



DIVISION II

MAKE IT *YOURS*

A NEW DII

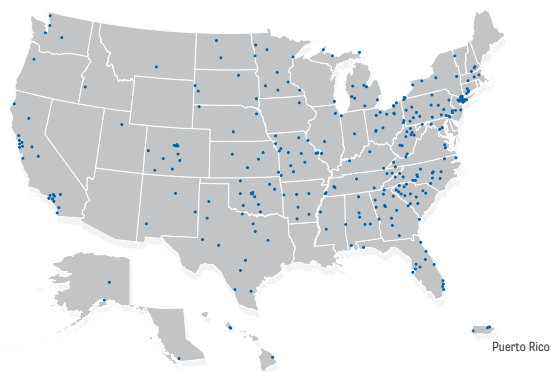
Division II takes
the next bold step
into its future

2023 ANNUAL YEARBOOK

2022-23 Division II Facts and Figures

Life in the Balance

Division II supports the educational mission of college athletics by fostering a balanced and inclusive approach in which student-athletes learn and develop through their desired academic pursuits, in civic engagement with their communities and in athletics competition. Division II gives student-athletes the unique opportunity to compete in the classroom, on the field, in their career, for their causes, and on their terms.



23
conferences

296
active members

7
schools in membership process
1 school in year three
3 schools in year two
3 schools in year one

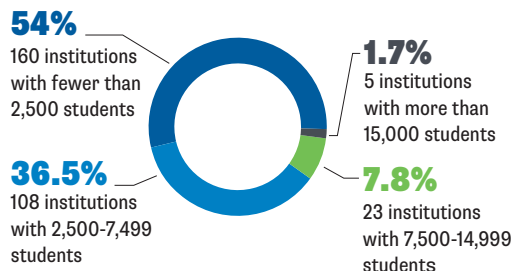
Type of School

Percentage
of active members

50% private

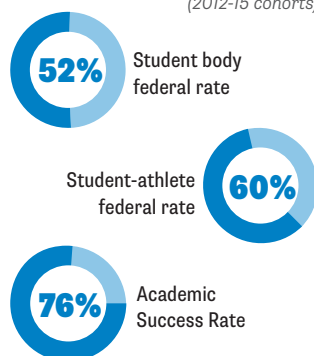
50% public

Enrollment at Division II Active Members*



*Based on 2020-21 IPEDS enrollment data on full-time undergraduate enrollment.

Graduation Rates (2012-15 cohorts)



Championships*

Division II's access ratio to championships is the best of any division

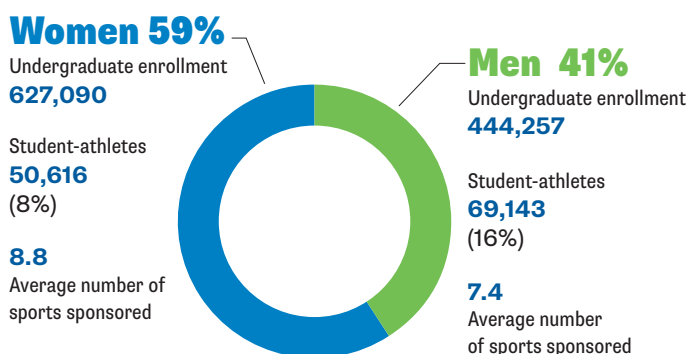
12 Men's championships
7,464 participants total

13 Women's championships
7,170 participants total

14,634 participants total

*Based on 2021-22 Division II championships.

Composition of Enrollment



*Based on 2020-21 IPEDS enrollment data and NCAA participation data.

Median Total Expenses

By quartile (in millions). Overall median expenses: \$6.1 million

1st quartile of schools		3rd quartile of schools	
(with football)	(without football)	(with football)	(without football)
\$10.6	\$8.6	\$6.0	\$4.8
2nd quartile of schools		4th quartile of schools	
(with football)	(without football)	(with football)	(without football)
\$7.8	\$6.3	\$4.2	\$3.1

*Based on 2020-21 NCAA Financial Reporting System data.

Average Number of Student-Athletes

Schools with football	Schools without football
481 294 men 187 women	320 166 men 154 women

*2020-21 NCAA participation data.

Conferences



TERRI STEEB GRONAU, VICE PRESIDENT OF DIVISION II

DII stems the tides of change



During my 20-year association with Division II governance, I've witnessed the ebb and flow of change. And I can say for certain – and I'm sure anyone reading this will agree – that we've been at high tide for the past three years.

The pandemic rattled us in 2019-20 and 2020-21. The overhaul of the NCAA constitution and subsequent charge for each division to revise its rules and policies in 2021-22 brought another wave.

Through it all, Division II has remained strong, and it's all due to one key factor – our membership. Division II always has been known for being on the cutting edge of initiatives (the sport festivals, our branding and marketing strategies, the DII U educational platform, and the way we integrate the DII SAAC in decision-making are examples), and that's because of the collective energy within our membership to want to be out front. Innovations don't emerge without a concerted effort from individuals committed to enabling our membership to offer student-athletes a balanced, rewarding, memorable and productive collegiate experience that will positively impact the rest of their lives.

We saw our resolve during the COVID years. Despite a series of canceled championships and scheduling nightmares, Division II worked through bracket reductions to retain championships in 2021 for winter and spring sports and then resume at full capacity in the fall of that year and throughout all of 2022.

We heard our voice during the constitutional crisis. Our five representatives on the Constitution Committee were persuasive in proclaiming the value of the Division II model, retaining our autonomy and the resources we deserve.

And now during this past year we witnessed the collaboration and camaraderie from our membership that kept us strong as change continued to swirl around us. Our 28-member Implementation Committee, including the five student-athlete representatives, was masterful in quickly but thoroughly working together – both as a group and in tandem with the membership – to bring forward 40 recommendations for action in a seven-month period. Many of those comprise the agenda for our business session at this Convention.

Implementation Committee members skillfully tackled a monumental charge, establishing topic-specific subcommittees that worked separately and together as necessary to develop concepts that were vetted both within the full committee and the membership through multiple surveys and conversations to produce the final slate of recommendations.

The leadership from co-chairs Debbie Ford, chancellor at Wisconsin-Parkside, and Bill LaForge, president at Delta State, was exemplary. The camaraderie among members was palpable. The thought that went into the work was bold yet practical. This group was so impressive that we've devoted the last third of this yearbook to their work (see page 44).

The spirit of collaboration I witnessed with the Implementation Committee is a good example of what has bound the division together for almost half a century. And we'll need more of that as we enter into our 50th anniversary year as a division, because while the Implementation Committee reached closure on many items, others were referred back into the governance structure, including deep dives into our championships framework, governing bylaws, the membership process and institutional engagement efforts to replace the ISSG.

Some of these items will be detailed and could represent more change for the division, but with our history of collaboration, Division II is able to be innovative with the understanding that if something doesn't produce the desired outcomes it can be modified.

Yes, it's still high tide for change – for Division II and the Association overall – and we must continue focusing on our values and what the student-athlete experience means to Division II, and to embrace creativity and innovation to make a meaningful impact for the future.



2023 DIVISION II YEARBOOK

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CHAMPIONSHIPS

Lander's Zeth Brower (left) squares off with Findlay's Branson Proudlock, in the 141-lb. final. Brower won the match in a 6-4 decision.

DILIP VISHWANAT/
NCAA PHOTOS

WINTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

WRESTLING

TEAM STANDINGS (TOP 5)

1. Nebraska-Kearney, 127
2. Central Oklahoma, 86
3. West Liberty, 75.5
4. St. Cloud State, 67
5. Adams State, 65

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

125 POUNDS

Cole Laya, West Liberty, def. Josh Portillo, Nebraska-Kearney (MD 9-0)

133 POUNDS

Jonathan Andreatta, Adams State, def. Garrett Vos, St. Cloud State (Fall 2:25)

141 POUNDS

Zeth Brower, Lander, def. Branson Proudlock, Findlay (Dec 6-4)

149 POUNDS

Noah Hermosillo, Adams State, def. Sam Turner, Nebraska-Kearney (SV-1 6-4)

157 POUNDS

Josiah Rider, Adams State, def. Baltazar Gonzalez, American International (Fall 2:48)

165 POUNDS

Matt Malcom, Nebraska-Kearney, def. Shane Gantz, Wisconsin-Parkside (Dec 1-0)

174 POUNDS

Trevor Turriff, Minnesota State Mankato, def. Andrew Sams, UIndy (Dec 3-2)

184 POUNDS

Heath Gray, Central Oklahoma, def. Connor Craig, West Liberty (Dec. 4-3)

197 POUNDS

Dalton Abney, Central Oklahoma, def. Derek Blubaugh, UIndy (Dec 6-0)

285 POUNDS

Darrell Mason, Minnesota State Mankato, def. Andrew Dunn, Kutztown (Dec 5-3)

ELITE 90 HONOREE: Allen Michel, Senior, New Mexico Highlands, English and Political Science, 4.0 GPA

After competing fiercely in the 285-lb. championship match, Kutztown's Andrew Dunn (left) and Darrell Mason of Minnesota State Mankato embrace in a display of sportsmanship. Mason's victory capped a 22-0 season and earned him Outstanding Wrestler honors for the championships.

DILIP VISHWANAT/NCAA PHOTOS

Adams State's Noah Hermosillo (right) gains the upper hand on Sam Turner of Nebraska-Kearney in the 149-lb. final. Hermosillo went on to win the match — one of three Grizzlies grapplers to do so during the 2022 Division II Wrestling Championships — but Turner's Lopers took their fourth team title after finishing second last year by just 1.5 points.

DILIP VISHWANAT/NCAA PHOTOS



Division II Player of the Year and Division II Elite Eight MVP Re'Shawna Stone of Glenville State rises over a crowd of Western Washington defenders to score two of her 25 points. Stone fueled a late 10-0 run that clinched the Pioneers' first Division II Women's Basketball Championship with an 85-72 win over the Vikings.

MERCEDES OLIVER/NCAA PHOTOS

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

ELITE EIGHT

North Georgia 68, Pace 61
Grand Valley State 67, Missouri Western State 44
Glenville State 103, West Texas A&M 56
Western Washington 58, Valdosta State 55

SEMIFINALS

Glenville State 77, Grand Valley State 53
Western Washington 74, North Georgia 68

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Glenville State 85, Western Washington 72

ELITE 90 HONOREE: Kadya Cobb, Freshman, Missouri Western State, Biology, 4.0 GPA

Zakiyah Winfield contributed 23 points in Glenville State's victory.

MERCEDES OLIVER/NCAA PHOTOS

Western Washington's Brooke Walling recorded a double-double in the championship game with a career-high 27 points and 12 rebounds. The Vikings shot 62.5% from the field in the first half and were within reach of Glenville State through three quarters but couldn't keep up with the high-scoring Pioneers in the fourth.

MERCEDES OLIVER/NCAA PHOTOS



Daniel Abreu (right) dribbles past Augusta's Tyshaun Crawford on his way to the basket as Bearcats head coach Ben McCollum looks on with interest.

MICHAEL HICKEY/NCAA PHOTOS

CHAMPIONSHIPS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

ELITE EIGHT

Northwest Missouri State 61, Bentley 43
Black Hills State 77, Nova Southeastern 67
Indiana (Pennsylvania) 67, Hillsdale 55
Augusta 81, Chico State 69

SEMIFINALS

Northwest Missouri State 70, Black Hills State 57
Augusta 76, Indiana (Pennsylvania) 61

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Northwest Missouri State 67, Augusta 58

ELITE 90 HONOREE: Tommy Donovan, Junior, Black Hills State, Political Science, 4.0 GPA

Northwest Missouri State's Trevor Hudgins hoists the trophy after the Bearcats won an unprecedented third consecutive Division II Men's Basketball Championship with a 67-58 victory over Augusta.

Hudgins, named the National Association of Basketball Coaches Player of the Year in Division II for the second straight year, led the Bearcats with 31 points in the championship game and was pivotal in helping Northwest Missouri State erase an early deficit with back-to-back three-pointers and assisting teammate Mitch Mascari on another.

MICHAEL HICKEY/NCAA PHOTOS



Augusta's 7-foot-1 center Tyshaun Crawford muscles his way to the hoop against a pair of Northwest Missouri State defenders. Crawford led the Jaguars with 15 points.

MICHAEL HICKEY/NCAA PHOTOS

UIndy's Marize Van Jaarsveld took first place in the demanding 400-yard individual medley. She also won the 200 IM for the second straight year.

SCOTT TAETSCH/NCAA PHOTOS



WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

TEAM STANDINGS (TOP 5)

1. Queens (North Carolina), 536.5
2. UIndy, 423
3. Nova Southeastern, 368.5
4. Drury, 342.5
5. Colorado Mesa, 241

St. Cloud State diver Madison Brinkman shows the perfect form that earned her the title in the three-meter event during the 2022 Division II Women's Swimming and Diving Championships.

SCOTT TAETSCH/NCAA PHOTOS



INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

50-YARD FREESTYLE

Danielle Melilli, Queens (North Carolina), 22.15 (meet record; old record 22.36, Bailee Nunn, Drury, 3/11/2020)

100-YARD FREESTYLE

Danielle Melilli, Queens (North Carolina), 48.91

200-YARD FREESTYLE

Monica Gumina, Queens (North Carolina), 1:46.76

500-YARD FREESTYLE

Kate Agger, Wingate, 4:48.02

1,000-YARD FREESTYLE

Sophie Lange, Queens (North Carolina), 9:53.05

1,650-YARD FREESTYLE

Sophie Lange, Queens (North Carolina), 16:32.44

100-YARD BACKSTROKE

Cassie Wright, Nova Southeastern, 52.48

200-YARD BACKSTROKE

Celina Marquez, Nova Southeastern, 1:55.79

100-YARD BREASTSTROKE

Danielle Melilli, Queens (North Carolina), 1:00.11

200-YARD BREASTSTROKE

Lily Borgenhimer, Colorado Mesa, 2:11.56

100-YARD BUTTERFLY

Luna Mertins, Lynn, 52.19

200-YARD BUTTERFLY

Ann Carozza, West Chester, 1:55.98 [meet record, old record 1:56.89, McKenzie Stevens, Queens (North Carolina), 3/16/2018]

200-YARD INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY

Marize Van Jaarsveld, UIndy, 1:58.91

400-YARD INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY

Marize Van Jaarsveld, UIndy, 4:14.06

ONE-METER DIVING

Gracy Segard, Grand Valley State, 459.75

THREE-METER DIVING

Madison Brinkman, St. Cloud State, 480.55

200-YARD FREESTYLE RELAY

UIndy (Johanna Buys, Leticia Vaselli, Andrea Paaske, Krystal Caylor), 1:31.08

400-YARD FREESTYLE RELAY

Queens (North Carolina) (Monica Gumina, Danielle Melilli, Anna De Boer, Kayla Tennant), 3:19.14

800-YARD FREESTYLE RELAY

Queens (North Carolina) (Monica Gumina, Tova Andersson, Giulia Grasso, Caroline Lawrence), 7:18.68

200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY

Nova Southeastern (Celina Marquez, Savanna Best, Aleksandra Maslova, Cassie Wright), 1:38.83

400-YARD MEDLEY RELAY

Nova Southeastern (Celina Marquez, Savanna Best, Aleksandra Maslova, Cassie Wright), 3:36.23

ELITE 90 HONOREE: Kayla Tennant,

Senior, Queens (North Carolina), Biology and Psychology, 4.0 GPA



Danielle Melilli of Queens (North Carolina) won the 100-yard breaststroke for the second straight year, as well as the 50- and 100-yard freestyle sprints to be named the Division II Female Swimmer of the Year and propel the Royals to a seventh consecutive team title at the 2022 Division II Women's Swimming and Diving Championships.

SCOTT TAETSCH/NCAA PHOTOS

Colorado Mesa diver Isaiah Cheeks took first place in the three-meter event during the 2022 Division II Men's Swimming and Diving Championships.

SCOTT TAETSCH/NCAA PHOTOS



MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

TEAM STANDINGS (TOP 5)

1. Queens (North Carolina), 607.5
2. Drury, 522
3. UIndy, 413
4. McKendree, 310
5. Florida Southern, 225



▲ Drury's Karol Ostrowski continued his dominance in the 100- and 200-yard freestyles, winning both for the second straight year.

SCOTT TAETSCH/NCAA PHOTOS

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

50-YARD FREESTYLE

Matej Dusa, Queens (North Carolina), 18.88 (meet record; old record 19.12, Karol Ostrowski, Drury, 3/8/2021)

100-YARD FREESTYLE

Karol Ostrowski, Drury, 41.91

200-YARD FREESTYLE

Karol Ostrowski, Drury, 1:33.68

500-YARD FREESTYLE

Ward Lockhart, Rollins, 4:20.44

1,000-YARD FREESTYLE

Ward Lockhart, Rollins, 9:00.93

1,650-YARD FREESTYLE

Ondrej Zach, Northern Michigan, 15:09.55

100-YARD BACKSTROKE

Finn Howard, Queens (North Carolina), 45.82

200-YARD BACKSTROKE

Mikita Tsmlyh, Drury, 1:41.36

100-YARD BREASTSTROKE

Ludo Viberti, Florida Southern, 52.35

200-YARD BREASTSTROKE

J.T. Amrein, Oklahoma Christian, 1:55.47

100-YARD BUTTERFLY

Dominik Karacic, Drury, 46.30

200-YARD BUTTERFLY

Alex Kunert, Queens (North Carolina), 1:42.44

200-YARD INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY

Alex Kunert, Queens (North Carolina), 1:43.95

400-YARD INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY

Collyn Gagne, Simon Fraser, 3:42.49 [meet record; old record 3:43.84, Nick Arakelian, Queens (North Carolina), 3/12/2015]

ONE-METER DIVING

Cade Hammond, UIndy, 525.20

THREE-METER DIVING

Isaiah Cheeks, Colorado Mesa, 537.75

200-YARD FREESTYLE RELAY

Queens (North Carolina) (Matej Dusa, Skyler Cook-Weeks, Finn Howard, Kimani Gregory), 1:17.20

400-YARD FREESTYLE RELAY

Queens (North Carolina) (Alex Kunert, Matej Dusa, Skyler Cook-Weeks, Finn Howard), 2:51.55

800-YARD FREESTYLE RELAY

Queens (North Carolina) (Skyler Cook-Weeks, Balazs Berecz, Luke Erwee, Alex Kunert), 6:24.97

200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY

Drury (Mikita Tsmlyh, Dawid Nowodworski, Dominik Karacic, Alex Bowen), 1:24.87

400-YARD MEDLEY RELAY

Queens (North Carolina) (Finn Howard, Balazs Berecz, Alex Kunert, Matej Dusa), 3:08.07

ELITE 90 HONOREE: Jan Delkskamp,

Senior, Queens (North Carolina), Finance and Business, 4.0 GPA

▶ Alex Kunert of Queens (North Carolina) swims his way to a third straight crown in the 200-yard butterfly to help the Royals win their seventh consecutive Division II Men's Swimming and Diving Championships team title. Kunert was named the Division II Male Swimmer of the Year after also winning the 200-yard individual medley and participating in three winning relays. The Royals senior finished his career with six individual titles and six relay victories.

