

March: The real month of Nirvana

Caught in the Grasp

Douglas Smith



televised game of the tournament. Some perennial powerhouses survived into the round of 16 and all the number one seeds advanced. In the next two weeks more surprises are sure to come.

It is the goal of the selection committee to get fans to watch every game that is humanly possible on CBS so that money pours in and hearts continue to race throughout the entire month of March and into the first couple days of April.

Take a look at the bracket that played recently in Philadelphia. It was initially set up so that Duke and Kentucky would collide to see who goes onto the Final Four in Minneapolis. The circumstances in the East bracket are almost the same as in 1992 when Christian Laettner hit a turnaround jumper as time expired for Duke, in Philadelphia against Kentucky. That 1992 showdown may have been the greatest game in tournament history and featured the number one seed, Blue Devils against the number two seed Wildcats. This year, they are the same seeds in the tournament, with many players who are assured to go on to play in the NBA. Shane Battier, Jason Williams, and Tashon Prince look to be on the correct path to play basketball for a living. College fans could not help but see the very clear comparisons.

In the West, the selection committee set up what would be a second round match up between Lefty Driesel and his former team of Maryland. The separation for the two was not pretty as Driesel coached for many years

with the Terrapins. The press conferences were very lively in the two-day preparation for the game.

Another example of the excitement that was created just by looking at the bracket is the frailty of the number one seeds. Illinois and Michigan State just recently lost to Big Ten foes, Indiana and Penn State respectively. Stanford ruled the number one slot in the major polls for the majority of the season but fell late in the season to Pac-10 rival Arizona, which has been on one of the nation's biggest hot streaks.

All of this excitement creates a problem for those partaking in any friendly competition in picking the brackets. Which upsets do you pick? Who will make it the whole way? This can take days and the watching of many pre-tournament shows to fill out the brackets just to claim you are the champion until next March comes around. Still this usually will not lead to a foolproof way of choosing the correct teams. Sometimes it is even those that know little about the game that have the early lead going into the round of 16. Never fear everyone can recover as the later rounds progress.

Unfortunately, it seems as those who claim to be experts have stuck with one of three teams--Duke, Maryland, or Arizona. That does not help your chances in any poll. What most polls will come down to is which team the "experts" have their team playing in the championship game. This is where the upsets come in handy or screw over your chances to win. Entering the round of 16, two number

two seeds were knocked out as were Boston College and Florida, a couple favorites that were number three seeds.

So how can we judge whether or not the selection committee did a good job? There are several ways. One is that the brackets generate excitement before any of the games even tip off. Another is that potential second round match-ups spark up wonderful press conferences. Perhaps the biggest item that makes a selection good is that more people are complaining than the year before about their picks and the upsets that occurred.

Of course there are other items to look at, like the NIT showing or not showing that another team was more deserving. However, this year that did not happen. Any way you slice it the madness has begun and has caused quite a stir

around the company water dispenser. There is plenty more to come. Oh yeah and go Maryland...I have my pride riding on you despite being a Kentucky fan for life.



CHRISTOPHER A. RECORD/CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
NEW ORLEANS, LA -- Carolina's Brendan Haywood, with ball, collides with teammate Julius Peppers as Penn State's Titus Ivory, left, and Tyler Smith add defensive pressure in their NCAA Tournament game in New Orleans, Louisiana on Sunday. Penn State upset UNC 82-74.

SCOREBOARD

BEHREND SPORTS

MEN'S BASEBALL

School	C.R.	Overall
Frostburg St	0-0	7-4
Pitt-Bradford	0-0	5-2
Penn State Altoona	0-0	5-4-1
Penn State Behrend	0-0	5-5
La Roche	0-0	3-3-1
Pitt-Greensburg	0-0	1-5

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

School	C.R.	Overall
La Roche	0-0	6-2
Penn State Behrend	0-0	3-5
Pitt-Greensburg	0-0	2-1
Penn State Altoona	0-0	0-1
Frostburg St.	0-0	0-6
Lake Erie	0-0	0-0
Pitt-Bradford	0-0	0-0

MEN'S TENNIS

	CR	OR
Frostburg St.	1-0	2-0
Penn State Behrend	1-0	1-2
Pitt-Greensburg	0-1	0-2
Lake Erie	0-0	0-0
Penn State Altoona	0-0	0-0

Behrend 5 Pitt-Greensburg 4 Singles

Klein (G)	def.	Carlson (B)
Cooper (B)	def.	Germock (G)
Knauff (G)	def.	Brendle (B)
Sulak (B)	def.	McNamara (G)
Chaudry (B)	def.	Janicki (G)
Saska (G)	def.	Weisberg (B)

Carlson / Cooper (B)	def.	Germock / McNamara (G)
Klein / Knauff (G)	def.	Brendle / Chaudry (B)
Weisberg / Enriquez (B)	def.	Jaricki / Mehorta (G)

