



## **2023 Conference Achievements**

**2023 was another great year for the MIAA – numerous national awards and recognitions, team and individual national championships, trend setting national initiatives, and strategic programs to enhance the value of MIAA membership.**

1. The MIAA AAC has approved a **pilot study to implement instant replay** technology for MIAA Baseball and Softball games. The MIAA is the first Division II conference to implement replay policies for conference members in both of these sports.
2. The MIAA extended **corporate partnership agreements** with **Hollis + Miller, Hasty Awards, and Jostens**, and it entered into a new strategic partnership with **Musco Lighting and Rocket Alumni Solutions**.
3. The MIAA is leading the way in enhancing NCAA Division II football, helping to establish the **new Division II Football Alliance**, which provides Presidents, AD's, and Commissioners a forum to discuss important football related issues.
4. The MIAA organized and conducted its **first MIAA Chief Academic Officer/Provost meeting in** conjunction with the MIAA Basketball Tournament in Kansas City.
5. The MIAA celebrated its **20<sup>th</sup> anniversary basketball tournament** at Historic Municipal Auditorium in downtown Kansas City.
6. The MIAA conference office and the US Council for Athletes' Health organized a **new MIAA Mental Wellness Advocacy Team**, which meets quarterly, and has representation from all 14 member institutions.
7. A new Risk Management initiative has been implemented by the MIAA CEO Council to verify every year that an **Emergency Action Plan simulation** has occurred in at least one athletics facility on each MIAA campus.
8. Continuing the **Strategic Growth of MIAA Membership** by approving the University of Arkansas Fort Smith as a new active member
9. The **Harlon Hill Trophy has been presented annually to the top NCAA Division II football player** since 1986. This year, an MIAA student-athlete won the award for the sixth time, as UCM QB Zach Zebrowski was named the top football player for the 2023 season.
10. Former UCM student-athlete Madison (Madi) Wulfekotter will be honored during the **NCAA Woman of the Year Awards Presentation** at the NCAA Convention as one of nine finalists from all three NCAA Divisions.
11. Former UCM AD Jerry Hughes has been selected by the NCAA Division II Management Council as the **male Division II 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gold Award winner**.



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12. The MIAA has announced a partnership with **Officially Human, becoming the first NCAA Division II conference to officially join forces** with the renowned organization whose mission is to “restore respect to game officials and recognize them as authorities on the fields and courts”.
13. The MIAA has established a new award to honor Jerry Hughes, the long-time UCM Director of Athletics and NCAA Division II legend. **The Jerry Hughes Rising Star Award**, seeks to recognize a young MIAA administrator or coach who embodies the principles and core values of the MIAA and its membership – fair competition, academic success and service to others. The award winner will be recognized every year at the MIAA Basketball Tournament.
14. The MIAA celebrated its **7<sup>th</sup> annual “International Student-Athlete Week”** in November with international student-athlete features on themiaa.com and the MIAA social media platforms (unique celebration – MIAA is one of the few NCAA conferences doing this celebration each year during the week identified by the US State Department for schools to celebrate “International Education”).
15. **The MIAA Constitution Task Force** work was officially implemented in July as the new MIAA governance structure and operating bylaws became effective.
16. The MIAA enjoyed an **exciting inaugural neutral-site conference women’s soccer** four-team championship tournament in Wichita at the Stryker Sports Complex.
17. **The MIAA Network celebrated a record year** in 2023 for number of subscriptions and total revenue distributed to member schools.
18. In 2023, the MIAA continued to celebrate tremendous **success at the NCAA Division II National Championships**. **UCO won** the 2023 NCAA wrestling national championship. **PSU won** the 2023 NCAA men’s indoor track and field national championship and **PSU won** the 2023 NCAA men’s outdoor track and field national championship.
19. In 2022, once again the MIAA had a student-athlete bring home the **NCAA’s most prestigious academic honor** at an NCAA Championship, **The NCAA Elite 90 Award** -- 2023 NCAA Women’s Cross-Country, **Marissa Dick, 4.0 GPA (PSU)**.
20. **ESU football won the 2023 Fun Town RV Heritage Bowl Game** against GAC member Southern Nazarene University.