



**WESTERN CAROLINA**

Western Carolina University  
Athletics Annual Report  
to the Board of Trustees  
2021-2022



Coming out of COVID and the impacts it had on the 2020-21 academic year, 2021-22 was full of excitement, especially welcoming back our fans to venues without restrictions. In the end, WCU Athletics accomplished five top three finishes with football and women’s golf having big improvements from a year ago.

The Athletics department welcomed several new employees throughout the department including an entire new coaching staff in baseball. On June 10, 2022 former Catamount **Alan Beck** was named the 11<sup>th</sup> head baseball coach in Western Carolina University history. Beck has hit the ground running in recruiting new Catamounts, retaining the current roster, and establishing a staff.

With an annual operational budget of approximately \$13.3 million, Catamount Athletics employs 81 full-time staff members and shepherds 375 student-athletes. Below is a breakdown of our student-athletes by sport:

<b>Baseball.....</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>Women’s Golf.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Football.....</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>Women’s Soccer.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Men’s Basketball.....</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Women’s Softball.....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Men’s Golf.....</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Women’s Tennis.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Men’s Track.....</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>Women’s Track &amp;</b>	
<b>Women’s Basketball.....</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Field.....</b>	<b>44</b>
		<b>Women’s</b>	
		<b>Volleyball.....</b>	<b>16</b>

# New Coaching Hires

## Cody Cohen

Men's Basketball Coach Video Coordinator  
Most recent two positions:  
Assistant Coach, N Broward Prep., 2019-21  
Assistant Coach, Palm Beach State College, 2018-19

## Greg McGruder

Football Quality Control - Offense  
Most recent two positions:  
Graduate Assistant Coach, Tusculum U., 2021  
Student Assistant, Jacksonville U. 2015

## Bailey Forst

Strength & Conditioning Coach  
Most recent two positions:  
Graduate Coach, Sacred Heart U., 2019-21  
Intern, U. of Maryland, 2019

## Jeremy Darveau

Football Assistant Coach  
Most recent two positions:  
Assistant Football Coach, U. of Southern Miss, 2021  
Assistant Football Coach, Missouri State U., 2020

## Brian Cochran

Football Assistant Coach  
Most recent two positions:  
Assistant Football Coach, U. of Akron, 2018-21  
Assistant Football Coach, Kent State U., 2017-18

## Nick Whiting

Soccer Associate Head Coach  
Most recent two positions:  
Associate Head Coach, McNeese State, 2016-22  
Head Coach, Lees-McRae, 2012-15

## Maryanne Kilgore

Soccer Graduate Assistant Coach  
Most recent positions:  
Student-Athlete – WCU Women's Soccer

## Eileen Van Horn

Women's Basketball Assistant Coach  
Most recent two positions:  
Assistant Coach, U. of Vermont, 2018-2022  
Dir. Of Operations, U. of Vermont, 2018-19

## DeAirus Whitney

Football Defensive Quality Control Coach  
Most recent position:  
Grad Coach, U. of Central Arkansas, 2021-22

## Chazmon Scales

Football Defensive Coordinator  
Most recent two positions:  
Assistant Football Coach, WCU, 2021-22  
Assistant Football Coach, Central Arkansas, 2019-21

## Hailey Schenk

Cheer Assistant Coach  
Most recent two positions:  
Assistant Cheer Coach, Smoky Mountain High, 2021  
Assistant Softball Coach, Smoky Mountain High, 2021

## Connor Owens

Strength & Conditioning Coach  
Most recent two positions:  
Intern, West Virginia U., 2021  
Studio Associate, Orangetheory Fitness, 2020

## Taylor Svehla

Volleyball Assistant Coach  
Most recent two positions:  
Assistant Volleyball Coach, Butler U., 2021-22  
Graduate Assistant Coach, South Dakota State U., 2019-21

## Chris Norris

Football Assistant Coach  
Most recent two positions:  
Assistant Football Coach, U. of Oregon, 2016-22  
Assistant Football Coach, Webber International U., 2014-16

## Cody Edwards

Football Assistant Coach  
Most recent two positions:  
Associate Head Coach, Tusculum U., 2018-21  
Assistant Football Coach, Keiser U., 2017-18

## Alan Beck

Head Baseball Coach  
Most recent two positions:  
Associate Head Coach, Georgia Southern, 2015-22  
Assistant Baseball Coach, Western Carolina, 1009-15

