

Women's soccer succeeds to quarter finals

By Graeme Port
SPORTS WRITER

The women's soccer team concluded their regular league season this past week with a comfortable 3-0 midweek away win over Holy Cross College, before a disappointing 4-1 home defeat on Saturday against the number 16 team in the nation, Judson University.

The Hawks traveled to face Holy Cross on Tuesday, on the back of a four game winning streak, and it was the visitors that started the brighter of the two teams.

In just the 6th minute of play, Norwegian super striker Marit Tundal danced past

the home teams defense before she unleashed an unstoppable drive into the bottom corner of the net to put the Hawks one up.

The visitors doubled their lead in the 12th minute when winger Veronica Torres - who must have been inspired by her fellow countryman, the Fili-austranarian legend that is Robert Rixer - cut inside from the left wing before rocketing a Rixeresque strike past the home keeper to make the score 2-0.

The deadly duo of Torres and Tundal were at it again in the 39th minute, with the fleet-of-foot Torres tearing past several defenders before providing the Norwegian goal machine with a delightful cross, that Tundal smashed into the back of the net to grab her

second, and the Hawks third goal of the game.

The goal proved to be the final tally of the day as the Hawks cruised through the second half of the match to record a comfortable 3-0 win.

On Saturday, the Hawks faced a far tougher task as they welcomed the 16th-ranked team in the nation, Judson University, to Stuart Field.

The visitors grabbed the game's first goal in the 16th minute, through Jenna Stefensen, and added to their lead just three minutes later, through Angela Bianchi.

The Hawks' Norwegian talisman, Tundal, got the home team back into the game in the 35th minute, when she sniped a 20 yard

bullet just under the crossbar to record her team leading 10th goal of the year.

The Hawks pressed for the equalizing goal in the second half, but it was Judson who grabbed the game's next goal in the 67th minute, through Bianchi, before the Judson striker recorded her hat-trick in the 89th minute, making the final score 4-1 to the visitors. With the win and the loss this past week, the Hawks finish the regular league season in fifth place in the CCAC.

The ladies will play the fourth-placed team - Robert Morris, who the Hawks beat 1-0 during the regular season - away in the quarter-finals of the CCAC Playoffs this coming Saturday.

Men's soccer earn spot in conference

By Ciaran Kohli-Lynch
STAFF WRITER

The men's soccer team's regular conference season drew to a close on Saturday with an impressive victory against local rivals Judson College. The Hawks have been busy lately with a run of four fixtures in two weeks.

First up was Trinity International University. The team battled well throughout the match, securing a 2-1 victory in the 76th minute through a John Connor header after Liam Barrett had equalized the game five minutes earlier by latching on to a Graeme Port free-kick.

Next on the Hawk's schedule was a home match against conference strugglers Calumet. Liam Barrett gave the Hawks an early lead four minutes in, curling an unstoppable drive past the opposition goalkeeper.

Graeme Port, Guilherme Nunes, Robert Rixer, and Barrett again would also add to the Hawk's tally before Calumet clawed back some hope with a goal on the half hour mark.

Rixer's goal was, of course, the pick of the bunch. The Hawk's talismanic winger did superbly well to lose his man in the box

and crash home a thunderous header with the force of a thousand Kawasakis.

The Hawks 5-1 lead gave Coach David Strother the opportunity to give some of his younger players and peripheral figures, like veteran midfielder Ciaran Kohli-Lynch a chance to get some minutes on the park.

Kohli-Lynch went on to score one goal and, if it had not been for some frankly preposterous offside calls by the linesman, would most certainly have scored a hat-trick.

Graeme Port would go on to score one more goal for the Hawks before a late resurgence by Calumet ended the game at 7-4.

Third on the schedule was Holy Cross University. In only the 5th minute, Graeme Port struck home from 10 yards after some great build up play by Liam Barrett and Robert Rixer.

Fifteen minutes later the scoreline was doubled with Rixer once again involved. The Filipino magician latched onto a Graeme Port through ball before being felled cynically by the Saints' goalkeeper.

Rixer brushed the dirt off his famous body and stepped up to fire home the resulting penalty kick. The Hawk's most famous player

managed to score one more goal before half time to give the visitors a 3-0 lead going into the break.

After half-time, Ciaran Kohli-Lynch, recently voted most handsome player in the NAIA in the coaches' poll, added a fourth for the Hawks.

Ten minutes later, Holy Cross were able to score a consolation goal through striker Luis Delgado, before Robert Rixer wrapped up the most famous of hat-tricks in the 78th minute with a low left foot drive.

The game stats allegedly attributed this goal to Robert Ritchie-Smith which was a complete miscarriage of justice.

This reporter, like many others, feels that this could only possibly be part of a smear campaign by the Philippines' most bitter rivals, Taiwan.

Last up was Judson College. Over the last few years the Hawks have developed a fierce rivalry with the Judson Eagles.

With the ambition to maintain a good run of form and secure a home tie for the first round of playoffs by finishing third in the regular season league table, the team set about their business from the start.

Robert Ritchie-Smith shook the crossbar with a terrific volley minutes into the match and this was followed moments later by the opening goal of the game.

Liam Barrett was on hand to prod home after the Judson goalkeeper parried a Graeme Port strike.

