

THE SELECTION COMMITTEE SAYS ...

Every March a committee of experts convenes to select the 65 teams and determine the seedings for the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament. Something similar occurs in the Vatican whenever a new pope must be chosen. We decided to convene our own special Selection Committee, charged with boiling down the game's history into a series of lists. The committee consists of former coaches and players, as well as expert reporters and analysts who cover college basketball for ESPN.

The committee: Dick Vitale, Jay Bilas, Bill Raftery, Howie Schwab, Stephen Bardo, Dan Steir, Tom Brennan, Doris Burke, Andy Katz, Jimmy Dykes, Len Elmore, Fran Fraschilla, Doug Gottlieb, Steve Lavin, Bob Valvano, Jay Williams, Rece Davis, Digger Phelps and William F. Reed



BILAS

VITALE

RAFTERY

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ELMORE

THE 50 GREATEST PLAYERS

- 1. Lew Alcindor (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar), UCLA 1966-69** Led UCLA to three NCAA titles; two-time national Player of the Year; career averages 26.4 points and 15.5 rebounds per game; dunking was banned because of his dominance.
- 2. Oscar Robertson, Cincinnati 1957-60** National POY and top scorer in each of three varsity seasons (33.8 ppg career); also averaged 15.2 rpg; one of only three players to achieve a triple-double in the Final Four.
- 3. Bill Russell, San Francisco 1953-56** Led Dons to NCAA titles in 1955 and '56; 1955 Tournament MOP; 1956 National POY; one of five players in history to average a 20-20 for his career (20.7 ppg, 20.3 rpg).
- 4. Bill Walton, UCLA 1971-74** Three-time national POY; Tournament MOP in 1972 and '73, when he led UCLA to back-to-back undefeated seasons and national championships; career averages 20.3 ppg, 15.7 rpg and 65.1 FG%.
- 5. Pete Maravich, LSU 1967-70** Pistol Pete was 1970 national POY; holds D1 records for career points (3,667) and scoring average (44.2).
- 6. Jerry West, West Virginia 1957-60** Tournament MOP in 1959, when he averaged 32 ppg and led Mountaineers to the national championship game; career averages 24.8 ppg and 13.3 rpg.
- 7. Bill Bradley, Princeton 1962-65** National POY and Tournament MOP in 1965; scored a (then) Final Four record 58 points against Wichita State; career averages 30.2 ppg and 12.1 rpg.
- 8. David Thompson, NC State 1972-75** Tournament MOP in 1974, when he led NC State to the national championship ending UCLA's seven-year reign; national POY in '75; career average 26.8 ppg; popularized the alley-oop (he was the oop).
- 9. Wilt Chamberlain, Kansas 1956-58** Massive 7'1" Stilt was 1957 Tournament MOP, averaging 30.3 ppg for runner-up Jayhawks; career averages 29.9 ppg and 18.3 rpg in his two seasons.
- 10. Earvin "Magic" Johnson, Michigan State 1977-79** Tournament MOP in 1979; one of three players to achieve a triple-double in Final Four (see Oscar Robertson); scored 24 in MSU's title win over Larry Bird's Indiana State in highest-rated college basketball telecast ever.
- 11. Jerry Lucas, Ohio State 1959-62** Twice national POY and twice Tournament MOP; his Buckeyes were 1960 national champions and runners-up in '61 and '62; career averages 24.3 ppg and 17.2 rpg.
- 12. Larry Bird, Indiana State 1976-79** National POY in 1979, when he led Indiana State to the NCAA Final against Michigan State; career averages 30.3 ppg, 13.3 rpg and 53.3 FG%.
- 13. Christian Laettner, Duke 1988-92** National POY in 1992; led Duke to two national titles and is the only player to start in four consecutive Final Fours; hit game-winning shot in Duke's 1992 East Regional final win over Kentucky, capping 10-for-10 FG and 10-for-10 FT night.
- 14. Patrick Ewing, Georgetown 1981-85** Co-national POY in 1985; led Georgetown to three NCAA Finals; Tournament MOP in 1984 when he led Hoyas to the title.
- 15. Elvin Hayes, Houston 1965-68** National POY in 1968; career averages 31.0 ppg, 17.2 rpg and 53.6 FG%; NCAA Tournament career leader in rebounds and field goals made.
- 16. Ralph Sampson, Virginia 1979-83** Three-time national POY; averaged a double-double in each of four seasons, including 19.1 ppg and 11.7 rpg in 1983.
- 17. Michael Jordan, North Carolina 1981-84** National POY in 1984; career average 17.7 ppg; All-Tournament as freshman in '82, when he hit the game-winning jumper in UNC's championship victory over Georgetown.
- 18. Tim Duncan, Wake Forest 1993-97** National POY in 1997; NCAA career leader (post-1972-73) in rebounds; holds Tournament career record for blocked shots; career averages 16.5 ppg, 12.3 rpg and 57.7 FG%.
- 19. Elgin Baylor, Seattle 1956-58** Tournament MOP in 1958; career averages 31.2 ppg and 19.8 rpg; first of the high-scoring, airborne, artistic big men.
- 20. Earl Monroe, Winston-Salem 1963-67** The Pearl averaged 41.5 ppg his senior year, shooting 60.7%; finished career

