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Falcon Baseball Hopeful for Playoffs

The regular season for baseball has been underway through most of the spring semester. Currently, the SIC Falcons have a record of 18-17, and a conference record of 10-9. Several Falcon players are amongst the top performers for various stats in the Great Rivers Athletic Conference (GRAC).

Bryce Emery is leading the Falcons in hitting, with a batting average of .380. He is also number 8 in the GRAC, followed by Chris Lata, with an average of .378 and Matthew Janocick with an average of .373. These stats hint that the Falcons have strength in hitting and Emery agrees.

“Our team’s strong point is definitely our offense,” Emery said. “We’ve had very many games with 10 plus runs. Which in turn just helps our pitching. A strong offense takes the pressure off the defense.”

Hitting is not the Falcons’ only strength, though. Jose Cruz is currently number 4 in the conference for strikeouts. Cruz has claimed over 60 strikeouts this season.

On the opposite side, however, Emery says that they can be their own worst enemy.

“Our biggest struggle this season has been games where we defeat ourselves,” Emery said. “We have lost several winnable games by making crucial errors.”



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Every team has its strengths and struggles, though. And the Falcons hope to work past these difficulties in order to end the season successfully. Their hope is to do something that Southeastern has not been able to do in several years.

“Our goal this whole season has been to make the playoffs,” Emery said with excitement. “SIC making the playoffs hasn’t happened in a long time.”

But the Falcons have good reason to believe that may change. They are currently tied with Southwestern Illinois College for 4th place in the conference. As the end of the regular season approaches, they will need to work as hard as possible to ensure a playoff appearance.

No small amount of this effort occurs behind the scenes. In fact, this effort encompasses more than just improving game mechanics. Emery believes that having a right mindset amongst the entire team is needed for success.

“Our team’s motto this year has been ‘change the culture.’ And that’s exactly what we want to do,” Emery said.

Article by Bailey Drone



Phi Beta Lambda Excels at State Convention

SIC's Phi Beta Lambda Business Club competed in the 2018 Illinois Phi Beta Lambda State Leadership Convention in Effingham, IL. Competitors from SIC included: Juana Gonzales, Bradley Hydrick, Mattie McGowan, Adam Partridge and EmmaLee Pruitt. The team is advised by instructor Kelsie Rodman. The conference involved business-related events such as online tests and professional presentations on business topics.

SIC won three first place entries. These include: Mattie McGowan and EmmaLee Pruitt competing as a team in "Business Presentation," Bradley Hydrick and Adam Partridge as a team in "Emerging Business Issues" and Mattie McGowan presenting in "Small Business Management Plan." Partridge, an SIC sophomore, said that a lot of hard work was put into his winning presentation with Hydrick.

"With Bradley and I both working 35 plus hours a week and being full-time students, it made it hard for us to get together and practice," Partridge said. "As the [competition] neared there were many late-night practices through video chats. Turns out all that hard work paid off in the end."

Partridge and Hydrick will be presenting their winning presentation about the difference between business models in the United States and Europe at the National Leadership Conference.

SIC also had two second place entries. These included: Mattie McGowan, presenting on "Entrepreneurship Concepts" and by Emma Lee Pruitt's presentation in "Small Business Management Plan."

Third place entries are awarded at the state level and are given the opportunity to attend the National Leadership Conference in the event that a first or second place winner is unable to attend. The third place winners from SIC included Juana Gonzales presenting in "Client Service" and Emma Lee Pruitt presenting in "Job Interview." Overall, advisor Kelsie Rodman was pleased with the end results. "I feel very blessed and honored to be the SIC PBL Advisor," Rodman said. "At the State Leadership

Conference, I had the opportunity to watch SIC students excel at the highest level. The students compete against some of the top universities and community colleges in the state of Illinois."

All members that placed first or second in an event are attending the Phi Beta Lambda National Leadership Conference that will take place in Baltimore, Maryland. There they will compete against business students from across the nation in a series of preliminary and final rounds of competition.

"When I joined PBL I thought it would just give me a chance to make connections and look good on a resume," Pruitt said. "I never thought I would advance to Nationals in Baltimore and compete against so many different schools."

Currently, PBL is in the process of taking the comments and critiques from the judges at the state conference and working hard to update their presentations and projects to prepare for the national competition in Baltimore this June. All of the students who advanced are excited to travel to Baltimore to compete at the National Conference. Rodman is excited about the national convention and is hopeful that PBL's success will continue in the coming months.

"Congratulations, everyone!" Rodman said. "I'm very proud of you, and look forward to Baltimore this summer."

Article by Mattie McGowan



Schultz Retiring After 35 Years of Teaching

As the spring semester draws to a close students and instructors are working hard to finish their classes. For many instructors, summer and fall classes are right around the corner. But for John Schultz, this year will mark the end of his time at SIC.

Schultz will be retiring following this semester. Schultz has been teaching for 35 years, 29 of which have been at SIC. Throughout his years Schultz has taught classes such as Environmental Science, introductory Biology, Chemistry, and even some math courses. However, his favorite class has been Microbiology. Before he came to SIC he worked at St. John's University.

After a long career of teaching and working, Schultz is on to his next adventure. He hopes to spend his time pursuing hobbies and enjoying loved ones.

"I would like to get some house renovations done, go fishing, and spend more time with my grandson," Schultz said.

Yet, even in retirement, Schultz is not completely finished with teaching. Schultz hopes to use his experience to assist others.

"I hope to help people who can't read," Schultz said. Schultz has taught nearly 5,000 students over the years. Aaron Poole is counted amongst Schultz's many former students. Poole is also a biology instructor at SIC and will be taking over Schultz's classes. Poole's decision to teach college Biology was largely impacted by Schultz. "I always appreciated his calm, caring demeanor and his love for the subject matter," Poole said. "Later as I entered my graduate program, I thought back and fondly remembered his class. It was then I decided to teach college biology."

Schultz has confidence in Poole's ability to excel in this position.

"I look forward to taking over his classes but I know I can never replace him," Poole said. It is evident that Schultz had a big impact on students, past present. SIC is fortunate to have caring instructors such as Schultz.

Schultz has some final wisdom to impart to future students.

"Study hard and always do your best," Schultz warmly advised future students, "This is the best shot at this level; it's the opportunities now. Take that opportunity and don't squander it."

Article by Carson Brimm

