The Most Shocking Upset Of The 2024 Men’s March Madness Tournament: Oakland Defeats Kentucky

ZACH GODSEY

In what is possibly the most shocking upset that we will see over the course of the entire 2024 NCAA Men’s Basketball March Madness tournament, the Oakland Golden Grizzlies, the 14th-seed, beat the third-seeded Kentucky Wildcats with an 80-76 win. This win marked the first March Madness victory in Oakland Mens Basketball history since 2011, ending their year dourly. Kentucky, a team adorned with potential NBA talent and led by the veteran John Calipari, found themselves trailing and unable to catch up for most of the night. The entire Oakland team played a nearly flawless game right up until the buzzer, but one player stood out among them. Jack Gohlke, a graduate transfer from Hillsdale College – a Division II basketball school – was the star of the night, showcasing a performance that outshone the many NBA prospects that played in that game. Standing at 6’7 inches, Gohlke scored a career-high 32 points, which were primarily from his ten 3-pointers, nearly breaking the NCAA Tournament single-game 3-point record. In addition to Gohlke, the Horizon League Player of the Year Trey Townsend contributed 17 points, and DQ Cole’s clutch 3-pointer in the final minutes of the game sealed the victory for Oakland.

Oakland’s victory was rooted in a season-long belief that they could compete with any team, regardless of the opponent’s reputation. This confidence, which was palpable from the start of the game, as Gohlke’s 3-point shooting gave Oakland some early momentum. Despite Kentucky’s attempts to shut him down his 3-point shot with a box-and-one defense, Oakland was able to adapt and continue the offense around getting him an open shot. This quick flexibility allowed a steady stream of points to come from behind the arc, eventually giving them the win.

Although Oakland’s upset over Kentucky most likely shocked the vast majority of brackets across the country, Gohlke’s journey from a Division II player to being a star in the 2024 NCAA tournament, and Oakland’s upset as a whole, is the epitome of March Madness. For underdog teams like Oakland, March Madness is not just about coming, it’s about seizing the moment, taking advantage of opportunities, and making their name known on the national stage. Even though Oakland was later defeated by another underdog team, NC State, their win against a basketball program as strong and well-known as Kentucky will go down as one of the most electrifying upset performances in recent March Madness memory.

Jack Gohlke, Oakland’s primary shooter, was lights out all game for the Golden Grizzlies.

Accountability In The NBA: Should Referees Face Punishment For Mistakes?

TEO CHO

If you’re an avid NBA fan, or even just a sports fan in general, nothing pains you more than a missed call by a referee in the crucial final minutes of a game. And when that missed call eventually leads to your team’s loss, you would be livid. In the game of basketball, NBA referees wield a lot of power. They call fouls, declare technical fouls, eject players, and often, these calls are personal. The famous “beef” in the NBA is not between a player and another player or between a coach and a player, for that matter. It is between referees. When one of the league’s best shooters, Gohlke’s 3-point shooting, gave Oakland some early momentum. Despite Kentucky’s attempts to shut down his 3-point shot with a box-and-one defense, Oakland was able to adapt and continue the offense around getting him an open shot. This quick flexibility allowed a steady stream of points to come from behind the arc, eventually giving them the win.

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Is Something Sketchy Going On With Shohei Ohtani?

SEBASTIAN VERMAUT

Scintillating is a word commonly used by tennis commentators. It refers to something that is sparkling, something emanating a brilliant light. At 22 years old, Jannik Sinner is living that word, embodying its essence as he dominates the world of tennis. His potential is seemingly limitless; he has a vice grip on the sport already, commanding groundstrokes proving nearly impossible to play against for any opponent.

However, Sinner was not always such a domineering tennis player. In fact, he was not even a tennis player to begin with. Growing up in San Candido, Italy, his first love was skiing. The Alps were his backyard, and he began to compete from a young age. At eight years old, he became the Italian National Slalom Ski champion. He soared down the mountain, outspacing the rest of the competition (not unlike his current tennis game). Despite his dominance on the mountain, his thrill for skiing had been overcome by fondness and talent on the tennis court. It was then that Sinner had determined that tennis was his passion. He resolved to turn pro, earning a scholarship at Ricardo Piatti’s tennis academy in order to realize his dream.

