GRIZZLY ATHLETICS TIMELINE

2005

Georgia Gwinnett College is founded

SPRING 2011

Intercollegiate Athletics are announced

SUMMER 2011

Dr. Darin S. Wilson is named Director of Athletics

2011 - 2012

Grizzly coaching staff and teams are assembled

SUMMER 2012

Varsity Athletics Complex groundbreaking

AUG. 25, 2012

First intercollegiate games in Grizzly Athletics history
2012
MEN’S SOCCER
QUICK FACTS

THE COLLEGE

Location .................................................... Lawrenceville, Ga.
Founded ........................................................... 2005
Enrollment .......................................................... 9,500
President ......................................................... Dr. Daniel J. Kaufman
Director of Athletics ............................... Dr. Darin S. Wilson
Nickname ........................................................... Grizzlies
Colors ................................................................. Green (PMS 3425) and Gray (PMS 429)
Affiliation ......................................................... NAIA
Conference ....................................................... Assoc. of Independent Institutions
Athletics Web Site ............................................ GrizzlyAthletics.com

THE PROGRAM

Inaugural Season ...................................................... 2012
Program Record .................................................. N/A
2011 Record ......................................................... N/A
Home Field ......................................................... Grizzly Soccer Field
Capacity ............................................................... 1,000

THE COACHES

Head Coach ......................................................... Steve DeCou
Alma Mater ... Tennessee Temple University, 1995
Career Record/Years .................................. 121-92-15/12 years
Record at School ................................................ First year
Assistant Coach ................................................... Kevin May
Volunteer Assistant ........................................ Ben Callon
Volunteer Assistant ........................................ Eric Ati
Volunteer Assistant ........................................ Jorge Vallejo

ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

Assistant Athletics Director .................... Ned Colegrove
Email ................................................................. ncolegrove@ggc.edu
Office Phone ...................................................... (678) 407-5241
Mobile Phone ..................................................... (404) 973-8184

Front Row (L to R): Juan Matute, Austin Pinto, Edwin Romero, Johan Sanchez, Jose Figueroa, Malick Camara, Martin Lugo, Rene Enang
Middle Row (L to R): Alejandro Duque, German Rodriguez, Stuart Morrison, Kevin May, Steve DeCou, Greg Hartley, David Burke, Victor de Lima
Back Row (L to R): Alex Joseph, Ike Marcussi, Tom Butler, Zach Mruk, Ian Struckmeyer, Jake Young, Andres Molano, Thiago Santos, Ibrahima Sissoko
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pos.</th>
<th>Cl.</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
<th>High School/Previous School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Greg Hartley</td>
<td>GK</td>
<td>Sr.</td>
<td>Manchester, Eng.</td>
<td>Failsworth SC/Belhaven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jose Figueroa</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>Guatemala City, Guat.</td>
<td>American School, Guatemala/MGC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Austin Pinto</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>Monroe, Ga.</td>
<td>Hebron Christian Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Victor de Lima</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>So.</td>
<td>Sao Paulo, Brazil</td>
<td>Joao XXIII/GPC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Juan Matute</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>Buenos Aires, Argentina</td>
<td>Jean Mermoz/MGC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Alex Joseph</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>Miami, Fla.</td>
<td>Varela HS/GPC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Stuart Morrison</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>Inverness, Scot.</td>
<td>Inverness Royal/Erskine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Andres Molano</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>Bogota, Colombia</td>
<td>Retos y Retos/So. Wesleyan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tom Butler</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Sr.</td>
<td>Birmingham, England</td>
<td>John Buchan HS/Emmanuel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Alejandro Duque</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Sr.</td>
<td>Duluth, Ga.</td>
<td>Collins Hill HS/Clayton State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>David Burke</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>Columbus, Ga.</td>
<td>Hardaway HS/GMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Johan Sanchez</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>Jarabacoa, D.R.</td>
<td>Doulos Discovery/Tyler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Martin Lugo</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>Lawrenceville, Ga.</td>
<td>Berkmar HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Edwin Romero</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>So.</td>
<td>Duluth, Ga.</td>
<td>Duluth HS/Shorter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Ibrahima Sissoko</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>Norcross, Ga.</td>
<td>Lycee Pane de Vilgais/Gordon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Rene Enang</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Jr.</td>
<td>Kumba, Cameroon</td>
<td>Cameroon Protestant/GMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Malick Camara</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>RS Jr.</td>
<td>Atlanta, Ga.</td>
<td>Chamblee HS/Vermont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Ike Marcussi</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>So.</td>
<td>Sao Paulo, Brazil</td>
<td>Aguiar Pecanha/Copiah-Lincoln</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Thiago Santos</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>So.</td>
<td>Rio de Janeiro, Brazil</td>
<td>Marista Sao Jose/USC-Aiken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Zach Mruk</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Fr.</td>
<td>Buford, Ga.</td>
<td>Mill Creek HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Iain Struckmeyer</td>
<td>GK</td>
<td>So.</td>
<td>Kathleen, Ga.</td>
<td>Perry HS/Darton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Head Coach: Steve DeCou (duh-COO)
Assistant Coach: Kevin May
Volunteer Assistants: Ben Callon (CAL-en), Eric Ati (ah-TEE), Jorge Vallejo (hor-hay va-JAY-oh)

