



GENERAL INFORMATION

Location:.....Cullowhee, N.C. 28723
Pronounced "KULL - uh - whee"
Founded:.....1889
Enrollment:.....9,000
Nickname:.....Catamounts
Colors:.....Purple and Gold
Facility:.....Liston B. Ramsey Regional Activity Center
Seating Capacity:.....7,826
Affiliation:.....NCAA Division I
Conference:.....Southern
Chancellor:.....Dr. John W. Bardo (Cincinnati, 1970)
Athletics Director:.....Chip Smith (North Carolina, 1978)
Senior Woman Administrator:.....Dr. Jennifer Brown
Athletic Department Phone:.....(828) 227-7338
Ticket Office Phone:.....(800) 34-GOWCU

BASKETBALL HISTORY

First Year of Basketball:.....1928-29
Seasons of Basketball:.....80
All-Time Record:.....1,061 - 1,022 (.509)
NCAA Postseason Appearances (Div. I):.....1 (0-1)
Lost to Purdue, 73-71 (1996 West Region)
NIT Appearances:.....None

WCU COACHING STAFF

Head Coach:.....Larry Hunter (Ohio, 1971)
• Head Coaching Record at WCU:.....34-58 (3 years)
• Overall Record:.....543-282 (28 years)
Basketball Office Phone:.....(828) 227-7395
Best Time to Interview Coach:.....Mornings through SID
Assistant Coaches:
Wade O'Connor (Bridgewater State, 1994) – 1st season
Anquell McCollum (Western Carolina, 2000) – 5th season
Andre Gray (Methodist, 1998) – 1st season
Basketball Athletic Trainer:.....Tom Tisdale (Cal Lutheran, 1988)

TEAM INFORMATION

2007-08 Record:.....10-21
Record Breakdown:.....8-6 home; 1-13 road; 1-2 neutral
2007-08 SoCon Record (Finish):.....6-14 (5th in North)
Record Breakdown:.....5-5 home; 1-9 road
Starters Returning/Lost:.....3 / 2
Returning Starters Year.....2007-08 Stats
 • Brandon Giles Junior.....15.3 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 41 assists
 • Jake Robinson Junior.....10.6 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 38 assists
 • Blake Gallagher Soph.....4.9 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 14 assists
Starters Lost Reason.....2007-08 Stats
 • Arnold Gore Graduation.....7.5 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 69 assists
 • Eric Wilson Graduation.....4.3 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 51 assists
Lettermen Returning/Lost:.....6 / 3
Returners Year.....2007-08 Stats
 • Brigham Waginger Junior.....4.7 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 69 assists
 • Richie Gordon Soph.....3.7 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 17 assists
 • Tim Magowan Senior.....1.0 ppg, 0.5 rpg
Lost Reason.....2007-08 Stats
 • Negus McKenna Graduation.....5.0 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 16 assists
Newcomers:.....6 (four freshmen; two junior transfer)

TEAM INFORMATION

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Athletics Fax:.....(828) 227-7688
Press Row Phone:.....(828) 227-2129
Website:.....www.CatamountSports.com
Athletics Mailing & Overnight Address:.....WCU Athletics
Ramsey Center
Cullowhee, N.C. 28723

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The **2008-09 Western Carolina Men's Basketball Media Guide** is a publication of the Catamount Media Relations Department. It was written, edited and designed by Daniel Hooker, WCU '01.

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On the Cover: WCU's junior class – Brandon Giles, Jake Robinson and Brigham Waginger – with head coach Larry Hunter.



GENERAL INFORMATION

WESTERN CAROLINA MEDIA RELATIONS



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..... Walter Turner
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..... Erin Mizelle

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Ramsey Center - Athletics
Western Carolina University
Cullowhee, NC 28723

WESTERN CAROLINA FIGHT SONG

Fight on! You Catamounts,
Fight for purple and gold.
Fight on to victory, True warriors bold.
Wave the royal banner high,
And let it fill the Western sky.
So, fight on! you Catamounts, Fight to vic-to-ry!
Western, Western, Go-Western!
Go—Cats!
Fight on! You Catamounts,
Fight for purple and gold.
Fight on to victory, True warriors bold.
Wave the royal banner high,
And let it fill the Western sky.
So, fight on! you Catamounts, Fight to vic-to-ry!

Adopted in 1981, Western's fight song was composed by members of the University faculty

WESTERN CAROLINA ALMA MATER

Hail to thee, our Alma Mater Faithful, kind, and true;
Every son and every daughter Offers praise to you.

- Chorus -

Hail to the dearest spot of all; Hail to WCU! Light and life and fond devotion All to thee are due.

Purple robes and colors golden, Streaming everywhere,
Swell our hearts with pride for olden Days and friendships dear.

- Chorus -

Under shade trees' friendly bowers, Voices, ever gay,
Mingles with breath of flowers And the song birds' lay.

