TOURNAMENT
SWEET 16
IOWA STATE vs. CONNETICUT
MARCH 28, 2014
Hogue's dream becomes reality in New York City

By Alex Halsted
s@iowastatedaily.com

NEW YORK — Dustin Hogue couldn't hold back a smile. A wide smile crossed his face as he glanced out through the tunnel and saw for the first time what he had always dreamed.

Throughout his first season, Hogue has become Iowa State's physical presence, falling to the ground and grabbing rebounds which average 10.9 points and 8.5 rebounds per game entering the Sweet 16.

His strength on the court, he says, stems from New York, where he played at Madison Square Garden Friday night.

“I'm a New York Knicks fan. He would watch games on television with family and friends and he would dream. Maybe, he thought one day he could play at the World's Most Famous Arena.

As he glanced out through the tunnel and saw for the first time what he had always dreamed, Hogue’s dream becomes a reality in New York City. Ollie is a former NBA teammate of Hoiberg from the Chicago Bulls.

For the fourth time in school history, and for the first time in his career, Iowa State is in the Sweet 16 on Sunday. Hogue fouled out of the game after scoring 14 points and grabbing seven rebounds.

“IT’S A DREAM COME TRUE.”

As he walked back toward the tunnel, his smile was still there. Finally, just as he told his friends many years ago, Hogue has made it to Madison Square Garden.

“I'm sure when his name is called on these loud speakers,” said Abdelmassih, who backs the Garden’s public address system. “Because these are the most famous loud speakers, I'm sure when his name is called on these loud speakers, ‘Dustin Hogue’s back in the game,’ you know, ‘We're going home.”

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Head coach Fred Hoiberg answers questions from media during Iowa State's practice Thursday at the AT&T Center in San Antonio. Hoiberg set to face former teammate in Friday's game.

He picked up a ball and dunked it. He picked up a ball and dunked it one final time.

As he took each subsequent step toward the game, Hogue spread his arms to take it in. He looked around at Madison Square Garden, stood at mid-court, his arms apart and looked up at the structure in wonder.

“Just with our NBA experience, I think we coach the tournament last year. I think it was Coast to Coast,” Ollie said. "That's what Kevin was."
Monte Morris | ready for the bright lights

By Dean Berhow-Goll @iowastatedaily.com

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Monte Morris gets to face the Cyclones during the Midwest Regional on Sunday, March 23 at the United Center.

Freshman guard Monte Morris shoots a 3-pointer during the Cyclones' open practice Thursday at Madison Square Garden in New York City. - Photo taken on Connecticut Daily

As a standout for the Flint Beecher Buccaneers, Morris said he felt like he had a father and a coach. The thing about Monte Morris is he has a mindset that makes him a winner. He makes big shots when they need it. He's a leader out there. He was thinking about Iowa State when he played against Connecticut.

Monte Morris had the rare ability to play on the level of a former three-time All-American. The now-No. 6 ranked Oklahoma State last weekend.

He wasn't going to wow everyone simply knew as Monte-M-Man. "I think he's definitely their motor, he's been that since he was a freshman," Morris said that he was "a guy who can do anything he wants to do." He also had a lot of Cyclone fans will remember Morris playing for a state championship as a sophomore.

In his junior year, Morris said he had to score more. In his first game, he scored 22 points and 10 assists per game. He was named Michigan's Mr. Basketball, Michigan State's Mr. Basketball, and Michigan's Mr. Basketball.

Now playing in the Sweet 16 at Madison Square Garden, Morris says he's more in demand by schools than he was before.

"It's just the bright lights," Cleaves said. "I'm so proud of him. I couldn't be a better teacher, you know." He makes big shots when they need it. He's a leader out there. He was thinking about Iowa State when he played against Connecticut.

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IOWA STATE

RECORD: 25-7

MASCOT: Cyclones

NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES: 15

QUICK FACT:
Won the Big 12 Championship for the first time since 2000

WHAT THEY'VE DONE:

After starting the season 14-0, the Cyclones took a Big 12 loss to Texas Tech. The team made its third-straight NCAA tournament. While Iowa State cruised to its first tournament win, the Cyclones lost to North Carolina to move to the Sweet 16.

WHAT THEY'VE DONE:
After starting 18-1, Michigan State struggled with injuries and dropped seven of its next 12 games to end the season. The Spartans got healthy at the perfect time, winning the Big Ten tournament earlier this month before earning the NCAA tournament's last No. 1 seed. In its first game, Michigan State defeated No. 16 seeded-Coastal Carolina in the first round by trailing at halftime before pulling away, winning by 18-points in its second. On the season, Napier averages 17.8 points, 5.9 assists and 4.9 rebounds per game and was named ACC All-First Team while also being awarded AAC Player of the Year.

PLAYERS TO WATCH:
Shabazz Napier — Regarded during the pre-season as a potential national player of the year, Napier has averaged 17.1 points, 6.8 rebounds and 5.8 assists per game this season as a transfer from Marshall. The senior guard is currently second on the team in points, three assists behind Niang. He scored 24 points, brought in 21 rebounds and did his seven assists while scoring the game-winner with 1.6 seconds remaining to advance to the Sweet 16, acting as the Cyclones' closer with Niang out.

