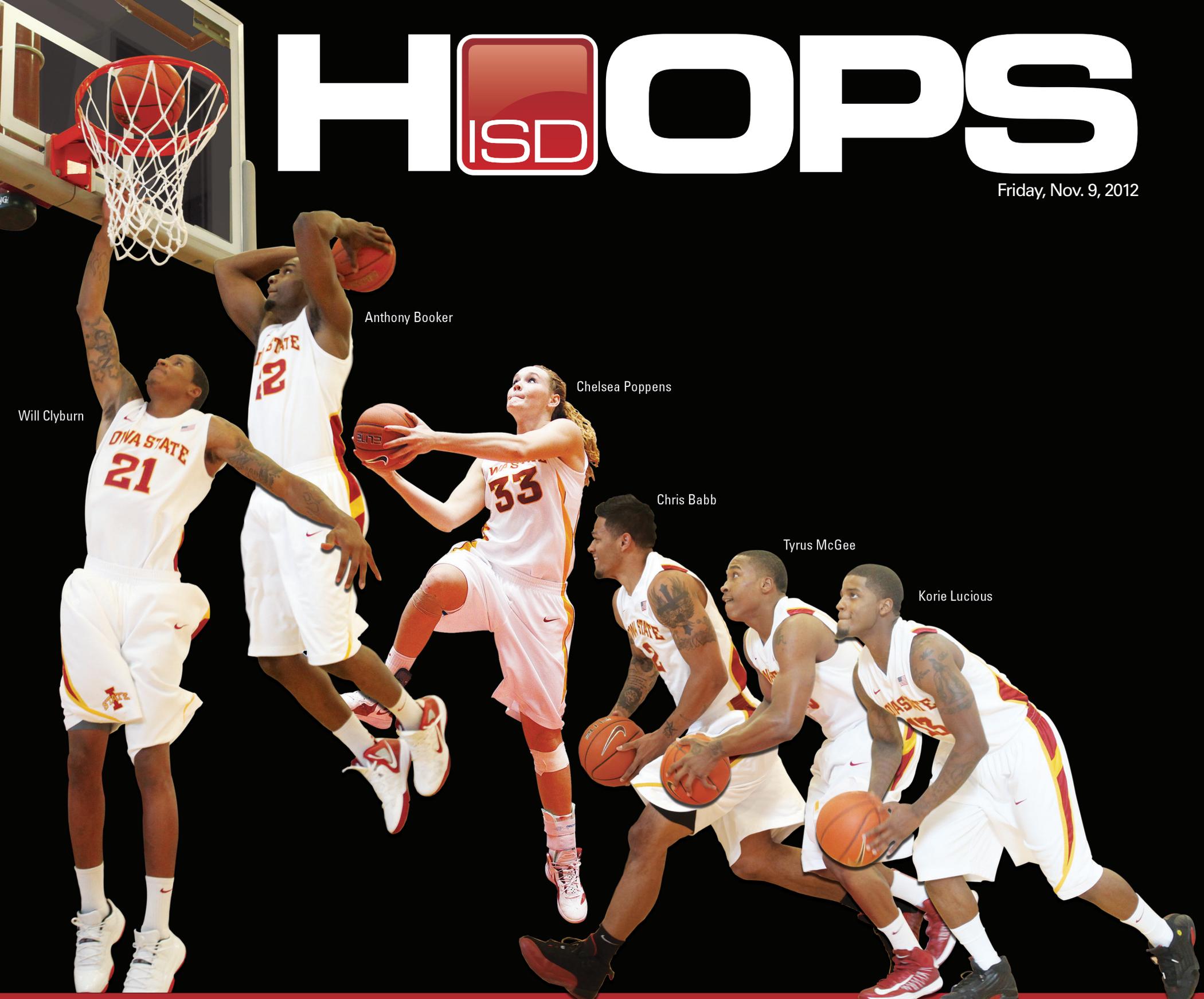


H HOOPS



Friday, Nov. 9, 2012



Will Clyburn

Anthony Booker

Chelsea Poppens

Chris Babb

Tyrus McGee

Korie Lucious

ONE LAST SHOT

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Men's basketball



Photo: Huiling Wu/Iowa State Daily

Chris Babb, left, Will Clyburn, Tyrus McGee, Korie Lucious, Anthony Booker bring a wide variety to the court for their senior year of play. Hoiberg said he hopes for Lucious and Clyburn to help the Cyclones fit Hoiberg's NBA-style offense this season.

Transfer U

Senior transfers ready for their big finale

By Dean Berhow-Goll
@iowastatedaily.com

Fred Hoiberg doesn't care.

He doesn't care that Iowa State was again picked to finish near the bottom of the Big 12.

It doesn't matter to him his team isn't expected to return to the NCAA tournament.

"Expectations from what we've seen national media-wise: They're not really high for us, but that doesn't bother me," said Hoiberg, who is also known as "The Mayor" throughout Ames. "I could care less about that stuff. I know what these guys are all about, and I'm excited about what they're going to bring to the table."

What they do bring to the table is a variety of assets.

More specifically, they bring five transfers, all of

whom are seniors.

After each one of them sat out a season, watching from the stands and not attending road trips, each one of them is ready for their final season — their big finale.

