as a sophomore, completing his first collegiate pass for 28 yards in the Fighting Irish's win over Purdue ... Also had a 22-yard run in season-opening victory over Pittsburgh ... Made his collegiate debut in Notre Dame's 35-point win over Washington in 2004 ... Lettered all four seasons at Smyrna HS, earning the starting job midway through his freshman year ... For his career, was 429-of-797 for 6,232 yards and 54 touchdowns ... Helped lead the Bulldogs to a 9-3 finish and the second round of the state 5A playoffs his senior season after throwing for 1,850 yards and 15 scores — he added eight rushing touchdowns as well ... One of 10 quarterbacks named to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution's Super Southern 100 after that year ... Threw for 2,100 yards and 17 scores his junior season.

The Wolke File: Full Name — David Lee Wolke; Parents — Max and Barbara Wolke (father, assembly supervisor; mother, group sales coordinator); Birth — April 16, 1985, Nashville, Tenn.; HS — Smyrna '04; HS Coach — Phillip Shadowens (Middle Tennessee); HS Letters — football 4; Major — undecided.



David Elson

Tradition. The Western Kentucky Football program has recorded 10 straight winning seasons, earning a berth in the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs on six occasions during that stretch.

Championships. In addition to displaying the 2002 NCAA Division I-AA national championship trophy in their display case, the Hilltoppers have also won a pair of conference titles — the Ohio Valley in 2000 and Gateway in '02 — since the beginning of the decade.

Excitement. The Toppers saw their home attendance climb by an average of more than 4,000 fans last season, including drawing over 18,000 to L.T. Smith Stadium/Jimmy Feix Field for their victory over Eastern Kentucky on Sept. 10.

The lone constant during the last highly successful decade of WKU football is current fourth-year head coach **David Elson**. A member of the staff since he joined in 1996 working with defensive backs, he has compiled a 24-12 (66.7%) mark overall, including a 15-6 (71.4%) record in the Gateway Football Conference, in his first three seasons as the program's mentor while leading the Hilltoppers to a pair of Division I-AA playoff appearances.

In fact, his 24 victories are the most that any of WKU's 16 coaches have recorded in their first three years on the job. With his performance, Elson earned a contract extension through the 2012 campaign prior to the start of last season.

This season, Elson will call WKU's defensive sets from the sidelines as well, a responsibility he had when he served as defensive coordinator in 2001 and '02.

Last fall, the Toppers posted their third winning season in as many years under Elson's direction, rising to the top of the NCAA I-AA polls on two occasions. The WKU offense turned out to be one of the most prolific in school history, averaging 405.73 yards per contest — the fifth-highest total in school history — while scoring 30.82 points per game. Not only did both those figures rank among the top 30 in the country, but the Hilltoppers also finished 14th in rushing with 228.55 yards per outing. Defensively, the Toppers ranked 11th nationally surrendering 113.1 yards per game on the ground, while the punt return unit was fourth after recording an average of 16.13 yards per run back.

Under his direction, **Erik Losey** was named first-team All-America by the American Football

ELSON AGAINST THE OPPOSITION

OPPONENT	W-L
Auburn	0-2
Concord (W.Va.)	1-0
Eastern Kentucky	3-0
Florida International	1-1
Illinois State	3-0
Indiana State	3-0
Jacksonville State	1-0
Kansas State	0-1
Missouri State	3-0
Northern Iowa	2-1
Sam Houston State	0-1
Southern Illinois	0-3
Union (Ky.)	1-0
West Virginia Tech	2-0
Western Illinois	2-1
Wofford	0-1
Youngstown State	2-1
TOTALS	24-12

Coaches Association — the sixth time in as many years that a WKU player has been selected to the squad — with **Chris James** and **Antonio Thomas** also picking up All-American accolades following the season. Thomas was a first-team all-conference selection for the second year in a row as four other Toppers joined him, while six other individuals earned second-team or honorable mention recognition. And, **Marion Rumph** was a second-team *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-District IV selection off the field.

Elson was a finalist for the Eddie Robinson national Coach-of-the-Year Award in 2004 after guiding WKU to a 9-3 finish, including a 6-1 mark in the Gateway Football Conference, despite losing 25 seniors from his first squad. The Hilltoppers finished 11th in the national polls after climbing as high as third in the regular season.

The '04 Toppers featured a balanced attack, finishing in the top 30 in the country in seven different statistical categories — two offensive, three defensive and a pair of special teams — while standing among the top three in the conference in 10 categories. Western topped the league in both net punting (37.48 avg) as well as punt returns (11.32 ypr), and was in the top 20 nationally in turnover margin (+0.67) as well as rushing yardage (226.17).

Led by **Buster Ashley**, the first two-time consensus All-America selection in WKU history, four Hilltoppers earned national accolades under Elson's direction. Thirteen players were honored on the Gateway Conference's postseason all-league teams, the second-highest total in the conference, while the Toppers placed a Gateway-high five individuals on the All-Newcomer Team.

In his first year at the helm of the program, Elson matched the legendary **E.A. Diddle** for the most victories by a WKU first-year head coach after leading the Toppers to a 9-4 record, helping the Hilltoppers advance to the quarterfinals of the NCAA playoffs as they finished as high as eighth in the final national rankings.

While he earned his stripes on the defensive side of the ball as a coordinator and secondary coach, it was Elson's offense that assaulted the record books his first season. The 2003 Toppers became just the third unit to post more than 5,000 yards of total offense — ranking third in school history with 5,129 — while scoring 427 points, the fourth-highest total in the record books. And, although WKU attempted more passes than any year since 1988, it extended its streak of finishing in the top 10 nationally in rushing to 14 straight years.

Not that the defense suffered. The Hilltoppers ranked in the top three in the Gateway Football Conference, and top 35 in the country, in all five statistical categories. WKU topped the league allowing only 283.69 total yards per contest, which stood sixth nationally (fourth among scholarship programs), and also paced the GFC by surrendering just 16.85 points per game to rank 14th among all NCAA I-AA institutions. In six of the Toppers' 13 games, the opposition managed to score a touchdown or less.

In addition to the team's success, numerous individuals were rewarded for their performance at the end of the season. Five Hilltoppers were selected to at least one All-America squad, including Ashley, who became the fourth player in as many years to earn consensus All-America accolades. Fifteen individuals collected all-GFC honors — matching a school high set in 2001 — with nine of those first-team selections, more than twice as many as any other school. After having four Toppers voted to the Gateway All-Newcomer Team in two years, five players were selected to the squad in Elson's first season as head coach. That included **Justin Haddix** becoming the first player in WKU's three seasons in the league to earn a specialty honor, as he was named Freshman of the Year.

With all the on-the-field success, Elson and his staff have not ignored academics. The Hilltoppers' 956 score in NCAA Academic Report over the last two years is the best in the Gateway Conference — in fact, it is far above the 939 average of NCAA Division I-AA institutions and the 920 score posted by public institutions.

Elson was named the school's head football coach March 5, 2003, after serving as defensive coordinator for Western Kentucky's 2002 NCAA I-AA national championship team. He replaced **Jack Harbaugh**, who resigned after 14 years at the helm of the program. He was the longest-tenured assistant on Harbaugh's staff, working seven years on the Hill with defensive backs, the last two as defensive coordinator.

At the time of his hiring Elson, 34, was the youngest head coach in Division I football.



since his arrival on the Hill. Mitchell and **Joseph Jefferson** were both selected in the 2002 National Football League draft, the first time since 1990 that two WKU players were picked in the same year, while Jefferson was the first player chosen from an NCAA I-AA institution.

"David Elson is without a doubt one of the brightest football minds in the country," WKU Director of Athletics **Dr. Wood Selig** said. "Coach Elson is committed to developing the student-athlete in every facet — intellectually, athletically, and socially. If I had a son who was talented enough to play college football, I would want him to place his future under the guidance and direction of Coach Elson."



In 2002, the Hilltoppers led the Gateway Football Conference in the regular season in rush, pass, pass efficiency, total and scoring defense, becoming just the second team in league history to allow fewer than 10 points per contest in GFC games. In WKU's first season in the conference the previous fall, it led all teams in rush, pass, total and scoring defense, setting a league record in total yards allowed per game — the Toppers ranked in the top 10 nationally in each category.

Nine defensive players earned first-team all-conference honors during Elson's two years as coordinator, with a total of 13 recognized by the voters. And, two defensive backs were selected consensus All-America — **Bobby Sippio** (2000) and **Mel Mitchell** ('01) — while 10 Hilltoppers on that side of the ball have been named All-America



WKU is 85-36 (70.2%) over the last 10 years, and has reached the NCAA I-AA playoffs in six of the last nine seasons.

Elson came to the Hill from Southern Illinois, where he served as a graduate assistant coach in 1994 and '95 while earning a master's degree in education. He is a 1994 graduate of Butler, where he was a three-year letterwinner and started at strong safety his final two seasons. The Bulldogs were conference champions in both his sophomore and junior years.

A native of Indianapolis, Elson and his wife Kathy have two daughters, Lauren (10) and Jessica (5). Elson is the 16th head coach in the school's 86 years of football, but just the sixth since 1948.

The Elson File:

Born — Aug. 26, 1971, Indianapolis, Ind.

High School — Cathedral '89

HS Athletics — Football, SS, 3 letters (co-captain, all-city)

College — Butler '94 (BS), Southern Illinois '95 (MS)

College Athletics — Football, SS, 3 letters

Coaching Experience —

Southern Illinois, graduate assistant (1994-95)

Western Kentucky, assistant (1996-02)

Western Kentucky, head coach (2003-)

Family — Wife, Kathy; two daughters, Lauren (10) and Jessica (5)



WILLIE TAGGART

ASSISTANT HEAD COACH/QUARTERBACKS



Willie Taggart

After completing one of the great careers in college football, former Hilltopper quarterback **Willie Taggart** joined the Western coaching staff in 1999. Now entering his eighth season on the staff as quarterbacks coach, he was promoted by then-first-year head coach **David Elson** to assistant head coach prior to the 2003 season.

Under Taggart's guidance, senior **Justin Haddix** has twice earned all-Gateway Football Conference accolades — he was honorable mention last year after being named second-team all-league in 2004 — as well as picking up the league's Freshman-of-the-Year award in '03. Haddix enters his final season on the Hill as the school's career record holder in both completion percentage and pass efficiency rating, and he is also already among the top five in WKU history in completions, passing yards, touchdowns, and total offense.

Taggart was the co-Offensive Coordinator the previous two seasons, helping guide a unit that set school records for points (432), total yards (5,479) and first downs (263) en route to the 2002 NCAA Division I-AA national championship. The Hilltoppers ranked second in the nation in pass efficiency and sixth in rushing, and averaged 38.8 points per contest in four playoff victories.

In Taggart's first year calling plays, WKU ran for 293.4 yards per contest, leading the Gateway Football Conference and ranking second in the country in the category. The Toppers averaged 33.0 points per game and led the Ohio Valley Conference in rushing for the second straight year in 2000 — Taggart's second season on the staff — as WKU claimed the league title and advanced to the quarterfinals of the I-AA playoffs for the first time since his playing days. And, in his first season, WKU ranked eighth in the nation and first in the OVC in rushing.

Taggart's efforts also helped WKU quarterbacks earn honorable mention all-conference accolades in three consecutive years — **Jason Michael** (2002), **Donte Pimpleton** (2001) and **Jason Johnson** (2000).

The top rushing quarterback in Division I history with 3,997 yards at the end of his career (also a WKU standard for all runners), he also remains the leading scorer on the Hill (280 points). He was a finalist for the prestigious Walter Payton Award, given annually to the top offensive player in I-AA football, in each of his last two years, finishing fourth in the balloting in '97 and seventh as a senior. An All-American as a senior, he was the 1998 I-AA Independents' Offensive Player of the Year.

He was only the third WKU athlete in the past half-century to hold down the quarterback slot for the Hilltoppers four straight years. Taggart — who holds 11 WKU school records for rushing and scoring — had his jersey retired on Oct. 23, 1999.

"There are not many careers where you can change a young man's life in a positive way," said Taggart. "I'm interested in helping our guys learn about leadership, discipline, and accountability. And, to be able to do that at my alma mater makes it more special."



The Taggart File:

Born — Aug. 27, 1976, Bradenton, Fla.
High School — Manatee (Fla.) '94
HS Athletics — Football, QB, 3 letters (all-state, all-conference); Track, 1 letter
College — Western Kentucky '98 (BS)
College Athletics — Football, QB, 4 letters (All-America, I-AA Independent Offensive Player of the Year, two-time Walter Payton Award finalist)
Coaching Experience —
Western Kentucky, assistant (1999-02)
Western Kentucky, assistant head coach (2003-)
Family — Wife, Taneshia; one son, Willie, Jr. (4)

T.J. WEIST

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR/WIDE RECEIVERS



T.J. Weist

T.J. Weist (pronounced WEEST) is in his fifth season at WKU, while this will mark his fourth year as the Toppers' offensive coordinator as he joined the program prior to the start of fall practice in 2002 and was promoted in April '03.

"It's an honor to coach football at WKU with its rich tradition of winning and coaching legacy," he said. "The goal to be the best — to win a national championship — is embedded in every action of all invested in the program. There is a great sense of pride that you feel when you step on campus, a first-class setting set forth by the direction of President Ransdell, that makes you realize how special it is. You feel that same attitude from the former players and coaches, many of whom have gone on to play and coach at the highest level in the NFL."

Last season, he helped direct an offense that averaged 405.73 yards per game, which was the fifth-highest mark in school history, while scoring more than 30 points a contest. The Hilltoppers ranked in the top 30 nationally in four different categories, which included leading the Gateway Football Conference and standing 14th in rushing offense.

Three Hilltoppers were named first-team all-league on offense a year ago, while two others made the conference's All-Newcomer Team.

Weist's unit stood second in the Gateway Conference in 2004 after averaging 396.42 yards per game and ranked third with 29.17 points per contest, with the offense throwing for more than 2,000 yards for the first time since 1986. Both quarterback **Justin Haddix** and running back **Lerron Moore** were able to pick up second-team all-league honors in his offense.

In 2003, Weist directed a unit that averaged 32.8 points and 394.5 yards per contest, with the former the fifth-highest per-game figure in school history. His efforts in shifting to a more balanced attack led to the Toppers throwing for 1,974 yards, the most by a WKU offense since the 1986 season. Haddix was selected the Gateway Conference Freshman of the Year, while Moore was an honorable mention all-league selection.

And, **Casey Rooney** was selected first-team all-conference after posting the third-highest season reception total in school history.

In his first year at WKU, Weist coached second-team all-Gateway Conference selection **Jon Frazier** — who tied a school season record with nine 100-yard games and posted the second-best season mark with 1,537 rushing yards — as well as **Jeremi Johnson** and Rooney, both members of the league's All-Newcomer Team. Three running backs collected more than 500 yards as the team recorded the second-best season rushing total in school history, while three wide receivers averaged more than a catch per contest for the first time since 1998.

Weist came to the Hill from Indiana, where he served as wide receivers coach from 1997-01. While at IU, he also held special teams responsibilities with the return units and was the recruiting coordinator his first two years.

He also was the receivers coach at Tulsa (1996), Southern Illinois (1994-95), Michigan (1990-93) and Alabama (1988-89), serving as SIU's recruiting coordinator as well.

The Wolverines reached four postseason bowl games during his tenure, including two Rose Bowl appearances, while the Crimson Tide appeared in a pair of postseason contests while he was on the coaching staff including the 1990 Sugar Bowl.

