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UIS notes: Prairie Stars soccer team to have new look

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With the season-opening match just one day away, University of Illinois Springfield Prairie Stars men's soccer coach Chad Jones has a clearer vision of the near future.

That's because UIS scrimmaged Lincoln College last Thursday and played an exhibition match Saturday against Millikin. Millikin beat UIS 3-0 in the exhibition match. The women's soccer team fell 1-0 to Millikin in an exhibition.

The NCAA also cleared several players Wednesday to play for the Stars, who host William Jewell in a non-conference match at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Kiwanis Stadium. UIS faces Rockhurst in a Great Lakes Valley Conference match at 2:30 p.m. Sunday. The women's team plays at 5 p.m. Friday and noon Sunday.

"This weekend we'll have a completely different lineup," Jones said.

Lincoln Land Community College transfers Brandon Belcon, a junior midfielder/forward, and Brett Schubert, a junior forward, are new additions to the men's soccer roster.

Senior Frank Rodriguez, who played for the Springfield Spirits and Southeast High School, and junior defender Peter Ottolini, another LLCC product, are among 16 new UIS players. Other local players are junior Paul South, a Chatham Glenwood High graduate, and Mike Brydl, who played at Sacred Heart-Griffin High.

Both of UIS' goalkeepers are new to the college game. Jake Turanchik, an all-stater at Naperville Neuqua Valley High, faced quality competition as a member of the Chicago Fire Youth Development program. Normal University High graduate Cole Wardlow is being used as a field player instead of in the net due to a separated finger.

"We'll see how that battle works out as the season goes along," Jones said.

Women's golf team gearing up

The first of five fall tournaments await the UIS women's golf team beginning Saturday and Sunday with the Illinois College Tournament at The Links in Jacksonville.

Junior Mallorie Cummings, a transfer from Rend Lake who tied for 47th at the National Junior College Athletic Association Golf Championship last spring, will make her debut in the event.

"Abby (Vorreger), Kelsey (Blake) and Mallorie are all fighting for that No. 1 spot," UIS golf coach Nichole Inkel-Pongracz said.

"It's a little bit more consistent from top to bottom. It's not such a drastic drop. Each qualifying round they turned in, the scores have been really close. Abby, Paige (Luker) and Kelsey never had to qualify before. They're working harder and practicing harder."

Besides Cummings, Edwardsville High graduate Caitlin Osborne and Petersburg PORTA product Brittany Stout are new to the team.

Stars ready for lengthy road trip

UIS' season-opening volleyball match against Ouachita Baptist on Friday evening is the first of 13 straight road games for the Stars. The team leaves today for the Christian Brothers University Tournament in Memphis where it will play Ouachita, Christian Brothers, Missouri Western and Stillman College over two days.

"They're excited about the chance to finally play and leaving town to play in the first tournament," UIS coach Angie Riggle said. "It gives them an opportunity for team bonding right away and it gives us about four days of practice before we play in the tournament (at the University of Missouri-St. Louis Sept. 10-11.)"

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