

# 2020 BOILERMAKERS

## AROUND THE HORN WITH CONNOR AYERS...

*FAVORITE PRO TEAM:* Chicago Cubs • *FAVORITE BALLPLAYER:* Anthony Rizzo • *FAVORITE PRO STADIUM:* Wrigley Field • *MLB HITTER HE'D LIKE TO FACE:* Javier Baez • *WOULD LIKE TO HAVE DINNER WITH:* Willis Noble, Grandpa • *FAVORITE VIDEO GAME:* MLB The Show • *FAVORITE MONTH:* March • *FAVORITE HOLIDAY:* Thanksgiving • *FAVORITE BIG CITY:* Miami • *FAVORITE DESSERT:* Lava Cake • *ANOTHER SPORT HE ENJOYS:* Basketball • *COUNTRY HE'D LIKE TO VISIT:* Australia

## CONNOR AYERS

6-2, 210 LBS FRESHMAN PITCHER  
#15 • BATS/THROWS: LEFT  
LAFAYETTE, IND. (MCCUTCHEON HS)  
MAJOR: EXPLORATORY STUDIES

- Four-year letterwinner at McCutcheon High School in Lafayette
- Played for a pair of Boilermakers at McCutcheon – head coach Doug Schreiber & pitching coach Tristan McIntyre; Schreiber is Purdue's all-time leader in coaching victories
- Went 7-0 with a 1.57 ERA as a senior to earn Lafayette Journal & Courier Big School Player of the Year honors
- In 49 innings as a senior, recorded 65 strikeouts vs. 20 walks while giving up only 27 hits – good for a 0.95 WHIP
- Selected for the Indiana North/South All-Star Game
- Honorable mention all-state in 2019
- Team MVP as a senior while leading McCutcheon to the North Central Conference title
- Father Sean is a Purdue alumnus



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BASEBALL



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## AROUND THE HORN WITH MIKE BOLTON JR...

*FAVORITE PRO TEAM:* Atlanta Braves • *FAVORITE BALLPLAYER:* Ronald Acuna Jr. • *MLB PITCHER HE'D LIKE TO FACE:* Jordan Hicks • *FAVORITE SUPER-HERO:* Daredevil • *FAVORITE FOOD:* Pizza • *FAVORITE DESSERT:* Ice Cream • *FAVORITE VIDEO GAME:* MLB The Show • *FAVORITE HOLIDAY:* Christmas • *ANOTHER SPORT HE ENJOYS:* Basketball • *UNIQUE TRAVEL LOCALE:* North Carolina • *FAVORITE BIG CITY:* Chicago • *CONTINENT HE'D LIKE TO VISIT:* Africa • *FURRY FRIEND:* Savvy, Pitbull

## MIKE BOLTON JR.

5-9, 160 LBS FRESHMAN OUTFIELDER  
#30 • BATS: LEFT • THROWS: RIGHT  
CALUMET CITY, ILL. (BROTHER RICE HS)  
MAJOR: COMMUNICATION

- Three-year varsity letterwinner at Brother Rice High School on Chicago's South Side
- First-team All-Catholic League as a junior after batting .360 with 27 stolen bases
- Even better as a senior, batting .375 with a team-high 38 steals
- Brother Rice won four consecutive regional titles & was an IHSA supersectional qualifier his junior year
- Started as a sophomore on varsity and played in a USA Baseball high school tournament in Cary, North Carolina
- Also played for the Chicago White Sox's Amateur City Elite (ACE) travel ball program
- Honor roll student
- Sister Leah played basketball at Bowling Green State

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# 2020 BOILERMAKERS

AROUND THE HORN WITH RICKY CASTRO...

*FAVORITE PRO TEAM:* Chicago Cubs • *FAVORITE ATHLETE:* Michael Jordan • *FAVORITE PRO STADIUM:* The United Center • *MLB HITTER HE'D LIKE TO FACE:* Christian Yelich • *WOULD LIKE TO HAVE DINNER WITH:* Kyle Boddy (Driveline) • *FAVORITE VIDEO GAME:* Black Ops II • *LAST CONCERT HE ATTENDED:* Lollapalooza • *FAVORITE SUPER-HERO:* Iron Man • *SHOW HE CAN'T STOP WATCHING:* Big Mouth • *FAVORITE MEAL:* Chicago Deep Dish Pizza • *COUNTRY HE'D LIKE TO VISIT:* Italy

