

NEWS RELEASE

Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau



Puma Champions Cup Helps Local Economy, Grows life long Athletes

Three Athletes in Illinois Colleges trace memories to Rockford soccer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ROCKFORD, IL — As the Puma Champions Cup soccer tournament returns to the Rockford Region on the weekends of April 8 and 15, it brings benefits for both the local economy and for local athletes.

Three soccer players in Illinois colleges recall Puma Champions Cup memories. Sam Welcher and Taylor Giedd of Loyola University Chicago and Nici Newquist of Northern Illinois University all play Division I soccer. Each athlete holds experiences playing soccer with the Rockford Dactyls soccer club and exemplifies how participating in region sports tournaments makes a positive impact for life.

Over \$896,000 in economic activity will be generated when an estimated 27,430 people descend on the area for the Puma Champions Cup. The first weekend will host upper level youth soccer games and the following weekend will host lower level games.

For a complete schedule for both weekends of the tournament visit www.rockfordraptors.org

Local Angles

Taylor Giedd has played soccer since age five including time on the Rockford Dactyls soccer club. She now plays at Loyola University Chicago.

Sam Welcher began playing soccer at age nine with the Rockford Dactyls and is now a teammate of Giedd's at Loyola University Chicago.

Nici Newquist began playing soccer with the Dactyls at age 12 and now plays soccer for Northern Illinois University.

For interviews contact Frank Mateus: 815.885.4848.

RACVB is a private, non-profit organization established in 1984 to champion efforts to promote the Rockford Region as an overnight visitor destination. The RACVB adds wealth to the region's economy by investing in marketing programs that grow tourism. www.gorockford.com

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