

SHOOTIN' 'EM and STOPPIN' 'EM

INDIANAPOLIS NEWS.--The Big Ten Becomes Normal.

As long as Indiana and Purdue win, basketball in the Big Ten is pretty normal and normally pretty interesting. Rarely does Indiana or Purdue turn in an ordinary performance. If they lose, it's an upset. If they barely win, it's usually a breath-taker. And in providing something akin to a deluge the game isn't simply a runaway--it has a touch that sets it apart.

I presume Indiana's punitive expedition into the Champaign sector Saturday night might have been just another Hoosier team coming along to straighten out that matter of Purdue's loss to Illinois Monday night, but it wasn't. It was just plain Menke business with a Will to win.

Doug Mills, coach at Illinois and the Dick Metz of the Big Ten coaching brigade, extended a firm hand in greeting Branch McCracken Saturday night, and more than 7,000 fans jammed the Illinois gym. Without benefit of backboards Bill Menke put away eleven field goals in fifteen shots and added two of three free throws to provide just half the Indiana total of 48 points. Illinois came along with 38 but no one paid much attention to that. Every one was watching the Menke business, which is produced with a strong right arm and a gentle push, a firm flip, a brisk whip or a delicate lay-in.

Standing on the steps leading up from the dressing room after the game Branch McCracken encountered some of the visiting reporters. While shaking hands with these gentlemen he was asking a question and passing out some free information. "Are you coming down Monday night?" -- was the question -- "Boy, those Wildcats -- are really tough, and that Clawson, whew--he's big and he knows how to handle himself--better come down." Mr. Clawson will be Mr. Menke's policeman tonight. That alone should pack 'em in.

Down the hall a piece Bob Zuppke was visiting with a few friends. Zuppke was a member of Shootin' 'Em's Wonder Five this year. "Now, that's the kind of basketball we used to play," said Zup. "Why, when I tried to tell 'em around here many, many years ago -- you know I coached basketball around here, after a fashion, for eight years -- when I showed that one-hand shot they gave me the berries. They thought I was crazy." And then Zup branched off into football with Jack Ryan and Dick Gordon, of the Chicago Daily News, so we moved on. Ryan did say it was a shame Menke had to play with a broken right hand, and that this must have been a tremendous handicap. Bill did have his shooting hand taped, and we confided to Mr. Ryan that there's a secret about that, too. Mr. Ryan then put that all-knowing expression on his face, so we gave up.

The Indiana boys were around shaking hands with their folks--a lot of parents were around--and the big crowd gradually moved over to the ice rink, where Minnesota was playing Illinois the second game of week-end series. Zup's talk about one-handed shooting came up again, and Vic Rensberger contributed some facts on the case. In this game at Champaign Illinois took 44-one-handed shots and 27 two handed shots. Four one-handers and eight two-handers went in. Indiana took 32 one-handed shots, and 13 of these went in. They took 24 two-handers and only six of these were good. Now this Indiana one-handed shooting, of course, was dominated by Bill Menke's eleven successful attempts. Bill throws the ball into the hoop. He rarely uses the backboard. His shots are hard to stop. He may miss it but it will be extremely difficult for any one to keep him from taking them. He is as definitely a righthander as was Christy Mathewson. His fancy pivoting, how-