SCOTT TAETSCH/NCAA PHOTOS





Grand Valley State student-athletes celebrate the school's first Division II Men's Indoor Track and Field Championships team title.

EVERT NELSON/NCAA PHOTOS

MEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

TEAM STANDINGS (TOP 5)

1. Grand Valley State, 66
2. Ashland, 49
3. Pittsburg State, 47
4. West Texas A&M, 40
5. Central Missouri, 29



Jermel Jones II of Azusa Pacific was a highflyer in the long jump, winning the event with a leap of 7.79 meters.

EVERT NELSON/NCAA PHOTOS

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

60-METER DASH

Benjamin Azamati, West Texas A&M, 6.63

200-METER DASH

Brandon Miller, Grand Valley State, 21.02

400-METER DASH

Trevor Bassitt, Ashland, 45.36

800-METER RUN

Wes Ferguson, Nebraska-Kearney, 1:05.05

MILE RUN

Callum Elson, American International, 4:08.59

3,000-METER RUN

Titus Winders, Southern Indiana, 7:57.01

5,000-METER RUN

Titus Winders, Southern Indiana, 13:38.92 (meet record; old record 13:42.42, Vincent Kiprop, Missouri Southern State, 3/9/2017)

60-METER HURDLES

Trevor Bassitt, Ashland, 7.73

1,600-METER RELAY

Ashland (Roger Rager, Channing Phillips, Noah Wood, Trevor Bassitt), 3:09.59

DISTANCE MEDLEY RELAY

Lee (Hayden Judge, Jeremiah McCain, Titus Lagat, Christian Noble), 9:34.51

HIGH JUMP

Ushan Perera, Texas A&M-Commerce, 2.17 (7-1 1/2)

POLE VAULT

Ryan Stanley, Fort Hays State, 5.42 (17-9 1/4)

LONG JUMP

Jermel Jones II, Azusa Pacific, 7.79 (25-6 3/4)

TRIPLE JUMP

Henry Kiner, Pittsburg State, 16.22 (53-2 3/4)

SHOT PUT

Isaiah Shafer, Davenport, 19.00 (62-4)

WEIGHT THROW

Brent Fairbanks, Ashland, 22.73 (74-7)

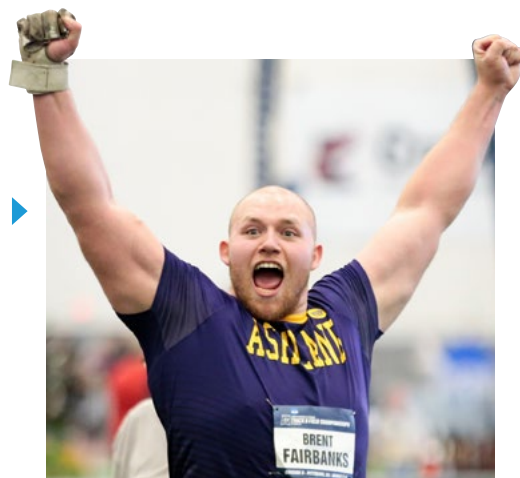
HEPTATHLON

Johnathon Harper, Texas A&M-Kingsville, 5,751

ELITE 90 HONOREE: Justin Thompson, Colorado Mesa, Sophomore, Exercise Science, 4.0 GPA

Ashland's Brent Fairbanks is ecstatic after winning his first national championship in the weight throw. He and teammate Trevor Bassitt combined to win four events to help the Eagles place second in the team standings.

EVERT NELSON/NCAA PHOTOS



Kyla Davis of Pittsburg State clears the bar on her way to winning the pole vault.

EVERT NELSON/
NCAA PHOTOS

WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

TEAM STANDINGS (TOP 5)

1. Minnesota State Mankato, 58
2. Grand Valley State, 51
- T3. Azusa Pacific, 40
- T3. West Texas A&M, 40
4. Adams State, 31

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

60-METER DASH

Makayla Jackson, Minnesota State Mankato, 7.34

200-METER DASH

Leah Belfield, West Texas A&M, 23.93

400-METER DASH

Shereen Vallabouy, Winona State, 53.79

800-METER RUN

Alison Andrews-Paul, Simon Fraser, 2:04.04 (meet record; old record 2:04.94, Skylyn Webb, Colorado-Colorado Springs, 3/9/2019)

MILE RUN

Berenice Cleyet-Merle, UIndy, 4:52.05

3,000-METER RUN

Celine Ritter, Lee, 9:18.53

5,000-METER RUN

Brianna Robles, Adams State, 16:00.98 (meet record; old record 16:03.98, Lauren Bailey, UIndy, 3/12/2021)

60-METER HURDLES

Denisha Cartwright, Minnesota State Mankato, 8.39

1,600-METER RELAY

Lincoln (Missouri) (Shevanae Thomas, Chrissani May, Maria Diamond, Kelly-Ann Beckford), 3:42.03

DISTANCE MEDLEY RELAY

Colorado State University Pueblo (Hailey Streff, Taylor Holland, Helen Braybrook, Yasmine Hernandez), 11:23.21

HIGH JUMP

Arika Robinson, Concordia-St. Paul, 1.82 (5-11 ½)

POLE VAULT

Kyla Davis, Pittsburg State, 4.15 (13-7 ¼)

LONG JUMP

Makayla Jackson, Minnesota State Mankato, 6.20 (20-4 ¼)

TRIPLE JUMP

D'Andra Morris, University of Mary, 13.00 (42-8)

SHOT PUT

Zada Swoopes, West Texas A&M, 17.68 (58 ¼) [meet record; old record 17.57 (57-7 ¾), Adriane Blewitt, Ashland 3/14/2003]

WEIGHT THROW

Judith Essemiah, Grand Valley State, 20.45 (67-1 ¼)

PENTATHLON

Cheyenne Williamson, Saginaw Valley State, 4,292 (meet record; old record 4,193, Lindsay Lettow, Central Missouri, 3/9-10/2012)

ELITE 90 HONOREE: Zoe Baker, Sophomore, Colorado School of Mines, Computer Science and Applied Mathematics, 4.0 GPA

Yasmine Hernandez of Colorado State University Pueblo is all smiles after anchoring her team's victory in the distance medley relay.

EVERT NELSON/
NCAA PHOTOS

▶ Makayla Jackson's shoes didn't spend much time on the track as she breezed to victory in the 60-meter dash. Jackson also won the long jump to help propel Minnesota State Mankato to its first Division II Women's Indoor Track and Field Championships team title.

EVERT NELSON/NCAA PHOTOS



The Mercyhurst eights crew clinched the team title in one of the tightest races in championship history. With 500 meters remaining, Mercyhurst, Western Washington and Thomas Jefferson were all within a second of each other. Ultimately the race wasn't decided until the final stroke as Mercyhurst nudged Western Washington by just .03 of a second. "Today was a special day and one that I will never forget," said Mercyhurst Director of Rowing Adrian Spracklen. "Western Washington gave us all we could handle, and I tip my hat to them – what a race that final was."

SCOTT TAETSCH/NCAA PHOTOS



SPRING CHAMPIONSHIPS

WOMEN'S ROWING

TEAM STANDINGS

1. Mercyhurst, 30
2. Western Washington, 19*
3. Embry-Riddle (Florida), 19*
4. Thomas Jefferson University, 14*
5. Central Oklahoma, 14*
6. Seattle Pacific, 9

*Placing determined based on the institution's finish in the Eights Grand Final.

EVENT RESULTS

EIGHTS GRAND FINAL

1. Mercyhurst [Olivia Avery (8), Ann-Kathrin Mueller (7) Anna Majek (6), Elizabeth Northrup (5), Maclain Zajicek (4), Natalie Peddell (3), Autumn Kearny (2), Erin Jackson (1); Gabrielle Christello (coxswain)], 7:03.709
2. Western Washington, 7:03.739
3. Thomas Jefferson University, 7:08.855

FOURS GRAND FINAL

1. Mercyhurst [Grace Skapura (4), Emma Lassig (3), Audrey Smith (2), Teagan Spracklen (1); Seanna Zona (coxswain)], 7:47.465
2. Embry-Riddle (Florida), 7:49.647
3. Central Oklahoma, 7:55.407

ELITE 90 HONOREE: Clarice Ruhlin-Hicks, Junior, Western Washington, Political Science, 4.0 GPA



▲ The Embry-Riddle fours crew celebrates their runner-up finish.

SCOTT TAETSCH/NCAA PHOTOS

▼ Amid showers of streamers, the Mercyhurst Lakers celebrate their team title at the Division II Women's Rowing Championship.

SCOTT TAETSCH/NCAA PHOTOS





Joel Sylven of Missouri-St. Louis (right) captured medalist honors during the stroke-play portion of the championships in a sudden-death playoff with defending champion Keegan Bronnberg of UIndy (left). Sylven birdied the first playoff hole while Bronnberg parred, clinching the victory for the Tritons senior.

JUSTIN TAFOYA/NCAA PHOTOS

MEN'S GOLF

QUARTERFINALS

Georgia Southwestern def. Colorado State University Pueblo, 4-1
Central Missouri def. Arkansas Tech, 3-2
Lee def. Barry, 4-1
Oklahoma Christian def. Missouri-St. Louis, 4-0-1

SEMIFINALS

Lee def. Georgia Southwestern, 3-2
Oklahoma Christian def. Central Missouri, 3-1-1

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH

Lee def. Oklahoma Christian, 4-1
 > Andres Bricton (Oklahoma Christian) def. Dalton Chuba (Lee).
 > Connor Pollman (Lee) def. Mateo Pulcini (Oklahoma Christian).
 > Dustin DeMersseman (Lee) def. Oskari Nikku (Oklahoma Christian).
 > Oliver Lewis-Perkins (Lee) def. Alejandro Armijo (Oklahoma Christian).
 > Beck Burnette (Lee) def. Exequiel Rodriguez (Oklahoma Christian).

INDIVIDUAL STANDINGS (TOP 5; PAR 72)

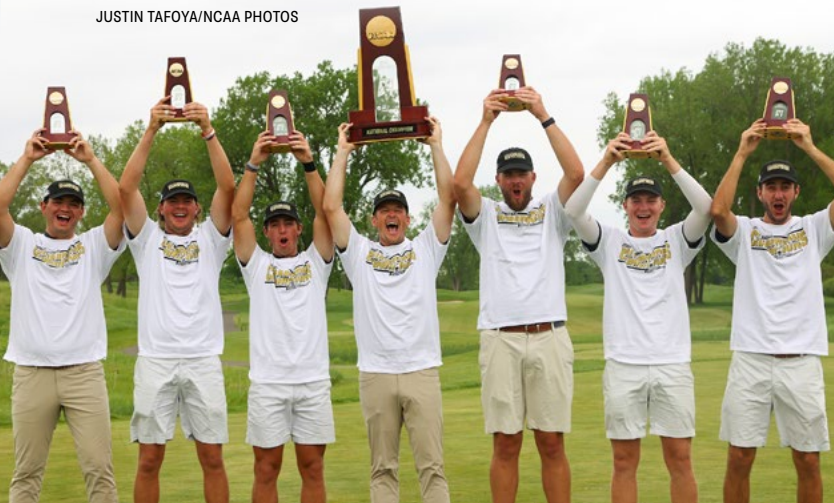
T1. Joel Sylven*, Missouri-St. Louis, 74-70-70 - 214
T1. Keegan Bronnberg, UIndy, 73-69-72 - 214
T3. Samuel Trueba, King, 73-71-71 - 215
T3. Nick Westrich, Central Missouri, 71-72-72 - 215
T5. Connor Pollman, Lee, 70-73-75 - 218
T5. Holden Hamilton, Arkansas Tech, 72-70-76 - 218

*Won sudden-death playoff

ELITE 90 HONOREE: Connor Bennink, Sophomore, Gannon, Finance, 4.0 GPA

Lee won its first Division II Men's Golf Championships team title. "This is such an incredible feeling and I'm just so proud of these guys," said Lee Director of Golf John Maupin. "We battled all week long and they never backed down. I knew this team had a chance to be really special and every time they answered the bell. I'll say it again, they bought in with all their heart to our motto of tough, calm, and closers."

JUSTIN TAFOYA/NCAA PHOTOS



CHAMPIONSHIPS

It was hugs all around after Findlay's Erin Mulcahy clinched the championship for the Oilers upon defeating Limestone's Ebba Hellman, who receives a consoling hug from none other than Findlay head coach Dominic Guarnieri (far right of photo) in a show of good sporting conduct.

RICH VON BIBERSTEIN/NCAA PHOTOS



WOMEN'S GOLF

QUARTERFINALS

Anderson (South Carolina) def. Lynn, 3-2
Barry def. Lee, 3-1-1
Limestone def. West Texas A&M, 4-1
Findlay def. Dallas Baptist University, 3-2

SEMIFINALS

Limestone def. Anderson (South Carolina), 3-1-1
Findlay def. Barry, 4-1

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH

Findlay def. Limestone, 3-2
 > Jill Schmitmeyer (Findlay) def. Lena Schilowsky (Limestone).
 > Kristina Kniesly (Findlay) def. Taylor Oberparleiter (Limestone).
 > Maria Morales (Limestone) def. Mary Kelly Mulcahy (Findlay).
 > Stina Wikstrom (Limestone) def. Gabby Woods (Findlay).
 > Erin Mulcahy (Findlay) def. Ebba Hellman (Limestone).

Maria Morales was one of two Limestone golfers to win matches in the championship final against Findlay.

RICH VON BIBERSTEIN/
NCAA PHOTOS



INDIVIDUAL STANDINGS (TOP 5; PAR 72)

1. Anahi Servin, Academy of Art, 69-69-73 - 211
2. Olivia Mitchell, Dallas Baptist University, 71-73-71 - 215
T3. Jordan Karrh, Dallas Baptist University, 74-69-73 - 216
T3. Supuschaya Srinchantamit, Lee, 72-71-73 - 216
5. Jessica Rathbone, Anderson (South Carolina), 73-72-72 - 217

ELITE 90 HONOREE: Catharina Graf, Junior, UIndy, Finance, 4.0 GPA.

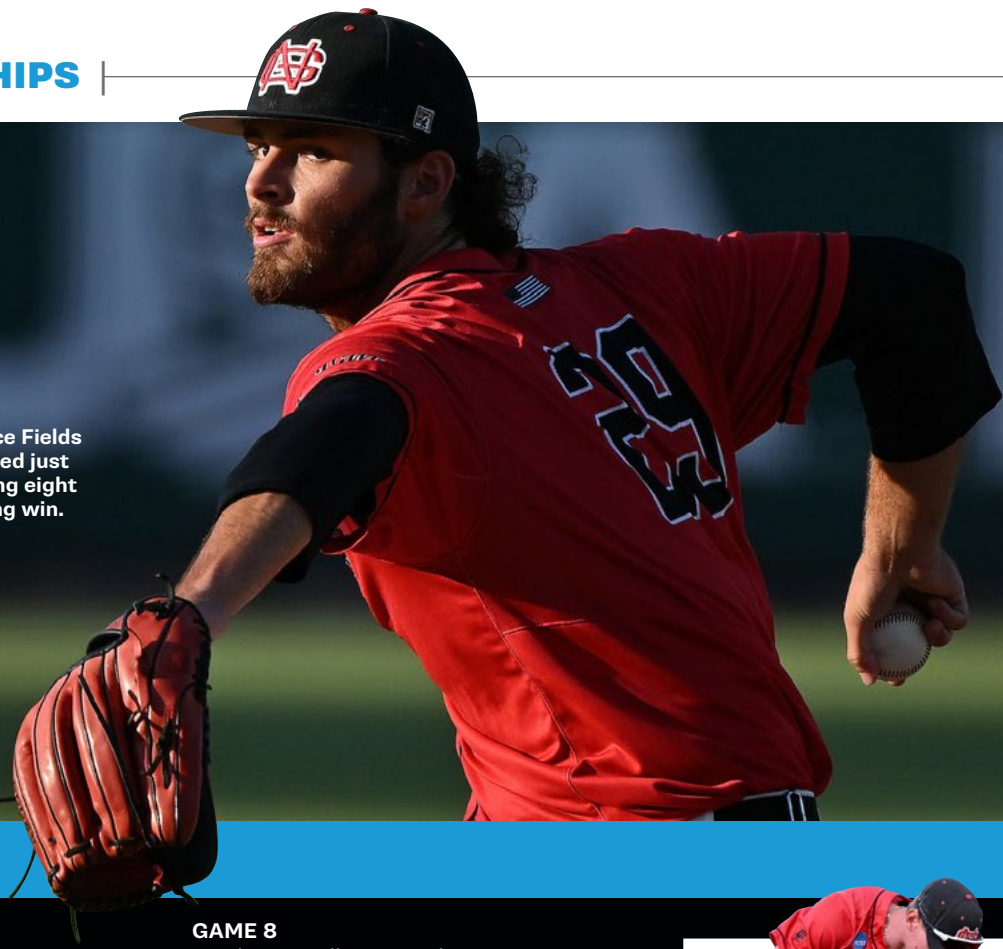
Erin Mulcahy negotiates a bunker shot during her match with Limestone's Ebba Hellman. Mulcahy trailed Hellman for 10 consecutive holes before tying the match on the 15th, then taking a two-stroke lead on the 16th and maintaining a one-stroke advantage the rest of the way to help the Oilers win their first Division II Women's Golf Championships team title.

RICH VON BIBERSTEIN/NCAA PHOTOS



North Greenville starter Reece Fields pitched five innings and allowed just one earned run while collecting eight strikeouts in the title-clinching win.

GRANT HALVERSON/NCAA PHOTOS



BASEBALL

GAME 1

Southern Arkansas 3, Rollins 1

GAME 2

Point Loma 8, Illinois Springfield 1

GAME 3

Angelo State 7, Southern New Hampshire 4

GAME 4

North Greenville 3, West Chester 1

GAME 5

Rollins 3, Illinois Springfield 2

GAME 6

Point Loma 11, Southern Arkansas 3

GAME 7

West Chester 7, Southern New Hampshire 3

GAME 8

North Greenville 18, Angelo State 3

GAME 9

Rollins 7, Southern Arkansas 5

GAME 10

West Chester 12, Angelo State 2

GAME 11

Rollins 12, Point Loma 4

GAME 12

North Greenville 8, West Chester 5

GAME 13

Point Loma 2, Rollins 0

GAME 14

North Greenville 5, Point Loma 3

ELITE 90 HONOREE: Jackson Hardy, Junior, Angelo State, Business Administration, 4.0 GPA



Point Loma runner Easton Waterman eludes the tag at second base by North Greenville's Cory Bivins.

GRANT HALVERSON/NCAA PHOTOS

North Greenville players form the traditional celebratory pileup after defeating Point Loma to win the school's first Division II Baseball Championship.

GRANT HALVERSON/NCAA PHOTOS





Rogers State players capture their own memories after sweeping Cal State Dominguez Hills in the Division II Softball Championship Series.

