



2022-23 was a very successful year for Catamount Athletics academically and competitively. WCU Athletics accomplished five top-three SoCon finishes (Volleyball, Men’s Indoor Track and Field, Women’s Golf, Men’s Outdoor Track and Field, and Women’s Indoor Track and Field) and three teams playing in the postseason; Women’s Volleyball in the National Invitational Volleyball Championship (NIVC), Men’s Basketball in the College Basketball Invitational (CBI), and Women’s Golf in the National Golf Invitational (NGI). Student-athletes continued to do outstanding work in the classroom posting at least a 3.0 GPA in each semester.

With an annual operational budget of approximately \$13.5 million, Catamount Athletics employs 82 full-time staff members and shepherds 371 student-athletes. Below is a breakdown of our student-athletes by sport:

Baseball.....	40	Women’s Golf.....	9
Football.....	129	Women’s Soccer.....	31
Men’s Basketball.....	16	Women’s Softball.....	22
Men’s Golf.....	9	Women’s Tennis.....	8
Men’s Track.....	38	Women’s Track & Field.....	35
Women’s Basketball.....	15	Women’s Volleyball.....	19

New Coaching Hires

Daniel Haakenson

Assistant Track/Field/Cross Country Coach

Most recent two positions:

Director of Track/Field/Cross Country, South Dakota School of Mines, 2022

Track and Field Assistant Coach, South Dakota School of Mines, 2018-22

Gillian Urycki

Assistant Track/Field/Cross Country Coach

Most recent two positions:

Track and Field Assistant Coach, South Dakota School of Mines, 2020-22

Intramural Coordinator, South Dakota School of Mines, 2020-22

Cody Jones

Assistant Strength & Conditioning Coach

Most recent two positions:

Assistant Sports Performance Coach, Averett University, 2021-23

Student Assistant Sports Performance Coach, Averett University, 2019-20

Jacob Topple

Assistant Strength & Conditioning Coach

Most recent two positions:

Head Strength & Conditioning Coach, White Knoll High School, 2022

Assistant Director of Athletic Performance, Byrnes Rebels Athletic Performance, 2021-22

Shayna Gore

Assistant Women's Basketball Coach

Most recent two positions:

Women's Basketball Graduate Assistant Coach, Indiana U., 2021-23

Women's Basketball Head Coach, WV Thunder, 2021

Lauren Brooks

Head Cheer Coach

Most recent two positions:

Assistant Cheer Coach, WCU, 2022-23

Recreational Therapist, Mission Hospital, 2021-present

Competitive Highlights

Final Southern Conference Finishes

Fall Championships

- ▶ **Men's Cross Country** – 8th out of 10 teams (*preseason pick 7th*)
- ▶ **Women's Cross Country** – 5th out of 10 teams (*preseason pick 6th*)
 - Fifth place finish at the SoCon championship is the highest since 2015
 - **Kate Mattison** – won an individual title at the Upstate Invitational (Oct. 15) and set a program women's 5K record (17:32.90) at the Live in Lou Invitational Oct. 1
- ▶ **Football** – (6-5, 4-4 SoCon) – 5th out of 9 teams (*preseason pick 5th*)
 - Six victories and a winning record at the year's end in 2022 represented the first for WCU since 2017;
 - Had a 4-4 mark in SoCon play for a second-straight season marking WCU's first consecutive .500-or-better league finishes since the 2014 and 2015 campaigns;
 - First win over nationally ranked FCS team since 2017, ending an eight-game drought;
 - Finished the regular season with three-straight wins;
 - Head coach Kerwin Bell won his 100th career game with the 38-17 win over VMI;
- ▶ **Volleyball** – **3rd out of 9 teams** (*preseason pick 5th*)
 - Made the program's first-ever postseason berth in the National Invitational Volleyball Championship winning two matches and hosting a home match in the tournament;
- ▶ **Women's Soccer** – 5th out of 10 teams (*preseason pick 4th*)
 - Head coach Chad Miller eclipsed the 100-win mark at WCU, currently with 103;
 - Has 197 career victories, looking to hit 200 in 2023

Winter Championships

- ▶ **Men's Basketball** – 4th out of 10 teams (*preseason pick 8th*)
 - Won the Multi-Team Event at McNeese State with a pair of overtime victories;
 - Halted a 13-game series drought against preseason favorite Furman
 - Won its first game over ETSU in Johnson City since 1996, ending a 15-game road slide;
 - Won for the first time at ETSU's Freedom Hall;
 - Advanced to the postseason for just the fourth time in program history (College Basketball Invitational);
- ▶ **Women's Basketball** – 8th out of 8 teams (*preseason pick 8th*)
- ▶ **Men's Indoor Track & Field** – **2nd out of 8 teams** – 3rd-straight runner-up finish
- ▶ **Women's Indoor Track & Field** – t-4th out of 9 teams

