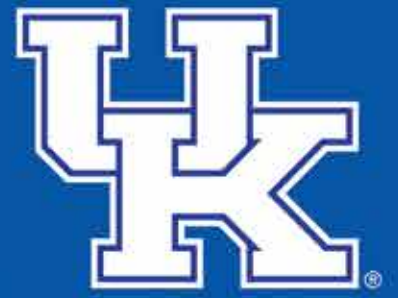




TOP 10



COMMITMENT
COURAGE
PASSION
PERSISTENCE
FAITH
DISCIPLINE
EFFORT
VISION
CONSISTENCY
DESIRE
PROGRESS
INTEGRITY

SUCCESS



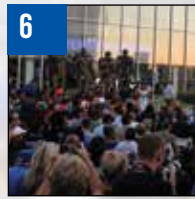
KENTUCKY[®]
ATHLETICS

2017 ATHLETICS ANNUAL REPORT

A LOOK INSIDE



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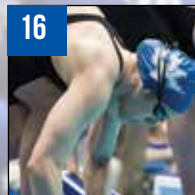
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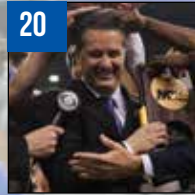
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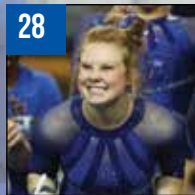
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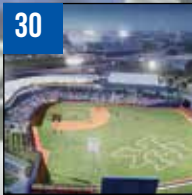
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The 2017 Annual Report is published by the UK Athletics Department and Mitch Barnhart, Athletics Director.

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2017 ANNUAL REPORT

LIFE LESSONS

LEARNING FROM COMPETITION

WILDCAT ATHLETES ARE PREPARING FOR A LIFETIME OF SUCCESS DURING THEIR TIME AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY.

Diligence, dedication and teamwork yield results in competition. We have always believed that. This year, we had the pleasure of watching that be proven before our eyes.

Our 10th-place finish in the Learfield Sports Directors' Cup is the best in school history. With 21 of our teams reaching the postseason to contribute to that record score, we were blessed to have many, many moments to celebrate, which I hope you will enjoy reading about in the pages to come.

The 2016-17 season, however, is no endpoint. Our goals lie ahead of us. The achievements of this season mark a step in the right direction, but make no mistake: We are capable of much more. We want to establish ourselves among the best athletics departments in America, which is what Elite 1-3-5 is all about.

Elite 1-3-5 calls on each of our teams to win a conference or national championship by the year 2022. It calls on us to finish in the top five of Directors' Cup standings in that same time period, in addition to continuing our streak of 10 semesters with a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or better. It's going to take more of that diligence, dedication and teamwork to get there – a lot more. That will only make reaching our goals that much more rewarding.

Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart and UK's head coaches – including Mark Stoops, pictured with Barnhart here – share a commitment to positioning students for success during and after their time as Wildcats





There is something else that will come from the pursuit of our goals, something far less tangible than a trophy on a shelf but far more long-lasting than a celebratory dogpile. That something, in fact, is why my staff and I do what we do.

Competing and excelling in high-level college athletics is a unique experience. It's one I believe cannot be fully understood by someone who hasn't lived it. I also believe its value cannot be replicated.

The diligence that will carry us toward our goals in competition and in the classroom also instills a work ethic that will serve our students well in whatever pursuits they choose after they take off that Kentucky jersey for the final time. That dedication brings about a single-mindedness that steadies our students when adversity strikes in their lives, because it will. That teamwork fosters a spirit of selflessness whose power cannot be overstated because truly great things can only be accomplished in collaboration with others.

This isn't just a theory either. I have seen our students do incredible things in life, from becoming doctors, dentists, and lawyers to setting world records to building families and passing those same values to their children. I know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that the time they spent as Wildcats helped prepare them to do those things.

So, as you read the stories of our young people succeeding, please remember that their success now is helping lay the groundwork for a lifetime of it. Your support helps make that possible. On behalf of all of UK Athletics, thank you.

Mitch Barnhart
UK Athletics Director

THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE THAT WILL COME FROM THE PURSUIT OF OUR GOALS, SOMETHING FAR LESS TANGIBLE THAN A TROPHY ON A SHELF BUT FAR MORE LONG-LASTING THAN A CELEBRATORY DOGPILE. THAT SOMETHING, IN FACT, IS WHY MY STAFF AND I DO WHAT WE DO.

PROGRESS

BREAKING INTO THE

TOP 10



AS PROOF OF ITS COMMITMENT TO ACROSS-THE-BOARD COMPETITIVE SUCCESS, UK ATHLETICS POSTED A HISTORIC 10TH-PLACE FINISH IN THE DIRECTORS' CUP.



For Kentucky to reach its goal of establishing itself among the elite athletics departments in America, an unprecedented and comprehensive effort will be required from all parties involved: students, coaches, staff and all 22 Wildcat teams. If the 2016-17 season is any indication, that effort is poised to be a success.

For the first time in the history of the program, UK finished in the top 10 of the Learfield Cup Directors' standings, which measures the overall success of every Division-I athletics department. With 21 of its 22 teams reaching the postseason and contributing to its final tally for the first time ever, UK finished 10th nationally and second in the Southeastern Conference, both record marks.

Six UK teams finished in the top 10 of their respective sports, led by women's outdoor track and field and rifle each coming in fourth place. Men's basketball was fifth on the strength of a trip to the Elite Eight that came on the heels of a sweep of SEC regular-season and tournament championships. At indoors, the women's track and field team added a sixth-place finish, while softball and baseball each made super regionals to tie for ninth place.

The strength of the season, however, was depth. Gymnastics narrowly missed out on advancing to nationals, but still had a strong performance at regionals and the women's swimming and diving team had its highest point total in program history at NCAA Championships. Five different programs – women's basketball, volleyball, men's soccer, men's tennis and women's tennis – reached the second round of NCAA Tournament play and the men's swimming and diving team scored at nationals, as did the men's track and field team at both indoors and outdoors. The football team returned to a bowl for the first time in six years, while the men's and women's golf teams and men's and women's cross country teams all reached regionals.

UK has always had rich tradition and the best fan base in the country, but never has the department been as strong from top to bottom as it is now. Over the last decade-and-a-half, UK Athletics has made a wholesale commitment to building a comprehensive athletics department. That commitment was made based on a belief that every UK team is capable of competing at the highest level nationally in their respective sports. This year's Directors' Cup finish proves that belief was well founded and gives those who made the success happen a reason to celebrate.



Kentucky's rifle, softball, men's basketball, and women's track and field teams were among UK Athletics' six top-10 finishers. All told, 21 of 22 UK's sports reached the postseason to contribute to UK's record Directors' Cup total.

If you ask Mitch Barnhart, however, the most exciting thing about the finish isn't that it's never been done before. It isn't that UK now finds itself in the company of some of the best programs in the country. What really fires him up is what the finish says about what the future could hold for the University of Kentucky Athletics Department. What really fires him up is that he knows the Wildcats are capable of so much more.

UK's goal, you see, is to finish in the top five of the Directors' Cup by 2022, not the top 10. Considering UK just set a school record by finishing 10th and no one involved in that finish believes they have even come close to their potential, the top five is well within reach. It's just a matter of reaching.

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ATHLETICS

2017 DIRECTORS' CUP FINISH

10th – 1,025 Points

- WOMEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD – Fourth, 80 points
- RIFLE – Fourth, 80 points
- MEN'S BASKETBALL – Fifth, 73 points
- WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD – Sixth, 73.5 points
- SOFTBALL – Ninth, 64 points
- BASEBALL – Ninth, 64 points
- GYMNASTICS – 13th, 58.5 points
- WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING – 14th, 61.5 points
- MEN'S SOCCER – 17th, 50 points
- VOLLEYBALL – 17th, 50 points
- WOMEN'S BASKETBALL – 17th, 50 points
- MEN'S TENNIS – 17th, 50 points
- WOMEN'S TENNIS – 17th, 50 points
- MEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD – 22nd, 50 points
- WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY – 30th, 30 points
- MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY – 32nd, 26 points
- MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING – 37th, 32 points
- MEN'S GOLF – 39th, 33.5 points
- FOOTBALL – 50th, 25 points
- MEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD – 59th, 12.5 points
- WOMEN'S GOLF – 61st, 11.5 points

