

# Duke, Arizona, Michigan, Florida get top seeding

NEW YORK (AP) — Duke received the top overall seed for March Madness on Sunday, followed by Arizona, Michigan and Florida, each of whom would love a repeat of last season when all four No. 1 made it all the way to the Final Four.

The top line was the most predictable thing to come out of Selection Sunday, with Michigan's drop of one spot to the overall No. 3 the result of the Wolverines' loss to Purdue moments before the brackets were revealed, according to tournament selection chair Keith Gill.

In the day's biggest nail-biter, Miami (Ohio) made the field as a No. 11 seed, but just barely. The RedHawks, with a 31-1 record but the 339th-ranked strength of schedule, were one of the last teams in the field and they face a First Four game Wednesday against SMU in Dayton, Ohio, not terribly far from home.

The tournament starts Tuesday with other play-in games, including one pitting bubble teams and No. 11 seeds Texas and North Carolina State. The national champion will be crowned at the Final Four in Indianapolis on April 6.

Among those left out were San Diego State, Indiana, Oklahoma and Auburn.

The Tigers had 16 losses but the third-best strength of schedule. The snub drew predictable blowback from Bruce Pearl, their former coach and father of their current coach, who was working for CBS and said "they played the toughest schedule in the country and I don't know if they were rewarded for it."

Even with those snubs, the Southeastern Conference led the way by placing 10 teams in the field of 68, four short of its record from last year. The Big Ten followed with nine,

the ACC and Big 12 with eight apiece — an unsurprising result in an era of massive conference expansion and NIL compensation drawing top players to the biggest spenders.

The Gators (26-7) are the defending champion, trying to repeat their back-to-back titles from 2006-07. Last season, Florida was part of an all-No. 1 Final Four — the first time that had happened in 17 seasons.

## Chairman says Miami (Ohio) was not the last team in

Gill confusingly said Miami (Ohio) was not the last at-large team in the bracket, even though it was ranked in the 1-68 lineup behind bubble teams North Carolina State, Texas and SMU. Those three teams also rated above Miami in some of the key metrics.

The 31 wins must have meant something.

## Injuries, player availability play a role in seeding

Gill said the committee looked hard at how injuries would impact teams.

No team suffered more, both on the bracket and the court, than North Carolina, which is a No. 6 seed after losing Caleb Wilson to a broken right thumb. JT Toppin's season-ending knee injury was also a factor in Texas Tech's No. 5 seeding.

## Committee looked at seeding principles in some instances, not in others

Asked how the NCAA's seeding principles played a role in moving teams around in the bracket, Gill pointed to the First Four meeting between NC State and Texas the committee would have liked to avoid because it is a rematch of a game they played in the Maui Invitational in November.

He said nothing about placing No. 2 seed Houston in the South, where it could play the regional final in its hometown — normally something the NCAA shies away from. The game could be against Florida in what would be a rematch of last year's national championship game.

## Some conference finals matter more than others

The committee weighed the Big Ten final in moving Michigan down one notch and moving Purdue from a 3 to a 2 seed, but didn't seem to pay as much attention to the action in the Big East.

St. John's beat UConn by 20 in that conference final but remained where most bracketologists had them, at No. 5, and with a cross-country trip this week to San Diego to play Northern Iowa. UConn stayed at No. 2 where it had been predicted all along.

# Unbeaten UConn headlines top seeds for women's tourney

NEW YORK (AP) — UConn was awarded the No. 1 overall seed in the women's NCAA Tournament on Sunday and enters March Madness needing six more victories to complete the seventh undefeated season in school history.

The Huskies (34-0) are looking for their 13th national title and trying to become the first team to repeat as champion since the program won four in a row from 2013-16. UConn is joined by UCLA, Texas and South Carolina as the other No. 1 seeds.

