2022 NCAA Tournament March Madness: Top 10 Players at Each Position

College basketball fans, March Madness and the 2022 NCAA Tournament are finally here! The bracket is officially out and it's time to get down to the nitty gritty.

Which title contender will cut down the nets? Which mid-major team can pull off the surprising first-round upset? How about an under-the-radar team that can make a run to the Final Four in New Orleans?

As you fill out your brackets and place those wagers, allow us to dive into all 68 teams in the field beforehand. The action gets started with the First Four play-in games in Dayton, Ohio on Tuesday, March 15th and Wednesday, March 16th. Then, the first-round gets started on Thursday, March 17th.

In this cheat sheet, we'll provide an in-depth look at every national title contender, possible upsets, Cinderella stories, top players, dark horses, and everything in between. You'll be ready to win those office pools in no time!

The records, rankings, odds to win and stats are all as of Sunday, March 14th. Also, the odds to win the title and reach the Final Four are via the DraftKings Sportsbook - but you can likely find similar numbers elsewhere. Without further ado, let's jump in. Happy March Madness,
- Dan Servodidio, Senior College Basketball Analyst, Fantasy Alarm

**Top 10 Guards:**

1. Jaden Ivey, Purdue
2. Johnny Davis, Wisconsin
3. Andrew Nembhard, Gonzaga
4. Collin Gillespie, Villanova
5. Kennedy Chandler, Tennessee
6. Justin Moore, Villanova
7. TyTy Washington Jr., Kentucky
8. JD Notae, Arkansas
9. Jacob Gilyard, Richmond
10. Wendell Green Jr, Auburn
**Top 10 Big Men:**

1. Oscar Tshiebwe, Kentucky
2. Kofi Cockburn, Illinois
3. Drew Timme, Gonzaga
4. Chet Holmgren, Gonzaga
5. Paolo Banchero, Duke
6. Jabari Smith, Auburn
7. Hunter Dickinson, Michigan
8. Walker Kessler, Auburn
9. Adama Sanogo, UConn
10. Trevion Williams, Purdue

**Top 10 Wing Players:**

1. Ochai Agbaji, Kansas
2. EJ Liddell, Ohio State
3. Keegan Murray, Iowa
4. Bennedict Mathurin, Arizona
5. AJ Griffin, Duke
6. Johnny Juzang, UCLA
7. David Roddy, Colorado State
8. Jaden Shackelford, Alabama
9. Trent Frazier, Illinois
Gonzaga Bulldogs

- **Seed & 1st Rd Opponent:** No. 1 vs. No. 16 Georgia State (West Region)
- **Record:** 26-3 overall; 13-1 in West Coast
- **Rankings:** 1st in NET; 1st in KenPom; 1st in BPI
- **Odds:** 3/1 to win title; -160 to make Final Four
- **Notable Wins:** Texas, UCLA, Texas Tech, Saint Mary’s (twice), San Francisco (twice)
- **Notable Losses:** Duke, Alabama, Saint Mary’s
- **Key Players:** Drew Timme (junior center); Chet Holmgren (freshman center); Andrew Nembhard (senior point guard)
- **Coach:** Mark Few (23rd season)
- **Last Tournament Appearance:** 2021 – National Championship loss to Baylor as No. 1 Seed

Could this finally be the year for Gonzaga to win it all? We asked ourselves the same thing last March before watching the undefeated Zags lose in the national title game. Though they’ve suffered a few losses already, this year’s Bulldogs still have plenty of talent to beat any team in the country – and they’ve already proven they can hang with the big boys. Mark Few’s squad earned the No. 1 overall seed in the NCAA Tournament after winning both the West Coast Conference regular-season and tournament title.
Gonzaga is headlined by Chet Holmgren, a lanky 7-foot freshman with the versatile skill-set that'll make him a top NBA Draft pick this year. Don't forget about two key holdovers from last season's squad, as both Drew Timme and Andrew Nemhbad are among the nation's best at their respective positions. Overall, the Zags boast a top 10 offense and defense while playing at a super-fast pace. Even with Duke and Texas Tech in its bracket, another trip to the Final Four is certainly possible.

**Arizona Wildcats**

- **Seed & 1st Rd Opponent:** No. 1 vs. No. 16 Wright State/Bryant winner (South Region)
- **Record:** 31-3 overall; 18-2 in Pac-12
- **Rankings:** 2nd in NET; 2nd in KenPom; 3rd in BPI
- **Odds:** +650 to win title; +150 to make Final Four
- **Notable Wins:** Illinois, UCLA (twice), USC (twice), Michigan, Wyoming
- **Notable Losses:** UCLA, Tennessee
- **Key Players:** Bennedict Mathurin (sophomore wing); Christian Koloko (junior center); Azuolas Tubelis (sophomore power forward)
- **Coach:** Tommy Lloyd (1st season)
- **Last Tournament Appearance:** 2018 – 1st Round loss to Buffalo as No. 4 seed

Former Gonzaga assistant coach Tommy Lloyd is now the lead guy at Arizona, and he's got his current squad looking just as good as his old one. The Wildcats boast a high-scoring, fast-paced offense that can explode for 80-90 points on a regular basis. Sophomore wing Bennedict Mathurin was the Pac-12 Player of the Year and will be a future NBA lottery pick with pro-ready skill.

Outside of Mathurin, there's plenty of talent up-and-down the roster that'll have Arizona ready to contend for the title. Center Christian Koloko was the conference's Defensive Player of the Year, big man Azuolas Tubelis is a versatile scorer, and guard Kerr Kriisa gives the team energy and attitude. The recent ankle injury for Kriisa is a slight worry, as he's questionable to play in the first round, and his absence could impact how far the 'Cats go. It's also important to note that Arizona would've been safely in the Tournament last year but had to sit out due to a postseason ban.
Kansas Jayhawks

- **Seed & 1st Rd Opponent:** No. 1 vs. No. 16 Texas Southern/Texas A&M-Corpus-Christi winner (Midwest Region)
- **Record:** 28-6 overall; 14-4 in Big 12
- **Rankings:** 6th in NET; 6th in KenPom; 8th in BPI
- **Odds:** +850 to win title; +160 to make Final Four
- **Notable Wins:** Baylor, Texas Tech (twice), Texas, Michigan State, Iowa State (twice)
- **Notable Losses:** Kentucky, Texas Tech, Baylor, Texas
- **Key Players:** Ochai Agbaji (senior wing); Christian Braun (junior wing); Jalen Wilson (sophomore wing); David McCormack (senior center)
- **Head Coach:** Bill Self (19th season)
- **Last Tournament Appearance:** 2021 – 2nd Round loss to USC as No. 3 seed

Stop me if you've heard this before: Kansas is one of the best teams in the country and can easily be the last team standing. Even with point guard transfer Remy Martin battling a knee injury for most of the year, head coach Bill Self has a top-tier program yet again. Ochai Agbaji, the Big 12 Player of the Year, headlines KU after averaging 19.7 points per game this season and being one of the country's top overall scorers.

Outside of Agbaji, the Jayhawks' roster is filled with experienced players who'll be looking to avenge last season's early exit from the bracket. That was evident in Kansas' Big 12 tournament title that locked up a No. 1 seed in the NCAA bracket. The big worries for Self's squad, though, are lack of depth and reliable ball-handling. While it hasn't mattered much this season, those issues may arise further into March Madness.

