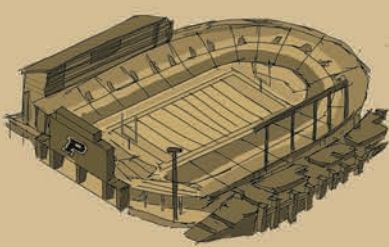




TAILGATE GUIDE



Campus upside down Parking and traffic

BY KATIE WALLING AND ISRAEL SCHUMAN
Digital Editor and Sports Editor

Editor's note: Throughout the rest of the season, The Exponent will highlight a different way football game days affect campus and the surrounding area. This week, we focus on parking and roads.

You hear it in the blasts of the sousaphones as “Hail Purdue” echoes across campus. You see it as the sidewalks fill with gold and black-clad crowds filing toward Ross-Ade Stadium.

Football gameday, and its impact, is inescapable.

Each weekend before the game, even before Ross-Ade Stadium is filled with fans, Purdue’s campus and the surrounding city grows by about 100,000 people overnight – and parking around campus and West Lafayette strains multiple times a year to handle the onslaught.

Parking

While Ross-Ade can seat 61,441 cheering fans, thousands more come to tailgate or just don’t attend the game.

Because of this, the amount of people on campus during a game day weekend is much higher than those sitting in the stands, PUPD Lieutenant of Administra-

tive Services Nicholas Crosby said. “We could easily have 100,000 to 120,000 people on campus that are trying to move around,” he said.

Crosby is in charge of coordinating traffic routes and hiring police officers to work the game. He said the whole operation employs almost 100 police officers from seven different agencies.

To accommodate the influx of vehicles, most campus or near-campus parking lots become permitted event parking as early as 6 a.m., according to Purdue’s website.

Students who don’t move their cars are subject to be towed at their own expense to a different parking lot, like the lot at the southwest corner of Harrison Street and South Russell Street.

See PARKING | Page 9



KATHLEEN MARTINUS | PHOTOS EDITOR

Signs by Hilltop Apartments’ parking lot state that no parking is allowed on Purdue football home games.

Boilers’ injury report grows

BY GABE FRYLING
Staff Reporter

As the Boilers walked out of Kinnick Stadium this past Saturday, they not only lost the game, but many key players as well.

This weekend, Purdue is due for toughest matchup of the season against the No. 3 Ohio State Buckeyes. The team will have to make some changes on both sides of the ball due to injuries suffered in these past few weeks.

Purdue head coach Ryan Walters discussed the fast-growing list of breaks and bruises in his Monday press conference.

“The injury bug hit us the second day of fall camp when Jahmal Edrine went down with a knee,” Walters said. “You know, looks like Max (Klare) will not be back. Marquis (Wilson) will not be back. Marcus (Mbow), you know, won’t be back this season.”

Offensive lineman Marcus Mbow’s injury generated a solemn response from the team.

“He’s as talented of a guy as we have up there,” said offensive coordinator Graham Harrell. “From that standpoint, it hurts, but also the guys love him. You could tell when he got hurt it upset some of the guys, just because they’re seeing their friend, and seeing a friend get injured is never fun.”

As Mbow was carted off the field, the team surrounded him and stood by his side. Some Boilers were seen teary-eyed and Walters was one of the last to leave Mbow’s side, speaking to him before he was carted off.

“You could see really how much he means to the guys around him by the way they reacted and treated him since,” Harrell said. “He’s a super talented guy that we’ll miss but it creates an opportunity for the next guy.”

The Boilers also suffered short-term



QUAN NGUYEN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fifth-year running back Tyrone Tracy Jr. rushes past a Wisconsin defender for a first down during their Sept. 22 game.

injuries. Fifth-year running back Tyrone Tracy Jr. picked up a knock against Iowa, leaving Walters less than optimistic for his status for Saturday.

“I would be shocked if he played this week,” Walters said on Monday.

Tracy’s production won’t easily be replaced. The runner averaged 13 carries per-game for 78 yards in the three weeks leading up to his injury.

“Losing a player like that, you’re always gonna feel the effects of it,” Harrell said. “He’s a really dynamic guy who plays at a really high level and has been as consistent and as explosive as anyone has.”

Harrell also mentioned how the offense must continue to work and do what its been trying to do, with or without Tracy’s help.

“It hurts you, just because you’re taking an explosive guy off the field,” Harrell said. “But it’s still a pretty talented room, and we

still gotta go execute.”

There are also some players playing through injuries, such as junior quarterback Hudson Card. Card was nicked up prior to the Iowa game but was cleared to play.

“He’s in some pain, and throughout the week he started to improve a little bit,” Harrell said. “And later on in the week, I started to feel a little more confident, but early on he definitely had some pain. He’s a tough kid.”

These injuries are going to lead to some changes come Saturday, but Walters knows there are plenty of players ready to step up and fill in.

