

**Intercollegiate Athletics
RG-025**

ABSTRACT

Intercollegiate Athletics (Director of Athletics and staff) maintains overall responsibility for the achievement of long-term goals and the overall success of the Intercollegiate Athletics Division through leadership, strategic planning and policy setting. The Intercollegiate Athletics records (1971-2009) primarily consists of annual and special reports, including NCAA Division I reclassification and football committee study; and Athletics Council minutes.

SUMMARY INFORMATION

Creators: Directors of Athletics, Athletics Administrators

Span Dates: 1971-2009

Extent: 1.67 cubic feet (6 boxes), 2870 megabytes

Languages: The materials are in English.

Repository Location: Eva G. Farris Special Collections and Schlachter University Archives, W. Frank Steely Library, Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, Kentucky

ACCESS POINTS

Subjects:

College sports--Management
Northern Kentucky State College—sports--management
Northern Kentucky University—sports--management

Names:

Northern Kentucky State College. Athletics
Northern Kentucky University. Intercollegiate Athletics

Places:

Highland Heights (Ky.)
Campbell County (Ky.)
Kentucky, Northern

RELATED MATERIALS

Separated Materials: All loose photographs moved to RG-047 University Photographs.

Related Archival Materials: RG-026 Athletics Administration and Boosters, (NKU) finding aid available, particularly “NKU Norse Athletics, 1971-2011,”; RG-027 Sport Programs; RG-047 University Photographs.

Publication Note: Northern Kentucky University, *1996 Football Committee Report*, cited in “False start: The story of the NKU football program that almost was,” Shannon Russell, *The Athletic*, October 10, 2019, <https://theathletic.com/1279961/2019/10/10/false-start-the-story-of-the-nku-football-program-that-almost-was/>.

ADMINISTRATIVE/BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

In 1968, the University of Kentucky Northern Community College in Covington, Kentucky officially transitioned to an independent college, Northern Kentucky State College (NKSC). In 1976, it gained university status and became Northern Kentucky University (NKU).

The Highland Heights campus opened in the fall of 1972 with two buildings, Nunn and Regents Halls. Regents Hall contained a multipurpose gymnasium and housed the Athletic department. As the university and the Athletic department grew, the Athletics’ offices also occupied the Albright Health Center (open 1984), the Bank of Kentucky Center/BB&T Arena (open 2008) and the Soccer Complex (open 2010).

The Intercollegiate Athletics division began as the Northern Kentucky State College Athletics department under the Student Affairs division in 1971. It continued to report to Student Affairs, with a few brief exceptions of direct reports to the President, until the University obtained NCAA Division I status in 2012. It then became a separate division containing Intercollegiate Athletics (Director of Athletics’ office), Administration, and Sport Programs. The division reports directly to the President.

In 1973, NKSC received full accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and became eligible for membership in national athletic associations. The university has held memberships in National Association of Intercollegiate Athletes (NAIA), Association for Intercollegiate

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Athletics for Women (AIAW) and National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)
Divisions I, II and III.

During the early 1980s, the university experienced major budget cuts of over \$3.4 million or 15 percent in fifteen months.¹ These cuts resulted in major reductions in the Athletics Department budget causing the university to eliminate individual sports – Men’s and Women’s Tennis, Men’s Cross Country and Men’s Golf teams for the 1981-1982 and 1982-1983 seasons. These team eliminations also caused the university to fall below the NCAA requirement of six men’s teams, forcing NKU to drop their men’s NCAA membership and compete in the NAIA. NKU resumed its membership in the NCAA after the reinstatement of all teams in 1983-1984.

Major changes in the AIAW caused the women’s teams to change their national association to the NCAA. “The Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women was founded in 1971 to govern collegiate women’s athletics and to administer national championships. After the 1981-1982 academic year, the AIAW discontinued sponsorship of national championships. “NKU left the AIAW following the 1979-1980 academic year to become a member of the NCAA, but slow-pitch softball would still compete in the AIAW until after the 1982 season.”²

National Associations

Men’s National Affiliation

1974	NAIA & NCAA – full membership ³
1974-1982	NCAA Division II
1982-1985	NAIA
1985-2012	NCAA Division II
2012-2020	NCAA Division I

Women’s National Affiliation

1974-1977	AIAW Small College
1977-1981	AIAW Large College (slow pitch softball continued to compete in AIAW through 1982 season)
1981-2012	NCAA Division II
2012-2020	NCAA Division I

Conference Memberships

1974-2009	Kentucky Women’s Intercollegiate Conference (women only)
1985-2012	Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) (men and women)
2012-2015	Atlantic Sun Conference
2015-2020	Horizon League

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Mascot/Nicknames

The process of choosing a mascot/nickname began before there were sport programs at NKSC/NKU. A brief article in *The Northerner* announced a contest to pick a school mascot.⁴ The results were announced in January 1971. A total of 397 out of 1,700 students voted and the name Norsemen won with 181 votes.⁵

The addition of women's sports in 1974 led to the additional nickname of Norsewomen. During the 1980s both Norsewomen and Lady Norse were used. The usage slowly evolved until in 1989 only Lady Norse remained in use. By 2000 a final evolution occurred and a single nickname referred to all NKU athletes and fans - Norse (additional mascot history available in RG-026 finding aid).

Intercollegiate Athletics

Intercollegiate Athletics consists of the Director of Athletics and the Director's staff. This unit envisions and implements long term strategic plans and policies for the Intercollegiate Athletics Division. The Director of Athletics' office provides leadership and maintains overall responsibility for the achievement of long term goals and the overall success of the Intercollegiate Athletics Division.

