



# University of West Florida Athletics

**ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**2024-2028**

# Key Findings

The UWF leadership team tasked the Haas Center with estimating the total economic impact of UWF Athletics on Escambia County, including contributions from football-related activities. The analysis also projects the economic impact associated with constructing the \$85.0 million multi-use outdoor facility. All values are presented in constant dollars, and employment related to athletic staff and program growth is shown as an annual average unless stated otherwise.

Dedicated to student-athlete development and community engagement, UWF supports 15 varsity athletic programs competing in NCAA Division II. The UWF Haas Center finds that UWF Athletics, combined with the planned construction investment, creates an average of 648 jobs per year, increasing Escambia County’s annual labor income by \$18.3 million. The 15 athletic programs generate an average annual economic output of \$49.7 million, while local government and tax districts within Escambia County benefit from an estimated \$6.2 million annual increase in tax revenue.

## TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF UWF ATHLETICS 2024-2028

	Employment	Personal Income	Value Added	Output
<b>Direct</b>	487	\$63,857,114	\$71,018,490	\$148,245,299
<b>Indirect</b>	111	\$14,946,892	\$24,705,499	\$58,273,249
<b>Induced</b>	50	\$12,779,624	\$24,855,136	\$42,063,638
	648	\$91,583,631	\$120,579,125	\$248,582,186

## TOTAL LOCAL TAX IMPACT OF UWF ATHLETICS 2024-2028

\$18,745,076
\$6,811,972
\$5,690,215
\$31,247,263

# Methodology

To assess the impact of UWF's athletic programs during the 2024–2028 timeframe, researchers run various economic events through an IMPLAN Input-Output (I-O) model. The methods used to produce IMPLAN's economic dataset and economic impact estimates are widely published in both professional publications and peer-reviewed academic journals. Many of these methods are considered standard best practices across various applied economic fields. Price changes are not factored into the assessment. The model assumes that consumer preferences, government policies, technology, and prices remain constant throughout the study period.

The research team utilizes data from UWF Athletics, including expenditure estimates and the various industry types impacted by the university's sports programs. All costs—such as wages and benefits for coaching staff, facility operations, renovations, travel, and community events—are modeled for the Northwest Florida region over a two-year period. Operations for each varsity sports program are organized by UWF's athletics leadership team.

This report examines all varsity athletic programs, including: Men's Football, Men's Baseball, Men's and Women's Basketball, Men's and Women's Cross Country, Men's and Women's Golf, Men's and Women's Soccer, Men's and Women's Tennis, Women's Softball, Women's Volleyball and Women's Swimming & Diving.

## Impact Definitions

**Direct Effects:** These values serve as the inputs that are impacted by the model multipliers to generate indirect and induced effects.

**Indirect Effects:** These values represent business-to-business purchases in the supply chain that stem from the initial industry expenditures. For example, purchases from local vendors, contractors acquiring materials, and similar activities fall within this category.

**Induced Effects:** These values stem from household spending of labor income after taxes. For example, when employees spend a portion of their income on goods and services within the local economy, these purchases are categorized as induced spending.

# Output

Output serves as the foundation for all IMPLAN model calculations. UWF Athletics generates a total economic output of \$248.6 million from 2024 to 2028, which encompasses direct, indirect, and induced effects:

**Direct Output:** Totals **\$148.2** million and captures UWF's immediate spending. This serves as the baseline for evaluating UWF's economic influence.

**Indirect Output:** Totals **\$58.3** million and represents the economic activity generated from business-to-business expenditures. Examples include transactions with local vendors, service providers, and contractors purchasing materials.

**Induced Output:** Totals **\$42.1** million and arises from household spending by employees directly or indirectly tied to UWF Athletics. For example, when Coach Nobles buys coffee on his way to work, that purchase contributes to the induced effects.

# Personal Income & Employment

In terms of employment, UWF Athletics directly and indirectly supports a total of 656 jobs:

- 487 jobs are directly tied to athletics operations and
- 161 jobs are created through the indirect and induced effects stemming from UWF's economic activities.

These employment impacts reflect UWF's significant role in supporting the regional workforce and contributing to job stability beyond its immediate operations.

Labor income totals \$91.6 million, capturing the full value of employment-related earnings. This figure includes wages, salaries, benefits, and payroll expenditures, making it a comprehensive measure of "personal income" in the local economy.

