

Men's soccer defeats Madonna University

By Liam Barrett
TECHNEWS WRITER

IIT was unfortunate enough to suffer a 1-0 defeat on their travels last Tuesday, in a tightly contested game against Ashford University. The Scarlett Hawks started the better of the two teams, playing much of the game in Ashford's half and forcing a couple of early saves from the opposition goalkeeper. However, it was Ashford that took the lead into half time after capitalizing on a quick counterattack that caught the IIT defense out of position.

The second half was one of few significant changes, as Ashford looked content to simply hold onto their 1-0 lead, and managed to prevent IIT playing the free flowing soccer that had caused the home team so many prob-

lems early on in the game. With time running out IIT tried to push numbers forward; however, Ashford were able to see out the game. Regardless, this was definitely a promising performance for the Scarlett Hawks against an extremely well respected opposition.

Three days later the men's soccer team faced another stern test as they played host to Madonna University. This turned out to be an incredibly action packed event that would see IIT eventually come out victorious 3-2, despite having only 10 men for the majority of the game. The Hawks made the perfect start after only 2 minutes, when a neat combination play between seniors Gui Nunes and Liam Barrett led to Nunes playing a pinpoint cross to the unmarked Barrett who was able to guide the ball home with a close range diving header. IIT would then go on to double

their advantage on the half hour, when Barrett took the ball around the advancing goalkeeper and teed up Philippine international, Robert Rixer, who calmly slotted the ball home from ten yards out for his third of the season.

At this point the hawks looked as if they were in complete control of the game; however, just before halftime Madonna managed to break away on the counter and halved the deficit with a sweet strike from just inside the 18-yard box. Two minutes later and things got a lot worse for the Hawks when freshman goalkeeper Edson Zagal saw red for an altercation with one of Madonna's attackers, in what was surprisingly deemed a sending off offense.

During the second half, the Hawks were able to limit Madonna to very few clear-cut chances at goal, despite being a man down. As the end of the match

drew near, the visiting team pushed more numbers forward, leaving themselves highly at risk of being hit on the counterattack.

This was exactly what happened in the 84th minute, when sophomore Roman Zwarycz was able to latch onto Barrett's through ball and coolly slot the ball past the opposing keeper to put the result beyond any doubt. Madonna were able to pull one goal back in the dying seconds of the game; however, this was merely a consolation in what was a well-deserved and hard-fought win for the IIT men's soccer team.

Next up for the men is another trip to Iowa as they face off against Davenport University on Tuesday, in their last out of conference game before returning to the Hawk's Nest for the much anticipated homecoming game vs. Holy Cross, next Saturday at 7p.m.

2012 US Open features first male U.K. winner in 76 years

By Ciaran Kohli-Lynch
SPORTS EDITOR

The United Kingdom's 76 year wait for a male victor in grand slam tennis came to a dramatic end this week in New York.

Olympic champion Andy Murray battled hard against Serbia's Novak Djokovic to race to a two set lead in Monday's epic final. Defending champion Djokovic made the Scot earn the biggest win of his career, forcing the match into a fifth set after winning the third and fourth sets 6-2 and 6-3 respectively.

At this stage of the match, Brit-

ish fans were perhaps entitled to feel a little nervy. A tiring Murray could easily have been overcome with doubt at his ability to see out the match, considering this was his fifth attempt at victory in a major final.

This fact, coupled with the commanding strength and skill of Djokovic, who was vying for his fifth major in two years, meant that Murray would have to show great strength of character and will to triumph on a remarkably windy evening at Flushing Meadows.

With Scottish actor Sean Connery and Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson cheering him on from the stands,

Murray found strength, breaking Djokovic's serve twice in the final set. After 4 hours and 54 minutes, tying the competition's longest final ever, Djokovic sent a wild forehand long, allowing Murray to win the final set 6-2.

The charismatic Serb was gracious in defeat, remarking of Murray's win, "He deserved to win this Grand Slam more than anybody." This victory sees Murray rise to third in the world rankings, behind Roger Federer and Djokovic.

In the woman's final, Serena Williams defeated world number one Victoria Azarenka in three sets to win the US Open

for the fourth time (1999, 2002, 2008, and 2012) and a staggering fifteenth major title. In an enthralling final set, Williams was four points away from defeat before showing the kind of power, skill, and determination which has made her an icon in the sport.

Williams came under a lot of criticism for poor performances earlier in the season, which culminated in a shock first-round exit at the French Open in May.

This victory, along with her triumph at the London Olympics in July has surely reestablished her as one of the true powerhouses of modern tennis.



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