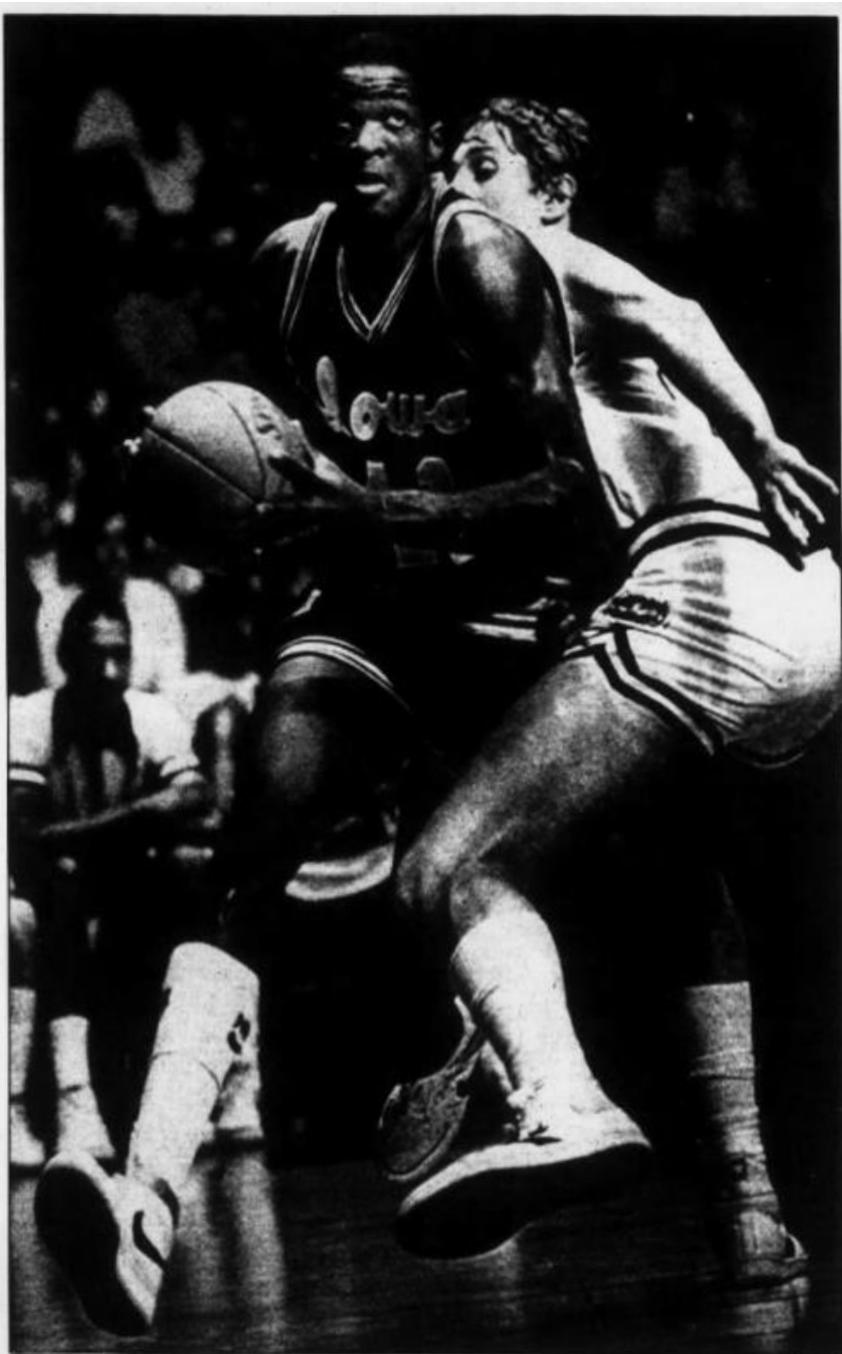
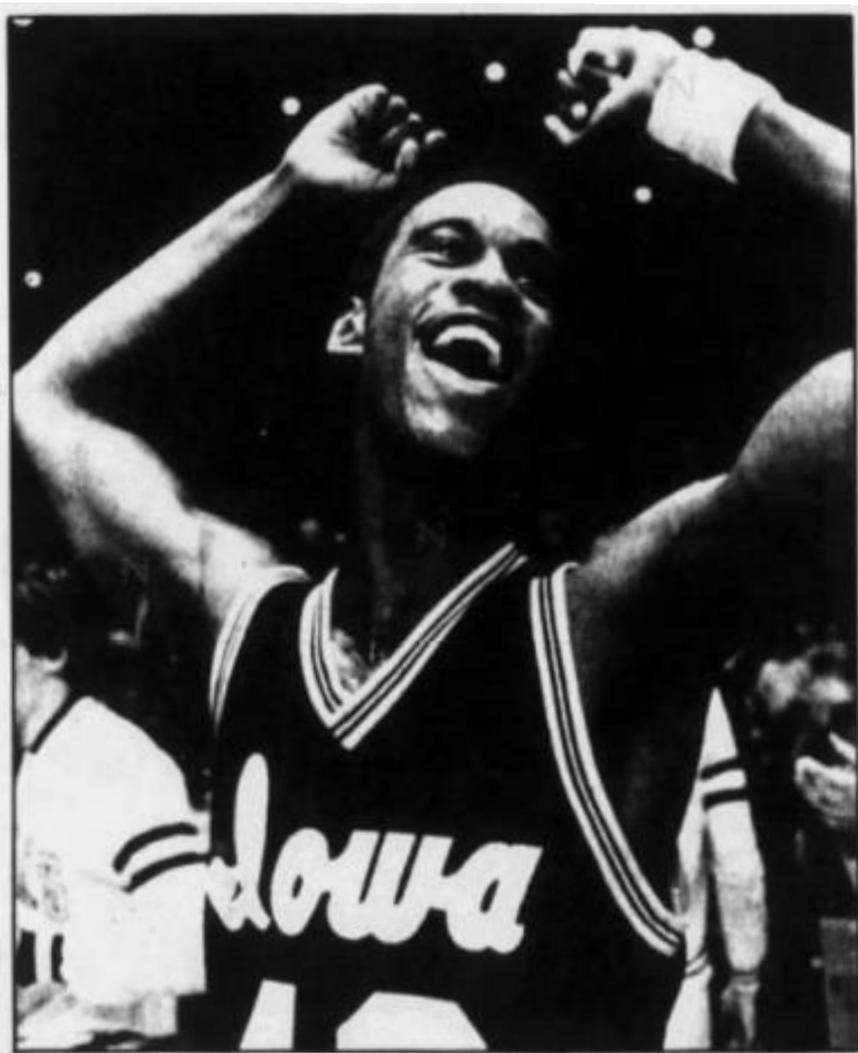


