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LIFE

Find out which bands to see this spring
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SPORTS

The Sports staff previews Vanderbilt's first round matchup with Richmond
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THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER

THE VOICE OF VANDERBILT SINCE 1888

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2011

www.INSIDEVANDY.COM

123RD YEAR, No. 24

JAPAN IN CRISIS

YOU CAN HELP



CAROLYN COLE/MCT

The debris of the destroyed Natori neighborhood of Sendai, Japan on Sunday that was hit hard by the tsunami in the aftermath of an 8.9 earthquake. Fires continue to burn in the neighborhood as civil servants are finally able to enter the area to search for victims.

Vanderbilt responds to earthquake and tsunami in Japan

KYLE BLAINE
News Editor

The Vanderbilt community is offering help to those affected by the earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

Support for at least 121 Japanese students, faculty, staff, visiting scholars and the family members of these individuals at Vanderbilt is provided by the International Student and Scholar Services and the Office of Dean of Students.

"As a university community devoted to serving humanity, our work is based on hope. For our Japanese students, faculty and staff, I know this represents a time of uncertainty and challenge," Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos said.

"I want you to know that your Vanderbilt 'family' is here for you. Whether you need help with counseling or making contact with loved ones at home, the university stands ready to lend our full support. Our collective thoughts and concerns are with the people of Japan and with our students, faculty and researchers who have family members affected by the earthquake and tsunami," Zeppos said.

There are no students currently studying in Japan through programs registered with the Vanderbilt International Office or the Global Education Office.

Please see JAPAN, page 3

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

The U.S. Geological survey has assigned the quake a magnitude of 8.9, while Japan's Meteorological Agency has upgraded it from an 8.8 to a 9.0. It is the most powerful earthquake to hit Japan since record keeping began in the late 19th century.

Authorities put the death toll at 1,597 early Monday mornings. That number could reach 10,000, reports Kyodo News.

The Japanese television station NHK reports that there is a 70 percent chance of magnitude 7.0 aftershocks in the next three days.

Japan's nuclear safety agency has rated the damage to the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant a four out of seven on the International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale.

According to CNBC, Tsunami waves hit the West Coast of the United States on Friday and smashed ships, ripped out docks and caused flooding in Hawaii. The cleanup effort is expected to cost millions of dollars. ■

WHO CAN YOU TURN TO?

Members of the Vanderbilt community may contact International Student and Scholar Services for assistance at (615) 322-2753 or at (614) 378-1968.

Staff members of the Psychological and Counseling Center at (615) 322-2571 and the Office of Religious Life at (615) 322-2457 are available to speak with students about the disaster. Campus residents may contact the Office of Housing and Residential Education at (615) 322-2591 for assistance.

Students needing assistance may always contact the Office of the Dean of Students at (615) 322-6400 or deanofstudents@vanderbilt.edu. ■

HAVE YOU BEEN AFFECTED BY THE TRAGEDY IN JAPAN?

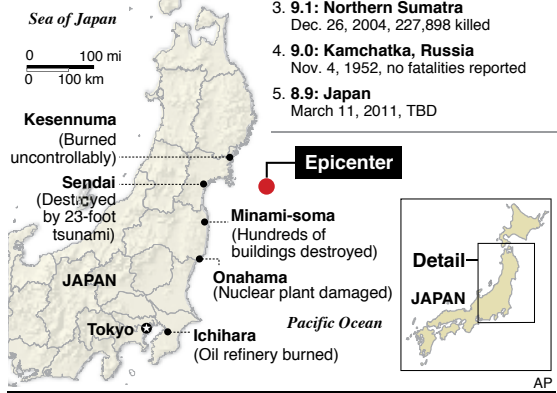
Contact the The Vanderbilt Hustler at news@insidevandy.com and tell your story.

Powerful earthquake rocks Japan

A massive 8.9-magnitude earthquake shook dozens of cities and villages along a 1,300-mile stretch of Japan's east coast, including Tokyo.

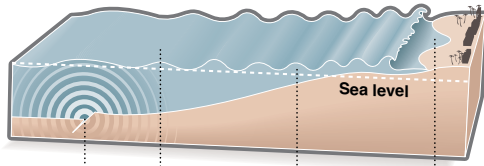
Strongest earthquakes since 1900

1. 9.5-magnitude: Chile May 22, 1960, 1,655 killed
2. 9.2: Prince William Sound, Alaska March 28, 1964, 125 killed
3. 9.1: Northern Sumatra Dec. 26, 2004, 227,898 killed
4. 9.0: Kamchatka, Russia Nov. 4, 1952, no fatalities reported
5. 8.9: Japan March 11, 2011, TBD



Deadly wall of water

Tsunami waves travel rapidly in the deep ocean, but their destructive power comes from the towering heights attained as they approach the coast.



- A seismic event or displacement sends shock waves outward.
- Initial waves travel very fast, but are only a few feet tall.
- Waves travel through shallower depths as they approach the coast, decreasing in speed while increasing in height.
- Tsunami waves hit shores with deadly force, depositing water and debris.

SOURCE: USGS

AP

Containing a nuclear reactor

What keeps nuclear reactors like the type damaged in Fukushima Dai-ichi, Japan, from releasing harmful radiation into the atmosphere:

Primary containment

Steel containment vessel 30 or 40 ft. (nine to 12 m) wide, made of thick steel

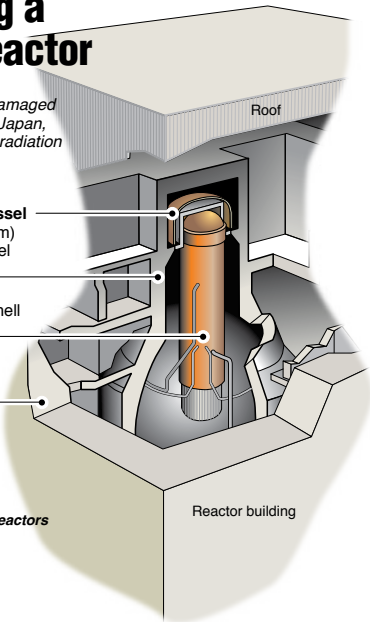
Concrete shell Explosions at reactors occurred outside this shell

Reactor vessel covers reactor core

Secondary containment

(reactor building) Designed to keep leaked radioactive gas from escaping into environment

Explosions at the two reactors damaged the secondary containment structure



Source: Union of Concerned Scientists, Scientific American Graphic: Lee Hulteng, Judy Treible

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■ CAMPUS NEWS

Openly gay bishop talks big issues in the LGBT movement

KYLE BLAINE
News Editor

Speaking to the Vanderbilt community Monday night, The Right Reverend Gene Robinson Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire said life is getting better for the homosexual community, but there is still work to be done.

Robinson is best known for being the first openly gay priest to be ordained Bishop in a major Christian denomination when he was elected in 2003.

Hosted by the Vanderbilt Medical School Gay-Straight Alliance as part of their annual LGBTQI Health Week, Robinson spoke to a room of around 300 people in Langford Auditorium about the Church's turbulent relationship with the LGBT community.

"I know the Church is responsible for most of the pain in the lives of gay and lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, we just have to admit that, and at some point we will repent of it the way we repented of our support of slavery using the bible," Robinson said.

"I think what you're seeing is God at work liberating God's people in this LGBT movement, and the Church scrambling to catch up, not fast enough in my humble opinion," Robinson said.

Robinson said that in his opinion, the issue of homosexuality has been settled in the Episcopal Church, but he pointed to the Evangelical position against homosexuality as a deterrent for the younger generations.

Please see BISHOP, page 3

■ LIFE

St. Patrick's Day: What to do



Photo Provided

OLIVIA KUPFER
Life editor

NASHVILLE PEDAL TAVERN

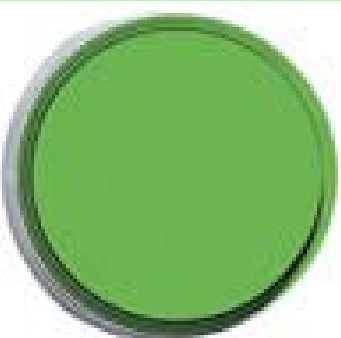
The typical pub-crawl is so passe. Opt for Nashville's own Nashville Pedal Tavern tour, a pub-crawl that is part seated bike tour and part drinking debauchery. Gather 16 of your favorite friends — the cost is \$20 per person for a group of 16 — and partake in the two and a half hour tour which starts in the Gulch and ends downtown on Broadway.

PROS: The tour stops at Vanderbilt students' favorite drinking dens: Dan McGuinness (not only fitting for St. Patrick's Day but a campus favorite); Red Rooster; Whiskey Kitchen (if you are hankering for a respectable cocktail along the way); Tootsie's Orchid Lounge (a Nashville establishment and home to country music); and finally, Bailey's on Broadway.

CONS: The Nashville Pedal Tavern is currently in talks with the city to relax open container laws so that pedal tavern participants can drink along the way. Alas, something to look forward to.

VERDICT: A way to get to five bars on St. Patrick's Day without walking? Sounds ideal, especially after the first fateful stops along the route. Tours start at 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

Please see ST. PATRICK'S DAY, page 5



Through your words, actions and choice in any given moment, you can help end violence... one green dot at a time.
What's your green dot?



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FEATURE
PHOTO

NICOLE MANDEL/ The Vanderbilt Hustler

Downtown Nashville during a busy Saturday afternoon. This moment was captured with a Nikon n6006 on Ilford XP2 ISO 400 black and white film, Feb. 26 2011).

NEED
TO KNOW
NASHVILLE

The top news stories from around Nashville that you need to know to be informed this week.

School unites after Tenn. teacher goes missing

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn. — Teachers and administrators at a Shelbyville middle school are trying to assist students as the investigation continues into the sudden disappearance of a teacher.

Shelley Mook was last seen Feb. 28 and her burned car was found by police later that same day near Murfreesboro. The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation is assisting local authorities in the investigation and no one has been arrested.

Harris Middle School Principal Bill Pietkiewicz told the Shelbyville Times-Gazette that he's offering full support to the students and staff as the search continues for the reading teacher. But he said he is gratified by the community response to the situation.

A large poster in the school hallway says, "We Miss You Ms. Mook!" and one student raised \$180 for the teacher's family by selling ribbons at school.

Pietkiewicz said he has spoken with students about the ongoing investigation and said counselors will remain available.

"On Tuesday morning I had an assembly of all students to tell them what we knew," Pietkiewicz said. "I told them I had met with the family Monday night and they were very positive and were pleased with the work of the police and TBI."

Haslam budget cuts positions, includes pay raise

Gov. Bill Haslam presented his first budget Monday, proposing to eliminate nearly 1,200 government positions, give a raise to remaining state employees, and make the deepest cuts in spending on TennCare and higher education.

The new Republican governor's \$30 billion spending proposal sticks close to the blueprint set up by his Democratic predecessor for coping with the end of \$2 billion in federal stimulus grants that helped offset the steep revenue drop of the Great Recession.

Haslam said that while revenue collections have improved in recent months, the state is years away from rebounding to pre-2008 levels.

"What we are seeing in government today really is the "new normal," Haslam said in his 34-minute State of the State address delivered to a joint session of the General Assembly. "Every government, ours included, will be forced to transform how it sets priorities and makes choices."

The governor also made the case for his administration's proposals to make teacher tenure more difficult to obtain and for ramping up efforts to fight methamphetamine production and use in Tennessee.

Haslam also repeated a call for civility and cooperation at the Capitol.

Lawyer challenging how Tenn. sets bail amounts

A Murfreesboro attorney is on a crusade to change the way bail is set in Tennessee.

State law requires judicial commissioners to consider things like a person's ties to the community and reputation to determine an appropriate bail, but Jerry Gonzalez told The Tennessean

that's not happening in many cases.

"Right now, most judicial commissioners literally pull the number out of the air. It's just the way the person before did it. And that's the way the person before him did it," Gonzalez said, speaking of the way bail is set in Davidson County. "They're not following state law as to the process of setting bail."

Gonzalez filed suit against Davidson County in October. Metro Government hasn't responded to the suit, and lead attorney Kevin Klein said they are still reviewing the complaint.

But the problem isn't limited to Metro Nashville, Gonzalez said. He also has suits pending in Henry, Macon, Trousdale, Shelby and Bedford counties, and he has won suits in Wilson and Rutherford Counties.

Wilson County settled a suit in 2007 over the way its judicial commissioners set bail, and the county was under a consent decree that was monitored by a federal judge until recently.

Lipscomb gains national religious accreditation

Lipscomb University is being recognized by a national organization that accredits seminaries and faith-based universities.

Lipscomb, which is associated with the Churches of Christ, says it's the only faith-based university in Middle Tennessee to be accredited by Hazelp School of Theology's Association of Theological Schools.

Lipscomb was recognized soon after creating its doctor of ministry, a degree that equally emphasizes mission and spiritual formation.

ATS noted Lipscomb's work in both spiritual teaching and ministry. The organization cited how the school opened its doors to the community after floods left many people homeless last year.

The accreditation will help the school get more grant money and research and training for students in theology and ministry.

The Divinity School at Vanderbilt University is also accredited by ATS.

TVA says 6 reactors not in earthquake-prone region

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP) — Tennessee Valley Authority executives say the utility's six reactors in East Tennessee and North Alabama are in areas "not prone to frequent or extremely large earthquakes" and have numerous safety features.

TVA has two reactors at its Sequoyah Nuclear Plant near Chattanooga, one reactor and another under construction at Watts Bar in Spring City and three at its Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant at Athens, Ala.

