

No more bucket?

1905 IU-Purdue tiff led to two-year suspension of athletic competition

"Purdue has severed athletic relations with Indiana University. The step so long discussed has finally been taken and there will be no more athletic contests between the two institutions."

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Looking back

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Perhaps some of the *Bloomington Telephone* subscribers who read the front-page June 6 article topped with the headline, "PURDUE QUITTS," thought it was some kind of joke. Not so. The reality was that for some years the rivalry between IU and Purdue had gotten out of hand. So concerned were officials at the two schools, that they had earlier entered into a three-year agreement to play the annual football game on neutral ground — Indianapolis. That agreement, however, had ended in the fall of 1905.

The reaction of the *Telephone* to the spring, 1906 announcement of the severing of athletic relations had some puzzling aspects. The decision had apparently been the result of a unanimous vote taken by the board of directors of the Purdue Athletic Association, but the newspaper also stated, "Recently the *faculty* of Purdue announced that hereafter all football games in which Purdue is engaged must be played either on Stuart Field or on the athletic field of Purdue's opponents."

The two policy statements made it unclear who spoke for Purdue, athletically — the faculty or the board of the association.

* The 1905 IU-Purdue game, played in Indianapolis, ended in an 11-11 tie. The account of the game in the 1906 IU *Arbutus* contains no hint of rowdiness. It was noted that the game was played before 12,000 spectators on a wet field in Washington Park. Afterward IU Coach Jimmy Sheldon said: "I am gratified at the result of the game." When asked if he cared to comment, Purdue Coach Herrnstein replied: "Not a word — not a single word." Commented Ben D. Crose, sporting editor of the Indianapolis *Sentinel*: "Had those two teams met again within a few days I would have stuck to my original dope and picked Purdue as a winner, but since that time and seeing the great machine in action last Saturday, I am of the opinion that Indiana is the greatest team in the state."

The day after the announcement of Purdue's refusal to play IU, the *Telephone* said: "What the reply of Indiana will be cannot be foretold, but it is likely that Purdue will be accused of playing the 'baby' act." The Purdue board's decision was definitely not popular in West Lafayette. A senior there told a

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