One Director of Athletics who contributed greatly to the success of NKU athletics is Jane Meier. She led the department through many years of significant growth and development. Her 2016 induction into the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) Hall of Fame recognized her significant contributions to NKU Athletics noting:

"Jane Meier served Northern Kentucky University (NKU) for 31 years as an athletics director and coach. She oversaw NKU athletics during a time of tremendous growth, helping to position the program for its eventual transition to Division I in 2012. ...Meier became the first and only woman athletics director at a Kentucky public university in 1988. She oversaw NKU's 13 Division II intercollegiate programs, as well as the cheer and dance teams, a student athletic training program, and a staff of 36 administrators and coaches. During her tenure, NKU completed four athletics facilities, totaling \$75 million in athletics facilities investment. Meier also oversaw the completion of the \$6 million NKU Soccer Stadium, the \$500,000 Frank Ignatius Grein Softball Field, and the \$300,000 Joyce E. Yeager Tennis Complex."⁶

SCOPE AND CONTENT

Intercollegiate Athletics RG-025 consists solely of the Athletic Director Office's records and includes materials accumulated from the beginning of Northern Kentucky University's intercollegiate athletics.

These records document the highest level of planning and decision making within the Intercollegiate Athletics Division. This is an open record group (RG) meaning new additions to the record group are expected to occur.

The record group has four series: Administrative Records, Athletic Associations and Conference Membership Records, Committee Records and Memorabilia.

Series I, Administrative Records (1971-2011), contains mission centered, long term strategic and planning records including annual reports, special reports and official correspondence.

Series II, Athletic Associations and Conference Membership Records (2005-2011), contains records associated with NKU's membership in national college athletic associations and athletic conferences.

Series III, Committee Records (1978-2008), contains meeting records, reports and correspondence of Intercollegiate Athletics associated committees including the Athletics Council (athletics advisory board) and the Football Committee.

Series IV, Memorabilia (2011), contains objects of historical interest due to their association with Intercollegiate Athletics events and people.

SYSTEM OF ARRANGEMENT

The Intercollegiate Athletics records are arranged in four series: **I Administrative Records, II Athletic Associations and Conference Membership Records, III Committee Records and IV Memorabilia**. Series I and II are arranged hierarchically, Series III is arranged alphabetically

CONTAINER LISTING

Description	Date/Date Span	Box
Series I: Administrative Records		
Annual reports	1986-2003	967

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Annual Athletics in Review reports	1989-1991, 1992-2006	966
Administrative reports	1971-2011	946
Correspondence	1987-1988, 1993	946
Department meeting agendas and minutes	1977-1978, 1981, 1987	946
Department Handbook	1987, 2003-2004	946
Awards Celebration (Banquet) records	1972, 1977-1978, 1983-1984, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1992-2003, 2015	946
Stationary	2008	946
Series II: Athletic Associations and Conference Membership Records		
NCAA Division I reclassification report	2005	945
NCAA D-I Announcement joining Atlantic Sun Conference– Video, speeches transcripts	2011 December 08	DVD Box 161, Digital-see archives staff
NCAA awards - All Academic Team	2009-2010	945
Atlantic Sun press kit	2011 December 08	
Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) constitution	1990	945
Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) regulations handbook	1990, 1992	945
Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) meeting report	1988, 1995	945
Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) conference publication	2003, 2010	945
Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) awards	1993, 1997	945
Kentucky Women's Intercollegiate Conference, team and individual rankings report	1971-1979	945
Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) membership application, denied	2011	945
Series III: Committee Records		
Athletics Council - policies, minutes	1978 June-2008 August	1578
Football Committee - reports and correspondence	1996-1997	1578

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Football Committee - reports, duplicate digital copies	1996-1997	Digital-see archives staff
Series IV: Memorabilia		
Commemorative basketball, NKU joined Division I – Atlantic Sun Conference	2011 December 08	1573

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Conditions Governing Access: This collection is open for research access.

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Preferred Citation: Box #, RG-025 Intercollegiate Athletics, Schlachter University Archives, W. Frank Steely Library, Northern Kentucky University.

ACQUISITION AND APPRAISAL

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Transfers from Intercollegiate Athletics. Prior to 2007, transfers not accessioned. Accessions: NKU2009-006, NKU2016-037, NKU2019-003.

NOTES

Processing Information: Processed by Vicki Cooper, 2020.

Endnotes

1. Northern Kentucky University Board of Regents Minutes, October 28, 1981, 5, <https://dspace.nku.edu/handle/11216/3168>.
2. "NKU Norse Athletics, 1971-2011," 19, RG-026 Athletics Administration and Boosters, Schlachter University Archives, W. Frank Steely Library, Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights.

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3. Northern Kentucky University Board of Regents Minutes, January 4, 1973, 3,
<https://dspace.nku.edu/handle/11216/3168>.
4. "Pick the Mascot," *The Northerner*, August 26, 1970, 4,
https://dspace.nku.edu/bitstream/handle/11216/2322/Northerner_1970_08_26_ocr.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.
5. Debbie Rose, "Norsemen?" *The Northerner*, January 29, 1971, 2,
https://dspace.nku.edu/bitstream/handle/11216/2326/Northerner_1971_01_29_ocr.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.
6. "NACDA Announces 2016 Hall of Fame Class," *National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics*, May 2, 2016,
https://nacda.com/news/2016/5/2/NACDA_Announces_2016_Hall_of_Fame_Class.aspx.