

# Intramurals, recreations to return to campus in 2012

By Graeme Port  
SPORTS EDITOR

IIT have appointed Mike Vander Heyden as the new director for Intramurals and Recreation. Mike spent the last three and half years at Roosevelt University in Chicago where he was responsible for their recreation and wellness programs, as well as managing the student center. Prior to his time at Roosevelt, Mike was a graduate assistant for Intramural Sports and Athletic Facilities at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana.

This spring, students, faculty, and staff will see a number of intramural sports again being offered, including traditional sports like 3-on-3 and 5-on-5 basketball, volleyball, and dodgeball, and other non-traditional intramural offerings, including indoor

ultimate Frisbee, indoor flag football, video game tournaments, and indoor floor hockey.

There will also be several fitness classes offered weekly to students, faculty and staff. The schedule is still being finalized for the spring semester but it will offer a variety of classes to fit everyone's fitness needs. Vander Heyden says, "I'm definitely looking forward to working with students and providing the best programs possible to suit their needs. Honestly, not too many people can say they love what they do for a living, but I can."

For information on the intramural and recreation classes on offer please visit the official Facebook Page at: [www.facebook.com/iitintramuralsandrec](http://www.facebook.com/iitintramuralsandrec) or the Athletic Department's website at [www.willinoistechathletics.com](http://www.willinoistechathletics.com) under Keating Sports Center.

Any questions regarding intramurals and recreation can be sent to Mike at [mrvanderh@iit.edu](mailto:mrvanderh@iit.edu).

## Swim, dive teams finish Phoenix invite

By Melanie Koto  
STAFF WRITER

Over the weekend the Hawks swimming and diving team competed at the three day Phoenix Invite at the University of Chicago. Some outstanding swims and dives were seen throughout the meet by both the men's and women's teams. Overall the men's team finished 5th out of 9 and the women's team 8th.

In the 200-yard medley relay, the team of seniors Morgan Curran, Julia Duarte, junior Aimee Dewante and senior Melanie Koto finished 11th overall with a time of 1:59.35. The men's team of senior Carlos Tejero, junior Eric Grunden, sophomore Felipe Bergh and senior Dylan Maus took 6th overall with a 1:39.34, while the team of junior Matt Rosenfeld, freshman Billy Bafia, sophomore Michael Bodzay and senior Tomasz Chojnacki took 7th with a 1:40.44.

In the men's 200-yard IM, Bodzay took 7th overall for the Hawks with a final time of 2:00.17, while Grunden took 9th (2:00.75) and Bergh took 12th (2:03.04). In the men's 500-yard freestyle, sophomore Yoni Pruzansky took 13th overall with a 5:03.61, and in the 100-yard breaststroke, Grunden finished 7th with a 1:01.53, while Bafia took 16th with a 1:05.10. In the 200-yard backstroke, Tejero finished 3rd overall with a 1:53.61, a new school record for the Hawks, while Bodzay finished

6th with a 1:58.75 and Rosenfeld finished 11th with a final time of 2:05.31.

Pruzansky took 13th in the men's 100-yard freestyle (49.38), and in the 800 freestyle relay, the women's team of Dewante, Curran, Duarte and Koto took 10th (8:37.85), while the men's team of Grunden, Bodzay, Pruzansky and Bergh took 4th (7:20.28). In the men's 1-meter Diving, junior Ian McNair finished 4th overall with a final score of 421.75, while sophomore Jefferson West finished 9th (263.80) and freshman Dane Christianson finished 10th (201.45).

In the women's 400 yard Individual Medley, Dewante finished 10th with a time of 4:51.91 and Curran finished 11th (4:52.12). For the men, Bodzay took 5th (4:15.47) while Bergh finished 12th (5:28.77) and in the 200-yard freestyle Pruzansky took 4th with a 1:44.53. In the women's 200-yard breaststroke Dewante finished 13th with a 2:40.18, and for the men's team, Grunden finished 9th (2:13.02) and Bergh finished 16th (2:24.61).

Tejero finished 3rd in the 100-yard backstroke with a 52.48, while Rosenfeld took 8th with a 55.45. In the 400-yard freestyle relay, the women's team of Dewante, freshman Nicolette Lewis, Duarte and Koto finished 9th with a final time of 4:07.87, while the men's team of Rosenfeld, freshman Matt O'Rourke, freshman Dan Sommerfeld and Bodzay took 7th with a 3:24.39. McNair took 3rd in the men's 3-meter diving with a score of 481.65.



