The IUP Crimson Hawk Football team has had an up and down 2013 football campaign. Lead by third year head coach Curt Cignetti, the Crimson Hawks began the season 5-0. However, after that game the Hawks went on a two game slide that included a thrashing at the hands of Slippery Rock 42-16 and a shocking upset loss to Edinboro 36-30. Despite this The Hawks did not lose faith and returned to the win column with a win over Mercyhurst 28-6. They followed this with a win over the bitter rival Clarion Golden Eagles.

This week the Hawks play Gannon and for the first time in a long time all of IUP’s starters look like they will be ready to go. It has been an injury riddle season for the Hawks that has seen several of its top stars go down. There are still a few players missing from the roster such as Jay Watkins and Salath Williams but they are near a return as well just as IUP enters the home stretch of its schedule.

In order to make the playoffs the Hawks will need a lot to go right. The loss to Edinboro, coupled with a great year overall in the PSAC conference, makes the chances of IUP getting in look slim. However, all the Hawks can do is win their final two games, the clash this week with Gannon as well as next week’s game at Shippensburg, and hope that everything else falls into place.

Mike Box leads the team in passing yards this season, according to the IUP website, with a total of 1494 passing yards and twelve touchdowns. Terrill Barnes is the leading receiver with a total of 777 yards and six touchdowns. Both of these players will have to step it up in order for IUP to win their final two regular season games.

In the game against Gannon,