



FINAL FOUR



FLORIDA GATORS



No. 1 seed • 34-4 record • West Region • Southeastern Conference

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025
ALAMODOME, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
6:09 P.M. EASTERN, 5:09 P.M. CENTRAL • CBS

AUBURN TIGERS



No. 1 seed • 32-5 record • South Region • Southeastern Conference



DUKE BLUE DEVILS

No. 1 seed • 35-3 record • East Region • Atlantic Coast Conference

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025
ALAMODOME, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
8:49 P.M. EASTERN, 7:49 P.M. CENTRAL • CBS



HOUSTON COUGARS

No. 1 seed • 34-4 record • Midwest Region • Big 12 Conference

Favorites collide

No. 1 seeds make up Final Four in San Antonio

BY DANIEL SUDDEATH
CNHI

For just the second time, the top four seeds in the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament have advanced to the Final Four.

Florida, Duke, Houston and Auburn head to the Alamodome in San Antonio this week to vie for a national title. The only other time all of the No. 1 seeds played in the Final Four was 2008.

Florida and Auburn will tip off Saturday's action in the first game of the night, with Duke against Houston to follow. The winners will play in Monday night's championship game.

The Gators and Tigers are quite familiar with each another. The SEC opponents, both ranked in the Top 10 for most of the season, played on Feb. 8 when Florida won at Auburn, 90-81.

Florida's Todd Golden is coaching in his first Final Four. The Gators advanced to San Antonio after a furious comeback in the Elite Eight against Texas Tech. Walter Clayton Jr. scored 30 points against the Red Raiders, and the sharpshooter is averaging more than 22 points per game in the Big Dance.

Auburn is led by SEC Player of the Year Johni Broome, who averaged 18.5 points and 10.8 rebounds per game this season. After injuring his arm in the Elite Eight, Broome came back on the court to help the Tigers secure their spot in the Final Four with a win over Michigan State. Auburn has multiple scoring options

to complement Broome. Tahaad Pettiford and Denver Jones combined for 78 points in wins against Michigan and Creighton.

Bruce Pearl is coaching in his second Final Four after leading the Tigers to the tournament semifinals in 2019.

While many teams have relied heavily on the transfer portal and experienced players, Duke is led by a trio of talented freshmen in Cooper Flagg, Khaman Maluach and Kon Knueppel. Flagg, projected as the top pick in this year's NBA Draft, scored 30 in Duke's 90-83 Sweet 16 win over Arizona. The Wildcats are the only opponent to play Duke within double digits. Duke overpowered No. 2 seed Alabama in an 85-65 win in the Elite Eight to advance to the Final Four.

After winning championships at Duke as a player and an assistant, Jon Scheyer leads the Blue Devils to the Final Four for the first time as head coach.

Following a 2021 appearance, Kelvin Sampson brings Houston back to the Final Four for the second time at the helm and his third trip to the Final Four as a head coach. The Cougars have stymied their opponents on defense while LJ Cryer and the Cougars have shot 39.1% from 3-point territory during the tournament.

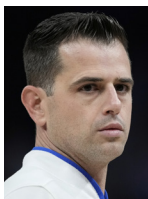
Emanuel Sharp, J'wan Roberts and Milos Uzan have complemented Cryer's scoring in the tournament. After winning on a buzzer-beater in the Sweet 16 against Purdue, the Cougars pulled away from Tennessee in the Elite Eight.

Houston is looking for its first NCAA title. Duke is seeking its sixth.

FLORIDA GATORS

- **Path to Final Four:** No. 16 Norfolk State, 96-69; No. 8 UConn, 77-75; No. 4 Maryland, 87-71; No. 3 Texas Tech, 84-79
- **Final Four History:** 1994, 2000, 2006 (champion), 2007 (champion), 2014
- **Top Players:** Walter Clayton Jr. (18.1 PPG); Alex Condon (7.7 RBG)
- **Notable:** Sophomore forward Thomas Haugh has provided a spark for the Gators this postseason, scoring in double figures in three of the Gators' first four tournament games including a 20-point performance against Texas Tech in the Elite Eight.

