

BIRD'S EYEW

FALL 2007

Names ... They are a Changin'

On July 27, the Illinois State University Board of Trustees approved the naming of two Illinois State athletic venues.

The University golf course will be named the Weibring Golf Club at Illinois State University in recognition of D.A. Weibring's commitment and contribution to Redbird Athletics and his achievements as a Professional Golf Association (PGA) member.

In addition, the Redbird baseball field will be named Duffy Bass Field in honor of the school's winningest baseball coach.

Weibring played for coach Rusty Wells and was part of a golf team which led Illinois State into national prominence in the early 1970s. Two years after graduating from Illinois State, Weibring joined the PGA tour. On the tour, Weibring won five PGA events and is currently on the Champions Tour, where he has posted over \$5 million in winnings.

"In the 150-year history of Illinois State, there have been a few individuals who have distinguished themselves as student-athletes, not just during their time at Illinois State, but in



Illinois State's baseball field will be renamed Duffy Bass Field.

the years that have ensued. D.A. Weibring is one of those individuals," Director of Athletics Dr. Sheahon Zenger said. "D.A. has represented Illinois State University to the highest level on and off the course, in both his college and professional golf careers."

Bass died on March 14, 2006. He taught at Thomas Metcalf School and University High School before teaching health and physical education and coaching at Illinois State. Bass served for 24 years as head of the Redbird Baseball program. He posted a career record of 713-457-18, and his 1969 team won the NCAA College Division National Championship.

"Duffy Bass is not only the winningest baseball coach in Illinois State history, but he exemplified Illinois State Athletics during his era," Zenger said. "He was a man of service to the community and a leader of young men on the field. I was personally honored to come to Illinois State at a time when I was able to get to know Duffy. That is a memory that I will always cherish."



D.A. Weibring is currently competing on the Champions Tour.

Hancock Projects Near Completion

With the Redbird football season opener against Drake on Aug. 30 fast approaching, the renovations at ISU's Hancock Stadium are beginning to take shape.

The turf replacement project began in March and was concluded in June. The actual playing surface wasn't the only thing replaced in the stadium, however. A new sub-base with drainage was also installed prior to the FieldTurf being laid.

The old turf, along with the concrete apron, and the drainage system, were excavated prior to the installation. To begin the project, 6,200 tons of crushed rock was hauled in to provide the foundation.

While the base was laid, 1.3 miles of drainage pipe was also installed, which is designed to dispose of excess water in an efficient fashion.

Once the FieldTurf was installed, 1,200 tons of a sand/rubber mixture was worked into the playing surface to provide cushion and simulate playing on real grass.

The layout and design of the new surface has its differences from the previous turf. The end zones are the natural green color like the rest of the field, with white-trimmed, red letters spelling out "Illinois State" in the north end zone and "Redbirds" in the south.

"We are excited about having the latest and best generation of FieldTurf installed," head coach Denver Johnson said. "Not only will the surface be an attractive feature for our fans, but it also provides functionality for practice with the added surface space."

The turf is only marked with college-rule hashmarks and the surface area continues beyond the playing area, all the way to the edges of the stadium. In total, there was 103,600 square-feet of turf laid in the facility.

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Above: A view of the new playing surface and the stone-capped brick wall in the northeast corner of Hancock Stadium. **Right:** The scoreboard in the north end zone is dismantled to install the new video board.



The installation of the new video board began in July. Much like the Redbird Arena scoreboard project, the Hancock Stadium scoreboard frame will be reused with the new state-of-the-art components fitted for the existing frame.

The new light-emitting diode (LED) video board will be 12 feet by 18 feet in size. The video production will be consistent with what fans saw at Redbird

Arena during the spring 2007.

There will be three cameras providing footage located above the press box on the 50-yard line, in the end zone and on the field. In addition to game footage, the production will include replays and fan interaction.

Basketball Ticket Renewal Incentive Dates in Place

Illinois State basketball season ticket holders, for both men's and women's basketball, will have some incentives to renew their 2007-08 season tickets online this year.

- Renew by Aug. 18, 2007 – Eligible to win a trip for two to a respective away basketball game (date to be determined).
- Renew by Aug. 29, 2007 – Eligible to win a travel suit and the opportunity to be an honorary coach for a respective home game (date to be determined).
- Renew by Sept. 12, 2007 – Eligible to win an autographed basketball.

