

# Hoosier squad battled Ohio State to a rough 1905 win

Indiana University's yearbook, the *Arbutus*, called it the roughest game ever played by an IU football squad, except for the 1903 game with Kentucky. The staff sports editor was referring to Thanksgiving Day, 1905, when the Hoosier team battled Ohio State University at Columbus.

Battled is the right word. The game made front-page headlines in the Bloomington *Evening World* of Dec. 1, because the IU team members weren't the only ones to come home with bumps and bruises.

First off, it was bitterly cold in Columbus, not unusual for that time of year. Some 3,306 fans shivered through two 35 minute halves.

According to a dispatch from Columbus, the first half was played almost entirely in Indiana territory. Continued the newspaper, "... and



## Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

the same was largely true in the second half."

The account sounded like the account of an athletic disaster, except for one important fact. IU won the game 11-0. How this was accomplished was spelled out in the dispatch.

"Indiana, however, pulled together and in two splendid spurts of football played herself to victory. In the opening period Ohio punted and the Hoosiers got the ball on their own 25-yard line, and by terrific

playing smashed Ohio's defense for the length of the field."

In another series, IU's "Bunny" Hare, the quarterback, made a carry of some 25 yards. But the Ohio State line held.

Hare was injured in the first half — his knee wrenched — and spent the rest of the game on the bench. His replacement, a man by the name of Royle, also spurted down the field into Ohio State territory, and IU scored again. The after touchdown kick was not good.

A couple of Ohio State substitutes put some new life into their team, and they fought their way down to the Indiana one-yard line. That was when the trouble began.

Reported the *Evening World*, the time ran out on Ohio State. And it so happened that the head lines-

man, who carried the stop watch, was a Bloomington physician.

No matter that the official had been more than fair. Explained the newspaper, "dr. (C.E.) Harris carried a regular football stop watch and the time was a few seconds more than up when he blew the whistle to end the game."

Ohio State fans, called "hoodlums" by the *Evening World*, poured out onto the field and rushed at the doctor, who tried to seek refuge with three policemen. Even so, he was considerably roughed up by the fans.

The newspaper reported that two other Bloomington men were caught up in the melee. Frank Gentry and Tuck Adams came back to Bloomington with injuries.

The *Evening world* described the

aftermath. "President Thompson of Ohio State apologized to (IU) coach (Jimmy) Sheldon for the shameful way the game ended ... it was the fifth successive time that Indiana has defeated the Ohio champions."

The newspaper passed along a closing comment to its readers. "The teams seemed to be evenly matched, both being able to carry the ball better than to keep the opposite team from scoring. Indiana seemed to be in poorer condition than the local (Ohio State) eleven."

Poor condition or not, IU had a pretty good season in 1905. In addition to the win over Ohio State, the Hoosiers beat Butler, Kentucky State, Washington, Cincinnati, Notre Dame and Wabash, tied with Purdue and lost only to Chicago, scoring a total of 240 points to their opponents' 38.