



by **Ron Eid** photography by **Steve Raymer**

Good Guys

to Have Around

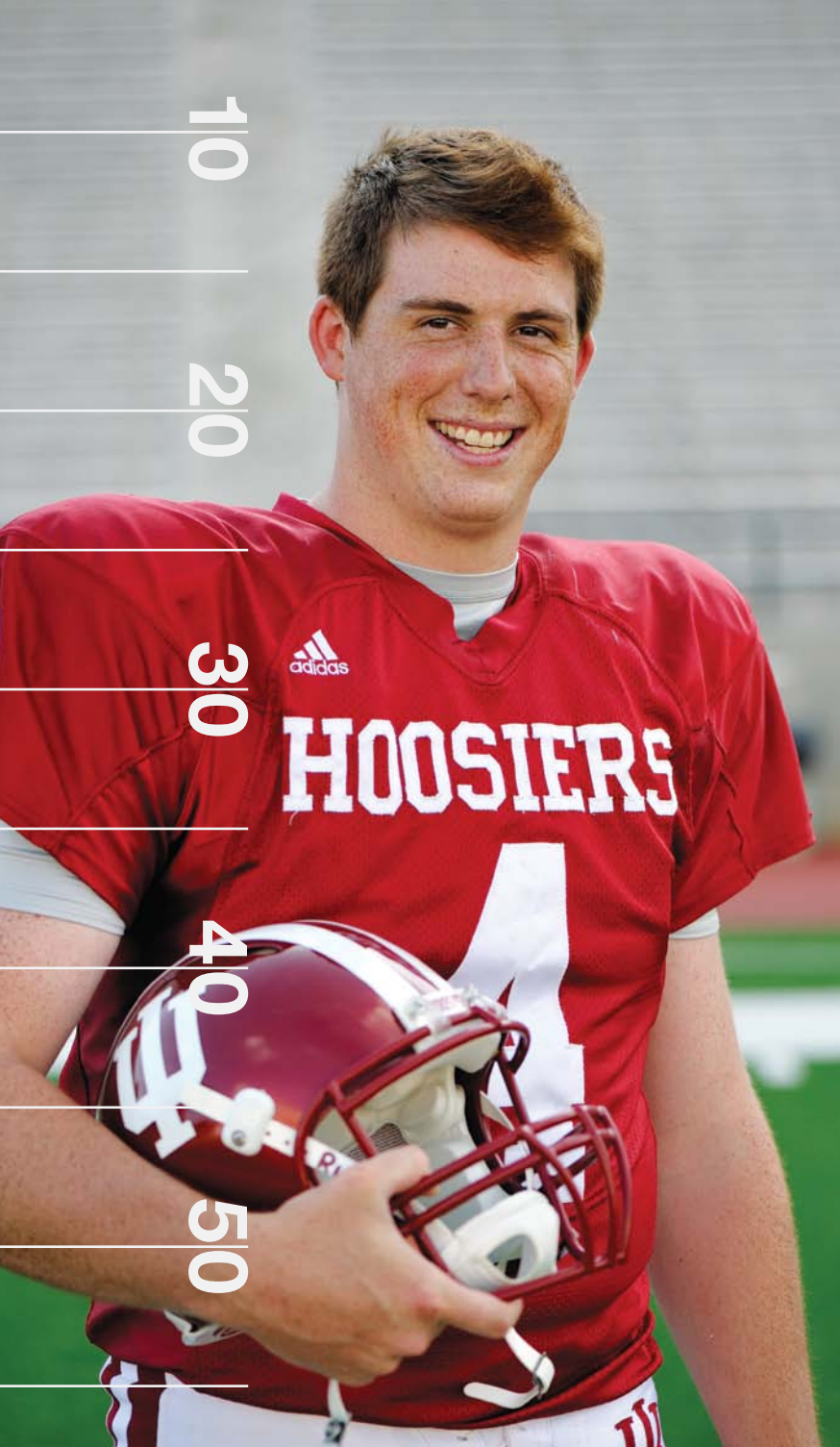
Team leaders **Ben Chappell & Jammie Kirlew**

In the past ten years, Indiana University's football team has averaged 3.8 wins per season, and yet it has managed to recruit and develop some of the best players in the country. At quarterback, playmakers such as Antwaan Randle El, Blake Powers, and Kellen Lewis have thrilled Hoosier fans with their passing and ground attacks. In recent years the Hoosiers have also been strong at defensive end with the NFL-bound Adewale Onguleye, Victor Adeyanju, and Ben Ishola.

Now at those same positions are two players who are as notable for their character, scholarship, and integrity as for their athletic ability and leadership. Ben Chappell, a graduate of Bloomington High School South, never thought he would attend IU, but he is now the team's starting quarterback. Defensive end Jammie Kirlew, a Florida native, had never been to the Midwest. But since making Bloomington his second home, he has become a leader and an inspiration, on and off the field.

