**What they're saying**

**Offensive Coordinator Graham Harrell**

On facing the reigning Mountain West champs

“We’ve got to be prepared to handle adversity when it comes because that’s a guarantee, and ultimately just do our jobs and have faith in each other.”

On the coaching staff

“I’ve been really impressed with the chemistry we have on the staff, with the knowledge they have on the staff and with the way that they’ve interacted with and mentored players.”

On facing the reigning Mountain West champs

“We’ve got to be prepared to handle adversity when it comes because that’s a guarantee, and ultimately just do our jobs and have faith in each other.”

On retiring from Purdue

“My two boys are 9 and 7 and I hope they say they’re from West Lafayette when they grow up. Hopefully I can really be free and people will talk about the Walters era the same way they do the Tiller.”

**Meet the opponent: Fresno Bulldogs**

**BY MARY ROSE HOKANSON**

Staff Reporter

No matter which way Sat- urday’s football game goes, Purdue is guaranteed to play the Fresno State Bull-dogs.

The first game of its kind will open the season for both teams, kicking off at noon in Ross-Ade Stadium.

Purdue State Coach Jeff Tedford is entering his six-teenth season as a head coach, and his second year with the Bulldogs.

Last year, Tedford’s team finished sixth on a 7-6 winning streak to clinch the Mountain West title, finishing 11-1 overall.

The Bulldogs have emphasized talented in returning starters as well as pulling from the transfer portal, including quarterback Mikeian Keyes, formerly at UCF.

Purdue is widely consid-ered a favorite in this game, but Fresno State has won six or more games in four of Tedford’s six seasons as head coach — the Bulldogs are no cupcake.

The implications for this matchup extend well beyond the field, as the Boilermakers schedule will only get tougher once Big Ten conference play be-gins.

The spectra of Big Ten play emphasizes September as the most advantageous month on Purdue’s schedule.

The Boilermakers play four of five games at home, including two non-conference contests.