



PURDUE VOLLEYBALL

One of the nation's top liberos, Carly Cramer will be at the center of any success Purdue enjoys this season.
PURDUE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

The little engine that could

BY SAM KING // SKING@JCONLINE.COM

Cramer hoping to lead Boilermakers to the mountaintop in final season

MORTAR BOARD PREMIER

At Holloway Gymnasium
Friday

Alabama A&M vs. Western Kentucky, 4 p.m.
No. 4 USC at No. 16 Purdue, 7 p.m.

Saturday

Alabama A&M at No. 16 Purdue, 10 a.m.
Western Kentucky vs. No. 4 USC, noon
Western Kentucky at No. 16 Purdue, 5 p.m.
No. 4 USC vs. Alabama A&M, 7:30 p.m.

AT JCONLINE.COM

Look for video of Sam King's second edition of asking Purdue volleyball players more casual questions.

It's easy to see why people gravitate toward Carly Cramer. // Everyone loves an underdog story, and the 16th-ranked Purdue volleyball team's libero is Rocky, Rudy and Kurt Warner all wrapped into one. // College coaches overlooked the former Martinsville Artesians standout simply because of her 5-foot-5 frame, the Boilermaker coaching staff included. // "Those players, it's hard to predict who is going to be a big-time libero," Purdue coach Dave Shondell said. "We didn't hear about Cramer until, quite frankly, after her high school career was over. She was a little 5-foot-5 kid who was setting, hitting, on her high school team at Martinsville. // "Then all of a sudden, she picked up and played with Circle City that following club season. That club season is when she really blew up as a player and just became a tremendous libero for Circle City. When she got here, you knew she was cut from a different cloth." **See CRAMER, Page B3**

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER

Bugay returns as Raiders cruise

Senior star has two assists in Harrison's 5-1 rout of Bronchos

By Sam King
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The soccer field has always been a place of comfort for Ryley Bugay.

On Wednesday night, the Harrison senior had to slowly feel her way back into that comfort zone.

About five months after surgery to repair her left knee, the Raiders brought Bugay off the bench in the 11th minute of a 5-1 victory over Lafayette Jeff.

"The nerves are a big part,

AT JCONLINE.COM

Look for postgame interviews from Harrison's 5-1 victory.

because I am not 100 percent," Bugay said. "Strength-wise, I am still a little bit weak."

In the first match of her spring club soccer season, Bugay tore her ACL, MCL and lateral meniscus in her left knee.

The Raiders rely on the talented midfielder in every aspect of the game.

"She plays in the center, so she is the nucleus of the team," said junior Katie Musi, who scored two goals and assisted Sydney Rainey on a goal. "She

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Harrison's Ryley Bugay battles Lafayette Jeff's Taylor Frazier for a loose ball Wednesday.

BRENT DRINKUT/JOURNAL & COURIER

PURDUE FOOTBALL

Gilliam ready to play in opener

Linebacker to start despite injured finger

By Mike Carmin
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We're taught there are no stupid questions.

Well, Joe Gilliam believes he heard one Monday.

"I had a doctor's appointment, and the doc said it looked fantastic," said Purdue's middle linebacker, referring to his dislocated left little finger. "He asked me if I wanted to play. I thought it was the stupidest question I ever heard in my life. Of course I want to play."

Gilliam was smiling during his answer, but you could sense the passion in his voice. Tuesday was the first full practice for the Indianapolis native since the initial week of training camp earlier this month.

"First one since practice six," Gilliam said.

The 6-foot-1, 225-pound Gilliam underwent surgery Aug. 8 and remained sidelined until this week.

"It just got on a guy's jersey in practice and I didn't think nothing of it the day that I did it," he said. "I went and got the X-ray, and they said it was dislocated. I'd been practicing with it. I really didn't know until I got it X-rayed."

Gilliam wasn't sure if he would be ready to play in Saturday's opener at Cincinnati. He'll have most of his left hand wrapped, but it shouldn't impede his tackling.

"It's not too bad. It's only on two of my fingers," he said. "When I first got injured, they said there's going to be a club on my whole hand. Doctor looked at it and said he could do it on two fingers. I would rather play with eight than five or six."

Based on Wednesday's practice, Gilliam is ready.

During a third-and-goal drill, he batted down one pass and forced an incompleteness on another, both in the end zone.

"He was really seeing things well," coach Darrell Hazell said. "The question will be how well he'll tackle with the hand the way it is, but I have confidence in him."

Getting Gilliam back in the lineup should boost the overall defense. The Boilermakers now have a similar lineup to when they started camp.

"Joe is a big aspect on D," cornerback Ricardo Allen said. "He directs the linebackers. It's a great feeling to know that your leader at linebacker, the one who actually takes over the defense, is back on the field. We're happy to have him back. It's going to be a big upgrade to our defense."