A TVA statement says its reactors are designed, built and operated to withstand an earthquake of larger magnitude than any recorded in the region.

The plants are built with safety systems to ensure safe shutdown in any event similar to the earthquake in Japan.

The TVA statement Sunday also expressed deep sorrow over loss of life and damage to property during the earthquake in Japan. ■

CRIME LOG

Compiled from VUPD crime reports by CHARLOTTE CLEARY

FRIDAY, MARCH 4, AT 1:37 A.M.:

A person was found passed out in Carmichael Towers.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, BETWEEN 12:01 A.M. AND 11:59 P.M.:

Four people were involved in a verbal altercation at the Village at Vanderbilt.

BETWEEN 10:45 A.M. ON MONDAY, FEB. 28, AND 3 P.M. ON TUESDAY, MARCH 1:

A bicycle and lock were stolen from the Law School.

BETWEEN 1 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, FEB. 23, AND 10 A.M. ON FRIDAY, FEB. 25:

A bicycle was stolen from Kissam Hall.

STRANGE
BUT TRUEMAN GETS STUCK IN HAMPER DURING
BREAK-IN

MESA, Ariz. — A man is in custody after police say he broke into an Arizona townhome and got stuck in a clothes hamper underneath the window he climbed through.

Mesa police say 20-year-old Michael Trias was arrested on suspicion of burglary and criminal damage.

The East Valley Tribune reports a resident inside the home heard the commotion of Trias becoming entangled in the hamper at about 9 a.m. Thursday.

The owner of the home restrained Trias and was able to take him outside and call police.

Authorities say no property was taken from the home, but there was some damage done to the window.

It was unclear Friday whether Trias has legal representation yet.

INTRUDER, ORE. HOMEOWNER CALL POLICE
ON EACH OTHER

PORTLAND, Ore.— Oregon police say both an intruder and a Portland homeowner phoned 911 to report the same thing: a strange man in a home.

Lt. Kelli Sheffer says the intruder told police he had just broken into a home last week when the owner arrived — and the caller was worried the homeowner might have a gun.

Accompanied by his two German Shepherds, the homeowner found the intruder and asked what he was doing in the house. That's when the stranger locked himself in a bathroom and phoned police.

The homeowner called police with his account.

Sheffer says 24-year-old Timothy James Chapek, of Portland, was booked into jail for investigation of first-degree criminal trespass.

PROFESSOR
PROFILE

by GABY ROMÁN

WILLIAM M. AKERS

Akers is a Senior Lecturer in the Film Studies Program who teaches a two-semester screenwriting course and several different film-making classes, with heavy emphasis on rewriting the script and professionalism. The Nashville Film Festival recently accepted a short film that was made in one of his classes.



TELL US ABOUT "A TOAST TO J. EDGAR HOOVER."

That was last year's Advanced Production Workshop film. I adapted a poem, which had its own set of "learning opportunities," (read: problems) because it was not written to work as a story, and there were some logic problems that had to be solved. It's great for students to see that a month and a half of pre-production pays off when everything goes well on set.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT TEACHING?

Watching students work hard, learn a lot, and have fun. People think college students can't wake up early in the morning, but if crew call is 6 a.m., everyone is there 10 minutes ahead of time. Everyone's job is incredibly important, and it's wonderful to watch students come to grips with this, embrace it, and thrive.

FAVORITE FILM?

Hands down, "Lawrence of Arabia," but it's sad because students don't get to see it on a big enough screen. If you watch it on a screen less than thirty feet wide, it's boring.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR STUDENTS WOULD SAY IS THE MOST INTERESTING THING ABOUT YOU?

I haven't the faintest idea. Perhaps that I wrote one of the "Ernest" movies or I was on "Jeopardy!" Oh, yeah, I know ... that I am secretly married to Natalie Portman.

SERVICE GUIDE

The Vanderbilt Hustler (ISSN 0042-2517), the student newspaper of Vanderbilt University, is published every Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the academic year except for during exam periods and vacations. The paper is not printed during summer break.

The Vanderbilt Hustler allocates one issue of the newspaper to each student and is available at various points on campus for free. Additional copies are \$.50 each.

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LOCATION

The Hustler offices are in 130 Sarratt Student Center on the Vanderbilt University Campus. Address postal mail to 2301 Vanderbilt Place, VU Station B 351504, Nashville, Tenn. 37235-1504.

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PRINTER

The Hustler is printed at Franklin Web Printing Company in Franklin, Tenn.

BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

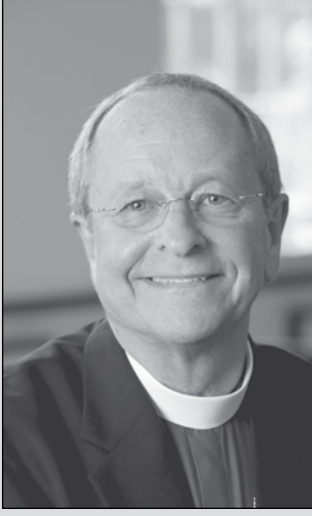
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BISHOP: Patriarchal society coming to an end, says Robinson

ABOUT BISHOP GENE ROBINSON

Robinson was elected Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire on June 7, 2003, having served as canon to the ordinary (assistant to the bishop) for nearly 18 years. He was consecrated a bishop on All Saints Sunday, Nov. 2, 2003, and was invested as the ninth bishop of New Hampshire on March 7, 2004. He has been particularly active in the area of full civil rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. Working at the state, national and international levels, he has spoken and lobbied for equal protection under the law and full civil marriage rights. He has been honored by many LGBT organizations, including The Human Rights Campaign, the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force and the Equality Forum.



GENE ROBINSON

From **BISHOP**, page 1

"Most young people don't want to belong to a Church that is condemning their gay and lesbian friends," Robinson said.

During the question and answer session of the event, a self-identified Southern Baptist took issue with Robinson's position on homosexuality and religion, citing verses in the bible that some interpret as condemning same-sex activity. Robinson responded by explaining his interpretation of scripture.

"The way I go about scripture is I have to ask 'what was that context' and 'what did those words mean to the people who wrote them and the people who hear them' before I can ask whether it has some binding

authority on me," Robinson said.

"I believe the bible to be the word of God, and not the words of God," Robinson said. "I don't believe God dictated those words, but I do believe the authors sat down to record as best they could and in an inspired way this dynamic relationship with the living God."

Robinson also discussed same-sex marriage, citing the Obama administration's decision to cease legal defense of the Defense of Marriage Act and the President's changing attitude about same-sex marriage as turning points in the LGBT movement for equality.

The issue with marriage in general, according to Robinson,

is the confusion between the secular and religious ceremony.

"It is very clear that marriage is a secular institution. The clergy is there to bless the union," Robinson said. "If you get married without benefit of clergy, you're still married."

If you get married without benefit of clergy, you're still married.

—Bishop Gene Robinson

Recalling the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, Robinson Movement of the 1960s that changing the laws is

important but not the endpoint of the LGBT movement.

"When we get all the laws around LGBT people in place, it won't mean all of the hate will go away," Robinson said. "So there is going to be plenty of work to be done."

Speaking about the big picture, Robinson said that the most threatening part of the LGBT liberation is the threat it poses to traditional society.

"What I think this is really about, the big picture, is the beginning of the end of patriarchy," Robinson said. "For a very long time, straight, white, educated, wealthy, western men have been making most of the decisions for most of the world, and that jig is up." ■



CAROLYN COLE/MCT

Noriko Otologague, 41, right, and her daughter Yui, assess the damage done to the neighborhood in Natori, Japan on Monday.

JAPAN: Students can get involved

From **JAPAN**, page 1

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

AID MEETING

In order to organize a response to the situation in Japan, the Asian American Student Association will be holding a meeting to bring together all interested parties Friday morning at 10 a.m. in the Community Partnership House.

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

Vanderbilt students will hold a candlelight vigil 6 p.m. Friday, March 18, for victims of earthquakes and the tsunami in Japan.

The Asian American Student Association, Asian American Christian Fellowship, Korean Undergraduate Student Association, Vanderbilt University Chinese Association and Vanderbilt Hillel are organizers for the event that will be held in Benton Chapel.

PAPER CRANES

This week the Asian American Student Association at Vanderbilt will be at the wall teaching students to make Japanese paper cranes. These origami paper cranes will be sent to families in Japan.

This is a tradition called the "senbazuru". It is said that those who hold this string of 1000 Cranes will be granted the wish of lifelong recovery from injury or illness. Friends often make these for each other when one falls seriously ill, or is injured and has to go through a long period of recovery.

DONATE

- **American Red Cross**
You can text REDCROSS to 90999 and a \$10 donation will automatically be charged to your phone bill, donations can be made directly on its Web site.
- **AmeriCares**
<http://www.americares.org/>
- **CARE**
<http://www.care.org/>
- **Doctors Without Borders**
<http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/>
- **GlobalGiving**
<http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/japan-earthquake-tsunami-relief/>
Donors can text JAPAN to 50555 to give \$10, and larger increments can be submitted on GlobalGiving's Web site.
- **International Medical Corps**
<http://www.internationalmedicalcorps.org/Page.aspx?pid=183>
- **Lions Club International**
<http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/index.php>
- **The Salvation Army**
<http://blog.salvationarmyusa.org/>
Text JAPAN or QUAKE to 80888 to make a \$10 donation. (Make sure to respond "YES" to the Thank You message you receive.) Donations can also be made on the organization's Web site or by calling 1-800-SAL-ARMY.
- **Save the Children**
www.savethechildren.org/
To make a donation, visit Save the Children's Web site, call 1-800-728-3843, or text JAPAN to 20222 to donate \$10.
- **ShelterBox**
www.shelterbox.org
- **UJA-Federation of New York**
<http://www.ujafedny.org/japan-quake-fund/>

STUDENT NEWS

Vanderbilt junior crowned Mardi Gras Queen



JANE WHITE/ Photo Provided

Jane White, escorted by King of Carnival Herschel Abbott Jr. on Tuesday, March 8 when she was crowned carnival queen.

LIZ FURLOW Staff Writer

On Tuesday, March 8, Vanderbilt junior Jane White was crowned Queen of the Mardi Gras Carnival at the Rex Ball in New Orleans, LA. As Queen, White follows in a long tradition of Carnival rulers that include both her great-grandparents, who ruled as Rex and Queen in 1956, and other Mardi Gras royalty, dating back to 1872 when the Rex Organization was founded.

"Watching the parades, catching beads, and listening to the marching bands perform are three of my favorite Mardi Gras activities," said White. "This year, I had the honor of reigning as Queen of Carnival, and I spent Fat Tuesday very differently than I have in years past."

The Rex Organization, which hosts the Rex Ball and Mardi Gras day parade, was created in an attempt to calm the rowdy celebrations that have rocked the streets of New Orleans the week before Lent since the city's foundation. Since those early years, the Rex Processions have grown in size and creativity, with a new theme chosen from literature or mythology every year.

The identity of the Queen of Carnival is kept a secret until Lundi Gras, the day before Fat Tuesday, when the local news stations release the story.

"Not being able to talk about it for so long builds suspense, and it was extremely hard hiding everything that went on from my friends," said White.

On Mardi Gras morning, the Queen has a variety of duties. White woke early Tuesday morning for the "Royal Run" at 6:30 a.m. around Audubon Park. Afterwards, the Court watched the Rex Parade from the Intercontinental Hotel viewing stands and ended the evening at the Sheraton Hotel, where the Rex Ball was held. The Rex Ball, where the Carnival Royalty are formally presented, includes both the King and Queen as well as eight maids and eight dukes. The presentation is then followed by processions, marches, and dancing.

"The entire carnival season is a festive time of year that brings locals and out-of-towners together to celebrate New Orleans' unique cultural traditions. It is exciting and fun for people of all ages," said White. ■

STUDENT NEWS

Students go to Athens, Ga. for Habitat projects

BLAKE AUED Athens Banner-Herald

ATHENS, Ga. (AP) - They might be mortal enemies on the football field, but students from Vanderbilt University and the University of Florida are willing to pitch in to help Athenians in need.

About 15 students from the University of Georgia's SEC rivals are spending their spring break this week volunteering for Athens Area Habitat for Humanity, renovating apartments and building houses in East Athens.

"We dominated them before, so we can help them now," joked Pamela Cayemite, a

Florida senior.

Cayemite and her classmates are in Athens as part of Habitat International's Collegiate Challenge, a program that sends college students to work on Habitat projects during spring break.

"I was trying to find something useful to do on spring break, to use my time wisely," said another Florida student, Scott Brown.

Next week, students from Suffolk University in Boston are scheduled to arrive.

The volunteers are helping to renovate 16 apartments off East Broad Street for ReNew Athens, an offshoot of Habitat that focuses on rental units. The

two-bedroom apartments will rent for \$350 to \$424 per month or no more than 30 percent of tenants' income, Executive Director Spencer Frye said.

The first tenants - a homeless husband and wife who are living in shelters and making ends meet recycling scrap metal - will move in next week and serve as caretakers, Frye said.

"Then we can potentially move them into home ownership," he said.

Volunteers are also working on two Habitat houses in Carpenter's Circle, a small seven-house subdivision off Burney Street. One will belong to Tina Steele, a hospital cook

and Habitat volunteer, and her 10-year-old son.

"They are amazing, every group that comes out," Steele said.

When they're not hammering nails and painting walls, Collegiate Challenge participants sleep at Milledge Avenue Baptist Church and shower at the Athens YMCA. They provide their own transportation, and local restaurants are donating meals.

