

# Michigan, Penn State fall at hands of Illini men

## Conference wins set stage for OSU match

BY ALEX INIGUEZ  
STAFF WRITER

One 5-2 win against a conference opponent is good. Two? That's even better.

The No. 17 Illini (13-6, 5-1 Big Ten) notched a pair of decisive Big Ten victories at home this weekend with the defeat of No. 43 Penn State (10-9, 3-3) on Saturday and an upset of No. 14 Michigan (16-3, 7-1) on Sunday.

"We lost to Wisconsin a week ago," senior Ryan Rowe said. "So it was good to come out and get a couple Big Ten victories, especially over Michigan, who we lost to once last year and are ranked in front of us right now."

We want to prove that we are still the best team in the Big Ten even though we might've had a slip-up."

Against Michigan, the Illini started fast and never looked back.

Ruben Gonzales and Marc Spicijaric defeated No. 34 Mar-

**More online:** For more photos of the men's tennis matches against Penn State and Michigan, check out the slideshow at [DailyIllini.com](http://DailyIllini.com).

ko Maravic and George Navas, 8-4, to begin the afternoon. Soon after, No. 29 Billy Heiser and Ryan Rowe topped No. 14 Mike Srocynski and Jason Jung by the same score to secure the doubles point for Illinois.

"(Heiser and Rowe) really stunk it up (Saturday), so it was a good rebound for them," head coach Brad Dancer said. "They responded really well, stepped up to the plate and led the charge against a very good Jung and Srocynski team."

In singles play, Illinois was guided by strong play at the top of the lineup against the Wolverines.

Spicijaric defeated Srocynski, 6-3, 6-2, to score the second point for Illinois, and No. 12 Rowe followed suit with a 6-2, 6-4 victory against No. 52 Maravic.

Waylon Chin held off Peter Aarts to secure the match victory for the Illini, while No. 90 Gonzales won a tough battle with Jung, 7-5, 6-1.

"I didn't have a really good match (Saturday), but I came out (against Michigan) and stayed focused," Spicijaric said. "I had some different thoughts going through my head and just

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DEAN SANTARINALA THE DAILY ILLINI  
Ryan Rowe watches his Penn State opponents while his partner, Billy Heiser, serves at Atkins Tennis Center on Saturday.

# 4x400m relay team regionally qualifies

BY KEVIN OLSEN  
STAFF WRITER

Although All-American Gakolgelwang Masheto was still out recovering from a stress fracture in his foot, the Illinois men's track and field team did not miss a beat in the 4x400 meter relay on Saturday.

Even without its best 400-meter runner, the relay team became the Illini's second NCAA regional qualifier, posting a time of three minutes, 9.65 seconds to win the event at the SEmotion Relays in Cape Girardeau, Mo. The team of Brandon Gray, Gary Miller, Dan Jones and Yawusa Kinda joined Dominique Worsley (100 meters) as regional qualifiers for Illinois. Jones recorded the best split time of the relay, finishing in 46.6 seconds.

"He is a big asset to our team," Miller said about Masheto. "But our freshman, Dan Jones, stepped up big time and he really ran hard. With him, myself, Brandon Gray and Yawusa Kinda, I think we're picking up on the same thing and running like workhorses."

Miller was also a winner in the 400-meter hurdles. It was the first time he competed in the event and took home the title with a time of 53.34 seconds.

"The goal going into the race was not to fall," Miller said about his first attempt in the event. "To go away with a 53.34 and win the race along with the relay was great."

Miller is looking to add the 400 hurdles to his list of events, along with the 800 meters, in which he did not compete this weekend. He will look to continue his success in the outdoor season in all events next weekend in Tennessee.

As a team, Illinois recorded four event victories, including sophomore Greg Shroka's first-place finish in the high jump for the second consecutive meet. He matched last week's jump of 6 feet, 6 3/4 inches, as he looks to move past disappointing indoor season results hampered by shin splints.

"It feels good to come out and win the first two meets," Shroka said. "Even though I didn't jump as well as I wanted to, it was still nice to get a win. I'm a little healthier now, so it's making it a little easier to jump."

Sophomore Scott Phelps was the team's other winner, taking the 800 meters in a time of 1:56.18. Brian Beard finished second in the 1,500 meters, while freshman Will Schaeffer claimed second place in the pole vault.

"We are on track and making progress, but we aren't quite where we need to be," said head coach Wayne Angel in a press release. "If we continue to improve each week we'll be OK, but we need to do more collectively as a team to be successful at the Big Ten level."

Illinois will travel to Knoxville, Tenn., next weekend to compete in the Sea Ray Relays.

# Zook, players back on gridiron

## Pass rush rolls in 2nd scrimmage; Miller goes to ILB

BY DANIEL JOHNSON  
STAFF WRITER

For Brit Miller, spring football will be a game of trial and error.

The senior linebacker had his second "game" situation in Saturday's scrimmage, after moving from outside to inside linebacker. Miller will be attempting to help replace the void that was created by J Leman's departure.

"It's going pretty good, I get yelled at a lot more now," Miller said. "Coach Zook is on me more now; learning the position is kind of going back to the old. But not having J in there doing the things that he does, it's a little different, but we're getting better every practice. Spring ball is proving to be very critical for us."

In their second scrimmage of the year, the Illini passing offense and defensive unit continued to show progress and shine.

