

INSIDE PURDUE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

FORGE

A silhouette of a blacksmith in a hard hat, holding a hammer and forging a sword, positioned within the letter 'O' of the word 'FORGE'.

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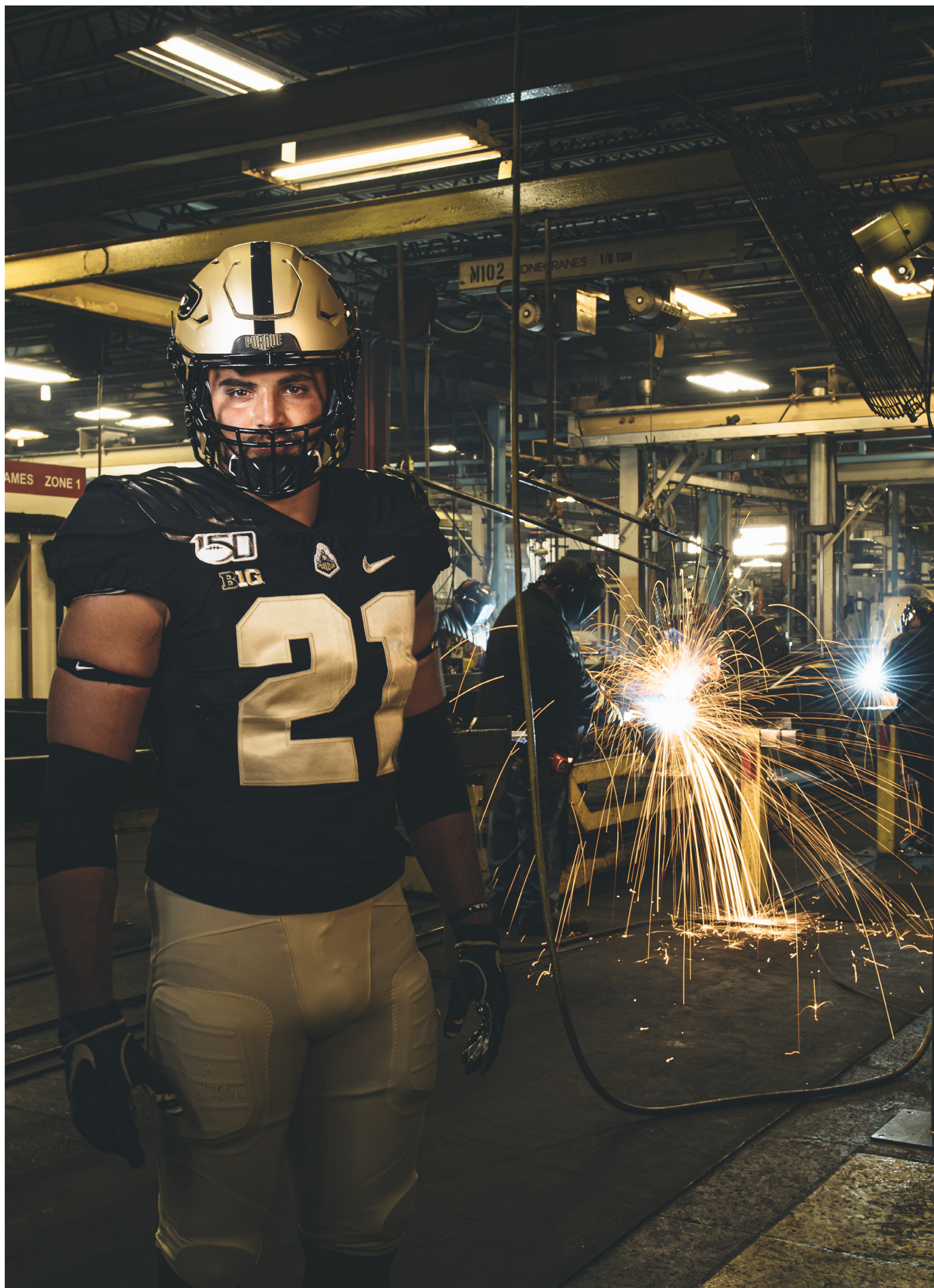
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Co-Editors Alan Karpick and Tom Schott / Contributing Writers Tom Dienhart, Tim Newton, Cory Palm and Laurie Silverstein / Editorial Assistance Rachel Coe / Graphic Design Paul Sadler / Photography Charles Jischke







MOORE



PLEASE

By Tim Newton





JaMarcus Shephard was stewing in his living room. The co-offensive coordinator and wide receivers coach had just watched Purdue suffer a season-opening 31-27 loss to Northwestern and was trying to unwind when his phone rang. On the other end was Rondale Moore, who had just set a school single-game record with 313 all-purpose yards.

"Rondale told me he was on his way over to watch the game film," Shephard recalls. "He wanted to correct the things that he had done wrong in the game. With him, it's all about getting better."

The lessons were well learned. Moore was a first-team All-American pick as an all-purpose player by the Associated Press and the Football Writers Association of America and a second-team selection as an athlete by the *Sporting News*. He also pulled in All-American honors from CBS Sports, ESPN and *Sports Illustrated*.

Moore was the first true freshman consensus All-American in the country since Oklahoma running back Adrian Peterson in 2004. He also was the first true or redshirt freshman in the Big Ten Conference so recognized since freshmen became eligible in 1972.

The opener against the Wildcats didn't start out well. Moore dropped the first pass thrown to him, a moment he called the most embarrassing of his entire athletic career. Head coach Jeff Brohm said it was the only time he saw jitters in his freshman phenom, but they didn't last long.

"Obviously, they gave me a second chance, and I ran with it," Moore says.

TOUGH START

Second chances were nothing new for Moore. Born prematurely, he spent his first three weeks in an incubator strapped to an IV and a breathing tube.

He developed an early interest in playing football and basketball. One of his early hardcourt teammates was Romeo Langford, who went on to

become Mr. Basketball and a first-round NBA Draft pick after one season at Indiana. Although they became close friends, the relationship didn't start off that way.

"Initially we were rivals," Moore says. "We played for different middle schools, but we wound up playing for the same AAU team when we got older. As far as middle school, I'm not going to say we didn't like each other, but there was competition. When we got older, we realized that if we played together we could be pretty good."

Moore and Langford teamed up to help New Albany High School win the Indiana Class 4A state championship in 2016, and the pair remains close today. "When we talk, we don't get into as much sports talk as people would probably think," Moore says. "It's more about life and how things are going."

While Langford stood 6-foot-6, Moore peaked at 5-9. Football was going to be his ticket to a college scholarship, and he made the decision after his sophomore year to transfer to Trinity High School in Louisville. Moore was ruled ineligible by the Kentucky High School Athletic Association and sat out the entire regular season. After a lengthy set of appeals, he was granted eligibility in time for the state playoffs. He made up for lost time with 20 catches for 464 yards and nine touchdowns in just four games, helping lead his team to the state title.

COMMON BOND

Louisville has a tradition of producing great football talent. And no family was more revered in the city than the Brohms. Oscar was an all-state quarterback at Flaget High School and played collegiately for the hometown Cardinals before a storied coaching career, including almost two decades as quarterbacks coach at Trinity.

His sons – Jeff, Greg and Brian – became standout players, as well. Jeff was the Kentucky Mr. Football in 1988 and went on to a seven-year NFL career before becoming a head collegiate coach. With his father on the Trinity



staff, Jeff was well aware of Moore's exploits when he became Purdue's head coach in December of 2016. He hoped to convince the speedster to make the trip up Interstate 65 to join the Boilermakers.

"I knew he was coached well in high school, and we were aware that he could do so many things on the field," Brohm says. "He had a passion and burning desire to be great, and we tried to let him know that he could achieve everything he wanted athletically and academically here."

But Brohm was walking into a difficult situation. He inherited a program that had gone 9-39 the previous four seasons, and few were surprised when the heavily recruited Moore announced the summer before his senior season that he was going to play at the University of Texas.

"We gave him space, but we did keep in contact with him and let him know that he was still a priority here," Brohm says. "We had heard that he was still open to exploring his options, and we used the time to build his trust with us."