Baylor Bears

- **Seed & 1st Rd Opponent:** No. 1 vs. No. 16 Norfolk State (East Region)
- **Record:** 26-6 overall; 14-4 in Big 12
- **Rankings:** 4th in NET; 5th in KenPom; 6th in BPI
- **Odds:** 12/1 to win title; 2/1 to make Final Four
- **Notable Wins:** Kansas, Villanova, Texas (twice), Michigan State, Iowa State (twice), TCU (twice)
- **Notable Losses:** Alabama, Kansas, Texas Tech (twice), Oklahoma
- **Key Players:** James Akinjo (senior point guard); Adam Flagler (junior guard); Matthew Mayer (senior wing)
- **Head Coach:** Scott Drew (19th season)
• **Last Tournament Appearance:** 2021 – National Championship win over Gonzaga as No. 1 seed

The reigning national champs are again among the top squads this season and will be looking to be the first team to win back-to-back titles since Florida in 2006-07. Despite losing its two best players from last year, Baylor still has plenty of talent to have a top 10 offense and top 20 defense in the nation. Along with some key holdovers from last season (Adam Flagler and Matthew Mayer), the Bears brought in highly-rated freshmen (Kendall Brown and Jeremy Sochan) and a top-tier transfer (James Akinjo) to form a balanced roster.

They might not be as good as last year's version, but Baylor should be taken seriously once again. However, an early exit from the Big 12 tournament is a bit concerning – especially since the Bears are dealing with injuries to two key role players, Jonathan Tchamwa Tchatchoua (out for season) and LJ Cryer (questionable to return). As the worst of the No. 1 seeds, Baylor gets a loaded region with Kentucky, Purdue and UCLA all looming.
Duke Blue Devils

- Final 4 in 1st Rd; 70 No. 11 Duke State Rankings (North Region)
- 20 (11-9; 3-2 ACC)
- #24 Duke to play #10 Colorado State (East Region)
- #24 Duke: #123 in NET; #34 in KenPom; #42 in BPI
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2019 – 1st Round loss to #11 Nevada

Purdue Boilermakers

- Projected Seed No. 2; No. 14 Villanova (East Region)
- 20 (17-15; 6-10 Big Ten)
- #15 Purdue: #101 in NET; #152 in KenPom; #195 in BPI
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2021 – Final Four loss to #7 North Carolina

Princeton Tigers

- 2nd in 1st Rd; 47 No. 13 South Dakota State (Bellemore Region)
- 20 (15-12; 12-6 Ivy League)
- #23 Princeton: #17 in NET; #27 in KenPom; #27 in BPI
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2017 – 1st Round loss to #2 Texas A&M

Houston Cougars

- 2nd in 1st Rd; 4 No. 13 Louisville (South Region)
- 20 (15-12; 10-6 AAC)
- #2 Louisville: #16 in NET; #3 in KenPom; #1 in BPI
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2022 – 1st Round loss to #11 Mississippi State (Midwest Region)

LSU Tigers

- 1st in 1st Rd; 1 No. 11 Iowa State (Midwest Region)
- 20 (11-10; 5-10 SEC)
- #1 LSU: #9 in NET; #1 in KenPom; #1 in BPI
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2020 – 1st Round loss to #4 Oklahoma State (Midwest Region)

Ohio State Buckeyes

- 1st in 1st Rd; 2 No. 10 Loyola Chicago (South Region)
- 20 (11-12; 6-10 Big Ten)
- #2 Ohio State: #9 in NET; #10 in KenPom; #12 in BPI
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2016 – 2nd Round loss to #3 Michigan State (East Region)
Arkansas Razorbacks
- Seed & 1st Rd Opponent: No. 4 vs. No. 13 Vermont (East Region)
- Record: 23-10 overall; 14-7 in SEC
- Rankings: 13 in NET; 14th in KenPom; 13th in BPI
- Odds: 5/1 to win title; 2/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: Ole Miss, LSU, South Carolina, Alabama, Missouri, Kentucky
- Notable Losses: LSU, Tennessee
- Key Players: JD Notars (sophomore forward), Jaylin Williams (junior forward), Tomasz Gielo (sophomore center)
- Head Coach: Eric Musselman (3rd season)
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2021 – 2nd Round loss to Baylor as No. 5 seed

Wisconsin Badgers
- Seed & 1st Rd Opponent: No. 1 vs. No. 8 Colgate (Midwest Region)
- Record: 24-6 overall; 15-7 in Big Ten
- Rankings: 17 in NET; 18th in KenPom; 19th in BPI
- Odds: 7/1 to win title; 3/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: Ohio State, Michigan State, Rutgers, Iowa
- Notable Losses: Illinois, Ohio State, Providence
- Key Players: Johnny Davis (sophomore forward), Brad Davison (sophomore guard), Tyler Wahl (junior guard)
- Head Coach: Greg Gard (4th season)
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2021 – 3rd Round loss to Baylor as No. 9 seed

Connecticut Huskies
- Seed & 1st Rd Opponent: No. 1 vs. No. 12 New Mexico State (West Region)
- Record: 23-7 overall; 13-4 in Big East
- Rankings: 11 in NET; 18th in KenPom; 19th in BPI
- Odds: 7/1 to win title; 3/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: Marquette, Seton Hall, Providence, Malcom X College, Liberty
- Notable Losses: Villanova (twice), Providence, Seton Hall, Manhattan, St. John’s, Creighton (twice)
- Key Players: A.J. Care (sophomore guard); Adams Sapango (sophomore center); Tyler Martin (sophomore guard)
- Head Coach: Dan Hurley (5th season)
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2021 – 1st Round loss to Maryland as No. 7 seed

Iowa Hawkeyes
- Seed & 1st Rd Opponent: No. 4 vs. No. 12 Rhode Island (Midwest Region)
- Record: 23-8 overall; 12-6 in Big Ten
- Rankings: 12 in NET; 14th in KenPom; 16th in BPI
- Odds: 2/1 to win title; 6/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: Purdue, Ohio State, Michigan State, Michigan
- Notable Losses: Providence (twice), Butler (twice), Iowa State, Marquette
- Key Players: Kriego Murray (sophomore forward), Jordan Bohannon (sophomore guard), Patrick McCaffery (sophomore forward), Muc Murray (sophomore forward)
- Head Coach: Fran McCaffery (13th season)
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2021 – 2nd Round loss to Oregon as No. 2 seed

Illinois Fighting Illini
- Seed & 1st Rd Opponent: No. 8 vs. No. 13 Chattanooga (South Region)
- Record: 22-9 overall; 13-5 in Big Ten
- Rankings: 11 in NET; 17th in KenPom; 20th in BPI
- Odds: 1/1 to win title; 3/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: Iowa (twice), Wisconsin, Michigan State (twice), Michigan, Notre Dame
- Notable Losses: Providence (twice), Marquette, Florida State, Marquette
- Key Players: Kofi Cockburn (junior center); Trent Frazier (sophomore guard); Andre Curbelo (sophomore guard); Alfonso Plummer (sophomore guard)
- Head Coach: Brad Underwood (3rd season)
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2021 – 3rd Round loss to Loyola Chicago as No. 15 seed

Iowa had a stunning first-round loss to Chattanooga as an 8 seed, losing 69-64 to the No. 13 Flames. Chattanooga's senior guard Andrew Rowsey scored 24 points, including an 8-of-10 effort from 3-point range, to lead the Flames to the upset victory. The Illini, who had a strong season but struggled in their final game of the regular season, will need to regroup quickly to have a chance against the Bears. Chattanooga will face No. 1 seed Gonzaga in the second round. The Illini's season is over, but they can take pride in their performance during the regular season and in the tournament. They will look to build on their success in the future and make another deep run in the NCAA Tournament.
2022 NCAA Tournament March Madness: Possible Bracket-Busters

UAB Blazers
- Seed & 1st Rd Opponent: No. 12 vs. No. 5 Houston (South Region)
- Record: 27-7 overall, 14-4 in Conference USA
- Rankings: 40th in NET, 46th in KenPom, 67th in BPI
- Odds: 360/1 to win title, 100/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: Saint Louis, North Texas, Louisiana Tech (three times)
- Notable Losses: San Francisco, West Virginia, North Texas
- Key Players: Jordan Murphy (senior guard), K.J. Buffs (sénior forward), Michael Ertel (senior guard)
- Head Coach: Andy Kennedy (2nd season)
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2015 – 2nd Round loss to UCLA as No. 14 Seed

If you read the biggest busts section, we laid out the case for Houston losing early. Well, the Cougars’ first-round opponent is a strong UAB squad that won’t go quietly. The Blazers boast a top-30 offense and quick-paced attack that usually forces teams to keep up scoring-wise. They’re led by the sharp-shooter point guard Jordan Murphy, who spent time at Seton Hall and Tulane in his college career. He actually has experience playing against Houston the previous two years while at Tulane in the AAC – so we know he won’t be scared off.