Since he turned to professional tennis in 2018, his game has continually evolved into the complete power player that he is today. He has flown through the rankings. At the start of 2019, Sinner sat at a meager 553rd in the world. By the end of 2020, he had risen up to 37th. He now sits at second in the world, fresh off an absolutely stellar performance at the Australian Open. It was the youngster’s first Grand Slam, a monumental achievement in the tennis world. Sinner tore through the start of the tournament without dropping a single set. He annihilated big names such as world number 15 Karen Khachanov, as well as world number five Andrey Rublev. It was the semi-finals, however, that many believed his mythical run would come to an end. He was to play one of the greatest, if not the greatest, tennis player to ever live: Novak Djokovic.

The final proved far tougher for the wonderkid. He faced Daniil Medvedev, the favorite apart from Djokovic to win the tournament. Although Sinner went toe to toe with the Russian at every point, Medvedev soon found himself at a comfortable two-set lead. Sinner, however, would not allow anyone to halt his drive to win. Turning on the afterburners, Sinner began to hammer his signature forehand, cracking Medvedev’s cool composure. Relentless, he put his all into every single shot. He fought. And ultimately, he won. He was able to rebound from the deficit and ultimately collapse onto the court as his winning pre-decisions had done before him. Sinner has now achieved the holy grail of tennis, a Grand Slam, and doesn’t seem to be limiting himself to just Australia. Since his victory in Melbourne in January, he has not slowed down at all, setting his sights on the future. He is a scintillating talent eager to play against the best and to win against the best.

Jannik Sinner Defeats Daniil Medvedev To Win 2024 Australian Open

ISAAC TIOMKIN

Jannik Sinner holding up his Australian Open trophy.
2024 Men’s NCAA Swimming and Diving Championship Recap

The Arizona Sun Devils celebrate their first-ever NCAA Men’s Swimming and Diving Championships, led by the legendary Coach Bob Bowman.

JAY WEI

The Arizona Sun Devils won their first-ever NCAA Men’s Swimming Championship title, scoring 523.3 points, followed by the Cal Bears and the Florida Gators. Arizona State’s team was cut in 2008. Swim Report’s Kyle Sockwell posted on his Instagram, “Now, in 2024, they’re National Champions. Unbelievably proud to be an ASU alum today.”

In 2008, Arizona State University cut the swimming program, but it was saved and brought back through fundraisers held by swimmers, alumni, and coaches. In 2015, ASU hired Bob Bowman, a name that many recognize as the swim coach of the Legendary Michael Phelps. Nine years later, the Sun Devils have propelled themselves to be one of the greatest collegiate swimming programs of all time, winning seven of the 18 swimming events and breaking three NCAA records. Led by the swimming phenom Leon Marchand, the team is composed of world-class swimmers like Hunter K’s Iya Kharun, Jonny Kulow, Jack Dolan, and Zalan Sarkany. Marchand and earned an NCAA title every single time he touched the water, except the 200 medley relay on night one. He established records in the 200-free, 200-free (later broken by Luke Hobson), 200-breast, 400-medley relay, and 400-free relay.

Every event has something to be talked about. From the 1650 to the 100 breast, the fields were all stacked with the fastest short-course swimmers in the world. Below, I will analyze a few of the fastest swims of the meet:

200-Medley Relay:

Leave’s honest: We all thought ASU was going to sweep the relays. Coming in as the NCAA Record holders, set just two weeks prior at the Pac-12 Championships, ASU seemed unstoppable in their peak form and condition. The second seed, Florida Gators, came in with a 1:21.66, over a second slower than the ASU. Yet in finals, the Florida Gators dropped over one and a half seconds to win the event at an NCAA record-breaking time of 1:20.15, with Adam Chaney splitting 20.29, Julian Smith splitting 22.55, Josh Liendo going 20.04, and Magahey splitting 22.55. Luke Hobson, the only swimmer in the field going under the 18-second mark at 17.94.

