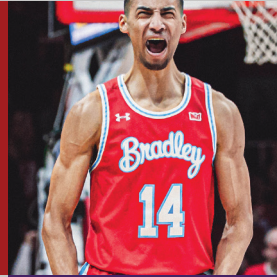


2023-2024

MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE

MEN'S

BASKETBALL



THE VALLEY
RUNS DEEP



ESTABLISHED
1907



ESTABLISHED
1907



THE VALLEY
RUNS DEEP



THE VALLEY
RUNS DEEP



ESTABLISHED
1907





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2023-24 Missouri Valley Conference Yearbook

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This is the Missouri Valley Conference

The Missouri Valley Conference – the nation's second-oldest NCAA Division I conference – continues to be a leader in college athletics and is one of the nation's most progressive conferences, celebrating its 117th season in 2023-24.

The Valley brand remains very strong, both regionally and nationally, and the great athletic tradition of the Conference remains a compelling force in recruiting student-athletes and in marketing all the MVC programs. League members have worked together to focus on common goals and objectives, placing a high value on league harmony, while continuing to invest in athletic programs to compete at the highest level.

Despite the tumultuous terrain, Conference philosophy has not changed, as the league and its member institutions will continue to provide robust opportunities for student-athletes.

In 2022-23, for the first time, the MVC had 12 members as Belmont, UIC, and Murray State officially joined the Conference on July 1, 2022. It marked the first time the Conference has admitted three schools for the same season.

During the 2022-23 season the Conference celebrated the 50th anniversary of the passage of Title IX – a federal civil rights law passed in 1972 that protects opportunities for women. Pioneers from the MVC's member institutions were instrumental on their campuses, and they continue to shape the landscape today.

The Missouri Valley Conference is well represented on national governing committees as leaders at league institutions continue to actively seek positions of influence within NCAA governance and national sport committees. Current committee appointments at the national level include the Vice Chair of the Division I Board of Directors (Christopher Pietruszkiewicz, Evansville); the Honors Committee (Austin Lane, Southern Illinois); the Division I Council (David Harris, UNI); the Chair of the Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee (David Harris, UNI); the Division I Committee on Academics (Dr. Jeri Beggs, Illinois State); the NCAA Division I Legislative Committee (Dr. Julie Partridge, Southern Illinois); the Division I Baseball Committee (Sherard Clinkscales, Indiana State); the Division I Nominating Committee (Sherard Clinkscales, Indiana State); the Division I Committee on Infractions (Jill Redmond, MVC); the Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee (Blake Boldon, Drake); the Men's Basketball Rules Committee (Dana Ford, Missouri State); the Division I Women's Golf Committee (Halley Morell, Bradley); the Men's and Women's Track and Field Rules Committee (Jeff Bovee, Illinois State); the Chair of the Division I Progress Toward Degree Waivers Committee (Jimmy Heisner, MVC); the Division I Men's Soccer Committee (Mike Seabolt, Missouri State); the Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Rules Committee (Susan Bromberg, UIC); the Division I Competition Oversight Committee (Rodrigo Alvarez Gonzalez, Bradley); the Division I Men's Basketball Competition Committee (Michael Lipitz, UIC); the NCAA Women's Gymnastics Committee (Cindy Harris, Illinois State); the Division I Women's Basketball Competition Committee (Beth Cunningham, Missouri State); the Division I Women's Basketball Student-Athlete Engagement Group (Grace Boffeli, UNI); the Division I Women's Basketball Competition Committee (Grace Boffeli, UNI); the Division I Men's Basketball Student-Athlete Engagement Group (Cade Tyson, Belmont); the Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (Quinn Millerd, Drake); and the Division I Initial Eligibility Waivers Committee (Andy Newton, Bradley).



Last year, Illinois State earned its fourth-straight Missouri Valley Conference All-Sports Championship. ISU last won at least four-straight MVC All-Sports Championships in 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, and 1998-99 when it was the league's top overall program in those four seasons. Illinois State earned five team titles while recording an aggregate score of 8.551. ISU claimed league championships in men's golf, women's tennis, women's indoor track & field, women's outdoor track & field, and it shared the regular-season title in women's basketball. Notably, the Redbirds also finished in the Top 3 in men's indoor track & field, men's outdoor track & field, women's swimming & diving, and softball.

And Belmont earned the 2022-23 Missouri Valley Conference All-Academic Award. Belmont student-athletes posted a 3.522 grade-point average, placing ahead of Evansville and UNI. Every year since 2002-03, the MVC All-Academic Award has been presented to the member institution that finishes the school year with the best grade-point average among its student-athletes who participate in a Valley-sponsored sport. Belmont has claimed a conference academic achievement award 20 of the last 22 academic years. It marks the 11th straight crown for Belmont, which claimed the honor every year of its membership in the Ohio Valley Conference (2012-22).

Men's basketball continues to be the engine that drives Valley athletic programs as three MVC teams competed in postseason play last year. The league has now combined for 20 wins in the NCAA Tournament in the past 10 NCAA championships and has earned multiple bids 16 times since 1994. Notably, MVC teams are 12-3 in their first game in the NCAA Tournament dating back to 2012. Since 2013, The Valley has had two Final Four appearances, and an MVC team has reached a Sweet 16 a total of 12 times since 1985.

The State Farm MVC Men's Basketball Championship – affectionately known as Arch Madness – continues to be a spectacular showcase for the league, and the MVC has an agreement with Enterprise Center (formerly known as Scottrade Center) that will keep Arch Madness in St. Louis through at least 2025. The tournament will celebrate its 48th anniversary overall in 2024, observe its 30th anniversary at Enterprise Center, and it will be the 34th-straight season the event has been held in St. Louis. Only the Big East Conference (in New York City) has had a longer continuous run at a single site.

While the success of men's basketball has received the greatest attention, the overall performance of league teams in virtually every sport continues to raise the national profile of the Conference.

In women's basketball, The Valley sent a total of six teams to the postseason in 2023 as Drake made the NCAA field and Belmont, Illinois State, Missouri State and UNI participated in the WNIT. UIC also participated in the postseason, playing in the WBI. The MVC has seen an average of four league teams participate in postseason play in the last 24 seasons. The six postseason teams equaled the second-highest figure by the league. The Valley also sent six teams to the postseason in 1999, 2010 and 2021. The league sent seven teams to the postseason in 2012. The MVC finished the year rated at the 13th ranked league (NET), marking the fifth-straight season the league finished as a top 15 ranked conference.

Meanwhile, on the women's hoops side, the Conference remains committed to keeping the tournament at a neutral site. The women's tournament tagged "Hoops in the Heartland," will

MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

1907

Jan. 12 — First meeting of representatives of five universities in Kansas City, Mo.

Feb. 16 — Second meeting in Kansas City. Washington University of St. Louis, University of Iowa, University of Missouri and University of Kansas organized as charter members. University of Iowa and University of Nebraska tied in football in the league's first season.

March 15 — Drake University, University of Nebraska and Iowa State College were admitted.

April 1 — Official name adopted, Missouri Valley Intercollegiate Athletic Association, at first meeting of the Association. Constitution, bylaws and rules also adopted. Clarence Erwin McClung of Kansas was named secretary. Athletic participation was limited to three years and required a year's residence prior to eligibility for varsity competition.

May — The first conference track championship meet was held in Kansas City.

