Athletics Graduation Success Rate remains high

The University of Nevada’s Graduation Success Rate for student-athletes remains high at 77 percent.

“The overall trend of our performance in the Graduation Success Rate is strong,” said Nevada Director of Athletics Doug Knuth. “Our priority will always be, first and foremost, to serve the academic mission of the University. We are committed to and continue to invest in the success of our student-athletes and we are proud of their achievements.”

This is the ninth year that the NCAA has calculated data for the Graduation Success Rate (GSR). The Wolf Pack was at 63 percent in 2005 and climbed to an all-time high of 80 percent last year. Nevada has seen 533 of its student-athletes graduate in the past eight years.

The federal graduation rate for Nevada’s student-athletes, which doesn’t count transfer students, is at 64 percent this year. That number has significantly increased from 47 percent in 2007.

The GSR was developed by the NCAA as part of its academic reform initiative to more accurately assess the academic success of student-athletes. Unlike the federal graduation rate, the GSR holds institutions accountable for transfer student-athletes, includes mid-year enrollees, and is calculated for every sport. This year’s mark is based on student-athletes who began full-time enrollment at any school in the fall of 2006 and received athletic aid in their first year of college.

“The continued academic success of our student-athletes signals the strong commitment of our coaches, athletics staff and the student athletes themselves,” said University President Marc Johnson. “We are committed to the ‘whole’ student. Just as we want to see our student athletes achieve success in the field of competition, we want them to achieve great success in the classroom, earn a college degree and go on to successful careers.”

Women’s track student-athletes Samantha Calhoun ’13 and Angelica Earls ’13 are among the 533 Wolf Pack student-athletes who have graduated in the last eight years.

The fifth annual Blue Tie Ball, a University of Nevada scholarship gala benefiting Wolf Pack student-athletes, is set for Saturday, March 29 at the Peppermill Resort Spa Casino.

The evening raises money for student-athlete scholarships at the University of Nevada and promises a night of elegance, amazing food, wine and fun. Wolf Pack student-athletes will be in attendance dressed to impress in formal attire as they greet guests and escort them into the magnificently decorated Tuscany Ballroom.

For tickets and more information, call (775) 682-6965.
Wolf Pack Athletics using new tool to prevent injuries

Maintaining the health and physical well-being of student-athletes is central to the mission of Wolf Pack Athletics, and Nevada’s athletic trainers and strength and conditioning coaches now have a new tool to help prevent injuries.

The Wolf Pack sports medicine and strength and conditioning staff has implemented the Functional Movement System and the Functional Movement Screen (FMS) into its program. The FMS is a tool that allows Nevada’s staff to screen each student-athlete and determine where they may be most susceptible to injury.

The brainchild of physical therapist Gray Cook, the Functional Movement System is an exercise philosophy that focuses on basic movements. The screening gives each student-athlete a score for a series of movements and based on those scores, the strength and conditioning staff can design a program to correct the asymmetries, tightness or weakness in muscles that can lead to injuries. It also allows strength coaches and athletic trainers to work more closely together to prevent injuries and design recovery programs for student-athletes who do suffer injuries.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Thelma B. and Thomas P. Hart Foundation, Nevada’s athletic trainers and strength and conditioning coaches were able to participate in a Functional Movement Screen workshop in May and are screening all Wolf Pack student-athletes as they begin their Nevada careers.

“The Functional Movement Screen is used by the military, occupational health, universities and professional sports teams to assess injury risk by evaluating baseline movement patterns. For the last several years, it has been a common topic at national sports medicine meetings and seemed like a program that would offer benefits for our student-athletes at the University of Nevada,” says Nevada team physician Carol Scott ’91M.D.

“By assessing each student-athlete on an individual basis, we can identify movement flaws that may predispose them to injury,” Scott adds. “We can then implement corrective exercises to help prevent injuries and to improve performance. We are in the first year of this program and will be evaluating it on an annual basis. We are grateful to the Thelma B. and Thomas P. Hart Foundation for supporting us in implementing this program for all of our student-athletes.”

The Functional Movement System is currently being used by 8-10 NFL teams and gaining popularity with college and high school programs around the country.

According to assistant athletics director for strength and conditioning Matt Eck ’10M.A. (educational leadership), the Wolf Pack is already seeing benefits from implementing the FMS.

“We have seen a decrease this year in soft tissue injuries that lead to time missed on the playing field,” Eck says. “We are able to address our student-athletes’ limitations, however severe, and implement effective corrective strategies to aid the process of increasing athletic performance. The FMS is a dynamic tool that has helped change the way we are programming for our student-athletes’ strength and conditioning needs.”

Assistant athletics director for sports medicine Shelly Germann works with former men’s basketball player Dario Hunt ’12.

Wolf Pack fans can win a 2014 Toyota Tacoma

One lucky Wolf Pack fan will drive home a new 2014 Toyota Tacoma from this year’s men’s basketball game vs. UNLV.

The Nevada Wolf Pack and the Northern Nevada Toyota Dealers will raffle off the truck during the March 8 game against the Rebels at Lawlor Events Center.

Raffle tickets cost $50 each. To purchase tickets or for more information, call (775) 682-6961 or visit NevadaWolfPack.com.