# Industry Growth

The impacts of UWF's athletic programs are felt across Northwest Florida, with the Pensacola area and surrounding counties experiencing the most significant growth. UWF Athletics contributes to various sectors, including sports, education, tourism, and community redevelopment.

While many industries benefit, the top 10 industries by percentage of economic output growth are detailed in the accompanying table. IMPLAN multipliers calculate the scale and magnitude of these effects through an industry-specific matrix for the region. The construction of the new multi-use outdoor facility amplifies these impacts:

- Industries related to culture, arts, and experiences experience growth as construction progresses.
- Building material manufacturers benefit from the demand for supplies.
- Travel and accommodation services see increased activity due to visiting stakeholders, teams, and fans.

## TOP 10 INDUSTRIES BOOSTED BY UWF ATHLETICS

<b>1</b>	Commercial Sports (includes college athletics)
<b>2</b>	Construction of new educational and vocational structures
<b>3</b>	Promoters of performing arts and sports and agents for public figures
<b>4</b>	Independent artists, writers, and performers
<b>5</b>	Hotels and motels
<b>6</b>	Cut stone and stone product manufacturing
<b>7</b>	Travel arrangement and reservation services
<b>8</b>	Other concrete product manufacturing
<b>9</b>	Ready-mix concrete manufacturing
<b>10</b>	Commercial and industrial machinery and equipment rental and leasing

# Value Added

Value added represents the difference between an industry's total output and the cost of intermediate inputs. It serves as a critical measure of an industry's contribution to the local economy and gross domestic product (GDP). Over the specified period, UWF Athletics generates a total added value of \$120.6 million for the local economy.

**Direct Value Added:** Accounts for \$71.0 million, reflecting contributions directly generated by UWF's athletic programs.

**Indirect Value Added:** Totals \$24.7 million, arising from business-to-business transactions resulting from UWF-related economic activities. These transactions demonstrate the ripple effects of UWF's expenditures, as funds flow through various sectors in the local community.

**Induced Value Added:** Totals \$24.9 million, representing value created through household spending by employees and others connected to UWF Athletics.

# Taxes

UWF Athletics generates over \$31.2 million in tax revenue across local, county, state, and federal levels. These funds support essential infrastructure projects, such as roads, bridges, and schools, with a notable reinvestment into the local community.

- At the federal level, tax revenue amounts to \$20.6 million, supporting military expenditures and other national priorities.
- State tax revenues total \$6.6 million.
- Local government and tax districts within Escambia County benefit from an estimated \$6.2 million annual increase in tax revenue.

# Economic Impact of Facility Construction

The economic impact of UWF Athletics has previously been quantified by the Haas Center. However, key distinctions must be noted when comparing past and current findings. The addition of the multi-use outdoor facility will significantly enhance the athletic department's capacity to serve students and the broader campus community. The \$85 million investment includes:

- New classrooms, conference spaces, and other campus resources comprising 50 percent of the project.
- Construction of a new residence hall making up the remaining 50 percent.

This facility promises to enrich campus culture, enhance student experiences, and deliver a rapid and sustainable return on investment. The model results associated with this construction project are summarized in the following table. It is important to note that this model exclusively analyzes the impacts stemming from the construction phase of the project.

## TOTAL IMPACT OF FACILITY CONSTRUCTION

	Employment	Personal Income	Value Added	Output
<b>Direct</b>	734	\$40,722,602	\$50,359,548	\$84,064,528
<b>Indirect</b>	74	\$4,208,166	\$7,573,330	\$15,398,545
<b>Induced</b>	146	\$7,521,509	\$14,631,825	\$24,759,737
	954	\$52,452,277	\$72,564,704	\$124,222,811

The construction of the multi-use outdoor facility is expected to support significant job creation across direct, indirect, and induced spending. Employment may reach 191 jobs, with approximately 147 positions directly aligned with the project itself. An additional 44 jobs will emerge through business-to-business purchases and employee spending within the local economy.

A substantial increase in personal income is projected for the construction phase, totaling \$52.5 million. This project will also contribute \$72.6 million to the region's Gross Regional Product (GRP), another measure of value added.

The total economic output for the facility's construction is nearly half of the overall athletics impact, amounting to \$124.2 million. Additionally, tax revenues will cycle back into the economy at multiple levels.

