



## IU Athletics: 2017 And Beyond

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### Video Transcript

[Words appear on black film strip with IU DAY banner at top: STARTING SOON...ASK IU: U ATHLETICS: 2017 AND BEYOND; A live Q & A with Jeremy Gray, Senior Associate Athletic Director at IU Athletics]

[Video: Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table with IU logo and IU Day banner in the background]

Erica Sagon: Hello and welcome to Ask IU, our series of live interviews with IU experts. It's IU Day and we're celebrating by proving that you can ask IU pretty much anything.

[IU logo and words appear: ERICA SAGON, Host, IU Day]

That's because we have amazing faculty and staff, who can speak expertly about such a wide variety of topics. And tonight we're joined by Jeremy Gray.

[Video: Close-up of Jeremy Gray]

He's the Senior Associate Athletic Director for IU Athletics. Jeremy's going to be talking to us about IU Athletics in 2017 and beyond.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Jeremy thanks so much for joining us and happy IU Day.

Jeremy Gray: Happy IU Day to you as well.

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

My kids woke me up this morning at 6:30.

[IU logo and words appear: JEREMY GRAY, Senior Associate Athletic Director, IU Athletics]

My son was in a set of candy-striped pants and a basketball jersey. He's five years old. And my daughter had her IU t-shirt on, so the spirit has infected all members of our family, and

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

I would imagine Hoosier Nation all around the world.

Erica Sagon: Absolutely. So many of our questions for Jeremy have already been crowdsourced from social media,

[IU logo and words appear: ASK YOUR QUESTION NOW; Ask using #IUday & #AskIU or at Facebook.com/IUFoundation]

but you can chime in with your own questions for Jeremy, right this second on social media. Just use the hashtag "askiu" and hashtag "iuday" so we can find your question. You can also comment right here in the Facebook Live broadcast, and we'll get to as many questions as possible.

Now Jeremy, I bet some people out there have questions about a certain new basketball coach. Do you think we're going to talk about Archie Miller tonight?

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

Jeremy Gray: I think Archie Miller will be a point of discussion. Absolutely.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: All right, well let's take a step back, because in the past year or so, there have been some big changes to some of IU's most high-profile athletic programs. Can you sort of give us a 30,000 foot view of what's going on, and what you're looking forward to in the next year.

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

Jeremy Gray: So I think what you were referring to was with our football program we have a new head coach in Tom Allen. And with our men's basketball program, the aforementioned Archie Miller

[PowerPoint slide: Image of Archie Miller holding a basketball]

is now leading our scoring men's basketball program. So I think it's a very exciting time for IU fans of both sports.

[Video: Dual image of Archie Miller in top left corner and Jeremy Gray speaking in bottom right corner with IU Day banner in the bottom middle]

Tom Allen is a native Hoosier.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

This is an absolute dream job and destination for him, and he is a leader of men on the football field.

[PowerPoint slide: Image of Tom Allen on the football field smiling and looking on while another IU coach talks with IU football players Oakes and Justus as IU football player Feeney walks away from the group.]

When you hear him talk to a football team, or to a crowd about his football team, he is captivating,

[Video: Dual image of Tom Allen and IU football players in top left corner and Jeremy Gray speaking in bottom right corner with IU Day banner in the bottom middle]

motivating, inspiring. And then you watch how detail oriented and organized his practices are, and he is a special, special football coach.

And what he was able to do with our defense in one year as the defensive coordinator, Indiana, I mean it had always been said, Indiana's got a nice offense,

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

if they could only get a defense, it would be a really good football team. Well he took ... And I might be off a position or two, he took our defense from 119 out of 121 Division One college football programs in defense,

[PowerPoint slide: Image of Tom Allen with whistle in his mouth squatting with hands on his knees watching IU football player in blue practice jersey #21 with the football]

to 39 in one year with the same players. And many of those players are returning,

[Video: Dual image of Tom Allen with whistle in his mouth watching IU football player in blue practice jersey #21 with football in top left corner and Jeremy Gray speaking in bottom right corner with IU Day banner in the bottom middle]

and there's been an absolute buy-in of our football players with Coach Allen after his first spring, and we just had the spring game last week, and it was a great success.

