

INDEPENDENT SPORTS CLUB HISTORY

In 1945, a group of Gipps Brewery softball players came up with an idea that has given central Illinois youth sports one of its greatest benefactors. With 14 charter members, the Independent Sports Club of Central Illinois has grown today into a hardworking team of over 800.

The ISC provides a variety of funding opportunities. Youth sports organizations can be awarded with an ISC Annual Grant up to \$700. ISC Capital Improvement Grants are given for facility upgrades. Tri-County area high school senior athletes are eligible to earn \$1,000 ISC scholarships.

Necessary funds are raised by the ISC to provide this support through annual membership dues, raffles and drawings, special events like the Smoker, advertising and sponsorships.

ISC stands behind its slogan:

'Organized to give central Illinois youth the "best sports programs in the nation."'

NFL PLAYOFFS PARTY

Saturday, January 4th at Peacock's Pub in Bartonville.
\$30/person covers all you can eat/drink pizza, domestic drafts & soda for both games.

ISC 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Sunday, January 26 at The Warehouse on State. Featuring Cubs Hall of Famer Fergie Jenkins. \$75/per person covers hors d'oeuvres and wine/beer/soda. Contact event chairman Bill King for more information or to reserve seats.

VISIT THE ISC WEBSITE

Please visit and bookmark www.iscpeoria.com. Members and interested members can download applications for membership, grants, and scholarships. Use PayPal to pay for membership dues, event tickets, and more.

Chris Peterson, President
Jim Stoner, Treasurer
Bobby Joseph, Chairman
Bill King
Jeff Doeden
Regan Jones
Chris Yocum
Pat Lavery

Andy Weeks, Vice President
Adam Duvall, Secretary
Rich Moore
Ron King
David Hunt
Bill Molleck
Kevin Joseph
Derek Pitzer

A SPECIAL THANKS TO
THE ISC SMOKER SUPPORTERS:
Bradley University • University of Illinois
Brian Wardle • Brad Underwood
Dave Reynolds, Peoria Journal Star
Jim Mattson, 25 NEWS - WEEK
Royal Publishing, Inc.
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Steve Hinrichs, Michigan State at Illinois
basketball package
Derek Oddo of Gainlight Studios,
event photographer
Adam Duvall, ISC secretary,
schedule magnet, program & ticket design



24TH ANNUAL
SMOKER

FEATURING

BRADLEY COACH ILLINOIS COACH
BRIAN WARDLE BRAD UNDERWOOD



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16
THE WAREHOUSE ON STATE

24th ANNUAL SMOKER - AGENDA



5:30 P.M. DOORS OPEN

7:00 P.M. INTRODUCTION

Jeff Doeden, Smoker Chairman

•
Sponsors Appreciation

•
Bill King, David Hunt, Chris Yocum, Regan Jones
Smoker Committee

LIVE AUCTION

Michigan State at Illinois - Feb. 11, 2020
Two lower bowl tickets, parking pass,
& Traditions Club access

•
Two Lower Bowl Season Tickets
for the 2019-2020
Bradley Men's Basketball Season

RAFFLE DRAWING

\$50 Raffle Winners

•
Two Upper Bowl Season Tickets
for the 2019-20
Bradley Men's Basketball Season

•
50/50 Winners

7:15 P.M. COACHES Q&A

Moderated by

Dave Reynolds, Peoria Journal Star
Jim Mattson, WEEK 25 Sports Director

BRIAN WARDLE

Having reestablished Bradley men's basketball as a championship-level program, Brian Wardle is in his fifth year as head coach of the Braves. It took just four seasons on the Bradley sideline for Wardle to lead a complete rebuild of the program, capped by the school's first Missouri Valley Conference title in 31 years.

The 2018-19 season proved to be a memorable year for Bradley as Wardle became just the third coach to lead the Braves to a Valley Tournament crown, earning the school's first postseason championship since 1988. BU then made its first NCAA Tournament appearance in 13 seasons, challenging eventual Final Four foe Michigan State in a tight first-round matchup.

