

Larry Bird at Indiana State

A Statistical Review

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Preface

Larry Bird enrolled at Indiana State University forty years ago in the summer of 1975 as a heralded local prospect who had walked away from the University of Indiana before playing a single game. Bird was forced to sit out the 1975-76 season as a transfer student, but impressed his new coaches – and intimidated his future teammates – with his performances during practice. When Indiana State head coach Bob King attempted to explain to Bird that he was limiting his practice time to protect the psyche of his other players, Bird replied, “To hell with them. If they can’t win, then they deserve to lose.”¹

Once Bird became eligible to play in the fall of 1976, the Indiana State Sycamores didn’t lose very often, posting an 81-13 record over the next three seasons, the best three-year stretch in school history. A consensus All-American as a junior and senior, Bird led the Sycamores to an undefeated regular season in 1978-79 and to the brink of an NCAA Championship before losing to Michigan State and Magic Johnson in the championship game.

Larry’s status as a basketball “legend” continued to grow as he developed into an NBA superstar with the Boston Celtics, winning three championships and three MVP awards before retiring in 1992. Bird returned to Indiana in 1997 to coach the Indiana Pacers for three seasons, retired again, and then rejoined the team in 2003 as president of basketball operations, a role he still has today (Bird took a one-year break in 2012-13 for health reasons before returning).² Bird was elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1998, and has added an NBA Coach of the Year award (1997-98) and NBA Executive of the Year award (2011-12) to his considerable basketball resume.

But Bird’s rise to national prominence began at the Hulman Center on the campus of Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana. This collection of box scores documents his junior and senior seasons and provides some insights into his college career and the young men he played with and against.

Michael Hamel
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Larry Bird’s statistics at Indiana State

SEASON	G	FG	FGA	FG%	FT	FTA	FT%	REB	AST	PTS	RPG	APG	PPG
1976-77	28	375	689	.544	168	200	.840	373	122	918	13.3	4.4	32.8
1977-78	32	403	769	.524	153	193	.793	369	125	959	11.5	3.9	30.0
1978-79	34	376	707	.532	221	266	.831	505	187	973	14.9	5.5	28.6
Career	94	1154	2165	.533	542	659	.822	1247	434	2850	13.3	4.6	30.3

1976-77 Indiana State Sycamores (25-3)

Larry Bird, Game-by-Game

Date	Opponent			Larry Bird			Location
				Pts	Reb	Ast	
11/27/1976	Chicago State	W	81-60	31	18	10	Terre Haute
11/30/1976	St. Ambrose	W	85-58	22	16	10	Terre Haute
12/3/1976	Robert Morris	W	87-65	33	17	5	Terre Haute <i>Indiana Hall of Fame Classic</i>
12/4/1976	Denver	W	78-65	24	16	4	Terre Haute <i>Indiana Hall of Fame Classic</i>
12/7/1976	at Purdue	L	68-82	27	15	6	West Lafayette, Indiana
12/9/1976	Augustana	W	94-69	32	9	6	Terre Haute
12/11/1976	at Ball State	W	80-69	25	11	4	Muncie, Indiana
12/18/1976	Central Michigan	W	80-62	30	10	12	Terre Haute
12/20/1976	West Texas State	W	75-61	26	7	3	Terre Haute
12/28/1976	Drake	W	79-73	25	12	5	Terre Haute
1/3/1977	Evansville	W	104-68	29	16	5	Terre Haute
1/6/1977	at Centenary	W	74-71	28	12	4	Shreveport, Louisiana
1/8/1977	at West Texas State	W	43-41	12	10	1	Canyon, Texas
1/10/1977	Butler	W	90-67	42	11	7	Terre Haute
1/15/1977	Missouri Western	W	77-58	33	8	2	Terre Haute
1/20/1977	Missouri – St. Louis	W	111-87	47	18	3	Terre Haute
1/22/1977	Centenary	W	88-70	37	19	2	Terre Haute
1/25/1977	at Illinois State	L	64-70	40	16	1	Normal, Illinois
1/31/1977	Illinois State	W	100-84	40	8	4	Terre Haute
2/7/1977	Wisconsin Parkside	W	77-73	37	11	0	Terre Haute
2/12/1977	at Cleveland State	W	88-76	38	16	1	Cleveland, Ohio
2/14/1977	Eastern Michigan	W	87-68	40	13	5	Terre Haute
2/19/1977	Loyola-Chicago	W	83-72	45	17	5	Terre Haute
2/21/1977	at St. Louis	W	77-72	26	6	4	St. Louis, Missouri
2/26/1977	at Evansville	W	78-63	24	13	5	Evansville, Indiana
2/28/1977	at Butler	W	80-65	47	19	3	Indianapolis, Indiana
3/5/1977	at Valparaiso	W	77-70	34	12	3	Valparaiso, Indiana
3/9/1977	at Houston	L	82-83	44	14	3	Houston, Texas <i>NIT Tournament</i>

Note: Bird led team in points and rebounds in every game except for those shown in blue.

1977-78 Indiana State Sycamores (23-9)

Larry Bird, Game-by-Game

Date	Opponent			Larry Bird			Postseason Notes
				Pts	Reb	Ast	
11/26/1977	Westmont	W	88-55	29	13	5	
11/28/1977	Purdue	W	91-63	26	17	8	
12/1/1977	St. Louis	W	84-68	31	19	8	
12/3/1977	Baptist	W	102-55	25	5	3	
12/5/1977	at Central Michigan	W	93-77	45	14	1	
12/10/1977	Evansville	W	102-76	35	8	7	
12/17/1977	at Eastern Michigan	W	81-72	31	13	4	
12/29/1977	Ball State	W	82-50	24	13	6	
1/4/1978	Southern Illinois	W	66-58	21	8	3	
1/7/1978	West Texas State	W	79-63	30	5	3	
1/12/1978	at Tulsa	W	78-59	16	15	3	
1/14/1978	at Drake	W	92-80	45	9	5	
1/16/1978	Bradley	W	73-67	35	13	5	
1/19/1978	at Southern Illinois	L	76-79	38	9	3	
1/21/1978	at Illinois State	L	76-81	37	17	5	
1/26/1978	at Wichita State	L	70-74 ot	33	16	2	
1/28/1978	Creighton	L	64-72	32	12	2	
1/30/1978	at Loyola	L	76-79	28	16	6	
2/4/1978	at West Texas State	W	67-50	22	11	1	
2/6/1978	at New Mexico State	L	82-83	38	10	2	
2/11/1978	Tulsa	W	102-70	41	11	3	
2/13/1978	New Mexico State	W	87-74	34	20	3	
2/16/1978	at Creighton	L	57-89	11	10	2	
2/18/1978	Drake	W	90-71	14	6	7	
2/20/1978	Wichita State	W	72-56	35	9	3	
2/25/1978	at Bradley	W	74-68	24	8	3	
2/27/1978	vs West Texas State	W	90-71	27	9	2	MVC Tournament
3/1/1978	vs Bradley	W	88-81	33	14	8	MVC Tournament
3/3/1978	vs New Mexico State	W	80-78 ot	40	11	2	MVC Tournament
3/5/1978	at Creighton	L	52-54	29	6	3	MVC Tournament
3/10/1978	Illinois State	W	73-71	27	10	7	NIT Tournament
3/14/1978	at Rutgers	L	56-57	23	11	1	NIT Tournament

Note: Bird led team in points and rebounds in all games except for those shown in blue. Games against MVC opponents are also highlighted in blue. Indiana State joined the Missouri Valley Conference in 1976 in all sports except basketball; the Sycamores basketball team began competing in the MVC at the start of the 1977-78 season.³

Westmont College Warriors vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Saturday 11/26/1977 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

WESTMONT COLLEGE (1-1)	FG	FT-A	PTS	INDIANA STATE (1-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Rick Streelman	7	2-5	16	Larry Bird	11	7-8	29
Jim Dykstra	0	0-2	0	Harry Morgan	7	2-4	16
Kevin Moynihan	0	0-0	0	DeCarsta Webster	0	2-2	2
John Moore	3	2-4	8	Jim Smith	2	0-0	4
Dave McGowen	9	0-1	18	Leroy Staley	6	3-4	15
Dan Robinson	1	0-0	2	Dan Rutledge	0	0-0	0
Glenn Lipman	3	0-0	6	Howie Johnson	0	0-0	0
T.J. Hardeman	1	0-0	2	Jim Ogborn	0	0-0	0
Vic Rosema	0	0-0	0	Steve Reed	1	2-2	4
				Alan Watson	0	0-0	0
				Richard Johnson	3	0-2	6
				Tom Crowder	2	1-2	5
				Brad Miley	3	1-2	7
TOTALS	25	4-14	54	TOTALS	35	18-26	88
Head Coach; Chet Kammerer Team Fouls: 18 Technical Fouls: Dykstra, Westmont bench				Head Coach: Bob King Team Fouls: 19 Technical Fouls: Bird			
Attendance: 7084 Start Time: 7:30pm ET							

	1	2	F
Westmont College	26	28	54
Indiana State	51	37	88

Game Notes: Larry Bird played just 29 minutes... Westmont had won the NAIA National Championship in 1972 and hired Chet Kammerer in 1975 – he remained head coach through 1992.⁴ Rick Streelman and Jim Dykstra would later play pro ball in Europe (France and the Netherlands, respectively);⁵ Junior Dave McGowen would finish his college career in 1979 with 1594 points, second in Westmont history at that time.

Purdue Boilermakers vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Monday 11/28/1977 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

PURDUE (1-1)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	PF	PTS	INDIANA STATE (2-0)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	PF	PTS
Walter Jordan	6-21	4-7	12	3	16	Larry Bird	11-31	4-4	17	3	26
Wayne Walls	1-7	0-0	3	1	2	Harry Morgan	9-16	0-0	0	4	18
Joe Barry Carroll	6-11	2-4	15	5	14	DeCarsta Webster	2-3	0-0	5	4	4
Eugene Parker	4-10	0-0	4	3	8	Jim Smith	5-5	2-3	3	0	12
Jerry Sichting	6-9	1-2	2	4	13	Leroy Staley	9-15	4-5	6	1	22
Drake Morris	1-8	0-2	3	2	2	Brad Miley	1-2	0-0	8	2	2
Neil Bernenderfer	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	Richard Johnson	1-4	0-0	3	5	2
Michael White	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	Tom Crowder	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Dan McDermott	0-0	2-2	1	0	2	Steve Reed	0-0	1-2	0	1	1
Mike Needham	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	Dan Rutledge	0-0	1-2	0	0	1
Roosevelt Barnes	1-4	2-2	3	0	4	Howie Johnson	0-1	3-4	0	0	3
Malvin Warrick	1-1	0-0	1	3	2	Jim Ogborn	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
						Alan Watson	0-1	0-0	0	1	0
TOTALS	26-71	11-19	48	22	63	TOTALS	38-78	15-20	50	21	91
Head Coach: Fred Schaus						Head Coach: Bob King					
Attendance: 9522 Start Time: 7:30pm Referees: Salvidge, Higgins											

	1	2	F
Purdue	27	36	63
Indiana State	39	52	91

Game Notes: Larry Bird out-rebounded sophomore center Joe Barry Carroll 17-15; Carroll fouled out with 9:16 remaining in the game. Bird had played in Europe with Walter Jordan during the previous summer, and had told him, “We’re gonna beat you... We won’t lose any here at home.”⁶ Fred Schaus, who had earned a volatile reputation during his seven years as head coach of the Los Angeles Lakers, picked up two technical fouls during the game, and told reporters afterward, “Bird’s fantastic. He can play with anyone in the country.”⁷ Schaus also complained that King had not pulled Bird from the game until the final two minutes despite holding a large lead⁸... Junior Leroy Staley added a season-high 22 points. Staley, who had transferred to Indiana State from Florida Junior College, had gotten married prior to the start of the season.

St. Louis Billikens vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Thursday 12/01/1977 at Hulman Civic University Center
Terre Haute, Indiana

ST. LOUIS (0-2)	FG	FT-A	PTS	INDIANA STATE (3-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Carl Johnson	4	1-3	9	Larry Bird	15	1-2	31
Howard Jackson	4	2-2	10	Harry Morgan	14	1-5	29
Johnnie Parker	1	1-2	3	DeCarsta Webster	4	1-2	9
Mark Alcorn	2	0-0	4	Jim Smith	0	0-1	0
Everne Carr	3	7-10	13	Leroy Staley	2	0-0	4
Ricky Frazier	7	0-2	14	Brad Miley	0	0-2	0
Mike Smith	0	0-0	0	Richard Johnson	0	1-2	1
Jim Glass	0	0-0	0	Tom Crowder	1	0-0	2
Craig Shaver	2	4-4	8	Steve Reed	2	2-4	6
Mark Rhode	2	1-2	5	Howie Johnson	0	2-2	2
Rick Plate	0	2-3	2	Dan Rutledge	0	0-0	0
				Jim Ogborn	0	0-1	0
				Alan Watson	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	25	18-28	68	TOTALS	38	8-21	84
Head Coach: Ron Coleman				Head Coach: Bob King			
Team Fouls: 24				Team Fouls: 23			
Attendance: 9021 Start Time: 7:30pm ET							

	1	2	F
St. Louis	36	32	68
Indiana State	54	30	84

Game Notes: Bird shot 15 for 34 from the floor; Morgan 14 for 25... West Texas State head coach Ron Ekker would replace Ron Coleman as head coach at St. Louis at the end of the year after Coleman posted a 7-20 mark in his first season. Coleman had been an assistant for three years before being elevated to head coach.⁹

Baptist (S.C.) College Buccaneers vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Saturday 12/03/1977 at Hulman Civic University Center
Terre Haute, Indiana

BAPTIST COLLEGE (0-3)	FG	FT-A	PTS	INDIANA STATE (4-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Sam Hare	6	3-4	15	Larry Bird	11	3-3	25
Joe Nix	3	1-2	7	Harry Morgan	11	0-0	22
Calvin McDougal	2	4-5	8	DeCarsta Webster	1	0-0	2
Bill Childers	1	0-2	2	Jim Smith	1	0-0	2
Omega Shaw	3	0-1	6	Leroy Staley	5	2-4	12
Tyler Lawrence	0	0-0	0	Richard Johnson	8	1-2	17

Jonny Howell	2	1-2	5	Steve Reed	3	0-0	6
Larry Nesmith	0	0-0	0	Tom Crowder	1	0-0	2
Vic Watkins	4	0-0	8	Howie Johnson	2	0-0	4
James Clements	2	0-0	4	Dan Rutledge	3	0-0	6
Rick Sztsma	0	0-0	0	Jim Ogborn	2	0-0	4
				Alan Watson	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	23	9-16	55	TOTALS	48	6-9	102
Head Coach: Danny Monk Team Fouls: 14				Head Coach: Bob King Team Fouls: 20			
Attendance: 8500 Start Time: 7:30pm ET							

	1	2	F
Baptist College	23	32	55
Indiana State	53	49	102

Game Notes: Sophomore 7-footer Richard Johnson led Indiana State with 16 rebounds and added 6 blocks in 23 minutes off the bench.¹⁰ Johnson, known as “The Enforcer,” had transferred from Lincoln Trail (Illinois) Junior College; he would miss the 1978-79 season for disciplinary reasons after some trouble with the law¹¹ and then transfer again, this time to LeMoyné-Owen College. Johnson tried out for the Detroit Pistons in 1981 but was released after a few weeks...¹² Baptist was renamed Charleston Southern University in 1991.¹³

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Central Michigan Chippewas

Monday 12/05/1977 at Rose Center

Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

INDIANA STATE (5-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS	CENTRAL MICHIGAN (1-2)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Larry Bird	21	3-5	45	Leon Guydon	5	0-2	10
Harry Morgan	7	0-0	14	K.C. Janer	3	1-1	7
DeCarsta Webster	5	1-3	11	Jeff Tropf	0	0-0	0
Jim Smith	3	0-0	6	Dave Grauzer	14	3-4	31
Leroy Staley	3	0-0	6	Val Bracey	8	1-2	17
Dan Rutledge	1	0-0	2	James Newman	3	2-3	8
Steve Reed	2	3-3	7	Jerry McCool	0	2-2	2
Richard Johnson	1	0-0	2	Ted Anderson	1	0-0	2
Brad Miley	0	0-2	0	Vern Moore	0	0-0	0
Alan Watson	0	0-0	0	Larry Sweeney	0	0-0	0
Tom Crowder	0	0-0	0	Steve Rambadt	0	0-0	0
Howie Johnson	0	0-0	0				
Jim Ogborn	0	0-0	0				
TOTALS	43	7-13	93	TOTALS	34	9-13	77
Head Coach: Bob King Team Fouls: 17				Head Coach: Dick Parfitt Team Fouls: 20 Technical Fouls: Newman			
Attendance: 5939 Start Time: 7:30pm ET							

	1	2	F
Indiana State	45	48	93
Central Michigan	38	39	77

Game Notes: Larry Bird established a new scoring record at the Rose Center while making 21 of 33 shots... The Chippewas had reached the NCAA Tournament the previous spring, led by Ben Poquette, who was selected in the second round of the 1977 NBA Draft by the Detroit Pistons and went on to play 10 seasons in the pros. The Pistons then selected Dave Grauzer in the tenth round in 1978, and Val Bracey in the ninth round in 1979, but neither of them would play in the NBA... Jeff Tropf had originally enrolled at Michigan State in 1974, but transferred after the season following an ugly incident. On January 4, 1975, head coach Gus Ganakas named Tropf, who was white, as a starter for that day’s game against Indiana, the second-ranked team in the country. His (mostly black) teammates protested, and 10 of them refused to play in

the game. Ganakas held his ground, and Tropf and a collection of junior-varsity players lost to Indiana 107-55.¹⁴ Tropf would later be selected by the Portland Trail Blazers in the seventh round of the 1979 NBA Draft.

Evansville Purple Aces vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Saturday 12/10/1977 at Hulman Civic University Center
Terre Haute, Indiana

EVANSVILLE (1-3)	FG	FT-A	PTS		INDIANA STATE (6-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Bryan Taylor	4	6-6	14		Larry Bird	16	3-4	35
Mike Duff	10	3-4	23		Harry Morgan	10	6-8	26
Steve Miller	1	6-8	8		DeCarsta Webster	5	0-0	10
Kraig Heckendorn	0	0-0	0		Jim Smith	3	0-1	6
John Ed Washington	4	0-0	8		Leroy Staley	3	0-0	6
Mark Siegel	1	0-0	2		Richard Johnson	0	1-3	1
Tony Winburn	0	0-0	0		Steve Reed	2	2-2	6
Kevin Kingston	0	0-0	0		Brad Miley	3	4-4	10
Warren Alston	6	5-6	17		Howie Johnson	0	0-0	0
Keith Moon	0	0-0	0		Dan Rutledge	1	0-0	2
Mike Joyner	2	0-0	4		Tom Crowder	0	0-0	0
Barney Lewis	0	0-0	0		Alan Watson	0	0-0	0
Ray Comandella	0	0-0	0					
Greg Smith	0	0-0	0					
TOTALS	28	20-24	76		TOTALS	43	16-22	102
Head Coach: Bobby Watson					Head Coach: Bob King			
Team Fouls: 23					Team Fouls: 21			
Attendance: 9653 Start Time: 7:30pm ET								

	1	2	F
Evansville	33	43	76
Indiana State	54	48	102

Game Notes: This was Evansville's final game before the entire team and head coach Bobby Watson were killed in a plane crash on December 13. All 29 people on the DC-3 perished in the crash. Assistant coach Ernie Simpson was recruiting in Kentucky and was not on the flight; he later visited Eldorado, Illinois, the hometown of Mike Duff and Kevin Kingston, telling reporters, "The entire community is in shock there. You could tell these were not boys who had just played basketball there."¹⁵ Freshman David Furr, out for the season with an ankle injury, did not make the trip but died two weeks later in a car accident along with his younger brother Byron.¹⁶ Fellow freshman Mike Joyner had been Terre Haute South High School's leading scorer.¹⁷

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Eastern Michigan Hurons

Saturday 12/17/1977 at Bowen Field House
Ypsilanti, Michigan

INDIANA STATE (7-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS		EASTERN MICHIGAN (2-4)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Harry Morgan	6	2-4	14		Ken Harmon	9	2-4	20
Larry Bird	12	7-9	31		Aaron Fowler	2	0-1	4
DeCarsta Webster	4	1-2	9		Al Cicotte	5	0-1	10
Jim Smith	2	2-4	6		Tony Jamison	2	0-1	4
Leroy Staley	3	1-2	7		Hank Wiggins	3	5-6	11
Howie Johnson	0	0-0	0		Bennette Gay	0	0-0	0
Steve Reed	1	0-0	2		Doug Reynolds	0	0-0	0
Richard Johnson	0	3-5	3		Bill Weaver	5	1-1	11
Brad Miley	4	1-4	9		Bill Harris	0	0-0	0
					Tim Bracey	0	0-0	0

				Greg Floyd	3	2-2	8
				Dan Smith	1	2-2	4
TOTALS	32	17-30	81	TOTALS	30	12-18	72
Head Coach: Bob King Team Fouls: 19 Technical Fouls: Webster				Head Coach: Ray Scott Team Fouls: 27			
Attendance: 5200 Start Time: 2:00pm ET							

	1	2	F
Indiana State	41	40	81
Eastern Michigan	26	46	72

Game Notes: Eastern Michigan closed to within two points with 11 minutes left, but ISU then scored the next six points and were not seriously challenged again. Guard Bill Weaver returned from a back injury to score 11 points in 30 minutes in his first game of the season; Weaver had led the Hurons in scoring the year before...¹⁸ Ray Scott was in the midst of his second season as head coach of the Hurons after coaching the Detroit Pistons for three-and-a-half years, earning Coach of the Year honors in 1974. Scott, who had been fired by the Pistons midway through the 1975-76 season, would be dismissed by Eastern Michigan in 1979 and was never a head coach at the college or pro level again... Al Cicotte's father Alva pitched in the Major Leagues for six different teams including the Detroit Tigers; Alva was a great-nephew of Eddie Cicotte, a member of the 1919 Chicago White Sox team that threw the World Series.¹⁹

Ball State Cardinals vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Thursday 12/29/1977 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

BALL STATE (2-5)	FG	FT-A	PTS	INDIANA STATE (8-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Dave Weimer	2	0-1	4	Larry Bird	10	4-6	24
Robert Sims	4	2-2	10	Harry Morgan	12	0-0	24
Randy Boarden	5	0-2	10	DeCarsta Webster	2	0-0	4
Mike Drews	5	0-0	10	Jim Smith	1	0-0	2
Jim Hahn	3	0-0	6	Leroy Staley	2	1-1	5
Jeff Williams	1	0-0	2	Brad Miley	0	1-2	1
George Bradley	0	0-2	0	Steve Reed	1	0-0	2
Dwayne Irvin	0	0-0	0	Richard Johnson	5	1-1	11
Jim Fields	0	0-0	0	Dan Rutledge	0	0-1	0
Clement Murrell	1	0-0	2	Tom Crowder	1	1-1	3
Matt Beerbower	2	0-0	4	Howie Johnson	2	0-1	4
Al Gooden	1	0-0	2	Jim Ogborn	0	0-0	0
				Alan Watson	1	0-0	2
TOTALS	24	2-7	50	TOTALS	37	8-13	82
Head Coach: Steve Yoder Team Fouls: 17 Technical Fouls: Ball State bench				Head Coach: Bob King Team Fouls: 14			
Attendance: 10069 Start Time: 7:30pm ET							

	1	2	F
Ball State	22	28	50
Indiana State	39	43	82

Game Notes: The game was close early but Indiana State went ahead 17-16 on a jumper by Harry Morgan and never trailed again...²⁰ Steve Yoder was in his first season as head coach after serving as an assistant for Jim Holstein the year before. Yoder's previous coaching experience consisted of a year as an assistant at Furman and a half-dozen years at Indiana and Illinois high schools. After five seasons and Ball State's first ever NCAA Tournament appearance in 1981, Yoder moved on to Wisconsin where he coached the Badgers for 10 years. He then spent several years as a television analyst before becoming a pro scout, first

for the Indiana Pacers and then with the New York Knicks. Yoder returned to the college ranks in 2014, joining the University of Houston as Director of Operations for the basketball team.²¹ In 1987, midway through his tenure at Wisconsin, Yoder interviewed to return to Ball State, but declined the offer; the job went to Rick Majerus, who led the Cardinals to a 29-3 record in his second season and then left to begin a 15-year career at the University of Utah en route to 517 career coaching victories.²²

Southern Illinois Salukis vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Wednesday 01/04/1978 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (5-5)	FG	FT-A	PTS	INDIANA STATE (9-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Gary Wilson	10	1-1	21	Larry Bird	10	1-2	21
Barry Smith	2	0-0	4	Harry Morgan	10	3-4	23
Al Grant	4	1-2	9	DeCarsta Webster	4	0-0	8
Milton Huggins	3	2-2	8	Jim Smith	0	0-1	0
Wayne Abrams	5	0-0	10	Leroy Staley	3	0-1	6
James Orr	0	0-0	0	Richard Johnson	2	1-2	5
Christopher Giles	2	0-0	4	Steve Reed	0	0-0	0
Anthony Frazier	0	0-0	0	Brad Miley	1	1-1	3
Charles Moore	1	0-0	2				
TOTALS	27	4-5	58	TOTALS	30	6-11	66
Head Coach: Paul Lambert Team Fouls: 13 Technical Fouls: Abrams, Southern Illinois bench				Head Coach: Bob King Team Fouls: 11			
Attendance: 9380 Start Time: 7:30pm ET							

	1	2	F
Southern Illinois	33	25	58
Indiana State	35	31	66

Game Notes: The Sycamores used a 12-2 run to break a 47-47 tie in the second half; Morgan and Webster combined to score 10 of the 12 points.²³

West Texas State Buffaloes vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Saturday 01/07/1978 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

WEST TEXAS STATE (3-8)	FG	FT-A	PTS	INDIANA STATE (10-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Tony Ellis	5	2-2	12	Larry Bird	13	4-4	30
Carl Johnson	6	0-0	12	Harry Morgan	11	1-2	23
Reed Addison	3	3-5	9	DeCarsta Webster	2	0-0	4
Maurice Cheeks	8	3-5	19	Jim Smith	4	1-1	9
Dan Elmer	5	0-0	10	Leroy Staley	2	1-2	5
Dave Keller	0	0-0	0	Richard Johnson	2	0-1	4
Mike Lorenc	0	1-2	1	Brad Miley	1	0-0	2
Lee Davis	0	0-0	0	Steve Reed	0	0-0	0
Larry Cunningham	0	0-0	0	Tom Crowder	1	0-1	2
				Howie Johnson	0	0-0	0
				Dan Rutledge	0	0-0	0
				Jim Ogborn	0	0-0	0
				Alan Watson	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	27	9-14	63	TOTALS	36	7-11	79
Head Coach: Ron Ekker Team Fouls: 15 Technical Fouls: West Texas State bench				Head Coach: Bob King Team Fouls: 20			
Attendance: 9911 Start Time: 7:30pm ET							

	1	2	F
West Texas State	25	38	63
Indiana State	41	38	79

Game Notes: Indiana State led nearly wire-to-wire, taking the lead for good on a pair of Larry Bird free throws two minutes into the game.²⁴

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Tulsa Golden Hurricane

Thursday 01/12/1978 at Assembly Center

Tulsa, Oklahoma

INDIANA STATE (11-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS		TULSA (2-9)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Larry Bird	6	4-4	16		Lester Johnson	7	1-1	15
Harry Morgan	8	5-7	21		Steve McDowell	3	1-1	7
DeCarsta Webster	2	0-0	4		Jeff Kovach	0	1-2	1
Leroy Staley	5	1-2	11		Terry Sims	6	0-1	12
Jim Smith	5	0-0	10		Marcus Peel	4	0-0	8
Steve Reed	0	0-0	0		Jack Dobbins	1	0-0	2
Brad Miley	5	0-0	10		John Gibson	0	0-0	0
Howie Johnson	1	0-0	2		Jim Lacey	4	0-1	8
Jim Ogborn	0	0-0	0		Calvin Meier	0	0-0	0
Alan Watson	0	0-0	0		Don Blackmon	3	0-0	6
Tom Crowder	2	0-0	4		Jerry Taylor	0	0-0	0
Dan Rutledge	0	0-0	0					
TOTALS	34	10-13	78		TOTALS	28	3-6	59
Head Coach: Bob King					Head Coach: Jim King			
Team Fouls: 10					Team Fouls: 14			
Technical Fouls: Morgan, Bird								
Attendance: 4327 Start Time: 8:30pm ET								

	1	2	F
Indiana State	37	41	78
Tulsa	29	30	59

Game Notes: Bird was held to 4 points in the first half and shot just 6 for 17 from the floor for the game...²⁵ Tulsa head coach Jim King had played basketball for the school as a guard and was a second-round pick of the Los Angeles Lakers in 1963. He spent 10 years in the NBA and made the 1968 All-Star Team as a member of the San Francisco Warriors... Don Blackmon also played football at Tulsa as a linebacker; he was later drafted by the New England Patriots in 1981 and played seven years in the NFL.

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Drake Bulldogs

Saturday 01/14/1978 at Veterans Auditorium

Des Moines, Iowa

INDIANA STATE (12-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS		DRAKE (4-9)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Larry Bird	18	9-12	45		Gregory Johns	1	4-4	6
Harry Morgan	6	0-1	12		Ernie Banks	3	0-0	6
DeCarsta Webster	2	0-1	4		Chad Nelson	6	4-5	16
Leroy Staley	4	5-7	13		Wayne Kreklow	10	9-9	29
Jim Smith	6	5-9	17		Napoleon Gaither	5	8-11	18
Howie Johnson	0	1-3	1		Earl May	0	0-0	0
Steve Reed	0	0-0	0		Jeff Hill	0	0-0	0
Alan Watson	0	0-0	0		Tom Egli	1	0-0	2
Brad Miley	0	0-0	0		Dave Johnson	1	1-2	3
TOTALS	36	20-33	92		TOTALS	27	26-31	80

Head Coach: Bob King Team Fouls: 23	Head Coach: Bob Ortegel Team Fouls: 28
Attendance: 11144 Start Time: 8:35pm ET	

	1	2	F
Indiana State	42	50	92
Drake	36	44	80

Game Notes: The game featured a career-high 29 points for Wayne Kreklow, and a season-high 17 points for ISU senior guard Jim Smith who set a team record by adding 16 assists. Kreklow would be drafted by the Boston Celtics in 1979, spent a year with the Maine Lumberjacks in the CBA,²⁶ and then played 25 games alongside Larry Bird before being released in January 1981, a few months before Bird and the Celtics won the NBA title.

Bradley Braves vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Monday 01/16/1978 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

BRADLEY (6-7)	FG	FT-A	PTS	INDIANA STATE (13-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Ken Garrett	5	0-0	10	Larry Bird	15	5-10	35
Harold McMath	4	4-7	12	Harry Morgan	3	0-0	6
Alex Mazeika	11	5-7	27	DeCarsta Webster	3	0-2	6
Terry Laaker	1	2-2	4	Jim Smith	4	2-3	10
Bobby Humbles	4	0-1	8	Leroy Staley	4	5-6	13
Dan Ruffin	0	0-0	0	Brad Miley	1	0-0	2
Rick Malnati	2	0-0	4	Steve Reed	0	0-0	0
Dennis Smith	1	0-0	2	Dan Rutledge	0	1-2	1
Robert Jenkins	0	0-0	0	Richard Johnson	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	28	11-17	67	TOTALS	30	13-23	73
Head Coach: Joe Stowell Team Fouls: 23				Head Coach: Bob King Team Fouls: 18			
Attendance: 8621 Start Time: 7:30pm ET							

	1	2	F
Bradley	31	36	67
Indiana State	41	32	73

Game Notes: Bradley's Roger Phegley, who was leading the nation in scoring at 30.4 points a game, was out with a broken wrist suffered against DePaul two days earlier.²⁷

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Southern Illinois Salukis

Thursday 01/19/1978 at Southern Illinois Arena

Carbondale, Illinois

INDIANA STATE (13-1)	FG	FT-A	PTS	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (8-6)	FG	FT-A	PTS
DeCarsta Webster	5	2-4	12	Al Grant	5	0-0	10
Jim Smith	5	0-1	10	Gary Wilson	8	0-0	16
Harry Morgan	7	0-0	14	Milton Huggins	8	2-2	18
Larry Bird	18	2-3	38	Wayne Abrams	9	4-5	22
Leroy Staley	0	0-1	0	Barry Smith	2	7-7	11
Howie Johnson	0	0-0	0	Charles Moore	1	0-0	2
Brad Miley	1	0-1	2	Christopher Giles	0	0-0	0
				Dan Kieszkowski	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	36	4-10	76	TOTALS	33	13-14	79
Head Coach: Bob King Team Fouls: 19				Head Coach: Paul Lambert Team Fouls: 15			

Technical Fouls: Morgan	
Attendance: 10014 Start Time: 8:35pm ET	

	1	2	F
Indiana State	38	38	76
Southern Illinois	38	41	79

Game Notes: The Salukis built a 13 point lead in the first half but allowed Bird to score 22 points as the Sycamores tied the game at halftime... Southern Illinois made 70 percent of their field goal attempts.²⁸ DeCarsta Webster tallied a season-high 12 points, and added 9 rebounds to lead the Sycamores. During the 1975-76 season, Webster had set school records with a 13.6 rebounding average, 77 total blocks and 11 blocks in a single game; Larry Bird would break Webster's rebounding mark as a senior in 1978-79 (14.9). Webster, a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania native, attended Miami Dade South before transferring to ISU.

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Illinois State Redbirds

Saturday 01/21/1978 at Horton Field House

Normal, Illinois

INDIANA STATE (13-2)							ILLINOIS STATE (16-2)						
FG-A	FT-A	RB	A	PF	PTS		FG-A	FT-A	RB	A	PF	PTS	
Harry Morgan	6-16	4-4	3	4	5	16	Billy Lewis	11-19	3-3	12	0	5	25
Larry Bird	14-34	9-11	17	5	4	37	Del Yarbrough	4-9	1-1	7	0	4	9
DeCarsta Webster	2-7	0-0	12	0	1	4	Joe Galvin	4-7	2-3	7	1	4	10
Jim Smith	1-3	0-1	2	8	1	2	Ron Jones	6-23	6-7	6	10	4	18
Leroy Staley	1-3	5-7	4	0	4	7	Derrick Mayes	5-10	0-1	1	8	4	10
Steve Reed	0-0	0-0	0	0	1	0	Rick Ferina	1-2	0-1	3	0	2	2
Alan Watson	0-0	3-3	4	1	4	3	Larry Lowe	0-1	0-1	0	1	0	0
Brad Miley	2-4	3-4	4	1	3	7	Randy Smithson	2-4	3-4	1	2	4	7
Howie Johnson	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	Anthony Jones	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	26-67	24-31	46	19	23	76	TOTALS	33-75	15-21	38	22	27	81
Head Coach: Bob King							Head Coach: Gene Smithson						
Technical Fouls: Bird, Morgan							Technical Fouls: R. Jones						
Attendance: 8000 Start Time: 3:00pm ET													
Referees: Bill Herzog, Dick Basler													

	1	2	F
Indiana State	37	39	76
Illinois State	37	44	81

Game Notes: The final minutes of the first half belonged to Larry Bird and Billy Lewis, who combined to score 19 of their teams' final 23 points. With 10 seconds remaining and the game decided, Ron Jones began jawing at Harry Morgan, and a brawl broke out between the teams which reportedly included "quite a few punches" thrown by Bird. Jones and Morgan were ejected, and local police needed to hold back fans who tried to reach the court.²⁹

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Wichita State Shockers

Thursday 01/26/1978 at Henry Levitt Arena

Wichita, Kansas

INDIANA STATE (13-3)	FG	FT-A	PTS	WICHITA STATE (7-8)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Dan Rutledge	0	0-0	0	Charlie Brent	10	3-3	23
Howie Johnson	0	0-0	0	Bob Trogele	0	5-8	5
DeCarsta Webster	3	1-3	7	Ray Shirley	3	0-0	6

Steve Reed	0	0-0	0	Cheese Johnson	8	4-5	20
Jim Smith	1	0-0	2	Lawrence Howell	2	7-9	11
Alan Watson	2	0-0	4	Steve Kalocinski	4	1-3	9
Harry Morgan	9	1-2	19				
Larry Bird	15	3-3	33				
Brad Miley	2	1-3	5				
Leroy Staley	0	0-0	0				
TOTALS	32	6-11	70	TOTALS	27	20-27	74
Head Coach: Bob King Team Fouls: 29				Head Coach: Harry Miller Team Fouls: 16			
Attendance: 9647 Start Time: 9:00pm ET							

	1	2	OT	F
Indiana State	25	33	12	70
Wichita State	25	33	16	74

Game Notes: Charlie Brent scored seven points of the Shockers first nine points in overtime to lead Wichita State to an upset victory. Brent also tied the game with forty seconds left in regulation; Larry Bird then missed a jumper with two seconds left.³⁰

Creighton Bluejays vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Saturday 01/28/1978 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

CREIGHTON	FG	FT-A	PTS	INDIANA STATE	FG	FT-A	PTS
Rick Apke	9	3-3	21	Larry Bird	13	6-7	32
Kevin McKenna	2	0-0	4	Harry Morgan	8	0-0	16
David Wesely	3	2-2	8	DeCarsta Webster	3	0-0	6
Randy Eccker	1	3-5	5	Jim Smith	2	0-1	4
John Johnson	8	3-4	19	Brad Miley	3	0-2	6
Dennis Rasmussen	1	1-2	3	Steve Reed	0	0-0	0
Paul Trieschman	2	0-1	4	Howie Johnson	0	0-0	0
Kevin Kuehl	3	2-3	8	Dan Rutledge	0	0-0	0
				Alan Watson	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	29	14-20	72	TOTALS	29	6-10	64
Head Coach: Tom Apke Team Fouls: 18				Head Coach: Bob King Team Fouls: 21			
Attendance: 10054 Start Time: 7:30pm ET							

	1	2	F
Creighton	33	39	72
Indiana State	39	25	64

Game Notes: This loss was the only blemish on the Sycamores 47-1 record at home during Larry Bird's college career. Indiana State led 31-17 with eight minutes remaining in the first half but Creighton rallied; the Bluejays's 8-1 run after halftime put them in front. Rick Apke added 15 rebounds.³¹

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Loyola of Chicago Ramblers

Monday 01/30/1978 at Alumni Gym

Chicago, Illinois

INDIANA STATE (13-5)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	PF	PTS	LOYOLA (11-6)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	PF	PTS
DeCarsta Webster	1-4	0-0	8	4	2	Rodney Callahan	8-11	0-0	7	4	16
Harry Morgan	7-15	7-7	7	3	21	Larry Knight	7-15	4-5	23	0	18
Larry Bird	12-29	4-5	16	4	28	Houston Lloyd	2-3	0-1	4	5	4
Howie Johnson	2-13	0-0	2	4	4	David Oliver	5-7	4-5	1	1	14
Jim Smith	0-3	0-0	1	2	0	Andre Wakefield	9-20	3-7	4	3	21

Brad Miley	2-5	3-4	3	1	7	Rob Floyd	1-2	0-3	1	3	2
Steve Reed	4-6	2-2	2	5	10	Gary Feiereisel	0-1	2-2	4	0	2
Tom Crowder	2-7	0-0	5	3	4	Jeff Elmore	1-2	0-0	1	3	2
Dan Rutledge	0-0	0-1	0	0	0						
TOTALS	30-82	16-19	43	26	76	TOTALS	33-61	13-23	46	19	79
Head Coach: Bob King						Head Coach: Jerry Lyne					
Attendance: 3000 Start Time: 8:30pm ET											
Referees: Vallem, Robinson											

	1	2	F
Indiana State	38	38	76
Loyola	40	39	79

Game Notes: Larry Knight played the entire game because starting center Houston Lloyd played less than 10 minutes due to foul trouble.³² Knight averaged nearly 14 points and 13 rebounds a game this season, and improved in 1978-79 to lead the Shockers in both categories (21.5/14.3); he was drafted in the first round of the 1979 NBA Draft by the Utah Jazz but was such a bad shooter that he failed to make the team as a rebounding/defensive specialist...³³ Teammate Andre Wakefield was drafted by the Phoenix Suns in the fifth round in 1978 and played parts of two seasons with the Bulls, Pistons, and Jazz... Steve Reed, an honors student majoring in business management, scored a season-high 10 points for the Sycamores.³⁴

Indiana State Sycamores vs. West Texas State Buffaloes

Saturday 02/04/1978 at Amarillo Civic Center
Canyon, Texas

INDIANA STATE (14-5)	FG	FT-A	PTS	WEST TEXAS STATE (6-14)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Dan Rutledge	1	0-0	2	Maurice Cheeks	2	1-2	5
Howie Johnson	4	0-0	8	Bart Cadenhead	0	0-0	0
DeCarsta Webster	0	0-0	0	Tony Ellis	2	3-4	7
Steve Reed	0	0-0	0	Dan Elmer	0	0-0	0
Jim Smith	4	0-0	8	Mike Lorenc	0	0-0	0
Alan Watson	0	0-0	0	Jerry Schaeffer	0	2-2	2
Tom Crowder	1	0-0	2	Lee Davis	0	0-0	0
Harry Morgan	11	0-0	22	Carl Johnson	5	3-4	13
Larry Bird	10	2-2	22	Larry Cunningham	2	3-4	7
Brad Miley	1	0-0	2	Reed Addison	6	4-5	16
Leroy Staley	0	1-2	1				
TOTALS	32	3-4	67	TOTALS	17	16-22	50
Head Coach: Bob King				Head Coach: Ron Ekker			
Team Fouls: 23				Team Fouls: 11			
Attendance: 4050 Start Time: 8:30pm ET							

	1	2	F
Indiana State	35	32	67
West Texas State	21	29	50

Game Notes: The Amarillo Civic Center, a multi-purpose facility containing both an arena for basketball and a separate auditorium and exhibit halls, hosted the National Women's Invitational Tournament from its inception in 1969 until the event ended in 1996.³⁵ The tournament was restarted in 1998 by a new promoter who moved the event out of Amarillo; it is still held at various sites around the country today.³⁶

Indiana State Sycamores vs. New Mexico State Aggies

Monday 02/06/1978 at Pan American Center
Las Cruces, New Mexico

INDIANA STATE (15-5)	FG	FT-A	PTS		NEW MEXICO STATE (13-8)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Harry Morgan	9	2-3	20		Cyrus Cormier	2	1-2	5
Larry Bird	16	6-8	38		Robert Gunn	10	4-6	24
DeCarsta Webster	0	0-0	0		Doug Jones	6	1-3	13
Howie Johnson	4	2-2	10		Danny Lopez	1	0-0	2
Jim Smith	2	0-0	4		Greg Webb	10	5-9	25
Leroy Staley	2	2-2	6		Kenny Hayes	0	0-0	0
Steve Reed	0	0-0	0		Brian Corrie	0	0-0	0
Tom Crowder	1	0-0	2		Bill Myers	0	0-0	0
Brad Miley	0	0-0	0		Micah Owens	2	0-3	4
Richard Johnson	0	2-4	2		Notie Pate	4	2-5	10
TOTALS	34	14-19	82		TOTALS	48	6-9	102
Head Coach: Bob King Team Fouls: 22					Head Coach: Ken Hayes Team Fouls: 20			
Attendance: 12299 Start Time: 9:30pm ET								

	1	2	F
Indiana State	44	38	82
New Mexico State	36	47	83

Game Notes: Greg Webb's two free throws with 10 seconds left provided the winning margin for the Aggies. Larry Bird then missed a potential game-winning 25 foot jumper.³⁷ Earlier in the game, after scrambling for a loose ball, Bird ended up in the courtside seats and was briefly entangled with two fans before he could extricate himself (with the help of a couple of punches).³⁸

Tulsa Golden Hurricane vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Saturday 02/11/1978 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

TULSA (7-15)	FG	FT-A	PTS		INDIANA STATE (15-6)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Lester Johnson	4	8-11	16		Larry Bird	16	9-11	41
Billy Keys	4	1-2	9		Harry Morgan	3	6-9	12
Jeff Kovach	4	4-6	12		DeCarsta Webster	1	0-1	2
John Gibson	4	0-0	8		Jim Smith	2	0-0	4
Terry Sims	4	0-0	8		Howie Johnson	6	9-9	21
Jack Dobbins	0	0-0	0		Brad Miley	3	0-0	6
Steve McDowell	2	0-0	4		Richard Johnson	3	0-0	6
Jim Lacey	2	1-1	5		Leroy Staley	3	0-1	6
Marcus Peel	1	0-0	2		Tom Crowder	0	0-0	0
Bob Stevenson	2	0-0	4		Steve Reed	1	0-0	2
Calvin Meier	0	2-2	2		Dan Rutledge	1	0-0	2
					Alan Watson	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	27	16-23	70		TOTALS	39	24-31	102
Head Coach: Jim King Team Fouls: 22 Technical Fouls: Sims					Head Coach: Bob King Team Fouls: 19			
Attendance: 9358 Start Time: 7:30pm ET								

	1	2	F
Tulsa	33	37	70
Indiana State	56	46	102

Game Notes: Larry Bird shot 16 for 23 from the field in his third 40-plus scoring game of the season...³⁹ Season-high 21 points for senior guard Howie Johnson who was in the middle of a three-game stretch of double-digit scoring performances (48 points total); Johnson, who had transferred from the University of Illinois after his sophomore season, scored just 43 points over his other 27 games this year... Indiana State established a new Hulman Center record with 56 points in the first half.

New Mexico State Aggies vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Monday 02/13/1978 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

NEW MEXICO STATE (13-11)	FG	FT-A	PTS	INDIANA STATE (16-6)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Notie Pete	4	7-8	15	Larry Bird	11	12-14	34
Doug Jones	0	1-2	1	Harry Morgan	6	2-3	14
Slab Jones	7	2-3	16	DeCarsta Webster	1	0-0	2
Danny Lopez	2	0-1	4	Jim Smith	1	0-0	2
Greg Webb	1	0-0	2	Howie Johnson	8	1-1	17
Mark Temple	4	10-12	18	Brad Miley	1	0-0	2
Cyrus Cormier	7	2-4	16	Richard Johnson	5	0-0	10
Don Dotson	1	0-0	2	Steve Reed	2	0-0	4
				Alan Watson	1	0-0	2
				Leroy Staley	0	0-0	0
				Dan Rutledge	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	26	22-30	74	TOTALS	36	15-18	87
Head Coach: Ken Hayes Team Fouls: 18				Head Coach: Bob King Team Fouls: 25			
Attendance: 8068 Start Time: 7:30pm ET							

	1	2	F
New Mexico State	29	45	74
Indiana State	46	41	87

Game Notes: Bird scored 22 points in the first half but was plagued by foul trouble after halftime.⁴⁰

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Creighton Bluejays

Thursday 02/16/1978 at Civic Auditorium

Omaha, Nebraska

INDIANA STATE (16-7)	FG	FT-A	PTS	CREIGHTON (16-7)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Dan Rutledge	3	3-4	9	Randy Eccker	2	0-0	4
Howie Johnson	1	1-2	3	Jerry Newell	0	0-0	0
DeCarsta Webster	1	0-0	2	John Johnson	7	5-5	19
Steve Reed	2	1-1	5	Kevin McKenna	4	2-2	10
Jim Smith	1	0-0	2	Paul Dinkins	1	0-1	2
Alan Watson	1	0-1	2	Dennis Rasmussen	2	2-2	6
Richard Johnson	0	0-0	0	Paul Trieschman	0	0-0	0
Tom Crowder	1	1-3	3	Kevin Kuehl	6	0-0	12
Harry Morgan	9	2-6	20	Jim Honz	2	0-0	4
Larry Bird	5	1-3	11	David Wesely	4	2-2	10
Brad Miley	0	0-0	0	Rick Apke	6	6-6	18
Leroy Staley	0	0-1	0	Tim McConnell	1	0-0	2
				Bill Butrym	1	0-0	2
				Dan Clausen	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	24	9-21	57	TOTALS	36	17-18	89
Head Coach: Bob King Team Fouls: 19 Technical Fouls: Coach King, Webster, Morgan				Head Coach: Tom Apke Team Fouls: 28			
Attendance: 9158 Start Time: 8:30pm ET							

	1	2	F
Indiana State	28	29	57
Creighton	40	49	89

Game Notes: Several members of the Sycamores, including Bird, were suffering from the flu...⁴¹ Freshman shooting guard Kevin McKenna averaged just under 9 points a game, but developed into a 16 point per game scorer by his junior and senior years. McKenna was drafted by the Los Angeles Lakers in 1981; he played 243 games in the NBA over six seasons with the Lakers, Pacers, Bullets, and Nets.

Drake Bulldogs vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Saturday 02/18/1978 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

DRAKE (4-20)	FG	FT-A	PTS	INDIANA STATE (17-7)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Gregory Johns	2	0-0	4	Larry Bird	7	0-1	14
Ernie Banks	6	2-2	14	Harry Morgan	12	9-10	33
Chad Nelson	3	0-0	6	DeCarsta Webster	2	1-2	5
Wayne Kreklow	7	4-4	18	Jim Smith	0	0-0	0
Napoleon Gaither	4	3-4	11	Howie Johnson	0	4-4	4
Earl May	1	0-0	2	Brad Miley	4	0-0	8
Jeff Hill	2	0-0	4	Richard Johnson	3	1-2	7
Tom Egli	0	0-0	0	Steve Reed	1	1-2	3
Dave Johnson	3	0-0	6	Leroy Staley	0	0-0	0
Mike Thorpe	3	0-0	6	Dan Rutledge	2	2-5	6
				Tom Crowder	2	2-2	6
				Alan Watson	2	0-0	4
TOTALS	31	9-10	71	TOTALS	35	20-28	90
Head Coach: Bob Ortegel Team Fouls: 21 Technical Fouls: Drake bench 2				Head Coach: Bob King Team Fouls: 13			
Attendance: 9095 Start Time: 7:30pm ET							

	1	2	F
Drake	40	31	71
Indiana State	43	47	90

Game Notes: Season-high 33 points for Harry Morgan, a 6-7 senior forward who had transferred from Vincennes University (junior college) prior to the 1976-77 season. The second-leading scorer for Indiana State during his two seasons, Morgan would be drafted by the San Antonio Spurs in the sixth round of the 1978 NBA Draft. Morgan, a 1974 graduate of Anderson (Indiana) Madison Heights High School, served as a teacher's assistant and won the school's pizza eating contest during their celebration of the Madison County Sesquicentennial Year (150th anniversary) during his senior year...⁴² This was Drake's twelfth straight loss, a streak that began against the Sycamores back on January 14.

Wichita State Shockers vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Monday 02/20/1978 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

WICHITA STATE (11-13)	FG	FT-A	PTS	INDIANA STATE (18-7)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Cheese Johnson	4	5-6	13	Larry Bird	13	9-11	35
Ray Shirley	5	0-0	10	Harry Morgan	6	0-0	12
Steve Kalocinski	4	1-2	9	DeCarsta Webster	3	1-3	7
Charlie Brent	6	4-4	16	Jim Smith	0	0-1	0
Lawrence Howell	1	2-2	4	Brad Miley	2	0-0	4
John Kobar	0	0-0	0	Steve Reed	3	0-0	6
Johnny Taylor	0	0-0	0	Dan Rutledge	2	4-5	8
Bob Trogele	1	0-0	2	Leroy Staley	0	0-0	0
Bruce Smith	0	0-0	0	Howie Johnson	0	0-0	0
Tyrone Aughburns	1	0-0	2				
TOTALS	22	12-14	56	TOTALS	29	14-20	72

Head Coach: Harry Miller Team Fouls: 17	Head Coach: Bob King Team Fouls: 11
Attendance: 8109 Start Time: 7:30pm ET	

	1	2	F
Wichita State	36	20	56
Indiana State	40	32	72

Game Notes: Larry Bird shot 13 for 18 from the floor as he rebounded from a bout with the flu.⁴³

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Bradley Braves

Saturday 02/25/1978 at Robertson Memorial Field House

Peoria, Illinois

INDIANA STATE (19-7)	FG	FT-A	PTS	BRADLEY (13-13)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Harry Morgan	9	2-2	20	Ken Garrett	5	0-0	10
Larry Bird	9	6-6	24	Dennis Smith	0	0-0	0
DeCarsta Webster	1	0-0	2	Alex Mazeika	10	3-5	23
Jim Smith	0	2-2	2	Bobby Humbles	7	3-3	17
Brad Miley	2	0-0	4	Roger Phegley	4	6-7	14
Richard Johnson	4	2-2	10	Harold McMath	0	2-2	2
Dan Rutledge	1	4-4	6	Clarence Jones	0	0-0	0
Steve Reed	1	4-4	6	Robert Jenkins	0	2-2	2
Howie Johnson	0	0-0	0	Dan Ruffin	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	27	20-20	74	TOTALS	26	16-19	68
Head Coach: Bob King Team Fouls: 24 Technical Fouls: Morgan				Head Coach: Joe Stowell Team Fouls: 25			
Attendance: 7300 Start Time: 8:30pm ET							

	1	2	F
Indiana State	36	38	74
Bradley	33	35	68

Game Notes: Indiana State ended their regular season with an 11-5 conference record, tied with Southern Illinois for the second-best mark behind Creighton (12-4). The Sycamores were seeded third in the upcoming MVC Tournament.

West Texas State Buffaloes vs. Indiana State Sycamores

MVC Tournament First Round

Monday 02/27/1978 at Civic Auditorium

Omaha, Nebraska

WEST TEXAS STATE (8-19)	FG	FT-A	PTS	INDIANA STATE (20-7)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Carl Johnson	1	0-0	2	Larry Bird	11	5-6	27
Reed Addison	7	3-4	17	Harry Morgan	10	1-2	21
Larry Cunningham	2	2-3	6	DeCarsta Webster	1	0-0	2
Maurice Cheeks	10	8-11	28	Jim Smith	2	0-0	4
Dan Elmer	3	2-2	8	Brad Miley	1	0-0	2
Dave Keller	0	0-0	0	Richard Johnson	5	3-4	13
Tony Ellis	2	6-7	10	Dan Rutledge	2	0-1	4
Mike Lorenc	0	0-0	0	Howie Johnson	3	0-1	6
				Steve Reed	0	2-4	2
				Tom Crowder	2	0-0	4
				Leroy Staley	1	3-4	5
				Alan Watson	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	25	21-27	71	TOTALS	38	14-22	90

Head Coach: Ron Ekker Team Fouls: 17 Technical Fouls: Johnson, West Texas State bench 2	Head Coach: Bob King Team Fouls: 23
Attendance: 5579	

	1	2	F
West Texas State	27	44	71
Indiana State	40	50	90

Game Notes: Point guard Maurice Cheeks ended his career at West Texas State with this game. Cheeks was the school's all-time leader in assists (and second in points), then quarterbacked the Philadelphia 76ers offense during several memorable games against Larry Bird and the Boston Celtics.

Bradley Braves vs. Indiana State Sycamores

MVC Tournament Second Round

Wednesday 03/01/1978 at Civic Auditorium

Omaha, Nebraska

BRADLEY (14-14)	FG	FT-A	PTS	INDIANA STATE (21-7)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Harold McMath	0	2-2	2	Larry Bird	15	3-3	33
Ken Garrett	5	0-0	10	Harry Morgan	11	4-5	26
Alex Mazeika	7	2-2	16	DeCarsta Webster	0	3-6	3
Roger Phegley	15	0-0	30	Jim Smith	1	0-0	2
Bobby Humbles	8	5-5	21	Brad Miley	3	0-1	6
Dennis Smith	0	0-0	0	Richard Johnson	2	1-2	5
Terry Laaker	0	0-0	0	Dan Rutledge	3	4-4	10
Rick Malnati	0	0-0	0	Howie Johnson	0	0-0	0
Tom Prusator	0	0-0	0	Steve Reed	1	1-2	3
Robert Jenkins	1	0-0	2				
TOTALS	36	9-9	81	TOTALS	36	16-23	88
Head Coach: Joe Stowell Team Fouls: 22				Head Coach: Bob King Team Fouls: 16 Technical Fouls: Bird			
Attendance: 8960							

	1	2	F
Bradley	41	40	81
Indiana State	43	45	88

Game Notes: Roger Phegley scored 30 points in the final game of this college career; his 27.6 average was second only to Larry Bird among MVC players. Phegley's career total of 2064 points was 89 points clear of Chet Walker's former school record. Phegley, a 6'6" shooting guard, would be the Washington Bullets' first-round selection in the NBA Draft, and spent the next seven years in the league, playing for the Bullets, Cavaliers, Spurs, Nets, and Mavericks... Coach Joe Stowell was relieved of his coaching duties after the game.⁴⁴

New Mexico State Aggies vs. Indiana State Sycamores

MVC Tournament Semifinal

Friday 03/03/1978 at Civic Auditorium

Omaha, Nebraska

NEW MEXICO STATE (22-10)	FG	FT-A	PTS	INDIANA STATE (22-7)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Robert Gunn	4	4-4	12	Larry Bird	16	8-9	40
Cyrus Cormier	5	7-9	17	Harry Morgan	5	0-0	10
Slab Jones	9	0-1	18	DeCarsta Webster	1	2-2	4

Danny Lopez	5	4-4	14	Jim Smith	0	0-0	0
Greg Webb	2	2-2	6	Brad Miley	3	1-6	7
Kenny Hayes	0	0-0	0	Richard Johnson	5	0-0	10
Bill Myers	0	0-0	0	Dan Rutledge	1	5-6	7
Micah Owens	3	3-4	9	Howie Johnson	0	0-0	0
Notie Pate	1	0-0	2	Steve Reed	0	2-2	2
TOTALS	29	20-24	78	TOTALS	31	18-25	80
Head Coach: Ken Hayes Team Fouls: 25				Head Coach: Bob King Team Fouls: 22			
Attendance: 9687							

	1	2	OT	OT2	F
New Mexico State	40	26	6	6	78
Indiana State	35	31	6	8	80

Game Notes: Larry Bird hit two free throws to seal the double-overtime victory.⁴⁵

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Creighton Bluejays

MVC Tournament Final

Sunday 03/05/1978 at Civic Auditorium

Omaha, Nebraska

INDIANA STATE (22-8)	FG	FT-A	PTS	CREIGHTON (19-8)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Larry Bird	11	7-8	29	Rick Apke	6	1-2	13
Harry Morgan	6	2-2	14	Kevin McKenna	2	0-0	4
DeCarsta Webster	2	0-0	4	David Wesely	2	2-2	6
Brad Miley	0	0-0	0	John Johnson	8	3-3	19
Jim Smith	1	0-0	2	Randy Eccker	2	0-0	4
Steve Reed	1	0-0	2	Kevin Kuehl	4	0-0	8
Alan Watson	0	1-2	1				
Dan Rutledge	0	0-0	0				
TOTALS	21	10-12	52	TOTALS	24	6-7	54
Head Coach: Bob King Team Fouls: 16				Head Coach: Tom Apke Team Fouls: 16 Technical Fouls: Coach Apke			
Attendance: 9054							

	1	2	F
Indiana State	32	20	52
Creighton	24	30	54

Game Notes: Creighton, as the #1 seed in the nine-team MVC, had a bye all the way into the championship game, which they hosted. Rick Apke, the son of head coach Tom Apke, hit the game-winning jumper with two seconds remaining; Apke would be selected in the third round of the 1978 NBA Draft by the Washington Bullets... Larry Bird played with a sore back; one of his teammates had jumped on him while they were relaxing at the team hotel. Bird was in enough pain that he needed to get treatment at an Omaha hospital less than an hour before the game...⁴⁶ Creighton earned the MVC's automatic NCAA tournament bid.

Illinois State Redbirds vs. Indiana State Sycamores

NIT First Round

Friday 03/10/1978 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

ILLINOIS STATE (24-4)	FG	FT-A	PTS		INDIANA STATE (23-8)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Billy Lewis	6	6-8	18		Larry Bird	12	3-6	27
Del Yarbrough	4	0-0	8		Harry Morgan	9	0-0	18
Joe Galvin	7	1-3	15		DeCarsta Webster	4	0-0	8
Ron Jones	8	0-0	16		Jim Smith	0	0-0	0
Derrick Mayes	1	0-0	2		Brad Miley	6	0-0	12
Rick Ferina	0	2-2	2		Richard Johnson	2	0-3	4
Larry Lowe	2	0-0	4		Dan Rutledge	1	0-0	2
Randy Smithson	2	2-2	6		Steve Reed	0	0-0	0
					Howie Johnson	1	0-0	2
					Alan Watson	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	30	11-17	71		TOTALS	35	3-9	73
Head Coach: Gene Smithson					Head Coach: Bob King			
Team Fouls: 14					Team Fouls: 14			
Attendance: 10150								

	1	2	F
Illinois State	39	32	71
Indiana State	44	29	73

Game Notes: Season-high 12 points for Brad Miley. Ron Jones had a chance to tie the game but missed an 18-footer at the buzzer.⁴⁷

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Rutgers Scarlet Knights

NIT Quarterfinal

Tuesday 03/14/1978 at Rutgers Athletic Center

Piscataway, New Jersey

INDIANA STATE (23-9)	FG	FT-A	PTS		RUTGERS (23-6)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Harry Morgan	8	2-2	18		Abdel Anderson	6	4-5	16
Larry Bird	10	3-3	23		Hollis Copeland	6	0-0	12
DeCarsta Webster	1	0-0	2		James Bailey	6	1-2	13
Jim Smith	3	0-0	6		Steve Hefele	0	0-0	0
Brad Miley	1	1-2	3		Rodney Duncan	4	0-0	8
Dan Rutledge	1	0-0	2		Tom Brown	1	0-2	2
Howie Johnson	0	0-0	0		Kelvin Troy	1	4-5	6
Steve Reed	1	0-0	2					
Richard Johnson	0	0-2	0					
TOTALS	25	6-9	56		TOTALS	24	9-14	57
Head Coach: Bob King					Head Coach: Tom Young			
Team Fouls: 15					Team Fouls: 16			
Attendance: 5700 Start Time: 7:30pm ET								

	1	2	F
Indiana State	28	28	56
Rutgers	30	27	57

Game Notes: Bird and King both loudly protested the lack of foul call on Bird on the final play of the game, then Bird tangled with a Rutgers fan on the way to the locker room...⁴⁸ James Bailey, who hit the game-winning shot with 17 seconds left, was a teammate of Larry Bird on the United States team that won the gold medal at the World University Games in Sofia, Bulgaria during the summer of 1977. The team also played some warm-up exhibitions in Italy and Yugoslavia, giving Bird his first taste of life outside the United States.⁴⁹ (Bird did not enjoy the experience; asked upon returning what his favorite moment of the trip was, he responded, "Landing at the Terre Haute airport when I came home."⁵⁰) The World University Games began in 1965 and were held four times between 1965 and 1973, with the United States winning gold three times, and finishing second to the Soviet Union in 1970. Since 1977, the Games are now held every other year.⁵¹

1977-78 Missouri Valley Conference

ALL GAMES	W	L	Pct
Indiana State Sycamores	23	9	.719
Creighton Bluejays	19	9	.678
Southern Illinois Salukis	17	10	.630
New Mexico State Aggies	15	14	.517
Bradley Braves	14	14	.500
Wichita State Shockers	13	14	.481
Tulsa Golden Hurricane	9	18	.333
West Texas State Buffaloes	8	19	.296
Drake Bulldogs	6	22	.214

CONFERENCE GAMES ONLY	W	L	Pct
Creighton Bluejays	12	4	.750
Southern Illinois Salukis	11	5	.688
Indiana State Sycamores	11	5	.688
New Mexico State Aggies	9	7	.562
Bradley Braves	8	8	.500
Wichita State Shockers	8	8	.500
Tulsa Golden Hurricane	7	9	.438
West Texas State Buffaloes	4	12	.250
Drake Bulldogs	2	14	.125

All-Missouri Valley Conference Selections

FIRST TEAM					PPG	SECOND TEAM					PPG
G	Roger Phegley	Bradley	6-7	Sr	27.6	G	Wayne Abrams	Southern Illinois	6-6	So	12.0
G	Maurice Cheeks	West Texas State	6-0	Sr	16.8	G	Wayne Kreklow	Drake	6-4	Jr	15.2
C	Slab Jones	New Mexico State	6-7	So	14.3	C	Alex Mazeika	Bradley	6-9	Sr	16.8
C	Gary Wilson	Southern Illinois	6-8	Jr	19.0						
F	Rick Apke	Creighton	6-8	Sr	18.3	F	Cheese Johnson	Wichita State	6-5	Jr	19.0
F	Larry Bird	Indiana State	6-9	Jr	30.0	F	Harry Morgan	Indiana State	6-7	Sr	18.6

MVC Tournament Results⁵²

First Round

- (9) Drake 75, (2) Southern Illinois 59
- (4) New Mexico State 76, (7) Tulsa 75
- (5) Bradley 75, (6) Wichita State 71
- (3) Indiana State 90, (8) West Texas State 71

Second Round

- (4) New Mexico State 90, (9) Drake 73
- (3) Indiana State 88, (5) Bradley 81

Semifinals

- (3) Indiana State 80, (4) New Mexico State 78 (2OT)

Finals

- (1) Creighton 54, (3) Indiana State 52

1978-79 Indiana State Sycamores (33-1)

Larry Bird, Game-by-Game

Date	Opponent			Larry Bird			Postseason Notes
				Pts	Reb	Ast	
11/25/1978	Lawrence	W	99-56	25	12	10	
11/27/1978	at Purdue	W	63-53	22	15	4	
12/2/1978	at Evansville	W	74-70	40	12	2	
12/4/1978	Illinois State	W	78-76	31	19	6	
12/8/1978	vs East Carolina	W	102-79	32	9	3	
12/9/1978	vs Cleveland State	W	102-71	37	15	5	
12/12/1978	at Ball State	W	93-85	31	14	4	
12/16/1978	Butler	W	109-71	48	19	5	
12/30/1978	Morris Harvey	W	99-63	34	15	6	
1/3/1979	Tulsa	W	101-89	27	19	6	
1/6/1979	at West Texas State	W	98-77	32	20	2	
1/9/1979	North Carolina A&T	W	83-64	26	16	7	
1/13/1979	Bradley	W	93-74	27	18	10	
1/15/1979	New Mexico State	W	73-69	24	13	6	
1/18/1979	at Wichita State	W	94-84	31	11	12	
1/20/1979	at Creighton	W	90-80	29	10	6	
1/22/1979	Southern Illinois	W	88-79	31	17	8	
1/27/1979	Creighton	W	77-69	17	15	9	
2/1/1979	at New Mexico State	W	91-89 ot	37	17	9	
2/3/1979	at Tulsa	W	66-56	22	22	2	
2/6/1979	Drake	W	100-79	33	10	10	
2/10/1979	at Bradley	W	91-72	4	11	2	
2/12/1979	West Texas State	W	100-75	27	19	5	
2/15/1979	at Southern Illinois	W	69-68	20	14	6	
2/20/1979	at Drake	W	76-68	27	9	7	
2/25/1979	Wichita State	W	109-84	49	19	2	
2/27/1979	West Texas State	W	94-84	29	15	?	MVC Tournament
3/1/1979	Southern Illinois	W	79-72	25	19	5	MVC Tournament
3/3/1979	New Mexico State	W	69-59	20	10	?	MVC Tournament
3/11/1979	vs Virginia Tech	W	86-69	22	13	7	NCAA Sub-Regional
3/15/1979	vs Oklahoma	W	93-72	29	15	5	NCAA Sub-Regional
3/17/1979	vs Arkansas	W	73-71	31	10	3	NCAA Midwest Regional
3/24/1979	vs DePaul	W	76-74	35	16	9	NCAA Final Four
3/26/1979	vs Michigan State	L	64-75	19	13	2	NCAA Natl. Championship

Note: Bird led team in points and rebounds in every game except for those shown in blue. Games against MVC opponents are also highlighted in blue.

Lawrence Vikings vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Saturday 11/25/1978 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

LAWRENCE (0-1)	FG	FT-A	PTS	INDIANA STATE (1-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Dave Klaeser	1	0-1	2	Alex Gilbert	9	0-2	18
Jeff White	0	3-4	3	Brad Miley	2	1-2	5
Rob Cohen	1	6-8	8	Larry Bird	12	1-2	25
Mike Fogel	7	4-4	18	Carl Nicks	12	3-4	27
Brian Fenhaus	1	0-1	2	Steve Reed	1	0-0	2
Chuck Wood	0	0-0	0	Leroy Staley	3	2-3	8
Dave Knopp	2	0-0	4	Bob Heaton	2	0-1	4
Stu Hopfensperger	2	4-4	8	Bob Ritter	0	0-0	0
Ray Smith	2	2-2	6	Scott Turner	2	0-0	4
Jim Piotrowski	1	3-4	5	Rod McNelly	0	0-0	0
Jeff Wisser	0	0-0	0	Rich Nemcek	2	0-0	4
				Tom Crowder	0	2-2	2
				Eric Curry	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	17	22-28	56	TOTALS	45	9-16	99
Head Coach: Bob Kastner Team Fouls: 19				Head Coach: Bill Hodges Team Fouls: 24			
Attendance: 8476 Start Time: 7:30pm ET							

	1	2	F
Lawrence	24	32	56
Indiana State	47	52	99

Game Notes: This was Bill Hodges first game as a college head coach. Bob King had a history of heart trouble that led him to leave the bench in 1972 after 10 years (and a 172-89 record) as the head coach at the University of New Mexico.⁵³ King became assistant athletic director, but when he was not promoted in 1974, King left New Mexico to take the athletic director position at Indiana State.⁵⁴ A year later, he fired ISU head coach Gordon Stauffer and added that position to his responsibilities, and hired Stan Evans as an assistant with the expectation that Evans would take over as head coach in two years. But Bird's arrival caused King to change his plans — he enjoyed coaching a winning team too much. However, King then suffered a heart attack in July 1978, followed by a brain aneurism in October, and he decided to step down from coaching temporarily instead of permanently. Worried that Evans would not accept an interim title (or give the job back to King once he recovered) King tapped assistant Bill Hodges for the interim role on October 11. Evans then resigned, and the top assistant's role was handed to Mel Daniels, who had been hired as an assistant earlier that summer; Daniels had played for King at New Mexico and won two ABA MVP awards and three ABA championships as a member of the Indiana Pacers...⁵⁵ Lawrence (Wisconsin) competed in Division III.

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Purdue Boilermakers

Monday 11/27/1978 at Mackey Arena

West Lafayette, Indiana

INDIANA STATE (2-0)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	A	PF	PTS	PURDUE (1-1)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	A	PF	PTS
Brad Miley	3-3	0-0	1	0	5	6	Steve Walker	1-3	0-0	2	0	4	2
Alex Gilbert	4-12	0-2	5	0	4	8	Mike Searce	3-16	0-0	1	1	0	6
Larry Bird	6-17	10-10	15	4	1	22	Joe Barry Carroll	10-20	2-3	14	1	3	22
Steve Reed	2-5	3-4	2	4	3	7	Jerry Sighting	4-7	1-2	7	5	5	9
Carl Nicks	4-13	4-7	7	1	4	12	Brian Walker	2-4	0-0	5	2	5	4
Bob Heaton	2-6	2-2	4	2	2	6	Arnette Hallman	2-3	4-7	3	2	0	8
Leroy Staley	1-4	0-0	3	0	0	2	Neil Bemenderfer	1-2	0-0	1	0	2	2
Rich Nemcek	0-1	0-0	0	0	1	0	Drake Morris	0-4	0-1	3	0	3	0

							Keith Edmonson	0-1	0-1	0	0	2	0
							Roosevelt Barnes	0-0	0-0	2	0	1	0
TOTALS	22-61	19-25	44	11	20	63	TOTALS	23-60	7-14	45	11	25	53
Head Coach: Bill Hodges							Head Coach: Lee Rose						
Team Rebounds: 7							Team Rebounds: 7						
Attendance: 14123 Start Time: 7:35pm ET													
Referees: Art White, Carroll Crosby													

	1	2	F
Indiana State	28	35	63
Purdue	28	25	53

Game Notes: Larry Bird spent the evening guarding senior center Joe Barry Carroll. “Who else would you put on him? There’s not a better defensive man in the country,” Coach Hodges said after the game.⁵⁶ Carroll would be drafted first overall in the 1979 NBA Draft by the Golden State Warriors after the Warriors sent Robert Parish and the third overall pick to the Boston Celtics. Guard Jerry Sichting was taken in the fourth round by Indiana and later played parts of three seasons alongside Bird in Boston.

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Evansville Purple Aces

Saturday 12/02/1978 at Roberts Municipal Stadium

Evansville, Indiana

NDIANA STATE (3-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS		EVANSVILLE (0-3)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Alex Gilbert	2	0-3	4		Scott Anderson	4	1-2	9
Brad Miley	0	1-3	1		Theren Bullock	1	4-4	6
Larry Bird	16	8-9	40		Barry Weston	9	2-2	20
Carl Nicks	5	2-5	12		Mike Watley	5	0-0	10
Steve Reed	0	2-2	2		Eric Harris	5	4-6	14
Bob Heaton	2	0-0	4		Randy Okrzesik	0	1-2	1
Leroy Staley	4	3-4	11		Eddie Lane	0	0-0	0
					Jim Hallstrom	2	2-2	6
					Scott Kelley	0	0-0	0
					Larry Olsthoorn	2	0-0	4
TOTALS	29	16-26	74		TOTALS	28	14-18	70
Head Coach: Bill Hodges					Head Coach: Dick Walters			
Team Fouls: 21					Team Fouls: 25			
Attendance: 12488 Start Time: 8:35pm ET								

	1	2	F
Indiana State	36	38	74
Evansville	30	40	70

Game Notes: Dick Walters, a long-time Illinois junior college coach, took on the challenge of rebuilding the Evansville program after the 1977 plane crash that claimed the lives of nearly the entire team. Prior to their season opener, Walters told reporters: “We’ll never forget what happened here, but we can’t allow ourselves to be buried with it. Life goes on and the greatest tribute we can give to last year’s team is to build our program back up as quickly as possible.”⁵⁷ Due to the tragedy, the NCAA allowed transfer students to play immediately, and Walters and his staff brought in center Larry Olsthoorn from Iowa, guard Mike Watley from Arkansas, and forward Scott Anderson from Kansas to form the core of their starting lineup... Alex Gilbert’s brother had recently been murdered in East St. Louis, Illinois, but Gilbert decided to continue playing.⁵⁸

Illinois State Redbirds vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Monday 12/04/1978 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

ILLINOIS STATE (0-1)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	PF	PTS	INDIANA STATE (4-0)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	PF	PTS
Del Yarbrough	3-9	0-1	3	4	6	Alex Gilbert	1-11	2-4	7	2	4
Rick Ferina	4-6	0-0	3	5	8	Brad Miley	2-4	0-0	6	0	4
Joe Galvin	5-8	0-2	13	5	10	Larry Bird	12-25	7-7	19	2	31
Ron Jones	13-23	6-6	5	5	32	Carl Nicks	7-14	9-12	2	4	23
Derrick Mayes	7-12	2-2	1	4	16	Steve Reed	0-3	0-0	0	4	0
Dale White	0-1	1-2	0	0	1	Leroy Staley	1-2	0-0	0	4	2
McKay Smith	1-3	1-3	5	5	3	Bob Heaton	4-8	2-2	5	2	10
						Rich Nemcek	2-4	0-1	2	4	4
TOTALS	33-62	10-16	36	26	76	TOTALS	29-71	20-26	41	22	78
Head Coach: Bob Donewald						Head Coach: Bill Hodges					
Attendance: 10189 Start Time: 7:30pm ET											
Referees: Bill Reising, Tim Brown											

	1	2	F
Illinois State	35	41	76
Indiana State	38	40	78

Game Notes: Illinois State led for most of the game until Bird completed a three-point play in the final minute. "I knew they had to go to him," Illinois State forward Rick Ferina said afterward, "and I still couldn't hold him."⁵⁹

East Carolina Pirates vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Hatter Classic Semifinals

Friday 12/08/1978 at Edmunds Center

Deland, Florida

EAST CAROLINA (2-3)	FG	FT-A	PTS	INDIANA STATE (5-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Clarence Miles	3	0-1	6	Carl Nicks	5	3-4	13
George Maynor	4	3-3	11	Alex Gilbert	3	1-2	7
Walter Moseley	1	7-8	9	Larry Bird	15	2-2	32
Herb Gray	2	3-7	7	Steve Reed	3	2-2	8
Greg Cornelius	6	5-5	17	Brad Miley	2	1-3	5
Oliver Mack	7	1-1	15	Leroy Staley	4	2-4	10
Frank Hobson	1	2-2	4	Bob Heaton	2	0-0	4
Kyle Powers	0	2-2	2	Tom Crowder	2	3-5	7
Herb Krusen	2	4-6	8	Rich Nemcek	4	0-2	8
				Rod McNelly	0	0-1	0
				Scott Turner	3	0-0	6
				Bob Ritter	1	0-0	2
TOTALS	26	27-35	79	TOTALS	44	14-25	102
Head Coach: Larry Gillman				Head Coach: Bill Hodges			
Team Fouls: 29				Team Fouls: 26			
				Technical Fouls: Nicks, Gilbert			
Attendance: 3510							

	1	2	F
East Carolina	31	48	79
Indiana State	57	45	102

Game Notes: Bird scored 26 of his points in the first half and rested for most of the rest of the game.⁶⁰ Pirates shooting guard Oliver "Ollie" Mack would be drafted by the Los Angeles Lakers the following summer and played three seasons in the NBA... Tom Crowder was not recruited to play basketball, but

impressed Bob King with his prowess in track & field, particularly in the high jump, where he once recorded a jump of 6 feet, 10-and-a-half inches.⁶¹

Cleveland State Vikings vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Hatter Classic Championship

Saturday 12/09/1978 at Edmunds Center

Deland, Florida

CLEVELAND STATE (4-2)	FG	FT-A	PTS		INDIANA STATE (6-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Robert Carman	3	0-1	6		Carl Nicks	15	1-1	31
Scott Rose	1	0-0	2		Alex Gilbert	5	0-2	10
Darren Tillis	5	2-4	12		Larry Bird	15	7-9	37
Greg Cobb	7	0-2	14		Steve Reed	0	0-0	0
Franklin Edwards	7	6-10	20		Brad Miley	1	1-4	3
Andre Battle	2	0-0	4		Leroy Staley	3	0-0	6
Ron Harris	0	1-2	1		Bob Heaton	2	0-0	4
Mike Sweeney	0	1-3	1		Tom Crowder	1	0-1	2
Carl Roberson	1	0-0	2		Rich Nemcek	1	0-0	2
Stan Quirk	1	2-2	4		Rod McNelly	0	0-0	0
Paul Roba	0	0-0	0		Scott Turner	1	1-3	3
Tom Kincaid	2	0-0	4		Bob Ritter	2	0-0	4
Jeff Kostohryz	0	1-2	1					
TOTALS	29	13-26	71		TOTALS	46	10-20	102
Head Coach: Ray Dieringer					Head Coach: Bill Hodges			
Team Fouls: 20					Team Fouls: 26			
Attendance: 3000								

	1	2	F
Cleveland State	38	33	71
Indiana State	50	52	102

Game Notes: Season-high 31 points for junior point guard Carl Nicks, the Chicago-native who had played alongside Bird as a freshman during the 1976-77 season but then spent a year at the Gulf Coast Community College in Florida. "I didn't want to go," Nicks said later this season, "but I realize now I learned how to control myself on the floor."⁶² Sophomore point guard Franklin Edwards was later drafted in the first round by the Philadelphia 76ers and backed up Maurice Cheeks on the 76ers 1983 title team; he played seven years in the NBA. Bird's 15 rebounds contributed to a 61-39 edge on the boards for the Sycamores.⁶³

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Ball State Cardinals

Tuesday 12/12/1978 at University Gym

Muncie, Indiana

INDIANA STATE (7-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS		BALL STATE (4-2)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Alex Gilbert	3	0-0	6		George Bradley	10	4-10	24
Brad Miley	3	2-2	8		Mike Drews	2	2-2	6
Larry Bird	11	9-10	31		Randy Boarden	4	1-1	9
Carl Nicks	10	2-2	22		Dwayne Irvin	1	2-2	4
Steve Reed	4	2-2	10		Jim Hahn	4	2-2	10
Bob Heaton	3	0-1	6		Jeff Williams	7	7-9	21
Leroy Staley	3	3-6	9		Dave Weimer	1	0-0	2
Rich Nemcek	0	1-2	1		Clement Murrell	0	3-5	3
Tom Crowder	0	0-0	0		Paul Kaiser	2	0-1	4
					Mark Thurston	1	0-0	2
TOTALS	37	19-25	93		TOTALS	32	21-32	85
Head Coach: Bill Hodges					Head Coach: Steve Yoder			

Team Fouls: 29	Team Fouls: 26
Attendance: 6880 Start Time: 7:30pm ET	

	1	2	F
Indiana State	38	55	93
Ball State	29	56	85

Game Notes: Randy Boarden would become the second-leading scorer in Ball State history during his senior season in 1978-79, finishing with 1290 points (Jim Regenold scored 1685 a decade earlier). Two years later, George Bradley would wrap up his career with 1010 points, good enough for ninth place in team history.

Butler Bulldogs vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Saturday 12/16/1978 at Hulman Civic University Center
Terre Haute, Indiana

BUTLER (2-6)	FG	FT-A	PTS	INDIANA STATE (8-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Gary Raker	5	0-0	10	Alex Gilbert	3	0-0	6
Joe Maloney	6	1-2	13	Brad Miley	0	0-1	0
Mike Miller	5	0-1	10	Larry Bird	19	10-12	48
Doug Mitchell	5	2-2	12	Carl Nicks	7	5-6	19
Tom Orner	6	3-4	15	Steve Reed	3	0-0	6
Todd Licklitter	0	0-0	0	Leroy Staley	1	2-2	4
Jerry Dale	1	2-3	4	Bob Heaton	3	2-2	8
John Carr	0	0-0	0	Rich Nemcek	1	0-0	2
Steve Hutson	2	1-3	5	Scott Turner	5	1-2	11
Andy Sexson	0	0-1	0	Tom Crowder	1	0-0	2
Brian Harmsen	0	0-0	0	Bob Ritter	1	1-2	3
Larry Lubs	0	2-2	2	Rod McNelly	0	0-1	0
Frank Thomas	0	0-0	0	Eric Curry	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	30	11-18	71	TOTALS	44	21-28	109
Head Coach: Joe Sexson Team Fouls: 23				Head Coach: Bill Hodges Team Fouls: 22			
Attendance: 10153 Start Time: 7:30pm ET							

	1	2	F
Butler	30	41	71
Indiana State	56	53	109

Game Notes: Larry Bird established a new career high in scoring, breaking his old mark of 47, and the Sycamores tied their Hulman Center record for most points in a first half.

Morris Harvey Golden Eagles vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Saturday 12/30/1978 at Hulman Civic University Center
Terre Haute, Indiana

MORRIS HARVEY (?-?)	FG	FT-A	PTS	INDIANA STATE (9-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Joe Lucas	3	0-0	6	Alex Gilbert	5	0-4	10
Rocky McFadden	2	2-3	6	Brad Miley	0	2-4	2
Anthony Young	4	0-0	8	Larry Bird	11	12-13	34
Mike Gibbs	5	0-1	10	Carl Nicks	8	1-4	17
Emil Boatwright	5	2-2	12	Steve Reed	2	1-1	5
George Richardson	2	0-0	4	Bob Heaton	6	0-0	12
Rob Neal	5	1-2	11	Leroy Staley	2	2-2	6
Bob Wehrmeyer	1	0-0	2	Scott Turner	3	0-0	6
Buddy Valinski	1	0-1	2	Rich Nemcek	1	0-0	2
Kelvin Washington	1	0-0	2	Tom Crowder	2	0-0	4

Tom Osborne	0	0-0	0	Bob Ritter	0	0-0	0
				Eric Curry	0	0-2	0
				Rod McNelly	0	1-3	1
TOTALS	29	5-9	63	TOTALS	40	19-33	99
Head Coach: Rick Meckfessel Team Fouls: 24 Technical Fouls: Young, Morris Harvey bench				Head Coach: Bill Hodges Team Fouls: 16 Technical Fouls: Staley			
Attendance: 10184 Start Time: 7:30pm ET							

	1	2	F
Morris Harvey	33	30	63
Indiana State	46	53	99

Game Notes: Larry Bird set a new Indiana State career scoring record, breaking Jerry Newsome's old mark of 2147 points...⁶⁴ Morris Harvey College changed their name to the University of Charleston after the end of the 1978-79 season.

Tulsa Golden Hurricane vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Wednesday 01/03/1979 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

TULSA (6-4)	FG	FT-A	PTS	INDIANA STATE (10-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Billy Keys	3	0-0	6	Alex Gilbert	4	1-4	9
Lester Johnson	4	0-0	8	Brad Miley	6	5-6	17
Joe Cooper	6	1-2	13	Larry Bird	10	7-10	27
John Gibson	1	0-0	2	Carl Nicks	8	10-11	26
Terry Sims	2	0-0	4	Steve Reed	1	0-0	2
Russell Sublet	8	2-2	18	Bob Heaton	4	2-2	10
Marcus Peel	5	2-2	12	Leroy Staley	1	6-12	8
Steve McDowell	5	2-2	12	Scott Turner	0	0-0	0
Bob Stevenson	1	0-1	2	Rich Nemcek	0	0-0	0
Chris Cantrell	3	2-2	8	Tom Crowder	0	0-0	0
Ken Beach	1	2-3	4	Bob Ritter	0	0-0	0
Jeff Kovach	0	0-0	0	Rod McNelly	0	0-0	0
				Eric Curry	1	0-0	2
TOTALS	39	11-14	89	TOTALS	35	31-47	101
Head Coach: Jim King Team Fouls: 36				Head Coach: Bill Hodges Team Fouls: 19			
Attendance: 9076 Start Time: 7:30pm ET							

	1	2	F
Tulsa	37	52	89
Indiana State	53	48	101

Game Notes: Season-high 17 points for Brad Miley, a Rushville, Indiana, native who normally filled a defensive role... Sycamores led by as many as 21 points in the second half.⁶⁵

Indiana State Sycamores vs. West Texas State Buffaloes

Saturday 01/06/1979 at Amarillo Civic Center

Canyon, Texas

INDIANA STATE (11-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS	WEST TEXAS STATE (5-7)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Larry Bird	11	10-10	32	Winston Nicholas	4	1-2	9
Brad Miley	2	2-4	6	Carl Johnson	3	1-2	7
Alex Gilbert	4	1-5	9	George Sims	2	1-2	5
Steve Reed	3	0-0	6	Dave Wilburn	7	0-0	14
Carl Nicks	10	6-8	26	Dan Elmer	9	3-5	21

Bob Heaton	1	2-2	4	Eddie Harris	3	1-2	7
Leroy Staley	1	8-11	10	Eurskine Robinson	3	0-1	6
Rich Nemcek	1	1-2	3	Keith Gladney	2	0-0	4
Eric Curry	1	0-0	2	Mike Lorenc	1	2-2	4
Scott Turner	0	0-0	0	Bart Cadenhead	0	0-0	0
Tom Crowder	0	0-0	0				
Rod McNelly	0	0-0	0				
TOTALS	34	30-42	98	TOTALS	34	9-18	77
Head Coach: Bill Hodges Team Fouls: 19				Head Coach: Ken Edwards Team Fouls: 28 Technical Fouls: Edwards			
Attendance: 4575 Start Time: 8:30pm ET							

	1	2	F
Indiana State	45	53	98
West Texas State	38	39	77

Game Notes: Indiana State outrebounded West Texas State 54-48 and used a large free throw advantage to win easily... Both teams made 34 of 81 field goals... Larry Bird scored 18 of his points and collected 11 rebounds in the first half.⁶⁶

North Carolina A&T Aggies vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Tuesday 01/09/1979 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

NORTH CAROLINA A&T (4-5)	FG	FT-A	PTS	INDIANA STATE (12-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Harold Royster	4	0-0	8	Larry Bird	9	8-11	26
Michael Hester	3	0-0	6	Alex Gilbert	4	3-6	11
Marvin Brown	3	0-0	6	Brad Miley	3	0-0	6
James Sparrow	6	1-2	13	Carl Nicks	8	0-2	16
Joe Brawner	10	3-3	23	Steve Reed	3	0-0	6
Brian Graham	0	0-0	0	Leroy Staley	3	6-7	12
David Craft	1	0-0	2	Bob Heaton	2	0-1	4
Kim Butler	1	4-4	6	Scott Turner	0	0-0	0
Steve Cassell	0	0-0	0	Rich Nemcek	0	0-0	0
Tyrone Edwards	0	0-0	0	Tom Crowder	0	0-0	0
				Bob Ritter	0	0-0	0
				Eric Curry	1	0-0	2
				Rod McNelly	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	28	8-9	64	TOTALS	33	17-27	83
Head Coach: Gene Littles Team Fouls: 25 Technical Fouls: Hester, Brawner 2				Head Coach: Bill Hodges Team Fouls: 15			
Attendance: 9336 Start Time: 7:30pm ET							

	1	2	F
North Carolina A&T	22	42	64
Indiana State	44	39	83

Game Notes: Larry Bird made just 9 of 26 shots but Gene Littles was still effusive in his praise after the game: "Bird just does things that a 6-foot-9 player shouldn't be able to. He doesn't have to score to help this team. He's such as excellent passer and strong rebounder."⁶⁷ Littles had played six years in the ABA before becoming an assistant coach at Appalachian State University in 1975, working for Bobby Cremins.⁶⁸ Littles became head coach of North Carolina A&T in the fall of 1977 and spent two years there before joining Tom Nissalke's staff as an assistant for the Utah Jazz;⁶⁹ he was later a head coach for portions of four seasons in the NBA... 6'6" center James Sparrow would be drafted by the Indiana Pacers in the fourth round of the 1978 NBA Draft.⁷⁰

Bradley Braves vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Saturday 01/13/1979 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

BRADLEY (6-8)	FG	FT	PTS	INDIANA STATE (13-0)	FG	FT	PTS
Ken Garrett	3	0	6	Alex Gilbert	4	0	8
Harold McMath	2	0	4	Brad Miley	3	4	10
Robert Jenkins	6	1	13	Larry Bird	9	9	27
Mitchell Anderson	9	8	26	Carl Nicks	11	2	24
Carl Maniscalco	2	0	4	Steve Reed	0	0	0
Ron Lindfors	1	0	2	Leroy Staley	2	4	8
Dan Ruffin	0	2	2	Bob Heaton	2	0	4
James Copeland	2	3	7	Rich Nemcek	1	0	2
Rick Malnati	0	2	2	Scott Turner	1	0	2
Derrick Thomas	3	0	6	Tom Crowder	2	0	4
Brent Wood	0	0	0	Rod McNelly	0	0	0
Tom Prusator	1	0	2	Eric Curry	1	0	2
				Bob Ritter	1	0	2
TOTALS	29	16	74	TOTALS	37	19	93
Head Coach: Dick Versace				Head Coach: Bill Hodges			
Team Fouls: 24				Team Fouls: 21			
Attendance: 10037 Start Time: 7:30pm ET							

	1	2	F
Bradley	31	43	74
Indiana State	48	45	93

Game Notes: Larry Bird shot 9 for 16 from the floor and 9 for 10 from the line...⁷¹ Dick Versace later served as head coach of the Indiana Pacers for parts of three seasons, 1988-89 through 1990-91. Versace, who began his coaching career at Gordon Tech High School in Chicago in 1969, spent 8 years at Bradley and won an NIT championship in 1982.⁷² He served as an assistant coach for Chuck Daly with the Detroit Pistons before moving on to the Pacers. Versace held a variety of NBA-related jobs after that, serving as a television analyst, assistant coach with the Milwaukee Bucks, and president of basketball operations with the Memphis Grizzlies...⁷³ Freshman Mitchell "J.J." Anderson later played portions of three seasons in the NBA.

New Mexico State Aggies vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Monday 01/15/1979 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

NEW MEXICO STATE (11-5)	FG	FT	PTS	INDIANA STATE (14-0)	FG	FT	PTS
Bob Gunn	5	2	12	Alex Gilbert	6	0	12
Cyrus Cormier	7	0	14	Brad Miley	2	1	5
Slab Jones	10	2	22	Larry Bird	10	4	24
Greg Webb	2	0	4	Carl Nicks	9	2	20
Bill Myers	3	0	6	Steve Reed	0	0	0
Notie Pate	1	0	2	Leroy Staley	3	2	8
Chuck Goslin	2	1	5	Bob Heaton	1	2	4
Brian Corrie	2	0	4				
Micah Owens	0	0	0				
Phil Elders	0	0	0				
TOTALS	32	5	69	TOTALS	31	11	73
Head Coach: Ken Hayes				Head Coach: Bill Hodges			
Attendance: 10226 Start Time: 7:30pm ET							

	F
New Mexico State	69
Indiana State	73

Game Notes: Bob Heaton's two free throws gave the Sycamores a 71-69 lead with 19 seconds remaining. New Mexico State stayed close down the stretch despite losing leading scorer Slab Jones, who fouled out with 2:42 left.⁷⁴ Heaton, a native of nearby Cory, Indiana, was Larry Bird's roommate near the ISU campus, and had sat out the previous season after transferring from the University of Denver.⁷⁵ While Heaton had transferred partly because of the lack of success of the Denver program, he was also happy to be back home. During an interview, he spoke in terms that his roommate likely agreed with: "The students here are nicer, more like I'm used to, maybe more country... Since Denver was a private school, there were all different sorts of students, some very rich. Here they're all more alike. And they love basketball here."⁷⁶

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Wichita State Shockers

Thursday 01/18/1979 at Henry Levitt Arena

Wichita, Kansas

INDIANA STATE (15-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS	WICHITA STATE (8-8)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Carl Nicks	8	3-5	19	Richard Williams	5	2-4	12
Steve Reed	1	0-0	2	Roy Shirley	12	3-5	27
Larry Bird	10	11-12	31	Steve Kalocinski	6	0-0	12
Brad Miley	2	4-4	8	Ronnie Ryer	3	1-2	7
Alex Gilbert	5	0-2	10	Bob Trogele	2	0-0	4
Bob Heaton	2	6-6	10	John Kobar	4	4-4	12
Leroy Staley	5	4-7	14	Lawrence Howell	0	0-2	0
				Bruce Smith	0	0-0	0
				Mike Denny	4	0-0	8
				Tyrone Aughtburns	1	0-0	2
TOTALS	33	28-36	94	TOTALS	37	10-17	84
Head Coach: Bill Hodges Team Fouls: 21				Head Coach: Gene Smithson Team Fouls: 25			
Attendance: 10584 Start Time: 9:00pm ET							

	1	2	F
Indiana State	54	40	94
Wichita State	41	43	84

Game Notes: Season-high 14 points for Leroy Staley, who was now coming off the bench as a forward after a year in which he started in the backcourt. "Leroy has been very important to us," Coach Hodges later told Bob Ryan of the *Boston Globe*. "I think stamina was a big problem for him as a starter, and this way I can ask him to give it all he's got while he's out there, and not worrying about pacing himself..."⁷⁷ The Shockers' Cheese Johnson missed the game with a foot injury.⁷⁸

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Creighton Bluejays

Saturday 01/20/1979 at Civic Auditorium

Omaha, Nebraska

INDIANA STATE (16-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS	CREIGHTON (8-7)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Larry Bird	13	3-4	29	Kevin McKenna	6	3-4	15
Brad Miley	2	2-6	6	David Wesely	5	3-3	13
Alex Gilbert	4	0-0	8	Jim Honz	2	3-5	7
Carl Nicks	6	6-8	18	Jai Mahone	1	0-1	2
Steve Reed	3	2-2	8	John Johnson	9	2-3	20
Bob Heaton	2	4-4	8	Chris Peterson	2	0-0	4
Leroy Staley	4	5-6	13	Dennis Rasmussen	4	1-2	9
				Paul Trieschman	4	0-0	8
				Daryl Stovall	1	0-0	2

TOTALS	34	22-30	90	TOTALS	34	12-18	80
Head Coach: Bill Hodges Team Fouls: 18 Technical Fouls: Hodges				Head Coach: Tom Apke Team Fouls: 24			
Attendance: 8908 Start Time: 3:35pm ET							

	1	2	F
Indiana State	46	44	90
Creighton	43	37	80

Game Notes: Larry Bird made his first nine shots of the second half...⁷⁹ John Johnson (1979 seventh round – Denver) and Daryl Stovall (1982 tenth round – San Diego) were both future late-round NBA draft picks.

Southern Illinois Salukis vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Monday 01/22/1979 at Hulman Civic University Center
Terre Haute, Indiana

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (9-7)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	PF	PTS	INDIANA STATE (17-0)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	PF	PTS
Barry Smith	4-12	2-3	11	2	10	Alex Gilbert	10-15	1-2	7	2	21
Charles Moore	4-13	0-0	5	4	8	Larry Bird	10-20	11-12	17	2	31
Gary Wilson	5-16	0-0	12	4	10	Brad Miley	2-3	0-0	6	2	4
Milton Huggins	10-20	4-4	2	1	24	Carl Nicks	6-16	1-2	4	4	13
Wayne Abrams	8-15	2-3	8	4	18	Steve Reed	1-2	2-3	0	3	4
Al Grant	3-5	0-0	2	4	6	Leroy Staley	0-4	2-2	2	1	2
Richard Ford	1-2	1-2	0	3	3	Bob Heaton	5-5	3-3	6	1	13
TOTALS	35-83	9-12	40	22	79	TOTALS	34-65	20-24	46	16	88
Head Coach: Joe Gottfried						Head Coach: Bill Hodges					
Attendance: 10291 Start Time: 7:30pm ET											
Referees: Wannamaker, Savidge											

	1	2	F
Southern Illinois	43	36	79
Indiana State	45	43	88

Game Notes: Carl Nicks had eight assists and Indiana State scored the final seven points of the game, beginning with a jumper by Larry Bird. The Sycamores shot 5 for 6 from the line to close the game...⁸⁰ Center Alex Gilbert (21) and guard Bob Heaton (13) each recorded a season-high in points. “That’s the kind of power game that Alex is capable of playing,” Coach Hodges said later, referring to Gilbert’s athletic ability (including a 40-inch vertical leap). “We are going to need his offensive abilities down the home stretch and in any post season tournament.”⁸¹ Three decades later, Gilbert would join a class-action suit against EA Sports for unauthorized use of former college player images in their video games.⁸²

Creighton Bluejays vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Saturday 01/27/1979 at Hulman Civic University Center
Terre Haute, Indiana

CREIGHTON (9-8)	FG	FT-A	PTS	INDIANA STATE (18-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Kevin McKenna	1	0-0	2	Alex Gilbert	4	2-4	10
David Wesely	4	2-2	10	Brad Miley	5	1-1	11
Jim Honz	5	5-6	15	Larry Bird	8	1-3	17
Jai Mahone	1	0-0	2	Carl Nicks	6	4-4	16
John Johnson	8	4-5	20	Steve Reed	2	1-2	5
Dennis Rasmussen	3	0-0	6	Leroy Staley	5	0-2	10
Paul Trieschman	3	0-0	6	Bob Heaton	3	0-2	6
Chris Peterson	0	0-0	0	Rich Nemcek	0	0-0	0

Kevin Ross	0	0-0	0	Eric Curry	0	0-0	0
Daryl Stovall	0	0-0	0	Scott Turner	0	0-0	0
Dan Clausen	1	2-3	4	Tom Crowder	1	0-0	2
Bill Butrym	2	0-1	4	Rod McNelly	0	0-1	0
				Bob Ritter	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	28	13-17	69	TOTALS	34	9-19	77
Head Coach: Tom Apke Team Fouls: 21 Technical Fouls: McKenna				Head Coach: Bill Hodges Team Fouls: 19			
Attendance: 10229 Start Time: 7:30pm ET							

	1	2	F
Creighton	31	38	69
Indiana State	34	43	77

Game Notes: Dennis Rasmussen would be drafted by the California Angels in 1980 and teammate Daryl Stovall was selected two years later by the Chicago White Sox. Stovall washed out quickly, but the 6'7" Rasmussen spent 12 years in the Major Leagues and compiled a 91-77 record as a left-handed starter.

Indiana State Sycamores vs. New Mexico State Aggies

Thursday 02/01/1979 at Pan American Center

Las Cruces, New Mexico

INDIANA STATE (19-0)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	PF	PTS	NEW MEXICO STATE (15-6)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	PF	PTS
Rich Nemcek	2-4	0-0	2	2	4	Chuck Goslin	8-11	2-3	1	0	18
Carl Nicks	7-15	0-4	0	5	14	Greg Webb	1-6	2-4	6	4	4
Steve Reed	1-4	3-5	0	3	5	Brian Corrie	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Bob Heaton	3-7	1-1	3	3	7	Bill Myers	3-8	0-0	2	5	6
Eric Curry	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	Phil Elders	0-0	1-2	0	0	1
Larry Bird	15-25	7-10	17	5	37	Micah Owens	0-0	0-3	0	0	0
Brad Miley	3-3	1-1	3	6	7	Bob Gunn	6-11	1-2	6	5	13
Alex Gilbert	4-8	0-0	5	5	8	Notie Pate	4-6	5-7	9	1	13
Leroy Staley	4-8	1-2	1	2	9	Cyrus Cormier	3-5	3-4	3	5	9
						Dave Brunson	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
						Slab Jones	10-14	5-8	8	4	25
TOTALS	39-74	13-23	37	27	91	TOTALS	35-61	19-33	41	24	89
Head Coach: Bill Hodges Team Rebounds: 3 Technical Fouls: Gilbert						Head Coach: Ken Hayes Team Rebounds: 5					
Attendance: 13684 Start Time: 9:30pm ET Referees: Phil Benson, Dick Sanders											

	1	2	OT	F
Indiana State	51	32	8	91
New Mexico State	39	44	6	89

Game Notes: As the clock wound down at the end of regulation, Brad Miley rebounded a missed free throw by Greg Webb and passed to Bob Heaton who sank a 50-foot heave to tie the game at 83. Webb was at the foul line after being fouled by Larry Bird for the latter's fifth foul; Webb's miss was one of fourteen missed free throws for the Aggies, including a streak of six straight failures on the front-end of one-and-ones. Indiana State won in overtime despite being without the services of Bird and Carl Nicks, as junior Rich Nemcek scored half of the Sycamores' points in the extra session.⁸³ Nemcek, a Hammond, Indiana, native, had transferred to ISU from Wabash Valley Junior College (where he was a teammate of Eric Curry) after the 1977-78 academic year.

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Tulsa Golden Hurricane

Saturday 02/03/1979 at Assembly Center

Tulsa, Oklahoma

INDIANA STATE (20-0)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	PF	PTS	TULSA (11-8)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	PF	PTS
Brad Miley	3-5	2-3	6	2	8	Billy Keys	2-8	0-0	4	3	4
Alex Gilbert	2-9	1-5	11	1	5	Lester Johnson	2-8	0-0	8	5	4
Larry Bird	9-17	4-8	22	2	22	Jeff Kovach	1-4	0-0	4	1	2
Carl Nicks	7-17	5-7	5	2	19	Terry Sims	3-11	0-0	2	2	6
Steve Reed	0-2	0-1	2	3	0	Russell Sublet	5-16	0-0	3	1	10
Bob Heaton	3-7	0-0	4	0	6	John Gibson	2-4	0-0	1	2	4
Leroy Staley	2-5	1-2	2	2	5	Marcus Peel	7-11	0-0	5	3	14
Tom Crowder	0-0	1-2	0	0	1	Steve McDowell	1-7	0-0	4	5	2
Eric Curry	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	Bob Stevenson	2-5	2-2	3	3	6
Rod McNelly	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	Chris Cantrell	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
Rich Nemcek	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	Ken Beach	1-1	2-2	0	1	4
Scott Turner	0-0	0-0	0	0	0						
TOTALS	26-62	14-27	54	14	66	TOTALS	26-74	4-4	40	26	56
Head Coach: Bill Hodges						Head Coach: Jim King					
Team Rebounds: 2						Team Rebounds: 5					
Attendance: 8996 Start Time: 8:30pm ET Referees: Ben Dreith, Kent Henry											

	1	2	F
Indiana State	33	33	66
Tulsa	24	32	56

Game Notes: Larry Bird struggled in the second half, scoring just four points. Bird had come down with a virus during a side trip to Mexico following the Sycamores victory against New Mexico State and became fatigued as the game went on... After the game, Hodges had the interim title removed from his job description...⁸⁴ NFL referee Ben Dreith worked the game.

Drake Bulldogs vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Tuesday 02/06/1979 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

DRAKE (13-7)	FG	FT-A	PTS	INDIANA STATE (21-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Pop Wright	6	0-0	12	Alex Gilbert	7	0-0	14
Ernie Banks	1	1-2	3	Brad Miley	3	0-2	6
Chad Nelson	9	2-3	20	Larry Bird	11	11-15	33
Mayron Monk	3	0-1	6	Carl Nicks	6	3-6	15
Wayne Kreklow	7	2-2	16	Steve Reed	2	5-6	9
Earl May	2	0-0	4	Leroy Staley	4	3-4	11
Jeff Hill	2	4-4	8	Bob Heaton	2	2-3	6
Eric Sampson	1	3-4	5	Rich Nemcek	0	0-0	0
Anthony Watson	0	0-0	0	Eric Curry	0	0-0	0
Craig Stahl	0	0-0	0	Scott Turner	0	2-2	2
Dave Johnson	2	0-0	4	Tom Crowder	1	0-0	2
Mike Thorpe	0	1-2	1	Rod McNelly	0	0-0	0
				Bob Ritter	1	0-0	2
TOTALS	33	13-18	79	TOTALS	37	26-38	100
Head Coach: Bob Ortegell				Head Coach: Bill Hodges			
Team Fouls: 31				Team Fouls: 21			
Attendance: 10538 Start Time: 7:30pm ET							

	1	2	F
Drake	36	43	79
Indiana State	38	62	100

Game Notes: Indiana State set a Hulman Center record for most points in a half during a rousing second-half performance. Drake Coach Bob Ortegel maintained a good sense of humor when discussing Larry Bird after the game: “What do you try to take away from him? His sneakers, so he can’t play.”⁸⁵

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Bradley Braves

Saturday 02/10/1979 at Robertson Memorial Field House
Peoria, Illinois

INDIANA STATE (22-0)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	PF	PTS	BRADLEY (7-15)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	PF	PTS
Brad Miley	3-4	2-2	3	2	8	Ken Garrett	9-17	2-2	7	4	20
Alex Gilbert	4-9	1-2	5	1	9	Harold McMath	1-8	0-0	5	4	2
Larry Bird	2-2	0-0	11	4	4	Robert Jenkins	3-12	0-0	5	3	6
Carl Nicks	13-21	5-7	7	3	31	Mitchell Anderson	12-25	6-7	11	1	30
Steve Reed	8-12	3-4	2	2	19	Carl Maniscalco	4-9	2-2	3	1	10
Bob Heaton	6-13	0-0	2	1	12	Ron Lindfors	0-1	0-0	4	2	0
Leroy Staley	3-5	0-0	3	2	6	Rick Malnati	2-2	0-0	0	2	4
Eric Curry	1-1	0-0	1	0	2						
Tom Crowder	0-0	0-0	1	0	0						
Rich Nemcek	0-0	0-0	0	0	0						
Bob Ritter	0-0	0-0	0	0	0						
Scott Turner	0-0	0-0	0	0	0						
TOTALS	40-67	11-14	38	15	91	TOTALS	31-74	10-11	39	17	72
Head Coach: Bill Hodges						Head Coach: Dick Versace					
Attendance: 7300 Start Time: 8:30pm ET Referees: Ben Dreith, J.C. Louderback											

	1	2	F
Indiana State	45	46	91
Bradley	40	32	72

Game Notes: Carl Nicks tied his season-high (vs. Cleveland State) with 31 points, and Steve Reed set a season-high with 19... Dick Versace drew some criticism for his use of a constant double-team on Larry Bird, dubbed the “Bird’s Nest” defense,⁸⁶ but Carl Maniscalco and Harold McMath combined to shut out Bird during the first half. “It’s not against the rules to do what we did,” Versace told reporters after the game. “Bird accounts for 50 points based on scoring, offensive rebounding, and great passing. Is it unwise for a team 1-11 in the conference to try and shut him off any way they can?”⁸⁷ Bird was held to below 10 points for the only time in his college career... Reed and teammate Bob Ritter were disc jockeys for Terre Haute radio station WPFR (Rock 103), which during the upcoming NCAA Tournament would “entertain” listeners with parodies such as “Disco Bird” which celebrated the success of the Sycamores best player.⁸⁸

West Texas State Buffaloes vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Monday 02/12/1979 at Hulman Civic University Center
Terre Haute, Indiana

WEST TEXAS STATE (7-15)	FG	FT-A	PTS	INDIANA STATE (23-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Eurskine Robinson	3	2-2	8	Alex Gilbert	5	1-4	11
Carl Johnson	4	4-4	12	Brad Miley	3	5-7	11
George Sims	7	4-5	18	Larry Bird	12	3-4	27
Eddie Harris	5	7-11	17	Carl Nicks	8	1-3	17
Dan Elmer	6	0-0	12	Steve Reed	1	0-0	2
Winston Nicholas	0	2-3	2	Leroy Staley	5	1-5	11
Mike Lorenc	3	0-1	6	Bob Heaton	2	3-3	7
				Rich Nemcek	0	2-2	2
				Tom Crowder	3	0-0	6
				Scott Turner	1	2-2	4

					Bob Ritter	1	0-0	2
					Rod McNelly	0	0-0	0
					Eric Curry	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	28	19-26	75		TOTALS	41	18-30	100
Head Coach: Ken Edwards Team Fouls: 24				Head Coach: Bill Hodges Team Fouls: 21				
Attendance: 10235 Start Time: 7:30pm ET								

	1	2	F
West Texas State	40	35	75
Indiana State	43	57	100

Game Notes: Boston Celtics center/head coach Dave Cowens attended the game; it was his first visit to Indiana State to watch Larry Bird play. "I'm just here to talk to him," Cowens told reporters. "If he has any questions, I'll tell him exactly what I think."⁸⁹ A 21-5 run by the Sycamores to start the second half put the game away.

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Southern Illinois Salukis

Thursday 02/15/1979 at Southern Illinois Arena

Carbondale, Illinois

INDIANA STATE (24-0)						SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (12-11)					
	FG-A	FT-A	RB	PF	PTS		FG-A	FT-A	RB	PF	PTS
Brad Miley	2-5	3-5	12	0	7	Barry Smith	3-6	0-0	4	1	6
Alex Gilbert	7-10	0-0	5	1	14	Charles Moore	0-6	0-0	3	4	0
Larry Bird	8-20	4-4	14	2	20	Gary Wilson	8-16	0-0	10	2	16
Carl Nicks	8-18	3-4	2	2	19	Milton Huggins	7-11	1-1	1	1	15
Steve Reed	0-4	2-4	4	3	2	Wayne Abrams	7-18	2-2	8	3	16
Bob Heaton	2-4	3-4	2	2	7	Richard Ford	3-8	5-5	9	3	11
Leroy Staley	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	Lawrence Stubblefield	2-3	0-0	0	0	4
TOTALS	27-63	15-21	40	10	69	TOTALS	30-70	8-8	40	15	68
Head Coach: Bill Hodges						Head Coach: Joe Gottfried					
Attendance: 10301 Start Time: 8:35pm ET											

	1	2	F
Indiana State	38	31	69
Southern Illinois	31	37	68

Game Notes: Indiana State hung on — literally — to keep their perfect season intact. Leading 67-66 with 2:06 remaining, the Sycamores held the ball for a minute and 52 seconds until Wayne Abrams fouled Steve Reed with 14 seconds left in the game. Reed made the first, missed the second, but Bird collected his thirteenth rebound and passed to Reed, who was fouled again. Reed made another free throw to give Indiana State a three point lead. Abrams then made a meaningless basket as the clock ran out.⁹⁰

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Drake Bulldogs

Tuesday 02/20/1979 at Veterans Auditorium

Des Moines, Iowa

INDIANA STATE (25-0)				DRAKE (15-10)			
	FG	FT-A	PTS		FG	FT-A	PTS
Carl Nicks	7	7-10	21	Earl May	3	0-1	6
Steve Reed	2	0-1	4	Wayne Kreklow	7	0-0	14
Larry Bird	11	5-6	27	Chad Nelson	8	1-1	17
Brad Miley	2	4-4	8	Pop Wright	5	0-0	10
Alex Gilbert	1	2-4	4	Dave Johnson	5	4-4	14
Bob Heaton	3	0-0	6	Jeff Hill	0	1-2	1

Leroy Staley	3	0-0	6	Craig Stahl	1	0-0	2
				Ernie Banks	2	0-0	4
TOTALS	29	18-27	76	TOTALS	31	6-8	68
Head Coach: Bill Hodges Team Fouls: 14				Head Coach: Bob Ortegel Team Fouls: 20 Technical Fouls: Hill			
Attendance: 12250 Start Time: 8:35pm ET							

	1	2	F
Indiana State	39	37	76
Drake	33	35	68

Game Notes: The Sycamores overcame an 11 for 29 shooting performance by Larry Bird and kept the Bulldogs from getting closer than 5 points during the second half.⁹¹

Wichita State Shockers vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Sunday 02/25/1979 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

WICHITA STATE (13-13)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	PF	PTS	INDIANA STATE (26-0)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	PF	PTS
Cheese Johnson	8-17	5-8	6	3	21	Alex Gilbert	1-4	0-0	4	4	2
Richard Williams	2-6	2-2	3	4	6	Brad Miley	2-3	1-3	8	1	5
Steve Kalocinski	7-16	0-3	11	4	14	Larry Bird	18-28	13-15	19	4	49
Ronnie Ryer	5-7	0-0	1	2	10	Carl Nicks	11-20	3-4	2	4	25
Bob Trogele	10-17	0-0	6	3	20	Steve Reed	5-6	0-1	1	1	10
John Kobar	0-1	0-0	0	1	0	Leroy Staley	3-7	4-4	4	4	10
Roy Shirley	1-6	1-1	3	4	3	Bob Heaton	1-2	2-3	4	1	4
Lawrence Howell	2-4	0-1	1	1	4	Rich Nemcek	0-1	0-0	0	2	0
Bruce Smith	0-0	0-0	2	0	0	Eric Curry	1-4	0-0	3	0	2
Mike Denny	1-1	0-1	1	0	2	Tom Crowder	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Eric Kuhn	1-1	0-0	0	0	2	Scott Turner	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Tyrone Aughburns	1-1	0-0	0	0	2	Rod McNelly	1-1	0-0	0	0	2
						Bob Ritter	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
TOTALS	38-77	8-16	36	22	84	TOTALS	43-76	23-30	49	21	109
Head Coach: Gene Smithson Team Rebounds: 1						Head Coach: Bill Hodges Team Rebounds: 2					
Attendance: 9579 Start Time: 2:00pm ET (NBC) Referees: Ray Sondenberg, Tom Richards											

	1	2	F
Wichita State	42	42	84
Indiana State	48	61	109

Game Notes: Bird was shut out during the first seven minutes of the game but still scored a college career-high of 49 points. "I think Larry lost his concentration a bit because [Wichita State] were getting away with fouling him so much," Bill Hodges said after the game.⁹² With 16 minutes remaining in the contest, Indiana State was clinging to a 52-50 lead, but a 17-2 run that included 9 in a row by Bird provided a comfortable margin for the Sycamores the rest of the way... A snowstorm that brought blizzard conditions to Terre Haute the night before threatened to postpone the game when the roof began to leak and water collected on the court. Workers cleared the roof while the floor was covered with a tarp, and the game started on time...⁹³ Freshman walk-on Rod McNelly made his first field goal of the season.

West Texas State Bulldogs vs. Indiana State Sycamores

MVC Tournament First Round

Tuesday 02/27/1979 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

WEST TEXAS STATE (8-19)	FG	FT-A	PTS	INDIANA STATE (27-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Eurskine Robinson	5	0-0	10	Alex Gilbert	8	3-6	19
Carl Johnson	8	0-0	16	Brad Miley	1	1-3	3
George Sims	6	0-0	12	Larry Bird	11	7-8	29
Eddie Harris	12	3-4	27	Carl Nicks	6	10-12	22
Dan Elmer	6	1-2	13	Steve Reed	4	0-0	8
Mike Lorenc	2	0-0	4	Leroy Staley	1	2-3	4
Winston Nicholas	1	0-0	2	Bob Heaton	2	2-2	6
				Rich Nemcek	0	0-0	0
				Eric Curry	0	0-0	0
				Tom Crowder	1	0-0	2
				Scott Turner	0	0-0	0
				Rod McNelly	0	1-2	1
				Bob Ritter	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	40	4-6	84	TOTALS	34	26-36	94
Head Coach: Ken Edwards				Head Coach: Bill Hodges			
Team Fouls: 26				Team Fouls: 10			
Attendance: 10254							

	1	2	F
West Texas State	42	42	84
Indiana State	45	49	94

Game Notes: Indiana State used a 14-2 run to extend a narrow 55-54 margin to 69-56 with 12 minutes remaining...⁹⁴ Dan Elmer set a Hulman Center record with 17 assists... The format of the MVC Tournament was changed for 1979. The ninth place team during the regular season no longer qualified for the tournament and the first place finisher no longer received an automatic bye into the championship game. Therefore, Bradley did not participate and ISU had to play their way into the final.

Southern Illinois Salukis vs. Indiana State Sycamores

MVC Tournament Semifinal

Thursday 03/01/1979 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (15-13)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	PF	PTS	INDIANA STATE (28-0)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	PF	PTS
Richard Ford	2-7	0-0	6	4	4	Alex Gilbert	4-9	1-4	6	1	9
Barry Smith	5-13	1-2	5	2	11	Brad Miley	3-4	0-0	5	4	6
Gary Wilson	8-12	0-0	8	5	16	Larry Bird	11-19	3-4	19	1	25
Milton Huggins	10-17	3-3	1	1	23	Carl Nicks	9-18	4-5	3	1	22
Wayne Abrams	7-13	2-2	3	5	16	Steve Reed	1-2	0-0	2	4	2
Al Grant	0-4	0-0	6	2	0	Leroy Staley	1-4	0-1	3	1	2
Lawrence Stubblefield	1-1	0-0	6	2	2	Bob Heaton	5-6	3-4	0	1	13
Charles Moore	0-2	0-0	1	0	0	Rich Nemcek	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
TOTALS	33-70	6-7	34	20	72	TOTALS	34-64	11-18	41	14	79
Head Coach: Joe Gottfried						Head Coach: Bill Hodges					
Attendance: 10274											

	1	2	F
Southern Illinois	44	28	72
Indiana State	42	37	79

Game Notes: The game turned on a pair of dunks by Carl Nicks, the latter coming off a 60-foot pass from Larry Bird. “That fired everybody up,” Nicks said later. “Our players said, ‘Let’s go!’ As for me ... Oh, man! It made me want to slam down five of them at one time.”⁹⁵ Bob Heaton tied his season-high of 13 points which he had set in the Sycamores first game against the Salukis this season.

New Mexico State Aggies vs. Indiana State Sycamores MVC Tournament Final

Saturday 03/03/1979 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

NEW MEXICO STATE (22-9)						INDIANA STATE (29-0)					
	FG-A	FT-A	RB	PF	PTS		FG-A	FT-A	RB	PF	PTS
Bob Gunn	7-12	0-1	8	3	14	Alex Gilbert	5-8	0-0	5	3	10
Cyrus Cormier	0-6	1-2	1	4	1	Brad Miley	0-1	0-2	5	1	0
Slab Jones	6-17	0-0	14	3	12	Larry Bird	9-14	2-3	10	2	20
Greg Webb	1-5	2-3	2	1	4	Carl Nicks	7-16	1-2	1	3	15
Bill Myers	1-1	0-0	3	3	2	Steve Reed	3-3	0-0	1	3	6
Brian Corrie	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	Leroy Staley	3-6	4-4	4	1	10
Notie Pate	0-1	0-0	0	1	0	Bob Heaton	3-5	2-4	2	0	8
Chuck Goslin	8-16	0-0	1	0	16						
Reg Clement	5-5	0-0	1	2	10						
TOTALS	28-64	3-6	35	19	59	TOTALS	30-53	9-15	33	13	69
Head Coach: Ken Hayes						Head Coach: Bill Hodges					
Attendance: 10301											
Referees: Dreith, Spittler											

	1	2	F
New Mexico State	31	28	59
Indiana State	45	24	69

Game Notes: The second half began with Larry Bird breaking the tip of his left thumb in three places while grabbing for the ball;⁹⁶ he missed about six minutes of game action before returning with a foam pad on the aching digit. Bird made his next two shots to increase Indiana State’s lead 57-41, but failed to score after that.⁹⁷ “This is what it’s all about – playing together,” Bird told reporters afterwards. “We’re a TEAM.”⁹⁸ With the victory, Indiana State earned an automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament. New Mexico State was also selected for the tournament; they would lose to Weber State 81-78 in overtime in the first round.

Virginia Tech Hokies vs. Indiana State Sycamores NCAA Tournament Second Round

Sunday 03/11/1979 at Allen Fieldhouse

Lawrence, Kansas

VIRGINIA TECH (22-9)							INDIANA STATE (30-0)						
	FG-A	FT-A	RB	A	PF	PTS		FG-A	FT-A	RB	A	PF	PTS
Les Henson	8-15	2-2	8	1	5	18	Brad Miley	1-2	0-3	7	1	0	2
Wayne Robinson	4-10	2-2	7	0	3	10	Alex Gilbert	6-8	0-2	7	0	1	12
Dale Solomon	6-15	0-1	6	1	1	12	Larry Bird	6-14	10-12	13	7	2	22
Dexter Reid	4-9	0-0	6	2	4	8	Carl Nicks	9-21	4-5	3	1	1	22
Marshall Ashford	6-15	3-3	5	1	4	15	Steve Reed	5-7	2-2	4	6	2	12
Tic Price	2-5	0-0	0	2	5	4	Bob Heaton	5-5	2-4	2	0	3	12
Chris Scott	0-1	0-0	0	1	0	0	Leroy Staley	1-4	0-0	2	0	1	2
Gordy Bryan	1-3	0-0	1	0	0	2	Rich Nemcek	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0
David Bennett	0-1	0-0	1	0	0	0	Eric Curry	0-0	0-0	1	0	2	0

John Hillenbrand	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	Scott Turner	0-0	0-0	1	1	0	0
Mark Sharder	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	Tom Crowder	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	2
							Bob Ritter	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	31-74	7-8	38	8	22	69	TOTALS	34-63	18-28	45	16	12	86
Head Coach: Charles Moir							Head Coach: Bill Hodges						
Team Rebounds: 4							Team Rebounds: 5						
Attendance: 15110 Start Time: 1:06pm ET													
Referees: Turbber, Koris													

	1	2	F
Virginia Tech	26	43	69
Indiana State	40	46	86

Game Notes: Larry Bird got off to a slow start due to his thumb injury, going without a rebound over the first seven minutes, but still ended up with a solid showing as the Sycamores rolled off 20 unanswered points to turn an 18-14 deficit into a 34-18 lead...⁹⁹ Dale Solomon, who had scored 24 points including shooting 10 for 14 from the floor in Virginia Tech's 70-53 victory over Jacksonville in the first round, was kept in check... Indiana State had earned a first-round bye in the 40 team field.

Oklahoma Sooners vs. Indiana State Sycamores NCAA Tournament Round of 16

Thursday 03/15/1979 at Riverfront Coliseum
Cincinnati, Ohio

OKLAHOMA (21-10)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	A	PF	PTS	INDIANA STATE (31-0)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	A	PF	PTS
Terry Stotts	2-11	1-2	2	2	4	5	Alex Gilbert	6-7	0-3	9	0	2	12
John McCullough	6-10	2-2	7	3	5	14	Brad Miley	3-3	0-0	3	1	1	6
Al Beal	5-7	0-0	4	0	5	10	Larry Bird	11-19	7-8	15	5	0	29
Aaron Curry	5-15	1-2	4	2	3	11	Carl Nicks	8-16	4-9	3	5	2	20
Raymond Whitley	9-12	6-9	1	0	4	24	Steve Reed	0-3	4-4	2	2	5	4
Cary Carrabine	2-7	0-2	0	1	0	4	Bob Heaton	3-3	3-3	2	0	2	9
Les Pace	2-6	0-0	1	0	4	4	Leroy Staley	3-6	3-4	7	0	3	9
Kyle Dodd	0-0	0-0	0	0	1	0	Rich Nemcek	1-1	2-3	2	0	0	4
Ingram Purvis	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	Tom Crowder	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	0
Don Calvert	0-1	0-0	0	0	1	0	Eric Curry	0-1	0-0	1	0	0	0
							Scott Turner	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
							Rod McNelly	0-1	0-0	2	0	0	0
TOTALS	31-70	10-17	22	8	27	72	TOTALS	35-60	23-34	50	13	16	93
Head Coach: Dave Bliss							Head Coach: Bill Hodges						
Team Rebounds: 3							Team Rebounds: 3						
Attendance: 17252 Start Time: 9:36pm ET													
Referees: Range, Robinson													

	1	2	F
Oklahoma	37	35	72
Indiana State	45	48	93

Game Notes: Sooners head coach Dave Bliss was effusive in his praise for Larry Bird after the game. "His shooting isn't what beat us as much as his passing. No doubt he can shoot, but the combination of his shooting and his passing is what's made them unbeatable."¹⁰⁰

Arkansas Razorbacks vs. Indiana State Sycamores NCAA Tournament Midwest Regional Final

Saturday 03/17/1979 at Riverfront Coliseum
Cincinnati, Ohio

ARKANSAS (25-5)							INDIANA STATE (32-0)						
FG-A	FT-A	RB	A	PF	PTS	FG-A	FT-A	RB	A	PF	PTS		
Alan Zahn	5-7	0-0	3	3	3	10	Alex Gilbert	6-9	0-0	2	0	3	12
Scott Hastings	3-7	4-4	3	3	2	10	Brad Miley	3-3	0-0	4	3	2	6
Steve Schall	6-7	0-2	4	2	4	12	Larry Bird	12-22	7-8	10	3	3	31
U.S. Reed	4-8	3-3	4	2	5	11	Steve Reed	0-1	0-0	0	5	3	0
Sidney Moncrief	10-16	4-4	8	2	2	24	Carl Nicks	5-11	3-4	0	3	4	13
Tony Brown	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	Bob Heaton	4-5	0-0	1	0	0	8
Mike Young	2-2	0-0	1	1	1	4	Leroy Staley	1-4	1-3	3	0	1	3
TOTALS	30-47	11-13	25	14	17	71	TOTALS	31-55	11-15	20	14	16	73
Head Coach: Eddie Sutton							Head Coach: Bill Hodges						
Team Rebounds: 2							Team Rebounds: 0						
Attendance: 17166 Start Time: 2:07pm ET													
Referees: Weiler, Nichols													

	1	2	F
Arkansas	39	32	71
Indiana State	37	36	73

Game Notes: Bob Heaton hit an off-balance jumper from inside six feet with two seconds remaining to provide the winning margin. “[Steve] Reed had an open shot until [Scott] Hastings came up,” Heaton said. “He dumped it off to me, and I sort of lost it in the shuffle. I was going to shoot it with my right hand, but I thought they might block it, so I tossed it up there with my left. It was kind of a half hook that bounced around on the rim a couple of times.”¹⁰¹ Arkansas had the ball with the score tied at 71 with 1:08 left, but U.S. Reed was called for traveling, and the ball went back to Indiana State. The turnover was just the tenth for the Razorbacks; Indiana State turned the ball over only seven times... Bird was named MVP of the Midwest Regional portion of the tournament, and was selected to the regional’s all-tournament team along with teammate Carl Nicks, the Razorbacks’ Sidney Moncrief and Steve Schall, and Raymond Whitley of Oklahoma...¹⁰² Moncrief, who had been a teammate of Bird’s on the United States team at the 1977 World University Games, and later became an All-NBA Team regular and five-time NBA All-Star with the Milwaukee Bucks, held Bird to just six points over the final 13 minutes. “He’s a great player,” Moncrief told reporters, “but it’s hard for any player to score if he doesn’t have the ball. I tried to deny him the ball, and I have some quickness in me.”¹⁰³ Bird’s thumb was so sore that he punched a fan that grabbed his hand during the postgame celebration on the court...¹⁰⁴ Indiana State did not take its first lead until Brad Miley’s layup put the Sycamores in front, 55-53, with 12:05 left.¹⁰⁵

DePaul Blue Demons vs. Indiana State Sycamores

NCAA Tournament National Semifinal

Saturday 03/24/1979 at Special Events Center

Salt Lake City, Utah

DEPAUL (25-6)							INDIANA STATE (33-0)						
FG-A	FT-A	RB	A	PF	PTS	FG-A	FT-A	RB	A	PF	PTS		
Curtis Watkins	8-11	0-0	2	2	4	16	Brad Miley	2-2	0-0	3	3	1	4
Mark Aguirre	9-18	1-2	5	2	3	19	Alex Gilbert	6-7	0-1	5	0	2	12
James Mitchem	6-11	0-0	5	0	4	12	Larry Bird	16-19	3-4	16	9	3	35
Clyde Bradshaw	4-8	0-0	3	4	1	8	Carl Nicks	4-13	2-2	1	5	3	10
Gary Garland	9-18	1-3	4	8	2	19	Steve Reed	3-5	0-0	2	2	0	6
							Bob Heaton	3-6	0-0	3	0	2	6
							Leroy Staley	1-4	1-2	2	0	3	3
TOTALS	36-66	2-5	19	16	14	74	TOTALS	35-56	6-9	32	19	14	76
Head Coach: Ray Meyer							Head Coach: Bill Hodges						
Attendance: 15410 Start Time: 4:30pm ET													
Referees: Gary Muncy, Henry Nichols													

	1	2	F
DePaul	42	32	74
Indiana State	45	31	76

Game Notes: Bob Heaton made another game-winning shot, this time a layup with 50 seconds left after accepting a pass from Carl Nicks. DePaul then worked the clock and called timeout 14 seconds later. “We didn’t want to hold for one shot... I told the boys to get the ball in low to Mark Aguirre or take the first good shot,”¹⁰⁶ Ray Meyer explained later. But instead, his Blue Demons looked reluctant to shoot, and the ball ended up in Aguirre’s hands—16 feet from the basket—with 4 seconds left. Aguirre missed, then Staley got the rebound and was fouled by Gary Garland; Staley made one of two free throws before Garland’s long pass bounced off the backboard at the buzzer... Bird made 11 of his 12 first half shots... DePaul’s five starters played the entire game, and led 73-71 with just under five minutes remaining. Then Meyer had his players deliberately milk the clock, but a bad pass led to a game-tying basket by Heaton. DePaul proceeded to hold the ball for nearly two minutes before Garland was intentionally fouled and made one of two from the line.

Michigan State Spartans vs. Indiana State Sycamores NCAA Tournament National Final

Monday 03/26/1979 at Special Events Center
Salt Lake City, Utah

MICHIGAN STATE (26-6)							INDIANA STATE (33-1)						
	FG-A	FT-A	RB	A	PF	PTS		FG-A	FT-A	RB	A	PF	PTS
Mike Brkovich	1-2	3-7	4	1	1	5	Brad Miley	0-0	0-1	3	0	1	0
Greg Kelsner	7-13	5-6	8	9	4	19	Alex Gilbert	2-3	0-4	4	0	4	4
Ron Charles	3-3	1-2	7	0	5	7	Larry Bird	7-21	5-8	13	2	3	19
Terry Donnelly	5-5	5-6	4	0	2	15	Carl Nicks	7-14	3-6	2	4	5	17
Earvin Johnson	8-15	8-10	7	5	3	24	Steve Reed	4-9	0-0	0	9	4	8
Jay Vincent	2-5	1-2	2	0	4	5	Bob Heaton	4-14	2-2	6	2	2	10
Rob Gonzalez	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	Leroy Staley	2-2	0-1	3	0	2	4
Mike Longaker	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	Rich Nemcek	1-1	0-0	0	1	3	2
TOTALS	26-43	23-33	32	15	19	75	TOTALS	27-64	10-22	31	18	24	64
Head Coach: Jud Heathcote							Head Coach: Bill Hodges						
Attendance: 15410													
Start Time: 9:15pm ET													
Referees: Henry Nichols, Gary Muncy													

	1	2	F
Michigan State	37	38	75
Indiana State	28	36	64

Game Notes: After shooting exceptionally well in their earlier tournament games, the Sycamores were held to 37 percent from the floor in the first half. “We were getting the shots we usually get, but we just weren’t hitting them,” Bill Hodges told reporters. “We never could get them to open their zone because we couldn’t hit the shots.”¹⁰⁷ Indiana State’s best chance came after Greg Kelsner was whistled for his fourth foul with 15:48 remaining. With Kelsner on the bench, the Sycamores went on a 15-2 run but failed to erase what had been a 50-32 deficit, and the Spartans controlled the rest of the game. Bird avoided meeting the press after the game, issuing a written statement instead that credited the Spartans with playing good defense... Earvin “Magic” Johnson agreed: “When Bird dribbled, we put a man and a half on him. The guard slid over and helped the forward... I think we put a lot of pressure on Larry.”¹⁰⁸ The Spartans had three future NBA players on their roster (Magic, Greg Kelsner, and Jay Vincent) and two others who were drafted (Ron Charles, Mike Brkovich). Indiana State had two future NBA players (Bird and Carl Nicks)

and Alex Gilbert who was also selected in the draft... Despite the loss, the Indiana State team returned home to a hero's welcome, including 5,000 fans at the Terre Haute airport, thousands more who stood and cheered along the route back to campus, and a capacity crowd who attended a rally at the Hulman Center.¹⁰⁹

1978-79 Missouri Valley Conference

ALL GAMES	W	L	Pct
Indiana State Sycamores	33	1	.971
New Mexico State Aggies	22	10	.688
Drake Bulldogs	15	12	.556
Southern Illinois Salukis	15	13	.536
Creighton Bluejays	14	13	.519
Wichita State Shockers	14	14	.500
Tulsa Golden Hurricane	13	14	.481
Bradley Braves	9	17	.346
West Texas State Buffaloes	8	19	.296

CONFERENCE GAMES ONLY	W	L	Pct
Indiana State Sycamores	16	0	1.000
New Mexico State Aggies	11	5	.688
Wichita State Shockers	8	8	.500
Creighton Bluejays	8	8	.500
Southern Illinois Salukis	8	8	.500
Drake Bulldogs	8	8	.500
Tulsa Golden Hurricane	7	9	.467
West Texas State Buffaloes	3	13	.188
Bradley Braves	3	13	.188

All-MVC Selections

FIRST TEAM					PPG	SECOND TEAM					PPG
G	Wayne Kreklow	Drake	6-4	Sr	19.5	G	Wayne Abrams	Southern Illinois	6-6	Jr	16.1
G	Carl Nicks	Indiana State	6-3	Jr	19.3	G	Mitchell Anderson	Bradley	6-7	Fr	21.0
C	Slab Jones	New Mexico State	6-7	Jr	16.4	G	John C. Johnson	Creighton	6-3	Sr	17.9
F	Larry Bird	Indiana State	6-9	Sr	28.6	C	Chad Nelson	Drake	6-11	Sr	14.2
F	Cheese Johnson	Wichita State	6-5	Sr	22.2	F	Robert Gunn	New Mexico State	6-5	Sr	14.1
						F	Gary Wilson	Southern Illinois	6-7	Sr	14.1

MVC Tournament Results

First Round

- (1) Indiana State 94, (8) West Texas State 84
- (5) Southern Illinois 71, (4) Creighton 67
- (2) New Mexico State 82, (7) Tulsa 79
- (3) Wichita State 70, (6) Drake 69

Semifinals

- (1) Indiana State 79, (5) Southern Illinois 72
- (2) New Mexico State 85, (3) Wichita State 81

Finals

- (1) Indiana State 69, (2) New Mexico State 59

Indiana State Team Records Held by Larry Bird after the 1978-79 Season

Points, Career	2850	
Points, Season	973	1978-79
Points, Game	49	2/25/1979
Average Points, Career	30.3	
Average Points, Season	32.8	1976-77
Field Goals, Career	1154	
Field Goals, Season	403	1977-78
Field Goals, Game	22	1/20/1977
Free Throws, Career	542	
Free Throws, Season	221	1978-79
Rebounds, Career	1244	

Rebounds, Season	505	1978-79
Average Rebounds, Career	13.2	
Average Rebounds, Season	14.9	1978-79



All box scores in this work were compiled in the BOXTOP format using scripts adapted from those previously used by the author for ABA and Bill Russell-era Boston Celtics box scores.

Known Issues with the Larry Bird Game-by-Game Tables

This box score collection does not include rebounds and assists for every player for every game, so the figures taken from the *Terre-Haute Spectator* are single-sourced except for references in some game stories and the 1979-80 ISU Media Guide.

1976-77

Bird's totals in the table are: 918 points, 370 rebounds, and 123 assists. The 1977-78 ISU Media Guide and Sports-Reference.com both list Bird with 373 rebounds, and Sports-Reference.com¹¹⁰ states that Bird collected 122 assists.

1977-78

Bird's totals in the table are: 959 points, 368 rebounds, 126 assists. The 1978-79 ISU Media Guide and Sports-Reference.com both list Bird with 369 rebounds, and Sports-Reference.com states that Bird had a total of 125 assists.

1978-79

Bird's totals in the table are: 973 points, 502 rebounds, 185 assists (assists are missing for two games). The 1979-80 ISU Media Guide and Sports-Reference.com both state Bird collected 505 rebounds and 187 assists. The ISU Media Guide lists Bird's game-by-game rebound totals for all games but incorrectly states that Bird had 15 rebounds in the NCAA Championship Game.

Known Issues with these Box Scores

1977-78

- 11/28/1977: Purdue Boilermakers Team REB mismatch (Team=48, Players=44)
- 11/28/1977: Indiana State Sycamores Team REB mismatch (Team=50, Players=42)
- 12/05/1977: Central Michigan Chippewas Team FTA mismatch (Team=13, Players=14)
- 01/21/1978: Indiana State Sycamores Team FTA mismatch (Team=31, Players=30)
- 01/26/1978: Wichita State Shockers Team FTA mismatch (Team=27, Players=28)
- 01/30/1978: Indiana State Sycamores Team REB mismatch (Team=43, Players=44)
- 01/30/1978: Loyola of Chicago Ramblers Team REB mismatch (Team=46, Players=45)
- 02/04/1978: West Texas State Buffaloes Team FTA mismatch (Team=22, Players=21)
- 02/11/1978: Tulsa Golden Hurricane Team FTA mismatch (Team=23, Players=22)
- 03/10/1978: Illinois State Redbirds Team FTA mismatch (Team=17, Players=15)

Indiana State Season Totals

NAME	GAMES	FGM	FTM	FTA	PTS
Larry Bird	32	403	153	193	959
Tom Crowder	16 (18)	17	5	9 (11)	39
Howie Johnson	29	34	23	29	91
Richard Johnson	22 (23)	51	17	37	119
Brad Miley	31	56	17	40 (42)	129
Harry Morgan	32	265	64	92 (90)	594
Jim Ogborn	8	2	0	1	4
Steve Reed	31	29	23	30	81
Dan Rutledge	26	23	24	35 (36)	70
Jim Smith	32	62	14	29	138
Leroy Staley	24	58	34	52	150
Alan Watson	21 (23)	7	4	6 (7)	18
DeCarsta Webster	32	68	15	33	151
TOTALS	32	1075	393	587(590)	2543

Note: Known deviations from the figures in the 1978-79 ISU Media Guide are shown in red with the "official" total in ().

1978-79

- 12/04/1978: Illinois State Redbirds Team REB mismatch (Team=36, Players=30), Team PF mismatch (Team=26, Players=28)
- 01/03/1979: Indiana State Sycamores Team FTA mismatch (Team=47, Players=45)
- 01/06/1979: West Texas State Buffaloes Team FTA mismatch (Team=18, Players=16)
- 01/22/1979: Indiana State Sycamores Team REB mismatch (Team=46, Players=42), Team PF mismatch (Team=16, Players=15)
- 02/01/1979: Indiana State Sycamores Team REB mismatch (Team=34, Players=31), Team PF mismatch (Team=27, Players=31)
- 02/03/1979: Indiana State Sycamores Team FTA mismatch (Team=27, Players=28), Team PF mismatch (Team=14, Players=12)
- 02/03/1979: Tulsa Golden Hurricane Team FGA mismatch (Team=74, Players=75), Team REB mismatch (Team=35, Players=36)
- 02/10/1979: Indiana State Sycamores Team FTA mismatch (Team=14, Players=15), Team REB mismatch (Team=38, Players=35)
- 02/10/1979: Bradley Braves Team REB mismatch (Team=39, Players=35)
- 02/15/1979: Indiana State Sycamores Team FGA mismatch (Team=63, Players=61), Team REB mismatch (Team=40, Players=39)
- 02/15/1979: Southern Illinois Salukis Team FGA mismatch (Team=70, Players=68), Team REB mismatch (Team=40, Players=35), Team PF mismatch (Team=15, Players=14)
- 02/20/1979: Indiana State Sycamores Team FTA mismatch (Team=27, Players=25)
- 02/25/1979: Wichita State Shockers Team REB mismatch (Team=35, Players=34), Team REB mismatch (Team=47, Players=45)
- 03/01/1979: Southern Illinois Salukis Team FGA mismatch (Team=70, Players=69), Team REB mismatch (Team=34, Players=36), Team PF mismatch (Team=20, Players=21)
- 03/01/1979: Indiana State Sycamores Team FGA mismatch (Team=64, Players=62) , Team REB mismatch (Team=41, Players=38)
- 03/03/1979: New Mexico State Aggies Team REB mismatch (Team=35, Players=30), Team PF mismatch (Team=19, Players=17)
- 03/03/1979: Indiana State Sycamores Team REB mismatch (Team=33, Players=28)

Indiana State Season Totals

NAME	GAMES	FGM	FTM	FTA	PTS
Larry Bird	34	376	221	266	973
Tom Crowder	19	15	6	13	36
Eric Curry	17	6	0	2	12
Alex Gilbert	34	154	20	79	328
Bob Heaton	34	99	50	64	248
Rod McNelly	16	1	2	9	4
Brad Miley	34	74	46	90	194
Rich Nemcek	24	17	6	13	40
Carl Nicks	34	267	122	183	656
Steve Reed	34	68	34	48	170
Bob Ritter	15	7	1	2	15
Leroy Staley	34	83	72	112	238
Scott Turner	18	16	6	9	38
TOTALS	34	1183	586	892	2952

Note: This box score collection is missing FTA for two games (01/13/1979 vs. Bradley, 01/15/1979 vs. New Mexico State), so the FTA numbers in blue above are the "official" statistics taken from the 1979-80 ISU Media Guide. There are no deviations from the figures in the 1979-80 ISU Media Guide for the other statistics.

Sources

Indiana State Basketball Media Guides from 1977-78, 1978-79, and 1979-80; downloaded from the Sycamore Scholars archive at Indiana State University (<http://scholars.indstate.edu>):

1977-78 <http://hdl.handle.net/10484/1610>

1978-79 <http://hdl.handle.net/10484/1611>

1979-80 <http://hdl.handle.net/10484/1612>

The *Terre-Haute Spectator* published several stories about the Indiana State team in their March 3, 1979 and March 31, 1979 editions. The March 3rd edition included a table with Bird's Points, Rebounds, and Assists in each game of his college career up to that point. Accessed via <http://newspaperarchive.com>.

Levine, Lee Daniel. *Bird: The Making of an American Sports Legend*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1988.

Thanks to Mike Perkins of the Indianapolis Public Library for his help tracking down the box scores for two games: 2/6/1978 at New Mexico State, and 12/2/1978 at Evansville.

Coaches names and first names of players for Indiana State opponents taken from Sports-Reference.com (<http://www.sports-reference.com/cbb/schools>) and several other sources available online:

Media Guides

2005-06	Bradley
2008-09	Ball State
2009-10	East Carolina
2010-11	Indiana State, North Carolina A&T
2011-12	Drake
2012-13	Charleston Southern, New Mexico State
2013-14	New Mexico State, Rutgers
2014-15	Central Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Evansville, Illinois State, Purdue, Saint Louis (History & Record Book), Southern Illinois, Tulsa, West Texas A&M, and Wichita State.

Baptist College at Charleston 1978 Yearbook "Cutlass"

https://archive.org/stream/cutlassyearbook1978cutl/cutlassyearbook1978cutl_djvu.txt

Lawrence University 1979 Yearbook "The Ariel" (page 96 of PDF)

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University of Charleston (formerly Morris Harvey) Golden Eagles website

http://ucgoldeneagles.com/documents/2014/8/27/Men_s_Basketball_Decade_Info96.pdf

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Westmont University website: <http://blogs.westmont.edu/athletics/mens-basketball/mens-basketball-season-stats-1977/>

Bonham, Chad. *Golden Hurricane Basketball at the University of Tulsa*. Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia, 2004.

Notes

- ¹ Michael Rubino, "Larry Bird's Greatest Shot Was the One He Didn't Take," *Indianapolis Monthly*, December 7, 2014. <http://www.indianapolismonthly.com/news-opinion/larry-birds-greatest-shot-one-didnt-take/>
- ² Bob Kravitz, "Larry Bird is back to finish the job he started with the Pacers," *Indianapolis Star*, June 27, 2013. <http://www.indystar.com/article/20130626/SPORTS15/306260091/Star-Exclusive-Bob-Kravitz-reports-Larry-Bird-returning-Pacers?odyssey=mod|breaking|text|IndyStar.com>
- ³ Wire story, "Indiana State Admitted to Missouri Valley Conference," *Spartanburg (South Carolina) Herald*, March 11, 1976.
- ⁴ <http://blogs.westmont.edu/athletics/hall-of-fame/>
- ⁵ <http://blogs.westmont.edu/athletics/mens-basketball/mens-basketball-pros/>
- ⁶ Bill Jauss, "Big Bird crushes Purdue," *Chicago Tribune*, November 29, 1977.
- ⁷ Bill Jauss, "Big Bird crushes Purdue."
- ⁸ Mike McCormick, "Sycamores establish their credentials," *Terre Haute Spectator*, December 10, 1977.
- ⁹ Wire story, "Coleman Named Coach," *Daytona Beach Morning-Journal*, March 9, 1977. Coleman was described as "only one of a handful of black head basketball coaches at major colleges across the nation."
- ¹⁰ Wire story, "Indiana St. 102, Baptist 55," *Chicago Tribune*, December 4, 1977.
- ¹¹ Levine, *Bird*, p154; Mike McCormick, "Hustle, teamwork, intensity, poise and talent did it," *Terre Haute Spectator*, March 31, 1979.
- ¹² Wire story, "Pistons sign big centre," *The Montreal Gazette*, June 16, 1981; Wire story, "Pistons Trim Down," *Ludington Daily News*, July 2, 1981.
- ¹³ <http://www.csuniv.edu/about/history.html>
- ¹⁴ Chris Solari, "Tropf returns to MSU 40 years after player walkout," *Lansing State Journal*, January 8, 2015.
- ¹⁵ Wire story, "Evansville disaster: Team had class," *The Spokesman-Review*, December 16, 1977. Simpson had trusted Duff and Kingston to babysit for his children.
- ¹⁶ Wire story, "More tragedy for Evansville," *St. Petersburg Times*, December 29, 1977.
- ¹⁷ Mike McCormick, "Sycamores establish their credentials," *Terre Haute Spectator*, December 10, 1977.
- ¹⁸ Wire story, "Indiana State 81, Eastern Michigan 72," *Toledo Blade*, December 18, 1977.
- ¹⁹ The connection between Al Cicotte and Ed Cicotte is pieced together based on several sources, including the following: Al's (his father) Baseball-Reference page (<http://www.baseball-reference.com/players/c/cicotal01.shtml>); an article by Mike Downey, "Fun should factor in," *Chicago Tribune*, October 11, 2005 [http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2005-10-11/sports/0510110241_1_cigars-factor-world-series] includes quotes from Greg Cicotte, and specifies that Ed was his "great-great-uncle"; "'For Sale' sign not going up," *Lansing State Journal*, October 25, 2005, includes quotes from Greg referring to his father Al Cicotte: [http://www.zoominfo.com/CachedPage/?archive_id=0&page_id=1287783081&page_url=//www.lansingstatejournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051026/COLUMNISTS10/510260370&page_last_updated=2005-10-26T05:03:55&firstName=Greg&lastName=Cicotte]. Baseball-Reference.com also lists Greg's minor league baseball statistics from 1979 through 1981 and lists his height as 6'4": <http://www.baseball-reference.com/minors/player.cgi?id=cicott001gre>. And lastly, in an April 17, 1981 article in *The (Owosso, Michigan) Argus-Press*, a story about a local basketball tournament mentions that Greg and Al were brothers who played together on the same team. While some sources seem to indicate that Al Cicotte did not have any children, Murray Olderman, "Just One New Pitch Bring Cicotte Back To Big Leagues," *The Tuscaloosa News*, April 9, 1961, states that he was married at that time and had three children, and in 2015 the Eastern Michigan web site listed Brent Mattson, a 6'6" freshman pitcher, as the "grandson of former Major League Baseball pitcher Al Cicotte." http://www.emueagles.com/roster.aspx?rp_id=6048&path (son of Dan & Mary Mattson).
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- ²¹ Steve Yoder bio, http://www.uhcougars.com/sports/m-baskbl/mtt/steve_yoder_894556.html
- ²² Tom Silverstein, "Yoder plans to stay at Wisconsin," *Milwaukee Sentinel*, March 25, 1987.
- ²³ Wire story, "Indiana St. 66, S. Illinois 58," *Chicago Tribune*, January 5, 1978.

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- ²⁴ Wire story, "Ind. State 79, W. Texas 62," *Chicago Tribune*, January 8, 1978.
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- ²⁶ Ron Brown, "Harris a crowd-pleaser for Bears, Lumberjacks," *Bangor Daily News*, February 13, 2007.
- ²⁷ Wire story, "Indiana State 73, Bradley 67," *Chicago Tribune*, January 17, 1978.
- ²⁸ Wire story, "Indiana St. perfection shot down by Salukis," *Chicago Tribune*, January 20, 1978.
- ²⁹ Mike Kiley, "One Bird no match for five Redbirds," *Chicago Tribune*, January 22, 1978; Levine, *Bird*, p129.
- ³⁰ Wire story, "College Basketball," *Chicago Tribune*, January 27, 1978.
- ³¹ Wire story, "Bird can't keep Indiana St. up," *Chicago Tribune*, January 29, 1978.
- ³² Wire story, "Shining Knight, Ramblers stifle Indiana State," *Chicago Tribune*, January 31, 1978.
- ³³ Tim Buckley, "Utah Jazz: Disaster of a pick," *Deseret News*, June 24, 2009.
<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/705312553/Utah-Jazz-Disaster-of-a-pick.html?pg=all>
- ³⁴ Susan Crittenden, "Steve Reed," *Terre Haute Spectator*, March 3, 1979.
- ³⁵ John Nash, "NIT country's first women's tourney," *Bangor Daily News*, March 20, 1990.
- ³⁶ Women's NIT website: <http://www.womensnit.com/>
- ³⁷ Wire story, "New Mexico St. tips Indiana St. with :10 left," *Chicago Tribune*, February 7, 1978.
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- ³⁹ Wire story, "Indiana St. 102, Tulsa 70," *Chicago Tribune*, February 12, 1978.
- ⁴⁰ Wire story, "Indiana St. 87, New Mex. St. 74," *Chicago Tribune*, February 14, 1978.
- ⁴¹ Wire story, "Ind. St. 72, Wichita 56," *Chicago Tribune*, February 21, 1978.
- ⁴² 1974 edition of *The Treasure Chest*, Madison Heights annual yearbook.
<http://www.mhhs1966.com/mhhs1974tcccomplete.htm>
- ⁴³ Wire story, "Ind. St. 72, Wichita 56," *Chicago Tribune*, February 21, 1978.
- ⁴⁴ Wire story, "Bradley bows to Indiana State," *Chicago Tribune*, March 2, 1978.
- ⁴⁵ Wire story, "Missouri Valley," *Chicago Tribune*, March 4, 1978.
- ⁴⁶ Levine, *Bird*, p130.
- ⁴⁷ Wire story, "Indiana St. squeaks by," *Chicago Tribune*, March 11, 1978.
- ⁴⁸ Levine, *Bird*, p131.
- ⁴⁹ Wire story, "Indiana St. falls in NIT," *Chicago Tribune*, March 15, 1978; Levine, *Bird*, p 119-120.
- ⁵⁰ Skip Myslenki, "Bird's hit tune still lacks lyrics," *Chicago Tribune*, February 16, 1979.
- ⁵¹ <http://www.usab.com/history/world-university-games-mens/mens-world-university-games-all-time-results-standings.aspx>. In addition to Bailey, Bird's teammates included future NBA players Sidney Moncrief, Darrell Griffith, Dave Corzine, Phil Hubbard, Calvin Natt, Jeff Judkins, and Freeman Williams. Judkins would be Bird's teammate in Boston for one season; Williams would be selected by the Celtics in the same draft as Bird, but Williams's rights were traded as part of the Celtics-Braves/Clippers franchise swap before Williams ever played for Boston. <http://www.usab.com/history/world-university-games-mens/ninth-world-university-games-1977.aspx>
- ⁵² MVC Tournament scores taken from Sports-Reference.com; for example: <http://www.sports-reference.com/cbb/schools/indiana-state/1978-schedule.html>
- ⁵³ Wire story, "Bob King Moves Up," *The Tuscaloosa News*, March 10, 1972.
- ⁵⁴ Rick Wright, "Lobos Coach Bob King Gave Rise to the Pit," *Albuquerque Journal*, December 11, 2004. King's move to Indiana State also forced him to relocate his young family. King had raised three grown children with his first wife, who had died at age 42 of complications from diabetes in 1967, but King then remarried and started a new family; he had three young children by the time he took the Indiana State job. Dee Chipman, "King's Still Lobo's King," *The Deseret News*, February 23, 1967.
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- ⁵⁷ Wire story, "Evansville Aims to Erase Gloom," *Reading Eagle*, November 24, 1978.
- ⁵⁸ Mike McCormick, "Alex Gilbert," *Terre Haute Spectator*, March 3, 1979; Filip Bondy, "That Magic Moment In 1979, Magic & Bird Staged One Of The Most Important Matchups In NCAA History," *New York Daily News*, March 21, 1999 <http://www.nydailynews.com/archives/sports/magic-moment-1979-magic-bird-staged-important-matchups-ncaa-history-article-1.832893>

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- ⁶² Mike Kiley, "Recycled guard gives Indiana St. the needed edge," *Chicago Tribune*, January 23, 1979.
- ⁶³ Wire story, "Indiana State 102, Cleveland State 71," *Chicago Tribune*, December 10, 1978.
- ⁶⁴ Levine, *Bird*, p 153.
- ⁶⁵ Wire story, "Indiana St. 101, Tulsa 89," *Chicago Tribune*, January 4, 1979.
- ⁶⁶ Wire story, "Indiana St., 98-77," *Eugene Register-Guard*, January 7, 1979.
- ⁶⁷ Wire story, "Bird Nests Win For Indiana State," *Ocala Star-Banner*, January 10, 1979.
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<http://cdm151116.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p151116coll1>
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- ⁷² Justin Breen, "Ex-NBA Coach, GM Dick Versace Returns to Roots at Gordon Tech," January 14, 2014. Accessed at <http://www.dnainfo.com/chicago/20140114/north-center/ex-nba-coach-gm-dick-versace-returns-roots-at-gordon-tech>
- ⁷³ Bob Fischer, "Versace Gets A Job With Bucks," *Chicago Tribune*, September 6, 1997.
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- ⁷⁶ Mike McCormick, "Bob Heaton."
- ⁷⁷ Bob Ryan, "Sycamores are living in a fish bowl," *Basketball Weekly*, reprinted in *Terre Haute Spectator*, March 3, 1979
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