

NCAA Hoop '84

Spotlight on Demons, Hoyas

United Press International

Midwest Preview

Imagine a college basketball weather map with a 200-mile area designated "NCAA Championship Warning."

The watch area would stretch from the North Side of Chicago down to Champaign, Ill., extending east to Bloomington, Ind.

The area includes the big three of Midwest basketball — DePaul, Illinois and Indiana. And all three are bona fide contenders for the Final Four and NCAA title to be settled this spring in Lexington, Ky. They are deep, talented and loaded.

But that's the watch word for the entire Midwest this year. Not only are those three Top 10 material, but others like Michigan, Notre Dame, Iowa or Loyola of Chicago could turn out to be a Cinderella.

The national focus will again be on DePaul, where Joey Meyer takes over for Ray Meyer. Meyer, the son, will inherit a veteran club from his father, who retired after 42 seasons.

"We have purposely intensified our schedule gearing for the tournaments," said Joey Meyer, an assistant when his team went 27-3 last year. "Being an independent you have to do that. We may lose a few more games but it will prepare us for the journey."

DePaul welcomes back senior forward Tryone Corbin and last year's freshman sensation, Dallas Comegys. Kenny Patterson returns as floor general and Marty Embry and Kevin Holmes provide additional rebounding power.

The Blue Demons, who lost to Wake Forest in last year's semifinals of the Midwest Regional, will again be tough defensively, solid under the boards and accurate inside.

The Big Ten is stocked this year and, like DePaul, survivors could wind up with several losses because of the conference struggle.

Illinois, which narrowly missed a trip to the Final Four last year when it fell to Kentucky, has nearly everyone back. For Coach Lou Henson,

that means co-Big Ten Player of the Year Bruce Douglas at guard and all-league forward-center Efram Winters.

"We're thinking about the national championship," said Douglas, the playmaking guard who helped give Illinois a 26-5 mark and a share of the Big Ten title. "Last year, we got a real taste, coming so close against Kentucky, and this year, I think it has made us hungrier than ever."

George Montgomery and Doug Altenberger also return for Illinois, which has the official season-opener at Springfield, Mass., Nov. 18 against Oklahoma.

Indiana was the least experienced team in the conference last year but went on to a 22-9 season and its usual NCAA berth under Olympic coach Bobby Knight. Steve Alford helped Knight's team win the Olympic gold and the sophomore guard will lead the Hoosiers.

Center Uwe Blab, Marty Simmons, Mike Gioni and Stew Robinson are all one year older and will be joined by one of Knight's best recruiting classes, headed by prep All-America Delray Brooks.

Michigan would have been in Indiana and Illinois' class had it not lost Eric Turner and Tim McCormick to the pros. But the Wolverines do have Antoine Joubert, who could be one of the best players in the Midwest.

Iowa stumbled in Coach George Raveling's first year. Michael Payne and Greg Stokes, the team's Twin Towers, return and Andre Banks and Todd Berkenpas give Raveling a solid backcourt. It may be good enough for a NCAA bid if not a first division Big Ten finish.

Purdue coach Gene Keady can't get much respect. Each year, the Boilermakers are pegged for the second division but each year they wind up in post-season play. Purdue was 15-3 and conference co-champion, but the Boilermakers lost co-Player of the Year Jim Rowinski and two other seniors.

Ohio State lost high-scoring Tony Campbell but has four starters returning. Coach Eldon Miller also has Brad Sellers, a Wisconsin transfer, ready for the starting lineup.

Michigan State was last season's biggest disappointment. This year Coach Jud Heathcote is recovering from a heart attack and guard Scott Skiles was involved in legal problems in the off-season. But MSU does have four starters back including hot-shooting guard Sam Vincent.

Loyola has been ignored by the NIT and NCAA the last two years, despite impressive records. But the Ramblers have the nation's leading returning scorer, Alfredrick Hughes, and a schedule that includes Bradley, Marquette, Illinois, Louisville and DePaul.

"We've gotten some publicity from our dissatisfaction," said Loyola coach Gene Sullivan. "With 'Rick' back for another year, we've got a chance to again prove we're deserving."

East Preview

Never did home movies look so good for John Thompson.

"I don't stay up nights guarding against complacency," the Georgetown coach says. "I stay up watching game films. I deal with things I can control."

One of the things Thompson and his defending NCAA champions figure to control this season is the Big East Conference, let alone basketball throughout the East, or the whole country for that matter.

After all, this is a team that went 34-3 last year and returns armed to the teeth. There is one shot-blocking menace in All-America Patrick Ewing, the nation's premier center. At forward he's flanked by David Wingate and Ralph Jackson with Michael Jackson, Horace Broadnax and Reggie Williams at guard.

