

Willie the Ram: a faithful supporter

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Like his legacy, Willie the Ram remains young at heart. Through the decades, Willie has transformed into an exceptional mascot. He changed his name, became a father and even altered his appearance. Yet, Willie remains the most honored and vivacious Ram at Texas Wesleyan.

His journey began in 1935, when a new live mascot was chosen to lead the Rams to victory. The university's mascot, The Rammer, a ram of noble bearing, was born.

The male sheep, the Rammer, was presented to the school by the sophomore class president Chuck Herring on the evening of Oct. 2, 1935.

Not satisfied with his figure in 1975, then two-legged Willie dressed in a muscle-enhancing body suit and even changed the size of his head.

"Having a live mascot again would be a good symbol for the college and something that would en-



his Texas Wesleyan pride and rode in the 1979 Stock Show Parade in downtown Fort Worth.

The Ramrods, a spirit group begun by University President Jerry Bawcom in 1979, cared for Willie and fed him his daily ration of oats and alfalfa. Willie made appearances at the basketball and baseball games while the Ramrods cleaned up after him.

Confident and popular, Willie attracted himself a mate, Wilma. Willie and Wilma lived happily in a pen on the south side of campus.

Willie and Wilma's keepers, Don Wilhelm and Scott Watkins, noticed Wilma was fluctuating between gaining weight and then losing that weight, but assumed it was just the reflection of any changing college student. However, Wilma was pregnant. A new addition to the Ram family came Halloween night in 1984. The proud parents named their first ewe (female sheep), Winnie.

Current Texas Wesleyan University Archivist, Louis Sherwood, was a student at Wesleyan at the time and recalls the pen next to Stella Russell Hall where he could go visit Willie, Wilma and Winnie.

"It was neat to have a live mascot," he said. "It put us on par with big schools, like the University of Texas, that all had live mascots. I enjoyed being able to stop by and see them."

courage support for Wesleyan athletics as well as other activities," said Class President of 1979, Jon Fleming.

Regretting the alteration to his appearance, Willie decided to return to the outdoors after 14 years of being locked in the storage closet at night. Back on four legs, Willie lived like royalty in his own blue and gold trailer donated by the Ram Club.

Impressive, big-horned Willie wanted to show off

Tragically, Winnie died that summer, but the Ram family managed to stay strong. In June 1985, Wilma gave birth to their second ewe, Wesley-Anne.

While Wilma was busy caring for her young, 250-pound Willie went to work with the Ramrods who chauffeured him to sporting events on campus.

According to Sherwood, Willie's physical changes continued. "After he became a widow in the late 80s, he wandered for a few years," he said.

Despite the family tragedy, Willie was to come back stronger and more motivated than ever before. Coming to terms with reality, he wanted to keep up with modernization and requested to return indoors and walk on two legs again. The new Willie was specially designed in 2007 and finally came to life in 2008 with a new attitude. Willie wanted to look more fierce, but not too scary for small children's sake.

"Willie is a link for all past, present and future Wesleyan students," said current SGA President Heath Scott. "His legacy unites everyone and has been the foundation of school spirit for decades. Willie stands for everything Texas Wesleyan stands for: tradition, pride and spirit."

Always representing Wesleyan, Willie has seen both personal and physical development in different forms. Originally, the old Willie was baggy and smiley. Today's Willie is made from a special fiber and foam material, adding muscle to his furry appearance. The head has an elec-

tric fan and cooling packets that rest on the chest and back, a key to keeping Willie energetic at athletic events.

Transforming from The Rammer to Willie the Ram, Texas Wesleyan's mascot has prevailed in the last 70-plus years with style and

grace. "Willie is a true symbol of Wesleyan character," said Cheerleading Coach Carolyn Ikens-Owen.

Willie appears at all home basketball games, various athletic events and any campus event when requested.



Willie and Wilma in 1981.

Archive Photo

The Life of Willie

1935: The Rammer was born on Oct. 2 in the form of a male sheep.

1959: Willie III was born and lived on campus.

1962: Willie IV strutted around.

1965: Alpha Phi Omega, a men's service fraternity, secured a new ram, the 2-year-old buck, Willie V.

1975: Now two-legged Willie dresses in a muscle-enhancing body suit and increases the size of his head.

1979: Willie is back on four legs, participates in the Stock Show Parade in downtown Fort Worth and meets Wilma.

1984: Winnie was born.

1985: Wesley-Anne was born.

2007: The modern Willie was designed as a two-legged mascot.

7-7 Flag Football Standings

Name	Wins	Losses	TP Scored	TP Against	Byes
Pickles	6	0	153	18	0
BOHICA	3	3	35	21	0
TapOut	3	3	67	97	0
1 L's	3	3	68	103	0
Twisters	1	5	7	47	0
Pink Dragons	1	5	21	48	0

Wesleyan Week-in-Sports

- The **Lady Rams Volleyball** team (10-13, 4-4 RRAC) suffered a 3-1 (25-23, 18-25, 25-13) loss at Our Lady of the Lake University Oct. 8. and lost 3-0 (25-16, 25-11, 25-18) at 11th-ranked UT Brownsville Oct. 9. before picking up a 3-0 (25-20, 25-20, 25-21) win on the road against Huston-Tillotson University Oct. 10.
- The **Lady Rams Soccer** team (9-4, 3-1 RRAC) took a thrilling 2-1 win against Our Lady of the Lake University Oct. 8. Senior captain Jaimie Romaguera scored the game-winning goal with only 21 seconds left to play. The Lady Rams then fell 2-1 to UT Brownsville Oct. 10. The Lady Rams will take on their rivals from Northwood University Oct. 15.
- The **Rams Soccer** team (8-5, 1-3 RRAC) suffered a 3-2 overtime loss to Our Lady Lake University Oct. 8 before losing 2-0 to UT Brownsville Oct. 10. The Rams next game is at their local rivals, Northwood University, Oct. 15.
- The **Rams Golf** team finished sixth at the Grand Canyon Invitational Oct. 6. Entering the last round in seventh place, the Rams, lead by senior Drew Koonce, moved up to tie for sixth with the hosts, Grand Canyon University. Koonce finished fourth individually at -1 (215) after finishing with a 70 (two under par). Armando Villareal just missed the top-10 and finished tied for 11th place.

Fantasy Football Pig Skin Pick'Em Leaderboard

Name	Pts.
Jeremy Newton	48
Michael Greer	46
Rachel Loftin	45
Jason Simpson	44
Phillip Blockinger	44
Oscar Lazarki	44
Fabiola Duron	44
June Johnson	43
Cara Lumpkin	43
Ryan Amador	42
Terry Waldrop	42
Sandy Gonzalez	42
Trey Bomar	41
Michael Chaney	41
Keith Wright	40
Barbara Kirby	40

Upcoming Sports

Game	Time/Place
Thursday	Men's Soccer vs. Northwood University Women's Soccer vs. Northwood University Volleyball vs. SW Assemblies of God University* Golf at NAIA Preview Invitational
Friday	Golf at NAIA Preview Invitational
Saturday	Men's Soccer vs. Southern Adventist U. Women's Soccer vs. Southern Adventist U.

*Breast Cancer Awareness PINK OUT

The Weekly Sports Quote

"The term 'genius' is inapplicable to anyone in this game. A genius is Norman Einstein."

Joe Theismann

Former Pro-football Player

THE RAMBLER

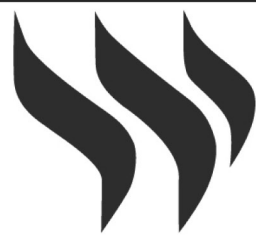
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The Rambler

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