



NEWS RELEASE

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USI Screaming Eagles going to second straight Elite Eight

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Ray Simmons, USI sports information director, will be in Louisville by Monday, March 20. Anyone needing interim information may call Kathy Funke, USI News and Information Services director, 812/465-7050 (USI) or 812/464-2142 (home).

With a sweep of the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) co-champions in the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Regional in Cincinnati, the No. 5-ranked University of Southern Indiana Screaming Eagles are headed for their second straight appearance in the NCAA II Elite Eight.

The Eagles -- winding up their third season under Coach Bruce Pearl -- defeated No. 3-ranked Kentucky Wesleyan College, 102-81, on Saturday, March 11, and No. 9-ranked Northern Kentucky University, 102-94, on Sunday, March 12, to win their second Great Lakes Regional championship in as many years.

USI, 25-4 overall, will play New Hampshire College, 27-5 overall, at 8:30 p.m. (EST) Wednesday, March 22, at Louisville's Commonwealth Convention Center. NHC was defeated by USI in the Elite Eight semifinals a year ago, 111-89, with USI going on to the championship game where they lost to Cal State-Bakersfield.

USI was led in the regional by junior forward Chad Gilbert (Charlestown, Ind.), who was named the Great Lakes Regional Most Outstanding Player. In his three tournament games, Gilbert is averaging 25.3 ppg, 9.3 rpg, and shooting 73.0 percent (27-37) from the field, 55.6 percent (5-9) from behind the three-point field goal arc, and 85.0 percent from the line.

Eagles named with Gilbert to the All-Tournament team were junior forward Stan Gouard (Danville, Ill.), who is averaging 17.7 ppg, 11.0 rpg, and 4.0 assists in the tournament, and senior guard Brian Huebner (Evansville, Ind.), 17.0 ppg. Huebner stepped up his game in the championship, tying for the team lead with 22 points and grabbing five rebounds.

For the season, Gouard, who needs nine points to break the USI single-season record of points scored, is leading the team with 19.7 ppg and 9.0 rpg. He is followed by Gilbert, who is averaging 15.9 ppg and 6.4 rpg; senior forward Cortez Barnes (Wichita, Kan.), 15.1 ppg; Huebner, 12.9 ppg; and junior forward Scott Boyden (Evansville, Ind.), 11.2 ppg.

USI began the 1994-95 season on top, stumbled midway, then recovered to a No. 5 ranking in the final NCAA poll February 28, as they fought their way to their third straight Great Lakes Regional appearance.

The Eagles were ranked No. 1 nationally as the season started and jumped out to a 4-0 record. After becoming the only team in the six-year history of the USI/Kenny Kent Toyota National Shootout to win the tournament twice, USI stumbled twice -- they lost on the road to Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, 124-105, and at home to Northern Kentucky University, 96-90, the first GLVC loss at home since the 1991-92 season.

The Eagles then rebounded with a USI record-tying 14 straight wins. That included a sweep in the High Desert Classic in Las Vegas, Nev., where they defeated Cameron University, 96-68, and Washburn University, 107-103 in overtime. USI also had a home victory over Kentucky Wesleyan College, 117-83, in the record streak. In the 14 games, USI outscored its opponents, 1418 (101.3 ppg) to 1089 (77.8 ppg) as compared to 600 (100.0 ppg) to 582 (97.0 ppg) in the first six games.

USI's ranking also rebounded during the winning streak. After the early NKU loss dropped them out of the poll, they bounced back to as high as No. 3, then were No. 5 when the season ended. Their winning streak had included 10 straight GLVC victories, but came to an end at the hands of conference rival Kentucky Wesleyan, 97-90, in the Owensboro, Ky., Sportscenter.

The Eagles finished the regular season strong, with a 23-4 overall record; they had won five of their last six games, 19 of their last 21, and were ranked third in the GLVC with a 15-3 record, just one game out of the first place which KWC and NKU held jointly.

1994-95 USI Eagles in NCAA II Elite Eight

Shawn Aldridge -- 6'2" ...200

Sophomore guard, major undecided, son of Morice and Ardella Aldridge, Ford Heights, Illinois. He is a 1992 graduate of Bloom Trail High School, Chicago Heights, where he led BTHS to its first-ever SICA East Division title. He made major contributions off the bench his freshman year at USI, then was red-shirted due to injury in 1993-94.

Cortez Barnes -- 6'7" ...205

Senior forward, sociology major, son of Cora Barnes, and a graduate of Wichita Heights (Kansas) High School, where he led WHHS to three straight final four appearances and was honorable mention McDonald's All-American and first team All-State. He attended Hutchinson Community College, leading them to the Region VI Tournament finals, and moved on to the University of Tennessee, where he played one season before transferring to USI; he was second on the Volunteers squad in three-point field goals.

