



KENTUCKY ATHLETICS



BEST FINISH EVER

UK Ranks 11th Nationally in the 2014 Directors' Cup

2014

ROLLING OUT THE BIG BLUE CARPET

As part of Kentucky's historic 2013-14 athletic season, five UK teams hosted NCAA postseason tournaments, including women's basketball, women's soccer, softball, men's tennis and volleyball.



The 2014 University of Kentucky Athletics Annual Report is published by the UK Athletics Department, Mitch Barnhart, Director. The publication was written and edited by Guy Kames and the UK Athletics External Operations Staff. Design by Craig Homberger. Principal photography by UK Athletics' Chris White, Erinney Howard. Other photography by Aaron Burton, Michael H. Huang, Dustin Lewis, Nikki McLaughlin and Jake Most. Printing by Welch Printing.

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A YEAR OF HISTORIC IMPACT



IMAGINING NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE A

WINNING**IMPACT**

From start to finish, it's been a year to remember for UK Athletics.

Together, we have cheered a Final Four trip and a Women's College World Series appearance and marveled at the best baseball player in the country, AJ Reed. We looked ahead with the unveiling of designs for the renovation of Commonwealth Stadium and took an important step toward securing our sound financial future by signing a new multi-media rights deal with JMI Sports.

Along the way, we have reached our goal of becoming a top-15 athletics department by the year 2015 by finishing 11th in this year's Directors' Cup standings, all while our student-athletes posted a cumulative grade-point average of better than 3.0 for the fourth consecutive semester.

The entire Commonwealth of Kentucky has celebrated all of these accomplishments with us, reflecting just how

much UK Athletics is woven into the fabric of our university and our state. In everything we do – from competing to studying to serving in the community – we represent much more than just our athletics department. We help define how people around the country and around the world view Kentucky and its flagship university, and we are proud of that. With that unique bond comes a great deal of responsibility, and we do not take it lightly.

With one of the best seasons in our history behind us, we set our sights on becoming the best athletics department in the nation. As we pursue that ambitious goal, we will keep the close ties we share with our state and our school in mind in all of our actions. A commitment to doing the little things right is what has carried us so far. That same commitment is what will carry us where we all want to go.

“We want UK to be the best athletics department in America. Just as I challenged our student-athletes, coaches, staff and fans to pursue a goal many thought impossible six years ago, I call on everyone involved with UK Athletics to seize the momentum we built in one of the best years we've ever had and turn it into something even better.”

– UK ATHLETICS DIRECTOR MITCH BARNHART

It only took the ball

1.8 seconds,

FROM THE TIME IT WAS LAUNCHED BY AARON HARRISON BEYOND THE THREE-POINT ARC AND CLEARED THE OUT-STRETCHED ARM OF A DEFENDER, TO SOAR THROUGH THE AIR AND SPLASH THROUGH THE NET WITH 2.6 SECONDS LEFT AGAINST MICHIGAN, EMPHATICALLY SENDING THE KENTUCKY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM TO A THIRD FINAL FOUR IN FOUR SEASONS AND FOREVER CHANGING THE LEGACY OF THE 2013-14 WILDCATS.





**“You can’t be
afraid to miss.”**

– HEAD COACH JOHN CALIPARI

MOMENTS OF IMPACT

And now we know

THE REST of the story

The words, understandably, were initially met with skepticism.

Kentucky had just lost at South Carolina, the latest setback in a season that began with expectations as lofty as they were unrealistic, but Aaron Harrison refused to back down from the confidence he and his teammates had always expressed. “A great story,” he said, could still be written over the next month.

Not even the prophetic freshman shooting guard could have imagined exactly how great it would be. Riding a pre-Southeastern Conference Tournament “tweak” that took on mythical proportions and, more importantly, an unwavering belief in one another, the Wildcats went on an NCAA Tournament run the likes of which has never been seen in UK’s rich history.

The No. 8 seed in a Midwest Region dubbed immediately the toughest in the bracket, the Cats faced a nearly impossible road littered with the defending national champion and two more Final Four squads from the previous season. After they survived a round-of-64 slugfest against Kansas State, Wichita State – carrying the unblemished March record that was supposed to be UK’s – awaited. The Cats took the Shockers’ best shot and lived to tell the tale

behind a clutch 20-point performance by Andrew Harrison in an early contender for game of the tournament.

UK’s next three games would enter the conversation as well. Playing a leading role in the story he foretold, Aaron Harrison hit game-winning 3s that became more dramatic by the game against Louisville, Michigan and Wisconsin as UK completed comebacks in each.

Ultimately, the incredible run ended in defeat, the Cats unable to rally from one final deficit against veteran Connecticut. Nonetheless, everything had changed. All the things for which UK had been criticized earlier became undisputed strengths.

The heart the Cats supposedly lacked in losing 10 regular-season games was there in every big moment, especially as defensive stopper Willie Cauley-Stein was lost to an injury suffered against Louisville. A group called selfish more than once in November and December was anything but in March and April, especially with five different players leading the team in scoring in the postseason. There was no sign of the bad body language that elicited so many complaints, especially not as teammates cheered Marcus Lee’s first-half tip-dunk outburst against the Wolverines.

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“It’s frustrating to lose, but we know what we can do. It is going to be a great story.”

– AARON HARRISON, FOLLOWING UK’S REGULAR SEASON LOSS AT SOUTH CAROLINA

John Calipari's team entered 2013-14 bearing the burden of a No. 1 ranking and buzz that an unbeaten season could be in the offing. Unfair as those expectations were, the Wildcats stayed together through a trying regular season and made an NCAA Tournament run for the ages.



W, 56-49



W, 78-76



W, 74-69



W, 75-72



W, 74-73



L, 54-60



Even as a late-game rally against top-ranked Florida came up just short in the SEC Tournament championship game, it was clear things would be different for UK in the postseason. The Wildcats backed that up after they were seeded eighth in the NCAA Tournament, advancing to the round of 32 with a 56-49 win over Kansas State behind Julius Randle's 19 points and 15 rebounds.

