



## MEN'S SOCCER

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### Soccer Unveils 2008 Schedule

Fresh off Elite Eight run, Flames gear for another deep postseason quest.

July 14, 2008

[2008 UIC Soccer Schedule in PDF Format](#)

**Chicago, Ill.-** The UIC men's soccer team unveiled its 2008 schedule on Monday, July 14, following up its 2007 NCAA Elite Eight campaign with a slate that features home matches against national runner-up Ohio State and perennial power Santa Clara.

"The 2008 UIC schedule will ask big questions from this group of players," said UIC head coach [John Trask](#). "When accepting the head coaching position at UIC three years ago, I made a promise to the players and potential student-athletes that we would challenge them in every regard, and this schedule speaks for itself.

"To play Santa Clara, Ohio State, Michigan, Michigan State, UAB, Loyola Marymount and Princeton, as well as regional foes Marquette and UMKC, will allow our athletes to play against the best and gauge where we stand in relation to the rest of the country."

The Flames, who advanced to the NCAA Quarterfinals for the first time in school history last season while registering a pair of Top 10 national rankings at the end of the year, will host nine matches at Flames Field this season. Seven of those nine home contests will take place underneath the lights.

"For our large and growing fan base to see this type of collegiate soccer at Flames Field will give everyone from the University and the city of Chicago a chance to watch UIC compete against some of the elite programs in the country," said Trask.

The preseason kicks off on Aug. 22 with a match against 2007 NCAA Tournament qualifier Tulsa in St. Louis at 8 p.m.

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Goalkeeper Jovan Bubonja and the UIC men's soccer team will host nine home matches this fall.



That will be followed by a road friendly against another 2007 NCAA Tournament participant, the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame, on Aug. 25 at 6 p.m. in Notre Dame, Ind.

The 2008 regular season opens at Flames Field on Friday, Aug. 29, when UIC hosts UMKC at 7 p.m.

Three days later the Flames host a Labor Day evening clash against Santa Clara at 7 p.m., pitting UIC against a Broncos program that has made 18 total NCAA Tournament appearances and enters 2008 with a string of five consecutive NCAA berths. Alumni Night festivities will also take place that evening.

UIC hits the road for the first time with a trip through Alabama, taking on UAB on Sep. 5 at 7 p.m. and battling Alabama A&M on Sep. 7 at 1 p.m.

The following weekend features a journey to Ann Arbor, Mich., for a pair of matches against Big Ten foes at the Michigan Invitational. The Flames meet the host Wolverines at Michigan Soccer Field on Sep. 12 at 6 p.m., followed by a contest against 2007 NCAA Tournament qualifier Michigan State two days later at 10:30 a.m.

The Flames return to Chicago for a season-long four-match homestand that begins with the two-game Chicago Classic, hosted in conjunction with Northwestern. UIC will begin the Classic against Princeton on Sep. 19 at 7 p.m. Loyola Marymount then comes into town to face UIC in the Chicago Classic finale at Flames Field on Sep. 21 at 3 p.m.

The defending Horizon League champions begin conference play five days later when Cleveland State makes its way to Flames Field for a 7 p.m. match on Sep. 26. The homestand concludes when UIC hosts Detroit on Sep. 28 at 3 p.m.

On Oct. 2 the Flames head north to Milwaukee, Wis. to face Marquette at 7 p.m. UIC will then make its way to Dayton, Ohio to meet league foe Wright State at 4 p.m.

That sets up a big Friday night clash between UIC and Ohio State at Flames Field on Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. The Buckeyes advanced to the national championship game last year, falling 2-1 to Wake Forest. The two teams nearly met in last season's NCAA semifinals, with UIC coming up just one match short of its first-ever College Cup appearance and a postseason collision with the Buckeyes.

After an Oct. 11 road match at Butler, UIC will meet Green Bay at Flames Field on Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. in a rematch of last year's Horizon League title match. The Flames avenged a 2007 regular season loss to the Phoenix, a team that has beaten Ohio State in each of the last two seasons, by defeating Green Bay by a 3-1 count in the league championship final.

UIC returns to Milwaukee on Oct. 25, this time for a league clash against UWM's Panthers at Engelmann Field. The Flames follow that up with a Halloween road match against Valparaiso at 3 p.m.

The regular season schedule concludes on Sunday, Nov. 2, when crosstown foe Loyola makes its way to Flames Field for the first time since 2006 for a match set to begin at 6 p.m. That match will also feature Senior Night and Parents Night festivities.

UIC begins defense of its conference crown soon after, when the 2008 Horizon League Men's Soccer Championship starts with first round action on Nov. 6. The quarterfinals take place on Nov. 9, followed by the semifinals on Nov. 14 and the title tilt on Nov. 16.

The Flames will seek out their third consecutive trip to the NCAA Tournament this season, hoping to pick up where they left off last year in the Elite Eight. The 50th annual NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Championship starts with first round competition on Nov. 21 and 22, followed by second round play on Nov. 26. Round of 16 matches take place on Nov. 29 and 30, while the quarterfinals run through Dec. 5-7.

This year's NCAA Men's College Cup will be held at Pizza Hut Park in Frisco, Texas. The semifinals will be played on Dec. 12, with the national title match held two days later.

"Having reached the Elite Eight and the round of 32 the previous two years, the players have answered many questions," said Trask. "This type of schedule will test their mettle and allow us to properly prepare for a Horizon League schedule that will be demanding and intense starting in late September."

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