GAR-Baseball Broadcaster

VFTH

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The Hilltopper baseball team is now four and oh in games played at Bowling Green Ballpark, after defeating U of L eight to one Tuesday night.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham tells us about a good luck charm that’s been part of all four wins.

At least a dozen times a year, WKU President Gary Ransdell adds baseball commentator to his already full schedule.

When the Hilltopper baseball team is warming up on the field—WKU President Gary Ransdell is warming up in the booth.

 “In college baseball you normally have your best pitcher on Friday night and call him the Friday night starter, so Gary normally works Friday nights so he’s our Friday night starter.”

 “It’s a great diversion to my day job, when you’re here for a nine inning game, you have three hours where you only focus on the field. Everything else melts away.”

So, several times a season, Dr. Ransdell ditches his suit jacket and gets wrapped up in the game.

 “He knows our players, our history, our opponents. He knows the Sun Belt like the back of his hand. During the broadcast we don’t just talk about baseball, we talk about other sports, academics.”

 “What I like about baseball…there’s a pause between what has happened and what will happen.”

Broadcast partner Randy Lee recalls one game in ’08 where Dr. Ransdell’s passion prompted him to change his plans on air in order to cover the Tops in the regional semi-finals.

 “As we’re announcing the game….staying here for final game at Ole Miss.”

 “I knew she’d be listening…cancel those plans, not coming home.”

Dr. Ransdell’s passion for baseball dates back to when both his sons played little league. They went on to play for WKU from 1998 to 2006. He says they get a kick out of his broadcasts, even critiquing him when they get a chance.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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