Both of these young men hope to play football on Sundays when they graduate. In the meantime, they should give Hoosiers plenty to cheer about on Saturdays. But any day of the week, Chappell and Kirlew are just good guys to have around.

Ben Chappell (#4, quarterback) and Jammie Kirlew (#57, defensive end) are leading the IU football team, on and off the field, with their hard work and dedication. Already, they say, the attitude of the team has changed.



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A 2006 Bloomington High School South graduate, Ben Chappell says that while growing up he never intended to play college football—or attend IU.

Ben Chappell

During spring football practice, Ben Chappell “had a moment” when he realized he was the oldest quarterback on the team. “It hit me like a brick,” Chappell says. “It was interesting in a way, scary in a way, but neat in a way because it put me in a position to lead the team.”

This is a team looking for a leader. Last year the Hoosiers finished 11th in the Big Ten. When its star quarterback for the past three years, Kellen Lewis, was kicked off the team this spring, it put Chappell indisputably in charge.

The 22-year-old redshirt junior has known offensive coordinator and quarterback coach Matt Canada since he was a high-school freshman—Chappell’s entire Bloomington South football team participated in IU’s football camp every year. At first, though, IU wasn’t in Chappell’s college plans. Neither was football.

“Growing up in southern Indiana, I always wanted to play basketball,” he says. But as early as middle school he didn’t think his height would take him very far in that sport. By then he had become (and still is) a fan of NFL quarterback Brett Favre. “He is the ultimate warrior on the football field,” Chappell says. “He could have a broken hand, but he goes out there for his teammates. I think that’s the way you should play the game. You should put it all on the line when you’re out there.”

His sights on football, Chappell assumed he would go to a southern university, especially because one set of his grandparents lived in Georgia and the other in Kentucky. “I grew up here,” he says, “so obviously I didn’t want to go to IU.... I wanted to go south and play football.” But for a straight-A student with an interest in accounting, academics were important. He knew about the strong accounting program at IU’s Kelley School of Business, and he saw what Coach Terry Hooppner was doing with the football program. “The more I looked,” Chappell says, “the more I knew I couldn’t pass up this opportunity.”

In his only year at IU before Coach Hep died, Chappell played on the scout team, running plays to help the starting defensive unit prepare for opposing teams. Even though Coach Hep’s attention was on the defense, he would give pointers to Chappell. “That’s something I’ll always remember,” Chappell says, “that he took the time to coach me, just a little freshman on the scout team.”

Chappell also learned a lot by watching Lewis play. They were roommates during road trips and “good friends.” Their playing styles were different, though: Lewis’ speed allowed him to “do things I couldn’t do physically,” says Chappell, who at 6-foot-3-inches and 235 pounds is

2 inches taller and 50 pounds heavier than Lewis. “But there are things I could do that he couldn’t, like throwing the deep ball and really selling the play action.”

Chappell played in 11 of 12 games last year; he started in three of them, including an upset of #22-ranked Northwestern. Four different quarterbacks took snaps during the season, but Chappell says that isn’t why there was “no continuity on the offensive side of ball.”

“Splitting time is not easy at quarterback, but that did not affect us,” he says. Making “no excuses” for the team’s 3-9 season, he admits that injuries on both sides of the ball played a role.

“We realize we have got to do everything we can to avoid those injuries,” he says. “That means working out in the weight room every day, being together as a team, and pushing each other hard so we won’t have the sprained ankles, bad knees, bad backs.”



Chappell met his girlfriend, Dianne Ragland, when she was an IU journalism major. She graduated last year and now lives in Chicago. They see each other when they can.

Chappell throws over defender Broderick Binns (#91) in a 45-9 loss to the Iowa Hawkeyes last year. Splitting quarterback time with Kellen Lewis, Chappell completed 13 of 18 passes for 83 yards and rushed for another 54.
Photo by Mike Dickbernd/ IU Athletics





During last year's Big Ten opener against Michigan State, Chappell threw a 97-yard touchdown pass to Terrance Turner. A penalty nullified the play, however, giving Michigan State a safety and the lead for good. Photo by Mike Dickbernd/IU Athletics



Chappell says he has probably played more basketball than football in his life, but this playing card shows he's known what to do with the pigskin from an early age. Courtesy photo



Jammie Kirlew (left) and Chappell talk shop in the locker room. Both guys are on the team's Leadership Council. "We're all brothers on the team," Chappell says.