Nov. 10 — The Missouri Valley basketball league was formed with Washington University of St. Louis, University of Missouri and University of Kansas constituting a southern division and University of Nebraska, Iowa State College and Drake University comprising a northern division. A championship series between the northern and southern division winners was held.

1911

May 26 — University of Iowa withdrew.

1912

Dec. 26 — Kansas State University was admitted.

1918

Dec. 5 — University of Oklahoma was admitted.

Dec. 13 — Grinnell College (Iowa) was admitted.

1919-20

University of Nebraska suspended.

1924

Dec. 6 — Oklahoma (A&M) State was admitted.

1925

Dec. 4-5 — Arthur E. Eilers was appointed permanent secretary of the athletic directors' association.

1928

University of Missouri, Iowa State College, University of Oklahoma, University of Kansas and Kansas State University withdrew to form separate conference (Big 6). Creighton University admitted.

1932

Butler University admitted.

1934

Butler withdrew. The University of Tulsa and Washburn University (Kansas) were admitted.

1937

Saint Louis University admitted.

1939

Grinnell College (Iowa) withdrew.

1941

Washburn University (Kansas) withdrew.

1945

Wichita University (now Wichita State University) admitted.

1947

Washington (Mo.) withdrew. Bradley and Detroit admitted. Creighton withdrew.

1950

University of Houston admitted.

1952

Bradley and Drake withdrew.

1955

Bradley and Drake readmitted.

1956

Cincinnati and North Texas State admitted.

1957

Norvall Neve was appointed as Commissioner. Oklahoma (A&M) State withdrew.

1960

University of Houston withdrew.

1963

University of Louisville admitted.

1966

Memphis State admitted.

1969

Cincinnati withdrew. DeWitt T. Weaver appointed Commissioner.

1970

West Texas State and New Mexico State admitted.

1972

DeWitt T. Weaver resigned. Mickey Holmes was appointed Commissioner.

1973

Memphis State withdrew.

1974

Saint Louis withdrew. North Texas State withdrew. Southern Illinois admitted.

1975

University of Louisville withdrew.

1976

March — Indiana State and Creighton admitted.

1979

May 1 — Mickey Holmes resigned as Commissioner.

July 1

David Price appointed as Commissioner.

1980

June 19 — Illinois State University admitted.

1981

June 30 — David Price resigned as Commissioner.

Sept. 1

Richard D. Martin was appointed as Commissioner.

1985

June 30 — Richard D. Martin resigned as Commissioner.

July 1

James A. Haney was appointed as Commissioner. The Missouri Valley Conference offices relocated from Tulsa, Okla., to St. Louis, Mo.

1986

Jan. 1 — The sport of football was dropped as a Conference championship sport.

July 1

West Texas State University withdrew.

1988

April 15 — James A. Haney resigned as Commissioner.

July 1 — J. Douglas Elgin was appointed as Commissioner.

1990

March 8 — Southwest Missouri State University (now Missouri State) admitted.

1991

Feb. 14 — University of Northern Iowa admitted.

1992

July 1 — Gateway Collegiate Athletic Conference (women's programs of MVC schools) merged with the Missouri Valley.

1993

Nov. 4 — University of Evansville admitted.

1996

June 30 — University of Tulsa withdrew.

1997

Aug. 26 — Charter class of MVC Hall of Fame announced. Inductees included Larry Bird (INS); Hersey Hawkins (BU); Ed Macauley (SLU); Oscar Robertson (UC); Dave Stallworth (WSU); Wes Unseld (UofL) and Henry Iba (OSU).

2001

March 30-April 1 — The Valley hosts the 2001 Women's Final Four at Savvis Center. The sold-out event represents the first NCAA Division I women's tournament action ever hosted in the city of St. Louis.

2005

April 2-4 — The Missouri Valley Conference hosts the 2005 NCAA Men's Final Four at the Edward Jones Dome.

2007

League celebrates Centennial, joining the Big Ten (1896) as the first Division I athletic conference to reach 100 years.

2009

League hosts Women's Final Four at Scottrade Center.

2013

March - Creighton withdrew.

April 19

Loyola University Chicago admitted.

2017

April - Wichita State withdrew.

July 1

Valparaiso University admitted.

MVC celebrates 25th anniversary of the incorporation of women's athletics into the Conference.

2020

MVC conducts year-long celebration of the 30th anniversary of the men's basketball tournament in St. Louis.

2021

July 1 - Jeff Jackson was appointed as Commissioner, replacing Doug Elgin who retired after 33 years.

Sept. 28

Conference announces Belmont University will be admitted, effective July 1, 2022.

2022

Jan. 7 - Conference announces Murray State will be admitted, effective July 1.

Jan. 22

Conference announces UIC will be admitted, effective July 1.

July 1

Loyola Chicago withdrew.

MVC Membership

112 Drake (1907-08 -- 1950-51; 1956-57 -- present)

72 Bradley (1948-49 -- 1950-51; 1955-56 -- pres.)

Wichita State (1945-46 -- 2016-17)

62 Tulsa (1934-35 --1995-96)

56 Creighton (1928-29 -- 1942-43; 1945-46 -- 1947-48; 1976-77-- 2012-13)

49 Southern Illinois (1974-75 -- present)

47 Indiana State (1976-77 -- present)

43 Illinois State (1980-81 -- present)

39 Washington (Mo.) (1907-08 -- 1909-10; 1911-12 -- 1946-47)

36 Saint Louis (1937-38 -- 1942-43; 1944-45 -- 1973-74)

34 Missouri State (1990-91 -- present)

33 UNI (1991-92 -- present)

32 Oklahoma State (1925-26 -- 1956-57)

30 Evansville (1994-95 -- present)

21 Grinnell (1918-19 -- 1938-39)

Iowa State (1907-08 -- 1927-28)

Kansas (1907-08 -- 1927-28)

Missouri (1907-08 -- 1927-28)

20 Nebraska (1907-08 -- 1918-19; 1920-21 -- 1927-28)

19 North Texas State (1957-58 -- 1974-75)

16 West Texas State (1970-71 -- 1985-86)

15 Kansas State (1913-14 -- 1927-28)

13 New Mexico State (1970-71 -- 1982-83)
Cincinnati (1957-58 -- 1969-70)

11 Louisville (1964-65 -- 1974-75)

10 Houston (1950-51 -- 1959-60)

9 Loyola (2013-14 -- 2021-22)

Oklahoma (1919-20 -- 1927-28)

Detroit (1949-50 -- 1956-57)

8 Washburn (1934-35 -- 1940-41)

7 Valparaiso (2017-18 -- present)

6 Memphis (1967-68 -- 1972-73)

4 Iowa (1907-08 -- 1910-11)

2 Belmont (2022-23 -- present)

UIC (2022-23 -- present)

Murray State (2022-23 -- present)

Butler (1932-33 -- 1933-34)

Seven of 10 current (bold) MVC members were Gateway Conference members for their women's sports from 1983-92. Number reflects membership, inclusive of 2022-23.

This is the Missouri Valley Conference

compete in Moline, Ill., for the ninth year in a row, marking the 17th-straight season held at a neutral site. The Valley is the only Division I stand-alone women's basketball event to be held in the same city eight or more consecutive years. The Valley matches the ACC, SEC, Big Ten and Big 12 Conference Tournaments, as the only Division I stand-alone women's basketball championships to be held at a neutral site for 16 or more consecutive years.

