

# March Madness

## *Getting Ready for the NCAAs by Reliving UCLA's Dream*

For the first time ever, Strat players will be able to play NCAA games during March Madness. We couldn't wait, so we cranked up the computer to take a unique view of the NCAA tournament:

Unlike the football bowl games, the basketball tournament crowns an undisputed champion. But as last year's tourney illustrated, many teams come within an eyelash of challenging for the title, or eliminating the eventual winner.

Remember Tyus Edney's end-to-end dash, drive and just-enough layup to squeeze UCLA past Missouri and into the Final Four? Without it, maybe Arkansas would have won its second straight title. That is, as long as Syracuse and the other teams the Razorbacks beat with unlikely finishes didn't get the last break.

So we ran 10 different computer autoplay tournaments to see if UCLA really was the best, not just once, but consistently.

Indeed, the Bruins did dominate, making the Final Four eight times and winning it all five times. But there were four other champions — Kentucky, Massachusetts, Oklahoma State (twice) and one big surprise, Maryland.

In all, eight different teams made it to the final game. Four more

made it to at least one Final Four.

**Dominant scorers** — Connecticut's Ray Allen and Kentucky's Tony Delk, although Michigan State's Shawn Respert's 47-point game was the single best performance.

**Dominant rebounder** — Wake Forest's Tim Duncan, who had the four best single-game performances.

**Dominant playmaker** — UCLA's Tyus Edney. Unlike the top scorers and rebounders, who all achieved their top numbers in first- or second-round games, Edney saved his best for last, with 16 and 13 assists in championship games. No other player had more than 12 assists in any game.

### UPSETS

Just as in the real NCAA tournament, there were upsets. But just as in the real NCAAs, no No. 16 seeds or No. 15 seeds ever won.

However, all four No. 14 seeds (Gonzaga, Weber State, Wisconsin-Green Bay and Old Dominion) beat the No. 3 seeds (Maryland, Michigan State, Purdue and Villanova, respectively) once each in 10

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# The Computer Agrees: UCLA Best

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tries. Two of them, Gonzaga and Weber State, went on to win second-round games, too.

Weber State shocked Michigan State, 71-66, then No. 6 Georgetown, 58-53, before North Carolina ended the fantasy, 81-58.

Gonzaga first surprised Maryland, 75-74, then No. 6 Oregon, 84-82, before getting an 82-63 reality check from Cincinnati (which had upset UConn in overtime). Cincinnati then shocked UCLA, 79-77, behind Danny Fortson's 29 points to make the Final Four.

No. 13 Manhattan humbled No. 4 Oklahoma three times out of 10, but it was the only No. 13 seed to win at all. No. 12 seeds won four times out of 40 (with Miami of Ohio whipping Arizona twice). No. 11 seeds beat No. 6 seeds 13 times out of 40, with Xavier humbling Georgetown four times and Illinois toppling Tulsa five times.

No. 10 seeds won seven of 40, with Temple catching No. 7 Cincinnati off guard three times and No. 9 seeds won 15 times against No. 8, with Michigan winning six of 10 from Western Kentucky and Tulane splitting 10 with Brigham Young.

Other fun upsets:

■ No. 8 BYU shocking No. 1 Kentucky, 80-69 in a second-round game, behind Russell Larson's 22 points. Kentucky had won its other four matchups by at least 25 points (91-55, 93-64, 98-73 and 94-68).

■ No. 11 Louisville beating No. 3 Purdue in second-round games twice. The hapless Boilermakers, who even lost once to Wisconsin-Green Bay in the first-round, never won a second-round game against either Louisville or the more-frequent opponent, No. 6 Memphis State.

■ Once, No. 12 Ball State (victim: Arizona State) faced No. 13 Manhattan (victim: Oklahoma) in the second round. Ball State won, but joy was temporary when Kentucky ended the madness in Round 3.

## THE ROAD TO THE FINAL FOUR

Missouri never did beat UCLA. The path to the title definitely went through UCLA, which won five titles, lost in a final game to Kentucky, lost in a Final Four twice to eventual champs UMass and Oklahoma State and lost in a third-round game to eventual champ Maryland. Only Cincinnati's upset did not presage a title for the team that beat UCLA.

Syracuse, which lost a last-seconds heart-breaker to Arkansas in the real tournament, beat the Razorbacks only once in their nine second-round matchups on the computer. John Wallace's 30-point, 16-rebound performance overcame Arkansas, 96-84. Thus inspired, Syracuse then used Lawrence Moten's 22 points and 7 assists to maul Memphis State, 75-65, before Kentucky's hordes of scorers squeezed the Orange, 92-73 en route to the Wildcats' championship.