## RICKY CASTRO

6-1, 200 LBS SOPHOMORE PITCHER  
#41 • BATS/THROWS: RIGHT  
NAPERVILLE, ILL. (NEUQUA VALLEY HS)  
MAJOR: KINESIOLOGY

- Pitched his first collegiate season at Parkland College in Champaign, Illinois, helping lead Parkland to 38 wins & the Mid-West Athletic Conference title
- Appeared in 13 games, recording a 2.84 ERA & 57 strikeouts vs. 21 walks in 44 1/3 innings
- NJCAA All-Academic third team
- Pitched at Alexander Field in a Purdue-Parkland fall exhibition in 2018, striking out 4 over 2 innings of one-hit relief
- Four-year letterwinner at NVHS in suburban Chicago where he was teammates with current Boilermaker James Kulak
- Posted a 2.40 ERA as a starting pitcher his senior season, helping Neuqua win a third straight IHS regional title
- Played for the Midwest Team at USA Baseball's identification series in Cary, North Carolina
- Honor roll student
- Father Rick played football at Wright College in Chicago



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# 2020 BOILERMAKERS



## AROUND THE HORN WITH JACK FIRESTONE...

*FAVORITE PRO TEAM:* Miami Dolphins • *FAVORITE BALLPLAYER:* Bryce Harper • *MLB PITCHER HE'D LIKE TO FACE:* Gerritt Cole • *WOULD LIKE TO HAVE DINNER WITH:* Bo Jackson • *FAVORITE SUPER HERO:* Captain America • *SHOW HE CAN'T STOP WATCHING:* All American • *FAVORITE VIDEO GAME:* Star Wars Battlefront 2 • *FAVORITE MONTH:* December • *FAVORITE DESSERT:* Cookies • *ANOTHER SPORT HE ENJOYS:* Golf • *COUNTRY HE'D LIKE TO VISIT:* Italy • *FURRY FRIEND:* Sammy, English Lab

## JACK FIRESTONE

6-2, 205 LBS FRESHMAN OUTFIELDER  
#27 • BATS: LEFT • THROWS: RIGHT  
ZIONSVILLE, IND. (ZIONSVILLE HS)  
MAJOR: EXPLORATORY STUDIES

- Three-year letterwinner for coach Jered Moore at Zionsville Community High School in suburban Indianapolis
- Team's offensive player of the year as a senior; junior varsity team MVP as a sophomore
- Freshman team MVP at Homestead High School in Fort Wayne before his family moved to Zionsville
- Helped Zionsville win a pair of sectional titles & a regional championship
- Also played for a San Francisco Giants scout team on the club level, helping his squad post a top-10 finish at a WWBA underclass world championship tournament in Florida
- Graduated with an academic honors diploma
- Mother Jennie is a Purdue alumna
- Father Todd played golf & basketball at Grace College; he's the head golf pro at Meridian Hills Country Club in Indy

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BASEBALL



# 2020 BOILERMAKERS

## AROUND THE HORN WITH MASON GAVRE...

**FAVORITE PRO TEAM:** New York Yankees • **FAVORITE BALLPLAYER:** Derek Jeter • **MLB PITCHER HE'D LIKE TO FACE:** Chris Sale • **FAVORITE PRO STADIUM:** SunTrust Park • **LAST CONCERT HE ATTENDED:** Dan & Shay • **SHOW HE CAN'T STOP WATCHING:** Arrow • **FAVORITE ACTOR & ACTRESS:** Tom Cruise & Emily Rickards • **FAVORITE MONTH:** July • **FAVORITE DESSERT:** Pecan Pie • **FAVORITE BIG CITY:** Fort Lauderdale • **UNIQUE TRAVEL LOCALE:** Honduras • **FURRY FRIEND:** Harper, Yellow Lab

## MASON GAVRE

6-0, 200 LBS JUNIOR INFIELDER

#13 • BATS/THROWS: RIGHT

TUCSON, ARIZ. (CANYON DEL ORO HS)

MAJOR: SELLING & SALES MANAGEMENT

- Played his first 2 collegiate seasons (2017, 2019) at Paradise Valley Community College in Phoenix
- Batted .367 with 11 doubles & 29 RBI as a sophomore to earn second-team All-Arizona Community College Athletic Conference honors
- Three-time PVCC scholar athlete honoree & an Academic All-American as a freshman
- Played for the Front Royal Cardinals of the Valley League in the summer of 2018
- Batted .420 with 24 RBI as a senior to earn first-team all-state honors at Canyon del Oro High School in Tucson
- Helped his high school win the Arizona Division II state title as a junior
- Brother Marc played baseball at New Mexico



