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TODAY'S VERSE

Isaiah 55:12 For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Meet Mariah



Mariah is an adorable 1 year old female tortoiseshell domestic shorthair cat available for adoption from The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County (AWL) since 6/6/24. Mariah is affectionate, snuggly, and loves to play! Mariah is ready to find her forever home! AWL is open Monday - Friday from 12:15p-5p and Saturday's from 9:30a-3p. Come say hi, snuggle cats, walk dogs, or lend a helping hand!

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Boomer Bits

Ask Rusty – Older Veteran Asks about Special Social Security Credit



ASK Rusty
Social Security Advisor

Social Security Matters

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

Dear Rusty:

I served in the U S Army from January 1958 to Feb 1961. What increase should I receive for those years and who do I call and at what phone number?

Signed: Proud Veteran

Dear Proud Veteran:

First, thank you for your military service! I expect you are referring to the "special extra credits for military service" which are available to some who served in in the US Military in earlier years. It is important to note that these "extra credits" take the form of an adjustment to your military pay record while serving and are not an incremental amount added to your monthly Social Security benefit because you served.

Military pay has been subject to deductions for Social Security since 1957. Thus, while serving

between 1958 and 1961 you paid SS tax on your military earnings. But, for purposes of determining your Social Security benefit, your military earnings record would be increased by \$300 for each quarter you served on active duty, up to a maximum of \$1,200 increase per year of service. That means for 1958 - 1960, when calculating your SS benefit, \$1,200 would be added to your military earnings record for each year you served. FYI, for those who served after 1967, this adjustment was automatically made by Social Security. But for service years prior to 1967 (as in your case) you would need to inform Social Security of your service when you claimed SS and provide a copy of your military form DD-214 (your discharge papers). SS

➡ See RUSTY Page A3

What Seniors Need to Know About Changes to Medicare Part D

By Dr. Kenneth Thorpe

Congress recently made a number of changes to Medicare's "Part D" prescription drug benefit. The changes were part of President Biden's signature legislation, the Inflation Reduction Act. The legislation was intended to make it easier for seniors to afford their medicines.

Some of the changes will indeed help seniors. But other changes could inadvertently raise seniors'

➡ See SENIORS Page A3

Older Adults Can Prevent Slips, Trips and Falls With These Doctors' Tips

(StatePoint) Among older Americans, falls are the number one cause of injuries and death from injury, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Not only are seniors more at risk for falls, but when they do fall, they are at a greater risk for injuries, hospitalization and complications. Medical

➡ See SLIPS Page A3

Gail Pebworth Makes Another Hall of Fame



Gail Pebworth

Former Wabash College and Sugar Creek Swim Club Coach Gail Pebworth is adding another honor to a long, long list of accolades.

Pebworth is being inducted into the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America Division III Hall of Fame Class of 2025. She is just one of eight coaches being inducted this year.

"Congratulations to the Division III Hall of Fame Class of 2025! This Hall of Fame celebrates the extraordinary careers of swimmers, divers, and coaches who have left a lasting legacy in Division III collegiate swimming and diving," Samantha Barany, Executive Director of the CSCAA, said. "These inductees are being celebrated not only for their athletic excellence but also for their enduring contributions to the sport, their teams and their institutions."

During her 28-year tenure at Wabash College, Pebworth was the epitome of success. Her swim teams won nearly 90 percent of their dual meets as she guided the Little Giants to a 775-112 record. Under her leadership, Wabash collected six Conference titles and five NCAA top-20 finishes. She coached 48 All-Americans, and four of her Swimmers and Divers earned NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships; and two were Rhodes Scholar finalists.

Pebworth's teams earned CSCAA All-Academic honors 23 consecutive semesters, and in 1989, her team was the Academic All-America Team of the Year. She was tabbed as the Indiana Swimming Coach of the Year twice and was selected as one of Indiana's "Trailblazing Women" in 1989. Gail was inducted into the Wabash College Hall of Fame in 2000.

Prior to that, she was the very successful coach for Sugar Creek Swim Club and her teams produced multiple state champions.

➡ See GAIL Page A3

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

If you want to get more exercise, consider getting a dog and walk it regularly.

Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Paper and online at www.thepaper24-7.com



TODAY'S QUOTE

"Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have not; remember that what you now have was once among the things you only hoped for." Epicurus

TODAY'S JOKE

Forgive us, but we're in the spirit of Christmas so we're starting the Yule jokes a little early this year (hey, with all the strife in the world, can't we all use some holiday cheer!)

**Knock knock!
Who's there?
Hanna
Hanna who?
Hanna partridge in a pear tree!**

MONTGOMERY MINUTE

The Montgomery County United Way annual fund drive is under way. Making a gift to United Way in Montgomery County is an investment in our community. Each year, hundreds of individuals across Montgomery County make gifts to support life-changing work in education, income and health. Your gift, regardless of size, makes a difference. Together, we can provide better opportunities for all our friends and neighbors. If you would like to donate online, just go to <https://uw.lafayette.org/montgomery/donate-now/>

The Paper appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank DALE PETRIE for subscribing!



THREE THINGS You Should Know

- This week has been Global Entrepreneurship Week in Indiana. The IEDC released its third edition of Entrepreneurship Indiana. This entrepreneurial yearbook, published in partnership with PATTERN, honors the state's entrepreneurial ecosystem and aims to inspire future founders and innovators. Indiana is committed to investing in the growth and success of the state's entrepreneurial ecosystem, which continues to inspire entrepreneurs, fuel new innovations, create quality jobs for Hoosiers and attract record levels of capital investment.
- The Indiana Commission on Judicial Qualifications has filed disciplinary charges against Putnam Superior Court Judge Charles D. Bridges. The commission alleges Judge Bridges demonstrated an inability to perform judicial and administrative duties competently, diligently, promptly and without bias or prejudice. The commission charges two counts of misconduct. In one count, the commission alleges Judge Bridges violated the Code of Judicial Conduct, which requires the judge to act without bias or prejudice and to refrain from harassment based upon gender. In the remaining count, the commission charges that Judge Bridges violated the Code of Judicial Conduct and Rules of Trial Procedure by ruling on motions before allowing the opposing party to respond by deadlines and also by failing to rule on other motions. The Supreme Court has final authority to determine what, if any, judicial misconduct occurred.
- Indiana currently ranks 40 out of 50 states with an alarming 37.7 percent of Hoosiers considered obese. And type 2 diabetes and obesity are closely related conditions. So much so that the new medical term "diabesity" has been used to describe what's becoming a worldwide epidemic which impacts every state in the U.S.

OBITUARY

Kathleen Sanders

November 17, 1949 - November 18, 2024

Kathleen "Kathy" (Payne) Sanders, age 75 of Waynetown, passed away on Monday, November 18, 2024 at IU Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. She was born in Danville, IL on November 17, 1949 to the late George & Nina (Young) Payne.



