Herald & Review

Decatur, Illinois

COMMENTARY



• LITKE •

Enis case doesn't

Illinois thumps Hawkeyes in Iowa

By MARK TUPPER

H&R Executive Sports Editor

IOWA CITY, Iowa - There's no sure formula for bringing instant ecstasy to Illini basketball fans. But most would agree beating Indiana and Iowa back-to-back is as good a way as any.

Illinois — a 10-point underdog pulled off that improbable double dip Thursday night at Carver-Hawkeye Arena, shattering a second-half tie with a powerful 23-6 run that led to a 76-64 victory over 11th-ranked Iowa.

The Illini showed great patience against Iowa's formidable pressure defense and near perfect balance offensively. Jerry Hester led a quartet of players in double figures with 20 points. Matt Heldman added 19, Kevin Turner 17 and freshman Sergio McClain a career-best 14 points.

"I'm really proud of our guys for hanging in there when it was 44-44," Illini coach Lon Kruger said. "We got a couple of baskets and were able to widen that margin. Any time you can go on the road and beat an outstanding club like Iowa, you feel good about it." No Illini fan would disagree, especially since the victory followed by five days Illinois' 74-72 triumph

over Indiana and improves its record to10-5, including 2-0 in the Big Ten Conference standings. Iowa lost for just the second time in 15 games.

It was a contest in which the Illini never trailed, but were tied

Maybe it was because Kruger pumped ear-deafening crowd noise into the Assembly Hall this week in preparation for Illinois' trip here.

McClain scored on a run-out and Hester drilled a 3-pointer to make it 49-44.

After stealing the ball from Iowa freshman Ricky Davis, Heldman scored past Davis at the other end to make it 51-44.

And after Davis answered with a basket for Iowa, Hester drained another 3-pointer from the corner to give Illinois a 54-46 lead. And a third Hester 3-pointer made it

the normally loyal Iowa fans were heading for the snowy parking lot with more than four minutes left in the game.

Illinois jumped to a 7-0 lead but lowa reeled off seven unanswered to tie the game 7-7 with 13:37 left in the first half.

But Turner's 3-pointer and a basket by McClain gave Illinois a 12-7 advantage, a lead it held the rest of the half.

Illinois' biggest lead in the first half came at 38-30 with 10 seconds left in the period when McClain nailed a 3-pointer just before the shot clock expired. Illinois shot 53.8 percent in the first half compared to Iowa's 33.3. After Turner picked up his second personal foul, Illinois played without their leading scorer for the final 3:47 of the first half half. Turner scored 10 points in the half and Illinois increased its lead

from four points to six despite Turner's first-half rest.

Friday, January 9,1998

Iowa, which began the game as the Big Ten's 3-point shooting leader, was 0-for-8 from 3-point range in the first half.

Illinois gets another chance to win on the road Saturday when it takes on Northwestern at 7 p.m. in Evanston.

ILLINOIS 76, IOWA 64 Illinois (10-5)

Hester 7-11 2-3 20, Johnson 1-1 0-0 2, Gee 1-3 0-0 2, Heldman 5-9 6-7 19, Turner 7-18 0-0 17, Chukwudebe 0-2 0-0 0, Davis 0-0 0-0 0, Boline 0-0 0-0 0, McClain 5-9 3-4 14, Storey 1-2 0-0 2, Beyers 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 27-55 11-14 76. lowa (13-2)

Bowen 3-6 8-11 14, Moore 2-6 2-3 6, Rucker 2-4 2-2 6, Oliver 3-10 4-4 11, Davis 5-14 1-2 12, Bauer 0-0 0-0 0, Luehrsmann 1-5 0-0 2, Galloway 0-2 0-0 0, McCasuland 3-8 0-0 9, Koch 2-3 0-0 4, Terrones 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 21-58 17-22 64. Halftime-Illinois 38, Iowa 32. 3-Point goals-Illinois 11-22 (Hester 4-6, Heldman 3-7, Turner 3-8, McClain 1-1), Iowa 5-21 (McCausland 3-7, Oliver 1-3, Davis 1-6, Moore 0-1, Luehrsmann 0-2, Galloway 0-2). Fouled out-None. Rebounds-Illinois 32 (Heldman 6), Iowa 38 (Bowen, Moore 9). Assists-Illinois 15 (Johnson 5), Iowa 16 (Luehrsmann 7). Total fouls-Illinois 20, Iowa 15. A-15,500.

help agents

Put two college coaches in the same room this week and sooner rather than later, this joke will find its way into the conversation.

"What do you have when you've got an agent buried up to his neck in sand?"

