



Southern Wesleyan University

F.A.N.

Spring 2014



NCAA/Fall Update

Hello SWU Faculty!

The Spring semester is in full swing and I'm sure you are in the thick of classes, grading and meeting with students. The athletics world is quite busy these days as well. A lot has happened since our last F.A.N. and we wanted to update you on all the latest both related to our NCAA II transition and other news in athletics.

NCAA II Transition

In our first "official" move as a member of NCAA we were required to attend the national NCAA national convention. This was an amazing experience that allowed us to attend educational sessions, to network with other Division II schools and administrators, to further clarify and review the expectations of candidacy year one and to observe the process of NCAA legislation by sitting in on the Division II board meeting. As you can see it was a packed 4 day event! I think the biggest take-away for all of us was the opportunity to meet with so many other Division II members and begin to talk with them about programs and policies that are in place at their institution that have drastically improved quality of life and the academic rigor for their student-athletes. We recognize we are new to this game and it is very beneficial for us to have that guidance from them. A couple of very encouraging elements became clearer to all of us: 1) NCAA II is very interested in the academic progress and success of student athletes and have high expectations for them and 2) Once fully a member, some considerable overall University budget savings will result from this move from reduced travel as well as the elimination of post season expenses.

Prior to attending the convention we had a visitor on campus who is a consultant for the NCAA. He evaluated just about every aspect of SWU that relates to our transition to NCAA. His visit involved interviews with most of the athletics department and athletic leadership team, as well as many other departments on campus such as admissions, academic records, financial aid, etc. After the visit he submitted an official report to SWU and the NCAA regarding his assessment of where we are. We were very encouraged by this process and based on his report, feel that we are right on track with where we need to be to progress to the next step in June.

Fall Sports Accolades

While the transition to NCAA is important, life in athletics is still marching on as usual. Our Fall sports ended their seasons with some pretty impressive accomplishments. Our men's soccer team won the NCCAA National Championship and head coach Camilo Rodriguez was named NCCAA Coach of the Year! In addition, Zach Moore, a member of the men's golf team won the NCCAA National Championship in golf. We also had many student-athletes who received academic, athletic and character based awards this season as well.

As always we are so appreciative of your commitment to helping our student-athletes be successful in all areas of life. A main focus of the NCAA II is the "Life in the Balance" model. We truly to believe in this concept here at Southern Wesleyan and enjoy the opportunity to teach our students in a variety of ways what balance really looks like.

Blessings,

Todd Voss, President
Chris Williams, Director of Athletics
Emily Germain, Faculty Athletics Representative

Spring Faces



Mike Gillespie—Baseball (18th season)

- 17 of 28 players posted a 3.00 GPA or higher during the fall.
- Team had a 2.93 GPA during the fall semester
- Participates in numerous community service projects:
- Collects toys for Country Santa
- Hosts annual Charity Golf Tournament for Helen's Hugs
- Participates in Baseball & Books; reading to students at Six Mile Elementary
- Stephen Wyatt and Kendall Ray named 2013 NAIA Scholar Athletes
- Five players selected to SSAC All-Academic team
- Thomas Floyd and Mike Hyman named SSAC 2nd Team All-Conference
- Team is planning a missions trip to the Dominican Republic in Nov. '14



Anna Ball—Softball (3rd season)

- Team GPA was 3.10
- Painted 30 acres of fencing at Rabbit Hill Farm to help windowed owner keep up with maintenance
- Team won Musco Champions of Character Award in the SSAC last year
- Allison Barbee named 2013 SSAC 1st Team; Jenn Jacoby 2013 SSAC 2nd Team
- Team posted best record in over 13 years last year



Greg Thiel—Track & Field (1st season)

- Women's team placed 10th at NCCAA Indoors, Men 14th in first national championship meet for the program
- Jess Maggio placed 6th in the 60m Hurdles and 60m Dash
- Keith Johnson placed 4th in the 400m dash
- Amber King was 6th in both the long and triple jumps
- Team has signed nine girls for next year with GPA's over 3.6 and ACT scores averaging 24.