# Economic Impact of UWF Football

Since its inception in 2016, the University of West Florida's football program has rapidly risen to national prominence, establishing itself as a formidable force in NCAA Division II football.

In just their second season (2017), the Argonauts achieved an unprecedented milestone, reaching the NCAA Division II National Championship game. Although they narrowly missed securing the title, their remarkable success showcased the program's exceptional talent, determination, and resilience.

Building on this early momentum, the Argonauts won their first NCAA Division II Football National Championship in 2019 with an electrifying 48-40 victory over Minnesota State. This historic triumph made UWF the fastest program to win a national title in Division II history. The 2019 season highlighted a dominant offense and a stellar defense, with standout performances such as quarterback Austin Reed, who surpassed 4,000 passing yards and set multiple school records.

Since the championship, the football program has continued to thrive, consistently achieving top 10 national rankings and securing multiple playoff appearances within the competitive Gulf South Conference (GSC). This success reflects a commitment to excellence both on and off the field, as the program prioritizes athletic performance, academic achievement, and community involvement.

**Community Impact:** UWF football has significantly elevated the university's profile and strengthened community engagement. Home games at PenAir Field attract large, enthusiastic crowds, uniting students, alumni, and local supporters. This enthusiasm fosters school spirit and energizes the Pensacola community. Additionally, the coaching staff emphasizes academic success, with players frequently earning recognition for academic achievements and volunteer efforts. UWF's football program is poised for continued success, driven by an expanding fan base, dedicated student-athletes, and a coaching staff committed to personal and athletic development. The demand for enhanced facilities, such as the multi-use outdoor facility, has grown considerably. This investment aligns with community support and ensures that UWF football can sustain its momentum.

The construction of the new facility **is not** included in the football program's specific economic impact analysis. While football expenses are anticipated to rise following the facility's completion, these increases were conservatively modeled at a 3 percent annual growth rate.



# Average Annual Impact of UWF Football 2024-2028

<b>Direct</b>	65	\$4,321,358	\$3,569,646	\$11,818,333
<b>Indirect</b>	19	\$2,045,609	\$3,257,143	\$8,203,635
<b>Induced</b>	4	\$987,845	\$1,920,646	\$3,250,881
	88	\$7,354,812	\$8,747,435	\$23,272,849

## KEY ASSUMPTIONS INCLUDE:

- Football expenses account for approximately 24 percent of total athletic expenses, based on the 2023 expense report.
- A 3 percent annual increase in expenses was applied consistently for all varsity sports programs.

## OVER A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD, THE FOOTBALL PROGRAM GENERATES:

- Total Economic Output: \$23.3 million
- Contribution to Escambia County's GRP: \$8.7 million

## EMPLOYMENT IMPACT:

- Direct Jobs: 65 positions for staff, coaches, and athletic trainers
- Indirect and Induced Jobs: 23 additional positions created through business-to-business purchases and employee spending.

# Conclusion

The proposed \$85 million construction plan represents a transformative investment for the University of West Florida and Escambia County. Half of the funds will support the development of the athletic stadium, while the other half will be allocated to multipurpose student housing. Over a five-year period, these construction efforts are projected to expand the local economy by \$124.2 million, with an annual impact of approximately \$24.8 million.

This state-of-the-art facility will provide resources that extend well beyond athletics. By incorporating classroom spaces, conference rooms, and areas for community-focused initiatives, the project will support academic excellence, enhance student experiences, and foster a legacy of achievement for future generations.

The UWF Haas Center's analysis highlights the significant economic contributions of UWF Athletics, which—together with construction activities—support an average of 648 jobs annually and contribute to a \$91.6 million increase in personal income within Escambia County. Government agencies at all levels benefit as well, with \$31.2 million in tax revenue generated across local, state, and federal levels.