Michael Graham, college basket-

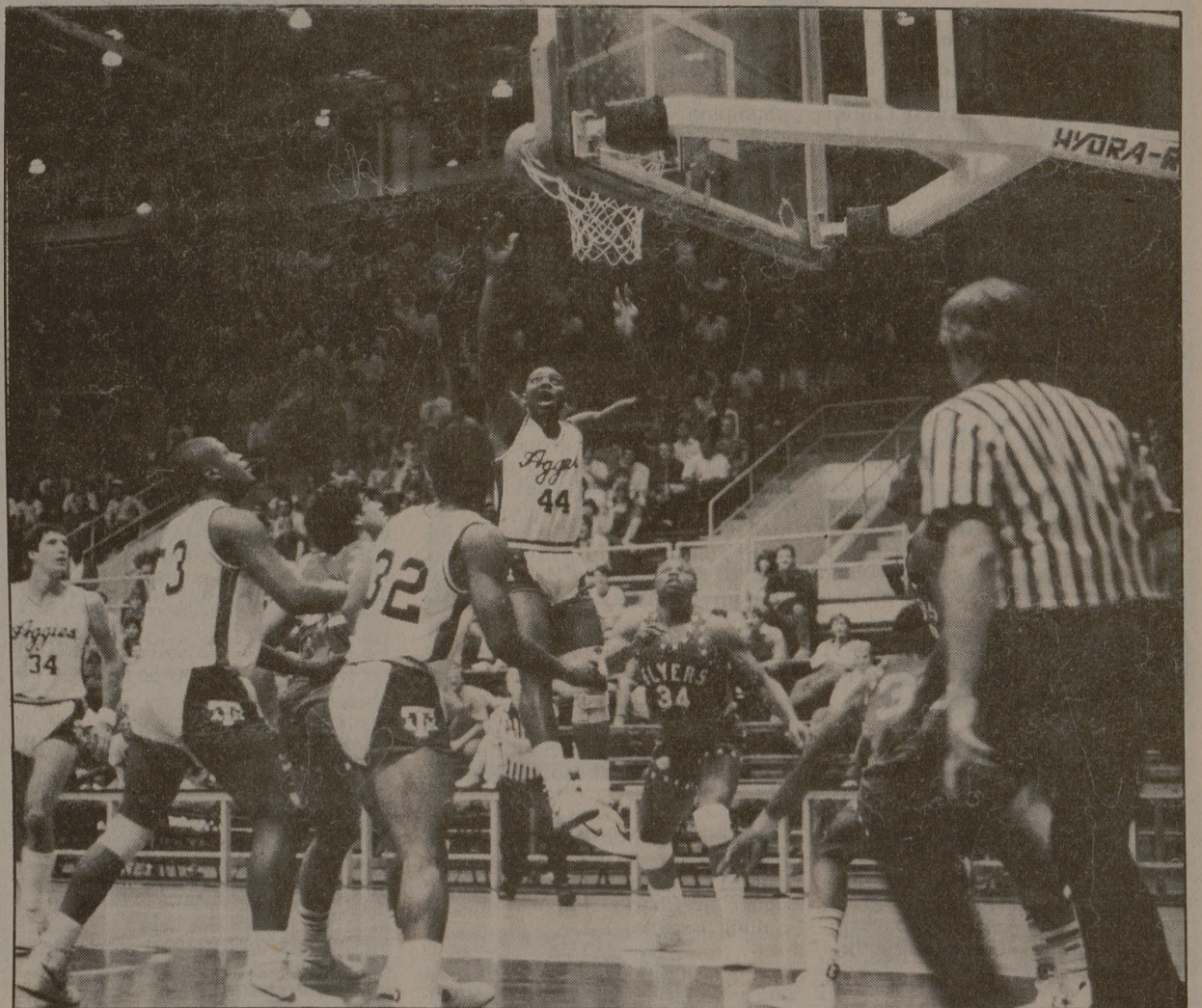


Photo by DAVID LEYENDECKER

Basket Case

Aggie forward Al Pulliam (44) does everything but stare his shot into the basket. Forward Reggie Hayes (33) and guard Kenny Brown (32) wait to pounce on the rebound.

Shelby Metcalf's Aggies muscled their way to a 95-89 victory over the Houston Continental Flyers this past weekend. The Ags play Stephen F. Austin Nov. 25.

ball's answer to Mr. T, may be gone because of academics and Gene Smith and Fred Brown may have graduated, but no matter. In all, eight players are back supplemented by outstanding recruits. Last season the Hoyas forced opponents to shoot less than 40 percent. There's no reason the killer defense will be any less relenting.