UConn, which is led by stars Sarah Strong and Azzi Fudd, opens the tournament at home against 16th-seeded UTSA and will play in the Fort Worth Regional. If seeds hold, the Huskies could face No. 2 Vanderbilt, which is coached by former UConn great Shea Ralph. This is the 23rd time UConn has earned a No. 1 seed and first since 2021.

UCLA (31-1) was just behind the Huskies as the second overall seed in the tournament. The Bruins have won 25 straight games in dominant

fashion after its lone loss against Texas on a neutral court.

"The debate was pretty close the whole time between the two teams," said NCAA selection committee chair Amanda Braun. "Went to a committee vote, watched a lot of UCLA and UConn — the vote went to UConn. The observable component, the way we watched UConn win throughout the year. UCLA did a lot of winning as well. The committee felt the observable component gave UConn the edge."

UCLA reached the Final Four last year before losing to UConn. Cori Close's team ran through the Big Ten and has an experienced group led by center Lauren Betts looking to win the school's first NCAA championship.

The Bruins will try to win the first women's national championship for the Big Ten Conference since 1999. The Bruins are one of 12 Big Ten teams in the field. That matches the record they set last season for most teams in the tournament. The SEC

has 10, the ACC nine and Big 12 eight.

Other tops teams in UCLA's region are No. 2 LSU, No. 3 Duke and No. 4 Minnesota.

The Longhorns (31-3) earned the third No. 1 seed after winning the SEC Tournament title. They beat South Carolina in two of the three meetings this season. Texas will play in Fort Worth Regional 3. Other top teams in Texas' region are No. 2 Michigan, No. 3 Louisville and No. 4 West Virginia.

The Gamecocks (31-3) are the No. 1 seed in the Sacramento Regional 4 and have been a No. 1 seed for six consecutive seasons. They will be joined by No. 2 Iowa, No. 3 TCU and No. 4 Oklahoma.

The College of Charleston won the Colonial Athletic Association to make the tournament field for the first time in school history. The Cougars are a 14-seed and are the lone first time entry in the field. Last season, there were six newcomers.

BYU, North Dakota State, Utah

and Texas A&M were the first four teams left out of the field.

## Financial compensation

For the second consecutive year, teams in the women's tournament will be financially compensated, in a similar fashion to the men's field, for each round they play. "Units" are what the NCAA calls its tally of wins, automatic qualifiers and at-large bids that determine how much conferences are paid. A unit is money paid to conferences when one of its teams appears in the NCAA Tournament.

This year, the NCAA is giving teams that reach the championship game and the one that wins the title extra units. That extra compensation was added to the overall pool and doesn't decrease the overall value of the units.

## Tournament sites

The top 16 seeds in the 68-team field will host first- and second-round games, with the regional

rounds being played at two neutral sites for the fourth straight year. Fort Worth, Texas, will host half of the Sweet 16 and Sacramento, California, will host the other eight teams.

The Final Four will be played in Phoenix on April 3 and the championship game is two days later.

For the first time the NCAA revealed the 16 host schools a day early. It gave schools an extra day to sell tickets, broadcast partner ESPN a head start to move its equipment to the locations and the NCAA more time to get its marketing materials to sites.

## Tennessee streaking

Tennessee kept its streak alive of reaching every NCAA Tournament since the first one in 1982. The 10th-seeded Lady Vols, who have lost seven consecutive games, only had 16 wins this season, the fewest for an at-large team since Oklahoma also had 16 in 2018. The seed is the lowest for the storied program since Tennessee was an 11-seed in 2019.

