Star-studded class joins WKU Athletic HOF

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Western Kentucky inducted former standouts (from left) Angie Bradley-Towns (track & field), Brandon Doughty (football), Jack Doyle (football) and Matt Rice (baseball) as the 35th class into the WKU Athletic Hall of Fame during a ceremony Saturday at E.A. Diddle Arena. (WKU ATHLETICS)

The 35th class into the WKU Athletic Hall of Fame certainly doesn't lack star power.

Western Kentucky formally inducted a quartet of former standout student-athletes into the school's Hall of Fame during an induction ceremony Saturday during the annual W-Club Homecoming Brunch at E.A. Diddle Arena, with Angie Bradley-Towns (track & field), Brandon Doughty (football), Jack Doyle (football) and Matt Rice (baseball) all on hand to be enshrined as part of the school's all-time elite athletes.

Bradley-Towns, a four-year letter winner from 1977-80, earned national AUAW Women's All-America honors in the long jump as a senior in 1980. She set WKU indoor (19 feet, 9 inches) and outdoor (20-4) records in the long jump that season. She qualified for the national championships in the long jump all four of her years at WKU. Bradley-Towns graduated with school records in six outdoor events — three individual (long jump, 100 and 200 meters) and three on relay teams (4×100, 4×400 and 4×800).

She was inducted into the WKU Track & Field Hall of Legends in 1987. She returned to compete in USATF Masters, Kentucky Senior and National Senior events, finishing among the best in the nation in her age group in the long jump, 100 and 50 sprints events. She earned USATF Masters Female Field Event Athlete of the Year in 2018 and 2019.

"When I first started running in the eighth grade, I never imagined that I would be standing here as a hall of famer," Bradley-Towns said. "It is truly a great honor."

Doughty (2013-15) is WKU's first and only football player in the CUSA Hall of Fame (2025) after his record-setting career ushered in a new era of success for Hilltopper football. A native of Davie, Florida, Doughty remains one of the most prolific quarterbacks in the history of college football. He finished his career as WKU's all-time leader in nearly every major passing category, including 12,855 passing yards and 111 touchdown passes. He also finished his career as the leader in single-season passing yards (5,055 in 2015), single-season touchdown passes (49 in 2014) and single-game passing yards (593 against Middle Tennessee in 2014), the latter of which remains the Conference USA record. His 2014 season earned national acclaim, as he led the FBS in both passing touchdowns and passing yards, becoming the first player in WKU history to win the Sammy Baugh Award, given to the nation's top collegiate passer. That same year, he was named Conference USA Most Valuable Player – an honor he would claim again in 2015 after an equally dominant encore performance. He finished his career ranked in the top 10 all-time in FBS completion percentage (67.1%) and among the top 15 in career passing yards and touchdowns.

Beyond the stat sheet, Doughty's impact on WKU football was transformational as he guided the Hilltoppers to their first-ever FBS conference championship in 2015 and led the program to back-to-back bowl victories – earning MVP honors in the 2014 Bahamas Bowl and the 2015 Miami Beach Bowl. WKU also earned its first national ranking under his leadership, finishing the 2015 season ranked No. 24 in the country. Over his final two seasons, Doughty led WKU to an 18–1 record in conference play and established the Hilltoppers as one of the most explosive and efficient offenses in the nation. He ended his career with 27 wins as a starter and helped solidify the program's reputation during its transition into CUSA and FBS competition.

A four-year starter (2009-12) at tight end, Doyle was selected as a member of the WKU Football All-Century Team in 2018. He earned All-Sun Belt Conference honors as a senior and played in the Senior Bowl, after setting school tight end records for both career (162) and season (53 as a senior) receptions

and career (1,769) and season (614) receiving yards. He also broke the record for catches by a freshman tight end (37). His career catches total (162) was second on the list for all receivers at the conclusion of his college career. Following his time at WKU, Doyle signed as a free agent with the Tennessee Titans. He was cut prior to the season, but soon signed with his hometown Indianapolis Colts, where he played nine seasons. During his NFL career, Doyle recorded 295 catches for 2,729 yards and 24 touchdowns. He made two appearances in the NFL Pro Bowl (2017 and 2019).

“When I think back about my time at WKU, I think about more than football,” Doyle said. “I think about the people, the friendships, the memories and experiences that shaped who I am today. I can honestly say without a doubt, those were some of the best years of my life.”

A member of the WKU Baseball All-Century Team (2019), Rice (2008-11) was a third team ABCA All-America catcher in 2010 and a three-time All-South Region pick. He was a first team All-Sun Belt Conference selection in 2010 and 2011, and he was a member of the SBC All-Tournament Team in 2011. Rice set seven school records – career marks for hits (309) and RBIs (223), which both still stand; single season standards for hits (101 in 2009) and hitting streak (31 games), which also still stand; and the single game record for hits (5). Overall, Rice still ranks among the top 10 in 10 WKU stat categories. Rice earned a spot on the NCAA Regional All-Tournament Team in 2009, when he led the club in batting average (.399), hits (101) and at bats (253).

As a junior, he paced the club in batting average (.369), hits (89), home runs (10), RBIs (65) and walks (31). As a senior, he led the team in batting average (.360), home runs (9), RBIs (59) and walks (35). He was a semifinalist for the Johnny Bench Award in both 2010 and 2011. He also excelled in the classroom earning CoSIDA Academic All-American of the Year in 2011 after earning a berth on Academic All-America Teams in 2009, 2010 and 2011. He was selected in the ninth round of the MLB draft by Tampa Bay and played two years of Minor League ball.