



Cyclone Sidelights

By Tom Vint
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If one man stood out on Iowa State's early basketball success it would have to be "Mr. Steady," Bill Cain, the Cyclones' 6-6 center.

As one of the smallest teams in major college basketball this season, Iowa State seemed to be headed for one of those long seasons. But with Cain's sparking offensive punch, Coach Glen Anderson's crew ripped off five straight wins in the first games before bowing to Illinois and Northern Illinois over the weekend.



Bill Cain

In the first seven games Bill has averaged 21.9 points per game. His season high thus far was 33 against South Dakota State and his season low was just nine points against a big and rugged Illinois club.

"He's had a good start this season," Coach Anderson commented. "He's been rebounding pretty well, plays offense pretty well and he's good on defense. It's just been his all-around play that's been helping us along."

Besides the 21-point average, Cain has been averaging 11.3 rebounds per game. For a man of 6-6 Bill can out-jump most anyone and if blocked shot statistics were available it could be proved.

He's a ball hawk under the basket both on offense and defense. He can tip in two points for ISU or block an opponent's shot with equal ability and he gets called for goal tending nearly every game so you know he can jump.

Cain's steady play has helped the Cyclones gel early in the season. The team has surprised at least five of its opponents thus far and more surprises are to come, according to Bill.

"This year we are going to surprise a lot of people," Cain stated about the upcoming Big Eight season. "The going will be tough. There will be no such thing as an edge going into any ball game."

First the Cyclones have to face a quick and hot shooting Drake outfit tonight in the Armory. Bill has a little personal thing going on this game.

"I have this thing going with Al Williams (Drake's center)," Cain said. "We do a lot of kidding as to who is the better team. Now we get to see."

The two losses this week might have slowed the Iowa Staters down some, however. "We had a let down," Cain explained, "not in team play but in attitude. We are looking forward to Drake though. Even if we hadn't lost those two games, we would have been up for Drake."

The Drake-ISU contest has always been a rough and closely-fought battle and Cain will have to be the key to keeping Iowa State close this season.

The Cyclone center will be called upon to keep Coach Anderson's crew in the game on rebounds in addition to his scoring. Drake has several men taller than Bill as has been the case with every other team the Cyclones have faced.

The added pressure put on Cain this season just hasn't seemed to affect him that much except that he is getting better. With All-American Don Smith gone, Bill had to take most of the defensive pressure from the other teams as well as most of the offensive duties of the big man for Iowa State.

His performances thus far have proved he is the ball player capable of doing the job and doing it well.