

# NCAA MEN'S TOURNAMENT TEAMS

A capsule look at the 65 teams participating in this year's NCAA men's basketball tournament.

## Scrrips Howard News Service

### ATLANTA REGION

#### No. 1 DUKE

**Nickname:** Blue Devils  
**Location:** Durham, N.C.  
**Coach:** Mike Krzyzewski  
**Record:** 30-3  
**NCAA record:** 83-26, three championships (1991, 1992, 2001)  
**Entry to tournament:** ACC champs  
**Best regular-season win:** 97-66 against Texas on Dec. 10 in East Rutherford, N.J.  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** G J.J. Redick (28.0 points per game, 43.4 3-pt. pct., 88.0 FT pct.), C Shelden Williams (18.8 pts., 10.1 reb.), G Sean Dockery (8.4 pts., 2.9 asst.), G Greg Paulus (6.7 pts., 5.2 asst.)  
**Outlook:** Recent NCAA fameouts aside, Blue Devils' talent, experience should carry them to Indianapolis.

#### No. 2 TEXAS

**Nickname:** Longhorns  
**Location:** Austin  
**Coach:** Rick Barnes  
**Record:** 27-6  
**NCAA record:** 25-26  
**Entry to tournament:** At-large  
**Best regular-season win:** 80-55 vs. Kansas on Feb. 25  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** F P.J. Tucker (16.2 pts., 9.2 reb.), F LaMarcus Aldridge (15.3 pts., 9.2 reb.), G Daniel Gibson (13.9 pts., 3.1 asst.)  
**Outlook:** Talented Longhorns could go far, but appear a year away from a serious title run.

#### No. 3 IOWA

**Nickname:** Hawkeyes  
**Location:** Iowa City, Iowa  
**Coach:** Steve Alford  
**Record:** 23-8  
**NCAA record:** 27-22  
**Entry to tournament:** Big Ten tournament champs  
**Best regular-season win:** 67-62 against Ohio State on Jan. 28  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** F Greg Brunner (14.7 pts., 9.9 reb.), G Adam Haluska (14.1 pts., 83.9 FT pct.), G Jeff Horner (13.0 pts., 6.1 ast.)  
**Outlook:** Despite rumors of Alford going back to Indiana, Hawkeyes played their best to win Big Ten Tournament Momentum might carry them to Sweet 16.

#### No. 4 LSU

**Nickname:** Tigers  
**Location:** Baton Rouge, La.  
**Coach:** John Brady  
**Record:** 23-8  
**NCAA record:** 19-21  
**Entry to tournament:** At-large  
**Best regular-season win:** 88-74 against Tennessee on Jan. 12  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** F Glen Davis (18.3 pts., 9.9 reb.), G Darrell Mitchell (17.6 pts., 4.6 reb.), F Tyrus Thomas (12.7 pts., 9.3 reb.)  
**Outlook:** With Davis manning the post and Mitchell at the point, the Tigers look to be Sweet 16-bound at least. But first-round blowout losses to UAB last year and Purdue in 2003 are an ominous sign.

#### No. 5 SYRACUSE

**Nickname:** Orange  
**Location:** Syracuse, N.Y.  
**Coach:** Jim Boeheim  
**Record:** 23-11  
**NCAA record:** 48-30, one championship (2003)  
**Entry to tournament:** Big East champions  
**Best regular-season win:** 60-58 against West Virginia on Feb. 20  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** G Gerry McNamara (15.8 pts., 5.6 asstis, 90.9 FT pct.), F Demetrius Nichols (14.2 pts., 5.9 reb.), G Eric Devendorf (12.0 pts., 40.0 3-pt. pct.)  
**Outlook:** Not one of Boeheim's best teams, McNamara and Co. somehow pulled off a remarkable run of four straight last-season wins to win Big East tourney. That karma may carry SU a long way.