Over a four-year period, UWF Athletics has driven \$248.6 million in total economic output, averaging \$49.7 million annually across 15 varsity programs. These impacts reflect UWF's growing reputation as a powerhouse within the Gulf South Conference and a recognized leader on the national stage. As UWF continues to invest in athletic programs and facilities, the Argonauts' legacy of excellence is poised to endure and thrive.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## APPENDIX A: MODEL INPUTS AND GROUPED VARIABLE ESTIMATES

### Inputs for Economic Impact of the Facility Construction:

Year 1 - \$85,000,000 in construction of new educational and vocational structures

### Annualized inputs for the UWF Athletics Implan model are outlined below:

#### YEAR 1

\$85,000,000 construction of new educational and vocational structures

\$2,248,658 football expenses

\$9,245,398 all other sports expenses

\$760,320 hotel expenses

#### YEAR 2

\$2,316,118 football expenses

\$9,522,760 all other sports expenses

\$760,320 hotel expenses

#### YEAR 3

\$2,385,601 football expenses

\$9,808,443 all other sports expenses

\$760,320 hotel expenses

#### YEAR 4

\$2,457,169 football expenses

\$10,102,696 all other sports expenses

\$760,320 hotel expenses

#### YEAR 5

\$2,530,884 football expenses

\$10,405,777 all other sports expenses

\$760,320 hotel expenses

## APPENDIX B: OVERVIEW OF UWF VARSITY ATHLETICS

### BASKETBALL

The University of West Florida's (UWF) men's and women's basketball programs have steadily established itself as a competitive force within the Gulf South Conference and NCAA Division II, consistently demonstrating a commitment to excellence on and off the court.

The University of West Florida's basketball program has steadily established itself as a competitive force in NCAA Division II, consistently demonstrating a commitment to excellence on and off the court. The UWF men's basketball program led by Head Coach Justin Mann is built on a foundation of hard work, discipline, and the development of student-athletes who excel not only in basketball but also in their academic pursuits.

One of the program's most notable achievements came in the 2016-2017 season, when UWF set a school record for wins and advanced to the NCAA Division II Tournament for the first time. The team's success that year was marked by strong leadership, a balanced offensive and defensive approach, and contributions from key players who helped establish UWF as a rising program in the GSC. This accomplishment was a turning point that showcased the potential of UWF basketball and set the stage for continued growth.

The women's basketball program, under the direction of Head Coach Stephanie Lawrence Yelton, has enjoyed sustained success, capturing multiple GSC championships and making frequent trips to the NCAA Division II tournament, highlighted by an appearance in the NCAA Division II Elite Eight in the 2016-17 season.

Since then, the Argonauts have continued to build on their success, consistently competing at a high level within the Gulf South Conference. The team's success is driven by a focus on teamwork and the ability to execute in critical moments. UWF has consistently produced talented players who contribute both on the court and in the classroom, embodying the program's commitment to holistic student-athlete development.

Away from the court, UWF basketball places a strong emphasis on the academic success and personal development of athletes. The coaching staff are deeply invested in ensuring that players excel in their studies, with numerous student-athletes earning recognition for their academic achievements at both the conference and national levels. Furthermore, the team actively participates in community outreach programs, fostering meaningful connections between the program and the broader Pensacola community.

The influence of UWF basketball extends far beyond game day, as the team's home court, the UWF Field House, regularly draws passionate crowds from the university and local area. The continued success of the program has been instrumental in raising the visibility of UWF Athletics, contributing to the university's expanding reputation as a hub of both academic and athletic achievement.

As the program moves forward, UWF basketball is well-positioned for further advancement. With talented rosters, coaching staff committed to excellence, and a clear vision for success, the Argonauts are ready to make their mark in the Gulf South Conference and at the national level. UWF is dedicated to building a legacy that extends beyond wins and losses, creating a program defined by both athletic prowess and academic integrity.

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### BASEBALL

The University of West Florida's (UWF) baseball program has consistently participated as a leading competitor within NCAA Division II, demonstrating sustained excellence both on the field and academically. Under the strategic leadership of Head Coach Mike Jeffcoat, the program has built a tradition of success, making a significant impact in the Gulf South Conference (GSC) and on the national stage. With a focus on both athletic achievement and academic development, UWF baseball is recognized for producing well-rounded student-athletes who excel in all facets of the game.

A defining milestone for the program occurred in 2011, when UWF secured its first NCAA Division II Baseball National Championship. That year, the team achieved a remarkable season, finishing with a record 52 wins and delivering a commanding 12-2 victory over Winona State in the national championship game. This historic accomplishment solidified UWF's reputation among elite Division II programs and set a high standard for future teams.

