

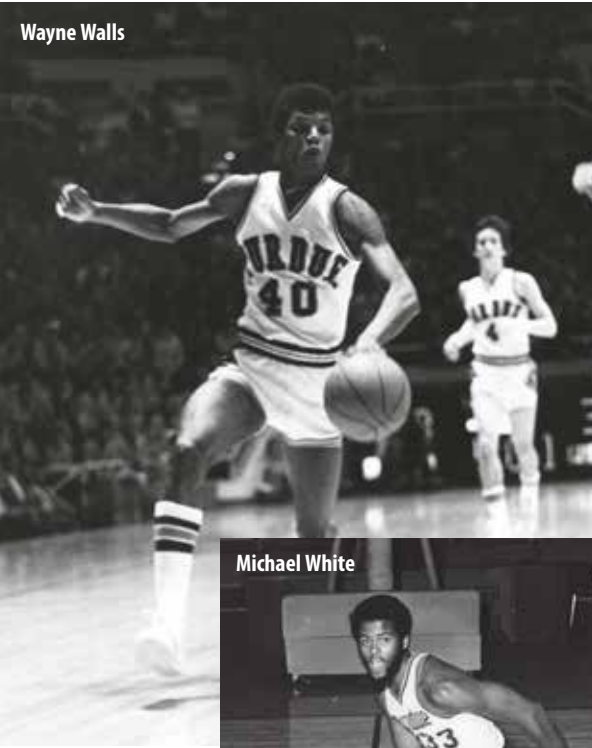
on the team once they found out we could play. We had respect for the seniors and upperclassmen.

“For us freshmen, I think ignorance in the moment was a good thing, but served us well because we didn’t know enough to be scared.”

One of those upperclassmen, junior Bruce Parkinson, knew what the four rookies were going through. The NCAA made fresh-



Walter Jordan



Wayne Walls



Dick Satterfield



Eugene Parker



Michael White

men eligible to play varsity just two years earlier in Parkinson’s freshman season of 1972-73. Parkinson had experienced some hard feelings from the juniors and senior in his rookie campaign when he became a starter just a couple weeks before the season.

“It wasn’t easy for me,” said Parkinson, who was

determined to treat the newcomers differently than he had been treated two years earlier. “I didn’t forget that when dealing with the four freshmen. They had earned their playing times, especially because of their ability to get up and down the court offensively.”

Parkinson remains Purdue’s all-time assists leader — he had 16 games with double-digit assists, achieving that feat twice as many times as any other Boil-

ermaker in history — and he credits Walls, Jordan and Parker for helping him.

“I always said had it not been for the guys on the Soul Patrol, I would have never set that assists record,” said Parkinson, who now lives in Columbus, Ind., and works as an executive for Cummins. “They were great players from the moment they stepped on the court, and they loved to score.”