Two transfers without any playing time inside Hilton Coliseum wearing the cardinal and gold are Korie Lucious and Will Clyburn.

Both offer a rare versatility Iowa State lacked last year on both ends of the court.

Lucious brings a heap of experience gained in a pair of Final Fours playing at Michigan State alongside the traditional point guard style where Iowa State contrasted last year with a "6-foot-8, 270-pound freight train running the one," as Hoiberg put it.

"I'm thinking I'm going to be able to fit in perfectly," Lucious said. "I know coach

Fred wants to get up and down a lot and score points in transition, and that's something I like to do. Me being a point guard, I just get the ball and go just find guys wherever they're at."

He also adds a defensive dimension the Cyclones were without last year: quickness.

"We didn't have that traditional point guard last year," Hoiberg said. "Not only on the offensive end, but the defensive end too. It affects the way you're able to play. We really had to pack it in at times last year. Scott and Chris were great, but they're not point guards. On the defensive ends they never really guarded point guards before."

Clyburn is a lanky wing who has the ability play positions anywhere from shooting guard to power forward. Averaging 17.1 points per game last year and 7.8 rebounds, he

exhibited the ability to score and rebound.

Hoiberg reiterated that Clyburn will be an integral part of Iowa State's offense as well as on the defensive half of the court.

"Will is a kid who can play different positions," Hoiberg said. "I think Will can play two through four, and there's times where Will will initiate our offense similar to what Royce White did for us last year and just how much success we had."

Coach Hoiberg said he plans to adjust the offense to an NBA-style with more pick and roll and transition game than last year. Having Lucious and Clyburn helps the Cyclones fit the mold of an up-tempo team that gets up and down the court quickly and

Editorial

Cyclone fans should beware the learning curve

Both the men's and women's teams had very different looks heading into last season.

The men's team saw six new players on the court, along with a 6'8, 270-pound point forward facilitate the offense. The women's team saw Nikki Moody take over point guard, and Chelsea Poppens explode onto the Big 12 scene.

One thing Iowa State fans weren't quite expecting was the start both teams encountered.

The women's team started the Big 12 season 0-5, a hole no one expected them to crawl out of.

The men's team wasn't gelling and didn't know how to play as a team, losing to the likes of Drake and Northern Iowa early in the season.

The point is, it took time for both teams to figure out their respective identities.

It took almost half the season for the women's team to gel, for Moody to get a feel for the Big 12 and for the rest of the team to play around Poppens.

It took the men's team even longer to figure out how to play around a player as unique as Royce White. Even in their last nonconference game Dec. 31, the Cyclones narrowly defeated a mediocre Mississippi Valley State by two points.

But only a few days later, they upset Texas at Hilton and started the Big 12 conference schedule 8-4.

The women started the Big 12 season 0-5, but ISU coach Bill Fennelly never doubted the fact they'd come back.

After one of the worst losses of the season Jan. 14, Fennelly said: "We're going to finish this season the way we should," and they certainly did.

After the 0-5 start, the Cyclones went on an 8-2 run through the best conference in women's basketball.

Both teams discovered the way they needed to operate and win games. Both teams went on runs and found themselves in the NCAA Tournament.

It just took time.

That's the case fans should understand. It might take time like last year. The men's team loses its top three scorers, while they bring in Korie Lucious and Will Clyburn along with a big freshmen class.

The women's team loses its two starting senior guards Lauren Mansfield and Chassidy Cole. They also bring in three freshmen and a transfer.

Both teams might not click right away. There might not be immediate success, but like last year, once they do click and get things going in the right direction, there is the likelihood both teams wind up in postseason play.

It just might take some time to get there.

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TRANSFERS.p14 >>

Women's basketball

Rebounding:

A way of life for Poppens

By Alex Halsted
@iowastatedaily.com

The wind howled, and the sirens sounded as the black as ominous clouds approached the town of Parkersburg, Iowa.

There were graduation parties for Aplington-Parkersburg High School that day, and it was supposed to be exciting.

But as the sirens sounded, Chelsea Poppens and 13 friends hurried to find shelter as a passerby yelled to get inside the nearby car wash.

Unable to enter the car wash, Poppens and her friends instead crammed into a tight, 4-by-4 area between the two buildings.

"I remember looking out the doors and seeing poles flying and just a black wall, and we all huddled down," Poppens said.

And then, at 4:56 p.m. — marked by the stopped clocks at the high school — the F5 tornado struck. For 34 seconds, it tore through the small, approximately 1,900-person community with winds exceeding 200 miles per hour.

Poppens — who was at the end of her junior year and attending her friend's graduation party — emerged from shelter in shock.

"Everything that was there 30 seconds ago wasn't; it was a completely different place," Poppens said. "It was like a war zone."

The storm destroyed 220 homes, and eight people died that day. Watching the devastation on the news, ISU women's basketball coach Bill Fennelly, who had recruited Poppens to play at Iowa State, attempted to call. Call after call to Poppens went unanswered.

The only noise on the other end was a no service message.

"I remember just panicking like crazy because her phone wasn't working, and we kept calling it," Fennelly said.

Finally, after a couple of hours, Poppens answered. She would require staples on her head but was alive and safe.

Arriving at Iowa State

As Fennelly recruited Poppens to play at Iowa State, what he found was a very raw basketball player.

