

Women's volleyball set for season

By Kayla Heller

STAFF WRITER

Illinois Tech's Women's Volleyball team began their season long before classes started up at IIT.

The team's preseason officially started on August 8 this year, and they have been hard at work preparing for the upcoming season. The 2011 season marks the first year in charge for new head volleyball coach Jacqui Gatt.

The Lady Hawks have a roster of 11 girls for this season. Returning players include

senior middle blocker Kayla Heller (Dixon, IL), juniors Rebecca Bograd (setter; Lemont, IL), Mariska Vandenberg (middle blocker; Pleasant Prairie, WI) and Chrissy Korper (libero; Orange County, CA) as well as sophomores Kate Kendall (outside hitter; Naperville, IL), Roma Mirutenko (outside hitter; Hawthorn Woods, IL), Brittany Mead (libero; Darien, IL), Samantha Richmond (setter; Bolingbrook, IL) and Becca Wilson (outside hitter; Macomb, MI). New to the line-up this year is freshman setter Shea Manley (White Lake, MI) and middle blocker Taylor Duman (Walled Lake, MI).

"We are returning five key players from the 2010 squad," stated Coach Gatt. "We've also added two stand-out freshman into the mix of potential starters. Anytime you have great competition it brings out the best in people. This team, from top to bottom, is solid."

The team will face some tough competition this year, including Columbia College (National Rank #2), Georgetown University (#22), Madonna University (#28), St. Xavier University (#29), and Olivet Nazarene University (#36), to name a few.

"It's a great honor for us to play against teams of this caliber," explained Gatt. "They are all well-respected in the NAIA, and have been for several years. It's our goal to stay competitive with them, and hopefully see them again in the National Tournament."

The Scarlet Hawks have a total of 15 away games before the team play their first official home game of the season, on September 20 (7 p.m.) against St. Xavier University.

Be sure to mark your calendar and come out to support the team at Keating Sports Center!



Image courtesy of Illinois Tech Athletics

Hawks baseball plays in the big leagues

By Melanie Koto

STAFF WRITER

On May 8 the Scarlet Hawks baseball team took on the University of Chicago at the home of the Chicago White Sox, US Cellular Field. The event was the first in what both schools hope to be a long-standing tradition. The day was perfect for a ball game, and students, faculty, staff, family, and friends filled the stands. For the players, the experience was like none other. "It was like being pro for a day. The field was a little greener, the dirt was a little softer - everything seemed just perfect," stated first baseman, junior, Jon Celestino. "The fans were incredible as well."

Biology professor Dr. Benjamin Stark threw out the opening pitch to get things started. The Scarlet Hawks started the game off strong from the get-go, ending the top of the first on a double play, with a stand-out catch by senior Nick Wise. At bat, the Hawks took a 3-0 lead in the bottom of the first with runs scored by Bill O'Toole ('11), Ryan Bouck ('11) and junior John Rotella. The Maroons brought the score back up in the next two innings, leaving the score at 3-2 after the third. From there, despite great defensive plays and some great hits, the Maroons took over the lead, bringing the closing score to 3-7.

Despite the loss, the Scarlet Hawks still look back on the game in a positive light. "Playing at the Cell was a great experience," commented junior second baseman Kevin Glennon. "We had the most fans we have ever had at a game, and it was a fun atmosphere to play in." The game was just as exciting for the fans of both schools. For senior Sara Cantowine (Mechanical Engineering '12), the game was exciting because "it was great to be able to sit so close to the field (100 level seating) and to see our team play on a professional field."

The Hawks ended their season 11-23 and graduated two players. For the 2012 season, the team welcomes six new freshman players.



Photos by Melanie Koto