



Illinois Wesleyan vs. Carthage October 4, 2008 Wilder Field at IWU Stadium, Bloomington, Ill.

THE GAME: Illinois Wesleyan (3-0) hosts the Carthage Red Men (2-1) in a 2 p.m. game at Wilder Field at Illinois Wesleyan Stadium...This opens the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin season for all teams. The CCIW was 19-5 in nonconference play in 2008.

HOMECOMING 2008: The Titans are 28-15 in their last 43 Homecoming games and have been 10-10 in the last 20 years, preceded by a six-game winning streak from 1982-87. The Titans won last year's Homecoming game against Elmhurst, 28-14.

THE SERIES VS. THE RED MEN: In a series that dates back to 1926, Illinois Wesleyan holds a 34-18 lead vs. Carthage including a 35-31 decision in Kenosha last season...The Red Men have won four of the last six games but the Titans have won 20 of the last 26 meetings, and 25 of the last 32...Prior to 2004, Carthage's last win in Bloomington was in 1981 (29-7)...The Red Men won the 2002 game in Kenosha to snap an eight-game IWU winning streak.

SEPTEMBER: The Titans are 3-0 for the first time since 2002 when they started with four straight wins (at Wis.-LaCrosse, 35-31; Washington U., 31-24 in OT; at Chicago, 34-16; North Park, 49-9)...In September, IWU is 41-19-1 (.680) in the Norm Eash era and is 3-0 this season after going 2-2 last season in the month...IWU teams won 11 straight September games (all non-league) from 1995 (loss at Simpson) until 2001 (loss to Washington U.).

OCTOBER: In the Norm Eash coaching tenure, Wesleyan is 57-36 and the Titans were 4-0 in October in 2007.

FOR THE RECORD: IWU is 81-44 in its last 125 games (.648) since 1995...The Titans are 71-28 (.711) at home and 57-45-1 on the road (.550) under Norm Eash...The 45 losses have come to Wheaton (8); Augustana (7); Millikin (6); North Central (5); Carthage (4); Elmhurst (3); Simpson, UW-Eau Claire, Mt. St. Joseph and Coe (2); and Mount Union, UW-LaCrosse, and Washington U. (1)... Last year IWU finished 7-3 overall and earned a share of the CCIW championship for the first time since 2001. It was IWU's 13th league title ... IWU's last three consecutive losing seasons before 2004-06 were 1941-43...2004 and 2005 were the first

back-to-back losing seasons since 1987 (4-5) and 1988 (4-5)...In 2004, IWU (3-7) had its first sub-.500 season since 1993 (4-5). The Titans had been at .500 or better for 10 straight years.

ON TO THE NEXT 500: IWU is 514-381-42 (.571) in 116+ football seasons... The 500th win came in a 23-14 win over Wheaton on Oct. 22, 2005.

LAST GAME: Illinois Wesleyan scored twice in the last 5:04, including the winning touchdown with 21 seconds left to claim a 31-28 nonconference win at Aurora on Saturday, Sept. 20. Tom Almanzo (Elk Grove Village, Ill. Elk Grove HS) caught his second TD pass with 5:04 left to play in the game and give the Titans a 24-21 lead, but Aurora (2-1) took a 28-24 lead with 2:37 to play after an interception was returned for a score. Sophomore quarterback Brien Rooney (Western Springs, Ill., Fenwick HS) then directed Wesleyan on a 14-play, 65-yard drive, running in for the winning score himself from four yards out. IWU tied the game at 7-7 with a Kraig Ladd (Shelbyville, Ill. HS) touchdown pass to were Martin Ceisel (Deerfield, Ill., HS) in the first quarter, then took a 14-7 lead when Ladd connected with Almanzo in the second quarter. A 32-yard field goal by Joe Duffy (Oak Lawn, Ill., Brother Rice HS) sent IWU into the locker room with a 17-14 advantage. Ladd was 24 of 38 for 203 yards and Christian Winston (Chicago, Ill., Walther Lutheran HS) rushed 22 times for 82 yards. Nick Nikolich (Libertyville, Ill. HS) had eight tackles to pace IWU while Dan Rogers (Park Ridge, Ill., Maine South HS) had seven tackles and an interception. Roman Hunter (Chicago, Gordon Tech) and Adam Crouch (Sycamore, Ill., HS) also had interceptions.

