Eagles, Aces to meet in men’s basketball

The USI Screaming Eagles and the University of Evansville Purple Aces will play an exhibition game at 7:05 p.m. November 6 at Roberts Stadium in Evansville. Called the Vectren Community Classic, the event will be the first face-off in men’s basketball for the two hometown teams. Tickets go on sale October 18 through Roberts Stadium and the University of Evansville Ticket Office. Watch for more information as the game date nears.

Steak Fry ’n Auction touts a tropical touch

Dining, bidding to benefit scholarships for student athletes

Imagine the cool breezes of a tropical island with the aroma of the best-cooked steaks. Mark September 24 as the date to attend the Varsity Club’s South Pacific-themed Steak Fry ’n Auction at Burdette Park’s Discovery Lodge. Tickets are $25 each. Proceeds will benefit USI student athletes.

The live auction, conducted by Bill and Andrew Wilson, will have some of the best bargains around, including two recliners that will turn top bidders into laid-back winners. Among other attractive items are vacation condominium packages, autographed sports paraphernalia, and a Marx Barbecue pig roast for 140 people.

The annual Steak Fry ’n Auction has raised nearly $114,000 in the last six years.

Jack Marr becomes Varsity Club chair

First former coach to lead club stresses scholarships

For more than 30 years, Dr. Jack Marr and the University of Southern Indiana have been nearly inseparable. Now Marr will lead the Varsity Club as chair in 2004-05.

USI Athletics was the top-performing program in the Great Lakes Valley conference for 2003-04, winning both the All-Sports Trophy and the Commissioner’s Cup. Marr’s goal for the year is to help the Department of Athletics continue to field top-performing athletic teams by increasing the amount of money available for scholarships for student athletes.

“Scholarships help us recruit the best student athletes,” Marr said, “and the best student athletes bring in results on the courts and playing fields.”

Marr began his connection with USI in 1971 as assistant professor of...
Since retiring, Marr has been Varsity Club treasurer, a member of several committees, and day-chair of the Fall Festival booth. The Varsity Club Board of Directors for 2004-05 includes Dale Hardin, first vice chair; Darrell Ragland, second vice chair; Kent Kleiman, treasurer; Lynn Reed, secretary; and directors Terry Babb, Tim Barnes, Jackie Cannon, Deborah Carl '76, Bryan Carr (posthumous), Rose Cullum, James Dippel '77, Jason Fleck, Tom Fleenor, Jim Floyd, Dan Fulton, Patrick Goen, Scott Gordon, Jon Mark Hall, Helen Hamilton, Mark Head, Brian Huebner '95, Donna Mesker '86, Todd Niemeier '95, Steve Oliver, Michael Parsons, Carolyn Ruminer, John Stephenson, David Stevens, Kevin Valadares, Matt Wannemuehler, and Brian Zeller.

“\textbf{The objective is to reach the pledged amount by increasing the membership rolls because all of the dues are put toward scholarships.}”

—Jack Marr

Varsity Club Chair

**Marr**

Continued from page 1

biology. He took over the men’s tennis program in 1974, stepping down as head coach in 1995 after 22 years. He rejoined the Department of Athletics in 1999 as faculty athletics representative. Marr was chair of the Department of Biology before retiring in 2001.

The new Varsity Club chair takes the helm just as the organization has completed its fourth straight record-breaking year of fundraising. In 2003-04, the club raised a record $140,000 in membership dues along with $62,000 from fund-raising events.

The Varsity Club is on pace to reach the five-year challenge from the University. The goal for 2004-05 is $175,000.

“The objective is to reach the pledged amount by increasing the membership rolls because all of the dues are put toward scholarships,” Marr said.

“If the organization can reach this goal, the dollars raised through the Steak Fry ‘n Auction, the Fall Festival booth, the Outback lunch, and the Golf Scramble can be directed toward special projects.

“In the past, the Varsity Club was able to build a press box and put lights on the softball field, build bleachers at the baseball field, and finance the remodeling of the PAC locker rooms.”

