Romney cruises to victory in Illinois

Voter turnout 'low to lethargic'

ASHLEY ZBOREK  
Daily Egyptian

Mitt Romney won the Illinois Republican presidential primary Tuesday, though Rick Santorum carried Jackson County and much of rural Illinois.

Santorum, a former Pennsylvania senator who has made social issues a key part of his campaign, won Jackson County by 40 votes over Romney.

Santorum was widely seen as needing an upset victory in Illinois to have any hope at blocking Romney from amassing enough delegates to clinch the party’s nomination before the national convention.

Romney, in his victory speech, portrayed himself as an economic expert after years spent in the business world — in sharp contrast to the work Obama did before reaching the White House. “You can learn that teaching constitutional law at the University of Chicago. You can’t even learn that as a community organizer,” Romney said.

With 87 percent of precincts reporting as of press time, Romney had 361,116 votes, or 46.6 percent, and Santorum had 272,662 votes, or 35.2 percent. Ron Paul had 9.2 percent, and Newt Gingrich had 8 percent. Romney won at least 38 delegates in Illinois, with 16 still to be determined. Republican Jason Plummer won his party’s nomination in the 12th Congressional District. He will face Brad Herriman in November in a race to determine who will replace longtime Democratic Representative Jerry Costello in a district that stretches from the Metro East to far southern Illinois.

Faculty Senate opposes cut to employee tuition waiver

Senate also hears update on enrollment numbers

LAUREN DUNCAN  
Daily Egyptian

The Faculty Senate is against proposed state legislation that would end the savings SIU employees can receive on tuition.

At Tuesday’s Faculty Senate meeting, the group passed a resolution that insists state legislators do not pass House Bill 5531. The bill would eliminate the 50 percent savings children of state university employees can receive on tuition. Although the purpose of the bill may be to help reduce state budget constraints, the faculty resolution states the waiver may actually benefit the state by drawing more students to state universities.

In February, HB 5531 passed to the full house of the state legislature. The bill eliminates the decrease in tuition for children of Illinois state university faculty and staff who have worked at one or more universities for at least seven years. According to the website for the Illinois Education Association, which opposes the legislation, Rep. Luis Arroyo, who proposed the bill, said the state could save $387 million.

However, the Illinois Board of Higher Education estimates the cost savings would be about $8 million.

The resolution, which passed with a unanimous vote, states the 50 percent tuition waiver is a recruiting and retention tool for public universities. One of the reasons the faculty are concerned is because state universities may actually benefit from the tuition waiver, because it may keep children of faculty and staff in the state rather than attending private or out-of-state schools.

SIU architects design new tomorrow for Harrisburg

MATT DERAY  
Daily Egyptian

With the help of SIU architecture teachers and students, Harrisburg is now rebuilding after a tornado hit the town Feb 29.

Students gained real world experience by helping design buildings for families affected by the EF4 tornado that passed through Harrisburg, killing six and destroying buildings and homes.

Jon Davey, a professor of architecture, organized the project. Davey set up a design studio in Harrisburg from March 10 to March 17 where residents could have new homes designed for free by SIU students.

He said the mayor of Harrisburg and three families greeted them when they arrived.

Davey said the new designs for the homes are better for the environment and provide either basements or walk-in closets that meet Federal Emergency Management Agency standards of being safe in case of disasters.

Davey, 10 university students, an alumnus, an occupation supporter and a staff member helped give 23 families design plans of new homes, ready for contractors.

Davey said the group volunteered more than 200 hours of work, or the equivalent of $21,000 worth of labor. He said some students skipped their jobs to help design.

The architects and students visited the home sites and collected information regarding locations of utilities, property lines, trees, driveways and sidewalks, and other miscellaneous data.

The data allowed for the architects and students to create working drawings to repair or replace the homes damaged by the storm. The new plans are similar to the designs of the former homes but use sustainable concepts and solutions for future disasters.

