Homecoming Preview (A Ransdell Story)

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It’s a bittersweet Homecoming week on the hill as this marks the last one for Gary and Julie Ransdell during his time as President.

But they are embracing every moment as Amy Bingham shows us in this week’s View from the Hill.

 “Oh the places you’ll go, A Ransdell story.” A unique theme that not only honors the Ransdell’s twenty year impact on WKU but celebrates students who have the world at their fingertips.

A fun and fitting theme…

 “This will be pretty special.”

For a President who loves homecoming.

 “He’s such a good sport and so is Julie in that whatever the theme may be whatever we ask them to do that week they play along.”

Be prepared to see plenty of characters come to life.

 “The beauty of Dr. Suess is you’ve got so much, you’ve got Cat in the Hat, the Lorex, thing one and thing two… I think you’ll see all of that.”

Dr. Ransdell is anxious to see how the theme plays out.

 “I’ve only seen on image so far and it was how Gary stole Christmas and I was the Grinch.”

The homecoming parade is one of the Ransdell’s favorite parts of homecoming week and it’s a tradition that went away in the late 80’s and they brought back to the hill in 2001.

 “My l last job at alumni relations was dealing with Homecoming stuff especially the parade, I said what? We’ve got to get our parade back.”

WKU homecoming has grown under Dr. Ransdell’s 20 year leadership. He says part of that is the result of the university getting serious about tailgating.

 “We determined early on at least I did in my presidency that we were going to be like other colleges who engage students and alumni on game day.”

Exactly what hilltopper nation is planning to do.

 “With the new homecoming theme and the football team having a chance again there’s a lot going on and people are really excited about what’s coming this weekend.”

 “We’re all in and want to experience everything we possibly can and boy this homecoming we certainly intend to do that.”

Homecoming festivities continue tonight with the Summit Awards, the Hall of Distinguished Alumni Luncheon is tomorrow, the parade begins at 5 o’clock tomorrow night at Downing Student Union and ends at Fountain Square.

And of course the Hilltoppers take on Old Dominion Saturday night at 6 pm.

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

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