

'A great rivalry'



MAEVE TRA | GRAPHIC ARTIST

Experts from both sides analyze the Purdue-IU dynamic

BY SAM MONTGOMERY
Asst. Campus Editor

The rivalry between Indiana University and Purdue University is one for the ages, and the Old Oaken Bucket game is just one aspect of that timeless tradition.

Part of the power of the rivalry stems from how much fans care about their respective schools, said Mark Deal, assistant athletic director for alumni relations at IU. Deal, an IU alumnus, played football for the university from 1975 to 1978. After graduating, he coached football – a mainstay in the athlet-

ics department.

"It's been a lifelong love affair," Deal said. "I love Indiana. I've done a lot of things here at Indiana (and there are) great, great people, and a great town."

It's not just the fans who are invested in the rivalry, said John Decker, director of strategic communications for IU Athletics. It means a "tremendous amount to the coaches and the student-athletes."

"I think it's a great rivalry," Decker said. "I think that one of the great things about it is that it stretches across all sports. I think this rivalry, whether it's women's basketball or men's basketball or football or tennis or anything, I think it means a great deal."

As a former football player and coach, Deal looked at the rivalry "first as a player."

"You want to measure yourself against your rival," he said. "As a player, you know, you have a lot of respect for who you're going against."

"I think that some of the other stuff is overblown by the people that aren't actually on the court or on the wrestling mat or in the swimming pool."

Purdue's play-by-play radio announcer for Purdue football and women's basketball, Tim Newton, who also studied at Purdue, disagreed that things are overblown, saying the rivalry yields a surge of pride in both teams and their fans.

"I think anytime Purdue and Indiana compete, there's a lot of school pride shown on both sides that the stakes tend to ratchet up a little bit," Newton said. "I think there definitely will be a lot of school colors in the stands because when Purdue and Indiana get together, regardless of the sport, the stakes are higher and the emotions are probably a little bit higher on both sides."

Newton said his ties to his university run deep. Purdue is part of who he is, he said, as he's "been (at Purdue) for more than half (his) life" and still remembers his first football game.

What's inside our dueling edition with the Indiana Daily Student:

- Page 4** A look at the rivalry through the eyes of a senior player
- Page 5** Where exactly did the Bucket trophy come from?
- Page 6** Here are some of the best game day traditions on campus

"The first game I saw in person was 1979 down in Bloomington," Newton said. "Purdue won the game. It was the season that they won 10 games, which is still the record."

"The next year, 1980, the (Old Oaken) Bucket game was at West Lafayette, and it still holds the record for the largest crowd in Ross-Ade Stadium history. They had more than 70,000 people."

Football is just one of the many sports that fuel the intrastate rivalry.

Both schools compete for the Governor's

See RIVALS | Page 2

RIVALS

Continued from Page 1

Cup, first introduced in 2001.

Points are awarded to the winning team in each of the schools' 20 shared sports every season, according to the Purdue Sports website, and whichever team gets the most points overall wins.

"Indiana has won it nine times," Newton said. "Purdue has won it seven times, and two years have ended in a tie. So it's been a pretty even competition."

Experts from both schools echoed that the Old Oaken Bucket game's placement after Thanksgiving break forces students and potential attendees to make a difficult decision to attend.

"The fact that we play the game after Thanksgiving has taken a little bit away from it quite frankly, because kids go home at Thanksgiving," Deal said. "It's a little bit harder because of that."

Newton said the placement of the game in the season was difficult even when he attended Purdue.

"A lot of students have to make the decision that I had to make as a freshman, especially if you live far away from here: Do you go home for Thanksgiving or do you stay?" Newton said. "For those people who stay, it's a great afternoon if you wind up with the Bucket and it's a long afternoon if

you wind up not getting it."

Patrick Crawford, Purdue's associate athletics director in strategic communications, said the game is "historically significant in the state of Indiana."

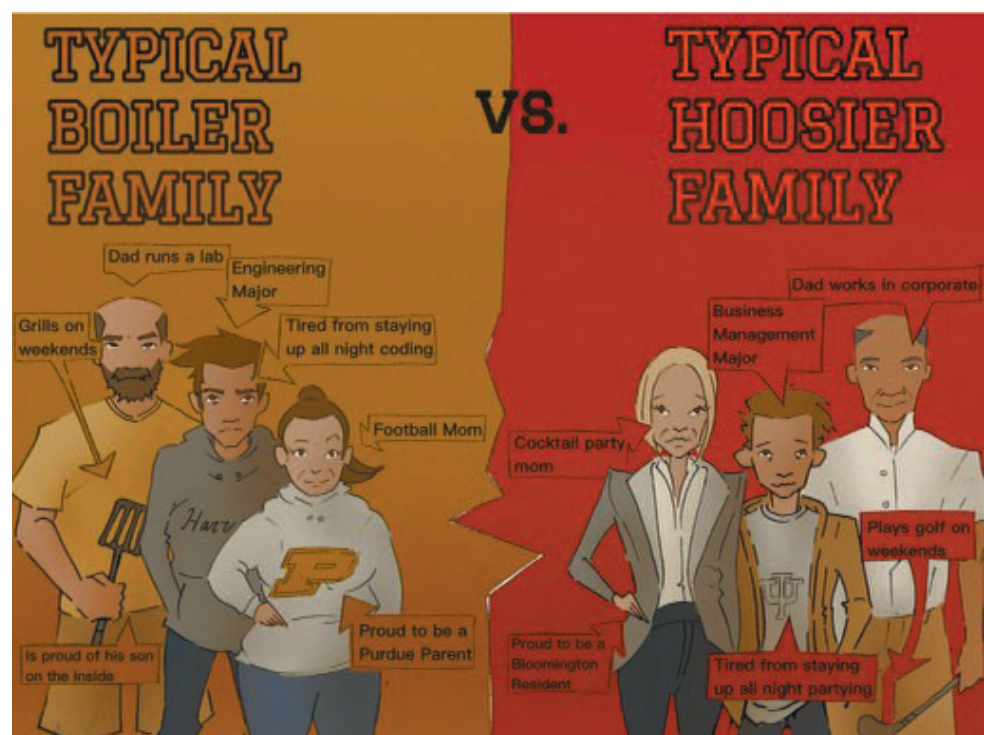
"For Big Ten football and for the Purdue Boilermakers, football traditions are very important," he said. "So rivalry games fall into that vein that it's important, but also it just feels normal to fans, and it feels normal to our athletic department to be able to stage big-time games and to conduct a huge passionate atmosphere especially around our football program."

Decker agreed the "atmosphere" of the game adds to its significance, and both schools were more passionate than ever after not being able to play the game last year.

"The atmosphere is tremendous, you know, whether the teams are having great seasons or disappointing seasons," he said. "I think that going through what we went through last year, I think everybody appreciates those kinds of things a lot more than they did."

"I worked all the games last year and I know how odd it felt because I would be in there, I'd be doing stats and there were no fans. So to get that back, I mean, it's really what college sports is about."

Despite the rivalry between the schools, both have been able to work together to further the future of Indiana,



GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX HADDON | GRAPHIC ARTIST

Does your family look more like the typical Boilermaker or Hoosier family?