Kathy graduated from Covington High School. She worked at St Claire Hospital in Crawfordsville in the laundry room for many years. She enjoyed knitting and crocheting, but most of all she loved spending time with her family, especially her grandkids.

On February 11, 2003 she married the love of her life, Tom Sanders, who survives. She is also survived by her three children, Ron (Robin) Crowder of North Carolina, Bill Crowder of Crawfordsville and Rhonda Niece of Crawfordsville, four grandchildren, Jessica (Micah) Crumpler, David (Tiffani) Lewis, Albreanna (Kurtis) Bussell and Cierra (Rick) Hockett; nine great grandchildren, Kaylee, Spencer, Asher, Mallorie, Oscar, Freyja, Isabella, Ashlyne, and Maddison; and two brothers, Benny (Jackie) Payne and Eric (Libby) Payne.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, John Payne; a sister, Thelma McManomy; and a granddaughter, Ashley Crowder.

Visitation will be at Sanders Funeral Care, 202 Bratton Road, in Waynetown on Saturday, November 23, 2024 from 11:00 am till the time of the funeral service at 1:00 pm with Pastor Dan Mathews officiating. Burial will follow at Waynetown Masonic Cemetery. Share memories and condolences online at www.SandersFuneralCare.com.

Baird Supports VA Same-Day Scheduling



Congressman Jim Baird

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Jim Baird (IN-04) released the following statement after voting in favor of the *Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act*. The legislation includes a provision to require the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to develop a plan to ensure veterans who call the VA for a health care appointment are scheduled for an appointment before they hang up.

As an Army combat veteran who served in the Vietnam War, I am no stranger to the roadblocks veterans face when attempting to receive timely

attention and treatment," Baird said. "The VA made a promise to deliver health care to our veterans when they return home from their service. Our service members should never be denied health care because of bureaucratic inefficiency, but that is the unfortunate reality our veterans face. I am encouraged to see that the spirit of my bill, the VA Same-Day Scheduling Act, was included in this package. My bill ensures that any veteran who makes a phone call to the VA requesting care can schedule their appointment during that phone call, and this package requires a plan to get there. Removing red tape and delivering timely care to veterans is one of my top priorities in Congress. I was proud to vote for this package and see it pass the U.S. House to ensure the VA finally delivers on its promise to provide quality health care for our brave men and women in uniform."

Thankful for Young Leaders of Tomorrow



ABBY MORGAN
Guest Columnist

A new 4-H year is upon us and 4-H events and activities are ramping up! Thank you to all of those community members that came out for our annual Spooky Science event in October. This is an event that we look forward to providing to our community each year. This event would not have been possible without our 4-H volunteers and Junior Leaders!

Junior Leaders is a unique leadership opportunity for our 4-H youth currently in grades 7-12. These 4-H members not only participate in fun activities but also participate in community service projects and serve as positive role models and leaders to their 4-H peers. This group has experienced more and more engagement over the last few years and it is exciting to see.

At the October Call-Out meeting, there were 38 members present as they enjoyed meeting new friends, ice cream sundaes, and painting pumpkins. At the November meeting, there were 32 members present. At this meeting, the group participated in an activity that taught the importance of communication and providing crucial details, led by one of the Indiana

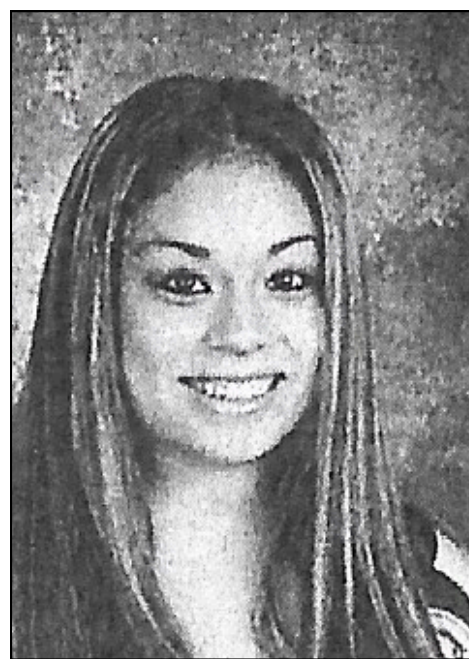
4-H Ambassadors.

Not only has the Junior Leader program grown, but there has been an increase in engagement in state trips and activities. For the last 2 years we have been fortunate to have a Montgomery County 4-Her selected to serve as an Indiana 4-H Ambassador. Each year around 50 youth across the state apply but they typically take 10 or less youth. Kylee Reeves served as an Indiana 4-H Ambassador in 2023-2024 and Lennon Woods is currently serving. Furthermore, last year we had 9 camp counselors, 4 youth attend 4-H Academy and 11 youth attend 4-H Round Up.

I am so thankful for our 4-H youth that step out of their comfort zone to try something new, whether that is join Junior Leaders or participate in one of our many state trips. All of these experiences help them build their life skills and shape them into a strong leader that will make positive impact in their community. If you have a youth that is interested in joining 4-H or learning more about 4-H, please contact me (Abby Morgan) at the Extension office at (765) 364-6363 or e-mail asweet@purdue.edu.

Abby Morgan is the 4-H Youth Development Educator for Purdue Extension - Montgomery County.

Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia

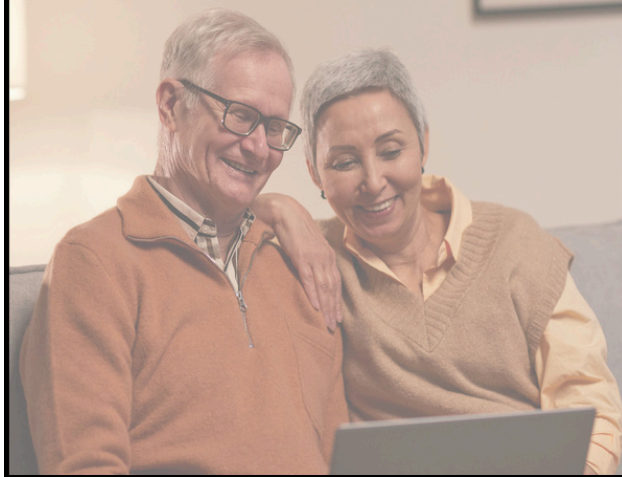


Do You Recognize This 2005 North Montgomery 10th grade student?

HINT:
You might see her when you visit a local restaurant.

Answer on Page A3

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↓ SLIPS

From Page A1

experts say that for people of all ages, a ground-up approach to fall prevention starts with healthy feet.

“Painful foot conditions, such as osteoarthritis, calluses, bunions, hammertoes and diabetes complications, can make it difficult to maintain balance and coordination when walking or standing,” says Bryn J. Laubacher, DPM, FACFAS, a board-certified foot and ankle surgeon and Fellow Member of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ACFAS). “Compounding the issue is that when you are suffering from a painful foot condition, it can be more difficult to engage in the strength and balance exercises that ultimately reduce fall risk.”