- Chorus -

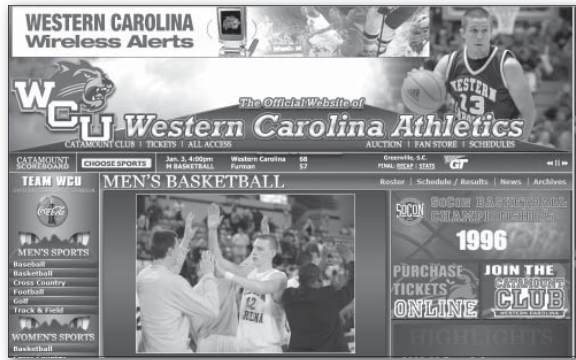
Shout aloud with one loud chorus, Voices clear and true,
Lifted high in praise and honor, All for WCU!

- Chorus -

CatamountSports.com is a fast, accurate Internet source for official information and coverage of Western Carolina Catamount athletics. Regardless of where you are or what time of day, you can access up-to-date information on your favorite Catamount team.

In March of 2007, Western Carolina renewed its partnership with CSTV / CBS Interactive and re-launched CatamountSports.com with a new look and added amenities for Catamount fans. The revamped site offers select audio and video streaming, live GameTracker, fan polls, as well as statistics on all 16 WCU-sponsored sports.

Thanks to members of the Media Relations staff, pre-game releases, game notes and up-to-date statistics, photos and results are updated regularly.



WWW.CATAMOUNTSPORTS.COM

WHAT IS A CATAMOUNT?

Western Carolina University's unique mascot and nickname for its athletics teams seem to always bring about the same question when the Western plays on the road ... "What is a Catamount?" Webster's Dictionary defines "catamount" as "any of various wild cats, such as a cougar or lynx." Cats of the catamount variety, including the bobcat, roam the southern Appalachian Mountains where Western Carolina University is located.

The nickname evolved from a contest that was held on the Cullowhee campus in 1933. The school was called Western Carolina Teachers College at that time and its teams were known as "the Teachers."

Everyone on campus was invited to participate, and the usual names were suggested — Bears, Indians, Panthers. However, the college wanted an unusual name; a name that few others had and that everyone would not copy.

The contest came down to Mountain Boomers, a small ground squirrel that scampers about the woods and is extremely difficult to catch, and Catamounts. Catamounts was the favorite of Head Football Coach C.C. Poindexter and was the nickname chosen. Poindexter wanted his players to be Catamounts with "fierce spirit, savage attacks, and lightning quick moves."

Western Carolina University is the only football-playing school in the nation using the nickname, "Catamounts," with the University of Vermont in Burlington, VT, being the only other school playing under that moniker.

HISTORY OF THE CATAMOUNT LOGO

From 1975 til today

For a complete history of the WCU Catamount logo, visit www.catamountsports.com under "Traditions"



1975-1981



1981-1996



1997-2004



2004-present



2005-



DIRECTIONS TO WCU

From Asheville, N.C.:

Take I-40 West to Exit 27 (Clyde / Waynesville / Murphy / Maggie Valley) onto HWY 74 West/US 23 South. Stay on HWY 74W / US 23S to Exit 85 in Sylva. Take a left at the third traffic light (where the road dead-ends) and follow NC Rt. 107 South to Cullowhee and Western Carolina University.

From Charleston, S.C.:

Take I-26 West to Asheville; follow the same directions as listed above.

From Knoxville, Tenn.:

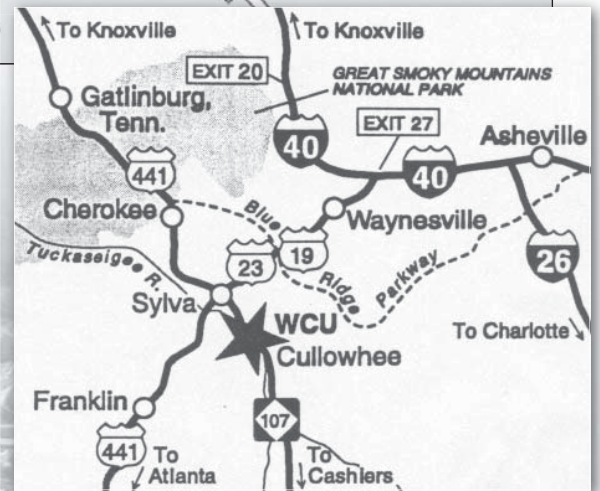
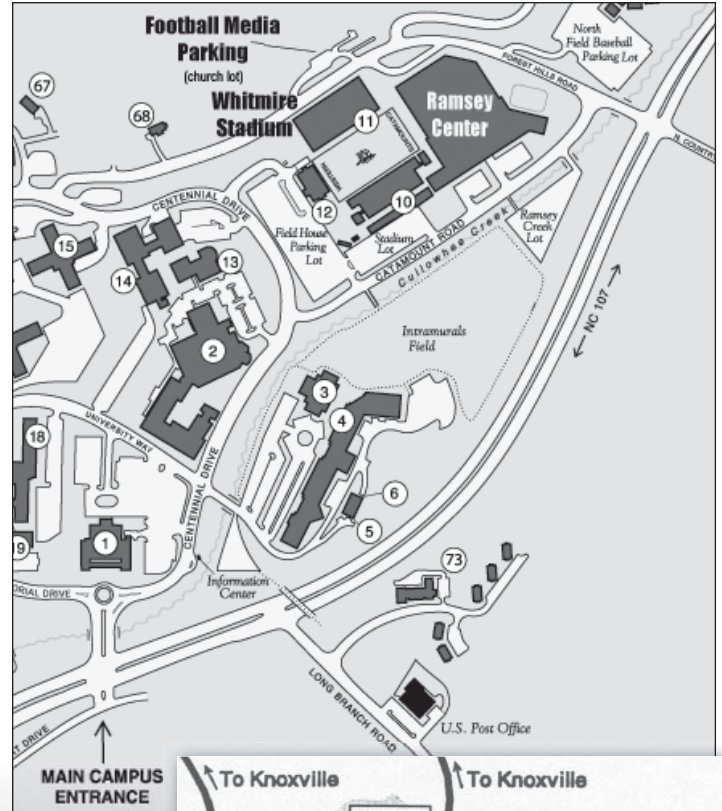
Take I-40 East to Exit 20 (Maggie Valley) onto HWY 276. Stay on 74W to Exit 85 in Sylva. Take a left at the second traffic light and follow Rt. 107 South to Cullowhee and WCU.