JAMIE SCHWABEROW/
NCAA PHOTOS

SOFTBALL

GAME 1

Cal State Dominguez Hills 5, The University of Texas at Tyler 1

GAME 2

Rogers State 7, Southern Indiana 2

GAME 3

North Georgia 8, Adelphi 2

GAME 4

Auburn Montgomery 4, Seton Hill 0

GAME 5

Rogers State 10, Cal State Dominguez Hills 2

GAME 6

North Georgia 8, Auburn Montgomery 0 (5 inn.)

GAME 7

The University of Texas at Tyler 12, Southern Indiana 5

GAME 8

Seton Hill 8, Adelphi 1

GAME 9

The University of Texas at Tyler 4, Auburn Montgomery 3

GAME 10

Cal State Dominguez Hills 9, Seton Hill 6

GAME 11

Rogers State 9, The University of Texas at Tyler 3

GAME 12

Cal State Dominguez Hills 7, North Georgia 5

CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

Rogers State 6, Cal State Dominguez Hills 5

Rogers State 6, Cal State Dominguez Hills 1

ELITE 90 HONOREE: Mackenzie Bedrick, Sophomore, Southern Indiana, Nursing, 4.0 GPA

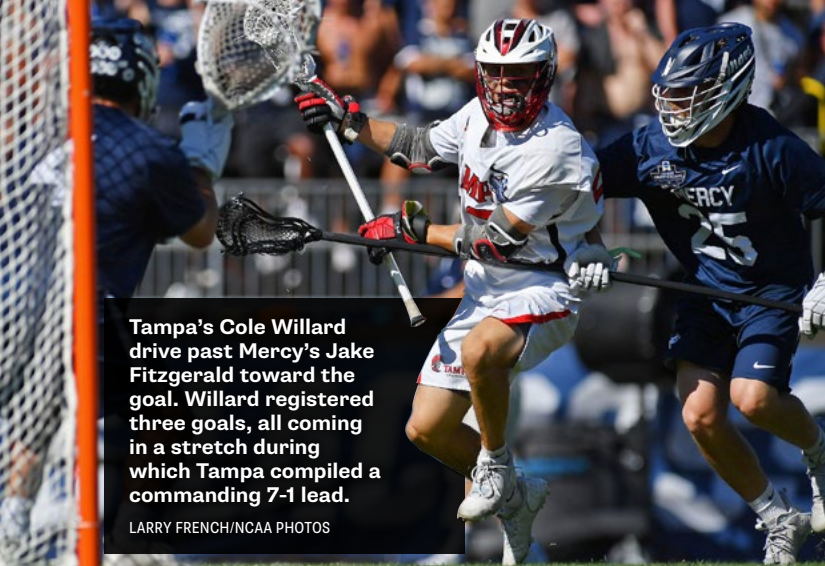
TOP: Aptly named Abbey Rogers hits a two-run single to give the Hillcats the lead they would not relinquish in Game 2.

MIDDLE: Rogers State pitcher Andrea Morales went the distance in Game 2, striking out three and allowing only one run. "Last spring when Andrea decided to come back for her fifth year, I knew that was our ticket to winning a national championship," said Hillcats head coach Andrea Vaughan. "[Andrea] said in a press conference at some point this postseason that this was the reason she came back. My heart is filled with so much joy for her. This group of seniors is really special. Just taking it all in is awesome."

BOTTOM: Raquel Jaime of Cal State Dominguez Hills went 4-for-8 at the plate during the championship series.

JAMIE SCHWABEROW/NCAA PHOTOS





Tampa's Cole Willard drive past Mercy's Jake Fitzgerald toward the goal. Willard registered three goals, all coming in a stretch during which Tampa compiled a commanding 7-1 lead.

LARRY FRENCH/NCAA PHOTOS



Ulindy's Sarah Klein reacts after scoring a goal in the Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship game against East Stroudsburg, while teammate Abigail Lagos has to dodge a swipe from the Warriors' Kayleigh Pokrivka. Klein and Lagos combined for seven goals in the game and all four during a decisive stretch at the end of the third quarter and the start of the fourth in which the Greyhounds built the lead they would not relinquish.

DILIP VISHWANAT/NCAA PHOTOS

MEN'S LACROSSE

QUARTERFINALS

Mercy 11, Seton Hill 10
Le Moyne 9, Adelphi 4
Tampa 13, Lenoir-Rhyne 11
Limestone 17, Wingate 14

SEMIFINALS

Mercy 12, Le Moyne 11
Tampa 19, Limestone 8

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Tampa 11, Mercy 7

ELITE 90 HONOREE:

Robert LoRicco, Graduate Student, Mercy, Business Administration and Finance, 3.905 GPA

▼ **Mercy's Sean Makar** jukes Tampa defender Owen Matukas during the Division II Men's Lacrosse Championship final.

LARRY FRENCH/NCAA PHOTOS



▼ Tampa players rush onto the field after the Spartans clinched their first Division II Men's Lacrosse Championship in the program's 11th season. Tampa, which led throughout the game, completed its first undefeated campaign at 21-0. Tampa is also the first team from the Sunshine State Conference to win the lacrosse championship.

LARRY FRENCH/NCAA PHOTOS



WOMEN'S LACROSSE

QUARTERFINALS

Queens (North Carolina) 16, Florida Southern 13
East Stroudsburg 13, West Chester 12
Adelphi 13, Stonehill 11
Ulindy 13, Grand Valley State 9

SEMIFINALS

East Stroudsburg 13, Queens (North Carolina) 12
Ulindy 11, Adelphi 6

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

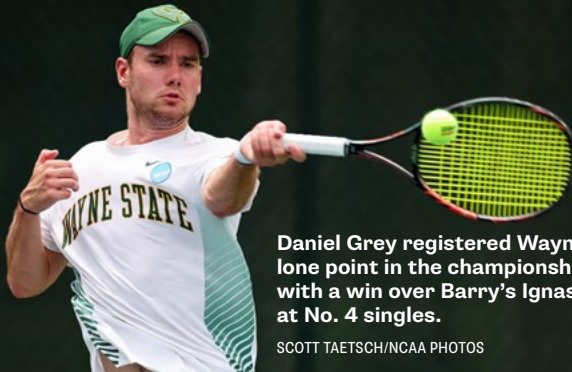
Ulindy 11, East Stroudsburg 9

ELITE 90 HONOREE: **Caroline Kraemer**, Sophomore, Queens (North Carolina), Communications, 4.0 GPA



Emily Mitaarotonda of East Stroudsburg (left) controls the ball against Ulindy's Kara Antonucci during the championship final. Mitaarotonda scored a team-high three goals for the Warriors.

DILIP VISHWANAT/NCAA PHOTOS



Daniel Grey registered Wayne State's lone point in the championship match with a win over Barry's Ignasi Forcano at No. 4 singles.

SCOTT TAETSCH/NCAA PHOTOS



Barry's Jil Engelmänn won her No. 2 singles match and became the fourth Buccaneer to be part of three national championship teams.

SCOTT TAETSCH/NCAA PHOTOS

MEN'S TENNIS

QUARTERFINALS

Columbus State 4, Azusa Pacific 0
Wayne State (Michigan) 4,
Embry-Riddle (Florida) 3
Barry 4, UIndy 1
Flagler 4, Hawaii Pacific 2

SEMIFINALS

Wayne State (Michigan) 4,
Columbus State 3
Barry 4, Flagler 0

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH

Barry 4, Wayne State (Michigan) 1

DOUBLES

- No. 1: Martin Gutierrez/Ignasi Forcano (Barry) def. Daniel Grey/Cedric Drenth (Wayne State), 6-4.
 - No. 2: Alejandro Gallego/Arnau Rodriguez (Barry) vs. Dom Spicer/Luke Laws (Wayne State), unfinished.
 - No. 3: Alessandro Giuliani/Hugo Cazaban (Barry) def. Niklas Karcz/Ben Lakeman (Wayne State), 6-2.
- #### SINGLES
- No. 1: Alejandro Palacios (Barry) vs. Dom Spicer (Wayne State), unfinished.
 - No. 2: Alejandro Ibanez-Gallego (Barry) def. Ben Lakeman (Wayne State), 6-0, 6-2.
 - No. 3: Alessandro Giuliani (Barry) def. Niklas Karcz (Wayne State), 6-2, 7-5.
 - No. 4: Daniel Grey (Wayne State) def. Ignasi Forcano (Barry) 6-4, 6-3.
 - No. 5: Arnau Rodriguez (Barry) def. Cedric Drenth (Wayne State), 7-5, 6-1.
 - No. 6: Martin Gutierrez (Barry) vs. Luke Laws (Wayne State), unfinished.

ELITE 90 HONOREE: Donovan Nguyen, Senior, Wayne State (Michigan), Exercise and Sport Science, 4.0 GPA

In what has become a familiar scene over the years, the Barry tennis squad celebrates another Division II Men's Tennis Championship, this time with teammates streaming onto the court to mob the sprawled Alessandro Giuliani, who clinched the Buccaneers' 4-1 win over Wayne State (Michigan) with a victory in the No. 3 singles match against Niklas Karcz. It was Barry's third straight men's title and sixth since 2010.

SCOTT TAETSCH/NCAA PHOTOS



WOMEN'S TENNIS

QUARTERFINALS

Nova Southeastern 4, Hawaii Pacific 0
UIndy 4, Columbus State 1
Central Oklahoma 4, Azusa Pacific 1
Barry 4, Flagler 0

SEMIFINALS

Barry 4, Nova Southeastern 1
Central Oklahoma 4, UIndy 2

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH

Barry 4, Central Oklahoma 1

DOUBLES

- No. 1: Christine Canete/Mae Canete (Central Oklahoma) def. Deniz Khazan/Madeline Bosnjak (Barry), 6-4.
- No. 2: Adel-Byanu Abidullin/Tizia Brocks (Central Oklahoma) def. Jil Engelmänn/Xiyao Wang (Barry), 6-2.
- No. 3: Daniela Farfan/Kim Moosbacher (Barry) def. Nikki Boyar/Blythe Buntrock (Central Oklahoma), 6-4.

SINGLES

- No. 1: Deniz Khazan (Barry) vs. Mae Canete (Central Oklahoma), unfinished.
- No. 2: Jil Engelmänn (Barry) def. Christine Canete (Central Oklahoma), 6-4, 6-1.
- No. 3: Xiyao Wang (Barry) vs. 27 Adel-Byanu Abidullin (Central Oklahoma), unfinished.
- No. 4: Madeline Bosnjak (Barry) def. Grace Chadick (Central Oklahoma), 6-2, 6-2.
- No. 5: Daniela Farfan (Barry) def. Tizia Brocks (Central Oklahoma), 6-0, 6-2.
- No. 6: Kim Moosbacher (Barry) def. Blythe Buntrock (Central Oklahoma), 6-2, 6-1.

ELITE 90 HONOREE: Sofia Sharonova, Junior, UIndy, Psychology, 4.0 GPA

- ▼ Central Oklahoma sisters Christine Canete (left) and Mae Canete helped the Bronchos take the doubles point by teaming to win at No. 1 over Deniz Khazan and Madeline Bosnjak of Barry, 6-4.

SCOTT TAETSCH/NCAA PHOTOS



Madeline Bosnjak rejoices after clinching the match for Barry with her win over Central Oklahoma's Grace Chadick at No. 4 singles. The title was the fifth straight for Barry and seventh overall.

SCOTT TAETSCH/NCAA PHOTOS





Adams State's Brianna Robles (front far right) leads the pack early and heads for victory in the 5,000-meter run. Robles also finished sixth in the 2021 Division II Women's Cross Country Championships to help the Grizzlies win the team title at that event.

JOE ROBBINS/NCAA PHOTOS

WOMEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

TEAM STANDINGS (TOP 5)

1. West Texas A&M, 77
2. Grand Valley State, 64
3. Minnesota State Mankato, 57
4. Academy of Art, 44
5. Lincoln (Missouri), 41

West Texas A&M's Zada Swoopes won the discus event for the second straight year, which she also did in the shot put. Swoopes also won the shot at this year's indoor championship to raise her total of individual titles to five.

JOE ROBBINS/NCAA PHOTOS

EVENT CHAMPIONS

100-METER DASH

Makayla Jackson, Minnesota State Mankato, 11.66

200-METER DASH

Leah Belfield, West Texas A&M, 23.30

400-METER DASH

Shereen Vallabouy, Winona State, 52.68

800-METER RUN

Kelly-Ann Beckford, Lincoln (Missouri), 2:05.88

1,500-METER RUN

Yasmine Hernandez, Colorado State University Pueblo, 4:15.72

5,000-METER RUN

Brianna Robles, Adams State, 16:07.84

10,000-METER RUN

Jennifer Sandoval, Azusa Pacific, 33:35.76

100-METER HURDLES

Denisha Cartwright, Minnesota State Mankato, 13.35

400-METER HURDLES

Minna Sveard, Texas A&M-Commerce, 57.33

3,000-METER STEEPLECHASE

Eleonora Curtabbi, West Texas A&M, 10:07.77

400-METER RELAY

Minnesota State Mankato (Denisha Cartwright, Ja'Cey Simmons, Rose Cramer, Makayla Jackson), 44.29

1,600-METER RELAY

Fresno Pacific (Madison Flores, Danae Manibog, Chloe Sharp, Kyra Bailey), 3:35.92

HIGH JUMP

Arika Robertson, Concordia-St. Paul, 1.82 (5-11 1/2)

POLE VAULT

Ellianne Kimes, Grand Valley State (declared champion after a jump-off with three other competitors), 4.25 (13-11 1/4)

LONG JUMP

Marie-Jeanne Ourega, Academy of Art, 6.37 (20-10 3/4)

TRIPLE JUMP

D'Andra Morris, University of Mary, 13.05 (42-9 3/4)

SHOT PUT

Zada Swoopes, West Texas A&M, 16.70 (54-9 1/2)

Eleonora Curtabbi of West Texas A&M (front left, arms raised), navigates through the water jump on her way to winning the 3,000-meter steeplechase during the Division II Women's Outdoor Track and Field Championships. Curtabbi was one of three West Texas A&M athletes to win individual events to help the Lady Buffs capture their second team title in the last four years.

JOE ROBBINS/NCAA PHOTOS

DISCUS THROW

Zada Swoopes, West Texas A&M, 56.84 (186-6)

HAMMER THROW

Judith Essemiah, Grand Valley State, 63.31 (207-8)

JAVELIN THROW

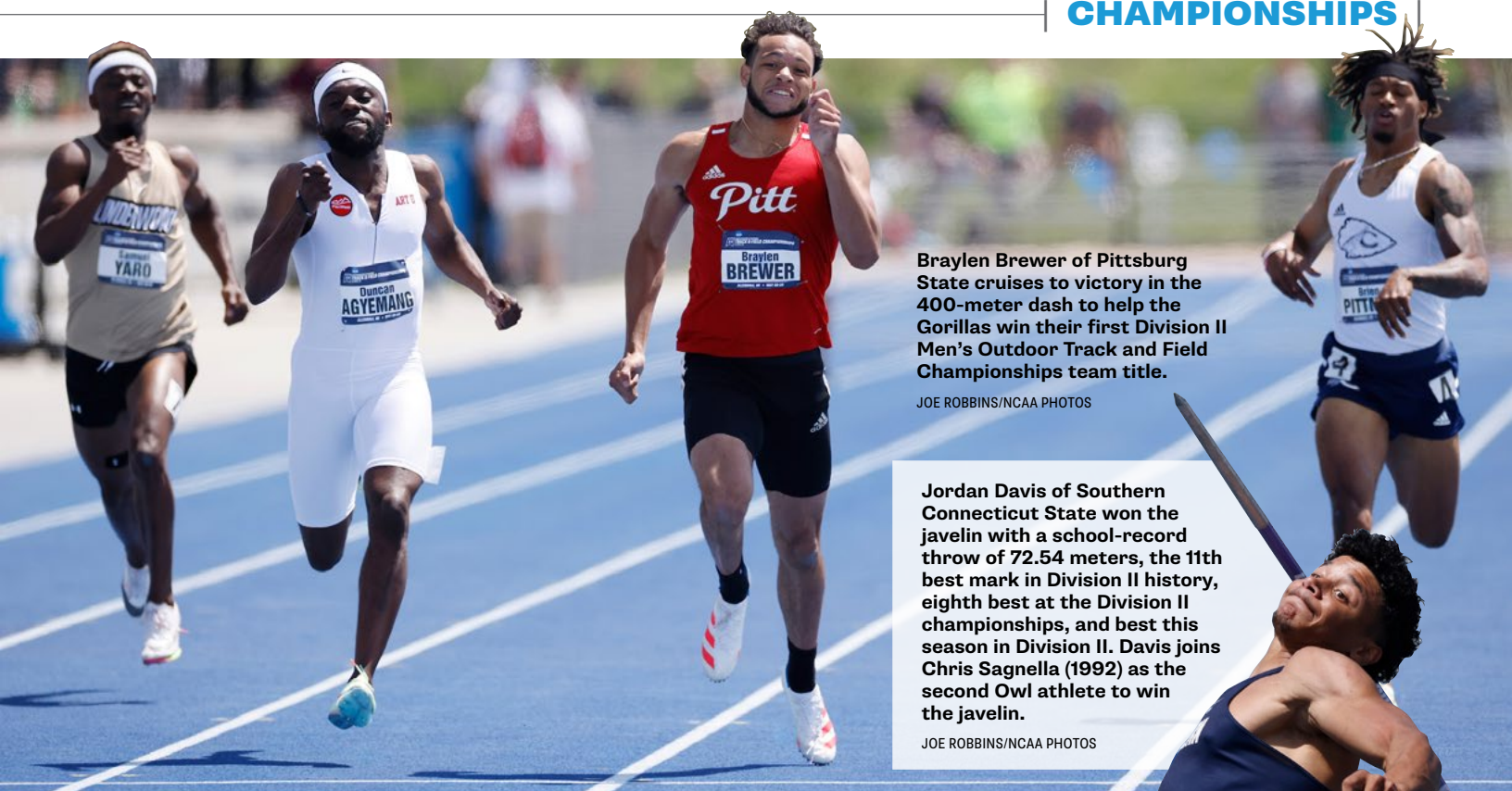
Candesha Scott, Texas A&M-Commerce, 54.82 (179-10)

HEPTATHLON

Cheyenne Williamson, Saginaw Valley State, 5,757

ELITE 90 HONOREE: Eilika Lane, Junior, Benedict, Sport Management, 4.0 GPA





Braylen Brewer of Pittsburg State cruises to victory in the 400-meter dash to help the Gorillas win their first Division II Men's Outdoor Track and Field Championships team title.

JOE ROBBINS/NCAA PHOTOS

Jordan Davis of Southern Connecticut State won the javelin with a school-record throw of 72.54 meters, the 11th best mark in Division II history, eighth best at the Division II championships, and best this season in Division II. Davis joins Chris Sagnella (1992) as the second Owl athlete to win the javelin.