Poppens scored a school-record 1,484 points in four seasons at Aplington-Parkersburg and averaged 20.7 points and 15.8 rebounds per game as a senior. But as a multi-sport athlete, she was not strictly a basketball player.

"The biggest thing you saw with her is tremendous athlete, tremendous physical strength, extremely competitive," Fennelly said. "Not a basketball player."

When Fennelly extended an offer to Poppens to play for his team at Iowa State, his decision was questioned by others in basketball.

"When we signed Pop, I had two Division-III coaches call me and ask me if I was trying to get fired," Fennelly said. "They said she couldn't play for them."

Luckily for Fennelly and the Cyclones, Poppens ended up at Iowa State.

Since then, she has made 83 starts in three seasons for three NCAA Tournament teams.

Becoming a 'basketball player'

With 166 rebounds during her senior season, Poppens would move to No. 2 all-time in rebounds in ISU women's basketball history.

For someone who didn't know the Mikan drill — a drill for rebounding and under-the-basket scoring — when she arrived at Iowa State, that is a big achievement.

"When she came here, I don't think anyone would think she'd be where she is today," Fennelly said. "She literally learned the game from scratch."

Last season Poppens collected 307 rebounds, becoming just the second Cyclone to surpass the 300-rebound mark in a season. But at 6-foot-2, rebounding has been more about effort than height.

"[Rebounding has] always been a part of my game, and it's what I value," Poppens said. "You have to work hard at it; it's not a given thing. The ball doesn't just end up in your hands."

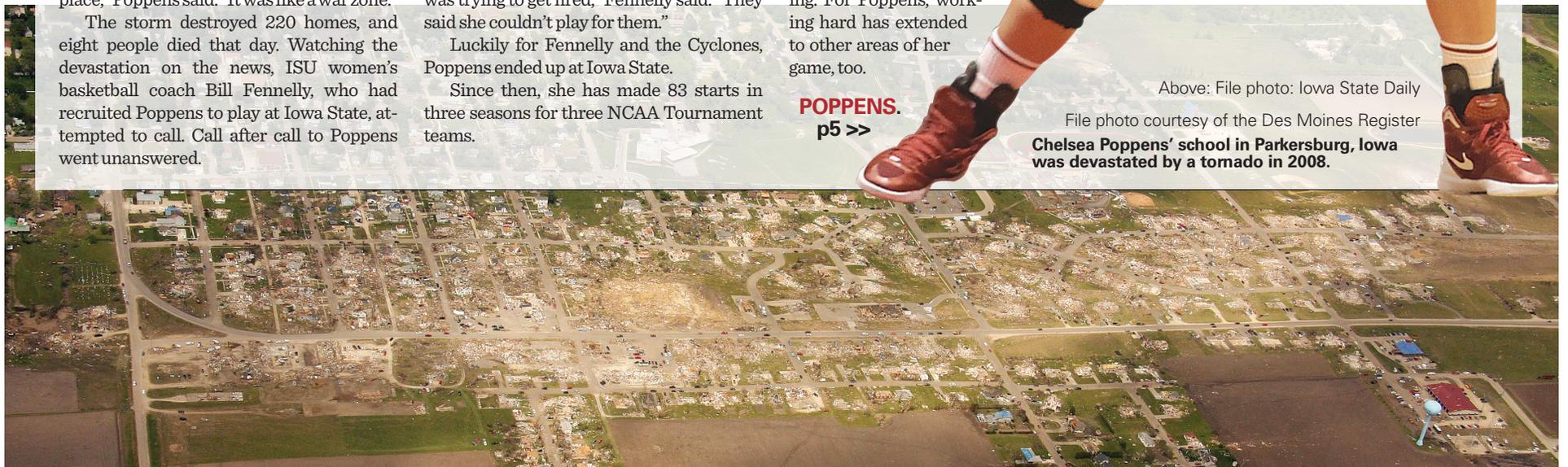
That hard work, Fennelly said, is about will and determination, and not coaching. For Poppens, working hard has extended to other areas of her game, too.

POPPENS.
p5 >>

Above: File photo: Iowa State Daily

File photo courtesy of the Des Moines Register

Chelsea Poppens' school in Parkersburg, Iowa was devastated by a tornado in 2008.



>>POPPENS.p4

Fennelly said when Poppens arrived, she “couldn’t make a free throw if her life depended on it.” As a freshman Poppens shot 63-percent from the free-throw line, and last season she shot 71 percent.

“That only happens when you stand at the free-throw line almost until your hands bleed because you’ve got to do it,” Fennelly said.

Having to work for the recognition was nothing new for Poppens.

“Coming from a small town you have to work to be seen; you always have to work to get what you want,” Poppens said. “That’s the way our community kind of focuses things.”

Poppens, home rebound

Since those devastating 34 seconds on May 25, 2008 — much like Poppens has done at Iowa State — Parkersburg has rebounded.

In the four-plus years since the tornado, the town has been rebuild. New homes, new businesses and

a new school all line the freshly-constructed community.

“It’s a lot like the community it was before, but it looks like a new housing development,” said Chelsea’s father, Tony Poppens. “I think the basic community is pretty much the same.”

On her way to being a unanimous selection for the All-Big 12 First Team last season, Poppens was the only player in the Big 12 to average a double-double with averages of 14.2 points and 10.6 rebounds per game.

