



Volume 38, Issue 11-12

March 14-April 3, 2023

SPECIAL EXPANDED DOUBLE-ISSUE!

MARCH MADNESS TOURNAMENT GUIDE!

NCAA, NIT AND CBI TOURNAMENTS INSIDE



- *Picks on Opening Round Games*
- *NCAA Tourney Best Bets*
- *NCAA Incredible Stat*
- *Round By Round History*
- *Offensive & Defensive Team Stats*



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MARCH MADNESS

2023 MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

March 14-April 3

Once again, 68 participants celebrate an invitation to the most festive 'Party' of the year – the 2023 NCAA Men's Basketball Championship. The lines are out, our homework is done, and we invite you to peruse our biggest PLAYBOOK Basketball Newsletter of the season. Next week we'll return with a look at the Sweet Sixteen matchups and subsequent rounds leading up to the National Championship game in NRG Stadium on April 3. Enjoy the games!

Never Pay For A Losing Pick Again.

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TOURNAMENT INCREDIBLE STAT

Defending NCAA tournament champions – Kansas – are 1-9 ATS as favorites of -25 or fewer points in first round games when coming off a loss if they own a sub .800 win percentage.

TOURNAMENT AWESOME ANGLE

PLAY ON any .666 or greater lined Division-1 team in Round One of the NCAA tournament coming off a loss of 24 or more points if they are facing a sub .740 lined Division-1 foe.

24 KARAT GOLD

ATS W-L Record Since 1990:
11-0
(100%)

Play On: NC STATE WOLFPACK • Friday, 3/17

LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

Included in this chart are each team's overall Straight Up (SU) and Against the Spread (ATS) marks in all games for the season, along with their respective records versus fellow NCAA Tournament Teams (TT). ALL ATS UNLESS NOTED.

TEAM	SU	ATS	SU/TT	ATS/TT
ALABAMA	29-5	20-14	14-4	8-10
ARIZONA	28-6	17-17	9-2	8-4
ARIZONA ST	22-12	17-17	4-5	7-3
ARKANSAS	20-13	15-16	5-11	5-10
AUBURN	20-12	14-17	5-10	6-8
BAYLOR	22-10	16-16	8-10	7-11
BOISE ST	24-9	16-15	4-4	4-3
CHARLESTON	31-3	19-14	1-0	0-1
CONNECTICUT	25-8	12-21	6-6	7-5
CREIGHTON	21-12	16-17	4-9	4-9
DRAKE	27-7	17-16	2-0	2-0
DUKE	26-8	15-19	8-5	5-8
FLA ATLANTIC	31-3	22-10	0-1	0-1
GONZAGA	28-5	19-13	7-4	4-7
HOUSTON	31-3	18-16	5-2	1-6
ILLINOIS	20-12	18-13	4-11	6-9
INDIANA	22-11	15-17	7-10	5-11
IOWA	19-13	16-14	6-6	6-6
IOWA ST	19-13	16-16	8-9	8-9
KANSAS	27--7	16-18	14-7	11-10
KANSAS ST	23-9	11-20	8-6	9-5
KENT ST	28-6	19-11	1-3	4-0
KENTUCKY	21-11	15-17	6-7	6-7
LOUISIANA	26-7	15-13	0-2	0-2
MARQUETTE	28-6	22-12	8-5	9-4
MARYLAND	21-12	21-12	6-7	8-5
MEMPHIS	26-8	17-16	4-3	6-1
MIAMI FL	25-7	17-14	5-5	6-4
MICHIGAN ST	19-12	15-16	5-8	6-7
MISSISSIPPI ST	21-12	16-17	5-9	7-7
MISSOURI	24-9	17-15	7-8	7-8
NO KENTUCKY	22-12	15-18	0-2	0-2
NC STATE	23-10	16-15	2-5	3-4
NEVADA	22-10	17-11	3-4	2-3
NORTHWESTERN	21-11	19-12	6-6	8-4
PENN ST	22-13	20-14	9-5	10-4
PITTSBURGH	22-11	22-10	4-5	6-2
PRINCETON	21-8	15-12	0-0	0-0
PROVIDENCE	21-11	18-14	3-8	5-6
PURDUE	29-5	13-20	12-4	7-9
SAN DIEGO ST	27-6	16-15	5-5	4-5
ST MARYS CAL	26-7	17-13	2-3	3-2
TCU	21-12	16-17	8-9	8-9
TENNESSEE	23-10	17-16	9-7	6-10
TEXAS	26-8	16-17	12-7	11-8
TEXAS A&M	25-9	23-11	8-6	9-5
UCLA	29-5	19-14	6-5	4-7
UCSB	27-7	18-11	0-0	0-0
USC	22-10	17-15	4-5	5-4
UTAH ST	26-8	21-12	3-5	3-5
VCU	27-7	17-15	2-2	0-3
VIRGINIA	25-7	13-18	4-4	4-4
WEST VIRGINIA	19-14	17-16	6-11	6-11
XAVIER	25-9	15-18	8-6	9-4

TOP 25 TEAMS ACCORDING TO NATIONAL RATINGS SYSTEMS

KENPOM			NCAA NET			RPI			SAGARIN		
Ratings by college basketball stat wizard Ken Pomeroy			See below right for explanation of how NET Rankings are determined			Power ratings derived from game results versus Division I teams only			College basketball computer ratings from Jeff Sagarin (USA Today Sports)		
1	HOUSTON	+28.82	1	HOUSTON		1	ALABAMA	.673	1	ALABAMA	92.23
2	UCLA	+27.63	2	ALABAMA		2	KANSAS	.653	2	HOUSTON	91.85
3	ALABAMA	+27.54	3	UCLA		3	GONZAGA	.641	3	UCLA	91.21
4	UCONN	+25.37	4	TENNESSEE		4	HOUSTON	.641	4	GONZAGA	90.47
5	TENNESSEE	+24.71	5	PURDUE		5	SAN DIEGO STATE	.638	5	TEXAS	90.46
6	TEXAS	+24.57	6	GONZAGA		6	PURDUE	.636	6	UCONN	90.07
7	PURDUE	+24.55	7	TEXAS		7	UCLA	.634	7	KANSAS	89.95
8	GONZAGA	+24.31	8	UCONN		8	DUKE	.629	8	ARIZONA	89.86
9	KANSAS	+23.14	9	KANSAS		9	TEXAS	.629	9	TENNESSEE	89.28
10	ARIZONA	+22.86	10	ARIZONA		10	FLORIDA ATLANTIC	.626	10	PURDUE	89.16
11	SAINT MARY'S	+21.90	11	SAINT MARY'S		11	ARIZONA	.625	11	CREIGHTON	87.63
12	MARQUETTE	+21.83	12	MARQUETTE		12	SAINT MARY'S	.622	12	MARQUETTE	87.51
13	CREIGHTON	+20.65	13	FLORIDA ATLANTIC		13	UTAH STATE	.621	13	BAYLOR	87.36
14	SAN DIEGO STATE	+20.25	14	SAN DIEGO STATE		14	MARQUETTE	.618	14	DUKE	87.34
15	BAYLOR	+19.98	15	BAYLOR		15	MEMPHIS	.615	15	MEMPHIS	86.53
16	XAVIER	+19.69	16	DUKE		16	BAYLOR	.611	16	XAVIER	86.50
17	WEST VIRGINIA	+19.14	17	CREIGHTON		17	VIRGINIA	.610	17	SAINT MARY'S	86.43
18	UTAH STATE	+18.88	18	UTAH STATE		18	BOISE STATE	.609	18	INDIANA	86.21
19	MEMPHIS	+18.69	19	TEXAS A&M		19	VCU	.604	19	TEXAS A&M	86.08
20	ARKANSAS	+18.63	20	IOWA STATE		20	XAVIER	.602	20	KENTUCKY	85.95
21	DUKE	+18.49	21	ARKANSAS		21	TENNESSEE	.601	21	TCU	85.95
22	MARYLAND	+18.37	22	XAVIER		22	ORAL ROBERTS	.601	22	WEST VIRGINIA	85.86
23	IOWA STATE	+18.33	23	MEMPHIS		23	TEXAS A&M	.601	23	ARKANSAS	85.76
24	KANSAS STATE	+18.31	24	KANSAS STATE		24	MIAMI FLORIDA	.601	24	MARYLAND	85.47
25	TEXAS A&M	+18.28	25	WEST VIRGINIA		25	NEVADA	.600	25	KANSAS STATE	85.34

The 8 Elite Elements!

19 OF THE LAST 20 NCAA champions each possessed these attributes:

- 1) A 1, 2 or 3 seed from a major conference
- 2) Averaged > 73 PPG
- 3) Allowed < 73 PPG
- 4) Owned an average scoring margin of 7 > PPG
- 5) Faced a Top 75 schedule
- 6) Had a coach with 6 or more NCAA tourney appearances and at least one Elite 8 game
- 7) Either in NCAA tourney LY or
- 8) Have an All-American player

This year's qualifying teams include:

Gonzaga, Houston, Kansas, Marquette, Purdue, UCLA

(only loss 9 years ago when UConn won)

UNDERSTANDING THE NCAA NET RANKINGS

The **NET Rankings** are a sorting tool the NCAA used to evaluate teams in contention for at-large bids into the NCAA Tournament. The rankings relied on five factors – **team value index, net efficiency, winning percentage, adjusted win percentage and scoring margin**.

1. TEAM VALUE INDEX – An algorithm developed to reward teams who beat good teams. It takes into account three factors: opponent, location and winner.

2. NET EFFICIENCY – A team's offensive efficiency minus its defense efficiency.

3. WINNING PERCENTAGE – Calculated by dividing a team's wins by its total games played.

4. ADJUSTED WIN PERCENTAGE – This metric is a winning percentage that is weighted based on location and result. Here is the breakdown: Road win = + 1.4 / Neutral win = + 1 / Home win = +.6 / Road loss = -.6 / Neutral loss = -1 / Home loss = -1.4

5. SCORING MARGIN – A team's total points minus its opponent's points. The winning margin was capped at 10 PPG "to prevent rankings from encouraging unsportsmanlike play," according to the NCAA.

NCAA quadrant system (all numbers refer to the NET ranking of opponents played):

Quadrant 1: Home 1-30; Neutral 1-50; Away 1-75.

Quadrant 2: Home 31-75; Neutral 51-100; Away 76-135.

Quadrant 3: Home 76-160; Neutral 101-200; Away 136-240.

Quadrant 4: Home 161-plus; Neutral 201-plus; Away 241-plus.

NCAA TOURNAMENT SUPER COACHES

Top SU and ATS records of coaches entering the 2023 NCAA Tournament. All records are career results since 1990. *Play-in game counts as Round 1 result. ATS ties omitted.

COACH	TEAM	ALL GAMES	ROUND 1	ROUND 2	ROUND 3	ROUND 4	ROUND 5	ROUND 6	OPTIMAL MRT ATS ROLES
ALTMAN	Oregon	16-15 / 19-12	8-6 / 8-6	5-4 / 5-4	2-3 / 4-1	1-1 / 1-1	0-1 / 1-0	0-0 / 0-0	5-0 ATS vs. No. 1 seeds
BARNES	Tennessee	24-23 / 18-29	13-10 / 6-15	7-6 / 6-7	3-4 / 3-4	1-2 / 1-2	0-1 / 0-1	0-0 / 0-0	0-7 ATS vs. foe off SU favorite loss
BENNETT	Virginia	16-9 / 10-15	7-3 / 3-7	4-3 / 3-4	2-2 / 2-2	1-1 / 1-1	1-0 / 0-1	1-0 / 1-0	0-6 ATS off ATS win of 10 or less points
CALAPARI	Kentucky	56-20 / 39-33	19-2 / 9-12	15-4 / 10-7	12-3 / 12-3	6-6 / 5-6	3-3 / 2-3	1-2 / 1-2	1-8 ATS as favorite of 19 > points
CRONIN	UCLA	13-13 / 14-12	8-6 / 7-7	3-4 / 4-3	1-2 / 1-2	1-0 / 1-0	0-1 / 1-0	0-0 / 0-0	6-2 ATS vs. No. 11 or worse seeds
DREW	Baylor	18-9 / 14-12	7-3 / 4-5	5-2 / 5-2	3-2 / 2-3	1-2 / 1-2	1-0 / 1-0	1-0 / 1-0	0-5 ATS after scoring 82 > points
FEW	Gonzaga	38-22 / 26-33	19-3 / 11-11	11-8 / 9-10	4-7 / 4-6	2-2 / 2-2	2-0 / 0-2	0-2 / 0-2	0-7 SU and 1-6 ATS vs. No. 1 seeds
IZZO	Michigan St	53-23 / 41-33	18-6 / 12-11	14-4 / 10-8	10-4 / 8-6	8-2 / 7-2	2-6 / 3-5	1-1 / 1-1	4-0 SUATS vs. Big Ten opponents
LARRANAGA	Miami Fla	12-10 / 11-11	5-5 / 5-5	4-1 / 3-2	2-2 / 2-2	1-1 / 1-1	0-1 / 0-1	0-0 / 0-0	3-0 ATS with revenge
MILLER	XAVIER	19-11 / 17-11	8-3 / 4-5	7-1 / 8-0	4-3 / 4-3	0-4 / 1-3	0-0 / 0-0	0-0 / 0-0	8-1 ATS as a dog
PAINTER	Purdue	17-14 / 18-12	10-4 / 11-3	6-4 / 7-3	1-5 / 1-5	0-1 / 0-1	0-0 / 0-0	0-0 / 0-0	11-1 ATS off SUATS loss
PEARL	Auburn	16-11 / 14-12	8-3 / 4-6	5-3 / 5-3	2-3 / 3-2	1-1 / 1-1	0-1 / 1-0	0-0 / 0-0	8-1 ATS as a single-digit dog
SAMPSON	Houston	22-17 / 19-19	10-7 / 7-10	6-4 / 7-3	4-2 / 5-1	0-3 / 0-3	0-0 / 0-0	0-0 / 0-0	0-4 SUATS after allow 74 or more points
SELF	Kansas	55-21 / 41-35	21-2 / 15-8	14-7 / 11-10	11-3 / 8-6	4-7 / 3-8	3-1 / 3-1	2-1 / 1-2	6-1 SUATS vs. opponent with revenge
SMART	Marquette	7-9 / 9-7	4-6 / 5-5	1-2 / 2-1	1-0 / 1-0	1-0 / 1-0	0-1 / 0-1	0-0 / 0-0	6-1 ATS as a dog of > 4 points
WILLIAMS	Texas A&M	10-8 / 8-10	5-3 / 3-5	4-1 / 3-2	1-3 / 2-2	0-1 / 0-1	0-0 / 0-0	0-0 / 0-0	3-0 ATS vs. conference foes

