

Purdue not about to rest on one victory

Boilermakers must finish strong after win against Hoosiers

By CLIFF BRUNT
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEST LAFAYETTE

David Teague doesn't mind deflating Purdue's balloon a bit.

The Boilermakers bolstered their NCAA Tournament hopes with an 81-68 win against 24th-ranked Indiana on Thursday night.

But Teague says it will feel like last season's 7-21 finish if the team doesn't focus in its final four regular-season games.

"I keep reminding the guys where we were a year ago," said Teague, who is second on the team with 14 points per game. "We have to remember to stay hungry, don't get complacent and stay humble."

Purdue's next two games are at

Iowa and at Northwestern. Though neither team is ranked, the Boilermakers (17-9, 6-6 Big Ten) need to prove they can win on the road to strengthen their tournament résumé. Purdue is 14-1 at home, 2-2 at neutral sites and 1-6 on the road.

"It weighs more, that road win," coach Matt Painter said. "Even though you're not playing a team with as high an RPI as Indiana, it weighs more."

Purdue broke a 29-game road losing streak with a 69-59 win at Penn State on Feb. 3, and the Boilermakers challenged then-No. 3 Ohio State before losing 63-56 on Feb. 10.

"The last couple of times we've been on the road, we've had better preparation," Painter said.

"We've had guys just flat be more mature in the days leading to the game and understanding what they have to do and carrying out their assignments."

Purdue isn't downplaying the significance of the win against Indiana, which Painter called Purdue's biggest of the season.

"It was important for us to beat somebody the quality of Indiana that was in the teens in the RPI, was third in our league," he said. "We need a signature win. If we didn't win, we were going to be in trouble come tournament time."

Painter said he believes his team has a good chance to make the NCAA Tournament if it gets 20 wins. Gary Walters, chairman of the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee, has said

20 wins won't guarantee a berth, but Painter's not buying it.

"They say 20's not a magical number, but it's been pretty consistent," he said.

Still, Painter isn't certain what his team needs to do to ensure a slot.

"You can't have a blanket answer because you can't know all the particulars of everybody else," he said. "There's so many teams across the country, especially high major schools, that are all bunched up. I really think that the conference tournament is going to have more of an effect than it normally does."

Purdue is glad to even be talking about the NCAA Tournament. The Boilermakers went a combined 16-40 the past two seasons.



Purdue guard David Teague, left, celebrates with teammates after an 81-68 win against Indiana in West Lafayette on Thursday. The win left the Boilermakers at 6-6 in the Big Ten and in good position for a berth in the NCAA Tournament.

LOCAL

NFL Dolphins sign CG grad Halterman to contract

Aaron Halterman, a former standout at Center Grove High School, signed a free-agent contract with the Miami Dolphins on Wednesday, the South Florida Sun-Sentinel reported.



HALTERMAN

Halterman, 24, was a member of the Indianapolis Colts' practice squad for the final two regular-season games of the 2006-07 season and all four playoff games, including the Super Bowl.

A 6-foot-5, 255-pound tight end, Halterman is a 2004 Indiana University graduate who played for first-year Dolphins coach Cam Cameron at IU in 2001.

He caught 66 passes for 711 yards and three touchdowns during his collegiate career.

Before joining the Dolphins, Halterman spent time on the Houston Texans' and San Diego Chargers' practice squads, in addition to the Colts. Cameron was the Chargers' offensive coordinator when Halterman was on San Diego's practice squad.

PREP FOOTBALL

IHSAA announces new sectional assignments

The Indiana High School Athletic Association on Friday announced new sectional assignments for the 2007 and 2008 high school football seasons.

In Class 5A, Center Grove will participate in a Sectional 7 field with Bloomington North, Bloomington South, Columbus North, Decatur Central, Martinsville, Terre Haute North and Terre Haute South.

In Class 4A, Franklin, Greenwood, Roncalli and Whiteland will compete in a Sectional 14 field with Greenfield-Central, Cathedral, Manual and New Palestine.

In 2A, Indian Creek will participate in Sectional 31 with Browns-town Central, Clarksville, Eastern (Pekin), Eastern (Greene), Mitchell, Paoli and Providence.

In Class A, Edinburgh participates in Sectional 37 with Indiana Deaf, Lutheran, Ritter, Seccina, Milan, North Decatur and South Decatur.

Indiana high school teams will begin non-contact practice July 30. The first games of the season will be played Aug. 17. The state tournament begins Oct. 19.

FOOTBALL

PABLO, Mont.

Football autographed by Colts to be auctioned

The autographed football that arrived at the offices of the Salish Kootenai College Foundation in the fall was one of a few items donated by professional sports teams for the school's annual scholarship auction.

But as the NFL season went on, the ball became more and more valuable. By Feb. 4 the ball, signed by the Super Bowl champion Indianapolis Colts, became the centerpiece of this spring's auction for the college on the Flathead Indian Reservation.

The Colts also sent along documents authenticating that the blue and silver football was personally signed by team members, from Super Bowl MVP Peyton Manning to Adam Vinatieri.

Foundation officials are hopeful the Colts football will lure some sports fans to the May auction who might not otherwise attend.

BOSTON

Patriots' Brady testifies in Weis malpractice trial

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady testified Friday

that he watched his mentor Charlie Weis move in and out of consciousness after the Notre Dame coach's gastric bypass surgery.

