

# 2010 Bronco Baseball Information Guide



# WESTERN MICHIGAN



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# WMU BASEBALL IS ...

## CURRENT MAJOR-LEAGUERS



**PAT MISCH (LHP)**  
NEW YORK METS  
WMU 2000-03



**ADAM ROSALES (3B)**  
OAKLAND ATHLETICS  
WMU 2002-05



## BRONCOS IN THE MAJOR LEAGUE DRAFT



2009: Kevan Hess (Tigers),  
2008: Zach Gentile (Red Sox),  
Ethan Hollingsworth (Rockies),  
Billy Morrison (Mariners)  
2007: Derek Schlecker (Angels)  
2006: Daniel O'Brien (Blue Jays),  
Kyle Maunus (Reds)  
2005: Adam Rosales (Reds)  
2004: JR Mathes (Cubs)  
2003: Pat Misch (Giants),  
Brad Mumma (Blue Jays),  
Keith Perez (A's),  
Tom Fabrizio (Padres)  
2002: Sam Flamont (Tigers),  
Tyler Grinnell (Yankees),  
Tim Frankhouse  
(Independent), Steve Horn  
(Independent)  
2001: Kody Naylor (Marlins),  
John Toner (Mets),  
Ryan Kochen (Astros)  
2000: Matt Vriesenga (Cardinals)  
1999: Frank Alfieri (Astros),  
Kris Gundrum (Mariners),  
Joe Seestadt (Independent)

1998: Derek Ottevaere (Rangers),  
John Stewart (Rangers),  
Eric Place (Blue Jays)  
1997: Brent Sachs (Independent),  
Billy Coleman (Twins)  
1996: Kyle Griffiths (Independent)  
1995: Scott Demetral (Independent),  
Luke Wilcox (Yankees),  
Brian Sikorski (Astros),  
Ryan VandeWeg (Padres),  
Ken Jones (Padres),  
Dave Elliot (Brewers),  
Todd Staehle (Independent)  
1994: Kenny Raines (Braves),  
Henry DelValle (A's),  
Ben Bailey  
1993: Eric Dominow (Rangers),  
Matt Terrell (Mets),  
Scott Conant (Tigers),  
Rob Krueger (Mariners)  
1992: Brian Hostetler (Brewers),  
Brad Tayles (Yankees)  
1991: Chris Demetral (Dodgers),  
Scott DuRussell (Tigers)

1990: Brian Saltzgaber (Tigers),  
Matt Mieske (Padres)  
1989: Bob Reimink (Tigers),  
Damon Saetre  
1988: Chuck Alexander,  
Chris Skryd (Pirates),  
Jeff Trams (Independent),  
Dan Nielsen (Pirates)  
1987: John VanderWal (Expos),  
Bob Bevis (Blue Jays),  
Mark Anderson (Royals),  
Kevin McNees (Braves)  
1986: Walt Williams (Braves),  
Rich Maloney (Braves),  
Abe Walker (Independent)  
1985: Joe Humphries (Dodgers),  
Roger Marquardt (Blue Jays)  
1984: Brian Criswell (A's),  
Greg Brake (A's),  
Jim Markert (White Sox)  
1983: Steve Chumas (A's),  
Joe Gherna,  
Tim Gourlay (White Sox)

1982: Ray Thoma (A's),  
Dave Peterson (A's),  
Buster Sunday (White Sox),  
Walt Faber (Tigers),  
Paul Schneider (White Sox),  
Jeff Kaiser (A's),  
Mark Gerard (Blue Jays),  
Osbe Hoskins (Padres),  
Malcolm McLean (A's),  
Doug Melchert,  
Dave Woodworth (Yankees)  
1980: Bill Heimach (Giants),  
Mo Kyles  
1979: Jeff Kenaga (Tigers),  
Ken Scarpace (Reds),  
Randy Ford (Blue Jays),  
Jerry Miklosli (Red Sox)  
1978: Brad Fisher (A's),  
Scott Meyer (A's),  
Dave Cassetto (Tigers)  
1976: Scott Carnes (Angels),  
Bill Roberts,  
Dan LaNoue (Tigers),  
John Harmas (Phillies)

TOTAL: 98

# CURRENTLY PLAYING PROFESSIONALLY



**ZACH GENTILE (INF)**  
GREENVILLE DRIVE

Class A Affiliate of Boston Red Sox  
WMU 2006-08



**KEVAN HESS (RHP)**  
CONNECTICUT TIGERS

Short Season A Affiliate of Detroit Tigers  
WMU 2007-09



**ETHAN HOLLINGSWORTH (RHP)**  
MODESTO NUTS

Class A Affiliate of Colorado Rockies  
WMU 2006-08



**J.R. MATHES (LHP)**  
IOWA CUBS

Triple A Affiliate of Chicago Cubs  
WMU 2001-04



**BRIAN SIKORSKI (RHP)**  
SAITAMA SEIIBU LIONS

Japan Central League  
WMU 1993-95

## BRONCOS TO REACH MLB

Bob Anderson  
Walter Anderson  
Johnny Bero  
Neil Berry  
Greg Bollo  
Jim Bouton

Dutch Dietz  
Dan Dobbek  
Harvey Freeman  
John Goetz  
Ken Hamlin  
Ron Jackson

Jim Johnson  
Jeff Kaiser  
Ernie Koob  
Charlie Maxwell  
Scott Meyer  
Matt Mieske

Rudy Miller  
Patrick Misch  
Stubby Overmire  
Frank Quilici  
Ribs Raney  
Adam Rosales

Frank Secory  
Brian Sikorski  
Joe Smaza  
Mike Squires  
Joe Stephenson

Wayne Terwilliger  
Ray Thomas

TOTAL: 31

# AN OPPORTUNITY

# FRONT OFFICE PERSONNEL



Dave Dombrowski, a 1979 Western Michigan graduate, hoists the American League Championship trophy won by the Detroit Tigers in 2006. Dombrowski is the current president, CEO and general manager of the Detroit Tigers.