Gilliam's experience should help against the Bearcats. He

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SATURDAY'S GAME

Purdue at Cincinnati

Time: Noon

TV: ESPNU

Radio: WAZY (96.5)

Series: Purdue leads, 1-0

Tickets: Sold out

PURDUE FOOTBALL NOTES

Foy settled at guard

Veteran lineman adjusting smoothly to new position

By Mike Carmin
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Trevor Foy began training camp full of questions.

What would be his role on this year's Purdue football team? Right tackle? Left tackle? Starter or backup?

How about guard?

"Guard never really crossed my mind," he said. "It's exciting to see the progress that I've been able to make, but I still have a lot of work to do."



Trevor Foy

Foy is set to make his 18th career start — the most on the offense — when the Boilermakers visit Cincinnati in Saturday's season opener. However, it will be the fifth-year senior's first time playing guard at any level.

Coach Darrell Hazell and offensive line coach Jim Bridge decided to move Foy from right tackle during camp to help bolster the position. By the end, Hazell started seeing Foy emerge.

"I thought Trevor Foy moving from (right) tackle to right guard was a different person, a completely different person," Hazell said. "To his credit, he worked extremely hard to put himself in that position, because we weren't sure who that right guard was going to be."

Foy has always been comfortable on the right side and is familiar with how defenses attack from those angles. The transition has been smooth.

"I guess it shows I'm ready for anything, and hopefully, the coaches have prepared me well," the Louisville native said. "I need to continue to work. I know I have a lot of work to do. I need to be ready."

Macarthy absent

Hazell said receiver Dolapo Macarthy is expected to return to practice Thursday after

missing Wednesday's session to attend to a family matter.

Receiving end

Macarthy and Gary Bush, who combined for 69 catches last season, aren't listed among the starters for the season opener. Hazell said at least six receivers will see action.

"Based on who starts and who doesn't start, it really doesn't matter to us," he said. "There are guys that have stepped up, for sure."

Sophomore Shane Mikesky and freshman DeAngelo Yancey are listed co-No. 1 at one position and redshirt freshman B.J. Knauf is expected to start at the other spot.

Mikesky is the only one of the trio that has caught a pass. The Zionsville native made two grabs last season.

"Coach (Kevin) Sherman has really helped us through camp," Mikesky said, referring to the team's receiver coach. "I've really tried to take his coaching into consideration. He's really stressed techniques that we need to really work on, like our press man coverage and stuff like that and getting off jams."

The pressure he constantly puts on us just to simulate game situations, I feel confident going into this weekend."

The group lost two potential contributors during training camp to injuries. Sophomore Danny Anthrop (MCL strain) and freshman Dan Monteroso (broken collarbone) were expected to see action.

"The guys that need to step up, will step up," Mikesky said. "We all realized we had a couple of guys get knocked out, and we're all like, 'We need to step up and play.' We need our group to help win games."

Hazell said most of the receivers will get their chance Saturday.

"Yancey has stepped up; you'll see a lot of him Saturday," Hazell said. "You'll see a lot of B.J. You'll see a lot of Gary Bush. Dolapo is going to have to get in and play well for us."

Sizing up Tuberville

No telling how deep Hazell went into researching first-year Cincinnati coach Tommy Tuberville.

Tuberville has been a head coach at Mississippi, Auburn and Texas Tech before landing with the Bearcats. In fact, Hazell made a presentation to the Boilermakers about Tuberville on Wednesday.

"We've done a lot of research on coach Tuberville, and he's done an unbelievable job wherever he's been," Hazell said. "Some of the things he's done in his past could show up Saturday. That's very important you do that type of homework."

Play it again

The Big Ten announced Wednesday that it is allowing stadium video boards to show an unlimited number of replays at any speed. Schools were previously limited to one replay at a minimum of 75 percent speed.

Mark Rudner, the conference's senior associate commissioner, said that fans at the stadium should be able to see the same replays as television viewers.

Indy event

Purdue's team buses depart campus Friday morning for Cincinnati, but will make a stop in Indianapolis at The Boilermaker Tailgate on the Circle from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The event features a pep rally and remarks from coach Darrell Hazell, university president Mitch Daniels and other dignitaries.

"It's going to be a new year, our fans are behind our back and everybody loves coach Hazell," cornerback Ricardo Allen said. "A bunch of people are sending messages on Twitter and stuff like that to us. Everybody is pumped about the season."

The event, which is organized by the Boiler Business Exchange of Indianapolis, will feature food trucks and a beer garden. For more information, go to <http://www.bbeindy.com>.



