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## **IWU Softball Meets Central College in NCAA Tourney**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- The Illinois Wesleyan University softball team will play defending national champion Central College of Pella, Iowa, in the first round of the Seed Five NCAA Division III regional tournament on Friday.

The Titans, who are 34-7 overall and making their first NCAA appearance, will meet the Flying Dutchmen at 11 a.m. at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa. The host school (28-11) will face University of Wisconsin-River Falls (26-16) at 1 p.m.

The losers of the first two games will meet at 3 p.m., with the winners of the first two games playing at 5 p.m.

Saturday's schedule for the double elimination tournament is yet to be announced.

Daily admission tickets are \$3 for adults and \$1 for students, while a tournament pass for all games is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.

Central, which has won the Division III title in 1988, 1991, and last year, is 30-12 overall and was 11-5 in the Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. They are coached by George Wares, whose 10-year record is 332-111 with a .749 winning percentage, second among all active Division III coaches.

They are paced by two-time National Softball Coaches Association first team All-American pitcher Emily Grimes, who is 15-6 with a 1.25 earned run average, and Missey Allen, who is 13-5 with an ERA of 0.81.

Three of Central's leading hitters are Staci Van Arendonk (.375, five doubles, 28 runs batted in), Janette Moews (.343, 15 stolen bases), and Shannon Merkle (.300, four doubles, six triples, 29 RBI).

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With a 13-1 league mark, the Titans won the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin title for the second time in four years. IWU is led by sophomore righthanded pitcher Jennie Siron (**Morris HS**), who has a 17-3 record, a 1.73 earned run average, and has struck out 147 batters in 125 innings. Siron is also batting .420 with 11 doubles and 26 RBI in 88 plate appearances.

Freshman outfielder Jenny Schertz (**Metamora, Washington HS**) leads the team in batting with a .477 average, followed by junior outfielder Robin Reed (**Westmont HS**) at .466 and junior third baseman Jenny Miller (**Rock Island HS**) at .444.

Miller has set single-season school records in runs batted in (54), doubles (12), and home runs (seven), and holds career marks for runs batted in (117) and home runs (11).

Illinois Wesleyan, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,800 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. For the last five years, *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked IWU No. 1 among Midwest regional colleges and universities in its annual "America's Best Colleges" issue. *U.S. News* also rated IWU as a "best buy" in higher education in its first survey, "Paying for College," published in October 1993.