

# TAILGATE GUIDE

# A friendly duel

## Protégé Walters to face Illini mentor



VINNY GRACIANO | GRAPHICS ARTIST

BY ISRAEL SCHUMAN

Sports Editor

Bret Bielema always wanted Ryan Walters to become a head coach but, ideally, not one in his own back yard.

"You have a desire to have people that you care about have success," the Illinois head coach said of his former understudy. "But when they're in your division, that's not the case."

"Other than that," he said on Monday. "I think you really do learn to put these things aside ... I hire 10 coaches a year. I want every one of them to be a head

"I introduced Ryan to the dithe Purdue job a year prior," he said. "If you hire good coaches, have that familiarity. you know it's gonna happen, you just don't know when."

On Saturday, not a year removed from Purdue announc-

**BY GABE FRYLING** 

Staff Reporter

Purdue football has been doing some

The Boilers look to end September with a win over Illinois on Saturday, but four weeks haven't been long enough for a consistent usage pattern to emerge for the

Sophomore runner Devin Mockobee opened the year as the starter, but in the weeks since, senior Tyrone Tracy Jr. has forced an "or" designation between the two

The uncertainty is a good problem, created by the emergence of Tracy, but it can also create headaches for a coaching staff trying to optimize a versatile stable of backs.

Purdue's depth chart lists Mockobee first, but head coach Ryan Walters refuses to sig-

nify anyone as the "No. 1" running back.

for the top spot on the depth chart.

mixing and matching lately.

ing Walters as its next head coach, Bielema will meet his exdefensive coordinator from the opposite sideline.

And while the stakes are high for both teams in a wide-open Big Ten West, particularly for Purdue as it looks for its first home and conference win, the two head coaches are doing their best to keep the drama low.

"We've been really talking about this game since last season, because we knew it was gonna be the first Big Ten West opponent of the year," Bielema said. "I think that's the bigger issue than who's on their staff."

"I've done a lot of these crossover moments," the 30rector of the search firm that did year coaching veteran said. "So when Quincy A. Hall proposed

Walters, too, said it's friendly until the gloves come off Satur-

"It was a rivalry game before I got here, it's a trophy game, we're an hour and a half down the street, playing in the same conference," Walters said in July at Big Ten Media Days. "It's a healthy competition. Obviously I'm trying to win in every area, but that doesn't mean there's any ill will. I wish them nothing but success except for one day out of the year."

Aside from the friendly competition, the result of this week's matchup determines the residency of a certain antiquated artillery piece.

The Purdue Cannon has served as the official trophy of the rivalry series since 1943, there's a lot of times where you that it be used as such. He and other Illini students had commandeered it from Purdue fans

Purdue has held the can-

non since 2020, winning three straight matchups in that span, two of which came against Bielema.

"Purdue is defending Big Ten champs and they've beat us two years in a row. And that's my mistake," Bielema said at Media Days. "This year, our focus on Purdue is more about what's happened the last two years than who's there.'

With recruits likely tuning in to watch the neighborhood clash, there's potential for the result to influence each coach's offseason fortunes as well. And that's where Bielema thinks relationships really get strained.

"I learned early in my career that you lose more friendships in recruiting than you do in football games," he said. "I learned this when I went from Iowa to Kansas State. When I left there,

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# (What they're saying)

## **Head coach Ryan Walters at Monday's press conference**

On what he thinks the team's offensive identity is:

"When we play with (the) pace, it keeps defenses on their heels. We're able to attack on the ground and through the air."

On how his time at Illinois effects his preparation:

"Watching their offense... I think Coach Lunney does a good job trying to get his playmaker the ball in space. There is definitely familiarity there."

### Offensive coordinator Graham Harrell Tuesday

On facing Illinois' defense this Saturday:

"We should have a ton of confidence... as far as an overall scheme goes we've seen something very similar to what we'll see on Saturday."

# Meet the opponent:

## Fighting Illini

This past offseason the Illinois head coach Bret Bielema had to replace the spearhead of his No. 1 defense, Ryan Walters.

