

The Living Room Times

All the Noise that's fit to print... weekly!

292nd overall edition — Twenty-first regular edition of 1995-1996 season

Wednesday, March 27, 1996

Haven't we seen this before? UConn women in Final Four; men fall short

UConn women 72 *Associated Press*— Going undefeated and winning the NCAA championship last year was fun for the Connecticut women's basketball team.
Getting back to the Final Four for a chance
(Continued on page 3)



Associated Press— Darryl Wilson unloaded five 3-pointers in the first half, staking fifth-seeded Mississippi State to a 16-point lead, and the Bulldogs held off top-seeded Connecticut 60-55 in the NCAA Southeast Regional semifinals Friday night.
(Continued on page 6)

Ruggiero clinches Guarantees first place finish in *Times's* moneyless NCAA pool



Georgetown vs. Kentucky.
It could have been a thrilling Final Four showdown. At stake would have been not only a spot in the national championship game, but a winner in the *Living Room Times's* NCAA pool.
The Hoyas vs. the Wildcats.
Lou Ruggiero vs. Sandy Pilz.
It could've come down to that.
(Continued on page 4)

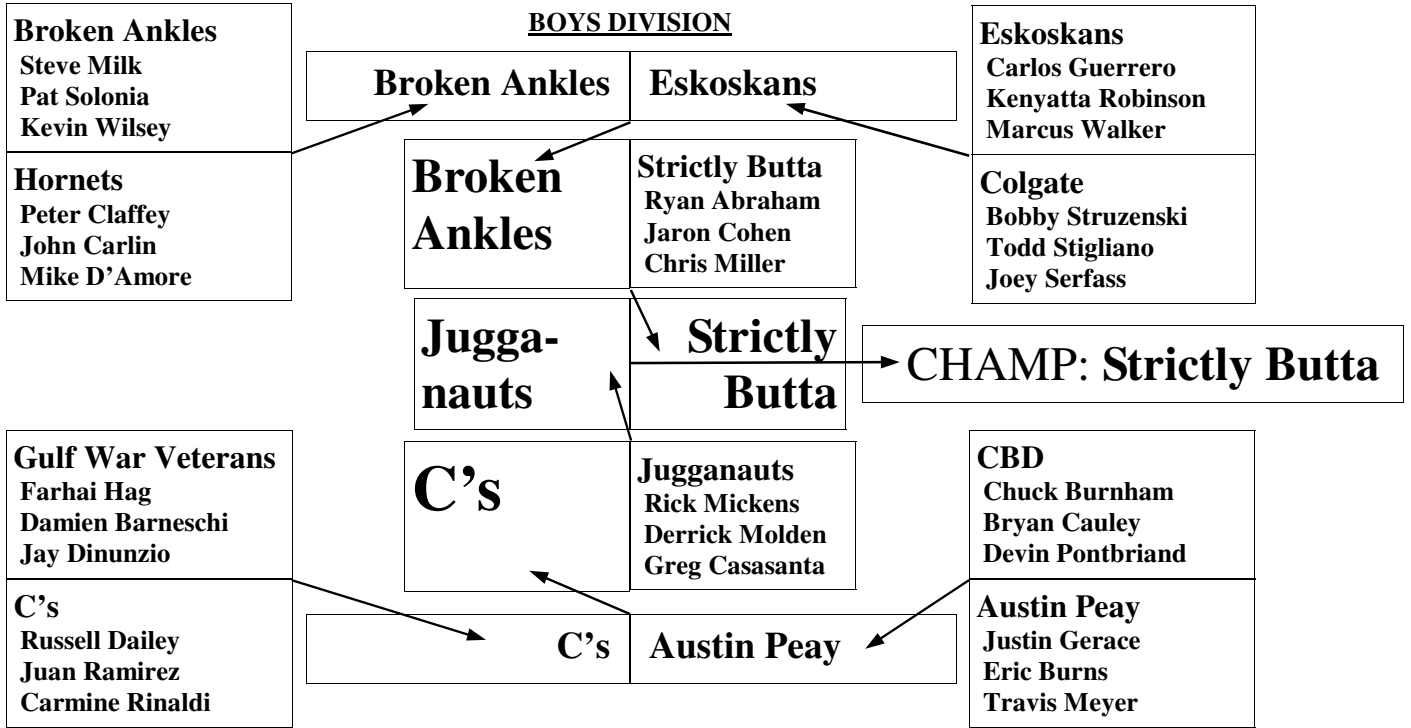
As Loy falters, Battle tightens

Three students within one point of top spot in "Battle of the Houses"

Sara Colpitts <i>Magee House</i>	321/335 95.82%	Brendan Loy has now allowed a six-point lead over first term "class genius" Sara Colpitts to completely evaporate, <i>(Continued on page 5)</i>
Brendan Loy <i>Doran House</i>	321/335 95.82%	
Jaimie Kwassman <i>Doran House</i>	320/335 95.52%	

"March Madness" tourney, p. 2

MARCH MADNESS



Thursday's Championships

Boys (best two of three)

Game One: Juggernauts **37**, Strictly Butta **34** (OT)

Game Two: Strictly Butta **52**, Juggernauts **51** (OT)

Game Three: Strictly Butta **16**, Juggernauts **14**

Girls (best two of three)