MOMENTS OF IMPACT



Everyone from Alex Poythress (22) to Marcus Lee (00) contributed meaningfully as UK downed three Final Four teams from a season ago en route to the Midwest Regional title and eventually an appearance in the national championship game.

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All along the way, the Cats captured the imagination of the Big Blue Nation. Fans celebrated each victory at home in Lexington and stories circulated of soon-to-be parents planning to name their children after Aaron Harrison. When the run ended one win shy of a national title, the support didn't stop.

Disappointment still fresh for the Cats as they returned from Texas, the UK fans, known far and wide for their championship-or-bust expectations, proved they valued the determination and togetherness their team showed throughout the tournament above all else. Landing in Lexington, players and coaches were greeted by hundreds of fans at the airport. Thousands more waited on the ride into downtown for a celebration of the season in Rupp Arena. The outpouring certainly didn't erase the sting of that loss to Connecticut, but it did serve as a reminder that the run a team mostly comprised of freshmen had made will forever be remembered by those who watched and took part in it.

In the weeks that followed, six of the eight underclass-

men who would have been selected had they declared for the NBA Draft elected to return to Kentucky. To a man, each cited a desire to pursue the title UK narrowly missed as a primary reason for coming back.

That great story Aaron Harrison knew was coming; these Cats aren't finished writing it just yet.

“Every year, it's a process. Some guys get it quicker than others. It took these guys a little longer, and it took me a little longer to figure them out.”

– UK HEAD MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH JOHN CALIPARI



LASTING IMPACT

The eyes of the Big Blue Nation are always glued on the Kentucky men's basketball team. During the 2014 NCAA Tournament, the rest of America joined in. With UK's run through the stacked Midwest Region and all the way to the national championship game serving as the story of March Madness, viewers tuned in at a record rate.

Through the first two weekends of the tournament, the NCAA Tournament averaged nearly 10 million total viewers according to Nielsen Media Research, the

highest viewership in more than two decades. The next week, 39.9 million viewers watched all or part of UK's national championship matchup with Connecticut.

Twitter, meanwhile, was abuzz with talk about the Wildcats. During March Madness, 20,000 tweets per day were posted about the team, including one from LeBron James to his more than 10 million followers.

The Wildcats – as well as the university and state they represent – have never been more front and center.



According to March Madness Live's social tracker from Mass Relevance, five of the six most-tweeted games of the 2014 NCAA Tournament involved UK, including the NCAA championship (No. 1-1.1 million tweets).



MOMENTS OF IMPACT

Rising to the Occasion



In an epic battle between two elite women's college basketball programs, No. 5 Kentucky – behind a school-record 43 points from junior guard Jennifer O'Neill – outlasted No. 9 Baylor, 133-130, in a four-overtime thriller and the highest-scoring Division I women's game in history.

Ten different Wildcats scored as UK Hoops came out on top against perennial power Baylor in December. Junior guard Jennifer O'Neill (below) led the way, going basket for basket with eventual national player of the year Odyssey Sims in the women's college basketball game of the year.



“You just had to make plays tonight and Jennifer was really, really hot. I didn’t realize she had 43. I knew she was doing a good job and we were trying to get her the ball, but it’s an amazing performance. We needed all of them.”

– UK HEAD WOMEN’S BASKETBALL COACH MATTHEW MITCHELL

Playing the first half of a doubleheader featuring Kentucky and Baylor’s men’s and women’s basketball teams, Matthew Mitchell’s program had a unique opportunity. With the temporary court at the Dallas Cowboys’ AT&T Stadium all to themselves, the Wildcats won a game that defied explanation and made an indelible mark on the record books.

The top-10 matchup between Kentucky and Baylor lasted an astounding four overtimes, appearing at times to take on a will of its own. The game, it seemed, was so good that it didn’t want to end.

The Cats and Lady Bears traded basket after basket in a 133-130 game that set a record for the most combined points in Division I women’s basketball history. Whenever UK was poised to take control, Baylor had the answer. When the Lady Bears re-

sponded, Jennifer O’Neill was usually there, scoring a school-record 43 points in the process.

Afterward, the Cats’ voices were hoarse and their smiles ear-to-ear. They had their signature victory in a nonconference schedule full of impressive triumphs. But just as it was on that December evening in Texas, the rest of the season had its ups and downs.

DeNesha Stallworth would miss the month following the win over Baylor after undergoing knee surgery, sending UK into a slump to start conference play. Showing the fight that carried them past the Lady Bears, the Cats surged to end the season and clinched a fourth Sweet 16 berth in five seasons on their home floor at Memorial Coliseum.



DeNesha Stallworth (left) and Jennifer O’Neill (right) provided a potent inside-out duo as UK rebounded from a slow start in SEC play and advanced to the Sweet 16 for the fourth time in five seasons.

MOMENTS OF IMPACT

VISION

THE FUTURE OF KENTUCKY FOOTBALL BECAME EVEN BRIGHTER IN NOVEMBER AS PLANS FOR A DRAMATIC TRANSFORMATION OF COMMONWEALTH STADIUM WERE UNVEILED IN FRONT OF HUNDREDS OF SEASON-TICKET HOLDERS AND MEDIA AT THE NUTTER FIELD HOUSE. WITH CONSTRUCTION CREWS ALREADY HARD AT WORK, THE NEW CWS WILL BE COMPLETED IN TIME FOR THE START OF THE 2015 SEASON.



“We are absolutely committed to getting

this program to the spot where we can all enjoy some very special moments. We’re resolute in that. I am absolutely not backing down from the fact that we can compete at the highest level in this league. I want to get to Atlanta (for the SEC Championship game) and that’s the goal, make no mistake about it.”

– UK ATHLETICS DIRECTOR MITCH BARNHART



EVENTS OF IMPACT



Mark Stoops was the leading man as UK football hosted an unprecedented webcast live from the Nutter Training Facility as the top-rated recruiting class in program history became official on Signing Day.

CHANGING the Game

The future has never been brighter for Kentucky football. Commonwealth Stadium will undergo a dramatic transformation set to benefit fans and players alike. Renovations to UK's longtime home were announced in November 2013 and are on schedule to be completed in time for the 2015 season.