## **Ryne Lightfoot**

Men's Basketball Assistant Coach

Most recent two positions:

Assistant Coach, Grand Canyon U., 2020-22

Head Coach, Bethel College, 2017-19

## **Derek Beasley**

Baseball Assistant Coach

Most recent two positions:

Pitching Coach, Lenoir-Rhyne, 2020-22

Pitching Coach, U. of SC Aiken, 2018-19

## **Jeff Korte**

Baseball Assistant Coach

Most recent two positions:

Volunteer Coach, GA Southern U, 2021-22

Grad Coach, U. of S. Alabama, 2020-21

## **Jordan Worrell**

Women's Basketball Director of Operations

Most recent two positions:

Academic Asst, U. of Alabama, 2021-22

Student Manager, NC State, 2018-21

# Competitive Highlights

## Final Southern Conference Finishes

- **Men's Cross Country** – 6th out of 10 teams (*picked 9th in preseason*)
- **Football** – (4-4) Three-way tie for 4th out of 9 teams (defeated two teams in tie, Furman & VMI, picked 9th in preseason)
- **Volleyball** – (7-9) – 4-way tie for 5th (earned No. 5 seed) – (*picked 4th in preseason*)
- **Women's Soccer** (5-4) – 3rd place (*picked 6th in preseason*)
- **Men's Indoor Track & Field** – 2nd out of 8 teams
- **Women's Indoor Track & Field** – 3rd out of 9 teams
- **Women's Golf** – 6th out of 9 teams (significant improvement in conference tournament v. 2021)
- **Women's Tennis** – 6th out of 8 teams (tied for most conference wins in program history)
- **Men's Outdoor Track & Field** – 2nd out of 8 teams
- **Women's Outdoor Track & Field** – 3rd out of 10 teams

## SoCon Weekly / Monthly Awards

### **Football – Weekly:**

Carlos Davis, QB – SoCon FB Offensive Player of the Week – Oct. 25  
Rogan Wells, QB – SoCon FB Offensive Player of the Week – Nov. 1  
Richard McCollum, PK – SoCon FB Special Teams Player of the Week – Nov. 1  
Calvin Jones, WR/RS – SoCon FB Special Teams Player of the Week – Nov. 15  
Daquan Patten, WR/PR – SoCon FB Special Teams Player of the Week – Nov. 22

### **Volleyball – Weekly:**

Destinee Dorsey, L – SoCon VB Defensive Player of the Week (2x) – Sept. 13, Sept. 27

### **Women's Soccer – Weekly:**

Naya Marcil, F/MF – SoCon WSOC Offensive Player of the Week – Sept. 21  
Valentine Pursey, F – SoCon WSOC Offensive Player of the Week – Oct. 5

### **Men's Basketball – Weekly:**

Nicholas Robinson, G – SoCon Player of the Week – Feb. 7

### **Men's Golf – Weekly:**

Presten Richardson – SoCon Men's Golfer of the Week – Feb. 16

### **Softball – Weekly:**

Jayne Eilers – SoCon Pitcher of the Week – Feb. 14  
Myra Twitty – SoCon Player of the Week – April 18

### **Baseball – Weekly:**

Zach Ketterman – SoCon Player of the Week – March 14  
Pascanel Ferreras – SoCon Player of the Week – May 2  
Pascanel Ferreras – SoCon Player of the Week – May 9  
Zebby Matthews – SoCon Pitcher of the Week – May 9

**Football – Monthly:**

Rogan Wells, QB – SoCon FB Offensive Player of the Month – November

**Volleyball – Monthly:**

Destinee Dorsey, L – SoCon VB Defensive Player of the Month – September

**Men’s Golf – Monthly:**

Jake Peacock – SoCon Men’s Golfer of the Month – September

**Postseason All-Southern Conference Awards**

**Cross Country:**

Kate Mattison – 2nd team All-SoCon

Justin Hayes – SoCon All-Freshman team

**Football:**

Raphael Williams, WR – 1st team coaches, 1st team media

Rogan Wells, QB – 2nd team coaches, 2nd team media

Kareem Taylor, LB – 2nd team coaches

Ronald Kent Jr., DB – 2nd team coaches

Andreas Keaton, DB – SoCon Freshman of the Year, Coaches; SoCon All-Freshman, Defense