ROUND-BY-ROUND TOURNAMENT HISTORY

NCAA TOURNEY - Any Round:

- #1 Seeds are 123-1 SU (66-57-1 ATS) vs #16 Seeds
- #2 Seeds are 114-10 SU (54-65-5 ATS) vs #15 Seeds
- #3 Seed favs of < 10 pts are 9-20 ATS L9Y
- Only 4 times s/88 has a #12 Seed failed to beat a #5 Seed (24-33 SU & 33-21-3 ATS L15Y)
- Favs of > 7 pts who scored 100 > pts in last Tourney game are 15-3 ATS
- Dogs of 4 > pts off a SU Tourney win (allowed < 50 pts) are 11-2 ATS
- Favs of 21 > pts are 3-11-1 ATS vs a foe off a DD SU win

NCAA 1st Round Notes

- #1 Seeds off 3+ SUATS wins are 14-5 ATS
- #2 Seed favs > 22 pts are 0-5-1 ATS
- #3 Seeds off a SU favorite loss are 33-12-1 ATS
- #4 Seeds off a DD ATS win are 1-10-1 ATS
- #5 Seeds off a SU loss are 11-26-3 ATS L12Y
- #6 Seeds are 11-21 ATS L9Y
- #7 Seeds are 2-10 ATS vs foes off BB SU losses
- 1st Round teams off BB SU Losses are 19-5 ATS L7Y

Conference Tournament Champs in this round

AAC: 3-1 ATS, **ACC:** 0-7 ATS, **A-10:** 1-3 ATS, **Big 10:** 2-5 ATS, **Big 12:** 4-2 ATS, **Big East:** 3-1 ATS, **Big West:** 5-1 ATS, **Colonial:** 0-3 ATS, **CUSA:** 8-2 ATS, **Horizon:** 3-7 ATS, **MAC:** 6-0 ATS, **Miss Valley:** 5-1 ATS, **Mountain West:** 1-8 ATS, **Pac-12:** 9-3-1 ATS, **Sun Belt:** 4-2 ATS, **SEC:** 3-5 ATS, **West Coast:** 1-4 ATS.

Best Team SU records in this round

Kansas 15-0, Gonzaga 13-0, Villanova 8-0, Auburn, Oregon 6-0, Duke 5-0, Baylor, Houston 4-0, Memphis 3-0, Maryland 14-1, UCLA 10-1, Kentucky 9-1, Michigan St 8-1, Texas A&M 7-1, Illinois 13-2, Arkansas 5-1, Iowa, Purdue, Tennessee 4-1.

Worst Team SU records in this round

Utah St 0-8, Missouri 0-5, UL-Lafayette 0-4, Akron, Charleston, Kent St, Marquette, San Diego St 0-3, Oklahoma St 1-5

Best Team ATS records in this round

Oregon 6-0, Houston 3-0, Texas A&M, Villanova 7-1, Kansas 6-1, Arizona St 5-1, Memphis, USC 4-1, Purdue 8-2, Iowa St 7-2, Baylor 3-1, Indiana 7-3 Illinois 11-4.

Worst Team ATS records in this round

Missouri 0-5, Arizona 0-5-1, Marquette 0-4, NC State 0-3, Texas 1-8, Virginia 1-7, Creighton, Kansas St, Maryland 1-4, Alabama, Duke 2-6, Iowa 2-5, Arkansas 3-7.

Best Conference ATS records in this round

MAC: 6-0, **Big 10:** 9-1 as dogs, **Pac-12:** 5-1 as dogs, **MVC:** 6-2, **Big 12:** 21-10, **Sun Belt:** 6-3.

Worst Conference ATS records in this round

Big East: 2-9 as pick or dogs, **ACC:** 8-27-1 as favs, **Horizon:** 2-6, **MWC:** 3-12, **SEC:** 4-13 as favs < 20, **A-10:** 2-6 as dogs.

NCAA 2nd Round Notes

- #1 Seeds are 2-17 ATS off 3+ SU & ATS wins
- #2 Seed favs > 9 pts are 7-0 ATS L20Y
- #3 Seed favs > 4 pts are 1-9 ATS L9Y
- #5 Seed dogs are 2-11 ATS L10Y
- #7 Seeds are 7-2 ATS vs opp off BB SU wins
- #8 Seeds are 10-2 ATS L8Y
- #9 Seed dogs off a SU dog win are 11-22 ATS
- #10 Seed or worse favs are 18-5 ATS
- #13 or worse Seed dogs are 15-36-1 ATS

Best Team SU records in this round

Gonzaga 7-0, UCLA 5-0, Oregon, Purdue 4-0, Houston, Indiana, Marquette 3-0, Arizona 11-1, Duke 10-1, Kentucky 8-1, Miami Fla 4-1.

Worst Team SU records in this round

Illinois 0-5, Mississippi St, Texas 0-4, Memphis 0-3, Iowa 1-10, Creighton, Maryland 1-7, Pittsburgh 1-4, Michigan St 1-3, Alabama 2-6.

Best Team ATS records in this round

Arizona 8-1, Iowa St, Marquette, Miami, USC 4-1, W Virginia 8-2, Duke, Kentucky 6-2, Alabama, Houston 3-1, Connecticut 11-4, Baylor, Missouri 5-2.

Worst Team ATS records in this round

Pittsburgh 0-7, Kansas 0-4, Tennessee 0-3, Texas 1-5, Illinois, Iowa 1-4, Michigan St, Texas A&M 1-3, Indiana, Virginia 2-6, Arkansas 2-5.

Best Conference ATS records in this round

Big East: 5-0 as DD favs, **MVC:** 6-1 L15Y, **ACC:** 13-3 L5Y, **A-10:** 9-3 as dogs < 8 pts, **Pac 12:** 19-7 L10Y.

Worst Conference ATS records in this round

CUSA: 0-6 L12Y, **Sun Belt:** 0-3, **MAC:** 1-5 L17Y, **Mountain West:** 3-12 as dogs, **SEC:** 3-10 as favs 3 > pts, **Big 12:** 4-11 as dogs L10Y, **WCC:** 4-11 as dogs.

NCAA Sweet 16 Round Notes

- #1 Seeds are 23-8 ATS off BB SUATS wins
- #3 Seed favs are 1-8 ATS L10Y
- #4 Seeds are 4-12-1 ATS L8Y
- #6 Seeds off a DD ATS win are 3-9 ATS
- #7 Seeds are 1-5 ATS L7Y
- #8 Seed dogs are 6-1-1 ATS
- #10 or worse Seed dogs > 4 pts are 13-3 ATS L12Y
- Favorites of 4 < pts off a DD ATS win are 14-6-1 ATS L18Y
- Favorites of 11 > pts are 4-13 ATS L21Y
- Underdogs off a SU win of 3 < pts are 12-4-1 ATS L10Y
- Teams who scored 90 > pts in Round 2 are 3-9 ATS L12Y

Best Team ATS records in this round

Connecticut 4-0-1, Missouri 3-0, Kentucky 8-1, Memphis Oregon 5-1, Villanova 4-1, Illinois, Virginia 3-1, Michigan St 8-4.

ROUND-BY-ROUND TOURNAMENT HISTORY

Worst Team ATS records in this round

Pitt 0-5, Arizona 0-4, Indiana, Texas A&M 0-3, Purdue UCLA 1-5, W Virginia 1-4, Arkansas, Baylor, Duke, Miami 1-3, Gonzaga 3-6.

Best Conference ATS records in this round

AAC: 9-2 as favs, **Big East:** 12-3 as dogs 12 < pts, **CUSA:** 3-1, **SEC:** 16-6-2 off ATS win, **ACC:** 7-3 as dogs.

Worst Conference ATS records in this round

ACC: 1-6 as favs 7 > pts, **Big 12:** 1-5 as dogs > 2 pts, **MWC:** 1-4-1, **Big 10:** 3-9-1 as dogs, **Pac-12:** 4-11 as favs off ATS win.

NCAA Elite 8 Round Notes

- #1 Seeds are 2-10 ATS vs opp w/ revenge
- #2 Seeds are 3-12 ATS vs #4 or worse seeds
- #3 Seeds are 4-13 ATS
- #4 Seeds are 8-2 ATS off a SU dog win
- #5 Seeds are 8-1 ATS
- #6 Seeds are 2-7 ATS
- #7 Seeds are 4-1-1 ATS
- #8 Seeds are 6-1 ATS
- #10 or worse Seeds are 7-3-1 ATS
- Dogs off a SU dog win are 16-4-2 ATS
- Teams with same-season single revenge are 8-1 ATS L20Y
- Teams who scored 60 < pts in Sweet 16 round are 5-1 ATS
- Favs of 10 > pts are 1-6-1 ATS

Best Conference ATS records in this round

ACC: 7-1 as favs > 3 pts, **SEC:** 5-1-1 as favs 7 > pts, **Big East:** 10-3 as dogs, **Big 10:** 7-2 as dogs, **Pac-12:** 9-3 as dogs.

Worst Conference ATS records in this round

Big 10: 0-5 as favs > 3 pts, **Pac-12:** 1-5 as favs, **SEC:** 2-8 as favs < 7 pts, **Big 12:** 3-11 as favs, **AAC:** 2-6-1.

NCAA Final 4 Round Notes

- #1 Seeds are 9-2 ATS vs #2 Seeds
- #2 Seeds off a DD ATS win are 2-9 ATS
- #3 Seeds are 7-1 ATS
- #4 Seeds are 2-6 ATS
- #8 seed or worse dogs 14 < pts are 2-6 ATS
- Dogs off an ATS loss are 6-1 ATS
- Favs off a SU dog win are 4-1 ATS
- Favs off 4+ ATS wins are 6-1-1 ATS
- Teams who scored 65 < pts in Elite 8 round are 9-3-1 ATS
- Dogs off BB DD SU wins are 1-7 ATS
- Teams with Revenge are 5-12 ATS
- Big East teams are 6-1 ATS L12Y
- Big 10 favs of > 1 pt are 6-2 ATS
- Pac 12 teams are 8-2 ATS

NCAA Championship Notes

- #1 Seed favs > 2 pts are 8-3 ATS
- #2 Seeds are 2-5 ATS
- #3 Seed dogs are 1-5 ATS
- #5 or worse seeds are 1-7 SU & 3-5 ATS
- Favorites are 5-0 ATS vs an opponent w/ revenge
- Favorites of 5 < pts are 1-5 ATS
- Teams who scored 80 > pts in the Final 4 round are 5-1 ATS
- Teams with a win percentage of .850 > are 10-4 ATS
- Teams off BB SU dog wins are 1-4 ATS
- Dogs > 2 pts who allowed 60 > pts in the Final 4 round are 1-5 ATS

OVERALL TOURNAMENT SU RECORD OF #1-16 SEEDS

The NCAA tournament tips off this week and with it the madness begins. Here's a look at how No. 1-8 seeds have fared overall versus other seeds throughout the tournament as reported by mcubed.net. To determine the win-loss records of seeds 9-16, simply refer to Seeds 1-8 below and reverse the findings. Good luck!

