

Nothing but NET

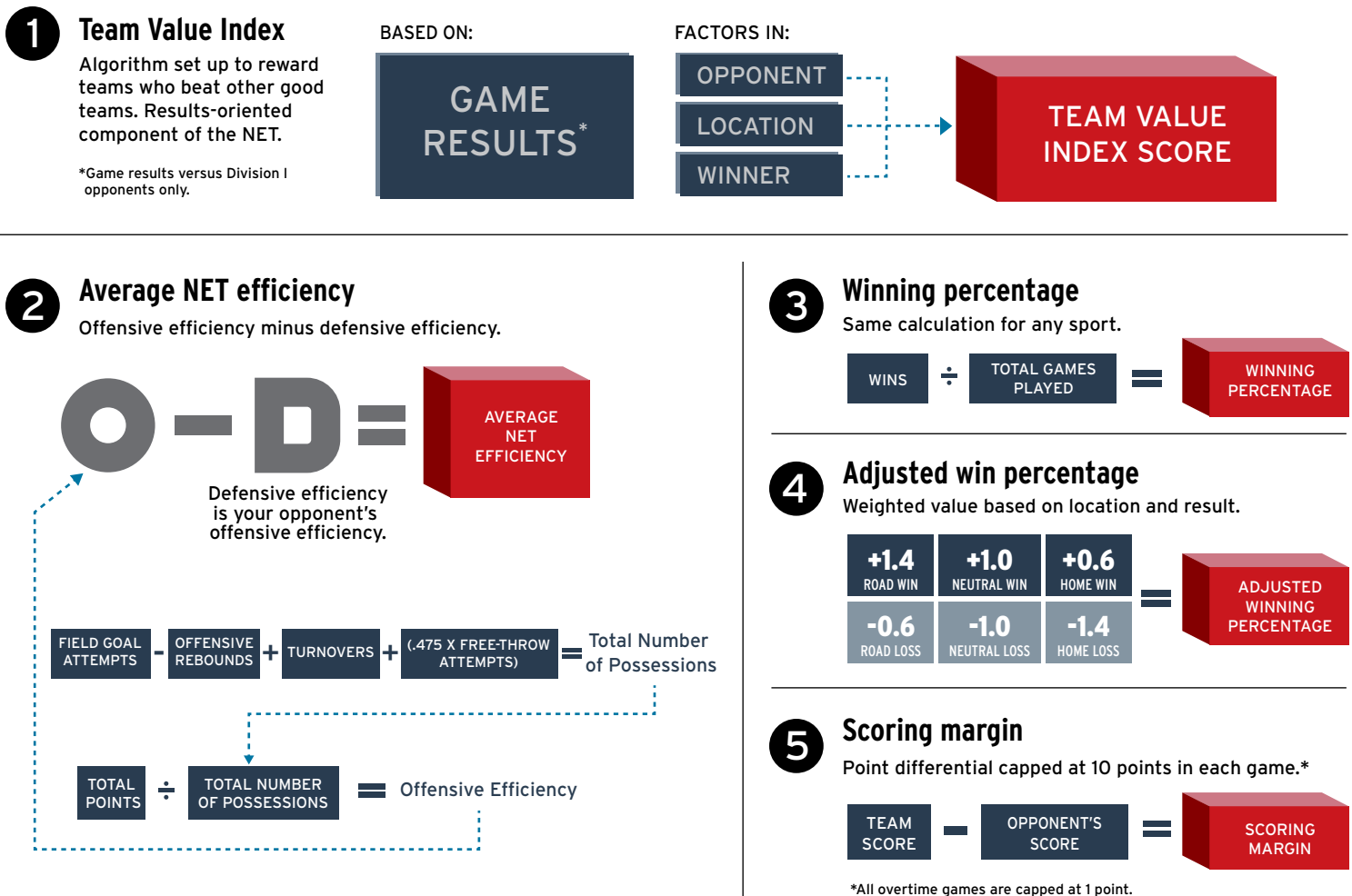
KEEPING SCORE

A modernized metric will play a starring role in selections for the Division I men's basketball tournament

For most of its existence, basketball has remained a sport that is difficult to statistically measure from game to game. Unlike baseball, which proceeds with a series of singular actions that can be compiled and compared — a hit, a strike-out, a walk — basketball's fluid form can vary widely from one game to the next, depending on the pace of play, the number of offensive rebounds grabbed or turnovers committed. But the last decade has seen breakthroughs in statistical analysis, and the Division I Men's Basketball Championship is taking advantage with the rollout of a new metric to be used by the Division I Men's Basketball Committee in helping it sort and seed the tournament field. Called the NET, for NCAA Evaluation Tool, the new metric will use a series of calculations to measure teams' performances from a variety of angles. Here's a look at how it will work. — *Brian Hendrickson*

WHAT 5 FACTORS DETERMINE THE NET?

Strength of schedule will continue to be important, but the NET also will determine the quality of wins and losses and factor in the scoring margin (with a cap of 10 points to discourage unsportsmanlike conduct).



NOTE: "Quadrant system" still will be used for selections, and the NET is how those games will be sorted into those quadrants.

The NCAA Evaluation Tool was developed in partnership with Google Cloud.

What Wins Are Worth

By Brian Burnsed

When Loyola Chicago, an 11 seed, knocked off Kansas State to earn an improbable trip to the 2018 Final Four in San Antonio, the Ramblers found themselves in an unfamiliar place: the limelight. And while their journey ended at the hands of Michigan in the national semifinals, history suggests the goodwill generated by four upset tournament wins will provide a lasting boon for the 11,000-student school.

A handful of other low seeds — a mix of relative unknowns and small universities — have made memorable marches through March in recent years. And that fleeting time in the sun has borne fruit: An influx of applicants, donations, merchandise sales, even infrastructure investments often follow. Just how meaningful are a few wins in March, and what might be in store for Loyola Chicago?

Surprising March Madness runs help underdogs raise their profiles — and their bottom lines



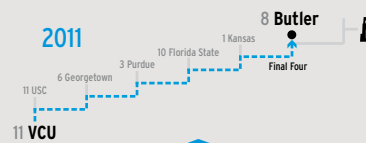
GEORGE MASON



BUTLER



VCU



FLORIDA GULF COAST



350%
increase in
admissions office inquiries



150%
increase in admissions
web traffic



54%
increase in out-of-state
applications

■ **ADDITIONAL IMPACT:** Book-store merchandise sales hit \$800,000 in March 2006 alone, up from \$625,000 for the entire 2004-05 school year. Associate Athletics Director Maureen Nasser says media still mention the school each March.



\$36M
renovation to
Hinkle Fieldhouse



\$255M
in expanding and upgrading
campus facilities, including
the business school, a
parking garage and
a new arts center

■ **ADDITIONAL IMPACT:** Home basketball game attendance has jumped by more than 20 percent since the first Final Four appearance. Annual applicants also have nearly tripled since 2010.



\$5M

increase in annual gifts to
the Ram Athletic Fund.
Before the Final Four
appearance, donors gave
nearly \$1.5 million annually.
That figure has since
surpassed \$6 million.



25

city representatives
requested VCU alumni
chapters after the
tournament.