In subsequent seasons, UWF baseball has continued to be a dominant force in the highly competitive Gulf South Conference. The Argonauts have consistently ranked among the top programs, capturing multiple conference championships and earning numerous berths in the NCAA tournament. The team's success is driven by a blend of strong pitching, sound defense, and disciplined hitting, with standout players contributing to their ongoing accomplishments.

Off the field, UWF baseball is committed to developing student-athletes as leaders in both academics and community engagement. The program emphasizes academic excellence, with many players receiving recognition for their scholastic achievements at the conference and national levels. In addition, UWF baseball is actively involved in community service initiatives, further strengthening the program's connection to the Pensacola region.

The program's success has also had a positive impact on the university and local community, with home games at Jim Spooner Field attracting enthusiastic support from students, alumni, and residents. The growth of UWF baseball has contributed significantly to the overall development of UWF Athletics, raising the university's profile both regionally and nationally.

Looking forward, the UWF baseball program is well-positioned for continued success. With a strong roster, a dedicated coaching staff, and an unwavering commitment to excellence, the Argonauts are poised to build on their achievements in the Gulf South Conference and on the national stage. The program remains focused on fostering a legacy of athletic and academic distinction, further establishing UWF as one of the premier baseball programs in NCAA Division II.

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### VOLLEYBALL

The University of West Florida's (UWF) volleyball program has firmly established itself as one of the premier contenders in NCAA Division II, consistently demonstrating excellence within the Gulf South Conference (GSC) and on the national stage. Under the experienced leadership of Head Coach Melissa Wolter, UWF volleyball has not only captured multiple GSC championships but has also made numerous appearances in the NCAA Division II tournament, solidifying its position as a force in collegiate volleyball.

Coach Wolter's leadership has been instrumental in building a program that excels in all aspects of competition. The team's success is fueled by a strong recruiting strategy that attracts top talent from across the country, paired with a disciplined, high-intensity approach to both training and gameplay. UWF volleyball is known for its rigorous focus on player development, with an emphasis on both individual skill refinement and cohesive team dynamics. The coaching staff's commitment to fostering well-rounded athletes has enabled UWF volleyball to maintain a competitive edge in one of the most demanding conferences in Division II.

In addition to its on-court achievements, the UWF volleyball program is widely recognized for its competitive spirit, high standards of performance, and dedication to academic success. The program has consistently produced student-athletes who excel in the classroom, with players regularly earning GSC All-Academic honors. This commitment to balancing athletic and academic excellence speaks to the culture of discipline and hard work that permeates the team. UWF volleyball players are held to the highest standards both on and off the court, reflecting the program's holistic approach to student-athlete development.

The volleyball program also plays a significant role in enhancing the broader success of UWF Athletics. Its consistent performance at the regional and national levels has helped raise the profile of the university within the NCAA Division II landscape, while also contributing to the overall prestige of UWF's athletic department. The program's ability to compete at such a high level not only brings pride to the university but also reinforces UWF's reputation as a destination for top-tier student-athletes seeking excellence in both academics and athletics.

As the UWF volleyball program continues to grow, it remains well-positioned to build on its tradition of success. With a strong foundation in place, including talented athletes, a dedicated coaching staff, and a commitment to continuous improvement, the future looks bright for UWF volleyball as it continues to compete for championships and elevate UWF's standing in the collegiate sports community.

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### SOFTBALL

The University of West Florida's (UWF) softball program has cultivated a tradition of competitiveness and excellence within NCAA Division II and the Gulf South Conference (GSC). Under the leadership of Head Coach Ashliegh McLean, UWF softball has consistently been a strong contender in the GSC, making numerous postseason appearances and competing for conference titles. The program's success is driven by a combination of solid pitching, aggressive base running, and strong defense, making the Argonauts one of the toughest teams to face in the conference.

UWF softball prides itself on developing well-rounded student-athletes who excel not only on the field but also in the classroom. The coaching staff fosters an environment of personal and academic growth, ensuring players balance the rigors of collegiate athletics with academic success. Many student-athletes have earned GSC All-Academic honors, further highlighting the program's commitment to excellence in all areas.

The team's home at the UWF Softball Complex regularly draws support from students, alumni, and the local community, further strengthening the program's connection to Pensacola. With a deep roster of talented players and a coaching staff dedicated to fostering success, UWF softball is well-positioned to continue its trajectory as one of the premier programs in the GSC and Division II.