Head coach Andy Kennedy spent a decade at Ole Miss and that experience coaching in the SEC will come in handy as well. Also, the last time UAB was in the Big Dance it pulled a first-round upset over Iowa State as a No. 14 seed in 2015. Just some food for thought.

South Dakota State Jackrabbits
- Seed & 1st Rd Opponent: No. 13 vs. No. 4 Providence (South Region)
- Record: 30-4 overall, 18-0 in Summit League
- Rankings: 65th in NET, 71st in KenPom, 65th in BPI
- Odds: 460/1 to win title, 150/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: Washington State, Nevada
- Notable Losses: Alabama, Washington
- Key Players: Dallas Schweiman (senior guard), Doug Wilson (senior forward)
- Head Coach: Eric Henderson (3rd season)
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2018 – 1st Round loss to Ohio State as No. 12 seed

South Dakota State comes in red-hot after going undefeated during conference play and 21 straight wins dating back to mid-December. The Jackrabbits will be a dangerous double-digit seed to face in the first-round for Providence. They rank first in the country in both three-point percentage (44.2%) and effective field-goal rate (55.7%) with the 11th-best offensive efficiency (per KenPom). The high-scoring offense and uptempo style form the ideal recipe to pull up an upset in the Big Dance – especially against a slower-paced Friars team that could struggle to keep up.

Vermont Catamounts
- Seed & 1st Rd Opponent: No. 15 vs. No. 4 Arkansas (West Region)
- Record: 28-5 overall, 17-1 in America East
- Rankings: 52nd in NET, 59th in KenPom, 58th in BPI
- Odds: 460/1 to win title, 25/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: Northern Iowa, Yale
- Notable Losses: Providence, Maryland
- Key Players: Ben Orlando (senior point guard), Ryan Davis (senior forward)
- Head Coach: John Becker (11th season)
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2019 – 1st Round loss to Florida State as No. 13 Seed

Vermont won its third America East championship in the last four years to make yet another NCAA Tournament. The Catamounts went 17-1 during conference play this season and then proceeded to win each of their league tournament games by 50+ points. They’re one of the hottest teams in the country by just one loss since early December and will be a tough out for Arkansas in the first-round.

Remember, Vermont gave Florida State a scare in the opening weekend of the 2019 bracket and shouldn’t be taken lightly as one of the better small conference programs out there. The Catamounts start five seniors, with a seven coming off the bench, and boast a top-50 offensive efficiency in the country – which is saying something for a double-digit seed. If you like Yale as an upset candidate, Vermont looks that team back in November.

Colgate Raiders
- Seed & 1st Rd Opponent: No. 14 vs. No. 3 Wisconsin (Midwest Region)
- Record: 23-11 overall, 14-2 in Patriot League
- Rankings: 128th in NET, 119th in KenPom, 104th in BPI
- Odds: 700/1 to win title, 180/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: Syracuse
- Notable Losses: St. Johns, Vermont, NC State
- Key Players: Jack Ferguson (senior guard), Tucker Richardson (senior wing), Nelly Cummings (junior guard)
- Head Coach: Matt Langel (11th season)
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2019 – 1st Round loss to Florida State as No. 13 Seed

Colgate has now made three straight NCAA Tournaments as an emerging Patriot League powerhouse. The Raiders have won 19 of their last 20 games and could give Wisconsin a scare in the first round. The New York-based program brings a dangerous offensive style featuring a ton of three-pointers. Colgate’s 41.7% three-point rate is the second-highest mark in the country and its 55.9% effective field-goal rate is 10th-best in all of college basketball. The Raiders gave Arkansas a good scare last year in the first round, leading by 14 points at one point before ultimately falling short. If Wisconsin struggles to keep up offensively, an upset could be in the cards for the toothpaste makers (sorry, had to).

Chattanooga Mocs
- Seed & 1st Rd Opponent: No. 15 vs. No. 8 Illinois (South Region)
- Record: 27-7 overall, 14-4 in Southern Conference
- Rankings: 82nd in NET, 72nd in KenPom, 64th in BPI
- Odds: 960/1 to win title, 66/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: VCU
- Notable Losses: Murray State, Belmont
- Key Players: Malachi Smith (junior guard), Daniel Jean Baptiste (senior guard), Silvio De Sousa (senior center)
- Head Coach: Lance Paris (9th season)
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2016 – 1st Round loss to La Salle as No. 16 seed

After besting Furman in overtime in the Southern Conference title game, Chattanooga gets its first NCAA Tournament berth since 2016. The Mocs are headlined by dynamic guard Malachi Smith, who averaged 20.1 PPG this season, and feature former Kansas transfer Silvio De Sousa. They could catch Illinois off-guard in the first round with a top-60 offensive efficiency in the country and above-average defense. The lack of competition this season is a slight worry, as Chattanooga only played one team from a higher-tier conference – though it was a win on the road at VCU. Behind Smith’s play, the Mocs will try to serve Illinois a second straight easy exit from the bracket.
2022 NCAA Tournament March Madness: Top Mid-Major Teams

Saint Mary’s Gaels
- Seed: 1st Rd Opponent: 5 vs. 12 Wyoming/Indiana winners (East Region)
- Record: 29-7 overall, 14-4 in West Coast Conf.
- Odds: 30/1 to win title, 6/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: Saint Mary’s over No. 2 Gonzaga in the regular-season finale.
- Key Players: Tommy Kuhse (junior guard), Dalvin Stover (sophomore guard), Jordan Hunter (sophomore guard)
- Head Coach: Dane Fischer (10th season)

Murray State Racers
- Seed: 1st Rd Opponent: 7 vs. 10 San Francisco (East Region)
- Record: 27-7 overall, 13-3 in Missouri Valley
- Odds: 7/1 to win title, 11/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: Murray State over No. 2 Kansas in the regular-season finale.
- Key Players: Morose (sophomore forward), Isaiah Stevens (sophomore guard), Jalen Tate (sophomore guard)
- Head Coach: Matt McMahon (7th season)

Loyola Chicago Ramblers
- Seed: 1st Rd Opponent: 10 vs. 7 Ohio State (South Region)
- Record: 24-10 overall, 10-8 in Missouri Valley
- Odds: 15/2 to win title, 6/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: Loyola Chicago over No. 2 Michigan State in the regular-season finale.
- Key Players: Kellon Taylor (sophomore forward), Amares Broussard (sophomore guard), Marques Townes (junior forward)
- Head Coach: Drew Valentine (1st season)

San Francisco Dons
- Seed: 1st Rd Opponent: 10 vs. 7 Murray State (East Region)
- Record: 24-10 overall, 10-8 in West Coast Conf.
- Odds: 15/2 to win title, 6/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: San Francisco over No. 2 Gonzaga in the regular-season finale.
- Key Players: Jordan Frontiere (sophomore guard), Keinan Lewis (sophomore guard), Khama Colley (junior guard)
- Head Coach: Todd Golden (3rd season)

