

# NCAA Tournament, First Round

## No. 11 seed New Mexico vs. No. 6 seed Clemson

1:10 p.m. MT, Friday, FedEx Forum (Memphis, Tenn.) **TV:** TruTV (DirecTV 246, Dish 242, Comcast 40).

**Radio:** 770 AM/96.3 FM. **Line:** Lobos by 2½.

### New Mexico Lobos (26-9, 6th place Mountain West)

**Coach:** Richard Pitino (220-177, 12th season overall 61-40, 3rd season at UNM)

#### Projected starters

	Pos.	Ht.	Year	PPG	RPG	APG
10 Jaelen House	PG	6-0	Sr.	16.1	2.3*	3.5
2 Donovan Dent	PG	6-2	So.	14.3	1.6*	5.6
5 Jamal Mashburn Jr.	G	6-2	Sr.	14.4	2.2	1.5
15 JT Toppin	F	6-9	Fr.	12.5	9.0	1.9^
23 Nelly Junior Joseph	C	6-10	Sr.	8.8	8.1	1.4^

#### Reserves

	Pos.	Ht.	Year	PPG	RPG	APG
0 Jemarl Baker Jr.	G	6-5	Sr.	4.5	1.5	1.1
1 Braden Appelhans	G	6-7	R-Fr.	2.7	0.6	0.3
3 Tru Washington	G	6-4	Fr.	6.6	3.2	1.4*
11 Quinton Webb	G	6-6	R-Fr.	2.1	1.5	0.6*
12 Isaac Mushila	F	6-5	Sr.	1.8	2.7	0.4
21 Sebastian Forsling	C	7-0	Jr.	1.0	1.0	0.4
22 Mustapha Amzil	F	6-9	Sr.	6.9	3.5	0.6*

#### \*Steals ^Blocks

**What you need to know about the Lobos:** UNM's Mountain West Tournament run — four wins in four days — mirrored their great play during the five-game win streak from January when they beat three NCAA Tournament teams by double digits — SDSU by 18 points, Utah State by 13 and Nevada by 34. That stretch then and last week's tourney run was all about turning defense into offense. UNM in the MW Tournament outscored opponents on points off turnovers by an average of 18.0 points to 7.8. UNM's offense doesn't turn the ball over much (ranking 15th out of 362 Division I teams in turnover rate) while Clemson's defense doesn't force a lot of turnovers (ranking 344th in Division I in that stat). Since UNM lost back-to-back games for the only time all season on Feb. 24 to Air Force and March 2 March 2 at Boise State, House has been on a tear, and not just scoring. House's past six games: 19.5 points per game, 2.7 assists, 1.5 turnovers, 2.3 steals.

### Clemson Tigers (21-11, 5th place Atlantic Coast Conference)

**Coach:** Brad Brownell (429-273, 22nd season overall 262-188, 14th season at Clemson)

#### Projected starters

	Pos.	Ht.	Year	PPG	RPG	APG
11 Joseph Girard III	G	6-2	Sr.	15.7	3.3	2.8
1 Chase Hunter	G	6-4	Sr.	12.3	2.4	2.9
4 Ian Schieffelin	F	6-8	Jr.	9.6	9.5	2.3
5 Jack Clark	F	6-10	Sr.	4.3	4.7	1.3
24 PJ Hall	C	6-10	Sr.	18.8	6.7	1.6^

#### Reserves

	Pos.	Ht.	Year	PPG	RPG	APG
0 Josh Beadle	G	6-4	So.	3.2	1.0	0.9
2 Dillon Hunter	G	6-3	So.	2.5	1.6	1.3
10 RJ Godfrey	F	6-8	So.	5.8	3.4	0.8
12 Alex Hemenway	G	6-4	Sr.	5.2	0.6	1.4
21 Chauncey Wiggins	F	6-10	So.	5.7	2.3	1.0
33 Bas Leighty	F	6-10	Sr.	0.8	0.8	0.3

#### \*Steals ^Blocks

**What you need to know about the Tigers:** Hall is the key. He's arguably the best player the Lobos will face this season (San Diego State's Jaedon LeDee has a case for that as well). Girard is one of the better offensive guards the Lobos will face, having scored 2,000 points in his five-year college career and currently sitting at No. 3 all-time in made 3-pointers (393). The Tigers are top 10 in the country in free throw percentage (79.0%), which could be a factor if the Lobos get to fouling Hall a lot like they did LeDee in last week's MW Tournament championship game. SDSU was 17-of-19 on free throws (89.5%) and LeDee got 11 of his 25 points at the charity stripe on perfect 11-of-11 shooting. LeDee, however, draws 7.7 fouls per 40 minutes (fifth in the country) and Hall averages 5.0 per 40 minutes (196th in the country). Clemson's Ian Schieffelin was selected the ACC's most improved player and is the only ACC player averaging 9.5 points, 9.5 rebounds and 2.0 assists.