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### SOCCER

The University of West Florida's (UWF) men's and women's soccer programs have long been pillars of excellence within the Gulf South Conference (GSC) and have consistently demonstrated their capabilities on the national stage.

The men's soccer team, under the direction of Head Coach Bill Elliott, has enjoyed sustained success, claiming multiple GSC championships and making frequent appearances in the NCAA Division II tournament. Known for their technical prowess, tactical discipline, and competitive resilience, the men's team has developed a reputation as a powerhouse within Division II soccer. Over the years, UWF men's soccer has produced numerous All-Americans and professional players, a testament to the high level of coaching, development, and athletic performance within the program. Coach Elliott's leadership has been instrumental in fostering a winning culture that emphasizes not only individual skill but also cohesive team play, making UWF a perennial contender at both the conference and national levels.

Similarly, the UWF women's soccer team, led by Head Coach Joe Bartlinski, has achieved a remarkable level of success, highlighted by a national championship in 2012. Under Bartlinski's guidance, the program has earned numerous GSC titles and remains a consistent competitor in the NCAA tournament. The women's team is renowned for its well-rounded approach to the game, featuring a strong defensive foundation paired with dynamic and versatile attacking players. This balance has allowed the program to attract and develop top-tier talent from both within the United States and internationally. The team's sustained success is built on a commitment to excellence on and off the field, with athletes excelling not only in competition but also in academic and leadership endeavors. The program's ability to adapt and evolve with the changing landscape of collegiate soccer has positioned it as one of the most respected teams in Division II.

Both the men's and women's soccer programs at UWF are not only focused on winning championships but are also dedicated to developing well-rounded student-athletes. The emphasis on academic achievement, leadership, and community engagement ensures that UWF soccer players are prepared for success beyond the field, contributing to the broader mission of the university. With continued investment in top coaching, recruiting, and player development, both programs are poised for sustained success as they continue to shape the future of collegiate soccer at UWF.



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### TENNIS

The University of West Florida's (UWF) men's and women's tennis programs have firmly established themselves as dominant forces within NCAA Division II, known for their sustained excellence on both the regional and national levels.

The men's tennis team, under the expert leadership of Head Coach Derrick Racine, has achieved remarkable success, claiming multiple NCAA Division II national championships. Notable title victories came in 2004, 2005, 2014, and 2017, a testament to the program's consistent ability to compete at the highest levels of collegiate tennis. Year after year, the team ranks among the nation's elite, with players excelling in both singles and doubles competitions. This success is driven not only by the talent and dedication of the student-athletes but also by a strategic coaching approach that emphasizes technical development, mental toughness, and adaptability on the court. Coach Racine has been instrumental in cultivating a culture of discipline and success, creating an environment where athletes can thrive and reach their full potential.

The women's tennis program at UWF has mirrored this standard of excellence, earning numerous Gulf South Conference (GSC) championships and consistently advancing deep into the NCAA tournament. The women's team has built a legacy of success, characterized by its ability to compete at the highest level against top-tier competition. Known for their well-rounded skill sets and versatility, UWF's women's tennis players consistently perform at a high level across both singles and doubles formats. The program has excelled not only in conference play but also on the national stage, consistently competing against the best Division II programs in the country.

Both the men's and women's programs are renowned for their ability to recruit and develop top-tier talent from around the globe. The diverse roster of student-athletes brings together players from various backgrounds, creating a unique competitive atmosphere where talent is nurtured, and international experiences enrich the team dynamic. This international recruitment strategy has helped solidify UWF's reputation as a global hub for collegiate tennis talent.

Beyond their competitive achievements, UWF tennis players are frequently recognized for their individual performances, earning numerous All-American, All-Conference, and other prestigious honors. These accolades reflect not only their on-court excellence but also their dedication to upholding the values of sportsmanship and integrity. The programs emphasize rigorous training regimens and foster a strong team culture that emphasizes collaboration, respect, and perseverance. The student-athletes are also held to high academic standards, consistently earning recognition for their academic achievements, which further highlights the balanced development of athletes at UWF.

UWF's tennis programs continue to contribute significantly to the university's legacy of athletic excellence. Through a combination of strong leadership, world-class coaching, and a commitment to fostering both athletic and academic success, UWF's men's and women's tennis teams remain at the forefront of Division II tennis. With a tradition of excellence and a promising future, the programs are well-positioned to continue their dominance in collegiate tennis for years to come.

