



## MEN'S SOCCER

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## Soccer's Superb Season Concludes With 1-0 Loss At Notre Dame In NCAA Tournament Second Round

Flames wrap up outstanding year at 13-3-5.

Nov. 15, 2006

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**Notre Dame, Ind.-** A valiant effort was not enough for the UIC men's soccer team on Wednesday night as the Flames saw their outstanding 2006 campaign come to an end after a 1-0 defeat at the hands of 12th-seeded Notre Dame at a rain-soaked Alumni Field.

UIC capped the year at 13-3-5, tying a school record for fewest losses in a season. The Irish (14-5-2) move on to face defending national champion Maryland in the Sweet 16 this weekend.

In front of a crowd dominated by vocal Flames fans who made the two-hour trek to South Bend, UIC went on the attack early. In the fourth minute [Baggio Husidic](#) launched a rocket shot that took a hard bounce off the crossbar and banged off the left post. [Eric Cervantes](#) and [Pavle Dundjer](#) would follow with quality attempts of their own, while Husidic boomed another strong shot that barely missed wide left.

The two teams would trade attacks throughout the first period before Notre Dame struck with 1:47 remaining in the half. Bright Dike sped up the right side of the field and found Joseph Lapira running toward goal. Lapira then escaped a sliding UIC back and slipped a shot past [Jovan Bubonja](#) to score his NCAA-leading 21st goal and put the Irish up 1-0.

UIC continued to pressure the Irish defense throughout the second period, but the Flames were unable to find the

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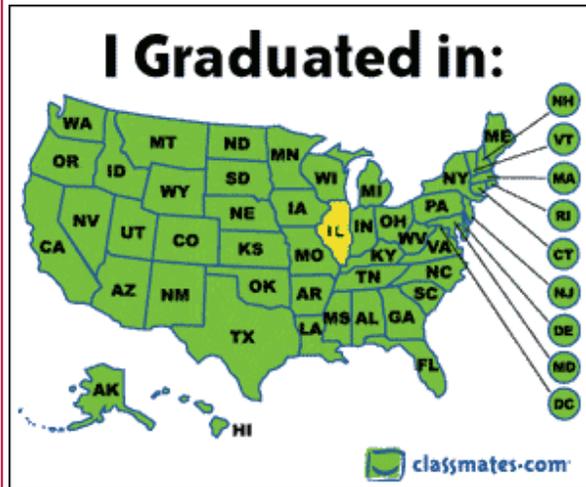
Tonci Skroce leaps for a ball against Notre Dame on Wednesday night.



equalizer in the final 45 minutes.

Bubonja made a career-best eight saves on the night.

Before leaving the field after the final horn Trask and his players thanked the large UIC contingent in the crowd who braved the cold, rainy conditions to cheer on the Flames.



UIC concluded a successful 2006 season in which the Flames captured their first NCAA Tournament berth and Horizon League regular season title in six seasons, upset two more Top 25 teams on the road and cemented the program in the national rankings for a school-record 10 consecutive weeks.

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