CHANGE IN FORTUNES

Moore enjoyed a sensational senior season, catching 104 passes for 1,461 yards and 16 touchdowns and leading the Shamrocks to an undefeated season and another state title. At the same time, Brohm was engineering a turnaround in West Lafayette, guiding the Boilermakers to a 7-6 season and Foster Farms Bowl win over Arizona.

The tide had turned. Moore announced in December that he was decommitting from Texas. In January of 2018, during the nationally televised U.S. Army All-American Bowl in San Antonio, he picked the Purdue hat from a group that included Alabama, Florida State and Ohio State.

Once he got to campus, Moore worked to build relationships with quarterbacks David Blough and Elijah Sindelar. While Sindelar started the first two games of the 2018 season, his

year was cut short by injury. Blough was running the offense ... and he also was receiving late-night calls from his freshman receiver. It was common for the two to talk into the early hours of the morning about a particular play or route.

"We were both really self-motivated and felt like we had something to prove," Moore says. "For him to answer the phone at 1 a.m. and for me to call him at 1 a.m. was never a problem because at the end of the day we would help each other and help the team succeed.

"We were so in sync that when a play was called we would look at each other, and I knew he was throwing the ball to me. It was crazy. To play with David was really cool, and on top of all the football things he was a really good person."

Blough and Moore shared a memorable night on October 20, when the Boilermakers crushed No. 2-ranked Ohio State 49-20 before a delirious sellout crowd at Ross-Ade Stadium. One of the happiest fans that evening was Tyler Trent, the student and Boilermaker superfan who made national headlines during his battle with cancer.

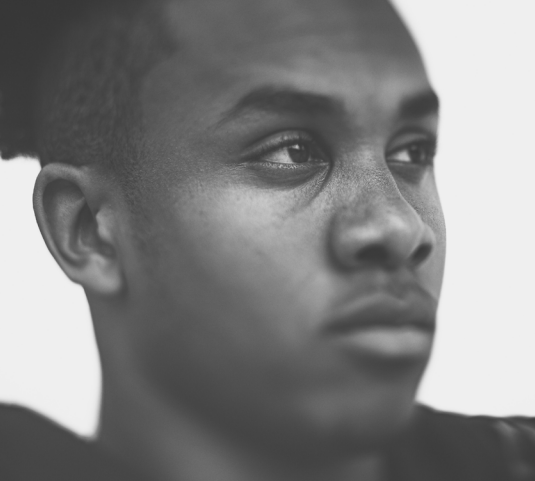
"The first time we spoke was after the Ohio State game," Moore says. "He was in the locker room with us, and I told him to hit me up on Twitter so I could get his number. We spoke on and off from there.

"He would send me different things and words of encouragement. For him to be going through what he was and trying to make sure I was going to have a good day, it was inspiring. That motivated me as a person. Like everyone says, Tyler defines what a Boilermaker is."

A DIFFERENT MOTOR

It's clear that Moore has plenty of motivation. He has energy to match. Justin Lovett, director of football strength & conditioning, points to a chart filled with numbers. It's connected to a sports performance





platform called Catapult. Each player has a GPS monitor embedded in his equipment, allowing coaches and staff to monitor top-end speed and player load per minute.

“For a good practice, a player will probably come out with a score of 400 to 600,” Lovett says. “It’s not uncommon for Rondale to hit 900 on that scale during a practice. That’s more than some of our players achieve during a game.

“He has a very professional approach to the game and goes at great tempo all the time. We never have to question whether he’s in top shape. He’s also very engaged in the process. He will ask why a certain workout drill is done a certain way so he will understand what we’re trying to accomplish.”

Lovett knew that Moore was a physical specimen before he came to campus. A video showing the 180-pound Moore squatting

600 pounds went viral during the summer of 2018. But Lovett admits he was surprised at the combination of skills that the freshman displayed.

“You just don’t see that twitch and strength together at that level,” he says. “His strength and durability exceeded our expectations. In fact, we have to be careful who we pair him with, because some guys are just overwhelmed by his skillset.”

Brohm is aware of the effort level his star receiver produces on a daily basis, and he applies a governor when necessary.

“I think we do the best job we can monitoring everyone in practice,” Brohm says. “We want them to get to the games healthy. Rondale wants more work, but we have to be sure we’re being smart about what he does. If we’re going to make a mistake, we will err on the conservative side.”

COACH AND MENTOR

Players develop relationships with their head coach, but they spend most of their time in practice and around the Kozuch Football Performance Complex with their position coach. Shephard was aware of Moore’s burning desire to improve, and the two quickly formed a bond.

“He wanted to find somewhere he could grow and get better, and we developed an open line of communication,” Shephard says. “He has been like a consummate professional since Day 1. He knows what he is here for, and he knows the microscope is on him. That young man has earned the respect of his peers.

“He spends a lot of time around my family. My kids treat him like a brother, and my wife treats him like a son.”

The family feeling is mutual.



"Coach Shephard is like an uncle to me," Moore says. "Our relationship is really strong. That's the guy I have the best relationship with here. He's done everything he can do for me as a football player and a person."

Shephard also knows what strings to pull. "He'll wake up and FaceTime with me in the morning and say, 'I just ran five miles, what are you doing?'" Moore says with a laugh.

The motivation, training and talent has clearly worked. Moore led the nation as a freshman with 114 catches. He ranked 10th nationally with 1,258 receiving yards and eighth with 12 touchdowns.

Moore was named the Richter-Howard Receiver of the Year in the Big Ten and collected the Thompson-Randle El Freshman of the Year award. He also won the Paul Hornung Award as the most versatile player in college football and the Paul Warfield Award as the nation's top receiver.

Has success changed him? Not according to Foxy LaFon, a secretary for the football program. Her desk is just outside Brohm's office, and she has seen hundreds of players come and go over the years.

"You never see Rondale without a smile on his face," LaFon says. "He doesn't like the notoriety, but he is great with people of all ages. He's just a great kid."

As a sign of his modesty, Moore has requested that the All-American banner that will be hung in the Mollenkopf Athletic Center in his honor not be installed until his playing career at Purdue is finished.

ENCORE, ENCORE

So, what can Moore do to top his sensational first season?

"It will be hard for him to put up the same numbers this season, because everybody will be geared to stop him," Brohm says. "We would like to spread the ball around a little, and we think we'll have the talent to do that."

"But if he can stay healthy and we can win, it will bring a lot of attention to him this season. The next step is to show consistency at a very high level, and I have no doubt that Rondale can do that."

Moore hopes to have the same magic this season with Sindelar that he enjoyed a year ago with Blough.

"For Elijah and me, it's just getting that chemistry down and getting rep after rep," Moore says. "We will get in some time after practice and on the weekends trying to get as much time as we can together."

"If we can get some guys to really step up and play big, we can have some really big success."

Brohm has little doubt that Moore will be a huge part of that.

"When you get a special player like him, it helps you attract more special players," Brohm says. "The fact that he had so much success as a true freshman should be a clear indication of the endless possibilities at Purdue." ✂

WORDS SOMETIMES FAIL

I will admit that I was a little hesitant to take this assignment.

I mean, sometimes, what words can you use to describe Rondale Moore?

After calling every one of his catches, runs and kick returns on the radio last year, my broadcast colleagues and I would often find ourselves searching for the right description.

How can you convey the move he put on a Northwestern defensive back on the way to a 76-yard scoring run, his first in a Purdue uniform? Or the way he was able to bounce off a head-on tackle and turn it into a 70-yard touchdown catch against Boston College? Or the Houdini act he pulled along the sidelines on a 43-yard score against Ohio State on that memorable October evening at Ross-Ade?

Fact is, the biggest question we had all season was where he tucked the cape while he played. Because he sure acted like Superman at times.

But you really have to be around Rondale off the field to appreciate what we have here. He genuinely is as modest as he comes across.

He's relatable. Fans of all ages flock to him, a 19-year-old who just got his braces off but can take you to your knees with a handshake.

Student-athlete? Yep. In his first year on campus, he logged a 3.71 grade-point average, the third-highest on the team.

