

PURDUE

6-7 LAST SEASON / 3-5 BIG 10 / 4TH BIG 10 LEADERS

COACH:

Darrell Hazell-- 1st year @ Purdue;
16-10 overall

AGAINST THE SPREAD

- OVERALL: 16-9
- FAVORITE: 9-2
- UNDERDOG: 7-7
- HOME: 8-4
- AWAY: 8-5

RETURNING STARTERS:

14 TOTAL, 5 Offense, 9 Defense

KEY LOSSES:

QB Marve, RB Bolden, CB Johnson

PLAYERS TO WATCH:

CB Feichter, LB Lucas, WR Bush

RETURNING PRODUCTION:

OFFENSE

- TOTAL OFFENSE: 19.14%
- RUSHING: 36.81%
- PASSING: 6.97%
- RECEIVING: 53.84%

DEFENSE

- TACKLES: 70.50%
- TACKLES FOR LOSS: 56.34%
- INTERCEPTIONS: 71.43%

Instilling toughness and physicality:

Toughness is a word new HC **Hazell** has used a lot in the offseason. Hazell's surprising Kent State team last season ran the ball with authority, and that's something he wants Purdue to adopt as well

"The players have a clear understanding of the brand of football we need to play. They understand we're going to play some downhill football," Hazell said. "The teams that do well in this league are tough teams."

OFFENSE

The Boilermakers were not a good offensive team in 2012. Purdue averaged 402.7 ypg (5th in the Big 10) & 28.7 ppg (6th in conference) last year, but those numbers were inflated by non-conference games against Eastern Kentucky, Eastern Michigan and Marshall.

In Big 10 play the Boilermakers averaged 376.75 ypg & 23.63 ppg, failing to score more than 28 points in 7 of their 8 conference games.

Purdue may experience an offensive setback in 2013. As previously noted, the Boilermakers struggled in Big 10 play last season, and they aren't in much of a position to take a step forward. A new head coach and offensive coordinator should help, but Purdue needs to replace two QB's, a strong RB, and a few solid WR's. Expect some growing pains with so many new faces at the skill positions:

- **The Running Game** – New HC Hazell wants to run the football and running back appears to be the strength of the offense. *Akeen Hunt* (335 yards, 7.98 yards per carry) had a standout spring and is a breakaway threat. *Brandon Cottom* (209 yards, 9.09 yards per carry), is a 258-pound power back with solid feet and sneaky speed.
- **OL** - The offensive line is senior-heavy and could be a solid unit. "I think it's going to be a good group. After about a few practices you saw them start to work in concert," Hazell said. "They started understanding the schemes. I think, when it's all said and done, that might be our strongest group."

Area of concern: Passing game – The new QB will be either senior *Rob Henry*, a good athlete with experience, but limitations in the passing game, or true frosh *Danny Etling*, who has plenty of raw talent. Thanks to another suspension for WR *O.J. Ross*, receiver could be a major area of concern.

DEFENSE

The Boilermakers were terrible on defense in 2012. Purdue finished 11th in the Big 10 in total defense (415.8 ypg) & 10th in scoring defense (31.2 ypg). Those numbers were worse in conference play as the Boilermakers allowed 434 ypg & 33.13 ppg and held only one team below their offensive season scoring average.

The 2013 defense will be better. Possibly significantly better. Purdue gets a coaching upgrade, and they return plenty of talent and experience along the DL and secondary. They're hoping that translates into better production because with the return of 9 defensive starters, they'll mostly be going with the same players.

- **Front Seven** – The DL loses their best player (DT *Kawann Short* – NFL 2nd round), but return 3 starters and potential all-conference DE *Ryan Russell*. The problem is at LB where the Boilermakers have suffered from a unit that lacks upper-echelon Big 10 talent. This group was an abyss last season, with an alarming lack of playmaking ability.

Defensive strength: Secondary

The Purdue secondary should be one of the better units in the Big Ten. Three starters including all-conference cornerback *Ricardo Allen* return to a unit that held 7 of 8 conference opponents below 60% passing.

