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IUS men's basketball team wins KIAC title

By JESSICA BOLDUC
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The IU Southeast men's basketball team won the KIAC title with a record of 9-0. The Grenadiers (22-8) are on a 10-game winning streak going into the conference tournament.

"We have to finish out by winning our conference tournament and represent IU Southeast at the national tournament," Charlie Gonsalez, sophomore center, said.

Talent was not the only factor that helped the Grenadiers go undefeated in the conference. This team has a special chemistry that exudes onto the court. With a new head coach starting this season, the team pulled together and set their goals.

Determination, hard work and teamwork were needed to have a winning season, and this team met the task head on.

"It's always good to see all the hard work these guys put in, pay off," Head Coach Wiley Brown, said. "From day one I have been telling them, 'trust me, it'll pay off' because I've seen it happen.

"This group of guys reminds me so much of my 1980 University of Louisville National Championship team by being so close together on and off the court. It's a special bond that you don't see too often. The character on this team is unbelievable."

Mid-January the Grenadiers fell to a talented veteran, Georgetown College. They only lost by five points, but the Grenadiers were coming into their own. They were gelling as a team. For a young team with a new coach they came together at the perfect time.

That loss lit a fire under them. They realized they were good and that they were contenders for the national title. The Grenadiers won the next ten games and are undefeated going into the conference tournament. This gives the Grenadiers a huge advantage over the other teams. They are prepared.

"Our coaches have pushed us so hard in practice since day one," Dejon Gary, sophomore guard, said. "They helped us prepare for the games and that is the main reason why we are undefeated in conference play."

The coaching staff has pushed this young team to excel at the highest level. Brown brought a new style to the program and the team transitioned smoothly.

"They take a butt chewing right on the chin and ask for more," Brown said. "I can't ask for a better group of guys as far as unbelievable character."

Brown said he has instilled in their heads that they must believe in their team if they want to be successful. He said they have to believe in themselves and in their teammates. It wasn't going to come easy, and the Grenadiers knew this at the start of the season. The coaching staff and players dedicated themselves to have a solid season and make it to the National Tournament.

Assistant Coach Antwain Banks said the team has bought into what Brown wanted to do from the beginning.

"They believed in what he was teaching them through all the grueling practices and the tough losses," Banks said. "All the blood, sweat and guts got us here to where we are today. These guys are starting to realize how special this team can really be. They believe in each other, they have each other's back, and they are as close as any team I've been around. These guys are special."

This KIAC title is very important to the team. They've worked hard and have given their hearts to this team.

"It makes it special to share this experience with all the guys on the team, not only for the players but also for Coach Brown getting his first regular season Conference Championship," Gonzalez said. "It's good for our team going into the tournament and for Coach Brown in his first season."

Winning the conference was just one of the goals the Grenadiers set this year. They are looking forward to winning the conference tournament and making it to the National Championship.

"We want to be a national ranking powerhouse, and I think we are moving closer and closer in that direction," Brown said.

The tournament was held at Asbury College, Feb. 28-March 1, where IU Southeast was a number-one seed.

'Sometimes you gotta create what you want to be a part of.'

– Geri Weitzman

A touching ending

Photo by Jerod Clapp

Brittany Caple, IUS senior guard, hugs assistant coach Bernie Merkel, after the women's team won the homecoming game on Feb. 23. It was Caple's last game. The women's team defeated Berea College 69-64.

Museum curator to speak on book

By AMY STALLINGS
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This year the IU Southeast Common Experience program focuses on racial identity and how it affects life and relationships. One author is set to discuss his book about Native Americans and the years of research that inspired it.

One of the suggested readings for this year's Common Experience is "Skull Wars: Kenniwick Man, Archeology, and the Battle for Native American Identity."

The book, written by David Hurst Thomas, curator of anthropology at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, tells the story of the relationship between Native Americans, archaeologists and the government over a 500-year period and speculates on the future of that relationship.

Thomas will be at the Stem Auditorium in the Ogle Center on March 4 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss his book and his research. He will also be speaking on some of the issues surrounding the 1996 discovery of the Kennewick Man by James Chatters, an archeologist in Benton County, Wash.

Kennewick Man is the 9000-year-old skeletal remains of a human that has Caucasoid features. Found near Kennewick, Wash., the discovery of this skeleton has sparked controversy throughout the archaeological and anthropological communities.

Just one of several Common Experience events scheduled, the book discussion is an opportunity for the IU Southeast community and others to meet Thomas and ask questions they have about the book and his research.

For more information about the Common Experience program, and the remaining events scheduled for this academic year, go to www.ius.edu/common experience.

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