

Student athletic association helps ease transition to NCAA

April Wanagas
TECHNEWS WRITER

The Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) is working this semester to make a few changes and initiate more involvement across campus as IIT's athletics work to transition from NAIA to NCAA Division III.

One of the first changes the group is looking to pursue is getting more options for athletes and students that need late night meals. Often when an athlete has practice till late at night, such as the basketball teams that go till 7 or 9 p.m., they don't have somewhere on campus to chow down. You may question: why don't they just eat before? Well if practice ends at 7 p.m., which mean it generally starts around 5 p.m. This is so that teams can fit in the plays, drills, conditioning and everything else to simulate a game like situation. This only leaves them 30 minutes from when the most used dining resource, the Commons, opens its doors. Though it is possible to rush and eat and

be dressed on the court ready to go in that small window of time, ask any athlete and they will say that it's never an ideal feeling. If they wait until after practice, Center Court is open Monday through Wednesday for them to grab a bite.

IIT Dining did create a new option for boxed Pritzker Club meals, a delicious new addition, but the meals are only kept until a certain hour and this still leaves an issue for student athletes on Thursday and Friday evenings.

As SAAC members have often faced these troubles, it is looking to tackle this issue further through communication with IIT Dining and hoping to increase the late night or convenient options offered to our Scarlet Hawk athletes and student body.

Another change SAAC is looking to make is through the involvement of professors and staff. SAAC is looking to have a "Professor Night" where at various home games, different athletes will invite some of their professors or IIT staff members they would love to see support IIT Athletics. Professors and staff who

are interested in coming to watch a basketball game, a swim meet, or any other type of activity going on, should contact us. You are important to us and we would love to show you what we dedicate ourselves to outside the classroom as well as show our appreciation for all that you do.

In addition, SAAC is looking to increase involvement across campus through not only its own marketing and advertising efforts in hopes of getting more students to attend games/meets, but one of SAAC's leaders Roma Mirutenko has helped start a new IPRO this year "IIT Pride: Improving Student and University Community Engagement."

This IPRO focuses on community involvement with the athletic department and divides its approaches into three areas. These areas are Greek Life, the IIT Athletics website, and advertisement.

For Greek Life, the IPRO is working with Greek Council and some of the executive boards of IIT Greek chapters to host post-game gatherings and to encourage their own members to further support athletic activities. For the

athletic website, IPRO members are looking to create an updated and more user friendly site for navigating commonly searched topics such as Keating's availability and information about the teams.

For advertising, they are also working on putting up posters of a representative from each team along with stories of how athletics became such a big part of their life.

The newest idea SAAC is currently working with is involvement with the Special Olympics. Special Olympics is the official philanthropy of NCAA Division III, and SAAC is hoping to host a community wide event for this cause in the Spring Semester, such as a basketball game for special needs children, or a Polar Plunge to raise money for the cause.

Being in the middle of the transition between the two affiliations, SAAC is hoping it can bridge some of the gaps still held between IIT and the athletic community and hoping to improve the college experience of current athletes, future athletes, and grow the support for both.

Women's soccer season ends with close loss

Veronica Torres
TECHNEWS WRITER

The final game of the Illinois Tech Women's soccer team told the tale of the season. After a hard fought match, the Hawks saw their season come to a close in the final minutes.

Last Friday, Illinois Tech held a

Provisional Independent tournament, playing host to Southern Virginia University (SVU) Knights. The match started off rather slow for the Hawks, much like their previous games. Unable to generate much attack or goal scoring opportunities, the Scarlet Hawks had to rely on their defending to stay in the game. The Tech back line did a good job of forcing SVU into taking difficult shots, and keeper Roxanne Myers was brilliant, denying any real threats to

keep the halftime score locked at 0-0.

Moving into the second half, the Hawks began to find their rhythm, and both teams traded off taking chances at goal. Unfortunately, the Hawks couldn't manage to find the back of the net with shots going just over the bar or shy of the posts. SVU had the same problems, unable to capitalize on any of their chances. However by the 87th minute, SVU's speed proved to be too much for IIT.

Striker Tatiana Monsen was able to break through the Hawk defense and find the game winner. Pushing to find the equalizer in the final minutes, the Hawks conceded another goal and the Knights ensured their victory with a 2-0 lead.

The win sent SVU into the championship match against Nebraska Wesleyan University where they were defeated 1-0 in double overtime.