■ **ADDITIONAL IMPACT:** The Rams have sold out 117 straight home basketball games, starting with the four final home games of their landmark 2011 season. Additionally, a slew of local businesses immediately began selling VCU merchandise.



\$19M

increase in annual
fundraising for
the school –
from \$14 million
to \$33 million.



106%

increase in home
attendance
since 2012-13

■ **ADDITIONAL IMPACT:** Sales of licensed school merchandise have more than tripled since 2012, and Athletics Director Ken Kavanagh says the days of seeing students wearing other schools' gear have passed. In addition, the average GPA of the entering freshman class rose from 3.35 in 2012 to 3.81 in 2016.



NCAA PHOTOS ARCHIVE

A Fabulous 5

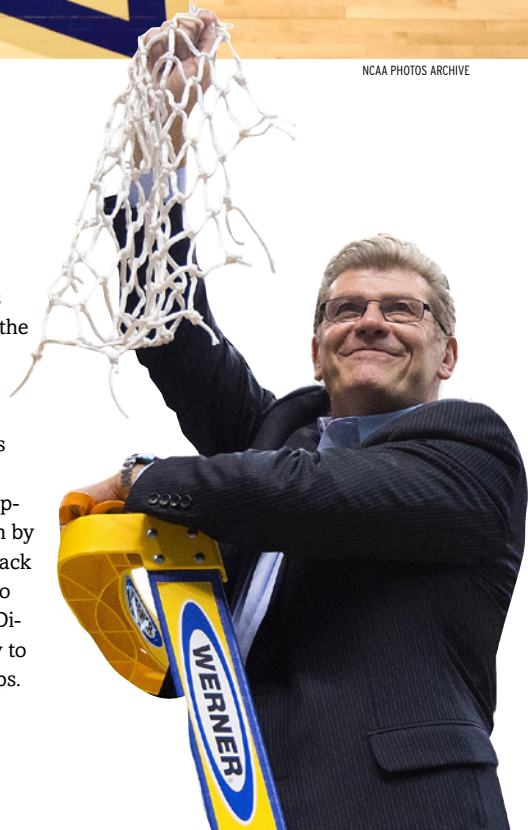
Modern memorable moments that have catapulted the women's game

By Brian Hendrickson

In recent years, college women's basketball has divided its games into quarters instead of halves, and Division I adopted a new Women's Final Four schedule — changes intended to spur excitement in the sport. But in many ways, the game has sparked new interest on its own during that time, simply by providing historic accomplishments and a little mainstream fun.

DOMINANT DOGS

UConn's epic win streak of 111 games gave the team a dynasty deserving a spot alongside UCLA's run of 88 consecutive victories on the men's side. But the dominance the Huskies showed during the streak that extended from 2014 to 2017 may stand alone. Only three games were won by fewer than 10 points, 31 victories came against ranked opponents, and nine games were won by 60 or more points. Their back-to-back national titles during the streak also made UConn the first program in Division I women's basketball history to win four consecutive championships.



END OF A DYNASTY

Every dynasty eventually is conquered. UConn's loss to Mississippi State in the 2017 national semifinals on a dramatic buzzer-beater by Morgan Williams made national darlings of the Bulldogs with a television audience that outdrew two NBA games that night and shattered ESPN's online streaming records for the event. Even UConn coach Geno Auriemma was seen smiling in the chaos that followed the shot, as if sensing, even in defeat, how big the moment was for the game.



NCAA PHOTOS ARCHIVE



SCOTT EKLUND / UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

THE BEST FOR LAST

Washington senior Kelsey Plum, in her final regular-season game in 2017, needed 54 points to surpass Jackie Stiles' NCAA scoring record. She did better, hitting six 3-pointers and sinking 13 of 17 shots inside the arc en route to 57 points in a victory over Utah. Some sports pundits have called hers the finest performance in college basketball — for either gender — in the past decade. Plum's 3,527 career points is more than just a women's record, though. It's also the second-most career points scored in Division I basketball, men or women, trailing only LSU's "Pistol" Pete Maravich.

FACT

GROWTH PATTERN

Year-over-year attendance has risen in three of the past five seasons, reaching a record 8,567,490 fans attending regular-season women's basketball games in 2017-18.



JUSTIN TAFOYA / NCAA PHOTOS

BACK-TO-BACK BUZZER-BEATERS

It's hard to imagine a more dramatic championship in any sport, or for a single player. In the 2018 national semifinals, Notre Dame's Arike Ogunbowale sank a baseline jumper in the final seconds of overtime to stun top-seeded UConn — the second consecutive year the Huskies had lost a semifinal game in its final seconds. Then, in the championship contest, the Irish rallied from a 15-point deficit before Ogunbowale hit a 3-pointer with 0.1 second remaining to topple Mississippi State 61-58 and take the title.

ANOTHER BIG DANCE

Those big shots launched Ogunbowale into pop-culture stardom. She appeared on "The Ellen Show," where former Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant presented her with an autographed jersey. She also won the "Best Play" ESPY for her title-clinching shot. She then took her fleet feet into pop's mainstream: A spot on an all-athlete edition of "Dancing With the Stars," where she appeared with other champions: former UCLA and Lakers star Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Olympic softball gold medalist Jennie Finch and World Series champion Johnny Damon.



PHIL MCCARTEN / AP IMAGES

FROM THE RECORD BOOKS

Long-Range Leader

3-point record set by Butler's Darrin Fitzgerald has endured for more than 3 decades

By **Matthew Holmes**

The NCAA adopted the 3-point line 32 years ago, and many records have been set and broken as players and coaches embraced it and cultivated new and innovative ways to integrate it into the game.

One Division I men's basketball record set by Butler's Darrin Fitzgerald, however, has stood the test of time: his 5.64 3-pointers per contest (158 in 28 games) has held through the succeeding 31 seasons. No other player has come close to that mark.

Fitzgerald already had been firing from 3-point distance on his way to 1,285 points in his first three seasons at Butler, the close-to-home school he chose after starring at George Washington Community

High School in Indianapolis. Adding the 3-point arc to the court turned his senior campaign into a season for the record books.

"My initial thought was that it wasn't a big deal because I was already shooting out that far before the line was even there," Fitzgerald says. "I tried to make sure I was comfortable with it and shot as many 3-pointers as I could in practice, then I would go out after a two-hour practice and shoot 1,000 more 3-pointers."

Fitzgerald also finished his career as Butler's leader in assists (411) at the time, but coach Joe Sexson was clear that he didn't want his 5-foot-10 floor general passing up those brand new 3-pointers.

"At one point, I turned down a 3-point shot to pass to someone closer to the bucket, and it went through his hands," Fitzgerald recalls. "Joe Sexson took me out of the game and told me if I ever pass up another 3-point shot, he would sit me on the bench for the rest of the season — and then he told me

to get back into the game.

"I was clear on what he said. I didn't have a problem with it. I had a double green light."

Fitzgerald's ability to shoot off the dribble was a hallmark of his game, honed on the playgrounds of Indianapolis, where he went up during countless one-on-one showdowns against 6-foot-5 high school teammate and best friend, John Sherman Williams, who went on to be a 2,374-point scorer at Indiana State.

"I learned how to get my shot off and create space. I learned to create space with a big man on me," Fitzgerald says.