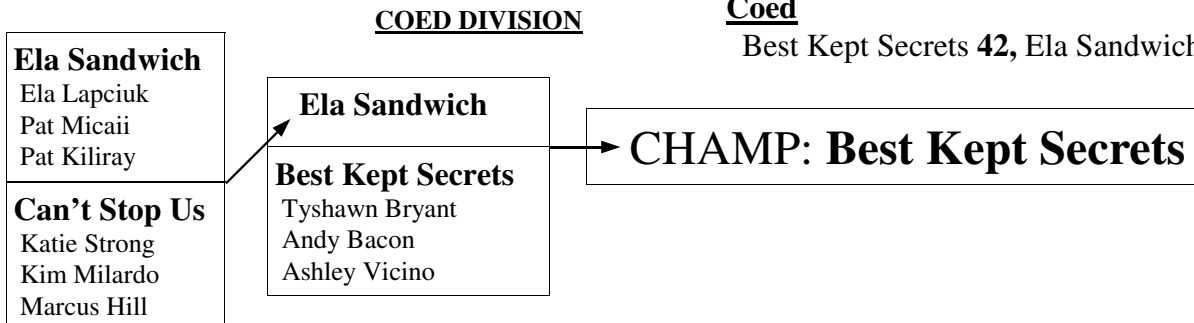
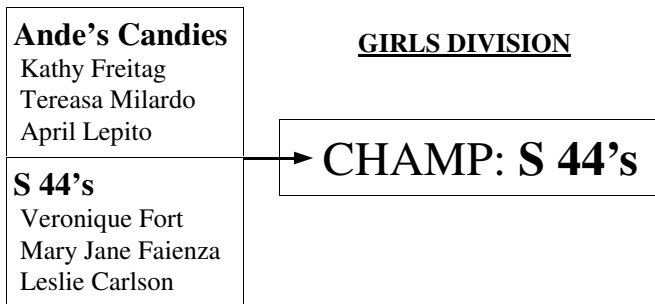
Game One: S 44's **40**, Ande's Candies **28**

Game Two: Ande's Candies **46**, S 44's **24**

Game Three: S 44's **12**, Ande's Candies **6**

Coed

Best Kept Secrets **42**, Ela Sandwich **38**



UConn men: An effortless loss

Defeat themselves with lackluster performance

No one thought it would end this way.

Commentary
by chief editor
Brendan Loy

Oh, there were some who thought the UConn men's teams would lose to #5-seed Mississippi State. But even of those who thought the Huskies would be defeated by the Bulldogs on Friday, no one predicted they would lose the way they lost.

It was supposed to be an emotional "dogfight," a close game between two very talented teams who would be playing at their best in the pressure-filled, potentially season-ending tournament showdown. It was supposed to be a physical struggle inside between centers Travis Knight and Erick Dampier. It was supposed to be a tough battle between UConn's much-touted pressure defense and Mississippi State's backcourt of Marcus Bullard and Darryl Wilson.

But in the end, it was none of things, really. Because it wasn't a close game at all, until the very end when it was too late for the Huskies. It was simply an emotionless, lackluster effort for nearly all of the game by top-seeded, third-ranked, supposedly Final Four-ready UConn.

In effect, the Huskies dug their own graves early in the first half, and then lay in them for five-sixths of the game. By the time they finally realized their season was about to end, and started to play with some emotion, they were in a hole to deep to climb out of.

During nearly all of the contest Friday, UConn didn't even look like one of the 64 best teams in the country, nevermind one of four #1-seeds.

That said, it's as important as it is cliché to remember the Huskies' season as a whole for what it was: A fun ride. These Huskies were a great team which had a great season. They won the Big East regular season championship, again. They won the Big East tournament championship, finally. They were seeded #1 in their NCAA tournament region, finally. They made it to the NCAA Sweet Sixteen, again.

But Friday night, they shot 31 percent from the floor. Their press didn't come close to working. Doron Sheffer was silent. The team played lethargically and passively, with no sense of desire to move on to the next level.

(Continued on page 5)

Back to the Final Four!

UConn beats Vandy 67-57 for return trip

(Continued from page 1)

to repeat was work. Hard work.

Connecticut did it by grinding out a 67-57 victory over Vanderbilt in the Mideast Regional final Monday night. The Huskies were the second undefeated champion last year and now they have a chance to become the second team to win back-to-back titles. Southern Cal did it in 1983 and 1984.

"It's pretty hard to describe, but I can tell you it was a lot harder," guard Jennifer Rizzotti said. "It feels really good. Last year was incredible and the championship and the way we did it was incredible.

"But this year there were so many people that doubted that we could come together as a team."

Those doubts surfaced immediately when Connecticut, having lost national player of the year Rebecca Lobo to graduation, was beaten by Louisiana Tech in the season opener. The Huskies later were upset by Syracuse and also lost to Georgia in mid-January.

But they haven't lost since and they'll take a 20-game winning streak into the national semifinals in Charlotte, N.C., Friday night against Tennessee, the team Connecticut beat 70-64 in last year's championship game.

"Hopefully, we've got two more wins in us," Rizzotti said.

Connecticut (34-3) won Monday night with rebounding and defense. The Huskies outrebounded Vanderbilt 51-35 and had 20 offensive rebounds, which helped offset their 36.4 percent shooting.

They also contained Vanderbilt star Sheri Sam, who had been averaging 32.3 points and shooting 75 percent in NCAA play. Sam scored only six points in the first half and finished with 16 on 8-for-19 shooting as Nykesha Sales, Carla Berube and freshman Amy Duran took turns guarding her. Connecticut also played some zone.