Iowa's Twin Towers too tall for Tigers



OVERDRIVE — Iowa's Greg Stokes drives the baseline past Missouri's Steve Stipanovich during first-half action in the second round of the NCAA regional playoffs at Freedom Hall in Louisville Sunday. Stokes contributed 22 points to the Hawkeyes' 77-63 triumph. More photos, story on page 3B.



AP Photo

HAPPY HAWK — Iowa's Michael Payne shows his excitement after the Hawks beat Missouri Sunday afternoon in Louisville. Payne scored 19 points and was named CBS Player of the Game.



Gazette photo by Don Hornstein

THE BOSS SPEAKS — Coach Lute Olson barks instructions to the Iowa basketball team during its 77-63 NCAA Midwest Region playoff victory over Big Eight Conference regular-season champion Missouri in Louisville Sunday.

Hawks face Villanova Friday

By Don Doxale

Gazette sportswriter

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The Iowa Hawkeyes were just ready this time, according to Mark Gannon.

And the Missouri Tigers weren't, according to Jon Sundvold.

As a result, the NCAA basketball tournament took another unexpected turn Sunday afternoon.

Getting brilliant all-around play from their "Twin Towers" (and just about everybody else), the Hawkeyes advanced into the "Sweet 16" of the tournament with a surprisingly easy 77-63 victory over favored Missouri before a crowd of 14,105 in the Midwest Regional at Freedom Hall.

The victory moved the Hawks (21-9) beyond the second round of the tournament for the first time since the magical season of 1980. They will oppose Big East Conference powerhouse Villanova (23-7) at Kansas City's Kemper Arena Friday night.

Missouri, which collected a fourth straight Big Eight title this season, finished the campaign at 26-8.