- with nearly 3,000 points; 1967 College Division POY, leading Rams to College Division championship.
- 21. Hakeem Olajuwon, Houston 1981-84** Tournament MOP in 1983, when he led Houston to the NCAA Final; as a junior averaged 16.8 ppg, 13.5 rpg and 67.5 FG%.
- 22. David Robinson, Navy 1983-87** Grew from 6'4" to 7'1" during career; national POY in 1987, averaging 28.2 ppg and leading nation in blocks; career averages 21.0 ppg, 10.3 rpg and 61.3 FG%; holds NCAA record for blocks in a season (207).
- 23. Tom Gola, La Salle 1951-55** Tournament MOP in 1954, when he led La Salle to its only national championship; NCAA career leader (all-time) in rebounds; one of two players in history to amass 2,000 points and 2,000 rebounds (the other is George Washington's Joe Holup).
- 24. Austin Carr, Notre Dame 1968-71** National POY in 1971; holds Tournament records for career scoring average (41.3), single-year average (52.7 in 1970) and most points in a game (61 vs. Ohio in '70).
- 25. Danny Manning, Kansas 1984-88** Tournament MOP and co-national POY in 1988 when he led Jayhawks to the national title, averaging 24.8 ppg for season; career averages 20.1 ppg and 59.3 FG%.
- 26. George Mikan, DePaul 1942-46** At 6'9", one of the first great big men; led Blue Demons to NIT championship in 1945; career average 19.1 ppg.
- 27. Phil Ford, North Carolina 1974-78** Point guard was national POY in 1978; career average 18.6 ppg; UNC's all-time leading scorer until surpassed in 2009 by Tyler Hansbrough.
- 28. Calvin Murphy, Niagara 1967-70** Phenomenally fast and high-flying scorer at 5'9"; averaged 38.2 ppg in 1968; career average 33.1.
- 29. Julius Erving, Massachusetts 1969-71** One of only five players to average a 20-20 for his career (26.3 ppg, 20.2 rpg); never played in the Tournament and never dunked in a game—it was illegal from 1967-76.
- 30. Cazzie Russell, Michigan 1963-66** National POY in 1966; All-Tournament in '65 after leading Wolverines to NCAA Final vs. UCLA; career averages 27.1 ppg and 8.5 rpg.
- 31. Bob Kurland, Oklahoma A&M 1942-46** First of the great seven-footers; twice Tournament MOP, leading Oklahoma A&M (now Oklahoma State) to back-to-back national championships in 1945 and '46; averaged 22.8 ppg in Tournament games.
- 32. Wayman Tisdale, Oklahoma 1982-85** Three-time Big Eight POY; career averages 25.6 ppg, 10.1 rpg and 57.8 FG%.
- 33. Grant Hill, Duke 1990-94** Twice named All-Tournament, leading Blue Devils to national championships in 1991 and '92; Tournament leader in career steals (39); career average 14.9 ppg.
- 34. Dick Barnett, Tennessee State 1955-59** Led Tigers to three straight NAIA tournament championships, 1957-59; MVP in '58 and '59; TSU's all-time leading scorer with 3,209 points.
- 35. Hank Luisetti, Stanford 1935-38** When everyone else used two hands, Luisetti dazzled crowds with his one-handed shot; first player to score 50 points in a game (vs. Duquesne in 1938); career average 16.1 ppg.
