

SPORTS

The heralded and the unknown head to Final Four

Defending-champ Blue Devils eye repeat

Editor's note: This is the third in a four-part series.

By Neil Amato
Senior Writer

A Christian has guided the Blue Devils to the Promised Land (of 10,000 Lakes), but tradition is pointing Duke to no-repeat hell with UNLV and Georgetown.

Starting Saturday in Minneapolis, Duke will try to do what no team has done since the 1973 UCLA Bruins: win back-to-back NCAA titles. UNLV tried to do it last season but got burned by the Blue Devils. Georgetown seemed poised to repeat in 1985, but Villanova shot heavenly and sent the Hoyas to hell.

God, however, seems to be on Duke's side. So does the NCAA.

Duke (32-2), extending its Final Four run to five straight years, is still smiling about the divine intervention it received in Philadelphia. The Miracle on Broad Street — Christian Laettner's 17-foot turnaround swish as time expired — gave Duke a 104-103 overtime win versus Kentucky in the East Regional final.

What may have helped Duke even more was the NCAA's decision not to suspend Laettner for purposely stepping on Kentucky's Aminu Timberlake in the second half.

Everyone knew Laettner would not be suspended. He's the god of college basketball — and he proved it in the Kentucky game, going 10 of 10 from the field and 10 of 10 from the free-throw line. Also, the NCAA didn't want to mess up a dream semifinal and lose money. Duke-Indiana is a match made in — well, enough clichés for now — and having Laettner on the bench would make the game less enjoyable.

The NCAA and CBS (are they interchangeable?) said before the NCAA Tournament began that the order of the semifinals would not be determined until Monday. However, a Duke-Indiana tilt had the NCAA and CBS salivating so much that they announced Sunday that



Duke Blue Devils
Record: 32-2
Coach: Mike Krzyzewski, 12th year at Duke (295-110), 17th overall (368-169)
Key Players: Christian Laettner (21.9 ppg, 7.8 rpg), Bobby Hurley (12.9 ppg, 7.8 apg)
Road to Minneapolis: Defeated Campbell 82-56, Iowa 75-62, Seton Hall 81-69, Kentucky 104-103 (OT)
Semifinals: vs. Indiana Saturday, 8:12 p.m., Metrodome, Minneapolis
Keys to the game: No injuries, no losses.

the game would get the prime-time start.

And why shouldn't it be prime time? After all, these are the 32-2 Duke Blue Devils, the team that has not lost a game all season at full strength. This is the team that shot 54.8 percent from the field and hit 42.8 percent of its 3-pointers. This is the team that has a 22-3 record in the NCAAs since 1988.

Duke's two losses this year came when junior point guard Bobby Hurley was injured. Hurley, Duke's all-time assist leader, broke his foot in the first half of North Carolina's 75-73 win at the Smith Center Feb. 5.

In that game, Laettner had a rare mental lapse. He scored 12 points on 4-of-11 shooting and missed two shots in the lane in the final 40 seconds. That won't happen often to Laettner.

Hurley also did not play in the Blue Devils' 72-68 loss against Wake Forest in Winston-Salem Feb. 23. Duke had a six-point lead late but fell apart down the stretch.

The Blue Devil-Hoosier matchup is

also a battle of superior coaches, coaches who go back a long way. Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski played under Indiana's Bob Knight at Army and coached under him at Indiana, and their teams play a similar, physical, man-to-man defense.

Krzyzewski, however, does not want to be viewed as Bobby Knight's disciple. In 12 seasons in Durham, Krzyzewski has made a name for himself, going 295-110 overall and 31-7 in the NCAA Tournament. He has made the Final Four six out of the last seven seasons.

Last season, Kansas coach Roy Williams won the Final Four's mentor-vs.-disciple game, beating Dean Smith in the semifinals. Kansas was unheralded last season; Duke is the favorite this year.

Duke has the talent to repeat, but its mental toughness will be put to the test after the emotional win last weekend in Philly. The Blue Devils, however, know they can beat anyone. With Hurley healthy, they should beat anyone. Duke is 15-1 in the NCAA Tournament when Hurley plays.

Before the season, Laettner said the mystique of repeating was a media creation.

"The only reason it is talked about is because it's something to write about," Laettner said. "That's fine. What I think should be taken into account is it's very hard to repeat in anything. It's a very unique thing to repeat and that's why you all make such a big deal of it. I know we'll be excellent. I don't know if we'll repeat, but we'll be very good."

Monday in Durham, Laettner was named Kodak Player of the Year. He accepted the trophy and smiled, but he's won individual awards before.

"This award is nice," he said, "but I hope there's another trophy waiting for us in Minneapolis."

Will the Blue Devils lose?
When hell freezes over.
Of course, Bob Knight has that capability.

Cincinnati hopes for Minneapolis miracle

Editor's note: This is the last in a four-part series.