In baseball, MVC tournament and regular-season champion Indiana State was awarded as a host site for an NCAA Regional. The Sycamores won the Terre Haute Regional and made The Valley's seventh NCAA Super Regional appearance since the format was adopted in 1999. The Valley has made the Super Regional round two of the last three seasons. The Valley ranked 11th nationally in conference RPI in 2023. Since the 2011 season,

the Missouri Valley Conference has ranked among the Top 10 leagues nationally in RPI in nine of the 12 seasons. In fact, The Valley has ranked among the top seven conferences in seven of those 12 seasons.

In volleyball, UNI represented the MVC in the NCAA Tournament field after claiming the program's 18th MVC tourney title. The Panthers made the NCAA tournament for the 24th time in program history. UNI beat Florida State in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, earning the MVC's first NCAA win since 2017. Drake had a program-best 30-9 mark and reached the finals of the



Jackie Stiles of Missouri State finished her career as the all-time Division I leading scorer.

National Invitational Volleyball Championship, falling to Boston College. The Bulldogs were joined by Valparaiso in the NIVC.

In men's soccer, Missouri State had another remarkable campaign and represented the MVC in the NCAA Tournament. The Bears finished the season with an overall record of 12-2-4 while earning both the MVC regular-season and MVC Tournament championship titles, while going undefeated in league play with a 6-0-2 MVC record. Missouri State lost a heartbreaking match, 2-1, in the opening round of the NCAA Championship to Creighton, a team that advanced to the College Cup.

Track and field continues to be a banner sport for the Missouri Valley Conference as 12 student-athletes participated in the NCAA Outdoor Championships and four competed at the indoor event. Several league student-athletes earned All-America honors in the sport, which has yielded more than 70 national champions in league history. Additionally, two Valley Athletes represented Team USA at the 2023 World Para Athletics Championships.

Meanwhile, the success of The Valley television package is one of the great stories in the league. The MVC Television Network has blossomed into a revenue-generating vehicle and The Valley's most visible marketing tool. Also, the Conference continues to be proactive in upgrading the production and marketing of both institutionally produced and Conference-produced events. The value of MVC membership has been enhanced by the league's robust media rights agreements with its national and regional partners.

The summer of 2015 yielded two major announcements on the TV front, as ESPN and the Missouri Valley Conference announced a 10-year extension to their current media rights agreement that will provide increased coverage of Conference events across ESPN platforms through 2023-24. As part of the deal – which continues a business relationship that began in 1986 – ESPN, the Missouri Valley Conference and its 12 institutions work jointly to develop in-house production capabilities at each campus that will provide significant national coverage for multiple sports on ESPN3 or ESPN+ and hands-on educational opportunities for students.

Additionally, CBS Sports and the MVC are in a multi-year agreement to televise Valley basketball games on the CBS Television Network and CBS Sports Network. The deal, which began in 2015-16 and continues through 2023-24, is through a sublicense agreement with ESPN. CBS Sports has televised the men's basketball tournament final since 2006.

Notably, the 2016 men's basketball tournament marked the return of State Farm Insurance as the event's title sponsor. The Valley remains the only college athletics conference that State Farm sponsors, and State Farm has been a sponsor of the Conference since 1984, first as an advertiser on league TV games.

In the summer of 2023, the Conference brought its marketing and media-rights operation inhouse after being represented by Learfield Sports since July 1, 2010. League staff will focus on partnerships during Missouri Valley Conference-controlled linear and digital video productions and event sponsorship sales for all 17 MVC sports championships.

The Valley has been aggressive in hosting NCAA events in St. Louis. From 1998-2010, the MVC served as host for a staggering nine NCAA tournament events in that 13-year period, which has made St. Louis one of the most frequent stops on the NCAA Tournament trail. The Valley hosted Women's Final Fours in 2001 and 2009 and the Men's Final Four in 2005. Most recently, The Valley hosted an NCAA regional in Kansas City (2019), and before the COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of post-season basketball tournaments, the Conference was to host a first- and second-round event in St. Louis in 2020. The league will host a first- and second-round event in St. Louis at Enterprise Center in March 2026.

The seeds for the creation of the Conference were planted by eight administrators representing five institutions, who met at the Midland Hotel in Kansas City, Mo., on Jan. 12, 1907. The five schools which formed the Missouri Valley Intercollegiate Athletic Association were Washington University of St. Louis, and the state universities of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. Two months after the initial meeting, two more schools – Drake University and Iowa State College – were admitted.

In the fall of 1907, basketball became the first competitive sport. Today, the Missouri Valley Conference sponsors the following sports: baseball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross country and track & field (indoor and outdoor), men's and women's golf, men's and women's soccer, softball, women's swimming and diving, women's tennis, and women's volleyball.

While The Valley no longer sponsors football (it did from 1907-85), eight league members compete in the sport at the FCS (Football Championship Subdivision) level as Illinois State, Indiana State, Missouri State, Murray State, UNI, and Southern Illinois play in the 12-member Missouri Valley Football Conference (with North Dakota, North Dakota State, South Dakota, South Dakota State, Western Illinois and Youngstown State). That

This is the Missouri Valley Conference

league competed as the Gateway Conference from 1985-2007. Drake and Valparaiso play non-scholarship football in the Pioneer Football League.

This season, the league will conduct its 112th outdoor track and field championship, its 69th baseball tournament, and its 85th golf championship for the men. Those programs, plus other current sponsored sports of cross country (65 years), indoor track (73), men's soccer (33), women's soccer (27), and swimming and diving (30), have helped solidify The Valley as one of the nation's most respected conferences.

Athletic accomplishments include four NCAA national basketball championships, 18 trips to the NCAA Final Four, a 1989 national basketball championship and 19 College World Series qualifiers. The league owns a total of 32 post-season national team championships, including two men's basketball crowns in 2015 (Evansville-CIT; Loyola-CBI). In 2001, Missouri State added to The Valley women's accomplishments, as the Lady Bears advanced to the Women's Basketball Final Four in St. Louis. Creighton (2004) and Missouri State (2005) have claimed national championships (WNIT) in women's basketball. MSU also has a 1992 NCAA Women's Final Four appearance, while eight women's basketball teams have reached the WNIT semifinals, most recently UNI in 2021.

Indeed, the inclusion of women's programs under The Valley banner has provided a boost. The Gateway Collegiate Athletic Conference – which began in 1982 – merged with The Missouri Valley Conference and was unveiled as part of the new conference on July 1, 1992.

During the 2017-18 academic year, the Missouri Valley Conference and its member institutions conducted a year-long celebration of the first 25 years of women's sports competition in the MVC; focusing attention on current women student-athletes in the Conference and honoring MVC history and the pioneers of women's athletics. Top vote-getters in each sport included Rachel Tejada of Illinois State (soccer); Sue Daggett Miller of Illinois State (cross country); Molly O'Brien of UNI (volleyball); Jackie Stiles of Missouri State (basketball); Sherry Zhang of Southern Illinois (swimming & diving); Danielle Lemek of Bradley (golf); Liina Suurvarik of Illinois State (tennis); Tara Oltman of Creighton (softball); Holli Hyche of Indiana State (track); and Kylie Hutson of Indiana State (field).

While the inclusion of women's sports under a comprehensive athletic umbrella is a recent development in the league's storied history, over the years, Valley student-athletes and coaches have become household names during the league's illustrious history, both during their collegiate careers and, for some, professional careers.