"I chose to coach college football to stay involved in the game that I think can have the greatest impact on a young man's life," said Weist. "The daily challenge to make yourself better and the weekly battle during the season tests the character of the individual and the team, and teaches lessons that no other area of life can accomplish."

A native of Bay City, Mich., Weist was a wide receiver at Alabama from 1984-87, taking part in three postseason bowl games. He earned a bachelor's degree in health and physical education in 1988, then added an exercise physiology master's degree one year later.



The Weist File:

Born — June, 25, 1965, Bay City, Mich.
High School — Bay City All Saints (Mich.) '83
High School Athletics — Football, WR, 1 letter; Basketball, 1 letter; Track, 1 letter
College — Alabama '88 (BS), '89 (MA)
College Athletics — Football, WR, 1 letter
Coaching Experience —
Alabama, graduate assistant (1988-89);
Michigan, volunteer assistant (1990-91); graduate assistant (1992-93);
Southern Illinois, assistant (1994-95);
Tulsa, assistant (1996);
Indiana, assistant (1997-01);
Western Kentucky, assistant (2002-)
Family — Wife, Karen



MIKE DIETZEL

SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR/DEFENSIVE BACKS



Mike Dietzel

Mike Dietzel is in his fourth season on the Hill assisting with defensive backs, and he will also assume special teams duties this year.

Last year two of Dietzel's four starting defensive backs were named first-team all-Gateway Football Conference, with **Antonio Thomas** adding third-team All-America honors while **Marion Rumph** was named second-team all-region by Hansen's *Football Gazette*. As a group, defensive backs accounted for six of WKU's 10 interceptions.

Dietzel was WKU's defensive coordinator in 2004, when the Hilltoppers finished among the top three in the Gateway Conference in four of five statistical categories, including ranking 16th nationally in scoring defense at 18.92 points per game. Thomas earned third-team All-America accolades and was a first-team all-league selection, while Rumph was on the conference's All-Newcomer Team.

In his first year on the staff at WKU, Dietzel helped the Hilltopper defense lead the Gateway Conference in total and scoring defense while finishing second in pass defense — the Toppers ranked eighth in the country in the last category. Individually, he helped **Jeremy Chandler** earned all-league and third-team All-America honors. He also was named the 2003 Division I-AA Special Teams Coordinator of the Year by *American Football Monthly*.

"I came to WKU because I wanted to be a part of a championship program," he said. "There is a strong tradition of success in recent years beginning under coach [Jack] Harbaugh and continuing with coach Elson."

He spent the previous two years at Kent State as the defensive coordinator and secondary coach, also recruiting portions of Pennsylvania and Ohio. The Golden Flashes finished 6-5 in 2001 — their first winning season in 14 years — with 15 interceptions, the most recorded in 10 seasons.

He has also worked with running backs at the United States Military Academy from 1995-99, helping the Cadets to a school-record 10 wins, the Commander-In-Chief Trophy and a berth in the Independence Bowl in 1996, as well as served as the junior varsity head coach from 1992-93.

Dietzel was the defensive coordinator and secondary coach at Johns Hopkins in 1994, while also holding assistant positions at Pennsylvania (inside linebackers, 1988 and '91), Michigan (outside linebackers, 1989-90), Earlham College (defensive coordinator/secondary, 1987) and Colorado (fullbacks/quarterbacks, linebackers, 1985-86).

He also coached for one season in the XFL, working with the defensive secondary and as the defensive pass game coordinator for the New York/New Jersey Hitmen in 2000.

"I knew when I was in high school that I wanted to coach," said Dietzel. "I had a passion for football and admired my high school coaches, and recognized the impact they made on my life. It was then that I decided that I wanted to enter the coaching ranks."

A 1985 graduate of Otterbein with a bachelor's degree in health and physical education, Dietzel lettered four years, starting three, as a defensive back for the Cardinals. He was selected honorable mention all-Ohio Athletic Conference as a senior.

Dietzel earned a master's degree in educational administration from Colorado in 1987.



The Dietzel File:

Born — May, 28, 1962, Sarasota, Fla.
High School — Sharon (Pa.) '80
HS Athletics — Football, DB, 3 letters (all-conference); Basketball, 2 letters; Baseball, 1 letter
College — Otterbein '85 (BA); Colorado '87 (MA)
College Athletics — Football, DB, 4 letters (all-conference)
Coaching Experience —
Colorado, graduate assistant (1985-86);
Earlham, assistant (1987);
Pennsylvania, assistant (1988, '91);
Michigan, graduate assistant (1989-90);
Army, junior varsity head coach (1992-93), assistant (1992-93, '95-99);
Johns Hopkins, assistant (1994);
Kent State, assistant (2001-02);
Western Kentucky, assistant (2003-)

WALTER WELLS

RECRUITING COORDINATOR/OFFENSIVE LINE



Walter Wells

Walter Wells begins his fourth season as the Hilltoppers' offensive line coach and recruiting coordinator. He came to WKU after working with the line and tight ends at Eastern Kentucky the previous six years.

A season ago, Wells' unit helped pave the way as the Toppers averaged 30.82 points and 405.73 yards of total offense per contest, both figures that ranked among the top 30 in the nation. That included a Gateway Football Conference-best 228.55 yards per game on the ground, which was 14th in the country.

Erik Losey earned first-team All-America honors from the American Football Coaches Association under Wells' direction in 2005, while **Greg Ryan** was an honorable mention all-conference selection. And, two of his linemen — **Andrew Campbell** and **Chris McConnell** — were named to the league's All-Newcomer Team.

The previous year his efforts helped **Buster Ashley** become the first two-time consensus All-American on the Hill, as he also earned the distinction of being one of the first linemen in Gateway Conference history to be selected first-team all-league on three occasions.

And, both Losey (second-team all-GFC, Gateway All-Newcomer Team) and **Ryan Thomas** (honorable mention all-conference) were both honored under his direction.

Wells' line allowed just nine sacks on 222 pass attempts as the Toppers ranked 14th nationally with 226.17 yards per game on the ground while piling up just under 400 yards of total offense per outing.

In his first season on the Hill, Wells helped Ashley become the second consecutive WKU offensive lineman to earn consensus All-America honors, while **Anthony Oakley** and **Daniel Withrow** were voted second-team all-conference.

His line helped pave the way for a unit that gained 5,129 total yards and scored 427 points, both figures that rank in the top five in the school record books. The Toppers allowed only 13 sacks in 13 games.

At EKU, he was a part of three teams that won eight games and earned an Ohio Valley Conference championship, coaching seven all-league players and an All-American. Wells was also responsible for recruiting in the Southeast and was the strength and conditioning coach for two-and-a-half seasons. EKU ranked in the top 10 in the nation in rushing the last two years.

He was the assistant head coach and offensive coordinator at Cumberland (Tenn.) from 1994-96, leading an offense that topped the NAIA in rushing two years while helping the Bulldogs to a top-15 ranking and eight wins in their best season. Five CU players were selected to the all-conference team, with one collecting All-America honors. He also has two years experience as an assistant at Smyrna (Tenn.) High School.

"I entered the coaching ranks in order to help young men mature into what they want to be in life, and still be able to compete on a high level," Wells said. "WKU provided a great opportunity to coach at a wonderful institution, a new start with coach Elson, a successful program and the ability to be involved with a growing community."

Wells earned a bachelor's degree in finance from Belmont in 1993 after transferring from Austin Peay, where he was on the football team for four years — he started and lettered twice. He added a master's degree in human relations management in 1995 at Cumberland.



The Wells File:

Born — Oct. 26, 1967, Nashville, Tenn.
High School — McGavock (Tenn.) '85
High School Athletics — Football, OL/DL, 2 letters
College — Belmont '93 (BA), Cumberland (Tenn.) '95 (MS)
College Athletics — Football, OL, 2 letters (Austin Peay, 1988-89)
Coaching Experience —
Smyrna (Tenn.) High, assistant (1992-93)
Cumberland (Tenn.), assistant (1994-96)
Eastern Kentucky, assistant (1997-02)
Western Kentucky, assistant (2003-)
Family — Wife Jennifer; one daughter, Madison (6) and one son, K.J. (1)



CARY MARQUELL
INSIDE LINEBACKERS



Cary Marquell

Cary Marquell (pronounced mar-KWELL) is entering his second year on the Hill as inside linebackers coach.

In his first year on the staff, Marquell's unit helped contribute to a defense that led the Gateway Football Conference and ranked 11th in the country allowing just 113.1 yards per game rushing. Under his direction **Andre Lewis** tied for second on the team with a career-best 84 tackles, **Jenkins Reese** was named to the league's All-Newcomer Team and **Jon Hedges** posted a career-high tackle total making only six stops the previous two years.

He came to WKU from Hillsdale (Mich.) College, where he has been the defensive coordinator the last three seasons. He worked with linebackers the last two years, leading a unit that ranked in the upper

half of the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. In his first year at HC, Marquell coached defensive backs. Five HC players earned all-conference honors during his stint.

He has also worked with special teams, coordinating the Chargers' punting game, while also handling recruiting duties.

"I joined the WKU staff because of the high standards, family atmosphere, and the winning tradition," Marquell said. "Coach Elson and the many great coaches who came before him have made WKU Football a very special part of an already exceptional campus. My family and I are blessed to be a part of it."

Marquell was the special teams coordinator and secondary coach at Ferris State (Mich.) in 2001, as the Bulldogs ranked first in the GLIAC in pass and total defense as well as punt returns after finishing 7-4 overall, including a third-place finish in the conference — three of his four members of the secondary picked up all-league accolades at the end of the year. He spent his first two seasons as a full-time coach at SUNY-Cortland, working with the secondary while earning a promotion to assistant head coach after his first year on the staff. He was also responsible for recruiting and academics off the field for the Red Dragons.

A 1996 graduate of Ball State, Marquell began his coaching career as a student assistant in 1995, later serving as a graduate assistant for the Cardinals before earning his master's degree in 1999. He played two years at linebacker at BSU, helping the Cards advance to the 1993 Las Vegas Bowl after claiming the Mid-American Conference championship.

"I got into coaching to make a difference in the lives of young men, physically, mentally and spiritually," said Marquell. "Coaching at the collegiate level has afforded me the opportunity to reach young men who come from various places and backgrounds, but who are all focused on one goal — winning. I believe my role as a coach is to guide them towards winning in all areas of their life."



The Marquell File:

Born — Dec. 8, 1973, Muncie, Ind.
High School — Delta (Ind.) '92
HS Athletics — Football, LB, 2 letters (all-area, all-county)
College — Ball State '96 (BS), '99 (MA)
College Athletics — Football, LB
Coaching Experience —
Ball State, graduate assistant (1997-98)
SUNY-Cortland, assistant (1999-00)
Ferris State, assistant (2001)
Hillsdale, assistant (2002-04)
Western Kentucky, assistant coach (2005-)
Family — Wife, Meredith

ERIC MATHIES
DEFENSIVE LINE



Eric Mathies

Eric Mathies (pronounced MATH-is) is beginning his second season on the Hilltopper staff as defensive line coach.

In his first year with WKU, Mathies worked with a group that saw two-thirds of his starting front honored by the Gateway Football Conference as **Daniel Williams** was a second-team all-league selection and **Charlie Phillips** earned honorable mention all-conference accolades. The group ended the season accounting for 17 of the Toppers' 30 sacks as well as 35 stops behind the line of scrimmage.

Mathies' efforts helped the Hilltoppers rank 11th in the nation allowing 113.1 yards per game on the ground, a figure that led the conference as well.

He had coached at two schools on the collegiate level over the previous six seasons, the last two at Tennessee State where he worked with defensive tackles in addition to handling recruiting responsibilities. He helped the Tigers to a 7-5 finish in 2003 as the defense recorded 28 sacks.

Prior to working at TSU, he was the defensive line coach at Midwestern (Texas) State, where he was also the strength and conditioning coach in addition to handling recruiting duties. The Indians finished 7-4 in each of his final three years on the staff, posting a cumulative 11-5 mark in the Lone Star Conference — they won the league's North Division title in 2001 after going 4-1 in league action.

He got his start in coaching at Murray High School in 1998, helping the Tigers to a 7-4 mark as they advanced to the second round of the Kentucky state playoffs.

"Plain and simple, I got into coaching because I wanted to influence the lives of young people in a positive way," Mathies said. "I love being at WKU because of the commitment to athletics and academics. With hard work we have the chance to win championships every year."

Mathies was a four-year letterwinner in football, beginning his career at Kansas — the Jayhawks were 6-5 in his only season of action in 1994 — before transferring to Murray State. A defensive lineman, he helped the Racers to a pair of Ohio Valley Conference championships as MSU qualified for the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs in both 1995 and '96, advancing to the second round in their second appearance. The Racers went 29-7 in his three years with a 21-2 league record during that span.

He earned his bachelor's degree from Murray State in 1998.



The Mathies File:

Born — Oct. 29, 1975, Chicago, Ill.
High School — St. Joseph (Ill.) '93
HS Athletics — Football, OL/DL, 4 letters (all-area, all-conference); wrestling, 4 letters
College — Murray State '98 (BS)
College Athletics — Football, DL, 4 letters (Kansas, 1994; Murray State 1995-97)
Coaching Experience —
Murray (Ky.) High, assistant (1998)
Midwestern (Texas) State, assistant (1999-02)
Tennessee State, assistant (2003-04)
Western Kentucky, assistant (2005-)



MIKE CHISM
OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS



Mike Chism

Mike Chism — who brings both SEC and Big Ten experience to the Hilltopper staff — begins his third season working with outside linebackers at WKU.

Chism worked with a group in 2005 that overcame numerous injuries to see four players post more than 20 total tackles, led by second-team all-Gateway Football Conference selection **Deion Holts**. He was part of a staff that helped the Hilltoppers lead the league and finish 11th nationally in rushing defense, giving up 113.1 yards per contest.

In his first year on the Hill, Chism was part of a defensive staff that saw the Toppers rank in the top three of the Gateway Conference in four of five statistical categories. His efforts helped **Brandon Smith** pick up honorable mention all-Gateway accolades for the first time in his career.

"Coach Elson offered an opportunity that I couldn't refuse — a chance to join a great program like Western Kentucky and move back to my home state made it an easy decision," said Chism. "We have a great staff full of quality coaches that are good people. With the business direction of most college athletic programs, this is becoming more and more uncommon."

"I have always been involved in football and believe the sport teaches a set of values and characteristics that people will use the rest of their lives," he added. "Discipline, hard work, a solid work ethic, team work, family, dedication — the list goes on. I have always believed that being part of a football team will pay dividends for a lifetime, whether you're a first-team player or a third-team player makes no difference. As a coach, I have a unique opportunity to help instill these values and characteristics into the players that I work with. There is a lot of self satisfaction that is achieved watching the players that I coach grow into men."

Chism came to WKU after serving as associate director of strength and conditioning at Minnesota in 2003, as the Golden Gophers finished 10-3 with a 5-3 mark in the Big Ten Conference. UM defeated Oregon by a point in the Sun Bowl, finishing the year ranked 17th in the ESPN/USA Today coaches' poll.

He was the director of football operations at Kentucky from 2001-03, also assisting as recruiting coordinator. Chism earned both his bachelor's degree in communications from UK in 1990 as well as a master's degree in sports management in '97. A two-year letterman for the Wildcats, he was given the National Football Foundation Scholar Athlete Award in 1989, and he worked with the defense for two years as a graduate assistant in 1995-96.