From Charlotte, N.C. — You have three options:

- ❶ Take I-77 North to Statesville. Take I-40 West to Asheville and follow the same directions listed above.
- ❷ Take I-85 South to Spartanburg, S.C. Take I-26 West to Asheville and follow the directions from Asheville above.
- ❸ Taking I-85 South, at Kings Mountain, take Highway 74 to I-26. Take I-26 West to Asheville and follow the directions from Asheville above.

From Atlanta, Ga.:

Take I-85 North to Rt. 985 North. Stay on 985 until you reach 44. Stay on 441 until you get to Dillsboro, N.C. Take Rt. 107 South, which takes you into Cullowhee and WCU.





MEDIA INFORMATION

WCU STUDENT-ATHLETE / COACHES INTERVIEW POLICY

The Media Relations Office will assist media personnel with interview requests of WCU student-athletes, coaches or administrators. To arrange interviews, please contact Daniel Hooker at least 24 hours in advance. Head Coach Larry Hunter will be available for interviews prior to and following each practice. With prior notice, student-athletes will also be available for interviews at that time as well. Unless special permission is granted well in advance, no interviews of student-athletes or coaches will be conducted on game days. Media members may attend practices after obtaining clearance through the media relations office. Media members are asked to refrain from contacting student-athletes at their home or dormitory and student-athletes' phone numbers will not be released by the Media Relations Office. Out-of-town media may set up phone interviews to be conducted in the Department of Athletics. Coach Hunter may be reached weekday mornings, however, it is asked that a specific interview time be scheduled.

WORKING CREDENTIALS

Newsprint and electronic media representatives planning to cover a basketball game at Western Carolina University are asked to request in written form working credentials from WCU's Media Relations Office. Season passes will be issued to those who cover the Catamounts on a permanent basis. Our limited working space on press row will be assigned by priority to WCU beat writers, beat writers of the opponents, metropolitan media filing for deadline and specialty publications. If time permits, credentials will be mailed. If not, credentials can be picked up on game day at the media will call at the first floor ticket gate located at the entrance of the Ramsey Center which faces N.C. Hwy. 107. Credentials will be issued only to those attending the game in a working capacity. Spouses, dates, children and other non-workers will not be permitted on press row.

MEDIA PARKING

Media parking for Western Carolina home basketball games is located on the west side of the Ramsey Center (facing N.C. Hwy. 107) and also in the Creek Lot, which is across the street from the Ramsey Center, parallel to Hwy. 107. There are only a few parking spaces available for media in the Ramsey Lots and a media parking credential is required. Media parking passes are not required for the Creek Lot, however availability is on a first come, first serve basis. Otherwise, parking is FREE.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Credentials for photographers will be issued on a first-come, first serve basis with agencies covering the participating schools on a regular basis receiving priority. Each photographer must pick up a photo pass from will call prior to the game. Photographers will shoot from the designated areas on the baseline and no photographers or media personnel are permitted within the team area at any time. The use of tripods is also prohibited on both the baseline and sidelines during game play.

POSTGAME INTERVIEWS

The Western Carolina locker room is closed at the end of all regular season games played both at the Ramsey Center and on the road. Following the NCAA-mandated, 10-minute "cooling off" period, requested players will be available in the Media Interview Room, which is across the hall from the Media Room (Ramsey Center Hospitality Room). WCU head coach Larry Hunter will conduct an on-court, post-game interview with the Catamount Sports Network, which media members may listen to, and then be available to the media for one-on-one questions in the media interview room. The availability of the visiting locker room, players and head coach is at the discretion of the visiting SID.