Overall tournament record of #1 seeds: (544-147) 78.7%			Overall tournament record of #2 seeds: (385-165) 70.0%			Overall tournament record of #3 seeds: (296-167) 63.9%			Overall tournament record of #4 seeds: (247-171) 59.1%			Overall tournament record of #5 seeds: (193-172) 52.9%			Overall tournament record of #6 seeds: (190-170) 52.8%			Overall tournament record of #7 seeds: (152-171) 47.1%			Overall tournament record of #8 seeds: (131-171) 43.4%		
Vs.	W-L	PCT.	Vs.	W-L	PCT.	Vs.	W-L	PCT.	Vs.	W-L	PCT.	Vs.	W-L	PCT.	Vs.	W-L	PCT.	Vs.	W-L	PCT.	Vs.	W-L	PCT.
#1 (25-25) 50.0			#1 (35-42) 45.5			#1 (15-26) 36.6			#1 (22-55) 29.5			#1 (10-47) 17.5			#1 (5-12) 29.4			#1 (1-6) 14.3			#1 (19-72) 20.9		
#2 (42-35) 54.5			#2 (3-3) 50.0			#2 (27-42) 39.1			#2 (5-5) 50.0			#2 (5-2) 71.4			#2 (10-26) 27.8			#2 (30-70) 30.0			#2 (6-4) 60.0		
#3 (26-15) 63.4			#3 (42-27) 60.9			#3 (1-1) 50.0			#3 (3-5) 37.5			#3 (2-2) 50.0			#3 (39-54) 41.9			#3 (7-11) 38.9			#3 (0-2) 0.0		
#4 (55-23) 70.5			#4 (5-5) 50.0			#4 (5-3) 62.5			#4 (1-1) 50.0			#4 (43-55) 43.9			#4 (4-2) 66.7			#4 (4-2) 66.7			#4 (8-4) 66.7		
#5 (47-10) 82.5			#5 (2-5) 28.6			#5 (2-2) 50.0			#5 (55-43) 56.1			#5 (1-1) 50.0			#5 (0-1) 0.0			#5 (0-0) 0.0			#5 (3-1) 75.0		
#6 (12-5) 70.6			#6 (26-10) 72.2			#6 (54-39) 58.1			#6 (2-4) 33.3			#6 (1-0) 100			#6 (0-0) 0.0			#6 (3-6) 33.3			#6 (3-1) 75.0		
#7 (6-1) 85.7			#7 (70-30) 70.0			#7 (11-7) 61.1			#7 (2-4) 33.3			#7 (0-0) 0.0			#7 (6-3) 66.7			#7 (0-0) 0.0			#7 (1-1) 50.0		
#8 (72-19) 79.1			#8 (4-6) 40.0			#8 (2-0) 100			#8 (4-8) 33.3			#8 (1-3) 25.0			#8 (1-3) 25.0			#8 (1-1) 50.0			#8 (0-0) 0.0		
#9 (76-8) 90.5			#9 (2-1) 66.7			#9 (3-0) 100			#9 (2-2) 50.0			#9 (1-3) 25.0			#9 (0-0) 0.0			#9 (0-0) 0.0			#9 (88-84) 51.2		
#10 (7-1) 87.5			#10 (40-23) 63.5			#10 (9-4) 69.2			#10 (2-0) 100			#10 (1-0) 100			#10 (6-4) 60.0			#10 (103-68) 60.2			#10 (0-0) 0.0		
#11 (5-4) 55.6			#11 (16-3) 84.2			#11 (39-20) 66.1			#11 (0-0) 0.0			#11 (0-0) 0.0			#11 (105-63) 62.5			#11 (0-4) 0.0			#11 (1-0) 100		
#12 (20-0) 100			#12 (2-0) 100			#12 (0-0) 0.0			#12 (31-13) 70.5			#12 (112-56) 66.7			#12 (0-0) 0.0			#12 (0-0) 0.0			#12 (0-2) 0.0		
#13 (4-0) 100			#13 (0-0) 0.0			#13 (0-0) 0.0			#13 (117-31) 79.1			#13 (16-3) 84.2			#13 (0-0) 0.0			#13 (0-0) 0.0			#13 (1-0) 100		
#14 (0-0) 0.0			#14 (0-0) 0.0			#14 (126-22) 85.1			#14 (0-0) 0.0			#14 (0-0) 0.0			#14 (14-2) 87.5			#14 (1-0) 100			#14 (0-0) 0.0		
#15 (0-0) 0.0			#15 (138-10) 93.2			#15 (2-1) 66.7			#15 (0-0) 0.0			#15 (0-0) 0.0			#15 (0-0) 0.0			#15 (2-3) 40.0			#15 (1-0) 100		
#16 (147-1) 99.3			#16 (0-0) 0.0			#16 (0-0) 0.0			#16 (0-0) 0.0			#16 (0-0) 0.0			#16 (0-0) 0.0			#16 (0-0) 0.0			#16 (0-0) 0.0		

CURRENT OFFENSIVE & DEFENSIVE TEAM STATS

BEST ★ WORST X	TEAM	Ret Starters	Offensive PPG	Defensive PPG	Scoring Margin	Offensive FG %	Defensive FG %	FG % Margin	Rebound Margin	Free Throw %
	ALABAMA	3	81.5	69.2	+12.3	44.4	37.4	+7.0	+7.4	72.8
	ARIZONA	2	82.7	71.5	+11.2	49.6	40.8	+8.8★	+6.3	70.9
	ARIZONA STATE	2	70.3	67.7	+2.6	41.3	39.8	+1.5	-1.9	68.9
	ARKANSAS	0	74.4	67.4	+7.0	47.5	42.0	+5.5	+2.6	69.0
	AUBURN	3	72.7	67.1	+5.6	44.1	40.7	+3.4	+1.1	70.2
	BAYLOR	2	77.2	70.3	+6.9	44.7	45.3	-0.6	+2.1	74.9
	BOISE STATE	2	72.2	64.3	+7.9	45.5	41.3	+4.2	+3.4	73.5
	CHARLESTON	3	80.8	67.4	+13.4	43.8	43.1	+0.7	+6.7	74.1
	COLGATE	3	78.6	69.0	+9.6	51.4	45.3	+6.1	+2.6	65.7
	CREIGHTON	3	76.6	68.5	+8.1	46.7	42.2	+4.5	+3.8	76.7
	DRAKE	4	75.3	63.9	+11.4	47.0	40.8	+6.2	+3.2	76.9
	DUKE	1	72.5	63.9	+8.6	45.1	40.9	+4.2	+8.1	77.0
	FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON	1	77.8	74.9	+2.9	45.5	47.9X	-2.4X	+0.8	74.6
	FLORIDA ATLANTIC	4	78.8	65.0	+13.8	47.2	40.2	+7.0	+6.0	71.6
	FURMAN	3	82.1	71.2	+10.9	48.3	44.6	+3.7	+2.5	74.1
	GONZAGA	3	87.5★	72.9	+14.6	52.9★	44.4	+8.5	+5.1	70.1
	GRAND CANYON	3	75.3	66.8	+8.5	46.3	40.5	+5.8	+3.4	71.6
	HOUSTON	1	77.3	61.3	+16.0★	47.2	39.1	+8.1	+6.5	73.9
	HOWARD	2	75.5	71.6	+3.9	46.1	44.4	+1.7	+2.9	71.4
	ILLINOIS	0	74.7	67.0	+7.7	45.1	41.7	+3.4	+4.4	68.0
	INDIANA	4	75.0	68.5	+6.5	49.0	40.9	+8.1	+2.2	71.2
	IONA	2	76.4	65.0	+11.4	46.1	40.8	+5.3	+1.2	73.1
	IOWA	3	80.2	74.4	+5.8	45.4	47.4	-2.0	+1.8	73.9
	IOWA STATE	2	68.4	62.8	+5.6	45.0	42.2	+2.8	+3.4	67.4
	KANSAS	2	74.9	67.9	+7.0	46.6	41.6	+5.0	+1.1	71.7
	KANSAS STATE	2	75.5	69.0	+6.5	45.3	41.9	+3.4	+2.2	75.0
	KENNESAW STATE	5	75.3	68.9	+6.4	46.2	42.9	+3.3	+1.3	66.2
	KENT STATE	4	76.6	65.7	+10.9	45.4	40.3	+5.1	+0.7	72.5
	KENTUCKY	2	75.1	68.0	+7.1	45.9	42.9	+3.0	+8.8	70.3
	LOUISIANA	4	78.0	69.8	+8.2	48.4	44.2	+4.2	+6.4	68.4
	MARQUETTE	2	79.9	70.6	+9.3	48.7	44.5	+4.2	-3.7	72.1
	MARYLAND	2	70.4	63.2	+7.2	44.9	42.8	+2.1	+2.1	73.9
	MEMPHIS	2	79.8	71.9	+7.9	48.0	40.2	+7.8	+0.7	74.7
	MIAMI FLORIDA	2	79.4	72.1	+7.3	48.6	45.0	+3.6	+2.7	77.6
	MICHIGAN STATE	2	70.2	67.4	+2.8	45.0	42.0	+3.0	+3.1	76.2
	MISSISSIPPI STATE	2	65.9X	61.0	+4.9	42.3	39.4	+2.9	+3.9	64.7X
	MISSOURI	1	79.5	74.6	+4.9	47.3	44.5	+2.8	-7.1X	75.8
	MONTANA STATE	2	74.2	66.6	+7.6	46.9	42.8	+4.1	+2.4	75.9
	NC STATE	3	78.2	70.8	+7.4	45.3	44.4	+0.9	+1.8	72.0
	NEVADA	2	72.6	66.9	+5.7	44.4	41.9	+2.5	-0.1	79.1★
	NORTHERN KENTUCKY	4	68.2	63.6	+4.6	43.2	43.7	-0.5	-1.1	69.2
	NORTHWESTERN	4	67.7	62.5	+5.2	40.6X	41.2	-0.6	-0.5	75.1
	ORAL ROBERTS	4	84.2	70.1	+14.1	47.9	41.4	+6.5	+0.4	77.6
	OREGON	3	70.7	67.1	+3.6	44.9	41.9	+3.0	+5.4	70.9
	PENN STATE	4	72.3	68.4	+3.9	46.4	43.0	+3.4	-2.3	73.8
	PITTSBURGH	3	76.1	70.5	+5.6	45.3	42.6	+2.7	+2.4	76.1
	PRINCETON	2	76.0	68.6	+7.4	45.7	42.1	+3.6	+6.5	71.2
	PROVIDENCE	0	78.1	71.3	+6.8	45.9	44.3	+1.6	+6.4	74.5
	PURDUE	2	73.1	62.7	+10.4	45.9	41.7	+4.2	+10.9★	74.3
	SAINT MARY'S	3	71.4	60.1★	+11.3	45.8	41.5	+4.3	+7.2	69.3
	SAN DIEGO STATE	4	72.1	63.6	+8.5	44.4	41.6	+2.8	+4.5	73.2
	SE MISSOURI STATE	2	77.7	76.0X	+1.7	43.6	44.7	-1.1	-0.8	71.5
	TCU	5	75.2	67.9	+7.3	45.7	42.5	+3.2	+1.0	70.1
	TENNESSEE	4	71.8	58.0	+13.8	43.7	36.9★	+6.8	+6.9	71.4
	TEXAS	3	77.9	67.4	+10.5	46.8	42.0	+4.8	-0.7	75.2
	TEXAS A&M	4	73.2	66.2	+7.0	43.5	40.5	+3.0	+4.7	75.9
	TEXAS A&M - CC	5	80.4	72.5	+7.9	45.7	44.6	+1.1	+3.7	79.0
	TEXAS SOUTHERN	3	69.4	71.6	-2.2X	42.7	42.6	+0.1	+2.1	66.1
	UCLA	2	73.9	60.3	+13.6	45.8	40.6	+5.2	+3.7	72.2
	UCONN	2	78.5	65.0	+13.5	46.0	41.0	+5.0	+9.2	75.4
	UC-SANTA BARBARA	4	72.2	65.6	+6.6	49.3	44.1	+5.2	+1.8	72.8
	UNC ASHEVILLE	3	75.0	68.6	+6.4	47.7	42.0	+5.7	+1.1	69.4
	USC	2	72.8	67.3	+5.5	45.7	39.0	+6.7	-0.5	74.4
	UTAH STATE	3	78.6	69.7	+8.9	48.0	42.1	+5.9	+4.0	76.4
	VA COMMONWEALTH	2	71.4	62.9	+8.5	46.5	41.5	+5.0	+0.4	69.7
	VERMONT	1	73.0	66.6	+6.4	47.5	44.5	+3.0	-1.1	69.7
	VIRGINIA	5	67.8	60.3	+7.5	44.9	41.5	+3.4	0.0	70.1
	WEST VIRGINIA	1	76.3	71.0	+5.3	45.3	44.8	+0.5	+2.5	74.1
	XAVIER	3	81.4	74.1	+7.3	49.4	44.3	+5.1	+5.7	71.4