Experts say that eliminating foot pain can lessen one’s chances of experiencing a life-altering fall. That’s why the foot and ankle surgeons of ACFAS offer these steps for keeping feet and ankles strong and healthy:

Don’t ignore pain: Foot pain is not just a normal consequence of aging, so don’t ignore aching and suffering or resign yourself to it. You likely have a treatable condition. See a foot and ankle surgeon when you experience pain for proper diagnosis and treatment.

Examine your feet: Regularly inspect your feet. If you notice any bumps, lumps or other changes, make an appointment with your foot and ankle surgeon for evaluation.

Exercise: Simple stretching exercises can help you maintain

strength and mobility in your feet and ankles, as well as provide pain relief. Talk to your physician about appropriate exercises for you.

Protect: Wear cushioned insoles or any special footwear you are prescribed, along with comfortable, well-fitting and supportive shoes, every day – even around the house.

Consider advanced options: Know that at times, surgery is the most appropriate treatment for a given condition. Fortunately, many surgical techniques today can be performed on an outpatient basis. There are also more options than ever before.

According to Dr. Laubacher, new medical technologies and ground-breaking surgical interventions, such as bioengineered scaffolding for reconstructive surgery, minimally invasive techniques and stem cell regeneration, are helping patients restore functionality and get back to normal faster than ever before, For more ways to keep feet and ankles healthy and prevent falls, and to find a foot and ankle surgeon near you, visit FootHealthFacts.org, the ACFAS patient education website. Foot and ankle surgeons are experts in providing both conservative care as well as surgical approaches to foot and ankle healthcare.

“Remember, just one fall can have a major impact on a person’s independence and quality of life. That’s why it’s so important to prevent falls by taking care of your feet and ankles,” says Dr. Laubacher.

↓ SENIORS

From Page A1

costs, reduce their access to medicines, and stifle the development of new treatments.

With open enrollment season just around the corner -- it'll run from October 15 to December 7 this year -- every senior should know about the Inflation Reduction Act and how it has impacted Medicare.

First, the good news. Seniors using insulin now have their costs capped at \$35 each month. This has already made a huge difference for those living with diabetes.

Starting next year, seniors' yearly out-of-pocket Part D drug costs will be capped at \$2,000. Seniors will also have the option to spread these costs out over the entire year through a new program called the "Medicare Prescription Payment Plan." Both of these changes can help seniors who rely on multiple brand-name medicines and those on fixed incomes.

But right now, very few enrollees are aware of this new program. Medicare could do more to alert seniors to this new feature, especially since seniors interested in this benefit will need to opt in. During open enrollment season, seniors should consider contacting their Part D insurers if they'd benefit from spreading out their pharmacy costs.

Because of the Inflation Reduction Act, Medicare can now set prices on some covered drugs for the first time

ever. Unfortunately, this policy has had some unintended effects on the development of new medicines. Thus far, it has already resulted in the discontinuation of at least 36 research programs and 22 experimental drugs.

The Inflation Reduction Act has also resulted in higher premiums for seniors. This year, standalone Part D plans were on track to cost 21% more than they did last year, on average. As a result, many seniors switched to lower cost options. The number of plans available has also dropped, down about 25% since 2020.

Because of the law, many insurers have also shifted some medications to "non-preferred" or "specialty" tiers that require higher out-of-pocket costs, restricting beneficiaries' access to previously covered drugs. Some insurers have also created rules that make it harder to get the drugs your doctor recommends, like making patients first try cheaper options.

It is important that seniors learn about these changes -- and the impact they're having on their access to medicines.

Kenneth E. Thorpe is chairman of the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University. He is chairman of the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease.

Franciscan Hosting Free AFib Webinar

Franciscan Health is hosting a free, live webinar aimed at helping patients and their caregivers learn more about atrial fibrillation, commonly known as AFib.

The heart is the center of the body’s electrical activity. When the heart’s electrical system malfunctions, it may signal AFib. Arrhythmias like AFib can cause lightheadedness or the feeling of butterflies in the chest and can increase the risk of stroke.

Philip George, MD, a Franciscan Physician

Network electrophysiologist practicing at Franciscan Health Indiana Heart Physicians in Indianapolis, will lead the webinar. Dr. George will help participants learn more about AFib including common symptoms, when to see a specialist, treatment options and lifestyle changes that can help prevent it.

The one-hour webinar is scheduled to take place at 7 p.m. on Dec. 3. The webinar is free, but registration is required. Registration is available online at fran.care/afibwebinar.

↓ RUSTY

From Page A1

would then make the appropriate adjustment to your military earnings record prior to calculating your benefit amount. And, for clarity, additional credits for military service are not available to those who served after 2001.

A key point to understand is that this adjustment to your military pay may – or may not – affect the amount of your Social Security benefit. Social Security determines your benefit amount based on your highest earning 35 years over your entire lifetime (adjusted for inflation). If, after you served in the military, you had at least 35 years of civilian employment where you earned more than your military pay, it is probable that your military pay is not included when calculating your Social Security benefit. If that is the case, it is likely that the “special extra credits for military service” would have no effect on your Social Security payment. If, however, your military pay (including those special extra credits) for any year is more than you earned in

civilian life, then you can contact Social Security (1.800.772.1213), provide them with a copy of your DD-214, and ask that they recalculate your Social Security benefit to include the extra credits for your years of military service.

Again, thank you for your service to our country, and please do not hesitate to contact us again if you have any further questions. FYI, you may also find the “For Veterans” section of our AMAC Foundation website interesting (www.amacfoundation.org)

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. Russell Gloor is the, National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

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↓ GAIL

From Page A1

In 2015 She was honored with the Frank O’Bannon Sunshine Award from the Hoosier State Press Association, honoring

groups or individuals who demonstrated outstanding efforts to protect and enhance open government in Indiana.

Butch Dale’s Flashback Trivia

**Answer:
Paloma Bravo
(of Rancho Bravo)**

Volunteers for Mental Health Step Up But Need Your Help



Photos courtesy Volunteers for Mental Health

Volunteers for Mental Health are hoping to help 318 adults in the community this year. Their efforts involve the local schools, Party Night and local organizations. Won't you step up to help, too, please?

In the season of giving thanks, one's mind can often reflect on all the gifts they have been given. But hasn't it also been long said, "It is better to give than receive"? As we segue into the Christmas season, many minds turn to giving as a way of reflecting their thanks.

Nowhere is this more true than Volunteers for Mental Health in Montgomery County, an all-volunteer United Way partner agency whose members focus on making wishes come true for over 300 adults in need in the Montgomery County community each year.

Having kicked it off in October, VMHMC is bringing its annual collection drive to conclusion primarily during Thanksgiving week to allow time for matching donations to wish lists from clients at 12 facilities including ASI, Caregivers, Pam's Promise, Through the Gate, Trinity Life Ministry as well as local nursing homes and to all Veterans residing in long-term care.