#### No. 6 WEST VIRGINIA

**Nickname:** Mountaineers  
**Location:** Morgantown  
**Coach:** John Beilein  
**Record:** 20-10  
**NCAA record:** 16-19  
**Entry to tournament:** At-large  
**Best regular-season win:** 91-87 at Villanova on Jan. 5  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** C Kevin Pittsnogle (19.3 pts., 5.7 reb., 40.4 3-pt. pct., 85.2 FT pct.), G Joe Herber (9.8 pts., 4.5 ast.)  
**Outlook:** Nation's best 3-point shooting team, Mountaineers don't always guard or rebound like a champion. Still a dangerous team, especially after last year's success.

#### No. 7 CALIFORNIA

**Nickname:** Golden Bears  
**Location:** Berkeley  
**Coach:** Ben Braun  
**Record:** 20-16  
**NCAA record:** 18-13, one championship (1959)  
**Entry to tournament:** At-large  
**Best regular-season win:** 71-69 vs. Washington on Jan. 26  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** F Leon Powe (20.0 pts., 9.9 reb.), G Ayinde Ubaka (14.6 pts., 3.9 asstis) C DeVon Hardin (8.0 pts., 6.9 reb.)  
**Outlook:** Powe can carry a team but only so far. Don't expect miracles.

#### No. 8 GEORGE WASHINGTON

**Nickname:** Colonials  
**Location:** Washington, D.C.  
**Coach:** Karl Hobbs  
**Record:** 26-2  
**NCAA record:** 3-8  
**Entry to tournament:** At-large  
**Best regular-season win:** 78-70 against Maryland on Dec. 5  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** G Danilo Pinnaok (14.7 pts., 5.0 asst.), F Nana Pops Mensah-Bonsu (13.7 pts., 6.6 reb.), G Carl Elliott (11.3 pts., 4.1 ast., 46.5 3-pt. pct.), G Maurice Rice (12.3 pts.)  
**Outlook:** Disrespected due to weak non-conference and A-10 schedule, Colonials have a lot to prove, but it may be tough if Mensah-Bonsu isn't 100 percent after late-season knee injury.

#### No. 9 NORTH CAROLINA-WILMINGTON

**Nickname:** Seahawks  
**Location:** Wilmington, N.C.  
**Coach:** Brad Brownell  
**Record:** 25-7  
**NCAA record:** 1-2, no championships  
**Entry to tournament:** Colonial champions  
**Best regular-season win:** 69-63 against George Mason on Jan. 21  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** G T.J. Carter (12.8 pts., 3.9 reb., 88.2 FT pct.), F Jared Dudley (16.1 pts., 6.9 reb.), G Sean Marshall (12.2 pts.)  
**Outlook:** If a game goes overtime, look out for Eagles who have won eight consecutive OT games. But erratic backcourt makes a deep run not likely.

#### No. 3 FLORIDA

**Nickname:** Gators  
**Location:** Gainesville, Fla.  
**Coach:** Billy Donovan  
**Record:** 26-6  
**NCAA record:** 17-12, no championships  
**Entry to tournament:** SEC champion  
**Best regular-season win:** 79-64 at Kentucky on March 5  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** F Joakim Noah (14.1 pts., 6.5 reb.), G Taurean Green (13.6 pts., 5.0 ast.), F Al Horford (11.5 pts., 7.4 reb.)  
**Outlook:** After starting 17-0, the Gators have been hit or miss. An early exit wouldn't be a surprise, but neither would an Elite Eight run.