## THE DAILY SCOREBOARD

### NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE										
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA				
Buffalo	67	41	20	6	88	235	200			
Tampa Bay	65	40	21	4	84	231	182			
Montreal	66	36	20	10	82	233	220			
Boston	66	37	23	6	80	219	207			
Detroit	67	36	23	8	80	195	201			
Ottawa	66	34	23	9	77	225	205			
Florida	65	33	29	3	69	197	214			
Toronto	67	28	27	12	68	211	236			
Metropolitan										
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA				
Carolina	66	42	18	6	90	234	192			
Pittsburgh	66	33	18	15	81	223	202			
N.Y. Islanders	67	38	24	5	81	197	191			
Columbus	66	34	21	11	79	212	208			
Philadelphia	66	31	23	12	74	191	205			
Washington	68	33	27	8	74	212	203			
New Jersey	66	33	31	2	68	176	201			
N.Y. Rangers	66	28	30	8	64	189	205			
WESTERN CONFERENCE										
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA				
Colorado	65	44	12	9	97	247	163			
Dallas	66	42	14	10	94	232	178			
Minnesota	67	38	17	12	88	224	192			
Utah	66	34	27	6	74	208	188			
Nashville	65	29	27	9	67	194	222			
Winnipeg	66	28	28	10	66	188	202			
St. Louis	67	27	30	10	64	177	222			
Chicago	66	25	30	11	61	175	213			
Pacific										
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA				
Anaheim	67	37	27	3	77	223	233			
Vegas	67	31	22	14	76	220	209			
Edmonton	67	32	26	9	73	205	231			
San Jose	65	32	27	6	70	204	229			
Seattle	65	30	26	9	69	185	197			
Los Angeles	66	27	24	15	69	176	200			
Calgary	66	26	33	7	59	165	207			

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

**Saturday's Games**  
Ottawa 2, Anaheim 0  
Boston 3, Washington 2, SO  
Winnipeg 3, Colorado 1  
N.Y. Rangers 4, Minnesota 2  
Carolina 4, Tampa Bay 2  
N.Y. Islanders 3, Calgary 2  
New Jersey 6, Los Angeles 4  
Buffalo 3, Toronto 2, SO  
San Jose 4, Montreal 2  
Columbus 2, Philadelphia 1, SO  
Dallas 3, Detroit 2, OT  
Pittsburgh 4, Utah 3  
Seattle 5, Vancouver 2  
Vegas 4, Chicago 0

**Sunday's Games**  
Winnipeg 3, St. Louis 2  
Ottawa 7, San Jose 4  
Anaheim 4, Montreal 3  
Toronto at Minnesota, late  
Florida at Seattle, late  
Nashville at Edmonton, late

**Monday's Games**  
Boston at New Jersey, 7 p.m.  
Calgary at Detroit, 7 p.m.  
Los Angeles at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.  
Utah at Dallas, 8 p.m.  
Pittsburgh at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.

**Tuesday's Games**  
Boston at Montreal, 7 p.m.  
Carolina at Columbus, 7 p.m.  
N.Y. Islanders at Toronto, 7 p.m.  
Minnesota at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.  
Nashville at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.  
San Jose at Edmonton, 9 p.m.  
Buffalo at Vegas, 10 p.m.  
Florida at Vancouver, 10 p.m.  
Tampa Bay at Seattle, 10 p.m.

**Wednesday's Games**  
New Jersey at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.  
Pittsburgh at Carolina, 7 p.m.  
Ottawa at Washington, 7:30 p.m.  
Dallas at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.  
St. Louis at Calgary, 9:30 p.m.  
Philadelphia at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

