WIU INFORMER

WESTERN ILLINOIS

Sport Clubs
Emily Sparks

I am currently a first year graduate student at Western Illinois University and am working to earn my master’s degree in Sport Management. I am also a graduate-assistant at the Campus Recreation Center and work with Sport clubs as well as Facilities management.

Prior to Western Illinois University, I was born and raised in Iowa City, Iowa. I then attended Upper Iowa University in Fayette Iowa for four years. There, I received my Bachelor’s degree in Sport Administration while also competing on the volleyball team for all four years.

In my future, I would like to become a high-school Athletic Director or a recruiter of athletes at the division II level. I am very passionate about helping people reach their goals, and continue to stay actively involved at all different levels.

My first semester of working with sport clubs was very enjoyable. I learned a lot about new and different sports and what goes on behind the scenes. The importance of my position became very apparent during the Fall Semester when many of our teams were competing regularly. I look forward to the Spring Semester to see what it brings our way!

Nick Maentanis

I am currently a first year graduate student at Western Illinois University and am working to earn my master’s degree in Sport Management. I am also a graduate-assistant at the Campus Recreation Center and work with Sport clubs as well as Facilities management.

Prior to my time at Western Illinois University, I received my bachelor’s degree from Eastern Illinois University where I studied Exercise Science. While attending EIU I worked in Campus Recreation all four years of my undergraduate career. I was able to work my way up to undergraduate student manager. My career aspirations are to work in a professional organization’s front office, while my ultimate dream is to one day become a General Manager for a sports organization.

What I enjoy most about my job is helping patrons make their visit to the Student Recreation Center as fun and enjoyable as possible. Along with the help from every employee, we help deliver exceptional service as a team.
SOFTBALL – READY FOR SPRING

The WIU Women's Club Softball team has had a great fall season. We had six returning players and welcomed six new girls. Together, we began our season back in September at the EIU Fall Frenzy, played EIU during Dad's Weekend and finished early November at the University of Illinois. Although we did not win as many games as we would have liked, the team is continuing to get stronger and play better. We are looking forward to our spring season where we plan to play and win more games.

During the months that we are not playing, we plan to hold a few fundraisers in order to pay for club fees as well as our NCSA Annual Dues. In order to stay active we will have regular team practices indoors. Along with that, we also like to volunteer as a group for various Western events.

MEN'S RUGBY – A YEAR OF GREAT VICTORIES

Peter Tarantola (head coach) and The Western Illinois Rugby Club has had another successful year, and made even greater strides than last year. WIU Rugby ended up taking second in the southern division of the WILL Conference which is made up of 14 Illinois and Wisconsin Clubs.

For the first time in 41 years of the club's history WIU Rugby has won their first playoff match ever! We beat Marquette in a close match 27-25, in the following week we moved on to the final four for the first time ever! WIU Rugby scored over 150 points in the regular season in just six games! As we grow as a club we are excited to see how we can improve and become better as an organization.

Spring is just around the corner and we are more than welcome to any student that wants to give rugby a try. No experience is required, just some old football cleats will do! Western Illinois Rugby would like to thank and congratulate the following members of our club that have participated throughout their years here at Western Illinois University that have helped build this club and are graduating this fall and spring: Shane Hornibrook, Luke Johnson, Michael Jenrich, George Lord, Brian Zwiglitch, Eric Stephens, and John Landes—WIU Men's Rugby wishes the best for all of you in your future endeavors!
Equestrian-Hard At Work

This fall the Equestrian Club here at WIU has been very active. The club has two show teams: Western and Hunt (English). The Western team has shown at Truman State University, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, Missouri State University, and will also have one show at the end of November at Black Hawk College. The Hunt team just finished their last show of the semester which was at Northern Illinois University, and they have also shown at Truman State University and Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. The teams brought home many placings and did a great job of showing. The club has also had several volunteer activities that members helped with. Many of our members volunteered at the Colchester Haunted house. They were all dressed up and helped scare the people that went through the house and also helped serve concessions for the fire house. The Equestrian Club members will also be volunteering with Stuff the Bus food drive that the campus does each year. As for fundraisers, the club is holding their annual Equestrian Experience on November 16th and 17th at Swan Creek Stables in Avon, IL. We have a bunch of games for kids and all age groups can come out for lead line rides on the horses the club uses for their practices. This is the largest fundraiser the club does each semester and all the money helps the club so that they can do all the activities throughout the year and also helps them participate in horse shows. They look forward to next semester as well to start with more shows and fun activities.

Volleyball-Bright Outlook

The women’s club volleyball team is off to a great start this year. Tryouts were held earlier this semester, and we had an amazing turnout. We have 18 girls this semester, so we are fortunate to be able to have 2 teams this year. Our first tournament was at DePaul, which we fought hard at and took home first place. Our second tournament was at Augustana, where we played tough, but unfortunately, did not place. The next tournaments we will be traveling to are University of Illinois Chicago on November 16, and our last tournament will be on December 7 at Iowa State. We look forward to the upcoming tournaments, and for nationals that are held in the spring and will be played in Reno, Nevada.
After 6 weeks of the collegiate bowling season, WIU Men’s Bowling is ranked 48th in the nation thanks to a 17th place finish in the season opening tier 1 tournament in Wauwatosa, WI. Last year at this point we were ranked 120. Also we have 3 bowlers averaging over 190, Zach Schuld at 204, Brandon Matthews at 190, and Matt Hayduck at 190. Last season we did not have one bowler over a 190 average. We have made tremendous improvements since last season and hopefully our early success will continue throughout the season.

Our team goal is to make sectionals, at the end of the regular season the top 80 teams in the nation make sectionals. Last season at the end of the regular season we were ranked 81st but made it into sectionals as the last team due to a team dropping out. Hopefully we will easily make sectionals this season with no drama and we would ultimately like to make it to nationals and get WIU Men’s Bowling it’s 4th National Championship.

Water Polo – The Best Is Yet To Come

We’ve had some great successes this semester, and I am truly excited to see what we have in store for next semester. Although we have struggled with numbers this semester, we have more than made up for that with our newest additions to the team. Last spring, we were faced with the challenge of finding a new goalie to replace our former. This made for a great many difficulties in competing as our field players would be regularly switching to take turns and goal. This semester, we found an outstanding goalie which has helped alleviate some of the stresses our other players were facing, which in turn has allowed us to focus more on our field play. One of the pleasures of having fewer people at practice, is that it has allowed us to finesse our skills in the pool and build a much stronger sense of camaraderie amongst those still present. I am hoping to expand upon this in the spring with some hopefully strong new additions to further better ourselves and our performance in the pool. In addition, we are also lucky enough to be able to have some extremely knowledgeable and seasoned players who have been a tremendous asset in assisting some of our new players in learning the ropes.