For the defense, Bielema looked inward, elevating defensive back coach Aaron Henry to the coordinator role. So far Henry has allowed a drop from first in total team defense, to 13th.

For the offense, he looked outward, acquiring Ole Miss transfer quarterback Luke Altmyer, who has tossed seven interceptions through four games.

#### Strengths

Backed against a wall: The Illini boast a 62.6% success rate on fourth down conversions, allowing them to attain a record of 2-2 on the year.

Jer'Zhan Newton: Though off to a slow start so far, he defensive lineman is regarded as a possible first round pick in this year's draft, he's not someone to underestimate.

Receiving: Junior Isaiah Williams has been on fire to start the year, producing 333 yards on 24 receptions. He, along with receivers Pat Bryant and Washington, rounds out a dangerous Illinois receiving corps producing over 550 yards thus far.

#### Weaknesses

Pocket protection: the Illini O-Line has struggled to keep their QB upright, allowing seven sacks in four

Getting off the field: the Illinois defense has a penchant for extending drives, averaging a whopping 69 penalty yards a game. Play vision: Altmyer has struggled seeing defend-

ers in the field, producing seven picks with only four touchdowns to join them.

-Compiled by Zach Byington, staff reporter



TODD MCKECHNIE | HEAD VISUALS EDITOR

Sophomore running back Devin Mockobee receives a handoff from junior quarterback Hudson Card during Purdue's game against Fresno State on Sept. 2.

"I think we've got listed Tyrone and Mockobee as 'or' starters, and that's sort of how we view them," Walters said. Mockobee has the lead in the statistics.

The sophomore has double the carries of Tracy and more yards, though play calling in recent games has shown a carry shift in Tracy's favor.

In Friday's loss to Wisconsin, Tracy led the running backs with eight carries for 84 yards, while Mockobee had only four carries for 26 yards. Tracy has looked explosive in his limited work, averaging 7 yards per

"Tyrone has been doing some really special things, and he kinda had a hot hand, and when you have a hot hand, you gotta keep riding it," offensive coordinator Graham Harrell said on Monday.

Tracy's great outings have also been noticed by his teammates, though many expected this when he transitioned from wide ner like Mockobee brings to the team.

receiver to running back this past offseason. 'Tyrone's an athlete. You just know wher-

Purdue's back-to-back prowess

Mockobee, Tracy share running back duties

ever he's at he's gonna make plays regardless," said redshirt sophomore wide receiver Deion Burks. Tracy's impact has extended to special

teams, too. "Tyrone is playing lights out right now

in offense and special teams. He really has been a bright spot for us," Walters said. "Every time he has the ball in his hands, something good happens."

But Walters knows what a powerful run-

"Mockobee, as you guys have seen, is hard to bring down," Walters said. "We fixed the ball security issues from the Syracuse game, and he's hard to bring down."

The differences in play styles between Mockobee and Tracy can make it difficult for a play caller to know the right situations to deploy each back. Harrell says the best he can do is give all the running backs their own chance to shine.

"We got some backs that are good with the football in their hand," Harrell said. "Gotta get them touches."



(via ESPN) Rushing

142/148 148/177 (YPG Off./Def.)

**Passing** 257/256 (YPG Off./Def.)

**Points** 96/129 89/109 (for/against)

Where: Ross-Ade Stadium When: Saturday, 3:30 p.m. Television: peacock

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led the charge with a season-high 10 blocks against Maryland and 6 against Rutgers on

"The best thing about Raven is she's one of the most competitive individuals that you're going to find," head coach Dave Shondell said. "She believes that she is going to be great, and she does everything she can to make that happen."

The Boilermakers have struggled against the Cornhuskers recently. Purdue is 1-9 in its last 10 matchups, the last win coming in a five-set thriller in 2019. Nebraska is also coming off two ranked conference sweeps at home against No. 21 Ohio State and No. 12 Minnesota, where junior outside hitter Merritt Beason and freshman outside hitter Harper Murray led the Huskers with 25 and 24 kills, respectively.

In addition to Beason and Murray, Nebraska has a plethora of attacking threats.

