

Hoo Hoo Hoo HOOSIERS



By Dom Williams
editor-in-chief

Under new head coach Curt Cignetti, Indiana University football has been revived, and the future looks bright for the Hoosiers.

It is no secret that IU is known as a basketball school. The basketball program has a rich history with multiple national championships. Unlike the basketball team, Indiana football has never been something to be proud of. Overlooking two above average seasons in 2019 and 2020 that were clouded by COVID-19, IU football has not had even a winning record since 2007, and the most recent before that was 1994.

There are multiple reasons that IU football has been so subpar, but it really boils down to two main things: playing in the B1G conference and living in the shadows of other major programs. The B1G is one of the most prestigious and powerful conferences in the country. This ensures that pretty much every year, Indiana has to play a tough schedule against multiple ranked teams. Along with this, IU has never had the recruiting tools that nearby schools have, leaving Indiana football in a seemingly permanent drought of talent. Being so close to other midwestern schools such as Notre Dame, Ohio State, Michigan, Tennessee, and even Louisville and Kentucky, highly sought after recruits have always been drawn to these schools with bigger and better football programs. Most midwestern talent ends up at these schools, and there has never been anything IU could do about it. That is, until the hire of Coach Curt Cignetti. Cignetti, who had 40 years of collegiate coaching under his belt, has now led the Hoosiers to an 11-1 record and a playoff berth.

This year has been nothing short of historical for Indiana, and the stats speak for themselves: this season, Indiana has the most wins (11), largest point differential (+344) and most 40-point games (8) in school history, per the Indiana Daily Student newspaper. Cignetti also has a history of being a winning coach. Last year, he led

James Madison University to an impressive 11-2 record, both losses coming during the last two games of the season. JMU starting the year 11-0 brought a ton of attention to Cignetti and his squad, ultimately landing him the job at IU. Cignetti brought 31 transfers into Indiana this season, including 13 of his own guys that played at James Madison.

I got the privilege of attending the final game of IU's regular season, which was a rivalry game against Purdue. I had been to a couple IU football games before this, but this year the atmosphere was just different. The hype around IU's team is as real as they come, and Bloomington was a snowy mess of fans ready for football.

My friends and I walked to tailgate after tailgate before the game began, and we had never seen Bloomington so ready for a football game. The atmosphere when the team is good is just so much different than it has been in past years.

When we finally headed into the stadium, I was at a loss for words at how packed it was and how much energy the crowd had. In 2022, I went to an IU football game with my dad, and the crowd was small and there were empty seats all over the stadium. This year, Indiana sold out of tickets for all home games in mid October, and it was pretty clear. Every seat in the stadium was filled, and it was beyond loud. The snowy weather mixed with the game being at night made for an exciting atmosphere that I had never seen before at Memorial Stadium. Fans came ready to cheer and showed out.

The game ended in sheer domination by Indiana. Winning 66-0 against their Boilermaker rivals, the Hoosier offense looked nothing short of amazing throughout the game. We did not stay the whole game because of the weather, but while we were there, the plays that IU made were electric and got the crowd roaring. It was amazing to witness.

Regardless of how the season ends for Indiana in the playoffs, I cannot help but be excited for the future of the Hoosiers under Cignetti.



The Hoosiers come storming out of the tunnel during their fight song to take-on the Nebraska Cornhuskers. The Hoosiers had a big win against the conference opponent. Sam Thompson photo



Junior Jackson Frahm checks his weight before his meet. Frahm wrestles in the 126 weight class. Damien Hoagland photo

Wrestlers watch weight during holiday break

By Henry Barrett
entertainment editor

The Woodmen wrestlers experience holiday feasts different from most athletes.

It is essential for wrestlers to maintain their weight over the holidays.

"Maintaining weight over break is important because wrestling has weight classes that determine how big the wrestlers are that you compete against. If you eat too much over the holidays, it can cause you to have to bump up a weight class and wrestle someone who is bigger," freshman Eli Hawkins said.

Wrestlers cannot eat as much as they normally would want to over the holidays.

"Usually we are not allowed to have big meals on holidays since we have to make weight. It's pretty bad having to restrain ourselves, but it is part of the sport," junior Jackson Frahm said.

Not only do wrestlers have to watch how much they eat, they also have to watch how healthy the food they

are eating is.

"This year I was able to eat a lot on Thanksgiving, but I had to watch what I was eating to make sure it was still decently healthy. It is important to eat foods with high protein and low calories," Frahm said.

Maintaining weight can take a lot of discipline, even when it is not the holiday season.

"It's always hard to maintain weight. Wrestling is a challenging sport, and it takes a lot of discipline to stay in the right weight class," senior Michael Schrader said.

Some wrestlers have different strategies to help themselves not feel hungry.

"It is always difficult to have self-control over Thanksgiving. One strategy I use is thinking more about being around family than thinking about eating," Schrader said.

Although food is a major part of maintaining weight, it is also important for wrestlers to watch how much liquid they intake.

"For me, the worst part of cutting is probably not being able to drink anything," Schrader said.

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