



Illinois Sports Update

May 15, 2007



Baseball (28-22, 14-12)

Contact: Ben Taylor (244-4982)

Review: Brian Long had a career day, tossing five shutout innings of near-perfect relief to lift Illinois to a sweep of Indiana with a 7-2 win in the final game of the series over the Hoosiers. It is the Illini's first Big Ten series sweep of the season and first since the Orange and Blue took all four from Northwestern on May 6-8, 2005. Illinois is now tied for fifth place in the Big Ten standings with Ohio State, 1.5 games ahead of Michigan State for the final Big Ten Tournament berth. The Spartans visit Champaign next weekend.

Before Sunday's final blow to the Hoosiers, Illini Redshirt-sophomore Mike Stankiewicz tossed his second complete-game shutout of the year in game one and Illinois used five consecutive singles to stage a four-run, two-out rally in the sixth inning of game two, sweeping a doubleheader from Indiana by the scores of 3-0 and 5-2 on Saturday. It is the second-straight weekend Illinois has swept the Saturday doubleheader and third time this season.

Illinois also improved to 6-1 in Big Ten series openers thanks to a solid performance by starter Tanner Roark and an electrifying 1 1/3 innings by closer Jake Toohey, who stranded two runners in scoring position while striking out the final two hitters of the game for a 6-5 game-one Illini victory. Shawn Roof broke the single-season stolen base record by swiping his 36th base of the year in the sixth inning.

On the weekend, Illinois pitchers put together a 1.41 ERA with a .217 opponent batting average, giving up just 26 hits in 32 innings while striking out 12 and walking just six Indiana hitters. That allowed the Illini offense to outscore the Hoosiers 21-9.

Preview: Illinois travels to GCS Ballpark in Sauget, Ill., for its annual wood-bat showdown with Missouri on Tuesday. First pitch is set for 6:30 p.m. The Illini then host Michigan State, the team directly behind them in the Big Ten standings, in the final series of the season. The four-game set starts with a 6:05 p.m. first pitch on Friday.

Softball (30-25, 7-8)

Contact: Mike Koon (244-1256)

Review: Illinois completed its season with a 4-0 defeat to No. 10 Michigan in the quarterfinals of the Big Ten Tournament. The season saw several records broken, including individual single-season marks for runs scored (Angelena Mexicano, 60), home runs (Shanna Diller & Mexicano, 16) and RBI (Lana Armstrong, 55). The Illini pace the nation with a 1.53 home runs per game average. The team's 84 total home runs ranks 16th on the all-time NCAA list.

Preview: Season Complete

Men's Tennis (20-8, 8-2)

Contact: Kevin Martinez (265-0170)

Review: The No. 10 Illinois men's tennis team advanced to the Sweet Sixteen for the eighth time in the last nine years as it dismissed No. 21 Michigan in the Illinois Regional final at the Atkins Tennis Center, 4-2, on Saturday. The Illini, who had faced the Wolverines twice already in 2007 prior to the meeting, used their past experiences to repeat their performance from the Big Ten Tournament where they also handed UM a setback (4-1).

If the occasion was not rich enough in excitement for the Illini already, head coach Brad Dancer celebrated his 100th career victory, his 44th here at Illinois.

Illinois improved to 20-8 with the win, while Michigan ended one of their best seasons under head coach Bruce Berque, 20-7. The feat also marked the 10th straight time the Illini have posted a 20-win season, dating back to 1998, and the second straight under Dancer who led the Orange and Blue to a 24-7 mark in his first season at the helm in 2006.

The Illini ended their home schedule on a 17-match win streak, dating back to April 2006, while the feat also includes 13 straight in 2007. The Atkins Tennis Center, a seventh man for Illinois since its erection in 1992, has helped the Illini to a 15-2 overall record when hosting the NCAA tournament, while Illinois improved to 8-1 overall and as the host in the second round. If that was not enough, Illinois has now won 12 straight postseason home matches, dating back to 2002.

