



KENTUCKY ATHLETICS ANNUAL REPORT

2013



# 1999

Chelsea Oswald and Megan Moir are the first UK female student-athletes since 1999 to win the Boyd McWhorter Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award and Brad Davis Southeastern Conference Female Community Service Leader of the Year Award, respectively, in the same year.



From left to right, UK President Eli Capilouto, head track and field coach Edrick Floreal, Chelsea Oswald, Megan Moir, head women's golf coach Golda Borst and Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart attended the Southeastern Conference's Spring Meetings in Sandestin, Fla., as Oswald and Moir accepted their prestigious conference awards.





**4** Inspiring Moments

**14** Inspiring Performances

**24** Inspiring Legacies

**34** Inspiring Vision

The **2013 University of Kentucky Athletics Annual Report** is published by the UK Athletics Department, Mitch Barnhart, Director. This publication was written and edited by Guy Ramsey, Craig Hornberger and the UK Athletics Media Relations Staff. Design by Craig Hornberger. Principal photography by UK Athletics/Chet White, Britney McIntosh, Steve Harp, Brett Marshall and Joshua McCoy.

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# BIG BLUE NATION

## PROVIDING INSPIRATION

**NEVER BEFORE HAVE FANS BEEN SO IMPORTANT** to the success of UK Athletics and never before has the Big Blue Nation so consistently answered the call to support the Wildcats.

**W**hat began as a far-off vision is now well within sight.

We set out more than a decade ago to transform UK Athletics into a comprehensive program that competes at the highest level in all sports. Just as importantly, we set out to do it with character, to excel off the field.

We've never been closer.

It has taken remarkable talent, tenacity, focus and sacrifice on the part of our student-athletes to make that progress. Our coaches and staff have been there every step of the way, working tirelessly to ensure our young people have the best possible opportunity to succeed in all they do. That, however, ignores one important piece of the puzzle: the Big Blue Nation.

The word "inspire" is used often in an athletic context, but it's typically the athletes who are thought of as inspiring the fans. During the season that just concluded, perhaps more than any other, fans proved that inspiration is a two-way street at UK.

That starts, of course, with the environment at any event where the Wildcats compete.

No matter the time or place, our fans give the Wildcats an extra gear even when the challenge may seem too tough. The Big Blue Nation filled Memorial Coliseum and helped propel the volleyball team to a second straight Sweet 16 berth after the Cats dropped the first set to Ohio State. When 90 minutes weren't enough, the Big Blue Nation stayed and cheered women's soccer to the first NCAA victory in school history in overtime. When John Calipari

# “Without the Big Blue Nation, none of what we have accomplished or hope to do would be possible.

Whether it's off the field, building and funding state-of-the-art facilities, or in the heat of competition, during a particularly important moment, we rely every day on the support of our fans. Their devotion, passion and knowledge help make UK a special place.”

– Mitch Barnhart

## EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

asked fans in Rupp Arena to stand for the final eight minutes of a must-win Senior Day game against Florida, the Big Blue Nation willed its team to victory.

With the fans there every moment, UK Athletics made strides toward fulfilling the mission of the 15 by 15 by 15 Plan. We finished the 2012-13 athletic year with the best Directors' Cup ranking in school history – 25th – just 10 spots shy of the top-15 benchmark set in 2008. We also increased our conference and national championship total to 11, meaning we need just four more in the next two seasons.

Our student-athletes have done it while excelling in the classroom and the community as well. We had a department-wide grade-point average of better than 3.0 for both the fall and spring semesters and the Wildcats completed an incredible 4,688 hours of community service this year alone.

And don't think for a second that the Big Blue Nation doesn't have something to do with that too.

As the most visible representatives of the Big Blue Nation, the vast majority of our student-athletes want to make those who cheer them on in competition equally proud of them when they are studying or visiting a local hospital.

Our achievements put us on the cusp of making much of what we set out to do a reality, but we're thinking even bigger. At the annual CATSPY Awards in April, Mitch Barnhart challenged everyone in attendance to transform UK into the nation's best athletic department.

“We've done a lot of great things in the last year and over the last decade,” he said. “That's now just the foundation. We're on a new journey and much more is expected.”

Setting and reaching new, loftier goals will take a remarkable collective effort by student-athletes, coaches and staff. To do it, we will count on our fans for inspiration like never before. Based on what we witnessed over the last year, we know the Big Blue Nation will deliver.



*Kentucky basketball fans stood for the final eight minutes of UK's game vs. Florida at Rupp Arena – as the action heated up on the floor – to help propel the Wildcats to victory.*



# REENERGIIZED

## MARK STOOPS CAME TO KENTUCKY WITH A PLAN.

In implementing that plan since he was named head football coach, Stoops has infused a program and a fan base with a sense of excitement felt in the Bluegrass and beyond.

**A**s he went through the process of seeking out Kentucky's new head football coach, Mitch Barnhart was encouraged. Not only did he have a qualified group of candidates from which to choose, but many of them were very interested in the opportunity to take over at UK.

Within weeks, Stoops whipped the Big Blue Nation into a frenzy and drew the interest of high-profile prospects. On National Signing Day, the work paid off with the No. 29 class in the nation, UK's highest-rated class in the history of Rivals.com's ratings. It was then time for Stoops to shift his attention to

**"I cannot tell you how excited I am**

to be your head coach. I'm highly motivated to build this program to national prominence."

– **Mark Stoops**

On both fronts, Mark Stoops stood out above the rest.

The then-Florida State defensive coordinator didn't bother to play it coy when he interviewed with Barnhart; Stoops made it clear he wanted the job and made it clearer still that he was the right man for it. He presented a detailed plan for what would happen when he took over and Barnhart was sold.

Over the months since he was introduced at a part-press conference, part-celebration at Nutter Field House in December, Stoops has put that plan into practice step by step.

Stoops quickly put together a young, energetic coaching staff and installed a revolutionary High Performance program that has already drawn attention from multiple NFL teams. He and his assistants then took their message to the streets, selling fans and recruits alike on their belief in the UK program.

spring practice where the Wildcats successfully learned a new defensive scheme and offensive coordinator Neal Brown's modified version of the "Air Raid." Fans, aching for a taste of football with the season still months away, snapped up Blue/White Spring Game tickets by the thousands while the team was on the practice field.

Finally, players got the chance to show what they had been working so hard on at the spring game, but the talk of the evening ended up being the fans. They lined up in droves for the Cat Walk, giving a preview of what the environment would be like for the game itself. An estimated 50,831 fans filled Commonwealth Stadium, besting the previous school record by more than 30,000 and giving UK the nation's sixth-largest spring-game crowd.

Not even Stoops could have planned for that.



*Mark Stoops detailed his vision for the Kentucky football program after Mitch Barnhart introduced him as head coach at a press conference in Nutter Field House.*

# 12.2.12

Former players, cheerleaders, the dance team, the university pep band and fans helped create a celebratory atmosphere at Mark Stoops' introductory press conference.



## THE STOOPS EFFECT

It hasn't taken Mark Stoops and his staff long to make a huge impact on the Wildcat football program ...



*House Bill 7 was passed into law, allowing UK to move forward with a multimillion dollar renovation of Commonwealth Stadium.*



*UK signed the nation's No. 29 recruiting class according to Rivals.com, best in school history.*



*A school record 50,831 fans attended UK's annual Blue/White Spring game.*





## REUNITED



2.27.13

To the cheers of a sell-out crowd at Rupp Arena, Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart presented a championship ring to each of the players returning to Lexington for the ceremony.