Pause.

"Not enough sand."

If it wasn't clear earlier, the success of "Jerry Maguire" should have made it clear by now that very few sports agents conduct their affairs anything like the title character.

Much more in line with what happens in the real world (and the reason so many college coaches have their antennae tuned to high at the moment) is what happened recently with a little-known agent named Jeff Nalley and a very wellknown running back from Penn State named Curtis Enis.

DAYS BEFORE his team was set to play in the Citrus Bowl last month, a Pennsylvania TV station ran a story that Nalley took Enis shopping earlier and bought him a \$325 suit and \$75 shirt.

Because it was a direct violation of NCAA rules, Enis, an otherwise model citizen as athletes go, lied to everyone who asked about it, including Penn State coach Joe Paterno. Nalley was even more aggressive, claiming it was a case of mistaken identity and vaguely threatening the TV station. Although there's more than enough blame to go around, Nalley is the one who appears to be in big trouble now. Penn State President Graham Spanier on Tuesday asked two local district attorneys to prosecute Nalley for allegedly breaking a little-used state law that makes it illegal to "give, offer or promise anything of value to a student athlete ... before the student athlete's eligibility for collegiate athletics expires."

twice — at 7-7 and again at 44-44 with 13:49 to play.

At that point, with Iowa's pressing defense heating up and a sellout crowd screaming to turn the tides, Illinois responded decisively.

57-46 with 8:09 to play.

"Kevin Turner has been shooting the ball so well and Matt Heldman shot it well early," Hester said. "I'm the third guy, and they just left me open." Illinois' lead grew to 67-50 and

Lin

Gillibrand labors for losing team

St. Teresa has struggled to a 1-11 record this season.

By SCOTT KOBER H&R Staff Writer

It's possible that if Todd Gillibrand got to shoot the ball 15 or 20 times in a game, he'd be a 25-point scorer for St. Teresa's boys basketball team.

He just hadn't had the chance.

It's not that Gillibrand, a 6-3 forward, is too unselfish or lacks confidence in his shot, it's just that he hardly touches the ball more than 20 times a game on offense. That's what happens when you're a post player stuck on a team with inexperienced guards who aren't able to get you the ball enough.

A nice rebound

Packer receiver enjoys success after suffering knee injury last season.

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) -Flanker Robert Brooks, who missed the Green Bay Packers' Super Bowl run last year with a shredded right knee, insists he enjoyed the ride as much as anybody.

Antonio Freeman knows better.

"There has to be a void not playing in the Super Bowl but yet your team winning," said Freeman, who teamed with Brooks this season to give the Packers two 1,000-yard receivers for the first time.

Brooks might feel that hollowness in his heart, but he's not letting on.

NALLEY COULD FACE a fine of \$10,000 and a sentence of up to a year in prison if convicted of the misdemeanor.

Enis, meanwhile, has announced his intention to turn pro and is blithely on his way to becoming a millionaire.

"The irony in all this," said agent Leigh Steinberg, on whom "Jerry Maguire" was loosely based, "is that the whole agent business, and especially the selection process, is at the absolute highest level it's been since I got into the business."

That was almost 25 years ago, when it wasn't unusual for top college prospects to take cash and clothing, even cars, from two or three agents at the same time. Some agents were connected to organized crime. The federal government finally stepped in by prosecuting two of the best-known renegades, Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom, on racketeering charges in the mid-1980s. **AS FRESH SCANDALS** remind us all the time — think of Marcus Camby, Joey Galloway and Michael Myers, to name a few it didn't clean up the business entirely. Far from it. Still, it's not that there aren't effective safeguards in place. Every major college in the country not only goes over the applicable NCAA rules, but tests athletes on their knowledge of them. And in what represents real progress, the NCAA has even tried to cut down on temptation. It has begun supplying some money and loosened the restrictions on when and how member schools can provide financial help. Plenty of the people in the profession come by their bad name honestly enough. The Enis case isn't going to make it any easier for the rest.

He said that if the Packers beat the San Francisco 49ers Sunday and earn a return trip to the title game, Edgar Bennett and Craig Newsome deserve some of the credit even though they've missed the entire season with leg injuries.

"Some guys are going to miss it this year, but they're still a part of the team," Brooks said. "They helped build what we have right now. What we're building right now didn't happen overnight. It didn't happen last year.

"It happened years before when we were struggling and we were going down to Dallas and getting beat and having that bad feeling that came from those games."

But Freeman said that should the Packers get to San Diego, Brooks will find out it's not the same standing on the sideline in



BOUNCES BACK: Last year Packers wide receiver Robert Brooks missed the rest of the season when he hurt his knee in the opener. This year he had more than 1,000 yards receiving.

street clothes and hearing your name announced as a Super Bowl starter.