In fact, The Valley began honoring that tradition in the summer of 1997, when the Conference began its athletics Hall of Fame. Hersey Hawkins of Bradley, Larry Bird of Indiana State, Wes Unseld of Louisville, Coach Henry Iba of Oklahoma State, Dave Stallworth of Wichita State, Ed Macauley of Saint Louis, and Oscar Robertson of Cincinnati were members of the inaugural induction class. Currently, approximately 150 former players, coaches and alums dot the league's Hall of Fame.

Men's basketball, perhaps, has the league's most storied tradition, boasting the likes of Hall of Famers Bird and Robertson as former players, which includes a list of 275 drafted to the NBA, including a first-round selection in the 2023 NBA Draft in Ben Sheppard of Belmont. Notably, The Valley has also produced national-caliber student-athletes in its other sponsored sports. In 2001, Missouri State's Jackie Stiles became the first Valley

woman to earn the Honda-Broderick Cup, given to the nation's top female collegiate student-athlete. In June of 2016, Stiles was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.

In the sport of baseball, The Valley has produced 785 MLB Draft Picks since 1965, including 31 players being taken in the draft's first round. Evansville's Kyle Freeland is the league's most recent top 10 pick, going 8th overall to the Colorado Rockies in the 2014 MLB Draft.



Indiana State's Larry Bird is one of the most decorated players in ISU and MVC history.

In the sport of track and field, Indiana State's Holli Hyche captured seven national sprint titles in the early 1990s, Southern Illinois' Darrin Plab won back-to-back NCAA outdoor high jump titles in 1991 and 1992, SIU's Britany Riley became the World-record holder in the weight throw in 2007, and Kylie Hutson of Indiana State swept both the indoor and outdoor pole vault titles in 2009 and in 2010. Southern Il-

linois' Jeneva McCall (three NCAA individual championships), Illinois State's Tim Glover (back-to-back javelin championships in 2011 and 2012), Indiana State's Felisha Johnson (indoor weight throw in 2011 and 2013), and Southern Illinois' DeAnna Price (hammer throw in 2015 and 2016) are the most recent multi-year NCAA champions in the league's highly decorated history in track & field. Meanwhile, Raven Saunders of Southern Illinois earned NCAA shot put titles in both the 2015 indoor and outdoor meets. In 2016, Price was named a semifinalist for the Bowerman Award. She became the second in Southern Illinois history to be a semifinalist, joining Jeneva McCall (2012) and is just the third in MVC history to be named a semifinalist for the Bowerman, joining McCall and Indiana State's Kylie Hutson (2010).

In the fall of 1997, Creighton's Johnny Torres was named the collegiate male soccer player of the year for a second-straight year, while SMU's Luchi Gonzalez (2001) and Tulsa's Ryan Pore (2004) have also earned a National Player of the Year honor in men's soccer. Meanwhile, Wichita State produced three national collegiate players of the year in baseball, including Joe Carter (1981), Phil Stephenson (1982) and Darren Dreifort (1993). All told, a total of 73 MVC individuals in its history have earned an NCAA title, while 48 have been tabbed National Player or Coach of the Year.

League members include Belmont, Bradley, Drake, Evansville, UIC, Illinois State, Indiana State, Missouri State, Murray State, Northern Iowa, Southern Illinois, and Valparaiso. Little Rock is an affiliate member in women's swimming and diving; Bowling Green, Northern Illinois, and Western Michigan are affiliate members in men's soccer.

Missouri Valley Conference Mileage Chart														
	BEL	BRAD	DU	UE	UIC	ILS	INS	MOST	MUR	UNI	SIU	VALPO	STL	MOLINE
NASHVILLE (TENN.) BELMONT	XX	451	658	156	474	427	264	432	123	658	207	446	312	540
PEORIA (ILL.) BRADLEY	451	XX	265	277	170	40	181	386	358	239	243	190	171	93
DES MOINES (IOWA) DRAKE	658	265	XX	516	335	302	444	355	569	125	454	368	351	175
EVANSVILLE (IND.) EVANSVILLE	156	277	516	XX	291	239	110	382	140	513	100	281	167	368
CHICAGO (ILL.) UIC	474	170	335	291	XX	133	181	512	419	276	332	52	299	166
NORMAL (ILL.) ILLINOIS STATE	427	40	302	239	133	XX	142	379	335	278	247	153	165	130
TERRE HAUTE (IND.) INDIANA STATE	264	181	444	110	181	142	XX	383	250	418	189	171	169	271
SPRINGFIELD (MO.) MISSOURI STATE	432	386	355	382	512	379	383	XX	323	479	294	532	216	403
MURRAY (KY.) MURRAY STATE	123	358	569	140	419	335	250	323	XX	566	113	424	220	448
CEDAR FALLS (IOWA) NORTHERN IOWA	658	239	125	513	276	278	418	479	566	XX	451	343	347	150
CARBONDALE (ILL.) SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	207	243	454	100	332	247	189	294	113	451	XX	337	104	332
VALPARAISO (IND.) VALPARAISO	446	190	368	281	52	153	171	532	424	343	337	XX	319	195
ST. LOUIS (MO.) MVC OFFICE	312	171	351	167	299	165	169	216	220	347	104	319	XX	260
MOLINE (ILL.) WBB TOURNEY	540	93	175	368	166	130	271	403	448	150	332	195	260	XX

MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE MAP



Missouri Valley Conference Staff



Jeff Jackson
Commissioner

Jeff Jackson was named the 10th Commissioner of the Missouri Valley Conference in March 2021 and officially began his role with the league office on July 1, 2021. In August 2023, the Missouri Valley Conference Board of Directors rewarded Jackson with a five-year contract that extends through June 30, 2028.

His impact on the Conference has been substantial. In his first year, the MVC added three members – Belmont, UIC, and Murray

State – expanding the Conference to 12 members for the first time in the MVC's 117-year history. At no other time had the MVC added more than two institutions in a calendar year. His experience as both an administrator and long-time basketball coach has equipped Jackson with a unique perspective as the league navigates through a tumultuous time in college athletics.

In addition to Conference expansion, Jackson spearheaded the inception of Conference guidance on NIL (Name, Image, Likeness), expanded the league's linear television package, enhanced student-athlete experience at MVC championships with new initiatives, introduced student-athlete involvement in the league meeting structure, revamped the Conference constitution, and with his guidance, the MVC also established a Sports Medicine Committee within his first 20 months leading the MVC.

Jackson had worked in two Division I conference offices in the seven years prior and brings extensive basketball experience from a three-decade collegiate coaching career prior to his entry into athletics administration in 2014. Jackson has also served as a member of the NCAA Men's Basketball Rules Committee and NCAA Basketball Oversight Committee.

Prior to assuming his role at the MVC, Jackson was the Executive Associate Commissioner of the Big 12 Conference. In his three years at the Big 12 Conference, he had oversight of men's basketball and game management, working directly with the Conference's coaches, administrators, and officiating program; along with coordination of the Phillips 66 Big 12 Men's Basketball Championship.

Prior to the Big 12, Jackson spent four years as Big South Conference Deputy Commissioner. He oversaw the external operations, championships, and sports administration for the Conference – with a primary focus on men's and women's basketball. In addition, Jackson was responsible for operationalizing the Big South's strategic plan, serve as the liaison for the league's branding efforts and assist with television and broadcast matters.