Newton said.

"There's a lot of joint cooperation between the schools," Newton said. "I think it's important that even though we are rivals when it comes to sports, we're great commodities for the state of Indiana."

"We provide a lot of brain power to help try to move this state forward. So, competition is healthy, but so is cooperation. And I think that both schools, especially when they can work together, are a great benefit to the state of Indiana."



Keeping your vehicle new since 1972!



Partner with an auto repair shop in Lafayette, Indiana that educates you through the whole process of auto repair, maintenance, and tire sales. Ever faithful, ever true, and ever ready with great communication, thorough and punctual repairs, and certified mechanics who never waste your time or money on repairs or service you don't need.

**Schedule online
or call/text today.
(866) 920-8230
becksautocenter.com**



**Any sized
fountain pop**

69¢

*with Purdue
Student ID*

**Friendly Market
New Campus Location!
Smiles are FREE.**



Friendly Market

**920 Salisbury St.,
West Lafayette
Corner of Salisbury
& Robinson**

www.friendlymarket.us

Reflecting on the reunion

A senior talks about his history with the rivalry

BY EMMA FINER
Staff Reporter

The Purdue-Indiana football rivalry has been a long and storied tradition in college football. No matter what each team's record is, the Old Oaken Bucket game is always circled on the schedules of many fans and members across the West Lafayette and Bloomington communities.

"It's just such a big rivalry. It's the Bucket game," co-defensive coordinator Brad Lambert said. "And so that's the unique piece about it. That's unique to the Big Ten."

Both teams play for the coveted Old Oaken Bucket trophy that has been a symbol of the football rivalry since 1925. While Purdue has overall dominated the series 74-42-6, the Bucket is not currently in the Boilermakers' possession.

In the last matchup, which occurred in 2019 in a packed Ross-Ade Stadium, the Hoosiers won 44-41 in a double overtime thriller to claim the Bucket.

The game was canceled twice last year as a result of the pandemic, fueling the teams for this year's matchup even more, which will be held in Ross-Ade Stadium to close out the Big Ten seasons for both teams.

"You know, the kids want to win the game on both sides," Lambert said. "So it's fun to be a part of those."

The Boilermakers have had a historic season, beating two Top-5 ranked teams this year, and they hope to cap it off by reclaiming the Old Oaken Bucket.

Fifth-year quarterback Aiden O'Connell reflected on his own life as a kid and now as a player experiencing the rivalry.

O'Connell grew up in Long Grove, Illinois and came to Purdue as a walk-on. As an out-of-stater, his knowledge of the Purdue-Indiana rivalry was slim.

"I knew that they were rivals, but I didn't know there was the Old Oaken Bucket or anything like that," O'Connell said.

Once he got to Purdue, however, he emphasized that he quickly figured out just how big of a game playing against IU was, despite the records of the teams.

O'Connell also talked about his appreciation for the community and the fans throughout his career playing against IU.

"It's always during Thanksgiving, so a lot of the students are home," O'Connell said. "But nonetheless, we still have our stadium almost full, which just shows how much the community cares."

O'Connell has had a career high performance this season, with 2,476 passing yards, 16 passing touchdowns and a 72% completion percentage. He highlighted the talent IU still has on its roster despite losing several starters to injuries, and that he and the rest of the team will have to play their best to win and reclaim the bucket.

"Because it's a trophy game and a rivalry game, we want to go get that bucket and celebrate with our fans," O'Connell said.

Overall, both the coaches and players are eager to get back into Ross-Ade Stadium to get their long-awaited revenge against the Hoosiers. With the help of the home crowd, the Boilermakers hope to continue their rebound season and bring the Old Oaken Bucket back to West Lafayette.

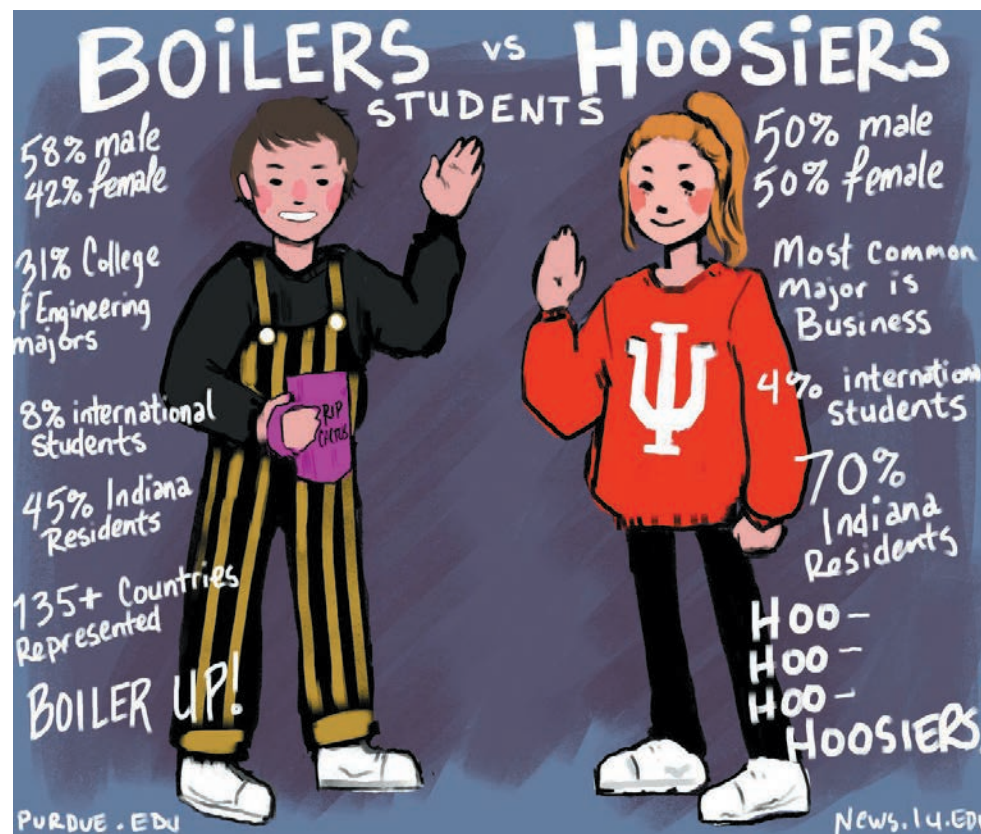
"The fans mean so much to us, the students especially," O'Connell said. "It's just always a fun time."

The Boilermakers take on the Hoosiers on Saturday at 3:30 p.m. in Ross-Ade Stadium. The game will air on FS1.



DAVID HICKEY | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Then-sophomore quarterback Aidan O'Connell runs to escape an Indiana tackler during the 2019 Old Oaken Bucket game.



NICO REASON | GRAPHICS ARTIST

Donate to The Exponent to help us beat the IDS!

Text "BEATIU" to 44-321 to vote for The Exponent with your donation!

A history of the Old Oaken Bucket trophy

BY ROCKET HAVERLAND

Staff Reporter

Born out of the rivalry between the Purdue Boilermakers and the Indiana Hoosiers and held by the hands of former Indiana and NFL quarterback Trent Green and Hall-of-Famer Drew Brees, the Old Oaken Bucket rivalry trophy has changed hands 36 times in its 100 plus years of existence.

