

 **The Cats' Pause**



Collin Chandler leads Kentucky into the 2026 NCAA Tournament.

TCP/Darrell Bird

2026 NCAA TOURNAMENT PREVIEW



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holly.weddle@gmail.com



KATHY SEARS
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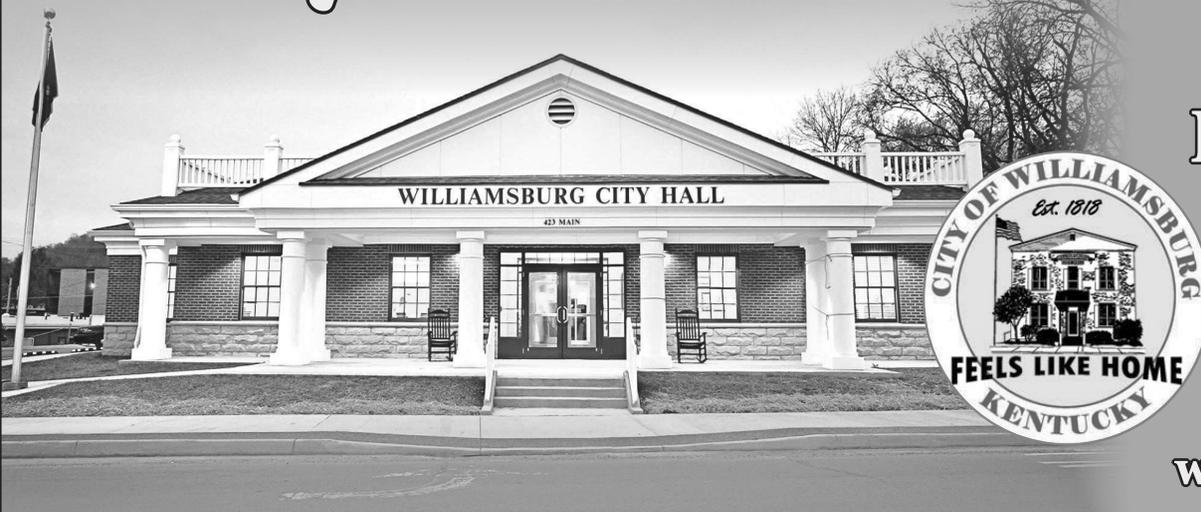
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2026 NCAA TOURNAMENT EAST REGION

1



Coach: Jon Scheyer

Conference: ACC

Record: 33-2 (17-1)

NET Ranking: 1

Offense: #47 (82.5)

Defense: #3 (62.9)

Duke vs.

Siena

2:50 p.m. Thursday 3/19

Greenville, SC



16



Coach: Gerry McNamara

Conference: MAAC

Record: 23-11 (13-7)

NET Ranking: 183

Offense: #294 (70.5)

Defense: #15 (65.7)

8



Coach: Jake Diebler

Conference: Big 10

Record: 21-12 (12-8)

NET Ranking: 29

Offense: #87 (79.8)

Defense: #147 (72.8)

Ohio State

vs. TCU

12:15 p.m. Thursday 3/19

Greenville, SC



9



Coach: Jamie Dixon

Conference: Big 12

Record: 22-11 (11-7)

NET Ranking: 39

Offense: #114 (78.3)

Defense: #126 (72.1)

5



Coach: Rick Pitino

Conference: Big East

Record: 28-6 (18-2)

NET Ranking: 15

Offense: #55 (81.8)

Defense: #88 (70.5)

St. John's vs.

Northern Iowa

7:10 p.m. Friday 3/20

San Diego, CA



12



Coach: Ben Jacobson

Conference: MVC

Record: 23-12 (11-9)

NET Ranking: 72

Offense: #310 (69.9)

Defense: #1 (61.3)

4



Coach: Bill Self

Conference: Big 12

Record: 23-10 (12-6)

NET Ranking: 21

Offense: #178 (75.6)

Defense: #60 (69.4)

Kansas vs.

