Gualtieri wins women's pool
1996 men's runner-up clinches victory in moneyless contest

Claudio Gualtieri surged into first place in *The Living Room Times*'s moneyless pool for the NCAA women's basketball tournament Monday evening when Louisiana Tech defeated Purdue in the Midwest Regional final.

Then, a few short hours later, Gualtieri—still getting used to the feel of first place—clinched the top spot once and for all, guaranteeing victory in the pool when Tennessee defeated North Carolina in the Mideast final.

Just like that, the "G-Man," fifth in last year's women's pool and second in the 1996 men's pool, had won it all in the '98 women's pool.

Gualtieri has participated in all five *Times* NCAA pools over the past three years. He has finished in the Top Ten of all those he has finished, and he is currently tied for fifth in this year's men's pool. Gualtieri led the men's pool for several days last week. Now eliminated from any chance of winning the men's contest, he has the lead for good on the women's side.

Ironically, the game which was perhaps more crucial than any other in assuring Gualtieri of victory was Monday's Elite Eight loss by the team which he, as well as most basketball fans at NHS, root for: the UConn Huskies. Like most pool participants, Gualtieri had predicted—incorrectly—that the Huskies would reach

Living Room Times **1998 NCAA women's basketball pool champion Claudio Gualtieri**

the Final Four. But he had picked them to *lose* in the national semifinals, whereas most had them reaching the title game. Had UConn made it into the Final Four with a win on Monday, their presence would have given other participants a *chance* to gain points on Gualtieri. But with UConn out, the majority of the field was eliminated from any chance of beating the G-Man.

At the time of UConn's win, however, Gualtieri was still sitting quietly in fourth place. But when Louisiana Tech beat Purdue, the G-Man gained 15 points on the field and shot into the lead. At that point, with upsets rendering many predictions impossible and similarities rendering others irrelevant, everyone else in the pool had no chance of beating Gualtieri, with one exception: teacher Christine Perkins, lurking just four points behind.

But when Tennessee came from behind to defeat North Carolina just a few hours after Louisiana Tech's big win, Perkins dropped like a rock from second place into sixth, and Gualtieri clinched his first pool win.

So what does Gualtieri get for his efforts? Nothing, except prestige—this article, and his name on the *Times* website. The pool is moneyless, after all.

WOMEN'S POOL: Standings after the conclusion of the Elite Eight
place, player's name, number of points, championship game picks, national champion pick

1.	Claudio Gualtieri	282	Louisiana Tech, Tennessee -- Tennessee
2.	Brian Newbold	271	UConn, Tennessee -- UConn
3.	Kevin Hauschulz	269	Old Dominion, Tennessee -- Tennessee
4.	Mr. Pouliot	266	UConn, Tennessee -- Tennessee
5.	Brendan Loy	265	Louisiana Tech, Tennessee -- Tennessee
6.	Ms. Perkins	263	Texas Tech, North Carolina -- Texas Tech
7.	Dennis Chow	261	Texas Tech, Tennessee -- Tennessee
8.	Josh Rubin	259	UConn, Tennessee -- Tennessee
9.	Jenn Castelhano	257	Louisiana Tech, Tennessee -- Tennessee
10.	Bill Kenny	253	UConn, Tennessee -- UConn
11.	Evelyn Ni	247	UConn, Tennessee -- UConn
12.	Bindee Chokshi	239	UConn, Stanford -- UConn
13.	Mrs. Norby	227	Alabama, Tennessee -- Tennessee
14.	Shaun Sullivan	221	UConn, Tennessee -- UConn
15.	Tim Sheridan	198	UConn, Florida -- UConn
16.	Kelly Valencia	177	N.C. State, Duke -- N.C. State
17.	Cory LaChance	152	UConn, UMass -- UConn

Total number of possible points so far: 412
Points for picking one championship game participant: 20
Points for picking national champion: 25