

# B S C O R E

# O X

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Boxscore is the quarterly publication of The Indiana High School Basketball Historical Society, which was founded in 1994 by A. J. Quigley, Jr. (1943-1997) and Harley Sheets for the purpose of documenting and preserving the history of Indiana High School Basketball.

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### An addition to the state's all-time consecutive regular season winning streaks

It was established on page 6 of the 2007-Issue 1 Boxscore that Lafayette Jefferson High School had accumulated the most consecutive regular season winning streaks at 40 from 1943 to 1982. After researching the years prior to 1943, it was found that the Bronchos also had a winning record of 19-4 in 1942 which adds one year to their streak. In 1941 they tried valiantly to extend their record. After ending the regular season at 5-12 they won six games in winning the sectional and regional, but lost the first game of the semi-state to finish at 11-13.

### NEXT ISSUE: BIG MEN FROM PUTNAM COUNTY

Recently, Don Tharp who was the leading scorer for the Fillmore Cardinals when they won back-to-back Greencastle sectionals in 1954 and 1955 contacted me. During our discussion, Don mention a great Putnam County athlete that he had played against in his years at Fillmore. No it wasn't a familiar name like Larry Steele, Jeff Blue, Jess McAnally, Chad Tucker or Rick Ford. The player was Dick Neal who played for Reelsville. Soon, thereafter, I questioned Rocky Kenworthy about this prolific scorer (approximately 1700 points) and he knew quite a bit about Mr. Neal. After graduation he had been recruited by Branch McCracken and had set on the bench most of his first three years at I.U. For some reason Branch had to use him, I think, due to an injury. Dick Neal once inserted into the lineup remained there for the rest of his eligibility. It's surmised that "The Sheriff" hadn't realized what a gem he had recruited.

All this has motivated the co-editor to do an article, in the next issue of Boxscore, on some of the more notable big men who played basketball in Putnam County.

### Old School Database

In the 2007 Issue 2 Boxscore we started this list. Following are some additions.  
Brighton is still intact and presently a church.

Mongo is no longer standing. A grove of poplar trees stands at the location on the north edge of the community.

Orland has been demolished. The bell tower still stands near the entrance to the American Legion. The Legion retained the gymnasium and uses it as their bingo room and dance hall.

Mellott is still standing but in a very dilapidated condition.

Waynetown was destroyed by fire.

Ambia no longer standing but a wagon with bricks for souvenirs from the school was standing on the location when I was there.

Kirklin is no longer standing.

Whitestown is no longer standing.

An IGA store now stands on the site of the Jamestown school.

Advance is no longer standing.

Little Jeff (Washington Twp. of Clinton Co.) is still standing in the community of Jefferson just west of Frankfort.

Forest is no longer standing.

Lizton has been made into apartments.

North Salem is now an elementary school in the Tri West School Corporation.

Amo is now an elementary school in the Cascade School Corporation.

Clayton has been demolished and an elementary school has been erected at the location.

Fillmore is now an elementary school in the South Putnam School Corporation.

Silver Lake is still standing.

Carthage is no longer standing.

From Dale White-Old Covington Gym built in 1951 is now a middle school gym.

From Ralph Pedersen-Old Culver Gym built in 1929 is now an elementary gym.

### IN MEMORIAM

I recently found out that Arlene Quigley honorary member and the mother of co-founder Joe Quigley had passed away. When Joe died Mrs. Quigley and daughter Pat donated \$200.00 to IHSBHS in Joe's memory. Pat sent me a notification of her mother's passing. When I received it, I tried to contact Pat to get Mrs. Quigley's obituary so I could place it in the newsletter, but was unsuccessful. Pat when you read this please send a copy of the obit to me. I will print it in the next newsletter. I am greatly disappointed that I didn't get the news in time to attend the funeral and pay my respects.

Our condolences also go out to long time member William Reid's family. HBS.

### Three Of Hollywood's Hoosier Heroes

by Gary McGrady and Harley Sheets

#### Big Man, Big Credentials

As World War I was coming to a close, a giant of a young man was graduating from tiny Freedom High School in Owen County. His name was James Pierce, but his classmates called him "Babe". Unfortunately, very little is known about this portion of Pierce's life, but it is known that he played basketball in high school. Freedom participated in the 1916 sectional at Bedford where they were defeated by Linton 43-21. In 1917, Freedom beat Mitchell in the first round of the Bloomington sectional, then lost to Salem in the semifinals. Freedom's coach in Pierce's junior year (1916) was Q. Austin East, who went on to become the district court judge in Monroe County. East's brother Ed was a famous radio entertainer, comedian and actor in the 30s and 40s, the first of several connections between Pierce and celebrity. Ed East's career closely paralleled Pierce's, as "Babe" would become famous in the same era.

The decade of the "Roarin' 20s" would see Pierce go from Hoosier athlete to Hollywood's silver screen. After graduation from Freedom, the big guy attended Indiana University. He played basketball his freshman year (1917-18), but excelled at two sports that were not available to him in high school - football and track.

As an All-American player his senior year (1921), he was described this way in the Arbutus, the Indiana yearbook. *It will be many another season before there comes to Indiana University a varsity football center of the size and caliber of "Babe" Pierce. For four years he has been a line bastion. Combined with tremendous weight, he possessed speed and was a savage tackler.* On the same team with Pierce, this year, was a little known sophomore running back named Kermit Maynard who along with his brother Ken, would also make their mark in Hollywood, but as cowboys. The brothers were born in Vevay, Indiana before the family settled near Columbus.

#### Tarzan # 1

Johnny Weismuller probably comes to most people's minds when the subject of Tarzan is broached, but of the seven men who portrayed the "Apeman", three were Hoosiers-Elmo Lincoln (Rochester),

James Pierce (Freedom) and Denny Miller (Bloomington), with Lincoln and Pierce initiating the role.

Elmo Lincoln was born Otto Elmo Linkenhelt. Having gained some medical knowledge from his veterinarian father, Otto was able to travel westward across the nation, along with his brother, as a "first-aid man" and barber, eventually ending up in "Tinseltown". On a hot day, while working as an extra in a movie, he removed his shirt to cool off. D. W. Griffith, an early silent film era producer and director observed him and was impressed with his physique. Soon thereafter, Griffith began casting Lincoln in warrior-type movies. In 1916, an insurance agent from Chicago purchased the movie rights to Edgar Rice Burroughs' book, *Tarzan of the Apes*. Due to impediments caused by World War I and others circumstances, the actor originally courted was not available and Elmo Lincoln was cast in the 1918 silent film classic, thus becoming the very first Tarzan.

#### Tarzan # 2

Back at I.U., in "Babe's" senior year, the football team played Notre Dame. For sports nostalgists this game is important. George Gipp (remember Ronald Reagan's characterization) had injured his shoulder early in the game (most likely do to the ferocious tackling of Pierce) and Knute Rockne's lads trailed I.U. 10-0 entering the fourth quarter. Gipp returned to the Irish lineup and scored one of the two touchdowns and Notre Dame won the game 13-10, their only close game of the season. Gipp's touchdown would be his last, as he played sparingly in Notre Dame's last game of the season at Northwestern.

The great George Gipp died in a

Chicago hospital, a few days later, of pneumonia and strep throat. These unfortunate circumstances, at the end of this particular season, would help to provide the fodder for what would become the epitome of all halftime football speeches.

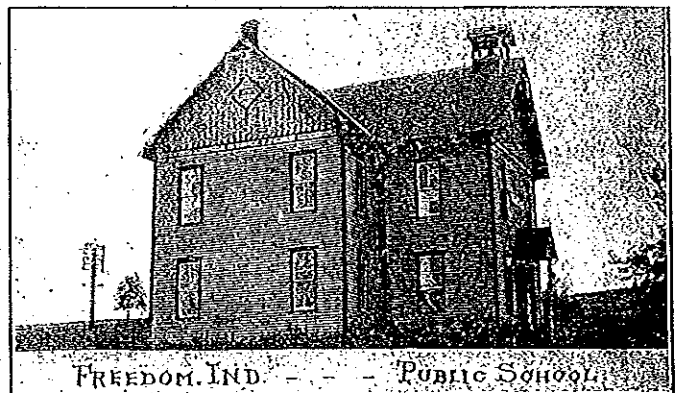
The next season, Notre Dame in a game against Army was about to let an undefeated season slip away. Just prior to sending his team, who had played like "lackadaisical leprechauns" out for the second half, Rockne contributed this classical comment in urging his boys to, "Go out there and win one for the Gipper!!!" (Writer's note: I'm not Catholic, but every time I've watched this movie, and Pat O'Brien as Knute Rockne graces the screen with these words, it has sent chills down my spine!).

Before leaving I.U., Pierce established the school record in the discus throw. The Arbutus again honors him this way. *He was a veritable Greek in the art of casting the disc.* After graduation, "Babe" left for Tucson where he became assistant football coach at the University of Arizona. Soon thereafter, he was selected to take the reins of the basketball program. His two year record was an outstanding 27-5. His .844 winning percentage still stands as the all-time best at a school with an excellent basketball tradition.

Year(s)	Coach	Yrs.	Record	Win.%
1911-12	F.Kleeberger	1	2-2	.500
1912-14	R. Quigley	2	10-4	.714
1914-21	J.F. McKale	7	49-12	.803
1921-23	James Pierce	2	27-5	.844
1923-24	Basil Stanley	1	14-3	.824
1924-25	Walter Davis	1	7-4	.636
1925-61	Fred Enke	36	508-326	.616
1961-72	Bruce Larson	11	136-148	.479
1972-82	Fred Snowden	10	167-108	.607
1982-83	Ben Lindsey	1	4-24	.143
1983-07	Lute Olsen	24	589-188	.758



James Pierce and Joan Burroughs Pierce as Jane in Tarzan and the Golden Lion (1927).



FREEDOM, IND. - - - PUBLIC SCHOOL

While in Tucson, "Babe" began dabbling in amateur acting and in 1923 decided to move to the Los Angeles, California area. He was coaching football at Glendale High School when he was invited to a party at Edgar Rice Burroughs' Tarzania Ranch. It was at this gathering while being introduced to Pierce that Burroughs exclaimed, "There's Tarzan!", and then proceeded to talk "Babe" into playing the Apeman.

During the filming of *Tarzan and the Golden Lion*, Burroughs stated, "I have seen some of the work during production and am convinced that it is going to be the greatest Tarzan picture ever made. We have found a man who really is Tarzan, and whom I believe will be raised to the heights of stardom." However, the critics did not share Burroughs' opinion, and although the film did well at the box office, it was not a critical success. A side note in the production of the film is that it was handled by FBO, a studio controlled by Joseph P. Kennedy (father of JFK) and also featured a young Boris Karloff.

Since things hadn't panned out as well as expected Pierce returned to coaching football and accepting bit parts in other movies. But, during the filming of *Tarzan and the Golden Lion*, "Babe" and Burroughs' daughter, Joan, had become very close and were married shortly thereafter, in 1928. When Tarzan's creator decided to do a radio series, he put his son-in-law and daughter in the roles of Tarzan and Jane. This very successful series of 364, fifteen minute episodes debuted on WOR in New York City and ran from 1932 through 1934 and was regarded as the first syndicated radio serial. Later on, would come others such as *Captain Midnight*, *Tom Mix*, *Sky King* and *Jack Armstrong, the All-American boy*.

From 1927-1940 Pierce made supporting role appearances in movies starring the Marx Brothers, Buster Crabbe (who also portrayed Tarzan) and several of the top cowboys of this time period. In Universal's much acclaimed serial *Flash Gordon* where Crabbe was featured in the title role, Pierce played the part of King Thun, *The Lion King*. Also in the serial were Priscilla Lawson (Indianapolis) who was Princess Aura and Lon Poff (Bedford) as the First High Priest. Claude Akins, another Bedford native later made his mark in

Hollywood.

In the 40s, Pierce began devoting much of his time to his blossoming real estate agency, while writing, directing and producing radio programs. He was also an excellent pilot and very active in helping form the National Airmen's Reserve, which laid the foundation for today's Air National Guard.

James and Joan Pierce had two children and seven grandchildren. Their large home in Apple Valley, California was filled with Joan's father's memorabilia. Pierce once stated, "Anybody can [learn to] act in a movie. Very few are lucky enough to remain very happily married for almost a half century. That, to my way of thinking, is glamorous."

Joan Burroughs Pierce died in 1972. James Hubert "Babe" Pierce joined her in 1983. Their tombstones lie side-by-side in Shelbyville, Indiana's Forest Hill Cemetery, inscribed Tarzan and Jane.

#### Tarzan # 7

Denny Miller's parents met while attending Indiana University. Denny was born in Bloomington on April 25, 1934. In his adolescent years he learned to love the game of basketball in Bourbon, Indiana, his mother's hometown. Denny and his brother ended up playing varsity basketball in California at University High in Westwood. Their father had joined the faculty at UCLA. It was here that the brothers caught the eye of, none other than fellow Hoosier, John Wooden, the Wizard of Westwood (John never liked this title). Both were given scholarships and played one year together with the Bruins.

Sometime later, while working at a job unloading a truck, a fellow yelling out of his car window, called Denny over and gave him a card that read talent agent. He said, "Call me", and soon thereafter the future Tarzan would make his first movie appearance in *Some Came Running* filmed in Madison, Indiana and starring Dean Martin. Then Miller signed a seven-year contract with MGM, and before long was cast in *Northwest Passage* and appeared on TV in *The Life of Riley*. When a new search began for the next Tarzan, he was tested and got the role, thus becoming the first blonde "Apeman". Denny said, "I believe I got the part because I was cheaper than some of the elephants."

After starring in the 1959 Tarzan

movie, he went into more TV, appearing in *Wagon Train*, *Gilligan's Island*, *I Spy*, and *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman*.

He has been in 138 TV commercials, 234 TV episodes and 20 feature films. One will probably be most familiar with his portrayal of the Brawny Paper Towel Giant (for 12 years) and the Gorton Fisherman (for 14 years).

Denny Miller presently resides in Las Vegas, Nevada. His biography is entitled, *Didn't You Use To Be What's His Name?*

#### Editor's note:

The material for most of this article was gleaned from various libraries and other sources by Gary McGrady and taken from the fascinating book entitled *Hoosiers In Hollywood*, a 9 by 12, 600 page book published by the Indiana Historical Society Press and authored by David L. Smith, professor of telecommunications at Ball State University. Smith was inducted into the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Hall of Fame in 2005.

I was motivated to go to Forest Hill Cemetery to see if I could find out why James and Joan Burroughs Pierce were buried there. This is what I came up with. At the sight stands a huge tombstone with the name Orem. In addition to the markers for James H. (Tarzan) and Joan Burroughs (Jane) Pierce, I saw a marker for James M. Pierce marked Dad (1870-1965) and one for Jennie M. Pierce marked Mom (1875-1937). So my assumption is that "Babe's mother's maiden name was Orem. So in all probability, it was James' and Joan's wish to be buried in this family plot.

Another side note to this article is this. In the process of putting it together, I was watching TV one evening and saw where George Gipp's body was being exhumed. I googled George Gipp and this is what I found. A grandson (Rick Frueh) of one of Gipp's sisters requested the exhuming to determine if Gipp had fathered a daughter, by an 18 year old high school girl, born 5 days after his death. If so it could somehow be a financial gain for Mike Bynum, Gipp's biographer. The disinterment took place in the presence of ESPN cameras, the biographer and others. Now some other relatives are suing ESPN, the biographer, the county medical examiner, the health department, among others.

Too often money makes people do strange things. I just couldn't imagine the grave sight of Tarzan being mutilated.

## Indiana High School All-Star Game Origin

by Roger Robison

The Indianapolis Star has been "mothering" the All-Star game since its debut in 1939. Little has been said about the coaching legends who guided the game through its controversial conception and infancy. In August of 1928, Frankfort High School coach Everett Case conducted his first Indiana coaching school at Frankfort. Case had caught the attention of basketball enthusiasts throughout the Midwest on January 15, 1927 when his team held the ball for 21 minutes in a 40 minute game against Logansport. The Logan Berries of Cliff Wells had also held the ball, but for only 4 minutes. This was the beginning of the delayed offense or the "stall" and other coaches were eager to learn more. The 28-year-old Case had led Frankfort to four Final-4 appearances ('24-'25-'26-'28) with one culminating in a state title in 1925.

Others participating on the panel were Glenn Curtis (Martinsville High School) and Sam Berry (University of Iowa). Curtis was the dean of Indiana high school coaches having won state championships in 1917 (Lebanon), and 1924 and 1927 (Martinsville). Berry had shared Big 10 titles in 1923 and 1926 and had recruited 2 players (Plunkitt and Spradling) from Case's 1925 and 26 high school teams. There were 31 registrants for this first year, which was competing with Ward "Piggy" Lambert's third year coaching school at

Lake Manitou in Rochester, Indiana.

The second year (1929) Case and Curtis registered 51 coaches. This year it was held at Central Normal College in Danville, Indiana. Sam Berry meanwhile had left Iowa for Southern Cal.

In 1930 the school was back in Frankfort and drew 90 coaches from four states. In addition to Case and Curtis the faculty consisted of Berry, Paul "Tony" Hinkle (Butler), John Adams (Vincennes), Cliff Wells (Logansport) and Burl Friddle (Washington). On the last day (August 28), 1500 fans joined the 90 coaches to watch an exhibition game. It was in all probability the first game ever played in Indiana without the center jump.\* Sam Berry and "Doc" Meanwell (Wisconsin), among others in the National Coaches Association were pushing for the elimination of the center jump after each score (FG & FT). The game featured ex-Frankfort and ex-Martinsville players with the latter winning 32-18. The Curtis proteges featured the Wooden brothers, Suddith, Reynolds and Tackett. Frankfort's included the Unroe brothers, Bob Primmer and Purdue starters Boots and Cummins.

In August 1931 Case held his 4th annual coaching school and clinic. Logansport had upset Frankfort in the 1931 final 16 when Frankfort was the overwhelming favorite to win their third title. For this year's exhibition game, Case talked Wells into a rematch as part of the clinic with Case's boys winning the rematch. Frankfort then gave Case a farewell banquet before he left town to become the new coach in Anderson, his hometown.

The 5th coaching clinic in Anderson, combined a five day coaches school with an official's school. It drew 102 coaches and 62 officials. Instructors included "Doc" Meanwell (Wisconsin), J.C. Ruby (Illinois), Glenn Curtis (Martinsville) Cliff Wells (Logansport), Orville Hooker (New Castle) and Alva Staggs (Anderson). I.H.S.A.A. Commissioner Arthur Trester spoke to the officials. An exhibition was played between former Anderson players and the recent New Castle

*\* Just as Cliff Johnson's rule proposals are trying to get basketball back to some of its originality by eliminating some of its more deprecating phases for the enjoyment of the fans, this game played without the center jump was trying to show that the popularity of the game could be improved by its elimination.*

state champs. Four of Hooker's New Castle's starters had graduated and were able to play. Case used 1931 and 1932 Anderson grads and won 28-25 before 3000 fans. Case played a second game against Alexandria High School grads who had won the last two Anderson sectionals, but the Alex grads lost this game 24-41. The game drew 2500. During the regular season Case had beaten New Castle in two of three games but lost to Alex twice.

Immediately after the Anderson clinic was over, Case and his graduate team went to a Massillon, Ohio coaching school. The principal instructors were "Doc" Carlson (Pittsburgh), Paul Hinkle (Butler) and Case. During the clinic, Case and his Anderson players took on Ohio's recent state champions (Akron West), and beat them 30-23, before 2000 fans. Case then left for a coaching clinic in Chapel Hill, North Carolina where he was the principal speaker.

In 1933 Case had one of the top-ranked teams (17-4) in the state. On 2/14/33 Anderson was ordered by the I.H.S.A.A. to forfeit the 13 victories in which transfer Joe Hallinan, an Akron, Ohio high school drop-out, had participated. Then on 2/25 Anderson was suspended from the state tournament. Shortly thereafter, Case and the entire Anderson School Board were fired. Case refused to leave until the end of the semester. He then went to Southern California for the academic year of 1933/34 where he served as an assistant to head coach Sam Berry and in the process obtained his Master's Degree.

Before leaving Indiana for the Golden State, Case staged the 6th annual coaches' clinic at Anderson. Lecturers were Frank Barnes (Central Normal) who would in 1947 win a state championship at Shelbyville. George Keogan (Notre Dame), Glenn Curtis (Martinsville), John Wooden at Dayton, Kentucky this year, and "Phog" Allen (Kansas). Highlights of each day were broadcast over the local radio station, WHBU, every night at 6:45. There were three exhibition games. Case's Anderson grads beat some of Wells' Logan grads 27-22, then beat Martinsville's 1933 Indiana state champs 37-30. Next the Anderson grads demolished Massillon's Ohio state champs 41-15. Massillon would stick to football.

In 1934, Case signed a contract to resume coaching at Frankfort. This year Case did not organize a coaching school. It is thought that he and Sam Berry organized a clinic in California (possibly Catalina Island). >>>>>>>>next page

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However, Wells and Curtis gave instruction at a coaching school at Central Normal in Danville, Indiana, where Case had finally gotten his B.A. 14 years after graduating from Anderson High School. Also, Wells and his 1934 Logansport state champions participated in a Cleveland coaching school.

Next issue: Coaching schools from 1935 up to the first All-Star game in 1939.

## Proposed Rule Changes

by Cliff Johnson

I've thought of nine possible rule changes that if collectively adopted might reintroduce the game's lost integrity while creating more player and spectator enjoyment. I've appealed to the NCAA Rules Committee five consecutive years, endeavoring to get their attention. They have recently changed the falling out-of-bounds time out rule. But realistically, the probability of obtaining consensus from a large number of coaches on any rule change these days is remote. Consequently, the rules most in need of revision probably will remain in force until suddenly a moment of insight hits a small group of the more influential coaches. Only then will a change be seriously considered. Nevertheless, let's go ahead and take a look at some suggestions:

**1. Three point goals.** The low percentage three-point rule should be discarded. It has been more of a nuisance than an enhancement, when all of the facts are rationally examined. For one thing, goal attempts at twenty feet or more are not statistically sound for producing consistent wins. More and more coaches are beginning to understand this. The element of luck is simply elevated for any given contest while the values of skill and team play are correspondingly diminished. Simply put, long range shooting has value only when the time remaining on a shot clock is about to expire. And since it is actually a measure of last resort, its value shouldn't exceed the value of a well-coordinated team effort that gets the ball inside for a closer shot.. Secondly, the three-point attempt prompts the shooter to be conscious of the location of his feet and to focus on the three-point boundary line rather than keeping his head up looking for an open teammate breaking toward the basket. Thirdly, three-point attempts are not conducive to the principle of team play. On the contrary, they promote individual-

ity, a malady from which the "team concept" of our game already suffers severely. Fourthly, and perhaps most importantly, the three-pointer is frequently a judgement call, thus putting additional pressure on the referee and can, at times, cause delays due to reviews. One of the prime objectives for improving the game should be to reduce the number of things that referees are required to look for. Frequent interruptions in play are just bad for the game. We really need to ease up on the demands placed on game officials!

**2. Body contact fouls.** This brings us to the matter of excessive whistling for fouls. There is really very little logic in calling fouls for incidental body contact, especially during a struggle for a rebound. The game, as originally devised by Dr. Naismith, was a semi-contact sport. It still is to a major degree, although it isn't played today with eleven men on each team as it was under Naismith's very first football spin-off rules. Contact fouls called in this contemporary day and age are largely left to the referee's judgement. And this means that incidental body contact is whistled more often than necessary since referees have the normal human compulsion to make themselves prominent during games to prove that they are in control and earning their pay. But realistically, the rules should allow for most kinds of body contact, especially during rebounding efforts, as long as the contact isn't a deliberate attempt to knock an opponent off balance or cause physical harm. Reaching over the shoulders for a rebound, for instance, or trying to block a shot should be permitted whether there's incidental body contact or not. The use of the hands in committing a foul is another matter, however. Hacking, slapping, pushing, or pulling types of fouls are different from body contact fouls and should be called whenever they are committed. But whenever there is room for doubt in a referee's mind, floor action should not be interrupted. This was how it once was when it took four fouls to remove a player from the game. We need to reinstitute similar thinking, I believe, to avoid the continual and time consuming parade to the foul line that we experience in today's game. Once again, play should continue without such interruptions.

**3. Free Throws.** While we're on the subject of foul shots, it seems logical that when a player gets fouled, that player should not only receive a free throw, but his team

should get the ball out of bounds, to boot. Such a rule would eliminate the propensity for teams to commit deliberate fouls, especially toward the final minutes of close games. It would also speed up the completion of those games. The wholesale deliberate fouling we see during the waning moments of all tight games has become sheer folly! Besides it leads to an ever-widening margin of victory more often than not, and it can add as much as 15 minutes or more of real time for completing a contest. Furthermore, the persistent stop-action to shoot free throws tends to dampen the excitement of the final seconds, often leading to a gradually slow "fade-out" of the game, rather than a fast-paced conclusion. Under a revised rule, there wouldn't be the need to award two free throws (or one plus one) during any stage either, unless the foul was committed during the act of shooting. In case the goal is made, then a free throw could be awarded for a possible three point play, emulating the rule currently in effect.

**4. Ball control.** Time outs should not be permitted while a team's continuing control of the ball is in question. A player flailing around on the floor trying to protect the ball from being stolen, for example, should not be provided the occasion for a time out. That not only sounds ridiculous, it is ridiculous. Should a strong, and aggressive defense be stymied by a simple signal for a time out? Let's be fair to the defending team trying its best to gain possession of the ball by using good defensive tactics like double teaming, forcing a five second call, etc., etc. Furthermore, let's keep doing things for the game officials that subtract, rather than add to the existing complexity of the rules.

**5. Ten-second violation.** The next suggestion is the elimination of the ten-second requirement of getting the ball over the center line. This rule once had a distinct purpose (to eliminate stalling) but it no longer does. The implementation of the shot clock several years ago now limits the offensive team to fixed period of time in which to get a shot off (still doesn't apply to high schools), so the utility of the ten-second violation is no longer needed. It's just another outdated rule, one that forces a referee to needlessly count to ten after every goal and after most changes in ball possession!

**6. Intentional fouls.** Whether a foul is

flagrant or not, right now, is left to the discretion in the referee. Toward the end of a tight game, for example, a trailing team's player might commit a soft foul by harmlessly wrapping his/her arms around an opposing player, thus sending the fouled player to the FT line. Other times, the foul might be a hard one that poses the risk of an injury even though harm was not intended. Right now, neither (soft or hard) constitutes a flagrant one. Whether they are flagrant or not, there's really not much need to differentiate, since all three of these types are obviously intentional. In my view, the penalty for any intentional foul should be two free throws, plus control of the ball out of bounds. Toward the conclusion of any close game, intentional fouls are commonly committed under the general assumption that the fouling player's team might gain possession of the ball once the free throw attempts are completed. The idea naturally is to trade a single or no points in exchange for possession of the ball and a potential FG. That assumption needs to be taken away. As earlier stated (under rule # 3), late game fouls can start a long, drawn out and boring procession to the foul line and significantly slows the conclusion of the game. Worse, intentional fouls can produce injuries and for that reason alone they are morally untenable. A team that finds itself behind near the end of a game should be forced to rely on the use of good defensive tactics, such as trapping, stealing or pressing opposing players into turnovers in order to gain ball possession. Those methods have always been commensurate with sound principles of play. But the practice of committing intentional fouls for the purpose of obtaining ball possession must ultimately be forced into permanent retirement!

**7. Kicking the ball.** An official's call for inadvertently (or even deliberately) kicking the ball hasn't made much sense ever since Dr. Naismith modified the rules to permit both passing and dribbling. Prior to his modifications, ball movement on offense was limited strictly to passing. Naismith had prohibited the ball from being kicked for the apparent reason that some of his basketball players were adept at soccer and such skills when transplanted to basketball produced conflicts with basketball rules. But today dribbling is much more effective for ball movement than kicking is, so there would be little reason to deliberately kick a ball on offense even if a

player is skilled at soccer. Furthermore, a defensive kick, if permitted by the rules, could actually be a good tool for intercepting lazy passes. The kicking violation, in full perspective, is really just another archaic item that has never been removed from the rule book. Unless a kick causes the ball to go out of bounds, play should proceed without interruption.

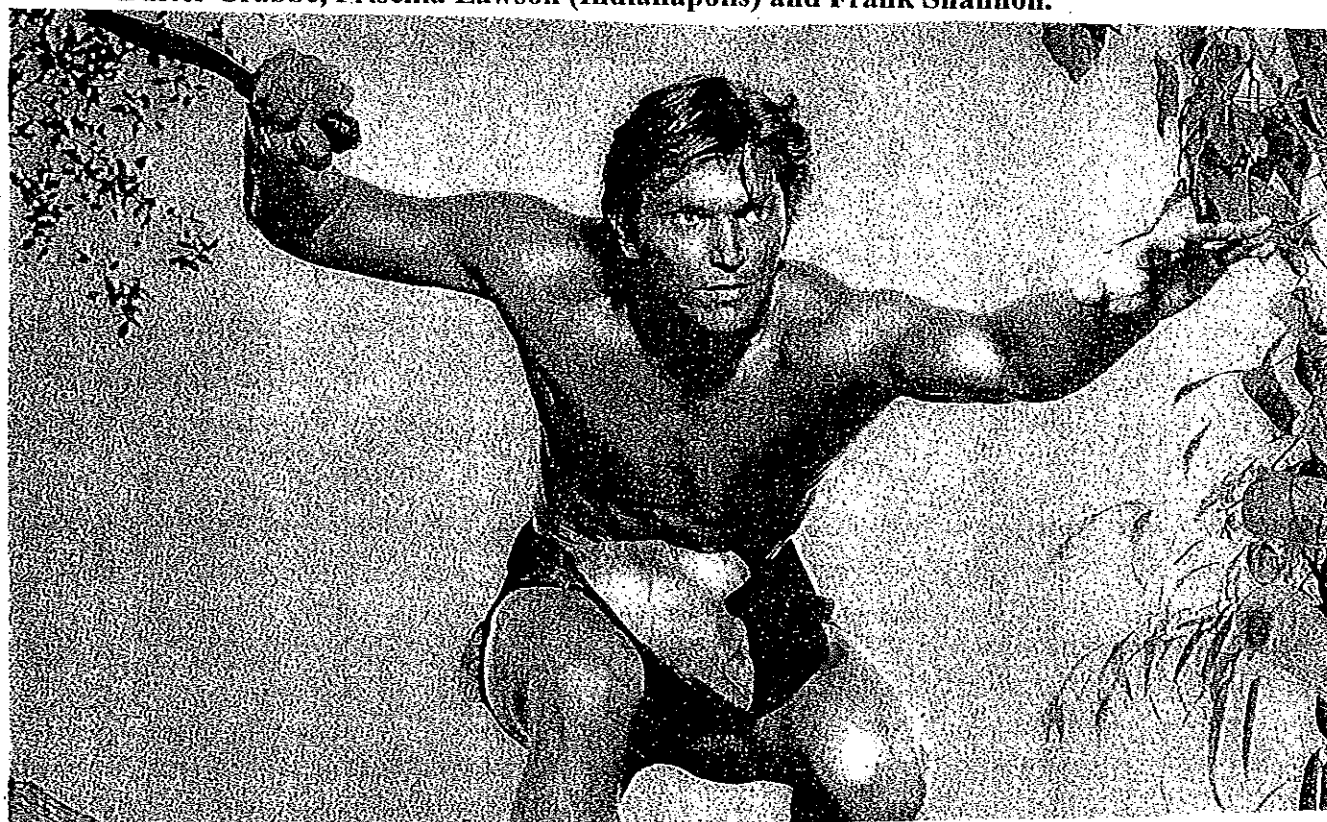
**8. Game clock continuation.** After a field goal is made, the game clock should continue to run unless a time out is called, regardless what stage the game is in. This rule reversal, for one thing, would obviate the current practice of letting a ball roll halfway down the court before the in-bounding team picks it up, in order to preserve a second or two. For another thing, the time keeper has a difficult enough job without the extra hassle of starting and stopping the clock so often. The field goal and in-bounding rules as they now relate to timekeeper duties also necessitate clock adjustments or resets near the end of a close game. Universally, that either confuses or angers both coaches along with players. Lets keep the clock running.

**9. Goal height.** Last but not least, and I know this issue has been cussed and discussed. The basketball goals need to be raised. Eleven feet is proposed. Such a modification could have a profoundly positive impact on the game, in my view. There would be much less emphasis at the college and pro levels on recruiting awkward giants and overly beefy players. Such searches would be displaced in favor of finding more skillful, adept, accurate and canny hardwood personnel. The giants would still have an advantage, but not nearly as much. Twelve-foot goals that have been tried out in historical exhibit games, are a bit too high for reasonable shooting accuracy. But at ten feet, where they are now, the tall or beefy player is unfairly rewarded. At eleven feet, we'd still see a few slam dunks, but they'd be spectacular. More importantly, the smaller players would be able to get off shots more readily and obtain more rebounds. And most importantly, skill and finesse would gain their prominence once again. Any real inconveniences, such as the cost of adjusting the goal height upward, could be readily minimized. The braces that hold the backboard and goal could be universally redesigned for adjustability so they

