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Area colleges: Baseball: UIS signs six recruits

THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

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University of Illinois Springfield coach Brian Grunzke has signed the fledgling program's first recruiting class.

The Prairie Stars will play their first season in the spring of 2011, and Lincoln High School senior infielder Hayden Cosby is among their six signees. Cosby was second in the Central State Eight Conference in stolen bases with 18, hit .357 and had 19 RBIs last season. His five hits in a game is a school record and he holds the record for most at-bats in a season. He was twice voted the Railers' defensive player of the year.

UIS' other recruits are Bartonville Limestone High School senior pitcher Barry Arnett, Lincoln College sophomore outfielder Nate Blessman, Princeton High School senior catcher Reid Clary, Naperville Central High School senior Matt Cmiel and Washington senior infielder Marshall Escue.

Arnett had a 5-2 record with a 2.02 ERA and 56 strikeouts at Limestone last season, and was a McDonald's all-star.

Blessman hit .313 as a college freshman with six doubles and four triples.

Clary hit .460, had 37 RBIs and 15 doubles at Princeton in the spring. Prep Baseball Report ranked him among the top 125 players in the state.

Cmiel stole 29 bases, hit .470 and had an on-base percentage of .579 junior year.

Escue, a varsity player since freshman year, led Washington last season with a .454 batting average. He also had an 8-1 pitching record. He was selected twice as a McDonald's all-star.

Men's basketball

Chargers slip past Eagles

Despite a second-half rally, the Robert Morris University Eagles fell to the Carl Sandburg Chargers 93-89 at Lincoln Land Community College.

Robert Morris center Ephrem Davis poured in a team-high 21 point and pulled down nine rebounds, while guard Anthony Patton finished with 18 points including two 3s. Dee Purnell followed with 17 points and Emmanuel Boston finished with 16 points. Robert Morris shot 60 percent from the field in the second half, when it outscored Sandburg 52-44.

Isiah Cunningham led Sandburg (4-3) with 26 points, 10 rebounds, and three steals while Stephen Reynolds and Jeremy Sewell tallied 18 points apiece.

Lynx score OT win

MOLINE — Kenyon Smith scored a game-high 20 points and Chris Ware tallied 15 to help the Lincoln College Lynx to an 80-75 overtime win over the Black Hawk College Braves.

Brandon Orange and Kyler Works with added 11 points for Lincoln (6-1).

Blueboys reach final

JACKSONVILLE — Craig Bals was 5-for-6 from 3-point range and totaled 25 points as the Illinois College Blueboys defeated the Simpson College Storm 88-74 in the semifinals of the Bill Merris Tournament.

Illinois College shot 70 percent from the floor in the first half and led 53-29 at the half. Simpson was held to 29.3 percent in the first half. Jacob Tucker drained three 3s and finished with 17 points, while Nathan Kohler had 12 points and four assists.

The Blueboys play Milwaukee School of Engineering at 3 p.m. today in the championship game Simpson squares off against Nebraska Wesleyan at 1 p.m. in a consolation match-up.

Women's basketball

Millikin stops Highlanders

DECATUR — The Millikin Big Blue shot 55 percent from the field and knocked off the MacMurray College Highlanders 83-61 in St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference play.

Millikin's Elise Wildman was 4-for-4 from the free throw line and finished with a game-high 22 points, 12 rebounds, and four blocks. Beth Wellbaum chipped in 11 points and five assists as Millikin improved to 1-1 overall.

Ashley Jenkins and Kiana Hogan finished with 14 points apiece to pace MacMurray (0-3). Jenkins contributed five rebounds, six assists and two steals, and Hogan collected six rebounds.

Bullard, Trass lift Lynx in OT

DECATUR — Kindi Bullard scored a game-high 23 points and pulled down nine rebounds and Raskeka Trass netted 19 points with seven rebounds to help the Lincoln College Lynx defeat the Millikin University JV 77-69 in overtime.

Lincoln led 35-30 at halftime, and Millikin outscored Lincoln 35-30 in the second half for a 65-all tie at the end of regulation.

Trass led with six of Lincoln's 12 overtime points.

Meelun McCray added 14 points and eight rebounds for Lincoln.

Nikki Tipsword led Millikin with 15 points and Morgan Williams totaled 14. Abby Jungk grabbed a game-high 11 rebounds.

Hockey

Brown nets win for Eagles

PEORIA — Derek Brown scored three goals and had an assist to lead the Robert Morris University-Springfield Eagles past Robert Morris-Peoria 6-4 at the ACHA Showcase at the Owens Center.

RMU-Springfield (5-9) trailed 3-2 after two periods.

David Long added two goals for RMU-Springfield and Dominic Guriel netted one. Peoria is 7-9-2 overall.

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