Chappell uses his position on the team's Leadership Council to push his teammates. Over the winter Coach Bill Lynch assembled the group of about a dozen veteran players "to increase communication between players and coaches and between guys on the team," Chappell says. "It's a way to create accountability, so if guys are not doing what they need to do, then we as players first of all know what's going on, and second of all decide as a group what action needs to be taken." To Chappell, football is more than a team sport: "We're all brothers on the team, so we help each other any way we can."

Chappell's approach to life, he says, comes from how he was raised by his parents, Laura and Steve Chappell. "It definitely benefits me in every part of my life now. They taught me how to do things the right way, how to treat people."

For the record, Ben's father Steve says, "I want to make sure he acknowledges all the people who helped him along the way. Teachers, pastors, coaches, mentors—they have been wonderful. They never get enough thanks."

The Chappells, including Ben's sister Ginny (now 25 and living in New York), moved to Bloomington when Ben was 8 months old and began attending Sherwood Oaks Christian Church—then located on Winslow Road. Three years later, in 1991, fire destroyed most of the building. "We had Sunday school in little trailers out in the parking lot," Chappell says. "We went through that experience as a church."

A new church was built on East Rogers Road and now it has nearly 3,000 members. "I try to be involved over there as much as I can," Chappell says. "It has been unique for me to have the same pastor—Tom Ellsworth—for twenty-two years. I love listening to his sermons. That's one of the things that's been strong in my life. It's been a good thing for me."

Attending college in Bloomington has helped, too. "Being part of campus really broadened my horizons," he says. "Someone from a bigger city might say, 'Broadened your horizons, in Bloomington, Indiana?' But it's really true."

When he isn't busy with family, church, school, or football, one of Chappell's favorite things to do is golf. It gets his mind off football—and helps him with football.

"Golf is such a frustrating sport; it helps me to keep my composure," he says. "That helps me play quarterback because I think you have to be able to control your emotions. Throughout a game there's going to be highs and lows, and you've got to be able to perform whether you just threw a pick or a touchdown."

This fall when Chappell is selling the play action and throwing the deep ball, Hoosier Nation will see a man of composure, consistency, and dedication. They will see a team player and team leader.



Jammie Kirlew has a number of interests and accomplishments. This fall he wants Hoosier football fans to "come out to our football games and share an experience of one of IU's greatest years."

Kirlew snags one of his 10.5 sacks of the season against Wisconsin Badger QB Dustin Sherer. A 2009 preseason, first-team All-Big Ten defensive end, Kirlew has also made the Academic All-Big Ten team three years in a row. Photo by Mike Dickbernd/IU Athletics

Jammie Kirlew

Scholar, athlete, political campaigner, community organizer, filmmaker (in English and Italian), team leader. Jammie Kirlew, 23, is already a Renaissance man, though most people know him only as an outstanding football player for the IU Hoosiers—a preseason first-team All-Big Ten defensive end. As one might expect, in life and in football Kirlew is a confident human being.

"I see us being contenders in the Big Ten," he says unabashedly. "A lot of people probably don't believe it the same way we do. But it is our job to prove it."

A three-time Academic All-Big Ten selection and a finalist last year for the national Ted Hendricks Defensive End of the Year Award, the 6-foot-3-inch, 263-pound senior has the clout to lead the team. He also has the desire. "It's a lot of fun helping young guys," he says. "They're all big, they're all athletic, they're all really strong, but sometimes it's about getting that knowledge....You can be so much better on the field if you're more informed."

Kirlew was just like them when he arrived at IU in 2005. Playing behind IU standouts Victor Adeyanju and Ben Ishola didn't hurt (both went on to the NFL), but Kirlew attributes much of his improvement to his defensive-line coach for the past several years: current co-defensive coordinator Brian George. "Within two years, I felt like I really knew the game, under Coach George," Kirlew says. "He does a great job of breaking down the game and making it easy to learn."

As a member of the team's Leadership Council, Kirlew knows winning isn't all about brains and brawn. "We have done a great job of changing the attitude around here and how we trust each other." Besides facilitating communication between coaches and the team, Kirlew says the Council helps to "give us power to lead the team. Coach Lynch does so much to empower us to lead the team and set examples."





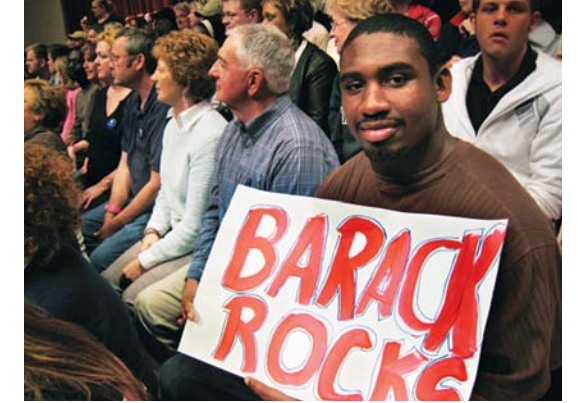
were guys," he says. "It was a great ratio." But toward the end, he was ready to come back. He wasn't homesick; he was feeling guilty. "I was like, I shouldn't be having this much fun. I need to be working out."