Photos by Melanie Koto

## Cross country represents at nationals

By Graeme Port  
SPORTS EDITOR

On Saturday three Cross Country team members competed in Washington at the NIAA National Cross Country Championship. 323 women competed in the 5K at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site for the meet.

Freshman Courtney Rouse finished 93rd out of those 323 with a final time of 19:23, and freshman Abby Jahn finished 127th with a final time of 19:39.

Out of 312 men who raced the 8K, junior Zach Gates came in 274th with a final time of 27:33.

Congratulations to all three runners for their success, and thanks to them for representing the Hawks!

## Robert Rixer: Living life in the fast lane

By Ciaran Kohli-Lynch  
STAFF WRITER

There is a time in every star's life when they realize they have made it. For Shakespeare, it was the opening of the Globe theater in 1608; for the Beatles, it was the reception which awaited them at John F. Kennedy International airport as they commenced the 'British Invasion' of the US music charts; and for Justin Bieber, it was singing for President Barack Obama on December 20 2008. For IIT Soccer's own Robert Rixer, this moment of realization occurred during the Summer of 2011.

Having represented his home nation of the Philippines at the under-23 level several times, he was asked to don the kit of the famous Filipino Azkals and make the step up to full international soccer.

"I have to be honest, it came as a bit of a surprise," Rixer tells me at his flashy apartment in Chicago's South Loop. "I had been playing well for the under 23s, but when coach Weiss gave me the call I was humbled."

Having only just met the young starlet I have discovered instantly why he has garnered such adulation amongst the female Azkal supporters. His disheveled features and snake-like eyes hide a modest yet uncompromising persona.

"Stepping out in front of 60,000 supporters against Sri Lanka was an experience I will never forget," he continues. "Though I did not make it onto the field, I believe the whole squad contributed immensely to the 4-0 victory. I just hope that in the future I can do even more to further the Azkal cause."

Unfortunately for Rixer, college commitments meant that he has not been able to represent the Philippines since his summer exploits. I ask him how this separation has made him feel. "It hurts, I am not going to lie. I feel like a wounded soldier, unable to defend his comrades and country at a time of war."

His ability to turn a phrase in post

match interviews and playboy lifestyle has made Rixer one of the most noticeable faces on the Azkal soccer team. Partying with the Black Eyed Peas and Bruno Mars during the summer in Manila's dubbing hotspots did nothing to slow down the relentless media frenzy that seemed to follow him throughout the summer months. A simple google search of his name provides several links to Robert Rixer fan pages and blogs.

"You learn to live with it," he tells me, but I sense apprehension in his voice. "I can cope with the paparazzi following my every step, the constant rumor mill, the beautiful women and the celebrity lifestyle, as long as my performances and the Azkal team's morale is not damaged."

"I've had the opportunity to meet some really cool people, like Bruno, during the summer and they will be lifelong friends. We had fun, we partied hard, and I trained hard. Though I am completely committed to the IIT Scarlet Hawks, I cannot wait until next summer when I will once again get to play for my country."

I ask Rixer where he sees himself in three years time after graduating from IIT.

"I believe anything is possible with enough work. As I tell my fans on my daily web-chat with them, to succeed you must believe. You only need to look at the careers of other Filipino superstars: the guy no one knows from the Black Eyed Peas and Manny Pacquiao. With very little, they grew to be icons of a generation and that's what I must aim to achieve."

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Photos by Ciaran Kohli-Lynch

## Athlete Spotlight: Gui Nunes



Name:  
Guilherme Nunes  
Year:  
Senior  
Major:  
Business  
Sport:  
Soccer  
Position:  
Attacking Midfielder

What do you like best about the fans at your games?:

"The support. We play much better when Stuart Field is full of fans. Our motivation flies into its peak."

Favorite activity on campus?:

"N o t h i n g"

ing really besides study and work out at the Keating."

Best tip for anyone who wants to be great at your sport:

"Try to start practicing very young and focus on getting as much skills and game knowledge as possible. Nowadays, soccer is very physical but everyone is able to get in shape. On the other hand, there is a huge lack of quality knowledgeable, skillful players out there and being one of those will give you a potentially huge advantage."