

# Findings in Sport, Hospitality, Entertainment, and Event Management

---

Volume 1

Article 10

---

2021

## Sport Science Forum Abstracts

Frederick G. Grieve  
*Western Kentucky University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.memphis.edu/finsheem>



Part of the [Hospitality Administration and Management Commons](#), and the [Sports Management Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Grieve, Frederick G. (2021) "Sport Science Forum Abstracts," *Findings in Sport, Hospitality, Entertainment, and Event Management*. Vol. 1, Article 10.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.memphis.edu/finsheem/vol1/iss1/10>

This Topical Essay is brought to you for free and open access by University of Memphis Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Findings in Sport, Hospitality, Entertainment, and Event Management by an authorized editor of University of Memphis Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [khggerty@memphis.edu](mailto:khggerty@memphis.edu).

# *Findings in Sport, Hospitality, Entertainment, and Event Management*



## **Sport Science Forum Abstracts**

The Sport Science Forum is an annual meeting hosted by Dr. Frederick G. Grieve and Western Kentucky University. This is a collection of abstracts from the September 18, 2021 Forum in order of presentation.

### **“One-and-Done” or “Won and Done”**

**Karen Doran**

**Steven Chen, Ph.D.**

**Morehead State University**

Since the National Basketball Association (NBA) introduced the unique practice of “one-and-done” (increased minimum age of future draftees to 19), many elite high school players have chosen to attend college for one year. This practice known as “one-and-done” phenomenon in college basketball instigates numerous controversies in the sport world (Koutroupis, 2014). This study took a special approach examining active college basketball fans’ perception on practices’ effect of their favorite athletic team and its’ affiliated institution. This study reached out to followers of a personal Facebook site as well as a Facebook site dedicated to a powerhouse college basketball program to learn fans’ perception on “one-and-done” as it pertains to all aspects of college basketball. A total of 105 (both male and female) basketball fans responded to a Qualtrics survey and the researchers then compared everyone’s analyses and tallies to ensure accuracy and consistency of developed themes and total counts. The results showed more negative than positive comments with nearly 40% of comments leaning to change this practice. Most felt an additional year of college would

make a draftee to be a better player. However, this practice would exacerbate alleged academic-related controversies and leave their school hanging after athletes leaving for drafts. The long-term effects of the “one and done” practice as it pertains to college basketball still need to be further studied.

### **“Next Year is our Year”: An Examination of Sport Fandom of Perennial Loser Teams**

**Ethan Puckett**

**Western Kentucky University**

Since D. L. Wann (2002) proposed the team identification-health model, many studies have been performed to look at the relationship between psychological well-being and team identification. However, there has not yet been a study that specifically examines fans of teams that always seem to lose year after year; or “perennial loser” teams. This study was designed to examine self-identified fans of teams which have never made it to the championship in their respective sport (e.g., Super Bowl for the NFL), and that have had a losing record over the last 20 years of competition. Participant data will be collected voluntarily through an online survey, and to ensure a good number

of participants who are fans of “perennial losers,” the survey will also be posted on pages and forums where fans of those teams are likely to see it. Participants will fill out a demographics section, as well as the Grit Scale (Lechner et al., 2019), Sports Fan Questionnaire (Wann, 2002), The Sport Spectator Identification Scale, Revised (SSIS-R; James et al., 2019), and Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (Rosenberg, 1965). These results will be compared between the fans of “perennial losers” and the fans of other, more successful teams in order to find significant differences.

**Subconcussive Impacts and  
Their Role on Attention among  
High School Athletes  
Scott York, M.A.  
Western Kentucky University**

A significant body of research exists focusing on the role of concussions in athletic competition and the various areas of cognition that are affected by such head trauma. Less research, however, has been conducted on the role subconcussive impacts have played on such areas. Subconcussive impacts are those impacts that do not meet criteria for concussion but are significant enough to cause a change in metabolic functioning within the brain. This metabolic cascade has implications in the immediate aftermath on the individual’s ability to perform physically and cognitively. When a concussion occurs, it is a typically a simple diagnostic process with clear features. On the other hand, subconcussive impacts are typically not known in the moment and their effects are not seen as readily. The accumulation of these impacts have been shown to have significant long-term implications in the cognitive functioning of

individuals who played contact sports. This paper seeks to identify if there exists a material change in the area of attention among high school football players following a full season of competition compared to high school athletes in a non-contact sport. If such a change exists, this paper hypothesizes that it can be attributed, in part, to the role of subconcussive impacts accumulated through a season of competition.