Some say the Bucket came from a farm in Illinois or even Confederate Gen. John Hunt, however the general consensus is that the bucket was taken from a farm owned by the Bruner family over a century ago, according to collections.lib.purdue.edu, a joint archive between Purdue and IU about the rivalry. After being refurbished with a bronze plaque, it debuted on Nov. 21, 1925, in a game that ended in a scoreless tie between Indiana and Purdue according to purduesports.com.

Thus, the iconic connected “IP” link was affixed atop the bucket and remains there to this day.

Purdue Athletics spokesperson didn’t respond to a request for more information about the history of the Bucket.

Over the next 96 years, Purdue added 60 “P” links to the chain, Indiana added 32 “I” links and two drawn games added the remaining “IP” links.

The trophy was named after a poem by Samuel Woodworth that describes nostalgic scenes from his childhood that the Old Oaken Bucket personifies. Thus, the symbol of childhood for many residents of Indiana became a symbol for the rivalry between the state’s two biggest schools.

Purdue and Indiana have both spurred traditions based on the bitter rivalry.

In 1938, Purdue set up a “gigantic bonfire laid for ‘Miss Indiana’s funeral,’” according to

previous Exponent reporting. The article later said it was “more appropriately described as (a) burning at the stake.”

IU was arguably more sophisticated in burying “Ole Jawn Purdue,” a papier-mache man who, as reported by Indiana Daily Student, “flunked out of kindergarten at age 20.”

Purdue and IU have played for the Old Oaken Bucket every year since its arrival, except for last year due to two COVID-19 cancellations. Because of this, Indiana has been able to hold onto the Bucket for an extra year since it won the last game in 2019.

This bucket has lived through a multitude of historic changes after its creation: It lived through both IU and Purdue stadium changes, seven Purdue presidents, 11 IU presidents and 16 U.S presidents. It has remained intact and in the hands of celebratory football players



EXPONENT FILE PHOTO

A Purdue player clutches the chain of “I” links attached to the Old Oaken Bucket trophy.

throughout its history.

It will be fought over again Saturday as IU and Purdue kick off for the last game of IU’s season.

The rivalry may be even more fueled by the fact these universities didn’t have a chance to face each other last year.

What do these nicknames mean?

The origin stories (or lack thereof) of Indiana college nicknames

BY SEAN MURLEY

Staff Reporter

Hoosier

Most, if not all, people from Indiana know the demonym “Hoosier,” which refers to residents of Indiana and student athletes at Indiana University.

But does anyone actually know why?

John Norberg, a Purdue historian and author, said that no one is sure where the term originated.

There are numerous theories of how the term “Hoosier” came to be. One such theory on IN.gov says that when visitors knocked on a pioneer cabin’s door in Indiana, the settler would respond, “Who’s

yere?” And thus, Indiana became the “Who’s yere” or Hoosier state.

“Hoosier” came into general usage in the 1830s, according to IN.gov, being found in a poem called “The Hoosier’s Nest,” with the word “Hoosier” originally being written as “Hoosher.”

Regardless, John Norberg said both the terms “Hoosier” and “Boilermakers” were likely originally negative.

“Whatever the (origin of Hoosier) is,” he said. “They saw the humor in themselves and had fun with it.”

Boilermaker

Norberg said the term “Boilermaker” began after

Purdue beat Wabash College 44-0 in a football game, and a headline with the term “Boilermakers” ran in a newspaper in Crawfordsville in 1891.

“No one knows exactly what that headline writer meant,” Norberg said, “but we know what people at Purdue thought it meant.”

He said those at Purdue thought the headline insinuated that Purdue hired large men who worked on boilers for the sole purpose of playing on the team.

“If it was a negative-type thing, the people here really loved it, and they didn’t see it as negative at all,” he said.

Norberg said the two Lafayette papers at the time, the Journal and the Courier, immediately began using the term, with The Exponent following the next year.



It’s wheels down for the Oaken Bucket Game.
We’ve got you covered!

Airport shuttles

West Lafayette/Purdue/O’Hare three times a day
Greater Lafayette/Indianapolis Airport 9 times a day
Book online with promo code **Boilers3828** for a discount!

Charters available for all your transportation needs!

lafayette
LIMO Inc.

Celebrating 35 Years of Serving the Greater Lafayette Community

www.lafayettelimo.com



1-56
passenger
vehicles

2525 Klondike Rd., West Lafayette, IN • 765-497-3828

Prepping to hit the gridiron: fan edition

The Boiler and Hoosier game day traditions

BY NICOLE WASILEWSKI
AND MEENU RAMAKRISHNAN

Staff Reporters

When you think of Purdue football traditions, what comes to mind first? The gold and black striped overalls? The rivalry between Purdue and Indiana University?

Students at Purdue know a lot about their own football traditions, but what about their rival?

Both schools share game day traditions involving bars. Breakfast club is a stand-out example.

Breakfast club is a tradition where students head to bars early Saturday morning before every home football game as early as 7 a.m. at Purdue and 5 a.m. at IU.

“Me and my friends generally go to Where Else (bar) or Harry’s for breakfast club,” said Sloan Stewart, a senior in the College of Health and Human Sciences and Krannert School of Management.

Harry’s doesn’t participate in breakfast club, and some bouncers even deny access to people in costumes.

Costumes or onesies are a trademark of

Purdue’s breakfast club as students start their early endeavor.

The most popular bars at Purdue are Harry’s Chocolate Shop, Brothers, and Where Else. Lines can be a determining factor for students deciding between these hotspots.

“I usually just go to Brother’s bar because of the long lines at other bars,” said CJ Anderson, a senior in the College of Engineering.

A few bars at IU offer students free t-shirts and sweatshirts. The most popular bars are Upstairs Pub, Brothers, Kilroy’s and Nick’s English Hut.

An infamous IU tradition at Nick’s English Hut is the “Sink-the-Biz.”

“It’s a game where everybody has plastic cups, and we pour beer into a bucket of beer with a glass in the middle of it, and you have to pour into it without the cup sinking. If it sinks, you drink,” said Tristan Jackson, a senior in journalism at IU.

Whether or not you enjoy football, student sections and tailgates make the games worth attending at both schools. For most students, home games can be a great social event.

Student sections at both schools show school spirit at games by jangling keys before a kickoff and donning red and white striped pants or gold and black overalls. There are always students who show up in costumes.

“I think it’s really important to go at least once just to get in the spirit,” said Emma



DAVID HICKEY | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Students brave freezing temperatures to wait in bar lines for Harry’s Chocolate Shop.



DAVID HICKEY | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

A line of students form outside of Brothers Bar and Grill during Saturday morning.



DAVID HICKEY | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Breakfast Club attendees line up in costumes for bars on Saturday morning.

Nguyen, a freshman in the College of Health and Human Sciences. “Because I really do not like the sport of football, but I think the spirit of the game is so fun.”

Tailgating at IU is generally observed in a large field or the parking lots near the stadium.

“I have a group of people I can tailgate with beforehand. I play a lot of flip cup, which is fun,” said Carly Smith, a senior in anthropology.