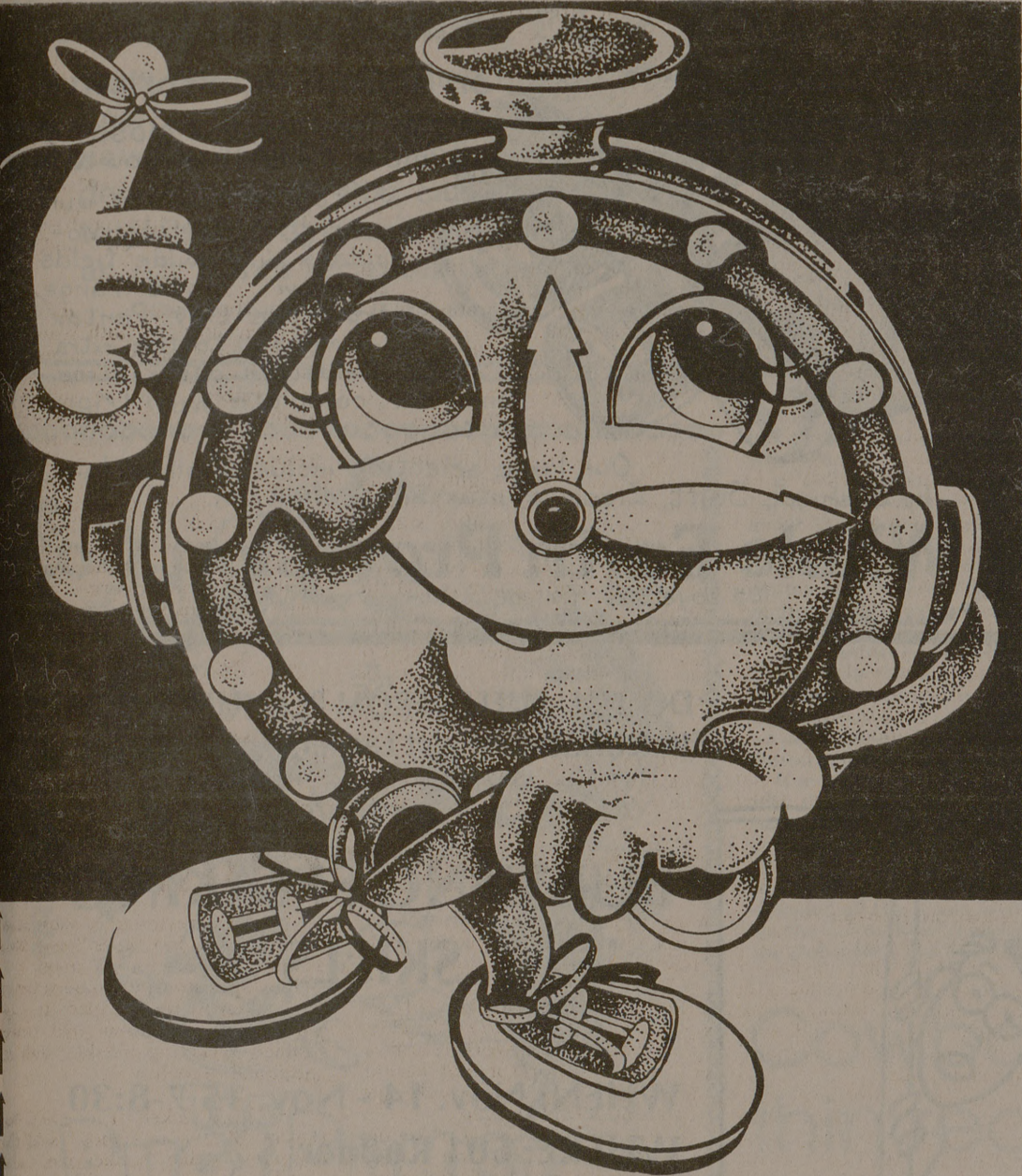
"It will take a great team to beat them," says Syracuse coach Jim Boehm.

One of the three teams to beat Georgetown last year was St. John's. And things look even better. Exhibit A is All-America Chris Mullin, Ewing's Olympic teammate and perhaps the best swingman in the nation. Mullin mostly will be at guard with the addition of forward Walter

Berry, the country's top junior college player out of San Jacinto (Texas) JC. Strong play at center from Canadian Olympian Bill Wennington and the Redmen could be rolling.

"Last year we were fighting with water pistols," Coach Lou Carne-secca says. "This year we'll be fighting with guns."

See NCAA, page 12



IT'S TIME
TO REMEMBER!
JUNIORS, SENIORS
& GRADS:
1985 AGGIELAND
PICTURES

are now being taken

at Yearbook Associates

1700 So. Kyle Behind Culpepper Plaza

Now through Friday, Nov. 16th

from 8:30 to 12 and 1 to 4:30