

100 things hoosiers fans should know do before they die stan sutton

100 things Hoosiers fans should know do before they die Stan Sutton is an essential guide for anyone passionate about Indiana University sports, particularly basketball. Whether you are a lifelong fan or a newcomer to the Hoosier Nation, there is a rich tapestry of experiences, traditions, and knowledge that every true Hoosier should embrace. This article will explore the top 100 things that every Indiana basketball enthusiast should know and do before they die, ensuring that you are fully immersed in the lore and legacy of Hoosier sports.

1. Understand the History of Indiana Basketball

The Origins

Indiana basketball has deep roots, dating back to the early 1900s. The passion for the game can be traced to small-town high schools, where basketball became a pivotal part of community life.

Key Figures

Familiarize yourself with iconic figures such as:

- Branch McCracken: A legendary coach who led the Hoosiers to multiple championships.
- Bob Knight: The controversial yet revered coach known for his discipline and winning mentality.

Championships Won

The Indiana Hoosiers men's basketball team has won five NCAA championships:

1. 1940
2. 1953
3. 1976
4. 1981
5. 1987

2. Attend a Game at Assembly Hall

The Venue

Assembly Hall, also known as Simon Skjodt Assembly Hall, is the heartbeat of Hoosier basketball. Its unique architecture and vibrant atmosphere make it a must-visit.

Game Day Experience

- Arrive early to soak in the atmosphere.
- Participate in the pre-game rituals, such as the "Hoo Hoo Hoo" chant.
- Experience the excitement of the crowd and the famous "Indiana Fight Song."

3. Engage with the Hoosier Community

Join a Fan Club

Become a part of groups like the Hoosier Nation or alumni chapters to connect with fellow fans.

Attend Hoosier Hysteria

This annual event marks the official start of the basketball season and is a fantastic way to meet players and coaches.

4. Learn the Traditions

Famous Cheers and Chants

Understand the significance of chants like:

- "Let's Go Hoosiers!"
- "Defense!"

Rivalries

Know the history and intensity of rivalries, particularly with teams like Purdue and Kentucky.

5. Explore the Hoosiers' Legendary Players

Iconic Names

Learn about the incredible talent that has graced the court, including:

- Isiah Thomas: One of the NBA's greatest point guards.
- Steve Alford: A sharpshooting guard who led the Hoosiers to their 1987 title.

6. Visit the Indiana University Campus

Campus Landmarks

Take a tour of the beautiful Bloomington campus, stop by notable spots:

- The Sample Gates
- The Lilly Library

The Hall of Fame

Visit the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame to see exhibits dedicated to Hoosier legends.

7. Discover the Media Coverage

Local and National Coverage

Stay updated with local media like the Indianapolis Star, and follow national coverage to keep track of the team's progress.

8. Taste Local Cuisine

Famous Eateries

Try local favorites such as:

- The Chocolate Moose: Known for its incredible ice cream.
- Mother Bear's Pizza: A popular spot for fans before games.

9. Participate in Basketball Clinics

Youth Programs

Get involved with youth clinics often hosted by the team, which helps foster the next generation of basketball players.

10. Collect Memorabilia

Iconic Merchandise

Start a collection that includes:

- Vintage jerseys
- Autographed basketballs
- Game programs

11. Learn the "Hoosier" Way of Life

Community Involvement

Understand the importance of giving back to the community that supports the team.

Spirit and Loyalty

Embrace the unwavering loyalty that defines Hoosier fans, regardless of the team's performance.

12. Follow the Women's Basketball Team

Equal Passion

Recognize the achievements of the Indiana women's basketball team, who have also made significant strides in recent years.

13. Experience the NCAA Tournament

March Madness

If possible, attend an NCAA tournament game to experience the thrill of March Madness firsthand.

14. Participate in the Hoosier Tradition of Tailgating

Pre-Game Festivities

Join fellow fans for tailgating before games, where food, drinks, and camaraderie create a festive atmosphere.

15. Visit Historic Sites Related to Indiana Basketball

Memorial Stadium

While primarily a football venue, understanding its significance in Indiana athletics is essential.

High School Basketball Heritage

Visit iconic high school gyms that have hosted legendary games.

16. Attend a Big Ten Conference Game

Rivalry Matchups

Experience the intensity of Big Ten basketball, where every game counts.

17. Follow Current Trends and News

Stay Informed

Utilize social media and sports news outlets to keep up with the latest updates on players and team performance.

18. Celebrate Indiana Basketball Achievements

Acknowledge Milestones

Celebrate the team's achievements, such as reaching the NCAA tournament or individual player accolades.

19. Cherish Iconic Moments

Memorable Games

Watch classic games that define the Hoosier legacy, like the 1976 championship run.

20. Take a Photo with the IU Mascot, "Bloopy" the Hoosier

Fan Interaction

Capture memories with the mascot during games and events for a fun experience.

21. Connect with IU Alumni

Networking Opportunities

Join alumni events to build connections and share experiences with other passionate fans.

22. Study the Impact of Bob Knight's Coaching Philosophy

Legacy and Controversy

Understand how Knight's approach shaped the program and influenced future

coaches.

23. Experience the "Hoosier Pride" Firsthand

Community Events

Participate in community events that celebrate Indiana's basketball culture.

24. Invest in Game Tickets for Rivalry Matches

High Demand Games

Secure tickets for high-stakes games against rivals for an unforgettable experience.

25. Learn about Indiana's Basketball Culture

Small Town Influence

Understand how small-town basketball influenced the state's passion for the sport.

26. Support Local High School Teams

Community Engagement

Attend local high school games to witness the grassroots of Hoosier basketball.

27. Celebrate the "Sweet Sixteen" and Beyond

March Madness Excitement

Join in the excitement when the Hoosiers make it to the tournament's later rounds.

28. Participate in Fantasy Basketball Leagues

Engagement with the Game

Get involved in fantasy leagues to deepen your understanding of player performance and strategy.

29. Watch the Hoosiers in the Big Ten Tournament

Postseason Thrills

Experience the energy and competition of the conference tournament.

30. Follow the Hoosiers on Social Media

Stay Connected

Engage with the team through platforms like Twitter and Instagram for updates and fan interactions.

31. Read Books About Indiana Basketball

Expand Your Knowledge

Consider reading biographies and histories that delve deeper into the culture and achievements of the Hoosiers.

32. Experience Bloomington's Nightlife

Post-Game Celebrations

Explore local bars and restaurants after games to continue the celebration with fellow fans.

33. Embrace the Spirit of the Hoosier Nation

Team Loyalty

Understand that being a Hoosier fan is about pride, tradition, and community.

34. Attend the NCAA Hall of Champions

A Celebration of Sports

Visit this venue to learn more about the impact of basketball in Indiana and the nation.

35. Participate in Charity Events Hosted by the Team