

# LIVING ROOM TIMES

## BINDER UPDATE

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1999

### Perkins in command

Up by 31 points after going 4-for-4 last night

Underdogs Ohio State and Gonzaga helped extend NHS teacher Christine Perkins's own "Cinderella" run through the fourth annual *Living Room Times* moneyless NCAA men's basketball pool Thursday night.

Ms. Perkins, the only contestant in the pool to correctly predict that #10-seed Gonzaga would reach the Elite Eight, went 4-for-4 in her predictions last night and expanded her lead, which stood at 11 at the end of the second round, to a commanding 31 points.

#### LRT pool through 52 games:

#### TOP 15 OUT OF 61

(292 points possible so far)

<u>Place, Name</u>	<u>Pts.</u>
1. Ms. Perkins	234
2T. Allyson Perlini	203
2T. David Zinkerman	203
4T. Chris Manzione	201
4T. Mrs. Stone	201
6T. Mark Jordan	196
6T. Jamie Schultz	196
8. Mike Duensing	194
9T. Sara Hamilton	193
9T. Matt Kagan	193
9T. Brendan Loy	193
9T. Mike Mierkiewicz	193
9T. Joe Ploszay	193
9T. Tim Stevens	193
15.. Jenn Castelhana	191

**Complete standings, page 2**

### Regional Final: Superpower to meet Cinderella with Final Four on the line

## UConn vs. Gonzaga

#### Huskies pull away late

**PHOENIX (Associated Press)** -- When push came to shove, and there was plenty of both, Connecticut had too much talent, too much quickness and too much depth for Iowa.

For awhile in Thursday night's West Regional semifinal, bullish strength, flying elbows and the intense emotion of what would be the last game for Tom Davis as Iowa coach were enough for the Hawkeyes to fight UConn to a standoff.

Then came the last 10 minutes, and the Big East

*(Continued on page 3)*

#### 'Zags win thriller

**PHOENIX (Associated Press)** -- Gonzaga's wild NCAA ride is one more upset from a trip to the Final Four.

The scrappy Bulldogs, on Casey Calvary's tip-in with 4.4 seconds to go Thursday night, surged into the NCAA West Regional final, edging Florida 73-72.

"This is unbelievable," said Calvary, who last hit a game-winning shot "in the third or fourth grade. We've dreamed about this since we were little and now that we're there, we have to take advantage of it."

*(Continued on page 4)*

1. UConn

5. Iowa

UConn, 78-68

Saturday, 3:40 PM

6. Florida

Gonzaga, 73-72

10. Gonzaga

#### Road cleared?

*Teams which the UConn men did not/will not have to play:*

#2 Stanford (knocked out by Gonzaga)

#3 North Carolina (by #14 Weber State)

#4 Arkansas (by Iowa)

#6 Florida (by Gonzaga)

#7 Minnesota (by Gonzaga)

#8 Missouri (by #9 New Mexico)

**The Living Room Times's fourth annual moneyless men's NCAA tournament pool**

Standings after 52 games (after first four Sweet Sixteen games)

Scoring: 5-7-10-15-20-25, no upset points

Total possible points so far: 312

1.	Ms. Perkins	234
2.	Allyson Perlini	203
	David Zinkerman	203
4.	Chris Manzione	201
	Mrs. Stone	201
6.	Mark Jordan	196
	Jamie Schultz	196
8.	Mike Duensing	194
9.	Brendan Loy	193
	Sara Hamilton	193
	Matt Kagan	193
	Mikey Mierkiewicz	193
	Joe Ploszay	193
	Tim Stevens	193
15.	Jenn Castelhano	191
16.	Mike Walker	186
	Mrs. Norby	186
	Bindee Chokshi	186
	Dennis Chow	186
	Brenden Roche	186
21.	Tom Greca	185
22.	Ben Fairclough	184
23.	Milan Cisar	183
24.	Shaun Sullivan	181
	Nathan Emerson	181
	Stacey Schultz	181
27.	Justin Gerace	179
	Ms. Mancini	179
	Kate Wright	179
30.	Travis Meyer	178
	Brian Newbold	178
32.	Steve Santos	177
33.	Amanda Titus	176
	Jeff Cultrera	176
35.	Claudio Gualtieri	174
	Matt Thomsen	174
	Jason Rose	174
38.	Sara Rzeszutek	172
39.	Bryan Rudolph	171
	Idalina Estanislau	171
	Kristina Polomsky	171
	Mr. Ruggiero	171
	Joey DiNardi	171
44.	Alison Lucey	169
	Josh Rubin	169
46.	Todd Stigliano	167
47.	Derek McDonald	166
	Kevin Hauschulz	166
49.	Liz Acey	164
	Michael Zarotney	164
51.	David Martins	163
52.	Beth Milewski	162
	Joanna Kornafel	162
54.	Eric Burns	161
55.	Stephanie Toohey	159
	Heather Weinberg	159
57.	Jeff Santos	152
58.	Jeff Blum	150
59.	Evelyn Ni	136
60.	Kelly Laskowski	118
61.	Ryan McBride	47