In their spare time, students said they plan to tour the UGA campus and check out the downtown Athens bar scene. ■

HOT YOGA NASHVILLE

COOLEST THING IN FITNESS!

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
AM	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	6:00	8:00	
	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30
PM	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	
	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30
	6:15	6:15	6:15	6:15			6:15
	7:45	7:45	7:45	7:45			

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■ COLUMN

Wrapped up in parentheses

BEN WYATT
Columnist

My spring break was pretty uneventful, but I wouldn't have had it any other way. I eschewed both the revelries of Florida's beaches and the moral satisfaction (also, the month's worth of ASB-related puns) of Alternative Spring Break for the comforts of my hometown — Evansville, Ind. It is not a particularly exciting place, but when you need a break, there's nowhere like home for some rest and relaxation. Plus, Evansville holds a lot of good memories for me, so it's nice to revisit the town where I was born and raised. This time, though, I realized that I had missed Evansville — particularly my high school years — more than I ever thought I would.

I don't miss high school, and as long as my mind is sane, I never will. I will never miss the boredom, the petty gossip, the pointless rules and the awful smell (seriously, my high school was built on top of a sewage line) that defined my high school. I miss the people who made high school bearable — the best friends, the beloved teachers. Whenever I go back to Evansville, some part of my subconscious expects all those people to be back there, exactly as they were when I graduated.

For the past few years, those expectations were most met. Friends' breaks have matched mine, and if I ever wanted to visit, my high school had plenty of familiar faces. Not this time, though. Some old friends were in town, but most of them were still in school. Consequently, I spent most of the week hanging out and resting at home. That's

not a bad way to spend a break as far as I'm concerned, but it was unnerving to be at home when most of the people who made home memorable were elsewhere.

One of my favorite sentences in literature comes from John Irving's "The Cider House Rules": "What is hardest to accept about the passage of time is that the people who once mattered the most to us are wrapped up in parentheses." That is what I fear is happening to my old friends — not that they are becoming less valuable, or that we won't greet each other with warm recognition when we meet again, but that as our lives move towards disparate goals, we may (we must, perhaps) become parenthetical to each other. We start to occupy the hazy margins of each other's thoughts, only coming to the forefront when some memory of high school brings us to the light.

I don't know why this realization didn't come until spring break of my junior year. This process has been going on since I first left for college. And it's not like I haven't stayed in contact with my friends, or even that our friendships have weakened over the course of three years. They haven't. Still, there is something very bittersweet about the realization that the friendships that were once the center of your life have become peripheral. I suppose it's a part of life. But it's a part I have yet to reconcile myself to.

— Ben Wyatt is a senior in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at benjamin.k.wyatt@vanderbilt.edu.

■ COLUMN

The Fed will not save us

BRAD GIROD
Columnist

I have been catching up on the news over spring break, and while it is educational, it is one of the single most frustrating things that I have participated in. The country is doing all of us a great disservice by standing in the way of something only the American people can amend: the economic climate. If you feel that the government has been responsible for innovations in the market, you have not been paying attention, but my goal is not to glorify the market, because there are flaws. I want to glorify the worker that our government says they recognize, but sadly, their actions prove contrary.

“I want to glorify the worker that our government says they recognize, but sadly, their actions prove contrary.”

We all know people that work hard to get by. It is important that people work but also that they are rewarded for their work. We all have experienced times where we could not pay for something, whether it was because we couldn't afford it or just didn't have the money with us. We spend our time, our energy, and we apply our hopes, as well as aspirations, to our work. Does anyone believe in their work? If you don't believe in your work, do you believe in your freedom?

Money is about freedom, your

work is about freedom. In school, your aim is to be prepared for a job that will pay you well so that you can have the freedom to take a road trip, to fly to a new part of the country, to live with the ability to spend money on something you care about like a cause that supports disabled children. You work for your freedom! Why doesn't anyone feel passionate enough to demand that our federal government spend the money that they take in from taxes wisely? Do any of you care about your freedom? What will you do without freedom? Can you consider yourself fulfilled if you live paycheck to paycheck while government bureaucrats allocate 20-30 percent of your income to things you do not believe in?

You work hard for every dollar that you make, and every dollar is a testament to the freedom you have to buy a cup of coffee in the morning when you start your workday. The American people are good citizens who submit to the government. This is your obligation, but the American people are the cogs in the beautiful watch that tolls the success of the American future, and for your work you deserve freedom. The government is obligated to ensure your freedoms, and if they cannot spend tax dollars appropriately, not only are they not ensuring your freedoms as an American but they are stripping you of them. Believe in your work, believe that you are the solution and above all believe in your freedom.

— Brad Girod is a senior in the College of Arts and Science. He can be reached at bradley.j.girod@vanderbilt.edu.

■ COLUMN

Bracket madness gets the best of us



CLAIRE COSTANTINO
Columnist

In completing my first competition bracket, I have found my new passion in life. This bracket wasn't for NCAA March Madness, although that's next on my to-do list. I filled out my Fug Madness Bracket for the annual "Who's the worst/craziest/most confounding/weirdest fashion figure" competition that the celebrity fashion blog Go Fug Yourself holds every year. After a close examination of red carpet appearances and candid paparazzi photos, I have the Smith Family winning the whole thing. Tilda Swinton, Lady Gaga and Taylor Momsen are well-ranked and challenging competitors, but I think the Smith family has the sort of powerful group presence that can defeat whatever too-thin starlet tries to impede their march to the Fug Madness championship.

The lessons from this bracket-making process were threefold: first, someone needs to stage an intervention and take back all of Taylor Momsen's eyeliner pencils; second, I have an unhealthy interest in celebrities; and third, I am in love with brackets. Why do we limit our usage of brackets to just March? This is my new favorite method of dispute resolution, and I think it successfully resolves more than basketball competition in the spring.

What's the best burger in Houston, my beloved hometown? Let's bracket this out. Local paper The Houston Press made a Sweet 16 competition so we can know for sure (I have my childhood favorite, Beck's Prime, winning). What's the douchiest college in America? Well, I'd imagine we'd break that into four divisions — fratty, pretentious, overly intellectual and shamelessly stupid — and stage a match-up between the contenders. Although your least favorite state school, a small liberal arts school in New England, and an unaccredited online college would make valiant efforts to win, I would put those eternally self-aggrandizing jerks over at Duke in the winning spot in my bracket.

Brackets don't have to be all fun and games, either. Ranking and comparing can help us answer the big questions in life, even political ones. It seems like every day a new Republican hints at running for president in 2012, and I don't know how conservative voters are supposed to weed through the horde and find a worthy challenger to Obama ... unless they make a pre-primary season bracket about it. Regional divisions I would recommend for this competition include bouffant haircuts, known adulterers, crazy and Southern governors. Get to ranking, The Vanderbilt Torch!

“Ranking and comparing can help us answer the big questions in life, even political ones.”

Of course, the most important brackets this March will be the ones that started it all, the NCAA basketball tournament competitions. Unfortunately, these are the brackets I am least qualified to fill out. The only hard and fast certainty I know about basketball is that Jeff Taylor is beautiful, so I will be filling out my basketball brackets without any regard for coaches or depth and skill of the teams. My bracket is going to be a battle between mascots with Vanderbilt as the ultimate champion. Birds and bugs, even angry-looking ones, don't stand a chance (tough luck, Louisville and Temple). Sure, a Commodore doesn't seem like the toughest mascot out there, but I think his opposable thumbs and mad sabre-wielding skills will come through for him against his competition. Plus, Jeff Taylor is our actual mascot in my heart, and even a wildcat can't defeat that jaw line.

— Claire Costantino is a senior in the College of Arts and Science. She can be reached at claire.v.costantino@vanderbilt.edu.

THE RANT



What is on your mind? The Rant is your place to anonymously sound off on any issue you want. To submit to The Rant, e-mail opinion@insidevandy.com or go to the opinion page on InsideVandy.com.

Compiled by the staff of The Hustler

Hey Vandy, what ever happened with the BYX ruling? Or was the "investigation" just a toothless political gesture? Pathetic.

Why are you filling the paper with AP stories? If I want national news, I'm definitely looking places other than The Hustler.

Wait, so they're getting rid of WRVU to get HD VTV? I don't know ANYONE who watches that drivel.

Why do they turn up the heat so high in Central Library? Is it because their new cafe needs more customers?

If you're going to change the printing in Sarratt, at least make sure it works.

VANDERBILT ATHLETICS: Quit selling the student section tickets to games! NOT COOL.

Hey Vanderbilt IT: Why do you have a photo of a kid wearing a Georgetown hoodie on our home page? We go to Vanderbilt.

OPINION POLICY

The Vanderbilt Hustler opinion page aims to stimulate discussion in the Vanderbilt community. In that spirit, columnists, guest columnists and authors of letters to the editor are expected to provide logical argument to back their views. Unreasonable arguments, arguments in bad faith or arguments in vain between columnists have no place in The Hustler and will not be published. The Hustler welcomes reader viewpoints and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on InsideVandy.com.

Letters must be submitted either in person by the author to the Hustler office or via e-mail to opinion@insidevandy.com. Letters via e-mail must come from

a Vanderbilt e-mail address where the identity of the sender is clear. With rare exception, all letters must be received by 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday or Sunday. The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length as well as clarity.

Lengthy letters that focus on an issue affecting students might be considered for a guest column at the editor's discretion.

All submissions become the property of The Hustler and must conform to the legal standards of Vanderbilt Student Communications, of which The Hustler is a division.

CORRECTION POLICY

Accuracy is our profession. As the "Voice of Vanderbilt," we are committed to ensuring our work is fair and accurate. Errors of substance will be corrected. With very rare exception, these corrections will be listed on Page 2.

Bring corrections to the Hustler office in Sarratt 130 or e-mail us at hustler.news@insidevandy.com. You may also report them by telephone to the news line at (615) 322-2424.

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

Your voice doesn't stop here. The Vanderbilt Hustler encourages its readers to voice their opinions on legislative issues. The following students and legislators represent the Vanderbilt community.

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LIFE

■ MUSIC

Four bands to see in the spring

EVAN JEHL
Staff Writer

Bright Eyes Though now in his 30s, Conor Oberst may just always be that whiny teenager from the Midwest. To others, he may



very well be this generation's Bob Dylan, even at the risk of taking such a name in vain. Either way, Oberst has remained prolific as a singer-songwriter, releasing a steady volume of material since the age of 13, and receiving accolades such as Rolling Stone's "Best Songwriter of 2008." Despite numerous collaborations and side projects, Bright Eyes endures as the main vessel for his poetic breadth and quivering catharsis. So if you do not already have plans for this Thursday, March 17, you might consider witnessing the legend at the Ryman Auditorium.

Godspeed You! Black Emperor Although famously referenced in the movie "Pineapple Express," this Montreal collective remains largely unknown to most, and enigmatic to the few who have heard of them. Their lengthy, orchestral suites have often been associated with post-rock contemporaries such as Sigur Ros. Just think of a dark, avant-garde doppelganger to The Polyphonic Spree, with a tacitly anarchist agenda, and you have Godspeed You! Black Emperor. Their notoriously reclusive nature (they have only recently begun touring after a seven-year hiatus) makes their rare appearance at the Cannery Ballroom on March 24 all the more worth seeing.

Destroyer Another Canadian indie veteran, Destroyer is the brainchild of Dan Bejar. Though known primarily for his work with The New Pornographers, Bejar becomes a



KONSTANDINOS DAGAS



Destroyer Kaputt

TED BOIS/ Photo Provided

different kind of animal under his central stage name, one in a perpetual state of evolution, from his seminal alt-country "Rubies" album to his recent Midi-heavy masterpiece "Kaputt." Nevertheless, his esoteric lyricism and charmingly pretentious delivery remain warm-blooded to stylistic reinvention. To borrow from his single "Bay of Pigs," what better way to spend April 9 than at the Mercy Lounge with Destroyer, "sha-la-la wouldn't you say?"

Interpol Along with The Strokes, Interpol remains an enduring archetype of the New York indie scene, garnering enough



KONSTANDINOS DAGAS

attention over the years to surpass the actual International Criminal Police Organization for which they are named as the first Google search result. Impressive. And like the constituents of their namesake, Paul Banks' deadpan vocals and Daniel Kessler's rhythmic guitar harmonies together forge a kind of driving force, arrestingly visceral even in its stark, formulaic construction. They will be playing at the Ryman Auditorium on May 2 and should be well worth your finals procrastination for that evening. ■

■ FASHION

STYLE SPOTTER:

Looking good for the gym

LEX ARDELJAN-BRADEN
Asst. Life Editor

Whether spring break included service, relaxation or debauchery, many students are well aware that it is high time for a mini-detox and major gym regimen. The most committed of Commodores have already gotten back into the swing of things at the Rec. But with everyone eager to hit the elliptical, it is going to be a bit more difficult to avoid that certain someone while wearing those not exactly flattering eight-year-old sweat pants.

Follow the suit of sophomores Katie Dunn, Dani Portugal, Liza Warshaver

and junior Christy Bertelsen, who keep their gym attire fun. The Rec is a great place to represent what you're all about in the form of a t-shirt — think sorority tank, a band cut-off like Dunn or a college tee for those who are a little closer to Graduate School. Coupled with a fresh pair of Nike running shorts and some neon running shoes (see Warshaver), a tank or tee makes for the perfect gym ensemble.

