



Fall 9-3-1999

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Recommended Citation

Salowitz, Stew, "New Tennis Courts to be Dedicated at IWU Sept. 14" (1999). *News and Events*. 844.

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3 September 1999

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New Tennis Courts to be Dedicated at IWU Sept. 14

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- Three new tennis courts will be dedicated at Illinois Wesleyan University at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 14, prior to the IWU women's tennis match against the University of Chicago.

The three courts are additions to the four currently-standing "Beadles-Morse Tennis Courts" at the corner of East Emerson and Franklin streets. The new courts are a result of a gift from 1936 Illinois Wesleyan graduate Dr. Elmer L. Beadles of Bloomington and are named as a memorial tribute his wife, Marjorie "Midge" Morse Beadles, class of 1934. Mrs. Beadles passed away Nov. 9, 1996.

The program, which is free and open to the public, will feature dedicatory remarks from Titan athletic director Dennie Bridges, board of trustees member Dr. Robert Reardon, and IWU President Minor Myers, jr. Refreshments will also be available.

The Beadles-Morse Tennis Courts were dedicated in September 1987 to honor the memories of the parents of Elmer and Marjorie, whose gift also made those courts possible. A plaque bearing the names of Dr. Robert O. and Myrtella DuBois Beadles and Charles and Margaret Houchin Morse is in place at the site.

Among the most beloved alumni couples, Elmer and Marjorie Beadles were also among the most avid sports fans, rarely missing a Titan basketball game, either home or away. Both were influential in identifying prospective students and were devoted volunteers and supporters of IWU activities.

A longtime resident of Ashland, Ill., Elmer Beadles is a member of the Board of Visitors, the President's Club, and an Evelyn Chapel sponsor. The students honored Elmer and Marjorie Beadles in 1986 by naming them Grand Marshals of the Homecoming Parade and the couple received the school's "Loyalty Award" in 1984.

Elmer Beadles is the brother of the late Dr. William T. Beadles, professor of insurance, for whom Beadles Hall was named in 1980.

During the dedicatory remarks, Myers will honor Barb Cothren, who retired last spring as women's tennis coach and associate athletic director. Cothren, who joined the IWU faculty in 1979, is remaining at IWU as physical education department head and professor through the 2000-2001 school year.

Her 11 women's tennis teams compiled a 115-40 dual meet record, won a College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin championship in 1992, and produced 12 CCIW singles and doubles champions. Cothren was IWU's volleyball coach from 1979-83. Her teams compiled a 78-62-2 record and three of her squads qualified for the Illinois Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women state tournament, with her 1981 team finishing second.

She also served as the school's softball coach from 1980-88. An Illinois State University graduate, she participated in basketball and softball at ISU and was elected to the ISU Athletic Hall of Fame.