Seven inducted in USI Athletic Hall of Fame’s first year

USI inducted the inaugural class of the USI Athletic Hall of Fame in a ceremony and dinner February 2 prior to the Homecoming game on the following day. The class of seven individuals was selected from 90 nominations by a nine-member USI Athletic Hall of Fame Committee.

Jon Mark Hall, USI director of Athletics, said, “The inaugural class is a good representation of the strong athletic history USI has established. In a way each member of this class represents significant points in the development of the USI athletics program.”

Inaugural Class

Mike Fetscher ’96, Baseball, 1992-95
USI’s only three-time All-American in baseball, Mike Fetscher exploded onto the scene as a freshman throwing two no-hitters, one a perfect game. Fetscher settled into the closer role as his career went along and still holds the career record for saves and strikeouts. He also is tied for second all-time in wins and is tied for most wins in a season. Fetscher also holds the record for strikeouts in a game with 14. He was a member of USI’s NCAA Division II Tournament teams in 1992, 1993, and 1994 and the Great Lakes Valley Conference title team in 1993. He played on teams with back-to-back 40-win seasons (1992, 1993). Fetscher is coordinator of instructional broadcasting for the USI College of Nursing and Health Professions.

Stan Gouard ’00, Men’s Basketball, 1993-96
Stan Gouard was the first USI athlete to be named the national player of the year twice (1995 and 1996) and was an integral part of the 1995 national championship team. In addition, he was a two-time All-American, Great Lakes Valley Conference Player of the Year, GLVC Newcomer of the Year, the 1994 NCAA II Elite Eight Most Outstanding Player, and the CBS/Chevrolet Player of the Game during the 1994 tournament finals. In the 1994 NCAA Division II Tournament championship game he had 30 points. During his three seasons at USI, he climbed the all-time charts and still ranks third all-time in scoring and fifth all-time in rebounding. The “Superman” set the single-season record and tops the chart all-time in steals. Following his college career, he played extensively in Europe and South America before becoming an assistant coach at USI. He is now an assistant coach for the Indiana State University men’s basketball team.

Amber Huse Tooley ’96, Softball, 1993-96
Amber Huse was a four-year starter for the softball team. She was a first team Academic All-American in 1994 and 1995 and first team All-American in 1994 as well as second team All-American in 1995. She was a three-time All-GLVC and Academic All-GLVC performer and was the recipient of the Richard F. Scharf Paragon Award (the GLVC’s highest student athlete award) in 1996. Huse ranks first all-time in

See Fame, page 2
Fans of USI women's athletics programs will be on their feet for a second straight year to raise money in the Walk for Women's Athletics on April 15. The money raised by each women's team will go to that specific team with coaches directing the dollars into programs that fit team needs. Additional funds raised by the Walk for Women's Athletics will be spent on special projects for the women's programs. As women's sports involvement has expanded, the need for additional funding and development of budgets also has grown. In fall 2005, 250 Walk participants raised more than $15,000 for USI women's athletics. For information, call 812/464-1846.

Golf Scramble swings into action at Cambridge

The 31st annual USI Varsity Club Golf Scramble will be played June 14. The event will be at Evansville's Cambridge Golf Course where a record 61 teams participated last year.

Mark Altstadt, chair for the seventh straight year, said the generosity of Ray Wright, Cambridge owner, allowed for unique opportunities for the participants in last year's scramble.

“Ray has graciously invited us back again this year,” Altstadt said.

To register call Sandy Hatfield at 812/464-1973 in the Varsity Club office. The deadline is May 29. The entry fee includes greens fees, lunch, and a post-tournament banquet.

The Scramble raised nearly $25,000 last year. Since 2001 the event has contributed $138,000 to help the Varsity Club meet scholarship goals for student athletes, provide fifth-year scholarships, and fund special projects.

Participants this year will be treated to a special appearance by former USI Head Coach Bruce Pearl, who will be in Evansville to help raise money for Youth Resources.

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Dr. Charles Bertram, Faculty Athletic Representative, 1979-99

Dr. Charles Bertram served Athletics from its humble beginnings until his death in 1999. He was faculty athletic representative and compliance officer for the program. He also was one of the founders of the GLVC, serving both as treasurer and president. His influence on the department in the areas of honesty and integrity can still be felt today.

“Charlie devoted many countless volunteer hours to athletics when the program was developing, never dreaming that in a few short years USI would become a nationally ranked program,” said Mary Alice Bertram, widow of Dr. Bertram. “His family is very honored by this Hall of Fame recognition.”

Any Eagles fan may nominate student athletes or teams to the Hall of Fame on the 10th anniversary of their last season of competition or a coach/administrator who has been separated from the Department of Athletics for two years. Special individuals (e.g., Varsity Club members) also are eligible for nomination.

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On your feet for women’s athletics — April 15

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Lefty Altstadt, left, and Ray Wright chat with Gary Birdsall prior to the afternoon session of the 2006 Golf Scramble.
Hatfield, Stevens will be missed

What is Athletics going to do without Sandy Hatfield and Lois Stevens? They are retiring.