Fitzgerald saw every defense that coaches could cook up.

"The ball was in his hands on every possession. He wasn't afforded the opportunity to be a catch-and-shoot guy. He wasn't coming off picks where he didn't have the ball much, either," former teammate Rick Donovan says. "He was using ball picks ... or it was pulling up off the break or off the dribble. He had subtle moves and such a quick release that one bounce, wherever it got him, was just enough space to get his shot off."

Donovan and Fitzgerald both describe his ability to shoot off the dribble in one-on-one situations as a precursor of the man who broke his single-season record of 158 3-pointers, Steph Curry. Curry hit 162 triples during Davidson's run to the 2008 Elite Eight but needed eight more games (36) to hit four more than Fitzgerald did in 28.

The culmination of Fitzgerald's hard work came as the season was winding down. On Feb. 9, 1987, against Detroit, Fitzgerald erupted for 54 points and 12 3-pointers — both Hinkle Fieldhouse records.

"In the second half, Fitz got on such a roll. I'm not sure there was anything the guy guarding him could do except tackle him to stop him from making those 3s," Donovan recalls.

Fitzgerald concluded the year with seven games with 30 or more points as he finished with 2,019 career points, currently third in Butler history.

After graduating with his degree in public communications, Fitzgerald spent 19 years working for DaimlerChrysler and is now in his Indianapolis hometown, working for Allison Transmission. Today, his approach remains the same.

"When I go to work, just like when I went to practice, I put everything that I have into it," Fitzgerald says. "That way, I knew I wasn't short-changing myself. I wasn't short-changing my teammates, or now my fellow workers, and that's the way I look at life."

DIVISION I 3-POINT RECORDS SEASON AVERAGE PER GAME

PLAYER, TEAM	SEASON	G	3FG	AVG.
▶ Darrin Fitzgerald				
Butler	1987	28	158	5.64
Terrence Woods				
Florida A&M	2003	28	139	4.96
Demon Brown				
Charlotte	2003	29	137	4.72
Timothy Pollard				
Mississippi Val.	1988	28	132	4.71
Chris Brown				
UC Irvine	1994	26	122	4.69

3-POINT FIELD GOALS MADE IN A SEASON

PLAYER, TEAM	SEASON	G	3FG
Stephen Curry			
Davidson	2008	36	162
▶ Darrin Fitzgerald			
Butler	1987	28	158
Akeem Richmond			
East Carolina	2014	34	155
Freddie Banks			
UNLV	1987	39	152
David Holston			
Chicago St.	2009	32	147
Travis Bader			
Oakland	2014	33	147
Buddy Hield			
Oklahoma	2016	37	147

ATTEMPTS PER GAME

12.9 Darrin Fitzgerald ◀
Butler, 1987 (362 in 28 games)



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START

Party Planning

How do you land a big event? Tips from the organizers of the next DIII Men's Basketball Championship

By Brian Burnsed

With just one exception, Division III men's basketball champions have been crowned in Salem, Virginia, for more than two decades, but that tradition ends this spring, when Fort Wayne, Indiana, hosts the finals. Beginning in 2019 and continuing through 2022, the Division III Men's Basketball Championship will take place in the 13,000-seat Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, brought there via the efforts of arena officials, representatives from Visit Fort Wayne and nearby Manchester University, the host school. Local organizers hope pulling off a successful event will turn the city into a regular NCAA championship stop.

After the championship's storied history in Salem, how did Fort Wayne manage to land the finals? Manchester Athletics Director Rick Espeset and Memorial Coliseum Vice President of Sales Nathan Dennison share what they learned through the bid process and offer tips on what to expect if your school or city earns the right to host:

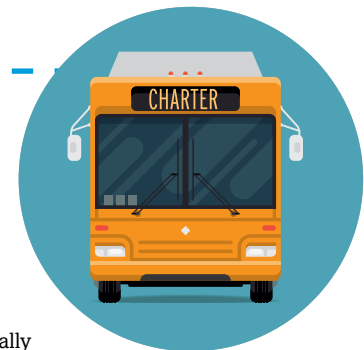


ASK FOR HELP

Turning to an outsider familiar with the nuances of the bidding process can be advantageous, particularly if it's your first time vying for a championship. The group in Fort Wayne, for instance, elicited the help of a former NCAA national office staff member-turned-consultant. The consultant shared expertise on how to assemble an appealing budget proposal and highlighted areas in the application that were most vital. "I think from the outside looking into the NCAA, it's a little bit daunting for a venue," Dennison says. "The decision to hire the consultant to help us in the process was a pretty simple one. That investment so far has paid off really well."

HIT THE ROAD

The good news? You're going to host a championship! The bad news? You're going to host a championship. If you find yourself in unfamiliar territory, spend time with those who can light your way. A contingent from Fort Wayne made the trip to the 2018 Division III Men's Basketball Championship in Salem to see firsthand what it would take to pull off a memorable event. They peppered their counterparts in Virginia with questions throughout their stay and were grateful for the insights. "We really just immersed ourselves," Dennison says. "OK, what did it take to put this on? What works? What maybe doesn't? ... I just can't say enough about how valuable our trip to Salem was."



RELY ON YOUR CAMPUS

Depending on the size of the championship, you may need a fleet of volunteers and workers to handle event management, sports information duties and athletic training needs. Manchester plans to lean on its students and staff, who will fill those important roles while simultaneously garnering invaluable experience. Espeset estimates about two dozen students will have the chance to contribute — and learn. "There's going to be an influx of students that are going to gain experience," he says. "There are going to be all kinds of opportunities."



HOST



Pep Talk

The greatest hits from the soundtrack of college basketball



By Olivia Garrison

Ah, the sounds of a college basketball game. Sneakers squeaking on the floor. The bounce of a leather ball on polished wood. The cheers of fans. The bellow of the announcer.

Yet without the accompaniment of a pep band to give the cacophony a cadence, the experience wouldn't be complete. Here, some top picks from the soundtracks of some college pep bands who know how to rev up crowds come tournament time.

Kentucky

■ **THE MADNESS:** The university leads in total NCAA men's basketball tournament appearances with 57, while appearing in 17 Final Fours and 12 Division I championship games and winning eight of those championships.

■ **THE BAND:** The first marching band at Kentucky dates to about 1893, an unofficial cadet band led by Herman Trost, a bandleader in Sherman's army during the Civil War.

■ **PEP SONGS PICKS:** Instead of shouting the traditional "Hey" throughout "**The Hey Song**," the cheerleaders, band and fans yell "C-A-T-S." And when the band plays "**2001: A Space Odyssey Theme (Also Sprach Zarathustra)**," the classical fanfare made popular by the epic 1960s science fiction film, the cheerleaders form a rotating pyramid as the school flag flies behind them.

