Rick’s Rowdies

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 The Hilltoppers are hot! After a strong showing in the Battle for Atlantis followed by a beat down of EKU last night, hopes are high as the season gets well underway.

Amy Bingham tells us about an effort by Coach Rick Stansbury to get more students engaged in this week’s View from the Hill.

They’re called “Rick’s Rowdies” with the emphasis on Rowdie. In his second year as WKU’s head coach, Rick Stansbury is ready for this student fan club to take the atmosphere in Diddle Arena to the next level.

This is what Rick’s Rowdies is all about.

A student section going absolutely nuts for their team.

 “We want to create this atmosphere where everybody wants to be a part of it.”.

Coach Rick Stansbury says it also shows students how valuable they are.

 “May not be on the stat sheet but I promise they help us win a lot of games.”

Rick’s Rowdies is a fan club Coach Stansbury had tremendous success with at Mississippi State.

 “Started off with a couple hundred students, then 500 students then went to 2500. Had to take tickets back away from us cause they needed more for alumni.”

Now the goal is to grow Rick’s Rowdies here at WKU.

 “Last year we had 220 kids our goal now is to have four to five hundred, you get a t-shirt, early entrance to games, dinner with the coach at the coaches house.”

Senior Justin Johnson says this team is worthy of the enthusiasm.

 “This is a team that deserves a big crowd because of the way they play, they play for each other, they make extra passes, dive for loose balls on the floor.”

 “Most important thing is I have good people and they’re giving me everything they got. As a coach that’s all you can ask.”

And a rowdy cheering section doesn’t hurt either.

 “When you play at home it can be a 10 15 point advantage.

And he wants those students to have a good time cheering on their team.

 “Going to an athletic event, a basketball game, can be some of the most memorable moments of your college career.”

Keep up with Rick’s Rowdies on twitter by following @WKURick’sRowdies. It doesn’t cost a thing for students to sign up. The Hilltoppers will be back in action against Wright State this Saturday at 4 pm at Diddle Arena.

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