### NASCAR CUP SERIES

Pennzoil 400 presented by Jiffy Lube Results  
Sunday  
At Las Vegas Motor Speedway  
Las Vegas.  
Lap length: 1.50 miles  
(Start position in parentheses)  
1. (2) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 267 laps, 69 points.  
2. (15) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 267, 40.  
3. (9) William Byron, Chevrolet, 267, 49.  
4. (1) Christopher Bell, Toyota, 267, 51.  
5. (3) Ty Gibbs, Toyota, 267, 39.  
6. (10) Chris Buescher, Ford, 267, 35.  
7. (5) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 267, 48.  
8. (18) Chase Briscoe, Toyota, 267, 29.  
9. (4) Bubba Wallace, Toyota, 267, 41.  
10. (28) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 267, 27.  
11. (8) Ryan Preece, Ford, 267, 33.  
12. (11) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 267, 25.  
13. (7) Tyler Reddick, Toyota, 267, 30.  
14. (12) Zane Smith, Ford, 267, 23.  
15. (21) Joey Logano, Ford, 267, 22.  
16. (6) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 267, 23.  
17. (17) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 267, 20.  
18. (13) Daniel Suárez, Chevrolet, 267, 19.  
19. (31) Austin Cindric, Ford, 267, 19.  
20. (14) Erik Jones, Toyota, 267, 17.  
21. (26) John H. Nemechek, Toyota, 266, 16.  
22. (19) Carson Hocevar, Chevrolet, 266, 15.  
23. (20) Riley Herbst, Toyota, 266, 14.  
24. (29) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 265, 13.  
25. (22) Justin Allgaier, Chevrolet, 265, 0.  
26. (30) Michael McDowell, Chevrolet, 265, 11.  
27. (35) Cole Custer, Chevrolet, 265, 10.  
28. (24) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, 265, 9.  
29. (23) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Chevrolet, 265, 8.  
30. (34) Noah Gragson, Ford, 265, 7.  
31. (32) Josh Berry, Ford, 264, 6.  
32. (25) Connor Zilisch, Chevrolet, 264, 5.  
33. (36) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 264, 4.  
34. (27) Todd Gilliland, Ford, 264, 3.  
35. (33) Cody Ware, Chevrolet, 263, 2.  
36. (16) Shane Van Gisbergen, Chevrolet, 262, 1.

**Race Statistics**  
Average Speed of Race Winner: 148.992 mph.  
Time of Race: 2 hours, 41 minutes, 17 seconds.  
Margin of Victory: .502 seconds.  
Caution Flags: 3 for 20 laps.  
Lead Changes: 21 among 9 drivers.  
Lap Leaders: C.Bell 0-2; D.Hamlin 3-33; C.Bell 34-35; J.Logano 36-38; C.Hocevar 39; B.Keselowski 40; C.Custer 41; D.Hamlin 42-67; C.Bell 68; D.Hamlin 69-70; C.Bell 71-92; K.Larson 93-120; R.Blaney 121-125; B.Keselowski 126-128; K.Larson 129-158; W.Byron 159-169; K.Larson 170-173; W.Byron 174-184; D.Hamlin 185-210; W.Byron 211-214; C.Bell 215-218; D.Hamlin 219-267.  
Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Led, Laps Led): D.Hamlin, 5 times for 134 laps; K.Larson, 3 times for 62 laps; C.Bell, 5 times for 31 laps; W.Byron, 3 times for 26 laps; R.Blaney, 1 time for 5 laps; B.Keselowski, 2 times for 4 laps; J.Logano, 1 time for 3 laps; C.Hocevar, 1 time for 1 lap; C.Custer, 1 time for 1 lap.  
Wins: T.Reddick, 3; R.Blaney, 1.  
Top 16 in Points: 1. T.Reddick, 225; 2. R.Blaney, 165; 3. B.Wallace, 153; 4. C.Elliott, 128; 5. S.Van Gisbergen, 116; 6. C.Bell, 113; 7. J.Logano, 113; 8. M.McDowell, 111; 9. C.Buescher, 111; 10. K.Larson, 109; 11. W.Byron, 108; 12. D.Hamlin, 107; 13. A.Allmendinger, 104; 14. C.Hocevar, 103; 15. T.Gibbs, 101; 16. B.Keselowski, 100.