Calvin Jones, WR/RS – 2nd team coaches

**Volleyball:**

Merry Gebel, OH – 2nd team coaches

Bailey Hartsough, OH – SoCon All-Freshman team

**Women’s Soccer:**

Valentine Pursey, F – 1st team coaches

Natalie McNally, D – 1st team coaches

Kirsten Hahn – SoCon All-Freshman team

Naya Marcil – SoCon All-Freshman team

Katelyn Galbraith – SoCon All-Tournament team

Abbie Wise – SoCon All-Tournament team

**Men’s Basketball**

Nicholas Robinson – 3rd team media

Marcus Banks – SoCon All-Freshman team

**Women’s Basketball**

Joi Reid – 2022 SoCon All-Defensive Team

**Indoor Track & Field**

Makaila McIntyre – Women’s Most Outstanding Athlete (back-to-back years)

Javell Brown – Male Most Outstanding Field Performer

Justin Hayes – Male Freshman of the Year

**Men’s Golf**

Jake Peacock – Southern Conference Freshman of the Year

Jake Peacock – SoCon Men’s Golf All-Conference

Jake Peacock – SoCon All-Freshman Team

**Women's Golf**

Elizabeth Lohbauer – SoCon All-Freshman Team

**Women's Tennis**

Jordyn King – SoCon Sportsmanship Award

Miray Konar – SoCon All-Freshman Team

**Outdoor Track & Field**

Marissa Blakley – SoCon Women's Most Outstanding Athlete

Marissa Blakely – SoCon Female Most Outstanding Track Performer

**Softball**

Bailey Huneycutt, SS – 1st team coaches

Savannah Rice, RHP – 1st team coaches

Myra Twitty, 1B – 2nd team coaches

Brooklynn Brewington, OF – 2nd team coaches

**Baseball**

Pascanel Ferreras, SS – 1st team coaches / 1st team media

Zach Franklin, RHP – 1st team coaches / 1st team media

Will Prater, 2B – 2nd team media

Zach Ketterman, 3B – SoCon All-tournament team

# Academic Progress

- ▶ Two Western Carolina student-athletes were named CoSIDA Academic All-District 3:
- ▶ Women’s soccer graduate transfer **Natalie McNally** was named 2021 CoSIDA Academic All-District 3 first-team;
- ▶ Baseball sophomore **Zach Ketterman** was named 2022 CoSIDA Academic All-District 3 first-team.
- ▶ **Volleyball** received the USMC/American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) 2021-22 Team Academic Award for the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive season;
- ▶ **Women’s golf** had three student-athletes – **Kayleigh Baker, Victoria Ladd, and Kaitlyn Wingnean** – each being named to the 2021-22 WGCA All-American Scholar Team;
- ▶ **Women’s cross country / track & field** senior **Carter Unger** earned the Southern Conference’s Presidential Postgraduate Scholarship;
- ▶ **Men’s track & field** senior **Clay Summers** earned the Southern Conference’s Presidential Postgraduate Scholarship;
- ▶ **Women’s Tennis** had five student-athletes – Jordyn King, Julia Pezzuco, Jacy Smith, Hoda Habib and Angela Perez – were all named Scholar-Athletes by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA). The team also earned the All-Academic Team Award for 2021-22, their ninth straight.

## Department-wide

Fall 2021		
Department GPA	3.096	
Chancellor’s List	73	18.8%
Dean’s List	71	18.3%
Students w/ 3.0+	232	59.9%

Spring 2022		
Department GPA	3.065	
Chancellor’s List	77	19.9%
Dean’s List	48	12.4%
Students w/ 3.0+	216	55.8%

The following sports received perfect Single Year Academic Progress Rate (APR) scores during the previous 2020-21 academic year: men’s cross country, men’s golf, women’s basketball, women’s cross country, women’s golf, softball, women’s soccer, women’s tennis, and volleyball. APR is a tool used to hold institutions accountable for the academic progress of their student-athletes through a team-based metric that accounts for the eligibility and retention of each student-athlete for each academic term.



