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Daily Egyptian Staff

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Salukis draw crowd, pick up loss



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Residents celebrate Eid, Rosh Hashanah, diversity

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Latino celebration brings community together

"I am most excited about seeing all of our people together in support of one another and at the same time seeing other groups coming out."

— Luis Camargo
president of the Hispanic Student Council

RYAN SIMONIN
Daily Egyptian

With the crack of a baseball bat, a waterfall of candy flowed from a piñata at the 14th annual Welcome Picnic on Saturday to usher in Latino Heritage Month at SIU.

The picnic was organized by the Sigma Lambda Gamma sorority and Sigma Lambda Beta fraternity to welcome students to a new semester and Latino Heritage Month, which begins Wednesday.

Karina Enriquez, a junior from Chicago studying advertising and president of Sigma Lambda Gamma, said the event was open to all students and it was a good way for new Latino students to feel at home.

"When I came here as a freshman I didn't know anybody and I thought I was the only Mexican on campus, but once I met my sorority sisters here I was more confident and I became more involved with school," Enriquez said.

Saul Avila, a junior from Chicago studying criminal justice, said the picnic was a way for Latino students to bond. He said he is excited there is a whole month dedicated



PAT SUTPHIN | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Saul Avila, a junior from Chicago studying criminal justice, swings at a piñata Saturday at the Latino Heritage picnic sponsored by Sigma Lambda Beta and Sigma Lambda Gamma at Campus Lake Boat Dock. The picnic was a kickoff for Latino

Heritage Month, which will feature other events including a Latino festival from noon to 3 p.m. Friday and Make Your Own Piñata workshops from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. each Monday Sept. 27 through Oct. 11.

to Latino culture.

"I am really looking forward to Noche de Gala, which is our formal salsa dance night. I have been to it the past two years and it is nice to see everybody dressed up," Avila said.

Luis Camargo, a senior from Chicago studying flight, aviation and president of the Hispanic Stu-

dent Council, said a rally at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Grinnell Hall would formally introduce the month. Carbondale city council member Corene McDaniel and Undergraduate Student Government president Marcus King will be present as guest speakers.

King said it is important for ev-

ery ethnic group to be able to have events because it helps promote the mission statement of the university.

"It is important that each group is represented equally. When they can come out and people can actually see them and the great things that they do then that promotes unity and diversity. Once that hap-

pens separation starts to dwindle away," King said.

Camargo said he is excited to share the Latino culture with others at SIU and in the community. He said all the events are open to all students.

Please see LATINO | 2

Transfers students' graduation preparations put on hold

RYAN VOYLES
Daily Egyptian

Stacy Conn's graduation plans have been put on hold.

Conn, a senior from Chicago studying accounting, said she was preparing for her graduation in December when she checked her personal records and saw a hold on her account, which would have prevented her from getting her degree.

"I was running around Woody Hall asking anybody and everybody, and no one knew," Conn said. "So finally someone in the Bursar's office told me to go downstairs and talk to records, and the student worker there was the one to explain it to me. And he said they were handling everything on a 'case-by-case' basis,

"It could potentially keep us from graduating, and I already sent in my application for graduation."

— Stacy Conn
senior studying accounting

and that they weren't telling any students.

"It could potentially keep us from graduating, and I already sent in my application for graduation."

A hold occurs when certain obligations, whether financial or transcript-wise, are not met on the student's record. A hold "may prevent you from enrolling for classes, being readmitted to the University, and/or obtaining a transcript or diploma," according to the Bursar's website.

Tamora Workman, director of transfer student services, said in

an e-mail there are different reasons why transfer students may see holds on their accounts.

"The hold is applied to those students who have been admitted and registered for the current semester but have not yet followed up with a college transcripts representing their final work at their previous schools," Workman said.

"There are a variety of reasons why students do not provide the necessary final transcript, but often they believe they have. However, the request was made before their degree or grades were posted

by the previous college and therefore the transcript we receive is still incomplete."

She said a number of e-mails are sent to students at the time when the hold is applied, and that students are usually responsive to the messages. Once the transcript arrives, the hold is lifted. Workman said.

But Conn said no such e-mail was sent to her.

