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High school reporters Nathan Baird and Sam King take you beyond the game on their blogs.

"Like" Journal &amp; Courier Sports



Darrell Hazell is primarily focused on making his own team better this week. MICHAEL HEINZ/J&amp;C

## PURDUE FOOTBALL

## Journey into great unknown

With new head man, Cincinnati a mystery

By Mike Carmin  
mcarmin@jconline.comTwo new coaches.  
Two new systems.  
Two teams not knowing a whole lot about the other.

That's the situation facing Purdue and Cincinnati heading into Saturday's season opener at a sold-out Nippert Stadium.

Both feature new head coaches and assistants. Dar-

## SATURDAY'S GAME

Purdue at Cincinnati

Time: Noon

TV: ESPNU

Radio: WAZY (96.5)

Series: Purdue leads, 1-0

Tickets: Sold out

rell Hazell came from Kent State and replaced Danny Hope, who was fired after four seasons. Meanwhile, Tommy Tuberville bolted from Texas Tech to take over the Bearcats, who were 10-3 last season.

Butch Jones, a candidate for the Boilermaker position, left to become the head coach at Tennessee.

It's a situation where neither team has an advantage.

"No clue," Purdue quarterback Rob Henry said of what to expect from defensive coordinator Robert Prunty, who came to Cincinnati with Tuberville from Texas Tech.

"You can sit there and watch film of what their staff did at the previous place, but with a new coaching staff and with it being the first game of the year, you never know what

somebody is playing or what they're going to throw at you."

That's why the focus at both places has been less about the opponent and trying to improve their own game.

"It's two new coaches," Tuberville said Tuesday during his weekly press conference. "We do play Purdue this week, but you know what? We work against ourselves more than anything. Whatever Purdue does, we're not going to really know a whole lot. We know enough technique and funda-

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KEN THOMPSON  
COLUMNIST

## Plenty of must-win games in Big Ten

Potential land mines await top contenders

Looking ahead to this year's road to Indianapolis for the final matchup of Leaders and Legends division champions, each Big Ten Conference school has a game that could change its destiny.

For Ohio State, the Purdue game on Nov. 2 could be the stumbling block to back-to-back undefeated regular seasons. Let's take the last six games played between the Buckeyes and Boilermakers in Ross-Ade Stadium:

» In 2011, Purdue won 26-23 in overtime on Robert Marve's 1-yard sneak just minutes after defensive tackle Bruce Gaston blocked what would have been the game-winning extra point for Ohio State.

» In 2009, a 26-18 victory over the seventh-ranked Buckeyes was the national coming-out party for future NFL first-round draft choice Ryan Kerrigan, who helped pressure quarterback Terrelle Pryor into two fumbles and two interceptions.

» Purdue was never in a 23-7 loss to the fourth-ranked Buckeyes in 2007.

» Kyle Orton hit Lafayette Jeff graduate Dustin Keller for the game-winning 14-yard touchdown pass with 2:17 to play for a 24-17 victory in 2004.

» Purdue lost 10-6 to the eventual undefeated 2002 national champions after giving up Craig Krenzel's touchdown pass to Michael Jenkins with 1:36 left.

» The 2000 game can be summed up in three words: Brees to Morales.

Ohio State figures in another key game, hosting Wisconsin on Sept. 28. The winner should be in the driver's seat for the division title.

Penn State's Big Ten opener at Indiana on Oct. 5 will be the defense's first test after a less-than-taxing non-conference slate of Syracuse (at East Rutherford, N.J.) and home games with Eastern Michigan, Central Florida and Kent State.

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## HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

## THE REMEDY



Lafayette Jeff's Carlie Hinkel celebrates a point during her team's come-from-behind victory over West Lafayette on Tuesday. BRENT DRINKUT/JOURNAL &amp; COURIER

## Comeback win over West Lafayette cures ailing Bronchos

By Sam King  
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Jessica Griggs was sick Tuesday morning and missed the first couple of hours of school.

The Lafayette Jeff senior contemplated not going at all, but she was determined to fight through her illness and play in the Bronchos' match at West Lafayette.

Griggs looked anything but sick at Berberian Gymnasium, totaling 12 kills, 11 digs and three aces to lead Jeff to a 23-25, 17-25, 25-16, 25-22, 15-13 comeback victory over its county rival.

"I decided I would push through it, and I am glad I did," Griggs said. "I didn't even feel it when we are playing. I am feeling it a little now, but I am OK with that."

Griggs wasn't the only player affected, as the bug had worked its way across the Jeff roster. The Bronchos, though, managed to find the cure with their play on the court.

The Bronchos (4-3) dropped a tough opening set without senior Carlie Hinkel, who was penalized after sickness kept her out of school for a day and a half and also held her out of a practice.

After watching her team struggle, she helped rally her squad, finishing with nine kills, 19 digs and two solo blocks.

"There are some times where you do get tired and a little bit lightheaded, but I think we all really wanted it," Hinkel said of playing through the a case of the flu. "That was a big plus for us tonight. We never gave up."