Connecticut

RECORD: 28-8

MASCOT: Huskies

NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES: 11

QUICK FACT:
UCan has won three national titles (1999, 2004, 2011)

WHAT THEY'VE DONE:

Three of UConn's eight losses this season have come at the hands of Louisville, a fellow Sweet 16 team. The Huskies snuck by with an overtime victory against the Cards in their first NCAA tournament game. Napier scored 24 points in overtime of its first game and 21 second half points in its second. On the season, Napier averages 17.1 points, 6.8 rebounds and 5.8 assists per game and was named AAC All-First Team while also being awarded AAC Player of the Year.

PLAYERS TO WATCH:
Shabazz Napier — The success of the Huskies comes with that of soon-to-be-pro Shabazz Napier. The senior guard has averaged 17.1 points, 6.8 rebounds and 5.8 assists in UConn's first two tournament victories, setting new highs in points, rebounds and assists in each game and was selected as an All-Big 12 First Team member. Napier averages 17.1 points, 6.8 rebounds and 5.8 assists per game and was named AAC All-First Team while also being awarded AAC Player of the Year.

Michigan State

RECORD: 30-6

MASCOT: Spartans

NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES: 27

QUICK FACT:

Virginia defeated Duke in the ACC tournament.

WHAT THEY'VE DONE:

Virginia enters the Sweet 16 on a five-game winning streak, complete with winning the ACC tournament. Harris has averaged 10.5 points per game this month. After struggling with No. 16 seeded-Coastal Carolina in the first round by trailing at halftime before pulling away, winning by 18-points in its second. On the season, Harris averages 12.9 points per game and was named ACC All-First Team while also being awarded ACC Player of the Year.

PLAYERS TO WATCH:
Joe Harris — The senior guard averaged 16.3 points per game last season on the way to being named in the All-ACC First Team. This season that average has dipped to 11.8 points per game, and Harris was named to the second team. This year, he has been Virginia's leader, helping it win the ACC tournament. Harris has averaged 10.5 points per game this month. After struggling with No. 16 seeded-Coastal Carolina in the first round, Harris scored 24 points in overtime of its first game and 21 second half points in its second. On the season, Harris averages 12.9 points per game and was named ACC All-First Team while also being awarded ACC Player of the Year.

Announcers: Verne Lundquist, Bill Raftery and Allie LaForce

BYLINE: Alex Halsted

#iowastatedaily.com

THE GAME

WHAT: No. 3 Iowa State vs. No. 7 Connecticut

WHERE: Madison Square Garden in New York City

WHEN: 8:57 p.m. CT Friday

TV: TBS
The starting five players for the 1944 ISU men’s basketball team. The team made it to the Western Regional in Kansas City, Mo. and then to the Final Four and lost to Utah, 40-31.

In 1944, the NCAs tournament consisted of just eight teams, and Iowa State was one of them, making it to the Western Regional in Kansas City, Mo. Trailing Pepperdine 19-15 at halftime, the Cyclones eventually came away with a 44-39 victory and the school’s one and only trip to the Final Four — although times have changed a lot in today’s 68-team field. That team eventually lost in the Final Four in Salt Lake City.

Since there were only eight teams, no Sweet 16 existed.

Iowa State's 85-83 win over the North Carolina Tar Heels. The Cyclones went on to defeat North Carolina Central and only trip to the Final Four — although times have changed a lot in today’s 68-team field. That team eventually lost in the Final Four in Salt Lake City.

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Iowa State takes on the University of Connecticut on Friday in the NCAA tournament at Madison Square Garden in New York. This is the first time in 53 years Madison Square Garden has hosted a NCAA tournament game.

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— FRED HOIBERG

**FACTS**

**BROKE GROUND:**
Feb. 11, 1968

**OPENED AT CURRENT LOCATION:**
Oct. 29, 1964

**CAPACITY:**
— Basketball: 19,812
— Ice Hockey: 18,006
— Concerts: 20,000

**HOME TO:**
New York Knicks [NBA], New York Rangers [NHL], New York Liberty [WNBA], St. John’s men’s basketball [NCAA]

**QUOTES**

“I haven’t even stepped on the court yet, so it hasn’t even hit me that we’re at Madison Square Garden. It’ll hit me when I step out there and hit my first jumper.”

— MONTE MORRIS

“One of my favorite athletes, Muhammad Ali, he’s competed here. The Beatles have been here. There’s just so many people that have laid their feet here. Just to be around and feel our area of great being there. Kobe has had a 50-point game here. Everybody knows the world knows about the Garden and this is definitely something I dreamed of since I was a kid.”

— NAZ LONG

“Some of the guys were pretty wide-eyed stepping off that plane. Then you get stuck in traffic for about an hour and a half and I think our guys got tired of that quick. To be here in the greatest arena in the world, it’s a special moment. These guys will never forget this opportunity.”

— FRED HOIBERG

Iowa State fans applaud the team's arrival in New York. The Knights made their first NCAA tournament appearance at the Garden in 1943.

**MADISON SQUARE GARDEN**

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