

# Hoosier Happenings

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The latest news from the world of Indiana University athletics

## Under pressure

**New Indiana soccer coach Todd Yeagley has a familiar name, but he is focused on living up to the tradition that was built by his legendary father**

By Pete DiPrimio

Pressure? You bet there's pressure on Todd Yeagley. He's surrounded by it every time he enters his Assembly Hall office and sees the rows of plaques listing the Indiana soccer program's All-Americans and team accomplishments. His Hall of Fame father's name is synonymous with championships and success and doing things the right way.

Now Todd bears that burden. Check that. It's not a burden, it's an opportunity and Todd embraces it, relishes it, thrives on it.

Yes, Jerry Yeagley has a bigger-than-life aura that can seem overwhelming and it might be, for someone else.

"It's been that way my whole life," Todd says. "There has never been a time where I've said, 'Boy, I wish I didn't have to follow this man.'"

A pause.

"Never."

Todd runs the show from the same office where his father once dominated college soccer. It is wedged into a second-level corner of Assembly Hall, windowless, lacking air conditioning, a throwback to a time when substance and function ruled.

Maybe that's appropriate. Todd will mix old-school basics with "modern" soccer, a term that basically means playing with aggression and flair. It involves giving players freedom to create without sacrificing fundamentals and toughness and resolve.

But that is just the means to a championship end. Winning is Todd's over-riding priority, and to heck with naysayers who insist that the today's parity makes dynasties a thing of the past, that any school winning as IU once did is as likely to be repeated as dinosaurs ruling the earth.

"I'll never say you can't win like (Indiana once did)," Todd says. "I'm very optimistic. That's the way my mind is. I'm a glass-is-half-full guy, not half empty. To say you can't, why limit yourself?"

"With any team you must set realistic goals. Is it realistic to have that same success in that same period of time? It's difficult, but to say you can't, you've already put yourself behind the eight ball and I'll never do that."

For the record, IU's seven national championships came in a 23-year period from 1982 to 2004. It reached the Final Four six other times in that stretch. Jerry Yeagley went 544-101-45, an .821 winning percentage.

How can you duplicate something like that? A better question might be, why not try?

"Of course we'll be measured on the teams of the past," Todd says. "It's important our players know that you want to be considered one of the best teams to ever play here. You have to show it, demonstrate it, through your play, your results, your performance. If you do those things, maybe you can be talked about in the same way those other teams were. Whether that means the same winning percentage, the same amount of Final Fours and championships, I can't control that. If you focus on outcome goals, you'll never be effective as a coach. You've got to work on the process."

"But to tell our guys, there's too much parity, we'll never achieve that kind of success, I'll never say that." He pauses again.

"We'll go for it."

■ ■ ■

Todd Yeagley practiced what he preaches. He is one of IU's two four-time All-Americans. The other was Ken Snow, one of the top goal scorers in college history.

Yeagley played during a dominant stretch of Indiana soccer although that's a little misleading considering there have been so many of them. The Hoosiers were 75-9-5 during his four years with two Final Four appearances and three Big Ten championships. They were the 1994 national runner-up to Virginia at a time when the Cavaliers, briefly, rivaled Indiana as a soccer dynasty.

Yeagley led IU once in scoring with 12 goals in 1991. He twice led the Hoosiers in assists with 14 in 1993 and 11 in '94. He once had four assists in one game, against



Photo courtesy Indiana University athletics

Northwestern in 1991, that is still tied for the school record. His 40 career assists rank third in school history behind Sean Shapert's 46 and Yuri Lavrynenko's 41.

As a senior in 1994, Yeagley was Soccer News' college Player of the Year and the Missouri Athletic Club's Player of the year.

Yeagley played seven years as a pro with the Columbus Crew of Major League Soccer. He didn't dominate there, knee issues were a constant problem, but he was a part of five playoff teams, including the 2002 MLS championship.