Ten members of Kentucky's 1995-96 national championship team returned to Rupp Arena to receive school rings presented by the UK athletics department during an on-court ceremony. Pictured, from left, are: Antoine Walker, Oliver Simmons, Jeff Sheppard, Jared Prickett, Walter McCarty, Jason Lathrem, Anthony Epps, Tony Delk, Derek Anderson and Wayne Turner.

## "When your program remembers you

and gives you a blessing like this, it's just like winning. It's like actually coming home from winning a championship."

– Derek Anderson

Members of Kentucky's 1995-96 national championship have accomplished a great deal, both personally and professionally. They have won NBA titles, played in all-star games and signed contracts worth tens of millions of dollars. They have graduated from college, gotten married and brought children into the world.

But on one evening in February, "The Untouchables" felt like kids again. At halftime of a game vs. Mississippi State, they stood at midcourt in Rupp Arena with the crowd on its

feet as if the Wildcats were in the middle of one of their patented game-breaking runs.

This time – wearing jackets and loafers instead of denim uniforms and sneakers – the UK greats were there to receive school rings commemorating their championship. It was perhaps the best example to date of the UK athletics department and men's basketball program recognizing former Wildcat student-athletes in a very tangible and meaningful way.



At a team reunion in August 2012, members of UK's 1995-96 national championship team learned they would be receiving commemorative school rings like the ones shown above.



10.5.12

The UK track and field program took a major step toward the goal of competing with the best programs in the nation in opening its state-of-the-art outdoor facility.



# WORTH THE WAIT

**"Our new outdoor track will help us**

attract some of the best student-athletes in the nation as we aim to compete at the highest levels of intercollegiate competition."

**—Edrick Floreal**



**E**drick Floreal came to Lexington to lead the Kentucky track and field and cross country programs to unprecedented heights. He decided to leave his head-coaching job at Stanford and move his family to the Bluegrass because Floreal recognized great potential in the program.

Much of his initial enthusiasm had to do with his high regard for the people with whom he anticipated working at UK and the opportunity to coach in the Southeastern Conference. But Floreal also was keenly aware of an ongoing construction project next door to Cliff Hagan Stadium, a project that would be completed just a few months after he accepted the job.

On Oct. 5, Floreal wore a big smile at the grand opening of UK's new Outdoor Track and Field Facility as he stood next to retired head coach Don Weber – the man who is largely responsible for the venue's existence. Looking around at the 3,000-seat grandstand, the video scoreboard and the Wildcat blue synthetic track, Floreal saw everything he would need out of an outdoor track to lead his program to where he believes it will go.

*Former coaches Don Weber (top photo, middle) and Press Whelan (right) joined Edrick Floreal (left) at the grand opening of UK's new outdoor track. They were joined by supporters, former track greats and athletics department staff at the celebration (middle photo). Among the features of the new track are a spacious press box (bottom photo) and a video board.*

# A PROUD DAY

Rachel Lawson had heard the words, but she had a hard time believing them. Mitch Barnhart promised Lawson – the softball coach who had built Kentucky into a perennial contender – that the Wildcats would play in a venue befitting her ascendant program sooner rather than later.

As she watched the construction of the then-unnamed John Cropp Stadium leading up to and during the 2013 season, Lawson was delighted to see the promise of a new first-class facility become reality. Barnhart – with the help of countless others, including Lawson herself – delivered on his pledge, and in April presided over a ceremony to officially open the facility.

After all the work that had been done to make the day possible, it was only fitting that the Kentucky softball program

celebrated the official opening of its new stadium the way it did. Playing in front of a national television audience, the Wildcats defeated No. 3 and eventual Southeastern Conference champion Florida, accepting Lawson's pregame challenge to "give this stadium and ESPN a show they deserve."



**"First you have to thank  
the Big Blue Nation.**

If we didn't have the fan support and the financial support, you would never see an amazing stadium like this going up."

– Rachel Lawson

*Rachel Lawson spoke at the Grand Opening Ceremony of UK's new softball stadium (near right). John Cropp – the man after whom the venue is named – posed on the field with UK's first softball coach, Beth Pruitt (far right).*



# 4.13.13

The UK softball team celebrated the official opening of John Cropp Stadium in style, defeating No. 3 Florida, 4-2, behind freshman Kelsey Nunley's record-setting 20th win of the season.









## SERVE

## BIG BLUE ETHIOPIA



*Since 2011, select UK student-athletes have traveled to Ethiopia over the summer to serve. After the success of a trip with football players only, a second open to all UK teams was added in 2012.*

## "When I land

in Lexington, I will be a changed person because of the people of Ethiopia. I will look at the world around me and all of my blessings through a different lens."

—Grace Trimble

In what has become an annual tradition for UK Athletics, eight Wildcat student-athletes spent a week last summer serving in Ethiopia on a department-sponsored trip. Megan Moir (women's golf), Brooke Keyes and Kayla King (women's soccer), Kayla Hartley (gymnastics), Grace Trimble (women's tennis), Kastine Evans (women's basketball), Emily Holsopple (rifle) and Aubrey Lamar (softball) traveled to the East African nation hoping to help in any way they could.

It didn't take long, however, for the Cats to realize how much they would get out of the trip themselves.

They were struck by the smiles they encountered on the faces of the locals. They marveled at the welcoming spirit of everyone they met. They couldn't help but be deeply affected by the living conditions in Korah – one of the most destitute communities in Ethiopia – but then be uplifted all over again by the joy of its residents.



UK's competing scholarship student-athletes combined for a cumulative grade-point average of 3.14 this spring, the highest for a single semester during Mitch Barnhart's tenure as athletics director.

3.14

# LOFTY LONG-RANGE GOALS WITHIN REACH



The goals set forth in the 15 by 15 by 15 Plan were ambitious, but that's the way Mitch Barnhart wanted it. It wouldn't be easy to finish in the top 15 of the Learfield Sports Directors' Cup standings, nor would it be to win 15 conference or national championships while attaining a department-wide grade-point average of 3.0. To do it all by the year 2015 would be even harder.

There is still much work ahead, to be sure, but UK student-athletes, coaches and staff have embraced the vision. As a result, UK Athletics is reaching new heights every year.

For the first time in the 20-year history of the Directors' Cup – one of the most recognizable measures of athletic department success – UK finished in the top 25. The No. 25 finish bested the previous school record set in 1996-97. UK also tied a school record by coming in sixth among Southeastern Conference schools even though the conference featured 14 teams this season.

Fifteen of UK's 22 teams earned points toward the Directors' Cup, led by rifle's second-place finish at NCAA Championships. Though rifle fell just shy of a

second national title in three seasons, Harry Mullins' team won a Great American Rifle Conference championship to bring UK's conference and national title count since 2008 to 11, just four shy of the department's goal of 15 by 2015.

With all that success in competition, the Wildcats' work in the classroom hasn't suffered. In fact, the opposite is true: 2012-13 was the best academic year in UK Athletics history. UK reached Barnhart's goal of a 3.0 cumulative GPA among scholarship student-athletes in both the fall and spring semesters for the first time, punctuated by a 3.14 spring GPA – the highest of any semester during Barnhart's 11-year tenure.

The aims of the 15 by 15 by 15 Plan are now within reach, but UK Athletics is already shifting its attention toward the next goal: becoming the best in college sports.