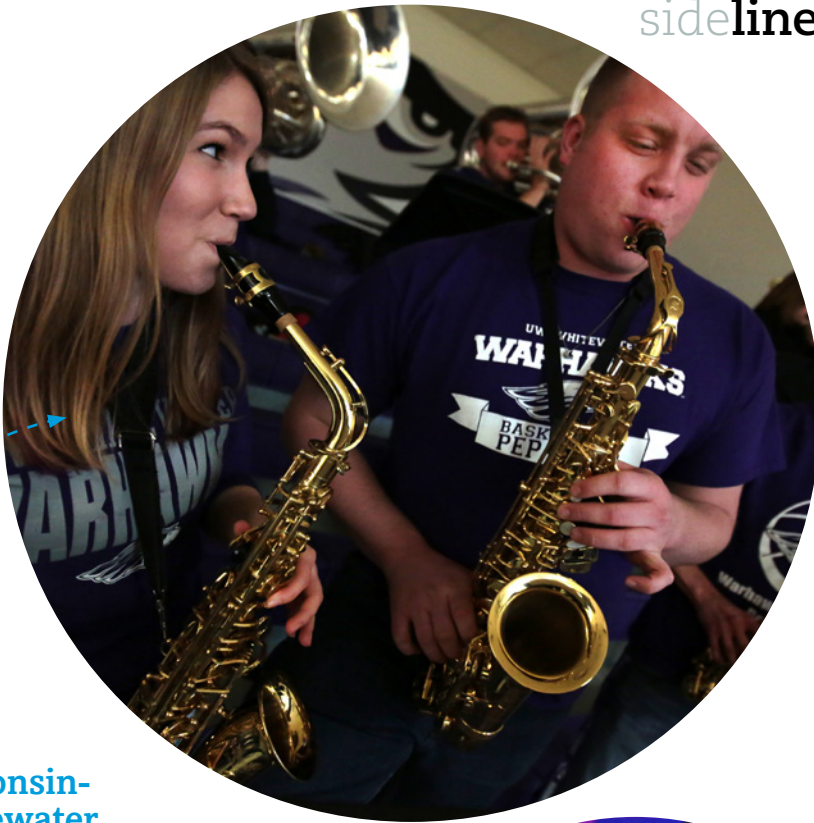
Northwest Missouri State

■ **THE MADNESS:** The men's basketball team has appeared in the Division II tournament 18 times and won the national title in 2017.

■ **THE BAND:** The Bearcat Marching Band was created in the 1920s and includes the BMB Drumline, Northwest Colorguard, Bearcat Steppers and Featured Twirlers.

■ **PEP SONG PICKS:** When it's time to celebrate a big win or playoff berth, the band turns to Kool & the Gang's lively "**Celebration**." Director of Athletic Bands Kathryn Strickland says it makes for a "big-party" atmosphere. Meanwhile, no song gets a crowd to throw up its hands up and kick up its heels like the Isley Brothers oldie, "**Shout**." When the team is coming back to the court, she says, it can create a "big energy moment."





Wisconsin-Whitewater

■ **THE MADNESS:** The men's basketball team has been the NCAA Division III champion four times since 1984.

■ **THE BAND:** The pep band is student-conducted.

■ **PEP SONG PICKS:** The old New Orleans second-line tune "The Warhawk Strut" closes every halftime and postgame performance, while strutting fans and players "shake it to the left" and "shake it to the right." The Warhawk Basketball Pep Band also performs the 1979 pop hit "My Sharona" at halftime during basketball games. The up-tempo, basic beat is danceable for all ages.



Ashland

■ **THE MADNESS:** The school has appeared in four NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Championship games, winning two championships since 2013.

■ **THE BAND:** The Eagle Marching Band is one of the most active organizations on Ashland's campus, with 80 band members including the color guard and twirlers. The pep band, which plays at basketball games, is an extension of the marching band.

■ **PEP SONG PICKS:** "The Impression That I Get," a lively ska song by the Mighty Mighty Boss-tones, adds an exciting sound at halftime, during a timeout or between the men's and women's basketball games. Plus, it lets the brass have some fun. Meanwhile, the Ashland dance team gets funky when the pep band plays the Bruno Mars hit "Uptown Funk." The choreography and catchy beat bring a roar from Eagles fans.

UConn

■ **THE MADNESS:** The UConn women have appeared in the Division I women's tournament 30 times, including 19 Women's Final Fours and 11 championship wins.

■ **THE BAND:** The school has 160 band members, separated into three traveling pep bands named after previous band directors.

■ **PEP SONG PICKS:** "Tear It Up," inspired by the Jackson 5's "Dancing Machine," is a "real crowd pleaser," says Associate Director of Bands Ricardo Brown. The band relies on it when the game is tied or the Huskies pull ahead. And "Big Things Poppin'" by rapper T.I., provides momentum. The band adds a twist with hip-hop vocals – such as "Uh-oh! Who let the dogs out?"

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What made them great student-athletes makes them great employees.



sidelines



Susie Heede-Andersen taught her son love and respect for family and basketball. FIBA PHOTO

Like Mother, Like Son

Adam Heede-Andersen | AS TOLD TO BRIAN BURNSED

My mom played in the Danish women's league for a long time and won championships there. My parents never forced me to play, never pushed me in that direction — our policy in the family is that we don't like to coach our own kids because it creates a difficult dynamic.

They've always been really supportive, and they've always said if this is what you want to do, we'll support you 100 percent. But it's never involved making me do intense workouts or putting me through drills from an early age. That really preserved my love of the game. I'm very thankful they did it that way.

In May, my mom accepted the position to be head coach of Værløse Basketball Klub, a men's team that plays in the best Danish league. When the news came out, it was kind of a big deal — she's the first woman in any sport in Denmark to coach a men's team at the highest level. She was on the radio nationwide. We have two major news channels in Denmark, and she was on both of them talking about it.

She was worried about accepting the job because she knew she might end up coaching my friends that I'd grown up with and that people might be saying nasty things online — things that you can't really control. I thought she should go for it from the start. I never had any doubts or any worries.

I'm most likely not going to make a lot of money playing basketball, but I do want to use it as a tool to travel after college and try to see if I can play a couple of places in Europe. That would be my first option if that was available. I probably wouldn't go home and play for my mom.

Our family's relationship around basketball is very relaxed, and I think that's the most important thing. We don't push each other; we respect each other. We just let our love of the game drive what we do.

Adam Heede-Andersen is a senior guard for St. Cloud State. In May, his mother, Susie Heede-Andersen, was named head coach of Denmark's Værløse Basketball Klub, which plays in the country's top men's professional league.

St. Cloud State guard inherited a passion for basketball from his pioneering mom



Travel Travails

In March, you never know what might come between the teams and the tournament



By Amy Wimmer Schwarz

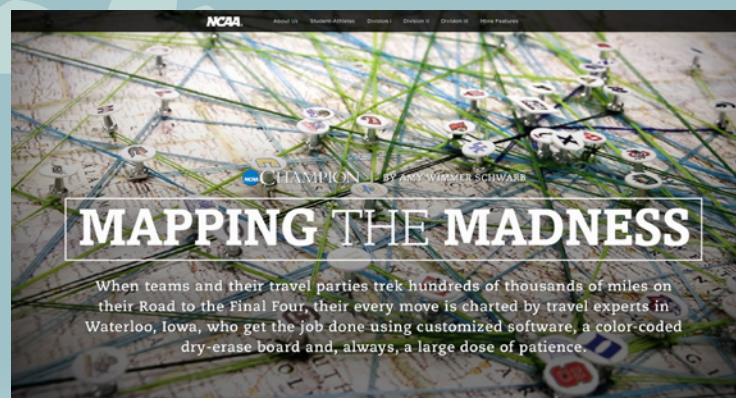
Nor'easters. Charter company mergers. Traveling tubas.