Eric Gregg, the mayor of Harrisburg, said he is grateful for all the work SIUC students have done.
The Weather Channel® 5-day weather forecast for Carbondale

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>High</th>
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<tr>
<td>Today</td>
<td>84°</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>69°</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>72°</td>
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Isolated T-Storms 30% 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 26,000. Fall and spring semester editions run Monday through Friday. Summer editions run Tuesday through Thursday. All intersemester 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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ELECTION
continued from 1

“We anticipated low voting rates in the area, but we knew Harriman was going to do well,” said Hannah Ledford, Harriman’s campaign manager.

Plummer said having a hard-fought Republican presidential campaign in Illinois and a visit to Herrin by Santorum helped increase GOP turnout.

Tim Murray, a senior from St. Louis studying political science who worked at the Lentz Hall polling station Tuesday, said he suspects the voters were influenced by recent Republican campaigning in the area.

“I heard a lot of people talking about Republican candidate Rick Santorum as they were coming in. His recent visit (to southern Illinois) must have been effective,” he said.

Turnout was low across the state. In Sangamon County, a Republican stronghold in central Illinois, about 1 in 5 registered voters cast ballots. The numbers were about the same in the GOP-leaning suburbs of Cook County. Kane County saw similar results, although officials said turnout among Republicans topped 50 percent.

The lack of statewide races beyond the presidential contest likely played a role in holding down turnout, particularly among Democrats. It was the first Illinois primary since 2000 that didn’t include a race for U.S. Senate or governor.

About 30 people voted at the Lentz polling location, one of 68 locations in Jackson County.

Larry Reinhardt, Jackson County clerk and election official, said the county received a low turnout of voters.

“I had to describe the turnout of today’s election, I would say anywhere from low to lethargic,” he said.

Only 13.73% of the 38,095 registered voters in Jackson County cast ballots, according to the county clerk’s office.

Murray said the turnout for the election was better than he was expected.

“Generally, a college town like Carbondale has more liberal views, so I was surprised to see so many people come out when the presidential competition was all Republican,” he said.

Murray said he does not think many people were concerned with the congressional primary election, especially students.

Evan Ehrenreich, a freshman from Owensboro, Ky., studying engineering, said he only voted because of the presidential election.

“Now I wish I knew more about the Congressional candidates, but I went into the polls anticipating only voting for the Republican presidential candidate,” he said. Ehrenreich said he thinks the same is probably true for most people who voted Tuesday.

Ashley Zborek can be reached at azborek@dailyEgyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 268.

The Associated Press contributed to this article.

SENATE
continued from 1

Before the originally-proposed resolution passed, the senators made changes to its wording, over which some members voiced concerns. Sen. Ken Anderson pointed out that the original wording of the resolution made it sound self-serving.

“It comes across as ‘we the faculty want our kids to get cheap education,’” he said.

Anderson said he did support the decision to show opposition to the bill since he has children who could be SIUC-bound in the future.

Faculty Senate President Bill Recktenwald said the amended resolution will be forwarded to the governor and many leaders in the state legislature, as well as local legislators.

Also at Tuesday’s meeting, Provost John Nicklow gave an update on enrollment. He said freshmen admission is up 5.5 percent and transfer admissions are down about 5.5 percent from this time one year ago. He said there are about 7,600 admitted freshmen for the fall of 2012, which he said is up from last year.

“For we’re making good progress,” he said. “It’s all about yield, getting the students here.”

Nicklow said the university is going to launch three new late-cycle strategies for enrollment, which could include having alumni writing letters to prospective students.

John Korecky, graduate dean, gave an update on the graduate school, which he said was down in enrollment about 5 percent this spring, according to 10 day enrollment numbers. He said for counting students who enrolled late, enrollment has actually increased.

He said there has also been an increase in applicants for graduate school at SIUC, with a 16 percent increase in doctorate applicants and a 4 percent increase in masters’ applicants. Still, he said, admission is lagging for graduate students.

“If you can muddle your colleagues in your departments and colleges to speed up the admissions process, that could be valuable,” he said.

Lauren Duncan can be reached at lduncan@dailyEgyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 268.