IWU PLAYERS OF THE WEEK: *Chosen by Titan coaches to honor top players in the week's game and practices. The "Titan Award" honors a player for work ethic, loyalty and spirit.*

Offense – Brien Rooney, sophomore, quarterback, Western Springs, Ill. (Fenwick HS); Tom Almanzo, senior, receiver, Elk Grove Village, Ill. (Elk Grove HS)

Defense – Dan Rogers, sophomore, linebacker, Park Ridge, Ill. (Maine South HS)

Special Teams – Eli Williams, sophomore, receiver, Westville, Ill. (HS)

Scout Offense – Jeff Czajka, freshman, line, Algonquin, Ill. (Jacobs HS); Dayton Burnett, freshman, receiver, Springfield, Ill. (HS)

Scout Defense – Bret Swango, freshman, back, Cuba, Ill. (HS); Steven Kirk, freshman, linebacker, Chicago, Ill. (Hyde Park HS)

Titan Award – Dan Souder, senior, linebacker, Elk Grove Village, Ill. (Elk Grove HS)

MARTIN CEISEL: Senior Martin Ceisel (Deerfield, Ill. HS) is No. 4 all-time at IWU with 2,490 receiving yards (No. 3 is Ed Brady, 2,907, 1981-84), tied for No. 3 with 27 receiving touchdowns (Ryan Tusek also had 27 from 1993-96) and No. 4 with 163 receptions (No. 3 is Brady, 220).

COACH NORM EASH: Norm Eash (Illinois Wesleyan, 1975) is in his 22nd season at IWU and has a career record of 129-73-1 (.636), making him second among IWU coaches in victories (Eash's college coach, Don Larson, had 168 wins from 1954-86). Prior to 2006, Eash ranked 50th among all-time Division III coaches in winning percentage and 67th in victories (24th among active coaches in wins). The "dean" of league coaches, Eash has been College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin "Coach of the Year" in 2007, 2001, 1996 and 1992. His career CCIW mark is 95-56-1 (.630), making him fourth all-time in victories in the league.

ABOUT THE RED MEN: Carthage almost pulled out an upset of NCAA I-AA Campbell (1-4) on Sept. 27 in Kenosha, Wis., before losing 36-27. The Red Men came back from a 20-0 halftime deficit to take a 27-26 lead with under 9:00 to play in the game. The Fighting Camels took the lead, to stay, 29-26, with 6:52 to play on a 40-yard field goal. With a first-and-goal on the Campbell five-yard line, Evan Jones was

intercepted by Milton Brown, who returned the pick 99 yards for a touchdown at 3:36. Carthage collected 538 total offensive yards, 103 rushing and 435 passing, while Campbell had just 294 total yards, 152 on the ground and 142 in the air. Jones completed 32-of-56 passes for 373 yards and four TDs, but he was intercepted six times. Carthage was intercepted seven times overall, setting a school record set vs. Wheaton in 1975. Jeff Koeneman caught seven passes for 127 yards, while Nick Merchut snagged eight passes for 120 yards. Linebacker Nate Hughes had a game-high 12 tackles, including two tackles-for-loss and a sack.

KRAIG LADD: The junior quarterback tied a school record with six touchdown passes in the 48-34 win over Alma Sept. 13. Ladd completed 17 of 26 passes for 272 yards in tying the TD passing efforts by Lon Erickson (North Park, 1995) and Brad Forsyth (Carroll, 1989).

CCIW IN THE POLLS: Both North Central and Wheaton were ranked in the D3Football.com Top 25 rankings on September 22. Wheaton was No. 6, up one spot from the previous week. North Central is No. 8 to also move up one spot. Illinois Wesleyan earned a spot in the "Others Receiving Votes" category with five votes. D3Football.com is a website devoted strictly to the coverage of NCAA Division III football, which releases a top 25 poll that's voted on by a panel of 25 coaches, sports information directors and media members from across the country...The Titans were No. 40 in the preseason D3football.com poll.

ON THE AIR: The IWU/Carthage game will be broadcast live on WESN-FM 88.1 and on the Internet at www.wjbc2.com.

LOOKING AHEAD: IWU will play longtime rival Millikin in Decatur at 1 p.m. next Saturday. The Titans' next home game is at 6 p.m. on Oct. 18 against Augustana followed by another 6 p.m. contest against Elmhurst on Oct. 25.

IWU'S 2008 CCIW HONORS: Senior kicker Joe Duffy (Oak Lawn, Ill., Brother Rice High School) was CCIW special teams player of the week for his play vs. Hope Sept. 6. He had field goals of 39 and 36 yards in the 28-25 win. His 39-yard field goal came just 59 seconds into the game to give the Titans a 3-0 lead. His 36-yard

field goal came with 1:51 to play to stake IWU to a 28-19 lead and proved to be the margin of victory as Hope scored a minute later. Duffy also added two extra-point kicks.

SEASON OPENERS: With the win at Hope on Sept. 6, IWU is 11-11 in opening-day games under Norm Eash. Prior to last weekend, the Titans had dropped their last five season openers, last winning in 2002 (35-31 at Wisconsin-LaCrosse).

CCIW PRESEASON POLL: Illinois Wesleyan was picked to finish third in the 2008 CCIW preseason coaches' poll. The Titans got 33 points from the league coaches. North Central got six first place votes (and 48 points) to finish first in the poll, followed by Wheaton (two first place votes, 44 points). After Wesleyan comes Augustana, Carthage, Elmhurst, Millikin and North Park.