Yeagley spent a year as the Crew's assistant general manager before returning to IU, first as a volunteer assistant coach, then as a full-time assistant. When his father retired and Mike Freitag took over, the younger Yeagley became the top assistant coach. *College Soccer News* rated him as one of the nation's top 12 assistant coaches in 2008.

That earned Yeagley the head coaching job at Wisconsin in 2009. The Badgers were a struggling program. They had finished last in the Big Ten in 2008 with a 1-4-1 record and hadn't reached the NCAA Tournament in 13 seasons. It would take time to build them into contenders, but they showed flashes last fall by tying IU for fourth place in the Big Ten with a 3-3 record. They beat three NCAA tourney teams in Northwestern, Ohio State and Michigan State. They also tied another NCAA tourney team, UC Santa Barbara.

Wisconsin seemed ready to take the next step and join the NCAA tourney ranks, perhaps this fall. Recruiting was going well. Prospects were bright.

Then IU athletic director Fred Glass decided to make a change in the soccer program. Freitag was out. After a three-week search that included a conversation with Caleb Porter, the former Hoosier soccer standout who led Arkon to the No. 1 ranking and NCAA tourney runner-up finish, after interviewing Illinois-Chicago coach John Trask and Alabama-Birmingham Mike Getman, the choice seemed a no-brainer.

Todd Yeagley was coming home.

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Of course, there was talk of nepotism and conspiracy and back-room deals between Glass and Jerry Yeagley. Of course, there were anger and bitterness from Freitag supporters who didn't understand the change given Freitag had won a national championship and three Big

Ten titles and never had a losing season.

But Glass had bigger worries. IU was no longer a national title contender, no longer a Final Four regular. It was losing games at an unprecedented clip, and that wasn't what an elite program does. You could talk all you want about Indiana being a basketball school, and it is, but no sport has dominated like soccer with its seven national titles and 17 Final Four appearances.

Glass wanted the program back among the nation's elite.

"Until the last couple of years, no class at Indiana had gone through the program without playing in at least one Final Four," Glass says. "I don't expect that every year, but I'd like to be the kind of program where if a kid comes here, it's expected he'll be in the Final Four during his career and be in position to compete for a national championship. That's what we're looking for. We expect big things from men's soccer at Indiana."

Glass saw the younger Yeagley as the man to make it happen.

"Todd rose to the top. He was an extraordinary player here which I think will help him relate to the kind of players we want to bring to Indiana. He was a winner at his first year at Wisconsin. He's going to be a winner here."

■ ■ ■

Here is what Todd Yeagley faces. In 2008 IU went 14-7-3 and choked away a 2-0 late lead against St. John's with a Final Four berth at stake. This past season the Hoosiers went 12-10-1, the most losses in school history, and lost at home in the Big Ten tourney before reaching the Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA tourney. Two players were drafted by Major League Soccer — Eric Alexander was a third-round pick by FC Dallas and Ofori Sarkodie was a fourth-round pick of the Kansas City Wizards.

There is plenty of returning talent led by a pair of Great Lakes All-Region players in junior defender Rich Balchan and sophomore forward Will Bruin.

But while talent is important, developing a competitive mindset and team chemistry are the top priorities.

"These players need to believe and have a lot of trust in our staff and understand what is asked of them," Todd says. "The competitive environment needs to be there every day from the top down. It starts with the way we go about our work."

That way is likely to change.

"Our strength coach (Tom Morris) does a fantastic job, but can we tweak the strength program and make it even better? Absolutely. We'll do that. In every aspect, I'll challenge everyone and make sure we're thinking outside the box. Just rubber stamping what we've done in the past isn't necessarily good enough."

Todd insists there won't be change just for the sake of change. He'll remain true to his father's core principles.

"We won't forget the values that are most important, that fight and defensive pressure the program is known for, but we want to give our players the extra edge they need. It's building that extra something that ultimately was what was missing the most the last few years. That comes from the culture of the team. It doesn't happen overnight."