"They can send anybody and those people can put the ball away and make life tough for you, so you have to be better with your serve to take them out of what they want to do," Shondell said. "We just got to play harder than anybody in the country for us to make plays against these guys."

If Purdue wins, it will record its first top-5 win since 2021, when the Boilermakers beat then-No. 3 Ohio State at home in a 3-2 nail-biter.

Purdue will get right back to work in facing Northwestern Sunday afternoon. The Wildcats are coming off a long weekend in which they were swept at home by No. 1 Wisconsin and No. 15 Penn State, two of the best teams in the Big Ten. The Boilermakers lost their last match-

up in 2022 against the Wildcats in a fiveset match in Evanston, Illinois, which pushed them from a No. 12 to a No. 14 anking. That was their only loss against Northwestern in their last 10 matchups. "We've had a great rivalry at Northwest-

ern. I mean, we've won more than we've lost against them in the last several years, but they can jump up and bite you at any time," Shondell said.

This match will also feature a familiar face in a purple jersey, senior outside hitter Maddy Chinn. Chinn spent her first four years at Purdue, where she passed the 300-kill mark and registered 117 total

"I'm really excited that she's made that move and is in the lineup playing all the time and doing great, so it'd be fun to have her back here," Shondell said.

Friday's match will be played at 8 p.m. and air on the Big Ten Network. Sunday's match will begin at 2 p.m. and will broadcast on Big Ten Plus.

### SOCCER

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Purdue is coming into this game after a disappointing 1-0 loss to a vulnerable Rutgers team in Piscataway, New Jersey. The loss at Rutgers was the third time in a row where Purdue ended up scoreless.

Iowa possesses the 21st ranked defense in all first division women's soccer, making it difficult competition for the Boilers. Purdue's defense, on the other hand, has been a weakness, allowing 16 points this season including blowouts like its 4-0 loss to No. 19 USC. Iowa has only allowed three points going into this game.

Offensively, both teams leave a lot to be desired as Purdue ranks 142nd (15 points) in total points scored while Iowa rings in at 173rd (14 points). Despite Purdue's better overall scoring, Iowa is the only team going into this matchup that has scored against a Big Ten, which it achieved in their 1-1 tie against Illi-

Despite Iowa having some statistical advantages, Purdue has played a tougher season. So far, Purdue has played four top-25 opponents while Iowa has only played one, a 0-0 tie to No. 18 Virginia.

The two teams will face off at 6 p.m. at Folk Field.

#### DUEL

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I was crying like a baby. I was extremely close with (Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz) and that staff, and all of a sudden I'm at Kansas State, and we get in a couple of recruit-

recruiting."

ready some battles fought in that arena.

4-star receiver Luke Williams, of Naperville, Illinois, after he had narrowed his options down to the Boilers and Leontre Bradford, a 2024 3-star safety, was another

who took his talents to West Lafayette. While certainly not a coup, it was a recruiting accomplishment for Walters to bring those two to Purdue, when both are from towns closer to Urbana-Champaign.

ters had a puzzling exchange on Twitter.

several former Illinois secondary players working out at Purdue. Walters responded by saying, "Our family lasts

on Walters and Bielema feeling mutually responsible for coaching the former Illini. The Illinois frontman dismissed the apparent beef before the season started.

"Anyone who follows me on Twitter knows I get a little sassy at times," confessed Bielema.

Twitter refreshed.



'I took a red-eye flight to go watch Iowa play in the Orange Bowl," he said. "And I walked into the section of wives who were watching the game, and they all turned their backs to me because they'd been told I was dirty-

Mere months after Walters' departure, there were al-On June 11, Walters won a commitment from 2024

In May, before the recruits flipped, Bielema and Wal-Bielema initiated the interaction by commenting on

The awkward back-and-forth seemed to be predicated

Suffice to say, if Bielema's team were downed by his old protégé this weekend, you should probably keep your



TODD MCKECHNIE | HEAD VISUALS EDITOR

There is one other new addition to the team's group of guard in freshman Myles Colvin. Colvin could shoot from deep with ease while showing the ability to cut to the basket better than his companion, sophomore Fletcher Lover.