ARCHITECTS
continued from 1

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Jackson County Primary Results

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<th>Democratic</th>
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<td>Rick Santorum - 44.78%</td>
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Congressional District Representative

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Representative for the General Assembly

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<th>Representative for the General Assembly</th>
<th>State’s Attorney</th>
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<td>Mike Best - 100%</td>
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Circuit Clerk

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<th>Circuit Clerk</th>
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Brandon W. Phelps - 100%

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Senator

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Charlie Cook
Forecasting the 2012 Elections

Monday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m.
SIU Student Center Auditorium

The founder and editor of the Cook Political Report, Charlie Cook is widely regarded as one of the nation’s leading—and non-partisan—authorities on U.S. elections and political trends. His expertise has gained him countless appearances on virtually every major television news program and praise from the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal’s Al Hunt and the late David Broder of the Washington Post. Cook has provided election night analysis for NBC News since 1994 and writes a regularly for numerous publications.

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Full Order $7.00

Drinks Specials
Lime Margarita Regular size $2.00 Jumbo $4.00
Strawberry Margarita Add $1.00
Beer on Tap

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Beer on Tap
Attempted theft of car part

Police received a report Wednesday of an attempt to cut the catalytic converter off an SUV vehicle at the Wildlife Annex. Police logs state no suspects have been found.

Residents cited for possession

Two non-student Carbondale residents were arrested at South Hill and East Pleasant Hill on Sunday. Robert L. Delmore, 34, was issued a citation for possession of 50 or less grams of cannabis and Daniel A. Spencer, 31, was cited for illegal transportation of alcohol by a passenger. Both subjects posted bond and were released.

Warrant arrest

Student Dominque J. Tucker, 21, of Bourbannais, was arrested Monday on a failure to appear in Jackson County Court on a charge of leaving the scene. Police logs state Tucker posted bond.

Burglary arrests

Two men were arrested Wednesday after police responded to a report of a business burglary in the 800 block of East Main Street. Joshua L. Muller, 31, and Michael S. Griffin, 18, were charged with burglary and criminal trespass and transported to Jackson County Jail.

Home burglarized

Police received a report Wednesday of a residential burglary in the 500 block of East College Street. Police logs state an investigation is continuing in the incident.

Property stolen

Police received a report Friday an unknown suspect stole items from a vehicle in the 1400 block of North Illinois Avenue.

Suspicous substance results in investigation

Police responded to a report at 10:45 a.m. Tuesday of an envelope addressed to Illinois State Representative Mike Bost’s office containing an unknown substance. Police logs state the Carbondale Fire Department’s Hazardous Materials Response Team tested the substance and determined it was not hazardous. As a result, the U.S. Post Office in the 2000 block of West Main Street was also searched, but no substances were found. Police logs state the Federal Bureau of Investigation assisted in the incident.
New center brings faculty, students together through volunteerism

BEN CONRADY
Daily Egyptian

Students and faculty now have a volunteer resource with the new Center for Service-Learning and Volunteerism located in the Student Center.
The center provides a way for faculty to incorporate service-learning and volunteerism into their curriculum so students who take part can receive credit for the experience, said assistant vice chancellor and dean of students, and chair of the Service Learning Committee.

Although there was an office that previously did similar work, the new center, which started about a month ago, strives to improve the connection between volunteering and classwork, an area where the former Office of Service-Learning was lacking, Gitau said.

"There was not a system that tied these events into curriculum; the center marries the two," Gitau said. "A faculty member has the chance to bring in a syllabus that they plan to use in class, learn from the center's perspective and integrate activities into their curriculum. Through this center, students can find a course that will recognize those services and activities and give them credit," Mythili Rundblad, co-director of the center, said nonprofit organizations and Registered Student Organizations at SIUC team up with the center to provide service outlets for students.

Rundblad said the office works with more than 60 nonprofit organizations such as schools, youth development centers and agencies that strive to promote art and culture.

She said the center works with several RSOs, individual students and residence hall staff to promote student civic involvement. Several hundred students participate in Sakai Volunteer Corps, one of the RSOs with the most student involvement, doing a wide range of service projects, she said.

