

Five Negro Players On Purdue's Potent Big Ten Basketball Team

LAFAYETTE, Ind. — (ANP)— Until four seasons ago, Purdue University had never produced an outstanding tan athlete. This year, on the football team, the team's most valuable player was

a Negro— Lamar Lundy— and several others, including the Big-Ten's outstanding fullback, Mel Dillard, also were Negroes.

Currently, the Boilermakers have more Negro members on its powerful basketball team— five—than any other Big Ten school.

TIED FOR 2nd PLACE

As of last week, the Boilermakers were in a second-place tie with a 3-1 record.

Lundy, who was the first Negro athlete to make good at Purdue, is a two-sport star. Just as soon as he doffed his moleskins after writing finis to a fine football career, Lamar was on the basketball court. After a week's practice, he was the Boilermakers' starting center in its opening game.

This is Lundy's third season on the basketball team. In his junior season, he was regarded as the most improved player in the Big Ten and if he continues his improvement he might become one of the conference's standouts on the court this season.

DEFENSIVE STANDOUT

Lundy's forte is defense. He is exceptionally fast for his size (6-6, 226 pounds) and his long arms and strength make him a great rebounder. He only has to perfect his shooting skill to become a truly outstanding basketball player.

Purdue also has four sophomore basketball aspirants—Harvey Austin, Wilson Eison, Willie Merriweather and Charles Lyons.

Eison, Merriweather and Lyons are Indiana high school basketball products. Austin was voted the outstanding athlete in Buffalo, N.Y., in his senior year in high school.

Austin is a good ball handler and might be Purdue's best play maker this season. The sophomore guard is 6-1 and weighs 170 pounds.

ACADEMIC TROUBLES

If Eison overcomes academic difficulties, he could help considerably. The 6-6, 180-pounder was Mr. Basketball in 1956 at Gary Roosevelt High school. He has a good shot and is an excellent rebounder.

Merriweather, a product of Indianapolis Crispus Attucks that beat Roosevelt and Eison for the Indiana championship in 1955, can play either forward or guard. He is a good rebounder and play-maker.

A southpaw shooter, Lyons is from Fort Wayne. Although he needs to show improvement to match the ability of the other sophomores, he is expected to stick with the team.

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