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Immediate Release : Dennis Bridges Announced He Will Coach Baseball

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jan. 28, 1986

BLOOMINGTON, ILL.--Dennis Bridges, athletic director and basketball coach at Illinois Wesleyan University, announced at a team meeting today that he will coach the Titan baseball team this spring.

Bridges said he is taking over the baseball duties on an interim basis "to send a message to the baseball players that we want baseball to remain an important sport. We didn't want to bring in a part-time coach. I know our personnel, our conference, how we handle our southern trip and I saw every game the team played last year."

Tom Gramkow, the IWU coach the past four years, resigned recently to become an insurance agent.

Bridges said that going directly from a long basketball season into baseball is not without its difficulties. "However, I'll lean heavily on my captains to help with conditioning and throwing drills, especially in February," Bridges said. The co-captains are Bridges' son Steve and Joe Lira.

Baseball occupies a large space in Bridges' background. The 1961 graduate of Wesleyan was a four-year starter as a shortstop, coached baseball at Plainfield High School and coached Bloomington's entry in the Central Illinois Collegiate League from 1971-78. His teams won two CICL championships.

The Titans will start informal workouts next week. The season opens Mar. 21 when Wesleyan plays at Millsaps to open their annual southern trip, which began in 1930.

Eleven lettermen are expected back from a 1985 team that won 19, lost 15 and tied one.

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