Roudly Hildreth, an assistant professor of political science who wrote two books on service-learning and worked in the field world-wide, handles faculty and technical assistance at the center.

"If someone involved in forestry wants to volunteer helping children clean up the forest, we can help them find a venue and relations to get the project started, while receiving credit in the course," he said.

Hildreth said faculty who use the program enjoy it because it makes their classroom different. He said both teachers and students can appreciate changes in academic content that service-learning can provide.

Although the Center for Service-Learning and Volunteerism has only recently materialized, it has been in the works for several years, Hildreth said.

Gitau said the office that preceded and became the foundation for the center did a good job, but he said his goal was to enhance the mission of the office and tie it more with academics — an idea that took 12 years to formalize.

Rundblad said she has been involved with the organizations that work with the center for 13 years.

Hildreth said the center now has proper funding from various grants and Student Development and can reach its goal of volunteering, potential. He said the exact amount the center will require to run is unknown because the center only recently started.

Rundblad said she hopes that reflection of the volunteer work accomplished will allow for students to become excited about the service-learning experience.

"While volunteerism helps in becoming aware of a community need, service-learning lets a student learn about that community need or grassroots issue through the lens of the academic discipline," she said.

Ben Conardy can be reached at bconardy@dailyEgyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 254.

Forestry professor Charles Ruffner, center, demonstrates burning techniques Monday in Murphysboro as part of the Registered Student Organization Fire Dawgs. Fire Dawgs is a volunteer organization that helps conduct prescribed burns for private landowners and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to improve wildlife habitat and other aspects of the land. The RSO also works with the Center for Service Learning and Volunteerism.

SARAH GARDNER | DAILY EGYPTIAN

Sustainability commission to tackle energy aggregation

SHARON WITTKE
Daily Egyptian

The Carbondale Sustainability Commission is ready to tackle its next big project on the heels of its "chicken coop" ordinance, which was approved by the City Council in February.

A subcommittee from the Sustainability Commission met earlier this month to determine whether a municipal energy aggregation program would have a good fit for Carbondale. The subcommittee will present some of its findings at the commission meeting Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Carbondale Civic Center.

The municipal energy aggregation program would allow the city to search for better electric rates from electric companies for residents and small businesses, said Ben Carter, chairman of the commission and graduate student from Carbondale in plant biology.

The city could bargain for cheaper power rates directly from the companies that produce the energy, which are known as retail electric suppliers, said John Stewardson, vice chair of the sustainability commission.

"Under state law, municipalities can bargain for cheaper power rates directly from the companies that produce the energy, which are known as retail electric suppliers," Carter said.

The city would act as a broker under the new proposal and seek bids for electric rates. By aggregating, or bundling together the electric accounts of its residents and small businesses, the city would negotiate with retail electric suppliers to lower the overall electric rates on behalf of its residents, Stewardson said.

Carter said Carbondale were to implement an energy aggregation program, residents and small businesses would be able to choose whether they want to continue receiving their electric from their current provider or sign up for the city's plan, he said.

Stewardson said Ameren would continue to send out the monthly bills, collect payments and respond to complaints, she said. The city would only be able to negotiate rates.

Wodika said Mayor Joel Fitzler sent the commission an email in February and asked if it would look into energy aggregation for Carbondale.

Fitzler said he had received some information about the topic from a couple of different companies and thought it would be a good thing for the commission to explore.

Wodika said other cities in Illinois are looking into energy aggregation to provide their residents with more competitive electric rates. He said Du Quoin residents are voting today on whether to give their city the authority to arrange for its residential and small business electrical supply.

According to the website for the Citizens Utility Board, a nonprofit consumer advocacy organization in Illinois, nearly 300 communities in Illinois will have an energy aggregation referendum on their March 20 ballots.

In 1997, Illinois passed The Illinois Electric Customer Choice and Rate Relief Act, which allowed alternative energy suppliers to offer service to individual customers and put a 10-year electric rate freeze for Illinois residents into effect, according to the website.

