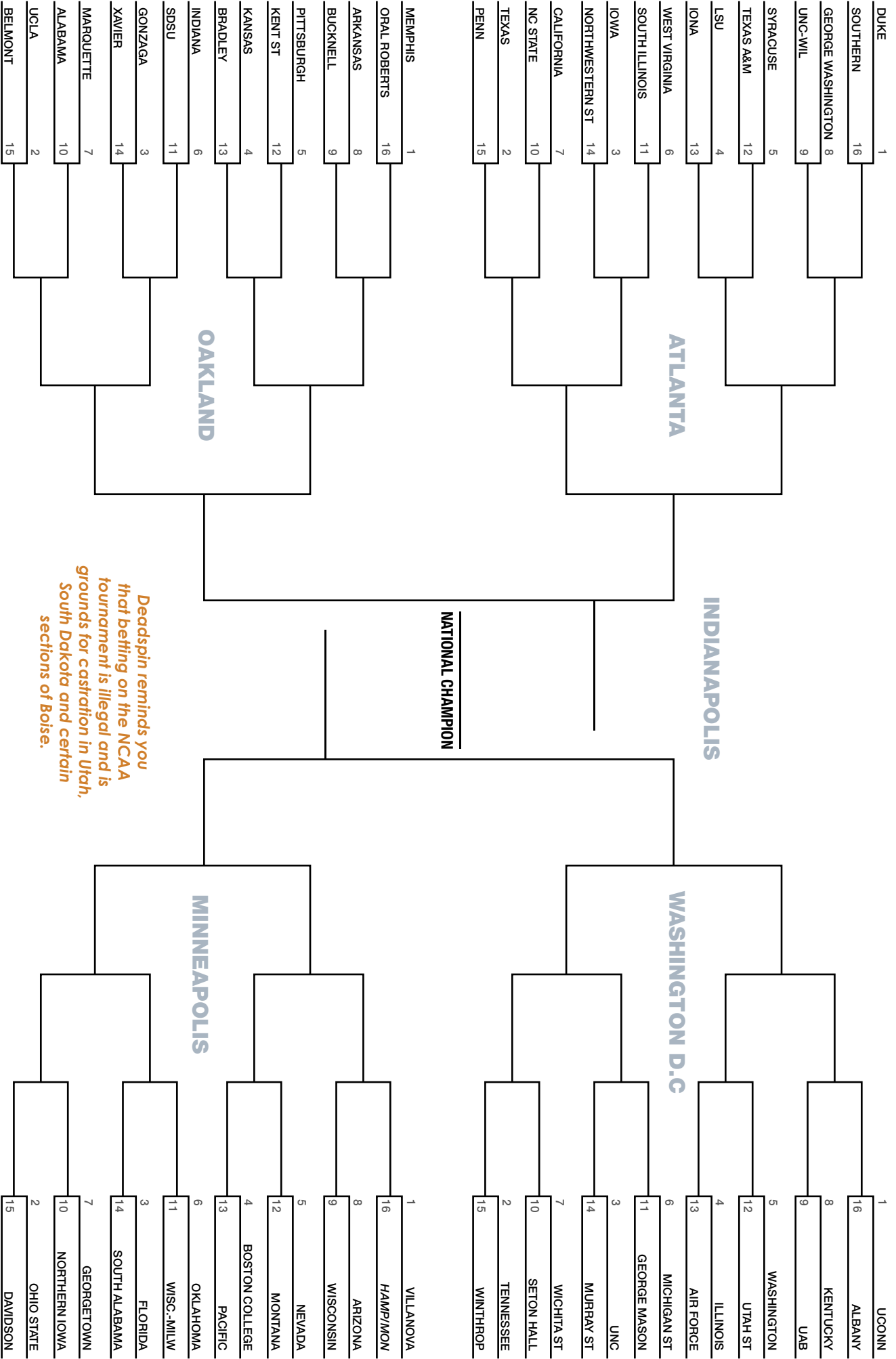


DEADSPIN

2006 NCAA MEN'S BASKET

FIRST ROUND MARCH 16 - 17 **SECOND ROUND** MARCH 18 - 19 **SWEET 16** MARCH 23 - 24 **ELITE EIGHT** MARCH 25 - 26 **FINAL FOUR** APRIL 1 **NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP** APRIL 1 **FINAL FOUR** APRIL 1 **ELITE EIGHT** MARCH 25 - 26 **SWEET 16** MARCH 23 - 24 **SECOND ROUND** MARCH 18 - 19 **FIRST ROUND** MARCH 16 - 17



Deadspin reminds you that betting on the NCAA tournament for castration in Utah, South Dakota and certain sections of Boise.

NCAA Tournament First Round Schedule *(All Times Eastern ... and very approximate)*

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

7:35 p.m. **Monmouth Hawks** (18-14) vs. **Hampton Pirates** (16-15)

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

12:20 p.m. **Wichita State Shockers** (24-8) vs. **Seton Hall Pirates** (18-11)
 Oklahoma Sooners (20-8) vs. **Wisconsin-Milwaukee Panthers** (21-8)
 Boston College Eagles (26-7) vs. **Pacific Tigers** (24-7)

2:40 p.m. **Tennessee Volunteers** (21-7) vs. **Winthrop Eagles** (23-7)
 Florida Gators (27-6) vs. **South Alabama Jaguars** (24-6)
 Nevada Wolf Pack (27-5) vs. **Montana Grizzlies** (23-6)
 Marquette Golden Eagles (20-10) vs. **Alabama Crimson Tide** (17-12)

4:55 p.m. **UCLA Bruins** (27-6) vs. **Belmont Bruins** (20-10)

7:25 p.m. **Illinois Fighting Illini** (25-6) vs. **Air Force Falcons** (24-6)
 George Washington Colonials (26-2) vs. **North Carolina-Wilmington Seahawks** (25-7)
 LSU Tigers (23-8) vs. **Iona Gaels** (23-7), 7:10 p.m.
 Gonzaga Bulldogs (27-3) vs. **Xavier Musketeers** (21-10)

9:45 p.m. **Washington Huskies** (24-6) vs. **Utah State Aggies** (23-8)
 Syracuse Orangemen (23-11) vs. **Texas A&M Aggies** (21-8)
 Indiana Hoosiers (18-11) vs. **San Diego State Aztecs** (24-8)

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

12:10 p.m. **Ohio State Buckeyes** (25-5) vs. **Davidson Wildcats** (20-10)
 Iowa Hawkeyes (25-8) vs. **Northwestern State Demons** (25-7)
 Arizona Wildcats (19-12) vs. **Wisconsin Badgers** (19-11)
 Arkansas Razorbacks (22-9) vs. **Bucknell Bison** (26-4)

2:40 p.m. **West Virginia Mountaineers** (20-10) vs. **Southern Illinois Salukis** (22-10)
 Georgetown Hoyas (21-9) vs. **Northern Iowa Panthers** (23-9)
 Villanova Wildcats (25-4) vs. **Monmouth, N.J.-Hampton winner**
 Memphis Tigers (30-3) vs. **Oral Roberts Golden Eagles** (21-11)

7:10 p.m. **Michigan State Spartans** (22-11) vs. **George Mason Patriots** (23-7)
 Connecticut Huskies (27-3) vs. **Albany Great Danes** (21-10)
 California Golden Bears (20-10) vs. **N.C. State Wolfpack** (21-9)
 Pittsburgh Panthers (24-7) vs. **Kent State Golden Flashes** (25-8)

9:30 p.m. **North Carolina Tar Heels** (22-7) vs. **Murray State Racers** (24-6)
 Kentucky Wildcats (21-12) vs. **UAB Blazers** (24-6)
 Texas Longhorns (27-6) vs. **Pennsylvania Quakers** (20-8)
 Kansas Jayhawks (25-7) vs. **Bradley Braves** (20-10)

DUKE BLUE DEVILS (1)

ATLANTA REGIONAL



- 1. The Crazies Are Slipping.** Real purists will say they haven't been the same since Terry Sanford's "Avuncular Letter", which stopped the days of say, coating a court in panties to greet sexual-assault accused Herman Veal. But campus debate about the Crazies' role has intensified in recent years, with increased restriction on tenting dates (and quiet but persistent talk of a points system for tickets), "cheersheets" (already anathema to hardcore fans) falling victim to a hustle by the hated Maryland fanbase and the revocation of bonfire permits after the 2005 UNC game. It's gotten to the point that nothing is sacred: A student was kicked from the Carolina tenting line this year for attempting to sell his spot on Craigslist.
- 2. Martynas Pocius Won't Be Flicking Anybody Off Anytime Soon.** Or not with his left hand, at least. The Lithuanian freshman, who hasn't seen much playing time this season, thus assuring that Inigo Montoya won't have any chance of mistaking him for the manwho killed his father.
- 3. What Can You Do With A Duke Degree?** OK, maybe writing is out of the question. Geno Auriemma has famously suggested waiting tables. But if you're former Duke captain, two-sport player and erstwhile non-drafted Packer/Cowboy Reggie Love, you move up the coast: He's currently serving as a staff assistant for Democratic senator and Presidential candidate Barack Obama. I guess they figure that if he can handle the shaming he famously got at a party in Chapel Hill, he can handle the rigors of the Capitol. Networking is everything, huh? – *Matt DeTura*

