

# Sports rivalry, sports betting both big back in 1910

Since the football series began in 1891, no one in Bloomington or West Lafayette ever took a casual attitude toward the Indiana University-Purdue University games. And 1910 was no exception.

After a rocky start in football (1891: PU 60, IU 0; 1892: PU 68, IU 0), IU had begun to trade wins with its upstate rival. Too, IU was having a good season, having beaten De-Pauw, Chicago, Millikin, Wisconsin and Butler before losing to Illinois.

The stalwart ones who took the train to West Lafayette (at \$1.50 round trip) were amply rewarded for the effort. IU Coach Jimmy Sheldon (who, strangely enough, was also a Chicago attorney) had taken over the coaching spot in 1905 and given the football program the stability it had lacked in the early



## Looking back

By Rose McIlveen

years. "Foxy Jimmy," the IU yearbook, the *Arbutus*, called him.

The Bloomington *Daily Telephone* described the team as "in splendid shape for the game, with the exception of King, who is afflicted with a number of boils and Kimble, who is entertaining a charley horse.

Though the 1911 *Arbutus* contained only a brief account of the game, the *Telephone* of Monday, Nov. 21, made up for it. Andy Gill, "star half back," was the hero of

the game, "making the entire score with two touchdowns and a place kick."

Boasted the newspaper, "The score hardly tells the story of the game for Sheldon's team was more than 15 points better than the Boilermakers. They outplayed the Purdue men at every stage of the game."

As for how the scoring happened, the *Telephone* described it: "The first touchdown was made after two minutes of play by Gill after Davis had made 30 yards on a forward pass. The second score was made by Gill in the first of the second half when he kicked goal after Davis made a fair catch."

IU didn't score again until near the end of the game. "Cotton"

Berndt (who later became mayor of Bloomington) made a 30-yard gain, and Gill carried it over the goal line.

Apparently Purdue did have an opportunity to score. The *Arbutus* described it: Purdue fought her best game and once reached the Crimson one-yard line, but fumbled and lost. In the last quarter King replaced Davis and immediately peeled off thirty marvelous yards. Another minute and he could have scored."

IU President William Lowe Bryan was quoted as having deplored the amount of betting on IU games. It was no secret that IU fans often put their money where their allegiance was and sometimes lost the money.

The *Telephone* made no secret of the betting aspect of the game.

"While victory was with the Crimson, a lot of good Indiana money remained in Lafayette when the special (train) started home. The standard of the bets was generally that Indiana would make 16 points. A few minutes after the Bloomington crowd arrived in Lafayette a bet of \$400 was posted that Sheldon's outfit would roll up 16 points and most of the bets made were on 16 points." Others bet that Purdue would not score and won. "However, Purdue sports got away with the big end of the money," the *Telephone* said.

It is likely that the IU fans didn't care all that much. On the excursion train home they were probably making good use of the dining car and bar.

Oh, yes, the score. It was 15-0.