“We have a locker room full of guys that are obviously compassionate for the guys that are not playing anymore,” Walters said. “But also they’re eager for the opportunity to go play football.”

What they’re saying

Head coach Ryan Walters at Monday’s press conference

On the Buckeyes’ lack of weaknesses:

“You can’t pay attention to the logo, right? – You can’t let the brand or the history affect how aggressive you play. You can’t give them an edge from a mental standpoint because they’ve got a Buckeye on the back of their helmet.”

Offensive coordinator Graham Harrell, Tuesday after practice

On the keys to improve offensively:

“(Last week) we had a dropped exchange, a dropped snap, a snap that was snapped before it was ready, penalties ... you just can’t do those things against good football teams.”

Defensive coordinator Kevin Kane, Wednesday after practice

“It’s one of your twelve guaranteed games, why would you shy down and be scared of it. Let’s have fun with it. The pressure’s on them, let’s go out there and let’s play.”

- Compiled by Mary Rose Hokanson, staff reporter

Meet the opponent

Ohio State remains undefeated with a 5-0 (2-0 Big Ten) record this season and heads into this weekend ranked No. 3 in the nation. Comparatively, Purdue has squeaked by at 2-4 (1-2 Big Ten) and remains unranked.

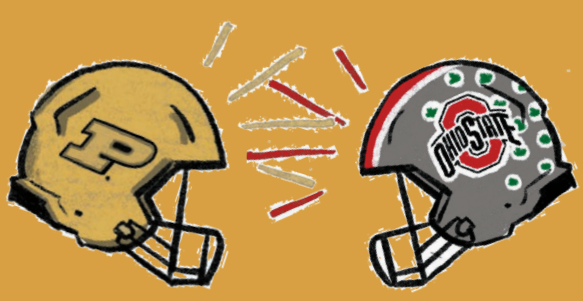
Ohio State head coach Ryan Day’s teams are 33-0 versus unranked opponents, and 33-2 vs. Big Ten competition.

Offensive talent runs deep for the Buckeyes. Wide receiver Marvin Harrison Jr. leads the Big Ten in receiving yards with 499 and was named Big Ten Offensive Player of the Week last week.

Quarterback Kyle McCord has tallied 273 yards per game, second in the Big Ten only to Maryland’s Taulia Tagovailoa.

The Buckeyes are 19.5 point favorites in Saturday’s matchup.

- Compiled by Mary Rose Hokanson, staff reporter



2-4	Record	5-0
65 th	Strength of Schedule (via ESPN)	54 th
142/154	Rushing (YPG Off./Def.)	132/106
249/227	Passing (YPG Off./Def.)	303/158
154/168	Points (for/against)	175/51

Where: Ross-Ade Stadium

When: Saturday, noon

Television: peacock



UFO CONFERENCE

**WHAT they are -
WHO they are -
FROM WHERE they come -
WHY ARE THEY HERE?**

**THINK
BIBLE**

**FREE
ADMISSION**

**OCTOBER
16, 17, 18
7:00 PM**

**River City Community Center
2842 Old US 231, Lafayette**

Playing from Indiana to India

BY ZACH BYINGTON
Staff Reporter

A Mexican citizen, a gymnast and a speech pathologist. This isn't a set-up to a bad joke – it's freshman soccer phenomenon Lauren Omholt in a nutshell.

There are hidden depths to this Texan, but you'll likely never see them. Her deceptive humility is too hard of a shell. For instance, Omholt was a committed gymnast until middle school. She didn't quit because she couldn't keep up, quite the opposite.

"For a while I was more of a gymnast than a soccer player," she told the Exponent. "But leaving gymnastics for soccer was very shocking for a lot of people because I actually left gymnastics the year after I won a national championship. So it's kind of funny, I went out on top."

Omholt comes from a family of athletes. More specifically, a family of Boiler athletes.

"Purdue was definitely the nostalgic choice," she said. "Both of my sisters went here, and my dad played baseball here."

In fact, Purdue is not the only athletic connection Omholt has through her dad.

"I don't really look the part, but my dad was born in Mexico City, which is why I have the opportunity to have dual nationality."

This past summer, her dual nationality allowed Omholt to elevate her soccer to the highest stage in the world. She traveled to India to play in the U17 Women's World Cup, bearing the Mexican crest on her kit.

"It was the most incredible experience," she said. "I felt such pride to have everyone in the country supporting me. Wearing that crest on my jersey was a really cool experience, it was special."

Practicing in a high level environment isn't the only thing Omholt took from her time playing for Mexico; the experience encouraged her to embrace her dual-nationality like never before. Omholt said she engaged with supporters of the Mexican national team embraced her nationality through social media, and this support didn't stop when she traded red and green



YASEMIN PARSAK | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman forward Lauren Omholt takes the ball away from Northwestern.

for black and gold.

"I had a lot of supporters that would follow me and comment on my things," she said. "When we were in California and played USC, a couple of people drove over to the game and I got to sign autographs for them."