#### No. 4 BOSTON COLLEGE

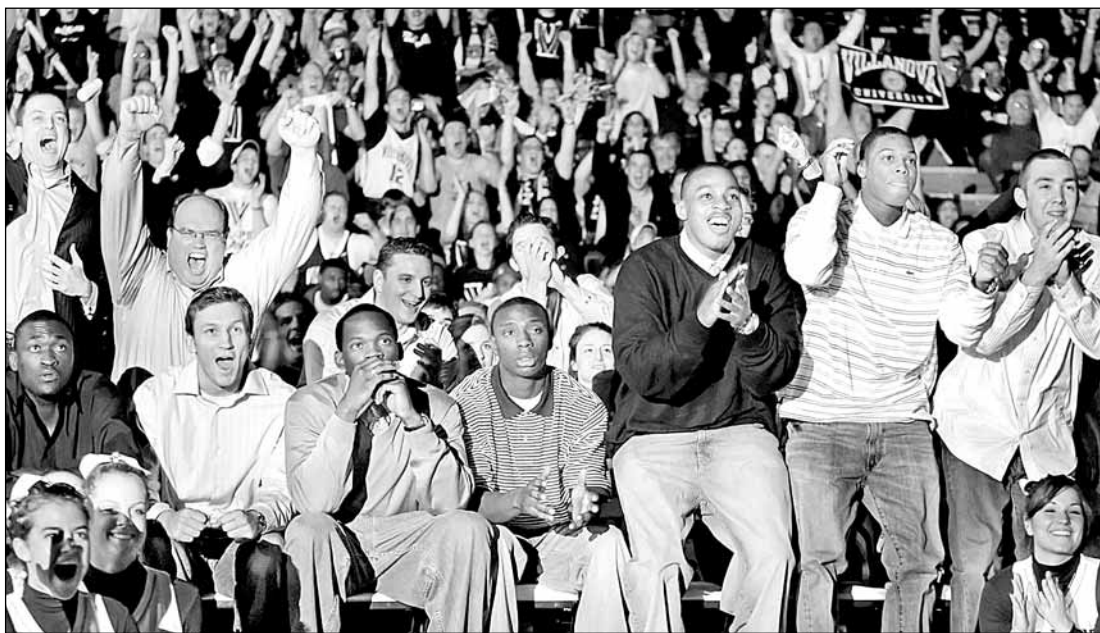
**Nickname:** Eagles  
**Location:** Chestnut Hill, Mass.  
**Coach:** Al Skinner  
**Record:** 26-6  
**NCAA record:** 19-16, no championships  
**Entry to tournament:** At-large  
**Best regular-season win:** 81-74 at North Carolina on Jan. 25  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** F Craig Smith (16.9 pts., 8.7 reb.), F Jared Dudley (16.1 pts., 6.9 reb.), G Sean Marshall (12.2 pts.)  
**Outlook:** If a game goes overtime, look out for Eagles who have won eight consecutive OT games. But erratic backcourt makes a deep run not likely.

#### No. 5 NEVADA

**Nickname:** Wolf Pack  
**Location:** Reno, Nev.  
**Coach:** Mark Fox  
**Record:** 27-5  
**NCAA record:** 3-4  
**Entry to tournament:** WAC champions  
**Best regular-season win:** 75-57 at Utah State on Feb. 25  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** Nick Fazekas (21.9 pts., 10.3 reb.), Marcellus Kemp (14.1 pts., 3.5 reb.), Mo Charlo (10.2 pts., 5.4 reb.)  
**Outlook:** The Wolf Pack's 14-game winning streak is second longest in the nation behind Gonzaga's (18). Bettering last year's advance to the second round isn't so improbable.

#### No. 6 OKLAHOMA

**Nickname:** Sooners  
**Location:** Norman  
**Coach:** Kelvin Sampson  
**Record:** 20-8  
**NCAA record:** 31-23, no championships  
**Entry to tournament:** At-large  
**Best regular-season win:** 82-72 vs. Texas on Jan. 28  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** F Taj Gray (14.4 pts., 7.4 reb.), G Michael Neal (13.0 pts., 4.3 3-point pct.), G Terrell Everett (12.3 pts., 6.6 ast.), F Kevin Bookout (11.1 pts., 6.8 reb.)  
**Outlook:** Don't overlook the Aggies, but don't expect them to make it past the second round, either.



AP PHOTO

Villanova players and fans react to the team's No. 1 seeding in the NCAA Tournament on Sunday.

#### No. 13 IONA

**Nickname:** Gaels  
**Location:** New Rochelle, N.Y.  
**Coach:** Jeff Ruland  
**Record:** 23-7  
**NCAA record:** 1-7  
**Entry to tournament:** Metro Atlantic champions  
**Best regular-season win:** 89-72 at Iowa State on Nov. 26  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** G Steve Burt (25.2 pts., 41.2 three-point pct.), G Ricky Soliver (16.2 pts., 44.0 three-point pct.), F Kiril Wachsmann (11.8 pts., 8.7 reb.)  
**Outlook:** Excellent Burt-Soliver backcourt gives Gaels a shot. But anyone with a big front-court could simply overwhelm them.