More than anything, Rondale has the it factor. We have seen it in the past with people like Drew Brees, Robbie Hummel and Stephanie White. They were outstanding athletes, but more important, they were great role models that gave you pride in your alma mater. They understood their place and importance in conveying the image of Purdue and its athletics department, and you could point to them with pride.

There have been and will be more great football players in our program, especially as momentum continues to build under Jeff Brohm. But enjoy this one in particular.

You won't see another like him. – Tim Newton





EXPERIENCING LIFE IN THE REAL WORLD

By Tom Dienhart

Classes are the foundation of every university. But nothing can replace the real-world experience of an internship.

Each summer, Purdue student-athletes have the opportunity to get a taste of what life is like in the “real world” by taking part in internships that augment and enrich what they learn in the classroom. The internships bring alive the knowledge that many have been taught during the academic year.

Here’s a look at what a few Boilermakers did this summer in their internships ... in their own words.

CHRISTIAN BRUNNER – WRESTLING

Major: Animal Science with a bio science concentration

Company: USDA

A native of East Dundee, Illinois, Brunner was named Purdue’s most outstanding wrestler after being ranked in the top 10 in the country at 197 pounds for most of the 2018-19 season. The senior is a three-time NCAA Championships qualifier and Big Ten Championships place winner. He was a member of the Team USA U23 Freestyle World Team in 2018.

“I am working in agricultural research services in the livestock behavior research division. We work in conjunction with Purdue. One office is on campus. The other one is at the Purdue animal science farms. I am looking into going into large animal veterinary medicine.

“We have a bunch of different research projects that the USDA scientists are running. It’s all looking at reducing stress on mostly pigs and chickens. It’s a lot about enriching their environment in the pens. Things like at what temperature they function best. We have a bunch of experimental tests looking to find out what makes them the happiest and healthiest animals.

“We ran a pretty cool study this summer where we took pigs from birth to when they are processed and gave them different toys. And they are tested to see if that made any difference on their levels of stress.

“We are using these pig toys. They pretty much just look like dog toys. They use these in England and throughout Europe at their commercial facilities, but the U.S. hasn’t really adopted it. We are trying to see if this actually makes a difference and if it’s something the U.S. should look into adopting at a more commercial level.

“If the pig is chronically stressed during its life, you will see a reduction in meat quality. You won’t get as good a product. And if it gets to the point where they are stressed for months, then you almost always are looking at a situation where you are throwing away almost all of the meat because it doesn’t hold moisture, and it would dry out as soon as you cook it. It just isn’t a very good product. I am definitely learning a lot out there.”



SHAVONA CUTTINO – VOLLEYBALL

Major: Retail Management
Company: United Way

Cuttino is a senior from Indianapolis who plays middle blocker. A three-year letterwinner, she ranked second on the Boilermakers with a .309 hitting percentage and fifth with 1.12 kills per set last season.

“I am working with the United Way of Greater Lafayette. We work with children, all the way up until adulthood. The Cradle to Career program is impressive. It focuses on babies before they are even born, making sure they are healthy all the way to when they are ready to get a job. The mission: mobilizing our community to improve lives.

“The United Way works on the health, education and financial stability of people in the Lafayette area, giving people the tools they need to succeed in life.

“I found out what the Boys and Girls Club does for younger children that I wouldn’t have known had I not taken this internship. The organization does a lot of good things to help with underprivileged children. I have seen kids already become better at some basic life skills.

“We try to find donors for the organization. We go to big companies, like Wabash National and Kirby Risk in our community, and we try to get them to donate to organizations like the YMCA and Boys and Girls Club. I call current donors to see what they are doing and see if we can run a campaign in their market to get the word out. We are like the middle man.

“I am in sales and retail. When I graduate, I would like to start my own business – an online retail business that sells clothing. But I hope to play volleyball before that, so I am not sure where I will be right after graduation.”



RACHEL KRZYSKO – SOFTBALL

Major: Industrial Engineering

Company: LoadDelivered Logistics

Krzyzsko is the softball team's starting catcher. A junior from Barrington Hills, Illinois, she earned Academic All-Big Ten honors last season.

"LoadDelivered Logistics in Chicago is a third-party logistics company. They don't own any freight and they don't own any trucks. They have customers on both ends. They match freight with trucking companies to move freight all around the country.

"I am learning about carrier and customer procurement. We call carriers to find out what lanes they run – if they are consistently in one part of the country or region of the country. Customer procurement is finding out about a company, finding out what needs they have and how we can help them.

"The thing LoadDelivered is big on is teamwork. It's all about teamwork both on the field and in the office. In order for the customer reps to be confident in booking these loads, they need to know on the other end that the carrier reps will be able to find the best price, find the best carrier so it isn't risky business. Trucking and transportation are risky because there are so many things that can go wrong – trucks break down, traffic – so it is really a team environment where we all have to make sure we have the best interest for the company in the back of our minds. We have to help each other out and have each other's backs.

"Almost every day, we deal with challenges like finding the right equipment for a difficult load and servicing last-minute requests for our customers. We have to come together as a team to find a carrier so that we can maintain our premier service levels for our customers.

"I am one of the only Boilermakers working here. But there are several employees from IU. It isn't as bad as one would think. They are all engaging. They ask about the Ohio State football game and Carsen Edwards. I give them a hard time. I can brag about our basketball and football teams. We pretty much beat those guys. It makes them keep quiet."

“IT'S ALL ABOUT
TEAMWORK
BOTH ON THE
FIELD AND IN THE
OFFICE.”





SUSAN HUBBARD – TRACK & FIELD/ CROSS COUNTRY

Major: Biological Engineering

Company: General Mills

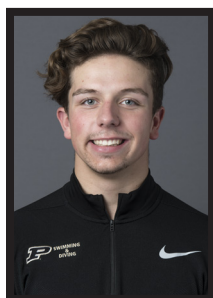
Hubbard is a fifth-year senior from West Lafayette who ran the 800 meters as a sophomore, the mile as a junior and will compete in cross country this fall. She was an Academic All-Big Ten honoree in 2018-19.

"I am a quality associate intern, working in safety and quality for General Mills. I am in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where our plant makes Cheerios: regular, honey nut, pumpkin spice, frosted and multi-grain. We make 95 percent of the North American fruit roll-ups, fruit snacks and Gushers. We also make Betty Crocker frosting.

"One million Cheerios are produced every minute at the plant. That's a lot of Cheerios. Honey nut is the No. 1-selling cereal in America.

"I am with the quality team. I have a few different projects, and I am working to help make sure the food is safe and get information pulled together for when we are audited by the FDA.

"I work 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. It can be a long day. It's an early morning. It's nice to get out early and run after work."



LUKE INGRAM – SWIMMING

Major: Organizational Leadership

Company: Purdue Athletics ticket office

Ingram is a senior from Fishers, Indiana, who competes in the breaststroke and individual medley. He helped Purdue win the Hawkeye Invitational last season.

"I am learning a lot in the ticket office. Most of the things they have me do involve greeting people and helping with season-ticket renewals as people come to the front gates. I also have helped update the ticket scanners in Mackey Arena. And I have been working with the management and sales team on selling boarding passes for students to come to events.

"I have learned some good ways to make connections with people. I attended a career-ready fair where I learned some valuable tips on how to build a good resume and how to have a good elevator pitch. I was able to meet and talk to some companies and make some connections.

"Being an athlete has helped me with time commitment skills. Being able to have a set schedule and knowing what I need to do and when I need to do it was beneficial to working this internship.

"I'm in organizational leadership. I don't have a firm plan on what I want to do right now. I have been told that I would be really good at selling insurance. I have been told I am good with people. We had a lunch with (athletics director) Mike Bobinski. The way he described his job, I could see myself working in athletic administration.

"This internship is probably one of the major turning points in my work and academic career." ✂

BEHIND THE SCENES

For the last six summers, Purdue Athletics has hired student-athletes to get an inside look at the department as interns.

The student-athlete internship program is intended to give student-athletes with an interest in college athletics the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in an administrative setting while introducing them to potential careers. The student-athletes are able to remain on campus to attend class and train while also gaining an in-depth understanding of various areas within the department.

