

'Mismatched' Cleveland team takes on world

Quote of the week: "Life happens too fast for you ever to think about it. If you could just persuade people of this, but they insist on amassing information." — Kurt Vonnegut

Worst team in the NCAA tournament: Montana State. Honorable Mention: Drexel, Marist, and Texas Tech.

Worst mismatch in the first round: Cleveland State vs. Indiana. Upon learning that his team would be playing Indiana, Cleveland State coach Kevin Mackey said, "They want to get rid of us early." Yes folks, it's Cleveland State against the world. (The world is a prohibitive favorite, by the way.)

The Vikings — (whoever heard of a Viking in Cleveland? Joe Kapp wouldn't be caught dead there — like to run and gun and play a full-court press. Listen? Hear that? It's Indiana shaking in their boots. Steve Alford will break that press as easily as I broke my leg.

Goodwin's Bad Ones

One more thing about Cleveland State. How can you take any team seriously that comes from something called the Association of Mid-Continent Universities? Actually, it's the AMCU 8, that being, in the words of the Cleveland State media guide, a "more athletic sounding name."

Come on now. This league has its headquarters in Green Bay and its postseason tournament in Springfield, Mo. We all know what a sports mecca Springfield is, don't we?

Actually, Duke vs Mississippi Valley State is the biggest mismatch of the tournament — probably the biggest since Poland went up against Germany. But I didn't bet on that game.

For college basketball fans, this is a great weekend (and even if you're not a college basketball fan it can still be a great weekend, since St. Pat's Day is only three days away).

A lot of you out there probably are reading this in your Sociology 153 class (or the bathroom) and wishing you could watch those games on ESPN. Well, then do it. I mean don't skip a test or anything, but short of that, feel free to enjoy those games. Hey, your professors would if they could, some of them, at least.

For what it's worth, I pick North Carolina to win the NCAA tournament, but almost anyone except for Nebraska and Cleveland State could take it.

People sometimes ask me what makes me an expert on this stuff. It reminds me a little of "The Wizard of Oz."

"I want to be a sportswriter," says the overweight, cigar-chomping man.

"Back where I come from," says the Wizard, "we have people like you who sit on barstools all day and talk about nothing but sports. They call them sportswriters but they have something you don't have — press guides. They don't tell you anything about basketball or football but they do tell you about the players. So you know that some obscure reserve guard for Dayton likes to eat seafood. That's not important unless you actually meet him someday but if you should run into him at a cocktail party you'll have something to talk about. Which is what college is all about — preparing you to make your way in the Cocktail Party Of Life."

So there you have it friends — the key to sportswriting. And you read it here first.

The Pros

1. New York Knicks. They weren't very good with Patrick Ewing. Without him.
 2. Indiana Pacers. The Pacers were on CBS last Sunday. At CBS they call it Freddie Silverman's Revenge.
 3. Phoenix.
 4. Ft. Wayne Pistons.
 5. Baltimore Bullets.
 6. Syracuse Nationals.
 7. Philadelphia Warriors.
 8. Chicago Zephers.
 9. San Diego Rockets.
 10. Kansas City/Omaha Kings.
- Goodwin is an undeclared graduate student.

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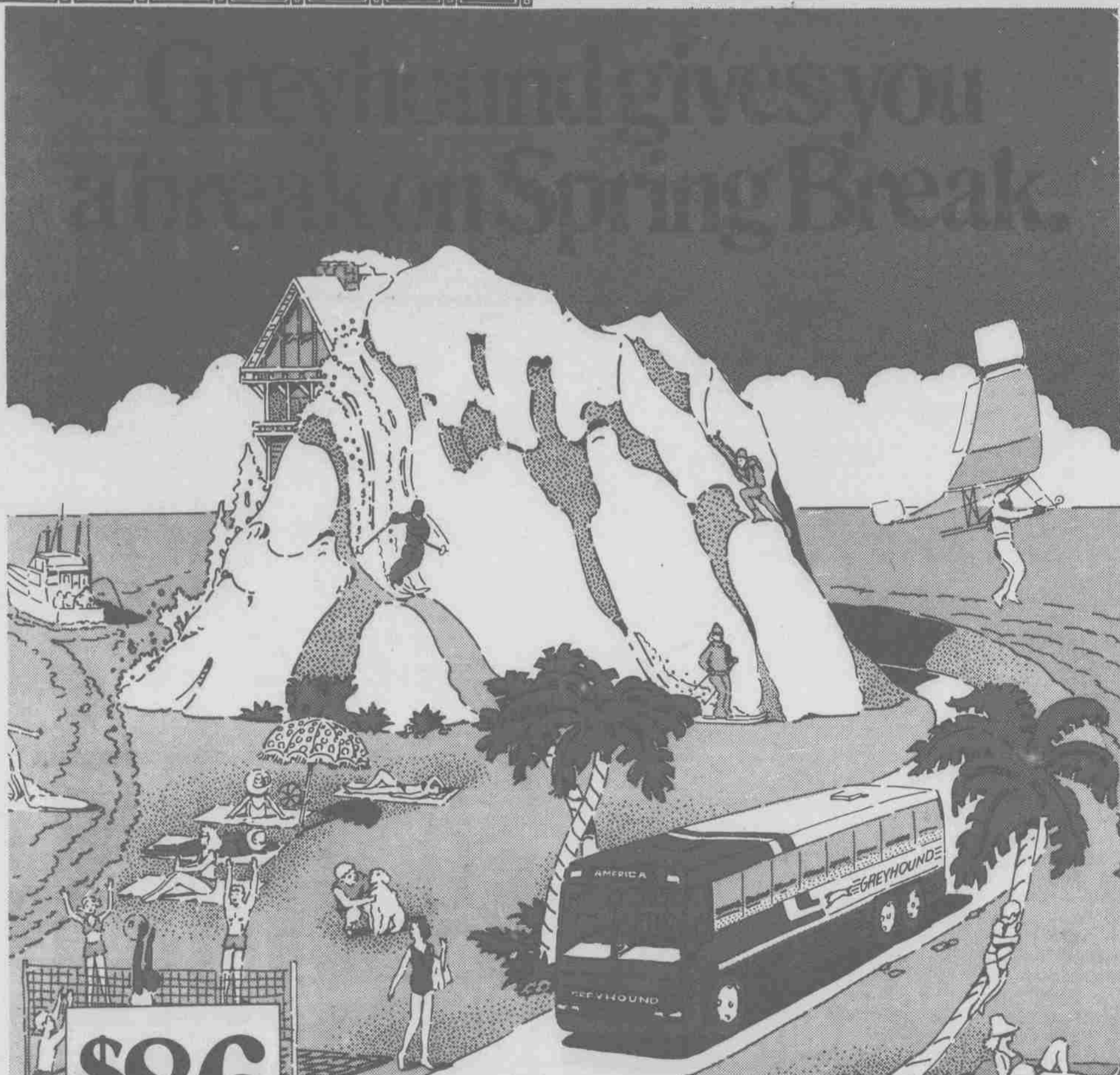
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