Before joining the Big South, Jackson had a 30-year coaching career, which included seven years as Furman's head coach from 2006-13 and three seasons leading New Hampshire from 1996-99. In 2010-11, the New York, N.Y., native led the Paladins to their most successful campaign in two decades as Furman posted a 22-11 overall record, 12-6 Southern Conference mark and earned a berth in the CollegeInsider.com Tournament – the school's first postseason bid since 1991. Furman's 22 wins ranked as the second-most in school history and the most by a Paladin squad in 30 years. The 2010-11 squad also posted a win over South Carolina – Furman's first victory over the Gamecocks since 1979-80.

Prior to directing the Paladin program, Jackson served as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Vanderbilt University for seven seasons from 1999-06. In 2004, the Commodores posted a 23-10 record and advanced to the NCAA "Sweet 16" with wins over Western Michigan and N.C. State before falling to eventual national champion Connecticut. That same year, he was named one of the top 25 college basketball recruiters in the country by Rivals.com after Vanderbilt's 2005 freshman class garnered national recognition by the service.

Jackson made his head coaching debut at New Hampshire after previous stints as an assistant coach at Stanford, Colorado State and St. Bonaventure.

Jackson graduated from Cornell in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial and labor relations. He and his wife Carolyn, also a graduate of Cornell, have three children: Xavier, Jenai and Taylor.



Jill Redmond
Deputy Commissioner

Jill Redmond joined the Missouri Valley Conference in August 2023 and is involved with all organizational and operational aspects of the conference and assists with overall administration and management of conference matters pertaining to membership services, governance, business operations, leader-

ship and facilitation. In this role, she will work directly with the league's Board of Directors and Council of Athletic Directors.

Prior to the Valley, Redmond spent over 13 years at the Atlantic 10 Conference (A-10). She joined the A-10 staff in 2009 as Director of Compliance and earned several promotions during her tenure, including her last promotion to Executive Senior Associate Commissioner in 2021. In that role, she led the league's DEI efforts by overseeing the A-10 Commission on Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion which was formed in August of 2020. Redmond also worked directly with the Commissioner and the Presidents' Council in all areas of governance and policy development, membership initiatives and special projects, like the league's celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Title IX.

At the national level, Redmond currently serves on the NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions and previously served on the Division I Nominating Committee, the Division I Administration Cabinet, the Awards, Benefits, Expenses and Financial Aid Cabinet and the Division I Amateurism Fact-Finding committee. She received national recognition with the 2017 Nell Jackson Administrator of the Year award by Women Leaders in College Sports, and as a Sports Business Journal Game Changer in 2022.

Redmond, who also has worked at the University of Richmond, Dartmouth College and Benedictine University, completed her undergraduate degree at DePaul University, where she was a track and field student-athlete, and earned her MBA from Benedictine University.

Missouri Valley Conference Staff



Mike Kern
Senior Associate Commissioner
Communications

Kern is in his 33rd year serving the membership. In a dual role, he serves as Associate Commissioner for the Missouri Valley Football Conference, and has been with the MVFC since 1991.

For The Valley, he oversees all media relations for the 17-sport league with his primary communications duties focused

on men's basketball. Kern also assists in building the league basketball schedule and with management of the MVC's in-house television network. Kern is also involved in strategic planning for the conference and also helps coordinate the league's marketing and promotions efforts. He is the staff liaison for men's basketball and baseball, and in addition to MVFC football and men's basketball PR, he handles media relations for men's and women's golf.

Kern has been the Chair of the MVC Hall of Fame Committee since 2016. Nearly 150 former administrators, coaches, student-athletes and contributors have been inducted into the MVC Hall of Fame since its inception in 1997. Kern was instrumental in introducing a Veteran's Committee as part of the Hall of Fame in 2019.

Kern spearheaded the launch and implementation of the league's new #OneValley social justice initiative and served with a number of other MVC staff members on the league's COVID-19 Working Group during the early stages of the pandemic. During the 2007 season, he engineered the league's communications efforts to celebrate the 25th anniversary of women's sports in the MVC. Kern also collaborated with staff to develop a program to recognize the 50th anniversary of the signing of Title IX in 2022-23.

He has served as Media Coordinator for 11 NCAA events, which has included two Women's Final Fours and the 2005 Men's Final Four. He was assistant tournament manager for the 2008 First and Second Round NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament, and has served as assistant media coordinator for six other NCAA basketball events. He has also served as timeout coordinator for multiple NCAA Basketball tournaments. Kern has been a member of the prestigious NCAA Final Four Media Coordination Committee since 2016.

Kern has been Media Coordinator for the State Farm MVC Men's Basketball Championship since 2004 and also served as Media Coordinator for the MVC Women's Basketball Championship for 12 seasons prior. Counting MVC and NCAA events through 2023, Kern has been media coordinator or assistant media coordinator for a total of 75 basketball tournaments.

In addition to communications duties with the Missouri Valley Football Conference, Kern oversees the MVFC's merchandising and licensing program, and the in-house television package, which includes scheduling and clearances, plus the hiring of on-air talent.

The 2023 football season is his 11th as FCS Managing Director, and in that capacity Kern administers an FCS website, oversees a national awards program, serves as a liaison to the NCAA, and monitors FCS branding activities, including a weekly "notebook" distributed to participating FCS schools and media. He currently also serves as the chair of the CoSIDA FCS Management Advisory Committee. In 2016 he was named to a 13-person Board of Directors charged with planning the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the birth of college football. In 2022, he served as an Ex-Officio On the Football Writers Association of America (FWAA) Board.

In 2002, Kern received the St. Louis Business Journal's annual award for "Best Use of Technology in Sports" as he introduced the league's on-line statistical reporting system used for the league's Olympic sport programs.

Kern, 56, earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Missouri in 1988 and a master's degree in communications management from league member Missouri State in 1990. A St. Louis native, Kern served as a sports information graduate assistant for two years at MoState and as a student assistant at Missouri as an undergraduate.

His publications and features have earned numerous CoSIDA (College Sports Information Directors of America) awards. He has a total of 39 national top-5 awards for his publications work, which includes 19 "Best in the Nation" citations. The league's 2022-23 men's basketball guide was judged as Best in the Nation.

He is a member of CSC (College Sports Communicators, formerly College Sports Information Directors of America), the FWA, the Baseball Writers Association of America, and the United States Basketball Writers Association (USBWA). He received a CSC 25-Year Award in the summer of 2017 for 25 years of service to the organization, and in 2017-18, he served on the USBWA Board of Directors. For CSC, he has served on the Professional Development and Education Committee (previously known as Programming), and on the CSCU Committee.

Kern and his wife Terri have four adult children (Ben, Hannah, Michael, and Max) and two dogs (Bingo and Dexter).



Jack R. Watkins
Senior Associate Commissioner
Marketing & Television

Jack R. Watkins Jr. is in his 32nd season at the Missouri Valley, having served in media services, advertising/marketing, television and championship administration capacities during his tenure.

Watkins, 60, has served as tournament manager for the State Farm MVC Men's Basketball Tournament in St. Louis since 2013, and completed a four-year stint as the staff liaison for the sport of baseball, serving as director of the postseason tournament, in 2016.

In the summer of 2023, he was appointed the director of the Conference's in-house television advertising and postseason tournament sponsorship sales staff. He also assists with the promotional campaigns for league championships.

As the staff contact for ESPN, CBS Sports, Bally Sports and NBC Sports Chicago, he coordinates contract negotiation, production, hiring on-air talent and clearances for the MVC Television Network on Bally Sports Midwest-Indiana-Kansas City-South-South-east, NBC Sports Chicago and ESPN3/ESPN+.

