

Men's soccer flying high in Indiana

By Ciaran Kohli-Lynch
STAFF WRITER

The Men's Soccer Team were back in action this weekend, travelling to Indiana to play against Bethel College and Indiana Wesleyan. The Hawks went into this weekend posting a 0-2-1 record after two spirited performances last weekend in Iowa against nationally-ranked programs. For many people associated with the team, this has been a sub-par start to the season and this weekend was undoubtedly seen as an opportunity to set things straight against two well regarded opponents.

The first game kicked off on Friday evening with a 4-0 victory over Indiana Wesleyan - a side that have been receiving votes nationally. Senior winger Graeme Port notched up four goals in an impressive team performance against a stubborn Indiana Wesleyan team, who did their utmost to break down possession and physically impose themselves on the match. The Hawks opened the scoring on four minutes after some nifty wing-play by Senior midfielder Robert Ritchie-Smith allowed Port to tap home from a few yards out. Despite the Hawks creating several chances throughout the opening period after this impressive start, it was Wesleyan with the next genuine opportunity on goal. Striker Geoff Bowman

found some space at the edge of the area and sent a strike fizzing towards the bottom corner of the Hawks' goal but luckily Senior goalkeeper Sam Winstanley was on hand to make an important save. This was followed just before half-time by Port's second goal of the evening after Ritchie-Smith connected with Freshman Nathan McMahon's cross. The ball rebounded back off the bar falling to Port at the back post. The victory was secured five minutes from time when Port maneuvered well to find some space in the Wesleyan box before unleashing an unstoppable drive which ricocheted off the goalkeeper and into the net. Two minutes later the scoreline was completed when Robert Ritchie-Smith threaded a pass through the Wesleyan defense and Port showed composure to slot the ball past the onrushing opposition goalkeeper.

Saturday's match proved to be a much more tense affair, with the Hawks managing to grind out a 2-1 victory over a Bethel team ranked nineteenth in the nation. Gerardo Carrera of Bethel opened the scoring in the seventh minute after an unlucky deflection wrong-footed Winstanley in the Hawks' goal. Junior forward Liam Barrett responded immediately however, connecting exquisitely with a Graeme Port cross, his header leaving the



Image courtesy of Illinois Tech Athletics

goalkeeper with no chance. This was followed ten minutes later when Robert Rixer showed the hundreds of Bethel fans in attendance why exactly he has become so famous in the Philippines after his summer exploits representing their national team. Rixer picked the ball up in the penalty area when a corner deflected to his feet and showed class, composure and trickery in prodding home from two yards. This goal was followed almost immediately by a red card for Bethel substitute Romulo Nobrega for violent conduct after he elbowed Rixer in the face. Despite their numerical superiority, the Hawks

had to fight hard for the rest of the match as Bethel's ten men rallied together. Fortunately the team managed to see out the rest of the game but despite a few nervous moments, tellingly Bethel never tested the Hawks' goalkeeper.

Overall it was a very successful trip to Indiana for the Men's Soccer Team, their record now sitting at 2-2-1 going into a stretch of three home games in the upcoming weeks. These victories will have to be built upon, however, if the Hawks are to emulate and surpass the success of last season. In the words of Junior midfielder Guilherme Nunes, "We have now shown that we have the ability in this squad to compete with the very best teams in the nation. Hopefully this weekend's results will be a building block for the season ahead and from my perspective, the sky is our limit."

For more information about the Scarlet Hawk's visit www.illinoistechathletics.com/sport/0/4.php and for those interested in Robert Rixer's involvement with the Filipino National Team please visit www.robert-rixer-doing-things.tumblr.com.

Women's soccer drops two games in Michigan

By Heather Bickerton
STAFF WRITER

Over the weekend, the Women's Soccer team travelled to Grand Rapids, Michigan to face Aquinas College and Davenport University. On Saturday, conditions were incredibly tough, with the heat radiating off the turf field.