PRESS RELEASES / UPDATED STATISTICS / GAME DAY NOTES

The WCU Media Relations Department produces basketball notes for each contest during the season. Cumulative statistics will be updated as soon as possible after each contest. Media members may receive the releases and statistics by accessing the Athletics Department website at www.CatamountSports.com. E-mail service is available upon request. To be placed on Western Carolina's weekly fax or E-mail list, media members are asked to contact the Media Relations Office at (828) 227-2339.

VISITING RADIO BROADCASTS

The visiting radio station or network (limited to one crew only as designated through the visiting school's sports information office) is asked to request credentials through Western Carolina's Media Relations office. A B-1 dialtone line, as well as ISDN lines, will be provided at no charge to all SoCon opponents and others who wish to enter into a reciprocal agreement with WCU. Otherwise, the lines are available to visiting radio crews on a pro rata basis or any other special broadcast lines can be ordered through Verizon at (800) 483-4300.





WESTERN CAROLINA MEDIA OUTLETS

PRINT MEDIA OUTLETS

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HENDERSONVILLE TIMES-NEWS

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Edward McDonald, Sports Reporter
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(828) 651-4618 - FAX
sports@wlos.com

WSPA-TV (CBS)

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(864) 587-5452 - phone
(864) 587-5430 - FAX

WYFF-TV (NBC)

Geoff Hart, Sports Director
Box 788
Greenville, SC 29602
(864) 240-5264 - phone
(864) 240-5305 - FAX

WHNS-TV (FOX)

Keith Scripcic, Sports Director
21 Interstate Court
Greenville, SC 29615
(864) 213-2223 - phone
(864) 288-7025 - FAX

WWCU RADIO (90.5 FM)

Aaron D'Innocenzi, General Manager
Shawn Strickland, Program Director
Western Carolina University
Old Student Union
Cullowhee, NC 28723
(828) 227-7173 - phone
(828) 227-7099 - FAX

WRGC RADIO (680 AM)

News Director, Frank Byrd
Box 1044
Sylva, NC 28779
(828) 586-9742 - phone
(828) 586-6834 - FAX

WISE RADIO (1310 AM)

Bill McClement, Programing Director
Pat Ryan, WISE Guys
90 Lookout Road
Asheville, NC 28804
(828) 259-9695 - phone

WWNC RADIO (570 AM)

Brian Hall, Peter Clay
13 Summerlin Road
Asheville, NC 28806
(828) 253-3835 - phone

CATAMOUNT SPORTS NETWORK

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PO Box 571
Balsam, NC 28707
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CATAMOUNT SPORTS NETWORK

Three stations across Western North Carolina are slated to carry broadcasts of the Catamount Sports Network (CSN) for the 2008-09 Catamount basketball season. WWCU-FM, Power 90dot5 in Cullowhee returns as the flagship station, serving as the host of the network coupler and as the lone FM station in the network. Also returning this season is Jackson County Radio, 680 AM WRGC in Sylva, with 1590 AM WBHN in Bryson City joining the fold for men's basketball after carrying Catamount football again each of the past two years.

WWCU-FM and WRGC-AM also offer streaming audio of the games through their web sites at www.WWCUFM.com and www.WRGC.com.

Also, in addition, a select number of Catamount men's and women's basketball games will be video streamed through www.CatamountSports.com, utilizing the play-by-play voice of the Catamount Sports Network. (check for availability).



GARY AYERS

Radio veteran, **Gary Ayers**, returns as the play-by-play "Voice of the Catamounts", continuing his similar role from the fall with WCU Football. He will be joined on the broadcasts by Assistant Athletics Director for Media Relations, **Daniel Hooker**, who will also handle the play-by-play duties on select road games.

Ayers has been behind the play-by-play microphone for WCU's football and basketball games in 23 of the past 24 years and has been a familiar voice to the region's sports fans for over three decades. In addition to serving as the "Voice of the Catamounts," the Swain County native has done play-by-play for Pisgah High, Tuscola High, Franklin High, Cherokee High and Swain High football and basketball. Ayers also spent several seasons as the Public Address announcer for WCU Athletics.

The Catamount Sports Network broadcasts using the Tie-Line i-Mix G3 unit, with network breaks transmitted through a 360 Systems Instant Replay machine. Segments and interviews are mixed using the Adobe Audition editing software.

2008-09 MBK CSN AFFILIATES

WWCU-FM, Power 90dot5 – Cullowhee, N.C.
Flagship Station of Catamount Athletics
Listen Live: www.WWCUFM.com

Jackson County Radio, 680 AM – WRGC
Sylva, N.C.
Listen Live: www.WRGC.com

1590 AM – WBHN
Bryson City, N.C.

Listen Live: www.CatamountSports.com



Catamount Sports Network play-by-play announcer, Gary Ayers, interviewing former WCU men's basketball standout, Frankie King, during a home game during the 2007-08 season.



2008-09 SEASON OUTLOOK

As the curtain for the 2008-09 men's basketball season is raised with the opening of practice in October, Western Carolina head coach Larry Hunter had good reason to be optimistic. Entering the season as the 15th-winningest active head coach in NCAA men's basketball with 543 career wins, Hunter returns a solid nucleus including the Southern Conference's fourth-leading scorer, and has added the most talented depth he has had during his tenure.