"Nobody sent an e-mail, and I went back and checked every e-mail I had, because I keep all of them from the school, and I did not see anything," she said. "I even went through my spam."

Conn said many of the other transfer students she talked to did not receive e-mails, and did not know they had holds on their accounts until they checked their

personal records.

Angie Dunn, a junior from Ohio studying journalism, said she received two different e-mails about a hold on her account, but she was required to find out why they were on her account.

"I was confused; either something got lost in translation, or I had wasted a few dollars, because I had to pay my old college to transfer my transcripts," Dunn said. "So I need to find out why it did not send, if that was the case."

Students transferring to SIUC are required to hold a GPA of at least 2.0, turn in official high school and college transcripts as well as copies of his or her ACT and SAT scores, according to the transfer student guide.

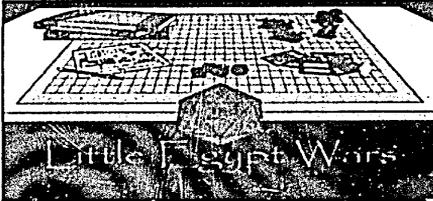
Please see TRANSFER | 2

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10% chance of precipitation	10% chance of precipitation	0% chance of precipitation	30% chance of precipitation	20% chance of precipitation

About Us

The DAILY EGYPTIAN is published by the students of Southern Illinois University Carbondale 50 weeks per year, with an average daily circulation of 20,000. Fall and spring semester editions run Monday through Friday. Summer editions run Tuesday through Thursday. All intercession editions will run on Wednesdays. Spring break and Thanksgiving editions are distributed on Mondays of the pertaining weeks. Free copies are distributed in the Carbondale, Murphysboro and Carterville communities. The DAILY EGYPTIAN online publication can be found at www.dailyegyptian.com.

Mission Statement

The DAILY EGYPTIAN, the student-run newspaper of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, is committed to being a trusted source of news, information, commentary and public discourse, while helping readers understand the issues affecting their lives.

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Upcoming Calendar Events

Securing Supports for a Successful School Year

- 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Sept. 20 at Thomas Elementary School
- Training for Parents of Students receiving special education services
- For more information or to register, please phone Family Matters toll-free at 866-436-7842 ext. 107 or register online at fmpit.org
- Family matters parent training is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and ARC Community support systems

Shawnee Volunteer Corps Announces Fall Volunteer Work Days

- Each volunteer session lasts from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Meet at the Murphysboro Work Center at 2221 Walnut St. in Murphysboro.
- Volunteer Dates: Sept. 25, Oct. 23, Nov. 6, 13, 14.
- 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. today Meet and Greet at SIU Student Center
- If you have any more questions, contact Kelly Pearson at 687-1731 or e-mail at klpearson@fs.fed.us

Retire Equals Refire

- 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Oct. 21 at Pullium Hall Room 204
- \$30 per participant.
- This class will open new doors and ideas about volunteering, education, travel and second careers for Baby Boomers who are considering retirement or have recently retired.
- If you have any questions please contact the SIUC Division of Continuing Education at 536-7751 or fax 453-5680.

TRANSFER

CONTINUED FROM 1

Workman said 46.9 percent of new undergraduate students this semester are transfer students. New on-campus transfer student enrollment went up 122 students from last year to 1,658, she said. Conn said she hopes every transfer student checks their account to see if they have a hold on their account, and that they should try to fix it themselves. "Everybody here passes the buck," she said. "Either they say it's above or below their pay rate. They have not been helping us."

LATINO

CONTINUED FROM 1

"I am most excited about seeing all of our people together in support of one another and at the same time seeing other groups coming out," Camargo said. Events throughout the month include a discussion on the constitutionality of the Arizona immigration law at 7 p.m. today in the

Ohio Room at the Student Center; a tamale fest from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sept. 21 in the Old Main Restaurant in the Student Center and a unity dinner at 7 p.m. Oct. 24 at the Newman Center. Latino Heritage Month ends Oct. 25. For a complete list of the events, visit the Student Development Website at sluc.org-sync.com.