#### No. 14 NORTHWESTERN STATE

**Nickname:** Demons  
**Location:** Natchitoches, La.  
**Coach:** Mike McConathy  
**Record:** 25-7  
**NCAA record:** 1-1  
**Entry to tournament:** Southland champions  
**Best regular-season win:** 68-64 at Oklahoma State on Dec. 5  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** G Clifton Lee (14 pts., 6.3 reb.), Luke Rogers (9.5 pts., 3.5 reb.)  
**Outlook:** Southland teams have a 1-19 mark in NCAA play since 1986, and Demons aren't about to change that ugly number.

#### No. 15 PENNSYLVANIA

**Nickname:** Quakers  
**Location:** Philadelphia  
**Coach:** Fran Dunphy  
**Record:** 23-8  
**NCAA record:** 13-23  
**Entry to tournament:** Ivy League Champs  
**Best regular-season win:** 58-55 at Hawaii on Dec. 29  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** G Ibrahim Jaaber (18.6 pts., 2.2 ast.), F Mark Zoller (12.5 pts., 7.3 reb.), F Steve Danielo (9.1 pts., 5.1 reb.)  
**Outlook:** Quakers seem destined to go 1-9 in NCAAAs under Dunphy as lack of athleticism is sure to be exploited.

#### No. 16 SOUTHERN

**Nickname:** Jaguars  
**Location:** Baton Rouge, La.  
**Coach:** Rob Spivey  
**Record:** 18-12  
**NCAA record:** 1-6  
**Entry to tournament:** SWAC champions  
**Best regular-season win:** 84-80 at Alabama A&M on Feb. 18  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** G Christopher Alexander (15.9 pts., 3.6 reb.), G DeForest Riley-Smith (10.8 pts., 3.8 reb.)  
**Outlook:** Last time Jaguars went to NCAAAs in 1993, they ambushed No. 4-seed Georgia Tech, 93-78. Don't look for another such miracle.

### MINNEAPOLIS REGION

#### No. 1 VILLANOVA

**Nickname:** Wildcats  
**Location:** Villanova, Pa.  
**Coach:** Jay Wright  
**Record:** 24-4  
**NCAA record:** 39-26, one championship (1985)  
**Entry to tournament:** At-large  
**Best regular-season win:** 69-64 against Connecticut on Feb. 13  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** G Randy Foye (20.2 pts., 5.4 reb.), G Allan Ray (18.9 pts., 4.3 reb., 90.5 FT pct.), G Mike Nardi (11.7 pts., 41.8 3-point pct.), G Kyle Lowry (11.5 pts., 3.9 ast.)  
**Outlook:** Up-tempo, four-guard offense looms as Final Four contender, but Wildcats can struggle defensively vs. bigger teams. Star guard Allan Ray is supposed to be able to return after being poked in the eye in the Big East tournament, and how far they go could depend on his health.

#### No. 2 OHIO STATE

**Nickname:** Buckeyes  
**Location:** Columbus, Ohio  
**Coach:** Thad Motta  
**Record:** 25-5  
**NCAA record:** 37-21, one championship (1960)  
**Entry to tournament:** At-large  
**Best regular-season win:** 79-68 at Michigan State on Feb. 25  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** C Terrence Davis (15.1 pts., 8.6 reb.), G Jerrel Foster (13.6 pts., 47.2 3-point pct.), G-F Ron Lewis (11.9 pts.)  
**Outlook:** Deep (five players have hit at least 25 3-pointers) and experienced (four senior starters), Buckeyes enter tournament as bona fide Final Four contenders.