Daria Schaffeld, a graduate from IU’s class of 1995, said she never missed a home game in the four years she was there.

“I vividly remember the Purdue game and tailgating with my then-boyfriend and all his buddies,” she said. “We were back behind the basketball stadium for this tailgate, and Purdue actually brought a Boilermaker train and were driving it through the parking lot.”

“I have a picture somewhere of my boyfriend and all of his buddies laying down in front of it like on railroad tracks and not letting the train pass. It’s one of the funniest memories I have.”

Even though Schaffeld graduated from IU more than 20 years ago, she said traditions have generally stayed the same. Ava Colias, an IU freshman, said her experiences at home games hold the same energy.

“The most iconic thing we have is our candy cane-striped trousers, but everyone wears some type of IU merch at the games,” she



DAVID HICKEY | SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Seniors Jacob Pipp and Joey Williams head to wait in line at Harry’s.

said. “I like going to home games because it’s great to be with a big crowd of people to enjoy the game, and it’s fun to celebrate and cheer on the rare occasion we get a touchdown.”

Despite the many similarities, not all traditions are the same. For example, Purdue has Purdue Pete as the face of the football team, while IU has Hoosier pride and no mascot.

“A Hoosier is more of an idea, it represents pride in Indiana,” Schaffeld said. “It’s not really a tangible thing so there’s no mascot.”

IDS sports editor: 'They'll be able to bounce back'

BY STEVEN RANDALL
AND ALEX SABRI

The Exponent's Sports Editors

Purdue's sports editors sat down with Evan Gerike, the sports editor from the Indiana Daily Student, to talk about IU's season so far and preview the rivalry game coming up this weekend. Gerike's answers have been edited for clarity and brevity.

Purdue is one of the worst at not allowing sacks in the Big Ten and IU's had kind of a down year in terms of forcing sacks. Who do you think is really going to win in the trenches this year?

Man, that's a tough question. Are you talking specifically about Indiana's defense vs. Purdue's offense?

Yeah, basically.

I would say IU's defense.

Micah McFadden and Ryder Anderson have been really good about disrupting defensive patterns and kind of forcing those sacks. Outside of those two, there's definitely been a decrease in the amount of sacks the team has created.

Part of that is partially due to injuries. Guys like Tiawan Mullen, who were big with sacks last year, just haven't been healthy enough to cause that disruption and haven't really been playing much. So, they might have had more if they were in but McFadden's really been all over the field, the guy's been insane with the way he's able to disrupt plays and create havoc. Ryder Anderson's been really good as well. He transferred from Ole Miss here before the season, he's really kind of become a quick leader of the defense and he's got a

few sacks on his own. I would have to say that IU's gonna be able to get in the backfield there and win that battle.

You already brought up some very key injuries there, also the injury for Michael Penix Jr. What do you think it's really going to take to rebound from a season like this? And do you think IU really has the personnel and the recruiting to really bounce back?

Yeah, I mean, that's the key question. I think everyone at Indiana is asking themselves right now: Is this year a down year or was last year a fluke? There have been so many injuries this year. Tom Allen said in the press conference this week, they've had 30 players miss time due to injury, 18 of them season-ending.

Indiana's just kind of been struggling all around. They've

been spread so thin. There's no depth there. Even when there was depth, the depth has been run through. That's what's really been hurting Indiana. So I'm hoping they can bounce back next year. I think next year, they'll be able to bounce back just because it's very unlikely that all these injuries will happen again. Then the players who have been filling in have all this more experience of being in big roles against big teams, they're able to develop further so that if they are back-ups again, and their number is called upon, they're more experienced and more ready to jump in and kind of take over that role.

What do you think about Donovan McCulley's performance so far in place of Michael Penix?

Yeah, I mean, he has not



PHOTO PROVIDED

Indiana Daily Student sports editor Evan Gerike stands in front of the stands at Michigan Stadium.

been able to fill in and "be" Michael Penix, but there's flashes of potential. I look at the Maryland game, when he's playing a team that isn't quite as good. And he looks really good. He had a really good day, he was in control. He was able to use his legs which is gonna be a big deal

for him. He's going to be probably the starting quarterback in a few years and I really think that he's shown a little bit of the potential that when he takes over he's going to be able to, you know, make plays with both his arm and his legs.

I didn't get to see him play at all against Rutgers. So I don't really know. I don't think he played much because Jack Tuttle played for a bit, he went out, I think (Grant Gremel) took some snaps and the team looked awful against Rutgers. But if you don't look at that game, he's made some progress. There's definitely things to like if you're looking for Donovan McCulley to be your guy in the future.

Read the rest of the interview at purdueexponent.org.



**We have
Flower, Gummies, Edibles, Vapes,
Dabs and Disposable Vapes.**



**THE DELTA 8
— SHOP —**

**thedelta8shop.com
317-941-5361**



**NOW AVAILABLE
Delta 8 THC
Delta 9 THC
Delta 10 THC
THC-O
and the new potent HHC**



Check us out at our online store: thedelta8shop.com | Use Code Rivalry for 15% off your order.

Spicing up this year's game

BY STEVEN RANDALL
Sports Editor

Dear fellow basketball school,
It's been a while.

We were sad not to be able to see you at Thanksgiving last year, even after we tried to reschedule. We're excited to be able to get back together this year for the first time since 2019.

You'll remember two years ago, we suggested a new format for the Bucket game. At the time, Purdue was bowl ineligible and Indiana was guaranteed to have its best season in at least a decade, and we realized we could make the contest more interesting by turning the matchup into a Harlem Globetrotters game.

That dynamic has flipped this year. Purdue's on track to have its best season in 15 years, and y'all have unfortunately regressed from the 2020 terror factory we were secretly glad not to have to play.

Nothing's really going to change that. We're locked into our respective postseason fates. You don't have anything to lose except for the Bucket. You hold most of the power in this matchup, and we're sure you'd be more than happy to "crabs in a barrel" us down to a slightly worse finish.

We'd like to re-extend the offer we submitted two years ago. Our teams can still have a lot of fun with this, and we've got some new ideas about how to make it work.

In the first quarter, we're respecting the troops. In honor of the Army-Navy game that'll kick off two weeks from our game, we propose only running the triple option as a sort of preview. Does this have the potential to be horrifyingly boring and stagnant? Of course it does. But go look at some of the final scores from that game; it would fit right in.

The second quarter will take a page from the book of our friends up north. The rouge is a play in the Canadian Football League in which a single point is awarded for a touchback. On any play besides a PAT or a field goal try, one team can attempt to bomb the ball into the end zone, and if it is downed there or goes out of bounds, the kicking team will earn 1 point. The Big Ten loves a good punting exhibition, and this one will have semi-real stakes.

After halftime, we're modifying an idea we put forth two years ago. Instead of switching offense and defense, we're switching players between the line and the backfield on both sides of the ball. Let skill players block each other in the trenches while the big men get to



EXPONENT FILE PHOTO

The Boilermakers raise the Old Oaken Bucket after their victory against Indiana in 2017. The last time Purdue won the Bucket before then was in 2012.

drop into coverage. We bet George Karlaftis could completely blow up a crossing route.