# UConn one win away from Final Four

champions pulled away for a 78-68 victory.

"They figured they could do it by bullying us," Connecticut's Kevin Freeman said. "But we knew we weren't going to let them get away with it."

The Huskies (31-2), the West's No. 1 seed, advanced to a regional final for the second year in a row and the fourth time since 1990 under coach Jim Calhoun.

But Calhoun never has gotten the Huskies to the Final Four. Now only a Saturday game against upstart Gonzaga stands in the Big East champions' way.

The Huskies are confident they can end the Zags' magical tournament run.

"If we go out and play 40 minutes of Connecticut basketball, we should come away with a victory against anyone," point guard Khalid El-Amin said.

The decisive surge Thursday came when UConn clamped on the defense, while Freeman and Richard Hamilton turned on the offense.

"When the game got real close, I felt I had to really dig deep and really try to step my game up," Hamilton said. "When I wasn't open, I tried to get it to Kev, and Kev did an excellent job of scoring. We're that type of team. We want to compete and make big-time plays."

Hamilton scored 24 points and Khalid El-Amin added 21 for UConn despite foul trouble.

"It was one of the more physical games we've played in a long time," Calhoun said. "It was like being in a Big East brawl."

The Huskies outscored Iowa 25-15 in the last 10 minutes.

Much was made of a flying elbow thrown by Iowa's Joey Range at El-Amin late in the first half. Further altercations followed in the nasty final seconds of the half, and the players, with Iowa's Jacob Jaacks at the center of the trouble, engaged in a brief shoving match before they left the court.

"It was the dirtiest situation I've ever been involved

in," Freeman said. "I put my elbows out to protect myself. If they want to play that style, we can play that style, too. We're a tough team. We play in the toughest league. We can play physical."

Calhoun wouldn't criticize Iowa's tactics. Quite the contrary.

"I didn't see any cheap shots," Calhoun said. "I saw some very physical play on a team that wasn't as quick as us. They played within the rules the way the game was being called. I think Tom tried to do everything humanly possible to make a slower team quick."

"Once again, he almost got my number because it's the first time I beat Tom Davis. I told him, 'I hope I have a chance to beat you again.'"

It won't come against Iowa. Davis was told last fall that his contract wouldn't be renewed after this season.

"I don't know that I've ever put more into a team in the sense that they gave so much," Davis said. "I am wiped out, emotionally as well as physically drained, and I'm sure the team is. They gave you a great, great effort."

Only two Hawkeyes scored in double figures. J.R. Koch had 14 points and fellow senior Jess Settles added 11.

The Hawkeyes' backcourt of Dean Oliver and Kent McCausland struggled offensively. Oliver was 2-for-10 for five points and McCausland was 3-for-7 for nine points. Still, it was close most of the game.

The Hawkeyes (20-10) tied it one last time at 53 on Guy Rucker's 8-foot jumper with 10:06 remaining.

Freeman's breakaway stuff after Ryan Luehrsmann missed a wide-open 3-pointer ignited a 14-4 outburst that finally put the Hawkeyes away.