Mere months after the stadium project became official, plans for a privately funded \$45-million practice facility were approved by the UK Board of Trustees, setting into motion a process that will move UK's entire football operation.

That will only serve to enhance the efforts of UK High Performance. The innovative program is already transforming student-athletes physically and mentally and priming them to compete at the highest level on game day.

And with each passing year, more and more talented groups of Wildcats set foot on campus. Since Mark Stoops' arrival, UK has recruited its two most highly rated classes in the history of Rivals.com's recruiting rankings.

A torrent of excitement has followed, with fans energized about what their beloved team could be in years to come.

Stoops, meanwhile, continues to work.

Knowing nothing other than the blue-collar work ethic that established him among the top young defensive minds in the game, Stoops is aware of the excitement but concerns himself only with the next task at hand as he builds a program from the ground up. He'll have plenty of time to think about the future when it arrives.

YAHTZEE!

After reeling in a record-setting class months into his tenure, Mark Stoops and his staff took recruiting to the next level when they had a full year with which to work. UK's 28-member 2014 class was rated No. 15 nationally by Rivals.com, the highest ranking in school history.



2014 SIGNING DAY



“I knew we’d recruit good players. Where it was rated and all that and the publicity, I like it, and it helps our program, but, again, that’s not what I’m out for. I’m out to get great players to help build this program day in and day out.”

– UK HEAD FOOTBALL COACH MARK STOOPS

THE NEW CWS CONSTRUCTION

CWS After the unveiling of designs for The New CWS, construction crews wasted no time going to work on the new home of Kentucky football. Renovations will be completed in time for the start of the 2015 season.



2014 SPRING GAME



A year after 50,831 fans filled Commonwealth Stadium for the 2013 Blue/White Spring Game, the second-largest crowd in school history was in attendance for the 2014 edition. The Big Blue Nation came out in droves to welcome the team for the Cat Walk pictured to the left. In the game, the Blue squad defeated White behind an impressive stable of running backs.

EVENTS OF IMPACT

With an unprecedented

11th

place finish

IN THE DIRECTORS' CUP STANDINGS, KENTUCKY ATHLETICS ESTABLISHED ITSELF AMONG THE NATION'S ELITE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENTS AND REACHED KENTUCKY'S GOAL OF A TOP-15 FINISH A YEAR AHEAD OF SCHEDULE. EIGHTEEN OF UK'S 22 TEAMS CONTRIBUTED TO THE RECORD POINT TOTAL, WITH SEVEN FINISHING RANKED IN THE TOP 10 IN THEIR RESPECTIVE SPORTS.





SEASONS OF IMPACT

HEROES

Galore

Rachel Lawson had taken the Kentucky softball program places it had never been before.

Entering this season, she was already the winningest coach in school history. UK had advanced to five straight NCAA Tournaments and made its first two Super Regional appearances ever. In spite of their ascent to a place among the nation's elite, the Wildcats still felt something was missing.

In 2014, they filled the void by reaching the Women's College World Series.

The year began with 12 straight victories, the best start to a season and longest winning streak in program history. The Wildcats charged to their highest ranking ever (No. 5 in *USA Today*/NFCA Top 25) during nonconference play before compiling a winning record in the always-demand-

ing Southeastern Conference for the fourth straight year.

That record-setting regular season behind them, the Wildcats set out to do even more in the postseason. They began their run at the SEC Tournament, where they rode the hot bats of Nikki Sagermann and Christian Stokes and Kelsey Nunley's dominant arm to their first-ever appearance in the SEC Tournament championship game.

The strong showing helped propel UK to a national seed in the NCAA Tournament for the second straight season and the opportunity to host a regional. Capping off their first full season at their state-of-the-art home field, the Wildcats were sparked to a regional-clinching win over DePaul by a Sylver Samuel inside-the-park home run, setting up a Super Regional showdown with 11-time NCAA champion UCLA on the road.

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Fans gathered at John Cropp Stadium to welcome the Kentucky softball team back to the Bluegrass after the Wildcats' memorable run to the Women's College World Series came to a close.



The Kentucky softball team's maiden trip to the Women's College World Series came on the heels of a 41-win regular season and an appearance in the Southeastern Conference Tournament Championship. Throughout the historic season, the Wildcats were fueled by inspired coaching and countless clutch performances on the field.

SEASONS OF IMPACT



Awards came pouring in for the Wildcats during a record-setting 2014 season. Rachel Lawson and her staff were named NFCA National Coaching Staff of the Year, while sophomore ace Kelsey Nunley was named to the Women's College World Series All-Tournament Team, SEC All-Tournament Team and All-SEC Second Team. Nunley was joined on the SEC All-Tournament Team by Christian Stokes and Nikki Sagermann and the All-SEC Second Team by Sagermann.

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The setting was a familiar one for the Wildcats. Twice in the previous three years they had seen their season end a step shy of the Women's College World Series, leaving a senior class of Ginny Carroll, Lauren Cumbess, Sarah Frazer, Emily Gaines, Emily Jolly and Krystal Smith one last shot at a trip to college softball's biggest stage.

They wouldn't squander the opportunity.

After a disappointing game-one defeat to UCLA, the Wildcats responded with a decisive doubleheader sweep. Behind Nunley – who threw every pitch of UK's NCAA Tournament run – and an offense that exploded for 14 runs, Kentucky punched its ticket to Oklahoma City.

Once there, the Wildcats wasted little time proving they

belonged. Taking on perennial power Louisiana-Lafayette, UK grabbed an early lead and didn't look back in a 4-1 win. Nunley starred in the circle once again, allowing only one hit, while Cumbess delivered three hits, including a home run, in the Women's College World Series debut she had waited for so long.

The Wildcats would lose in heart-breaking fashion in their next two games, putting an end to Kentucky softball's first 50-win season. The next day, the team returned to Lexington and celebrated all they had accomplished with fans at John Cropp Stadium. They showed off their Women's College World Series trophy, but the Wildcats were already thinking about the next void they need to fill.