Pronunciation Guide:
#2- fig-uh-ROW-uh  #16- JUR-men
#3- PIN-to  #17- ri-NAY e-NANG
#4- day LEE-ma  #18- muh-LEEK ka-MAH-ruh
#5- ma-TOO-tay  #19- E-kay mar-COO-see
#10- DOO-kay  #20- CHAH-go
#13- LOO-go  #21- MRUCK
#15- e-bra-HEE-ma see-SO-co  #28- STRUCK-my-er
## 2012 Men’s Soccer Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Aug. 18</td>
<td>Oglethorpe (scrimmage)</td>
<td>Lawrenceville, GA</td>
<td>6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Aug. 25</td>
<td>Tennessee Temple</td>
<td>Lawrenceville, GA</td>
<td>3pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Sep. 1</td>
<td>Emmanuel College</td>
<td>Lawrenceville, GA</td>
<td>6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Sep. 8</td>
<td>St. Francis (SCAD Tournament)</td>
<td>Savannah, GA</td>
<td>2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Sep. 9</td>
<td>SCAD (SCAD Tournament)</td>
<td>Savannah, GA</td>
<td>1pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Sep. 15</td>
<td>Bob Jones University</td>
<td>Lawrenceville, GA</td>
<td>2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Sep. 19</td>
<td>Georgia Southwestern</td>
<td>Lawrenceville, GA</td>
<td>7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Sep. 21</td>
<td>Oakwood University</td>
<td>Huntsville, AL</td>
<td>4pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Sep. 23</td>
<td>Young Harris College</td>
<td>Young Harris, GA</td>
<td>2pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Sep. 29</td>
<td>Florida College</td>
<td>Temple Terrace, FL</td>
<td>1pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Oct. 6</td>
<td>Auburn-Montgomery</td>
<td>Lawrenceville, GA</td>
<td>1pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Oct. 12</td>
<td>Crown College</td>
<td>Lawrenceville, GA</td>
<td>5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Oct. 13</td>
<td>Covenant College</td>
<td>Lookout Mtn., GA</td>
<td>7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Oct. 17</td>
<td>Reinhardt University</td>
<td>Waleska, GA</td>
<td>3pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Oct. 20</td>
<td>Florida College</td>
<td>Lawrenceville, GA</td>
<td>1pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Oct. 21</td>
<td>Oakwood University</td>
<td>Lawrenceville, GA</td>
<td>1pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Oct. 26</td>
<td>Tennessee Temple</td>
<td>Chattanooga, TN</td>
<td>7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Oct. 30</td>
<td>Faulkner University</td>
<td>Montgomery, AL</td>
<td>8:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Nov. 3</td>
<td>Hiwassee</td>
<td>Lawrenceville, GA</td>
<td>5pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Home events in **bold** – Home games played on Georgia Gwinnett College campus – All times Eastern

Subject to change – please visit GrizzlyAthletics.com for the most up-to-date information
The 2012 Georgia Gwinnett College Men’s Soccer media brochure was designed and edited by Ned Colegrove, Assistant Athletics Director for Communications & Marketing.

All media requests for player or coach interviews should be coordinated through Ned Colegrove and the Grizzlies Sports Communications office. Players will be made available after games or practices upon request and at select times during the week. For inquiries, call (678) 407-5241 or email ncolegrove@ggc.edu.
Dr. Darin S. Wilson comes to Georgia Gwinnett College from Union College in Barbourville, Kentucky, where he served as the athletics director since 2003, following a five-year stint as baseball coach. His departure ended 18 years of involvement with Union College, from an undergraduate student-athlete to leading the athletics program. He said it was an emotional decision to leave, but he’s excited about the new challenge ahead of him. He brings a wealth of athletics experience with him to Georgia Gwinnett College.

