

Baseball on winning streak

By **Melanie Koto**

STAFF WRITER

Last Wednesday, the Baseball team played two games against the Calumet College Crimson Waves.

The Hawks won both games, the first 9-3, and the second 6-2. Sophomore Luis Montoya pitched a complete game, only letting up 4 hits and striking out 3 players. The Crimson Waves took a 2-run lead over the Hawks in the bottom of the first, but the Hawks quickly picked up their game in the top of the inning to tie the score.

Senior Ryan Bouck started off with a single followed up by another single by sophomore Kevin Glennon, advancing Bouck to third. Sophomore Jon Celestino flied out to center field, an RBI that Bouck scored on. Senior Mat Bednarz doubled next, bringing Glennon home for the Hawk's second run. After that, neither team scored through the next two innings until the Hawks brought up their score to a 6-2 lead in the bottom of the fourth.

Junior Brian Glennon started off with a single and advanced to second on a wild pitch. Junior Nick Wise grounded out but Glennon advanced to third. Bouck singled bringing Glennon in for the first run of the inning, and then Bouck stole second. Senior Bill O'Toole singled advancing Bouck to third, who then scored on a hit by Kevin Glennon.

Celestino walked and O'Toole advanced to second, and then Bednarz singled, and O'Toole scored on the hit. Junior Reid Matsumoto walked after being hit by the pitch, advancing both Bednarz and Celestino a base. Senior Miguel Gallegos walked as well, and Celestino scored the fourth run of the inning. The Hawks' advance went unanswered by the Waves, and in the next inning the Hawks increased their lead by three runs.

Wise and Bouck both singled, and then Wise scored on a single by O'Toole. Celestino hit a single RBI bringing Bouck in for the second run. Bednarz grounded out, and O'Toole scored, bringing the score to 9-2. Calumet answered with one run in the seventh, bringing the final score to 9-3 for the Hawks first win of the day.

In the second game, Calumet again start-

ed things off with a run in the first. O'Toole walked, then Bednarz singled, advancing to second on an error, and then to third, and O'Toole scored. The Waves scored another run in the third, which was answered by the Hawks with four runs. O'Toole singled, Celestino walked, and Bednarz hit a single RBI that O'Toole scored on. Matsumoto doubled, a double RBI that brought both Bednarz and Celestino in. Kevin Glennon walked, Gallegos singled and advanced to second, and Matsumoto scored. The Hawks then scored again once more in the fifth, when Kevin Glennon and Gallegos hit back to back doubles, and Glennon scored, ending the game with a second win for the Hawks, 6-2.

On Saturday, the Hawks played the Roosevelt University Lakers, with the team picking up their third win of the week. The game was a tight encounter, with a close score all the way to the end of the ninth inning. The Hawks picked up a quick lead in the second when Bednarz scored on an RBI by Wish, followed by Brian Glennon scoring on a single RBI by Bouck.

Roosevelt picked up the game in the third by scoring three runs for a one point lead on the Hawks, which they held for four innings. In the top of the seventh, the Lakers scored again, but the Hawks quickly rallied to take over the lead. Kevin Glennon singled and advanced to second on a wild pitch, and then Celestino doubled.

Bednarz flied out to center field, but brought Glennon home for the Hawks first run of the inning. Matsumoto and Gallegos hit back to back doubles, bringing Celestino home followed by Matsumoto to put the Hawks back in the lead, 5-4. Roosevelt answered in the ninth with one run to tie the score. With the Hawks at bat, Roosevelt loaded the bases, intentionally walking Brian Glennon and Bouck to try and set up a force out, only to have O'Toole hit by a pitch, and Matsumoto score the winning run for the Hawks.

With their current streak, the Hawks now stand at a 5-11 overall record, and a 3-7 conference record. Their next two home games will be Saturday at 1 pm against Olivet Nazarene University.



Photos by Melanie Koto



Athletics appoints new men's head soccer coach

By **Graeme Port**

SPORTS EDITOR

The search for a new head Men's Soccer coach finally came to an end last week when the university appointed the former Southwest Community College head coach, David Strother, to the position.

"I would like to thank President Anderson, the administration, and the Athletics Department at IIT for giving me the opportunity to be elected as the new Head Coach to the Men's Soccer program," stated Strother. "IIT soccer has become recognized as a consistent contender in both the CCAC and the NAIA over the past few years. I look forward to working with the great group of student-athletes already in place, contributing my time and efforts whilst helping to continue the growth that is expected with this program."

During his four years at Southwest in Summit MS - a two year NJCAA community college - Strother turned the program into a Region 23 contender. Strother coached and mentored eight MACJC All State Award Winners, two Region 23 All-Region recipients, three NJCAA Academic All-Americans, one NJCAA Distinguished Academic All-American, and was the recipient of the prestigious 2009-10 Halbrook award for most improvement in GPAs for NJCAA student athletes.

Strother, a native of Pensacola (FL), moved with his family to Franklin County (MS) while he was in his teens. He graduated from Franklin County High School with honors. He also played soccer and received numerous state and national awards whilst attending the school. After high school, Strother attended Copiah-Lincoln Community College, where he received an A.A. degree in 2001 graduating with

honors. Strother was a two year captain of the soccer team and played in central midfield.

After graduating from Copiah-Lincoln, Strother continued his college career at Belhaven College from 2002-2004. In 2002, he helped the Blazers achieve their best record in three years. During that year they broke into the Top-25 of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) rankings for the first time in four years and advanced to the NAIA Region XIII tournament for the first time in three years. Strother was named an NAIA All-American in 2003 and received a B.S. degree in Sports Administration and Marketing (with a minor in Business) in 2004.

David is married to Nina Fischer and they have one daughter, Sidney McCall.



Photo courtesy of illinoisstateathletic.com