## FOLLOWING A HISTORIC

top-25 Directors' Cup finish and a department-wide GPA of better than 3.0 in both the fall and spring semesters, UK Athletics is positioned to reach the goals of the 15 by 15 by 15 Plan.



## 10.12.12 Big Blue Madness

Each year, thousands encircle the Joe Craft Center seeking tickets to Big Blue Madness, which is a practice for the men's and women's basketball teams in name alone. They come together to mark the start to another season and catch a first glimpse of the squads they'll be supporting, and they have come to expect a show.

Once again, a show was delivered. With Rupp Arena packed to its rafters, there were pyrotechnics and dance routines. There were dunks, a ceremonial re-raising of each of Kentucky's eight national championship banners and even a light show that turned the court into a giant video screen.

Big Blue Madness started as the season's first practice opportunity that fans happened to be able to attend, but it's become a celebration of the most tradition-rich program in basketball and the fans that support it.

*Matthew Mitchell (top left) – with an MC Hammer dance routine – and an on-court light show (bottom left) thrilled the capacity crowd at Big Blue Madness. The night was capped off by a raising of UK's national championship banners by members of the school's eight national title teams (near right) and a scrimmage featuring Nerlens Noel and Willie Cauley-Stein (far right).*



11.7.12

## Hurricane Relief Telethon

*John Calipari and the men's basketball team participated in the "Rebounding from Sandy" telethon on WKYT-TV. The call-in portion alone raised approximately \$500,000 for victims of the superstorm that ravaged the Northeast.*



9.15.12



## UK Alumni Basketball Game

Former UK men's basketball greats – including John Wall, DeMarcus Cousins, Tony Delk and Anthony Davis – returned to Rupp Arena to play in the first UK Alumni Charity Game, helping to raise \$350,000 for seven different organizations.

9.18.12

## Joe B. Hall Statue Unveiling

Any time someone walks into the new Wildcat Coal Lodge, they'll be greeted by the likeness of one of the program's legendary coaches. Sitting on a bench holding a rolled-up program that became his trademark is a statue honoring Joe B. Hall, a fitting tribute to one of the five coaches to win a national title at Kentucky. Hall won 297 games during his 13-year UK career after succeeding Adolph Rupp in 1972.



*Joe B. Hall had John Calipari and others in attendance at the unveiling of the statue honoring the Hall of Fame coach laughing when he remarked "The pigeons will appreciate it."*



# #WEAREUK

ESPN's popular Saturday morning show *College GameDay* returned to Rupp Arena in 2013. The announced attendance for the event was 15,087, the largest crowd of the season and second largest in *GameDay* history behind only the 2010 edition in Rupp.



2.23.13



4.20.13

## Heart of the Bluegrass Classic



Kentucky held its first outdoor meet in 17 years in April at the new UK Outdoor Track and Field Facility. New head coach Edrick Floreal made the event a celebration of UK's departing senior class and put on a show for alumni and fans in attendance. In a relaxed atmosphere, Cally Macumber and Michelle Canerna set school records in the mile and pole vault, respectively.

4.22.13



Wildcat student-athletes broke out their dresses and high heels and suits and ties for the CATSPYs, the annual UK Athletics award show introduced by Mitch Barnhart in 2003. Members of Kentucky's 22 varsity teams as well as coaches and department staff members gathered in Memorial Coliseum to celebrate yet another special year gone by.

After dinner was served, attendees took their seats to watch videos documenting the 2012-13 season and learn who would win awards. Twenty-four different student-athletes, coaches and teams were honored, including Blue Heart Award winner Arin Gilliland (women's soccer), Male Athlete of the Year Greg Ferrucci (swimming and diving) and Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year Ashley Frazier (volleyball).

## SPRING 2013 Soles4Souls Campaign



Organized by current student-athletes Luis Orta and Hiruni Wijayaratne and former Wildcat Josh Nadzam, the Kentucky track and field team participated in the third annual Soles4Souls shoe drive. The initiative has spread throughout the Southeastern Conference and helps distribute shoes to more than 100 countries.



Chelsea Oswald and Luis Orta of the UK cross country and track and field teams posed with the Wildcat mascot after they were named Miss and Mr. Wildcat, the CATSPYs' most prestigious honors.

NCAA SWEET 16



# SUSTAINED EXCELLENCE

*Kentucky is one of just 14 volleyball programs to reach the NCAA Tournament in each of the last eight seasons. Led by Stephanie Klefot (inset), the Wildcats also hosted for the fourth time in five seasons in 2012. Klefot finished her college career second in school history with 1,924 digs and became the first player to be named Southeastern Conference Libero of the Year in three straight seasons.*

## PUTTING TOGETHER A SINGLE GOOD SEASON IS NOT EASY.

It takes a single-minded group of talented athletes with strong leadership from a coaching staff to have success in the short term. To perform at a high level year after year is another thing entirely, but five Kentucky teams seem to have cracked the code.





# NCAA RUNNER-UP

## VOLLEYBALL

When Craig Skinner arrived in Lexington before the 2005 season, he took over a UK volleyball squad that hadn't reached the NCAA Tournament in more than a decade. Skinner – who came to Kentucky after a five-year assistant-coaching stint at perennial power Nebraska – set out to reprise the success of the late 1980s and early 1990s, when deep postseason runs were the norm.

Results came immediately. Skinner led the Wildcats back to the NCAA Tournament in his first season and has duplicated the feat in each of the seven years that followed. He has already established himself as

the second-winningest coach in program history with 180 victories and all of his signing classes have ranked in the top 30 nationally.

Not only has the volleyball program been consistent under Skinner, it has consistently improved. UK has reached the Sweet 16 in three of the last four seasons, including this season when the Cats hosted and won a regional. Kentucky will lose decorated seniors Stephanie Klefot, Christine Hartmann and Ashley Frazier, but Skinner has given UK's constantly growing volleyball fan base reason to believe 2013 will be another outstanding year.

*continued on page 16*



*Senior Heather Greathouse (left) was one of six members of the UK rifle team to be named All-America in 2012-13. Clockwise from top right, Matthew Mitchell, Cedric Kauffmann, Craig Skinner, Harry Mullins and Rachel Lawson have established their respective programs among the nation's best.*

# “Since we arrived 11 years ago, we’ve sought to build UK into a destination spot where the best

student-athletes and coaches want to come and stay, no matter their sport. The accomplishments and consistency of our rifle, softball, men’s tennis, volleyball and women’s basketball programs in recent years show me that vision is beginning to come to life.”

– Mitch Barnhart



## NCAA ELITE EIGHT

*Guard Jennifer O'Neill averaged 10.9 points and 2.8 assists as UK won a school-record 30 games in 2012-13. She is also one of seven former McDonald's All-Americans that will be on the roster next season.*

*continued from page 15*

### RIFLE

As solid as Skinner's program has been, it has a long way to go to match UK rifle. Dating back to 1994, the Wildcats have finished ninth or better each year at the NCAA Championship with Harry Mullins leading the way. Mullins has served as head coach since 1987 and has shaped his program into a fixture on the national stage. An astounding 79 Wildcats have received All-America recognition and Mullins won his first national championship in 2011.

Not satisfied, Mullins and the Cats have followed that breakthrough title with two more record-setting seasons. In 2012-13, UK won its third regular-season conference championship, losing just one match all year. At NCAAs, the Wildcats were in contention until the final shot before finishing as national runners-up for the second year in a row and sixth time during the Mullins era.