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# 2020 BOILERMAKERS



## AROUND THE HORN WITH TANNER HASTON...

*FAVORITE PRO TEAM:* New York Yankees • *FAVORITE BALLPLAYER:* Derek Jeter • *MLB PITCHER HE'D LIKE TO FACE:* Chris Sale • *FAVORITE PRO STADIUM:* SunTrust Park • *LAST CONCERT HE ATTENDED:* Dan & Shay • *SHOW HE CAN'T STOP WATCHING:* Arrow • *FAVORITE ACTOR & ACTRESS:* Tom Cruise & Emily Rickards • *FAVORITE MONTH:* July • *FAVORITE DESSERT:* Pecan Pie • *FAVORITE BIG CITY:* Fort Lauderdale • *UNIQUE TRAVEL LOCALE:* Honduras • *FURRY FRIEND:* Harper, Yellow Lab

## TANNER HASTON

5-11, 180 LBS REDSHIRT FRESHMAN OUTFIELDER  
#3 • BATS/THROWS: RIGHT  
MOORESVILLE, IND. (MOORESVILLE HS)  
MAJOR: PRE-DENTISTRY

- Redshirted in 2019 during his first season as a Boilermaker
- Lettered at Mooresville High School, located southwest of Indianapolis
- All-Mid-State Conference honoree as a sophomore & junior
- Won the Mid-State's Senior Award & the MHS John Howden Award his final season
- Two-time team captain as an upperclassman
- Team MVP as a sophomore
- Four-year academic honors student graduated among the top 20 of his class
- National Honor Society
- His mother Stacey was a softball pitcher at Wabash Valley College

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# 2020 BOILERMAKERS

AROUND THE HORN WITH ERIC HILDEBRAND...

*FAVORITE PRO TEAM:* Detroit Tigers • *FAVORITE BALLPLAYER:* Joe Kelly  
• *MLB HITTER HE'D LIKE TO FACE:* Mike Trout • *FAVORITE THING ABOUT ALEXANDER FIELD:* The Brick Wall Backstop • *FAVORITE PLAYOFF FORMAT:* March Madness • *FAVORITE VIDEO GAME:* Rocket League •  
*FAVORITE FOOD:* Lasagna • *ANOTHER SPORT HE ENJOYS:* Basketball •  
*FAVORITE PURDUE BUILDING:* Mollenkopf Athletic Center • *COUNTRY HE'D LIKE TO VISIT:* France • *FURRY FRIEND:* Leo, Havanese

## ERIC HILDEBRAND

6-0, 180 LBS SOPHOMORE PITCHER  
#47 • BATS/THROWS: RIGHT  
CHESTERFIELD, MICH. (ANCHOR BAY HS)  
MAJOR: SUPPLY CHAIN TECHNOLOGY

- Played his first collegiate season at Jackson College in Michigan, earning the opening day start
- All-conference honoree led the team with a 2.83 ERA while registering 62 strikeouts vs. 28 walks in 57 1/3 innings
- Struck out at least 7 batters in each of his first 5 outings
- Worked 7 innings of three-hit ball in consecutive starts vs. Delta & Schoolcraft
- Dean's List student & an honor roll student in high school
- Four-year letterwinner at Anchor Bay High School in the northern suburbs of Detroit; also served as both the kicker & punter on the football team
- Three-year All-Macomb Area Conference performer
- Helped Anchor Bay win MHSAA district titles as a freshman & senior



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# 2020 BOILERMAKERS



## AROUND THE HORN WITH JETT JACKSON...

*FAVORITE PRO TEAM:* New York Yankees • *FAVORITE BALLPLAYER:* Derek Jeter • *MLB HITTER HE'D LIKE TO FACE:* Bryce Harper • *YOUTUBE CHANNEL HE ENJOYS:* Dude Perfect • *FAVORITE PLAYOFF PLATFORM:* College World Series • *FAVORITE MULTI-MEDIA APP:* Disney+ • *FAVORITE MEAL:* His Father's Spaghetti • *ANOTHER SPORT HE ENJOYS:* Golf • *FAVORITE HOLIDAY:* Christmas • *ISLAND HE'D LIKE TO VISIT:* Bora Bora • *FURRY FRIEND:* Lucy, Miniature Pinscher

## JETT JACKSON

6-4, 190 LBS FRESHMAN PITCHER

#45 • BATS/THROWS: RIGHT

BURNS, TENN. (DICKSON COUNTY HS)

