Get in step for October 23
Women’s Walk will celebrate women’s teams

The USI Department of Athletics is reviving the Walk for Women’s Athletics to celebrate the progress of and raise additional funds for the women’s varsity programs. The fundraiser was a staple for the department from 1989 to 1994, raising over $50,000 in those six years.

The Walk is scheduled for October 23.

The 2005-06 athletic season will be the 30th anniversary of women’s athletics at USI, beginning with women’s basketball in 1975-76. Next year also is the 25th anniversary of USI women’s athletics association with the NCAA. USI women’s teams were a part of the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women between 1975 and 1981.

In those first eight years of NCAA action prior to the original Women’s

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National championship team gathers for 10th anniversary

The 1995 University of Southern Indiana national championship men’s basketball team is returning for a 10th anniversary celebration at 7 p.m. June 10 at the Physical Activities Center. The celebration will be in conjunction with the USI Varsity Club Golf

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Outback Luncheon breaks record, raising over $9,600 to benefit Varsity Club scholarships

The Outback Luncheon was a record breaker with more than $9,600 raised by the event to benefit Varsity Club scholarships. Including the price of lunch, tips, and auctioned desserts, the total topped last year’s record by nearly $2,000.

Usually closed at lunchtime, Evansville’s Outback Steakhouse swung its doors open at mid-day for the fourth straight year to welcome fans of the Screaming Eagles. The event on April 5 attracted 450 diners.

Mike Fink, right, Outback Steakhouse franchisee, presents check to Jack Marr and Donna Mesker, Varsity Club co-chairs for the luncheon.

Darrell Ragland, left, second vice chair of the Varsity Club, serves Michael Jost while Cindy Bippus, standing, chats with Joanie Jost and Donald Jourdan.
Disney Tip-Off Classic signals start of season

Screaming Eagles basketball fans can expect one of the most exciting months ever during November as teams and fans gear up for the coming season.

The women’s basketball team will begin next year’s campaign in the Disney Tip-Off Classic November 3-7 in Orlando, Florida. The tournament will include USI, Columbus State University, Augusta State University, University of North Dakota, University of Nebraska-Omaha, Bloomfield College, Merrimack College, and Bentley College. Five of the teams—Columbus State, Augusta State, North Dakota, Merrimack, and Bentley—were NCAA II Tournament teams this past year.

The men’s basketball team will follow the women to Florida to participate in the men’s version of the Tip-Off Classic November 10-14. The second tournament will include USI, Philadelphia University, Presbyterian College, Caldwell College, University of Bridgeport, University of Nebraska-Omaha, University of Alaska-Anchorage, and Columbus State University. Columbus State, Nebraska-Omaha, and USI were NCAA II Tournament teams last spring.

After returning from Orlando, the men’s team will play an exhibition game against the University of Louisville November 20 in Freedom Hall.

Watch for information throughout the summer concerning fan trips and ticket availability.

10th anniversary
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Scramble on June 9 at Helfrich Hills Golf Course.

“USI is welcoming back the team that put us on the map,” said Jon Mark Hall, athletic director. “While many great things happened before 1995, the championship let the light of success shine not only on men’s basketball, but on the entire athletic program.”

Returning will be former USI, and new University of Tennessee, Head Coach Bruce Pearl; 1995 NABC Division II Player of the Year and current University of Indianapolis Assistant Coach Stan Gouard; and 1995 GLVC Player of the Year and current Jeffersonville (Indiana) High School Girls Head Coach Chad Gilbert.

Women’s Walk
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Walk, USI’s women’s athletic programs were not ranked, nor did they advance to their respective national tournaments. Since 1989, each of the women’s athletics teams has been ranked regionally and nationally. Women’s basketball advanced to the national championship game in 1997, and Heather Cooksey won a national championship in track in 2004.

“It will be great to see the young men who set the stage for the success USI has enjoyed over the last 10 years,” said USI Head Coach Rick Herdes.

The 1995 squad finished the magical season with a school record 29-4, and was a part of one of the toughest Great Lakes Regional contests in the history of the NCAA Division II Tournament. The regional consisted of three Division II Top 20 teams with Kentucky Wesleyan College ranked third, USI ranked fifth, and tournament host Northern Kentucky University ranked ninth.

In the national championship, the Screaming Eagles overcame a slow start and a pair of 22-point deficits to defeat the University of California Riverside, 71-63, in the nationally televised game. The championship was the NCAA’s third-largest television audience that year.

Women’s soccer game added to USI-UE Mayor’s Cup

The Mayor’s Cup men’s soccer game between USI and the University of Evansville has been expanded this year to include a women’s game. The doubleheader is scheduled for August 21. Times are still to be determined.

