



MEN'S SOCCER

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Soccer Releases 2005 Season Schedule

Flames face defending national champion Indiana in exhibition match, take on four 2004 NCAA Tournament teams in regular season.

May 26, 2005

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Chicago, Ill.- The University of Illinois at Chicago men's soccer program unveiled its 2005 schedule on Thursday, with a slate highlighted by road contests against four 2004 NCAA Tournament teams, an exhibition contest against two-time defending College Cup champion Indiana and the team's first-ever home night games at Flames Field.

The Flames open the season with an exhibition contest against IUPUI at the IPFW Soccer Showcase in Fort Wayne, Ind. on August 20th. UIC then travels to Bloomington, Ind., for an exhibition match against the defending national champion Hoosiers on August 27th.

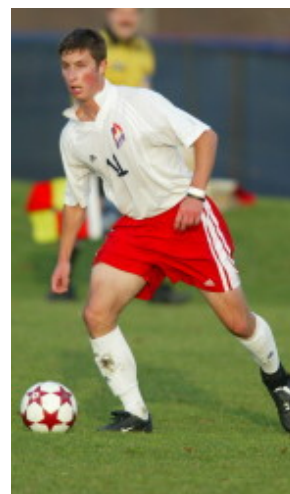
UIC continues their road trip at the regular season-opening UC Irvine College Classic, beginning with 2004 NCAA Tournament participant Loyola Marymount on September 3rd at 7:00 p.m. CST (5:00 p.m. PST) in Irvine, Calif. The Flames complete the tourney with a match against the host Anteaters on September 5th.

The Flames begin a three-game homestand on September 18th to open their tenth season at Flames Field with a contest against Eastern Illinois at 5:00 p.m. CST. That match is followed by the Horizon League opener on September 23rd against crosstown rival Loyola at 7:00 p.m. CST. The Flames-Ramblers game marks the first phase in series of renovations to Flames Field as newly-installed lights will be used to play the inaugural night game in the history of the pitch.

Another Horizon League foe will cap the homestand as Detroit visits UIC on September 25th.

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Derek Kosek and his UIC soccer mates play a rigorous schedule in 2005.



Other notable conference matches for the Flames includes an October 12th trip to Engelmann Field to play defending Horizon League champion UW-Milwaukee. A 2004 NCAA Tournament participant that fell in heartbreaking fashion to eventual national runner-up UC-Santa Barbara in a 3-2 double overtime loss during the NCAA second round, UW-Milwaukee had its league record 25-game conference unbeaten streak snapped by the Flames last season in a 1-0 UIC win on October 10, 2004. That match is followed by a game with perennial league power Butler at Flames Field on October 16th.

Some interesting non-conference contests include a trip to Northwestern, who earned their first trip to the NCAA Tournament in 2004, on September 28th. A week later the Flames journey to Nebraska to face Creighton on October 5th. The Bluejays moved on to the round of 16 in last year's NCAA Tournament before falling to national semifinalist Maryland on penalty kicks.

The Flames round out the regular season with an evening home finale against in-state power Bradley on November 1st at 7:00 p.m. The match marks the first time since 2002 that the two teams will meet.

UIC then heads off to the 2005 Horizon League Men's Soccer Tournament, with quarterfinals opening the tourney on November 5th. The semifinals take place on November 11th and the championship game is slated for November 13th. UIC will look to end a four-year drought since their last Horizon League tournament title in 2000.

A young team that featured 14 first- and second-year players in 2004, the Flames return 21 players who look to use their experience from last season to bring the program back to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in four years.

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