“This is a special day for us. We're going into a place that we've never been before, I feel really excited. It's a dream come true for all the girls on our team and our staff. We've worked incredibly hard.”

– HEAD SOFTBALL COACH RACHEL LAWSON AFTER UK ADVANCED TO ITS FIRST EVER WOMEN'S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES



Behind pitcher Kelsey Nunley (right), UK refused to wilt after UCLA came back to win game one of the teams' Super Regional matchup.

THEN	VS.	NOW
Before Rachel Lawson		Since Rachel Lawson
11	Seasons	7
1	Winning Seasons	5
242 (.373)	Wins (Winning Percentage)	244 (.587)
64	SEC wins	84
0	Wins Over Ranked Opponents	55
0	NCAA Tournaments	6
0	Super Regionals	3
0	WCWS Appearances	1
4	All-SEC Honorees	25
94	SEC Academic Honor Roll Honorees	103

SEASONS OF IMPACT

AJ's BIG YEAR

AJ Reed established himself among the elite players in the SEC in his first two seasons. In his final college campaign, the two-way UK baseball star took his game to a new level and became the best player in the country.

It took a unique combination of humility and confidence for AJ Reed to do what he did in the offseason before his junior year. Reed had just finished a 2013 season during which he was selected First Team All-Southeastern Conference, blasting 13 home runs and serving as UK's Friday-night starter on the mound in the process. Suffice to say, Reed was already a special player. Nonetheless, Reed was certain he was capable of more and prepared as such. He committed to changing his body through a more intense workout regimen and refined diet, believing conditioning to be the only thing preventing him from reaching his potential. When Reed came to preseason media day in the best shape of his life, the stories almost wrote themselves. His fitter frame would allow him to better withstand the rigors of double duty and avoid

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Enjoying an extraordinary junior season, AJ Reed became just the third all-time SEC player to earn unanimous national player of the year honors. He is the sixth SEC great to win the Golden Spikes Award – given annually to the top amateur player in the nation by USA Baseball.

LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY

2014 AWARDS

- Golden Spikes Award (presented by USA Baseball to the top amateur player in the nation)
- Dick Howser Trophy – National College Player of the Year
- ABCA National Player of the Year
- Collegiate Baseball National Player of the Year
- Perfect Game National Player of the Year
- John Olerud Two-Way Player of the Year Award
- SEC Male Athlete of the Year
- SEC Player of the Year
- Unanimous First-Team All-America
- First-Team All-SEC
- Two-Time NCBWA National Hitter of the Week
- Two-Time Louisville Slugger National Player of the Week
- Two-Time SEC Player of the Week
- SEC Pitcher of the Week
- NCAA.com National Player of the Week

WORTH NOTING

- Tied UK season record with 23 homers and was the first player in the SEC in the composite bat era to hit 20 or more homers.
- Finished 2014 with more homers than 185 schools in college baseball, including six SEC teams.
- The first player in SEC history to lead the conference in homers and pitching victories.
- The SEC's third all-time unanimous national player of the year, joining Dave Magadan (1983) and David Price (2007).

FINAL STATS

- Led SEC in: HR (23), RBI (73), wins (12), walks (49), slugging (.735), on-base percentage (.476) and OPS (1.211).
- Led NCAA in: HR (23), slugging (.735) and OPS (1.211)



SEASONS OF IMPACT

“AJ is a guy that is at the center of your club. He has a good time every day he is at the field. He likes to laugh, he has a good sense of humor. He can poke fun at himself. He is fun to be around consistently. Even when it didn’t go well and he had a rough weekend, you knew that AJ was going to show up and bring energy and a smile.”

– HEAD BASEBALL COACH GARY HENDERSON

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the late-season fades that befell him in both 2012 and 2013. His dedication to becoming an even better player showed he was ready to be the leader his team needed him to be. Hopes, as they tend to be before opening day, were running high.

Not high enough.

Reed backed up the preseason talk immediately, pitching UK to a win over top-ranked Virginia in the season opener and blasting six home runs in his first seven games. He would hardly slow down from there. Leading UK to an NCAA regional final, Reed had one of the best seasons in college baseball history.

At the plate, he batted .336 with 23 home runs and 73 RBI. Once again the ace of the Wildcat pitching staff, Reed went 12-2 with a 2.09 ERA, including his first career complete game in his final start – an NCAA Tournament win over Kent State. He was especially outstanding against SEC opponents, clubbing 15 home runs in conference games – more than all but three league teams – and posting nine wins in 13 starts on the mound. In recognition of his record-setting year, Reed won every major national player of the year award.

Clearly, that offseason work paid off.



LASTING IMPACT

Under Mitch Barnhart's leadership, UK Athletics has remained one of a handful of self-sufficient departments in the nation, as well as a strident partner of the university it represents. By signing a 15-year, \$210 million multimedia rights agreement with JMI Sports, UK helped ensure its sound financial future.

UK has made great strides in recent years in providing student-athletes with the resources needed to compete at the highest level on the field and in the classroom. The results of that effort are clear, particularly after UK Athletics' record No. 11 finish in Directors' Cup standings and a fourth consecutive semester with a 3.0 department-wide grade-point average.

The athletics department, however, is out to take its game to the next level. A relationship with an innovative new partner and one of the most valuable deals of its kind in college sports history will help in that pursuit, all while UK fans will enjoy a best-in-class radio network and unprecedented coverage.

Included in the agreement is a \$29.4 million signing bonus to be paid over two years. The funds are earmarked to help fund important capital projects. Priorities for such projects include a new baseball stadium, upgraded indoor tennis facilities, wireless access at Commonwealth Stadium and a new video board at Memorial Coliseum.



UK and JMI Sports jointly announced a 15-year multimedia rights partnership at a press conference in June. The \$210 million deal is among the most valuable of its kind in college athletics history.

“This partnership reflects the fact that the University of Kentucky is a national brand with the largest and most loyal fan base in all of intercollegiate athletics.”

– UK ATHLETICS DIRECTOR MITCH BARNHART

USHERING IN A NEW ERA OF TRACK AND FIELD EXCELLENCE



Edrick Floréal has been in the business of changing minds since he took over the Kentucky track and field program.

