Marcus Vasquez Feature

VFTH

3/21/13

The Hilltoppers begin their 23rd run in the NCAA tournament tomorrow night in Kansas City. And one member of the team has a unique distinction.

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

Marcus Vasquez is believed to be the first WKU athlete to be a member of both a bowl team and an NCAA tournament team in the same school year.

He says it’s a blessing for which he’s extremely thankful.

On December 26th, Marcus Vasquez was in Detroit playing wide receiver in the school’s first appearance in an FBS bowl game.

The next night he was wearing a Hilltopper basketball uniform as the Tops took on FIU at Diddle Arena.

 “I drove down from Detroit with my mom that night and came to shoot around at noon the next day. I was ready to go..that’s crazy.”

So does that whole 24 hour time period seem like a blur?

 “Naw it will never be a blur, I enjoyed the bowl game. I had fun at bowl game.”

But then he and quarterback Kawaun Jakes were ready to switch gears and help another Hilltopper team anyway they could.

 “At that time we were really short on players, a lot of injuries and everything and when they came it was just a big help for us because Coach knew we had some guys we could put in that were gonna be competitive because of their drive on the football field.”

The division one athletes were welcomed with open arms.

 “We knew what they were bringing already to there were no questions asked by our team or the players. We trusted coach. We always trust him because he brought us in.”

Jakes left the team shortly to focus on football but Vasquez is still here…relishing every moment.

 “Not a lot of people have this opportunity or the experience I’m having. I just thank God everyday I wake up. For one, I’m alive and that I get to enjoy this experience that’s in front of me.”

In his words, regardless of the sport….”

 “I just try to do whatever I can to help the team. I’m a Topper.”

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The Hilltoppers take on Kansas in the NCAA tournament tomorrow night just before nine central time.

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