- 36. Dan Issel, Kentucky 1967-70** Great center averaged 33.9 ppg and 13.2 rpg his senior year; career average 25.8 ppg; held Wildcats' single-game scoring record (53 points) for almost 40 years.
- 37. Darrell Griffith, Louisville 1976-80** Dr. Dunkenstein was Wooden Award winner and Tournament MOP in 1980, leading Cardinals to national title; Louisville's all-time leading scorer; career average 18.5 ppg.
- 38. Sidney Wicks, UCLA 1968-71** Led UCLA to three national titles (1969-71), connecting Alcindor and Walton eras; Tournament MOP in 1970; averaged 20 ppg and 12.3 rpg in last two seasons.
- 39. Clyde Lovellette, Kansas 1949-52** Only player to lead the nation in scoring (28.6 ppg) and earn Tournament MOP honors in same season, which he did in leading Jayhawks to 1952 national championship.
- 40. Chris Mullin, St. John's 1981-85** A co-national POY and Tournament leader in points scored in 1985; career averages 19.5 ppg and 55.0 FG%; three-time Big East POY, alone or shared.
- 41. Shaquille O'Neal, LSU 1989-92** A national POY and rebounding leader in 1991; national leader in blocked shots in '92; averaged 25.8 ppg and 14.3 rpg his final two seasons.
- 42. Wes Unseld, Louisville 1965-68** Bruising center had career averages of 20.6 ppg, 18.9 rpg and 55.8 FG%; pounded Boston College with 35 points and 26 rebounds in 1966 NIT triple-overtime loss.
- 43. Willis Reed, Grambling State 1960-64** Led Tigers to 1961 NAIA championship; as a senior, averaged 26.6 ppg and 21.3 rpg with a 61.9 FG%; career totals 2,280 points and 1,851 rebounds.
- 44. John Havlicek, Ohio State 1959-62** Teamed with Jerry Lucas on 1960 national champion and '61 and '62 runner-up Buckeyes; career average 14.6 ppg.
- 45. Art Heyman, Duke 1960-63** National POY and Tournament MOP in 1963, when he led Duke to its first Final Four; career averages 25.1 ppg and 10.9 rpg.
- 46. Len Bias, Maryland 1982-86** ACC POY in 1985 and '86; averaged 23.2 ppg his senior year; shot 52.8% or better his final three seasons; Maryland's No. 2 career scorer; died of overdose days after being drafted by Boston Celtics.
- 47. John Lucas, Maryland 1972-76** First four-year starter in Terrapins history; Maryland's No. 5 career scorer; ACC Athlete of the Year in 1976 when he was named All-America in both basketball and tennis.
- 48. Isiah Thomas, Indiana 1979-81** Tournament MOP in 1981 when he led Indiana to national championship; averaged 18.2 ppg in '81 Tournament while shooting 58.9%.
- 49. Larry Johnson, UNLV 1989-91** A national POY in 1991 on Final Four team; led UNLV to national title in '90; career averages 21.6 ppg and 11.2 rpg.
- 50. Bob Pettit, LSU 1951-54** Career averages 27.4 ppg and 14.8 rpg; averaged 30.5 ppg in his six NCAA Tournament games; scored 57 points vs. Georgia in 1954.

