The USI Varsity Club Golf Scramble, now in its 30th year, will be played June 8 at a new location, Cambridge Golf Course on Evansville’s north side. Golfers will raise money to benefit USI Athletics.

Mark Altstadt, USI Volunteer of the Year in 2004 and chair of the scramble for a sixth year, said, “The Varsity Club Board and the golf committee are excited about the scramble moving to Cambridge. The course is owned by longtime Varsity Club member Ray Wright and is one of the best new courses in the area.”

Registration is in progress. The deadline is May 26. The entry fee includes greens fees, lunch, and a post-tournament banquet.

One of the most successful fund-raising events for the Varsity Club, the Scramble raised a record $25,996 last year and has raised over $113,000 since 2001. The money helps the Varsity Club meet scholarship goals for student athletes, provide fifth-year scholarships, and fund special projects.

Traditionally, the event has been held at Helfrich Golf Course in Evansville.

“Our golfers will enjoy the challenge of a different course,” Altstadt said. “After topping $25,000 last year, we hope to stay on a record-setting pace.”

Some of the University’s top-performing student athletes who have completed their eligibility will be on hand for the event. Awards banquet will be held at the course.

Contact Sandy Hatfield at 812/464-1973 in the Varsity Club office for reservations.

You can help student athletes in their commitment to excel in sports and pursue a college degree at the University of Southern Indiana by eating steak and chicken for lunch on April 4. Evansville’s Outback Steakhouse will open its doors at midday for a special event to benefit USI Varsity Club programs and activities.

Last year, the Varsity Club sold 450 of a possible 500 tickets and raised a record $9,492 from ticket sales, tips, and the auction of desserts. The club has raised nearly $30,000 with the luncheon since it began in 2002.

Donna Mesker is chair of the lunch for a second straight year. She said, “Fans have grown to love this event, turning the tables on USI athletic coaches and staff, who will be waiting on the tables. Our goal this year is to max out on the number of attendees.”

Lunch tickets ($20 each) may be purchased from the Varsity Club office or any board member. Two seatings are available.
While most USI fans were focused on accomplishments on the field or court during the fall, student athletes quietly had one of their most successful fall semesters in the classroom.

USI student athletes had a cumulative fall grade-point average (GPA) of 3.094 and a cumulative overall GPA of 3.083. The overall GPA is up nearly a point from last spring.

The top semester GPA was posted by the women’s track team with a 3.613. Women’s soccer had an overall 3.509 cumulative GPA.

The top men’s GPAs during the fall were attained by the men’s track and basketball teams with 3.066 and 3.005, respectively. Among men’s teams, men’s track ended the semester with the top overall cumulative GPA with a 3.133.

Fifty student athletes posted a 3.5 GPA or better for the fall semester. Thirteen achieved a perfect 4.0.

Overall, the department has 42 student athletes with at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA, including eight with a 4.0 cumulative record.

“The entire staff is proud of the effort put forth by the student athletes last semester,” said Jon Mark Hall, director of Athletics. “The department strives to achieve in both athletic and academic competition and last semester proved that we can do both.”

Former University of Southern Indiana standout LeAnn Freeland ’98 was one of 20 nominees for the women’s basketball NCAA Division II 25th Anniversary Team.

A three-time WBCA/Kodak All-American, she was named the College Sports National Player of the Year in 1995 and was a two-time GLVC Player of the Year (1995, 97). Freeland is USI’s all-time leading scorer with 2,269 points and leading rebounder with 961 rebounds.

In 1996-97, she averaged 21.1 points per game to lead USI to a 30-2 record and the NCAA II National Championship game.

A member of the GLVC Hall of Fame and a two-time Academic All-American, Freeland ranks 14th all-time in NCAA II history in career scoring and 15th all-time in field goal percentage (.612).

Freeland served as a USI assistant coach for women’s basketball from 1999-2003 and is now an assistant coach at Florida Gulf Coast University.

The Varsity Club will take part April 18 in the Hacienda Gives Back Fiesta program. On that day, Hacienda Mexican Restaurants will donate to the Varsity Club 20 percent of the amount USI fans spend at the Hacienda on Pearl Drive. Present the coupon printed here to your server.

Everything on your bill will count toward the 20 percent. Purchases of Hacienda Gift Cards and carry-out orders also apply. Fans of USI Athletics may come in at lunch or dinner, in large groups, or individually.

The Varsity Club must generate $300 worth of business before the 20 percent Gives Back program begins. Coupons also are available from Varsity Club board members and at some USI athletic events.
Donors, scholarship recipients recognized

The following scholarships were awarded to USI student athletes this year:

Larry W. Arp Scholarship: Megan Nelson, women's basketball
Bertram Memorial Scholarship: Stephanie Wilson, volleyball
Robert and Jane Brezette Scholarship: David Tyler, men's cross country; Casey Schneider, women's cross country
Judy Goen Memorial Scholarship: Josh Malone, baseball
John Hollinden Memorial Scholarship: Danny Gibson, men's basketball
Byron and Marjorie Hubbard Athletic Scholarship: Jesse Davis, cross country
Velva Kaffenberger Scholarship: Jamie Truitt, women's basketball

Tamara Sue Lohr Memorial Scholarship: Lisa Anderson and Kristin Eickholt, softball
Bill Moutoux Athletic Scholarship: Jesse Davis, men's cross country

Burgdorf Screaming Eagles Scholarship: Emily Ryan, volleyball
Dersch Screaming Eagles Scholarship: Sabrina Brandon, women's basketball
Sylvester Englert Screaming Eagles Scholarship: John Hoover, men's basketball
Rebecca Englert Screaming Eagles Scholarship: Ashley Green, women's basketball

Volleyball setter Stephanie Wilson, a sophomore chemistry major from Terre Haute, Indiana, received the Bertram Memorial Scholarship.

Thank you, scholarship donors!
Congratulations, student athletes!

Team visits hospital

The men's basketball team brought some cheer to the pediatric ward of St. Mary's Medical Center. From left, Brent Owen, George Cunningham, and John Hoover shared a laugh after presenting a pair of signed jerseys. The team also visited the rehabilitation center on the St. Mary's campus. The team visits the hospital each year.
Special thank you from Varsity Club

The Varsity Club extends thanks to the following donors for providing refreshments in the Varsity Club Room during the 2005-06 basketball season.

A&D Distributors
Altstadt Office City
Altstadt Plumbing Service
B & S Home Improvement Inc.
Buffalo Wild Wings
CiCi’s Pizza
First Federal Savings Bank
Fulton Interior Systems
Jack Kirwer
Jack and Barbara Marr
Lensing Wholesale, Inc.
Marx Barbecue
Midwest Roofing-Sheet Metal
Mulzer Crushed Stone

Nick’s Pizza & Wings
O’Charley’s
Old National Bank
Paul’s Menswear
Popeyes Chicken
Re/MAX Services
Schmucks West
Schröder Insurance & Real Estate
Steak & Shake
John and Marilyn Stephenson
Stockwell Inn
Turoni’s Pizzeria & Brewery
Jim and Paul Walker
Wendy’s

Receive Varsity Club and Athletics news early by e-mail

Become one of the people in-the-know by receiving Varsity Club and Athletic Department news by e-mail. Get information about tickets, upcoming Varsity Club and Athletic Department events, and sporting news on your computer by sending the following information to Ray Simmons, USI sports information director, at rsimmons@usi.edu. Type “Screaming Eagles News” in the subject area and include your name, telephone number, and e-mail address in the body of the message.

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.