Quincy natives Brian Doellman and Anthony Longo grew up playing soccer together, so when Longo made a commitment to attend the University of Illinois Springfield, Doellman took a campus visit and knew that's where he wanted to spend his college career.

"Anthony and I have played on traveling teams together since we were about 12, and we've known each other longer than that," Doellman said. "When he came here, I knew it was at least a place I had to look at.

"When I visited, I liked the campus, the town, the academics, and the tradition, so the decision wasn't too difficult. I felt comfortable here. This was the right place for me."

The decision has enabled him to continue playing the game he loves while working toward a degree in business.

"The last three summers I've worked at ADM (in Quincy)," Doellman said. "The marketing people showed me about commodities merchandising. So business administration, I think, is a good choice, and I'm excited starting my life and seeing where it goes."

Doellman's father, Ken, has worked at the Quincy ADM plant for more than 30 years, and his mother, Mary, has worked the same amount of time for Niemann Foods Inc.

"I'm the youngest of three, and ultimately, my mom and dad are my role models," Doellman said. "I appreciate what they've worked and accomplished for us."

Final chance

Before Doellman commits to a life of business, he has a couple months to finish his senior season on the soccer field. It's his last opportunity to validate the potential he has flashed the previous three seasons.

"Brian is a tireless worker with a lot of energy, and he keeps getting better each year," UIS coach Joe Eck said. "His best position is as an attacking wing. He's most effective out wide.

"It's been a pleasure having him four years on the team. We expect this to be his breakout year. The last two seasons he's started strong, then an injury would put him out a week or two and he never could regain his form. We need him for a full season, and if he stays healthy, I'm sure he'll be the player we know he can be."

Doellman said he has played striker most of his career before coming to UIS, but after making the transition as a freshman, he is comfortable playing wide.

"I like it out wide," said Doellman, who had no goals and no assists in six games this season. "I like to take people one on one and get behind the defenders. I can create some problems for teams."

Doellman is enjoying every game of his final collegiate season, but there's the anticipation of playing his hometown Quincy University in the last regular-season home game Oct. 25.

"It's weird, because my first game in college was an exhibition against Quincy, and maybe my last game will be against them," Doellman said. "I hope it's not, because if we can be in the top eight (in the Great Lakes Valley Conference) we can extend the season and play in the conference tournament. I'm looking forward to the Quincy game.

"I've had great memories of my time here. I haven't had a best game or a particular moment. I play hard and to the best of my ability every game. I hope every game I play is the best I can play."

Ron Dickerson can be reached through the sports department at 788-1545.
SCORE: UIS 1, Maryville 1 (2 OT)

SCORING: UIS — Jonathan Hamer (Mauricio Ramirez) 3:28 left in first half; Maryville — Dustin Allison 20:01 left in regulation.


SHINING STARS: Hamer; Carnes.

NOTE: Anthony Longo served a direct free kick from near midfield into the penalty area, where Ramirez got a foot on the ball and Hamer redirected it from a couple yards to score the first UIS goal in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

QUOTE: "We're struggling with consistency in the midfield and up top. We have our moments, but they need to be sustained. We wasted too many opportunities. The other team played with tremendous emotion and high pressure (in the second half), and that goal energized them. We should have had one or two more goals, but they should have, too. It was an entertaining game — back and forth." — UIS coach Joe Eck.

RECORDS: UIS 1-4-1 (0-3-1 GLVC); Maryville 0-5-1 (0-3-1).

WOMEN'S GAME: Maryville 1, UIS 0

NEXT GAME: Women's team vs. University of Missouri-St. Louis, noon Sunday at UIS; men's team vs. UMSL, 2:30 p.m. Sunday at UIS.