THE 15 GREATEST COACHES

- 1. John Wooden** 29 seasons, two schools, 664–162, .804. Led UCLA to 10 NCAA titles in 12 seasons, including seven straight (1967-73). His teams hold NCAA Final Four records for most titles (10), appearances (12), consecutive appearances (9) and victories (21). From 1964 to '73, his Bruins won a record 38 straight NCAA Tourney games.
- 2. Dean Smith** 36 seasons, one school, 879–254, .776. No. 2 in career wins. Holds major college record for most consecutive 20-win seasons (27) and has the second-most overall (30). His 11 Final Fours are second only to Wooden's 12; 27 NCAA appearances, two NCAA titles (1982 and '93) and one NIT ('71).

3. **Mike Krzyzewski** 34 seasons, two schools, 833-274, .752. Has most 30-win seasons (10) and NCAA Tourney wins (70). Has led Duke to 25 NCAA berths, 10 Final Fours, three titles (1991, '92, 2001). One of two coaches since Wooden to win back-to-back NCAA titles.
4. **Adolph Rupp** 41 seasons, one school, 876-190, .822. The Baron of the Bluegrass led Kentucky to four NCAA titles (1948, '49, '51, '58) and an NIT title ('46). His '33 and '48 Wildcats were named Helms Foundation national champions.
5. **Bob Knight** 42 seasons, three schools, 902-371 .709. Winningest coach in D1 men's history. Led Indiana to three NCAA titles (1976, '81, '87), one NIT title ('79) and 11 Big Ten titles. In seven years at Texas Tech (2001-08), averaged nearly 20 wins per season.
6. **Forrest "Phog" Allen** 48 seasons, four schools, 746-264, .739. Led Kansas to 1952 NCAA title; 1922 and '23 teams were designated national champions by Helms Foundation.
7. **John McLendon** 25 seasons, five schools, 496-179, .735. A disciple of James Naismith at Kansas, relegated early to historically black schools, McLendon helped develop fast break, zone press and four-corners. At Tennessee A&I, became first coach to win three straight national (NAIA) titles (1957-59). First African-American coach hired by predominantly white school (Cleveland State, 1966).
8. **Henry "Hank" Iba** 41 seasons, three schools, 764-339, .693. While at Oklahoma A&M, became first coach to guide team to back-to-back NCAA titles (1945, '46). His Cowboys topped the country in scoring defense seven times between '47-48 '56-57.
9. **Frank McGuire** 30 seasons, three schools, 549-236, .699. Led North Carolina to 32-0 season and 1957 NCAA title. First coach to win 100 games at three different schools (UNC, St. John's, South Carolina). Led St. John's baseball team to '49 College World Series.
10. **Rick Pitino** 23 seasons, four schools, 552-236, .737. Only coach to take three schools (Providence, Kentucky, Louisville) to the Final Four, and one of just five to take four schools to the NAAs. Coached Kentucky to the 1996 NCAA championship.
11. **Jim Calhoun** 37 seasons, two schools, 805-342, .702. Led Connecticut to two NCAA titles (1999, 2004), 10 Big East regular-season titles (won or shared), six Big East tournament titles and the '88 NIT title.
12. **John Thompson** 26-plus seasons, one school, 596-239, .714. Led Georgetown to three Final Fours (1982, '84, '85) and '84 NCAA title. Teams made 24 consecutive postseason appearances, 20 of them in NCAA Tournament. Of his 78 four-year players, 76 graduated.
13. **Clair Bee** 21 seasons, two schools, 412-88, .824. Helped develop 1-3-1 zone and introduce the three-second rule in 1936. Guided Long Island U. to NIT titles in '39 and '41. His .824 career winning percentage tops all coaches.
14. **Denny Crum** 30 seasons, one school, 675-295, .696. In seven-year span (1980-86), led Louisville to four Final Fours and two NCAA titles. His Cardinals appeared in 23 NCAA tournaments, including six Final Fours. Began career as a UCLA assistant under John Wooden, helping guide Bruins to three straight NCAA titles from '69 to '71.
15. **Roy Williams** 21 seasons, two schools, 594-138, .811. Fastest ever to win 500 games. Led North Carolina to NCAA titles in 2005 and '09. His teams have won at least one NCAA Tournament game in 20 straight years. One of only three coaches to lead two schools (UNC and Kansas) to the NCAA Final.

