

Sports

NCAA Tourney

The Final Four

by Michael A. Cifelli
Collegian Staff Writer

Final Four (at Seattle's Kingdome)

Michigan (28-7) vs. Illinois (31-4)

The Big 10 show arrives in Seattle. Both squads have a wealth of weapons to put on the floor. The Fighting Illini's coach Lou Henson has his team at their peak, while interim coach Steve Fisher has rejuvenated the Wolverines. Fisher has undoubtedly made a serious bid for the Michigan coaching job. His players are on a shooting tear currently, led by the extremely accurate Glen Rice. Rumeal Robinson is the backcourt threat, while Loy Vaught, Sean Higgins, Demetrius Calip and Terry Mills provide plenty of muscle and scoring punch. Rice and co. are marksmen from three-point land, and have a never-say-die attitude which should challenge a tough Illini defense.

The Illini are in the fab four for the first time in 37 years. Coach Henson's acrobatic crew like to play above the rim, which they demonstrate often with an abundance of dazzling dunks. Talented guard Kendall Gill is the mainstay of the Illini, who are 23-0 with Gill in the line-up. Gill will most likely be assigned to Robinson, a key backcourt matchup. Gill is a proven defensive specialist, holding Sherman Douglas of Syracuse to one field goal in the second half of their Midwest regional matchup last weekend. He is also the Illini's best outside shooter. Gill has a superb supporting cast with workhorse Kenny Battle, leading scorer Nick Anderson, and intelligent playmaker Stephen Bardo. Marcus Liberty, Lowell Hamilton and Larry Smith provide depth. The Illini's look-alike players may not be the only thing that has opponents flustered; they have a pesty pressure defense that forces numerous turnovers. Illinois won both conference matchups against Michigan, but with a new coach the Wolves have been a new team. This Big10 Final Four loser goes home - winner stays at the Dome. The game should go to the wire if both squads have the hot shot.

Duke (28-7) vs. Seton Hall (30-6)

Will a man named Danny lead the way once again? Mike Krzyzewski seems to hope so. Danny Ferry's all around game has carried the Blue Devils to their third Final Four appearance in four years. Duke is coming off a big east regional victory over top seed Georgetown which saw the Blue Devils play textbook basketball. They have a young center on the rise in Christian Laetner, who is beginning to take charge in the paint. Phil Henderson and Robert Brickey are offensive standouts, while guard Quin Snyder provides defense. Playing confident tournament ball, Coach K's Devils look dangerous.

The Pirates of P.J. Carlesimo have been dubbed the surprise team of the final four, but maybe not that surprising. The Big East runnerups have proven to be one of the toughest squads to face in the final five minutes of play. The Hall has had the strongest kick down the stretch, with the poise to shut down opponents and pull away. They combine outside shooting with muscle underneath, which they made look easy against a solid UNLV squad in the regionals. The international connection of Puerto Rican Ramon Ramos and Australian Andrew Gaze lead the charge. Ramos, who returned from an early round concussion, must rebound and score inside for the Pirates to succeed. Gaze is their sharpshooter outside, a constant three-point threat. The Hall also relies on the playmaking of forwards Michael Cooper and John Morton. Ramos and Laetner should be the key matchup underneath. Duke will put its finesse game up against the Hall's muscle in another Final Four battle which promises to be close to the end.

Morris New Sox Skipper

Leaves for Beantown April 1

by Jim and Rick
Two Collegian Fools

Dr. Greg Morris, former assistant professor of English, has been named the new Manager of the Boston Red Sox. The position became available when their previous manager Joe Morgan left the club to take a full time snow plowing job in the Yukon.

Morris was offered the job after his name was brought up in the Wade Boggs palimony suit.

"I was in this bar in Pennsylvania waiting for Margo when this guy came in to pick up an order or chicken wings," the All-star third baseman confessed. "His wings weren't ready yet so he turned to me and said, 'Hey, aren't you Wade Boggs, that guy who is an even better ball player than Allan Trammell?' of course I agreed with him and new right away that he would make a good manager."

When questioned about his newly appointed position, Morris displayed excitement. "This teaching stuff was always just a temporary thing, in fact, I don't

even like Faulkner. I always knew that I'd make it to the bigs someday."

Crack sports' journalist Todd J. Irwin asked Morris about the pressures involved with



managing in the ever volatile American League East. "I can't wait to be at the helm of such a great ball club. I've always been a devoted fan of the Sox and I can't wait to see the Tigers lose up close and personal."

A student doing a bad

impersonation of David Letterman doing a bad impersonation of Tiger's skipper Sparky Anderson said, "That wimpy English guy will never make it. He may know Hemingway and all that other literary stuff, but he don't know ball!"

Morris is rumored to be taking Collegian editors Jim Martin and Rick Cain to Boston with him. "Both guys are out of shape and probably won't see much action, but Rick's from the area and knows where all of the good pizza places are and Jim - well you can always use a good towel boy."

There is also another rumour that Morris is working on a deal that would send Roger Clemens to the Buffalo Bisons in exchange for a lifetime supply of wings. Clemens could not be reached for comment.

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