

Tourney brings out unpredictability

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Big Ten champion Michigan State (29-4) as the No. 1 seed, national runner-up Utah (27-4) as the No. 2, defending national champion Kentucky (25-8) at the No. 3 and Arizona (22-6) as the No. 4 seed. Kansas clocks in at the No. 6 seed.

It's figured that the Midwest is the toughest region, and, with a team that had two or three tough games in them already, a chance to upset Duke in the Final Four would be there.

UK's Tubby Smith dismisses the notion.

"The Midwest certainly looks to be a strong region with a lot of big name teams," Smith said. "But I'm sure everyone can make a case for their par-

ticular region.

The West Region could shape up as a three-horse race. No. 1 seed Connecticut (28-2), No. 2 seed Stanford (25-6) and No. 3 seed North Carolina (24-9) are the three.

UConn and the Cardinal have already faced off once this year with Connecticut winning 70-59.

While the West and the other two regions should provide more excitement than Duke's region, it's hard to say if anyone can stop the Blue Devils' march through March. On paper, Duke's the best team. But the best team on paper doesn't always win.

It didn't win in 1986, when Villanova shocked the world by upsetting Georgetown for the title. It didn't in 1997, when Arizona beat three No. 1

seeds to capture its national title.

And that's all part of the seduction of the Big Dance. It gets new moves all the time and doesn't always follow the music. And then there's the "p" word: pressure. It can nail any team, any time. The team that resists it the best usually ends up wearing the crown.

Just for the record, Krzyzewski thinks he's got a team that fits the bill.

"The word 'pressure,'" Krzyzewski said. "I don't think it's really existed on our team all year long, and I don't think it will if we keep going."

"I don't think any pressure will get to these guys. These kids want to get better, and, as a result, they are getting better, individually and collectively."

Duke peaking? That might be the scariest prophecy of all.

Big 12 squads must face role of not being favorite

BY BRANDON SCHULTE
Staff writer

It's a role many teams in the Big 12 are unaccustomed to: underdog.

Yet, that's the role the five Big 12 teams in the NCAA Tournament — Kansas, Oklahoma State, Oklahoma, Texas and Missouri — will have to play. Not one team is seeded higher than No. 6 in the tourney.

In order to compensate for a lack of power, the Big 12 schools in the tourney are making up for it in terms of excitement.

"Our club is excited, about as excited as any group of guys I've coached," Missouri Coach Norm Stewart said about the 16th NCAA Tournament squad. "We worked hard all year, and this is a great time of year in basketball. When you get to postseason play, it is an exciting time of year."

For the Big 12 schools to make some noise in the tournament, they will have to play the underdog role.

In a balanced conference with no prohibitive favorite, Texas rose to the top of the regular season standings by virtue of a 13-3 conference record. But that was only good enough for a seventh seed in the tourney.

Kansas has the highest seed and is sixth amongst the conference teams, low for a conference of the Big 12's stature. But as OU Coach Kelvin Sampson said, getting into the tournament is all that matters.

"You've got to be a good team to be in there," Sampson said. "We get to go to the greatest show on earth — that's the NCAA Tournament. It's an opportunity. We're used to the role of the underdog."

No. 13 seed Oklahoma (20-10) has perhaps the toughest draw opening in the Midwest region against fourth-seeded Arizona (22-6), a team that won the national title two years ago. Arizona is led by senior Pac-10 player of the year Jason Terry.

Sampson said his team needs to find a way to match up with the Wildcats.

"They are athletic, strong and very, very deep," Sampson said. "And they really love to run. This is a tough matchup for us."

Kansas, the Big 12 Tournament Champion, is also in the Midwest bracket and is coming from an unusual position for them, the No. 6 seed, after being seeded first the past two seasons.

Coach Roy Williams knows his team will have to come to play early this year.

"It is different when you are a one or two seed," Williams said. "You're always going to get someone who's not as gifted or doesn't have the same number of scholarships. We're not in that situation now."

Kansas (22-9) will take on 11th-seeded Evansville (23-9), the Missouri Valley Conference tournament runner-up.

