



MEN'S SOCCER

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Soccer Set To Battle Loyola In Horizon League Quarterfinals

Flames host their crosstown rival on Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

Nov. 8, 2001

Chicago, Ill. - The UIC soccer team begins defense of its Horizon League Tournament title this weekend and first up in its path to a third straight post-season championship is cross-town rival Loyola. UIC hosts the Ramblers on Saturday, Nov. 10, at 1:00 p.m. at Flames Field.

UIC, the tournament's #3 seed behind UW-Milwaukee and Butler, will also be chasing its third straight trip to the NCAA Tournament. After having to "play-in" to the NCAA Tourney the last two seasons, this year's Horizon League champion will receive an automatic bid to the Big Dance as the field has been expanded from 32 to 48 teams.

But the road to the Big Dance certainly isn't going to be easy for UIC. Loyola, the tournament's #6 seed with a 6-9-2 overall record and a 3-4 league mark, will enter Saturday's match on a three-game winning streak, including overtime victories over Valparaiso and IUPUI-Fort Wayne.

Senior forward Chris Gradilla has been a sparkplug for the Ramblers as he leads the squad with eight goals and a pair of assists for 18 points while senior midfielder Brian Contreras has tallied four goals and five assists for 13 points.

The Flames, on the other hand, have hardly picked up steam heading into post-season play as they are 1-2 in their last three outings, including a tough 3-2 loss on the road at league champion UW-Milwaukee last Saturday.

But UIC has had Loyola's number recently as it has won six straight against the Ramblers and outscored them 14-6 in the last three outings.

When UIC and Loyola met earlier this year at Flames Field, the Flames rolled to a 6-2 victory behind a three-goal effort from sophomore forward/midfielder Mooch King.

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Mooch King and the UIC soccer team host the Loyola Ramblers on Saturday at 1:00 p.m. in the quarterfinals of the Horizon League Tournament.

