KNOX COLLEGE

2022–2023
ANNUAL REPORT

VISIT THE PRAIRIE FIRE CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING GAMES AND SEASON SCHEDULE
Dear K Club Members,

It was an exciting year for Prairie Fire athletics—we were strong competitors in the Midwest Conference (MWC), receiving many individual and team recognitions. This included challenging (and breaking) longstanding records with grit and determination, and your support.

Knox remains steadfast in its mission to provide an education that focuses on the development of the whole person. The K Club Engagement Council exemplifies this mission through their generous time and philanthropy to enrich the experience of each student-athlete and prepare them to be future leaders in their communities and beyond.

We are grateful for your dedication and commitment to investing in Knox students, coaches, and our entire athletic staff. Your generosity allows us to continue enhancing our facilities, supporting our coaching staff and recruitment efforts, and providing opportunities for our teams to travel and compete through the region.

Included in this report are accomplishments of our student-athletes and coaches, alumni recognition and events, and a preview of the coming year. I am excited for the year ahead, and look forward to working with our new athletic director, Corey Goff. We are fortunate to have the K Club Engagement Council as loyal fans and leaders who remain committed to investing in Knox athletics.

Thank you for being part of the team. I look forward to cheering along with you this season.

All the best,

Monica Keith
Vice President for Advancement

NEW & NEWSWORTHY

"Together, we’ll foster a culture of excellence, inclusivity, and holistic development for our student-athletes. I believe in the power of collegiate athletics to shape individuals’ character, cultivate resilience, and instill a sense of school spirit that unites and strengthens our community. Let’s go, Prairie Fire!"

Corey Goff Named Knox College Director of Athletics

In June 2023, Corey Goff joined the Prairie Fire as the Director of Athletics. He will oversee 18 Knox sports teams, promote student health and wellness, develop coaches and staff, and develop an inclusive agenda for students, coaches, parents, alumni, and the Knox community.

Goff comes to Knox with a deep knowledge of leading athletic programs and coaching student-athletes. Most recently, he served as the Director of Athletics and Physical Education at Ransom Everglades School in Florida, managing over 70 interscholastic teams in 27 sports.

Goff was a student-athlete on the football and basketball teams at Susquehanna University, where he competed in the NCAA playoffs and served in leadership roles as team captain and later as athletic director.

SUCCESS
BY THE NUMBERS

382 student-athletes
1 Scholar All-American Team
3 NCAA All-Americans
2 Individual NCAA Appearances
1 Team NCAA Appearances
1 League Sportsmanship Award
1 Team Midwest Conference (MWC) Tournament Champion
1 Team MWC Regular Season Champions
7 Individual MWC Champions
10 All-Conference Performances in 14 Sports
2 All-Regional Performances
11 Indoor Track & Field Records
107 MWC Academic All-Conference Performers
3 SLIAC Academic All-Conference Performers
The football team had a big win beating Cornell 31-27, their first victory over the Rams since 1988. Knox also led the league in third down conversions with a rate of 40.7%. Offensive lineman Charlie Gibbons ’23 was selected for the first-team All-Midwest West Conference (MWC), and linebacker Ean Rau ’23 and defensive back Kendall Ballman ’23 were selected for the All-MWC second team.

The women’s soccer team not only beat Monmouth this season, but it was also a 2-0 shutout, while men’s soccer made their ninth consecutive appearance at the MWC Tournament. Lucas Piqueras ’22 and Alex White ’24 earned first-team honors.

Katie Anderson ’23 set two Knox records, becoming fifth all-time with 1,617 career assists and the record holder with 53 assists in one match. Catessa Duran ’23, finished the volleyball season second in the league in kills per set (3.33) with a career total of 868 kills, the sixth best in Knox history. Duran was named to the second-team All-MWC.

Lance Miller Yates ’26 and Matthew Lande ’24 competed at the Augustana Interregional Cross Country Invitational. Yates also competed at the MWC Championships and finished 18th to garner All-MWC honors.

In November, all athletic department staff participated in Title IX education led by Kim Schrader, Knox College Director of Title IV.
The men's swimming and diving team was selected by the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America (CSAA) as a Scholar All-America Team.

Jordan Rayner '23 joined the 1,000-point club with 1,357 career points and received second-team All-MWC honors. Knox College received the MWC Men's Basketball Sportsmanship Award, presented to the team that displays the highest ideals of sportsmanship in the league.

Indoor track and field had an excellent season with 15 top-10 performances, setting 11 records. Derrick Jackson '23 (60m) and Tyrell Pierce '24 (200m, 400m) represented the Prairie Fire on the Midwest All-Region Team for the 2023 NCAA Division III Indoor Track & Field Season by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA). Peyton Balfour '24 was one of a group of Knox athletes who competed at the MWC meet. Balfour won the women's triple jump with a leap of 11.05m, setting a new Knox record.