"It's like when you don't have something, you don't know what you're missing," Freeman said. "But once you get it, you realize how special it is. Until we get Robert to the Super Bowl, he won't know how special it was because he's never really been a part of it."

At least not in the way he wanted.

After surgery, Brooks was told he could go home to Scottsdale, Ariz., but he stuck around Green

Bay, going to meetings and practices between rehab.

"We kept him involved,"

Freeman said. "There were instances I needed Robert's advice, Andre Rison needed his advice. So, he was there for us. He was definitely very much a part of it."

Brooks was injured on a freak play against San Francisco on Oct. 14, 1996. While blocking cornerback Tyrone Drakeford, he tore the anterior cruciate and medial collateral ligaments, ripped his patella tendon and sustained significant bone chip

and cartilage damage.

Miraculously, he returned to his flanker position only 10 months later and caught 60 passes for 1,010 yards, a teambest 16.8-yard average and seven touchdowns this season.

Associated Press

"My goal was to be back in the time and fashion I've been back this season," Brooks said. This season, Brooks sustained concussions against Dallas and Detroit, missing a game with a cracked rib and playing with recurring back spasms and torn finger ligaments that will require offseason surgery.

"If you put Todd with the group of guards we had last year, you'd be hearing a lot more about him," St. Teresa coach Gary Tidwell said. "It gets to the point in some games where Todd takes shots even if they're not good ones just because he's not seeing the ball much. But sometimes a bad shot

VWW KE

(100.)

Gillibrand

15 a game

- for Todd is still a good shot for us.

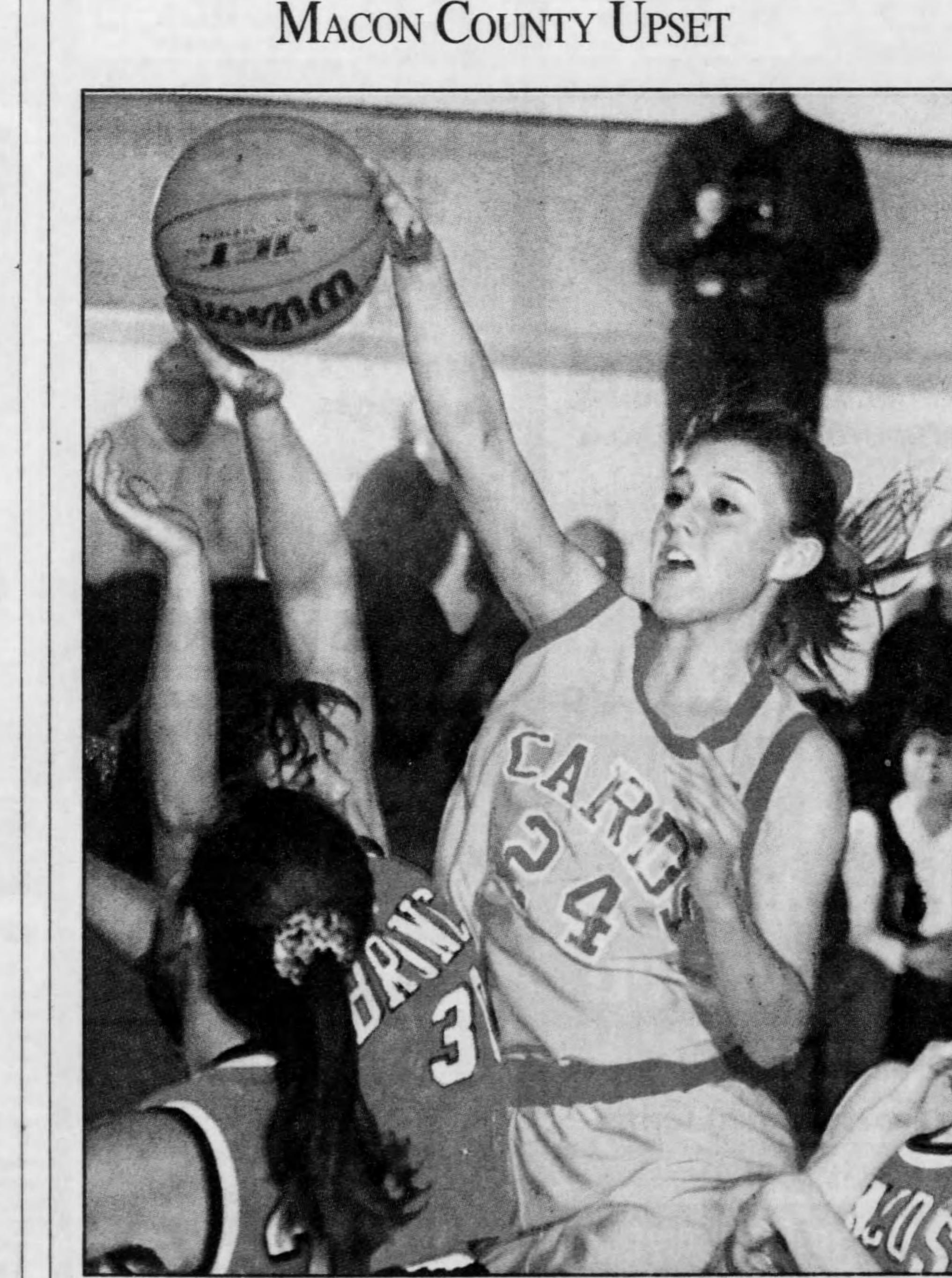
The Bulldogs are off to a 1-11 start. And that's with Gillibrand, who averages about 15 points a game, in the lineup. Because without him, well...