Darrell Jernigan—Tennis (1st season)

- Women posted a 2.87 GPA in the fall; men had a 2.54
- All home matches will be played at Nettles Park in Clemson
- Men have already posted a 2-2 record in the early stages of the season



Doug Wilkinson—Golf (6th season)

- Golf range is open and operating on campus
- Zach Moore won NCCAA Tournament in the fall and is ranked 9th in the NAIA.
- Men's team defeated six NCAA Division I schools at a tournament in the fall
- Women's golfer Cyndi Smith qualified for the NCCAA Tournament for the second straight year
- Women's program is in only the 2nd year of competition
- Team had a 2.80 GPA



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NCAA Timeline

July 2013: Initially denied NCAA membership
September 2013: Appeal granted by NCAA, begin Year One Candidacy immediately
December 2013: NCAA site visit
January 2014: Attend NCAA Convention
Spring 2014: Site visit to Queens University (Charlotte)
May 2014: Finish competition as member of NAIA and SSAC
June 2014: Submit Annual Report to NCAA
July 2014: NCAA decision about moving SWU from Year One Candidacy to Year Two Candidacy
September 2014: Begin play in Conference Carolinas, remain ineligible for NCAA Championships
June 2015: Submit Annual Report to NCAA
July 2015: NCAA decision about moving SWU from Year Two Candidacy to Provisional Member
July 2016: NCAA decision to grant SWU full membership as a Division II institution and begin eligibility for NCAA Championships

We Want YOU!

Southern Wesleyan Athletics invites you, our faculty, to attend these events:

- The Annual **SWUPY's** event will be held on Monday April 27 in Newton Hobson. This event honors the past year in SWU athletics and we want you to be our guests for the evening! Please feel welcomed to bring the entire family for a good time of laughs and a reflection on the season that was.
- The **2014 Warrior Open Golf Scramble** will be held on May 7 at Smithfield's Country Club in Easley. Registration/breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. and shotgun start begins at 9 a.m. Dinner will also be provided after play. A 4-person team costs \$400 and an individual is \$100.

Upcoming Home Schedule

March

Saturday, 1 - Basketball DH (Senior Day) vs. Southern Poly 2&4 p.m.
Monday, 3 - Tennis vs. Methodist University 3 p.m.
Tuesday, 4 - Tennis vs. Barton 10 a.m.
Tuesday, 4 - Baseball DH vs. Truett-McConnell 3 p.m.
Wednesday, 5 - Baseball vs. Anderson (at Fluor Field) 5 p.m.
Friday, 7 - Softball DH vs. Coastal Georgia 3:30 p.m.
Friday, 7 - Baseball vs. Martin Methodist 4 p.m.
Saturday, 8 - Baseball DH vs. Martin Methodist 12 p.m.
Saturday, 8 - Softball DH vs. USC-Beaufort 1 p.m.

NCAA Degree Completion

NCAA II offers Degree Completion Scholarship:

The NCAA II has just announced that it will offer up to \$6000 of award money to student-athletes who have finished their athletic eligibility but still have remaining semesters of coursework to complete their degree. Any athlete meeting the academic and eligibility criteria (see www.ncaa.org for details) may apply for the award. This would mean that SWU student-athletes who are no longer earning athletic aid can earn additional scholarship money to help them finish out their degree. This is yet another perk we will be able to enjoy once we are a full member of the NCAA!

NCAA Compliance

It Takes All of Us

Monitoring and following NCAA legislation is a campus-wide effort. Southern Wesleyan University, as a whole, is expected to follow NCAA and conference rules. The consequences of not following the rules have a lasting impact on the entire University and the University is held responsible for any violations committed by any institution employees.

Here at Southern Wesleyan University, we all have a shared responsibility to maintain compliance of all NCAA, Conference Carolinas and institutional policies. NCAA Legislation encompasses several areas including:

- Ethical conduct of all University employees and student-athletes
- Academic progress and eligibility of student-athletes
- Maintaining best practices in recruiting prospective student-athletes
- Monitoring practice and participation hours in our athletic programs for all of our student-athletes (20 hours maximum per week for in-season sports, 8 hours maximum per week for sports outside of their playing season.)

Those are just a handful of the areas that we will begin to monitor. I ask for your continued cooperation and patience during this transition. There is legislation that does effect what we, as a University, can and can't do for our student-athletes.

If you are unsure about legislation or want to clarify what actions you can take, please don't hesitate to contact me. In the coming weeks and months, I will continue to provide rules education materials and resources for our entire campus community.

Thank you for all that you do for our University. I look forward to working with all of you as we make the transition into the NCAA Division II and Conference Carolinas. Thank you for being a part of Southern Wesleyan University Compliance!

Ask Before You Act!

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