

## Career's last match leaves Kelber smiling

By Chuck Green  
Senior Reporter

IOWA CITY, Iowa — No, it wasn't heaven. It was Iowa.

But last Saturday night, Jason Kelber didn't know the difference.

As television cameras recorded and reporters asked question after question, Kelber, Nebraska's starting wrestler in the 126-pound weight class, stood against an NCAA Wrestling Championship Tournament backdrop and smiled.

He answered questions and shook hands, but he couldn't quit smiling.

He had no reason to stop. Kelber, a senior, had just beaten Iowa's Terry Brands for the individual title at the NCAA championships before 13,223 fans at Carver-Hawkeye Arena, and the eyes of the collegiate wrestling world, at least for the time being, were focused on him.

Throughout the last year, Kelber had been focused on Brands. Last year at the NCAA tournament, Brands beat Kelber 3-2 to win the championship. Right after the match, Kelber

said, he knew what he wanted to do one year later.

"I've never wanted to wrestle anyone more than I wanted to wrestle Brands again," Kelber said. "I lost it last year, and I had to redeem myself."

Brands and Kelber, who have been ranked first and second in the country all season, were the tournaments top seeds at 126, and both sailed through their first four matches to make it to the final.

Once in the final, Kelber wasted no time in his long-awaited redemption.

In the first period, Kelber avoided two shots by Brands, thwarting takedowns and avoiding points. Kelber then caught Brands for a takedown and two points 40 seconds into the period.

Brands escaped for a point and grabbed Kelber's leg. But Kelber again refused to go down. Kelber scored a second two-point takedown with 50 seconds left in the period, from which Brands escaped 37 seconds later.

At the end of the first period, Kelber led 4-

See KELBER on 11

## Husker wrestlers 10th in NCAAs despite ending season injury-free

By Chuck Green  
Senior Reporter

IOWA CITY, Iowa — After the injury-riddled season Nebraska's wrestling team has had, Cornhusker coach Tim Neumann was hoping for a few good breaks.

Figuratively speaking, of course.

The Huskers, ranked ninth in the final Amateur Wrestling News regular-season coaches' poll, finally were injury-free entering the NCAA championships this weekend. That didn't help as much as Neumann would have liked.

Nebraska scored 38 points in the tournament and finished 10th.

Jason Kelber won the individual championship in the 126-pound weight class, but

Nebraska's only other All-American was 177-pounder Scott Chenoweth, who finished seventh by default.

Neumann said the draws — the brackets in which the wrestlers are selected — that Nebraska received had a lot to do with the Huskers' 10th-place finish.

"With the draws we got, our finish was exactly what I expected," he said. "Last year, we got the most perfect draws possible, and it showed (Nebraska finished fifth). This year, our draws were terrible."

"And it showed."

Of the nine Husker qualifiers, only Kelber and Chenoweth remained in competition at the beginning of Friday night's quarterfi-

See WRESTLERS on 11

# UNLV takes first-ever win over Rebels

## NCAA top-20 teams advance

The Associated Press

UNLV passed its toughest test of the season Sunday, surviving a brutal battle against Georgetown to advance to the final 16 of the NCAA tournament.

The Runnin' Rebels beat the Hoyas 62-54, extending their winning streak to 43 and reaching the West Regional semifinals for the fifth time in six years.

UNLV (32-0) played most of Sunday's game without starting center George Ackles, who sprained his foot in the opening round. But the Rebels used their speed and ferocious defense to overcome Georgetown's giants, 7-foot-2 Dikembe Mutombo and 6-10 Alonzo Mourning.

Larry Johnson led UNLV with 20 points, while Greg Anthony had 15 and Anderson Hunt 14. Mutombo led the Hoyas with 16 points.

Georgetown (19-13) never folded, fighting back from UNLV surges that would have put away most teams.

It was UNLV's first victory ever against Georgetown.

The Rebels advanced to the regional semifinals at Seattle, where they play Utah on Thursday. Utah made it to the final 16 by beating Michigan State 85-84 in double overtime.

In the East, North Carolina beat Villanova 84-69 and Eastern Michigan edged Penn State 71-68 in overtime.

Arkansas downed Arizona State 97-90 and Alabama defeated Wake Forest 96-88 in the Southeast, while Ohio State beat Georgia Tech 65-61 and St. John's topped Texas 84-76 in the Midwest.

On Thursday, UNLV will play Utah and Arizona will face Seton Hall at Seattle. At Charlotte, N.C., Arkansas will play Alabama and Indiana will meet Kansas.