Cal Baptist

9:45 p.m. Friday 3/20

San Diego, CA



13



Coach: Rick Croy

Conference: WAC

Record: 25-8 (13-5)

NET Ranking: 98

Offense: #247 (73.3)

Defense: #39 (67.8)

2026 NCAA TOURNAMENT EAST REGION

6

**Coach:** Pat Kelsey**NET Ranking:** 16**Conference:** ACC**Offense:** #20 (84.8)**Record:** 23-10 (11-7)**Defense:** #131 (72.2)

11

**Coach:** Bryan Hodgson**NET Ranking:** 45**Conference:** American**Offense:** #8 (88.4)**Record:** 25-8 (15-3)**Defense:** #254 (76.5)Louisville vs.
South Florida

1:30 p.m. Thursday 3/19

Buffalo, NY

TNT

3

**Coach:** Tom Izzo**NET Ranking:** 11**Conference:** Big 10**Offense:** #102 (78.9)**Record:** 25-7 (15-5)**Defense:** #46 (68.4)Michigan State vs.
North Dakota State

4:05 p.m. Thursday 3/19

Buffalo, NY

TNT

14

**Coach:** David Richman**NET Ranking:** 114**Conference:** Summit**Offense:** #72 (80.7)**Record:** 27-7 (14-2)**Defense:** #66 (69.6)

7

**Coach:** Mick Cronin**NET Ranking:** 31**Conference:** Big 10**Offense:** #124 (78.1)**Record:** 23-11 (13-7)**Defense:** #102 (70.9)

UCLA vs.

Central Florida

7:25 p.m. Fri 3/20

Philadelphia, PA

tbs

10

**Coach:** Johnny Dawkins**NET Ranking:** 51**Conference:** Big 12**Offense:** #67 (81.0)**Record:** 21-11 (9-9)**Defense:** #304 (78.5)

2

**Coach:** Dan Hurley**NET Ranking:** 10**Conference:** Big East**Offense:** #116 (78.3)**Record:** 29-5 (17-3)**Defense:** #11 (70.8)

UConn

vs. Furman

10 p.m. Friday 3/20

Philadelphia, PA

tbs

15

**Coach:** Bob Richey**NET Ranking:** 186**Conference:** SoCon**Offense:** #159 (76.5)**Record:** 22-12 (10-8)**Defense:** #87 (70.5)

2026 NCAA TOURNAMENT MIDWEST REGION

1



Coach: Dusty May

Conference: Big 10

Record: 31-2 (19-1)

NET Ranking: 2

Offense: #9 (87.9)

Defense: #56 (69.0)

Michigan vs.
UMBC/Howard

7:10 p.m. Thursday 3/19

Buffalo, NY



16



UMBC

Coach: Jim Ferry

Conference: American East

Record: 24-8 (14-2)

NET: 196

Offense: #166 (76.3)

Defense: #30 (67.3)



HOWARD

Coach: Kenny Blakeney

Conference: MEAC

Record: 23-10 (11-3)

NET: 203

Offense: #132 (77.7)

Defense: #40 (67.9)

8



Coach: Mike White

Conference: SEC

Record: 22-10 (10-8)

NET Ranking: 33

Offense: #5 (89.8)

Defense: #315 (79.2)

Georgia vs.
Saint Louis

9:45 p.m. Thursday 3/19

Buffalo, NY



9



Coach: Josh Schertz

Conference: A10

Record: 28-5 (15-3)

NET Ranking: 30

Offense: #10 (87.8)

Defense: #63 (69.5)

5



Coach: Grant McCasland

Conference: Big 12

Record: 22-10 (12-6)

NET Ranking: 19

Offense: #77 (80.4)

Defense: #141 (72.6)

Texas Tech
vs. Akron

12:40 p.m. Friday 3/20

Tampa, FL



12



Coach: John Groce

Conference: MAC

Record: 29-5 (17-1)

NET Ranking: 54

Offense: #7 (88.6)