In the end, IU doesn't want to win, it wants to bury, intimidate, dominate.

"You have to have an identity," Todd says. "We want to get back to where teams don't want to play Indiana. It's not a fun team to play against. You want teams to come in here and worry about playing you."

"You hear that word 'swagger.' There's a lot to be said for that. When I played here, I never thought we'd lose. It never entered my mind. I need to make sure our players feel that way."

"When we had a chance to make it 3-0, we did it. That's the mindset. You want to dominate. That's what we want to do. Players have to believe it. That comes from every day."

That's not pressure. That's commitment.

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## A rocky start

# The Hoosiers' first basketball team overcame plenty to get the ball rolling

I'm sure your routine for watching Indiana basketball games has become something of a ritual. Maybe you turn off all the lights. Maybe you don your game-worn Jamaal Meeks jersey and warn the kids not to talk to daddy for the next two hours.

The bottom line is you have a passion for Hoosier basketball that has grown since you were young. You've enjoyed the triumphs, agonized over the defeats and screamed at Big Ten officials until the neighbors had dialed two of the digits for 9-1-1 out of fear. Whatever the case, IU basketball is a part of your life, and you can't imagine life without it. The traditions, the pageantry, the excitement.

It wasn't always like this. Once upon a time, of course, IU didn't have a basketball program. Back when the game was young, every school was dipping its toe into the new pool of basketball, and Indiana wasn't any different. Eventually the program grew into something great, but how did the glorious tradition of Hoosier basketball get its start?

I'm glad you asked.

Through the course of my research on the Gladstein Fieldhouse, I ran across an article from the April 1958 *Indiana University Alumni Magazine*. The piece was titled "Basketball Beginnings," and was written by Thomas W.

Records, who had passed away Nov. 12, 1956. Records, a 1901 graduate of IU, also happened to be a player on Indiana's first varsity basketball team, and he gave his account of how Hoosier basketball was born.

It seems Records entered IU in 1899 and within a week was asked to become the assistant director of athletics thanks to his experience as a squad leader at the Terre Haute YMCA. He worked for James Horne, who was the Director of Athletics at the time and was the coach for all the sports on campus at the time. Records claimed that at the end of the 1899 football season he called a meeting of all the students who were interested in playing basketball.

Although the game had been played on a campus level for at least a year prior to this meeting, IU didn't have a varsity squad to play against other schools. This meeting was the first official move toward that goal.

The gather, however, wasn't exactly held in the best of circumstances, and it's not like everyone was gathered around a table to talk about putting together a team. Instead, prospective players were invited to a meeting place, where the rules of basketball could be explained and rudimentary skills could be taught. Even securing a building to conduct the meeting wasn't easy. The Men's Gymnasium, which was the original Assembly Hall, wasn't available at the meeting time, so the group met at the Carpenter's Shop behind Owen Hall, which previously had served as the Men's Gymnasium from 1892-96.

Records said 80 or 90 students showed up at the Carpenter's Shop, and an explanation of the rules was made. Then the students were divided into groups and were given a ball. The carpenters who were working in the shop at the time took full advantage of the situation.

"The carpenters were working there though it was Saturday afternoon, but finding they were having to dodge the ball too much, they knocked off," Records wrote. "I kept the whistle blowing to stop near-fights, etc., or to explain the rules. Finally, I had to call off practice at five o'clock."

Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, basketball wasn't a priority for the university at the time. Records wrote that finding equipment or a place to play wasn't easy, and even when the team did find a time and place to practice, it came with its own set of challenges.

"The Men's Gym (the original Assembly Hall) was seated with benches with iron legs, and these had to be taken off for practice and replaced afterwards," Records wrote. "Then the president of the University would not permit us to put goals up or even to paint the lines on the floor."

Like good Hoosiers, they adapted and adjusted. Goals were placed on large, heavy platforms that could be moved around, solving the problem of not being able to hang a hoop. Next, instead of painting lines, chalk lines were placed on the floor as a temporary measure. Soon, Horne and Records started to make some cuts to the squad to find the best team, but the team never played a game that year.

