

# Athletic Department adds Women's LAX to IIT's roster

**Emilie Woog**  
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

TechNews had the opportunity of meeting with Athletic Director (AD) Enzley Mitchell to talk about the upcoming changes to IIT Athletics.

Starting September 1, IIT will be a provisional member of the NCAA at the Division III level. What this means for IIT is that all athletic teams will now be competing with NCAA DIII teams. We will be under the provisional membership for four years. President John Anderson has stated that IIT will now be playing other schools more like IIT, in the aspect of academics and values.

One of the changes being made to accommodate IIT's transition to NCAA is the transition of Stuart Field from a grass surface to a turf surface. Another accommodation is the addition of sports to IIT's repertoire; three sports have been added since 2012. These teams include the Men's and Women's Basketball teams, and the newest addition of the Women's Lacrosse team.

Mitchell spoke on why lacrosse was chosen to become part of the Athletic Department. "IIT released a survey in December [2011] that asked about what athletic teams we [IIT] would like to have on campus," said Mitchell. "The most popular women's sport was lacrosse. Next that went on to our New Sport Advisory Committee, where they looked at the facilities we currently have and the students' responses, and lacrosse was added to the roster."

For those who don't know what lacrosse is, it's one of the oldest team sports in North America. It was once refereed to as "dehuntsigwa'es" in Onondaga which is translated as "men hit a rounded object." Women also can hit a rounded object, and that's just what they'll be doing at IIT this spring. The rules have changed a bit since the 17th century, and there are a few differences between the men's and the

women's rules.

Physical contact the main difference between the two sports, in the men's game, body-checking is legal — and may even be encouraged — while in the women's game, it is not. As a result, there is far less protective equipment in the women's game. Men wear helmets, mouth guards, gloves, shoulder pads, elbow pads, and often ribs pads, whereas women wear mouth guards and protective eyewear, but (with the exception of goalies) no helmets or padding.

The number of players also differ. In men's, 10 players are on the field. In women's, there are 12 players on the field.

Unlike men's lacrosse, mesh is not permitted for the pockets of women's sticks. The pockets must be strung in the traditional way. Also, the top of the ball must be above the sidewall when it's in the pocket. As a result, stick handling and shooting are more difficult in women's lacrosse. In addition, the standard stick length in men's field lacrosse can differ depending on where you play, this can be between 40 and 72 inches long. Women's lacrosse sticks must measure 35½ to 43¼ inches in length; the goalie's stick must measure 35½ to 48 inches in length.

In men's lacrosse, the field measures 110 yards long and 60 yards wide. In women's lacrosse the field is a bit bigger; 120 yards long and 70 yards wide.

Now that you know that IIT has a team you should come out to one of their games, it is a spring sport so this far in advance scheduling! There will be four home games this year:

March 8, 2014, vs. Loras College @ 3 p.m.

March 22, vs. Augsburg at 1 p.m.

April 13 vs. Concordia University @ 3 p.m.

April 19 vs. University of Dubuque @ 1 p.m.

All of these games will be held on the newly renovated Stuart Field!

Head Coach Allison Gallindo, for the women's lacrosse team, is still looking for players to join; if you're interested you may contact her at [agalind1@iit.edu](mailto:agalind1@iit.edu).



Photos by Emilie Woog



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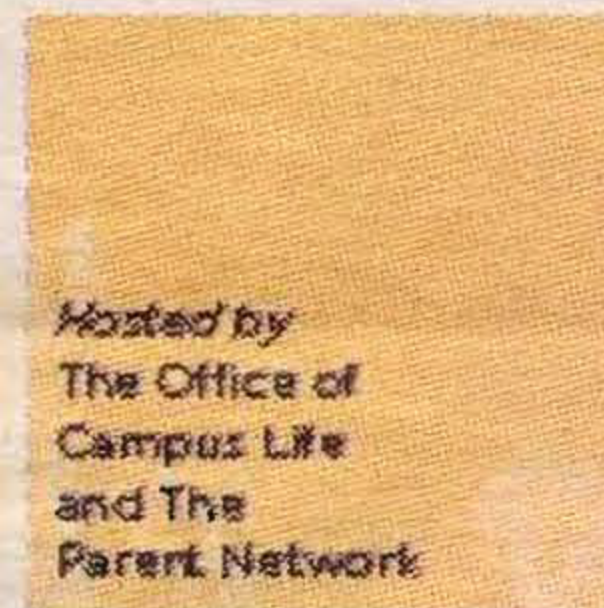
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