

# Purdue women earn easy first-round win

The Associated Press

## WEST LAFAYETTE

Aya Traore had 20 points and a career-high 11 rebounds and Erin Lawless scored a season-best 19 points to help Purdue beat Missouri State 73-52 in the first round of the NCAA women's tournament on Sunday.

Missouri State guard Kari Koch entered the game averaging 20.5 points, but was held to 11 on 5-for-17 shooting. She made a layup in the final two minutes to avoid her second single-digit scoring game of the season. Sarah Klaassen added 10 points for the Bears.

Fourth-seeded Purdue (25-6) trailed by 10 points in the first half, but the Boilermakers led by as many as 23 in the second. Purdue advanced to play the winner of the Bowling Green-UCLA game in the second round of the Cleveland Regional on Tuesday.

Missouri State (17-15) had a losing record before winning four straight in the Missouri Valley Conference tournament on their home court, but the 13th-seeded Bears couldn't overcome Purdue's athleticism and depth. Purdue outbounded the Bears 25-11 in the second half.

The Boilermakers held Missouri State to 32 percent shooting, including 28 percent shooting in the second half.

Missouri State freshman Kayli Combs opened the game with two 3-pointers to give the Bears a quick 6-0 lead.

Missouri State extended that lead to 22-12 before the Boilermakers went on a 14-2 run that



Purdue's Sharika Webb, left, and Missouri State's Kari Koch go to the floor for a loose ball during the first half of the Boilers' first-round NCAA Tournament victory Sunday in West Lafayette.

forced the Bears to call timeout. Purdue took its first lead on a 3-pointer by Jodi Howell with 5:03 left in the first half and never trailed again.

Katie Gearlds, Purdue's leading scorer, didn't score until she drained a mid-range jumper with 6:40 left in the first half. She finished with 13 points and four rebounds.

Purdue led 32-27 at halftime. The Boilermakers allowed just three field goals the final 10:22 of the first half and held Koch to 3-for-10 shooting before the break.

## In other action

### Tennessee 102 Army 54

NORFOLK, Va. — Candace Parker of Tennessee slam dunked her way into NCAA history with a feat that even fans of underdog Army had to appreciate.

The 6-foot-4 Parker became the first woman to dunk in an NCAA tournament game Sunday, jamming one-handed on a breakaway just 6:12 into the second-seeded Vols' 102-54 victory against a Black Knights team that was making its NCAA tournament debut.

Then, for good measure, Parker ensured her place in history by becoming the first to do it twice in a college game with another one-hander on the baseline. She finished with 26 points, five rebounds and seven assists.

Tennessee (29-4) will face George Washington in the second round of the Cleveland Regional on Tuesday night.

Parker became the fourth woman in college history to dunk in a game, joining Georgeann Wells of West Virginia (twice in 1984), Charlotte Smith of North Carolina (1994) and Michelle Snow of Tennessee, who did it three times in the 2000-01 season.

The play gave the Vols a 15-14 lead against the pesky 15th-seeded Black

Knights (20-11), who were adopted by most of the fans at Tennessee rival Old Dominion's home arena, and it spelled the beginning of the end of Army's whirlwind NCAA tournament experience.

### George Washington 87 Old Dominion 72

NORFOLK, Va. — Sarah-Jo Lawrence scored 20 points, and the Colonials held off a desperate rally by the host Monarchs.

No. 7 seed George Washington (23-8) advanced to play Tennessee on Tuesday night.

The loss was the fifth in a row in the tournament for 10th-seeded Old Dominion (21-9), and marked the second time it couldn't end the skid with the first round at the Constant Convocation Center. The Monarchs also lost here 73-72 to Boston College in 2003.

### UCLA 74 Bowling Green 61

WEST LAFAYETTE — Two weeks after claiming their first Pac-10 tournament title, the fifth-seeded Bruins finally ended their postseason misery with their first NCAA win since beating Colorado State in the 1999 regional semifinals.

UCLA (21-10) hosts Purdue on Tuesday night.

Noelle Quinn and Lisa Willis led the way. Willis had 23 points, 12 rebounds and five 3-pointers while Quinn had 21 points and seven rebounds. Ali Mann had 16 points and eight rebounds, while Liz Honegger finished with 15 points and five rebounds for the 12th-seeded Falcons (28-3).

### St. John's 78 California 68

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — St. John's guard Kia Wright had 26 points, and high school buddy and current teammate Angela Clark had 14 points and seven rebounds as resurgent St. John's won its first NCAA tournament game in 18 years.

St. John's (22-7), the seventh seed in the Albuquerque Regional, pulled away from 10th-seed Cal in the second half. It helped that Cal's Devenei Hampton, one of the top post players in the Pac-10, was in foul trouble all afternoon.

Greeba Barlow added 21 points for St. John's, which will face second-seeded Maryland in the second round. Ashley Walker led the Bears (18-12) with 21 points and seven rebounds.

### Maryland 95 Sacred Heart 54

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Jade Perry had 20 points and 10 rebounds, and second-seeded Maryland led from the opening tip.

Laura Harper added 16 points and 13 boards for the Terps (29-4). Maryland dominated the paint, outbounding Sacred Heart 57-26 and outscoring them in the paint 56-14.

### Hartford 64 Temple 58

TRENTON, N.J. — When the buzzer sounded, Hartford's players might as well have been celebrating a national title instead of an opening-round win. First-time NCAA tournament victories can have that effect — especially for a No. 11 seed.