Davidson Wildcats
- Seed: 1st Rd Opponent: 10 vs. 7 Michigan State (South Region)
- Record: 24-6 overall, 11-4 in Atlantic 10
- Odds: 10/1 to win title, 4/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: Davidson over No. 2 Gonzaga in the regular-season finale.
- Key Players: Jay Shaw (sophomore guard), Maxey Moore (sophomore guard), Suad Džepina (sophomore guard)
- Head Coach: Bob McKillop (30th season)

Colorado State Rams
- Seed: 1st Rd Opponent: 9 vs. 11 Chicagoland (South Region)
- Record: 23-9 overall, 10-6 in Mountain West
- Odds: 2/1 to win title, 2/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: Colorado State over No. 3 San Diego State in the regular-season finale.
- Key Players: David Roddy (junior forward), Isaiah Stevens (sophomore guard), Jalen Tate (sophomore guard)
- Head Coach: Niko Medved (4th season)

Despite not winning the West Coast Conference title, Saint Mary’s earned a No. 5 seed in the NCAA Tournament field as an at-large team. This season, the Gaels are more than just a "real-life" program and completely capable of upsetting anyone in the country. They blistered Arizona’s defense, ranking ninth in defensive efficiency this season, and rounding out teams to 65 wins or fewer. In fact, Saint Mary’s upsets just 37 percent against Pac-12 teams when victory over the year. The suffocating defense will prove to be a tough matchup for the winners of both Illinois and Wyoming. Plus, senior guard Tommy Kuhse has gotten hot offensively in the past month and he’s a threat to come over every game.

Murray State’s Tony Murphy has been a key player in the Racers’ run to the tournament. The Racers lost in the first round last year, but they hope to make another run this year. Head Coach Drew Valentine has guided the Racers to a 16-4 record against Top 25 teams this season.

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Davidson’s Wofford is a favorite to win the Southern Conference title and make the NCAA Tournament.

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Despite losing in the West Coast Conference tournament, Saint Mary’s was good enough this season to earn an at-large bid. Despite their backcourt of Payton Pritchard and Chris Duarte, the Rams will put up a fight against Murray State in the first round and may even pull the upset. The Rams’ early-season losses over other Tournament teams like Davidson and UNCG will help their cause.

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Virginia Tech Hokies

- Seed & 1st Rnd Opponent: No. 11 vs. No. 6 Texas (East Region)
- Record: 23-12 overall; 11-9 in ACC
- Rankings: 27th in NET; 23rd in KenPom; 19th in BPI
- Odds: 150/1 to win title; 25/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: Duke, North Carolina, Notre Dame (twice)
- Notable Losses: Duke, Memphis, North Carolina (twice)
- Key Players: Keve Aluma (senior center); Storm Murphy (senior guard); Jahmyn Meeks (junior forward)
- Head Coach: Mike Young (3rd season)
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2021 – 1st Round loss to Florida as No. 10 Seed

Virginia Tech likely would've been on the outside looking in to the NCAA Tournament if not for a surprising postseason run. After beating Notre Dame, North Carolina and Duke in consecutive days, the Hokies are the ACC Tournament champs and thus get an auto bid into the bracket. The double-digit title win vs. Duke was especially impressive. Virginia Tech is now 13-2 in its last 15 games and could carry the hot streak over into this first-round matchup vs. a vulnerable Texas team. Plus, remember that the Hokies nearly upset Florida in the first round last year before ultimately falling in overtime.

Richmond Spiders

- Seed & 1st Rnd Opponent: No. 12 vs. No. 5 Iowa (Midwest Region)
- Record: 23-12 overall; 10-8 in Atlantic 10
- Rankings: 81st in NET; 83rd in KenPom; 173rd in BPI
- Odds: 500/1 to win title; 100/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: Davidson, Saint Louis, Dayton, NC State
- Notable Losses: Davidson, Utah State, Mississippi State, Saint Louis, Dayton
- Key Players: Jacob Gilyard (senior guard); Grant Golden (senior center); Tyler Burton (junior forward)
- Head Coach: Chris Mooney (17th season)
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2021 – Sweet 16 loss to Kansas as No. 12 Seed

Despite having the sixth-best record in the Atlantic 10 this year, Richmond made a run in the conference tournament to earn the auto bid. The Spiders beat VCU, Dayton and Davidson in consecutive days and are riding high. Senior point guard Jacob Gilyard is the NCAA's all-time leader in steals, but he can also get it done offensively while running the show. A matchup vs. Iowa is certainly tough for a Richmond team that prefers to play in lower-scoring games, though, if the Spiders can force some turnovers and take advantage of the Hawkeyes' 'out-of-defense, anything can happen!' triangle.

Yale Bulldogs

- Seed & 1st Rnd Opponent: No. 14 vs. No. 3 Purdue (East Region)
- Record: 19-11 overall; 11-3 in Ivy League
- Rankings: 142nd in NET; 147th in KenPom; 151st in BPI
- Odds: 800/1 to win title; 200/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: None
- Notable Losses: Auburn, Saint Mary's, Seton Hall, Vermont
- Key Players: Azar Swain (senior guard); Jalen Gabbidon (senior guard)
- Head Coach: James Jones (22nd season)
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2019 – 1st Round loss to LSU as No. 14 Seed

Imagine this scenario real quick. You’re on Yale’s college basketball team and you nearly pull off a first-round upset over LSU as a No. 14 seed in the NCAA Tournament. Your Yale squad is then the best Ivy League team the following season, but there’s no March Madness due to the COVID pandemic. Then, your entire next season is canceled due to COVID concerns again. Now, three years later, you’re a senior and Yale is back in the NCAA Tournament as Ivy League champs. That’s basically what seniors Azar Swain and Jalen Gabbidon have lived since they were on Yale’s 2019 team — and now they get a shot to prove everyone wrong and beat Purdue. Sounds like a movie script to me.

Akron Zips

- Seed & 1st Rnd Opponent: No. 13 vs. No. 4 UCLA (East Region)
- Record: 24-9 overall; 14-4 in MAC
- Rankings: 127th in NET; 131st in KenPom; 102nd in BPI
- Odds: 800/1 to win title; 250/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: Toledo, Wright State, Kent State
- Notable Losses: Ohio State, Toledo, Kent State (twice)
- Key Players: All All (sophomore wing); Xavier Castaneda (senior guard); Enrique Freeman (sophomore-guard)
- Head Coach: John Groce (5th season)
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2013 – 1st Round loss to VCU as No. 12 Seed

Two years ago, Akron had the best record in the MAC and looked like a strong contender to head to the Big Dance. Well, COVID intervened there and the Zips never got the opportunity. In 2022, Akron took care of business in the conference tournament as they defeated two of the MAC’s best teams (Toledo and Kent State) to earn an auto bid. It’s their first March Madness appearance since 2015 and it’s good to see them back. This first-round matchup vs. UCLA sure is daunting, but it’s interesting that a MAC team has won in the first round in three straight NCAA Tournaments. Could Akron make it four in a row?