Donation of unwrapped clothing and personal items may continue to take place at the following locations through Wednesday: Chase Bank, Gregg's Corner Market, all HHSB

branches, Quest for Balance Wellness, Runnings and Tri County Bank branches.

Volunteers for Mental Health will be located at Fusion 54 during Downtown Party Night, providing games and activities for children. Donations may also be dropped off at that time. A container will continue to be in place at Fusion 54, 101 W Main St, Crawfordsville, through Dec. 5 for those who miss their local locations.

Area churches have also been supportive of the program. These congregations make a focused effort to support the annual drive: Alamo Christian Church, CrossWay Covenant Church in New Market, First Christian Church of Crawfordsville, New Hope Chapel of Wingate, St. John's Episcopal Church, Woodland Heights Christian Church and Youngs Chapel Christian Church.

Individuals who wish to let VMHMC do the shopping may send monetary donations to VMHMC, Post Office Box 491, Crawfordsville, IN 47933. All donations will receive a 501c3 acknowledgement letter for tax deduction purposes.

Local youths give to others by involving themselves in the program through meaningful volunteer efforts. Southmont Jr-Sr High School FCCLA members under the direction of Jessica Barnhart, have helped construct toiletry kits and fulfill wish lists. Libby Allen, Student Council sponsor at North Montgomery, coordinates student volunteers from her group and many other service-oriented student groups as they wrap over 1,000 gifts each year. Mishele Enlow's Boy Scout Troops 364 and 247 often assist as well. Ellen Ball, chairperson of the Gift Lift noted, "Working with the Gift Lift gives my life a perspective."

"The joy of focusing upon others does wonders for my own mental health," observed another VMHMC board member. Citing scientific studies, the British Mental Health Foundation concurs, "Evidence shows that helping others can also benefit our own mental health and wellbeing. For example, it can reduce stress as well as improve mood, self-esteem and happiness."

The new way of giving thanks is through giving to others!

Back in the Day with Butch Dale



What did families do in the evening during the times before we had television? Yes, they sat on their front porch and discussed anything and everything ... and watched the world go by. The photo above was taken in 1905.

FOR THE RECORD

For The Record is a public service and regular feature in The Paper of Montgomery County. It is designed to tell you what is scheduled to happen and what actually does happen in meetings paid for with your tax dollars. The Paper encourages all citizens to take an active role in being involved in local government.

NORTH MONTGOMERY SCHOOL BOARD

Nov. 25

Work Session 5:30 p.m.; Board Meeting 6 p.m.

1. Work Session
2. Discuss Corporation property and casualty insurance
3. Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance
4. Public comment
5. Consent agenda
 - a. Minutes
 - b. Minutes
 - c. Monthly claims
 - d. Personnel, extra-curricular, field trips, facilities usage, contributions, gifts, superintendent stipends
 - e. Other
 - f. Consent vote
6. Lester B. Sommer Elementary Spotlight
7. Honorary Board Member
8. Spotlight
9. Action items
 - a. Approve performance Stipend for School Counselors and Social Worker
10. Other
11. Adjournment

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Breaking Down Boilermaker Basketball After Win Streak Broken



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

It was just a matter of when Purdue basketball's amazing 39-game non-conference winning streak would end this season.

That it was Tuesday night at Marquette instead of last week against then-No. 2 Alabama came down to one statistic: turnovers. Just like last season's national runner-up, turnovers will likely be the cause of most Boilermaker defeats in 2024-25.

Purdue tied a school record low with three turnovers against Alabama, the highest-ranked non-conference opponent to come to Mackey Arena since the facility's dedication game against top-ranked UCLA in 1967. Purdue officials welcomed 23 NBA scouts representing 21 teams for the Alabama game, which an athletic department believed was the highest figure at a game in 30 years.

The 87-78 victory against the Crimson Tide marked the 25th consecutive win for Purdue in November. Tuesday's 76-58 loss at Marquette, aided by 15 turnovers accounting for 18 points, was the first non-conference regular season defeat since Dec. 8, 2020, at Miami, Fla. That was the freshman year for two future NBA lottery picks named Jaden Ivey and Zach Edey.

As amazing as that 39-game non-conference winning streak was, Purdue's stretch wasn't close to the NCAA record of 52 set by Syracuse from Dec. 17, 2008 to Dec. 17, 2012.

Junior point guard Braden Smith of Westfield surpassed Tony Jones (1987-90) and Everette Stephens (1985-88) for third place on Purdue's career assists list after handing out 10 against

Alabama. Smith (492) is now 80 assists behind second-place Brian Walker (572).

Smith also had 17 points and six rebounds while committing just one turnover. It seems just a matter of time that the 2022 Indiana Mr. Basketball will become the second Boilermaker in school history to record a triple-double, the other being All-American Joe Barry Carroll.

As Smith and fellow juniors Fletcher Loyer and Trey Kaufman-Renn go, so will the Boilermakers it seems. Entering the Marquette game, the trio combined to average 50.5 points and 15.3 assists per game. The last time Purdue had three players average at least 15 points a game? The ill-fated 2009-10 season with Robbie Hummel, JaJuan Johnson and E'Twaun Moore.

Kaufman-Renn scored a career-high 26 points to go with eight rebounds and four assists against Alabama. Loyer put up 17 points on just nine shots.

Kaufman-Renn (16), Loyer (13) and Smith (11) combined for 40 of Purdue's 58 points against Marquette.

With 7-4 freshman center Daniel Jacobsen out for the season with a freak broken tibia, the Boilermakers' ceiling will be determined by the continued growth of sophomores Myles Colvin and Cam Heide. Colvin has improved defensively and while going scoreless at Marquette, he did snare a career-high eight rebounds. Heide sank a pair of 3-pointers and finished with eight points.

Freshman guard C.J. Cox reminded some Purdue fans of Willie Deane and Carsen Edwards with his quick scoring ability against Alabama. Cox sank a trio of 3-pointers in 52

seconds during the second half to turn a two-point deficit into a seven-point Purdue lead.

But Cox and fellow freshman guard Gicarri Harris are still freshmen, as the loss to Marquette reminded us. Cox and Harris each were 0 of 4 shooting and did not score.

These stats don't lie Now that the home portion of the disastrous 2024 Purdue football season is in the books, let's look at why the Boilermakers went 1-5 inside Ross-Ade Stadium.

Three of those five losses came to No. 1 Oregon, No. 4 Penn State and No. 6 Notre Dame. Not surprising, but no one expected the Fighting Irish to hand Purdue the worst loss in school history, 66-7, before a CBS audience.

However, take away the 49-0 victory against Indiana State in the season opener, and Purdue was outscored 204-47 in Ross-Ade.

