



the NOODLE

Open up and say AHHHH!!!



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Welcome to the March 2019 edition of *The Noodle*, written and published by the FYC. For this issue of *The Noodle*, members of the FYC were asked to respond to the question “*What is March Madness ?*”

This topic allowed members to share their thoughts on why basketball is all over March Madness. We hope you will take a few minutes out of your busy schedule to learn about our experiences and enjoy our thoughts and opinions in this March, 2019 edition of *The Noodle*!



Current Members:

John Baldino
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The Origins of March Madness

The University of Oregon defeats The Ohio State University 46–33 on this day in 1939 to win the first-ever NCAA men's basketball tournament. The Final Four, as the tournament became known, has grown exponentially in size and popularity since 1939. By 2005, college basketball had become the most popular sporting event among gamblers, after the Super Bowl. The majority of that betting takes place at tournament time, when Las Vegas, the internet, and office pools around the country see action from sports enthusiasts and once-a-year gamblers alike.

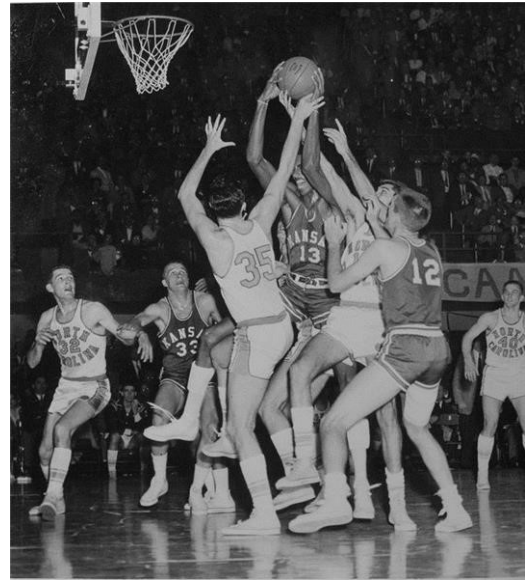
For the first 12 years of the men's tournament, only eight teams were invited to participate. That number grew steadily until a 65-team tournament format was unveiled in 2001. After a "play-in" game between the 64th and 65th seeds, the tournament breaks into four regions of 16 teams. The winning teams from those regions comprise the Final Four, who meet in that year's host city to decide the championship.

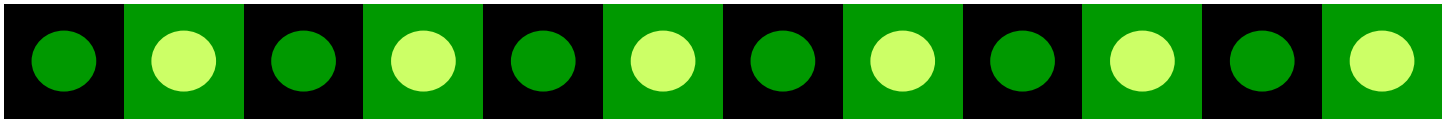
The NCAA held its first women's basketball tournament in 1982. The women's tournament started with 32 teams, expanding to 64 teams before the 1994 season. Today, the women's format echoes the men's, with play in four regions culminating in a Final Four held in a single location. The championship is played the day after the men's, concluding the college basketball season. The most dominant team in women's tournament history has been the Tennessee Volunteers, who won six championships under renowned coach Pat Summit from 1973 to 2006. The Connecticut Huskies are second, with five championships under coach Geno Auriemma. Past women's Most Outstanding Player winners include Cheryl Miller of USC, Diana Taurasi of Connecticut and Chamique Holdsclaw of Tennessee; all went on to become stars of the WNBA.

Some of the men became all-stars in the NBA and some became legends like Magic Johnson and Michael Jordan.