COMMITMENT

TRAILBLAZERS

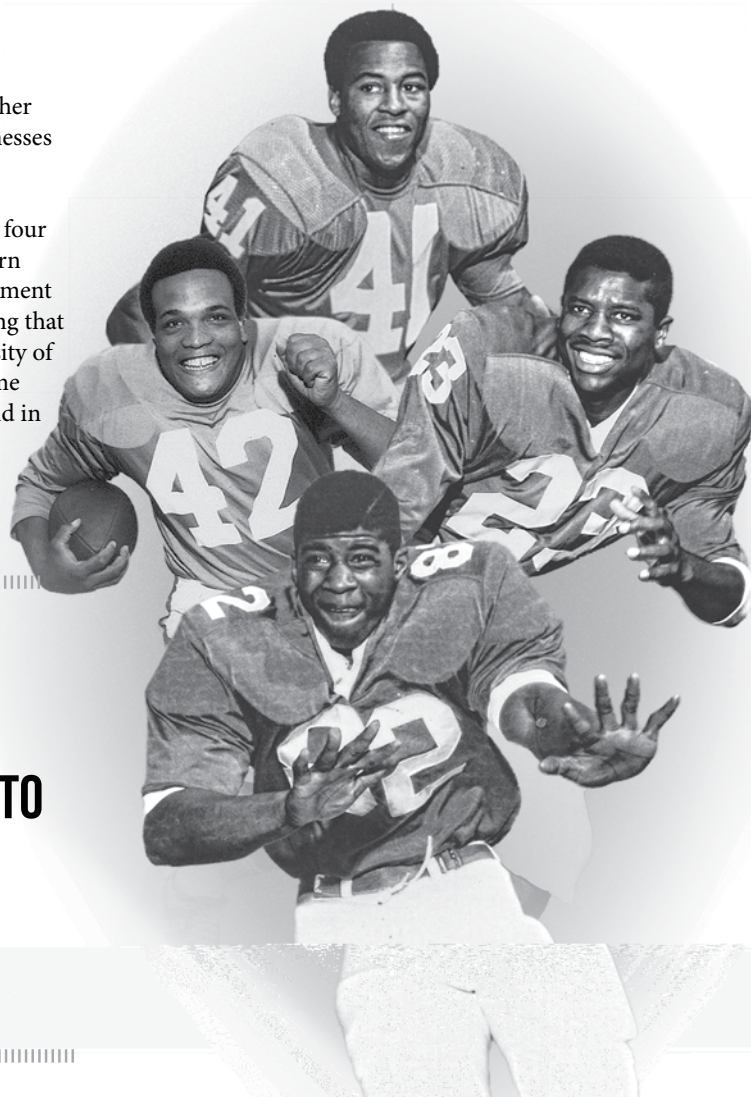
PAVING THE WAY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

AT THE HEIGHT OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, FOUR WILDCATS FOREVER CHANGED THE FACE OF COLLEGE FOOTBALL IN THE SOUTH.

Four decades ago, Nate Northington, Greg Page, Wilbur Hackett and Houston Hogg stood together against racial discrimination. Today, their likenesses stand together as a tribute to their courage and pioneering legacy.

Northington, Page, Hackett and Hogg – the four men who broke the color barrier in Southeastern Conference football at the height of the Civil Rights movement – arrived in Lexington knowing they were doing something that had never been done before when they joined the University of Kentucky football team. What they didn't realize at the time was they would forever change the face of sports at UK and in the South.

Recruited by Gov. Edward T. Breathitt, University of Kentucky President John W. Oswald and UK football head coach Charlie Bradshaw to break the color barrier,



“THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY HAS COME A TREMENDOUS WAY. IT’S GOOD TO FEEL THAT, TO KNOW THAT WE WERE A PART OF THAT.”

– *Nate Northington*



Designed and sculpted by J. Brett Grill, a statue honoring the four players who broke the color barrier in SEC football was dedicated in September. From left to right in the photo above, Melvin Page – Greg's brother – Nate Northington, Wilbur Hackett and Houston Hogg were in attendance.

Northington and Page enrolled together in 1966. Per NCAA rules regarding first-year eligibility, they spent that season on UK's freshman team before moving up to varsity in 1967. That same year, Hackett and Hogg joined them at UK.

Northington and Page shared a close bond from the very beginning and the two talented players were poised to make history together before tragedy intervened. A neck injury suffered in a practice accident on Aug. 22, 1967, sent Page to intensive care, where he would remain for the next 38 days. Northington was a frequent visitor during that time, but he also continued to practice with his team.

Northington's perseverance was rewarded on Sept. 23, 1967, when he made his varsity debut, but Page succumbed to his injuries six days later on Sept. 29, 1967. Somehow, Northington found the wherewithal to honor the memory of his friend just a day after Page's passing. Northington became the first African-American to play in an SEC game when UK hosted Ole Miss on Sept. 30, 1967.

The barrier was broken, but the work of the four men was not done.

With all that had happened at UK, Northington realized he needed to make a new start for himself. He elected to transfer and finish his career at Western Kentucky University, but not before delivering a part-



NATE NORTINGTON

Nate Northington knew he was making a monumental decision when he decided to come to the University of Kentucky. The Louisville native was specifically recruited to break the color barrier in Southeastern Conference football

and embraced the opportunities and hardships that came with being a trailblazer, but nothing could have prepared him for losing Greg Page – his teammate, classmate and close friend – after he suffered a neck injury in a practice accident. Nonetheless, Northington stayed the course. The defensive back made his varsity debut on Sept. 23, 1967, as Page was in intensive care. He then became the first African-American to play in an SEC football game on Sept. 30, 1967, as UK hosted Ole Miss just one day after Page's passing. After the 1967 season, Northington made the decision to continue his college career at Western Kentucky University, but not before encouraging Wilbur Hackett and Houston Hogg to finish the work he and Page started.

COURAGE

TRAILBLAZERS



GREG PAGE

On a questionnaire all incoming football players filled out upon their arrival at Kentucky, Greg Page's character shone through. Answering a question about why he chose to attend UK, Page said it was to "help open the way for more negro athletes to play ball here." While most others in his position surely would have thought about themselves, Page had others on his mind. That's just how he was. In fact, it's part of the reason why Nate Northington gravitated to him. The two became fast friends, bonding over the ground they were breaking together as the first African-American football players at a Southeastern Conference school. They spent their first season on campus as members of the freshman team and it was their sophomore season when they were going to make history, but tragedy befell Page. The talented defensive end from Middlesboro, Kentucky, suffered a neck injury in practice that took his life. But even though Page lived to only age 19, he had accomplished his goal of paving the way for hundreds to follow in his footsteps.



WILBUR HACKETT

Wilbur Hackett came to the University of Kentucky as an All-State performer and *Parade* magazine All-American. He left UK as one of the foremost pioneers of racial integration in the history of college athletics. Hackett spent his first season on campus as a member of the freshman team, watching as Nate Northington broke the color barrier in Southeastern Conference football. When Northington left for Western Kentucky University after the season, Hackett heeded his teammate's advice and stayed at UK to continue their shared work. Through death threats and even needing armed guards for one SEC road trip, Hackett stayed the course and excelled on the field. He received Sophomore All-SEC honors in 1968 and honorable mention All-SEC recognition as a junior before being named UK's Co-Most Valuable Player as a senior. That year, having earned universal respect from his teammates and coaches, Hackett became the first African-American team captain in any sport in SEC history.

ing message to his two younger teammates. He told them to stick it out at UK, to finish the work he and Page had started together.

Hackett and Hogg took the message to heart and stayed all four years at Kentucky. Hackett even broke new ground of his own when he became the first African-American team captain in any sport at an SEC school in 1969 as a three-year starter for the Wildcats.

The impact of the four trailblazers still resonates today.

In September 2016, a statue honoring Northington, Page, Hackett and Hogg was dedicated at a special event attended by family, friends, players, coaches, university administration and fans. Its location – at the heart of the Kentucky football operation – is fitting.

“NO FOUR PLAYERS IN OUR PROGRAM’S HISTORY HAVE BETTER DEMONSTRATED THE VALUES OF COURAGE, DETERMINATION AND SELFLESSNESS THAN NATE, GREG, WILBUR AND HOUSTON. THE PRIDE WE TAKE IN CALLING THEM KENTUCKY WILDCATS IS MATCHED ONLY BY OUR GRATITUDE FOR WHAT THEY HAVE DONE FOR THIS UNIVERSITY AND FOR COLLEGE FOOTBALL IN THE SOUTH.”

– UK Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart



HOUSTON HOGG

Like his three fellow trailblazers, Houston Hogg was a Kentuckian through and through. He started his youth football career in Hazard before completing high school at Owensboro's Daviess County High School. In spite of being fully aware of the adversity that would come with attending the Bluegrass

State's flagship university, Hogg did not hesitate in following in the footsteps of teammates Nate Northington and Greg Page and accepted a scholarship offer to play football at the University of Kentucky in 1967. As one of the first African-American football players in Southeastern Conference history, Hogg lettered for UK in 1969 and 1970 as a running back. Facing prejudice during his time as a Wildcat, Hogg endured and completed his career. Thanks to the determination of Hogg and his teammates, significant steps toward racial equality were made and thousands of young men now have the opportunity to pursue their dreams playing SEC football.