And for that, the Tigers can thank 6-foot-10 Greg Stokes and 6-foot-11 Michael Payne, aka the "Twin Towers." The Hawks' sophomore duo clearly outdid Missouri's 6-11 Steve Stipanovich and 6-9 Greg Cavener in a head-to-head battle.

Defensively, Iowa's matchup zone, anchored by Stokes and Payne, limited Stipanovich to a season-low six points and Cavener to nine.

The towers weren't bad offensively, either, as Stokes tossed in 22 points and Payne netted a season-high 18. Bobby Hansen added 15 for the Hawks and Mark Gannon 11, his highest total since Jan. 13.

It was Gannon, one of the team's elder statesmen, who probably summed things up best.

"This group of guys," said Gannon, "knows exactly what they have to do to get ready for a game but, for some reason, they don't always do it.

"You could tell today that they were ready. The guys were real quiet; we had a light shooting practice and they were very business-like. You could tell in the locker room before the game that we were ready and when the ball went up you could see it."

Missouri co-captain Sundvold, the Tigers' only effective offensive weapon all day, said Iowa benefitted from the fact that it had already played one tournament game (a 64-59 victory over Utah State).

"Seemingly, they got the jitters out Friday night," said Sundvold, who led both teams with 29 points. "They shot the ball pretty well today (56.5 percent) as opposed to what they did the other night (a season-low 36.4 percent)."

Iowa Coach Lute Olson ranked it among the best games his team has played this season, adding that his team knew it would have to play that well to topple Missouri.

"I think this is about as well as we've played all year long," he said. "It's in the same category as the victory at Michigan State in the last game of the season and the one against Indiana at home."

But it didn't necessarily start out that way. In fact, at the outset the game appeared to be what everyone expected it to be — a nip-and-tuck fracas between two fundamentally sound teams. In fact, the score was tied 10 times in the first 13½ minutes of play.

The Tigers' Cavener snapped one of those ties by scoring on a follow shot with 7:12 remaining in the half, putting Missouri ahead, 20-18. It was the last time the Tigers scored in the first half.

Hansen converted an ill-advised 1-on-3 fast break into a three-point play to put Iowa ahead, 21-20, with 6:26 to go. The Hawks then spent the rest of the half choosing their shots carefully . . . and playing textbook defense.

Payne tossed in four straight

• Please turn to page 3E: Hawks

Hawks advance in NCAA tourney

From page 1B

points, reserve Andre Banks put in his only basket of the game on an offensive rebound, Stokes threw in a jumper from in the lane, Hansen hit from 15 feet out, Stokes added a free throw, and suddenly the Hawks had a 32-20 lead.

They used a delay game to kill most of the last two minutes of the half and took their 12-point edge to the locker room.

"We weren't aggressive offensively in the first half," said Missouri Coach Norm Stewart. "We were basically okay defensively but we weren't aggressive enough at the other end. In the second half at least we got after 'em a little bit."

Well, Sundvoid did, anyway. The 6-2 senior guard snapped a team scoreless spell of eight minutes by firing in a shot from the perimeter early in the second half and went on from there. He took 12 of the Tigers' first 15 shots of the second half and scored 19 of their first 21 points.

For the game, he made 14 of 24 shots, all from more than 15 feet from the hoop and many with a Hawkeye or two draped around his neck.

"We solved most of the inside problems (defensively) although Mr. Sundvoid wouldn't allow us to solve the outside problems," said Olson. "I thought we had pretty good pressure on his shots but he's just a great competitor."

A 17-foot jumper by Sundvoid trimmed the Iowa lead to 50-41 and

Stipanovich's first points in more than 21 minutes — on a short hook shot — brought the Tigers to within seven, 50-43, with 8:44 remaining.

Then, the most unlikely offensive hero took over for Iowa. Gannon, always invincible on defense but often invisible on offense, scored the Hawks' next nine points to keep the Tigers at a distance.

Then Payne, the CBS television player of the game, hammered home what probably was the final nail in the Missouri coffin. Finding himself in a one-on-one situation with Stipanovich after the Hawks had broken the press, Payne took the ball to the hoop. He scored and in the process, drew the fifth foul of the game on the Mizzou center. As Stipo retired for the afternoon, Payne dropped in a free throw that made it 64-51.

The Hawks added eight straight free throws — including four by Stokes — to wrap things up in the final minutes.

