



## Illinois Wesleyan vs. Millikin October 11, 2008 Frank M. Lindsay Field, Decatur, Ill.

**THE GAME:** Illinois Wesleyan (3-1, 0-1 College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin) plays at Millikin (2-2, 0-1 CCIW) in a 1 p.m. game at Frank M. Lindsay Field in Decatur...The contest is Millikin's Homecoming game.

**ON THE AIR:** The IWU/Millikin game will be broadcast live on the Internet at [www.wjbc2.com](http://www.wjbc2.com).

**LOOKING AHEAD:** IWU will play its next two games at home and under the lights. The Titans tangle with Augustana at 6 p.m. on Oct. 18, then face Elmhurst at 6 p.m. on Oct. 25. The Oct. 18 game will be McLean County Appreciation Day, postponed from Sept. 13.

**THE SERIES VS. THE BIG BLUE:** Dating back to 1904, Millikin has a 53-40-7 lead over IWU but the Titans have won five of the last eight meetings. Last season, IWU won by a 24-7 margin...Millikin won nine consecutive games in the series from 1982-90...Despite being 100 games old, the rivalry isn't in the top 15 of Division III longest series.

**OCTOBER:** In the Norm Eash coaching tenure, Wesleyan is 57-37 in October...IWU is 0-1 this year and the Titans were 4-0 in October in 2007.

**FOR THE RECORD:** IWU is 81-45 in its last 126 games (.648) since 1995...The Titans are 71-29 (.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 (5); 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 514-382-42 (.571) in 116+ football seasons... The 500th win came in a 23-14 win over Wheaton on Oct. 22, 2005.

**LAST WEEK:** Illinois Wesleyan lost its Homecoming game by a 26-21 score to Carthage on Saturday, Oct. 4, in the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin opener for both teams. Carthage jumped out to a 14-0 lead in the first quarter before the Titans got on the board with 8:29 to go in the half on a 16 yard pass to Jack Scalcucci (Batavia, Ill. HS) from Kraig Ladd (Shelbyville, Ill. HS). Carthage led 20-7 when John Meacham (Oak Park, Ill., Oak Park-River Forest HS) caught a 6-yard TD pass from Ladd with 5:07 to play in the half to make the score 20-14 at intermission. Bo Lanter (Clayton, Mo., HS), who finished with 93 yards rushing, scampered in on a 9-yard TD run in the third quarter to put Wesleyan ahead, 21-20, but the Red Men marched 62 yards on 11 plays to score, capped by a 24 yard pass from Evan Jones to Nick Merchut with 2:35 to play. The Red Men had 444 yards on 92 plays while IWU had 265 yards on 65 plays. Ladd was 23 of 39 for 212 yards and was sacked four times. Robert Beauchamp (Cerro Gordo, Ill. HS) and Nick Nikolich (Libertyville, Ill. HS) led the way defensively with 13 total tackles while Neal Loftus (LaGrange Park, Ill., Lyons Township HS) had 10 tackles.

**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 – Rick Podkowa, senior, tight end, Glenview, Ill. (Niles Notre Dame HS)  
Defense – Robert Beauchamp, senior, back, Cerro Gordo, Ill. (HS); Nick Nikolich, junior, linebacker, Libertyville, Ill. (HS)  
Special Teams – Chris Messina, junior, receiver, Chicago, Ill. (Nazareth Academy)

Scout Offense – Eric Watkins, freshman, quarterback, Belleville, Ill. (West HS); Jordan Krone, freshman, quarterback, Minonk, Ill. (Fieldcrest HS)

Scout Defense – Sean Derrig, freshman, linebacker, Deerfield, Ill. (HS); Bert Blodgett, freshman, line, Palatine, Ill. (Fremd HS)

Titan Award – Josh Monk, senior, linebacker, Bloomington, Ill. (Central Catholic HS)

**ABOUT THE BIG BLUE:** Millikin (2-2, 0-1 CCIW) lost a 31-13 decision at North Central on Oct. 4 as the Cardinals scored on their first four possessions to jump ahead 28-0. Millikin managed to put together its first scoring drive just before halftime, venturing 62 yards in 10 plays and scoring on a 17-yard pass from Andy Dicken to Will Roth with 1:16 to play. The extra-point attempt was blocked, leaving the score at 28-6. Millikin's second scoring possession was a 16-play, 83-yard drive that consumed nearly seven minutes. North Central nearly held the Big Blue out of the end zone on four straight plays from the one-yard line, but fullback Letwon Williams crossed the goal line on fourth down. The Cardinals held a 364-219 advantage in total yards and slowed Millikin's running game to a trickle, as the Big Blue managed just 23 yards on 24 carries. Dicken threw for 196 yards, completing 22 of 40 passes. He completed nine throws to running back Dion Wilson, who gained 54 yards. Linebacker Sam Jordan led the Big Blue defense with 11 tackles.

**COACH NORM EASH:** Norm Eash (Illinois Wesleyan, 1975) is in his 22<sup>nd</sup> season at IWU and has a career record of 129-74-1 (.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 95-57-1 (.630), making him fourth all-time in victories in the league.

**MARTIN CEISEL:** Senior Martin Ceisel (Deerfield, Ill. HS) is No. 4 all-time at IWU with 2,535 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 169 receptions (No. 3 is Brady, 220).

**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:** North Central is No. 7 and Wheaton is No. 8 in the Oct. 7 AFCA Division III poll. Illinois Wesleyan is No. 41, Augustana is No. 46 and Carthage is No. 50...In the D3Football.com Top 25 rankings on Oct. 7. Wheaton was No. 6 for the second straight week and North Central, despite winning, fell to No. 9 (from No. 8). Carthage 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.

**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.

**FAST START:** The Titans were 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).

**CCIW VS. NON-CCIW:** Teams from the CCIW were 19-5 in three weeks of nonconference play in 2008.

**HOMECOMING:** After the loss to Carthage, the Titans are 28-16 in their last 44 Homecoming games and have been 10-11 in the last 21

years, preceded by a six-game winning streak from 1982-87.

**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.