SPORTS 15

Swimming, diving goes to Nationals

Aimee Dewante

STAFF WRITER

The Scarlet Hawks sent 14 Swimmers and 1 Diver to Oklahoma City competed in the 2013 NAIA National Championship Meet on the weekend of February 27, 2013. The athletes flew out early Tuesday morning and competed Wednesday through Saturday, breaking four school records and winning two national titles. Illinois Tech's Men's team finished 5th out of 16 teams with 291 points while the Illinois Tech ladies finished 18th out of 19 teams.

The competition began Wednesday with men's three-meter and women's one-meter diving. Illinois Tech's Ian McNair won the three-meter on the men's side with a final score of 304.50, winning the event for the first time. McNair came back the next day to win the onemeter championship for the third time in his college career with a score of 287.60.

The first full day of competition

was Thursday, where the Scarlet Hawks really stepped it up. Seniors Eric Grunden, Michael Bodzay, Matt Rosenfeld, and Max Ramminger finished 6th in the 200 Medley Relay, just one second off the school record. Next up was Junior Yoni Pruzansky and Freshman Kevin Boldt representing IIT in the finals of the 500 Free. Both swimmers had incredible preliminary races with Pruzansky dropping 14 seconds and Boldt dropping 3, with another 2 during finals.

Senior Eric Grunden broke the first school record of the meet in the 200 IM, dropping 2 seconds and finishing 6th. Junior Felipe Bergh also had an outstanding 200 IM, breaking 2:00 for the first time in his preliminary race. Billy Bafia continued to improve his 50 free from Conference with another best time by nearly 1 second, while senior Matt Rosenfeld also shaved off some time from his 50 free. Thursday night was rounded out with another 6th place finish by the men's 800 free relay,

consisting of Grunden, Boldt, Bodzay, and Pruzansky.

Day two of the championship meet was kicked off with some fast relays, followed by a first place finish in the consolation heat of the 400 IM by senior Michael Bodzay. Freshman Tanner Grieve stepped it up in his 100 fly, competing in the consolation final after a great morning swim where he dropped 1 second. Eric Grunden got his second school record of the meet in the 100 breast, finishing 8th and getting his name on the board for the third time in his college career.

On the girls side, freshman Nicole Frantz and junior Abby Maze both raced hard in the 200 free. Junior Yoni Pruzansky also raced hard in the 200 free, earning himself an all-American with a 3rd place finish and a new school record.

The last day of finals started out with two incredible mile swims by senior Aimee Dewante and freshman Kevin Boldt. Dewante broke the school record and finished 12th overall while Boldt dominated the consolation heat in the morning and finished in 10th place after a 5 second drop.

Senior Michael Bodzay started out a tough day of four individual races with a best time in the 200 back, finishing 8th, followed closely by junior Arya Mohaimani and senior Matt Rosenfeld, who also posted best times. Max Ramminger missed his own school record in the 100 free by just .10 of a second, finishing 6th overall.

Bodzay pushed through the pain in the morning session in the 200 fly, dropping 1 second and earning himself a spot in the consolation heat of finals, where he finished 16th. The four girls representing Illinois Tech squeezed themselves into the consolation heat of finals in the 400 free relay, in which they were unfortunately disqualified.

The meet ended on a very exciting note with a 4th place finish in the relay.

Wounded Bulls: Chicago ends Heat Run

Ciaran Kohli-Lynch

SPORTS EDITOR

The wounded Chicago Bulls lined up on Wednesday evening against a team in their prime. The Miami Heat, coming into the game on the back of the NBA's second-longest winning streak of all time, looked destined to continue their march to the play-offs at the United Center.

Miami were able to give more than 35 minutes to star players Lebron James, Chris Bosh, and Dwayne Wade. Lebron duly shot 32 points with 7 rebounds, with Bosh and Wade cumulatively providing another 39 points.