In the summer of 2007, the Illinois General Assembly created the Illinois Power Agency, an independent government organization, to develop and manage a new electric supply procurement process for customers of Ameren Illinois and Commonwealth Edison, the two major utility companies that operate in Illinois, the state website.

Several companies that produce electricity began operating in Illinois in 2007, according to the website, and beginning in 2009, consumers had the option of choosing their electric power provider.

Stewardson said when Illinois deregulated the electric sector in 2001, Ame, which provides power to many Carbondale residents, sold off most of its electricity-producing assets and became the distributor for the retail electric suppliers.

"Ameren delivers the energy, but they don’t make it," Stewardson said.

Stewardson said Ameren would continue to send out monthly bills, collect payments and respond to outages, service calls and emergencies. The city would only negotiate for rates, he said.

Wodika said he thought some citizens would be willing to pay more for their electric power if it was generated by renewable resources such as wind or solar, rather than fossil fuels.

John Wallace, the city’s Maintenance and Environmental Services office liaison to the commission, said he didn’t know if the opportunity existed for the city to get power from non-coal resources.

Recycling plastics and bike paths will also be discussed at the commission’s meeting Thursday.

Wodika said the commission is currently seeking a student representative from the university and interested individuals should contact the mayor about the position.

Sharon Witkte can be reached at switkte@dailyEgyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 266.

"We’re thinking about ways that people can do business with Ame, if it is feasible," he said.
Heath Laughard, of Murphysboro, draws a smiley face on the forehead of one of his second-grade students Tuesday during PE class at Attuck’s Park. Laughard said the kids were rewarded with smiley faces when they completed as many laps as they could before the class was over.

**Employers ask job seekers for Facebook passwords**

MANUEL VALDES
SHANNON MCFARLAND

Associated Press

SEATTLE — When Justin Bassett interviewed for a new job, he expected the usual questions about experience and references. So he was astonished when the interviewer asked for something else: his Facebook username and password.

Please see **PASSWORDS | 7**

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Aries — Today is an 8 — You’re lucky, powerful and looking good. The trick is to inspire action, rather than demand it. Celebrate results, and acknowledge partners. Your charm’s magnetic. 

Taurus — Today is an 8 — Share what you’ve learned with someone who’s providing assistance. Rely on loved ones at home. Listen up ... they’re saying nice things about you.

Gemini — Today is an 8 — Your career’s taking off, and your career section approves. Take them out to celebrate with comfort food. Get organized, and keep your friends involved.

Cancer — Today is an 8 — Give in to sweet indulgences with this New Moon, especially those that charm someone near to you (maybe very near). The conversation’s illuminating.

Leo — Today is an 8 — If you’ve been respectful, the commentary’s complimentary. Go ahead and put down some roots. Make a commitment. Work smarter, not harder. New doors are open.

Virgo — Today is a 9 — Beautify your space with simplicity. A hunch could be quite profitable. You’re attracted to someone who’s making a lot of sense. Share their message.

Libra — Today is an 8 — Sometimes the fun part is to work hard for what you want. If you’re not sure, don’t be afraid to ask for directions and learn new skills. Keep working at it.

Scorpio — Today is a 7 — It’s an excellent time for a journey with friends. Others appreciate your leadership and clever storytelling. Leave room for others to shine, too. Feel the love.

Sagittarius — Today is an 8 — Find the solution in the usual place. Visualize beauty. Fan yourself, and it doesn’t have to cost you a penny. Stay close to home tonight.

Capricorn — Today is an 8 — Taking a walk outdoors helps clear your thoughts. Keep your eyes wide open. There’s a lot to learn in unexpected places. Observe a caterpillar. Build a dynamic vision.

Aquarius — Today is an 8 — Fine-tuning actions and letting go of unnecessary steps leads to increased satisfaction. The less moving parts there are, the less chances there are of breaking down. Dream.