Raised in Orlando, Florida, with five siblings, Kirlew says his work ethic comes from his mother, Janet Gibson Wraa. "She became a single parent when I was in seventh grade," he says. "She has amazed me with the things she's done. All her children so far have gone to college." Kirlew's mother also taught her children "to have great values, and to stick to your values," he says. "She taught us to respect everyone. I was one of those kids who said 'Yes, sir' and 'Yes, ma'am' to everyone."

Dealing with his father's leaving was one of the toughest challenges Kirlew has had to face. When his grades began to suffer, he says, "My teachers told me I wasn't reaching my full potential." He tried harder, and when his grades improved he was encouraged. From that point on, he says, "I just knew I wasn't getting anything below an A or B in high school or college." In high school, he knew the only way he would go to college was if he got a scholarship. "I worked as hard as I could, academically first, and on the football field."

About halfway through college, Kirlew began to engage in politics. "So many things were hitting bottom, so many things were going wrong in the country—energy crisis, credit crisis, people losing their jobs and their homes, everything getting out of whack," he says. "I was like, 'This is America. We're the world's leaders. This is not supposed to happen in our country.' So it got me interested to see what path we were taking.... I started watching, listening, and reading. I started to get my own opinion as well. Then the primaries came along."

As a member of Students for Barack Obama, Kirlew was able to sit onstage during the presidential candidate's rally in Assembly Hall last year. Courtesy photo



Kirlew listened closely to all the candidates and found Barack Obama to be the most practical. "He did a great job of connecting with people, breaking down ideas, and making people understand," Kirlew says. He joined IU Students for Barack Obama, which was instrumental in registering students to vote and getting them to the polls.

Politics may lead him to one of his long-term priorities: helping children by improving the school system. "Growing up in an area where there were really good schools and really bad schools made it obvious how bad the system is." But if his various pursuits in college are any indication, Kirlew will pursue more than one interest. Consider filmmaking.

He has already written, produced, and directed two movies: an eight-minute video for a class project, with all dialogue in Italian ("It had a *Sopranos* twist to it"); and another short film, *Spring BreakUP*, that he entered in Campus MovieFest, dubbed "the world's largest student film festival." Both productions were learning experiences, allowing him to use a lot of "transferable skills." Being a leader on the football field helped with directing, he says. And "a lot of my major has to do with managing logistics, and that relates to producing."

Wherever Kirlew settles, he is not likely to forget his adopted hometown. Before he was recruited to play for IU, he had never been to the Midwest. "My impression was cornfields and more cornfields." But on his second recruiting visit, he says that besides IU's coaching staff and players, the city "might've been the greatest factor for me signing. Bloomington really took me by surprise. I said, 'This place is beautiful. There's so much to do here, and the people are great.'"

After also mentioning "all the great restaurants," Kirlew pauses to consider. "The only thing I'm missing is a good Caribbean restaurant. Maybe I'll come back to Bloomington and open up one of those."

The possibility makes his parting words not sound so final: "Bloomington, È stato veramente un piacere conoscerti." Bloomington, he says, it's been a pleasure meeting you. ✨

Jammie and his brothers hit the links at Cascades Golf Course. (l) Henry, 23, has a marketing degree from Fordham University and is applying to graduate school. He moved to Bloomington this summer to help Jammie and their younger brother Jerrell (r) train for football. Jerrell, 19, is a sophomore at IU and will be eligible to join the team next year.



Kirlew reaches Indianapolis native Jewel Hampton of the Iowa Hawkeyes behind the line of scrimmage, although Hampton would finish the day with three touchdowns in a 45-9 rout. Photo by Mike Dickbernd/ IU Athletics

Kirlew prepares for class in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs, where he will graduate in December with a double major in management and public financial management.

After graduation, Kirlew intends to play professional football for as long as he can. "After that, the first step will be to come back and go to law school," he says. "Then I'll see where life takes me."

Kirlew graduates in December with a double major in management and public financial management from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA)—an academic direction he didn't choose lightly. In high school he became interested in information systems. At IU he enjoyed his courses both in computer science and at the Kelley School of Business, but his real passion is for "helping the people in the community," he says, "so I thought SPEA was the right move for me."

Even so, Kirlew has kept in contact with Jeanette Heidewald, lecturer of business communication at Kelley. "She has definitely helped guide me academically and helped me do things I never thought about before—like going to Italy."

In the summer of 2006, Kirlew took an overseas-study program in Florence. "Of thirty-five students, only six