



**SJ-R.COM**

The State Journal-Register • Springfield, IL • The Oldest Newspaper in Illinois

## Questions outnumber answers for UIS men's soccer team

By **MARCIA MARTINEZ** ([marcia.martinez@sj-r.com](mailto:marcia.martinez@sj-r.com))

**THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER**

Posted Aug 28, 2010 @ 12:01 AM

New coach, new team.

It's a clean slate for the University of Illinois Springfield Prairie Stars men's soccer program.

UIS heads into the season with a new coach in Chad Jones, who replaces Joe Eck, and just four players back from last year's 1-14-1 squad.

Senior Tyler Rampey, junior Michael Waldo and sophomores Juan Perez and Jonathan Hamer started anywhere from four to 12 games in 2009. Combined Rampey, Waldo and Hamer netted four of the 11 goals scored by UIS last fall.

There are more questions than answers when it comes to this year's team, but Jones is sure of one thing.

"Our goal this year is to be competitive in every game," he said. "There are not any bunnies in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. Every game we have to be prepared to play, and that's what we're trying to do in training to get that mentality."

UIS has exhibition matches today against Lincoln College and Saturday against Millikin. The Stars play their season-opening match Sept. 3 against William Jewell at Kiwanis Stadium.

"Three things that we've been working on is we're going to be organized defensively and offensively, we're going to be fit and the last thing is we're going to be committed to getting better every game and every training session," Jones said.

### **Benedictine Bulldogs**

The Bulldogs are a year older and better in the eyes are coach John Krohe.

"We had 14 freshmen last year and eight are back," he said. "I can tell already this year they're much more confident and know what to expect.

"We only have one senior and two juniors, but we're excited about joining the (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics). We're well aware of the challenges."

Benedictine is transitioning from a junior college to a four-year school and NAIA member.

The defense could carry the Bulldogs (2-12-1 in 2009). Ryne Torricelli, who played at Benedictine's predecessor Springfield College in Illinois before transferring last year at UIS, is once again playing for Benedictine.

"I'm glad Ryne is back," Krohe said. "He's going to solidify our backline.

"Dan Broadbent, who was a captain at Heartland, and Ryne are both hardnosed defenders. Dan is 6 feet 2 and very good in the air. I can already tell that defense is going to be our strength."

On the other end of the field, the Bulldogs expect scoring contributions from freshman Adam Cheung and sophomore Chris Eckhardt.

The midfield should include Mike Witsman, Travis Hamlin, Aaron Felix, Matt Perry and Zach Reed, all returning players.

The Bulldogs also return goalkeeper Aaron Krieg.

### **Lincoln Land Loggers**

LLCC enjoyed the best season of any Springfield college soccer program last fall.

The Loggers compiled a 16-4-1 record, were ranked No. 14 in the final National Junior Colleges Athletic Association Division I poll and reached the Region 24 championship match, which it lost in a penalty-kick shootout.

English sophomores Daniel Iredale (defender), Dominic Ivens (midfielder) and Josh Van Allen (defender) are among seven returning players. Even so, the Loggers will have somewhat of a new look.

"I have a lot of offense," LLCC Tom Noonan said. "Normally, I'm very defensive oriented."

The glut of forwards include Thadeus Snell, a first-team all-region pick that scored 17 goals for Rend Lake College in 2009, Liberia's Stephen Wannah, Zambia's Joel Pepala, Honduran David Martinez and Brazilian Rafael Ramos.

Midfielders Larry Agaba of Uganda, Justin Lex, Tim Dhabalt and James Craddock are capable of producing offense.

"We've got a lot of speed and a lot of skill," Noonan said. "We should be able to run at teams because we have a lot of depth."

Max Rebman is the Loggers' returning goalkeeper. Freshmen Justin Sloan and Brad Hanson are also goalkeepers.

Versatile freshman Sean Ryan is playing at center back and left back but could play anywhere. The defense should also feature English freshman Mark Pattison.

"The key to the season is if my defenders stay healthy," Noonan said.

### Robert Morris Eagles

The Eagles have the task of replacing both their top scorer (Jorge De La Fuente) and top defender (Nick Platipodis) from last season's 6-12 team.

Coach Pat Phillips is looking to Tyler Novy, Josh Dubois and Billy Bucci to score goals. He expects Patrick Boyer, T.C. Byerly and goalkeeper Zach Lloyd to carry the defense.

"We have more team depth and better chemistry," Phillips said.

Marcia Martinez can be reached at 788-1547.

Copyright 2010 The State Journal-Register. Some rights reserved

Comments (0)

Login or register to post a comment:

Login

Username:

Password:

[Forgot password](#)

Register

Email:

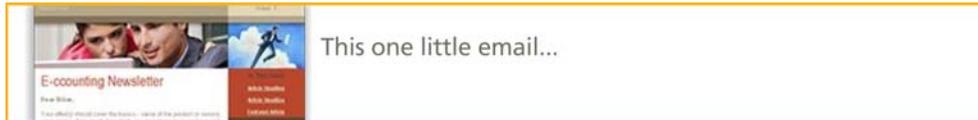
First Name:

Last Name:

I agree to the terms of use

I am over 13 years of age

NOTE: Your inbox must accept emails from "no-reply@gatehousemedia.com"



[Contact us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [About our Ads](#)

The State Journal-Register | Springfield, IL 62701

Copyright © 2006-2010 GateHouse Media, Inc. Some Rights Reserved.

Original content available for non-commercial use under a Creative Commons license, except where noted.

SEO by eLocalListing | Advertiser profiles