500-Free:

Wow, many of us are still questioning: did Marchand really just win a 400 500-yard free-style, four seconds faster than the second performer of all time? Coming out of an amazing Pac-12 Championships in Federal Way, Washington, Marchand already held the NCAA record in this event, with a time of 4:06.18. However, his performance was nothing close to the swim we saw on night two of the NCAA Championships. The field had some other notable names, including Luke Hobson, Jake Magahey, and Gabriel Jett, but all eyes were on Marchand. Marchand went out a 2:09.9, more than a full second ahead of everyone else in the field. His 200 split was 1:33.12, followed by a 1:57.94 at the two-hundred mark. His legs gave out a little toward the end of the race, yet he still Destroyed the NCAA record with a 4:02.31. Hobson came in second at 4:05.30, followed by Magahey at 4:07.12.

200-Free:

The 200-free really started on night one of the finals, in the final two heats of the 800-free relay. Hobson opened up the meet with a lead-off split of 1:29.13, breaking Dean Farris’s 200-free record from 2019. Marchand, in the heat right after, responded with a 1:28.97, breaking the ninth-fastest all-time 200-free record while also becoming the first swimmer ever to go sub-1:29. Two nights later, Hobson made one of the craziest comebacks in collegiate swim history, in prelims, Hobson touched first at a 1:29.75, just a little over his relay split. Jack Aleyx touched second, going a best time of 1:30.38, followed by Jordan Crooks at 1:30.41. The field for the final was stacked, with six of the eight A-finalists all going sub 1:31. Aleyx took it out the fastest, going 43.31 at the hundred mark, with Hobson close behind, going 43.36. Aleyx’s back half, however, was no match for Hobson, and Hobson split a 45.54 on his second 100 to finish the race at a blistering time of 1:28.81. That was huge points for Texas Longhorns, and Hobson reclaimed his NCAA record while becoming the second performer in history to go under 1:29.

400-Free Relay:

The 400-free relay has always been one of the most exciting races to watch at the NCAA Championship. It sits as the competition’s final event and caps off the short course season for all collegiate swimmers. The highlight of the race was the race between Marchand, Liendo, and Crooks on the lead-off leg. Marchand proved his versatility by going 40.28, which would have been second in the 100-free-style individual event. Crooks also went a lifetime best, going 40.39, just two-tenths behind Marchand. The race ended with a battle between Kulow and McDuff, with Kulow ultimately taking the win for the Sun Devils in a record-breaking time of 2:43.40. This time shaved off over half a second from the previous records, set just a year ago by the Florida Gators (2:44.07) at the 2023 NCAA Championships.

Year after year, the NCAA Championships stand as a beacon of growth and evolution in the sport of swimming. The relentless hard work and dedication of athletes like Marchand and Hobson show just how far athletes can push the boundaries of the sport. As the NCAA continues to captivate audiences and inspire future generations of swimmers, it serves as a testament to the enduring popularity of the sport while also signaling a promising trajectory for its continued growth and success in the years to come.
The 2025 Formula 1 “Silly” Season Begins

BRANDON HORNE

In February 2024, a bombshell announcement was dropped on the Formula 1 (F1) paddock. Lewis Hamilton, seven-time world champion, widely regarded as the greatest F1 driver of all time, was ditching Mercedes, with whom he had won six of his seven titles, to make a shocking switch to Scuderia Ferrari. Why was Hamilton doing this? As we soon came to find out, Mercedes’s 2024 car was far from perfect. Although initially, hopes were high for the Brackley-based team’s W15 car, it quickly became obvious that the car simply did not have enough pace. Poor results followed for both of Hamilton’s teammates, making Hamilton’s daring switch more understandable throughout the race.

This decision rocked the Formula 1 paddock. Hamilton has been with Mercedes since 2013, and has until recently, maintained his desire to finish his career with the team. However, a recent string of poor cars and slow development has finally forced Hamilton to leave. In search of his elusive eighth title, he has finally given up on his team. As a result, the 2025 driver market is completely wide open. As Hamilton replaced Carlos Sainz, he no longer has a seat for 2025, despite being the one-time challenger to Mercedes in the driver standings.