Fennelly believes that is only a start to a special senior year.

“I think she has a chance to be a monster, and she wants to be,” Fennelly said. “Pop knows she’s good and knows she’s been successful — but she’s not satisfied.”

Poppens has seen firsthand — both on the court and in her community — what hard work can do.

“To her credit, she’s turned herself from great athlete to great basketball player,” Fennelly said. “And that’s a pretty impressive accomplishment.”



The clock at Aplington-Parkersburg High School stopped at 4:56 p.m., the time the tornado struck Parkersburg, Iowa, on May 25, 2008. The school and the town have rebuilt since the devastating storm.

File photo courtesy of the Des Moines Register

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Attendance

ISU oversells tickets to draw more students

By Alex Halsted
@iowastatedaily.com

Fred Hoiberg called for it at his introductory news conference in the spring of 2010.

"Larry Brown was my first coach with the Pacers," Hoiberg said when he was introduced in April 2010. "He said that Hilton Coliseum was the hardest arena he ever had to coach in, and Larry Brown's been coaching since the last turn of the century.

"I want that atmosphere back. I need that atmosphere back."

Last season, Hoiberg and his team saw the return of Hilton Magic. The ISU men's basketball team ranked No. 24 in college basketball in attendance, averaging 13,015 fans per game.

Fans rushed onto the court twice for top-25 victories against Kansas and Baylor, and the team sold out five games. It was the first time since

1992 — when Hoiberg could be found in a Cyclone uniform — the team averaged more than 13,000 fans per game.

But missing for many games was a large chunk of the student season ticket holders.

"Last year we only had two games where over 50 percent of the students who actually had tickets went to the games," said Jamie Pollard, ISU athletic director.

TICKETS.p11 >>

File photo: Iowa State Daily

Members of Cyclone Alley and many other ISU fans wore gold shirts during the "Gold Rules" basketball game against the Kansas Jayhawks. Iowa State would go on to beat Kansas 72-64.

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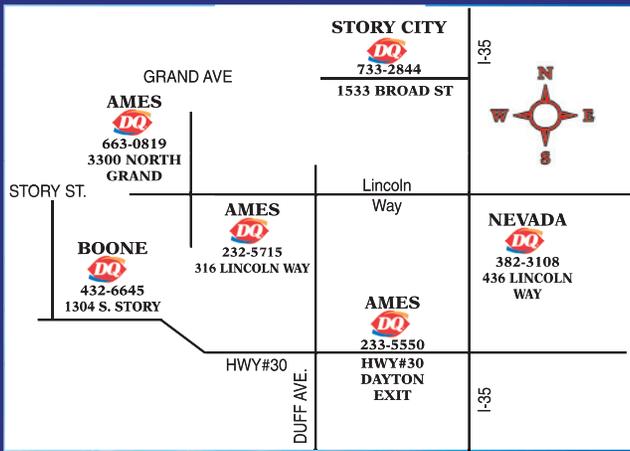
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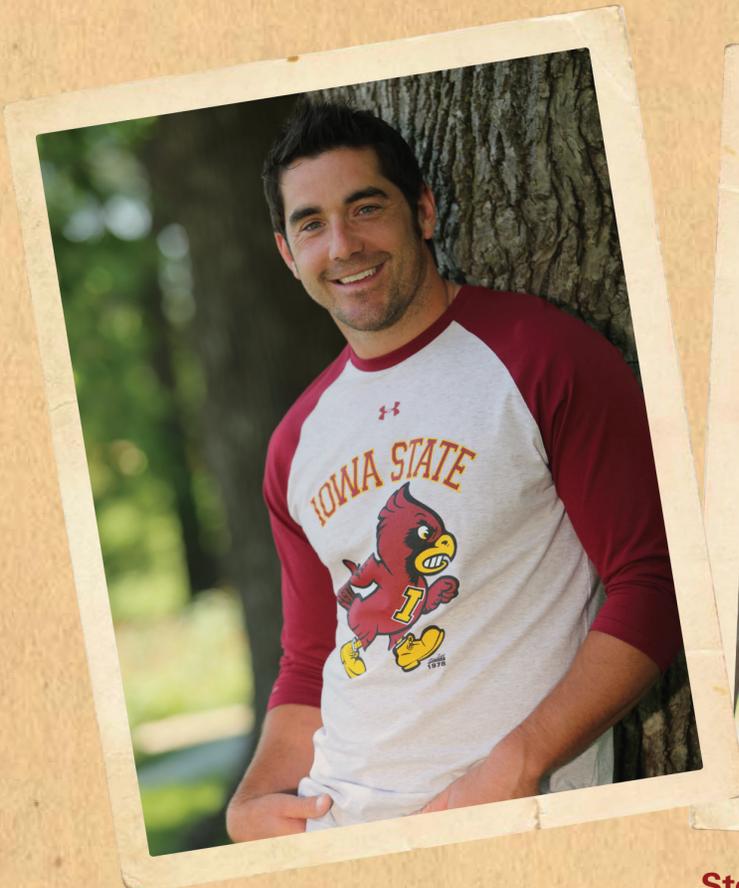
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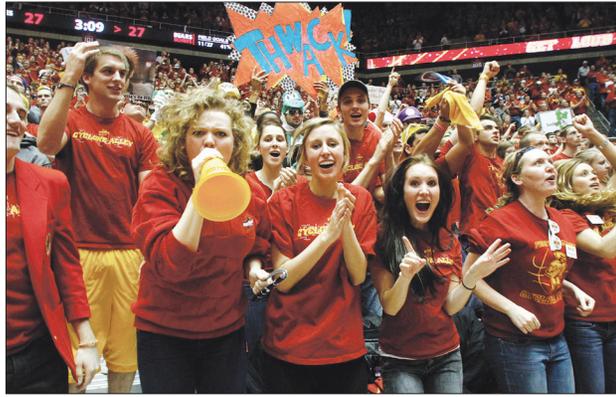
>>TICKETS.p6

