



Giving “Slick” a Smile

Video Transcript

[Video: The words “IU” on crimson banner left]

[Video: The word “DAY” on red banner right]

[Video: Two banners come together to form IU DAY banner]

[Words appear and encircle top and bottom of IU Day banner: ALL IU. ALL DAY.]

[Words appear on black film strip with IU DAY banner at top: Giving “Slick” a Smile]

Narrator 1 speaks: Bobby Slick Leonard.

Narrator 2 speaks: Bob Leonard of Indiana, quarterback of the champions of the Big 10, a team man, a clutch performer, and a great outside marksman.

Narrator 1 speaks: National Champion.

Narrator 2 speaks: The wildly happy Hoosiers of Indiana are America's NCAA Champions.

Narrator 1 speaks: ABA Legend.

Narrator 1 speaks: Naismith Hall of Famer.

Narrator 3 speaks: Boom baby, Bob “Slick” Leonard.

Narrator 1 speaks: An Indiana icon who nearly wasn't but for a dentist trained at the IU School of Dentistry.

[Words appear: Bob Leonard]

Bob Leonard speaks: Dr. Mast changed my life.

Narrator 1 speaks: Bobby Leonard grew up in the poorest section of depression ravaged Terre Haute, Indiana. His home was a series of shacks along the railroad tracks. Surviving day-to-day was the priority. Medical care of any kind was a luxury the family couldn't afford.

Bob Leonard speaks: Never went to a dentist. I didn't know what a toothbrush and toothpaste were. Just didn't have it. Just didn't have it. When my teeth

really got bad, I went through a lot of suffering. They got to a place where they broke off. They were rotten. I can remember these two front teeth, they were infected. My face would swell up. At night, I would take a straight pin and punch up through there to relieve the pressure. Now I'm going to tell you, that's pain.

[Words appear: Nancy Leonard, Bob's wife]

Nancy Leonard speaks: I can't imagine anybody going through that. So that hurts. Very hard to talk about.

[Words appear: Tom Leonard, Bob and Nancy's son]

Tom Leonard speaks: The very few pictures that we've seen of our father back then, school pictures or something along those lines, he doesn't smile in any of the pictures. He was embarrassed.

Bob Leonard speaks: I never smiled. If I did, I put my hands over my mouth. See, that has an effect on your personality. You withdraw.

Narrator 1 speaks: The life changer came at the end of Leonard's sophomore year in high school. John Val, the print shop teacher, called the boy into his office and gave him an envelope.

Bob Leonard speaks: He said, now, I want you to go downtown and see Dr. Mast. I didn't look in the envelope until I got down there, but he had put \$150 in that envelope. The rest is history.

Narrator 1 speaks: The rest was up to Dr. Glendon Mast. A Shipshewana native and 1926 graduate of the IU School of Dentistry, Mast would go on to a 45-year career in Terre Haute. On that fateful day in 1948, he pulled all of Leonard's top teeth and fitted him with a denture. It took all day. It affected a lifetime.

Bob Leonard speaks: When I got this upper plate, it was one of the happiest days of my life, changed my life.

Narrator 1 speaks: The new teeth offered more than pain relief and a psychological salve. Within two years, Leonard had grown nearly a foot and earned a scholarship to Indiana University. There he would win a National Championship and something so much greater.

Bob Leonard speaks: I met my wife, Nancy. We were freshman at IU. Yeah, I had my teeth fixed by then. She probably wouldn't even have taken a look at me. We

just celebrated our 61st wedding anniversary. A dentist from the IU School of Dentistry changed my life, and I'm sure that dentists all over the state of Indiana have changed a lot of people's lives. I would support the IU School of Dentistry. It's a wonderful thing for the people of the state of Indiana.

[Words appear on black film strip with IU DAY banner at top: Giving "Slick" a Smile]

[Transcript ends.]