

2008-09

#### 2008-09 Annual Report

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Dear Illini Faithful,

When you look back in Illinois athletics history, it is difficult to find a season that gave us more production on the field of play across ALL of our athletic teams than we saw in 2008-09. Among our 19 sports, 15 went on to NCAA postseason action, which is something we haven't done here at Illinois since — well, maybe ever. Our success was evident by our highest finish in the 2008-09 NACDA/Learfield Sports Director's Cup at No. 20. We did all this while adhering to our criteria for excellence: integrity, academic performance, balanced budget, championship programs, gender and ethnic equity, facilities and caring community.

CHAMPIONSHIP PROGRAMS: I think the most exciting thing about this past season was the number of teams that have taken their programs to new levels.

One of my greatest memories of 2008-09 was the amazing run of our women's gymnastics team. Coach Bob Starkell and his staff have been building up to this year, becoming one of the 12 elite teams to make the NCAA Championships. Another outstanding turnaround came from a youthful women's tennis team. In just three years at the helm, coach Michelle Dasso has taken her squads to two NCAA Tournaments and its best finish in 2009, advancing to the round of 32. First-year head coach and former Olympian Tonja Buford-Bailey set a high standard in her inaugural season with a 12th-place finish at the NCAA Championships, while also crowning a national champion, Angela Bizzarri, in the 5,000 meters. Coach Mike Small's team won its first Big Ten title since his era as an athlete and led the Illini to their second-straight NCAA Tournament, finishing 21st.

We also have teams that have continued to excel year after year. Women's cross country finished in the top-10 for the third straight year (10th), while men's tennis advanced to the NCAA Sweet 16 for the eighth-consecutive season. Men's basketball made the NCAA Tournament for the ninth time in 10 years and men's gymnastics finished in the top-6 nationally for the sixth-straight season and wrestling earned a top-10 finish for the 10th time in the past 15 years.

The University of Illinois said goodbye to three very accomplished coaches this season when wrestling's Mark Johnson (17 years), men's gymnastics' Yoshi Hayasaki (33 years) and volleyball's Don Hardin (14 years) all retired. Each of the three left their programs in stellar shape and in the hands of young leaders who will grow on their successes.

Johnson's wrestlers will now be under the leadership of long-time Illinois assistant, Jim Heffernan, who has seen the Illini earn the fifth-most NCAA Top-10 finishes in the last 15 years, including an eighth-place national finish last year. Olympic Bronze Medal men's gymnast Justin Spring steps into the role of primary coach for the squad, looking to continue a tradition that has earned individual national titles in five of the last six years. New volleyball head coach Kevin Hambly spent five years under Hardin and will build on the success that had the netters in the NCAA Sweet 16 and ranked 11th nationally in 2008-09.

While fielding championship programs is a major priority in our athletic mission statement, I also am very encouraged by the way our coaches, staff and athletes excelled in other very important arenas.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE: We are proud to have a strong academic commitment to our student-athletes. We believe that our academic resources are unmatched in providing what our student-athletes need to succeed and ultimately graduate from the University of Illinois. During this academic school year, Illinois' more than 500 student-athletes combined for a 3.05 grade point

average with well over 50 percent of the individuals posting GPAs of 3.0 or better. Seven teams had GPA averages over 3.25.

BALANCED BUDGET: For the 17th straight year, the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics was able to operate its \$70 million budget in the black. We pride ourselves on being able to provide the best resources for our student-athletes while also maintaining strong fiscal responsibility. We continue to pay tuition in full to the University for the maximum allowable scholarships in each of our 19 sports, which for this past year was nearly \$9 million, with an additional \$4.5 million spent on student-athlete support services.

FACILITIES: While we didn't open any new facilities during the 2008-09 school year, we have been in a building frenzy over the past five years. The Memorial Stadium renovation has given us more resources than we ever dreamed it would provide, with more hospitality opportunities for the general public as well as our own DIA staff. In 2008-09, we were able to enjoy the previous year's additions to the Irwin Academic Center, Eichelberger Softball Complex and Khan Tennis Center.

INTEGRITY: At Illinois, having success on the field must be done so with the highest emphasis on integrity. We require that all coaches, staff and student-athletes adhere to the rules and regulations put forth by the NCAA as well as operate with the utmost ethics. We are proud that behind the leadership of our compliance office, the number of infractions has decreased, while the number of educational opportunities has increased greatly.

GENDER AND ETHNIC EQUITY: The DIA strives for the excellence in making diversity a large part of the athletic mission at Illinois. For the past four years, the athletic department has put resources into "Identity," a program to educate the Illinois campus on the opportunities to be involved in Illinois athletics, whether as a student-athlete or as a supporter. This program continues to grow and take wings of its own. The emphasis is to find quality, experienced staff for every position in the athletic department and we have done so with all arms open to all ethnic backgrounds.

CARING COMMUNITY: It is the responsibility of our athletic department to give back to this very caring Champaign-Urbana community. We are excited when we can contribute to the area's needs, whether it is with our student-athletes' involvement in the schools and hospitals or our donation of goods to great causes. In 2008-09, our student-athletes donated more than 3,100 hours of time to the C-U community. We recognize that without the support of the community, we couldn't accomplish our many goals.

Once again, I am very proud of the accomplishments of the Fighting Illini during the 2008-09 season and encourage all fans to look thoroughly at this publication because without our loyal supporters, none of this would be possible.

Thanks again and Go Illini!

Ruld & Stuff

Ron Guenther

Director of Athletics

# ILLINI IN THE XXIX OLYMPIAD

#### DERON WILLIAMS // USA // GOLD MEDAL // MEN'S BASKETBALL

In his second year with Team USA, Deron Williams was one of 12 players on the United States squad that won gold at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The former Illinois All-America point guard and current NBA star became the first-ever Fighting Illini to win an Olympic basketball gold medal. In addition, Illinois alum and former Illini basketball team captain Jerry Colangelo was the architect behind the "Redeem Team," serving as Managing Director of the USA Basketball Men's Senior National Team.

The United States went a perfect 8-0 during the Olympics, defeating Spain in the gold-medal game by the score of 118-107. In that title game, Williams had seven points, one assist, one rebound and one steal in 16 minutes of play. He made perhaps his biggest shot of the Olympics during the fourth quarter, hitting a 3-pointer in a tight game with 7:30 left that gave the U.S. a seven-point lead.

Over the eight games in Beijing, Williams averaged 8.0 points and 2.3 rebounds in 19 minutes per game and was third on the team with 22 assists. But just as during his Illinois career, it was not about individual statistics. Instead, his focus only was on one thing: Winning.

#### JUSTIN SPRING // USA // BRONZE MEDAL // MEN'S GYMNASTICS

Despite being plagued by ankle and back injuries just weeks before the Olympic trials, Justin Spring overcame the odds by not only making the U.S. Olympic team, but also helping the team to a bronze medal at the 2008 Olympic games in Beijing.

On day one of competition, Spring led the team on the parallel bars with a score of 15.800 to place 14th overall in the event, while finishing 12th overall on the high bar (15.375). He also placed third on the team on the vault (15.900) and fourth on the floor exercise (14.400) and still rings (14.175). Although he did not qualify for any individual event finals, all of Spring's scores were counted toward the team's final score for the first day.

The U.S. team finished first in its qualifying group with a score of 365.200 and placed sixth overall to advance to the finals.

The final day of team competition brought more strong performances, as Spring scored a team-best 15.850 on the parallel bars, in addition to solid finishes on the high bar (15.675), vault (15.900) and floor exercise (15.200).

With a final team score of 275.850, the U.S. claimed the bronze medal, finishing third behind China and Japan. It marked the second straight year the Olympic team garnered a medal for the U.S., which took home the silver medal in 2004.









#### EMILY ZURRER // CANADA // WOMEN'S SOCCER

Senior defender Emily Zurrer became the first Illinois soccer player to compete in the Olympics when she suited up for her native Canada in Beijing. Zurrer was a staple in the Canadian lineup, starting all four of Canada's games at defense and rarely coming off the field. Canada went 1-1-1 in pool play before falling to the United States in the quarterfinals. Zurrer remains a member of the Canadian Women's National Team, hooing to compete in the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup in Germany.



#### CHRIS ROBINSON // CANADA // BASEBALL

Former Illini Chris Robinson became the first Illinois baseball player to compete in the Olympics when he suited up for his native Canada at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China. Robinson started five of Canada's six games and hit .333, including a 3-for-4 effort against the United States. Canada went 2-5 in the preliminary round, with all five losses coming by one run, and did not advance to the medal round.

Robinson also was on the Canadian team in the 2006 World Baseball Classic and currently is in the Chicago Cubs' farm system, playing the entire 2009 season with the Triple-A Iowa Cubs and being named a 2009 Pacific Coast League all-star.

#### SUSANNA KALLUR // SWEDEN // TRACK & FIELD

Former Illini Susanna Kallur represented her home country of Sweden at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. She won her opening heat in the 100 meter hurdles with a time of 12.68 and qualified for the semifinals. At Illinois, Kallur lettered for the Illini women's track and field team in 2001 and 2002, taking her place in school history by earning three All-America accolades and running a leg of Illinois' 2001 world record-setting shuttle hurdle relay.



#### GAKOLOGELWANG MASHETO // BOTSWANA // TRACK & FIELD

At the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, senior Gakologelwang Masheto represented his home country of Botswana in the opening heat of the 400 meter dash and ran a time of 46.29. Masheto qualified for the Beijing Olympics with his personal-best 400m time of 45.51 at the 2007 NCAA Outdoor Championships. He is a four-time Big Ten champion and two-ime All-American in just two seasons with the Orange and Blue.

# MEN'S GYMNASTICS

**BIG TEN CHAMPIONS // NCAA FIFTH PLACE** 



The Fighting Illini men's gymnastics team sent legendary coach Yoshi Hayasaki out in style in his final season. After announcing his plans to retire at the end of the 2009 campaign, Hayasaki focused his young squad on the goal of bringing home the Big Ten Championship.

The Orange and Blue achieved the goal in thrilling fashion. The fourth-ranked Fighting Illini came from behind to win its first Big Ten team championship since 2004 at Crisler Arena in Ann Arbor, Mich., with a team score of 357.100. The Illini made a dramatic comeback in the final rotation to share the title with fifth-ranked Michigan. The Orange and Blue trailed the Wolverines by 2.35 points heading into the last event and strung together their highest total of the season on still rings, 59.100, to catch the hosts and claim the Big Ten Championship trophy.

The Illini came out strong again at the Big Ten Individual Championships, behind solid performances from sophomore Paul

Ruggeri and junior Luke Stannard. Ruggeri captured event titles on floor and parallel bars, while Stannard took top honors on pommel horse. It marked the first time since 1989, the last year Illinois won the NCAA team title, that the Orange and Blue captured three or more individual event titles at the Big Ten Championships.

The Illini carried the momentum with them into the NCAA Championships, setting a season-high team score of 359.300 in their qualifying session to advance to the "Super Six" team finals for the seventh straight year.

Illinois finished fifth at the 2009 NCAA Team Championships, tying its season-high score of 359.300, set the day before. Ruggeri finished third in the all-around competition, earning All-America honors for the fourth time in his collegiate career. The Illini started out the meet strong but suffered costly setbacks on parallel bars in the sixth rotation. The Orange and Blue wrapped up the competition with a season-high on high bar to finish the incredible season with a solid finish in their final event.

Ruggeri continued to rack up the national accolades at the NCAA individual event finals the following day. He won his second-consecutive NCAA High Bar Championship and his first NCAA Parallel Bars title, while fellow sophomore Daniel Ribeiro earned his first national championship on pommel horse, marking the first time since 1958 that Illinois walked away with at least three individual titles.

After capturing the high bar national championship as a freshman,



Ruggeri had the pressure on him to repeat. He turned in an almost-flawless routine, scoring a 15.750, to capture his second-consecutive high bar title. In his last event of the night, the 2009 Big Ten Parallel Bars Champion Ruggeri posted the top score of the evening with a 15.175, for his first national championship on parallel bars. The Manlius, N.Y., native rounded out his top-three finishes at the NCAA Championships with a runner-up placing on floor with a 15.600. Ruggeri earned a total of four All-America honors in 2009, bringing his overall career total to seven.

Ranked No. 1 in the country on pommel horse going into the NCAA championships, Illinois sophomore Daniel Ribeiro came out on top, capturing the 2009 national title with a score of 15.575. Ribeiro was the first pommel horse national champion for Illinois since 2004, when former Illini Bob Rogers won the title. With the first place finish, the Chestnut Ridge, N.Y., native earned All-America honors on pommel horse for the second straight year.

Sophomore Roger Pasek made his first appearance at the NCAA Individual Event Finals, scoring a 15.425 on floor for sixth place to earn his first All-America honor. In all, Illinois collected six All-America honors, among three All-Americans in 2009.

The road to the NCAA Championships was a memorable one for the Orange and Blue. The Illini went undefeated in Big Ten dual matches and celebrated 100 seasons of men's gymnastics at the University of Illinois.

The Illini entered the season ranked No. 4 in the GymInfo

Preseason Coaches' Poll and opened 2009 at the Windy City Invite with a solid second-place score of 342.250.

In the home opener at historic Huff Hall, the Illini downed the Ohio State Buckeyes, 351.950-349.050, in front of over 1,100 fans. The Fighting Illini won four individual event titles on pommel horse, parallel bars, high bar and the all-around competition.

The Illini had a couple weeks off from competition in preparation for the 2009 Winter Cup Challenge in Las Vegas. The Orange and Blue took a break from collegiate competition as nine Illini gymnasts traveled to the individual competition.

Ruggeri led the Illinois contingent during preliminary competition at the Winter Cup. Ruggeri was the highest Illini finisher in the performance-based points ranking system (78, 11th), which was used to determine the individuals to advance to the finals. Other Illini qualifiers for the final session were freshmen Tyler Mizoguchi and C.J. Padera, along with sophomores Ribeiro and Pasek.

Ruggeri captured the gold medal on high bar at Winter Cup. The Manlius, N.Y., native had a combined score from the two days of competition of 30.500 on the event, edging out Olympian Joey Hagerty (30.450) for the national title. For his accomplishment, Ruggeri was named Co-Big Ten Gymnast of the Week for the week ending Feb. 7.

The Orange and Blue returned to team competition the next weekend as they hosted the Penn State Nittany Lions. The Illini continued their conference domination, taking a 345.500-339.800 victory over PSU. From there, the Illini headed to the Pacific Coast Classic, where they faced the top teams in the nation. The Illini came in fifth after suffering some minor setbacks, and competing without Ruggeri who was sidelined with a knee injury.

The Illini wrapped up the final portion of the regular season with a 4-0 record, including wins over Iowa, UIC, Michigan and Minnesota, before heading to the Big Ten Championships, where they won their first conference title in five years. The Illini wrapped up a tremendous season at the NCAA Championships, bringing home three individual national championships.

Following the conclusion of the 2009 season, Illinois athletics director Ron Guenther announced Olympian and former Illini great Justin Spring as Hayasaki's successor at the helm of the men's gymnastics team. Spring had a phenomenal career at Illinois and looks to lead the Illini to its first national title since 1989 next season.



# MEN'S GOLF

## **BIG TEN CHAMPIONS // NCAA 21ST PLACE**

Illinois men's golf completed its most successful season in recent memory. Illinois led the nation with seven tournament victories as a team, added four individual medalists, reached the No. 1 ranking in the computer rankings at one point, won its first Big Ten title in 21 years and advanced to the NCAA Championship for the second-straight season and fourth in the last eight years under head coach Mike Small.

What made the team special was the ability of any one of the top five players to shoot low and pace the team at a given event and its ability to make late charges to close out victories.

Sophomore Scott Langley was the most consistent in the line up, backing up his 2008 Big Ten Freshman of the Year accolades with nine top-12 finishes. Langley joined sophomore teammate Chris DeForest as first team All-Big Ten performers and ended the regular season at 24th in the Golfstat computer rankings. The Manchester, Mo., native led the NCAA Championship after a first-round 69 before tying for 18th.

Statistically, Langley had the fourth-best season scoring average ever by an Illini at 72.08 over 37 rounds, while freshman Luke Guthrie's average of 73.00 over his 28 rounds is 10th-best.

Small also picked up some hardware, claiming the 2009 Big Ten and Midwest Regional Coach of the Year awards.

A relatively young Illinois team had placed third in the Big Ten and 17th in the nation in 2008, but the Fighting Illini really made some noise nationally by defeating three of the nation's top five teams and seven ranked teams overall at the Olympia Fields/Fighting Illini Invitational in September. In the final round, Illinois surged past second-ranked Oklahoma State with a 279 to better the field by seven shots.

Individually, junior Zach Barlow, playing the final round alongside two of the top five players at the 2008 NCAA Championship in Oklahoma State's Rickie Fowler and Indiana's Jorge Campillo, tied for the individual title after firing a 67. Langley, who also shot a 67 on the final day, was two strokes back in fourth.

Illinois backed up its victory two weeks later by winning the Windon Memorial in Glenview, Ill. This time, DeForest and junior Matt Hoffman posted top 10 finishes. Hoffman had the 36-hole lead after a firing a career-best 65 in the opening round and finished seventh. DeForest placed third after charging to near the top of the leaderboard with a final-round 64. Combining that with a 63 he had during his freshman year gives the Cottekill, N.Y., native the two best individual rounds in school history.

The victories vaulted Illinois to the No. 1 spot in the Golfstat computer rankings and earned the team some national exposure. The Fighting Illini continued their momentum by defending their title at the D.A. Weibring Invitational, giving Illinois three straight tournament wins for the first time in two decades.

Langley won the first of his two tournaments on the season with a score of 201,



matching DeForest's 64 in the first round while Guthrie also fired a 64 in the third round.

The success continued in the spring, beginning with an 8-1 victory over Illinois State in the annual Tinverin Cup. After succumbing to some health issues the following tournament, Illinois rattled off four tournament victories in a row, the most dramatic coming at the Boilermaker Invitational where the Illini made up eight shots in the final three holes to edge Penn State by one stroke.

Langley won two Big Ten Golfer of the Week honors – on March 4 after helping the Illini to the Tinverin Cup and on April 1 after winning the FAU Spring Break Invitational against a field that included six Big Ten teams. Three Illini finished among the top 10 in that event with DeForest tying for fourth and Guthrie in eighth.

Barlow won his second tournament of the season the following week at the Marshall Invitational, shooting 211 over 54 holes, including a season-best 66 in round two.

The season's big prize came in early May at the Big Ten Championship in State College, Pa., where the Fighting Illini captured their first conference title since the likes of Small and Steve Stricker claimed the championship in Savov in 1988.

Illinois broke open a tight pack in round three after an even par 284 to take a seven-stroke lead into the final day and closed the door in the fourth round to win the championship by 13 strokes over Minnesota, the largest margin of victory for a champion in eight seasons.

All five Illini players finished among the top 17. DeForest posted his fourth-straight top four by tying for third. Hoffman had four birdies on the front nine in round three as Illinois took the lead for good, and finished seventh overall. Guthrie's consistent rounds were good for ninth while Langley and Barlow, who fired a tournament-best 68 in the final round, tied for 17th.

Illinois advanced to the NCAA Championship after placing third at the Northeast Regional in Galloway, N.J. Langley tied for seventh individually on a course that had heavy winds on the tournament's first day. The top five teams from each of the six Regionals moved on the NCAA finals at the Inverness Golf Club in Toledo, Ohio.

The Fighting Illini didn't have the finals they were hoping for, settling for a 21st-place finish. The tournament was not without its excitement, however, as Langley's 25-foot birdie putt in front of a large gallery on 18 propelled him to a share of the lead after the first round. DeForest paced Illinois with a one-under par 70 the following day.

Collectively, Illinois shot a total of 43 rounds under par on the season. The top six players, which included freshman Mason Jacobs, all had rounds in the 60s with Langley, Guthrie and DeForest firing 64s, Hoffman a 65 and Barlow a 66. Illinois returns everyone in the line up in 2009-10 to try to match or surpass this season's accomplishments.



### 24-10 (11-7 BIG TEN) // SECOND PLACE BIG TEN // NCAA TOURNAMENT 1ST ROUND

One headline of the 2008-09 college basketball season was Illinois' resurgence on the national scene. Bruce Weber coached one of the most improved teams in the land last season, thanks to outstanding senior leadership, a team-first attitude on offense, and, as has become a staple of the UI's Weber-led teams, tenacious defense.

Illinois was impressive during non-conference play, compiling a 12-1 mark with highlight wins including the South Padre Island Invitational championship and a school-record ninth consecutive victory over Missouri in the annual Braggin' Rights game.

Illinois began Big Ten play with a bang, defeating No. 9 Purdue in West Lafayette. The Illini then beat Indiana by 31 points in Champaign, marking the UI's largest margin of victory over the Hoosiers in the 161-game history of the series. A win over another ranked opponent, No. 25 Michigan, followed.

The Illini returned to the Top 25 for the first time in three seasons on Jan. 19, checking in at No. 25. The team did not disappoint, either, with impressive back-to-back home victories over eventual NCAA Tournament teams Ohio State and Wisconsin.

After a solid January, the Illini played strong in February as well. The Assembly Hall was rocking on Feb. 8 before a CBS national television audience when the Orange and Blue rolled past No. 12 Purdue, giving Illinois a regular-season sweep of the Boilers. Illinois then had an

amazing come-from-behind victory at Northwestern. Trailing 57-43, the Illini turned to a full court press to speed up the game and create turnovers. Illinois outscored the Wildcats 17-2 over the game's last five minutes, capped by Demetri McCamey's game-winning 14-foot bank shot with 2.9 seconds left.