**Feelings Suck and So Does  
Your Team: Exploring the  
Link between Restrictive  
Emotionality and  
Dysfunctional Fandom  
Tommy DeRossett  
St. Louis University**

In the United States, roughly 63% of the citizens identify as sport fans. Like other social identities, sport fandom has been associated with increased levels of optimal distinctiveness, quality interpersonal relationships, and promotes social integration within society. Although there are multiple benefits of sport fandom, not all fans are created equally.

A subgroup known as dysfunctional fans tend to complain and provoke confrontation within the sporting environment. A dysfunctional fan is more likely to attend away games as an antagonist, confront opposing fans, complain about the quality of the venue, and verbally berate sporting officials. Dysfunctional fandom is also associated with both cognitive and behavioral aggression.

The current study sought to explore the relationship between dysfunctional fandom

and restrictive emotionality. Individuals with high levels of restrictive emotionality are more likely to refrain from expressing "feminine" emotions and critically judge those who express emotion. Additionally, restrictive emotionality is associated with decreased subjective wellbeing. Individuals high in restrictive emotionality tend to be more accepting of crying from women compared to men and are more critical of crying in non-sport than sport settings.

First, the researchers predicted restrictive emotionality would be positively correlated with dysfunctional fandom. Second, they predicted that dysfunctional fandom would moderate the relationship between sport and restrictive emotionality. 178 undergraduate students were asked to complete a series of surveys measuring sport fandom, dysfunctional fandom, and restrictive emotionality. Supporting the first hypothesis, dysfunctional fandom was positively correlated with restrictive emotionality ( $r = 0.40$ ). Regarding the second hypothesis, a moderated regression did not reveal an interaction between sport fandom ( $\beta = 0.39$ ) and restrictive emotionality ( $\beta = 0.19$ ) but both were predictors of dysfunctional fandom. The results of the study provide evidence for a relationship between dysfunctional fandom and restrictive emotionality thus providing a foundation for future research regarding fandom and behavior.

## **Gaining Perspective on Dysfunctional Sport Fans**

**Hillary M. Copeland**  
**Murray State University**

Dysfunctional fandom refers to the extent to which a sport fan tends to complain and be confrontational within the sporting

environment (Wakefield & Wann, 2006). Previous research has revealed that high levels of fan dysfunction are positively associated with aggression on cognitive (Donahue & Wann, 2009; Wann & Geoke, 2017) and behavioral levels (Wann & Sherman, 2019; Wann & Waddill, 2014). In addition, research on perspective-taking has linked high perspective-taking (i.e., the ability to take on viewpoints of others) with enhanced social functioning and lower social dysfunction (Davis, 1983). For example, Davis (1980) found that high perspective-taking was associated with a more significant amount of selfless thinking regarding the feelings and reactions of others. Therefore, we hypothesized that fan dysfunction would be a significant, negative predictor of perspective-taking. To investigate the relationship between fan dysfunction and perspective-taking, a total of 171 undergraduates completed a questionnaire packet assessing demographics (e.g., gender), general sport fandom (Wann, 2002), team identification (James, Delia, & Wann, 2019), dysfunctional fandom (Wakefield & Wann, 2006), and perspective-taking ability (Davis, 1980). A simultaneous regression analysis indicated that fan dysfunction accounted for a significant proportion of unique negative variance in perspective-taking ability. In contrast, team identification accounted for a significant proportion of unique positive variance. Gender, as well as general sports fandom, were not significant predictors of perspective-taking ability. Thus, as hypothesized, higher scores on dysfunctional fandom significantly predicted lower scores on perspective taking, even when controlling for gender, team identification, and general fandom. These results contribute to current findings related to dysfunctional fandom by incorporating the likelihood that these individuals are less inclined to engage in the cognitive processes that serve to understand the perspectives of

others. This lack of mental engagement could likely be the case for dysfunctional sports fans, mainly related to outgroup members such as rival team fans.