Western Carolina, which is coming off a 10-21 season last year, returns seven players from a season ago, in addition to one that took a red-shirt. Hunter and staff have brought in seven new faces, including four true freshmen and a trio of junior transfers to help bolster the lineup.

The 2007-08 Catamounts faced a wealth of adversity, losing their leading scorer on two separate occasions, but managed to persevere. Eight of the 10 wins came at home, with WCU earning its' first-ever victory over the College of Charleston at the John Kresse Arena.

"We had a lot of good team chemistry and positive energy the last half of the season," said Hunter during post-season comments with his squad. "It was very pleasing to our staff to watch our players embrace their roles and to show such dramatic improvement both individually and as a team, and were a pleasure to coach."

Even with the glowing remarks from the skipper, Hunter was also quick to point out to the returning players that there is still work to be done.

"We have a lot of work we need to continue to do to be conference champions and be in the NCAA tournament," Hunter began. "We must not flinch and continue to 'chop wood' every day. We must continue to plan ahead, establish priorities, stay focused, work harder and be more consistent every day."

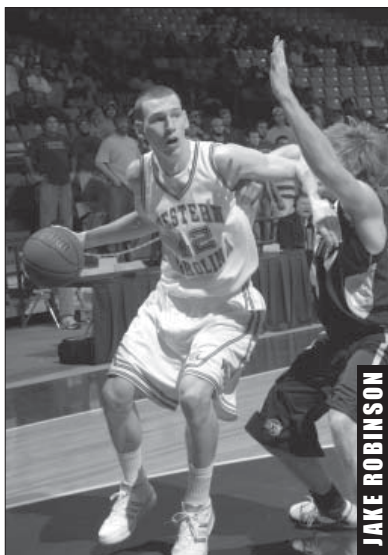
From those parameters set forth by Hunter, the Catamounts embarked on the off-season during the spring and summer. In correlation, Western Carolina had 11 players on campus throughout the summer, including all three summer semesters.

"We really had a terrific off-season considering our spring workouts with the players that are returning and the summer where he had, all told, 11 players on campus taking classes and working out with our strength and conditioning coach, Brad Ohrt. And we've really had a strong fall right behind it with our strength training and with our skill workouts and conditioning. We really have done some positive things," Hunter said.

With team practice beginning on Friday, Hunter hopes to build upon the foundation that was laid starting at the end of last season. The team will have one session on Friday before back-to-back, two-a-days on Saturday and Sunday.

"We will spend a lot of time on some of our fundamental work; our footwork and pivoting, passing angles, defensive stance and block-out assignments and some of our general offensive fundamentals. That will take a good hour each session. We do that just to get guys back and establishing good fundamental habits. Then we will start building both our man-to-man defensive package and building our offensive schemes," said Hunter.

In a twist for this season, Hunter stated that he had already named captains for his

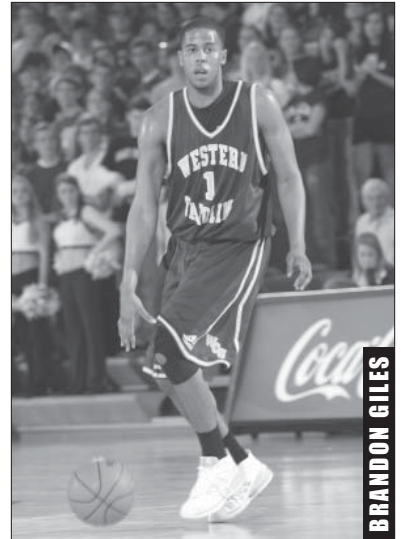


JAKE ROBINSON

team prior to the full squad officially stepping foot on the court together. Juniors **Brigham Waginger**, **Jake Robinson** and **Brandon Giles** were dubbed leaders both on and off the court.

"It's been a while since I have named captains prior to a season starting," Hunter explained. "But we made a decision back during the summer, even before school started, that we had three guys from our first recruiting class that are now juniors. And without question, they are the leaders of our program. They are veterans and are really good people and are very responsible. They've done a terrific job here in the fall in helping our guys bond together as a team."

Giles, an All-Southern Conference selection a season ago, is WCU's leading returning scorer after averaging a team-best 15.3 points per game. He is a long, athletic guard that has the ability to score from anywhere on the floor. His classmate, Robinson, was the only other Catamount to average double-digit scoring a season ago at 10.3 points per game. The sharp-shooting forward from Canton, N.C., enters his third season already ranked eighth on both the career 3-pointers made (134) and career 3-pointers attempted (352) charts.



BRANDON GILES

Waginger, a scrappy, hard-nosed guard, is coming off a banner season defensively. His 69 steals last season not only ranked as the second-best, single-season in school history, but also helped him lead the Southern Conference and ranked 23rd nationally at 2.23 steals per game average.