Instead, an outbreak of smallpox — smallpox! — broke out and everyone had to be vaccinated. Keep in mind, these weren't the days when you could pop into the doctor, get vaccinated, snag a lollipop and go about your business. Smallpox was a dangerous disease at the time, and being vaccinated didn't exactly tickle. In fact, most of the players on IU's team suffered from sore arms following the vaccination, which effectively canceled the 1899-1900 season.

IU's basketball program was down, but it wasn't out. Records said he took over organizing the team again in the fall of 1900 following the football season, and the basketball squad was once again up and running.

Running, maybe, even passing. But shooting was another issue.

"Often in practice we just did not take the trouble to drag those heavy platforms out, so we passed most of the time," Records wrote. "In every game Indiana would rush to the front without losing (the ball) only to miss many attempts at the goal."

The lack of shooting prowess showed in the results. According to IU's official

records, IU went 1-4 in that first season, scoring more than 20 points just twice. The only win came in a 26-17 home win vs. Wabash. However, contemporary evidence seems to point to IU only playing four games that year and going 1-3 in those outings. As I detailed in our story on the original Assembly Hall in Issue 6 of *Inside Indiana*, "there is no evidence that Indiana played a listed March 15 game at Purdue. None of the newspapers — be it from West Lafayette, Bloomington or Indianapolis — reported on the game. The game was originally scheduled, but following the win over Wabash, the games were cancelled according to the 1901 *Arbutus*. Purdue, by the way, also lists a win over Indiana on March 15, 1901, by a score of 23-19, so the controversy over whether IU played Purdue twice in the first season remains."

The first Hoosier basketball team was made up of Phelps Darby, Ernest Strange, Jay Fitzgerald, Alvah J. Rucker, Charles Unnewehr, and Earl Walker. Horne was the team's coach, and Records served as the squad's manager although he does appear in IU's official records as having played in 1901.

The game back then, by the way, was very, very different than we know it now. Beside the fact a jump ball was held after every basket, few teams spent much time dribbling the ball and there wasn't a 10-second rule to cross the midline of the court, mainly because there was no midline. Also, when a ball went out of bounds, it wasn't turned over by the team that last touched it. Instead, it belonged to the player who got to it first.

"This made it necessary for every man in the vicinity to rush after the ball, which was pretty rough stuff," Records wrote.

It also was a time of far more lenient officiating. Instead of players receiving technicals for looking at each other wrong, Records recounted an incident between IU and Purdue that happened a few years after that inaugural season.

"Two opposing players took a swing at each other," Records wrote. "That always called for an expulsion but the referee blew his whistle and stood bouncing the ball and looking at the two men. They stuck out their hands and shook hands and the game went on. The referee was a good sport."

IU did suffer an early tragedy in its program. Ernest Strange, the team's captain that first year, didn't return for the 1901-02 season because he had been killed in an accident at his home while helping to thresh wheat. Indiana's players suffered other, less severe, hardships as well. The players had to supply their own equipment, and they weren't awarded varsity letters because, as Records quoted one faculty member, "Basketball is not regarded as a collegiate sport in the East."

Obviously, that wouldn't remain the case, but it's fun to remember in this multi-million dollar world of college basketball that despite all that has happened in the nearly 110 years since IU first fielded a team, the Hoosiers were once just a humble group of college kids who bothered some carpenters enough to force them off the job early on a Saturday. Indiana would finish .500 in its second season and 8-4 in its third campaign to bring the program's record over .500 for the first time. The Hoosiers would also go through no fewer than 18 head coaches in its first 25 years of their existence, but this was at a time when coaching wasn't a priority, and it certainly didn't carry the huge contracts and prestige that accompanies the job today.

Still, I feel proud of what my alma mater's signature program has become since such humble beginnings, and I can only hope that you will take the time to thank Thomas Records for sticking with his desire to form a basketball squad at IU all those years ago.