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Matthew Mitchell, meanwhile, has been building UK women's basketball toward its own title run. Kentucky has put together the best four-year stretch in school history, winning 111 games, a Southeastern Conference championship and reaching three Elite Eights. The Cats won a school-record 30 games in 2012-13, but fell short of their Final Four goal. Though all-time great A'dia Mathies has gone on to a professional career, Mitchell believes breaking through is a matter of when, not if.





# NCAA REGIONAL CHAMPIONS

## NCAA SWEET 16



### SOFTBALL

Even compared to UK's impressive recent history, 2013 was a year to remember for Rachel Lawson's softball program. A culmination of the progress made during Lawson's six years, Kentucky opened John Cropp Stadium – a venue immediately recognized as one of the best in the nation – and hosted the SEC Tournament for the first time.

That would not be the Wildcats' last opportunity to play in Lexington, however, as UK was awarded a national seed. Hosting a regional for the first time ever, the Cats won three games in three days to advance to a super regional for the second time in three years. UK was bested by Arizona State, but with a young roster featuring five freshman starters showing plenty of fight, the best appears yet to come.

### MEN'S TENNIS

Taking over for the legendary Dennis Emery, Cedric Kauffmann had a tough act to follow in becoming UK's head men's tennis coach. One year into his tenure, Kauffmann is continuing to build on his predecessor's foundation. Anthony Rossi and Tom Jomby helped fill the void left by Eric Quigley and Alex Musialek – two of the winningest players in school history – and led UK to a top-10 ranking throughout the season and a fourth Sweet 16 berth in as many years.

*The UK softball team (top) made its fifth NCAA Tournament appearance in a row in 2013, accounting for every tourney trip in school history. With a combination of experience and youth, the men's tennis team (bottom) hosted in the NCAA Tournament for the fifth straight season and advanced to the Sweet 16 for the fourth consecutive time.*

**MOTIVATED BY A SEASON LOST TO** injury and pushed by a new coaching staff, Cally Macumber ran her way to a place among the nation's elite.



# A BREAKOUT YEAR

**W**hen Edrick Floreal took over as head coach of Kentucky track and field and cross country, he didn't waste any time detailing his expectations. He told the Wildcats they would be challenged in ways they had never experienced. He explained how that would lift the UK program to unprecedented heights.

A member of the cross country team and therefore among the first to compete in the Floreal era, Cally Macumber showed what it can look like when a student-athlete embraces the challenge. After a knee injury kept her from competing in cross country and outdoor track in 2011-12, Macumber enjoyed one of the most successful seasons ever for a UK long-distance runner.



# CALLY

Floreal and assistant Hakon DeVries instituted a new regimen that called on Macumber and her teammates to run substantially more miles in training. Not far removed from being unable to run at all, Macumber attacked her workouts and immediate results followed.

She finished second in her 2012 cross country debut, first in her next meet and then second again at the Greater Louisville Classic, one of the nation's most competitive events. That performance garnered her Southeastern Conference Runner of the Week honors for the first time in her career.

*Cally Macumber etched her name in the UK track record books with outstanding performances in the outdoor mile and the indoor 3,000 meters and distance medley relay in 2013.*

She missed out on qualifying for the outdoor NCAA championships by less than a second, but she will have a chance to make it again next year. With a season of eligibility left in both cross country and outdoor track, Macumber has more time to work with her new coaches and push herself.



## "I didn't like sitting on the sidelines watching.

It makes you realize how lucky you have it when you're healthy. It definitely made me more excited to start training again."

– Cally Macumber

Her confidence buoyed by success, Macumber continued to push the pace in training and competition. In October, she became the first Wildcat to win the SEC Cross Country Championship in 23 years. Two weeks later, she won the NCAA Southeast Regional.

The regional victory secured her spot at the national championships. But in spite of all she had done to that point, Macumber admitted she wasn't sure what to expect and hoped to simply "hang with the leaders" in the 6,000-meter race. Consider that mission accomplished: She finished sixth to become an All-American.

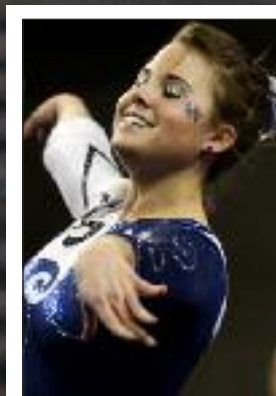
Macumber didn't rest for long after the cross country season, turning her attention to track where she starred once more. At the NCAA Indoor Championships, she earned All-America honors in both the 3,000 meters and distance medley relay after setting school records in both events earlier in the season.

### 2012-13 Honors

- First-Team All-America – 3,000 Meters, Distance Medley Relay
- First-Team All-SEC – 3,000 Meters
- SEC Champion – 3,000 Meters
- First-Team All-America – Cross Country
- Southeast Regional Champion – Cross Country
- SEC Individual Champion – Cross Country
- First-Team All-Southeast Region – Cross Country
- First-Team All-SEC – Cross Country
- K-Association Female Athlete of the Year
- SEC Runner of the Week (Oct. 2) – Cross Country



*Cally Macumber was named K-Association Female Athlete of the Year at the 2013 CATSPY Awards for her standout performances as a member of UK's track and field and cross country teams.*



**W**hen he took over the UK gymnastics program, Tim Garrison knew the rebuilding process wouldn't happen overnight. He also knew he wasn't going to accept anything less than his student-athletes' best on a daily basis. It's with that combination of patience and high standards that Garrison has attacked his job. Two years in, his approach is already paying dividends.

His first season in 2012 was marked by baby steps. The Wildcats began to put some of Garrison's lessons into practice, posting back-to-back victories

over top-25 teams and the best scoring month in school history. Garrison was happy with the progress, but demanded more.

When he was introduced as head coach, Garrison spelled out his belief that "success breeds motivation." During the offseason between his first and second seasons, the Wildcats proved him right. Through training and conditioning in the summer and fall, there was an edge to the gymnasts' preparations; they had gotten a taste of triumph and wanted more.

## SOARING AMONG



### 2013 Honors

#### Team

- Team of the Year Award at CATSPYs
- School-Record Team Score (196.775 at Penn State)
- School-Record Regional Qualifying Score (196.060)
- School-Record Three SEC Wins

#### Head Coach Tim Garrison

- Coach of the Year at CATSPYs

#### Kayla Hartley

- All-SEC Team
- All-SEC Community Service Team

#### Alexis Gross

- All-SEC Team

#### Shannon Mitchell

- Scratch Award (Top Non-Scholarship Student-Athlete) at CATSPYs

*Audrey Harrison (left inset) anchored the UK lineup in 2013, winning seven all-around titles. Holly Cunningham (left) starred on balance beam all season and clinched a school-record team score at Penn State with a career-high 9.9 in the event. Kayla Hartley (above) won five event titles and was named to both the All-SEC Team and the All-SEC Community Service Team.*



# GYMNASTICS

Thanks to that hard work and a commitment to Garrison's emphasis on consistency, 2013 became the best year in program history. Entering the year ranked No. 25, the Wildcats tallied their highest season-opening score ever and only improved from there. With contributions from up and down the roster, UK won an unprecedented three times vs. Southeastern Conference foes and qualified for its ninth straight NCAA Regional with a score of 196.060, another school record.

The postseason brought another school record, as the Cats posted the best regional score in school

history. UK fell just shy of qualifying for the NCAA National Championship with that record score, providing plenty of motivation for next season.

