Tape-delayed broadcasts will bring USI basketball to larger audiences

Want to see the replay of that last-second shot or a spectacular dunk? A combined 26 men’s and women’s basketball games will be televised on a tape-delayed basis on Evansville-area cable systems in 2005-06. The 16 men’s games played at home will be broadcast on the Insight local access channel at 7 p.m. following afternoon starts and at 10:30 p.m. after evening games.

Start times for the tape-delayed broadcast of 10 women’s games will be announced. The women’s games will air on the Sigecom local access channel.

Corporate sponsor is Old National Bank.

USI students will handle the television production. Alumni Troy Tornatta ’93 and Brian Huebner ’95 will provide the play-by-play and color commentary. The two former USI men’s basketball players were commentators last year for a limited number of tape-delayed broadcast and have been heard on USI basketball radio broadcasts in past years.

Rick Herdes, USI men’s basketball head coach, said, “The exposure this gives us is tremendous. The televised games could be the introduction of USI basketball to a wider range of fans.”

Rick Stein, head coach for women’s basketball, agreed, “I’m excited to have expanded television coverage of the women’s games. We had positive responses to the two games that were broadcast last year.”

Dr. David Black, assistant professor of radio and television, believes that producing USI basketball has benefits for students majoring in radio and television. “By working on an entire season’s game schedule, they get real hands-on experience in remote sports television production that uses the kinds of professional features you see at the network level, such as multiple cameras, slow-motion replay, graphics and commercial break insertion. This is paid work for the students, and that reflects a real-world experience as well,” he said.

The production will rely primarily on radio-tv students but will use interested students campus-wide.

USI senior forward Chris Thompson was named honorable mention All-American in the Division II Bulletin Preseason Preview and captured Most Valuable Player in the Disney Tip-Off Classic tournament.

Radio stations WGBF-AM 1280 and WSWI-AM 820 carry men’s and women’s basketball games live. WSWI broadcasts also can be heard on the Web at www.usi.edu/wswi.

Fans can get more basketball information and insights by tuning in to the Rick Herdes on Basketball radio show, broadcast live from Turoni’s on Main Street at 7 p.m. every Monday through March 27.

The Rick Herdes Show on television has a new time and day. It airs at 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday on Insight Cable 2.

Join or renew your Varsity Club membership

Dues will support scholarships for student athletes

The Varsity Club membership drive is in full swing. To date, membership dues have netted $108,865 or 62.2 percent of this year’s goal of $175,000. All Varsity Club membership dues support scholarships for student athletes, helping USI attract outstanding student athletes who want to earn a degree and continue to excel in sports. There is still time to renew your membership or become a first-time Varsity Club member. To receive full membership benefits, pay dues in full by December 31.

(See page 4 for membership information.)
Athletic view

Jon Mark Hall
Director of Athletics

Walk raises $15,000 for women’s athletics

The Department of Athletics has some of the best boosters in all of the NCAA. This was demonstrated in the success of the Walk for Women’s Athletics in October. Donors stepped up to raise more than $15,000 for our women’s athletics programs.

I thank Marilyn Johnson, co-chair, for her work leading up to the Walk. We also appreciate our corporate sponsors—Orthopaedic Associates, Old National Bank, and ProRehab. Others who contributed to the outstanding outcome of the event include Varsity Club members Cindy Bippus, Dr. Jane Davis-Brezette, Joanie Jost, Nancy Johnson ’83, Barb Marr, Tom Gant, Jennifer Beaman, Kathy Mercer, and Sandy Hatfield. They served as “team captains.”

The Walk was a great way to help celebrate the 30th anniversary of women’s athletics at USI. It is just one of many events or programs that relies on our donors to succeed.

I invite any readers who would like to sit down and talk about opportunities such as scholarship endowments, the Varsity Club, and event sponsorships to call me at 812/464-1846 or speak to me at our next event. For Athletics to grow as a program, we must continue to receive great support from donors.

Take time to look at this issue of Eagle Outlook to see all the wonderful things happening in Athletics at USI.

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Thanks to you, walkers!

More than 150 fans joined with 100 student athletes and coaches in October to celebrate the 30th anniversary of women’s athletics at USI, raising more than $15,000 to support the women’s athletics programs. Among the participants in the USI Women’s Walk for Athletics were (inset photo from left) Mary Alice Bertram, Rachel Hester, and Jackie Patten.