LEAVING IT ALL ON THE COURT

A YOUNG GROUP OF WILDCATS TURNED POTENTIAL INTO ANOTHER STRONG SEASON BY INVESTING THEMSELVES FULLY IN THEIR TEAM.

Their broken voices said it all. The tears streaming down their cheeks were all you needed to see. The Kentucky Wildcats had poured every ounce of themselves into their team only to fall short in a heartbreaking Elite Eight loss to North Carolina. Per usual, incredible hype and national-championship-or-bust expectations accompanied the young Wildcats on their arrival to Lexington. They did nothing to silence the buzz with their run through the first month of the season, which included seven straight wins – all by 21 points or more – and three 100-point performances, the last of which came as UK blitzed Arizona State by 46 points behind a De'Aaron Fox triple-double, which was just the second in program history.

December would bring the first bumps in the road in losses to UCLA and Louisville, between which came a 103-100 thriller against North Carolina in which Malik Monk set the UK freshman record with 47 points. He punctuated his coming-out party by burying the game-winning 3-pointer in the final minute.

Similar to the start of the season, UK began Southeastern Conference play with seven straight wins, the first coming at Ole

Freshman guards De'Aaron Fox and Malik Monk formed one of the nation's most electric backcourt duos in their lone season at Kentucky, combining to average more than 36 points.



DIFFERENCE MAKERS

SENIOR TRIO KEY TO YOUNG TEAM'S SUCCESS

A three-member senior class was the heart and soul of this Kentucky team. Featuring Bluegrass natives Derek Willis and Dominique Hawkins along with Mychal Mulder, the group provided a steadying presence for their younger teammates and turned in some of their best moments when their team needed them most. Mulder embraced every opportunity afforded him and provided a valuable outside shooting presence. Hawkins, with his infectious smile, grew into one of UK's steadiest performers by season's end, memorably earning All-Southeastern Conference Tournament honors. Always a knockdown shooter, Willis became an essential presence as a defender and rebounder in the final month of his career, not to mention treating fans to one of the most memorable moments in the history of Senior Night at UK. In the midst of the famed pregame festivities, Willis thrilled everyone in Rupp Arena by dropping to one knee and proposing to his girlfriend.



Tough and unafraid of a battle, Bam Adebayo and Isaiah Briscoe were indispensable members of a Kentucky team that swept the Southeastern Conference regular-season and tournament titles.

Miss as Isaiah Briscoe matched Fox's triple-double. This time, however, there were signs of trouble that came back to bite the Cats in three losses in a four-game span. Opponents had adjusted to the breakneck pace UK had used to dominate early in the year and the results led to questions about the Cats' passion and whether they would ever reach their potential.

In response, UK steadied the ship with eight straight wins that clinched the program's 48th regular-season SEC title. Kentucky then found another gear, particularly on defense, in sweeping through three SEC Tournament games in front of overwhelmingly blue crowds and parlayed the performance into a No. 2 seed in the Big Dance.

There, UK got past a game Northern Kentucky team behind a double-double by Bam Adebayo, the unselfish big man who had developed into a bruising post presence late in the year. Next came a game against Wichita State that the Cats survived thanks to clutch defensive plays by Adebayo and Monk. The Sweet 16 brought a rematch with UCLA in which De'Aaron Fox dominated with 39 points, the most by a freshman in NCAA Tournament history.

Of course, it would all end on the buzzer beater by UNC that undid a furious last-minute rally and sent the Cats into that emotional postgame locker room. Watching that scene though, there was no doubting that a talented group of individuals had truly become a team.



PASSION

BLOOD, SWEAT AND CHIEFS

For four years with Mark Stoops at the helm of Kentucky football, the approach had always been the same. No matter the result, be it a thrilling win or a devastating loss, the Wildcats were going to get back to work. No matter the circumstances, be they good or bad, they were going to keep on grinding.

So, even when times were bleakest, they weren't about to waver.

Off to an 0-2 start to the 2016 season, their starting quarterback out with a back injury that would end his season and down at halftime to a visiting New Mexico State team that came to Lexington an overwhelming underdog, negativity swirled outside the program. Inside the four walls of the UK locker room, however, the Cats remained steadfast in their belief in themselves and their coaching staff. Soon, everyone saw why.

First, UK outscored New Mexico State 27-7 in the second half to rally to victory behind backup quarterback Stephen Johnson and breakout star freshman running back Benny Snell. A week later, the Cats bested Southeastern Conference foe South Carolina in a 17-10 battle thanks to 123 rushing yards by Boom Williams, who would team with Snell to form the first duo of 1,000-yard rushers in Kentucky football history.

After a loss on the road to eventual College Football Playoff participant Alabama, UK reeled off three straight SEC wins, each more impressive than the last. The Cats made a heart-stop-



With clutch kicker Austin MacGinnis and the always calm Stephen Johnson at quarterback, Kentucky had a knack for winning close games in 2016. Four of UK's seven wins came by a touchdown or less.

FACING ADVERSITY AND IMPROVING FOR HAVING OVERCOME IT, KENTUCKY REACHED A BOWL FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2010.



Leading a dominant rushing attack, Benny Snell (right) and Boom Williams became the first Wildcats in history to both reach 1,000 yards in the same season.

ping red-zone stand in the final seconds to close out a 20-13 win over Vanderbilt before they exploded for 34 points in the second half against Mississippi State, the last three coming in a 51-yard field goal by Austin MacGinnis as time expired to claim a 40-38 victory. Next time out, UK was dominant in a 35-21 road win at Missouri in piling up 377 rushing yards.

By the end of the three-game winning streak – after which came back-to-back hard-fought losses against Georgia and Tennessee – UK had an identity. The Cats were a bruising offense led by a tough-as-nails quarterback with a feathery touch on deep balls. They were going to run and run often behind a gifted offensive line and deep stable of running backs, putting their opportunistic defense in position to succeed.

The approach worked to perfection as UK closed out the regular season with two wins, the second being the signature victory of the Stoops era. Going toe to toe with Heisman Trophy winner Lamar Jackson and 11th-ranked Louisville on the road, UK put its season-long mantra of “Finish” into action by forcing a late turnover and driving to position MacGinnis for his second game-winning field goal of the season in a 41-38 win.

UK would fall short in its first bowl appearance since 2010, but the progress made in reaching that point could not be erased. For an encore, you can guess what the Cats are going to do: go to work.



UK'S MARCH TO JACKSONVILLE

- WIN #1** 62-42 | vs. New Mexico St.
- WIN #2** 17-10 | vs. South Carolina
- WIN #3** 20-13 | vs. Vanderbilt
- WIN #4** 40-38 | vs. Mississippi State
- WIN #5** 35-21 | at Missouri
- WIN #6** 49-13 | vs. Austin Peay
- WIN #7** 41-38 | at Louisville

PERSISTENCE



SIMPLY SUPER

FROM THE MOMENT NICK MINGIONE ARRIVED LAST SUMMER, UK SET ITS SIGHTS ON REACHING UNPRECEDENTED HEIGHTS. LESS THAN A YEAR LATER, THE WILDCATS CELEBRATED THE FIRST TRIP TO SUPER REGIONALS IN PROGRAM HISTORY.

After being named head coach of Kentucky baseball in June of 2016, Nick Mingione never hid from his aspirations. He freely talked about wanting to do things that never before had been done in his program's history. In fall practices, he even had his team practice the ritual of dogpiling that happens after a title-clinching performance.

The Wildcats, of course, would eventually realize Mingione's goal and even put their celebration training to good use after capturing a regional championship for the first time ever. The way they got there, though, was with a singular, unrelenting focus on making the most of every opportunity they had to improve.

That began with Mingione's first meeting with his new team. There, he went through a meticulously built two-hour Power-Point presentation in which he laid out his vision for UK baseball. He talked about "Student, Person, Player," the philosophy by which the Wildcats would live both on and off the field. He hammered home the message that the program would be a family and even talked about how that family would chase a trip to Omaha.

The message could have fallen flat. Players could have brushed off Mingione's talk as cliché. They could have rolled their eyes at the mention of the College World Series since UK hadn't even made the NCAA Tournament since 2014.

Instead, they were engaged from start to finish at that initial meeting. They would stay that way all year.

UK would be put to the test immediately once the season started, facing a highly ranked North Carolina team on the road. The Cats showed their grit in three hard-fought defeats by a total of four runs and then dropped a 5-4 midweek decision to Liberty. But even sitting at 0-4, that was the moment when

Mingione knew he had a special team on his hands. The Cats had been knocked down, but he could immediately see they had no intention of staying there.

Fifteen wins in UK's next 17 games would follow, including sweeps of a ranked UCSB squad and a Texas A&M team that would go on to play in the College World Series. From there, the Cats would charge into the top 10 of national rankings and assert themselves as a leading contender for the Southeastern Conference regular-season championship behind the league's best offense led by All-Americans Evan White, Tristan Pompey and Riley Mahan and a pitching staff that featured SEC Pitcher of the Year Sean Hjelle and First-Team All-SEC closer Logan Salow.