THE 15 GREATEST TEAMS

1. **1972-73 UCLA, 30-0** With Bill Walton's near-perfect 44-point Final vs. Memphis State, the Bruins won their seventh straight title; also featured future pros Keith Wilkes and Swen Nater.
2. **1975-76 Indiana, 32-0** The last team to go undefeated, Bob Knight's Hoosiers were led by National POY Scott May and Tourney MOP Kent Benson.
3. **1967-68 UCLA, 29-1** The Bruins avenged their Jan. 20 Astrodome loss by blowing out Houston in the NCAA semis, then trounced North Carolina. Lew Alcindor won his second of three Tourney MOPs.
4. **1955-56 San Francisco, 29-0** The Dons had a 20-point average victory margin and ran their win streak to 55 games as Bill Russell averaged 20.5 points and 21 rebounds playing 24 minutes a game.
5. **1966-67 UCLA, 30-0** The first of John Wooden's seven straight NCAA title teams, led by sophomore Lew Alcindor with 29 ppg and 15.5 rpg.
6. **1981-82 North Carolina, 32-2** Freshman Michael Jordan hit the game-winner against Georgetown in the Final; also featured Sam Perkins and James Worthy.
7. **1991-92 Duke, 34-2** Christian Laettner stunned Kentucky with his buzzer-beater in the East final, then, along with Grant Hill and Tourney MOP Bobby Hurley, the Blue Devils beat Michigan for the title.
8. **1989-90 UNLV, 35-5** The Rebels, led by Tournament MOP Anderson Hunt and Larry Johnson, beat Duke in the NCAA Final, 103-73—the largest title-game margin ever.
9. **1973-74 NC State, 30-1** The Wolfpack ended UCLA's NCAA title string at seven, then beat Marquette in the Final; David Thompson won his second of three ACC POY crowns.
10. **1995-96 Kentucky, 34-2** The Wildcats featured nine future NBA players: Derek Anderson, Tony Delk, Walter McCarty, Ron Mercer, Nazr Mohammed, Antoine Walker, Mark Pope, Jeff Sheppard and Wayne Turner.
11. **1968-69 UCLA, 29-1** The Bruins defeated John Wooden's alma mater, Purdue, in the Final, 92-72, thanks to 37 points and 20 rebounds from Lew Alcindor in his final college game.
12. **1956-57 North Carolina, 32-0** Frank McGuire's Miracle, with Lennie Rosenbluth, Pete Brennan and Tommy Kearns, went to triple overtime two nights in a row to beat Michigan State and then Wilt Chamberlain's Kansas, 54-53, for the title.
13. **1947-48 Kentucky, 36-3** Adolph Rupp's Wildcats won the NCAA Tournament and became the core of the undefeated 1948 U.S. Olympic gold-medal team.
14. **2000-01 Duke, 35-4** Five future pros—Shane Battier, Carlos Boozer, Chris Duhon, Mike Dunleavy and Jay Williams—beat Arizona, 82-72, for the NCAA title.
15. **1953-54 Kentucky, 25-0** The Wildcats beat everybody, including eventual champ La Salle, but the NCAA declared Frank Ramsey, Cliff Hagan and Lou Tsioropoulos ineligible for the Tournament because they graduated before play began. Rather than proceed without their three best players, the Wildcats decided to stay home.

THE 10 BEST NCAA TOURNAMENTS

- 1. 1957 North Carolina went to triple overtime** twice in successive nights, first beating Michigan State, 74-70, and then heavily favored Kansas, 54-53, with its 7'1" super sophomore Wilt Chamberlain. UNC coach Frank McGuire set the tone by sending 5'11" Tommy Kearns up against Chamberlain for the opening tip.
- 2. 1966 Texas Western made history** by becoming the first team to win the Tournament with five African-Americans in its starting lineup, 72-65, over all-white Kentucky. The Wildcats had beaten another all-white team, Duke, to reach the Final.
- 3. 1975 After UCLA's overtime win** over Louisville in the semis, John Wooden announced he'd retire after the Final. Louisville, Kentucky and Indiana all may have had better teams than UCLA, but the Bruins beat the Wildcats to send the Wizard out a winner—for the 10th time in 12 seasons.
- 4. 1963 Loyola-Chicago had four black starters** and SEC champion Mississippi State had to defy its state legislature and sneak out of the state to play Loyola in the Midwest Regional semis. Loyola went all the way, ending Cincinnati's bid for a three-peat on Vic Rouse's last-second putback in OT.
- 5. 1955 Bill Russell totally dominated the West** and then led his San Francisco Dons to a 77-63 title-game pounding of La Salle, which had won its first three Tournament games by an average of 32 points.
- 6. 1974 UCLA losing was unthinkable** after its seven straight titles, but David Thompson's NC State Wolfpack shocked the Bruins, 80-77, in their double-OT semifinal, then beat Marquette, 76-64, for the title. The Pack became the last team to win without ever leaving their home state.
- 7. 1985 Villanova was close to perfect**, shooting 78.6% from the floor and 81% from the line to upset Big East rival Georgetown, 66-64, for the title. A third Big East team, St. John's, also made the Final Four.
- 8. 1983 NC State made the most improbable trip**, winning one upset after another from the ACC tournament through the NCAAs, until finally coming up against heavily favored Houston and Hakeem Olajuwon in the Final. There, Lorenzo Charles converted a desperation 35-foot heave by Dereck Whittenburg into the Tournament's most famous game-winning dunk.
- 9. 1991 Duke avenged its humiliating 30-point loss** in the 1990 title game by beating undefeated defending champion UNLV in the semifinals, 79-77. Then the Blue Devils beat Kansas, 72-65, for their first national title.
- 10. 1979 Bird vs. Magic didn't live up to the hype**, but Michigan State's 75-64 win over Indiana State drew the Tournament's highest TV rating ever. Forgotten by many: Bob Heaton's off-balance buzzer-beater against Arkansas that got ISU into the Final Four with its undefeated season intact.

