Paul Just CoSIDA Hall of Fame

VFTH

6/18/15

A man who’se been a fixture in WKU athletics for nearly fifty years is being honored for his career in sports information.

This week Paul Just was inducted into the College Sports Information Directors of America Hall of Fame. Amy Bingham talks to him in this week’s View from the Hill.

Paul Just is a wealth of knowledge about WKU athletics dating all the way back to the mid-1960’s. He’s now being honored for his outstanding contributions to the field of college athletic communications.

Paul Just is used to pulling archive photos for people but not of himself.

 “Somebody doing a little bit of research about this that or the other, some questions I can answer on top of my head, some questions I can’t”

But this week the questions are about him and his five decade career with WKU athletics that started when he was a sophomore working for former sports information director Ed Given.

 “I remember thinking oh good Mr. Givens. How are you, blah, blah, blah this and that and during the conversation I’m thinking what the heck is a sports information director?”

Clipping newspaper articles, calling in scores to the media, you name it and Just did it leaving no detail undone. Not only did he find out what an S-I-D was, he was eventually offered the position.

 “Mr. Givens got out and went into private business in 1978 and they asked me to be sports information director which took me two or three seconds to yes.”

Just has a long list of favorite memories from his time on the hill.

Nick Rose winning WKU’s first NCAA championship in 1974. A shy and reserved Lily Mason of Olmstead coming out of her shell by the time she received her Kodak All American Award at the women’s Final four in 1986 and of course the shot by Ty Rogers in 2008.

Still when it comes to his favorite sport, Just has a politically correct answer.

 “My favorite sport is any sport where they’re wearing a WKU jersey.”

This week, instead of writing the headline, Just is the headline. He was inducted into the College Sports Information Directors of America Hall of Fame earlier this week in Orlando.

 “It’s very humbling…it’s a very elite group. I’ll be proud to see my name up there. I don’t think I belong but at the same time I’m not going to turn it down.”

 “Presidents, athletic directors, coaches, student athletes.

I have an awful lot of people to thank. Co workers, staff people those other groups. All that fell together in just the right way for me and it’s made me a very happy and very fortunate person.”

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Just shifted to a part time schedule back in 2002. He grew up in Greenville Kentucky and graduated from Greenville High school, the same school as legendary WKU coach Ed Diddle.

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

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