For Haas, the once-promising Nico Hulkenberg, despite his rapid qualifying pace, has found no better alternative but to remain at Haas for the 2023 season. In replacement of Kevin Magnussen, Haas looks to the young Brit Oliver Bearman, who showed significant promise in his first race at Ferrari (replacing Carlos Sainz, who needed his appendix removed). Because Haas is a Ferrari customer team, they have a strong relationship with Ferrari and look to nurture the young driver as he prepares to replace Lewis Hamilton after he retires potential.

These were my 2025 F1 driver lineup predictions, I hope you enjoyed it. As always, leave me any comments if you don’t agree with my ideas.

Alex Albon and Felipe Drugovich
With Fernando Alonso departing for Mercedes, team owner Lawrence Stroll must pivot quickly and sign the talented Williams driver, Alex Albon. Albon consistently places his Williams into the points despite it being a very slow car relative to stronger teams, making him a great candidate for a team looking to ascend into championship contention. To pair with Albon, Lawrence Stroll must finally part ways with his son, Lance Stroll, who finally leaves F1 to compete in endurance racing. For his replacement, Aston Martin called up its reserve driver andFormula 1 world champion, Felipe Drugovich. He has proven he has the pace, and Aston rewarded him with a full-time F1 seat.

Yuki Tsunoda and Ayumu Iwasa
Due to Daniel Ricciardo’s recent struggles, he is forced out of Red Bull and replaced with Japanese talent Ayumu Iwasa. In addition, all-Japanese driver lineup for 2025. Red Bull has shown zero interest in promoting Tsunoda to a drive at the top team and has recently expressed a desire to pair their young drivers with more experienced veterans. As Tsunoda has now driven for VCARB for four seasons, I’d say he qualifies as an experienced veteran capable of mentoring his countryman Iwasa.

Theo Pourchaire and Yuki Tsunoda
Visa Cash App RB:
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Future 2025 Ferrari driver Lewis Hamilton speaks with Ferrari team principal Fred Vasseur.

Theo Pourchaire and Esteban Ocon
For the French-based Alpine, Pierre Gasly has departed in favor of 2023 runner-up Sergio Perez. Despite his lack of race-winning pace, Perez is still a high-caliber driver and is highly regarded enough to earn a spot at Alpine for 2025. Personally, I think there is a high likelihood that Perez would retire if dropped by Red Bull, but there’s certainly a chance he stays for revenge, hoping Alpine develops a better car for 2025. As his teammate, I’ve gone for the Frenchman Esteban Ocon to remain with the team, as he has done since 2020.

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**Ohio State Wins Women’s National Hockey Championship**

**ANNABEL CURRY**

The Ohio State women’s hockey team is back on top after winning the 2024 National Championship. The Buckeyes bested the defending champion, Wisconsin in a 1-0 game that was decided by a late goal from the Year Joy Dunne in the middle of the third period. Wisconsin and OSU have battled for the championship, with Wisconsin winning in 2021, OSU in 2022, Wisconsin beating OSU in the 2023 championship game, and OSU beating Wisconsin for the 2024 Championship. Dunne’s goal was assisted by Cayla Barnes and Hannah Bilka, both graduate student transfers from Boston College. Senior Buckeyes goalie Raygan Kirk made 27 saves, earning her a shutout in her final game. Overall, the Buckeyes finished the season 55-4, with Bilka leading the team in points, closely followed by Jennifer Gardner, Joy Dunne, and Kiara Zanon. The Buckeyes goal also finished the season strong, notably Kirk with a 0.945 save percentage and Amanda Thiele with 0.95%. Looking ahead, the Buckeyes team will be very different, as they have 16 graduating student-athletes on their team. On the other hand, Wisconsin will have a strong group next year, including Eden Simms, Laula Edwards, Caroline Harvey, Cassie Hall, Ava Murphy, and Laney Potter.