This summer's eight interns were selected from a pool of over 30 applicants. Each applicant was given an interview with every area he or she applied to and was provided feedback to improve interview skills.

In addition to working with Purdue Athletics, the interns visited the NCAA headquarters in Indianapolis. During their visit, students met with staff members across several disciplines, including governance, enforcement, academic and membership affairs and the office of inclusion.

Furthermore, the interns participated in the Purdue Athletics career readiness training camp, where they learned important career development skills – aimed to improve their marketability upon graduation – and had the opportunity to network with several companies interested in hiring student-athletes.

2019 PURDUE ATHLETICS SUMMER INTERNS

- **Lauren Guiao – Golf**
Leadership and Life Skills
- **Luke Ingram – Swimming**
Ticket Office
- **Jaden Mattox – Track & Field**
Leadership and Life Skills
- **Nick McDowell – Swimming**
Strategic Communications
- **Molly Meenan – Softball**
Marketing and Fan Experience
- **Ena Sabanagic – Soccer**
John Purdue Club
- **Will Schrensky – Swimming**
Compliance
- **Jah Strange – Track & Field**
John Purdue Club

ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

**STUDENT-ATHLETES SUCCEED
IN CHALLENGING MAJOR**

By Tom Dienhart



The exams were closing in on Elijah Sindelar like blitzers off the edge.

It was the week of the Iowa game in 2017, and the Purdue quarterback had a test on Monday, one on Tuesday and one on Wednesday. Wait, there's more. He had two more scheduled for Friday – which were moved to Thursday because the team was traveling to Iowa City on Friday for the game on Saturday. If that wasn't enough pressure, Purdue's bowl eligibility also was on the line and Sindelar was playing on an injured knee.

Welcome to the life of a Purdue athlete who is majoring in engineering. They aren't unicorns, but student-athletes like the Boilermakers' fifth-year senior from Princeton, Kentucky, who major in engineering are a rare breed.

"It was crazy," Sindelar says. "I also had to stay on top of my football with practice and film study. Sometimes, you catch a week that's horrible, and you just have to grind it out and put in the time. It's not easy. But it's very rewarding."

During the spring 2019 semester, there were 46 student-athletes majoring in engineering. Ten earned their diplomas. It takes a special kind of discipline and dedication. Sindelar and his jammed backpack personifies that.

"I remember getting to the hotel on Friday night of the Iowa game and getting caught up on my sleep," he says. "It was nice that the game started later in the day. It ended up working out."

It sure did. Sindelar played a starring role in the Boilermakers' 24-15 win over the Hawkeyes that moved Purdue to within a win of bowl eligibility. He completed 22 of 37 passes for 229 yards and three touchdowns in a big victory. But Sindelar won even bigger last May, when he graduated with a degree in electrical engineering.

"It was the best feeling walking across that stage at graduation, let me tell you," Sindelar says.

Sindelar's academic focus marches on. He begins his ninth semester on campus this fall, working on a master's degree after interning with the Purdue power plant over the summer. It has been a long journey fraught with sleepless nights spent studying in the library of the material sciences and electrical engineering building – his favorite spot to cram and put the "student" in student-athlete.

"They are great role models," says Mung Chiang, Purdue dean of engineering. "You can manage your time and challenge yourself to excel. We had a quarterback named Aaron Banks who is graduating this December with an industrial engineering degree. He also was president of the student body, the first minority engineer to hold that position. I told Aaron, 'We all need to learn from you how to survive the rigor.'"

Women's basketball player Dominique Oden know all about surviving – and sleepless nights – as a civil engineering major trying to complete course work around a demanding athletic schedule. She has pulled out mechanical pencil, paper and calculator in many unconventional places.

"Riding on the bus, I am trying to finish my physics homework, in the hotel trying to finish it. Anytime, anywhere, I was working on it," she recalls of freshman year homework challenges. "I had written a problem in my notebook, so I didn't even need to pull out my computer. I was trying to solve this problem – on the bus driving away for pregame. I was working on my physics homework all the time my first year."

Oden continues to grind today. She begins her senior season this fall. It has been a long but fulfilling journey from then until now.

"If you can make it through your freshman year, you have a chance," Oden says.

First-year engineers are required to take math, chemistry and physics,

“ANYTIME,
ANYWHERE,
I WAS WORKING ON
HOMEWORK.”

Dominique Oden



“

IF YOU WANT TO BE SUCCESSFUL ACADEMICALLY, YOU HAVE TO BE DISCIPLINED.”

Devin Schroder

”



in addition to English and communications. They also are enrolled in the Engineering 131-132 sequence, which covers topics such as data visualization and analysis, ethics, engineering design, application of basic programming to the solution of engineering problems, development of mathematical models to solve engineering problems, teamwork skills and professional communications. It's all about laying a foundation.

Dan Ross knows. He has seen his share of engineers matriculate through his men's swimming program over the years since becoming head coach in 1985. He often is asked by prospective athlete-engineers if it's possible to balance the rigors of athletics with the demands of being an engineer.

"Can you do both?" Ross says. "I tell them that it's pretty simple. You make a decision to do it. The only way you make it in engineering and

swimming is to make a decision that you will do it."

Ross has first-hand experience. He was a chemical engineering major his first two years when he was a Purdue student back in the late 1970s.

"My dad was a chemical engineer who went to Purdue," Ross says. "So I decided to try it, too. Then one morning at 2:15 I said: 'What am I doing?' I have no life. I can't do this. It's brutally hard. It's not something I really want to do. And I chose to be a coach. I can relate to those guys. I know how hard it is."

Ross' program has had as many engineering majors as any varsity sport at Purdue over the years. He has seen many kids make the necessary sacrifices to do both.

"I had a team in the 1980s with over 50 percent engineers," Ross says. "Now, we have more business guys and other majors."

Ross enjoys working with bright, motivated student-athletes.

"It's so much fun to coach people who are smarter than you because you can challenge them in ways that you can't challenge other people," he says. "It's fun for me to go to work with an engineer because I can write a practice and make it engineering-like and throw some numbers at them."

"You listen to them in the pool, floating in the water, and they are talking about numbers and you wonder: What are these guys talking about?"

Matt Kiefer gets what Ross is talking about. Kiefer studied chemical engineering while playing basketball at Purdue from 2003 to 2006. His routine? Practice in morning, go to class, afternoon nap, study at night. And repeat ... over and over.

"It was a lot of time management,



a good support group and focusing on what's important," Kiefer says. "We studied at the pharmacy library. When it closed, we would go to the undergrad library. That is where we would have some late nights."

All students are afforded ample academic support during their time on campus. And Kiefer, who has worked as an engineering consultant and is now a strategic product marketer for a medical technology company, appreciated that.

"It was very challenging," Kiefer says. "I had a very good support group on the academic side as well as a good group of tutors and resources to help me navigate some of the tougher courses I had. And I had a good group of fellow engineers that I worked with that helped, as well."

Balancing the rigors of being an engineer with the demands of being an athlete is a great way to learn what life is like in the real world. Wrestler Devin Schroder gets it.

"If you want to be successful academically, you have to be disciplined," says Schroder, a junior in industrial engineering. "It's the same thing that goes with wrestling. It's a long season, and you don't have time to be up late and go out. You have to sacrifice a lot of social time and personal Netflix time to get your work done."

So, instead of bingeing "Narcos," "Better Call Saul" or "Stranger Things 3," Schroder is cracking a two-inch thick textbook and pushing buttons on his calculator deep into the night.

"Some of my teammates are in the same boat," Schroder says. "And there are other guys who are like: 'Yeah, you are a nerd. I couldn't do that.' You get a mix of both on the team. They know I study and try hard. They get it."

"Sometimes, it's tough studying on the bus or the plane, or getting homework done in the hotel. We usually wrestle on Fridays, so going

to class and taking quizzes only a few hours before you have to wrestle can be tough when you have been thinking about wrestling all day long. It's stuff that helps you prepare for the real world because sometimes it's not fair. There are tough circumstances with daily problems."

Kiefer has workplace experience to vouch for that.

