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April 24, 1997

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main Sports

Student-Produced TV Show Traces IWU Sports' Success in '96-'97; TCI-Channel 10 Sets Broadcast Schedule

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--A 30-minute TV show--produced, directed, and written by an Illinois Wesleyan University senior--that chronicles the 1996-97 seasons posted by four IWU men's and women's sports teams will be aired next week and in May on TCI-Channel 10.

The program by Chad Ritchie, a history and political science double major from Colfax, Ill., covers football, men's and women's basketball, and women's volleyball. It features interviews with football coach Norm Eash and quarterback Lon Erickson, winner of the Gagliardi Trophy, presented annually to the outstanding NCAA Division III player; women's basketball coach Mandy Neal; women's volleyball coach Kim Nelson-Brown; and men's basketball coach Dennie Bridges, IWU's athletic director. The show is hosted by Stew Salowitz, IWU director of news services.

"The IWU Titan Sports Show" will be shown:

- Tuesday, April 29 at 6 p.m.
- Thursday, May 1 at 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 7 at 6:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. Between telecasts of Ritchie's program,

TCI will rebroadcast the April 3 Shirk Center celebration, marking IWU's NCAA Division III men's basketball championship.

Illinois Wesleyan University brought home a national championship on March 22, when the Titans (29-2) won the NCAA Division III basketball championship with an 89-86 victory over Nebraska Wesleyan in Salem, Va. Previously, the Titans had downed Alvernia College (Pa.), 85-82, in the semifinal game.

IWU head basketball coach Dennie Bridges--the winningest Division III coach with a record of 587-290 and 16 College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin championships--was named Coach of the Year by the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC). Senior forward Bryan Crabtree (Wheaton, North H.S.) was chosen as the championship tournament's Most Valuable Player and the NABC has named him Division III's Player of the Year.

"This was a totally new experience for me," Ritchie said, referring to producing a TV show. "The program presents an overview of the seasons various IWU sports teams had and their success."

Referring to Dan Simmons, local origination/access coordinator for TCI of

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IWU Student-Produced TV Show/2

Bloomington/Normal, Inc., who served as the show's executive producer, Ritchie said: "He gave me the freedom I wanted to do the show, but the whole TCI staff was there to help me. We had a good relationship."

The program, which took four months to produce, is sponsored by the IWU Bookstore, Kurt's Autobody, Ron Smith Printing, and W.M. Putnam Co.

Ritchie had his first experience working in television during the spring of 1996, when he participated in the Washington Semester program sponsored by American University in the nation's capital. He interned at Oliver Productions, producers of the nationally syndicated public affairs broadcasts, "The McLaughlin Group and McLaughlin One-on-One, with host John McLaughlin.

Ritchie wrote about his Washington, D.C., internship in the spring, 1997, edition of "The Participant," an IWU Career Center publication: "I worked closely with the producers researching topics for the show and occasionally helping with the script. After that semester in Washington, D.C., I wanted more hands on experience with television production--my TCI internship this semester has far exceeded these wishes."

Commenting on his internships, Ritchie wrote: "Internships have been an important part of my college education. TCI and 'The McLaughlin Group' have given me 'real life' experiences in the business world and production industry which will help me decide what career options to take after I graduate."