Red Alert Passes Selling Fast

The 2007 fall athletic season is quickly approaching, and the "Red Alert" campaign is amidst record success, receiving new and renewal memberships at nearly a 90 percent increase from 2006.

As of Aug. 6, there were 2,490 Red Alert members for the 2007-08 calendar year, which is 1,106 more memberships sold than at this time last year.

"We are extremely pleased with the number of Red Alert passes that have been sold," said Assistant Athletics Director/Marketing and Promotions Brad Ledford. "Student attendance is a crucial part of game atmosphere. These numbers show that students are just as excited about the upcoming sports seasons as we are."

Red Alert needs just 352 new or renewed memberships to equal the entire total from 2006-07.

BIRD'S VIEW

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GoREDBIRDS.COM

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92 Named to Valley All-Centennial Teams



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Cathy Boswell



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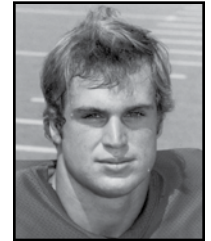
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 Men's Golf
 TF and XC
 Track and Field
 Track and Field
 Track and Field
 TF and XC
 Swimming & Diving
 W. Basketball
 Track and Field
 Cross Country
 Softball
 TF and XC
 Softball
 Track and Field
 Swimming & Diving
 Football
 W. Soccer
 Baseball
 TF and XC Coach
 W. Tennis
 Swimming & Diving
 W. Golf
 TF and XC
 Cross Country
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 Swimming & Diving
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 Softball Coach
 Cross Country
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 Cross Country
 W. Soccer
 Volleyball
 W. Basketball
 Cross Country

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 Mike Straza
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 Liina Suurvarik
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 Suzanne Walker
 Annie Wayland
 Priscilla Welch
 Shae Wesley
 Terra Whisman
 Jenny Williams
 David Wilson
 Nave Wilson

Track and Field
 Softball
 Softball
 W. Golf
 Swimming & Diving
 Track and Field
 W. Tennis
 Volleyball
 Cross Country
 Track and Field
 Volleyball
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 Track and Field



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Jenny Williams



Cindy Kaufmann



Angie Kent



Tina Lindsey



Julie Mueller

Redbird Golf Classic



The annual Windy City Redbird Golf Classic, which took place on June 27 at Bartlett Hills Golf Club in Bartlett, Ill., continued to reach out to the Chicago alumni. Nearly 60 Redbird supporters took part in the event that was won by golfers Jack Currin, Brent Beggs, Andy Butler and Dave Shulman.

The Redbird Club also hosted the Chevys Redbird Golf Classic at the ISU Golf Course on June 8. The winning team of Rick Percy Jr., Jeff Niepagen, Mike Cushing and Brent Kelly were just four of the 120 golfers that participated in the event.

The Chevys Redbird Golf Classic wasn't the only golf outing hosted by The Redbird Club at University Golf Course this summer. On July 24, Redbird Wheel Club dealers enjoyed a day of golf with Illinois State Athletics coaches and staff at the second annual Redbird Wheel Club Outing. The team comprised of Tom Adcock and Tom Purcell of Rebbec Pontiac Buick and Hank Koch and Richard Koch of Saturn of Bloomington/Normal claimed top honors.





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2007 Redbird Athletics Endowed Scholars



**Janyth Aellig
Endowed
Scholarship**

*Erin Lindsey
Jr. • Volleyball*

Established by the family and friends of a deceased, loyal Redbird fan.



**Duffy Bass
Endowed
Scholarship**

*Collin Salzenstein
Sr. • Baseball*

Named for the winningest Redbird baseball coach in history, who led the 1969 Illinois State baseball team to its only team NCAA championship.



**L. Durwood Boone
Endowed
Scholarship**

*Joe Emerich
Jr. • Golf*

Named for the 1930s-era athlete who helped establish the Redbird golf program.



**Doug Collins
Endowed
Scholarship**

*Dom Johnson
Sr. • Basketball*

Named after Redbird basketball All-American and USA Olympic hero of the 1970s.