Correction

In the Thursday edition of the DAILY EGYPTIAN, the outline with the story "SIU teaches tennis skills to community" should have said Jennifer Dien. The DAILY EGYPTIAN regrets this error.

JAMES DURBIN | DAILY EGYPTIAN

FROM PHOTO REFER ON PAGE 1 — SIU wide receiver Joe Allaria answers questions at a press conference after the 35-3 loss against the University of Illinois on Saturday at Memorial Stadium in Champaign. "Our defense had turnovers and gave us a great field position multiple times and we didn't get a touch down," Allaria said. "That's just not acceptable."



ISAACSMITH | DAILY EGYPTIAN

INTERFAITH CENTER HOSTS NEW BEGINNINGS CELEBRATIONS Sajid Rizvi, a graduate masters student in geology from Pakistan, right, takes a break from cooking to hug Mary Sullivan on Friday at the Gala House Interfaith Center during their joint celebration of Eid ul-Fitr and Rosh Hashanah. Rizvi said the Eid holiday marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan. "Eid, according to the Quran, is a gift from God for those who have fasted," Rizvi said. He said a big part of the holiday is hugging. "In the morning we ask forgiveness from God, then after, we hug," Rizvi

said. It is important, he said, to ask forgiveness from those whom one has hurt throughout the year. He explained the tradition with a verse from the Quran, which reads, "God will not forgive you until the people forgive you." Maurine Pyle, co-director of the Gala House, said both Eid ul-Fitr and Rosh Hashanah share the common theme of new beginnings. Pyle said she is glad to see people coming together. "Right at this time when Muslims are being abused ... it's good to be in a place like Carbondale where diversity is valued," she said.

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Thursday, September 16 at 4:00 p.m.
SIU Student Center Auditorium

PROFESSOR CHARLIE LEONARD
An Insider's Guide to Polling: What Makes a Good Poll?
Thursday, September 30 at 4:30 p.m.
Paul Simon Public Policy Institute Lobby

ILLINOIS STATE SENATOR IRIS MARTINEZ
First Female Latina State Senator, Chair, Senate Pensions Cmte.
Wednesday, October 6 at 7:00 p.m.
SIU Student Center Auditorium

RIISING DEBT: SINKING OUR FUTURE?
Monday, October 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
SIU Student Center Ballroom B
Featuring Dr. Sara Imhof of the Concord Coalition,
Dr. Scott Gilbert of the SIU Department of Economics
and an interactive deficit reduction exercise.
RSVP required for lunch. Space is limited.

JANICE JACOBS
Assistant U.S. Secretary of State and SIUC alumna
Monday, October 25 at 11:30 a.m.
SIU Student Center, Ballroom B
RSVP required for lunch. Space is limited.

IS LEGALIZED GAMBLING A GOOD BET?
A debate on using legalized gambling for funding government
Featuring Tom Swick of the Illinois Casino Gaming Association
and Thomas Grey of the National Coalition Against
Legalized Gambling

Tuesday, October 26 at 7:00 p.m.
SIU Student Center, Ballroom B

2010 ELECTION ANALYSIS
John Jackson, Charlie Leonard and David Yepsen share insights.
Thursday, November 4 at 11:00 a.m.
Paul Simon Public Policy Institute Lobby

AN ELECTION POST-MORTEM
State Rep. John Bradley (D-Marion) and State Sen. David
Luechtefeld (R-Oakville) will discuss the future of
state and university funding.
Thursday, November 4 at 7:00 p.m.
SIU Student Center, Ballroom B

PROFESSOR JEFFREY SEDGWICK
Former Assistant Attorney General under President George
W. Bush and professor emeritus of the University of
Massachusetts at Amherst.
Monday, November 8 at 7:00 p.m.
SIU Student Center, Ballroom B

THE SECOND AMENDMENT IN FOCUS
Presenting opposing viewpoints on gun ownership and gun
Laws featuring former National Rifle Association President
Kayne Robinson.
Monday, November 15 at 6:00 p.m.
SIU Student Center Auditorium

RICK PEARSON ON THE ELECTION
The Chicago Tribune political reporter provides his election analysis.
Wednesday, November 17 at 4:30 p.m.
Paul Simon Public Policy Institute Lobby

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If no other option, House GOP leader says he'd support extending tax cuts only to middle class

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Minority Leader John Boehner says he would vote for President Obama's plan to extend tax cuts only for middle-class earners, not the wealthy, if that were the only option available to House Republicans.