FINAL 2023 COLLEGE BASKETBALL POWER RATINGS FOR NCAA TOURNAMENT TEAMS

Power Ratings courtesy of KennyWhiteSports.com

AAC		BIG SKY		BIG WEST		MOUNTAIN WEST		MISSISSIPPI STATE	109
HOUSTON	122	MONTANA STATE	102	UCSB	104	BOISE STATE	108	MISSOURI	113
MEMPHIS	113					NEVADA	106	TENNESSEE	118
ACC		BIG SOUTH		COLONIAL		SAN DIEGO STATE	113	TEXAS A&M	117
DUKE	117	UNC-ASHEVILLE	99	CHARLESTON	88	UTAH STATE	116		
MIAMI FLORIDA	111	BIG TEN		C-USA		NORTHEAST		SOUTHERN	
NC STATE	111	ILLINOIS	112	FLORIDA ATLANTIC	112	FAIR DICKINSON	90	FURMAN	108
PITTSBURGH	108	INDIANA	114					SOUTHLAND	
VIRGINIA	114	IOWA	110	HORIZON		OHIO VALLEY		TEXAS A&M-CC	92
AMERICAN EAST		MARYLAND	113	NO KENTUCKY	100	SE MISSOURI STATE	93	SUMMIT	
VERMONT	105	MICHIGAN STATE	114	IVY LEAGUE		PAC-12		ORAL ROBERTS	109
ATLANTIC SUN		NORTHWESTERN	112	PRINCETON	102	ARIZONA	118	SUN BELT	
KENNESAW STATE	101	PENN STATE	111	METRO ATLANTIC		ARIZONA STATE	107	LOUISIANA	105
		PURDUE	116	IONA	107	UCLA	120	SWAC	
ATLANTIC 10		BIG 12		MID-AMERICAN		USC	110	TEXAS SOUTHERN	89
VCU	112	BAYLOR	114	KENT STATE	106	PATRIOT		WAC	
BIG EAST		IOWA STATE	112	MID-EASTERN		COLGATE	105	GRAND CANYON	102
CREIGHTON	117	KANSAS	120	HOWARD	98	SOUTHEASTERN		WEST COAST	
MARQUETTE	116	KANSAS STATE	85	MISSOURI VALLEY		ALABAMA	123	GONZAGA	120
PROVIDENCE	112	TCU	116	DRAKE	112	ARKANSAS	114	SAINT MARY'S	113
UCONN	121	TEXAS	120			AUBURN	114		
XAVIER	116	WEST VIRGINIA	114			KENTUCKY	115		

ODDS TO WIN 2023 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Here are odds on the top 34 teams from Westgate SuperBook

Houston	5/1	Marquette	20/1	Saint Mary's	40/1	Iowa	80/1
Alabama	7/1	Connecticut	20/1	Indiana	40/1	Iowa St	80/1
Kansas	10/1	Baylor	25/1	Kansas St	50/1	Maryland	80/1
Purdue	12/1	Tennessee	25/1	Miami Fl	50/1	Memphis	80/1
Arizona	14/1	Creighton	30/1	Virginia	50/1	Michigan St	80/1
Gonzaga	14/1	Duke	30/1	Texas A&M	60/1	San Diego St	80/1
UCLA	14/1	TCU	30/1	Xavier	60/1	Auburn, FAU	100/1
Texas	16/1	Kentucky	40/1	Arkansas	80/1	Illinois, WVU	100/1

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2023 NCAA COLLEGE BASKETBALL

SOUTH BRACKET

ROUND 1 • March 16-17

ROUND 2 • March 18-19

SWEET 16 / ELITE 8 • March 23-26

BIRMINGHAM, AL		OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL
3/16	1 Alabama	NL		
	16 AMCC / SEMO			
3/16	8 Maryland	Pk		
	9 W Virginia			
ORLANDO, FL		OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL
3/16	5 San Diego St	4'		
	12 Charleston			
3/16	4 Virginia	6		
	13 Furman			
DENVER, CO		OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL
3/17	6 Creighton	4'		
	11 NC State			
3/17	3 Baylor	11'		
	14 UCSB			
SACRAMENTO, CA		OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL
3/16	7 Missouri			
	10 Utah St	1'		
3/16	2 Arizona	14		
	15 Princeton			

BIRMINGHAM, AL	OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL

3/18

ORLANDO, FL	OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL

3/18

DENVER, CO	OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL

3/19

SACRAMENTO, CA	OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL

3/18

★ SOUTH VS EAST WINNER:

LOUISVILLE, KY	OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL

FINAL FOUR
Houston, TX • APRIL 1-3

TAMU-CC (-4) vs SE Mo St • March 14 (Dayton, OH)

Winner To Play No. 1 Alabama (South Bracket)

EAST BRACKET

ROUND 1 • March 16-17

ROUND 2 • March 18-19

SWEET 16 / ELITE 8 • March 23-26

COLUMBUS, OH		OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL
3/17	1 Purdue	NL		
	16 TXSO / FDU			
3/17	8 Memphis	3		
	9 Fla Atlantic			
ORLANDO, FL		OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL
3/16	5 Duke	7'		
	12 Oral Roberts			
3/16	4 Tennessee	13		
	13 Louisiana			
GREENSBORO, NC		OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL
3/17	6 Kentucky			
	11 Providence	4		
3/17	3 Kansas St	9'		
	14 Montana St			
COLUMBUS, OH		OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL
3/17	7 Michigan St	1'		
	10 Usc			
3/17	2 Marquette	13'		
	15 Vermont			

COLUMBUS, OH	OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL

3/19

ORLANDO, FL	OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL

3/18

GREENSBORO, NC	OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL

3/19

COLUMBUS, OH	OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL

3/19

All lines shown are OPENING LINES.
FINAL FOUR at NRG STADIUM.

NEW YORK, NY	OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL

FINAL FOUR
Houston, TX • APRIL 1-3

Texas So vs F. Dickinson (Pk) • March 14 (Dayton, OH)

Winner To Play No. 1 Purdue (East Bracket)

DIVISION 1 MEN'S BRACKETS

MIDWEST BRACKET

ROUND 1 • March 16-17

ROUND 2 • March 18-19

SWEET 16 / ELITE 8 • March 23-26

	BIRMINGHAM, AL	OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL
3/16	1 Houston	21'		
	16 Northern Ky			
3/16	8 Iowa	Pk		
	9 Auburn			

	ALBANY, NY	OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL
3/17	5 Miami Fl	4		
	12 Drake			
3/17	4 Indiana	6'		
	13 Kent St			

	GREENSBORO, NC	OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL
3/17	6 Iowa St	NL		
	11 Miss St / Pitt			
3/17	3 Xavier	11'		
	14 Kennesaw St			

	DES MOINES, IA	OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL
3/16	7 Texas A&M	3'		
	10 Penn St			
3/16	2 Texas	14'		
	15 Colgate			

	BIRMINGHAM, AL	OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL

3/18

	ALBANY, NY	OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL

3/19

	GREENSBORO, NC	OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL

3/19

	DES MOINES, IA	OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL

3/18

★ **MIDWEST VS WEST WINNER:**

	KANSAS CITY, MO	OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL

FINAL FOUR

Houston, TX • APRIL 1-3

Miss St (-2.5) vs Pittsburgh • March 14 (Dayton, OH)

Winner To Play No. 6 Iowa St (Midwest Bracket)

WEST BRACKET

ROUND 1 • March 16-17

ROUND 2 • March 18-19

SWEET 16 / ELITE 8 • March 23-26

	DES MOINES, IA	OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL
3/16	1 Kansas	23		
	16 Howard			
3/16	8 Arkansas	1'		
	9 Illinois			

	ALBANY, NY	OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL
3/17	5 Saint Mary's	5		
	12 VCU			
3/17	4 UCONN	10		
	13 Iona			

	DENVER, CO	OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL
3/17	6 TCU	NL		
	11 ASU / Nev			
3/17	3 Gonzaga	14'		
	14 Grand Canyon			

	SACRAMENTO, CA	OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL
3/16	7 N'western			
	10 Boise St	1		
3/16	2 UCLA	19'		
	15 UNC Asheville			

	DES MOINES, IA	OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL

3/18

	ALBANY, NY	OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL

3/19

	DENVER, CO	OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL

3/19

	SACRAMENTO, CA	OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL

3/18

★ **NATIONAL CHAMPION • APRIL 3**

	LAS VEGAS, NV	OPEN	CLOSE	FINAL

FINAL FOUR

Houston, TX • APRIL 1-3

Arizona St vs Nevada (Pk) • March 14 (Dayton, OH)

Winner To Play No. 1 Kansas (West Bracket)

2023 NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

FIRST FOUR Play-In Games – UD Arena - Dayton, OH

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

[16] Texas A&M CC over [16] SE Missouri State by 1

The History Book notes that No. 16 seeded favorites of fewer than 4 points in the First Four games are 6-11 ATS all-time (2-0 ATS last year). That's not good news for either of these Tuesday night favorites. Corpus Christi played in a "First Four" game last season when they lost, 76-67, to Texas Southern. The Islanders were drilled at Arizona, 99-61, and at Oklahoma State, 81-58, this season, but won 12 of their final 13 games of the season to earn this bid. On the other side of the coin, SEMO finished in 5th place in the Ohio Valley Conference yet the Redhawks caught fire down the stretch to overcome a 9-game losing skid earlier in the campaign to capture this berth with an overtime win against Tennessee Tech, their first NCAA tourney since 2000. They did manage to score road wins over lined teams at Evansville and USF this season and have topped the 90-point scoring barrier on nine occasions this (89 points twice). While Tammy Christi plays solid defense (72.5 PPG), it may not be enough to hold the Redhawks at bay. We're not trying to rewrite history here, but this game looks like whomever scores last wins and advances.

[11] Pittsburgh over [11] Mississippi State by 6

An eye-opening sidebar note in "First Four" games: In only two years since the "First Four" debuted in 2011 has a team from this group failed to make the Round of 32 (2019 and 2022). But no "First Four" team has managed to match the success of VCU in 2011, and UCLA in 2021. The Rams knocked off 11-seed USC in the First Four, and then preceded to take down 6-seed Georgetown, 3-seed Purdue, 10-seed Florida State, and 1-seed Kansas to reach the Final Four, where they finally fell to 8-seed Butler. UCLA made a run from the First Four in the 2021 tourney to the Final Four before bowing out to top-seed Gonzaga, who then lost to Baylor in the title game. With that, we make the blue collar, deeply experienced Panthers the team to carry the torch in this event. For openers, Pitt brings a **10-0 SU and 8-2 ATS** ledger in March Madness opening games against #11 or worse seeds into this tourney. In addition, ACC teams in this 'play-in' event are 4-1 SUATS. On the flip side, the Bulldogs bring a 3-game losing skid in NCAA tourney games into this fray while standing just 3-10 SUATS against ACC opponents. Back the better team. Back the Panthers.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

[16] Fairleigh Dickinson over [16] Texas Southern by 3

The strange thing here is that FDU is playing tonight despite the fact the Knights actually lost to league champion Merrimack in the Northeast Conference championship game. That's because Merrimack is a Division-1 newbie who made the jump from Division II to Division I in 2019, but is serving the last year of a four-year prohibition from NCAA tournament play following its transition. Editor's note: It's such an archaic rule that it needs to be abolished. Nevertheless, the Knights went 1-3 SUATS against 'lined' opponents this season (beat St. Joseph's), and are 1-4 SU and 3-2 ATS in this tourney, with their last appearance resulting in an 87-49 loss to top-seeded Gonzaga in 2019. On the other side of the court, 14-20 Texas Southern enters as the only team in this year's Dance with a losing record, yet own the Southwestern Athletic Conference tourney to make its second consecutive trip to this tournament (beat A&M CC in a "First Four" game last year before bowing out, 83-56, to Kansas thereafter). Being just the third team ever in this tourney with 20 losses, it's no surprise the paper Tigers are the only team in this event with a negative overall scoring margin. The Tigers did take down Arizona State, 67-66, as a 12-point home dog this season, and while they have the experience, FDU is playing with house-money. And we're not betting against the house.

[11] Arizona State over [11] Nevada by 8

Our Well Oiled Machine is first in line in this game as it notes that First Four matchups involving a pair of Division-1 teams finds that squads coming off an outright loss as a favorite are 5-13 SU and 7-11 ATS, including **1-9 SU and 2-8 ATS** against foes who were underdogs of 3 or more points in their last contest. That sets the table for the Sun Devils who were 17-6 SU against sub .690 opponents this season, as well as 9-2 SU and 7-4 ATS in games outside the Pac-12. And it certainly doesn't hurt knowing the pitchforks bring an **8-1-1 ATS** mark in this contest against Mountain West opposition. Meanwhile, the Wolf Pack closed the season on a 0-3 SUATS losing skein which is not a good omen for Nevada considering teams entering the Big Dance on a 0-3 SUATS losing skein are just 4-10 SU and 3-11 ATS since 2004, including **0-5 SUATS** as an underdog. We seal the deal noting that MWC teams are riding a **0-12 SU and 1-11 ATS** skein against Pac-12 foes in this show since 2001.

2023 NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

THURSDAY, MARCH 16 – FIRST ROUND Games (All Times are ET)

Amway Center, Orlando FL - TruTV / CBS

(Games at 3:10 PM, 12:40 PM, 7:10 PM, 9:40 PM)

[12] Charleston over [5] San Diego State by 1

What better way to start Thursday's activities than a classic 12/5 seed matchup. For openers, a 5-seed has never won this tournament, while only three 5-seeds have reached the title game: Butler (2010), Indiana (2002), and Florida (2000), all of which lost to No. 1 seeds. The Well-Oiled machine (**WOM**) calls out the fact that 12-seeds have managed to win at least one opening round game against a 12-seed in all but two of 31 years dating back to 1991, while going 22-12-2 ATS overall since 2013. After a 17-15 debut last year, Charleston head coach Pat Kelsey has his Cougars running on all cylinders: with only two losses since November 11, Charleston is one of only four teams in the nation able to claim 30 wins this season. Considering the Cougars' only NCAA tournament win came way back in 1997, the odds seem stacked against a deep run here. But Charleston has been a tough out in this tournament, as all six games in school history have been decided by 10 or fewer points, despite the Cougars being a 12-seed or worse in four of those five appearances. There are also plenty of hurdles facing the Aztecs in this year's event. For openers, the Mountain West have never had a team advance beyond the Sweet 16, as opposed to 17 other conferences that have had teams reach the Elite Eight since the MWC was formed in 1999-2000. And it gets uglier as, per ESPN, the MWC is **1-8 SU and 0-8-1 ATS** in first round games since 2010. History has not been kind to the Aztecs either, as they've gone one-and-done in each of the last three Dances while dropping four straight games. They'd also better polish up their 3-point defense for this one – almost half of the Cougars' shot attempts are from beyond the arc. Add the fact that Charleston fans should descend en masse to the not-so-distant venue in Orlando, and we smell an upset right out of the box.

