

Just My Opinion...

...but how many basketball experts can there really be. The only thing that really bugs me about March Madness is that every Dick, Jane and Boutros Boutros (I have to be culturally diverse!) all of a sudden becomes Dickey V BABY!

I can handle the selection shows, the endless debate over whether or not Georgia Tech was snubbed or why Kansas who lost the Big Eight tournament received a number one seed while UMass was given the number two seed in the east after winning the Atlantic 10 tournament.

The best thing about March Madness is that none of that really matters. The only things that one can predict is that it will truly be madness and that the ride will last until April 3. Before then powerhouses will be upset, cinderella teams will emerge and hopefully sports fans will be able to forget at least for awhile that baseball is presently being disgraced.

I think that it is perhaps divine intervention that in a sports year that has given us two labor stoppages and a hero accused of a vicious double murder we have been graced with perhaps the greatest college basketball season ever. The number one ranking seemed like a curse as poll-leaders switched like some zany game of king of the mountain.

When the smoked cleared (what a cliché) UCLA came out on top and Nova came in on the biggest roll winning 17 of their last 19 and their first Big East Tournament Championship.

Because I have a pulse and have access to a computer, I am one of the million or so experts that I alluded to earlier so here are some of my insights into this seasons version of Madness.

1. IT'S ALL IN THE ANKLE: North Carolina's futures depend on the injured ankle of Rasheed Wallace. They will easily cruise by Murray State in the first round, but will

hobble and fall to Florida in the second round.

2. THE TORTOISE AND THE BEAR THEORY: UCLA will cruise through the West bracket until they come across the steady Terrapins from Maryland. Led by my player of the year, Joe Smith and my favorite name in college basketball, Exree Hipp Maryland will shock the bay area in the Western Regional finals.

3. STAY OUT OF THE MUD: Although the Razorbacks lost in the SEC Conference finals, they are returning all five starters from last season's NCAA Championship team and have been hoggin up the opponents lately. They will do the same to the Jayhawks of Kansas in the other Kansas City at the finals of the Midwest regional.

4. BEWARE OF THE ROAR: The Wildcats of Kentucky and Villanova will bare their claws in the Seattle

Kingdome on April 3. This will be one of the most memorable finals in NCAA history. Kerry Kittles, Jason Lawson and the rest of the guys from the Philadelphia mainline will celebrate the tenth anniversary of their upset win over Georgetown with their second NCAA Championship.

PERSONAL PLEA:

Mike please come back. Although I am not happy that you could jeopardize Sir Charles run for his championship, the NBA needs you. I am sick of the prima donna 20 year olds that come out of college asking for \$100 million and then complaining when they realize they are expected to listen to their coach, show up for practice or god forbid, tie their shoes.

I was never a big fan of yours until you left. This time around I will appreciate you and your greatness. Like you care!

THE END OF A LEGEND:

This is the last season for the famed Boston Garden. As a Philadelphia sports fan, I have always been repulsed by the success of the Bruins and mostly, the Celtics.

Over break, I visited the Garden and was in absolute awe. The banners, the parquet floor, the gallery, the mystique and the asymmetrical seating are enough to win any fan over.

If you are a sports fan and have never experienced the Garden, pay homage to this mecca before it is destroyed.

MORAL PLEA OF THE WEEK:

Imagine how much we could lower the national debt or how many starving children we could feed if we took the money from all of the NCAA pools and donated it.

by **Matthew D. Cissne**
Collegian writer

March madness

Playing for Seattle

by **Nick Zulevich**
Assistant Sports Editor

Some say this is the best time of year. For basketball fans across the country, their craving for basketball will be satisfied with of the start of the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

The road to the championship game in Seattle begins this afternoon with games throughout the country.

This tournament highlights some of the best players in the country, starting with Randolph Childress. Childress, a senior shooting guard, almost single handedly won the ACC tournament for the Demon Deacons of Wake Forest. He scored 107 points setting a new ACC tournament record. By winning the ACC tournament Wake Forest earned the number one seed in the east region.