As always, don't forget that



CHRIS HONIBALL/ The Vanderbilt Hustler Benjamin Eagles displays his kicks on the basketball court in the Student Recreation Center.

snug sports bra. For guys, a tee, basketball shorts and a fresh pair of kicks like senior Benjamin Eagles' take the cake. ■



CHRIS HONIBALL/ The Vanderbilt Hustler

From left, Danni Portugal, Liza Warshaver, Christy Bertelsen and Katie Dunn show off their gym fashion in the Student Rec Center.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY: What to drink

From ST. PATRICK'S DAY, page 1

WHAT TO DRINK

Seth Alexander, who bartends at McFadden's, suggests three authentic drink recipes to ring in St. Patrick's Day like the Irish.

Irish Car Bomb

- 1/2 pint of Guinness beer
- 1/2 shot of Bailey's liquor and 1/2 shot of Jameson whiskey (poured into the same shot glass)
- "Just drop the shot into the glass of beer and chug. Actually, you do have to drink it quickly, otherwise the Bailey's will curdle," says Alexander. Finally, a legitimate reason to chug a beer and not look like a douche, also known as a prerogative term for a jerk.

Half & Half

- 1/2 pint of Harp Lager
- 1/2 pint of Guinness beer
- For beer drinkers only, this mix is an alternative to Natty Light. The Guinness floats to the top for a heavy drink worthy of seasoned drinkers.

IRISH COFFEE

- 1 shot of Jameson whiskey
- 1 cup of black coffee
- Since it's the first week after spring break, Vanderbilt students are all partied out. Fortunately, caffeine works wonders for the weary.

McFadden's, located on 2nd Avenue, will hold its fourth annual "McPatty's Day Fest" Thursday, beginning at 8 a.m. with "Kegs & Eggs." The bar will run festive drink specials all-day long, such as \$3 green beer, \$4 Guinness, \$5 shots of Jameson whiskey, and \$8 Irish Car Bombs. Even if you finish class at 11 a.m., it's never too early to head over.

PRACTICE MODERATION ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Last St. Patrick's Day, Metro Nashville Police arrested 37 individuals for DUI between 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 17, and 6 a.m. Thursday, March 18.

Vanderbilt Police Sergeant Tommy Sutton reminds students of the repercussions of irresponsible, excessive or unsafe drinking.

"Students should be mindful of activities related to alcohol related incidents, which not only affect your criminal record, but can affect your professional career years later," said Sergeant Sutton.

Students celebrating the holiday can take advantage of Nashville Sober Rides program. For a sober ride between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m., call (615) 862 — RIDE (7433). ■

■ CULTURE

The Art of War: Vanderbilt Fine Arts Gallery exhibit



Photo Provided

The works exhibited in "Reflections of War" also highlight the history of the Fine Arts Galleries collection, with pieces that number among the original donation to begin Vanderbilt's art collection. Several of the works have never been shown on campus before.

COURTNEY ROGERS
Staff Writer

On the other side of 21st Avenue, war is brewing. No, first year students haven't revolted against the delicious monotony of food at The Commons; this war is splashed across prints and posters in Cohen Memorial Hall in the Vanderbilt Fine Arts Gallery's newest exhibition.

Titled "Reflections of War," the exhibition is presented in recognition of America's longest war as the country enters its tenth year of fighting in Afghanistan. Through various media and over fifty works of art, Reflections of War confronts viewers with depictions of war and warriors that span from Pre-Columbian times to powerful contemporary prints.

In addition to showcasing pieces from a broad range of cultures, the scope of the exhibition also allows for a diverse range of opinions on war. While the vintage American World War I propaganda posters extoll the virtues of supporting the troops, prints by 19th century French satirists Daumier and Cham are critical of France's

role in the Franco-Prussian War and its tragic results.

For those looking for inspiration to win the war against homework and term papers, the Fine Arts Gallery is hosting an opening reception Thursday, March 24, from 5-7 p.m., which is free and open to the public. "Reflections of War" will be on view until May 13. ■

SPORTS

■ MEN'S BASKETBALL

Spiders present problems for Vandy

REID HARRIS
Asst. Sports Editor

Richmond enters the NCAA Tournament on a seven-game winning streak, including an upset of the then-No. 18 Temple Owls in the Atlantic 10 conference tournament. The Spiders are peaking at the perfect time of the year — only one of their last seven opponents has come within 10 points of handing them a loss.

"They're a very high major team," said Coach Kevin Stallings. "They've got high major players and high major success."

Among Richmond's talented players is senior forward Justin Harper. Regarded by many as a potential first-round pick in this year's NBA draft, Harper leads Richmond in both scoring and rebounding with 17.9 points and seven rebounds per game. Standing 6-foot-10, Harper can effectively play in the post but is most dangerous around the perimeter, where he shoots 47 percent from behind the 3-point arc.

Containing Harper will be critical to Vanderbilt's success against Richmond. Forward Lance Goulbourne struggled against Kentucky's versatile forward Terrence Jones earlier this year in both matchups against the Wildcats — if Goulbourne can't figure out how to stop Harper, it could be a long day for the Commodores.

As a team, the Spiders' biggest strength is their defense. Giving up just 61 points per game, Richmond's defense is ranked 21st in the country. Richmond primarily runs a matchup-zone, a defensive strategy that combines elements of man-to-man and zone defenses that will allow them to key in on Vanderbilt sharpshooter John Jenkins. Using that matchup-zone defense, Richmond has held opponents

to shooting just 30 percent from 3-point range, 12th best in the country.

Because of the Spiders' ability to defend perimeter shooting, Vanderbilt will count on Festus Ezeli and Jeff Taylor to put up big numbers in the paint. Taylor averaged 21.7 points per game in the SEC tournament and will look to continue his postseason success on Thursday.

On the forefront of many Commodore fans' minds will be Vanderbilt's recent history in the NCAA Tournament. In each of their last two appearances, peaking mid-major teams, not unlike Richmond, have knocked off the Commodores in the first round. This history was the first thing Vanderbilt players were asked about after drawing Richmond in the first round.

"We're just excited to play. We're ready to come out and play," said Festus Ezeli. "We just have to come out and prove ourselves."

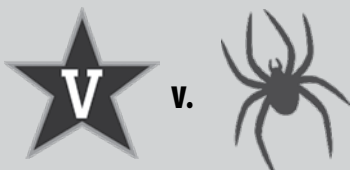
Thursday's game tips off in Denver, Colo. at 3:10 p.m. CT. The winning team will advance to play the winner of Louisville and Morehead State on Saturday. ■



RICHMOND ATHLETICS

Forward Justin Harper (32) and the Atlantic 10 Champion Richmond Spiders have the shooters to send Vanderbilt packing early.

NEXT GAME



VANDERBILT VS. RICHMOND

Thursday, March 17

3:10 p.m. CT

NCAA Tournament - First Round

Pepsi Center

Denver, Colo.

TV: TBS **RADIO:** 97.1 FM

■ WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Vandy returns to Cincinnati



CHRIS HONIBALL/ The Vanderbilt Hustler

On Monday night, the women's basketball team learned it would play its first-round game in Cincinnati for the second straight year, earning a 10-seed in the Spokane Region. Senior guard Jence Rhoads (far left) and the Commodores will face off against 7-seed Louisville on Sunday.

NEXT GAME



VANDERBILT AT LOUISVILLE

Sunday, Mar. 20

11:10 p.m. CT

NCAA Tournament - First Round

Cintas Center — Cincinnati, OH

TV: ESPN2 **RADIO:** 560 AM

BASEBALL OPENS CONFERENCE PLAY



MISSISSIPPI STATE AT VANDERBILT

Friday, Mar. 18 — 6 p.m. CT

Saturday, Mar. 19 — 2 p.m. CT

Sunday, Mar. 20 — 1 p.m. CT

Hawkins Field — Nashville, TN **RADIO:** 560 AM

■ MEN'S BASKETBALL

Matchup against the Spiders

BY PETER NYGAARD

VANDERBILT  Who's got the edge?  RICHMOND



BRAD TINSLEY

Point Guard

With last year's Atlantic-10 Player of the Year in Kevin Anderson, the Spiders have a clear advantage at point. Brad Tinsley is solid, and Kyle Fuller plays physical defense, but Richmond possesses the one thing Vanderbilt lacks — a game-changing point guard.



KEVIN ANDERSON



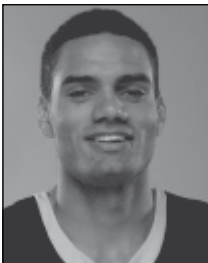
JOHN JENKINS

Shooting Guard

John Jenkins was on many short lists for the Southeastern Conference Player of the Year. A dead-eye shooter and improving penetrator, Jenkins lends the Commodores a matchup advantage against most teams. Darien Brothers is a dangerous shooter, but Richmond is no exception.



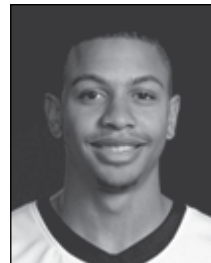
DARIEN BROTHERS



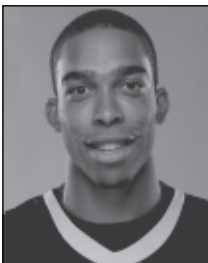
JEFF TAYLOR

Small Forward

Despite his inconsistencies, Jeff Taylor is one of the SEC's most athletically gifted players. He will be facing off against a player in Kevin Smith who can go inch-for-inch with him on a vertical jump. If Taylor shows up to play — which he has done lately — the Commodores have the clear advantage.



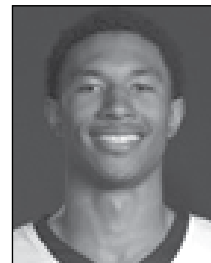
KEVIN SMITH



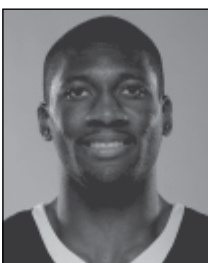
LANCE GOULBOURNE

Power Forward

Lance Goulbourne carved out a niche for himself in relief for an injured Andre Walker, but he'll be facing off against a bona fide NBA first-rounder in Justin Harper. Harper can post up, is a deadly shooter and has the size and athleticism to stretch the floor. Expect the Commodores to show Harper several different matchups, as his performance should be key to Richmond's chances.



JUSTIN HARPER



FESTUS EZELI

Center

The much-awaited emergence of Festus Ezeli has proven to be even better than many expected. Ezeli was one of the top centers in the SEC this year and is able to physically dominate most others. Richmond's Dan Geriot has a nice comeback story, but the undersized center will likely struggle against the much bigger Ezeli.



DAN GERIOT

■ MEN'S BASKETBALL

Upsets to watch

Members of The Hustler sports staff defend their upset predictions for the second round of the NCAA Tournament. Who will be this year's most unexpected bracket-buster? Before you lock in your bracket for good on Thursday, you might want to entertain these leaps of faith.

ERIC SINGLE'S PICK



15-SEED LONG ISLAND OVER 2-SEED NORTH CAROLINA

For those of you who made it past the headline, bless you. Three statistics to consider: Long Island has the fourth highest scoring offense in the entire nation at 82.6 points per game, the third most rebounds per game in the country with 41.8 and the nation's longest active winning streak at 13. They can be pretty careless with the ball and are not exactly stalwart on the defensive end of the floor, but the Blackbirds

can score, and against a similarly free-wheeling offense like North Carolina's, at least they won't be taken out of their element. Sure, the game will be played in Charlotte, the closest thing to a home game the Tar Heels could ask for. But remember the days when we didn't research our brackets as well and every upset caught the entire country by surprise? This is a prediction in that tradition. ■

JACKSON MARTIN'S PICK



12-SEED UTAH STATE OVER 5-SEED KANSAS STATE

A quick glance at the latest AP poll might shock someone trying to research their pick for this game, because 12-seed Utah State is ranked No. 19, while 5-seed Kansas State is ranked No. 21. The Aggies have only lost 3 games all year, with two of those coming to No. 10 BYU and then-No. 14 Georgetown. Kansas State has been one of the most inconsistent teams in the country all year, losing 5 of 7 games during one crucial stretch in

the Big 12. The Wildcats are susceptible to being torn up by a high scoring forward, which is just what the Aggies have in senior Tai Wesley, who averages 14 points and eight rebounds a game. Wesley is very much in the Jeff Taylor mold of a forward, in that he can hit jump shots but also drive the lane to score points. He is liable to go off for 25 points any night, and if he does, expect the Aggies to "upset" Kansas State. ■

MEGHAN ROSE'S PICK



13-SEED BELMONT OVER 4-SEED WISCONSIN

Commodore fans are all too familiar with the dangers of a 4-seed/13-seed matchup come March. In the team's past two tournament appearances, Vanderbilt entered the NCAA Tournament with an impressive 4-seed, only to fall victim to a first-game upset.