Following road wins over Indiana and Ohio State, Illinois recorded its 11th conference victory by defeating Minnesota. That helped the Illini secure a runner-up finish in the Big Ten. The second-place performance marked Illinois' fourth top-two Big Ten finish in six seasons under Weber. A seven-place improvement in the conference standings from 2008 equaled the biggest turnaround in school history, while Illinois' 10-game improvement overall from its 2008 regular season win total tied the third-biggest turnaround nationally.

Illinois entered postseason play shorthanded, however, as eventual team MVP and leader Chester Frazier suffered a hand injury just three days before the Big Ten Tournament. The Illini responded by rolling past Michigan in the quarterfinal for its 24th win of the year, tying the 10th-winningest season in school history, and advancing to the semifinal for the 11th time in the 12-year history of the conference tournament.

Illinois earned a No. 5 seed in the NCAA Tournament, appearing in the Big Dance for the ninth time in the last 10 seasons. The Illini



headed west to Portland for a first-round match-up with Sun Belt Champion Western Kentucky. Trailing for the majority of the game, the Illini would not go down without a fight, staging another furious rally. Behind by 15 points with four minutes left, Illinois stormed back, making it a one-possession game three times in the final minute. But the Hilltoppers made their free throws to advance and bring Illinois' season to a close.

The characteristic used most to describe the 2008-09 Illini team was "unselfish." Illinois led the nation in assist rate, totaling assists on 70 percent of its baskets on the season, while also ranking in the Top 10 nationally in assists and assist/turnover ratio. On the other end of the court, Illinois continued to defend well, leading the Big Ten and finishing No. 3 in the nation in scoring defense and in the Top 20 in field goal percentage defense. Illinois has now led the Big Ten in scoring defense four times in the last five seasons.

Four starters averaged in double figures, led by a trio of sophomores. Demetri McCamey was Illinois' leading scorer at 11.5 points per game. A third-team All-Big Ten pick and second-team All-District choice by the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC), McCamey was the Big Ten assists leader during conference play with an average of 4.9 assists.

Davis was second on the Illini in scoring, averaging 11.3 points. He earned second-team All-Big Ten honors by the coaches and a spot on the U.S. Basketball Writers All-District Team in addition to the Big Ten All-Tournament Team. One of the league's most improved players, Davis led the conference with nine double-doubles on the year, was the Big Ten's No. 2 rebounder with an average of 8.1 boards, and ranked third in the league in field goal shooting at 53.3 percent.

Mike Tisdale was a second-team NABC All-District selection and honorable mention All-Big Ten choice after ranking third on the Illini in scoring and rebounding with averages of 10.2 points and 4.0 rebounds. He was fourth in the Big Ten in field goal shooting (56.4 percent) and fifth in the conference with 48 blocked shots.

While sophomores garnered much of the attention, seniors played an integral role in the team's success as well. Chester Frazier was an honorable mention All-Big Ten selection and earned a spot on the Big Ten All-Defensive Team. Frazier did a little bit of everything for the Illini: guarding the opponents' top player, averaging 5.7 points, leading the Big Ten with 5.3 assists per game, ranking second on the UI with an average of 4.8 rebounds and leading the team in steals (43) and minutes played (33.2 mpg).

Trent Meacham tied for third on the Illini in scoring with an average of 10.2 points. He was second in the Big Ten in 3-point field goal shooting at 42.1 percentage and wrapped up his career ranked fifth on the Illinois career list for 3-point field goal percentage at 40.8 percent.

Illinois' success in 2008-09 has laid the foundation for a promising future. The Illini return four of their top five scorers and a total of nine players next season while adding a Top 25-ranked recruiting class to the mix. Goals will be lofty and expectations will be high in 2009-10 as the Illini aim to challenge for a Big Ten championship and make a deep run in the NCAA Tournament.



Illinois continued to establish itself as one of the top cross country programs in the nation, as the Orange and Blue scored a top-10 finish at the NCAA Championships for the fourth consecutive year under the direction of distance coach Jeremy Rasmussen. The Orange and Blue are one of only two teams in the nation to achieve this feat.

Junior Angela Bizzarri, already the top distance athlete in Illinois history, earned her third consecutive All-America accolade in cross country by placing sixth at the NCAA Championships, held in Terre Haute, Ind That performance tied the highest finish ever for an Illini athlete at the national meet, as Bizzarri also reset her own school record with a 6K time of 19:59.

Senior Katie Engel also earned All-America honors, placing 22nd at the NCAA Championships with a time of 20:31. Boosted by Bizzarri and Engel's performances, the Illini placed 10th as a team at nationals and had two All-Americans in the same season for the first time in school history.

Illinois earned its trip to the national meet by a solid performance in Stillwater, Okla., at the NCAA Midwest Regional championships. The team finished runner-up for the second-straight year and earned an automatic berth into nationals for the fifth consecutive year. Four Illini earned All-Region honors, led by Bizzarri, who placed second for the third year in a row. Engel also had a top-10 finish in placing ninth, while sophomore Chantelle Groenewoud and freshman Kristin Sutherland each had one of their best performances of the season in placing 15th and 17th.

At the Big Ten Championships hosted by Michigan, by far one of th

toughest conference meets in the country, Illinois placed fourth. Once again, Engel and Bizzarri led the way for the Orange and Blue. This time it was Engel who placed first for Illinois, as she finished sixth at the conference championships and edged out Bizzarri by four seconds. Both athletes earned first-team All-Big Ten honors, as Illinois was one of only two teams to place two athletes on the conference first team.

The Pre-Nationals meet was the first major test for the Illini in 2008, as it was held in Terre Haute, Ind., on the same course that the NCAA Championships was held. The Illini placed fourth in the standings in the White Team race, as Engel finished third overall. Bizzarri made her season debut in placing 13th, while Sutherland also had a solid race in taking 29th

Prior to the Big Ten Championships, Illinois hosted the Illini Open, giving some of its athletes who didn't make the postseason roster a chance to compete. Seven of the top nine finishers at the meet were Orange and Blue athletes, as freshman Amber Stack took first and senior Maggie Carroll was second, leading the way for Illinois to easily defeat opponents Illinois State and Northwestern. For her performance, Stack was subsequently named Big Ten Runner of the Week.

Earlier in the season, Engel made her season debut at the Notre Dame Invitational, where she showed flashes of her later season success by finishing eighth overall. The Illini tied for ninth as a team in a highly competitive field that featured 11 nationally ranked teams.

Sutherland drew the highlights at the Illinois Intercollegiate

Championships, as the freshman placed first in the race and led the Illini to handily win the team title. This feat was especially impressive considering it was Sutherland's first race as a collegiate athlete, and she was rewarded by being named Co-Big Ten Runner of the Week. Junior Elizabeth Boyle and sophomore Stacy Hague also had solid performances at the in-state meet, finishing fifth and seventh, respectively. At the time, Illinois ranked No. 10 in the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association's preseason poll.

In an early season meet at the Bradley Open, a small contingency of Illini runners placed second in the team standings. Hague, sophomore Kate Tysse and senior Christina Beaird placed fifth through seventh for the Orange and Blue.

Illinois officially opened the season by hosting the Illini Challenge at the UI Arboretum to give experience to its extensive roster. Boyle was the team's top finisher in placing third.

Although Bizzarri and Engel proved to be the frontrunners for Illinois throughout the season, other athletes stepped up as well to make the successful year possible. Sutherland, Groenewoud, Boyle and juniors Theresa Brokaw and Stephanie Baliga were all major factors throughout the championship portion of the season. All but Engel will be back next season, giving the Illini and Coach Rasmussen a solid chance to remain among the nation's elite and strive for a Big Ten title.



"Illinois continued to establish itself as one of the top cross country programs in the nation, as the Orange and Blue scored a top-10 finish at the NCAA Championships for the fourth consecutive year."

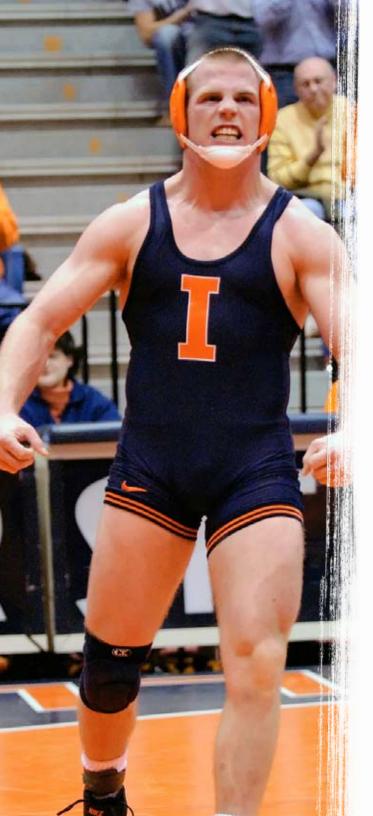




# **WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY**

FOURTH PLACE BIG TEN // 10TH PLACE NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS





# **WRESTLING**

## 13-2 (6-2 BIG TEN) // FOURTH PLACE BIG TEN EIGHTH PLACE NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Illinois wrestling sent longtime head coach Mark Johnson out with a bang as the 17-year leader retired following a 2008-09 season in which the Fighting Illini finished eighth at the NCAA Championships and garnered three All-America honors, the highest team finish and most All-Americans since 2005. Senior Mike Poeta (157 pounds), junior Jimmy Kennedy (133) and senior John Wise (HWT) earned All-America status, Poeta's third honor, Kennedy's second and Wise's first, as they finished second, fifth and seventh, respectively. Wise also became the first Illinois heavyweight All-American since 2002.

The strong showing at the NCAA tournament capped a successful season in which the Illini went 13-2 in dual meets, including a 3-0 showing in the ACC/Big Ten Clash and a 6-2 Big Ten dual record. Illinois also went 6-0 at Huff Hall, averaging 1,070 fans per Big Ten meet with a season high of 1,409 against Michigan on Feb. 20. In addition, Poeta finished his Illinois career with the second-best winning percentage (.882) in school history and the 17th-most wins at Illinois. He is the 10th three-time All-American at Illinois.

The Illini opened the season with a bang, going 3-0 at the ACC/Big Ten Clash in dominant fashion. They outscored North Carolina State, No. 21 Virginia and North Carolina 105-23 and true-freshman Jordan Blanton (184) was named Co-Big Ten Wrestler of the Week after going 3-0 with a pair of pins at the event, becoming the first true-freshman in Illinois history to be named Big Ten Wrestler of the Week. Illinois found itself shorthanded in the next two tournaments but responded well, as No. 12 Roger Smith-Bergsrud won a title at 165 at the Missouri Open, and the sixth-ranked Wise, No. 17 Ryan Prater (141) and Blanton all finished second at the tournament. The next weekend, Illinois placed 13th at the prestigious Las Vegas Invitational, despite being without three starters, thanks to a 133-pound title from Jimmy Kennedy, a seventh-place finish by Blanton and an eighth-place finish by Prater.

After the Orange and Blue dispatched Findlay and McKendree, 32-6 and 39-9, respectively, on Dec. 13 at Huff Hall, the Illini finished 10th at Midlands Dec. 29-30. Kennedy took third, Blanton finished fifth and 174-pounder John Dergo took eighth. After a weekend off, Illinois wrapped up non-conference action with an Eastern trip that saw the season debut of Mike Poeta, who suffered a knee injury in the offseason. Poeta went 2-0 with a technical fall and a major decision



as the Illini downed West Virginia, 26-19, and smashed No. 25 Pittsburgh, 26-10, the following night. The highlight of the Pitt match was when the 10th-ranked Wise upset No. 4 Zach Sheaffer at heavyweight, recording the first takedowns of the season against Sheaffer.

Illinois stumbled in its Big Ten opener at Carver-Hawkeye Arena, as No. 1 Iowa took the 32-4 victory in front of 6,946 fans. But the Orange and Blue responded the next weekend with an emphatic 29-11 win at No. 25 Purdue as Illinois won seven of the first eight bouts. Kennedy, Poeta, Blanton, Prater and freshman 125-pounder B.J. Futrell all scored major decisions, and Smith-Bergsrud, Dergo and Wise also notched wins.

The following weekend, Illinois hosted No. 16 Northwestern for "The Great Escape," the Illinois main promotional night of the season, where one lucky Illinois student won a scooter and two fans par-



ticipated in the Illinois Wrestling Stimulus Plan, gathering as much cash from the mat as possible while being blindfolded. The Illini didn't disappoint, smashing the Wildcats 22-13 in front of 1,070 fans, highlighted by Blanton moving up a weight class to 197 pounds in the absence of usual starter Patrick Bond and dominating Northwestern's John Schoen, 11-4.

Two days later, the Illini took care of business at No. 17 Wisconsin, 24-16, earning Johnson's 200th win at Illinois. The two teams split the 10 bouts but the Orange and Blue earned bonus points in all five of their victories, with pins by Kennedy and Blanton, and major decisions by Poeta, Futrell and Dergo.

Illinois returned home the following Friday and put forth a workmanlike effort against No. 20 Indiana, dispatching the Hoosiers 25-6. Two days later, the Illini dropped a 26-13 match at No. 6 Ohio State after the Buckeyes registered two pins in the final three bouts. Sandwiched between those two falls was a 4-3 decision for No. 3 Kennedy over secondranked Reece Humphrey at 133. Wise also registered bonus points for Illinois with his major decision victory, while Poeta and Bond recorded the Illini's other two wins.

Looking to finish the regular season strong, the Illini got a 7-2 win by Wise at heavyweight to clinch a back-and-forth match with No. 17 Michigan, 20-15. Kennedy and 149-pound freshman Eric Terrazas both earned major decisions, Terrazas' first career Big Ten victory, in front of a season-high 1,409 fans. The Orange and Blue then wrapped up the dual season with a 26-12 romp against Michigan State by winning seven of 10 bouts. Blanton earned a second-period pin, while Terrazas and Poeta both notched majors.

At the Big Ten Championships, the Illini finished second with 113.5 points, the fourth-most points ever scored by an Illinois team at the event, as nine of 10 Illini wrestlers met or exceeded their seeding. Po-

eta earned his second-straight title, while Kennedy, Bond and Wise all took third place. Dergo and Blanton finished fourth, Futrell and Smith-Bergsrud took sixth, Prater finished seventh and Terrazas placed eighth. All but Terrazas earned automatic berths to the NCAA Championships. Two weeks later at the NCAA Championships, Poeta finished second for the second-straight season, Kennedy placed fifth after losing his initial match and winning six consecutive bouts. He went 7-2 in the tournament, wrestling the most possible matches in any bracket. Wise finished seventh to earn his first All-America honor, going 4-2 with his two losses coming by a combined three points. In addition, Prater notched one of the major upsets of the tournament, pinning top-seeded and top-ranked Kellen Russell of Michigan in the second period of their second-round bout.

The Illinois men's tennis team continued to be a force in collegiate tennis throughout the 2009 season. For the 14th straight season, the Illini advanced to the NCAA Tournament and reached the Sweet 16 for the eighth-straight time, becoming one of three teams in the nation to accomplish the feat.

After saying goodbye to a solid senior class of Brandon Davis, Ruben Gonzales and Ryan Rowe in 2008, the Orange and Blue turned to lone four-year senior Marc Spicijaric to lead them to another season of success in '09. Spicijaric received some help midway through the year as Illinois added senior transfer Brian Livingston to the roster in January.

The Fighting Illini opened the season ranked No. 15 and started things off on the right foot with solid performances at the Illinois/USF Invitational. Individually, freshman Dennis Nevolo led the Illini charge going 4-0 in singles and 2-0 in doubles. For his efforts, Nevolo garnered the season's first Big Ten Player of the Week honor.

After wrapping up the non-dual portion of their schedule, the Illini began dual-match play at home with a doubleheader featuring Toledo and Ball State. The Illini swept the twinbill, and set their sights on Pepperdine. The Orange and Blue came out firing on all cylinders in the 6-1 win over the Waves, to start the season with a perfect 3-0 record. Spicijaric played a vital role in each of the Illini victories over the weekend and earned the second Big Ten Player of the Week award of the season for his outstanding leadership play.



After hitting a bump in the road against the fifth-ranked Virginia Cavaliers, the Illini returned home to the friendly confines of the Atkins Tennis Center for three matches in a span of five days. The Illini cruised by the Duke Blue Devils, 5-2, and prepared for a battle with the No. 8 Tennessee Volunteers the following day. The Orange and Blue showed great effort, but dropped a heartbreaking 4-3 match to the Volunteers. The Illini played hard across the board in singles as Nevolo, Spicijaric and junior Marek Czerwinski all notched victories.

The Illini bounced back quickly, handing No. 7 Florida its first loss of the season with a thrilling 4-3 victory. The Gators took an early lead by winning the doubles point, but the Illini responded strongly in singles to notch the win. Nevolo clinched the upset victory for the Illini at No. 1 singles, fighting back after dropping the first set to Florida's Carlos Cueto to take the match, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3

With momentum on their side, the Illini headed to Chicago where they hosted the ITA Team Indoor Championships at the Midtown Tennis Club for the third time in five years. The 13th-ranked Illini drew No. 4 UCLA in the opening round. The Orange and Blue came up short in the first round but salvaged the weekend, posting two solid wins over Tulsa and Baylor to go 2-1 over the course of the Championships.

Spicijaric garnered his second weekly laurel of the season after going 4-0 in doubles and 3-1 in singles in Illinois' three upset wins over top-15 teams over the course of the week.

After a successful weekend at ITA Indoors, the Illini added three matches to the home slate as they welcomed Detroit, Northern Illinois and Illinois State to Urbana. With a pair of doubleheaders on the final weekend in February, the Illini cruised by Detroit, before topping the Purdue Boilermakers for their 12th straight conference-opener victory. The Illini notched two more victories over NIU and ISU in the second doubleheader.

With a six-match winning streak on their hands, the Illini jumped to a season-high No. 7 ranking in the Campbell's/ITA Team poll. Illinois continued its hot start to the conference season with victories over Northwestern and Wisconsin at home.

The Illini suffered a pair of setbacks on the road against Texas A&M and Notre Dame, before returning to the win column with victories over Indiana, Iowa and Minnesota, improving their conference record to 6-0.

The Orange and Blue continued their winning ways with a 4-3 win over the No. 14 Kentucky Wildcats at the Khan Outdoor Tennis Complex. The victory marked the first time the Illinois men's tennis team had the opportunity to play on the newly finished courts and the Illini made the most of it, controlling the match from start to finish.



# THE FIGHTING ILLINI ADVANCED TO THE NCAA "SWEET 16" FOR THE EIGHTH CONSECUTIVE SEASON

The Fighting Illini carried an eight-match home winning streak and a share of the conference lead into their final weekend on the home turf. After dispatching the Penn State Nittany Lions, 7-0, the Illini set up a showdown with the Ohio State Buckeyes for the regular-season conference title. The Orange and Blue fell short in the battle for the title and suffered a setback on the road to Michigan, before concluding the regular season on a high note with a 6-1 win over the Michigan State Spartans.

At the Big Ten Tournament, the Fighting Illini advanced to the finals for the 10th straight year with wins over Penn State and Indiana. In the finals, the Illini faced the Buckeyes once again, and this time the Orange and Blue started off strong taking the doubles point in thrilling fashion, but the Buckeyes responded in singles for the win.

Turning their attention to the postseason, the No. 13 Fighting Illini were chosen to host the first and second rounds of the NCAA Tournament for the 10th time in the past 11 years. In the

### 23-9 (8-2 BIG TEN) // SECOND PLACE BIG TEN // NCAA TOURNAMENT SWEET 16

opening round, the Illini wasted little time in sending the Western Michigan Broncos home with a 4-0 win. In the round of 32, the Illini faced the Louisville Cardinals. Despite dropping the doubles point, the Illini came out firing on all cylinders in singles against the Cardinals to take the match, 4-1, advancing to the Sweet 16 for the eighth-straight year.

Waiting for the Illini in the Sweet 16 were the fourth-ranked Georgia Bulldogs. The Bulldogs got on the board early taking a hard-fought doubles point. Illinois bounced back in singles taking the first set on five of the six courts. The Illini swiftly notched two victories to take an early 2-1 lead, as sophomores Roy Kalmanovich and Waylon Chin grabbed wins at Nos. 2 and 5. Freshman Ruan Roelofse added the third victory at No. 6 singles, but it wasn't enough as the Illini fell 4-3 to the defending National Champion Bulldogs.

The Illini finished with a No. 12 ranking in the final ITA poll and know what they need to do in order to maintain their spot among the nation's elite.





The 2009 Illinois women's gymnastics team made history, competing as a team at the NCAA Championships and having two individuals earn All-America honors for the first time in school history. The Fighting Illini continued their rise toward elite status by finishing 12th at the national championships, the best finish in school history.

The Fighting Illini fully embraced the team concept, as depth and balance, in addition to talent, pushed the team to new heights. Four different Illinois gymnasts took home five prestigious honors during the postseason. Two Illini earned All-America honors as sophomore Melissa Fernandez was a first-team honoree on the balance beam and



junior Sarah Schmidt earned second-team honors on floor. Sophomore Allison Buckley won the West Regional Beam title, freshman Kelsey Joannides won the Big Ten title on vault and Schmidt shared the Big Ten Floor Exercise title. In addition, five different Fighting Illini gymnasts were named second team All-Big Ten as senior Marijka Botterman, junior Nicole Cowart, Schmidt, Buckley and Joannides all were named to the All-Conference teams, giving Illinois the most representatives on the first and second teams.

The season started with high expectations as the Illini garnered a preseason ranking of No. 16. The Orange and Blue showed their potential early, dominating No. 11 Penn State in the home opener by a score of 195.500-192.250. Two weeks later, the Illini won the IGI Chicago Style Invite at Navy Pier over three other teams, including No. 24 Boise State, before posting what was then a school-record score of 196.700 in a victory over No. 18 Ohio State. During the win over the Buckeyes, Botterman performed a nearly perfect vault to break the school record with a 9.950.