**Rev. Dr. Joanne
Peppard-Cooke
Endowed Scholarship**

*Maggie Krick
So. • Basketball*

Named for the first female graduate of the ISU doctoral program. The scholarship was created to support young female student-athletes.



**Helen Cushman
Endowed
Scholarship**

*Tiffany Hockensmith
Jr. • Golf*

Created with gifts from Pat and Nina Chesebro, in honor of the woman who introduced them to golf.



**Fairchild Award
Endowed
Scholarship**

*Kevin Dubler
Jr. • Baseball*

Named for Dr. Raymond Fairchild, ISU president from 1933-1954, and presented to a junior baseball player each year.



**Benoni Green
Endowed
Scholarship**

*Oscar Beich
Sr. • Tennis*

Named for the 1930s-era athlete who helped establish tennis as an ISU sport.



**Linda Herman
Endowed
Scholarship**

*Kari Staehlin
Sr. • Volleyball*

Created in honor of former ISU volleyball coach and interim athletics director Dr. Linda Herman.



**Jill Hutchison
Endowed
Scholarship**

*Tiffany Hudson
Sr. • Basketball*

Named for the Redbird basketball coach who helped pioneer sports opportunities for women.



**W.F. Ruebush
Endowed
Scholarship**

*Dan Simnick
Sr. • Football*

Named for the 1932 ISU graduate who captained the football team, and is presented annually to a football player with at least a 3.2 grade point average.



**Will Robinson
Endowed
Scholarship**

*Anthony Slack
Sr. • Basketball*

Named for the pioneering African-American basketball coach and NBA administrator for seven decades.



**Bob & Audrey
Weber
Endowed
Scholarship**

*Ashley Sandstead
Sr. • Basketball*

Named in honor of the long-time Redbird basketball supporters.



**D.A. Weibring
Endowed
Scholarship**

*Ben Murphy
Jr. • Golf*

Established by the ISU and professional golf tour star who raised substantial funds to back Redbird golf programs.



**Milt Weisbecker
Endowed
Scholarship**

*Boo Richardson
Jr. • Basketball*

Established in honor of the former athletics director who led ISU into Division I status.



**Dede Woytowych
Endowed
Scholarship**

*Jena Allie
Sr. • Swimming & Diving*

Named in memory of a former Redbird swimmer who died in 2005.

Draw Down at RBA

A new fundraising event will take place on Sept. 29, as Illinois State Athletics will host "Draw Down at Redbird Arena" following the ISU-Northern Iowa football game.

The draw down event will replace the Redbird Auction as the primary fundraising vehicle outside of the annual fund drive for The Redbird Club (TRC), which provides funding for ISU student-athlete scholarships.

Tickets for the event are currently available by calling Redbird Athletics at 309/438-3634, or can be purchased through a TRC board member. The tickets are \$200 apiece and only 500 tickets will be sold. For each ticket, two adults will be admitted to the event.

"We are excited to have our first-ever Draw Down at Redbird Arena," said Doug Banks, assistant athletics director for annual giving. "This event will be fun and relaxing, and will benefit all of the student-athletes at Illinois State University. Like any draw down event, we will draw numbers at certain times throughout the evening until one person is left standing. It should be a great event."

The event, which will have a Caribbean flavor, begins with a social hour at 5:30 p.m. and the draw down will start at 6:30 p.m. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres, beer and pop will be provided, and a cash bar will also be available.

Prizes for the draw down include up to \$1,000 cash, a Suzi Davis Travel trip, season tickets, opportunities to travel with designated ISU teams, dinner with select Redbird coaches and the grand prize which is a 2007 Mitsubishi Galant. Patrons do not need to be in attendance to win.

For more information, contact The Redbird Club office at 309/438-3634, or visit GoRedbirds.com.



Compliance Corner

Redshirt - Hardship - Grayshirt?

These three terms refer to different situations involving a student-athlete's eligibility and how many years of competition he/she has remaining.

In Division I, a student-athlete has five-consecutive years in which to use four seasons of competition. The student-athlete's five-year "clock," as it's often referred to, starts when the student-athlete begins full-time enrollment for any regular academic term (fall or spring). Student-athletes use one of their four seasons of competition the moment they participate in any competition, regardless of the time they spend in the game or contest. One relatively new exception to this rule is that during a student-athlete's initial year of enrollment, he/she may compete in preseason exhibition contests and scrimmages only, without such competition counting as a season of competition.