Men's soccer lose by penalties in final game

Bart Grabowski
TECHNEWS WRITER

In a series finale, Illinois Tech men's soccer team looked to end their season in the win column by hosting the Provisional Independent Tournament Championship at Stuart Field. The Hawks took on provisional opponent, Nebraska Wesleyan University, in what looked to be an exciting matchup.

Illinois Tech would be led by their three seniors: Robert Rixer, Jorge Salas, and Nordine Amlaiky, as they looked to end their storybook careers and capture the tournament

championship for the Scarlet Hawks.

The first half proved to be more of an offensive sided half as both the Hawks and Nebraska Wesleyan accounted for 20 total shots between the two teams. Nebraska Wesleyan broke a 0-0 tie in the 11th minute from unassisted goal by Nebraska's Stephen Boake and the Hawks found themselves down 1-0 early in the first half. Not a minute later, the Hawks best chance came from a header that was passed from sophomore forward Sam Smith. The ball bounced just above the 18 yard box and midfielder Bart Grabowski volleyed the ball into the back of the net. Both teams exchanged

offensive possession, but only could manage a 1-1 tie heading into halftime.

The Hawks looked to continue their impressive offensive attacks from the first half and carry that momentum in the second half. Again, Illinois Tech found early possession and had many chances to finish, but they could not convert. The Hawks accounted a total of 11 shots in the second half to Nebraska Wesleyan's 4 shots. However, neither team was able to pull it out and overtime ensued. As players from both team started to become exhausted from the hard fought battle in the first two halves, the game would be decided in penalties.

For the Hawks, Samuel Smith was up first as he found the back on the next with beautiful right footed strike. Nebraska Wesleyan soon followed with a goal as well. Junior forward, Brahandon Ramirez could not connect with his penalty as Nebraska Wesleyan took a 2-1 lead.

Senior, Robert Rixer, connected on his penalty with a laser right footed strike. Illinois Tech goalkeeper, Euijin Yang, saved the next penalty for the Hawks, giving them new life. However, Seniors Jorge Salas and Nordine Amlaiky failed to convert their penalties and the Hawks would go on to lose 3-2 in penalties.

Ronaldo carries portugal in qualifying playoffs

Nathan McMahon
SPORTS EDITOR

The first legs of the World Cup Qualifying playoff matches were played this week with some very decisive results.

For Mexico it has been do or die throughout all of qualifying and needed assistance from the United States to even get to their playoff match against New Zealand. Behind the leadership of four-time World

Cup captain Rafa Marquez, El Tri have all but secured their berth in the World Cup in a 5-1 stomping of New Zealand who never looked up to the task.

Meanwhile in Europe more competitive matchups were played highlighted by the Portugal-Sweden match featuring two of the top players in the world-Cristiano Ronaldo and Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

Both stars were unable to inspire a goal from their side in the first half, but it took a moment of brilliance from Ronaldo

to lift Portugal 1-0 in the first leg. His diving header in the 82nd minute put Portugal in great position to qualify with just one match left.

In Kiev, Ukraine, France continued its dismal form as Ukraine marched to a 2-0 victory and possible punched their tickets to Brazil. France now must come to face the fact that they may fail to qualify for the World Cup.

Greece is also in control of their playoff tie with Romania as they cruised to a 3-1 victory behind a swift and efficient attack. The Greeks are looking to bring their side back

to international prominence after lackluster performances in the last few big tournaments. Iceland meanwhile remains in contention to be the smallest nation to ever qualify for the World Cup after they drew 0-0 at home against heavy favorites Croatia.

The Icelanders were able to hold their own with just ten men for nearly half the game so it is very much a possibility that they may qualify and make history.



Tuesday, November 19
Women's Basketball
vs. Alverno College
7 p.m. @ IIT, Keating Sports Center

Wednesday, November 20
Men's Basketball
vs. North Central College
7p.m. @ IIT, Keating Sports Center

IIT Alumni Association Night

Wednesday, November 20
Women's Basketball
@ Saint Ambrose University
7 p.m.

Friday, November 22
Men's Basketball
@ Purdue University- North Central
7 p.m.

Saturday, November 23
Men's Basketball
vs. Northeastern Illinois University
3 p.m. @IIT, Keating Sports Center

Men & Women's Swimming & Diving
@ Principia College
2 p.m.