JOE ROBBINS/NCAA PHOTOS

MEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

TEAM STANDINGS (TOP 5)

1. Pittsburg State, 70
2. West Texas A&M, 71
3. Grand Valley State, 56
4. Texas A&M-Commerce, 48
5. Ashland, 34



Afewerki Zeru of Colorado-Colorado Springs (left) and Awet Beraki of Adams State reflect on their 1-2 finish in the 5,000 meters. Zeru won with a time of 13:52.72, a little under two seconds ahead of Beraki.

JOE ROBBINS/NCAA PHOTOS

EVENT CHAMPIONS

100-METER DASH

J.T. Smith, Texas A&M-Commerce, 10.44

200-METER DASH

Brandon Miller, Grand Valley State, 20.20

400-METER DASH

Braylen Brewer, Pittsburg State, 45.77

800-METER RUN

Wes Ferguson, Nebraska-Kearney, 1:50.61

1,500-METER RUN

Callum Elson, American International, 3:46.35

5,000-METER RUN

Afewerki Zeru, Colorado-Colorado Springs, 13:52.72

10,000-METER RUN

Dillon Powell, Colorado School of Mines, 28:44.97

110-METER HURDLES

Louis Rollins, Pittsburg State, 13.65

400-METER HURDLES

Trevor Bassitt, Ashland, 48.98

3,000-METER STEEPLECHASE

Reece Smith, Northwest Missouri State, 8:33.64 (meet record; old record 8:35.05, Tabor Stevens, Adams State, 5/23/2014)

400-METER RELAY

West Texas A&M (Sifiso Miya, Jeremiah Lauzon, Desmond Aryee, Benjamin Azamati), 39.27

1,600-METER RELAY

Lincoln (Missouri) (Kewani Campbell, Reuben Nichols, Shanthamoi Brown, Troy Whyte), 3:05.88

HIGH JUMP

Ushan Perera, Texas A&M-Commerce, 2.22 (7-3 ¼)

POLE VAULT

Dorian Chaigneau, Harding, 5.50 (18-0 ½)

LONG JUMP

Christopher Goodwin, Central Missouri, 7.93 (26-0 ¼)

TRIPLE JUMP

Mathieu Tshani, Academy of Art, 16.19 (53-1 ½)

SHOT PUT

Isaiah Schafer, Davenport, 19.89 (65-3 ¼)

DISCUS THROW

Moaz Abraham, Texas A&M-Commerce, 61.21 (200-10) [meet record; old record 60.75 (199-3), Nick Jones, Abilene Christian, 5/28/2011]

HAMMER THROW

Tanner Berg, Northern State, 69.61 (228-4)

JAVELIN THROW

Jordan Davis, Southern Connecticut State, 72.54 (238-0)

DECATHLON

Elvis Kryukov, Angelo State, 7,574

ELITE 90 HONOREE: Ben Nagel, Senior, Ulndy, Actuarial Science, 4.0 GPA

Concordia-St. Paul's Kennedy Brady duels West Texas A&M's Taytum Stow at the net. Brady, who was named the Elite 90 recipient earlier in the week during the festival, registered eight kills in the championship match. The Golden Bears, nine-time winners of this championship, lost for only the second time in a title match.

LINDSEY WASSON/NCAA PHOTOS

FALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

QUARTERFINALS

West Texas A&M def. Wingate, 25-23, 23-25, 25-19, 22-25, 15-12

Missouri-St. Louis def. Barry, 25-18, 22-25, 28-26, 25-22

Cal State LA def. Gannon, 25-11, 25-14, 25-18

Concordia-St. Paul def. Southern New Hampshire, 25-19, 25-23, 25-11

SEMIFINALS

West Texas A&M def. Missouri-St. Louis, 25-23, 25-21, 23-25, 25-23

Concordia-St. Paul def. Cal State LA, 25-16, 25-21, 25-14

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH

West Texas A&M def. Concordia-St. Paul, 23-25, 25-23, 25-20, 28-26

ELITE 90 HONOREE: Kennedy Brady, Senior, Concordia-St. Paul, Secondary Education in Mathematics, 4.0 GPA

The West Texas A&M Lady Buffs celebrate their victory over Concordia-St. Paul in the Division II Women's Volleyball Championship match held as part of the Division II National Championships Festival in Seattle. West Texas A&M, which won the program's fourth title and first since 1997, hit .307 overall in the championship match with 62 kills on 150 swings with 16 errors to go along with 56 assists, 56 digs, 12 blocks and five aces.

LINDSEY WASSON/NCAA PHOTOS

West Texas A&M senior Kayla Elliott matched a career high with 17 kills and contributed six blocks in the four-set victory over Concordia-St. Paul. West Texas A&M finished the 2022 season with a 26-match winning streak.

LINDSEY WASSON/
NCAA PHOTOS





2022 Harlon Hill Trophy winner John Matocha threw for 208 yards and two touchdowns but was harassed throughout the game by a tenacious Ferris State defense.

TIM HEITMAN/NCAA PHOTOS

FOOTBALL

QUARTERFINALS

Shepherd 48, Indiana (Pennsylvania) 13
 Ferris State 24, Grand Valley State 21
 West Florida 45, Wingate 14
 Colorado School of Mines 42, Angelo State 24

SEMIFINALS

Ferris State 38, West Florida 17
 Colorado School of Mines 44, Shepherd 13

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Ferris State 41, Colorado School of Mines 14

ELITE 90 HONOREE: Ben Fuchs, Senior, Colorado School of Mines, Chemical Engineering, 3.976 GPA

▼ Ferris State won its second consecutive Division II Football Championship, beating Colorado School of Mines, 41-14, in the title game in McKinney, Texas. The Bulldogs built a 27-0 first-half lead and cruised to the victory, capping off back-to-back national championship seasons under head coach Tony Annese. Ferris State closed the year 14-1 and now owns a 28-1 mark over the past two seasons.

TIM HEITMAN/NCAA PHOTOS



The top-ranked East Stroudsburg field hockey team celebrates its second Division II Field Hockey Championship title in program history. The event took place as part of the Division II National Championships Festival in Seattle. The Warriors concluded the season winning their final seven games and setting the school record for wins by finishing 20-2.

ANDY NELSON/NCAA PHOTOS



FIELD HOCKEY

FIRST ROUND

West Chester 10, Adelphi 1
 Assumption 2, Saint Anselm 1 (OT)

SEMIFINALS

East Stroudsburg 3, Assumption 0
 Shippensburg 4, West Chester 2

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH

East Stroudsburg 1, Shippensburg 0

ELITE 90 HONOREE: Adriana Palumbo, Sophomore, West Chester, Public Health, 4.0 GPA

East Stroudsburg's Nicole Krozser (center) celebrates her winning goal with 34.9 seconds left in the game with teammates Jady van Gils (left) and Hanna Lewis (right). It was van Gils who carried the ball up the right side of the Shippensburg defensive zone before passing to Krozser, who redirected it into the back left corner of the cage.

ANDY NELSON/NCAA PHOTOS



▲ Shippensburg's Maura Mears fires off a pass during the championship game against East Stroudsburg. The defending-champion Raiders lost a heartbreaker on a last-minute goal to end its season at 16-4.

ANDY NELSON/NCAA PHOTOS

The Franklin Pierce Ravens celebrate the school's second Division II Men's Soccer Championship title and first since 2007 after defeating Colorado State University Pueblo, 2-0, in the championship match conducted as part of the Division II National Championships Festival in Seattle. The win capped an unbeaten season for the Ravens at 26-0-1, and the 26 wins makes Franklin Pierce the single-season winningest team in NCAA Division II history to claim the national crown, breaking the previous record held by the 2015 champion Pfeiffer University (25-0-0).

JAMIE SCHWABEROW/NCAA PHOTOS



MEN'S SOCCER

QUARTERFINALS

Franklin Pierce 1, Charleston (West Virginia) 0
 Barry* 1, Rollins 1
 Lake Erie 1, Maryville (Missouri) 0
 Colorado State University Pueblo 1, Northwest Nazarene 0

*Advanced on the basis of penalty kicks, 3-1.

SEMIFINALS

Franklin Pierce 5, Lake Erie 2
 Colorado State University Pueblo 1, Barry 0

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH

Franklin Pierce 2, Colorado State University Pueblo 0

ELITE 90 HONOREE: Roy Shohat, Sophomore, Barry,
 Exercise Physiology, 4.0 GPA

TOP: Dylan Zavardini (right) of Colorado State University Pueblo gains the advantage on Miguel Angel Pastor Gutierrez of Franklin Pierce during the championship match, but it was Gutierrez's Ravens that had the advantage at the end, winning a 2-0 battle against the Thunderwolves. Gutierrez scored the Ravens' first goal of the contest, which turned out to be the game-winner.

BOTTOM: Braudilio Rodrigues of Franklin Pierce weaves his way past two Thunderwolves defenders. Rodrigues, who was named the Division II Player of the Year, was credited with an assist on the Ravens' second goal of the match.

JAMIE SCHWABEROW/NCAA PHOTOS



West Chester's Faith Matter (left) and Western Washington's Dayana Diaz battle for the ball during the championship match. Western Washington defeated the Golden Rams 2-1, to cap off a 19-2-4 season.

JAMIE SCHWABEROW/NCAA PHOTOS



WOMEN'S SOCCER

QUARTERFINALS

West Chester 2, Franklin Pierce 1 (2OT)
Columbus State 4, West Florida 3
Ferris State 2, Bemidji State 0
Western Washington 3, Colorado School of Mines 1

SEMIFINALS

West Chester 2, Ferris State 1
Western Washington 2, Columbus State 1

CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH

Western Washington 2, West Chester 1

ELITE 90 HONOREE: Carley Canzoneri, Senior, Columbus State, Accounting, 4.0 GPA

Katie Watt (blue uniform) of Western Washington rises above West Chester's Kaitlynn Haughey to win the ball. The Vikings came out on top as well, winning the Vikings' second national title and first since 2016.

JAMIE SCHWABEROW/NCAA PHOTOS

▶ The Western Washington Vikings rejoice after defeating West Chester, 2-1, in the Division II Women's Soccer Championship match conducted as part of the Division II National Championships Festival in Seattle. Freshman Claire Potter scored the go-ahead goal in the 82nd minute. She also assisted on Tera Ziemer's goal at the 14th minute to open the scoring. Allyson Cutter scored for West Chester, which lost for the first time this season.

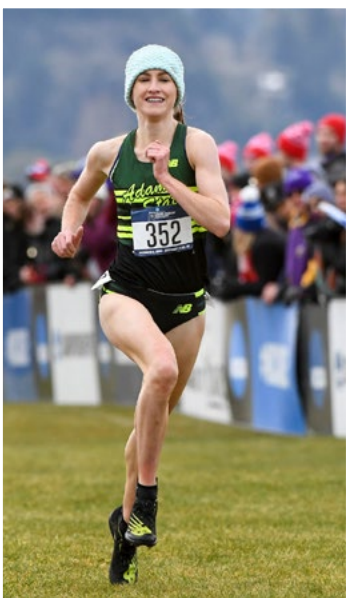
JAMIE SCHWABEROW/NCAA PHOTOS





Adams State's Brianna Robles is flanked by Grand Valley State's Lauren Kiley (left) and Natalie Graber on her way to a fourth-place finish. Robles placed sixth at last year's meet.

JAMIE SCHWABEROW/NCAA PHOTOS



▲ Adams State's Stephanie Cotter won the individual title, finishing the 6K race in 19:45.2. Cotter becomes the ninth woman to win the Division II championship twice (she won previously in 2019).

JAMIE SCHWABEROW/NCAA PHOTOS

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

TEAM STANDINGS (TOP 5)

1. Adams State, 75 (Team member place finishes*: Stephanie Cotter, 1; Brianna Robles, 4; Precious Robinson, 14; Emily Schoellkopf, 23; Morgan Hykes, 33)
2. Grand Valley State, 126
3. Colorado School of Mines, 164
4. Colorado-Colorado Springs, 184
5. Augustana (South Dakota), 218

*Based on a point system among runners with institutions vying for the team championship; does not include runners competing on an individual basis.

INDIVIDUAL STANDINGS (TOP 5)

1. Stephanie Cotter, Adams State, 19:45.2
2. Lindsay Cunningham, Winona State, 20:27.2
3. Klaudia O'Malley, Grand Valley State, 20:43.0
4. Brianna Robles, Adams State, 20:44.9
5. Florance Uwajenza, West Texas A&M, 20:48.9

ELITE 90 HONOREE: Zoe Baker, Graduate Student, Colorado School of Mines, Computer Science, 4.0 GPA

Adams State won the team title for the third consecutive time and 20th overall (including five of the last seven championships). The Grizzlies are the first team to win three straight national titles on four occasions.

JAMIE SCHWABEROW/NCAA PHOTOS



An overhead view of the race provides a good idea of the conditions runners faced during the Division II Cross Country Championships in Seattle.

ANDY NELSON/NCAA PHOTOS



MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

TEAM STANDINGS (TOP 5)

1. Colorado School of Mines, 43 (Team member place finishes*: Dillon Powell, 1; Duncan Fuehne, 3; Loic Scomparin, 8; Luke Julian, 11; Chris Cathcart, 20)
2. Wingate, 177
3. Colorado Christian, 191
4. Grand Valley State, 209
5. Chico State, 265

*Based on a points system among runners with institutions vying for the team championship; does not include runners competing on an individual basis.

INDIVIDUAL STANDINGS (TOP 5)

1. Dillon Powell, Colorado School of Mines, 29:28.0
2. Tanner Chada, Grand Valley State, 29:47.1
3. Duncan Fuehne, Colorado School of Mines, 29:48.3
4. Zach Kreft, Walsh, 29:53.6
5. Afewerki Zeru, Colorado-Colo Springs, 29:54.2

ELITE 90 HONOREE: Duncan Fuehne, Graduate Student, Colorado School of Mines, Physics, 3.98 GPA

The Colorado School of Mines Orediggers won their third team title by the largest margin in meet history. All seven Oredigger runners placed in the top 30.

JAMIE SCHWABEROW/NCAA PHOTOS

Colorado School of Mines swept the trophies as Dillon Powell became the school's first individual cross country champion.

JAMIE SCHWABEROW/NCAA PHOTOS







IT'S FESTIVAL TIME AGAIN!

Division II conducted its 12th National Championships Festival Nov. 30-Dec. 3 in Seattle for fall sports (men's and women's cross country, field hockey, men's and women's soccer, and women's volleyball). This was the fifth fall sports festival; the others being in 2006, 2010, 2014 and 2018. It also was the first festival to be held since 2018, as those previously scheduled in 2020 (spring sports) and 2021 (winter sports) were canceled due to the pandemic.

As is customary at the festivals, participants enjoyed opening ceremonies, community engagement activities and the camaraderie that comes with having an Olympic Village-type atmosphere.







GOVERNANCE AND NEWS

PRESIDENTS COUNCIL



Steven
Shirley

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022

- ▶ Per the new NCAA Constitution, the council welcomed two student-athlete voting members.
- ▶ Sponsored Convention proposals from the Division II Implementation Committee that include modifications to the future composition of the governance structure.
- ▶ Approved a recommendation from the Planning and Finance Committee regarding future budget allocations for championships that include a 5% annual increase in the travel budget, as well as the following increases into the triennial budget over the remainder of the media rights agreement period (fiscal years 2025, 2028 and 2031):
 - ▶ \$10 increase in per diem.
 - ▶ 1% increase for committee expenses.
 - ▶ 3% increase for game operations.
 - ▶ \$1,050,000 increase for championships enhancements.

STEVEN SHIRLEY (CHAIR)

President, Minot State University / January 2025

ROSLYN ARTIS

President, Benedict College / January 2028

MICAELA BOYD

Student-Athlete, Palm Beach Atlantic University / August 2023

CARLOS CAMPO

President, Ashland University / January 2026

DAVARIS CHEEKS

Student-Athlete, Concordia University, St. Paul / August 2023

MICHAEL DRISCOLL

President, Indiana University of Pennsylvania / January 2024

JOHN Y. GOTANDA

President, Hawaii Pacific University / January 2026

COLLEEN PERRY KEITH

President, Goldey-Beacom College / January 2026

DONNA PRICE-HENRY

President, The University of Virginia's College at Wise / January 2026

WILLIAM THIERFELDER

President, Belmont Abbey College / January 2024

BLAKE THOMPSON

President, Mississippi College / January 2027

DWAUN WARMACK

President, Claflin University / January 2028

SANDRA WOODLEY

President, University of Texas Permian Basin / January 2027

FRANK WU

President, Queens College (New York) / January 2028

OUTGOING MEMBER

GAYLE HUTCHINSON (VICE CHAIR)

President, California State University, Chico

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



Kirby
Garry

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022

- ▶ Granted active status to College of Staten Island and Frostburg State University, effective September 1, which sets the total membership now in Division II at 296 institutions. The committee also advanced seven other schools within the membership process:
 - ▶ Provisional Year Three: D'Youville University.
 - ▶ Provisional Year Two: Allen University, Edward Waters University and Emory & Henry College.
 - ▶ Provisional Year One: Thomas More University, University of South Carolina Beaufort and Westmont College.
- ▶ Began deliberating a new institutional engagement program to replace the Institutional Self-Study Guide (ISSG) (based on the potential for a proposal to eliminate the ISSG being adopted at the 2023 NCAA Convention).
- ▶ Began reviewing the current Division II provisional membership process.
- ▶ Began collaborating with the Division II Championships Committee to consider aligning minimum contest requirements for sport sponsorship and championships selection purposes to simplify the process and provide the membership additional flexibility without compromising the integrity of either requirement area.

KIRBY GARRY (CHAIR)

Director of Athletics, California State University, Monterey Bay / August 2023

KERI BECKER

Director of Athletics, Grand Valley State University / August 2024

MELANIE BRUNDSON

Associate Athletics Director and Senior Woman Administrator, Winona State University / August 2026

ANDREW CARTER

Director of Athletics, Missouri Western State University / August 2023

BASHAR HANNA

President, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania / August 2023

CURTIS JANZ

Director of Athletics, University of Arkansas - Fort Smith / August 2023

JESSICA MCINTYRE

Associate Athletics Director of Internal Affairs, Lee University / August 2026

WILL PREWITT

Commissioner, Great American Conference / August 2024

DEBBIE SNELL (VICE CHAIR)

Director of Athletics, Hawaii Pacific University / August 2024

JENNIFER VIRGIL

Associate Athletics Director for Compliance and Senior Woman Administrator, Bloomfield College / August 2026

CHRISTINA WHETSEL

Assistant Athletics Director for Compliance and Academics and Senior Woman Administrator, Augusta University / January 2026

OUTGOING MEMBERS

ROBERT DRANOFF

Commissioner, East Coast Conference

LARRY MARFISE

Director of Athletics, University of Tampa

LINDA VAN

DRIE-ANDRZEWSKI

Title IX Coordinator, Wilmington University (Delaware)

MANAGEMENT COUNCIL



Jim Johnson

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022

- ▶ Adopted all of the noncontroversial and policy changes emanating from the Division II Implementation Committee, including one that gives each of the two student-athlete representatives on the council their own vote rather than a combined vote as was the case previously.
- ▶ Issued guidance on how current NCAA legislation applies to the name, image and likeness environment, specifically to third parties involved in the recruiting process.
- ▶ Adopted legislation to modify the spring football practice model to limit full-contact practices, effective in spring 2023.

