

NBA Play-off Prediction

ROB MIRCHIN
sports editor

With the NBA play-offs just around the corner, it might be a good time to look at the playoff picture.

The East offers several talented teams. The Orlando Magic, Indiana Pacers, New York Knicks, and Chicago Bulls all might do well in the play-offs.

Last year's Eastern Conference champions, the Orlando Magic, have a superb starting five and a pretty good bench. Shaquille O'Neill, Penny Hardaway, and Horace Grant have the talent to lead the Magic deep into the play-offs. However, Horace Grant has said that anything short of making the finals will be a disappointment. If that's the case, Grant and the rest of the Magic may have to get used to disappointment. Orlando may have major problems handling the strength of either the New York Knicks or the Chicago Bulls.

Indiana may have similar problems. I have tremendous respect for Reggie Miller and Rik Smits. On certain days, they can be as good as Michael Jordan or Patrick Ewing.

However, the Pacers lack the depth to win the Eastern Conference.

In the end, I think the Chicago Bulls will be the eastern team that will make it to the NBA Finals. Chicago has a chance of accumulating a record-setting 70 wins this Sunday against the Cleveland Cavaliers. This record-setting season is in large part due to the resurgence of Michael Jordan. Jordan is playing like he never left the NBA, and he is backed up by an incredible bench. Scottie Pippen, Tony Kukoc, and Dennis Rodman could be the shining stars who lead many other NBA teams, but on this Chicago team they are thrown into supporting roles.

The West also has several talented teams. The L.A. Lakers, San Antonio Spurs, Seattle Superonics, and Houston Rockets all stand a chance of winning the NBA title.

Even though they have the best record in the West, Shawn Kemp and the Seattle Superonics will probably peter out. Seattle just doesn't seem to have much luck in the play-offs.

Magic Johnson has made the L.A. Lakers a legitimate contender for the title. However, the Lakers still lack the experience and

depth necessary to make it past some of the better Western Conference teams. The Lakers are in the unfortunate circumstance of playing the Houston Rockets in the first round of the playoffs. Houston always seems to come on around playoff time. They will not stand for being kicked out of the playoffs in the first round. Olajuwon, Drexler, and the rest of the Rockets will make sure to dash Magic's dreams of another championship.

However, I do not think the Rockets will make it all the way to the finals. I think this is San Antonio's year. David Robinson and the Spurs have worked hard to become an NBA powerhouse. Robinson has a good supporting cast with such players as Sean Elliott and Will Perdue. I think the "Admiral" will lead his crew all the way to the NBA finals.

So, I'm predicting that it will be Chicago versus San Antonio in the finals. As much as I respect the talent of the Spurs, I do not see how any team can get past the Chicago Bulls. Michael Jordan will probably earn his fourth championship ring from a seven-game series with the Spurs.

Women's tennis hopes for national tournament

TIM FORBES
staff writer

With three weeks left in the season, the women's tennis team hopes to add a few more matches to their schedule by qualifying for the national tournament. If the Quakers want to advance, a couple of things must happen.

First, they must place in the top two in the Southern Regional Tournament. The tournament offers match-ups with the best eight teams in the South. Guilford has not placed where they want to in this tournament in the last five years. Despite this, the team has a lot of optimism.

"I think we have a good chance of doing well at this tournament. We have proven this year we can beat these teams. We have no past with any of the other schools at the tournament," said Assistant Coach Jamie Campbell.

The teams in the Southern tournament may prove to have little history with the Quakers, but Guilford's second obstacle, Washington and Lee, does. Guilford has not beaten Washington and Lee in five years, and they are the only team that has beaten them all year.

The Quakers must play well against the W&L Generals in the conference tournament in three weeks to have a shot at nationals. "We can't get too nervous playing them... We need to play the ball in the important points and not worry about our opponent. That's what we'll have to overcome in practice and in the next couple of matches," said Campbell.

One thing that will help ease Guilford's road to the nationals is the play of the team's upperclassmen. "The team is playing well because there is no drastic drop-off from one player to the next. On any given day, we can beat one another. This is good, because we are able to push each other in practice," said Junior Mignon Ezzell.

If Guilford is able to place in the top two at Southern and play well at the conference tournament, they will be the first women's tennis team to go to nationals in five years. "Chuck [McCracken] and I are very proud... this year's team has found a good chemistry. They have all improved. We are going to need all of them to continue to play well if we are going to beat W&L and eventually go on to nationals," said Campbell.

Women's tennis at Guilford

LEIGH KING
staff writer

Tennis is pictured as a warm-weather sport that should be played when it is 80 or 90 degrees outside and the sun is shining. As a member of the women's tennis team, I can tell you that this could not be farther from the truth this season.

As a team they have played in sweats and hats and have had to shovel snow and ice off the courts. Twice! However, with all of these obstacles they have maintained a record of 12 wins and 1 loss and are heading to the Southern Regional Tournament in Atlanta this weekend.

This season has been a good one for the Quakers, with the addition of Erica Carrier, Libby Hinsley, and Kirsten Zwicker to the team. Erica has jumped right into the #3 doubles slot with Kirsten. Kirsten is also playing #6 singles.

With the loss of graduates Trudi Buckingham and Jamie Campbell, a change in the line-up was expected. Junior Betsy Parker has stepped up to the #1 singles spot and has perfected the art of winning a three set match.

Libby Hinsley moved into the #2 singles slot and has successfully made the transition from high school tennis to college tennis.

Mignon Ezzell moved herself up a notch

and is crushing her opponents at the #3 singles level and is also playing #1 doubles with Libby.

Senior Sarah "Gracie" Woodard took up the #4 singles position as well as the #2 doubles position with Betsy Parker. Woodard also serves as the team's captain.

Senior Jenn Wolos moved up from her #6 position of last year to the #5 position and continues to defeat her opponents.

Last year the team was ranked nineteenth in the nation, and they are looking to improve on that ranking this year. The team appreciates the support of the school and looks forward to seeing you all at the last home match on April 23 against Hollins.

Guilford Sports Schedule

MEN'S LACROSSE

Shenandoah

Saturday * April 13 * 1:00 p.m.

BASEBALL

Lynchburg

Tuesday * April 16 * 3:00 p.m.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Sweetbriar

Saturday * April 13 * 2:00 p.m.

Home Games Home Games
Home Games