But Wake Forest is not a one man team, sophomore center Tim Duncan is considered to be one of the best post players in the country.

UCLA, the number one seed in the west region also has one of the best players in the country. Senior small forward Ed O'Bannon is considered to be one of the best transition basketball players in the country. UCLA's

great transition scheme is lead by their senior point guard Tyus Edney.

The list of star players continues with Joe Smith of Maryland, Jerry Stackhouse and Rasheed Wallace of North Carolina, Lou Roe and Marcus Camby of Massachusetts, Kerry Kittles of Villanova, and Shawn Respert of Michigan State. Wallace could not be a factor in this years tournament because of a severely sprained ankle suffered against Wake Forest in the ACC championship game.

But high class schools and players are not the only items to draw attention in this tournament. Florida International of the Trans-American conference enters this years tournament with the worst record of any team in 34 years. It enters the tournament with a record of 11-18.

There are some classic matchups that will take place in the first round either today or tomorrow.

In the east region, number eight seed Minnesota takes on the Billicans of St. Louis. St. Louis does not have a starter taller than 6'6".

Another interesting matchup in the east region is number five seed Alabama and number twelve seed Pennsylvania. The Quakers of Penn have not lost an Ivy League in two years as they take traditional SEC powerhouse Alabama.

Out in the west region, the Bearcats of Cincinnati take on John Chaney's Temple Owls. The matchup zone defense of Temple makes their opponents play a half court style game.

A surprise matchup in the west

features Mississippi State and surprise at-large bid Santa Clara. The decision to take Santa Clara into the tournament over some bigger name schools like Iowa and Georgia Tech was a surprise to many.

In the southeast region, its number six seed Georgetown against Xavier. This is a rematch of the 1992 first round game where the Musketeers knocked off

the heavily favored Hoyas. Once again the Hoyas are heavily favored.

The midwest region, pits Western Kentucky against Michigan. The Michigan "Fab-5", which went to the championship game two years ago, has only two members left, Ray Jackson and Jimmy King.

Also in the midwest region is the turmoiled troubled Arizona

against Miami of Ohio. Arizona's star guard Damon Stoudamire was momentarily suspended by the NCAA because his father accepted an airline ticket from sports agent Steve Feldman.

So the field of 64 appears to be as competitive as ever. So now all that sports fans have to do is to sit back and enjoy.

Golf

Hope for strong season

by **Jill Pauch**
Collegian Staff

Behrend's golf team swings into action on March 27th in the Westminster Tournament at the New Castle Country Club. Behrend returns eight players from last season's team.

The top two players are sophomore Dave Koster and junior Jamie Neumaier, both players shot in the mid to upper 80s. The team has only two other returning players in senior Todd McGlaughan and junior Steve Seidler.

The team has five new players, three of which are freshmen Joe Hurvitz, George Strickler, and Jim Stull. The other two are

senior Jim Morton and sophomore Adam DeAlessandro, who played soccer for Behrend last year.

"We need to work on our consistency," said Koster, "Five of us went to Myrtle Beach over break and got in some golf. The weather has allowed us to get in a lot of practice time as well."

The team's coach, Herb Lauffer, said about the team's goals, "We would like to be stronger and have better finishes this spring then we did in the fall. We're coming off a very strong fall season, so we really have to work to continue towards our goal." Koster echoed Lauffer's statements

Coach Lauffer didn't want to

narrow down any opponent and qualify them as the toughest, instead he wants to focus on his team. "We have to play good golf regardless," said Lauffer.

Koster added, "We need four or five scores in the 80s. Our depth is really important." Koster is speaking of the scoring system used in college golf. The top five golf scores count for each team.

"Our top three match up well with the other team, we have to get the four and five scores down," said Koster.

The Westminster Tournament isn't for another two weeks, which gives the team plenty of time to work on their depth and scores.

Appearing at the
Delta Chi
house Saturday @
7:30...
Captain Snappy