JERRY WOLLMERING (VICE CHAIR)

Director of Athletics, Truman State University / January 2024

CURTIS CAMPBELL
Director of Athletics, Morehouse College / January 2027

BRENDA CATES
Faculty Athletics Representative, University of Mount Olive / January 2024

MARCUS CLARKE
Senior Associate Commissioner, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association / January 2025

MARK CORINO
Director of Athletics, Caldwell University / January 2024

DAVID HANSBURG
Director of Athletics, Colorado School of Mines / January 2026

THERESA HANSON
Director of Athletics, Simon Fraser University / January 2027

AMY HENKELMAN
Director of Athletics, Dominican University of California / January 2025

KRISTI KIEFER
Associate Director of Athletics and Senior Woman Administrator, Fairmont State University / January 2024

ERIN LIND

Commissioner, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference / January 2026

DANIEL MCCABE
Director of Athletics, Adelphi University / January 2025

CARRIE MICHAELS
Senior Associate Director of Athletics and Senior Woman Administrator, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania / January 2024

SANDEE MOTT
Director of Athletics, Texas Woman's University / January 2026

ROBERTA PAGE
Director of Athletics, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania / January 2027

JOHN 'BO' PAGLIASOTTI
Faculty Athletics Representative, Southwestern Oklahoma State University / January 2026

CORBIN THAETE
Student-Athlete, California State University, San Marcos / January 2024

CHRISTINA WHETSEL
Assistant Athletics Director for Compliance and Academics and Senior Woman Administrator, Augusta University / January 2026

OUTGOING MEMBERS

TERESA CLARK
Faculty Athletics Representative, Cedarville University

ROBERT DRANOFF
Commissioner, East Coast Conference

LAURA L. CLAYTON EADY
Associate Director of Athletics for Compliance and Senior Woman Administrator, University of West Georgia

COURTNEY LOVELY EVANS
Director of Athletics, Palm Beach Atlantic University

MARTY GILBERT
Faculty Athletics Representative, Mars Hill University

JIM JOHNSON (CHAIR)
Director of Athletics, Pittsburg State University

DAVID B. KUHLMIEIER
Faculty Athletics Representative, Valdosta State University

GRACE MARTIN
Student-Athlete, West Virginia State University

JULIE ROCHESTER
Faculty Athletics Representative, Northern Michigan University

PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE



Gayle Hutchinson

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022

- ▶ Recommended a timeline and process for the development of the next Division II Strategic Plan that includes a Membership Census to be distributed in January 2024 to inform the new plan that will be launched at the 2026 Convention and last through the final scheduled year of the NCAA's broadcast agreement with CBS/Turner (2032).
- ▶ Developed a new long-range budget that provides enhancements to championships, distributions to the membership and other strategic initiatives.
- ▶ Revamped the conference strategic-priorities fund to simplify the reporting process and gain efficiencies.
- ▶ Handled four referrals from the IC related to D2 revenue distribution.

CARLOS CAMPO

President, Ashland University / January 2026

MARK CORINO
Director of Athletics, Caldwell University / January 2024

MICHAEL A. DRISCOLL
President, Indiana University of Pennsylvania / January 2024

COLLEEN PERRY KEITH
President, Goldey-Beacom College / January 2026

ERIN LIND
Commissioner, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference / January 2026

STEVEN SHIRLEY

President, Minot State University / January 2025

JERRY WOLLMERING
Director of Athletics, Truman State University / January 2024

OUTGOING MEMBERS

GAYLE HUTCHINSON (CHAIR)
President, California State University, Chico

JIM JOHNSON
Director of Athletics, Pittsburg State University

CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE



Reid
Amos

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022

- ▶ Per a referral from the Division II Implementation Committee, the Championships Committee began exploring a championships structure that sets a uniform minimum sponsorship requirement to establish/maintain a Division II championship in men's and women's sports (with a five-year grace period if a sport falls below the minimum), continues to offer the best access ratio among divisions, and grants automatic qualification privileges to a championship once minimum sponsorship is reached.
- ▶ Completed a draft that combines Bylaws 18 and 31 to create a significantly revised overarching championships bylaw that moves several existing bylaws to policy.
- ▶ Established a regionalization subcommittee to consider changes to the division's championship model concerning regionalization bracketing policies with the goal of reducing first-round conference matchups and maintaining fiscal responsibility.
- ▶ Approved a new seven-day format for the Division II Softball Championship that allows for additional necessary rest and recovery for participating student-athletes, including an off day for teams that lose the first day as well as a day off prior to the start of the championship series.
- ▶ Conducted a review of bench sizes in team sports and increased numbers as requested by sport committees to enhance the student-athlete experience at championships.
- ▶ Extended the neutrality pilot for all sports in 2022-23.
- ▶ Began the 2024-27 triennial budget process with sport committees.

REID AMOS (CHAIR)

Commissioner, Mountain East Conference / August 2023

KRISTY BAYER

Deputy Director of Athletics and Senior Woman Administrator, Rockhurst University / August 2024

MARCUS CLARKE

Senior Associate Commissioner, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association / January 2025

CHRIS COLVIN

Commissioner, Conference Carolinas / August 2025

NATHAN GIBSON

Director of Athletics, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs / August 2024

MATT KILCULLEN

Director of Athletics, Mercy College / August 2023

REGAN MCATHIE

Director of Athletics, Concordia University, St. Paul / August 2026

GARY PINE

Director of Athletics, Azusa Pacific University / August 2025

CAROL RIVERA

Associate Commissioner and Senior Woman Administrator, California Collegiate Athletic Association / August 2024

CADE SMITH

Director of Athletics, University of Alabama in Huntsville / August 2026

THOMAS WEBB JR.

Student-Athlete, Western New Mexico University / January 2024

OUTGOING MEMBERS

COURTNEY LOVELY EVANS

Director of Athletics, Palm Beach Atlantic University

SUZANNE SANREGRET

Assistant Vice President and Director of Athletics, Michigan Technological University

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS COMMITTEE



David
Haase

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022

- ▶ Per the referral from the Division II Implementation Committee, began reviewing the two-year college transfer requirements and progress-toward-degree requirements in current Bylaw 14.
- ▶ Reviewed the recommendation from the Standardized Test Task Force and supported the elimination of the ACT/SAT test score from DII initial-eligibility requirements.
- ▶ Recommended the Division II Management Council waive the current Division II Degree-Completion Award requirements due to COVID extensions so student-athletes may participate in their last season during the 2023-24 academic year and still receive the award.

DAVID HAASE (CHAIR)

Associate Director of Athletics, University of West Georgia / August 2023

TIMOTHY BRILES

Faculty Athletics Representative, Georgian Court University / August 2023

BENNETT CHERRY

Faculty Athletics Representative, California State University, San Marcos / August 2024

MOLLY HANSEN

Student-Athlete, University of Montevallo / January 2024

THERESA HANSON

Director of Athletics, Simon Fraser University / January 2027

KAREN HJERPE

Director of Athletics, California University of Pennsylvania / August 2024

DANIEL MCCABE

Director of Athletics, Adelphi University / January 2025

KELLI WOOLEY

Assistant Registrar, Cameron University / August 2023

MADISON PETERSON

Assistant Athletics Director and Senior Woman Administrator, Augustana University (South Dakota) / August 2026

RYAN QUANN

Registrar, Goldey-Beacom College / August 2026

OUTGOING MEMBERS

TIMOTHY LADD

Faculty Athletics Representative, Palm Beach Atlantic University

JESSICA SWINEY

Director of Registration and Records and Registrar, King University

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE



**Carlin
Chesick**

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022

- ▶ As part of the continued monitoring of the name, image and likeness landscape, the Legislation Committee recommended providing guidance similar to that offered for Division I members that help institutions address the ever-evolving issues that arise related to NIL.
- ▶ Began deliberating the following referrals from the Division II Implementation Committee:
 - ▶ Review current Bylaw 13 (Recruiting).
 - ▶ Review Bylaws 15 (Financial Aid) and 16 (Awards, Benefits and Expenses for Enrolled Student-Athletes).

CARLIN CHESICK (CHAIR)

Senior Associate Commissioner and Senior Woman Administrator, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference / August 2023

BRENDA CATES

Faculty Athletics Representative, University of Mount Olive / January 2024

AUDRA KEDY

Senior Associate Commissioner for Compliance, Great American Conference / August 2025

KARA LINDAMAN

Faculty Athletics Representative, Winona State University / August 2024

ALEXANDER PAPPAS

Assistant Director of Athletics for Compliance, Metropolitan State University of Denver / August 2025

PENNIE PARKER

Director of Athletics, Rollins College / August 2023

CHRIS RATCLIFF

Director of Athletics, Rogers State University / August 2026

KEVIN SCHRIVER

Faculty Athletics Representative, Southwest Baptist University / August 2026

JASON STOCK

Associate Director of Athletics for Compliance, California State University, San Marcos / August 2023

MELINDA TERRY

Senior Associate Director of Athletics and Senior Woman Administrator, St. Edward's University / August 2025

OUTGOING MEMBERS

DIANA KLING

Deputy Commissioner, Peach Belt Conference

STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE



**Wiley
Cain**



COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022

- ▶ Continued working on goals for the 2022-23 academic year that emphasize three areas – diversity and inclusion, mental health and life after the game – to build the total package student-athlete.
- ▶ Celebrated another successful year of partnering with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, as Division II schools raised more than \$185,000 in the 2021-22 academic year. Since 2003, Division II schools have donated more than \$6.75 million to Make-A-Wish and granted more than 780 wishes.
- ▶ Oversaw the implementation of SAAC-developed civic engagement legislation specifying that countable athletically related activities be prohibited on the first Tuesday after Nov. 1 every year.
- ▶ Hosted the division's fourth SAAC Super Region Convention for institutions in the South Central and West regions in April in Garden Grove, Calif. Nearly 135 student-athletes and administrators collaborated to develop action plans to better support mental health and the student-athlete voice. Additional topics of focus included social justice and transitioning out of sports.

LAURA AMAYA

Volleyball, Roberts Wesleyan University / January 2025

KARA AMOS

Softball, Missouri Southern State University / January 2025

MICHAELA BOYD

Soccer, Palm Beach Atlantic University / January 2024

DAVARIS CHEEKS

Football, Concordia University, St. Paul / January 2025

NICHOLAS DILL

Football, Northwestern Oklahoma State University / January 2024

CULLEN DORE

Cross Country and Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field, Francis Marion University / January 2025

MOLLY HANSEN

Swimming and Diving, University of Montevallo / January 2024

SHANI IDLETTE

Tennis, Clark Atlanta University / January 2025

EMMA KRAMER

Basketball, Simon Fraser University / January 2024

MARGARET ANN LANGHEIM

Softball, Mars Hill University / April 2023

DANI MABRY

Lacrosse, Rockhurst University / January 2025

DAVID MAYSER

Soccer, University of Hawaii at Hilo / January 2025

COURTNEY MEDWIN

Lacrosse, West Chester University of Pennsylvania / January 2025

AUSTIN MONDELLO

Swimming and Diving, Colorado Mesa University / January 2025

SKYLAR ROSS

Tennis, Dominican University New York

CORBIN THAETE

Soccer, California State University, San Marcos / January 2024

THOMAS WEBB JR.

Football, Western New Mexico University / January 2024

KATIE WILLIAMSON

Basketball, Southern Connecticut State University / January 2025

OUTGOING MEMBERS

ZACH BROWN

Basketball, University of North Georgia

WILEY CAIN (CHAIR)

Football, Kentucky Wesleyan College

ISMAEL CONTRERAS (VICE CHAIR)

Soccer, Purdue University Northwest

MARTY GILBERT (MANAGEMENT COUNCIL LIAISON)

Faculty Athletics Representative, Mars Hill University

BIANCA LOCKAMY

Basketball, Virginia Union University

GRACE MARTIN

Volleyball, West Virginia State University

LESHLIE RAMIREZ

Volleyball, University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez

KIANA WIGGINS

Outdoor Track and Field, Caldwell University



DIVISION II NEWS

Civic engagement takes effect

On Nov. 8, Election Day in the United States, all Division II schools for the first time were required to take a day off from athletics activities such as games and practices as a result of legislation Division II schools adopted at the 2022 NCAA Convention specifying that countable athletically related activities be prohibited on the first Tuesday after Nov. 1 every year.

The goal of the legislation was to increase opportunities for student-athletes to participate in civic engagement activities such as voting and community service. That was evidenced this year as Division II schools promoted various activities that put their student-athletes once again at the forefront of positive change.

The legislation came directly from the voice of student-athletes, specifically the Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, which initially recommended it.

"This legislation allows student-athletes to perform their civic duties, such as voting, volunteering and community engagement," Kate Pigsley, a former field hockey player at Southern New Hampshire University and member of the Division II SAAC, said during last year's Division II business session. "It's important to emphasize that this full day devoted for civic engagement goes beyond just having time to vote. In addition, student-athletes will be able to amplify their voice at congressional, local and state elections, and have time to give back to the community through engagement activities."

For several Division II schools, including Pigsley's, this year's recognition of Election Day was a continuation of the past two years. Three Division II conferences – the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference, the Northeast-10 Conference and the California Collegiate Athletic Association – had similar legislation in place before the 2020 election.



Experiences from members of those conferences were positive and indicated a desire to build it into something bigger than a one-day pause in athletics activity.

"I hope the attention that this day provides us is an opportunity to actually kick-start a conversation that probably needs to be happening throughout the whole year," said Julie Ruppert, NE10 commissioner.

NCAA names Charlie Baker as new president



Charlie Baker

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker was appointed in December to serve as the next NCAA president, assuming the role effective March 2023.

Governor Baker succeeds Mark Emmert, who will remain in a consultant role through June 2023. Emmert took office November 1, 2010, succeeding interim president Jim Isch, who served for one year following the passing of Myles Brand, who had been NCAA president since 2002. Emmert was president of the University of Washington from 2004 to 2010 and chancellor at Louisiana State University from 1999 to 2004.

A former basketball student-athlete at Harvard University, Governor Baker is credited with bringing bipartisan leadership to the state, successfully guiding Massachusetts through an exceptionally turbulent period for government officials. In addition to his two terms as governor, he brings decades of experience spearheading transformations at high profile institutions in the private and public sectors.

Governor Baker upon his appointment acknowledged that the NCAA is confronting complex and significant challenges,

but that the opportunities college athletics provide to so many students is “more than worth the challenge.”

“The NCAA is an organization that impacts millions of families and countless communities across this country every day,” Governor Baker said. “I am eager to ensure the competitions we all love to follow are there for generations to come. Over the coming months, I will begin working with student-athletes and NCAA members as we modernize college sports to suit today’s world, while preserving its essential value.”

Baylor University President Linda Livingstone, the chair of the NCAA Board of Governors who helmed the presidential search committee, praised Governor Baker for his ability to bridge divides and build bipartisan consensus, taking on complex challenges in innovative and effective ways.

“As a former student-athlete himself, husband to a former college gymnast, and father to two former college football players, Governor Baker is deeply committed to our student-athletes and enhancing their collegiate experience,” President Livingstone said. “These skills and perspective will be invaluable as we work with policymakers to build a sustainable model for the future of college athletics.”

Division II grad rates receive high marks again

The national four-year Academic Success Rate average remained at 76%, according to the most recent data. Overall Division II student-athlete graduation rates and many subgroup rates are at or near their highest-ever levels.

Notable single-class student-athlete increases in ASR over the 16 years of calculating this rate in Division II include overall (from 69% to 77%), Black women (from 61% to 79%), Hispanic/Latinx men (48% to 67%) and Hispanic/Latinx women (63% to 78%).

In addition, there has been a notable increase in ASR for two-year transfer student-athletes over the past 10 years (from 57% to 74%).

The NCAA developed the Division II ASR at the request of college and university presidents who believed the federal graduation rate was flawed. Division II’s ASR data includes student-athletes who transfer into a school and removes student-athletes who left the school in good academic standing. In addition, given the partial-scholarship financial aid model of Division II, the ASR data includes student-athletes not on athletically related financial aid. The result is that ASR captures more than 30,000 nonscholarship student-athletes who were enrolled in the four years covered in the most recent data.

Even when using the less-inclusive federal rate, Division II student-athletes outperform the general student body by 8 percentage points. The federal rates for Division II student-athletes and the student body both held steady, with the student-athlete rate at 60% and the general student body at 52%.

2019-22 FOUR-CLASS DIVISION II GRADUATION RATES

(2012-15 Entering Cohorts)

	Student-Athletes		Student Body
	ASR	Federal Rate	Federal Rate
DII Overall	76%	60%	52%
DII Men	69% ⁺¹	53%	47%
DII Women	88%	69%	56% ⁺¹

Notes: Numbers in blue indicate percentage point change in four-class rate from 2018-21

ASR: Academic Success Rate



SHUTTERSTOCK

New NCAA Board of Governors begins its work



Madeleine McKenna

The reconstituted NCAA Board of Governors met August 2 for the first time, choosing Baylor University President Linda Livingstone as chair. Madeleine McKenna, a former volleyball student-athlete

at California University of Pennsylvania and Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee member, was elected as the student-athlete voting member.

The new board, created as a result of the new NCAA Constitution adopted in January 2022, includes nine voting members and seven nonvoting ex officio members. All three divisions are represented, including among the three graduated student-athletes represented on the board. In addition to McKenna, Division II is represented by Jim Johnson, director of athletics at Pittsburg State University and chair of the Division II Management Council through the 2023 Convention, and Minot State University President Steve Shirley, chair of the Division II Presidents Council.

NCAA celebrating the 50th anniversary of Title IX

The NCAA began its “Title IX at 50” celebration during the 2022 NCAA Convention in Indianapolis. The celebration commemorates the anniversary of the landmark federal law signed in 1972 that prohibits gender discrimination in educational programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance.

The Association will host programs, tributes and other activities through spring 2023, alongside member schools who also are recognizing the anniversary. The efforts will culminate at the 2023 Women’s Final Four in Dallas, where Divisions I, II and III will hold their women’s basketball championships.

In addition to the creation of a special Title IX at 50 logo, a dedicated website is available at ncaa.org/titleix50, which includes a membership tool kit that provides ideas and suggestions on how schools and conferences can celebrate on their campuses and in their communities. Various materials and stories also will be archived on the site, along with the Title IX at 50



report that will detail progress made over the years and where additional work needs to be done. The report will be complete by early spring.

Title IX is part of the Education Amendments of 1972 and was signed into law June 23. It states: “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

Communications efforts will include social media features, resource materials, dedicated stories and Title IX membership spotlights. Members also will be asked to share their celebration initiatives for the Title IX at 50 website as part of the anniversary promotion.

