majority of those fights and still managed to crack a rib, break a thumb, fracture his right hand and wrist, and have his front teeth rammed through his lower lip. Taylor also meted out a staggering amount of physical abuse. Two of his ring opponents, Frankie Jerome and Clever Sensio, died from massive head trauma soon after their bouts with Taylor. In both cases, the victor was fighting again within a month.

Biographer John D. Wright explores the story of this local hero and temporary celebrity with care and balance. Understandably, the bulk of Wright’s portrayal is committed to Taylor’s professional career, which almost perfectly matched boxing’s ascent in popularity across America. Curiously, just as Taylor’s skills began to diminish, so did the broad appeal of his sport. His effort to build an outdoor boxing arena in Terre Haute during the Depression ended in failure. Over the years that followed, the aging fighter divorced his second wife, drank prodigiously, and nearly doubled his fighting weight. He died in a large city far from his hometown before reaching 60, forgotten by all but a few boxing historians.

Bud Taylor’s almost inevitable fall from grace might approach the cliché of a Hollywood film, but the author gives flesh and blood to this profile with a skillful mix of apocrypha and documentation. Like the best folklorists, Wright never lets the ring of truth deafen him to a good story. He displays a love for his subject and a love for the sport—absolutely essential in his earnest effort to capture those who may open this book with scant interest in either.


Getting Open
The Unknown Story of Bill Garrett and the Integration of College Basketball
By Tom Graham and Rachel Graham Cody

When All-American George Taliaferro led Indiana University to its first Big Ten football championship in 1945, its basketball program was still three years away from integrating. The Hoosiers reflected the Big Ten norm regarding African Americans in basketball. Operating under a “gentleman’s agreement,” the conference was lily-white on the hardwood. Shelbyville’s Bill Garrett changed all that in 1948, but only after a high school career marked by racism. Until 1943, segregation was endorsed by
the Indiana High School Athletic Association, which barred Catholic and all-black schools (including Taliaferro's alma mater Gary Roosevelt and Indianapolis's Crispus Attucks) from competing in its state tournaments. Among the black players whose basketball careers were restricted by this segregation was Johnny Wilson. Though he led Anderson High School to the state championship and was named Mr. Basketball, none of the state's big-time colleges recruited him. The snubbed athlete settled for Anderson College, where he earned small-college All-American honors.

Following Wilson, Garrett was one of three blacks who started for Shelbyville's Golden Bears, derisively referred to in parts of Indiana as “The Black Bears.” In their drive to the 1947 state title, the Shelbyville team was refused service by an Indianapolis hotel where they planned to rest after their semistate opener. Overcoming the last-minute scramble for accommodations, the Golden Bears beat Lawrenceburg to advance to—and win—the Final Four.

After leading his team to the state title and being named Mr. Basketball, Garrett enrolled at Tennessee State. He was, however, plucked off the southern campus by Indiana University's Coach Branch McCracken, who reluctantly bowed to pressure exerted by the African American community and by progressive university president Herman B Wells. Indiana University was barely integrated in the late forties. Of 12,000 students, only 200 were black. It was a difficult time for President Wells, who was also dealing with public outrage over the controversial Kinsey Report.

Once situated at IU, Garrett was embraced by such teammates as Phil Buck, who later coached at Frankfort and Anderson Madison Heights; Bill Tosheff, who worked in the Gary steel mills when he was only 13 and came to IU after serving as an Army Air Force pilot; and Gene Ring, who later coached against Garrett in Indianapolis. “Bill was the shortest center in the Big Ten,” said Tosheff, who roomed with him. “He was barely 6-3, but was greased lightning.”

In Garrett's three years, IU won 50 of 66 games. His senior season, the Hoosiers, with a 19-3 record, were ranked as high as fifth in the country, but road losses at Minnesota and Illinois, the conference champion, cost them the Big Ten title.

Garrett was lionized during his IU career, but his most revealing comments about his college experience were made to a Dayton reporter in his junior year. With some hindsight, Garrett said he might have attended an all-black college because too many people at IU treated him as if they were doing him a great favor. Significantly, Garrett made the needed breakthrough in the Big Ten: one year after he graduated, five conference teams listed black players on their roster.

Author Tom Graham, who grew up in Garrett's hometown and played
basketball for IU as a freshman, is well-suited to tell readers of his subject’s adversities on the way to becoming IU’s first black basketball player. Graham and co-author Rachel Graham Cody should be congratulated for the thoroughness of their research and for the book which resulted from their seven-year project.

**Enduring Nations**

*Native Americans in the Midwest*
Edited by R. David Edmunds

(Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 2008. Pp. ix, 283. Illustrations, notes, index. Clothbound, $70.00; paperbound, $20.00.)

Academics have long recognized R. David Edmunds as a leading scholar of the Native American experience in the Midwest. His contacts with other historians enabled him to enlist a dozen specialists for *Enduring Nations: Native Americans in the Midwest*. Their articles focus mostly on Indian and white relations in the western Great Lakes from the later decades of the seventeenth century to the early years of the twenty-first century. One of the book’s themes illuminates the role of Native leaders, including métis (people of mixed heritage), as they fought the government’s forced removal of Indians to the West during the 1830s. A second thread emphasizes the important economic issues that confronted Indian peoples as they struggled to retain their heritage. This battle continues to this day and promises to accelerate in the future. “Demographers argue,” Edmunds writes, “that if current [intermarriage] trends continue, by 2080 almost 90 percent of all Native American people in the United States will be of less than one-half Indian by lineage” (p. 10). The challenges of these trends, however, pale in comparison to those of past centuries, when Indians lost their children and their lands.

Indian leaders in the western Great Lakes employed various survival techniques while confronting removal. Thomas Burnell Colbert portrays Keokuk as a worthy Sauk chief, even when compared with Black Hawk; he was an accommodationist who surrendered land to the government and enjoyed a positive relationship with federal officials. Bradley Birzer describes Jean Baptiste Richardville, Miami principal chief, as a métis who maneuvered his cultural advantages to acquire great