"Today, my shot was a little off," said Sam, who led all rebounders with 13. "I think I contributed in other

(Continued on page 6)

Ruggiero wins *Times* NCAA pool

UMass win means suspense ends one weekend early

(Continued from page 1)

But, no, it didn't work out that way. Sorry, Sandy. Those mighty Hoyas didn't come through. It's all over. Ruggiero gets the gold.

There won't be an extra weekend of suspense about who wins *The Living Room Times's* moneyless NCAA tournament pool. Marcus Camby, Carmelo Travieso, and Edgar Padilla made sure of that.

You see, by the time the Sweet Sixteen games were over, and the Elite Eight was set to begin, there were only two pool contestants left who were not mathematically eliminated from winning the pool. They were both teachers, the only two teachers who entered the contest: Mr. Lou Ruggiero, a math teacher at Newington High School, and Mr. Sandy Pilz, a gym teacher at Martin Kellogg Middle School and basketball coach at the high school. Pilz had picked Georgetown to win the championship. Ruggiero had predicted Kentucky would win it all.

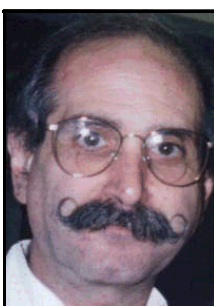
So if the Hoyas had been able to beat the UMass Minutemen on Saturday, they would have advanced to the Final Four to meet the Kentucky Wildcats in a showdown that would have determined the *LR Times* pool champion.

Unfortunately for Pilz, and anyone who was hoping that the competitiveness of our pool would last as long as the tournament, Georgetown fell just short—to the tune of, oh, about 24 points.

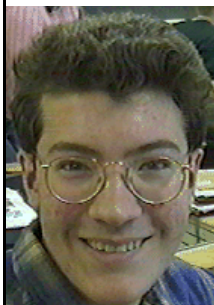
So when the buzzer finally sounded, and that exciting, nail-biting 86-62 thriller came to an end, it became official: Lou Ruggiero is, as far as the *Times* is concerned, "Mr. Basketball."

Ruggiero doesn't win any money or actual prizes, however. As explained in last week's edition—and as proven in this issue—the pool winner gets notoriety, congratulations, and a spot in the *Times* (front page!)

Final standings will be printed next week, once the last games are played. But thanks to UMass, no one will care.



Mr. Ruggiero, the winner of the pool



Claudio Gualtieri, now in second place



Mr. Pilz, who would have won if G'town had won the title

<u>Living Room Times NCAA moneyless pool</u>	<u>ROUND 1</u> 5 points per prediction	<u>ROUND 2</u> 7 points per prediction	<u>SWEET 16</u> 10 points per prediction	<u>ELITE 8</u> 15 points per prediction	<u>TOTAL</u>
<i>Lou Ruggiero</i>	140 pts (28-4)	84 pts (12-4)	70 pts (7-1)	15 pts (1-3)	309 pts (48-12)
<i>Claudio Gualtieri</i>	120 pts (24-8)	84 pts (12-4)	70 pts (7-1)	15 pts (1-3)	289 pts (44-16)
<i>Bill Kenny</i>	120 pts (24-8)	77 pts (11-5)	60 pts (6-2)	30 pts (1-3)	287 pts (43-17)
<i>Joey Ploszay</i>	120 pts (24-8)	77 pts (11-5)	60 pts (6-2)	30 pts (2-2)	287 pts (43-17)
<i>Bryan Rudolph</i>	120 pts (24-8)	91 pts (13-3)	60 pts (6-2)	15 pts (1-3)	286 pts (44-16)
<i>Matt Kagan</i>	120 pts (24-8)	84 pts (12-4)	60 pts (6-2)	15 pts (1-3)	279 pts (43-17)
<i>Bob Struzenski</i>	120 pts (24-8)	84 pts (12-4)	60 pts (6-2)	15 pts (1-3)	279 pts (43-17)
<i>Shaun Sullivan</i>	120 pts (24-8)	84 pts (12-4)	60 pts (6-2)	15 pts (1-3)	279 pts (43-17)
<i>Todd Stigliano</i>	125 pts (25-7)	84 pts (12-4)	50 pts (5-3)	15 pts (1-3)	274 pts (43-17)
<i>Matt Dusel</i>	120 pts (24-8)	77 pts (11-5)	60 pts (6-2)	15 pts (1-3)	272 pts (42-18)
<i>Sandy Pilz</i>	130 pts (26-6)	77 pts (11-5)	50 pts (5-3)	15 pts (1-3)	272 pts (43-17)
<i>Justin Gerace</i>	115 pts (23-9)	84 pts (12-4)	50 pts (5-3)	15 pts (1-3)	264 pts (41-19)
<i>Kate Harbeson</i>	110 pts (22-10)	84 pts (12-4)	50 pts (5-3)	15 pts (1-3)	259 pts (40-20)
<i>Travis Meyer</i>	120 pts (24-8)	77 pts (11-5)	40 pts (4-4)	15 pts (1-3)	252 pts (40-20)
<i>Steve Santos</i>	115 pts (23-9)	77 pts (11-5)	60 pts (6-2)	0 pts (0-4)	252 pts (40-20)
<i>Brendan Loy</i>	110 pts (22-10)	70 pts (10-6)	50 pts (5-3)	15 pts (1-3)	249 pts (38-22)
<i>Dan Stoddard</i>	110 pts (22-10)	70 pts (10-6)	50 pts (5-3)	15 pts (1-3)	249 pts (38-22)
AVERAGE	119.7 points (23.94 - 8.06)	80.3 points (11.47 - 4.53)	56.5 points (5.65 - 4.35)	15.9 points (0.93 - 3.07)	272.4 points (41.99 - 18.01)