Each spring is a new adventure for the NCAA travel staff, who are charged with moving not only 20,000 Division I men's and women's basketball players, coaches, staff, band members and cheerleaders throughout the country, but also competitors and coaches for the other NCAA spring championships. Some challenges come with the expected territory of March Madness air travel — lining up baggage handlers on short notice, for instance, or working within the confines of Federal Aviation Administration rest regulations for flight crews.

But others are unique to the year, giving the travel staff a new dynamic to add to the logistical puzzle of championships travel in March.

"There is never a dull moment," says Juanita Sheely, NCAA director of travel, meetings and events. "Every year teaches us something new."

Among the challenges in 2018: NCAA travel staff members were more diligent about enforcing how



ONLINE Want to know more about how the NCAA travel staff manages March Madness from the offices of its travel consultant in Waterloo, Iowa? See Champion's "Mapping the Madness" at ncaa.org/static/champion/mapping-the-madness.

much band equipment is allowed to accompany teams on planes. The rule restricts bands to two tubas and one drum set, but in recent years some teams have stretched the limits, creating heavier planes, which necessitates extra fuel stops and jeopardizes flight arrangements for the next team

awaiting that plane.

As a result, Sheely says, she "heard from more band directors than directors of operations this year."

Meanwhile, four Nor'easters ravaged New England in 18 days in March, canceling flights throughout the Northeast and especially affecting

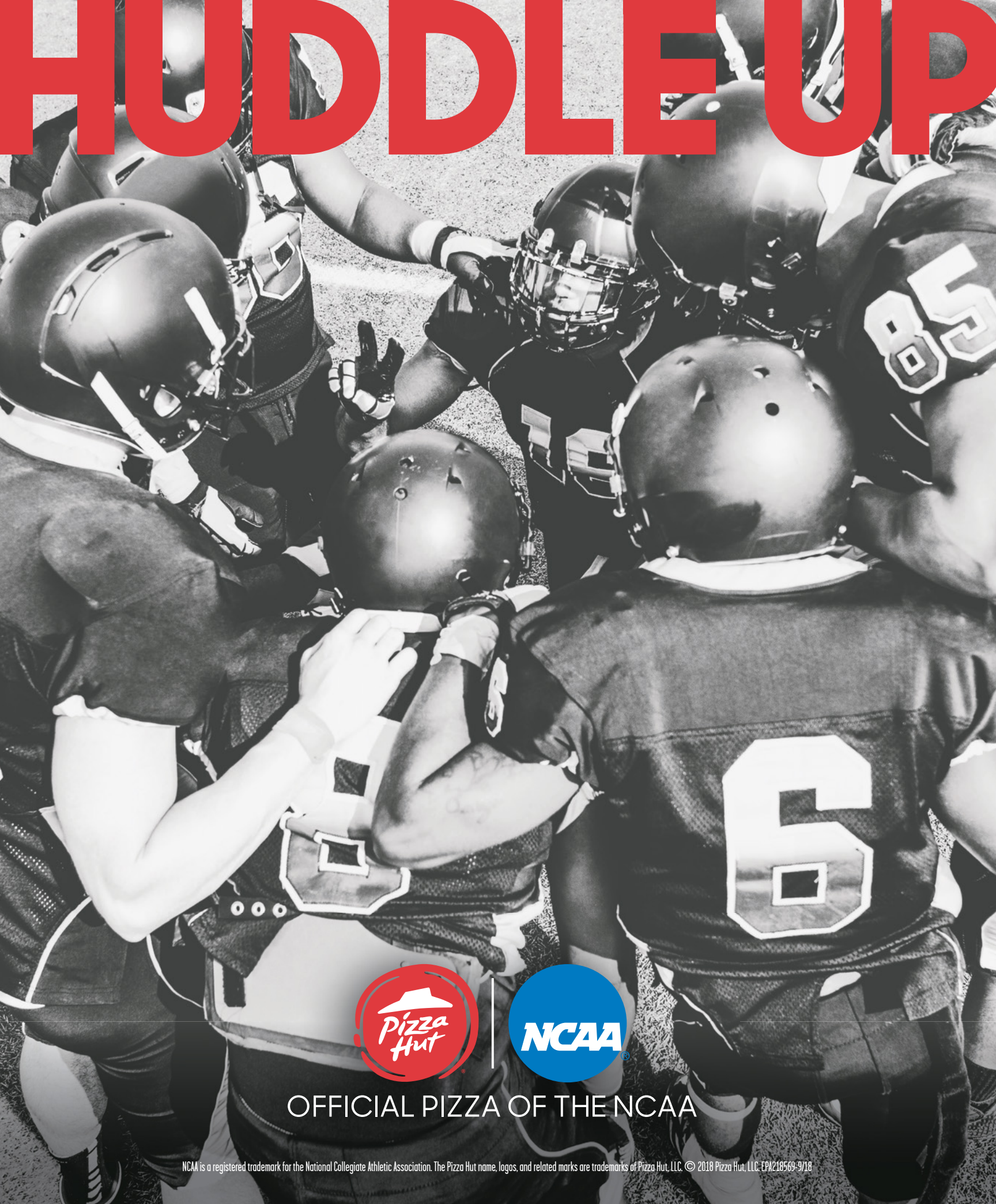
travel to Boston while it was hosting a regional round of the Division I men's basketball tournament.

In one situation, a Division III men's and women's swimming and diving team from a Northeast school nearly didn't make it to the championships. Sheely found herself on the telephone with the Division III national office staff, which manages the budget for those students' travel. "OK, here's what our options are: chartering them to North Carolina, and then flying them commercial to Texas," Sheely told her colleagues, "or these 12 student-athletes don't get to compete."

The swimmers and divers got where they needed to be, as did everyone in the travel parties of the Division I men's and women's basketball teams and the thousands of others in March NCAA championships.

Among those competitors are wrestlers, fencers, skiers and the runners, jumpers and throwers participating in indoor track and field championships — each one a reminder that in March, the travel madness isn't limited to basketball.

HUDDLE UP



OFFICIAL PIZZA OF THE NCAA

PUZZLER | By Gary K. Johnson

ON THE SCREEN AND ON THE COURT

Can you name the celebrities who have played or cheered on college basketball?

1. While earning a bachelor's degree in drama and journalism from Fordham in 1977, he played for the junior varsity basketball team under coach P.J. Carlesimo. Now an award-winning actor, he has three Golden Globes, a Tony and two Academy Awards to his credit. His Oscars were for best supporting actor in "Glory" and best actor for "Training Day." Who is this actor?

2. She received a basketball scholarship to attend Chapman, then followed her coach to Colorado State to play basketball for the Rams. But while still a redshirt, she entered a comedy contest and was named the Funniest Person on Campus. She soon joined the comedy nightclub circuit and landed a job as a writer for "Saturday Night Live," which led to her becoming a cast member. She also was in the 2016 movie, "Ghostbusters." Who is this current cast member of "Saturday Night Live"?