This year, it's neighboring Belmont that finds itself in the 4-seed/13-seed matchup, but as the trendy 13-

seed underdog, looking to spoil the favorite's plans for a tournament run. While some may overlook Belmont as just another conference champion and automatic bid, the Bruins are not a team to be taken lightly. Belmont won its last game by eight more points than their opening-round opponent Wisconsin scored all game in its quarterfinal loss to Penn State at the Big Ten Tournament. ■

PETER NYGAARD'S PICK



12-SEED CLEMSON/UAB OVER 5-SEED WEST VIRGINIA

Welcome to the new NCAA Tournament. With four more teams and a little more confusion, we're one step closer to picking brackets that look a lot like the one from BASEketball, complete with regions like the "American Southwestern Division East Northern." Even so, those picking the games haven't lost any intestinal fortitude, which leads me to my pick: Winner of East Region Play-in Game No. 2 (Clemson vs. UAB) over West Virginia. Vandy

fans may fondly remember the Mountaineers as the team that dispatched Kentucky last year in the Elite Eight, but don't be Pittsnogled by last year's success. This year's team has struggled immensely on off nights, which bodes well for potential opponents Clemson and UAB, both of whom thrive on limiting quality shots. Both teams are short on quality wins, but so were Miami and Marshall when they beat West Virginia in neutral site games. ■

REID HARRIS' PICK



11-SEED MISSOURI OVER 6-SEED CINCINNATI

The Tigers are a team that has been wildly inconsistent this season — although they finished out the year dropping four of their last five games, they spend most of the first half of the season ranked in the Top 25 and reached as high as No. 11 in the AP poll. Vanderbilt fans will surely remember Missouri's leading scorer

Marcus Denmon, who put up 19 points after halftime in Missouri's win over the Commodores in December. After an early exit from the Big 12 tournament and receiving a bid lower than they expected, the experienced Tigers team will travel to Washington, D.C. with a chip on their shoulder to knock off the Bearcats. ■

■ MEN'S BASKETBALL

SEC teams in the field

Florida

AMIT CHAKRABORTY
Staff Writer

Despite the crushing loss to the Kentucky Wildcats in the SEC tournament championship game, the Gators' regular season merit earned them a 2-seed in the Southeast Region.

Georgia

ERIC SINGLE
Asst. Sports Editor

After two close losses in the same week to fellow bubble resident Alabama, including a 65-59 overtime heartbreaker in the quarterfinals of the SEC Tournament on Friday, Georgia and its postseason aspirations had been left for dead. But on Sunday, the Bulldogs were rewarded for the body of work they amassed over the course of the whole season with the 10th seed in the

With SEC Player of the Year Chandler Parsons leading a deep team, the Florida Gators could make a lot of noise in the tournament. The first two rounds should be simple for the Gators. A decent UCLA team or a historically good Michigan State team may cause some problems in the second round but Florida should be able to

East Region. Now that Travis Leslie, Trey Thompkins and the rest of an athletic, versatile lineup have made it onto the bracket, all bets are off.

Georgia has players at every position on the floor who can carry the scoring burden for half a game or a game at a time. Leslie in particular impressed last weekend in Atlanta with consecutive double-doubles and a game-high 24 points in his team's loss to Alabama. Thompkins, a more consistent scorer, is as much of a threat at 6-feet-10-inches to hit an open look from 3-point range

handle either team. The biggest problem will be the potential matchups against BYU, St. John's, Wisconsin, Kansas State or Pittsburgh in the next two rounds. Despite their strong regular season, two consecutive rounds of juggernaut teams should have the Gators heading home by the end of the second weekend. ■

as he is to post up in front of the opposing team's center.

An early-season victory over Kentucky in January showcased the high level this group can play at, but Coach Mark Fox has yet to fully eradicate the inconsistency that has confounded the Georgia program since NBA legend Dominique Wilkins was a Bulldog in the early 1980s. Only their fortuitous similarity in makeup and style to the other three teams in its quarter of the East bracket offers the Bulldogs hope at surviving the first weekend. ■

Kentucky

AMIT CHAKRABORTY
Staff Writer

The Wildcats are coming hot off a blowout win against the Florida Gators in the SEC Tournament championship game. As a 4-seed in the East bracket, the Wildcats

should easily make it past the first two rounds behind freshmen Brandon Knight and Terrence Jones. After that, it starts to look a little grim for Big Blue Nation. If they make it to the Sweet Sixteen round, Kentucky will most likely play and fall to the number one overall Ohio State Buckeyes, led by freshmen Jared

Sullinger. However, if Kentucky can play like they did during the SEC tournament, they could be a sleeper Elite Eight or even Final Four team. Playing stellar defense and having the freshmen starters produce could make Kentucky a very dangerous team in the East bracket, but expect them to be back in Lexington by next Friday. ■

Tennessee

GEORGE BARCLAY
Staff Writer

On Friday, 9-seed Tennessee (19-14, 8-8 Southeastern Conference) will take on eighth seeded Michigan (20-13, 9-9 Big Ten Conference). The Volunteers are known for their up-tempo offense and reliance on easy

transition baskets inside, while the Wolverines run a methodical half-court offense geared towards shots from beyond the 3-point arc. In this evenly matched contest, Tennessee will look for a third scorer to add to the contributions of junior guard Scotty Hopson and freshman forward Tobias Harris. As for Michigan, the Wolverines will try to keep the pace slow in order

to dominate the defensive glass. Two players to watch in this game are high-flying Tennessee guard Scotty Hopson and freshman sharpshooter Tim Hardaway Jr., son of former NBA All-Star Tim Hardaway, for Michigan. Whoever wins this game has the potential to upset the higher seeds in the West Region such as Duke, San Diego State, UConn and Texas. ■

AN APOLOGY TO OUR STUDENTS

When regularly scheduled games fall during breaks and holidays, Vanderbilt Athletics typically works with university staff members to estimate the number of students that might attend the game. Unfortunately, there was a miscalculation for the Florida basketball game and some of our students were temporarily inconvenienced as they arrived at Memorial Gymnasium. While every Vanderbilt student gained entry, Vanderbilt Athletics would like to express its regret for any inconvenience that any student may have experienced.

We have already taken steps to improve communication so that we can avoid similar incidents in the future. We are proud of our students and appreciate their support; our students make Memorial Magical!



BACK PAGE

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THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephams Group

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- 4

			9	5		4		
	9		6	7		2		
1						8		
	8	7						
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	2							5
6	3	2			8			
5	4		3					

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

3/4 Solutions

2	6	9	7	4	3	8	1	5
4	8	1	6	9	5	3	7	2
3	7	5	1	2	8	4	9	6
5	3	4	9	8	1	6	2	7
7	2	6	5	3	4	1	8	9
9	1	8	2	7	6	5	3	4
8	9	3	4	5	7	2	6	1
6	4	2	3	1	9	7	5	8
1	5	7	8	6	2	9	4	3

3/16/11

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CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Inedible Swiss cheese part?
- 5 Sched. uncertainty letters
- 8 Greet the bad guy
- 14 Bard's black
- 15 "___ Latest Flame": Presley hit
- 16 Bird that hangs its nest from a branch
- 17 "Survey response
- 19 Rang
- 20 Juliet's volatile cousin
- 21 "Trying to remember
- 23 Suffer defeat
- 25 Cubic roller
- 26 "Prospects
- 29 Cartoon skunk Le Pew
- 32 Mideast political gp.
- 33 UPS delivery
- 34 Know-it-all
- 38 "Tomorrow" musical
- 40 Push-up sound, perhaps
- 41 Longtime Dodgers manager
- 44 Org. with shrinks
- 46 Push-up garment
- 47 Software buyer
- 48 "Disposition
- 50 Chinese menu general
- 53 Beethoven's only opera
- 55 "Cocky manner
- 58 Draw into wrongdoing

- 62 ___ Tomatoes: film review website
- 63 Word (suggested by the black shape in this grid's center) that can precede the answers to starred clues
- 65 "Wait!"
- 66 Calendar col.
- 67 Weighty production
- 68 Oppressive boss
- 69 Short flight
- 70 Cubicle furnishing

DOWN

- 1 Test the weight of
- 2 Carry out
- 3 Leopold's co-defendant
- 4 Ultimate goal
- 5 "Not to worry"
- 6 Cristal maker
- 7 Mail an invitation for, as a wedding
- 8 Best-seller
- 9 Age opening?
- 10 Hairlike corn feature
- 11 Like a rock
- 12 Nicholas Gage memoir
- 13 Rushlike plant
- 18 "SportsCenter's Not Top Plays" videos, e.g.
- 22 Marching syllables
- 24 Pre-op test
- 26 Play-of-color gem
- 27 Forearm bone
- 28 Lots

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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3/16/11

3/4/11 Solutions

MUM	STEP	TWODAY
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	ASSENTS	ENTR
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STEN VERMUND, M.D. PH.D., is the Amos Christie Chair in Global Health, Professor of Pediatrics, and director of the university-wide Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health. He has founded two organizations to spearhead HIV prevention, care, and treatment in Africa: the Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia, and Friends in Global Health in Mozambique and Nigeria. He leads the HIV Prevention Trials Network for the NIH, and holds research and training grants in HIV/AIDS, African medical education, and U.S. global research. Dr. Vermund received the Superior Service Award from the U.S. Public Health Service and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine lifetime alumni achievement award.

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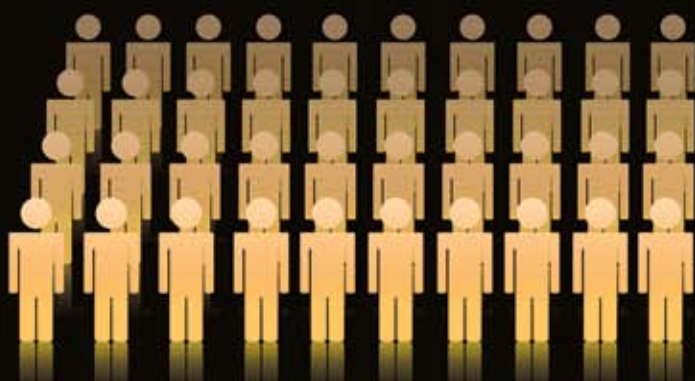
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vs. **RICHMOND**
Pepsi Center
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THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER'S 2011 NCAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT GUIDE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2011

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SPECIAL SECTION

Women survey road ahead

BY REID HARRIS
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

After an up-and-down regular season and a semifinal appearance in the SEC Tournament, on Monday night the Vanderbilt Commodore women's basketball team learned they were selected for the 2011 NCAA Tournament for the 12th straight season.

The Commodores will play the role of underdog with the No. 10 seed in the Spokane region of the field of 64 teams. The first round contest is a matchup against the 7-seed Louisville Cardinals, a team that has won six of its last nine games heading into the tournament.

Head Coach Melanie Balcomb watched the selection process in an event with the media on Monday night. "I don't know anything about Louisville," she said. "I'll be studying that as soon as we leave here today."

Balcomb will certainly spend time studying Louisville's 6-foot-1 forward Monique Reid, who leads the Cardinals in scoring and rebounding with 15.8 points and 6.3 rebounds per game. Reid will pose a difficult matchup for senior forward Hannah Tuomi and center Stephanie Holzer. How well the duo contain Reid will be critical to Vanderbilt's success in the first round.

"We've been playing really well. I think we still have

SEE ROAD, PAGE 8

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&
listen

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SPECIAL SECTION EDITOR: PETER NYGAARD



PHOTO BY BECK FRIEDMAN

How far can Vandy go?

BY JACKSON MARTIN
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

Vanderbilt, seeded No. 5, has an extremely tough road to the Final Four in this year's NCAA Tournament.

Even the Commodores' first-round matchup against Richmond has huge upset potential. Richmond, a 12-seed, was the Atlantic-10 Conference champion and has already knocked off two ranked teams in No. 24 Temple and No. 9 Purdue. Many national pundits have bemoaned the Spiders' perceived low seeding, and ESPN's Joe Lunardi had the Spiders slated to be a 10-seed in his final bracket projection before the field was announced.

Experienced bracketologists know that No. 12 seeds have a long and established history of upsetting No. 5 seeds in the first round. Since the NCAA Tournament expanded to 64 teams in 1985, 5-seeds have just a 69-35 record against 12-seeds, giving them a 66.3 percent winning

percentage. For comparison, 4-seeds have a 78.8 percent winning percentage, and 6-seeds win 70.2 percent of the time. At least one 12-seed has beaten a 5-seed in 23 of the last 26 tournaments.

Beyond those weird statistics, Richmond is just a really good team. They have won 11 of their last 12 games, including an undefeated run in the Atlantic-10 tournament. In Richmond's past six NCAA Tournament appearances — all as a double-digit seed — the Spiders have won their opening game four times. Vanderbilt, in comparison, has lost its last two opening round games, despite being a 4-seed in 2008 and last year.

Despite all of this, Vanderbilt is a better team on paper than Richmond. This game will be a close one, but look for the Commodores to come out on top. College basketball pundit Ken Pomeroy (who if you already familiar with then you should stop reading this article and go to kenpom.com right now) projects a Vanderbilt

win in 56 percent of his simulations. The rest of the country will be on upset alert Thursday when the Spiders and Commodores tip off, but the Commodores should pull through.

In the second round, the Commodores will likely face the 4th-seeded Louisville Cardinals. It would have the potential to be one of the most exciting games in the tournament, as both teams play fast-paced, 3-point oriented offenses that rely on four guards and one big man.