## **An Exploration of the Influence of Demographic and Psychosocial Variables on Rehabilitation and Overadherence in Athletes**

**Lindsey E. Leatherman**

**Julie A. Partridge, Ph.D.**

**Southern Illinois University Carbondale**

An estimated 8.6 million sports- and recreation-related injuries are reported each year and 50% required treatment at a doctor's office or other health clinic (National Health Statistics Reports, 2016). Given this injury prevalence, it is important that rehabilitation protocols address both the physical and psychosocial aspects inherent to injury. The visible nature of an injury (e.g., compound fracture vs. concussion) may impact several rehabilitation outcomes (Bloom et al., 2004). A desire to quickly return to sport can elicit overadherence to rehabilitation programs and may be influenced by numerous demographic, emotional, and social factors (Hilliard et al., 2017). Thus, the first purpose of this study was to investigate the impact of athletic identity, self-presentational concerns, guilt/shame proneness, sport type and sex on rehabilitation overadherence. The second purpose was to explore athlete perceptions of invisible injury. Participants ( $n = 168$ ) completed the Athletic Identity Measurement Scale (AIMS; Brewer et al., 1993), Self-Presentation in Sport Questionnaire (SPSQ; McGowan et al., 2008), Test of Self-Conscious Affect (TOSCA; Tangney et al., 1989), and Rehabilitation Overadherence

Questionnaire (ROAQ; Podlog et al., 2013). They also provided answers to open-ended questions regarding perceptions of invisible injuries, how those perceptions impacted decisions to seek out and adhere to treatment protocols, as well as the impact on social relationships. A total of 61.4% of the sample reported having experienced an invisible injury at some point in their athletic career. Results indicated that invisible injuries did lead to greater self-presentational concerns and recognition of the importance of social support from significant others. Specifically, validation of invisible injuries by significant others was reported as a critical factor in determining how an athlete responded to their injury. These results provide greater understanding regarding the uniqueness of the invisible injury experience, and the associated cognitive, social, emotional, and behavioral outcomes that can result.

## **The Relationship between the Dark Triad and Dysfunctional Sport Fandom**

**Brooke Kordys**

**Southern Illinois University Edwardsville**

Over time, a specific combination of three personality traits have become of interest: narcissism, Machiavellianism, and psychopathy (O'Boyle et al., 2012). This pattern of traits is known as the Dark Triad (Paulhus & Williams, 2002). Individuals exemplifying these traits often exhibit disruptive and impulsive behaviors and can be counterproductive and problematic for organizations (O'Boyle et al., 2012). Similar disruptive and inappropriate behaviors can sometimes be exhibited by sport fans, (Wann & James, 2019), particularly among those with high levels of fan dysfunction.

Dysfunctional fans tend to be highly confrontational and frequently complain about various aspects of the fan experience (Wakefield & Wann, 2006). The current investigation is designed to examine the relationship between dysfunctional fandom and the Dark Triad. Specifically, it is hypothesized that there will be a positive correlation between the level of fan dysfunction and the three traits comprising the Dark Triad (as well as a total Dark Triad score). In addition, fan dysfunction, general sport fandom, and team identification will be included as predictor variables in a regression model to examine which fan variable(s) accounts for a significant proportion of variance in the Dark Triad traits. Results revealed higher levels of fan dysfunction corresponded with having higher levels of the total dark triad. It was also found that Machiavellianism and narcissism were positively correlated with dysfunction, while psychopathy was not. Specifically, individuals with higher levels of dysfunction are more likely to have higher levels of Machiavellianism and narcissism. The findings of this research should be of value for persons in sport organizations who could use the results to better understand and manage persons who support sport teams in a disruptive and antisocial fashion.

**A Funny Thing Happened on  
the Way to the Forum: A Look  
Back at 15 Years of  
Presentations at the Western  
Kentucky University Sport  
Science Forum  
Daniel L. Wann, Ph.D.  
Murray State University**

The Western Kentucky University Sport Science Forum began in April 2005 to

increase communication and collaboration among social scientists interested in topics related to sport psychology. During the first few years (i.e., 2005-2009), presentations were mainly from faculty members. Student presentations became more common starting in 2010. As a result, the average number of presentations given each year jumped from 6.5 for the first four years to 17.0 in subsequent years. Twenty different colleges and universities have represented talks. Concerning demographic breakdowns among presenters, slightly over half ( $n = 119$ , 57.8%) were males while slightly less than half were females ( $n = 87$ , 42.2%). Additionally, 51.9% of the presenters were professors ( $n = 107$ ), while 47.6% ( $n = 98$ ) were students. In terms of the topics presented, most talks focused on issues related to sports fandom ( $n = 121$ , 58.7%). Other topical areas included players/coaches ( $n = 56$ ; 27.2%) and an "other" category that included topics such as sport finance and sport as religion ( $n = 15$ ; 7.3%). Finally, as an indication of the quality of work presented at the Forum, approximately 40% of the presentations later appeared as publications in scholarly journals.