"There is nothing that can prepare you any better for the real world than balancing being a Division I athlete and an engineering major," Kiefer says. "It toughens your skin and gives you discipline."

Junior soccer player Sam Slagle, a mechanical engineering major, displays that discipline when she grinds through a rigorous daily routine during the season.

"I wake up at 6 a.m. and have a lot of coffee," she says. "Then, I go do my homework in the mechanical engineering building around 7. Then, I go to classes. Between classes, I try to grab lunch or eat some snacks that I have packed. By the time classes end, I usually am late for practice because a lot of engineering classes go right into practice time."

"After practice, I go back to the ME building and finish anything I need to do. I go to bed around 9 o'clock. Then, I do the whole thing over the next day."

Being an engineer and athlete isn't for everyone. At Purdue, it's a select group of student-athletes with the right blend of brains and ability ... as well as plenty of determination.

"I am very proud of our engineering students who are athletes," Chiang says. "There are dozens of engineering athletes that we recruit each year. We recruit brilliant scholars and outstanding athletes: football, basketball, swimming, tennis, men and women from all over the country. I am immensely proud of their accomplishments." ✂

SPRING 2019 ENGINEERING MAJORS

Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering (2)
Biological Engineering (1)
Biomedical Engineering (4)
Chemical Engineering (1)
Civil Engineering (5)
Computer Engineering (1)
Construction Engineering Management (1)
Electrical Engineering (5)
First-Year Engineering (9)
Industrial Engineering (9)
Materials Science and Engineering (1)
Mechanical Engineering (7)

SPRING 2019 ENGINEERING GRADUATES

- **Maddie Barta – Swimming**
Industrial Engineering
- **Christopher Bluish – Track & Field**
Industrial Engineering
- **Sean Gartland – Swimming**
Civil Engineering
- **Jackson Higgins – Swimming**
Industrial Engineering
- **Timmy Hildebrand – Golf**
Mechanical Engineering
- **Myles Homan – Football**
Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering
- **Grant Lewis – Swimming**
Industrial Engineering
- **Elijah Sindelar – Football**
Electrical Engineering
- **Greg Tippmann – Track & Field/Cross Country**
Mechanical Engineering
- **Joe Young – Swimming**
Electrical Engineering





SUMMER SURGE

OFFSEASON WORKOUTS SHAPE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS

By Tom Dienhart



Nojel Eastern is pressing 45-pound dumbbells over his head. You can feel the strain.

“Two more,” strength & conditioning coach Gavin Roberts says. “You can do it.”

It’s a hot morning smack-dab in the middle of summer in a lonely weight room inside Mackey Arena. This is where teams are built. This is where games are won. This is where championships are forged.

Roberts knows that. He is the one tasked with putting Purdue men’s basketball players through their offseason workout paces. On this suffocating Thursday morning in July, Roberts is working with Eastern, Aaron Wheeler and Evan Boudreaux. They are fighting through the summer doldrums ... and early hour of the day. Hey, they’re college kids. They need their sleep.

“The schedule is tough in June, they are working camps and very busy,” Roberts says. “But once July hits, they can get in a groove and have a little more time. I try to individualize things more for them, break the guys up into groups and maybe have some guys come in and do some extra things like lifting or running more. And I try to help them, but it’s on them.”

Roberts has the plan ... and he often provides the push. He is good at what he does. Heck, his body is a walking billboard. The former Boilermaker football player looks like he still could play. Not even a long-sleeved gold shirt with “REMAIN UNDAUNTED” printed across the chest can mask the bulging biceps of the 29-year-old.

Eastern, a guard, is well-built, too. At 6-foot-6, 220 pounds, the junior from Evanston, Illinois, looks like a Big Ten tight end. (Imagine him teaming with Brycen Hopkins in the red zone. Or perhaps lining up as an outside linebacker.) On this day, a tight sleeveless shirt does a poor job of covering Eastern’s well-developed

upper body. He’s an impressive sight as he strides from exercise to exercise.

“I feel like I am at a healthy weight right now,” Eastern says. “I want to continue to lose body fat. I don’t have much on me now. I want to continue to maintain my shape. You always can work on improving your body.”

A big part of that: diet.

“I eat a lot of fruits and vegetables,” Eastern says. “I stay away from the junk foods. Everyone has their cheat days. I eat maybe a burrito. I stay away from fast food. I try to get a salad everywhere I go.”

In the morning, Eastern and his teammates gulp a nutritious shake that Roberts makes in his office. He has several pitchers of the concoction in the refrigerator near his desk. Honestly, it doesn’t look good. It’s a thick, grayish paste. And the ingredients? Well, they also don’t sound so good:

“Almond milk, oats, Maca powder, coconut water, agave nectar, flaxseed, hemp seed, coconut oil, maple syrup,” says Roberts, who continued to ramble on and on and on. It’s all about building better bodies. Just drink up, the players are told.

If that’s not enough – and it isn’t – there is a nutrition station located on one end of the weight room. There, athletes will find a cornucopia of healthy snacks and drinks that would make Jack LaLanne and Joe Weider smile: Clif Bars, KIND bars, Larabars ... fresh fruit ... bagels ... a cereal station ... Gatorade galore ... a fridge stocked with yogurt and a variety of milk. It’s the envy of any bodybuilder.

But right now, Eastern is here to work ... not eat. On this day, Roberts puts Eastern through the paces of a brisk 45-minute workout, a routine they will repeat four or five times each week in the offseason. Eastern performed the following 11 exercises on this day.



COPENHAGEN PLANK

"It is a prep for the hip/abductors," Roberts says.

TWO-LEG CURL

"It's known as a reverse hyper. It's for hip extension. Normally, people like to do their trunk and spine and abdominal work at the end. I prefer to do it in the beginning to use that as prep for more forceful things later in the workout."

EXERCISE BAND

"More prep for the hip/abductors."

INFANT SQUAT

"This preps him to sit low and to work on ankle range motion. That is a prep for a squat even though we didn't squat today. I like to expose the players to some type of squat. They are always working on keeping that mobility. Not everyone believes a full squat is beneficial for basketball players. But this isn't about just being a better basketball player. It's about wellness and health in general."

PLYOMETRICS

"You have vertical plyometrics, which are more associated with speed mechanics and jumping. Horizontal plyometrics are for your start and for horizontal and long jumps. If I had the time, I would run the players twice a week. But it's not feasible with the time limits we have from the NCAA and the coaching staff. So, when I can, I sneak in horizontal plyometrics, skips, bounds, that type of stuff. That will continue to help them with their first step. Single leg power, left to right."

SHOULDER BAND

"It is an upper-body corrective to work on external rotators of the shoulder. Where you place the arm will involve different muscle groups."

SPLIT-STANCE DEADLIFT

"I try to do single-leg strength exercises as well as double-leg strength exercises. We did box squats earlier in the week with chains, so that was a double-leg strength exercise. The split stance allows them to put more emphasis on the front leg without it becoming a balance exercise."

SPRINT WITH BANDS ON THE WAIST

"That is to add some type of resistance. We had resistance because most of the time, when you run, you drive your hips. Now, with resistance at the hip, they have to focus in on driving their hips through."

VERTICAL ROW

"That is a back exercise. Most players think I have them do an excessive amount of back exercises. We do a lot of pulls. Because they do so much shooting, you want to make sure their shoulders are strong and they can rebound, too. That is why you strengthen the back."

