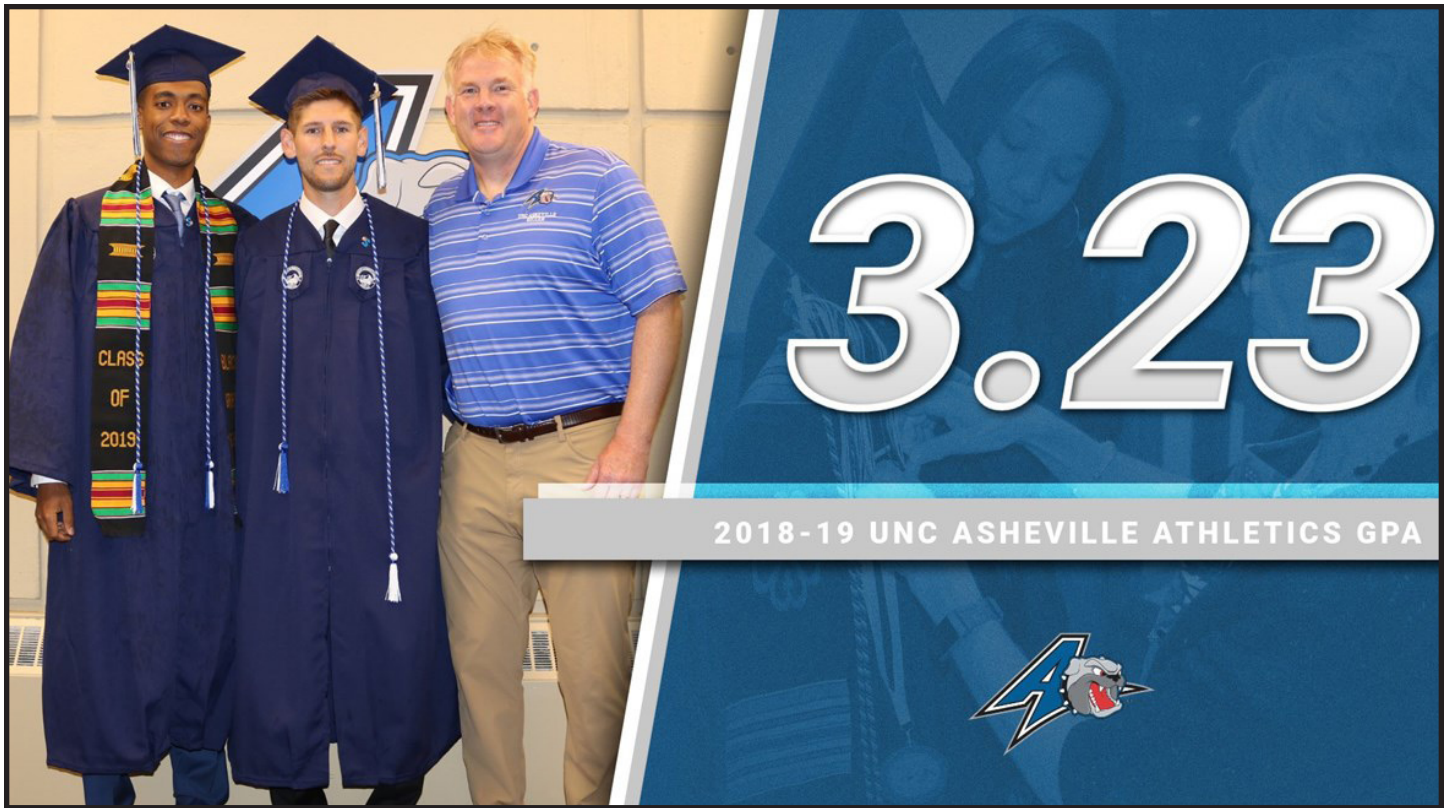


Highlights From a Historic 2018-19 for UNC Asheville Athletics



Oli Nolan (Sophomore) and Henry Patten (Senior) UNC Asheville Men's Tennis National Champions