"Redshirt" is a term used to describe a student-athlete who does not participate in competition in his/her sport for an entire academic year. The "redshirt" year most often is elective and/or planned by the coach to allow the student-athlete to acclimate to his/her sport at the collegiate level, develop physically, adjust to the academic rigors of college and/or some combination of these. If the student-athlete does not compete at all in his/her sport for one academic year, regardless of reason – including due to injury - the student-athlete retains that year of eligibility to be used in a future year (within his/her five-year clock). We do not have to file any documentation with the conference office or NCAA for a "redshirt" year.

A "medical hardship" - sometimes also referred to as a "medical redshirt" - is a term used to describe a situation in which a student-athlete participated in a limited number of contests (no more than 3 contests or 30 percent of the season) and in one of those contests suffered an incapacitating injury that prevents him/her from returning to competition in that same season. In order to regain that season of eligibility, the injury must have occurred in the first half of the season, and we must submit medical documentation to our conference office substantiating our claim that the injury was season-ending for the student-athlete.

"Grayshirting" is a new term used primarily in the football recruiting process to describe situations in which a student-athlete delays his initial enrollment in college until the spring term, rather than the fall. Student-athletes who "grayshirt" use the fall to take classes on a part-time basis to avoid starting their five-year clock, or simply do not enroll in college at all. If enrolled on a part-time basis, the student-athlete cannot receive athletics aid, cannot participate in any practices or workouts with the team or even attend team meetings. College coaches from time to time ask a committed prospect to consider this option in order to count that student-athlete's scholarship against the following year's NCAA limit. Because "grayshirting" can be difficult on a student-athlete, it usually comes into play only when a team has reached its NCAA scholarship limit, yet does not want to lose a particularly talented student-athlete.

Contact Cindy Harris at 309/438-2677 if you have further questions.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO ASK BEFORE YOU ACT!



Cindy Harris

Missouri Tailgate Planned

Illinois State University President Dr. Al Bowman invites TRC members, alumni and Redbird football fans to participate in the special

activities scheduled in conjunction with the Illinois State-Missouri football game in Columbia, Mo., on Sept. 22.

A pre-game tailgate with President Bowman has been scheduled for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hearnes Fieldhouse. The price for the event is \$10 per person. Lunch will be served and there will be a cash bar.

Tickets for the game are also available for \$35 per person. The registration deadline for the event is Sept. 14. To register, contact Alumni Relations at 309/438-2586, alumni@IllinoisState.edu or online at www.alumni.ilstu.edu/football.



Kennett Leaves Redbird Post; James Successor



Cris James

Greg Kennett resigned as the Illinois State men's tennis coach on June 15, and on July 26, Cris James was welcomed into the Redbird family as Kennett's successor.

The resignation ended an eight-year run with the Redbirds for Kennett, whose wife, Christie, an attorney with State Farm Insurance, accepted a position with the company in California.

"I would like to wish Greg and the Kennett family nothing but the best of luck in their newest endeavor," Illinois State Director of Athletics Dr. Sheahon Zenger said. "I would also like to thank Greg for his contributions to the athletics department and Illinois State tennis over the last eight years. He has brought Redbird men's tennis to new heights and we hope to continue that progression."

The progression will continue under James.

"We are extremely excited to hire Cris to take over the men's tennis program," Zenger said. "His experience as a player and coach at every level is impressive and he should be able to continue the excellent tradition of Redbird tennis. He will be a great addition to the entire Redbird athletics family."

As the two-time Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year (2003 and 2006), Kennett led the Redbirds to winning records in seven of eight seasons, highlighted by Illinois State's first-ever regular-season

championship in 2006. In addition to his 115 wins, Kennett also mentored six Valley individual champions, four Valley doubles champions, seven Valley scholar-athletes and 14 all-conference selections.

James spent the last five years as an assistant coach at Purdue University, his alma mater.

While at Purdue, James was heavily involved in practice plans, fitness regimens, scheduling, recruiting and match instruction.



Greg Kennett led Illinois State to its first Missouri Valley Conference regular-season championship in 2006.

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