Hilltopper Halls of History

VFTH

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The friendly confines of E.A. Diddle Arena now boasts a brand new exhibit around the concourse on the second level.

Amy Bingham gives us a peak at it in this week’s View from the Hill.

: It’s a project that’s been nearly three years in the making so chances are you’ve seen it coming together. The Hilltopper Halls of History documents every decade of WKU sports.

Gary Bowman \ Lead Donor

Mike Montgomery \ W Club President

Bryan Baysinger \ Former W Club President

Paul Just \ Sports Information

Brent Price \ Graphic Artist

“I guarantee you I can say this without hesitation, there’s not a finer place in the country to showcase our athletes than right here in Diddle Arena.”

’74 Alum Gary Bowman, who was a freshmen walk-on with the basketball team, is the lead donor on the project.

“In 1970 I was a country boy from Monroe County and I can’t tell you how much pride I had and still have when I would put that Western Kentucky University jersey on.”

A few years ago Bowman decided it was time to do something to preserve the rich tradition of WKU athletics.

“I just thought it was important to do something to showcase our athletes, all our athletes.”

“As a former athlete to walk through these halls and look at decades and see the sweat, the tears, all the victories and some of the defeats, it’s just hair raising to me.”

“The greatest pride I take is when you’re at a basketball game here walking around the perimeter and see a parent with their child and they’re reading the wall and the parent is pointing something out they did or while they were here it happened. It’s a teaching lesson.”

Even WKU sports expert Paul Just learned a few things along the way.

“For every item we went to research, we stumbled upon two or three other items I didn’t know about and I thought I knew a lot about Western sports history.”

“Museum design is really a lot about storytelling. We were able to take these stories and actually bring them to life.”

And it’s a display we can add to for years to come.

“We have kiosks set up all around the concourse, you can punch in your favorite team, son or daughter and bring up the athletes and statistics.”

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Bowman and other members of the Alumni-W Club were recognized for their efforts in establishing the Hilltopper Halls of History at a recent home game.

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

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