

FACTS BEHIND

THE MADNESS



ONLY EIGHT TEAMS PLAYED IN THE FIRST NCAA TOURNAMENT

Oregon, nicknamed the "Tall Firs" due to the height of its starting front-court, beat out seven other teams to win the first NCAA men's basketball championship in 1939. The field began growing soon after, reaching 16 teams from 1951 to 1952 and varying between 22 and 25 teams from 1953 to 1974. It then steadily increased from 32 teams in 1975 to 64 teams in 1985. The most recent expansion came in 2011, when 68 teams were invited to participate.

UCLA HAS BY FAR THE MOST TITLES



UCLA has won 11 NCAA men's basketball championships, the most of any school. Ten of those titles came over a 12-year stretch from 1964 to 1975, when stars such as Lew Alcindor (who later changed his name to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar) and Bill Walton dominated the competition. Kentucky is in second place with eight titles, North Carolina is next with six, followed by Indiana and Duke with five each.

A NO. 11 IS THE LOWEST SEED EVER TO MAKE THE FINAL FOUR

Four No. 11 seeds have decimated brackets across the nation by advancing to the Final Four: LSU in 1986, George Mason in 2006, VCU in 2011 and Loyola-Chicago in 2018. None of those teams were able to reach the tournament final, however. The lowest seed to win the whole thing, meanwhile, was No. 8 Villanova in 1985.

THE SINGLE-GAME TOURNAMENT RECORD FOR MOST POINTS HAS STOOD FOR OVER 40 YEARS



In 1970 Notre Dame shooting guard Austin Carr scored a tournament-record 61 points in a first-round win over Ohio. He followed that up with 52 points in a loss against Kentucky, good enough for fourth all-time. Since then, the closest anyone has come to breaking his mark is when Navy's David Robinson notched 50 points in his final collegiate game in 1987.

NO. 1 SEEDS ARE A GOOD BET TO MAKE THE FINAL FOUR

Since the NCAA began seeding teams in 1979, at least one No. 1 seed has made the Final Four every year except for 1980, 2006 and 2011. But all four No. 1 seeds have only advanced once, when Kansas, Memphis, North Carolina and UCLA pulled off the feat in 2008.



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