Preview: Illinois now travels to Athens, Ga., to participate in the NCAA Team Championships May 17-22 at the Dan Magill Tennis Complex on the Henry Feild Courts. In the Round of 16, the Illini will face No. 7-ranked and seeded Mississippi (24-4), who earned a berth into Athens by way of a 4-1 defeat of Southern Alabama in the second round of their respective regional.

Overall, 13 of the top 16 seeds advanced into the Round of 16, with No. 6 North Carolina being the highest seed absent from the second week of competition. The Tar Heels are joined by No. 14 Duke, who was eliminated by No. 17 Alabama, 4-3, in its regional's second round, and Florida State, who was knocked out by in-state rival No. 19 Florida, 4-3, in the Round of 32 as well.

Overall, Tulsa was the highest seed (No. 19) to not reach the second round, as they fell to No. 45 Vanderbilt in the 2007 Tournament's biggest upset, 4-2.

Women's Track & Field

Contact: Derrick Burson (333-0933)

Review: The Illinois women's track & field team captured the 2007 Big Ten Outdoor Championship on Sunday afternoon, racking up an amazing 106 points during the final day of competition to finish the meet with a total score of 129. Illinois and Michigan were co-champions, marking the first time in Big Ten history that there has been a tie for the women's outdoor title.

This marks Illinois' 11th conference championship under head coach Gary Winckler, and the program's sixth outdoor title. It also is its second title in the last three years, as the Illini also won the 2005 Big Ten outdoor meet.

Yvonne Mensah had a spectacular weekend in helping lead Illinois to the championship. She captured four gold medals on the final day, winning the 100-meter (11.53) and 200-meter (23.57) dashes and triple jump (42 feet 6 inches), as well as anchoring the Illini's victorious 4x100-meter relay (45.02). The relay team consisted of Armstrong, Waller, Carlene Robinson and Mensah.

Illinois, which began the day in seventh place, made a steady climb up the team standings and had moved into second place - trailing Michigan by three points - entering the meet's final event, the 4x400m relay. The UI relay team finished second with a season's best and regional qualifying time of 3:35.58, earning eight points. Michigan, meanwhile, finished fourth in the relay for five points.

Preview: Illinois is off this week but looks forward to the 2007 NCAA Mid-East Regional Championships, which takes place May 25-26 in Columbia, Mo.

Men's Track & Field

Contact: Derek Neal (244-3707)

Review: The Fighting Illini men's track & field team claimed three titles on the final day of the 2007 Big Ten Outdoor Championships to wrap up a sixth-place finish. Sophomore Lesiba Masheto won the 400m and senior Adrian Walker took home the 400m hurdle crown, while the 4x400m relay of Walker, senior Tramel Smith, junior Paul Johnson and Masheto closed out the meet with a bang by winning at the tape.

Masheto claimed the Orange and Blue's first gold medal of the championships in the 400m dash. The Botswana native ran a 45.54 to edge Minnesota's Aaron Buzard (45.80) for the title, just off of his nation-leading time of 45.41 set back on March 17 and narrowly missing the 23-year old track record of 45.48. Walker, meanwhile, cruised to Illinois' second victory of the championships by running a blazing 50.29 in the 400m hurdles, setting a new track record in the process by bettering the old mark of 50.39 set back in 1981 by Penn State's Paul Lankford. I

The Championships ended with a bang in a thrilling 4x400m relay, as Masheto made up a 10-meter deficit in the final 150 meters to again edge Minnesota's Buzard, this time by just .06 seconds, and give Illinois its third title of the day.

Preview: Illinois is off this week but looks forward to the 2007 NCAA Mid-East Regional Championships, which takes place May 25-26 in Columbia, Mo.