Juice Williams completed 17 of 31 pass attempts for 222 yards and three touchdowns. Jeff Cumberland was Williams' leading target, with five catches for 96 yards, two of them for scores.

"He's still coming along, but Juice is really improving, it's clear," Zook said last week.

Defensively, Illinois was led by its linebacking corps and secondary. Safety Nate Bussey had nine tackles, Miller had eight and the defense combined for 10 total sacks.

Although there are still four months to go before Illinois travels to St. Louis to face Missouri, the Illini are already looking to build upon last year's unlikely



JOSH BIRNBAUM THE DAILY ILLINI

Illinois linebacker Brit Miller attempts to dodge a tackle at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City, Iowa, on Oct. 13, 2007. The team held its second scrimmage over this past weekend, with the defense totalling 10 quarterback sacks.

### Illinois spring scrimmage stats

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	Int.	TD
J. Williams	31	17	222	0	3
McGee	25	10	130	2	0
Rushing	No.	Yds.	TD	Long	
Dufrene	16	55	0	16	
J. Williams	16	-22	1	12	
LeShoure	8	27	0	11	
Receiving	No.	Yds.	TD	Long	
Cumberland	5	96	2	35	
Duvalt	4	28	0	10	
Gamble	4	47	0	21	
C. James	3	45	1	20	
Defense	Tackles	TFL-Yds	QBS-Yds	Int-Yds	
Bussey	9	0-0	0-0	0-0	
Flowers	8	1-1	0-0	0-0	
Miller	8	2-12	0-0	0-0	
Lindquist	7	3-12	2-11	0-0	

run to the Rose Bowl.

"We haven't had two good seasons in a row," Miller said. "We had a decent season last year and got to go to the Rose Bowl, but finishing with a loss isn't what you want to do. Losing to Iowa is not what you want to do when you can win, and should have won. A lot of guys are priming themselves to go out for the Big Ten Championship."

A Big Ten championship may be a bit bold to predict at this point, but such lasting improvement in conference play may be possible. Adjustments will be made this season for Illinois, be it in the stigma of the program

or in the players themselves.

"Sometimes I freelance more than I should, that's what I'm trying to get out of my game right now," Miller said in comparing himself to Leman. "He's a player who is going to do it right every single time."

Miller admits he may not have the same mental edge that Leman does, but he knows his own abilities can shine, as well.

"With play-making ability, I used to kid with J, 'I'm going to need you to get out of my way, buddy, because every time I'm running to the ball, you're in my way.' I always had to run around him."

# Men take victory at Marshall Invite

BY LEE ANN SANGALANG  
STAFF WRITER

The Illinois men's golf team did not waste any time securing the top spot at the 39th Annual Marshall Invitational, grabbing a seven-stroke lead on Friday to set the pace for a tournament win on Saturday. The field of 17 teams included two Big Ten rivals, Penn State and Ohio State, who finished in second and third place respectively, allowing the Big Ten to take a 1-2-3 sweep.

"This tournament was key going into the postseason rank-

ings," assistant coach Zach Guthrie said. "All five guys were big parts of this play. It wasn't like one guy came and blew everyone out of the water. This was truly a team effort."

The Illini beat out 17 teams at the Invite with a final score of 14-under par (554), setting a new school record for 36 holes. Illinois finished the first round with a tournament record of 274, tying the program's fourth-highest score for 18 holes.

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### Illinois Individual Results at Marshall Invite

Finish	Player	Friday	Saturday	Total
2	Scott Langley	69	69	138
2	Mark Ogren	69	69	138
9	Matt Hoffman	67	74	141
9	Jon Krick	69	72	141
16	Zach Barlow	73	70	143

# Women's golf wins Illini Spring Classic

BY KYLE DILLER  
STAFF WRITER

The Illinois women's golf team won the 31st annual Illini Spring Classic this weekend and was led by top individual performances.

After playing the first 18 holes on Friday, the Illini were in first place by two strokes with a score of 319. Senior Seul Ki Park was also in first individually with a two-stroke lead after Friday's round of the tournament with a score of 76.

Illinois held on to its lead, winning by nine strokes with a score of 924. The University of Cincinnati and Southern Illinois University were joint runners-up, each with a score of 933. This victory marks the team's 11th Illini Spring Classic victory in the tournament's history.

"This morning wasn't that great of a round, but the girls responded very well and played great this afternoon," head coach Renee Slone said in a press release. "We told the girls to keep their heads in the game after the first round, and they did just that."

While the team hung on to its lead, Park finished in second after Bambee Dela Paz of Cincinnati surpassed her on Saturday, win-



JEREMY BERG THE DAILY ILLINI

Illinois' Seul Ki Park prepares for her putt during the Illini Spring Classic at Stone Creek Golf Club in Urbana on Saturday. To view a slideshow of the Illini women's golf team's win, go to [DailyIllini.com](http://DailyIllini.com).

ning by one stroke with a score of 228.

Three Illini finished in the top five, with Park's score of 229 leading the way. Senior Stephanie Mory tied for third with a score of 230 while freshman Raquel Hop-ton tied for fifth with 231.

"The girls were mentally tough

today," volunteer assistant coach Rick Slone said in a press release. "I was very proud of them for fighting adversity throughout the 36 holes today."

The Illini's next matchup will be at the 15-team Indiana Invitational tied for fifth with 231.

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