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Illinois Wesleyan Alum, Legendary Basketball Coach Luther Bedford, Dies at 69

Jan. 11, 2006

Luther Bedford, a 1959 graduate of Illinois Wesleyan University and legendary Chicago Public League basketball coach, died Jan. 8 from cardiac arrest. He was 69.

Bedford's legacy was remembered in articles in the *Chicago Tribune* and *Bloomington Pantagraph* this week. Bedford received the Minority Alumni Network Award from Illinois Wesleyan in 1995.

Bedford retired from Marshall High School in 2003 after 40 years, 33 as the school's athletic director. He was raised in Rockford and was a three-sport athlete at Rockford West High School before starting for four years on Illinois Wesleyan's football team. He had a brief film career, appearing as himself in the award-winning 1994 documentary "Hoop Dreams."

The funeral will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Rock of Ages Church, 1309 Madison St. in Maywood, Ill.

Read Assistant Sports Editor Randy [Kindred's column](#) in *The Pantagraph*.



Luther Bedford