## DAVE DOMBROWSKI • DETROIT TIGERS

A 1979 graduate of WMU, Dombrowski was named President/CEO of the Tigers in November, 2002. Paving the way for success, Dombrowski helped the Tigers put together one of the greatest turn arounds in baseball that led to an American League Championship and World Series appearance in 2006. Prior to taking over in Detroit, Dombrowski worked in the front offices of the Marlins, Expos and White Sox. He served as the Marlins' president and general manager and assembled Florida's 1997 World Series championship team. His career began with the White Sox as an administrative assistant in the minor league and scouting department. He eventually became assistant general manager-vice president of baseball operations with the Sox. Dombrowski moved on to Montreal's front office as director of player development.

## BRAD FISCHER • MILWAUKEE BREWERS

Fischer is currently the third base coach for the Milwaukee Brewers. He previously spent most of his career with the Oakland Athletics. He joined the A's in 1995 as the bullpen coach, then moved to first-base coach in 1997, shifted back to the bullpen in 1998, shifted back to first base in 2003 and finally back to the bullpen in 2006. Fischer was not drafted; but signed with the Oakland Athletics as a free agent out of Western Michigan in 1978.

## BILL LAJOIE • LOS ANGELES DODGERS

Lajoie is assistant to the general manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers of American Major League Baseball, and was formerly the general manager of the Detroit Tigers from 1984 to 1990. In addition to his current post, Lajoie also has served as a special assistant or consultant to the Atlanta Braves (1995-1998), Milwaukee Brewers (2001-2002), and Boston Red Sox (2003-2006). Lajoie was an All-American athlete at WMU, and was signed by the Baltimore Orioles organization following graduation.

## LEN JOHNSTON • BALTIMORE ORIOLES

Johnston has been involved in pro baseball as a player, manager, coach and scout since 1952 in the Chicago White Sox, Cleveland and Baltimore organizations. He has been with the Orioles for over 25 years and presently is a minor league coordinator. Johnston is a member of WMU's Athletic Hall of Fame.

## MIKE SQUIRES • ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

Squires won a Gold Glove at first base for the Chicago White Sox. Squires has worked as a special assignment scout with the St. Louis Cardinals. He was picked by Chicago in the 18th round of the 1973 draft and later served as an advance scout for Chicago (1986) and Oakland (1987-88), and as first base coach for Toronto (1989-91). He rejoined the White Sox in 1992 as bullpen coach and spent the next five years as an advance scout before joining the Cardinals.



COLLEGE FOOTBALL - GAME  
MOST PASSING YARDS - 716  
MOST RUSHING YARDS - 406  
MOST RECEIVING YARDS - 405  
MOST FRESHMAN YDS GAINED - 582  
MOST INTERCEPTIONS - 5  
MOST POINTS SCORED KICKING - 24

COLLEGE FOOTBALL - SEASON  
MOST PASSING YARDS - 5833  
MOST RUSHING YARDS - 2628  
MOST RECEIVING YARDS - 2060  
MOST TOUCHDOWNS SCORED - 39

COLLEGE FOOTBALL - CAREER  
MOST PASSING YARDS - 15,031  
MOST RUSHING YARDS - 6397  
MOST TOUCHDOWN PASSES - 121  
MOST RECEIVING YARDS - 5005  
MOST TOUCHDOWNS SCORED  
ON INTERCEPTION RETURNS - 5  
MOST POINTS SCORED - 468  
LONGEST PUNT IN YARDS - 99  
MOST CONSECUTIVE GAMES  
GAINING 400yds OR MORE - 11  
MOST CONSECUTIVE FIELD  
GOALS MADE - 30

MEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER - GAME  
MOST ASSISTS - 7  
MOST GOALS - 8  
MOST POINTS - 18

MEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER - SEASON  
MOST ASSISTS - 24  
MOST GOALS - 46  
MOST POINTS - 108

MEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER - CAREER  
MOST ASSISTS - 66  
MOST GOALS - 109  
MOST POINTS - 255

WMN'S COLLEGE SOCCER - GAME  
MOST ASSISTS - 6  
MOST GOALS - 7  
MOST POINTS - 16

WMN'S COLLEGE SOCCER - SEASON  
MOST ASSISTS - 44  
MOST GOALS - 37  
MOST POINTS - 97

WMN'S COLLEGE SOCCER - CAREER  
MOST ASSISTS - 129  
MOST GOALS - 118  
MOST POINTS - 284

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - GAME  
MOST POINTS - 100  
MOST 3-POINT FIELD GOALS - 15  
MOST REBOUNDS - 51  
MOST STEALS - 13  
MOST ASSISTS - 22  
MOST POINTS IN FIRST  
CAREER GAME - 52

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - SEASON  
MOST BLOCKED SHOTS - 207  
MOST BLOCKED SHOTS BY A TEAM - 315  
MOST TEAM POINTS SCORED - 3464

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - CAREER  
MOST 3-POINT FIELD GOALS - 413  
MOST ASSISTS - 1076  
MOST POINTS - 37  
MOST CONSECUTIVE FREE THROWS - 85  
MOST GAMES PLAYED - 151