Jacksonville State Gamecocks

- Seed & 1st Rnd Opponent: No. 15 vs. No. 2 Auburn (Midwest Region)
- Record: 21-10 overall; 13-3 in Atlantic Sun
- Rankings: 143rd in NET; 146th in KenPom; 126th in BPI
- Odds: 1000/1 to win title; 250/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: None
- Notable Losses: Alabama, VCU, Wichita State
- Key Players: Darian Adams (senior guard); Julian Finch (junior guard)
- Head Coach: Roy Harper (4th season)
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2017 – 1st Round loss to Louisville as No. 15 seed

Despite losing in the conference tournament semifinals, Jacksonville State earned the Atlantic Sun's automatic bid into the bracket due to league champ Bellarmine being ineligible for the NCAA Tournament. It’s definitely an awkward way to get into the Big Dance, but the Alabama-based program likely isn’t complaining. The Gamecocks had the A-Sun’s best regular season record and feature an offense that lives and dies from three-point range. They have the country’s 13th-best three-point rate this season (38.2%) and will try to shoot their way to wins. It almost worked against Alabama earlier this season, when Jacksonville State lost by just six points on the road to the Crimson Tide. An upset over Auburn isn’t totally impossible.
2022 NCAA Tournament March Madness: Boom or Bust Teams

Texas Longhorns

- Seed & 1st Rd Opponent: No. 6 vs. No. 11 Virginia Tech (East Region)
- Record: 21-11 overall; 10-8 in Big 12
- Rankings: 16th in NET; 10th in KenPom; 17th in BPI
- Odds: 10/1 to win title; 14/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: Kansas, Tennessee, TCU (twice)
- Notable Losses: Gonzaga, Kansas, Baylor (twice), Texas Tech (twice), Seton Hall, TCU
- Key Players: Timmy Allen (senior forward); Marcus Carr (senior guard); Courtney Ramey (senior guard); Andrew Jones (senior guard)
- Head Coach: Chris Beard (1st season)
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2021 – 1st Round loss to Abilene Christian as No. 3 seed

A year ago in the Tournament, Texas suffered an embarrassing upset to Abilene Christian in the first round and then parted ways with head coach Shaka Smart not long after. Now Chris Beard is in town and he’s hoping to bring the Longhorns back to national relevancy. Courtney Ramey and Andrew Jones are the main holdovers from last year’s squad, but Beard has rebuilt the roster via some key transfers like Marcus Carr, Timmy Allen and Christian Bishop.

There’s no denying the Longhorns’ overall collection of talent rivals any team in the country, while boasting a top-20 defense. That and Beard’s Tournament experience could help aid a surprising run in the bracket. It’s a bit worrisome, though, that Texas has struggled to play consistently all season and only claims only one win over the other top teams in the Big 12 – going 1-5 against Kansas, Baylor and Texas Tech this season. A one-and-done exit from the Big 12 Tournament is a bad sign, but a late-January win over Tennessee shows the upside is there.

USC Trojans

- Seed & 1st Rd Opponent: No. 7 vs. No. 10 Miami (FL) (Midwest Region)
- Record: 24-7 overall; 14-6 in Pac-12
- Rankings: 35th in NET; 42nd in KenPom; 40th in BPI
- Odds: 20/1 to win title; 15/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: UCLA, San Diego State
- Notable Losses: Arizona (twice), UCLA (twice)
- Key Players: Isaiah Mobley (junior center); Drew Peterson (senior wing); Boogie Ellis (junior guard)
- Head Coach: Andy Enfield (9th season)
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2021 – Elite Eight loss to Gonzaga as No. 6 seed

Despite losing Evan Mobley from last year’s Elite Eight squad, the Trojans have put together an impressive 26-win season with Evan’s brother taking on a bigger role. Big man Isaiah Mobley is a force inside and he was a candidate for Pac-12 Player of the Year. It’s not just him, though, as point-forward Drew Peterson is a nightly triple-double threat and Mobley’s transfer Boogie Ellis adds reliable ball-handling in the backcourt.

The lack of good wins hurt USC’s seeding in the bracket, but this team can make noise like it did a year ago. Head coach Andy Enfield is no stranger to deep March runs, as he’s now reached the Sweet 16 with two different schools (Florida Gulf Coast in 2013 being the other). It beats a vulnerable Auburn team in the second round, look out for the Trojans to bust out brackets. Even still, Miami (FL) is a dangerous first-round opponent that’ll test USC to see if it’s at its best.

Alabama Crimson Tide

- Seed & 1st Rd Opponent: No. 6 vs. No. 11 Rutgers/Notre Dame winner (West Region)
- Record: 19-13 overall; 9-5 in SEC
- Rankings: 30th in NET; 30th in KenPom; 21st in BPI
- Odds: 150/1 to win title; 25/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: Gonzaga, Baylor, Tennessee, Arkansas, Houston, LSU
- Notable Losses: Auburn (twice), Kentucky (twice), Memphis, LSU
- Key Players: Jaden Shackelford (junior guard); Jahvon Quinerly (senior guard); JD Davison (freshman guard); Keon Ellis (sophomore wing)
- Head Coach: Nate Oats (3rd season)
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2021 – Sweet 16 loss to UCLA as No. 2 seed

Alabama has one of the weirdest Tournament resumes in college basketball this year, and it’s anyone’s guess as to how far it can go. The Crimson Tide boast impressive wins over top-tier squads like Gonzaga, Baylor, Tennessee, Houston and Arkansas. Their fast-paced, high-scoring offense forces opposing teams to keep up, which is a tall task when the Tide shooters are hot from three-point range.

However, Yama has suffered some ugly losses to Missouri, Georgia and Iowa and have come up short twice against both Auburn and Kentucky. Plus, it just got dealt a one-and-done exit from the SEC Tournament by Vanderbilt. An inconsistent defense is usually what costs Alabama in close-game scenarios when its own scoring can’t get the job done. The top-20 offense, though, makes this a dangerous matchup for anyone in the bracket.

Michigan State Spartans

- Seed & 1st Rd Opponent: No. 7 vs. No. 10 Davidson (West Region)
- Record: 21-11 overall; 11-4 in Big Ten
- Rankings: 36th in NET; 40th in KenPom; 32nd in BPI
- Odds: 200/1 to win title; 35/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: Purdue, Wisconsin (twice), Connecticut, Loyola Chicago
- Notable Losses: Baylor, Kansas, Illinois (twice), Wisconsin, Ohio State, Iowa
- Key Players: Tyson Walker (junior guard); Gabe Brown (senior wing); Max Christie (freshman guard); AJ Hoggard (sophomore guard)
- Head Coach: Tom Izzo (27th season)
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2021 – First Four loss to Virginia Tech as No. 8 seed

Although Michigan State was never considered a top team nationally this season, never count out Tom Izzo in the Tournament! The Spartans’ longtime head coach always seems to get the best out his players when March rolls along, and a deep run in the Big Ten Tournament shows this team might be clicking at the right time. That wasn’t the case last year when Sparry failed to get past the First Four play-in games.

In 2019, though, Izzo's squad was in the Final Four and among the best in the sport. While Michigan State doesn’t have one star playmaker, it’s a good blend of veterans and youngsters taking turns making an impact on both ends. Davidson is a dangerous first-round opponent and might be a popular upset pick. If it survives, though, MSU could easily beat Duke in the second round to bust brackets.
2022 NCAA Tournament March Madness: Scary Double-Digit Seeds

**Michigan Wolverines**
- **Seed & 1st Rd Opponent:** No. 11 vs. No. 6 Colorado State (South Region)
- **Record:** 17-14 overall; 11-9 in Big Ten
- **Rankings:** 349th in NET; 53rd in KenPom; 376th in BPI
- **Odds:** 1300/1 to win title; 30/1 to make Final Four
- **Notable Wins:** Purdue, Iowa, Ohio State, San Diego State, Michigan State
- **Notable Losses:** Arizona, Illinois (twice), Iowa, Purdue, Wisconsin, Ohio State, North Carolina, Seton Hall
- **Key Players:** Hunter Dickinson (sophomore center), Eli Brooks (senior guard); DeVante Jones (senior guard)
- **Head Coach:** Juwan Howard (3rd season)
- **Last Tournament Appearance:** 2021 – Elite Eight loss to UCLA as No. 1 Seed

A year ago, Michigan was a No. 1 seed and a legit national title contender before losing in the Elite Eight to UCLA. Now, it barely gets into the Big Dance as one of the main bubble teams that needed some luck on Selection Sunday. Despite the poor win-loss record, the Wolverines boast strong advanced metrics and a top-20 offensive efficiency. Led by stud center Hunter Dickinson, they can definitely beat Colorado State in the first round and then challenge Tennessee the game after. Remember that Dickinson, Eli Brooks and a couple other players were on last year’s team that made a deep run. That experience can’t be overstated – even if this team overall isn’t as good.