Rounding out WCU's returning cast are sophomore forwards Blake Gallagher and Richie Gordon. The two post players showed great growth and maturation through the course of the season, averaging over 16 minutes per game on the inside for the Catamounts. Gallagher led the team with a 5.1 rebound per game average.

Hunter also has two returning senior in **Tim Magowan**, a junior college transfer last year who was sidelined most of last season, and **Domnique Quarles**, who joined the squad late last season to help provide depth.

Another "unofficial" returner is red-shirt freshman Harouna Mutombo. The Pickering, Ontario native joined the WCU program in December of last season, sitting out to ensure four years of eligibility. Mutombo was able to practice with the team a year ago, learning the system and intensity under Hunter.

Of the seven Catamount newcomers, there are five true freshmen and two junior transfers. The first-year players include guards **Greg Avery** (Newark, Ohio/Newark HS) and **Keaton Cole** (Toronto, Ontario/Eastern Commerce HS), guard/forward **Antoine Childs** (Beaver Falls, Pa./Blackhawk HS) and **Christian Tonkins** (Greensboro, N.C. / Grimsley HS) and 6-9 center, **Sam Smithson** (Horse Shoe, N.C./Hargrave Military/West Henderson), who is expected to red-shirt in 08-09.

Western's incoming junior class includes forwards **Kendall Russell** (Chicago, Ill./Cloud County CC) and **Adrian Gailliard** (Sewell, N.J./Lackawanna College).

Combined, WCU has eight players from 6-foot-6 to 6-foot-9 in height, with 11 players over 6-foot-2.

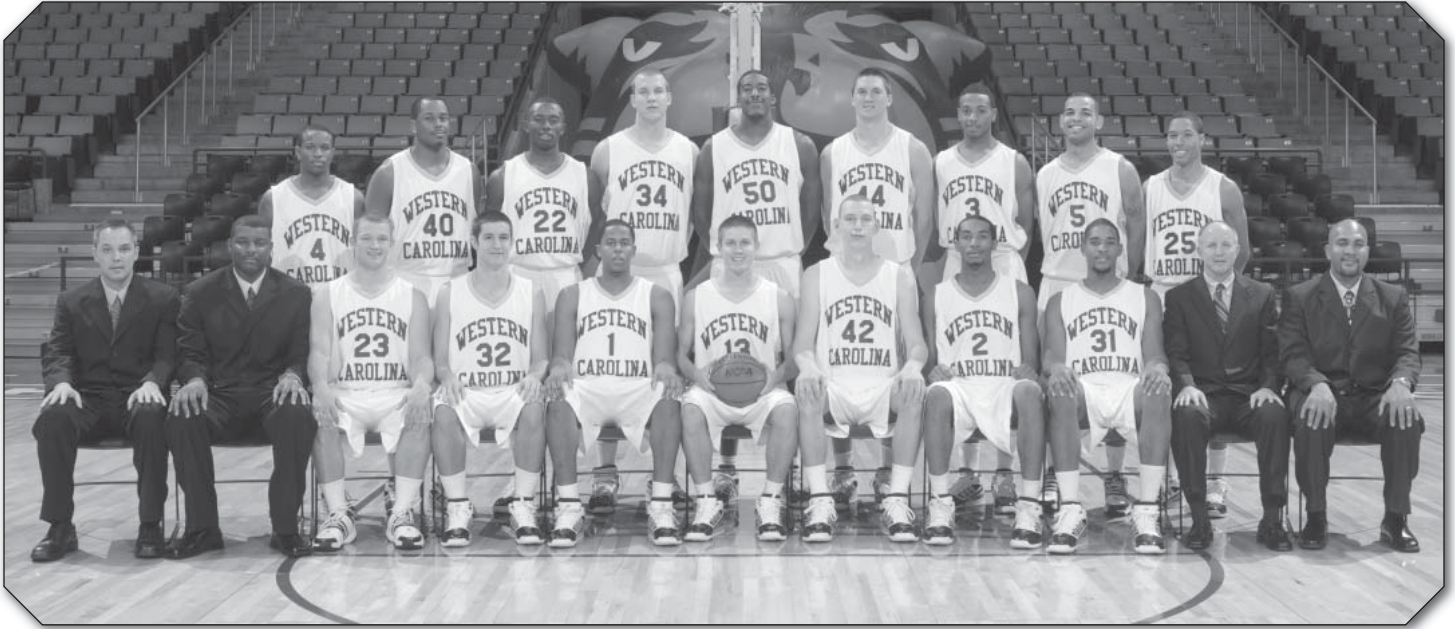
"I think this is, by far, the deepest team I have had since I've been at Western Carolina," Hunter said. "It's the most talented; we're the biggest, strongest and we do have some experience."

Hunter will have a familiar face in former Catamount standout, Anquell McCollum, by his side as an assistant coach this season. But off-season departures left Hunter to sign two new assistants – Andre Gray and Wade O'Connor.

"I feel good that we have added in Coach O'Connor and Coach Gray, two really good basketball people. They are two guys who are good family men who are passionate about their work and about young people. I have been very impressed with not only how they have interacted with our departmental staff, but also with our players."