Louisville finished the season ranked No. 14 in the AP poll and is coming off a loss in the Big East championship game to Connecticut. Rick Pitino's team is very good offensively and is one of the premier teams in the country defensively. Louisville ranks No. 5 in the nation on defense, according to Pomeroy's adjusted defensive efficiency, which takes the amount of points a team scores per 100 possessions and adjusts

SEE HOW FAR, PAGE 9

GOLDEN PAST

Vanderbilt in the tournament

PROVIDED BY VUCOMMODORES.COM

MEN'S

- **NCAA Appearances:** 12 (1965, '74, '88, '89, '91, '93, '97, 2004, '07, '08, '10, '11)
- **NCAA Tournament Record:** 9-12 (.429)
- **Best NCAA Tournament Finish:** Elite 8 in 1965 (Field of 23); Sweet 16 in 1988, 1993, 2004, 2007 (Field of 64 or 65)
- Coach Kevin Stallings has led Vanderbilt to the NCAA Tournament five times (4-4)

- Vanderbilt is undefeated (4-0) in second round games
- The Commodores are currently on a three-game losing streak in the NCAA Tournament (Murray State, 2010; Siena, 2008; Georgetown, 2007)

WOMEN'S

- **NCAA Appearances:** 24 (1986, '87, '89, '90, '91, '92, '93, '94, '95, '96, '97, '98, 2000, '01, '02, '03, '04, '05, '06, '07, '08, '09, '10, '11)

- **NCAA Tournament Record:** 37-23 (.617)
- **Best NCAA Tournament Finish:** Final 4 in 1993 (Field of 48); Elite 8 in 1996 (Field of 64)
- Coach Melanie Balcomb has led Vanderbilt to the NCAA Tournament in each of her nine seasons with the school (12-8)
- The Commodores are 2-1 as a 10-seed in the tournament.
- The Commodores have won 11 consecutive first-round games, dating back to 2000



YEAR IN REVIEW/GRADUATION ISSUE

THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER'S YEAR-END SPECIAL ISSUE TO BE PUBLISHED WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27... JUST IN TIME FOR COMMENCEMENT VISITORS

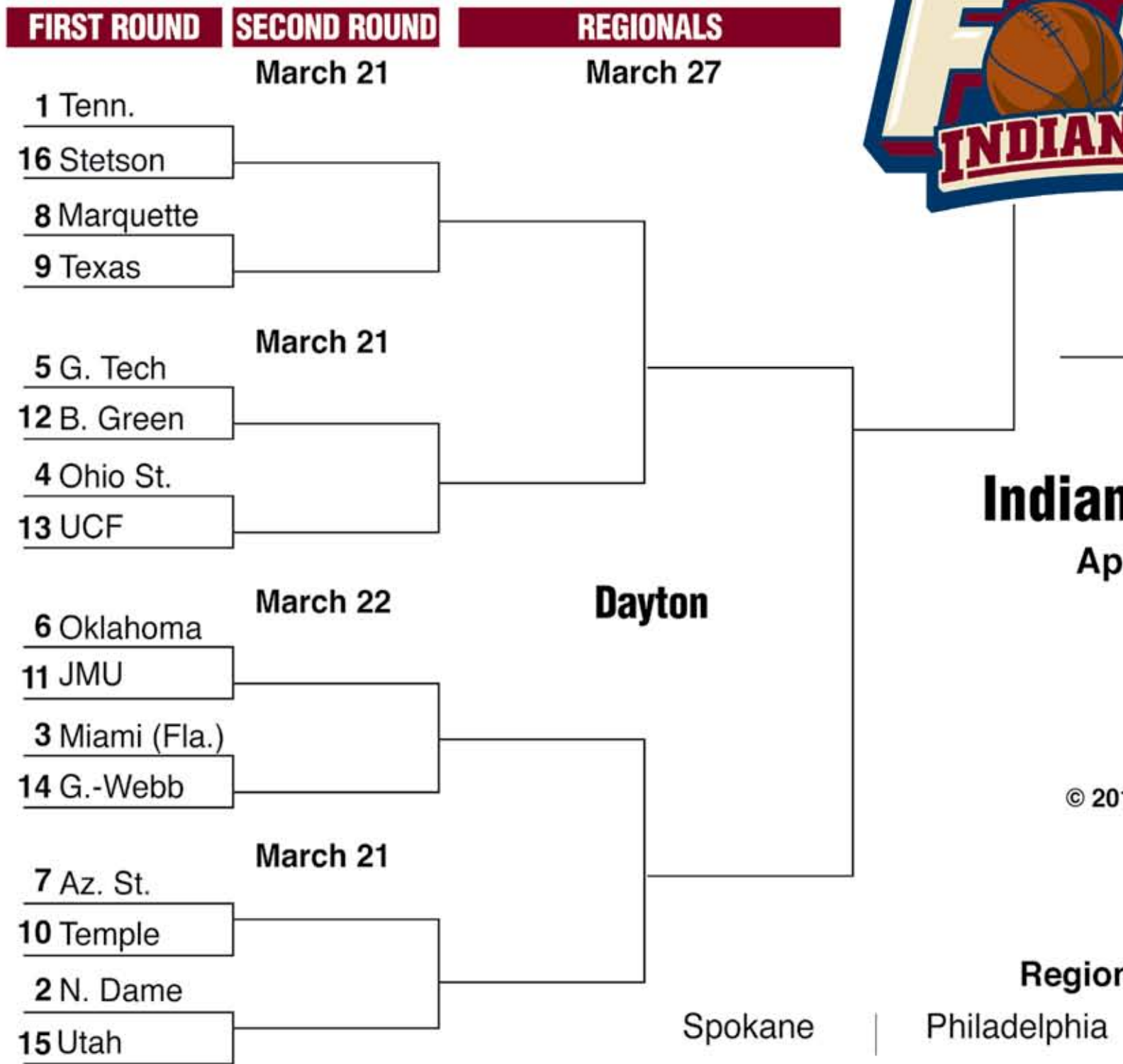
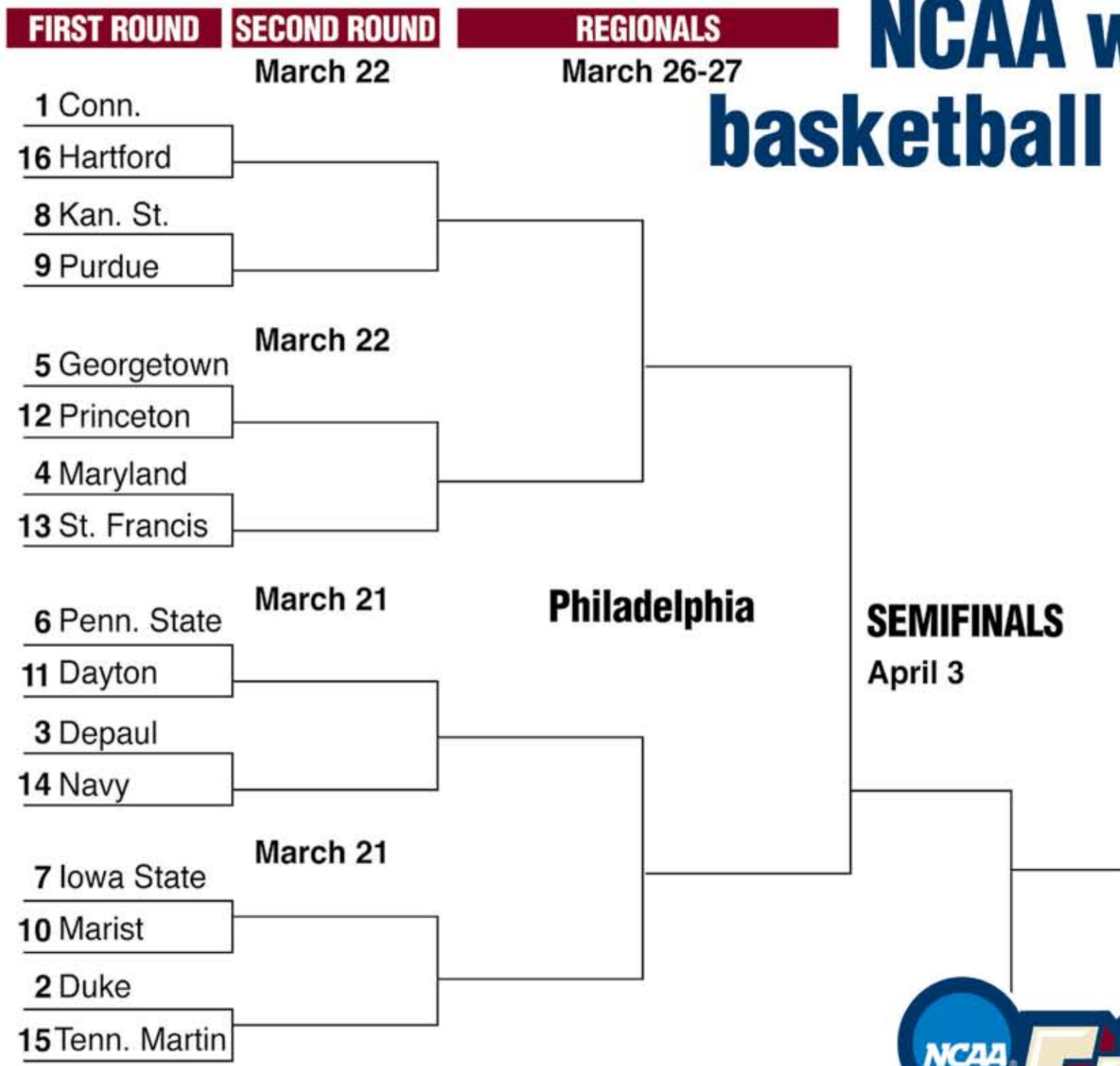
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KEY PLAYERS

BY PETER NYGAARD
SPECIAL SECTION EDITOR

YOU SHOULD KNOW FOR THIS YEAR'S TOURNAMENT

With 68 teams in the tournament, it can be hard to keep track of all the players. Here are five you should know beforehand so you don't end up throwing away your bracket.



PHOTO BY KERRY MALONEY, ORLANDO SENTINEL/INCT

CHRIS SINGLETON
FLORIDA STATE
13.8 PPG, 2.1 SPG, 1.6 BPG

Coming off a broken foot that cost him the last six games of the season, Singleton could help Florida State blow up the lower part of the Southwest region. On a Seminole team that finished the season ranked second in the nation in defensive efficiency, Singleton is the straw that stirs the drink. The 6-foot-9 junior does it all, playing physical defense, forcing turnovers, blocking shots and grabbing rebounds. He is also the leading scorer on a team that struggles to generate points. With a healthy Singleton, the 10th-seeded Seminoles seem like a strong bet to take down Texas A&M and could very well get the best of 2-seed Notre Dame, who relies on spreading the court and pulling the trigger from deep.



PHOTO BY MELINA YASTOLA

KEITH BENSON
OAKLAND
18 PPG, 10.1 RPG, 3.6 BPG

The two-time reigning Summit League Player of the Year was the biggest reason Oakland dominated conference opponents, winning 20 of 21 games against Summit League opponents this year. Benson played all 40 minutes for the Golden Grizzlies in last year's first round matchup with Pittsburgh and posted 28 points and 9 rebounds — but Oakland fell well short in their upset bid. This year, the 6-foot-10 senior has recorded 19 double-doubles, including notable performances against West Virginia, Purdue, Michigan State and Tennessee. An undersized Texas team means that Benson will likely add the Longhorns to an already impressive list, but will his supporting cast deliver enough for Oakland to make some noise?



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER PASARELLI, NEWSSTAR/INCT

DWIGHT HARDY
ST. JOHN'S
18 PPG, 1.3 SPG, .843 FT%

Normally, earning First Team All-Big East accolades is enough to catapult a player into the national spotlight, but Hardy has seemed to fly under the radar for most of the season as the heart-and-soul leader of a surprise St. John's team. An effortless scorer, Hardy went off for 26 in a win over Duke, scored 30+ in late-season wins over UConn and Villanova, and beat the buzzer against Pittsburgh. With guard D.J. Kennedy done for the season, the Red Storm will need Hardy to prove that his "Baddest Man on the Planet" moniker is more than just a nickname if they hope to make a deep run. If Hardy is plugged in, the Johnnies will be a freight train and could be the Southeast region's best bet to take down Florida — if not Pitt.



PHOTO BY JOE JASZEWSKI, IDAHO STATESMAN/INCT

TAI WESLEY
UTAH STATE
14.7 PPG, 8 RPG, .595 FG%

Wesley can best be described as a hard-nosed player, though conference foes have been doing their best to change that. The Western Athletic Conference Player of the Year suffered a broken nose in conference play for the second consecutive year, a testament to the throwback, physical style that has become his signature. The Aggies go to Wesley and his variety of post moves often, but his impact stretches to beyond his scoring ability. Wesley is adept at setting screens and is a capable interior passer, making him the ideal pivot for the team's motion offense. Utah State is a trendy upset pick in the first round, largely because of Wesley. If he can assert his dominance, they could be this year's surprise Sweet 16 team.



PHOTO BY CHUCK LIDDY, RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER/INCT

NOAH DAHLMAN
WOFFORD
20 PPG, 5.5 RPG, .612 FG%

Fans will be familiar with BYU's do-everything guard Jimmer Fredette, but the third-seeded Cougars will be facing a Wofford team with a prolific scorer of its own. The senior forward has reached the 20-point mark 17 times this season and has scored 30+ in three games, including a 33-point clinic in a narrow loss at Xavier. Despite his distinction as Wofford's 6-foot-6 de facto center, Dahlman is a crafty scorer in the paint and always seems to be in the right position to get to the rim. The Cougars have struggled in the absence of leading rebounder Brandon Davies — who was kicked off the team for violating the school's honor code — and a strong performance by Dahlman could make for a knockout blow.

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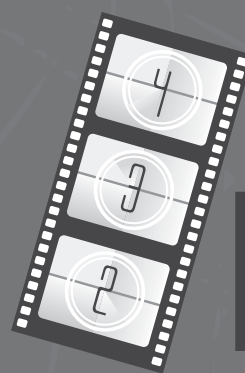
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EAST

March 16
16 Texas-SA
16 Ala. St.