With every gymnast who competed in a meet this season returning for 2014, UK will have a team driven by both the successes and near-misses of a year to remember. You can rest assured that Garrison and the Wildcats are already striving to make next year the best one in program history once again.

## THE GYMNASTICS TEAM

achieved unprecedented success in Tim Garrison's second season at Kentucky. The Wildcats now have their sights set on making his third even better.

## THE ELITE



**"The staff and I were pleased with the 2013 season as another step in the right direction."**

The team gained another year of experience competing together and became more confident as a result. As we shift our focus to 2014, we have every reason to be optimistic."

– **Tim Garrison**

*Shelby Hilton (above left) set career highs on vault (9.875) and bars (9.825). Tim Garrison (above middle) finished his second season as UK head coach. Tiara Phipps (above right) was a solid contributor on floor all season as a freshman.*

**A MEMORABLE 2012-13 SEASON** was marked by outstanding individual performances across all 22 of UK Athletics' varsity teams.



*Making his third appearance at the NCAA Championships in as many years, Greg Ferrucci overcame a torn thumb ligament to finish fourth in all three diving events. He was named K-Association Male Athlete of the Year at the 2013 CATSPY Awards for his efforts.*

### **Greg Ferrucci Continues Assault on UK Diving Record Books**

**F**rom the moment he set foot on campus, Greg Ferrucci has been a standout. He was named Southeastern Conference Freshman Male Diver of the Year in 2011, turning in some of the best scores in program history.

Bearing the weight of expectations created by the way he started, Ferrucci has only gotten better. His improvement culminated in a junior season to remember. He claimed nine individual victories in 2013 and earned All-America honors in the 1-meter, 3-meter and platform. With a year still left in his UK career, Ferrucci owns school records in all three diving events.

### **Anthony Rossi Enjoys Historic Senior Season**

**A**t the start of his senior season, Anthony Rossi worried about filling the void left by Eric Quigley and Alex Musialek. As the top player on a young team, Rossi put pressure on himself to not only perform, but also lead.

After a fall season that fell short of his expectations, Rossi realized something with the help of Cedric Kauff-



*Anthony Rossi went 25-7 as UK's No. 1 singles player in 2013. He finished his career with a 106-34 mark, becoming the 15th Wildcat in program history to reach the 100-win plateau.*

mann, his head coach: All he needed to do was be at his best for his team to succeed. With that approach, Rossi closed out a decorated four-year UK career with a flourish. The team captain anchored the Wildcats as they advanced to the Sweet 16 for the fourth straight year, finishing the season ranked sixth nationally in singles and earning All-America honors.



# #WEAREUK



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(1) Sophomore First-Team All-Southeastern Conference performer Arin Gilliland led women's soccer to a memorable season, capped by the first NCAA Tournament win in school history. (2) Even though his season was cut short by injury, Nertens Noel was named SEC Freshman and Defensive Player of the Year. (3) Freshman Sarah Harris (second place) paced the women's golf team as the Wildcats finished fifth at the 2013 SEC Championships, UK's best performance in 20 years. (4) Nadia Ravita had a stellar freshman season for the women's tennis team, finishing the year ranked in the top 30 nationally and earning Second-Team All-SEC honors. (5) Larry Warford closed out his UK career as one of the top offensive linemen in program history, earning All-America honors as a senior from the Associated Press. He was selected in the third round of the NFL Draft by the Detroit Lions in April. (6) Two-way star A.J. Reed was named First-Team All-SEC after blasting 13 home runs as a sophomore for the UK baseball team. (7) In Johan Cedergren's first season as men's soccer head coach, Matt Lodge – a senior co-captain – scored 17 points as UK hosted in the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2003. (8) In his first year at UK after transferring from Salisbury, England, junior Ben Stow led the men's golf team in stroke average as the Wildcats reached their first NCAA Regional since 2009.

# LEAVING AS A LEGEND

*A'dia Mathies' family made the short trip from her hometown of Louisville for her final home game. Mathies scored 16 points – 13 after halftime – to lead UK to a 78-65 win over rival Tennessee on Senior Day.*



**DUBBED THE “SILENT ASSASSIN”** by her coaches during the recruiting process, A'dia Mathies left a lasting impact on UK Hoops with her characteristic quiet demeanor and an unwavering focus on team goals rather than individual pursuits.



*A'dia Mathies made a habit of playing her best in UK's biggest games. She poured in 32 points in her first NCAA Tournament game against Liberty (above left), had a career-high 34 points—including the game-winning shot—to snap Tennessee's 36-game SEC winning streak in 2012 (above right) and overcame a stomach illness to match her career high against Dayton to carry the Wildcats to the Sweet 16 as a senior (top right).*

**A**'dia Mathies wasn't thinking about any individual accolades when she arrived at Kentucky in 2009. Being named Southeastern Conference Player of the Year (twice) wasn't on her mind, nor was becoming the second 2,000-point scorer in school history. All Mathies really wanted to do was play a role in building the program and establishing UK Hoops as a national power.

As it turns out, Mathies was able to accomplish nearly everything she could have as a player by fo-

cus on her team above all else. During a stellar four-year career, the Louisville, Ky., native cemented herself as one of the all-time greats in UK women's basketball history while elevating the program to unprecedented heights.

Before her first season, the Wildcats were picked to finish last in the SEC on the heels of back-to-back NIT trips in head coach Matthew Mitchell's first two seasons. Instead, Mathies – along with fellow Wildcat legend Victoria Dunlap, then a junior – helped



## "She has proven it in the record books,

she has proven it in the win column, she's proven it with championship performance. She is the best player that's played here in a generation or two. You have to go back to Valerie Still to find a player that had that kind of impact."

– **Matthew Mitchell**

lead UK to a 28-win season and an Elite Eight berth while becoming SEC Freshman of the Year along the way.

The next three seasons, Mathies made sure 2009-10 was more than just a blip.

UK advanced to the NCAA Tournament in Mathies' sophomore, junior and senior seasons as she and Brittany Henderson became the winningest class in the program's history. The Cats brought home the first SEC title in 30 years and twice more advanced to the Elite Eight with Mathies leading the way. Once again, individual awards were a natural outgrowth of the team success and Mathies was twice named SEC Player of the Year and All-America.

In the end, Mathies fell just shy of her Final Four goal. But even though she is going on to a professional career – Mathies was the No. 10 pick in the WNBA Draft, yet another school record – the end of the story of her UK legacy remains unwritten. With McDonald's All-Americans now flocking to play for Mitchell, UK Hoops' future is bright and Mathies deserves much of the credit for the transformation. When UK does break through to the Final Four, Mathies will have played a role.

### Career Highlights

- AP SEC Player of the Year – 2013, 2012
- SEC Player of the Year – 2013 (Co-Player), 2012 (Coaches)
- SEC Freshman of the Year – 2010 (Coaches)
- AP All-American, Second Team – 2013
- AP All-American, Third Team – 2012
- Full Court All-American, Second Team – 2013
- USBWA All-American – 2012
- John R. Wooden Award Finalist – 2013, 2012
- Ann Meyers Drysdale Award Top 20 Finalist – 2013, 2012
- Naismith Trophy Top 30 Finalist – 2013, 2012
- State Farm Wade Trophy Finalist – 2013, 2012
- All-SEC, First Team – 2013, 2012 (Coaches and AP)
- All-SEC, Second Team – 2011, 2010 (Coaches)
- All-SEC Freshman Team – 2010
- SEC All-Defensive team – 2012, 2011
- All-SEC Tournament Team – 2013, 2012 and 2010
- Two-time SEC Player of the Week
- espnW National Player of the Week
- Three-time SEC Freshman of the Week – 2010
- NetScoutsBasketball.com Player of the Week
- All-SEC, Honorable Mention – 2011 (AP)
- Full Court Press Preseason All-SEC, First Team – 2011
- All-SEC Coaches Preseason All-SEC, First Team – 2011
- Media Preseason All-SEC, Second Team – 2011
- MVP Lady Eagle Thanksgiving Classic – 2010



**"My dream was to attend**

an American university, compete in college athletics at the highest level and graduate with honors. Four years later, my dreams have all come true at the University of Kentucky."