Then with Archie Miller leading the men's basketball program,

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

I think people were really, really excited when they heard him talk, and his introductory press conference. He feels like he's one of us, a true basketball person. He understands, I think, the magnitude of the job

[PowerPoint slide: Image of Archie Miller holding a basketball]

and some of the hard things about the position, where there's a lot of pressure on the basketball coach here. But he seems to be up to it, and great things have just been happening seemingly every other day.

[Video: Dual image of Archie Miller in top left corner and Jeremy Gray speaking in bottom right corner with IU Day banner in the bottom middle]

You hear that Juwan Morgan's coming back, and that Collin Hartman who is maybe planning to go into the workforce after being able to get his degree, is gonna come back, take graduate classes, and play that fourth year of basketball.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

And he's done a terrific job on the recruiting trail in short order.

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

So I'm really excited about football under Tom Allen and basketball under Archie Miller.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: What can you tell us about, sort of what you've observed with how Coach Miller and Coach Allen are interacting with the student athletes?

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

Jeremy Gray: To Coach Allen, who I've been able to observe more, frankly, than Coach Miller because he's been here a shorter period of time,

[IU logo and words appear: ASK YOUR QUESTION NOW; Ask using #IUday & #AskIU or at Facebook.com/IUFoundation]

and it's off season workouts that he's having with them, with the basketball players. Where Coach Allen had the bowl game, and spring

practice. Again Coach Allen, the team's motto is "break through", and their secondary motto is "love each other". He really cares about the athletes as people, but he's tough too. He's a demanding coach, and they have really, really responded to it. He's had each of the football players choose one word

[PowerPoint slide: Image of Tom Allen on the football field smiling and looking on while another IU coach talks with IU football players Oakes and Justus as IU football player Feeney walks away from the group.]

that is gonna kind of be their mantra for the next season. And it's infiltrated the whole staff,

[Video: Dual image of Tom Allen and IU football players in top left corner and Jeremy Gray speaking in bottom right corner with IU Day banner in the bottom middle]

my one word for 2017 is "enthusiasm". Others, I mean everyone from the administrative assistants at the front desk to the athletic director, Fred Glass, have chosen their one word. So there's a huge buy-in of the athletic department.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

And you see how he communicates with players.

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

You can understand why he gets the most out of them.

With Archie Miller, and this is a social media event that we're doing right now.

[IU logo and words appear: JEREMY GRAY, Senior Associate Athletic Director, IU Athletics]

He had his initial meeting, 30 minutes before his introductory press conference, and I follow some of the basketball players on Twitter, and you see them tweet emojis of like a rocket ship taking off, or their eyes wide open. I think he has communicated in a very strong and impactful way with the team already. So I think people have very good reason to be optimistic about both teams and both coaches. And I think both plan to retire here.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: Great, great. Well we love to hear that. We have a question that's coming in on social media from Angela. She's asking, "Who or what does Archie Miller like to use to inspire his team?" Can you give us any insight?

Jeremy Gray: That's a good question.

[PowerPoint slide: Image of Archie Miller holding a basketball]

Frankly, I don't know yet, but I can tell you in the very brief communications that I've had with him

[Video: Dual image of Archie Miller in top left corner and Jeremy Gray speaking in bottom right corner with IU Day banner in the bottom middle]

as he's been working to hire staff, meet with the team, and go on the road recruiting here, he is direct, courteous, soft-spoken, and you feel the authenticity to him. And so I would imagine that that's the same way that he will connect with his players,

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

but that is a tough dude.

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

You know his Dayton teams were some of the best defensive teams in the country, and I think people are gonna be really excited to see some tough hard-nosed defense in Simon Scott Assembly Hall next year.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: Yeah, absolutely. Well you had a little bit of insight into Archie Miller's first day. What can you tell us about his first day on the job?

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

Jeremy Gray: Well, it's amazing what we put a coach of a high-profile sport through on their first day. He was in Dayton, and a plane got him in Dayton, flew him to Bloomington. He went on a tour with Fred Glass and Deputy Athletic Director and the Basketball Sport Administrator Scott Dolson of Cook Hall, Simon Scott Assembly Hall, that was his first time seeing those venues in that way with his wife and daughter.

[PowerPoint slide: Image of glass walled main curved entrance of Simon Scott Assembly Hall with "INDIANA" signage]

They walked through.