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**Is the Harry Kane Curse Real?**

**NAREK HAMBARDZUMYAN**

“You can take the man out of Tottenham, but you can’t take the Tottenham out of the man.” A common phrase surrounding England international Harry Kane. Today, he has gained more attention on social media after Bayern Munich lost to Dortmund on March 30th, lengthening the gap between Bayern and Leverkusen to 13 points. Harry Kane looks to miss out on another trophy after 15 years, but how did he get here?

**History at Tottenham**

Harry Kane is arguably the best Tottenham Hotspur player of all time, with 213 goals in 317 appearances. He made his professional debut for the club in 2009 and remained there until 2023. His goal-scoring prowess, however, did not result in a single title for the club. In his time at Spurs, he encountered a multitude of chances to win some silverware but could not quite get it over the finish line. His first chance at glory came in 2011, via the League Cup final but lost to Chelsea 2-0. Spurs then were in a race for the Premier League in 2016 against Leicester, in which they started losing important matches at the end of the season and finished third. This was then followed by two consecutive semi-final appearances in the 2017 and 2018 FA Cup and a semi-final loss to Croatia in the World Cup in 2018. Then came a heart-breaking loss to Liverpool in the 2019 Champions League final, followed by a 2-0 loss in the 2021 League Cup Final. Then came arguably the team’s greatest loss, losing on penalties to Italy in the 2020 Euro Final. He has won the Premier League Golden Boot 3 times and the PFA Player of the Year award twice, but never won anything. After years of near wins, he decided to move to Germany in 2023, but this is when the Harry Kane curse really spurred into reality.

**Season at Bayern Munich**

Harry Kane joined Bayern Munich at the start of the 2023-2024 season. He joined a Bayern team that has won the Bundesliga for 11 years straight, with Dortmund last winning the trophy in 2012. The Bayern Munich dominance doesn’t stop at the league, as they have won the DFB Pokal and the Champions League numerous times. Kane’s first game for Bayern was against RB Leipzig in the Supercup, where they lost 3-0 on a disappointing day for Kane and the team. Many thought that he would surely win his first league title with Bayern, but an unexpected turn of events happened. Bayer Leverkusen and their new coach, Xabi Alonso, have been absolutely on fire this season. They haven’t lost a single match in all competitions this season and have beaten and drawn Bayern the two times they faced. Bayern themselves have not been at their best form and have just helped Bayer Leverkusen to keep widening the gap between first and second place. Now, it almost seems a guarantee that Bayer Leverkusen will win the league, as they only need three wins in the last seven games to seal the deal. Bayern Munich was also knocked out of the DFB Pokal by third-division side FC Saarbrucken. Although Bayern Munich remains in the Champions League, that will be the most difficult competition to win, and it will take something special for it to happen.

**Conclusion**

Kane looks to go another season trophyless, and his curse seems more and more apparent after each game. Even after joining a giant club like Bayern Munich, he still cannot achieve the silverware he desires. So, is the Harry Kane curse real? You can blame tough luck, but it really does seem that wherever he goes, whether it is the England national team, Bayern Munich, or Tottenham Hotspur, he simply can’t pass the finish line.
14-Year-Old American Cavan Sullivan Signs With Manchester City Academy

ALEX LEE

On March 26, Philadelphia Union agreed to a deal with Manchester City that will see 14-year-old star Cavan Sullivan join City's academy when he turns 18. A report from "The Atlantic" indicates City will pay in excess of $2 million upfront, with another $5 million and a sell-on clause expected to be added to the original fees.

This agreement comes after a lengthy battle between top European clubs, such as Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund, to secure his services. Until then, Sullivan will be working with the Union to sign an MLS homegrown contract and join the club's first team to continue his development.

Declan James Makes Comeback After Suffering Achilles Injury

WILL WEISSMAN

In November of 2022, PSA's World No. 45, Declan James, suffered a ruptured Achilles tendon, ending his season with a long road of recovery. After surgery ten days after the injury, James was forced to leave the game behind for months.