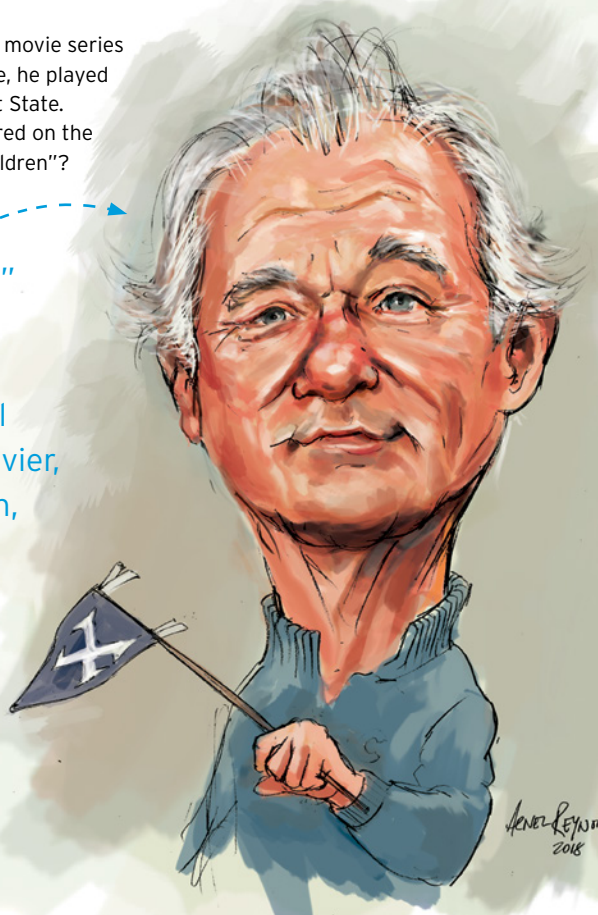
3. He played two seasons for Drury on a basketball scholarship before leaving college to be a Navy fighter pilot in World War II. Later, he hosted the game show, "Truth or Consequences," from 1956 to 1974, and "The Price Is Right" from 1972 to 2007. Who is this former TV game show host?

4. Known as a Kentucky super fan, this actor often attends regular-season Wildcats basketball games and Final Four games. Her movie credits include "Norma Jean & Marilyn," "Double Jeopardy," "Dolphin Tale" and "Kiss the Girls." Who is this Kentucky fan?

5. During his four years of playing for the Saint Mary's (California) basketball team in the mid-1990s, he found his true calling in acting, not in sports. His movie credits include "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" and "The Hunger Games," and he also earned an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor in "Moonlight." Who is this athlete-turned-actor?

6. A star of the "Transformers" movie series and ex-husband of singer Fergie, he played basketball and football at Minot State. Who is this actor who also starred on the daytime soap opera "All My Children"?

7. A sports fan, this "Saturday Night Live" alum has been in the crowd to watch his son on the basketball coaching staffs at Xavier, Rhode Island, Towson, Wagner and Arizona. He also once was spotted at the Final Four wearing a groundhog mask. Who is this fan?



SEASON RECORD HOLDERS

In the three divisions of NCAA men's and women's basketball, how well do you know the season record holders in different categories? Match the division with the student-athlete record holder and his or her school.

1. Season Points

DIVISION	STUDENT-ATHLETE	SCHOOL
A. DIM	A. Jeannie Demers	A. Buena Vista
B. DIW	B. Jackie Givens	B. Fort Valley St.
C. DIIM	C. Greg Grant	C. LSU
D. DIIW	D. Pete Maravich	D. TCNJ
E. DIIIM	E. Earl Monroe	E. Washington
F. DIIIW	F. Kelsey Plum	F. Winston-Salem

2. Season 3-Point Field Goals Made

DIVISION	STUDENT-ATHLETE	SCHOOL
A. DIM	A. Jeff Clement	A. Chris. Newport
B. DIW	B. Stephen Curry	B. Davidson
C. DIIM	C. Jessica Kovatch	C. Grinnell
D. DIIW	D. Laura Malernee	D. Sacramento St.
E. DIIIM	E. Chelsie Schweers	E. Saint Francis (PA)
F. DIIIW	F. Alex Williams	F. West Liberty

3. Season Rebounds

DIVISION	STUDENT-ATHLETE	SCHOOL
A. DIM	A. Natalie Butler	A. Bowie St.
B. DIW	B. Walt Dukes	B. George Mason
C. DIIM	C. Courtney Goyak	C. Kentucky St.
D. DIIW	D. Joe Manley	D. Lancaster Bible
E. DIIIM	E. Francine Perry	E. Quinnipiac
F. DIIIW	F. Elmore Smith	F. Seton Hall

4. Season Blocked Shots

DIVISION	STUDENT-ATHLETE	SCHOOL
A. DIM	A. Tory Black	A. Baylor
B. DIW	B. Cori Carson	B. Edinboro
C. DIIM	C. Brittney Griner	C. Marymount (VA)
D. DIIW	D. Ryan McLemore	D. Navy
E. DIIIM	E. LaKisha Phifer	E. NJIT
F. DIIIW	F. David Robinson	F. St. Paul's

ANSWERS

- CELEBS AROUND COLLEGE BASKETBALL
 1. Denzel Washington
 2. Leslie Jones
 3. Bob Barker
 4. Ashley Judd
 5. Mahershala Ali (Hershel Gilmore)
 6. Josh Duhamel
 7. Bill Murray
- SEASON RECORD HOLDERS
 1. A-D-C, B-F-E, C-E-F, D-B-B, E-C-D, F-A-A
 2. A-B-B, B-C-E, C-F-D, D-D-F, E-A-C, F-E-A
 3. A-B-F, B-A-B, C-F-C, D-E-E, E-D-A, F-C-D
 4. A-F-D, B-C-A, C-D-B, D-E-F, E-A-E, F-B-C

ARNEL REYNON / SECTION 127

Send comments or ideas for quizzes or trivia questions to Gary K. Johnson at garykjohnson83@gmail.com.

Without Basketball We Wouldn't Have ...

By Rachel Stark-Mason and Amy Wimmer Schwarb

Since the game was created in 1891, basketball has burrowed its way into American culture. Here's a nostalgic look at some of our favorite things this sport has given us.



Chuck Taylor All-Stars

Perhaps the most beloved sneaker of all time, the Converse Chuck Taylor All-Stars has secured loyal fans in a vast spectrum of fashion circles and subcultures in its 100 years of existence. But the canvas kicks with rubber soles got their start on the hardwood, originally winning over athletes who played the popular new sport of basketball in the early 20th century. In 1921, basketball player Chuck Taylor joined the Converse Rubber Shoe Co. and began selling the shoes at basketball clinics he held across the country. Taylor's involvement brought popularity – and design enhancements – to the footwear venture, leading to him literally leaving his mark on the shoe: The iconic patch on the models of today still sports his signature.

Rally Towels

There's no way to definitively know who was the first to bring a towel to a sporting event and twirl it overhead in excitement. The Pittsburgh Steelers catapulted the rally towel concept to new heights with the invention of the Terrible Towel in the 1970s, but the roots of the tradition can be traced even further – to a legendary basketball coach at Western Kentucky. The Hilltoppers' E.A. Diddle coached from 1922 to 1964, and along with becoming the first in history to coach 1,000 games at one school, he also was known for waving (and tossing, chewing, slapping and twisting) a towel during games. The Red Towel became a mainstay at Western Kentucky.