As the Conference liaison for The Valley on ESPN – the league's co-branded digital network involving productions for ESPN3 and ESPN+ – he coordinated the infrastructure build-out on each campus and the subsequent launch of institutional production units which has produced more than 5,200 exclusive live events since its launch in 2015-16.

During his tenure at The Valley, he has been a media coordinator for the 1993, 1998 and 1999 NCAA Men's Basketball Division I Midwest Regionals and the 2002 NCAA First and Second Rounds in St. Louis, and served as a television time-out coordinator a total of 13 times for the NCAA Men's Basketball Division I Championship and once for the NCAA Women's Basketball Division I Championship.

Watkins has also been tournament manager for four NCAA Men's Basketball Division I Championship events – 2013 Second and Third Rounds in Kansas City, 2014 Second and Third Rounds in St. Louis, 2016 First and Second Rounds in St. Louis and

Missouri Valley Conference Staff

2019 Midwest Regional in Kansas City. He was also scheduled to handle tournament manager responsibilities for the 2020 First and Second Rounds in St. Louis prior to its cancellation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the summer of 2020, he spearheaded the St. Louis effort to land another NCAA men's basketball event, and in October of that year, The Valley was awarded the 2026 NCAA First/Second Rounds at Enterprise Center.

During his 11 years as the MVC men's basketball publicity contact, Watkins earned "Best in the Nation" recognition for his 1997, 2000 and 2002 MVC hoops guides from the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) conference publications committee, and the 2001 and 2003 MVC yearbooks earned "Best in the Nation" for their cover design.

A native of Sikeston, Mo., he became the 14th recipient of the Katha Quinn Award – presented for service to sportswriters who cover college basketball – from the 800-member United States Basketball Writers Association in April 2003.

On November 14, 2021, Watkins was enshrined into the State of Missouri Sports Hall of Fame, joining former MVC Commissioner Doug Elgin and current Missouri Valley Football Conference Commissioner Patty Viverito as Valley staffers who have been so recognized.

A 1985 University of Missouri-Columbia journalism graduate, he served assistant sports information director at Kansas State University during the 1986-87 school year, coordinating media services for the sports of volleyball, men's basketball and baseball.

From 1988 to 1992, he was assistant sports information director at the University of Missouri, handling publicity for the sports of volleyball, wrestling, men's basketball, women's gymnastics and baseball. While at Missouri, he received 10 publications awards from CoSIDA and served as media coordinator for five Big Eight Conference championship events and an NCAA Gymnastics Regional in 1992.

A member of the National Association of Collegiate Marketing Administrators (NACMA), Watkins and his wife Genny live in Chesterfield, Mo., and are the parents of the late Katherine I. Watkins.



Bryan Belt
Associate Commissioner,
Business Affairs/CFO

Bryan Belt joined the MVC in July of 2012 as Assistant Commissioner for Business Affairs. At the MVC, Belt ensures that appropriate financial controls are in place and applies sound techniques to all aspects of The Valley's financial matters. He is responsible for developing creative and effective financial strategies to help

The Valley achieve its conference goals and protect its assets.

Belt came to the MVC after previously serving as Associate Athletics Director for Internal Affairs at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. While at SIUE, Belt served his alma mater in a number of capacities. He served as head coach of the men's and women's tennis programs as well as an assistant softball coach at SIUE.

His duties as Associate Athletics Director included budget planning, financial aid for student-athletes and an active role in the athletic department's future initiatives. Belt oversaw the day-to-day financial operations, as well as the department's concessions operations. Belt also supervised all areas of event operations including sports information.

Belt graduated from SIUE in 1993 with bachelor degrees in recreation and accounting and worked 12 seasons as an assistant coach for the softball program. Belt also previously worked as the director of operations for the St. Louis Ambush, a local professional soccer franchise, from 1994 to 1996. He spent three years in the administrative accounting department at SIUE before moving into his role as the Assistant AD.

He and his wife Melanie have three children: Bradford, Chandler and Patrick.



Kristin Swederska
Associate Commissioner
Sports Administration & Senior Woman
Administrator

A native of St. Louis, Mo., Kristin Swederska starts her 14th season at the Missouri Valley Conference after serving as a media relations intern for swimming & diving, track & field and tennis in 2009-10 and becoming full-time in 2010.

At The Valley, Swederska is the Senior Woman Administrator and oversees the operations of conference championships, including men's basketball, handles the conference awards programs, manages the MVC Sports Medicine Committee and Mental Health Working Group, is the officiating liaison to five of the officiating programs and manages the student-athlete gift program.

In 2013, she was the assistant tournament director for the NCAA 2nd/3rd Round Men's Basketball Tournament in Kansas City (hosted by the Valley), served in that same capacity for an NCAA 2nd/3rd Round Men's Basketball Tournament at Scottrade Center in St. Louis in March of 2014, the NCAA 1st/2nd Round Men's Basketball Tournament in St. Louis in March of 2016, and the NCAA Men's Basketball Midwest Regional in Kansas City in 2019 and the NCAA Men's Basketball 1st/2nd Round in St. Louis in March of 2020 which was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Swederska comes to the Missouri Valley Conference after serving as an intern for the St. Louis Sports Commission, where she was actively involved in planning, coordinating and marketing of different events - most notably the annual Arch Rivalry Football Game (Missouri vs. Illinois at the Edward Jones Dome).

As an undergrad student at the University of Missouri, Swederska served two years as a RecSports Assistant Manager, where she promoted facilities and programs and managed a team of supervisors and officials for seven different sport programs.

She graduated magna cum laude with a degree in business administration from Mizzou in May 2009, and completed her master's degree in sports management at Lindenwood University in St. Louis in May 2010. She and her husband Quin reside in St. Louis County and have one son (Zach) and one dog (Copper).

Missouri Valley Conference Staff



Jimmy Heisner
Associate Commissioner
Compliance

Jimmy Heisner joined the MVC in July 2015 and is integrally involved with all aspects of the MVC compliance program, including researching the application of NCAA legislation and providing interpretations and advice to member institutions; preparing rules education materials; processing institutional violation reports; overseeing the National Letter of Intent (NLI) program; assisting with the review of conference-administered waivers (e.g., medical hardship); and updating compliance-related portions of the MVC website. Other responsibilities will include providing support to a variety of MVC governance groups (e.g., committees, coaches groups); significant involvement with the management of the Conference's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee; and assisting with championships administration as needed.

Heisner came to the MVC after a six-year stint at the University of North Florida, where he served as the Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance. Prior to that, Heisner had two short stints as a compliance intern with the University of Northern Illinois and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee athletic departments.

Heisner, a native of St. Louis, holds a Juris Doctor Degree and a Sports Law Certificate from the National Sports Law Institute upon graduating from Marquette University Law School in May of 2009. He earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in Political Science from the University of Notre Dame, where he served as Head Football Manager for Personnel in his final two years in South Bend.

Jimmy resides in the City of St. Louis with his wife Laura and three sons (James, August and Phillip).



Angie Allen
Assistant Commissioner, Special Events

Allen graduated from the University of Kansas with a bachelor's degree in sport management and a minor in both business and leadership studies. During her time at Kansas, she was a member of the rowing team and was a three-time member of the Academic All-Big 12 Team. She also actively participated in campus, conference and NCAA SAAC, serving as

the Big 12 Conference SAAC Chair and conference autonomy representative during her tenure.

