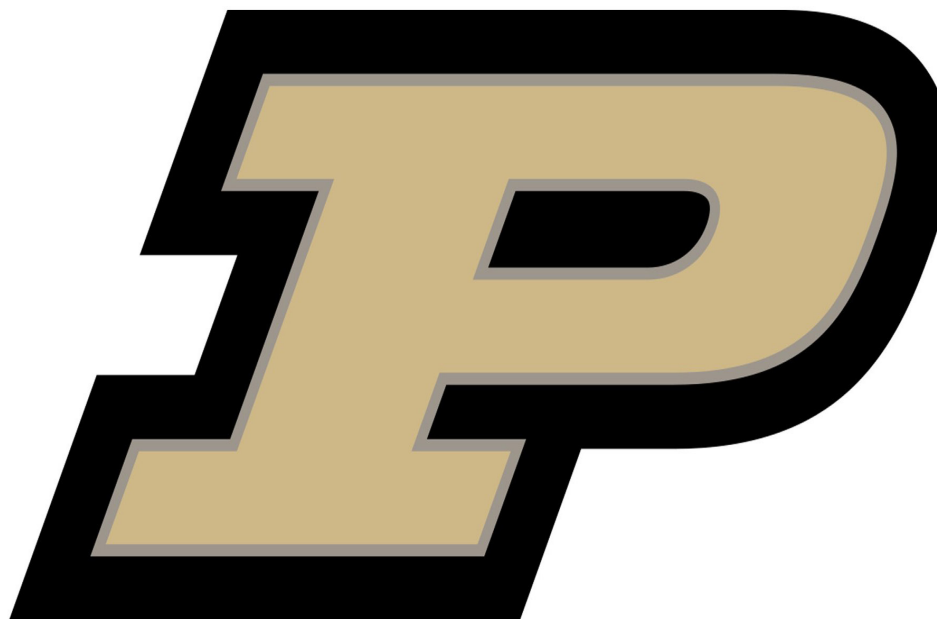


Talking Purdue's Track Record And Roots with Kenny Thompson





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Looking Back at Purdue's Track Record Against Top 10 Opponents

In the 56-year history of Mackey Arena, last Thursday night's 83-78 victory by top-ranked Purdue against No. 9 Illinois was only the 10th time the Big Ten's loudest arena has hosted a matchup between two Top 10 teams.

Although the Boilermakers are 4-0 against Top 10 opponents this season, Illinois was the first to be played in West Lafayette. Victories against No. 7 Tennessee and No. 4 Marquette came at the Maui Invitational. Purdue regained the No. 1 ranking in December with a victory over then-top-ranked Arizona at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

Here's a look back at the previous nine Top 10 matchups at Mackey Arena.

Jan. 13, 1980: No. 5 Syracuse 66, No. 1 Purdue 61 – So desperate was Purdue for any national TV attention, it agreed to a game with the Orangemen 24 hours following a Big Ten home game against Michigan.

The Boilermakers defeated the Wolverines 68-61 and fans awaited the attention that always followed the NBC team of Dick Enberg, Billy Packer and Al McGuire. Long before ESPN's GameDay made celebrities of its personnel, Enberg-Packer-McGuire were must-see TV every week for college basketball fans.

NBC promoted the matchup of Purdue All-American Joe Barry Car-

roll against Syracuse's 6-11 Roosevelt Bouie. "Bouie has a reputation as a great defensive center, and Joe Barry is the defending Big Ten scoring leader," Purdue coach Lee Rose said. "It should be a monumental matchup."

Carroll won the head-to-head matchup, putting up 28 points, 10 rebounds and four blocked shots. But the other half of the "Louie and Bouie Show," forward Louie Orr, had 13 points and 10 rebounds to help Syracuse overcome a 39-30 halftime deficit.

Jan. 19, 1987: No. 1 Iowa 70, No. 5 Purdue 67 – Once again, the Boilermakers agreed to play on back-to-back days to get on national TV. Only this time, the national TV game (ABC) was the first matchup, an 88-73 victory against reigning national champion Louisville.

"We wanted to play on national TV, and we got our wish," Purdue guard Troy Lewis said after the Louisville game. "But we also had to sacrifice something, playing two nights in a row against very good teams."

The Hawkeyes withstood a pair of Lewis 3-point shots in the final six seconds, part of a miserable 4 of 17 shooting for Purdue behind the arc. The Boilermakers misfired all night, shooting 39 percent overall.

Jan. 22, 1987: No. 5 Purdue 87, No. 10 Illinois 86 (OT) – Just three days later, fans witnessed one of the strangest endings to a Boilermaker game.

Purdue forward Doug Lee sent the game into overtime with his buzz-

er-beating 3-pointer. With the game tied at 86, Illinois' Doug Altenberger was called for traveling near the Purdue basket with three seconds left.

Kip Jones, a 48 percent free throw shooter, was fouled with no time on the clock. The first free throw hung on the rim before falling off but the second try was good. The Purdue bench mobbed Jones on the court, thinking the game was over.