WMN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - GAME  
MOST POINTS - 60  
MOST POINTS BY A TEAM - 149  
MOST CONSECUTIVE FIELD GOALS - 17  
MOST 3-POINT FIELD GOALS - 12

WMN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - SEASON  
MOST POINTS - 1062  
MOST REBOUNDS - 534  
MOST STEALS - 191  
MOST CONSECUTIVE FIELD GOALS - 28

WMN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - CAREER  
MOST POINTS - 3393  
MOST ASSISTS - 1307  
MOST 3-POINT FIELD GOALS - 391  
HIGHEST FIELD GOAL - 70.3%

MEN'S COLLEGE HOCKEY - GAME  
MOST POINTS - 11  
MOST GOALS - 9  
MOST SHORT-HANDED GOALS - 3  
MOST SAVES - 78

MEN'S SWIMMING  
50m FREESTYLE - 21.64  
100m BREASTSTROKE - 59.30  
200m BACKSTROKE - 1:44.06  
50m BACKSTROKE - 24.99  
400m FREESTYLE - 3:40.08  
SHORT-COURSE 4X100m  
FREESTYLE - 3:09.57

WOMEN'S SWIMMING  
50m FREESTYLE - 24.13  
100m FREESTYLE - 53.52  
100m BACKSTROKE - 59.58  
200m FREESTYLE - 1:57.65  
200m BACKSTROKE - 2:06.62  
400m FREESTYLE - 4:03.85  
SHORT-COURSE 4X100m  
FREESTYLE - 3:34.05

MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD  
100m - 9.77  
200m - 19.32  
400m - 43.18  
800m - 1:41.11  
JAVELIN - 98.48m  
MARATHON - 2:04.55  
3000m STEEPLECHASE - 7:53.63  
HIGH JUMP - 2.45m  
LONG JUMP - 8.95m  
TRIPLE JUMP - 18.29m

WMN'S TRACK AND FIELD  
100m - 10.49  
200m - 21.34  
400m - 47.60  
800m - 1:53.28  
100m HURDLES - 12.21  
400m HURDLES - 52.34  
MARATHON - 2:15.25  
DISCUS - 76.80m  
POLE VAULT - 5.00m  
LONG JUMP - 7.52m  
HIGH JUMP - 2.09m  
TRIPLE JUMP - 15.5m

MEN'S MARATHON  
FASTEST HALF MARATHON - 59.05  
FASTEST MARATHON - 2:04.55

PUSH UPS  
NON-STOP - 10,507  
1 MINUTE - 138  
5 MINUTES - 441  
1 HOUR - 3877  
24 HOURS - 46,001  
1 YEAR - 1,500,230

MEN'S SHORT TRACK SKATING  
500m - 41.184  
1000m - 1:24.674  
1500m - 2:10.639

WOMEN'S SHORT TRACK SKATING  
500m - 43.671  
1000m - 1:31.191  
1500m - 2:18.861

MEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL - MATCH  
MOST KILLS - 49  
SERVICE ACES - 4  
BLOCK SOLOS - 11  
DIGS - 27

MEN'S ARCHERY  
72 ARROW RANKING ROUND - 687  
18 ARROW MATCH - 177  
12 ARROW MATCH - 119  
27 ARROW MATCH - 260

WOMEN'S ARCHERY  
72 ARROW RANKING ROUND - 682  
18 ARROW MATCH - 175  
12 ARROW MATCH - 118  
27 ARROW MATCH - 258

PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL  
MOST GRAND SLAMS IN 1 GAME - 2  
LONGEST GAME - 8 hrs 6 mins  
MOST STRIKEOUTS IN A SEASON - 383  
MOST WORLD SERIES WINS - 26  
MOST STOLEN BASES SEASON - 130  
MOST STOLEN BASES CAREER - 1406

WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL - GAME  
MOST HITS - 8  
MOST HOME RUNS - 4  
MOST STOLEN BASES - 7

WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL - CAREER  
MOST VICTORIES BY A PITCHER - 151  
MOST SHUTOUTS BY A PITCHER - 94  
MOST RBIs - 328  
MOST CONSECUTIVE HITS - 10  
MOST CONSECUTIVE GAMES  
HITTING STREAK - 43

MEN'S PROFESSIONAL BOXING  
MOST TITLES - 4  
MOST TITLE BOUTS - 37  
LONGEST CHAMPION REIGN - 11yrs  
LONGEST UNBEATEN - 16yrs 8mths IN  
A TOTAL OF 49 FIGHTS  
MOST CAREER KOs - 145  
CONSECUTIVE CAREER WINS - 49

MEN'S PROFESSIONAL SURFING  
MOST CAREER CHAMPIONSHIPS - 6  
WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL SURFING  
MOST CAREER CHAMPIONSHIPS - 6

SIT-UPS  
1 hour - 8555

MEN'S PROFESSIONAL GOLF  
LONGEST CARRY WITH A DRIVE  
ON THE FLY - 408yds  
MOST U.S. MASTERS TITLES - 6  
CAREER WINS - 82  
CAREER MAJORS WINS - 18

SKATEBOARDING  
HIGHEST OLLIE - 44.5 in  
LONGEST RAMP JUMP - 79 ft  
FASTEST SPEED STANDING - 62.55mph  
HIGHEST AIR - 7ft 8in