WOMEN'S WATER POLO

Behrend 2	California State Hayward 19
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Goals for Behrend were scored by Betsy Voigt and Mary Good

NOTICE:

ALL BEHREND BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL GAMES WERE CANCELLED LAST WEEK DUE TO POOR FIELD CONDITIONS

NATIONAL SPORTS

College Basketball

Men's NCAA Sweet Sixteen

East	Rank	Team	Record
2	Kentucky	(24-9)	
6	USC	(23-9)	
1	Duke	(31-4)	
4	UCLA	(23-8)	

South

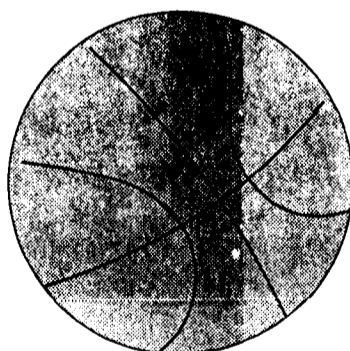
1	Michigan St.	(26-4)
12	Gonzaga	(26-6)
7	Penn State	(21-11)
11	Temple	(23-12)

Midwest

2	Arizona	(25-7)
3	Mississippi	(27-7)
1	Illinois	(26-7)
4	Kansas	(26-6)

West

10	G-Town	(25-7)
3	Maryland	(23-10)
1	Stanford	(30-2)
5	Cincinnati	(25-9)



Women's NCAA Sweet Sixteen

East	Rank	Team	Record
	Missouri	(22-9)	
	La. Tech	(30-4)	
	UConn	(30-2)	
	N.C. State	(22-10)	

Midwest

	Tennessee	(31-2)
	Xavier	(30-2)
	Texas Tech	(25-6)
	Purdue	(28-6)

Midwest

	Notre Dame	(30-2)
	Utah	(28-3)
	Iowa St.	(27-5)
	Vanderbilt	(23-9)

West

	Duke	(30-3)
	S.W. Miss. St.	(27-5)
	Oklahoma	(28-5)
	Washington	(21-9)

NHL Standings

Eastern Conference

Team	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Devils	39	17	12	3	93	250	173
Phil.	39	21	10	2	90	218	183
Pitt.	36	26	8	2	82	244	227
Rangers	27	38	5	1	60	219	254
Islanders	19	44	6	3	47	159	234

Northeast

Ottawa	41	20	8	3	93	237	179
Buffalo	39	26	5	1	84	189	167
Toronto	33	24	11	5	82	215	183
Boston	29	28	7	7	72	194	221
Montreal	24	38	6	4	58	178	209

Southeast

Wash.	37	23	10	2	86	205	184
Carolina	32	28	8	3	75	184	192
Florida	18	35	11	9	56	178	226
Tampa	22	40	6	4	54	180	243
Atlanta	20	38	12	2	54	192	258

Western Conference

Team	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	43	18	9	4	99	227	191
St. Lou	40	18	10	4	94	226	171
Nash.	29	33	8	3	69	169	184
Chic.	29	33	7	3	68	192	209
Colum.	24	33	8	6	62	169	204

Northwest

Col.	46	13	9	4	105	244	170
Vancou.	35	23	8	7	85	226	215
Edmon.	35	24	10	3	83	206	191
Calgary	23	30	14	4	64	171	208
Minnes.	24	33	10	5	63	153	182

Pacific

Dallas	40	24	6	2	88	202	170
San Jose	35	24	11	2	83	189	169
Phoenix	31	24	15	2	79	186	183
L.A.	33	27	10	1	77	224	205
Anaheim	24	37	8	5	61	173	214

NBA Standings

Eastern Conference

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
76'ers	48	18	.727	---
Nicks	40	26	.606	8
Miami	40	27	.597	8.5
Orlando	36	30	.545	12
Boston	29	37	.439	19
Nets	22	47	.319	27.5
Wizards	16	50	.242	32

Central

Bucks	41	25	.621	---
Charlotte	39	28	.582	2.5
Toronto	35	31	.530	6
Indiana	29	36	.446	11.5
Detroit	25	42	.373	16.5
Cleveland	24	42	.364	17
Atlanta	20	47	.299	21.5
Chicago	11	54	.169	29.5

Western Conference

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Spurs	46	20	.697	---
Utah	45	20	.692	.5
Dallas	43	42	.652	3
Minnes.	39	28	.582	7.5
Houston	38	29	.567	8.5
Denver	33	35	.485	14
Vancouv.	20	48	.294	27

Pacific

Lakers	45	21	.682	---
Kings	44	21	.677	.5
Portland	43	23	.652	2
Phoenix	38	27	.585	6.5
Seattle	36	33	.522	10.5
Clippers	23	45	.338	23
Warriors	16	51	.239	29.5

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