

Report for Board of Trustees
University Athletics Committee Meeting
September 9, 2021

Summer Achievements

- The final tabulations were made for the NACDA Directors Cup all-sports standings for the 2020-21 school year. Among 358 Division I schools, Kentucky finished 12th in the nation. It is our third-highest finish in school history, fourth year in a row in the top 20, and ninth year in a row in the top 30.
- We had 20 current and former UK athletes compete in the Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo. Those Wildcats brought home a UK Athletics-record 10 medals:
 - Will Shaner won the gold medal in the 10-meter air rifle
 - Jasmine Camacho-Quinn and Kendra Harrison finished first and second in the 100-meter hurdles, earning gold and silver, respectively
 - Sydney McLaughlin set the world record while winning the 400-meter hurdles; Sydney also won gold in the 4x400-meter relay, becoming the first Wildcat in school history to win two gold medals
 - Bam Adebayo, Devin Booker and Keldon Johnson brought home gold medals for the men's basketball championship
 - Mary Tucker earned silver in the mixed air rifle event
 - Javianne Oliver took home silver in the 4x100-meter relay
 - In addition, we want to recognize two of our medical school students, Lexington native Lee Kiefer and her husband Gerek Meinhardt, who earned gold and bronze, respectively, in the sport of fencing. During their undergraduate years, they competed in fencing for Notre Dame.
- Just when we thought all the medals had been won, along came one of our current women's golfers, Jensen Castle, in the United States Amateur Championship. Jensen put together what is arguably one of the most improbable performances in athletics history. Prior to the

championship, Jensen hadn't played in several weeks because of a stress fracture in her ribs. Frankly, she didn't even pack a lot of clothes because she didn't think she would make the initial cut of stroke play.

- After the two days of stroke play, she was among 12 golfers tied for the last two spots to reach the match-play portion of the tournament. Jensen and a UK teammate, Marissa Wenzler, birdied the first playoff hole to win the 12-for-2 playoff and advance to match play.
- Now seeded No. 63 in a 64-person tournament, Jensen defeated the No. 2 seed in the first round. Then, she won again, and again, and again to reach the semifinals.
- In the semis, matched against the consensus national player of the year in collegiate golf, she was behind by two holes with only three to play. But she rallied to tie on the 18th hole, then won on the first playoff hole.
- In the finals, she fell behind early. Fortunately, the championship is a grueling day of two rounds, 36 total holes. Characteristically, she again came from behind, taking the lead in the last round, then holding on to win by one hole – all the time proudly wearing her Kentucky blue.
- Jensen's win qualified her for the USA Curtis Cup Team, which characteristically, came from behind to defeat the Great Britain/Ireland team in late August.
 - Jensen also has earned invitations to the 2021 Women's British Open, the 2022 US Women's Open and the 2022 U.S. Amateur.
- Several Wildcats continue to compete professionally in the NBA, major league baseball and the NFL.
 - Devin Booker led the Phoenix Suns to the NBA finals.
 - An interesting note is that all six of the Wildcats selected in the 2021 NFL Draft earned a spot on their respective teams.

Sports Roundup

- **Football** got off to a good start with a win over ULM. The Wildcats have a big game this week with the conference opener at home against Missouri.
- **Volleyball** is ranked No. 8 in the nation and has a 5-1 record.
 - Last Friday night, it was a great pleasure to unveil the national championship banner in Memorial Coliseum. We appreciate Dr. Capilouto for making time to be there, along with SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey, who came in to recognize the league's first national championship in the sport of volleyball.
- **Men's Soccer** is coming off a win at Louisville on Tuesday, improving to 3-0-1 on the season.
- **Women's Soccer** is off to its best start in recent years with a 3-1-2 record heading into tonight's game at Eastern Kentucky.
- The **men's and women's cross country** teams began their season last week at the Missouri Opener. The UK men won the meet, with Ethan Kern winning the individual championship and being named SEC Runner of the Week.
- Our winter and spring sports are beginning practice and fall competitions as applicable.

More News About the Wildcats

- 111 Wildcats earned a place on the SEC Spring Sports Academic Honor Roll. Baseball, men's golf and women's golf led the league with the most representatives in their sports.
- 101 Wildcats were named to the SEC First-Year Academic Honor Roll, third-most of all league schools. Baseball and gymnastics led the league with the most representatives in their sports.
- During the 2020-21 school year, UK had nine student-athletes earn the official Academic All-America award as bestowed by the College Sports Information Directors of America. That breaks the school record of seven Academic All-Americans during the 2015-16 school year. The Academic All-Americans for 2020-21 are:
 - T.J. Collett in baseball

- Renee Abernathy and Kayla Kowalik in softball
- Josh Sobota from men's track and field
- Celera Barnes, Molly Leppelmeier and Abby Steiner in women's track and field
- Gabby Curry and Madison Lilley in volleyball
- Madison Lilley continues to be recognized for leading UK to the national championship.
 - She won the Honda Award, signifying National Player of the Year in volleyball
 - She was voted SEC Female Athlete of the Year, covering all sports sponsored by the SEC
- T.J. Collett was named the Senior CLASS Award winner for the sport of baseball, which recognizes the top senior in the country with all-around achievements on the field, in the classroom and in the community.
- Kayla Kowalik of softball won the Johnny Bench Award as National Catcher of the Year
- We appreciate Governor Steve Beshear for rededicating the Mineral Mound State Golf Course in Eddyville. It has been officially renamed "The Cullan at Mineral Mound" in honor of Cullan Brown, the UK men's golfer who passed away last year.
- Men's basketball coach John Calipari continues to add to his lengthy list of honors.
 - On Saturday, Coach Cal will have a statue unveiled at the University of Massachusetts in recognition of his accomplishments there.
 - Coach Cal is a graduate of Clarion University. On September 21, Clarion will name its playing surface John V. Calipari Court and it will be known as "Coach Cal Court."
- On Tuesday of this week, the Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame held its annual induction ceremony. UK Athletics had three of the six honorees – legendary baseball coach Keith Madison, Olympic champion swimmer Rachel Komisarz Baugh and UK basketball player, assistant coach and NBA Coach of the Year, Dwane Casey.

- Three Wildcats were selected in the Major League Baseball draft. Two Cats were chosen in the NBA Draft. In addition, the late Terrence Clarke was remembered by the NBA with an honorary draft selection.
- With the help JMI Sports, we have entered an agreement with Rubicon – a leader in the waste and recycling industry – to be the Official Sustainability Partner of UK Athletics. Rubicon will help us continue our sustainability efforts at Kroger Field, Rupp Arena and all our athletics facilities.