

# Hawkeyes don't want to be upset victim

By LARRY LAGE  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## AUBURN HILLS, Mich.

Steve Alford knows all too well that a 14th-seeded team can knock off a No. 3 in the NCAA Tournament.

As an Indiana guard with short shorts and long range, Alford experienced it for himself in 1986 when Cleveland State stunned the Hoosiers.

"Twenty years ago, I put the Cleveland State game behind me," Iowa's coach said Thursday as his third-seeded Hawkeyes prepared for No. 14 Northwestern State. "I don't remember much about the game.

"That's just college basketball, and those things happen every year."

Northwestern State (25-7) is confident it can be involved in such an upset today against Iowa (25-8) in the Atlanta Regional.

"We don't back down from anyone," standout Northwestern State forward Clifton Lee said. "We're going into this game looking at it like all the other games. It's a winnable game."

The Southland Conference champions have become a little cocky about their chances against the Big Ten Tournament



Iowa men's basketball coach Steve Alford throws a pass during practice at the Palace in Auburn Hills, Mich., on Thursday. The Hawkeyes will meet Northwestern State in the first round of the NCAA Tournament today.

winner because of victories this season at Mississippi State and Oklahoma State and against Oregon State on a neutral court. The Demons also were competitive in losses to NCAA Tourna-

ment teams Wichita State, Texas A&M and Utah State.

"Any time you can go into one of those big-time colleges and pull out the win or come close, it builds your confidence," Lee said.

"You start thinking about how many points you can win by, instead of how many you might lose by."

Iowa and Northwestern State are both led by seniors and head

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Greg Brunner  
Iowa senior

into the tournament on a roll, but their styles are different. The Hawkeyes will want to slow it down and use their size, while the Demons hope their full-court pressure and 11-man rotation will create a frantic game.

The Hawkeyes rely on four seniors, led by forward Greg Brunner and point guard Jeff Horner, and have won five straight.

"It really feels like the end of our journey, and we don't want it to end yet," senior center Erik Hansen said. "This will be the final time we play together."

The Hawkeyes lost to Cincinnati in the first round last year.

"We still have a bad taste in our mouths from that game," Brunner said. "We know what it's like to be in the NCAA Tournament; now we want to know what it feels like to advance."

The winner of the Iowa-Northwestern State game will play either West Virginia or Southern Illinois on Sunday.

The Demons regularly use six seniors, led by Lee and point guard Tyrone Mitchell, and their only loss in the past 16 games was a 66-63 setback at Utah State.

With a school-record 25 victories, they are in the tournament for the first time since 2001 and second time in school history.

Like other Louisiana residents, Northwestern State's players and coaches had to deal with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

A statewide budget freeze prevented the Demons from buying new shoes until mid-February, and one of their on-campus practice venues in Natchitoches housed 700 evacuees. The team moved mattresses and other necessities into the facility before Katrina struck last summer and later assisted Red Cross efforts.

"We get hung up on basketball and winning games, but when you reflect back to that and you've lost everything, it makes you thankful for what you have," Northwestern State coach Mike McConathy said. "That is a life experience that has helped them grow as young men and as basketball players."

## Buckeyes must erase past games • Arena

By RUSTY MILLER  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### DAYTON, Ohio

Ohio State must not make references to all regular-season games in addition to NCAA Tournament trips it made while using an ineligible player, the school said Thursday.

Ohio State spokesman Steve Snapp said the university asked the NCAA whether the university had to wipe out references to all games played and not just those played in the postseason.

"They said it is for all the regular-season games and postseason games," Snapp said at the University of Dayton Arena, where the current Buckeyes meet Davidson today in a first-round NCAA Tournament game.

The NCAA put Ohio State on three years probation March 10

and ordered it to pay back tournament money earned from 1999-2002 when former player Boban Savovic was on the Buckeyes' roster. In addition, Ohio State must erase all references to team accomplishments from those years.

A two-year NCAA investigation found that Savovic received improper benefits and committed academic fraud while he played for Ohio State.

Originally, university officials thought last week's ruling only dealt with tournament games.

Snapp said Ohio State has pulled down the banners at Value City Arena related to NCAA trips, Final Fours and Big Ten championships and erased from them any reference to the years in question.