Brady testified during Weis' medical malpractice lawsuit against two Massachusetts General surgeons.

"At that moment I wasn't sure what was happening, if that was normal or not normal," Brady said in Suffolk Superior Court. "As it developed, I realized this was a very serious issue we were dealing with."

Weis, the Patriots former offensive coordinator, claims in the lawsuit that physicians Charles Ferguson and Richard Hodin acted negligently by failing to recognize life-threatening internal bleeding and infection after the June 2002 surgery. He was in the hospital for more than a month.

NEWARK, N.J.

Rutgers rewards coach

Rutgers gave football coach Greg Schiano a four-year extension Friday, the second time in less than two years that the school has extended his contract.

Schiano led the Scarlet Knights to their first bowl appearance in 27 years in 2005 and its first-ever bowl win last season.

BASKETBALL COLLEGES

LAS VEGAS

Retired Pippen wants to make comeback in NBA

Scottie Pippen is tired of retirement. He wants to return to the NBA for a chance to win his seventh championship ring.

With most of the league's stars and decision-makers gathering at the All-Star weekend festivities in Las Vegas, the 41-year-old Pippen announced he's hoping for a late-season return to a contending team, preferably in a warm-weather city, nearly 2½ years after he left the league.

"I know that I have the skills," Pippen said. "I think it's sort of been on my mind the last couple of months. It's just about me going out and polishing my skills."

The forward hasn't played since his retirement Oct. 5, 2004, following a 17-season career with Chicago, Houston and Portland. He won six titles in his famed role as Michael Jordan's wingman with the Bulls and was part of two gold medal-winning U.S. Olympic teams.

Pippen has been working out in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., during the winter, and he said he believes the time is right for a return.

CHAMPAIGN, Ill.

University of Illinois getting rid of mascot

The University of Illinois will drop its 81-year-old American Indian mascot, Chief Illiniwek, following the final men's basketball home game of the season Wednesday, officials said.

The move makes the school eligible to host postseason NCAA championship events.

The NCAA in 2005 deemed Illiniwek, portrayed by buckskinned students who dance at home football and basketball games and other athletic events, an offensive use of American Indian imagery and barred the university from hosting postseason events.

American Indian groups and others have complained for years that the mascot, used since 1926, is demeaning. Supporters of the mascot say it honors the contributions of American Indians to Illinois.

Illinois still will be able to use the name Illini because it's short for Illinois and the school can use the term Fighting Illini, because it's considered a reference to the team's competitive spirit.

Sports show has long history of luring outdoors enthusiasts

It's here. The 53rd edition of the Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel show opened Friday for a 10-day run at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

There is so much about this colossal extravaganza for sportsmen that I don't know where to start.

But I must say that when the late Harry Renfro started this thing, I was a fledgling police reporter and outdoors columnist for the state's largest newspaper. It is only a trifle ironic that the 53rd, like many of its predecessors, opened on my birthday. And I haven't missed a one.

The hours are 3 to 9:30 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. today and Feb. 24; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday and Feb. 25; noon to 3 p.m. Monday; and 3 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Admission for adults is \$10 at the door. Discounted tickets will be available at Marsh stores.

The popular Hawg Trough and seminars will be located in Tackle Town. Hoosiers staffing the seminars will be Chris Walker and local tournament angler Bill McDonald. Mike Delvisco, a pro bass angler for more than 10 years, will head seminars on bass fishing.

A part of the first three days of



'Bayou' Bill Scifres
OUTDOORS

the Sports Show will be the Indiana Turkey and Deer Exposition in Exposition Hall. Official measurers will again inspect racks for total scores. Deer racks may be entered in the Hoosier Record Buck Program during the exposition. The Wall of Fame, a collection of outstanding deer racks, is to be featured at the Expo.

Goose workshop

John Doe steps blissfully onto the front walk (barefoot and in bath robe) to pick up the morning newspaper and sinks into the big chair by the roaring fire.

But wait a minute; there are black and white runny tracks on the expensive Oriental rug beneath his feet, and something squishy between his toes.

It must be the droppings of Canada geese.

Fear not; there is help on the way. The Division of Fish and Wildlife has scheduled a series of three workshops on the subject where a new deal on destruction of Canada goose nests will be allowed without a permit. We are, of course, nearing the nesting season, and we are in Canada geese up to our gills, they say.

The division will explain it all at the public meetings. The first seminar is March 14 at Eastside Park in Washington. Seminars also will be March 20 at Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis and March 22 at Salomon Park in Fort Wayne.

All seminars will be from 9 to 11 a.m. All workshop sessions run from 11 a.m. to noon. All interested landowners, managers of corporate campuses, golf courses or parks and the general public are invited.

Advance registration is required to attend any of these programs. To register or request further information, call the urban wildlife biologist at (812) 334-1137 or e-mail swinks@dnr.in.gov.

"Bayou" Bill Scifres' outdoors column appears Saturdays in the Daily Journal. Comments can be sent to P.O. Box 699, Franklin, IN 46131.

Franklin Varsity Basketball Alumni Night

Former Girls & Boys Varsity Basketball Players are Invited to Celebrate the Last Regular Season Home Game in Vandivier Gymnasium

BOYS: Friday, February 23, 2007 vs. Jennings Co. 7:30 PM

R.S.V.P TO: High School Athletic Office
Noel Heminger 317-738-5711 or Fax: 317-738-5729

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