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Men's Basketball Meets Youngstown State In Horizon League Tournament Action On Friday

Third-seeded Flames battle #7 Penguins at US Cellular Arena in Milwaukee, Wis., at 7:30 p.m.

March 5, 2003

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#3 UIC (20-7)

at 2003 HORIZON LEAGUE TOURNAMENT

vs. #7 Youngstown State (9-19)

Friday, March 7, 2003

US Cellular Arena * 7:30 p.m.

TV/Radio: ESPN Radio 1000 AM

SETTING THE SCENE: Third-seeded UIC locks horns with #7 Youngstown State in second round action at the 2003 Horizon League Tournament in Milwaukee, Wis., on Friday. The Flames, who earned a first-round bye, are the defending tournament champions, and enter this year's event on a season-best tying five-game winning streak. UIC, which

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Head Coach Jimmy Collins leads the Flames into the Horizon League Tournament on Friday.

has not played a neutral court game this year, has never lost to the Penguins. YSU already has a tournament win under its belt, having disposed of UW-Green Bay in first-round action on Tuesday night.

QUARTERFINAL OPPONENT - #7 Youngstown State

Series: UIC leads 8-0

Last Time We Met: 3/1/03 - UIC 73, YSU 47 (UIC Pavilion)

Fast Fact: The Flames unblemished record versus YSU almost ended earlier this season when UIC escaped the Beeghly Center with a 78-76 victory. The Flames trailed by one late, but won on a three-pointer by [Cedrick Banks](#) with 33 seconds left.

FLAMES IN THE POSTSEASON: UIC owns an 18-17 all-time record in postseason league tournament action and has advanced to the semifinal round in 11 of its 18 appearances. The Flames are 6-4 in league tournament play under head coach [Jimmy Collins](#), including a tournament title in 2002 and a runner-up finish in 1997.

LIFE AS THE #3 SEED: This is the fourth time in UIC's 18 postseason league tournament appearances that they have been the No. 3 seed at the event. The last three times the Flames were the third-seeded team they advanced all the way to the finals, before settling for a runner-up finish. Overall, UIC is 7-4 as the No. 3 seed. Most recently, the Flames were the No. 3 seed for the 1997 league tournament, where they defeated Northern Illinois and Cleveland State in the first two rounds before falling by one point to Butler in the title game.

MARTELL'S NO. 1: Junior [Martell Bailey](#) not only leads the Horizon League in assists, but the 5-foot-10 point guard also currently leads the nation in the category, averaging 8.4 helpers an outing.

POSTSEASON HONORS: UIC's junior trio of [Cedrick Banks](#), [Martell Bailey](#) and [Armond Williams](#) all earned spots on the 10-man All-Horizon League squad. Banks was named to the All-Horizon League First Team while both Bailey and Williams were All-Horizon League Second Team honorees. Banks, who was an all-league second team and all-newcomer team member last season, leads UIC in scoring (19.9 ppg) while he is third on the team in rebounding (4.9 rpg). Bailey, who was also an all-league newcomer team member last season, currently leads the nation in assists, averaging 8.4 helpers an outing. Williams earned all-league recognition after a breakout season. He leads UIC in rebounding (7.9 rpg), is second on the team in scoring (13.6 ppg) and he is fourth in the country in field goal percentage (66%).

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