

## Athletic Highlights for Board of Trustees Meeting, May 2

- With 2016-17 nearing its end, UK Athletics is positioned to put the finishing touches on one of the best seasons in department history.
- UK currently ranks seventh in Directors' Cup standings, first in the SEC. The previous record finish in national all-sports standings is 11th in 2013-14.
- The strong season has come on the strength of a department-wide effort, with all but one of UK's teams that has completed their seasons reaching postseason play and contributing to the tally.
- The achievement in competition has been accompanied by sustained academic excellence. UK is the midst of a streak of nine straight semesters with a 3.0 cumulative GPA and 70 student-athletes were named to the SEC Winter Academic Honor Roll last month. Additionally, approximately 70 student-athletes will graduate as part of spring commencement later this week.

## Winter sports recap

- **Men's basketball** finished the season 32-6 and advanced to the Elite Eight for the sixth time in John Calipari's eight seasons.
  - UK was No. 5 in the final Coaches Poll after sweeping the SEC regular-season and tournament championships.
  - Malik Monk and De'Aaron Fox won numerous postseason honors, headlined by Monk's Jerry West Shooting Guard of the Year Award.
- **Women's basketball** concluded a successful season with a trip to the second round of the NCAA Tournament. The Wildcats had a final record of 22-11.
  - Seniors Makayla Epps and Evelyn Akhator wrapped up their incredible careers and are off to the professional ranks. They became the first UK duo to be selected in the same WNBA Draft, with Akhator being the highest pick ever at No. 3.
- The **men's and women's swimming and diving** teams both had scoring performances at NCAA Championships, with the women registering their highest finish in 10 years – 14th.

- The women's team is ranked No. 16 nationally, while the men's team is receiving votes and just outside the top 25. The women piled up nine All-America honors, led by freshman Asia Seidt's bronze medal in the 200 backstroke.
- The women's team also finished third at SEC Championships, tying a school record. Seidt and Geena Freriks both won gold medals at the meet.
- The **gymnastics** team finished a memorable year with its highest score ever in an NCAA regional.
  - Alex Hyland and Mollie Korth went on to represent their team at nationals. Korth, a freshman, was named a first-team All-American on bars and a second-team All-American in the all-around.
- The **rifle** team finished fourth nationally in making its 17th NCAA Championships appearance in a row.
  - The team had 10 student-athletes recognized as All-Americans by the Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association.

### Spring sports update

- **Track and field's** outdoor season is in full swing after a strong indoor showing. The women's team finished sixth at NCAAs and the men 22nd.
  - Sha'Keela Saunders won long-jump gold at indoors, while Tim Duckworth (heptathlon silver), Javianne Oliver (60m silver) and Olivia Gruver (pole vault bronze) also medaled.
  - In outdoor rankings, the women's team is No. 8 and the men's team No. 20.
- The **baseball** team is off to an incredible start in Nick Mingione's first season, rising to the top 10 of all major polls and in the thick of the SEC championship race.
  - UK recently completed an impressive 3-1 week against a pair of top-10 opponents, Louisville and LSU.
  - Riley Mahan was named SEC Player of the Week for his effort in the four games.
- **Softball** is holding steady in the top 20 of national rankings while playing in the rugged SEC.

- UK's play in recent weeks has been highlighted by handing top-ranked Florida one of its three losses on the season and by capping a sweep at Missouri with a five-run comeback.
- **Women's tennis** closed out the regular season with a ranking of No. 17. The Wildcats will learn their NCAA Tournament draw on May 2.
- **Men's tennis** completed in the SEC Tournament last week and will soon find out its NCAA Tournament path.
- The **men's golf** team finished 11th at the SEC Championship and is positioned for an at-large NCAA Tournament berth when the field is announced on May 4.
- The **women's golf** team carded its best-ever SEC Championship score in finishing 10th behind Grace Rose's 17th-place individual finish.

### **Football Update**

- UK capped a successful and productive spring with its annual Blue-White Spring Game. The attendance at the game (37,172) ranked among the largest nationally.

### **Off the Field**

- Danielle Galyer (swimming and diving) won the prestigious Elite 90 award for the second straight season. The award recognizes the student-athlete with the top GPA at each NCAA championship. Galyer – double-majoring in psychology and political science with a 4.0 GPA – gives UK an Elite 90 winner for the fifth straight year.
- Paul Sime (men's soccer) beat out more than 1,200 fellow student-athletes to become the 2017 male Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar of the Year. Inspired by tennis legend Arthur Ashe Jr.'s commitment to education as well as his love for the game of tennis, U.S. colleges and universities participate in this annual awards program for minorities. In addition to their athletic ability and academic performance, these student-athletes demonstrate a commitment to community service and student leadership.
- John Calipari and Mark Stoops each agreed to two-year contract extensions. Calipari is now signed through 2024, Stoops through 2022.

- UK Athletics held its annual department awards ceremony on April 24, honoring the achievements of Wildcat student-athletes, teams and coaches at the CATSPY Awards in Memorial Coliseum.
- UK earned the right to host five NCAA events from 2020-22, the NCAA announced in April. UK will host the rifle national championship in 2020, track and field's East Regional in 2020, the men's basketball first and second rounds in 2021, a cross country regional in 2021, and a gymnastics regional in 2022.
- Construction on UK's new baseball stadium began in March. The stadium will open in late fall 2018 after 18-20 months of construction.
- *One and Not Done*, an ESPN "30 for 30" documentary profiling John Calipari, premiered to wide praise in April.
- Morgan Chumney (women's tennis) was selected to the SEC Community Service Team.