could be bolted in at selected elevations, similar to the way hospital crutches are designed. Such adjustable goals could serve preteens well at lower heights. Once those youths mature to middle school age, the goals might be adjusted up to 10 feet, then at 11 feet as they progress on to high school. It's not rocket science, and such adjustable goals already exist. For more on goal height see *The Case for the 12-foot Basket*, Sports Illustrated, December 4, 1967, pages 78-83. What would be the by-product of raising of the goal? As a starter, the cheap dunk would virtually disappear. Slam dunks at the college and pro levels have become routine and perhaps even boring these days. Nearly every male over six feet tall can make them. They may even seem vainglorious in the eyes of many coaches. A missed dunk looks particularly bad when a simple lay-in would suffice. At eleven feet, there would still be dunks, but they'd be pretty spectacular and deserving of attention. With the goal at eleven feet, the smaller players also could get off a shot having a greater arc with less chance of it being blocked. Another side benefit would be that the goal-tending rule could be completely eliminated. Any blocked shot on a downward arc from a twelve foot apex or higher would simply be considered a magnificent athletic feat. Goal-tending calls by the officials would necessarily become history. The game could continue without interruption. At eleven feet, missed shots off the rim or backboard fan out over more of the playing area. That fact was ostensibly apparent during the games tested with the goal at a twelve-foot elevation. The same would undoubtedly hold true at eleven feet albeit probably to a lesser degree, and that would be fine. This fanning out of rebound opportunities would mean much less propensity for giants to congregate beneath the goal in pursuit of rebounds. It would follow that there should be much less pushing and shoving under the basket. The three-second limit in the pivotal area might then be comfortably eliminated since there would be virtually no added rebounding or shooting advantage obtained by stationing oneself under the basket. Players would be permitted to occupy the keyhole indefinitely without penalty. The game would continue without interruption and another responsibility removed that the referee doesn't have to worry about.

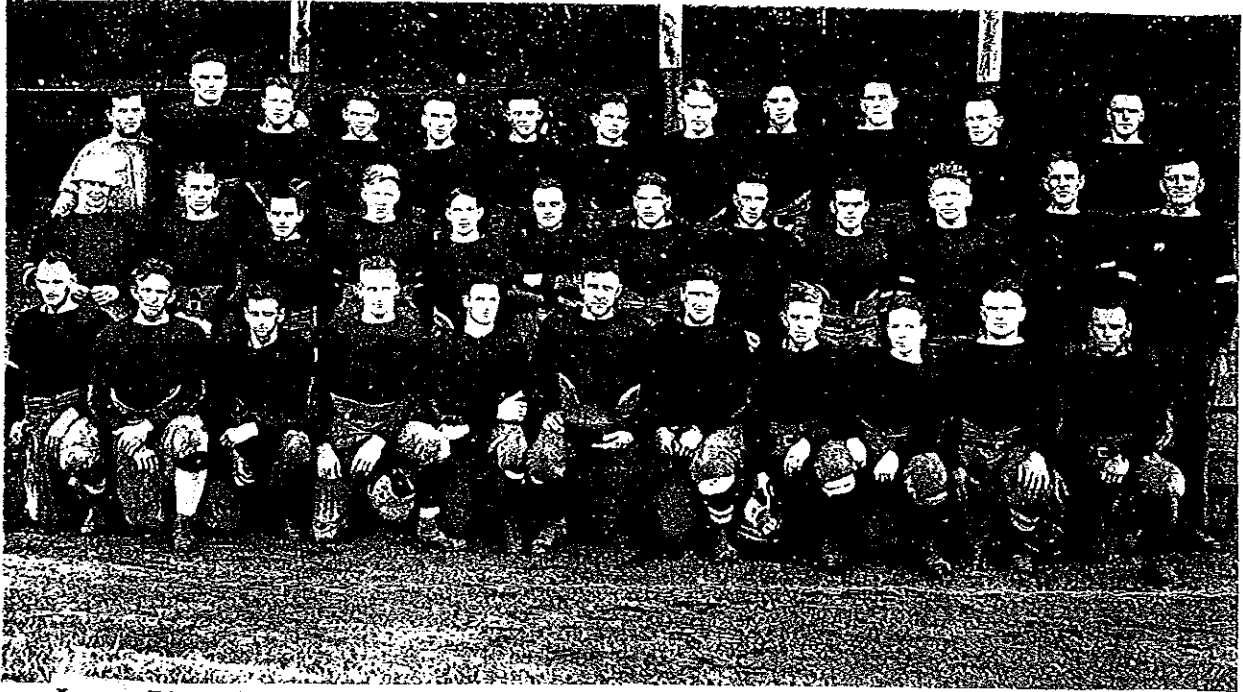


In a scene from *Flash Gordon* (1936). From left to right: James Pierce (Freedom), Buster Crabbe, Priscilla Lawson (Indianapolis) and Frank Shannon.



Denny Miller in "Tarzan, The Ape Man".

1920 Indiana University Football Squad



James Pierce - top row, second from left. Kermit Maynard - bottom row, far right.



Elmo Lincoln.