INCLINE BENCH

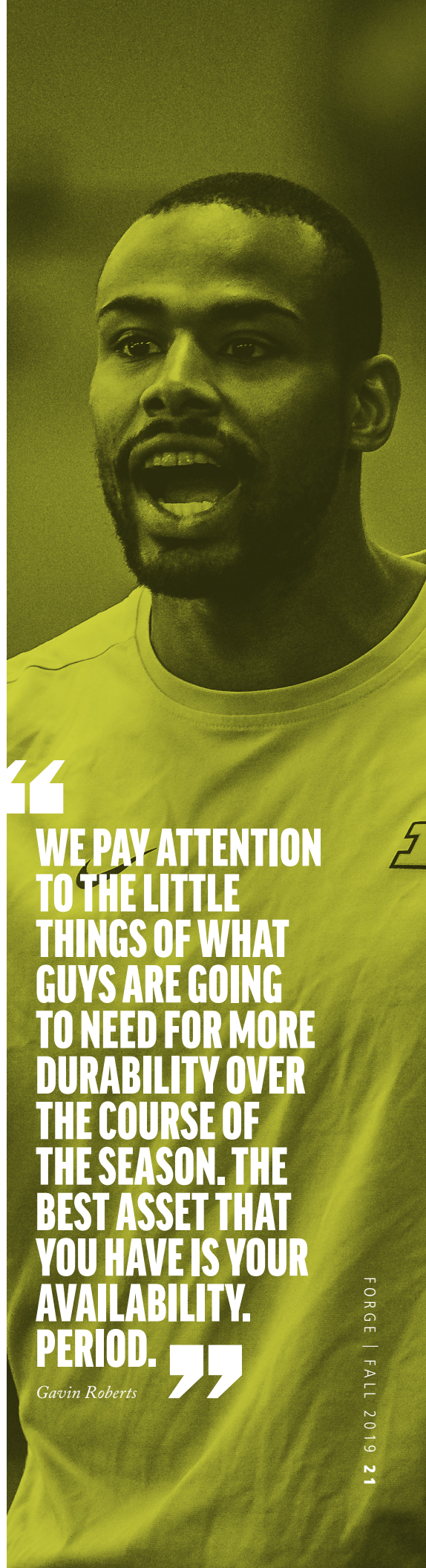
"Just pressing. I like to have them press in different styles: vertical, horizontal or somewhere in between."

STEP-BACK LUNGE

"You have knee-dominant and hip-dominant exercises. This is a squat variant, single-leg exercise. This is about squatting in a different plane. This focuses on your hip hinge."

It's all about building a better basketball player – and a championship team. And that goes on during the solitary, hot summer days far from the cheers of March.

"It's all worth it," Eastern says. "The school does a good job preparing us for what's ahead. Days like this are important." ✂



“WE PAY ATTENTION TO THE LITTLE THINGS OF WHAT GUYS ARE GOING TO NEED FOR MORE DURABILITY OVER THE COURSE OF THE SEASON. THE BEST ASSET THAT YOU HAVE IS YOUR AVAILABILITY. PERIOD.”

Gavin Roberts



Q&A

WITH RYAN ISAAC

By Tom Schott

Boilermaker football alum Ryan Isaac returned to Purdue in June as an assistant director of development for the John Purdue Club. His primary goal is building relationships with and increasing involvement of Purdue Athletics alumni. Isaac will focus on growing annual giving and assisting with advancing membership, marketing, communication and special events efforts of Varsity P, which includes former student-athletes, managers, athletic trainers and spirit squad members.

Isaac earned his bachelor's degree in organizational leadership and supervision in 2014. He was a four-year letterwinner from 2010 to 2014 as a defensive tackle and defensive end, playing in both the 2011 Little Caesars Pizza and 2013 Heart of Dallas bowls.

Prior to coming back to Purdue, Isaac worked with young people in a variety of capacities in his hometown of Michigan City, Indiana.

Forge talked with Isaac about Purdue Athletics past, present and future.

FORGE: Why were you interested in joining the John Purdue Club staff?

ISAAC: I felt like it was a great opportunity to give back to the place that gave me the opportunity to get an education and to be in a role that would allow me to get all Purdue Athletics alumni involved and engaged. It is an exciting time to be a Boilermaker, especially with what Jeff Brohm and Matt Painter have going on with football and men's basketball. People are talking nationally, and we have a lot of steam.

FORGE: What is your vision for Varsity P?

ISAAC: I want Purdue Athletics to be something where our alumni want to be engaged, where they want to get back involved and feel welcome. You can get into a situation where you go to a university, you put your work in, you take your courses and then you kind of separate and the university separates from you, too. It's not intentional, but it just happens over time. I want to find creative ways to get people dialed in and get them back to where they are thinking, "OK, I want to reconnect and get involved."

FORGE: How do you go about getting former student-athletes, managers, athletic trainers and spirit squad members involved in their alma mater?

ISAAC: First and foremost, you have to put the traditional grassroots efforts out there: get on the phone, contact people, do your due diligence. Beyond that, you have to make the marketing materials interesting and appealing. I look forward to working with the creative services team and seeing what we can do as far as making things fresh and putting together more visuals because people like to see things. At the same time, you have to keep things concise, classy and original.

FORGE: Talk about your experiences as a high school coach, youth behavioral counselor and special education teacher.

ISAAC: It was great to go back to Michigan City and hopefully help guide kids on their journey by sharing my experiences as a student and an athlete. I hope I was able to explain how important education is and where they can go if they take it seriously and are able to conduct themselves in a nice and classy way. That mentorship and being able to sit down with them as someone from their community who is just like them and has been able to do some special things with school was awesome.

FORGE: What does Purdue mean to you?

ISAAC: Being from Northwest Indiana, it meant a lot to be able to go to a university in my home state and to be able to put a flag in the ground and stand for something while having that Indiana pride. We had guys

from all over the country from all different cultures and environments, and I took a lot of pride in telling them about things like the Old Oaken Bucket and our rivalry with Notre Dame, which I am excited will resume in two years.

FORGE: What are your favorite Purdue football memories?

ISAAC: Winning the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl in 2011 is something I will never forget. Another highlight is the last three games of the 2012 season, where we had to win all three to become bowl eligible. We won at Iowa, for the first time since the 1990s, and at Illinois – both by three points, and then capped it with a convincing victory over Indiana at home for the Old Oaken Bucket. Our backs were against the wall, and we laid everything on the line. That was a classic display of Boilermaker football.



FORGE: How has Purdue Athletics changed since you were here as a student-athlete, and how has it stayed the same?

ISAAC: The core is still the same, and that is the people who take pride in coming to work every day to ensure that our student-athletes have a great experience at Purdue. As far as what is new, the facilities are unbelievable. When I was here, our facilities were good, but they clearly are at a different level now. The Kozuch Football Performance Complex is amazing and obviously has proven to be a tremendous recruiting tool. When you have great people, great academics and great facilities, you're in business.

FORGE: What did you get out of being a member of the Boilermaker Athletic Council, and how did it help prepare you for life after college?

ISAAC: It taught me leadership and teamwork. I learned how to sit down with a group and brainstorm and come up with ideas. Any work environment that you're in, you have to be able to come in and give your point of view, have people understand your vision and do it in a way to where it is respectful and people are receptive. I think the whole program encompasses those things. ✂



BOILERMAKER LOVE AFFAIR

Shondell bleeds old gold & black

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

INSIDE PURDUE ATHLETICS

By Cory Palm

It's a sun-swept late May afternoon in West Lafayette as the Purdue Athletics staff gathers for its annual Quality of Life luncheon. As more than 100 Boilermaker employees finish their pulled-pork sandwiches at the Birk Boilermaker Golf Complex, the man of the hour ambles up to the microphone.

For the next 45 minutes, volleyball head coach Dave Shondell holds court. Shondell is the emcee for the entertainment portion of the day's festivities but, in a lot of ways, Shondell himself is the entertainment. He presides over trivia games with the ease of Alex Trebek, drops one-liners like Jerry Seinfeld and conducts impromptu interviews with prizewinners as smoothly as Bob Barker.

As each prizewinner comes to the stage, Shondell calls them out by name. Fellow coaches, administrators, grounds crew

and building maintenance staff: He knows them all and not in a surface-style, glance-at-the-nametag way. Shondell knows their names, what they do, what building they work in and who they work with. Why? It's simple: THEY are Purdue Athletics and he LOVES Purdue Athletics.

"I love Purdue because I realize how fortunate I am to coach here," Shondell says. "It is an honor to be working at a university that is building momentum every single day. I see Purdue as being exactly what college athletics is supposed to be. We have a great balance of what I believe in. I am extremely proud to be part of Purdue Athletics at this exciting time."

