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Midwest Conference

Men's Basketball

MWC Men's Basketball Final Standings -- 1995-96

North Division

	Division		All	
	W	L	W	L
Ripon	13	1	21	4
Carroll	11	3	16	7
Beloit	8	6	13	9
Lawrence	7	7	14	8
Lake Forest	4	10	7	15
St. Norbert	2	12	8	14

South Division

	Division		All	
	W	L	W	L
Grinnell	11	3	17	8
Knox	9	5	15	8
Coe	9	5	10	12
Monmouth	4	10	8	13
Illinois College	3	10	7	14
Cornell	2	11	4	17

Note: Illinois C. and Cornell cancelled one game.

MWC Championship Tournament

Semifinals

Ripon 83, Knox 78
Grinnell 109, Carroll 106

Championship

Grinnell 114, Ripon 92

NCAA Division III Tournament

Wheaton 131, Grinnell 117
Illinois Wesleyan 77, Ripon 66

Grinnell tops Ripon, 114-92, to win first MWC men's cage championship since 1962

National scoring leader Ed Brands popped in 60 points, including 14 of 22 three-pointers, to lead Grinnell to its first Midwest Conference Men's Basketball Championship since 1962.

Grinnell topped Ripon, 114-92, in the Championship Game of the league's annual tournament after escaping Carroll, 109-106, in the semifinal round. Ripon stopped Knox, 83-78, in the other semifinal.

The tournament's second-best scoring performance was turned in by Carroll's Jason Cook, who notched 52 points against Grinnell. Brands scored 46 points against Carroll and Ripon's Chris Braman scored 25 points against Knox. Cook also had a tourney-high 18 rebounds against Grinnell.

Both Grinnell and Ripon advanced to the NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Tournament.

Ripon finished 21-4 after losing to Illinois Wesleyan, 77-66, and Grinnell closed out at 17-8 after losing to Wheaton, 131-117.

Bill Merris retires from men's cage post after 38 years at IC

Bill Merris, one of the nation's longest-serving college basketball coaches, retired from a 38-year career as men's basketball coach at Illinois College at the end of the 1995-96 season.

Merris steered the Blueboys to three Prairie College Conference titles in the 1960s. His finest teams finished 17-8 in 1975-76 and 16-9 in 1977-78. His lifetime record was 334-527.

Although he won't be coaching, Merris will continue to serve Illinois College next year as associate professor of physical education.