The student section at Hilton Coliseum has a capacity of 2,500 and the half-full mark of 1,250 was only surpassed twice. Those games were against Iowa and Kansas, and the student capacity still only reached 52 percent and 51 percent.

"Last year, we had 2,500 student seats, and only 1,300 [students] came to the Kansas game," Pollard said. "There were 1,200 student tickets that weren't used for the Kansas game."

Pollard and his Student Advisory Committee, made up of students from various on-campus student groups, talked about the student attendance issue at its spring meeting.

"We started talking about ideas that would get more students actually in the arena," Pollard said. "If only 50 percent of the students who have



File photo: Iowa State Daily

Cyclone Alley fans pack the student section for the ISU men's basketball last home game of the 2011-12 season. This year, the athletic department decided to oversell student tickets.

tickets are going to come, you can technically offer it to more students."

Eventually it was decided to oversell student tickets, and the athletic department sold 3,500 student tickets for this season. The model followed what some other schools do including Kansas, Kansas State

and Maryland.

Fellow Big 12 institution Kansas State sells 6,200 combo passes, which allows students admission to football and men's basketball games. The student capacity for men's basketball is 3,900.

"I would say we're in a similar situation to Iowa State,"

Did you know?

Lower bowl season tickets at Hilton Coliseum for the ISU men's basketball team require a minimum \$5,000 annual donation along with the per-seat purchase for the tickets. The price for one seat for an entire season is roughly \$475.

said Scott Garrett, assistant director of ticketing and fan strategies at Kansas State. "There's a handful of games where more than 50 percent of the students who bought passes show up."

The Wildcats can allow admission to basketball games to 63 percent of its pass holders, and this season Iowa State will be able to allow it to around 71 percent of the 3,500 holders.

When the Cyclones reach the capacity, the other 1,000 ticket holders would likely be

turned away. It isn't clear, however, if that will be a problem.

Kansas State, overselling by 2,300 seats, hasn't run into trouble with its plan as of yet.

"We've not been in any danger the last two years, and we've been ranked basically in the top 25 for every game we've played at home in those two years," Garrett said.

An exception, Garrett said, was one game when between 15 and 20 students showed up after tip-off and the arena was full.

The biggest question at Iowa State has been whether students will be refunded if denied entry. Pollard and his advisory group decided students will be refunded if the arena is full and they cannot get into the game.

"As Jamie and I have discussed, I think it's a good option as long as there's a refund mechanism in place," said Jared Knight, president of the

student body.

Kansas State doesn't offer a refund but communicates to students that what is offered is a "pass." Garrett said he understands why other schools might offer a refund as customer service when starting an overselling program.

Without overselling, another option was to reduce the student section capacity.

"One of the other options talked about was shrinking the student section to 1,300 and just make it the lower bowl," Pollard said. "I don't think that's in the best interest of the students for the long term."

For now, the athletic department will see how overselling plays out during the 2012-13 season.

"It's a great problem to have," Pollard said. "In the end, let's see how this year goes. Maybe we have to sell more than 3,500 to get it [where we want it]."

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WOMEN'S ROSTER

#3 Emiah Bingley

- Guard
- 5'7"
- Freshman



Bingley hails from Greenwood, Mo., where in high school, she was a highly decorated athlete. Recording five 30-point games as a senior, Bingley was a four-time all-conference selection, three-time all-state honoree and collected many other various awards.

#4 Nikki Moody

- Guard
- 5'8"
- Sophomore



Moody is one of the returning starters for the Cyclones in the 2012-13 season. Last year, Moody started 29 of the 31 games for the Cyclones. Moody checked in at the end of the season, averaging 10.0 points per game and assisting her teammates with more than 100 assists on the season, breaking the ISU freshman record.

#5 Hallie Christofferson

- Forward
- 6'3"
- Junior



Another returning starter, Christofferson is entering her junior year as a Cyclone. In the 2011-12 season, Christofferson amassed a 45 percent shooting percentage from behind the arc, which was second in the Big 12. Christofferson also ended the season with three double-doubles.

#15 Nicole Blaskowsky

- Guard
- 5'7"
- Freshman



One of the new incoming freshmen, Blaskowsky committed to Iowa State during her junior year of high school. During her time at Stephen F. Austin High School in Houston, she was a four-time letterwinner, four-time all-district selection and averaged 21.3 games her senior season.

#22 Brynn Williamson

- Guard/Forward
- 5'11"
- Sophomore



Williamson started in seven games and saw action in 30 of the 31 games in the 2011-12 season. Williamson had a small hiccup of a knee injury but bounced back finishing the season with 6.0 points per game, good for fifth among Big 12 for freshmen. 45 3-point shots, the fourth-most by a Cyclone freshman.