To round out the game, we're going to take a play you might only see in the waning seconds and make it the entire offense: the desperation lateral. Every play run by both teams must contain at least three laterals, as if the teams are either scrambling for a miracle or attempting to play rugby. If it results in a few genuine desperation

laterals, even better.

Hopefully you will finally recognize the possibilities for fun and wonder that can bring us together this Thanksgiving. It's a time of tradition, to be sure, but there's always room to try something new.

Love,

The Exponent Sports Desk

P.S. It's been 2,103 days since y'all beat us in basketball, in case you'd forgotten.

My family's Old Oaken Bucket game side bet

BY HANNAH MITCHELL
Staff Reporter

Thanksgiving is a time for my family to gather, but there is a much more important holiday my family observes that week.

The Bucket game.

My family is a bit of a house divided. My dad Michael has a master's degree from Purdue and my aunt Noelle went to Indiana for her undergrad. Both of them are avid fans of their schools and have raised their kids to cheer for their respective teams.

This has led to a fun dynamic in the family that has kept us close even when we're all spread out and don't know when we'll see each other next. This has especially led to my dad and aunt keeping in touch around important points in each school's seasons.

No family dinner would be com-

plete without copious amounts of teasing from opposite sides of the rivalry and Thanksgiving dinner is no exception. There is no small amount of ribbing the whole time we're together, but there's something different about the teasing when the game is coming up and we all know what is on the line.

My dad and aunt have a tradition. The loser has to display the winning team's helmet on their mantle for a year.

According to my dad, they wanted some way to replicate the traveling trophy nature of the Old Oaken Bucket. For 16 years, they have passed mini helmets between Colorado and Indiana to serve as a constant reminder until the next game.

"It gives us a way to channel that aggressiveness over the Indiana-Purdue rivalry," my aunt said in a text. "We used to fight physically when we were younger. It kind of

takes the edge off."

Because the Bucket game wasn't played last year, my dad was able to take the Hoosier helmet off the mantle for a year, but the game is coming fast this year. Soon the complaints of a mini helmet ruining Christmas decorations will come, whether that be from my dad or my aunt.

"I've enjoyed seeing my helmet on his mantle, and he has bought me several versions of the Purdue helmet over the years," my aunt said. "I joked with him one year that I felt like I was in the helmet of the month club."

We have not had many chances as a family to watch the Bucket game together. Some years we aren't together for Thanksgiving and some years travel just makes it not happen, but we have had the opportunity a few times to enjoy the rivalry as a family.



HANNAH MITCHELL | STAFF REPORTER

The mini helmets Hannah Mitchell's family members pass back and forth each year.

The past games we have watched together both ended with Purdue victories. Obviously, my aunt shared her opinions on IU losing. She loves to yell at players and referees.

No matter who wins or loses,

the Bucket game still ends with plenty of teasing, but also plenty of love and respect between the siblings.

And a mini helmet, ready to adorn the losing mantle until the two teams meet again.

Fundraising Challenge

THE EXPONENT

VS



In advance of The Old Oaken Bucket game, the student publications for Indiana University and Purdue University are holding a fundraising challenge. Donate between now and kickoff on Nov. 27 to show your support!

Making the Old Oaken Bucket fun this year



IDS FILE PHOTO BY MICHAEL WILLIAMS
Indiana football players and coaches hold up the Old Oaken Bucket trophy after the 26-24 win over Purdue on Nov. 26, 2016 at Memorial Stadium.

By **Bradley Hohulin**
bhohulin@iu.edu | @BradleyHohulin

Dear fellow basketball school (I assume we're talking about the women's teams),

We are overjoyed to accept your Thanksgiving invitation. It broke our hearts that we couldn't play you last year. I mean, we would have much rather played Iowa or Northwestern or a school that wasn't next to dead last in the division, but we were disappointed nonetheless.

Obviously, this season has seen a reversal of fortunes. Head coach Tom Allen's LEO mantra might as well stand for "lose every outing." Meanwhile, it's been a joy watching Purdue play lights-out football against top-three teams while barely playing football at all against teams four through 75.

Come December, you'll be watching a bowl game. We'll be watching bowl games too, but mostly so we can salivate over other schools' offensive coordinators in the desperate hopes that one of them comes to Bloomington.

However, none of that matters Saturday. To honor one of the 37 most prestigious rivalries in college football, let's make this the most exciting, most absurd, most

fun Bucket game of all time.

The first quarter will consist entirely of stretching and rigorous hydration. Allen and Jeff Brohm will lead their athletes through a 15-minute vinyasa yoga flow to align their chakras, center their inner selves and prevent any more horrific ligament tears. Once everyone has finished their orange slices and Capri-Sun pouches, it's time to play ball.

It's the second quarter, and the name of the game is audience participation. Each play, referees will pull two spectators from the crowd at random to replace an athlete on their school's team. Every guy thinks he can throw a tight spiral once he has enough liquid courage in him, but hopefully that inebriated undergrad remembers how to call a fair catch when he has a combined 700 pounds of man sprinting at him.

Next, Purdue's defense will vacate the field and Indiana's offense will spend the third quarter trying to score a real-life touchdown. I know it seems like this doesn't offer anything for Purdue fans, but the goal line battle between Indiana's offensive line and its own inner demons will be a gladiatorial showdown for every spectator.

To cap off the afternoon, the officials will erect a ladder at midfield and place the Old Oaken Bucket atop it. They

will then exit the stadium, leaving the athletes to acquire the bucket by any means necessary. This is when Michael Penix Jr. will emerge from the sidelines, bust out of his nine knee braces and sprint for the trophy — but not if George Karlaftis drops him with the people's elbow first.

By the time the dust has settled and the Bucket has found its home for the next 365 days, I think we'll be better friends for it. Next season, maybe we'll combine for more than 10 wins.

Smooches,
The Indiana Daily Student Sports Desk

P.S. Yes, it has sadly been a while since Indiana men's basketball defeated Purdue. Make no mistake, we at the Indiana Daily Student have spent each of those 2,103 days groveling, wallowing in self-pity and winning dozens of Associated Collegiate Press awards, ICPA newspaper of the year six times, ICPA journalist of the year five times, first place in the Hearst national writing competition four times and a whole bunch of other awards of which we've lost track.

But hey, congrats on all those victorious basketball recaps you've gotten to write.

IU tries to rebound after Minnesota loss

By L.C. Norton

lnorton@iu.edu | @ByLCNorton

Shortly after the passing of its former president, Herman B Wells, IU commissioned a statue to be placed on campus to honor its former leader.

IU-South Bend professor Tuck Langland was chosen to craft Wells's likeness. The statue now sits on a bench in the Old Crescent of IU's campus, its outstretched right hand worn away from the many freshmen who have shaken it for tradition's sake.

Langland, however, had a plan in mind for the statue.

Indiana football was set to play Minnesota, Langland's alma mater, that October at Memorial Stadium in Bloomington. Langland carved "IU vs Minnesota, Oct. 21, 2000 — Go Gophers" into the underside of the brim of Wells's hat.

Minnesota would go on to lose that game 51-43. Before tonight, Indiana was 2-6 against Minnesota, and the series was tied 2-2 in Bloomington.