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Baseball (28-22, 14-12)

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
Feb. 23	at Louisiana-Lafayette	L, 5-13
Feb. 24	at Louisiana-Lafayette	L, 6-7
Feb. 25	at Louisiana-Lafayette	L, 7-10
<i>Al Oglethorpe Classic, Edinburg, Texas</i>		
March 2	vs. Sam Houston State	W, 14-5
March 3	at Texas-Pan American	L, 3-5
March 4	vs. Stephen F. Austin	W, 11-6
<i>Spring Trip, IMG Academy, Bradenton, Fla.</i>		
March 16	vs. Vermont	Postponed
March 17	vs. Jacksonville State	L, 2-14
March 18	vs. Yale	W, 17-5
March 19	vs. Dartmouth	W, 20-10
March 21	vs. Massachusetts	W, 4-0
March 21	vs. Dartmouth	W, 5-2
March 22	vs. Dartmouth	W, 7-4
March 27	Indiana State	L, 4-0
March 30	at Purdue	W, 14-13
March 31	at Purdue (DH)	W, 9-4, L, 1-2
April 1	at Purdue	L, 6-11
April 3	Western Michigan	W, 11-4
April 4	Western Michigan	Cancelled
April 6	Ohio State	Postponed
April 7	Ohio State	Cancelled
April 8	Ohio State (DH)	W, 8-5; L, 7-10
April 10	Bradley	L, 4-6
April 13	at Northwestern	W, 6-2
April 14	at Northwestern (DH)	W, 1-0; W, 8-7
April 15	at Northwestern	L, 5-6 (10)
April 17	at Illinois State	W, 18-4
April 18	Robert Morris	W, 4-3
April 20	at Iowa	W, 6-2
April 21	at Iowa (DH)	L, 9-10; L, 4-10
April 22	at Iowa	L, 12-17
April 24	Eastern Illinois	W, 8-0
April 25	Blackburn College	W, 9-3
April 27	Minnesota	W, 10-5
April 28	Minnesota (DH)	L, 4-19; L, 5-14
April 29	Minnesota	L, 6-15
May 1	at Southern Illinois	W, 13-5
May 2	Greenville College	W, 16-1
May 4	at Michigan	L, 3-4
May 5	at Michigan (DH)	W, 7-4 (8); W, 6-3
May 6	at Michigan	L, 5-10
May 11	Indiana	W, 6-5
May 12	Indiana (DH)	W, 3-0; W, 5-2
May 13	Indiana	W, 7-2
May 15	vs. Missouri	6:35 pm
May 18	Michigan State	6:05 pm
May 19	Michigan State (DH)	1:05 pm
May 20	Michigan State	1:05 pm
May 23-26	Big Ten Tournament	TBA

Softball (30-25, 7-8)

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
<i>Diamond Fun & Sun Classic</i>		
Feb. 9	vs. Louisville	W, 6-2
	vs. Florida International	W, 11-5
Feb. 10	vs. Illinois State	L, 2-5
	vs. Oklahoma	L, 0-3
Feb. 11	vs. Louisville	W, 8-0 (5)
<i>Louisville Slugger Tournament</i>		
Feb. 16	vs. Southern Utah	W, 11-10
	vs. Oklahoma State	W, 10-2
Feb. 17	vs. BYU	L, 9-11
	vs. Tennessee	L, 0-5
Feb. 18	at UNLV	L, 4-6
<i>FAU Pepsi Classic</i>		
Feb. 23	vs. Texas Tech	L, 2-5
	vs. Jacksonville	W, 11-5
Feb. 24	vs. Bethune Cookman	W, 12-1
	at Florida Atlantic	W, 1-0
Feb. 25	Texas Tech	L, 0-7
<i>Texas A&M Invitational</i>		
March 2	vs. Syracuse	W, 12-7
	at Texas A&M	L, 2-6
March 3	vs. Syracuse	W, 7-0
	at Texas A&M	L, 2-6
March 4	vs. Mcneese State	W, 8-4
<i>Capital Classic</i>		
March 16	vs. Iowa State	W, 9-2
	vs. Georgia Southern	W, 11-0 (6)
March 17	vs. Pittsburgh	W, 12-2 (5)
	vs. Idaho State	W, 8-0 (5)
March 18	Sacramento State	W, 18-3 (5)
March 20	at Illinois State	L, 6-7
March 21	vs. Illinois-Chicago	W, 18-4 (5)
<i>Diamond Devil Invitational</i>		
March 23	vs. BYU	W, 10-2
	vs. Longwood	W, 6-0
March 24	vs. BYU	W, 7-2
	at Arizona State	L, 2-6
March 25	Longwood	W, 3-2
	Arizona State	L, 0-13 (5)
March 28	at Loyola Chicago	Postponed
	at Loyola Chicago	Postponed
March 30	at Purdue	L, 1-8
March 31	at Purdue	W, 8-0 (6)
April 1	at Indiana	W, 11-1 (5)
	at Indiana	L, 5-6
April 4	vs. Western Illinois	Rescheduled
April 13	vs. Michigan State	W, 9-6
April 14	vs. Michigan State	W, 9-6
April 15	vs. Michigan	L, 0-5
	vs. Michigan	W, 5-3 (8)
April 17	vs. Illinois State	L, 7-10
April 20	vs. Ohio State	L, 6-7
April 21	vs. Ohio State	L, 3-4
April 22	vs. Penn State	W, 4-3
	vs. Penn State	W, 7-5

