

Tourney easy to call: It's Georgetown

Continued From 9B

field is a step in the right direction.

Leaving Fresno State out of the field was no sin, either. Coach Jerry Tarkanian could have made a stink. The Bulldogs, after all, did win 20 games and NCAA investigators haven't even visited the campus. Yet.

But rather than claim persecution, like the old Tark might have been tempted to, or fall back on the life-isn't-fair wallow (see above), he took the high road. And cheerfully, no less.

"I think our kids deserved it," he said, "but I could make a great case for some other

teams that didn't make it."

Coming out of the East to join the Bearcats there will be Georgetown. UMass Coach John Calipari will spend so much time hyping the dangers of first-round opponent Central Florida - the vaunted Golden Eagles, at 11-18, are one of only two teams with losing records in the tourney - that he'll be out of material by the time UMass has to actually play someone like Allen Iverson and the Hoyas.

Getting Kentucky to take anyone in the Midwest seriously won't be an easy chore for coach Rick Pitino. The Wildcats could have an easier march through their bracket - San Jose State (losing record

No. 2), then Wisconsin-Green Bay, then Utah - than they did through the Southeastern Conference tournament.

Oops. Kentucky lost that title Sunday to Mississippi State. No matter. Pitino said it was exactly what his team needed. The really hard part will be explaining how losing to Wake Forest will be even better, especially when he does it from his new office with the Boston Celtics.

No chance of Kansas coach Roy Williams leaving for the pros, though finding his way to the Final Four won't hurt his reputation any. Considering what a tough year he's already had, Purdue coach Gene Keady will have the sentimen-

tal vote. But he doesn't have a guard as good as the Jayhawks' Jacquie Vaughn calling the shots. And in the most wide-open regional, that will prove to be a crucial difference.

It should have taken the average reader no more than three minutes to get to this point. And to figure out that all four survivors are No. 2 seeds. The tournament, meanwhile, will have played 61 games to reach this same juncture. So pay attention. Kansas beats Wake Forest, then Georgetown beats Cincinnati, and then - drum roll - the Hoyas beat Kansas.

Duke gets its due

Continued from 9B

That's the kind of player Orr is. She loves the ball in her hands for crunch time but won't bask in the glory when she hits the game winner. As Wake Forest threatened to steal the game, Orr continually made the plays to keep the Blue Devils ahead. As expected, she didn't want the praise.

"I think we came out a little bit sluggish and that just gave them more confidence and the more confidence they got, the better they got. But as far as hitting the shots and pushing them back up, that's just what was happening in the flow of the offense," Orr said.

It's not just that Orr scores big points. It's when she scores that really kills opponents, says Duke senior center Ali Day.

"I remember a stretch where we hit two or three three-pointers in a row, those are back-breakers when a team's coming back and you feel like you're almost catching somebody, then all of a sudden, they hit those three-pointers right in a row," Day said.

Those shots wouldn't fall against Clemson. Duke lost by 17 in the final but it was the way the Blue Devils lost that had Orr most upset.

Duke has been resilient all year, bouncing back after disappointing losses to play some of their best basketball. Orr believes the team can do the same Saturday, against James Madison.

"We'll get over this, every game this year we've lost, we've gotten stronger and we'll get stronger from this loss too and we'll learn something and we'll move on," Orr said.

For the Devils to make the national semi-finals in Charlotte, they will have to do some of the little things better, such as boxing out, hitting key free throws and executing down the stretch. Goestenkors had a heart to heart talk with her team following the Clemson loss and believes they know what's ahead.

"I told the team, you can get away with it against some teams and we did but when you come up against great teams, you don't get away with that and we understand that from here on out, every team is going to be a great team," she said.

"I feel like we have not peaked yet as a team," she said. "We've come through some adversity throughout the season, (with injuries), now we're finally together, so now's the time to peak."

With Orr's ability to sink the three-point buzzer beater and if the Blue Devils take care of the little things, don't bet against Coach G's team showing up in Charlotte.

BEAUTY OF THE MONTH

Camille Rashon Dixon
Age: 25

Occupation: Research director at an executive search firm

Education: Graduate, UNC Charlotte, 1993. Psychology major, communications minor

Hobbies: Playing volleyball, working out, selling cosmetics, modeling
Professional affiliations: Research Roundtable, Atlanta

Community activities: Parks and Recreation volleyball referee

Future goals: To own my own business and be able to give back to the community in which I reside.



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