

Intercollegiate Athletics

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Kevin Dustin

Strength and Conditioning: Mark Uyeyama

Equipment Supervisor: Mike Bair

Compliance Director: Jake Garlock

Faculty Representative: Dr. Kenneth L. White

Head Coaches:

Basketball (Men's): Stew Morrill

Basketball (Women's): Raegan Pebley

Football: Brent Guy

Golf: Dean Johansen

Gymnastics: Ray Corn

Soccer: Heather Cairns

Softball: Candi Letts

Tennis: Chris Wright

Track: Gregg Gensel

Volleyball: Grayson DuBose

The Intercollegiate Athletics program at Utah State University encourages excellence in academic and athletic performance. The program is designed to develop qualities of leadership, sportsmanship, and individuality, helping each student-athlete realize his or her ultimate capabilities. Utah State's Intercollegiate Athletics operates under the direction of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), the Western Athletics Conference, and Utah State University. The Aggies compete at the NCAA Division I Level in 16 sports, including football, women's soccer, women's volleyball, men's and women's cross-country, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's indoor track and field, women's gymnastics, women's softball, men's golf, men's and women's tennis, and men's and women's outdoor track and field.

On July 1, 2005, a new era in Utah State Athletics began with the entrance into the Western Athletics Conference. With this move into one of the top 10 conferences in the country, Aggie fans are extremely excited about the future. During the past 28 years, Utah State has won 39 Big West Conference championships, including a school record five during the 1997-98 school year. Since 1998, Aggie athletic success has continued with 10 more league titles. The future looks bright in the WAC, as Fall 2005 brought a league championship for the men's cross-country team.

The basketball team has become a fixture in the NCAA Tournament and has won either a conference regular season title, conference tournament title, or both every year but one during the 2000s. The Aggies have won at least 20 games during 8 of the last 10 years. The prognosis is for a very strong showing in the Western Athletics Conference.

The football team has finished first or second in league play 12 times during its last 25 years of conference play. Three of the top five home attendance seasons have come in the last six years. With the entrance into the Western Athletic Conference, there are increased opportunities for post-season bowl games and added television exposure.

USU's cross-country and track teams have been among the conference's best for a number of years, as the cross-country team has won six league titles and finished second seven times during the last 15 years. The track team has claimed seven league team championships during the last 18 years. During the inaugural fall season in the Western Athletics Conference, the men's cross-country team won the league championship. USU's men and women both won team titles in 2006.

On the women's side, USU has had success in a number of its sports. The gymnastics program has competed in the NCAA regionals during 24 of the last 28 years and has won five conference championships during the last 15 years.

The Aggie soccer team has made great strides every year since it started the program in 1996 and produced its best season in 2004. The team finished tied for second in the Western Athletics Conference during 2005.

The track teams continue to have success, as the women's cross-country team was the Western Athletics Conference runner-up in 2005, while the track team won seven consecutive league titles beginning in 1993 in the Big West.

USU's volleyball team advanced to consecutive NCAA tournaments in 2000 and 2001 and participated again in 2005.

USU reinstated its women's basketball program ahead of the 2003-04 season. The program is quickly maturing into a competitive foe in the Western Athletics Conference.

Academically, Utah State is the leader of the Western Athletics Conference. USU's graduation success rate is above those of the other Western Athletics Conference schools, and "academics first" is stressed in all USU programs.

USU has a strong history of athletic success. Among these successful athletes is Merlin Olsen, who won the Outland Trophy awarded to the nation's top lineman in 1961. Olsen, who was selected into the NFL Hall of Fame, was also an academic All-American. Merlin's brother, Phil, was also an athletic All-American at Utah State and had great success in the NFL.

USU has produced five Olympians and 27 All-Americans in track and field, including former world record holders L. Jay Silvester and Mark Enyeart. Jay Don Blake became USU's first NCAA national champion in golf, winning the national title in 1980 and finishing second the following year.

Aggie basketball boasts the legacy of Wayne Estes, an All-American in the early 1960s before his untimely death prior to the conclusion of his senior season.

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Three Aggie gymnasts have earned All-American honors and two others have represented their countries in the Olympics and World Championships. Seven different student-athletes have earned All-American honors in volleyball 12 times, and Elaine Roque and Karolyn Kirby have gone on to successful careers on the pro beach volleyball tour.

The softball team has produced four All-Americans, including three-time All-American Kelly Smith.

Facilities

Excellent training and competition facilities are provided in all sports.

E. L. "Dick" Romney Stadium, home of the Aggie football team for more than 30 years, seats 25,513. A state-of-the-art lighting system was installed prior to the 1993 season, and chair-back seating was added ahead of the 1997 season. The 1999 season saw expanded seating, two new scoreboards, and an improved sound system. A new synthetic turf was installed prior to the 2004 season, and a new end zone complex is being erected at this time. The multi-storied complex will include consolidated academic support, a new sports medicine area, new locker rooms, and an equipment room, as well as team meeting areas and coaches' offices.

Basketball, gymnastics, and volleyball are played in the beautiful 10,270-seat Dee Glen Smith Spectrum. A \$1.2 million scoreboard was installed prior to the 2002-03 academic year, and a new playing floor was installed during 2005. Basketball and volleyball practices are held in the Spectrum, while the HPER Building is the practice home for the gymnastics team.

The recently renovated gymnastics practice gym has been labeled as one of the nation's finest, complete with vaulting pits and foam-spring exercise floor.

The \$4.4 million Stan Laub Indoor Training Facility is one of the finest facilities in the nation. The building features a 95-yard football field that is regulation width and a vaulted ceiling that reaches 78 feet high. The building is perfect for off-season conditioning for all of Utah State's sports.

The Nelson Fieldhouse is the home of the Aggie indoor track and field teams. The teams practice on a 200-meter tartan track. For the outdoor season, a recently resurfaced and renovated Ralph Maughan Stadium is the home for the men's and women's track teams.

The women's softball team plays its home games at LaRee and LeGrand Johnson Field, an on-campus facility, for which a large scoreboard, new grass, and a new fence were added ahead of the 2004 season.

The women's soccer team also has a new facility, the Chuck and Gloria Bell Soccer Field, which was built in 2003 and features a two-story press box.

The tennis teams play at the Sports Academy and Racquet Club, one of the finest indoor facilities in the West. The men's golf team practices and plays at the Birch Creek Golf Course and at the Logan Golf and Country Club.

Scholarships

Utah State offers partial and full scholarships in each of its 16 sponsored sports. A student or prospective student desiring consideration for one of these awards may contact one of the coaches for further information about scholarship applications.

Registration and Eligibility

Registration for athletic participation in Aggie athletics may be accomplished by contacting any of the coaches or the athletics office. Eligibility for participation is governed by the rules and regulations established by the NCAA, by the Big West Conference, and by Utah State University.

Scheduling Policy

Utah State's Athletics program works very closely with coaches and schedulers to avoid scheduling of intercollegiate practices and competitions for both men and women at times that conflict with the instructional calendar, particularly during end-of-term examinations.

Supervision

Supervision and direction for men and women is vested in the Director of Athletics and the Athletic Council, consisting of the President of the University, and members of the faculty, the alumni, and student organizations.