H-O-R-S-E

If there's a one-hoop driveway basketball court, chances are a game of H-O-R-S-E has been played on it. If not, then maybe P-I-G – the shorter version of the popular pastime that helps kids practice shooting and spelling simultaneously.





Pop-A-Shots

This classic basketball arcade game has beckoned sharpshooters and wannabes for decades, tempting them with a seemingly simple challenge: Make as many shots as you can in a set amount of time. The basket so close, the balls so miniature, how hard could it be? Longtime coach Ken Cochran sought the answer when he was recovering from surgery in 1981 and created the first version of what would later be named the Pop-A-Shot. Electronic scoring, infrared lights and a lasting allure for the game soon followed.



Cult-Classic Basketball Movies

We have the orange leather ball to thank for films such as "Hoosiers" and "Space Jam." (See "Basketball Blockbusters," page 30, for a tribute to other favorites.)

Net-Cutting Tradition

Everyone knows what happens after a college basketball champion is crowned: Out come the scissors and down come the nets. The tradition even has started to seep beyond basketball, with blades taken to volleyball and soccer nets, too. The ceremonial snipping of a souvenir first occurred in college in 1947 after North Carolina State won the Southern Conference championship. The Wolfpack hoisted coach Everett Case to cut the net, and a new rite was born.



The Air Ball Chant

Most basketball players have experienced it, and few will forget: the feeling of shooting and getting nothing but air, followed by the mocking, singsongy chant that spontaneously rises from the crowd. "AIIIIIRR BAAAALLL, AIIIIIRR BAAAALLL." According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the first printed use of the term "air ball" occurred in a 1967 newspaper article in the Daily Review of Hayward, California: "Cal State, four times lofting air balls at an orange basket that may as well have been painted invisible." Basketball player or not, we can all relate to the humiliation of an air ball.

Additions to the lexicon

A new product is a slam dunk in the marketplace. A project completed close to deadline qualifies as a buzzer-beater. Employees post up their bosses to keep them in the know. Basketball is fertile ground for new idioms. And including basketball's contributions to the English language in this list? A total layup.



Long Shorts

The sun is just now setting on a fashion trend that has dominated the hardwoods for a quarter-century: long, baggy basketball shorts. They were inspired by Michael Jordan, who asked the Chicago Bulls' apparel supplier to drop their hems because he had a habit of tugging on his shorts, and further popularized in the college game by Michigan's "Fab Five," who in the early 1990s wore shorts that lingered below their knees.

The trend migrated not only to women's basketball, but also to men's street fashion, where big and baggy dominated until about three years ago, when hemlines started creeping up once again and silhouettes became more fitted.

BAAAALLL, AIIIIIRR BAAAALLL





Basketball Blockbusters

7 iconic flicks that celebrate the sport we love **By Greg Johnson**

COACH CARTER



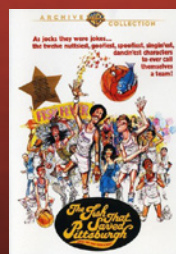
■ **RELEASED:** 2005

■ **THE STORY:** Based on a true story. Ken Carter (Samuel L. Jackson) returns to his alma mater, Richmond High School in the East Bay region of

California, to coach the boys basketball team. Carter asks each member of the team to sign a contract pledging regular class attendance and academic success and warns he will enforce consequences for breaking the pact.

■ **WHY WE LOVE IT:** A mainstream movie that touts attendance policies and scholarly achievement, combined with on-court accomplishments and off-court teachings? Yes, please. And apparently, the box office even agreed. "Coach Carter" grossed \$67 million during its run and ranked first in its release weekend.

THE FISH THAT SAVED PITTSBURGH



■ **RELEASED:** 1979

■ **THE STORY:** Fantasy meets comedy in the disco era, with Julius "Dr. J" Erving in a starring role as Moses Guthrie. To change the fortunes

of the fictional Pittsburgh Pythons, a ball boy asks an astrologer for help. Her advice: Compose the team of players born under the sign of Pisces. (Hence, the movie's title.) The team's fortunes miraculously turn for the better.

■ **WHY WE LOVE IT:** It's a Dr. J dunkfest! You also get to see basketball legends Meadowlark Lemon, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Connie Hawkins, Spencer Haywood and Lou Hudson. The acting is so bad, you can't turn away. What's not to love?

GLORY ROAD



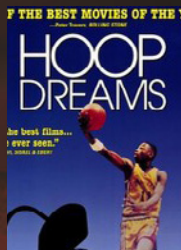
■ **RELEASED:** 2006

■ **THE STORY:** The 1966 NCAA Division I championship captured by Texas Western, now known as UTEP, was historic because the Min-

ers were the first team to start five African-Americans and win the national title. And they accomplished their feat against a finals opponent suitable for a Hollywood retelling: coach Adolph Rupp's all-white Kentucky Wildcats.

■ **WHY WE LOVE IT:** When the NCAA celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2006, Texas Western's victory was tabbed as one of the top 25 defining moments of the Association's first century. "Glory Road" is a worthy celebration of this historic moment.

HOOP DREAMS



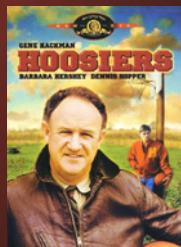
■ **RELEASED:** 1994

■ **THE STORY:** The critically acclaimed documentary follows Chicago youth basketball players Arthur Agee and William Gates

through their high school years and camps and on recruiting visits. Both hope to use basketball as a route to college and, hopefully, the NBA. Gates received a scholarship from Marquette, where he graduated with a degree in communications. Agee played at a junior college in Missouri and two years at Arkansas State. Neither player made it to the NBA.

■ **WHY WE LOVE IT:** While the documentary is 2 decades old, it shows the social issues of race, class, economic discrepancy and funding for education. It also is a snapshot of the competitive world of youth basketball and the long odds players face to be college players, let alone play in the pros.

HOOSIERS



■ **RELEASED:** 1986

■ **THE STORY:** Loosely based on the 1954 Indiana state boys basketball championship won by tiny Milan High School, the Hickory Huskers take the basketball-crazed state by storm once star player Jimmy Chitwood decides it's time for him to "start playing ball." Once Jimmy joins the team, Hickory goes on a run that culminates in winning one for all the small schools that never had the chance to get there.

■ **WHY WE LOVE IT:** No list of basketball movies – and probably no list of sports movies – is complete without "Hoosiers." Besides the fact that Hickory has a Cinderella story not unlike the ones that captivate college basketball fans in March, Champion appreciates coach Norman Dale's creative way of reminding his players that the court dimensions of Butler's intimidating Hinkle Fieldhouse, the site of the fateful state final, are identical to their gym back home in Hickory.

LOVE AND BASKETBALL



■ **RELEASED:** 2000

■ **THE STORY:** This romantic drama follows the lifelong friendship of Monica Wright (Sanaa Lathan) and Quincy McCall (Omar Epps).