"(Colvin looked) confident, very athletic," Painter said. "We need his ability to make threes but also kind of getting him to be a sprinter." Loyer had a difficult time in practice, expressing frustration at a few One thing the sophomore does hold over Colvin is a knowledge of

the team's defense. Loyer shows an ability to pick up the schematics and switches required on defense, while Colvin illustrated his youth in defensive drills on Tuesday. Reigning National Player of the Year, senior center Zach Edey, was

sitting on the sidelines in street clothes. He was out with a concussion, Even with Edey sitting out, the team was practicing with the same

game plan from last year. On a pick-and-roll defensive drill, Painter had both forwards, junior Caleb Furst and sophomore Trey Kaufman-Renn, implementing drop coverage. That style of defense allows slower-footed players to

stay in front of the ball but can be susceptible to opponents' shooters. Painter made it clear after practice that he isn't going to change his team a lot, despite the devastating loss last March. He highlighted how so much went right for Purdue in season and going forward, not much needs to be fixed.

"You got to separate the emotion from factual information that can help your team," Painter said. "Because what it gets you to think is you got to change a lot. When in reality, you don't."

Painter's belief in his process could come off as blind given Purdue's recent losses to a 13, 15 and 16 seed in his last three tournaments.

The change Painter does want to implement may come from emerging talents Kaufman-Renn and freshman Will Berg. Both brought a unique look to the five in practice. Berg took a lot of three-pointers and made a considerable amount.

The Swedish center has improved greatly on defense through toiling against Edev and Furst every practice last season. Painter said that Berg would have to "earn" his role, but potential strides this sea-

He is incredibly unique compared to the past big centers on the roster.

son would pay off in Edey's eventual absence. As for Kaufman-Renn, his role won't be at the center. Painter is planning to use him as the second scoring option at the four.

Kaufman-Renn, the highest-ranked recruit on the roster, has seen

little playing time in his two years at Purdue. "We'll play him about a third of the time in practice at that position

the four) because I think it gives us that weapon," Painter said. "Even though there might be other people on your team that defend better. (Kaufman-Renn) is somebody out there that can just simply get baskets for us.'

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"So you have to have those attributes to really put your team together. But if you don't have the makeup and the substance from the people, you know, normally those teams crumble."

The engineer of Purdue's basketball program insists that he's taken the steps to fix what has ailed him; to fix a program that in the last several years has run more like a Ferrari than a Ford, breaking down on the final lap and ruining its chance at glory.

"It's an exercise in pain," Painter, the 35-year college basketball veteran said.

He has added a springy guard in freshman Myles Colvin, an abundantly skilled front-court player in redshirt freshman forward Camden Hiede and a steady backup floor general in fifth-year transfer guard Lance Jones.

"He can shoot the ball really well," sophomore point guard Braden Smith said of Colvin. "I didn't think he could shoot it well coming in, but obviously seeing it here in practice, he can shoot it. So that's nice for me, just finding him and either being able to throw him a lob, or just throwing him a quick pass and he gets a shot up."

Colvin and Heide, in particular, are assets for Painters' defense.

"We have to be able to turn people over," he said. "We have to be more active with our hands without getting out of defensive position, and Myles and Camden give us that link." Defensive turnovers are one of the few areas where the

Boilers have plenty of room for improvement compared to last season. Out of 68 teams to qualify for the NCAA tournament, Purdue was No. 64 in forced turnover rate. Unfavorable

turnover margins as well as three point shooting - where it was No. 60 - are primary areas of concern heading into "Where we get into a problem is, when we turn over the basketball a little bit and we shoot a high volume of threes with a low percentage, we struggle no matter what scenar-

offensive rebounds, you're really gonna help yourself, then you start forcing turnovers.' "And then just finding that collection of individuals that are going to play and shoot with confidence because, collectively, I think we kind of lost our confidence at the end

io," Painter said. "If you take care of the ball and you get

#### Sophomore forward Brian Waddell and freshman guard Jace Rayl participate in practice Tuesday.

Please check websites and social media

or call your preferred organization to

# Religious Directory

### **Baptist**

Faith Church
One Church — Three Locations On Facebook @FaithChurchLafayette
West Campus: 1920 Northwestern Avenue, WL
Sunday Worship: 9:30 and 11:00am Jamuay vrotsnip: 9:30 and 113/Jam North Campus: 2000 Elimood Ave, Lafayette Sunday Worship: 9:30 and 11:00am East Campus: 5526 ST RD 26 E, Lafayette Sunday Worship: 8, 9:30, 8, 11:00am Purdue Bible Fellowship & International Student Ministry

