

June 15, 2026

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

Dear Executive Director Hoage:

As administrators and coaches entrusted with the education, development, well-being, and success of Purdue University's student-athletes, we write to express our strong support for prohibiting individual proposition bets on college student-athletes in Indiana sports betting markets.

We recognize that legal sports betting is now an established part of the sports landscape. However, individual proposition bets on college student-athletes create unique risks that are not present—or are significantly reduced—in traditional wagers based on team outcomes. These wagers place the focus of betting activity directly on individual young people and expose them to unnecessary pressures that can impact both student-athlete welfare and the integrity of collegiate competition.

Individual college prop bets create several concerns:

- Individual prop bets place a specific student-athlete at the center of a wager, increasing the likelihood that betting-related frustration, harassment, intimidation, and abuse will be directed toward that individual.
- Individual prop bets create additional incentives for bad actors to seek nonpublic information about injuries, playing time, or other factors that may influence a student-athlete's performance.
- Individual prop bets may increase the temptation for student-athletes to engage in impermissible sports wagering involving their own performance.
- Individual prop bets create opportunities for "spot fixing," in which a small aspect of a contest can be manipulated without affecting the final outcome, making detection more difficult and student-athletes more vulnerable to outside influence.

College student-athletes are uniquely vulnerable to these risks. Unlike professional athletes, they live, study, and socialize in highly accessible campus environments and regularly interact with classmates, fans, and members of the public. That accessibility increases the potential for unwanted contact, pressure, and harassment connected to sports wagering activity.

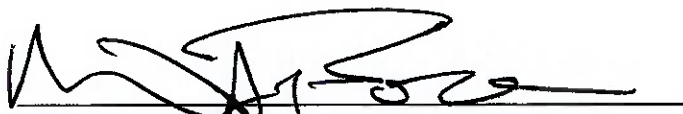


Currently, of the 39 states and DC that have legalized sports betting, 23 allow individual college prop bets in some capacity. Importantly though, at the beginning of 2024, that number was 27. Four states – Ohio, Maryland, Vermont and Louisiana – have amended their gaming policies to remove these wagers from their legal sports betting markets after lawmakers recognized the concerns raised regarding student-athlete welfare, competition integrity, and the damaging impacts these bets can have on both.

For these reasons, we respectfully encourage the Indiana Gaming Commission to prohibit individual proposition bets on college student-athletes. Doing so would help protect student-athletes, strengthen the integrity of collegiate competition, and reinforce Indiana’s reputation as a leader in promoting a safe, responsible, and well-regulated sports betting environment.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.


Sincerely,



Michael A. Bobinski, Executive Vice President and  
Director of Intercollegiate Athletics



Barry Odom, Football Head Coach



Matt Painter, L. Dick Buell Men’s Basketball Head Coach