The Illini then had steady meets at Washington and Kentucky before closing out the regular season at home against UIC, sending seniors Botterman, Julie Crall, Kim Kruk and Lindsey Smith off with a victory on Senior Day. The Orange and Blue then started their memorable postseason run with a victory at the State of Illinois Classic before heading back to Champaign for the Big Ten Championships on their home turf.

At the Big Ten Championships, Illinois performed magnificently in front of a boisterous Huff Hall crowd, breaking team records on floor (49.500), vault (49.375) and overall team score (196.750) while producing two individual champions for the first time in 19 years. However, it wasn't enough to top No. 15 Michigan (197.025) for the title as Illinois placed second, just ahead of No. 13 Penn State (196.525). Illini head coach Bob Starkell was named co-Big Ten Coach of the Year along with PSU's Steve Shephard after the competition. Schmidt shared the floor exercise crown and tied the Illinois school record with a nearly flawless 9.950, while Joannides' title-winning 9.925 on vault also propelled her to a spot on the all-around podium with a career-high 39.375.

The Orange and Blue next headed to the NCAA Regional Championships with a chip on their shoulder after narrowly missing out on the coveted conference championship. For the first time in school history, the Illini entered regional competition as one of the 18 seeded teams, meaning they still had their ultimate goal of advancing to the NCAA Championships within reach. As the No. 3 seed in the West Regional in Seattle, the Illini would need to upset either top-seed Utah or No. 2 seed Auburn to reach their goal, and they did just that, nearly posting another school-record score (196.700) en route to a second-place finish and the program's first-ever bid to the NCAA Championships.

Buckley tied the individual school record on beam with a 9.950 at the Regional to share first place and lead the beam squad to a school record score of 49.200. She also was Illinois' top all-arounder, taking fourth with a score of 39.425, the third-best in school history.

From there, Illinois headed to Lincoln, Neb., for the NCAA Championships. Seeded 11th in the 12-team field, the Illini competed in the evening session during the team preliminaries against No. 2 Utah, No. 3 Alabama, No. 7 Oregon State, No. 6 UCLA and No. 10 Arkansas. Though the Orange and Blue committed some uncharacteristic mistakes, finishing sixth in the session and 12th overall with a score of 195.050, Fernandez became the first gymnast in school history to reach an individual event final at the Championships, and thus, a first-team All-American. Fernandez performed beautifully against the nation's best in the beam final, finishing tied for sixth with a score of 9.8375 to earn a spot on the podium. Schmidt earned second team All-America honors on floor exercise to join Fernandez and Buckley, a second team All-American on beam in 2008, as the only Illini to become All-Americans at the NCAA Championships in school history.

In recognition of Illinois' historic season and breakthrough performance to reach the NCAA Championships, the entire Illini coaching staff was recognized by its peers. Head Coach Bob Starkell was named National Coach of the Year, while Associate Head Coach Kim Landrus and Assistant Coach Amy Kruse were named Co-National Assistant Coaches of the Year by the National Association of College Gymnastics Coaches for Women (NACGCW).

On the season, Illinois broke team records on three out of four events (vault, beam and floor) and put up the top four overall scores



in school history, including the school record of 196.750 at Big Tens. In addition, individual records were broken or tied on three of the four events, with Botterman setting the vault mark with a 9.950, Buckley tying the team record of 9.950 and Schmidt the floor mark of 9.950.

At the annual postseason awards banquet, Botterman was voted team MVP and Most Outstanding Gymnastics by her teammates, while Fernandez was voted Most Improved and Most Consistent Beam Performer. Lindsey Smith was named the team's Big Ten Sportsmanship honoree and took home the team's Scholar-Athlete Award. In terms of individual event titles, Schmidt led the balanced attack with nine, while Botterman and Buckley each earned eight titles. Joannides collected six titles during her rookie season, while Fernandez won five event crowns, all on beam.





# **VOLLEYBALL**

# 26-8 (15-5 BIG TEN) THIRD PLACE BIG TEN // NCAA SWEET 16

The 2008 season saw a resurgent Illinois volleyball program return to national prominence. With the highly touted sixth-ranked 2007 recruiting class now sophomores, a U.S. junior national player in Michelle Bartsch joining the team as a freshman, and the nation's 2006 top-rated high school libero in Ashley Edinger now a junior, the Fighting Illini had the pieces to make a run in the NCAA Tournament and back to near the top of the Big Ten standings.

While the team set internal goals for 2008, they did so not to pu extra pressure on themselves, but merely to make sure the journey was on course. And that philosophy was put to the test early in the season After 11th-ranked Oregon dominated the first two sets 25-14 and 25 16 in the championship match of the State Farm Illini Classic, Illinois players set out to play their game.

Fans got a glimpse of just how good Laura DeBruler could be a well. The somewhat undersized sophomore came up big with 22 kill in the final three sets as Illinois rallied from a 19-14 deficit in the fourt set and then went on take set five, 15-13, and the match in dramatifashion

DeBruler was named National Player of the Week for her efforts and also earned the first of three Big Ten Player of the Week honors on the season.

Illinois went 8-2 on the road in the Big Ten, won at Michigan and Ohio State in the same season for the first time since 1998 and overcame the demons at Wisconsin Fieldhouse for the first victory over the Badgers in Madison since 1995.

Meanwhile, the Illini lost just three times at Huff Hall all yea -- to top-ranked Penn State and two five-set matches against Not 12 Minnesota and Northwestern. It was that defeat to the last-plac Wildcats that exemplified just what could happen if the Illini concerned themselves with winning and losing.

All year, Illinois played a style that kept rallies going and forced the opponent to make the mistake on the point. Thanks to a lot of hard work by returnees and the emergence of Bartsch, the Illini became a force on the block. Bartsch had 134 blocks, which ranked 10th in the Big Ten, en route to Big Ten and Mideast Region Freshman of the Year accolades.

Middle blocker Johannah Bangert, a two-time Big Ten Player of the



Week, was at the heart of the blocking success, leading not only the conference, but also the nation with 1.60 blocks per set. Those were just a couple of the strong individual stories during the 2008 season.

Hillary Haen emerged as a leader not only as the starting setter in a 6-2 system, but also as a steadying force in the front row.

With the fans counting down each dig, Ashley Edinger set the Illinois career digs record on Nov. 1 against Ohio State, now with 1,614 for her career. Illinois showed unfettered emotion, which rubbed off on the fans at Huff Hall. Edinger and Abby Nelson were the most expressive in celebrating points. Nelson, a middle blocker, led the Illini with 29 service aces on the year with a style all her own.

This team captured the hearts of fans young and old as the lines at the autograph tables following each match would indicate. The feel-good moment of the year came Oct. 31, when senior Kayani Turner, who had suffered through a myriad of injuries, came into the match against Michigan after yet another setback

and promptly came through with a key block. That helped Illinois to a five-set victory.

The practice paid off late in the year as Illinois made a run up to no. 14 in the national rankings. The Illini won 16 out of 19, including 13 of 15 following the hiccup against Northwestern. A total of 10 of those 16 wins came in three sets as Illinois made its case for a national seed and home matches in the NCAA Tournament.

The Illini did just that, earning a No. 9 national seed and hosting first and second-round matches for the third time this decade. Illinois defeated UW-Milwaukee and Cincinnati on its home court in the first two rounds, earning the school's first Sweet 16 appearance since 2003.

Head coach Don Hardin announced his retirement from coaching in the week leading up to the tournament and fans came out not only to push the Illini past the first two rounds, but also to express appreciation for all Hardin has meant to the Illini in his career. Although California downed Illinois in three sets in the Sweet 16, all three sets came down to the end with the Bears winning 25-22 each time. The Illini had backed up their seed and DeBruler was named All-Regional Tournament and later became Illinois' first All-American in four seasons. Illinois finished the season 26-8, a wins mark only eight Illini teams have surpassed in the program's 34 years.

In January, five-year Illinois assistant coach Kevin Hambly, a former Olympic Team assistant, was named to succeed Hardin as the program's head coach. With the hiring of another former national team coach in Kent Miller as a new assistant, joining a staff that includes Jen Flynn Oldenburg, a former national team setter, Illinois has the distinction of having a coaching staff with strong ties to USA Volleyball.

In May, Illinois was the only school in the country with four representatives on the USA Volleyball National A2 team. The foursome of Bangert, Bartsch, DeBruler and Edinger competed at the USA Adult Open Championships in Minneapolis.



# 29-17 (12-7 BIG TEN) // SOFTBALL NCAA TOURNAMENT FIRST ROUND //





The 2009 campaign marked one of the best in history for the Fighting Illini softball team. Not only did the team earn its third NCAA Championship berth and first since 2004, but also it produced the second NFCA All-American in program history, as sophomore second baseman Danielle Zymkowitz took home third-team honors. In addition, five Illini earned All-Big Ten honors, tying the most in school history. Zymkowitz and senior designated player Katrina Ross each took home first-team accolades, junior right fielder Hope Howell was named to the second team, and sophomore left fielder Hollie Pinchback and freshman third baseman Kelley Wedel collected third-team honors

Freshman pitching sensation Monica Perry also made a splash during her first year in the Orange and Blue. Perry set a new mark for strikeouts in a single season, fanning 223 batters to surpass Amanda Fortune's mark of 182 set in 2004. She also broke the record for most strikeouts per seven innings, averaging 6.30 compared to Sherri Taylor's 5.00 in 2004.

Illinois opened the 2009 season at the Cathedral City Kick-Off, winning three out of four in its first tournament thanks in part to the consistency from Zymkowitz in the leadoff spot. She hit .692 with five RBIs, five runs and six stolen bases in the four-game stretch, including a perfect 7-for-7 on opening day. Overall, the table-setter reached base in 12 of 15 plate appearances during the tournament to earn her first career Big Ten Player of the Week award. Zymkowitz' consistency continued throughout 2009, as she began the season with a 15-game hitting streak, the second-longest in program history, and reached base at least once in 42 of 46 contests. In addition, the second baseman earned the school's first USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Week award and her second conference weekly award after batting .900 while slugging 1.500 in a three-game stretch that included a pair of wins in the Big Ten series opener against Penn State and a victory over No. 18 Southern Illinois.

The Orange and Blue's best tournament performance came at the Houston Marriott Invitational, where the Illini went 5-0, including wins over No. 18 Houston and No. 19 Texas A&M. In the most remarkable game in Illinois history, the Illini overcame an eight-run deficit to capture a 12-11 extra-inning victory against the Cougars. The Orange and Blue were down to their final three outs in the fifth thanks to the eight-run-rule before the offense exploded for six runs, highlighted by freshman first baseman Meredith Hackett's first career grand slam Senior catcher Lana Armstrong and Howell each followed with their first home run of the season to tie the game before Wedel delivered the game-winning RBI to cap off the extraordinary victory.

The next day, it was pitching that stole the show, as junior Ashley Wright and senior Taylor Call combined for the team's first no-hitter since 2003 in a 9-1 win over Prairie View A&M. The Illini finished up the tournament with another extra-inning win, this time taking down the Aggies, 5-4, on Armstrong's 3-for-3, four-RBI performance earning her the team's second Big Ten Player of the Week award. I marked the first time in history the Illini defeated two different ranked opponents in the same weekend.

The success continued into the Big Ten season, as the Orange and Blue made its best conference start at 3-0. Illinois put on a show in both contests against Penn State, belting a school-record five home runs in the sixth inning en route to a 7-3 win in game one, ther out-slugging the Nittany Lions 18-15 in the highest-scoring game in conference history. Pinchback led the way over the next three games with a .556 average and 1.222 slugging percentage, including her first career grand slam against Michigan State, to earn the team's fourth conference weekly award of the season, the most in school history.

Following a tough two-game stint at Iowa, the Illini bounced back to sweep Wisconsin thanks to Perry's stellar performance. The McDonough, Ga., native tossed her first career no-hitter and became the first Illini in program history to no-hit a Big Ten opponent. The following weekend, Pinchback delivered a school-record five hits against No. 16 Ohio State, but the Illini dropped both contests to the Buckeyes before sweeping Indiana. Perry led the way again against the



Hoosiers, as she allowed just one hit and set the strikeout record in game one's 5-0 win, then fanned 12 in the 3-2 finale, one shy of the single-game record.

After falling twice to No. 8 Michigan, the highlight of the season came as the Orange and Blue rebounded in a big way against No. 11 Northwestern. In game one against the Wildcats, Illinois rallied from a pair of three-run deficits to pick up the 10-8 win. Pinchback led the resurgence with her second grand slam of the season before Ross delivered the knockout blow with a two-run walk-off home run, marking the Illini's first win over Northwestern since 2005. Illinois wasn't finished though, as Ross and Armstrong combined for one of the most memorable senior days in history. The Orange and Blue trailed 6-0 until the third when they pulled within three runs of the Wildcats. After sophomore shortstop Ashley Conrad smashed the game-tying three-run homer, Ross went deep for the second time in the series to give the

Illini a one-run advantage. Northwestern regained the lead, but Illinois once again battled back to tie things up heading into the seventh. This time it was Armstrong who stepped up and crushed the walk-off home run, propelling the Illini to a sweep over the Wildcats for the first time since 2001. Ross raked in the team's fifth Big Ten Player of the week award for her efforts.

Illinois wrapped up the regular season winning three of the last four, including a season-ending sweep of Minnesota. The Orange and Blue's success earned them a spot in the NCAA Division I Softball Championship, traveling to Columbia, Mo., to take on the hosting No. 11 Missouri Tigers. The Illini came out on fire, taking a 1-0 lead in the first before a deluge of rain came and suspended the game. Illinois was unable to produce offensively when the game resumed the next day, dropping a 5-1 decision, then No. 20 and 15-seed DePaul ended the Illini's successful season with a 6-0 win.



# **WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD**

# FOURTH BIG TEN OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS // 12TH NCAA OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS FIFTH BIG TEN INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS // 27TH NCAA OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Tonja Buford-Bailey had a memorable debut as the first-year head coach of the Illinois women's track and field team, as the Fighting Illini achieved a number of milestones in 2009. A national champion, five All-America accolades, two regional champions, four Big Ten champions and six new school records provided the highlights for an all-around standout season for the Orange and Blue.



Junior Angela Bizzarri had the best all-around distance season in Illinois history, capped by being crowned national champion in the 5,000m at the NCAA Outdoor Championships. Bizzarri crossed the finish line in a winning time of 16:17.94 to win the seventh national championship in program history and the first since Perdita Felicien won the 100m hurdles in 2003. Her win in the 5,000m marked the first time that Illinois has ever won a national title in a non-hurdling event.

The Mason, Ohio native followed her NCAA title with arguably an even bigger achievement. At the USA Championships in Eugene, Ore., Bizzarri placed third in a field of almost entirely professionals with a personal-best 5,000m time of 15:33.02. The performance reset Bizzarri's own school record for the fourth time in her career and solidified her as one of the best female distance runners in the country, professional or collegiate.

Bizzarri ended her junior season as a seven-time All-American, as she also placed fourth in the 3,000m at the NCAA Indoor Championships to go along with her outdoor title. Her list of accomplishments in 2009 are endless. She broke four school records on the track (1,500m and 5,000m outdoor; 3,000m and 5,000m indoor), won her second consecutive NCAA Mideast Regional title in the 5,000m and was named USTFCCCA Midwest Region Track Athlete of the Year. The Mason, Ohio, native also won her first career Big Ten title by winning the 5,000m with a new championships record. After the banner season, Bizzarri was named Illinois' Female Athlete of the Year for the second consecutive year.

Junior thrower Aja Evans picked up two All-America accolades in 2009 as well, earning the honor in the shot put by placing fifth in the event at both the NCAA Outdoor Championships and NCAA Indoor Championships. She also successfully defended her shot put title at the Big Ten Outdoor Championships, winning the event for the second consecutive year. In the indoor season, Evans reset her own school record in the shot put with a mark of 55-0  $^{3}$ /4.

Illinois' third All-American of the season was senior Deserea Brown, who made a major impact on the team after transferring from SIU-Edwardsville. Brown took fifth in the 400m hurdles at the NCAA Outdoor Championships and also won titles in the same event at the NCAA Mideast Regional Championships, Big Ten Outdoor Championships and Drake Relays. The Flossmoor, Ill., native capped 2009 by taking sixth in the 400m hurdles at the USA Championships.

Along with their standout trio of Bizzarri, Evans and Brown, the Fighting Illini had six other athletes in action at the NCAA Outdoor Championships, tying for 12th in the team standings. Sophomore Chantelle Groenewoud made her second-straight national championships appearance in the 3,000m steeplechase, where she missed the event final by one place and ran a personal-best time of 10:17.37. Other competitors for the Orange and Blue at NCAAs were Melissa Bates in the 400m, Latoya Griffith in the 400m hurdles and the 4x400m relay of Ashley Kelly, Omoye Ugiagbe, Ryisha Boyd and Bates.

Illinois had its highest-ever finish at the NCAA Mideast Regional Championships, placing fourth out of 29 teams. Along with Bizzarri and Brown's titles in the 5,000m and 400m hurdles, Griffith (400m



hurdles) and Groenewoud (3,000m steeplechase) also turned in top-five finishes.

At the Big Ten Outdoor Championships at Ohio State, the Illini proved they are on their way to fighting for a conference crown, finishing fourth with four Big Ten champions. Bates (400m), Bizzarri (5,000m), Brown (400m hurdles) and Evans (shot put) all earned gold for the Orange and Blue, with Bates and Bizzarri scoring 18 points each to be two of the top performers at the entire meet. In addition to the four first-place finishes, the 4x400m relay of Brown, Kelly, Boyd and Griffith earned All-Big Ten honors by placing second.

Other than the championship meets, the best weekend of the outdoor season came in April when the team split up for the Mt. SAC Relays and LSU Alumni Gold meets. Over the weekend, Illini athletes posted a combined total of 13 marks that qualified for the NCAA Regional Championships. Bizzarri ran the fastest 5,000m time in the NCAA at Mt. SAC (15:37.39), while Brown qualified for regionals in three events (100m hurdles, 400m hurdles, 4x400m relay).

The indoor season was filled with its own set of accomplishments. Along with Bizzarri and Evans earning All-America honors, the 4x400m relay of Brown, Ugiagbe, Boyd and Bates also competed at the NCAA Indoor Championships, placing 10th. The foursome earned their trip to nationals after they broke the indoor school record at the Alex Wilson Invitational, timing 3:35.13 to rank as the third-fastest relay in the NCAA.

Illinois placed sixth at the Big Ten Indoor Championships in Indiana, with Bizzarri (3,000m), Evans (shot put) and the 4x400m relay all earning All-Big Ten honors for placing second in their respective events.

The 2008-09 Illini team ranked as one of the best programs in the nation, evidenced by their eighth-place finish in the Terry Crawford Program of the Year standings, which ranks every Division I program based on its finish at the NCAA Cross Country Championships, NCAA Indoor Championships and NCAA Outdoor Championships. Buford-Bailey also received an individual honor at the conclusion of the season, as she was named the USTFCCCA Midwest Region Head Coach of the Year for directing the Illini to a mountain of accomplishments in her debut year as head coach.



# WOMEN'S TENNIS

19-8 (8-2 BIG TEN) // BIG TEN THIRD PLACE



Since her arrival on campus three short years ago, head coach Michelle Dasso has set high goals for the Illinois women's tennis team. The team responded in impressive fashion in 2009, accomplishing its goal of not only making the NCAA Tournament for the second consecutive year, but also winning its first-round match against the 19th-ranked Vanderbilt Commodores, with a thrilling 4-3 finish. The win over the Commodores gave Illinois its first win over a Top-20 opponent in five years. The upset victory was even more special as the Illini got to achieve their goal in front of the home crowd, after being chosen to host an NCAA regional for the second time in the history of the program. The event also made history, as both the Illinois men's and women's tennis teams hosted a joint NCAA regional at the Khan Outdoor Tennis Complex.

Throughout the road to the NCAA regional, the Illini continued to make a name for themselves on the national scene. Over the course of the season, the Illini collected 19 wins, the most for the squad in 18 seasons, and continued their climb up the charts, finishing at No. 33 in the final ITA team standings.



The Fighting Illini also enjoyed a successful conference season. The squad finished with an 8-2 conference record, claiming third place in the final regular season standings to No. 1 Northwestern and No. 18 Michigan. At the Big Ten Tournament, the Orange and Blue advanced to the semifinals for the second-straight year, before a heartbreaking loss to Michigan.

At the annual Big Ten Tournament banquet, junior Megan Fudge received All-Big Ten honors for the third-straight season, while redshirtsophomore Leigh Finnegan garnered All-Big Ten honors for the first time in her career.

Fudge was virtually unstoppable, seeing action at No. 1 and 2 singles throughout the season. The Kaarst, Germany, native finished with an overall record of 30-7 and was 24-3 in dual matches. Her 30-win season placed her in a tie for fourth on the Illinois single-season wins list. Fudge finished the season ranked No. 58 in the final ITA singles rankings.

Finnegan also had a standout year, racking up 21 wins for her first 20plus win season at Illinois. The Wilmington, Del., native came in at No. 105 in the final singles rankings.