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

There's a great photo that I think will end up being an iconic photo of Archie Miller and his time here, of the first time he walked into Simon Scott Assembly Hall, and his 11 year old daughter was with him,

[PowerPoint slide: Image of Archie Miller and his daughter smiling as they stare at the ceiling of Simon Scott Assembly Hall]

and both of them are staring at the ceiling with huge smiles on their face. We caught a perfect moment, our staff photographer did.

So they did that, and then they had a lunch with the senior athletic administrative staff.

[Video: Dual image of Archie Miller and daughter in Simon Scott Assembly Hall in top left corner and Jeremy Gray speaking in bottom right corner with IU Day Banner in bottom middle]

Then they went and checked into their hotel, showered, got into their suits and more formal dress for the actual press conference.

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

He met with the team, then he had his hour-long media availability and introductory press conference, and then we did everything we possible could. We got a headshot of him with our photographer. We got family photos so that we can put it in media guides and other publications, and can be used by entities as disparate as IU Communications, the Athletic Department, and the Alumni Association.

He did a series of sit-down interviews, and then it was 7:00 at night, he loosened his tie, and I could see him in the distance in the Henke Spirit of '76 room in Assembly Hall, sitting there, just asking if he can order a pizza.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

And so we ordered him some Mother Bears on the first night, and he and his family had dinner. Then he continued to make phone calls to try to start hiring staff.

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

So it was a whirlwind 20-hour day for Archie Miller on day one here at IU.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: Yeah. I'm exhausted just hearing about it, but I can't imagine that his days are going to get any easier in the near future here.

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

Jeremy Gray: Yes. He's gonna be in about 7,000 selfies between now and the first game that he coaches. Yes. "Can I get a picture Coach?"

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: So let's have a little fun with Archie Miller and Tom Allen. So between these two coaches, I'm gonna rattle off some competitions and you tell me who you think would win.

Jeremy Gray: This is dangerous. They're two new coaches. I've got to establish a relationship with both of them, and now you're gonna make me pick a winner or a loser. This is hard.

Erica Sagon: And if you have any sort of thoughts about why you're choosing an answer, feel free to share.

Jeremy Gray: Okay.

Erica Sagon: Okay, so the first one is a staring contest.

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

Jeremy Gray: Ooh. Actually, I would say, in the limited time that I've been around both, that Tom Allen is more animated than Archie Miller,

[PowerPoint slide: Image of Tom Allen with whistle in his mouth squatting with hands on his knees watching IU football player in blue practice jersey #21 with the football]

so I think Archie Miller could do a very long and intimidating stare if he wanted to. So I'm going to go with Archie there.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: All right, one for Archie. Okay what about arm wrestling?

Jeremy Gray: Well, Tom Allen was a great wrestler growing up. He wrestled in college,

[PowerPoint slide: Image of Tom Allen on the football field smiling and looking on while another IU coach talks with IU football players Oakes and Justus as IU football player Feeney walks away from the group.]

and he's a big substantial guy. I think Archie would give all the effort he possibly could,

[Video: Dual image of Tom Allen on football field smiling and looking while another IU coach talks with IU football players in top left corner and Jeremy Gray speaking in bottom right corner with IU Day banner in middle bottom]

but I think Tom Allen might have the advantage there.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: All right, so one for Tom Allen. So far we're tied.

Jeremy Gray: We're tied.

Erica Sagon: I think you're doing really, really well.

Jeremy Gray: Please tell me that there's an even number of categories, so we can end it four to four.

Erica Sagon: I don't know we'll see, okay.

Jeremy Gray: Okay.

Erica Sagon: Okay, what about sprinting.

Jeremy Gray: Ooh, that's a great question. Archie Miller was a very fast point guard in college, and he looks like he's in great shape. Tom Allen wakes up at 5:00 a.m. and runs like four miles a day.

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

So I'm saying that that one is a photo finish at the tape.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: Oh boy.

Jeremy Gray: So I'm gonna go with a tie.

Erica Sagon: Okay, you're thinking that maybe I don't have another competition to ask you about. Okay, I do have one more. Pie-eating?

Jeremy Gray: Pie-eating.

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

Well one would think football, because you know you think of it as kind of the big-guy sport,

[IU logo and words appear: ASK YOUR QUESTION NOW; Ask using #IUday & #AskIU or at Facebook.com/IUFoundation]

so maybe Tom Allen there, but I know that Archie Miller loves pizza, and can knock it down. And sometimes it's the little guys who win like the National Hot Dog Eating Contest. So that one's a tough ... I gotta go with the football guy, gotta go with the football guy. So Tom Allen would win a pie-eating contest. Yes.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: All right, so one for Tom Allen, okay well that's all I've got, but we won't keep score. I think you were very generous on all of them. So let's talk about IU Women's Basketball. They had a great run.