#### No. 3 FLORIDA

**Nickname:** Gators  
**Location:** Gainesville, Fla.  
**Coach:** Billy Donovan  
**Record:** 26-6  
**NCAA record:** 17-12, no championships  
**Entry to tournament:** SEC champion  
**Best regular-season win:** 79-64 at Kentucky on March 5  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** F Joakim Noah (14.1 pts., 6.5 reb.), G Taurean Green (13.6 pts., 5.0 ast.), F Al Horford (11.5 pts., 7.4 reb.)  
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**Coach:** Al Skinner  
**Record:** 26-6  
**NCAA record:** 19-16, no championships  
**Entry to tournament:** At-large  
**Best regular-season win:** 81-74 at North Carolina on Jan. 25  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** F Craig Smith (16.9 pts., 8.7 reb.), F Jared Dudley (16.1 pts., 6.9 reb.), G Sean Marshall (12.2 pts.)  
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**Best regular-season win:** 82-72 vs. Texas on Jan. 28  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** F Taj Gray (14.4 pts., 7.4 reb.), G Michael Neal (13.0 pts., 4.3 3-point pct.), G Terrell Everett (12.3 pts., 6.6 ast.), F Kevin Bookout (11.1 pts., 6.8 reb.)  
**Outlook:** Don't overlook the Sooners could win a couple, but then it's back to Norman.

#### No. 7 GEORGETOWN

**Nickname:** Hoyas  
**Location:** Washington  
**Coach:** John Thompson III  
**Record:** 21-9  
**NCAA record:** 38-21, one championship (1984)  
**Entry to tournament:** MEAC champions  
**Best regular-season win:** 87-84 against Duke on Jan. 21  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** C Roy Hibbert (22.2 pts., 6.4 reb.), F Brandon Bowman (10.9 pts., 5.1 reb.), F Jeff Green (11.8 pts., 6.4 reb.) G Ashanti Cook (9.4 pts., 41.9 3-point pct.)  
**Outlook:** A tough, defensive-minded group, Hoyas have Sweet 16 potential, though consistent scoring can be a problem.

#### No. 8 ARIZONA

**Nickname:** Wildcats  
**Location:** Tucson, Ariz.  
**Coach:** Lute Olson  
**Record:** 19-12  
**NCAA record:** 40-23, one championship (1997)  
**Entry to tournament:** At-large  
**Best regular-season win:** 61-49 vs. Kansas on Nov. 21  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** G Hassan Adams (17.3 pts., 5.1 reb.), F Marcus Williams (12.4 pts., 44.4 3-point pct.), F Ivan Radenovic (11.4 pts., 6.3 reb.)  
**Outlook:** Adams missed Pac 10 tournament after he was arrested March 5 on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol. If he is rusty, Wildcats already-slim chances for a tournament run shrink to none.

#### No. 9 WISCONSIN

**Nickname:** Badgers  
**Location:** Madison, Wis.  
**Coach:** Bo Ryan  
**Record:** 19-11  
**NCAA record:** 16-10, one championship (1941)  
**Entry to tournament:** At-large  
**Best regular-season win:** 78-73 against Ohio State on Feb. 15  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** F Alando Tucker (19.1 pts., 5.9 reb.), G Kamron Taylor (15.1 pts., 84.6 FT pct.), F-C Brian Butch (10.1 pts., 5.9 reb.)  
**Outlook:** Defensively sound with just enough scoring, pesky Badgers have shot at Sweet 16.

#### No. 10 NORTHERN IOWA

**Nickname:** Panthers  
**Location:** Cedar Falls, Iowa  
**Coach:** Greg McDermott  
**Record:** 23-9  
**NCAA record:** 1-3, no championships  
**Entry to tournament:** At-large  
**Best regular-season win:** 54-50 at LSU on Dec. 19  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** G Ben Jacobson (14.2 pts., 3.8 ast.), F Grant Slout (12.1 pts., 8.9 reb.), C Eric Coleman (11.7 pts., 7.1 reb.)  
**Outlook:** After close first round-losses in each of last two NCAAAs to Georgia Tech and Wisconsin, Panthers are no easy out, as wins against LSU and Iowa in December show.

#### No. 11 WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE

**Nickname:** Panthers  
**Location:** Milwaukee, Wis.  
**Coach:** Rob Jeter  
**Record:** 21-8  
**NCAA record:** 2-2, no championships  
**Entry to tournament:** Horizon League champion  
**Best regular-season win:** 78-74 at Montana on Dec. 30  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** F Joah Tucker (16.4 pts., 6.1 reb.), G Boo David (16.0 pts., 39.7 3-point pct.), F Adrian Tigrert (12.7 pts., 7.4 reb.)  
**Outlook:** Last year's stunners over Alabama, Boston College helped get Pierce Pearl get the Tennessee job, former Pearl assistant, Jeter has the talent for another such run, but depth is shaky.

