



Summer 8-28-1995

For Immediate Release

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Recommended Citation

Aaron, Bob, "For Immediate Release" (1995). *News and Events*. 6400.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/6400>

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August 28, 1995

(breaks, Cent. IL, Chicago, Hammond)
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Russell Radtke of **Rockford, Ill. (Auburn H.S.)** is one of a dozen National Merit Scholars in the 1995 freshman class at Illinois Wesleyan University.

Radtke is among about 1,865 students--including approximately 520 freshmen --who began classes today at IWU for the 1995-96 school year.

Radtke graduated No. 27 in his class of 331 students last spring.

Among Radtke's academic honors, special awards and offices held in high school were a 3rd place finish in the International Chemistry Olympiad among first-year students, participant in the state level JETS competition, a four-year varsity swimmer, and the Spanish Honor Society.

Among Radtke's extracurricular activities were: Computer Club, Math Club, volleyball, Student Council, Key Club, Amnesty International, Ski Club and Students Against Drunk Drivers (SADD).

Radtke intends to major in biology.

The National Merit Scholarship Program, established about 40 years ago, honors academically talented high school students nationwide. National Merit scholarships are underwritten by about 600 organizations and institutions, including corporations and campuses.

Russell is the son of Janet Wenz, 4748 Landau Place, Rockford, Ill.

IWU, founded in 1850, offers a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. A \$25 million Center for Natural Science Learning and Research will be dedicated on Oct. 7. A \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 164 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. *101 of the Best Values in America's Colleges and Universities* calls IWU "undoubtedly one of the finest small colleges in the country," adding, "Illinois Wesleyan has surged to national prominence on the basis of its reputation as a school with a rock-solid academic program."

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