Jeremy Gray: Yes.

Erica Sagon: Tell us a little bit about what's ahead for them.

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

Jeremy Gray: Very exciting things are ahead. We got a five-star recruit in Jaylen Penn, coming next year.

[IU logo and words appear: JEREMY GRAY, Senior Associate Athletic Director, IU Athletics]

And I called Indiana Women's Basketball on the radio for 12-13 years, so I've seen a lot of Indiana Women's Basketball players. Tyra Buss is the best player I've ever seen play at IU. She was an Honorable Mention All American, two time First Team All Big Ten, and she will, barring injury, be the all-time leading scorer, the all-time leader in assists and steals by the time she graduates. And so one can make a very convincing argument that she is the greatest player we've ever had. And Amanda Cahill's kind of like forgotten. She is like a walking double-double. And she's one of the five best women's basketball players I've ever seen. So you got those two coming back. You've got a nice nucleus of young players, and then a great recruit coming in. The last two seasons have been the most wins in a season Indiana Women's Basketball's ever had. I think the future's-

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: There's incredible momentum.

Jeremy Gray: Yes, there's a lot of momentum behind that program. And you at the end of the year, with the WNIT, there were huge crowds on hand. People are really, really into it, and my son is five years old. Played his first year of basketball and

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

wore number three because Tyra Buss is his favorite IU basketball player. And falls down after shooting his shots, because Tyra always gets fouled and knocked to the ground. So he thinks that you're supposed to land on the ground after shooting, because he loves Tyra Buss so much. They have really connected with the community I think, in important and lasting ways.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: Yeah. Absolutely. I love that story about your son. Well IU's swimming and diving, let's switch gears to them. They were in Rio. Recap all the success that they had there.

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

Jeremy Gray: Well this is where I'm a proud sport administrator. I'm the Sport Administrator also, for the Swimming and Diving Programs. And if Indiana was its own standalone country, it would have finished 18th in

the world in medal count, ahead of large countries that were major participants in World War II.

Erica Sagon: Wow.

[PowerPoint slide: Lilly King wearing Olympic gold medal around her neck standing with right arm outstretched in victory and left hand holding another gold medal with Olympic logo in background]

Jeremy Gray: So Lily King is the first one that comes to mind. She was one of the faces of the Olympics with her two gold medals,

[Video: Dual image of Lilly King wearing Olympic gold medal in top left corner and Jeremy Gray speaking in bottom right corner with IU Day banner middle bottom]

and winning in the way that she did, where she kind of was like Babe Ruth calling her shot. And she's just a sophomore in college. She's like walking around in a 200 level English class as we're doing this event here tonight. So she's still on campus.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Then you have Cody Miller who's one of the inspiring stories. He was a gold medalist, swimming with Michael Phelps in the relay,

[PowerPoint slide: Close-up image of Cody Miller coming up for a breath in the pool wearing swim goggles and white swim cap with the word "MILLER" and an image of the American flag]

and then won the bronze in the breaststroke. You know Michael Hickson won a silver medal in diving.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Very, very, very deep Olympics this year for IU Athletics, and kind of the guy who's kind of the forgotten Beatle is Derek Druin, who's the greatest high-jumper in the world, and arguably the greatest high-jumper of all time.

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

Where he won the gold medal, he is the reigning World Champion,

[IU logo and words appear: ASK YOUR QUESTION NOW; Ask using #IUday & #AskIU or at Facebook.com/IUFoundation]

and when he was at IU won five NCAA Championships. One of the great IU athletes ever. So it was a tremendous in the Rio Olympics. And then that has parlayed into a phenomenal season for both men's and women's swimming and diving competing for Indiana, where it was the highest finish since 1979 and NCAAs for IU Men's Swimming and Diving. And for the third consecutive year the women finished in the top 10 in NCAAs, and we had multiple NCAA Champions. And Ray Looze won his 8th Big Ten Coach of the Year Award, so that's a good program.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: Just an incredible point of pride for IU Athletics.

Jeremy Gray: Absolutely.