"The game was so intense, and it did get physical," Iowa's Jason Bauer said. "But that's just part of the game. We had to play our best basketball to keep up with UConn. Unfortunately, we didn't do that."

# Gonzaga: "the slipper still fits"

*(Continued from page 1)*

The 10th-seeded Bulldogs of the overlooked West Coast Conference trailed by three when Jeremy Eaton made a layup and Florida's Brent Wright then traveled with 15.4 seconds left.

Quentin Hall drove to the basket and missed, and Calvary, who had 10 points in the second half, tipped it home.

Florida's Eddie Shannon missed an off-balance 3-pointer at the buzzer, sending Gonzaga within one step of its first Final Four.

"We were blessed today," Gonzaga's Matt Santangelo said. "It was not a pretty game, but we showed the heart and character of the team. It's like getting a new life and we'll savor it and then come ready to play Saturday."

That will be against the winner of Thursday's other game, matching top-seeded Connecticut against Iowa. Again, Gonzaga, just the fifth 10th seed to get this far -- none has made the Final Four -- will be an underdog.

That doesn't bother the Bulldogs a bit.

"This team has great character and they are great kids," coach Dan Monson said. "There are a lot of teams at home with better basketball ability, but we get through that with chemistry and character."

Florida is one of those highly skilled teams no longer in the tournament. The Gators made one critical error down the stretch when Wright walked, and it was enough to decide the game.

"It just hurts inside that I let the team down," Wright said. "It's just real sad."

"I thought the ref gave me a timeout, but it was too late."

Freshman Mike Miller's layup put Florida on top 69-68, and Santangelo tied it with a foul shot.

Greg Stolt, the Gators' career 3-point leader, was wide open for his fourth 3 of the night with 45.7 seconds remaining, setting up the frantic finish.

"We were rushing. going too fast at times," Gators coach Billy Donovan said. "The turnovers hurt us."

Gonzaga showed surprising strength inside in the second half, making things easier for its guard-oriented offense. Several times, Florida didn't deny entry passes, setting up inside shots for the Bulldogs. When the Gators did sag, it opened the outside for Richie Frahm, while Calvary was the main beneficiary underneath.

Florida stayed close with sharp free-throw shooting (14-for-20), including 7-for-7 by Wright, who scored 15 points, one fewer than Stolt.

After missing 17 of 20 3-pointers, Florida suddenly found the range. Stolt put the Gators ahead with 6:45 left with a shot-clock buzzer-beater. Frahm answered with his first of his three successive 3s for Gonzaga, but Miller connected to put Florida on top 62-61.

Frahm, who finished with 17 points, hit another from the corner and, after Shannon's drive tied it at 64, Frahm made yet another 3.

But he threw away a pass with 2:42 remaining and Udonis Haslem tied it with a layup.

Gonzaga's shooting was sharp from long range and abysmal from close in early. The Bulldogs hit four 3-pointers and missed four layups.

They kept right at it, blowing short shots but nailing the bombs, hitting five of their first seven 3s. They wound up 12-for-22 on 3-pointers and 13-for-33 on 2s for the game.

Florida, meanwhile, wasn't able to connect from outside the arc, missing its first eight 3-pointers. That lack of marksmanship -- and an ineffective press -- cost the Gators as Gonzaga went on a 15-3 run for a 26-13 lead. The Bulldogs (28-6) did it despite missing eight layups.

When the Gators (22-9) finally hit a 3-pointer, by Stolt, it was part of 14-1 surge that tied it 27-27. The press still wasn't working, but Florida got stingy with its half-court defense and the underdog Bulldogs got sloppy.

The rest of the half was tight, with Kenyan Weaks' steal and dunk with 15.7 seconds to go bringing Florida to 35-34. The Gators had to feel fortunate after going just 1-for-11 on 3s and having 12 turnovers.

They took their first lead almost immediately in the second half when Weaks made another steal and converted a three-point play.

Gonzaga, which also looked like it was losing control in its second-round upset of Stanford, went on a 15-5 spurt. Unlike against the second-seeded Cardinal, however, the Bulldogs couldn't pull away and needed some last-second heroics by Calvary to stay alive.

"This is awesome," Calvary said. "Awesome."