UK would fall just short of the league title before being bounced in the SEC Tournament, but they had done enough to earn the right to host a regional in Lexington. The Cats wouldn't waste the opportunity. Playing in front of raucous crowds that twice set Cliff Hagan Stadium attendance records, UK found itself in a winner-take-all showdown with North Carolina State with a Super Regional berth on the line. Overcoming a long rain delay, UK turned an early back-and-forth battle into a 10-5 win.

The next weekend, the Cats fell short of the trip to Omaha. The foundation laid by Mingione's first team, however, suggests it might not be long before Kentucky gets there.

Relentlessly positive and uplifting, Nick Mingione (right) helped a talented group of Wildcats reach their previously untapped potential in his first season. In turn, he energized the Kentucky program and the Big Blue Nation.

2017 HONORS

NCAA LEXINGTON REGIONAL CHAMPIONS

FINAL RANKING: No. 9, *Baseball America*

RECORD: 43-23

NICK MINGIONE

SEC Coach of the Year
Perfect Game/Rawlings College Head Coach of the Year

EVAN WHITE

ABCA/Rawlings Gold Glove Award
Golden Spikes Award Semifinalist
Second-Team All-America, *Baseball America*
Third-Team All-America, *Collegiate Baseball*
All-SEC Defensive Team
No. 17 Overall MLB Draft Pick, Seattle Mariners

RILEY MAHAN

Second-Team All-America, *Collegiate Baseball*
Second-Team All-America, NCBWA
Third-Team All-America, *Baseball America*
Second-Team All-SEC
Dick Howser Trophy Semifinalist
Third-Round MLB Draft Pick, Miami Marlins

SEAN HJELLE

SEC Pitcher of the Year
Second-Team All-America, *Collegiate Baseball*
First-Team All-SEC

TRISTAN POMPEY

Third-Team All-America, *Baseball America*
Third-Team All-America, *Collegiate Baseball*
First-Team All-SEC

LOGAN SALOW

Third-Team All-America, NCBWA
First-Team All-SEC
Sixth-Round MLB Draft Pick, Oakland Athletics

ZACK THOMPSON

First-Team Freshman All-America, Perfect Game/Rawlings

ZACH LOGUE

SEC Scholar-Athlete of the Year
Ninth-Round MLB Draft Pick, Toronto Blue Jays

STORM WILSON

SEC Community Service Team

ZACH POP

Seventh-Round MLB Draft Pick, Los Angeles Dodgers

ZACH REKS

10th-Round MLB Draft Pick, Los Angeles Dodgers

JUSTIN LEWIS

11th-Round MLB Draft Pick, Tampa Bay Rays

CONNOR HEADY

23rd-Round MLB Draft Pick, Los Angeles Dodgers





Danielle Galyer speaks for her fellow seniors when she says she counts herself lucky. The group arrived at Kentucky just as Lars Jorgensen took the reins at head coach of the swimming and diving program. Immediately, the Wildcats adopted a mantra of “On the Rise” in what was originally supposed to be the tagline only for their freshman season. A few years later, they would realize “On the Rise” had come to define their four years at UK. That time was marked by consistent buy-in to a new coaching staff and steady improvement that resulted. It all culminated in one of the best seasons Kentucky’s program has ever seen.

After a successful regular season, the Wildcats headed to postseason competition with big things in mind. First came Southeastern Conference Championships, where the women’s team tied a school record with a third-place finish and the men came in 10th. Six different individuals won medals – including gold-medal performances by Geena Freriks and Asia Seidt – and the women’s 800 freestyle relay team took silver. From there, the Wildcats would springboard into nationals.

The women’s team posted its highest point total in school history at NCAA Championships with 106 points and a 14th-place finish, the best in 10 years, and the men came in 37th. Eight different Wildcats turned in All-America performances, with Seidt claiming a bronze medal in the 200 backstroke as a true freshman.

Though the season was over at that point, awards continued to pour in for the Wildcats. For the second consecutive year, Galyer was named the winner of the Elite 90 Award for having the top grade-point average at NCAA Championships. Galyer was also one of seven Wildcats to earn SEC postseason honors and the CATSPY Awards brought even more hardware for her and her team. Galyer received the Miss Wildcat and Scholar-Athlete of the Year Awards, while the women’s team was named Female Team of the Year, Lars Jorgensen was named Coach of the Year and Sean Gunn won the Community Service Award.

Now, that senior class moves on to the next step in their lives. The rise of the Kentucky swimming and diving program, however, doesn’t figure to stop without them.

“WE TALKED ABOUT MAKING THIS THE BEST TEAM IN SCHOOL HISTORY, AND WITH PLACING THIRD AT SECS AND GETTING THE MOST POINTS IN PROGRAM HISTORY AT NCAAS, I FEEL LIKE WE ACCOMPLISHED THAT. IT WAS REALLY A MAGICAL WEEKEND HERE IN INDIANAPOLIS.”

– UK Head Swimming Coach Lars Jorgensen



From left, Kendra Crew, assistant coach Mason Norman, Ali Galyer, Asia Seidt, Danielle Galyer, head coach Lars Jorgensen, Bridgette Alexander and diver Rebecca Hamperian played instrumental roles in a record-setting 2017 season.

KENTUCKY CAPPED OFF ITS 2017 SEASON BY RACKING UP THE MOST POINTS IN PROGRAM HISTORY EN ROUTE TO A 14TH PLACE FINISH AT NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS.

2017 HONORS

DANIELLE GALYER

- Elite 90 Award
- First-Team Academic All-America
- Miss Wildcat CATSPY
- Scholar-Athlete of the Year CATSPY
- First-Team All-America (800 Free Relay, 200 Backstroke)
- Second-Team All-America (400 Medley Relay, 100 Backstroke)
- SEC Silver Medalist (200 Backstroke, 800 Free Relay)
- All-SEC Second Team

ASIA SEIDT

- NCAA Bronze Medalist (200 Backstroke)
- SEC Champion (200 Backstroke)
- SEC Female Freshman Swimmer of the Year
- First-Team All-America (800 Free Relay, 200 IM, 200 Backstroke)
- Second-Team All-America (400 Medley Relay, 100 Backstroke)
- All-SEC First Team
- SEC All-Freshman Team

GEENA FRERIKS

- SEC Champion (200 Freestyle)
- First-Team All-America (800 Free Relay)
- Second-Team All-America (500 Free, 400 Medley Relay, 200 Free)
- All-SEC First Team

REBECCA HAMPERIAN

- Second-Team All-America (3-Meter)
- SEC Silver Medalist (1-Meter)
- All-SEC Second Team

ALI GALYER

- First-Team All-America (800 Free Relay, 200 Backstroke)
- All-SEC Second Team
- SEC All-Freshman Team

MADISON WINSTEAD

- Second-Team All-America (400 Medley Relay)
- SEC Silver Medalist (100 Backstroke)
- All-SEC Second Team
- SEC All-Freshman Team

KENDAL CASEY

- SEC Bronze Medalist (500 Free)
- All-SEC Second Team

KATHRYN PAINTER

- Second-Team America (400 IM)

BRIDGETTE ALEXANDER

- Second-Team All-America (200 Backstroke)

SEB MASTERTON

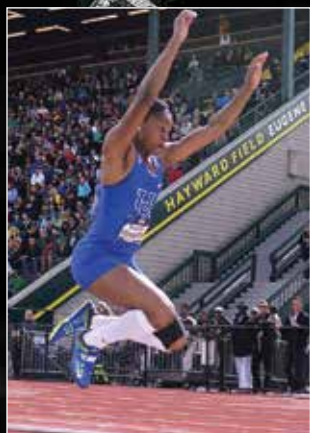
- Honorable Mention All-America (1-Meter Dive)



Asia Seidt had one of the most decorated freshman seasons in Kentucky swimming and diving history in 2017, including winning a gold medal at SEC Championships and bronze at NCAA Championships.

DISCIPLINE

SOARING



Olivia Gruver (top) became the first pole-vault national champion in school history at the 2017 NCAA Outdoor Championships, while Marie-Josée Ebwea-Bile (above left) and Jasmine Camacho-Quinn (above right) turned in silver medal performances in the triple jump and 100 meter hurdles, respectively.

It's one thing to achieve at a high level once. It's another thing entirely to begin to sustain that high level of achievement over a period of time. Year after passing year under the guidance of head coach Edrick Floréal, the Kentucky women's track and field team is beginning to reach a consistent level of excellence.

After a fourth-place finish in June, the Wildcats have now reached the podium at NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in two of the last three seasons and finished in the top 11 in four straight years. A sixth-place performance in March also gave the team its fourth straight top-12 NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships finish.