MEN'S CYCLING  
SPRINT - 10.129  
INDIVIDUAL PURSUIT - 4:15.165  
1km TIME TRIAL - 1:00.711

WOMEN'S CYCLING  
SPRINT - 11.21  
INDIVIDUAL PURSUIT - 3:24.537  
500m TIME TRIAL - 33.952

MEN'S SHOOTING  
10m RUNNING TARGET - 590  
25m RAPID FIRE PISTOL - 596  
50m PISTOL - 666.4  
50m FREE RIFLE 3 POSITIONS - 1275.1

WOMEN'S SHOOTING  
10m AIR PISTOL - 490.1  
10m AIR RIFLE - 502.0  
TRAP - 93  
50m RIFLE 3 POSITIONS - 686.1  
SKEET - 98

MEN'S SPEED SKATING - EVENT  
500m - 34.42  
1000m - 1:07.18  
1500m - 1:43.95  
5000m - 6:14.66  
10000m - 12:58.92

WOMEN'S SPEED SKATING - EVENT  
500m - 37.30  
1000m - 1:13.83  
1500m - 1:54.02  
5000m - 3:57.70  
10000m - 6:46.91

MEN'S WEIGHTLIFTING - EVENT  
56kg - 305.0  
62kg - 325.0  
69kg - 357.5  
77kg - 375.0

WOMEN'S WEIGHTLIFTING - EVENT  
48kg - 210.0  
53kg - 225.0  
58kg - 237.5  
63kg - 242.5  
69kg - 275.0  
75kg - 272.5

MEN'S TEAM ROWING  
LONGEST CONTINUAL - 1010hrs 34min

MARATHON MEN'S ROWING - 24hrs  
INDIVIDUAL HEAVYWEIGHT - 307,683m  
INDIVIDUAL LIGHTWEIGHT - 302,008m

MARATHON ROWING LARGE TEAM - 24hrs  
WOMEN - 413,549m  
MEN - 497,972m  
MIXED - 480,197m  
MIXED, JUNIORS - 410,018m

MARATHON ROWING SMALL TEAM - 24hrs  
WOMEN - 367,872m  
MEN - 438,694m  
MIXED - 426,635m  
MEN, JUNIORS - 348,370m

ROPE SKIPPING  
NON-STOP - 31:46.48  
1 MINUTE - 425  
1 HOUR - 16,107  
CONSECUTIVE TIGHTROPE SKIPS - 1250

MEN'S SHORT TRACK SKATING  
500m - 41.184  
1000m - 1:24.674  
1500m - 2:10.639

WOMEN'S SHORT TRACK SKATING  
500m - 43.671  
1000m - 1:31.191  
1500m - 2:18.861

MEN'S SKIING  
HIGHEST RECORDED SPEED - 154.165mph

MEN'S COLLEGE LACROSSE - GAME  
MOST POINTS - 14  
MOST GOALS - 10  
MOST ASSISTS - 12  
MOST SAVES BY A GOALIE - 38  
MOST GOALS SCORED BY A TEAM - 38  
MOST CONSECUTIVE VICTORIES - 42  
MOST CONSECUTIVE SEASONS WON - 33