The Red Devils (3-3) struggled with inconsistency Tuesday and were bitten by it at the most crucial moments, including a service error on match point to give Jeff the fifth set after West Lafayette had seized all momentum with three straight points.

Sophie Shinn led WL with 18 kills and 25 digs. Jessica Martin posted seven kills and 19 assists and Grace Malone pulled up 25 digs. Devin Hainje's 25 assists, two blocks and three aces were team highs.

"We're a young team that's got to find some offense," WL coach Chad Marshall said. "Most of our players who are juniors and seniors have never been front-row players. They're learning new roles and finding out how tough it is to generate offense."

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AT JCONLINE.COM

Look for post-match interviews from Lafayette Jeff's comeback win.

## PURDUE FOOTBALL NOTES

# Canoe trip brings O-linemen together

Unit bonds on water; Griggs to handle field goals in opener

By Mike Carmin  
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Need a bonding exercise? Trevor Foy recommends canoeing.

Foy and members of Purdue's offensive line attempted to spend the day together this summer by traveling the waters of a local river.

"That was an adventure," said Foy, who is expected to start at right tackle during Saturday's opener at Cincinnati. "It was challenging. If anybody is looking for a great team bonding experience, this was it."

Foy said the trip was scheduled to last four hours. It took eight hours to complete.

"Not sure how many miles," he said. "It was fun, but terrifying."



Linebacker Joe Gilliam will start at Cincinnati on Saturday. FILE/J&C

The fifth-year senior, who moved from right tackle during training camp, hopes the off-season camaraderie can carry over to the field this season.

"We did a lot of things this summer," Foy said. "We continue to do it. We eat dinner together a lot. In previous years, we hadn't really done that."

## No. 1 kicker

Sophomore Paul Griggs will handle field goal duties in the opener, coach Darrell Hazell said.

"I think right now, he's the guy," Hazell said. "He's done it in camp in terms of the numbers. We'll go with him on Saturday for sure."

Griggs made 16 of 18 extra points and converted 4 of 7 field goal chances last season. He hit a game-winning 46-yard field goal at Iowa.

## Injury updates

Hazell said Tuesday that linebacker Joe Gilliam (finger) and left guard Devin Smith (knee) are expected back in the starting lineup.

Gilliam has missed the last three weeks after suffering a dislocated left little finger, which required surgery. Smith sustained a mild MCL sprain but was working with the No. 1 offense Tuesday.

Cincinnati center Dan Sprague (knee) underwent surgery Monday and is out for the season.

## Switching spots

Redshirt freshman Andy James Garcia has returned to the strongside linebacker position and is No. 2 behind projected starter Armstead Williams.

Meanwhile, Will Lucas moves from No. 2 middle linebacker to No. 2 at the weakside spot behind Sean Robinson. Jimmy Herman is listed No. 2 at the middle behind Gilliam.

## Situational smart

Throughout training camp and in preparation for Cincinnati, the Boilermakers have constantly worked on situations. Third-and-6, fourth-and-2 and short yardage have been part of the daily practice plan.

"Sometimes you're on the field for so long, you forget what down and distance is, you

forget what plays they're going to try to run, you forget what side of the hash you're on," cornerback Ricardo Allen said. "At the end of the day, if you don't make the play, it's either you win or lose. It's just that cut-throat."

"Our practices are like that so we get ready for the game. If our offense goes down on a coming-out and they get a first down, defense lost. If we stop them for three downs, defense won. Either you win or lose."

## Cutting back

The late August heat wave will force Hazell to trim time off his practice schedule.

The Boilermakers practiced 20 periods Tuesday, and that will be cut to 19 on Wednesday and 16 or 17 on Thursday.

"We've got to be really careful this week," Hazell said. "We've got to be smart about not leaving our guys on the field."

## MYSTERY

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mentals that we can get by in a four-quarter game."

However, a mystery remains with the Bearcats.

Hazell announced Henry as his starting quarterback Aug. 18, but Tuberville has yet to decide whether sixth-year senior Brandon Kay or senior Munchie Legaux will take the first snap. Both played last season, with Kay finishing out the year after Legaux started the first seven games.

Kay was 4-1 in his five starts and earned MVP hon-

ors during the Belk Bowl victory over Duke.

"We have the quarterbacks that can somewhat give us the look," cornerback Ricardo Allen said. "Rob Henry can really do it all, and then we have the younger quarterbacks who can stay in the pocket and throw all day."

"Rob Henry can give us a great look with the read option. We have three quarterbacks who can stay in the pocket and deliver. It's about getting our technique down and running the defense the way it's supposed to be."

Hazell said the Boilermakers won't prepare for both quarterbacks.

"We'll play our base defense and get into some of our blitz packages," he said. "We understand that if we're in our right gaps and we stay over the top the deepest receiver, we'll be in good shape."

Hazell has preached execution from the first practice and said that remains the objective Saturday.

"What I told our team the other night, we don't know for certain what we're going to get scheme-wise, offensively, defensively," Hazell said. "It's about execution at the end of the play, regardless what we call and regardless what they line up in."

## HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER

# Harrison exacts revenge

Raiders cash in on two corners at Jeff

By Nathan Baird  
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The initial sting of a season-ending loss to a county rival may only last a few days.

Then comes the real pain — the months-long parade of knife-turning reminders from competitors who are also friends, neighbors and off-season teammates.

"Every single chance they get, they bring that back," Harrison senior Austin Webb said of an upset loss to Lafayette Jeff in last season's Class 2A sectional semifinals. "And it hurts worse every single time."

Motivated to recapture bragging rights, Harrison beat the Bronchos 2-1 at Scheumann Stadium on Tuesday.

A year ago, Harrison defeat-

## AT JCONLINE.COM

Look for post-match interviews from Harrison's 2-1 win.

ed Lafayette Jeff 8-0 during the regular season and entered the sectional favored to repeat as champion. But the Bronchos surprised with a 3-0 sectional semifinal victory before falling to another rival, McCutcheon, in the championship.

"The season, it does matter, but when it comes to sectional time, you've got to come to play," Jeff sophomore goalkeeper Alejandro DelReal said.

Jeff (0-4, 0-3 Hoosier Crossroads Conference) limited the Raiders' chances Tuesday, but Harrison (2-1, 1-1) capitalized twice on corner kicks. Webb knocked in Nestor Sededji's feed with 2:55 left in the first half to break a scoreless tie.

With 16:05 left, Matthew Roop was credited with head-

ing in another corner to make it 2-0. DelReal said that one actually deflected off another Broncho player.

"We work on getting that ball in the middle and putting it in the mixer and see what can happen," said Roop, a sophomore. "It just proves that in soccer, sometimes those just go your way, and you have to capitalize when you get those opportunities."

Jeff senior Chris Gaeta scored in the 72nd minute to halve the Harrison lead. The Bronchos couldn't put another shot on goal.

Two Harrison starters — senior Hector Rosado-Sanchez and junior Ricardo Gonzalez — transferred from Lafayette Jeff over the summer.

"They gave us a hard time, but now they're Raiders," Webb said. "They're working hard for us, and we're working hard to get a sectional title back."



Sophie Shinn, right, finished with 18 kills in a losing effort for West Lafayette. BRENT DRINKUT/JOURNAL & COURIER

## BRONCHOS

Continued from Page B1

The Bronchos took advantage of those WL miscues and got a total team effort. Madison Flanagan led the defense with 37 digs, Kinnsey Pass added 15 with 27 assists and Karina Hernandez managed 13 digs. Tess Farmer and Alexa Lindquist came up with clutch kills down

the stretch to seal Game 4.

That depth helped Jeff defeat West Lafayette for the first time under third-year head coach Scott Graves. Jeff's last win came in 2010, also after losing the first two sets.

"I remember sitting the bench, dressing varsity my freshman year, coming back from a 2-0 deficit and won in 5," Griggs recalled. "To be able to replicate that my senior year is just amazing."

## THOMPSON

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Missouri may now be a part of the Southeastern Conference, but the Tigers are no Alabama, LSU or Florida yet when it comes to football. If Indiana gets a home win on Sept. 21, a 6-0 start is possible.

Fans and media talk about Purdue's difficult schedule, but look at Illinois' slate. Cincinnati, Washington. The Fighting Illini open the Big Ten schedule at Nebraska, home games with Wisconsin, Michigan State, Ohio State and Northwestern are no gimmes, and it doesn't seem Illinois has the offensive firepower to win at Penn State or Indiana.

The Nov. 23 game at Purdue might be the Fighting Illini's last chance to avoid a second consecutive 2-10, winless Big Ten season.

Notre Dame was a turning point for Joe Tiller's

program at Purdue in 1997, and the Fighting Irish could be a benchmark for Darrell Hazell's first season at Purdue when they come calling on Sept. 14.

Reigning Legends Division champion Nebraska could be 8-0 entering its heavyweight showdown at Michigan on Nov. 9. With a win, the Cornhuskers could almost pack for Indianapolis with home games remaining against Michigan State and Iowa, plus a trip to Penn State.

The Notre Dame game — this year on Sept. 7 — has frequently been a season benchmark for Michigan. Since the series resumed in 1978 after a 35-year hiatus, the Wolverines own 14 victories and have gone on to win at least nine games in 11 of those seasons, including the national championship in 1997.

Ohio State returns to Northwestern's schedule this year as the Homecoming foe and the Wildcats' Big Ten opener. Northwestern, whose three losses in 2012

were by a combined 19 points, could be in for an emotional letdown if the Buckeyes come in and dominate.

Michigan State's offense ranked 10th in scoring among Big Ten teams last season at just over 20 points a game. That puts a lot of pressure on the highly regarded Spartan defense to stop Indiana on Homecoming Oct. 12.

Iowa was even more inept offensively last season, and beating Michigan State in its home opener Oct. 5 would go a long way to quiet the grumbling from coach Kirk Ferentz's critics.

One look at Minnesota's schedule, and you would think Glen Mason was back on the sidelines. Don't expect to learn much about the Gophers until they host Iowa on Sept. 28. If Minnesota loses that game, a winless Big Ten season is possible.

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