At outdoors, UK got a pair of the kind of national-championship efforts that have become regular occurrences, though these were exceptional. Just a sophomore, Olivia Gruver won the first pole vault national title in program history, while Destiny Carter, Jasmine Camacho-Quinn, Kayelle Clarke and Kianna Gray com-

AGAIN

THE KENTUCKY WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD TEAM FINISHED ON THE PODIUM AT THE NCAA OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR THE SECOND TIME IN THE LAST THREE SEASONS, PLACING FOURTH.











bined to form the gold-medal winning 4x100-meter relay team. That came on the heels of Sha'Keela Saunders winning the indoor long-jump national championship three months prior.

Without question, UK has become a program to be reckoned with on the national (and international) scene. National champions, Olympians and even a world-record holder have worn Blue and White in recent seasons and Kentucky played host to the NCAA East Preliminary Round in May, a massive undertaking that was attended by thousands and highlighted UK's commitment to the sport.

The future, if Floréal has anything to say about it, looks even brighter. With elite athletes flocking to Lexington, he has his eye on climbing that podium at nationals. The very top spot is the goal.

“VERY PROUD OF OUR TEAM. OUR SUCCESS IN EVENTS LIKE THE 4X1, POLE VAULT AND TRIPLE JUMP SHOWS THAT WE ARE GROWING AND ADDING TO OUR BRAND.”

– UK Head Track & Field Coach
Edrick Floréal

PLACE	SCHOOL	SCORE
1	 Oregon	64
2	 Georgia	62.2
3	 USC	43
4	 KENTUCKY	40
5	 Florida	39
6	 Arkansas	38.2
7	 LSU	32
	 Texas	32
9	 Kansas State	25
10	 Arizona State	21



UK earned its second-best team finish and point total at the NCAA Outdoor Championships in history. Kentucky was the NCAA runner-up with 50 points in 2015.

EFFORT



YEARS *of* PROGRESS

KENTUCKY ATHLETICS HAS ENJOYED AN UNPRECEDENTED DECADE AND A HALF OF SUCCESS UNDER MITCH BARNHART'S STEADY LEADERSHIP.



Mitch Barnhart isn't out to have an athletics department that just excels in competition. To reach the elite status he and UK Athletics are pursuing, success in all facets is required. Over the last decade and a half, Kentucky is steadily building toward exactly that. Those 15 years have coincided with Barnhart's tenure as athletics director, during which time UK Athletics has achieved at a sustained and unprecedented level, no matter the measure in question.

Commitment and investment, in many ways, have defined the program's growth, going hand in hand to drive the steps that have been taken. Immediately upon his arrival, Barnhart made plain his commitment to winning and developing young people. Investment has followed, whether that has come in the form of state-of-the-art facilities or in the form of time spent coaching, mentoring or tutoring.

In turn, Wildcat students have rewarded that commitment and investment by committing and investing themselves. Thousands of men and women have worn the Blue and White over that time and help establish UK Athletics as among the best departments in the country. Those same men and women have poured themselves into their teams and their university and ultimately reaped the rewards of their hard work and dedication, both in their success as competitors and in their success in life after Kentucky.

Mitch Barnhart arrived at the University of Kentucky in 2002 after a successful tenure as athletics director at Oregon State. An incredible era of achievement has followed, spanning all of UK Athletics' ventures.



COMPETITION

The results speak for themselves.

Only twice prior to 2002 had Kentucky finished in the top 30 of Learfield Sports Directors' Cup standings and the average annual finish was outside the top 40. Slowly but surely – with Barnhart's steady guiding hand – improvement followed. UK was 50th in Barnhart's first season and 29th seven years later. Now, Kentucky is the midst of a six-year streak of placing in the top 30, culminating in a school-record 10th-place finish this season.

Along the way, UK marked the completion of the bold 15 by 15 by 15 Plan, winning 15 conference or national championships and finishing in the top 15 of the Directors' Cup by the year 2015. Soon after, Barnhart announced its successor – Elite 1-3-5 – that has UK pursuing championships in every sport and a top-five finish by the year 2022.

UK's perennially powerful men's basketball program has thrived per usual, highlighted by the Wildcats' eighth national championship in 2012, but never has the department been so strong from top to bottom. The rifle team joined men's basketball in winning a national title, while women's basketball, men's tennis, men's soccer, men's golf, baseball, women's soccer, and women's tennis have brought home conference titles.



VISION

15 YEARS *of* PROGRESS

FACILITIES

Barnhart has lofty expectations for the department he leads. He also believes in the importance of providing supporting resources that match those expectations.

Accordingly, one of his first moves upon arriving in Lexington was to provide the maximum amount of scholarships and coaches allowed by the NCAA for each of UK's 22 teams. That wasn't enough, however. Barnhart knew a reinvention of UK's facilities would have to take place in order for the department to achieve at the level he demanded. The reinvention began in earnest in 2007 when construction on the Joe Craft Center was completed. The facility changed the way the department did business, housing the men's and women's basketball teams and many administrative offices.

The last five years have brought a boom of sorts, starting with the completion of UK's new outdoor track in 2012. Three years later, the women's track and field team finished as the national runner-up.

2013 brought both a new locker room to Rupp Arena and the opening of John Cropp Stadium for UK softball. The men's basketball team would reach the Final Four in each of the next two years and the softball program made its first Women's College World Series in 2014.

In 2014, UK opened the Wendell and Vickie Bell Soccer Complex and the new Golf House. Men's soccer then went on to win the Conference USA championship in 2015, while the men's golf team placed 13th at NCAA Championships in 2016.

Then it was the football program's turn, with a renovated Kroger Field opening in 2015 and the state-of-the-art Joe Craft Football Training Facility a year later. That season, UK reached its first bowl since 2010.

All totaled, UK has invested more than \$300 million in facility upgrades since 2002, which doesn't even account for the men's basketball locker room expansion and new baseball stadium in progress, plus the new tennis facility currently in the works.

Barnhart's commitment to providing resources to match expectations is clear. Unprecedented results have followed.

APRIL 2013



MARCH 2017



“WE TRANSFORMED SOME FACILITIES. WE’VE GOT SOME MORE THINGS WE WANT TO DO. WE WANT TO CONTINUE TO TAKE RESOURCES AND EXPECTATIONS AND MATCH THOSE UP. WE TALK ABOUT THAT A LOT.”

– UK Athletics Director Mitch Barnhart



Over the last five years, UK has opened new softball and soccer facilities (top left), opened a new outdoor track and field (top middle) complex, debuted a reimagined Kroger Field (top right), broken ground on the construction of a new baseball stadium (bottom left), and completed the Joe Craft Football Training Facility (bottom right).

15 YEARS *of* PROGRESS

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE

Just as UK is working to build a comprehensive department, the goal is to develop well-rounded athletes who excel in all they do – from competition to the classroom to the community. UK is doing so by investing in their growth and surrounding them with a support system well suited to helping athletes cope with the unique demands of competing in high-level college sports.

That support comes in the form of one of the best coaching staffs in the country and a support staff on the cutting edge in many fields. Among them are strength and conditioning, athletic training, nutrition, and branding. The idea is that Wildcat athletes leave UK equipped with a skillset that will translate no matter the path they choose.

Considering they are becoming doctors, dentists, lawyers, accountants, veterinarians, entrepreneurs, NBA All-Stars, Olympians, world-record holders and everything in between, the approach seems to be working.



More than 60 Wildcats have participated in department-sponsored international service trips since 2011, including swimmer Kyle Higgins (above), who traveled to Ethiopia in 2016. More than 100 Wildcat athletes graduated during the 2016-17 academic year, including softball All-American pitcher Kelsey Nunley (below).

ACADEMICS

Referring to the men and women who suit up for UK teams, Barnhart makes a point of using the term “student” rather than “student-athlete.” That’s no accident. From the athletics director to the coaching staff to the advisors and tutors of the Center for Academic and Tutorial Services – the first academic center of its kind in America – academics are a priority.



UK ATHLETICS PROVIDED NEARLY TWO-THIRDS OF THE FUNDING FOR THE DON AND CATHY JACOBS SCIENCE BUILDING, WHICH OPENED LAST FALL.

Barnhart originally established a goal of a 3.0 department-wide cumulative grade-point average as part of the 15 by 15 Plan in 2008. In spite of never reaching the mark before, UK Athletics topped 3.0 in the spring semester of 2010. It's become a regular occurrence since, with the department owning an ongoing streak of 10 straight semesters with a GPA of 3.0 or better. Individual success has followed departmental success, with hundreds of athletes named to the Southeastern Conference Academic Honor Roll each year. Additionally, UK has had an Elite 90 award winner in five straight years, including back-to-back winners Danielle Galyer (swimming) and Aldila Sutjiadi (tennis).