After disappointments in Lawrence, Kan., the last few seasons, in which KU was expected to make the Final Four and underachieved, senior Ryan Robertson said the young squad is going in with nothing to lose.

"The best teams play their best basketball in March," Robertson said. "The last couple of years everyone expected us to be in the Final Four or national champions. Now we have a chance to go in without those expectations and do something."

Oklahoma State (22-10), weary after four games in four days, was the conference tourney runner-up, good enough to garner a ninth seed and a date with Syracuse (21-11), the eighth seed.

Coach Eddie Sutton sees an even battle in the South Region. If OSU wins, it will most likely play No. 1 seeded Auburn.

"We're just happy to be in the tournament," Sutton said. "I don't know that much about Syracuse except that they have a very good program."

Eighth-seeded Missouri (20-8) returns to the NCAA tournament fray after a three-year absence in the West Region to face ninth-seeded New Mexico (24-8).

Albert White, a first team All-Big 12 selection, will be the spark plug for the Tigers. He scored 16.6 points and pulled down 8.5 rebounds per game.

Regular-season conference champion, No. 7 seed Texas (19-12), travels to the East Regional to face the No. 10 seed, Purdue, which is also 19-12.

All-conference selections Chris Mihm and Gabe Muoneke will lead the Longhorns against the Boilermakers.

Coach Rick Barnes said the best thing about this time of year is the unpredictability.

"One thing basketball does is it gives you new life," Barnes said. "In tourney play, the best team doesn't always win. In a 40-minute game, anything can happen."

Van Horn pushes NU with intensity

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"It's just his demeanor," Sirianni said. "He's a pretty quiet guy, but when he wants to get something across, he's going to get it across. But he'll always be the guy on your side, ready to go to war for you."

In addition to his tactical and fundamental changes, Van Horn has also made sure that he knows where to draw the line for his players. He has made them recognize their own talents and appreciate him as their leader, demanding a respect that the players said was not easily established for Sanders.

"Coach Van Horn gets a lot more respect with this team," Moore said. "The way to garner respect is to respect your team, and he respects us, we respect him. Coach Sanders didn't really get that."

Coupled with his other philosophies, the respect and stress on the little things have helped the NU club.

In his inaugural season last year, Van Horn led the Huskers to a 24-20 overall record and a 10-13 mark in the Big 12 Conference. Thus far into the 1999 season, the Huskers are 10-6, and 2-1 in the conference following a three game weekend at Oklahoma.

Moore said it feels good to be winning, especially in the conference, where the Huskers have not had a winning season since 1993, when they were 16-12 in the Big Eight.

"Just going off our series with Oklahoma, we're 2-1," Moore said. "I've never started off (the conference season) at 2-1 in my career here. We can't wait for the next series to come, and we can get rolling in the Big 12."

And, while winning and getting recognized, the team is also having a great deal more fun in the Van Horn era.

"He still wants to play," Sirianni said. "You can tell. He's feisty. With that, it's easy for us to go out and want to play. It's not, 'Oh no, we're at the park again,' it's more like 'Oh yeah, we get to go out and play again today.'"

J. D. Edwards Day Tuesday, March 9, 1999

C. Edward McVaney, co-founder and Chairman of J.D. Edwards & Company and donor for the J.D. Edwards Honors Program in Computer Science and Management, will be speaking on "Excellence in Information Technology", on the UNL Campus. Mr. McVaney's talk will be broadcast on Channel 8 via closed circuit monitors around campus at 9:45 a.m. on Tuesday, March 9th.

Paul Barker, Director of Technical Marketing, will be speaking on "The Business of Software: Creating Problems or Solutions?" at 3:45 p.m. in Room 217, Ferguson Hall

UNL Sample Ballot ASUN Student Government Run-off Election March 10, 1999

- To vote, Blacken the square () to the left of each name you select
- Do Not Cross Out- if you change your mind, exchange your ballot for a new one.

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Select one (1) by marking the square () to the left of the name

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