SOUTHEAST

March 15
16 NC-Ashville
16 Ark.-Little Rock

FIRST
Dayton

EAST

SECOND ROUND

March 18

March 20

1 Ohio St.

16 Play-in

8 Geo. Mason

9 Villanova

March 17

March 19

5 W.Va.

12 Play-in

4 Kentucky

13 Princeton

March 18

March 20

6 Xavier

11 Marquette

3 Syracuse

14 Indiana St.

March 18

March 20

7 Washington

10 Georgia

2 UNC

15 LIU

REGIONALS

March 25-27

Newark

SEMIFINALS
Houston
April 2

WEST

SECOND ROUND

March 18

March 20

1 Duke

16 Hampton

8 Michigan

9 Tennessee

March 18

March 20

5 Arizona

12 Memphis

4 Texas

13 Oakland

March 17

March 19

6 Cincinnati

11 Missouri

3 UConn

14 Bucknell

March 17

March 19

7 Temple

10 Penn. St.

2 San Diego St.

15 N. Colorado

REGIONALS

March 24-26

Anaheim

NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP

Reliant
Houston
April 4

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Spirit**Traveling with the teams** BY GABY ROMAN
VSC MEDIA SERVICES**They cheer, dance, play music and rally in support of the Commodores.**

Collectively known as Vandy Fanatics, these die-hard teams of spirit are always present at game time, and they create the energetic atmosphere that makes going to a Vanderbilt basketball game a must-have college experience.



PHOTO BY NICOLE MARDEL

BAND

- The 50-member Basketball Band has supported the men's team since the 1960s and the women's team since the 1970s.
- It plays at all home games, except during the winter holidays, and 30 members travel to all post-season SEC, NCAA and NIT tournament games with the teams.
- The band travels with the teams on charter or commercial airlines. If the game location is close to Nashville, they travel by a chartered bus.
- "The Basketball Band provides the spirited atmosphere and emotion to get the crowd cheering and the team excited, feeling the famous 'Memorial Magic' in Memorial Gym." — Dwayne Sagen, Director of Bands



PHOTO BY NICOLE MARDEL

DANCE TEAM

- The Spirit of Gold Danceline has been present at every basketball game since the 1980s.
- They provide pregame and halftime dance entertainment and special routines, along with the cheerleaders and band, for special timeouts during the game. The dancers interact with the crowd and perform routines to hip hop and jazz music
- 16 dancers travel with the teams during post-season tournament time by way of chartered bus or plane.



PHOTO BY NICOLE MARDEL

MEMORIAL MANIACS

- The Maniacs were formed in 2003 as an exclusive group for selected VU basketball fans, but they recently have expanded to include all student fans.
- Maniacs show up to games wearing all black or gold, creating a sea of strength and support for the Commodores on the court.
- As the largest VU Basketball spirit group, the Maniacs make at least one official road trip per year, though it's not uncommon for a Maniac to travel to every road game.
- "We travel like a cloud of locusts. We are the basketball atmosphere. Us and the other students, alumni, sidewalk fans and the other team's fans." — Malcolm White, Vanderbilt '10



PHOTO BY NELSON BIDA

CHEERLEADERS

- The cheerleading team is one team comprised of co-ed and all-girl stunts groups, plus Mr. C, the Commodore mascot.
- Cheerleaders travel to away games in the SEC Conference, NCAA and tournaments with the band and dance team in chartered buses or planes.
- The squads lead the crowd in cheering for the teams and keeping up student and fan morale.
- Mr. C also travels with the cheerleaders and energizes spectators by leading cheers, dancing on the sidelines and interacting with the students.

ROAD, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

some big games left in us," said Tuomi. "We still have to hit our peak here at the end of the season. People play their best ball in March. It's go big or go home."

If the Commodores to manage to upset Louisville in the opening round, competition in the Spokane region does not get any easier. The region features the Stanford Cardinal as the No. 1 seed, a team that has been to the Final Four each of the past three years.

Also of interest in the Commodores' region are the Kentucky Wildcats, who knocked off Vandy in the SEC tournament and the Xavier Musketeers, the team that eliminated Vanderbilt in the 2010 NCAA Tournament. Should both teams advance, Vanderbilt and Xavier would play in the second

round.

"We had a good win (in the 2010 NCAA Tournament) and then a tough loss there so I'm sure they'll be remembering that," said Balcomb.

Given their No. 10 seed, this year's squad will have a hard time making a deep run in the tournament. So far this season, Vandy has struggled against tough competition, going just 2-6 against AP Top 25 teams. It is hard to imagine the Commodores getting past the potential second-round matchup against a talented Xavier team considering Vanderbilt's struggles against elite talent.

The opening round game against Louisville will tip off on Sunday at 11:10 a.m. CT at the Cintas Center in Cincinnati.



PHOTO BY ERIAN WYMAN, BALDWIN NEWS & OBSERVER/NET

The Vanderbilt team gathers at the start of practice for the women's NCAA college basketball regional tournament on March 27, 2009, at the RBC Center in Raleigh, NC.

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Rundown of the Southwest Region

BY MIKE HUGUENIN
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THE FIRST-ROUND GAMES

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No. 8 UNLV vs. No. 9 Illinois

Friday in Chicago

No. 2 Notre Dame vs. No. 15 Akron
No. 7 Texas A&M vs. No. 10 Florida State

Friday in Chicago

No. 3 Purdue vs. No. 14 Saint Peter's
No. 6 Georgetown vs. No. 11 USC/VCU*

Thursday in Denver

No. 4 Louisville vs. No. 13 Morehead State
No. 5 Vanderbilt vs. No. 12 Richmond

NOTE: * play-in game is Wednesday in Dayton, Ohio

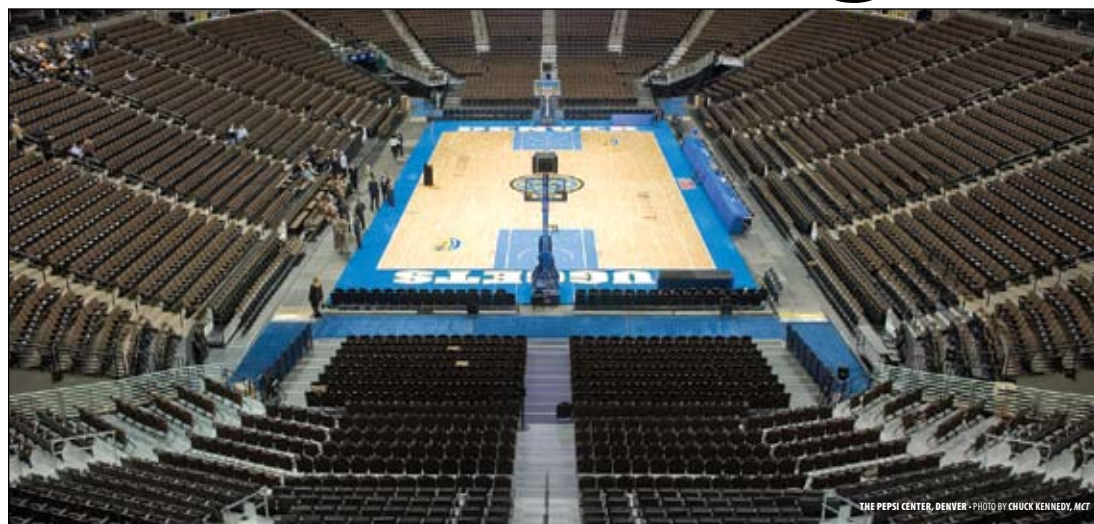
has just as good a case as VCU, plus the Gaels tied for their regular-season title. USC is the other team in that play-in game, and the Trojans didn't have an overwhelming resume, either.

MOST UNDERSEEDED: Richmond and Texas A&M have legitimate issues with the committee. Texas A&M's profile is similar to, if not better than, Kansas State, yet the Aggies are a No. 7 and K-State is a No. 5 in the Southeast. Richmond won the A-10 tourney, beating Temple along the way. The Spiders also have a neutral-court win over Purdue. Richmond, though, is a No. 12, which evidently means the Spiders weren't getting in if they hadn't won the A-10 tourney. (Temple is a No. 7, which is fine. We're not disparaging Temple here.)

BEST PLAYER: Purdue C JuJuan Johnson is the Boilermakers' lone interior threat, yet he has had a great season. Johnson, the Big Ten player of the year, scores in a variety of ways because of his athleticism. He can hit the occasional 3-pointer and also has a nice mid-range game; he can put the ball on the floor, as well. Defensively, he's effective enough that he was the Big Ten's defensive player of the year, as well.

5 OTHERS TO WATCH: Notre Dame G Ben Hansbrough, Vanderbilt G John Jenkins, Purdue G E'Twaun Moore, Kansas F Marcus Morris, USC F Nikola Vucevic.

BEST PLAYER YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF: Morehead State F Kenneth Faried. We're cheating a bit here because if you're a hard-core fan, you know all about Faried, a senior from Newark, N.J., who is an absolute rebounding machine. But a lot of folks who think



the college season starts with the NCAA tourney probably don't know about this guy. He is ferocious on the boards, and that talent means he will play in the NBA for a decade. He remains raw offensively, but is strong and can score once he has established low-post position. He is a good shot-blocker, too.

5 OTHERS TO WATCH: Richmond G Kevin Anderson, Richmond F Justin Harper, Boston U. G/F John Holland, Texas A&M F/G Khris Middleton.

NUMBERS GAME: There are six conference champs in this region, two fewer than in any other region. There are 10 Big Six schools—that's the most of any region—including one (USC) involved in a play-in game, plus a team from the Mountain West, one from the Colonial and one from the Atlantic 10.

BEST FIRST-ROUND MATCHUP: Vanderbilt has had issues dealing with double-digit seeds in its past two NCAA trips (losses to Siena and Murray St.), and Richmond — which has a strong guard/forward duo in Kevin Anderson and D.J. Harper — is going to provide a stern test for Vandy. The 7-10 matchup won't be pretty — neither No. 7 Texas A&M nor No. 10 FSU is an offensive juggernaut — but both have athletic guys who bear down on defense. First to 55 points wins. And No. 6 Georgetown is going to have a tough time with the USC/VCU play-in winner. The Hoyas have missed G Chris Wright, and though he is expected to play, how sharp will he be? USC has a genuine big-timer in F Nikola Vucevic, a double-double machine who would be going against an underwhelming Hoyas frontcourt. VCU's athleticism and 3-point ability would also pose problems for Georgetown.

HOW FAR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for opponent difficulty. They steal the ball on 13.3 percent of opponent possessions, which ranks sixth in the country, and they are 23rd in blocked shots. The Commodores are prone to losing the ball to steals and blocks, meaning this game could give Vanderbilt a lot of trouble.

Despite that, the Commodores are a very good offensive team, ranking No. 15 in Pomeroy's adjusted offensive efficiency. John Jenkins, the Southeastern Conference's leading scorer, always has a chance to put up 30 points, and Jeff Taylor would be the main scoring threat on most other teams in the country. Center Festus Ezeli will have a great matchup in this round, as he has a full two inches and 35 pounds on Louisville's biggest player, junior Terrence Jennings. This

matchup will more than likely be Ezeli's game to shine for the Commodores if they are going to win.

This may be where the road ends for Vanderbilt. Louisville is a very good team, and the Commodores will have to play well to win. That being said, this team has shown the ability to play like an elite team.

If the Commodores pull through against Louisville, they will almost certainly play Kansas. The Jayhawks, a 1-seed, are one of the best teams in the country, with a strong group of experienced guards and a balanced frontcourt. The Jayhawks rank No. 4 in Pomeroy's adjusted offensive efficiency and No. 12 in his adjusted defensive efficiency. If Vanderbilt makes it this

far, don't expect a win against Kansas.

However, for the sake of optimism, let's say they beat Kansas. The most likely matchup in the Elite Eight would then be 2-seed Notre Dame. The Fighting Irish love to slow the ball down to an excruciatingly slow pace, which could disrupt the Commodore's quick play offense. Very few teams work the ball around and shoot as well as Notre Dame does, and they had a strong argument to be a 1-seed in this tournament. But if Vanderbilt has made it this far, they will have already beaten one, and maybe two teams that are as good as the Golden Domers.

Ok, Final Four baby! Assuming the higher seeds win out, Pittsburgh will be the opponent here, but with the idea that the SEC is the best

conference in the country, let's put 2-seed Florida through to this game. I believe that in their fourth try of the season, Vanderbilt can finally overcome Chandler Parsons and Florida here. They almost did it in Atlanta last week, and at this point in the tournament anything can happen. Vanderbilt wins, and it's onto the championship game. Sticking with our SEC theme, Kentucky will meet us in the NCAA championship.

The Commodores split two games with the Wildcats this year, with each team winning at home. John Jenkins goes off for 32 points again after another text message from his mom, and the Commodores are NCAA Champions. In my dreams.

Go Commodores!

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BY ERIC SINGLE, ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

Teams to watch, teams to avoid

Steer clear of...

NOTRE DAME

After Notre Dame's strong finish to the regular season and berth in the Big East Tournament semifinals, some people thought the Irish were going to pick up the fourth and final No. 1 seed. Instead, the Irish were placed opposite top-seeded Kansas as the 2-seed in the Southwest Region, where they face a deceptively challenging path to the Final Four. It is defensible to place the fate of your bracket in the hands of a consistent core of seniors such as the group running Notre Dame, led by scorers Ben Hansbrough and Tim Abromaitis and top rebounder Carleton Scott. But with stout defensive units like Florida State, Purdue and Texas A&M to overcome even before that potential Elite Eight date with Kansas, it's risky to simply assume those shots will keep falling for the Irish all the way to San Antonio.