The Boilermakers are closing in on some all-time worst defensive statistics with two games remaining. Opponents are averaging just under 200 yards per game rushing, 246.6 yards passing and 37.8 points a game.

Putting this in perspective, Darrell Hazell's last as Purdue head coach in 2016, the Boilermakers allowed 38.2 points and 238.4 rushing yards (both school records for opponents) and 207.4 passing yards on the way to a 3-9 mark.

Sophomore safety Dillon Thieneman of Westfield, an All-American a year ago, once again has had to make too many tackles. His 83 total

tackles are 20 more than the next Big Ten defensive back. Thieneman's average of 5.6 solo tackles per game ranks seventh nationally and second in the Big Ten.

But more telling is his interception total: zero after recording six as a freshman. Purdue's defense has just four interceptions in 10 games, three by Kyndrich Breedlove.

There have been a few bright lights in the season that may cost second-year coach Ryan Walters his job. Transfer Keelan Crimmins is on pace for the second-best punting average (45.0) in school history. On his way to winning the 2001 Ray Guy Award, Travis Dorsch averaged 48.1 yards per punt.

Junior running back Devin Mockobee passed Leroy Keyes (2,094) for 10th place on Purdue's all-time rushing list. At 2,431 yards, Mockobee needs 69 to become just the eighth Boilermaker with 2,500 career rushing yards.

Speaking of Walters, footballscoop.com foresees Purdue making a change after Indiana thrashes the Boilermakers 73-0 in Bloomington. The site noted that in the history of the Purdue-Indiana series, the largest margin of victory was 68-0 by the Boilermakers in 1892.

Footballscoop.com predicts Marshall's Charles Huff to be the next Boilermaker head coach after leading the Thundering Herd to the Sun Belt championship.

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.

Juvenile Mentoring Program Yearly Banquet



Photos courtesy Youth Service Bureau

Jimmy and Harlan



Zachary and Alex



Dalila and Robbin

The Juvenile Mentoring Program of the Montgomery County Youth Service Bureau had a great time together at 2024 Match Recognition Banquet. The group enjoyed some time "along the boardwalk" together, with a caricaturist, cotton candy machine and amazing breaded tenderloins. This event is always so fun to bring everyone together for an extra special time to celebrate another great year of matches and adventures.

The JUMP program matches an adult volunteer or a married couple with a Montgomery County youth who has similar interests. The goal of the program is for the volunteer to be a positive role model, be a friend to the child, and provide support and a listening ear. A mentor also does fun activities with their mentee to allow the child to experience new things that they might not have been able to try otherwise. These activities don't have to be elaborate, most of our kids are happy to hang out and spend time with someone.

Reader Asks if Trump Voters Were Called Poor, Uneducated, Xenophobes?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR Dear Editor, The LWV's take on the Wabash exit survey was interesting. Their collective bottom line is simply that Trump voters are poor, uneducated and xenophobic. So, the LWV and Wabash College think that 75% of MoCo residents fit

impact on youth in our community, causing mentees to be more likely to succeed academically, become involved in their community, and go on to become mentors as adults.

The JUMP banquet is a yearly tradition but is just one activity that our mentors have enjoyed with their mentees this year. They have attended a bowling and laser tag party, put together drone kits, went to the movie theater, attended professional plays and musical productions, and watched professional basketball and baseball games, went to Malibu Jacks, and Dulls Tree Farm and there are many more adventures still planned with our matches.

The JUMP program is currently looking for volunteers to serve as mentors and youth in need of extra support who would like to participate as mentees. If you would like to learn more or have questions about becoming a mentor for the JUMP program we would love to talk with you, contact Sara@mcsyb.org or call 362-0694, ext. 102.

Ron Carmony
Indianapolis

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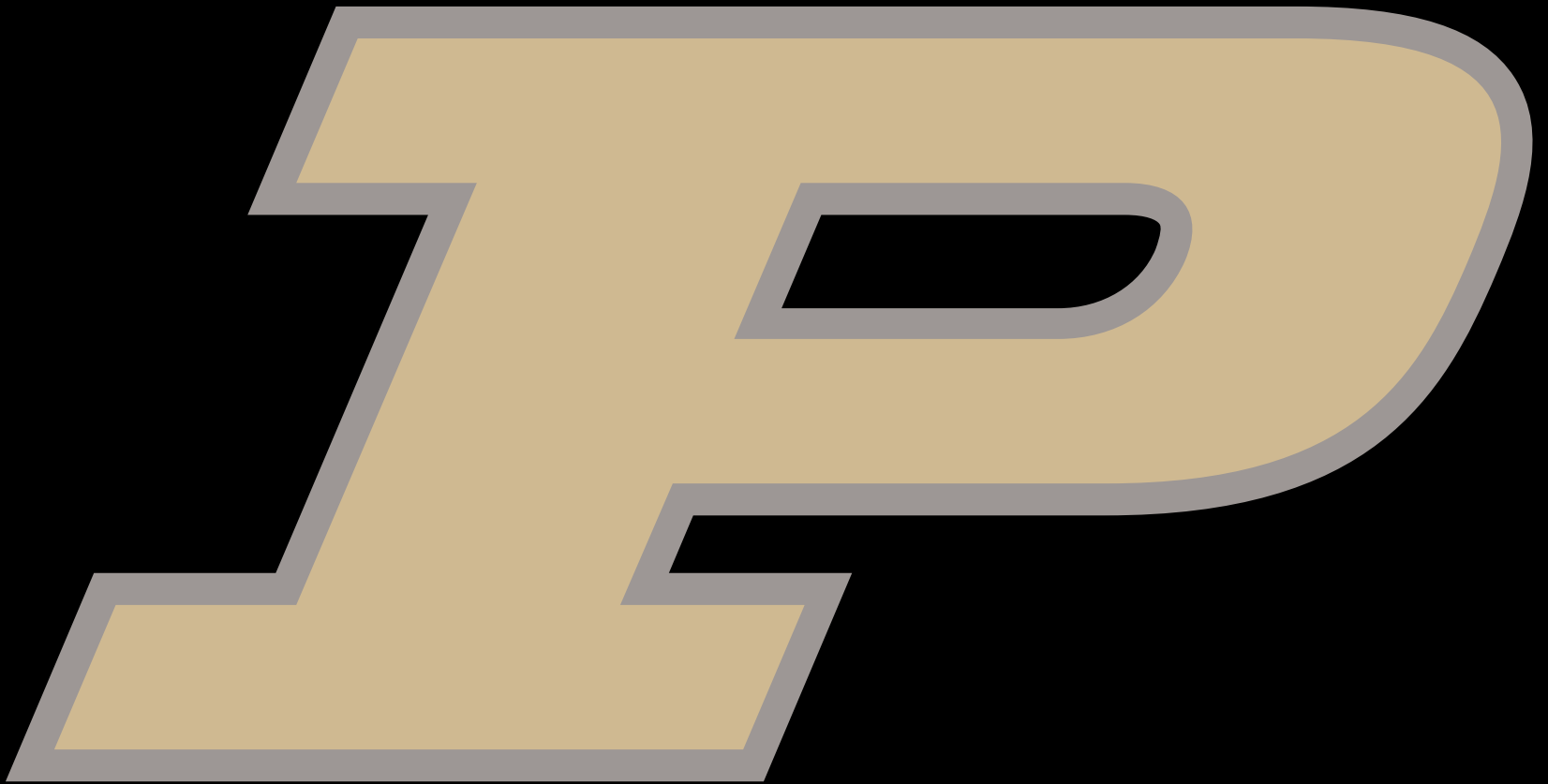
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The Paper of Montgomery County

November 2024



Ranking Big Ten (Plus Eight's) Hardwood Coaching Jobs From Top to Bottom



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

On the eve of the first Big Ten (plus eight) men's basketball season, let's rank the coaching jobs in the conference from best to

worst.