TEXAS LONGHORNS (2)



- 1. Two Names To Know: Todd Wright And Dr. Randa Ryan.** Assistant athletic director (and former swim coach) Ryan had the honor of getting academic failure/star forward PJ Tucker back on the eligible list -- despite committing the most retarded shot clock violation in the history of ever with five seconds to go in the A&M game, he rocked a 3.3 this fall. Wright is regarded as one of the country's best strength coaches; his speed room alone at the 44,000 square-foot Denton A. Cooley Pavilion is worth \$300,000, which makes him an important employee for the almost absurdly injury-prone Horns. For example, senior forward Brad Buckman's 2005-06 season included but was not limited to the following injuries: hyperextended right knee, two left ankle sprains, bad hip, right calf strain... Come to think of it, what the hell is Wright even doing?
- 2. PJ Tucker Is 1 For 1 From 3-Point Range. Ever.** And as far as we know he is 0 for 0 in dormroom lipsynching.
- 3. A Hardly Obscure Fact That Still Bears Re-Mentioning.** No team in NCAA history has ever won national championships in football and basketball in the same year. Did we mention Texas also won the 2005 NCAA Baseball championship, too? Oh, and the women's gymnastic team might have won nationals last year. And the women's intramural volleyball team. And rumor has it the golf team looks outstanding. – *Whitney Pastorek*

IOWA HAWKEYES (3)

ATLANTA REGIONAL



- 1. Jeff Horner Induces Pee-Phobia.** If you're ever in a bathroom with Jeff, watch out... And then what will you do? Surely you can't just go on holding it. That's bad for you. Probably give you cancer. Also, Horner is Iowa's best player. Watch out ... he'll be leading the Hawks beyond the first weekend.
- 2. Everyone Hates Steve Alford.** Not just students either, every one in Iowa and I ain't kidding. Nothing *too* unusual about that; lots of people want the coaches of their respective teams to be fired and often Web sites are made for that specific purpose. What's unique is that Alford has been a decent coach, and this year Iowa has exceeded expectations. Problem is, Alford is in the unfortunate position of being constantly compared to football coach/god Kirk Farentz because they came in at around the same time. But it's not just wins and losses that matter to the fine people of Iowa. Alford is perceived as a douche bag who appears in commercials for fancy suits and acts like a king when he walks into local restaurants.
- 3. Iowa Vs. Iona?** This is a serious potential Elite Eight matchup. FANTASTIC. Try saying Iowa and Iona alternately as fast as you can. It's tough. How could anyone possibly explain the result of this game without mixing up the two? A glorious day awaits.

– Jason Spidle

LSU TIGERS (4)



- 1. But These Go To 11...** It has been 20 years since Louisiana State made their last Final Four -- when they were a No. 11 seed, still the lowest ranked team to make the national semis. The current Tiger team, which clinched its first outright SEC regular season championship in 21 seasons, is seeded a lot higher but whether or not they return to the final four 20 years later remains to be seen. At what stage will the Tigers get 86'd in '06? Or will they?
- 2. "Jam"-balaya.** LSU possesses a dangerous inside presence with Glen Davis and Tyrus Thomas. The two Tiger underclassmen have already earned their stripes; super-soph Davis racked up seven straight double doubles to end the regular season, and frosh-phenom Thomas notched four straight double doubles before getting hurt. When all is said and done Davis and Thomas could administer a Tiger mauling on clubs not seen since the likes of Montecore.
- 3. Eye Of The Tiger.** All eyes will be on Tyrus Thomas. The Tigers, who suffered numerous injuries to key players throughout the season, won't exactly be limping into the tournament. Coach Brady lionized his freshman forward stating "everyone knows we played without the freshman of the year for four straight games, and everyone knows he's going to be back next week and help our team be better than it is right now." – *Shane Igoe*

SYRACUSE ORANGEMEN (5)

ATLANTA REGIONAL



- 1. The Real Slim Shady.** Tattooed Orange frosh Eric Devendorf was born in Bay City, Mich., about 115 miles north of Detroit. He guards the perimeter in Syracuse's standard 2-3 while talking trash, which draws comparisons to some other white guy from Motown. Growing up, players labeled the 6-foot-4 combo guard with the killer left hand as "Roundball Eminem," and after arriving at Syracuse students began calling Devendorf "8 Mile." Devendorf played prep ball at hoops factory Oak Hill Academy in Virginia and could have played at the Carrier Dome with fellow Oak Hill graduate Carmelo Anthony, had 'Melo elected to graduate.
- 2. Orange-Tainted Bias.** If you thought Fox News Channel is guilty of media bias, think about the Orange-tainted media. Syracuse's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications churns out a plethora of sports journalists. Marv Albert? YES! Bob Costas won't give you tidbits about various countries during the Olympics broadcasts, but he doesn't have a problem with chatting about his time at the 'Cuse. Sean McDonough, Mike Tirico – even Graham Bensinger -- the teenage student mastermind behind the infamous T.O. interview -- are among those who bleed Orange. And that's only the on-air "talent."
- 3. "I Think 'D.C.' Means 'Disturbed Child.'" That's what Charles Barkley said of former Syracuse star Derrick Coleman. Booze may have prevented D.C. from fulfilling his potential in the NBA, as the No. 1 draft by the Nets in 1990, but the retired Coleman has gone on to start a hip hop label called OnPoint Recordings. Coleman wore the fabled No. 44, only reserved for select Syracuse athletes, including legendary running backs Jim Brown, Ernie Davis and more recently John Wallace, who led the then-Orangemen to the Final Four in 1996. – Ashok Selvam**

WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEERS (6)



- 1. They Have Horny Wives.** Heather Pittsnogle, wife of handsome Kevin, has been spotted at games and on campus wearing a t-shirt that says, "I Got Pittsnogled" and features an arrow pointing downwards at her girl genitals. Beat that, Jackie Christie.
- 2. Joe Herber Is Too Smart To Play College Basketball.** Herber, a German, is more knowledgeable about American politics than anyone else on the team. No one will sit next to him on the team bus, because he'll talk their ear off about politics. He learned to play four positions, speaks four languages, tutors other students in German and political science, is a two-time Academic All-American, and was named ESPN The Magazine Academic All-American of the Year. "No one wants to argue with him about that stuff," says teammate Patrick Beilein.
- 3. Dan Dakich Is A Moron.** When Gale Catlett retired and left the program in absolute shambles in 2002, WVU hired Bowling Green head coach Dan Dakich. After about an hour on the job, Dakich quit and ran back to Bowling Green. The group of guys he could have coached at WVU made it to the Elite Eight last year and spent nearly all of this year in the Top 25. Bowling Green went 9-21. Good call, Coach Dakich. – The Mighty MJD

CALIFORNIA GOLDEN BEARS (7)

ATLANTA REGIONAL



- 1. Powe Just Turned 22, Wondering What to Do.** Power forward Leon Powe, en route to leading the Pac-10 in scoring and rebounding, often looked like a man among boys. That's because, as a mere sophomore, he's 22 years old, something he accomplished without a Mormon mission. At that age, most Cal fans think Powe is less likely to return to Berkeley than Pat Robertson is to get tenure there.
- 2. Balls, Not Braun.** In January, the *Oakland Tribune* conducted an extraordinary interview with Powe, who complained about all the plays and sets coach Ben Braun was making them run ("I hate feeling like a Big East team") and his lack of minutes ("I'm going to have to talk to Ben"). If one of Bobby Knight's players had said "I'm going to have to talk to Bobby," he might come home to find his dog murdered.
- 3. V for Victoria.** Fans in the Cal student section pulled a long-con on USC's Gabe Pruitt that concluded during Cal's season finale vs. the Trojans. A student posed as a UCLA hottie named Victoria and IM'ed with Pruitt all week preceding the game, a relationship which effectively ended with Pruitt handing over his digits. As he stepped to the free throw line in his game at Haas Pavilion, the students chanted "VIC-TOR-IA" and then yelled his phone number at him. When he realized he'd been punked, he clanked both free throws and went on to one of his worst games of the season. – *Eric Meyerson*

GEORGE WASHINGTON COLONIALS (8)



- 1. Either the Team Is Hot Or the League Is Not.** GW had two first-team All-Atlantic 10 players (Pops Mensah-Bonsu and J.R. Pinnock), two second-team All-A 10 guys (Mike Hall and Carl Elliott) and the A-10's sixth man of the year (Maureece Rice). So not only did they go undefeated in the A-10 regular season, they also have five of the conference's 11 best players. Plus, Karl Hobbs won Coach of the Year. That's domination.
- 2. Court-Rushing Fan Videos Are Always Fun to Watch.** You may recall GW's buzzer-beating win over Charlotte on Senior Night from earlier this month (Elliot caught Noel Wilmore's 3-point air ball and put it in the bucket a la the Jimmy V. game from '83). What you may not have seen were the videos shot from a fan-on-the-court's perspective (camera one, camera two). Endearing fans chanting "G! Dub!" over and over with players dancing on the scorer's table is sure to bring a smile to your face. They even chant "Mrs. Hobbs!" when coach Hobbs thanks his wife -- for what I'm not sure.
- 3. Omar Williams' Academic Standing Is Strong to Quite Strong.** Washington Post writer Mark Schlabach wrote a long story using Williams (a senior forward) as Exhibit A of why the NCAA's academic process is flawed. He illustrates his "shaky academic standing in high school" and invalidates his prep school, using the student to shed the system in an extremely negative light. What the writer fails to mention anywhere in the 3,000-word story, however, is that Williams is currently on the Dean's List at GW. Colonial Hoops goes into greater detail. – *Jamie Mottram*

