



Spring 4-10-1981

## Bloomington-Normal Sports Fans connect Tom Gramkow to Basketball than Baseball

Ed Alsene  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>

---

### Recommended Citation

Alsene, Ed, "Bloomington-Normal Sports Fans connect Tom Gramkow to Basketball than Baseball" (1981). *News and Events*. 7298.  
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/7298>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@iwu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@iwu.edu).

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Apr. 10, 1981

BLOOMINGTON, ILL.--Bloomington-Normal and Illinois Wesleyan sports fans connect the name of Tom Gramkow to basketball more readily than baseball.

But such wasn't always the case for the 33-year-old Clinton High School athletic director who was named IWU's head baseball coach and assistant basketball coach today.

"I was recruited more for baseball than basketball in high school," Gramkow recalled. "Actually, I had already sent \$450 to Western Illinois, and was going there more for baseball than basketball, when my high school coach, Bill Best, got me to come to Wesleyan for a visit."

It was late in the recruiting season but Gramkow eventually decided to go to Wesleyan, where his exploits as a sharpshooting guard made him one of the school's all-time cage greats.

He also was the starting centerfielder in baseball for four seasons, but didn't have the sensational success that he enjoyed on the hardwood.

But Jack Horenberger, the man he is succeeding in the diamond job, remembers him as a good centerfielder and an outstanding baserunner.

Gramkow's batting didn't match his fielding but he was a major factor on teams that won two undisputed College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin championships, shared another and finished second once. He hit .257 for the 1969 team that was 23-9-1 and won the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics District 20 championship by winning three games, one from Western Illinois and two from Lewis, in one day.

"I had had more success in baseball than basketball before college and I love the game. I'm going to watch this year's team play as often as I can so I get to know the players and I'll keep in contact with Coach Horenberger. I've been involved with baseball a lot although I haven't coached it at Clinton. When I got out of the service in 1972, I coached the sophomore team at Moline High School, I coached the varsity one year at Leland High School and I've coached American Legion teams at various times," Gramkow said.

Horenberger is leaving Gramkow a good nucleus. The Titans have only two seniors and need only to bolster their pitching staff next season to have an outstanding team. The current squad is 5-10 for the season and 2-0 in the CCIW going into Saturday's double-header at Augustana.