

The Secret to Whop Philyor and Indiana's Successful Season

By: Bowen Conway

Cookies and milk. Peanut butter and jelly. Ketchup and mustard. What do all of these things have in common with the Indiana Hoosiers football team? Chemistry. The 2019-2020 Indiana Hoosiers football team has had an amazing season, and they owe it all to their team chemistry. As of November 24, they are fourth in the Big Ten East and were previously ranked 24th in the nation, according to the Associated Press. The Hoosiers have a seven and four record, which means IU will be heading into a bowl game and will be looking to win their first bowl game since they won the Copper Bowl in 1991. All of Indiana's players have done very well this season, but a player that stands out to me who is instrumental to IU's chemistry is 5'11, 178-pound junior, wide receiver, Mister Elias De'Angelo Philyor. He's better known to most people as "Whop" because of his love of Burger King Whoppers.

Whop Philyor went to Plant High School in Tampa, Florida. He got 2,026 yards, 140 receptions, and 25 total touchdowns there. According to IU's head coach, Tom Allen, he recruited Whop because, "I saw him in high school and thought that he was just a very, very talented guy. He could be a great fit at Indiana in both our program off the field and on the field. He's actually materialized into the kind of player that I first saw him to be." Following his high school graduation, Whop decided to continue his football career at Indiana University because of his high school friend, Thomas Allen. According to Whop, "He was always on me about Indiana. Indiana this, Indiana that. He didn't talk about anything else, but Indiana. I was like, let me just go see how Indiana is. I wanted to be a part of the team that changed the culture here. I just wanted to bring football to Indiana, not just basketball."

During his freshman year at Indiana Whop had 33 receptions for 335 yards, 3 touchdowns, and was a Honorable-mention BTN.com Big Ten All-Freshman and was also a Big Ten Freshman of the week. His sophomore year he had 23 receptions for 235 yards and only one touchdown. During, that off-season, Coach Tom Allen and Whop sat down together and discussed goals. "I made one goal really, just to be a better leader than I was my sophomore and my freshman year. I just wanted to lead my guys and show my guys that they should trust me and that they can uphold me accountable to anything. So really, to lead my guys to

victory as we've been doing this year."

This year marks Whop's junior year. Even with missing the last two games due to concussion protocol, Whop has 863 reception yards, which is 357 more yards than tight end Peyton Hendershot. The reception yards are fifth in the Big Ten and first on IU. He also has 61 receptions which are 19 more than Ty Fryfogle. The receptions are also first on IU. He also had a career high 182 reception yards against Rutgers. Whop is also on the Biletnikoff Award watch list. When I asked Whop how it felt to be on the award watch list he said, "It feels amazing. It was one of my goals for this season and coming to college. It's a real big deal for me. I'm very happy that I'm on there. I appreciate all the guys that voted for me to be on the list." I also asked Whop how he made such an improvement between seasons and he said, "I just built a lot of trust with my teammates and with my quarterback. We built a bigger bond in the summer time. We just built a bigger bond so that they could trust me more than they did my sophomore year. It's a big trust factor." It sounds like in the off-season, Whop and his teammates were working on their chemistry.

Whop is definitely unique from any of the other players. I asked quarterback Peyton Ramsey if Whop was different than any other wide receivers he has had in the past and Peyton replied, "He's good at finding holes in the defense and just getting open." I also asked him what it is like throwing to Whop and Peyton said, "Throwing to Whop makes my job as a quarterback easier. He's superfast and it seems like he's always getting open." I asked Coach Tom Allen and Peyton Ramsey what kind of teammate Whop is and coach said, "Whop has a very electric personality, as well as he's very outgoing and he's funny. He kind of just takes the room over when he walks in. Being together more and doing things away from football together, I think has helped him bond. The coaches just did things to help build the team chemistry. I think it has been helpful to him and this entire team." While Peyton said, "Whop is passionate. He cares a lot about the game. You can tell that he really wants to win. When you have those kind of guys in the locker room, you know it makes it easier for us to go out and practice harder for guys like Whop because he is so passionate about playing."

This experience has taught me that Whop Philyor is an amazing person on and off the field. Whop and his team have built big chemistry this season, and it has shown. They have had great success because of it. When I asked Whop, what his

two favorite colors were, he replied, “purple and blue.” This might be true, but I know, like his coaches and teammates, he bleeds cream and crimson.

Go Hoosiers!



While in the locker room at Memorial Stadium, Whop Philyor and I bonded over our love for IU football.

Whop Fun Facts	
Favorite Food	Vanilla bean ice cream, needs it everyday or he'll get angry.
Dog or Cat?	Has a dog, but considering getting a cat.
Favorite Sport, besides football	Swimming, but he's working on his swimming.
Favorite Athlete Growing Up	LeBron James, because he's more than an athlete.
Favorite NFL Team	San Francisco 49ers, because he's a bandwagon jumper.
NBA2K... You or Michael Penix Jr.?	"Penix can't touch me in NBA2K"
Nike, Adidas, or Under Armour?	"I love Adidas!"