- The doubles pairing of Oli Nolan and Henry Patten went undefeated playing together during the fall and won three titles including the national championship victory at the Oracle ITA National Fall Championships at the Surprise Tennis & Racquet Complex.
- Nolan and Patten were ranked ninth in the final Oracle ITA doubles national rankings of the 2018-19 athletic year. They are also the first All-Americans in the history of Big South men's tennis.
- The final national ranking of ninth is the highest in the history of Big South men's tennis. The No. 1 ranking earlier this year was also the highest doubles ranking in Big South tennis history and it is the highest a Bulldog tennis duo had ever been ranked.
- Nolan and Patten were a perfect 7-0 this spring en route to earning first-team all-league accolades. Patten was named the Big South Men's Tennis Player of the Year for the third straight year, while also being named the All-Academic Team for the third consecutive year. Nolan was also named to the All-Big South team in singles as well as doubles.
- As a team, UNC Asheville men's tennis finished the 2019 spring campaign with an impressive 20-5 overall record. The Bulldogs were a perfect 10-0 in matches played at home at the Asheville Racquet Club Downtown. UNC Asheville's 20 wins this past season was a program record.



UNC Asheville Student-Athletes Continue to Raise the Bar in the Classroom in 2018-19 Athletic Year

- UNC Asheville student-athletes posted a grade-point average of 3.238 during the 2018-19 athletic year. The 2018-19 GPA improves upon last year's impressive in its own right combined grade-point average of 3.142.
- On the year, UNC Asheville athletics had a total of 239 student-athletes suit up for the Bulldogs, and impressively 165 of 239 (69 percent) finished the 2018-19 athletic year with a GPA of 3.0 or higher to garner AD Honor Roll honors.
- UNC Asheville had a total of 80 student-athletes finish the 2018-19 athletic year with a GPA of 3.5 or higher to earn Dean's List honors. A total of 21 Bulldogs finished the academic year with a perfect 4.0 GPA to collect Chancellor's List accolades.
- The women's athletic teams at UNC Asheville all owned an annual GPA of 3.3 or higher with women's tennis leading the way (3.665). On the men's side of things, men's soccer (3.207) posted the highest GPA in the 2018-19 athletic year.
- In addition, 42 Bulldogs graduated from UNC Asheville during the May 2019 Commencement exercises held at Kimmel Arena inside the Sherrill Center on Saturday, May 11, 2019.



Four-Time Big South Scholar-Athlete of the Year

- A native of Shelby, N.C., Blanton Gillespie closed out his impressive career as a Bulldog as a four-time Big South Scholar-Athlete of the Year (2018 and 2019 Big South Outdoor Track & Field, 2018 Big South Cross Country and 2019 Big South Indoor Track & Field).
- Gillespie recently earned the 2019 Manly E. Wright Award for Scholarship in the Class of 2019, which is presented to the graduate who ranks first in scholarship at the May commencement ceremony. A chemistry major and neuroscience minor, Gillespie graduated from UNC Asheville in May of 2019 with a 3.996 GPA.



UNC Asheville Inducts Four Into Athletics Hall of Fame

- The UNC Asheville athletics department held its annual Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Presented by TD Bank on Saturday, Sept. 22, 2018 at the Sherrill Center.
- Inducted into the UNC Asheville Athletics Hall of Fame the morning of Sept. 22 in the Ingles Mountain View Room at the Sherrill Center was men's basketball legend Guy Batsel (1966-68), volleyball standout Elif Unlu Englert (2003-07), women's soccer star Kristi Cummings Melis (1993-96) and beloved former faculty member Dr. Robert Yearout (1987-2016). After the induction ceremony all four had special Hall of Fame plaque unveilings on the Arby's Scholarship Deck.



Janet R. Cone Officially Honored as 2019 Builders' Award Recipient

- UNC Asheville Director of Athletics Janet R. Cone officially was honored with the Division I-AAA Athletics Directors Association (DI-AAA ADA) 2019 Builders' Award at the World Center Marriott Resort as part of NACDA and Affiliates Convention Week on Monday, June 10, 2019.