“Battle of the Houses” is a toss-up

One point separates Colpitts, Loy, Kwassman; 100-point test today

<u>SUPER</u> <u>SIX</u>	<u>Brendan</u> <u>Loy</u> <i>Doran</i>	<u>Sara</u> <u>Colpitts</u> <i>Magee</i>	<u>Jaimie</u> <u>Kwassman</u> <i>Doran</i>	<u>Todd</u> <u>Stigliano</u> <i>Stoddard</i>	<u>Claudio</u> <u>Gualtieri</u> <i>Magee</i>	<u>Shaun</u> <u>Sullivan</u> <i>Stoddard</i>
<i>Ch. 7 quest</i>	50/50	49/50	49/50	49/50	48/50	48/50
<i>Quiz #1</i>	25/30	30/30	23/30	30/30	30/30	29/30
<i>Ch. 8 test</i>	99/100	100/100	97/100	94/100	86/100	91/100
<i>Quiz #2</i>	35/35	32/35	35/35	28/35	31/35	26/35
<i>Quiz #3</i>	48/50	40/50	46/50	46/50	46/50	48/50
<i>Quiz #4</i>	18/20	20/20	20/20	18/20	18/20	14/20
<i>Quiz #5</i>	30/30	30/30	30/30	28/30	30/30	22/30
<i>Homework</i>	16/20	20/20	20/20	18/20	20/20	20/20
TOTAL	321/335 95.82%	321/335 95.82%	320/335 95.52%	311/335 92.84%	309/335 92.24%	298/335 88.96%

(Continued from page 1)

turning the “Battle of the Houses” into a dead heat as the third marking term enters the home stretch. Lou Ruggiero, teacher of the fourth-period geometry class where this “Battle” is taking place, will close grades for the term on Thursday, April 4. Between now and then, there will be one quiz and one test, probably worth a combined total about somewhere between 130 and 140 points.

Loy’s sudden fall from six points ahead to a tie for first was caused largely by the fact that he did not do two homework assignments, each worth two points. He also missed one two-point problem on a quiz last week.

And as if that wasn’t bad enough, the perennial third-place finisher is left to consider the fact that he could be in the lead rather than a tie for the lead if not for the stupid mistake that beats all stupid mistakes: Earlier in the term, Loy forgot to include the given information on a proof, which cost him one point—the one point he now needs for an edge over Colpitts.

Loy’s Doran House teammate, Jaimie Kwassman, is just one point behind him and Colpitts. Colpitts, of the Magee House, and Loy are tied for the lead.

On Monday, that “Big Three” all received perfect grades on a 30-point quiz, keeping the leaderboard packed. The field may be sorted out much more after today’s 100-point Chapter Nine test, however.

The final grade of the term will come from a quiz late next week.

UConn men put on lackluster show

(Continued from page 3)

As *Hartford Courant* writer Jeff Jacobs stated Tuesday in an article about the UConn women’s team, which did reach their Final Four, “If UConn coach Jim Calhoun had a male equivalent of [women’s team senior co-captain Jamelle] Elliott, he’d be at the Meadowlands this weekend instead of at home.” And Jacobs is probably right. If the men Huskies had had an Elliott, a Jen Rizzotti — or maybe a Ricky Moore — on their side to

provide that oh-so-critical spark of emotion Friday night, they might be headed for the promised land.

But the players on the court played with little spark at all until things had already gotten way out of hand. These Huskies, the same ones who made that miraculous comeback to win the Big East tournament title, didn’t play like they wanted to get to the Meadowlands. They played like they wanted to go back home and *watch* the Final Four. And when you do that, it usually works.

UConn men ousted from Sweet Sixteen Again, Final Four dream on hold "until next year"

(Continued from page 1)

While Wilson's long-range shooting produced seven 3s and 27 points, his flip shot on a drive up the middle with 1:30 left gave Mississippi State a 57-50 lead and sealed Connecticut's fate.

Mississippi State (25-7), which got into the tournament by knocking off then-No. 1 Kentucky in the Southeastern Conference tournament, will face the winner of Friday's game between No. 2 Cincinnati and No. 3 Georgia Tech in the regional final on Sunday.

Connecticut (33-2), which tied the game at 2 and never led, shot a season-low 32 percent (22-of-68) and never got untracked against Mississippi State's pressing defense.

All-American guard Ray Allen turned in a game that typified Connecticut's offensive problems, hitting just 9-of-25 shots in finishing with 22 points.

Mississippi State, which averaged 17 turnovers during the season, turned in one of its best floor games in making just 10 turnovers. The Bulldogs made 41 percent (23-of-56) of their shots in reaching the regional finals for the first time.

Wilson's first two 3s came during an 8-0 run that put Mississippi State in control at 10-2 with 16:36 remaining in the half. He scored four points in a 10-2 spurt as the margin increased to 33-16 at 6:32.

Connecticut mounted a comeback, but couldn't pull off what it did in the second round, when it came back from a 32-19 deficit to defeat Eastern Michigan 95-89.

Allen banked in a 15-footer 11 seconds into the second half, capping a 6-0 spurt that sliced the margin to 37-27. Wilson countered with a 3 from the top of the key at 18:42.