Chism was an assistant at Kutztown (Pa.) from 1990-94, coaching the defensive line until his final season when he worked with the offensive line. He was the Golden Bears' special teams coordinator in 1991 and '92, and he was also responsible for recruiting. Chism also helped with the offensive line and special teams as a graduate assistant at Minnesota in 1997-98.



The Chism File:

Born — May. 10, 1966, Louisville, Ky.
High School — Oldham County (Ky.) '85
High School Athletics — Football, OL/DL, 3 letters (all-state); Baseball, 2 letters; Wrestling, 2 letters (state champion)
College — Kentucky '90 (BA), '97 (MS)
College Athletics — Football, DT, 2 letters
Coaching Experience —
Kutztown (Pa.), assistant (1990-94)
Kentucky, graduate assistant (1995-96); director of operations (2001-02)
Minnesota, graduate assistant (1997-98); associate strength & conditioning director (2003)
Western Kentucky, assistant (2004-)

STUART HOLT
RUNNING BACKS



Stuart Holt

Stuart Holt is in his third year at WKU working with running backs.

In 2005, **Lerron Moore** rushed for more than 1,000 yards for the first time in his career in earning first-team all-Gateway Football Conference honors, while **Stephen Willis** also ranked 10th in the league with 55 yards per game. The Hilltoppers would end the season leading the conference and ranking 14th nationally with 228.3 yards per game on the ground.

Holt also served as WKU's special teams coordinator for the '05 campaign. His direction helped placekicker **Chris James** to be named first-team I-AA.org All-Star and all-Gateway selection after pacing the league with 1.36 field goals and 7.91 points per contest, and

Dennis Mitchell was a second-team all-conference choice as a return specialist after finishing sixth in the country with an average of 16.13 yards per punt return. The Toppers were fourth nationally as a team in punt returns.

In his first season with the program, Holt's unit helped the Toppers rush for an average of 226.17 yards per contest (a figure that ranked 14th in the nation) while compiling 35 touchdowns. Moore was second-team all-Gateway Conference selection and **Brian Porter** was a member of the league's All-Newcomer Team under his direction.

Holt was the coach at New Smyrna (Fla.) High School two seasons (2002-03) prior to coming to WKU. He has collegiate experience as well. In 2001, he was the inside linebackers and special teams coach at Bethune-Cookman — the Wildcats finished 6-4, including 5-3 in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference.

The previous season, he worked with the defense and special teams at Cumberland (Tenn.). Holt was responsible for recruiting at both schools.

Holt was a graduate assistant — working with the defensive line and adding recruiting coordination duties — at Western Carolina during the 1998 and '99 seasons, where he earned his master's education administration in 2000.

He started in the coaching ranks at Norwich (Conn.) assisting with linebackers and specialists in 1999 and also has worked at Mainland (Fla.) High during the '97 season.

Holt earned his bachelor's degree from North Carolina in 1995, where he walked onto the football team. He lettered each of his final two seasons in Chapel Hill.

"I was impressed with our leadership from the beginning," Holt said. "Coach Elson is always thinking of ways to improve our program, he has a vision. Once I arrived in Bowling Green for my interview, I quickly realized we had all the ingredients needed to be successful — we have smart and aggressive players, professional coaches, and strong guidance from our administration. I've enjoyed every moment of my experience here at WKU."

"We spend a lot of time preparing, but it never feels like work. I also enjoy the level of commitment and maturity our kids show on a daily basis."



The Holt File:

Born — Dec. 13, 1972, Louisburg, N.C.
High School — Starmount (N.C.) '91
High School Athletics — Football, OL/DL, 3 letters (all-conference); Baseball, 3 letters (all-conference); Wrestling, 3 letters
College — North Carolina '95 (BA), Western Carolina '00 (MEA)
College Athletics — Football, LS, 2 letters
Coaching Experience —
Norwich (Conn.), assistant (1996)
Mainland (Fla.) High, assistant (1997)
Western Carolina, graduate assistant (1998-99)
Cumberland (Tenn.), assistant (2000)
Bethune-Cookman, assistant (2001)
New Smyrna Beach (Fla.) High, head coach (2002-03)
Western Kentucky, assistant (2004-)
Family — Wife Kim; one daughter, Payton (8)



STEVE ADAMS

ASSISTANT DEFENSIVE BACKS



Steve Adams

A three-year letterwinner from 1997-99, Steve Adams begins his third year as an assistant with the defensive secondary. He is also responsible for running the scout team offense throughout the regular season.

Adams assisted with a group that saw two of its four starters — Marion Rumph and Antonio Thomas — named first-team all-Gateway Football Conference as six different members of the secondary picked off at least one pass in 2005.

In his first year coaching in the collegiate ranks, Adams helped with a unit that accounted for 18 of the Hilltoppers' 23 interceptions, and featured Thomas — who was an All-American cornerback — as well as Rumph, who was a Gateway Conference All-Newcomer Team member.

His efforts assisted on a defense that ranked in the top three in the league in four of five statistical categories, including ranking as high as 16th in the country in scoring defense.

Adams reentered the coaching profession after working as a graphic designer following his graduation from WKU. He was on the Sun Belt Conference Academic Honor Roll his last three years and also earned Dean's List honors in the fall of 1999.

He spent the 2000 season as an assistant at Muhlenberg South (Ky.) High School, working with both defensive backs and wide receivers, where his responsibilities included planning for both games and practices.

"I love the game, the level of competition on Saturdays in the fall is unbeatable, and mostly I want to have a positive impact on the young men I coach," he said. "WKU has always been good to me, as a player and a coach. It's a great university and I couldn't be more excited about the direction the program is heading. I think we are on our way to great things."

Adams earned his bachelor's degree from WKU in 2000 after playing three seasons on the Hill — the Toppers were 23-11 (67.6%) during that time. He appeared in all 11 games his senior year after playing in 15 contests his first two seasons. Western finished 10-2 and advanced to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs in 1997, and had a 7-4 record the following year. The Hilltoppers were ranked in the final top 25 polls in each of those seasons.

He came to the Hill from Muhlenberg South High. Adams lettered twice in football, winning the Suns' Leadership and Coach's Awards as a senior. He finished fourth in the state in the 165-pound weight class in weight lifting his final year as well.



The Adams File:

Born — Aug. 6, 1977, Evansville, Ind.
High School — Muhlenberg South (Ky.) '95
High School Athletics — Football, DB, 2 letters; weightlifting, 2 letters; tennis, 1 letter
College — Western Kentucky '99 (BA)
College Athletics — Football, DB, 3 letters
Coaching Experience —
Muhlenberg South (Ky.) High, assistant (2000)
Western Kentucky, assistant (2004-)

ANDY RICHMAN

TIGHT ENDS



Andy Richman

Andy Richman is in his first year on the Hill after joining the staff prior to the start of spring practice. He will work with tight ends and help run the scout team defense during the regular season.

He comes to WKU from Denison (Ohio), where he was the Big Red's defensive line coach last fall. Richman also was in charge of DU's kickoff and extra-point block schemes as well as long snappers, in addition to coordinating video exchange. His duties with the Big Red off the field included recruiting and monitoring academics.

In 2004, Richman was the running backs and tight ends coach at Reedley (Calif.) Community College, helping lead the Tigers to the Northern California Football Alliance championship as well as a victory in the Producers Dairy Bowl. In addition to his on-field duties, Richman was the video and study hall coordinator for RCC, and he was also involved with recruiting and fund raising.

Richman's starting tight end earned first-team all-league honors following the season.

He spent the previous two years as a graduate assistant at Eastern Kentucky, serving one season as the tight ends coach before shifting responsibilities to the defensive line while also working with the Colonels' specials teams units. Richman assisted with recruiting and academic support at EKV, and he also helped run summer football camps.

In his two years with the Colonels, they posted a 15-9 mark, which included winning 10 of 14 Ohio Valley Conference contests.

"I began coaching because I wanted to be able to give back to the kids what my college coaches gave to me when I was in school," Richman said. "The best thing I have found since joining the program is the players. They are all good kids, which is not the case at every school."

Richman earned his degree in physical education from Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 2002. He lettered one season for the Pointers before serving as a student assistant in his final year at UWSP. Richman started his collegiate career at Coe (Iowa) College, while he was a two-year letterwinner at Sheboygan (Wis.) South High School.



The Richman File:

Born — Jan. 12, 1977, Milwaukee, Wis.
High School — Sheboygan (Wis.) South '95
HS Athletics — Football, OL, 2 letters (all-city); Track, 4 letters (all-conference, all-city)
College — Wisconsin-Stevens Point '02 (BA), Eastern Kentucky '04 (MA)
College Athletics — Football, OL, 1 letter
Coaching Experience —
Wisconsin-Stevens Point, student assistant (2001)
Eastern Kentucky, graduate assistant (2002-03)
Reedley (Calif.) CC, assistant (2004)
Denison (Ohio), assistant (2005)
Western Kentucky, assistant (2006-)
Family — Wife, Sarah



KEVIN DAWSON

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS



Kevin Dawson

Kevin Dawson enters his third season as WKU's Director of Operations. In his role, he coordinates travel, supervises equipment, assists in the management of the Touchdown Club and handles special projects for head coach David Elson while assisting with the day-to-day operations of the football program. Dawson also has added more responsibilities with the Hilltoppers' recruiting efforts beginning with the 2006 season.

Dawson was an assistant coach at Thomas More (Ky.) for three years prior to coming to the Hill, working with defensive backs. In addition to his on-field duties, he was responsible for assisting in recruiting, academics, video, team travel and summer camps.

The Saints compiled a 24-8 (75%) record during his tenure, including posting an 11-1 mark in 2001 — setting the school record for victories while advancing to the NCAA playoffs for just the second time — and a seven-win season the following fall.

Dawson is a 2000 graduate of Morehead State, where he earned four letters while playing linebacker and contributing on special teams. He helped the Eagles to a 27-13 (67.5%) record in his career, as MSU went 7-3 in his first collegiate season and 9-2 his sophomore year.

In addition to his performance on the field, Dawson was a Dean's List member who also was selected to the Ohio Valley Conference Commissioner's Honor Roll.

MATT BURCH

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS/EQUIPMENT MANAGER



Matt Burch

Matt Burch is in his first year on the Hilltopper staff as Western Kentucky's Assistant Director of Operations/Equipment Manager.

The 2006 Kentucky graduate — who was named twice to the Dean's List — has more than seven years of experience in the many phases of equipment room operation. That includes a thorough knowledge of all types of helmets, shoulder pads and football-related equipment, which will allow him to better serve the Hilltoppers' safety needs.

At WKU, Burch will be responsible for handling equipment operations associated with football along with game day setup and assisting Director of Operations Kevin Dawson with facility operations.

Burch was a student equipment manager with the UK football team during his time in Lexington. His duties there included distribution, repair and inventory of all equipment, fitting players for helmets and shoulder pads, and setting up and breaking down the locker room for both games and practice sessions. He also worked at Kentucky's summer football camps in both 2004 and '05.

From 1999-01, Burch was the head equipment manager for the St. Xavier High School football team in Louisville. In addition to handling the distribution, repair and inventory of equipment, he worked with the Tiger coaching staff on inventory and was responsible for scheduling for a student support staff of 11.

ALEX DOWNING

PRESIDENT OF COLLEGE HEIGHTS FOUNDATION



Alex Downing

Alex Downing is the President of the College Heights Foundation, which awards scholarships to hundreds of WKU students each year, and the Assistant Director of Planned Giving at Western Kentucky.

In his role, Downing oversees the Touchdown Club, the enhancement fund that helps WKU football student-athletes, coaches and staff compete on a national level. Contributions to the Touchdown Club in 2005 allowed the program to purchase new computer hardware and software that enhances the staff's ability to recruit and prepare for games, new weight room equipment, nutritional supplements for the Hilltoppers all year and Nike gear for the players.

The College Heights Foundation also provides administration for a WKU Football Endowment Fund, which will provide permanent financial resources to benefit the football program.

A 1988 graduate of WKU, Downing and his wife Kelly have three children Kathryn (11), Will (8) and John (6).

NORM JOHNSON

LIFESKILLS COORDINATOR



Norm Johnson

Norm Johnson is in his second season as WKU's Life Skills Coordinator, a position in which he focuses on the development of a personal enrichment program for players while they're in school and in preparation for life after football.

The Life Skills experience offers student-athletes comprehensive resources, guidance, and support in several areas considered important to achieving success, including:

- **PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT** (Appropriate Interpersonal Relationships, Sexual Responsibility, Alcohol Choices, Dealing with Grief, Depression, and Personal Issues, Communication Skills, Achieving & Developing Self-Esteem, Conflict Resolution, Visibility & Responsibility, Sleep Management, Nutrition For Performance,

- Sportsmanship, Social Etiquette & Manners, Understanding and Communicating with Authority Figures, Appreciating Diversity, Developing Leadership, Goal Setting and Evaluation, Anger Management, Injury Recovery & Rehab and Communicating With The Media)

- **PERSONAL MONEY MATTERS** (Student Financial Aid, Personal Spending Plan, Stretching Financial Resources, Saving Habits, Banking Skills, Credit Responsibility, Buying A Vehicle, Renting A Residence and Booking Travel & Airfare)

- **ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT** (Intellectual Development, Individual Assessment & Orientation, Learning Style Assessment, Classes, Instructors, & Areas Of Study Strategy, Study Skills, Writer's Workshops, Classroom Habits & Note Taking, Academic Advisement & Tutoring, Communicating With Class Instructors, Time Management, Stress Management and Planning A Meaningful Degree)

- **CAREER DEVELOPMENT** (Occupational Preference Assessment, Occupational Aptitude Assessment, Job Shadowing, Creating A Resume, Networking and References, Summer Employment Experience, Internships, Interviewing Skills, Dressing For Success, Employability, Job Search Plan, WKU Career Center and A Lifetime Commitment to WKU), and

- **COMMUNITY SERVICE** (Volunteerism, Mentoring, Youth Sports, Peer Counseling, Public Speaking, School Reading Program and Developing A Positive Self-Image)

In addition to a professional counseling background, a successful business career, and knowledge of campus and community support resources, Johnson has a sincere interest in helping each and every member of the Hilltopper Football Family achieve personal success and satisfaction. Johnson, a WKU graduate and longtime supporter of the program, and his wife Jimmie Lou reside in Bowling Green.

QUALITIES OF HILLTOPPER FOOTBALL STUDENT-ATHLETES THAT TRANSLATE TO CAREER SUCCESS

Time Management: Hilltopper Football student-athletes must balance a full-time academic workload, practice, work-outs, travel, and other team commitments, along with family, social, and community commitments. Time management skills translate into productivity and consistent attendance and punctuality, valued by employers.

Working Well With Others: Hilltopper Football student-athletes create personal goals that serve team goals, place team goals above personal goals, and find a way to achieve goals without excuses. Leadership ability to help others to work as a team to achieve group and organizational goals is valuable in the workplace.

Goal Directed: Hilltopper Football student-athletes consistently concentrate energies and attention to achievement of performance and goals, while blocking out distractions. Employers value those who remain focused on the goals of the organization.

Competitiveness: Hilltopper Football student-athletes share a competitive spirit that is the life-blood of the program, facing the rigors of preparation and competition, looking forward to fighting each battle and testing their abilities against the best competition. This is considered a valuable trait in the competitive business world, and applicable in any job.

Confidence: Hilltopper Football student-athletes believe in their power to produce under pressure, with confidence to meet tough situations head-on and expect success. Consistent success fosters self-confidence that translates into success in career challenges.

Persistence and Endurance: Hilltopper Football student-athletes work long and hard to achieve distant goals with a consistent maximum effort, often working through pain and adverse circumstances with an intensity of effort and belief in preparation that translates into determination for workplace and career success.

