

MARCH MADNESS

MEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT

WEST REGION

Teams in West Region: Gonzaga (No. 01), Georgia State (No. 16), Boise State (No. 08), Memphis (No. 09), UConn (No. 05), New Mexico State (No. 12), Arkansas (No. 04), Vermont (No. 13), Alabama (No. 06), Rutgers (No. 11), Notre Dame (No. 11), Texas Tech (No. 03), Montana State (No. 14), Michigan State (No. 07), Davidson (No. 10), Duke (No. 02), CS Fullerton (No. 15).

WHO IS BIG EASY BOUND?

SOUTH REGION

Teams in South Region: Arizona (No. 01), Wright State (No. 16), Bryant (No. 16), Seton Hall (No. 08), TCU (No. 09), Houston (No. 05), UAB (No. 12), Illinois (No. 09), Chattanooga (No. 10), Colorado State (No. 08), Michigan (No. 10), Tennessee (No. 03), Longwood (No. 14), Ohio State (No. 07), Villanova (No. 02), Loyola Chicago (No. 10), Delaware (No. 15).

MIDWEST REGION

Teams in Midwest Region: Kansas (No. 01), Texas Southern (No. 16), Texas A&M-CC (No. 16), San Diego State (No. 08), Creighton (No. 09), Iowa (No. 05), Richmond (No. 12), Providence (No. 04), South Dakota State (No. 13), LSU (No. 06), Iowa State (No. 11), Wisconsin (No. 03), Colgate (No. 14), USC (No. 07), Miami (No. 10), Auburn (No. 02), Jacksonville State (No. 15).

EAST REGION

Teams in East Region: Baylor (No. 01), Norfolk State (No. 16), North Carolina (No. 08), Marquette (No. 09), St. Mary's (No. 05), Wyoming (No. 12), Indiana (No. 12), UCLA (No. 04), Akron (No. 13), Texas (No. 06), Virginia Tech (No. 11), Purdue (No. 03), Yale (No. 14), Murray State (No. 07), San Francisco (No. 10), Kentucky (No. 02), St. Peter's (No. 15).

Imagine what history would say about Gonzaga if it had finished undefeated at 32-0 last season instead of falling to Baylor in the national championship game.

The Zags, who beat UCLA on Minnesota's own Jalen Suggs' buzzer beater for the ages in the Final Four, probably would be in the category of greatest college hoops teams of all time.

Indiana's 1976 fighting Bobby Knights, though, are still the last undefeated squad in the men's game — no matter what happens in this year's NCAA tournament.

The Zags (26-3) have three losses but are back with the top overall seed, leading the West Regional in the tourney this season — and led again by Minnesota freshman star with Chet Holmgren, Suggs' former Minnehaha Academy teammate.

It's a Zags repeat as the No. 1 seed, again behind a freshman from Minnesota

Story by MARCUS FULLER
Illustration by BROCK KAPLAN
Star Tribune

Men's Final Four • New Orleans
National semifinals • April 2
National championship • April 4

Behind Holmgren, the Zags cruised as usual to the West Coast Conference tournament championship, but many of their Final Four-contending counterparts struggled to stay unblemished going into the Big Dance.

In fact, No. 1 seeds in the ACC, Big Ten, Big East and SEC tournaments were upset this year, which hurt Duke, Auburn, Kentucky and Providence on Selection Sunday. The Blue Devils (No. 2 in West), Tigers (No. 2 in Midwest) and Wildcats (No. 2 in East) were likely dropped from the top seed line after failing to win their conference tourneys.

Meanwhile, Gonzaga, Arizona (No. 1 in South) and Kansas (No. 1 in Midwest) were rewarded with No. 1 NCAA seeds after sealing the deal with victories going into the NCAA tournament. The only

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