# BASEBALL 31-25 (16-8 BIG TEN) FOURTH PLACE BIG TEN



Illinois recorded its most wins since 2000, going 34-20, finished fourth in the Big Ten and had three players selected in the MLB First-Year Player Draft, the most since 2005. In the draft, junior shortstop Brandon Wikoff was taken by the Houston Astros in the fifth round, senior third baseman Dominic Altobelli was selected by the Colorado Rockies in the 16th round and senior center fielder Joe Bonadonna was picked in the 43rd round by the Texas Rangers. The Illini were ranked six times during the season by Collegiate Baseball newspaper, reaching an apex of No. 19 on March 16. The Illini also found success against ranked opponents, winning five games against ranked foes, including series wins over No. 1 and eventual national champion LSU and No. 23 Minnesota. The Illini started the season with a bang, winning two of three games from the top-ranked Tigers in Baton Rouge and charging out to a 17-5 record by April 1. Illinois won five of the eight three-game Big Ten series, including consecutive sweeps at Penn State and Northwestern to finish April and start May. One of the most

memorable home games of the season was the Illini's dramatic 5-4 comeback win over No. 27 Ohio State in front of a school-record 5,214 fans as Illinois scored three runs in the ninth inning against Jake Hale, the Big Ten's top closer. The Illini also had a school-record seven players earn Big Ten Player or Pitcher of the Week honors, tying a league record. Six Illini earned All-Big Ten honors, including firstteam laurels for Wikoff and Altobelli. Right fielder Pete Cappetta was named to the All-Big Ten second team, while catcher Aaron Johnson, outfielder/DH Willie Argo and starting pitcher Will Strack were named to the third team. Argo and Strack also were named to the Big Ten All-Freshman team. Cappetta also earned All-Big Ten Tournament honors after hitting .636 with a 1.091 slugging percentage in Illinois' three tournament games. Following the season, Wikoff was named to Ping! Baseball's All-America second team, while Argo was named a Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American.

# **FOOTBALL**

After a 9-3 record in 2007 and a trip to the 2008 Rose Bowl, expectations were high. With the addition of another strong recruiting class, the Illinois program appeared to have turned the corner. Following a narrow defeat by No. 6 Missouri in the season opener, the Fighting Illini bounced back with consecutive wins. This set the stage for a showdown with No. 12 Penn State on the Nittany Lions' "white-out" night. Penn State pulled out a hard-fought victory, but Illinois responded with a resounding 45-20 win at Michigan as Juice Williams broke the Michigan Stadium record for total offense and the Illini scored its most points ever in Ann Arbor. The victory also made head coach Ron Zook one of only two active Big Ten coaches to win games at Michigan Stadium and Ohio Stadium.

On Homecoming, a furious fourth-quarter rally fell just short against Minnesota, but Illinois responded by jumping on Indiana early and never letting up in a 55-13 win, the most points the Illini have ever scored at home against a Big Ten opponent. Next up, Wisconsin pulled out a tough win in Madison, but Illinois got within one victory of bowl eligibility when Matt Eller hit a 46-yard field goal with 24 seconds left against Iowa. Two weeks later, Eller broke the school record for field goals by a freshman and he finished the year with 15.

During the 2008 season, Juice Williams broke three stadium total offense records: the Edward Jones Dome against Missouri, Michigan

5-7 (3-5 BIG TEN)
SIXTH PLACE BIG TEN

Stadium and Memorial Stadium against Minnesota, becoming the only player in the country to hold three stadium offense records. He also led the Big Ten in passing and total offense, while receiver Arrelious Benn led the league in receiving yards. Overall, the offense led the Big Ten in passing and the defense led the conference in sacks and tackles for loss. Center Ryan McDonald tied the school record for the most starts in a career, and Brit Miller led the Big Ten and ranked fifth in the nation in tackles. After the season, Vontae Davis, Benn and Miller were named first-team All-Big Ten, The three also were named to All-America teams, and tackle Jeff Allen was named a Freshman All-American. And the class of 2008 finished their career with wins over 9-of-10 Big Ten opponents, all in the last three seasons.

During the 2009 NFL Draft, Vontae Davis became the second Illinois first-round draft pick in as many years, when he was taken by the Miami Dolphins. Xavier Fulton and Will Davis also had their names called with their fifth and sixth-round selections, respectively.





The Fighting Illini soccer team continued its rise to national prominence with the program's third NCAA Round of 16 appearance in the last five years and sixth-straight NCAA Tournament berth. Senior defender Emily Zurrer returned from her stint with the Canadian National Team at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and quickly resumed her dominance on the back line, becoming Illinois' first three-time All-American after earning third-team honors from Soccer Buzz and Top Drawer Soccer. In addition to receiving the prestigious Big Ten Medal of Honor, Zurrer also earned first-team All-Big Ten honors for the third year in a row, while junior midfielder Jackie Santacaterina and sophomore defender Danielle Kot were named to the second team. Santacaterina and Kot also received a spot on the Soccer Buzz All-Great Lakes Region second team.

Junior goalkeeper Alexandra Kapicka delivered a career performance as well, finishing the season with the second-best goals-against average in school history at 0.80. She posted nine shutouts, second-most in the Big Ten, and allowed just 19 goals, the second-fewest in school history.

Illinois' rollercoaster season began with an overtime win at Missouri, followed by a pair of victories en route to capturing the inaugural Illini Challenge Cup title. After dropping three straight contests, the Orange and Blue reeled off three wins, including the Big Ten opener against Wisconsin. The Illini blanked Michigan State, Michigan, Ohio State and Purdue, shutting out their opponents in 14 of the last 16 home contests during the past two seasons.

After dropping a heartbreaker in penalty kicks to Michigan State at the Big Ten Tournament, Illinois showed resilience in a pair of double-overtime matches against a pair of Tigers in the NCAA Tournament. After knocking off Memphis on sophomore forward Jordan Hilbrands' goal in the 103rd minute of the first-round match, the Illini advanced to the second round for the fifth year in a row, facing a familiar foe in the hosting and fourth-seeded Missouri Tigers. Junior forward Chichi Nweke gave the Illini a 1-0 lead in the 56th minute before the Tigers tied the game in the 74th minute and the two teams remained at a stalemate after two overtimes. With the right to advance and face the top-seeded North Carolina Tar Heels on the line, Kapicka blocked Missouri's final penalty kick for the win.

The Illini battled hard against head coach Janet Rayfield's alma mater in the Sweet 16 matchup, holding the Tar Heels scoreless through 31 minutes before allowing the only first-half goal. UNC went on to tally two more goals, as Illinois' postseason run came to an end.





# MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

SEVENTH PLACE BIG TEN // 47TH NCAA INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS NINTH PLACE BIG TEN // 37TH NCAA OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Three All-America honors and four Big Ten titles highlighted 2009 for the Illinois men's track and field team in the sixth season under the direction of Wayne Angel.

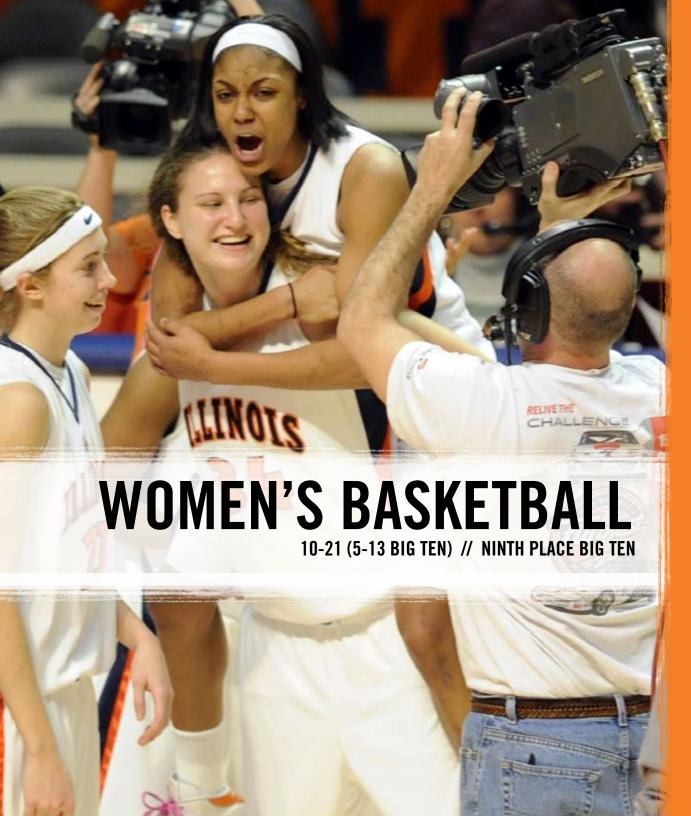
Freshman Andrew Riley provided many of the headlines throughout the year, as it took the Kingston, Jamaica, native a few short months to establish himself as the fastest sprint hurdler in school history. Riley earned two All-America honors in his first collegiate season, placing sixth in the 60m hurdles at the NCAA Indoor Championships and fifth in the 110m hurdles at the NCAA Outdoor Championships. He set school records in both events, won the Big Ten 60m title and was named the Big Ten Indoor Freshman of the Year as well as the Illinois Male Newcomer of the Year for all sports.

Also earning All-America honors in 2009 was junior Greg Shroka, who placed sixth in the high jump at the NCAA Outdoor Championships with a personal-best jump of 7-1½ and became the first Illini in 20 years to be an All-American in the high jump. Two other athletes competed at a national meet for the Orange and Blue, as Andrew Zollner qualified in the pole vault for the third straight year at the NCAA Outdoor Championships and Gakologelwang Masheto ran the 400m at the NCAA Indoor Championships.

Masheto closed out his illustrious Illinois career at the Big Ten Outdoor Championships, where he won his sixth career conference title by blazing to first in the 400m. He was one of the top performers at the championships, scoring 18 points by anchoring the 4x400m relay to second place and taking third in the 200m to go along with his 400m title. The Botswana native's college career was cut short as he was unable to compete at the NCAA Mideast Regional Championships due to a lingering foot injury. In the indoor season, Masheto won the Big Ten 400m title and also reset his own indoor 400m school record with a time of 45.80.

Other noteworthy achievements in 2009 included Gary Miller winning the 600m title at the Big Ten Indoor Championships and Matt McHugh resetting the school hammer throw record.





The dynamic junior duo of Jenna Smith and Lacey Simpson assaulted the Illinois record books, and second-year head coach Jolette Law laid the foundation for the future of Illinois basketball during the 2008-09 season.

Smith and Simpson carried the team, which featured seven newcomers on the 10-player roster, as both earned All-Big Ten accolades. Smith averaged 18.5 points and 8.6 rebounds per game to earn first-team All-Big Ten honors for the second straight year, while Simpson was one of the top all-around players in the country with averages of 11.5 points, 9.1 rebounds and 3.1 steals per game to earn third-team All-Big Ten and a spot on the league's All-Defensive Feam.

Smith broke the Illinois career and single-season blocks records, while establishing herself as one of the most durable and consistent players in the nation. She ranked fourth in the country in minutes played at 38.7 per game and scored in double-figures in every game of



the season. Smith finished the year with a streak of 39 straight games with 10 or more points, the fifth-longest in the nation. She will head into her senior season with over 1,500-career points, which stands fifth on the UI career scoring list and within striking distance of Ashley Berggren's UI record of 2,089.

Simpson, meanwhile, emerged as one of the top defenders in the league while also taking her offensive game to new heights. She led the Big Ten and ranked ninth in the nation in steals (3.1 per game on her way to breaking the Illinois career steals mark. She was one of only three players in the nation to average at least 9.0 rebounds and 3.0 steals per game and was named Big Ten Player of the Weel on Feb 10.

Illinois' overall record of 10-21 and Big Ten mark of 5-13 doesn't show the progress the team made throughout the season. The Orange and Blue finished strong, going 6-5 over the last 11 games after starting 4-16, and several of the freshmen made drastic improvements late in the season.

With Smith and Simpson both returning for their senior seasons and the progress of newcomers Macie Blinn, Lydia McCully, Fabiola Josil and Whitney Toone combined with the addition of the No. 3 recruiting class in the country for 2009-10, the future is certainly bright for Coach Law and the Fighting Illini.

# SWIMMING & DIVING

10-9 OVERALL // 11TH PLACE BIG TEN

The Fighting Illini swimming and diving team kicked off the 2008-09 season by returning to the newly reopened ARC pool (formerly IMPE pool). The team's Oct. 10 meet against Nebraska marked Illinois' first home meet in four years. Head coach Sue Novitsky's young crew started out the season 4-0, one of the best starts in program history. Throughout the season, the fast squad prompted 40 changes to the school's all-time top individuals list and 24 changes to the 10 fastest performances of all-time list.

At the pinnacle meet of the season, the Big Ten Championships, the Illini faced six nationally ranked teams and swam hard, earning seven final swims and shattering three school records. Additionally, 72 percent of the team achieved lifetime-best times each day of competition.

Leading the attack for the Illini, Marissa Clapp's strong performances broke three school records and achieved three NCAA "B" cut times. The senior standout recorded 13 first-place finishes over the season and broke three ARC pool records, including the 400 IM and 200 IM twice. Clapp's hard work earned her the team's Athlete of the Year and Allen B. Klingel Athletic awards.

Team co-captain CeCe Marizu was another strong leader for the Orange and Blue. The Reno, Nev., native currently holds five spots on Illinois' 10 fastes individuals of all-time list, mainly for her quick races in the backstroke. Marizu also was the recipient of the Leader of Distinction Award from the Illin Leadership Academy, making her the first Illini student-athlete to receive the prestigious honor. The highly touted junior was one of 44 student-athletes in the nation working with sport leadership expert, Jeff Janssen to earn the award this year. In order to qualify for the award, the student-athletes had to receive a score of 105 or above on the 360 Team Leadership evaluation conducted by their teammates and coaches.

In addition to its efforts in the pool, the swimming and diving team excelled in the classroom in 2008-09. The team received a "superior" ranking by the College Swimming Coaches Association and had 15 swimmers named to the Academic All-Big Ten team. Additionally Clapp, who graduated with a 3.89 grade-point average in kinesiology, was the recipient of the Illini Female Scholar Athlete Award and Bronze Tablet honors. The team also won the 2008 Douglas C. Roberts CHAMPS/Life Skills award, which is based on community service personal enhancement, SAAC participation and the support of fellow student-athletes, for the fourth-straight year.







# WOMEN'S GOLF

**NINTH PLACE BIG TEN** 



The Illinois women's golf team used the 2008-09 season as a stepping stone for the future. The youthful squad, consisting of seven freshmen, one sophomore and one senior, tallied impressive performances throughout the season, highlighted by freshman Nora Lucas' sixth-place finish at the Big Ten Championship. The Glenview, Ill., native posted a career-best finish and the top finish by any freshman at the conference championship.

During the fall season, freshman Hailey Koschmann led the Orange and Blue with three top-20 finishes and a fall stroke average of 77.47, including a team season-low round of 69 at the Badger Invitational, tying the fourth-lowest single round in school history.

\During the spring, another freshman stepped up to lead the Illini as rookie Samantha Sloan led the Illini at every spring regular season tournament and in spring stroke average (77.84). The Lansing, Ill., native recorded five consecutive top-25 finishes to open her spring campaign, which included her first career conference accolade when she was named Big Ten Golfer of the Week on February 25 after a career-best tie for eighth-place finish at the season-opening Islander Spring Classic.

The Fighting Illini's best tournament finish was a tie for sixth at the Islander Spring Classic in February and their low tournament total was 915, at the Eagle Landing Invitational March 9-10. Illinois also picked up a 7-6 victory in the first Illinois Challenge, a dual match against Illinois State, to start the spring season that could become an annual event.

Illinois boasted the fifth-best season scoring average (315.09) in school history and will return its top three golfers in terms of stroke average next season. Sloan earned the team's low stroke average award with a 77.88 mark for the full season, Koschmann ranked second at 78.50 and Lucas was third at 79.34. Freshman Maureen Liddy took home the Big Ten Sportsmanship Award for Illinois and the team's Attitude Award at the end of the year banquet, while sophomore Raquel Hopton and senior Nancy Featherstone both earned Academic All-Big Ten honors. The Illini will use all the knowledge and experience gained throughout the season as they look to continually contend in the Big Ten in the upcoming seasons.



#### ANGELA BIZZARRI 2009 NCAA CHAMPION, 5000-METERS

Junior Angela Bizzarri won the 5,000m title at the NCAA Outdoor Championships, becoming the first Illinois women's track and field national champion since Perdita Felicien won the 100m hurdles in 2003. Bizzarri's win also marks the first time in school history that an Illini athlete has won a national title in any event other than the three hurdling events (60m, 100m, 400m).

Bizzarri timed 16:17.94 to take the crown, handily defeating Oregon's Nicole Blood who was second in 16:26.58. The race pace started out slow, with Bizzarri hanging with the pack until she and Blood broke away with three laps remaining. The pair ran together for two laps before Bizzarri pulled away from Blood with 400 meters to go, cruising to the title by over eight seconds.

Bizzarri is a seven-time All-American for her career, winning the accolade three times in cross country and twice each in indoor and outdoor track and field. The Mason, Ohio native has had the best distance season in Illinois history in 2008-09, earning three All-America accolades (cross country, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field) and breaking five school records.

She was able to improve on last year's memorable performance at the NCAA Outdoor Championships, when she was the surprising runner-up in the 5,000m. This year was a different story, as she entered the national meet as the favorite to win the title, topping the field with a personal-best time of 15:37.39.

## PAUL RUGGERI // 2009 NCAA HIGH BAR & PARALLEL BARS NATIONAL CHAMPION DANIEL RIBEIRO // 2009 NCAA POMMEL HORSE NATIONAL CHAMPION

Illinois sophomores Daniel Ribeiro and Paul Ruggeri were crowned national champions at the 2009 NCAA Championships. Ruggeri won his second-consecutive NCAA High Bar Championship and his first NCAA Parallel Bars title, while Ribeiro earned his first national championship on pommel horse, marking the first time since 1958 that Illinois has walked away with at least three individual titles.

After capturing the high bar national championship as a freshman, Ruggeri had the pressure on him to repeat. He turned in an almost flawless routine, scoring a 15.750, to capture his second-consecutive NCAA High Bar Championship. In his last event of the night, the 2009 Big Ten Parallel Bars Champion Ruggeri posted the top score of the night with a 15.175, for his first National Championship on parallel bars. The Manlius, N.Y., native rounded out his top-three finishes of the NCAA Championships finishing runner-up on floor with a 15.600. Ruggeri earned a total of four All-America honors at this year's championships, bringing his overall total to seven.

"It definitely felt great to repeat as high bar champion," Ruggeri said. "I wasn't expecting to win parallel bars, but it's exciting and it's good to know that my training has paid off on the event. I learned some unique skills that people don't normally do and that's where I think I have the edge."

Ranked No. 1 in the country entering the championships, Illinois sophomore Daniel Ribeiro came out on top, capturing the 2009 NCAA pommel horse national title with a score of 15.575. Ribeiro becomes the first pommel horse national champion for Illinois since 2004, when former Illini Bob Rogers won the title. With the first place finish, the Chestnut Ridge, N.Y., native earns All-America honors on pommel horse for the second straight year.

"I trained hard throughout the year and all of the hard work I've put in makes winning the title incredible," Ribeiro said of his first national title. "I've been pretty consistent with my routine and my goal coming in was to just stay on the horse and hit as clean as I could."