Mississippi State led 54-40 on Dontae' Jones' 16-footer with 6:50 to go before Connecticut charged back one last time.

Allen hit two 3-pointers and Kirk King and Travis Knight scored on rebound baskets to slice the margin to 55-50 with 3:23 to go.

Mississippi State was up to the challenge.

After Wilson drove inside the layup for the layup for a seven-point lead, King scored off Doron Sheffer's missed jumper.

Mississippi State's Whit Hughes missed an uncontested layup, but Jones was fouled by Rudy Johnson with 48.7 seconds left. Jones made one of two foul shots for a 58-52 lead.

Sheffer came back with a 3 from the left wing with 38.2 seconds to go, and Connecticut got the ball back when Mississippi State turned the ball over on a 10-second violation.

Allen then missed a 3 with 10.4 seconds left. Mississippi State's Erick Dampier was fouled on the play, and made both free throws for the final margin.

Dampier finished with 13 points and 10 rebounds while Knight had 10 points and 13 rebounds.

Connecticut held a 45-35 edge on the boards.

Huskies back in Final Four Beat Vandy to get there

(Continued from page 3)

places. I wish my shot was falling, but it wasn't."

Kara Wolters led Connecticut with 17 points. Sales and Jamelle Elliott each scored 16 points, while Rizzotti had seven points, seven assists and six rebounds and was named the outstanding player in the regional.

Elliott grabbed 12 rebounds, Berube 11 and Wolters 10. Duran contributed on offense by scoring eight points, including two key 3-pointers in the second half.

"I felt the defensive end was great. Offensively, we executed exactly what we wanted to execute," Connecticut coach Geno Auremma said. "And then it's about making plays. I didn't know we shot 36 percent for the game. You gotta be kidding me.

"But it's not what you shoot for the game. It's when you make them. A guy goes 1-for-4 but he hits a three-run homer in the ninth, he's the hero."

Vanderbilt (23-8) rallied from an 11-point deficit to a 34-34 tie at halftime and took a 38-34 lead early in the second half. But Connecticut scored the next 10 points -- six by Sales -- for a 44-38 lead and the Huskies led the rest of the way.

"They did a great job with the way they attacked our zone," Vanderbilt coach Jim Foster said. "They extended the floor well and they had some very aggressive rebounders. They penetrate and kick out as well as anybody out there."

Vanderbilt kept threatening and trailed 55-53 after Lisa Ostrom drove the baseline for a basket with 5:26 left. Then Connecticut's defense kicked in again.

The Commodores got only one more field goal the rest of the way, and Connecticut finished the game with a 12-4 run, the big basket being a Duran 3-pointer that made it 65-57 with 1:12 left.

"Amy Duran was a key," Wolters said. "For a freshman to step up and make a 3-point shot like that -- that's why we're a team. That's what makes this exciting."

**TOP TEN
TV SHOW
WARNINGS**

10. *Fresh Prince of Bel Air*-- Prince is no longer fresh after March 15
9. *Friends* -- These people are richer and better-looking than you'll ever be
8. *Almost Perfect* -- Show is actually nowhere near perfect
7. *The Single Guy* -- Because we follow *Friends*, we could show cheese for half an hour and still be a hit
6. *Murder, She Wrote* -- Episode may contain actors you thought were dead
5. *America's Funniest Home Videos* -- May contain some Canadian and/or Mexican home videos
4. *Murder One* -- Don't get too attached to this show. It probably won't be around long
3. *ER* -- Odds are one in a million your doctor will look like George Clooney
2. *Walker, Texas Ranger* -- May contain scenes of Chuck Norris trying to act
1. *The Nanny* -- Sound of Fran Drescher's voice may cause impotence

*Late Show With David Letterman
Worldwide Pants, Incorporated
Tuesday, March 19, 1996*

**LATE SHOW
TOP
TEN**

**TOP TEN SIGNS
OF SPRING IN
NEW YORK CITY**

10. New York City cab drivers go from wool to cotton turbans
9. Streets are filled with the intoxicating aroma of thawing garbage
8. Drug arrests soar as the Yankees return to town
7. Street vendors start selling robin-kebabs
6. Ed Sullivan Theater warms up to a balmy 38 degrees
5. Number of murders committed with snow shovels drops way off
4. All of the rats go down to Florida for spring break
3. Rudy Giuliani has a spring tune-up done to his comb-over
2. New York City cops start wearing nothing but a holster
1. The Mets are mathematically eliminated from the pennant race

