

# ***Kings of the Field: Boilermaker Football***

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## ***Why the Boilermakers?***

If you have not already heard about the Boilermakers, it's the football team for Purdue. (The Purdue Boilermakers are famous for their record of success, feared by adversaries, they are a force majeure to be reckoned with on the field.) Why are they called the Boilermakers? In 1891 the Purdue's football team made a star win that was casted for the news. Putting the Wabash College near Crawfordsville, Indiana to a 44-0. Passing up its rivals with huge leaps. Afterwards, just one newspaper reported the win, Daily Argus-News. They went for the headline of, ***"Wabash Snowed Completely Under by the Burly Boiler Makers from Purdue."***- <https://www.knoxnews.com> The name stuck, leaving the title for years to come. But you may be wondering, how did they get their mascot? The Purdue mascot is a 19th century freight train after their big win. Their mascot now is Purdue Pete. Purdue Pete was first designed and made by the university bookstore in 1940. In 1940 of the summer, Robert "Doc" Epple borrowed 10,000 from his father to be part owner. Robert had graduated just out of Purdue. Robert and his partner, Red Simmons wanted their business to have a logo. So with all of that they came up with, Purdue Pete.

# *Meeting the Team!*

*The whole team started between 1913-1914, but the University itself started in 1869. Purdue was originally founded under the Morrill act of 1862. A nearby merchant, John, had given up 150,000 dollars to get a start on the university. Tippecanoe County had also given up 50,000 U.S. dollars and local residents gave 100 acres for the new university. Purdue University traced its origin back to October 29, 1887. Their first football game was against Butler College with a score of 28-6 in Indianapolis, Indiana. With a strong start, the star player Erich Barnes of Purdue, led the team to that great win. The football team has won between 14-22 times in the Big Ten tournament.*



***The Purdue Football Team of 1869.***

Today, there are 115 players on the football team, roughly estimating 10 - 16 of them make it to the NFL (Depending on the year as the teams gain and lose numbers,)



The team's practice and game hours can be grueling and long. They compete in a variety of games almost every month. (Based on the wins, season, and ect.) That means that they can also be very tired by the end of the year. Breaks are limited when it comes to football; though they make sure that the players keep on practicing. The average pro football player takes around 3 years after highschool to be drafted. Practices are 2 hours long and engage the

fragile physical balance that a football player has to attain before the real games.

## *Wins for Centuries!*

*Arguably the greatest win by Purdue's team, was the 49-20 outstanding score against Ohio State University. Broadcasted on television over the national channel, Westward One. They took down their feisty rival in Ross-Ade stadium. They didn't just beat Ohio,*

*-they hurled the scores. Managing to get 49 touchdowns*

*within 2-3 hours, recent studies had shown that a normal NFL game lasts about 3 hours. Depending on the players time and team this huge win could be the best that they will ever make. These upcoming games could be an opportunity to break their own record again, as coaching progresses the teams ultimately get better with tactics, forward passing, balance, and more.*



## *The Inside Life*

*When it comes to football, you think about the team as a whole unit. They work together to make those fantastic wins! But being an individual player is a lot different from what you see in the stands, their whole life is surrounded by football. According to Aidan*

O'connel, "I definitely feel pressure on the field. There's a lot of people watching who care a lot so it's sometimes hard to balance the expectations." He also recalled, "It (football) definitely takes a lot of time away from my social life. Football takes multiple hours of commitment everyday, so that means less time for a social life.

However, I do socialize with my teammates, which is enjoyable." - Aidan

O'connel

Football isn't seen the same from different eyes, another teammate said, "I never really feel much pressure on the field, because of all the practice and preparation that goes into it. With all the preparation and practice, it makes it fun and easy on

the field." - Nick Talyor

The last thing that comes to mind with football is how do they balance school and football while maintaining relationships?

topic usually not said is an interesting question. Nick

Talyor helped us figure out the meaning, stating, "Football is a full-time job and requires a huge time commitment. Luckily, I can

build strong and close relationships with my

teammates since we are always doing everything together.

When I am not at football, I try hang out with my other friends

to maintain those good relationships outside of sports." - Nick Taylor



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*When O'connel has free time, " I like to spend time with my wife and puppy. Because football takes up a lot of time, I enjoy relaxing with those two when I can. We like to hangout and watch movies or take our puppy for a walk." - Aidan O'connel*

*Football in general is time consuming, but with the perseverance that each player has they make their way through leading to a healthy lifestyle.*

## *Preparation*

*Preparing for a game is no easy task, Preparation is something that takes a long time to build up to, Aidan O'connell and Nick Talyor take a say in this, "Training is not always fun. The strength coaches work us pretty hard, but it's required if you want to compete with your opponents. We practice almost every day of the week. Some practices are harder than others depending on what day it is. There's a lot of drills and running through plays that we're going to run during the game." - Aidan O'connell.*

## *Game Day!*

*On game day stress is overwhelming but so is the adrenaline, none of us really know what it's like to be the people on the field. You may already know or have seen some people that take football seriously. So having all that pressure of the people on your shoulders as you try and make a touchdown would kick in some adrenaline and excitement. O'connell states, "Game days are fun and stressful. They are long and require a lot of focus. However they are a lot of fun, especially when we win." - Aidan O'connell. Nick Talyor makes a close inquiry saying, "Winning is a great feeling. Knowing all the hard work and*



*preparation you put in has paid off is the best feeling.” - Nick Taylor.*

**Are you fit to make the team?**

## *Credits and Thanks to:*

- <https://www.knoxnews.com>
- [Purdue Pete - Wikipedia](#)
- **Saturday Blitz**
- [About Purdue University](#)
- <https://www.purdue.edu> › caps › training › internship › a...
- [Purdue Boilermakers - Wikipedia](#)
- <https://en.wikipedia.org> › wiki › Purdue\_Boilermakers
- [Purdue Boilermakers Big Ten Men's Basketball Tournament](#)  
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