#23 Ashley Hagedorn

- Guard
- 5'9"
- Junior



Hagedorn is an incoming junior from DMACC, where she averaged 12.3 points per game and helped lead the Bears to regional semifinals appearance. In high school, Hagedorn was a four-year letterwinner at I-K-M Manning High School in Manning, Iowa, and was on the 2009 Class 1A championship squad.

#24 Elly Arganbright

- Guard
- 5'6"
- Junior



Originally a walk-on to the Cyclone basketball team, Arganbright saw action in 10 games in the 2011-12 season. Arganbright scored her first points as a Cyclone against then-conference foe Nebraska and was eventually placed on scholarship in the 2010-11 season.

#32 Fallon Ellis

- Guard/Forward
- 5'11"
- Sophomore



As a freshman last season, Ellis played in 13 games, where she achieved two double-digit games and averaged 2.6 points per game. In high school, Ellis aided her team to a 39-1 record and went to back-to-back championships in a private school league.

#33 Chelsea Poppens

- Forward
- 6'2"
- Senior



One of three seniors starting this year for the women's team, Poppens has accumulated numerous awards and accolades throughout her three years at Iowa State. In 2011, Poppens achieved a unanimous selection to All-Big 12 selection team and earned an honorable mention to the Associated Press All-American team.

#34 Madison Baier

- Forward
- 6'4"
- Freshman



Baier is another incoming freshman who had a highlighted high school career. While in high school, Baier was placed in ESPN's Super 60 list at the 57th position. She was a four-year letterwinner averaging 15.8 points per game.

#42 Amanda Zimmerman

- Forward
- 6'1"
- Senior



Zimmerman is entering her final year as a Cyclone starter. Playing in 23 games, Zimmerman averaged 1.7 points per game. In high school, Zimmerman was named 2009 Iowa Miss Basketball and earned Class 3A Player-of-the-Year awards for the 2007-09 seasons.

#55 Anna Prins

- Center
- 6'7"
- Senior



The final senior starting for the Cyclones this season is Anna Prins. Prins started in just eight games, but saw action in 25. Prins missed the first five games of her junior season due to a knee injury but was still able to average 7.9 points per game while hauling in 4.4 rebounds per game. Prins also was on the Academic All-Big 12 First team the past two years.



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MEN'S ROSTER

#1 Bubu Palo

- Guard
- 6'1", 180 lbs.
- Redshirt junior

The lone Ames native on the squad, Palo saw court time in 21 games last season. Palo has been a fan-favorite since walking onto the team in 2009. However, it is unclear if Palo will play this season after coach Fred Hoiberg suspended him indefinitely after Palo turned himself in in September in the light of alleged sexual abuse charges.



#5 Cameron Fowler

- Guard
- 6'0", 165 lbs.
- Freshman

Another Detroit native, Fowler averaged 17.2 points and eight assists per game as a senior at U-D Jesuit. His numbers led him to being selected to the Detroit News' Third-Team All-PSL Metro team in 2012.



#13 Korie Lucious

- Guard
- 5'11", 170 lbs.
- Redshirt senior

This Michigan State transfer is still remembered by many for his game-winner against Maryland in the 2010 NCAA tournament. During his time with the Spartans, however, Lucious played behind All-Big 10 point guard Kalin Lucas. Coach Fred Hoiberg said that will not be the case this year, and Lucious anticipates a fast-paced offense with him at the helm.



#24 Percy Gibson

- Forward
- 6'9", 260 lbs.
- Sophomore

Gibson finished four blocks behind Booker as a freshman last season. The fourth Detroit native on the team, Gibson averaged 4.8 points and 2.0 rebounds in his first year with the team. The lefty was also Iowa State's most efficient scorer, shooting 65.6 percent from the field.



#2 Chris Babb

- Guard
- 6'5", 225 lbs.
- Senior

During the 2011-2012 season, Babb was the basketball equivalent of a shutdown cornerback in football. More often than not, the Penn State transfer was elected to contain the opponent's top scorer. On the offensive end, Babb averaged nearly eight points and four rebounds per contest while finishing third on the team in three-point shots made.



#10 Aaron Law

- Guard
- 5'11", 175 lbs.
- Redshirt freshman

Law is one of two Cyclones on this season's squad that hail from Tilton School. Tilton, a New Hampshire prep school, has produced a slew of college basketball players including ISU freshman Georges Niang and No. 1 recruit Nerlens Noel (Kentucky). Law sat out last season redshirting.



#15 Naz Long

- Guard
- 6'4", 210 lbs.
- Freshman

Long comes in to Iowa State after bouncing around the prep school scene, including stop a stop at Findlay Prep. At the team's media day, Hoiberg called Long a combo-guard and said there is the potential to run a two-guard system with Long and Lucious. The Canada native was ranked the No. 7 player in Canada according to North Pole Hoops.



#25 Tyrus McGee

- Guard
- 6'2", 205 lbs.
- Senior

As Iowa State's sixth man, McGee provided the spark off the bench. He averaged 7.7 points and knocked down 50 3-pointers in his first Cyclone season. Against Oklahoma State, the native Oklahoman recorded career highs in points with 20 and 3-pointers with six.



