

Athletic Program Evaluation

Men's Soccer

Prepared by Head Coach Brett Bentley

Criterion #1-Academic Excellence and Student Success

Score-8

Based upon Fall 2017, the ASU men's soccer program has an overall team grade point average of 2.98. This teams' GPA falls just below the national average for men's soccer, which is at 3.03. In the two years I have led this program, the team GPA has linearly increased, starting with a 2.66 to the current GPA value. Also we have a 0.40 stronger GPA than the rest of the student body and a 0.55 stronger GPA than the average male student body. Additionally our team GPA is significantly hurt by the developmental team. However, we have a graduation rate of 39%, which is 12% better than that of the University. This graduation rate would be significantly higher if we had financial resources for our developmental team. We unfortunately lose five to eight players a year due to a lack of involvement as a varsity athlete; for example, traveling with the team and a lack of playing opportunities. Yet with this said our retention has still improved by 8% since I have taken over the program (2015). Lastly, over the past two years we have had three RMAC First Team All-Academic Awards and one CoSIDA Men's Soccer Academic All-District 6 Honor.

Criterion #2-Access and S-A Affordability

Score-10

Men's soccer carries 10-15 more players than the average RMAC and NCAA soccer team. We work with four fewer scholarships (approximately \$120,000) than the national average and we have no student-athlete who receives a large athletic scholarship. The average scholarship awarded is \$2,421.00, which is a very small percentage of their overall costs.

Criterion #3-Institutional Affordability

Score-10

The athletic expense to each men's soccer student-athlete is high in relative to his peers. The cost of attendance added to the low level of financial support makes attending our University more expensive than comparable public universities. Our team generates \$425,710.08 in revenue which equates to each student-athlete paying \$10,642.77 to the University. However, this number is deceptive, as it does not include the cost of room and board so in reality this number is significantly higher. Additionally, in the Huron Report our Net Tuition and Fee Revenue per Student FTE was \$1,961.62 higher on average than our peer group of corresponding universities.

Criterion #4-Community Relations

Score-10

The men's soccer program participates in two to four community service activities a year. When considering a roster size of 40 players and two coaches this works out to roughly 220 hours of community service and engagement. Additionally, due to the low cost to host a soccer program, the vast majorities of high schools in the state and country have soccer teams. There are 838,573 high school soccer players in the country with 450,234 being males. The state of Colorado alone has 206 high school boys' soccer teams.

Our fan support has grown over the last two years because of the success on the field. There are 15.88 million soccer players and 367 semi-professional and professional teams in the country making it the second most popular sport in the country behind football (Statista, n.d.). If you look across the country you can find many places where the sport is a major part of the community. Take Messiah College for example, a small private Division 3 program in Pennsylvania. Messiah averages 1,744 fans per home game with a student body of 2,708 (NCAA, 2015). This is a comparable situation as Adams and it demonstrates the possibilities. Additionally there are 31 Division 1 universities that average more than 1,000 fans per home game and 4 who average over 3,000. In 2015 the UCSB vs Cal Poly game drew 14,919 fans for a regular season game. This numbers support the possibilities. It can be done and if the administration can provide more support then we can create something comparable to Messiah College.

Criterion #5-Program's Athletic Success

Score-10

With 1.1 scholarships we have dramatically overachieved on the field. In 2016 we broke almost every record in program history. We placed 2 players on All-RMAC teams for the first time and we received the program's first ever regional top 10 ranking. In 2017 we built off the previous year's success and broke many records that we set the year before additionally we set the mark for most wins in a season. This led to us being ranked in the South Central Regions' top 10 for 6 weeks. We beat 7 teams which had 3 to 9 times more scholarship than we had which is a testament to what we could accomplish with more support. Finally the success on the field has positively impacted retention and recruiting.

Criterion #6-Impact

Score-10

Men's soccer or football is the fourth required RMAC sport. Because of the student body make up and proportionality there would be no effect to title IX if men's soccer were to be eliminated. Additional support would significantly help us be more competitive in the RMAC and NCAA. If we were to be given an additional 2 scholarships we would compete for the RMAC title. If we were to be given an additional 4 scholarships we would compete for regional and national titles.

Success has in turn created more interest in our program. We received more fans in 2017 than any year previous; additionally, we have received interest from semi-professional teams in the region

requesting our player's information and this spring we have received regionally ranked opponents requesting future games. Locally we have received more interest from community members, for example at the Grizzly Club lunches members have begun to pay more attention and express more interest in what we have been accomplishing.

Additional Notes

In two years we have established ourselves as a very competitive team in the RMAC and the South Central Region. With more support we can establish Adams State University as not just a "running school" but an all around successful athletic school. Why are our running programs so successful? Yes they have elite talent, but it started with the advantages that our endurance, aerobic athletes have here in the San Luis Valley. Naturally the elevation here gives our aerobic athletes a huge advantage. If the sport is heavily driven by aerobic capacity then the valley is a great place to prepare for competition. With soccer being an endurance/aerobic sport as opposed to anaerobic where elevation benefits are limited, then it only makes sense to invest in soccer especially if the goal is to have regionally and nationally recognized programs. Take Yavapai Junior College for example. The city of Prescott sits at 5,385 feet elevation with many areas in the city 1,500-2,000 feet higher. The coaching staff for Yavapai's soccer program has maximized their elevation advantage to great success. In their 30 years existence they have an overall record of 615-57-30 with 7 National Championships, 21 National Tournament appearances, 19 Final Fours, 22 Region Titles, 62 All Americans, 6 National Players of the Year, 3 FIFA World Cup Players, 7 National Team Players, 8 Major League Soccer players and 77 Total Championships, and all this started because they maximized the benefits of living and training at high elevations (Yavapai College Athletics, 2018). Additionally if you look at Colorado Mines (5,675 feet elevation) and Colorado Mesa (4,593 feet), neither are fully funded but both compete consistently for regional and national titles and maintain a ranking in the top 25 every season. They do this at a financial disadvantage because the rest of the top 25 are fully funded programs but yet the 2017 final rankings finished with Colorado Mines at #9 and Mesa finishing at #22. Yavapai JC, Colorado Mines, Colorado Mesa and our very own running programs are all examples of what can be accomplished in an aerobic, endurance based sport when you live and train at elevation.

References

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