UNC WILMINGTON SEAHAWKS (9)

ATLANTA REGIONAL



- Road Trip!** Wilmington, North Carolina — hometown of news anchor David Brinkley and NFL quarterbacks Sonny Jurgensen and Roman Gabriel — is a pleasant little beach town that is also the eastern-most point of Interstate 40. There's a sign at the start of the I-40 that reads Barstow, Calif. 2554. Having Wrightsville Beach just five miles away would be a better recruiting tool if the school had a stronger academic reputation. Legend has it that one enterprising UNCW student earned extra cash for college by running a fully stocked bar out of his dorm room.
- Hoosier Myopia.** Why is UNC-W head coach Brad Brownell not even being mentioned as a potential head coach at Indiana? He's from Evansville, he played for Royce Waltman at DePauw and he was a grad assistant under Jim Crews at Evansville. In four years at UNCW, he's 82-38, he's been named CAA Coach of the Year twice and he teaches the kind of intelligent, unselfish, defense-oriented basketball that you rarely see in men's hoops anymore. Then again, maybe Brownell, like most Indiana natives, just loves going to the beach.
- The Teal World.** UNCW Seahawks fans love their school colors, especially the teal. It's a bit more green than the bizarre Pantone void of those other Seahawks — who, by the way, have fewer conference titles than UNCW in the last five years — but it's an odd point of pride for the student body. I fully expect to see a bevy of buxom beach babes sporting those "Feel the Teal" T-Shirts during the Big Dance(tm). I hope CBS cameras get their good side. — *Dave Warner*

NORTH CAROLINA STATE WOLFPACK (10)



- State's Backup Big Man Can Strike Your Ass Out.** Reserve forward Andrew Brackman is a decent college basketball player, but he's an outstanding pitching prospect. At 6'10", Brackman is a mullet-less Randy Johnson.
- Mascot Love.** State has both male and female mascots, creatively named Mr. and Mrs. Wuf. They were married by the Wake Forest Demon Deacon mascot during halftime of a 1981 basketball game. Needless to say, this is strange and a little creepy.
- Nobody Wants To Play For Herb Sendek.** In a recent poll, 36 percent of ACC players said that Herb is the opposing coach that they'd least like to play for. — *John Grant*

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SALUKIS (11)

ATLANTA REGIONAL



- 1. In Case You Haven't Heard, A Saluki Is A Breed Of Dog.** Despite the fact that Southern Illinois is appearing in their fifth consecutive NCAA tournament (having reached the Sweet 16 in 2002) and that they are one of the top mid-major programs in the country, CBS will undoubtedly feel the need to remind you that SIU's mascot, the Saluki, is a dog. In fact, I'm willing to put some money down that Greg Gumbel, Clark Kellogg or some other nincompoop will say the following quote, verbatim: "Southern Illinois has a rather unusual mascot: The Saluki. A saluki is actually a breed of dog which is originally from Egypt. You don't hear about that one every day!" No we don't. But we do hear about it every March, when CBS reminds us. Thanks, guys.
- 2. Saluki Cheerleaders Always, Always, Always Finish Their Cheers.** During a timeout of the Missouri Valley championship game, SIU cheerleader Kristi Yamaoka fell 15 feet from atop her pyramid, chipping a vertebra in her neck and suffering a concussion. But that didn't stop her from doing ... you guessed it ... THE PERFECT CHEER! While being carried off of the court by paramedics, and while strapped to a gurney (for crying out loud), Yamaoka began cheering along to Southern's fight song, "Go Southern Go." "I didn't want the team to get distracted. I needed them to win for me," Yamaoka later said. Needless to say, that in all of mankind's existence, it was one of the stranger things anyone has ever witnessed. Ever.
- 3. Korn Doesn't Like KoRn.** Southern Illinois' star-player-turned-assistant-coach Brad Korn was interviewed by SIU's student paper, *The Daily Egyptian*, in 2001 and was asked if he enjoyed the music of 90's crap-rockers KoRn. Thankfully, he does not. He enjoys the type of music that every six-foot-nine, white, red-headed guy does: Ja Rule and R. Kelly.

— Alex Fritz

TEXAS A&M AGGIES (12)



- 1. Texas A&M Has No Cheerleaders.** The Aggie Dictionary will inform you that the school has no cheerleaders, but they do have a dance team, none of whom are particularly good looking.
- 2. The Coach Is Dull.** Head coach Billy Gillispie has his own Web site (<http://www.billygillispie.com>), where you can learn such things as "Billy Gillispie's website is the most boring, useless place on Earth."
- 3. The Elephant Walk.** By consulting the Aggie Dictionary again, we learned that graduating A&M seniors do something called The Elephant Walk:

"Marks the transition of the graduating senior class handing down its role as leaders to the incoming senior class. The seniors wander through campus like old elephants that leave the herd to die. The seniors usefulness to the student body "dies" the day of Elephant Walk."

At Ohio State, where we went, people just got drunk. But then, we only made it to second quarter of freshman year, and our biggest accomplishment was throwing a mattress off the roof of our fraternity house. — *The Cavalier*

IONA GAELS (13)

ATLANTA REGIONAL



- 1. Don't Give Up, Don't Ever Give Up.** Even before he frantically ran around the court looking for someone to hug when he won his national championship at NC State, Jim Valvano was a hug-seeker as the Iona head coach (1975-80). Valvano's biggest recruit (literally and figuratively) was Jeff Ruland, now the Gaels' coach himself. Ruland chose tiny Iona over monster schools and legendary coaches. "There was a game I had in high school, and Bobby Knight was there, another coach and V. Bobby Knight came over and said what a great game I had. The other guy came over and said 'Great game.' V just walked over and told me, 'Boy, you really stunk tonight.' And I really appreciated that because it was the truth."
- 2. Like Father, Like Son.** Iona's top two all-time leading scorers share the same name: Steve Burt. With the 2006 MAAC title, both father and son have also won it all for their schools. Now the Burts also share a legacy as they are the NCAA's all-time father/son scoring tandem with more than 4,500 points between them. Take that Doug and Chris Collins, Bill and Luke Walton and especially you, Mike and Mike Dunleavy! The elder Burt has even managed to resonate with Little Stevie's generation: He's the coach of Team AND 1 on the "Mixed Tape Tour" show that runs at all hours on ESPN2.
- 3. He's HOW Old?** Guaranteed to get some CBS camera time during the Gaels' first round game will be trainer emeritus, JB Buono. At 94 (with 50-plus years in New Rochelle, where Iona is located), Buono has likely taped more ankles than all the 64 other trainers in the tourney combined. Buono claims to have had sexual relations with Hitler's mistress, Eva Braun, and is also said to have fished with Lou Gehrig. Or maybe he had sexual relations with Gehrig and fished with Braun — either way, it's pretty amazing. — *David Scott*

NORTHWESTERN STATE DEMONS (14)



- 1. Vic The Demon Is Named That For A Reason.** In one of the most noted mascot brawls in sports history, in October 1992, NSU mascot Vic the Demon got into it with Louisiana-Monroe mascot Chief Brave Spirit, after playful sparring on the sidelines turned into an ugly brawl. The Shreveport Times reported that Chief Brave Spirit ripped off Vic's head, and that Vic then "landed a series of haymaker blows." The police had to rush in and separate them. The game was televised, and footage of the brawling mascots made sports newscasts around the nation.
- 2. Their Head Coach Looks Like Woody Paige.** Taking some of the luster off of the Demons' 15-1 Southland Conference record this season is the fact that their coach, Mike McConathy, resembles ESPN dog food gulper Woody Paige. As if that wasn't odd enough -- two of their players look like Napoleon Dynamite and Eddie Murphy as Buckwheat (Michael McConathay, who is the coach's son, and Clifton Lee). No one on the team, however, looks like Jim Croce, the singer-songwriter who died in a plane crash hours after finishing a 1973 concert on the NSU campus.
- 3. In Louisiana, Girls Are Better Free Throw Shooters Than Boys.** Center Byron Allen raised his free throw percentage from 51 percent in preseason to 68 percent in conference play thanks to a tip from NSU women's assistant coach Kia Converse. Allen hit the game-winning free throw in the final four seconds vs. Stephen F. Austin. — *Rick Chandler*

PENNSYLVANIA QUAKERS (15)

