Scholarship endowment starts with two rounds of golf

Victoria National, USI work together to benefit athletic scholarship fund

While only a few Tiger Woods-like tee shots went down the fairways, the success of the Victoria National Memorial Endowment Tournament will be seen for years to come. The endowment tournament, which was Victoria’s most successful benefit tournament yet, enabled USI to take a major step forward in fully funding scholarships for student athletes.

“The contribution will allow USI to create an endowment fund for athletic scholarships,” said USI President H. Ray Hoops. “These funds are a large step toward the major goal of fully funding scholarships for student athletes who compete in all 13 of our intercollegiate teams.”

Friends of the University stepped forward and ensured the success of the tournament. Led by Insight Communications and Media Mix as Super Gold Sponsors, Black Beauty Coal, Integra Bank, Kenny Kent Lexus Mitsubishi, Orthopaedic Associates, Tri-State Orthopaedic Surgeons, United Leasing, and Vectren Corporation supported the event as Gold Sponsors.

Silver Sponsors included American General Finance, Bruce Baker, Coca-Cola, Dunn Hospitality Group, Fifth Third Investment Advisors, Gary Gerling and the Gerling Family Foundation, Howmedica-Osteonics, Industrial Contractors, Old National

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New coaches

Brown takes helm of men’s tennis

Ross Brown was named the new head men’s tennis coach, replacing Jon Mark Hall, who was named USI Director of Athletics earlier this spring.

Brown joins the USI staff after 11 years as the head men’s tennis coach at the University of Evansville. He was a winning coach in the history of the Aces program with 109 coaching victories.

A native of Rockhampton, Australia, Brown was named Midwestern Collegiate Conference Coach of the Year in 1993 when the Aces finished second in the league. He also led UE to a third-place finish at the Missouri Valley Conference Championship in 1995.

His players have excelled not only on the courts, but in the classroom as well in his 11 years. He has produced 10 first team all-MVC academic selections in the last seven seasons, including two Intercollegiate Tennis Association Scholar Athletes last year.

A graduate of Paris (Texas) Junior College, where he is a member of the Athletic Hall of Fame, and Southwest Texas State University, Brown is head pro and co-owner of A dvantage C ourt and Fitness in Evansville.

He is a former instructor at the John Newcombe Tennis Ranch in Texas where he coached a number of top-ranked junior players from throughout the world. Locally, Brown has coached Indiana and Kentucky high school singles champions and nationally ranked players including Stephanie Hazlett, who won five national singles titles.

Brown is a member of the United States Professional Tennis Association, holding a Pro One rating. He showed off his skills this past year, winning the Over 40 Championship at the Intercollegiate Tennis Association’s national coaches’ convention.

Craig Bere to direct volleyball team

Craig Bere, new head volleyball coach, comes to USI from Mississippi State University where he has been an assistant coach since 1997. Bere (pronounced Berry) served as the coordinator of the Bulldog defense and worked closely with MSU’s outside hitters on the court.

Bere coordinated MSU’s recruiting efforts and handled additional administrative duties off the court.

A native of Louisville, Kentucky, he was a standout four-sport letterman at Doss High School, competing in football, basketball, baseball, and soccer.

Bere attended Morehead State University, where he was a kicking specialist on the Eagles football team and became a member of the men’s club volleyball team. His involvement with the club team launched his career as a volleyball coach. He joined Morehead’s varsity women’s volleyball coaching staff in 1993, first as an undergraduate and then as a graduate student, before filling a full-time assistant coach position.

While he was on the Morehead State staff, the Eagles claimed regular season runner-up honors, captured the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament title, and advanced to the 1993 Northern Intercollegiate Volleyball Conference Tournament. In 1995 Morehead State took runner-up honors in the OVC Tournament.

Bere earned a bachelor’s degree in health in 1995 at Morehead State and a master’s degree in health, physical education, and recreation in 1997. A member of the American Volleyball Coaches Association, he has served as an instructor in summer volleyball camps in Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Michigan.

Fans give advantage on USI home fields

The USI Athletics Department is ready for the upcoming athletics season. We have a great group of student athletes returning along with an incoming group who are ready to perform in the classroom and on the fields. Between September and December, 10 of USI’s 13 varsity sports will get under way.

Two new head coaches—Ross Brown and Craig Bere—will be on the sidelines for the Screaming Eagles. Read more about them in the stories on this page. These two coaches will strengthen an already outstanding coaching staff.

Our goal on the playing fields this season is to win the GLVC All-Sports Trophy. To be able to compete for this trophy, year in and year out, says a great deal about the overall success of our athletic programs.

Sometimes people in the Evansville community are surprised at the high level of our competition in sports that ordinarily do not get a lot of attention by the media. We encourage everyone to come out and support our teams all year long. Every student athlete appreciates the fans because their presence creates a wonderful home-field advantage.

