

## SPORTS

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## FOOTBALL



PHOTOS BY ALEX FARRIS | IDS  
**TOP LEFT** Wide receiver Damarlo Belcher rises from the ground after scoring IU's first touchdown against Western Kentucky on Saturday in Bowling Green, Ky. Wide receiver Tandon Doss scored the second touchdown of the first half.  
**TOP RIGHT** Quarterback Ben Chappell throws downfield during the first half of IU's game against Western Kentucky on Saturday. Chappell completed 32 of 42 passes for 366 yards and three touchdowns.  
**BOTTOM LEFT** Wide receiver Terrance Turner looks to the line of scrimmage during the second half of IU's game against Western Kentucky.  
**BOTTOM RIGHT** Wide receiver Tandon Doss reaches for the end zone during the first half against Western Kentucky. Doss crossed the line, earning the Hoosiers their second touchdown of the game.

## Third-down conversions propel IU to 38-21 victory

BY CONNOR O'GARA  
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College football games are won and lost on third down.

For the IU football team Saturday, the game was won on third down.

Converting 10 of 12 third downs helped the Hoosiers

claim a 38-21 victory at Western Kentucky.

IU senior quarterback Ben Chappell converted time and time again to keep drives going.

Whether he was hitting IU junior wideout Damarlo Belcher on an out route or finding senior receiver Terrance Turner on a slant across the middle, Chap-

pell continuously went through his progressions to find the open man on third down.

Chappell's favorite target of the day was Belcher, who recorded his first career hundred-yard game. Belcher's 10 catches and 135 yards both represented career highs.

Chappell's third-down excel-

lence resulted in a career-high 366 passing yards and three touchdown passes.

On third-down passing plays, Chappell was a perfect 8-for-8 with 119 yards and a touchdown pass to junior wide receiver Tandon Doss.

"It's a good feeling to have him as your quarterback because

he's in total control offensively," IU coach Bill Lynch said. "I think everybody feeds off of him because they have so much confidence in him."

A fumble by sophomore running back Darius Willis on the second play from scrimmage set the tone for a running game that struggled throughout the day.

With limited holes opening up for Willis and the rest of the IU backs, it was up to the fifth-year senior to keep the IU offense afloat.

Chappell responded.

When the Hoosiers trailed

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### THE ALBERS ANGLE

## Hoosiers learn to weather storm after facing adversity in first quarter



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The Hoosiers walked onto Western Kentucky's Feix Field (not to be confused with the Washington Redskins' FedEx Field) as if they were a bunch of college freshmen walking the

campus for the first time.

They looked confused, nervous and insecure.

After junior wideout Tandon Doss returned the opening kick-off 87 yards to the Western Kentucky 13, IU might as well have sat the rest of the first quarter out. The Hoosiers were toyed with by a team that had lost 22 (not a misprint) games in a row.

Sophomore running back Darius Willis dropped a

handoff on the second play from scrimmage — a cardinal sin any time, but especially in the red zone.

The defensive line got pushed backward on every play of a 10-play, 91-yard TD drive — a drive that consisted of 62 rushing yards by Western Kentucky running back Bobby Rainey.

The Hoosiers trailed 7-0 at the end of the first quarter and then flipped the switch. They

finally looked comfortable on the field (or campus) and stopped making the Hilltoppers look like a Big Ten opponent.

But that quarter — a quarter the players probably hope they won't have to see on film this week — will benefit the Hoosiers in the long run.

Because they played so poorly in that quarter, their starters got to stay on the field for the full 60 minutes — at least a quarter more than they

would have played had they blown the game open early.

Because they played so poorly in that quarter — and this is the most important thing to take out of IU's 38-21 win — they got a chance to handle the adversity that comes with a deficit in a road environment.

And they handled it in a way they thought they would — with ease.

"It's football. We've got to be able to respond when stuff

like that happens," said senior quarterback Ben Chappell, who threw for 366 yards and three touchdowns. "When it doesn't go your way, you've got to be able to respond positively. Stuff happens in football, but I was pretty happy with the way we responded."

While the Hoosiers will undoubtedly face bigger challenges during the conference

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