History plays a role in my rankings, as does recruiting area, coaching and NCAA tournament success.

Indiana

If this were 25 years ago, the Hoosiers would be the unquestioned best Big Ten program. But since Bob Knight was fired by university president Myles Brand in 2000, IU has gone through six head coaches counting Dan Dakich's seven-game stint after Kelvin Sampson was dismissed in 2008.

To put that in perspective, Purdue has had two head coaches since 1980.

The Hoosiers have so many advantages. Older fans remain loyal to Knight and passed along that passion to their children and grandchildren. Despite the best efforts of the Indiana High School Athletic Association to make sure every youth gets a trophy, the state remains fertile basketball soil.

Assembly Hall remains one of the Big Ten's, and the nation's, toughest places to play.

UCLA

I could almost write the same things about the Bruins, winners of 11 national championships and owners of at least 11 NCAA tournament success records.

As every basketball fan knows, UCLA has its own coaching icon in John Wooden. Wooden's 10 national championships remain the gold standard. But since Wooden's retirement after winning the 1975 national title, the Bruins

have gone through 11 coaches.

Jim Harrick was the only one of those 11 to win a national championship (1995) but lying about a recruiting violation cost him his job a year later. Larry Brown also exited after NCAA violations voided the 1980 tournament run to the title game.

For the others leading up to current coach Mick Cronin, not being John Wooden soon led to resignations or outright dismissals.

While passed by in prestige in recent years by schools like Duke and Connecticut, UCLA remains a destination school and can recruit nationally. It remains to be seen if the move to the Big Ten will benefit the Bruins.

Michigan

A strong recruiting base across the Midwest and a reputation for outstanding academics are two factors in the Wolverines' favor.

In my lifetime, the difference between the right coach (Johnny Orr, Steve Fisher, John Beilein) and the wrong coach (Brian Ellerbe, Tommy Amaker and most recently, Juwan Howard) makes the difference between an NCAA championship contender and a Big Ten also ran.

It says something about the Michigan job that new coach Dusty May chose the Wolverines over Louisville and other prominent vacancies when he chose to cash in on Florida Atlantic's 2023 run to the Final Four. Taking the Michigan job may have closed the door on the 2000 Indiana graduate returning to Bloomington in the foreseeable future.

Michigan State

Purdue isn't the only Big Ten school with long-term stability. Jud Heathcote and protégé Tom Izzo have been the faces of the Spartans program since 1976.

Each has a national championship built on the foundation of in-state recruits (Magic Johnson and Greg Kelson in 1979; Mateen Cleaves, Morris Peterson and Charlie Bell a.k.a. "The Flintstones" in 2000).

The winningest coach in Big Ten basketball history, Izzo has also built a reputation that his teams play their best basketball in March with eight Final Fours to his credit.

Ohio State

Football is king in Ohio, but basketball is the crown prince.

The legendary Jerry Lucas and John Havlicek delivered a national title to Columbus in 1960. That squad began a five-year streak of outright or shared Big Ten titles.

But the end of the Thad Matta era began a decline in Ohio State's basketball fortunes. Fans and Ohio State officials hope Jake Diebler can bring the school its first Big Ten title since 2012.

Purdue

Ask any casual Big Ten basketball fan which school is the league's winningest program. You could probably give them three guesses and most probably wouldn't answer Purdue.

From 1980 to last year's run to the NCAA championship game, Gene Keady and Matt Painter have combined for 11 of Purdue's Big Ten-best 26 championships, 959 victories and a winning percentage of .669. Keady is

in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and Painter will likely join him someday.

But perception is reality and Purdue is the only school among my top seven Big Ten jobs not to win an NCAA national championship. Its three best chances were blocked by two all-time great teams (1969 UCLA, 2024 Connecticut) and a cheater (Larry Brown and UCLA in 1980).

Since Bob Knight's angry exit from Indiana in 2000, Purdue has slowly eroded the Hoosiers' in-state recruiting dominance. Last season's NCAA runner-up had eight scholarship players from Indiana, including Mr. Basketball winners Braden Smith and Caleb Furst. The 2024-25 roster has seven native Hoosiers.

Mackey Arena is arguably the best basketball facility in the Big Ten and inarguably the loudest. If Painter can build off the school's first Final Four appearance in 44 years, perhaps Purdue could rise a couple of spots in these rankings.

Oregon

Nike co-founder Phil Knight was a year old when the Ducks won the first NCAA men's basketball championship in 1939. It just seems like Knight, the co-founder of Nike, has spent his life trying to buy title No. 2 for Oregon. Having a billionaire benefactor plus the cool factor of having colorful uniforms and basketball courts keeps Oregon among the higher profile schools.

The right coach makes a difference with so many programs, and Oregon hit



Matt Painter

the jackpot in 2010 when it lured Dana Altman away from Creighton. In addition to being the only coach in school history to lead his team to three consecutive NCAA tournaments – a run that reached five in a row – Altman won half of Oregon's eight conference titles between 2016 and 2021. Oregon reached just its second Final Four in 2017.

Illinois

The eternal mystery in Champaign-Urbana is why a school located in a basketball-crazy state and just a few hours drive from talent-rich Chicago cannot consistently be a Big Ten and NCAA title contender.

Over the last 60 years, neighbors Indiana and Purdue each have more Final Four appearances (a combined eight) and Big Ten titles (27 combined) than Illinois. Lou Henson won just one Big Ten title but reached the 1989 Final Four. Bruce Weber raised two Big Ten banners and took Illinois to the NCAA title game in 2005.

The Fighting Illini went 17 years without a Big Ten championship until Kofi Cockburn, Trent Frazier and Co. delivered in 2022 under Brad Underwood.

Underwood used the transfer portal to his advantage a year ago with Terrance Shannon and

➔ **Continued on Page A3**

Marcus Domask joining forces with Coleman Hawkins to carry Illinois to the Elite Eight. Whether that can be a sustainable strategy remains to be seen.