## **AWARDS**

#### AWARD WINNERS

Mike Small, men's golf Big Ten Coach of the Year Midwest Region Coach of the Year Yoshi Hayasaki, men's gymnastics Big Ten Coach of the Year Central Region Coach of the Year Justin Spring and Ivan Ivankov, men's gymnastics Men's Gymnastics Central Region Assistant Coaches of the Year Bob Starkell, women's gymnastics Big Ten Coach of the Year NACGCW National Coach of the Year Kim Landrus and Amy Kruse, women's gymnastics NACGCW National Assistant Coaches of the Year Dave Emery, women's tennis ITA Midwest Region Assistant Coach of the Year Dennis Nevolo, men's tennis

ITA Midwest Region Rookie of the Year

Andrew Riley, men's track and field
Big Ten Freshman of the Year

Angela Bizzarri, women's cross country and track
USTFCCCA Midwest Region Track Athlete of the Year

Tonja Buford-Bailey, women's track and field

USTFCCCA Midwest Region Coach of the Year Michelle Barsch, volleyball

Big Ten Freshman of the Year Mideast Region Freshman of the Year

Big Ten Freshman of the Year

#### NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Angela Bizzarri, women's outdoor track; 5,000m Paul Ruggeri, men's gymnastics; parallel bars, high bar Daniel Ribeiro, men's gymnastics; pommel horse

#### **BIG TEN CHAMPIONS**

Melissa Bates, women's track and field; outdoor 400 meters Angela Bizzarri, women's track and field; outdoor 5,000 meters Deserea Brown, women's track and field: outdoor 400-meter hurdles Aja Evans, women's track and field; outdoor shot put Kelsey Joannides, women's gymnastics; vault Gakologelwang Masheto, men's track and field: indoor 400 meters. outdoor 400 meters Gary Miller, men's track and field: 600m Mike Poeta, wrestling, 157 pounds Andrew Riley, men's track and field; 60-meter hurdles Paul Ruggeri, men's gymnastics;

parallel bars, floor exercise
Sarah Schmidt, women's gymnastics;
floor exercise
Luke Stannard, men's gymnastics;

pommel horse

#### **ALL-AMERICANS**

Angela Bizzarri, women's cross country & track
Arrelious Benn, football
Deserea Brown, women's track and field
Vontae Davis, football
Laura DeBruler, volleyball
Katie Engel, women's cross country
Aja Evans, women's track and field
Melissa Fernandez, women's gymnastics
Jimmy Kennedy, wrestling
Scott Langley, men's golf
Brit Miller, football
Roger Pasek, men's gymnastics

Mike Poeta, wrestling
Daniel Ribeiro, men's gymnastics
Andrew Riley, men's track and field
Paul Ruggeri, men's gymnastics
Sarah Schmidt, women's gymnastics
Greg Shroka, men's track and field
Brandon Wikoff, baseball
John Wise, wrestling
Emily Zurrer, soccer
Danielle Zymkowitz, softball

#### **ALL-BIG TEN**

Dominic Altobelli, baseball

Willie Argo, baseball Jon Asamoah, football Stanley Azie, men's track and field Johannah Bangert, volleyball Melissa Bates, women's track and field Arrelious Benn, football Angela Bizzarri, women's cross country track and field Marijka Botterman, women's gymnastics Ryisha Boyd, women's track and field Deserea Brown, women's track and field Allison Buckley, women's gymnastics Pete Cappetta, baseball Nicole Cowart, women's gymnastics Mike Davis, men's basketball Vontae Davis, football Laura DeBruler, volleyball Chris DeForest, men's golf Katie Engel, women's cross country Aja Evans, women's track and field Leigh Finnegan, women's tennis Chester Frazier, men's gymnastics Megan Fudge, women's tennis Xavier Fulton, football Latova Griffith, women's track and field

Michael Hoomanwanui, football Hope Howell, softball Kelsey Joannides, women's gymnastics Aaron Johnson, baseball Dan Jones, men's track and field Roy Kalmanovich, men's tennis Ashley Kelly, women's track and field Yawusa Kinda, men's track and field Danielle Kot. soccer Scott Langley, men's golf Gakologelwang Masheto, men's track and field Rvan McDonald, football Demetri McCamey, men's basketball Brit Miller, football Gary Miller, men's track and field Dennis Nevolo, men's tennis Hollie Pinchback, softball Mike Poeta, wrestling Andrew Riley, men's track and field Katrina Ross, softball Paul Ruggeri, men's gymnastics Jackie Santacaterina, soccer Sarah Schmidt, women's gymnastics Azeez Shogbuyi, men's track and field Lacey Simpson, women's basketball Jenna Smith, women's basketball Marc Spicilaric, men's tennis Luke Stannard, men's gymnastics Will Strack, baseball Mike Tisdale, men's basketball Omove Ugiagbe, women's track and field Derek Walker, football Kelley Wedel, softball Brandon Wikoff, baseball Juice Williams, football

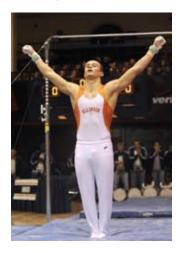
Cody Wisslead, men's track and field

Emily Zurrer, soccer

Danielle Zymkowitz, softball

## MEDAL OF HONOR WINNERS // ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

### PAUL RUGGERI MEN'S GYMNASTICS DIKE EDDLEMAN MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR



Paul Ruggeri is on pace to become one of the most celebrated gymnasts in Illinois' storied history. The Manlius, N.Y., native capped an impressive sophomore season by winning individual national titles on both the parallel bars and high bar. The first-team All-Big Ten selection also won conference championships on parallel bars and floor, while leading the Fighting Illini to their first Big Ten championship in five years. In addition, his season included being crowned the U.S. National High Bar champion at the Winter Cup Challenge. Ruggeri totaled 28 top-three finishes and 13 individual event titles despite missing four competitions due to injury.

# TRENT MEACHAM MEN'S BASKETBALL MALE BIG TEN MEDAL OF HONOR



Trent Meacham is the fourth men's basketball player to earn the Medal of Honor in the last five years, joining Jack Ingram in 2005, Dee Brown in 2006 and Warren Carter in 2007. He also is the second-straight Champaign native to take home the prestigious honor, as football's J Leman was honored last year. Meacham came to Illinois as a walk-on after playing one year at Dayton, eventually earning a scholarship for his final two seasons and emerging as one of the team's top players and leaders. One of the top three-point shooters in Illinois history, Meacham ranks fifth on the Illinois career three-point field goal percentage list (40.8) and ninth on the school's career threes made list with 178. He started his final two seasons for the Illini, averaging just over 10 points per game in each season.

Even more impressive than his accomplishments on the court, however, is Meacham's involvement with the community and success in the classroom. He is very involved in Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), serving on the FCA leadership team and completing a summer internship with FCA, and has been active on the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). Meacham also has devoted countless hours mentoring children, making appearances to speak at camps, hospitals, schools and church groups. In the classroom, Meacham earned a bachelor's degree in applied health sciences/sports management in the summer of 2008 and currently is working toward a master's degree in education/human resource education. He is a three-time Academic All-Big Ten honoree.

# ANGELA BIZZARRI CROSS COUNTRY AND TRACK AND FIELD DIKE EDDLEMAN FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR



Angela Bizzarri claims the Eddleman honor for the second-straight year, after winning the NCAA 5,000-meter title. That marked her seventh All-America honor in her three-year collegiate career in cross country and indoor and outdoor track. The sophomore from Mason, Ohio, also holds six school records, including a personal-best time of 15:37.39 in the 5,000 meters from the Mt. SAC Relays, which is the 15th-fastest time by any American this year. Bizzarri set a meet record in winning the Big Ten title in the 5,000 meters and claimed the Mideast Regional title in the event for the second-straight year. In addition, she was named USTFCCCA Midwest Region Track Athlete of the Year.

Bizzarri placed sixth at the NCAA Cross Country Championships, tying the best-ever finish for an Illinois athlete at the national meet. She reset her own school 6K record in that meet while leading the Illini to their fourth-straight top-10 national finish. During the indoor track season, Bizzarri placed fourth in the 3,000 meters at the NCAA Championships and set school records in both the 3,000 (9:11.62) and 5,000 (16:07.50) at the Big Ten Indoor Championships.

EMILY ZURRER Soccer Female big ten medal of honor



Emily Zurrer is the third soccer player to earn the Medal of Honor in the last four years. Zurrer represented Canada in the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, starting every game in the defensive backfield, before returning to lead Illinois to the Sweet 16 during her senior season. Zurrer ended her career as one of the most decorated players in Illini history. She was the first three-time All-American in program history and earned first-team All-Big Ten honors three years in a row. Additionally, Zurrer was named Big Ten Co-Defensive Player of the Year during her sophomore campaign. During her tenure on the back line, Illinois produced 42 shutouts and gave up the second-fewest goals in program history in 2008, allowing just 19.

Zurrer also is very active off the field, taking a lead role in Illinois' Hometown Heroes program, which includes visits to local elementary schools and senior centers, in addition to involvement with Read Across America, Carle Pediatrics, Relay for Life, Yankee Ridge After School Program, Crisis Nursery Holiday Shop and Big Brothers Big Sisters. She earned a degree in advertising and received much acclaim for her academic prowess, earning Academic All-Big Ten honors on two occasions.

## SPORT RESULTS // BIG TEN RANKINGS // DIRECTOR'S CUP

### **FINAL SPORT RANKINGS**

SPORT	RECORD	RANKING	BIG TEN FINISH	NCAA FINISH
Football	5-7		T6th	
Volleyball	26-8	11th	3rd	NCAA Sweet 16
Soccer	12-9-2	23rd	5th	NCAA Sweet 16
Men's Cross Country			9th	
Women's Cross Country		10th	4th	10th
Men's Basketball	24-10	RV	T2nd	NCAA 1st Round
Women's Basketball	10-21		9th	
Wrestling	13-2	8th	2nd	8th
Men's Gymnastics	11-1	5th	T1st	5th
Women's Gymnastics	17-7	12th	2nd	12th
Swimming	10-9		11th	
Men's Indoor Track			7th	47th
Women's Indoor Track			5th	27th
Baseball	34-20		4th	
Softball	29-17		5th	NCAA 1st Round
Men's Tennis	23-9	12th	2nd	NCAA Sweet 16
Women's Tennis	19-8		3rd	NCAA 2nd Round
Men's Golf		21st	1st	21st
Women's Golf			9th	
Men's Outdoor Track			9th	37th
Women's Outdoor Track		12th	4th	12th



# LEARFIELD SPORTS/NACDA DIRECTOR'S CUP

1.	Stanford	1455.00
2.	North Carolina	1184.25
3.	Florida	1172.75
4.	USC	1137.75
5.	Michigan	1131.80
6.	Texas	1105.50
7.	California	
8.	Virginia	1059.00
9.	LSU	
10.	Ohio State	1015.80
11.	Washington	
11.	Arizona State	
13.	Texas A&M	976.00
14.	Minnesota	975.75
15.	Florida State	945.00
16.	UCLA	
17.	Duke	891.80
18.	Georgia	866.50
19.	Penn State	813.10
20.	ILLINOIS	808.75
21.	Notre Dame	775.13
22.	Oregon	757.25
23.	Tennessee	746.25
24.	Arizona	
25.	Arkansas	





OVE	RALL (MEN'S AND V	VOMEN'S CO	OMBINED)
NO.	SCHOOL	AVG.	TITLES
1.	Minnesota	3.74	5
2.	Michigan	4.20	4
3.	Ohio State	4.60	4
4.	Penn State	4.67	5
5.	ILLINOIS	4.90	2
6.	Michigan State	5.88	3
7.	Indiana	5.96	1
8.	Wisconsin	6.05	1
9.	Purdue	6.10	1
10.	Northwestern	6.47	1
11.	Iowa	6.83	1

MEN	'S SPORTS		
NO.	SCHOOL	AVG.	TITLES
1.	Minnesota	3.45	2
2.	Ohio State	3.67	3
3.	Michigan	4.00	2
4.	ILLINOIS	4.30	2
5.	Penn State	4.92	1
6.	Wisconsin	5.40	1
7.	Indiana	6.00	0
8.	Northwestern	6.50	0
9.	Michigan State	6.64	2
10.	Iowa	7.09	1
11.	Purdue	7.20	0

WOI	MEN'S SPORTS		
NO.	SCHOOL	AVG.	TITLES
1.	Minnesota	4.00	3
2.	Michigan	4.38	2
3.	Penn State	4.42	4
4.	Purdue	5.00	1
5.	Michigan State	5.23	1
6.	ILLINOIS	5.45	0
7.	Ohio State	5.46	1
8.	Indiana	5.92	1
9	Northwestern	6.44	1
10.	Iowa	6.62	0
11.	Wisconsin	6.64	0

Based on average final placing in the Big Ten standings

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE // OUTSTANDING SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

Student-athletes at the University of Illinois continue to excel both in the classroom and on the playing field. Our mission in Academic Services is to provide an opportunity for the student-athlete to be as successful as possible scholastically while competing at the highest level athletically. Success in achieving this mission is evident by the on-and-off field performances of all our athletic teams. During the 2008-2009 academic year, Illinois athletic teams posted a combined grade point average of 3.02. In the fall, 12 out of the 19 sports earned a team GPA of 3.0 or higher. For the fall semester, over 54 percent of Illinois student-athletes earned GPAs above a 3.0; in the spring, that number was 52 percent. Last fall, 21 student-athletes from twelve different sports earned perfect 4.0 GPAs, and while it was the same number of student-athletes had perfect GPA's in the spring semester.

The Illinois Leadership Academy was started during the fall 2007 semester. It is a comprehensive experience for the studentathletes. With nationally known leadership consultant Jeff Janssen, meeting with our student-athletes, it provides them an opportunity to learn and grow to be very competitive in all aspects of life. From



Lori Bjork // Women's Basketball

the initial exposure that everyone receives through the CHAMPS 101 class in the fall, to moving onto the Emerging Leaders group and then finally being a part of the Veteran Leaders it promotes leadership qualities that help make our student-athletes standout both athletically and as they prepare for their professional lives. This year, CeCe Marizu was the only Illinois student-athlete to be recognizes with the Leader of Distinction Award.

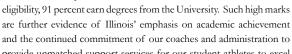
In conjunction with our academic emphasis, at the

University of Illinois we are committed to preparing well-rounded citizens to be leaders in all aspects of their lives. The CHAMPS Life Skills program, geared toward promoting the complete student-athlete,

is available to all our young men and women. The program features five areas of emphasis: Academic Excellence, Athletic Excellence, Personal Development, Development, and Community Service. As part of that initiative, our student-athletes are very active in serving the Champaign-Urbana surrounding communities.

A useful measure of the success of University of Illinois student-athletes can be in the graduation rates of the student-athletes exhausting their athletic eligibility on our campus. Of those who remain

here and complete their



provide unmatched support services for our student-athletes to excel in the classroom.

To be recognized as the best, Illinois student-athletes not only have to achieve success athletically, but also in the classrooms, lecture halls, and laboratories across campus. The Division of Intercollegiate Athletics is committed to helping our student-athletes attain their goals by providing comprehensive academic resources and services, allowing our student-athletes to position themselves for great life experiences, and to take advantage of all the benefits associated with a valuable University of Illinois education.



Mike Tisdale // Men's Basketball

### **OUTSTANDING SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD WINNERS**

(Male and Female letterwinners with the highest grade-point average in each class of school.)

MAGGIE MULCHRONE // sophomore (Chicago, Ill.) Cross Country and Track & Field, 3.95 GPA - accountancy

ABE SOUZA // sophomore (St. Louis, Mo.) Tennis, 3.76 GPA - history

**STEPHANIE BALIGA** // junior (Rockford, Ill.) Cross Country and Track & Field, 4.0 GPA - economics

BUBBA CHISOLM // junior (Champaign, Ill.) Basketball, 3.88 GPA - finance

MARISSA CLAPP // senior (Danville, Ill.) Swimming and Diving, 3.89 GPA - kinesiology and community

NATE LUKETIN // senior (Roselle, Ill.) Gymnastics, 3.87 GPA - mathematics



Marissa Clapp // Women's Swimming & Diving

## STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE WEEK // CHI ALPHA SIGMA // ACADEMIC ALL-BIG TEN

## CHI ALPHA SIGMA

#### BASEBALL

Dominic Altobelli // Sr., Finance William Barrett // Jr., Management Wesley Braun // Jr., Speech Communication Michael Sterk // Sr., Accountancy Lee Zerrusen // Jr., Kinesiology

#### **WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY**

Theresa Brokaw // Jr., Kinesiology

Jon Asamoah // Sr., Community Health

#### MEN'S GYMNASTICS

Chris Lung // Sr., Business Admin. Luke Stannard // Jr., Psychology

#### WOMEN'S SOCCER

Jamie Alvis // Sr., English Courtney Bell // Jr., Marketing/Management Alexandra Kapicka // Sr., General Engineering

#### WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

Bailey Behrens // Sr., Accountancy Hope Howell // Jr., News-Editorial

#### WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Amy Forsberg // Jr., Kinesiology Morgan Gilman // Sr., Finance Jennifer Ivarson // Sr., Molecular/Cellular Biology Kristen Kloeckener // Sr., Kinesiology Nicole Spillone // Jr., Elementary Education

#### **WOMEN'S TENNIS**

Kristina Minor // Jr., Psychology Christine Stromberg // Jr., Rec., Sport, Tourism

#### MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Jacob Nachel // Jr., Integrative Biology Scott Phelps // Jr., History

#### **WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD**

Christina Beaird // Sr., International Studies Alecia Beckford-Stewart // Jr., Kinesiology Angela Bizzarri // Jr., Molecular/Cellular Biology Elizabeth Boyle // Jr., English Maggie Carroll // GRAD, Rehabilitation Krystelle Lim // Sr., Accountancy Danyelle Michelini // Jr., Advertising Shannon Phelan // Jr., Community Health Ashley Thompson // Jr., Kinesiology

Kayani Turner // Sr., Speech Communications

### 2008-09 SCHOLAR-ATHLETE **OF WEEK AWARD WINNERS**

Marti Desjarlais, soccer Laura DeBruler, volleyball Johannah Bangert, volleyball Brit Miller, football Scott Langley, men's golf Jessica Levitt, soccer Brit Miller, football Marissa Clapp, swimming & diving Scott Langley, men's golf Ashley Edinger, volleyball CeCe Marizu, swimming & diving Emily Zurrer, soccer Alexandra Kapicka, soccer Alexandra Kapicka, soccer Laura DeBruler, volleyball Angela Bizzarri, women's cross country Laura DeBruler, volleyball Mike Tisdale, men's basketball Trent Meacham, men's basketball Mike Tisdale, men's basketball Mike Tisdale, men's basketball Casey Fonnesbeck, men's track and field Paul Ruggeri, men's gymnastics Marc Spicijaric, men's tennis Marissa Clapp, swimming & diving BJ Futrell, wrestling Paul Ruggeri, men's gymnastics Allison Buckley, women's gymnastics Marissa Clapp, swimming & diving Angela Bizzarri, women's track & field Ben Reeser, baseball Marijka Botterman, women's gymnastics Danielle Zymkowitz, softball Scott Langley, men's golf Hollie Pinchback, softball Will Strack, baseball Allison Buckley, women's gymnastics Paul Ruggeri, men's gymnastics Matt Dittman, baseball Megan Fudge, women's tennis Paul Ruggeri, men's gymnastics Willie Argo, baseball Chris DeForest, men's golf Kristina Minor, women's tennis Angela Bizzarri, women's track & field Angela Bizzarri, women's track & field

Angela Bizzarri, women's track & field

### **ACADEMIC ALL-BIG TEN**

#### BASEBALL

Dominic Altobelli Matt Dittman Craig Lutes Aaron Martin Jacob Mathis Ben Reeser Mike Stankiewicz Nick Stockwell Brandon Wikoff Lee Zerrusen

#### MEN'S BASKETBALL

Trent Meacham Mike Tisdale

#### MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Ryne Beeson Mike Murray Jeremy Stevens

#### WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Stephanie Baliga Christina Beaird Angela Bizzarri Elizabeth Boyle Theresa Brokaw Maggie Carroll Chantelle Greonewoud

Stacy Hague Margaret Mulchrone Ashley Thompson Kate Tysse

#### **FOOTBALL**

Jon Asamoah Ryan McDonald Tad Keely Brit Miller Doug Pilcher Anthony Santella Cody Stunkard

#### MEN'S GOLF

Chris DeForest Scott Langley Clayton Parkhill

#### WOMEN'S GOLF

Nancy Featherstone Raquel Hopton

#### MEN'S GYMNASTICS

Ross Bradley Nate Luketin Chris Lung Kyle Padera Paul Ruggeri Andres Saavedra Nick Stango Luke Stannard

#### WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS Marijka Botterman

Allison Buckley Nicole Cowart Iulie Crall Melissa Fernandez Kimberly Kruk Lashlee Morris Samantha Perino Sarah Schmidt Lindsey Smith Laura Woolf

#### SOCCER Jamie Alvis

Jamie Alvis Courtney Bell Marti Deslarlais Alexandra Kapicka Danielle Kot Jessica Levitt Krystin Miller Cory Steigerwald Emily Zurrer

#### SOFTBALL

Bailey Behrens Christine Christopoulos Ashley Conrad Audrey Gallien Hope Howell Hollie Pinchback Danille Zymkowitz

#### SWIMMING AND DIVING

Marissa Clapp

Amy Forsberg

Morgan Gilman Jennifer Ivarson Amy Johnson Anna Johnson Corev Kasten Ali Keehn Kristen Kloeckener CeCe Marizu Meghan Mason Ann Miller Nicole Spillone Sara Stoneburg

### Katie Theissen WOMEN'S TENNIS

Leigh Finnegan Megan Fudge Anne McCarthy Kristina Minor Christine Stromberg

#### **MEN'S TENNIS**

Marek Czerwinski Josh Hembrough Chris Kirkwood Abe Souza Marc Spicijaric

#### MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Stephen Bach Casey Fonnesback Ben Harpenau Travis Leonard

Ben Matthies Brandon Matthies Matt McHugh Gary Miller Lance Moe Mike Murray Jacob Nachel Ben Pax Scott Phelps Greg Shroka Bryce Simon Eric Sparks Steve Swant Cody Wisslead

#### **WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD**

Alecia Beckford-Stewart Angela Bizzarri Elizabeth Boyle Chantelle Greonewoud Jessica Penney Shannon Phelan Ashley Thompson Omoye Ugiagbe Kelly Washington Jackie Ziegler

#### VOLLEYBALL

Kristine Anderson Johanna Bangert Lizzie Bazzetta Laura DeBruler Ashley Edinger Hillary Haen Kayani Turner

#### WRESTLING

Clint Arlis John Dergo Martin Smith Troy Tirapelle Harold White

## ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA // TEAM GPA // APR // SPORTSMANSHIP

### 2008 FALL TEAM GPA

1.	Women's Cross Country	3.44
2.	Women's Tennis	3.38
3.	Men's Golf	3.37
4.	Swimming and Diving	3.30
5.	Soccer	3.3
	Women's Gymnastics	3.3
7.	Volleyball	3.24
8.	Men's Cross Country	3.19
9.	Baseball	3.10
10.	Softball	3.10
11.	Women's Golf	3.00
12.	Women's Track	3.04
13.	Men's Gymnastics	2.97
14.	Men's Tennis	2.97

### 2009 SPRING TEAM GPA

1.	Women's Tennis	3.48
2.	Soccer	3.40
3.	Women's Gymnastics	3.39
4.	Swimming and Diving	3.37
5.	Men's Cross Country	3.31
6.	Women's Cross Country	3.30
7.	Men's Golf	3.06
8.	Volleyball	3.06
9.	Women's Golf	2.95

#### ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT

Dominic Altobelli, baseball Jon Asamoah, football Johannah Bangert, volleyball Marti Desjarlais, soccer Hope Howell, softball Brandon Wikoff, baseball Danielle Zymkowitz, softball

### ESPN THE MAGAZINE / COSIDA ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICANS



### RYAN MCDONALD, FOOTBALL, FIRST-TEAM

Illinois senior center Ryan McDonald earned his second consecutive Academic All-America honor after graduating from Illinois' fifth-ranked aeronautical engineering program with a 3.83 GPA. One semester later, he graduated with his bachelor's degree and enrolled in the master's program of the same field. He posted a 3.87 in one semester. In addition to his academic commitments, McDonald finished his fourth year as a starter on the offensive line. For the second straight year, the offense posted over 5,000 yards of total offense and McDonald earned second-team All-Big Ten honors. The offense also ranked in the top 20 nationally for the third consecutive season.