ICE SKATING SPINS - CONTINUOUS  
MOST UPRIGHT ON 1 FOOT - 115

IMPOSSIBLE IS NOTHING



# ROBERT J. BOBB STADIUM



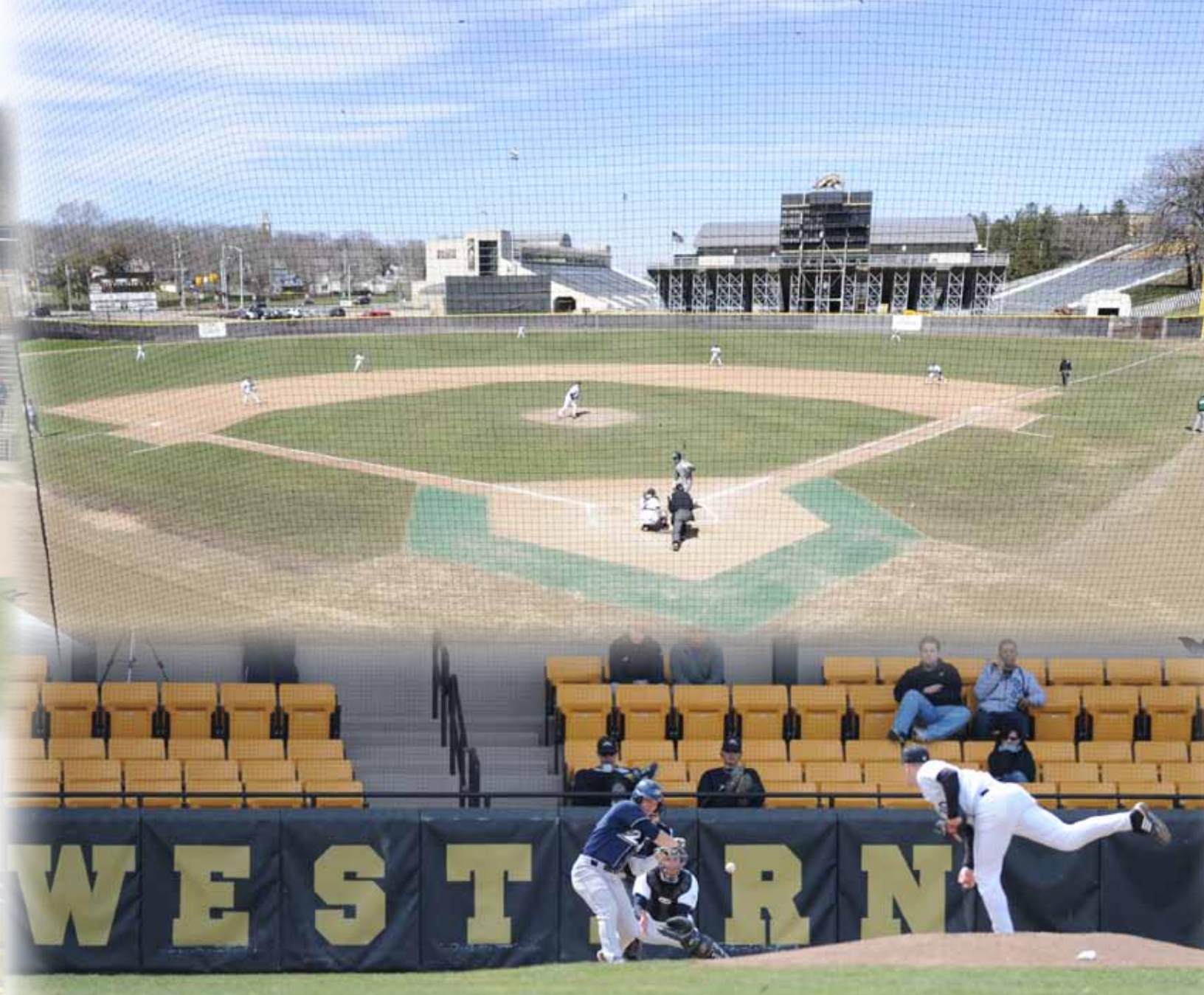
## ROBERT J. BOBB

A \$1 million dollar challenge gift from Chicago equity investor, Robert J. Bobb, got the ball rolling in the restoration of the Bronco baseball facilities. Subsequently, the structure has taken the name Robert J. Bobb Stadium at Hyames Field.

Construction on the baseball stadium project began in the summer of 2008 and is nearing the end of Phase II prior to the start of the 2010 season. The major renovations will place WMU's baseball facilities once again at the top of the Mid-American Conference and the Midwest.

Prior to the 2010 season, all chairback and bench seating areas, home and visitor dugouts, foul-line fencing and grandstand restoration have been completed. A walkway and new entrance with handicap accessibility behind home plate have been completed and new decorative exterior fencing has been added.

The project will continue this spring and summer with the installation of a new press box, bathrooms, concessions, ticket office and stadium signage. Former Bronco baseball players, WMU Alumni and friends have made \$1.9 million in gifts and pledges in support of the project as of March 2010.



## THE HISTORY OF HYAMES

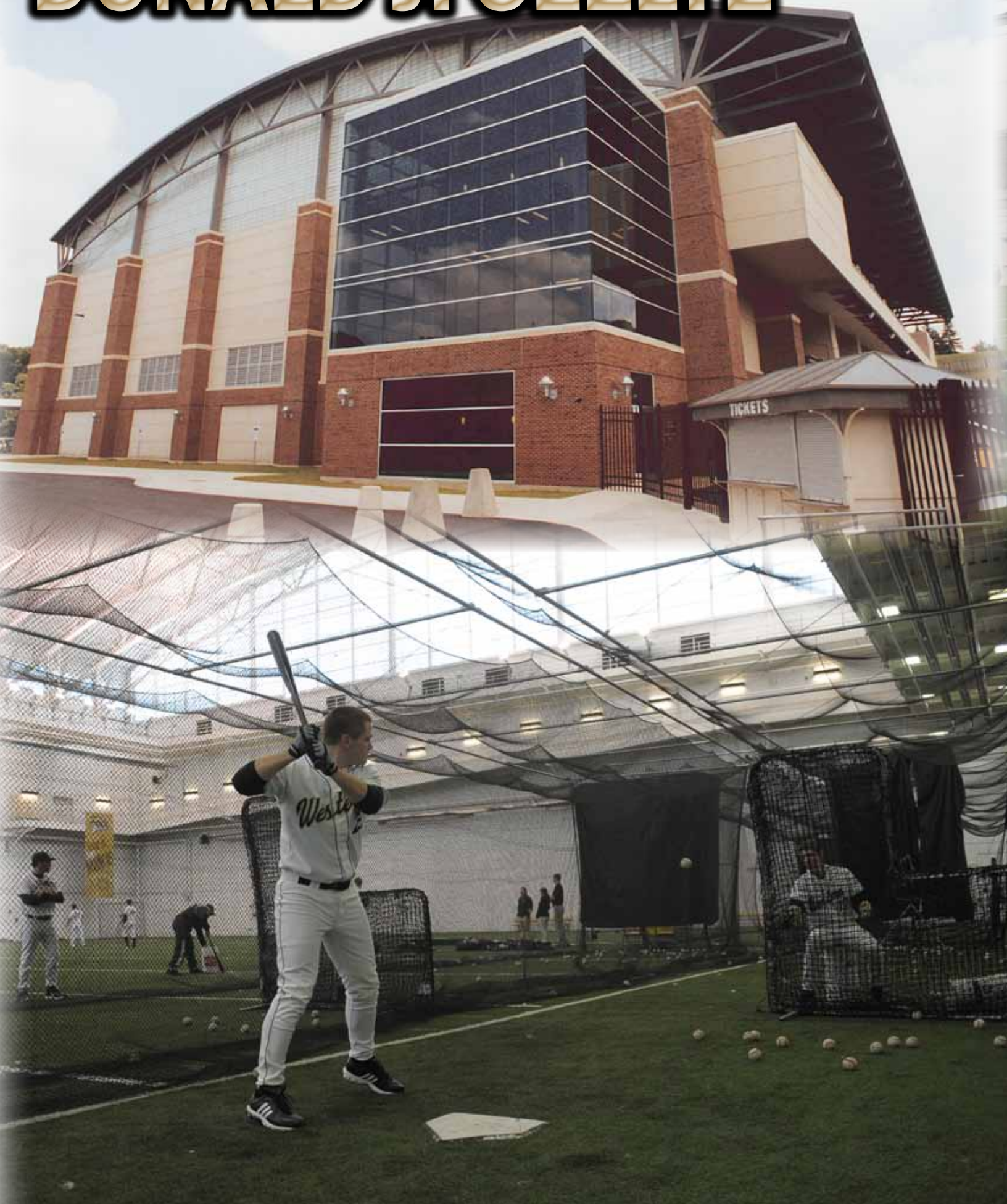
The playing field is named after former head baseball coach and Athletic Director Judson Hyames and was dedicated in the spring of 1939. Hyames coached at WMU from 1922-36, posting a 166-62-2 record during his 15-year tenure. He served as the school's Athletic Director from 1937 until his death in 1949.