UNC Asheville Athletics Holds Highly Successful 2018 BAA Scholarship Golf Classic

- The 2018 Bulldog Athletic Association Scholarship Golf Classic presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina, Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians was held Aug. 27 and 28 at The Country Club of Asheville.
- The annual event raises scholarship money for the UNC Asheville Athletics Annual Scholarship Fund.
- The 2018 edition of the BAA Scholarship Golf Classic featured 200 golfers and this year's event raised over \$105,000.



“Believe. Achieve. Thrive.” – UNC Asheville Athletics Unveils Strategic Plan

- UNC Asheville athletics officially unveiled its newest strategic plan in November of 2018.
- The strategic plan entitled “Believe. Achieve. Thrive.” is the road map for UNC Asheville athletics over the course of the next five years. The strategic plan outlines key areas of focus and growth in developing lifetime leaders from the most valuable resource that UNC Asheville athletics has in its student-athletes.
- UNC Asheville athletics constructed “Believe. Achieve. Thrive.” to deliver sustained success in developing high-impact lifetime leaders.
- “Believe. Achieve. Thrive.” is the framework for operational excellence that provides the greater Bulldog community a road map on how to engage with and participate in a thriving NCAA Division I Program
- The strategic plan also continues to allow UNC Asheville athletics to align with its vision of being recognized nationally for developing “Champions in Athletics & Leaders in Life” by winning in the classroom, community and competition



Skylar Rogan Chosen CCSA Scholar-Athlete of the Year

- UNC Asheville swimming & diving junior Skylar Rogan has been named the 2018-19 Coastal Collegiate Sports Association (CCSA) Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Rogan's honor marks the second straight year that a Bulldog has captured the prestigious award. UNC Asheville's Catherine Allen was chosen as the 2018 CCSA Women's Swimming & Diving Scholar-Athlete of the Year.
- A junior from Athens, Ga., Rogan is a double major in Psychology and Health & Wellness Promotion. She is a member of Psi Chi, which is the Psychology Honors Society and she owns an impressive cumulative grade-point average of 3.956.
- A three-time Chancellor's List (4.0 GPA) selection, Rogan has also been named to the Dean's List (above 3.5) two times. She has never had lower than a 3.888 GPA in any semester.
- This upcoming summer she will be interning with Carolina Pediatric Therapy. Presently she is gaining experience within Special Needs Occupational Therapy in private treatment.
- Rogan is an active member of the UNC Asheville Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and she has twice been named the CCSA Swimmer of the Week during her college career.
- Rogan is the school record holder in the 500, 1000 & 1650 freestyle as well as a member of the record-holding 800 & 400 freestyle relays. At the 2019 CCSA Championships, Rogan earned 73 points as an individual as well as additional points for the team in the 800 free relay, 400 medley relay and 400 free relay.



Record-Breaking “Our Turn to Play Scholarship Luncheon” Presented by Wells Fargo Raises Over \$109,000

- Not only was the 2019 “Our Turn to Play Scholarship Luncheon” Presented by Wells Fargo the largest turnout in the history of the event, but the 2019 edition also marked the most money raised in the history of the event.
- This year’s event featured keynote speaker Lesley Visser, who could not have been more impressed with the “Our Turn to Play Scholarship Luncheon” presented by Wells Fargo.
- The “Our Turn to Play Scholarship Luncheon” presented by Wells Fargo is an annual event that helps recognize women that are true champions and leaders and helps raise scholarship funds for UNC Asheville women student-athletes.
- The event recognizes the many successes of women in athletics and encourages all to support gender equity.
- As part of the annual event, UNC Asheville swimming & diving senior Katie Brown was awarded with the Janice Brumit Rising Star Award. She is the second-ever recipient. Last year her teammate Elizabeth Conte was awarded with the prestigious honor.