Spring Championships

- ▶ **Baseball** – 7th out of 8 teams (*preseason pick No. 6*)
- ▶ **Softball** – 4th out of 8 teams (*preseason pick tied for 4th*)
 - Bailey Huneycutt set the program career record for base hits (196) and doubles (38)
- ▶ **Men's Golf** – 4th out of 8 teams

- ▶ **Women's Golf – 3rd out of 9 teams at the conference championship event**
 - Won three of its four fall tournaments; four team victories & eight total podium finishes;
 - Third-place finish at SoCon is the team's best since winning the event back in 2007;
 - National Golf Invitational (NGI) participant, finished seventh – first postseason berth since 2007;
- ▶ **Women's Tennis – 7th out of 8 teams**
 - 14 seasonal victories, school record for a single season
- ▶ **Men's Outdoor Track & Field – 2nd out of 8 teams** 3rd-straight runner-up finish
- ▶ **Women's Outdoor Track & Field – 3rd out of 10 teams at the conference championship event**

2022-23 Western Carolina – SoCon Weekly / Monthly Awards

Football – Weekly:

Richard McCollum – 3x SoCon Special Teams Player of the Week (Sept. 5, Sept. 26, Nov. 14)
 KJ Milner – SoCon Defensive Player of the Week (Nov. 21)

Volleyball – Weekly:

Merry Gebel – 2x SoCon Offensive Player of the Week (Aug. 29, Sept. 26)
 Eden Punch – SoCon Defensive Player of the Week (Aug. 29)
 Johnna Robinson – SoCon Defensive Player of the Week (Sept. 26)
 Destinee Dorsey – SoCon Defensive Player of the Week (Oct. 31)

Women's Soccer – Weekly:

Naya Marcil – SoCon Offensive Player of the Week (Sept. 6)
 Maggie Lloyd – SoCon Student-Athlete of the Week (Oct. 12)

Women's Golf – Weekly:

Madison Isaacson – SoCon Women's Golfer of the Week (Oct. 5, 2022)
 Brie Mapanao – SoCon Women's Golfer of the Week (Oct. 19, 2022)
 Madison Isaacson – SoCon Women's Golfer of the Week (Feb. 15, 2023)
 Elizabeth Lohbauer – SoCon Women's Golfer of the Week (March 10, 2023)
 Elizabeth Lohbauer – SoCon Women's Golfer of the Week (March 15, 2023)

Indoor Track & Field – Weekly:

Noah Straley – Men's Indoor Track Runner of the Week (Feb. 8, 2023)
 Nytrinitey Jenkins – Women's Track Indoor Runner of the Week (Feb. 8, 2023)
 Imani Boyd – Women's Field Athlete of the Week (Jan. 25, 2023)
 Kate Mattison – SoCon Student-Athlete of the Week (Feb. 15, 2023)

Men's Basketball – Weekly:

Tre Jackson – SoCon Men's Basketball Player of the Week (Feb. 13, 2023)

Women's Basketball – Weekly:

Kyla Allison – SoCon Student-Athlete of the Week (Jan. 4, 2023)

Softball – Weekly:

Tessa Juett – SoCon Softball Pitcher of the Week (Feb. 13, 2023)
Brooklynn Brewington – SoCon Softball Player of the Week (March 13, 2023)
Bailey Huneycutt – SoCon Softball Player of the Week (April 3, 2023)
Brooklynn Brewington – SoCon Softball Player of the Week (April 24, 2023)

Women’s Tennis – Weekly:

Jade Groen – SoCon Women’s Tennis Player of the Week (Feb. 28, 2023)

Baseball – Weekly:

Nick Torres – SoCon Baseball Pitcher of the Week (March 27, 2023)

Women’s Golf – Monthly:

Madison Isaacson – November 2022
Elizabeth Lohbauer – February 2023

Softball – Monthly:

Bailey Huneycutt – April 2023
Jayme Eilers – April 2023

2022-23 Western Carolina – Postseason Awards

Cross Country:

Kate Mattison – WXC – 2nd team All-SoCon – (*her third-straight All-SoCon award*)
Matthew Martin – MXC – SoCon All-Freshman team

Football:

Desmond Reid – SoCon Freshman of the Year, 2nd team All-SoCon (C) – 2x Freshman All-America
Desmond Reid – finished 6th in Stats Perform FCS Jerry Rice Award voting (national FR of the YR)
Richard McCollum – 2nd team All-SoCon (M)
Richard McCollum – 3rd team AP FCS All-America
Tyler Smith – 2nd team All-SoCon (C)
KJ Milner – 1st team All-SoCon (M); 2nd team All-SoCon (C)
Andreas Keaton – 2nd team All-SoCon (C)
Kevin Thompson – 2nd team All-SoCon (C)
Cole Gonzales – SoCon All-Freshman team (Offense)
Censere Lee – SoCon All-Freshman team (Offense)
Desmond Reid – SoCon All-Freshman team (Offense)
Neyland Walker – SoCon All-Freshman team (Offense)
Samaurie Dukes – SoCon All-Freshman team (Defense)
Hayward McQueen – SoCon All-Freshman team (Defense)
AJ Colombo – SoCon All-Freshman team (Special Teams)

Volleyball:

Merry Gebel – SoCon Player of the Year, SoCon All-Tournament
Merry Gebel – AVCA All-Region honorable mention, AVCA All-America honorable mention

Women’s Soccer:

Isabella DeMarco – 1st team All-SoCon, SoCon All-Freshman team
Maggie Lloyd – 2nd team All-SoCon
Ava Robitaille – SoCon All-Freshman team
Katelyn Galbraith – SoCon All-Tournament team

Men's Basketball:

Tre Jackson – 2nd team All-SoCon (Coach/Media)
Vonterius Woolbright – 2nd team All-SoCon (Coach/Media)
Tyzhaun Claude – 3rd team All-SoCon (media)
Vonterius Woolbright – SoCon All-Tournament team
Tyzhaun Claude – SoCon All-Tournament team
Tre Jackson – 2nd team NABC All-District
Vontarius Woolbright – 2nd team NABC All-District
Justin Gray – NABC District Coach of the Year
Vonterius Woolbright & Bernard Pelote – Athletes In Action Captain's Academy

Women's Basketball:

Kyla Allison – 2nd team All-SoCon
Kyla Allison – Ann Lashley Inspiration Award

Men's Indoor Track & Field:

Dohnavon Hunt – Male SoCon Freshman of the Year

Women's Tennis:

Isabella Sambola – SoCon Freshman of the Year, SoCon All-Freshman team
Jade Groen – 2nd team All-SoCon (No. 2 Doubles), SoCon All-Freshman team
Leilany Ipunesso – SoCon All-Freshman team
Andrea Redondo – 2nd team All-SoCon (No. 2 Doubles)

Men's Golf:

Josh Lendach – SoCon All-Freshman Team

Women's Golf:

Brie Mapanao – SoCon Women's Golf Freshman of the Year
Brie Mapanao – All-SoCon team and SoCon All-Freshman team
Madison Isaacson – All-SoCon team
Elizabeth Lohbauer – All-SoCon team
Courtney Gunter – SoCon Women's Golf Coach of the Year

Softball:

Bailey Huneycutt – 1st team All-SoCon
Brooklynn Brewington – 1st team All-SoCon
Bailey Huneycutt – AFCA All-Mideast Region (3rd Tm, 3B)

Outdoor Track & Field:

Jasmine Greene – Female SoCon Freshman of the Year
Javon Brown – NCAA East Preliminary qualifier
Javelle Brown – NCAA East Preliminary qualifier

Baseball:

Pasanel Ferreras – 1st team All-SoCon
Ryan White – SoCon All-Freshman team

2022-23 Western Carolina – Various Academic Awards

Football:

Marlon Alexander – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District
– Selected to the 2023 NFF Hampshire Honor Society
Clayton Bardall – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District
– Selected to the 2023 NFF Hampshire Honor Society
Brandon Dickerson – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District
– Selected to the 2023 NFF Hampshire Honor Society
Richard McCollum – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District
– Selected to the 2023 NFF Hampshire Honor Society
Micah Nelson – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District

Volleyball:

Sydney Carlson – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District
Merry Gebel – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District
Bailey Hartsough – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District
Eden Punch – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District

Women's Soccer:

Katelyn Galbraith – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District
Shannon Greenwood – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District
Maggie Lloyd – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District
Naya Marcil – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District
Riley Terry – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District
Abbie Wise – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District

Women's Basketball:

Endia Holliday – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District
Audrey Meyers – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District
Joi Reid – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District

Baseball:

Zach Ketterman – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District
Adam Quincy – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District
Nick Torres – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District

Softball:

Jayne Eilers – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District
Natalie Henry – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District
Makenzie Martin – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District
Samantha Reece – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District
Samantha Reece – SoCon Presidential Scholarship Recipient

Women's Tennis:

Angela Perez - College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District

Women's Golf:

Kayleigh Baker – Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA) All-American Scholar
Victoria Ladd – Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA) All-American Scholar
Brie Mapanao – Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA) All-American Scholar
Kaitlyn Wingnean – Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA) All-American Scholar

Track & Field:

Kaleb Ambrose – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District

Riley Center – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District

Jonathan Lehe – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District

Sydney Gallant – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District

Caroline Hilliard – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District

Nytrinitey Jenkins – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District

Kate Mattison – College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District

Women's Tennis

Angela Perez – Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Scholar Athlete

Jade Groen – Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Scholar Athlete

Chloe Schwarz – Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Scholar Athlete

Madison Schwarz – Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Scholar Athlete

Academic Progress

Fall 2022	
Department GPA	3.0
Chancellor's List	74
Dean's List	43
Graduates	15

Spring 2023	
Department GPA	3.3
Chancellor's List	77
Dean's List	47
Graduates	41

The following sports received perfect Single Year Academic Progress Rate (APR) scores during the previous 2021-22 academic year: men's cross country, men's golf, women's cross country, women's golf, softball, women's soccer, 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

- ▶ **MacMillan-Pazden-Smith** has been selected as the design firm for the upcoming capital projects. Design could take up to a full year and the plan is for the projects to start in the summer of 2024. MPS will engage several constituents throughout the process to understand the needs of WCU Athletics
- ▶ **Ramsey Center** – the men’s and women’s basketball locker rooms and video room have been under construction for several months. Teams will move back into their locker rooms in August following summer school and summer workouts.
- ▶ **Ramsey Center** – A new competition court was installed during the summer of 2023 as well as an upgraded lighting system in the main arena. The fans will have a noticeably improved experience with the new lighting controls. Two spaces on the concourse have been renovated into meeting spaces and can be utilized on football, basketball and volleyball game days for spectators.
- ▶ **Softball and Baseball Facilities** – the infields and warning tracks received a significant amount of new materials to level and enhance the playing surfaces.

Community Service

During the 2022-23 academic year, our student-athletes dedicated a significant amount of time to community service. In total, WCU student-athletes logged over 4500 hours of community service!

Team	Team Hours
Baseball	192
Men's Basketball	404
Women's Basketball	202.5
Cheerleading	1364
Football	230.5
Men's Golf	45.5
Women's Golf	64
Soccer	788.5
Softball	207
Tennis	42
Men's Track/XC	313
Women's Track/XC	483
Volleyball	193.25

Revenue Generation and Engagement

Catamount Club Annual Support

For Fiscal Year 2023, the Catamount Club has received **\$2,339,877** in support of WCU Athletics. This includes **\$1,247,347** 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 **\$4,195,009**.

Ticket Sales

- ▶ For the 2022-23 season, home ticket revenue was at an all-time high of \$503,457.
- ▶ 2022 WCU football reached a record high of 1,653 paid season ticket holders surpassing the previous high of 1,533 set in 2018. Season ticket revenue was also at an all-time high with \$212,915, surpassing the previous high set in 2019 of \$176,745.

Attendance

- ▶ WCU football led the Southern Conference in home attendance and finished 20th in FCS attendance out of 132 teams. The Catamounts averaged 9,876 fans per game during the 2022 season.
- ▶ WCU soccer set a home attendance record with 1,212 spectators at the August 25, 2022 match against Clemson.
- ▶ WCU volleyball set three straight single match home attendance records this past fall culminating with a record crowd of 1,110 at the quarterfinal NIVC match against Southern Miss in the Ramsey Center.

Concessions

- ▶ It was a record year in concession sales as the athletic department received \$78,177 in revenue on concession and alcohol sales in FY 23.

Social Media

- ▶ Catamount Athletics led all Southern Conference schools in social media followers. As of June 2023 WCU's followers include:

Facebook: 34,868

Twitter: 30,800

Instagram 17,500

Sponsorships

- ▶ It was an historic season for sponsorship sales as we collected a record \$520,473 in revenue in FY23.

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 all home basketball games.
- ▶ 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 3 Catamount Golf Tour events in July, August, and September to raise money for the summer school scholarship fund.
- ▶ The Catamount Club hosted the Student-Athlete Scholarship Gala at Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort.