



BUTLER UNIVERSITY
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

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23 June 2026

Indiana Gaming Commission
101 W. Washington Street, East Tower, Suite 1600
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Executive Director Hoage:

At Butler University, our athletic department is anchored by a commitment to the holistic development, safety, and academic success of our student-athletes. With this responsibility in mind, we are writing to advocate for a crucial regulatory adjustment: prohibiting individual proposition wagers on collegiate athletes within Indiana's sports betting markets.

While we respect that legalized sports wagering is a permanent fixture in today's popular sports culture, there is a sharp distinction between wagering on a team's success and wagering on the microscopic performance metrics of an individual student. College prop bets single out young individuals, magnifying external pressures and introducing systemic risks that threaten both the integrity of our competitions and the mental health of our students.

Our primary concerns about individual player prop bets center on four interconnected threats:

- **Direct Exposure to Hostility:** When a wager hinges entirely on one student-athlete's specific stat line, that student becomes an immediate lightning rod for gambler frustration. This regularly manifests as targeted online harassment, digital abuse, and personal intimidation when a bet fails to cash.
- **The Peril of "Spot-Fixing":** Because a prop bet can be settled on a single play, minute, or statistic, it opens the door for bad actors to manipulate isolated moments without altering the final scoreboard. This micro-manipulation is incredibly difficult to monitor or detect, making young athletes highly attractive targets for illicit influence or interference.
- **Exploitation of Inside Information:** The presence of these markets creates an unhealthy incentive for outsiders to solicit nonpublic details regarding a player's health, mental state, or expected playing time.
- **Compromised Eligibility:** Bringing these localized betting markets so close to the student body increases the risk that student-athletes themselves may be enticed to wager on their own statistics or violate NCAA gambling regulations, instantly derailing their collegiate careers.

These dangers are profoundly amplified by the nature of the collegiate environment. Unlike professional sports, where athletes operate behind strict security barriers, our student-athletes live regular lives as students on campus. They walk the same sidewalks, sit in the same classrooms, and share the same spaces as their peers, fans, and the general public. This open access—paired with the unavoidable reach of social media—makes them uniquely vulnerable to harmful interactions or proximity-based pressure.



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Indiana has a proud history of setting the standard for sports and sports governance. By eliminating individual college prop wagers, the Indiana Gaming Commission would be joining a growing coalition of states—including Ohio, Louisiana, Maryland, and Vermont—that have proactively updated their rules or regulations to shield student-athletes from these exact harms.

We respectfully urge the Commission to take this decisive step to safeguard our students, preserve the purity of collegiate competition, and maintain Indiana's position as a national leader in responsible sports wagering regulation.

Thank you for your dedicated time, leadership, and consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grant Leiendecker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "L".

Grant Leiendecker
Vice President / Director of Athletics
Butler University