**Iowa State Cyclones**
- **Seed & 1st Rd Opponent:** No. 11 vs. No. 6 LSU (Midwest Region)
- **Record:** 20-12 overall; 7-11 in Big 12
- **Rankings:** 49th in NET; 48th in KenPom; 52nd in BPI
- **Odds:** 400/1 to win title; 70/1 to make Final Four
- **Notable Wins:** Iowa, Texas Tech, Texas, Memphis, Creighton, TCU
- **Notable Losses:** Kansas (twice), Baylor (twice), Texas Tech (twice), Texas, TCU
- **Key Players:** Isaiah Brockington (sophomore guard); Tyrese Hunter (freshman guard); Gabe Kalscheur (senior wing)
- **Head Coach:** T.J. Otzelberger (1st season)
- **Last Tournament Appearance:** 2019 – 1st Round loss to Ohio State as No. 6 Seed

Iowa State started this season on 12-0 run with impressive non-conference wins over Iowa, Memphis, Creighton and Xavier. It was very surprising to see, considering the Cyclones went 2-22 last year with an 0-18 record in the Big 12. That hot start to the season is a big reason why SU is in the field because, well, it went 7-11 during conference play and limped to the finish line. Even so, the Cyclones have a top-10 defense nationally under first-year head coach T.J. Otzelberger and have a talented backcourt duo of senior Isaiah Brockington and freshman Tyrese Hunter. If this team evokes some of the early-season magic it had then, No. 6 seed LSU is in trouble in the first round. Plus, the Tigers are in our busts section – so don’t be shocked at win for the ‘Cylones!’

**Miami (FL) Hurricanes**
- **Seed & 1st Rd Opponent:** No. 10 vs. No. 7 USC (Midwest Region)
- **Record:** 23-10 overall; 14-6 in ACC
- **Rankings:** 62nd in NET; 62nd in KenPom; 58th in BPI
- **Odds:** 100/1 to win title; 30/1 to make Final Four
- **Notable Wins:** Duke, Virginia Tech, North Carolina
- **Notable Losses:** Alabama, Duke, Virginia Tech, Notre Dame
- **Key Players:** Kameron McGusty (sophomore guard); Isaiah Wong (sophomore guard); Charlie Moore (senior guard)
- **Head Coach:** Jim Larrañaga (11th season)
- **Last Tournament Appearance:** 2018 – 1st Round loss to Loyola Chicago as No. 6 Seed

It’s a bit surprising to see Miami in the NCAA Tournament, considering it boasts just a few “good” wins on the year. 56th a road upset over Duke carries a lot of weight and that’s a big reason why the ‘Canes are a dangerous No. 10 seed. Led by trio of talented guards in Kameron McGusty, Charlie Moore and Isaiah Wong, they have a top-20 offense nationally and will force USC to match them on the scoreboard in this first round. After seeing Miami beat Duke and then almost do it again in the ACC Tournament, a first-round upset is certainly possible.

**New Mexico State Aggies**
- **Seed & 1st Rd Opponent:** No. 12 vs. No. 5 Connecticut (West Region)
- **Record:** 26-6 overall; 13-4 in WAC
- **Rankings:** 79th in NET; 81st in KenPom; 117th in BPI
- **Odds:** 60/1 to win title; 100/1 to make Final Four
- **Notable Wins:** Davidson, Washington State
- **Notable Losses:** Utah State
- **Key Players:** Teddy Allen (junior wing); Jabari Rice (sophomore guard); Johnny McCants (sophomore center)
- **Head Coach:** Chris Jans (3rd season)
- **Last Tournament Appearance:** 2019 – 1st Round loss to Auburn as No. 12 Seed

The last time New Mexico State was in the NCAA Tournament, it nearly pulled off a first-round upset of Auburn. Now the Aggies are back in the Big Dance and are actually one of the better small-school teams in the field in terms of computer metrics and advanced ranks. Nebraska transfer Teddy Allen is the team’s best player and WAC Player of the Year. He helped New Mexico State pull off impressive upsets over Davidson and Washington State earlier this season – and UConn shouldn’t overlook this first-round test.

**Longwood Lancers**
- **Seed & 1st Rd Opponent:** No. 14 vs. No. 3 Tennessee (South Region)
- **Record:** 26-6 overall; 15-1 in Big South
- **Rankings:** 125th in NET; 144th in KenPom; 129th in BPI
- **Odds:** 800/1 to win title; 200/1 to make Final Four
- **Notable Wins:** Winthrop (twice)
- **Notable Losses:** Iowa, George-town
- **Key Players:** Justin Hill (sophomore point guard); Isaiah Wilkins (senior wing); DelShawn Wade (senior guard)
- **Head Coach:** Griff Aldrich (4th season)
- **Last Tournament Appearance:** Never

Longwood earned its first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance after going 15-1 in conference play and dismantling Winthrop in the Big South title game. The Lancers rank sixth in the nation in three-point percentage (38.6%), which could make Tennessee sweat in the first round. ACC fans may remember Isaiah Wilkins, formerly of Wake Forest and Virginia Tech. If Longwood gets hot from the perimeter and Wilkins is making an impact on both ends, don’t be surprised if they bust some brackets – especially with that first-time magic on their side.
2022 NCAA Tournament March Madness: Dangerous No. 8/9 Seeds

North Carolina Tar Heels

- **Seed:** 8
- **No. 9 in 8/9 Match-Up** (East Region)

- **Coach:** Hubert Davis
- **Assistant Coaches:** Jaime Jaquez Jr., Hubert Davis Jr., Scott Padgett
- **Manager:** Ellie Ferrell
- **Student Manager:** Rosalyn Butler
- **Medical Staff:** \(190/1\) to win title; \(65/1\) to make Final Four

- **Record:** 25-10 overall; 11-8 in ACC

- **Last Tournament Appearance:** 2021 – 1st Round loss to Kansas as No. 5 seed

- **Notable Losses:** Kansas, Texas Tech, Texas, LSU

- **Notable Wins:** Illinois, Villanova (twice), Providence, Seton Hall (twice)

- **Rankings:** 44th in NET; 38th in KenPom; 45th in BPI

- **Key Players:** Jared Rhoden (senior wing); Myles Cale (senior guard); Kadary Richmond (sophomore guard)

- **Seed & 1st Rd Opponent:** No. 9 vs. No. 8 San Diego State (Midwest Region)

- **Last Tournament Appearance:** 2021 – 1st Round loss to Wofford as No. 10 seed

- **Notable Losses:** Saint Mary’s, Colorado State (twice)

- **Notable Wins:** USC, Michigan, Boise State (three times), Colorado State

- **Rankings:** 42nd in NET; 47th in KenPom; 54th in BPI

- **Key Players:** Matt Bradley (senior wing); Trey Pulliam (senior guard); Nathan Mensah (senior center)

- **Seed & 1st Rd Opponent:** No. 9 vs. No. 8 Alabama State (South Region)

- **Last Tournament Appearance:** 2021 – Sweet 16 loss to Gonzaga as No. 5 seed

- **Notable Losses:** Kentucky, Duke, Tennessee, Purdue, Virginia Tech

- **Notable Wins:** Kentucky, Duke, Tennessee, Purdue, Virginia Tech

- **Rankings:** 37th in NET; 37th in KenPom; 42nd in BPI

- **Key Players:** Mike Miles (sophomore guard); Damion Baugh (junior guard); Emanuel Miller (junior forward)

- **Seed & 1st Rd Opponent:** No. 9 vs. No. 8 Creighton (West Region)

- **Last Tournament Appearance:** 2018 – 1st Round loss to Syracuse as No. 6 seed