Defense: #169 (73.4)

4



Coach: Nate Oats

Conference: SEC

Record: 23-9 (13-5)

NET Ranking: 18

Offense: #1 (91.7)

Defense: #356 (83.5)

Alabama vs.
Hofstra

3:15 p.m. Friday 3/20

Tampa, FL



13



Coach: Speedy Claxton

Conference: CAA

Record: 22-10 (9-8)

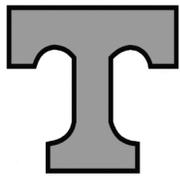
NET Ranking: 88

Offense: #180 (75.6)

Defense: #19 (66.1)

2026 NCAA TOURNAMENT MIDWEST REGION

6



Coach: Rick Barnes
NET Ranking: 20

Conference: SEC
Offense: #95 (79.5)

Record: 22-11 (11-7)
Defense: #59 (69.4)

**Tennessee vs.
Miami, OH/SMU**
4:25 p.m. Friday 3/20
Philadelphia, PA



11



MIAMI, OHIO
Coach: Travis Steele
NET: 64

Conference: MAC
Offense: #2 (90.7)

Record: 31-1 (18-0)
Defense: #223 (75.3)



SMU
Coach: Andy Enfield
NET: 37

Conference: ACC
Offense: #23 (84.2)

Record: 20-13 (8-10)
Defense: #284 (77.6)

3



Coach: Ryan Odom
NET Ranking: 12

Conference: ACC
Offense: #66 (81.0)

Record: 29-5 (15-3)
Defense: #42 (68.2)

**Virginia vs.
Wright State**
1:50 p.m. Friday 3/20
Philadelphia, PA



14



Coach: Clint Sargent
NET Ranking: 127

Conference: Horizon
Offense: #72 (80.7)

Record: 23-11 (15-5)
Defense: #170 (73.4)

7



Coach: Mark Pope
NET Ranking: 28

Conference: SEC
Offense: #71 (80.8)

Record: 21-13 (10-8)
Defense: #182 (73.8)

**Kentucky vs.
Santa Clara**
12:15 p.m. Friday 3/20

10



Coach: Herb Sendek
NET Ranking: 40

Conference: WCC
Offense: #38 (82.9)

Record: 26-8 (15-3)
Defense: #136 (72.4)



2



Coach: TJ Orzelberger
NET Ranking: 7

Conference: Big 12
Offense: #56 (81.8)

Record: 27-7 (12-6)
Defense: #12 (65.1)

**Iowa State vs.
Tennessee State**
2:50 p.m. Friday 3/20

15



Coach: Nolan Smith
NET Ranking: 172

Conference: OVC
Offense: #76 (80.5)

Record: 23-9 (15-5)
Defense: #162 (73.3)





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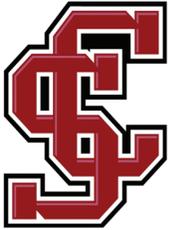
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2026 NCAA TOURNAMENT BRACKET