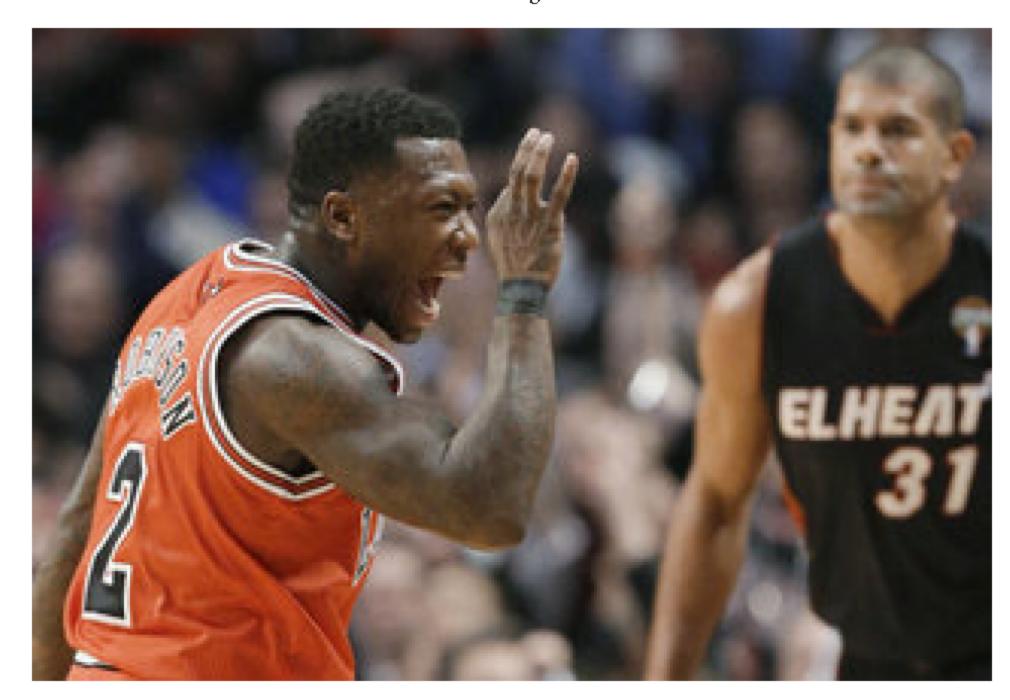
Chicago on the other hand was forced to play the game, not only without star point guard Derrick Rose, but without powerhouse center Joakim Noah and influential guards Marco Belinelli and Richard Hamilton.

Nonetheless, the duet of Luol Deng (28 points, 7 rebounds) and Carlos Boozer (21 points, 17 rebounds) dictated the game to the visitors for most of the evening. Guards Jimmy Butler (14 points), Kirk Hinrich (6 assists) and Nate Robinson (14 points) also played important roles.

The Bulls, who have experienced a rather turbulent season, will look to build on this win. This was their second victory against

the Heat in three matches this season and such a performance will give them confidence and hopefully build momentum as we move towards the business end of the season.

With the return of a few injured starters, including the talismanic Rose, The Bulls have certainly proven that they have the potential to threaten even the strongest teams in the latter stages of this year's play-offs.