April 24	at Eastern Illinois	L, 4-9
	at Eastern Illinois	W, 5-3
April 28	vs. DePaul	L, 2-3
April 29	at Northwestern	L, 4-12
	at Northwestern	L, 0-5
May 2	at Southern Illinois	Cancelled, rain
	at Southern Illinois	Cancelled, rain
May 3	Bradley	W, 5-0
May 5	at Iowa	L, 6-7 (8)
May 6	at Iowa	Cancelled, rain
<i>Big Ten Tournament at Columbus, Ohio</i>		
May 11	Michigan	L, 0-4

Men's Tennis (20-8, 8-2)

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
Jan. 19	vs. No. 10 Pepperdine	W, 4-3
Jan. 26	at No. 69 Ball State	W, 7-0
Jan. 28	at No. 8 Virginia	L, 2-5
Feb. 2	vs. No. 8 Duke	W, 6-1
Feb. 3	vs. No. 41 Tennessee	W, 4-3
Feb. 10	vs. Texas A&M	W, 6-1
Feb. 13	vs. Florida	W, 6-1
<i>USTA/ITA National Men's Team Indoor Championship</i>		
Feb. 16	Oklahoma	W, 4-2
Feb. 17	UCLA	L, 0-4
Feb. 18	Baylor	L, 0-4
March 2	at Michigan State	W, 7-0
March 9	at Purdue	W, 6-1
March 11	vs. Wisconsin	W, 5-2
March 20	LSU	L, 3-4
March 31	vs. Northwestern	W, 6-1
April 1	at Notre Dame	L, 2-5
April 4	vs. Kentucky	W, 7-0
April 6	at Michigan	L, 2-5
April 8	at Penn State	W, 5-2
April 14	at Indiana	W, 5-2
April 15	at Ohio State	L, 0-7
April 21	vs. Minnesota	W, 6-1
April 22	vs. Iowa	W, 6-1
April 27	vs. Purdue	W, 4-1
April 28	vs. Michigan	W, 4-1
April 29	vs. Ohio State	L, 1-4
<i>NCAA First and Second Rounds</i>		
May 11	Western Michigan	W, 4-0
May 12	Michigan	W, 4-2
<i>NCAA Team Championships</i>		
May 17	Mississippi	11 a.m.
<i>NCAA Individual & Doubles Championships</i>		
MAY 23-28		



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Women's Track & Field

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time/Result</u>
Jan. 13	Illinois Invitational	1st of 4, 164.66
Jan. 20	Indiana Team Classic	No Team Score
Jan. 27	Carle/Health Alliance Invitational	1st of 9, 186
Feb. 2	Indiana Invitational	No Team Score
Feb. 2-3	Meyo Invitational	No Team Score
Feb. 3	Indiana Invitational	No Team Score
Feb. 9	Tyson Invitational	No Team Score
Feb. 24-25	Big Ten Indoor Championships	3rd of 10, 107
March 3	Iowa State Qualifier	No Team Score
March 9	NCAA Indoor Championships	No Team Score
March 24	Horned Frog Invitational	No Team Score
April 5-7	Texas Relays	No Team Score
April 14	Illinois Invitational	No Team Score
April 19-21	Kansas Relays	No Team Score
April 27-28	California Collegiate Challenge	No Team Score
May 11-13	Big Ten Outdoor Championships	1st of 11, 129
May 25-26	NCAA Regional Championships	All Day
May 6-9	NCAA Outdoor Championships	All Day
May 21-24	USATF Jr/Sr Nationals	All Day