- The Boilermakers had way too many problems against anyone who could run the ball. They finished 9th in the Big 10 allowing 181.92 ypg. They were 0-5 SU & ATS when allowing more than 181.92 ypg rushing and 5-2 SU & ATS when allowing less.

PURDUE

2012 ATS: 5-7

2012 O/U: 8-4

Favorite ATS: 2-4

Underdog ATS: 3-3

Home ATS: 2-4

Away ATS: 3-3

2013 BETTING PROSPECTUS

SCHEDULE BREAKDOWN

The schedule, which includes OOC games against Cincinnati, Notre Dame and Northern Illinois, conference games against Wisconsin, Ohio State and Penn State, plus crossover games against Nebraska and Michigan State -- is very demanding. Purdue is likely to only be favored in 4 games all season

Wins & Losses - Indiana State and maybe a home game against a bad Illinois team look like the only sure-thing wins on the schedule. Non-conference games against Cincinnati and Notre Dame look like losses and a Big Ten slate that sees the Boilermakers open conference play at Wisconsin, vs. Nebraska, at Michigan State and vs. Ohio State does not set-up well for a quick start. A road game at Penn State in November could be Purdue's 5th conference loss.

Toss-ups - Home games against a good NIU squad and Iowa and a road game at Indiana are all winnable and the Boilermakers will need to take advantage of these match-ups to have any chance of going bowling on 2013.

PROJECTED WINS

4

BIG10 LEADERS ODDS

+3000

BIG10 CHAMP ODDS

+9000

2013 Schedule

8/31	@ CINCY	L
9/7	IND STATE	W
9/15	N. DAME	L
9/21	@ WISC	L
9/28	N. ILLINOIS	50/50
10/12	NEBRASKA	L
10/19	@ MICH ST	L
11/2	OHIO ST	L
11/9	IOWA	50/50
11/16	@ PENN ST	L
11/23	ILLINOIS	W
11/30	@ INDIANA	50/50

WIN TOTAL RECOMMENDATION: Take UNDER 4.5

The Boilermakers have one of the most-difficult schedules in the nation. Purdue may actually end up being a better team in 2013, but matching last season's win total seems unlikely.

BETTING VERDICT

ATS Projection - Bullish

After a quick 2-0 start ATS last season (+12.75 value against the spread), the Boilermakers went on to post a 3-7 record ATS, losing 5 of those games by 16 points or more (19 points or more ATS).

Purdue is **not a bowl team this year**. There are too many question marks to go with a ridiculous schedule to expect a return to the postseason.

- Purdue was 0-7 SU & 2-5 ATS against bowl eligible teams last year.
- Purdue was 5-0 SU & 3-2 ATS against teams with losing records.

The Boilermakers beat up on bad teams, but struggle vs quality opponents. Unfortunately there are only 3 teams who had losing records on the schedule in 2013. However, Hazell and the new coaching staff looks like an upgrade over last season. ***I believe his hard-nosed edge and attention to detail will make the Boilermakers a tougher, more competitive team in 2013, which should result in an improved ATS record.***

Totals Projection - Under

The Boilermakers went 8-4 O/U last year and their average game was lined at 55.

- Purdue was 4-1 O/U last year against teams that allowed over 400 ypg on defense (3-0 O/U if opponent averaged over 400 ypg on offense & allowed over 400 ypg on defense).
- The Boilers brought excitement to Ross Ade stadium, as the O/U was 5-1 in home games.

However the offensive philosophy has changed and new head coach Darrell Hazell wants a physical attack that values ***running the football first*** and foremost instead of relying on Purdue's traditional spread.

Combine this ***physical, more deliberate offensive attack with what could be a much better defense***, and you have the ingredients for a team that should play several close, lower scoring games in 2013.

Look to play Purdue under this year, especially against the better defenses on their schedule (2-3 O/U last year against 5 best D's).

VALUE AGAINST
THE SPREAD FOR
2012:

-5.92

AVERAGE MARGIN
THEY LOST VS THE
SPREAD