He said he was uncertain when any tournament revenue would be paid back to the NCAA. Ohio State athletic director Gene

Smith said last week that he estimated the school would have to return about \$800,000 accrued from the postseason.

Snapp said the university will be in touch with the NCAA regarding how to list the games from those four seasons in future Ohio State media guides. The NCAA says the games must be "vacated," indicating they are not forfeited but rather listed as if they were not even played.

Ohio State's current NCAA Tournament media guide already has been updated and ignores the Buckeyes' trip to the Final Four in 1999 and losses in the second round in 2000, first round in 2001 and second round of the 2002 tournament.

"Ohio State is making its 19th appearance in the NCAA Tournament and first since 1992," the media guide says.

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presidential visits to San Diego, McManus said.

Investigators removed the cart from the arena.

"Not because we thought it was still a hazard," McManus said. "We just want to double-check and see if we can determine what substance, if any, the dog alerted on."

The days' other three games at Cox Arena began only a few minutes behind schedule.

"We will continue to remain vigilant in our security planning throughout our tournament, and the safety and security of our student-athletes, teams and fans is paramount," the NCAA said in a statement.

Fans and officials were originally told to gather behind a parking structure across the street. That structure was closed during the investigation.



Fans wait outside during a security check at Cox Arena in San Diego on Thursday before NCAA Tournament games were played.

Players and staff from Alabama and Marquette stayed at their hotels until they were told it was OK to enter the arena.

The FBI warned last week of a recent Internet posting discussing terrorists attacks aimed at college basketball arenas and other sports stadiums but also said there were no specific or credible threats.

Authorities were alerted at 9:18 a.m., before the scheduled 10 a.m. opening of the arena, and evacuated a handful of vendors who were inside, said Maurice Luque, a spokesman for the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department.

Associated Press writers Elliot Spagat and Bernie Wilson contributed to this report.

## • Upset

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

First-year coach Rob Jeter instituted the necessary changes to begin putting his signature on the team but was also careful to listen and find a way to coexist with the team's veteran leadership.

"You have a group of freshman, you can just tell them what to do," Jeter said. "With seniors who have been around the block, of course they are going to see how far they can go. But with this team, it's all in fun."

Oklahoma finished what many feel was an underachieving season with three straight losses, one of them a 24-point setback at Texas.

Tucker was only 5 of 14 from the field but made 13 of 16 free throws to help Milwaukee outscore Oklahoma 26-5 from the foul line.

### In other NCAA action

#### ATLANTA REGIONAL

##### LSU 80 Iona 64

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Once "Big Baby" asserted himself, there was no stopping LSU.

Glen Davis scored 17 of his 22 points in the second half, and the fourth-seeded Southeastern Conference regular-season champions overcame a sluggish start to beat No. 13 seed Iona.

Davis, a 6-foot-9, 310-pound sophomore nicknamed "Big Baby," took over after missing eight of his first nine shots and being held to five points in the opening half.

##### George Washington 88 UNC Wilmington 85, OT

GREENSBORO, N.C. — The final wild momentum swing in a game full of them went George Washington's way.

Maureece Rice scored 20 points and had a key defensive play in overtime to help the Colonials rally from an 18-point deficit and beat UNC Wilmington.

Omar Williams had 16 points and nine rebounds for the eighth-seeded Colonials (27-2).

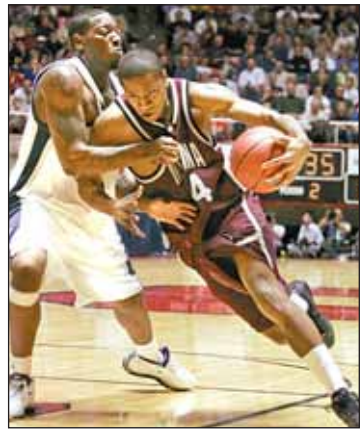
#### OAKLAND REGIONAL

##### Alabama 90 Marquette 85

SAN DIEGO — Jean Felix was nearly perfect in scoring a season-high 31 points for the Crimson Tide in a game that was delayed 70 minutes after bomb-sniffing dogs detected something suspicious at San Diego State's arena.

Once order was restored, Felix made five 3-pointers in the first 12½ minutes to help the 10th-seeded Crimson Tide (18-12) take a 15-point lead.

