

## Bearcat Reflections

### Jim Williams

**SPORTS PLAYED AT NORTHWEST:**

Football, golf, wrestling

**GRADUATED:** 1970, 1973

**MAJOR:** Physical education, master's in education

**SPORTS MEMORIES:** I came to Northwest with 40 freshmen on the football team, but by the time we were seniors there were only five of us left. Wrestling was the star attraction back then, and it always drew the biggest crowds. We were always a perennial threat to win the conference, and we regularly beat some of the bigger schools in the



Big 8 (now the Big 12) Conference. The teammates and people whom I met and became lifelong friends with provide the best memories.

**SINCE GRADUATION:** After graduation, I was a teacher and coached football and wrestling at Rock Falls (Ill.)



Three-sport athlete Jim Williams was an intimidating sight for his opponents during his playing days on the gridiron at Northwest. Following graduation, Williams played semi-professional football and was a teacher and coach. Today, he is retired and lives in St. Charles with his wife, Ruth Hallquist Williams '74.

High School for three years. During that time, I also played semi-professional football for the Rockford Rams and the Lake County Rifles. After that, I was a teacher and coach for 30 years at St. Charles High School. In my 17 years as the head football coach, we won more games (99) than any other coach in school history, and we won the Missouri 4A State Championship in 1982. That same year, I was named Missouri 4A Football Coach of the Year. I have been married for 33 years to Ruth Hallquist Williams '74, and we have two children, Jamie, 29, and Julie, 28.

**CURRENT INVOLVEMENT IN ATHLETICS:**

I've retired from coaching, but I still like to take in as many games as possible as a spectator. I go to as many high school, college and professional games as I can. I also golf regularly, hunt and fish. ■

### Northwest women tee off

A new Northwest athletics team will swing into action for the first time during the 2007-08 season. The Northwest Board of Regents recently approved a proposal to add women's golf to the University's roster of intercollegiate sports.

"Expanding opportunities for competition within our region makes the addition of this sport very appropriate for us as we respond to the sustained interest that has been present on our campus," said Dr. Bob Boerigter, director of athletics.

Currently, Truman State, Missouri Western and Fort Hays State are the three other Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association schools that have women's golf.

The addition of women's golf brings Northwest's total of intercollegiate sports to 17. ■

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