By Doug Hoogervorst
Staff Writer

For the Cincinnati Bearcats there is no hype about its Fab Five or its coach's bullwhip or its chances to repeat. Actually, hype and the Bearcats have not exactly gone together despite their Final Four berth.

But at last check, hype was not a requirement for the NCAA Final Four — just four tournament victories.

Cincinnati (29-4), the Great Midwest Conference champion and the NCAA Midwest Regional champion, has collected four victories in a row, actually 10 in a row, making it the hottest team in the Final Four. UC will play Michigan Saturday at 5:42 p.m.

Still, how the Bearcats, ranked 12th by the Associated Press before the tournament began, became so successful is a mystery to many. And as the unknown, Cincinnati has been handicapped as the team least likely to win in Minneapolis.

So without much national respect, head coach Bob Huggins, in his third year at Cincinnati, has taken a team of 10 transferred players out of an 11-man roster and turned it into a cohesive, smothering defensive team.

That trapping defense has been the key to the season. It also has produced some impressive statistics, reflecting Cincinnati's success with the Carolina-esque trap.

The Bearcats have forced 20.9 turnovers a game and have averaged 9.2 steals. Bearcat opponents have scored 58.9 points per game, leading to an average Cincinnati victory margin of 20.3.

Cincinnati's regular-season numbers were impressive. However, the Bearcats have continued to play at an equivalent level in the NCAA Tournament. UC has won its NCAA Tournament games by a margin of 20.8 points.

The Bearcats' best player is 6-foot-4



Cincinnati Bearcats
Record: 29-4
Coach: Bob Huggins, 3rd year at Cincinnati (67-30), 11th overall (235-102)
Key Players: Herb Jones (18.2 ppg, 7.1 rpg), Anthony Buford (15.2 ppg, 4.7 steals)
Road to Minneapolis: Defeated Delaware 85-47, Michigan St. 77-65, UTEP 69-67, Memphis St. 88-57.
Semifinals: vs. Michigan Saturday, 5:42 p.m., Metrodome, Minneapolis
Keys to the game: Forcing turnovers with its trapping pressure. Corie Blount and Jones must avoid foul trouble.

senior Herb Jones, the Midwest Region's Most Outstanding Player. Jones averages team highs in points (18.2) and in rebounds (7.1).

Despite his height, Jones is an effective scorer in the paint, shooting 56 percent. Making him doubly tough to defend is his ability to shoot from the outside. He has hit on more than 42 percent of his 3-pointers this season.

After Jones on Cincinnati's scoring

Pitch

losing streak and a poor outing in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, where UNC almost lost to Miami (Ohio). After UNC beat a more athletic Alabama squad in the NCAA's second round, several players sounded off against Tar Heel doubters.

"A lot of y'all didn't think we had a chance to go far," Davis told writers in the Lexington locker room.

Despite finishing third in the ACC at 9-7, UNC beat No. 1 Duke and made its annual pilgrimage to the Sweet 16. Smith said his team had progressed well.

"It's nice seeing your pupils improve," Smith said.
The Tar Heels kept the Ohio State game tight, and, with a little luck, they could have been prepping for a second straight Final Four. Instead it is time to start preparing for next season.
"We just have to wait until our time

list comes exterior threat Anthony Buford, a 6-3 senior guard, at 15.2 points per game. Backcourt mate Nick Van Exel provides the Bearcats with yet another 3-point shooter, averaging 12 points.

Expecting Cincinnati's players to hit their scoring averages would be a mistake, however. The Bearcats employ a nine-man rotation to execute their game-long, full-court trapping defensive pressure.

Center Corie Blount and forward Terry Nelson complete Cincinnati's starting lineup.

The 6-10 Blount has been an unsung player this season. Named junior college player of the year last season, Blount has anchored Cincinnati's defense by providing a much-needed shot-blocker at the back end of the full-court pressure. He has been the major addition to Cincinnati's lineup in 1992.

Erik Martin, Allen Jackson, Tarrance Gibson and Jeff Scott all average more than 10 minutes of playing time. That allows UC to keep fresh players in the game on defense, again, the key to the Bearcats' success.

Still, in spite of the team's success, the Bearcats have not won much recognition even in their own home city.

"Here, even in our own hometown, we're just beginning to educate people," Huggins said about his program's recognition.

Don't believe the hype. Or lack thereof.

from page 6

Go west, young woman, for NCAA gold

By Bryan Strickland
Assistant Sports Editor

They love L.A. They love it. For four women's collegiate basketball programs, this weekend's trip to Los Angeles marks the culmination of a successful season. The fabulous foursome — Virginia, Stanford, Western Kentucky and Southwest Missouri State — will vie for the 1992 NCAA Tournament crown at the Los Angeles Sports Arena.

This year's Women's Final Four offers an interesting mix of perennial powers and virtual newcomers. There is Virginia, always the bridesmaid, never the bride. The Cavaliers are making their third consecutive Final Four appearance. And there's Stanford. The 1990 NCAA champions are making their third straight Final Four trip.