#### No. 12 MONTANA

**Nickname:** Grizzlies  
**Location:** Missoula  
**Coach:** Larry Krystkowiak  
**Record:** 23-6  
**NCAA record:** 1-6  
**Entry to tournament:** Big Sky champions  
**Best regular-season win:** 88-69 against Stanford on Dec. 2  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** G Kevin Criswell (16.6 pts., 4.6 reb.), F Andrew Stratt (17.1 pts., 6.7 reb.), G Virgil Matthews (6.6 pts., 4.1 ast.)  
**Outlook:** Grizzlies are led by former NBA player and UM alum Krystkowiak, but just don't have enough firepower to pull huge upset.

#### No. 13 PACIFIC

**Nickname:** Tigers  
**Location:** Stockton, Calif.  
**Coach:** Bob Thomason  
**Record:** 24-7  
**NCAA record:** 4-8, no championships  
**Entry to tournament:** Big West champion  
**Best regular-season win:** 64-52 against Cal-Irvine on Feb. 3  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** F Christian Maraker (17.3 pts., 8.3 reb.), G Johnny Gray (14.6 pts., 88.2 FT pct.), G Mike Webb (10.8 pts., 43.6 3-point pct.)  
**Outlook:** With first-round wins over Providence and Pittsburgh in last two seasons, Tigers won't sneak up on anyone this time. So unless the underdog Maraker-Gray duo goes off, Pacific isn't likely to make it three in a row.

#### No. 14 SOUTH ALABAMA

**Nickname:** Jaguars  
**Location:** Mobile  
**Coach:** John Pelphrey  
**Record:** 21-6  
**NCAA record:** 1-6  
**Entry to tournament:** Sun Belt champion  
**Best regular-season win:** 88-84 vs. Troy on Jan. 7  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** F Richard Law (10.7 pts., 4.3 reb.), G Mario Joiner (13.9 pts., 4.4 reb.)  
**Outlook:** With most wins since 1981, Jags could pose a problem for Florida in first round.

#### No. 15 DAVIDSON

**Nickname:** Wildcats  
**Location:** Davidson, N.C.  
**Coach:** Bob McKillop  
**Record:** 20-10  
**NCAA record:** 5-8, no championships  
**Entry to tournament:** Southern Conference champion  
**Best regular-season win:** 83-58 vs. Georgia Southern on Jan. 21  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** F Brendan Winters (17.1 pts., 4.7 reb.), F Ian Johnson (10.5 pts., 6.2 reb.), G Jason Morton (10.9 pts.)  
**Outlook:** Although Davidson failed to win its third consecutive Southern regular-season title, the Wildcats bounced back to get the automatic bid. But Ohio State is bigger, deeper and more experienced. Staging an upset in the first round isn't likely.

#### No. 16 MONMOUTH

**Nickname:** Hawks  
**Location:** West Long Branch, N.J.  
**Coach:** Dave Calloway  
**Record:** 18-14  
**NCAA record:** 0-3  
**Entry to tournament:** Northeast Conference champs  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** F Dejan Delic (12.1 pts., 3.4 reb.), F Marques Alston (12.0 pts., 5.3 reb.), G Tyler Azzarelli (8.9 pts., 3.0 ast.)  
**Outlook:** Hawks' three NCAA losses have been by combined total of 100 points, if they get past Hampton in play-in game, look for another rout in first-round matchup against Villanova.

#### No. 16 HAMPTON

**Nickname:** Pirates  
**Location:** Hampton, Va.  
**Coach:** Bobby Collins  
**Record:** 16-15  
**NCAA record:** 1-2, no championships  
**Entry to tournament:** MEAC champions  
**Best regular-season win:** 60-56 vs. Delaware State on March 11  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** F Jaz Cowan (13.2 pts., 7.0 reb.), G Jeff Granger (11.7 pts., 3.9 reb.), C Bruce Brown (10.5 pts., 6.4 reb.)  
**Outlook:** Hampton's third trip to the NCAA tournament in six years will be very short.