After her athletic and academic career ended at the University of Kansas, Allen served as the Big 12 Conference Championships Assistant where she assisted in the administration of regular season duties and event management of championships in all sports. She also coordinated the Conference's signage and décor for the Big 12 Olympic sport championship events.

Prior to joining the Missouri Valley Conference, Allen obtained a master's degree in Sport Law and Business from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. She concurrently served as the Olympic sports graduate assistant for the Sun Devils where she aided in team travel and budget management for various teams. Allen also has experience working for a collegiate consulting firm named The PICTOR Group. In this role she managed social media marketing efforts and assisted partners on a variety of projects and studies.

At the MVC, Allen serves as assistant commissioner and oversees special projects, which includes the league's annual Hall of Fame ceremony in St. Louis, Student Athlete Awards banquets, sport oversight of men's and women's golf, women's soccer and women's swimming and diving, coordination of tournament hospitality functions, meeting support, and other duties as assigned. She will also serve as a member of the marketing team that is housed within the MVC office.



Ryan Davis
Asst. Commissioner, Communications

Ryan Davis enters his eighth year with the Missouri Valley Conference as Assistant Commissioner for Communications.

He came to the MVC after working 10 years as Assistant Commissioner for Communications at the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference, where he orchestrated media relations efforts for the league's 18 sports. Davis also handled assistant commissioner duties for four single-sport conferences, managing 36 institutions across 11 different states. Prior to his 10-year stint at the HCAC, Davis was an anchor and producer for WXLW ESPN 950 AM in Indianapolis, Ind., for two years.

At the Missouri Valley Conference office, Davis is the primary media relations contact for baseball, softball, volleyball, men's soccer and women's basketball. To that end, he'll handle day-to-day, weekly and championship media relations duties for assigned sports, including pre-event releases, game recaps, statistical upkeep and record keeping, media guide content and design, championship press kits and website maintenance.

In addition, he assists with the league's in-house television package, including education of on-air talent in preparation for MVC telecasts, manages the league's State Farm Scholar-Athlete Spotlight, coordinates communication with the league's Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) reps as well as various NCAA selection committees. He is also the primary sport liaison for swimming and diving at the league office.

He is an active member of CSC (College Sports Communicators), sitting as the Vice Chair of the Goodwill and Wellness Committee where he coordinates the community service event at the annual CSC/NACDA Convention. Davis also serves as a member of the CSC Academic All-America Committee. In 2022, Davis was a graduating member of the organization's first Diversity and Inclusion Fellowship. His MVC Women's Basketball Media Guide has earned "Best in the Nation" or "Best Cover" honors five times and has also won other publication honors from the organization. He also has a pair of Fred S. Stabley CoSIDA Writing Contest honors.

A native of Greenwood, Ind., Davis is a 2004 graduate of Indiana University-Bloomington, holding a degree in Sports Communications. He and his wife Kristin live in Kirkwood, MO and have a son Nolan (11), daughter Caroline (8) and a dog named Rosie.



Zachary Hurst
Assistant Commissioner
External Relations

Zachary Hurst joined the Missouri Valley Conference as Assistant Commissioner, External Relations in September 2023.

At The Valley, Hurst will be part of an in-house team that secures corporate sponsorships and television advertising

Missouri Valley Conference Staff

clients. His primary focus is partnerships during Missouri Valley Conference-controlled linear and digital video productions and event sponsorship sales for all 17 MVC sports championships, including the State Farm MVC Men's Basketball Tournament in St. Louis and the MVC Women's Basketball Championship in Moline, Illinois.

A native of Borden, Indiana, Hurst joins the Conference staff after serving as the Senior Director of Corporate Partnerships for the Daytona Tortugas professional baseball team. At Daytona, he developed and activated corporate sales packages, including multi-layered partnerships, and assisted in the creation and implementation of customer and business to business-based promotions.

Prior to his time with the Tortugas, Hurst spent three years (2019-2022) at Stetson University as Assistant Director of Athletic Marketing for two seasons and Assistant Athletic Director for Marketing, Sponsorship & Community Outreach in his final campaign with the Hatters.

After receiving his bachelor's degree from Indiana State University in 2013 and a master's degree in athletic administration from Indiana University in 2014, worked four years at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks as Assistant Athletics Director for Marketing/Promotion and later as Associate Athletics Director for External Affairs while receiving an MBA from the school in 2016.

He spent the 2018-19 academic year at Ashland University as Assistant Athletics Director for Marketing, Promotions, Camps & Game Operations, prior to joining the staff at Stetson.



Russell Susuki,
Director of Marketing &
Corporate Fulfillment

Russell Susuki joined the MVC in August 2021 and oversees all marketing efforts for the Conference. He also manages corporate fulfillment for sponsorships generated by the Conference and league's marketing media-rights holding partner, coordination of the Men's Basketball Awards Banquet during the annual men's basketball tournament in St. Louis, the Women's Basketball Awards Banquet during the annual men's basketball tournament in Moline and support of the overall involvement with ESPN, CBS Sports Network, Bally Sports and network partners.

Susuki came to the MVC after spending a year at Rapsodo in St. Louis, Mo., as a Marketing Associate. At Rapsodo, Susuki oversaw many digital marketing efforts including email and SMS text message marketing, customer journey automations and Amazon digital advertising.

Previously, he was a marketing graduate assistant at MVC-member Illinois State University where he developed and executed marketing campaigns for volleyball and baseball, had game presentation duties for men's basketball, women's basketball, volleyball and baseball, and oversaw Reggie's Kid's Club program.

A St. Louis native, Susuki earned his bachelor's degree from Maryville University of St. Louis in 2018 and his master's degree in Sport Management from Illinois State in 2020.

In addition to serving stints as a sports marketing intern at St. Louis-based Rawlings and as a ticket sales agent for the St. Louis Cardinals, Susuki was a sponsorship property assistant for Missouri Valley Conference Sports Properties (September 2015-May 2016). He has served as the Social Media Chair for the Coaches vs. Cancer Holiday Tournament in St. Louis since October 2017, helping raise money for the American Cancer Society.

Susuki is an active member of NACMA (National Association of Collegiate Marketing Administrators) and currently serves on the Personal & Professional Development Committee.



Malory Henze
Director, Digital Strategy

Henze was hired as a Sports Operations Assistant in July 2022, and within three months, she was promoted to Director, Digital Strategy.

In that role, Henze oversees all aspects of the league's creative and digital content with oversight on Conference strategies regarding all social media platforms. She also serves as the league's primary communications contact for men's and women's cross country, men's and women's indoor track & field, and men's and women's outdoor track & field. Henze manages league social media programming for Mental Health.

She is a graduate and Missouri Valley Conference alumni from the University of Northern Iowa. Henze completed two degrees at UNI, a bachelor's degree in business communications and marketing, and later her master's degree in sport administration.

In her time at UNI, she was a part of the Track and Field team. Henze earned honors as MVC Athlete of the Week, MVC Scholar-Athlete, MVC All-Academic Honor Roll, USTFCCA All-Academic team in 2022, MVC Commissioner's Excellence Award, and holds the second-best throw in UNI Track and Field program history in the women's discus. Henze was nominated and selected out of 900 applicants to be one of 200 to attend the NCAA Career in Sports Forum.

Prior to joining the Missouri Valley Conference, Henze aided UNI Athletics for three years as the Communications and Marketing graduate assistant and intern. She aided in the coverage and promotion of 15 varsity sports at UNI. Henze also has experience working with community relations for the Waterloo Bucks Baseball Club. In this role, she promoted the engagement of the Waterloo community and the team.