Carved out of a hill alongside Stadium Drive, Hyames Field was able to offer a unique playing environment. Features include hill banks down both foul lines, in particular the right field side, which is an open grassy knoll popular with spectators. Construction on the venue began in 1934 as a \$250,000 Federal Works Project that also included the construction of Waldo Stadium.

The site was the home of the first two College World Series in 1947 and 1948.

# AT HYAMES FIELD

# DONALD J. SEELYE





The offices of the baseball coaching staff are located on the third floor of the Seelye Center. The offices overlook the turf bay practice facility from the east and overlook Waldo Stadium to the west, with the offices also doubling as suites on football game days.



The Donald J. Seelye Athletic Center is a state-of-the-art indoor facility that serves as a year-round home for Bronco baseball. The facility is also used extensively by the WMU softball, golf, soccer and football programs.

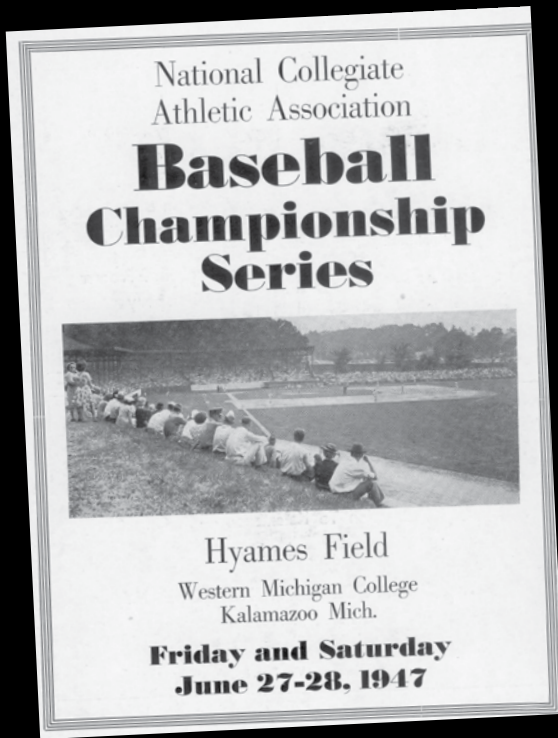
The \$25 million dollar facility houses an 80-yard AstroPlay synthetic turf and encompasses 120,000 square feet. The enormous indoor turf bay reaches a height of eight stories in the center, allowing for batting practice and fielding drills during poor weather.

The Seelye Center combines modern amenities with ties to WMU's rich athletic heritage. Inside, the facility features an expansive W Club Room, multiple locker rooms, a fully-equipped weight room next door to a training room, along with coaches' offices that double as corporate suites on football game days. In addition, the facade of Oakland Gymnasium was incorporated into the new building, blending a touch of the past with the future.

Completed in 2003, the Seelye Center was made possible through the leadership gift from the Seelye family. Don Seelye was a loyal supporter of Bronco Athletics, a community leader and successful businessman.

# INDOOR FACILITY

# COLLEGE WORLD SERIES



## KALAMAZOO, MICH. 1947, 1948

Long before teams dreamed of Omaha, Kalamazoo was the desired destination at season's end for college ballplayers across the nation. Western Michigan's Hyames Field started it all, hosting the first ever College World Series in 1947. The series would return to Kalamazoo again in 1948, before moving to Wichita, Kan., in 1949 and finding its permanent and current location in Omaha, Neb., in 1950.

The 1947 and '48 College World Series were set in a best of three games format. California won the first championship in two games, defeating Yale (14-4, 8-7). Yale made the trip back to Kalamazoo in 1948, but again came up short, falling in three games to USC (1-3, 8-3, 2-9).

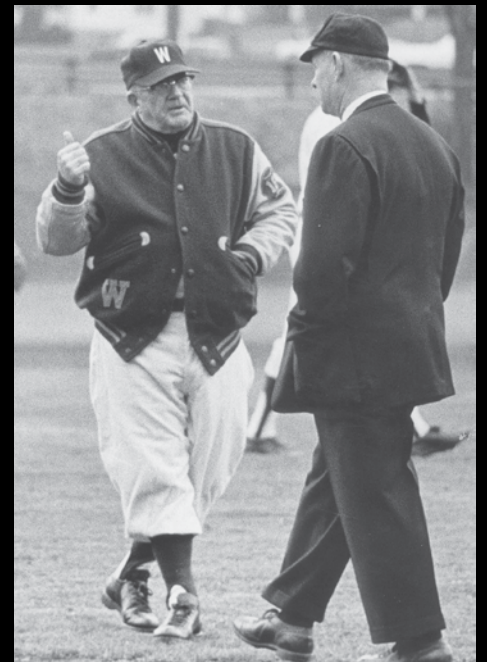
The 1947 contest was particularly memorable, featuring future American League MVP Jackie Jensen of Cal in the outfield. In the same contest, future United States President George H.W. Bush played first base for the Yale squad.