Shortly after his injury, the Englishman tweeted, "The hunger and drive is still as strong as ever and will be back. I'm 29 years old and this latest setback isn't going to be the end of the story in my Squash career."

Despite his determination to get back on court, James embraced recovery by spending time with friends and family and recuperating from "the jet lag, the tournaments and the brutal matches." With his hiatus from the PSA Tour, James's ranking moved outside the top 200 in the world. However, the Englishman remained optimistic, excited to play pressure-free squash, and quickly climbed back into the rankings. After months of recovery and training, Declan James's return began in late November of 2023 at the PSA Des Hauts De France, while James lost in the finals to Spain's Bernat Jaume and the current World No. 54, his tournament performance proved his ability to play at the highest level even after his injury.

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Declan James' return began in late November of 2023 at the PSA Des Hauts De France, while James lost in the finals to Spain's Bernat Jaume and the current World No. 54, his tournament performance proved his ability to play at the highest level even after his injury. With his return, Declan James continued his dominance at the PSA World Cup, reaching his first semi-final, with hopes of reaching his first semi-finals in a Gold-level PSA tournament. The Englishman continued his streak of superb squash, playing effective shots to the front, which pushed Gawad from edge to edge on the court. James upset his opponent in the first game, winning 11-8, and went up 10-9 in the second game to force a match ball. While Gawad equalized the game at 12-12, the Englishman received a generous call to win the match, sending the English-backed crowd into eruption.

"I'm just happy to be playing a decent standard. It's been a long road back, a long 18 months, jeez, a lot of hard work and suffering. Nights like tonight make the suffering worth it," James said after the match.

While he lost to Egypt's Mostafa Asal, the current World No. 4, in the semi-finals, James's performance at the GillenMarkets London Squash Classic placed him at a level higher than when his season ended over a year ago. After a long road of recovery, Declan James has thrived in his return by producing what might be the best squash of his career.
Why Boston College Hockey Dominates The NCAA

ANNABEL CURRY

The NCAA men’s hockey Frozen Four will start on April 11 in St. Paul, Minnesota. Two-seed Boston University will take on three-seed Denver, and one seed Boston College will play the University of Michigan. Boston College and Boston University have been at the top of the NCAA Classic Physique this season, having faced off four times. This season, BC took both games in the rivalry weekend, winning 4-1 the first time before bouncing back in the Beanpot, winning 3-4. The teams met in the Hockey East Championship in late March, with BC dominating the game, winning 6-2. Both teams are known for their underclassmen. BC freshman Will Smith was the 4th pick in the 2024 NHL draft and was awarded Hockey East MVP, and the team has five more players named to the Hockey East First Team. BUC’s hockey story was filled with obstacles, mirroring the story of underdog in a rigorous test of its athletes. In this narrative of experience over potential, the BC team demonstrated how formidable opponents can be both a blessing and a curse to the team. The combination of a powerful offense and a lockdown goaltender makes them the dangerous team that has earned the one seed in the tournament.

Wesley Visser Unexpectedly Wins The 2024 Arnold Classic Physique

ARTHUR WU

In classic physique competitions, where symmetry and muscular definition meet artistry, Wesley Visser has emerged as an unexpected victor of the 2024 Arnold Classic Physique. Despite being regarded as an underdog in the fiercely competitive arena, Visser defied the odds, captivating audiences and judges alike with his impeccable physique and stage presence. Despite skepticism from popular bodybuilders and influencing factors such as Greg Doucette, winning the Arnold Classic unorthodoxly signifies success and acknowledgment. Born with an unyielding determination and an unwavering passion for sculpting his physique, Wesley Visser’s journey in the bodybuilding world has been extraordinary. With his bodybuilding beginnings and a relentless work ethic, Visser entered the Arnold Classic Physique competition with unparalleled size and conditioning, driven by a desire to prove his worth on the grand stage. As the competition unfolded, Visser faced formidable opponents, including experienced competitors such as Ramon Dino and Urs Kalecinski, both of whom expected themselves to win the coveted title. Despite lacking the notoriety of some of his counterparts, Visser’s meteoric rise to fame is nothing short of a dream come true.