The 2018-19 campaign showcased a successful rebuild by Wardle and the Braves. Named the school's 14th head coach in March 2015, Wardle was tasked with turning around a Bradley program that had not posted a winning conference record in the previous six seasons with the Braves finishing last in the Valley the year before his arrival. Featuring the nation's youngest team in his first season on campus and the youngest in the conference each of his first three years, Wardle quickly improved BU's fortunes – becoming one of just four teams in the nation to improve by at least five wins in 2016-17 and 2017-18, capped by the school's first 20-win campaign in nine years.

After three seasons reconstructing the Bradley roster, it all paid off in Wardle's fourth year at the helm. Bradley opened the season by defeating Penn State in the Cancun Challenge Championship as the Braves lifted their first regular-season tournament trophy since 1983. Wardle then continued to lead Bradley past a number of obstacles, including eight halftime rallies (the most by the Braves since 1988) and becoming the first team in Valley history to start 0-4 in league play and reach the title game. BU then faced an 18-point second-half deficit against Northern Iowa in the MVC Championship before completing the largest comeback in title game history with a 40-19 run to reach the top of the podium.

When it was all said and done, Wardle's first recruiting class at Bradley claimed the program's first Valley Tournament title in 31 years, while posting back-to-back 20-win campaigns and becoming the first team in school history to lift two tournament trophies in the same season.

Following the 2013-14 season, Wardle added Skip Prosser Man of the Year honors to his collection, recognizing the head coach for not only success on the basketball court but also for displaying moral integrity off it as well.

Wardle is married to the former Lecia Schuetz. The couple has three children Mya, Emery, and Davin.



- BradleyBraves.com

BRAD UNDERWOOD

Brad Underwood is in his third season at Illinois as the Richmond Family Endowed Men's Head Basketball Coach following his hiring as the 18th head coach in program history in March 2017. Underwood has won more than 67 percent of his games through his first six years as a Division I head coach, recording four 20-win seasons while making four NCAA Tournament appearances.



Illinois was one of the most inexperienced teams in the country last season, with Underwood meshing seven newcomers into his 11-player rotation. Despite that youth and facing the No. 3-ranked regular season schedule by kenpom, the Illini doubled their win total against conference foes in 2019, winning eight games against Big Ten competitors.

The Illini recorded nine wins against teams rated in the top-80 (kenpom), with four victories coming against eventual NCAA Tournament teams. The improvement was highlighted by marquee wins over two top-15 ranked teams. Illinois defeated No. 13 Maryland at Madison Square Garden and knocked off No. 9-ranked and eventual Big Ten champion and Final Four participant Michigan State at home, leading to a court rush celebration by Orange Krush students at the buzzer.

Illinois had 58 percent of its scoring come from newcomers, which was the highest percentage of any team in the Big Ten. For the first time in school history, a true freshman led Illinois in scoring on the season as rookie Ayo Dosunmu averaged 13.8 points. And in conference play, Illinois had true freshmen as its top two leading scorers for the first time ever in Dosunmu (14.8 ppg) and Giorgi Bezhanishvili (13.5 ppg).

Year one saw Underwood lay the foundation for the Illini program. Playing at the second-fastest tempo in the Big Ten, Illinois topped 80 points in 12 games and averaged 75.8 points. That marked the highest scoring average in 13 years, since the 2005 national runner-up season. The offense was aggressive in all phases, recording the team's best offensive rebounding rate (.340) in the last 10 years while also posting the squad's highest free throw rate (.331) since 2008 and making the most free throws (478) since 2002.

Defensively, Illinois ranked fourth nationally in turnover rate, forcing turnovers on 23.2 percent of opponent possessions. The defense created its most turnovers (543) in the last 18 years while collecting its most steals (240) since 2005. Underwood and his staff have also made waves on the recruiting trail during their time in Champaign, signing Ayo Dosunmu, the program's highest-rated guard recruit since 2002.

Brad and his wife, Susan, have a son, Tyler, and two daughters, Katie and Ashley.

- FightingIllini.com