All things considered, it was probably the interior defense against Stipanovich that proved to be the crucial factor in the victory. The unanimous All-Big Eight selection, an almost certain No. 1 draft choice by the pros, hit just 3 of 11 shots before fouling out.

"You've got to give Stokes and Payne a lot of credit," said Stipanovich. "They really bottled me up good. They really got the best of us

inside. I can't remember playing any worse overall."

"I'll tell you what, Steve Stipanovich is a great, great player," said Iowa guard Steve Carfino. "Which just shows you how talented our big men are."

"You could tell they were getting frustrated," added Payne. "We were in their shirts all the time, both he (Stipanovich) and Cavener."

Hawkeye assistant coach Jim Rosborough, the team's defensive coordinator, said the speed of Stokes and Payne helped wear down Stipanovich and Cavener.

"We felt if we could make their big men run up and down the floor, it might tire them out and affect their shooting," said Rosborough. "I think our two big guys really made them work hard."

Iowa 77 Missouri 63

Missouri: Greg Cavener 4-9 1-2-9, Ron Jones 2-4 2-2-6, Steve Stipanovich 3-11 0-0-6, Prince Bridges 5-7 0-1-10, Jon Sundvoid 14-24 1-2-29, Mark Dressler 9-4 0-0-6, Michael Walker 0-0 0-0-0, Dwight Moody 0-2 0-2-0, Billy Roundtree 0-0 0-0-0, Barry Laurie 1-1 1-2-3, Steve Mussler 0-0 0-0-0. Totals: 29-62 5-11 43.

Iowa: Michael Payne 7-12 5-6 19, Mark Gannon 4-6 3-5 11, Greg Stokes 7-11 8-10 22, Steve Carfino 3-4 2-3-8, Bob Hansen 4-12 7-8 15, Andre Banks 1-1 0-1-2, Craig Anderson 0-0 0-0-0, Waymond King 0-0 0-0-0, Jerry Denmark 0-0 0-0-0, Brad Lohaus 0-0 0-0-0. Totals: 35-66 25-31 77.

Half: Iowa 32, Missouri 20. Fouled out: Stipanovich. Total fouls: Missouri 25, Iowa 14. Rebounds: Missouri 28, Cavener 10, Iowa 26 (Gannon 9, Payne 7, Stokes 6, Hansen 6). Assists: Missouri 11 (Jones, Bridges, Sundvoid, Dressler 2), Iowa 13 (Gannon 4, Hansen 3, Carfino 2, Stokes 2). A — 14,105.

Announcement on Iowa tickets to come today

IOWA CITY — University of Iowa Athletic Director Chalmers "Bump" Elliott and Ticket Manager Jean Kupka were scheduled to meet early today to determine procedures for the sale of tickets to the Iowa-Villanova NCAA Midwest Regional basketball tournament semifinal in Kansas City Friday night.

Contacted by phone after she returned from the Hawkeyes' 77-63 semifinal win over Missouri in Louisville Sunday night, Kupka said, "We have decided nothing yet. Bump and I will meet first thing Monday, and decide then."

Kupka said procedures will be announced as soon as they are determined — presumably before noon today.

The Big Eight Conference is Midwest Regional host. A call to Big Eight headquarters in Kansas City Sunday night got a recorded response that tickets had been allocated to participating schools and could be purchased through those schools' ticket offices.



Gazette photo by Don Hornstein

HEMME IN — Missouri's Steve Stipanovich is hemmed in by Iowa's Bob Hansen (right) and Steve Carfino (left) in NCAA tournament game Sunday. Stipanovich had a tough day against the Hawks, scoring 6 points in Missouri's 77-63 loss.

Hawks are on a 'mission'

By Gus Schrader

Gazette sports columnist

LOUISVILLE, KY. — Iowa had some new heroes to salute this time, but Bobby Hansen didn't mind. He couldn't quit smiling as he answered news reporters' questions until they wore out.

The lanky senior guard smilingly admitted the Hawkeyes definitely were a team with a mission in the NCAA.

"Sure, we felt we had something to prove," said the guy who has averaged 20.1 points in the last seven games leading into the NCAA Sweet Sixteen at Kansas City this Friday.

"We were sick of hearing about the Iowa Choke-eyes, the wind-suckers, the Iowa Blue Jeans and all those other bad names. But a lot of the teams that were laughing at us are back there watching it on TV now."

