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## **CHAMPS to Bring Former Chicago Bear Michael Cobb to IWU**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Illinois Wesleyan University's division of the NCAA Foundation's Challenging Athletes' Minds for Personal Success (CHAMPS/Life Skills) program will bring former Chicago Bears player Michael Cobb to campus for a speaking engagement.

The event will take place on Thur., March 14 at 7 p.m. in the Main Lounge of Memorial Student Center, 104 E. University St., Bloomington. Admission is free and open to the public.

Michael Cobb was the #1 draft choice in 1977, and played with the Chicago Bears for four years, alongside teammates Mike Singletary and Walter Payton. Cobb also spent time in the USFL with the Michigan Panthers (1983-84) and the Birmingham Stallions (1984-85). While playing with the USFL championship Michigan Panthers, Cobb led the team in receptions with 82 catches.

Cobb has spoken at more than 3,000 schools and to over 1,000,000 students. He is on the roster of professional athletes for Sports World Inc. The company facilitates the visit of a variety of professional athletes to schools around the country, to share life experiences and help students to recognize the consequences of their choices, while challenging them with a message of hope. Their roster includes former NBA player Adrian Branch, and former NFL players Michael Cobb, Ken Johnson, Herman Weaver, Steve Grant, and Devon McDonald, among others.

Jason Williams, IWU assistant track and football coach/director of CHAMPS/Life Skills, says that, "Michael Cobb combines a tremendous on-stage presence with an outstanding speaking ability to bring his personal experience as a professional athlete to IWU. What this man has to say about issues of diversity and the dangers of alcohol abuse is relevant to all students, not just athletes."

Williams, the originator of the program at IWU, has served as director of the CHAMPS/Life Skills program for three years, a program developed by the NCAA in 1994 that is supported by over 300 academic institutions. CHAMPS/Life Skills is designed to provide support and services to students while helping to develop and enhance their lives through educational programming and resources focused on diversity, like skills, gender equity, and student well-being. The program emphasizes academic excellence, athletic excellence, personal development, career development, and commitment to service.