COACH



Todd Golden
Third season at Florida; 77-33 at Florida; 131-69 in 5 seasons overall
This is Golden's first trip to the Final Four

AUBURN TIGERS

- **Path to Final Four:** No. 16 Alabama State, 83-63; No. 9 Creighton, 82-70; No. 5 Michigan, 78-65; No. 2 Michigan State, 70-64
- **Final Four History:** 2019
- **Top Players:** Johni Broome (18.7 ppg; 10.7 rpg); Tahaad Pettiford (11.7 ppg)
- **Notable:** Bruce Pearl is the only head coach (football or men's basketball) in SEC history to lead two programs to a No. 1 national ranking (Auburn in 2022 and 2025 and Tennessee in 2008) ... Broome led the Tigers with 25 points and 14 rebounds in the Elite Eight, his 21st double-double of the season.

COACH

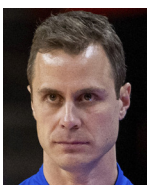


Bruce Pearl
11th season at Auburn; 199-119 at Auburn; 694-269 in 30 seasons overall
This is Pearl's second trip to the Final Four

DUKE BLUE DEVILS

- **Path to Final Four:** No. 16 Mount St. Mary's, 93-49; No. 9 Baylor, 89-66; No. 4 Arizona 100-93; No. 2 Alabama, 85-65
- **Final Four History:** 1963, 1964, 1966, 1978, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991 (champion), 1992 (champion), 1994, 1999, 2001 (champion), 2004, 2010 (champion), 2015 (champion), 2022
- **Top Players:** Cooper Flagg (18.9 PPG); Kon Knueppel (14.4 PPG)
- **Notable:** Junior guard Tyrese Proctor has been on a hot streak during the NCAA Tournament, averaging 17 points per game including a 25-point effort against Baylor in a second round win for the Blue Devils.

COACH



Jon Scheyer
Third season at Duke; 89-21 overall, all at Duke
This is Scheyer's first trip to the Final Four

HOUSTON COUGARS

- **Path to Final Four:** No. 16 SIU Edwardsville, 78-40; No. 8 Gonzaga 81-67; No. 4 Purdue 62-60; No. 2 Tennessee, 69-50
- **Final Four History:** 1967, 1968, 1982, 1983, 1984, 2021
- **Top Players:** LJ Cryer (15.3 PPG); Joseph Tugler (5.8 RPG, 2 BPG)
- **Notable:** The Cougars are surrendering just 56.5 points per game, the lowest of any team in the Final Four. On the other end, Houston has knocked down 36 shots from behind the arc.

COACH



Kelvin Sampson
11th season at Houston; 298-83 at Houston; 798-353 in 36 seasons overall
This is Sampson's third trip to the Final Four



Danny Hurley, UConn

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS

- 2024-UConn
- 2023-UConn
- 2022-Kansas
- 2021-Baylor
- 2020-No tourney due to COVID
- 2019-Virginia
- 2018-Villanova
- 2017-North Carolina
- 2016-Villanova
- 2015-Duke
- 2014-UConn
- 2013-Louisville*
- 2012-Kentucky
- 2011-UConn
- 2010-Duke
- *-Vacated by NCAA

MOST TITLES WON

- UCLA-11
- Kentucky-8
- UConn-6
- North Carolina-6
- Duke-5
- Indiana-5
- Kansas-4
- Villanova-3
- Louisville-3*
- Cincinnati-2
- Florida-2
- Michigan State-2
- North Carolina State-2
- Oklahoma State-2
- San Francisco-2
- *-2013 title vacated

MOST FINAL FOURS

- North Carolina-21
- Duke-18
- UCLA-18
- Kentucky-17
- Kansas-15
- Ohio State-10
- Michigan State-10
- Indiana-8
- Louisville-8

THE FIRST BIG DANCE

The first NCAA Division 1 men's basketball tournament was played in 1939 and featured eight teams. Oregon defeated Ohio State for the title.

ELITE SCORER

Duke's Christian Laettner (left) is the tournament's all-time leading scorer with 407 points.

