

Larry Bird at Indiana State

A Statistical Review

Compiled by Michael Hamel

Second Edition

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Preface to the Second Edition

While the First Edition of “Larry Bird at Indiana State” was well received, it was incomplete because it did not include Bird’s sophomore year. This new Second Edition fills that gap by including every Indiana State box score for the 1976-77 season, along with revised game notes for the games during the 1977-78 and 1978-79 seasons. Several of the box scores from those later seasons have been enhanced with additional statistics, the game notes have been revised, and some corrections have been made to the box scores and the text. Lastly, the weekly college basketball polls from the winter of 1978-79 have been added, to document the Sycamores’ rise through the polls during that memorable season.

Michael Hamel
May, 2016

Preface to the First Edition

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
June, 2015

1976-77 Indiana State Sycamores (25-3)

Larry Bird, Game-by-Game

Date	Opponent			Larry Bird			Postseason Notes
				Pts	Reb	Ast	
11/27/1976	Chicago State†	W	81-60	31	18	10	
11/30/1976	St. Ambrose†	W	85-58	22	16	10	
12/03/1976	Robert Morris	W	87-65	33	17	5	
12/04/1976	Denver	W	78-65	24	16	4	
12/07/1976	at Purdue	L	68-82	27	15	6	
12/09/1976	Augustana†	W	94-69	32	9	6	
12/11/1976	at Ball State	W	80-69	25	11	4	
12/18/1976	Central Michigan	W	80-62	30	10	12	
12/20/1976	West Texas State	W	75-61	26	7	3	
12/28/1976	Drake	W	79-73 2ot	25	12	5	
01/03/1977	Evansville†	W	104-68	29	16	5	
01/06/1977	at Centenary	W	74-71	28	12	4	
01/08/1977	at West Texas State	W	43-41	12	10	1	
01/10/1977	Butler	W	90-67	42	11	7	
01/15/1977	Missouri Western†	W	77-58	33	8	2	
01/20/1977	Missouri-St. Louis†	W	111-87	47	18	3	
01/22/1977	Centenary	W	88-70	37	19	2	
01/25/1977	at Illinois State	L	64-70	40	16	1	
01/31/1977	Illinois State	W	100-84	40	8	4	
02/07/1977	Wisconsin Parkside†	W	77-73 ot	37	11	0	
02/12/1977	at Cleveland State	W	88-76	38	16	1	
02/14/1977	Eastern Michigan	W	87-68	40	13	5	
02/19/1977	Loyola-Chicago	W	83-72	45	17	5	
02/21/1977	at St. Louis	W	77-72	26	9	4	
02/26/1977	at Evansville†	W	78-63	24	13	5	
02/28/1977	at Butler	W	80-65	47	19	3	
03/03/1977	at Valparaiso	W	77-70	34	13	3	
03/09/1977	at Houston	L	82-83	44	14	3	NIT Tournament

Notes:

1. Larry Bird led team in points and rebounds in every game except for those shown in blue.
2. 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
3. Click on the date of the game to jump to the box score.
4. † Denotes non-Division I opponent.

Chicago State Cougars vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Saturday 11/27/1976 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

CHICAGO STATE (0-1)	FG	FT-A	PTS		INDIANA STATE (1-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Mike Eversley	6	1-4	13		Harry Morgan	9	0-0	18
Ephren Stewart	5	5-8	15		Brad Miley	3	0-0	6
Jerome Holland	6	5-11	17		DeCarsta Webster	2	0-2	4
Ken Cyrus	2	0-0	4		Danny King	2	0-0	4
William Hill	1	0-0	2		Larry Bird	13	5-9	31
Juan Gayden	0	0-0	0		Dan Rutledge	1	2-2	4
Dennis Huntley	0	0-0	0		Howie Johnson	5	0-0	10
David Jackson	2	1-2	5		John Nelson	0	0-0	0
Al Rembert	1	0-0	2		Tom Crowder	0	0-0	0
Gregory Wilkins	1	0-0	2		Tony Hodges	0	0-0	0
					Alan Watson	1	1-2	3
					Carl Nicks	0	1-2	1
					Jim Smith	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	24	12-25	60		TOTALS	36	9-17	81
Head Coach: Joseph Buckhalter					Head Coach: Bob King			

	1	2	F
Chicago State	18	42	60
Indiana State	37	44	81

Game Notes: Indiana State took the lead for good at 12-10 and held Chicago State scoreless for 5 minutes later in the first half... Larry Bird led the Sycamores with 18 rebounds, junior DeCarsta Webster added 16...⁴ Howie Johnson's 10 points would end up being his season high and the only time he would score in double figures... Chicago State competed in the NAIA; the Cougars moved up to Division I for the 1984-85 season.

St. Ambrose Fighting Bees vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Tuesday 11/30/1976 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

ST. AMBROSE (?-?)	FG	FT-A	PTS		INDIANA STATE (2-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Al Williams	3	0-0	6		Larry Bird	10	2-4	22
Craig Dentlinger	3	2-2	8		Harry Morgan	11	2-3	24
Pete Kaha	6	0-1	12		DeCarsta Webster	3	1-2	7
Mark Doerrfeld	7	0-0	14		Danny King	5	0-0	10
Ray Shovlain	0	0-0	0		Tom Crowder	7	0-2	14
Jim Fonteyne	1	0-0	2		Brad Miley	0	0-0	0
Phil Doherty	6	1-1	13		Howie Johnson	2	0-0	4
? McDowell	0	0-0	0		Dan Rutledge	1	0-0	2
Bob Page	0	0-0	0		Alan Watson	1	0-0	2
Bill Saelens	0	0-0	0		Carl Nicks	0	0-0	0
Martin Wilkinson	0	3-4	3		Jim Smith	0	0-0	0
Carl Bulat	0	0-0	0		John Nelson	0	0-0	0
					Tony Hodges	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	26	6-8	58		TOTALS	40	5-12	85
Head Coach: Ron Bohls					Head Coach: Bob King			
Team Fouls: 5					Team Fouls: 17			
Attendance: 3300								

	1	2	F
St. Ambrose	35	23	58
Indiana State	35	50	85

Game Notes: Indiana State won their second straight game against an NAIA foe... The Sycamores shot 56 percent from the floor in the second half and out-rebounded the Bees 56-35 for the game...⁵ Ray Shovlain graduated in 1979 after setting career, season, and single-game records for assists by a Fighting Bee; after a brief career as an accountant, he returned to his alma mater to serve as an assistant coach. In 1983 Shovlain was promoted to head coach, and began a career that has now lasted over three decades (a record of 616-449 at St. Ambrose through the 2015-16 season).⁶

Robert Morris Colonels vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Indiana Hall of Fame Classic Semifinals

Friday 12/03/1976 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

ROBERT MORRIS (1-1)	FG	FT	PF	PTS	INDIANA STATE (3-0)	FG	FT	PF	PTS
Larry Gordon	4	2	2	10	Larry Bird	12	9	1	33
Paul Jones	3	0	3	6	Harry Morgan	6	0	4	12
Earl Cureton	5	1	3	11	DeCarsta Webster	4	1	4	9
Rick Migliore	5	5	3	15	Tom Crowder	1	1	1	3
Herb Ranson	0	0	2	0	Danny King	8	1	3	17
Mark James	1	2	2	4	Dan Rutledge	0	4	0	4
Sam Washington	2	0	1	4	Howie Johnson	1	0	0	2
Ray Odem	1	1	1	3	Jim Smith	0	1	4	1
Charlie Gaines	2	0	4	4	Brad Miley	2	2	3	6
Dennis Threlkeld	3	0	1	6	Carl Nicks	0	0	0	0
Bill Vari	1	0	2	2	Alan Watson	0	0	1	0
Cornelius Holmes	0	0	5	0	John Nelson	0	0	0	0
					Tony Hodges	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	27	11	29	65	TOTALS	34	19	21	87
Head Coach: Tom Weirich					Head Coach: Bob King				
Technical Fouls:					Technical Fouls:				
Attendance: 3654									

	1	2	F
Robert Morris	40	25	65
Indiana State	53	34	87

Game Notes: Larry Bird set a new Hulman Center record with 33 points (which he would go on to break several times) as the Sycamores cruised to their third straight victory... This was Robert Morris's debut season in Division I... Earl Cureton of the Colonels had a pair of dunks in the early going but was largely kept in check. Cureton averaged 17.2 points and 10.5 rebounds per game as a sophomore, then sat out the 1977-78 season after transferring to the University of Detroit. Cureton was selected by the Philadelphia 76ers in the third round of the 1979 draft under the junior-eligible rule, and went on to play parts of 12 seasons in the NBA, beginning with the 1980-81 season... In the opener of the Hall of Fame Classic, Denver defeated Stetson 65-63 on a pair of free throws by Eric Hovey with two seconds left.⁷

Denver Pioneers vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Indiana Hall of Fame Classic Finals

Saturday 12/04/1976 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

DENVER (3-2)	FG	FT-A	PTS	INDIANA STATE (4-0)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Bob Heaton	7	7-11	21	Larry Bird	10	4-4	24
David Adkins	0	0-0	0	Tom Crowder	3	0-0	6
Jim Mitchem	2	0-0	4	Danny King	5	3-4	13

Jim Ranson	3	2-2	8		Brad Miley	3	3-3	9
Steve Cribari	2	0-0	4		Harry Morgan	4	1-2	9
Eric Hovey	0	4-6	4		DeCarsta Webster	3	0-1	6
Brad Hunt	3	0-0	6		Howie Johnson	0	2-2	2
Greg Champlin	2	0-0	4		Dan Rutledge	0	0-0	0
Robert Harris	2	0-0	4		Jim Smith	1	7-11	9
Karl Manley	3	2-2	8		Alan Watson	0	0-0	0
Matt Sites	1	0-0	2		Carl Nicks	0	0-0	0
					John Nelson	0	0-0	0
					Tony Hodges	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	25	15-21	65		TOTALS	29	20-27	78
Head Coach: Al Harden Team Fouls: 22					Head Coach: Bob King Team Fouls: 20 Technical Fouls: Indiana State bench, team			
Attendance: 5391 Start Time: 9:00pm ET								

	1	2	F
Denver	30	35	65
Indiana State	45	33	78

Game Notes: Larry Bird completed a four-game stretch in which he shot 52 percent from the floor...⁸ Denver sophomore Bob Heaton would be the Pioneers leading scorer this season; he then transferred to Indiana State... Stetson defeated Robert Morris 70-60 in the consolation game of the tournament.

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Purdue Boilermakers

Tuesday 12/07/1976 at Mackey Arena

West Lafayette, Indiana

INDIANA STATE (4-1)	FG-A	FT-A	PF	PTS	PURDUE (3-2)	FG-A	FT-A	PF	PTS
Larry Bird	11-24	5-5	1	27	Walter Jordan	8-15	4-6	1	20
Harry Morgan	10-21	1-3	4	21	Wayne Walls	6-13	1-2	2	13
DeCarsta Webster	3-7	0-0	1	6	Tom Scheffler	0-1	0-0	2	0
Danny King	4-12	0-0	2	8	Eugene Parker	6-11	0-1	0	12
Tom Crowder	0-3	0-0	3	0	Bruce Parkinson	3-7	2-2	2	8
Brad Miley	0-2	0-2	1	0	Joe Barry Carroll	6-10	0-0	3	12
Jim Smith	2-3	0-0	2	4	Bill Madey	0-1	0-0	1	0
Howie Johnson	1-1	0-0	2	2	Jerry Sichting	4-6	0-0	0	8
					Bill Smalley	0-1	0-0	0	0
					Dan McDermott	0-1	0-0	1	0
					Gerald Thomas	4-8	1-2	2	9
TOTALS	31-73	6-10	16	68	TOTALS	37-74	8-13	14	82
Head Coach: Bob King					Head Coach: Fred Schaus				
Total Rebounds: 44					Total Rebounds: 44				
Attendance: 13942									

	1	2	F
Indiana State	31	37	68
Purdue	35	47	82

Game Notes: The Boilermakers used a 16-4 run to build a 29-18 first half lead... Indiana State closed to within one point, 36-35, early in the second half before Purdue assembled a second 16-4 spurt and then led the rest of the way... Bird (15) and Morgan (12) combined for 27 rebounds as the two squads each grabbed 44 boards...⁹ Forward Walter Jordan would be selected in the fourth round of the 1978 NBA draft by the New Jersey Nets but would not play in the NBA until a short stay with the Cleveland Cavaliers in 1980.

Augustana Vikings vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Thursday 12/09/1976 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

AUGUSTANA (2-2)	FG	FT-A	PTS		INDIANA STATE (5-1)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Ron Kanengieter	4	0-1	8		Larry Bird	15	2-3	32
Greg Nagel	5	5-6	15		Harry Morgan	8	0-0	16
Arvid Kramer	4	1-2	9		DeCarsta Webster	6	0-2	12
Rich Chapman	2	2-2	6		Tom Crowder	2	1-1	5
Steve Krier	0	0-0	0		Danny King	2	2-2	6
Mike Begeman	3	0-0	6		Brad Miley	4	1-2	9
Bob Wilber	3	0-0	6		Howie Johnson	1	0-0	2
Ron Stotz	0	0-0	0		Dan Rutledge	1	0-0	2
Evan Schnegelberger	3	5-6	11		Jim Smith	1	2-2	4
Paul Schenkelberg	3	2-3	8		Alan Watson	0	0-0	0
					Carl Nicks	2	0-2	4
					John Nelson	0	2-2	2
					Tony Hodges	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	27	15-20	69		TOTALS	42	10-17	94
Head Coach: Mel Klein					Head Coach: Bob King			
Team Fouls: 23					Team Fouls: 22			
Attendance: 3000								

	1	2	F
Augustana	35	34	69
Indiana State	50	44	94

Game Notes: The Division II Vikings were no match for the Sycamores, who led by as many as 34 points late in the game...¹⁰ Arvid Kramer later became the only player selected in both the 1980 and 1988 NBA expansion drafts – but there's a twist. Kramer was originally drafted by the Utah Jazz in the third round in 1979 but played in the CBA before appearing in eight games with the Denver Nuggets in March 1980. Two months later, Kramer was selected by the Dallas Mavericks in the expansion draft but chose instead to play in Italy. Eight years later, the Mavericks traded their first round pick in the 1988 college draft to the nascent Miami Heat so Miami would not draft Bill Wennington, Uwe Blab, or Steve Alford off of Dallas's roster. That left Kramer, who had remained on Dallas's suspended list, as the only available Maverick in the expansion draft, and the league forced the Heat to take him first overall as part of the trade. Kramer, who was now residing in West Germany, chose to continue playing in Europe.¹¹

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Ball State Cardinals

Saturday 12/11/1976 at Irving Gymnasium

Muncie, Indiana

INDIANA STATE (6-1)	FG-A	FT-A	PF	PTS	BALL STATE (1-3)	FG-A	FT-A	PF	PTS
Larry Bird	9-16	7-8	4	25	Robert Sims	9-13	0-1	3	18
Harry Morgan	7-13	0-0	4	14	Dave Weimer	1-4	3-4	5	5
DeCarsta Webster	2-7	1-2	3	5	Randy Boarden	6-17	0-0	1	12
Danny King	6-12	5-6	2	17	Jim Fields	8-11	0-0	2	16
Jim Smith	2-4	5-6	1	9	Jim Hahn	4-12	0-0	5	8
Brad Miley	0-1	1-2	1	1	Pete Kuzma	1-3	0-0	1	2
Carl Nicks	2-2	1-2	0	5	Jim Holstein	1-3	2-2	5	4
Howie Johnson	1-1	2-2	0	4	Conrad Jones	1-3	0-0	0	2
					Paul Kaiser	0-0	2-2	0	2
					Dwayne Irvin	0-0	0-0	0	0
TOTALS	29-56	22-28	15	80	TOTALS	31-66	7-9	22	69
Head Coach: Bob King					Head Coach: Jim Holstein				
Total Rebounds: 33					Total Rebounds: 32				
Attendance: 4205									

	1	2	F
Indiana State	39	41	80
Ball State	28	41	69

Game Notes: Indiana State took the lead for good at 22-20... Cardinals head coach Jim Holstein praised Larry Bird after the game: "Bird is as good a player as anyone we've faced since I've been coaching here..."¹² Harry Morgan scored 12 points in the first half, then picked up his fourth foul early in the second and sat out most of the rest of the game; partly as a result of Morgan's absence, Danny King scored 11 of his 17 points after halftime... Jim Fields made six consecutive field goals in the second half.

Central Michigan Chippewas vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Saturday 12/18/1976 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

CENTRAL MICHIGAN (4-4)	FG	FT-A	PTS		INDIANA STATE (7-1)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Kevin Janer	5	0-2	10		Larry Bird	15	0-0	30
Leon Guydon	0	0-0	0		Harry Morgan	15	0-1	30
Ben Poquette	4	6-7	14		DeCarsta Webster	2	0-1	4
Leonard Drake	6	2-4	14		Danny King	3	0-0	6
Val Bracey	6	4-5	16		Jim Smith	0	0-0	0
Barry Copeland	0	0-1	0		Tom Crowder	0	0-0	0
Jerry McClain	0	2-2	2		Dan Rutledge	0	0-0	0
Jerry McCool	2	0-0	4		Howie Johnson	2	2-2	6
Tony Hosey	1	0-0	2		Brad Miley	0	0-0	0
Kurt Kaeding	0	0-0	0		Alan Watson	0	0-0	0
					Carl Nicks	1	0-2	2
					John Nelson	0	0-0	0
					Tony Hodges	1	0-0	2
TOTALS	24	14-21	62		TOTALS	39	2-6	80
Head Coach: Dick Parfitt					Head Coach: Bob King			
Team Fouls: 12					Team Fouls: 23			
Technical Fouls: Coach Parfitt								
Attendance: 3500								

	1	2	F
Central Michigan	28	34	62
Indiana State	42	38	80

Game Notes: Larry Bird tied the Hulman Center assist record with 12 and shot 15 for 24 from the floor... Harry Morgan shot 15 for 22, and made 13 of his first 16 shots. DeCarsta Webster led all rebounders with 16... This was the Chippewas second straight loss, but they would rebound to win the MAC (Mid-American Conference) and finished 18-10 overall including a loss to Charlotte in the NCAA Tournament. Ben Poquette 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.

West Texas State Buffaloes vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Monday 12/20/1976 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

WEST TEXAS STATE (5-3)	FG	FT-A	PTS		INDIANA STATE (8-1)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Bruce Taylor	1	0-0	2		Larry Bird	12	2-2	26
Eugene Smith	6	4-6	16		Harry Morgan	4	2-2	10
Richard Addison	2	0-0	4		DeCarsta Webster	7	2-4	16
Maurice Cheeks	5	3-6	13		Danny King	3	0-0	6
Melvin Jones	7	4-7	18		Jim Smith	2	0-0	4

Bobby Jones	0	0-1	0	Tom Crowder	1	0-0	2
Dan Elmer	0	0-0	0	Dan Rutledge	0	1-3	1
Brad Schreck	3	2-5	8	Howie Johnson	0	0-0	0
Larry Cunningham	0	0-0	0	Brad Miley	2	0-0	4
				Carl Nicks	2	2-2	6
				Alan Watson	0	0-0	0
				John Nelson	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	24	13-25	61	TOTALS	33	9-14	75
Head Coach: Ron Ekker Team Fouls: 19				Head Coach: Bob King Team Fouls: 22			
Attendance: 3600							

	1	2	F
West Texas State	25	36	61
Indiana State	37	38	75

Game Notes: Indiana State led by double-digits throughout the second half...¹³ The Sycamores basketball team would officially join the Missouri Valley Conference for the 1977-78 season, but played three games against future MVC foes this season, including two against the Buffaloes.

Drake Bulldogs vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Tuesday 12/28/1976 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

DRAKE (2-7)	FG	FT-A	PTS		INDIANA STATE (9-1)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Ken Harris	11	4-5	26		Larry Bird	7	11-12	25
Wayne Kreklow	2	2-2	6		Harry Morgan	3	2-2	8
Ron Littlepage	2	0-0	4		DeCarsta Webster	1	2-2	4
Terry Benka	4	0-1	8		Danny King	9	6-6	24
Napoleon Gaither	3	0-1	6		Jim Smith	2	6-7	10
Earl May	4	0-0	8		Brad Miley	2	0-0	4
Chad Nelson	7	1-2	15		Carl Nicks	1	0-0	2
Chris Kern	0	0-0	0		Howie Johnson	0	2-2	2
Tom Egli	0	0-1	0					
TOTALS	33	7-12	73		TOTALS	25	29-31	79
Head Coach: Bob Ortegell					Head Coach: Bob King			
Team Fouls: 24					Team Fouls: 14			
Attendance: 7200								

	1	2	OT	OT2	F
Drake	27	38	2	6	73
Indiana State	34	31	2	12	79

Game Notes: Jim Smith made two free throws to force overtime and made four more in the second extra session as Indiana State survived a scare against Drake...¹⁴ Season-high 24 points for Danny King (no relation to Bob King), a senior who had transferred from Cumberland (Tennessee) Junior College after his sophomore season. Danny King was also a native of French Lick, Indiana and his decision to attend Indiana State in 1975 was one of the reasons why his friend and former Springs Valley High School teammate Larry Bird chose to enroll at the university as well.¹⁵

Evansville Purple Aces vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Monday 01/03/1977 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

EVANSVILLE (6-5)	FG	FT-A	PTS		INDIANA STATE (10-1)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Jeff Frey	0	2-2	2		Larry Bird	13	3-3	29
Bryan Taylor	4	0-0	8		Harry Morgan	10	5-5	25
Steve Miller	2	2-2	6		DeCarsta Webster	4	0-0	8
John Ed Washington	9	3-5	21		Danny King	9	0-0	18
Mike Platt	4	0-0	8		Jim Smith	3	0-1	6
Scott Johnson	1	2-2	4		Brad Miley	1	0-0	2
Tony Winburn	2	4-8	8		Carl Nicks	1	0-0	2
Keith Moon	2	0-0	4		Howie Johnson	3	0-1	6
Mark Balin	0	1-2	1		Tom Crowder	1	0-0	2
Kevin Kingston	0	2-2	2		Dan Rutledge	1	2-3	4
Dana Hungerford	2	0-0	4		Alan Watson	0	0-0	0
Gene Amlin	0	0-0	0		John Nelson	1	0-0	2
					Tony Hodges	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	26	16-23	68		TOTALS	47	10-13	104
Head Coach: Arad McCutchan					Head Coach: Bob King			
Team Fouls: 17					Team Fouls: 21			
Attendance: 7753								

	1	2	F
Evansville	31	37	68
Indiana State	49	55	104

Game Notes: Indiana State rolled over another Division II opponent... The Sycamores led 23-6 before the Aces made their only significant run of the game to briefly cut their deficit to 27-21... Larry Bird added 16 rebounds, five assists, and seven steals. Jim Smith broke the school record with 15 assists... Jeff Frey, who was leading the Aces in scoring, started the game 0 for 9 from the floor but contributed 10 rebounds.

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Centenary Gents

Thursday 01/06/1977 at Gold Dome

Shreveport, Louisiana

INDIANA STATE (11-1)	FG	FT-A	PTS		CENTENARY (4-7)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Larry Bird	12	4-5	28		Bobby White	12	0-0	24
Harry Morgan	8	2-2	18		Al Barnes	6	2-2	14
DeCarsta Webster	5	0-1	10		John Pitts	6	4-4	16
Danny King	4	6-7	14		Bill Schmidt	4	0-1	8
Jim Smith	1	0-0	2		Kevin Stark	1	1-3	3
Brad Miley	1	0-0	2		Aaron Strayhorn	1	0-0	2
Howie Johnson	0	0-0	0		Chris Cummings	1	2-2	4
					Walter Louis	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	31	12-15	74		TOTALS	31	9-12	71
Head Coach: Bob King					Head Coach: Riley Wallace			
Team Fouls: 16					Team Fouls: 15			
					Technical Fouls: White			

	1	2	F
Indiana State	42	32	74
Centenary	37	34	71

Game Notes: The Gentlemen from Louisiana assembled an 18-4 run midway through the second half and nearly pulled a major upset. Harry Morgan's 18-foot jumper cut the Gents lead to 71-70 with 30 seconds remaining, then Centenary failed to get the ball inbounds within the required five seconds. Indiana State inbounded the ball to Larry Bird, who was fouled immediately. Bird made both free throws and Danny King added another pair with three second left to give ISU the win...¹⁶

Indiana State Sycamores vs. West Texas State Buffaloes

Saturday 01/08/1977 at Amarillo Civic Center

Amarillo, Texas

INDIANA STATE (12-1)	FG	FT-A	PTS		WEST TEXAS STATE (7-5)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Harry Morgan	5	0-0	10		Brad Schreck	0	2-2	2
Larry Bird	6	0-0	12		Eugene Smith	7	1-2	15
DeCarsta Webster	1	2-2	4		Richard Addison	6	0-0	12
Jim Smith	5	0-0	10		Maurice Cheeks	4	0-0	8
Danny King	3	0-0	6		Melvin Jones	2	0-0	4
Howie Johnson	0	1-2	1		Bruce Taylor	0	0-0	0
Carl Nicks	0	0-0	0		Bobby Jones	0	0-0	0
Brad Miley	0	0-0	0					
TOTALS	20	3-4	43		TOTALS	19	3-6	41
Head Coach: Bob King					Head Coach: Ron Ekker			
Team Fouls: 10					Team Fouls: 9			
Attendance: 3000								

	1	2	F
Indiana State	22	21	43
West Texas State	24	17	41

Game Notes: Indiana State led 38-35 with 11 minutes left, then held the ball for nearly five minutes to milk the clock...¹⁷ The Buffaloes fell to 7-5, but one of those losses, a 81-76 defeat at Oklahoma State back on December 6, would later forfeited by Oklahoma State due to Ricky Daniel being declared academically ineligible.

Butler Bulldogs vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Monday 01/10/1977 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

BUTLER (6-8)	FG	FT-A	PTS		INDIANA STATE (13-1)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Don McGlocklin	7	2-5	16		Larry Bird	16	10-11	42
John Dunn	6	1-2	13		Harry Morgan	9	1-3	19
Joe Maloney	6	0-0	12		DeCarsta Webster	5	0-1	10
Bill Lynch	4	0-0	8		Danny King	3	0-0	6
Wayne Burris	3	0-0	6		Brad Miley	2	2-2	6
Tom Orner	3	0-2	6		Tom Crowder	1	0-0	2
Doug Mitchell	0	2-2	2		Dan Rutledge	1	0-0	2
Ed Thompson	0	0-0	0		Tony Hodges	1	0-0	2
Rick Darragh	0	0-0	0		Carl Nicks	0	1-2	1
Bob Leonard	0	0-0	0		Jim Smith	0	0-1	0
Larry Lubs	0	0-0	0		Howie Johnson	0	0-0	0
Jeff Fehn	2	0-1	4		Alan Watson	0	0-0	0
					John Nelson	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	31	5-12	67		TOTALS	38	14-20	90
Head Coach: George Theofanis					Head Coach: Bob King			
Team Fouls: 19					Team Fouls: 17			
Attendance: 7838								

	1	2	F
Butler	33	34	67
Indiana State	40	50	90

Game Notes: Larry Bird broke the Hulman Center scoring record set by Dean Tolson of Arkansas (41) three years earlier (during the arena's debut season) as the Sycamores rallied to defeat the Bulldogs. Butler began the game by making 9 of 13 shots and led 19-14 midway through the first half, but the Sycamores

answered with a 19-1 run... Indiana State controlled the boards after halftime (+18) and never trailed again... DeCarsta Webster had 10 points and 10 rebounds.¹⁸

Missouri Western Golden Griffons vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Saturday 01/15/1977 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

MISSOURI WESTERN (4-9)	FG	FT-A	PTS		INDIANA STATE (14-1)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Chris Burwell	7	0-2	14		Larry Bird	15	3-5	33
Dan Sullivan	0	2-3	2		Harry Morgan	7	0-0	14
Craig Elford	1	0-0	2		DeCarsta Webster	2	1-2	5
Wendall Humes	3	0-1	6		Danny King	4	0-0	8
Mike Burns	1	0-0	2		Jim Smith	1	3-4	5
Mark Holmes	9	4-4	22		Brad Miley	0	0-0	0
Ron Parker	2	1-2	5		Carl Nicks	1	0-0	2
Ron Tyler	0	5-6	5		Tom Crowder	0	0-0	0
Greg Dunigan	0	0-0	0		Howie Johnson	2	0-1	4
Jacky Payne	0	0-0	0		Dan Rutledge	0	0-0	0
Blake Schreck	0	0-0	0		Alan Watson	2	0-0	4
Gary Snider	0	0-0	0		John Nelson	0	0-1	0
					Tony Hodges	1	0-0	2
TOTALS	23	12-18	58		TOTALS	35	7-13	77
Head Coach: Gary Filbert					Head Coach: Bob King			
Team Fouls: 17					Team Fouls: 21			
Attendance: 6276								

	1	2	F
Missouri Western	21	37	58
Indiana State	36	41	77

Game Notes: Missouri Western's attempt to use a four corner offense throughout the game failed as the Griffons committed 27 turnovers... In the second half ISU built a 23 point lead. Larry Bird shot 15 for 23 from the floor; with 14:15 left, Bird left the game with his fourth foul. At that point, Indiana State led 48-27 and Bird already had 27 points by himself... DeCarsta Webster led the Sycamores with 13 rebounds and Jim Smith added 10 assists. Mark Holmes scored his 22 points in 23 minutes off the bench...¹⁹ Division II Missouri Western had been a junior college until 1969.

Missouri-St. Louis Tritons vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Thursday 01/20/1977 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS (8-7)	FG	FT-A	PTS		INDIANA STATE (15-1)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Hubert Hoosman	8	1-2	17		Larry Bird	22	3-5	47
Jeff Goessling	0	2-2	2		Harry Morgan	8	7-9	23
Mark Henrichs	5	2-2	12		DeCarsta Webster	2	4-4	8
Bob Bone	15	8-10	38		Danny King	2	0-0	4
Grayling Tobias	5	2-2	12		Jim Smith	2	3-4	7
Mike McCormack	1	2-2	4		Brad Miley	2	0-0	4
Lamont Shannon	1	0-0	2		Carl Nicks	2	0-0	4
Marty Braun	0	0-0	0		Howie Johnson	0	0-0	0
Larry McKelly	0	0-0	0		Dan Rutledge	2	0-0	4
Rip Barberio	0	0-1	0		Tom Crowder	4	0-0	8
Joe Howard	0	0-0	0		Alan Watson	0	0-0	0
					John Nelson	1	0-1	2
					Tony Hodges	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	35	17-21	87		TOTALS	47	17-23	111
Head Coach: Chuck Smith					Head Coach: Bob King			

Team Fouls: 19	Team Fouls: 22
Attendance: 6784	

	1	2	F
Missouri-St. Louis	36	51	87
Indiana State	49	62	111

Game Notes: Larry Bird shot 22 for 39 from the field and broke the Indiana State single-game scoring record of 43 set by Butch Wade against Valparaiso (then in Division II) on February 3, 1965, and matched by Wade again a year later against St. Joseph's...²⁰ Wade, who was a seventh-round draft choice of the New York Knicks in 1967, also held Indiana State's single-season scoring average record at 27.3... but Bird would shatter that mark this year.

Centenary Gents vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Saturday 01/22/1977 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

CENTENARY (6-11)	FG	FT-A	PTS		INDIANA STATE (16-1)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Bobby White	4	0-1	8		Larry Bird	14	9-9	37
Al Barnes	4	1-4	9		Harry Morgan	7	5-5	19
John Pitts	5	1-2	11		DeCarsta Webster	1	2-2	4
Bill Schmidt	5	0-0	10		Danny King	5	0-0	10
Kevin Starke	1	3-4	5		Jim Smith	5	2-2	12
Walter Louis	6	7-8	19		Brad Miley	0	0-1	0
Rudy Manne	0	0-0	0		Howie Johnson	0	0-0	0
Aaron Strayhorn	2	0-0	4		Carl Nicks	2	2-2	6
Leroy Crayton	1	0-0	2		Dan Rutledge	0	0-1	0
Robbie Senn	1	0-0	2		Alan Watson	0	0-0	0
					Tom Crowder	0	0-0	0
					John Nelson	0	0-0	0
					Tony Hodges	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	29	12-19	70		TOTALS	34	20-22	88
Head Coach: Riley Wallace					Head Coach: Bob King			
Team Fouls: 21					Team Fouls: 19			
Attendance: 8051								

	F
Centenary	70
Indiana State	88

Game Notes: The Gents successfully kept the ball out of Larry Bird's hands most of the night, but Bird made 14 of 16 shots anyway to pace the Sycamores. Bird collected 16 of his 19 rebounds in the second half...²¹ Centenary had been on NCAA probation since January 1973 for using outlawed "conversion tables" to inflate the SAT and ACT test scores of recruits. Those recruits included Robert Parish, a future NBA Hall of Famer and teammate of Larry Bird in Boston. Centenary could have spared themselves a six year probation sentence by withdrawing scholarships from Parish and other players, but chose not to do so. Four days after placing Centenary on probation, the NCAA amended the rule that the school had violated (to be applied beginning with the 1974-75 season), but did not lift the sanctions against Centenary. As a result, Parish played out his four years without ever participating in postseason play; still, his college career was good enough for the Golden State Warriors to select him eighth overall in the 1976 NBA draft.²²

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Illinois State Redbirds

Tuesday 01/25/1977 at Horton Field House

Normal, Illinois

INDIANA STATE (16-2)	FG	FT-A	PTS		ILLINOIS STATE (15-5)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Harry Morgan	3	4-5	10		Billy Lewis	5	2-3	12
Larry Bird	14	12-14	40		Del Yarbrough	1	2-2	4
DeCarsta Webster	1	0-0	2		Jeff Wilkins	10	2-2	22
Jim Smith	1	0-0	2		Ron Jones	4	4-4	12
Danny King	4	0-0	8		Derrick Mayes	6	2-3	14
Howie Johnson	0	0-0	0		Rick Ferina	0	0-0	0
Brad Miley	1	0-0	2		Joe Galvin	1	0-0	2
					Jeff Widdel	2	0-0	4
TOTALS	24	16-19	64		TOTALS	29	12-14	70
Head Coach: Bob King					Head Coach: Gene Smithson			
Team Fouls: 19					Team Fouls: 18			
Attendance: 5300								

	1	2	F
Indiana State	44	20	64
Illinois State	40	30	70

Game Notes: Indiana State led for much of the game before Illinois State rallied and moved ahead for good, 60-58 with six minutes remaining... the Sycamores went scoreless for nearly 10 minutes when they tried to milk the clock after taking a 58-52 lead with 12:27 left.²³ Redbirds center Jeff Wilkins was selected by the San Antonio Spurs in the second round of the 1977 NBA draft, but had a nomadic pro career. Released by the Spurs before the season, Wilkins headed to Europe, and was a member of the 1978-79 Efes Pilsen team that won the Turkish league title.²⁴ After a year with the CBA's Hawaii Volcanoes,²⁵ Wilkins, a native of Elgin, Illinois, spent a few months as a member of the Chicago Bulls before being released without ever appearing in a regular season game. Wilkins finally made his NBA debut on December 4, 1980 with the Utah Jazz and eventually became a starter. After a brief second stint with the Spurs in 1986, Wilkins headed back to Europe.

Illinois State Redbirds vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Monday 01/31/1977 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

ILLINOIS STATE (15-6)	FG	FT-A	PTS		INDIANA STATE (17-2)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Billy Lewis	16	2-4	34		Larry Bird	14	12-15	40
Del Yarbrough	0	0-0	0		Harry Morgan	8	2-3	18
Jeff Wilkins	8	1-4	17		DeCarsta Webster	3	1-2	7
Ron Jones	5	4-4	14		Danny King	6	0-0	12
Derrick Mayes	5	0-0	10		Jim Smith	6	1-2	13
Jeff Widdel	3	0-0	6		Brad Miley	0	2-3	2
Rick Ferina	0	1-2	1		Howie Johnson	1	0-0	2
Robert McCoy	0	2-2	2		Carl Nicks	2	0-0	4
Joe Galvin	0	0-0	0		Tom Crowder	1	0-0	2
Larry Lowe	0	0-0	0		Dan Rutledge	0	0-0	0
					Alan Watson	0	0-0	0
					John Nelson	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	37	10-16	84		TOTALS	41	18-25	100
Head Coach: Gene Smithson					Head Coach: Bob King			
Team Fouls: 22					Team Fouls: 21			
Technical Fouls: Wilkins, Lewis					Technical Fouls: Indiana State bench (2)			
Attendance: 10102								

	1	2	F
Illinois State	43	41	84
Indiana State	47	53	100

Game Notes: ISU won the second half of the home-and-home battle in front of a record-setting crowd at the Hulman Center. Larry Bird scored 18 of his points in the final seven minutes as the Sycamores finished the game by outscoring the Redbirds 28-15...²⁶ Season-high 13 points for Jim Smith... Billy Lewis led the Redbirds, shooting 16 for 24 from the floor; Jeff Wilkins added 17 points and 13 rebounds. The Redbirds outshot the Sycamores 58% to 49% but ISU had a 49-34 edge on the boards.²⁷

Wisconsin-Parkside Rangers vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Monday 02/07/1977 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

WISCONSIN-PARKSIDE (13-6)	FG	FT-A	PTS		INDIANA STATE (18-2)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Marvin Chones	3	2-2	8		Larry Bird	17	3-3	37
Leartha Scott	11	2-2	24		Harry Morgan	6	3-4	15
Lester Thompson	3	0-0	6		DeCarsta Webster	3	0-0	6
Laurence Brown	4	1-1	9		Danny King	3	2-2	8
Stevie King	3	1-2	7		Jim Smith	3	2-2	8
Joe Fouts	3	2-2	8		Brad Miley	1	1-2	3
Mike Hanke	0	0-0	0		Howie Johnson	0	0-0	0
Marshall Hill	2	1-1	5		Carl Nicks	0	0-1	0
Lonnie Lewis	2	0-0	4					
? Nixon	0	2-2	2					
TOTALS	31	11-12	73		TOTALS	33	11-14	77
Head Coach: Steve Stephens					Head Coach: Bob King			
Team Fouls: 19					Team Fouls: 15			
Attendance: 7763								

	1	2	OT	F
Wisconsin-Parkside	32	35	6	73
Indiana State	32	35	10	77

Game Notes: Stevie King missed a reverse layup at the final buzzer of regulation, and Indiana State then prevailed in overtime... The (Division II) Rangers had 14 steals and seven blocks against the “flat” Sycamores...²⁸ Prior to the game, Bob King told reporters, “We knew [Larry Bird] was going to be good, but we didn’t know how Larry was going to fit in. I compare Larry very favorably with [Mel] Daniels whom I coached at New Mexico.”²⁹ Daniels had gone on to win two ABA MVP awards and three ABA championships as a member of the Indiana Pacers.

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Cleveland State Vikings

Saturday 02/12/1977 at Woodling Gym

Cleveland, Ohio

INDIANA STATE (19-2)	FG	FT-A	PTS		CLEVELAND STATE (7-14)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Larry Bird	12	14-17	38		Robert Carman	1	0-0	2
Harry Morgan	7	1-1	15		Scott Rose	0	0-0	0
DeCarsta Webster	3	2-2	8		Dave Kyle	4	2-2	10
Danny King	7	2-3	16		Ron Harris	5	0-1	10
Jim Smith	0	0-0	0		Greg Cobb	7	3-3	17
Brad Miley	0	3-4	3		Andre Battle	9	6-10	24
Howie Johnson	0	2-2	2		Eric Talmadge	0	0-0	0
Carl Nicks	0	6-11	6		Larry Croom	6	1-2	13
					Charles Loving	0	0-0	0

				Pete Pellizzari	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	29	30-40	88	TOTALS	32	12-18	76
Head Coach: Bob King Team Fouls: 19 Technical Fouls: Webster				Head Coach: Ray Dieringer Team Fouls: 27			

	1	2	F
Indiana State	35	53	88
Cleveland State	37	39	76

Game Notes: Cleveland State, led by Greg Cobb's 13 points, shot 15 for 20 from the floor in the first half... The game featured 17 lead changes but a 10-0 run by Indiana State gave them a 71-62 lead with 7:23 remaining in the game and the Sycamores never trailed again.³⁰

Eastern Michigan Hurons vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Monday 02/14/1977 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

EASTERN MICHIGAN (6-15)	FG	FT-A	PTS		INDIANA STATE (20-2)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Doug Reynolds	2	0-1	4		Larry Bird	17	6-7	40
Ken Harmon	1	0-0	2		Harry Morgan	9	4-6	22
Bob Riddle	6	2-2	14		DeCarsta Webster	5	1-1	11
Kevin Justice	1	0-0	2		Danny King	1	0-0	2
Bill Weaver	6	5-7	17		Jim Smith	3	0-0	6
Bob Walden	8	0-0	16		Brad Miley	0	0-1	0
Brian Schubert	5	0-1	10		Howie Johnson	0	0-0	0
Bill Harris	0	0-0	0		Carl Nicks	1	0-0	2
John Boteler	0	0-0	0		Dan Rutledge	2	0-0	4
Mike Morrison	0	0-0	0		Tom Crowder	0	0-0	0
Paul Ash	0	3-4	3		Alan Watson	0	0-1	0
Tom Agardy	0	0-0	0					
TOTALS	29	10-15	68		TOTALS	38	11-16	87
Head Coach: Ray Scott Team Fouls: 15 Technical Fouls: Eastern Michigan bench					Head Coach: Bob King Team Fouls: 15 Technical Fouls: Bird			
Attendance: 7559								

	1	2	F
Eastern Michigan	34	34	68
Indiana State	40	47	87

Game Notes: Harry Morgan scored 17 points in the first half as the Sycamores took the lead for good at 8-6... Larry Bird shot 17 of 24 from the floor for the game and scored six points on a single possession in the second half; after being fouled by Bob Walden, Bird made the resulting two free throws plus two additional free throws after Eastern Michigan was called for a technical foul, and then, after ISU retained possession due to the technical, added a jumper. The sequence pushed the Sycamores lead to 63-52...³¹ Ray Scott was in the midst of his first 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 Division I college or pro level again.

Loyola of Chicago Ramblers vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Saturday 02/19/1977 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

LOYOLA-CHICAGO (12-11)	FG-A	FT-A	PF	PTS	INDIANA STATE (21-2)	FG-A	FT-A	PF	PTS
Gary Feiereisel	4-10	0-0	1	8	Larry Bird	20-27	5-7	2	45
Houston Lloyd	1-8	0-0	5	2	Harry Morgan	9-21	1-2	3	19
John Hunter	6-13	2-2	4	14	DeCarsta Webster	1-8	2-4	2	4
Tad Duffelmeier	8-14	3-3	4	19	Danny King	3-15	1-1	2	7
Andre Wakefield	8-16	1-2	3	17	Jim Smith	3-6	2-3	2	8
Jeffire Elmore	4-9	0-0	3	8	Brad Miley	0-0	0-0	0	0
Steve Goebel	1-3	0-0	1	2	Carl Nicks	0-0	0-0	0	0
Tom O'Halloran	1-1	0-0	0	2	John Nelson	0-2	0-0	0	0
TOTALS	33-74	6-7	21	72	TOTALS	36-80	11-17	11	83
Head Coach: Jerry Lyne Total Rebounds: 45					Head Coach: Bob King Total Rebounds: 47 Technical Fouls: Bird (hanging on rim)				
Attendance: 10020									

	1	2	F
Loyola-Chicago	31	41	72
Indiana State	43	40	83

Game Notes: Larry Bird filled up the stat sheet with 17 rebounds, five assists, five steals, and four blocks while making 20 of his 27 shots in Indiana State's last home game of the season... When little-used senior guard John Nelson checked into the game with 56 seconds left, Bird decided to try to help Nelson get on the scoreboard. When Nelson missed his first shot, Bird grabbed the rebound and could have easily scored himself to tie his career record for points in a game, but instead dribbled out towards Nelson, passed him the ball and set a pick. However, Nelson missed again, closing out his college career with a scoreless performance.³²

Indiana State Sycamores vs. St. Louis Billikens

Monday 02/21/1977 at Kiel Auditorium

St. Louis, Missouri

INDIANA STATE (22-2)	FG	FT-A	PTS		ST. LOUIS (5-18)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Harry Morgan	5	5-5	15		Carl Johnson	8	3-3	19
Larry Bird	11	4-5	26		Curtis Hughes	4	0-0	8
DeCarsta Webster	1	2-2	4		Howard Jackson	6	4-4	16
Jim Smith	5	2-2	12		Bill Moulder	2	1-1	5
Danny King	2	3-4	7		Kevin King	9	0-0	18
Dan Rutledge	1	7-7	9		Jim Glass	0	0-0	0
Howie Johnson	0	0-0	0		Johnnie Parker	2	2-2	6
Carl Nicks	1	0-0	2					
Brad Miley	1	0-0	2					
TOTALS	27	23-25	77		TOTALS	31	10-10	72
Head Coach: Bob King					Head Coach: Randy Albrecht			
Team Fouls: 17					Team Fouls: 23			
Technical Fouls: Morgan								
Attendance: 2207								

	1	2	F
Indiana State	36	41	77
St. Louis	38	34	72

Game Notes: Neither team led by more than six points and there were 12 ties during the game... Dan Rutledge made four free throws in the final two minutes to help seal the victory for the Sycamores... Carl Johnson scored a team-high 19 points despite fouling out with four minutes remaining.³³ Billikens head coach Randy Albrecht was heading towards the end of a mediocre three-year stint leading his alma mater (32-47) but would spend the next 36 years as the head coach of Meramec/St. Louis Community College

before retiring, winning 11 coach of the year awards and ending his career with 28 straight winning seasons.³⁴

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Evansville Purple Aces

Saturday 02/26/1977 at Roberts Stadium

Evansville, Indiana

INDIANA STATE (23-2)	FG	FT-A	PTS		EVANSVILLE (15-12)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Larry Bird	8	8-10	24		Bryan Taylor	7	2-2	16
Harry Morgan	12	4-4	28		Jeff Frey	1	2-2	4
DeCarsta Webster	1	1-2	3		Steve Miller	4	2-3	10
Jim Smith	2	4-5	8		John Ed Washington	6	0-0	12
Danny King	4	0-0	8		Mike Platt	8	5-6	21
Brad Miley	0	2-2	2		Dana Hungerford	0	0-0	0
Carl Nicks	1	0-0	2		Keith Moon	0	0-0	0
Dan Rutledge	0	1-2	1		Tony Winburn	0	0-1	0
Howie Johnson	0	2-2	2		Von Chavis	0	0-0	0
Tom Crowder	0	0-0	0		Mark Balin	0	0-0	0
Alan Watson	0	0-0	0					
TOTALS	28	22-27	78		TOTALS	26	11-14	63
Head Coach: Bob King					Head Coach: Arad McCutchan			
Team Fouls: 17					Team Fouls: 22			
Technical Fouls: Morgan 2								
Attendance: 11336								

	1	2	F
Indiana State	39	39	78
Evansville	27	36	63

Game Notes: Indiana State held Evansville to 30 percent shooting from the floor in the first half, and the Aces never got closer than seven points after halftime...³⁵ Final home game for legendary head coach Arad McCutchan, who had announced his retirement after 31 years at Evansville. McCutchan would end the season with a 514-314 record and five Division II titles; he was elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1981.³⁶ Evansville would move up to Division I for the 1977-78 season.

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Butler Bulldogs

Monday 02/28/1977 at Hinkle Fieldhouse

Indianapolis, Indiana

INDIANA STATE (24-2)	FG-A	FT-A	PF	PTS	BUTLER (13-14)	FG	FT-A	PF	PTS
Harry Morgan	3-5	2-3	4	8	John Dunn	8-21	0-0	5	16
Larry Bird	19-30	9-10	2	47	Ed Thompson	2-4	1-1	3	5
DeCarsta Webster	1-2	0-0	1	2	Jeff Fehn	0-1	0-0	3	0
Jim Smith	1-1	3-4	0	5	Wayne Burris	8-24	0-0	2	16
Danny King	6-11	1-2	4	13	Bill Lynch	5-7	1-2	2	11
Brad Miley	0-0	0-0	1	0	Don McGlocklin	4-7	5-6	0	13
Carl Nicks	0-1	0-0	0	0	Doug Pollock	0-1	0-0	2	0
Dan Rutledge	0-0	5-6	1	5	Joe Maloney	1-2	0-0	2	2
Alan Watson	0-0	0-0	0	0	Doug Mitchell	1-1	0-0	2	2
John Nelson	0-0	0-0	0	0	Tom Orner	0-0	0-0	0	0
Tom Crowder	0-0	0-0	0	0	Larry Lubs	0-0	0-0	0	0
Howie Johnson	0-0	0-0	0	0					
TOTALS	31	5-12	13	80	TOTALS	38	14-20	21	65
Head Coach: Bob King					Head Coach: George Theofanis				
Total Rebounds: 38					Total Rebounds: 28				
Attendance: 12767									

	1	2	F
Indiana State	45	35	80
Butler	39	26	65

Game Notes: Larry Bird tied his school record of 47 points, this time against a Division I opponent. Bird also collected 19 rebounds to break the Indiana State single-season rebounding record established by DeCarsta Webster the previous season (339); Bird now had 346 for the year...³⁷ The Bulldogs, closing out their season, and the seven-year tenure of head coach George Theofanis, pulled to within 55-53 with 14 minutes left, but were unable to pull even or ahead... the Sycamores then scored nine in a row (5 by Bird, 4 by Danny King) over the next three minutes to put the game out of reach.

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Valparaiso Crusaders

Thursday 03/03/1977 at Hilltop Gymnasium

Valparaiso, Indiana

INDIANA STATE (25-2)	FG	FT-A	PTS		VALPARAISO (13-12)	FG	FT-A	PTS
Danny King	4	2-2	10		Nolan Petties	4	2-2	10
Jim Smith	1	1-2	3		Tim Hostetler	2	0-0	4
DeCarsta Webster	2	0-0	4		Darryl Ashby	9	5-8	23
Harry Morgan	8	4-4	20		Max Kipfer	3	0-0	6
Larry Bird	12	10-10	34		Peter Schmelzer	3	1-2	7
Dan Rutledge	1	0-0	2		Dan Roark	4	5-6	13
Carl Nicks	1	0-0	2		Jim Urbanik	1	1-2	3
Brad Miley	1	0-0	2		Ken Kremer	0	0-0	0
					Greg Dobbs	2	0-0	4
TOTALS	30	17-18	77		TOTALS	28	14-22	70
Head Coach: Bob King					Head Coach: Ken Rochlitz			
Team Fouls: 18					Team Fouls: 17			
Attendance: 12767								

	1	2	F
Indiana State	38	39	77
Valparaiso	32	38	70

Game Notes: Indiana State completed their regular season with their ninth consecutive victory and fourth straight on the road... The Sycamores, who were ranked 16th in the final UPI coaches poll of the season, earned their first trip to the NIT.³⁸

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Houston Cougars

NIT First Round

Wednesday 03/09/1977 at Hofheinz Pavilion

Houston, Texas

INDIANA STATE (25-3)	FG-A	FT-A	PF	PTS	HOUSTON (27-7)	FG-A	FT-A	PF	PTS
Larry Bird	19-28	6-7	3	44	Cecile Rose	3-6	0-0	3	6
Harry Morgan	3-14	4-6	5	10	Charles Thompson	4-9	0-1	0	8
DeCarsta Webster	4-9	2-3	2	10	Mike Schultz	7-11	4-6	4	18
Danny King	4-12	4-4	3	12	Otis Birdsong	13-26	4-4	2	30
Jim Smith	2-3	0-0	3	4	Mark Trammell	2-5	0-0	1	4
Brad Miley	1-4	0-0	0	2	Al Winder	0-0	0-0	0	0
Dan Rutledge	0-0	0-0	1	0	Ken Ciolli	4-6	0-0	1	8
					George Walker	0-1	1-2	0	1
					Kenneth Williams	2-5	0-1	3	4
					Jeff Kelley	2-3	0-0	5	4
					Cedric Fears	0-0	0-0	1	0
TOTALS	33-70	16-20	17	82	TOTALS	37-72	9-14	20	83

Head Coach: Bob King	Head Coach: Guy Lewis
Total Rebounds: 38	Total Rebounds: 40
Attendance: 8201	

	1	2	F
Indiana State	46	36	82
Houston	52	31	83

Game Notes: With the game tied at 82, Dan Rutledge fouled Houston center Mike Schultz with 37 seconds left, then Schultz made one of two free throws to provide the winning margin... Schultz's miss was rebounded by Indiana State, but Larry Bird missed a "tough turn-around" in the final seconds that allowed Houston to advance.³⁹

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	
12/01/1977	St. Louis	W	84-68	31	19	8	
12/03/1977	Baptist†	W	102-55	25	5	3	
12/05/1977	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	
01/04/1978	Southern Illinois	W	66-58	21	8	3	
01/07/1978	West Texas State	W	79-63	30	5	3	
01/12/1978	at Tulsa	W	78-59	16	15	3	
01/14/1978	at Drake	W	92-80	45	9	5	
01/16/1978	Bradley	W	73-67	35	13	5	
01/19/1978	at Southern Illinois	L	76-79	38	9	3	
01/21/1978	at Illinois State	L	76-81	37	17	5	
01/26/1978	at Wichita State	L	70-74 ot	33	16	2	
01/28/1978	Creighton	L	64-72	32	12	2	
01/30/1978	at Loyola-Chicago	L	76-79	28	16	6	
02/04/1978	at West Texas State	W	67-50	22	11	1	
02/06/1978	at New Mexico State	L	82-83	38	10	2	
02/11/1978	Tulsa	W	102-70	41	11	3	
02/13/1978	New Mexico State	W	87-74	34	20	3	
02/16/1978	at Creighton	L	57-89	11	10	2	
02/18/1978	Drake	W	90-71	14	6	7	
02/20/1978	Wichita State	W	72-56	35	9	3	
02/25/1978	at Bradley	W	74-68	24	8	3	
02/27/1978	vs West Texas State	W	90-71	27	9	2	MVC Tournament
03/01/1978	vs Bradley	W	88-81	33	14	8	MVC Tournament
03/03/1978	vs New Mexico State	W	80-78 2ot	40	11	2	MVC Tournament
03/05/1978	at Creighton	L	52-54	29	6	3	MVC Tournament
03/10/1978	Illinois State	W	73-71	27	10	7	NIT Tournament
03/14/1978	at Rutgers	L	56-57	23	11	1	NIT Tournament

Notes:

1. Larry Bird led team in points and rebounds in every game except for those shown in [blue](#).
2. Games against MVC opponents are also highlighted in [blue](#).
3. Click on the date of the game to jump to the box score.
4. † Denotes non-Division I opponent.

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					Head Coach: Bob King			
Team Fouls: 18					Team Fouls: 19			
Technical Fouls: Dykstra, Westmont bench					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: Indiana State went on a 20-2 run twelve minutes into the game to turn a narrow 21-18 advantage into a commanding lead. Larry Bird played just 29 minutes as the Sycamores never trailed... The Sycamores outrebounded the Warriors 50-33...⁴⁰ Westmont had won the NAIA National Championship in 1972 and hired Chet Kammerer in 1975 – he remained head coach through 1992.⁴¹ Rick Streelman and Jim Dykstra would later play pro ball in Europe (France and the Netherlands, respectively)...⁴² 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					
Technical Fouls: Schaus 2											
Attendance: 9522 Start Time: 7:30pm (WTTV-4 local TV)											
Referees: Salvidge, Higgins											

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

Game Notes: Larry Bird missed 10 shots in a row at one point, but out-rebounded Purdue 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."⁴³ After the game, Bird told reporters, "We expected to beat them that much down here."⁴⁴ 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 after Jerry Sichting was called for a charge, but told reporters afterward, "Bird's fantastic. He can play with anyone in the country."⁴⁵ Schaus also complained that King had not pulled Bird from the game until the final two minutes despite holding a large lead⁴⁶... 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... Bird added 19 rebounds, Webster had 11, and Morgan chipped in 10... Jim Smith went scoreless but led the Sycamores with 10 assists. Indiana State led 62-39 early in the second half before St. Louis went a 20-8 run, but the Billikens could get no closer after that.⁴⁷ 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.⁴⁸

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					Head Coach: Bob King			
Team Fouls: 14					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 six blocks in 23 minutes off the bench.⁴⁹ 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 law⁵⁰ and then transfer again, this time to LeMoyne-Owen College. Johnson tried out for the Detroit Pistons in 1981 but was released after a few weeks...⁵¹ Baptist was renamed Charleston Southern University in 1991.⁵²

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					Head Coach: Dick Parfitt			
Team Fouls: 17					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 Detroit Pistons, who had selected Central Michigan’s Ben Poquette a year earlier, 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 Tropic 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 Tropic, 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 Tropic and a collection of junior-varsity players lost to Indiana 107-55...⁵³ Tropic 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			
Technical Fouls: Evansville bench					Technical Fouls: R. Johnson, Webster			
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 last game before the 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."⁵⁴ 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.⁵⁵ Fellow freshman Mike Joyner had been Terre Haute South High School's leading scorer.⁵⁶

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					Head Coach: Ray Scott			
Team Fouls: 19					Team Fouls: 27			
Technical Fouls: Webster								
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 when Kenny Harmon made a 25-foot jump shot with 11 minutes left, but ISU then scored the next six points and were not seriously challenged again. Bird shot 12 for 22 from the floor...⁵⁷ 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...⁵⁸ 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.⁵⁹

Ball State Cardinals vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Thursday 12/29/1977 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

BALL STATE (2-5)	FG-A	FT-A	PF	PTS	INDIANA STATE (8-0)	FG-A	FT-A	PF	PTS
Dave Weimer	2-6	0-1	2	4	Larry Bird	10-22	4-6	1	24
Robert Sims	4-9	2-2	3	10	Harry Morgan	12-22	0-0	1	24
Randy Boarden	5-14	0-2	3	10	DeCarsta Webster	2-4	0-0	3	4
Mike Drews	5-14	0-0	3	10	Jim Smith	1-5	0-0	0	2
Jim Hahn	3-10	0-0	1	6	Leroy Staley	2-12	1-1	2	5
Jeff Williams	1-6	0-0	1	2	Brad Miley	0-1	1-2	2	1
George Bradley	0-2	0-2	0	0	Steve Reed	1-4	0-0	0	2
Dwayne Irvin	0-0	0-0	0	0	Richard Johnson	5-7	1-1	4	11
Jim Fields	0-0	0-0	0	0	Dan Rutledge	0-0	0-1	0	0
Clement Murrell	1-4	0-0	1	2	Tom Crowder	1-2	1-1	0	3
Matt Beerbower	2-7	0-0	1	4	Howie Johnson	2-3	0-1	1	4
Al Gooden	1-1	0-0	1	2	Jim Ogborn	0-0	0-0	0	0
					Alan Watson	1-1	0-0	0	2
TOTALS	24-74	2-7	17	50	TOTALS	37-83	8-13	14	82
Head Coach: Steve Yoder					Head Coach: Bob King				
Team Fouls: 17					Team Fouls: 14				
Total Rebounds: 52					Total Rebounds: 54				
Technical Fouls: Ball State bench									
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...⁶⁰ Larry Bird and Harry Morgan combined to score 17 of the Sycamores' first 19 points of the second half; Bird had 13 rebounds, six assists, five steals, and two blocks in 31 minutes...⁶¹

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 high schools in Indiana and Illinois. 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.⁶² 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.⁶³

Southern Illinois Salukis vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Wednesday 01/04/1978 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (5-5)	FG-A	FT-A	PF	PTS	INDIANA STATE (8-0)	FG-A	FT-A	PF	PTS
Gary Wilson	10-14	1-1	3	21	Larry Bird	10-21	1-2	4	21
Barry Smith	2-7	0-0	0	4	Harry Morgan	10-19	3-4	1	23
Al Grant	4-11	1-2	1	9	DeCarsta Webster	4-7	0-0	3	8
Milton Huggins	3-10	2-2	1	8	Jim Smith	0-1	0-1	1	0
Wayne Abrams	5-12	0-0	5	10	Leroy Staley	3-5	0-1	1	6
James Orr	0-1	0-0	1	0	Richard Johnson	2-3	1-2	0	5
Christopher Giles	2-9	0-0	2	4	Steve Reed	0-0	0-0	0	0
Anthony Frazier	0-0	0-0	0	0	Brad Miley	1-3	1-1	1	3
Charles Moore	1-1	0-0	0	2					
TOTALS	27-65	4-5	13	58	TOTALS	30-59	6-11	11	66
Head Coach: Paul Lambert					Head Coach: Bob King				
Team Fouls: 13					Team Fouls: 11				
Total Rebounds: 34					Total Rebounds: 39				
Technical Fouls: Abrams (hanging on rim), Southern Illinois bench (not forcing action)									
Attendance: 9380 Start Time: 7:30pm ET									

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

Game Notes: DeCarsta Webster scored three straight baskets to break a 47-47 tie midway through the second half. After the game, Bob King called Webster "the player of the night for us."⁶⁴ Webster also held Gary Wilson to six points in the second half; "I think moving DeCarsta to Wilson was the biggest adjustment of the game," King told reporters...⁶⁵ The athletic director of Southern Illinois added his assessment of Larry Bird's game: "His excellence is strengthened by his unselfishness."⁶⁶ The Salukis AD was Gale Sayers, who had been enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame the previous summer after a seven-year career with the Chicago Bears.⁶⁷

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-A	FT-A	PF	PTS	INDIANA STATE (10-0)	FG-A	FT-A	PF	PTS
Tony Ellis	5-8	2-2	3	12	Larry Bird	13-32	4-4	4	30
Carl Johnson	6-9	0-0	5	12	Harry Morgan	11-23	1-2	2	23
Reed Addison	3-10	3-5	1	9	DeCarsta Webster	2-4	0-0	2	4

Maurice Cheeks	8-10	3-5	4	19	Jim Smith	4-6	1-1	3	9
Dan Elmer	5-7	0-0	0	10	Leroy Staley	2-3	1-2	4	5
Dave Keller	0-1	0-0	0	0	Richard Johnson	2-3	0-1	2	4
Mike Lorenc	0-0	1-2	0	1	Brad Miley	1-1	0-0	1	2
Lee Davis	0-0	0-0	0	0	Steve Reed	0-1	0-0	0	0
Larry Cunningham	0-0	0-0	1	0	Tom Crowder	1-5	0-1	1	2
					Howie Johnson	0-0	0-0	0	0
					Dan Rutledge	0-2	0-0	1	0
					Jim Ogborn	0-1	0-0	0	0
					Alan Watson	0-0	0-0	0	0
TOTALS	27-46	9-14	15	63	TOTALS	36-80	7-11	20	79
Head Coach: Ron Ekker					Head Coach: Bob King				
Team Fouls: 15					Team Fouls: 20				
Total Rebounds: 33					Total Rebounds: 40				
Technical Fouls: West Texas State bench									
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.⁶⁸ A 16-2 run gave the Sycamores a 27-12 lead with 6:47 left in the first half... Bob King was effusive in his praise for Brad Miley's defense against Maurice Cheeks: "He was the best defensive man on the floor... He may be the best sixth man in the country."⁶⁹ Miley held Cheeks to just eight points while he was guarding him... The Buffaloes committed 21 turnovers in the first half while taking just 16 shots.

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			
Total Rebounds: 49				Total Rebounds: 43			
Turnovers: 15				Turnovers: 18			
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 four points in the first half and shot just 6 for 17 from the floor for the game...⁷⁰ 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. King 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					Head Coach: Bob Ortegel			
Team Fouls: 23					Team Fouls: 28			
Technical Fouls: Morgan, Indiana State bench 2					Technical Fouls: Drake bench			
Attendance: 11144 Start Time: 8:35pm ET								

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

Game Notes: Larry Bird shot 18 for 30 from the floor and broke the Veterans Auditorium scoring record of 40 points set by Oscar Robertson 19 years earlier...⁷¹ 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,⁷² and then played 25 games alongside 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					Head Coach: Bob King			
Team Fouls: 23					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, but the Braves gave the Sycamores all they could handle.⁷³ Bobby Humbles and Alex Mazeika led a 9-0 Bradley run in the second half to give the Braves a 57-53 lead with 9:40 remaining in the game. Over the next six minutes, the Sycamores outscored the Braves 13-2, punctuated by a long jumper by Bird, to retake the lead for good... Harry Morgan picked up three early fouls and sat out most of the first half.⁷⁴

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 Kieszowski	0	0-0	0
TOTALS	36	4-10	76		TOTALS	33	13-14	79
Head Coach: Bob King					Head Coach: Paul Lambert			
Team Fouls: 19					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.⁷⁵ DeCarsta Webster tallied a season-high 12 points, and added nine 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)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	A	PF	PTS	ILLINOIS STATE (16-2)	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	3-4	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						
Steals: Bird							Blocks: Lewis, Yarbrough 3, Galvin						
							Steals: Lewis, Yarbrough, Jones 2, Mayes 2, Smithson						
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. Randy Smithson put the Redbirds ahead for good with a basket with six minutes left... Later, Bird picked up a technical foul for dunking a "dead ball" after being whistled for a foul on a steal that led to a breakaway...⁷⁶ 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.⁷⁷

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 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...⁷⁸ Lynbert "Cheese" Johnson obtained his nickname from his sunny disposition as a teenager on New York's inner city basketball courts; his smile reminded onlookers of a young man looking to get his picture taken. Johnson was drafted by the Golden State Warriors in the third round in 1979 but had just a brief stay in the NBA... he later played in the CBA and in Europe.⁷⁹

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					Head Coach: Bob King			
Team Fouls: 18					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 and ended a 30-game home winning streak. 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 as Creighton won the battle of the boards by a 40-38 margin.⁸⁰

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-CHICAGO (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-Chicago	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.⁸¹ 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 poor shooter that he failed to make the team as a rebounding/defensive specialist...⁸² 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.⁸³

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	0-1	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: Bob King's squad ended their five-game losing streak with their second victory of the season over the Buffaloes. King was even able to rest his starters when Indiana State built a 63-37 lead with three minutes left. "Although we got only 67 points, it was one of our best offensive performances of the year," King said afterwards. "We shot pretty well but the best thing we did was play with balance."⁸⁴ Howie Johnson held Maurice Cheeks to 5 points in just his second start... The Amarillo Civic Center, a multi-purpose facility containing an arena for basketball, a separate auditorium, and exhibit halls, hosted the National Women's Invitational Tournament from its inception in 1969 until the event ended in 1996.⁸⁵ 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.⁸⁶

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	35	13-28	83
Head Coach: Bob King					Head Coach: Ken Hayes			
Team Fouls: 22					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 New Mexico State. Larry Bird, who had given the Sycamores an 82-81 lead with 31 seconds remaining, then missed a potential game-winning 25-foot jumper with three Aggies surrounding him.⁸⁷ New Mexico State, who committed just three turnovers, went on a 10-0 run midway through the second half to overcome a 61-52 deficit. 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).⁸⁸

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					Head Coach: Bob King			
Team Fouls: 22					Team Fouls: 19			
Technical Fouls: Sims, Tulsa bench 3								
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...⁸⁹ 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 (WTTV-4 local TV)							

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

Game Notes: Larry Bird scored 22 points in the first half but picked up his fourth foul with 10 minutes left and was on the bench much of the rest of the way; the Sycamores briefly increased their lead to 26 points in his absence. Indiana State's victory moved them into a tie with Southern Illinois for second place in the Missouri Valley Conference with an 8-4 conference record... Mark Temple, a native of Pekin, Indiana who had played against Bird in high school, scored all of his points in the second half.⁹⁰

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 Total Rebounds: 43 Turnovers 15 Technical Fouls: Coach King/ISU Bench, Webster, Morgan, Smith				Head Coach: Tom Apke Team Fouls: 28 Total Rebounds: 49 Turnovers 14			
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 starters Larry Bird, Richard Johnson, Jim Smith, and Allen Watson, were suffering from the flu. Bird sat out the second half...⁹¹ Freshman shooting guard Kevin McKenna averaged just under nine 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 Ortegell					Head Coach: Bob King			
Team Fouls: 21					Team Fouls: 13			
Technical Fouls: Drake bench 2								
Attendance: 9095 Start Time: 7:30pm ET								

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

Game Notes: With Larry Bird still suffering from the flu and playing just 24 minutes, Harry Morgan scored a season-high 33 points. "That's as well as we can play with Larry Bird," Bob King told reporters. "It's a great victory for us considering our condition."⁹² Morgan, a 6-7 senior forward who had transferred from Vincennes University (junior college) prior to the 1976-77 season, was the second-leading scorer for Indiana State during his two seasons in Terre Haute. 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...⁹³ 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 Aughtburns	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 (WTTV-4 local TV)	

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

Game Notes: Indiana State raced to a 32-16 start and held off a Wichita State rally to go into the locker room at halftime with a four point lead. Leading 52-50 with 13:33 left in the game, the Sycamores then held the Shockers to two points, on a pair of free throws, over the next 12 minutes while building an insurmountable 70-52 advantage... Larry Bird shot 13 for 18 from the floor... Bird and Webster each grabbed nine rebounds as the Sycamores outrebounded the Shockers 44-24.⁹⁴

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 (six players on floor)					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: Bob King put Brad Miley into the starting lineup to guard Roger Phegley, and Miley responded by holding him to half of his season average (27.6); Miley added nine rebounds...⁹⁵ 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					Head Coach: Bob King			
Team Fouls: 17					Team Fouls: 23			
Technical Fouls: Johnson, West Texas State bench 2								
Attendance: 5579 Start Time: 4:00pm ET								

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

Game Notes: Larry Bird hit his first four shots and scored 9 of the Sycamores first 14 points as Indiana State built a 14-2 lead six minutes into the game. Indiana State shot 65 percent from the floor in the first half, and led by as many as 29, 62-33, with 12:39 to play in the second... Point guard Maurice Cheeks ended his career at West Texas State with this game, in which he contributed five rebounds, three assists, and three steals to go along with his 28 points.⁹⁶ 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 Start Time: 5:15pm ET								

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

Game Notes: The game featured 16 lead changes and 10 ties before the Sycamores moved ahead for good with 14 minutes left... Bird was held without a field goal attempt during the first eight minutes of the game... Bradley shot 20 for 26 (76.9%) from the floor in the second half...⁹⁷ 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.⁹⁸

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					Head Coach: Bob King			
Team Fouls: 25					Team Fouls: 22			
Attendance: 9687 Start Time: 5:15pm ET								

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

Game Notes: Indiana State trailed the entire first half, taking their first lead at 45-44 on a Larry Bird jumper with 16 minutes left. The Sycamores gradually built a 63-56 lead, but Danny Lopez hit a long jumper to tie the game at 66-66 with 1:15 remaining. After holding the ball to set up a final shot, Robert Gunn stole the ball from Bird to send the game to overtime. New Mexico made the first shot of overtime and the two teams traded baskets until the Aggies missed a potential game-winner at the buzzer. In the second overtime, Dan Rutledge opened the scoring with a pair of free throws before the two teams resumed their see-saw battle. With the game tied at 78, Gunn fouled Bird with seven seconds left; Bird then hit both free throws to seal the double-overtime victory... Ken Hayes told reporters that this game "may have been the best game I've ever seen. I've never seen a better game in terms of effort and execution."⁹⁹

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Creighton Bluejays

MVC Tournament Final

Sunday 03/05/1978 at Civic Auditorium

Omaha, Nebraska

INDIANA STATE (22-8)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	A	PF	PTS		CREIGHTON (19-8)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	A	PF	PTS
Larry Bird	11-12	7-8	6	3	2	29		Rick Apke	6-12	1-2	4	5	1	13
Harry Morgan	6-15	2-2	3	0	3	14		Kevin McKenna	2-8	0-0	2	3	3	4
DeCarsta Webster	2-4	0-0	7	2	1	4		David Wesely	2-6	2-2	4	1	4	6
Brad Miley	0-0	0-0	1	1	4	0		John Johnson	8-14	3-3	4	0	2	19
Jim Smith	1-3	0-0	0	2	1	2		Randy Eccker	2-3	0-0	2	3	2	4
Steve Reed	1-4	0-0	0	2	1	2		Kevin Kuehl	4-9	0-0	2	2	4	8
Alan Watson	0-1	1-2	0	3	1	1		Jim Hons	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
Dan Rutledge	0-1	0-0	4	1	0	0		Tim McConnell	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0
Richard Johnson	0-0	0-0	0	0	2	0								
TOTALS	21-40	10-12	22	14	15	52		TOTALS	24-52	6-7	18	15	16	54

Head Coach: Bob King Team Rebounds: 4 Blocks: Bird, Miley Steals: Bird 3	Head Coach: Tom Apke Team Rebounds: 6 Steals: Johnson 2, McKenna 2, Kuehl 2, Newell, Wesely, Apke Technical Fouls: Coach Apke
Attendance: 9054 Start Time 4:00pm ET (WRTV-6 local TV)	

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

Game Notes: In their first season back in the Missouri Valley Conference (after leaving the conference in 1948) Creighton earned the MVC's automatic NCAA tournament bid with their third defeat of Indiana State of the season. As the #1 seed in the nine-team MVC, Creighton had earned a bye all the way into the championship game, which they hosted. Rick Apke, the brother of head coach Tom Apke, hit the game-winning jumper (to conclude a 10-0 run by the Bluejays over the final 6:20) with two seconds remaining. Apke also made the game-tying basket with 4:41 remaining; when Indiana State then turned the ball over, the Bluejays held the ball for the rest of the game. 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.¹⁰⁰ Bird was in enough pain that he needed to get treatment at an Omaha hospital less than an hour before the game. "We knew he was hurt, but we told our players that it wouldn't matter because he's such a great competitor," Tom Apke said. "He's the best player in college basketball. He could cut off one leg and still score 30."¹⁰¹

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)							INDIANA STATE (23-8)						
	FG-A	FT-A	RB	A	PF	PTS		FG-A	FT-A	RB	A	PF	PTS
Billy Lewis	6-17	6-8	6	1	4	18	Larry Bird	12-21	3-6	10	7	3	27
Del Yarbrough	4-4	0-0	5	1	4	8	Harry Morgan	9-24	0-0	7	2	3	18
Joe Galvin	7-13	1-3	6	2	3	15	DeCarsta Webster	4-6	0-0	9	0	3	8
Ron Jones	8-16	0-0	2	5	1	16	Jim Smith	0-2	0-0	3	9	1	0
Derrick Mayes	1-5	0-2	3	9	1	2	Brad Miley	6-6	0-0	3	3	1	12
Rick Ferina	0-0	2-2	0	0	0	2	Richard Johnson	2-4	0-3	2	1	1	4
Larry Lowe	2-4	0-0	1	1	0	4	Dan Rutledge	1-3	0-0	2	0	1	2
Randy Smithson	2-4	2-2	0	3	1	6	Steve Reed	0-1	0-0	0	0	1	0
							Howie Johnson	1-1	0-0	0	2	0	2
							Alan Watson	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	30-63	11-17	36	22	14	71	TOTALS	35-68	3-9	42	24	14	73
Head Coach: Gene Smithson							Head Coach: Bob King						
Team Rebounds: 13							Team Rebounds: 6						
Blocks: Yarbrough 3, Galvin 2							Blocks: Morgan, Webster						
Steals: Lewis 2, Galvin, Jones 3							Steals: Bird, Webster, Smith, Miley, R. Johnson						
Attendance: 10150 Start Time: 7:30pm ET (WTTV-4 local TV)													
Referees: Hank Nichols, John Moreau													

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

Game Notes: A back-and-forth game was settled at the free throw line in the final minute. Larry Bird fouled Joe Galvin with 28 seconds left; Galvin made the first to cut ISU's lead to 73-71, but missed the second. Bird was then fouled with 15 seconds remaining, but missed the first of a one-and-one

opportunity. The Redbirds got the rebound, and Ron Jones had a chance to tie the game but missed an 18-footer at the buzzer...¹⁰² Season-high 12 points for Brad Miley.

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-A	FT-A	RB	A	PF	PTS	RUTGERS (23-6)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	A	PF	PTS
Harry Morgan	8-22	2-2	8	2	4	18	Abdel Anderson	6-16	4-5	4	1	3	16
Larry Bird	10-20	3-3	11	1	2	23	Hollis Copeland	6-13	0-0	9	1	3	12
DeCarsta Webster	1-3	0-0	3	0	3	2	James Bailey	6-13	1-2	8	0	4	13
Jim Smith	3-4	0-0	4	2	1	6	Steve Hefele	0-5	0-0	2	3	2	0
Brad Miley	1-4	1-2	6	2	0	3	Rodney Duncan	4-8	0-0	3	7	0	8
Dan Rutledge	1-3	0-0	3	1	0	2	Tom Brown	1-1	0-2	3	2	2	2
Howie Johnson	0-5	0-0	1	4	0	0	Kelvin Troy	1-4	4-5	4	2	2	6
Steve Reed	1-2	0-0	0	0	0	2							
Richard Johnson	0-0	0-2	2	0	5	0							
TOTALS	25-63	6-9	44	12	15	56	TOTALS	24-60	9-14	36	16	16	57
Head Coach: Bob King Team Rebounds: 6 Blocks: Webster Steals: Bird 3							Head Coach: Tom Young Team Rebounds: 3 Blocks: Anderson, Bailey Steals: Anderson 2, Bailey						
Attendance: 5700 Start Time: 7:30pm ET (WTTV-4 local TV) Referees: Desmond James, Bob Wortman													

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

Game Notes: Indiana State turned the ball over on their final three possessions after taking a 56-53 lead with 3:46 to play. The last turnover was a poor inbounds pass by Jim Smith; James Bailey grabbed the ball and then hit the game-winning shot with 17 seconds left...¹⁰³ King and Bird both loudly protested the lack of foul call on Hollis Copeland, who sent Bird crashing to the floor at the buzzer, then Bird tangled with a Rutgers fan on the way to the locker room...¹⁰⁴ James Bailey 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.¹⁰⁵ (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."¹⁰⁶) 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.¹⁰⁷

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 Results¹⁰⁸

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

1977-78 AP and UPI Basketball Polls

Indiana State regularly appeared on both the AP and UPI polls early in the 1977-78 season, but their five game losing streak in January dropped them out of the top 20 in both polls for the rest of the season.¹⁰⁹

	Preseason	11/29	12/6	12/13	12/20	12/27	1/3	1/10	1/17	1/24
AP	Not in Top 20		11	7	6	6	6	6	4	13
UPI	14		8	7	7	8	7	7	5	13

1978-79 Indiana State Sycamores (33-1)

Larry Bird, Game-by-Game

<i>Date</i>	<i>Opponent</i>			<i>Larry Bird</i>			<i>Postseason Notes</i>
				<i>Pts</i>	<i>Reb</i>	<i>Ast</i>	
11/25/1978	Lawrence†	W	99-56	25	12	10	
11/27/1978	at Purdue	W	63-53	22	15	4	
12/02/1978	at Evansville	W	74-70	40	12	2	
12/04/1978	Illinois State	W	78-76	31	19	6	
12/08/1978	vs East Carolina	W	102-79	32	9	3	
12/09/1978	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	
01/03/1979	Tulsa	W	101-89	27	19	6	
01/06/1979	at West Texas State	W	98-77	32	20	2	
01/09/1979	North Carolina A&T	W	83-64	26	16	7	
01/13/1979	Bradley	W	93-74	27	18	10	
01/15/1979	New Mexico State	W	73-69	24	13	6	
01/18/1979	at Wichita State	W	94-84	31	11	12	
01/20/1979	at Creighton	W	90-80	29	10	6	
01/22/1979	Southern Illinois	W	88-79	31	17	8	
01/27/1979	Creighton	W	77-69	17	15	9	
02/01/1979	at New Mexico State	W	91-89 ot	37	17	9	
02/03/1979	at Tulsa	W	66-56	22	22	2	
02/06/1979	Drake	W	100-79	33	10	10	
02/10/1979	at Bradley	W	91-72	4	11	2	
02/12/1979	West Texas State	W	100-75	27	19	5	
02/15/1979	at Southern Illinois	W	69-68	20	14	6	
02/20/1979	at Drake	W	76-68	27	9	7	
02/25/1979	Wichita State	W	109-84	49	19	2	
02/27/1979	West Texas State	W	94-84	29	15	5	<i>MVC Tournament</i>
03/01/1979	Southern Illinois	W	79-72	25	19	5	<i>MVC Tournament</i>
03/03/1979	New Mexico State	W	69-59	20	10	4	<i>MVC Tournament</i>
03/11/1979	vs Virginia Tech	W	86-69	22	13	7	<i>NCAA Sub-Regional</i>
03/15/1979	vs Oklahoma	W	93-72	29	15	5	<i>NCAA Sub-Regional</i>
03/17/1979	vs Arkansas	W	73-71	31	10	3	<i>NCAA Midwest Regional</i>
03/24/1979	vs DePaul	W	76-74	35	16	9	<i>NCAA Final Four</i>
03/26/1979	vs Michigan State	L	64-75	19	13	2	<i>NCAA Natl. Championship</i>

Notes:

1. Larry Bird led team in points and rebounds in every game except for those shown in blue.
2. Games against MVC opponents are also highlighted in blue.
3. Click on the date of the game to jump to the box score.
4. † Denotes non-Division I opponent.

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					Head Coach: Bill Hodges			
Team Fouls: 19					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.¹¹⁰ 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.¹¹¹ 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...¹¹² 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 Sichting	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 (WTTV-4 local TV)	
Referees: Art White, Carroll Crosby, Gil Haggart	

	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.¹¹³ With the Boilermakers trailing 56-53 in the final minute, Carroll went to the free throw line and missed the front end of a one-and-one; Bird grabbed the rebound and threw a pass the length of the floor to Steve Reed for an easy basket. Reed and Carl Nicks then made five free throws down the stretch the close out the scoring...¹¹⁴ 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

INDIANA 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: Larry Bird scored 26 of the Sycamores 36 first-half points while shooting 11 for 18 from the floor...¹¹⁵ 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.”¹¹⁶ 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.¹¹⁷

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	3	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	30	26	76	TOTALS	29-71	20-26	41	22	78
Head Coach: Bob Donewald						Head Coach: Bill Hodges					
Team Rebounds: 6						Technical Fouls: Indiana State bench					
						Team Rebounds: 6					
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 by 11 midway through the second half and had a 72-65 lead with 3:40 left, but Indiana State rallied for the victory. Larry Bird scored 9 of the Sycamores next 11 points, punctuated by a three-point play, to put Indiana State in front 76-74 (their first lead since 2-0).¹¹⁸ "I knew they had to go to [Bird]," Illinois State forward Rick Fernia said afterward, "and I still couldn't hold him."¹¹⁹ Ron Jones tied the game with a pair of free throws before Carl Nicks won the game with an 18-foot jumper with 36 seconds remaining. The Redbirds had one final chance in the final seconds when a pass by Bird was intercepted by Del Yarbrough, but Illinois State then lost the ball out of bounds.

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: Larry Bird scored 26 of his points in the first half and played just nine minutes after halftime.¹²⁰ Bird passed the 2,000 point mark (2,027) for his career at ISU...¹²¹ 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...¹²² Stetson University, the host of the Hatter Classic, lost to Cleveland State 64-61 in the second game of the opening doubleheader.

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: Larry Bird was pulled from the game, to a standing ovation, with nine minutes remaining; he shot 15 for 23 from the field and added 15 rebounds, five assists, and three steals in 31 minutes...¹²³ Season-high 31 points for junior point guard Carl Nicks (who also contributed 10 assists), 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.”¹²⁴ 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...¹²⁵ Stetson defeated East Carolina 107-82 in the consolation game.

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Ball State Cardinals

Tuesday 12/12/1978 at University Gym

Muncie, Indiana

INDIANA STATE (7-0)	FG-A	FT-A	PF	PTS	BALL STATE (4-2)	FG-A	FT-A	PF	PTS
Alex Gilbert	3-8	0-0	5	6	George Bradley	10-21	4-10	3	24
Brad Miley	3-4	2-2	5	8	Mike Drews	2-7	2-2	2	6
Larry Bird	11-23	9-10	4	31	Randy Boarden	4-8	1-1	5	9
Carl Nicks	10-20	2-2	3	22	Dwayne Irvin	1-5	2-2	3	4
Steve Reed	4-4	2-2	3	10	Jim Hahn	4-10	2-2	4	10
Bob Heaton	3-6	0-1	5	6	Jeff Williams	7-15	7-9	0	21
Leroy Staley	3-7	3-6	2	9	Dave Weimer	1-2	0-0	2	2
Rich Nemcek	0-0	1-2	2	1	Clement Murrell	0-1	3-5	2	3
Tom Crowder	0-0	0-0	0	0	Paul Kaiser	2-4	0-1	2	4
					Mark Thurston	1-1	0-0	2	2
TOTALS	37-72	19-25	29	93	TOTALS	32-74	21-32	25	85
Head Coach: Bill Hodges					Head Coach: Steve Yoder				
Total Rebounds: 49					Total Rebounds: 51				
Attendance: 6880 Start Time: 7:30pm ET									

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

Game Notes: Indiana State used a 12-1 run to open up a tight 16-16 game... Bird shot just 5 for 14 in the opening half... "We won't be unbeaten much longer if we play many more like that,"¹²⁶ said Bill Hodges after the game, who suspected that the Sycamores' recently busy schedule was affecting their focus... Randy Boarden would become the second-leading scorer in Ball State history during his senior season in 1978-79, finishing with 1,290 points (Jim Regenold scored 1,685 a decade earlier). Two years later, George Bradley would wrap up his career with 1,010 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-A	FT-A	PF	PTS	INDIANA STATE (8-0)	FG-A	FT-A	PF	PTS
Gary Raker	5-13	0-0	3	10	Alex Gilbert	3-4	0-0	2	6
Joe Maloney	6-12	1-2	3	13	Brad Miley	0-2	0-1	0	0
Mike Miller	5-17	0-1	2	10	Larry Bird	19-30	10-12	2	48
Doug Mitchell	5-8	2-2	5	12	Carl Nicks	7-13	5-6	3	19
Tom Orner	6-10	3-4	3	15	Steve Reed	3-4	0-0	1	6
Todd Lickliter	0-3	0-0	1	0	Leroy Staley	1-2	2-2	0	4
Jerry Dale	1-2	2-3	2	4	Bob Heaton	3-6	2-2	0	8
John Carr	0-0	0-0	0	0	Rich Nemcek	1-5	0-0	2	2
Steve Hutson	2-4	1-3	2	5	Scott Turner	5-6	1-2	1	11
Andy Sexson	0-2	0-1	0	0	Tom Crowder	1-2	0-0	2	2
Brian Harmsen	0-0	0-0	0	0	Bob Ritter	1-3	1-2	1	3
Larry Lubs	0-2	2-2	0	2	Rod McNelly	0-1	0-1	3	0
Frank Thomas	0-6	0-0	3	0	Eric Curry	0-1	0-0	0	0
TOTALS	30-79	11-18	23	71	TOTALS	44-79	21-28	22	109
Head Coach: Joe Sexson					Head Coach: Bill Hodges				
Total Rebounds: 38					Total Rebounds: 60				
Technical Fouls: Coach Sexson, Maloney					Technical Fouls: Six players on floor				
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. Bird had left the game with 7:30 left and 44 points, but the ISU student section loudly implored Coach Hodges to give Bird a chance to

break his own record. "I wouldn't have put Larry back in if it hadn't been for the students," Hodges said. Bird hit two free throws and a turnaround from the baseline, then missed three shots in a row in an attempt to reach the 50 point mark, before heading to the bench for good. Given the score of the game, Butler coach Joe Sexson was not amused that Bird had returned to the court, telling reporters: "It was definitely at our expense and I didn't really care for it... I told the kids we couldn't have stopped him with a cannon."¹²⁷

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					Head Coach: Bill Hodges			
Team Fouls: 24					Team Fouls: 16			
Technical Fouls: Young, Morris Harvey bench					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 2,147 points...¹²⁸ Bob Heaton broke a 23-23 tie in the first half with a basket and the Sycamores never trailed after that...¹²⁹ 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-A	FT-A	PF	PTS	INDIANA STATE (10-0)	FG-A	FT-A	PF	PTS
Billy Keys	3-7	0-0	5	10	Alex Gilbert	4-10	1-4	1	9
Lester Johnson	4-6	0-0	5	13	Brad Miley	6-10	5-6	1	17
Joe Cooper	6-9	1-2	3	10	Larry Bird	10-21	7-10	3	27
John Gibson	1-3	0-0	1	12	Carl Nicks	8-16	10-11	5	26
Terry Sims	2-5	0-0	0	15	Steve Reed	1-3	0-0	4	2
Russell Sublet	8-14	2-2	3	0	Bob Heaton	4-4	2-2	2	10
Marcus Peel	5-8	2-2	5	4	Leroy Staley	1-5	6-12	2	8
Steve McDowell	5-11	2-2	5	0	Scott Turner	0-0	0-0	0	0
Bob Stevenson	1-3	0-1	1	5	Rich Nemcek	0-0	0-0	0	0
Chris Cantrell	3-7	2-2	3	0	Tom Crowder	0-2	0-2	0	0
Ken Beach	1-2	2-3	2	0	Bob Ritter	0-0	0-0	0	0

Jeff Kovach	0-1	0-0	3	2	Rod McNelly	0-0	0-0	0	0
					Eric Curry	1-3	0-0	1	2
TOTALS	39-78	11-14	36	89	TOTALS	35-74	31-47	19	101
Head Coach: Jim King					Head Coach: Bill Hodges				
Total Rebounds: 36					Total Rebounds: 57				
Technical Fouls: Tulsa bench									
Attendance: 9076 Start Time: 7:30pm ET (HBO national)									

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

Game Notes: Larry Bird and Indiana State did not disappoint a nationwide audience watching the game on HBO... former Boston Celtics player and coach Tom Heinsohn worked on the telecast, and current Celtics general manager Red Auerbach watched in person and visited with Bird and Bill Hodges beforehand. Despite having drafted Bird the year before, Auerbach had never spoken with Bird. "I knew he was a quiet kid, but he seemed like a nice kid," Auerbach said later, and he was effusive with his praise for Bird's performance this night. "The kid has the best vision of the court of any guy I've seen his size (6-foot-9). He knows where everyone is and how to move the ball. All he did was score something like 27 points with 15 assists [actually 6], grabbed about 17 rebounds [actually 19], dive twice to the floor for loose balls and another time dive into the stands after a loose ball."¹³⁰ Heinsohn agreed with his old mentor's assessment: "[Bird]'s not a pro passer, he's a fabulous passer. He's got a nice shooting touch, too, but his aggressiveness and smarts are what impresses me most."¹³¹ ... Season-high 17 points for Brad Miley, a Rushville, Indiana, native who normally filled a defensive role... The Sycamores led by as many as 21 points in the second half.¹³²

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	0-2	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					Head Coach: Ken Edwards			
Team Fouls: 19					Team Fouls: 28			
Total Rebounds: 54					Total Rebounds: 48			
					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 12-0 run in the second half to extend what was a seven point lead, 65-58, midway through the period... Both teams made 34 of 81

field goals but the Sycamores made three times as many free throws as the Buffaloes... Larry Bird had a double-double by halftime, with 18 points, including 10 on free throws, and 11 rebounds.¹³³

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					Head Coach: Bill Hodges			
Team Fouls: 25					Team Fouls: 15			
Technical Fouls: Hester, Brawner 2								
Attendance: 9336 Start Time: 7:30pm ET (WTTV-4 local TV)								

	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."¹³⁴ Littles had played six years in the ABA before becoming an assistant coach at Appalachian State University in 1975, working for Bobby Cremins.¹³⁵ 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,¹³⁶ he was later a head coach for portions of four seasons in the NBA... Littles' assistant, Ed Manning, had played nine seasons in the NBA and ABA... 6'6" center James Sparrow, who finished with 13 points (on 6 for 18 shooting), 12 rebounds, and six assists, would be drafted by the Indiana Pacers in the fourth round of the 1978 NBA draft.¹³⁷

Bradley Braves vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Saturday 01/13/1979 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

BRADLEY (6-8)	FG-A	FT-A	PF	PTS		INDIANA STATE (13-0)	FG-A	FT-A	PF	PTS
Ken Garrett	3-8	0-0	4	6		Alex Gilbert	4-7	0-0	4	8
Harold McMath	2-4	0-0	5	4		Brad Miley	3-4	4-7	1	10
Robert Jenkins	6-13	1-3	4	13		Larry Bird	9-16	9-10	2	27
Mitchell Anderson	9-31	8-9	4	26		Carl Nicks	11-17	2-5	2	24
Carl Maniscalco	2-5	0-0	3	4		Steve Reed	0-5	0-0	4	0
Ron Lindfors	1-1	0-0	2	2		Leroy Staley	2-5	4-6	2	8
Dan Ruffin	0-1	2-2	0	2		Bob Heaton	2-3	0-0	2	4
James Copeland	2-4	3-3	1	7		Rich Nemcek	1-2	0-1	0	2
Rick Malnati	0-1	2-3	1	2		Scott Turner	1-1	0-0	1	2
Derrick Thomas	3-4	0-1	2	6		Tom Crowder	2-3	0-1	0	4

Brent Wood	0-0	0-0	0	0	Rod McNelly	0-0	0-1	1	0
Tom Prusator	1-1	0-0	0	2	Eric Curry	1-2	0-0	1	2
					Bob Ritter	1-2	0-0	1	2
TOTALS	29-73	16-21	24	74	TOTALS	37-68	19-31	21	93
Head Coach: Dick Versace					Head Coach: Bill Hodges				
Total Rebounds: 36					Total Rebounds: 56				
Attendance: 10037 Start Time: 7:30pm ET									

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

Game Notes: Larry Bird collected 18 rebounds, 12 in the first half, as Indiana State outrebounded Bradley 56-36... The Sycamores led by as many as 27 points in the second half... "Larry's playing well, but we've got a pretty balanced club, even though the stats don't show it," Bill Hodges said after the game. "It always seems that when someone defenses us in one spot, we get some points from another."¹³⁸ 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 1982.¹³⁹ He then 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...¹⁴⁰ 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-A	FT-A	PF	PTS	INDIANA STATE (14-0)	FG-A	FT-A	PF	PTS
Bob Gunn	5-10	2-2	4	12	Alex Gilbert	6-15	0-2	1	12
Cyrus Cormier	7-10	0-0	5	14	Brad Miley	2-5	1-5	2	5
Slab Jones	10-19	2-2	5	22	Larry Bird	10-23	4-4	4	24
Greg Webb	2-5	0-0	2	4	Carl Nicks	9-24	2-4	2	20
Bill Myers	3-7	0-0	2	6	Steve Reed	0-2	0-0	2	0
Notie Pate	1-1	0-0	1	2	Leroy Staley	3-3	2-2	1	8
Chuck Goslin	2-2	1-1	1	5	Bob Heaton	1-6	2-3	1	4
Brian Corrie	2-2	0-0	0	4					
Micah Owens	0-1	0-0	2	0					
Phil Elders	0-2	0-0	1	0					
TOTALS	32-59	5-5	23	69	TOTALS	31-78	11-20	13	73
Head Coach: Ken Hayes					Head Coach: Bill Hodges				
Total Rebounds: 36					Total Rebounds: 47				
Technical Fouls: New Mexico State bench					Technical Fouls: Gilbert				
Attendance: 10226 Start Time: 7:30pm ET (WTTV-4 local TV)									
Referees: Jack Savidge, Dave Phillips									

	1	2	F
New Mexico State	39	30	69
Indiana State	39	34	73

Game Notes: Bob Heaton's two free throws gave the Sycamores a 71-69 lead with 19 seconds remaining... Carl Nicks added a layup to close out the scoring. New Mexico State stayed close down the stretch despite losing leading scorer Slab Jones, who had fouled out with 2:42 left (New Mexico State then earned a technical foul when a replacement player was not sent into the game in a timely fashion).¹⁴¹ 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.¹⁴² 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."¹⁴³ Larry Bird went to the locker room a few minutes before halftime with a slightly sprained left ankle, but returned to establish a new Indiana State career record for rebounds, topping Jerry Newsom's old mark of 953... The Sycamores missed 31 of their 49 first half shots against the Aggies 1-3-1 zone... American League baseball umpire Dave Phillips and Jack Savidge pinch-hit as referees when the originally scheduled duo were stuck in Illinois due to weather delays.¹⁴⁴

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 Augburns	1	0-0	2
TOTALS	33	28-36	94		TOTALS	37	10-17	84
Head Coach: Bill Hodges					Head Coach: Gene Smithson			
Team Fouls: 21					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: Wichita State's rally from a 19-point second half deficit fell short as ISU improved to 15-0... 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..."¹⁴⁵ The Shockers' Cheese Johnson missed the game with a sprained ankle, allowing Roy Shirley to make his first career start.¹⁴⁶

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					Head Coach: Tom Apke			
Team Fouls: 18					Team Fouls: 24			
Technical Fouls: Hodges								
Attendance: 8908 Start Time: 3:35pm ET								

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

Game Notes: There were 11 ties and seven lead changes in the first half... Larry Bird made his first nine shots of the second half.¹⁴⁷ “Bird had a hot hand early in the second half,” Bill Hodges told reporters, “and when that happens, it’s tough to stop him. This may not have been one of our best played games of the season, but it was one of our smartest games.”¹⁴⁸ 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	4-13	2-3	11	4	10	Alex Gilbert	10-15	1-2	7	2	21
Charles Moore	4-12	0-0	5	4	8	Larry Bird	10-20	11-12	17	2	31
Gary Wilson	5-16	0-0	12	2	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	4	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 (WTTV-4 local TV)											
Referees: Wannamaker, Savidge											

	1	2	F
Southern Illinois	44	35	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...¹⁴⁹ Center Alex Gilbert (21, 13 in the first half) 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.”¹⁵⁰ 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.¹⁵¹

Creighton Bluejays vs. Indiana State Sycamores

Saturday 01/27/1979 at Hulman Civic University Center

Terre Haute, Indiana

CREIGHTON (9-8)	FG-A	FT-A	PF	PTS	INDIANA STATE (18-0)	FG-A	FT-A	PF	PTS
Kevin McKenna	1-2	0-0	5	2	Alex Gilbert	4-8	2-4	3	10
David Wesely	4-8	2-2	5	10	Brad Miley	5-6	1-1	2	11
Jim Honz	5-12	5-6	3	15	Larry Bird	8-18	1-3	4	17
Jai Mahone	1-1	0-0	2	2	Carl Nicks	6-15	4-4	2	16
John Johnson	8-16	4-5	0	20	Steve Reed	2-3	1-2	3	5
Dennis Rasmussen	3-6	0-0	3	6	Leroy Staley	5-7	0-2	0	10
Paul Trieschman	3-14	0-0	2	6	Bob Heaton	3-5	0-2	2	6
Chris Peterson	0-0	0-0	0	0	Rich Nemcek	0-0	0-0	2	0
Kevin Ross	0-0	0-0	0	0	Eric Curry	0-0	0-0	1	0
Daryl Stovall	0-0	0-0	0	0	Scott Turner	0-0	0-0	0	0
Dan Clausen	1-1	2-3	1	4	Tom Crowder	1-1	0-0	0	2
Bill Butrym	2-2	0-1	0	4	Rod McNelly	0-0	0-1	0	0
					Bob Ritter	0-0	0-0	0	0
TOTALS	28-62	13-17	21	69	TOTALS	34-63	9-19	19	77
Head Coach: Tom Apke					Head Coach: Bill Hodges				
Team Rebounds: 36					Total Rebounds: 41				
Technical Fouls: McKenna									
Attendance: 10229 Start Time: 7:30pm ET									

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

Game Notes: ISU, currently ranked number three in the country, took care of Creighton after the top two teams in the AP and UPI polls, Notre Dame and North Carolina, had both lost earlier in the day. The Bluejays surrendered a pair of 10-2 runs in the second half that allowed the Sycamores to get some breathing room on the scoreboard...¹⁵² 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	3	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	28	91	TOTALS	35-61	19-33	41	24	89
Head Coach: Bill Hodges						Head Coach: Ken Hayes					
Team Rebounds: 3						Team Rebounds: 5					
Technical Fouls: Gilbert											
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, Carl Nicks, and Alex Gilbert, as junior Rich Nemcek scored half of the Sycamores' points in the extra session...¹⁵³ During the first half, Bird fell into the crowd after missing a layup. When a fan threw a program at him, Bird got up and reportedly slapped the fan in the face...¹⁵⁴ 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	4-7	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	12	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: Leroy Staley and Carl Nicks made a pair of three-point plays in the final two minutes to help the Sycamores overcome 23 turnovers. 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...¹⁵⁵ 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-A	FT-A	PF	PTS	INDIANA STATE (21-0)	FG-A	FT-A	PF	PTS
Pop Wright	6-11	0-0	5	12	Alex Gilbert	7-10	0-0	3	14
Ernie Banks	1-6	1-2	5	3	Brad Miley	3-3	0-2	4	6
Chad Nelson	9-20	2-3	4	20	Larry Bird	11-17	11-15	4	33
Mayron Monk	3-9	0-1	3	6	Carl Nicks	6-12	3-6	2	15
Wayne Kreklow	7-14	2-2	5	16	Steve Reed	2-2	5-6	1	9
Earl May	2-5	0-0	3	4	Leroy Staley	4-6	3-4	1	11

Jeff Hill	2-4	4-4	3	8	Bob Heaton	2-3	2-3	1	6
Eric Sampson	1-2	3-4	1	5	Rich Nemcek	0-1	0-0	1	0
Anthony Watson	0-0	0-0	0	0	Eric Curry	0-1	0-0	2	0
Craig Stahl	0-1	0-0	0	0	Scott Turner	0-0	2-2	0	2
Dave Johnson	2-3	0-0	2	4	Tom Crowder	1-2	0-0	0	2
Mike Thorpe	0-0	1-2	0	1	Rod McNelly	0-0	0-0	0	0
					Bob Ritter	1-2	0-0	0	2
TOTALS	33-75	13-18	31	79	TOTALS	37-59	26-38	21	100
Head Coach: Bob Ortelgel					Head Coach: Bill Hodges				
Total Rebounds: 36					Team Rebounds: 42				
Attendance: 10538 Start Time: 7:30pm ET (WTTV-4 local TV)									

	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... After Alex Gilbert collected an 80-foot pass from Larry Bird and scored to put the Sycamores ahead 82-62 with 4:21 left, some in the Hulman Center crowd threw objects onto the floor. Bill Hodges commandeered the PA system to ask the fans to stop throwing things on the court before the debris “hurt somebody out there...”¹⁵⁶ Drake Coach Bob Ortelgel maintained a good sense of humor when discussing Bird after the game: “What do you try to take away from him? His sneakers, so he can’t play.”¹⁵⁷

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	5-6	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	35	15	91	TOTALS	31-74	10-11	35	17	72
Head Coach: Bill Hodges						Head Coach: Dick Versace					
Team Rebounds: 3						Team Rebounds: 4					
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 career-high with 19... Indiana State clinched at least a tie for the Missouri Valley Conference title... Dick Versace drew some criticism for his use of a constant double-team on Larry Bird, dubbed the “Bird’s Nest” defense,¹⁵⁸ 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?”¹⁵⁹ 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); during the upcoming NCAA Tournament the station would “entertain” listeners with parodies such as “Disco Bird” which celebrated the success of the Sycamores best player.¹⁶⁰

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-A	FT-A	PF	PTS	INDIANA STATE (23-0)	FG-A	FT-A	PF	PTS
Eurskine Robinson	3-9	2-2	5	8	Alex Gilbert	5-12	1-4	1	11
Carl Johnson	4-12	4-4	5	12	Brad Miley	3-4	5-7	0	11
George Sims	7-21	4-5	3	18	Larry Bird	12-20	3-4	2	27
Eddie Harris	5-7	7-11	4	17	Carl Nicks	8-22	1-3	3	17
Dan Elmer	6-19	0-0	1	12	Steve Reed	1-2	0-0	4	2
Dave Wilburn	0-2	0-0	0	0	Leroy Staley	5-7	1-5	3	11
Winston Nicholas	0-5	2-3	4	2	Bob Heaton	2-7	3-3	5	7
Mike Lorenc	3-4	0-1	2	6	Rich Nemcek	0-0	2-2	1	2
					Tom Crowder	3-3	0-0	1	6
					Scott Turner	1-4	2-2	0	4
					Bob Ritter	1-1	0-0	0	2
					Rod McNelly	0-0	0-0	1	0
					Eric Curry	0-1	0-0	0	0
TOTALS	28-79	19-26	24	75	TOTALS	41-83	18-30	21	100
Head Coach: Ken Edwards					Head Coach: Bill Hodges				
Total Rebounds: 43					Team Rebounds: 69				
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 and Los Angeles Lakers general manager Jerry West attended the game. For Cowens, 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.”¹⁶¹ West called Bird “one of the most unselfish All-Americans I’ve ever seen...”¹⁶² A 21-5 run by the Sycamores to start the second half put the game away... Indiana State clinched the Missouri Valley Conference title and home-court advantage in their postseason tournament.

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Southern Illinois Salukis

Thursday 02/15/1979 at Southern Illinois Arena

Carbondale, Illinois

INDIANA STATE (24-0)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	PF	PTS	SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (12-11)	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	0-2	0-0	0	0	0	Lawrence Stubblefield	2-3	0-0	0	0	4
						Al Grant	0-2	0-0	0	1	0
TOTALS	27-63	15-21	40	10	69	TOTALS	30-70	8-8	40	15	68
Head Coach: Bill Hodges						Head Coach: Joe Gottfried					
Technical Fouls: Gilbert											
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.¹⁶³ Southern Illinois' second-half rally was fueled by a 23-14 rebounding advantage... The Salukis took three one-point leads, the last at 62-61 with seven minutes left, but two free throws by Bird gave the Sycamores a lead they would not relinquish.¹⁶⁴

Indiana State Sycamores vs. Drake Bulldogs

Tuesday 02/20/1979 at Veterans Auditorium

Des Moines, Iowa

INDIANA STATE (25-0)	FG-A	FT-A	PF	PTS	DRAKE (15-10)	FG-A	FT-A	PF	PTS
Carl Nicks	7-13	7-10	3	21	Earl May	3-6	0-1	4	6
Steve Reed	2-2	0-1	2	4	Wayne Kreklow	7-13	0-0	3	14
Larry Bird	11-25	5-6	4	27	Chad Nelson	8-16	1-1	4	17
Brad Miley	2-3	4-6	1	8	Pop Wright	5-14	0-0	4	10
Alex Gilbert	1-5	2-4	3	4	Dave Johnson	5-7	4-4	3	14
Bob Heaton	3-4	0-0	1	6	Jeff Hill	0-1	1-2	1	1
Leroy Staley	3-6	0-0	0	6	Craig Stahl	1-1	0-0	0	2
					Ernie Banks	2-4	0-0	0	4
					Eric Sampson	0-1	0-0	1	0
TOTALS	29-57	18-27	14	76	TOTALS	31-63	6-8	20	68
Head Coach: Bill Hodges					Head Coach: Bob Ortegell				
Total Rebounds: 34					Team Rebounds: 33				
					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 five points during the second half.¹⁶⁵ After Bill Hodges complained that the arena's organist continued to play while Brad Miley shot a pair of free throws to give ISU a 30-29 lead, Hodges and assistant coach Mel Daniels both got into shouting matches with Drake head coach Bob Ortegell. "I didn't think Bob would want him doing that," said Hodges. "I was wrong. He blew up... I picked the wrong time [to complain]. I think he was surprised to see me down there and just blew up."¹⁶⁶

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						Head Coach: Bill Hodges					
Team Rebounds: 1						Team Rebounds: 2					
Attendance: 9579 Start Time: 2:00pm ET (NBC national)											
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 six minutes of the game but still scored a career-high of 49 points in front of a national television audience. "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.¹⁶⁷ With 16 minutes remaining in the contest, Indiana State was clinging to a 52-50 lead, but a 17-2 run that included nine 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...¹⁶⁸ Freshman walk-on Rod McNelly made his first field goal of the season... One of those watching the game at home was Red Auerbach of the Celtics. "I never thought I'd ever compare anyone with Cousy," Auerbach said the next day, "but Larry Bird has those great hands and great vision."¹⁶⁹

West Texas State Buffaloes 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-A	FT-A	PF	PTS	INDIANA STATE (27-0)	FG-A	FT-A	PF	PTS
Eurskine Robinson	5-10	0-0	5	10	Alex Gilbert	8-12	3-6	2	19
Carl Johnson	8-14	0-0	4	16	Brad Miley	1-2	1-3	0	3
George Sims	6-17	0-0	4	12	Larry Bird	11-25	7-8	2	29
Eddie Harris	12-17	3-4	4	27	Carl Nicks	6-16	10-12	3	22
Dan Elmer	6-14	1-2	2	13	Steve Reed	4-7	0-0	1	8
Mike Lorenc	2-5	0-0	2	4	Leroy Staley	1-2	2-3	0	4
Winston Nicholas	1-2	0-0	5	2	Bob Heaton	2-6	2-2	1	6
					Rich Nemcek	0-1	0-0	0	0
					Eric Curry	0-0	0-0	0	0
					Tom Crowder	1-1	0-0	1	2
					Scott Turner	0-0	0-0	0	0
					Rod McNelly	0-0	1-2	0	1
					Bob Ritter	0-0	0-0	0	0
TOTALS	40-79	4-6	26	84	TOTALS	34-72	26-36	10	94
Head Coach: Ken Edwards					Head Coach: Bill Hodges				
Total Rebounds: 41					Team Rebounds: 48				
Attendance: 10254 Start Time: 7:30pm ET (WTTV-4 local TV)									

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

Game Notes: West Texas State scored the first seven points of the game and led for the first 16 minutes of the game against a sluggish Indiana State team. "Sunday was an emotional game," Bill Hodges claimed later, alluding to their nationally televised contest against Wichita State...¹⁷⁰ Bird shot 8 for 11 in the first half... The Sycamores used a 14-2 run to extend a narrow 55-54 margin to 69-56 with 12 minutes remaining...¹⁷¹ 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 in the tournament, 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	1-2	0-0	6	1	2	Bob Heaton	5-8	3-4	0	1	13
Charles Moore	0-2	0-0	1	0	0	Rich Nemcek	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Dan Kieszkowski	0-0	0-0	0	0	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."¹⁷² Bob Heaton tied his season-high of 13 points which he had set in the Sycamores first game against the Salukis this season. After Gary Wilson scored 14 points in the first half while being guarded mostly by Larry Bird, Bill Hodges switched Brad Miley onto Wilson; Miley held him to just two points the rest of the way.¹⁷³

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)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	A	PF	PTS	INDIANA STATE (29-0)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	A	PF	PTS
Bob Gunn	7-12	0-1	8	0	3	14	Alex Gilbert	5-8	0-0	5	0	3	10
Cyrus Cormier	0-6	1-2	1	5	4	1	Brad Miley	0-1	0-2	5	5	1	0
Slab Jones	6-17	0-0	14	3	3	12	Larry Bird	9-14	2-3	10	4	2	20
Greg Webb	1-5	2-3	2	6	1	4	Carl Nicks	7-16	1-2	1	4	3	15
Bill Myers	1-1	0-0	3	3	3	2	Steve Reed	3-3	0-0	1	6	3	6

Brian Corrie	0-1	0-0	0	1	0	0	Leroy Staley	3-6	4-4	4	3	1	10
Notie Pate	0-1	0-0	0	0	1	0	Bob Heaton	3-5	2-4	2	0	0	8
Chuck Goslin	8-16	0-0	1	1	0	16							
Reg Clement	5-5	0-0	1	0	2	10							
TOTALS	28-64	3-6	35	19	19	59	TOTALS	30-53	9-15	33	22	13	69
Head Coach: Ken Hayes							Head Coach: Bill Hodges						
Team Rebounds: 5							Team Rebounds: 5						
Steals: Commier 2, Jones, Webb 2, Myers, Corrie 2, Goslin							Blocks: Bird, Staley						
							Steals: Miley, Bird 2, Nicks 5, Reed, Staley 2						
Attendance: 10301 Start Time: 2:05pm ET (WRTV-6 local TV)													
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;¹⁷⁴ 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.¹⁷⁵ "This is what it's all about – playing together," Bird told reporters afterwards. "We're a TEAM."¹⁷⁶ 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)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	A	PF	PTS	INDIANA STATE (30-0)	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						
Blocks: 3							Blocks: Staley 3, Bird 2						
Steals: 7							Steals: 3						
Attendance: 15110 Start Time: 1:06pm ET (WRTV-6 local TV)													
Referees: Turner, Kortz, Lembo													

	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 during a seven minute stretch to turn an 18-14 deficit into a 34-18 lead.¹⁷⁷ "I just didn't know how

[Bird] would rebound,” Bill Hodges said after the game. “But he didn’t shy away from the ball and after a couple of minutes I knew everything was going to be all right.”¹⁷⁸ 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 NCAA tourney 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						
Technical Fouls: Beal													
Attendance: 17252 Start Time: 9:36pm ET (NBC national)													
Referees: Range, Robinson, Ballesteros													

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

Game Notes: With Larry Bird’s thumb slowly improving, the Sycamores took the lead for good at 34-33 and cruised from there... Indiana State controlled the boards so effectively that Oklahoma went without an offensive rebound for the first 13 minutes of the second half...¹⁷⁹ 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.”¹⁸⁰

Arkansas Razorbacks vs. Indiana State Sycamores

NCAA Tournament Midwest Regional Final

Saturday 03/17/1979 at Riverfront Coliseum

Cincinnati, Ohio

ARKANSAS (25-5)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	A	PF	PTS	INDIANA STATE (32-0)	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, Robinson													

	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.”¹⁸¹ ... 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...¹⁸² 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.”¹⁸³ Bird’s thumb was so sore that he punched a fan that grabbed his hand during the postgame celebration on the court...¹⁸⁴ Indiana State did not take its first lead until Brad Miley’s layup put the Sycamores in front, 55-53, with 12:05 left.¹⁸⁵

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)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	A	PF	PTS	INDIANA STATE (33-0)	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	21	16	14	74	TOTALS	35-56	6-9	34	19	14	76
Head Coach: Ray Meyer							Head Coach: Bill Hodges						
Team Rebounds: 2							Team Rebounds: 2						
Blocks: Mitchem 1							Blocks: Gilbert 2						
Steals: 11 (Garland 4, Bradshaw 3, Aguirre 2)							Steals: 4 (Miley 4)						
Attendance: 15410 Start Time: 4:30pm ET (NBC national)													
Referees: Gary Muncy, Henry Nichols, Leonard Wirtz													

	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,”¹⁸⁶ 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 four seconds left. Aguirre missed, then Staley got the rebound and was fouled by Gary Garland; Staley missed his first free throw but made the second. Garland’s subsequent long inbound pass bounced off the backboard at the buzzer and was grabbed by Bird... 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 Curtis Watkins lost the ball and Bird passed to Heaton for a game-tying basket.¹⁸⁷ DePaul proceeded to hold the ball for nearly another two minutes before Garland was intentionally fouled and made one of two from the line to put the Blue Demons ahead 74-73.

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)	FG-A	FT-A	RB	A	PF	PTS	INDIANA STATE (33-1)	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 Kelser	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	34	15	19	75	TOTALS	27-64	10-22	33	18	24	64
Head Coach: Jud Heathcote							Head Coach: Bill Hodges						
Team Rebounds: 2							Team Rebounds: 2						
Blocks: Kelser 2							Blocks: Bird 1, Gilbert 1						
Steals: 6 (Kelser 2)							Steals: 6 (Bird 5)						
							Technical Fouls: Bird						
Attendance: 15410 Start Time: 9:15pm ET (NBC national)													
Referees: Henry Nichols, Gary Muncy, Leonard Wirtz													

	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.”¹⁸⁸ Indiana State’s best chance came after Greg Kelser was whistled for his fourth foul with 15:48 remaining. With Kelser 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.”¹⁸⁹ The Spartans had three future NBA players on their roster (Magic, Greg Kelser, 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.¹⁹⁰

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

1978-79 AP and UPI Basketball Polls

Preseason										
AP					UPI					
Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts	Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts	
1	Duke	38	0-0	918	1	Duke	22	0-0	435	
2	UCLA	8	0-0	764	2	UCLA	6	0-0	399	
3	Notre Dame	1	0-0	685	3	Notre Dame		0-0	328	
4	Louisville		0-0	492	4	Michigan State	2	0-0	301	
5	Kansas	1	0-0	429	5	Louisville		0-0	276	
6	Texas		0-0	390		Kansas		0-0	276	
7	Michigan State		0-0	348	7	Texas		0-0	227	
8	Michigan		0-0	342	8	Michigan		0-0	152	
9	Syracuse		0-0	243	9	North Carolina St.		0-0	141	
10	Indiana		0-0	210	10	Southern Cal		0-0	120	
11	Kentucky		0-0	199	11	Indiana		0-0	116	
12	North Carolina St.		0-0	182	12	North Carolina		0-0	98	
13	Southern Cal		0-0	142	13	Syracuse		0-0	91	
14	LSU		0-0	128	14	Kentucky		0-0	83	
15	Rutgers		0-0	108	15	Alabama		0-0	70	
16	North Carolina		0-0	104	16	San Francisco		0-0	63	
17	San Francisco		0-0	95	17	LSU		0-0	61	
18	Marquette		0-0	74	18	Rutgers		0-0	54	
19	Alabama		0-0	72	19	Minnesota		0-0	35	
20	UNLV		0-0	62	20	Marquette		0-0	32	

November 28, 1978				
AP				
Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts
1	Duke	42	1-0	1010
2	UCLA	6	2-0	925
3	Notre Dame	1	0-0	829
4	Kansas	1	0-0	726
5	Louisville		2-1	704
6	North Carolina St.		3-0	681
7	Michigan State	1	0-0	666
8	Michigan		0-0	585
9	Syracuse		1-0	474
10	Kentucky		0-0	469
11	LSU		1-0	446
12	Southern Cal		0-0	369
13	Texas		0-1	316
14	North Carolina		0-0	306
15	San Francisco		1-0	279
16	Rutgers		0-0	248
17	Marquette		0-0	133
18	UNLV		1-0	111
19	Maryland		1-0	86
20	Indiana		1-2	77

December 5, 1978				
AP				
Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts
1	Duke	51	4-0	1153
2	UCLA	7	3-0	1072
3	Notre Dame		2-0	987
4	Michigan State		1-0	881
5	Kansas		3-0	845
6	Michigan		2-0	794
7	Louisville		3-1	777
8	North Carolina St.		4-1	756
9	Syracuse		4-0	647
10	Kentucky		2-0	644
11	Southern Cal		2-0	526
12	LSU		4-0	505
13	Texas		3-1	455
14	North Carolina		3-1	375
15	UNLV		3-0	353
16	Marquette		2-0	252
17	San Francisco		3-1	147
18	Rutgers		2-1	116
19	Maryland		2-2	73
20	Georgetown		3-0	58

December 12, 1978									
AP					UPI				
Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts	Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts
1	Duke	56	5-0	1196	1	Duke	33	5-0	563
2	Notre Dame	3	4-0	1084	2	Notre Dame	4	4-0	533
3	Michigan State		2-0	991	3	Michigan State	2	2-0	460
4	Louisville		5-1	930	4	Louisville		5-1	431
5	UCLA	1	3-1	906	5	UCLA		3-1	389
6	Kentucky		3-0	853	6	Kentucky		3-0	336
7	North Carolina St.		6-1	816	7	North Carolina St.		6-1	292
8	Kansas		4-1	722	8	Kansas		4-1	265
9	Michigan		3-1	683	9	Michigan		3-1	237
10	Syracuse		5-0	643	10	LSU		5-0	206
11	LSU		5-0	624	11	Syracuse		5-0	168
12	Southern Cal		3-0	568	12	North Carolina		4-1	141
13	North Carolina		4-1	453	13	Southern Cal		3-0	138
14	Marquette		4-0	367	14	Marquette		4-0	103
15	UNLV		3-0	349	15	Georgetown		5-0	83
16	Georgetown		5-0	293	16	INDIANA STATE		6-0	38
17	Texas		4-2	173	17	Texas		4-2	31
18	Illinois		6-0	88	18	Long Beach St.		4-0	27
19	San Francisco		5-2	87	19	Illinois		6-0	25
20	INDIANA STATE		6-0	84	20	Arkansas		2-0	23

December 19, 1978									
AP					UPI				
Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts	Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts
1	Duke	55	6-0	1176	1	Duke	32	6-0	522
2	Notre Dame	4	4-0	1123	2	Notre Dame	3	4-0	502
3	UCLA		4-1	969	3	UCLA		4-1	376
4	North Carolina St.		7-1	900	4	Michigan State		3-1	318
5	Michigan St.		3-1	822	5	North Carolina St.		7-1	283
6	North Carolina		5-1	744	6	North Carolina		5-1	245
7	Kansas		5-1	730	7	Michigan		4-1	235
8	Syracuse		6-0	728	8	Kansas		5-1	222
9	Michigan		4-1	687	9	Syracuse		6-0	212
10	LSU		6-0	659	10	LSU		5-0	211
11	Kentucky		3-1	559	11	Louisville		6-2	198
12	Louisville		6-2	554	12	Kentucky		3-1	162
13	Marquette		5-0	541	13	Marquette		5-0	162
14	Georgetown		6-0	415	14	Georgetown		6-0	113
15	Illinois		7-0	289	15	INDIANA STATE		8-0	86
16	INDIANA STATE		8-0	258	16	Illinois		7-0	81
17	Texas A&M		8-1	165	17	Long Beach St.		6-0	39
18	UNLV		5-1	148	18	Texas A&M		8-1	30
19	Texas		5-2	130	19	Texas		5-2	28
20	Southern Cal		4-2	96	20	Arkansas		4-0	19

December 26, 1978									
AP					UPI				
Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts	Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts
1	Duke	46	6-0	996	1	Duke	33	6-0	551
2	Notre Dame	4	4-0	952	2	Notre Dame	4	4-0	508
3	UCLA		6-1	878	3	UCLA		6-1	441
4	Michigan State		4-1	753	4	Michigan State		4-1	373
5	North Carolina		6-1	744	5	Illinois		9-0	315
6	Illinois		9-0	675	6	North Carolina		6-1	269
7	LSU		7-0	659	7	Michigan		4-1	256
8	Michigan		4-1	598	8	LSU		7-0	212
9	North Carolina St.		7-2	568	9	North Carolina St.		7-3	195
10	Louisville		7-2	510	10	Louisville		7-2	178
11	INDIANA STATE		8-0	365	11	Texas A&M		9-2	155
12	Texas A&M		9-2	305	12	INDIANA STATE		8-0	131
13	Kentucky		4-2	290	13	Georgetown		8-1	72
14	UNLV		8-1	265	14	Long Beach St.		7-0	61
15	Georgetown		7-1	237	15	Kansas		5-3	55
16	Marquette		6-1	185	16	Kentucky		4-2	49
17	Long Beach St.		7-0	166	17	Washington State		7-0	34
18	Kansas		5-3	159	18	Marquette		7-1	33
19	Syracuse		6-2	156	19	Syracuse		6-2	31
20	Arkansas		6-0	148	20	Maryland		7-2	29

January 3, 1979									
AP					UPI				
Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts	Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts
1	Michigan State	31	7-1	969	1	Michigan State	23	7-1	487
2	Notre Dame	7	5-1	878	2	Notre Dame	3	6-1	405
3	North Carolina	3	8-1	865	3	Illinois	1	12-0	385
4	Illinois	4	12-0	819	4	North Carolina	3	8-1	375
5	Duke	1	6-2	757	5	UCLA		7-2	297
6	UCLA	1	7-2	741	6	LSU	1	8-0	296
7	LSU	3	8-0	728	7	Duke	1	6-2	271
8	North Carolina St.	1	8-2	609	8	Kentucky		5-2	205
9	Kentucky		5-2	584	9	INDIANA STATE		9-0	174
10	Texas A&M		11-2	404	10	North Carolina St.		8-2	150
11	INDIANA STATE		9-0	387	11	Long Beach St.		8-0	130
12	Georgetown		9-1	346	12	Michigan		5-2	113
13	Michigan		6-2	307	13	Mississippi State		8-0	108
14	Arkansas		7-0	256	14	Texas A&M		11-2	104
15	Long Beach St.		8-0	250	15	Arkansas		7-2	91
16	Louisville		8-3	235	16	Louisville		8-3	67
17	Marquette		8-1	233	17	Kansas		8-3	64
18	Mississippi State		8-0	223	18	Georgetown		10-1	63
19	Kansas		8-3	176	19	Marquette		9-1	49
20	Maryland		11-2	127	20	Maryland		9-2	46

January 9, 1979									
AP					UPI				
Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts	Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts
1	Michigan State	38	9-1	1140	1	Michigan State	33	9-1	605
2	Notre Dame	8	6-1	1048	2	Notre Dame	3	7-1	529
3	North Carolina	1	10-1	1010	3	Illinois	3	14-0	513
4	Illinois	5	14-0	994	4	North Carolina	2	8-1	457
5	LSU	6	10-0	968	5	LSU	1	10-0	454
6	UCLA		9-2	837	6	UCLA		9-2	386
7	Duke		9-2	823	7	Duke		9-2	343
8	North Carolina St.	1	11-2	801	8	North Carolina St.		10-2	303
9	INDIANA STATE		11-0	608	9	INDIANA STATE		10-0	269
10	Arkansas		9-0	606	10	Arkansas		9-0	228
11	Texas A&M		11-2	569	11	Marquette		11-1	151
12	Louisville		10-3	409	12	Texas A&M		11-2	121
13	Marquette		10-1	383	13	Louisville		9-3	99
14	Georgetown		10-2	309	14	Kansas		8-3	98
15	Kansas		8-3	264	15	Temple		11-0	79
16	Michigan		7-3	227	16	Georgetown		11-2	66
17	Kentucky		5-4	204	17	Long Beach St.		8-2	50
18	Temple		11-0	188	18	Syracuse		9-2	44
19	Long Beach St.		9-2	149	19	USC		9-3	34
20	Syracuse		9-2	101	20	Michigan		6-3	29

January 16, 1979									
AP					UPI				
Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts	Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts
1	Notre Dame	46	8-1	1106	1	Notre Dame	30	8-1	516
2	North Carolina	3	12-2	1010	2	Illinois	3	15-1	455
3	UCLA		11-2	978	3	North Carolina	2	12-2	446
4	Illinois	5	15-1	949	4	UCLA		11-2	434
5	INDIANA STATE	2	14-0	857	5	INDIANA STATE	1	13-0	363
6	Michigan State		9-3	783	6	Michigan State		9-3	335
7	Louisville		12-3	689	7	Louisville		12-3	241
8	Duke		10-3	688	8	LSU		11-2	217
9	LSU		12-2	569	9	Duke		10-3	203
10	Georgetown		12-2	453	10	Marquette		11-2	149
11	Arkansas		10-2	411	11	Ohio State		9-4	110
12	Syracuse		12-2	402	12	Temple		12-1	91
13	Marquette		11-2	398	13	Arkansas		10-2	90
14	North Carolina St.		11-4	353	14	Georgetown		12-2	88
15	Texas A&M		13-3	335	15	Syracuse		12-2	84
16	Ohio State		9-4	272	16	Alabama		10-3	76
17	Temple		12-1	191	17	Texas A&M		13-3	64
18	Alabama		10-4	189	18	North Carolina St.		11-4	62
19	Maryland		11-4	90	19	Kansas		9-4	40
20	Kansas		9-4	86	20	Southern Cal		9-4	23

January 23, 1979									
AP					UPI				
Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts	Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts
1	Notre Dame	49	11-1	1150	1	Notre Dame	33	11-1	590
2	North Carolina	7	14-2	1099	2	North Carolina	4	14-2	551
3	INDIANA STATE	2	16-0	933	3	INDIANA STATE	2	16-0	452
4	Michigan State		11-3	892	4	Michigan State		11-3	403
5	Louisville		15-3	796	5	Louisville		15-3	358
6	UCLA		12-3	795	6	Duke		12-3	316
7	Duke		12-3	779	7	UCLA		12-3	313
8	Illinois		16-2	743	8	Illinois		16-2	289
9	LSU		13-2	709	9	Ohio State	1	11-4	253
10	Ohio State		11-4	557	10	LSU		13-2	228
11	Georgetown		14-2	542	11	Marquette		13-2	187
12	Syracuse		14-2	508	12	Georgetown		14-2	158
13	Marquette		13-2	505	13	Syracuse		14-2	144
14	Texas A&M		15-3	459	14	Texas A&M		15-3	98
15	Arkansas		11-3	282	15	Temple		13-1	83
16	Temple		13-1	201	16	Texas		11-4	59
17	Texas		11-4	136	17	Vanderbilt		12-2	55
18	Alabama		11-4	132	18	Arkansas		11-3	49
19	Vanderbilt		12-2	116	19	North Carolina St.		11-6	43
20	North Carolina St.		11-6	110	20	Alabama		11-4	39

January 30, 1979									
AP					UPI				
Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts	Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts
1	Notre Dame	15	12-2	1124	1	Notre Dame	12	12-2	551
2	INDIANA STATE	32	18-0	1111	2	INDIANA STATE	18	18-0	528
3	Duke	8	14-3	1025	3	UCLA	1	14-3	436
4	North Carolina	1	15-3	970	4	Duke	3	14-3	430
5	UCLA	2	14-3	957	5	Louisville	2	17-3	419
6	Louisville	2	17-3	956	6	North Carolina	2	15-3	414
7	Ohio State		13-4	851	7	Ohio State	3	13-4	393
8	Syracuse		18-2	692	8	Syracuse		17-2	308
9	Georgetown		16-2	623	9	Marquette		14-3	199
10	LSU		15-3	497	10	Georgetown		16-2	195
11	Texas		15-4	484	11	Texas		14-4	163
12	Marquette		14-3	460	12	LSU		14-3	116
13	Alabama		13-4	355	13	Michigan State		11-5	98
14	Illinois		16-4	325	14	Texas A&M		17-4	94
15	Michigan State		11-5	324	15	Alabama		13-4	69
16	Texas A&M		18-4	283	16	Vanderbilt		14-3	65
17	Maryland		14-5	251	17	Illinois		16-4	51
18	Temple		15-3	210	18	Temple		15-2	49
19	Arkansas		13-4	169	19	Weber State		19-4	43
20	Vanderbilt		14-4	153	20	Purdue		15-5	39

February 6, 1979									
AP					UPI				
Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts	Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts
1	Notre Dame	25	15-2	1036	1	Notre Dame	22	15-2	603
2	INDIANA STATE	20	20-0	1003	2	INDIANA STATE	16	20-0	562
3	Duke	7	16-3	984	3	UCLA	1	16-3	514
4	UCLA		16-3	918	4	Duke	3	16-3	483
5	Louisville	2	19-3	874	5	Louisville		19-3	438
6	North Carolina		16-4	729	6	North Carolina		16-4	348
7	Syracuse		18-2	718	7	LSU		16-3	289
8	LSU		19-3	673	8	Marquette		16-3	260
9	Marquette		16-3	619	9	Michigan State		14-5	243
10	Michigan State		14-5	498	10	Syracuse		18-2	214
11	Texas A&M		20-4	496	11	Texas A&M		20-4	182
12	Texas		16-5	376	12	Ohio State		13-6	131
13	Ohio State		13-6	375	13	Iowa		15-4	105
14	Arkansas		15-4	360	14	Arkansas		15-4	95
15	Iowa		15-4	269	15	Texas		16-5	88
16	Alabama		13-5	150	16	Vanderbilt		15-4	60
17	Vanderbilt		15-4	140	17	Temple		17-3	58
18	Georgetown		16-4	129	18	Purdue		17-5	39
19	Temple		17-3	124	19	Southern Cal		13-6	31
20	Illinois		17-5	118		Georgetown		16-4	31

February 13, 1979									
AP					UPI				
Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts	Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts
1	INDIANA STATE	43	23-0	1196	1	UCLA	15	18-3	599
2	UCLA	19	18-3	1190	2	INDIANA STATE	25	22-0	596
3	Notre Dame		17-3	1073	3	Notre Dame	2	17-3	518
4	North Carolina		18-4	983	4	North Carolina		18-4	432
5	Duke		17-4	901	5	LSU		19-3	379
6	LSU		20-3	895	6	Duke		17-4	363
7	Syracuse		20-2	869	7	Syracuse		20-2	338
8	Michigan State		16-5	795	8	Michigan State		16-5	322
9	Louisville		21-4	759	9	Louisville		21-3	306
10	Marquette		17-4	749	10	Marquette		17-4	295
11	Arkansas		18-4	532	11	Arkansas		17-4	172
12	Texas		18-5	507	12	Texas		17-5	139
13	Purdue		19-5	310	13	Purdue		19-5	89
14	Iowa		16-5	309	14	Temple		19-3	85
15	Temple		19-3	279	15	Iowa		16-5	78
16	Georgetown		18-4	223	16	Georgetown		18-4	55
17	Ohio State		14-7	210	17	Vanderbilt		16-5	48
18	Detroit		18-4	197	18	Ohio State		14-7	44
19	Vanderbilt		18-5	185		Texas A&M		20-6	44
20	Alabama		15-7	124	20	Detroit		18-4	51

February 20, 1979									
AP					UPI				
Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts	Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts
1	UCLA	23	20-3	1151	1	UCLA	15	20-3	593
2	INDIANA STATE	37	24-0	1146	2	INDIANA STATE	26	24-0	587
3	Notre Dame		19-3	1073	3	Notre Dame		19-3	481
4	North Carolina		20-4	978	4	North Carolina		20-4	463
5	LSU		21-3	886	5	LSU		21-3	401
6	Duke		19-5	865	6	Syracuse		21-2	369
7	Michigan State		18-5	842	7	Duke	1	19-5	359
8	Syracuse		21-2	814	8	Michigan State		18-5	323
9	Marquette		19-4	686	9	Marquette		19-4	290
10	Arkansas		20-4	601	10	Texas		20-5	236
11	Texas		20-5	600	11	Iowa		18-5	200
12	Iowa		18-5	529	12	Arkansas		20-4	169
13	Louisville		22-6	430	13	Ohio State		16-7	104
14	Ohio State		16-7	310	14	Louisville		22-6	96
15	Temple		20-3	300	15	Temple		20-3	62
16	Detroit		20-4	296	16	Georgetown		19-4	55
17	Georgetown		20-4	268	17	Purdue		20-6	53
18	Purdue		20-6	258	18	Detroit		20-4	42
19	Vanderbilt		18-6	79	19	Vanderbilt		17-6	29
20	DePaul		18-4	61	20	DePaul		18-4	21

February 27, 1979									
AP					UPI				
Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts	Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts
1	INDIANA STATE	51	26-0	1192	1	INDIANA STATE	29	26-0	511
2	Notre Dame	7	22-3	1150	2	Notre Dame	3	21-3	462
3	UCLA	2	21-4	1060	3	UCLA	2	21-4	413
4	Michigan State	1	20-5	988	4	Michigan State	1	20-5	372
5	Duke		20-6	914	5	Syracuse		23-2	350
6	Syracuse		24-2	897	6	Duke		20-6	288
7	North Carolina		21-5	879	7	North Carolina		21-5	269
8	LSU		22-4	851	8	LSU		22-4	262
9	Arkansas		21-4	712	9	Arkansas		21-4	184
10	Marquette		19-5	521	10	Iowa		19-6	179
11	Iowa		19-6	488	11	DePaul		20-4	177
12	Temple		22-3	441	12	Marquette		19-5	154
13	Louisville		23-6	437	13	Temple		22-3	105
14	Texas		20-6	415	14	Texas		20-6	101
15	DePaul		20-4	394	15	Georgetown		22-4	73
16	Georgetown		22-4	361	16	Louisville		23-6	68
17	Ohio State		17-8	216	17	Ohio State		17-8	53
18	Detroit		21-5	186	18	Purdue		21-7	40
19	Purdue		21-7	181	19	San Francisco		21-6	31
20	San Francisco		21-6	73	20	Detroit		21-5	24

March 6, 1979									
AP					UPI Final				
Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts	Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts
1	INDIANA STATE	55	29-0	1150	1	INDIANA STATE	35	29-0	566
2	UCLA	3	23-4	1077	2	UCLA	3	23-4	510
3	North Carolina		23-5	1034	3	North Carolina		23-5	500
4	Michigan State		21-6	932	4	Michigan State		21-6	364
5	Notre Dame		22-5	850	5	Notre Dame		22-5	331
6	Duke		22-7	810	6	Arkansas		23-4	318
7	Arkansas		23-4	797	7	Duke		22-7	303
8	DePaul		22-4	678	8	DePaul		22-4	238
9	LSU		22-5	612	9	LSU		22-5	207
10	Syracuse		25-3	610	10	Syracuse		25-3	201
11	Georgetown		24-4	556	11	Iowa		20-7	171
12	Marquette		21-6	431	12	Georgetown		24-4	149
13	Temple		25-3	412	13	Marquette		21-6	128
14	Iowa		20-7	409	14	Purdue		23-7	98
15	Texas		21-7	361	15	Texas		21-7	87
16	Purdue		23-7	255	16	Temple		25-3	83
17	Detroit		22-5	241	17	San Francisco		21-6	55
18	Louisville		23-7	221	18	Tennessee		20-11	46
19	San Francisco		21-6	164	19	Louisville		23-7	45
20	Tennessee		20-11	70	20	Detroit		22-5	41

March 13, 1979				
AP Final				
Rk	School	F	W-L	Pts
1	INDIANA STATE	50	30-0	1072
2	UCLA	2	24-4	997
3	Michigan State	2	22-6	974
4	Notre Dame		23-5	917
5	Arkansas		24-4	779
6	DePaul		23-5	732
7	LSU		23-5	662
8	Syracuse		26-3	657
9	North Carolina		23-6	594
10	Marquette		22-6	573
11	Duke		22-8	484
12	San Francisco		22-6	389
13	Louisville		24-7	371
14	Penn		23-5	341
15	Purdue		24-7	337
16	Oklahoma		21-9	275
17	St. John's		20-10	176
18	Rutgers		22-8	125
19	Toledo		22-7	115
20	Iowa		20-8	113

Notes:

1. First place votes listed in "F" column.
2. Team records listed in AP and UPI voting may vary based on the day the polls were reported/taken. Voting results taken from newspapers including *Chicago Tribune*, *Indianapolis Star*, *Boston Globe*, and *New York Times*.
3. AP voting points based on 20-19-18...3-2-1 point voting system where a team received 20 points for first place and 1 point for 20th place.
4. Teams on probation (Hawaii, Grambling, UNLV, Alaska-Anchorage) were not eligible to be listed on the UPI coaches poll.¹⁹¹

Meet the Sycamores

College Statistics of Larry Bird and his Indiana State Teammates¹⁹²

Larry Bird #33

F-C, 6-9, 215

12/7/1956

French Lick, Indiana (Springs Valley High School)

SEASON	G	GS	FG	FGA	FG%	FT	FTA	FT%	REB	AST	PTS	RPG	APG	PPG
1975-76														
1976-77	28	28	375	689	.544	168	200	.840	373	122	918	13.3	4.4	32.8
1977-78	32	32	403	769	.524	153	193	.793	369	125	959	11.5	3.9	30.0
1978-79	34	34	376	707	.532	221	266	.831	505	187	973	14.9	5.5	28.6
Career	94	94	1154	2165	.533	542	659	.822	1247	434	2850	13.3	4.6	30.3

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

Tom Crowder #24

F, 6-5, 197

6/15/1957

Cayuga, Indiana (North Vermillion High School)

SEASON	G	GS	FG	FGA	FG%	FT	FTA	FT%	REB	AST	PTS	RPG	APG	PPG
1975-76	9	0	9	16	.563	5	7	.714	14		23	1.6		2.6
1976-77	17	5	21	43	.488	2	6	.333	29		44	1.7		2.6
1977-78	18	0	17	38	.447	5	11	.455	29		39	1.6		2.2
1978-79	19	0	15	29	.517	6	13	.462	25	3	36	1.3	0.2	1.9
Career	63	5	62	126	.492	18	37	.486	97		142	1.5		2.3

Eric Curry #32

C-F, 6-9, 180

12/6/1957

Chicago, Illinois (Marie Curie High School)

SEASON	G	GS	FG	FGA	FG%	FT	FTA	FT%	REB	AST	PTS	RPG	APG	PPG
1976-77														
1977-78														
1978-79	17	0	6	20	.300	0	2	.000	19	0	12	1.1	0.0	0.7
1979-80														
1980-81	27	16	79	177	.446	28	47	.596	151	19	186	5.6	0.7	6.9
Career	44	16	85	197	.431	28	49	.571	170	19	198	3.9	0.4	4.5

Alex Gilbert #42

7/3/1957

C-F, 6-7½, 205

East St. Louis, Illinois (East St. Louis High School)

SEASON	G	GS	FG	FGA	FG%	FT	FTA	FT%	REB	AST	PTS	RPG	APG	PPG
1976-77														
1977-78														
1978-79	34	34	154	311	.495	20	79	.253	207	15	328	6.1	0.4	9.6
1979-80	27	26	128	293	.437	48	101	.475	13	13	304	0.5	0.5	11.3
Career	61	60	282	604	.467	68	180	.378	220	28	632	3.6	0.5	10.4

Bob Heaton #30

9/28/1956

G-F, 6-5, 195

Cory, Indiana (Clay City High School)

SEASON	G	GS	FG	FGA	FG%	FT	FTA	FT%	REB	AST	PTS	RPG	APG	PPG
1975-76*	27		96	202	.475	42	64	.656	161		234	6.0		8.7
1976-77*	27		115	239	.481	85	113	.752	124		315	4.6		11.7
1977-78														
1978-79	34	0	99	188	.527	50	64	.781	112	62	248	3.3	1.8	7.3
1979-80	21	11	59	154	.383	50	72	.694	76	52	168	3.6	2.5	8.0
ISU	55	11	158	342	.462	100	136	.735	188	114	416	3.4	2.1	7.6
Career	109		369	783	.471	227	313	.725	473		965	4.3		8.9

Tony Hodges #14

G, 6-3

Lebanon, Indiana

SEASON	G	GS	FG	FGA	FG%	FT	FTA	FT%	REB	AST	PTS	RPG	APG	PPG
1976-77	11	0	3	7	.429	0	0	.000	1		6	0.1		0.5
Career	11	0	3	7	.429	0	0	.000	1		6	0.1		0.5

Howie Johnson #10

4/15/1955

G, 6-2, 170

Marshall, Illinois (Marshall High School)

SEASON	G	GS	FG	FGA	FG%	FT	FTA	FT%	REB	AST	PTS	RPG	APG	PPG
1973-74*	14	5	30	61	.492	12	14	.857	16	18	72	1.1	1.3	2.7
1974-75*	20	2	25	39	.641	5	7	.714	19	39	55	1.0	2.0	2.8
1975-76														
1976-77	27	0	19	32	.594	13	16	.813	15		51	0.6		1.9
1977-78	30	8	34	79	.430	23	29	.793	13		91	0.4		3.0
ISU	57	8	53	111	.477	36	45	.800	28		142	0.5		2.5
Career	91	15	108	211	.512	53	66	.803	63		269	0.7		3.0

Richard Johnson #22

5/17/1957

C, 7-0, 245

Detroit, Michigan (Mackenzie High School)

SEASON	G	GS	FG	FGA	FG%	FT	FTA	FT%	REB	AST	PTS	RPG	APG	PPG
1976-77														
1977-78	23	0	51	94	.543	17	37	.459	97		119	4.2		5.2
1978-79														
1979-80														
Career	23	0	51	94	.543	17	37	.459	97		119	4.2		5.2

Danny King #31

G, 6-0, 175

French Lick, Indiana (Springs Valley High School)

SEASON	G	GS	FG	FGA	FG%	FT	FTA	FT%	REB	AST	PTS	RPG	APG	PPG
1973-74														
1974-75														
1975-76	25	25	81	192	.422	52	61	.852	45		214	1.8		8.6
1976-77	28	28	121	283	.428	38	46	.826	65		280	2.3		10.0
Career	53	53	202	475	.425	90	107	.841	110		494	2.1		9.3

Rod McNelly #15/25

G, 6-2, 180

12/7/1959

Speedway, Indiana (Speedway High School)

SEASON	G	GS	FG	FGA	FG%	FT	FTA	FT%	REB	AST	PTS	RPG	APG	PPG
1978-79	16	0	1	6	.167	2	9	.222	5	7	4	0.3	0.4	0.3
1979-80	13	0	3	10	.300	6	9	.667	7	13	12	0.5	1.0	0.9
1980-81	20	0	4	17	.235	5	7	.714	5	11	13	0.3	0.6	0.7
1981-82	17	0	2	3	.667	5	11	.455	10	5	9	0.6	0.3	0.5
Career	66	0	10	36	.278	18	36	.500	27	36	38	0.4	0.5	0.6

Brad Miley #40

F, 6-8, 220

5/15/1956

Rushville, Indiana (Rushville High School)

SEASON	G	GS	FG	FGA	FG%	FT	FTA	FT%	REB	AST	PTS	RPG	APG	PPG
1976-77	28	1	27	67	.403	17	27	.630	89		71	3.2		2.5
1977-78	31	8	56	100	.560	17	42	.405	119		129	3.8		4.2
1978-79	34	34	74	118	.627	46	90	.511	203	56	194	6.0	1.6	5.7
1979-80	27	27	55	112	.491	42	73	.575	216	77	152	8.0	2.9	5.6
Career	120	70	212	397	.534	122	232	.526	627		546	5.2		4.6

Harry Morgan #32

F, 6-7, 190

8/5/1955

Anderson, Indiana (Madison Heights High School)

SEASON	G	GS	FG	FGA	FG%	FT	FTA	FT%	REB	AST	PTS	RPG	APG	PPG
1974-75														
1975-76														
1976-77	28	28	204	430	.474	62	80	.775	156		470	5.6		16.8
1977-78	32	32	265	567	.467	64	90	.711	152		594	4.8		18.6
Career	60	60	469	997	.470	126	170	.741	308		1064	5.1		17.7

John Nelson #12

G, 5-7, 145

Rockville, Indiana (Rockville High School)

SEASON	G	GS	FG	FGA	FG%	FT	FTA	FT%	REB	AST	PTS	RPG	APG	PPG
1973-74	1	0	0	2	.000	0	0	.000	3		0	3.0		0.0
1974-75	15	0	6	20	.300	4	6	.667	1		16	0.1		1.1
1975-76	17	1	14	27	.519	10	13	.769	5		38	0.3		2.2
1976-77	15	0	2	11	.182	2	4	.500	1		6	0.1		0.4
Career	48	1	22	60	.367	16	23	.696	10		60	0.2		1.3

Rich Nemcek #20

10/1/1957

G-F, 6-6, 195

Hammond, Indiana (Morton High School)

SEASON	G	GS	FG	FGA	FG%	FT	FTA	FT%	REB	AST	PTS	RPG	APG	PPG
1976-77														
1977-78														
1978-79	24	0	17	41	.415	6	13	.462	24	15	40	1.0	0.6	1.7
1979-80	19	1	15	40	.375	10	21	.476	33	39	40	1.7	2.1	2.1
Career	43	1	32	81	.395	16	34	.471	57	54	80	1.3	1.3	1.9

Carl Nicks #22

10/6/1958

G, 6-3, 185

Chicago, Illinois (Englewood High School)

SEASON	G	GS	FG	FGA	FG%	FT	FTA	FT%	REB	AST	PTS	RPG	APG	PPG
1976-77	24	0	20	54	.370	13	27	.481	26		53	1.1		2.2
1977-78														
1978-79	34	34	267	576	.464	122	183	.667	118	170	656	3.5	5.0	19.3
1979-80	27	27	267	605	.441	189	244	.775	113	73	723	4.2	2.7	26.8
Career	85	61	554	1235	.449	324	454	.714	257		1432	3.0		16.8

Jim Ogborn #12

2/10/1957

F, 6-8, 185

Attica, Indiana (Attica High School)

SEASON	G	GS	FG	FGA	FG%	FT	FTA	FT%	REB	AST	PTS	RPG	APG	PPG
1977-78	8	0	2	7	.286	0	1	.000	4		4	0.5		0.5
Career	8	0	2	7	.286	0	1	.000	4		4	0.5		0.5

Steve Reed #14/23

12/19/1958

G, 6-2½, 175

Warsaw, Indiana (Community High School)

SEASON	G	GS	FG	FGA	FG%	FT	FTA	FT%	REB	AST	PTS	RPG	APG	PPG
1977-78	31	1	29	73	.397	23	30	.767	26	81	81	0.8	2.6	2.6
1978-79	34	34	68	141	.482	34	48	.708	63	239	170	1.9	7.0	5.0
1979-80	27	27	145	269	.539	35	48	.729	49	149	325	1.8	5.5	12.0
1980-81	27	27	142	297	.478	78	94	.830	48	147	362	1.8	5.4	13.4
Career	119	89	384	780	.492	170	220	.773	186	616	938	1.6	5.2	7.9

Bob Ritter #5

8/21/1957

G, 6-3, 185

Indianapolis, Indiana (Northwest High School)

SEASON	G	GS	FG	FGA	FG%	FT	FTA	FT%	REB	AST	PTS	RPG	APG	PPG
1976-77														
1977-78														
1978-79	15	0	7	22	.318	1	2	.500	8	5	15	0.5	0.3	1.0
1979-80	6	0	4	7	.571	0	1	.000	2	2	8	0.3	0.3	1.3
Career	21	0	11	29	.379	1	3	.333	10	7	23	0.5	0.3	1.1

Dan Rutledge #5

8/2/1956

F, 6-8, 190

Bloomington, Illinois (Bloomington High School)

SEASON	G	GS	FG	FGA	FG%	FT	FTA	FT%	REB	AST	PTS	RPG	APG	PPG
1974-75	3	0	0	0	.000	0	0	.000	0		0	0.0		0.0
1975-76														
1976-77	19	0	11	20	.550	22	28	.786	26		44	1.4		2.3
1977-78	26	0	23	53	.434	24	36	.667	46		70	1.8		2.7
Career	48	0	34	73	.466	46	64	.719	72		114	1.6		2.5

*Yavapai (Arizona) Junior College***Jim Smith #15**

9/12/1956

G, 6-3, 185

Terre Haute, Indiana (South High School)

SEASON	G	GS	FG	FGA	FG%	FT	FTA	FT%	REB	AST	PTS	RPG	APG	PPG
1974-75	22	0	17	54	.315	17	24	.708	35	89	51	1.6	4.0	2.3
1975-76	23	1	15	53	.283	39	51	.765	47		69	2.0		3.0
1976-77	28	22	54	105	.514	44	61	.721	58	207	152	2.1	7.4	5.4
1977-78	32	31	62	122	.508	14	29	.483	63	221	138	2.0	6.9	4.3
Career	105	54	148	334	.443	114	165	.691	203		410	1.9		3.9

Leroy Staley #44

3/27/1957

G-F, 6-4½, 193

Tampa, Florida (Thomas Jefferson High School)

SEASON	G	GS	FG	FGA	FG%	FT	FTA	FT%	REB	AST	PTS	RPG	APG	PPG
1975-76														
1976-77														
1977-78	24	16	58	139	.417	34	52	.654	65		150	2.7		6.3
1978-79	34	0	83	174	.477	72	112	.643	118	25	238	3.5	0.7	7.0
Career	58	16	141	313	.450	106	164	.646	183		388	3.2		6.7

Florida (Junior) College
*Florida (Junior) College***Scott Turner #10**

11/24/1959

F, 6-5½, 195

Bedford, Indiana (North Lawrence High School)

SEASON	G	GS	FG	FGA	FG%	FT	FTA	FT%	REB	AST	PTS	RPG	APG	PPG
1978-79	18	0	16	28	.571	6	9	.667	20	6	38	1.1	0.3	2.1
1979-80	9	0	9	14	.643	13	17	.765	4	3	31	0.4	0.3	3.4
Career	27	0	25	42	.595	19	26	.731	24	9	69	0.9	0.3	2.6

Alan Watson #20

7/23/1958

G, 6-3½, 190

Urbana, Ohio (Urbana High School)

SEASON	G	GS	FG	FGA	FG%	FT	FTA	FT%	REB	AST	PTS	RPG	APG	PPG
1976-77	16	0	4	12	.333	1	3	.333	10		9	0.6		0.6
1977-78	23	0	7	29	.241	4	7	.571	21		18	0.9		0.8
Career	39	0	11	41	.268	5	10	.500	31		27	0.8		0.7

DeCarsta Webster #13

C, 6-11, 230

5/7/1955

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Germantown High School)

SEASON	G	GS	FG	FGA	FG%	FT	FTA	FT%	REB	AST	PTS	RPG	APG	PPG
1974-75														
<i>Miami-Dade South Community College</i>														
1975-76	25	0	124	325	.382	29	49	.592	339		277	13.6		11.1
1976-77	28	28	78	200	.390	27	47	.574	280		183	10.0		6.5
1977-78	32	32	68	154	.442	15	33	.455	243		151	7.6		4.7
Career	85	60	270	679	.398	71	129	.550	862		611	10.1		7.2

College Records of the Head Coaches

Bob King

Iowa 1947

8/24/1923

Season	School	W	L	PCT
1959-60	Iowa	<i>Assistant Coach</i>		
1960-61	Iowa	<i>Assistant Coach</i>		
1961-62	Iowa	<i>Assistant Coach</i>		
1962-63	New Mexico	16	9	.640
1963-64	New Mexico	23	6	.793
1964-65	New Mexico	19	8	.704
1965-66	New Mexico	16	8	.667
1966-67	New Mexico	19	8	.704
1967-68	New Mexico	23	5	.821
1968-69	New Mexico	17	9	.654
1969-70	New Mexico	13	13	.500
1970-71	New Mexico	14	12	.538
1971-72	New Mexico	15	11	.577
1972-73	New Mexico	<i>Associate A.D.</i>		
1973-74	New Mexico	<i>Associate A.D.</i>		
1974-75	Indiana State	<i>Athletic Director</i>		
1975-76	Indiana State	13	12	.520
1976-77	Indiana State	25	3	.893
1977-78	Indiana State	23	9	.719
1978-79	Indiana State	<i>Athletic Director</i>		
1979-80	Indiana State	<i>Athletic Director</i>		
1980-81	Indiana State	<i>Athletic Director</i>		
Career	Overall	236	113	.676
	New Mexico	175	89	.663
	Indiana State	61	24	.718

Bill Hodges

Marian 1970

3/9/1943

Season	School	W	L	PCT
1969-70	Marian College	<i>Undergrad Asst?</i>		
1970-71	Tennessee Tech	<i>Graduate Assistant</i>		
1971-72	Tennessee Tech	<i>Assistant Coach</i>		
1972-73	Tennessee Tech	<i>Assistant Coach</i>		
1973-74	Tennessee Tech	<i>Assistant Coach</i>		
1974-75	Armstrong State	<i>Assistant Coach</i>		
1975-76	Indiana State	<i>Assistant Coach</i>		
1976-77	Indiana State	<i>Assistant Coach</i>		
1977-78	Indiana State	<i>Assistant Coach</i>		
1978-79	Indiana State	33	1	.971
1979-80	Indiana State	16	11	.593
1980-81	Indiana State	9	18	.333
1981-82	Indiana State	9	18	.333
1982-83	Palm Beach JC	<i>Head Coach (JC)</i>		
1983-84	Cal St. Long Beach	<i>Assistant Coach</i>		
1986-87	Georgia College	<i>Head Coach (NAIA)</i>		
1987-88	Georgia College	<i>Head Coach (NAIA)</i>		
1988-89	Georgia College	<i>Head Coach (NAIA)</i>		
1989-90	Georgia College	<i>Head Coach (NAIA)</i>		
1990-91	Georgia College	<i>Head Coach (NAIA)</i>		
1991-92	Mercer	11	18	.379
1992-93	Mercer	13	14	.481
1993-94	Mercer	5	24	.172
1994-95	Mercer	15	14	.517
1995-96	Mercer	15	14	.517
1996-97	Mercer	3	23	.115
1998-99	Murray State	<i>Assistant Coach</i>		
Career	Overall	129	155	.454
	Indiana State	67	48	.583
	Mercer	62	107	.367

Appendix



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 listed in the Game-by-Game tables are taken from tables published in the March 3, 1979 edition of the *Terre-Haute Spectator* except for references in some game stories and the ISU Media Guides.

1976-77

Bird's totals in the table are: 918 points, 374 rebounds, and 123 assists. The 1977-78 ISU Media Guide and Sports-Reference.com both list Bird with 373 rebounds, and Sports-Reference.com¹⁹³ states that Bird collected 122 assists.

1977-78

Bird's totals in the table are: 959 points, 368 rebounds, and 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, 501 rebounds, and 194 assists. 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

1976-77

11/30/1976: Indiana State Sycamores Team FTA mismatch (Team=12, Players=11)
12/09/1976: Indiana State Sycamores Team FTA mismatch (Team=17, Players=16)
12/20/1976: Indiana State Sycamores Team FTA mismatch (Team=14, Players=13)
01/08/1977: West Texas State Buffaloes Team FTA mismatch (Team=6, Players=4)
02/19/1977: Indiana State Sycamores Team FGA mismatch (Team=80, Players=79)
03/03/1977: Valparaiso Crusaders Team FTA mismatch (Team=22, Players=20)

Indiana State Season Totals

NAME	GAMES	FGM	FTM	FTA	PTS
Larry Bird	28	375	168	190	918
Tom Crowder	17	21	2	3	44
Tony Hodges	11	3	0	0	6

Howie Johnson	25 (27)	19	13	16	51
Danny King	28	121	38	43	280
Brad Miley	28	27	17	24	71
Harry Morgan	28	204	62	80	470
John Nelson	15	2	2	4	6
Carl Nicks	24	20	13	26	53
Dan Rutledge	19	11	22	24	44
Jim Smith	28	54	44	58	152
Alan Watson	16	4	1	3	9
DeCarsta Webster	28	78	27	44	183
TOTALS	28	939	409	518	2287

Note: Known deviations from the figures in the 1977-78 ISU Media Guide are shown in red with the "official" total in (). FTA figures are incomplete (missing 12/03/1976) and are shown in blue.

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)
 12/29/1977: Ball State Cardinals Team FGA mismatch (Team=74, Players=73)
 12/29/1977: Ball State Cardinals Team PF mismatch (Team=17, Players=16)
 01/07/1978: West Texas State Buffaloes Team PF mismatch (Team=15, Players=14)
 01/07/1978: Indiana State Sycamores Team FGA mismatch (Team=80, Players=81)
 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)
 02/11/1978: Tulsa Golden Hurricane Team FTA mismatch (Team=23, Players=22)

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	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	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)
 12/16/1978: Butler Bulldogs Team PF mismatch (Team=23, Players=24)
 12/16/1978: Indiana State Sycamores Team PF mismatch (Team=22, Players=17)
 01/03/1979: Tulsa Golden Hurricane Team FGA mismatch (Team=78, Players=76)
 01/13/1979: Indiana State Sycamores Team FGA mismatch (Team=68, Players=67)
 01/22/1979: Indiana State Sycamores Team REB mismatch (Team=46, Players=42)
 02/01/1979: Indiana State Sycamores Team REB mismatch (Team=34, Players=31)
 02/03/1979: Tulsa Golden Hurricane Team FGA mismatch (Team=74, Players=75)
 02/03/1979: Tulsa Golden Hurricane Team REB mismatch (Team=35, Players=36)

02/06/1979: Indiana State Sycamores Team PF mismatch (Team=21, Players=19)
 02/10/1979: Indiana State Sycamores 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 REB mismatch (Team=40, Players=39)
 02/15/1979: Southern Illinois Salukis Team REB mismatch (Team=40, Players=35)
 02/20/1979: Indiana State Sycamores Team FGA mismatch (Team=57, Players=58)
 02/25/1979: Wichita State Shockers Team REB mismatch (Team=35, Players=34)
 02/25/1979: Indiana State Sycamores Team REB mismatch (Team=47, Players=45)
 03/01/1979: Southern Illinois Salukis Team REB mismatch (Team=34, Players=36)
 03/01/1979: Indiana State Sycamores Team REB mismatch (Team=41, Players=38)
 03/03/1979: New Mexico State Aggies Team PF mismatch (Team=19, Players=17)

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	46 (48)	170
Bob Ritter	15	7	1	2	15
Leroy Staley	34	83	72	111 (112)	238
Scott Turner	18	16	6	9	38
TOTALS	34	1183	586	897 (892)	2952

Note: Known deviations from the figures in the 1979-80 ISU Media Guide are shown in red with the "official" total in ().

Sources

Box scores taken primarily from the *Indianapolis Star* and the *Chicago Tribune*. Other newspapers consulted for box scores include the *Terre Haute Tribune*, the *Boston Globe*, and the *New York Times*.

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1979-80 <http://scholars.indstate.edu/xmlui/handle/10484/1612>
1981-82 <http://scholars.indstate.edu/xmlui/handle/10484/1613>

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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, Valparaiso
2009-10	East Carolina
2010-11	Indiana State, North Carolina A&T
2011-12	Drake
2012-13	Charleston Southern, New Mexico State
2013-14	Loyola-Chicago, Missouri Western, 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.
2015-16	Ball State (Record Book), Butler, Centenary (Record Book), Eastern Michigan, Missouri-St. Louis (History & Record Book), Robert Morris, St. Ambrose (Preseason)

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Notes

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³ Wire story, "Indiana State Admitted to Missouri Valley Conference," *Spartanburg (South Carolina) Herald*, March 11, 1976.

⁴ "Sycamores Romp In Hardwood Debut," *Indianapolis Star*, November 28, 1976.

⁵ "Bird, Morgan Power ISU," *Indianapolis Star*, December 1, 1976.

⁶ <http://www.saubees.com/roster/18/1/6313.php>

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⁹ Max Stultz, "Indiana State 3d Straight Purdue Victim," *Indianapolis Star*, December 8, 1976.

¹⁰ "ISU Stuns Augustana," *Indianapolis Star*, December 10, 1976.

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- ¹³ Wire story, "Bird Hits 26 As Sycamores Belt W. Texas," *Indianapolis Star*, December 21, 1976.
- ¹⁴ Wire story, "Smith Sews Up Indiana State's 5th Straight, 79-73," *Indianapolis Star*, December 29, 1976.
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- ²² May, *The Big Three*, p83-88.
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- ³² Robin Miller, "Sycamores' Bird Leads Flock By Loyola," *Indianapolis Star*, February 20, 1977.
- ³³ Wire story, "Bird Helps ISU Trim St. Louis," *Indianapolis Star*, February 22, 1977.
- ³⁴ "Albrecht retires after huge run at Meramec," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, May 21, 2013.
- ³⁵ "Sycamores Top Evansville Aces," *Indianapolis Star*, February 27, 1977.
- ³⁶ "Arad McCutchan, 80, Former College Coach," *New York Times*, June 17, 1993.
- ³⁷ John Bansch, "12,767 Watch The Birdie Chirp To 47," *Indianapolis Star*, March 1, 1977. The *Star* article says Bird had 18 rebounds, but the 1977-78 ISU Media Guide lists him with 19 rebounds.
- ³⁸ Indiana State first appeared on the UPI poll on January 25 in 19th place, then fell out of the top 25 until March 1 when they reappeared at #16 and remained there a week later in the final poll. The Sycamores never appeared in the AP top 25 this season. See <http://www.sports-reference.com/cbb/seasons/1977-polls.html>.
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- ⁴⁰ "Bird Sparks I-State Past Westmont, 88-54," *Indianapolis Star*, November 27, 1977.
- ⁴¹ <http://blogs.westmont.edu/athletics/hall-of-fame/>
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- ⁴⁴ Max Stultz, "Syca-Much-Mores Than Riveters," *Indianapolis Star*, November 29, 1977.
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- ⁴⁶ Mike McCormick, "Sycamores establish their credentials," *Terre Haute Spectator*, December 10, 1977.
- ⁴⁷ "I-State Blasts St. Louis," *Indianapolis Star*, December 2, 1977.
- ⁴⁸ 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."
- ⁴⁹ Wire story, "Indiana St. 102, Baptist 55," *Chicago Tribune*, December 4, 1977.
- ⁵⁰ Levine, *Bird*, p154; Mike McCormick, "Hustle, teamwork, intensity, poise and talent did it," *Terre Haute Spectator*, March 31, 1979.
- ⁵¹ Wire story, "Pistons sign big centre," *The Montreal Gazette*, June 16, 1981; Wire story, "Pistons Trim Down," *Ludington Daily News*, July 2, 1981.
- ⁵² <http://www.csuniv.edu/about/history.html>
- ⁵³ Chris Solari, "Tropf returns to MSU 40 years after player walkout," *Lansing State Journal*, January 8, 2015.

- ⁵⁴ Wire story, "Evansville disaster: Team had class," *The Spokesman-Review*, December 16, 1977. Simpson had trusted Duff and Kingston to babysit for his children.
- ⁵⁵ Wire story, "More tragedy for Evansville," *St. Petersburg Times*, December 29, 1977.
- ⁵⁶ Mike McCormick, "Sycamores establish their credentials," *Terre Haute Spectator*, December 10, 1977.
- ⁵⁷ Wire story, "Bird Crows For 31, ISU Wins Seventh," *Indianapolis Star*, December 18, 1977.
- ⁵⁸ Wire story, "Indiana State 81, Eastern Michigan 72," *Toledo Blade*, December 18, 1977.
- ⁵⁹ 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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- ⁶³ Tom Silverstein, "Yoder plans to stay at Wisconsin," *Milwaukee Sentinel*, March 25, 1987.
- ⁶⁴ Robin Miller, "Sycamores Pull In Victory As Webster Steps Out, 68-56," *Indianapolis Star*, January 5, 1978.
- ⁶⁵ Robin Miller, "Sycamores Pull In Victory As Webster Steps Out, 68-56."
- ⁶⁶ Robin Miller, "Sycamores Pull In Victory As Webster Steps Out, 68-56."
- ⁶⁷ Gale Sayers HOF speech: <http://www.chicagobears.com/tradition/bears-in-the-hall/gale-sayers/speech.html>
Sayers was hired by Southern Illinois in July 1976 after working for his alma mater, the University of Kansas, for 3+ years. Wire story, "Sayers says he'll hit road to boost sports programs," *Lawrence Journal-World*, July 16, 1976.
- ⁶⁸ Wire story, "Ind. State 79, W. Texas 62," *Chicago Tribune*, January 8, 1978.
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- ⁷¹ Wire story, "Sycamores Sail On Larry's 45," *Indianapolis Star*, January 15, 1978.
- ⁷² Ron Brown, "Harris a crowd-pleaser for Bears, Lumberjacks," *Bangor Daily News*, February 13, 2007.
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- ⁷⁴ Robin Miller, "Sycamores Thwart Pesky Bradley By 6," *Indianapolis Star*, January 17, 1978.
- ⁷⁵ Wire story, "Indiana St. perfection shot down by Salukis," *Chicago Tribune*, January 20, 1978.
- ⁷⁶ "ISU Loses 2d; Bird Pops 37," *Indianapolis Star*, January 22, 1978.
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- ⁷⁸ Wire story, "College Basketball," *Chicago Tribune*, January 27, 1978.
- ⁷⁹ Greg Sullivan, "Why I mention Cheese Johnson," *The (Fall River, MA) Herald News*, March 23, 2015.
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<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/705312553/Utah-Jazz-Disaster-of-a-pick.html?pg=all>
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- ⁸⁹ Wire story, "Indiana St. 102, Tulsa 70," *Chicago Tribune*, February 12, 1978.
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- ⁹² "Harry Upstages Larry, ISU Wins," *Indianapolis Star*, February 19, 1978.
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- ⁹⁷ "Ind. State Downs Bradley In Valley," *Indianapolis Star*, March 2, 1978.
- ⁹⁸ Wire story, "Bradley bows to Indiana State," *Chicago Tribune*, March 2, 1978.
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- ¹⁰⁸ MVC Tournament scores taken from Sports-Reference.com; for example: <http://www.sports-reference.com/cbb/schools/indiana-state/1978-schedule.html>
- ¹⁰⁹ <http://www.sports-reference.com/cbb/seasons/1978-polls.html>
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- ¹¹¹ 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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