Sydney Wilson
Sports Operations Intern

Former standout Missouri State women's basketball student-athlete Sydney Wilson has joined the Missouri Valley Conference staff as a Sports Operations Intern for the 2023-24 season. Wilson ended her basketball-playing career at Missouri State ranked second all-time in career victories with 119. She became the 16th Lady Bear in program history to own 1,000 career points and 600 career rebounds, and she ranked inside the top 25 in program history in games played (2nd), minutes played (5th), rebounds (16th), steals (20th), scoring (23rd) and assists (24th).

She was a two-time MVC Scholar-Athlete Honorable Mention selection (2022, 2023) and earned all-district honors on the 2023 College Sports Communicators Academic Team. Wilson will start her role at the Missouri Valley Conference in mid-August. At the MVC, Wilson will assist with championship operations, office administration and implementation of social media initiatives. Her expertise as a former Valley student-athlete will empower Wilson to elevate experiences for current MVC student-athletes. She holds an undergraduate degree (cum laude) in business with a minor in marketing and earned her MBA in 2023.

MVC Staff/Rules Changes



Eddie Jackson

Coordinator of MBB Officials

Eddie Jackson is in his 14th year as Coordinator of Men's Basketball Officials.

A native of Jacksonville, Ark., Jackson worked in nine NCAA Tournaments since his first appearance in the national championship tournament in 1996. Overall, he advanced to work in both the NCAA Tournament regional semifinal and regional championship rounds during his illustrious career, and he has also worked in numerous conference tournaments and league championship games.

Jackson was employed in higher education and intercollegiate athletic administration since 1982. He served as Senior Associate Athletic Director for Compliance at Rogers State University in Claremore, Okla., from 2006 until his retirement in 2017. He previously served in an administrative capacity from 1988-2000 at Northeastern (Okla.) State University. For the past 19 years, Jackson has served as Commissioner and Supervisor of Men's Officials for the Bi-State Athletic Conference now the OCAC (Oklahoma Collegiate Athletic Conference), a 12-member National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I league based in Oklahoma. In addition, Jackson is the Associate Coordinator of the Men's Basketball Officiating Consortium for NCAA DI leagues in the Big 12, Conference USA, Southland and Ohio Valley Conferences. Jackson is also Coordinator of Men's Basketball Officials for NCAA II leagues for the MIAA (Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) and the GAC (Great American Conference).

In August 2016, he was selected to a 4-year term to serve on the NCAA Men's Basketball Rules Committee, and he currently serves on the NCAA Mechanics Committee.

Jackson was inducted into the Oklahoma Officials Hall of Fame in July 2018.

Jackson is a 1981 graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, and he received a Master of Science degree in Higher Education Administration from Northeastern State University in 1988. He is married to the former Jennifer Ham and they have two children: Lauren and Carter.

Rules Changes for NCAA Division I Men's Basketball for 2023-24:

1-19.4 (Shot clock lights) – To permit, but not require, amber lights on the shot clock and an amber strip at the top of the backboard only to signal the end of a shot-clock period.

1-22.7 (Uniforms) – To permit additional uniform options, including identifying names of the institution, allowing more space for logos on the jersey front, allowing numbers 0 or 00 through 99, and permitting religious headwear to be worn without a waiver of the playing rule provided it is safe for competition.

Rationale: To provide institutions with more uniform options without making previous uniforms illegal. It also eliminates the waiver process that was previously required for a student-athlete to wear religious headwear.

2-11.6.b and 2-11.6.c (Shot clock reset) – To establish that anytime the ball hits the rim (a pass, deflection or a shot) and the offense retains possession in its frontcourt, the shot clock will reset to 20 seconds. Anytime the ball hits the rim and the offense retains possession in its backcourt, the shot clock will reset to 30 seconds.

Rationale: This change makes it easier for officials on the floor because they will no longer need to determine if the action is a legal try for goal or a pass (e.g., alley-oop plays).

4-17.4.d (Legal guarding position) – To establish legal guarding position on an airborne player with the ball, the defender must establish legal guarding position before the opponent places the last foot on the floor (i.e., plant foot) prior to becoming airborne.

Rationale: The goal of this rules change is to reduce the number of

charges and collisions that occur around the basket by allowing the offensive player more time to adjust to defensive movements.

5-14.1 (Coach requested reviews) – To require when a coach requests an out of bounds play to be reviewed under two minutes in the second period and in the last two minutes of any extra period that team will be charged a timeout if the original call is not overturned. *Rationale: An out of bounds request is the only review that a coach can request in the last two minutes of the second period and in the last two minutes of any extra period that does not result in a charged timeout if not overturned.*

5-15.1.c (Timeout) – To allow a timeout to be granted when a player has possession of the ball even though the player is airborne. *Rationale: In the past, players were able to request a timeout while airborne. An example would be an airborne player grabbing a loose ball and calling timeout before landing out of bounds. The rules committee concluded that if a player had possession of the ball, they should be entitled to request a timeout.*

10-1 PENALTY (Flagrant 1 fouls) – To establish that if a player commits three Flagrant 1 fouls in a game, the player would be disqualified. *Rationale: Flagrant 1 fouls are personal fouls that are deemed to be more serious than common fouls. Presently, it would be possible for a player to commit up to five Flagrant 1 fouls before disqualification. As such, the rules committee decided given the severity of flagrant fouls, Flagrant 1 fouls should not be treated the same as a common foul. (Note: Currently, any Flagrant 2 foul results in an automatic ejection.)*

10-4.2.d (Live/preloaded video) – To permit, but not require, the transmission of live video to the bench area for coaching purposes. *Rationale: For the past two seasons, the rules committee permitted conferences to experiment with the transmission of live video data to the bench. This experimentation was met with positive feedback from the coaches and other stakeholders who utilized the rule.*

10-4.2.j (Peacekeeper) – To permit all non-student bench personnel to leave the bench area to assist in preventing a potential fight/altercation. *Rationale: Depending on the situation, there may be bench personnel who are in a better position to prevent a fight/altercation from escalating.*

11-2.1.b (Goaltending/basket interference) – To allow officials the opportunity to review goaltending/basket interference calls during the next media timeout to ensure the call was accurate so long as the official makes the goaltending/basket interference call on the floor. If there is a foul on the shooter while the ball is in the air with a goaltend/basket interference, the review will be immediate to properly adjudicate the potential free throws. (Note: Under four minutes remaining in the second period and the entire overtime period(s), these reviews will be conducted immediately.)

Rationale: Goaltending/basket interference is one of the most challenging plays to officiate, and these violations directly result in either awarding or disallowing points. The rules committee concluded that it was imperative to review these plays. (Note: These reviews will be consistent with how officials currently review whether a successful try is a two- or a three-point try.)

New Rule

11-2-1.d.1 (Fouls as a result of flagrant acts) – To establish that if a player is called for a foul, and upon Instant Replay the officials see that the foul is a direct result of a Flagrant 1 or Flagrant 2 foul committed against the player who was originally assessed a foul, officials may remove the original foul on the player who was flagrantly fouled.

Rationale: This change will provide officials the opportunity to remove a foul from a player if they determine that the foul was a direct result of a player being flagrantly fouled (i.e. a defensive player is flagrantly pushed into the offensive player with the ball by another offensive player).