That changed Saturday night when Minnesota defeated Indiana 35-14 on senior night in Memorial Stadium.

"Obviously disappointed in the outcome, proud of the kids' fight," head coach Tom Allen said at the postgame press conference. "Proud of our seniors, all that they represent, what they've done here."

The first quarter consisted of just three drives, two from Minnesota and just one from Indiana. Minnesota's first offensive possession bled over eight minutes from the clock. Indiana, taking over after a fourth-down stop, took six minutes on a touchdown drive.

That touchdown came off of a mistake. Freshman quarterback Donaven McCulley fumbled the initial snap before gathering himself up to wade through Minnesota's defense and into the end zone.

Indiana only asked McCulley to pass twice in its first drive, and only one of those attempts ended in a completion. Those seven yards, which came courtesy of sophomore wide receiver Javon Swinton, would be McCulley's only passing yards of the first half.

Allen said most of Indiana's offensive plays were run-pass options, with McCulley electing to run on most, and Allen believed he should have thrown more.

"Dual threat, dual means you do both," Allen said. "If you're not dual, then you're just one dimensional."

McCulley had 12 rushing attempts for 59 yards in the first half. Then, as fans in the stands shouted for him to pass with 23 seconds left in the half, he threw right to Minnesota junior defensive back Tyler Nubin.

Minnesota capitalized as senior quarterback Tanner Morgan led receivers toward the sidelines before finding senior wide receiver Chris Autman-Bell in the end zone to extend Minnesota's lead.

In its three drives with McCulley following halftime, Indiana only gained 29 yards before a late third-quarter interception ended the freshman's night. Sophomore quarterback Grant Gremel replaced McCulley at the beginning of the fourth quarter.

As though sensing its fans growing apathy for football, IU promoted single-game tickets for men's basketball over speakers and on the stadium's jumbotron multiple times

throughout the game.

Despite his one quarter of play, Gremel led Indiana in passing yards with 60 to McCulley's 17. Of those 60, 53 came on his final two attempts: a completion to sophomore tight end AJ Barner and a touchdown pass to freshman wide receiver Malachi Holt-Bennett.

When asked if he would consider starting Gremel next Saturday against rival Purdue, Allen replied he would do whatever needs to be done to beat the Boilermakers. Gremel brushed off potential pressure that could come with facing Purdue.

"Pressure's fake," Gremel said. "I don't believe in pressure."



ETHAN LEVY | IDS
Freshman quarterback Donaven McCulley runs against Minnesota on Nov. 20, 2021, at Memorial Stadium.

Ernie Pyle's first article published 100 years ago — for The Exponent

By Colin Kulpa

ckulpa@iu.edu | @ColinKulpa

Ernie Pyle, one of the most influential journalists in history, is considered by historians to be one of the most important figures to attend Indiana University. Pyle's work shifted the course of journalism forever, focusing on the common person and telling their stories, famously including those of soldiers during World War II.

At IU, one can find Ernie Pyle Hall, journalism students who receive the Ernie Pyle Scholarship and a statue of Pyle outside Franklin Hall, home to the Media School and its journalism department.

That's why it might shock Hoosiers to hear his first published article ran in the Purdue Exponent.

On Nov. 19, 1921, Pyle, then a city editor at the Indiana Daily Student, published his first byline in the Exponent. Its full title was "Indiana completes plans for Purdue rooters' reception — special arrangements made to accommodate visitors in university cafeteria — Boilermakers to march — football declared king of day as series of homecoming pep-fests draw to an end."

The article included no mention of the Old Oaken Bucket trophy, which would not appear until 1925. That weekend, Indiana football defeated Purdue 3-0 at Jordan Field in Bloomington, now the site of a parking lot outside the Indiana Memorial Union. It was Indiana's only Big Ten, then called the Western Conference, victory that season.

Pyle documented the arrival of Purdue fans that weekend on specially scheduled trains from West Lafayette,

Indiana, to Bloomington, a massive bonfire scheduled to take place in Dunn Meadow and a meeting between student leadership organizations at both schools.

"Open house is being held by all organization houses on the campus," Pyle wrote, "and a cordial invitation is extended to all visitors to make themselves at home during their stay in Bloomington."

Owen Johnson, associate professor emeritus of journalism at IU, published the article in his book "Ernie Pyle at Home," which documents much of Pyle's work.

"Ernie Pyle hardly ever talked about his work or even more rarely analyzed it," Johnson wrote in the book's introduction. "Interviews with him usually produced little more than generalities. Yet he was a complete journalist with an insatiable curiosity."

...

They knew where to look for him. The keeper told them all week where he was going to be.

They knew he'd have the bucket.

It was double-overtime of the Old Oaken Bucket game in late November of 2019 at Ross-Ade Stadium in West Lafayette. IU held the lead for most of the game and was hanging on to a 28-17 advantage entering the fourth quarter.

But Purdue surged back, knotting the score at 31 with just under three minutes remaining. In the second overtime, all IU needed was a touchdown to capture its eighth win of the season.

All they needed was one yard for the bucket.

Deal watched from the back of the end zone. He heard IU quarterback Peyton Ramsey bark out the signal for a quarterback sneak. Ramsey took the snap and looped to the right side of the line, lowering his left shoulder and falling into the endzone.

Deal shook the Purdue representative's hand and took the bucket case. He didn't open it because he wanted the players to be the first ones to touch it.

IU defensive back Juwan Burgess was the first one to get to Deal. The keeper held the case over his head, mouth agape as he was engulfed in a swarm of white jerseys. He put the case on the turf, nearly being knocked over as the team ripped it open. In a mosh, they hoisted the bucket in the air, dozens of arms reaching to touch the historic prize.

The keeper raised his arms and jumped in the air.

Shortly after in the postgame press conference, head coach Tom Allen's voice trembled, his eyes filling with tears. A song by Young Thug blared in the background, signaling a party in the locker room. It was Allen's first Old Oaken Bucket win.

"I want to thank President McRobbie and Fred Glass for believing in me," Allen said through sniffles. "A couple of years ago, taking a chance on a small town kid from this great state of Indiana that not many would have done that."

Once the music trailed off, the cameras stopped rolling and most of the coaches had left, Allen and Deal remained. Deal held the bucket in his hands. He told Allen the same thing he's recited to every coach over the years.

"Coach Allen," Deal said. "Here's your bucket."

"Take this home."

...

On a day in August 2020, the IU football team was socially distanced inside the Henke Hall Of Champions in the north end zone of Memorial Stadium. Allen delivered the news that there would be no Big Ten fall football season.

Deal cried. He cried for the seniors. He cried for their



Then-sophomore running back Ahrod Lloyd holds up the box that holds the Old Oaken Bucket on Nov. 30, 2019, at Ross-Ade Stadium in West Lafayette, Indiana. IU won back the Oaken Bucket and defeated Purdue 44-41 in double overtime.

hard work. Allen told them they were going to stay together and keep working.

And that's what they did. About three weeks later, the Big Ten announced there would, in fact, be a fall season. When games finally started in October, the results were unprecedented. At one point last year, IU climbed to its highest ranking in the Associated Press Poll since 1969, at No. 8.