However, the buzzer had not gone off so the officials called a technical foul on Purdue. Altenberger, a 78 percent free throw shooter, missed the chance to force a second overtime. The Fighting Illini's Stephen Bardo was short on a desperation shot as the buzzer sounded.

"People, if they want their money back on this one, they're sick," Purdue coach Gene Keady said afterward. "We played our hearts out."

Feb. 26, 1987: No. 6 Purdue 75, No. 3 Indiana 64 – The Boilermakers broke out their gold uniforms for the second time that season (The win over Louisville was the first) and with support from several members of the 1984 Big Ten championship team took a giant step toward Keady's second conference crown.

Jim Rowinski, Steve Reid, Curt Clawson, Mark Atkinson, Ricky Hall and Greg Eifert saw a Purdue team earn its sixth consecutive victory. More inspiration came from Indiana center Dean Garrett, who told the media early in the week that the Hoosiers wanted to win more than the Boilermakers.

Garrett fouled out with 5:19 to play, having contributed just two points and four rebounds.

Troy Lewis' 18 points led four Purdue players in double figures.

March 5, 1988: No. 2 Purdue 80, No. 10 Michigan 67 – The Boilermakers clinched their first outright Big Ten championship since 1969 with Melvin McCants scoring a career-high 24 points to go with 10 rebounds.

March 4, 1990: No. 9 Purdue 79, No. 8 Michigan 77 – Jimmy Oliver said he had never made a game-winning shot until his off-balance jumper with three seconds left delivered the Boilermakers past the Wolverines.

It was a memorable send-off for Purdue seniors Stephen Scheffler, Ryan Berning and Tony Jones. Scheffler had 26 points, Berning put up career highs of 19 points and 10 rebounds while Jones compiled 13 points, nine assists and six rebounds.

Jan. 7, 1993: No. 3 Michigan 80, No. 9 Purdue 70 – The healthy members of the Wolverines' "Fab Five" were too much for the Boilermakers.

Chris Webber's 22 points and 14 rebounds helped Michigan take control in the first half. Current Michigan coach Juwan Howard added 18 points, while Jalen Rose and Jimmy King each scored 12. A separated shoulder kept Ray Jackson on the bench.

Glenn Robinson's 30 points paced the Boilermakers.

Purdue athletic officials gave out 320 media passes to writers, broadcasters and photographers. Notable publications covering the game included Sports Illustrated, the Minneapolis Star-Tribune, Louisville Courier-Journal and both the Chicago Tribune and Sun-Times.

Dec. 2, 2008: No. 4 Duke 76, No. 9 Purdue 60 – The Blue Devils' defense shut down E'Twaun Moore, Robbie Hummel and Keaton Grant on the way to building a 36-28 halftime lead.

Moore didn't score until 10:45 remained in the game and finished with 10 points. Hummel led Purdue with 15 but Grant was held to six points on 1 of 9 shooting. Duke outrebounded Purdue 49-29.

Jan. 1, 2010: No. 4 Purdue 77, No. 6 West Virginia 62 – The Boilermakers looked like a Final Four contender, making their first seven shots of the second half to expand a five-point lead

to 16.

JaJuan Johnson had 25 points and 10 rebounds for Purdue, which improved to 13-0. Robbie Hummel scored 18 on 7 of 8 shooting, and E'Twaun Moore put up 15.

IU - Purdue Roots Run Deep

Many generations of Purdue and Indiana basketball fans have come and gone since the last time the Boilermakers handed the Hoosiers a more lopsided loss in Bloomington than last week's 87-66 victory.

Almost 90 years to the day - January 13, 1934 - Purdue embarrassed Indiana 47-13 to improve to 43-8 in the series during the 20th century.

College basketball was a different game then. Future Purdue head coach Ray Eddy led all scorers with 10 points.

Naismith Hall of Fame coach Ward "Piggy" Lambert was still at the peak of his abilities just two years removed from John Wooden leading the Boilermakers to a Helms Foundation national championship. His Indiana counterpart, Everett Dean, was also a Hall of Fame coach who would guide Stanford to the 1942 NCAA championship.

But Dean couldn't shoot the ball for his Hoosiers, who were a pitiful 3 of 44 from the field. Purdue took advantage and like their 2024 peers dominated the first half to take a 22-5 lead into the break.

It probably didn't escape Lambert's attention that one of the Indianapolis newspapers declared the day before the game that Purdue had no business on the same floor as Indiana. A Bloomington columnist agreed, stating that Indiana's starting five outclassed the Purdue lineup of Eddy, Norm Cottom, Dutch Fehring, Emmett Lowery and Ed Shaver.

Cottom would go on to lead the Big Ten in scoring in 1934 and was a consensus All-American. Eddy and Lowery would join Cottom on the All-Big Ten team. Fehring was one of the greatest

athletes in Purdue history, winning nine total letters in football, basketball and baseball. Shaver was a two-time All-Big Ten guard and was selected to Chuck Taylor's All-American team in 1935.