## ANGELA BIZZARRI, CROSS COUNTRY / TRACK & FIELD, SECOND-TEAM

Illinois junior Angela Bizzarri garnered her first Academic All-America honor after an outstanding year on the track and in the classroom. The Mason, Ohio native collected the school's first individual national title since 2003 while maintaining a 3.55 GPA in her molecular and cellular biology coursework. Along with her victory in the 5,000 meters at the NCAA Outdoor Championships, Bizzarri earned All-America honors in cross country, indoor track and outdoor track for the second year in a row. She was named the USTFCCCA Midwest Region Track Athlete of the Year and was honored for the second consecutive year as the University of Illinois Female Athlete of the Year.

### **SPORTSMANSHIP HONOREES**

Dominic Altobelli, baseball Trent Meacham, men's basketball Lori Bjork, women's basketball Jeremy Stevens, men's cross country Katie Engel, women's cross country Brit Miller, football Scott Langley, men's golf Maureen Liddy, women's golf Luke Stannard, men's gymnastics Lindsey Smith, women's gymnastics Krystin Miller, soccer Brooke Buzard, softball Kristen Kloeckener, women's swimming and diving Marek Czerwinski, men's tennis Amy Allin, women's tennis Angela Bizzarri, women's indoor track and field Gary Miller, men's indoor track and field Gakologelwang Masheto, outdoor track and field Deserea Brown, women's outdoor track and field Lizzie Bazzetta, volleyball John Wise, wrestling

### **ANNUAL PROGRESS RATE (APR)**

		_	-		
SCHOOL	MBK	WBK	FB	BSB	VB
ILLINOIS	984	957	930	970	975
Indiana	866	939	957	939	985
Iowa	964	973	946	974	990
Michigan	944	987	947	974	979
Michigan State	985	961	931	988	971
Minnesota	930	939	915	952	985
Northwestern	971	989	973	979	995
Ohio State	911	993	968	987	981
Penn State	975	962	976	962	989
Purdue	900	963	926	944	1000
Wisconsin	933	977	953		995
Overall Division I	933	962	939	946	972

## LIFE SKILLS

The University of Illinois' Division of Intercollegiate Athletics is dedicated to providing quality support services for all student-athletes through the Douglas C. Roberts Illini CHAMPS/Life Skills Program.

In 1997, the Division I-A Athletic Directors Association established the Program of Excellence Award to establish a standard of excellence for the CHAMPS/Life Skills programs. The award also serves to honor those universities that have made a commitment to providing broad-based programs of student-athlete support services. The Douglas C. Roberts Illini CHAMPS Life Skills Program was recipient of this prestigious award in 2005.

The Douglas C. Roberts Illini CHAMPS/Life Skills Program is committed to enhancing the overall development of our student-athletes by providing extensive programming in these five areas: Academic Excellence, Athletic Excellence, Personal Development, Career Development and Community Service.

#### **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

#### CHAMPS 101: Student-Athlete Success Seminar

• One hundred twenty-two (122) freshmen participated in the CHAMPS 101: Student-Athlete Success Seminar, a seven-week non-credit course designed to help our new incoming student-athletes make a successful transition into college as a Division I student-athlete.

#### Workshops

 Three academic workshops were offered to student-athletes this year on Dealing with Test Taking Anxiety: Time Management: and Preparing for Final Exams. On a scale of 1-5 with 5 being considered excellent, the student-athletes rated these workshops a 4.65 in terms of being beneficial to them.

#### Scholar-Athlete of the Week Award

• The Scholar-Athlete of the Week Award honors student-athletes who maintain a 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA and have a noteworthy athletic performance in the given week. This year, 30 student-athletes from 16 different sports received this award, while 92 student-athletes received nominations for the award.

#### ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE

#### Workshops

- Five athletic workshops were provided this year to assist student-athletes in pursuing excellence in their sport: Basics of Performance Preparation; Muscle Recovery Meals: Managing Competitive Stress: Fueling with Low Cost Meals: and Preparing for Life after Sport
- One hundred thirty-nine (139) student-athletes attended these workshops and gave them a rating of 4.65 on a 5-point scale.
- For those student-athletes who have the opportunity to continue playing their sport professionally, the DIA continues to provide the Agent and Advisor Program which assists student-athletes and their family members in making sound and carefully considered decisions related to their futures.

#### Illini Leadership Academy

- Ninety-two student-athletes were selected by their coaches to participate in the academy this year. Forty-four student-athletes were selected for the Veteran Leaders program made up of current team captains and team leaders, while 48 student-athletes who've shown the potential to be team leaders were selected for the Emerging Leaders program.
- More than 20 coaches attended the four workshops held for coaches this
- Jeff Janssen, the nation's leading expert on sports leadership continues to work with our student-athletes and coaches, making two visits to campus
- Veteran Leaders were provided with the opportunity to do a 360 evaluation with coaches and teammates evaluating their leadership skills. The studentathletes then worked with Janssen to develop a personal leadership plan to assist them in raising their leadership abilities to a higher level. Returning Veteran Leaders had the opportunity to participate in "360 Team Leadership" trainings which provided them the opportunity to work with Janssen in a smaller, more intimate group environment.
- CeCe Marizu from Women's Swimming & Diving became the first Illini Leadership Academy participant to receive the Leader of Distinction Award. This award recognized those leaders who have had their leadership abilities evaluated by their teammates and coaches through the "360 Team Leadership" evaluation and have earn their teammates' and coaches' utmost trust and respect by scoring 105 or above on the evaluation.
- Twenty-five student-athletes from the Illini Leadership Academy organized and directed a Leadership Summit for 50 area 7th and 8th graders in May,
- Student-athletes and coaches also took advantage of opportunities for individual/team captain meetings with Jeff Janssen during his visits to campus. Janssen also made additional resources available on his Team Captains Website and Championship Coaches Network and student-athletes could sign up to complete the summer E-Leadership course for additional leadership training.



Cece Marizu (WSW) won the Leader of Distinction Award from the Illini Leadership Academy.

#### PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

• Nine personal development workshops were held this year with 136 studentathletes attending these sessions: Supermarket Tour; Stress Management; Money Management; Read ... Set ... Cook!; Managing Your Online Persona; Leasing an Apartment: Dinner Etiquette and Automotive Boot Camp for Women. Student-athletes gave these workshops an overall rating of 4.60 on a 5-point

#### Speaker Series

- Three hundred eighty-four (384) student-athletes attended the Speaker Series program, "One Life Can Have A Lifetime of Consequences" presented by Mike Green in March 2009. Thirty-three coaches, trainers and academic staff members attended a luncheon with Green to help educate them on issues today's student-athletes are facing.
- In April 2009, 35 student-athletes had the opportunity to hear former Illini and Olympic gymnastic Nancy Thies Marshall speak on women in athletics in the Irwin Academic Center.

#### Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)

- Thirty-eight student-athletes, representing all 19 athletic teams, served on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) this year.
- Various guest speakers spoke to the group including Ron Guenther, Athletic Director; Tom Michael, Associate Athletic Director, Academic Services; Vince Ille, Assistant Athletic Director; Dr. Matthew Wheeler, Faculty Athletic Representative;

## LIFE SKILLS

#### DOUGLAS C. ROBERTS CHAMPS/LIFE SKILLS

This program was proudly renamed the Douglas C. Roberts Illini CHAMPS/Life Skills Program in 2006 to honor Douglas C. Roberts, a donor to Illinois athletics for over 20 years, who has long embraced the opportunity he has had to make a difference in the lives of others. In 2003, after learning about the important role the Illini CHAMPS/Life Skills Program played in the lives of Illinois student-athletes, Doug established the Douglas C. Roberts CHAMPS/Life Skills Program Endowment Fund. Then, in 2006, Doug cemented his Fighting Illini legacy by increasing his endowment to place his name on the entire program. For now and forever, the Douglas C. Roberts Illini CHAMPS/Life Skills Program will stand as a testament to Roberts' generosity and vision for the future of Illinois athletics.

Sarah Hahn, DIA Compliance Officer; Chris Tuttle, Varsity I; and 1964 U.S Olympic Gold Medalist Billy Mills.

- SAAC organized their annual Clothing Drive in November and collected more than 1,000 pounds of clothing.
- SAAC organized a benefit Fashion Show and Silent Auction which was held in April at Foellinger Auditorium. More than \$1,900 was raised through this event with proceeds going to the American Cancer Society in honor of former Illini football player Chris Norwell who was diagnosed in October 2008 with Burkitt's Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.
- Nicole Cowart, women's gymnastics, and Rob Pykosz, men's cross country/track & field were elected to serve as SAAC Co-chairs this year.
- Ashley Edinger, volleyball represented the University of Illinois on the Big Ten Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
- Cowart, women's gymnastics, was appointed to serve as the student-athlete representative on the U of I Athletic Board this year.
- Richard Semrau, men's basketball, was selected to represent the University of Illinois at the 2007 NCAA Leadership Conference in Orlando, Fla., in May.
- Maggie Carroll, women's cross country/track & field represented the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics on the Avery Brundage Scholarship Committee.

#### Campus Programming

 Student-athletes took part in various campus-wide activities this year including Get Carded Day (to promote sexual assault prevention), Campus Acquaintance Rape Education (CARE), and Alcohol Culture Explored Interactive Theatre (ACE-IT).

#### Mentors In Violence Prevention (MVP)

• Two hundred and fourteen (214) student-athletes from 11 sports participated in MVP training in February. This training was provided to each Big Ten Conference institution through a partnership between the conference and MVP. The MVP Program motivates men and women to work together in preventing men's violence against women. Ninety-three percent of the student-athletes found the time spent in these training sessions to be beneficial. Coaches from the teams participating in this year's programming attended an overview presentation.

#### CAREER DEVELOPMENT

#### Workshops

Nine career development workshops were provided for student-athletes this
year with one hundred fifty student-athletes participating: Dress for Success;
Grad School Options; Networking Your Job Search; Writing Winning Resumes
and Cover Letters; Successful Interviewing; Internship Essentials; Salary
Negotiations; Researching Career Options; and Marketing Your Athletic Career.
Student-athletes rated these sessions on a scale of 1-5, with 5 considered
excellent, as 4.62.

#### Illini Career Networking Night

- Two hundred twenty sophomores, juniors and seniors attended the Illini Career Networking Night on Monday, February 16th. Sixty four (18 former Illini) presenters took part in the event.
- A career resource area was available for our student-athletes at this year's event
  with staff from the Career Center, Graduate Studies, Go2Athlete.com, and the
  Varsity "I" available to assist student-athletes.

#### DIA Student-Athlete Resume Portfolio

 Forty-two student-athletes from 15 teams representing seven different colleges submitted their resumes for publication in the DIA Student-Athlete Resume Portfolio which are being sent to more than 200 companies interested in hiring our student-athletes

#### Go2Athlete

Student-athletes were provided an opportunity this year to join an official online
Illini student-athlete network where they can access an exclusive job search
portal for NCAA athletes on Go2Athlete.com. By signing up, current studentathletes can network with former teammates, browse job posts exclusive to
student-athletes, and receive event announcements.

#### Life Skills Speaker Series

One hundred two juniors had the opportunity to hear Brad Karsh present,
 "Confessions of a Former Recruiting Director" in October. Student-athletes gave this program a rating of 4.85 on a scale of 1-5, with 5 considered excellent.

#### **Career Center Drop-ins**

 U of I Career Center staff was available every Monday evening in the Life Skills Resource Room to assist student-athletes with resume' writing and other career development needs.

#### **Mock Interviews**

Student-athletes participated in mock interviews with Career Center staff this
year in order to prepare for actual employment interviews by gaining experience
and practice in answering questions. Following the interview, the Career Center
staff discussed and critiqued the session for the student-athlete. Studentathletes could also request to have their interview videotaped for more in-depth
study.



Supo Sanni (FB), Rich Semrau (MBK), Bubba Chisolm (MBK), Justin Staples (FB) took part in the SAAC Fashion Show

## **DIVERSITY**



Deserea Brown // Women's Track and Field

In today's shrinking world, education is a global experience, and the University of Illinois, as one of the world's preeminent academic institutions, strives to foster an inclusive environment promoting the free exchange of cultures, customs, ideologies and beliefs. As one of the University's most visible units, the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics accepts its role as a campus leader and embraces this institutional challenge, attempting to provide a diverse learning and working environment for its student-athletes coaches, staff, community and the student population.

The DIA formalized this commitment in its mission statement, which lists gender and ethnic equity among its seven criteria for excellence. In the end, the DIA believes that Illinois athletics should serve as a common ground for people of all backgrounds and heritages—a unifying thread running throughout the Urbana-Champaign campus and the state of Illinois.

On and off the field, the DIA continues to provide numerous opportunities for gender and ethnic minorities. This opportunity has fostered a since of excellence throughout the years as current coaches and administration have garnered accolades around the nation and in the Big Ten conference. One newcomer to that list this year is former Illini All-American, national champion and Olympian Tonja Buford-Bailey, who was named the 2009 Head Coach of the Year for the Midwest Region by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. In her first season as head coach, Buford-Bailey directed the Fighting Illini to a fourth-place at the NCAA Midwest Regional Championships, the best in school history.

Women and underrepresented races and ethnicities are prevalent within the highest levels of the DIA's administration. Nearly half of the administrators, including directors, managers, and assistant and associate athletics directors, are women or minorities. As this record indicates, the DIA and Director of Athletics Ron Guenther are committed to ensuring that the people leading the Illinois programs are as diverse as the student-athletes themselves.

Becoming involved in the broad spectrum of Illinois athletics will only enhance any student's college experience, and the DIA remains dedicated to providing an environment that is open and inviting to all Illinois students. In early 2005, the DIA launched an initiative aimed at exposing students of color to the many opportunities to support Illinois athletics, including participation in Illini Pride, Illinois Cheerleading, the Marching Illini, the Illinettes, and the Flag Corps. Following an initial study of the existing environment within these groups, Guenther formalized the initiative—by all accounts, one the first of its kind in the country—by founding the Committee on Diversity, a group comprised of athletic department administrators and staff members dedicated to diversifying Illinois athletics' student following.

The committee enlisted the help of various campus cultural programs, and together they have actively recruited students to become involved with the athletic program, enriching the students' own college experiences, as well as the experiences of those around them. The diversity initiative called "Identify Illinois" is consistent in the productivity to initiate activities and provide the cutting edge information on diversity that affects our students on campus. Such projects include the annual diversity football tailgate, annual volleyball and capture the flag tournaments, the Identify Illinois weekly e-mail newsletter, and the soon coming first edition of our printed newsletter called "I Wanna Speak" which gives students and faculty the opportunity to have a voice on issues relating to athletics and campus communities. With the lines of communication now open, the diversity committee must continue



Lacey Simpson // Women's Basketball

its efforts and remain steadfast in the athletic department's vision of an inclusive and diverse environment unifying and educating all University of Illinois students. Please visit our website www.athletics.uiuc.edu/identify/





The University of Illinois Sports Marketing & Sales Department continues to achieve outstanding results in terms of both attendance and national acclaim.

Illinois has led the Big Ten in National Association of Collegiate Marketing Administrators (NACMA) Awards the past three years. With nine NACMA Awards earned in that period, including the only Big Ten Conference gold for 2009 and the prestigious "Best of the Best" Award in 2008, Illinois has established the excellence standard against which all Big Ten sports marketing departments are measured. Illinois ranks third in the nation over the past three years for NACMA Awards.

The Illinois Sports Marketing & Sales Department has made an impressive impact on Fighting Illini football attendance. Illinois has doubled its football season ticket number in just two years. Football revenue has increased dramatically in that period. The Fighting Illini

sold out four straight games in each of the past two seasons. Illinois had not sold out four games since 1986 prior to this achievement.

Illinois followed its award-winning pink shirt Illini Madness event of 2007 with two great men's basketball events in 2008. The World's Biggest Basketball Practice claimed NACMA gold as both the men's and women's basketball teams practiced in front of 60,000 fans. "A Night of Legends" featured a face-off between the Flyin' Illini's 1989 Final Four and the 2005 Final Four team. More than 15,000 fans attended this memorable event that included jerseys of Illinois legends honored in Assembly Hall for the first time.

Plans are in place to build on these basketball success stories with "Spike the Record at Illini Madness." The combination of volleyball and men's basketball in a single event at Assembly Hall is an Illinois first. The goals are to establish a new NCAA record for volleyball attendance and set a new record attendance for Illini Madness.

The women's basketball team also enjoyed a memorable premier promotion last season. More than 7,000 fans attended "Pack the Hall," giving Illinois a tremendous crowd for its CBS regionally broadcast game against Minnesota. The game earned the NCAA's Pack the House Award as the best Big Ten Conference women's basketball event of 2008-09.

The Fighting Illini baseball team established new single-game and weekend attendance records. 5,214 fans attended the Bleacher Bum Barbecue game against Ohio State, shattering the old Illinois attendance record. Illinois scored a 5-4 comeback win, using a 3-run ninth inning to send fans away happy.

Splash Bash was another new premier promotion added in the 2008-09 season. Fans packed the pool to witness the swimming and diving team's long awaited return to home competition. Splash Bash is set to return this season.

Illinois continues to attract great crowds at the Atkins Tennis Center and Khan Outdoor Tennis Complex. The Fighting Illini men's and women's tennis teams both ranked among the nation's top 10 in season attendance. The softball team attracted its third-largest crowd in school history for the World's Largest Softball Tailgate. Soccer attracted another Top 10 crowd for SoccerFest.

Fighting Illini Sports Marketing & Sales means a commitment to team within the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics - working across departments within the DIA to achieve goals most would consider unthinkable. It means working closely with the ticket office, public relations, event management, video, corporate sponsorship, development, compliance, IT services and business departments as well as coaches and key administrators to achieve at the highest level. It means a commitment to team outside the DIA - building and maintaining critical strategic partnerships with print, television, radio

and billboard partners to spread the word about our amazing student-athletes.

It means building and maintaining partnerships with critical campus groups, businesses and organizations to enhance the Fighting Illini brand and increase both revenue and attendance to give our studentathletes the best opportunity to be successful.

Illinois will continue to push for great achievements in attendance, revenue, and recognition through the efforts of its sports marketing & sales department in 2009-10.

## **CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS**



The Division of Intercollegiate Athletics has managed its corporate sponsorship program since 1994. Since its inception, the goal of our corporate sponsorship program has been to build long-term, mutually beneficial business relationships with local business leaders and Fortune 500 companies.

When many people think of "corporate sponsorships" they might simply think of viewing a business' logo on a sign located in Memorial Stadium or the Assembly Hall. Although signage is one of the most visible aspects of our sponsorship program, in reality, Illinois' corporate partners receive much more. They are intertwined with the DIA in a way that helps enhance the image of both the University of Illinois and that particular company.

One important component of the corporate sponsorship program includes advertising on the Illini Sports Radio Network. The University of Illinois is the only Big Ten Conference school which manages its radio network in-house. We handle production, affiliate relations and sales. Sponsors may advertise on network broadcasts for football, men's and women's basketball and volleyball. Programming also includes the weekly call-in shows for the head football and men's basketball coaches.

The most significant companies in the corporate sponsorship program are our "Team Illinois" sponsors. These sponsors receive category exclusivity across all marketing vehicles that the DIA controls including in-stadium signage and recognition, logo rights, advertising on the Illini Sports Radio Network and sponsorship on

www.fightingillini.com. Our current Team Illinois partners are Nike, State Farm Insurance, Coca-Cola, Carle Clinic, Carle Foundation Hospital, Health Alliance, Verizon Wireless and the Bank of America Fighting Illini Credit Card.

Our other returning 2008-09 corporate partners and Illini Sports Network sponsors are: Agventure, Ameren IP, BoJac Seed, The Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette/WDWS and WHMS Radio, Beck's Hybrids, CHS, Inc., County Market Grocery Stores, DEKALB Seed, First Federal Savings Bank, FS Growmark, Gameday Spirit Fan Store, Kruger Seeds, Gatorade, Jimmy John's Gourmet Sub Shop, Bayer Crop Science, Stone Seed, YieldGard VT, the University of Illinois Alumni Association and XM Radio.

There were several other sponsorships for special events and activities as well. State Farm sponsored the "State Farm Arch Rivalry" football game vs. Missouri in St. Louis and they were the presenting sponsor of the Annual Busch Braggin Rights basketball game. Lexus sponsored the annual "Lexus December to Remember" basketball game at the United Center.

The corporate sponsorship program was responsible for more than \$3.5 million in revenue and \$1 million in in-kind goods and services in 2007-08. Of that total, \$1.33 million was generated from the Illini Sports Radio Network.

#### **LICENSING**

The licensing program at the University of Illinois is managed by the Collegiate Licensing Company (CLC) of Atlanta, Ga. The University of Illinois has 450 companies licensed through CLC. These licensees are authorized to reproduce University trademarked logos on all types of products for retail sale.

In fiscal year 2009, Illinois set a record in gross licensing revenue, earning just more than \$2.1 million. It is the eighth-straight year that Illinois has seen record growth in its licensing program, just surpassing last year's total of \$2.1 million. The increase was partially due to an increase in the wholesale royalty rate from 8% to 10% on all University of Illinois licensed gear.

Illinois' on-site merchandise sales at all varsity athletic events and summer camps is handled through Gameday Spirit Fan Store in Champaign, which holds an exclusive contract for these services with DIA. On-site merchandise sales generated nearly \$90,000.