Loyalty: Hilltopper Football student-athletes bond together with coaches and teammates with sincere concern and support under any circumstances, empowering a positive spirit of trust and loyalty. Loyalty is probably the single most valued and appreciated employee attribute among employers and supervisors.

Discipline: Hilltopper Football student-athletes adhere to rules, guidelines, and expectations, requiring a high level of self-discipline and a higher standard than that of most other students. The necessary personal discipline to screen out competing priorities translates to workplace productivity and achievement.

Accepting Criticism: Hilltopper Football student-athletes performance is closely monitored in all areas, and coaches provide consistent constructive criticism and correction. Student-athletes develop into mentally strong, good listeners who recognize the value of criticism to improve performance. Employers value employees who listen and are motivated to improve job performance.

Resilience: Hilltopper Football student-athletes rebound from failure and disappointment, learn valuable lessons, and immediately focus on meeting the demands of the next challenge. Employers value employees that accept both success and disappointment, and tackle new challenges.



BRAD OHRT

DIRECTOR OF STRENGTH & CONDITIONING



Brad Ohrt

Brad Ohrt was named Western's Director of Strength and Conditioning in August 2005, as he will oversee a program that includes a full-time staff of three while working directly with football.

He came to the Hill from Louisiana-Lafayette, where he was the Director of Strength and Conditioning the previous three years. At UL Lafayette, he was responsible for developing and implementing programs for football, men's basketball and baseball while assisting with the soccer, softball, volleyball and men's and women's track programs.

Ohrt spent one season (2001-02) as the Strength and Conditioning Coordinator at Western Carolina, where he worked directly with men's and women's basketball, football and baseball while assisting with seven other programs.

He was also an assistant strength and conditioning coach at Southern California from 1998-01 — working with men's and women's basketball, and also assisting with football — and was the Head Strength and Conditioning Coach at Wingate (N.C.) during the 1997-98 season.

Ohrt graduated from Appalachian State in 1994 with a bachelor's degree in exercise science, and he earned his master's degree in sports administration in 1997 from Kansas.

A three-year letterwinner as an offensive lineman for the Mountaineer football team, he earned first-team All-America accolades from The Sports Network and Hansen's *Football Gazette*, and was a third-team Associated Press All-American his final season. Ohrt was also a first-team all-Southern Conference selection as a senior after earning second-team all-league honors the previous year.

During his time at ASU, the Mountaineers posted a 28-20 record, earning three trips to the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs. ASU won the 1991 Southern Conference championship, and was ranked in the final Sports Network poll on three occasions — the Mountaineers finished in the top 10 in both 1991 and '94.

He is a certified member of both the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) and the College Strength and Conditioning Coaches Association (CSCCA).



The Ohrt File:

Born — Feb. 25, 1972, New Ulm, Minn.

High School — Sebring (Fla.) '90

HS Athletics — Football, OL, 3 letters (all-district, all-conference); Wrestling, 2 letters

College — Appalachian State '94 (BS)

College Athletics — Football, OL, 3 letters (All-American, all-conference)

Strength & Conditioning Experience —

Kansas, graduate assistant (1995-97)

Wingate (N.C.), head coach (1997-98)

Southern California, assistant (1998-01)

Western Carolina, coordinator (2001-02)

Louisiana-Lafayette, director (2002-05)

Western Kentucky, director (2005-)

Family — Wife, Ashley



DUANE HALL
ASSISTANT STRENGTH
COACH



IRELE ODERINDE
ASSISTANT STRENGTH
COACH



ALVIN FUTRELL
STRENGTH & CONDITIONING
ASSISTANT



KINGS OF THE HILL

Each year, a select group of WKU players that meet the strength and conditioning staff's requirements in the bench, squat and clean lifts become "Kings of the Hill." The Topper roster is broken down into four groups — specialist (kickers), skill (quarterbacks, running backs, wide receivers and defensive backs), big skill (tight ends and linebackers) and linemen — with different minimum lifts required for each. This summer the following players were "Kings of the Hill": Scott Greschel, Jon Hedges, Bill Hewig, Brandon Hicks, Chris James, Erik Losey, Dennis Mitchell, Sean Pugh, Marion Rumph, Clay Stephens and Joe Woolridge.



The primary purpose of the strength and conditioning program at Western Kentucky University is the **prevention of injury**. And, the secondary goal is to **increase the athlete's performance potential**. Not only does the increase in the strength of muscles, bone and connective tissue reduce the likelihood of incurring injury, it helps **produce a stronger, more confident and more physical athlete**.

Under the direction of Strength and Conditioning coaches Brad Ohrt, Irele Oderinde, Duane Hall, and Alvin Futrell, the strength and conditioning program at WKU benefits each student-athlete on The Hill in a positive manner that reflects on his/her flexibility, agility, strength and endurance.

The Hilltoppers participate in a year-round, comprehensive strength and conditioning program. WKU athletes train in two outstanding facilities - the Football Weight Room in L.T. Smith Stadium and the conditioning facility in E.A. Diddle Arena that features the latest advances in strength training equipment.

THE TOPPERS IN THE WEIGHT ROOM

BENCH PRESS	
1. Dusty Bear, DL	405
Jon Hedges, LB	405
3. Jimmy Caldwell, LB	400
4. Brandon Hicks, RB	390
5. Greg Ryan, OL	375
6. Munir Muwakkil, DL	365
Chris Sullivan, OL	365
8. L.J. Harbison, LB	350
Sam Sexton, LB	350
10. Ben Craig, OL	345

SQUAT	
1. Dusty Bear, DL	545
2. Munir Muwakkil, DL	515
3. Lerron Moore, RB	500
4. Brandon Hicks, RB	495
5. Greg Ryan, OL	490
6. Andrew McCloud, RB	480
Chris Walker, DL	480
8. L.J. Harbison, LB	475
9. Ben Craig, OL	470
10. Chris Sullivan, OL	465

POWER CLEAN	
1. Dusty Bear, DL	330
2. Andrew McCloud, RB	320
Karl Phillips, TE	320
4. Ben Craig, OL	315
Jon Hedges, LB	315
Brandon Hicks, RB	315
Dennis Mitchell, DB	315
Chris Walker, DL	315
9. three players with	305

225 REP TEST	
1. Jon Hedges, LB	27
2. Chris Sullivan, OL	26
3. Brandon Hicks, RB	24
4. Jimmy Caldwell, LB	23
5. Chris McConnell, OL	21
Myron Moore, LB	21
Greg Ryan, OL	21
8. five players with	20





BILL EDWARDS
HEAD ATHLETIC TRAINER



Bill Edwards

Bill Edwards — affectionately known as “Doc E” on the Hill — has been a part of the athletic scene at his alma mater for the past 35 years. He was named the Hilltopper head trainer in 1983 after spending six years as an assistant. He had previously worked as a student trainer and then as a graduate assistant.

An active member of the National Athletic Trainers Association, he coordinates the sports medicine program for all Western sports. His family ties with Hilltopper athletics go back two generations. His grandfather, **B.J. White**, earned letters in football ('23-26) and basketball ('24-25). His stepfather, **Bill Kinslow**, played football at WKU in 1954.

Edwards, who holds both bachelor's ('74) and master's ('76) degrees from WKU, also teaches in the Department of Physical Education and Recreation.

He and his wife, Jennie, have two daughters, Faith (15) and Rachel (12).



The Edwards File:

Born — Nov. 7, 1952, Franklin, Ky.

High School — Franklin-Simpson (Ky.) '70

HS Athletics — Football trainer, 4 letters; Baseball, 1 letter

College — Western Kentucky '74 (BS), '76 (MA)

Training Experience —

Western Kentucky, student (1970-74)

Western Kentucky, graduate assistant (1975-76)

Western Kentucky, assistant (1977-83)

Western Kentucky, head trainer (1983-)

Family — Wife, Jennie; two daughters, Faith (15) and Rachel (12)



PAULA UPRIGHT
ASSISTANT TRAINER



MIKE GADDIE
ASSISTANT TRAINER



SHERI HARRIS
ASSISTANT TRAINER



DUSTIN WILSON
ASSISTANT TRAINER



As the lead contact of a complete health care team for WKU athletes, the athletic training staff works under the direction of a team of licensed physicians in cooperation with other health care professionals, athletics administrators, coaches and parents to see that the needs of all Hilltopper athletes are met.

An outstanding staff of certified athletic trainers, under the direction of veteran Topper Head Trainer Bill Edwards, works with all 20 WKU varsity sports and some 350 student-athletes. Edwards is ably assisted by Paula Upright, Mike Gaddie, Sheri Harris, Dustin Wilson and a staff of student athletic trainers.

The Hilltopper team physicians for the 2006-07 school year are: Dr. Craig Beard, Dr. John Burch, Dr. David Richards and Dr. Phil Turner.

The athletic training department exists to provide health care for all student athletes in the areas of prevention, evaluation, management, treatment and rehabilitation of athletic injuries and illnesses.

The certified athletic trainers work under the direct supervision of the university's designated team physicians. Our philosophy is to prevent injuries as much as possible and to treat and rehabilitate those that do occur so that the athlete may return to competition as soon as safely possible. All our athletes are treated the same. Our goal for them is to participate in intercollegiate athletics while maintaining optimal health.



- L.T. Smith Stadium/Jimmy Feix Field has been home to the Hilltoppers since the 1968 season
- The stadium has undergone two major renovations in its first 37 years of existence — the first to install lights in 1987 and then prior to the 2001 season when a \$1.1 million project included the installation of state-of-the-art Astroplay.
- WKU has a 142-57-4 mark all-time at Smith Stadium, a 70.9 winning percentage.
- The Toppers have posted a winning record at home in 27 seasons, and have been above .500 at Feix Field in each of the last 11 years.
- WKU has been undefeated at home nine times, and lost just one contest at Smith Stadium in 13 other seasons.
- The Hilltoppers are 32-6 (84.2%) at Smith Stadium over the last six years.

YEAR-BY-YEAR AT SMITH STADIUM

Season	Record	Season	Record
1968	3-1-1	1988	5-0
1969	3-1-1	1989	4-1
1970	4-1	1990	1-4
1971	5-0	1991	3-3
1972	3-2	1992	3-1
1973	6-0	1993	5-0
1974	5-0	1994	2-4
1975	5-0	1995	2-2
1976	3-1-1	1996	4-1
1977	1-3-1	1997	6-0
1978	3-2	1998	6-1
1979	2-3	1999	3-2
1980	5-0	2000	7-1
1981	2-3	2001	5-1
1982	3-2	2002	6-1
1983	2-3	2003	6-1
1984	1-4	2004	5-0
1985	3-2	2005	3-2
1986	3-3	38 Years ... 142-57-4 (70.9%)	





DIXIE MAHURIN

ACADEMIC COORDINATOR



Dixie Mahurin

Dixie Mahurin is an experienced academic advisor who has served the needs of WKU's student-athletes for 25 years.

Mahurin, the school's director of Athletic-Academic Support, oversees staff of four assistants who aid student-athletes in their efforts to graduate by helping track degree programs, schedule classes, hire tutors and monitor study hall sessions four times a week. She works directly with both the men's and women's basketball programs.

A former high school mathematics and chemistry teacher who also served as a counselor, Mahurin was the Director of High School Guidance Services at Christian County High prior to coming to the Hill.

In addition to earning her bachelor's degree in mathematics and chemistry and her master's degree in counseling from WKU, Mahurin also has her psychometry certification.

Mahurin and her husband Peter have one daughter, Sarah Jo Padgett. The Mahurin family has endowed a professorship in gifted studies at WKU.

JaSHARD JUSTICE

ACADEMIC ADVISOR



JaShard Justice

JaShard Justice is in his fourth year at WKU's Tutoring Coordinator, a role in which he is responsible for working with all Hilltopper and Lady Topper student athletes. Justice, a former Topper football player, is also the football team's primary academic advisor.

Justice, a native of Texas City, Texas, lettered four years from 1995-98, helping WKU to 26 wins in that time, which included three winning seasons, as well as a berth in the 1997 NCAA Division I-AA quarterfinals as the Toppers concluded his junior year with a 10-2 mark. As a senior, Justice recorded career highs with 28 total tackles, three interceptions and six passes broken up in helping WKU to a 7-4 finish.

He has both a bachelor's and master's degree in sociology from WKU, and he taught in the department of sociology before joining the athletic department staff.

Justice has one daughter, eight-year-old Taylor.



**NCAA ACADEMIC PROGRESS RATE (APR)
GATEWAY FOOTBALL CONFERENCE REPORT**

The following are the scores for each of the eight Gateway Football Conference members in the first-ever NCAA Academic Progress Report (based on a scale of 1,000 points):

WESTERN KENTUCKY	956
Southern Illinois	950
Youngstown State	942
Indiana State	941
Northern Iowa	939
Missouri State	934
Illinois State	924
Western Illinois	912



More than half of WKU's student-athletes — 205 of 396 (52%) — carried a 3.0 grade-point average in the spring semester, while almost as many (171) have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or better. Those figures include 25 student-athletes who posted a perfect 4.0 GPA last semester.

Not only are WKU student-athletes recording high grade-point averages, but they are earning a meaningful degree in the process. Student-athletes who exhausted their eligibility had an 81 percent graduation rate, while they also posted a 76 percent Graduation Success Rate.

Ten of WKU's 20 programs sport a cumulative team GPA of 3.0 or higher, as men's tennis (3.21) won selected the Male Scholar Team for the second year in a row while women's golf (3.31) and women's swimming (3.29) shared the Female Scholar Teams of the Year Award in 2005-06.



WKU had a total of 156 student-athletes honored by the Sun Belt Conference, leading the league for the second straight year despite the fact that the Hilltoppers do not compete in the league in football. That included placing 70 individuals on the Commissioner's List, which includes all student-athletes with a grade-point average of 3.5 or better, while 86 were selected to the Academic Honor Roll (3.0-3.49 GPA).

In 2005-06, WKU Athletics had a Sun Belt Conference-best five individuals named to the *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-District teams in their respective sports: **Caron Blotch** (volleyball), **Kevin Dick** (track/cross country) — who would go on to be selected third-team Academic All-America — **Matt Ransdell** (baseball), **Lisa Ross** (women's swimming) and **Marion Rumph** (football). And, the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association named **Courtney Wood** to its Women's All-Academic Track & Field Team.

Since 1970, seven Hilltoppers have been honored nationally for their work in the classroom. **Jim Barber** was the school's first CoSIDA Academic All-American after earning second-team honors in 1970, and he was a first-team selection a year later. **Mark Fatkin** (1984 and '85), **Brian Bixler** (1994, '95) and **Patrick Goodman** (1998, '99) all were honored as Academic All-Americans twice during their careers, while **Tim Ford** (1981) and **Brian Lowder** (2002) were also recognized. In addition, Goodman, Lowder and **Jason Michael** have been selected to the I-AA Athletic Directors Association Academic All-Star Team in the last six years.

