



SOFTBALL

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Flames Softball Tabbed as MCC Favorite

Crown would be UIC's fifth consecutive

Jan. 31, 2000

Chicago, Ill. - The UIC softball team was tagged as the Midwestern Collegiate Conference favorite according to the league's preseason coaches poll, it was announced today.

The Flames were the overwhelming favorites to win the 2000 MCC crown, which would be UIC's fifth consecutive title. The voting was done by the conference's seven head coaches, with the Flames receiving six of the seven possible votes for first place. Coaches were not allowed to vote for their own team.

UIC returns every starter and its top two pitchers from a season ago when the Flames finished with a 67-17 record and advanced to the NCAA National Tournament for the fourth time in six years. The team's 67 wins tied an NCAA record for wins in a season. Six of the Flames' returning starters were named First Team All-MCC in 1999.

In addition, UIC was voted No. 22 in the nation in the preseason USA Today/NFCA preseason Top 25 poll that was released last week.

"It's always been very important to win the regular season conference championship," said UIC Head Coach [Mike McGovern](#). "We play every team twice, so there's a lot of effort and work that goes into winning the league. Winning our conference, especially for the fifth time in the row, would go a long way in showing the kind of quality program that we have here at UIC."

The Flames kick off their season this weekend in with two tournaments in California. The Flames take on San Diego and San Diego State on Friday at the University of San Diego Tournament. Then, on Saturday and Sunday, UIC will face San Diego State and No. 15 Long Beach State twice as part of SDSU's home-opening tournament.

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All-American Samantha Iuli and the UIC Flames were picked to win their fifth-consecutive MCC title.