#### FIGHTINGILLINI.COM

The official web site of Illinois athletics is fightingillini.com. Editorial content for the site is handled by DIA, primarily through the sports information office. DIA has contracted with CBS College Sports Online to host the site.

The web site averaged more than 257,000 unique visitors each month from August - March. For the year, Illinois generated more than 16,000,000 page views. Fightingillini.com remains a revenue generator for DIA, generating approximately \$185,000 this year. Revenue is generated through the online store, sponsorships, online auctions and subscriptions to the audio and video services.

















The Illinois Athletic Public Relations Department is responsible for the image, publicity and exposure as well as serves as historians for the entire athletic department. Among its primary duties are media relations, network television liaisons, website maintenance and social networking marketing. The Athletic Public Relations office provided the athletic department the equivalent value of \$2.24 million in television air-time and \$565,287 in print exposure in 2008-09.

#### ATHLETIC PUBLIC RELATIONS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This year, the Athletic Public Relations office had the following highlights:

- · Broke in a brand new press box facility at Memorial Stadium
- Hosted the Women's Gymnastics Big Ten Championships, and NCAA First and Second Round action for men's tennis, women's tennis and volleyball.
- Ran over 30 press conferences for football, men's basketball and other various sports
- · Continued football signing day coverage on fightingillini.com
- Expanded on year two of a partnership with the Big Ten Network, which featured 53 additional televised events and the utilization of an on-campus direct feed to the Chicago studio for coach and athlete interviews

#### FIGHTINGILLINI.COM

- Fightingillini.com continued to be the main stop for Illinois Athletics fans on the web. In 2008-09, over 16 million visitors logged on to the site to catch the latest on their favorite team.
- More resources were invested into the Illinois websites, expanding its video coverage and recruiting sites such as coachronzook.com, coachbruceweber.com and coachjolettelaw.com.
- Illinois' football signing day coverage again was well received with over 250,000 visitors during that day alone.
- The creative department implemented a redesign of the coachronzook.com website.



#### SOCIAL NETWORKING MARKETING

FACEBOOK: The Athletic Public Relations Department in the past year created Facebook Fan pages for each of the 19 sports, allowing fans to follow their favorite Illinois sports teams in a more casual fashion. In just a few short months, the number of fans who have joined these pages has exploded into great popularity. Facebook's format also gives fans a chance to become more interactive with athletic department officials who run the sites. The Athletic Public Relations Department has the ability to reach over 22,000 fans in a matter of seconds. The Below are the fan pages and the number of subscribers:

IlliniFootball – 10,948	FightingIlliniAthletics - 6,040
IlliniBasketball – 3,992	IlliniGymnastics – 254
FightingIlliniBaseball – 228	Illinitrackxc – 148
IlliniSoccer – 144	IlliniTennis – 132
IlliniVolleyball – 117	IlliniSoftball – 97
IlliniGolf = 86	IlliniSwimming&Diving – 70

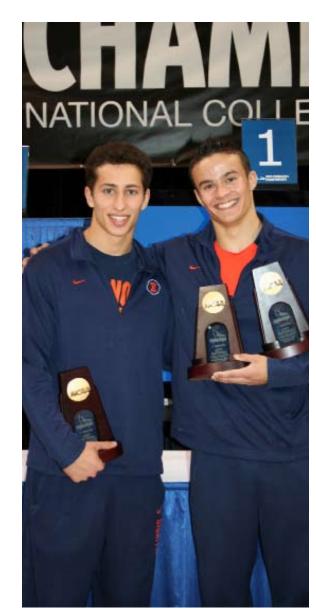
**TWITTER:** Like Facebook, Twitter is another way high-tech fans of Illinois sports can follow their teams wherever they may be. Thirteen Illini sports have twitter accounts, which give up-to-the-minute updates on their happenings. The instantaneous ability of Twitter gives the Athletic Public Relations Department the direct contact with over 1,600 followers.

IlliniFootball - 523	IlliniHoops – 321
IlliniBaseball – 297	IlliniSoftball – 137
IlliniWHoops – 130	IlliniTennis – 71
IlliniSoccer – 66	IlliniWrestling – 59
IlliniTrackXC – 48	

#### **MEDIA COVERAGE**

- Illinois' 19 sports were televised on more than 75 occasions in 2008-09, including all 12 football games.
- Ranked No. 1 among all Universities and colleges in coverage in Chicago's two major newspapers, the Chicago Tribune and Sun Times.
- Illinois had 298 stories written in the 12-month period, 51 stories more than the next highest school, Notre Dame, and 79 better than the next Big Ten school, Northwestern.
- Illinois' coverage on Chicago's seven major television stations in 2008-09 was impactful. In the year, the Illini were represented in 762 stories, which were seen by over 46.6 million viewers. The value of Illinois' airtime equaled over \$2.24 million.
- The Illinois Athletic Communications Office credentialed over 250 media to home football games and reached its maximum capacity for media at each men's basketball event.
- Despite the decline in the print media market, the University of Illinois continues to be covered on a daily basis by 14 regional and three national newspapers.
- The Illinois Athletic Public Relations office began a third year of using a media tracking service to gauge our coverage in the Chicago media market, the third largest market in the country.

## **COMPLIANCE**



National Champions Daniel Ribeiro and Paul Ruggerri // Men's Gymnastics

It is the responsibility of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, its employees, student-athletes and all individuals and organizations promoting the institution's athletics interests to control the intercollegiate athletics program and endeavor to ensure its full compliance with NCAA, Big Ten Conference and university rules. The Division of Intercollegiate Athletics' compliance office was established to facilitate the university's efforts to comply with these rules and to provide a means to monitor and audit intercollegiate athletics.

In order to meet the objectives mentioned above, the compliance office concentrates its efforts in three areas:

1) Education, 2) Monitoring; and 3) Reporting.

#### 1. EDUCATION

The provision of rules education is a primary focus of the University of Illinois Compliance Program. The Compliance Office provides rules education to Division of Intercollegiate Athletics coaches and personnel, student-athletes, university personnel and university supporters. The Athletic Board's Executive Committee reviews these efforts annually.

There are two basic forms of rules education. One form of rules education occurs when meetings are held to discuss rules, or rulesrelated information is distributed by, or with the assistance of, the compliance office. This form of rules education is most often planned in advance and involves the provision of timely rules-related information to individuals whom the compliance office has determined will benefit from its receipt. Examples include the compliance meetings held with coaching staffs, fall "check-in" meetings and spring "check-out" meetings with the student-athletes on each team, and the distribution of new rules adopted by the NCAA Division I Board of Directors. From July 2008 through June 2009, the compliance office coordinated 235 such rules education items. That number is up from the 214 in 2007-08.

A second form of rules education occurs when an individual requests assistance, or a rules "interpretation" from the Compliance Office in an effort to understand the proper application of an NCAA or Conference rule. These requests must be made on all occasions when an individual is not certain how to apply rules to a given situation. This form of rules education is available from the compliance office to any individual or organization upon request.

Many answers given by the compliance office are confirmed

in writing. A standard format is used to document the question(s) asked and the answer(s) given. A copy of this written confirmation is provided to the individual who asked the question. Answers that are clearly defined in the NCAA Manual or the Big Ten Conference Handbook, and answers that are easily understood may not be confirmed in writing at the discretion of the compliance office. From July 2008 through June 2009, the compliance office documented 506 of these questions and answers, nearly 200 more than the 2007-08

#### 2. MONITORING

The compliance office reviews all documents that have compliance implications. This includes, but is not limited to, the following: weekly summaries of practice and competition activities for all studentathletes, weekly summaries of all off-campus recruiting activities for all coaches, telephone records, medical expenses, student-athlete employment records, donation requests and expenses for recruiting, team travel, awards and post-season competition.

From July 2008 through June 2009, the compliance office reviewed 15,877 documents in the course of monitoring the department's compliance with NCAA, Big Ten and institutional rules, which is over 2,000 more than the previous year.

#### 3. REPORTING

Potential violations can be discovered in a number of ways: the infraction can be self-reported by the responsible party, it can be discovered by the compliance office through its monitoring efforts or it can be reported to the compliance office by an outside party. Once the potential violation is reported, the compliance office is responsible for investigating the matter and reporting it, if necessary, to the Big Ten and/or the NCAA. Copies of all self-reported infractions are also sent to the Chancellor's office.

From July 2008 through June 2009, the compliance office reported 20 secondary violations (eight fewer than in 2007-08). A secondary violation is defined by the NCAA as "a violation that is isolated or inadvertent in nature, provides or is intended to provide only a minimal recruiting, competitive or other advantage and does not include any significant recruiting inducement or extra benefit."



In 2008-09, the Illini Productions video department operated year two utilizing their \$1.5 million state of the art in-house studio and control room. The video staff is made up of six full-time staffers and approximtely 20 students who provide video coverage for each Fighting Illini team, the Big Ten Network, Assembly Hall and Memorial Stadium video boards and fightingillini.com.

#### I. In-House Studio Production

- · Began year two of in-house production of "The Ron Zook Show," "The Bruce Weber Show," and "The Jolette Law Show", hosting 43 shows last year.
- · Created programming for Illinois' annual Scholar-Athlete Banquet, as well as a special Fighting Illini Insider featuring the Big Ten Network's Mike Hall.
- · Continued extra programming for fightingillini.com, including a weekly web show called "Corner Kicks" exclusively for the

Illini women's soccer program.

- Expanded original content for coachronzook.com and coachbruceweber.com
- · Produced 60 live big screen events for football, men's basketball, women's basketball and other miscellaneous events.

#### II. The Big Ten Network Partnership

- · Continued direct talk-back capabilities with the Big Ten Network studio in Chicago, with which Illinois coaches and athletes appeared on BTN programming approximately 20 times last season.
- · Began year two of the "Fighting Illini Insider" a monthly, halfhour show which features Illinois 19 sports and is hosted by Illini student-athletes



· Continued non-athletic, University programming on the Big Ten Network.

#### III. Special Projects for Illinois athletics and the University

- · Directed the creative services for the University of Illinois graduation ceremonies
- · Directed the video board for the Champaign Marathon
- · Produced highlight and motivational videos for all 19 sports
- Educated and provided practical experience for 18 student interns last year, with an emphasis on shooting, editing and directing pieces which can be then used for their portfolio. Those students have gone on to jobs with the Chicago Bears, Jacksonville Jaguars, United States Olympic Committee, CNN and ESPN.

## **FINANCE**

The University of Illinois Division of Intercollegiate Athletics has witnessed vast changes to the landscape of collegiate sports, and there can be no doubt that major college athletic programs have evolved into multi-million dollar enterprises. At Illinois however, be assured that the business aspects of amateur athletics will never compromise the pursuit of its mission. Illinois is committed to producing champions on- and off-the-field by adhering to principles that transcend the balance sheet. Despite challenges of the previous fiscal year, Illinois athletics has once again, for the 17th straight year, operated within a balanced budget and continued to reduce debt.

Among the highlights of 2008-09 was the increase in gate receipts by over \$2.3 million due to a large growth in season ticket sales in football. Additionally, the department recouped \$4.4 million in revenue from premium seating, which helped to offset the \$7.5 million paid out in facility debt service. The struggling economy over the past three years has impacted the athletic department. The DIA has taken on increases to utilities (an addition of over \$500,000), travel and costs passed down by the University administration. There were also continued increases in coaches' salaries and scholarship costs (see next paragraph).

In striving to uphold the standards that the DIA is founded upon, however, operating costs – including scholarships, capital project expenditures, facility maintenance, and staffing requirements – continue to rise. For example, just five years ago (2004-05), in-state and out-of-state scholarships cost Illinois athletics \$16,003 and \$27,572, respectively. For the 2008-09 academic year, those same scholarships cost the athletic department \$24,700 and \$38,498, representing respective increases of 64.7 and 71.4 percent.

The DIA receives no state tax dollars, and it is only through the boundless generosity of its loyal donors, the support of the student body, and the tireless efforts of the DIA's administration and staff that it continues to outperform expectations. Because of these many stakeholders, it is possible to fully fund every athletic program, providing the maximum number of scholarships allowed to each sport under NCAA guidelines, and to operate in a fiscally responsible and disciplined manner.

### FISCAL YEAR 2009 OPERATING STATEMENT

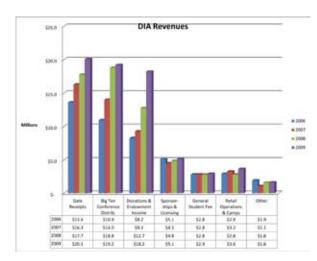
REVENUES			EXPENSES		
Gate Receipts	\$20,086,366	28%	Sport Operations	\$19,959,129	28%
Big Ten Conference Distributions	19,197,467	27%	Facilities	22,478,697	32% (2)
Donations & Endowment Income	18,189,982	26% (4) (5)	Scholarships	8,536,210	12%
Sponsorships & Licensing	5,128,134	7%	Administration	3,840,154	5%
Retail Operations & Camps	3,602,602	5% (1)	Revenue Production	6,419,915	9% (3)
General Student Fee	2,891,899	4%	Student-Athlete Support Services	4,517,074	6%
Other	1,591,636	2%	Retail Operations and Camps	3,439,578	5%
			Other	1,497,329	2%
Total Revenues	\$70,688,086	100%	Total Expenses	\$70,688,086	100%

### FISCAL YEAR 2008 OPERATING STATEMENT

REVENUES			EXPENSES		
Gate Receipts	\$17,746,104	29%	Sport Operations	\$18,548,403	30%
Big Ten Conference Distributions	18,766,229	31%	Facilities	14,231,008	23% (2)
Donations & Endowment Income	12,736,867	21%	Scholarships	8,269,057	14%
Sponsorships & Licensing	4,809,583	8%	Administration	4,187,511	7%
General Student Fee	2,767,073	5%	Revenue Production	6,596,204	11% (3)
Retail Operations & Camps	2,788,544	5% (1)	Student-Athlete Support Services	4,428,541	7%
Other	1,552,756	3%	Retail Operations and Camps	3,154,630	5%
			Other	1,751,802	3%
Total Revenues	\$61,167,156	100%	Total Expenses	\$61,167,156	100%

(1) Includes revenue from the University of Illinois Golf Course, Atkins Tennis Center, merchandise & concessions sales and all summer camps. (2) Includes all debtservice, capital expenditures and facility maintenance costs. (3) Includes operating costs associated with Marketing & Promotions, Sports Information, Ticket Office, Corporate Sponsorship, Licensing and Development. (3) includes premium seating revenues. (5) includes gifts for facilities projects





## **VARSITY "I" ASSOCIATION**



VARSITY "I" GOALS

- 1) Reach out and make the effort to stay in touch with your former team-mates.
- 2) Make plans to get back on campus to events at least once per year.
- Get involved...support today's Fighting Illini and activate your Varsity I membership by becoming a member of the I FUND.

#### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS PAST YEAR:

- · Active Varsity I membership: 1,525 members.
- · Contributions from former letter winners and participants: over \$795,000.
- Over 15 reunions were held on campus, with over 1350 former Fighting Illini returnees participating in those reunions.

This past year, the Varsity I Association named a new Executive Director, longtime University of Illinois Athletic Department staffer Mike Hatfield. Hatfield brings a very basic message to all former athletes, managers, trainers, and cheerleaders regardless of their role during their time at Illinois.

Hatfield says he looks forward to this leadership position with the Varsity I Association and the inherent opportunity to focus his time on his two true vocational passions - interacting with former Fighting Illini and securing championship-level resources in the classroom and on the field of play for the Fighting Illini of the future.

Associate Director of Athletics Shawn Wax said, "At Illinois, our goal is simple and straightforward. We want to be the best at everything we do. I'm pleased to add Mike Hatfield's experience, leadership and creative energy to our alumni relations team in the Varsity I Association. In addition to a proven track record of strong organizational skills, Mike excels at relationship building and networking. Mike is a natural fit and I'm confident he will help us build the best letterwinner's association in the nation."

Hatfield finds himself leading a newly formed team made up of veteran Varsity I staffers Chris Tuttle and Karen Graham, along with new graduate assistant, former Fighting Illini softball standout Shanna Diller. "The Varsity I Association is about former Fighting Illini staying connected and ensuring the future of those that follow," said Hatfield "There is no group that has as much passion and investment in our program than our former athletes, trainers, managers, and cheerleaders, and I'm convinced that when yesterday's Fighting Illini hear what the Varsity I Association and I FUND are doing to support today's student-athletes, they will be inspired to join. You can just imagine what could be accomplished if every former Fighting Illini jumped onboard at some annual level of support?"



Ron Guenther with Dave and Nicole Diehl



Women's Gymnastics Reunion



Men's Basketball Night of Legends



Men's Gymnastics Reunion

## ANNUAL FUND



Student-athletes at the University of Illinois are among the best and brightest in the Big Ten and the nation. They strive for championships in competition and excellence in the classroom. Their athletic and academic endeavors are supported through private contributions to the I FUND. The I FUND is the fundraising and development arm of the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics and is responsible for securing the necessary funding to cover scholarship aid for approximately 500 student-athletes.

Illinois student-athletes take great pride in wearing the Orange and Blue, and respect and appreciate the tremendous support from the members of the I FUND. For some, these gifts open the door to a college education, and for others, these grants ease the financial burdens often associated with earning a college degree. Yet, for all that receive aid, becoming a scholarship recipient to represent the Fighting Illini is an honor. It provides each student-athlete an opportunity to prepare themselves to be leaders in industry, business, and the community.

Just as we expect our student-athletes to excel and be the very best, so does the I FUND strive to generate financial resources to provide the best in support services, facilities and academic opportunities.

This past year has seen an increase of donors in support to the I FUND. Fighting Illini fans donated \$8.1 million to the I FUND last year. Total number of donors supporting the I FUND last year was 7,465. In addition to donor involvement increasing, a substantial number of donors last year elected to increase their annual support to help meet the ever-increasing challenges of rising tuition costs, health care, and the cost of living.

We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge all who have supported Fighting Illini athletics this past year. Your contribution is an investment in the future of Illinois student-athletes. On behalf of the coaches, student-athletes, and staff of the DIA, thank you to all of our annual fund members listed on the following pages. Go Illini!

#### LOYALTY CIRCLE

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Bruce Fordyce

David and Michelle Edwards

David and Michelle Edwards

Annabelle Edwards

Timothy Edwards

Dr. James R. Egner

Dan and Sheila Eilts

Steve Eckhoff

Jacob Elam

William Ellis

Patrick Elsey

Lee Ellis Ted Ellis

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Leigh Finnegan // Women's Tennis

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Randall S. Vincent

David and Kay Kellerhals Wells Marilyn G. Vizek Paula Wells Tracy Vizza Steve Wendelberger Jessica Rose VIna William Werbach Judith P. Vollmer Richard Wesley Guinio Volpone Larry Westbrook Shirley VonHolten Eric Westburg John Westerhold Melvin and Nancy Voss Arthur Westle Michael T. Vrem Chuck Westphal Scott Vroman Robert C. Wetter Mary Ann Vulich Scott Wetter Kenneth W. Waddell Mary N. Weygandt Neil Fredrick Wagahoff Richard A. Wham Phillip Wagenknecht Stephen Wheet David W. Waggoner Brian R. Whiston E. Kathleen Waggoner Gordon E. White, Jr. Andrew White Patrick Wagoner Charles V. White Steven and Susan Waibel Mark and Diane White John Wainwright Don White Douglas G. White Jana L. Waite **Greg White** Michael Wakefield Ken White Mike White Marie Wakerly Richard A. White Jen Walburn-Cochrane Ronald Walczak Zackary White Billy H. Whitehead Beau Waldrep James Whiteside Cortense Waldrep Lisa Waldrep Mark Whitman **Burl Whitney** Randy Waldrep Cory M. Whitt Doreathea Walker Jack M. Widholm Neil R. Widlak Todd Wallin Linda M. Wallis Albert Widner Leo Ed Walsh Michael M. Wieczorek William Walsh Jeffrey R. Wieser Gary R. Walters Brad and Karylle Wike Judith K. Walters Brad Wike Nathan Wilds Ed and Lucy Waltz William Wampler Reo L. Wilhour Dana Wandell Pamela J. Wilken Brittany A. Ward Greg Willard Matthew D. Ward Mark and Deborah Williams David Warda Dick Williams Patricia Warmbier John C. Williams Gary Warnick Laura Williams Kathleen Warpinski Lucas Williams Maureen McGuire Williams Ron and Susan Warsaw Caleb Washburn Willie J. Williams Beverly Washington Paul R. Wilson, Jr. Alan C. Watkins Arnold Wilson Carroll Watson Larry L. Wilson Charles M. Watson Matthew J. Wilson Dante Watson Mike and Michelle Wilson Joyce Watson Richard A. Wilson Walter W. Watts Thomas Wilson Donald S. Wauthier Patrick Windhorst Loyd M. Wax Patrick Windhorst Pamela Wax Gene K. Wineland Jennifer L. Wayland Michael Winet Susanne F. Webb Connie J. Winter Brett L. Weber Robert Winter Mary Jane Weber William E. Winter Robert W. Weddell, Jr. David Wischnowsky Michael R. Wise

> Ryan Witt Russell Witte

Robert Wittenborn

Tyler Welborn John and Freida Witters Ashley N. Welch Norbert E. Wittmer Pamela A. Weller Gary Wobbe John C. Woerner Donald M. Wolf Henry E. Wolfe, Jr. Anne J. Wolfe Doug Wolfe Monte A. Wolfson Randy Wombacher Stuart Wood Thomas J. Wood Greg Wolfe and Beth Woodard Randall Woodard Steve Wooden Connie Wooley Michael C. Wollums Donald G. Worby Carol Lynn Work Trent W. Worley Robert J. Wostratzky William A. Wright, Jr. Jamie Wright Jason Wright Kenneth W. Wright Lyle and Louise Wright Tim Wright Xiaoyi Wu Charles A. Wuebben Larry D. Yargos Tom Yaxley Chad Yeakley Ted I. Yi Josh Yoder Christopher Yott Kimberly Young Matthew A. Young Robert W. Young Thomas Young Walter L. Young Kari Younger Greg Yuccas Michael Zachay Tim Zadoks Michael Zagorski Steve Zahos Andrew T. Zander David G. Zeddies Robert Zerfas David A. Ziebart Martin Zientek Randolph and Pat Zieske Albert G. Zimmerman Raymond M. Zinnen Ron Zook Tammy and Kirk Zymkie

## **ENDOWMENTS**

Endowments are a critical component for budget stability. The DIA seeks to increase the dollars available from endowments because that money is permanent, addresses the particular interests of benefactors and most importantly, insulates the athletic programs from the uncertainties of economic change. Endowments can be established for scholarships, coaches and facilities.