THE TOPPERS IN THE CLASSROOM

Thirty-two current Hilltoppers posted a grade-point average of 3.0 or better at least one semester during the 2005-06 school year:

- Evan Brewer physical education
- Chris Brunemann* management
- Johnathan Carter turf management
- Dan Cline* corporate/organizational management
- Brad Cloud mechanical engineering
- Joe Dolchan social studies/history
- Brandon Fitzgerald sociology
- Brandon Goodwin* accounting
- Jason Hackley physical education
- Curtis Hamilton architectural design
- L.J. Harbison undecided
- Jon Hedges* physical education
- Jared Holland* management
- Chris James* computer information systems
- Jared Johnson premed
- Josh Johnson* physical education
- Jamison Link* physical education
- Andrew McCloud* physical education
- Jeremy Moore* undecided
- Lerron Moore communications studies
- Karl Phillips* physical education
- Jessie Quinn* accounting
- Rannen Roberson psychology
- Marion Rumph* computer science
- James Rusin undeclared
- Sam Sexton* management
- Tanner Siewert* management
- Bo Smith* health care administration
- Brandon Smith* physical education
- Ben Sowders physical education
- Clay Stephens* physical education
- Chris Sullivan physical education

* denotes that student-athlete recorded a 3.0 or better in both semesters last year



As Western Kentucky University celebrates its first 100 years, the transformation from a regional university to a university of national prominence continues. Students, faculty, staff and alumni are supporting Western Kentucky's vision to be the best comprehensive public institution in Kentucky and among the best in the nation by demonstrating excellence in and out of the classroom, conducting relevant applied research and invoking a spirit of community by providing public service that reaches far beyond the physical campus.



The Red Zone — a unique sports restaurant that caters to the history and legacy of Western Kentucky sports and its coaches — opened two years ago in the Downing University Center. The restaurant, which is decorated with WKU memorabilia and broadcasts all the Hilltopper and Lady Topper televised sporting events, features seating for 160 patrons inside the building and an amazing 2,000 square foot deck that seats 100. The inner dining area also has a 20-seat theatre with surround sound and a 123-inch projection screen. The main dining area contains 27 televisions.



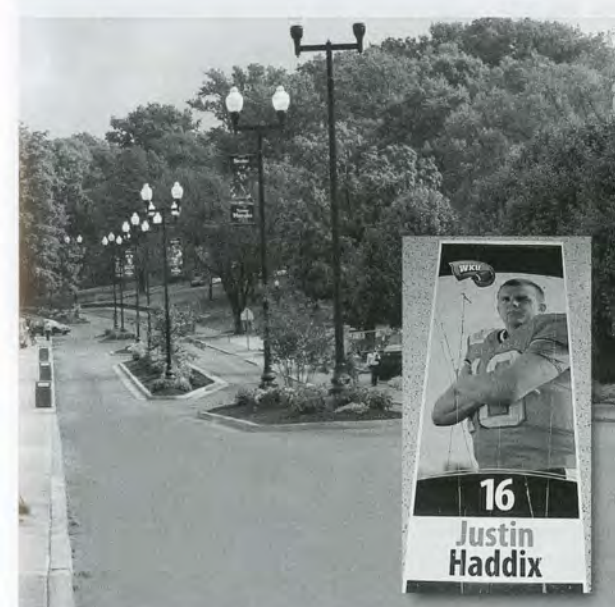
Enrollment continues to climb, making Western Kentucky the fastest growing university in Kentucky. Students are attracted by programs that emphasize a quality higher education experience and the opportunity to excel. They are also attracted by such dynamics as:

- A recently completed \$50 million renovation of residence halls.
- Renovation and expansion of the Downing University Center to include a student success center and enhanced dining opportunities.
- Opening of a \$10 million parking structure that adds more than 800 parking spaces in the center of campus.
- The opening of the \$20 million Complex for Engineering and Biological Sciences.
- The opening of the \$18.5 million Mass Media and Technology Hall, which includes a computer lab that is open 24/7.



The future continues to look bright. An emphasis on academic quality is being supported by funding to hire more faculty and expand academic facilities. In addition, private donors continue to support endowments for scholarships and faculty positions. Other improvements coming in the near future include:

- A \$33 million renovation of the science campus.
- A \$35 million building for the College of Education.
- A \$38 million building for the Gordon Ford College of Business.
- A \$9.5 million renovation of L.T. Smith Stadium.
- A \$5 million student health center.



Excitement for Western Kentucky Football is increasing all over the Hill. Last fall the University began a new tradition in which the Hilltopper seniors are honored with banners that are hung down the Avenue of Champions.



It didn't take long for the 2002 Western Kentucky University football team to face its back against the proverbial wall. The Hilltoppers entered October staring at a 2-3 record, including a loss in the Gateway Football Conference, with a looming trip to defending league champion Northern Iowa. One more defeat over the next seven weekends would certainly spell the end of WKU's bid for a third consecutive postseason berth.

Things didn't appear to be much better at halftime of the UNI contest with the Toppers hanging on to just a 7-3 lead despite outgaining the Panthers by 109 yards in the opening 30 minutes. That's when senior QB **Jason Michael** took it upon himself to guarantee his teammates that they would get the job done.

UNI was still behind 17-12 with just under 10 minutes remaining in the game after a 14-play touchdown drive when FB **Jeremi Johnson** ran 47 yards up the middle to begin the next WKU possession. **Chris Miller** capped the drive off with a 10-yard touchdown run eight plays later, **Sherrad Coates** sealed the win with a 20-yard interception return for a score and WKU never looked back.

A convincing 56-7 defeat of Florida International followed, and WKU reentered all three national polls with a 31-7 road victory at Southwest Missouri State. The Hilltoppers fell behind Indiana State, 7-3, midway through the opening period of their Homecoming contest at the end of the month, but rebounded with 21 unanswered points before the break to enter the final month of the regular season with a 6-3 record and 4-1 mark in the Gateway.

Peter Martinez accounted for all the scoring in a 9-0 victory over Illinois State to set the table for the Toppers entering their regular-season finale at Southern Illinois two weeks later. Win, and WKU would share the conference championship while making a case for at-large bid to the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs. Lose, and the year would come to an end.

The Hilltoppers and head coach **Jack Harbaugh** decided to use the strong winds to establish field position. WKU needed to go just 45 yards to set up **Jon Frazier's** 1-yard touchdown run, taking the lead with 9:09 remaining in the opening quarter. The score was 20-3 at the half after Johnson scored on a 61-yard dash and Frazier reached the end zone from 23 yards out on the first snap following an **Antonio Veals** interception.

SIU elected to receive the ball to open the second half, but punted after three plays. Michael scored on a 20-yard run — the Toppers needed to cover only 48 yards on the drive — as WKU reached the end zone on each of its first four possessions en route to a 48-16 victory.

The Hilltoppers limited the opposition to just 49 points over the final six games in a convincing push to the playoffs. All year long, Harbaugh maintained that the offense was

making progress — Michael's unit would go on to prove over the next four weeks how far it had come.

WKU didn't open the playoffs with just an ordinary postseason game, but a rivalry contest. The Toppers played host to Murray State in a battle for the "Red Belt," the travelling trophy last claimed by WKU with a 48-38 victory in Murray during the 2000 season. Using gusting winds for the second time in as many games, the Hilltoppers needed to collect only 108 yards to post 24 first-quarter points. **Maurice Bradley** scored three times as WKU would go on to the 59-20 victory, the most points in school history in the postseason.

Another rivalry was in the cards in the quarterfinals as WKU travelled to face second-seeded Western Illinois. The Leathernecks had defeated the Hilltoppers in each of WKU's first two seasons in the Gateway Conference, including a 14-0 win in Bowling Green during the third week of the season. Both teams ended the year 6-1 in the league, giving the GFC a conference championship game for all intents and purposes.

WKU drew first blood on a 1-yard Bradley run 40 seconds into the second quarter, but WIU held a 14-7 advantage at the break. Michael tied the game twice in the second half with a 3-yard run and a 44-yard pass to **Shannon Hayes**, but it was a defensive play that gave WKU its first lead of the final 30 minutes. With the Leathernecks approaching midfield, Coates sacked the league's Offensive Player of the Year, **Russ Michna**, forcing a fumble that **Carl Birts** returned 48 yards for a score. WIU tied the game 28-28 with 5:22 left in the contest, setting up a 10-play Hilltopper march that culminated in a Martinez 25-yard field goal and 40 seconds on the clock. WKU then watched as **Mike Scifres'** 61-yard field goal attempt fell just short of the cross bar as time expired.

The Toppers' first trip to the semifinals of the I-AA playoffs offered a trip to six-time champion Georgia Southern, the third seed. WKU led 17-7 at the break on the strength of two Frazier touchdowns and held a 17-point advantage entering the final period. The Eagles wouldn't go quietly, though, scoring on three straight possessions to take a 28-24 lead with 4:26 to go. Michael then engineered a 13-play, 76-yard march that saw WKU convert twice on fourth down before he reached the end zone with 46 seconds left in the game — that touchdown came one play after he connected with **Casey Rooney** on a 31-yard pass play to give the Hilltoppers first-and-goal from the GSU-2.

WKU again needed to agonize as a 56-yard field goal attempt by **Scott Shelton** fell short at the final whistle before advancing to the national championship game for the first time since the school was on the Division II level in 1975.

Awaiting the Hilltoppers in Chattanooga, Tenn., was No. 1 seed McNeese State, the last team to defeat WKU — the Cowboys earned a 38-13 victory in Lake Charles on Sept. 28.

Karl Maslowski intercepted **Scott Pendarvis** on MSU's first offensive play of the game, the first of a number of big plays for WKU. Johnson bowled over a pair of defenders to score on a 16-yard pass just under five minutes into the game, giving the Hilltoppers the lead for good. Frazier scored on a 55-yard run on the second play of the second quarter to double WKU's advantage. The defense allowed only 19 yards on seven plays after a late first-half turnover, forcing the Cowboys to settle for a field goal as the Toppers led, 17-6, at the break.

Michael connected with Johnson for 49 yards, and Frazier scored from 14 yards out on the

next play to cap WKU's first drive of the second half. With MSU trailing by 10 points and the third quarter nearing an end, Michael and Frazier hooked up for a screen pass that would go 54 yards — the quarterback would reach the end zone to end the drive with 13:49 left in the contest.

Corey Shaw's interception set up the final points of the game — a 23-yard Martinez field goal — while **Charles Thompson** ended McNeese's final possession with the Toppers' third interception of the contest.

Four conference champions. The top three seeds. Two three-point decisions on the road. All pointed to one result, Western Kentucky's first-ever NCAA I-AA national championship.



WKU RETIRED JERSEYS

1 WILLIE TAGGART	66 JIMMY FEIX	24 VIRGIL LIVERS
----------------------------	-------------------------	----------------------------

WALTER PAYTON AWARD FINALIST

1997 • Willie Taggart, QB
4th in the balloting (1st among QBs)

1998 • Willie Taggart, QB
6th in the balloting (3rd among QBs)

BUCK BUCHANAN AWARD FINALIST

2000 • Melvin Wisham, LB
4th in the balloting (3rd among LBs)

2001 • Mel Mitchell, FS
6th in the balloting (2nd among DBs)

2004 • Charles Thompson, ILB
9th in the balloting

EDDIE ROBINSON AWARD FINALIST

2000 • Jack Harbaugh
3rd in the balloting

2004 • David Elson

AMERICAN FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR

2002 • Jack Harbaugh

WKU'S FOOTBALL TITLE YEARS

Year	League	Overall	Coach
1952	4-1-0*	8-1-0	Jack Clayton
1963	7-0-0**	10-0-1	Nick Denes
1970	5-1-1	8-1-1	Jimmy Feix
1971	6-1-0	8-2-0	Jimmy Feix
1973	7-0-0^	12-1-0	Jimmy Feix
1975	6-1-0^	11-2-0	Jimmy Feix
1978	6-0-0	8-2-0	Jimmy Feix
1980	6-1-0	9-1-0	Jimmy Feix
2000	7-0	11-2-0	Jack Harbaugh
2002	6-1#	12-3	Jack Harbaugh

Note: * WKU was in the Ohio Valley Conference from 1948-81 and 99-2000; The Hilltoppers have been a member of the Gateway Football Conference since 2001

* (Refrigerator Bowl Champion)

** (Tangerine Bowl Champion)

^ (NCAA Division II National Runner-Up)

(NCAA Division I-AA National Champion)

WKU IN THE FINAL POLLS

Seventeen times since 1968, WKU has earned a berth among the nation's elite in the season's final polls. Western was No. 1 in the final 2002 polls after defeating McNeese State in the Division I-AA national championship game, and has finished in the top 10 in 10 seasons. Here's a look at WKU's final ranking in those 17 outstanding seasons:

Year	Poll	WKU Rank
1968	Associated Press	19th
1970	United Press International	9th
	Associated Press	12th
1971	Associated Press	6th
1973	Associated Press	3rd
1975	Associated Press	3rd
1978	NCAA	4th
1980	NCAA	5th
1987	NCAA	11th
	The Sports Network	14th
1988	NCAA	12th
	The Sports Network	13th
1993	The Sports Network	19th
1997	The Sports Network	7th
	ESPN/USA Today	7th
1998	The Sports Network	19th
	ESPN/USA Today	22nd
2000	The Sports Network	5th
2001	ESPN/USA Today	10th
	The Sports Network	12th
2002	The Sports Network	1st
	ESPN/USA Today	1st
2003	The Sports Network	7th
	ESPN/USA Today	8th
2004	The Sports Network	11th
	ESPN/USA Today	11th

WKU ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

- Ralph Antone, '79-83 (inducted 1995)
- Joe Arnold, '85-88 (inducted 2000)
- Jimmy Barber, '69-71 (inducted 2000)
- Lawrence Brame, '67-70 (inducted 1992)
- Carroll Broderick, '30-33 (inducted 1996)
- Jim Burt, '61-64 (inducted 1992)
- Clarence Caple, '35-37 (inducted 1992)
- David Carter, '73-76 (inducted 1996)
- Jeff Cesarone, '84-87 (inducted 2005)
- Jack Clayton, '48-56 (inducted 1993)
- Nick Denes, '57-67 (inducted 1992)
- Howard "Tip" Downing, '39-42 (inducted 1997)
- Turner Elrod, '28-31; Assistant Football Coach, '46-67 (inducted 1996)
- Jimmy Feix, '49-52 (inducted 1991)
- Tim Ford, '79-81 (inducted 1999)
- Lawrence "Butch" Gilbert, '48-51; Assistant Football Coach, '69-84 & '89-90 (inducted 1995)
- Harry "Pap" Glenn, '23-26 (inducted 1992)
- Paul Gray, '80-83 (inducted 2004)
- Rick Green, '72-75 (inducted 1998)
- Frank Griffin, '47-78 (inducted 1993)
- Jim "Yogi" Hardin, '55-58 (inducted 1996)
- Clarence "Jazz" Jackson, '70-73 (inducted 1997)
- Eagle "Buddy" Keys, '42 & '46-48 (inducted 1994)
- Dale Lindsey, '63-64 (inducted 1993)
- Virgil Livers, '71-74 (inducted 1992)
- Gene McFadden, '50-53 (inducted 2002)
- Dickie Moore, '65-68 (inducted 1994)
- Leo Peckenpaugh, '70-73 (inducted 2001)
- Jim Pickens, '47-49 (inducted 1995)
- Hugh Poland, '31-34 (inducted 1994)
- Max Reed, '34-37 (inducted 1991)
- Marvin Satterly, '50-53 (inducted 1998)
- Ed Stansbury, '27-30 (inducted 1994)
- Max Stevens, '50-53 (inducted 1999)
- W.L. "Gander" Terry, '25-28; Head Football Coach, '38-41 (inducted 1997)
- Johnny Vance, '66-70 (inducted 1997)
- Pete Walters, '77-80 (inducted 2003)
- J.D. "Big Ich" Weaver, '26-28 (inducted 1997)
- Porter Williams, '70-73 (inducted 2005)

