

March Madness

March madness is by far my favorite sporting event to watch.

I am going to be telling you what March madness is, my different reasons for liking it, a few traditions my family and I enjoy because of it, and also a few of the big moments that everyone will remember for years to come.

Now, if you're wondering what March madness is, then I'll explain to you just that.

March madness is the basketball tournament for division-1 colleges across America to compete and attempt to knock off team after team in order to make it to the finals and win it all.

Your next question might be: "Well, how many teams are allowed in this "March madness?" The answer to that question at the moment is 64.

Although, it is possible that the NCAA will increase this number in the future.

In case you are wondering, March madness is the same thing as the NCAA tournament.

Traditions

One tradition my older brother, my dad, and I have for March madness is to fill out brackets like the one to the side, on all the different teams we think will win, and check with each other to see who got the most right.

I always try to get at least my older brother and my dad to watch as much of the tournament with me as possible.



Often times March madness is a time for teams to sport new uniforms.

March madness is a also time when small, unexpected schools often times rise to the occasion and surprise many elite teams.



March madness is a tournament that many people enjoy watching at their home on the T.V. and also enjoy going to and watching the games live.

I love to watch as many of the games as possible, especially when my favorite teams are playing.

In last year's March madness tournament, there was a small, underdog college from florida who managed to be a surprise in how far they got in the tournament.



They managed to make it all the way to the sweet 16 (that is, winning twice to get there) and then lost by 12 points to the Florida Gators.



But in order to get there they had to beat a number two seed and a number seven seed, which is extremely hard to do.

FGCU left its mark on the NCAA tournament as a high-flying and energetic team.

FGCU was almost always getting down the court in a hurry, throwing alley-oops, and jamming it down.



My Favorite Teams

My favorite college team is the Kansas State Wildcats.



Why I like them is because my dad spent part of his college career at K-State and as a result I was raised in a family who cheered for them.

My Favorite Teams

I always enjoy watching K-State play, although, they often times let me down.



Just this most recent NCAA tournament, they were ranked as a number 4 seed, and they lost in the first round to La Salle, a 13 seed.

The Florida Gators

My other team, the Florida Gators, are usually better than Kansas State.



They usually get further in the tournament and are much more clutch.

Kevin Ware

Another popular event in last year's 2013 NCAA tournament was when Kevin Ware had a gruesome injury.

All he did was go up for a block and land on his foot normally.

However, his leg could not handle this much weight, it snapped between the knee and ankle.

For your benefit I will not show you a picture of this, but believe me, it is not pretty.

But, his teammates did realize that they needed to win the game for him, and they did just that.



Davidson

Davidson is a small school, currently with only 1,700 students, that miraculously made it all the way to the elite eight (the final eight teams) in the 2008 NCAA tournament.



Davidson was led by Stephen Curry (number 30 in the above picture).

He is now dominating in the NBA, playing for the Golden State Warriors.

Making History

In 1985, eight seed Villanova made history by beating Georgetown in the NCAA tournament finals, becoming the lowest seed ever to win the championship.

Although they were ranked as an eight seed, they played like a one seed all throughout the tournament.

Christian Laettner to Win The Game

In the 1992 elite eight, The Duke Blue Devils were losing 103-102 with 2.1 seconds left in the game to the Kentucky Wildcats.

They also had to go the length of the court to score.

So Grant Hill throws the ball all the way to the other end of the court, where Christian Laettner catches the ball at about the foul line.



Christian Laettner to Win The Game...

What happens next is known as history.

Laettner catches the ball (with his back to the basket), takes one dribble, fakes right, then turns left to hit the 17-foot jump-shot to give Duke the 104-103 win over Kentucky and advance to the final four.



This is one of the most commonly known NCAA tournament buzzer beaters of all time.

Trey Burke Hits the Game-Tying 3 to Force Overtime

In last year's sweet sixteen, the Michigan Wolverines were playing the Kansas Jayhawks.

Kansas was ahead by 5 with only 21 seconds left in the game.



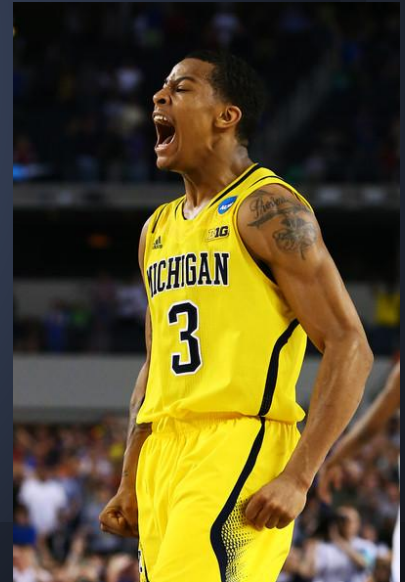
Trey Burke Hits the Game-Tying 3 to Force Overtime...

Michigan was then down by 3 with 6 seconds left, they needed a three-pointer, and quick.

Trey Burke was the one to give them just that, with a long 3-pointer near the buzzer over Kansas defender Kevin Young.

As a result, Michigan and Kansas went to overtime, where Michigan won 87-85.

Because of this, Michigan was headed to the elite eight.



Butler



In the NCAA tournament of 2010, the Butler Bulldogs were ranked as a five seed.

However, they were expected by many to play even worse than a five seed.

Despite having an enrollment of about 4,000 at the time, and a coach only 34 years old, Butler managed to make it all the way to the finals.

Butler

In the finals, however, they lost by only 2 to the Duke Blue Devils.

Gordon Hayward had a half-court shot at the buzzer that bounced off the backboard, then rim, but missed.



Texas Western

March Madness 1966, there is a team, from West Texas, that is ranked as a 3 seed, called Texas Western.

They made it all the way to the finals by beating Oklahoma city, Cincinnati, 4th ranked Kansas, and Utah.

Texas Western

In the finals, playing against first ranked Kentucky, they won in a very close game with a final score of 72-65

Now you may be wondering, “Why this is significant”, or “There weren’t any upsets, just a very good team who won game after game.”

Texas Western

Well, you're only partly right, you see, this was an all black team (and this in the time that you couldn't eat in the same room as white's if you were black), and all the other teams were full of only white players.

The coach (who was white) was making a statement, and he got the message through when they won the championship.

Texas Western

Throughout all of this, Texas Western had to go through extreme rejection from crowds and players.

There is even a movie that has been made on this incredible story, it's called "Glory Road". It is an extremely good movie.



I hope you enjoyed my slides and learning about March madness, I also hope you enjoyed hearing some of the different events that have happened during the NCAA tournament.

So, this next March, look for some of the highlights of the games on the internet, or watch some of the games on T. V., it is very entertaining.

And also, do me a favor by watching “Glory Road.”