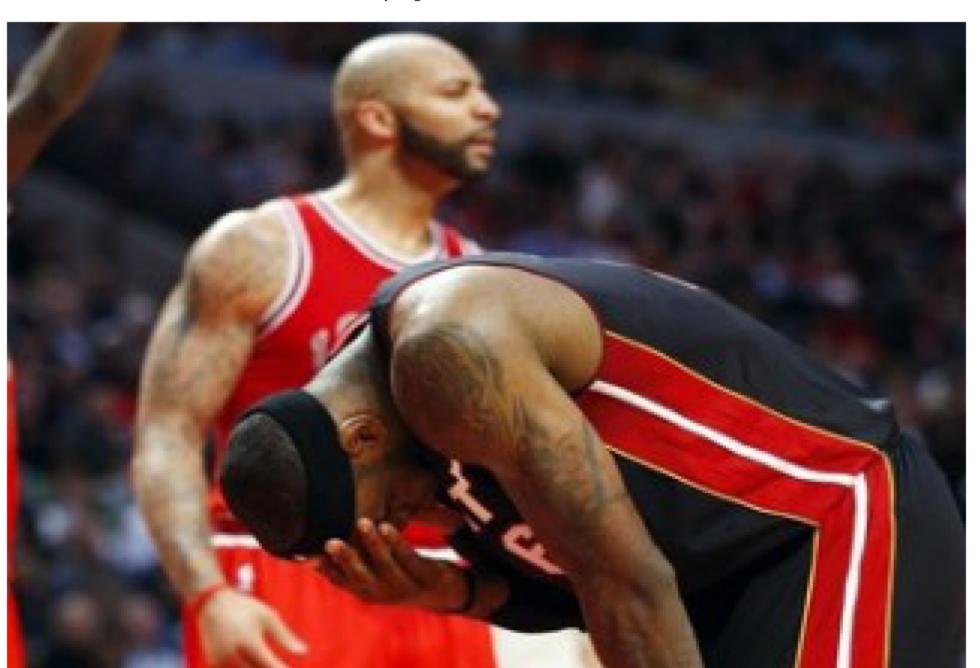
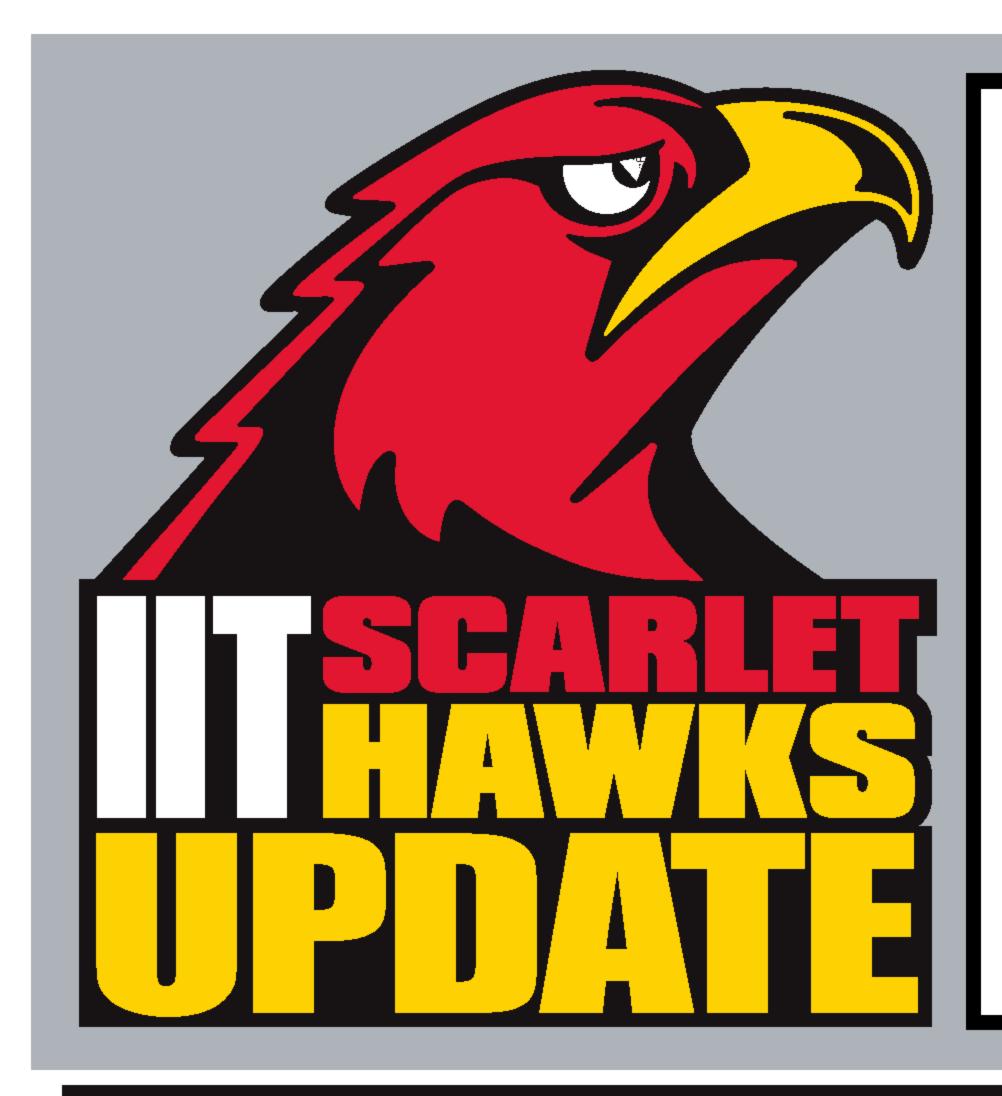


Photo courtesy of nbcprobasketballtalk.files.wordpress.com



Tuesday, April 2

Baseball

@ Trinity Christian College 1 p.m. (game 1, game 2 to follow)

Thursday, April 4

Baseball

@ Dominican University 3 p.m.

Friday, April 5

Men's & Women's Track & Field @ Lewis University

Baseball

VS. Trinity Int'l University Ed Glancy Field, 3 p.m.

Saturday, April 6

Men's & Women's Track & Field @ Lewis University

Sunday, April 7

Baseball

VS. University of St. Francis Ed Glancy Field, 12 p.m.

Wednesday, April 10

Baseball

VS. Calumet College of St. Joseph Ed Glancy Field, 1 p.m. (game 1, game 2 to follow)