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Whether it's an ocean away or here in Lexington, Wildcat athletes have made clear their commitment to serving in the community. Each year, they spend upwards of 4,000 hours volunteering for dozens of worthy causes and countless more they don't officially submit through UK Athletics' Cats in the Community Program. Wearing the Blue and White of Kentucky brings a unique platform and it's one the Wildcats don't waste.

The most visible example has been the annual service trips abroad the department sponsors to Ethiopia or Latin America. It began in 2011 with a single football trip and has now expanded to two trips each year – one in May with football players and one later in the summer with athletes nominated from all other sports. Every time, athletes return stateside with a renewed sense of gratitude, humility and perspective having been touched by the people they met and the poverty they had seen firsthand.

CAMPUS PARTNERSHIP

One of most visible public faces of a world-class institution of higher learning, UK Athletics is proud of its partnership with the university it represents. That partnership has manifested itself in more than \$150 million in direct and indirect contributions on campus. UK Athletics pays full in-state and out-of-state tuition rates for each of its 340 scholarships, in addition to donating \$1.7 million annually toward non-athletic university scholarships and paying an annual \$2 million University Service Assessment Fee.

The best example of that partnership, however, is the Don and Cathy Jacobs Science Building. UK Athletics, recognizing the impact of such a facility on campus, funded nearly two-thirds of the \$100-plus million project. The Jacobs Science Building opened this past fall.



UK softball All-American Katie Reed spoke at the dedication of the Jacobs Science Building last October.



IN THE WINNING HABIT

KENTUCKY CONTINUED TO CEMENT ITS REPUTATION AS A COLLEGE SOFTBALL POWERHOUSE IN 2017, ADVANCING TO A NCAA SUPER REGIONAL FOR THE FOURTH TIME IN FIVE YEARS.

The No. 14 overall seed in the NCAA Tournament, Kentucky hosted regionals and celebrated a sweep at John Cropp Stadium in May.



One look at the makeup of Kentucky softball's roster and it was hard not to wonder. The Wildcats would be overwhelmingly young, with freshmen and sophomores comprising more than two-thirds of the roster. The best pitcher in school history – Kelsey Nunley – was gone, along with five classmates who made up the most decorated class UK had ever seen.

It was no surprise, then, that head coach Rachel Lawson was asked at media day: Would 2017 be a rebuilding year? It was also no surprise that she and her team answered with an emphatic no, both that day and throughout the season.

Facing a challenging schedule, the Cats found their feet quickly. Meagan Prince emerged as UK's ace in her senior season, while shortstop Katie Reed developed into a bona fide star as a sophomore in becoming the program's third All-American. Kentucky

raced out to a 19-4 start to the season before hitting a lull early in Southeastern Conference play, but the Cats, of course, responded. Their signature wins came against top-five opponents Florida and Texas A&M, with UK taking two of three from the Aggies on Senior Weekend. That came just a week after Kentucky completed a sweep at Missouri by rallying from an 8-3 deficit in the final two innings of the series finale.

All that added up to a No. 14 overall seed in the NCAA Tournament, where the Cats would sweep through the Lexington Regional by allowing just two runs over three games. Then it was on to the program's fifth Super Regional trip in seven years, this one taking UK to the West Coast to face third-seeded Oregon. The Cats would fall short of their goal to reach the Women's College World Series, but once again it was no surprise Lawson immediately started thinking about how she would take her team there in 2018.



Meagan Prince established herself as Kentucky's ace during her senior year. She had a 21-9 record on the season and added five saves.



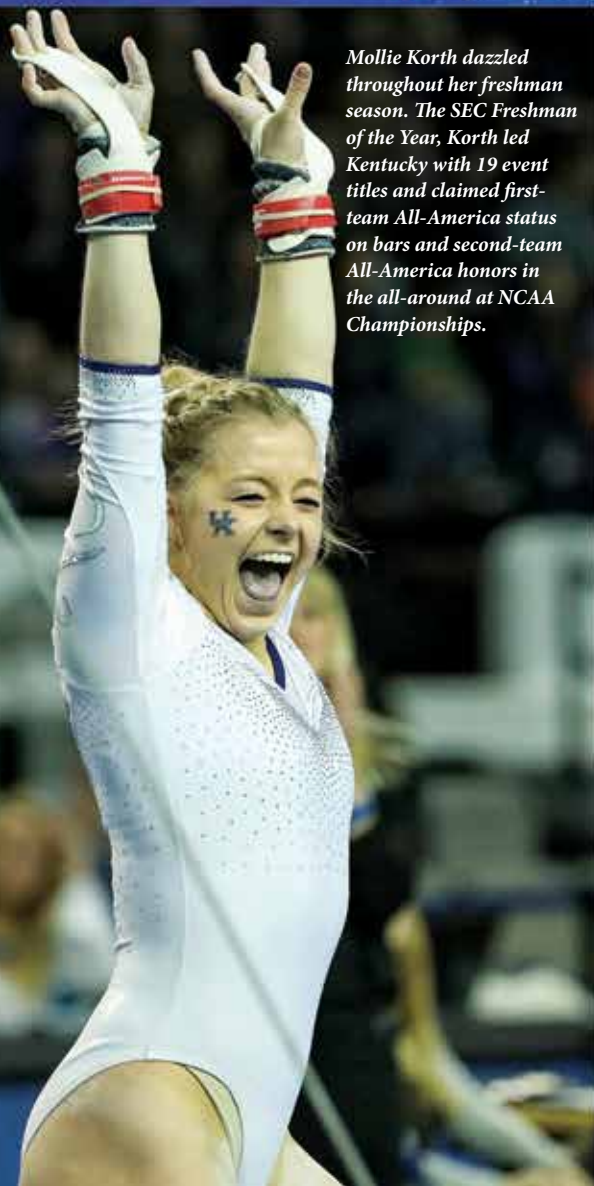
UK IN THE POSTSEASON UNDER COACH LAWSON (2008-17)

2009	NCAA Regional	2014	College World Series
2010	NCAA Regional	2015	NCAA Super Regional
2011	NCAA Super Regional	2016	NCAA Regional
2012	NCAA Regional	2017	NCAA Super Regional
2013	NCAA Super Regional		

CONSISTENCY

REACHING NEW

HEIGHTS



Mollie Korth dazzled throughout her freshman season. The SEC Freshman of the Year, Korth led Kentucky with 19 event titles and claimed first-team All-America status on bars and second-team All-America honors in the all-around at NCAA Championships.

Transforming the Kentucky gymnastics program into a national power was always going to be a process. Tim Garrison knew that from the very beginning. It was going to take a steady hand to build the kind of culture that would be required. It would take a relentless effort on the recruiting trail to attract elite athletes who fit that culture. It would take unwavering dedication for those athletes to realize their potential. And perhaps most of all, it would take patience to allow those pieces to fall into place.

If the 2017 season was any indication, exactly that is beginning to happen.

The Wildcats had a record-setting year, registering the four highest meet scores in school history. The highest of them all came on a memorable winter night in Memorial Coliseum when four-time national champion Alabama came to town. For the first time ever, Kentucky took down the perennially power-

RECORDS FELL AS THE KENTUCKY GYMNASTICS PROGRAM TOOK SIGNIFICANT STRIDES TOWARD THE WILDCATS' GOAL OF ESTABLISHING THEMSELVES AMONG THE NATION'S ELITE TEAMS.



Sophomores Sidney Dukes (near left) and Alex Hyland (below) followed up strong freshman seasons by emerging as team leaders in 2017. Hyland also qualified for NCAA Championships for the second straight year.

“THE 2017 SEASON HAD STATEMENT WINS, RECORD SETTING SCORES, AND ALL-TIME PROGRAM HIGH NATIONAL RANKINGS RESULTING IN OUR FIRST-EVER APPEARANCE AS A TWO SEED AT NCAA REGIONALS.”

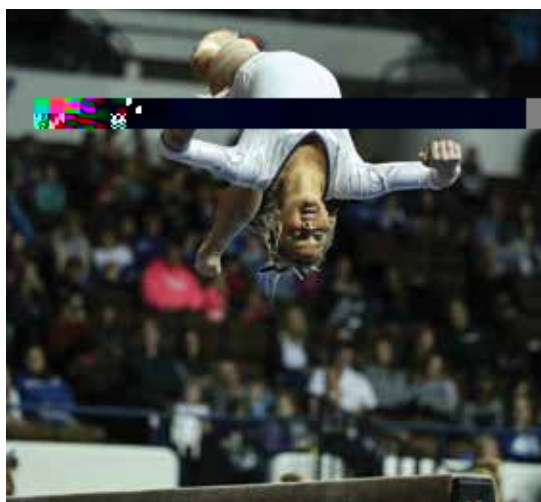
– UK Head Gymnastics Coach Tim Garrison

ful Crimson Tide with a score of 197.475.