Women's basketball went 22-6 and led the conference in scoring defense, allowing only 58.7 points per game. They won the MWC Championship and made an NCAA appearance. Knox College seniors Catessa Duran '23 and Kristin Herndon '23 were named First-Team All-MWC, while first-year Kylee Callahan received the Newcomer of the Year Award.
Men’s golf won the McNaughton Memorial Classic at Monmouth and placed fourth at the SLIAC Championships. Brendan Wise ’23 earned All-Conference honors.

The softball team swept Lawrence for the first time in divisional play, and Mimi Schweitzer ’23 earned her 100th career strikeout against Monmouth.

Brandon Ward ’25 earned MWC Pitcher of the Week, striking out 11 batters (a career-high) and allowing just five hits, leading the baseball team to a 10-0 victory over St. Louis School of Health and Sciences. At the plate, Jason Clark ’24 went 5-for-9 with three walks, a home run, three runs scored, an RBI, and two stolen bases.

The outdoor track and field team had a stand out year reaching new personal bests and Knox records. At the MWC meet, the team had fourteen top five finishes. In the men’s 100m, Derrick Jackson ’23 (10.63), Jonathan Bailey ’26 (10.69), and Trevor Geggie ’23 (11.06) all advanced to the finals. Jackson is number one in Knox all time records, and Bailey has joined in number two spot. Peyton Balfour ’24 earned second place in the women’s triple jump (10.63m). Tyrell Pierce ’24 was named Outstanding Track Performer again this year for his wins in the men’s 200m (21.49) and 400m (47.56). His 200m win is a new Knox record. He went on to compete in both events at the NCAA Meet.

On June 16, 92 alumni, parents, coaches, community members, and friends came together for the Annual K Club Golf Outing at Soangetaha Country Club. The K Club event was a great success with the generous support from alumni, local businesses and individuals for Knox athletes and athletic programs.
K Knox is an NCAA Division III school committed to helping the Prairie Fire contend with other highly ranked academic schools in the Midwest Conference and nationwide. Each year, we welcome a new cohort of talented student-athletes, but one thing that remains season after season is the support from K Club member donations.

The goal of the K Club is to come together as the “Team Behind the Team,” supporting Knox athletics as a whole—ALL student-athletes and ALL of our teams. While gifts to individual sports are always appreciated, gifts to the K Club fund enable us to support our teams where and when it’s needed most.

K Club by the Numbers

2022-2023 Review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Team Specific</td>
<td>$117,033</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harley Knosher Fund</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$412,910</strong></td>
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2022-2023 Total Donors

1,014

#KnoxProud Day

On February 15, K Club members and friends celebrated #KnoxProud Day and Founders Day by joining the 24-hour giving challenge. By making a gift and encouraging members to join you, $132,704 was raised for K Club.

A Special Shoutout to Our Challenge Donors

- Thomas Anderson ’66 & Sue Fuerst Anderson ’71
- Steven Walton ’74
- Valerie Blevins ’86
- Jeff Baker ’75
- Anonymous alumni donor

The challenge continues, so mark your calendar for February 15, 2024.

Harley Knosher Endowment for Athletics

Stanley ’65 and Marilyn Flood made a generous $100,000 gift to establish an endowed fund in honor of Harley Knosher, a longtime coach, former athletic director, and champion for Knox student-athletes. The endowment will support the Knox athletics department through annual leadership support of the K Club, aligning with K Club priorities to recruit smart, competitive athletes and coaching staff, enhance athletic facilities and equipment, and create an atmosphere of learning and growth for all student-athletes.

Anyone can make a gift to this endowment in support of Knox athletics.
## K Club Dollars in Action

### Enhancement Highlights

With K Club support in 2022–2023, we enhanced our equipment, facilities, and most importantly, the experience for our student-athletes and coaching staff.

- Travel games and support for regional and national competitions.
- Equipment to keep our baseball and softball fields healthy and our uniforms fresh and clean. This includes a new backstop for softball.
- Sound system upgrades to Memorial Gym and Prats Soccer Field so we can turn up the volume this season.
- The outdoor track is looking pristine with newly painted lane lines and markings.