Danielle Hood scored 20 points and outplayed Atlantic 10 player of the year Candice Dupree as Hartford upset sixth-seeded Temple.

### Georgia 75 Marist 60

TRENTON, N.J. — Tasha Humphrey scored 23 points and Sherill Baker added 23 points and nine steals to lead the third-seeded Bulldogs to a victory against 14th-seeded Marist.

Alexis Kendrick had 11 points to help Georgia (22-8) advance to the second round for the 11th time in 12 years. The Bulldogs will face Hartford.

## Seeds

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beaten 67-64 by Washington in the second round Saturday.

Louisville, the fourth member of last year's Final Four, didn't make the tournament this season.

The most recent time none of the previous year's Final Four teams were around for the second weekend was 1988. Indiana, the defending champion, was eliminated in the first round, while runner-up Syracuse and UNLV were ousted in the second round.

## Conference calls

Half of the Big East's record eight teams selected for the NCAA tournament are still around for the regional semifinals. That's twice as many as any other conference has left.

All the Big East teams still alive won Sunday — Connecticut, Villanova, West Virginia and Georgetown. Villanova and Georgetown are both in the Minneapolis Regional so the best the conference can do is match its record three teams in the Final Four.

In 1985, national champion Villanova, runner-up Georgetown and St. John's were in the Final

Four with Memphis the only non-Big East team.

Three conferences — the Pac-10, Missouri Valley and Southeastern Conference — each have two teams remaining.

The Missouri Valley started with four teams, something that caused quite a stir on Selection Sunday. But Wichita State and Bradley are still around.

Two other mid-major conferences have teams playing.

Gonzaga of the West Coast Conference was expected to reach the third round considering the Bulldogs were ranked in the top 10 all season.

George Mason of the Colonial Athletic Association is the first

team from its league to reach the regional semifinals since Richmond in 1988. The Patriots will play Wichita State, meaning a mid-major team will be playing next weekend with a Final Four berth at stake.

"There's been talk about the Missouri Valley all year," said Lamar Butler, who led George Mason with 18 points. "Hardly anyone has talked about the CAA. It's hard to believe we're both in the Sweet 16."

## Past perfect

The Atlantic Coast Conference went 4-0 in the first round but things changed dramatically in the second round.

While overall No. 1 seed Duke and Boston College moved on to next weekend, North Carolina and North Carolina State both lost Sunday.

The Big Ten wished it still had half of its six teams still alive. No Big Ten team will be playing in the regional semifinals for the first time since 1996, when the league had five teams in the field.

## No. 1 is OK

All four No. 1 seeds — Duke, Connecticut, Villanova and Memphis — advanced to the round of the 16. It's the second straight year that happened (two went on to the Final Four). Since 1979,

when the field expanded to 32 teams, all four No. 1's have advanced to the regional semifinals 13 times.

## Bradley run

Bradley was the lowest seed to reach the regional semifinals. The Braves are the first No. 13 seed to get that far since 1999, when Oklahoma won its first two games before losing to Michigan State in the round of 16.

Only two teams seeded lower than 13 have reached the round of 16: Cleveland State in 1986 and Chattanooga in 1997 were both 14 seeds. Both lost in the third round.

## Coach

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

get away with that kind of behavior unless your last name is Krzyzewski.

IU needs a stand-up guy to manage the finicky fan base, the referees and the recruits.

Which brings us to the next vital quality for Davis' successor: recruiting.

Contrary to popular opinion, on the whole, Davis did a fair job of recruiting.

Dating back to his assistant position with Knight, he's credited with bringing in heavyweights such as Jared Jeffries, on down to Marco Killingsworth, a flawed but imposing player without whom Davis' IU career and the Hoosiers' season would have ended long before Saturday.

In the past few years, however, Davis severely harmed his ability to recruit inside the state.

As has been pretty well documented through the rumor channels, he trampled on connections with state high school coaches.

As a result, there's Rodney

Carney playing for Memphis, or Justin Cage playing for Xavier, or Josh McRoberts suiting up for Duke.

Not to say that Davis should have snagged all those players or that every kid growing up with an Indiana address should be forced to play at IU or Purdue.

No coach is going to get every in-state kid, but Davis simply let so many slip away that it compounded his on-court criticism.

Even Knight didn't snag every Eric Montross coming out of the state.

Yet the major criticism isn't that Davis couldn't protect his backyard, it's that Indiana, and Indianapolis in particular, is going through a hoops talent boom and it's mainly turning into an export product.

Thad Matta may be a great recruiter and a fine coach, but how does that guy woo Greg Oden and Mike Conley to go to a school that was under the potential NCAA sanctions hammer while IU was squeaky clean (a Davis virtue often ignored by his detractors)?

Only two of IU's best five players this season were Indiana natives, and regardless of where

you rank Robert Vaden on that list, A.J. Ratliff would probably be No. 5.

The next coach needs to improve the ratio for perception's sake and his own success.

And finally, Davis' successor needs to win early and often.

He'll have to be given a one-year reprieve given the losses of Killingsworth and Marshall Strickland.

The post positions are bare with underachieving Ben Allen the only real back-to-the-basket player returning to the roster, and the bench was already thin.

The next coach needs to make a splash, whether it's through junior-college transfers or adaptable freshmen.

IU will continue to face a difficult, if not brutal, out-of-conference schedule, so there won't be any excuses.

Doesn't matter if the name is Alford, Wittman or Gene Keady, the new guy will need to win early, for his own sake and to try to make people forget, even temporarily, the two guys who came before him.

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