Boehner, R-Ohio, said it is "bad policy" to exclude the highest-earning Americans from tax relief during the recession. But he said he wouldn't block the breaks for middle-income individuals and fami-

lies if Democrats won't support the full package.

Income tax cuts passed under President George W. Bush will expire at the end of this year unless Congress acts and Obama signs the bill. Obama said he would support continuing the lower tax rates for couples earning up to \$250,000 or single taxpayers making up to \$200,000. But he and the Democratic leadership in Congress refused to back continued lower rates for the fewer than 3 percent of Americans who make more than that.

The cost of extending the tax cuts for everyone for the next 10 years would approach \$4 trillion, according to congressional estimates. Eliminating the breaks for the top earners would reduce that bill by about \$700 billion.

Boehner's comments signaled a possible break in the logjam that has prevented passage of a tax bill, although Republicans would still force Democrats to vote on their bigger tax-cut package in the final weeks before the November congressional elections.

Evacuees return to scorched Colo. homes as investigators probe cause of devastating wildfire

The Associated Press

BOULDER — Colorado crews let hundreds of evacuees return to their scorched homes Sunday as investigators probed the cause of a devastating wildfire that has burned 10 square miles near Boulder.

A senior law enforcement official familiar with the investigation told the Denver Post that authorities are looking into whether a fire pit sparked the blaze, which could mean criminal charges are possible. The newspaper did not name the official.

Authorities previously said the fire may have started after a vehicle crashed into a propane tank. The sheriff's office is aware of the Post article but won't comment on the cause or origin of the fire because it's under investigation, said Sarah Huntley, a spokeswoman for fire response.

Utility workers were restoring electricity to homes where about 2,000 residents have been allowed to return in the rugged foothills above Boulder. Much of the area is dangerous because of downed power lines and poles, damaged roads and ex-

posed mine shafts, officials said.

In Loveland, about 35 miles northeast of Boulder, crews were battling a separate wildfire that is less than a square mile that destroyed a home, said Merlin Green, the division chief for Loveland Fire and Rescue. Merlin said it appears that no one was in the home and no injuries have been reported. Six agencies are working the fire and six air tankers are dropping retardant on the fire that has forced people within a four-mile radius to evacuate.

Federal regulators say California gas pipeline in deadly blast was ranked high risk

The Associated Press

SAN BRUNO — Federal and state investigators say the section of natural gas pipeline that ruptured and exploded in a deadly fireball near San Francisco had been categorized as high risk because it ran through a highly populated area.

Documents obtained by The Associated Press showed that Pacific

Gas & Electric submitted paperwork to regulators that said a section of the same gas line — about two and half miles from the blast — was within "the top 100 highest risk line sections" in the utility's service territory.

A PG&E spokesman confirmed Sunday that the section of pipe mentioned in the documents was on the same line as the segment

that ruptured and located several miles north of the explosion.

The federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration said PG&E had classified the 30-inch diameter transmission line as a "high consequence area" requiring more stringent inspections called integrity assessments, agency spokeswoman Julia Valentine said.

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Saluki Insider

Following a gold medal finish at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, team USA won its first FIBA world championship in 16 years. Has America returned to basketball dominance or will the emergence of international teams like Ukhania, Argentina and Serbia contend and take the basketball crown?



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European teams have more pure shooters but I haven't seen any of them dominate in play around the rim as any American players. I think team USA basketball will usher in a new era of dominance only equaled by that of the '94 team that had Shaquille O'Neal.

America! Wool Seriously, you think we should be afraid of Ukhania or Serbia? I mean, really? Most Americans can't even find those countries on a map and they think they can contend with us? Ha ha, I laugh at your petty effort to overtake the greatest country in the world. USA! USA! USA!

I really don't think anyone cares about international basketball. After all, did you know that LeBron left Cleveland? Yes, it's true.

