

# in Series Finale

By Fred Young

"All I can say is that we finally got over the hump," said Illinois Wesleyan coach Dennis Bridges of the victorious Wesleyan Titans after they had carried him off the floor on the shoulders of the mad throng at Horton Fieldhouse Tuesday night. "We finally got over the hump."

It took a long shot in the final second of the 111th game of this ancient series by Tom Gramkow to net the 69-68 decision for the Titans over Illinois State University in one of the wildest games in the entire history of the series after Greg Guy, the Lincoln sharpshooter, had apparently given the Redbirds the victory with a long shot 37 seconds before the game's end.

By winning, Wesleyan finished its competition with Illinois State with a 69-42 edge in a series officially inaugurated in 1909.

Confidence, poise and a great comeback in the first half after the Cardinal clad athletes had leads as high as eight points at two stages of the game and had held a four-point advantage as late as the final seven minutes of play. The IWU quintet which was ragged at times in the first half and went to dressing room behind 39-32, but came back with a great second half performance to finally knot the count at 4:16 when Sheldon Thompson hooked one over the waiting ISU sentinels.

### Two-Minute Stall

The Redbirds then went into a possession game and whiled away two full minutes until they lost the basketball, and with 1:43 showing on the clock, Fred Evans failed to convert on Jerry Crabtree's foul.

It was a particularly bitter pill for Guy to swallow who had dominated the play the first half and finished his night's work with 10 baskets in 23 shots and had canned 2 of his 5 opportunities at the foul lane. The Lincoln youth apparently had clinched the decision for his club—then Gramkow came through in the final second.

A successful free throw by John Bigson on Guy's foul had given Wesleyan the lead at 67-66 30 seconds before Guy banked his 10th bucket.

This was the kind of a game that has usually marked this series the lead changing hands 11 times in the first half while the score was deadlocked three times.

### Better Shooting

The key to the game unquestionably was better shooting the second half for the winners. The Titans were as cold as the weather outside the first half when the Redbirds hit 16 of 31 shots for a sizzling .516 per cent while the best Wesleyan could do was 10 of 35 for a lowly .286.

But in the new half the tables were turned with Wesleyan cracking 17 of 38 shots for .447 per cent. The final figure was .449 against the Titans .370.

The sturdier ISU quintet did have the advantage on the boards as was expected, winding up with 43 rebounds to Wesleyan's 36.

Jim Smith had a fine game for the Birds and Myron Litwiller did a lot of damage on the boards, snaring 10 rebounds, one less than Smith, the ISU leader in this department.

### Four Straight Misses

The shot chart shows that the losers missed 43 shots and ISU 55.

The victors made good on three more free throws with 15 of 24 while the losers hit 12 of 20. However four consecutive misses at the foul lane did hurt the Wesleyan cause appreciably late in the first half when ISU Coach Jim Collie's club took a seven-point lead.

It was definitely a team victory for the poise of the Titans was a major factor in the sensational finish when it appeared that the chips were down and that they were a beaten five.

### Took Home Net

It was close to a capacity crowd that saw this barnburner with the enthusiasm topping anything seen in the two cities in years because so much was at stake, and the Titans who carried Bridges off the court on their shoulders after the game also managed to cut the nets off both baskets.

It was particularly tough affair for the Redbirds who had held a comfortable lead for the greater part of the struggle to

drop, but the Titans refused to fold, and then their great little floor guard banked the goal that spelled victory as the gun went off ending play.

The Titans' switching man-to-man defense won again, and while the zone that the Redbirds employed gave them fits the first half, they did solve it in the second half. Sheldon Thompson in particular finding the answers.

Wesleyan's freshmen made it a gala night all around by whipping the first-year men from Illinois State, 84-64, with John Lester and Steve Weigand both banging six successful shots. Craig Spliers had eight baskets for the losers.

ISU		Frosh		IWU		Frosh	
fg	ft	fg	ft	fg	ft	fg	ft
3	3	Willi		Kent	1	0	
0	0	Prombo		Lester	6	6	
8	3	Spliers		Wright	3	8	
0	0	Frederick		Papmeyer	0	1	
4	0	Humble		Weigand	6	4	
5	3	Collins		Murphy	0	0	
6	2	Points		Thompson	3	2	
0	0	Watson		Maupin	1	2	
0	0	Pobanz		Baumgart	2	3	
0	1	McCulre		Gravlin	4	6	
0	1	Jansen		Scott	1	0	
26	12				27	30	
ISU	Frosh			32	32-64		
IWU	Frosh			39	45-84		

### VARSITY SUMMARY

ILLINOIS STATE		FGM	FGA	FTM	FTA	Reb	A	F	TP
Jim Smith	6	11	2	6	11	2	2	14	
Myron Litwiller	2	5	1	1	10	2	4	5	
Dave Handy	3	9	1	1	7	0	3	7	
Greg Guy	10	23	2	5	3	0	3	22	
Jerry Crabtree	4	9	6	7	9	5	3	14	
Dale Janssen	1	2	0	0	3	0	1	2	
Sherrill Campbell	2	3	0	0	0	0	1	4	
Totals	28	62	12	20	43	9	17	68	
ILLINOIS WESLEYAN		FGM	FGA	FTM	FTA	Reb	A	F	TP
Sheldon Thompson	7	15	3	5	8	0	1	17	
John Gibson	3	13	3	3	7	3	3	9	
Fred Evans	4	14	5	9	13	0	4	13	
Tom Gramkow	9	18	2	3	1	0	1	20	
Stan Broers	3	10	2	2	4	0	4	8	
Mark Yontz	0	1	0	2	2	0	2	0	
Don Wright	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	
Totals	27	73	15	24	36	3	15	69	
Illinois State				39	29			68	
Wesleyan				32	37			69	