**The Perception of Hooliganism  
within NAIA Collegiate Soccer  
Players  
Eric Street, Ed.D.  
Midway College  
Steven Chen, Ph.D.  
Morehead State University**

There have been multiple studies with regard to the different aspects of soccer hooliganism throughout the world; the majority of these have been focused internationally. The most

common trends of hooliganism examined include: harassment, vandalism, fighting, theft, public intoxication, and crowd disorder revolving around the game of soccer in countries throughout the world. This phenomenon has been analyzed in detail in the United States with regard to the big four: football, baseball, basketball, and hockey. However, while soccer is the most popular sport in other countries, it lags in comparative popularity in the United States. To date, there has not yet been extensive research into the development of the phenomenon known as soccer “hooliganism” in the United States. Furthermore, there is ambiguity with regards to the definition of hooliganism, what constitutes it and what does not. Additionally, the economic impact of hooliganism on professional soccer clubs was examined. It should be noted that many NAIA soccer players actually hail from other countries where hooliganism is prevalent, and as such, they have an understanding of its implications.

**“Pull My Finger”: Validation  
and Substance Use Scale in a  
Screening Instrument for  
Incoming Athletes**

**David Roehm**

**Western Kentucky University**

Prior research suggests college athletes average more alcoholic drinks per week, more heavy episodic drinking, and more alcohol-related problems than average students. Further, athletes’ perceived support from parental and social support groups concerning taking performance enhancing drugs increased the likelihood of the athlete to use doping substances. Due to the pressure and consequences of athletes using banned

drugs within the context of universities, athletics, and the possible trajectory of the athlete’s life, the purpose of this study is to validate the substance use scale in a screening instrument that was developed to evaluate whether athletes are struggling in particular areas as they arrive on campus. Three phases of development will be employed for assessing the validity of the substance use scale in a screening instrument to identify potential problem areas for incoming athletes: item development, scale development, and scale evaluation. Phase one includes domain identification, item generation, and the content validity of the substance use scale. Phase two includes an item reduction analysis. Phase three employs tests of dimensionality, reliability, and validity to establish the final phase of validation.

**Sport Fan Dysfunction,  
Fandom, and Preference for  
Argumentative Sport**

**Programming**

**Hannah Mitchell**

**Murray State University**

Previous research has shown a clear relationship between fan dysfunction and perceptions of appropriateness of verbal aggression (Donahue & Wann, 2009). The present study examined the correlation between sport fan dysfunction, old school fandom and preference for argumentative sport programming. It was hypothesized that there would be a positive correlation between sport fan dysfunction and preference for argumentative sport programming. Participants ( $N=138$ ) completed the following questionnaires: Dysfunctional Fandom Scale (Wakefield & Wann, 2006),

***FinSHEEM***

Sport Fandom Questionnaire (Wann, 2002), Old School Questionnaire (Sukhdial, Aiken, & Kahle, 2002), Argumentative Sport Programming Questionnaire (developed specifically for this project), and Sport Spectator Identification Scale – Revised (James, Delia, & Wann, 2019). The analyses indicated that the hypothesis was incorrect. Although numerous variables (including fan dysfunction) were significantly correlated with a preference for argumentative sport programming, a simultaneous regression revealed that only one predictor variable, sport fandom, accounted for a significant proportion of unique variance. Specifically, higher levels of sport fandom predictors greater preferences for argumentative sport programming.

**WKU TOPCARE & A Global  
Pandemic: Finding Flexible  
Alternatives to Deliver Clinical  
and Sport Psychology Services**  
**Joseph C. Case, Psy.D.**  
**Western Kentucky University**

NCAA D-1 athletes are faced with numerous stressors during in-season competition. One such stressor is scheduling and time management. Between academic and athletic requirements, and the increased stress associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, finding flexible alternatives to deliver clinical and sport psychology services to athletes becomes paramount. In consultation with a multidisciplinary team of athletic trainers, coaches, and other athletics stakeholders, a program for “pregame consultations” was piloted with a NCAA D-1 men’s basketball team. A block of time two to three hours before each game was set-aside for open consultations. Pregame individual consultations were facilitated in-person and via telehealth videoconferences for away-

games to increase access to services. Participants ( $n=4$ ) received pregame individual consultations prior to each game from January 2021 to March 2021. Pregame consultations focused on brief Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) interventions. The pregame sessions also focused on shifting goals from performance outcomes (e.g., points scored) to process skills (e.g., effort, skill and task execution). Athletes created their own “process scorecards” to track their progress after each performance. All four athletes noted improvement in their performance while also endorsing decreased anxiety and stress on the CAPS. Coaches and stakeholders also noted benefit from the pregame consultations. Future work to include additional process and outcome measures and outreach to other athletic programs.