MAJOR: EXPLORATORY STUDIES

- Four-year letterwinner at Dickson County High School west of Nashville
- Played first base & pitched, earning region & team MVP honors as a senior
- Part of D1Baseball.com's Freshmen to Watch in the Big Ten going into the 2020 season
  - Ranked as the No. 2 right-hander in his class in Tennessee by Perfect Game
- Helped his high school team improve from 7-27 as a freshman to 19-18 as a senior
- Also played for the Knights Baseball club for six years as a teammate of Purdue's Jake Parr
  - Helped the Knights qualify for the Connie Mack World Series in New Mexico

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# 2020 BOILERMAKERS

AROUND THE HORN WITH KYLE LAPLANTE...

*FAVORITE PRO TEAM:* New York Yankees • *MLB PITCHER HE'D LIKE TO FACE:* Chris Sale • *FAVORITE ATHLETE:* Conor McGregor • *WOULD LIKE TO HAVE DINNER WITH:* Albert Einstein • *FAVORITE THING ABOUT COLLEGE BASEBALL:* The Hype • *FAVORITE VIDEO GAME SYSTEM:* PlayStation • *FAVORITE MONTH:* March • *FAVORITE DESSERT:* Hot Fudge Sundae • *ANOTHER SPORT HE ENJOYS:* Basketball • *COUNTRY HE'D LIKE TO VISIT:* Japan • *FURRY FRIEND:* Shelby, Miniature Poodle

## KYLE LAPLANTE

6-3, 190 LBS JUNIOR INFIELDER  
#20 • BATS/THROWS: RIGHT  
LANCASTER, N.Y. (KENMORE WEST HS)  
MAJOR: KINESIOLOGY

- Played his sophomore season at Niagara County Community College & freshman year at Niagara University
- First-team all-region shortstop in his one season of JUCO ball, batting .370 with 15 doubles, 59 RBI & 26 stolen bases
- Starting shortstop for the New York Collegiate League champion Niagara Power in the summer of 2019
- Four-year varsity letterwinner at Kenmore West High School in Buffalo, where he also played basketball & volleyball
- Kenmore West Athlete of the Year in 2017 after leading his team to the Niagara Frontier League title
- Batted .420 as a senior to earn first-team all-league & honorable mention All-Western New York accolades
- Western New York Scholar Athlete; four-year honor roll student
- Brother Zach plays baseball at Niagara County CC



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# 2020 BOILERMAKERS



## AROUND THE HORN WITH JAKE PARR...

*FAVORITE PRO TEAM:* Atlanta Braves • *FAVORITE BALLPLAYER:* Pete Rose • *MLB PITCHER HE'D LIKE TO FACE:* Kyle Wright • *FAVORITE PRO STADIUM:* Fenway Park • *FAVORITE PURDUE BUILDING:* Wiley Food Court • *FAVORITE VIDEO GAME:* NBA 2K19 • *FAVORITE HOLIDAY:* Christmas • *FAVORITE DESSERT:* Brownies • *FAVORITE OUTDOOR ACTIVITY:* Hunting & Fishing • *CONTINENT HE'D LIKE TO VISIT:* South America • *FURRY FRIEND:* Jesse, Beagle

## JAKE PARR

6-7, 225 LBS FRESHMAN INFIELDER  
#44 • BATS/THROWS: RIGHT  
NEW MARKET, ALA. (BUCKHORN HS)  
MAJOR: WILDLIFE

- Four-year varsity letterwinner & starter at Buckhorn High School in the Huntsville area
- Two-time Perfect Game All-American & WBBA first team as an upperclassman
- First-team Alabama All-Super State & All-Tennessee Valley as a senior
- Batted .408 as a senior, .340 as a junior
- Also played for the Knights Baseball travel squad as a teammate of Purdue's Jett Jackson
- Father Cory played basketball at Kentucky
- Sister Preston is a four-year Diamond Girl with the baseball program at Ole Miss

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# 2020 BOILERMAKERS

AROUND THE HORN WITH MILES SIMINGTON...