# *Capital Improvements*

- ▶ Engaged **MacMillan-Pazden-Smith** as our selected firm for advance facility planning of the 2019 Athletics Facility Master Plan. In August, MPS will complete with planning process and deliver a sequencing plan for future construction. MPS has met with all coaches and senior staff to understand our needs now and in the future.
- ▶ **Ramsey Center** – The bid for renovating the men’s and women’s basketball locker rooms as well as the video viewing room have been awarded. Renderings have been generated and the basketball teams are looking forward to their new homes. Construction is slated to start before the end of 2022.
- ▶ **Hennon Stadium** – The baseball facility received some much-needed attention. The scoreboard has been replaced, artificial turf has been installed around home plate, the dugouts were upgraded with new benches, padding, lighting, and heat.
- ▶ **Ramsey Center** – New courtside video boards, a fresh court resurfacing and hallway graphics were all brought in to enhance the game day experience for our volleyball and basketball teams. Plus, the auxiliary gym’s court has been resurfaced with new goals to be installed this summer/fall.
- ▶ **Catamount Complex** – As a result of a philanthropic gift, the soccer team has new sideline benches. The new larger shells allow the entire team to get out of the elements during matches.
- ▶ **Softball Facility** – New and enhanced playing surfaces at the mound and around home plate make for more stable and durable infield

# Community Service

During the 2021-22 academic year, our student-athletes dedicated a significant number of time to community service. After the restrictions of 2020-21 and COVID, they were ready to get back into the community by reading to children at the library and opening doors for elementary school drop off. In total, student-athletes logged 955 hours of community service.

Team	Team Hours	Hours per person
Baseball	0	0
Basketball - M	21	1.5
Basketball - W	42	2.8
Cheerleading	18	0.72
Football	15	0.25
Golf - M	11	1.375
Golf - W	27	4.5
Soccer	302	12.58
Softball	93	4.227
Tennis	17	1.889
T&F, CC - M	121.5	3.919
T&F - W	164.5	5.141
Volleyball	123.25	7.703

# *Revenue Generation and Engagement*

## **Catamount Club Annual Support**

For Fiscal Year 2022, the Catamount Club has received **\$1,875,425** in total support of WCU Athletics. This includes **\$1,272,372** in support of the Catamount Scholarship Fund, which is used for annual scholarship support. The overall total of financial support received through new gifts and commitments totals **\$2,463,025**.

## **Ticket Sales**

- ▶ For the 2021-22 season, total ticket revenue finished at \$293,684.43
- ▶ WCU finished 25<sup>th</sup> in the country in home football attendance averaging 9,824 this past season.

## **Sponsorships**

- ▶ It was an historic season for sponsorship sales as we signed \$514,287 in revenue in FY 22.
- ▶ During FY22, Athletics announced the two largest sponsorships in the department's history: Ingles and Harris Regional Hospital
- ▶ Corporate revenue sales were \$100,000 more than the previous record set in FY 19.
- ▶ New for the 2021-22 academic year is sponsored content. Army sponsored select baseball content throughout the season. Looking to 2022-23, we will continue the agreement with Army while adding Top Plays of the Week sponsored by the Book Store and First Bank is sponsoring content related to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Title IX. We will continue the partnership with Stanberry Insurance for our Facebook Live features.

## Engagement

### Football Season

- ▶ The Catamount Club hosted Purple Zone pregame hospitality events for all home and away football games.

### Basketball Season

- ▶ The Catamount Club hosted Purple Zone pregame hospitality events for home basketball games, through mid-January. We then paused due to the increase in Covid cases throughout our region.
- ▶ The Catamount Club hosted Catamount Central pregame hospitality events during the Men's and Women's SoCon Basketball Tournament in Asheville, NC.

### Baseball Season

- ▶ The Catamount Club hosted Catamount Central pregame hospitality events during the SoCon Baseball Tournament in Greenville, SC.

### Other

- ▶ The Catamount Club hosted 2 Catamount Golf Tour events in July and August to raise money for the summer school scholarship fund.

- ▶ The Catamount Club hosted the Student-Athlete Scholarship Gala at the Grove Park Inn.
- ▶ The Catamount Club and Alex Gary hosting quarterly Zoom calls with student-athlete alumni to engage with the department and learn more about our goals and objectives.
- ▶ The Athletic Department social media followers increase across the three major platforms. From January 1, 2022 to June 30:
  - Facebook follower count has increased 4.35%
  - Twitter follower count has increased 11.34%
  - Instagram follower count has increased 7.87%