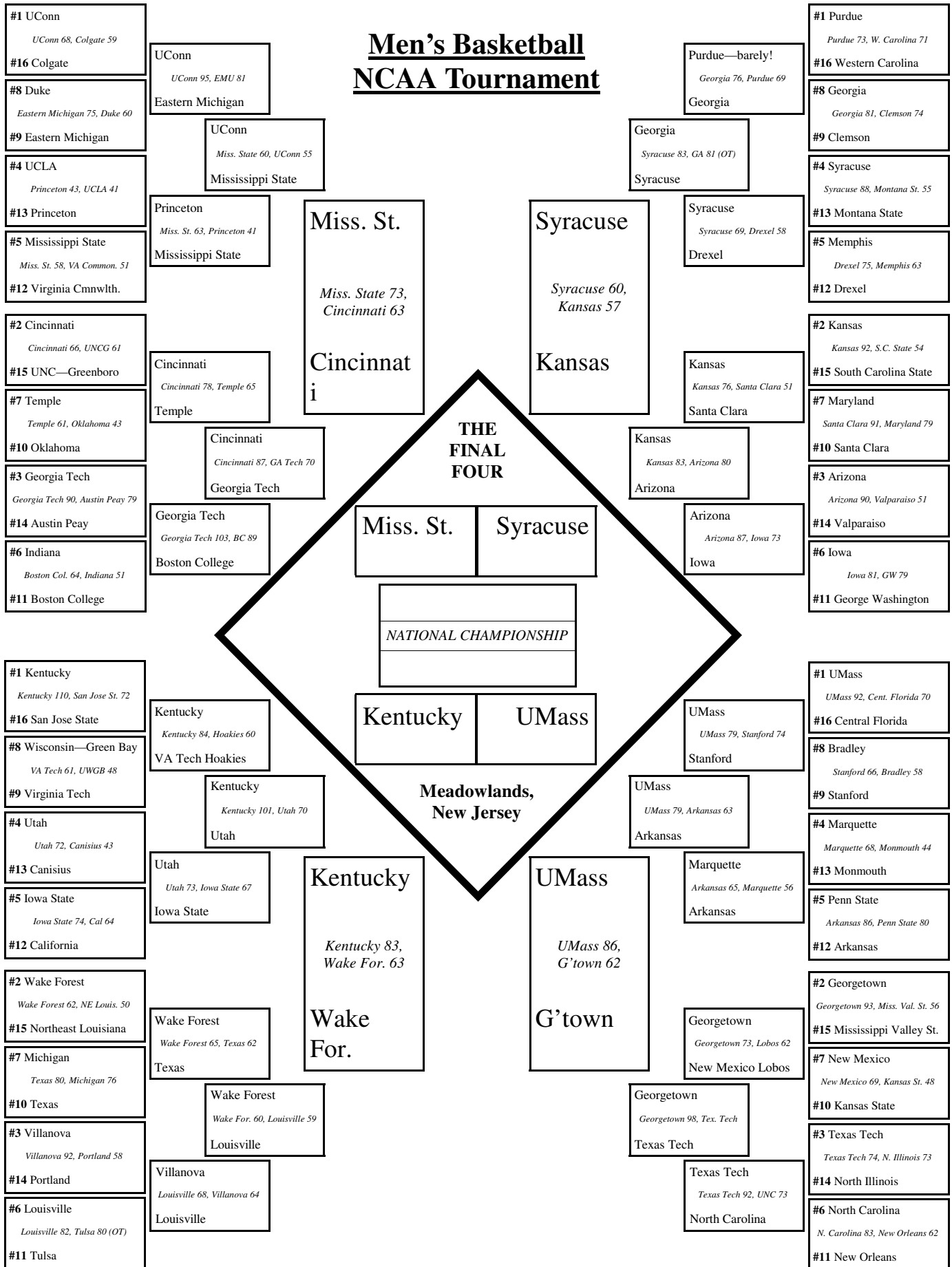
*Late Show With David Letterman
Worldwide Pants, Incorporated
Monday, March 18, 1996*

**TOP TEN
CONSTRUCTION
WORKER
PICK-UP LINES
(as presented by actual
construction workers)**

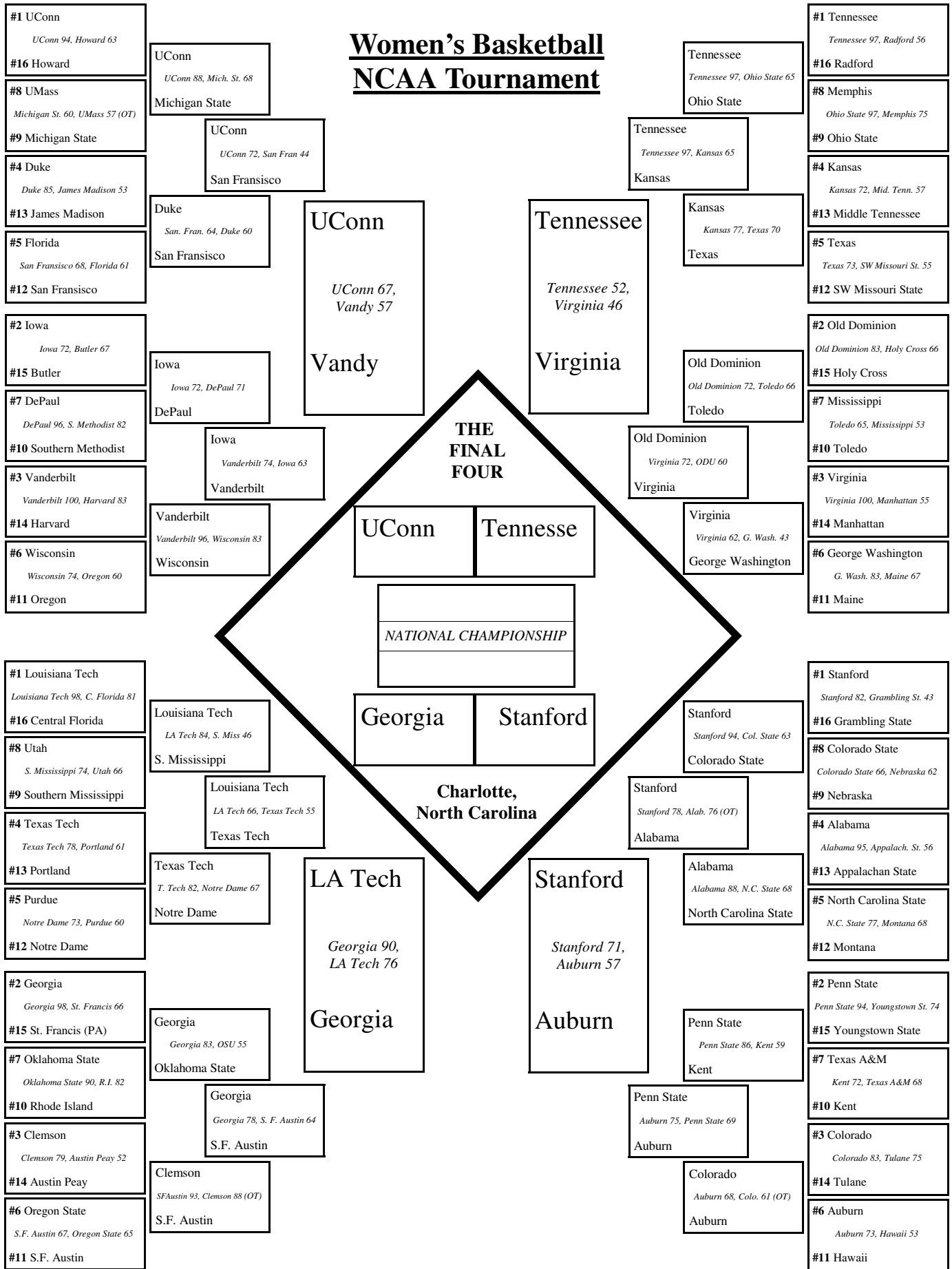
10. People always tell me I look just like Norm Abram
9. Excuse me, would you mind brushing the sawdust out of my back hair?
8. When the jackhammer brakes down, they use me
7. Your skin looks as soft and pink as Owens-Corning fiberglass insulation
6. Ever done it on a pile of rubble?
5. You take my breath away, like that time I passed out in a septic tank
4. Can I borrow that chiffon blouse sometime?
3. I'm 36 years old and I still carry a lunch box -- doesn't that make you hot?
2. If you won't go out with me, Liz Taylor will
1. Kiss me, I'm sweaty