Historic 2019 Bulldog Challenge Raises Over \$211,000 for UNC Asheville Athletics

- The Sixth Annual Bulldog Challenge proved to be the biggest yet with over \$211,000 raised for UNC Asheville athletics.
- In addition, there were a record-breaking 752 donors overall in this year's Bulldog Challenge that was a little different than the past in that it ran just two weeks from March 17-31.
- The UNC Asheville track and field/cross country program took home the trophy for the 2019 Bulldog Challenge for the most donors (145), while the baseball program brought home the trophy for the most money raised overall with over \$96,000 donated.
- This year's Bulldog Challenge also allowed the annual event to go past \$500,000 raised over the course of the six years since it has been instituted.
- In addition, the second annual Bulldog Challenge Facebook LIVE event on Thursday, March 28, was a huge hit once again. In fact, approximately \$9,000 was donated over the course of the hour-long event. UNC Asheville has now raised over \$25,000 over the course of the first two Bulldog Challenge Facebook LIVE events.



UNC Asheville Women's Soccer Legend Hilary McKay Chosen to Big South Hall of Fame

- UNC Asheville women's soccer legend Hilary McKay was inducted into the Big South Hall of Fame in May of 2019. The 2019 Big South Hall of Fame class in addition to McKay included former High Point men's basketball player Arizona Reid, former Gardner-Webb football player Harold Wells and former Campbell women's basketball head coach Wanda Watkins.



UNC Asheville Announces Addition of Four to Athletics Hall of Fame in 2019

- The UNC Asheville athletics department is proud to unveil the latest additions to the prestigious UNC Asheville Athletics Hall of Fame.
- The 2019 UNC Asheville Athletics Hall of Fame class is comprised of longtime supporter Wilma M. Sherrill, former women's soccer head coach Michele Cornish (1994-2009), former baseball student-athlete and assistant coach Mike Shildt (1987-93) and volleyball great Kelly Budnik Cieslak (2000-03).
- The new members of the UNC Asheville Athletics Hall of Fame will officially be inducted as part of a special Hall of Fame brunch that will take place the morning of Saturday, Sept. 21, 2019 at the Wilma M. Sherrill Center.



UNC Asheville Athletics = Good Sports

2018-19 Team Sportsmanship Award Winners

- Women's Tennis
- Men's and Women's Outdoor Track & Field
- Women's Indoor Track & Field
- Women's Soccer
- Men's Soccer
- Women's Cross Country
- Baseball

2018-19 National Sportsmanship Award Winner

- Henry Patten (Men's Tennis) - Voted by the ITA Officials to receive the Sportsmanship Award for the 2018 Oracle ITA National Fall Championships.



2018-19 Individual Award Winners

Cara Guthrie (Volleyball), Preseason All-Big South in Volleyball

Cara Guthrie (Volleyball), UNC Asheville Volleyball Invitational All-Tournament Team (Aug. 25)

Julia Borges (Volleyball), UNC Asheville Volleyball Invitational All-Tournament Team (Aug. 25)

Cara Guthrie (Volleyball), Big South Volleyball Player of the Week (Aug. 27)

Cara Guthrie (Volleyball), Chattanooga Volleyball Classic All-Tournament Team (Sept. 2)

Clara Wincheski (Cross Country), Big South Women's Cross Country Runner of the Week (Sept. 5)

Thomas Little (Cross Country), Big South Men's Cross Country Runner of the Week (Sept. 5)

Cara Guthrie (Volleyball), Hampton Inn Charleston/West Ashley College of Charleston Invitational All-Tournament Team (Sept. 9)

Izaiah Vignali (Men's Soccer), UNCW SpringHill Suites Classic All-Tournament Team (Sept. 9)

Joe LaCasto (Men's Soccer), UNCW SpringHill Suites Classic All-Tournament Team (Sept. 9)

Courtney O'Malley (Women's Soccer), Big South Women's Soccer Defensive Player of the Week (Sept. 10)

Madisen Zyburt (Volleyball), Big South Volleyball Defensive Player of the Week (Sept. 17)