Off the pitch, Omholt retains her mild-mannered attitude. But according to head coach Drew Roff, it's a different story on the pitch.

"She wants to win. She's a competitor," he said. "Everyone wants to win, wants to be good, but some people take it to that next level. Once she gets around you, she's gonna go to the goal, and you're gonna have to take her down or she's gonna get a shot off."

Lauren has a uniquely strong weak foot

compared to her teammates, a skill that Roff emphasizes the value of.

"She's so versatile, we can look at the other team and say, 'maybe their left back is a little weaker than their right.' She could go play there and that's a matchup we can utilize," Roff said.

But her ability to go with either the left or right foot is far from the only elite feature of Omholt's arsenal.

"There's a lot of college soccer players that are athletic and fast, but I think it's her quickness, her first three or four steps that really separate her from the rest," Roff said.

She's already adjusting to the Big Ten pace of play, shifting from playing nations to playing colleges.

"The biggest difference between club and

playing at a Power Five school is the speed of play," she said. "Everyone's touches are perfect. But I'd say that really matches up with my experience playing internationally. I got to see that when I played against Colombia and Spain, so I think that helped me prepare, and put me in a position to make an impact early on here."

But like everything else about her, there's more to Omholt than just her athletic talent. She wants to make her career out of speech pathology, a field she was inspired to pursue after her grandfather suffered a stroke.

"My grandpa had Aphasia after suffering a stroke," she said. "Then my aunt had cancer in her mouth, so she had to see a speech pathologist. So I think that helped me realize I wanted to pursue that."

PARKING

Continued from Page 10.

On game days, most lots near Ross-Ade are available to John Purdue Club members only.

"Most of the parking, by the time we get to a month or two before the season, has already been spoken for because the donors to the John Purdue Club have received their parking," said associate athletic director Patrick Crawford. "We have other lots that are available for purchase from a public standpoint."

These lots become available for a \$30 parking pass purchase on July 18 every year. Because they are always available for sale, spots in these lots are subject to the demand specific to that game, he said.

"I wouldn't say they necessarily sell out for every game," Crawford said. "But for instance, we are hosting a game against Ohio State this year. That's typically high traffic. A rivalry game against Indiana would also be a situation where a lot of people will be visiting."

The Ohio State game is Saturday and the Hoosiers come to town for the rivalry game Nov. 25.

For those seeking last minute accommodations, Crawford says there are options.

"The week leading up to a game, you can purchase through our website," he said. "A parking pass is \$30. On the day of (a game), you could drive up to, say, one of the garages or the (intramural lot) and spend \$40 and buy a spot if it's still available."

Traffic

Ben Anderson, the public works director for West Lafayette, said Purdue football game days present obstacles that extend into the city as well.

"You get 50-plus thousand people coming into town, it definitely is going to create some challenges," he said.

Purdue's athletics department works in combination with the police department to handle roadways near campus. Anderson said game day traffic stretches far beyond Purdue grounds, into Lafayette and even on the interstate.



HALEIGH SMITH | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fans go all out for the last home game at Ross-Ade stadium last football season with a Purdue Pete blow up figure.



DAVID HICKEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cars line up to wait their turn to enter the Black and Gold Intramural Fields to tailgate.

"I've seen it all the way up to Schuyler Avenue and Sagamore Parkway," he said. "They're off (State Road) 25... (there are) officers down on (US Highway) 231."

Some officers are also stationed at high-traffic intersections, so the lights can be controlled manually. Anderson said they use technology to help the pregame and postgame traffic resolve as smoothly as possible, including using video cameras to keep an eye on commonly congested areas.

"A lot of our detection is done by video camera to detect whether or not there's cars that need to get a green light," he said.

Closer to campus, most of the problems arise from the combination of vehicles and pedestrians.

"You're not only conducting traffic movement for vehicles, you're also trying to get the pedestrians through there safely," Anderson said.

Crosby works with a traffic engineer to ensure the routes entering and leaving campus, and to and from parking lots, are as efficient as possible.

"That way we can make it seamless with the work day staff, faculty and students leaving campus and football traffic coming in," he said.

While the routes stay the same for each game, Crosby said the time in which the restrictions go into effect changes depending on when the game starts. Generally, lane closures and alternate routes go into place about eight hours before the game.

These alternate routes can be found on the purduesports.com website.

Construction projects throughout the city create additional obstacles that the thousands in West Lafayette each weekend have to get around, Anderson said. The city tries to have most projects completed in the summer, but unpredictable circumstances can make it difficult to set an end date.

"It's super hard to say 'hey, we're going to have it open by (this) date' because I can't tell you what the weather's gonna do," he said.

When projects do extend into the school year, restrictions on working hours are often written into the contracts.

"People have to have all the stuff cleaned up and not working by noon on Fridays," Anderson said. "We're always writing things into contracts based off football season."



DAVID HICKEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tailgaters set up early in the morning before the noon kickoff for Purdue football versus Fresno State.