Federated Church of West Lafayette 2400 Sycamore Lane 463-5564 2400 sycamore Lane 465-5564 Nursery 9:15 am Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am PreK - 1st grade 10:45 am Coffee Time: 11:30 am Disciples of Christ & American Baptist

individual belief and a

www.faithlafayette.org/pbf On Facebook @PurdueBibleFellowship

First Baptist Church 411 N. 7th Street, Lafayette 765-742-5223 w us online to find info on all of our services, classes & events. www.firstbaptistlafayette.org On Facebook: @FirstBaptistLafayette On Instagram: @fbclafayetteindiana an American Baptist Congregation Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. Free, Ample Parking Behind Sanctuary Rev. Lisa Williams Hood, Pastor

2901 Kossuth Street, Lafayette, IN Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 am Sunday Connections Hour: 9:15 am



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#### Catholic

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Center 535 W. Mitch Daniels Boulevard • 765-743-4652 Monday, Tuesday & Thursday: 5:30pm Weekend Mass Vicekena mass Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm Sunday: 9am, 11:15am, 7pm\* & 9pm when Purdue is in sess http://www.boilercatholics.org 0

## Church of Christ

**Christian Student Center** 115 Waldron Street od-church.org/christian-student-cen Devotional: Wednesday 7:00 pm Elmwood Church of Christ 2501 Elmwood Ave, Lafayette Sunday Worship: 9:30 am Sunday School Class: 10:40 am For a ride, email: csc@elmwood-chur Campus Minister: Deron Freudenthal

#### 0 Church of the Brethren

Lafayette Church of the Brethren 1107 S. 18th Street, Lafayette, IN 47905 Office: 765-474-5021 Pastor Steve Crain Sunday School 9:00 AM Sunday Worship 10:00 AM Find us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/LafayetteCOB Continuing the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, togethe



Episcopal Campus Ministry Chapel of the Good Shepherd The Rev. Dr. Hilary Cooke, Chaplain 610 Meridian Street (near Mackey Arena) Online Morning Prayer - Sundays at 9:00 am In-person Holy Communion - Sundays at 10:00 am & 7:00pm 765-743-1347 \* www.goodshep.org



## **Evangelical Covenant**

**Evangelical Covenant Church** 3600 S. 9th Street, Lafayette 47909 474-4842 · www.ecclife.net Join Us Sunday Morning Worship Time - 10:30 am ONLINE AND IN PERSON



#### **Evangelical Presbyterian** Covenant Church 211 Knox Dr., West Lafayette, IN

9:00 am - Worship Service 10:30 am - Worship Service CovenantEPC.org or call 765-463-7303 Faith Presbyterian Church Traditional worship with revere Sunday 9:30 am faithpresbyterian.org/livestream IG @faithpreswl (765) 743-3683

#### 0 **Judaism**

**Purdue Hillel Foundation** The Center of Jewish Campus Life 912 West State St. (across from Lilly Hall) Please call 765-743-1293 for questions or House: Monday through Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Shabbat Services Friday at 6 p.m.
Website: www.purdue.edu/hillel
Email: Hillel@purduehillel.org
Instagram: @purduehillel

Chabad at Purdue Jewish Cente Your home away from home

Temple Israel The Greater Lafayette 620 Cumberland Ave West Lafayette, IN 47906 765-463-3455 Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/TempleIsraelwlaf Twitter & Instagram: @Tempisraelwlaf

#### Lutheran

1005 N 21st Street, Lafayett Sunday Services @ 10:00 AM Christian Education @ 9:00 A n@9:00 AM All are welcome Our Saviour Lutheran Church (ELCA) (One Block East of Knoy Hall) Sunday Worship 9 AM & 11:30 AM Meal/Worship The 9 AM is also streamed on Zoom & Facebook Live https://www.facebook.com/osluth/ Request the Zoom link at randy@osluth.org