### WASHINGTON REGION

#### No. 1 CONNECTICUT

**Nickname:** Huskies  
**Location:** Storrs, Conn.  
**Coach:** Jim Calhoun  
**Record:** 27-3  
**NCAA record:** 39-25, two championships (1999, 2004)  
**Entry to tournament:** At-large  
**Best regular-season win:** 89-75 against Villanova on Feb. 26  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** G/F Rashad Anderson (136 pts., 433 3-point pct.), F-C Josh Boone (104 pts., 69 reb., 589 pct. from field), F Rudy Gay (159 pts., 68 reb.), G Marcus Williams (105 pts., 86 ast.)  
**Outlook:** Boasting nation's top frontcourt, Huskies should make it to Indy if Williams, who didn't play until January because of suspension, holds up at point guard.

#### No. 2 TENNESSEE

**Nickname:** Volunteers  
**Location:** Knoxville, Tenn.  
**Coach:** Bruce Pearl  
**Record:** 21-7  
**NCAA record:** 8-14  
**Entry to tournament:** At-large  
**Best regular-season win:** 95-78 at Texas Dec. 17  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** G Chris Lofton (175 pts., 458 3-point pct.), G CJ Watson (150 pts., 41 ast.), G Dane Bradshaw (73 pts., 56 reb., 40 ast.)  
**Outlook:** In his first season, Pearl resurrected the Vols with a run-and-gun offense that's tough to stop. But opponents with an inside presence are a problem for the smallish Vols.

#### No. 3 NORTH CAROLINA

**Nickname:** Tar Heels  
**Location:** Chapel Hill, N.C.  
**Coach:** Roy Williams  
**Record:** 22-7  
**NCAA record:** 88-37, four championships (1957, 1982, 1993 and 2005)  
**Entry to tournament:** At-large  
**Best regular-season win:** 95-71 at NC State on Feb. 22  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** F Tyler Hansbrough (189 pts., 75 reb., 589 pct. from field), F Reyschawn Terry (143 pts., 59 reb.), F David Noel (124 pts., 68 reb.), G Bobby Fraser (64 pts., 47 ast.)  
**Outlook:** After losing all five starters to NBA off last year's title team, Williams has done a terrific job to get here. Don't underestimate peaking Heels Elite Eight isn't out of question.

#### No. 4 ILLINOIS

**Nickname:** Fighting Illini  
**Location:** Champaign, Ill.  
**Coach:** Bruce Weber  
**Record:** 25-6  
**NCAA record:** 37-26  
**Entry to tournament:** At-large  
**Best regular-season win:** 75-68 at Michigan State on March 4  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** G Dee Brown (146 pts., 57 ast.), F-C James Augustine (136 pts., 92 reb.), G Richard McBride (99 pts., 401 3-point pct.), F Brian Randle (84 pts., 55 reb.)  
**Outlook:** After going 37-2 and falling in title game last year, Illini could be sleeper this year. But only if Brown, Augustine stay out of foul trouble to carry the load.

#### No. 5 WASHINGTON

**Nickname:** Huskies  
**Location:** Seattle  
**Coach:** Lorenzo Romar  
**Record:** 24-6  
**NCAA record:** 12-13, no championships  
**Entry to tournament:** At-large  
**Best regular-season win:** 99-95 against Gonzaga on Dec. 4  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** G Brandon Roy (196 points, 58 rebounds, 41 ast.), Jamaal Williams (133 pts., 47 reb.), F Bobby Jones (105 pts., 48 reb.) F Jon Brockman (90 pts., 69 reb.)  
**Outlook:** Huskies will go as far as Pac 10 player of the year Roy can take them.

#### No. 6 MICHIGAN STATE

**Nickname:** Spartans  
**Location:** East Lansing, Mich.  
**Coach:** Tom Izzo  
**Record:** 22-11  
**NCAA record:** 40-18, two championships (1979, 2000)  
**Entry to tournament:** At-large  
**Best regular-season win:** 62-59 at Ohio State on Jan. 15  
**Key players (regular-season averages):** G Shannon Brown (182 pts., 43 reb., 27 ast., 404 3-point pct.), C Paul Davis (178 pts., 92 reb