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Courtesy: Indiana University Archives

The first — IU's 1900-01 team started the ball rolling for IU basketball led by manager Thomas Records (second row, far right).

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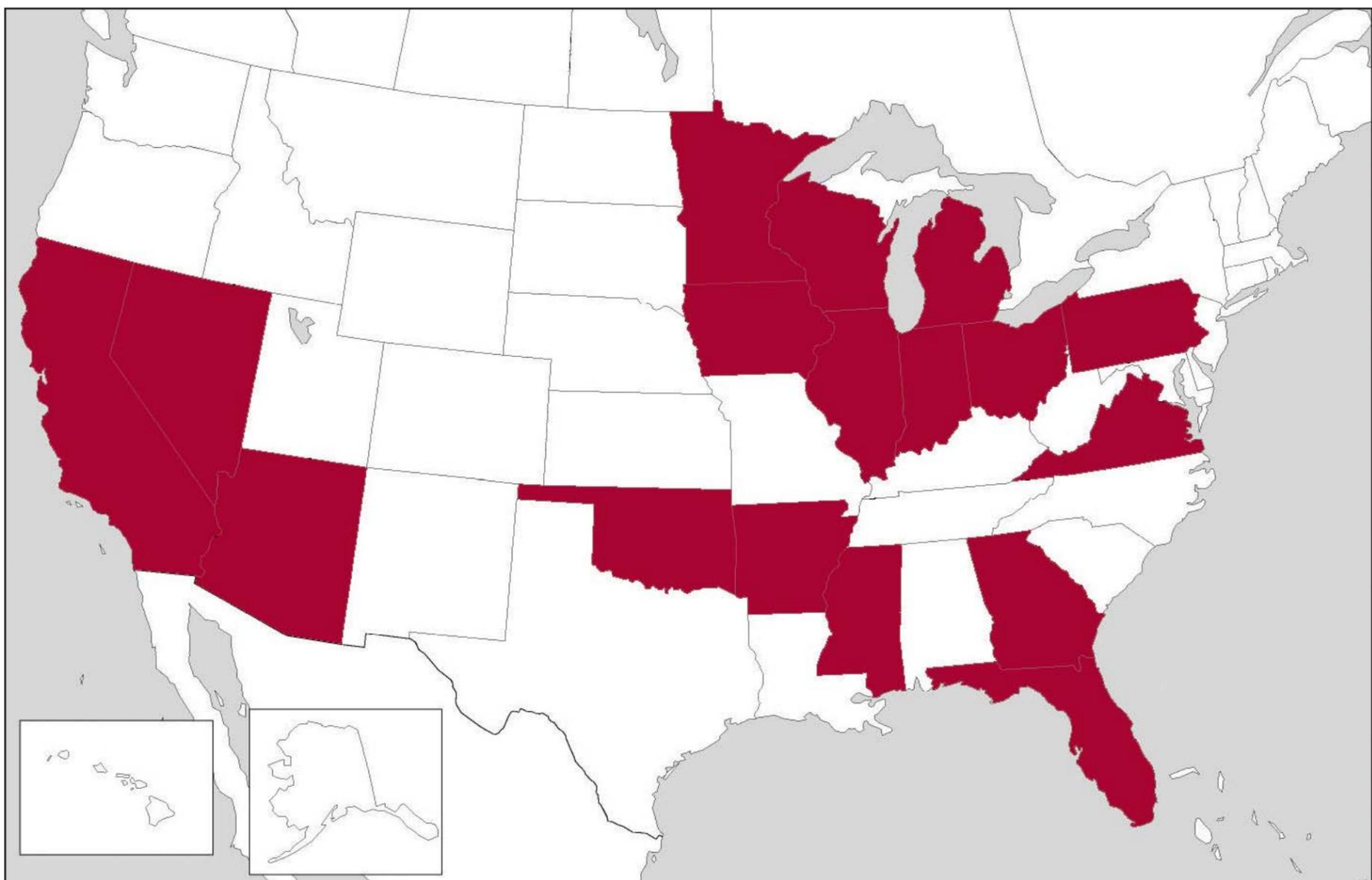
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## Where are the Hoosiers?

