

Final FOUR

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Kentucky nipped UA at buzzer in last meeting

By Bruce Pascoe
The Arizona Daily Star

INDIANAPOLIS — The last time Rick Pitino faced a hot Arizona backcourt, he was saved by a buzzer-beater from Jeff Brassow.

Tonight, the Kentucky coach may only get air conditioning.

Brassow's tip-in gave Kentucky a 93-92 victory on Dec. 23, 1993 in the Maui Invitational, putting away the torrid backcourt of Damon Stoudamire and Khalid Reeves in the steamy confines of a Lahaina gymnasium.

While much has been made of the breezy and cool conditions in the RCA Dome, Pitino will still have to face a similarly hot, similarly giddy backcourt tonight in Miles Simon and Mike Bibby.

"This is a team that goes to all of its players," Pitino said. "They've got incredible quickness and speed, and they didn't beat Kansas on a fluke."

Pitino said he has also been impressed with Arizona coach Late Olson and his system ever since that sweet night in Hawaii.

"That one game we played against each other was over in

Maui, and it was like 110 degrees in the gym," Pitino said yesterday. "They had Stoudamire and Reeves — they were tough to play against — and we were lucky enough to have the last tip-in. But (Olson) is a phenomenal coach."

While Olson had already led the Wildcats to the first of three Final Fours at that point, with another to come at the end of the 1993-94 season, for Reeves and Stoudamire, the game was something of a milestone.

The two guards combined for 69 points against Kentucky, boosting reputations that would eventually earn them NBA lottery draft selections.

For Stoudamire, the game also took away the disappointment of making just 10 of 20 field goals in the UA's first two Maui Invitational games.

"I wasn't having the tournament I wanted," Stoudamire said after the game. "But I figured if I at Arizona we haven't played a team of Kentucky's prestige, and this was our chance to show the nation why we're the best backcourt in the country."

They found a believer in

December 23, 1993
Kentucky 93, Arizona 92

Player	FG	3PT	FT	REB	AST	BLK	STL	PTS
Stoudamire	11-20	2-5	10-12	10	10	0	2	34
Reeves	10-18	1-3	10-12	10	10	0	2	34
Brassow	1-1	0-0	1-2	2	0	0	0	3
Simon	1-1	0-0	0-0	2	0	0	0	2
Bibby	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	13-29	3-8	21-24	24	20	0	4	71

Arizona 92

Player	FG	3PT	FT	REB	AST	BLK	STL	PTS
Simon	11-20	2-5	10-12	10	10	0	2	34
Reeves	10-18	1-3	10-12	10	10	0	2	34
Brassow	1-1	0-0	1-2	2	0	0	0	3
Simon	1-1	0-0	0-0	2	0	0	0	2
Bibby	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	13-29	3-8	21-24	24	20	0	4	71

Bulls' ex-Cats use Arizona's win over N.C. to take air out of Jordan

By Anthony Gimino
The Arizona Daily Star

A real comedy team, that Steve Kerr and Jud Buechler.

The two ex-Arizona Wildcats, playing with the NBA champion Chicago Bulls, thought it would be a cute joke to hang an Arizona T-shirt in a certain teammate's locker yesterday.

Ha, ha, ha, ha.

The one guy not amused was North Carolina alum Michael Jordan, in a foul mood because his beloved Tar Heels were losing to the UA and would be bounced from the Final Four 68-58.

"He wasn't too happy," Buechler said last night in a phone interview from his home in Lake Forest, Ill. "He grabbed it and put it in a trash can."

Other than that, how did the world's greatest basketball player take the loss?

For the early part of Saturday's game against New Jersey, Jordan wore a black patch on the right shoulder strap of his jersey. He later said that North Carolina's loss was part of the reason.

"We had a really fun week, with him wearing his North Carolina colors and Steve and I coming in with our red and blue," Buechler said.

"I'm sure it's going to come from an end I don't like to push Michael too far in anything."

Like insisting he wear an Arizona jersey during a Bulls' practice.

"We tried to add that as a condition of the waiver," said Buechler, who, like Kerr, took \$20 off of the NBA's highest-paid player. "But he wouldn't go for that."

As the NBA takes an off day, Buechler, Kerr and their wives will drive to Indianapolis after today's practice and attend Arizona's first NCAA championship game.

"It's just so great to see these guys get so far," Buechler said. "I'm really thrilled for Late to make it to the final game. He's done a great job of getting these guys ready for this part of the season."

"I don't know if he has changed — he probably hasn't — so he'll probably prepare for this game like he has for every game this year. No doubt, he will have a well-prepared game plan."

Kerr was the starting point guard for Arizona's 1989 Final Four team that lost to Oklahoma in the semifinals. Buechler was a reserve forward.

"These guys on the Arizona team, they probably have no clue what this means," Buechler said. "It is going to change their lives forever."

"Steve and I still talk about that Oklahoma game all the time — we were that close. We really felt we had the better team that year."

short-lived lead the rest of the way.

With the 91-90 lead, Kentucky's Rodrick Rhodes missed a 7-footer, and the 35-second shot clock expired because the shot did not hit the rim, despite Pitino's heated arguments that it did.

Arizona was awarded the ball, and when it inbounded, Reeves was fouled again. He hit both free throws, giving the UA a 92-91 lead, but Kentucky quickly passed the ball up court.

After Rhodes missed a three-pointer, Brassow followed with the game-winner.

"It was just a fabulous game," Olson said. "As so often happens in that situation, it wasn't the shot that killed us, but the rebound."

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