### Your K Club Gift

- Enhances the student-athlete experience
- Invests in facility improvements and branding
- Strengthens recruiting efforts of future Prairie Fire
- Provides teams with additional equipment and gear
- Supports salaries and moving expenses for coaches

### Every Gift Makes a Difference

Here are some of the ways your gift supports Prairie Fire student-athletes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$5,000+</td>
<td>Average Cost of New Uniforms for an Entire Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>Team Bus Trip to an Away Competition</td>
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<tr>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>Professional Development Coaches Convention</td>
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<tr>
<td>$500</td>
<td>Lodging for One Student-Athlete for an Entire Season</td>
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<td>$250</td>
<td>Average Cost of a Uniform for One Student</td>
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<td>$100</td>
<td>Travel Gear for a Student-Athlete</td>
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<td>$50</td>
<td>Team Backpack for a Student-Athlete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25</td>
<td>One Full Day of Meals for a Student-Athlete While Travelling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Support Knox Student-Athletes with a gift today.
Knox hosted two campus reunions to celebrate and connect alumni with student-athletes. In January, Knox cheered on the basketball teams as they took on Monmouth and recognized the 30th anniversary of the 1992–1993 men’s basketball team, which holds the second-best record of any men’s basketball team behind the 1958–1959 team.

This year was the first co-ed Knox Soccer Alumni Day. In May, alumni laced up their cleats and enjoyed a very competitive alumni game. The day also included student vs. alumni soccer trivia and a networking meal at Jimmy’s Pizza.

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**MVP CIRCLE**

**$5,000+**

Mark K. Allen ’81 & Peg L. Allen
Thomas L. Anderson ’66 & Sue Fuerst Anderson ’71
Laurel J. Andrew ’86 & Victor Onufrieff
Scott R. Baldwin ’81 & Melanye Baldwin
Beacon of Hope Hospice of Illinois, Inc.
Valerie J. Blevins ’86 & John K. Anderson
Carol Boyard Craig ’89 & John Craig
Craig Technical Consulting, Inc.
Cathy Davis & Gene Davis
Stanley R. Flood ’65
HemaSource
Gary L. Jacobson ’77
James R. Potter ’63 & Mary Jo Howe Potter ’62
Robert K. Schmid ’62 & Barbara Cady Schmid ’62
Darren W. Smith ’93
J. Michael Tracy ’72
Steven R. Walton ’74
David A. Whitcomb & Janice Whitcomb
Joan Whitney Whitcomb ’56 & Richard A. Whitcomb ’57

**ATHLETIC DIRECTOR’S CLUB**

**$1,837–$4,999**

Junichiro Adachi ’81 & Noel Dolan Adachi ’82
Robert Roy Ayers
Tighe L. Burke ’09
Serena R. Carpenter & Jerry D. Carpenter
Bradley D. Coats ’92 & Christine Coats
Jeffrey C. Cooper ’86 & Donna M. Cooper

Elissa Bonaventura Gunning ’69 & Daniel E. Gunning ’68
Timothy L. Herring ’79 & Elena White
Delmar R. Morrison III ’96
Thomas T. Neagle ’04
Donna Schwall Oberembt ’79 & Randall M. Oberembt ’76
Amy Ragnini Olson ’91 & Steven M. Olson ’92
Jeffrey B. Radakovich ’84 & Vicki L. Short
RE/MAX Preferred Properties

**COACHES CLUB**

**$1,000–$1,836**

Teresa L. Arrott & Ray B. Miller
Jeffrey W. Baker ’75 & Beth A. Zeiter
Steve M. Baumgartner ’77 & Susan Baumgartner
Pete Boynton ’65 & Judy Boynton
Gene S. Brandt ’72
Caterpillar Inc.
Lynn W. Colburn & Charles M. Colburn
Rachel Clark Cole ’12 & Michael Cole
Colleen Conway ’71 & A. John Heyer ’68
Dave’s Auto Body
William E. Durall ’72
Chad Eisele ’93 & Kathleen Eisele
Matthew Gigliotti ’05
Richard O. Hegg ’73 & Linda Z. Hegg
James H. Hutchison ’68
Holly Engelhart Isaacson ’99 & Andrew T. Isaacson ’99
Steven A. Laudel ’79 & Cheryl L. Laudel
J W Leech

James W. Leech II ’71 & Kim Leech
Steven Nardulli ’72 & Joyce Nardulli
Peoria Charter Coach
Othmar T. Steinman ’70 & Carol H. Steinman
Brett W. Tilly ’95 & Laura DiBernardo-Tilly

**REUNION CELEBRATIONS**

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The K Club Engagement Council members are alumni letter winners who embody and promote school spirit, increase attendance at K Club events and Knox College reunions, build enthusiasm around Knox Prairie Fire Athletics, and encourage peer-to-peer engagement during K Club fundraising campaigns.

2022-2023 K Club Engagement Council Members:

Amy E. (Ragnini) Olson ’91 (President)
Jordan Anderson ’19
Jeff Baker ’75
Jon Betts ’05
Valerie Blevins ’86
Katy Coseglia ’20
Colin Davis ’11
Chantal Heckman ’14
Lloy Brodnicki Johnston ’94
Matt McQuaid ’88
Abdul Oganla ’16
Paul Shimotake ’85
Geoff Ziegler ’03