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Former Coaches Larson and Keck to be Honored by IWU

27 September 2004

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — Two former Illinois Wesleyan coaches who combined for nearly 70 years of service to the University were honored in a ceremony at IWU's Homecoming on Saturday, Oct. 2.

Don "Swede" Larson, who passed away in November 1994, and Bob Keck of Jekyll Island, Ga., had plaques dedicated in their honor in the ceremony. at the east end of the football stadium.

The bronze plaques will be permanently affixed to the wall of the IWU Stadium where Larson and Keck coached scores of Titan athletes from the mid-1950s to the early 1990s.

DON LARSON

In his 35-year association with Illinois Wesleyan, Larson coached tennis, track, golf, and swimming, but is best known as the school's winningest football coach. His career record from 1954-86 was 166-121-6 for a .577 winning percentage and his College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin record was 142-89-6 (.618). His teams won undisputed league titles in 1964 and 1965 and shared championships in 1974, 1977 and 1980. He was voted CCIW "Coach of the Year" in 1977 and 1980 and was NAIA District 20 "Coach of the Year" six times. Larson, a 1950 IWU graduate and former Titan football captain and "MVP", retired from teaching at IWU in 1989.

BOB KECK

Keck joined the Illinois Wesleyan faculty in 1957 and, during his 34 years at the school, served as head track coach and assistant football coach and wrestling coach, in addition to introducing cross country and women's track as varsity sports at the school. As head track coach Keck coach 10 NCAA Division III All-Americans. He was NAIA District 20 track "Coach of the Year" four times and served as an official for the national Division III championships. He was also the chairman of the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin track coaches for 15 years. Keck retired from Illinois Wesleyan in 1991.

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