Men's Track & Field

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time/Result</u>
Jan. 7	Dartmouth Relays	1st of 12, 154
Jan. 13	Illinois Invitational	No Team Score
Jan. 20	Blue Raider Invitational	No Team Score
Jan. 27	Carle/Health Alliance Invite	1st of 7, 188
Feb. 2	Meyo Invitational	No Team Score
Feb. 9	Cyclone Classic	No Team Score
Feb. 16	Hoosier Hills	No Team Score
Feb. 24	Big Ten Indoor Championships	10th of 10, 36
March 3	Iowa State Last Chance Qualifier	No Team Score
March 9-10	NCAA Indoor Championships	No Team Score
March 16-17	Willie Wilson Classic	No Team Score
March 30	Stanford Invite	2nd of 12, 118.50
March 31	Mike Poehlein Invite	No Team Score
March 31	Stanford Invite	No Team Score
April 6	Big Blue Classic	No Team Score
April 6-7	Texas Relays	No Team Score
April 14	Illinois Invitational	No Team Score
April 19-21	Kansas Relays	No Team Score
April 26-28	Drake Relays	No Team Score
May 11-13	Big Ten Outdoor Championships	6th of 11, 81.5
May 25-26	NCAA Regionals	All Day
June 6-9	NCAA Outdoor Championships	All Day
June 21-24	USATF Jr/Sr Nationals	All Day

Women's Tennis (5-17, 1-9)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time/Result</u>
Jan. 20	at Marquette	W, 4-3
Jan. 26	vs. No. 4 Notre Dame	L, 0-7
Jan. 28	vs. No. 31 Tennessee	L, 0-7
Feb. 4	vs. Illinois-Chicago	W, 7-0
Feb. 9	vs. William & Mary	L, 1-6
Feb. 11	vs. Georgia Tech	L, 0-7
Feb. 23	vs. Purdue	L, 1-6
Feb. 25	vs. Washington	L, 3-4
March 7	vs. Illinois State	W, 6-1
March 19	at Houston	L, 3-4
March 21	at Texas	L, 0-7
March 22	at Texas-San Antonio	W, 4-2
March 25	vs. Michigan State	L, 2-5
March 31	at Northwestern	L, 0-7
April 1	at Wisconsin	W, 4-3
April 7	vs. Penn State	L, 3-4
April 8	vs. Michigan	L, 0-7
April 14	vs. Indiana	L, 2-5
April 15	vs. Ohio State	L, 1-6
April 21	at Iowa	L, 3-4
April 22	at Minnesota	L, 2-5

Big Ten Championships

April 26-29	vs. Minnesota	L, 1-4
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Women's Golf

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time/Result</u>
Feb. 24-26	Chrysler Challenge	6th of 10
March 9-11	Rio Verde Collegiate Invite	15th of 18
March 23-24	UC Spring Invitational	5th of 9
April 6-7	Illini Spring Classic	Cancelled
April 9-10	IU Invitational	3rd of 17
April 21-22	Lady Buckeye Invite	11th of 14
April 27-29	Big Ten Championships	6th of 11

Men's Golf

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time/Result</u>
Feb. 17	at Tinervin Cup vs. Illinois State	W, 5.5-3.5
Feb. 25	Puerto Rico Classic	T-16th of 18
March 5-6	Louisiana Classic	9th of 15
March 19-20	Western Intercollegiate	T-7th of 18
April 7-8	Boilermaker Invitational	10th of 15
April 14-15	Robert Kepler Intercollegiate	6th of 16
April 21-22	Bruce Fossum Invitational	6th of 13
April 27-29	Big Ten Championships	9th of 11