*Late Show With David Letterman
Worldwide Pants, Incorporated
Wednesday, March 20, 1996*

Men's Basketball NCAA Tournament



Women's Basketball NCAA Tournament



Preview of men's Final Four

Associated Press

Sixty NCAA tournament teams are gone, their otherwise successful basketball seasons finished by losses. And four others remain, left to battle next weekend for a national championship.

The survivors are a diverse basketball group -- two heavyweights, Massachusetts and Kentucky, and two longshots, Syracuse and Mississippi State, paired against each other in Saturday's semifinals.

They will arrive at the Meadowlands in East Rutherford, N.J., riding emotional highs after winning their regional tournaments over the weekend, each of them in the hunt for two more wins and an NCAA championship. The matchups:

UMass (35-1) vs. Kentucky (32-2)

This is the marquee game of the tournament, matching the surviving No. 1 seeds who spent most of the regular season at the top of the poll. It is a rematch of a Nov. 28 meeting when UMass beat Kentucky by 10 points. The Wildcats won 27 straight after that loss.



Guard Edgar Padilla does, though. In the blush of UMass' East region championship victory over Georgetown, Padilla relished

"We're a different team now and I know Kentucky is, too," Minutemen coach John Calipari said. "I don't think that game has any bearing on this one."

Guard Edgar Padilla

the idea of another game against Kentucky. "We beat them once," he said. "We're looking forward to beating them again."

It won't be easy. Kentucky is deeper than UMass. Rick Pitino often runs 10 interchangeable players, led by top scorer Tony Delk, into games while Calipari tends to stay longer with his starting five. That group includes center Marcus Camby, a shot-blocker who alters opponents' offenses.

"We have our hands full," Pitino said. "We didn't play Marcus Camby well the first time. He may be the premier player in college basketball. I wish he was our only problem."

The pressure is on Pitino because after seven years at UK, the Wildcat faithful are getting a tad impatient. It's been 18 years since Kentucky won a national championship and in Bluegrass country, that's a lifetime.

For UMass, this is the first trip to the Final Four, a place Calipari & Co. thought they'd be a year ago. A disappointing regional loss to Oklahoma State sent the Minutemen home early then and set their resolve for this season. Pitino understood that after Kentucky got an early ticket home against North Carolina a year ago.

"You learn from the past, plan for the future and live in neither," he said.

For Kentucky and UMass, the present is a semifinal meeting Saturday and a chance to play for the national



(continued on page 12)

A look back at women's quarterfinals

Associated Press

Georgia star Saudia Roundtree and Tennessee coach Pat Summitt made sure the SEC will show up well in the women's Final Four. Connecticut, meanwhile, ensured itself of a chance to win another championship.

Connecticut slowed Vanderbilt's Sheri Sam for a 67-57 win Monday night in the NCAA Mideast Regional final.

The Huskies advanced to play Tennessee in the

national semifinals next Friday night in Charlotte, N.C. -- a rematch of last year's championship game. Connecticut won that game 70-64 and also beat Tennessee in the regular season this year, 59-53 on Jan. 6.

Roundtree scored a career-high 37 points as the Lady Bulldogs beat top-seeded Louisiana Tech 90-76 to win the Midwest Regional. Tennessee, urged on by Summitt

(Continued on page 11)

Women's Final Four looks familiar: All four teams from '95 return in '96

(Continued from page 10)

during a halftime talk, rallied from a 17-deficit margin to beat Virginia 52-46 in the East final.