THE 10 GREATEST INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENTS PERFORMANCES

- 1. Bill Walton, UCLA 1973** In a near-perfect Final, he scored 44 points on 21-for-22 shooting with 13 rebounds to beat Memphis State, 87-66, for UCLA's seventh straight title and second straight 30-0 season.
- 2. Lew Alcindor, UCLA 1968** After the January loss that snapped UCLA's 47-game win streak, Alcindor took fierce revenge in the Final Four with 19 points and 18 rebounds while the Bruins held his nemesis, Elvin Hayes, to a mere 10 points in a 101-69 trouncing.
- 3. Christian Laettner, Duke 1992** To get to his and Duke's fourth Final Four, he went 10-for-10 from the field and 10-for-10 from the free-throw line, and popped the buzzer-beating, game-winning 17-footer.
- 4. Bill Russell, San Francisco 1956** A year after he led USF to its first national championship, Russell scored 26 points with 27 rebounds to beat Iowa, 83-71, for USF's second.
- 5. Jack Givens, Kentucky 1978** He scored a career-high 41 points to lead the Wildcats to a 94-88 win over Duke in the Final.
- 6. David Thompson, NC State 1974** UCLA's string of seven straight titles ended in the Final Four as the 6'4" Thompson soared and scored 28 points and picked 10 rebounds to upset the Bill Walton-led Bruins.
- 7. Pervis Ellison, Louisville 1986** Just a freshman, "Never Nervous" Pervis amassed 25 points and 11 rebounds in the Cardinals' 72-69 title win over Duke.
- 8. Sidney Wicks, UCLA 1970** The 6'8" Wicks outplayed Jacksonville's Artis Gilmore in the Final, outrebounding the 7'2" giant, 18-16, and forcing him to miss 20 of his 29 shots, while scoring 17 points himself.
- 9. Bill Bradley, Princeton 1965** In the national third-place game against Wichita State, Bradley scored 58 points, shooting 22-for-29 from the field and 14-for-15 from the line, and grabbed 17 rebounds.
- 10. Lew Alcindor, UCLA 1969** In his final game, the greatest player in college basketball history single-handedly shredded Purdue with 37 points and 20 rebounds to win his and UCLA's third straight national title, 92-72.



VITALE

"AS SPECIAL AS A DON LARSON MAGICAL PERFECT GAME. THE BIG REDHEAD, MR. WALTON, COMPLETELY SUFFOCATED MEMPHIS WITH HIS SUPER, SCINTILLATING, SENSATIONAL PERFORMANCE. HIS DOMINANT SHOW WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS AWESOME BABY—WITH A CAPITAL A!"

