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Importance Of Sportsmanship



Purdue vs Rutgers. Photo credit: Purdue Athletics

Sportsmanship, Sports News, and Special Boilermakers

Boilermaker Brainstorms: Blurbs From Kenny's Digital Notebook

Let's take a look at sports news and notes that are overflowing my digital notebook:

Two years before the Indiana Pacers invited Ann Meyers to become the first female to try out for an NBA team, Lusie Harris made history of a different kind in professional basketball.

Harris was the first female to be officially drafted by the NBA in 1977. That footnote in history was so buried that many basketball fans, myself included, did not know that until reading that Harris died Jan. 18 at age 66. The mere idea of women playing college basketball was a relatively new thing in the United States. Purdue didn't start its women's basketball program until 1975, four years after Indiana fielded its first university sanctioned team.

Harris was never a household name outside of Mississippi, even after scoring the first points in Olympic basketball history in 1976 at Montreal. So when the New Orleans Jazz chose the Delta State University star with the 137th pick, it was widely criticized as a publicity stunt. Still, Harris was chosen ahead of 36 other men in the eight-round draft that year.

Years later, the Jazz coach at the time – Frank Layden – joked that the 6-3 Harris was better than any player he had on the roster other than Hall of Fame guard Pete Maravich.

Recognizing the draft pick for what it was, Harris declined the opportunity to try out for the Jazz and instead started a family.

"I just thought it was a publicity stunt, and I felt like I didn't think I was good enough," Harris was quoted as saying in her tribute story at NPR.com. "Competing against a woman, yes. It's a different story competing against a man. So I decided not to go."

Fifteen years after the Jazz selected her, Harris became the first female collegiate player and first Black woman inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Her childhood idol, Indiana high school legend Oscar Robertson, escorted Harris at the ceremony. ...



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist



Zach Edey



Jaden Ivey



Sasha Stefanovic

Formerly the 440th best recruit of the Class of 2024, Purdue sophomore center Zach Edey is one of 10 finalists for the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Award given to the nation's top center.

Big Ten rivals Hunter Dickenson of Michigan and Kofi Cockburn of Illinois also made the cut. Also on the watch list are Auburn's Walker Kessler, Connecticut's Adam Sonogo, Duke's Mark Williams, Gonzaga's Drew Timme, Kentucky's Oscar Tshiebwe, North Carolina's Armando Bacot and Providence's Nate Watson.

Edey joins a list of former Purdue finalists that includes A.J. Hammons, Isaac Haas and teammate Trevion Williams. ...

Jaden Ivey will have a chance to join Carsen Edwards as Boilermakers to win the Jerry West Award, given to the nation's top shooting guard. Ivey is among 10 finalists on a list that includes Wisconsin's Johnny Davis.

Also making the cut were Arizona's Benedict Mathurin, Baylor's Adam Flager, Iowa State's Izaiah Brockington, Kansas' Ochai Agbaji, Kentucky's TyTy Washington, Syracuse's Buddy Boeheim, UCLA's Johnny Juzang and Villanova's Justin Moore. ...

Fittingly, Edey and Ivey are on the list of midseason candidates for the Naismith Trophy Player of the Year Award.

The Boilermakers, Auburn, Duke and Gonzaga are the only schools with two players on the list. The Big Ten leads all conferences with seven selections, including Kofi Cockburn of Illinois, Trayce Jackson-Davis of Indiana, Johnny Davis of Wisconsin, E.J. Liddell of Ohio State and Keegan Murray of Iowa. ...

Purdue guard Sasha Stefanovic is a finalist for the Senior CLASS Award, given to a

senior/graduate student who have notable achievements in community, classroom, character and competition.

Former Boilermaker Rob Hummel won the award in 2012. This year's winner will be announced during the NCAA Final Four. Stefanovic has his degree in finance and is currently a graduate student in the Human Resource Management program. He is a three-time selection to the Big Ten All-Academic Team.

As of Feb. 17, Stefanovic was averaging 11.6 points and 3.4 assists while shooting nearly 41 percent from 3-point range. With at least six games remaining in his career, Stefanovic is 91 points from joining Purdue's 1,000-point club

Outside the classroom and court, Stefanovic has run youth camps in his home town of Crown Point, with proceeds going to charity. Stefanovic also is a regular visitor to elementary schools and part of the basketball program's holiday shopping spree for underprivileged families in the area. ...

Faced with the probable loss of Ivey along with seniors Trevion Williams, Eric Hunter and Stefanovic, Purdue will get an early test in the 2022-23 season thanks to its invitation to play in the Phil Knight Legacy over Thanksgiving weekend in Portland, Ore. The Boilermakers are in the Legacy side of the Bracket along with Duke, Florida, Gonzaga, Oregon State, Portland State, West Virginia and Xavier. A separate bracket includes Iowa State, Alabama, Michigan State, North Carolina, Oregon, Portland, Connecticut and Villanova. ...