Dena Freeman-Patton honored as a Champion of Diversity and Inclusion

Dena Freeman-Patton, formerly the associate vice president and director of athletics at California State University, Dominguez Hills, was one of the individuals in 2021 to be recognized by the NCAA office of inclusion and the NCAA Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee (MOIC) as a Champion of Diversity and Inclusion for her work in supporting ethnic minorities and other underrepresented groups and individuals.

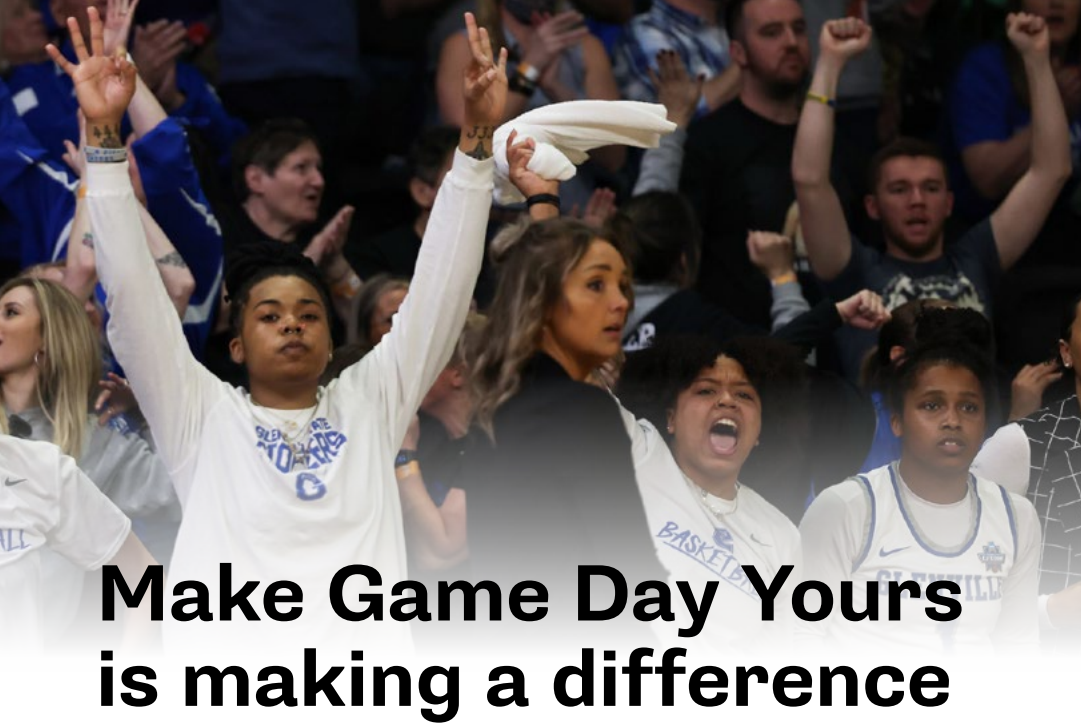
Freeman-Patton was honored while serving as the AD at Cal State Dominguez Hills but she was hired

as vice president and director for intercollegiate athletics at Division I Morgan State University on June 1.

Freeman-Patton served on the MOIC for four years, including one year as vice chair and one as chair of the committee. She was instrumental in creating legislation for the addition of an athletics diversity and inclusion designee to support the Presidential Pledge and Commitment to Promoting Diversity and Gender Equity in Intercollegiate Athletics. Freeman-Patton has also been a member of the board of directors for

the Minority Opportunities Athletic Association. As associate vice president and director of athletics at Cal State Dominguez Hills, she continued to advocate for these causes behind the scenes and supports the hiring of more ethnic minority senior administrators and head coaches.





Make Game Day Yours is making a difference

Division II officially launched the Make Game Day Yours initiative at the 2022 NCAA Convention to encourage a more positive game environment and provide excellent customer service at the division's athletics events across the country. The initiative was created through a partnership with the Disney Institute, Disney's professional development and leadership training wing.

Since February 2021, the Disney Institute and a working group of 21 Division II administrators, faculty and student-athletes have worked together to create a baseline of guest service training and game environment standards for administrators and game managers to promote appropriate fan behavior at Division II events. Division III formed a similar partnership with the Disney Institute in 2016 and successfully launched its Gameday the DIII Way initiative.

Three regional training sessions took place in 2022, and another five will be held in 2023 to allow all Division II conferences and schools an opportunity to learn more about this initiative. Those who receive facilitator training from these regional workshops will be equipped with the tools to train their peers in a program developed by the working group and Disney Institute.

The Division II initiative focuses on four service standards, prioritized in the following order:

- ▶ **Safety:** Providing an environment for the health and well-being of our student-athletes and all others.
- ▶ **Responsiveness:** Anticipating and effectively addressing situations that arise.
- ▶ **Dignity:** Demonstrating respect and value for others.
- ▶ **Experience:** Creating a positive atmosphere.

At the recommendation of the Identity Subcommittee of the Division II Management Council, the initiative also features a tool to assist administrators in situations that involve conflict resolution with fans. The tool centers on the acronym LEAD2:

- ▶ **L**isten
- ▶ **E**mpathize
- ▶ **A**pologize
- ▶ **D**ecide
- ▶ **D**eliver

Division II University modules also will be designed for each school and conference office to evaluate, learn and improve game environment and customer service standards, with a focus on encouraging and supporting appropriate fan behavior. The modules will launch in early 2023.



"This training and initiative not only provided us with knowledge to take our game day operations to the next level but also provided us with the tools for implementing the initiative and training our staff to make it our own."

NICOLE TIBBE, Director of Athletics
Facilities and Operations, Davenport
University

"I appreciated how much time was spent on training us to train others on our campus, and I am excited about implementing it for our game day experiences at William Jewell. This is a great initiative, and I would highly recommend it."

TOM EISENHAUER, Director of Athletics,
William Jewell College

"The skills we learned require only positive, planned action that will improve so much more about our operations than just game day. The skills we are now equipped to teach our staff and volunteers lend themselves well to Division II's commitment to education and service."

GWENDOLYN BUCHHOP, Assistant
Athletics Director for Media and Community
Relations, Hillsdale College

WE ARE DIVISION II
MAKE IT
YOUR





HONORS AND AWARDS

Finalists named for NCAA Woman of the Year

Established in 1991 and now in its 32nd year, which happens to coincide with the 50th anniversary of Title IX, the NCAA Woman of the Year award recognizes female student-athletes who have exhausted their eligibility and distinguished themselves in their community, in athletics and in academics throughout their college careers.

Typically, the overall winner is revealed in this publication, but this year for the first time in the award's history, the Top 30 honorees will be celebrated and the Woman of the Year will be named at the NCAA Convention.

A total of 127 nominees this year came from Division II colleges and universities, part of the 577 nominations from all NCAA schools. From that pool, conferences selected their own recipients (39 in all from Division II; conferences are permitted to recognize two female student-athletes if at least one of them is an international student-athlete or student-athlete of color).

The Woman of the Year Selection Committee selected 10 student-athletes from each division to determine the Top 30 honorees, from which nine finalists were named (three from each division).

DIVISION II FINALISTS

ZOE BAKER

SCHOOL: Colorado School of Mines

CONFERENCE: Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference

SPORTS: Cross country, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field

MAJORS: Computer science; applied mathematics and statistics

HOMETOWN: Longmont, Colorado

Zoe Baker is a nine-time U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association All-American, including seven first-team honors. She finished third in the 5,000 meters at the 2021 NCAA Division II Women's Indoor Track and Field Championships and contributed to a third-place team finish at the 2019 cross country championships. A three-time RMAC individual champion, Baker won the cross country title in 2020, the 3,000 meters (indoor) in 2020 and the 10,000 meters (outdoor) in 2021. She holds four school records. She was named College Sports Communicators Academic All-America Team Member of the Year for Division II women's track and field/cross country in 2022, also earning first-team honors in 2021 and second-team honors in 2020. Baker was a two-time NCAA Elite 90 Award recipient, presented to the student-athlete with the highest grade-point average competing at an NCAA championship finals site. A research ambassador and mentor for the MInDS@ Mines undergraduate research team, she contributed to projects on degenerative diseases and COVID-19 mortality. She received the 2022 William D. Waltman Award, the school's highest honor for a graduate. Baker also volunteered as a math and science tutor for local high school students and as a presenter with the National Center for Women & Information Technology. She is completing her Master of Computer Science at Colorado School of Mines, with research focused on game theoretic updates of networks.



KAYLA TENNANT

SCHOOL: Queens University of Charlotte

CONFERENCE: Bluegrass Mountain Conference

SPORT: Swimming and diving

MAJORS: Biology; psychology

HOMETOWN: Lexington, North Carolina

Kayla Tennant was a three-time individual national champion, winning the 400-yard freestyle relay in 2022 and the 200 and 400 medley relays in 2021. She led her team to three national championships and earned 11 College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America All-America honors, including seven first-team recognitions. The 18-time All-Bluegrass Mountain Conference honoree won six individual conference titles, helping her team claim four conference championships. Tennant holds the school record for the 100 butterfly. A summa cum laude graduate, she received two first-team College Sports Communicators Academic All-American At-Large recognitions. Tennant was a finalist for the 2022 NCAA Walter Byers Graduate Scholarship and a recipient of a 2022 NCAA Elite 90 Award, presented to the student-athlete with the highest grade-point average competing at an NCAA championship finals site. The 2022 Queens Outstanding Student in Biology and Outstanding Student in Psychology has published research on student-athletes' social supports during the pandemic and the genome annotation of novel bacteriophages. Tennant was a team captain and served as secretary of Unified Royals, promoting inclusion for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As a volunteer, she assisted with care for children with developmental disabilities and behavioral disorders, patients in pediatric cardiac intensive care and adults in a medically underserved area needing specialty cardiac care. She is currently attending medical school at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.



HANNA THRAINSDOTTIR

SCHOOL: Georgian Court University

CONFERENCE: Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference

SPORTS: Basketball, outdoor track and field

MAJORS: Digital communication; psychology

HOMETOWN: Hafnarfjörður, Iceland

Two-time CACC champion Hanna Thrainsdottir was a member of the 2021 CACC regular-season champion basketball team, leading her team to the second round of the NCAA Division II Women's Basketball East Regional. She also was a member of the 2022 CACC outdoor champion track and field team, placing third in the high jump. Thrainsdottir was chosen by the Icelandic Fulbright Commission for a 2022 Fulbright Fellowship. The two-time Georgian Court Scholar-Athlete of the Year received the 2022 Academic Excellence Award and the 2022 School of Business and Digital Media Advisory Council Emerging Leader Award. A 2021 Division II Athletics Directors Association Academic Achievement Award recipient, she earned the CACC's Top XVI Award for the student-athlete with the highest grade-point average at a championship. She received Georgian Court's 2021 Award for Excellence in Academics, Research and Community Service in Psychology and has presented at academic conferences on media studies and psychology. On campus, Thrainsdottir served as president of LGBTQ@GCU and was a member of the programming committee for the Council for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. A journalist with the student-run newspaper, she was a member of the School of Business and Digital Media Student Advisory Council and mentored new international students through the Office of Global Education. Thrainsdottir is completing her master's in media, culture and communication at New York University.



Division II Conference Honorees



CALIFORNIA COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Alexis Cardoza, California State University, San Bernardino, Volleyball

Ayana Fields, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field



CENTRAL ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE

Shayla Morales, Felician University, Cross Country

***Hanna Thrainsdottir**, Georgian Court University, Basketball and Outdoor Track and Field



CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Bethany Henry, Virginia State University, Volleyball



CONFERENCE CAROLINAS

Destiny Johnson, Lees-McRae College, Basketball

Jami Tham, Barton College, Basketball



EAST COAST CONFERENCE

***Katie Titus**, Daemen University, Basketball



GREAT AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Serena Gill, Southern Arkansas University, Tennis

Autumn "Tymber" Riley, Arkansas Tech University, Softball and Volleyball



GREAT LAKES INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Elizabeth Caird, Saginaw Valley State University, Swimming and Diving

Laura De Marchi, Michigan Technological University, Volleyball



GREAT LAKES VALLEY CONFERENCE

Jamie Poppen, Lewis University, Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field and Volleyball



GREAT MIDWEST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

***Rachel Bredeson**, Cedarville College, Cross Country and Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field



GREAT NORTHWEST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Sophia Chilczuk, Seattle Pacific University, Soccer

Tennae Voliva, University of Alaska Anchorage, Basketball



GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE

Celine Ritter, Lee University, Cross Country and Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field

Evelina Teran, University of Montevallo, Volleyball



LONE STAR CONFERENCE

Faith DeLaGarza, Dallas Baptist University, Golf

Sarah Preston, St. Edward's University, Soccer



MID-AMERICA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION

Andrea Marie Morales, Rogers State University, Softball

Faith Rottinghaus, Washburn University, Volleyball



MOUNTAIN EAST CONFERENCE

Malaika Kimmons, West Virginia Wesleyan College, Basketball

Audrey Tingle, West Liberty University, Basketball



NORTHEAST-10 CONFERENCE

***Jackie Brown**, Adelphi University, Field Hockey



NORTHERN SUN INTERCOLLEGIATE CONFERENCE

Jena Berkland, Concordia University, St. Paul, Soccer

D'Andra Morris, University of Mary, Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field



PACIFIC WEST CONFERENCE

Lauryn Henderson, Academy of Art University, Softball

Jodi Lillie, University of Hawaii at Hilo, Soccer



PEACH BELT CONFERENCE

Morgan Curley, Young Harris College, Softball



PENNSYLVANIA STATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

***Jazmin Petrantonio**, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, Field Hockey

Kayleigh Pokrivka, East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania, Lacrosse



ROCKY MOUNTAIN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

***Zoe Baker**, Colorado School of Mines, Cross Country and Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field

***Yasmine Hernandez**, Colorado State University Pueblo, Cross Country and Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field



SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

Raya Coley, Coker University, Basketball

Savannah S Moorefield, Lenoir-Rhyne University, Softball



SUNSHINE STATE CONFERENCE

***Savannah Brennan**, Florida Institute of Technology, Swimming and Diving

Grace Sill, Florida Southern College, Swimming and Diving

In addition to these conference selections, two who competed in a sport not sponsored by their school's primary conference or competed for an independent school were advanced to the conference-level pool of nominations:

***Jessica Meakim**, West Chester University of Pennsylvania, Division II, Gymnastics.

***Kayla Tennant**, Queens University of Charlotte, Division II, Swimming and Diving.

*Denotes top 30 finalist

Minnesota Duluth earns 2022 Award of Excellence

At Minnesota Duluth, it's common to see green bandanas on backpacks across campus. At a school whose colors are maroon and gold, the bandanas are meant to stand out.

As part of the Green Bandana Project that Minnesota Duluth's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee launched in 2019, the bandanas signify that those who display them are mental health advocates. The project has continued to grow through partnerships Minnesota Duluth's SAAC has made with campus counseling services, community mental health professionals and other student groups with similar missions. These partnerships culminated with the launch of Mental Health Awareness Games in 2020-21 that included teams wearing mental health T-shirts and videos with awareness-driven messaging being shared at the games, on social media and through broadcast streams.

These games continued for every spring sport in 2021 and led Minnesota Duluth to plan an awareness game for every Bulldog team for the 2021-22 academic year. That helped earn Minnesota Duluth the 2022 Division II Award of Excellence, announced during the division's business session at the NCAA Convention in Indianapolis.



This is the ninth year Division II has issued the Award of Excellence to recognize schools for their community and campus engagement initiatives. Schools are selected by the Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee based on events over the past year that exemplify the Division II philosophy, community engagement and student-athlete leadership.

"I am extremely proud of our student-athletes for the positive impact they have made on our campus and beyond through their mental health awareness advocacy efforts. This award reflects their tremendous work," said Lynn Black, chancellor at Minnesota Duluth. "Their passion, collaboration and persistence to make a difference is truly inspiring. It's vital on a campus and in society that those who are struggling with

mental health feel supported, and our student-athletes have helped our Bulldog community make immense strides in this space."

As the winner of the award, the school received \$2,500 to use toward future community engagement efforts.

Wingate University and the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association shared runner-up honors for the Award of Excellence out of 28 finalists named. Both Wingate and the CIAA will receive \$1,250 for their efforts.

In 2021, Wingate hosted its 28th annual United Way Day of Caring. This event connected 311 volunteers, including 273 student-athletes and coaches, with the local community through assisting with household maintenance for people in need.

The CIAA, in response to the cancellation of its men's and women's basketball championships, held Virtual Vibe: Tournament Edition. The event connected student-athletes, fans and the Baltimore community through education sessions, concerts, community engagement opportunities and a career expo. This weeklong event included ample resources and support for individuals who normally attend the tournament.

Strategic Alliance Matching Grants

Entering its 23rd cycle, the Division II Strategic Alliance Matching Grant is a program through which the NCAA funds recipients at 75 percent of the proposed salary and benefits for the first year, 50 percent for the second year and 25 percent for the third year to help create full-time senior-level administrative positions or enhance current positions. The NCAA also provides recipients with \$12,500 of professional development and technology funding during the first three years. The following institutions and conferences were selected to receive the grants for 2022-23:

Barton College, Assistant Athletics Director of Student-Athlete Growth and Internal Operations

Catawba College, Deputy Director of Athletics

Palm Beach Atlantic University, Assistant Director of Compliance and Student-Athlete Services

Purdue University Northwest, Assistant Director for Student Success

University of Indianapolis, Assistant Director of Athletics Director for NCAA Compliance

Ethnic Minorities and Women's Internship Grants

These are one-year grants that provide funding for full-time, entry-level administrative positions. The NCAA provides \$30,000 to support the salary of the hired intern and \$3,000 in professional development funding. The following institutions and conferences were selected to receive the grants for 2022-23:

Converse University, Athletics Administration Intern

Ferris State University, Academic Support Counselor for Intercollegiate Athletics

Saginaw Valley State University, Athletics Development Coordinator

The University of Texas at Tyler, Athletics Administration Intern

Wayne State College (Nebraska), Assistant Compliance Coordinator

Minot State professor to be honored



Dean Frantsvog

The NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee selected Dean Frantsvog from Minot State University as the recipient of the 2022 Dr. Dave Pariser Faculty Mentor Award.

The Dr. Dave Pariser Faculty Mentor Award is named after a Bellarmine University physical therapy professor who died in 2013 and recognizes faculty members at Division II institutions for their dedication to supporting and mentoring student-athletes, as well as their commitment to Division II student-athletes' lifelong learning, competition and well-being.

Frantsvog, who died in August after a battle with cancer, will be honored posthumously at the 2023 NCAA Convention in San Antonio. The 1997 Minot State graduate was a business law professor in Minot State's College of Business over the past 18 years and was inducted into the Minot State Athletics Hall of Fame in October.

Frantsvog served as Minot State's first FAR, beginning in 2010 until 2022. During his years of service, he was honored as the Minot State University Professor of the Year in 2018, the MSU Board of Regents Faculty Achievement Award in 2012, the MSU Golden Award

for Young Alumni in 2011, and the MSU Vision 2013 Merit Award.