Now in his 17th season leading the volleyball program, Shondell is among the most successful coaches in a department that has its share of future Hall of Famers. Under his tutelage, the

Boilermakers have been to 13 NCAA tournaments, including seven trips to the Sweet 16 and two Elite Eight appearances. And while he is proud of that success, Shondell is equally happy about the momentum the entire department is experiencing.

"The success that Purdue has enjoyed with football and men's basketball, along with the incredible Tyler Trent story, has raised the awareness of what is happening at this tremendous world-class university," Shondell says. "This is my state, the Boilermaker state. It provides great satisfaction to be a part of this rise, this momentum, this tremendous enthusiasm, that is Purdue Athletics."

Shondell comes from a volleyball family, part of a generations-long tradition that has helped grow the sport to a high level in the state of Indiana. And he will be glad to

talk to you for hours about the sport that he loves. But if you really want to see him light up, ask about the work Jeff Brohm is doing with the football program or the atmosphere in Louisville for the men's basketball NCAA Tournament run in March. He gets to as many games as he can for all sports for the simple reason that he believes in sport and the good that it can do on campus, in the community and beyond.

"Why wouldn't I attend other sporting events at Purdue," he says, answering a question with a question. "We have great coaches and great athletes. To be successful you must have people who are invested in the program and in the operation. I am absolutely invested in Purdue. I want to do whatever I can to help Purdue."

Shondell appreciates the dedication of student-athletes and the effort they put forth no matter their sport. He says watching that excellence is one of the main reasons he tries to get out to as many events as his schedule allows. He only wishes he had more time to spend watching and learning from his peers in the department.

"It's not as easy as some might think to spend a lot of time with other coaches," Shondell says. "I think we all wish we had more time to spend with each other, to socialize and enjoy each other. It's nearly impossible to make that happen on a regular basis."

Shondell says he is close with women's basketball coach Sharon Versyp as they both lead high profile women's programs. And he has a special bond with men's basketball coach Matt Painter that emanates from the common experience of growing up in Muncie, Indiana. He also credits golf coaches Devon Brouse and Rob Bradley with taking on the task of rescuing his golf game.

"It's amazing to have a colleague who is as passionate about Purdue Athletics as Dave," Versyp says. "He's invested in each and every program, going out of his way to be in the know and be educated about our teams. Personally, what means the most is that he shows up when it matters, coming to Mackey Arena on gamedays to support our student-athletes and staff."

As one of the more experienced members of the Purdue Athletics stable of coaches, Shondell feels a special responsibility to his peers.

"I feel an obligation to help those coaches any way that I can," he says. "Whether it is an occasional text or going out to their venue to watch their team play or observe a team practice. I think those things are important to do if you're a veteran coach in an athletics program such as Purdue. I do believe that in the 17 years I've been on staff, this is collectively the best coaching staff we have put together."

That sense of community he helps foster amongst his coaching peers is similar to the family atmosphere he aims to instill in his own program. Shondell says he begins building relationships with players the minute he starts recruiting them with the hope that the relationship grows into something special through graduation and beyond.

"I want our former players to come back and feel proud of their accomplishments," Shondell says. "When they return, it is surely an indication of the type of experience each one had while they were at Purdue. We want them to come back and celebrate the awesome volleyball history here at Purdue and help us look forward to what is on the horizon for our team and the university."

In the past couple of years, Shondell has seen prominent alumni on opposing sidelines

as coaches of rival schools. That hasn't kept him from taking to the microphone inside Holloway Gymnasium for a moment before matches against these foes to recognize his former players with a few kind words. It is in these moments you see the depth of Shondell's passion for his program.

"The most important thing a coach can establish with his players is a productive and positive relationship," he says. "That doesn't end just because they are on the other sideline."

Perhaps the first time a lot of Boilermaker fans saw how comfortable Shondell is using the mic to send a message was at the 2014 football home opener. His team's schedule allowed Shondell to be in attendance for the Boilermakers' 43-34 win over Western Michigan. Shondell was chosen to lead the Ross-Ade Stadium crowd in the traditional rendition of "Shout!" He made the most of his assignment, working himself into a lather and creating a moment that garnered tens of thousands of views on social media.

"I spoke to the crowd as if I was speaking to my own team, to the Purdue volleyball student section or anyone in our crowd," Shondell says. "The home crowd in college athletics is significant and plays a monster role in the success of any team. I absolutely believe that coaches have a real responsibility to grow their fan base, to encourage people to come out and watch and support their team. If given an opportunity to encourage a football crowd again, I would not hesitate. The good news is with Jeff Brohm, Rondale Moore and company, the crowd will already be ready to go."

And it's safe to say that Shondell will be right there, as ready as anyone, to cheer on his Boilermakers. ✂





BUILDING THE FOUNDATION

Jeff Hagerman grew up with
and was shaped by Purdue



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

By Laurie Silverstein

Purdue has been a part of Jeff Hagerman's family ever since he can remember.

Originally from Fort Wayne, just a few hours from campus, he was born and raised wearing the old gold & black. His grandfather attended Purdue. And while his father played football at Valparaiso, his dad's friends were "all Purdue guys" and came to every Boilermaker football game.

"In high school, I remember tailgating with dad and his friends before heading in to the football games," Hagerman says. "When I got to Purdue as a student in 1989, I would continue to hang out with him, his friends and my friends. It wasn't always easy to watch Purdue football back then, but spending that time together is what stuck out to me the most."

When it came time to pick a college, Hagerman didn't find

himself the target of any peer pressure from his family. They told him they would be supportive of wherever he ended up, but he didn't stray far from what already felt familiar. A lot of his friends were going to be attending Purdue, which was a factor, but an opportunity to walk on to the tennis team also was intriguing to him.

"I just had a passion for Purdue," he says.

Although he mostly found himself in town for sporting events, Hagerman's attraction to the Purdue campus also stemmed from his long-honed interest in outer space. He often found himself wandering the halls of the engineering facilities during his visits. He was intrigued by the Boilermaker connection to Neil Armstrong and other astronauts, and he had visions of combining his family's construction business

– The Hagerman Group – with a major in aeronautical engineering.

His ultimate goal? To build space stations.

"When you're in middle school or high school, you're blown away by a place like this and the opportunities it can provide," Hagerman says. "But once I got to school and better understood the unfortunate state of NASA at the time, I shifted my focus to construction engineering. I left the stars and stayed closer to home."

WHAT IS A BOILERMAKER?

From an early age, Hagerman knew he was being indoctrinated into Purdue's unique community and campus culture.

It's a large campus with a small-town feel, one on which Hagerman immediately felt welcome. He

didn't feel like just another number on a campus with over 30,000 students. Purdue people have a Midwest attitude with a willingness to help you out or point you in the right direction – something you might not get at a big-city university.

His favorite memories as a student on campus “all boil down to the people and experiences.” Hagerman recalls going to class and immediately heading to the Sweet Shop afterwards to do homework. He played “I don’t even know how many hours” of basketball with his friends at the Co-Rec. When he’s in the area today, Hagerman likes to tour campus and check on construction projects in the works just as he did as a student.

“My freshman year of college, the Hagerman Group was building the Mollenkopf Center, the indoor football practice field,” Hagerman says. “My girlfriend at the time had just moved to Texas, so I used to sneak into the construction trailer to call her. My father was not as excited when the company got the long-distance phone bill.”

Exorbitant long-distance phone bills aside, Hagerman recognized that moving to campus wasn’t a major transition, but rather “it felt like moving from one home to another. It just felt like family.”

He believes wholeheartedly that Boilermakers are different. They buy into the culture of the university and know that Purdue’s goal is ultimately to develop better human beings who will in turn make our environment a better place. The messaging is made clear from the start by campus leadership.

“I’ve been on a lot of campuses and been involved with a lot of universities and athletic programs over the years,” Hagerman says. “Our approach to our culture and

building our programs starts with integrity – a value we should all live by. Boilermakers do things the right way, and you can see that with our coaches all the way up through the administration. They live what we preach as a university. You don’t see that at a lot of schools.”

STAYING ON BOARD

Hagerman has been a John Purdue Club member since 1997. As a former student-athlete, the connection seemed natural to help support his program. He also was an original member of Varsity P, the organization supporting student-athlete alumni.

