

Men's soccer ready for season

By Ciaran Kohli-Lynch
STAFF WRITER

The Men's Soccer team's preparations for the upcoming season are underway following a successful summer. Sophomore winger Robert Rixer represented the Philippines internationally at the under-23 and full international levels, while senior midfielder Robert Ritchie-Smith competed for the Ottawa Fury in the USL Premier Development League. Off the field, new coach David Strother has been busy recruiting a number of fresh faces, putting the squad in an excellent position to challenge for the conference championship this year.

The squad have received a second-place pre-season ranking in the Chicago and Collegiate Athletics Conference and have also been ranked 37th in the nation, based on the NAIA Men's Soccer Coaches' pre-season poll. The program finished last season with a 14-6-1 overall record, posting a 9-1 record in CCAC Conference play. The team finished the year as CCAC Regular Season Champions for the second time in the past three years and advanced to the CCAC Tournament Final against rival St. Xavier, but unfortunately conceded a golden goal in the second half of extra time to kill off their aspirations of reaching the National Tournament in Alabama. Furthermore, the team had considerable success in the Spring semester at a tournament hosted by the University of Chicago against notable NCAA Division I programs. The Hawks defeated DePaul University 1-0 before securing a hard fought 0-0 draw with Northwestern University.

As well as achieving considerable success as a team last semester, there were individual accolades for a number of members of the team. Third year attacker Liam Barrett garnered both CCAC and National awards. He was named the 2010 CCAC Men's Soccer

Player of the Year and selected as an NAIA All-American. He also saw success in the classroom, maintaining a 4.0 GPA, and was selected for the CCAC All-Academic Team, as well as being selected as an ESPN Academic All-American. Robert Rixer, who has become somewhat of a celebrity in the Philippines following his summer exploits, also picked up the CCAC Freshman of the Year award which has now been won by the Scarlet Hawks consecutively for the last four years.

Looking to emulate Robert Rixer's Freshman performances this year will be incoming players Nathan McMahon, Brandon Ramirez, Tyler Haag, Noeline Ambilly, Craig Van Wieringen, Roman Zwiarycz, Gustavo Alvarez-Suchini, Pablo Criado-Perez Charin, and Jong Masoquoi. David Strother appears to have left no stone unturned in his search for new talent recruiting these players from across Illinois and Indiana as well as recruiting internationally from Mexico, France, Guatemala, Spain and Liberia.

With an intense three weeks of pre-season under their belts, the Scarlet Hawks now look ahead to what they hope will be a successful season. When asked about his aims for the season, Head Coach, David Strother, was quick to point out that he is confident that his current crop of players can replicate and build on last season's success. "We know that we could live off the success the team had last season, but that is in the past and we are striving for more this year..." he said, before stating "We are striving to be overall CCAC Champions at the end of it all and receive an invitation into the National Tournament."

For more information about the Scarlet Hawks visit www.illinoistechathletics.com/sport/004.php and for those interested in Robert Rixer's involvement with the Filipino National Team please visit www.bert-rixer-doing-things.tumblr.com.



Image courtesy of Illinois Tech Athletics

Women's soccer raring to start

By Heather Bickerton
STAFF WRITER

Illinois Tech's Women's Soccer team get their 2011 season underway this week after a long spring season and two weeks of intense pre-season training. Last year the Scarlet Hawks recorded an 8-10-1 season record. The Hawks graduated 5 seniors last season, but this year the team has 15 returners, including Junior Lauren Capuano from St. Charles Missouri, who led the team with 10 goals last season, along with being named an All-CCAC performer.

The Scarlet Hawks have added six new players to their squad this year, including a number of internationalists: Marit Tundal, a midfielder from Sandness, Norway; Andrea Cudley, a defender from Dublin, Ireland; and Veronica Torres, a winger from Ontario, Canada. Other freshmen include: Hailey Kunkel, a central defender from Bedford, New Hampshire; Jacquelyn Ewald, a midfielder from Overland Park, Kansas; and Whitney Theisen, a defender from Hoban, Wisconsin.

Coach Cobwell stated last week, "I'm excited about the mix of talent between the newcomers and the returners. The girls have worked hard during a challenging pre-season

and I believe they are ready to take the season by storm."

As part of their season preparations the Scarlet Hawks played a scrimmage August 19 against Concordia University, with the team getting off to a great start recording a 2-1 win. Despite facing a long break during the match, for a hundred yards to pass, the Hawks dominated and had a superior amount of possession. The players linked up well on the field, with the freshmen fitting in a straight away and contributing greatly to the game. The team's two goals were both scored by freshmen, with Marit Tundal and Whitney Theisen each scoring off free-kicks.

Senior Grace Durbin from Oklahoma stated after the game, "The girls have worked incredibly hard throughout the past two weeks, and over the summer, and we are definitely ready to start the season. I believe that this team has more talent than ever before, and we certainly have the potential to go far in the conference this year."

The Scarlet Hawks play an eight-game non-conference tilt before commencing CCAC action on Tuesday, September 27 at Cardinal Stiech. The teams next home game is on September 11, versus Mount Mary College. Be sure to come along to Stuart Field and wear your school colors to cheer the team on!



Image courtesy of Illinois Tech Athletics

Keating Sports Center improvements

By Graeme Port
SPORTS EDITOR

Over the summer break, a number of improvements were made at Keating Sports Center that will significantly benefit IIT students. These changes include:

- Resigning the fitness room for easier usage
- Replacing all cardio equipment with 6 new ellipticals, 6 new treadmills, 6 new bikes, and 2 new stairsteppers
- Resurfacing and relining the North Court
- Repainting Talon, the Scarlet Hawk on the center of South Court
- Adding a new end curtain and a divider curtain on North Court to increase rental opportunities and student use
- Replacing the old batting cages with

new ones that now lower and raise from the ceiling, providing students with added floor space

Adding new alarm system and security to all doors in Keating to improve safety for all IIT students and faculty members
Facility Manager Jacqui Gatt commented, "We have been very pleased with the university's support for the improvements of Keating Hall. With the upgrades and renovations we hope the students continue to enjoy their time using our facility."

A solution is still being sought for the long-running broken window problem at Keating, and as such indoor soccer is unfortunately still not allowed at the facility. Students should also be aware that the only usable entrance and exit at Keating is on the lower east side of the building. If the emergency exit doors are opened the alarm system will go off.

Athlete Spotlight Kayla Heller



- Name: Kayla Heller
- Year: Senior
- Major: Applied Mathematics
- Sport: Volleyball
- Position: Middle Blocker
- Favorite thing about your sport: Always having teammates to hang out with.
- What you like best about the fans at your games: I love how loud it gets with everyone in the

gym.
Favorite thing to do on campus: Eat at Einstein's of course!
Best tip for anyone who wants to be great at your sport: Practice, practice, practice.
Come cheer Kayla and her teammates on at the next home Volleyball game on September 20 at 7 p.m. against St. Xavier University!