**Exploration of Exercise and  
Physical Activity Motivation  
Following Venous  
Thromboembolism (VTE)**  
**Julie A. Partridge, Ph.D.**  
**Southern Illinois University Carbondale**

Every year, approximately 100,000 Americans die of venous thromboembolism (VTE), more than breast cancer, AIDS, and motor vehicle accidents combined (Centers for Disease Control, 2020). However, little is known about the experiences of VTE survivors. In particular, the psychological impact of this diagnosis, as well as issues related to exercise and physical activity (e.g., motivation, adherence, self-efficacy) that survivors must navigate in order to help prevent additional blood clot incidence has received little attention in the literature. This gap in our knowledge is a hindrance to the recovery of the 800,000 Americans who do survive their blood clot diagnosis each year.



Systematic research on these topics can hopefully lead to a more complete recovery and prevention of VTE recurrence. The purpose of this presentation is to identify and describe what is currently known about this population, as well as a description of proposed research studies related to motivational antecedents and psychosocial outcomes of physical activity/exercise for VTE survivors, and practical applications of this research for practitioners.

### **Unrightly Divided: An Exploration of the Correlation between Students' Political Orientation and Sports Fandom**

**Jairus Davenport**  
Western Kentucky University

In recent years, sport fandom has become a relatively important area of research in the realm of sport psychology. At present, a great deal of the research that has been conducted on sport fandom relates directly to sport watching behavior, fans' motivations behind watching particular sport leagues, and how strongly someone identifies with any given sport league or team. Up until recently, there has been minimal effort among researchers to adequately explore the possibility of there being a correlation, whether it be positive or negative, between political orientation and sport fandom. The purpose of the current study is to survey students at Western Kentucky University to determine whether or not their political orientation is indicative of how often, or little, they watch the National Basketball Association (NBA) or National Football League (NFL). More specifically, this study examines students' political orientation, which will be measured by their

views on certain political and social topics of discussion. Participants will complete a survey that includes the Sport Fandom Questionnaire for both NBA and NFL, the Sport-Spectator Identification Scale-Revised for a team in both the NBA and NFL, a survey of political orientation, and a measure of how often fans watch the NFL and NBA. The results of this study will help explain the relationship between political orientation and sports fandom. Feedback on the design of the study will be sought.

### **How Sport Fans Coped with the Loss of Live Sporting Events During the COVID-19 Pandemic Shutdown**

**Frederick G. Grieve, Ph.D.**

Western Kentucky University

**Daniel L. Wann, Ph.D.**

Murray State University

**Cody T. Havard, Ph.D.**

The University of Memphis

**Julie A. Partridge, Ph.D.**

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

**Ted Peetz, Ph.D.**

Belmont University

**Ryan K. Zapalac, Ph.D.**

Sam Houston State University

**Joseph C. Case, Psy.D.**

Western Kentucky University

**Riley Cotterman**

Western Kentucky University

When the COVID-19 pandemic shut down occurred, virtually all sports leagues in North America—from recreational sports to professional leagues—were paused or canceled. With no live sporting events, fans had a gap in their leisure activity to fill. The purpose of the present research study was to

***FinSHEEM***

examine what sport fans used to cope with the loss of the live sport viewership/spectatorship and determine how effective fans believed those coping mechanisms to be. Participants were recruited via a snowball sample and the Amazon MTurk platform. A total of 384 sport fans (165 male, 89 female, 130 did not provide gender) responded to the survey. While not all participants responded to all items, 168 indicated coping mechanisms for dealing with not watching sports and 219 reported coping mechanisms for not attending sports. The most common coping mechanism for not being able to watch sporting events on television was watching old sporting events/team highlights on

television or via the internet. The most common coping mechanism for not being able to attend events in person was watching old games/team highlights and sport movies on television and the internet. These mechanisms were reported to be very effective in helping participants cope with the loss of sports ( $M = 5.76$ ,  $SD = 1.68$  on a 1 to 8 scale). These results indicate a need for marketers of sport teams to maintain an online presence in order to maintain fans' connections with the team. Further research into the effects of COVID-19 on sport fan behaviors is needed.

