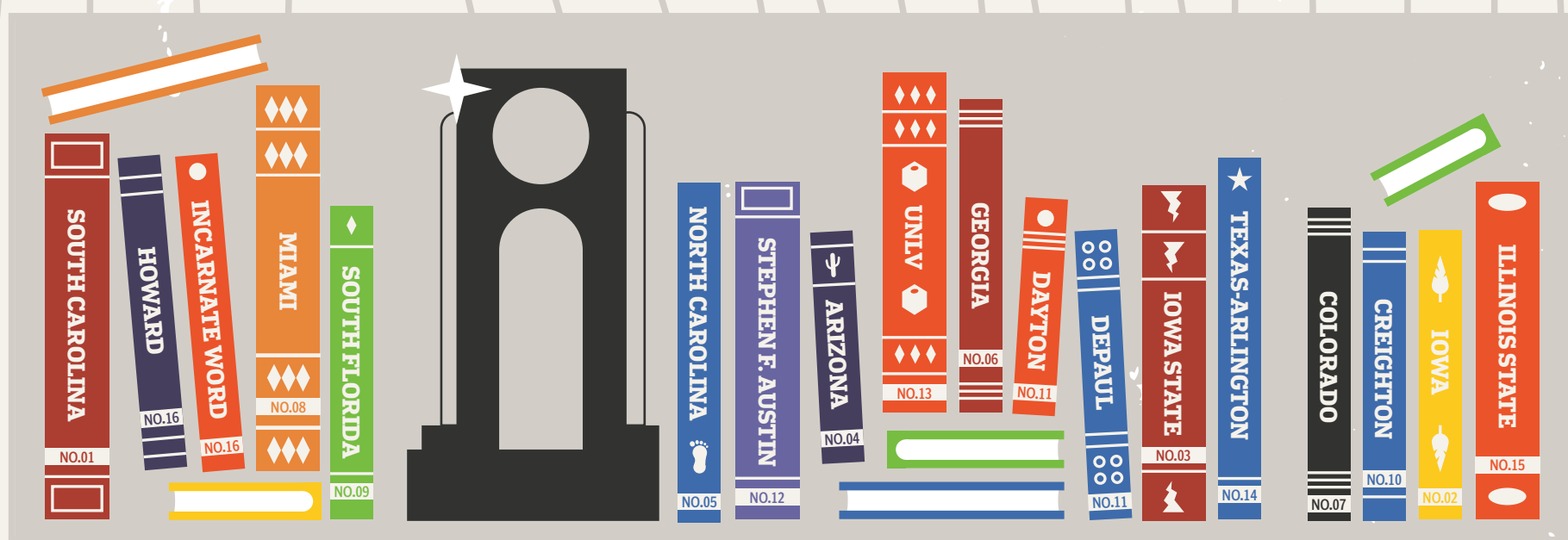


MARCH MADNESS

WOMEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT



GREENSBORO REGION



SPOKANE REGION



BRIDGEPORT REGION



WICHITA REGION

DRAMA COMING OUR WAY

Down the stretch of the season, the Connecticut Huskies got healthy, got whole and got about the business of trying to show they deserved a seed high enough that would allow them to stay at or near home for the duration of the 2022 NCAA women's basketball tournament.

In the end, the selection committee decided they had.

And so the Huskies, with Minnesota-born Paige Bueckers, Azzi Fudd and Nika Muhl all contributing, rode a 10-game winning streak (and 16 of their past 17) to snare a high No. 2 seed. They'll begin their quest for their first title since 2016 in Storrs, Conn. Home.

"They are healthy and they are playing well," said Nina King, chair of the NCAA's selection committee on ESPN's selection show. "They have all

UConn battled through injuries to get a reward: NCAA games in its backyard

Story by KENT YOUNGBLOOD
Illustration by BROCK KAPLAN
Star Tribune

Women's Final Four • Target Center
National semifinals • April 1
National championship • April 3

their team playing, and they're another team on an upward trajectory. They dominated their conference tournament."

The Final Four will be held at Target Center in Minneapolis April 1 and 3.

Connecticut gets to play host for the first two rounds in its quest to be one of those Final Four teams. Should UConn advance to the Sweet Sixteen, that would mean a move to Bridgeport, Conn., and a possible showdown with No. 1-seeded North Carolina State. The Wolfpack have to be wondering why 29 wins and ACC regular-season and tournament titles got them the right to potentially play a regional final that would amount to almost a road game.

South Carolina, defending champion, North Carolina State and Louisville grabbed No. 1

See **WOMEN** on C7 ▶