Maryland

The Terrapins own a national championship, in 2002 during Gary Williams' successful tenure in the ACC.

Williams took Maryland to seven Sweet 16 appearances between 1994 and 2003. But the Terrapins have been back to the Sweet 16 just once since, in 2016. Maryland also earned a share of its first Big Ten title in 2020 and finished 24-7 before COVID-19 wiped out the Big Ten and NCAA tournaments.

Maryland is within easy driving distance of some of the best basketball high schools in the nation. But since joining the Big Ten, the Terrapins have yet to put together a consistent program.

Wisconsin

Like their football team, the Badgers owe their identity on the basketball court to physical play and tough defense. Thank Dick Bennett and Bo Ryan for bringing Wisconsin out of the basketball wilderness. Before Bennett arrived in 1995, the Badgers played in just two NCAA tournament: the 1941 national championship season and 1947. Bennett and Ryan took the Badgers back to the Final Four a combined three times and to the NCAA tournament 19 times. Ryan's successor, Greg Gard, has two Big Ten titles to his credit.

Only a lack of a natural recruiting base is keeping the Badgers out of the top Big Ten echelon.

Iowa

It's difficult to believe the Hawkeyes haven't won a Big Ten championship since 1979 and made a Final Four since 1980, the year Purdue defeated Iowa in one of the last NCAA tournament third-place games. In the ensuing seasons since Lute Olsen delivered a Big Ten title to Iowa City, nine schools have

captured at least a share of a Big Ten championship. It's not been for lack of talent. Former national player of the year Luke Garza, B.J. Armstrong, Roy Marble, the late Chris Street and Brad Lohaus are among the standouts to have played inside Carver-Hawkeye Arena.

Current coach Fran McCaffery is entering his 15th season without reaching the second weekend of the NCAA tournament in that span. But his teams score lots of points and play an exciting brand of basketball. The fan base is passionate but the Iowa job is not a win-or-else proposition.

Minnesota

A tough job from the bitter winter weather in a football state to playing in the second-oldest arena in the Big Ten.

Williams Arena opened in 1928 but hasn't officially been home to a Big Ten champion since 1982. The Gophers' 1997 title and their lone Final Four appearance were vacated by the NCAA due to recruiting violations.

It's been a century since the final game of the winningest coach in school history. L.J. Cooke went 250-135-2 from 1896 to 1924.

Rutgers

The Scarlet Knights have had their moments, most notably in 1976 when they took a 31-0 record into the NCAA tournament and reached the Final Four.

Since then, the state university of New Jersey has had just one other Sweet 16 appearance (1979). But enthusiasm for Rutgers basketball has grown under ninth-year head coach Steve Pikiell and cozy Jersey Mike's Arena (which seats 8,000) is a difficult place to play.

USC

Imagine playing in the same city as your archrival, 11-time NCAA national champion UCLA. At least Trojan fans have a brand name in football.

USC hasn't won a conference

championship since 1985, and its most recent Final Four appearance came in 1954.

Nebraska

The Cornhuskers are the only major conference program without an NCAA tournament victory. Nebraska didn't qualify for its first NCAA tourney until 1986, and this past season marked just the school's eighth NCAA berth.

While Nebraska will probably always remain a football school, university officials have invested in the basketball program with the construction of Pinnacle Bank Arena and bringing in former Chicago Bulls coach Fred Hoiberg.

Washington

Stop me if this sounds familiar: the basketball program is overshadowed by football. The Huskies' basketball home, Hec Edmundson Pavilion, opened in 1927.

Washington fared well in the various entities of the Pac-12, winning 24 conference championships. But NCAA tournament success has been rare with its most recent Final Four/Elite Eight appearance coming in 1953.

Penn State

Yet another football school on the lower half of this list but unlike some of its Big Ten peers, basketball appears to be an afterthought at State College. Former Purdue assistant Micah Shrewsbury left Penn State for Notre Dame in 2023 after two seasons, with most of the roster following him out the door. Success on the court has been rare. One conference title in school history, the 1991 Atlantic 10 postseason tournament. The school's lone Final Four came in 1954.

Northwestern

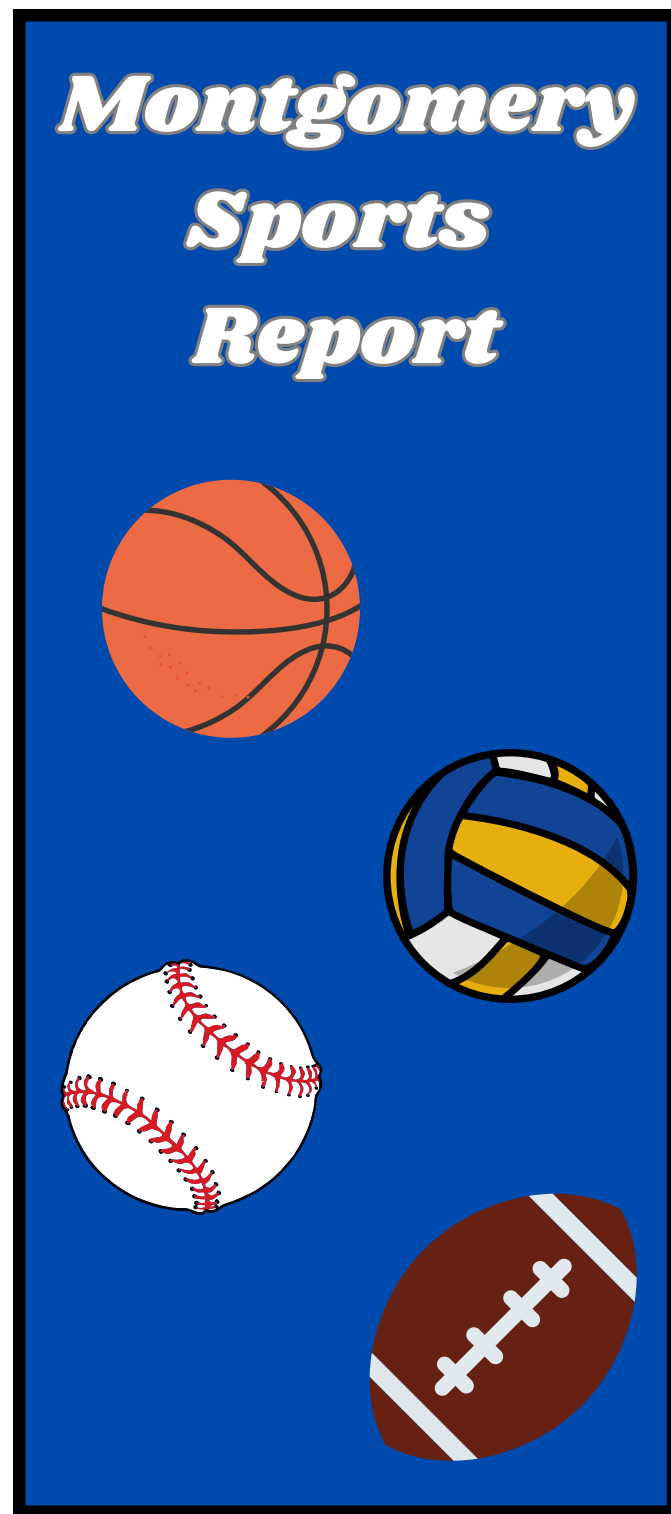
Chris Collins has been a miracle worker in Evanston, guiding the Wildcats to their only NCAA tournament appearances in 2017, 2023 and 2024.