IU opened the season by upsetting then-No. 8 Penn State in double overtime after an iconic game-winning dive by quarterback Michael Penix Jr. Two weeks later, IU defeated Michigan for the first time since 1987 and ascended into the top 10 in the AP rankings. Then, when IU shutout Michigan State and won the Old Brass Spittoon, Deal rubbed it down with disinfectant wipes.

After beating then-No. 16 Wisconsin on Dec. 12, 2020, the Hoosiers had a 6-1 record and was ranked No. 12.

Then came bucket week.

After all of the uncertainty, it seemed like the game would happen. Veteran players would pass on the bucket's significance to the underclassmen. Deal would still get jittery. The hatred was still there.

"My dad is not a big fan of Purdue and neither am I," IU quarterback Jack Tuttle said last December.

During bucket week, Deal's office voicemail used to be

recordings of longtime radio broadcaster Don Fischer announcing big plays from the rivalry, but he can't figure out the technology anymore. Other fans have Old Oaken Bucket coffee mugs and Christmas ornaments.

"I don't consider that memorabilia," Deal said. "I consider that treasure."

Instead of being at Memorial Stadium, Deal lounged in his basement and watched other college football teams play. Around him, there were reminders of the bucket. He has pictures from Old Oaken Bucket games and replica "I" links in the room.

On that Saturday, the bucket would've finally been taken out of its glass case. If IU won, there would've been a party in the locker room. There would've been the virtual excitement of IU fans in Bloomington and on Twitter.

Instead, for the first time ever, it will have to wait another year.

Even the bucket, dripping in history, couldn't escape the virus. But what's left is too powerful to be taken. Those are the stories of Corso sleeping with the bucket, Deal's Christmas centerpiece and Bruner's return to the farm.

And now, finally, there are more to come.

So now, the Old Oaken Bucket sits in its case, waiting for its next link.

"My dad is not a big fan of Purdue and neither am I." —Jack Tuttle



Top Bil Bruner, Mark Deal and Lisa Bruner pose with the Old Oaken Bucket on July 20, 2016, at the likely location where the Old Oaken Bucket was found in 1925, located at a farm in Southern Indiana.

Bottom Former IU head football coach Lee Corso poses with the Old Oaken Bucket in 1976. Now beloved on ESPN's "College Gameday," Corso coached the Hoosiers from 1973-1982, and he won the bucket four times in his 10-year career with IU.

said. "That's my last name. I wish we'd be a part of it going back when I was in my 20s, but things happen for a reason. I'm a firm believer in that."

The following fall, Deal invited Bruner and his wife to their first Old Oaken Bucket game at Memorial Stadium. They watched practice during the week. Bruner did the pre-game coinflip. IU ended up prevailing 26-24.

After the game, Deal told the Bruners to follow him into the locker room. As they trailed Deal, Bruner was eating popcorn out of a replica tub of the Old Oaken Bucket. In the locker room during the celebration, then-head coach Kevin Wilson settled the team down.

"Put that popcorn bucket down," Wilson told Bruner. "Come here and grab the real bucket."

Now, the farmhouse is gone. It was burned to the ground during a drill for local firefighters. Much of the Bruner's old farmland was turned into a golf course. But what still remains is in Bruner's attic.

That's where the Old Oaken Bucket popcorn tub still sits.

...

Standing in the locker room before the 1977 IU-Purdue football game, Lee Corso made a promise. Corso, who is now a college football analyst on ESPN, was in his fifth year as IU's head coach and coming off of a win over Purdue the prior season.

As a symbol of his vow, Corso placed a football in the Old Oaken Bucket before the 1977 contest.

"We're going to give the game ball to the Etherton family after we win the bucket," Deal recalls Corso saying.

Deal was a junior at the time. His family accumulated a total of eight victories over Purdue in their playing careers. His father, Russ, was a captain of the 1945 Hoosier football Big Ten championship team. His brother, Mike, was part of the 1968 IU Rose Bowl team.

During that season, one of Deal's teammates, Scott Etherton, was killed in a two-car collision the Sunday prior to the IU-Purdue game. Etherton was a walk-on defensive back. He was studying forensics at IU, a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and was involved in Little 500 activities. He was respected by his teammates and coaches.

Etherton was 22.

Three days after his funeral, his teammates played for him in the Old Oaken Bucket game.

"I was 20 years old then," Deal said. "You're indestructible. You don't think that things like that are going to happen to anybody."

On the field that day, Hoosier running back Darrick Burnett carried the ball 43 times for 196 yards in IU's 21-10 win.

After the game, there were tears. There was hugging. Corso tried to calm everyone down.

"I want one thing: to fulfill our promise," Corso said. "Mr.

Etherton, here's the game ball."

All these years later, these are the types of stories Deal recollects with his former teammates at golf outings "like it was yesterday." Deal's wife watched him play in Old Oaken Bucket games, although the two didn't know each other at the time and met later.

When Corso took over as head coach in 1973, IU had lost 21 of the last 25 matchups against Purdue. The bucket wasn't even brought to one of Corso's first rivalry games because it was assumed IU would lose.

Later, Deal and Corso were part of back-to-back bucket victories in 1976-77, making it the first winning streak for IU over Purdue in 30 years. Deal attributes Corso with re-igniting excitement in the rivalry.

Corso had a sign above his office door that read: "What have you done to beat Purdue?" They finished every practice with a yell of "Beat Purdue." It didn't matter if it was early in the season and they were playing Minnesota. It was always "Beat Purdue."

"It was a 365-day thing for Coach Corso," Deal said.

After Corso won the bucket for the first time, he brought it home and slept with it in his bed. Another time, the bucket was filled with flowers and used as the centerpiece for the Corso's family Thanksgiving feast. It sat next to the turkey.

Even after Corso left IU in 1982, that passion continued.

In 1993, Indiana safety Chris Dyer delivered a scornful message about Purdue ahead of the upcoming game.

"They're all c---suckers," Dyer said in an article in the Indiana Daily Student. "Their coach is a c---sucker. What the f--- is a Boilermaker anyway? I hate that town too."

Indiana won that game 24-17.

All of the emotion surrounding the pail continued. In 1996, when Deal returned to Indiana as an assistant, IU was in the midst of a coaching change. Deal knew that meant the bucket was unattended. On Christmas Eve, Deal snuck into an empty Memorial Stadium, unlocked the trophy case and took the bucket home.

"Mike, guess what's on our table for Christmas dinner," Deal said to his brother.

"What?" his brother responded.

"The bucket," Deal said.

"I'm so jealous."

Deal did the same thing in 2010 before former head coach Kevin Wilson took over at the helm. Deal admits the bucket has been in his bed, too. It was tucked on Deal's half of the mattress, away from his wife.

"She didn't want it near her side," Deal said.

Now, looking back on his career, Deal can't decide a favorite bucket game.

"I have five grandchildren," Deal said. "It's like 'who's your favorite?' Well, I don't have a favorite, they're all special. It's like the bucket wins, they're all special."

"They're all beautiful children."

been stolen by fans.