Currently, Wilson is overseeing the development and construction of Georgia Gwinnett’s $15 million athletics facilities, and he looks forward to the College’s athletics program continuing to grow and progress at a rapid pace.

During Wilson’s time with Union College, the college won 47 ACC regular-season and tournament championships, four Midwest Collegiate Cycling Conference titles, and six NAIA Region XII championships. Union was awarded the Appalachian Athletic Conference Duard Walker All-Sports Trophy for the first time in school history in 2010. Forty-seven players were named NAIA Scholar-Athletes, and four players were selected as CoSIDA Academic All-America Team members.

Wilson oversaw extensive renovation of Union’s sports facilities, including baseball and football locker room remodels, new scoreboards and press boxes, the installation of a $1 million synthetic turf multi-purpose field, and expansion of athletic training facilities. The athletics overhaul made Union’s facilities some of the best in the NAIA.

Wilson also grew Union’s department of athletics from 15 to 23 intercollegiate programs, while effectively revitalizing the athletic booster club and managing a multi-million dollar operational and scholarship budget.

As Georgia Gwinnett College’s inaugural Director of Athletics, he is responsible for all aspects of leading a comprehensive department of athletics and has wasted no time building the College’s sports program.

Since joining Georgia Gwinnett, Wilson hired the College’s first athletics staff and established accounts for the Grizzly Athletic and Scholarship Funds. He chairs the intercollegiate athletics committee, and with Wilson’s leadership, Georgia Gwinnett College successfully completed the application for and has been accepted into the NAIA.

Wilson has a master’s in education from Union College and a Ph.D. in higher education leadership from Capella University in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He has served on three conference and two national committees and currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Association of Independent Institutions.

His time as a coach and a player was marked by success as well. As a Union baseball coach, Wilson was named the 2001 Mid-South Conference Coach of the Year. He set a school record with 41 wins, posting a 161-106-1 record. Additionally, Wilson was selected as Male Athlete of the Year, as an undergraduate baseball player at Union.

Wilson has been recognized as the Appalachian Athletic Conference (AAC) Athletic Director of the Year three times (2008, 2009, 2011), the NAIA Region XII Athletic Director of the Year (2008), and the 2009-10 NAIA Under Armour AD of the Year for the Southeast Region by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA). Additionally, he was selected as the 2010-2011 NAIA National Athletic Director of the Year.
In September 2005, Dr. Daniel J. Kaufman became the charter president of the new Georgia Gwinnett College, located in Lawrenceville, the first new 4-year college in Georgia in over 100 years. The college admitted its first students in August 2006 and its first freshman class in August 2007. The mission of GGC is to provide baccalaureate level degrees that contribute to the economic development needs of Gwinnett County and the surrounding region. The programs at GGC emphasize the innovative use of educational technology and an integrated educational experience that emphasizes student intellectual, social and personal development. Georgia Gwinnett College is now fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, with more than 8,000 students pursuing 40 fields of study.

In addition to his duties at the college, Dr. Kaufman is Vice Chair of the Georgia Gwinnett College Foundation. He also is a member of the Board of Directors of the Gwinnett County Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Partnership Gwinnett Steering Committee, a member of the Board of Directors of Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful, a member of the Board of Directors of the Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Gwinnett Medical Center Foundation.

He also serves on the Board of Trustees of Riverside Military Academy in Gainesville.

Prior to assuming his duties as president of Georgia Gwinnett College, Dr. Kaufman was a brigadier general in the U.S. Army, serving as Dean of the Academic Board and Chief Academic Officer at the United States Military Academy at West Point, a position from which he retired in June 2005. In his capacity as the chief academic officer, Dr. Kaufman was responsible for the design and implementation of the academic program at West Point. Prior to his selection as chief academic officer, Brigadier General Kaufman was Professor and Head of the Department of Social Sciences, which offers programs in political science and economics. Prior to being named Department Head, General Kaufman was director of the International Relations and National Security Studies program at West Point. He has taught courses in international relations, comparative politics, national security affairs, U.S. foreign policy, and American politics and government. He has written several books, the most recent being Understanding International Relations. His other books include U.S. National Security Strategy for the 1990s; U.S. National Security: A Framework for Analysis; Democracy, Strategy, and Vietnam; and NATO at Forty: Change, Continuity, and Prospects.

Dr. Kaufman graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1968; he was commissioned a second lieutenant of Armor and awarded a Bachelor of Science degree. Dr. Kaufman also holds a Masters of Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University and a Doctorate in Philosophy in Political Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the International Studies Association, and the American Political Science Association. Upon his retirement from active duty, Dr. Kaufman was honored by the British government as an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.). He is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Academic Honorary Society.