Pisces — Today is a 9 — You risk steamrolling your loved ones with your increased confidence. Listen to your partner for wisdom. The conversation can be significant in many ways.
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**Schedule**

**Week by week**

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<th>Sport</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<th>Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Baseball</strong></td>
<td>vs. Bradley</td>
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<td><strong>Men’s Tennis</strong></td>
<td>vs. Chicago State</td>
<td>vs. Vincennes University</td>
<td>at Saint Louis</td>
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<td>Carbondale</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Women’s Tennis</strong></td>
<td>at Saint Louis</td>
<td>St. Louis, Mo.</td>
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<td><strong>Women’s Golf</strong></td>
<td>Sunday, Monday</td>
<td>Saluki Invitational</td>
<td>Carbondale, All Day</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Softball</strong></td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Saturday, Monday, All</td>
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<td></td>
<td>at Saint Louis</td>
<td>Saluki Invitational</td>
<td>Field</td>
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<td>St. Louis, Mo.</td>
<td>Carbondale</td>
<td>Nashville, Tenn.</td>
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**MVC Golfer of the Week**

Matthews started the spring season placing fourth at the NewWave Communication Racer Classic in Murray, Ky., totaling a two-day 36 hold score of 136, according to the Missouri Valley Conference website.

Alisha Matthews

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**MVC Athlete of the Week**

Delsart has won four straight matches, three from this past week, in matches in Orlando, Fla., according to the Missouri Valley Conference website.

Melissa Delsart

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**BASEBALL**

**CONTINUED FROM 1-2**

“I was just looking for a pitch to hit. (Koner) gave me a couple. I just didn’t hit them very well,” Montgomery said. “It just kept going and going and finally got ahead of one.”

Montgomery was stranded at first after the next two batters hit fly balls out to center field. Saluki sophomore right-handed pitcher Peter Slavonic (1-1) took the loss. He pitched six innings and gave up three runs, one earned on six hits.

Eastern Illinois junior right-handed pitcher Troy Barton (5-1) picked up the victory but only pitched two innings in his fourth start of the season. He gave up one hit, one walk and had two strikeouts.

“Troy’s one of our better arms, but he’s really good out of the pen, so we made that decision where he’ll be in the bullpen this weekend and therefore only two innings today,” Eastern Illinois coach Jim Schmitz said.

Eastern Illinois used five pitchers in relief of Barton, and it combined to give up six hits and one earned run.

“You want guys to feel sharp going into this Friday. If they don’t pitch today, they don’t pitch all week,” Schmitz said.

SIU opens conference play Friday and Saturday against Bradley University at Abe Martin Field.

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**WEBER**

**CONTINUED FROM 1-2**

“As we begin the search, we will focus on a coach with the following characteristics but certainly not limited to academics, that’s a big key for us,” Mocchia said. “Having a positive attitude with our student-athletes, having the ability to recruit character and talented players that fit their style of play, a very strong communicator – someone that can communicate with our kids, a relentless recruiter and someone who is really willing to be the face of Saluki Basketball in our community, in our region and our institution.”

During the weeks since Lowrey’s firing, there has been word from multiple media outlets about the vacant head coaching seat, a spot that Mocchia has said he hopes to fill by the weekend of the NCAA Final Four, March 31 to April 1.

Mocchia declined interview requests and has said he will not talk about the status of the position until the search is complete.

Multiple names have been mentioned as possible candidates. In fact, if you ask a room full of sports writers who the front-runners are, they each might very well give you a different answer.

But there are a few names that seem to come up often.

Wisconsin associate head coach Greg Gard has been with the team for 11 years and recruited Saluki sophomore Diamond Taylor to Madison before the player was dismissed from the team. Purdue assistant Jack Owens was previously an SIU assistant for five years, and Southern Indiana head coach Rodney Watson spent 21 years as an assistant for SIU and may be considered a fan-favorite for the position.

And then there is Weber.

Weber has dominated the news during the past week as being a lock for the job. The Southern Illinoisan reported Monday that Weber was offered the job and was the top candidate to win the position, citing an anonymous source close to the search. ESPN also reported that Weber had been offered the job and said Weber was expected to interview, citing an anonymous source.