Though the performance was extraordinary and unprecedented, the formula the Cats used was the same one that worked all season. With a strong group of all-arounders complemented by willing role players, UK clinched a regional berth with the highest regional qualifying score in school history. There, a pair of Wildcats – freshman Mollie Korth and sophomore Alex Hyland – each qualified for NCAA Championships in the all-around.

Korth put an exclamation mark on her outstanding debut season by earning first-team All-America honors on bars and second-team All-America recognition in the all-around. Her 9.925 score on bars was the highest score ever for a UK gymnast at NCAA Championships, suggesting an even brighter future for the Cambridge, Wisconsin, native.

As a team, UK set another school record by scoring 196.200 at regionals. Kentucky, however, fell just short of qualifying for NCAA Championships in finishing third at the NCAA Seattle Regional. It



was a positive step for the program, but one that left the Cats hungry to take the next one. With a roster featuring 13 freshmen and sophomores among its 16 athletes, they seem primed to take it.

DESIRE

BIG BLUE MADNESS

BIG BLUE MADNESS

BIG BLUE



BIG BLUE MADNESS



GOVERNOR'S CUP COMES HOME

Big Blue Madness (top) was the annual spectacle it always is, with Wildcat swooping in from the rafters and Michael Buffer introducing the men's basketball team. One of the games of the year for UK, without a doubt, was the Wildcats' thrilling upset of Louisville, which they can be seen celebrating above. The highlight of the cross country season was a 33rd-place performance by Katy Kunc at nationals, earning her All-America honors.



UK Athletics welcomed a decorated Hall of Fame Class in the fall: Rich Brooks (football), Chuck Hayes (men's basketball), James Johnson (wrestling), Molly Johnson-Belcher (softball), Bernadette Madigan Dugan (track/cross country) and Wesley Woodyard (football)

JACOBS SCIENCE BUILDING OPENS



2016-17 IN REVIEW

IMPACT



KENTUCKY ATHLETICS MADE HUGE STRIDES ON MANY FRONTS IN 2016-17 IN ITS ONGOING QUEST TO GO FROM GREAT TO ELITE.

NEW STADIUM ON THE HORIZON



Paul Sime (above) was the 2017 Arthur Ashe Jr. Male Sports Scholar of the Year. The political science major was a four-year starter on the men's soccer team and graduated with a 4.0 grade point average.

“THE TWO WORDS I THINK ABOUT WHEN I THINK ABOUT THIS STADIUM ARE COMMITMENT AND INVESTMENT.”

— UK BASEBALL COACH NICK MINGIONE ON ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW STADIUM CONSTRUCTION

A NEW ERA BEGINS

Ian Carry was named women's soccer head coach in November after four years as an assistant.

The UK baseball team – which completed a historic 2017 season playing in the nearly 40-year-old Cliff Hagan Stadium – will move into its new home in fall 2018. After years of planning and even more years of hoping, construction on the new stadium began in March 2017 with a groundbreaking ceremony. Located off Alumni Drive next to UK's softball, soccer and baseball facilities, the stadium will feature amenities of the highest quality for student-athletes and fans alike.

PROGRESS



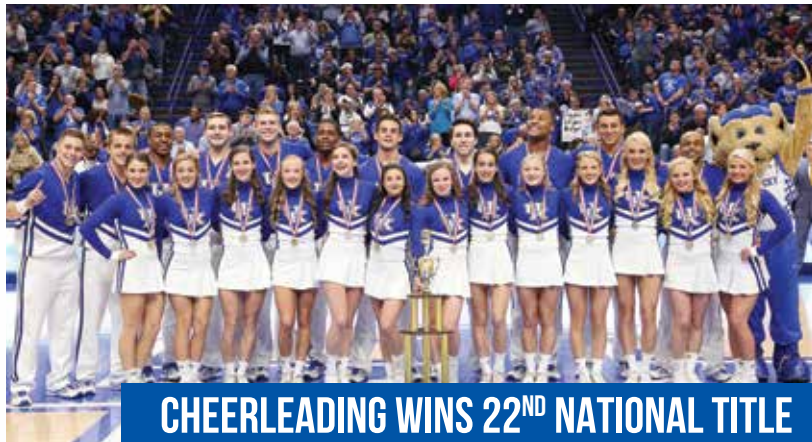
2016-17 IN REVIEW

BIG BLUE IMPACT

The Kentucky cheerleading team spends most of the year in a supporting role, but the Wildcats rarely disappoint when they take center stage.

The UK cheerleaders won the national championship yet again in January, tallying a near-perfect score of 97.8 out of a possible 100 points. Bringing home the hardware for the second straight season, the Wildcats won the national title for an unprecedented 22nd time.

When the cheerleaders returned to Lexington, they received a deserved tribute. At halftime of the men's basketball team's game vs. South Carolina at Rupp Arena, the cheerleading team soaked the cheers in rather than leading them.



CHEERLEADING WINS 22ND NATIONAL TITLE



It was a year of outstanding individual performances by UK athletes. Leah Edmond (far left) had an impressive debut for the volleyball team, winning SEC Freshman of the Year honors, while Sha'Keela Saunders (near left, top) won a gold medal in the indoor long jump and Javianne Oliver (near left, middle) captured silver in the 60-meter dash at NCAA Indoor Championships. Senior swimmer Kyle Higgins qualified for nationals in the 200-yard butterfly.



On the coaching front, UK's men's basketball and football programs will be in good hands for years to come after John Calipari and Mark Stoops signed contract extensions this spring.



Below, the Kentucky football team welcomed yet another strong recruiting class on Signing Day and the Big Blue Nation was able to follow along every step of the way through a live stream aired from the war room at the Recruiting Room at Kroger Field. The class was ranked 26th nationally according to Rivals.



2017 FOOTBALL SIGNING DAY

#FINISH17

“IT’S BEEN A LONG YEAR, CULMINATING WITH THIS CLASS HERE TODAY THAT’S GOING TO REPRESENT THIS UNIVERSITY THE RIGHT WAY. THE FANS ARE GOING TO BE VERY PROUD OF THIS GROUP.”

- UK Head Football Coach Mark Stoops

The UK women’s basketball team had one of its smaller senior classes in recent years in 2016-17, but it was one of the most memorable groups the program has ever seen due to the contributions of Makayla Epps and Evelyn Akhator. Epps has always been Kentucky through and through, becoming one of the greatest Wildcats in program history for her home-state school. Akhator, meanwhile, spent only two years in Lexington after growing up in Lagos, Nigeria. Nonetheless, they left UK the same way, having poured everything they had into their team and school.



WILDCAT STUDENT ATHLETES COMBINED TO SERVE 4,055 HOURS IN THE COMMUNITY IN 2016-17, VOLUNTEERING THEIR TIME IN LEXINGTON AND FAR BEYOND THE COMMONWEALTH’S BORDERS.

2016-17 IN REVIEW

BIG BLUE IMPACT

The signage on the outside of the home of Kentucky football denoting the name change is the most visible example of the University of Kentucky's partnership with Kroger, but it is far from the most impactful.

UK, Kroger, and UK Sports and Campus Marketing – a JMI Sports property – announced their comprehensive partnership in May, borne out of a shared commitment to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and its flagship university. Naming rights agreements are common in sports, but what differentiates this agreement is the way two iconic brands have committed to interweaving themselves. Early on, the partnership is already bearing fruit.

The Kroger Fields Community Program is already up and running, as a committee featuring football alumni Freddie Maggard and Jeremy Jarmon, softball head coach Rachel Lawson, and representatives from UK Athletics, Kroger, and UK Sports and Campus Marketing has been formed to select communities to receive grants to improve playing fields and facilities.

UK students have also benefited from the partnership, with Kroger's presence at the Official Grocery Partner of Move-In helping to ease their arrival for the fall semester.

COMPREHENSIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH KROGER



From left to right below, Cooper Musselman (men's golf), Isabelle Johansson (women's golf), Will Bushamuka (men's tennis) and Aldila Sutjiadi (women's tennis) each led their teams to NCAA play during the spring season.



EVERY UK TEAM ONCE AGAIN TALLIED PASSING ACADEMIC PROGRESS RATE SCORES, LED BY FOUR TEAMS THAT RECEIVED NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR THEIR HIGH MARKS.



UK HOSTS BACK-TO-BACK-TO-BACK NCAA TOURNAMENTS

Football center Jon Toth (middle left) and swimmer Danielle Galyer, pictured with Deputy Athletics Director DeWayne Peevy (far left) and K Fund donor Vickie Bell (far right) took home Mr. and Miss Wildcat honors at the annual CATSPY Awards this spring.



While most college students headed home for the summer, members of UK's track and field, softball, and baseball teams enjoyed staying in Lexington a little longer this May and June.

Over the course of three consecutive weeks, the University of Kentucky hosted three consecutive NCAA regional events.