"It could be really ugly if we

didn't have him," Tidwell said.

As it is, Tidwell said Gillibrand is handling himself remarkably well for a good player stuck on a bad team. Last season, Gillibrand was merely a role player for the 16-13 Bulldogs, although he did average 10.4 points a game. He's in the spotlight this year, and receiving good reviews despite the poor overall performance of his team.

"Todd's come a long way in one year," Tidwell said. "He worked extremely hard in the offseason to become a better shooter and rebounder. Right now, he's our first option and only option."



Lincoln girls no match for mighty Taylorville **By JAMES S. TYREE**

H&R Staff Writer

LINCOLN — Some people are humbled by misfortune, others by observing awesome forces of nature.

Ed Moore had the misfortune Thursday night of having his Lincoln girls basketball team go up against the Taylorville Tornadoes. Taylorville led by 34 points after three quarters before settling for a 68-47 victory. Taylorville ended the first quarter with a 15-0 spurt and began the second half with a crushing 15-0 run. The first-quarter run turned Taylorville's narrow 8-7 lead into a 23-8 advantage and the second major rally put the Tornadoes ahead 57-23. "It was a humbling experience," he said. "It humbled me. I expected us to play better." Both Taylorville (15-1) and Lincoln (13-2) entered the game at 5-0 in the Central State Eight conference. Allison Curtin overcame a mediocre first half and scored 29 points. After missing seven of 10 shots in the first half, Curtin scored 13 points in the third quarter including 11 during the rally. Taylorville survived Curtin's slow start by forcing 23 first-half turnovers that led to several transition baskets. Lora Weber and Misty Enlow combined to score 10 points in the first quarter and Jenny Weber added a 3-pointer. Lincoln started the second quarter with a 9-2 run that cut its deficit to 25-16. Four Railsplitters scored baskets while holding the

Tornadoes scorless from the field in the quarter's first $31/_2$ minutes. Jenny Weber's layup and second 3-pointer helped Taylorville double its smallest second-quarter lead to 18 points by halftime. "I was playing like I usually do," said Jenny Weber, who scored 10 points. "If I was open, I just shot.' The Tornadoes immediately blew away Lincoln's hope for a second-half comeback by pressing the Railsplitters to death. For five minutes into the third quarter, Taylorville's stifling defense fueled its 15-0 rally while limiting Lincoln to five field goal attempts. Curtin scored 11 of her 13 thirdquarter points during the run. Lora Weber, who ended the game with 12 points, added a free throw and layup that followed her own steal and Jenny Weber sank a jump shot.

Jim Litke is a sports columnist for The Associated Press.

Herald & Review/Kelly J. Huff

Warrensburg-Latham's Carissa Brown tries to pass the ball against Cerro Gordo's Amanda Kendall, who gets a hand on the ball to force a Cardinal turnover. Cerro Gordo defeated the Macon County Girls Basketball Tournament's top-ranked team Thursday at Meridian High School. Details/B3.

"That's our quarter," Curtin

TAYLORVILLE

Continued on B2

TAYLORVILLE 68, LINCOLN 47 Taylorville (68)

A.Curtin 29, Enlow 13, S. Curtin 3, J.Weber 10, L.Weber 12, Mills 2, Givens 4, Payne 0, McFarland 0, Bilyeu 0, Salisbury 0, Specha 0. Totals 24-18.