Visser’s journey to victory was filled with obstacles, mirroring the classic underdog narrative. Amidst his preparations, he faced setbacks and hurdles, each serving as a rigorous test of his determination. Enduring exhausting training sessions and grappling with moments of self-doubt, Visser remained steadfast. Drawing from his inner reservoirs of strength, he pushed himself relentlessly in pursuit of his dream. On the day of the competition, Visser took to the stage with confidence and poise, delivering a performance that left spectators in awe. With each pose, he showcased his sculpted physique, commanding the attention of the judges and captivating the hearts of the audience. In a turning point of events, Wesley Visser was crowned the winner of the 2024 Arnold Classic Physique competition, shocking the bodybuilding world and solidifying his place among the elite. As Wesley Visser celebrates his triumph, the bodybuilding community eagerly anticipates what the future holds for this rising underdog. Will he continue to defy expectations and conquer new heights in his career, or will he be content with this momentous victory?
UConn Advances To March Madness Final Four With Commanding Win Over Illinois

ZACHARY YUAN

This season, the Boston Celtics are the best team in the East and potentially the NBA. With an incredible starting five of Jason Tatum, Jaylen Brown, Derick White, Jayson Tatum, and buyout signing Al Horford, the Boston Celtics have returned. For example, but when they have, push the envelope, the talent this bench players are stepping up and the talent this bench players are step...

Will The Celtics Continue Their Success In The Playoffs?

The Boston Celtics are by far the best in the NBA currently, ending the season with a 64-18 record. This has looked mostly unstoppable, sweeping aside other teams, and with the new addition of Holiday and Porzingis to this year’s playoff roster, the Celtics will once again be the favorites to win it all. All the Celtics need is to consistently close out games, draw up game plans, and strategically use timeouts. Hopefully, after so many failures, both Mazuza, Tatum and all the players will have matured and learned from our mistakes. If once Boston has that down, their first Larry O’Brien trophy in 15 years is on the way home.
Does Boston College Have A Better Coaching Situation Than The New England Patriots?

Bruce McLaren

When one first reads, "Does Boston College have a better coaching situation than the New England Patriots?" they dismiss it and think, how could a college team, everyday middle to low-level ACC team, have a better coaching situation than an NFL team? Once you go through each coach, through it, becomes a real debate and is not so clear to answer.

Boston College has Bill O'Brien, an experienced NFL head coach with lots of playoff experience. He also has coaching experience at the college level. The Patriots have Jerod Mayo, an inexperienced head coach who was in his first-year head coaching at any level. I would give the "point" here to BC because of the lack of experience the Mayos have. Next, we should look at offensive and defensive coordinators. BC has Bill Willingham, who has NFL and college experience as a tight end coach but no experience as a coordinator. The Patriots have Jerod Mayo, an inexperienced offensive coordinator/light head coach. Willingham has been a long, who has NFL and college experience as an tight end coach but no experience as a coordinator. The Patriots OC is Alex Van Pelt, the ex-Celtics and Browns offensive coordinator who has a lot of Tim Adams coaching QBs and calling plays on offense. Here, based on experience, I would give this point to the Patriots. The defensive coordinator for BC is Tim Lewis, who has 14 years of coaching experience on defense, including seven as a DC in the NFL, albeit this was a long time ago. The Patriots’ DC is Demarcus Covington, who has been on the Patriots staff as a coach for a couple of years now. I would give the advantage to the Patriots on this one, as Tim Lewis is a bit old and hasn’t coached in the NFL or in college for a while. He has been coaching in other football leagues for the last few seasons, while Willingham has a lot of experience with Bill Belichick teaching him his genius defensive strategies.