He started with the student-athletes he inherited, convincing them they were capable of more than they knew in both training and competition. Next, Floréal and his staff hit the trail to prove to recruits that UK is the place for them to develop into elite performers. If he succeeded on those two fronts, Floréal knew the world of college track and field would quickly recognize Kentucky as a force to be reckoned with.

After a historic second season under Floréal's guidance, the Wildcats are well on their way.

The year began with the UK women receiving a No. 6 indoor ranking – the highest in school history – and piling

up record times and weekly awards. At the Southeastern Conference Indoor Championships, six Wildcats won individual gold medals and UK's women's and men's teams both finished in the top five for the first time since 1988, coming in fourth and fifth, respectively. The women would then deliver on their lofty preseason ranking by finishing ninth at NCAA Indoor Championships, their best finish ever.

The outdoor season would bring similar success. After a regular season that featured world-class performances by the likes of Dezerea Bryant and Andrew Evans, the UK women and men finished fourth and sixth, respectively as the program hosted the SEC Outdoor Championships. At NCAA Outdoor Championships, 10 Wildcats received All-America honors as the women once again set a program record with a seventh-place finish and the men came in 15th.



By the time Kentucky completed the 2014 season, the Wildcats had set new program record marks in 17 events, including Matt Hillenbrand (top left) in the indoor mile, Kendra Harrison (top right) in the indoor 60m hurdles and outdoor 100m and 400m hurdles and Raymond Dykstra (middle) in javelin. Allison Peare (bottom right) completed the rare feat of winning the silver medal in both the 800m and 1500m at SEC Outdoor Championships.

“For us, from where we have come from and where we are going, I think we keep stepping in the right direction. We keep getting better, we keep competing and we just have to get consistent across the board.”

– HEAD TRACK & FIELD COACH EDRICK FLORÉAL

SEASONS OF IMPACT

LASTING IMPACT

For 18 years, the Kentucky track and field program had gone without hosting the Southeastern Conference Outdoor Championships.

This spring, UK reintroduced its home track in a big way.

With the new UK Track and Field Complex – open for its second season – in top condition, some of the best athletes in the nation flocked to Lexington for one of the most competitive meets of the year. They competed on the state-of-the-art blue surface and perfectly manicured field. Fans filled the 3,000-seat grandstand and watched replays on the video board. ESPN was in town too to broadcast the event, using a spacious new meet administration building.



The Wildcats, meanwhile, reintroduced themselves as well.

With strong performances throughout the four-day meet and across events, the UK women placed fourth – their best finish since 1983 – and the men sixth – their best finish since 1996.

The efforts, surely, had a lot to do with training in a venue the quality of UK's new track and field complex and the Wildcats figure to continue reaping those benefits.

Under Edrick Floréal's guidance, UK has embarked on a journey toward becoming a perennial contender in collegiate track and field. With the opening of the Wildcats' new home track, they have the facility they need to pursue those goals, as well as host more elite meets.



2013-14 TRACK & FIELD HONORS AND AWARDS

Dezerea Bryant

- National Champion – Indoor 200m
- NCAA Silver Medalist – Indoor 60m
- SEC Champion – Indoor 60m
- SEC Bronze Medalist – 100m
- National Runner of the Week – Feb. 10
- SEC Runner of the Week – Feb. 11

Kendra Harrison

- All-American – Indoor 60m Hurdles
- All-American – Indoor 60m Dash
- Silver Medalist – Outdoor 400m Hurdles
- All-American – Outdoor 100m Hurdles
- SEC Champion – Indoor 60m Hurdles
- SEC Champion – Outdoor 100m Hurdles
- SEC Champion – Outdoor 400m Hurdles
- Three-Time SEC Runner of the Week
Jan. 28, April 1 and April 8

Matt Hillenbrand

- All-American – Indoor Mile
- All-American – Outdoor 1,500m
- SEC Champion – Indoor 3,000m
- SEC Champion – Indoor Mile
- SEC Bronze Medalist – Outdoor 1,500m

Allison Pearce

- All-American – Outdoor 1,500m
- SEC Silver Medalist – Outdoor 1,500m
- SEC Silver Medalist – Outdoor 800m
- SEC Bronze Medalist – Indoor Mile
- SEC Runner of the Week – March 25

Andrew Evans

- All-American – Discus
- SEC Champion – Discus
- National Athlete of the Week – May 5
- SEC Men's Field Athlete of the Week
May 6

Raymond Dykstra

- NCAA Silver Medalist – Javelin
- SEC Champion – Javelin
- SEC Field Athlete of the Week – April 22

Keffri Neal

- Bronze Medalist – Outdoor 800m
- SEC Champion – Indoor 800m
- SEC Champion – Outdoor 1,500m

Kayla Parker

- All-American – Outdoor 100m Hurdles
- SEC Bronze Medalist – Indoor 60m Hurdles

Sha'Keela Saunders

- NCAA Silver Medalist – Long Jump

Brad Szyпка

- All-American – Indoor Shot Put
- SEC Champion – Indoor Shot Put

Leah Nugent

- All-American – Outdoor 400m Hurdles

Madison Jacobs

- All-American – Discus

Adam Kahleifeh

- SEC Silver Medalist – Indoor 3,000m

Ibn Short

- SEC Silver Medalist – Heptathlon

Justin Kretchmer

- SEC Bronze Medalist – Indoor High Jump

Cally Macumber

- SEC Silver Medalist – 10,000m



Sha'Keela Saunders (left) was a silver medalist in the long jump at the 2014 NCAA Outdoor Championships with a career-best mark of 6.43 meters. Kayla Parker (middle) earned All-America honors in the 100m hurdles at NCAA Outdoors, while Keffri Neal won titles at both the SEC Indoor and Outdoor Championships and a bronze medal at NAAs in June.



WINNING BIG ON MANY FRONTS

With Kentucky's student-athletes, coaches and fans committed to nurturing a positive winning culture, UK teams enjoyed unprecedented competitive success in 2013-14.