*FAVORITE PRO TEAM:* Chicago Cubs • *FAVORITE BALLPLAYER:* Javier Baez • *FAVORITE PLAYOFF FORMAT:* College World Series • *WOULD LIKE TO HAVE DINNER WITH:* Jackie Robinson • *FAVORITE PRO STADIUM:* Wrigley Field • *FAVORITE HOLIDAY:* New Year's Eve • *FAVORITE THING ABOUT ALEXANDER FIELD:* The Lights • *FAVORITE FOODS:* Sushi & His Mom's Enchiladas • *ANOTHER SPORT HE ENJOYS:* Football • *COUNTRY HE'D LIKE TO VISIT:* Cuba

## MILES SIMINGTON

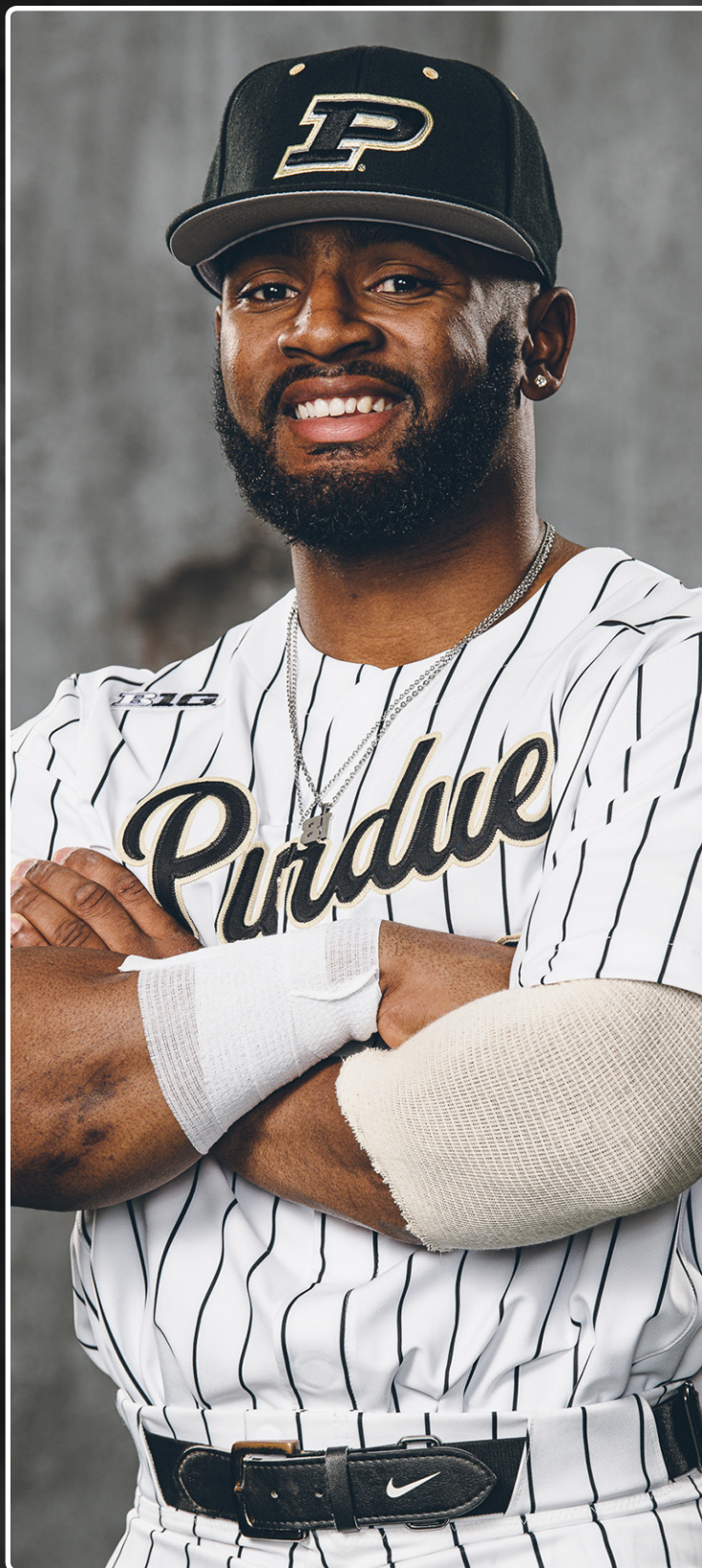
5-9, 210 LBS JUNIOR OUTFIELDER

#18 • BATS/THROWS: LEFT

BLOOMINGTON, ILL. (NORMAL COMMUNITY HS)