#3 Melvin Ejim

- Forward
- 6'6", 230 lbs.
- Junior

After training with the Nigerian National Team this summer, Ejim returns for his junior season with the cardinal and gold. The utility player averaged over nine points and six rebounds last year to earn a Big 12 Honorable Mention. With Royce White gone, Ejim will see chances to increase his post presence even more and continue to increase his numbers.



#11 Nkereuwem Okoro

- Guard
- 6'5", 230 lbs.
- Freshman

Ranked the third-best player in New York City for the class of 2012, Okoro averaged over 15 points per game for St. Raymond in the Bronx, N.Y. In the championship game, Okoro's 21 points and 10 rebounds earned him MVP honors. On media day Hoiberg raved about Okoro's athleticism he brings on the defensive side of the court.



#21 Will Clyburn

- Guard
- 6'7", 210 lbs.
- Redshirt senior

Clyburn comes into the season rated as one of the best transfers in the country. At 6-foot-7 with a 3-point shot, fans will see Clyburn taking a lot of shots outside of the paint, but Hoiberg said his rebounding is what he is most excited about. Clyburn led Utah in points (17.1) and rebounds (7.8) per game.



#31 Georges Niang

- Forward
- 6'7", 245 lbs.
- Freshman

Niang averaged over 25 points and seven rebounds at Tilton School during his senior season en route to being a consensus top-100 recruit. While at Tilton School, Niang competed against No. 1 recruit Nerlens Noel every day in practice, which Hoiberg believes helped prepare him for the Big 12.



#4 Sherron Dorsey-Walker

- Guard
- 6'4", 190 lbs.
- Freshman

Sherron Dorsey-Walker not only brings one of the best talents out of Michigan in 2012, he brings brains, too. The class valedictorian at Pershing High School in Detroit turned down offers from Baylor, Indiana and hometown Michigan to come to Iowa State and was the 24th-best shooting guard in his class.



#12 Austin McBeth

- Guard
- 6'1", 175 lbs.
- Senior

As a three-sport athlete in high school, McBeth went on to choose Iowa Western so he could play football in college. McBeth transferred out of Iowa Western and into Iowa State after one season and walked on to the ISU football and basketball teams. The Cedar Rapids, Iowa, native saw playing time in six games last season, notching two rebounds and one assist.



#22 Anthony Booker

- Forward
- 6'9", 255 lbs.
- Redshirt senior

Booker is the leader of the post players for the Cyclones. After transferring from Southern Illinois in 2010, Booker made his Iowa State debut last season and finished second on the team with 18 blocked shots. Booker made 45 percent of his shots from beyond the arc last season, but added his main focus was rebounding and post play in 2012-13.



#33 Tyler Ellerman

- Forward
- 6'8", 240 lbs.
- Junior

The Dallas Center-Grimes alum posted 15.1 points and 8.2 rebounds as a high school senior in 2010. Ellerman joined the Cyclones as a walk-on this summer when the team was in need of some bigger post players. Ellerman played in the Capital City League this summer with some of his new teammates.



SIX GAMES TO WATCH

Men's

1. Oklahoma State, Jan. 18

The Cyclone-Cowboys series last season was everything but mundane. During the first game at Hilton, Scott Christopherson banked in a buzzer-beater 3-pointer to seal the 72-68 victory.



In the second go around, it was Oklahoma State that came up clutch. With the game tied at 67, freshman LeBryan Nash drained a jumper with four seconds left to steal the game. This year, ranked No. 10 in his class, freshman OSU shooting guard Marcus Smart could emerge as one of the best players in the conference.

2. Baylor, Feb. 2

One of three Big 12 teams ranked in the coaches poll, No. 18 Baylor is sure to give fans an exciting battle at Hilton Coliseum. The

Cyclones and Bears split the series last season. Baylor returns senior guard Pierre Jackson, who put on a shooting clinic against the Cyclones in Iowa State's 80-72 victory last season. Baylor also brings in 7-foot freshman Isaiah Austin, ranked No. 3 in the country.



3. Kansas, Feb. 25

As always, Kansas will likely be the most anticipated game this season. Iowa State's 72-64 win against then-No. 5 Kansas last year put the team in the ISU record books for the first top-5 win since 1995.

The Jayhawks are ranked No. 7 coming into the season and return 7-footer Jeff Withey and guard Travis Releford. Kansas also adds two recruits in ESPN's top 50 including McDonald's All-American Perry Ellis.



Women's

1. Baylor, Jan. 23

Iowa State's date with the Baylor Bears on Jan. 23 will give Cyclone fans a chance to watch arguably one of the most talented women's college basketball teams in the history of the sport.

The Bears were 40-0 last season with a national championship and return practically everyone including all-american Brittney Griner and All-Big 12 performer Odyssey Sims.



2. West Virginia (WBCA Play 4Kay), Feb. 17

Big 12 newcomer West Virginia will serve as Iowa State's opponent in the annual WBCA Play 4Kay "Pink Game," in which the coaches raise awareness for breast can-



cer. This will be the Mountaineers first trip to Hilton Coliseum with the Cyclones going to Morgantown on Jan. 26.

