

Crenshaw sets WKU record at Jim Green Invitational

By The Daily News

Highlighted by Sam Crenshaw’s outdoor school record, Western Kentucky’s track and field teams wrapped up action at the Jim Green Invitational on Saturday in Lexington.

Action started on Saturday with Biz Gold charting a personal best in the women’s discus throw. She became the first of eight Hilltoppers to do so on Saturday. Keeping things in the field ranks, Hunter Coslow’s personal best in the shot put earned him a top-five finish in the event.

In the men’s pole vault, Crenshaw managed a mark of 5.04 meters (16 feet, 6½ inches), which is a new WKU outdoor pole vault school record. This breaks the previous record of 16-00½, set in 1965. His mark earned him a third-place

finish in the event.

“The team competed well, having to battle against some rainy and stormy weather,” WKU coach Lee Wood said in a news release. “I feel confident going into conference championships that we will be prepared to compete at the highest level so far this season.”

On the track, Ricardo Smith set a new best in the 110-meter hurdles preliminary round. Smith and Blake Foster managed to qualify for the final. Foster earned a fifth-place finish in the event.

Kameron Horton became the first Hilltopper to take a victory in the meet as he won the men’s 100-meter dash with a time of 10.49 seconds. Zachariah Taylor also managed a top-five finish in the event. WKU’s Joey Raybourne set a PR in the 100 with a mark of 11.51.

In the women’s 5,000-meter

race, WKU’s Kinley Kunkel set a new personal mark, finishing within the top five to claim fourth in the event.

In the mid-distance races, the Hilltoppers saw three new personal bests. Rowen Wilkinson managed one in the men’s 800 meters. On the women’s side, Kalina Urbaniak ran a new best while leading the way for WKU. Nayla Martin became the third Hilltopper to PR in the event.

When action had concluded on Saturday afternoon, 10 Hilltoppers in total managed to finish in the top five in their respective events with a pair of top-three marks.

WKU will take a week off from competition to prepare for the 2025 Conference USA Outdoor Championships. The meet will be hosted by Middle Tennessee and will run May 16-18.



WKU ATHLETICS
Western Kentucky freshman Sam Crenshaw set a new school outdoor record in the men's pole vault with his third-place finish in the Jim Green Invitational on Saturday in Lexington.

WKU women's golf takes home postseason awards

By The Daily News

Conference USA announced its women’s golf postseason awards on Friday, with Western Kentucky women’s golf coach Adam Gary named CUSA Coach of the Year for a second straight year and 2025 CUSA champion Sydney Hackett named the Most Improved Golfer of the Year.

Four Lady Toppers were also named all-conference on Friday, with Hackett and Catie Craig earning first-team recognition, and Averi Cline and Kaylee Dwyer receiving second-team nods.

Hackett becomes the third WKU women’s golfer to earn CUSA Most Improved, joining Craig (2023) and Emily Alexander (2016). This marks Hackett’s second CUSA superlative award of her career after she earned the conference’s Freshman of the Year honors in 2023. It is her first time earning a

first team All-CUSA honor in her career; she was also third team All-CUSA her freshman season.

A native of Ashburn, Virginia, Hackett has a 72.78 scoring average in 32 rounds (11 events) this season. Last year, she finished with a 75.2 scoring average in 30 rounds, shaving nearly two-and-a-half strokes off her per-round scoring average during her junior season.

Hackett won the CUSA individual title in a playoff over CUSA Golfer of the Year Emma Bunch (New Mexico State), helping WKU to its first team conference championship in the 48-year history of the program. Hackett has six top 4 finishes in 11 events, seven top 10s and eight top 20s. Fifteen of Hackett’s 32 rounds have been played at even-par or better this season as the Lady Tops head into the NCAA Regionals next week.

For Gary, it was his second straight CUSA Coach of the

Year honor. He led the Lady Tops to the program’s first conference championship in the 48-year history of the program, mentoring Hackett to just the program’s second-ever conference individual title (Craig, 2023). The Lady Tops have won four events this spring, the most in a single-season in program history (previous best was two wins, four times) and achieved a school-record best ranking of No. 57 earlier this spring. WKU enters the NCAA Lexington Regional ranked No. 60 in the country.

With a head-to-head record of 107-26-11, WKU is one of just 10 programs – along with No. 2 Arkansas, No. 3 Florida State, No. 5 Oregon, No. 6 Texas, No. 8 Arizona State, No. 9 USC, No. 21 Florida, Campbell and Illinois State – to post at least 107 wins and 26 or fewer losses this season.

Additionally, three different individuals won an event this season for WKU – Catie Craig (Cardinal Cup),

Kaylee Dwyer (Tennessee Spring Challenge) and Sydney Hackett (CUSA Championship). Only three Power Four programs – No. 1 Stanford, No. 4 South Carolina and No. 25 Duke – had at least three individuals win a tournament this season.

In addition to Hackett earning first-team honors, Craig earns the nod for the second straight season. She was also named third team All-CUSA in 2023, marking the third straight season she has been named all-conference. A native of Sautee Nacoochee, Georgia, Craig has a 72.88 scoring average in 26 rounds (nine events) this season. She has a win (Cardinal Cup), four top-5 finishes, six top 10s and seven top 20s. She has also competed at the Augusta National Women’s Amateur and qualified for the final stage of LPGA Qualifying.

Cline, a junior from Suwanee, Georgia, was named second team All-CUSA, her first career

all-conference nod. She has a 75.00 scoring average in 32 rounds (11 events) with a season-best tie for second at the Lady Paladin Invitational in the fall. She also finished tied for eighth at the UNF Collegiate in the spring and has four top 20s.

Dwyer, a freshman from Mokena, Illinois, also earned second team All-CUSA recognition. She has played in all 32 rounds (11 events) this season with two top-5 finishes, including a win at the Tennessee Spring Challenge, and four top 20s. In addition to her win, her other top 5 came as a fourth-place finish at the Reynolds Lake Oconee Invitational.

The Lady Tops head to the NCAA Lexington Regional at Keene Trace Golf Club (Champions) from May 5-7.

- Rebekka Stutley, Jax State
- MOST IMPROVED GOLFER OF THE YEAR**
Sydney Hackett, WKU
- COACH OF THE YEAR**
Adam Gary, WKU
- FIRST TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE**
Emma Bunch, NM State
Amelia Guo, Sam Houston
Grace Jin, Sam Houston
Catie Craig, WKU
Sydney Hackett, WKU
- SECOND TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE**
Hoi Ki Lau, FIU
Rebekka Stutley, Jax State
Abbie Lee, MTSU
Averi Cline, WKU
Kaylee Dwyer, WKU
- THIRD TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE**
Karissa Kilby, FIU
Rachel Camp, Jax State
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King Classic Sudoku

2	4	9	1		3	8		
7					5	2	3	9
	8	5	7	2		6		1
	3					7	2	
	7	8			1	5		
	9	2		4				
		7			6		8	
	2		5	9	4		6	
6		4				5		

Difficulty: ★ 5/5

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INSTRUCTIONS: Sudoku is a number placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the King Classic Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

3	6	4	1	8	9	2	5	7
9	5	1	7	2	3	6	4	8
7	8	2	6	4	5	9	3	1
4	3	8	9	5	6	1	7	2
6	7	5	2	3	1	8	9	4
1	2	9	8	7	4	5	6	3
8	9	6	4	1	7	3	2	5
5	1	7	3	9	2	4	8	6
2	4	3	5	6	8	7	1	9

Difficulty: ★★★★★ 5/4

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