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Coach Schultz gears up baseball team for challenging season opener

By GREG DASSELL
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Josh Schultz, head coach of the Grenadier baseball team, is preparing his team for the season opener against Union College on Feb. 9. In spring 2007, he accepted the position of head coach of the IUS baseball team.

Schultz is entering his second season as head coach of the baseball team. The team finished last year at 23-24.

Athletic Director Pat Mrozowski said Schultz came highly recommended from his references.

"We were extremely impressed with his professionalism and organizational skills," Mrozowski said. "We are lucky to have him."

Schultz said he wants to continue the foundation he and his staff have started to lay down since last year.

"Our ultimate goal is to win a conference championship. Whatever else we do along the way will be icing on the cake," he said.

He said they have been working on fundamentals and continue to grow the team's baseball knowledge, and if they are able to continue this they will have a successful season. The Grenadiers open their season with three top 25 ranked teams on the road.

"The schedule we play this year is very challenging, and we will know exactly what we have very early in the season," Schultz said.

He said his team is very balanced this year and from defensive standpoint, they will make the routine plays and occasionally make plays that are going to turn heads.

"We have pitchers that are going to give us a chance to win night in and night out," Schultz said.

Offensively they will hit for a good average, he said.

"We won't hit a lot of home runs. We will hit some, but we have a big home field and we are not made to hit a whole lot of home runs," Schultz said. "We may not wow you in any one aspect of the game, but we'll be solid in all of them. We can win a conference championship during the regular season, but regional and national titles come during tournament time, and that is what we are working towards, to be ready for tournament time."

Schultz, a native of Butler, Ky. and graduate of Pendleton County High School said he has been coaching pretty much from the time he was done playing for Pendleton County High School.

"I played three years at Pendleton County High School and the year after I graduated I was on the coaching staff," Schultz said.

He said he realizes his path was not the conventional one into coaching, but is glad things worked out the way they did.

"I think I always had coaching in the back of my head," he said.

"I understood the game, I knew what was going on, but that didn't necessarily mean that I could play the game to the level I wanted to."

Shultz said because of his ability to see the intricacies of the game and wanting to help other players, it was a natural evolution into the world of coaching.

"I was lucky enough that the coaches at Pendleton County gave me that opportunity after graduation," he said.

Shultz has an undergraduate degree from Kettering University in engineering.

"I was a decent student in high school. Math and science were my main interests, so engineering seemed to be the right thing for me," he said.

"I was going to go make it big in engineering, make lots of money and change the world."

Schultz worked his first day as an engineering co-op at 17-years-old. Because it was a co-op program he was able to work his part of the program relatively close to home.

"That program gave me the opportunity to work as an engineer by day and coach baseball by night," he said. "I guess my evenings were much more enjoyable than my days. Here I am, I have an undergraduate degree in engineering working on a MBA and I coach college baseball."

Schultz spent five seasons at Pendleton County High School before taking a position as assistant coach at Campbell County High School. He spent one season there before moving on to University of the Cumberlands in 2005.

Here, he worked exclusively with position players, spending most of his time with the outfielders. In his second season he also assisted with hitting instruction and all of the coaches shared in the responsibility of recruiting.

"I was lucky enough to get a little taste of everything while I was down there," Schultz said.

The same summer in his first year at University of the Cumberlands, he also coached the Cheyenne Grizzlies of the Mountain Collegiate Baseball League. He served as assistant coach in his first summer, but served as head coach in 2006 and 2007.

Schultz said the opportunity to coach the Grizzlies was unique and special to him. There are a network of 15 to 20 of these leagues around the country. These

Coach Josh Schultz

leagues vary from 4 to 16 team leagues.

"With the college baseball season starting so early, everybody, even the college world series, is over the second week in June at the latest. That leaves you with the remainder of what most people consider the season left," Schultz said.

He said the league recruited young men from all around the country, and is set up like a minor league atmosphere.

"There are a lot of family-friendly events and we had a mascot come out to all the games," Schultz said.

"It was good for the guys. We would have autograph sessions at the local mall, all the games were on the radio and we did pre-game and post-game shows on the radio."

He said this past summer they all got baseball cards that they autographed and gave out to the kids at the games.

"Summers are a lot more laid back, we were obviously trying to win and put butts in the seats for the owners, but it is not as intense as it is in the spring," Schultz said.

He said during his three years out with the Grizzlies they had about 10 players get drafted.

Last summer was the last for Schultz, who resigned from his position as head coach of the Grizzlies. Schultz said he loved the environment and the people, but that it was time to move in a different direction.

The majority of his time when he is not preparing his team for the upcoming season is spent working on his MBA at IU Southeast. He said his days are filled from morning to night, so there is not a whole lot outside of campus that he has time for.

He said he does enjoy getting out for a round of golf when the weather and his schedule permit, and is looking forward to this summer which will have less of a hectic schedule to keep up with.

What's My Professor Reading?

Aaron Setterdahl
assistant professor chemistry

"Molecular Mechanisms of Photosynthesis"
By Robert E. Blankenship

'Most people would sooner die than think; in fact, they do so.'

