



Happy Holidays From Redbird Baseball Insider

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY | Winter 2011-12 | www.GoRedbirds.com



ISU READY FOR 2012 SEASON

ILLINOIS STATE LOOKS TO BUILD OFF OF RECORD-SETTING YEAR

Six 2011 NCAA Division I Tournament participants and 11 teams that won 30 or more games highlight the 52-game 2012 Illinois State baseball schedule released by head coach Mark Kingston. The ISU Athletics Department also announced that admission will be free to all 17 home games played at Duffy Bass Field.

"Our team is working extremely hard in preparation for our 2012 season, and we will be ready for the demands of high level college baseball," Kingston said. "The Missouri Valley Conference is coming off of a top-seven ranking in the country last year, so we must be prepared for that challenge."

The Redbirds will face 2011 NCAA Tournament participants and 30-plus game winners Austin Peay, Creighton, Illinois, Maine, Miami and Navy. ISU is also scheduled to play five other teams with 30 or more victories last season, including Missouri State, Northern Illinois, Purdue, Southeast Missouri and Wichita State.

Illinois State will open with 20-consecutive road games, starting with four at Austin Peay in Clarksville, Tenn. (Feb. 17-19). ISU is then scheduled to play a three-game series at Tennessee Tech (Feb. 24-26) and a four-game set at Southeast Missouri (Mar. 2-4), before the Redbirds fly to Florida for their spring break trip. ISU will once again compete at the RussMatt Central Florida Invitational in Winter Haven, Fla., where the Redbirds will play Maine (Mar. 9), Western Michigan (Mar. 10), Iowa (Mar. 11), Navy (Mar. 16) and Army for a doubleheader (Mar. 17).

While in Florida, Illinois State will return to Miami for a midweek game (Mar. 13) in Coral Gables, Fla., against the No. 24 team in the country, according to last year's final USA Today/ESPN Top 25 Coaches' Poll. Kingston, who was an assistant at Miami when the Hurricanes won the 2001 College Baseball World Series, guided the Redbirds to a 1-1 series split in Coral Gables last year. Illinois State will also play a midweek game at South Florida (Mar. 14), in Tampa, Fla., before returning to Winter Haven.

Following the spring break trip, ISU will play at SIU Edwardsville (Mar. 21) before opening its home schedule against Division III schools MacMurray College (Mar. 23) and Webster (Mar. 25). The Redbirds are then slated to host Illinois (Mar. 27), before starting MVC play at Indiana State (Mar. 30-Apr. 1). Illinois State's remaining Valley season includes a home series against Wichita State (Apr. 6-8). ISU is then on the road at Missouri State (Apr. 13-15), home versus Bradley (Apr. 20-22), at Creighton (Apr. 27-29), home against Southern Illinois (May 4-6) and at Evansville (May 17-19).

The Redbirds will also play non-conference midweek matchups at Northern Illinois (Apr. 10), at Illinois (Apr. 17), at home against Purdue (Apr. 24), at Illinois Wesleyan for the Horenberger-Bass Classic (May 1) and at home for a three-game series versus Western Illinois (May 11-13).

The 2012 State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Baseball Championship will be hosted by Missouri State (May 22-26) at Hammons Field in Springfield, Mo.

2012 SCHEDULE

F17	at Austin Peay	3 p.m.
F18	at Austin Peay (DH)	12 p.m.
F19	at Austin Peay	12 p.m.
F24	at Tennessee Tech	3 p.m.
F25	at Tennessee Tech	2 p.m.
F26	at Tennessee Tech	1 p.m.
M2	at SEMO	3 p.m.
M3	at SEMO (DH)	12 p.m.
M4	at SEMO	1 p.m.
M9	vs. Maine **	TBA
M10	vs. Western Michigan **	TBA
M11	vs. Iowa **	TBA
M13	at Miami	5 p.m.
M14	at USF	6 p.m.
M16	vs. Navy **	TBA
M17	vs. Army (DH) **	TBA
M21	at SIUE	3 p.m.
M23	MacMURRAY	3 p.m.
M25	WEBSTER	1 p.m.
M27	ILLINOIS	4:30 p.m.
M30	at Indiana State*	5:30 p.m.
M31	at Indiana State*	1 p.m.
A1	at Indiana State*	12 p.m.
A3	EASTERN ILLINOIS	4:30 p.m.
A6	WICHITA STATE*	4:30 p.m.
A7	WICHITA STATE*	2 p.m.
A8	WICHITA STATE*	1 p.m.
A10	at Northern Illinois	3:05 p.m.
A13	at Missouri State*	6:30 p.m.
A14	at Missouri State*	2 p.m.
A15	at Missouri State*	1 p.m.
A17	at Illinois	6:05 p.m.
A20	BRADLEY*	4:30 p.m.
A21	BRADLEY*	2 p.m.
A22	BRADLEY*	1 p.m.
A24	PURDUE	4:30 p.m.
A27	at Creighton*	6:30 p.m.
A28	at Creighton*	6:30 p.m.
A29	at Creighton*	1 p.m.
M1	at Illinois Wesleyan	6 p.m.
M4	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS*	4:30 p.m.
M5	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS*	2 p.m.
M6	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS*	1 p.m.
M11	WESTERN ILLINOIS	4:30 p.m.
M12	WESTERN ILLINOIS	2 p.m.
M13	WESTERN ILLINOIS	1 p.m.
M17	at Evansville*	6 p.m.
M18	at Evansville*	6 p.m.
M19	at Evansville*	1 p.m.
M22-26	at State Farm Valley Tournament ***	
TBD	at NCAA Tournament	TBD