Next, we can compare the other assist platinum coaches on both teams’ offensive and defensive sides of the ball. BC has many wide-ranging coaches on their staff, including Doug Marrone, Rob Chudzinski, and Bill O’Brien. They also have experienced coaches including Matt Applebaum, a mentor of Tom O’Brien ex BC head coach), and Darrell Wyatt, who are renowned in the college football world for being excellent defensive coaches. The Patriots have a lot of coaches on their staff this year, most of whom have good reputations as coaches and a few that do not, including Bed Mcadoo, who coached the New York Giants and did not do a great job. Many of the coaches that the Patriots have, however, are quite new to coaching in the NFL, with a large percentage never coaching in the NFL. Due to this, I would give the advantage of the best assistant coaching staff to BC because of the pedigree some coaches have on the staff, the inexperience of the Patriots staff.

It is important to compare the "other" coaches and advisors to the teams, along with who has been helping the teams along their way during the beginning of the offseason. BC has had many ex-pro coaches and players helping out, which has been tremendous to their growth this off-season, including ex-Bill Belichick advisor Ernie Adams, who has become an advisor to Bill O'Brien, NFL QB Brian Hoyer, and former NFL QB Matt Ryan. BC also hired Ben Najarian as chief of staff, a very well-experienced coach who was another right-hand man to Bill Belichick and has been working for the Patriots for the past 24 years. Also, there have been many rumors of other ex-Patriots players and NFL coaches coming to BC practices to advise them. This, in my opinion, pushes BC’s coaching staff over the top of New England’s. In turn, I would say that the answer to the question posed in this article is "yes, indeed, BC does have a better coaching situation than the New England Patriots at this time!" Only time will tell, however, to see if my prediction will prove true or not.

Who Is Leading The NBA MVP Race?

Harry Murphy

With less than ten games left in the NBA season, it would be impossible to call a clear cut change in the race for MVP, so it is fair ground to assess the legitimacy of MVP campaigns at this point. For the most part, the pre-season expected candidates are the ones in the race for the NBA’s premier individual award. The five top players for this year’s MVP will likely be Nikola Jokic, Giannis Antetokounmpo, Luka Doncic, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, and Jason Tatum.

While it is never safe to call something a lock, Nikola Jokic currently holds odds as low as 3/100 on sportsbooks and deservedly so. The Denver Nuggets find themselves atop the Western Conference standings with an impressive 42-24 record and are not experiencing a post-championship hangover or slump. They are playing with the same beautiful basketball centered around their offensive engine, Nikola Jokic. Jokic is averaging an absurdly efficient 26.2, 10.9, and 8.9 in typical stuff from his two previous MVP seasons. Jokic remains a snitch scorer, his mix of three-level scoring and efficiency makes him a non-traditional scoring star and something to behold. The magnum opus of Jokic’s game is his transcendent passing and playmaking. He is the perfect mix of fundamental mastery and circus trick, no look ability is unmatched, and nobody can reasonably claim to be in the same stratosphere as Jokic as a passer. In addition, pairing his passing toolkit and scoring excellence makes him and the Nuggets offense impossible to stop. Leaving Jokic one-on-one will ultimately result in a bucket, and good luck doubling him without him finding the open man instantly. Though the fact that he is a negative defensive presence remains, his stellar offense has proven to overcome that in past two MVP wins.

The Denver Nuggets are in the Western Conference, and are playing with the same beautiful basketball centered around their offensive engine, Nikola Jokic. In a row: Giannis in 2022, Curry in 2017, LeBron in 2011 and 2014, and Jokic last year. While Jokic joined that club, it is more than likely joining LeBron James, Michael Jordan, and a few others as an NBA MVP winner who wins again after being dethroned. Though Jokic is going to receive the most votes from the distinguished voting pool, other players have had recent seasons that challenged Jokic’s case throughout the year. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander is leading the Thunder to a potential one-seed after being tenth last season while averaging 30.5, and 6. Jason Tatum is averaging 27.8, and 5 with stellar defense and leading the Celtics to the best record in the Eastern Conference. Giannis Antetokounmpo is having a typical season, averaging 31.2, and 7 alongside DPOY-caliber defensive play. Lastly, Luka Doncic was the favorite for many at some point throughout the season due to his 34.9, and 10 stat line, ruling the best; however, the Mavericks’ unspectacular record was the fa-