

# Wasendorfs commit \$2 million to UNI athletics

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**Contact:**

William Calhoun, vice president for UNI advancement and president, UNI Foundation, (319) 273-6078, [Bill.Calhoun@uni.edu](mailto:Bill.Calhoun@uni.edu)

Vicki Grimes, University Marketing & Public Relations, (319) 273-6728, [Vicki.Grimes@uni.edu](mailto:Vicki.Grimes@uni.edu)

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa -- Russell and Connie Wasendorf have pledged \$2 million to the University of Northern Iowa Panther athletics program. The gift was made through the UNI Foundation. This is the largest unrestricted outright gift to the UNI athletic department in its 100-plus year history.

By making this commitment, the Wasendorfs became founding investors in the VIP Fund, part of the university's Imagine the Impact campaign. The VIP (Vested in the Panthers) Fund was created to secure unrestricted resources for Panther athletics and will help support scholarships, programs, equipment and facilities.

UNI Director of Athletics Troy Dannen said, 'We are pleased to recognize Connie and Russ as founding investors of the Panther athletics VIP Fund. Their leadership will help ensure the sustainability of a strong intercollegiate athletic program at Northern Iowa for years to come.'

Russ Wasendorf said, 'I am simply paying back, with interest, the financial aid I received while attending UNI. I feel, without that financial aid, I would not have received a quality college education. Connie and I are proud to make this donation and enhance opportunities for UNI student athletes.'

In addition to this commitment, the Wasendorfs have supported Panther athletics with significant investments in the McLeod Center and the UNI-Dome.

Wasendorf is chairman and CEO of PFGBEST, one of the largest U.S. non-clearing futures and forex brokerage firms. In addition to PFGBEST, he heads Wasendorf & Associates, Inc., a Cedar Falls, Iowa, research firm specializing in managed futures investments, as well as publishing books for trader education through W&A Publishing.

UNI President Benjamin Allen said, 'We are very proud, and quite humbled, to have such significant support from a couple who are among the Cedar Valley's most prominent business and community leaders. 'Russ and Connie's generosity opens many opportunities for our students to enhance their college experiences.'

For more information about the Imagine the Impact campaign or the UNI Foundation, visit the Web site at [www.uni-foundation.org](http://www.uni-foundation.org).