WKU Athletics – Busy December

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December of 2012 will undoubtedly go down as one of the busiest months in the history of WKU Athletics.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham talks to some of the key players about the whirlwind of activity.

From bowl game preps to a high profile coaching change to big time basketball events marking 50 years at Diddle Arena, the WKU Athletics Department had to be clicking on all cylinders to pull off an unbelievable month of activity.

The most intense part of last month boiled down to a nine day period.

 “Learned we were in a bowl game on a Sunday night and the following Friday, Coach Taggart accepted the job at South Florida and let us know he’d be leaving and the following Monday we announced Coach Petrino as our head coach.”

A hire that put WKU on the sports map overnight.

 “We literally got more national media attention in the 48 hours after he was hired than we did in the previous two years combined.”

During all the hiring hoopla, logistical planning was underway to transport Hilltopper Nation to Detroit for the Little Caeser’s Pizza Bowl.

 “We did a big planned scenerio of obviously team travel, getting those guys there and doing what they had to do and also had a large number of staff that had to go.”

The Hilltopper Athletic Foundation coordinated 21 additional fan buses that braved a snowstorm the day after Christmas to cheer on the Tops.

 “We had over one thousand people get on the buses at 7 that morning of the game and it ended up being seven p.m. before they got there.”

Radio personality Tony Rose, says it was a grueling trip.

 “We didn’t drive on a road, we drove on ruts of snow and so the buses were like this giant snow plow going up there and your seeing wrecks on both sides so there’s this bonding trip of the buses.”

Tony and the rest of the crew were back in Diddle Arena the following night to name the court for legendary coach Johnny Oldham.

Another athletics event that went off without a hitch.

 “Everybody had their role just like the team. Everybody executed the role perfectly that’s why it went as smooth as it did.”

Biggs says planning for the post season, regardless of the sport, is one of the most fun aspects of the job. He says you always try to plan for the unexpected, but sometimes you have to wing it.

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

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