ATLANTA REGIONAL



- 1. Their Home Court Is Famous, And Not Just For Hoops.** The Palestra: Penn's home court, often mentioned in hallowed tones, referred to by some as the most historic fieldhouse in all of college basketball. It's home not only to all of Penn's games, but many of the classic Big Five rivalry games as well. At least three or four hundred years old (that's an approximation), it's a sacred house of hoops. Little known fact: During off-days, it often serves as a recreational court for legendary Philadelphia born and bred entertainers Boyz II Men. One of my good friends was a former player who would often see them clowning around on the court with their young kids either before or after practice.
- 2. Archibong Fever!** Only in the bizarre alternate universe of college basketball could this be possible: Right around the turn of the century (2000, 2001, etc.), Penn and its archrival Princeton somehow each had a player on their roster with the rather unusual last name of Archibong (no relation). This felicitous coincidence led to what I still consider to this day to be the best sign I've ever seen at a sporting event in my life, if only because it combined two of my great loves. Held up during the student section during the game against Princeton, it read: "Our Archibong hits better than yours."
- 3. As Storied As College Basketball Comes.** As of mid-January, Penn is the seventh winningest college basketball program of all time, up there with heavyweights like UNC, Kentucky and Kansas. Penn's three wins over that weekend pushed the program total to 1,601 all time (against exactly 900 losses and two ties). That's a .640 win percentage. But: Only Penn is home to a long list of amazingly talented alumni including, but certainly not limited to, the soulful John Legend, the wonderfully versatile Maury Povich and, of course, the ruggedly handsome Mike Madeo. — *Michael Madeo*

SOUTHERN JAGUARS (16)



- 1. Desegregation Was The Worst Thing That Ever Happened To SWAC Basketball.** The only losers in the great push to desegregate SEC basketball in the wake of the 1966 title game (won by the all-black Texas Western team against Adolph Rupp's all-white Kentucky team) were the Historically Black Colleges, where talented southern black players had taken refuge. Harold Blevins, a star in the 1960s at, and later coach of Arkansas-Pine Bluff, told *The New York Times* last week that "they didn't have a choice. But the era of big money basketball has stripped Southern and other HBCs of their basketball talent just as even bigger money football stole away the generation of football talent that would have followed in the footsteps of Walter Payton and Deacon Jones.
- 2. Southern Plays In the "Bayou Classic" Just For The Battle of The Bands.** Southern's football team has battled Grambling every Thanksgiving Sunday in the Superdome since 1974 (um, except for last year). But the real action is at halftime, when the two schools' marching bands go at it in march-off so spectacular that they even made a movie about it. Southern takes its marching band so seriously, in fact, that it's not even part of the Department of Athletics. The school has a separate Department of Bands for members of the "Human Jukebox." Alas, they don't perform at basketball games.
- 3. Southern Is The Forgotten Kent State Of The South.** In November 1972, during an on-campus protest by the student group "Students United," Louisiana State Police confronted the demonstrators near the school's auditorium, firing tear gas into the angry crowd. At least one patrolman was also carrying live ammunition. As an inquiry by the state's Attorney General's office would later conclude, "Leonard Brown and Denver Smith were shot as they were running away from the entrance of the Administration Building. They were not under arrest and were not armed. They were shot as they ran along the escape route which the law enforcement agencies had planned in the event gas was used. There was no justification." The students' killer was never identified, and today a modest Smith & Brown Monument rests on the spot where they were murdered. — *Greg Lindsay*

MEMPHIS TIGERS (1)

OAKLAND REGIONAL



- 1. It's Hard Out Here for a Pimp.** Memphis really, really wants to make it to the Final Four. It has been 21 years since the Tigers went that deep in the tourney. In that year, Prince won an Oscar for the *Purple Rain* soundtrack. This year, Memphis' own Three 6 Mafia wins an Oscar for original song in the movie "Hustle and Flow." Prince is a funky, R&B artist. Three 6 Mafia is a funky, gangsta rap artist. Oh, my God -- the Memphis Tigers are going to the Final Four again!
- 2. Pull-Up Patsies.** Memphis has only one senior who contributes greatly on this team. The Tigers have five freshmen who clock significant time on the court. Freshmen make mistakes. Freshmen need experience playing against high-caliber teams to iron out those baby cheeks. Memphis plays in Conference USA. Repeat: Conference USA. Oh my God, the Memphis Tigers are going to lose in the second round!
- 3. Reality TV, March Madness Style.** Memphis is loaded with talent -- and unselfish talent at that. The current Tigers have a 10-1 road record. They are 6-3 versus top 50 RPI teams and 11-3 versus the top 100 RPI. This team starts three players who will play in the NBA in the next year or two (Rodney Carney, Darius Washington and Shawn Williams). They've got the coach. They've got the players. They've got a high seed (presumptively). Now, all they have to do is something they haven't done in a long time -- win in the tourney. — *John Harris*

UCLA BRUINS (2)



- 1. Beware Of The S and H.** Against teams with an S and an H in their school name (Memphis, Washington, Washington St., Southern California), UCLA is 3-4. Against everyone else, UCLA is 21-2. Don't say I didn't warn you.
- 2. These Guys Know Their History.** Of the four seniors (Cedric Bozeman, Ryan Hollins, Michael Fey, Janou Rubin), three of them are history majors (Rubin is a Sociology Major), which tells us, well, nothing. But it's still interesting.
- 3. They're Finally Back On Top Of The Pac-10.** At 14-4 in conference, they captured their first Pac-10 title in nine years. The best part? Their rotation includes only two seniors and no juniors, so the best should be yet to come — if Farmar and Afflalo stay in school. — *Jon Reed*

GONZAGA BULLDOGS (3)

OAKLAND REGIONAL



- 1. These Are Some Athletic Jesuits.** Adam Morrison finished his senior season at Mead High School in Spokane as the all-time leading scorer in Greater Spokane League history. He broke the record set by current Gonzaga teammate Sean Mallon, who broke the old record held by current Gonzaga TV color commentator Jeff Brown. Other GSL alums include: Lions kicker Jason Hanson, former Redskin quarterback Mark Rypien, Cubs Hall-of-Famer Ryne Sandburg, and Jazz great John Stockton.
- 2. Batista STRONG!** Gonzaga center/forward JP Batista set a Gonzaga record by bench pressing 225 pounds 30 times. The NFL Scouting Combine tests how many times a player can do the same thing: Pro-Bowl defensive end Kyle Vanden Bosch of the Tennessee Titans benched 225 pounds 26 times.
- 3. They're Not Kidding About The Honoring God Thing.** Gonzaga recently honored one of the most beloved members of its community with a special statue at the McCarthey Athletic Center. Father Tony Lehman SJ was the Chaplain for the Gonzaga men's basketball team for 20 years before dying of leukemia in 2002. The University had left Fr. Tony's traditional chair at the end of Gonzaga's bench open since his death, but this season, they commissioned a Spokane artist to create a statue to honor him at the school's basketball arena. A bronze chair bearing the words, "To be continued..." (Fr. Tony's signature line) now stands at the entrance of the McCarthey Athletic Center. — *Steve Pickford*

KANSAS JAYHAWKS (4)



- 1. Those Crazy Rush Brothers.** Kansas star freshman Brandon Rush attended four high schools. His brothers, Jaron (most famous for drinking his way out of basketball) and the Charlotte Bobcats' Kareem, both attended Pembroke Hill, an small private high school. While in Kansas City, Brandon attended Westport, not exactly a school mentioned as one of the best in the KC area. That didn't prevent Brandon from not making his grades there, and was forced to go to Mount Zion to get his "degree." Apparently Mt. Zion did wonders for Rush, as Rush had over a 3.0 GPA in his first semester at Kansas. Yes, Rush could not succeed at a Kansas City Missouri Public high school, but Rush's tutor, err, Brandon, averaged better than a "B" at Kansas.
- 2. They Retired Their Broadcaster's Number.** Mad props to Kansas radio broadcaster Max Falkenstein. Depending on another Bucknell-like choke job, Falkenstein could be calling his last Jayhawk basketball game this week. Max spent 60 years on the job at Kansas, calling the team's football and basketball games. The team recently raised the number 60 to the rafters in honor of Falkenstein, who will be remembered by millions of KU fans as the voice of Kansas athletics.
- 3. They Were Kind of Co-Champs, Not Really.** Memo to Bill Self: You lost to Texas. Badly. After drubbing Oklahoma on their homecourt on March 5, the Longhorns were presented with the regular season Big 12 trophy. Yes, the Longhorns did in fact tie the Jayhawks in the conference standings with a 13-3 record, but Texas drubbed the 'Hawks 80-55 in Austin, giving them the tiebreaker over KU. But apparently Bill Self didn't get that and was peeved when the team was not presented a trophy when they beat Kansas State on March 4 to clinch a share of the title. After hearing Self's complaints, the Big 12 chalked it up to a miscommunication and promised that it will never happen again. — *Nick Bromberg*

PITTSBURGH PANTHERS (5)

OAKLAND REGIONAL



- 1. Show Biz, Baby.** Pitt head coach Jamie Dixon and associate head coach Barry Rohrsen are both members of the Screen Actor's Guild. Orlando Antigua, currently the director of basketball operations and also former Pitt player, was the first and only Harlem Globetrotter of Latin American decent. Rohrsen, nicknamed "slice," appeared in the movie *Glengarry Glen Ross*, with an all-star cast that included Al Pacino, Jack Lemmon and Ed Harris. Dixon, in his early 20s, got dunked on by a girl in a Bud Light commercial.
- 2. Oh Canada.** Starting forward Levon Kendall hails from Vancouver, B.C, and he loves his country. Kendall scored 40 points and grabbed 12 rebounds against team USA while playing for team Canada in the 2005 FIBA U21 World Championship. Team Canada won 93-90 in overtime. Team USA included J.J. Redick and Rudy Gay.
- 3. Pitt Loves Puns.** Junior walk-on guard Charles Small, listed at 5-foot-7, is one of the smallest players in college basketball. Freshman center Tyrell Biggs is 6-8, 260 lbs. Small has scored one point in his college career, a free throw against Howard in '04. Biggs is seeing limited time in his first collegiate season. But those are the obvious ones; Mike Cook, has in fact cooked, and Sam Young, who just turned 21, is not very old. Aaron Gray however, is white. — *Keith Wehmeyer*

