

TEAM SPOTLIGHT

2010 USI BASEBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON:

Adapt, Overcome, and Win

Editorial and photos submitted by Ray Simmons - USI Sports Information

The 2010 University of Southern Indiana baseball team did what every team dreams of by winning an NCAA Division II National Championship. The Screaming Eagles claimed the championship ring by traveling a road that was less than smooth.

The Eagles started the season with the loss of senior right-handed pitcher/infielder Tyler Choate, their top returning hitter and pitcher three weeks into the spring. USI struggled out of the gate with this loss, going just 10-7 during the first seventeen games.

In their eighteenth game of the season, the Eagles kicked into high gear and went on to win 42 of the next 49 games. The squad set a record for consecutive victories, winning fifteen-straight midway through the spring.

USI was an amazing 13-2 in the post-season (GLVC and NCAA II Tournament). The Eagles were a perfect 4-0 in the GLVC Tournament, 5-1 in the NCAA II Midwest Regional, and 4-1 in the National Championship Series.

At the end of the NCAA II Midwest Regional, the Eagles lost their number one and three starting pitchers (junior right-handers Trevor Leach and Dan Marcacci) for the first four games of the NCAA II Baseball Championship Series. USI overcame this obstacle when junior right-handers Taylor Dennis and Josh Schultze won three of the first four games of the series. Dennis went on to be named the NCAA II Baseball Championship Series Most Outstanding Player after winning his two starts.

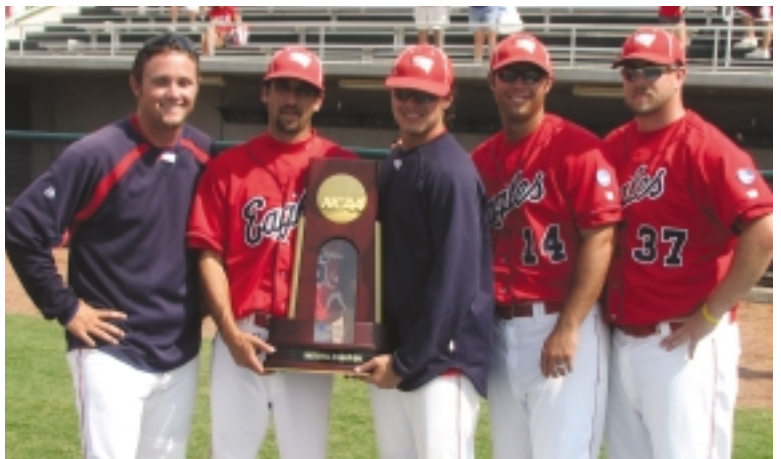
THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: The NCAA Division II Baseball National Championship was the first for USI and the GLVC in baseball. USI also was the first conference team to reach the national championship game since 1996.

FIRST IN THE STATE: USI is the first in the state of Indiana to win a national championship in baseball.

THE REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: USI hosted the NCAA II Midwest Regional for the second time in school history, this time winning the championship. The regional title was the second in the history of the program.

THE VICTORIES: The 52 wins in 2010 were a USI single-season record and ties for second in GLVC history.

BROKEN RECORDS: As a team, the Eagles also broke the single-season record for winning percentage (.788, 52-14), hits (715), doubles (136), home runs (49), and RBI (472).



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THE COACH OF THE YEAR: USI Head Coach Tracy Archuleta has revitalized the baseball program, going 170-71 (.705) in his four seasons with the Eagles. He also was named the Midwest Region Coach of the Year by the American Baseball Coaches Association and the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association.

During his tenure, Archuleta has led the team to three-straight GLVC West Division titles, two regional crowns, and now a national championship.

ON THE MOUND: Junior right-handers Trevor Leach and Taylor Dennis tied for the team lead with twelve wins each, tying for a USI single-season record.

Leach, who took over the number one starter position when Tyler Choate went down with an injury, is one win away from the all-time USI record for victories and is the first USI pitcher to reach double-digit wins two years in a row.

Leach also set the USI single-season record for innings pitched (112) and the all-time record for appearances (71) in just three seasons.

With his two victories in the championship series, Dennis was the first USI hurler to reach twelve victories and the second all-time to reach double-digit victories in one season. Leach

and Dennis also were one-two in strike outs with 70 and 64, respectively.

AT THE PLATE: Junior catcher Dylan Mooney tied a 17-year old record for home runs (14), tying the record set by former All-American and Texas Ranger draft pick Kevin Brown. Mooney, however, was second to sophomore second baseman Brad Vance, who set the single-season record for RBI (70). Vance passed Mooney for the record with three RBI in the national championship game.

Mooney also set the single-season mark for total bases (145), passing Darrin Mastroianni, who lead USI to the 2007 series and is playing in double A for the Toronto Bluejays.

THE INDIVIDUAL HONORS: The Eagles won numerous individual post season honors, including: Seven players were named All-GLVC before the conference tournament. Junior catcher Dylan Mooney, junior leftfielder



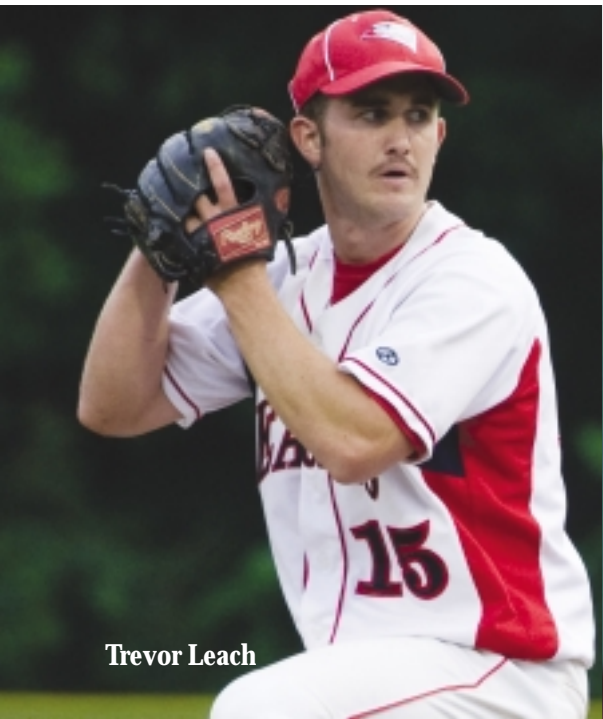
Josh Schultze



Taylor Dennis



Brad Vance



Trevor Leach



Michael Huling

Michael Huling, and junior right-hander Trevor Leach were named to the first team, while senior utility player Wandy Rosario, senior rightfielder Caleb Ehmke, junior centerfielder Justin Blinn, and junior right-hander Taylor Dennis earned second team honors. USI had three players named Daktronics All-Midwest Region. Mooney and Leach were named to the first team, while Huling was named to the second team. Leach and Mooney were named honorable mention All-American by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association. Leach and Mooney also were named first team All-Midwest Region by the NCABWA, while Huling was named to the second team. USI had five players named to the Midwest Regional All-Tournament team -- sophomore second baseman Brad Vance, Rosario, Leach, Huling, and senior third baseman Wes Fink. Vance was named the Most Valuable Player in the NCAA II Midwest Regional Tournament, batting .407 with twelve RBI and three home runs. In the championship series, Dennis was named the Most Outstanding Player after winning a pair of games, while Blinn, Vance, Rosario, Fink and junior designated hitter Todd Martin joined him on the All-Tournament team.



Dylan Mooney



Wes Fink



Head Coach Tracy Archuleta