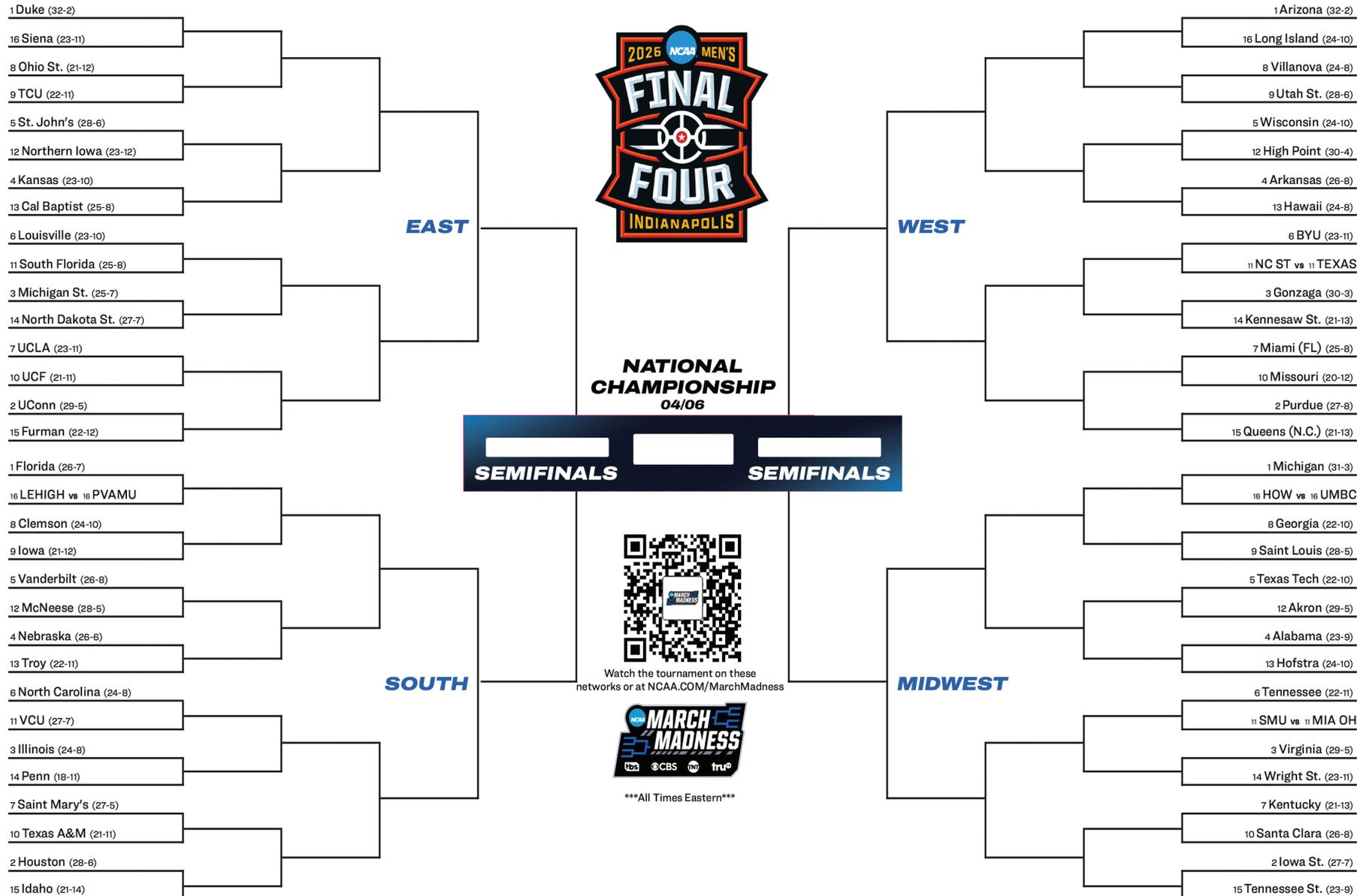


Kentucky begins NCAA vs. Santa Clara in Midwest



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|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 16 UMBC (24-8) | 11 Texas (18-14) | DAYTON 3/17-3/18 | (18-17) Prairie View A&M 16 | (31-1) Miami (Ohio) 11 |
| 16 Howard (23-10) | 11 NC State (20-13) | | (18-16) Lehigh 16 | (20-13) SMU 11 |



Watch the tournament on these networks or at NCAA.COM/MarchMadness



All Times Eastern

2026 NCAA TOURNAMENT SOUTH REGION

1



Coach: Todd Golden

Conference: SEC

Record: 26-7 (16-2)

NET Ranking: 4

Offense: #12 (87.2)

Defense: #111 (71.4)

16

PRARIE VIEW A&M Coach: Byron Smith
NET: 300Conference: SWAC
Offense: #101 (79.1)Record: 18-17 (9-9)
Defense: #250 (76.5)LEHIGH Coach: Brett Reed
NET: 275Conference: Patriot
Offense: #252 (73.2)Record: 18-16 (11-7)
Defense: #189 (74.0)

Florida vs.