INDIANA HOOSIERS (6)



- 1. Van Arsdale Twins.** Tom and Dick Van Arsdale are the Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen of Indiana Basketball. These bruthas from the same mutha were co-Mr. Basketballs in Indiana and played together at IU from 1963-1965 with each identical twin earning All-American and Academic All-American honors. As Hoosiers, Tom and Dick finished with nearly identical averages in points and rebounds: 17.4 / 10.0 and 17.2 / 10.0. They also each weighed 70 pounds and dressed like homeless people. (Not really.)
- 2. Hey, Candy Ass.** The subject of much derision from the sartorially jealous, Indiana's candy-stripe warm-up pants are a staple of IU's perma-retro basketball culture. You can get your own for \$144.99 (plus tax, plus shipping and handling, plus the medical bills resulting from the beatdowns you'll receive for wearing them anywhere outside of Assembly Hall).
- 3. Bob Knight Will Punch You In The Neck.** And you will deserve it. After all, Coach Knight was bullying people and shooting his friends long before the Vice President made it cool. As former Hoosier legend Steve Alford said, "The plain truth is, people seem to accept Coach's authority even when they have no reason or obligation to." But the guy who preceded Mike Davis won three national titles, Olympic and Pan Am gold, and everything else worth winning. As it said on a satin jacket worn by one Kool-Aid-drinking 83-year-old-woman, "The Lord is My Shepherd, But Bobby's My Coach." Perspective. — *Trent Apple*

MARQUETTE GOLDEN EAGLES (7)

OAKLAND REGIONAL



- 1. The New Nickname Is Golden Eagles, Still.** Marquette decided that they would change the athletics nickname this summer, corresponding to their move to the Big East. It was announced that Marquette would be known as the Gold. That's it: *Gold*. Trying to join the elite group of schools with colors as their nickname -- Stanford (still can't find Cardinal in my 64 pack of crayolas) and, uh, the University of Chicago (Maroons) -- didn't work. So they changed the name back to the same thing it had been, Golden Eagles. Way to go. (True longtime fans still go with Warriors.)
- 2. Freshmen Will Be Freshmen.** MU is depending heavily on three freshmen to lead the team, plus a sophomore from Senegal who just now realized he is allowed to use his hands. The last-minute losses to Louisville, Pitt and Nova are symptomatic of a young team trying to find its consistency. A case of the nerves down the stretch of a tight game can be expected, the same as one can expect the Big Dance to provide tight games which come down to the wire ... This could be trouble.
- 3. Crean Is Finally Earning His Kwan.** The coach of the Warriors, Tom Crean, is finally living up to the hype and attention paid to him a couple summers ago. Coaching up a squad lead by a 6'10" 3-point shooting senior and a collection of talented freshmen should be Line 1 on Crean's resume, even over his Final Four appearance a few years ago. In reality, Dwyane Wade shouldn't be tithing 10 percent of his salary to his church; it should be Tom Crean tithing 90 percent of his massive post-Wade contract to Dwyane. Crean has done a great job with the young team, even instituting some trick plays like pressing early in the first half and even switching up defenses in reaction to an opponents strengths. But Crean will be Crean -- watch for wholesale substitutions of at least 3 players which completely kills the mojo. — *Brian Saperstein*

ARKANSAS RAZORBACKS (8)



- 1. Razorbacks Are Bad Asses.** In the summer of 1977, school mascot Big Red III escaped from an animal exhibit near Eureka Springs. He ravaged the countryside before an irate farmer gunned him down. The following mascot, Ragnar, killed a coyote, a 450-pound domestic pig and seven rattlesnakes. Ragnar died in 1978 of unknown causes. My guess: indigestion.
- 2. Kid Of Doom?** At birth, Arkansas guard Johnathon Modica's grandparents debated what nickname to give the newborn. "My husband had another nickname," Sarah Harris, Modica's grandmother, said. "He wanted to call him Kid of Doom. I said, 'No, that doesn't sound right.' I said, 'We're going to call him Pookie.' He'll always be Pookie to me."
- 3. Like A Dangerous Flock Of Birds.** The University's first mascot was actually the Cardinals. During the 1909 football season, Arkansas was 5-0 with a tilt vs. LSU in Memphis on the schedule. A win would virtually guarantee Arkansas an undefeated season. After Arkansas won 16-0, a crowd of students and other fans gathered at the train station to welcome their team home. After getting off the train, head coach Hugo Bezdek delivered an impromptu speech, telling the crowd that the team had played "like a wild band of razorback hogs" in the victory over LSU. The team went undefeated (7-0), and the name stuck. The university officially adopted the mascot, the only porcine mascot in college athletics, in 1910, with drunken hog calls following closely behind. — *Zac Cosner*

BUCKNELL BISON (9)

OAKLAND REGIONAL



- 1. They Used To Be A Football Powerhouse.** The Bison shocked the BCS establishment in 1935 by being invited to the first-ever Orange Bowl. Led by hall-of-fame coach Edward “Hook” Mylin, Bucknell rolled down south and blasted Miami 26-0. The Bison brought in a solid defensive gameplan, forcing Miami quarterback Vinny Testaverde into playing one of the worst games of his career. Sadly, Bucknell didn’t travel particularly well -- they brought just two fans to the game -- and haven’t been to a bowl game since.
- 2. They Also Used To Be Bad At Shooting Free Throws.** Bucknell really broke out on the national scene by beating Kansas in last year’s NCAA tournament, but this era of Bucknell basketball was ushered in back in late 2003 when the Bison were playing then-No. 3 Michigan State in East Lansing. Bucknell carried a lead deep into the second half before falling 64-52, which in and of itself was a nice effort -- until you learn that they shot a Carlton Banks-esque 1-for-17 from the foul line, perhaps the worst free throw shooting performance in the modern era of college basketball. It was on that day, though, that the Bison learned that they could compete with anyone, and haven’t looked back.
- 3. Dude, Lewisburg Is Small.** Of all likely NCAA tournament schools this year, Bucknell is located in the smallest town (and it’s not even a town -- it’s a borough). Lewisburg has a population of around 6,000, or roughly one-sixth the basketball capacity of the Carrier Dome in Syracuse, where the Bison won earlier this season. Fortunately there’s a movie theater in town; otherwise, the only thing to do would be to hang out and drink next to Christy Mathewson’s grave. (Mathewson was an expert checkers player and Bucknell alum who was also reportedly pretty good at baseball.) — *Scott Sepich*

ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE (10)



- 1. Their Name Is Mud.** Alabama eschews “normal” team names and mascots and instead goes with the “Crimson Tide” and an elephant. In 1907, Alabama played Auburn in Birmingham in what was the last football game between the two rivals until 1948. Auburn was heavily favored, but Alabama played a great game on a field that was essentially a sea of mud, and a local sportswriter coined the phrase “Crimson Tide” in his description of the Alabama players’ uniforms. The elephant mascot got its origins in 1930, when Alabama played a home game against Ole Miss. For some reason, the second team started the game, and after a close first quarter, the first team came running onto the field. A local sportswriter wrote that a fan in the stands yelled “the elephants are coming!” The first team then proceeded to kick the crap out of Ole Miss. Regardless of whether the fan’s exclamation is true or not, how funny is it that ‘Bama started their second team against Ole Miss, toyed around with them and then trotted out the first team to blow them off the field?
- 2. Even Their Radio Guys Are Badasses.** The producer emeritus and founder of the Alabama Sports Radio Network, survived the Bataan Death March and 33 months as a prisoner of war in World War II. He is one bad dude, and his presence serves to illustrate that Alabama’s radio network is way tougher than your radio network. So there.
- 3. P.J. Carlesimo? Not A Fan.** Famous alumni that you may not know about (or realize) include: Latrell Sprewell (thanks for the great reflection on our alma mater, buddy), ESPN regular Rece Davis (how this guy keeps his composure on College Gameday Final after Alabama losses is beyond me) and longtime Yankees sportscaster Mel Allen (How about that?). — *William Hocutt*

SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS (11)

