

# Gymnastics Season's Here

UIC MEN'S GYMNASTICS

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## 2004-05 SEEMS TO BE A ROCKY ROAD FOR THE FLAMES!

### Season Update

The road to ECAC 's has been a hard filled year so far! The glory of last year has left the gym, as this season gets closer to March. An unusual happening has hit the Flames so far this year. Because of a rule violation, UIC was kept from having their entire line-up intact for the WCI on January 8<sup>th</sup>. In the Flames first outing of the year, UIC fell very short to their expectation of a year ago. UIC placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the 6-team field. The highlight of the evening was the 4<sup>th</sup> place finish of senior Neil Faustino in the all-around competition.

The Flames then traveled to Columbus, OH where they were killed by the No.1 ranked Buckeyes. Both Neil and Tim Morrison were out of the lineup for this competition as both had sustained injuries; Neil with an upper back problem and Tim with a severe wrist injury. What can be said about this meet? I guess that we were lucky that the plane did not go down! As a spectator it appeared

that every time I looked at someone they seemed to fall on their butts! If there were any bright spots it would be Michael Galfi's rings, Vault and parallel bars. Also highlighted with Galfi was Nick Stavros's 9.25 on rings, and a come back all-around of Jr. Eric Novick. Novick scored 52.05 just 1 point lower than his championship score at the ECAC's a year ago, and good enough for first place.

Going into the 3rd meet of the year the Flames came out with greater determination than the previous weeks. This day the Flames fell short to a good Minnesota team! This was the strongest outing to date, and I might say was a night where we almost had a complete line up. Still without freshman Jeff White from Georgia, the Flames posted their highest score of the year along with their greatest hit percentage as well. Members of the team hit their season's best at this meet. Our score moved us up to the 12th spot in the Nation.

As we were doing our best, so was Army, as their home meet score with Springfield topped the 214 mark! We have some work in front of us as we head out to

conference rivals Navy and Springfield College February 26<sup>th</sup>.

### Injuries Update

This season has had its share of injuries beginning with an operation to tumbling standout Andy Krueger. Andy went under the knife for bone spurs in his ankle that have plagued him for two years. Then we found out that a hair- line fracture was found on the spinney process of Jeff White's back. Then came a torn ACL of Tommy Kosanda. Kosanda a senior was a very important FX and PH man to the program a year ago. Then red-shirt freshman Brad Trompeter popped his shoulder and could not do the strength that he was capable of. If we need more pain Neil Faustino went down with two separate pains, one to his back and one to his neck. He is very lucky, as the neck injury could very well have ended his career. Just so he would not be lonely in the training room Tim Morrison took time off as he jammed his wrist almost as hard as Matt Musielak did a year ago. The

injury to Matt was felt very hard by him especially on pommel horse. Tim's injury was, fortunately, not to the level of tear as Matt did!

## ACADEMICS

After the fall term was done and all grades were in the Men's team earned a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish over-all in grades with a 3.06 (4.00) GPA. The GPA was the top of all men's sports at UIC!

Three team members reached the highest standard of posting 4.00 honors. Brad Trompeter in Exercise Physiology, Tim Morrison in Math, Brad Burbrink in Psychology, and Mark Seske also in Exercise Physiology!

Just close to 4.00 honors were Neil Faustino in Engineering, Michael Galfi in Mathematics, Tommy Kosanda, Engineering, Joe Blum, LAS, Steve Garner, Engineering, and freshman Scott Durso in LAS. The Flames are well on their way to remaining on top as an All-Academic Team, just as they were last season. Last year saw the UIC Flames 7<sup>th</sup> over all of Gymnastics teams in the Nation!

## E-Mail Write ups

E-mail members, we will continue to write as often as we can to keep each of you up to date on the progress

UIC will make over the year. For those not on our e-mail list I am sorry that U.S. snail mail is your only source of news. We have a difficult time getting our news to each of you in a timely fashion due, partly, to staff and priorities. I am sorry for this and I do hope that we can improve on our reporting next season. This newsletter will provide each alumni, friend, parent, old and new, an update of this year's climb to fame again

## **2006 RECRUITS**

Joining the UIC program next fall will be Kevin Baune of sunny California. An exceptional pommel horse man Kevin has all the tools to become a great college gymnast for the UIC program.

Local talent that has decided to join UIC includes Jeff Bill, a Wheeling High School student who competes for Midwest Academy. Not only is Jeff a good all-Arounder, he is a talent in the classroom as well!

Number three goes to Nick Persino. Nick is no stranger to success as he ranks very high on the rings, high bar and parallel bars both locally and nationally.

Rounding out the Freshman Flames in 2006 will be JO standout Alex Kadar of Chicago, IL. Alex was coached by his father Marius Kadar a former member of the Romanian National Team and the head coach for the Chicago Park District Elite Program.

## Fundraising Campaign

Contributors to UIC Men's

gymnastics were very generous in the 2005 campaign. You, our family of supporters, must not forget our goal of \$30,000!

We ask each of you who have forgotten your promises and those with the kindest of intentions to PLEASE make the time to write that check. We within the gymnastics program need your financial support!

As we end the 2005 season I invite past supporters to consider increasing last year's gift. Those who have not yet made a commitment to UIC Gymnastics are invited to join us in 2005! For more information, e-mail [cjgym@uic.edu](mailto:cjgym@uic.edu) or call 312.996.5614. Your generosity is what will assist UIC with its future!

## HOME SCHEDULE

Our home meet schedule is almost at the end as we only have two remaining home meets this season! Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup> the UIC Flames take on the Air Men of the Air Force Academy and ASU Sun Devils at 7:00 PM in the PEB Building. On Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM will be our SENIOR DAY. The same 3 teams will again compete.

## ALUMNI NOTES!!!!

Have something you would like to share with the UIC Alumni group? E-mail [cjgym@uic.edu](mailto:cjgym@uic.edu) to include your news in future newsletters.