WKU IN POSTSEASON PLAY

Western Kentucky has appeared in a total of 23 post-season games: the 1952 Refrigerator Bowl, the 1963 Tangerine Bowl and 21 as a part of its participation in NCAA national playoffs in 1973, 1975, 1987, 1988, 1997, 2000-04 — in fact, the Hilltoppers enter the 2005 season with the second-longest active streak of NCAA Division I-AA playoff appearances in the nation. Western grid teams are 14-9 (60.9%) in postseason action. Here is a complete rundown of the Hilltoppers' bowl and playoff history:

- **1952 Refrigerator Bowl**
(Evansville, Ind.)
Western 34, Arkansas State 19
Game MVP: Western QB Jimmy Feix
- **1963 Tangerine Bowl**
(Orlando, Fla.)
Western 27, Coast Guard Academy 0
Game MVP: Western QB Sharon Miller
- **1973 NCAA Division II Playoffs**
Western 25, Lehigh 16
(First Round, Bowling Green, Ky.)
Western 28, Grambling 20
(Semifinals, Rice Bowl, Baton Rouge, La.)
Louisiana Tech 34, Western 0
(Finals, Camellia Bowl, Sacramento, Calif.)
- **1975 NCAA Division II Playoffs**
Western 14, Northern Iowa 12
(First Round, Cedar Falls, Iowa)
Western 14, New Hampshire 3
(Semifinals, Rice Bowl, Baton Rouge, La.)
Northern Michigan 16, Western 14
(Finals, Camellia Bowl, Sacramento, Calif.)
- **1987 NCAA Division I-AA Playoffs**
Eastern Kentucky 40, Western 17
(First Round, Richmond, Ky.)
- **1988 NCAA Division I-AA Playoffs**
Western 35, Western Illinois 32
(First Round, Macomb, Ill.)
Eastern Kentucky 41, Western 24
(Quarterfinals, Richmond, Ky.)
- **1997 NCAA Division I-AA Playoffs**
Western 42, Eastern Kentucky 14
(First Round, Bowling Green, Ky.)
Eastern Washington 38, Western 21
(Quarterfinals, Spokane, Wash.)
- **2000 NCAA Division I-AA Playoffs**
Western 27, Florida A&M 0
(First Round, Bowling Green, Ky.)
Appalachian State 17, Western 14
(Quarterfinals, Bowling Green, Ky.)
- **2001 NCAA Division I-AA Playoffs**
Furman 24, Western 20
(First Round, Greeneville, S.C.)
- **2002 NCAA Division I-AA Playoffs**
Western 59, Murray State 20
(First Round, Bowling Green, Ky.)
Western 31, Western Illinois 28
(Quarterfinals, Macomb, Ill.)
Western 31, Georgia Southern 28
(Semifinals, Statesboro, Ga.)
Western 34, McNeese State 14
(Championship, Chattanooga, Tenn.)
- **2003 NCAA Division I-AA Playoffs**
Western 45, Jacksonville State 7
(First Round, Bowling Green, Ky.)
Wofford 34, Western 17
(Quarterfinals, Spartanburg, S.C.)
- **2004 NCAA Division I-AA Playoffs**
Sam Houston State 54, Western 24
(First Round, Huntsville, Texas)



COMPOSITE GATEWAY STANDINGS

(through Western's first five years in the league)

	GFC Games		All Games	
	W-L	Pct.	W-L	Pct.
Western Kentucky	26-9	.743	44-19	.698
Northern Iowa	24-11	.686	44-20	.688
Western Illinois	20-15	.571	34-24	.586
Southern Illinois	21-14	.600	34-26	.567
Youngstown State	18-17	.514	32-24	.552
Illinois State	15-20	.400	25-31	.446
Missouri State	10-25	.286	24-30	.444
Indiana State	6-29	.171	15-42	.263



Erik Losey



Antonio Thomas

HILLTOPPER OVC HONORS

40th Anniversary Team (June, 1988)

- Lawrence Brame, DE (1967-70)
- Jim Burt, HB (1961-64)
- Chip Carpenter, OG (1973-77)
- David Carter, C (1973-76)
- Jimmy Feix, QB (1949-52)
- Dale Lindsey, FB (1963-64)
- Virgil Livers, DB (1971-74)
- Marvin Satterly, G (1950-53)
- Keith Tandy, DE (1973-76)

All-Half Century Team (March, 1998)

- Lawrence Brame, DE (1967-70)
- Jim Burt, DB (1961-64)
- Chip Carpenter, G (1974-77)
- David Carter, C (1973-76)
- Rick Green, LB (1972-75)
- Dale Lindsey, LB (1963-64)
- Virgil Livers, DB (1971-74)
- Dickie Moore, RB (1965-68)
- Marvin Satterly, G (1950-53)

Players of the Year (first awarded in 1963)

Offensive

- 1967 — Dickie Moore, FB
- 1979 — John Hall, QB

Defensive

- 1963 — John Mutchler, DE
- 1969 — Lawrence Brame, DE
- 1970 — Lawrence Brame, DE
- 1973 — Lonnie Schuster, DT
- 1974 — Virgil Livers, DB
- 1976 — Biff Madon, LB

Coaches of the Year (first awarded in 1963)

- Nick Denes — 1963
- Jimmy Feix — 1973, 1978 and 1980
- Jack Harbaugh — 2000

ALL-GATEWAY FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

(first-team selections only)

- 2001 Sherrod Coates, LB; Erik Dandy, LB; Joseph Jefferson, DB, Mel Mitchell, DB; Chris Price, OL; Patrick Reynolds, DL
- 2002 Buster Ashley, OL; Jeremy Chandler, DB; Sherrod Coates, LB; Chris Price, OL; Patrick Reynolds, DL; Antonio Veals, DB
- 2003 Buster Ashley, OL; Jeremy Chandler, CB; Brian Claybourn, P; Erik Dandy, LB; Matt Lange, PK; Karl Maslowski, LB; Casey Rooney, WR; Antonio Veals, RS; Daniel Withrow, OL
- 2004 Buster Ashley, OL; Brian Claybourn, P; Deonté Smith, ILB; Charles Thompson, ILB; Antonio Thomas, CB
- 2005 Chris James, PK; Erik Losey, OL; Lerron Moore, RB; Marion Rumph, FS; Antonio Thomas, CB

GATEWAY FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

ALL-NEWCOMER TEAM

- 2001 Buster Ashley, OL; Brian Claybourn, P
- 2002 Jeremi Johnson, FB; Casey Rooney, WR
- 2003 Justin Haddix, QB; Lerron Moore, RB; Anthony Oakley, OL; Charlie Phillips, DL; Brandon Smith, LB
- 2004 Erik Losey, OL; Brian Porter, RB; Marion Rumph, FS; Daniel Williams, DL; Joe Woolridge, DL
- 2005 Andrew Campbell, OL; Chris McConnell, OL; Jenkins Reese, ILB

GATEWAY FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR

- 2003 Justin Haddix, QB

GATEWAY FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

ALL-ACADEMIC TEAM

- 2001 First-Team — Derek Forster, OL
Honorable Mention — Peter Martinez, PK
- 2002 First-Team — Brian Lowder, FS; Jason Michael, QB
Second Team — Peter Martinez, PK
HM — Derek Forster, OL; Jon Drummond, OLB
- 2003 Second-Team — Brian Claybourn, P; Casey Rooney, WR
Honorable Mention — Karl Maslowski, LB
- 2004 Second-Team — Brian Claybourn, P
- 2005 First-Team — Marion Rumph, FS
Honorable Mention — Chris James, PK

I-AA INDEPENDENT

ALL-STAR TEAM

- 1996 First Team — Antwan Floyd, TB; Trae Hackett, LB; Joey Stockton, RS
Second Team — Turner Goodwin, OL; Mike Mills, DB; Joey Stockton, Punt Returns
- 1997 First Team — Patrick Goodman, OL; Bryan Heyward, DT; Joey Stockton, RS
Second Team — Andy Hape, OL; Ron Kelly, LB; Joey Stockton, RS; Willie Taggart, QB
- 1998 Offensive Player-of-the-Year — Willie Taggart, QB
First Team — Patrick Goodman, OL; Andy Hape, OL; Willie Taggart, QB; Delvechio Walls, RS
Second Team — Bryan Daniel, RS; Trae Hackett, LB

ALL-OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE

(first-team selections only)

- 1948 Frank Wallheiser, E; Jim Pickens, QB
- 1949 Frank Wallheiser, E
- 1950 Hoyte Threet, T; Roy Hina, G
- 1951 Marvin Satterly, G; Lawrence Gilbert, C; Jimmy Feix, QB
- 1952 R.E. Simpson, E; Marvin Satterly, G; Jimmy Feix, QB; Gene McFadden, FB; Max Stevens, HB

- 1953 Bill Ploumis, E; Marvin Satterly, G; Arnie Oaken, C; Gene McFadden, FB; Max Stevens, HB
- 1954 Walt Apperson, E; Tom Patterson, C
- 1955 Vernon Wilson, G; Bill Strawn, C
- 1957 Bill Holt, E; Jim "Yogi" Hardin, G
- 1958 Larry Nutter, T; Jim "Yogi" Hardin, G
- 1959 Herb Wassom, G
- 1960 Herb Wassom, G
- 1961 Jim Hughes, E
- 1963 John Mutchler, E; Harold Chambers, T; Joe Bugel, G; Jim Burt, HB; Dale Lindsey, FB
- 1964 Stan Napper, E; Ed Crum, G; Jim Burt, HB; Dale Lindsey, FB; Pat Counts, HB
- 1965 Dickie Moore, FB
- 1966 Wes Simpson, E
- 1967 Roy Bondurant, G; Jim Garrett, HB; Walt Heath, T; Allan Hogan, C; Dickie Moore, FB; Larry Watkins, T
- 1968 Lawrence Brame, E; Walt Heath, T
- 1969 Johnny Vance, QB; Lawrence Brame, DE; Bill "Jelly" Green, DB
- 1970 Jim Barber, LB; Lawrence Brame, DE; Jay Davis, SE; Dennis Durso, G; Bill "Jelly" Green, DB; Steve Wilson, PK
- 1971 Jim Barber, LB; Jerry Kokinda, OT; Bob Morehead, DB; Leo Peckenpaugh, QB; Bill Sykes, C; Terry Thompson, DT
- 1972 Andrew Francis, DB; Clarence Jackson, TB; Mike McCoy, DB; Brad Watson, DE
- 1973 John Bushong, DT; Clarence Jackson, TB; Charlie Johnson, P; Mike McCoy, DB; Bob Morehead, DB; David Nollner, G; Lonnie Schuster, DT; Aundra Skiles, LB; Porter Williams, SE
- 1974 John Bushong, DT; David Carter, C; Rick Green, LB; John Humphrey, G; Virgil Livers, DB; Keith Tandy, DE
- 1975 Sheroid Barrett, OT; Chip Carpenter, G; Rick Green, LB; Walt Herod, P; John Leathers, DB; Keith Tandy, DE
- 1976 Chip Carpenter, G; Biff Madon, LB; Keith Tandy, DE; Jimmy Woods, TB
- 1977 Chip Carpenter, G; Biff Madon, LB; Tony Towns, DT
- 1978 Carl Brazley, CB; John Hall, QB; Reginald Hayden, BB; Eddie Preston, SE; Tony Towns, DE
- 1979 Jeff Alsop, G; Carl Estelle, BB; Tim Ford, DE; Ricky Gwinn, TE; John Hall, QB; Eddie Preston, SE
- 1980 Barry Bumm, DB; Donnie Evans, DE; Ray Farmer, P; Jerry Flippin, SE; Ricky Gwinn, TE; Lamont Meacham, DB; Phil Rich, OT; Troy Snardon, RB; Pete Walters, G
- 1981 Barry Bumm, FS; Donnie Evans, DE; Paul Gray, LB; John Newby, SE
- 1999 Patrick Goodman, C; Bobby Sippio, DB; Rod Smart, RB; Melvin Wisham, LB; Ben Wittman, DE
- 2000 DeWayne Gallishaw, RB; Peter Martinez, PK; Chris Price, OL; Bobby Sippio, DB; Melvin Wisham, LB

ALL-KIAC

(Ky. Intercollegiate Athletic Conference)

- 1935 Clarence Caple, C
- 1936 Clarence Caple, C; Joe Cook, G; Glenn Williams
- 1937 Clarence Caple, C; Joe Cook, G
- 1941 Jimmy Salato, QB

ALL-STATE

- 1928 Turner Elrod, FB; Paul Taylor, T; Lynn Williams, Back
- 1929 Rupert Cummings, T; Ed Stansbury, E
- 1930 Rupert Cummings, G; Leroy Elrod, FB**
- 1931 Carroll Broderick, HB; Clarence Mayhew, G**; Dillard Martin, C
- 1933 Wilfred Ausley, T*; Harry Booker, HB; Roy Cobb, E*
- 1934 Roy Cobb, E; Leo Yeksigian
- 1935 Max Reed
- 1936 Clarence Caple, C; Joe Cook, G; Max Reed
- 1937 Clarence Caple, C; Joe Cook, G
- 1940 Howard "Tip" Downing, E; Vernon Dulaney, Back; Johnny Taylor, G; Leslie Van Meter, T

* second team / ** honorable mention



KODAK/AMERICAN FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

- 1973 Mike McCoy (21), DB
- 1975 Rick Green (32), LB
- 1977 Chip Carpenter (65), OG
- 1980 Tim Ford (80), DE; Pete Walters (68), OG
- 1987 James Edwards (7), FS
- 1998 Patrick Goodman (74), OL
- 2000 Bobby Sippio (3), CB
- 2001 Mel Mitchell (4), FS
- 2002 Chris Price (62), OL
- 2003 Buster Ashley (71), OL
- 2004 Buster Ashley (71), OL
- 2005 Erik Losey (54), OL



Chris Price

WALTER CAMP FOUNDATION

- 1987 James Edwards (7), FS
- 1988 Joe Arnold (33), TB; Dean Tiebout (79), OT
- 1995 Brian Bixler (61), C
- 2000 Bobby Sippio (3), CB
- 2001 Mel Mitchell (4), FS; Chris Price (62), OL
- 2002 Sherrod Coates (11), OLB; Chris Price (62), OL
- 2004 Buster Ashley (71), OL

THE SPORTS NETWORK

- 1987 James Edwards (7), FS
- 1988 Dean Tiebout (79), OT; Joe Arnold (33), TB (second-team); Dwayne Penn (73), OG (second-team)
- 1989 Russell Foster (32), LB (second-team)
- 1990 Raji Gordon (22), LB (honorable mention)
- 1996 Joey Stockton (32), WR/RS
- 1997 Patrick Goodman (74), C
- 1998 Patrick Goodman (74), OL
- 1999 Patrick Goodman (74), OL (second-team)
- 2000 Bobby Sippio (3), CB; Melvin Wisham (57), LB
- 2001 Erik Dandy (18), ILB; Mel Mitchell (4), FS; Chris Price (62), OL (second-team); Sherrod Coates (11), LB (third-team)
- 2002 Sherrod Coates (11), OLB; Chris Price (62), OL; Buster Ashley (71), OL (second-team)
- 2003 Buster Ashley (71), OL; Erik Dandy (18), ILB (second-team); Matt Lange (83), PK (second-team); Karl Maslowski (48), LB (third-team)
- 2004 Buster Ashley (71), OL (second-team); Brian Claybourn (8), P (third-team); Antonio Thomas (6), CB (third-team)