MAJOR: LAW & SOCIETY

- Played his sophomore season at Heartland College in Normal, Illinois, & his freshman year at Polk State College in Winter Haven, Florida
- First-team All-Region 24 & All-Mid-West Athletic Conference honoree at Heartland; batted .363 with 29 extra-base hits, 36 RBI & 26 walks vs. 19 strikeouts at Heartland
- Earned NJCAA Division II National Player of the Week honors after a big week on Heartland's spring break trip in Florida where he recorded 9 extra-base hits & 14 RBI
- Went 3-for-3 with an RBI single & a walk in a Purdue-Heartland fall exhibition game in 2018 at Alexander Field
- Batted .287 with a .415 on-base percentage plus 14 extra-base hits & 27 RBI in 47 games at Polk State
- Also played locally for the Lafayette Aviators of the Prospect League in the summer of 2019
- All-Big 12 Conference performer in both baseball & football at Normal Community High School in Central Illinois
- Batted .343 with 27 RBI & 16 walks vs. 15 strikeouts as a senior



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## AROUND THE HORN WITH JACKSON SMELTZ...

*FAVORITE PRO TEAM:* Chicago Cubs • *FAVORITE ATHLETE:* Drew Brees •  
*MLB HITTER HE'D LIKE TO FACE:* Javier Baez • *WOULD LIKE TO HAVE DINNER WITH:* Roberto Clemente • *WOULD LOVE TO SEE HER PLAY PURDUE:* Shania Twain • *SHOW HE CAN'T STOP WATCHING:* Sherlock • *FAVORITE MEAL:* Sushi • *FAVORITE DESSERT:* Apple Pie • *FAVORITE MONTH:* May • *FAVORITE OUTDOOR ACTIVITY:* Fishing • *FAVORITE BIG CITY:* Pittsburgh • *COUNTRY HE'D LIKE TO VISIT:* New Zealand

## JACKSON SMELTZ

6-3, 210 LBS REDSHIRT FRESHMAN PITCHER  
#17 • BATS/THROWS: LEFT  
LAFAYETTE, IND. (MCCUTCHEON HS)  
MAJOR: FARM MANAGEMENT

- Redshirted in 2019 during his first season as a Boilermaker
- Four-year varsity letterwinner at McCutcheon High School in Lafayette
- Played for 2 Boilermakers as a senior at McCutcheon – head coach Doug Schreiber & pitching coach Tristan McIntyre
- Also played varsity basketball
- Three-time All-North Central Conference honoree
- Team MVP & top hitter award winner as a junior
- Won the team's top pitcher & rookie of the year awards as a freshman
- Led the team in batting average as a sophomore
- Injuries kept him off the mound for much of his upperclassman seasons
- Grandma Jane Thompson, grandma Paulette Lambirth & uncle Jeff Brand are all Purdue alumni

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# 2020 BOILERMAKERS

AROUND THE HORN WITH JUSTIN WALKER JR...

*FAVORITE PRO TEAM:* Chicago Bears • *FAVORITE ATHLETE:* LeBron James • *MLB PITCHER HE'D LIKE TO FACE:* Marcus Stroman • *WOULD LIKE TO HAVE DINNER WITH:* Shaquille O'Neal • *FAVORITE PRO STADIUM:* Old Trafford • *FAVORITE VIDEO GAME:* FIFA • *FAVORITE MONTH:* November • *FAVORITE DESSERT:* Cookies • *ANOTHER SPORT HE ENJOYS:* Soccer • *COUNTRY HE'D LIKE TO VISIT:* France • *FAVORITE THING ABOUT COLLEGE BASEBALL:* Going on the Road To Compete

## JUSTIN WALKER JR.

6-0, 170 LBS JUNIOR INFIELDER  
#10 • BATS: SWITCH • THROWS: RIGHT  
LAFAYETTE, IND. (JEFFERSON HS)  
MAJOR: SELLING & SALES MANAGEMENT

- Played in 83 games & made 65 starts as an infielder for Indiana University as an underclassman; will redshirt during the 2020 season at Purdue due to transfer rules
- Helped IU win the Big Ten title in 2019 & qualify for a pair of NCAA Regionals
- Recorded two-hit games in 2018 NCAA Regional wins vs. Texas Southern & Texas A&M
- Registered 12 RBI during a six-game RBI streak midway through the 2018 campaign
- Four-year letterwinner at Jefferson High School in Lafayette; also lettered in soccer, football & basketball
- Batted .345 for his career with a .443 on base percentage
- Was the No. 3 shortstop & No. 13 player overall in Indiana out of high school by Prep Baseball Report
- Father Chris was a three-year starting outfielder for Purdue from 1998 to 2000



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# BOILERMAKER BASEBALL



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