Erica Sagon: Congratulations. We have a question coming in on social media. Andy asks, "Jeremy, which sport or athletes will be the next to compete on the Olympic level?" 2018 say?

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

Jeremy Gray: Okay. So the 2020 Summer Games, there's 2018 Winter Olympic Games, and we don't have any winter sports. I'm a huge hockey fan, it'd be so cool to have hockey. But in 2020, I know that Lily King plans on returning. She actually wants to wrap up her career in 2024, hoping that Los Angeles will get the Olympics,

[PowerPoint slide: Lilly King wearing Olympic gold medal around her neck standing with right arm outstretched in victory and left hand holding another gold medal with Olympic logo in background]

so that her family can all come and watch her compete in the Olympics. So Lily will be back. Derek Drouin is the Gold Medalist in the High Jump,

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

that pays well enough that he will be back, and I would anticipate that Cody Miller's staying in the game. He still lives in Bloomington, and trains.

[PowerPoint slide: Close-up image of Cody Miller coming up for a breath in the pool wearing swim goggles and white swim cap with the word "MILLER" and an image of the American flag]

He'll come back to try to be a medalist in the 2020 Olympics. And several more that we maybe haven't heard of yet.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Juniors and Seniors in high school are gonna come to IU, develop

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

and achieve their Olympic dreams.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: Can you give us any insight into what preparation is like for a student athlete who's competing in the Olympics?

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

Jeremy Gray: It's crazy. Not only do you have the physical training of ... Let's just take swimming. So they swim maybe 5,000 yards a day, which is a huge undertaking. Then they do their strength and conditioning, so potentially lifting weights and doing other work to physically prepare themselves. Their calorie intake is just astronomical. If you ask me a swimmer versus a football player, a swimmer will out-eat a football player any day of the week because-

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: What are we talking here?

Jeremy Gray: I mean like 10 pancakes at breakfast. They go through the Village Deli,

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

and it's like a wood chipper went through. I mean they're just ... Fur flying everywhere. Because that's what they have to take to fuel themselves, and then they're full-time students. You know that was a big concern with Lily King when she returned from the Olympic Games, and she's now a famous person with all sorts of media wanting to talk to her.

[PowerPoint slide: Lilly King wearing Olympic gold medal around her neck standing with right arm outstretched in victory and left hand holding another gold medal with Olympic logo in background]

And maintain her training to be the best in the world. But she had 15 credit hours,

[Video: Dual image of Lilly King wearing Olympic gold medal in top left corner and Jeremy Gray speaking in bottom right corner with IU Day banner middle bottom]

so when you couple all of that together, it's a pretty substantial commitment.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: Sure.

Jeremy Gray: And it can be lonely too. It's not as glamorous as people think. There's a lot of getting up at 5:00 in the morning, and it's kind of like the old Army ads

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

where they do more by 8:00 a.m. than you do all day, or whatever. I mean there is something to that with an Olympic level athlete in the time and effort that they have to put into the day.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: Yeah. I believe that for sure. Well we've got a question that came in on social media earlier. It was from a parent who had a son or daughter who was hoping to qualify for an athletic program.

Jeremy Gray: Okay.

Erica Sagon: What kind of advice can you give a parent like that?

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

Jeremy Gray: That is a terrific question. Obviously it would depend upon the sport. One thing that's a bit of a misnomer, is that every athlete at IU is on scholarship or on full-scholarship. There are many full-scholarship athletes, but more than half of them are on either no scholarship or maybe 20% tuition.

[IU logo and words appear: ASK YOUR QUESTION NOW; Ask using #IUday & #AskIU or at Facebook.com/IUFoundation]

So, when you're going through the recruiting process, I think you need to find out what the scholarship situation would be, and try to work that where it's beneficial for your son or daughter. Too, I think you really get to know, not just the head coach, but get to know the assistant coaches, the strength and conditioning coaches, the academic advisors, because they're gonna be just as important to their overall student athlete experience as the head coach.

I also think it's really important that when they visit, they immerse themselves with the team. Because your teammates are gonna be a big part of your experience as well. Let's say you're a diamond in the rough that isn't obvious that Indiana's gonna go out and recruit you. I would get in contact, not with the head coach, but with the assistant coaches. Maybe tell them about your son or daughter, what they've achieved. If you have any tape, these people watch a lot of film. They call it film, but they watch a lot of video. So go ahead and send that along and really talk about how much your son or daughter wants to participate.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

I think it's tough when a parent comes in and is like, "My kid's the greatest."