At the first edition of the CATSPY Awards, the winners were obvious. There were a handful of standouts among UK teams and student-athletes and choosing from the group was fairly easy.

Eleven years later, it's a much different story. With Wildcats all over campus competing at an elite level, selecting CATSPY recipients has become quite a bit more difficult.

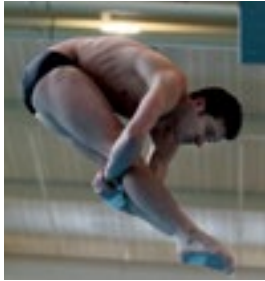
As UK posted an 11th-place finish in Directors' Cup standings, 18 teams contributed to the athletics depart-

ment's record tally. Seven teams finished in the top 10 nationally for their respective sports and 15 in the top 20.

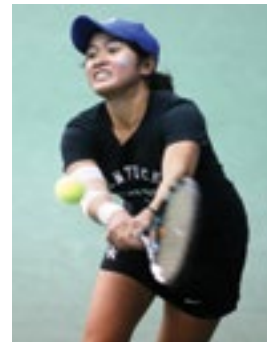
Men's basketball, of course, led the way, riding clutch performances to a March Madness run for the ages, all the way to an appearance in the national championship game. It was a third Final Four trip in four years for John Calipari's team, a stretch only matched by UK rifle. Harry Mullins' perennial power finished third at NCAA Championships in 2014, marking a fourth straight season in the top three.

“I want to congratulate and thank everyone who made this remarkable year possible. Our student-athletes, coaches and staff have worked so hard to establish UK among the best athletics departments in the nation.”

– UK ATHLETICS DIRECTOR MITCH BARNHART



Led by senior Greg Ferrucci (above), UK swimming and diving began a new era under head coach Lars Jorgensen. Senior Tom Jomby (near right) anchored UK's singles and doubles lineup as men's tennis advanced to the Sweet 16 for a sixth straight season, while Connor Davis (top right), David Snyder (middle right) and Nadia Ravita (bottom right) starred for their respective teams. Facing page, Avery Williamson (football) and Lauren Cumbess (softball) are pictured with UK Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart after receiving the The Mr. and Miss Wildcat Awards, respectively, at the 2014 CATSPY Awards.



Softball, meanwhile, made its first-ever Women's College World Series appearance this season, beginning its NCAA Tournament run in John Cropp Stadium. Rachel Lawson's bunch was one of five UK teams to earn the right to host at least one round of their respective NCAA Tournaments. Their runs in NCAA competition happened away from home, but track and field, men's golf and women's tennis each soared to postseason heights neither has reached in recent years.

The department-wide success is no accident. It has come, in part, through an administration-led charge to make UK's facilities among the best in the nation. Most importantly, it's come through the work of a group of coaches and student-athletes dedicated to fulfilling their vast potential.

That work, however, is far from done. The Wildcats are pushing themselves and one another as they continue to chase an even brighter future.

SEASONS OF IMPACT

From an inspiring national best

3.72 GPA

POSTED BY THE WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING TEAM TO THE PERSEVERANCE SHOWN BY FORMER ALL-AMERICAN JODIE MEEKS IN EARNING HIS BACHELOR'S DEGREE FIVE YEARS AFTER HE LEFT UK FOR A STANDOUT NBA CAREER TO THE 4,319 HOURS THEY SPENT SERVING IN THE COMMUNITY, WILDCAT STUDENT-ATHLETES – PAST AND PRESENT – DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN MANY MEANINGFUL WAYS AWAY FROM THE FIELD OF COMPETITION IN 2013-14.





ACTIONS OF IMPACT

PROFILES IN

ARIN GILLILAND • 2014 HONDA INSPIRATION AWARD RECIPIENT



Arin Gilliland received the 2014 Honda Inspiration Award at the The Collegiate Women Sports Awards presentation in Los Angeles, Calif.

Arin Gilliland makes it seem easy. From the moment she set foot on the UK campus more than three years ago, the Lexington native has been a star whether Jon Lipsitz has played her as an attacker or defender. She was an All-Southeastern Conference performer in her first season and developed into one of the best players in the country and a team leader as a sophomore and junior, all while Kentucky women's soccer has had its best years in program history.

As natural as Gilliland may look on the soccer field, her journey has been anything but easy.

Her college career began early, an increasingly popular trend, but Gilliland arrived in the spring for very different reasons than other elite athletes. Her mother, Letita,

Refusing to bow to the adversity of serious injury and family tragedy, UK senior captain Arin Gilliland received the 2014 Honda Inspiration Award.

was battling stage IV liver cancer and might never see her daughter wear a Kentucky uniform if she didn't graduate high school a semester ahead of schedule.

Instead, Letita was able to watch Arin for an entire season with her daughter playing so close to home, all the way until Arin suffered a torn ACL in the SEC Tournament. A long road to recovery became even tougher when her mother passed away in April 2012.

Rather than be derailed by the adversity facing her, Gilliland honed her focus and applied her unmatched work ethic in the rehabilitation process. Barely nine months after surgery and four months after losing her mother, Gilliland returned to the field for UK's season opener and played 71 minutes in a win.

She was back to making it look easy again.



To watch video and learn more about Arin Gilliland's personal story, scan the QR code at right.



LEADERSHIP

GRACE TRIMBLE • 2014 TRUMAN SCHOLAR

Committed to service even with unique demands placed on her time by school and sports, Grace Trimble was one of 60 college students nationwide to receive a 2014 Truman Scholarship.

Grace Trimble always finds time for others. She balances a demanding schedule as a rising senior on the UK women's tennis team and a political science major, but Trimble still remains closely connected to the nonprofit organization she founded as a high schooler. Lexington Tennis Club Smart Shots uses tennis and education to change the lives of underprivileged elementary students.

In fact, Trimble – a Chellgren Fellow at UK – has expanded her efforts with LTC Smart Shots as a college student-athlete. As an undergraduate researcher, she implemented a survey designed to measure and improve the effectiveness of her program.