ESPN.com writer Jordan Reid offers a bad news/good news NFL Draft forecast for fans of the Chicago Bears.

Let's start with the bad news. Reid believes former Purdue star George Karlaftis will fall to the Green Bay Packers at No. 28 in the first round. The bitter rival of the Bears have a definite need for pass rusher.

"He has a chance to land in the top 20, but in this scenario he'd fall right in the Packers' lap," Reid writes. "Green Bay must get some

depth along the defensive line, and Karlaftis' combination of power and heavy hands could help him thrive in the NFC North."

Now for the good news. Reid forecasts that the Bears will use their first pick in the 2022 Draft (no first round pick thanks to the trade with the New York Giants which was turned into the latest hope at quarterback, Justin Fields) on Purdue All-America wide receiver David Bell.

Bell, who could quickly become a favorite of Fields, is slotted to be selected 39th overall by Reid.

"New general manager Ryan Poles has his work cut out at the receiver position, with only Darnell Mooney under contract next season," Reid writes. "Bell ... is a smooth route runner with consistent hands. He proved over the past two seasons that he can be counted upon as a go-to option. Bell doesn't have outstanding speed, but he executes the details on his route stems and has a knack for finishing catches at the catch point." ...

Spring football is around the corner at Purdue and the Boilermakers' 2022 season opener against Penn State is ranked among the top 10 Week 1 college football games by Athlon Sports writer Steven Lassan. Ranked seventh, the Sept. 1 Big Ten opener could be a sign of Purdue's ability to contend for a division championship.

"The Boilermakers will be a sleeper team to watch in the Big Ten West title race next year, and a win over the Nittany Lions ... would be a great start for coach Jeff Brohm's squad. The trek to West Lafayette is an early test for a rebuilt Penn State squad."

KENNY *From Page 2*

The Big Ten moved the Purdue-Penn State game from Saturday, Sept. 3 for a national television audience. Time and network have yet to be determined.

Notre Dame at Ohio State came in at No. 1 on Lasso's list. ...

Triple-doubles are a rare species when looking into Purdue men's and women's basketball history.

The Boilermaker men have just one and that was accomplished 45 years ago by future All-American Joe Barry Carroll.

Three Purdue women's players have done it. If I gave the avid Boilermaker fan 10 guesses, they'd probably only come up with Stephanie White. She was the first to accomplish the feat in 1999 against Indiana with 22 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists in a 97-62 victory.

Eight years later, center Danielle Campbell put up 12 points, 11 rebounds and a school-record 11 blocked shots in a 69-53 victory against Butler.

This season, Jenae Terry joined the club but one-upped White and Campbell by accomplishing the feat twice. The junior transfer from Illinois collected 11 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists against Miami (Ohio) on Dec. 19, an 82-76 victory. In an 80-66 victory against Minnesota on Jan. 27, Terry amassed 12 assists, 11 rebounds and 10 points.

Reflecting on Sportsmanship with Andy Griffith

One of my earliest examples of sportsmanship didn't come from my Bronco League baseball team or my Murdock Elementary football and basketball teams.

I like to watch reruns of the Andy Griffith Show whenever possible, preferably the black and white episodes. One that stands out to me was called "Medal for Opie," which originally aired 60 years ago.

Ron Howard may be best known today as an Oscar-winning director but he was a heck of a child and young adult actor ("Happy Days," "American Graffiti") as well. "Medal for Opie" was one of his finest moments. Opie is determined to enter the 50-yard dash at the Annual Sheriff's Boys Day races and is positive he's going to win a medal.

Not only does Opie have a dream that he wins multiple medals, he even prays to win. But sometimes, the answer to our prayers is no.

When Opie comes in last, he is devastated and walks away from not only his friends

but his pa, the sheriff. Later at home, Andy tries to explain to his son about being a good loser. The lesson doesn't immediately sink in with Opie, who believes the medal was rightfully his and that the winner took it away from him.

What does sink in to Opie is Andy expressing his disappointment in him. While still not understanding the concept of being a good loser, which isn't the same as liking to lose, Opie tells his father he doesn't want to disappoint him and he'll try to understand.

Walking through a handshake line and telling an opponent "good game" or something similar after a tough loss isn't easy. But it is a part of athletic competition, from grade school to the professional level.

That's why it's important that incidents like Michigan coach Juwan Howard's slap of a Wisconsin assistant become a teaching moment and not an excuse to end handshake lines.

We can debate whether a five-game suspension and \$40,000 fine for Howard, a \$10,000 fine for Wisconsin coach Greg Gard and one-game suspensions for three players was enough or too lenient.

Big Ten commissioner Kevin Warren made it clear in his decision, in conjunction with the two schools, that an incident like this must not happen again

"Big Ten Conference coaches and student-athletes are expected to display the highest level of sportsmanship conduct," Warren said. "Our expectation is that the incident (Sunday) will provide our coaches and student-athletes with the opportunity to reflect, learn and move forward in a manner that demonstrates decorum and leadership on and off of the court."