## WESTERN MICHIGAN IN THE COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

**Total Appearances: Six**  
**Years: 1952, 1955, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1963**

Year	Place	Record	Notables
1952	Third-T	2-2	WMU's Tom Cole pitched a two-hitter against Duke.
1955	Second	3-2	WMU's Freed Messner hits first pinch-hit grand slam home run in CWS history. MAC's first NCAA Runner-Up in baseball, highest finish by a MAC team.
1958	Third	2-2	Senior outfielder Marvin Winegar named to All-Tournament Team.
1959	Fifth	NA	WMU's fourth CWS appearance of the decade, only Northern Colorado made more trips (5) to the CWS in the 1950's.
1961	Fifth	1-2	Sophomore outfielder Bill Tomb named to All-Tournament Team.
1963	Eighth	0-2	Only trip to the CWS Western Michigan did not win at least one game.



Legendary Bronco coach **Charlie Maher** guided Western Michigan to six College World Series and 10 of WMU's 11 NCAA appearances.

The Brown & Gold finished second in 1955, claiming the first ever national runner-up trophy for the Mid-American Conference in baseball. Maher also directed the team to third place finishes in 1952 and 1958.

**NCAA Tournament Appearances: 11**  
**Years: 1952, 1955, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1966, 1967, 1987**

# 1955 NCAA RUNNER-UP



## 1955 BRONCOS

**Front Row (l-r):** Coach Charlie Maher, Al Nagel, Bill Lajoie, Gary Graham, Lowell Johnson, Jack Smith, Miki Schwarzkoff.  
**Second Row:** Don Finnefrock, Dick Erickson, Freed Messner, Rogers Egggers, Jim Smith, Gene Frechette, Gerald Sposito, Wayne LaNeave.  
**Third Row:** Tom Czyz, Nobert Krings, Jerry O'Connell, Leland David, Mgr. Don Anderson, Assistant Coach Don Boven, Trainer Ed Gabel.

## The Story of '55 ...

The 1955 NCAA Men's Division I College World Series featured eight schools (Arizona, Colgate, Northern Colorado, Oklahoma A&M, Springfield College, Southern California, Wake Forest and Western Michigan) who battled in a double-elimination tournament to determine the national champion. A total of 15 games over a week's period of time, beginning June 10 and ending on June 16, were played at Johnny Rosenblatt Stadium in Omaha, Neb.

The Kalamazoo community was no stranger to the College World Series, as WMU hosted the first two world series at Hyames Field in 1947 and 1948. Head coach Charlie Maher wasn't a newcomer to Omaha either, guiding the Broncos to a third-place finish in the CWS in 1952.

The Brown & Gold was a force to contend with in 1955, rattling off an unblemished 9-0 record in the Mid-American Conference. The team had just seven losses against 25 wins that season, doing so in an impressive fashion, scoring a total of 303 runs, while giving up just 134 to opponents.

Western Michigan breezed through the first three games of the College World Series, beating Arizona (4-1, June 10), Oklahoma A&M (5-4, June 12) and pounding Wake Forest, who was previously undefeated in the series (9-0, June 11). With two games left and no losses in the double-elimination tournament, WMU had guaranteed itself a place in the national title game. Western Michigan had a chance to send the Demon Deacons home in game four on June 13, but Wake Forest was able to stay alive in the tournament with a 10-7 win over the Broncos.

WMU's Freed Messner made history that game, hitting the only pinch-hit grand slam home run in College World Series history in the top of the eighth. It was also Messner's only hit of the series (1-for-12).

With the loss, WMU would have to wait in the championship round with one loss for the winner of the play-in game between Wake Forest and Oklahoma A&M. Wake Forest went on to win, 2-0, setting up the third straight game between the Broncos and its ACC opponent.

## 1955 National Championship Box Score

Wake Forest	012	030	010	-	7	12	2
Western Michigan	003	300	000	-	6	8	1

### WESTERN MICHIGAN

Player	AB	R	H	BI
Lajoie cf	4	2	2	0
David ss	4	1	1	0
Johnson rf	5	2	3	2
Nagel lf	4	1	1	1
Erickson lf	1	0	0	0
Krings 2b	3	0	0	0
Czyz 3b	3	0	0	1
O'Connell ph	1	0	0	0
Smith 1b	2	0	0	0
Messner c	4	0	0	0
Graham p	1	0	0	0
Schwarzkoﬀ p	3	0	1	0
Berryman ph	1	0	0	0
Totals	36	6	8	4

WMU	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K
Graham	2.0	3	3	3	2	1
Schwarzkoﬀ	7.0	9	4	4	4	9

### WAKE FOREST

Player	AB	R	H	BI
Moore ss	6	0	2	0
McKeel cf	2	3	0	0
Miller rf	5	1	1	0
Holt c	4	1	3	1
McRae lf	5	2	5	3
Barnes 3b	3	0	0	1
Bryant 2b	4	0	4	1
Waggonner 1b	3	0	3	1
Bonzagni 1b	0	0	0	0
Walsh p	1	0	0	0
Fichter p	1	0	0	0
McGinley	3	0	0	0
Totals	38	7	12	7

WAKE FOREST	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K
Walsh	2.2	4	3	3	4	3
Fichter	1.0	1	3	0	2	0
McGinley	5.1	3	0	0	0	4

A crowd of 2,042 gathered to watch the 1955 national championship game at Rosenblatt Stadium, and both teams were in search of their first NCAA crown in their second appearance. Wake Forest jumped ahead 3-0 after two-and-a-half innings, roughing up WMU starter Gary Graham for three runs on three hits. Miki Schwarzkoff, who maintained an 8-0 record entering the game, came in and got the Broncos out of a jam in the third. Western Michigan fired back with six runs in the next two home at bats, taking a 6-3 lead into the fifth.

