New Athletic Hall of Fame to recognize USI’s best

Nominations for charter class due October 7

The charter class of inductees into the new USI Athletic Hall of Fame will be recognized February 3 during homecoming festivities. Nominations are due October 7.

USI Director of Athletics Jon Mark Hall feels that after 36 years of sponsoring intercollegiate athletics the time is right to establish a Hall of Fame.

“Athletics at USI has established a strong history,” said Hall. “The Hall of Fame will be a mechanism to recognize and reconnect with those student athletes, coaches, administrators, and supporters who created many memorable moments.

“The Hall of Fame also will be a way to help our current student athletes understand why we have such pride in our athletics program.”

Any Eagles fan is eligible to nominate student athletes or teams 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.

The USI Athletic Hall of Fame selection committee will be appointed by USI President H. Ray Hoops. It will include up to 10 individuals. The selection committee will vote on the nominees. A Hall of Fame class will have a minimum of four student athletes and a maximum of one coach/administrator, special individual, or team.

A nomination form is included in this issue of Eagle Outlook. Nomination forms also are available online at www.usi.edu/sports/halloffame/ or by calling the Department of Athletics at 812/464-1846.

In PAC, every seat has a back; new floor, renovations make arena a showcase

Both fans and players will gain from improvements made over the last few months in the Physical Activities Center. The old plastic chairback seats and hard wood bleachers in the arena have been replaced with 20 rows of cushioned chairback seats and four rows of bleachers with backs.

“In essence every seat has a back,” said Jon Mark Hall, director of Athletics.

Gone are the old rubbery-tartan surface and the raised wood court, replaced by a high-grade wood floor from wall to wall.

“Student athletes will be proud of the place they call home this fall,” Hall said. “The new surface will provide a tremendous upgrade for all programs, especially volleyball and men’s and women’s basketball.”

The improvements were funded by a portion of the estate gift from Henry W. Ruston, who died last year. He was one of the University’s closest friends and a fan of USI basketball.
Summer accomplishments benefit Athletics program

What a busy summer USI Athletics has had! It began with a great run by our women’s softball team competing for a spot in the College World Series.

Construction on the wood floors in the Physical Activities Center was completed in early June.

The Varsity Club golf scramble at Cambridge Golf Course was a huge success. I appreciate all the work Ray Wright and his team at Cambridge did to make that event happen. Mark Alstadt, Rick Herdes, and Sandy Hatfield spent endless hours preparing for it.

Improvements to the PAC continued in July with the installation of new chairback seating along with upgrades in our hallways and restrooms. The PAC will become one of the most enjoyable places in our region to watch basketball or volleyball. We appreciate the support of our administrators during this project.

Work on a USI Athletic Hall of Fame also began in the summer with the first class of inductees planned for February.

We have named a new baseball coach and head trainer (see opposite page).

The most important news is that our coaching staff continues to attract top-notch student athletes. The academic success of these students continues to impress me, and their athletic ability will help bring more championships to our University. Come and check out our fall sports!

PAC

Continued from page 1

Hall said PAC renovations are a bonus for all varsity and intramural programs. It is not unusual to have four or five teams practicing during an afternoon, followed by intramural basketball and volleyball at night.

Head Women’s Basketball Coach Rick Stein said the improvements give teams more practice space and allow for more flexible practice schedules.

Head Volleyball Coach Leah Mercer said the wood floors provide more flexibility with practices and tournaments and will help with recruitment.

Head Men’s Basketball Coach Rick Herdes thinks the PAC will be the best place to play and see a game in the GLVC.

Fans are already eager for the 2006-07 athletic seasons in the renovated PAC. “I’ve had tickets since the building opened and have seen a lot of great basketball,” said Bruce Baker, chair of the USI Board of Trustees. “The renovation gives our student athletes a facility that matches their excellence on the court.”

David Herrenbruck ’86, former chair of the USI Varsity Club and former president of the Alumni Association, added, “The PAC has always been a great place to watch a game, but now it will be one of the premiere arenas in the conference. Eagles tickets have always been available and that will be changing once people see the new look.”
Three named to posts in Athletics

The Department of Athletics has announced three appointments.

Tracy Archuleta, new head baseball coach, comes to USI after five seasons that featured a pair of NCAA Division II Tournament appearances and a pair of 40-win seasons at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside.

Michelle Irwin joins the women’s basketball staff as an assistant after two years as a graduate assistant at Ashland University in Ohio. Irwin played for USI Head Coach Rick Stein from 1999-2002 and was part of the Screaming Eagles back-to-back GLVC Tournament championship teams.

Brian Zolner was named the head athletic trainer after three years as an assistant at USI. Prior to joining the department under Chris Johnston, Zolner was a trainer at Lindenwood University.

Golf Scramble and Outback Luncheon set records

The Varsity Club had record-setting fund-raising days at the Outback Luncheon and the annual Golf Scramble this spring and summer.

The Outback Luncheon raised a record $9,576, breaking last year’s record by nearly $100. The event has raised nearly $40,000 since 2002.

The Golf Scramble had a tremendous year, beginning with the switch to Cambridge Golf Course. The new setting drew a record 61 foursomes (22 in the morning and 39 in the afternoon) and is expected to net $24,000.

The Varsity Club thanks Outback’s Mike Fink and Cambridge’s Ray Wright for making their facilities available for these events.

Steak Fry ‘n Auction, Fall Festival top Varsity Club calendar

“Red, white, and blue” is the theme for the Varsity Club’s annual Steak Fry ‘n Auction, the highlight of each year’s membership drive. The annual fundraiser is scheduled for September 21 at Burdette Park’s Discovery Lodge.

Tickets are $25 each with proceeds benefiting USI student athletes. Call the USI Varsity Club Office at 812/464-1973 for reservations.

Attendees are encouraged to show their colors in support of student athletes. Prizes will be awarded for best spirit and enthusiasm.

The live auction, conducted by Bill and Andrew Wilson, will have some of the best bargains around, including vacation condominium packages, autographed sports paraphernalia, and a Marx Barbecue pig roast for 140 people.

Over the last 10 years, the annual Steak Fry ‘n Auction has raised more than $211,000. It has averaged nearly $22,000 each of the last five years.

The Varsity Club finishes its fall fund raising October 1-7 with a booth at the West Side Nut Club Fall Festival. The booth will feature Varsity Club members and student athletes cooking steaks and pork-chop sandwiches. Volunteers and student athletes raised $14,881 last year and nearly $87,500 the last six years.
**Vectren Community Classic coming up**

The USI Screaming Eagles and the University of Evansville Purple Aces will play November 4 at Roberts Stadium. The USI-UE game two years ago (above) drew the largest crowd in 10 years to Roberts Stadium with 12,441 fans turning out for the first-ever meeting between the two men’s basketball teams. Tickets for the Vectren Community Classic go on sale in October through Ticketmaster, the University of Evansville Athletics Department, or the Roberts Stadium Ticket Office. This will be the second of a three-game series over five years between USI and UE. Information about the USI tailgate party will be announced in September.

**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


---

**Giving to USI was never easier!**

https://www.usi.edu/onlinegiving

University of Southern Indiana is an affirmative action/equal employment opportunity institution.