2-22-22 and Purdue
In celebration of Tuesday's "2s" day, let's take a look at the best Purdue basketball and football players to wear the numbers 2 and 22. First up, men's basketball.

Eric Hunter Jr.: The current owner of jersey No. 2, the senior has been playing some of his best basketball during the past month to put the Boilermakers in contention for their 25th Big Ten Conference championship.

During the past 10 games, Hunter has averaged 9.3 points and shooting 58 percent from the field (34 of 58).

David Teague: Purdue's best to wear No. 2, Teague will be remembered for dropping 32 points on Indiana in 2007. Teague, along with Carl Landry, also will be fondly recalled for giving Matt Painter's coaching career at Purdue the jump start it needed

with an NCAA tournament berth.

Joe Barry Carroll: The best to wear No. 22 at Purdue, Carroll was an All-American center who led the Boilermakers to their most recent Final Four in 1980. He also owns the only triple-double in Purdue men's basketball history with 16 points, 16 rebounds and a school record 11 blocked shots during his sophomore year against Arizona.
Cuonzo Martin: The Robin to Glenn Robinson's Batman while wearing No. 22 in the mid 1990s, Martin transformed himself by his junior season into one of the Big Ten's most lethal 3-point shooters. He set the school record for 3-point shooting percentage (.451) and averaged 18.4 points a game as a senior to earn first-team All-Big Ten honors.
Bob Ford: A team MVP as a junior in 1971, Ford scored 1,244 points and grabbed 648 rebounds in three seasons wearing No. 22.
Jaraan Cornell: The final No. 22 in the basketball countdown was a member of the 2000 Elite Eight team. Cornell left Purdue with a record 242 3-pointers made.

Purdue football has been fortunate to have several talented athletes wear No. 22, led by:

Larry Burton: One of the fastest to ever play for the Boilermakers, he was an All-American in 1974 after leading the Big Ten in receptions (38) and receiving yards (702) to go along with four touchdowns.

Dave Rankin: The two-time All-American end (1939-40) was a member of Sports Illustrated's Silver Anniversary All-American team in 1965.

Stan Brown: A taller version of Rondale Moore, Brown led the Big Ten with 108 points in 1969. He set Big Ten records for kickoff returns for touchdowns (3 in 1970) as well as career kickoff returns for TDs (5) and career return average (28.8).

Jimmy Young: A two-time All-Big Ten defensive back who earned a place in Boilermaker lore with his game-saving interception of Trent Green in the end zone with 16 seconds remaining in the 1992 Old Oaken Bucket game.

End of the line

A Super Bowl berth with the Cincinnati Bengals capped the eight-year NFL career of former Purdue star Ricardo Allen, who announced his retirement on Instagram earlier this week.

"I've always wondered how it would feel giving up what most people would consider to be 'most of me' and that's being a professional athlete," Allen wrote. "But the truth is, I'm blessed to be able to say that it's

been good. It could have been better with two Super Bowl rings, but who's complaining? Not me."

A defensive back, Allen retires with 11 interceptions and 333 tackles in his career, seven years of which was spent with the Atlanta Falcons.

His retirement leaves Purdue with nine players on active NFL rosters: Markus Bailey (Cincinnati), Derrick Barnes and David Blough (Detroit), Ja'Whaun Bentley (New England), Anthony Brown (Dallas), Dennis Kelly (Green Bay), Ryan Kerrigan (Philadelphia), Rondale Moore (Arizona) and Raheem Mostert (San Francisco).

That number will be boosted in 2022 with likely first-round pick George Karlaftis and possible second-round selection David Bell. Potential late round draft picks/free agents include linebacker Jaylan Alexander and running back Zander Horvath.

Basketball notes

Not since the 1987-88 Big Ten championship team went 26-2 has a Purdue team had a better record after 28 games than the current Boilermakers at 24-4.

Purdue has had 24-4 records or better five times in school history and in three of those seasons (1988, 1994, 1996) the Boilermakers earned a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament. Robbie Hummel's torn ACL cost Purdue a shot at a top seed in 2010 and a crushing loss at Michigan in 1987 handed the No. 1 seed and a favorable tourney start in Indianapolis to eventual national champion Indiana. ...

Jaden Ivey's 15 of 18 day at the free throw line against Rutgers were career highs. The 15 made free throws were the most for a Boilermaker since Willie Deane made 17 against Ohio State on Jan. 29, 2003. ...

If you're looking for trends to measure potential Purdue success the rest of the regular season and in the Big Ten/NCAA tournaments, the Boilermakers are 6-0 on Sundays and 23-1 on all days other than Thursday (1-3). ...

Trivia question: Against which Big Ten team does Purdue hold the most series victories? If you answered Northwestern, give yourself a gold star. The Boilermakers own 134 victories over the Wildcats as well as an 11-game winning streak against Northwestern.

Kenny Thompson is the former sports editor for the Lafayette Journal & Courier and an award-winning journalist. He has covered Purdue athletics for many years.



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