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PRESIDENT HONORS IN GAGERS AT WHITE HOUSE

# Hoosiers Get Rosy Tribute

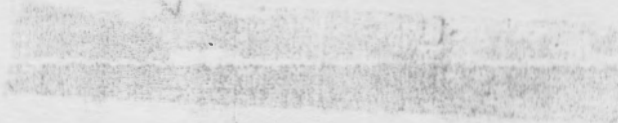
By JOHN BANSCH  
Assistant Sports Editor

THE NEARLY THREE dozen members of the official party spent almost an hour with the President in addition

back. It was very helpful when I got into politics."

The President was a starter his senior year at Michigan and played in the East-West game at San Francisco.

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THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR



# Hoosiers at White House

By BOB HANDEL  
I-T Sports Editor

WASHINGTON — President Gerald Ford met with Indiana's national collegiate basketball champions for 22 minutes this morning and admired them for "really a superb display of basketball."

The President, a University of Michigan graduate and former football captain, told the Hoosiers he watched their NCAA championship game with his alma mater and "the first three quarters were pretty good." Indiana, trailing at halftime, went on to win the game, 84-82, March 28 at Philadelphia.

THE PRESIDENT RECOGNIZED some of the Hoosiers, notably center Ken Benson and co-captains Scott May and Quinn Buckner.

When introduced to Bob Wilkerson, the Hoosier guard who was injured in the first three minutes of the championship game, the President asked about his health and said, "Good. We were worried about you."

The President and Indiana coach Bob Knight hit it off well. Ford's opening remark to Knight was, "I understand you called my friend up in Ann Arbor and said you were the President."

Knight replied with a grin, "The only thing I can say to that is if I were coaching at Michigan, I would sure make it a point to know the President's voice."

Ford laughed and said, "I almost called you after that."

And Knight said, "I'd have been kind of at a loss if you had done that."

FORD WAS PRESENTED a signed basketball, an Indiana golf jacket and a red T cap by Knight on behalf of the team. Holding the

ball up, he said, "That looks like the football I used to center. Has that ball was a bit rounder than it is today."

Ford said, "I still get up in the morning and read the sports page first. You've got a 50-50 chance of being right on the sports page."

He told Knight, "There's a great similarity between coaching and politics. I had that experience (as graduate assistant in football while in law school at Harvard). My training as a player and coach was very helpful when I got into politics 20 years ago."

Ford met with the Hoosiers in the Rose Garden in front of a White House, and after a brief ceremony ceremony outside, he took them inside to the Oval Office. Buckner accepted his invitation to sit briefly in the President's chair, and Knight nodded, "I don't mind you making my decision, Quinn, but I'd be a little careful about making his."

Later most of the Hoosiers had a turn in the chair, including Knight's son, Tim.

FORD TOOK THE HOOSIERS from there to his private office where he said the autographed basketball would be placed in display among a collection of other sports mementos from his playing background.

May, currently doing his student teaching at South high school asked the President for an autograph and produced a Mason County schools re-admission blank. As the President signed, he said, "Is this going to get you excused, Scott?"

The Indiana party included Indiana President John Ryan, athletic director Paul Dietzel, foundation president Willie (Col. 4, Book Page, This Sec.)

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