Kellen Alsip (Women's Golf), Big South Women's Golfer of the Week (Sept. 20)

Clara Wincheski (Cross Country), Big South Women's Cross Country Runner of the Week (Sept. 26)

Kyra Kandel (Women's Soccer), Big South Women's Soccer Defensive Player of the Week (Oct. 15)

Clara Wincheski (Cross Country), Big South Women's Cross Country Runner of the Week (Oct. 17)

Madisen Zyburt (Volleyball), Big South Volleyball Defensive Player of the Week (Oct. 22)

Morgan Rulevich (Swimming & Diving), Coastal Collegiate Sports Association Female Swimmer of the Week (Oct. 24)

Ellie Stone (Women's Soccer), All-Big South Second-Team in Women's Soccer
Courtney O'Malley (Women's Soccer), Big South All-Freshman Team in Women's Soccer
Justine James (Women's Soccer), Big South Women's Soccer All-Academic Team
Jessica Wall (Women's Basketball), Preseason All-Big South in Women's Basketball
Blanton Gillespie (Cross Country), Big South Men's Cross Country Scholar-Athlete of the Year
Kelley Coleman (Cross Country), Big South Women's Cross Country All-Academic Team
Blanton Gillespie (Cross Country), Big South Men's Cross Country All-Academic Team
Clara Wincheski (Cross Country), Big South All-Conference in Women's Cross Country
Zach Boone (Cross Country), Big South All-Conference in Men's Cross Country
Joe LaCasto (Men's Soccer), Big South Men's Soccer All-Academic Team
Grace Volk (Volleyball), Big South Volleyball Freshman of the Week (Nov. 5)
Morgan Rulevich (Swimming & Diving), Coastal Collegiate Sports Association Female Swimmer of the Week (Nov. 6)
Oli Nolan and Henry Patten (Men's Tennis), National Champions, 2018 Oracle National Fall Championships (Nov. 11)
Cara Guthrie (Volleyball), Big South Volleyball Player of the Week (Nov. 12)
Grace Volk (Volleyball), Big South Volleyball Freshman of the Week (Nov. 12)
Cara Guthrie (Volleyball), All-Big South First-Team in Volleyball
Julia Borges (Volleyball), All-Big South Second-Team in Volleyball
Grace Volk (Volleyball), Big South All-Freshman Team in Volleyball
Carter Kennedy (Volleyball), Big South Volleyball All-Academic Team
Ansley Rooks (Volleyball), Big South Volleyball All-Tournament Team
Ellie Stone (Women's Soccer), North Carolina Collegiate Sports Information Association (NCCSIA) Women's Soccer Second-Team
DeVon Baker (Men's Basketball), KEMI Northern Kentucky Basketball Classic All-Tournament Team (Nov. 18)
Sonora Dengokl (Women's Basketball), Big South Women's Basketball Player of the Week (Nov. 26)
Coty Jude (Men's Basketball), Big South Men's Basketball Freshman of the Week (Dec. 10)
Nadiria Evans (Women's Basketball), Big South Women's Basketball Player of the Week (Dec. 17)
DeVon Baker (Men's Basketball), Big South Men's Basketball Freshman of the Week (Dec. 27)
DeVon Baker (Men's Basketball), Big South Men's Basketball Freshman of the Week (Jan. 14)
Sonora Dengokl (Women's Basketball), Big South Women's Basketball Player of the Week (Jan. 21)
Lize Alet Morkel (Women's Tennis), Big South Women's Tennis Player of the Week (Jan. 23)
Ali Trani (Women's Basketball), Women's Basketball Coaches Association's (WBCA) 'So You Want To Be A Coach' program
Coty Jude (Men's Basketball), Big South Men's Basketball Freshman of the Week (Feb. 4)
Lize Alet Morkel (Women's Tennis), Big South Women's Tennis Freshman of the Week (Feb. 6)
Oli Nolan and Henry Patten (Men's Tennis), Intercollegiate Tennis Association No. 1 in NCAA Division I in doubles (Feb. 6 and 20)
Henry Patten (Men's Tennis), Big South Men's Tennis Player of the Week (Feb. 6)
Jessica Wall (Women's Basketball), New UNC Asheville Women's Basketball Career Three-Point-

ers Made Record Holder

Victor Mathuthu (Track & Field), Big South Men's Indoor Track & Field All-Conference Finish (Third Place Finish in Triple Jump)