Quincy grows up dreaming of being an NBA player like his dad. Monica's love for the game is just as intense, and she too has dreams of playing professionally. Both turn into high school stars, sign to play at Southern California, then eventually pursue opportunities to play professionally. Their friendship leads to an on-again, off-again romance, and the movie reaches its climax with a high-stakes one-on-one game. If he wins, he marries his fiancée (Tyra Banks); if he loses, he marries his childhood friend.

■ **WHY WE LOVE IT:** It's about love – and basketball. This film deals with relationships on almost every level: father-son, mother-daughter, player-coach, teammate-teammate, and the ever-evolving relationship of the two main characters.

WHITE MEN CAN'T JUMP



■ **RELEASED:** 1992

■ **THE STORY:** Sidney Deane (Wesley Snipes) and Billy Hoyle (Woody Harrelson) take turns running hustles on each other until Sidney's wife and Billy's girlfriend persuade them to work together to win a two-on-two tournament.

■ **WHY WE LOVE IT:** This film features some of the best trash talk in basketball cinema history. Many lines aren't suitable for this publication, but anyone who loves the game can pull them out when the insults are flowing fast and furiously at the park. Some of the tamer ones:

■ **WHY WE LOVE IT:** This film features some of the best trash talk in basketball cinema history. Many lines aren't suitable for this publication, but anyone who loves the game can pull them out when the insults are flowing fast and furiously at the park. Some of the tamer ones:

"It's hard work makin' you look so bad."

"We goin' Sizzler. We goin' Sizzler."

"Don't worry, Sidney. I've hustled a hell of a lot better players than you before."

"Will we get a little competition? I got better things to do with my Saturday."



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SHUTTERSTOCK

If the Shoe Fits

Brothers Ikenna and Osinachi Smart ensure the basketball players from their home village and surrounding areas have proper footwear for basketball

Basketball shoes are generally made up of rubber, leather and synthetic materials.

While brothers Ikenna and Osinachi Smart were growing up in Nigeria, they might as well have been made of gold.

"I remember trying to buy a basketball shoe when I was back home. It's hard to find one, and even if you find it, it's going to be expensive," Osinachi says. "And I know kids back there right now, they can't afford to buy new shoes."

Now a College of Charleston sophomore, Osinachi was named to the 2018 National Association of Basketball Coaches Give Back Team for what he and his brother, Ikenna, a graduate transfer at Wake Forest, decided to do about that.

Amazed by the abundance of free shoes given to high school and college basketball players, the Smarts went about collecting used shoes to take back to Nigeria. Many came straight from their teammates' closets and lockers.

In June 2017, the brothers ran an informal scrimmage and clinic for close to 50 mostly high school-aged boys in their hometown of Umuahia, the capital of the Abia State in southeastern Nigeria. Each participant received a pair of basketball shoes.

The effort was a no-brainer for the brothers, who were once in these kids' shoes.

"It's hard for them to go for their dreams if they don't have access to sneakers," Ikenna says.

Seeing the boys' faces light up made Osinachi's day.

"They all really appreciate what we did for them," says Osinachi, 20. "And if I get the chance, I want to do it again. Giving back to the community where you grew up, that's the most important thing. ... It's a miracle to see those kids with the shoes because I used to be one of them."

Says Ikenna, 22: "Being in Nigeria, you understand the struggle, and when you make it over here, it's still good to remember where you came from."

Growing up, the brothers spoke Igbo and played soccer like so many other kids in Nigeria. But their raw physical talent and height led them to embrace the orange ball over the black and white one and seek opportunities in the U.S.

The 6-10, 240-pound Ikenna can lay claim as the biggest brother as well as the big brother. Osinachi, who goes by the nickname Osi, is 6-8 and 235 pounds. Both wear size 17 shoes, making a pair



In their hometown in Nigeria, Ikenna and Osinachi Smart ran a scrimmage and clinic for nearly 50 youth, and participants received basketball shoes. Ikenna is a graduate transfer at Wake Forest, and Osinachi is a sophomore at the College of Charleston. SUBMITTED BY IKENNA AND OSINACHI SMART

especially difficult to find back home.

According to Ikenna, fledgling players from the east side of the country don't get the same exposure as those in areas like Lagos, Nigeria's largest city on the country's southwest side.

"I felt like I couldn't compete with the guys up in the north or the south, so being from the east, I understand," Ikenna says.

Going home was an emotional experience for the brothers. Ikenna hadn't been back in Nigeria in six years; for Osinachi, it had been four. The two were reunited with their parents; their brothers, Godsent and Lucky; and their sister, Blessing.

Ikenna came to the U.S. in 2011 and Osinachi followed two years later, also at age 15, with little experience in the English language or organized basketball. Both brothers eventually graduated from New Garden Friends School in Greensboro, North Carolina, where they starred on the basketball team.

Both have thrived in the U.S. education system. Ikenna's undergraduate degree in international trade and geography led him to pursue a master's degree in liberal studies with a concentration in global stud-

ies. Osinachi chose sociology as his major because he's "fascinated by how we picture the world."

Ever the big brother, Ikenna often will call to check on Osinachi. They remain grateful to host parents Nick and Cinda Purrington, who treated the Smarts like their own children and keep in close contact.

The uncertain immigration situation in the U.S. did impact their trip. A third Nigerian student who had collected shoes and was hosted by the Purringtons, former McKendree basketball player Joel Atabo, encountered visa problems and was unable to return to the U.S.

Given the impact they saw on their home community, Ikenna already has started collecting about 30 pairs of shoes for a next time, whenever it may be. He would like to get more smaller sizes — in the 10 to 12 range — for smaller players.

"I wish this would give me a chance to use the platform and do it in a big way," he says. "How can I get other schools to buy into this idea? What do they do with their own shoes? I know some just throw them away."



INDIANA UNIVERSITY, BLOOMINGTON, PHOTO

At Indiana, the Goal Is That Everybody Plays

Indiana athletes and the school's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee are involved in Everybody Plays, a club that offers sport-themed events for athletes of all ages with intellectual and physical disabilities. The program provides an opportunity to interact and learn from current athletes for the Hoosiers. It was the brainchild of Allison Jorden, a women's soccer player and the SAAC president.



ROSE-HULMAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PHOTO

Cancer Meets Its Match

In April, the Rose-Hulman men's tennis team played in support of those affected by cancer, raising awareness during a home match against Mount St. Joseph.



ALBANY STATE UNIVERSITY (GEORGIA) PHOTO

First-Class Greeting

Albany State (Georgia) football student-athletes welcomed students and staff from three local schools – Robert Cross Middle Magnet School, Turner Elementary and Morningside Elementary – on their first days of school for this academic year.



SUBMITTED BY ISABEL FERREL

SPARK Ignites Student-Athletes To Do Good Deeds at UIC

A group of University of Illinois at Chicago student-athletes started the Students Performing Acts of Random Kindness organization three years ago to give back to the community. SPARK participants go around the city and try to change someone's day with a random act of kindness. During the 2017-18 school year, SPARK fed and clothed the homeless, gave out coffee and appreciation letters to janitors at UIC, distributed snack bags to students at the library and cookies around the athletics department, and partnered with A Safe Haven to help make and distribute food.

Submit your Play It Forward stories to Amy Wimmer Schwarb at awschwarb@ncaa.org