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**USI: top program in GLVC for 2003-04**

USI is the top program in the Great Lakes Valley Conference for 2003-04 after earning both the All-Sports Trophy and the Commissioner’s Cup. The All-Sports championship, based on points earned in 11 sports recognized by the conference, is USI’s first win since 1993-94. The Commissioner’s Cup, established in 2002-03, involves 10 sports—five men and five women—selected by the school. USI coaches, players, and staff members from the Department of Athletics posed with the trophies May 26 at the GLVC awards banquet.
USI’s national champion leads team to 7th at nationals

For the first time in the 29-year history of USI women’s athletics, the Screaming Eagles have a national champion. Sophomore Heather Cooksey (Brownsburg, Indiana) became USI’s first female student athlete to win a national championship when she took first place in the 3,000 meters at the NCAA II Outdoor Track and Field Championships in May.

The Eagles’ women’s track and field team finished seventh at the outdoor national meet.

Keener is baseball’s first Academic All-American

USI junior outfielder Matt Keener (Newburgh, Indiana) was named to the College Division first team Academic All-American by the College Sports Information Directors of America. Keener, a business and marketing major, is the first USI baseball player to earn the award.

Bray earns Paragon Award; Freeland, Rono in Hall of Fame

USI men’s soccer senior Duncan Bray (Scotland) received the Great Lakes Valley Conference’s highest award for a student athlete May 26 at a conference awards banquet.

Bray and the University of Missouri-St. Louis’ Logan Hughes were declared co-winners of the Richard F. Scharf Paragon Award, presented annually to the GLVC’s top male and female student athletes. The award is based upon academic excellence, athletic ability and achievement, character, and leadership.

Also at the banquet, former USI student athletes LeAnn Freeland ’97 and Elly Rono ’98 were inducted into the GLVC Hall of Fame.

A former women’s basketball player, Freeland was the 1995 College Sport National Player of the Year. She was a USI assistant coach from 1999 to 2003 and now is an assistant coach at Florida Gulf South University.

A six-time All-American, Rono was the 1997 NCAA Division II Cross Country national champion after finishing as runner-up in 1996. In track and field, he earned national championships in the indoor 5,000 meters and the outdoor 10,000 meters in 1998. Rono has posted two top 10 finishes in the Boston Marathon (9th in 2003 and 10th in 2004) and was fourth overall in the 2003 New York Marathon. He trains in Durham, North Carolina, where he is a substitute teacher.

The Varsity Club Golf Scramble on June 10 at Helfrich Hills Golf Course netted almost $22,000 toward scholarships for student athletes and fifth-year aid. Winning teams were Bob Bender, Harvey Klenck, Gorman Brothers, and Richard Seib in the men’s division; Jane Davis-Brezette, Peggy Norman, Keely Porter, and Krista Loewen in the women’s division; and Terry Babb, Sarah Jessee, Jerald Brand, and Kay Conder in the mixed division.

Varsity Club Golf Scramble produces nearly $22,000 for scholarships and fifth-year aid

(Above) From left, David Garrett, Troy Tornatta ’93, Barbara Dykstra, and Mary Klaser received prizes at the awards banquet following the scramble. (Right) Bryan Zeller, left, a Varsity Club board member, and Clarence “Lefty” Altstadt, a member of the Varsity Club advisory board, were among Screaming Eagles fans who turned out for the golfing event. (Far right) Carolyn Ray and other Varsity Club volunteers helped to make the scramble a success.
40 years of USI memories

Share your USI memories to help celebrate the University of Southern Indiana’s 40th anniversary coming up in 2005. Log on to the survey site at www.usi.edu/1965/survey/ or mail recollections to the USI Alumni Association, 40th Anniversary Committee, 8600 University Blvd., Evansville, IN 47712.

Call for volunteers

• NCAA Division II Cross Country National Championships
  Many volunteers will be needed when USI hosts the 2004 NCAA Division II Cross Country National Championships on November 20. Help USI sponsor a successful event for visiting athletes from throughout the country. For more information or to volunteer, visit the National Championship Web site at www.usi.edu/sports/xcc_championships/index.asp.

• Fall Festival booth
  The Varsity Club seeks volunteers to work in the Steaks and Chops booth at the West Side Nut Club’s Fall Festival October 3-9. For more information or to volunteer, contact Jim Floyd at 423-1044 or Darrell Ragland at 471-7807.

Receive information early by e-mail

Get news about tickets, coming Varsity Club and Department of Athletics events, and sporting news via e-mail. To receive this service, put “Screaming Eagles News” in the subject area of an e-mail message and your name, telephone number, and e-mail address in the body of the message. Send to Ray Simmons, USI sports information director, at rsimmons@usi.edu.

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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