Hatfield retires after 24 years at USI, the last 12 years as administrative assistant for the Varsity Club and Athletics. She has been at the center of activity, assisting Varsity Club chairs in building successful fund-raising events such as the annual Golf Scramble and the Steak Fry ‘n Auction.

Stevens departs after 21 years at the University, the last 16 years as building/equipment supervisor for the Physical Activities Center (PAC). She has been involved in every facet of PAC operations from commencement to set-ups for athletic events. Also retiring is her husband David, the 2002 USI Volunteer of the Year. He has been a tireless volunteer at the PAC.

Two fall events raise $48,000; dues provide grants-in-aid

The Varsity Club’s Steak Fry ‘n Auction had its most successful year in 2006, raising $33,000. During the reverse auction a matching gift of $8,000 from the estate of the late Bill Joergens boosted the dollars raised to a record total. A record 336 individuals attended the annual function that is scheduled next fall for September 20.

The Varsity Club also had a splendid week at the West Side Nut Club Fall Festival raising $15,000.

The 2006-07 USI Varsity Club membership drive has raised approximately $143,000 toward grants-in-aid for the 2006-07 season. The club has committed to a goal of $185,000 in grants-in-aid to benefit student athletes this year. Membership includes 443 households with 79 at the Regal Eagle ($500) level and above. The Varsity Club has 88 new members; 12 members have upgraded their membership status from last year. Every dollar raised through Varsity Club memberships goes toward scholarships for student athletes.

Help student athletes by coming to lunch at Outback

By simply eating lunch on April 3 you can help USI student athletes in their pursuit of excellence both athletically and academically.

For the past six years, Evansville’s Outback Steakhouse has opened its doors at midday for a special event to benefit USI Varsity Club programs and activities. The Varsity Club sold 470 of a possible 500 tickets and raised a record-setting $9,576 in 2006. This single event has raised nearly $40,000 since 2002.

Outback Luncheon chair Donna Mesker said, “Our goal each year is to max out on the number of attendees, and each year we get closer. “

Lunch tickets ($20 each) may be purchased from the Varsity Club office or any board member. Two seatings are available.

Donna Mesker, left, chair of the luncheon, and Lynn Reed raise bucks by auctioning desserts at last year’s event.

Eagle eye Calendar

March
1–4 GLVC Men’s/Women’s Basketball Tournament
Roberts Stadium; Evansville
9–12 NCAA Division II Women’s Basketball Great Lakes Regional, site to be determined
10–13 NCAA Division II Men’s Basketball Great Lakes Regional, site to be determined
21–24 NCAA Division II Women’s Basketball Elite Eight, Health and Sports Center; Kearney, Nebraska
NCAA Division II Men’s Basketball Elite Eight, MassMutual Center; Springfield, Massachusetts

April
3 Outback Luncheon
15 Walk for Women’s Athletics
16 USI All-Sports Banquet
21 Volleyball Tournament

June
14 Varsity Club Golf Scramble

Dates are subject to change. Call the Varsity Club Office at 812/464-1973 for confirmation. Watch for additions to calendar.

Volleyball Tournament Fundraiser set for April 21

The Varsity Club will sponsor an all-day volleyball tournament on Saturday, April 21 to raise money to aid student athletes. The competitive tournament, which is co-ed and open to the public, starts at 8 a.m. on April 21 with pool play determining tournament seeds.

The entry fee is $20 per person with each participant receiving a t-shirt. The victorious team wins back their entry fee. The entry deadline is April 6.

To receive an entry form, contact the Varsity Club Office at 812/464-1973. For more information about the tournament contact Andrea Miller at 812/499-9250.

Spring 2007
New scoreboard for PAC
The Physical Activities Center is sporting a new scoreboard with a 7’ x 10’ message board and panels listing player numbers and information. The scoreboard is sponsored by Kenny Kent Toyota Lexus Scion Mitsubishi and Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana.

Second straight Tip-off win
The USI men’s basketball team won its second straight Disney Division II Tip-off Classic at Disney’s Wide World of Sports in Orlando, Florida. The Screaming Eagles, pictured above with coaches and friends of the team, are the first team to win the tournament three times (also in 1997) and in back-to-back years. The pre-season event was in November.

Varsity Club membership
The Varsity Club benefits USI intercollegiate athletics with financial support and fan participation. Five membership levels are available with special benefits at each level.

Silver Eagle ($125)—Admission to Varsity Club Room hospitality events, name on Varsity Club Roster in Physical Activities Center, Eagle Outlook newsletter, invitations to fan trips/special events and All-Sports Picnic, basketball season ticket priority
Golden Eagle ($250)—Above benefits plus invitation to basketball pre-season events
Regal Eagle ($500)—Above benefits plus pregame event at University Home
All-American Eagle ($1,000)—Above benefits plus reserved parking for basketball games, post-season ticket priority
Screaming Eagle ($2,000)—Above benefits plus personal parking place for basketball games


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