Despite missing most of camp with a dislocated finger, Joe Gilliam will start on Saturday. BRENT DRINKUT/JOURNAL & COURIER

GILLIAM

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started all 13 games last season, finishing fourth in tackles, and played in 11 games as a redshirt freshman in 2011.

"It's important (to have him back) because you can just feel a little different presence, just from having a guy out there yelling things out with confidence, getting guys lined up," defensive coordinator Greg Hudson said.

"I think the guys feel confident when he's in there, especially the guys up front. They know there's another dude in the middle who can help them

when they get two hats on them, a guy who is triggering and taking care of those A and B gaps."

Conditioning is a concern, since Gilliam has been idle from playing football for nearly three weeks and hot temperatures are expected Saturday. But based on spring practice and training camp, injured players often work harder than the ones on the field under Hazell.

"It wasn't as bad as I thought it was going to be," Gilliam said of Tuesday's practice. "I really thought I was going to come out and die. I made it through practice and I didn't trip over myself or fall over anybody. That's good."



Maya Mengler scores during the second half of Harrison's 5-1 win. BRENT DRINKUT/JOURNAL & COURIER

BUGAY

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plays through balls. She knows what to do with the ball, and she keeps her head up all the time. She is the main person in the middle."

Bugay played sparingly, but made the most of her limited minutes against the Bronchos.

She assisted on a Maya Mengler goal in the 59th minute, then added a second assist three minutes later, finding Musi. Having its leader on the field proved to be a breath of fresh air for Harrison (3-2), which overcame a slow start to score four times in the second half, including Musi's two goals in a 27-second span.

"It's awesome to just hear her name and see her on the field," said junior Mayra Pacheco, who scored the lone goal of the first half. "I am glad her knee is getting better, but I am still scared for her. I don't want her to get injured again."

The Raiders posted five

goals before Jeff freshman Brook Switzer outran the defense to get the Bronchos on the board.

The celebration already had begun for a Harrison team that showed its potential and gained its confidence back against a county and sectional rival. And their top player from a year ago was back and — even at less than 100 percent — was a difference maker.

Bugay admitted she was initially nervous when her number was called Wednesday night. A player so fluid now is trying to re-learn how to make the cuts needed to dominate the way she has throughout her career. She's still hesitant getting into tackles.

But she already missed the spring and summer matches on her schedule, and nothing was going to keep her out of her final year with the Raiders.

"My summer season is one of my favorite seasons just because of the experience, but it was great to actually be able to come back for my last year at Harrison," Bugay said.

CRAMER

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Cramer was an instant impact maker for Purdue in 2009, but injuries have stunted her ability to consistently prove herself.

Now, there's no next year.

Cramer takes the court in Friday's season opener at Holloway Gymnasium hoping to show No. 4 Southern California exactly what she's already shown to the likes of traditional national powers Penn State, Nebraska and others within her own conference — with an added motive.

"It wasn't like she was the best libero in the country last year. She was really good, but she wasn't the top libero," Shondell said. "She wants to be the top libero. She's got a chance to prove that this season."

Cramer is only a part of the 2013 makeup because of bad luck in the past.

She came in and immediately earned a starting spot as a defensive specialist during her freshman year. Then she got injured, missed most of the 2011 season, and her volleyball career seemed to be on repeat.

There was the labrum tear in her left shoulder, the stress fracture to her femur, a pulled hamstring, sprained MCL, multiple sprained wrists and concussions, stitches after get-



Carly Cramer has overcome a number of injuries in her career. PURDUE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

ting hit in the face and probably a few more Cramer couldn't think of on the spot.

"The staff we have here, sometimes I don't like it," Cramer said. "Come in, rehab, treatment. I'm like, 'Uggh, I don't want to spend any more time in there.' But that's what has kept me going."

"Any moment can be season-ending or game-ending. I wouldn't even want a set to end. That's why I appreciate playing so much, because I have

had those injuries."

As much as sacrificing her body to help the team by leaping over, around and sometimes through objects to keep balls in play has become an endearing quality for fans and teammates, so too has her goofy demeanor.

Whether she's dropping her breakfast all over the Ford Dining Court floor or simply tripping over her own feet, she often finds herself as constant entertainment for her teammates.

"She is pretty consistently inconsistent," said fellow fifth-year senior Rachel Davis. "Nothing surprises us anymore."

On the court, though, Cramer will be all business this season. Not because it's her last. Not because she hopes to make up for lost time after injuries kept her sidelined. But because she knows what this Boilermaker team can achieve and has yet to do so.

"Winning the Big Ten championship and national championship, that's very attainable," Cramer said. "No paper or blog or journal or Volley Talk (a volleyball message board) can tell us what we do in the gym or what our goals or our dreams are. We know our own expectations."

People have doubted the underdog before, and Cramer has always managed to come out on the opposite end of most prognosticators' opinions.