In that same tourney, No. 7 Iowa State used Fred Hoiberg's 32 points to shock North Carolina in the second round, 97-92 in overtime, then knocked off Michigan State, 88-78, as Hoiberg led all scorers with 24. Kentucky was the wicked stepmother to Cinderella again, 91-56, denying the Cyclones an appearance in the Final Four.

Biggest disappointments? No. 1 seed Wake Forest, which, despite Duncan's dominant rebounding, never made it to a championship game and achieved only one Final Four appearance. And No. 2 seed UConn, which, even with the explosive-scoring Allen, could not beat UCLA once to make it to even a single Final Four. The Huskies were the only No. 2 seed with that distinction.

## UCLA WINS 5 OF 10 COMPUTER TOURNEYS

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME	OTHERS IN FINAL 4	TOP SCORING PERFORMANCES	BIGGEST UPSETS
1. UCLA 96, Kansas 83	Massachusetts, Kentucky	47, Respert, Michigan St. vs Weber St. (tourney #9, first round)	#14 seed over #3 seed
2. Kentucky 82, UCLA 77	Massachusetts, Arizona	46, Allen, Connecticut vs Maryland (#2, regional semi-finals)	Wiscon.-GB - Purdue (#9, 87-55)
3. Massachusetts 73, N. Carolina 58	UCLA, Virginia	45, Allen, Connecticut vs Tennessee-Chattanooga (#10, first round)	Gonzaga-Maryland (#8, 75-74)
4. UCLA 92, Kentucky 90	Oklahoma St., Kansas	41, Stoudamire, Arizona vs Miami, O. (#2, first round)	Weber St.-Mich. St. (#2, 71-66)
5. UCLA 92, N. Carolina 67	Oklahoma St., Kansas	41, Delk, Kentucky vs. Arizona St. (#1, regional semi-final)	Old Dominion-Villanova (#2, 75-70)
6. Maryland 96, N. Carolina 67	Wake Forest, Kansas	40, Wilson, Mississippi St. vs. Santa Clara (#6, first round)	#13 over #4
7. Oklahoma St. 76, N. Carolina 58	UCLA, Virginia	38, Delk, Kentucky vs. BYU (#5, second round)	Manhattan-Oklahoma (#4, 79-68)
8. Oklahoma St. 77, Arizona 74	Cincinnati, Kentucky	38, Respert, Michigan St. vs. Xavier (#7, second round)	Manhattan-Oklahoma (#2, 76-74)
9. UCLA 91, Kentucky 80	Massachusetts, Arkansas	37, Delk, Kentucky, vs. Mt. St Mary's (#8, first round)	Manhattan-Oklahoma (#1 in OT)
10. UCLA 96, N. Carolina 61	Oklahoma St., Arkansas	36, Minor, Okla.; Bennett, Ariz. St.; Larson, BYU; Oliney, Missouri	#12 over #5
HIGHEST SCORING GAMES (BY TEAM)		TOP REBOUNDING PERFORMANCES	
119 (to 114), Minnesota vs. St. Louis (#2, first round) (2 OT)		21, Duncan, Wake Forest vs. N. Carolina A&T) (#3, first round)	Ball St.-Arizona St. (#2, 76-67)
114 (to 119), St. Louis vs. Minnesota (#2, first round) (2 OT)		21, Duncan, Wake Forest vs. N. Carolina A&T (#6, first round)	Miami (O.)-Arizona (#6, 81-67)
113 (to 87), Arkansas vs. Texas Southern (#6, first round)		20, Duncan, Wake Forest vs. St. Louis (#10, second round)	Miami (O.)-Arizona (#9, 63-60)
111 (to 70), Arizona vs. Miami (O.) (#2, first round)		19, Duncan, Wake Forest vs. N. Carolina A&T (#8, first round)	Santa Clara-Miss. St. (#5, 66-57)
108 (to 67), Kentucky vs. Arizona St. (#4, second round)		18, Caffey, Alabama vs. Penn (#4, first round)	<b>LONGEST GAMES (all 2 OT)</b>
107 (to 79), Arkansas vs. Syracuse (#2, second round)		18, Duncan, Wake Forest vs. N. Carolina A&T (#2, first round)	Minnesota 119, St Louis 114
106 (to 58), Kentucky vs. Tulane (#2, second round)		TOP ASSIST PERFORMANCES	
106 (to 81), Minnesota vs. St. Louis (#9, first round)		16, Edney, UCLA vs Kansas (#1, final game)	Wake Forest 79, UMass 74
105 (to 78), Michigan St. vs. Xavier (#4, second round)		13, Edney, UCLA vs Kentucky (#9, final game)	(#6, regional semi-finals)
105 (to 73), Arkansas vs. Texas Southern (#3, first round)		12, Snow, Michigan St.; Vaughn, Kansas; Capers, Arizona St.	Illinois 94, Tulsa 92
			(#9, first round)