**Presenters for the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Sport Psychology Forum**  
**Saturday, September 18, 2021**  
**Gary Ransdell Hall, Room 2064**

8:00-8:15	Welcome and Introductory Remarks, Rick Grieve, Western Kentucky University
8:15-8:45	Mike Gaddie, Western Kentucky University, KEYNOTE SPEAKER
8:45-9:00	Karen Doran, Morehead State University, & Steve Chen, Morehead State University, "One-and-Done" or "Won and Done"?"
9:00-9:15	Ethan Puckett, Western Kentucky University, "'Next Year is Our Year': An Examination of Sport Fandom of Perennial Loser Teams."
9:15-9:30	Scott York, Western Kentucky University, "Subconcussive impacts and their role on attention among high school athletes"
9:30-9:45	Tommy DeRossett, St. Louis University, "Feelings Suck and So Does Your Team: Exploring the Link between Restrictive Emotionality and Dysfunctional Fandom."
9:45-10:00	Morning Break
10:00-10:15	Hillary M. Copeland, Murray State University, "Gaining Perspective on Dysfunctional Sport Fans"
10:15-10:30	Lindsey Leatherman, Southern Illinois University, & Julie A. Partridge, Southern Illinois University, "An Exploration of the Influence of Demographic and Psychosocial Variables on Rehabilitation and Overadherence in Athletes"
10:30-10:45	Brooke Kordys, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, "The Relationship between the Dark Triad and Dysfunctional Sport Fandom"
10:45-11:00	Daniel L. Wann, Murray State University, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum: A Look Back at 15 Years of Presentations at the Western Kentucky University Sport Science Forum"
11:00-11:15	Eric Street, Midway College, & Steve Chen, Morehead State University, "The Perception of Hooliganism within NAIA Collegiate Soccer Players"
11:15-11:30	David Roehm, Western Kentucky University, "Pull My Finger"
11:30-11:45	Hannah Mitchell, Murray State University, "Sport Fan Dysfunction, Fandom, and Preference for Argumentative Sport Programming"
11:45	Group Photos
12:00-1:30	Lunch
1:30-1:45	Joseph Case, Western Kentucky University, "WKU TOPCARE & A Global Pandemic."
1:45-2:00	Julie Partridge, Southern Illinois University, "Exploration of Exercise and Physical Activity Motivation Following Venous Thromboembolism (VTE)"
2:00-2:15	Cody Havard, University of Memphis, VIDEO FOR FINSHEEM.
2:15-2:30	Jairus Davenport, Western Kentucky University, "Unrightly Divided: An Exploration of the Correlation between Students' Political Orientation and Sports Fandom"
2:30-2:45	Frederick G. Grieve, Western Kentucky University, Daniel L. Wann, Murray State University, Cody T. Havard, University of Memphis, Julie Partridge, Southern Illinois University, Ted Peetz, Belmont University, Ryan K. Zapalac, Sam Houston State University, Joseph Case, Western Kentucky University, & Riley Cotterman, Western Kentucky University, "How Sport Fans Coped with the Loss of Live Sporting Events During the COVID-19 Pandemic Shutdown."

**Key Note Speaker:****MIKE GADDIE**

Executive Athletic Director, Sports Medicine & Athletic Training, and  
Student Athlete Wellness

**Athletics is More Than Wins & Losses**

Mike Gaddie currently serves as Senior Executive Director, Sports Medicine & Student-Athlete Welfare from Western Kentucky University Department of Athletics. His duties include overseeing a department of 12 full-time and part-time staff of Certified Athletic Trainers and Licensed Psychologists. He also coordinates the medical doctors and other healthcare professionals who care for Hilltopper student-athletes. Mike has worked at WKU since the Fall of 2000. He began his Hilltopper career caring primarily for Men's Basketball and was promoted into his current position this year. He has overseen the growth of his department from three full-time staff to the point where it is today, including new facilities and the best medical resources in the region. His wife of 33 years, Connie, is a school teacher and they have two sons, two daughters-in-law, and three wonderful grandchildren.