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

Just really talk about what you think that your kid might be able to bring to the table. And if you do that, you might get a shot.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: And maybe step up your pancake game at home.

Jeremy Gray: That's right.

Erica Sagon: More aggressive eating on the weekends.

Jeremy Gray: That's right.

Erica Sagon: All right, let's talk mascots for a moment.

Jeremy Gray: Okay.

Erica Sagon: Are there any plans to create a mascot-

Jeremy Gray: This is the most dangerous question of the night.

Erica Sagon: ... or to bring one back? On social media we got a comment, and I quote, "#bringbackthebison".

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

Jeremy Gray: So, there are no plans at this time to bring back the bison, or to generate a new mascot. I will say that in the last five years, the candy-stripe has become an iconic mark of not just IU Athletics, but the University itself. Candy-striped pants, maybe three years ago, were the number one selling collegiate apparel item in the country.

Erica Sagon: No.

Jeremy Gray: Yes.

Erica Sagon: Yeah.

Jeremy Gray: And then you see the University also use it as a branding element. And while it's not a mascot, it's definitely an identifying characteristic. And I will say that we're the state school that represents the Hoosier State. We are called the Hoosiers. I kind of see our fans as our mascot. Our fans are incredible. We draw over a million fans to live sporting events a year, and they help our teams win. So our fans are our mascot.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: I like that question, or I like that response. And the fact about the candy-stripe pants is just incredible. I love that. Tell me a little bit more ... We talked a little bit about this in preparation for students who are preparing for the Olympics, but tell me a little bit about an average day in the life of a student athlete at IU.

Jeremy Gray: Let's say-

Erica Sagon: Because there's probably a lot of stereotypes.

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

Jeremy Gray: Yes. Yes. So, most of them take the bulk of their classes in the morning, because the coaches want to practice in the afternoon. So let's take men's tennis for instance. A tennis player will take all of their classes between eight and noon, Monday through Thursday. Friday's typically a

travel day, or they would travel late Thursday to play a match on Friday. Then they would go eat lunch at training tables. Then they would probably get some strength and conditioning work in from 1:00-2:00. And then they would have tennis practice from 3:00-5:00, and then maybe kind of a team study-hall to make sure they get their work done and go to bed at a reasonable hour.

So that would be a typical day, and then as they're traveling to a match, they play matches on Fridays and Sundays, so they would do everything they could to get done with classes early as possible on Thursday, then travel for most teams is not particularly glamorous. You're on a 12 hour bus ride with smelly teammates to Penn State. So they'll take a bus to Penn State, then they'll play on Friday, spend the night in a hotel, then Saturday they'll travel on a bus to Ohio State. They'll play on Sunday, and they'll probably get home at 2:00 in the morning Monday morning, and then head to class at 8:00 on Monday.

And I think they handle it really well. The average student athlete has a GPA of 3.15, so their graduation rate is well into the 90%. So they do well academically and go on to terrific and fruitful careers, long after their playing days are over.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: Yeah, it's fascinating to hear about what their day is like. Whew. Well we've got another comment/question coming in from social media.

Jeremy Gray: Okay.

Erica Sagon: Amber says, in reference to our conversation before, "No need for a mascot." And then she wants to know, "Good athletes are fun enough, do you agree?"

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

Jeremy Gray: I agree. I mean what mascot would ever get a crowd as fired up as Victor Oladipo? After throwing down a dunk and waving his hands to get up. Or Shane Wynn, terrific 5'6" football player that we would have scampering for a 90-yard touchdown, spiking the football and waving to the student section. I mean what kind of stuffed Spartan, or I don't even know what Ohio State's mascot is. It looks like it's a nut in a rugby sweater or something like-

Erica Sagon: Nobody does.

Jeremy Gray: There's no way that could pump up a crowd like a great student athlete.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: All right, we've got another social media question coming in, and I love this one because I'm curious myself. Brandon wants to know, "Why don't students use IU celebrities or alumni for the giant heads behind the basketball goals?"

Jeremy Gray: So what was the question again?

Erica Sagon: "Why don't students use IU celebrities, or alumni for the giant heads behind the basketball goals?"