- **Notable Losses:** Kansas, Texas Tech, Texas, LSU

- **Notable Wins:** Illinois, Villanova (twice), Providence, Seton Hall (twice)

- **Rankings:** 45th in NET; 45th in KenPom; 49th in BPI

- **Key Players:** Blake Griffin (sophomore guard); Jalen Johnson (sophomore forward); Darius Johnson-Odom (sophomore guard)

- **Seed & 1st Rd Opponent:** No. 9 vs. No. 8 Princeton (East Region)

- **Last Tournament Appearance:** 2021 – 1st Round loss to Wisconsin as No. 8 Seed

- **Notable Losses:** Vermont, Liberty (twice), VMI, Presbyterian

- **Notable Wins:** Hartford, Coastal Carolina, Hofstra, Radford

- **Rankings:** 43rd in NET; 43rd in KenPom; 50th in BPI

- **Key Players:** Will Rodriguez (sophomore guard); Hunter McIntosh (sophomore guard); Daniel D'Antoni (sophomore forward)

- **Seed & 1st Rd Opponent:** No. 9 vs. No. 8 Nebraska (South Region)

- **Last Tournament Appearance:** 2019 – 1st Round loss to Wofford as No. 10 seed

- **Notable Losses:** Mount St. Mary’s, Holy Cross (twice)

- **Notable Wins:** Saint Peter’s, Siena, Brown

- **Rankings:** 41st in NET; 41st in KenPom; 46th in BPI

- **Key Players:** Jalen Pickett (sophomore guard); Trevor Moore (sophomore guard); Josh Hall (sophomore forward)

- **Seed & 1st Rd Opponent:** No. 9 vs. No. 8 Louisiana State (West Region)

- **Last Tournament Appearance:** 2018 – 1st Round loss to Texas Tech as No. 2 seed

- **Notable Losses:** Texas Tech, Texas, LSU

- **Notable Wins:** Illinois, Villanova (twice), Providence, Seton Hall (twice)

- **Rankings:** 40th in NET; 40th in KenPom; 49th in BPI

- **Key Players:** Cam Thomas (sophomore guard); Jashaun Corbin (sophomore guard); DJ Wilson (sophomore forward)

- **Seed & 1st Rd Opponent:** No. 9 vs. No. 8 Oral Roberts (East Region)

- **Last Tournament Appearance:** 2021 – 1st Round loss to Creighton as No. 8 Seed

- **Notable Losses:** Michigan State, Nebraska, Yale

- **Notable Wins:** Gonzaga, Virginia Tech, Creighton

- **Rankings:** 39th in NET; 39th in KenPom; 48th in BPI

- **Key Players:** Hunter Gregory (sophomore guard); CAREY COLVIN (sophomore forward); Michael Smith (sophomore guard)

- **Seed & 1st Rd Opponent:** No. 9 vs. No. 8 Monmouth (West Region)

- **Last Tournament Appearance:** 2019 – 1st Round loss to Texas Tech as No. 2 seed

- **Notable Losses:** Columbia, Hofstra (twice), Kansas State

- **Notable Wins:** Stony Brook, Rider, Hofstra

- **Rankings:** 38th in NET; 38th in KenPom; 43rd in BPI

- **Key Players:** K.J. Emos (sophomore guard); Evan Taylor (sophomore guard); Jermaine Soloman (sophomore guard)

- **Seed & 1st Rd Opponent:** No. 9 vs. No. 8 Morehead State (East Region)

- **Last Tournament Appearance:** 2021 – 1st Round loss to Oral Roberts as No. 8 Seed

- **Notable Losses:** Wayne State, Georgia State, Ohio State

- **Notable Wins:** Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas

- **Rankings:** 37th in NET; 37th in KenPom; 42nd in BPI

- **Key Players:** Kevin Willard (12th season)

- **Rankings:** 42nd in NET; 47th in KenPom; 54th in BPI

- **Key Players:** Brian Dutcher (5th season)

- **Rankings:** 37th in NET; 37th in KenPom; 42nd in BPI

- **Key Players:** Penny Hardaway (4th season)

- **Rankings:** 43rd in NET; 43rd in KenPom; 50th in BPI

- **Key Players:** Leon Rice (12th season)

- **Rankings:** 43rd in NET; 43rd in KenPom; 50th in BPI

- **Key Players:** Shaka Smart (1st season)
1000/1 to win title; 200/1 to make Final Four
1000/1 to win title; 200/1 to make Final Four
1000/1 to win title; 250/1 to make Final Four
1000/1 to win title; 250/1 to make Final Four
500/1 to win title; 100/1 to make Final Four
500/1 to win title; 100/1 to make Final Four
600/1 to win title; 150/1 to make Final Four
300/1 to win title; 50/1 to make Final Four
23-11 overall; 7-7 in Southland
18-12 overall; 13-5 in SWAC
21-13 overall; 15-7 in Horizon League
197th in NET; 188th in KenPom; 175th in BPI
77th in NET; 74th in KenPom; 74th in BPI
53rd in NET; 52nd in KenPom; 49th in BPI
50th in NET; 58th in KenPom; 103rd in BPI
Joirdon Karl Nicholas (senior center); Bryson Etienne (senior guard); John Walker (senior forward); Brison Gresham (senior center)
Tanner Holden (junior wing); Grant Basile (junior center); Trey Calvin (junior guard)
Peter Kiss (senior wing); Charles Pride (junior wing)
Ron Harper Jr. (senior wing); Caleb McConnell (senior wing); Geo Baker (senior guard)
Hunter Maldonado (senior guard); Graham Ike (sophomore center)
Trayce Jackson-Davis (junior center); Xavier Johnson (senior guard); Race Thompson (senior forward)
Steve Lutz (1st season)
Johnny Jones (4th season)
Jared Grasso (4th season)
Steve Pikiell (6th season)
Mike Brey (22nd season)
Mike Woodson (1st season)
Purdue, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Ohio State, Michigan
Kentucky, North Carolina, Miami (FL)
Boise State, Colorado State
Houston, Clemson
Arizona, Boise State (twice), San Diego State, Colorado State
Purdue, Illinois, Iowa (twice), Wisconsin (twice), Michigan, Michigan State

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2022 NCAA Tournament March Madness: First Four Teams

India Housers

Seed & 1st Rd Opponent: No. 16 vs. No. 16 Texas Southern in First Four (East Region)
Notable Wins: 197th in NET; 188th in KenPom; 175th in BPI
Odds: 250/1 to win title; 100/1 to make Final Four
Rankings: 197th in NET; 188th in KenPom; 175th in BPI
Head Coach: Johnny Jones (4th season)
Key Players: Joirdon Karl Nicholas (senior center); Bryson Etienne (senior guard); John Walker (senior forward); Brison Gresham (senior center)
Notable Losses: 188th in KenPom; 175th in BPI

Wyoming Cowboys

Seed & 1st Rd Opponent: No. 16 vs. No. 16 Texas Southern in First Four (West Region)
Notable Wins: 18-12 overall; 13-5 in Southland
Odds: 1000/1 to win title; 200/1 to make Final Four
Rankings: 139th in NET; 187th in KenPom; 184th in BPI
Head Coach: Jared Grasso (4th season)
Key Players: Peter Kiss (senior wing); Charles Pride (junior wing)
Notable Losses: 187th in KenPom; 184th in BPI

Eastern Washington Eagles

Seed & 1st Rd Opponent: No. 16 vs. No. 16 Texas Southern in First Four (Northeast Region)
Notable Wins: 19-10 overall; 9-6 in Big Sky
Odds: 500/1 to win title; 150/1 to make Final Four
Rankings: 53rd in NET; 52nd in KenPom; 49th in BPI
Head Coach: Steve Lutz (1st season)
Key Players: Hunter Maldonado (senior guard); John Brzaniecki (junior guard)
Notable Losses: 52nd in KenPom; 49th in BPI