Thanks to her dedication to service and excellence in the classroom, Trimble was named UK's first recipient of the prestigious Truman Scholarship since 2008. After graduation next spring, Trimble plans to use the scholarship to pursue a master's in degree in public administration with a focus on nonprofit management.

Shown with UK President Dr. Eli Capilouto, UK women's tennis player Grace Trimble was the only student from the Commonwealth of Kentucky to receive the Truman Scholarship in 2014.



“Grace joins a small number of exceptional UK students honored with the illustrious Truman Foundation Scholarship. The entire UK family is extremely proud of her achievements in academics and public service that earned her this award. We look forward to all that she will continue to do on our campus and beyond.”

– UK PRESIDENT DR. ELI CAPILOUTO

ACTIONS OF IMPACT

Special Promotion Makes LOVING TRIBUTE

Not a day goes by that Dr. Stuart Brown doesn't think about honoring the memory of his wife, Christine, who died from injuries related to a riding accident on July 10, 2013. That's why, when two of the things Christine cared about most deeply – UK Hoops and horses – intersected in December, he didn't hesitate.

For UK's annual "Pack the House" game in Rupp Arena, Stuart offered a one-of-a-kind horse-racing experience to one lucky fan. The fan, Kevin Robb from Georgetown, Ky., won part ownership of a thoroughbred for 2014 after entering a drawing at UK's game against Duke.

This wasn't just any horse either.

Patinka, a 3-year-old filly, was special to the Browns. Stuart resuscitated Patinka at birth and Christine was there for every moment as the horse recovered from a three-day coma and a later abdominal surgery. Once she healed, the

Browns simply had to keep Patinka and their bond with the horse only grew stronger from there.

Christine, meanwhile, had plenty of room in her big heart to continue supporting UK Hoops as Patinka grew into a promising racehorse. She was a fixture courtside at Memorial Coliseum, relishing the relationships she built with players and coaches.

That's exactly why Stuart decided to donate part ownership of Patinka. Not only would he help the program his wife loved so deeply – a record crowd of 23,706 attended the Duke game – he would be able to expose a fan of that program to the experience of owning a horse in a way that would have otherwise been impossible.

***Editor's note:** During the production of the Annual Report, Patinka passed away. UK Athletics offers its condolences to Dr. Stuart Brown and all of Patinka's connections.*

Thanks in part to Dr. Stuart Brown's generosity, a record 23,706 fans attended UK Hoops' game against Duke in Rupp Arena on Dec. 22, 2013.



Motivated by his late wife’s passion for horses and Kentucky women’s basketball, prominent Lexington-area veterinarian and K Fund member Dr. Stuart Brown teamed up with UK Athletics for a unique promotion leading UK Hoops to a new attendance record.



After he and his late wife Christine nursed Patinka to health, Dr. Stuart Brown developed a special bond with the 3-year-old filly, which later reached the winner’s circle at Delaware Park in October 2013 (above). Christine, who was equally passionate about horses and Kentucky women’s basketball, graduated from UK and the Midway College of Nursing. She was a lifelong equestrian and accomplished eventer, having achieved the 2010 MSED A Mare of the Year on her cherished Rivella (below). As a UK student, she competed at national finals as a member of the equestrian club team.



ACTIONS OF IMPACT

As the leaders of their respective programs, UK Athletics' current head coaches have collectively earned a well-deserved reputation as some of the most knowledgeable, passionate and caring coaches in the profession.

SETTING THE RIGHT TONE



From left to right, Tim Garrison, Craig Skinner, Rachel Lawson and Cedric Kauffmann lead the UK gymnastics, volleyball, softball and men's tennis teams, respectively. The four teams were among 18 Kentucky squads to participate in NCAA championship play during the 2013-14 season.

Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart often says the group of coaches currently at the head of UK Athletics' 22 programs is the best he has ever been around. Given his three decades of experience in college sports, his opinion has some weight.

In case that's not enough, their accomplishments speak for themselves.

There's John Calipari, the man who has helped lift the nation's most tradition-rich program back to the pinnacle of college basketball. There are coaches like Rachel Lawson, Matthew Mitchell, Craig Skinner, Jon Lipsitz and Tim Garrison who have steadily established their programs as perennial contenders. There's a legend in Harry Mullins

and a young coach in Cedric Kauffmann, who is building on the foundation set by Dennis Emery, while energetic new coaches like Mark Stoops, Edrick Floréal, Johan Cedergren and Lars Jorgensen have their programs on the rise. Gary Henderson, Carlos Drada, Brian Craig and Golda Borst have been around a bit longer, but the futures of their teams are no less bright.

At UK, there are as many different coaching styles as there are programs. The one thing, however, that all the coaches have in common is an unmatched commitment to helping student-athletes achieve at a high level in and out of competition.

LASTING IMPACT

In the life of a head coach, 10 years is a long time. Given the competitiveness of college sports, moving is all but a guarantee over the course of a decade.

But this June, Matthew Mitchell made a long-term commitment to UK Athletics. Pledging \$1 million over the next 10 years to the athletics department with his wife Jenna, Mitchell is showing that UK is more than his place of work.

Mitchell has already shown his commitment to the Lexington community on multiple occasions, but this donation – the largest ever by a UK Athletics employee to the athletics department – is the clearest proof yet that UK is home. Mitchell's gift, spread out in \$100,000 installments over each of the next 10 years, will be used to help fund a variety of capital projects, including football facility upgrades.

"People need to understand football really makes so many things happen for the rest of us in this

department," Mitchell said. "We need football to be thriving and healthy at Kentucky and, with Mark Stoops as our head coach, I don't have any doubt that that is going to happen."

The donation will surely be helpful and is certainly appreciated, but it was solely borne out of the Mitchells wanting to make yet another positive impact on the place they've come to call home.

"It's an individual decision because of how good God has been to us," Mitchell said. "No one has pressured us to do this or asked us to do this. This is just what we want to do because of the blessings we've received and it's no more complicated than that. We just love this university. We love the people."

The feeling is mutual.



Months after coaching the UK women's basketball program to a fourth Sweet 16 berth in five seasons, Matthew Mitchell pledged the largest donation ever by a UK Athletics employee to the department.