I know that I will be talking with you about some outstanding seasons and performances in the next Eagle Outlook. Go, Eagles!
Tennis enthusiasts Jim and Sally Giancola, formerly of Evansville, visited campus in July to establish an endowed Presidential Scholarship and also to assist with increasing scholarship support for men’s tennis.

The Giancolas’s $150,000 Presidential Scholarship gift, which will help attract top graduates of Indiana high schools to the University of Southern Indiana, will qualify for a match from the Lilly Endowment in a new grant program offered to all Indiana colleges and universities. Because Sally took credit classes at USI in the past, the Giancola gift will count as an alumni gift, giving USI a huge start on raising the $3.5 million possible from the Lilly Endowment. Jim Giancola was the chair of Campaign USI, and at the time, he was CEO of Civitas Bank, now Fifth Third Bank, from which he retired. Both Jim and Sally have been active in supporting area tennis programs.

Scramble breaks record; Swallows hits hole-in-one

The USI Varsity Club Golf Scramble at Helfrich Hills Golf Course in Evansville broke a record as 61 foursomes competed and raised nearly $23,000.

The scramble was highlighted during the afternoon flight by a hole-in-one by Bob Swallows, who was playing on the team for Old National Bank/West Side Franklin branch. Swallows sank the hole-in-one on number 10, winning a $10,000 prize sponsored by Phoenix Imaging and Office Products, Fulton Interior Systems, and Empire Contractors.

The hole-in-one was not enough for Swallows and his teammates as they finished seven shots behind the leaders. The men’s championship was won by the team of Marc Hostetter ’98, Jason Dominick ’97, Joel Padfield, and Drew Vaught with a 12-under 59.

The group got the nod over three others teams with a 59 in a scorecard playoff.

The women’s champion was the team of Rose Kuebler, Carol Clewlow, Carol Gries, and Gay A rick with a five-under 69.

Troy Tornatta’s team which included Barb Dykstra, Jim M aloney, and M ary Klaser ’83, repeated as the mixed champion with a nine-under 62. Tornatta is a ’93 graduate.

Bob Swallows, fourth from left, received a check for $10,000 for his hole-in-one. Pictured with him from left are Rick Herdes, head coach for men’s basketball, and hole sponsors Bill J eorgens of Phoenix Imaging, Dan Fulton of Fulton Interior Systems, and Tom Fleenor of Empire Contractors.

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The tournament spanned two days in July at the nationally recognized Victoria National Golf Club. A rclar Company from Harrisburg, Illinois, won the best ball scramble tournament on the second day with a 16-under 56.

Kris Proctor, a member of the Steering Committee and chair of volunteers for the Victoria National tournament, bundled gift baskets for the raffle.

The Arclar team, which included Tom Franks, Ryan Franks, Robbie Nichols, and Todd Bittle, captured their victory by a four-stroke margin.

Dr. Ed Brundick, longtime USI team physician and friend of the University, chaired the steering committee for the tournament.

“The event was very successful and we made some money,” Brundick said. “The big thing was the bringing together of two quality institutions like Victoria National and USI. I am sure that these two institutions will be working together again in the future.

“Everyone was impressed by the job done by the USI volunteers. They stepped up and did a very professional job that they can be proud of.”
M.G. “Rocky” Wrye will chair the Varsity Club board for 2002-03. A member of the Varsity Club for eight years, he has served on the board for four years. Wrye is a graduate of Murray State University and is the executive director of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates).

Other Varsity Club officers for 2002-03 are Helen Hamilton, 1st vice chair; Gretchen Rutledge, 2nd vice chair; Dean Barnett, treasurer; and Theresa Herrenbruck, secretary.

The board of directors includes Tim Barnes, Jackie Cannon, Deborah Carl ’76, Bryan Carr, Rosie Cullum, James Dippel ’77, Bill Evans, Dan Felker, Tom Fleenor, Dan Fulton, Tom Gant ’79, Scott Gordon, Jerry Gossman, Jon M ark Hall, Dale Hardin, Mark Head ’88, Brian Huebner ’95, Kent Kleiman ’97, Sandy Lawrence, Jack Marr, Christine McElwain, Lynn Reed, Carolyn Ruminer, John Stephenson, Troy Tornatta ’93, Rick Weber, and Bryan Zeller.

Steak Fry & Auction

The ghouls and goblins will stick around for another day as the Varsity Club Halloween-themed Steak Fry and Auction will take place November 1 at the 4-H Center Auditorium. This will be the first year for the event, now in its ninth year, to be on a Friday night and for the first time will include a dance. Last year’s Steak Fry and Auction raised approximately $22,850 with all proceeds going to scholarships and support for student athletes at USI. Dave Herrenbruck and Bill Joergens, chairs of the event last year, are planning another night of great food and auction items. Watch for more information. Call 464-1973 to volunteer.

Rocky Wrye becomes Varsity Club chair

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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 A II-Sports Picnic, basketball season ticket priority
- **Golden Eagle ($250)** — Above benefits plus souvenir basketball press guide and 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


Giving to USI was never easier!
https://www.usi.edu/giving/ssl/giftform.htm

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