Golden Knights –GAR jump

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WKU President Gary Ransdell is extra excited and maybe even a little nervous about this weekend’s football game against Army.

Amy Bingham explains why in this week’s view from the Hill.

What happens when your University President is always up for an adventure? He jumps at the chance to jump out of an airplane. That’s what President Ransdell will do Saturday when he delivers the game ball to the field.

And as your about to see, this is not his first time.

I’m Gary Ransdell and we’re gonna jump out of an airplane.”)

This was back in 2007 at Fort Knox.

“It’s an adrenaline rich experience when you leave that plane.”

“all of the sudden you’re falling at 80 mph”

“you realize the plane is getting smaller and the ground is getting bigger, you free fall for 5,000 feet.”

WKU President Gary Ransdell will get to relive this experience Saturday morning when he does another tandem jump with the Golden Knights, considered to be the world’s best parachute team.

“I kind of know more what to expect this time.”

Ransdell says his love of adventure is only part of the reason he’s eager to make the jump.

“I want to use it to promote our ROTC program. I love our cadets, we have a couple of hundred ROTC cadets many of them become second lieutenants in the Army. They work hard defending our country.”

Ransdell, along with Lieutenant Colonel Scott Walker talked about the Army game festivities at this week’s football presser.

“To be able to bring cadets from West Point to compete with our football team is a great honor for us.”

“Army’s coming off a win, we’re coming of our exciting win. Not only will it be a great game, but what a great way to kick it off.”

So as he gears up for another flawless landing, we had to ask, what does Julie Ransdell think of her fearless husband’s upcoming jump?

8:01 “She accuses me of being nuts about three times a week on a good week. You’re not likely to see her up there.”

(Obviously the jump is weather permitting)

Because Ransdell is a civilian, he must land on the practice field and will carry the game ball in through the tunnel prior to kick off. The jump will be recorded and played back for the crowd sometime during the third quarter.

Fans are encouraged to be in their seats by 10:30 Saturday morning to watch as the Golden Knights parachute into the stadium—one with an American flag, one with a state of Kentucky flag and one with a WKU flag.

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

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