Northern Iowa Panthers

Seed & 1st Rd Opponent: No. 16 vs. No. 16 Bryant in First Four (South Region)
Notable Wins: 21-13 overall; 7-7 in Missouri Valley
Odds: 600/1 to win title; 150/1 to make Final Four
Rankings: 50th in NET; 58th in KenPom; 103rd in BPI
Head Coach: Mike Brey (22nd season)
Key Players: Grant Basile (junior center); Trey Calvin (junior guard)
Notable Losses: 58th in KenPom; 103rd in BPI

Texas Southern Tigers

Seed & 1st Rd Opponent: No. 16 vs. No. 16 Texas A&M Corpus Christi in First Four (Midwest Region)
Notable Wins: 20-9 overall; 14-2 in Big 12
Odds: 300/1 to win title; 50/1 to make Final Four
Rankings: 50th in NET; 58th in KenPom; 103rd in BPI
Head Coach: Mike Woodson (1st season)
Key Players: Krish Jowers (senior forward); DeQuon Shackleford (junior guard)
Notable Losses: 58th in KenPom; 103rd in BPI

Texas A&M Corpus Christi Islanders

Seed & 1st Rd Opponent: No. 16 vs. No. 16 Texas Southern in First Four (Midwest Region)
Notable Wins: 20-9 overall; 14-2 in Big 12
Odds: 300/1 to win title; 50/1 to make Final Four
Rankings: 50th in NET; 58th in KenPom; 103rd in BPI
Head Coach: Mike Woodson (1st season)
Key Players: Krish Jowers (senior forward); DeQuon Shackleford (junior guard)
Notable Losses: 58th in KenPom; 103rd in BPI
2022 NCAA Tournament March Madness: Teams Just Happy To Be Here

Delaware Blue Hens
- Seed & 1st Rd Opponent: No. 15 vs. No. 2 Villanova (South Region)
- Record: 22-11 overall, 10-8 inCAA
- Rankings: 1276 in NET; 1499 in KenPom; 1498 in BPI
- Odds: 100/1 to win title; 250/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: None
- Notable Losses: Davidson
- Key Players: Jarron Holden (junior center); Ryan Allen (sophomore guard)
- Head Coach: Steve Clifford (7th season)
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2014 – 1st Round loss to Michigan State as No. 13 seed

For the first time in 15 years, Delaware is back in the NCAA Tournament after it took down some of the CAAs top teams in the conference tournament to earn an automatic berth. Jarron Holden (3) in the Blue Hens top scorer and offensive playmaker. Not to make you feel old but, yes, that’s the son of the former Southern star. Holden clearly has his dad’s genes because he has Delaware into the Big Dance. Don’t expect much though, because the Blue Hens didn’t have much non-conference competition this year and lost by 22 points in their toughest game (vs. Davidson). A first-round test vs. Villanova is a tough draw.

Georgia State Panthers
- Seed & 1st Rd Opponent: No. 16 vs. No. 1 George (West Region)
- Record: 20-13 overall, 9-11 in SEC
- Rankings: 1386 in NET; 1736 in KenPom; 1596 in BPI
- Odds: 10061 to win title; 200/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: None
- Notable Losses: Missouri State, Richmond
- Key Players: Kane Williams (sophomore guard); Coby Allen (sophomore guard)
- Head Coach: Rob Legan (3rd season)
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2018 – 1st Round loss to Houston as No. 14 seed

Georgia State once had a 6-9 record back in January and looked like a non-contender in the SEC. But, the Panthers have won 12 of the last 13 games and enter the NCAA Tournament as one of the hottest teams in the country after sweeping the league title. Senior Kane Williams played a key role for Georgia State in 2019, the last time it was in the Big Dance, and he’s headlining the Panthers this time around. However, their below-average offense and 34th-ranked effective field goal percentage might be a small issue in the first round against Gonzaga.

Norfolk State Spartans
- Seed & 1st Rd Opponent: No. 16 vs. No. 1 Baylor (East Region)
- Record: 24-16 overall, 12-4 in MEAC
- Rankings: 1346 in NET; 1384 in KenPom; 1206 in BPI
- Odds: 10072 to win title; 250/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: None
- Notable Losses: Xavier, Wichita State
- Key Players: Joe Bryant (sophomore guard); Julian Hawkins (senior guard)
- Head Coach: Robert Jones (9th season)
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2021 – 1st Round loss to Gonzaga as No. 16 Seed

Ten years ago, Norfolk State buzzer beaters everyone when it upset No. 2 seed Missouri in the first round. Now, the Spartans are back in the NCAA Tournament for the second straight season after losing to Gonzaga last year following a First Four victory. Though last year’s March Madness experience certainly helps, expecting a No. 16 seed to pull an upset is a bit farfetched though it isn’t impossible (thanks, UNCG!).

Saint Peter’s Peacocks
- Seed & 1st Rd Opponent: No. 15 vs. No. 2 Kentucky (East Region)
- Record: 19-11 overall, 14-4 in MAC
- Rankings: 1244 in NET; 1188 in KenPom; 1134 in BPI
- Odds: 10061 to win title; 250/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: None
- Notable Losses: Michigan (three times)
- Key Players: Providence, St. John’s, VCU
- Head Coach: Shaheen Holloway (4th season)
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2021 – 1st Round loss to Purdue as No. 14 Seed

Back in the Tournament for the first time since 2011, New Jersey-based Saint Peter’s is here representing the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference. The Peacocks first-round matchup vs. Kentucky is surely a tough challenge, but we can bank on one thing. They’ll make the Wildcats earn the win through a tenacious defense that’s actually ranked 24th nationally in efficiency. The offense, though, is 206th – so it could long be gone for Saint Peter’s.

Montana State Bobcats
- Seed & 1st Rd Opponent: No. 14 vs. No. 3 Texas Tech (West Region)
- Record: 16-10 overall, 11-4 in Big Sky
- Rankings: 1280 in NET; 1296 in KenPom; 1620 in BPI
- Odds: 8051 to win title; 250/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: None
- Notable Losses: None
- Key Players: Xavier Bishop (sophomore guard); Braelonattle (junior wing); Amre Alame (junior wing)
- Head Coach: Dwayne Sparkle (3rd season)
- Last Tournament Appearance: 1996 – 1st Round loss to Syracuse as No. 13 seed

Montana State is back in the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1996. As both regular-season and conference tournament champs of the Big Sky, the Bobcats get now a scary first-round matchup vs. Texas Tech’s elite-level defense. It’s a great story for a program with such a long Tournament drought, but putting a first-round upset is a tough ask – especially once Montana State failed to play any top-50 teams this season.

Cal State Fullerton Titans
- Seed & 1st Rd Opponent: No. 15 vs. No. 7 Duke (East Region)
- Record: 21-10 overall, 11-4 in Big West
- Rankings: 1326 in NET; 1499 in KenPom; 1792 in BPI
- Odds: 10051 to win title; 250/1 to make Final Four
- Notable Wins: None
- Notable Losses: None
- Key Players: EJ Ansikole (junior center); Domenic Milholland (junior guard)
- Head Coach: Enrique Topolo (8th season)
- Last Tournament Appearance: 2018 – 1st Round loss to USC as No. 15 seed

Cal State Fullerton had the fifth-longest odds to win the Big West Tournament, but it proved everyone wrong to get this auto bid. Senior big man EJ Ansikole is the Titans’ best player, but he’s a 6-foot-7 center who may have trouble with Duke’s dominant frontcourt duo of Paolo Banchero and Mark Williams. Anything is possible, but it’s hard to see Coach it going out in the first round of his last NCAA Tournament. It would be hilarious, though.