WEST POINT ATHLETIC TEAM ENDOWMENTS

DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY

50
FROM ARMY MULES TO BLACK KNIGHTS

West Point’s athletics has a proud history of national champions and All-Americans, and former Army Mules have gone on to be Olympians, Heisman Trophy winners, and inductees to major sports halls of fame, among many other honors. The first Army mule, however, pulled an ice wagon.

In 1899, on the occasion of the first Army-Navy game at Franklin Field in Philadelphia, an officer at the Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot decided that Army needed a mascot to counter the Navy goat. So an oversized white mule was curried and groomed, then outfitted with leggings, a collar, and a gray blanket. Black, gold, and gray streamers fluttered from the mule’s ears and tail.

According to legend, the first meeting between the two mascots ended when the Army mule whirled and “hoisted that astonished goat toward the Navy stands to the delight of the yelling, laughing crowd,” which numbered 25,000—a huge crowd for the time. Army took the game, 17-5. Strong, hearty, and persevering, the mule was a perfectly matched symbol for the Corps of Cadets. From our early beginnings as the Army Mule to our current Army Black Knight, West Point athletes continue to lead the way.

Our commitment to athletics is deep, but our pocketbook isn’t. The kinds of experiences and facilities that we believe are important to offer cadets have stretched our budgets thin. Rather than sacrifice the quality of our current programs—and to plan for their future growth—we are seeking to endow each athletic team to better support the needs of cadet-athletes.

We encourage participation in athletics not simply to cling to history, but because we believe in their transformative power to develop character and foster leadership. We understand that cadets are just as likely to learn from one another on a practice field as they are in a classroom. We also know that sports provide cadets a direct opportunity to put in practice the character and leadership instilled through their training and studies. Sports are an extension of the highly structured nature of a cadet’s day, and they build upon the values we seek to cultivate in our cadets.

A WINNING TRADITION

Like any other athletics program, West Point wants its players to win. But athletics at West Point are about a lot more, striving instead to develop leadership as well as stimulate growth in character, ethical conduct, and sportsmanship—all while creating a lifetime commitment to Duty, Honor, and Country. Cadet-athletes are leaders within the Corps who:

• Possess an enormous sense of duty to succeed;
• Sacrifice their weekends for the thrill of competition;
• Count as an honor the chance to represent the Academy;
• Learn and develop the warrior spirit on the playing fields and in the arena; and
• Exhibit extreme pride, commitment, and passion.

To demonstrate our commitment to these cadet-athletes, we endeavor to:

• Build, maintain, and refurbish state-of-the-art practice, competition, and support facilities as well as technological infrastructure;
• Create a diverse and inclusive environment that supports a broad-based athletic program;
• Recruit and retain the best staff, coaches, and cadet-athletes;
• Sustain financial stability and work toward self-sufficiency; and
• Provide unparalleled athletic experiences for cadet-athletes and fans.
We also believe in showcasing the value and the success of athletics programs through maintaining a Hall of Fame that honors the athletes, coaches, teams, administrators, and others who have brought distinction to Army athletics over its many years of existence.

FIELDS OF FRIENDLY STRIFE

“We are committed to supporting our cadet-athletes and coaches as they compete and represent Army on a national level. Establishing a strong and stable athletic endowment program is critical to providing our current and future cadet-athletes with an exceptional Division I athletic experience,” said Director of Athletics Boo Corrigan.

The proposed endowments would enable the Office of the Directorate of Intercollegiate Athletics (ODIA) to restructure the way that funds are distributed to all of the varsity sports, allowing the ODIA to allocate more resources to support cadet-athletes’ and teams’ needs for equipment, uniforms, travel, and additional quality competitions. The endowments also will make certain that West Point is able to fund all 22 varsity sports, in perpetuity.

“The athletic endowment program would provide ODIA an additional and consistent source of funding specific to each athletic team. This funding would help sustain the annual budgets needed for the programs to be competitive on an annual basis,” said Corrigan.

“I think being on a competitive team at West Point is a positive atmosphere where strong relationships are formed through the long practices and competitions year-round. I am certain many of the teammates I have had over the last four years will be lifelong friends. Managing my weight daily, the workouts, competition, and late nights studying have all contributed to my developing character. I wouldn’t want to be part of any other team in the country.” — Lance Penhale ‘10, wrestling

There is, of course, something of history and tradition in all of this planning for the future. A robust, well-appointed athletics program connects the cadets of today back to those who came before them. For while equipment and facilities might change, the core principle behind West Point’s athletics program—that friendly competition and teamwork develop the strength of character necessary for honorable leadership—is stays the same.

Please join us as we ensure West Point’s reputation as a leader in all endeavors, and take pride in the transformative power of the generous gift you can make today.
GENEROUS GRADUATES AND FRIENDS OF THE ACADEMY WHO SUPPORT THE ARMY ATHLETICS TEAM ENDOWMENTS WILL TAKE PRIDE IN THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF THEIR GIFTS.

Funding & Recognition Opportunities
Army Athletics Team Endowments ($38.8 million)

- **Baseball** ($1.5 million)
- **Basketball**
  - Men’s ($1.5 million)
  - Women’s ($1.5 million)
- **Football** ($6 million)
- **Golf** ($1.5 million)
- **Gymnastics** ($1.5 million)
- **Hockey** ($1.5 million)
- **Lacrosse**
  - Men’s ($1.5 million)
  - Women’s ($1.5 million)
- **Rifle** ($1.5 million)
- **Rugby**
  - Men’s ($1.5 million)
  - Women’s ($1.5 million)
- **Sprint Football** ($1.5 million)
- **Swimming & Diving** ($1.5 million)
- **Soccer**
  - Men’s ($1.5 million)
  - Women’s ($1.5 million)
- **Softball** ($1.5 million)
- **Tennis**
  - Men’s ($1.5 million)
  - Women’s ($1.5 million)
- **Track & Cross Country** ($2.8 million)
- **Volleyball** ($1.5 million)
- **Wrestling** ($1.5 million)