The Bloomington columnist wasn't totally off base. Playing his second-best sport, center Vern Huffman was an All-American. Huffman would win the Chicago Tribune's Silver Football in 1936 as the Big Ten's most valuable player.

Journal and Courier sports editor Gordon Graham added salt to the Indiana wounds in his post-game column.

"Go to Purdue and get better. Go to Indiana and get worse," Graham declared. "That has been a common saying over the state for some years and it seems truer than ever at the present time."

Purdue (17-3, 10-2 Big Ten) would go on to win the Big Ten championship by two games over Wisconsin and Northwestern. Indiana would go 13-7 and tie Iowa for fifth place at 6-6.

Fast forward to the 21st century, current Purdue head coach Matt Painter (216) now ranks behind Lambert (228), mentor Gene Keady (265), Michigan State's Tom Izzo (336) and Indiana's Bob Knight (354) with 214 victories in Big Ten games only.

Other milestones

Zach Edey is nine points and seven blocked shots away from joining college basketball legends David Robinson and Patrick Ewing as the only players in NCAA history with 2,000 points, 1,000 rebounds and 200 blocked shots while shooting at least 60 percent from the field.

Edey is one double-double away from matching Joe Barry Carroll (53) for second place on the Purdue career list. Terry Dischinger's record 54 double-doubles, recorded in three seasons, could fall in the next two weeks.

Edey's streak of scoring double figures in 71 consecutive games is one behind Rick Mount, who scored at least 10 points in all 72 games of his Purdue career.

Thieneman honored

The Football Writers Association of America selected Purdue safety Dillon Thieneman the Defensive Freshman Player of the Year.

The Westfield graduate is the first Big Ten player to win the writers' national freshman of the year award. Thieneman earlier was selected Big Ten Freshman of the Year, the seventh Boilermaker so honored (Brian Fox, 1988; Eric Hunter, 1989; Stuart Schweigert, 2000; Rondale Moore, 2018; and David Bell, 2019.)

Thieneman ranked third nationally with six interceptions and 74 solo tackles. Both statistics are also Purdue freshman records.

A Top 10 class

Softening the blow of losing Big Ten sacks leader Nic Scourton to a big payday at Texas A&M, Purdue football's January class of 14 transfers owns a consensus Top 10 ranking.

Rivals.com rates the newest Boilermakers seventh, while 247Sports ranks Purdue's class eight. The Boilermakers are 10th in ESPN's rankings.

"We are always looking at ways to improve our team," second-year Purdue coach Ryan Walters said in a statement. "I'm proud of the work our staff put in to assemble a group of guys that can potentially make an immediate impact on the field."

Notable transfers include former Illinois running back Reggie Love III and offensive linemen Joshua Sales Jr. (Indiana), Corey Stewart (Ball State), Joey Tanona (Notre Dame) and DJ Wingfield (New Mexico).

Love led the Fighting Illini in carries (116), rushing yards (567), rushing yards per game (70.9) and rushing touchdowns (4) this past season. Stewart earned first-team All-Mid-American Conference honors in 2023. Tanona was ranked the No. 10 offensive tackle in the portal and is making a comeback after an accident forced him to take a medical redshirt at Notre Dame.

Former Georgia cornerback Nyland Green is the No. 7-ranked transfer and highest ranked cornerback in the transfer portal. Three other Bulldogs are making the move from the SEC to the

Big Ten: outside linebacker CJ Madden and wide receivers C.J. Smith and De'Nylon Morrisette.

Transfer report card

First-year Purdue quarterback Hudson Card earned a C-plus from ESPN.com writer Adam Rittenberg, who assigned grades to the top 50 QBs in the 2023 transfer class.

Card battled injuries but still managed to pass for 2,387 yards and 15 touchdowns. He added five rushing scores while netting 203 yards on the ground.

"Card occasionally displayed why Purdue is so excited about him, especially in the team's three Big Ten wins over Illinois, Minnesota and Indiana," Rittenberg writes. "He combined for eight passing touchdowns, two rushing touchdowns and looked poised in the pocket. Consistency is the next step for Card, who had tough midseason stretches with both interceptions and accuracy, as he completed only 41 of 92 passes during a stretch against Ohio State, Nebraska and Michigan. Card eclipsed 200 passing yards in his other eight games, though, and showed in the final two contests how effective he can be as a dual-threat Air Raid quarterback, piling up 526 pass yards, 129 rush yards and eight total touchdowns (6 pass, 2 rush).

Indiana quarterback Tayven Jackson, who arrived in Bloomington from Tennessee, barely avoided a failing grade with a D-minus.

"Jackson didn't play much in the second half of the season, as Indiana turned to Brendan Sorsby to lead the offense," Rittenberg writes. "Jackson had by far his best performance in a near-upset of ACC runner-up Louisville, as he had 299 pass yards with a touchdown and an interception. Jackson had no touchdown passes and three interceptions in losses to Maryland and Michigan to begin Big Ten play. Sorsby took over the starting role for Indiana's final six games."

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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