Prairie View A&M/Lehigh

9:25 p.m. Friday 3/20

Tampa, FL



8



Coach: Brad Brownell

Conference: ACC

Record: 24-10 (12-6)

NET Ranking: 34

Offense: #229 (74.1)

Defense: #27 (66.7)

9



Coach: Ben McCollum

Conference: Big 10

Record: 21-12 (10-10)

NET Ranking: 27

Offense: #193 (75.2)

Defense: #17 (66.0)

Clemson

vs. Iowa

6:50 p.m. Friday 3/20

Tampa, FL



5



Coach: Mark Boyington

Conference: SEC

Record: 26-8 (11-7)

NET Ranking: 13

Offense: #13 (86.6)

Defense: #216 (74.9)

Vanderbilt vs.

McNeese

3:15 p.m. Thursday 3/19

Oklahoma City, OK



12



Coach: Bill Armstrong

Conference: Southland

Record: 28-5 (19-3)

NET Ranking: 56

Offense: #83 (80.0)

Defense: #24 (66.5)

4



Coach: Fred Hoiberg

Conference: Big 10

Record: 26-6 (15-5)

NET Ranking: 14

Offense: #142 (77.3)

Defense: #22 (66.2)

Nebraska

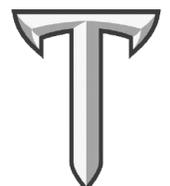
vs. Troy

12:40 p.m. Thursday 3/19

Oklahoma City, OK



13



Coach: Scott Cross

Conference: Sun Belt

Record: 22-11 (12-6)

NET Ranking: 125

Offense: #79 (80.3)

Defense: #154 (73.1)

2026 NCAA TOURNAMENT SOUTH REGION

6



Coach: Hubert Davis

Conference: ACC

Record: 24-8 (12-6)

NET Ranking: 24

Offense: #89 (79.8)

Defense: #109 (71.3)

North Carolina

vs. VCU

6:50 p.m. Thursday 3/19

Greenville, SC

TNT

11



Coach: Phil Martelli

Conference: A10

Record: 27-7 (15-3)

NET Ranking: 43

Offense: #51 (82.1)

Defense: #125 (72.0)

3



Coach: Brad Underwood

Conference: Big 10

Record: 24-8 (15-5)

NET Ranking: 8

Offense: #21 (84.4)

Defense: #68 (69.8)

Illinois

vs. Penn

9:25 p.m. Thursday 3/19

Greenville, SC

TNT

14



Coach: Fran McCaffery

Conference: Ivy

Record: 18-11 (9-5)

NET Ranking: 148

Offense: #168 (76.2)

Defense: #168 (76.2)

7



Coach: Randy Bennett

Conference: WCC

Record: 27-5 (16-2)

NET Ranking: 22

Offense: #118 (78.2)

Defense: #7 (64.6)

Saint Mary's vs.

Texas A&M

7:35 p.m. Thursday 3/19

Oklahoma City, OK

tru^{TV}

10



Coach: Bucky McMillan

Conference: SEC

Record: 21-11 (11-7)

NET Ranking: 44

Offense: #11 (87.7)

Defense: #321 (79.6)

2



Coach: Kelvin Sampson

Conference: Big 12

Record: 28-6 (14-4)

NET Ranking: 5

Offense: #145 (77.2)

Defense: #2 (62.4)

Houston

vs. Idaho

10:10 p.m. Thursday 3/19

Oklahoma City, OK

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15



Coach: Alex Pribble

Conference: Big Sky

Record: 21-14 (9-9)

NET Ranking: 144

Offense: #109 (78.7)

Defense: #139 (72.6)

2026 NCAA TOURNAMENT WEST REGION

1



Coach: Tommy Lloyd

Conference: Big 12

Record: 32-2 (16-2)

NET Ranking: 3

Offense: #14 (86.4)

Defense: #53 (68.6)

16



Coach: Rod Strickland

Conference: NEC

Record: 24-10 (15-3)

NET Ranking: 198

Offense: #230 (74.1)

Defense: #104 (71.1)

Arizona vs.

