

# Former UIS players get tuition help

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

Kelly Thompson, Jeanell Randolph and Natalie Bertucci, who were among six players who lost their athletic scholarships and were cut by coach Marne Fauser from the University of Illinois Springfield women's basketball team after last season, are receiving tuition assistance from the university this semester.

## FIRST IN PRINT



Bertucci



Randolph



Thompson

Randolph said she is receiving \$500 per semester from UIS. The junior expected to receive more than what she was awarded.

"They were giving me \$6,000 a semester (when she was on the team)," Randolph said. "It's like chump change. Some of the girls got more than me."

She has taken out two loans to help cover her college costs.

Thompson, a junior, is unclear about the exact monetary amount she is receiving, but knows it covers her tuition.

"The only thing I didn't get back was my housing," said Thompson, who is taking 12 to 13

credit hours this semester. "When I was on the basketball team, my scholarship was paying tuition and housing. Now, it's just tuition."

Thompson is taking courses on campus and online. She commutes to Springfield from the Champaign area once a week to attend class.

Randolph and Thompson said they were offered tuition money for each semester until they reach 120

## UIS

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credit hours.

"It's only offered for so long," Thompson said. "We have to have 120 credits before the summer of 2012 or they don't pay for it. We have to the summer of 2012 to use up their offer."

The dismissal of the basketball players drew the ire of many community members, UIS staff, players and their families.

Thompson submitted an appeal in the spring to the Office of Financial Assistance to regain her basketball scholarship and a spot on the team. It was denied.

Thompson made plans to attend and play basketball at Millikin University. The private school cost too much to attend, Thompson said. In the meantime, Thompson and her parents met with Edward Wojcicki, UIS associate chancellor for constituent relations.

"He's the one who initiated the offer," she said. "He was the one that we talked to."

"I'm glad they stepped up. I still never got an answer to my dismissal."

Wojcicki refused Thursday to answer any questions regarding the former players' claims they are receiving tuition money from UIS.

"Because of federal privacy laws, I cannot talk about students' scholarships," he said.

Messages for Rachael Follmer and Susan Coryell, who were among the six players cut from the team following the season, were not returned.

At least one of the dismissed players has signed with another team. Erin Glogovsky is playing for Truman State.

*Marcia Martinez can be reached at 788-1547.*