ASSOCIATED PRESS

- 1952 Jimmy Feix (66), QB
- 1957 Jim "Yogi" Hardin (62), G
- 1963 John Mutchler (83), E (second-team); Jim Burt (30), HB (honorable mention)
- 1964 Dale Lindsey (44), FB; Jim Burt (30), HB (honorable mention)
- 1967 Dickie Moore (45), FB (second-team)
- 1970 Lawrence Brame (78), DE
- 1974 Virgil Livers (24), DB; John Bushong (78), DT (second-team); Rick Green (32), LB (honorable mention)
- 1975 Rick Green (32), LB (second-team)
- 1980 Pete Walters (68), OG
- 1981 Donnie Evans (50), DE
- 1982 Paul Gray (51), LB
- 1983 Paul Gray (51), LB

- 1987 James Edwards (7), FS; Steve Walsh (74), OT (second-team); Jeff Cesarone (8), QB (honorable mention)
- 1988 Joe Arnold (33), TB; Dean Tiebout (79), OT; Dwayne Penn (73), OG (second-team); Mike Carberry (18), LB (honorable mention); Cedric Jones (82), SE (honorable mention); Dan Maher (4), PK (honorable mention)
- 1995 Brian Bixler (61), C (second-team)
- 1997 Patrick Goodman (74), C; Andy Hape (51), OL (third-team)
- 1998 Patrick Goodman (74), OL; Andy Hape (51), OL (second-team); Willie Taggart (1), QB (third-team)
- 1999 Patrick Goodman (74), OL (second-team)
- 2000 Bobby Sippio (3), CB; Melvin Wisham (57), LB (second-team)
- 2001 Mel Mitchell (4), FS; Erik Dandy (18), ILB (second-team); Chris Price (62), OL (third-team); Sherrod Coates (11), OLB; Chris Price (62), OL; Buster Ashley (71), OL (second-team)
- 2003 Buster Ashley (71), OL; Matt Lange (83), PK (second-team); Erik Dandy (18), ILB (third-team)
- 2004 Buster Ashley (71), OL; Brian Claybourn (8), P (third-team)
- 2005 Erik Losey (54), OL (third-team); Antonio Thomas (6), CB (third-team)



Mel Mitchell

- 2002 Sherrod Coates (11), OLB; Chris Price (62), OL; Buster Ashley (71), OL (second-team)
- 2003 Buster Ashley (71), OL; Erik Dandy (18), ILB; Matt Lange (83), PK; Jeremy Chandler (20), CB (third-team); Karl Maslowski (48), LB (third-team)
- 2004 Buster Ashley (71), OL



Sherrod Coates

I-AA.ORG ALL-STAR TEAM

- 2002 Buster Ashley (71), OL; Sherrod Coates (11), OLB; Jeremi Johnson (1), FB; Chris Price (62), OL
- 2003 Buster Ashley (71), OL
- 2004 Buster Ashley (71), OL; Charles Thompson (9), ILB
- 2005 Chris James (83), PK

COLLEGESPORTSREPORT.COM

- 2003 Buster Ashley (71), OL (second-team); Matt Lange (83), PK (second-team)
- 2004 Buster Ashley (71), OL (second-team); Antonio Thomas (6), CB (third-team); Brian Claybourn (8), P (honorable mention); Charles Thompson (9), ILB (honorable mention)

WILLIAMSON MID-BRACKET

- 1963 John Mutchler (83), E; Jim Burt (30), HB (honorable mention)

TOM HARMON DEFENSIVE

- 1964 Jim Burt (30), HB

UNIVERSAL SPORTS

- 1971 Jim Barber (55), LB
- 1973 Porter Williams (22), SE; David Nollner (50), OG (second-team)

TEAMLINK.COM

- 1999 Patrick Goodman (74), OL

CSTV: COLLEGE SPORTS TELEVISION

- 2003 Buster Ashley (71), OL

CoSIDA ACADEMIC

- 1970 Jim Barber (55), LB (second-team)
- 1971 Jim Barber (55), LB
- 1981 Tim Ford (80), DE
- 1984 Mark Fatkin (60), OG
- 1985 Mark Fatkin (60), OG
- 1994 Brian Bixler (61), C (second-team)
- 1995 Brian Bixler (61), C
- 1998 Patrick Goodman (74), OL (second-team)
- 1999 Patrick Goodman (74), OL (second-team)
- 2002 Brian Lowder (28), SS

I-AA ATHLETIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION ACADEMIC ALL-STAR TEAM

- 1999 Patrick Goodman (74), OL
- 2002 Brian Lowder (28), SS; Jason Michael (10), QB



Player (Years Lettered) — Pro Experience

Sheldon Benoit ('92-94) — Toronto Argonauts, CFL (1st round draftee 1995 — 11th pick overall, active 1995); Saskatchewan Roughriders, CFL (active 1996); B.C. Lions, CFL (active 1997); Montreal Alouettes, CFL (active 1999-00); Edmonton Eskimos, CFL

(active 2001-03)

Milton Biggins ('89-91) — Miami Dolphins, NFL (12th round draftee 1992)

Roy Bondurant ('64-67) — St. Louis Cardinals, NFL (signee 1968)

Lawrence Brame ('67-70) — St. Louis Cardinals, NFL (16th round draftee 1971); Toronto Argonauts, CFL (signee 1971, active 1971-75); Portland Storm, WFL (active 1975); Hamilton Tiger-Cats, CFL (active 1975-77)

Carl Brazley ('76-79) — Montreal Alouettes, CFL (signee 1980, active 1980-81); Ottawa Rough Riders, CFL (active 1981-83); Buffalo Bills, NFL (signee 1983); Toronto Argonauts, CFL (active 1983-86, '88); Minnesota Vikings, NFL (active 1986); San Diego Chargers, NFL (signee 1987)

Ike Brown ('68) — New England Patriots, NFL (8th round draftee 1973); Montreal Alouettes, CFL

Tony Brown ('87-88) — Seattle Seahawks, NFL (signee 1989)

Joe Bugel ('60-63) — Detroit Lions, NFL (assistant coach 1975-76); Houston Oilers, NFL (assistant coach 1977-80); Washington Redskins, NFL (assistant coach 1981-82; assistant head coach 1983-89, 2004-); Phoenix Cardinals, NFL (head coach 1990-93); Los Angeles (Oakland) Raiders, NFL (assistant coach, 1995-96; head coach, 1997); San Diego Chargers, NFL (assistant coach, 1998-01)

Stuart Bundy ('82-85) — Edmonton Eskimos, CFL (draftee 1986)

Webbie Burnett ('89) — New Orleans Saints, NFL (11th round draftee 1990); Raleigh-Durham Skyhawks, WLAF (active 1991)

Jim Burt ('61-64) — Los Angeles Rams, NFL (10th round draftee 1965); New York Jets, AFL (15th round draftee 1965)

John Bushong ('71-74) — Baltimore Colts, NFL (8th round draftee 1975); Charlotte Hornets, WFL (signee 1975, active 1975); Dallas Cowboys, NFL (signee 1976); Saskatchewan Roughriders, CFL (signee 1977); Baltimore Colts, NFL (signee 1979); San Diego Chargers, NFL (signee 1980)

David Carter ('73-76) — Houston Oilers, NFL (6th round draftee 1977, active 1977-84); New Orleans Saints, NFL (active 1984-85)

Rick Caswell ('73-75) — New York Giants, NFL (13th round draftee 1976)

Harold Chambers ('62-63) — San Francisco 49ers, NFL (signee 1964)

Jeremy Chandler ('00-03) — Louisville Fire, AF2 (active 2006)

Brian Claybourn ('01-04) — San Diego Chargers, NFL (signee 2005); Winnipeg Blue Bombers, CFL (signee 2006, active 2006-)

Sherrod Coates ('99-02) — Cleveland Browns, NFL (signee 2003, active 2003-05); Edmonton Eskimos, CFL (signee 2006, active 2006-)

Pat Counts ('63-64) — Houston Oilers, AFL



(signee 1965)

Romeo Crennel ('66-69) — New York Giants, NFL (assistant coach 1981-92); New England Patriots (assistant coach, 1993-96; defensive coordinator 2001-04); New York Jets, NFL (assistant coach 1997-99); Cleveland Browns (defensive coordinator, 2000; head coach, 2005-)

Erik Dandy ('00-03) — Ottawa Renegades, CFL (signee 2005)

Malcolm Darden ('86-87) — Cincinnati Bengals, NFL (signee 1988)

Darryl Drake ('75, '77-78) — Washington Redskins, NFL (signee 1979); Ottawa Rough Riders, CFL (signee 1981, active 1981-82); Cincinnati Bengals, NFL (signee 1983); Chicago Bears, NFL (assistant coach 2004-)

James Edwards ('84-87) — Miami Dolphins, NFL (signee 1988)

John Embree ('70-73) — New York Stars, WFL

Donnie Evans ('79-81) — Seattle Seahawks, NFL (signee 1982)

Ray Farmer ('77-80) — St. Louis Cardinals, NFL (signee 1981)

Jimmy Feix ('49-52) — New York Giants, NFL (draftee 1953)

Ronnie Fishback ('80-83) — Cleveland Browns, NFL (signee 1985)

Jerry Flippin ('78-81) — Ottawa Rough Riders, CFL (signee 1982, active 1982)

Russell Foster ('87-89) — London Monarchs, WLAF (active 1991-92)

Tom Fox ('79-82) — Denver Broncos, NFL (signee 1983)

Jerry Glanville (*) — Detroit Lions, NFL (assistant coach 1974-76); Atlanta Falcons, NFL (assistant coach 1977-82; head coach 1990-93); Buffalo Bills, NFL (assistant coach 1983-84); Houston Oilers, NFL (assistant coach 1985; head coach 1986-89)

Eddie Godfrey ('88-90) — Tampa Bay Buccaneers, NFL (signee 1991)

Patrick Goodman ('96-99) — Louisville Fire, Arena Football II (active 2001)

Paul Gray ('80-83) — New Orleans Saints, NFL (10th round draftee 1984); Montreal Concordes, CFL (signee 1984, active 1984-86); New York Jets, NFL (signee 1986)

Anthony Green ('88-89) — Cincinnati Bengals, NFL (signee 1990); San Francisco 49ers, NFL (signee 1991)

Richard Grice ('89-92) — Calgary Stampeders, CFL (signee 1995)

Bill "Jelly" Green ('67-70) — Cleveland Browns, NFL (15th round draftee 1971); Toronto Argonauts, CFL (signee 1971)

Ricky Gwinn ('77-80) — Dallas Cowboys, NFL (signee 1981)

Glenn Holt ('87) — Miami Dolphins, NFL (signee 1989, active 1989); Toronto Argonauts, CFL (active 1989-90)

Deion Holts ('04-05) — Montreal Alouettes, CFL (signee 2006)

Ron Hunter ('79-82) — Cincinnati Bengals, NFL (signee 1983)

Clarence Jackson ('70-73) — New York Jets, NFL (16th round draftee 1974, active 1974-76)

Joseph Jefferson ('98-01) — Indianapolis Colts, NFL (3rd round draftee 2002, active 2002-05)

Jeremi Johnson ('02) — Cincinnati Bengals, NFL (4th round draftee 2003, active 2003-)

Mark Johnson ('85-86) — New York Jets, NFL (signee 1987); Cincinnati Bengals, NFL (active 1987)

Xavier Jordan ('85, '87-89) — Seattle Seahawks, NFL (signee 1990)

Ron Kelly ('94-97) — Toronto Argonauts, CFL (signee 1998)

Eagle Keys ('42, '46-47) — New York Yankees, AFL (signee 1948); Montreal Alouettes, CFL (active 1949-51); Edmonton Eskimos, CFL (active 1952-54; assistant coach 1955-59; head coach 1959-63);



(signee 1985)

Dale Lindsey ('63-64) — Cleveland Browns, NFL (7th round draftee 1965, active 1965-73); New York Jets, AFL (6th round draftee 1965); Cleveland Browns, NFL (assistant coach 1974); Portland Storm, WFL (assistant coach 1975-76); Toronto Argonauts, CFL (assistant coach 1979-82); Boston Breakers, USFL (assistant coach 1983); New Jersey Generals, USFL (defensive coordinator 1984-85); Green Bay Packers, NFL (assistant coach 1986-87); New England Patriots, NFL (assistant coach 1990); Tampa Bay Buccaneers, NFL (assistant coach 1991); San Diego Chargers, NFL (assistant coach 1992-96; defensive coordinator 2002-03); Washington Redskins, NFL (assistant coach, 1997-98, 2004-); Chicago Bears, NFL (assistant coach 1999-01)

Virgil Livers ('71-74) — Chicago Bears, NFL (4th round draftee 1975, active 1975-81); Chicago Blitz, USFL (active 1983-84)

Biff Madon ('74-77) — Dallas Cowboys, NFL (signee 1978)

Pete Mangold ('86-87) — Saskatchewan Roughriders, CFL (2nd round draftee 1988 — 10th pick); Toronto Argonauts, CFL (active 1989-90)

Jerome Martin ('88-89) — Green Bay Packers, NFL (10th round draftee 1990)

Don Martindale ()** — Oakland Raiders, NFL (assistant coach 2004-)

Peter Martinez ('00-02) — Richmond Speed, af2 (active 2003); Oklahoma City Yard Dawgz, af2 (active 2004); Grand Rapids Rampage, AFL (active 2005-)

Lamont Meacham ('78-81) — Baltimore Colts, NFL (11th round draftee 1982, active 1982); Toronto Argonauts, CFL (active 1983-84); Ottawa Rough Riders, CFL (active 1985-86)

Mike McCoy ('70-73) — Houston Oilers, NFL (8th round draftee 1974); Los Angeles Rams, NFL

Jason Michael ('99-02) — Oakland Raiders, NFL (assistant coach, 2005); New York Jets, NFL (assistant coach, 2006-)

Mike Miller ('79-82) — Houston Oilers, NFL (signee 1983); Atlanta Falcons, NFL (signee 1984)

Mel Mitchell ('99-01) — New Orleans Saints, NFL (5th round draftee 2002, active 2002-05); New England Patriots, NFL (signee 2006, active 2006-)

Tim Mooney ('83-84) — New York Jets, NFL (signee 1985)



Dickie Moore ('65-68) — Toronto Argonauts, CFL (signee 1969, active 1969)

Davlin Mullen ('79-82) — New York Jets, NFL (8th round draftee 1983, active 1983-86)

Alan Mullins ('83-85) — Winnipeg Blue Bombers, CFL (signee 1986)

John Mutchler ('63) — Cleveland Browns, NFL (signee 1964)

Stan Napper ('61-64) — B.C. Lions, CFL (signee 1965, active 1965)

John Newby ('80-82) — New England Patriots, NFL (signee 1983); Buffalo Bills, NFL (signee 1983); Miami Dolphins, NFL (signee 1984)

Saskatchewan Roughriders, CFL (assistant coach 1964; head coach 1965-70); B.C. Lions, CFL (head coach 1971-75)

Player (Years Lettered) — Pro Experience

Jim King ('80-83) — Chicago Blitz, USFL (4th round draftee 1984); New England Patriots (signee 1985); Denver Gold, USFL

Anthony Oakley ('03) — Cleveland Browns, NFL (signee 2003); Chicago Bears, NFL (signee 2005, active 2005-)

Keith Paskett ('83-86) — Green Bay Packers, NFL (signee 1987, active 1987-88)

Eddie Preston ('76-79) — Houston Oilers, NFL (11th round draftee 1980); Oakland Invaders, USFL (signee 1982)

Tommy Prothro (*)** — Los Angeles Rams, NFL (head coach 1971-72); San Diego Chargers, NFL (head coach 1974-78)

