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## UIS soccer team breaks 14-game winless streak

By **RON DICKERSON**

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The University of Illinois Springfield slopped its way to its first win since the season opener, beating Millikin 1-0 in a non-conference men's soccer game Thursday night at Kiwanis Field.

It was also the first lead the Prairie Stars have taken since going ahead 1-0 against Maryville on Sept. 17, a game that ended in a 1-1 tie.

UIS upped its record to 2-13-1 while the Big Blue fell to 5-11-1. The Prairie Stars broke a 14-game winless streak dating to a 5-1 victory over Blackburn on Aug. 28.

"The way this season has gone, this is a huge burden off our shoulders," said junior Tyler Rampey, who scored the winning goal late in the first half. "We knew they were a good team, and they played well tonight. It's even better to play well against a good team and come out on top."

Senior Drew Rynders said, "It's been a long road for us. It's good to get another win before we get out of here and graduate. They are (an NCAA Division III) team and would be coming here with something to prove. But we pulled it together and withstood their charge and survived."

Rampey maintained his composure and took a centered ball from Juan Perez, who got it from Jonathan Hamer on the left sideline, and slotted a shot to the left corner of the net from about 8 yards with 1 minute 6 seconds left in the first half.

"I thought we dominated from the start to finish," said first-year Millikin coach Mark Stollsteimer, who previously served 12 years as coach at Davis & Elkins (W.Va.) College. "We had a breakdown in the last minute and a half, and their boy had the composure to do what we couldn't do all night. This game showed we could play with UIS (an NCAA Division II school).

"Our kids showed desire and courage tonight after playing at North Park last night, losing 2-1 in the last five minutes and getting home at two in the morning only to be over here tonight. But give UIS credit because they converted their opportunity."

UIS outshot the Big Blue 15-13 and had three fewer corner kicks, 6-3. Prairie Stars goalie Jeremy Carnes stopped five Millikin shots while Big Blue goalie Derrek Schwartz recorded three saves.

"We needed this win in the worst way," said Joe Eck, who will coach his last game with the Prairie Stars on Sunday against Quincy.

"Tyler finished off a goal and showed great composure in the box. The field conditions made for a sloppy match, but when we kept the ball on the ground I though we were effective. At the end we were bunkering in and protecting the lead. They played with a lot of emotion.

"It was great for the kids to get this win, especially going into our last game with Quincy. A win always boosts your confidence."

Southeast graduate Ryan Schneider, a freshman, played in the middle for Millikin.

Ron Dickerson can be reached through the sports department at 788-1545.

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