—Luis Orta



## LEADING BY

**TO SAY THAT LUIS ORTA** made the most of his time as a student-athlete at Kentucky is a huge understatement. Coming to Lexington from Venezuela to continue his running career and education, he accomplished that and much more.

**L**uis Orta knew he was taking a leap of faith when he stepped on campus at the University of Kentucky. Not only was he attending college more than 2,000 miles from his native Caracas, Venezuela, but he didn't even speak the language of his new peers.

He admits he was nervous when he arrived in 2008, but that didn't stop Orta from committing himself fully to his new life. Whether he was training as a member of the track and field and cross country teams or attending class, Orta embraced everything UK had to offer.





## Career Highlights

- 2012 SEC Indoor Track and Field Athlete of the Year
- 2012 All-Southeast Region – Cross Country
- 2012 First-Team All-SEC – Indoor
- 2012 Second-Team All-SEC – Cross Country
- 2012 Second-Team All-SEC – Outdoor
- 2009 Second-Team All-SEC – Cross Country
- 2009 All-SEC Freshman team – Cross Country
- 2009 Second-Team All-SEC Outdoor – 3,000m Steeplechase
- 2009 All-SEC Outdoor Freshman Team – 3,000m Steeplechase
- 2009 NCAA Mideast Regional Finalist – 3,000m Steeplechase
- UK freshman record holder – Indoor 3,000m
- UK freshman record holder – Indoor 5,000m
- UK freshman record holder – 3,000m Steeplechase

*Luis Orta delivered the commencement at UK's 2012 December Graduation Ceremony in Memorial Coliseum. Among those in the audience were his parents, Jorge Orta and Ruth Milan de Orta, who were visiting the United States for the first time.*



# SHINING EXAMPLE

He has been rewarded with the experience of a lifetime.

Orta has been a standout in competition from his first meet, setting freshman records in three different track events, and he has only grown from there. He has won All-Southeastern Conference honors six times and reached the NCAA Cross Country Championships for the first time as a senior. He also produced one of the most memorable moments of the 2012 season, becoming SEC Indoor Track and Field Athlete of the Year by winning both the 3,000-meter and 5,000-meter races on his home track at the SEC Championships.

Limiting the discussion of his time at UK to a list of his accomplishments as a runner, however, misses the point completely.

Orta has established himself not only as a leader on his team, but on campus and in the community as well. Each year since 2011, he has led the Soles4Souls shoe drive with teammate Josh Nadzam. What began as an on-campus initiative hatched after Orta noticed how many usable shoes a normal track athlete discards has grown into an SEC-wide campaign that has helped distribute tens of thousands of pairs to more than 100 countries.

He will leave with countless memories and friends and a degree. And as a fitting cap to his college career, the student-athlete who learned English during his years at UK delivered the commencement address at his graduation ceremony.

## INSPIRING LEGACIES

*Chelsea Oswald – an All-American in two events – helped lead the women’s track and field team to its best finish since 1994 at the NCAA Indoor Championships (below) barely a week after she was recognized as part of the Frank G. Ham Society of Character’s 2013 induction class at Rupp Arena (right).*



**“I have been given a great opportunity here at UK**

and I’ve just tried my hardest every day to make the most of it. This award recognizes not only my achievements, but also all the great people who have helped me along the way.

– **Chelsea Oswald** on receiving the Boyd McWhorter Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award



**B**ased on her 4.0 grade-point average, “perfectionist” seems like an appropriate label for Kentucky track and cross country star Chelsea Oswald. But if you ask her, you’ll learn that’s not the case at all.

It’s not that Oswald isn’t fully committed to maximizing her potential in everything she does – whether she is taking a final in biology or psychology, her two majors, or training for a distance race – because she is. The reason “perfectionist” doesn’t fit is Oswald’s perspective. All she strives for on a daily basis is delivering her best effort because Oswald knows that’s all anyone can ever do.

Oswald’s UK career serves as proof that her approach works.

## DISTANCE RUNNER CHELSEA

Oswald doesn’t demand anything of herself she knows she can’t deliver. Fortunately for UK cross country and track and field, Oswald delivers a great deal as both an athlete and a student.

# EXCELLING IN ALL FACETS

As a student, Oswald’s résumé is as impressive as can be. Not only is she yet to receive a B in college, but she also won the Elite 89 award as the student-athlete with the highest GPA at indoor nationals. In April, she was named the Southeastern Conference H. Boyd McWhorter Scholar-Athlete of the Year, winning a post-graduate scholarship she plans to use to attend physical therapy school.

In competition, the ride hasn’t been as smooth. A decorated high-school runner and immediate contributor as a cross-country freshman, Oswald struggled during much of her first three years before experiencing a renaissance under Edrick Floreal and the new UK coaching staff in 2012-13. She was an All-American in both cross country and indoor track (distance medley relay and 3,000 meters) with a season of eligibility still left in track.

## 2012-13 Honors

- SEC H. Boyd McWhorter Scholar-Athlete of Year
- NCAA Elite 89 award – Indoor Track and Field
- Miss Wildcat – CATSPY Awards
- First-Team All-American (Indoor Track and Field) – Distance Medley Relay
- Second-Team All-American (Indoor Track and Field) – 3,000 meters
- All-American – Cross Country
- First-Team All-SEC – Cross Country
- All-Southeast Region – Cross Country
- NCAA Qualifier (Outdoor Track and Field) – 5,000 meters, 10,000 meters
- Frank G. Ham Society of Character Inductee



*Training and competing alongside teammate and friend Cally Macumber, Chelsea Oswald had a remarkable senior cross country season. She finished third at the SEC Championships and went on to earn All-America status at the NCAA Championships.*



*Kastine Evans works with children as part of the "Shooting at Success" program she founded in Lexington (left). For her volunteer efforts, Evans was awarded the Darrell A. VanMeter Community Service Award by Sarah Hermsmeier (middle), the program director of the Center for Community Outreach. Evans balanced her off-court commitments during a junior season with the women's basketball team in which she played a key role as UK advanced to the Elite Eight for the second straight year (right).*

## "For anybody that asks me

why I came here, a lot of the decision came down to the coaches and their principles and how they care about you. It's not just about basketball and that's what is going to develop us into great women."

– Kastine Evans

# FOLLOWING HER HEART

**THE WINNER OF UK'S PRESTIGIOUS** Darrell A. VanMeter Community Service Award and the Character Award at the CATSPYs, UK Hoops standout Kastine Evans takes a selfless approach to life on and off the court.

**M**any athletes will tell you about how they are different people on and off the court. Football players might be snarling competitors on the field, but self-professed teddy bears away from it. Soccer players could very well be in constant and furious motion on the pitch, but laid-back and easy-going off of it.

Kastine Evans, however, is the same person whether she's between the lines or not.