Three of those 16 NCAA survivors are Big Ten teams: champion Indiana against Kentucky at Knoxville, Tenn., runnerup Ohio State against defending champion North Carolina at Syracuse and little ol' fifth-place Iowa against Villanova at Kansas City.

A sportswriter asked Coach Lute Olson and Hansen if it's possible Iowa now will be regarded as something of a darkhorse darling in the NCAA field.

"Sure, that would be great," confessed Olson, "but we don't agree we've played bad basketball just because we lost those nine games. Most of them were very close, and I think we played well all season. It's just that we haven't shot well, and usually that's the difference. We did play good defense all year.

"I think this team can play even better than today, and I'll tell you why. The players feel they're playing on top of their game, and Mark Gannon is playing and scoring with much more confidence now. We've got five people scoring — good balance. And I like going to Kansas City because that means a lot of our great fans will be able to follow us to the game there."

Fact is, Olson is so very much aware of the affection Iowans have for his team that he pulled a CIA maneuver to keep the Hawkeyes shielded here in Louisville.

Now it can be told the Hawkeyes stayed in a small motel called the Breckenridge, about 10 minutes from the Freedom Hall playing site. The rest of Iowa's official party and hundreds of the gold-and-black faithful roomed at the Executive West Hotel within an easy walk of the arena.

"It's not that we don't like our fans," explained the coach, "but we knew our players wouldn't be able to concentrate if they stayed in a hotel where the fans could see them frequently. I hope the fans all understand we'll be glad to sign autographs and talk to them after the season, but in this tournament we knew we had to be isolated. Yes, we plan to do the same thing at Kansas City."

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Yes, everything's up to date in Kansas City, and that means it will be a homecoming for one of the Hawkeyes. Waymond King, senior guard, was ecstatic about going back to his home town.

"Kansas City is a pretty exciting place as it is," he exulted, "and it's going to be a lot more now that Iowa

is going there to play. I'm looking forward to it because my family and friends should get a chance to see us play. They don't get to Iowa City much because it's a 5½-hour drive.

"I think the coach did a wise thing in having us stay at a motel where we wouldn't be disturbed by all the fans. It gave us a chance to concentrate and stay close together. I'll tell you, the coach did a little ear-bending on us after the way we played in beating Utah State Friday night. In addition to our practices, we went to a movie Thursday night, and at other free times we did a little shopping."

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Steve Carfino was another Hawkeye in an expansive, generous mood. He had been disappointed in his play against Utah State, but this time he was pleased because he had been a big part in defending the Big Eight champions.

"Greg Stokes, Michael Payne and Mark Gannon did such a great job inside," he said, "and you have to remember they did it against a super center like Steve Stipanovich. Of course, we didn't stop Jon Sundvold, as he got 29 points. I'm just thankful he didn't get more shots because he probably would have had 39 points the way he was shooting. I thought we had good pressure on him most of the time, but he still got free for good shots.

"Sundvold is a great player, and he's a great person, too. You can tell when you play against a guy. He helps you up when you get knocked down, and he's a fine sport. Waymond played against him in Kansas City, and Bobby also played against him in high school all-star games and the Sports Festival."

Incidentally, in case you're wondering about Iowa's defense, the Hawkeyes played a match-up zone 95 percent of the time, according to Olson. He said the Hawks even tried a "box and one" defense, assigning a personal guard to Sundvold and having the other four players play a zone. That's a compliment to Sundvold's uncanny shooting, 14 of 24.

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Greg Stokes was a modest hero after helping hold All-America Steve Stipanovich to one of his career lows of six points. A newsman asked if he ever dreamed he could outplay an All-America center like that.

"I don't look at it like that," Stokes protested. "I think we did a good job of defending him, but it was a team operation. Inside we had a lot of help from our other guys collapsing to keep Steve from getting the ball.

"Sure, it feels great to be going to Kansas City in the Regional. We always felt we were capable of getting there, but we weren't sure we would get the chance."

Added Michael Payne, chosen as CBS Player of the Game:

"Missouri plays good defense, but we knew from watching the films they don't get up to pressure the shot quickly. Greg and I both shot well. My shots were falling, and for once I didn't have to stand and watch Greg shoot. When we both play like that, we can give people fits."