"Pat told us 'We're going to win. We're going to win,'" point guard Michelle Marciniak said. "We've been listening to her all year, and we weren't going to stop now."

Stanford won the West final, 71-57 over Auburn. Vanderbilt and Auburn were trying to make it an all-Southeastern Conference Final Four.

The men's Final Four has also an SEC slant, with Kentucky and Mississippi State among the remaining teams.

MIDEAST

Rosemont, Ill.

Connecticut 67, Vanderbilt 57

All-American Kara Wolters, Jamelle Elliott and Nykesha Sales led Connecticut back into the Final Four.

The Huskies (34-3) are trying to become just the second team in 15 years of NCAA women's play to win consecutive national titles. Southern California did it in 1983 and 1984.

Wolters, 6-foot-7, led Connecticut with 17 points, while Elliott and Sales each scored 16.

Sam, who had shot 75 percent and averaged 32 points in her first three tournament games, was held to 16 points for Vanderbilt (23-8).



MIDWEST

Nacogdoches, Texas

Georgia 90, Louisiana Tech 76

The Lady Bulldogs beat the team that their coach had called the best in the nation. Georgia (27-4) stopped a 15-game winning streak by Louisiana Tech (31-2).

"We were playing against a team that I really thought

was the No. 1 team in the country," coach Andy Landers said. "Louisiana Tech is a very good basketball team. I can't help but feel for them. I've been there."

Georgia, down by 11 points in the second half, outscored the startled Lady Techsters 30-10 during an 11-minute span in the second half, taking its first lead with 7:51 remaining.

Roundtree led the run with 13 points. She made 12 of 13 free throws, including seven in a row in the final minutes.

"I don't believe in giving up and our basketball team doesn't believe in giving up," Roundtree said. "When I had the ball, I just kept pushing and pushing it up the court."

The Lady Techsters held a 58-47 advantage with 16:19 left in the game. Debra Williams scored 24 points for Louisiana Tech. Tracy Henderson scored 20 points and had 10 rebounds for the Lady Bulldogs.

EAST

Charlottesville, Va.

Tennessee 52, Virginia 46

Tennessee came back after trailing 31-14 at halftime. Latina Davis, 0-for-6 in the first half, hit a 12-foot jumper that started an early 13-2 spurt that made it close.

The Lady Vols (30-4) took their first lead with 2:27 left during a late 16-2 run that won the game.

"We've never had a comeback in the postseason like our second half comeback," said Summitt, in her 22nd year as Tennessee's coach. "It was one of the greatest performances I have ever been associated with."

Davis scored all 12 of her points and Marciniak had 10 of her 12 after the break. Abby Conklin also scored 12 for Tennessee, which made 15 of 28 shots after the intermission and held Virginia to 7-for-33 shooting.

Virginia (26-7), in losing for the sixth time in seven tournament meetings with the Lady Vols, was held scoreless for almost six minutes down the stretch. Its 16-game home winning streak in the tournament ended.

WEST

Seattle

Stanford 71, Auburn 57

Vanessa Nygaard scored 23 points and Stanford came back after nearly surrendering an 18-point lead to win its school-record 23rd straight game.

The Cardinal (29-2) advanced to Friday's semifinals against Georgia.

Kate Starbird scored 17 points and Olympia Scott 15 for Stanford. Samantha Williams led Auburn (23-9) with 15 points.

Cinderellas meet in Final Four: Mississippi State vs. Syracuse

(Continued from page 10)

championship Monday night.

Mississippi State (26-7) vs. Syracuse (28-8)

This is a matchup of teams that get no respect.

Syracuse was not ranked in the preseason for the first time in many years and widely viewed as the fourth best team in the Big East behind Connecticut, Georgetown and Villanova.

Mississippi State was largely ignored in the Southeast Conference, hidden behind the high profiles of teams like Kentucky and Arkansas.

And then the Bulldogs started playing.

State won the SEC tournament, beating Kentucky for the championship and followed that up with tournament victories over



UConn and Cincinnati. Syracuse, sent West for the NCAA tournament, maneuvered its way back to the Final Four with victories

over Georgia and Kansas in the regional finals.

Still, though, no respect.

Mississippi State coach Richard Williams, sometimes a little irritable, explained why.

"Look at the Final Four hat," he said, holding up the evidence. "On the back. It says Mississippi, not Mississippi State."

For the record, Mississippi was through playing a while ago. State is still bouncing the ball.

The same thing goes for Syracuse's Big East buddies.

"No one picked us to even get to a regional final," coach Jim Boeheim said. "The kids didn't worry about that. They just came out to play."

Both the Bulldogs and Orangemen rely on tough, unrelenting defenses and tough inside play from Erick Dampier and Russell Walters for Mississippi State and John Wallace and Otis Hill for Syracuse.

Bulldogs guard Darryl Wilson put it in perspective for all four surviving teams.

"It's just beginning for us," he said. "There's no reason to stop now."





COMET HYAKUTAKE

Over the past several days, a comet has been paying a visit to our part of the solar system. Comet Hyakutake has passed within nine million miles of Earth during this visit—about as close as we want it! Although you probably haven't seen anything like the spectacular pictures above and at right, you may have seen Hyakutake with the naked eye as a fuzzy dot in the northeastern part of the sky (as seen below), or through a pair of binoculars or a small telescope, as a dot with a tail (below right).