VOLLEYBALL

Three Salukis make All-Tournament team

BRANDON COLEMAN
Daily Egyptian

“Our team is comfortable with each other. We know that everyone is going to do their job on the court.”

— Jennifer Berwanger
senior outside hitter

The Salukis steamrolled the competition Friday and Saturday at the 31st Saluki Invitational, losing only one set of three matches against Southeast Missouri State University, Mississippi State University and the University of South Florida.

Senior Jennifer Berwanger led the team in kills and digs, and was named tournament MVP. Sophomore Rachael Brown and senior Alysa Mayes joined Berwanger on the All-Tournament team.

Berwanger said the Salukis try to bring energy and keep their composure in pressure-filled situations.

“Our team is comfortable with each other,” Berwanger said. “We know that everyone is going to do their job on the court.”

The Mississippi State Bulldogs were the second SEC team the Salukis defeated this season. Head Coach Brenda Winkler said.

“We have a lot of teams in the (MVC) that can go out and compete against a lot of the big conferences,” she said.

The Salukis also beat USF, a member of the Big East Conference. Winkler said the bigger schools may not have played to their potential against the Salukis.

“I think sometimes it's human nature to relax when you see a team that

not as big or not as successful as you have been,” Winkler said.

She said anyway the Salukis face teams from BCS conferences they set out to prove they can play alongside them.

During their only set loss to SEMO, Winkler said the team became too relaxed and didn't communicate enough with one another.

“Sometimes you get frustrated because you expect to keep getting easy kills and digs the same as in the first set,” Winkler said. “That's what happened to us against SEMO in the second set.”

The Salukis host University of Tennessee-Martin at 6 p.m. Tuesday in Davies Gymnasium. The Skyhawks of UT-M will be the Salukis' last non-conference opponent before opening conference play at 7 p.m. Sept. 17 at home against Creighton.

Brandon Coleman can be reached at bcoleman@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 269.



ISAAC SMITH | DAILY EGYPTIAN

All-tournament sophomore setter, Rachael Brown, sets up a shot Saturday in a match against the Southeast Missouri State University Redhawks during

the Saluki Invitational. The Salukis lost only one set against the Redhawks, and swept all of their matches in the tournament. The Salukis are 8-1 on the season.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Team searches to strengthen fifth runner slot

BRANDON COLEMAN
Daily Egyptian

The women's cross country team finished third out of six teams at Friday's Eastern Illinois University Panther Open Invitational, yet their fifth runner position hangs in the air. Head Coach Matt Sparks said.

Sparks said although the Saluki women, ran well, he needs either sophomore Kelsey Kaiser or junior transfer Shanhi Blanchard, who finished 37th and 36th respectively, to run closer to freshman Eileen Sch-

weiss and senior Jamie Pfister.

Senior Emily Toennies said the gap between Blanchard and Kaiser, who finished fifth and sixth on the team respectively, lagged far behind fourth-place Schweiss.

The pack time should be closer together after Blanchard and Kaiser work out more, she added.

“Kelsey is the key to our team's success (down the road),” Sparks said.

Each Saluki runner improved on his or her per-mile time. Sparks.

Toennies (18 minutes 51.1 seconds) and senior Megan Hoelscher

(18 minutes 7.51 seconds) finished second and third place for the women Friday while sophomore Lucas Cherry finished third out of 81 runners in the men's 8K race with a time of 25:48.87.

Sparks said he plans to work more with Blanchard and Kaiser to get their times closer to the top four runners on the team.

“We try to pair them up with someone they can be more competitive with,” Sparks said.

Toennies said she and Hoelscher usually run in sync during practice

and at invites.

“It makes it easier than running by yourself,” Toennies said.

Sparks said along with pairing Toennies with Hoelscher and Blanchard with Kaiser, he also paired Schweiss with Pfister.

Hoelscher said Friday's invitational seemed more like a workout for herself, Toennies and Pfister.

She and the other seniors said they ran in the invite because they wanted to keep from burning out when the MVC Invitationals come around in October.

“In previous years we (would) get burned out toward the end of the season. Our legs just weren't as fresh anymore,” Hoelscher said.

Toennies said the Salukis were relaxed going into the EIU invite because they treated it as a workout.