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[4] Virginia over [13] Furman by 3

Last year on these pages, we wrote: "After ruling college basketball for decades, the ACC is in a decline that shows no signs of slowing." So, what happened? Duke and North Carolina both made it to the Final Four. However, like Nostradamus, we were just a year early with our observation, considering the once-proud conference has been a total train wreck this season. Case in point: North Carolina failed to make this year's tournament after being ranked No. 1 in the pre-season polls, the first such occurrence in NCAA Men's Basketball history. And Virginia, the most consistent ACC team this campaign, could muster only a No. 4 seed on Selection Sunday. ESPN reports that at least one top-4 seed has lost in the first round in 13 of the past 14 tournaments (32 of 37 overall). Despite returning 5 starters from last year's 21-win squad, that's enough to keep Cavs head coach Tony Bennett up at night – especially since three of Virginia's past four tournament defeats have come against teams seeded at least nine spots worse than they were: 2021 first round vs. No. 13 Ohio, 2018 first round vs. No. 16 UMBC and 2016 Elite Eight vs. No. 10 Syracuse. Meanwhile, the Purple Paladins of Furman have averaged 23 wins over the last seven seasons and ride a 6-game win streak into its first appearance in The Dance since 1980. Furman is also one of four "double champions" (teams who won both their regular season and postseason conference titles) who are taking points from foes that won neither. We love fading these often-times disappointed favorites, especially with double-confident champions who are ecstatic to be dancing. Hey, the Paladins won their 15 conference games by an average margin of 16 points, and four players take the floor here averaging double-digits. Virginia can claim the second-best defense in the tourney, but they'll need to apply the screws if they don't wish to get screwed in this lid-lifter.

[4] Tennessee over [13] Louisiana by 7

The Vols looked like world-beaters this season until February rolled around. Tennessee then proceeded to play its way out of the Final Four conversation with an ugly 5-7 SU and 4-8 ATS slide. Don't look for a sudden return to prominence here: in seven previous trips as a top-4 seed in the modern era, the Vols have never advanced past the Sweet 16. This year, they have to overcome the loss of point guard Zakai Zeigler, (ACL) and complicating matters is the fact that only one of Rick Barnes' 25 career NCAA tournament victories has come against a higher-seeded team. And since Barnes' most recent Elite Eight trip 15 years ago with Texas, his teams have not beaten a single-digit seed (0-7) and have made the Sweet 16 just once in 10 appearances. Jeez, that's enough to keep Smokey on the porch back in Knoxville. UL Lafayette arrives today as reigning Sun Belt champions, and the Cajuns have an airfreight carrier in Jordan Brown, the former 5-star high school recruit who transferred in from Arizona. The all-Sun Belt first-teamer is averaging 19.4 PPG, 8.7 RPG and 1.2 BPG, and ULL has got added firepower in senior Greg Williams Jr., who has canned 40% from 3-point range this season. If you watched Tennessee demolish South Carolina by 40 points a few weeks ago, you may have your doubts about taking the Ragin' ones, but the **WOM** reminds us that Louisiana is **4-0 ATS** as a double-digit dog in this event. Even though the Vols are a banged-up bunch, they should get past the Cajuns today. Moving forward, however, is a story for another day.

3★ BEST BET

(12) Oral Roberts over (5) Duke by 6

We know it's considered questionable behavior to kick someone when they're down. However, with the ACC currently in a state of confusion entering this tournament, who are we to turn down a winning ticket? Especially when we get another chance to take points with a 12-seed against a 5-seed. Welcome to the first Big Dance in 40 years without Mike Krzyzewski or Roy Williams coaching on the sidelines. Duke's rookie head coach Jon Scheyer has admirably filled some mighty big shoes this season and his Blue Devils are riding a 9-game win streak entering this event, courtesy of solid play by 7-foot freshman center Kyle Filipowski, a 3rd-team All American who averaged 15.0 PPG and 9.2 RPG. ESPN notes that amazingly, the ACC has had at least one team reach the Sweet 16 in all 37 tournaments; however, it's our feeling it won't be the Dukies. This is the fourth time in school history that Duke isn't a top-4 seed, and in the two previous instances, it lost in the first round (2007 as a No. 6 vs. VCU, 1996 as a No. 8 vs. Eastern Michigan). It could happen again here against an Oral Roberts' squad that returned their top 6 scorers, and 7 of the top 8 from last year's 19-win unit this season. The Golden Eagles reached the Sweet 16 in 2021, and their current 18-game win streak is the longest in this tournament. Can't turn down another of the four 30-win teams in this tournament, especially when we get a look at **THE CLINCHER: ACC tourney champions are just 10-20-1 ATS in opening round games in the NCAA Tournament, including 0-7 ATS as a No. 3 or worse seed.**



Legacy Arena, Birmingham AL - CBS / TNT (Games at 2:45 PM, 12:15 PM, 9:20 PM, 6:50 PM)

[1] Alabama over [16] Texas A&M CC/SEMO by 21

Head coach Nate Oats and the Alabama basketball team did not take kindly to the recent negative press surrounding star player Brandon Miller and punished all three opponents in the SEC Tournament, dispatching Mississippi State by 23 and Missouri by 11 before lowering the boom on Texas A&M in the championship game, 82-63. Okay, that's out of the way, but the Crimson Tide ain't off the hook yet. Simply put, how is Miller still in uniform and playing? A first team All-American freshman forward, he was involved with ex-teammate Darius Miles in the murder case of a young woman in February, allegedly supplying Miles with the gun used in the killing. One can only imagine the machinations that have unfolded behind the scenes in order to keep Miller in the mix, and if Bama wins the whole thing, Oats has proven himself greasy enough to retire and run for governor. We're not sure which side of the fence you're on regarding this mess, but we will tell you that the overall No. 1 seed has climbed the ladder and cut down the nets in each of the last 5 tournaments. If Brandishing Brandon manages to stay on the court, remember the future NBA lotto pick averaged 19.6 ppg, 8.0 RPG, while nailing 40% of his 3-pointers. If, as we expect, the Islanders got here it was likely due to the grace of 5 veteran starters back from last year's 23-win squad, meaning they will not be intimidated by the presence of the No. 1 overall seed in this tournament. Then there's this hard-to-swallow pill: The Tide is 2-7 SU and 2-6-1 ATS in this tournament against foes coming off a win. With the glare of the spotlight only intensifying in the Miles-Miller murder investigation, we have no problem playing the fade game here.

[9] West Virginia over [8] Maryland by 10

So, the question begs: Is there any advantage in 8-9 seeds matchups in the opening round of this tournament? Not really. The closest the **WOM** was able to ascertain is that 8-seeds are on a 5-11 SUATS slide since 2018, including **2-10 SUATS** against 9-seeds coming off a SUATS loss. That's not good news for the Terps, who've won only a single game this month over bottom-feeding Minnesota in the Big Ten Tournament – and the Gophers are a big cut below what Maryland will see in West Virginia. Mountaineers head coach Bob Huggins was at his best this campaign, getting an invite to the dance after being picked to finish ninth in the Big 12 following last year's 16-17 losing effort. And while Huggy failed to make our Sweet 16 cut on this year's top NCAA tourney coaches list, the fact of the matter is his troops are 11-4 SU and 9-5-1 ATS in first round games when coming off a loss, including **9-1 SU** and **7-2-1 ATS** versus sub .740 opposition. Finally, ESPN shared this nugget: At-large teams that finished four games under .500 in conference play are 5-0 in the first round. Last year, 11th-seeded Iowa State became the first such team to reach the Sweet 16. This year West Virginia (7-11 in the Big 12) is the only at-large team in this year's field to finish four games under .500 in conference play. Take it away, Huggy Bear!

[1] Houston over [16] Northern Kentucky by 27

So, for the first time since 1983, Houston finds itself as a No. 1 seed in this tournament. Just how good was the team that ranked No. 1 more weeks than any in the polls this season? Power Forward Jarace Walker, a projected NBA Draft pick, is one of five starters to average double-digits this season. However, the loss of star guard Marcus Stasser (groin) in the AAC title game
(continued on next page)

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proved devastating to the scorching hot Cougars as they fell to Memphis. The second team All American averaged 17.8 ppg, 3.3 APG and landed 40% of his 3-point heaves. Two big questions, though. Can they compete with the best teams in the nation after playing in a league ranked ninth – below the West Coast – in KenPom's rankings, and will Sasser be fully healthy for this contest? We do know they led the country in scoring margin (+16.0) and they play a suffocating style of defense. They're also **6-0 ATS** in games when coming off a double-digit loss. The feeling here is coach Sampson and company will likely be hell-bent on making a statement in this game today. If it weren't for the Cougars' worst-in-class 1-6 ATS mark this season in games versus fellow NCAA Tournament teams, we'd consider snapping the rubber band. Nonetheless, the Norse closed like a racehorse, going 7-1 SUATS down the stretch to capture the Horizon League title. They returned 4 starters from last year's 20-win unit but were only 2-8 ATS in games outside the Horizon. They are 0-2 all-time in this event, as well as **1-24 ATS** in their last 25 outright losses. That might be all you need to know today.

[9] Auburn over [8] Iowa by 4

These two teams look appropriately seeded as each program suffered similar frustrations this season and failed to live up to expectations. On the heels of a 28-win effort the previous season, Auburn was ranked No. 15 in the AP preseason poll this campaign but underachieved as they suffered five losses by 3 or fewer points. Ditto for the Hawkeyes, a 26-win team last season that also underachieved this campaign, managing only 19 victories. As we called out in the Maryland-WVU game, 8-seeds are on a 5-11 SUATS slide since 2018, including **2-10 SUATS** against 9-seeds coming off a SUATS loss. The Hawkeyes check that box in this contest and take the court here with a -2.0 field goal percentage deficit, and a feeble 1.8 advantage in rebounding margin this year. Hey, the Tigers were a 20-win team entering the SEC tourney before being bounced in the opening round by Arkansas, so they'll be counting the minutes until tip-off. Auburn also owns the edge between head coaches when it comes to cashing tickets, as Bruce Pearl stands 8-1 ATS as a single-digit dog in this event (check the spread) while Iowa's Fran McCaffery is just 3-7 ATS in The Dance, including 1-5 ATS when not taking points. This beauty, compliments of ESPN, seals the deal: Auburn is 10-0 outright in first-round games.

Wells Fargo Arena, Des Moines IA - TBS
(Games at 9:55 PM, 7:25 PM, 2:00 PM, 4:30 PM)

[10] Penn State over [7] Texas A&M by 3

When Watty Piper penned 'The Little Engine That Could' back in 1930, he probably had no idea that his work would become synonymous with a refusal to accept defeat. Well, if ol' Watty had been around last week, he would have given his stamp of approval to the Penn State basketball team. The Nittany Lions played four games in the recent Big Ten Tournament and won the first three by a total of just 9 points before taking Purdue to the limit in a 65-67 loss. The proof is in the cashing, as Brent Musberger might say, and Penn State stated its case by going 4-0 ATS during the tourney. Now head coach

Micah Shrewsberry will try to keep the momentum going against what has to be a down-in-the-dumps bunch of Aggies, crushed by Alabama in the SEC title game. A plus for the Lions is their 10-5 SU and 14-0-1 ATS record in their last fifteen games on neutral courts. Sure, the Aggies may be 12-2 ATS as a favorite (9-0 ATS the last nine) since the calendar turned on January 1, but the Lions carry an 8-2 SU and 7-3 ATS ledger in their last ten games into this contest. They are also 13-5 ATS against .666 or greater opponents this season, including six ATS covers in a row when taking points. This will be Texas A&M's first trip to The Dance since 2018 but we don't look for the celebration to go much further. Both teams bring plenty to the table but being major dog lovers, we can't remain neutral here, not with the Nits on a 'neutral assault'. We think they can... we think they can...