Scott Boyden -- 6'5" ...215

Junior forward, sociology major, son of Bethel and Bertha Tate. He is an Evansville Central High School graduate who transferred to USI from Danville Community College (Illinois) where he was named to All-Region and NJCAA All-Tournament teams in 1991-92. He was named co-Most Improved Player in his first season with the Eagles.

Neil Coyle -- 6'8" ...200

Junior forward, business major, son of Sandra Colvin of 127 E. Southland, Louisville, Kentucky. Formerly of RR 2, Campbellsburg, Indiana, he is a 1991 graduate of West Washington High School, where he holds the school record for career points (1216), points in a season (519), and points in a game (44); he was named Most Valuable Player in the Paoli Sectional. He was one of a USI's record five Eagles to be named Academic All-GLVC in 1993-94.

Larry Eady -- 6'1" ...187

Junior guard, sociology/English major, son of Rosie Merritt of Harvey, Illinois, and a graduate of Thornwood South High School, Holland, Illinois, where he earned four letters in basketball, football,

and track. He transferred to USI from Brown Mackie Junior College in Salina, Kansas, and was named All-District and team Most Valuable Player in 1993-94. He also played for Hesston Junior College, Hesston, Kansas, where he was All-District and team MVP.

Chad Gilbert -- 6'8" ...210

Junior forward, physical education major, son of Ernie and Kathy Gilbert of Charlestown, Indiana, where he graduated from Charlestown High School in 1991. He transferred to USI from Indiana State University after lettering twice. He was second leading scorer in CHS history and was named first team All-State by the Louisville *Courier-Journal* and honorable mention All-State by AP and UPI.

Stan Gouard -- 6'5" ...200

Junior forward, communications (advertising) major, son of David and Betty Gouard of Danville, Illinois, and a graduate of Danville High School where he was MVP and third team All-Conference. He transferred to USI from John A. Logan Junior College where he was Lincoln Tournament Most Valuable Player and All-Region 24. He has had a record-setting USI career and after a 30-point, 9-rebound performance in the NCAA II Elite Eight championship game against Cal State-Bakersfield, he was named 1994 Elite Eight Most Outstanding Player and the CBS/Chevrolet Most Valuable Player. For the 1994-95 season at USI, he was named preseason first team All-American by *College Sports Magazine*, *Dick Vitale's College Basketball Magazine*, and *The Sporting News*.

Marc Hostetter -- 6'2" ...160

Sophomore guard, chemistry major, son of Kenny and Shari Hostetter of RR 1, Lyons, Indiana, and a 1993 graduate of White River Valley High School. He attends USI on a Scholastic Excellence Award. He was named USI's Most Dedicated Player, seeing action in 27 games for his freshman year. As a senior at WRVHS, he was considered one of the better point guards in the state; was named third team All-State by *Hoosier Basketball Magazine*, All-Star team by Hoosier Basketball Coaches Association, All-Region by the Terre Haute *Tribune-*

Star, and All-Area by the Bloomington *Herald-Times*.

Brian Huebner -- 6'3" ...195

Senior guard, communications major, son of Gary and Cathy Huebner of Evansville and a 1991 North High School graduate. He was a 1993-94 preseason All-American and one of the most consistent performers on the team that went to the NCAA II Elite Eight championship game in Springfield, Massachusetts, where they lost to Cal State-Bakersfield. One of Evansville's best all-round high school athletes, he transferred to USI from Olney Central College (Illinois), where he was named to Great Rivers Athletic Conference All-Region, All-Conference, and All-Tournament teams. At North, he was named to All-Conference, plus the All-City team of both *The Evansville Courier* and *The Evansville Press*.

Tim Tooley -- 6'6" ...185

Freshman guard, major undecided, son of Warren and Sue Tooley of Huntingburg, Indiana. He is a 1994 graduate of Southridge High School, where he earned four letters in basketball and one in baseball. He was named first team All-PAC and SHS Most Valuable Player, District II Hoosier Basketball Coaches Association All-Star team, *The Evansville Courier* first team All-Southwestern Indiana, first team All-Sectional, and Academic All-State. He played for the AAU Indiana squad which won the AAU national championship in 1994 in Jacksonville, Florida.

Ken Troutman -- 6'5" ...205

Freshman forward, pre-med/pre-dental major, son of Ronald and Charlene Troutman of Boonville, Indiana, and 1994 graduate of Boonville High School. He earned three letters in basketball at BHS, where, as a senior, he was named All-Big Eight Conference, team Most Valuable Player, and first-team Academic All-State. Troutman was valedictorian at his BHS graduation and attends USI as a Presidential Scholar.