Blanton Gillespie (Track & Field), Big South Men's Indoor Track & Field Scholar-Athlete of the Year

Kelley Coleman (Track & Field), Big South Women's Indoor Track & Field All-Academic Team

Blanton Gillespie (Track & Field), Big South Men's Indoor Track & Field All-Academic Team

Morgan Rulevich (Swimming & Diving), CCSA All-Conference Finish (Third Place Finish in 100 Breaststroke)

Morgan Rulevich (Swimming & Diving), Catherine Allen, Skylar Rogan, Adee Weller, CCSA All-Conference Finish (Second Place Finish in 800 Freestyle Relay)

Elizabeth Lykins (Swimming & Diving), CCSA Co-Coach of the Year

Oli Nolan (Men's Tennis), Big South Men's Tennis Player of the Week (Feb. 27)

Donovan Gilmore (Men's Basketball), Big South Men's Basketball All-Academic Team

DeVon Baker (Men's Basketball), Big South Men's Basketball All-Freshman Team

Greg Gasparro (Baseball), Big South Baseball Pitcher of the Week (March 4)

Jacob Edwards (Baseball), Big South Freshman of the Week (March 4)

Sirawit Daosaengsawang (Men's Tennis), Big South Men's Tennis Freshman of the Week (March 5)

Sonora Dengokl (Women's Basketball), Big South Women's Basketball All-Conference Second-Team

Jessica Wall (Women's Basketball), Big South Women's Basketball All-Conference Honorable Mention

Brooke Jordan-Brown (Women's Basketball), Big South Women's Basketball All-Academic Team

Lize Alet Morkel (Women's Tennis), Big South Women's Tennis Player of the Week (March 19)

Henry Patten (Men's Tennis), Big South Men's Tennis Player of the Week (March 27)

Leo Bierbaum (Men's Tennis), Big South Men's Tennis Freshman of the Week (March 27)

Daniel Dozier (Swimming & Diving), CSCAA Jean Freeman Scholarship

Hilary McKay (Women's Soccer), Named to Big South Hall of Fame

Frederico Santos (Volleyball), Appointed to NCAA Women's Volleyball Rules Committee

Leo Bierbaum (Men's Tennis), Big South Men's Tennis Freshman of the Week (April 10)

Lize Alet Morkel (Women's Tennis), Big South Women's Tennis Freshman of the Week (April 10)

Linna Brooks (Women's Golf), Big South Women's Golf All-Academic Team

Lize Alet Morkel (Women's Tennis), Big South Women's Tennis Freshman of the Year

Taylor Love (Women's Tennis), Big South Women's Tennis Second-Team All-Conference in Doubles

Lize Alet Morkel (Women's Tennis), Big South Women's Tennis Second-Team All-Conference in Doubles

Emily Sidor (Women's Tennis), Big South Women's Tennis All-Academic Team

Lize Alet Morkel (Women's Tennis), Big South Women's Tennis First-Team All-Conference in Singles

Henry Patten (Men's Tennis), Big South Men's Tennis Player of the Year

Oli Nolan (Men's Tennis), Big South Men's Tennis First-Team All-Conference in Doubles