Jeremy Gray: They do. Actually-

Erica Sagon: Oh they do.

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

Jeremy Gray: Yeah, so if you go to an Indiana men's basketball game and see what they're talking about, are the big heads that are held by the students behind the baskets. Obviously, there's an interesting assortment of big heads back there. So you might find Kanye West, there's one of Aristotle. We've got some interesting ones there, but you will also find Kyle Schwarber, Victor Olidipo, Sage Steele, Mark Cuban. You will find luminaries of IU's past also as big heads.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: Well Brandon, there you go. There are IU celebrities as the big heads. Do you know how the big head phenomenon came about?

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

Jeremy Gray: Yes. Coach Crean brought that to IU from Marquette, it was a tradition that he started there, and felt that it was a good way to distract foul shooters of the opposing team. So that's why they're behind the baskets. And the students have really responded to them.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: Do you think it works?

Jeremy Gray: You know what? Who knows? But I do know this, that Kentucky had a free-throw in 2011 to kind of put the game away. It rattled in and out, we took it the length of the floor and made a shot at the end of the game, so if it worked that one time, the investment and the work that has gone into the big heads was absolutely worth it.

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

Erica Sagon: Is there a Jeremy Gray big-head?

Jeremy Gray: No, and there's so many places we could go with that. I've got like a size eight head. So anyway, like when the baseball team wants to give me a fitted hat, they've got to like specially order it.

Erica Sagon: Okay.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Jeremy Gray: I've got a bucket on the top of my shoulders.

Erica Sagon: Maybe someone out there could make that happen.

Jeremy Gray: You got it.

Erica Sagon: Anyway, all right, you come in contact with some student athletes who have just incredible, inspiring back stories. Can you just give us some examples of inspiring athletes and maybe the reasons that they got to IU?

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

Jeremy Gray: This can run the gamut. There can be a student who comes here and does incredible things

[IU logo and words appear: JEREMY GRAY, Senior Associate Athletic Director, IU Athletics]

off the field of play to help out the community. We had Mandy Cahill, we were just talking about in women's basketball. She traveled to Vietnam last summer and taught young school children. That was really impactful. Then we have people who have amazing stories and backgrounds. And one of them would be a soccer player that we had a couple of years ago named Femi Hollinger-Janzen.

Femi was born poor in a sub-Saharan African country, and he was actually left in a city park as a baby. A missionary from Goshen, Indiana rode her bike and saw this baby. Picked him up, took him to whatever that country's version of child services was, and then got attached to the baby, and just felt like it was her calling as a missionary to raise this child, or to be a part of this child's life. And so they went through a very long and arduous process of adopting this child. So Femi ended up moving to a Mennonite community in Goshen, Indiana. And did not play travel soccer. He played rec-league soccer through high school, came to the IU Soccer Camp. Todd Yeagley said, "Who is this guy?" And it was Femi Hollinger-Janzen. He ends up coming to IU. He's now playing professional soccer, got a degree, was an outstanding student. Scored a goal in the semi-final game before we ended up winning the National Championship in 2012, and you think of his journey to get here, it's truly remarkable.

And there are a lot of ... Not a lot of stories like that, but there are people who have overcome some pretty amazing obstacles to be incredible adults.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: Well sure. I think a lot of people have this idea that you get to a program like IU in kind of this one way. And there's obviously a million, million ways.

Jeremy Gray: A lot of ways to get there.

Erica Sagon: Well we have another social media question. Corey asks, "Is IU Athletics interested in adding sports, some Big Ten sports, like gymnastics, hockey, or bowling come to mind?"

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

Jeremy Gray: That's a terrific question, one we get asked a lot. Especially by people on campus who grew up playing a sport that we don't offer. I will say this, Texas is a huge school, and they've got 17 sports. We have 24. We have what is considered a very broad-based athletic program. So we have a lot of sport offerings, but on a per-sport basis, we're one of the lowest funded, actually, in the Big Ten Conference. Now the Big Ten Conference, to be fair, is the highest funded athletic conference in the country. But I think we're at the sweet spot of what sports that we do offer. And actually there was a big round of adding sports in the late 90s, early 2000s, where rowing, field hockey, and water polo were

added as sports. There aren't any plans to add sports at the present time, but you never know what the future may hold.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: Sure, absolutely. Let's talk a little bit about the intersection of academics and athletics at IU. Obviously you mentioned the wonderfully high GPA average. What else can you tell us?