"Dean Frantsvog's dedication to student-athletes and values of Division II left an evident impact on the Minot State community," said Division II SAAC member and Mars Hill University softball player Maggie Langheim. "The contributions that he made not only represented Division II values but allowed for student-athletes to grow holistically both in and outside of their sport."

Among his many contributions in his support of student-athletes was leading the development of a state-of-the-art study space within the Minot State athletics facility reserved for student-athletes.

"Dean created a safe space for our student-athletes to study, have access to state-of-the-art technology and peer tutoring services, but most importantly, the Dean Frantsvog Academic Success Center provides a space for our student-athletes to be successful students and excel in the classroom," said Minot State Senior Woman Administrator Madeline Schorlemmer, who submitted the nomination materials. "His passion for student-athletes' success both in the classroom and their sport was evident throughout his entire career at Minot State."

Coaching Enhancement Grants

These grants help member schools create full-time assistant coaching positions in any of the 24 NCAA-sponsored sports. The NCAA provides \$25,000 in funding in the first year, \$15,000 in the second year and \$8,000 in the third year. The school is required to supplement the funding, as well as commit to funding the position in full for the fourth and fifth years. Additionally, the NCAA provides \$1,200 during each of the first three years of the grant toward professional development opportunities for the hired coach. The following institutions and conferences were selected to receive the grants for 2022-23:

Kutztown University of Pennsylvania, Assistant Field Hockey Coach

Minnesota State University Mankato, Assistant Softball Coach / Academic Advisor

Northwest Nazarene University, Assistant Volleyball Coach

Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, Head Strength and Conditioning Coach / Sport Nutritionist

Trevecca Nazarene University, Assistant Coach for Men's and Women's Track and Field

Postgraduate Scholarship Recipients

The NCAA awards \$7,500 postgraduate scholarships annually to student-athletes who excel academically and athletically and who are at least in their final year of intercollegiate athletics competition. Each sports season, there are 29 scholarships available for men and 29 scholarships available for women for use in an accredited graduate program. The following includes Division II awardees for winter and spring sports in 2022, and for fall sports in 2021, since awardees for fall sports in 2022 had yet to be announced by press time.

MEN'S FALL SPORTS 2021

Carter Duxbury, Winona State University, Football

Evan Garrad, University of Missouri-St. Louis, Soccer

WOMEN'S FALL SPORTS 2021

Jena Berkland, Concordia University, St. Paul, Soccer

Jessika Linnemeyer, Rollins College, Volleyball

McKenzie Nowan, Auburn University at Montgomery

MEN'S WINTER SPORTS 2022

Kyle Lovas, Wayne State University (Michigan), Swimming and Diving

Devan Sheth, Assumption University, Ice Hockey

WOMEN'S WINTER SPORTS 2022

Cassidy Boensch, Grand Valley State University, Basketball

Emily Curran, Rollins College, Swimming and Diving

Kaylee Jensen, Minnesota State University Mankato, Indoor Track and Field

Jessica Jones, Simon Fraser University, Basketball

MEN'S SPRING SPORTS 2022

Oluwatobi Azeez, University of Mount Olive, Men's Volleyball

Ulf Grosseloh, Spring Hill College, Tennis

Daniel Torres, Saint Leo University, Baseball

44 Division II schools honored for academic excellence

A record 44 Division II member schools received the Presidents' Award for Academic Excellence in 2022. The award honors Division II schools that have achieved an Academic Success Rate of 90% or higher.

Bentley University, Biola University and Saint Michael's College were the top performers in the division, earning an ASR of 99%. Hillsdale College (98%), Thomas Jefferson University (97%) and Trevecca Nazarene University (97%) rounded out the top six.

The Northeast-10 Conference led the division with seven athletics programs achieving scores of 90% or more, followed by the Central Atlantic Collegiate and Great Lakes Valley Conferences with five.

"The Presidents' Award for Academic Excellence recognizes Division II member schools for their commitment to a balanced college experience that supports the academic success of college athletes," said Steven Shirley, president of Minot State University and chair of the Division II Presidents Council. "It is an honor to recognize this many Division II schools and their student-athletes for their hard work and dedication to achieving such academic excellence."

The Division II ASR includes transfers into a school in the calculation and removes transfers out who left school while academically eligible. The ASR also includes the more than 30,000 nonscholarship student-athletes who were enrolled in the four years covered in the most recent data.

Even when using the less-inclusive federal graduation rate, student-athletes are outperforming their peers in the general student population by 8%. For Division II student-athletes, the federal rate is 60%, while the general student body federal rate is 52%.

This is the 12th year the award has been given. Eight schools have earned the award every year: Assumption University, Bentley University, Eckerd College, Hillsdale University, Rockhurst University, Rollins College, Saint Michael's College, and Seattle Pacific University.

PRESIDENTS' AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS

INSTITUTION	4-YR ASR	CONFERENCE
Bentley University	99%	Northeast-10 Conference
Biola University	99%	Pacific West Conference
Saint Michael's College	99%	Northeast-10 Conference
Hillsdale College	98%	Great Midwest Athletic Conference
Thomas Jefferson University	97%	Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference
Trevecca Nazarene University	97%	Great Midwest Athletic Conference
Le Moyne College	95%	Northeast-10 Conference
Rollins College	95%	Sunshine State Conference
Caldwell University	94%	Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference
Cedarville University	94%	Great Midwest Athletic Conference
Dominican University of California	94%	Pacific West Conference
Georgia College	94%	Peach Belt Conference
Maryville University of Saint Louis	94%	Great Lakes Valley Conference
Michigan Technological University	94%	Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
Rockhurst University	94%	Great Lakes Valley Conference
Davenport University	93%	Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
Florida Southern College	93%	Sunshine State Conference
Mercy College	93%	East Coast Conference
Adelphi University	92%	Northeast-10 Conference
Eckerd College	92%	Sunshine State Conference
Holy Family University	92%	Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference
Lewis University	92%	Great Lakes Valley Conference
Saint Anselm College	92%	Northeast-10 Conference
Seattle Pacific University	92%	Great Northwest Athletic Conference
Assumption University	91%	Northeast-10 Conference
Augustana University (SD)	91%	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Barry University	91%	Sunshine State Conference
Chestnut Hill College	91%	Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference
Concordia University, St. Paul	91%	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Converse University	91%	Conference Carolinas
D'Youville University	91%	East Coast Conference
Emory & Henry College	91%	South Atlantic Conference
Flagler College	91%	Peach Belt Conference
Point Loma Nazarene University	91%	Pacific West Conference
Southern New Hampshire University	91%	Northeast-10 Conference
Southern Wesleyan University	91%	Conference Carolinas
St. Thomas Aquinas College	91%	East Coast Conference
Truman State University	91%	Great Lakes Valley Conference
Western Washington University	91%	Great Northwest Athletic Conference
William Jewell College	91%	Great Lakes Valley Conference
Colorado Christian University	90%	Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference
Georgian Court University	90%	Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference
Mercyhurst University	90%	Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference
St. Edward's University	90%	Lone Star Conference

Division II Degree Completion Award recipients

The NCAA Division II Degree Completion Award Committee selected the following recipients for the 2022-23 academic year.

Lauren Aichinger, Pennsylvania Western University, Clarion

Linn Andersson, University of Mount Olive

Dane Ang, Colorado Mesa University

Jacie Arrington, University of West Georgia

Mackenzie Balderas, Texas Woman's University

Alec Becker, Barry University

Evan Birsinger, Missouri University of Science and Technology

Lynden Dawson, Eckerd College

Jordan Doss, Western New Mexico University

Mackenzie Gaherty, Minnesota State University Mankato

Makenzie Goins, Arkansas Tech University

Kylie Hammer, Wayne State College (Nebraska)

Will Hardigree, University of North Georgia

Emilee Harris, University of West Georgia

Zachary Harstad, Regis University (Colorado)

Nicole Herbranson, Minnesota State University Moorhead

Ruth Hernandez, Sonoma State University

Jacklyn Hersh, Northwest Missouri State University

Chloe Holt, Northern Michigan University

Maria Impalea, University of Mount Olive

Andres Jaramillo, Barry University

Camille Johnson, Sonoma State University

Julia Johnson, Pittsburg State University

Aaron Jones, Missouri University of Science and Technology

Cassidy Joyce, Minnesota State University Mankato

Anna Kelley, Northern Michigan University

Meda Kulbacauskaite, Grand Valley State University

Skylar Linnane, Sonoma State University

Caitlyn Lowery, Florida Southern College

Luz Lugo-Ponce, University of Central Oklahoma

Ryan McCully, Northeastern State University

Reilani Peleti, California State University, Chico

Katelyn Penner, Biola University

Madelyn Pietz, Winona State University

Thomas Pudney, Anderson University (South Carolina)

Skylar Redish, Eckerd College

Wulfe Retzlaff, Missouri University of Science and Technology

Joel Richmond, Holy Family University

Maggie Roe, Western New Mexico University

Tijanne Ross, University of Wisconsin, Parkside

Rebecca Rossi, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania

David Rutto, Hawaii Pacific University

Benjamin Schmied, Minnesota State University Mankato

Brooklyn Schyvinck, Winona State University

Flynn Semmerling, Northeastern State University

Jonathan Serrano, Biola University

Katherine Sharp, University of Alabama in Huntsville

Morgan Silks, Holy Family University

Terrandus Smith, Union University

Mitchell Snitker, Winona State University

Kayla South, University of Central Oklahoma

Erin Stroberg, Regis University (Colorado)

Andreas Volk, Barry University

Rae'Quan Wicks, University of Central Oklahoma

Ethan Willie, University of Mount Olive

Luigi Yates, Gannon University





How Division II took the next bold step into its future

This coming August will mark the golden anniversary of the establishment of the three NCAA divisions as we know them. Before 1973 there were just two – the University and College Divisions, which loosely divided the larger schools from the smaller ones with not many other distinguishing characteristics in between.

When the NCAA held a special convention in August 1973 to establish its divisional triumvirate, Division II would provide a historic balance for members wanting to be in the athletics scholarship game but not so devoted to sports that it consumed the student-athlete experience. These members also wanted to keep their expenses in check to align more with their financial commitment to their educational missions and not pursue athletics as a self-sufficient endeavor.

In the 49.5 years between then and now, Division II has undergone its share of change, but its commitment to a balanced experience – certainly for student-athletes but also for athletics itself within the construct of the institution – remains as its ultimate distinction and part of a branding campaign that defines Division II not as a middle division and not as being neither Division I nor Division III, but uniquely as a collection of institutions that encourage student-athletes to achieve their highest athletics goals without neglecting all the rest of the benefits of being a college student on a vibrant campus with ample opportunities to learn, develop and prepare for success in whatever lies ahead.

There were significant benchmarks along the way. Division II benefited from the federated governance adopted in 1997 that gave each division more autonomy over its affairs, and Division II's brand evolved through the "I Chose" years in the mid-2000s into the current "Make It Yours" slogan that puts student-athletes more in command of their own experiences.

Then came the more seismic shifts – the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019 that canceled championships and altered how student-athletes experienced college altogether, followed by a subsequent tumultuous period during which (1) in lieu of a unified federal approach, differing state laws went into effect regarding student-athlete name, image and likeness; and (2) the U.S. Supreme Court issued its unanimous decision in the Alston case that questioned the NCAA's ability to self-govern.

Additionally, calls for greater representation and equity from both inside and outside the enterprise compounded the concern that the NCAA's collegiate model that had been in place for more than a century could no longer maintain its status quo.

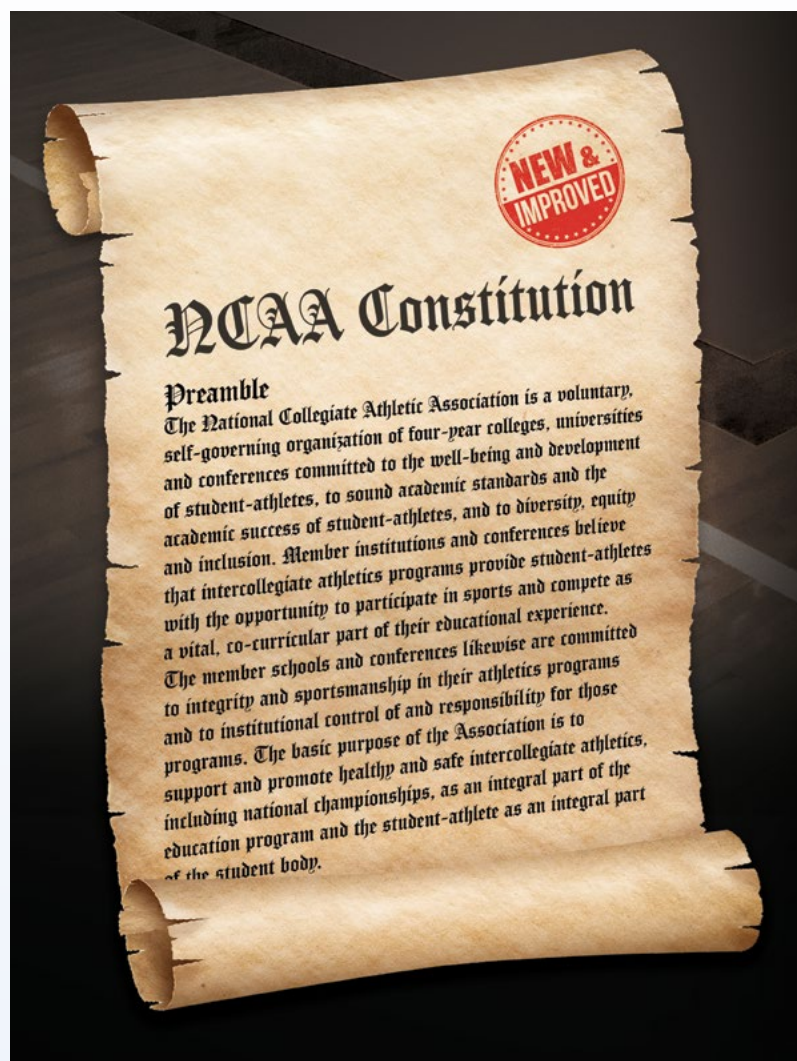
In late July 2021, the NCAA Board of Governors announced that a special convention would be convened in November to rework the NCAA constitution, with action to be taken at the NCAA's annual Convention in January.

In August 2021, the Board of Governors appointed a 28-member Constitution Committee, featuring presidents, commissioners, athletics directors and student-athletes from Divisions I, II and III, and independent members of the NCAA Board of Governors, to frame the new constitution. The Division II representatives were California State University, Chico President Gayle Hutchinson; Pittsburg State University Athletics Director Jim Johnson; California University of Pennsylvania Volleyball Student-Athlete Madeleine McKenna; Northeast-10 Conference Commissioner Julie Ruppert; and Lincoln University of Pennsylvania Athletics Director Harry Stinson III.

In October 2021, and after a series of initial Constitution Committee meetings, it became clear that while ratification of a new constitution in January remained the essential first step in the process of transforming the governance of the NCAA, there also must be a second step, which would require each division to review its rules to assure that changes are consistent with the principles agreed upon in the new constitution.

That led to the Division II Administrative Committee on December 1, 2021, appointing a 28-member Implementation Committee co-chaired by University of Wisconsin-Parkside Chancellor Debbie Ford and Delta State University President William LaForge to review the division's rules and policies and make recommendations to ensure that changes are consistent with the principles agreed upon in the new constitution.

The committee included one representative from all 23 Division II conferences and five current and former student-athletes. All five members who served on the Constitution Committee were on the Implementation Committee. Steven Shirley, president at Minot State University and chair of the Division II Presidents Council, served as an ex-officio member.



NCAA Constitution

Preamble

The National Collegiate Athletic Association is a voluntary, self-governing organization of four-year colleges, universities and conferences committed to the well-being and development of student-athletes, to sound academic standards and the academic success of student-athletes, and to diversity, equity and inclusion. Member institutions and conferences believe that intercollegiate athletics programs provide student-athletes with the opportunity to participate in sports and compete as a vital, co-curricular part of their educational experience. The member schools and conferences likewise are committed to integrity and sportsmanship in their athletics programs and to institutional control of and responsibility for those programs. The basic purpose of the Association is to support and promote healthy and safe intercollegiate athletics, including national championships, as an integral part of the education program and the student-athlete as an integral part of the student body.

The Implementation Committee held an orientation meeting in January 2022 and then met in person February 7-8 and hit the ground running, agreeing quickly on several recommendations and others for which to seek feedback via a membership survey. The group conducted several videoconferences and another in-person meeting in May before finalizing recommendations during a June 30 videoconference for the Division II Management Council and Division II Presidents Council to consider during their summer 2022 meetings.

To accomplish its work, the Implementation Committee established six topic-specific subcommittees to develop concepts and recommendations:

- ▶ Budget
- ▶ Championships
- ▶ Enforcement and Infractions Process
- ▶ Governance
- ▶ Legislative Process and Compliance
- ▶ Membership

SUMMARY OF ITEMS BY PRIORITY

PRIORITY 1 ITEMS

Budget Subcommittee: Assess Division II distributions to the membership to ensure the distributions are meeting the needs of conferences, institutions, and student-athletes. Also, assess recommendations of the Implementation Committee that may have a budget impact.

Championships Subcommittee: Review NCAA Bylaws 18 and 31 related to national championships to determine what should remain as legislation and what can be moved to championships policy. Work with Divisions I and III on National Collegiate Championships, where appropriate. Outcomes from this review may be directed to the Division II Championships Committee for further review and discussion.

Enforcement and Infractions Subcommittee: Review Bylaws 19 and 32 related to the enforcement and infractions process to determine what should remain as legislation and what can be moved to policy. Once determined what is legislation and policy, work to combine the bylaws. Finally, review the recommendations made in 2021 by the Division II Enforcement and Infractions Task Force and submit recommendations as appropriate.

Governance Subcommittee: Assess the Division II committee structure to include a review of compositions and duties of the Division II Presidents Council, Management Council, Planning and Finance Committee and other committees within the substructure.

Legislative Process and Compliance Subcommittee: Assess the Division II legislative process to determine ways the process can be streamlined and simplified.

Membership Subcommittee: Assess what is required to be an active Division II institution and conference, including the role of the national office, conferences, and institutions. Also, review current Constitution 3 and Bylaw 20 and determine what is duplicative and how to combine. Finally, monitor membership discussions by Division I and Division III and discuss multi-divisional classification.

PRIORITY 2 AND 3 ITEMS

NOTE: These items may have initial discussions by the Implementation Committee following review and recommendations related to Priority 1 items. However, most are likely to be discussed and reviewed by committees in the governance structure following the completion of work by the Implementation Committee.

Championships Subcommittee: Review legislation and policies of what is required to establish a Division II championship and what new championship opportunities should be considered for Division II student-athletes.

Legislative Process and Compliance Subcommittee: Assess the Division II operating bylaws (e.g., amateurism, recruiting, eligibility, financial aid, awards and benefits, playing and practice seasons) to determine how the legislation can be streamlined and simplified.

Membership Subcommittee: Assess dues paid by schools and conferences. Review requirements for provisional members and assess current membership process to determine the readiness of Division I and Division III members. Assess the current list of emerging sports for women and particularly sports that have not added sponsorship numbers.

