

## Seahawk championship predictions

Sports Editor Brant Wilkerson-New, Senior Staff Writer Chris Kronmueller and Correspondent Justine Sgalio weigh in with Final Four predictions.

### LSU vs. UCLA

**CHRIS KRONMUELLER - LSU:**

PAC-10 teams that make it this far generally fall short at this point and this year will not be any different. LSU made me a believer with the way in which they turned it on in overtime with Texas. UCLA will have to do better than 50 to win this one, as LSU's Tyrus Thomas and Glen Davis will give the Bruins more than they can handle.

**JUSTINE SGALIO - LSU:**

Their athleticism will prevail over this #2 seed.

**BRANT WILKERSON-NEW - LSU:**

LSU simply has too much size and skill up front for the Bruins. Where UCLA has an excellent set of guards, the whole world saw what LSU did defensively against Duke's guards. Tyrus Thomas is proving he's the real deal, and not just another athletic big man with upside.

### George Mason vs. Florida

**CHRIS KRONMUELLER - FLORIDA:**

While Mason remains the feel-good story of the tournament, Florida has played like a team with a chip on their shoulder. Mason has beaten Michigan State, UNC and UConn; an impressive feat, especially for a team that many thought should not even be in the tournament. As long as Florida does not underestimate Mason, they should be in the championship game, but not without a fight.

**JUSTINE SGALIO - MASON:**

I've got to stick with my gut here, Mason could win this game, despite Florida's size.

**BRANT WILKERSON-NEW - FLORIDA:**

Mason's story is a great one, and they have the talent to win the whole thing, but Florida is just playing too well. Joakim Noah, Al Horford and Corey Brewer are enough to neutralize the Mason front-court attack. Florida will move on to Monday night's championship game, I do expect the game to come down to the final minutes though.

### The Championship Game

**CHRIS KRONMUELLER - LSU:**

Both teams are playing well and look like teams of destiny. I give a slight edge to LSU, who will have an easier time with UCLA than Florida will with Mason. Florida beat LSU twice already, by 9 and 16, which should motivate the Tigers further. This one will be determined at the free throw line in the final seconds. LSU 67, Florida 66.

**JUSTINE SGALIO - LSU**

**BRANT WILKERSON-NEW - FLORIDA:**

Florida is 2-0 against LSU already this season, and they will go to 3-0 to take home the national championship. It's going to be a heavyweight fight up front, with Joakim Noah and Co. winning the war. Look for Taurean Green to pick up the scoring slack caused by the war of attrition down low.

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play a lot more together than the 'trying to get to the NBA, winning be damned' show last year. Center Joakim Noah has a head of hair that makes even me jealous, and he's a pretty good ballplayer too, averaging 17 points and 10 points per game through four tournament games. He willed the Gators to victory over Villanova with 21 points and 15 points against the undersized Wildcats.

Most of all, this Final Four is something different. It's good basketball without the media hype about one clear-cut winner. Each of these teams has a legitimate shot to win the title, because they play good tournament basketball. Though it may not have the glamour of previous years, this Final Four may be the best ever for hoopheads.

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