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/march-madness-is-born>

By Dakota Smoot





NCAA Tournament

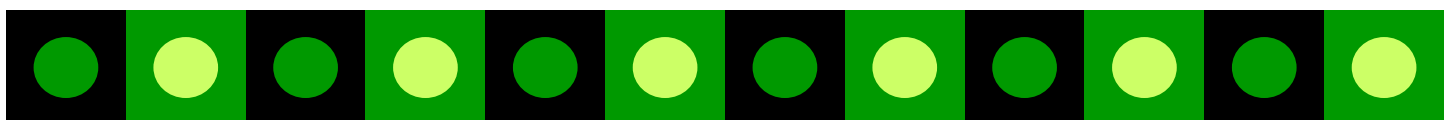
Every year during the month of March, college basketball fans and millions like them wait for the start of the NCAA tournament. For three weeks, from the middle of March to the beginning of April, the entire country is engulfed in college basketball's premier event. The tournament has a total of 68 of the best teams in the game all competing for the title of NCAA National Champions. Colleges and universities all across the country compete. It is truly the one sporting event that has the attention of the entire country. Although many people may say that the NCAA tournament and March Madness may be another sporting event, it is a widely popular competition that is viewed by millions of fans, and even non-sports viewers, year after year.

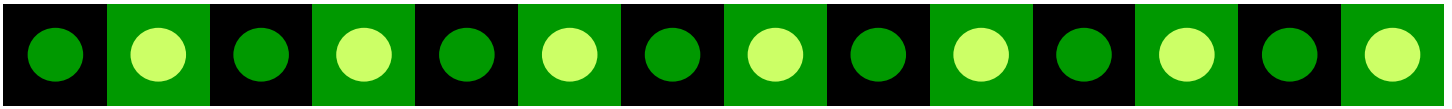
One thing that brings millions of people to the NCAA tournament each year is the challenge of predicting the outcome of the event through making a bracket. Groups of people all over the country create pools and bet on who has filled out the most accurate bracket. Whether it is a pool at work, a high school basketball team, or just a group of friends, everyone gets involved and competes to have the best bracket. This creates a fun and entertaining experience that people want to get involved with, drawing viewers from all over the country. Also, fans are not only restricted to one bracket each year. They can fill out as many brackets and join as many pools or competitions as they want to. Basketball lovers, and even those who aren't, enjoy March Madness all alike.

By Brandon White

March Madness!

Well . . . it's that time of year again: March Madness! As a sports fan (specifically in this case basketball), you've got to love it. First come the conference tournaments, and then after Selection Sunday, the Big Dance (the national NCAA Tournament) begins! After praying that your favorite team had a good enough season and was deemed worthy to get in by the selection committee standards, the madness and quest to capture a national title can begin! You have multiple games going on at the same time spread out all over the country. It's always exciting (especially in the years when my favorite team makes it in), and every year there always seems to be a "Cinderella" team that makes a deep





run when no one expects them to. My favorite team made it to the Elite 8 last year. I hope they make another deep run this year, and eventually someday go all the way and bring home the title. In some ways, I like March Madness better than the regular season when it comes to basketball anyway LOL. I could probably think of more things, but these are just a couple of reasons why I look forward to March Madness!

By Derek Carraway

What Is This Thing Called March Madness?

Apparently, a lot of people like to watch a bunch of guys running around throwing a ball in a hoop. I don't really watch sports, so this is all a mystery to me. So, what else happens in March?

Well, one terrific time that I know everyone loves is Daylight Savings Day, which typically happens in March. I know how we all love that loss of an hour of sleep in the morning for seemingly no reason. So, heads up, be sure to make extra coffee on March 10 this year.

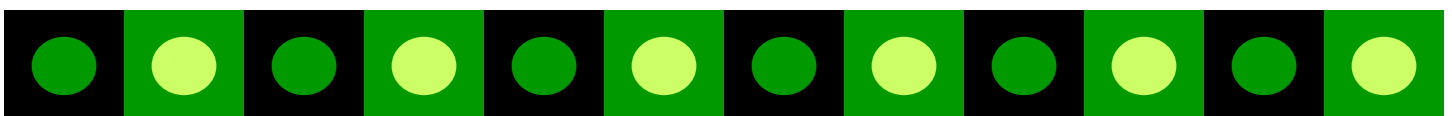
And let's not forget St. Patrick's Day. We all put on green shirts, hats, etc., and a lot of people like to drink green beverages. But the craziest of all is in Chicago where they dye the Chicago River bright green. They say it doesn't hurt the environment, but I wonder if the fish do an Irish jig.