On the court, Evans can be identified first for her willingness to sacrifice for her team. She worries little about whether she's a starter or comes off the bench, because she only wants to win.

Off the court, she is much the same. Evans doesn't concern herself with free time or living the life of a typical college student, because what she really cares about is the greater good.

Evans, a Salem, Conn., native who just finished her junior year, has adopted Lexington as her home over the last three years. For her, that means doing everything she can to improve the community. She devotes the majority of her volunteer efforts to a non-profit organization she founded in January, "Shooting at Success," through which she mentors children from low-income households.

# KASTINE



# DESIRE

# MEGAN

It was somewhat of a strange 2013 for Megan Moir.

Putting her faith into practice, the senior UK women's golfer has dedicated herself to service since a young age, spending more than 700 hours in the community during her Wildcat career alone. From her native Kentucky to around the United States and even the world, Moir has worked to improve the lives of others, and the last thing on her mind was any kind of recognition for her efforts.

But during the spring semester, the awards have come pouring in.

In February, she was inducted into Kentucky's Frank G. Ham Society of Character. Later in the spring, she was named to the Southeastern Conference Community Service Team for the third time and won the Community Service Award at the 2013 CATSPYs. To top



**"I've been blessed with so many opportunities and so many privileges just because of the family and the life I was born into. I'm constantly looking at myself seeing how I can use what I've been given to give back and bless other people."**

**—Megan Moir**

## DRIVEN TO HELP

**WOMEN'S GOLFER MEGAN MOIR** sees all opportunities as blessings. She lives her life by capitalizing on them and passing them on to others.

it all off, she became the Brad Davis SEC Female Community Service Leader of the Year. The award comes with a \$10,000 post-graduate scholarship. The way Moir is tentatively planning to put it to use says everything.

She graduated summa cum laude with a B.S. degree in accounting and marketing in May 2012 and completed a master's degree in sports leadership in May 2013. Next on her agenda is a seven-month mission trip to Uganda. Upon returning stateside, Moir is considering graduate school for financial planning to pursue a career helping the less fortunate work toward a secure future.

Moir has centered her life on the principle of giving back. She views all the academic and athletic opportunities she has had in life as blessings and devotes herself to passing on similar opportunities to those who might not otherwise have them. Eventually, she wants the people with whom she works to be the ones up for awards.



*Megan Moir spent June of 2010 tutoring and mentoring children at the Ramona Gardens Housing Projects in south central Los Angeles with the Athletes in Action Urban Projects. She still corresponds with Angie, the young girl she is holding in the above photo.*

## "There are people who transcend institutions and generations

while making an impact on the lives of many. John has been that person in college athletics and at the University of Kentucky."

—Mitch Barnhart

*John Cropp threw out the first pitch at the new UK softball stadium that bears his name (near right). Cropp received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2008 CATSPYs (far right).*



# A TRUE "IMPACT PLAYER"

**AFTER 22 YEARS OF EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TO UK ATHLETICS**, John Cropp retired following the 2012-13 season. He will not be soon forgotten by any of the student-athletes, coaches and staff with whom he worked.

**J**ohn Cropp has spent more than half a century working behind the scenes to enrich the lives of student-athletes as an administrator and coach.

Most recently, he has played an instrumental part in building UK softball into a perennial contender. He is the lone original member of the program, serving as administrator since its first season in 1997. He helped hire head coach Rachel Lawson and has worked hand-in-hand with her to lead UK to five straight NCAA Tournaments.

When he came to the Grand Opening Ceremony for

UK's new softball stadium, Cropp thought he was there to play a supporting role once more. He stood behind Lawson and Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart as they delivered their remarks and watched as they prepared to unveil the name of the venue.

He had no idea he was about to go from the background to the marquee. Months away from his pending retirement, Cropp learned he was to become the namesake of John Cropp Stadium.

As happy as he was to serve others for so long, Cropp had done too much not to be recognized.

# JOHN



# COMMITMENT

## Gary Conelly Retires from Helm of UK Swimming & Diving Program



Over 25 years, Gary Conelly's name became synonymous with the Kentucky swimming and diving program. He began as a graduate assistant intending to pursue a career in teaching English, but by the 1992-93 season had assumed responsibility of both UK's men's and women's teams. His 22-year run spanned three athletics directors and was marked by success in and out the pool. Conelly – who was named Southeastern Conference Swimming Coach of the Year in 1994-95 – called on his background in education in encouraging his student-athletes to pursue academic excellence. They have responded, as the men's and women's teams each received academic All-America honors during the fall semester. As Conelly moves on to his life's next chapter, his lessons will remain in the hearts and minds of the Wildcats he coached, whether they are in the classroom or competing at the Lancaster Aquatic Center.

**"Gary**  
**has helped**  
**hundreds**  
of student-athletes  
realize their dreams in  
and out of the pool."

–Mitch Barnhart

## Longtime Athletics Trainer Walt McCombs Honored at CATSPYS

In his 39 years as part of UK's athletic training staff, Walt McCombs has been the ultimate team player. He began as a graduate assistant in 1971-72 as he learned his profession at the university he would come to love over the next four decades. In 1976, McCombs returned to Lexington to work with the men's basketball team and he was there every step of the way as the Wildcats won a national championship two years later. A change awaited him in the early 1990s, as a reshuffling in the training department moved him to a new role as head athletic trainer of the Shively Sports Center. Instead of bristling at the shift, he embraced it, remaining committed to the health and well-being of UK student-athletes. Ever since, McCombs has provided top-notch care to UK's men's soccer program.

*After receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2013 CATSPYs, Walt McCombs (second from right) celebrated with administrator John Cropp (left), former men's basketball coach Joe B. Hall (second from left) and Head Athletic Trainer Jim Madaleno.*



**IN THE COMING YEARS**, Commonwealth Stadium and the UK campus will undergo a dramatic facelift. A strong relationship between UK Athletics and its university is helping make it all possible.



*Shown above is the vision for the new Commonwealth Stadium after renovations planned over the next two years designed to give fans the best possible experience on fall Saturdays. On the next page is the location of the new Academic Science Building (shaded in gray). UK Athletics will fund \$65 million of the planned \$100-million project.*

## A WINNING

**U**K Athletics and the university it represents have always had a symbiotic relationship. With shared goals and common interests, the school and the athletics department have benefited one another in pursuit of academic and athletic excellence.

But never before have UK and UK Athletics worked as closely as this year. In fact, the two entered a partnership nearly unprecedented in college sports.

In February, Governor Steve Beshear signed House Bill 7 into law, approving President Eli Capilouto's proposal to self-finance a \$275-million transformation

of the UK campus. The plan includes three projects, one of which is the long-pursued renovation of Commonwealth Stadium.

The overhaul of Commonwealth will mark a reinvention of the game-day atmosphere at the longtime home of UK football. The project is expected to be completed before the start of the 2015 season, but Kentucky will be able to play its home games in the stadium during construction.

The renovations will result in enhanced seat values through improved concessions, restrooms and se-



Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear signed House Bill 7 into law in February 2013. The legislation cleared the way for UK to move forward with \$275 million in self-financed projects that will help accelerate the transformation of Kentucky's flagship campus.



## PARTNERSHIP

curity and creating additional premium seating. That premium seating will play a key role as UK Athletics funds the projects entirely on its own. Approximately 16-20 suites and 2,000 club seats are expected to be added through the renovation. Other planned additions through the project include a multi-purpose recruiting room, new home team and press facilities, a team store and a new full-service kitchen. Nutter Training Center – the hub of UK football – will also be upgraded.

