THE GAME: Illinois Wesleyan looks for its second win in its 116th football season against the Mount St. Joseph Lions in a 1 p.m. kickoff at Wilder Field, Illinois Wesleyan Stadium...The Titans aim for back-to-back wins for the first time since the 2005 season (Oct. 22-29) when they downed Wheaton (23-14) and North Park (21-7).

SPECIAL DAY: This is the annual McLean County Appreciation Day at Illinois Wesleyan.

ON THE AIR: The IWU/Mt. St. Joseph game will be broadcast live on WJBC 1230 AM and on the Internet at www.wjbc2.com. The game will also be rebroadcast on Insight Communications cable channel 5 during the upcoming week.

FOR THE RECORD: IWU is 72-42 in its last 113 games (.632) since 1995...The Titans are 66-27 (.710) at home and 53-44-1 on the road (.546) under Norm Eash...The 42 losses have come to Wheaton (8); Augustana (7); Millikin (6); Carthage and North Central (4); Elmhurst (3); Simpson, UW-Eau Claire and Coe (2); and Mount St. Joseph, Mount Union, UW-LaCrosse, and Washington U. (1)...Not since 1941 (2-5-2), 1942 (4-5), 1943 (2-4-1) has IWU had three consecutive losing seasons...2004 and 2005 were the first back-to-back losing seasons at IWU since 1987 (4-5) and 1988 (4-5)...In 2004, IWU (3-7) had its first sub-.500 season since the 1993 team was 4-5. The Titans had been at .500 or better for 10 straight years.

SEPTEMBER: In September, IWU is 37-18-1 (.670) in the Norm Eash era, is 1-1 this year and was 1-3 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.).

AT WILDER FIELD: Illinois Wesleyan is 56-20 (.737) at Wilder Field in the last 15 seasons (1991-2006). The IWU football facility is the fifth oldest football stadium in the country (1893), behind Wesleyan [Conn.] (1881), Williams [Mass.] (1883), Sewanee [Tenn.] and Amherst [Mass.] (both 1891).

ON TO THE NEXT 500: IWU is 505-379-42 (.569) in 115 football seasons... The 500th win came in a 23-14 win over Wheaton on Oct. 22, 2005.

COACH EASH: Norm Eash (Illinois Wesleyan, 1975) is in his 21st season at IWU and has a career record of 120-71-1 (.628), 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 2001, 1996 and 1992. His career CCIW mark is 89-55-1 (.634), making him fourth all-time in victories in the league.

TITAN NOTES: Illinois Wesleyan rallied from a 9-0 deficit to claim a 20-9 win over Olivet College in a nonconference game last Saturday in Olivet, Mich. Titan sophomore lefthander Kraig Ladd (Shelbyville HS) completed touchdown passes of 3 yards and 22 yards to junior wide receiver Martin Ceisel (Deerfield HS) and added another 3 yard TD pass to sophomore fullback Jon Meacham (Oak Park, Oak Park-River Forest HS). Ladd completed 15 of 31 passes for 148 yards and also rushed for 27 yards on eight carries. Senior running back Marcus Dunlop (Maywood, Proviso East HS) had 59 yards rushing on 23 carries as IWU had 198 total offensive yards. The Titans were led defensively by junior linebacker Dan Souder (Elk Grove Village HS), who had nine total tackles, while Andrew Dulaney (Eden Prairie, Minn. HS) and Charlie Welke (New Lenox, Lincoln Way Central HS) each had six. Brian Smith (Louisville, Ky., Trinity HS) had an interception return for 40 yards.

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: Martin Ceisel, junior, receiver, Deerfield (HS)

DEFENSE: Dan Souder, junior, linebacker, Elk Grove Village (HS)

SPECIAL TEAMS: Robert Beauchamp, freshman, defensive back, Cerro Gordo (HS)

SCOUT (Offense): Brien Rooney, freshman, quarterback, Western Springs (Fenwick HS); Sam Wells, freshman, line, South Anchorage, Alaska (HS)

SCOUT (Defense): Joe Vanchieri, sophomore, end, Darien (Benet Academy); Dan Rogers, freshman, linebacker, Palos Ridge (Maine South HS)

TITAN AWARD: Brian Smith, senior, defensive back, Louisville, Ky. (Trinity HS)

OTHER GAMES TODAY
Carthage at Whittier (Calif.), 9 p.m.
Wabash at Millikin, 1 p.m.
Benedictine at North Central, 7 p.m.
North Park at Eureka, 1 p.m.
Wheaton at Washington U., Noon
Elmhurst at Chicago, 6 p.m.