Another unexpected holiday I found is that March 2nd is Dr. Seuss's birthday. Surprisingly, schools and libraries use this day to encourage reading by dressing up as book characters and having birthday parties for Dr. Seuss.

And let's not forget every math teacher's favorite holiday. March 14th is Pi Day where no baking takes place. No apple, no cherry, not even key lime! Pi Day celebrates the least tasty pie on the face of the earth. It's all about the number 3.14159 . . . If teachers really wanted us to get excited about math, they could at least bring us some yummy pie!

With all that in mind, I have to wonder, where did the phrase March Madness really have its origin?

By Serena Wetmore



What's All the Hype About?

TBH, I had to look up what March Madness meant. Now before you toss me out, let me explain. I don't come from a sports family. Yes, we watched the Superbowl, but it was mainly for the commercials and the half-time show.

Anyway, I did learn that March Madness is the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division 1 Men's Basketball Tournament and it is played every March. The tournament isn't just played by guys, women also play, but it is mostly about guys (sorry ladies). During March Madness there are 68 teams and 7 rounds of play that lead to the final champions.

March Madness takes place in just three weeks. The winning college teams are awarded first, second, and third place, but after that it is all participation awards for just attending and trying your best. Most players don't go on to play professional ball, but get regular jobs like you and me. A few of the very best do go on to play professional basketball.

The term 'March Madness' was first used by Illinois high school official Henry V Porter, but the term didn't find its way into the general audience until CBS broadcaster Brent Musburger used it during his coverage of basketball season.

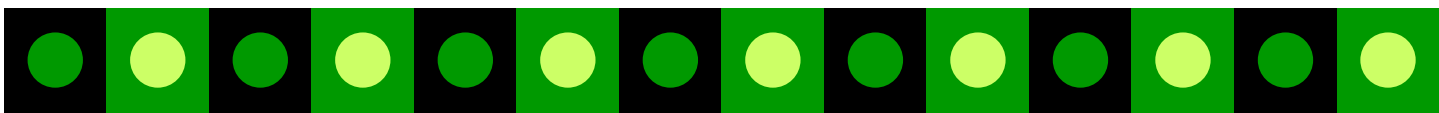
This year the Duke Blue Devils are expected to win. Like some sports, March Madness is betted on in Las Vegas big time. To explain the point system, go to this link: <https://www.printyourbrackets.com/bracket-scoring.html>.

The favorite American sport is still football, but basketball is literally right next to it as American's second favorite sport. President Obama and many more have followed the Madness and fill out their brackets trying to forecast who will be in the Final Four.

I've never been to a basketball game, so I really don't know what I'm missing. Anybody got tickets?

By Emma Massey





How Do I Become Part of The Florida Youth Council?

The Florida Youth Council is a group of youth (between the ages of 15 and 17) and emerging leaders (between the ages of 18 and 30) with disabilities or special health care needs that live in Florida.

The Florida Youth Council is all about getting youth and emerging leaders involved in self advocacy, peer mentoring and other activities that will improve the quality of life for youth and emerging leaders with disabilities in Florida. The program empowers youth and emerging leaders to decide what issues are important to their generation, to discuss those issues in their state and local communities, and to develop strategies to address them.

We are seeking a group of enthusiastic, motivated youth and emerging leaders to participate. If you would like to take a leadership role in advocating for youth and emerging leaders in Florida, please visit The Florida Youth Council website at www.floridayouthcouncil.com. The program is open to application year round. We hope to hear from you soon!



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