“When I was working in Ohio after graduation, it seemed more challenging to stay connected to Purdue,” Hagerman says. “Once I moved to Indianapolis and saw all of the excitement surrounding Purdue sports, I was equally excited to get involved again.”

Last season, Hagerman used his ties to the construction industry to help complete the brick facade around the field at Ross-Ade Stadium. He initially made a gift commitment as a John Purdue Club member, but when he was approached to get involved with the brick project, it was a no-brainer to donate time and resources to get the project across the finish line. He collaborated with Bill Kriesel (class of 1987) and his company, Precast Specialties, to make this vision a reality.

“I’m extremely pleased with the finished project – it looks almost as good as our football team,” Hagerman says.

EVER GRATEFUL

Today, Hagerman serves as chairman of the Hagerman Group, the family construction business founded by his great-grandfather in 1908. It’s in its fourth generation of family

leadership. Following his 1993 graduation from Purdue, and his time working for a construction company in Ohio, he returned to Indiana and the family business in 1997. Hagerman took over the company in 2008.

As chairman, his focus is on building a client network and ensuring that the strategic direction of the corporation is followed. He sits on seven different boards around Indiana and enjoys giving back to the communities “that take such good care of us.”

Hagerman also is dedicated to passing on his fandom to his family. He is at the majority of football and basketball games and has been carrying on family traditions by bringing along his son Drake, 16. “I’ll take credit or blame, but Drake is Purdue through and through,” Jeff says. “As a quarterback himself, Drew Brees is his idol.”

Drake’s sister, Stella, 4, hasn’t yet shaped an opinion of the Boilermakers, but Hagerman guesses she will have to be a Purdue fan, too.

Although he has worked across state lines and travels often, Hagerman acknowledges that he never was really disconnected from his alma mater.

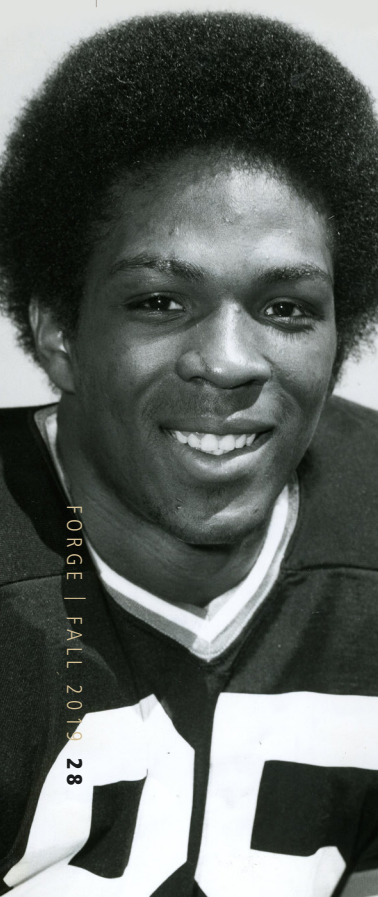
“I live and breathe Purdue,” he says. “No matter where I am in the world, I will always represent and promote the old gold & black. I’ve been blessed to make friends with some amazing people here at Purdue, and I have a ton of respect for them. I consider them part of my family.

“It’s just part of my life and part of who I am. When an opportunity comes up to help Purdue, I do what I can, because I know it would do the same for me.” ✖

REMEMBERING 1979

WITH KEENA TURNER

By Alan Karpick



Keena Turner is the only Boilermaker to be part of four Super Bowl championship teams – all with the San Francisco 49ers – and he credits learning how to win to his time at Purdue. He was a senior defensive end on the Boilermakers' winningest team as this year marks the 40th anniversary of Purdue's 10-2 season that included a Bluebonnet Bowl victory over Tennessee and a No. 10 ranking in the final polls. Turner has enjoyed a life in football, currently in his 12th year as an executive with the 49ers.

Turner remains close to Purdue as his daughter, Ella, is a junior at the school with aspirations of a career in sport management. *Forge* caught up with Turner to get his reflections on that magical 1979 season.

FORGE: You were a captain of the only 10-win team in Purdue history. How does it look to you 40 years later?

TURNER: I am so proud of being a part of Purdue history that season and seeing how special it was. At the same time, you wish it hadn't held up that long. I'm hopeful that we have those types of seasons moving forward, and with coach Brohm it is absolutely possible.

FORGE: Was the famed Junk Defense the difference maker of the 1979 team?

TURNER: Being a part of that defense, I would love to think that we had a lot to do with it. But with Mark Herrmann and that phenomenal offense that could throw it down field, the offense and defense really complemented one another.

FORGE: You started your college career as a tight end and became one of the best rush defensive ends ever to play for the Boilermakers. How did that happen?

TURNER: My freshman year under coach (Alex) Agase, I played

tight end, and I got the chance to play enough to letter but didn't catch any balls. When coach (Jim) Young came in, during the spring of my freshman year, I can remember the conversation when he approached me and said, "We're thinking about moving you to defense, what do you think?" My response was, "Coach, you know I just want to play." And he said, "We're just thinking about it." But the next day I was on defense, and it was the best move of my career.

It was all about the opportunity of getting on the defense with (defensive coordinator) coach Leon Burtnett and his style and approach, which mirrored what we were doing on offense. We were wide open, we were taking advantage of the talent and we did a lot of different things on defense. We had lots of talent, and it held up well.

FORGE: Why was it called the "Junk Defense"?

TURNER: We did a lot of different things. I came off the corner, our defense slid and moved a lot, we put people in different places. I think the word "junk" became associated with the various looks we presented, and we liked the label. I can remember they brought in one of those big dumpsters full of metal and junk, and we stood by it and took a picture, so it was a name that we wore proudly. It defined us, it was who we were. Our mentality was simple: We are going to bring everything in the dumpster into the game. It was our approach, and it's the way we played.

FORGE: Your team is still close four decades later. Who do you see the most?

TURNER: Pete Quinn has done an amazing job at keeping everybody close and in contact. Wayne Smith, Ben McCall, Bart Burrell are all guys I have stayed in close contact. I wish I had done a better job along the way keeping

in contact with others, but when we get together we don't skip a beat. It always is great to get back together at reunions and tell stories.

FORGE: Is it a coincidence that so many of your college teammates have gone on to be successful?

TURNER: It's part of being on a successful team. It's such a common bond, obviously, of commitment, the dedication and the work that goes in, and the closeness that you have from being in a team sport like that. What's interesting is that we didn't win the Super Bowl every year and for us at Purdue, we didn't win 10 games every season, but there is that core, those memories. You want to relive it over and over.

FORGE: Are there any games that stand out?

TURNER: I tend to linger on the ones that got away. Those bug me more than the excitement or the achievement on the other side – that's just a flaw in me, that I don't spend enough time appreciating it all. I went through that tough coaching change my freshman year, but it turned out for the best, and coach Young had a great impact on my career and for me as a person with his competitive personality and nature. Having access to him helped me in the NFL, but more importantly, it helped me in life.

Forty years later, it isn't the games. I grew up when I was at Purdue, thanks to the caliber of people I was around that supported me through the program and believed in me as a student-athlete. I made the right choice going to Purdue. I just look back and have such wonderful and fond memories of the experience and the people that touched me and believed in me in the long run. ✕

1979 Bluebonnet Bowl Trophy

Expectations were great for Purdue football heading into the 1979 season, but a 31-14 loss at Minnesota in early October left the Boilermakers with a 3-2 record and prompted head coach Jim Young to call his team “an over-publicized bunch of cream puffs.” Then, fortunes changed, and Purdue won its final six games of the regular season. The Boilermakers wound up 7-1 in the Big Ten – winning the most conference games in school history – to finish in second place (one game behind undefeated Ohio State), their best showing since the 1967 team shared the title. At that point, Young revised his evaluation of the Boilermakers to “a tough, hard-nosed team that individually would not be denied.” A date with Tennessee in the Bluebonnet Bowl awaited Purdue, and the Boilermakers wrapped up the only 10-win campaign in school annals with a 27-22 victory. ✂





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