Western Carolina opens a tough non-conference slate on Friday, Nov. 14 against the Connecticut Huskies in Storrs, Conn. The early season schedule also includes the program's first-ever trip to the Carrs/Safeway Great Alaska Shootout in Anchorage on Nov. 26-29. The field includes host Alaska-Anchorage, WCU first-round opponent, San Diego State (Mountain West), Hampton (MEAC), Louisiana Tech (WAC), Northern Illinois (MAC), Portland State (Big Sky) and Seattle (Independent).

Hunter concluded, "There are a lot of things that still have to happen for us to be a good basketball team yet, but we have a lot of potential. We are going to get after people and we aren't going to fear anyone."



2008-09 Western Carolina Catamount Men's Basketball Team:

Front Row (l-r): Assistant Coach Wade O'Connor, Assistant Coach Andre Gray, Joey Parker, Tim Magowan, Brandon Giles, Brigham Waginger, Jake Robinson, Kendall Russell, Adrian Gailliard, Head Coach Larry Hunter and Assistant Coach Anquell McCollum.

Back Row (l-r): Keaton Cole, Christian Tonkins, Harouna Mutombo, Blake Gallagher, Richie Gordon, Sam Smithson, Antoine Childs, Greg Avery and Dominique Quarles.

2008-09 WCU MBK SCHEDULE

N O V E M B E R			
14	at Connecticut	Storrs, Conn.	7:30 pm
20	TOCCOA FALLS	CULLOWHEE	7:00 PM
<i>Carrs/Safeway Great Alaska Shootout</i>			
27	vs. San Diego State #	Anchorage, Alaska	11:30 pm
28	vs. Louisiana Tech #	Anchorage, Alaska	TBA
29	vs. Northern Illinois #	Anchorage, Alaska	TBA
D E C E M B E R			
6	at Kent State	Kent, Ohio	7:00 pm
15	TENN.-WESLEYAN	CULLOWHEE	7:00 PM
17	GARDNER-WEBB	CULLOWHEE	7:00 PM
19	at Marquette	Milwaukee, Wisc.	8:30 pm
31	at UNC Asheville	Asheville, N.C.	4:00 pm
J A N U A R Y			
3	at Furman *	Greenville, S.C.	4:00 pm
8	UNC GREENSBORO *	CULLOWHEE	6:00 PM
10	ELON *	CULLOWHEE	7:00 PM
15	at Samford *	Birmingham, Ala.	8:00 pm
17	at Chattanooga *	Chattanooga, Tenn.	7:30 pm
19	GEORGIA SOUTHERN *	CULLOWHEE	7:00 PM
22	at The Citadel *	Charleston, S.C.	7:05 pm
24	at Appalachian State *	Boone, N.C.	3:00 pm
29	FURMAN *	CULLOWHEE	7:00 PM
31	WOFFORD *	CULLOWHEE	7:00 PM
F E B R U A R Y			
2	at Davidson *	Davidson, N.C.	7:00 pm
5	COL. OF CHARLESTON *	CULLOWHEE	7:00 PM
7	THE CITADEL *	CULLOWHEE	7:00 PM
11	at College of Charleston *	Charleston, S.C.	7:00 pm
14	APPALACHIAN STATE *	CULLOWHEE	7:00 PM
19	at Elon *	Elon, N.C.	7:00 pm
21	at UNC Greensboro *	Greensboro, N.C.	3:00 pm
23	at Wofford *	Spartanburg, S.C.	7:00 pm
26	SAMFORD *	CULLOWHEE	7:00 PM
28	CHATTANOOGA *	CULLOWHEE	7:00 PM
M A R C H			
6-9	2009 SoCon Men's Basketball Championship McKenzie Arena - Chattanooga, Tenn.		

BOLD — indicates home games * — Southern Conference Games
— Carrs / Safeway Great Alaska Shootout - Anchorage, Alaska

2008-09 WESTERN CAROLINA CATAMOUNT MEN'S BASKETBALL NUMERICAL ROSTER

1	Brandon Giles	G	6-6	200	Jr.	Auburndale, Fla. (Auburndale HS)
2	Kendall Russell	F	6-6	195	Jr.	Chicago, Ill. (Cloud County CC / Von Steuben HS)
3	Antoine Childs	G/F	6-6	205	Fr.	Beaver Falls, Pa. (Blackhawk HS)
4	Keaton Cole	G	5-10	170	Fr.	Toronto, Ontario (Eastern Commerce HS)
5	Greg Avery	G	6-4	170	Fr.	Newark, Ohio (Newark HS)
13	Brigham Waginger	G	6-2	185	Jr.	South Webster, Ohio (South Webster HS)
22	Harouna Mutombo	F	6-4	195	R-Fr.	Pickering, Ontario (Pickering HS)
25	Dominique Quarles	G	6-0	170	So.	Spindale, N.C. (RS Central HS)
31	Adrian Gailliard	F	6-7	220	Jr.	Sewell, N.J. (Lackawanna / Washington Township HS)
32	Tim Magowan	G	6-3	190	Sr.	Elkton, Md. (Cecil CC / Elkton HS)
34	Blake Gallagher	F	6-8	240	So.	Monroe, N.C. (Fork Union Military Academy)
40	Christian Tonkins	G/F	6-2	225	Fr.	Greensboro, N.C. (Grimley HS)
42	Jake Robinson	F	6-8	205	Jr.	Canton, N.C. (Pisgah HS)
44	Sam Smithson *	C	6-9	215	Fr.	Horse Shoe, N.C. (Hargrave Military / West Henderson HS)
50	Richie Gordon	F	6-8	238	So.	Atlanta, Ga. (Lakeside HS)