THE 10 BEST NCAA TOURNAMENT BUZZER BEATERS

1. April 4, 1983: NC State's Dereck Whittenburg launches a desperation 35-foot heave that lands in the hands of **Lorenzo Charles**, who stuffs it home to beat Houston, 54-52, for the title.
2. March 28, 1992: With Duke trailing Kentucky by one, **Christian Laettner** takes a 75-foot pass from Grant Hill and swishes a 17-foot jumper to beat Kentucky in OT and send Duke to the Final Four and its second consecutive title.
3. March 13, 1998: Valparaiso's run to the Sweet 16 is made possible by the first-round upset of Ole Miss, thanks to a baseball-throw relay from Jamie Sykes to Bill Jenkins to **Bryce Drew**, who pops a three for a 70-69 win.
4. March 19, 1995: Down by one with 4.8 seconds left, UCLA's **Tyus Edney** goes coast to coast with a little behind-the-back, ending in a running bank shot to beat Missouri, 75-74, and send the Bruins to the Sweet 16.
5. March 30, 1987: Indiana's **Keith Smart**, benched earlier in the second half by Bob Knight, drills a 15-footer with :04 left to beat Syracuse for the title, 74-73.
6. March 22, 1990: Connecticut's **Tate George** leaps to catch a length-of-the-floor pass, lands, rises again and hits a turnaround jumper to beat Clemson, 71-70, and reach the Elite Eight.
7. March 19, 1981: BYU's **Danny Ainge** makes like a whirling dervish as he drives the length of the court and hits a finger roll as time expires to upset Notre Dame, 51-50, in the East Regional semifinals.
8. March 19, 1998: Down one to Washington in the Sweet 16, UConn misses two shots, but the third is the charm: **Richard Hamilton** gets the rebound and hits a fadeaway in the lane for the 75-74 win.
9. April 7, 2008: His Jayhawks trailing Memphis by three with 2.1 seconds left, **Mario Chalmers** hits a three-pointer to force overtime and enable Kansas to win its third national title.
10. March 14, 1981: Arkansas' **U.S. Reed** gets the inbounds pass, takes a few dribbles along the sideline, then launches and hits a 50-foot two-pointer to give the Razorbacks a 74-73 win over defending national champion Louisville in the second round.

THE 15 BEST PROGRAMS NEVER TO WIN IT ALL

Considering the entire sweep of college basketball history, which schools should have won a national championship but never did? The Committee decided.

1. **Illinois (27 NCAA Tournaments, 5 Final Fours, 1 Final lost)** The Illini's last best shot was the 2005 Final loss to North Carolina. In 1988-89, they beat Michigan twice in the regular season but lost to the Fab Five in the Final Four.
2. **Houston (18, 5, 2)** Who didn't love watching Jim Valvano go nuts after Dereck Whittenburg's title-winning dunk in 1983? Houston fans. Also ask them how they feel about Georgetown's Patrick Ewing and UCLA's Lew Alcindor.
3. **Oklahoma (26, 4, 2)** The Sooners would have won it all in 1988 if not for Danny Manning and the Miracles. And then there was that Final loss in 1947 to Holy Cross.
4. **St. John's (27, 2, 1)** National runner-up in 1952 and a Big East stalwart in the '80s, but Chris Mullin couldn't shoot the Johnnies past Georgetown in the '85 Final Four.
5. **Purdue (23, 2, 1)** Not even Rick Mount's rocket fire could take down UCLA in 1969; and the Big Dog (Glenn Robinson) never quite got near the Big One.
6. **Iowa (22, 3, 1)** The 1956 version of the Fabulous Five was snuffed by Bill Russell's San Francisco Dons. Many Hawkeye heartbreaks have followed.
7. **Kansas State (23, 4, 1)** Who remembers the Cats' four national semifinal teams between 1948 and '64? We do—and also their 1951 Final loss to Kentucky.
8. **Notre Dame (29, 1, 0)** Not a great Tourney team but a great giant-killer, most notably UCLA. For that alone, the Irish get our love.
9. **Memphis (22, 3, 2)** Start with the blown title in 2008 after leading Kansas by nine with 2:12 in regulation, then remember Bill Walton's 21-for-22 shooting in the '73 Final.
10. **Temple (27, 2, 0)** Why the Owls? A terrific program in business since 1894, missed the 1958 Final by a point (to Kentucky). Led for a quarter-century by the great John Chaney.
11. **West Virginia (22, 1, 1)** Jerry West was great enough to be the model for the NBA logo, but his Mountaineers were not quite good enough to cop an NCAA title. Came within a point though, losing to Cal 71-70 in 1959.
12. **Texas (27, 3, 0)** The Longhorns had their best shot in 1947, when they had a one-point lead :10 from the Final, only to lose by a point to eventual runner-up Oklahoma. Lost to Syracuse in the 2003 Final Four, 95-84.
13. **Bradley (8, 2, 2)** In 1950, when winning either the NIT or the NCAA Tournament allowed a school to call itself a national champion, the Braves lost the final of both—to the same CCNY team.
14. **Missouri (22, 0, 0)** Only BYU has been to more Tournaments without reaching a Final Four. The 1981-82 Tigers topped the polls for a time, but lost by a point in the Midwest Regional to Hakeem Olajuwon's Houston.
15. **Wake Forest (21, 1, 0)** Wake could have taken care of business as one of the eight teams in the very first NCAA Tournament in 1939, but it lost to Ohio State. Billy Packer's team had a shot in the '62 Final Four (against Ohio State, no less), but no shining moment then, either.