UPSET TOURNAMENT GAME UPSET

[15] Colgate over [2] Texas by 2

Okay, who doesn't think of toothpaste when they hear the word 'Colgate'? Well, the fact is the university was named after William Colgate, who started the Colgate Company. He and his family were major financiers of the college for years and enabled the school to thrive. Do you know where Colgate University is located? The campus is in Hamilton, New York, which sits roughly halfway between Albany and Rochester – meaning weekend trips to 'The City' won't occur with much regularity. Right now, the toast of the town is Colgate basketball head coach Matt Langell, who is arguably the most under-the-radar coach in the nation. Not only is his starting five loaded with fifth-year seniors, the Raiders are also the best 3-point shooting team in the country, landing almost 41% of their tosses (they were #2 in the nation last season at over 40%, and #3 two seasons ago, also over 40%). Still, Texas is probably on a ton of brackets this week after embarrassing Kansas in the Big 12 Championship game, and Longhorn fans are looking at the possibility of having interim coach Rodney Terry win a national championship after leading this team up the ladder in the final game of this tournament after former head coach Chris Beard was canned on a sexual misconduct allegation. If Terry succeeds, he'll become only the second interim head coach to win a men's or women's national championship (Steve Fisher with Michigan men in 1989). Senior PG Marcus Carr averaged 16.2 PPG, 4.2 APG and hit on 37% of his 3-point attempts, all good enough to land him a spot on the third team All American list this season. The problem is Texas hasn't won a game after the first round in 15 years. That's certainly enough to keep an interim coach awake at night, that and the fact that Colgate is riding a 20-1 win skein entering this contest. The Longhorns' disastrous **3-9 SU and 1-11 ATS** mark in this tournament since 2010 makes it next to impossible to look their way, especially with added ammunition from **THE CLINCHER: Big 12 tournament champions coming off a SU underdog win are 3-4 SU and 2-5 ATS in the first round of the NCAA tourney, including 1-5 ATS versus sub .800 opponents.**

[1] Kansas over [16] Howard by 18

The Jayhawks are back to defend last year's championship trophy, but right now most of the attention is focused on the health of head coach Bill Self. The University of Kansas Health System announced Self, 60, had been discharged in "good condition" after arriving to the emergency department on the night of March 8 "complaining of chest tightness and balance concerns." The hospital also announced Self underwent a "chest procedure" to address the issue and is expected to make a full recovery. Translation: he'll be stalking the sidelines for as long as KU remains in this tournament. One reason Self's blood pressure shouldn't be a big concern today is the presence of 6-foot-8 freshman forward Jalen Wilson, who scored an All-American first ballot win after averaging 20.3 ppg and 8.4 RPG. Let's hope Wilson and his teammates feeling like defending the perimeter against Howard as the Bison are sharpshooters from beyond the arc, nailing 43% of their attempts. Former Duke star Kenny Blakeney has led the Bison to the party for the first time in 31 years, and they carry a 5-game win streak into this contest. While the Jayhawks are 13-0 SU and 11-2 ATS laying points when coming off a double-digit SUATS loss, and Bill Self is 21-2 SU and 15-8 ATS in opening round games, they are also a featured item in this week's **INCREDIBLE STAT** as outlined on page 2 – and that makes them a wobbly favorite here this afternoon in a game where they are certainly capable of playing down to the level of the Bison. Remember, they were a mere 3-12 ATS as favorites of 7 or more points this season. No thanks.

[8] Arkansas over [9] Illinois by 10

The Big Ten and the SEC lead the way with most teams in this tournament (8 each) and this is one of the reasons why. Yes, we understand the Illini are 8-1 ATS in games when both teams are coming off ATS losses, but they are also just 5-15 outright and 7-13 ATS against No. 8 or better seeds in this

tournament, including 1-9 outright in games in which Illinois sports a sub .777 win percentage. It's hard backing a team like this, especially a school that hasn't reached the Sweet 16 since 2005. As for the Razorbacks, they must overcome the recent ugliness of 8-seeds in opening round games being on a 5-11 SUATS losing run since 2018, including **2-10 SUATS** against 9-seeds coming off a SUATS loss. But it's our belief that if anyone can, the Musselman can. The head Hog just missed the cut list of our March Madness Top 16 coaches as he is 8-5 SU and 5-8 ATS overall, but he's gone a hog wild **5-1 SUATS** in this tourney against foes that are not arriving off consecutive SUATS wins. Don't forget, the Razorbacks were the No. 2 preseason pick in the SEC this season, so the talent is there. Not thrilled with the fact that both teams closed out 1-3 SU in their most recent four games, but we've got to pick a side, so we'll be makin' bacon with the better squad today. Woo Pig Sooley!

Golden 1 Center, Sacramento CA - TNT / TruTV (Games at 1:40 PM, 4:10 PM, 7:35 PM, 2:00 PM)

[7] Missouri over [10] Utah State by 6

The talking heads on Selection Sunday were gushing over Utah State, winners of 7 straight games before falling to San Diego State in the MWC Championship game, tagging the Aggies as a potential dark horse contender. However, since reaching the Elite Eight in 1970, the Aggies are 1-17 outright in the NCAA tournament (the one win came in overtime in 2001). Further, our feelings on such speculation can be summed up by the Missouri state slogan: Show Me. The key to Mizzou's success in head coach Dennis Gates' first season with the Tigers was convincing star forward Kobe Brown to not transfer out. The all-SEC first-teamer (15.9 PPG, 6.2 RPG, 46% from beyond the arc) helped the Tigers double up their wins from 12 last season to 24 this campaign. With decisions over Illinois, Kentucky, and Tennessee, they enter the NCAA tournament on a 4-game winning streak. A big concern for Utah State: Per ESPN – **Mountain West teams seeded 10th or worse are 1-23 all time, with 20 straight losses** since the only win in 2002. That's certainly not good news for the Aggies. Especially as they find themselves dressing up as a favorite against the 7th-seeded Tigers. Head coach Ryan Odom, who coached No. 16 seed UMBC to its magical upset over top-seeded Virginia in the 2018 NCAA Tournament, guided the Aggies to the NIT last year and the NCAA Tourney this season in his first two years with Utah State. They play a rugged brand of defense but it's going to take a major effort to move a mountain and overcome the MWC's putrid history in this tourney. Yes, Missouri will need to overcome a 0-6 SUATS mark in their last six games on the dance floor but they'll do so knowing they are 10-5 SUATS in this tournament in games in which they sport the better record. It's showtime for the Tigers.

[2] Arizona over [15] Princeton by 8

A battle royale between two members of the feline family? Most observers feel this will be little more than a sacrificial bloodletting by Arizona. The Wildcats followed up last season's 33-win effort under new head coach Tommy Lloyd with another staunch effort this campaign, winning the Pac-12 tournament and landing a No. 2 seed in this event. Leading the way was

junior Azuolas Tubelis, a 6-foot-11 power forward who averaged 19.9 PPG and 9.2 RPG. Zona is now 61-10 under Lloyd as his troops lost to Houston in the Sweet 16 in this tournament last season – his only postseason loss with the Wildcats (8-1). Lloyd's 22-2 SU and 17-7 ATS mark in games against foes coming off a win of more than 8 points also figures to serve them well here today. However, Pac-12 conference champions are only 2-6-1 ATS in the first round of the NCAA tournament when facing foes coming off a win. As for Princeton, the Ivy Leaguers sport a 10-5 ATS mark in this tourney since 2010, including **7-1 ATS** when coming off a win of 7-plus points. The Tigers are also 6-2 ATS as a double-digit dog under head coach Mitch Henderson versus winning opponents who are not undefeated, in addition to going 4-2 SU and 5-1 ATS as a dog this season. Remember, all four No. 2 seeds have reached the Sweet 16 just twice in the past 25 tournaments and given the Wildcats' wimpy **2-11-1 ATS** ledger in its last 14 dances, we'll be on the take today. Hold your nose and grab the points.

[7] Northwestern over [10] Boise State by 4

This game switched favorites with Boise State opening as chalk then flipping to the dog. Our best guess is the price wasn't right, not with the Broncos carrying a No. 10 seed in the contest. It also had a lot to do with the fact that Boise has NEVER won an NCAA tourney game, going 0-8 all-time, and has never beaten a Big Ten foe (0-7). Yep, there are a lot of ugly numbers out there and they all point to the Broncos. Winning the close games was instrumental in Northwestern reaching just its 2nd NCAA tournament in school history. Head coach Chris Collins was frustrated last season after going 16-17 while losing eight games by 6 or fewer points, but this season they won seven games by 6 or fewer points. In addition, the Wildcats were 10-4 ATS in games away from Evanston. We like these cats. Don't worry about Northwestern's one-and-done in the Big Ten tourney as Penn State darn near won the whole thing. The Cats will get back on track here.

[2] UCLA over [15] NC Asheville by 14

When he coined the phrase "March Madness" back in 1982 while doing a broadcast, little did venerable broadcaster Brent Musburger realize it would become the rallying cry for college basketball's biggest event. It's become almost as dominant a theme as UCLA was back in the 1960s and mid '70s of this event behind legendary John Wooden. Those days are in the rearview mirror for the Bruins, yet they remain a player in this event, returning for the 14th time in the past 18 tournaments. They've gone 28-13 outright in games over that span, including 10 straight wins over No. 12 or worse seeds while cashing tickets 7 times in those contests. This is the first time the Bruins are a top-2 seed since 2008, when they reached the Final Four as a No. 1 seed. They should continue the journey against NC Asheville, a relative unknown who may prove to be a stubborn opponent. After losing in the first round of the Big South tourney last year, the Bulldogs stormed from way back to beat Campbell en route to winning the title this season. Look, this team improved by 11 wins in head coach Mike Morrell's first season on the mountain before COVID stepped in the way and delayed their progress. Yes, the Bears are 6-1 ATS in this tourney as a favorite of 17-plus points, but the problem today is they lug along a 1-4 ATS mark as a favorite in The Dance when entering off a loss. Be careful here... the Bulldogs are a No. 15 seed with some bite.

2023 NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

FRIDAY, MARCH 17 – FIRST ROUND Games (All Times are ET)

MVP Arena, Albany NY - TBS

(Games at 7:25 PM, 9:55 PM, 2:00 PM, 4:30 PM)

5★ BEST BET

(12) Drake over (5) Miami Florida by 10

This game has all the earmarks of being must-watch TV. It pairs two teams that each won a conference title – Miami, the ACC regular season and Drake, the Missouri Valley conference tournament. A trio of 5th-year senior guards leads the Bulldogs' attack: Tucker Devries, Roman Penn, and Garrett Sturtz returned with their extra year of eligibility after having led Drake to 95-wins the previous four years. The terrific threesome averaged 42.1 PPG, 16.5 RPG, and 8.3 APG. They match up well with a Miami unit that also emphasizes guard play. The Canes bring a wobbly **1-5 ATS** record as a favorite in this tournament into this fray as well as a 0-3 ATS mark in its last three Missouri Valley contests. Making matters worse, Miami mentor Jim Larranaga is just **1-5 ATS** as a single-digit favorite in this tournament. Meanwhile, Drake closed the season on a 13-1 winning run. In addition, they were 4-1 SUATS against .750 or greater opponents this campaign. However, we saved the best for last, compliments of **THE CLINCHER: Drake head coach Darian DeVries is 10-2 SUATS "between the 4's" in games on a neutral court.**

[4] Indiana over [13] Kent State by 10

It's safe to say these are not your Bobby Knight Hoosiers. They've advanced past the Sweet 16 just once since 1994. Yet they are **8-2 SUATS** when dancing off a loss, including **7-0 ATS** against greater than .666 opponents. They also own a few big notches in their belt, having swept both Purdue and Illinois while picking up a win at No. 3 seed Xavier. The **WOM** (Well-Oiled Machine) comes to their aid here as well, noting that No. 4 seeds are 50-8 SU in the opening round when coming off a SU favorite loss, including 19-6 ATS when favored by 8 or fewer points. Meanwhile, MAC teams are just 6-19 outright in the NCAA Tournament, and 0-3 SUATS as dogs of fewer than 6 points against the Big Ten in this event. In addition, the Flashes are frauds when taking on Big Ten foes, going just 4-14 SU and 5-13 ATS overall. Lay it if you play it.

[5] Saint Mary's over [12] VCU by 8

In days gone by the seeds of these two teams would have been reversed. However, we're not biting on this 12-seed. The Rams faced four fellow tournament teams this season (Arizona State, Kennesaw State, Memphis, and Pittsburgh), all in November, going 2-2 SU and 0-3-1 ATS in those contests. The 29 games that followed were all against non-tourney teams – making them as soft as a baby's bottom. That's not what they need taking on Saint Mary's, the top team in this tourney in scoring defense. In a testament to their sticky defense is the fact that other than the two
(continued on next page)

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losses they incurred against Gonzaga, the Gaels' other five losses were by 5 or fewer points. They are 11-2 SU and 12-1 ATS when coming off a loss, including **11-0 SUATS** against sub .800 opponents. Do you want any of that? We don't think so.

[4] UConn over [13] Iona by 6

This should be interesting. Future Hall of fame head coach Rick Pitino going up against what looks to be one of his soon-to-be conference rivals (Pitino is strongly mentioned in talks for the St. John's job next season). With it, slick Rick brings a sturdy 50-18 overall record in the Big Dance, including 16-4 outright in opening round games. He has led Iona to its second NCAA tournament appearance in three years. Thanks to MAAC Player of the Year Walter Clayton Jr. (16.9 PPG, 44% from beyond the arc) the Gaels enjoyed a 27-win season, including a 14-game winning streak entering the NCAA tournament. On the other side of the court, the Huskies are **11-0 SU and 10-0-1 ATS** in their last eleven non-conference games. FYI: since 2002, when Ken Pom began tracking this stat, 19 of 20 national champions have finished in the top 25 in adjusted offensive and defensive efficiency. UConn in 2014 has been the only exception. Ironically, the Huskies that season were also the only team that broke through from the other side into the "Elite 8" rankings which itself has produced the national champion in 19 of the past 20 NCAA tournaments. This year's other qualifying team's entering the tournament on Ken Pom's list included Alabama, Houston, Texas, and UCLA in addition to the Huskies. Through it all, Iona is another "double champion" underdog taking points from a non-champion. Just do it!