Head Coach:..... Larry Hunter (Ohio '71) • 4th season at WCU; 29th year as a head coach

Assistant Coaches:.....Wade O'Connor (Bridgewater State College '94) • 1st season at WCU

..... Anquell McCollum (Western Carolina '00) • 5th season at WCU

..... Andre Gray (Methodist College '98) • 1st season at WCU

Student Managers:.....Derek Butler, Lindsay Sain, Jennings Dess

Athletic Trainer:..... Tom Tisdale (Cal Lutheran '88)

Student Athletic Trainer:..... Ashley Lake

Celebrating 75 Years of CATAMOUNT Athletics



EVOLUTION OF THE CATAMOUNT LOGO SINCE 1975



1975-1981

1981-1996



1997-2003

2003-2008



2008 -

In 2008, Western Carolina University will celebrate the 75th year since becoming known as "the Catamounts." The "Catamount" nickname evolved as a result of an on-campus contest in 1932. Up until that time, the athletic teams of Western Carolina Teachers College – changed from the Cullowhee State Normal School in 1929 – were referred to as "the Teachers." Through additional research, an additional moniker of "the Yodelers" used around this same time period was also discovered as documented in annuals.

In 1932, students and faculty alike on campus were invited to participate in naming the athletic teams. The usual names were suggested – Bears, Indians, Panthers. However, the administration wanted an unusual name – a name that few others had and one that everyone would not copy.

The contest came down to a final two: Mountain Boomer, which was a small ground squirrel that scampers around the wooded Cullowhee campus and was extremely difficult to catch; and the Catamounts. The latter of the two was preferred by head football coach – and the organizer of Western's first athletic department – C.C. Poindexter. He wanted his football players to be Catamounts with "the fierce spirit, savage attacks and lightning quick moves" in which the native mountain cats possessed.

Although the name was decided upon in 1932, the WCTC football team of 1933 was the first team to be deemed as "Catamounts."

Webster's Dictionary defines "Catamount" as "any of various wildcats, such as a cougar or lynx." Cats of the catamount variety, including the bobcat, roam the southern Appalachian Mountains where Western Carolina University is located. It is also thought to be a local vernacular term shortened from "cat-a-mountain," or any variety of the feline species residing in the area.

WCU is only one of two schools in the nation – and the only football-playing institution – that uses the nickname "Catamounts," with the University of Vermont in Burlington, VT being the only other school playing under that moniker. Ironically enough, through the 2007-08 athletic year Western Carolina and Vermont have not met on the playing field or court.

As Western Carolina celebrates its "diamond" anniversary of being known as "the Catamounts," the University is amidst a branding change. To help celebrate the 75th anniversary, WCU athletics unveiled a new mark on Aug. 13, 2008 that will become synonymous with its teams and department.

The personification of the Catamount logo has undergone numerous changes since 1933. All told, at least 14 different versions of the mark have existed since its inception in '33. Since 1975, Western Carolina has employed five recognizable logos, with new mark in 2008 representing the fifth.

From 1975 until 1981, WCU used a slightly tilted, smiling cat logo, which is still prevalent on the "Old Mountain Jug." In '81, a new, front-view mark was introduced. That logo represented the Catamounts through the 1983 NCAA Division I-AA Football National Championship appearance; eight NCAA baseball regional appearances; as well as the 1996 Southern Conference Men's Basketball Championship and trip to Albuquerque, New Mexico for the NCAA Tournament. Its 16-year run as the face of WCU athletics is the longest on record.

Dr. John Bardo, who became chancellor of WCU in 1995, commissioned the design of a new Catamount insignia that "depicted the more aggressive stance WCU was taking in all its academic and athletic programs." In June of 1996, the new sleek, side-looking Catamount mark was unveiled with its variation incorporating the full body in a "leaping" motion.

In 2003, under the direction of athletic director Jeff Compher, the side-looking mark from 1996 was tweaked to again create a front-facing, "flying" or "hugging" logo that also included purple mountains in the background and the school name, "Western Carolina" in the forefront.

This year's evolution of the Catamount logo was designed the Rickabaugh Graphics in Gahanna, Ohio. It is a return to a side-view of the cat and better represents the spirit instilled by Poindexter back in 1933. Accompanying the new mark is a return to a deeper purple and old golden color as in recent years, the gold had been substituted for a brighter, yellow-gold color in most sports other than football.