Both USI soccer teams start the 2005 season on the road. The women’s program travels to Michigan to play Ferris State University August 26 and the Grand Valley State University Lakers on August 28. The men’s squad opens the fall campaign in Missouri, playing Truman State University on August 27 and Harris Stowe State University on August 28.
Cooksey, Keener, Kendall earn Integra awards

In an evening that celebrated the accomplishments of the University of Southern Indiana student athletes during the last year, junior Heather Cooksey (cross country/track), senior Matt Keener (baseball), and senior Brian Kendall (cross country/track) were recognized as the top student athletes at the USI/Integra Bank All-Sports Banquet.

Cooksey, a junior, is the USI/Integra Bank Female Student Athlete of the Year. The native of Brownsburg, Indiana, is an eight-time All-American after a fourth-place 5,000-meter finish at the NCAA Division II Indoor Track Championships in March. In addition to her All-America honors, she was the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track national champion in the 3,000-meters and has been named the GLVC Scholar Athlete of the Year twice. She holds 14 school records.

The USI/Integra Bank Male Student Athlete of the Year, Keener has been one of the most versatile baseball players in the history of the program. The first Academic All-American in USI baseball history, he is a two-time All-GLVC performer, splitting time among being a rightfielder, a first baseman, and a right-handed pitcher.

In 2005, Keener leads the Eagles in home runs (4), RBIs (27), slugging percentage (.533), and ranks second in batting average (.342). On the mound, he ranks first on the squad in ERA (3.06). He is from Newburgh, Indiana.

Keener recently received the 2005 Trustees Distinguished Merit Award, the most prestigious award presented during honors convocations held for each academic school at USI. He graduated summa cum laude with a perfect 4.0 grade-point average.

Kendall is the winner of the USI/Integra Bank Screaming Eagles Pride Award. A native of Elizabeth, Indiana, he is a four-year member of the cross country and track teams and is the 2005 president of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee.

Kendall will be remembered for cheering on his fellow student athletes. He has become recognizable as the leader of the basketball end-zone student section. With his face painted and wearing a Tina Turner-style wig, he led the men's basketball team onto the court while waving a USI flag.

Remembering Bill Joergens—member of first ISUE men's basketball team, Varsity Club leader

Bill “Big Dog” Joergens died April 21 after a year-long battle with cancer. He was 57.

A member of the first Indiana State University-Evansville men's basketball team and the 1968 Male Student of the Year, Joergens never forgot his early association with the University. He joined the Varsity Club and gave his leadership to many activities, becoming a member of the club's board of directors in 1994 and serving on its advisory board.

Joergens served as treasurer, vice chair, and chair of the Varsity Club board of directors. As co-chair of the club's Steak Fry 'n Auction and Golf Scramble, he helped transform the activities into major annual fundraisers for USI Athletics. He also coordinated the 25th-anniversary recognition of the first men's basketball team, and after USI won the 1995 USI National Men's Basketball Championship, he initiated the formation of the USI Letter Winners Association to unite all student athletes after their intercollegiate careers ended.

In 1998, Joergens received the USI Alumni Association's Alumni Service Award in recognition of his outstanding service to USI Athletics and the USI Varsity Club.

Eagle eye

Calendar

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Dates are subject to change. Call the Varsity Club office at 812/464-1973 for confirmation. Watch for additions to calendar, including Varsity Club Days at volleyball and men's and women's soccer.
Student athletes star in the classroom

Student athletes who have excelled in their classwork were honored April 25 at the eighth annual Screaming Eagles Scholars Luncheon. During the 2004-05 academic year, 54 student athletes attained a 3.5 or higher grade-point average. The cumulative grade-point average for all student athletes was 3.0.

Receive Varsity Club and Athletics news early by e-mail

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

Varsity Club membership

The Varsity Club benefits USI intercollegiate athletics with financial support and fan participation. Five membership levels are available with special benefits at each level.

Silver Eagle ($125)—Admission to Varsity Club Room hospitality events, name on Varsity Club Roster in Physical Activities Center, Eagle Outlook newsletter, invitations to fan trips/special events and All-Sports Picnic, basketball season ticket priority

Golden Eagle ($250)—Above benefits plus invitation to basketball pre-season events

Regal Eagle ($500)—Above benefits plus progam event at University Home

All-American Eagle ($1,000)—Above benefits plus reserved parking for basketball games, post-season ticket priority

Screaming Eagle ($2,000)—Above benefits plus personal parking place for basketball games


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