BUTLER

Forget the Bulldogs' imposing opening-round matchup with Colonial Athletic Association champs Old Dominion, and don't even worry about Southeast Region No. 1 Pittsburgh waiting in the second round. Butler has bigger problems than just stringing together upsets this year. If you haven't watched a second of Butler's offense since Gordon Hayward's half-court shot caught iron at the buzzer of last year's national championship game, you're in for an unpleasant discovery about this year's team. With Hayward now in a Utah Jazz jersey, the Bulldogs have been reduced to a two-man show in their highest-profile games this season, and Shelvin Mack and Matt Howard will have a tough time equaling the game-breaking offense Hayward brought the program into the spotlight with last season. Butler's philosophical goals could be very similar to the ones that brought them to the brink of legendary triumph last year: Keep the game in the 60s, and make sure Howard stays out of foul trouble. Don't count on them being able to follow through on those goals amid a difficult draw.

FLORIDA

The Gators spent most of the season basking in the near-unanimous agreement that they were in a class all to themselves in the Southeastern Conference. The 70-54 drubbing Kentucky handed them on Sunday in the conference championship game should snap everyone in Gainesville out of the warm, nostalgic glow of the back-to-back national championship teams in the past decade that this year's team had started to draw comparisons to. Like Notre Dame, Florida can shoot itself out of a lot of problems in a hurry, but the shot selection of explosive guards Kenny Boynton and Erving Walker can put the Gators in even hotter water on an off shooting day. Kentucky took full advantage of one of those rare off days on Sunday, and odds are the Wildcats will not be the last team to do so.

GEORGETOWN

Much is being made of point guard Chris Wright's probable return to the lineup from a broken left hand for the Hoyas' first-round game on Friday night. Wright had scored 16 points or more in five of the last six games before leaving with an injury in the second half against Cincinnati on Feb. 23, and the offense floundered in his absence, averaging just 51.5 points per game as Georgetown dropped its final four games of the season. While you can count on the senior to give the Hoyas a boost, you can't count on a team that has backed its way into the tournament on an ugly four-game losing streak to suddenly revert to the postseason contender it was projected as in early February.



PHOTO BY CHUCK MEYER, MCT

Keep an eye on...

BYU

Basketball fans fell hard for the show-stopping scoring talent of Jimmer Fredette earlier this season but have been quietly filing off of the BYU bandwagon ever since forward Brandon Davies was dismissed for a violation of the school's honor code five games ago. The departure of Davies has scared a lot of people off of the Cougars as late-round threats, but keep in mind that this 3-seed was at one point the No. 3 team in the country.

Highlighted by a potential rematch of last year's epic first-round matchup with Florida - Fredette dropped 37 points in a 99-92 BYU victory in double overtime - looming in the Sweet Sixteen, the Cougars' draw doesn't do them any favors. But those who plan on slotting them in for an early exit risk watching their brackets get Jimmered on a national stage.

FLORIDA STATE

The Seminoles stumbled down the stretch in the regular season and were run out of the gym a few times earlier in conference play, but as a 10-seed they stand to make some noise on the first weekend. Under Coach Leonard Hamilton, Florida State has developed a reputation for defense and rebounding and has become one of the nation's top teams in both categories. That's a dangerous combination of specialized skills in a winner-take-all format.

The health of rangy forward Chris Singleton will be a crucial factor on the offensive end, but if he is comfortable enough to complement senior guard Derwin Kitchen the way he did when the Seminoles knocked off top-ranked Duke in January, Florida State has more than a shot at advancing further than expected.

BELMONT

After the Commodores held off Belmont, 85-76, at home on Dec. 4, Vanderbilt head coach Kevin Stallings was effusive in his praise for the Commodores' cross-town rival. "If there's a better team than them in that league (the Atlantic Sun), I'd like to see it," said Stallings. "Don't want to play it, but I'd like to see it."

The Bruins emphatically proved him right over the next three months, losing just twice more on the way to a 30-4 record and topping North Florida in the Atlantic Sun championship game by 41 points. Belmont is ridiculously deep - 11 Bruins average 10 minutes per game or more - and can score with frightening balance. Atlantic Sun Tournament MVP Mick Hedgepeth is fundamentally sound in the post at both ends of the floor and, along with the rest of his teammates, will demand a maximum efficiency out of every high-profile team they face, starting with Wisconsin on Thursday.



PHOTO BY STEPHEN DUNN, HARTFORD COURANT/CTCY

UConn

Like BYU, the Huskies have an elite scorer and veteran leader who has overshadowed his team's run of success with his emergence in National Player of the Year conversations. Junior Kemba Walker came through late in big moment after big moment for Connecticut this season and averaged 26 points per game over five days last week at the Big East Tournament on his way to being named Most Valuable Player. Whether you trust the Huskies' success and growth as a team in the deepest conference tournament in the country or merely Walker's ability to put the team on his back when it matters most, you will be rewarded for penciling UConn in as far as Houston and sweating out those final few minutes of each game along the way.

The Blueprint: A method to the madness

BY PETER NYGAARD, SPECIAL SECTION EDITOR

What's in a number? A lot of stock is placed in teams receiving the vaunted 1-seed, and many point to the fact that 16 of the 26 champions since the tournament switched to the 64-team model in 1985 have been top-seeded teams. But that simply suggests that the selection committee is doing a reasonable enough job to pinpoint the nation's top four teams most of the time. The real question is how do you differentiate between those top teams - or how do you find those 2- and 3-seeds who could be cutting down the nets in Houston? The key lies in another set of numbers altogether.

Many statistical analyses place too much stock in arbitrary statistical cutoffs, like "A team must shoot better than 54 percent" or "A team must get 39 percent of its scoring from senior guards who were born in February." Those change from year to year, and the success rate is inconsistent at best. Last year's Duke team was picked apart for getting too much of its scoring from outside shooting with little to no attention paid to how efficient the Blue Devils' offense actually was.

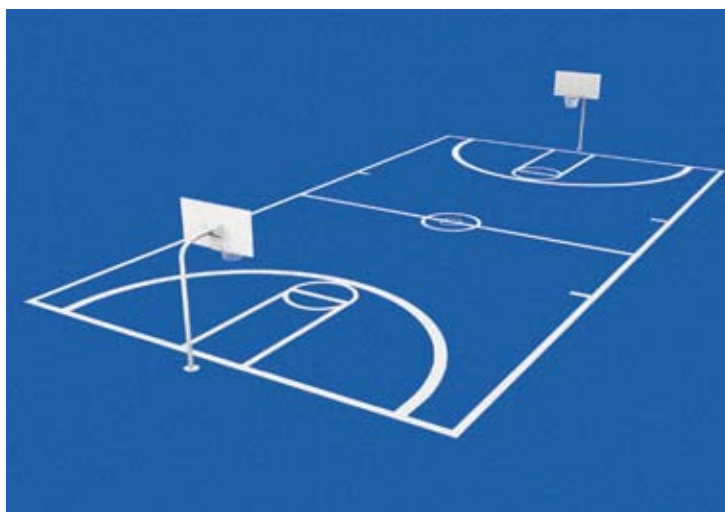
Rather than relying on complex combinations of unrelated statistics to find the model of a championship team, there is a far easier way to find

some consistency to help you in accurately picking a champion.

It starts by throwing out basic stats. Get rid of them. They don't matter. How many points Ohio State scored per game doesn't mean anything if you find out after the opening weekend that the Big Ten isn't as tough as everyone thought it was. Instead, direct your attention to adjusted efficiency ratings.

The past seven championship teams have all possessed an elite offense (Top 2 in offensive efficiency) and a strong defense (the lowest-rated defense was 2009 North Carolina, who ranked 35th in defensive efficiency pre-tournament). Many questioned Duke's toughness last year, but the Blue Devils were ranked fourth in the nation in defensive efficiency and possessed the nation's most efficient offense.

A quick glance at this year's ratings does wonders to narrow down the field. 1-seed Pittsburgh is a colossus on the boards, but neither their offense (No.



6) nor their defense (No. 21) is good enough to get it done. San Diego State, Louisville and North Carolina have been trendy unconventional picks, but all three are a lot of defense (Nos. 4, 5 and 7, respectively) and not enough firepower (Nos. 24, 36 and 37 on offense). Conversely, Notre Dame and Wisconsin appear to be on the right track with top-three offenses, but both have defenses that rank in the 60s. Some, like Florida

and UConn, shouldn't even be in the discussion.

What we're left with is a championship-contending group of Ohio State, Duke, Kansas and Texas. Ohio State possesses the nation's most efficient offense and the 10th-rated defense. With the No. 4 offense and No. 12 defense, Kansas is a bit of a statistical dark horse. Texas has the nation's most efficient defense, but the No. 19 offense probably won't be enough to get it done.

The only reason not to pencil in Ohio State as your champion is the uncertainty behind Duke. The Blue Devils are No. 5 in offense and No. 3 in defense, a profile that resembles 2010 Kansas but otherwise has virtually guaranteed a trip to the Final Four in years past. The big question mark is the availability of point guard Kyrie Irving, who if healthy is possibly the best player in the nation. If the freshman is anywhere near 100 percent by the second weekend - a definite possibility at this stage - Duke has the horses to repeat. If not, Ohio State is a strong bet to win it all.

Many people like to be the one in their pool to buck the trend and pick a less popular team as their champion. By all indications though, this is not the year. The stats don't lie: Pick Ohio State or Duke.

— *Efficiency ratings from kenpom.com*



GO VANDY!



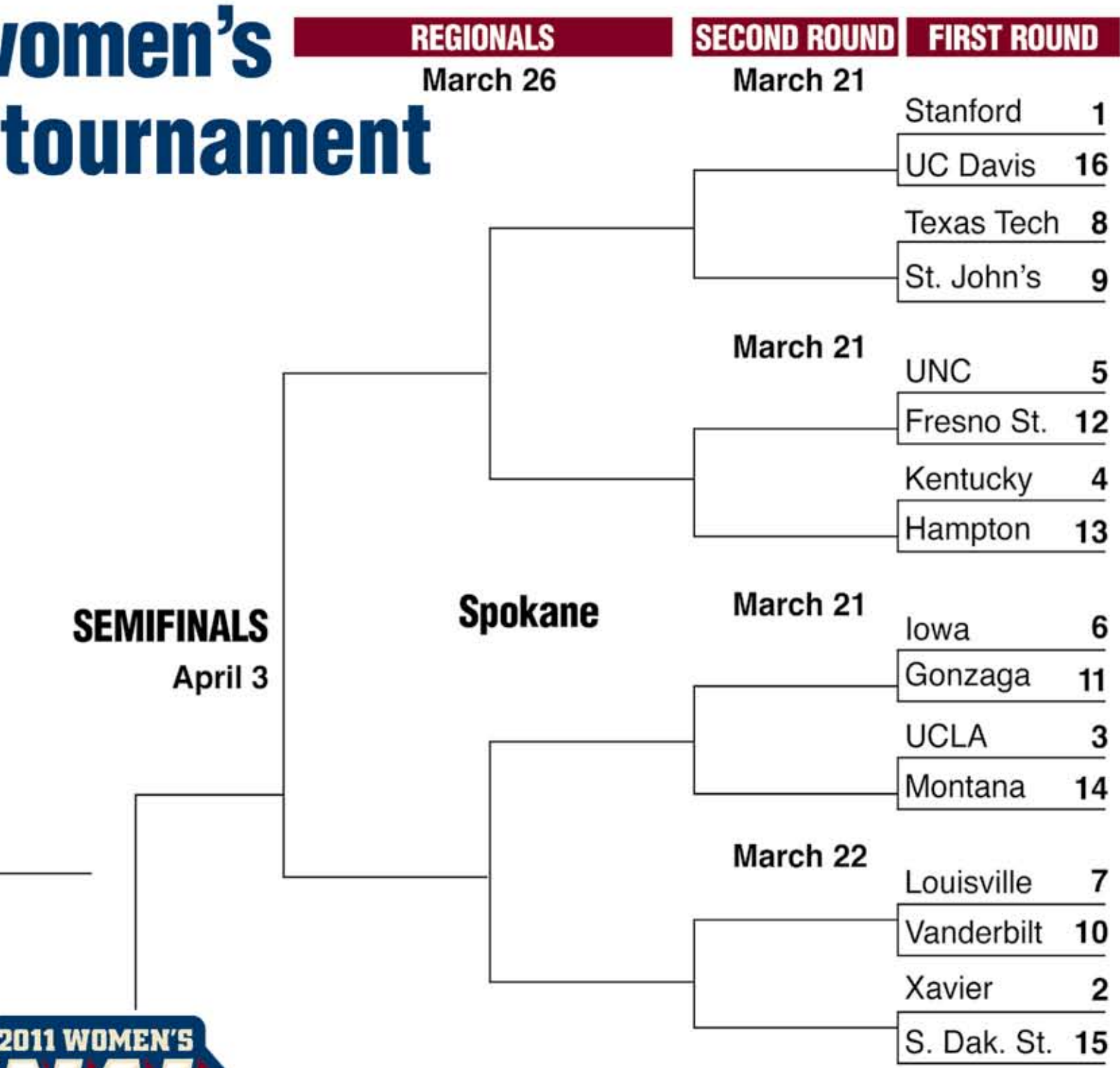


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