The two teams have played each other once in their school histories with West Virginia defeating Iowa State 64-53 on Nov. 27, 2010, at the Paradise Jam Tournament in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

3. Kansas, Feb. 27

After splitting games with the Jayhawks last season, the Cyclones will make a trip to Lawrence on Jan. 30 before hosting Kansas on Feb. 27 in Iowa State's second-to-last home game of the season.

This game could very well determine which team finishes where in the Big 12 standings as the two squads are projected to be in a similar position in the league.



>>TRANSFERS.p3

efficiently.

"I think last year we slowed it down a lot to get it in our half court offense, but I think this year with Korie running the one [and] me and Will running the wings, we'll be able to get a lot more in transition," said ISU shooting guard Chris Babb. "Korie is one of the fastest guards with the ball that I've ever seen. And he's really quick and has good court vision, so I think we'll be able to run a lot more transition."

Babb, who many, including his coach Hoiberg, believed was overlooked and left off the All-Big 12 defensive team, might be getting overlooked on his own team.

Babb only mustered 32 percent behind the 3-point line making 64 of those shots. He did, however, make "timely" shots, Hoiberg said, which includes him canning a 3-pointer sealing Iowa State's 72-64 win against No. 5 Kansas.

"The thing that I was so impressed with Chris last year is how well when his shot wasn't

"That's what I expected when I was fan who grew up here walking to Hilton Coliseum when I was a ball boy. There's such excitement now with Iowa State athletics, and we hope to contribute to that."

Fred Hoiberg, ISU men's basketball coach

falling, he'd still have an impact on the game," Hoiberg said. "Although he didn't make the All-Big 12 defensive team, I thought he was as good a versatile defender not only in the Big 12, but in the country."

Alongside Babb on the wing will be Melvin Ejim, who was a utility player for Iowa State last year.

Ejim averaged over nine points and six rebounds per game, playing anywhere from the wing to guarding Kansas' All-American Thomas Robinson and holding him to two of his lowest scoring totals of the season.

Two other seniors vying for a starting spot along four candidates — Lucious, Clyburn, Babb and Ejim — are Anthony

Booker and Tyrus McGee, Hoiberg hinted.

Both players came off the bench for Iowa State last year, contributing in their own respective ways.

McGee was the sixth-man for Iowa State last year and provided the energy off the bench, averaging 7.7 points per game, while hitting 39 percent of his 3-pointers, most notoriously the shot which tied the game with Oklahoma State 68-68 before Scott Christopherson banked in the game-winner.

Booker averaged 3.5 points per game along with 2.9 rebounds per game.

Iowa State fans will mostly remember the big man for

stretching the floor and draining 16 3-pointers at a 42-percent rate.

Hoiberg said he expects both Booker and sophomore lefty Percy Gibson to contribute exponentially under the hoop.

"I'm excited about our post players," Hoiberg said.

"Booker has shown a nose for the ball in the workouts. Percy has really developed his body. He had a lot of baby fat coming in, and he's done a good job getting after it and adding lean muscle."

Regardless of how Hoiberg decides to mix and match this team on the floor, he believes what they have as a team will be something that's easy to get excited about and root for this upcoming year.

"Last year we took it to a new level, and that's what I expect out of us," Hoiberg said. "That's what I expected when I was fan who grew up here walking to Hilton Coliseum when I was a ball boy. There's such excitement now with Iowa State athletics, and we hope to contribute to that."

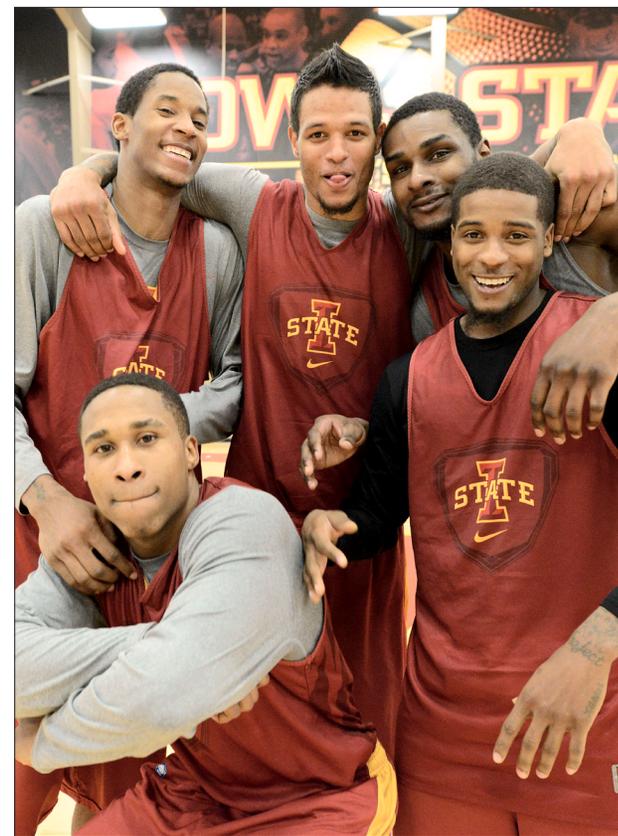


Photo: Huiling Wu/Iowa State Daily
Five seniors on the ISU men's basketball team, all transfers, each have experienced Hilton Coliseum sitting in the stands. Now they are ready for their final season, their grand finale.

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