

Sports

Whose bubble will burst next weekend?

by John Lange
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As I sit here on a Tuesday night, waiting to continue my orgy of hoops that has become the month of March, I'm left with the question that torments people across the country. "Who is in and who is out?" Which bubble team will have its alumni group crying and moaning next Monday morning? So using the bubble watch page on www.cbssportsline.com as of 8:53 p.m. on Tuesday night let's take a look and talk about it.

The website is saying that there are 40 teams that should be safe. I will agree with those selections, and congratulations to Oral Roberts who just now made it 41 teams that are in. But among their favorites to get an at-large bid is Ohio State. WHAT???? 19-12 overall and 10-8 in the conference is not good enough period, regardless of how "big" your "10" is. And to make things worse they lost by 2 points to Division 2 Findlay back on November 6th. Now yes, this was just an exhibition game, but I propose a new rule. If you get humiliated by an in-state D-2 team at any point during the year you are ineligible for the "Big Dance."

Other "leading contenders" according to the "Line" include Arkansas (struggled in conference play), Kentucky (struggled in non-conference games), Baylor (eh), Kansas State (double eh) and U-Mass (blah). Sorry people but this just doesn't excite me much. I know that the committee likes to represent the power conferences, but that's going too far.

Personally, if I was picking the

field you have to wait your turn if you have more than ten losses on the season. In that case please sit down, Virginia Tech, Syracuse, Villanova, Arizona State, Oregon, St. Joseph's and Temple. You guys have to wait and see if we got any spots left for ya at the end of the week.

Also one should have to have a **winning record** in the conference. So while Ole Miss went through their non-conference schedule with a perfect record, they only went 7-9 in the SEC. That earns you a one way ticket to NIT land in my book.

So let's talk about the teams who do make it. As of this second I would add two teams out of the Mountain West, New Mexico (24-7 overall, 11-5 conference) and UNLV (23-7, 12-4). I would also put in the Redbirds of Illinois State (24-9, 13-5 in the Missouri Valley) and

the Virginia Commonwealth Rams (24-7, 15-3 in the Colonial Athletic Conference.)

Now I admit sometimes I get a little greedy and this is one of those days. I want 2 teams coming out of the Sun Belt Conference. Both South Alabama and Western Kentucky have overall records of 26-6, and both sides also went 16-2 in the conference. It'd be a real crime if Ole Miss gets in and one of these two teams doesn't make it into the "Big Dance."

There has been a lot of chatter out there on whether or not Florida should get in. They are the two time defending national champions and have had a decent this year. They have a record of 21-10 overall but are only 8-8 in the SEC this year. I'm a reasonable man, so I think I can work out a compromise with the Gators. If they beat Alabama on

Thursday, they are in. Otherwise they will receive a first round NIT date with the St. Louis University Billikens. Florida State which is 18-13 overall and 7-9 in the ACC better pray for some luck this weekend or they may face a trip to Columbia, Missouri to play my Tigers.

Yes, folks, you just heard me right. I just admitted that ol' Mizzou will not make the tournament **again**. Unless there is a sniper outside the new arena in Kansas City, we don't even deserve to be mentioned in the discussion of the NCAA tournament. I fully admit I am a homer, but I am a realistic homer.

Well that's all I got for you until we return from Spring Break. I hope you all have a good one!! "So long for just a little while," and remember, even though we will be 600 miles apart "I am your champion."

Campus Sports Roundup

Varsity Baseball lost to Tornado of King College (yes there is a team that has a similar nickname to us) 5-2 on Tuesday afternoon. The loss dropped the **Tornados** to a record of 7-14. Last weekend, Brevard split a double header with then #24 Catawba College. The Indians won the first game 7-4 in twelve innings while the Tornados took the nightcap 3-1.

Softball is currently hovering at the .500 mark for the season with an 8-8 record. The Tornados were swept by Southern Wesleyan on Tuesday, and are scheduled to take on King College in Bristol, TN. at press time.

After recent setbacks, **women's tennis** stormed to a victory over Converse College. The Tornados swept past the Valkyries 9-0 last Saturday. The ladies return to action after press time, traveling to Cullowhee, N.C. on Wednesday afternoon to take on Western Carolina, a NCAA D I school. For spring break the ladies will be traveling along with the men's team for some matches at Hilton Head, S.C.

The **men's tennis team** fell 7-0 to ACC member Clemson University on Tuesday. The 1-4 Tornados will challenge Newberry on Thursday afternoon before heading to Hilton Head, S.C. for spring break.

Men's Golf got their spring season started in the rain-shortened Tusculum Men's Invitational. The Tornados finished the round tied for 8th place with a team score of 302, 18 over par. They finished 14 strokes behind champions Shorter College. Craig Galloway led the way for the Tornados finishing in a tie for 17th place, carding a round of 71 good enough for 3 over par, 7 strokes off the lead. The men will return to action March 17th and 18th playing in the Montreat College Invitational, which will be played at the Crooked Creek Golf Course in Hendersonville, N.C.