Long Island

1:35 p.m. Friday 3/20

San Diego, CA

TNT

8



Coach: Kevin Willard

Conference: Big East

Record: 24-8 (15-5)

NET Ranking: 35

Offense: #147 (77.2)

Defense: #96 (70.8)

Villanova vs.

Utah State

4:10 p.m. Friday 3/20

San Diego, CA

TNT

9



Coach: Jarrod Calhoun

Conference: Mountain West

Record: 28-6 (15-5)

NET Ranking: 26

Offense: #39 (82.8)

Defense: #90 (70.6)

5



Coach: Greg Gard

Conference: Big 10

Record: 24-10 (14-6)

NET Ranking: 25

Offense: #30 (83.5)

Defense: #239 (76.2)

Wisconsin vs.

High Point

1:50 p.m. Thursday 3/19

Portland, OR

tbs

12



Coach: Flynn Clayman

Conference: Big South

Record: 30-4 (15-1)

NET Ranking: 76

Offense: #3 (90.0)

Defense: #79 (70.3)

4



Coach: John Calipari

Conference: SEC

Record: 26-8 (13-5)

NET Ranking: 17

Offense: #4 (90.0)

Defense: #330 (79.9)

Arkansas vs.

Hawaii

4:25 p.m. Thursday 3/19

Portland, OR

tbs

13



Coach: Eran Ganot

Conference: Big West

Record: 24-8 (14-6)

NET Ranking: 101

Offense: #86 (79.9)

Defense: #70 (69.9)

2026 NCAA TOURNAMENT WEST REGION

6

**Coach:** Kevin Young**Conference:** Big 12**Record:** 23-11 (9-9)**NET Ranking:** 23**Offense:** #24 (83.9)**Defense:** #226 (75.3)

11

**TEXAS****Coach:** Sean Miller**Conference:** SEC**Record:** 18-14 (9-9)**NET:** 42**Offense:** #26 (83.8)**Defense:** #260 (76.8)**NC STATE****Coach:** Will Wade**Conference:** ACC**Record:** 20-13 (10-8)**NET:** 36**Offense:** #28 (83.7)**Defense:** #251 (76.5)**BYU vs.****Texas/NC State****7:25 p.m. Thursday, 3/19****Portland, OR**

3

**Coach:** Mark Few**Conference:** WCC**Record:** 30-3 (16-2)**NET Ranking:** 6**Offense:** #17 (85.1)**Defense:** #18 (66.0)**Gonzaga vs.****Kennesaw State****10 p.m. Thursday 3/19****Portland, OR**

14

**Coach:** Antoine Pettway **Conference:** C-USA**Record:** 21-13 (10-10)**NET Ranking:** 155**Offense:** #27 (83.7)**Defense:** #253 (76.5)

7

**Coach:** Jai Lucas**Conference:** ACC**Record:** 25-8 (13-5)**NET Ranking:** 32**Offense:** #54 (81.9)**Defense:** #107 (71.2)**Miami vs.****Missouri****10:10 p.m. Friday 3/20****St. Louis, MO**

10

**Coach:** Dennis Gates**Conference:** SEC**Record:** 20-12 (10-8)**NET Ranking:** 58**Offense:** #13 (86.6)**Defense:** #216 (74.9)

2

**Coach:** Matt Painter**Conference:** Big 10**Record:** 26-8 (13-7)**NET Ranking:** 9**Offense:** #53 (82.0)**Defense:** #78 (70.2)**Purdue vs.****Queens****7:35 p.m. Friday 3/20****St. Louis, MO**

15

**Coach:** Grant Leonard**Conference:** Atlantic Sun**Record:** 21-13 (13-5)**NET Ranking:** 189**Offense:** #19 (84.9)**Defense:** #353 (82.9)



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