

Loss to Illinois broke Hoosiers' fighting spirit in 1910

"While in the past the day of the annual Purdue-Indiana game has been a great event, the most noticeable thing about the contest this year is the lack of interest (among) both students and the football fans of the city." Bloomington Daily Telephone, Nov. 19, 1910.

It is hard to imagine any year when Indiana University fans — students, alumni and townspeople alike — weren't interested in the outcome of the annual IU-Purdue football game. The *Telephone* did put forth a theory: "The drop in enthusiasm is laid to the defeat of Indiana by Illinois, that game being the climax of the season."

The newspaper continued, "Since then, while all of the usual fire-



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By Rose McIlveen

works have been used to arouse spirit, they have not succeeded. The big bonfire and war dance Thursday night was a take affair, in spite of the work that was done to boost and the excursion this morning did not take the big crowd that has always accompanied the team to Purdue in the past when a special train was run."

If it was true, why had the exu-

berance of the IU fans disappeared? On the one hand, the Illinois game must have taken a lot out of the team. Aiming for a Western championship, IU fell to their rivals on the west by a score of 3-0. But, on the other hand, how could any IU fans be disappointed in a season when IU's opponents had scored only 6 points to IU's 111?

Nevertheless, the team was escorted on the special train to Lafayette by 450 people, including the band and drum corps. Confided the *Telephone*, "Even this small crowd was drummed up last night by the University authorities who were in charge of the sale of tickets and realized what a poor showing the Indiana rooters were going to make,

and told to 'start something.' "

The "something" took the form of an impromptu parade snaking around the campus from one fraternity or sorority house to another and ending up downtown with a demonstration. The ticket sellers were conveniently on hand.

Bloomingtonians who went to the game were listed in the Nov. 19 pre-game story. They were Professor J.A. Woodburn and son, James, Lucy Davisson, Will Blair and wife, Charles Peterson and wife, James Campbell, Mrs. Frank Graham, Mrs. Alva Edwards, Mrs. Samuel Robertson, Fay Robertson, Mable Richardson, Mrs. R.W. Foster, Mrs. Charlotte B. Orr, Mrs. J.E. Henley,

Bertha Waldron, Charles Axtell, T.J. Penrod and Edward Cook.

Also T.L. Fowler, Flora Boyd, Charles Springer and wife, William Jenkins and wife, Bessie Melton, Ella Moore, Carrie V. Slcumb, Mrs. Robert Strong, Richard Thornton and wife, Grant Hazel and wife, Harry White, Stanley Souder, Loyd Back, Mary Hanna, Aaron Rogers, Wayne Culley, Henry Miller, Lewis Dobson, Charles Bailey, Nannie Frye of Bedford, Mrs. Fred Shoemaker and Bridge Nichols and wife.

According to the *Telephone*, the special train was made up of nine coaches. It made an unusually early start, and that caused problems for

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