NEXT WEEK
UW-Platteville at Augustana, 1 p.m.
Washington U. at North Central, 6 p.m.
North Park at Rose-Hulman, 1 p.m.
Hope at Wheaton, 7 p.m.
Olivet at Elmhurst, 1 p.m.
MARCUS DUNLOP: With 2,060 career seniors, running back Marcus Dunlop (Maywood, Proviso East HS) needs 712 rushing yards to overtake Kurt Swearingen’s career total of 2,772 yards, gained from 1975-78)...Dunlop was IWU’s leadingusher in 2007 with 665 yards on 173 carries with two TDs.

KRAIG LADD: For the second straight week, IWU’s starting quarterback will be sophomore Kraig Ladd (Shelbyville HS)....A 6-foot-5 lefthander, did not play varsity games last season...Ladd played baseball for the conference champion Titans last spring and was 6-0-4 with one homer and five RBI.A business administration major at IWU, he earned seven letters and was all-conference in three sports in high school.

SCOUTING THE LIONS: With a football program started at the school in 1990, Mount St. Joseph is ranked No. 25 in this week’s Don Hansen’s Football Gazette but doesn’t show up among the 49 teams receiving votes in the D3football.com poll...The Lions come into the game with a 2-0 record and overcame a 13-0 deficit to defeat Rose-Hulman 49-20 last Saturday...Cornerback Ricky Stauberg, who tied a Lions single-game record with three interceptions in the Mount’s 49-20 win over Rose-Hulman, has been named the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Football Player of the Week on defense...They won their season opener, 31-19 at Wilmington (Ohio)...The Mount is 3-0-1 since the start of the 2004 season with three of those losses coming in the NCAA playoffs, losing to Wheaton in the first round last season (42-28); to Mount Union in the 2005 first round (49-6); and to Wheaton in 2004 (31-7).

THE SERIES VS. THE MOUNT: Mount St. Joseph has a 1-0 lead in the series over IWU after a 28-7 win in Cincinnati, last Sept. 16. The Titans trailed, 28-0, before Jaryee Maple’s 74 yard TD run with 4:01 to play in the third quarter to provide the lone Titan score. IWU limited the Lions to 290 yards of total offense but the Titans were victimized by an interception returned for a touchdown and a blocked punt also returned for a score. Eight different receivers made catches for IWU, which got 121 passing yards and 94 rushing yards in the game.

SEASON OPENERS: IWU has lost five straight opening season games and is 10-11 in opening-day games under Norm Eash, including this season’s 24-6 loss at Coe.

EARLY START: Since 1965, this is the earliest football start (Sept. 1) in the modern era at IWU. . . In 2006 the Titans hosted Coe on Sept. 2, the earliest start prior to this year. Other early openers have been Sept. 3, 2005 (Simpson); Sept. 4, 2004 (at Simpson); Sept. 7, 1985 (DePauw at IWU); Sept. 8, 2001 (IWU at Washington U.) and Sept. 8, 1984 (IWU at DePauw) and Sept. 9, 2000 (Washington U. at IWU). What a difference 42 years makes - IWU opened its season in 1965 at Sept. 25 at home against Illinois State.

LOOKING AHEAD: After a week off (Sept. 22), the Titans open CCIW play on Sat., Sept. 29 with a 6 p.m. home game vs. No. 27-ranked Augustana...It will be the fourth night game at IWU since 1971 and the first since a 20-13 win over Chicago in 2005. . Augustana is 1-1 after a 24-8 loss at No. 14 Baldwin-Wallace last weekend. The Vikings beat MacMurray 65-0 in their opener.