Nationwide Arena, Columbus OH - TNT / CBS
(Games at 6:50 PM, 9:20 PM, 7:35 PM, 12:15 PM)

[1] Purdue over [16] Texas So/FDU winner by 28

Folks, per ESPN, it's been a long time since a Big Ten (23 years) or Pac-12 school (26 years) cut down the nets in this tournament. In fact, last year, none of the nine Big Ten teams in the tournament advanced past the Sweet 16. As Ricky might tell Lucy, "you've got some 'splainin' to do." For the Boilermakers, it's the first time as a No. 1 seed since 1996. They'll enter the Big Dance this year seeking their first Final Four appearance since 1980. The Boilermakers have advanced past the Sweet 16 just once in six previous trips as a top-2 seed. They have, however, made the Sweet 16 or better in four of the past five tournaments, but have been eliminated by No. 15 and 13 seeds the past two years. The good news is they are **10-4 SU and 11-3 ATS** in NCAA tourney openers under Matt Painter, which should comfortably get them underway against either of the two slop buckets advancing for the "First Four" round.

[9] Florida Atlantic over [8] Memphis by 3

If it's possible for a 30-win team to fly under the radar, the Owls are doing just that. So disrespected is FAU, they were actually a 2.5-point dog in the title game of the CUSA tourney when they rolled past UAB, 78-56. They

bring a glossy 7-3 SU and 9-1 ATS mark into this game when coming of a SU underdog win, including 5-0 SUATS the last five games. In addition, FAU is also **11-1 ATS** in games when both teams arrive off pointspread wins. Enter the American Athletic Conference tourney champion Tigers, off an upset win over a banged up Houston squad. They'll likely pay the price today, though, as the **WOM** notes that NCAA tourney first round chalk is just 12-25-1 ATS since 2000 when coming off a SU win as an underdog in a conference title game. And it doesn't help Elvis fans knowing Memphis is only 3-10 SU and 5-8 ATS against .828 or greater opponents in this tournament. With it, look for the Owls to fly to **5-0 ATS** in their last five meetings against AAC competition tonight.

[2] Marquette over [15] Vermont by 8

If you're planning on diving off the cliffs into the ocean before wagering on this game, you need to know that the last tourney win by Marquette was 10 years ago when it reached the Elite Eight as a No. 3 seed. The Golden Eagles are 0-3 since then, with all losses by 19 or more points. It's also been 10 years since Shaka Smart won an NCAA tournament game (with VCU). He has lost six straight first-round games (five by 4 or fewer points, including three in OT), all as a 10-seed or better, the longest such streak ever. Talk about fugly. You might want to take that jump after backing Marquette anytime soon in this event. Enter the Catamounts who were bounced in the first round of the tournament last season when they were edged, 75-71, by Arkansas. Despite a roster turnover – they returned only one starter from last year's unit – they came back to win the American East again. Head coach John Becker is an unsung winner and the Mounts are lucky to have him.

[10] USC over [7] Michigan State by 1

This has the look and feel of a Rose Bowl matchup on the hardwood. For starters, USC has carried on after losing the Mobley brothers to the NBA over the course of the past two seasons. Despite the gaping holes it caused, head coach Andy Enfield – remember him from Florida Gulf Coast glory – has held things together as this teams have gone 48-18 since the defections. Trojan backers also know they are **8-1 SU and 9-0 ATS** in games when both USC and its opponent lock horns after each team was tripped up as a favorite in its previous game. In addition, the Pac-12 is on a **5-0 SUATS** run against Big Ten teams in this event. Despite beating some of the top squads in the country (Kentucky, Maryland, Indiana) and finishing the regular season with an 11-8 record in Big Ten play, this is not one of Tom Izzo's vintage teams. Still, it's March Madness and you simply cannot count the man out. Should they decide to devote their efforts to the mass shootings that occurred on campus last month, they could be a team no one will want to play. Izzo is 13-5 SU in this tourney when entering off a loss, so forewarned is forearmed. The bottom line, though, is the Trojans bring the better team and the better numbers into this fray. Play accordingly.

Greensboro Coliseum, Greensboro NC - TruTV / CBS
(Games at 3:10 PM, 12:40 PM, 7:10 PM, 9:40 PM)

[6] Iowa State over [11] Miss St/Pittsburgh winner by 6

The Cyclones have rewarded backers during the postseason like Bitcoin did before the s - - t hit the fan. For openers they are 29-11-1 ATS in their last 41 overall postseason performances, while going 8-2 SU and 7-2-1 ATS in this tournament when entering off a loss, including **5-0 SUATS** the last five. Second-year head coach T.J. Otzelberger is 24-4 SU and 17-11 ATS in non-conference clashes with the Clones, including 15-2 outright against foes with an inferior record. Only seven other 'lined' teams in the tourney own a better scoring defense. Whether it's the Bulldogs or the Panthers, ISU figures to be ready for the challenge, going 6-2 SUATS in their last eight ACC contests and 6-2 ATS in their last eight SEC skirmishes.

[3] Xavier over [14] Kennesaw St by 8

The upstart Owls rallied to beat Liberty, 67-66, to win their first NCAA tourney bid. Interestingly, the Flames had been 3-0 in previous ASUN title

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games. It was a remarkable turnaround for Kennesaw State under fourth-year coach Amir Abdur-Rahim. The Owls finished with a 1-28 record in 2019-20 – the first under Abdur-Rahim. They went 5-19 in his second season and 13-18 last year. Now the Owls will bring a school-record 26-8 mark to their first Big Dance. With it they are hooting and hollering in Kennesaw these days, as they are one of four “double champions” in this tournament taking on a non-champion in Xavier. The Musketeers have never reached the Final Four in 28 previous NCAA tournament appearances. In five prior trips as a top-4 seed, the Musketeers lost in the second round three times, Sweet 16 once and Elite Eight once. Sean Miller's teams at Arizona and Xavier have earned a No. 5 seed or better seven previous times. Six of those seven teams reached the Sweet 16, and four reached the Elite Eight. However, he is 0-4 in the Elite Eight and is still seeking his first Final Four appearance as a coach. They figure to get the win, while the Owls bag the cash.

[11] Providence over [6] Kentucky by 1

Certain games have the look and feel of “upset” written all over them, and this is one. The Wildcats enter fresh off an opening round loss to St. Peter's last season and are just two years removed from a 9-win season. Wooden Award winner Oscar Tshiebwe leads the nation in rebounding (13.1 RPG) while averaging 16.4 PPG. As talented as they are, or can be, the fact of the matter is Kentucky is 0-7 ATS in its last seven non-SEC battles. Providence bolted out of the gate at 14-3 before closing out 7-8. However, Ed Cooley's clan made it to the Sweet 16 last season as they cashed all three tickets in the tournament. Cooley is a long-term 104-74-4 ATS as a dog, including 19-7 ATS of late. You know the deal.

[3] Kansas State over [14] Montana State by 6

ESPN reports that no team has ever won a national championship after losing its first game in the conference tournament. Welcome to the club, Kansas State. Still, KSU was major overachiever this season after being picked to finish last in the preseason Big 12 poll. The Wildcats lost in the first round each of the past two times they were a top-4 seed – 2019 to No. 13 UC Irvine, and in 2013 to No. 13 La Salle. They boast victories over Kansas, Texas, and Baylor (twice). Florida transfer Keyontae Johnson (17.8 PPG, 7.7 RPG, 42% from 3-pointville) and Markquis Nowell (17.0 PPG, 7.7 APG), who were both named to the all-Big 12 first team, have been the anchors. Rest assured; they won't go down easy. On the other side of the court, ESPN reports Jubrile Belo (13.0 PPG, 6.1 RPG), last season's Big Sky Player of the Year, and RaeQuan Battle (17.4 PPG), an all-Big Sky first-teamer this season, lead a team that finished first in defensive efficiency in the league and also forced turnovers on one-fifth of its conference opponents' possessions. The feeling here is this game plays closer than a Brother.

PLAYBOOK selection is **Underlined**. Should we pass or not have a strong opinion on a game, neither team will be underlined.

Ball Arena , Denver CO - TNT / TruTV
(Games at 4:00 PM, 1:30 PM, 10:05 PM, 7:35 PM)

4★ BEST BET

(11) NC State over (6) Creighton by 6

There is a large contingent of Vegas wise guys who like this Creighton team, and it's understandable. After all, the Blue Jays were ranked No. 9 in the AP preseason poll after winning 23 games the previous season despite being beaten up with injuries. The truth of the matter is unless they win two games in this event and make it to the Sweet 16, they will fall short of last year's effort. That's the plight we see happening, and with it, we're not about to lay points with a team under this sort of scrutiny. For openers, Creighton enters with a crummy 7-13 SU and 5-14-1 ATS record in this tournament since the turn of the century, including **0-4 ATS** when coming off a loss as a favorite. On the flip side, NC State enters with a sparking **8-1 SU and 7-1 ATS** record this season in games when coming off a loss, including **7-0 ATS** the last seven games. In addition, the Pack is 4-1 SUATS in this tourney when entering off a loss when they sport a greater than .666 win percentage. We're backing the team playing the better ball with assistance from **THE CLINCHER: See Marc's AWESOME ANGLE OF THE WEEK on page 2.**

[3] Baylor over [11] UCSB by 6

Like Kansas State above, no team has ever won a national championship after losing its first game in the conference tournament. That's bad news for the Bears, whose season was laced with ups and downs. A 10-2 start was met with a 3-game losing skid. Then a 10-1 winning run was met with a pair of losses, only to close the season out with another pair of defeats. The question is can Scott Drew's capable band of Bears find another winning streak to close out the season? A cause for concern was that Baylor was outrebounded, 43-15, in its conference tourney loss to Iowa State. If that's not addressed they could be going into early hibernation. Yes, they're on a 7-1 SU and 6-2 ATS run in this tournament, but all of those games came as a No. 1 seed. On the other side of the coin, the Gauchos have turned into an ATM machine, cashing 19 of their final 27 games, while riding a **7-0 SU and 6-1 ATS** streak into this contest. While they've lost all four of their NCAA appearances, they managed to ring the register in those games, going 3-1 ATS. Cha-ching!

[6] TCU over [11] Arizona State/Nevada winner by 10

It's arguable and perhaps contrite, but the 21-win Horned Frogs may have taken a leap backward this season following last year's 21-win effort. That's because TCU, with all five starters back, was ranked No. 14 in the AP preseason poll, yet finds itself ranked outside the Top 20 entering this year's tournament. A lot had to do with losing Mike Miles Jr. for 5 games with a knee injury, games in which the Frogs logged a 1-4 SUATS record. He returned for the final five games of the regular season, and with it, TCU seems to have found a bit of its rhythm while going 4-3 since. It doesn't help that the Frogs are one of the worst three-point shooting teams in the nation. They were 7-4 SU and 8-3 ATS in games off a loss this season, including **5-0 ATS** as a favorite. With head coach Jamie Dixon standing 9-4 outright in Round One of this tourney, we have no problem laying the small wood with the leap froggers.

[3] Gonzaga over [14] Grand Canyon by 12

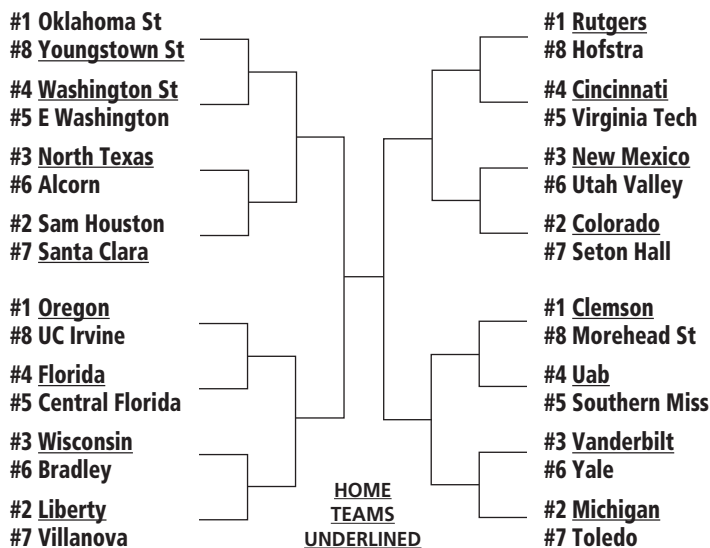
The Lopes arrived here in a circuitous way. The Western Athletic Conference awarded seeds in its conference tourney differently, not based entirely on conference records. They used an analytical approach and rewarded teams for their non-conference schedules and results. The goal was to reward teams for scheduling better opponents (read: winning) and dinged those for scheduling worse opponents (read: losing). Ken Pom, widely recognized as college basketball's most respected advanced metrics analyst, concocted the formula. Utah Valley (24-7, 15-3 WAC) finished atop the league standings and Sam Houston (24-6, 14-4) finished second. Yet Sam Houston earned the No. 1 seed. By giving the No. 1 seed to the team it believes has the best NCAA résumé, the WAC increases the chances of that team making the NCAA field, earning a higher seed than any other WAC team, and ultimately winning a game (or games). It didn't work, though, when Grand Canyon, the tournament's No. 5 seed, drilled a 3-pointer with 51 seconds remaining to lift them past top-seeded Sam Houston 78-75 in the semifinals of the Western Athletic Conference Tournament. The Antelopes then rolled past Southern Utah to gain this nod. They lost in their first and only NCAA tourney appearance in 2021 as a No. 15 seed to Iowa, 86-74. So, while it's back to the drawing board for the WAC in this year's event, it looks like another one-and done taking on a Gonzaga group that has won 13 straight first round games by an average 17 PPG. That won't cut the ATS mustard today, though. With the Zags sporting a **0-5 ATS** skein in their last five games in this tourney, we can only take it if we play it.