Max Reed ('34-36) — Louisville Tanks, AFL (active 1938-39)

Phil Rich ('77-80) — Dallas Cowboys, NFL (signee 1981); N.Y. Jets, NFL (signee 1982)

Paul Sheehan ('76-77) — Winnipeg Blue Bombers, CFL (draftee 1978)

Robert "Bub" Simpson ('49-52) — New York Giants, NFL (draftee 1953)

Bobby Sippio ('99-01) — Peoria Pirates, af2 (signee 2002); Greensboro Prowlers, af2 (active 2003); Dallas Desperados, AFL (active 2004-05); Miami Dolphins (active 2004); Chicago Rush, AFL (active 2006)

Rod Smart ('97-99) — San Diego Chargers, NFL (signee 2000); Las Vegas Outlaws, XFL (draftee 2001, active 2001); Philadelphia Eagles, NFL (signee 2001, active 2001-02); Carolina Panthers, NFL (active 2002-05); Oakland Raiders, NFL (signee 2006)

Brandon Smith ('03-05) — Montreal Alouettes, CFL (signee 2006)

David Smith ('87) — Philadelphia Eagles, NFL (8th round draftee 1988); Dallas Cowboys, NFL (signee 1989); London Monarchs, WLAF (active 1991-92)

Deonté Smith ('03-04) — Toronto Argonauts, CFL (signee 2006)

Troy Snardon ('78-81) — Detroit Lions, NFL (signee 1982)

Joey Stockton ('94-97) — Edmonton Eskimos, CFL (signee 1998)

Antonio Thomas ('02-05) — Hamilton Tiger-Cats, CFL (signee 2006)

Dean Tiebout ('86-88) — New York Giants, NFL (signee 1989)

Brad Todd ('77-80) — Denver Gold, USFL (signee 1984); New Orleans, NFL (signee 1985)

Tony Towns ('76-78) — Houston Oilers, NFL (signee 1979)

Steve Walsh ('85-87) — Philadelphia Eagles, NFL (signee 1988); New York Jets, NFL (signee 1989)

Pete Walters ('77-80) — Atlanta Falcons, NFL (draftee 1981)

Riley Ware ('88-89) — Detroit Lions, NFL (signee 1991); Cincinnati Rockers, Arena (active 1992-93)

Larry Watkins ('66-67) — Toronto Argonauts, CFL (signee 1968, active 1968-70, '76); Hamilton Tiger-Cats, CFL (active 1970); Edmonton Eskimos, CFL (active 1971-76); B.C. Lions, CFL (active 1977-79)

Brad Watson ('69-72) — Washington Redskins, NFL (signee 1974); Tampa Bay Buccaneers, NFL (signee 1976, active 1977)

Jonathan Watts ('88-89) — Seattle Seahawks, NFL (signee 1990)



Porter Williams ('70-73) — Portland Storm, WFL (draftee 1974, active 1974); Birmingham Vulcans, WFL (active 1975); Hamilton Tiger-Cats, CFL (active 1976)

Ben Wittman ('96-99) — Baltimore Ravens, NFL (signee 2000)

Harold Wright ('84-87) — San Francisco 49ers, NFL (signee 1988)

**Glanville was an assistant coach with the Hilltoppers in 1967.*

***Martindale was an assistant coach with the Hilltoppers from 2001-03.*

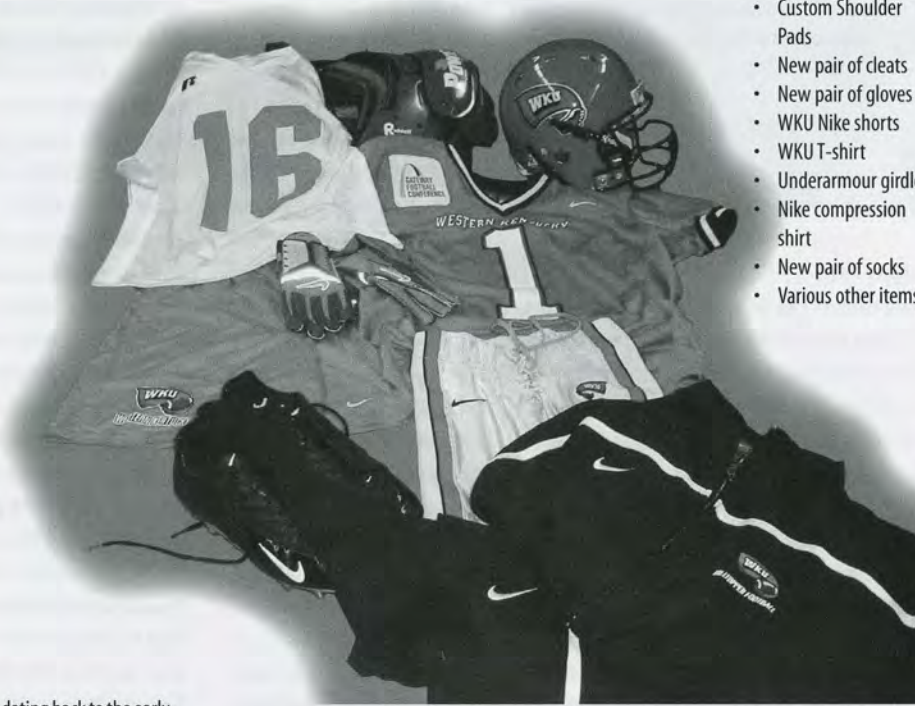
****Prothro was an assistant coach with the Hilltoppers in 1942.*

Hilltoppers in 1942.



Each Western Kentucky University football player receives the following equipment:

- Helmet
- Custom Shoulder Pads
- New pair of cleats
- New pair of gloves
- WKU Nike shorts
- WKU T-shirt
- Underarmour girdle
- Nike compression shirt
- New pair of socks
- Various other items



In 2006, Western Kentucky will once again wear throwback uniforms dating back to the early '70s as the university concludes its year-long centennial anniversary in November. The Hilltoppers wore the jerseys three times last year, and plan to wear them again on Homecoming weekend during the 2006 season.



Game Day

Saturdays on the Hill are more than just WKU football games. At every Topper home game, tailgating begins hours before kickoff. Live bands play and Topper Town—an interactive area for younger WKU football fans—is featured across the street from L.T. Smith Stadium on the DUC South Lawn. Two hours and 10 minutes before every home contest, WKU players take part in the Topper Walk on their way to the stadium.



Since joining the Gateway Football Conference, the Hilltoppers have made 17 appearances on regional or national television over the last five years. Western annually appears on Fox Sports Net regionally as part of the league's television package, while the Toppers have also been seen nationally on both the ESPN family as well as College Sports TV. The following is a list of the Hilltoppers' television appearances since the beginning of the 2001 campaign.

The Toppers are scheduled to make two television appearances during the 2006 regular season: the season opener at Georgia will be shown live throughout the southeast by Lincoln Financial Sports, while WKU's contest at Missouri State on October 14 can be seen regionally on FOX.

9/22/2001	Southwest Missouri State	W, 23-7
9/14/2002	Western Illinois	L, 0-14
11/3/2002	Illinois State	W, 9-0
12/14/2002	at #3 Georgia Southern	W, 31-28
12/20/2002	vs. #1 McNeese State	W, 34-14
9/20/2003	#22 Eastern Kentucky	W, 36-3
10/4/2003	at #2 Western Illinois	L, 28-33
10/18/2003	at Illinois State	W, 27-24
11/15/2003	at Youngstown State	W, 37-13
12/6/2003	at #2 Wofford	L, 17-34
9/18/2004	at Eastern Kentucky	W, 21-8
10/2/2004	Youngstown State	W, 44-19
9/24/2005	at Auburn	L, 14-37
10/22/2005	at Western Illinois	W, 42-7
10/27/2005	#8 Southern Illinois	L, 20-31
11/5/2005	#14 Northern Iowa	L, 20-23 (2ot)
11/12/2005	at #19 Youngstown State	L, 10-42



The Big Red Radio Network broadcasts all Hilltopper football games on a 16-station basis throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky, with all broadcasts also carried on the Internet on the school's official web site www.wkusports.com. WKU also receives regular radio coverage with appearances on sports talk shows on both WBGN and WKCT radio in Bowling Green.

In addition to coverage up to five days a week locally from the Bowling Green *Daily News*, the Toppers receive extensive written coverage in the state from both the Louisville *Courier-Journal* and Lexington *Herald-Leader*. And, local channel WBKO-TV provides numerous highlights of the Hilltoppers locally in addition to running a half-hour show on the program every Sunday night during the season.

Visit www.wkusports.com or www.coachelson.com to keep up with Hilltopper Football throughout the season.





JOSH MEYER
VIDEO COORDINATOR



Josh Meyer

Josh Meyer is in his third year as the Hilltoppers' Video Coordinator.

In his role, Meyer oversees a staff of four student assistants that handle all the video and audio needs of the football program. His responsibilities include filming and editing practices and games, handling Western's XOS video editing system which consists of 14 computer stations, maintaining all televisions, VCRs and video equipment, and exchanging video with the Toppers' future opponents.

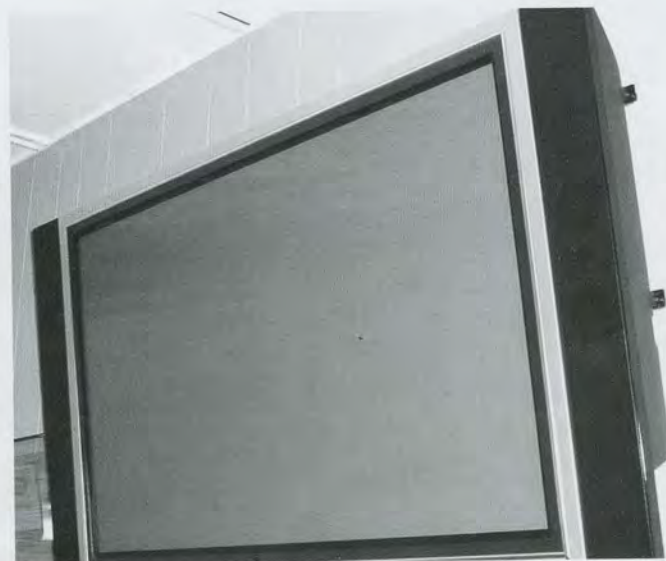
Meyer came to the Hill from Southern Utah, where he was the Video Coordinator for the Thunderbirds during the 2003 season. In addition to working with XOS' system, he filmed games and practices as well as traded video with SUU's opponents. In addition, Meyer assisted in breaking down film and supervised a student staff.

In 2002, he was a defensive student assistant with the Thunderbirds working with defensive backs. He also assisted with coaching special teams units on game day, and was responsible for helping cut video.

A 2003 graduate of Southern Utah, Meyer earned his bachelor's degree in physical education and minored in history.



- The program recently received a \$120,000 state-of-the-art video upgrade.
- All coaches' offices have either desktop or laptop computers on a network.
- 7 plasma screens to show video from both computers and VCRs.
- Players lounge has a desktop, a VCR and a kiosk to view video.
- Video room contains Master Editor Station with new Power Edge 2850 server and new storage as well as two TVs. Editor is connected to five VCRs and a DVD player.
- Players receive a weekly DVD of the upcoming opponent to view at home or while on the road.



Chris Brunemann



Bill Hewig

- WKU's ROTC presents Leadership Coaches' Award each week during the regular season.
- Each week, LTC John Baker speaks to the Hilltoppers about one of the program's core values and how it relates to the military.
- Each summer the coaching staff, seniors and Unity Council take part in a two-day leadership training session with Major Tim Brotherton and LTC John Baker for a 2-day Leadership training session.



Deion Holts



Erik Losey



Maurice Perkins

MILITARY SCIENCE LEADERSHIP AWARD

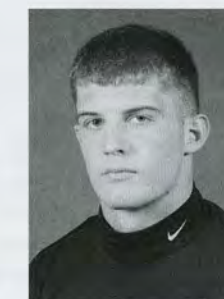
West Virginia Tech	Daniel Williams, DE
Eastern Kentucky	Chris Brunemann, TE
at Auburn	Sam Sexton, OLB
at Indiana State	Joe Woolridge, DL
at Illinois State	Maurice Perkins, WR
vs. Missouri State	Williams
at Western Illinois	Erik Losey, OL
vs. #8 Southern Illinois	Bill Hewig, OL/LS
vs. #14 Northern Iowa	Sean Pugh, OL
at #19 Youngstown State	Deion Holts, OLB
at Florida International	Marion Rumph, FS



Sean Pugh



Marion Rumph



Sam Sexton



Daniel Williams



Joe Woolridge

Players Unity Council

The Unity Council is made up of 15 players each season. Current Unity Council members vote and recommend new members each year, with Coach Elson giving final approval.

The Council allows a forum where TEAM concerns and DISCIPLINARY issues can be discussed. The Unity Council is the link between all members of the team and the coaching staff.



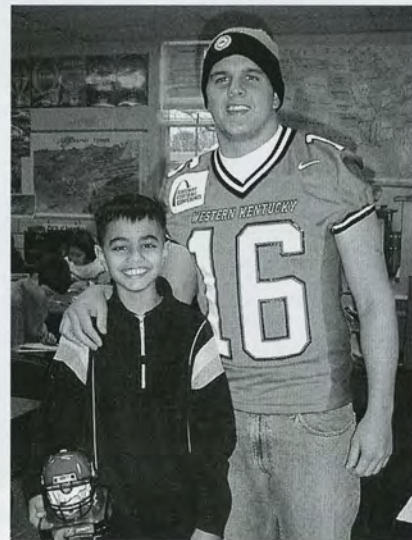


Ambassadors Group



Every year, WKU players and coaches make frequent visits to local elementary schools as part of the Ambassador Program. In an effort to support education in the Bowling Green community, the Hilltoppers:

- Read to classrooms
- Help with classroom projects
- Speak at school assemblies
- Speak to individual classes
- Attend pep rallies
- Meals on wheels
- Junior Achievement
- Hoopfest 3-on-3 Tournament
- Partnership with Youth Football League
- Big Brothers Program



Western Kentucky University
2006 Football



2006 Football Schedule

Sept. 2	at Georgia	Athens, Ga.	11:30 am
Sept. 9	at Eastern Kentucky	Richmond, Ky.	5 pm
Sept. 16	Chattanooga	Bowling Green, Ky.	6 pm
Sept. 30	Western Illinois*	Bowling Green, Ky.	6 pm
Oct. 7	Illinois State*	Bowling Green, Ky.	6 pm
Oct. 14	at Missouri State*	Springfield, Mo.	3 pm
Oct. 21	at Southern Illinois*	Carbondale, Ill.	6 pm
Oct. 28	Indiana State* (HC)	Bowling Green, Ky.	4 pm
Nov. 4	at Northern Iowa*	Cedar Falls, Iowa	4:05 pm
Nov. 11	Youngstown State*	Bowling Green, Ky.	4 pm
Nov. 18	Austin Peay	Bowling Green, Ky.	4 pm
Nov. 25	NCAA I-AA Playoffs	Site TBA	TBA
Dec. 2	NCAA I-AA Quarterfinals	Site TBA	TBA
Dec. 9	NCAA I-AA Semifinals	Site TBA	TBA
Dec. 15	NCAA I-AA Championship	Chattanooga, Tenn.	TBA

Home games in **BOLD** *Gateway Conference Opponents
All times Central and subject to change



Be Strong. Be Loud. **Be Ready.**

Western Kentucky University
2006 Football