The Hawks entered the game with a 0-2 record and were keen to pick up their first win of the season, which was evident throughout the game.

However, despite dominating the match, the team came out with a 2-0 loss. For the first twenty minutes of the game, the away side had most of the possession and linked up well with some great passing combinations.

Unfortunately, the Scarlet Hawks were unable to create any strong chances in the final third of the field. Aquinas's first attack of the game resulted in them scoring their first goal, which was created from a corner.

The Hawks pressed onto the opposition's half and nearly tied the game up straight away, when senior Grace Durbin lofted a beautiful pass to her twin sister Kay Durbin, who unfortunately shot the ball narrowly wide.

Only minutes later Kay came even closer to pulling the Hawks back into the match, when her shot smacked off the post.

In the second half, the pace of the game definitely slowed down, with both teams suffering greatly from the temperature.

Fifteen minutes into the half, the ball broke free in the center of the field from a quick free kick, and was slotted through the Aquinas defense to freshman Veronica Torres, who forced a great save from the home keeper.

The luck in the final third just wasn't on Illinois Tech's side and again, despite holding the ball well, Aquinas scored their second goal of the game, with a long range shot curling into the top corner of the Hawks goal.

The team fought until the end of the game but couldn't create any more chances on the Aquinas goal.

The following day the team travelled a short way down the road to play Davenport University.

Past meetings with the Panthers have always been intense and incredibly close and this game didn't disappoint the fans. Once again, the Hawks produced another fantastic



Image courtesy of Illinois Tech Athletics

team performance but yet again the team just couldn't finish the ball and conceded some soft goals, which resulted in a disappointing 3-1 loss.

The first half produced an array of opportunities for both teams; however, only the home side seemed to be able to convert their chances into goals. By half-time the score line was 2-0.

The Lady Hawks put up a valiant display in the second half, with constant pressure on the ball and a greater amount of possession.

With fifteen minutes to go, the Hawks finally got the break their good play deserved, when Noel Deis launched in a free kick and the ball was bundled into the goal by a Davenport player. With a goal finally under their belt, even though it was a scrappy own-goal, the away side were even more motivated and came close to equalizing on several occasions.

The game was a roller coaster, with Davenport having a fair amount of chances. However, the Hawks back-four had a strong game and their goalkeeper, junior Jessica Carlson, pulled off some fine saves to keep her side in the match.

Unfortunately for the Hawks, the home side killed off the game when they found some space through the back line to score their third and final goal of the game. The ladies definitely had the home side rattled for a vast amount of the second half but the Hawks just couldn't convert their chances.

Even though the team returned from Michigan with two losses the team haven't let their heads drop. In fact, in both games the Hawks didn't deserve to lose.

The girls would like to thank the fans that travelled to Michigan to support the team and hope to see everyone at Stuart Field for the Hawks' next home game.



Upcoming Home Events

Saturday, September 17

Women's Soccer vs Bethel College

1pm, Stuart Field

Men's Soccer vs Lawrence Tech

3pm, Stuart Field

Men's Soccer Record:

Overall 2-2-1 (.500)

Conference - 0-0-0 (.000)

Friday 9 Sep

W 4-0 - @ Indiana Wesleyan

(Receiving National Top 25 Votes)

Saturday 10 Sep

W 2-1 - @ Bethel College (#19 National Rank)

Women's Soccer Record:

Overall 0-4 (.000)

Conference 0-0-0 (.000)

Saturday 3 Sep

L 0-2 - @ Aquinas College

Sunday 4 Sep

L 1-3 - @ Davenport University

Women's Volleyball:

Overall 5-8 (.385)

Conference 1-0 (1.000)

Tuesday 6 Sep

W 3-1 - @ Trinity International University

Friday 9 Sep

W 3-0 - vs Rochester College

L 0-3 - @ Madonna University

Saturday 10 Sep

L 0-3 - vs Daemen College

(Receiving National Top 25 Votes)

L 0-3 - vs Walsh University