Steak Fry ’n Auction

Hats off to a successful fund raiser for student athletes

Approximately 300 Varsity Club members and Screaming Eagles fans attending the Steak Fry ’n Auction in September helped to raise more than $21,000 to benefit student athletes. In 2006, the popular fund raiser will return to a Thursday evening to minimize conflicts with athletic events. Mark your calendar now for September 21, 2006, at Burdette Park’s Discovery Lodge.

(Top left) Marilyn Johnson, left, and her husband Alan Johnson, USI team orthopaedic doctor, hosted a corporate table. Their guests included Martha Dilger, right. (Above) Jason Fleck, left, served on the Steak Fry ’n Auction committee. His wife Debbi is across the table from him. (Right) Mike Hillyard, head coach for men’s and women’s cross country, paid tribute to the “Hats off to the Eagles” theme with a coonskin cap.
Student athletes, coaches are community partners

USI athletic teams and coaches have been involved in the community meeting fans and helping with service projects. (Left) Women’s tennis players volunteered at the Albion Fellows Bacon Center’s Co-ed Day at the Beach volleyball tournament. (Right) Rick Herdes, right, head coach for men’s basketball, helps Loren Herrli, Varsity Club member, move his granddaughter into campus housing.

(Bottom left) The women’s basketball team enjoys introduction at the West Side Nut Club’s Fall Festival. (Bottom right) Men’s basketball player Nick Brooks, a junior, signs autographs for a festival-goer.

Eagle eye
Calendar

January
14 Chili Supper
5:30 p.m., Room 200, Physical Activities Center, sponsored by Varsity Club and USI Alumni Association following basketball games with Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

February
11 Homecoming
USI vs. Rockhurst

March
2-5 GLVC Tournament
10-14 NCAA II Regional
22-25 Elite Eight Tournaments

April
4 Outback Steakhouse Luncheon
(date tentative)

Coaches and staff wait tables to show appreciation to Varsity Club members and fans. Proceeds benefit Varsity Club scholarships. Two seatings.

Dates are subject to change. Call the Varsity Club office at 812/464-1973 for confirmation.

Basketball ticket stocking stuffer

Need a gift for someone who has everything? Check out the Screaming Eagles stocking stuffer.

The package includes five men’s and women’s basketball home dates in January and February for $30 (chairback seats) or $20 (bench seats). The deadline is December 23.

Fans have the opportunity to see the Eagles play GLVC West Division teams Quincy University, Drury University, and Rockhurst University; and East Division Saint Joseph’s College. The package also includes the women’s non-conference game with the University of Alabama-Huntsville and the men’s non-conference match-up with Oakland City University.

To purchase tickets or for more information, call the USI Ticket Office at 812/465-7165.

Herdes’ Screaming Eagles meet Pearl’s Volunteers

Varsity Club members purchased bench privileges for the exhibition game with the University of Tennessee at the recent Steak Fry ’n Auction. (Left photo) Neal and Jef Franklin watch from the USI bench during the first half. (Right photo) During USI’s second-half comeback, Butch Hancock, center, and Mark Callison, right, were honorary coaches on the Eagles’ bench. Shown with them is team member Geoff Van Winkle. USI took a three-point lead over the Division I team with eight minutes to go. Tennessee won 86-78. A crowd of more than 10,000 persons in Knoxville saw the men’s basketball match-up in early November between the Eagles, coached by Rick Herdes, and Bruce Pearl’s Volunteers. Former USI head coach for men’s basketball, Pearl is in his first year at Tennessee.
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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**Giving to USI was never easier!**

[https://www.usi.edu/onlinegiving](https://www.usi.edu/onlinegiving)

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Discounted GLVC Tournament Tickets on sale at PAC

Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament tickets will be for sale at the Physical Activities Center during two home basketball games (January 14 when USI meets Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and January 26 at the game with the University of Indianapolis). The discounted price of $35 for all 14 games is available until January 31. After that date, the ticket package will cost $45. The GLVC Tournament will be held March 2-5 at Roberts Stadium in Evansville. The photo above is from last year’s tournament action at Roberts when the USI men’s basketball team won the GLVC title.