In 2020, March Madness had already been canceled. The NBA and MLB seasons had been paused. Life as everyone knew it was in shambles. Businesses closed, uncertainty reigned, anxiety spiked. And now, in a year that had taken so much, it took the Old Oaken Bucket.

Dec. 12, 2020, would've been the 96th Old Oaken Bucket game.

All that was left were the memories.

Those can't be washed away.

...

The game was scheduled to be at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020, where IU would've played Purdue for a bucket that was allegedly found at a farm in Indiana. There are, however, many stories about the origins of the Old Oaken Bucket.

In one version, an employee of American Steel Foundries in Illinois said that the bucket was brought to him to be restored. Another account claimed that a bucket was brought to Bruner Farm in Indiana and lowered into the well a couple of times to add significance to the trophy.

The most well-cited story, though, is that the bucket was actually discovered on the Bruner Farm after it had been used there for decades by the family.

In recent years, Bill Bruner would watch the Old Oaken Bucket games inside of his home in Hanover, Indiana, but had never attended one himself. He would yell his frustrations at the screen, asking the referees when they'd never give a call in Indiana's favor.

"Ohio State, they get all of the breaks," he'd say.

His wife would remind him that they couldn't hear him through the TV. At some point during the broadcast, the announcers would mention the origins of the bucket, Bruner farm.

That's my family, Bruner would think to himself.

Bruner's great-grandfather owned a farm in southern Indiana between Hanover and Kent. The land stretched acres with a white farmhouse and water well on the property.

Growing up, Bruner didn't know much about his great-grandfather's farm. His mom told him a story about how Morgan's Raiders, a Confederate cavalry unit that was deployed into the northern states, once trekked through a creek and stopped by the well for a drink.

According to the most popular version of the story, in 1925 the Chicago alumni chapters of Purdue and IU came up with the idea of finding a trophy for the winner of the football game. It was recommended that Indiana alumnus Dr. Clarence Jones and Purdue alumnus Russel Gray find an old oaken bucket, which was "the most typical Hoosier form of trophy."

Eventually, the duo came across Bruner farm where they



Members from IU and Purdue's football programs pose Nov. 21, 1925, with the Old Oaken Bucket trophy. The dedication of the brand new Tenth Street Stadium took place at 1 p.m. that day, and IU tied Purdue 0-0 in the football game. IU ARCHIVES

found a bucket hanging in a well and decided it was a suitable trophy. It was then named after the 1817 poem "The Old Oaken Bucket" by Samuel Woodworth. The poem was written about a Massachusetts homestead with a well and was often sung by schoolchildren.

"The old oaken bucket, the iron-bound bucket," the poem reads. "The moss-covered bucket which hangs in the well."

Soon after, the bucket was presented at the 1925 contest at Memorial Stadium in Bloomington. The inaugural Old Oaken Bucket game, where players wore leather helmets and long sleeve shirts, ended in a 0-0 tie. The first "I" and "P" links were connected on the handle of the bucket.

It didn't take long for resentment to bubble over the bucket.

In 1930, after IU's first victory since the bucket's introduction, it mysteriously went missing and eventually turned up outside the Lafayette Journal and Courier office. Nearly 30 years later, three IU fans swiped the iconic trophy from the campus in West Lafayette.

Earlier in his life, Bruner didn't think much about the bucket and its history. His stepfather was a huge IU basketball fan and they'd regularly tune into games. Bruner watched the legendary coach Bob Knight infamously throw

a chair across the court. But Bruner didn't watch much IU football.

"They were supposed to lose," Bruner said.

Bruner didn't have a stable relationship with his father Clayton, and it wasn't until 2015 when Clayton's health was declining that Bruner started asking about the farm. During that time, Bruner's wife dug up an old letter that Clayton had penned in 2003.

"I'm Clayton Bruner, 64 years old and the late grandson of the late William and Cora Bruner," Clayton wrote. "I would listen to the game on the radio and they would always talk about the Bruner farm and the Old Oaken Bucket. I would like very much to correspond with the university about the

prized trophy."

Bruner's wife decided to reach out to the IU athletic department to try to arrange a meeting. Mark Deal, the assistant alumni director at IU and

"keeper" of the bucket, returned their call. Shortly after they connected, Clayton died.

The family continued their efforts to meet with Deal. In the summer of 2016, Deal and Bruner traveled down 300 yards of a country road weathered by tire tracks with the bucket. At the end, there was the farmhouse covered in chipped white paint.

"I still think that there's a sense of pride there," Bruner

"Put that popcorn bucket down," Wilson told Bruner. "Come here and grab the real bucket."

The Old Oaken Bucket and the stories it tells

Saturday's game will be the 96th Old Oaken Bucket game.



IDS FILE PHOTO BY ALEX DERYN

IU football players hold up the Old Oaken Bucket after defeating Purdue on Nov. 30, 2019, in Ross-Ade Stadium in West Lafayette, Indiana. Last year's Old Oaken Bucket game was canceled after both teams tested positive for COVID-19.

By Tyler Tachman

sports@idsnews.com | @Tyler_T15

The official announcement came just after 2 p.m. on Dec. 9, 2020.

IU head coach Tom Allen later said it made him feel "sick."

It was on Dec. 8, though, that it started to crumble.

Earlier in the day, the Ohio State-Michigan game was canceled due to positive COVID-19 tests. Then there was word out of West Lafayette that Purdue canceled its practice due to COVID-19 concerns. Later that night, IU announced that it had paused all team activities due to the coronavirus.

In a world controlled by the pandemic, IU hadn't missed a game all year. In August 2020, the season was canceled. A few weeks later, it was reinstated. Then the Hoosiers lost

their star quarterback Michael Penix Jr. Still, IU was on its way to the team's best season since its Rose Bowl appearance in 1967.

This year was supposed to be a beatdown of rival Purdue.

It was supposed to be IU's second consecutive Old Oaken Bucket win. It was supposed to be a coronation of IU football's emergence with high-flying chest bumps from Allen, interceptions from Tiawan Mullen and touchdowns from Whop Philyor. All of the frustration of being knocked out of the Big Ten championships would've been taken out in 60 minutes on the field.

But on Dec. 9 all of those hopes were gone.

It was the first season since the bucket's introduction in 1925 that the teams wouldn't play. The last time IU and Purdue didn't play each other in football was 1919 after a dispute over two Hoosier players' eligibility.

Since 2019, the bucket has been nearly untouched. The only time it was taken out was to carefully wipe down the wood and polish the brass links.

In a normal year, it would've been showcased at alumni events and flaunted around the state. Before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, it was brought to the Indiana House and Senate.

Instead, the Old Oaken Bucket has rested alone inside a glass display case in the IU football locker room. It's the first thing players see when they enter.

The allegedly more than 150-year-old slab of wood shows its age. It's been discolored from a dark brown to a light hazel. It's covered with scrapes and scratches.

Over the years, coaches have cried about it. After games, it has been taken back to coaches' houses for sleepovers. Hundreds of players have touched it. On occasion, it has

Monday, November 22, 2021 | RIVALRY EDITION

IDS

Indiana Daily Student | idsnews.com



The Old Oaken Bucket and the stories it tells, *p.2*

HAPPY BUCKET WEEK, HOOSIERS