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)

### 0 Methodist

www.plm.org plm@plm.org www.osluth.or info@osluth.or

First United Methodist Church 1700 W. State St., West Lafayette "First Up" Worship Service 9:00 AM "Celebrate" Worship Service 11:00 AM Streaming Service Available at www. St. Andrew United Methodist Church 4703 N. 50 W. West Lafayette, IN - 765-497-7755

Kelly Sellers, Online Campus Pastor Onsite Worship with Nursery Care: Traditional Worship 9:00 am Praise Worship 10:30 am Online Campus Worship Thursdays @ 7:00 pm 0

Pastors: Brian Cook, Lead Pastor

#### confirm service dates and times. Non-Denominational

Upper Room Christian Fellowshi Sunday Service: 10:30 am College Fellowship, Friday 7:00 pm Call 463-5923 or 463-7380 www.urcfellowship.org www.facebook.org/urcfellowship

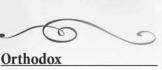
Victory Christian Center Pastors Rill & Pam Mickle Sunday Service-10:00am Wednesday Service-6:30pm 325 Burnetts Rd, West Lafayette, IN 47906 765-447-7777 www.victorylafayette.org

West Lafayette Christian Church 1980 Lindberg Road West Lafayette, IN 47906 765-463-7995 Sunday Worship Service: 10:10 a.m

#### White Horse Christian Center and Ave., W. Laf., Past Walmart on the right Come as you are Sunday Services: 8:30 & 10:00 am

Bi-lingual 6:00 pm Monday Intercessory Prayer 7:00 pm Wednesday 7:00 pm with classes for all ages Including class for Spanish Speaking Adults Sr. Pastor Jeff Johns Visit www.whcc.net to watch services, directions, special events, bookstor

Tippecanoe Bible Church 3990 St. Rd 38 est. Lafayette, IN 47905 Church times: Sunday 10:30am and Thursday 6:30pm. www



St. Alexis Orthodox Church 2115 Indiana 225 East, Battle Ground, IN 47920 9:30am - Divine Liturgy Tuesday: 7:00am - 1st Hour Wednesday: 7:00am - 1st Hour Thursday: 7:00am - 1st Hour Friday: 7:00am - 1st Hour

### Presbyterian USA

Central Presbyterian Church Worship at 10:00 am 7th & Columbia, Lafayette, Indiana 47901 www.centralpreschurch.org Find Us On Facebook!

0 Seventh-day Adventist

Adventist Christian Fe Lafayette SDA Church West Lafayette, IN 47906 Pastor: Joseph Capeles Meeting times: Student Breakfast Saturdays at 9:30 AM Church Service Saturday at 11:00 AM (765) 463-1221

#### 0 Unitarian Universalist

Unitarian Universalist Church of Tippecanoe County Currently worshipping in-person and Online (http://uuctc.org/ sunday) Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Everyone Welcome! 333 Meridian St., West Lafayette, IN 47906 765-743-8812,

Website: uuct.org
Please doin us this Sunday, October 1 st at 10:30 for "Where are
we sailing this ship?" [Einc Thee and the Long-Range Planning Task
Force] In Keeping with this month's theme or "Heritage," in this service we WILL LOOK AT WHERE OUR CONGREGATION HAS BEEN, WHAT OUR CURRENT PRIORITIE ARE, AND THE BEGINNINGS OF A VISION FOR OUR CHURCH'S FUTURE



Immanuel United Church of Christ Worship Service 9:00 am Coffee & Conversation 10:00 am

Christian Ed Classes (all ages) 10:15am In-Person & Online (Facebook, YouTube, Twitter) Facebook.com/uccimmanuel Pastor: Dr. TJ Jenney 1526 S 18th St Lafayette, IN 47906

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In The Religious Directory, Please Call 765-743-1111 Ext. 100 csloma@purdueexponent.org

If You Would Like to Be Listed