“The lead runners ... were very controlled and relaxed, working more toward running fast in October,” Sparks said.

SIU will be in action again this month when it hosts the Saluki Invitational Sept. 25.

FOOTBALL

CONTINUED FROM B

The memories of SIU celebrating on Division I fields were still fresh in Gary Goforth's mind Saturday.

Goforth, of Chicago, said he was there with his son, Phil, who was a member of the SIU football team from 2003 to 2007 under

former head coach Jerry Kill.

“My son played for Kill, and my son was on the team that beat Indiana,” Gary Goforth said. “Those guys ate up here this weekend. A lot of them decided to come from around the area here to meet up and see each other again. And we're honestly just big football fans.”

But even fans like Anna Breen, who wasn't there for the victories

over Northern Illinois and Indiana, found something to enjoy during the weekend.

Breen, an undecided freshman from La Grange Park, said it was fun to experience the different football environments.

“It was a lot different up here than it was in Carbondale,” she said. “It seems like it's more hectic and crazy when it comes to pre-

paring for football games.”

Jacqueline Hoffmann, a senior from St. Louis studying advertising, said she attended not only to support her boyfriend, starting wide receiver Joe Allaria, but to also bond with other SIU students who made the trip.

“The crowd is awesome, everybody is really supportive of each other ... and it's really cool to see

everybody come together for the Salukis,” Hoffmann said.

It was the togetherness, Suarez said, that made it a perfect weekend — despite the final score of the game.

“What I like is the connection between all of the generations, from the grandparents, parents and their kids. There has been a lot of great memories here.”

Sports

8 · Monday, September 13, 2010

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BANTER

Does FIBA win mean USA Basketball is still best?

PAGE 7

VOLLEYBALL

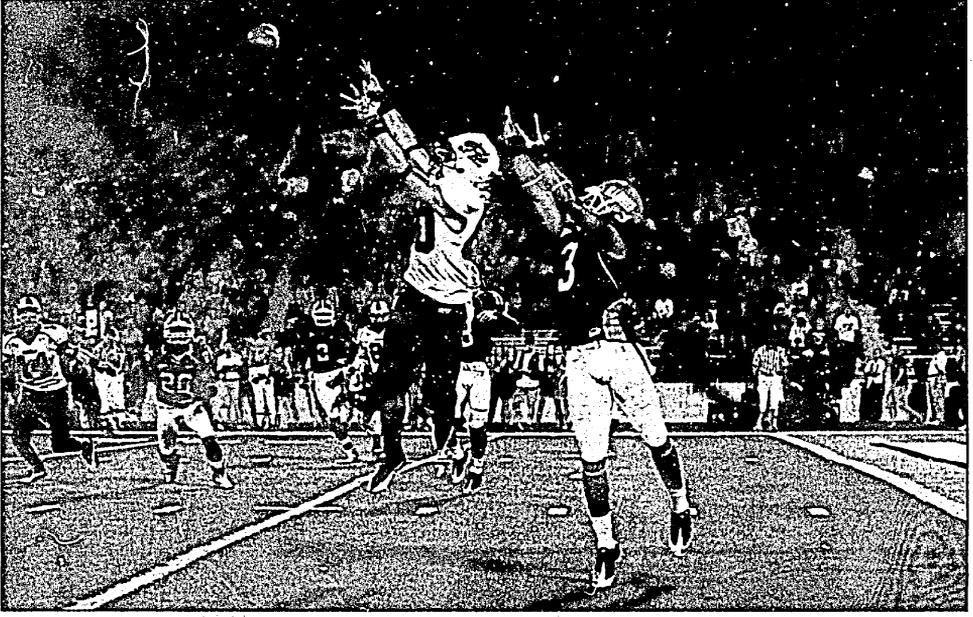
Salukis dominate weekend tourney.

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FOOTBALL

Senior wide receiver Jeff Evans attempts to catch a pass from quarterback Chris Dieker during the Salukis' 35-3 loss against the University of Illinois on Saturday. Head coach Dale Lennon said his team learned several lessons from playing the Division I Illini that it would need to bring home for its next game. The Salukis will host Southeast Missouri State University at 6 p.m. Saturday.