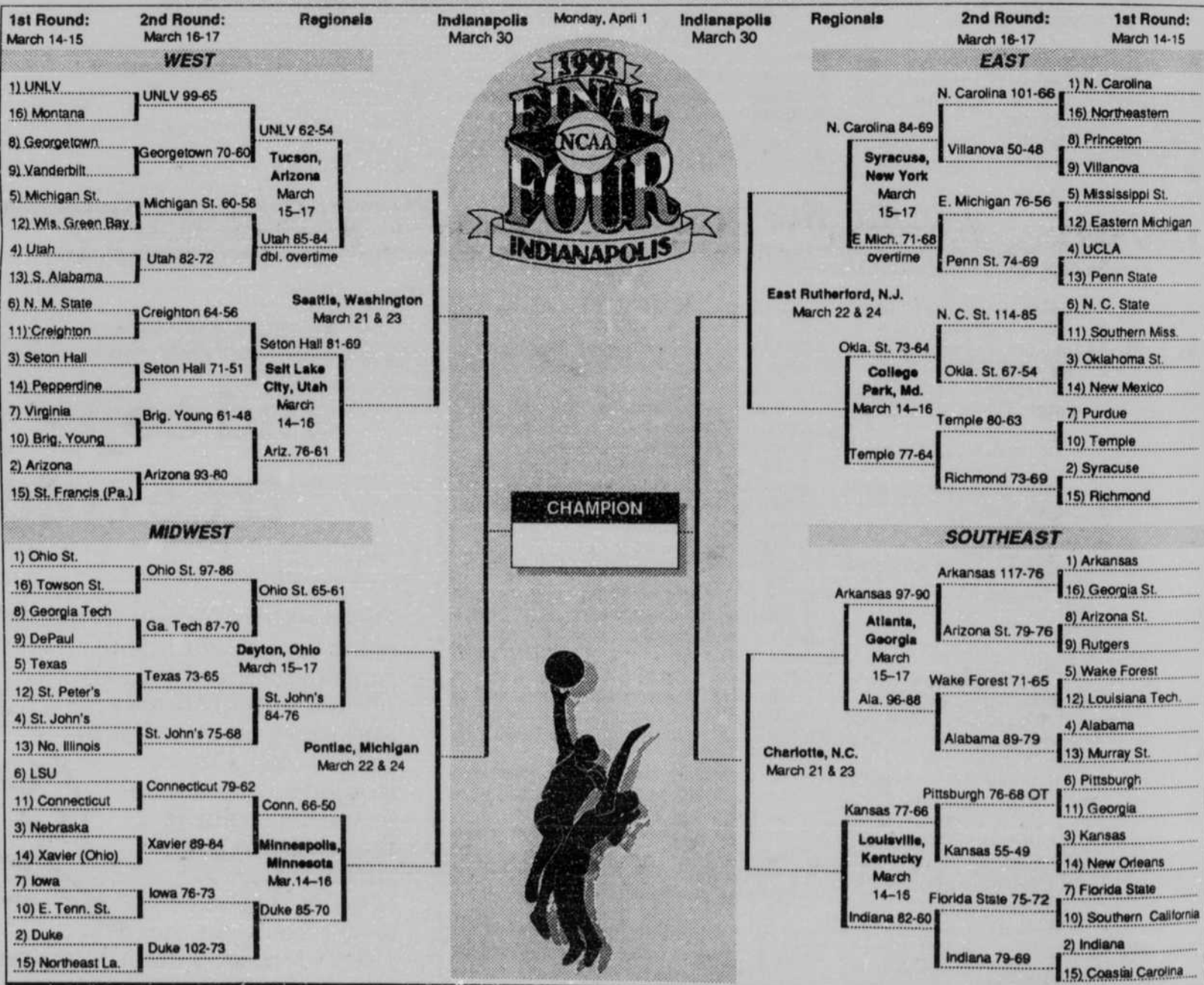
On Friday, North Carolina will play Eastern Michigan and Temple will meet Oklahoma State at East Rutherford, N.J. At Pontiac, Mich., Ohio State plays St. John's and Duke faces Connecticut.

**East**  
No. 4 N. Carolina 84, Villanova 69  
At Syracuse, N.Y., North Carolina (27-5) reached the final 16 for a record 11th straight year.

George Lynch had 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Tar Heels.  
Lance Miller scored 17 points for Villanova (17-15).

**E. Michigan 71, Penn St. 68, OT**  
Lorenzo Neely scored five points for the Hurons in overtime as Eastern Michigan advanced to the regional semifinals for the first time.

## NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 1991



The Hurons (26-6) were first-round losers in their only previous NCAA appearance, in 1988. Penn State (21-11) hasn't advanced beyond the second round since 1954.

**Southeast**  
No. 19 Alabama 96, Wake Forest 88  
At Atlanta, Melvin Cheatum, Gary Waites and Latrell Sprewell each scored 21 points for Alabama (23-9).

Chris King scored 29 points for Wake Forest (19-11), which was making its first NCAA appearance since 1984.

**No. 2 Arkansas 97, Arizona St. 90**  
Arkansas started quickly, then held off Arizona State to set a school record for victories in a season.

Oliver Miller had 19 points and 10 rebounds for Arkansas (33-3), while



freshman Jamal Faulkner led Arizona State (20-1) with 29 points.  
**Midwest**  
No. 5 Ohio St. 65, Georgia Tech 61  
At Dayton, Ohio, Perry Carter had 19 points and 18 rebounds as Ohio State held off a late charge by Geor-

gia Tech.

Jim Jackson added 16 points for the Buckeyes (27-3), including three free throws in the final 17.4 seconds.

Kenny Anderson had 25 points and six rebounds for Georgia Tech (17-13).

No. 20 St. John's 84, No. 23 Texas 76

St. John's ended four years of tournament frustration, using its patient offense and pinpoint shooting to wear down Texas.

Texas (23-9) tried tight man-to-man coverage, half-court traps, even an uncharacteristic full-court press. But nothing worked against the Redmen (22-8).

Billy Singleton led St. John's with 21 points, and Joey Wright paced the

Longhorns with 32.

**West**  
No. 10 Utah 85, Michigan St. 84 (2 OT)

At Tucson, Ariz., Josh Grant scored a season-high 29 points and the Utes overcame frigid free-throw shooting to reach the final 16 for the first time since 1983.

Walter Watts put Utah (30-3) ahead to stay at 81-79 on a dunk with 1:34 left in the second overtime. A free throw by Watts with 10 seconds left gave Utah an 85-81 lead, giving the Utes enough cushion to withstand Steve Smith's three-pointer with three seconds remaining.

Smith led Michigan State (19-11) with 28 points.