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### GOLF

The University of West Florida's (UWF) men's and women's golf programs boast a rich tradition of success, standing as exemplary models of athletic and academic excellence within NCAA Division II.

The men's golf program, under the long-standing leadership of Head Coach Steve Fell, has earned national recognition through its sustained success, including multiple Gulf South Conference (GSC) championships and two NCAA Division II national titles, achieved in 2001 and 2008. Throughout the years, the team has consistently ranked among the top programs in the country, reflecting its strong competitive pedigree. UWF men's golf is renowned for its combination of technical precision, strategic course management, and mental fortitude, all of which have enabled the team to excel in both regional and national competitions. The program has produced numerous All-Americans, and several of its former players have gone on to enjoy successful careers in professional golf. Coach Fell's emphasis on discipline, focus, and performance under pressure has been instrumental in maintaining UWF's status as a powerhouse in collegiate golf, while also cultivating a culture of integrity and sportsmanship.

On the women's side, the UWF golf program, although younger in its development, has quickly risen to prominence under the guidance of Head Coach Kristen Dorsey. In a relatively short period, the women's team has established itself as a strong competitor within the Gulf South Conference and has made significant strides at the national level, earning NCAA tournament berths. Known for their competitive spirit and well-rounded skill set, UWF women's golfers have become a formidable presence in the GSC, regularly contending for conference titles. Coach Dorsey's leadership has played a pivotal role in developing a program that not only excels athletically but also attracts top talent from across the country. The women's team has gained a reputation for its adaptability and resilience, qualities that have propelled its rapid ascent in the collegiate golf landscape.

Both the men's and women's programs emphasize a commitment to excellence beyond the golf course. UWF's golf student-athletes are routinely recognized for their academic achievements, earning a wide range of honors that reflect the university's dedication to holistic student development. The balance between athletic competition and academic success is a cornerstone of UWF golf, ensuring that student-athletes are equipped with the tools necessary for success in all areas of life. Many golfers from both programs also serve as ambassadors for the university, representing UWF with professionalism and integrity in the broader community.

The continued success of UWF's golf programs is a testament to the strength of their coaching, the quality of the student-athletes they attract, and the university's commitment to fostering an environment of excellence. With their distinguished histories and bright futures, the men's and women's golf teams at UWF remain well-positioned to compete at the highest levels of Division II athletics while upholding the values of the university.

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### SWIMMING & DIVING

The University of West Florida's (UWF) Swimming and Diving program, though relatively new compared to its peers, has quickly established itself as a formidable force in NCAA Division II under the leadership of Head Coach Phil Kraus. Since its founding in 2013, the program has seen significant growth and success, consistently achieving top placements in conference championships and regularly qualifying athletes for the NCAA national meet. UWF's swimmers and divers are recognized for their technical expertise, endurance, and ability to excel under pressure.

The program is committed to fostering a balanced approach, emphasizing both competitive excellence and academic achievement. UWF student-athletes frequently earn academic honors, reflecting the team's dedication to developing individuals who excel both in their sport and in the classroom. The coaching staff places a strong emphasis on work ethic and team cohesion, encouraging athletes to succeed not only in their individual events but also in contributing to the overall success of the team.

The team trains at the state-of-the-art UWF Aquatic Center, which provides the facilities necessary for athletes to compete and perform at the highest levels. As the program continues to grow, it is widely regarded as a rising contender in Division II. With a talented roster and dedicated coaching staff, UWF Swimming and Diving is well-positioned for continued success on the national stage.

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### CROSS COUNTRY

The University of West Florida men's and women's cross country teams have proven to be ascending programs in the Gulf South Conference under the leadership of head coach Caleb Carmichael. The women's team consistently ranks among the top teams in the GSC, while the men have compiled impressive seasons. Both programs have had teams or individuals qualify for the NCAA Division II National Championships.

Carmichael leads a balanced training approach for the student-athletes to be at their peak running performance at the right time. The team participates in select competitive meets with some of the best competition in the country to provide the opportunity for student-athletes to hit personal bests and earn top individual performances in the south region.

The specific training approach also allows each student-athlete the ability to excel in their academics and other activities. The women's program ranks among the top of the UWF sports programs in highest team GPA.