Additionally, the work was prioritized as follows:

- ▶ **Priority 1** – To be completed by August 1, 2022; or legislation sponsored by September 1, 2022, for January 2023 Convention vote; and/or legislation/policy adopted and effective August 1, 2023;
- ▶ **Priority 2** – Recommendations by spring/summer 2023 for review and consideration; and
- ▶ **Priority 3** – Discussed and reviewed with TBD action date.

During the June 30 videoconference, the Implementation Committee also agreed to refer several other concepts to existing groups within the Division II governance structure for further work. All in all, the Implementation Committee authored five Convention proposals (including one that modifies the composition and duties of the Presidents Council, Management Council, Planning and Finance Committee, and the Administrative Committee), 31 noncontroversial legislation proposals and three other nonlegislative items, all of which reflect the committee's mission and commitment to implement significant change to the division's operating procedures without compromising the values and principles to which Division II members hold true.

Co-Chair Debbie Ford said the Implementation Committee was so productive because of the commitment from volunteer members who rolled up their sleeves and pursued what was in the collective best interests of the division.

"There were no personal agendas, no hidden objectives – only a collaborative spirit to protect and enhance what already has made Division II a distinctive and successful family of members who just want to do what's right for our student-athletes, coaches and staff," she said.

"When I think back on it all, our group being called an 'Implementation Committee' was spot-on, as we from the very beginning were set on acting, doing, and implementing. We knew the division had already been operating from a position of both philosophical consensus and fiscal strength with our life in the balance philosophy, the bedrock one-institution/one-vote governance process, a strategic and tested budgeting process, and a collective commitment from our 300 member institutions to prepare Division II student-athletes for success in life after college.

"We also knew we had the human resources that Division II has grown to expect over time. Our group of 23 conference representatives and five student-athletes clearly understood the values we share as a division and were quickly able to apply those principles within a new construct that could streamline our operations and enhance experiences for both student-athletes and member institutions alike without compromising any of the benefits we've traditionally enjoyed as Division II members. All of the decisions we made were student-centered and future-focused. We weren't thinking only about 2025 but 2050."

The final recommendations weren't just puff pastries, either. They modified the composition and duties of the Presidents Council and Management Council, streamlined the legislative calendar, revamped how institutions evaluate their athletics programs, and perhaps most importantly, enhanced student-athlete involvement in decision making at the campus, conference and national levels.

And while the Implementation Committee completed its charge in August, the work to improve the division continues. Referrals to the governance structure include determining the appropriate minimum sponsorship requirement necessary to create/maintain a Division II championship in a given sport, and the appropriate range of access ratios that in turn determine

bracket/field size by sport; reviewing the legislation for institutional control and institutional responsibilities to monitor its athletics programs to determine whether the expectations are fair, accurate and reasonable; and potentially overhauling the Division II Manual by moving many bylaws to policy and excising select current rule that are no longer relevant or essential.

By the time Division II celebrates its 50th Anniversary in August 2023, it will look different – certainly than it did in 1973 but also than it did even in 2021. But don't be alarmed: The clothes Division II have worn for almost half a century remain in style even with all the alterations. They just fit better now.

DIVISION II IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

JACKIE ARMSTRONG

Senior Associate Director of Athletics for Compliance / Senior Woman Administrator, Point Loma Nazarene University; Pacific West Conference

CARRIE BODKINS

Director of Athletics, Alderson Broaddus University; Mountain East Conference

MICHAELA BOYD

Student-Athlete, Palm Beach Atlantic University; Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee

ZACH BROWN

Student-Athlete, University of North Georgia; Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee

CURTIS CAMPBELL

Director of Athletics, Morehouse College, Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

CHRIS COLVIN

Commissioner, Conference Carolinas

ISMAEL CONTRERAS

Student-Athlete, Purdue University Northwest; Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee

DEVIN CROSBY

Director of Athletics, Lynn University; Sunshine State Conference

DEBBIE FORD (CO-CHAIR)

Chancellor, University of Wisconsin-Parkside; Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

MARTY GILBERT

Faculty Athletics Representative, Mars Hill University; South Atlantic Conference

CHRIS GRAHAM

Commissioner, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference

GAYLE HUTCHINSON*

President, California State University, Chico; California Collegiate Athletic Association

JIM JOHNSON*

Director of Athletics, Pittsburg State University; Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association

COLLEEN PERRY KEITH

President, Goldey-Beacom College; Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference

WILLIAM LAFORGE (CO-CHAIR)

President, Delta State University; Gulf South Conference

BRANDI LAURITA,

Director of Athletics, University of Findlay; Great Midwest Athletic Conference

KARA LINDAMAN

Faculty Athletics Representative, Winona State University; Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference

MADELEINE MCKENNA*

Former Student-Athlete, California University of Pennsylvania; Former Member of the Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee

CARRIE MICHAELS

Senior Associate Director of Athletics / Senior Woman Administrator, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania; Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference

TRACI MURPHY

Director of Athletics, Daemen University; East Coast Conference

STEVE ROACH

Director of Athletics, Texas A&M University-Kingsville; Lone Star Conference

JULIE RUPPERT*

Commissioner, Northeast-10 Conference

KEVIN SCHRIVER

Faculty Athletics Representative, Southwest Baptist University; Great Lakes Valley Conference

STEVEN SHIRLEY (EX-OFFICIO)

President, Minot State University, Division II Presidents Council Chair

WENDELL STATON

Director of Athletics, Georgia College; Peach Belt Conference

JACKSON STAVA

Director of Athletics, Seattle Pacific University; Great Northwest Athletic Conference

HARRY STINSON*

Director of Athletics, Lincoln University of Pennsylvania; Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association

CORBIN THAETE

Student-Athlete, California State University, San Marcos; Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee

CHERRIE WILMOTH

Associate Director of Athletics for Internal Operations and Compliance / Senior Woman Administrator, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Great American Conference

*Also served on the Constitution Committee.

NCAA DIVISION II IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE Q&A

After the NCAA Division II Implementation Committee completed its work, members were asked what they thought about the impact this historic review will have on the division in the years to come. Here's what they said.

What were the most positive and significant overarching outcomes from this review, either in the way it was conducted, what was accomplished, or both?



**MICHAELA BOYD, SOCCER STUDENT-ATHLETE (DIVISION II SAAC REPRESENTATIVE),
PALM BEACH ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY**

One key takeaway about the way the process was conducted was the consistency in keeping student-athletes at the center of decision making. During my time on this committee, I was always encouraged to speak up, especially in subcommittee meetings. Even during discussions that may be considered slightly dense for a student-athlete to take part in, the willingness of the members within my subcommittee to re-explain topics using different language, just for the sake of me giving input, represents to a tee what the priority of this committee was.



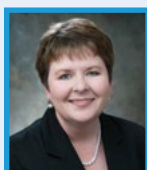
**CARRIE MICHAELS, SENIOR ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS AND SENIOR WOMAN ADMINISTRATOR,
SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Throughout the review, the committee and membership had ample opportunities to help shape what the division will look like moving forward. Staff and committee members should be proud of the outstanding work and diligence taken to provide meaningful and impactful outcomes. Structures were streamlined, the student-athlete voice was enhanced, and referrals were shared with appropriate committees to analyze for future application.



COLLEEN PERRY KEITH, PRESIDENT, GOLDEY-BEACOM COLLEGE

(1) Collegiality and efficiency. Everyone took their role seriously, came ready to work and was committed to a common goal to improve Division II and make it a model for other divisions. (2) Assembling professionals from all over the country, from conferences with varied needs, and having them work as a unified force with no one looking to advance their college or conference.



**CHERRIE WILMOTH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS FOR INTERNAL OPERATIONS AND COMPLIANCE AND
SENIOR WOMAN ADMINISTRATOR, SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY**

One of the most positive and significant outcomes from this review was being a part of a process that brought administrators, faculty and student-athletes from across Division II together to collaborate on what we stand for and what we are moving toward in our division. We continued to examine and expand on what it means to be a member of this division and to focus on our student-athletes.

How did what was accomplished improve the division, either operationally, philosophically, or both?



KEVIN SCHRIVER, FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVE, SOUTHWEST BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

For a while now, as people spoke of “the NCAA,” the whole of the image and brand was keyed on what most people see through the lens of television. And while Division II has worked for the past number of years to establish our brand and philosophy, this review has helped us solidify just exactly what that means. We have been about life in the balance, between academics and athletics. We have been about student-athlete well-being. We have been about the collegiate athletics experience being the best it can be for all involved. This moment was not necessarily our catalyst for creating such a philosophy, but a crystalizing event for Division II – our values, our strengths, and our people.



MICHAELA BOYD, SOCCER STUDENT-ATHLETE (DIVISION II SAAC REPRESENTATIVE), PALM BEACH ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

The sheer amount of change implemented during an extremely short time impressed me a great deal. I know that this committee’s work will strongly improve the operation of the division and truly allow not only student-athletes but campus and conference administrators a better overall experience. If I had to pick one thing, though, it would be creating and adjusting division-wide committees to add the voice of the student-athlete. That is surely what stands out to me the most.



CARRIE MICHAELS, SENIOR ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS AND SENIOR WOMAN ADMINISTRATOR, SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

This process allowed us to look at what we are doing, assess whether it is working, review what could be improved, and impact the direction we want to take our division. We found that we do a lot well, but also have areas of opportunity. There was a lot done in a short amount of time, and there is ample work to be done stemming from the referrals established through great conversation and feedback. Operations were reviewed and as a result streamlined and improved. Philosophy was assessed and reaffirmed with enhancements made within the governance structure and for the membership.

How did the recommendations strengthen Division II as a membership destination?



TRACI MURPHY, DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS, DAEMEN UNIVERSITY

Reworking the Division II Manual to better support the new NCAA Constitution as well as eliminating redundancy reinforces the Division II philosophy and streamlines the legislation so we can better provide for and support student athletes and enhance their experiences. In a sense, we kept it simple – reinforcing the foundation of our division, thereby supporting all that works within Division II, including small staffs and member schools with varied resources, yet we can now move within the legislation to provide the most for student-athletes without separating the haves from the have nots.



MADELEINE McKENNA, FORMER VOLLEYBALL STUDENT-ATHLETE/DII SAAC MEMBER, CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA; CURRENT GRADUATE ASSISTANT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-PARKSIDE

The way Division II was able to mobilize and collaborate is a testament to why we are an attractive membership destination. For institutions outside of the Division II membership, I would want them to see the committee’s recommendations as a product of the culture of our division: empowering, student-athlete centered, collaborative, and driven by a passion for what the DII experience has to offer. Meaningful steps have been taken to streamline our operations, policies, and procedures in order to adapt to the evolving needs of our membership.

Several of the recommendations modified the governance structure at the leadership level. What will be most gained by these changes, and how can you reassure those members who may worry that something has been lost (i.e., representation)?



DEBBIE FORD, CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-PARKSIDE

Representation remains with the Management Council and the Council has expanded responsibilities. The newly defined Executive Board will focus on strategic issues and not be bogged down with day-to-day management issues. The new Executive Board will include perspectives from external members and student-athletes. Decision making will be more aligned and nimble.



CHRIS GRAHAM, COMMISSIONER, ROCKY MOUNTAIN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Conference representation is a hallmark of Division II and it is maintained, within the improved model, at the most important juncture of the governance process, which is the Management Council. To coincide with that renewed commitment to conference input on all key issues, ManCo's duties and responsibilities were further elevated, placing the Council at the nexus of all decision making. The Executive Board proposal, to reduce the current Presidents Council membership, replaces a top-heavy, redundant level of governance with a new strategically oriented leadership committee that will receive quarterly feedback from newly developed regional leadership meetings between conferences. These regional discussions with commissioners, presidents, senior woman administrators, Student-Athlete Advisory Committee representatives and others, will not only aid in building consensus on national issues but, for the first time in Division II, will encourage conversations about ground-level issues within each championship region.

The revised governance structure strengthens student-athlete representation and input in the decision-making process. How do these changes make the student-athletes' contributions even more influential moving forward?



CHERRIE WILMOTH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS FOR INTERNAL OPERATIONS AND COMPLIANCE AND SENIOR WOMAN ADMINISTRATOR, SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Hearing and understanding the student-athlete voice is an important piece to our growth and development. The student-athletes are our customers who later become faculty, administrators and professionals in society. It is important for us to listen to educate ourselves and to provide guidance and direction to our student-athletes so they can grow.



WENDELL STATON, DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS, GEORGIA COLLEGE

We have always been the leader when it comes to elevating the student-athlete voice, and our efforts in this area continue to serve as an example for the entire Association. Student-athlete representation and input is a clear overarching and non-negotiable trait of our division.

A lot of effort went into streamlining the Division II Manual, either by deregulating current bylaws, combining bylaws, and/or moving existing rules to the policy level. If you're a compliance administrator at a Division II institution, what are you most happy about?



CHERRIE WILMOTH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS FOR INTERNAL OPERATIONS AND COMPLIANCE AND SENIOR WOMAN ADMINISTRATOR, SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Everything! It makes sense to deregulate bylaws that are outdated or not applicable to our division. Combining bylaws makes it easier for our practitioners and our members to understand and then educate our student-athletes and communities. Policy creates oversight but gives some autonomy for schools to work within their own framework and institutional governance systems.



COLLEEN PERRY KEITH, PRESIDENT, GOLDEY-BEACOM COLLEGE

The streamlining we accomplished will result in compliance officers having to consult fewer sites to obtain the information they need.

Among the recommendations was to keep the minimum of 10-sports for sports sponsorship but relax the rules governing how many sports are required per season. How does this benefit schools in how they choose what sports to offer, and will that help attract prospective members to the division and retain current members?



TRACI MURPHY, DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS, DAEMEN UNIVERSITY

In today's market, higher ed institutions are dealing with a unique time at which college-ready students are at an all-time low. Add the aftermath of a pandemic, and institutions need flexibility to do what is best for their mission, vision and financial stability. We were deliberate in retaining the minimum sport sponsorship rules. However, permitting an institution to be creative would perhaps relieve pressure to discontinue programs, provide the ability to offer sports that best suit their institution, conference or geography. Additionally, the concept could possibly reduce the number of institutions that may consider transitioning out of Division II. This concept was to help institutions maintain Division II status as well as entice institutions in other divisions to consider transitioning to Division II if it will help them to maintain intercollegiate sport opportunities and experiences.



CHRIS GRAHAM, COMMISSIONER, ROCKY MOUNTAIN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

The uniqueness of Division II institutions across all eight championship regions requires functional solutions to maintain viability and success. Allowing for flexibility of sport sponsorship decisions is a genuine recognition of the varying resources, interests and geography of member institutions. Local decision making, with the consideration of conference interests and sponsorship, is a more attractive 21st-century model.

One of the hallmarks of Division II is the sense of collaboration when it comes to decisions that affect the membership. Did the rigor and scope of this review reflect that sense of unity among Division II members?



JACKSON STAVA, FORMER DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS, SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

I have served on numerous committees, and this was by far the best experience. The camaraderie, engagement, and dedication of each individual on the committee is reflected in the outcomes. DII is different, and the work of this committee is one of the best representations of our collective engagement that I have ever witnessed.



KEVIN SCHRIVER, FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVE, SOUTHWEST BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

I have been on a number of committees and have always seen firsthand the cooperation among a very diverse group working toward the greater good. This experience was business as usual in that regard. Yes, we are competitive in our sports, but Division II has for the longest time held dear our relationships as people over the win-loss records or trophies won. Our business, as usual, has been what is good for the student-athlete is good for Division II, and therein lies the cornerstone of our unity.

While the Implementation Committee accomplished even more than might have been expected in such a short time, there are still some significant matters left on the table for the governance structure to tackle in the next year or two. What would you say are the three most important areas to be addressed?



MADELEINE MCKENNA, FORMER VOLLEYBALL STUDENT-ATHLETE/DII SAAC MEMBER, CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA; CURRENT GRADUATE ASSISTANT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-PARKSIDE

An important area to address is the enforcement of the new constitutional duty for institutions to provide their coaches and athletics administrative staff with mental health education. Division II and the Association as a whole have taken important strides in identifying student-athlete mental health and well-being as a key principle and focus of our work. I would love for us to find a way to highlight this education as something every campus needs to be doing, but in a way that doesn't just create another box to check. Also, this mental health education will not only better equip our athletics departments to support student-athlete mental health but also give them the skills and resources to support their own mental health. College athletics can be incredibly demanding, so the more we can foster awareness and decrease the stigma, the better the outcomes will be across every level of our athletics departments and campus communities.



CHRIS COLVIN, COMMISSIONER, CONFERENCE CAROLINAS

The potential reconfigured championships structure. The committee's recommendation did not abandon regionalization but presented concepts that could significantly enhance the championship experience by restructuring bracketing concepts and reducing first-round conference matchups. In addition, if the division can follow through on the change to sponsorship minimums to start a championship, it could significantly impact membership with additional championships conducted only at the Division II level.



WENDELL STATON, DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS, GEORGIA COLLEGE

Regionalization. It has been a wonderful hallmark of our division, but if we can tweak it just a bit it will be even better.

This was one of the most – if not the most – significant reviews the division has undertaken since its creation in 1973. Looking ahead, what does the division need to do to retain the benefits gained through this review?



CHRIS COLVIN, COMMISSIONER, CONFERENCE CAROLINAS

I don't think mitigating the need for anything similar is necessary. In fact, I think that a committee like this every five years or so might be a good thing. There were a lot of ideas and concepts generated that will now be vetted by the governance structure. That is a good thing. This committee gave specific committees (i.e., Championships, Membership) the kick start to look at significant improvements that may not have risen to the top of an already crowded regular agenda.



JACKSON STAVA, FORMER DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS, SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

We must now live out the robust and ambitious desire to continue to have DII as a leader in college athletics. Reviews go only as far as the people who implement them. It is now our job to make sure that this work, done first and foremost to protect and develop students, is central to all of our missions as DII members.

What's your one walkout message after having participated in this exercise?



DEBBIE FORD, CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-PARKSIDE

Thanks to the Division II leadership and team for guiding the Implementation Committee and for positioning us to think big about the future of Division II. I am so proud of the work we completed together and knowing we placed students at the center of our decision making.



MADELEINE McKENNA, FORMER VOLLEYBALL STUDENT-ATHLETE/DII SAAC MEMBER, CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA; CURRENT GRADUATE ASSISTANT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-PARKSIDE

The rigor and scope of this review absolutely reflected the deeply ingrained sense of unity and collaboration within Division II. In both of our in-person meetings, the energy in the room was electric. To sit and be surrounded by people from across the DII membership, all representing different institutions, different conferences, private or public schools, different geographic locations, and unique resources, and to feel the united drive to work together and achieve something that will best serve all of our student-athletes and the diverse interests of the membership is something I'll never forget.



JACKSON STAVA, FORMER DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS, SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

If anyone has ever questioned the positivity, creativity, or passion of Division II administrators, NCAA staff, or student-athletes, I wish they could have been a fly on the wall for these meetings, because this group clearly showed in word and in action what makes DII great!



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