Dr. Kaufman’s military service includes tours with cavalry and armor units in the United States and Vietnam, where he received the Bronze Star for heroism and two Purple Hearts for wounds sustained during combat. He also has served as a member of the National Security Council staff in the White House and in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He served as a Special Assistant to three Chiefs of Staff of the Army. He also was a member of the Department of Defense Presidential Transition Team in 1992. Brigadier General Kaufman also was engaged extensively in the development of the National Military Academy of Afghanistan, which opened in Kabul in April 2005.

He and his wife, Kathryn, are both natives of Brunswick, Georgia. They have two children, daughter Emily and son David, two granddaughters, Emma and Katie, and one grandson, Connor.

President Kaufman (left) welcomes Dr. Wilson as GGC Director of Athletics in August of 2011.
Steve DeCou comes to Georgia Gwinnett College from Belhaven University, where for the past five years he has served as the head coach of the men’s soccer team. He brings with him more than 15 years of coaching experience.

DeCou was the Southern States Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in 2010, following a 16-2-3 season, the 2008 Gulf Coast Athletic Conference Coach of the Year, following a 13-4-1 campaign and the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in 2005, following a 13-8-2 season.

During his tenure at Belhaven, DeCou posted five consecutive winning seasons (66-23-7 overall), and he led the Blazers to the top 25 finishes in the final NAIA poll from 2009-2011, while the 2010 and 2011 teams ranked in the top 10. DeCou coached his teams to the Round of 16 in the NAIA National Tournament for the 2010 and 2011 seasons. Six players were selected as NAIA All-Americans, 10 players were named Academic All-Americans, 22 players were All-Conference selections, one was awarded the 2010 SSAC Newcomer of the Year and one was named the 2011 SSAC Defensive Player of the Year.

Under Coach DeCou’s leadership, Belhaven became a national force in a short period of time,” said Darin Wilson, GGC’s director of athletics. “We are confident that he will quickly lead the Grizzlies to the same level.”

Prior to his time at Belhaven, DeCou spent 2004-2006 at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Illinois, where he led the Trolls to a 27-28-4 record. His three year stint was highlighted by a 13-8-2 season in 2005 that saw Trinity Christian College selected to the National Christian College Athletic Association Tournament.

From 2000-2003, DeCou served as head coach of Huntington College in Huntington, Indiana, guiding the Foresters to their first winning campaign in eight years in 2001.

In addition to his involvement with NAIA soccer, DeCou spent three summers coaching in the United Soccer Leagues’ Premier Development League, serving as an assistant in 2006 and 2007 with the Chicago Fire Premier and as head coach of the Mississippi Brilla FC in 2008.

The son of a high school football coach, DeCou’s earliest memories revolve around athletics, coaching and lessons learned from his father, and after a brief career detour, DeCou decided to follow in his father’s coaching footsteps. DeCou believes coaching at the college level is about impacting lives and helping young people learn skills that will enable them to become contributing members of society, and he is excited about the opportunity to build a program at a growing institution in a location with a great talent pool.

DeCou is a graduate of Tennessee Temple University (Chattanooga, Tennessee) where he played soccer and earned his bachelor’s degree in physical education. He holds a master’s in sports medicine from the United States Sports Academy. He holds a USSF “A” license as well as the NSCAA Advanced National Diploma. He currently serves as president of the NAIA Men’s Soccer Association Executive Committee and is a member of the NAIA Ratings Oversight Committee, NAIA National Tournament Selection Committee and NAIA National Tournament Games Committee.

The move to Georgia Gwinnett brings DeCou closer to family as his wife, Amy, is originally from Georgia, and his parents are located in nearby Charleston, South Carolina. DeCou and Amy are proud parents of their daughter, Sadie Jane.
Kevin May joins Georgia Gwinnett College as assistant men's soccer coach. He brings with him 15 years of athletics experience as a coach and a player.

May spent the last three years as the director of soccer operations at the University of Connecticut, where he focused on team travel, promotions, training and fundraising. At Georgia Gwinnett College, May will lean on this experience as he assists Head Men's Soccer Coach, Steve DeCou with preparations for the Grizzly's inaugural soccer season.

During May's time at the University of Connecticut, the team received NCAA tournament bids every year and was consistently ranked among the top 10 teams in the country, including the entire 2010 season. Also, three players were selected as All Americans, four as Big East Players of the Year, 15 as All-Big East players and six as All-Northeast Region players, while six players were drafted by Major League Soccer and two players signed contracts overseas.

