



Winter 2-22-1999

IWU's Cothren to Leave IWU Tennis Coaching

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Recommended Citation

Salowitz, Stew, "IWU's Cothren to Leave IWU Tennis Coaching" (1999). *News and Events*. 5949.

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22 February 1999

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IWU's Cothren to Leave IWU Tennis Coaching; *Will Continue to Teach Through 2001*

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- Barb Cothren, who serves as head of the physical education department, associate athletic director, and women's tennis coach at Illinois Wesleyan University, will begin a two-year phased-in retirement plan at the end of the current academic year.

The plan calls for Cothren, an associate professor of physical education who joined the IWU faculty in 1979, to retain her role as physical education department head and continue teaching through the 2000-2001 school year, but she will be relinquishing her associate athletic director duties and ending her 11-year career as Titan women's tennis coach.

Her women's tennis teams compiled a 115-40 dual meet record, won a College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin championship in 1992, and produced 12 CCIW singles and doubles champions.

Cothren was IWU's volleyball coach from 1979-83. Her teams compiled a 78-62-2 record and three of her squads qualified for the IAIAW state tournament, with her 1981 team finishing second.

She also served as the school's softball coach from 1980-88.

An Illinois State University graduate, she participated in basketball and softball at ISU and was elected to the ISU Athletic Hall of Fame.

IWU athletic director Dennie Bridges says he is happy for Cothren and is thankful for the many contributions she has made to Illinois Wesleyan physical education and athletics. "Barb and I have worked really well together and she played a key role in the combination of the women's and men's athletic departments and the successful move together to the Shirk Center."

Bridges says the search for a new women's tennis coach will begin this spring and that he will work to fill Cothren's associate athletic director duties from within the IWU athletic department.