Judson rallied in the second half and equalized in the 55th minute. Their lead was short-lived however as substitute Ciaran Kohli-Lynch was on hand to score the winner 20 minutes from time, after Liam Barrett had watched his effort bounce back off the wood-work.

These four wins have secured the Hawks' third place in the conference and a place in this season's playoffs.

As senior midfield playmaker Guilherme Nunes remarked after Saturday's victory:

"To beat Judson is so wonderful and magical and I am really happy. I am proud of the effort of my teammates. Everyone out on the pitch is fighting for each other. I feel like we are part of a big family and I love them all. Hopefully this camaraderie will propel us into a successful run in the playoffs."

Olympian Aaron Peirsol visits with Illinois Tech swim team

By Melanie Koto
STAFF WRITER

Last week, the Illinois Tech Swim team had a very special practice with a visit from a US Olympic Swimmer. Aaron Peirsol, a seven-time Olympic medalist and world record-holder took a day to fly to Chicago and visit with the team, helping out at practices to provide technique and race tips and also enjoying a lunch in our very own Pritzker Club with the senior members of the team.

The visit was one of a kind for the members of the team, who started their meet season on Friday. "Having an individual practice with Aaron Peirsol is like a dream for any back-stroker," said senior backstroke, Carlos Tejero. "And this experience certainly was for me!"

Freshman freestyler, Nicolette Lewis also enjoyed the experience. "It was one of the coolest things I have ever done," said Lewis. "He had a lot of great advice." The visit was a once in a life time chance for most of the swimmers, as well as a great learning experience for meets. Now in their competitive season, the team had two meets this past weekend. Friday evening was the 3rd annual breast cancer awareness meet against North Central College. On Saturday, the teams traveled to University of Chicago to compete against the Maroons.

The first event of the meet, the 200-yard medley relay, saw the Women's team take 5th place overall (seniors Andrea Zuniga, Julia Duarte, junior Aimee Dewante and senior Melanie Koto) with a time of 2:01.65, while the Men's team took 3rd (sophomore Michael Bodzay, junior Eric Grunden, sophomore Felipe Bergh and senior Max Ramminger) with a time of 1:41.61, and the team of junior Matthew Rosenfeld, freshman Billy Bafia, Dan Sommerfeld and Matt O'Rourke took 5th.

In the Women's 200-yard freestyle,

Dewante took 5th overall (2:07.52), and on the Men's side sophomore Yoni Pruzansky took 2nd (1:52.33), senior Tomasz Chojnacki took 5th (1:57.71), Bafia took 6th (1:58.75). Koto and Zuniga placed 3rd and 4th in the Women's 50-yard freestyle (27.37 and 28.25), and in the Men's 50-yard freestyle, Ramminger placed 2nd with a 22.08 and senior Dylan Maus took 5th with a 23.47. Senior Morgan Curran placed 4th overall in the Women's 200-yard IM (2:25.69) while Duarte placed 6th with a 2:34.68.

Bodzay and Bergh went one-two for the Hawks in the Men's event, posting times of 2:01.25 and 2:03.75 respectively. In the 100-yard freestyle, Koto took 4th (1:00.26) and freshman Nicolette Lewis finished 5th (1:17.20), while on the Men's side Ramminger took 1st (48.49), Grunden took 5th (50.84) and Maus took 6th (52.35).

Zuniga placed 4th in the Women's 100-yard backstroke with a time of 1:07.70, and Bodzay took 1st for the Men's team with a time of 56.25. Rosenfeld placed 4th in the event, finishing with a time of 1:00.57.

In the 500-yard freestyle, Curran took 4th for the Women's team (5:49.96) and sophomore Abby Maze took 5th (5:52.75), while Bergh took 2nd for the Men's team (5:05.19), Pruzansky took 5th (5:16.39) and freshman Igor Gryniv took 6th (5:47.61).

Duarte took 4th in the Women's 100-yard breaststroke with a 1:14.55, and Grunden took 2nd in the Men's with a 1:03.94, while Bafia took 4th (1:05.04) and O'Rourke took 5th (1:09.71). The last event of the day, the Men's 200-yard free relay of Gryniv, Maus, Pruzansky and Chojnacki took 3rd with a 1:35.94.

The team has two more meets this weekend, Friday at Lewis University in Romeoville, and Friday at home against Robert Morris for the ladies team, so come out to the pool Saturday to cheer them on!



Photo by Melanie Koto

Volleyball win, lose

By Kayla Heller
STAFF WRITER

The Illinois Tech women's volleyball team played two conference games this past week, resulting in one win and one loss for the conference record.

The ladies played Judson University on Tuesday night, recording a win in a close five games set: 25-12, 25-22, 23-25, 17-25, 15-13.

Sophomore Kate Kendall led the Hawks with 23 kills and 13 digs, while junior setter Rebecca Bograd dished out 49 set assists. Sophomore Brittany Mead also chipped in 24

digs in the match.

The Hawks then took on St. Francis University on Thursday, in the Hawks' last home game of the season.

It was a battle, but the Hawks ended up dropping the game in a four set match: 12-25, 25-19, 22-25, 21-25. Kendall and senior Kayla Heller led the Hawks with 10 kills and two service aces apiece, while Bograd had 32 set assists.

The Hawks will take on Roosevelt University Tuesday, November 1, in their final game of the regular season.