** RussMatt Central Florida Invitational (Winter Haven, Fla.)

*** State Farm MVC Tournament (Springfield, Mo.)

*Missouri Valley Conference game

HOME GAMES IN BOLD CAPS

All times central and subject to change

All games will be broadcast live on GoRedbirds.com

DUGOUT CLUB



What is the Dugout Club?

The Dugout Club is an organization made up of former players, alumni, and friends of the baseball program who are committed to helping Redbird Baseball reach its potential.

Purpose

- To supplement the athletic budget of the program with additional funding for needs such as recruiting, equipment, and travel.
- To help with special projects such as improving our facilities.
- To create an organized effort of alumni and friends who want to support baseball at Illinois State.

Giving Levels and Benefits



White Level (\$50 and up)
RBI Newsletter
Redbird Baseball T-Shirt



Black Level (\$150 and up)
RBI Newsletter
Redbird Baseball T-Shirt
Redbird Baseball Golf Hat (Black)

2 Tickets to April 7th Game vs. Wichita St.



Red Level (\$500 and up)
RBI Newsletter
Redbird Baseball T-Shirt
Redbird Baseball Golf Hat (Black)

Official Dugout Club Polo Shirt (White)
4 Tickets to April 7th Game vs. Wichita St.



902

Illinois State University Redbirds

Est. 1890

In the heat of a tight conference race, wins or losses equal life or death for a college baseball team. Student-athletes and coaches alike become entirely invested in the outcome of the next game – and ultimately – the season.

In life, blood equals life or death. The Illinois State baseball team can relate. While the Redbirds value the thrill of competition, they also understand the reality of life.

This appreciation has been solidified through participation in the annual Redbird baseball team blood drive, sponsored by the American Red Cross. The Dec. 2 blood drive marked its seventh year, and according to the Red Cross, the blood collected has potentially saved up to 902 people.

“We believe in helping the American Red Cross because, quite simply, it saves lives. How can you not want to be involved?” Illinois State head baseball coach Mark Kingston said.

Along with expert nurses and coordinators from the American Red Cross, every member of the ISU baseball team contributes to the drive by helping set up, run and tear down the event.

“Coach Kingston always talks about how you save three people with each donation,” junior Redbird pitcher JD Learnard said. “Pretty much everybody knows someone who has needed donated blood at some point, and that’s what this is for. We’re just trying to help out people who need that resource.”

Throughout the last seven years, the blood drive has resulted in the collection of 328 pints. This is largely due to the average 75 volunteer hours contributed by Redbird baseball players for each drive.

“The ISU baseball team shows us how citizens can come together as a team and make a difference in the lives of patients in need of blood,” American Red Cross external communicator Theresa Kuhlmann said. “The ISU Redbirds truly are lifesaving partners of the Heart of America Blood Services Region of the American Red Cross.”

Kuhlmann said the American Red Cross collects about half of the blood needed each year in the United States, which is approximately six million pints. The baseball blood drive helps collect an average of 47 pints per year. However, people in need of blood are not the only ones who benefit from the drive. It also serves as a catalyst for team unity.

“One of the main aspects of being a team is finding some common goal and going after it together,” Learnard said. “This is something that we’ve done for a while and it seems like year-after-year, people are getting more into it, and I think it’s a really good cause.”

The Redbirds will continue to work together to ensure that each December blood drive helps save lives.

“We encourage all people capable of giving to do so,” Kingston said. “We put a lot of work into this, and we appreciate everyone who gets involved.”

Individuals who want to give blood should contact the American Red Cross by calling 1-800-733-2767 or by visiting RedCross.org.



COMPLETE REDBIRD BLOOD DRIVE STATISTICS

Year	Club	Pints	Lives	Career Total
2005	Redbirds	74	222	222
2006	Redbirds	61	183	405
2007	Redbirds	56	168	573
2008	Redbirds	26	78	651
2009	Redbirds	24	72	723
2010	Redbirds	46	138	861
2011	Redbirds	41	123	902