Henry Patten (Men's Tennis), Big South Men's Tennis First-Team All-Conference in Doubles
Oli Nolan (Men's Tennis), Big South Men's Tennis Second-Team All-Conference in Singles
Charlie Morkel (Men's Tennis), Big South Men's Tennis Second-Team All-Conference in Singles
Henry Patten (Men's Tennis), Big South Men's Tennis First-Team All-Conference in Singles
Leo Bierbaum (Men's Tennis), Big South Men's Tennis Second-Team All-Conference in Singles
Henry Patten (Men's Tennis), Big South Men's Tennis All-Academic Team
DeVon Baker (Men's Basketball), North Carolina Collegiate Sports Information Association (NCCSIA) Men's Basketball Second-Team
Sonora Dengokl (Women's Basketball), North Carolina Collegiate Sports Information Association (NCCSIA) Women's Basketball First-Team
Oli Nolan and Henry Patten (Men's Tennis), National Seed (Fourth) in 2019 NCAA Division I Doubles Championship
Skylar Rogan, (Swimming & Diving), CCSA Women's Swimming & Diving Scholar-Athlete of the Year
Janet R. Cone (Director of Athletics), Division I-AAA Athletics Directors Association Builders' Award
Blanton Gillespie (Track & Field), Big South Men's Outdoor Track & Field Scholar-Athlete of the Year
Kelley Coleman (Track & Field), Big South Women's Outdoor Track & Field All-Academic Team
Blanton Gillespie (Track & Field), Big South Men's Outdoor Track & Field All-Academic Team
Catherine Allen (Swimming & Diving), Google Cloud Academic All-District® Women's At-Large District 3 Team
Brandon Lankford (Baseball), Big South Baseball All-Conference First-Team
Danny Wilson (Baseball), Big South Baseball All-Conference Second-Team
Austin Fahr (Baseball), Big South Baseball All-Conference Honorable Mention
Jordan Carr (Baseball), Big South Baseball All-Academic Team
Blanton Gillespie (Track & Field), Google Cloud Academic All-District® Men's Track & Field/Cross Country District 3 Team
Oli Nolan and Henry Patten (Men's Tennis), Intercollegiate Tennis Association Final National Ranking of No. 9 in NCAA Division I in doubles (May 29)
Donovan Gilmore (Men's Basketball), Nominee for NABC Good Works Team
Oli Nolan and Henry Patten (Men's Tennis), Intercollegiate Tennis Association All-Americans
Brandon Lankford (Baseball), North Carolina Collegiate Sports Information Association (NCCSIA) Baseball Second-Team
Greg Gasparro (Baseball), North Carolina Collegiate Sports Information Association (NCCSIA) Baseball Second-Team
Austin Fahr (Baseball), North Carolina Collegiate Sports Information Association (NCCSIA) Baseball Second-Team
Oli Nolan and Henry Patten (Men's Tennis), Intercollegiate Tennis Association Final Carolina Region Ranking of Second in Doubles
Henry Patten, Oli Nolan and Henry Patten (Men's Tennis), Intercollegiate Tennis Association Final Carolina Region Ranking of 19th in Singles



#KeepClimbing



Definition of KEEP: to continue or maintain (verb: Merriam-Webster)

Definition of CLIMB: to go upward with gradual or continuous progress (verb: Merriam-Webster)

Explanation: We believed that we needed a new hashtag that aligns more thoroughly with the current road map for UNC Asheville athletics in the “**Believe. Achieve. Thrive.**” strategic plan that was unveiled in the 2018-19 athletic year. For this reason, we would like to evolve our theme and hashtag for UNC Asheville athletics in time for the 2019-20 athletic campaign, and we believe that #KeepClimbing is the perfect theme to embrace and move forward with at this time. We are continuing to improve and progress with upward mobility academically, athletically and within our community. Additionally, this theme is something that is positive and can be used by all of our coaches to encourage progress with health, fitness, academics and championship success. #KeepClimbing to us is the perfect theme that embodies the progress all of our student-athletes and staff continue to make on a daily basis.

Implementation: We will work to include #KeepClimbing on all print materials, including schedule cards, posters, magnets or any other marketing materials that promotes the brand. Additionally, #KeepClimbing will be included in social media posts that pertain to our athletic department from our main accounts and occasionally from sport specific accounts. The opportunity to include #KeepClimbing within our athletic facilities on signage is another option that would be available, but we understand that takes time.