JESS VERMEULEN
DAILY EGYPTIAN



Salukis draw statewide crowd, fall to Illini

SIU must get 'back in saddle' after University of Illinois drubbing

NICK JOHNSON
Daily Egyptian

Dale Lennon said his team learned a few lessons in Champaign that they need to bring home for their next game against Southeast Missouri State on Saturday.

After gaining a dozen yards on their first 12 offensive plays, the Salukis were throttled 35-3 by the University of Illinois' Fighting Illini and were held to just 194 total yards. The Illini racked up 496

total yards in their home opener.

"Even though the score didn't really show it, we were fighting out there," senior SIU quarterback Chris Dieker said. "We're going to build from this. It's a long season."

Senior receiver Joe Allaria said the Salukis' poor offensive showing will motivate them for the rest of the year.

"We took a hit (Saturday). We're going to have to bounce back, no matter what," Allaria said.

The Saluki defense, which forced three turnovers Saturday, was able to contain mobile freshman Illini quarterback Nathan Scheelhaase, but was burned on a couple big completions that led to Illinois' first 14 points.

"When you play a team that has a good running quarterback ... the play action can get you in trouble and we just got caught in a couple bad situations," Lennon said.

SIU will face another scram-

bling quarterback Saturday in SEMO's Matt Scheible. The Redhawks beat Murray State 30-17 Saturday in Kentucky to improve to 1-1 on the season. Scheible, who threw for 140 yards and ran for another 134 in the victory, was named Ohio Valley Conference Offensive Player of the Week.

"We said going in (to the Illinois game) 'This is game two and next week we've got game three,'" Lennon said. "We need to learn

the lessons from this game and get back in the saddle."

As of press time, no details have been released on the severity of senior safety Mike McElroy's injury, as he was helped off the field at the end of the third quarter.

Kickoff for the SIU-SEMO game is scheduled for 6 p.m. Saturday at Saluki Stadium.

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Saluki fans turn Champaign into northern Carbondale

RYAN VOYLES
Daily Egyptian

Brandon Geler said walking around the Champaign tailgate Saturday afternoon reminded him of his Thursdays in college.

Geler was among the thousands of SIU football fans who made the trip to the University of Illinois on Saturday, as the Salukis took on the Illini in a battle for state bragging rights. And though the Salukis struggled in the 35-3 loss, fans said the game was not the only reason they came to town.

Grier, a 2007 SIU alumnus, said the massive tailgate outside

66 *I love SIUC football, and all of my friends are up here. So why would I not come up here tonight and have a good time and hopefully see the maroon beat up on some orange?*

— Jake Fine
2007 SIU alumnus

Memorial Stadium, meeting with old friends and Salukis, was like a trip back in time.

"Seeing all of the friends coming back here and all of the alumni here, I mean — this is crazy," he said. "I cannot imagine seeing all of my friends here in one place again after graduating."

SIU students, faculty and alumni from across the country came together in Champaign to meet and watch two of the top football teams in the state compete, said Michelle Suarez, executive director of alumni relations. She said more than 800 people entered her group's tent — but that was just a

sample of how many Saluki fans made the trip.

"I've been walking around to see the other tailgates, and I have to say I've seen thousands of fans in maroon on U.I.S. campus," Suarez said.

"That's not an understatement." Jake Fine, a 2007 SIU alumnus, said it was his love of football and friends that convinced him to make the trip from Chicago.

"I love SIUC football, and all of my friends are up here," he said. "So why would I not come up here tonight and have a good time and hopefully see the maroon beat up on some orange?"

But it was his passion for the Sa-

lukis that meant the most to Fine.

"Since I've graduated, Saluki maroon has been running through my veins, and I look at this schedule and I see Illinois ... we have a legitimate chance to win this game," he said. "We're competitive, and the last time I saw them play a Big Ten school, they won."

Before the 35-3 loss to the Illini on Saturday, the Salukis had shown the ability to play with Division I teams. They defeated Indiana University 35-28 in 2006 and Northern Illinois University 34-31 in 2007 but lost their last two Division I games against Northwestern University and Marshall University.

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