

August 28, 2003

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Improvement Seen for IWU Men's Soccer Team

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - A much-improved Illinois Wesleyan men's soccer team is expected as the Titans open their season at home Friday against regionally-ranked Centre (Kentucky).

IWU plays at 7:30 p.m. in the Titan Men's Soccer Classic, then meets Loras, an NCAA tournament team last fall, on Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Head coach Dave Barrett says the entire environment of the team is better than last season when IWU was 6-12 overall and 1-5 in the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin. "The players' attitudes are much more positive and serious, reflecting the quality of what we're trying to accomplish," said Barrett. "We're eager to show we are better than our sixth place CCIW preseason poll rankings."

Junior co-captain Alan Mila (**Bartlett, Wheaton Academy**), last season's "Most Valuable Player" and a two-time all-CCIW selection as a defenseman, is moving to midfield to allow him to be more involved in the attacking phase of the game.

Joining Mila in the midfield will be freshman Chris Miller (**Normal, U High**) and sophomore Kevin Hegi (**Wheaton, North HS**), while other offensive contributions will come from by senior forward David Munz (**Mt. Prospect, Prospect HS**) and junior Reed Grimwood (**Eagan, Minn. HS**), along with freshman Josh Lacey (**Eldridge, Iowa, North Scott HS**).

Munz is IWU's top returning scorer as he had six goals in 2002.

Three lettermen - senior Paul Abraham (**Arlington Heights, Hersey HS**), junior Dave Beckett (**Bolingbrook HS**) and sophomore George Aliaga (**Glenview, Glenbrook South HS**) - along with freshman Ben Clemens (**Wheaton, Benet Academy**) add depth to the Titan midfield and forward positions.

Senior co-captain Mike Rampey (**Bloomington HS**), who scored two goals and added three assists last fall as a forward, will move to right back to strengthen the IWU defense that allowed 2.4 goals per game last year.

Barrett feels the defense for this year's team will be improved with junior Scott Hernandez (**Ft. Worth, Texas, Oswego, Ill., HS**) and freshmen Mark Opal (**Wheaton, Benet Academy**) and Steve Perona (**Western Springs, Lyons Township HS**) adding to the backfield lineup.

Junior Matt Robertson (**Arlington Heights, Hersey HS**) is the likely starter as goalkeeper with backup from sophomore Jeremy Witt (**Waukegan, Warren Township HS**) and freshman Mike McNerney (**Oak Brook, Benet Academy**). Robertson and Witt shared the duties in 2002,

each playing 11 games. Robertson had a 2.47 goals-against average with one shutout while Witt had a 2.26 goals-against average and three shutouts.

In addition to Loras, the Titans' schedule features two other NCAA tourney teams from 2002 – Wisconsin-Oshkosh and Wheaton – along with regional powers Washington U. and Chicago.

“This team is much improved as we have added quality and are more skillful, able to do more things with the ball,” said Barrett. “It could be that we will surprise people.”

ILLINOIS WESLEYAN 2003 MEN'S SOCCER SCHEDULE

Aug. 29	TITAN MEN SOCCER CLASSIC	
	Millikin vs. Loras	5 p.m.
	Illinois Wesleyan vs. Centre	7:30 p.m.
Aug. 30	TITAN MEN SOCCER CLASSIC	
	Millikin vs. Centre	5 p.m.
	Illinois Wesleyan vs. Loras	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 3	at Dominican	4 p.m.
Sept. 6	BENEDICTINE	7 p.m.
Sept. 9	at Blackburn (Men)	4 p.m.
Sept. 12	* WHEATON (Ill.)	7 p.m.
Sept. 16	at Webster	7 p.m.
Sept. 20	* at Augustana	6 p.m.
Sept. 24	at Washington U.	5 p.m.
Sept. 27	* at North Park	2:30 p.m.
Sept. 30	* at Millikin	7 p.m.
Oct. 4	* CARTHAGE	3 p.m.
Oct. 14	AURORA	5 p.m.
Oct. 17	at UW-Oshkosh	4 p.m.
Oct. 18	at Marian	7 p.m.
Oct. 22	CHICAGO	5 p.m.
Oct. 25	* at North Central	2 p.m.
Oct. 28	ST. XAVIER	7 p.m.
Nov. 5-8	CCIW Tournament	

ILLINOIS WESLEYAN 2003 MEN'S SOCCER (alphabetical)

Head Coach: David Barrett
 Assistants: Andy Hall, Brian Rossi

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	YR.	HOMETOWN (HIGH SCHOOL)
9	Paul Abraham ***	MF	5-7	170	Sr.	Arlington Heights (Hersey HS)
20	George Aliaga *	MF	5-9	155	So.	Glenview (Glenbrook South HS)
24	Aaron Bailey	B	6-1	180	Fr.	Peoria (Richwoods HS)
11	Dave Beckett **	F	5-11	180	Jr.	Bolingbrook (HS)
22	Drew Brady *	B	5-10	155	So.	Glenview (Glenbrook South HS)
8	Peter Brown	F/MF	5-9	160	Fr.	Bourbonnais (Bradley-Bourbonnais HS)
12	Ben Clemens	MF	6-1	170	Fr.	Wheaton (Benet Academy)
23	Matt Formeller	MF	6-0	155	So.	Northbrook (Loyola Academy)
13	Reed Grimwood **	B	5-9	175	Jr.	Eagan, Minn. (HS)
10	Kevin Hegi *	MF	5-8	145	So.	Wheaton (North HS)
21	Scott Hernandez **	B	6-0	185	Jr.	Ft. Worth, Texas (Oswego, Ill., HS)
4	Nick Hogren **	B	6-1	180	Jr.	Metamora (HS)
16	Andrew Kloeppe	B	5-8	160	Fr.	Naperville (Benet Academy)
5	Joshua Lacey	F	5-9	165	Fr.	Eldridge, Iowa (North Scott HS)
30	Mike McNerney	GK	6-3	182	Fr.	Oak Brook (Benet Academy)
7	Alan Mila ** #	B	6-1	195	Jr.	Bartlett (Wheaton Academy)
14	Chris Miller	MF	5-10	150	Fr.	Normal (U High)
15	Dave Munz ***	F	6-1	175	Sr.	Mt. Prospect (Prospect HS)
19	Mark Opal	B	6-2	173	Fr.	Wheaton (Benet Academy)
6	Steve Perona	MF	5-11	165	Fr.	Western Springs (Lyons Township HS)
17	Mike Rampey * #	MF/F	5-10	155	Sr.	Bloomington (HS)
1	Matt Robertson **	GK	6-2	200	Jr.	Arlington Heights (Hersey HS)
3	Ryan Smith *	F	6-3	190	So.	Decatur (Eisenhower HS)
2	Jon Sykora *	B	6-1	180	So.	Bolingbrook (HS)
0	Jeremy Witt **	GK	5-8	175	Jr.	Waukegan (Warren Township HS)
25	Jon Yee	B	5-5	138	Fr.	Long Grove (St. Viator HS)

*--Indicates letters won.

#--Indicates captains.