Then there's Western Kentucky. The Hilltoppers have logged some time in the limelight, appearing in the Final Four in 1985 and 1986, but they entered this year's Midwest regional as the No. 4 seed.

Finally, there is Southwest Missouri State, the longest of the longshots. The Bears, seeded eighth in the Midwest Region, formed the first team below the fourth seed ever to reach the Final Four. The Bears have won 21 straight games but still suffer from a lack of respect from the Tournament Selection Committee.

The Women's Final Four kicks off Saturday at 12:32 p.m., when SW Missouri State (31-2) battles Western Kentucky (26-7).

Thirty minutes after game one, East champion Virginia (32-1) will play West titlist Stanford (28-3). As in the men's tourney, the winner of the women's East-West semifinal showdown will be the overwhelming favorite to take the title.

The championship game is slated for 4:05 p.m. Sunday and can be seen on Channels 2 and 5.

Saturday's Virginia-Stanford game is a rematch of a 1990 national semifinal clash. In that meeting, the Cardinals rolled to a 75-66 victory and went on to capture their only national title.

Virginia senior guard Dawn Staley,



who Thursday was named National Player of the Year for the second straight season, hopes her top-ranked Cavaliers can avoid a repeat performance.

"All the other awards, they're nice and everything, but I think what every athlete strives to do is win the national championship," Staley told reporters at last November's Operation ACC Women's Basketball. "I think our team has done pretty much everything but that. It's our number one priority."

In addition to the 1990 disappointment, head coach Debbie Ryan's Cavaliers fell short of the ultimate prize again last year. Virginia lost the 1991 title game 70-67 in overtime to Tennessee.

But with Staley at the helm, the Cavs are the favorites to be crowned champions of this year's March Madness. The 5-foot-5 Staley can do it all, averaging 14.3 points and 5.5 rebounds per game.

Just how versatile is Staley? For the season, she has compiled six double-doubles: three combined points and assists, two combined points and rebounds and one combined points and steals. Yes, Staley had 10 steals in a Nov. 30 victory against Temple.

Staley is the only player in ACC history, male or female, to combine for more than 2,000 points, 700 rebounds, 700 assists and 400 steals.

Despite her exploits, Staley is only Virginia's third-leading scorer this season. Junior center Heather Burge, who had 28 points in Saturday's 70-58 regional final win against Vanderbilt, leads the Cavaliers in scoring and in rebounding (17.4 ppg, 8.5 rpg). Senior guard Tammi Reiss is second in scoring (16.6 ppg).

For third-ranked Stanford, which reached the Final Four with an 82-62 thumping of Southern Cal last Satur-



Uva. senior guard Tammi Reiss (32) leads the Cavaliers into this weekend's Final Four

day, 3-pointers are the name of the game. In the win against the Trojans, the Pac-10 champion Cardinal drained 12.3 pointers, including six from Molly Goodenbour, who led the team with 22 points.

In Saturday's second game, Cheryl Burnett's Cinderella SW Missouri State squad is just thrilled to have made it this

far. "I don't think it's really hit me that we're in the Final Four," Burnett said. "We're definitely the underdog and that's fine with me."

"We're still the team that half the coaches in America don't know anything about."

See FINAL FOUR, page 9

SUNDAY SPECIAL
Buy 2 Footlong Subs & Get 1 FREE
Expires May 30, 1992
SUBWAY
Timberlyne Shopping Center
2:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Delivery Hours Vary
967-7771
WE DELIVER!
No Checks Accepted
On/Off Campus \$10.00 Minimum

HAM'S
310 W. Franklin St.
933-3767
Spring is here...
Relax & Dine on
Chapel Hill's largest
outdoor patio.
\$3.75 Light Ditchers
(Sat. & Sun.)
\$2.50 Margaritas
today!
Free homemade potato
chips with any purchase

Attention Short People!
Buy any pair of shorts and get any custom designed stock T-Shirt for just \$4.99 more, or just buy any style of shorts for 25% off!
CAROLINA PRIDE
151 E. FRANKLIN ST. • DOWNTOWN CHAPEL HILL

3rd Annual Phi Mu
Golf Classic
Benefits the Children's Miracle Network.
Apr. 11th • Finley \$1000 Hole-In-One Prize
Applications in front of Post Office or call: 967-9165

IT TAKES TWO TO APPRECIATE AN OFFER LIKE THIS.
BEFORE **AFTER**
GRAB A FRIEND! And get two makeover/photo sessions for the price of one for only \$29.95.
Glamour Shots
HIGH FASHION PHOTOGRAPHY
CALL TODAY FOR PHOTO SESSION. PORTRAITS NOT INCLUDED.
286-2929
Northgate Mall, Durham
Discover American Express MasterCard VISA