But the program's ceiling is low. Its most recent Big Ten championship came in 1933. Newly renovated Welsh-Ryan Arena has a capacity of just 7,500.

For all of Collins' efforts, he enters the 2024-25 season one game under .500 for his tenure (162-163). Northwestern hasn't had a

coach leave with a winning record since Arthur Lonborg in 1950 with a mark of 236-203-1.

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.



Familiar Refrain Could Mean Another Great Year for Favored Boilers



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

It's a familiar refrain to Purdue basketball fans.

"Purdue will be just another team without Caleb Swanigan."

"Purdue will miss Carsen Edwards' scoring."

"Purdue won't be able to overcome Jaden Ivey's departure to the NBA."

"Braden Smith and Fletcher Loyer won't be as good without Zach Edey drawing all the attention."

The first three declarations were unfounded, and it's a good bet Smith and Loyer will prove the naysayers wrong during the 2024-25 season that kicked off recently.

To be fair, the Boilermakers have received some respect entering Matt Painter's 20th season as head coach. They were chosen by the league's media as the favorite to win a third consecutive league title. Purdue is the highest-ranked Big Ten (Plus 8) team in The Associated Press preseason poll at No. 14

Smith has been selected the Big Ten Conference's Preseason Player of the Year. He's also on the Naismith Player of the Year and Bob Cousy Award watch lists.

Loyer made the first cut for the Jerry West Award, given to the nation's best shooting guard. Carsen Edwards took home that honor in 2018.

Initially snubbed by the Cousy Award selection process a year ago, Smith forced his way among the five finalists with a record-breaking sophomore season. The Indiana Mr. Basketball winner from Westfield set school and Big

Ten records with 292 assists.

Smith was the only player in America to average at least 12 points, 7.5 assists and 5 (5.8) rebounds per game. He also shot 43.1 percent from 3-point range, one of the reasons why Purdue was the second-best 3-point shooting team in the nation behind Kentucky.

"He can really manipulate the defense with his ability to see the court and to be able to pass and to make plays and make shots, but he is also someone who defers to others at times," Painter said during Big Ten Media Day. "We need him just to be more aggressive. Fletcher Loyer, same thing. Just a winner. Knows how to play. Tough. Hard-nosed. Makes shots. They will have more of a responsibility."

Bruce Parkinson's career assists record is within Smith's reach this season, needing just 245. Only Magic Johnson (491) has had more assists in Big Ten history through his sophomore year than Smith's 445.

Purdue's 1,000-point club also is well within reach for Smith, who has 808.

Smith also seems likely to join Joe Barry Carroll as the only Boilermakers to record a triple-double. Smith came close in Monday's 90-73 victory against Texas A&M Corpus Christi, putting up 12 points, 15 assists and eight rebounds.

Loyer and Ohio State's Meechie Johnson are the only Big Ten players on the 20-man Cousy List. Loyer

shot 44.4 percent from 3-point range and 86.1 percent from the free throw line to rank among the nation's leaders in both categories. Loyer's 48.5 percent 3-point shooting in Big Ten games only topped the conference.

It may be a race to 1,000 points between Smith and Loyer, who stands at 807 after putting up 21 against Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

Not to be forgotten is the third junior starter returning from last year's national finalist team. Trey Kaufman-Renn may have been the fifth scoring option last season behind Edey, Smith, Loyer and Lance Jones but he showed flashes of the ability that earned him Indiana's Gatorade Player of the Year honors in 2020 while at Silver Creek High School.

During a rare game with Edey in foul trouble, Kaufman-Renn put up 23 points in a victory against No. 9 Illinois in Mackey Arena.

"I think Trey Kaufman will really step in to where he will be one of the best big guys in our league," Painter said.

If Purdue is to extend its 22-game winning streak in the month of November, the second-longest in college basketball behind Arizona, it will be on the backs of that trio. Purdue was the only Big Ten school not to add at least one player from the transfer portal.

Once again, the Boilermakers have a loaded non-conference

schedule. Preseason No. 2 Alabama comes to Mackey Arena on Nov. 15, a game that for reasons I cannot fathom has been exiled to the Peacock streaming service. A trip to Marquette comes four days later, followed by a Final Four rematch with North Carolina State in the Rady Children's Invitational in San Diego on Nov. 28. Either BYU or Mississippi await the next evening.

That schedule will force Purdue's freshman class to grow up quickly. Gicarri Harris, the third son of Boilermaker great Glenn Robinson, was in the opening night starting lineup. So was 7-4 center Daniel Jacobsen, who flashed his potential with 13 points, seven rebounds and three blocked shots in 25 minutes against Corpus Christi.

Sophomore guard Myles Colvin came off the bench to score a career-high 14 points. If Colvin doesn't crack the starting lineup, he could be instant offense in a reserve role.

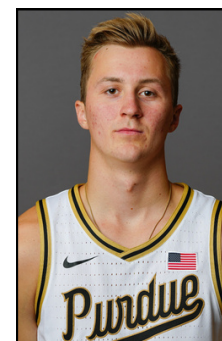
Athletic sophomore forward Camden Heide could be a key player when the Boilermakers go smaller with the 6-9 Kaufman-Renn playing center. Freshman guard C.J. Cox and 6-11 classmate Raleigh Burgess will have roles as will 6-10 Caleb Furst, the Boilermakers' lone senior. Freshman forward Jack Benter, a 2024 Indiana All-Star, will redshirt.

Will Berg, the 7-2 center from Sweden, and former Carmel standout Brian Waddell will have to battle for the limited minutes available assuming Smith, Loyer and Kaufman-Renn average more than 30 minutes a game.

Jacobsen and Berg extend



Braden Smith



Fletcher Loyer

Purdue's streak of having a 7-footer on the roster to 13 consecutive seasons.

High on the list of goals is a third consecutive outright Big Ten title, which would match the 1994-95-96 Boilermakers and the 1960-61-62 Ohio State Buckeyes as the only teams to achieve that feat. During the past 10 seasons Purdue's 125-48 record in league play is 15 games better than second-place Michigan State.

"We're excited about this group," Painter said. "We also know that it's going to be very hard. That's the one thing when you play a challenging schedule like we have, you know, in nonconference that you have to get yourself prepared because it is such a bear when you get to Big Ten play."

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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