THE 50 BEST NICKNAMES

1. **The Owl Without a Vowel** Bill Mlkvy, Temple
2. **The Round Mound of Rebound** Charles Barkley, Auburn
3. **Dr. Dunkenstein** Darrell Griffith, Louisville
4. **Pistol Pete** Pete Maravich, LSU
5. **The Big O** Oscar Robertson, Cincinnati
6. **The Big E** Elvin Hayes, Houston
7. **Big House** Clarence Gaines, Winston-Salem State coach
8. **Magic** Earvin Johnson, Michigan State
9. **Fly** James Williams, Austin Peay
10. **Hot Rod** Rod Hundley, West Virginia; John Williams, Tulane
11. **Hot Plate** John Williams, LSU
12. **The Pearl** Earl Monroe, Winston-Salem
13. **The Dream** Hakeem Olajuwon, Houston; Dean Meminger, Marquette
14. **The Admiral** David Robinson, Navy
15. **Sleepy** Eric Floyd, Georgetown
16. **Happy** Harold Hairston, NYU
17. **Doc** Glenn Rivers, Marquette
18. **Speedy** Craig Claxton, Hofstra
19. **Pooh** Jerome Richardson, UCLA
20. **Bimbo** Vernell Coles, Virginia Tech
21. **Spud** Anthony Webb, NC State
22. **Tiny** Nate Archibald, Loyola-Chicago
23. **Curly** Fred Neal, Johnson C. Smith
24. **Big Baby** Glen Davis, LSU
25. **Fall Back Baby** Dick Barnett, Tennessee A&I
26. **Big Dog** Glenn Robinson, Purdue
27. **Doggie** Alvin Julian, Holy Cross and Dartmouth coach
28. **Big Nasty** Corliss Williamson, Arkansas
29. **The Goat** Earl Manigault, Johnson C. Smith
30. **The Mailman** Karl Malone, Louisiana Tech
31. **The X-Man** Xavier McDaniel, Wichita State
32. **The Elevator Man** Ric Cobb, Marquette
33. **The Human Highlight Film** Dominique Wilkins, Georgia
34. **The Human Eraser** Marvin Webster, Morgan State
35. **The Glide** Clyde Drexler, Houston
36. **The Judge** Antoine Joubert, Michigan
37. **The Prince of Midair** Lloyd Free, Guilford
38. **Cornbread** Cedric Maxwell, Charlotte
39. **Cadillac** Greg Anderson, Houston
40. **Tractor** Robert Traylor, Michigan
41. **Zeke From Cabin Creek** Jerry West, West Virginia
42. **The Hick From French Lick** Larry Bird, Indiana State
43. **The Alaskan Assassin** Trajan Langdon, Duke
44. **The Dunking Dutchman** Rik Smits, Marist
45. **Never Nervous** Pervis Ellison, Louisville
46. **Dinner Bell Mel** Mel Turpin, Kentucky
47. **Psycho T** Tyler Hansbrough, North Carolina
48. **White Lobster** Bryant Barr, Davidson
49. **The Vertical Hyphen** John Horan, Dayton
50. **Allah the Rim God** Alonza Allen, SW Louisiana



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