

Tension, excitement builds: it's finally March Madness

BY ALLISON DEBUSK
STAFF WRITER

This year, the NCAA Division I men's basketball season has seen the rise and fall of powerhouse teams. The number one team, as ranked by the Associated Press, changed six times during the regular season. Indiana University, Duke University, University of Louisville, University of Michigan and Gonzaga University have all held and lost the coveted spot.

"It's been a really rocky season," said Writing Director and Tar Heels fan Parag Budhecha. "The top 10, even top 20 teams, keep doing really well and then not doing so well."

The madness began with the conference tournaments. University of Miami topped the Atlantic Coast Conference for their first title. Louisville dominated the Big East. Ohio State University triumphed in the Big 10. University of Kansas conquered the Big 12. Gonzaga prevailed in the West Coast.

After the conference tournaments ended, the country anxiously waited for Selection Sunday. Louisville in the Midwest, Gonzaga in the West, Kansas in the South and Indiana in the East were given number one seeds. However, this position did not promise smooth sailing

to the Final Four. Only Louisville survived the first five rounds.

"You're going to see a lot of teams that might not be seeded too high win, let's say a two seed playing a ten seed or something," said PE Center Manager Michael Merkel. "I think it's really balanced. Seeds won't be that important."

Merkel's prediction proved true in the second round. Second seed Georgetown University fell to 15th seed Florida Gulf Coast University and third seed University of New Mexico fell to 14th seed Harvard University.

"FGCU over Georgetown and Harvard over New Mexico (were the most shocking games)," said Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students and Indiana fan Aaron Fetrow via email.

The third round dangled a spot in the Sweet 16 in front of hungry teams. Some games were hard fought, like the game between 12th seeded University of Mississippi and 13th seeded La Salle University, won by La Salle who scored with two and a half seconds left on the clock.

Other highly ranked teams crushed their opponents, like Louisville, Michigan State University and University of Arizona, while University of Oregon upset Saint Louis

University and Cinderella Wichita State University knocked out Gonzaga.

"Gonzaga's flop wasn't a real surprise," said Fetrow. "I think Miami should have been the other number one seed as the ACC regular season and conference champ."

In the Sweet 16, two of the remaining number one seeds fell to fourth seeds. The University of Michigan surprised Kansas. With two and a half minutes left, Michigan had a 14-4 run, concluded by a three pointer by Trey Burke, to send the game into overtime. Michigan prevailed by two points in overtime.

Syracuse University defeated Indiana by 11 points to advance to the Elite Eight. Wichita State, Duke, Ohio State, University of Florida and Marquette University completed the Elite Eight.

In the next round, Louisville's Kevin Ware jumped up to block a shot, but when he landed awkwardly, his leg snapped right out of the skin. After Ware was removed from the court and taken to a hospital, an emotional Louisville triumphed over Duke.

In a Cinderella story, Wichita State dominated Ohio State, advancing to face Louisville in the Final Four.

Michigan easily advanced past Florida, and Syracuse's length was the difference over

Marquette. The battle of Michigan's offense versus Syracuse's two-three zone set up a final-like atmosphere.

"Syracuse's defense is psycho," said Instructional Technology Librarian and Indiana fan Jessica Sender. "Syracuse is just the tallest team. They stand around and people just run into them."

With four teams remaining and brackets destroyed, it is time to predict who will reach the championship game.

"Wichita should win it all because they're the underdog," said senior and Tar Heels fan Traynham Larson. "Whoever wins the Louisville-Wichita game will beat Michigan in the final."

"I have Louisville winning it all," said Fetrow. "I had to pick with my head instead of my heart in the final game."

"I think Louisville is going to have a lot of momentum coming off this big injury, so that's going to overshadow any Cinderella story," said Sender, who has picked Louisville to defeat Syracuse in the final game.

As for me, I have picked Michigan to beat Syracuse. Wichita State had an impressive run, but there is no stopping Louisville. At last, Louisville will be the only team to survive March Madness.

Athletes bond during spring break

BY SYDNEY HAWKINS
STAFF WRITER

While students were renting beach houses, invading Austin, Texas for the South by Southwest music festival, and visiting family, some unlucky spring athletes were left behind.

Squads practiced and competed in games, abandoning their spring breaks, but numerous athletes were more than willing to stay on campus knowing that it benefits the team.

Spring sports such as baseball, men and women's lacrosse, golf, and men's and women's tennis teams all sacrificed their party week for their team obligation.

Head baseball coach Nick Black said that his athletes recognized the commitment to stay on campus for break.

"If they wanted to go home for spring break, they probably wouldn't play a spring sport," Black said.

It is important for students to realize the life of a varsity competitor.

"They know that we have games and practices scheduled over spring break going into it," said Black.

Dual-season athletes missed spring break, fall break, and remained on campus throughout J-Term as well.

Junior Emily Carter swims and plays lacrosse for Guilford.

"I've been here since Jan. 12, so I really did regret not being able to visit home during break," said Carter.

However, dedication to the team wins out in the end.

"I had to honor my commitment to my team and my sports as a priority," she continued.

During spring break, athletes were not provided meals at the cafeteria during the week because the cafeteria was closed.