Indiana's winter athletic schedule is in full swing, and the Hoosiers are traveling across the country to carry on the glory of old IU. Take a look at the map below to see if the Hoosiers are going to be visiting your state and check the schedules at the bottom of the page for information about when Hoosier athletic teams might be visiting your area.



### Men's February athletics

#### Baseball

Feb. 19-21 — at San Diego  
 Feb. 26 — vs. West Virginia; Clearwater, Fla.  
 Feb. 27 — vs. Villanova; St. Petersburg, Fla.  
 Feb. 28 — vs. Connecticut; St. Petersburg, Fla.

#### Basketball

Feb. 4 — Purdue  
 Feb. 7 — at Northwestern  
 Feb. 10 — Ohio State  
 Feb. 13 — at Wisconsin  
 Feb. 16 — Michigan State  
 Feb. 20/21 — at Minnesota  
 Feb. 25 — Wisconsin  
 Feb. 28 — at Iowa

#### Golf

Feb. 12-13 — Big Ten Match Play Championship; Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

#### Swimming & Diving

Feb. 6 — Purdue  
 Feb. 24-27 — Big Ten Championships; Columbus, Ohio

#### Tennis

Feb. 6 — Tennessee Tech; Butler  
 Feb. 13 — Cleveland State; Kentucky  
 Feb. 21 — Harvard  
 Feb. 26 — at Tulsa  
 Feb. 28 — at Oklahoma

#### Track & Field

Feb. 5-6 — at Meyo Invitational; South Bend, Ind.  
 Feb. 12 — Hoosier Hills  
 Feb. 12-13 — at Tyson Invitational; Fayetteville, Ark.  
 Feb. 27-28 — at Big Ten Indoor Championships; Minneapolis

#### Wrestling

Feb. 6 — Minnesota  
 Feb. 12 — Michigan  
 Feb. 14 — at Purdue  
 Feb. 21 — at Michigan State

Dates subject to change

### Women's February athletics

#### Basketball

Feb. 7 — at Illinois  
 Feb. 11 — Iowa  
 Feb. 14 — at Wisconsin  
 Feb. 18 — at Northwestern  
 Feb. 21 — Minnesota  
 Feb. 25 — at Iowa  
 Feb. 28 — Penn State

#### Golf

Jan. 31-Feb. 1 — vs. Wisconsin; Phoenix, Ariz.  
 Feb. 7-9 — at Lady Puerto Rico Classic; San Juan, Puerto Rico

#### Softball

Feb. 13-14 — at K-Club Classic; Kennesaw, Ga.  
 Feb. 19-21 — at Louisville Slugger Desert Classic; Las Vegas, Nev.  
 Feb. 27-28 — at Southern Mississippi Invitational; Hattiesburg, Miss.

#### Swimming & Diving

Feb. 17-20 — Big Ten Championships; West Lafayette, Ind.

#### Tennis

Feb. 6 — at Duke  
 Feb. 7 — at Wake Forest  
 Feb. 13 — DePaul  
 Feb. 20 — Kentucky  
 Feb. 21 — Tennessee  
 Feb. 27 — Oregon

#### Track & Field

Feb. 5-6 — at Meyo Invitational; South Bend, Ind.  
 Feb. 12 — Hoosier Hills  
 Feb. 12-13 — at Tyson Invitational; Fayetteville, Ark.  
 Feb. 27-28 — at Big Ten Indoor Championships; Minneapolis

#### Water Polo

Feb. 6-7 — at Triton Invite; La Jolla, Calif.  
 Feb. 13-14 — at Bison Invitational; Lewisburg, Pa.

Dates subject to change

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## Practice Facility construction update

As of Jan. 22



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