NATIONAL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

2023 NIT TEAM POWER RATINGS

ALCORN	89	LIBERTY	109	SAM HOUSTON	106	UTAH VALLEY	107
BRADLEY	107	MICHIGAN ST	114	SANTA CLARA	108	VANDERBILT	112
CINCINNATI	113	MOREHEAD ST	93	SETON HALL	109	VILLANOVA	115
CLEMSON	111	NEW MEXICO	107	SOUTHERN MISS	101	VIRGINIA TECH	107
COLORADO	107	NORTH TEXAS	111	TOLEDO	109	WASHINGTON ST	109
E WASHINGTON	99	OKLAHOMA ST	111	UAB	113	WISCONSIN	109
FLORIDA	105	OREGON	111	UCF	108	YALE	107
HOFSTRA	106	RUTGERS	110	UC IRVINE	103	YOUNGSTOWN ST	100

NIT SCHEDULE & TOURNAMENT NOTES



First Round (All times ET • Lines are opening lines)

Tuesday, March 14

#8 Hofstra (24-9) at #1 Rutgers (-8.5 / 19-14), 7:00 pm
 #7 Toledo (27-7) at #2 Michigan (-8.5 / 17-15), 7:00 pm
 #5 Southern Miss (25-7) at #4 UAB (-8.5 / 25-9), 7:30 pm
 #7 Villanova (17-16) at #2 Liberty (-1.5 / 26-8), 9:00 pm
 #6 Yale (21-8) at #3 Vanderbilt (-4 / 20-14), 9:00 pm
 #6 Bradley (25-9) at #3 Wisconsin (-3.5 / 17-14), 9:30 pm
 #5 E Washington (22-10) at #4 Washington St (-11.5 / 17-16), 11:00 pm
 #7 Seton Hall (17-15) at #2 Colorado (-3.5 / 16-16), 11:00 pm

Wednesday, March 15

#1 Oklahoma St (-5 / 18-15) at #8 Youngstown St (24-9), 7:00 pm
 #5 UCF (18-14) at #4 Florida (-4.5 / 16-16), 7:00 pm
 #8 Morehead St (21-11) at #1 Clemson (-16.5 / 23-10), 7:00 pm
 #6 Alcorn (18-13) at #3 North Texas (-16.5 / 26-7), 8:00 pm
 #2 Sam Houston (-5 / 25-7) at #7 Santa Clara (23-10) at, 9:00 pm
 #5 Virginia Tech (25-7) at #4 Cincinnati (-7.5 / 19-13), 9:00 pm
 #6 Utah Valley (20-12) at #3 New Mexico (-11.5 / 22-10), 10:00 pm
 #8 UC Irvine (20-12) at #1 Oregon (-11.5 / 22-10), 11:00 pm

Second Round • March 18-19 (at higher-seeded teams)

Quarterfinals • March 21-22 (at higher-seeded teams)

Semifinals • Tuesday, March 28

At Orleans Arena, Las Vegas NV (7:00 pm & 9:30 pm)

Championship • Thursday, March 30 / 9:30 pm

ALL GAMES:

- Favs in same-conference games are 13-3 ATS L17Y
- Favs < 6 pts off a SU win in which they allowed < 50 pts are 8-0-1 ATS
- Home favs of 9 > pts off BB ATS losses are 18-6 ATS
- .750 or greater favs < 9 pt off BB SU wins are 7-20-1 ATS (0-8 ATS L6Y)

FIRST ROUND:

- DD dogs are 6-1 ATS vs opp off SU win
- Favs off BB SU losses are 19-7-2 ATS
- #1 Seeds are 9-1 ATS as favs 14 < pts vs a #8 Seed L6Y
- #2 Seeds are 8-2 ATS vs opp off ATS win

Best & Worst Conferences in this round

MWC: 8-2 ATS as dogs, **SEC:** 9-3 ATS as dogs, **Pac 12:** 3-14 ATS away, **A-10:** 2-11 ATS as favs, **Sunbelt:** 2-6 ATS, **Big East:** 4-12 ATS as favs

SECOND ROUND:

- Home favs 6 > pts off a DD win are 15-2 ATS vs opp off DD win
- Road teams are 7-1 ATS w/same-season single revenge
- Round 2 teams off a SUATS win as a DD fav are 2-11 ATS L7Y
- #1 Seed favs are 3-15 ATS L7Y

Best & Worst Conferences in this round

Pac 12: 21-9 ATS (15-0 AT as favs) **SEC:** 7-1 ATS as favs > 5 pts, **MWC:** 6-1 ATS as favs, **Big 10:** 7-2 ATS as favs, **Big 12:** 2-9 ATS, **MVC:** 3-12 ATS.

QUARTERFINALS:

- Teams off BB SU dog wins are 13-6 SU / 15-4 ATS
- Favs of < 5 pts are 7-1 ATS off an ATS loss
- Favs are 4-14 ATS off BB ATS wins
- #1 seed favs of 5 > pts are 0-6 ATS L14Y

Best & Worst Conferences in this round

Big 12: 6-1 ATS, **Big 10:** 13-3 ATS, **A-10:** 6-2 ATS, **ACC:** 0-6-1 ATS as favs, **Big East:** 0-5 ATS, **Pac 12:** 1-6-1 ATS as favs, **MVC:** 1-5 ATS.

SEMIFINALS:

- Favs of > 2 pts are 7-1 ATS off an ATS loss
- Dogs off a DD SU win are 0-8 ATS
- Teams off 3+ ATS wins are 8-21 ATS

Best & Worst Conferences in this round

Big 10: 7-1 ATS, **Big 12:** 5-1 ATS, **A-10:** 5-1 ATS as dogs, **ACC:** 5-2 ATS as favs, **MWC:** 0-4 ATS, **CUSA:** 0-3 ATS, **SEC:** 1-6 ATS.

CHAMPIONSHIP:

- Favs off a DD ATS win are 9-3 ATS
- Teams who allowed < 60 pts in Semifinal round are 6-2 ATS
- Teams off BB dog wins are 3-6 ATS

Best & Worst Conferences in this round

Big 10: 6-1 ATS as favs, **Big 12:** 4-0 ATS, **ACC:** 2-7 ATS, **SEC:** 2-5 ATS.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

2023 CBI TEAM POWER RATINGS

CHARLOTTE	103	RICE	92
CLEVELAND ST	96	SAN JOSE ST	103
DUQUESNE	100	SO INDIANA	89
E KENTUCKY	99	STETSON	95
INDIANA ST	107	TARLETON	97
MILWAUKEE	92	SO UTAH	103
NORTH ALABAMA	91	USC UPGATE	92
RADFORD	94	W CAROLINA	96

CBI TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

First Round (All times ET • Lines are opening lines)

Saturday, March 18

#16 SC Upstate (21-11) at #1 Indiana St (-9.5 /24-10), 11:00 am
 #13 North Alabama (16-14) at #4 Southern Utah (-5.5 /21-9), 1:00 pm
 #15 Southern Indiana (18-15) at #2 San Jose St (-7 /23-10), 3:30 pm
 #14 Western Carolina (16-16) at #3 Charlotte (-5.5 /24-9), 5:30 pm

Sunday, March 19

#9 Cleveland St (23-9) at #8 E Kentucky (Pk /16-15), 11:00 am
 #12 Rice (20-15) at #5 Duquesne (-5 /18-14), 1:00 pm
 #10 Radford (20-12) at #7 Tarleton St (-2 /17-14), 3:30 pm
 #11 Milwaukee (20-11) at #6 Stetson (-4 /23-10), 5:30 pm

Quarterfinals

All games played at Ocean Center, Daytona Beach FL

Monday, March 20

Game 9: Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner: 12 p.m.
 Game 10: Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 winner: 2 p.m.
 Game 11: Game 5 winner vs. Game 6 winner: 4:30 p.m.
 Game 12: Game 7 winner vs. Game 8 winner: 6:30 p.m.

Semifinals

Tuesday, March 21

Game 13: Game 9 winner vs. Game 10 winner, 7:00 pm
 Game 14: Game 11 winner vs. Game 12 winner, 9:00 pm

CHAMPIONSHIP

Wednesday, March 23

Game 15: Game 13 winner vs. Game 14 winner, 5:00 pm

CBI TOURNAMENT TRENDS

- Home dogs are 24-8-1 ATS All-Time in CBI 19-3-1 ATS L10Y)
- Teams are 9-2 ATS off a SU Tourney win (allowed 50 < points)
- Double Digit favs are 3-9 ATS L9Y
- < .500 Division 1 dogs are 14-4 ATS All-Time in this Tourney
- ROUND 1 dogs off BB SU losses are 15-4 ATS
- ROUND 2 favs of 4 < pts are 9-2 ATS L9Y
- ROUND 3 favs of < 8 pts are 8-1 ATS L7Y

BEST/WORST CONFERENCES IN THIS TOURNEY

AAC: 8-3 ATS L12Y... **Mountain West:** 13-5 ATS L9Y... **Conf USA:** 7-3 ATS as dogs... **Missouri Valley:** 7-3 ATS L9Y

Horizon: 1-5 ATS L9Y... **Atlantic 10:** 2-10 ATS as dogs... **MAC:** 4-15 ATS... **ACC:** 3-6 ATS... **Sun Belt:** 3-6 ATS

PREVIOUS WINNERS

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 • **2018 North Texas** • **2017 Wyoming** • **2016 Nevada** • **2015 Loyola-Chicago** • **2014 Siena** • **2013 Santa Clara** • **2012 Pittsburgh**

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NEXT WEEK: The PLAYBOOK Basketball Newsletter Sweet 16 Tourney Guide.

This issue will be available after 9:00 PM ET on Tuesday, March 21. Good luck and have a great rest of the season!

THIS WEEK'S BEST BETS

A REVIEW OF THE CURRENT
STAR-RATED BEST BET SELECTIONS

FOR WEEK ENDING FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2023				3★ BEST BET	4★ BEST BET	5★ BEST BET
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	UPSET GAME			COLGATE	SUBSCRIBE TO PLAYBOOK TODAY: 1.800.752.9266	

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2023 NCAA TOURNAMENT OPENING ROUNDS

All times listed are Eastern Standard Time • Games in Official International Rotation sequence • Dates & times subject to change

OL PB				OL PB				OL PB				OL PB			
TUESDAY, MARCH 14				781	ORAL ROBERTS ★		6	763	PRINCETON			779	FLA ATLANTIC		3
				782	DUKE CBS	7'		764	ARIZONA TNT	14	8	780	MEMPHIS TNT	3	
669	TEX A&M CC TRU	4	1	745	PLAY-IN TEAM			765	BOISE ST	1		783	USC		1
670	SE MISSOURI ST			746	ALABAMA CBS	NL	21	766	N'WESTERN TRU		4	784	MICHIGAN ST CBS	1'	
701	MISSISSIPPI ST	2'		747	WEST VIRGINIA		10	767	NC-ASHEVILLE			785	PLAY-IN TEAM		
702	PITTSBURGH TRU		6	748	MARYLAND CBS	Pk		768	UCLA TRU	19'	14	786	IOWA ST TRU	NL	6
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15				749	NO KENTUCKY			FRIDAY, MARCH 17				787	KENNESAW ST		
				750	HOUSTON TNT	21'	27					788	XAVIER TRU	11'	8
671	TEXAS SOUTHERN			751	AUBURN		4	743	VERMONT			789	PROVIDENCE		1
672	F. DICKINSON TRU	Pk	3	752	IOWA TNT	Pk		744	MARQUETTE CBS	13'	8	790	KENTUCKY CBS	4	
703	ARIZONA ST		8	753	PENN ST		3	769	DRAKE ★		10	791	MONTANA ST		
704	NEVADA TRU	Pk		754	TEXAS A&M TBS	3'		770	MIAMI FLA TBS	4		792	KANSAS ST CBS	9'	6
THURSDAY, MARCH 16				755	COLGATE ★		2	771	KENT ST			793	NC STATE ★		6
				756	TEXAS TBS	14'		772	INDIANA TBS	6'	10	794	CREIGHTON TNT	4'	
737	CHARLESTON		1	757	HOWARD			773	VCU TBS			795	UCSB		
738	SAN DIEGO ST TRU	4'		758	KANSAS TBS	23	18	774	SAINT MARY'S	5	8	796	BAYLOR TNT	11'	6
739	FURMAN			759	ILLINOIS			775	IONA			797	PLAY-IN TEAM		
740	VIRGINIA TRU	6	3	760	ARKANSAS TBS	1'	10	776	UCONN TBS	10	6	798	TCU TRU	NL	10
741	LOUISIANA			761	UTAH ST	1'		777	PLAY-IN TEAM			799	GRAND CANYON		
742	TENNESSEE CBS	13	7	762	MISSOURI TNT		6	778	PURDUE TNT	NL	28	800	GONZAGA TRU	14'	12