Lincoln (47)

Lincoln

Bruce 7, Reichle 19, Harmer 0, Bossingham 12, McCuan 0, Oller 5, Humbert 4, Graff 0, Sheley 0, Hahn 0. Totals 18-5.

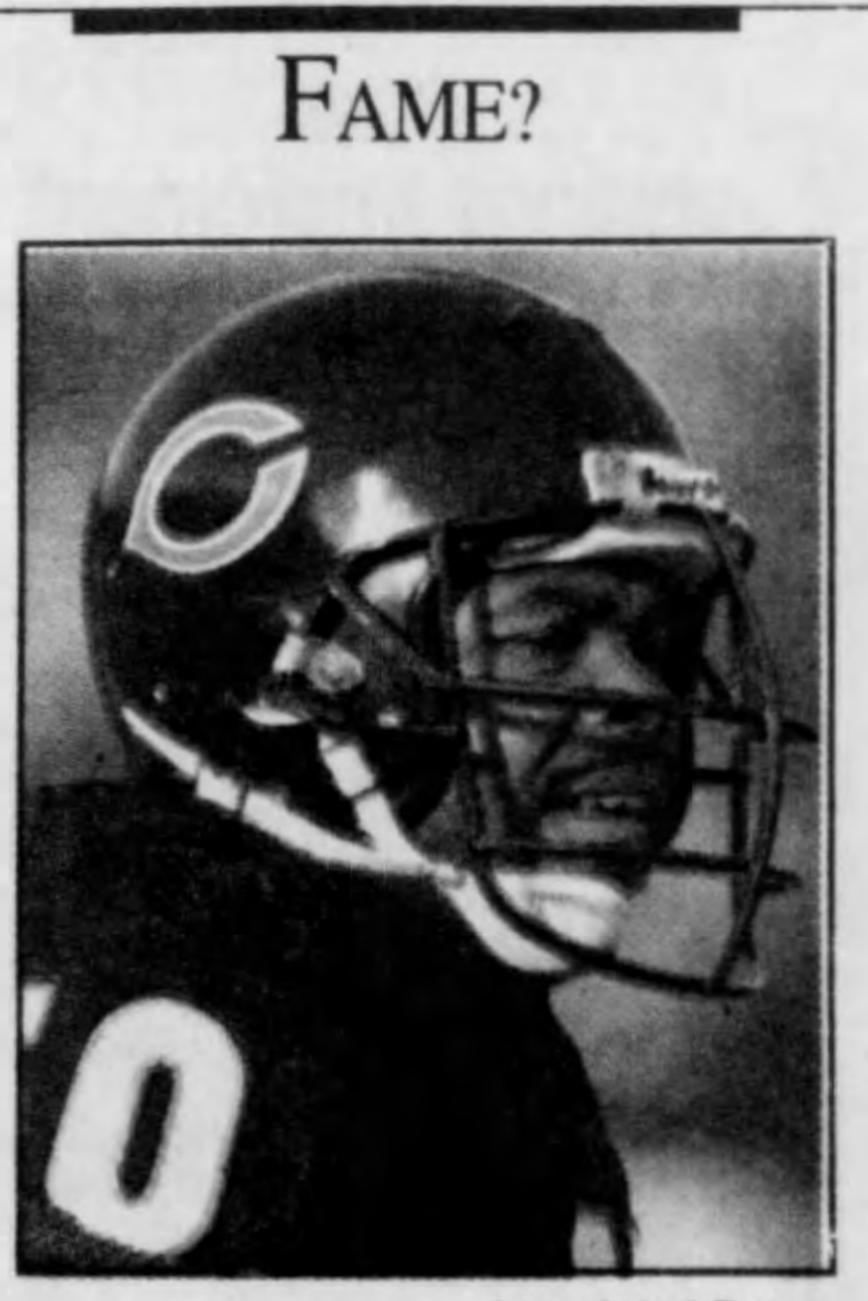
Taylorville

3-point goals - For Taylorville, J.Weber 2. For Lincoln, Bossingham 4, Reichle, Oller. HIGHLIGHTS - For Taylorville, Allison Curtin

had 6 rebounds. For Lincoln, Bruce had 7 rebounds. (Taylorville - 15-1, 6-0 Central State Eight; next: Saturday vs. Springfield Sacred Heart-Grif-fin. Lincoln — 13-2, 5-1 Central State 8; next: Monday vs. Springfield Lanphier.)

If only he could get the ball a little bit more.

"I think he's a little bit frustrated," Tidwell said. "If we could just get to the point where the ball could get inside a bit more, everyone would benefit."



Associated Press Former Bears linebacker Mike Singletary is a finalist for the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Details/B4.