UK Athletics' involvement in Capilouto's plan does not stop there.

UK will build a new Academic Science Building to replace the existing Chemistry-Physics Building, one of the most heavily utilized buildings on campus. The new building is important as the university continues to compete for the best students and faculty, and UK Athletics will play a key role in its construction. Because of its sound finances, UK Athletics was able to commit to funding \$65 million of the \$100-million project.

Such a joint endeavor may be close to unheard of elsewhere, but not in Lexington. At UK, a university and an athletics department have come to realize how much they can help one another.

**“We will do something very few universities in this country have done —**

utilize the incredible brand that is our athletics program to help fund needed facilities improvements and also one of our most important academic facilities.”

**–President Eli Capilouto**

**"UK Athletics is one of**

a handful of programs in the country that gives back to the academic mission of its institution."

**—President Eli Capilouto**

# MEETING A NEW FISCAL REALITY

**U**nder Mitch Barnhart's leadership, the UK Athletics Department continues to responsibly navigate the uncertain and ever-changing financial landscape of college sports.

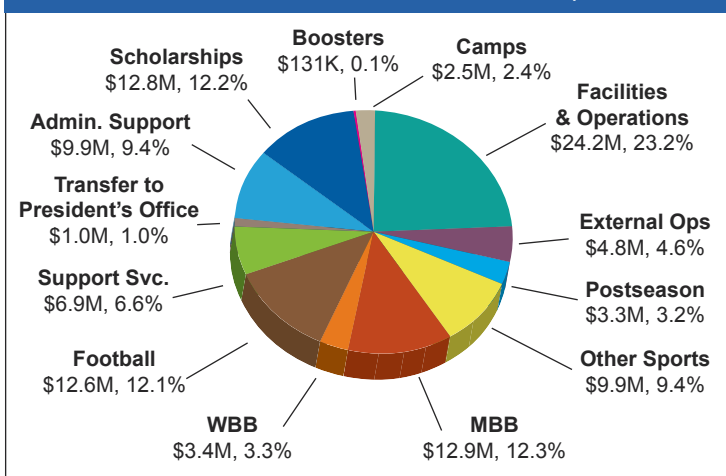
In June, the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees approved UK Athletics' proposed 2013-14 budget of \$104.4 million as part of the University's overall budget of \$2.7 billion. The budget reflects growing expenditures on facility construction and renovation and salary necessary to pursue competitive excellence. The escalating expenses will be offset by increased revenue through capital gifts, football and men's basketball ticket sales and Southeastern Conference revenue sharing.

As it has consistently done, the athletics department will once again operate with a balanced budget even though it is one of the few self-sufficient departments in the nation and receives no state or university funds.

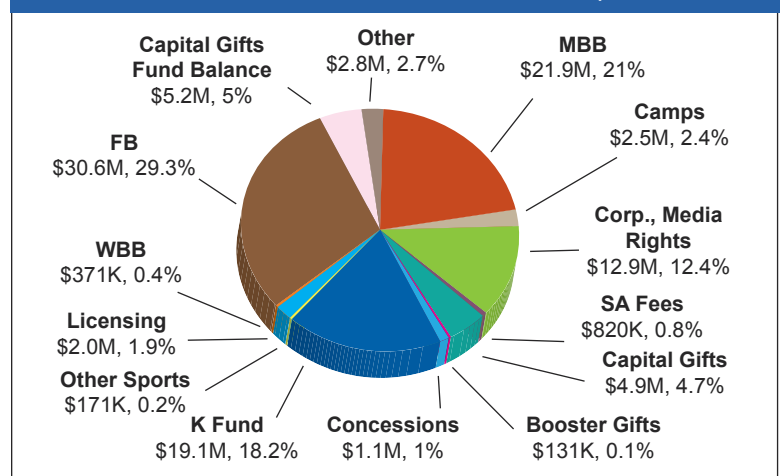
UK Athletics accounts for just 3.9 percent of the university's \$2.7-billion budget and even contributes back to the school. UK Athletics will spend more than a quarter (\$26+ million) of its 2013-14 budget on campus, including full tuition rates for 340 scholarships. In addition to serving as a public face for the school, UK Athletics will contribute \$1.7 million to help fund the university's academic scholarships.

UK Athletics also reaffirmed its strong partnership with the university in committing to help fund nearly two-thirds of the school's planned \$100-million Academic Science Building project, but those paying attention hardly needed any such reminder. Since Barnhart arrived in 2002 and through 2012-13, UK Athletics has donated more than \$29 million directly to the university through scholarship aid and shared royalties. Including tuition, expenses and an annual University Service Assessment fee, UK Athletics has contributed more than \$110 million to the university since 2002.

**2013-14 BUDGETED EXPENSES - \$104.4M**



**2013-14 BUDGETED REVENUES - \$104.4M**





Rising majestically nearly 20,000 feet above the Tanzanian plains, Mt. Kilimanjaro is the tallest mountain on the African continent and the highest free-standing mountain in the world.

19,341

Drawing inspiration from UK Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart, Anthony Schembari Sr. and his two sons recently took their passion for the Wildcats with them to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro.

# UP FOR THE CHALLENGE

In the Schembari family, vacation days are usually saved for March when Kentucky is playing in the Southeastern Conference and NCAA tournaments. Ever since Anthony Jr. and Dante were in school, that's how it's been.

For this, the Schembaris had to make an exception.

It started with a simple conversation between Anthony Sr. and Mitch Barnhart. The UK Athletics Director was just calling to catch up, but Barnhart ended up describing his July 2012 climb of Mount Kilimanjaro in detail. His interest piqued by Barnhart's account of the challenging, yet rewarding ascent, Anthony Sr. decided to mention the possibility of following Barnhart's lead to his two sons.

In most families, that kind of idea might be brought up once at dinner and never again, but the Schembaris don't work that way. The Schembaris – who work together at Bryant Heating and Cooling, the family business – are constantly on the lookout for their next adventure. When they aren't at UK basketball games

or tailgating together at Commonwealth Stadium, the Schembaris are running, biking or doing something along those lines. So when the possibility of scaling Africa's tallest peak came up, they didn't hesitate. Adventurous as they may be, the Schembaris still wanted to be prepared. For help, they turned to the man who had unwittingly started the whole thing. They spent an hour-and-a-half at lunch with Barnhart, listening as he detailed the challenge they would be facing. They heard about the taxing weeklong climb. Barnhart told them about the sub-zero temperatures at the 19,341-foot summit and its breathtaking views.

When starting their journey in Tanzania, the family trio recalled Barnhart's best advice: The only way to ever find out what it's like to climb Kilimanjaro is by doing it. And in January, they did. Although Anthony Jr. admits the Schembaris are "not really outdoor people," they made it to the top and back down again.

Now, when Anthony Sr., Anthony Jr. and Dante look at the desk markers Barnhart gave them to remember their climb, they wonder, "What's next?"



Adventurous K Fund members Anthony Schembari Sr. (far right) and his two sons (from left), Dante and Anthony Jr., reached the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in January 2013 with a UK flag in tow.

**50,831**

Heeding Mark Stoops' call to show their excitement about UK football to the nation, a record 50,831 fans filled Commonwealth Stadium for the 2013 Blue/White Spring Game. UK had the nation's sixth-highest spring-game attendance.



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY ATHLETICS