

- 2017 PURDUE BASEBALL: MOST IMPROVED NATIONALLY -

• Purdue won its final seven games of April, taking over the title of the nation's most-improved team and continuing the greatest turnaround in program history. The Boilermakers enter the weekend having won 17 more games than they did last season, enjoying their best season since winning the Big Ten title in 2012. Purdue is tops nationally in win differential and second in winning percentage improvement vs. last season. The Boilermakers managed to double last year's win total by April 21. Purdue's 10 Big Ten wins are more than the last two seasons combined (8).

MOST IMPROVED TEAMS NATIONALLY

TEAM	2016 RECORD	2016 WIN %	2017 RECORD	2017 WIN %	WIN DIFFERENTIAL	WIN % DIFF
Purdue	10-44 .....	.185	27-24 .....	.529	+17	+ .344
Butler	14-40 .....	.259	30-19 .....	.612	+16	+ .353
San Diego State	21-38 .....	.356	37-16 .....	.698	+16	+ .342
South Florida	24-33 .....	.421	39-13 .....	.750	+15	+ .329
SIU Edwardsville	9-40 .....	.184	23-26 .....	.469	+14	+ .285
North Carolina A&T	13-41 .....	.232	26-23 .....	.531	+13	+ .299
Arkansas	26-29 .....	.473	37-14 .....	.725	+11	+ .252
Yale	19-28-1 .....	.406	30-16 .....	.652	+11	+ .246

• Purdue experienced quite a bit of roster turnover, but the newcomers have helped spearhead this season's turnaround. Among position players, newcomers have made a combined 236 starts for Purdue. On the mound, **Gareth Stroh** (13) and **Jack Dellinger** (9) have accounted for 22 of the 23 starts by newcomers. Combined, that's 262 starts by Boilermakers that weren't on the team last season. And they may not have started a game this season, but relievers/newcomers **Ross Learnard**, **Dalton Parker** and **Cameron Williams** have also been a big part of the turnaround.

• By rallying to win April 19 at Indiana State, Purdue avoided dropping below the .500 mark for the first time since March 16. By contrast, prior to this season the Boilermakers' overall record had not been over .500 since it was 3-2 early in the 2013 campaign. The two seven-game wins streaks (March 13-25, April 19-29) have fueled Purdue's ability to maintain a winning record since the spring break trip. But winning on Fridays has been significant as well. The Boilermakers are 9-4 on Fridays, suffering their only losses at Cal State Northridge (March 10), Ohio State (March 31) and vs. Northwestern (May 5) and No. 16 Michigan (May 12).
 • With a 2-9 record on Sundays, those Friday wins have also helped keep Purdue in the hunt for its first Big Ten Tournament berth since the 2012 Big Ten championship team. The Boilermakers suffered their first sweep of the year May 12-14 vs. Michigan. They were unable to join Purdue's 2001, 2006 2012 teams only ones to avoid a traditional weekend series sweep for a full season.

ALREADY THE GREATEST TURNAROUND IN PROGRAM HISTORY

• Purdue has already posted the best season-to-season win improvement in program history. This season marks only the sixth time in 130 years of Boilermaker baseball that the team has won at least 10 more games than the year before. The only other times the program had a .300-point improvement in winning percentage were both before World War II when the Boilermakers played fewer than 20 games in a season.

YEARS	YEAR 1 RECORD	YEAR 2 RECORD	WIN IMPROVEMENT	WIN % DIFFERENCE
2016 to 2017	10-44	27-24	+17	+ .344
1979 to 1980	13-30	27-24	+14	+ .204
1975 to 1976	7-24	19-20	+12	+ .261
1994 to 1995	16-39	27-30	+11	+ .184
1999 to 2000	24-30	35-23	+11	+ .159
2007 to 2008	22-32	32-26	+10	+ .063
1953 to 1954	5-13	13-13	+8	+ .222
1990 to 1991	27-30-1	35-21	+8	+ .151
<i>More + .300 Win Pct. Improvements</i>				
1925 to 1926	5-11	11-4-2	+6	+ .393
1931 to 1932	3-7	8-5	+5	+ .315

TURNAROUND ALSO IN EXCLUSIVE COMPANY IN RECENT BIG TEN HISTORY

• Purdue could also set a new standard for year-to-year improvement in the Big Ten Conference. Since the league did away with its divisional alignment and schedule beginning in 1988, only one team won at least 10 more games in Big Ten play than it did the year before. Coincidentally, that was the 2008 Boilermakers, who finished second in the standings at 21-10 after being eighth at 11-20 the year prior.
 • Minnesota's plus-.417 improvement in winning percentage from 2008 (10-21) to 2009 (17-6) remains the standard in that category since 1988. However, those were also the years in which the league switched from a 32-game conference schedule in 2008 to the current 24-game slate in 2009. Iowa's plus-.375 improvement in winning percentage in Big Ten play from 2014 to 2015 is the best in years in which the number of games on the schedule was the same.
 • The top eight teams qualify for the Big Ten Tournament, which the Boilermakers have not done since winning the event while making their program-record fifth straight appearance in 2012. Purdue is not only looking to end its longest drought since 1988 to 1992, but also has a chance to join a unique list of teams to qualify for the Big Ten Tournament only one year after finishing last in the standings. Penn State (last in 2010, qualified in 2011) was the most recent team to accomplish the feat, capping a stretch in which it happened three times from 2008 to 2011 (Indiana in 2008, Iowa in 2010). Since the end of the Big Ten's divisional era in 1988, only eight teams have qualified for the league tournament after finishing last the year before. That list includes the 1995 Boilermakers, who improved from 8-20 in 1994 to 15-13 the following season to make the four-team field.

MOST IMPROVED BIG TEN TEAMS IN CONFERENCE PLAY SINCE 1988

TEAM, YEARS	YEAR 1 RECORD	YEAR 2 RECORD	WIN IMPROVEMENT	WIN % DIFFERENCE
Minnesota, 2008-09*	10-21	17-6	+7	+ .417
Purdue, 2016-17	2-22	10-11[^]	+8	+ .393
Iowa, 2014-15	10-14	19-5	+9	+ .375
Iowa, 2009-10	4-19	13-11	+9	+ .368
Northwestern, 1990-91	6-21	15-12	+9	+ .333
Purdue, 2007-08	11-20	21-10	+10	+ .323
Indiana, 1989-90	5-23	14-14	+9	+ .321
Minnesota, 2015-16	9-15	16-7	+7	+ .321
Northwestern, 2009-10	5-17	13-11	+8	+ .314
Purdue, 1996-97	8-19	17-11	+9	+ .311

[^]Record as of May 11 with 6 Big Ten games remaining

*The Big Ten schedule changed from a 32-game slate in 2008 to the current 24-game slate in 2009
 The Big Ten played a 28-game conference schedule from 1989 to 2001

FINAL WEEKEND OF THE REGULAR SEASON: PURDUE BASEBALL AT MINNESOTA