### PIRATES BOXSCORE

Tampa Bay 6, Pittsburgh 1										
Pittsburgh					Tampa Bay					
ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi		
Triolo 3b	3	0	0		Diaz dh	3	0	1	0	
Callihan 3b	1	0	0		Vellojin ph-dh	1	0	0	0	
O'Heam lf-rf	2	0	0		Lux 2b	3	1	1	0	
Garcia lf-cf	1	0	1	0	Barrios 2b	1	0	0	0	
Reynolds rf-1b	3	0	1	0	Aranda 1b	3	1	2	0	
Fletcher pr-1b	1	0	1	0	Morgan 1b	0	1	0	0	
Lowie dh	3	0	0		Fralei rf	3	2	3	1	
Ross ph	1	0	0		DeLucra rf	1	0	1	0	
Yurke lf-2b	3	0	0		Mullins cf	4	1	3	4	
Valdez 2b-1b	0	0	0		Melton pr-cf	0	0	0	0	
Bart c	3	0	0		Simpson lf	3	0	0	0	
Rodriguez c	1	0	0		Olivares lf	1	0	0	0	
Horwitz 2b-1b	2	0	0		Walls ss	2	0	0	0	
A.Williams 2b	0	0	0		C.Williams ss	1	0	0	0	
Cook cf	3	0	0		Feduccia c	2	0	0	0	
Tate lf	0	0	0		Levins c	1	0	0	0	
Griffin ss	3	1	1	1	Palacios 3b	2	0	0	0	
					Taylor 3b	1	0	0	0	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	
Pittsburgh	003	000	001	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Tampa Bay	000	020	10x	—	6	—	—	—	—	
DP—Pittsburgh 1, Tampa Bay 1. LOB—Pittsburgh 5, Tampa Bay 7. 2B—Lux (1), Fraley (1). HR—Griffin (1), Mullins (1). SB—Fralei (1), Palacios (1). Walks (1).										
P	H	R	ER	BB	SO					
Urquidly L,0-1	3 2/3	6	3	3	1	1	4			
Takacs	1/3	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Ramirez	1	3	2	2	0	1				
Yulie	0	1/3	0	0	0	3	1			
Deese	1	0	2	1	1	1				
Shirk	1	0	0	0	0	1				
Tampa Bay										
McClanahan W,1-0	3 2/3	0	0	0	2	7				
Seymour H,1	2 1/3	0	0	0	0	1				
Booser	1	1	0	0	0	1				
Martin	1	0	0	0	0	2				
Guerrero	1	3	1	1	1	3				
WP—Urquidly(2), T—2:23. A—5,744 (7,670).										

### NCAA TOURNAMENT GLANCE

**FIRST FOUR**  
Tuesday, March 17  
At UD Arena  
Dayton, Ohio  
Howard (23-10) vs. LMBC (24-8), 6:40 p.m.  
NC State (20-13) vs. Texas (18-14), 9:15 p.m.  
Wednesday, March 18  
At UD Arena  
Dayton, Ohio  
Lehigh (18-16) vs. Prairie View (18-17), 6:40 p.m.  
SMU (20-13) vs. Miami (Ohio) (31-1), 9:15 p.m.  
EAST REGIONAL  
First Round  
Thursday, March 19  
At Bon Secours Wellness Arena  
Greenville, S.C.  
Duke (32-2) vs. Siena (23-11), 2:50 p.m.  
Ohio St. (21-12) vs. TCU (22-11), 12:15 p.m.  
At KeyBank Center  
Buffalo, N.Y.  
Louisville (23-10) vs. South Fla. (25-8), 1:30 p.m.  
Michigan St. (25-7) vs. N. Dakota St. (27-7), 4:05 p.m.  
Friday, March 20  
At Viejas Arena  
San Diego  
St. John's (28-6) vs. N. Iowa (23-12), 7:10 p.m.  
Kansas (23-10) vs. Cal Baptist (25-8), 9:45 p.m.  
At Xfinity Mobile Arena  
Phila.  
UCLA (23-11) vs. UCF (21-11), 7:25 p.m.  
UConn (29-5) vs. Furman (22-12), 10 p.m.  
SOUTH REGIONAL  
First Round  
Friday, March