May served as an assistant coach at Rochester Institute of Technology from 2006 - 2009, where he helped lead the team to an overall record of 23-23-6 in Division III competition. He also served as assistant coach at his alma mater, Nazareth College, during the 2004-2006 seasons.


As a former player, May was a four-year starter and a two-year captain, an All-Empire 8 selection in 2001 and 2002 and a regional All-American in 2002.

May holds a bachelor's of arts in political science from Nazareth College in Pittsford, New York, and he has his National Soccer Coaches Association of America coaching license.
In the NAIA, a dedication to leadership development is balanced with sports accomplishment. A trailblazer in providing equal opportunity for all student-athletes. An expectation of ethical behavior, fairness in competition, access to athletic scholarship, sportsmanship and leadership development. At the core of all of this — character.

The seed of the NAIA began in 1937 with the tip-off of a men’s basketball tournament that has become the longest running basketball tournament in the country, celebrating 75 years in 2012. Out of the tournament grew the NAIA, an association of close to 300 member schools and more than 60,000 student-athletes.

Since 1937, the NAIA has administered programs and championships in proper balance with the overall educational experience. In 2000, the NAIA reaffirmed its purpose to enhance the character-building aspects of sport. Through Champions of Character, the NAIA seeks to create an environment in which every student-athlete, coach, official and spectator is committed to the true spirit of competition through five core values: integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship and servant leadership.

Most recently, the association opened the doors to the NAIA Eligibility Center, where prospective student-athletes are evaluated for academic and athletic eligibility. It delivers on our larger promise of integrity by leveling the playing field, guiding student-athlete success, and ensuring fair competition. Providing student-athletes a chance to connect with NAIA schools and coaches helps them make the best decision to prepare them for success in both college and athletics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>Dr. James Naismith and local leaders form National College Basketball. Tournament staged at Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, MO.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>Basketball tournament expands to 32 teams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>National Association of Intercollegiate Basketball (NAIB) formed; first convention held</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948</td>
<td>John Wooden’s Indiana State team brings first African-American student-athlete to the NAIB tournament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>NAIB adopts new moniker - National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) - and introduces men’s championships in golf, tennis and outdoor track and field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>NAIA becomes first collegiate association to invite historically black institutions into membership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>Tennessee State becomes the first historically black institution to win a collegiate basketball national championship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>NAIA becomes first collegiate athletics association to sponsor both men's and women's championships by adding women's basketball, cross country, gymnastics, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, softball, swimming and diving, tennis and volleyball championships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>NAIA Council of Presidents moves from advisory to governance role</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Strict academic eligibility standards for all participating student-athletes adopted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>NAIA introduces Champions of Character initiative along with its new brand emphasizing character development among NAIA student-athletes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>NAIA headquarters returns to metro Kansas City in partnership with the city of Olathe, KS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>NAIA opens new headquarters in downtown Kansas City, MO.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>NAIA opens the NAIA Eligibility Center.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Under the leadership of Larry Stephan, athletics director at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and Diane St. Denis, associate athletics director at Simon Fraser University, the Association of Independent Institutions (A.I.I.) was incorporated in July 2008 in the state of Missouri.


The purpose of the Association of Independent Institutions is to promote the education, development and welfare of student-athletes through their various experiences and participation in NAIA intercollegiate athletics.

The term “independent” refers to a NAIA member institution that does not belong to a NAIA-affiliated conference.

The A.I.I.:
- Facilitates effective and active participation in the NAIA legislative process and governance structure;
- Seeks equitable opportunities for participation by student-athletes in NAIA championships, and other educational opportunities for student-athletes;
- Oversees and administers A.I.I. postseason championship competition in sports where NAIA direct qualification berths are at stake;
- Isolates problems common to all independent institutions and organizes to study and achieve solutions to these problems;
- Oversees the certification of eligibility for its student-athletes and provides a mechanism for review of exception requests, violations and appeals;
- Provides weekly, monthly and annual recognition programs for student-athletes from all A.I.I. member institutions.

2012-13 All Members

Allen University
Ashford University
California State University-San Marcos
Dakota State University
Fisher College
Indiana University Northwest
Jamestown College
Johnson & Wales University - CO
La Sierra University
Louisiana State University-Alexandria
Mayville State University
Morris College
Northern New Mexico College
Rochester College
State University of New York at Delhi
University of British Columbia
University of Houston - Victoria
University of Victoria
Valley City State University
Voorhees College
Walla Walla University
West Virginia Tech
Wilberforce University

Associate and Provisional Members

Georgia Gwinnett College
Indiana University Kokomo
Kentucky Christian University
Lindenwood University - Belleville