Alabama moves on to face UCLA on



Montana's Virgil Matthews, right, tries to get past Nevada's Mo Charlo in the second half of Thursday's NCAA Tournament game in Salt Lake City.

Saturday. Seventh-seeded Marquette (20-11) was eliminated in its first NCAA Tournament appearance since reaching the Final Four in 2003.

##### UCLA 78 Belmont 44

SAN DIEGO — Once the UCLA Bruins started scoring, the Belmont Bruins never stood a chance.

Freshman Luc Richard Mbah a Moute scored a career-high 17 points as UCLA routed the small Nashville school.

Ryan Hollins added 10 points for No. 2 seed UCLA (28-6), which won its seventh straight after holding 15th-seeded Belmont to 21 second-half points. Belmont (20-11) had averaged 81.8 points.

##### Gonzaga 79 Xavier 75

SALT LAKE CITY — Adam Morrison did just enough to keep Gonzaga from a first-round exit in the NCAA Tournament.

The Bulldogs' mustachioed, mop-topped star scored seven of his 35 points in the final two minutes as Gonzaga rallied past Xavier.

Morrison led the Zags on a late 10-2 run, finally overcoming Xavier. Morrison was 11 for 21 from the floor and had four assists.

J.P. Batista added 18 points and eight rebounds for the Zags, who are in their eighth straight NCAA Tournament.

#### WASHINGTON REGIONAL

##### Tennessee 63 Winthrop 61

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Chris Lofton's remarkable shot allowed Tennessee to avoid a major upset and sent the Volunteers into the NCAA Tournament's second round for the first time in six years.

The sophomore guard took an inbound pass with 2.9 seconds left and rattled home a fallaway jumper from just inside the 3-point line to help the second-seeded Volunteers beat Winthrop.

Craig Bradshaw missed a shot just before the buzzer that would have tied it for the Eagles (23-8), who remained winless in six trips to the tournament. They were trying to become the fifth 15th seed to record an upset in the first

round and the first since 2001. Instead the Volunteers (22-7) advance to face seventh-seeded Wichita State.

##### Wichita State 86 Seton Hall 66

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Sean Ogirri had 23 points and hit six 3-pointers to lead Wichita State, giving the Missouri Valley Conference an impressive debut after hearing plenty about its haul of four NCAA Tournament bids.

Paul Miller scored 15 points for the seventh-seeded Shockers (25-8), who were playing their first NCAA tournament game since 1988. Kelly Whitney had 18 points to lead the Pirates (18-12).

##### Illinois 78 Air Force 69

SAN DIEGO — Jamar Smith led four Illinois players in double figures with 20 points as the Illini held off Air Force.

The Falcons were 13 of 29 from 3-point range but were outrebounded 29-13 by Illinois.

#### MINNEAPOLIS REGIONAL

##### Boston College 88 Pacific 76, 20T

SALT LAKE CITY — Boston College derailed scrappy Pacific.

The final overtime was anticlimactic, but the fourth-seeded Eagles (27-7) sure made this one interesting for the first 45 minutes. They advanced to play Montana.

BC trailed by six early in the first overtime and needed a pair of free throws from Craig Smith, a 66-percent shooter, with 4 seconds left to send the game into the next extra period.

##### Montana 87 Nevada 79

SALT LAKE CITY — Montana overcame a sizable height disadvantage and became the latest No. 12 seed to pull an upset.

Since 1985, at least one 12th-seeded team has upset a No. 5 seed in the tournament every year except for 1988 and 2000. A year after being overwhelmed early in a first-round loss, the Grizzlies (24-6) returned like NCAA Tournament veterans and never trailed against the Wolf Pack (27-6).

Andrew Strait, Montana's second-tallest player at 6-foot-8, had 22 points, and Virgil Matthews scored 20 for the Grizzlies.

##### Florida 76 South Alabama 50

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Lee Humphrey scored 20 points, including 12 on four 3-pointers in the second half, and the third-seeded Gators advanced in front of a partisan crowd at Veterans Memorial Arena.

Florida (28-6) extended its winning streak to six games and will play Wisconsin-Milwaukee on Saturday.

Joakim Noah and Al Horford combined for 30 points and 21 rebounds and dominated inside, not surprising considering Florida's significant size advantage.

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