First came softball, with the 14th-seeded Wildcats enjoying home-field advantage and sweeping through the weekend and into super regionals. Next was track and field, as UK hosted the NCAA East Preliminary Round for the first time and used the event as a springboard into the national-championship meet. Finally, the baseball team earned a regional bid and clinched its first-ever super-regional trip on its home field.



FORMER UK AD C.M. NEWTON HONORED

This summer, C.M. Newton was inducted into the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics Hall of Fame. Decades after his playing career as a member of UK's men's basketball and baseball teams, Newton ushered UK Athletics into the 21st century as athletics director. The 1999 Athletics Director of the Year was at UK for men's basketball's 1996 and 1998 national championships and his term was marked by facility expansion and revenue growth.



MAKING THE MOST OF OUR RESOURCES

To achieve its many goals, each and every dollar has to go a long way for the University of Kentucky Athletics Department. UK Athletics relies on sound financial stewardship, effective operations and innovative revenue generation to make that happen.

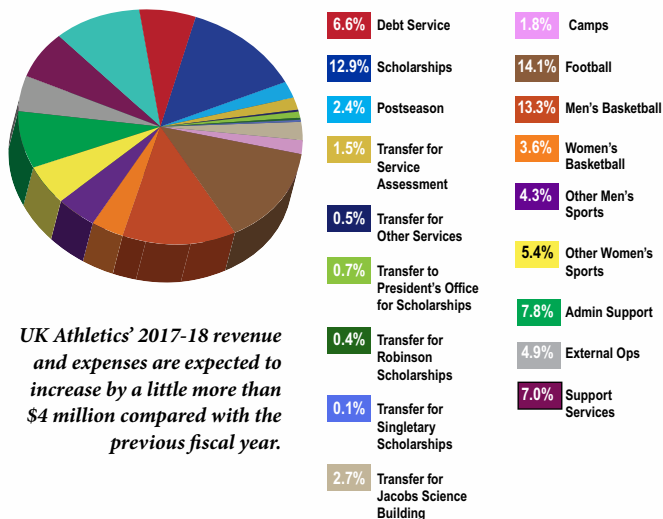
UK Athletics will again operate with a balanced budget for the 2017-18 fiscal year, with projected revenue and expense ledgers each totaling \$136.9 million. That marks an increase of a little more than \$4 million compared to last year, with additional expenses coming mostly due to increasing salary and scholarship costs and added revenue coming from ticket sales and a new trademark licensing agreement.

UK Athletics also takes seriously its commitment to fitting into and contributing positively to the overall academic mission of the university it represents. Not only does UK Athletics operate without the help of any university or state funds, it also pays the full in-state and out-of-state tuition rates for all 340 of its scholarships, which includes student-athletes, trainers, managers and interns. UK Athletics also contributes \$1.7 million annually

for academic scholarships for students not affiliated with the department and pays an annual University Service Assessment Fee of \$1.9 million. Perhaps the best example of the department's on-campus commitment, however, is the \$3.7 million it contributes annually toward debt service payments funding the new Don & Cathy Jacobs Science Building. By the time the last such payment is made, UK Athletics will have paid for nearly two-thirds of the \$100-plus million building, which immediately became one of the best of its kind in the United States when it opened last fall.

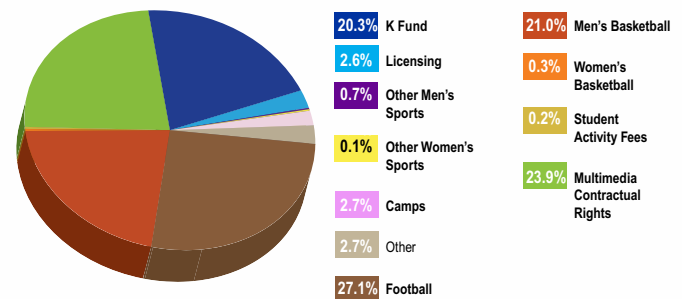
As President Eli Capilouto often says, UK Athletics also serves as the "front porch" for the university by representing UK on a national stage across 22 sports while also providing more than \$150 million in revenue through its licensing program and \$500,000 in annual radio advertising to the university. Combining indirect and direct contributions, UK Athletics has delivered more than \$150 million to the university in the 15 years Mitch Barnhart has served as athletics director.

\$136.9M — 17-18 OPERATING EXPENSES



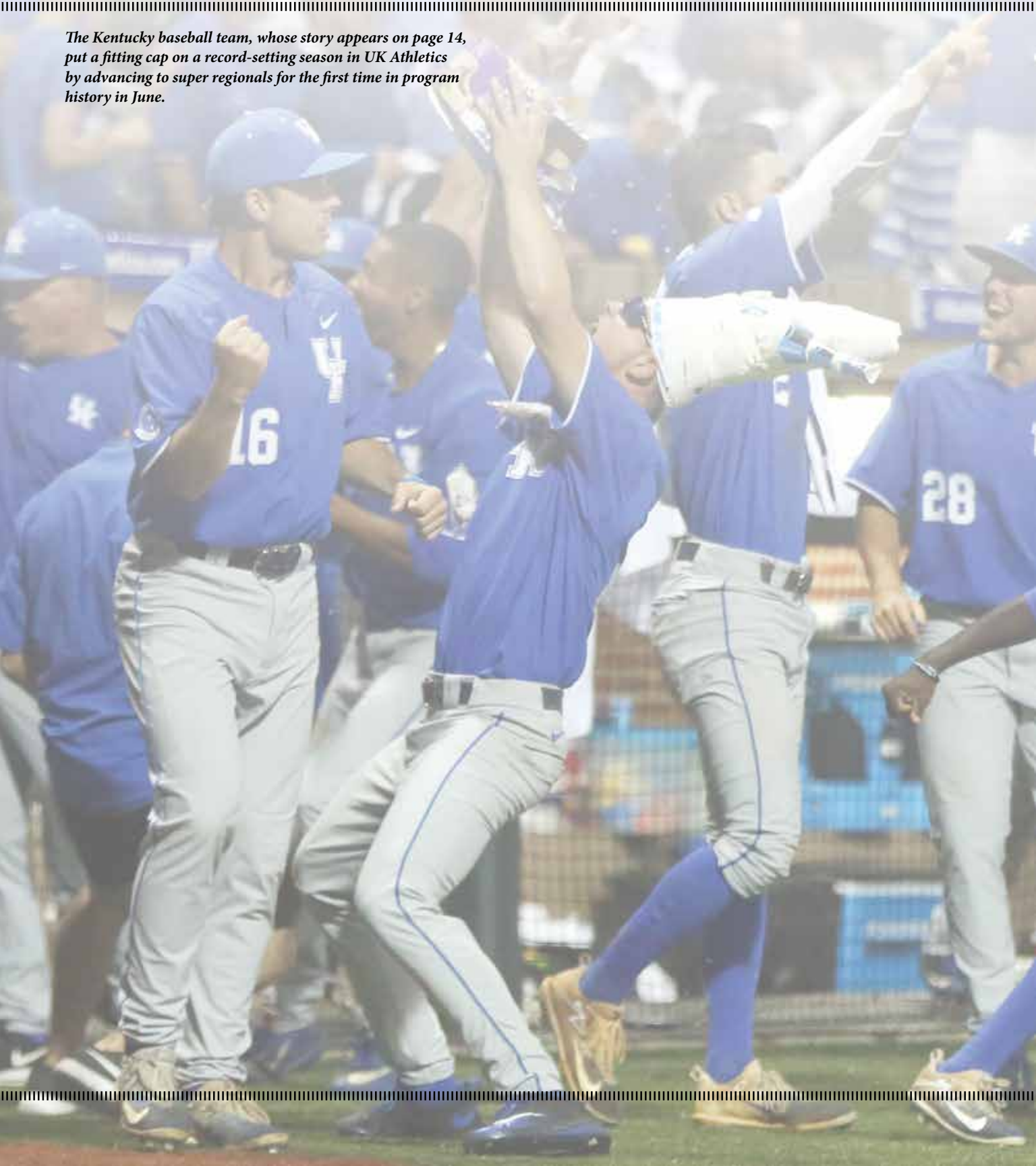
UK Athletics' 2017-18 revenue and expenses are expected to increase by a little more than \$4 million compared with the previous fiscal year.

\$136.9M — 17-18 OPERATING REVENUES



KENTUCKY ATHLETICS RECEIVES NO STATE APPROPRIATIONS OR UNIVERSITY FUNDS

The Kentucky baseball team, whose story appears on page 14, put a fitting cap on a record-setting season in UK Athletics by advancing to super regionals for the first time in program history in June.



92%

OF UK ATHLETICS' OPERATING REVENUES ARE GENERATED BY FOOTBALL, MEN'S BASKETBALL, MULTIMEDIA AND CONTRACTUAL RIGHTS, AND FROM THE GENEROSITY OF K FUND DONORS.



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