ACTIONS OF IMPACT

MAKING EVERY DOLLAR Count

Responsible stewardship and positively impacting student-athletes and the University of Kentucky it represents are the hallmarks of UK Athletics under the leadership of Mitch Barnhart.

In the midst of an uncertain economic climate and a competitive college athletics landscape that changes every day, UK Athletics continues to responsibly manage its finances and serves as a steadfast partner of the state's flagship university.

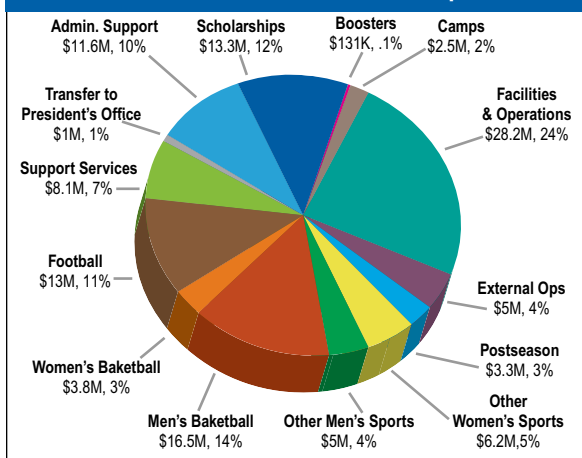
This summer, the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees approved UK Athletics' proposed 2014-15 budget of \$117.7 million as part of an overall University budget that surpassed \$3 billion for the first time in history. In spite of growing expenses due to facility improvements,

travel and salaries, UK Athletics will once again operate as one of the few self-sufficient departments in the nation, receiving no state or University funds. UK Athletics will offset the escalating expenses facing it with added revenue from its new multimedia rights deal with JMI Sports, capital gifts and football ticket sales.

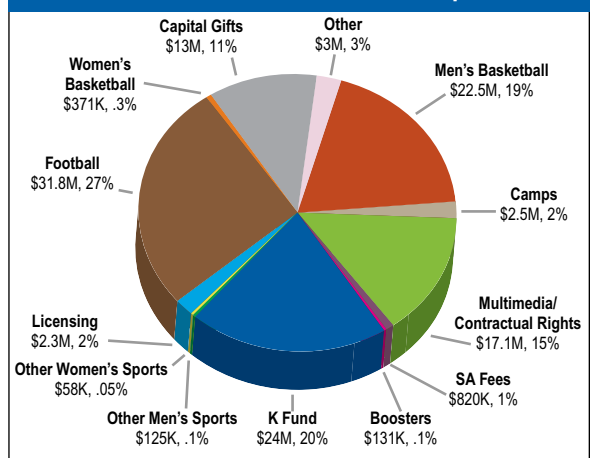
In addition to operating with a balanced budget, UK Athletics contributes meaningfully to the academic mission of the University. UK Athletics pays full tuition rates to the University for 340 student-athlete scholarships while continuing to fund \$1.7 million annually in academic scholarships for UK students not affiliated with UK Athletics. Construction also began this summer on a new \$100-plus million Academic Science Building, for which UK Athletics is providing nearly two-thirds of the funding.

Beyond the \$65 million for the Academic Science Building that will be completed in approximately two years, UK Athletics has contributed more than \$130 million to the University since 2002, reaffirming the symbiotic relationship between the two.

14-15 BUDGETED EXPENSES – \$117.7 M



14-15 BUDGETED REVENUES – \$117.7 M



IN THIS TOGETHER

Renewing its commitment to providing the best experiences to the best fans in America, UK Athletics launched BBN First in the spring of 2014. With the feedback of the Big Blue Nation serving as a compass, improvements for the 2014-15 athletics season already have been made.

Recognizing that none of the incredible strides made by UK Athletics would have been possible without the fans, Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart asked the department he leads with putting the Big Blue Nation first. Through BBN First, UK Athletics committed to competing for championships and making fans proud, providing a first-class game-day experience and creating a shared family atmosphere.

To make the concepts guiding BBN First come to life, fans were posed a simple question: What can we do better?

The Big Blue Nation responded only as Kentucky fans can, with more than 1,700 suggestions, nearly all of which have been constructive. Taking the feedback and turning it into action, UK Athletics' Fan Experience Committee read every suggestion, identified areas for improvement and prioritized them.

Already, fan suggestions have yielded tangible improvements. Music, the most popular topic, has been addressed for the upcoming football season with a Kickoff Playoff that allowed fans to choose a song to be played before the season's opening kickoff from picks by eight team leaders.



Fans will also be able to vote on their favorite songs from a variety of genres during game week.

Though fan feedback has led to numerous improvements already – from in-game traditions to a new loyalty rewards program – the work of BBN First is far from finished. Creating the experiences the best fans in America deserve is a never-ending endeavor.

"I am asking everyone involved with UK Athletics to make a renewed commitment to our fans. We will honor the deep ties we share by making sure you have great experiences when you invest time and money to support your Wildcats. We are going to put you, the Big Blue Nation, first."

– UK ATHLETICS DIRECTOR MITCH BARNHART

BBN_{FIRST}



2014

Team	Postseason Finish
BASEBALL	NCAA Regional Finals
MEN'S BASKETBALL	NCAA National Runner-Up
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	NCAA Sweet 16
MEN'S GOLF	T-18th, NCAA Championships
WOMEN'S GOLF	NCAA East Regional
GYMNASTICS	NCAA Regional
RIFLE	Third, NCAA Championships
WOMEN'S SOCCER	NCAA Second Round
SOFTBALL	Women's College World Series
MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING	37th, NCAA Championships
WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING	23rd, NCAA Championships
MEN'S TENNIS	NCAA Sweet 16
WOMEN'S TENNIS	NCAA Second Round
MEN'S INDOOR T&F	45th, NCAA Championships
WOMEN'S INDOOR T&F	Ninth, NCAA Championships
WOMEN'S OUTDOOR T&F	Seventh, NCAA Championships
MEN'S OUTDOOR T&F	15th, NCAA Championships
VOLLEYBALL	NCAA Second Round