Hours later, SIU denied the report.

Mocchia said Lowrey was fired because of multiple reasons, including a loss of ticket sales and a negative atmosphere surrounding the basketball program and the entire community.

There is no doubt Saluki fans are hungry for a coach who can provide them the excitement they experienced during the NCAA tournament years under Weber.

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**PRIORITY SPORTS**

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Errors cost Salukis again in loss to Eastern Illinois

JOE RAGUSA
Daily Egyptian

Eastern Illinois summoned freshman right-handed pitcher Matt Borens out of the bullpen with one out and the bases loaded in the bottom of the fourth inning Tuesday, and two pitches later Borens walked back to the dugout after scoring the side.

“We worked hard to get into that situation, to get into their bullpen, then the guy (Borens) throws two pitches and gets two outs,” said coach Ken Henderson. “If you’re going to swing at the first pitch, then you better barreled it up and not pop it up on the backside of the infield.”

Junior catcher Luke Motlashed hit an easy pop fly to the shortstop on Borens’ first pitch, and junior center fielder Remigio Trujillo grounded out to the second baseman on the next pitch to end the inning. The situation ended up being the last chance with runners in scoring position for the Salukis (12-9) on Tuesday as they lost 5-1 to Eastern Illinois (7-11).

Four Saluki errors in the game brought the season total up to 54, the second worst in the NCAA, as four of Eastern’s five runs were unearned.

“We won 12 games averaging four or five errors a game. That’s unacceptable,” Henderson said. “I told them we’re not going to win in the long haul if we keep doing that.”

Henderson held a 20-minute private meeting with his team after their fourth straight loss Tuesday.

“I don’t think we have any leadership right now. We don’t have anybody stepping up right now and saying this is unacceptable,” Henderson said. “You could say ‘well, we’re on a four-game losing streak and that’s why I’m upset’, but we haven’t played up to our potential all year.”

Henderson said the team didn’t battle enough during the game, except for junior right fielder Austin Montgomery, who had a 2-run hit but with one out in the eighth inning off of Eastern Illinois junior right-handed pitcher KeiserKnows.

Please see BASEBALL | 11

Webber is once more coach candidate

BEN CONRADY
Daily Egyptian

A downtrodden and tear-eyed Bruce Weber stood at the podium of the postgame press conference Feb. 16 and took the blame for the demise of the Fighting Illini men’s basketball team. The team had just suffered a 67-62 home loss to conference rival Purdue — it’s seventh loss in eight games, and for many, this was the beginning of the end for Weber.

Two hundred miles south down Interstate 57 at SIU, Weber’s close friend and former protégé Chris Lowery was having troubles of his own, finishing up an 8-23 season and setting a school record for most losses.

Lowery was fired as SIU’s head coach March 1, and Weber shared the same fate at U of I March 9. Immediately, rumors began to swirl about the possibility that Weber would return to SIU, a homecoming of sorts for a man who led the Salukis to back-to-back Missouri Valley Championships and NCAA tournament appearances in his final two years at Carbondale.

Before his position as coach, Lowery was an assistant coach under Weber, who took the Salukis to two NCAA tournaments before he left SIU to coach the University of Illinois basketball program in 2003.

Lowery was fired March 1 after the Salukis completed their worst season in school history.

At the March 2 press conference that announced Lowery’s firing, Athletic Director Mario Moccia was asked if Weber would be an option to fill the coaching vacancy if he became available. Although Moccia declined to comment about a coach who was still employed by another school, he couldn’t help but show his appreciation for Weber.

“I wouldn’t rule anybody out,” Moccia said. “I’d hate to speculate on Coach (Weber) because he’s still coaching at U of I. I think once you join the Saluki family, whether you’re an athletic director that’s been here for six years or somebody like Mike Reisz who’s been here for 30, it’s not for Coach, I root for Matt Painter, so I want them to do well.”

Still, when Moccia described the qualities he hoped to see in the new head coach, it was a bit difficult not to think those qualities described Bruce Weber to a T.