The offensive explosion caused Wake Forest to make some changes on the mound as well, as starter Bill Walsh was pulled after 2.2 innings and reliever Buck Fichter was replaced by Jack McGinley in the fourth. McGinley would prove to be the Deacons' saving grace, as he surrendered just three hits the rest of the game.

Wake Forest managed to put three runs on Schwarzkoff in the top of the fifth, evening the score at six apiece. The Broncos met their demise in the eighth when Luther McKeel walked and advanced two bases on as many passed balls by the time Schwarzkoff fanned two men. With two outs and the winning run on third, Linwood Holt drove a single through the middle of the diamond for the all-important run. Unable to muster a score in their final two at bats, the Broncos fell by a 7-6 final.

Lowell Johnson was the top slugger for WMU, batting in two while going 3-for-5 from the plate, with two runs scored. Al Nagel and Tom Czyz each drove in a run. Bill Lajoie scored twice, knocking two hits, including a double. Nagel and Leland David each had a hit and scored once. Schwarzkoff tallied a single.

Western Michigan's run in 1955 was the best ever in school history. It was one of 10 NCAA Tournament appearances over a span of 29 years under Maher. His teams advanced to a total of six College World Series (1952, 1955, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1963).

# WHERE OPPORTUNITY & GREATNESS MEET



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

**GARY FUND**

EST. 1956

[wmubroncos.com/garyfund](http://wmubroncos.com/garyfund)



In its 53 years of existence, the Mike Gary Athletic Fund has been the official fundraising arm of the WMU Athletic Department, raising over \$4 million through annual gifts and major contributions.

## OUR MISSION

To support the student-athletes of Western Michigan University in their pursuit of championships, academic excellence and personal growth as representatives of WMU, its alumni, fans and community members.

The Broncos would like to thank the following Car Coaches for their support of WMU Athletics:

Cole Century - Tom Cole (owner)

DeNooyer Chevrolet - Bill DeNooyer (owner)

Harold Zeigler Auto Group - Harold & Aaron Zeigler (owner)

John Tapper Automotive - John Tapper (owner)

Maple Hill Auto Group - Jim Vandenberg (owner)

Metro Toyota - Jeff DeNooyer (owner)

## MIKE GARY ATHLETIC FUND

Founded in 1956 by a group of area businessmen and dedicated Broncos, the Mike Gary Athletic Fund was established to provide direct financial support to the athletic programs of Western Michigan University.

The fund is named in honor of long-time athletic director, Bronco football coach and WMU Hall of Fame inductee, Mr. Mitchell "Mike" Gary.

## GARY FUND EXCEEDS \$1 MILLION FOR SECOND-STRAIGHT YEAR

Gary Fund had another record-setting year with an overall goal of \$1.0 million for the 2009 campaign.

The Mike Gary Athletic Fund announced a two percent increase in donations with a total of \$1,022,045. Last year's record total was \$1,002,749. The Gary Fund volunteers surpassed their calling period goal of \$475,000 with a total of \$477,962.

The announcement was made at the Mike Gary Athletic Fund Celebration held at the Gilmore House hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Dunn. In attendance were the Gary Fund volunteers, the WMU Head Coaches and athletic staff.

The chair for the 2009 campaign was Jim Hall and the Vice Chair was Jim Everts.

# WMU ATHLETICS ARE ...



The Gary Fund supports all 16 Western Michigan athletic programs from men's soccer to gymnastics to football and each and every student-athlete's experience.

The WMU student-athletes and teams are grateful to the Gary Fund donors and the volunteers.

# SUPPORTED

# WMU BASEBALL IS ...



**Ellis Athletic Academic Advising Center** is located on the second floor of Read Field-house. The athletic academic services program exists to provide a comfortable and supportive environment in which student-athletes can strive to achieve academic success. The Ellis Center houses the academic services staff, computer labs, tutoring program, composition specialists, study table and the CHAMPS/Life Skills program. The mission of this athletic academic service program is to assist student-athletes in reaching their full potential by providing them with the necessary tools and skills to achieve academic success.

# ATHLETIC TRAINING

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of Medical Services is to set a standard in providing comprehensive, quality healthcare to our student-athletes. Our staff will provide a professional environment for all involved. We will serve as advocate for the student-athletes health and well-being and we will be proactive in treating and managing the student-athletes' healthcare.

We use an integrated team approach of certified athletic trainers, sports medicine trained physicians, student athletic trainers and other qualified health professionals to effectively manage and treat various medical, physical and mental conditions. In compliance with the WMU Division of Intercollegiate Athletics mission, the medical services department will strive to produce NCAA Division I programs for men and women characterized by excellence in athletics and academics while being recognized as a leader among ethical, non-discriminatory, and fiscally well-managed departments.



# PREPARED