In establishing a solid foundation for the funding of programs and scholarships, the DIA will enhance its ability to recruit talented student-athletes and attract quality coaches. Great progress has been made by reaching our capital campaign goal. A fully endowed scholarship is a minimum of \$300K. Other I FUND club levels can be endowed, including Block "I" and Olympian Club. Please refer to the following list to see the endowed scholarships that have been established.

In the last 12 years, the DIA has seen an incredible commitment from its supporters to the endowment program (see chart). In 1997, Illinois' athletic book value for endowments totaled just over \$2.3 million. In 12 years that number has increased over 1,300 percent to \$34 million.

Dean and Bridget Clausen and Sons

### **ENDOWMENTS**

#### COACHING/ADMINISTRATIVE ENDOWMENTS

Timothy H. and Sharon M. Ubben Director of Athletics Endowment (in honor of Ronald E. Guenther) David D. and Meredith J. Mills Head Men's Tennis Coach Douglas C. and Linda M. Mills Head Football Coach Richmond Family Men's Head Basketball Coach Arthur R. Wyatt Men's Head Golf Coach Assistant Men's Basketball Coach Endowment (Anonymous) Football Offensive Coordinator Endowment (Anonymous) Orange Krush Lou Henson Coaching Development Endowment

#### FLYING ILLINI JET PROGRAM

Anonymous Anonymous

#### SCHOLARSHIPS/ACADEMICS

Michael T. Aiken Women's Basketball Scholarship Austin A. Apgar Defensive Lineman Scholarship for Academic Excellence Avery Family Scholarship Ballinger Family Scholarship Daniel L. and Lisa M. Barry Men's Golf Scholarship William T. Barry Women's Basketball Scholarship Babette Stipes Bartholow Women's Golf Scholarship Charles M. Bellatti Sports Information Intern The Kenneth Blatt Memorial Scholarship Ralph U. Bloom Athletic Scholarship Fund Bodine Environmental Services, Inc. Scholarship Boerngen-Ducey Foundation Scholarship C. E. "Chilly" Bowen Endowment Fund Steven J. and Janet L. Bowsher Men's Golf Fund J. Kyle Braid Football Scholarship Paul and Tiz Bresee Award Brinkman Family Scholarship Stuart W. and Anita J. Broeren Scholarship Harold E. and Lillian V. Buckler Scholarship Burwell Family Scholarship Alexander T. Bush Scholarship Robert J. and Katharin F. Carr

Track and Field Scholarship

Family Scholarship William E. and Ann Healey Cofel Women's Basketball Scholarship Colangelo Men's Basketball Scholarships Cleora J. and Stephen P. D'Arcv Women's Soccer Scholarship Charles L. and Dorothy J. Daily Athletic Scholarship Donald G. Davis Scholarship Dr. James R. and Margaret A. DeBord Scholarship Phillip A. and Dorothy J. Dethloff Athletic Scholarship Demiriian Family Athletic Scholarship Amanda J. Dickens-Montgomery Women's Basketball Scholarship The Dickens Family Football Scholarship Ira Jay Dickstein Memorial Basketball Scholarship Thomas A. DiSanto Football Scholarship Ditman Family Scholarship The Dixon-Lockhart Family Scholarship Ernie Dorn Basketball Scholarship Dorris Family Scholarship Dike Eddleman Scholarship Award Endowment Donald J. and Anne M. Edwards Men's Golf Scholarship William R. Edwards Men's Basketball Scholarship Ray Eliot Memorial Scholarship Cynthia and Stephen Elkins Scholarship The Etscheid Family Illini CHAMPS/Life Skills Leadership Academy Endowment Fund Fighting Illini Men's Gymnastics Scholarship Fighting Illini Gymnastics Funds Flying Illini Basketball Scholarship Flynn Family Foundation Football Endowment

Frost Family Women's Softball Scholarship

Joseph L. Giuliani, Sr. Football Scholarship

Elizabeth J. "Betty" George Scholarship

Lauren A. Giuliani Football Scholarship

Ronald E. Guenther Athletic Scholarship

Guthoff Family Athletic Scholarship

Men's Basketball Scholarship

Kevin L. Hardy Family Football Scholarship

Joseph D. and Sheila H. Gutman

I.C. "Red" and Margaret Harbour

Ronald E. Harr Athletic Scholarship

George S. Halas Scholarship

Football Scholarship

Goldenberg Family Scholarship

Men's Basketball Scholarship John A. Hobart Golf Scholarship Jerald Hoekstra Family Scholarship The Hogan Family Scholarship Hogan & Hogan, Inc. Scholarship Paul J. Houghton Football Scholarship Howard C. and Lynda Y. Humphrey Athletic Scholarship Illini Quarterback Club Football Scholarship Burton A. Ingwersen Memorial Scholarship Leo Johnson Men's Track and Field Scholarship Charles L. and Lisa Joley Athletic Scholarship Jones Family Men's Basketball Scholarship Charles W. Jones Memorial Scholarship Richard C. "Itch" Jones Baseball Scholarship Lillian F. Jones Memorial Scholarship Raymond L. Jones Memorial Scholarship Keeling Family Men's Golf Scholarship The Kenter Family Endowment Fund Kinkead Scholarship Knight Scholarship Terrance J. Lavin and Cynthia Sykes Men's Golf Scholarship Levenick Football Scholarship Libman Family Scholarships Justa M. Lindgren Scholarship Frederick E. Lindquist Football Scholarship John R. and Mabel D. Lotz Scholarship Dauten and Marsh Family Endowment Brian and Kelly McClure Family Baseball/Volleyball Scholarship Creg and Elizabeth McDonald Scholarship McNaughton Family Football Scholarship John R. Merriman Scholarship Delos Dean and Patricia A. Messinger Scholarship Steven P. Miller Scholarship Neitzel Family Scholarship The Richard M. and Rosann Gelvin Noel Athletic Scholarship The Noelke Family Endowment Fund Diane Pospisil Noelke Women's Basketball Scholarship

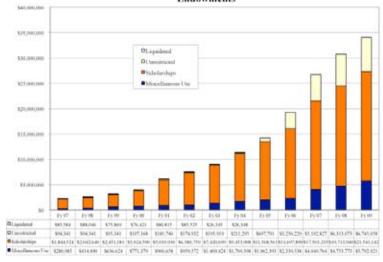
Luther "Bud" Hawkins Scholarship

Gary L. Hein, Jr. Scholarship

Helmuth Family Scholarship

James M. and Joyce G. Herbison

#### Division of Intercollegiate Athletics Endowments



2008-09 ENDOWMENT FIGURES: The total value of the endowment pool is \$34,079,121. Interest earned year-to-date is \$1,577,471. Budgeted interest for the 09-10 fiscal year is \$1,384,064.

Memorial Scholarship Orange Krush Rod Cardinal Sports Medicine Fund The Dorrell S. "Bud" Noel Football Scholarship Max Noel Pike Fund Rodney and Stacey Poole Baseball Scholarship J. Roger Powell, M.D. and Family Memorial Athletic Endowment Fund Josie Grisham Rahn ('47) Academic Advisor Fund Patty Randall Football Scholarship Jim Reeder Memorial Scholarship Ken Robbins Football Scholarship Douglas C. Roberts CHAMPS/Life Skills Program Endowment Fund Douglas C. Roberts Illinois Leadership Academy Fund Max L. Rowe Whiz Kids Scholarship John A. and Jane R. Santogrossi Women's Basketball Scholarship Sarnecki Family Scholarship Robert Schmidt and Doyle Collins Men's Basketball Scholarship Schuler Family Endowment Thomas M. and Julie E. Scott Foundation Scholarship

The Orange Krush-Matthew Heldman

Thomas M. and Julie E. Scott Foundation Scholarship
The Shapland Family Athletic Engineering Scholarship
Dennis E. and Barbara E. Smith
Men's Basketball Scholarship

The Stephens Family Illinois
Leadership Academy Endowment

Dr. Mark W. and Teresa Sturdy Family Football Scholarship Robert H. and Barbara W. Suter Football Scholarship Richard K. Sykes and Margaret Hamil Sykes Basketball Scholarship Taslitz Family Athletic Scholarship Thomas Family Football Scholarship Raymond Timpone Athletic Scholarship Jeffrey M. Tinervin Men's Golf Scholarship Timothy H. and Sharon M. Ubben Men's Basketball Scholarships Timothy H. and Sharon M. Ubben Women's Basketball Scholarships Brenton Wadsworth Men's Golf Scholarship Frederick D. and Casey L. Wakefield Family Scholarship Jim and Sharon Walker Student Athlete Scholarship Louis and Dawn M. Weber

Student Manager Enhancement Fund
Deron M. Williams Endowment Fund
Wendell S. Wilson Athletic Scholarship
Byron Wright Memorial Football Scholarship
Yoder Family Scholarship
Dan and Diane Zerrusen Family Foundation
Thom and Tinker Zimmerman Men's Tennis Scholarship

## PLANNED/ESTATE GIVING

The Office of Athletic Development secures funds that allow Fighting Illini student-athletes the opportunity to excel at the highest level, both on the court and in the classroom.

In addition to cash gifts for current use, planned and estate gifts play a vital role in helping the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics to fulfill its mission of providing a world-class public education for its student-athletes.

Lasting support for the future can come in many forms, including estate gifts through wills, life insurance, trusts and bequests. Following are planned gifts, which have been established on behalf of the DIA.

In addition to those listed below, five families have donated to the program through planned/estate gifts but wish to remain anonymous.

If you have included the DIA in your will or deferred gift, or if you would like information on how to do so, please contact the Office of Athletic Development in Champaign at 217-333-6595 or in Chicago at 312-575-7850.

#### PLANNED / ESTATE GIFTS

Owen and Carole Ackerman C. Donald and Marilyn M. Ainsworth Joseph and Blanche Antonello Donald and Susan Armstrong James and Kathleen Beedie William G. Beeler Chuck and Jean Bender Donald and Jean Bever Michael and Medsie Bolin John C. Boma William and Elizabeth Braun Harold and Lillian Buckler James and Barbara Burch Joseph and Melinda Burden Gordon and Carol Burns John W. Busey Unitrust J.M. and Laurel Campbell Allen and Nancy Carter Brent Reed Centlivre Marc and Janis Changnon Scott and Kathleen Christensen Stuart and Barbara Ann Clark William and Helen Clodfelder J.M. and Mary Jo Wiss Cocagne Joseph and Katherine Constantino Roger and Janet Dalton Ralph and Barbara de Werff John and Madalyn Drysdale Monsignor Edward J. Duncan Jeffrey C. Duncan Miriam and Raymond Ebeling Lila Jeanne and Paul Eichelberger Elizabeth Eisner Elizabeth R. Eisner Katherine F Fisner Robert Eisner, Jr.

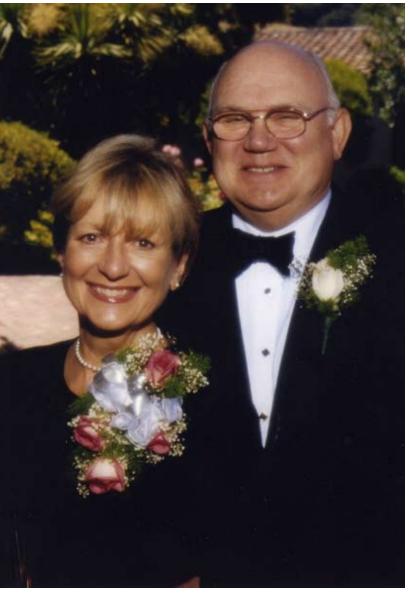
Robert and Nina Eisner III R.D. and Lorie Erhard

Charles and Blanche Finn

Dan and Patty Flannell Ralph and JoAnne Fletcher John and Donna Foley Carmen and Zachary Fore Peter B. Fox Harry and Gladys Frost Robert and Lena Gieselman John W. Gothard Alan and Clare Haussermann Lester and Phyllis Hendrickson John and Rita Hirschfield Dale Holt Bruce and Doris Jewell Lt. Col. Roy P. Johnson Phillip and Suzanne Knell Betty A. Knight Thomas and Paula Kolter V.B. and Sandra Leister Richard and Josephine Lord Nancy E. Martin Michael and Edna Mae McCarthy Ken and Diane Miller Doug and Linda Mills Mason and Connie Minnes Jerry and Ann Nerad Clarence and Shirley Oberwortmann Thomas and Marilyn Parkhill Kent E. Parks William and Deloris Pierce Mary Piper Stephen Piper Ann and Geoffrey Poor Dr. J.R. and Jo Ann Powell Morgan and Sandra Powell **Edward and Margaret Rawles** Jack C. and Marjorie Richmond R. Philip Sarnecki Rodrick Schmidt

Robert and Lorraine Schutz

Eugene T. Sherman Elizabeth and William Skinner Dr. Erwin Small David and Sharon Snyder Leland and Charlotte Snyder Dr. Carl W. Soderstrom, Jr. Stafford Family Endowment Kent and Ellen Stonner Robert and Katherine Stotler Don and Blanche Thompson Michael and Judith Thompson William Thompson Raymond Timpone Fred and Virginia Vance James and Dena Vermette Joseph and Donna Wampler J. Richard Wampler Steven and Laurie Weidemier Hazel and Norman Wendt Virgil and Helen Wikoff John and Katie Winburn Myron and Frances Wormley John M. Woythal John and Deanna Wright John and Laura Wright II Art Wyatt

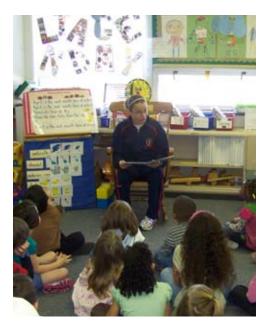


Charlie and Blanche Finn of Champaign, IL generously established an estate gift in 2001. They are also Loyalty Circle members of the I FUND and long time supporters of Fighting Illini athletics.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

### **HOMETOWN HEROES**

- University of Illinois student-athletes participated in 148 Hometown Heroes community service events this year donating more than 3,100 hours in service to our community.
- More than 400 student-athletes participated in Hometown Heroes events this year, representing all 19 sports
- Sixteen teams had 100 percent participation with each team members participating in at least one Hometown Heroes event.
- U of I student-athletes from six teams made 23 visits to local hospitals to visit with young patients.
- One hundred fifty Illini student-athletes took part in reading events at local schools this year through the Reading Illini Program.
- For more than 10 years, the volleyball team has adopted Westview Elementary School. Once again this year, the team made several visits to the school participating in National Walk to School Day, a school assembly, Family Fun Carnival, as well as visits into individual classrooms. The school children and their parents were then invited to a home volleyball match where they served as honorary coaches, ball kids, interviewed the coaches, and sang the national anthem.
- For the sixth straight year, the Hometown Heroes program has partnered with the non-profit organization. Special Spectators, to provide children undergoing treatment for cancer with the opportunity to attend a U of I Football game. Football players visited the kids during the week prior to the game at the hospital and 92 student-athletes from other sports visited with the kids at a tailgate party held in their honor prior to the game.
- Thirty-eight student-athletes from four sports participated in the Food for Families Canned Food Drive prior to the Minnesota football game. Our student-athletes collected more than 1000 pounds of canned goods that were donated by fans attending the game.
- Sixty-one student-athletes from seven different teams took part in the National Walk to School event at 10 local elementary schools this fall.
- For the fifth straight year, women's softball held a Halloween party for residents at a local senior assisted living center.
- For the eighth straight year, the entire women's swimming and diving team has participated in the campus Relay for Life event raising more than \$3000 for the American Cancer Society.
- Illini student-athletes continued to partner with the Crisis Nursery, Champaign School's Warm-A-Kid Foundation, local Boy and Girl Scout troops and the C-U Challenger Baseball League on programs to assist residents of our community.
- For the eighth straight year, Illini student-athletes purchased gifts and held a holiday party for kids on the waiting list of our local Big Brother Big Sister program.
- For the seventh consecutive year, Illini student-athletes have participated each month in the Garden Hills Elementary School Student of the Month Luncheon.























## **BIG TEN NETWORK**







#### **BIG TEN NETWORK VALUED AT ONE BILLION**

In just two years of existence, the 24-hour, 365-day channel known as The Big Ten Network has reached an equitable value of \$1 billion. Through two years of the 20-year agreement, the BTN went from a viewership of 30 million homes to 73 million in 2008-09. That number includes 19 of the top-20 markets in the United States. The success of the BTN has many conferences scrambling to catch up, however, the BTN is the only channel that offers extensive coverage of not only football and men's basketball, but all the other sports that the conference schools sponsor. In 2008-09, the channel broadcast 39 football games and over 350 total sporting events. It is available in 200 total markets, including 150 outside of the eight-state Big Ten perimeter, which is 70 percent of the country.

#### QUICK FACTS:

- 2008-09 Viewership: 73 million households
- Agreement: 20-year joint venture between subsidiaries of the Big Ten
- · Conference and Fox Cable Networks.
- · Headquarters: Chicago, Ill.
- Launch date/time: August 30, 2007, 8 PM ET



#### ILLINOIS FOOTBALL: THE JOURNEY

Last fall, the University of Illinois football team was the subject of a 13-week reality show that followed the squad for the duration of the 2008 season. The Big Ten Network televised over seven hours of footage on Illini football ranging from action on the field to in-depth personal stories of the athletes. Fans of the show were able to see behind the scenes on road trips, in the classrooms, at home and hanging out with the guys during rare down time. The series have also been compiled into a DVD collection.



#### **UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS TELEVISED EVENTS:**

In two years the BTN has broadcast more than 800 live events, plus hundreds of hours of original programming, classic games, coaches' shows and campus programming. Virtually all of the network's live event programming is available in high definition. Illinois had 53 events broadcast on the BTN in 2008-09.

Football vs. Eastern Illinois, 9/6/08 Football vs. Louisiana-Lafayette, 9/13/08 Football vs. Indiana, 10/18/08 Soccer at Indiana, 10/19/08 Volleyball vs. Purdue, 10/22/08 Women's Basketball vs. Missouri, 11/19/08 Soccer vs. Volleyball at Purdue, 11/19/08 Football at Northwestern, 11/22/08 Men's Basketball vs. Jackson State, 11/23/08 Women's Basketball vs. Virginia, 12/4/08 Men's Basketball vs. Hawaii, 12/8/08 Men's Basketball vs. Detroit, 12/20/08 Men's Basketball vs. Eastern Michigan, 12/28/08 Women's Basketball at Penn State, 12/28/08 Men's Basketball at Michigan, 1/4/09 Women's Gymnastics at

Michigan State Quad, 1/9/09 Men's Basketball vs. Indiana, 1/10/09 Women's Basketball vs. Ohio State, 1/12/09 Men's Basketball vs. Michigan, 1/14/09 Women's Basketball at Wisconsin, 1/18/09 Wrestling at Iowa, 1/25/09 Women's Basketball at Indiana, 1/25/09 Men's Basketball at Minnesota, 1/29/09 Women's Basketball at Northwestern, 1/29/09 Wrestling at Purdue, 1/30/09 Women's Gymnastics at Ohio State Quad, 1/31/09 Men's Basketball vs. Iowa, 2/1/09 Women's Basketball vs. Michigan State, 2/5/09 Wrestling vs. Northwestern, 2/6/09 Women's Basketball at Indiana, 2/8/09 Men's Golf at Big Ten Match Play Tournament, 2/13/09 Men's Gymnastics vs. Penn State, 2/14/09 Men's Basketball vs. Penn State, 2/18/09 Men's Basketball vs. Minnesota, 2/26/09

Women's Basketball at lowa, 2/26/09
Men's Gymnastics Big Ten Championhips, 4/3-4/09
Women's Basketball vs. Penn State, 3/5/09\*
Women's Basketball vs. Ohio State, 3/6/09\*
Men's Track & Field Indoor
Big Ten Championships, 3/7/09
Wrestling Rig Ten Championships 3/8/09

Wrestling Big Ten Championships, 3/8/09 Women's Track & Field Indoor Big Ten Championships, 3/11/09

Mens Basketball vs. Michigan, 3/13/09\* Baseball vs. Michigan State, 3/27/09 Women's Gymnastics Big Ten Championships, 3/31/09

Softball at Iowa, 4/1/09 Baseball at Michigan, 4/10/09 Women's Golf at Big Ten Championships, 4/24-4/26/09

Men's Tennis vs. Ohio State, 4/26/09\*
Men's Golf at Big Ten Championships, 5/1-3/09
Baseball vs. Michigan State, 5/20/09\*
Baseball vs. Ohio State, 5/21/09\*
Baseball vs. Minnesota, 5/22/09\*
Men's and Women's Track & Field Outdoor
Big Ten Championships, 5/24/09

\* - indicates Big Ten Tournament/Championships game/match