– Bertrand Russell

Grenadiers fall short to Georgetown, 79-74

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The IUS men's basketball team fought hard against Georgetown College on Jan. 15 on their home court but fell short, losing by a score of 79-74. The Grenadiers fought hard, but couldn't get over the hump and Georgetown College led the whole game.

The Grenadiers, a young team with only one junior, the other players freshmen and sophomores, played and competed with a veteran squad full of juniors and seniors. The Tigers, ranked second in the NAIA, came in expecting a blow out but were handed a dogfight.

Georgetown came out strong, hitting two 3-pointers to start the game. Their streak from the 3-point line didn't stop there. Georgetown senior guard Justin Taylor initiated the attack for the Tigers, scoring eight points in less than two minutes, giving the Tigers a 14-3 lead with 16 minutes left in the half. Against the Grenadiers' zone, the Tigers hit eight of 16 from behind the arc in the first half.

With great inside play by junior forward Jason Harris, who went four of five from the field in the first half, the Grenadiers chipped away at the Tigers' lead, basket by basket. A couple of free throws by IU Southeast sophomore forward Jeremy Holland cut the lead to two with less than four minutes to go in the half.

The Grenadiers had the momentum, but a crucial technical foul called on Holland with 3:38 left stopped progress. Georgetown hit one of two free throws to bring the lead back to three.

Georgetown called a timeout after they made two free throws with 2:29 left in the half. The score should have been 37-34, but a discrepancy at the scorer's table had it at 36-34. The Tiger's coaching staff was not pleased, but the game went on. The Tigers hit a three with just more than a minute in the half, giving them a four-point lead.

Photo by Jessica Bolduc

Jazzmarr Ferguson, freshman guard, prepares to take a 3-point shot. The Grenadiers lost to Georgetown College, 79-74.

Foul trouble plagued IU Southeast sophomore center Charlie Gonzalez as he picked up his third foul with 44 seconds left in the half. The Tigers stretched their lead at the free throw line to 41-37. With time running down, Taylor hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer, giving the Tigers a 44-37 lead at the half.

Georgetown junior guard Demetrius Guoins led the Tigers with 16 points and 5 rebounds at the break. The Tigers shot .500 from behind the arc and .400 from the field.

Sophomore guard Alex Gravelle and Harris led the Grenadiers with nine points each. IU Southeast shot .480 from the field with 20 of their 37 points in the paint. The bench was a great asset in the Grenadiers' charge, contributing 25 points at the half.

IU Southeast came out of the break with sophomore guard Derrick Hobbs hitting a 3-pointer to get the crowd going. Georgetown had answers as they hit two quick field goals. The Grenadiers' head coach Wiley Brown had enough as he called timeout with 14:22 to go. The Tigers led 54-44.

Harris picked up his fourth foul with 13:39 remaining, sending the Tigers into the bonus with a twelve-point lead.

The Grenadiers were not the only ones with foul trouble. They chipped at the Tigers' lead from the free-throw line. IU Southeast sophomore guard Carlos Mitchell cut the lead to eight as the Grenadiers were gaining momentum. Hitting six free throws in a row, the Grenadiers trailed 60-54 with 11:10 left in the game.

Georgetown junior guard Jerry Turner hit back-to-back 3-pointers to bring their lead back to ten. Mitchell answered with his own 3-pointer to cut the lead to six with 8:43 left.

The Tigers kept trying to pull away, but the Grenadiers were there with an answer of their own. A fast break dunk by sophomore guard DeJon Gary brought the Grenadiers within two. Georgetown called a timeout with 2:41 left and the score at 72-70.

As play resumed, the Grenadiers came up with a defensive stop but couldn't convert on the other end. Gonzalez fouled out with six points, six rebounds, and three blocks, with just more than one minute to go.

Georgetown hit a basket and converted on a fast break to bring the lead to 77-70. IU Southeast fouled to stop the clock, but it was too late. The Grenadiers fell to Georgetown, 79-74.

After the game, Brown commented on his team's effort.

"We can't be satisfied with just competing," he said. "We are young, but we have to know we can win. We have to believe. We've come a long way since the beginning of the season, and our guys fought hard. The key is confidence. We need to believe we can win."

Georgetown had three players in double digits. Taylor had 20 points, going three of six from behind the arc, and seven of 11 from the field. Senior forward Gordon Chase dropped 16 points and grabbed eight rebounds.

Guoins contributed 19 points, three of six from the 3-point line, and brought down seven rebounds. The Tigers shot .476 from behind the line, .500 from the field, and .618 from the free-throw line.

IU Southeast had two players in double digits. Mitchell dropped 14 points, going four of six from the field and five of five from the free-throw line.

Gravelle had 13 points and four rebounds. The Grenadiers shot .473 from the field and .708 from the free-throw line. Thirty-eight of their 74 points came from inside the paint.

Georgetown moves to 18-0 on the season as the Grenadiers still remain four games over .500 at 12-8.