"We would order pizza and have it together or go out somewhere to eat," said Black. "It was hard to be able to feed 40 players without spending a huge sum of money."

Team budgets made it hard to feed everyone for a week, but teammates grew closer since they were constantly together.

"The women's team went to the lake a few times to play games and relax," said Carter. "We had a movie night and pasta dinners or went out for meals. Our team is pretty

close so we made the best out of it, won both our games, and practices improved the team."

The men's lacrosse team organized team-bonding events.

"We ate dinner together and had cookouts, so I feel a lot closer with the team," said first-year lacrosse player Nick Caputo.

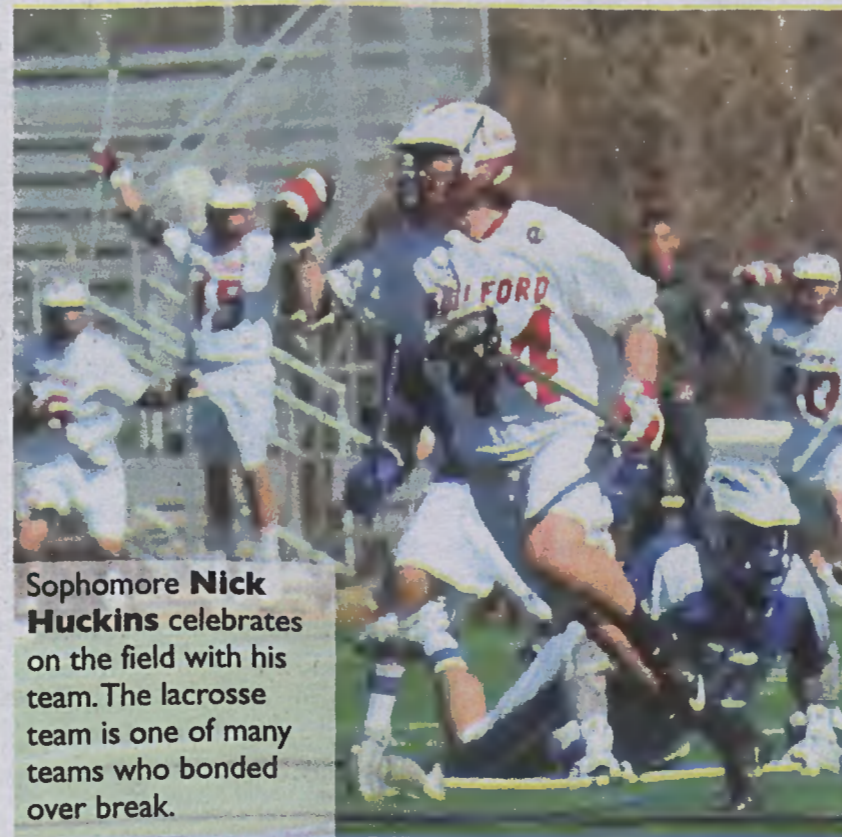
The women's softball team traveled to a tournament at Myrtle Beach, S.C., and enjoyed waves and sunshine.

"It was nice being at the beach with my team, and it helped me not miss home as much," said sophomore and softball player Marty Wilcox.

Some athletes missed home, as they had been here for so long.

"It would have been nice to see my family, but really I would have just been happy to relax with my pets," Carter said.

Although family and pets were missed at home, the commitment of sports at Guilford came first. Maximizing stewardship, that is what Guilford is all about.



Sophomore **Nick Huckins** celebrates on the field with his team. The lacrosse team is one of many teams who bonded over break.

Are you mad for Madden?

BY JOHN KLUEPFEL
STAFF WRITER

Madden NFL, formerly known, as John Madden Football, is one of the most sought-after video games since created by Electronic Arts Sports. Millions of gamers purchase the game. Waiting in lines until midnight release has turned into a national event like Black Friday.

In honor of the 25th anniversary releasing on Aug. 27, 2013, it's time for my All-Madden team. I've played this game every year since 1999. Using my analysis as an avid Madden fanatic, I comprised my own All-Madden team.

Quarterback: Michael Vick - '04 Madden Rating: 95

Vick is a perfect example of why this is an All-Madden team. He was dominant.

Vick was on the cover for Madden 2004, which might explain his reign over everyone else. Vick possessed lightning speed (94 speed) mixed with crazy arm strength (97 throw power). Vick was the equivalent of Bo Jackson in "Tecmo Bowl."

Vick basically broke the game and was nearly a cheat. He is the reason why the game has limited running-style quarterbacks.

My friends and I would constantly fight over who would get to run all over the defense with Vick. It was that simple.

Junior track runner C.J. Green agreed with the Vick selection.

"Man was a god," said Green. "Plus accuracy didn't matter in old Madden. Throw the ball deep, and it was game over."

Running Back: Adrian Peterson - '12 Madden Rating: 97

Adrian Peterson, or "All Day," is so good in Madden '12 that it makes playing with Christian Ponder (73 overall) tolerable.

Peterson combines crazy speed (97 speed) with amazing strength (90 trucking power). I quit on numerous occasions while playing against the Vikings because of the unstoppable beast.

To see all of John's Madden picks, check out:

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