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

Jeremy Gray: There's an idea too, that the scholarship athletes get what's called a "free ride". We have to raise the money and pay the bill to IU for the cost of the scholarship, for even those on a free ride. So it's a scholarship program to provide opportunities for students, and I think that's sometimes lost a little bit. We have to pay that bill every year, for 650 athletes. But this too can run the gamut, and all are valuable. So you have the 3.97 grade point average student, who's Kelly's School of Business, and goes and gets a great job right out of college. And that is an enormously valuable thing, when he or she participated on one of our teams.

But then you also have the first generation college student, who maybe came from a disadvantaged background, and they graduate with a 2.7. And they're the first person in their family ever to go to college, and then they go back and they teach in their community. I mean that is enormously valuable as well.

And then we've had some true superstars academically. A recent Rhodes Scholar, Mutsa Mutembwa was on our field hockey team. She was a Rhodes Scholar, and she is what is called a micro-economist in her native country of Zimbabwe, where she has started like a small business loan program for poor women in villages, so that they can get on their feet financially and maybe create a small and thriving business and provide for their families. So, it really runs the gamut, but I think in totality, it's an absolute good what Indiana University's doing for its student athletes to provide them a first-rate, world-class, education.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: Sure. Now in the title of this discussion, IU Athletics, 2017 and Beyond, we want to make sure we touch on the beyond part of it. So, give us the

big picture of IU Athletics five years, maybe even further, down the road.

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

Jeremy Gray: Another great question. I keep complimenting the questions, but one, the south end-zone of Memorial Stadium will be enclosed. So it will be a true bowl. We're not adding seats. A lot of people are like, "Why are you adding seats? Try to fill the 52,000." It will remain 52,000. It's gonna be a state-of-the-art student athlete career development center, sports nutrition, and sports medicine center. So they'll be preparing athletes for life after college, and also a place to take care of the athletes as well. So the stadium will look different.

We will be adding a volleyball and wrestling facility, which is way overdue. And there will be a lot of parking there, so fans can go there and park, and you don't have to be a genius with MapQuest to figure out how do you even get there to go to watch the games. But then I also think you'll be well and deep into the Tom Allen and Archie Miller eras at IU. And I think some spectacular things are gonna happen. I think there are gonna be football games played by IU teams in January, and not ending in November and December. And I think we're gonna see some men's basketball games maybe being played in April and not ending just in March. So I think we've got a terrific future ahead.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: Wonderful. Well we've got one other question via social media, just going back to your south end-zone discussion. Someone wants to know, "What's something that most people don't know about the south end-zone?" Tell us a secret.

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

Jeremy Gray: Oh about the new south end-zone that's being constructed?

Erica Sagon: Yeah?

Jeremy Gray: A secret. Yeah, I'll let this out. So the tunnel that the football team is gonna run out of will be on the opposite end of the stadium from where it is now.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: Nice. Breaking news.

Jeremy Gray: Yeah, so there you go.

[Video: Close up of Jeremy Gray]

So yeah the locker room for football actually goes down toward the south end on the west side, and they're expanding that a little bit. There's actually too few lockers for how many players we have, and so that's gonna be changed and expanded. So the tunnel will actually come out there.

Erica Sagon: Gotcha.

Jeremy Gray: So it'll be cool.

Erica Sagon: Good answer.

Jeremy Gray: So they're gonna run toward the student section, rather than away from it.

[Video: Back to Erica Sagon and Jeremy Gray sitting at a table]

Erica Sagon: Nice. Great intel. Well Jeremy we are unfortunately all out of time, but thank you so much for joining us tonight. And again, happy IU Day to you.

Jeremy Gray: Happy IU day to you too.

[IU logo and words appear: LEARN MORE ABOUT IU DAY; Join the conversation at #IUday and support IU at iuday.iu.edu]

Erica Sagon: If you've got more questions for Jeremy, or you would just like to see additional IU videos and interviews, you can go to the website, [iuday.iu.edu](http://iuday.iu.edu), and right there there's ways to give back to IU, because as you know IU depends greatly on support from people like you. And IU Day is a way that we all show our support. So thank you very much for watching. Thanks again Jeremy, and thank you for supporting IU.

[Video: IU logo and IU Day banner appear]

[Transcript Ends]