OAKLAND REGIONAL



- 1. Tony Gwynn Was Not Always Fat.** Former Padre and current SDSU baseball coach Tony Gwynn was an All-America baseball player for the Aztecs. But Gwynn was an all-conference point guard, too. In fact, Gwynn had gone to school to concentrate on basketball before Bobby Meacham convinced then-coach Jim Dietz to give him a chance during Gwynn's sophomore year. Gwynn went on to be the only player in Western Athletic Conference history to be selected all-conference in two sports. Gwynn still holds school records for single-season assists (221), career assists (590) and most hot dogs consumed during a baseball game (21).
- 2. He's Been Everywhere, Man.** Forward Mohamed Abukar has been a traveling man. Abukar originally committed to Georgia, but changed his mind when Jim Harrick was fired. Abukar then went to Florida, where he lasted a season and a half before he transferred to San Diego State. Abukar is the third-leading scorer for the Aztecs, averaging 14.2 points per game. Remember that when Florida is bounced in the first round...again.
- 3. Those Stealing Gottliebs.** One of the SDSU assistant coaches is Gregg Gottlieb, the son of former college coach Bob Gottlieb. Gregg is also the brother of ESPN analyst Doug Gottlieb, who was thrown out of Notre Dame for stealing credit cards. Fittingly, Gregg is not allowed to handle the booster club money. — *The Hater Nation*

KENT STATE GOLDEN FLASHES (12)



- 1. More Likely To Get Attention From Mel Kiper Than Tim Legler.** Only one Kent State basketball player is currently in the NBA. That lucky gentleman is Atlanta Hawks backup center John Edwards. KSU's hoops team has produced a slightly more recognizable athlete in the NFL: Chargers' tight end Antonio Gates, who didn't even play football in college. Maybe their basketball players should suit up in helmets and pads. Their football team in the past four years is 14-32.
- 2. Odds Are Neil Young Never Wrote A Song About *Your* School.** Kent State infamously made national headlines in 1970 when members of the Ohio National Guard opened fire on student demonstrators, killing four. So if you didn't know what Neil Young meant when he sang the lyric "four dead in Ohio," now you do. But while the college may be forever synonymous with those tragic shootings, the basketball team would like to be known for improbable tournament runs. In 2002 -- their last NCAA tournament appearance -- the Golden Flashes upset teams all the way to the Elite Eight, where they lost to national runners up Indiana.
- 3. The Golden Flashes? That's A Weird Name.** Kent State's mascot, according to their athletic site, is "a topic of debate," meaning it was likely a drug-induced name. Their suited-up mascot is a golden eagle, which isn't as ridiculous. An eagle has nothing to do with a flash, but would you really want their cheers led by a guy in a giant camera suit? Perhaps a better mascot would be Napoleon Dynamite, who bears a striking resemblance to KSU's sixth man Kevin Warzynski. — *Matthew Sussman*

BRADLEY BRAVES (13)

OAKLAND REGIONAL



- 1. They Have Eddy Curry's Old Sidekick.** Patrick O'Bryant is Tyson Chandler if Tyson Chandler would have gone to a mid-major college instead of straight to The Association after high school. He's the Missouri Valley's Defensive Player of the Year, and the 7-foot, 260-pound sophomore is long, athletic and improving on his offensive game seemingly every day. After being forced to sit out the Braves first eight games of the season (Hey! Who the heck are you to judge!?! Like you've never taken extra money from an employer!), O'Bryant went on to snag eight boards a game and score 13.2 ppg.
- 2. How Will It Play In Peoria?** Braves' coach Jim Les is turning Bradley into Peoria U. For years, Peoria's finest High School players have made a bee-line east down I-74 to play for the University of Illinois, and the city's second-tier prep stars went wherever they could fit in. When Les was hired four years ago, he promised that would change and made recruiting Peoria's prep players a priority. This year's Braves squad sports five players from the Peoria area. While the Illini continue to get some of the best prep players that Peoria has to offer, Les is beginning to finally reap the rewards of maintaining the city's local talent. In fact, rumors around campus are indicating that former Wisconsin Badger and native-Peorian DeAaron Williams may be a Brave next year.
- 3. Inexplicable Nickname Central.** Senior super-sub Lawrence Wright is known around town as "Boogie." I don't know why, and, honestly, I don't want to know why. All I really need to know is that there's a guy on the team named "Boogie." Just saying "Boogie" puts a bounce in my step and makes my day a little happier. "Boogie." Try it yourself. Go ahead...say it out loud: "Boogie." Now, don't you feel better? — *Alex Fritz*

XAVIER MUSKETEERS (14)



- 1. We're Pretty Sure Andre Smith Won't Attend Any Games This Week.** Smith, who played for the Musketeers in 1993-94, was sentenced recently to 10 years in prison for the beating death of his neighbor with a Russian machete. Smith, 30, admitted hitting Maxim Dudinov. Smith is the son of 1970's Cleveland Cavaliers star Bingo Smith.
- 2. Location, Location, Location.** Boubacar Coly, a 6-foot-9 sophomore forward from Senegal, chose Xavier over the University of Miami, Mississippi, Richmond and Southern Methodist because at Xavier, the gym is the closest to the freshman dorms. "That's a good spot," Coly said in 2004. "At a lot of schools, the gym is far away. It's hard to get to the gym."
- 3. They've Got Teen Wolf.** After the North Carolina State Wolfpack passed on him because the whole name thing would have been just be too weird, Xavier finally grabbed guard Johnny Wolf, a freshman from their own back yard -- St. Xavier High in Cincinnati (at one time the two schools were on the same campus). As in the movie *Teen Wolf*, Johnny Wolf's dad was also a basketball star at his school -- Marty Wolf (1977-79) is in the Xavier Athletic Hall of Fame in both basketball and tennis. — *Rick Chandler*

BELMONT BRUINS (15)

OAKLAND REGIONAL



- 1. But What About The Stickiest?** Belmont sports information director Greg Sage was on such an, um, high after the Bruins' win over archrival Lipscomb in the Atlantic Sun Tournament championship game, he described it this way: *The Bruins used courageous defense and the determined scoring of an unflappable sophomore to claim the **tastiest pot** in school history.* I know Greg, took him to lunch once and consider him a good guy. But maybe I should have suspected something when he ordered the nachos with extra cheeeeeeeese, dude.
- 2. My Cousin Vinny.** The Lakers have Jack Nicholson. Kentucky has Ashley Judd. Belmont has ... Vince Gill? That's right, the self-proclaimed Ambassador of Country Music is a season-ticket holder at Belmont's Curb Event Center and avid supporter of everything Bruin. Gill, a 14-time (!) Grammy winner, is a close friend of head coach Rick Byrd, who is in his 25th year at Belmont. Gill is also a scratch golfer, with a low round of 62, and hosts his own celebrity charity tournament named The Vinny. Oh, and he's married to the milf-y Amy Grant. You would trade lives with him in a heartbeat.
- 3. Six Degrees To Fred Smoot.** Belmont post player Boomer Herndon is in his first season of eligibility after transferring from Tennessee. His coach with the Vols was Buzz Peterson, who roomed with Michael Jordan while both attended North Carolina. Jordan's company, Jumpman23, includes Randy Moss in its stable of athletes. Moss played six seasons in Minnesota with Daunte Culpepper, who was getting a lapdance while Fred Smoot operated the infamous double-header. — *Dom Bonvissuto*

ORAL ROBERTS GOLDEN EAGLES (16)



- 1. Bill Self Was There Back When He Had Real Hair.** Kansas' toupeed head coach started his coaching career at Oral Roberts in the mid '90s, a mere 10 years ago. He turned the team around, raising their record from 6-21 in 1995 to 21-6 in 1997, after which he went to Tulsa, Illinois and finally Kansas. Self actually once appeared on a one of Oral Roberts' television programs with the televangelist, something that was not required of him in Champaign or Lawrence.
- 2. The Famous "Club Dread" Joke.** OK, so maybe you didn't actually see *"Club Dread,"* but nevertheless, the university was the source of yet another joke about its name in the film. Witness:

Penelope: I go to Oral Roberts.

Juan Castillo: Oral Roberts? Is that like Anal Johnson? Because I have done that a few times. Or was it Dirty Sanchez? Yes. It was that.

This is not particularly amusing, but still earns points for containing the phrase "Dirty Sanchez."

- 3. Yeah, About The Televangelist Thing.** Yes, the school was indeed founded (and humbly named) by Oral Roberts, who is most famous, of course, for telling his parishioners in 1986 that if they did not raise \$8 million by March of that year, God would "call him home." (Sadly, we didn't get to find out if Roberts really had such a conversation with the Almighty; they hit the number.) Roberts has claimed to have personally raised the dead and, last year, said that a vision of a "cloud over New York" has told him Christ is coming soon. (After he dies, Roberts has told followers that he plans to return and rule the world with Christ.) March Madness, indeed. — *Will Leitch*

CONNECTICUT HUSKIES (1)

D.C. REGIONAL



- 1. Rashad Anderson, Loveable Flake.** According to various reports, Anderson greeted coach Jim Calhoun on his first recruiting visit wearing a wig, floor-length chinchilla coat and fake teeth. Not soon after in his first semester at Storrs, Rashad thought it would be funny to jump out of the bushes in front of a dorm wielding a fake plastic knife and wearing the mask from "Scream." Police found Anderson hiding in the woods, and he was arrested for threatening and breach of peace. When asked by a team manager if this was the first time he's been arrested, Rashad responded "In Connecticut?"
- 2. We Play In A Mall.** Despite UConn's consistent lofty national rating, its fans will never be voted No. 1. For your examination, the notoriously fair-weather supporters bail on the Huskies at the slightest sign of trouble, turning Gampel Pavilion and their home-away-from-home, the Hartford Civic Center, into caverns of silence. The crowd makeup for most games is 75 percent old folks in various forms of UConn sweater, who tend to peter off after the caffeine in their pre-game AARP McDonald's coffee wears off. Most leave to get home in time for "Commander and Chief" and "NCIS."
- 3. UConn Has A Football Team ... We Have Uniforms And Everything!** UConn is now playing big time Division I football, albeit in the Big East, and has more college bowl game victories in less than a decade of D-I play (1) than Rutgers (0). Note that in 1869 Rutgers played in the first college football game EVER. Coach Randy Edsall's sideburns are shorter than Don Mattingly's after his tongue lashing from Springfield Nuclear Power Plant manager C. Montgomery Burns. And yes, the fans aren't much better at East Hartford's Rentschler Field. — *Nick Aquilino, Mike Cardillo, Mike Suppe*

TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS (2)



- 1. Bruce Pearl = Hulk Hogan.** After the Vols' huge win at Rupp Arena over Kentucky, Pearl instructed his players to act like they'd "been there before." And then ripped his shirt off, in what forward Dane Bradshaw described as "wrestler style," in the locker room. It's possible he's insane. He openly aspires to be the most hated coach in the league, and he was thrown out of his son's high school hoops game for heckling the ref. Not to mention sweating through an entire suit at Florida, which wasn't so much insane as revolting. Even if Deadspin sees Pearl as nWo-era Hogan-as-heel (which may be fitting, considering Hulk's nWo partner, Kevin Nash, was a Vol), we see anyone who, in his first season, coaches a team picked to finish fifth of six in the SEC East to the championship as a Andre the Giant-body-slammng Hulkster.
- 2. Vols Have Disco Fever.** The glory days of Vols hoops were back in the go-go 70s, when coach Ray Mears wore blindingly orange jackets and Bernard King and Ernie Grunfeld headlined the swaggering Bernie & Ernie Show. That's really the only time the Vols were ever any good at all (there's a reason the men play on a court bearing the Lady Vols coach's oversized signature). So how to get things back on track? Have the coach bring back the garish sportscoat (with the tasteful addition of orange suspenders) and have point guard C.J. Watson wear a Bernie throwback in an actual game. We weren't aware you could pretend you were someone else in NCAA-sanctioned play, but there you have it. The Vols lost that game, but that was because Allan Houston was in attendance for the first time since leaving the Vols, and Allan Houston is an expert at losing. He's retired and still helping the Knicks lose. Or maybe that's all Isiah's doing.
- 3. Vols Do The Damndest Things.** It's well-publicized that two Vols were recently suspended for crack possession. Putting aside the unquestionable draconian-ism of drug laws criminalizing the smoking of large quantities of rock-form cocaine in an illegally parked car, it's clear the Vols have some characters. Like Jemere Hendrix. You may remember young Jemere for being thrown off the team after throwing a punch at a football player and then fleeing (with the football player in hot pursuit) on a golf cart driven by an assistant hoops coach. Or maybe for subsequently showing up at a game wearing a white Hanes tee on which, in black Sharpie, he'd written: "MY APOLogy. I'M Sorry Team. I'M Sorry Fans. I'M Sorry Coach Pearl. I'M Sorry Mike Hamilton. I am My Brother's KEEPER." And then all his teammates' numbers. Which is just awesome. — *Houston Goddard*

NORTH CAROLINA TAR HEELS (3)

D.C. REGIONAL



- 1. From Pine Time To Twine Time.** It's 651.63 miles from the Dean E. Smith Center to the RCA Dome, but each 3-pointer from former walk-on benchwarmer Wes Miller draws the defending national champs 19 feet, 9 inches closer. Number 22 may be half the player Ol' 44 Larry Miller was, but everybody on The Hill knows where they can find Carolina's X-Factor come game time: right smack dab between the arcs. The James Madison transfer has made 67 shots this season. Of those 67 successful attempts, an Allan Ray-eye-popping 61 of those have been treys. That's right: Wes Miller -- your sister's favorite scrapper -- has made all of SIX two-point shots all season. He's gritty, he's gutty and he's got the long-range shot you wish you had in intramurals.
- 2. Eagle Scout.** Heading into the ACC tourney, the Heels were hot, and members of the USA TODAY/ESPN coaches' Top 10 for the first time all season. Sure, mighty UConn was atop the heap with a whopping 30 No. 1 ballots, but there was one quiet holdout who refused to come Connecticut's way when it came time to rock the vote. Just who was that masked man? The coach who penetrated and pitched a precious No. 1 vote to 10th-ranked Carolina? None other than Coppin State Eagles coach Ron "Fang" Mitchell, a John Chaney disciple and former proprietor of the New Jersey-based biz we all will come to love in due time: Mr. Fang's Athletic Attire.
- 3. The Third Noel.** Central Florida (RPI: 190) has sophomore Dave Noel. UNC-Wilmington (RPI: 27) showcases junior Dave Noel. But only North Carolina (RPI: 8) has senior Dave Noel. Not surprisingly, The Third Noel is fluent in French. "Noel," in fact, is French. But The Third Noel? The one who lives in The Triangle? He is not French. The Third Noel hails from Durham -- yes, that Durham. He is a triple-threat athlete: a swingman and former wide receiver who threw out the first pitch for the Durham Bulls and their 2005 Triple-A season. The Third Noel is, as The Second would have it, the Third: David Noel III. He averaged three points in his third season in Chapel Hill. He wears No. third-y four and weighs two hundred third-y two pounds. He is the third option in Carolina's motion offense, just ahead of three-point specialist Wes Miller. Word to The Third Noel. — *Brian Styers*

ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI (4)



- 1. Bruce Weber Does Not Do Gay Photography.** If you're ever bored, we encourage you to Google "Bruce Weber," the name of the Illini's beloved (and duck-voiced) head coach. You won't be directed to his page on FightingIllini.com; instead, BruceWeber.com is the official Web site of an entirely different Bruce Weber. That Bruce Weber is a New York City-based photographer who "features the beauty of youth in male nude photography." So be not confused: Not the same guy.
- 2. When Dee Brown Is Done With You, You Won't Be Able To Shit Straight For A Week.** The Illini's senior guard very well might be the most popular player in team history; ironically, he has thrived under the coaching of Weber, whose hiring he initially publicly skulked about. But when times are difficult, he turns to ... *Bad Santa*. After Illinois' lone regular season loss to Ohio State last season, Brown went home with then-roommate, now-Utah Jazz guard Deron Williams to watch the film, which he classifies as one of his favorites. "I had to get all my anger out," he said.
- 3. The Illini Might Be Responsible For The Dick Vitale We Now Know.** In 1987, an Illini team led by Ken Norman and Doug Altenberger received the No. 3 seed in the NCAA tournament and were predicted to reach the Final Four by an up-and-coming broadcaster named Dick Vitale. In the first round, Illinois faced little-known Austin Peay, the champions of the Ohio Valley Conference and most famous for their fans' chant for 1970s player James "Fly" Williams: "The Fly Is Open ... Let's Go Peay!" Back then, early rounds of the NCAA tournament were shown on ESPN, and in the second half, with Peay down to the Illini by only three points, Vitale appeared in ESPN's studio and bellowed, "THERE'S NO WAY ILLINOIS LOSES THIS GAME! IF ILLINOIS LOSES, I'LL STAND ON MY HEAD!" Sure enough, Austin Peay pulled off the 68-67 upset, and, months later, Vitale visited the school's Tennessee campus and successfully stood on his head for 10 seconds. The headstand caused an extreme rush of blood to Vitale's brain and reduced his mental acuity to that of a retarded dolphin. — *Will Leitch*

WASHINGTON HUSKIES (5)

D.C. REGIONAL



- 1. Mike Jensen Likes Scooters (Among Other Things).** Huskies' senior forward Mike Jensen -- who remarkably resembles actor Dolph Lundgren -- is not much of a walker. Instead of using his own two feet, Jensen can be seen around the University of Washington campus riding around on his motorized scooter. Because of this, he has picked up the nickname -- get this -- Scooter. Catchy, huh? Jensen will also make plenty of hazy-eyed appearances at frat parties or local U-Dub bars. "I'm kinda shy around hot girls," he says on his Facebook.com profile. "And sometimes I make a fool of myself in public." A motorized scooter certainly won't help.
- 2. So That's How They Still Sell Football Tickets.** Once upon a time, the UW was a football school. But no longer. So how do you get students to support the dismal Washington football program? Tell them once they buy their football tickets they have priority for basketball. That's right; in order to get first crack at the student pass (which gains admittance to the Dawg Pack at all men's and women's basketball games), one must buy football season tickets. Yeah, when the football team has gone 3-19 the last two years, you gotta get creative.
- 3. Will Jon Brockman Get The Andrei Kirilenko "Allowance?"** UW freshman forward Jon Brockman is dating Christal Morrison — the MVP of the NCAA Volleyball Tournament for the Huskies' National Championship team. It's uncertain how long the two have been an item, but Morrison can be found at virtually every home basketball game cheering on her man. And while the two are likely nowhere near marriage, based on both Brockman and Morrison being Bible thumpers, don't expect to see Brockman getting freaky with, well, Mrs. Kirilenko anytime soon. — *Zach Landres-Schnur*

MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS (6)



- 1. They've Got The Family On Their Side.** Michigan State has its fair share of notable alumni, but perhaps none has the cool quotient of James Caan. (Not even Bubba Smith -- and he played Moses Hightower.) And yes, we're basing that simply on the theory that anyone involved in *The Godfather* has a cool quotient that is off the charts. Sure, Caan eventually transferred to Hofstra after spending a couple years in East Lansing studying economics and walking onto the football team, but a little detail like that isn't going to stop the Spartans from claiming the man who played Sonny Coreleone as one of their own. Besides, if anyone can relate to what it feels like to be mercilessly ambushed and gunned down, it's a Spartan football fan.
- 2. Hannibal In The House.** Yes, that's Matt Trannon peering out from behind that freakish mask. Trannon, who suffered a broken jaw in the waning minutes of MSU's home win over Michigan, looked imposing long before he ever donned the plastic face-guard, which appears to be inspired in equal part by Jason Voorhees, Bill Laimbeer and Hannibal Lector. With it, he's absolutely terrifying -- much to the pleasure of the Izzone, which has dubbed the popular two-sport star "Trannibal Lector." We're not sure we buy the comparison. Trannon can be a monster on the glass, but Hannibal had a way better jumper.
- 3. They've Got Mo Beats.** Not only is senior guard Maurice Ager a second-team All-Big Ten performer and MSU's leading scorer, sporting a 19 PPG average, he's also pretty handy in a recording studio, with a passion for dropping beats known, rather creatively, as Mo Ager Beats. Unfortunately, Ager's Soundclick Artist page is no longer active, but never fear; not only can Mo throw down beats of his own, he's branched out into production for other artists. Mo Ager—MSU's very own Master P. — *Rob Visconti*

WICHITA STATE SHOCKERS (7)

D.C. REGIONAL



- 1. We've Got Spirit, Yes We Do. But We Have No Football, How 'Bout You?** Since the end of the 1986 football season, WSU hoops has been the primary show in town. And it shows. In head coach Mark Turgeon's first year, 00-01, WSU finished 9-19 and still drew 8,114 fans per home game, good for 61st in NCAA Division-I. It helps that they're the only show in town. Once football season wraps up, the Shockers compete only with the Wichita Thunder hockey team. Attendance keeps getting better, with 10,325 per home game in 04-05 (22-10 record), good for 39th in the nation. Maybe it's good there's no football team.
- 2. Ah, The Shocker.** The mascot, WuShock, is in fact a shock of wheat. Though the two-plus-one hand signal is prevalent in the crowd and on the sidelines (filthy-minded spirit squad), the two are not related. Sure, a Jayhawk might not be real, but if it was, it'd have legs. A shock of wheat? Not so much.
- 3. Almost Only Counts In Horseshoes And Hand Grenades.** There's a long list of close calls in WSU hoops history. Taj Gray (Oklahoma) was recruited by and turned down his hometown university, as did Brandon Polk (Butler). Korleone Young decided college wasn't for him (or was it the other way around?). Maurice Evans, now a key off the bench for Detroit, is the only current NBA player to attend WSU. And he transferred to Texas. Ryan Gomes (Providence) and Danillo Pinnock (GW) were also pursued to no avail. But Bill Parcells did go here.

— *Matt McNabb*

KENTUCKY WILDCATS (8)



- 1. Fill the Tubb.** You already know that Kentucky coach Tubby Smith won a national championship in his first year at Kentucky, and you likely already know that he has been rewarded for that achievement with a constant stream of Kentucky fans who hope to have him fired. But you likely did not know that Tubby Smith was one of 17 children and got his name because his mother would put him in the bathtub and he did not ever want to leave ... thus "Tubby." Luckily for Smith, and the entire Kentucky program, his mother did not choose to call him "Bubbles" Smith.
- 2. Seven-Footers All Around.** Tubby recently decided to change his recruiting program and go with a "only recruit seven-footers" strategy. This has led to the current Wildcat roster, which includes Jared Carter, a freshman seven-footer best known for averaging a grand total of 12 points a game in high school, "Woo" Obrzut, a seven-footer from Poland who the Wildcats stole from the grasp of that traditional powerhouse Fordham, and Shagari Alleyne, who, at 7-foot-6, is the tallest player in Kentucky history and is on an endless quest for a hat to fit his size 8 1/2 head in Lexington. The latter two behemoths are best known for their height, inability to catch entry passes and their collective nickname, "Shaggy and Scooby Woo."
- 3. Rah Rah Ree, Kick Em In The Knee.** The only program at Kentucky that may be more successful than the basketball variety is its cheerleading team, which has won 11 of the last 12 national championships. The cheerleaders are an integral part of every game, with their unsafe four-level pyramid, spelling of the word "Kentucky" using just their perm-pressed hair and inventive use of the word "ain't" in their cheers. Their success has spawned imitators and is often blamed for the current rash of eating disorders amongst other SEC cheerleading squads.

— *Matthew Jones*

ALABAMA-BIRMINGHAM BLAZERS (9)

D.C. REGIONAL



- 1. Tom Penders Is Not Coming To Birmingham.** When Arkansas gave Nolan Richardson the boot, his assistant coach Mike Anderson found his home at UAB. Fortunately for UAB, Anderson brought the up tempo offense used at Arkansas and not Richardson's "t-shirt under the blazer" wardrobe. Due to Anderson's success at UAB, he's regularly mentioned for other head coach openings including Missouri and Ole Miss. UAB fans can rest easy that if he leaves, Tom Penders won't apply for the job.
- 2. It's Not Called The "Magic City" For Nothing.** Blazer fans -- and Kentucky fans, for that matter -- will never forget the magical no-look 3/4 court backwards pass from Ronell Taylor to twin brother Donell Taylor for the slam in the NCAA tourney in 2004 (UAB went on to defeat the No. 1 seed Wildcats.) Ronell made his first NBA start this week for the Wizards, while the guy who threw the ball away on that play, Antwain Barbour ... he's balling for the Yakama Sun Kings.
- 3. The UAB Mascot: Ironic In A Nasty Way.** Federal agents arrested a UAB junior last week and charged him and two others in the Alabama church burnings. It wasn't hard to find the irony in this sad situation. Plenty of jokes about showing his school spirit as a Blazer. — *Joseph Schell*

SETON HALL PIRATES (10)



- 1. God Really Is On Their Side.** As a Catholic university with a priest at one end of the bench and a devout Baptist coach on the sideline who refers to Scripture verses on the back of his clipboard during timeouts, Seton Hall puts a ton of faith in the man upstairs. He must have helped: Big East coaches picked the Pirates to finish 15th out of 16 teams in the conference this season, but the good Lord saw it fit to carry them to the Promised Bracket.
- 2. They Name Buildings After Corporate Thieves.** Well, not really. In 1997, a brand new, state-of-the-art, fully wired academic building was named Kozlowski Hall, after Seton Hall graduate and Tyco CEO Dennis Kozlowski. Eight years later, Kozlowski was sentenced to 25 years for fraud against his company's shareholders in the amount of \$400 million, and the building was renamed Jubilee Hall. The campus gym was once named after alumnus Robert Brennan, later convicted for money laundering.
- 3. Rock Lives There.** When New York's WXRK-FM 92.3 (Howard Stern's former station) changed its format from mostly-rock to all-talk, Seton Hall's WSOU 89.5 became the only full time rock station in the NYC market. A former heavy metal station that moved towards eclectic modern rock after pressure from the administration, WSOU is partially responsible for the inundation of New Jersey emo bands: They were the first to play My Chemical Romance. — *Rob Iracane*

GEORGE MASON PATRIOTS (11)

D.C. REGIONAL



- 1. Exercising David's Demons.** Mason cracked the Top 25 on February 20 for the first time in school history after winning at Wichita State. It marked the first time a CAA team has been ranked since a 1987 David Robinson-led Navy team was No. 18 in the polls, and a Beastie Boys-led "Licence to Ill" album was No. 1 in the charts. Mason's NCAA Tourney birth is also the CAA's first at-large bid since, well, 1987.
- 2. Jai Lives.** Several NFL teams have sent scouts to watch Mason forward Jai Lewis in action with the hopes of finding the next Antonio Gates. Lewis is Mason's best player and at 6'7", 275 lbs, he is three inches taller and 15 pounds heavier than Gates (I have a class with him; he barely fits in the desks). Lewis also has "great hands and athleticism" and possesses Mel Kiper's most important non-descript NFL draft day asset: terrific upside.
- 3. The Squirrel Master.** GMU's top guard Tony Skinn has adopted this nickname because of his uncontrollable attraction to nuts. In Mason's semi-final CAA Tourney game against Hofstra, Skinn punched Hofstra's Loren Stokes right in the babymakers. As a result, Skinn will serve a one-game suspension, miss the Patriots first round game and give Mason fans their own (metaphorical) punch in the balls. — *Chris Mottram*

UTAH STATE AGGIES (12)



- 1. Their Starting Point Guard Spent Eight Years in the Big House.** David Pak served eight years in prison, convicted of rape at age 17. Now 28, it's safe to say he's the oldest player in the NCAA Tournament. Pak was released from prison on Christmas Eve 2001, with no background in organized basketball; Aggies coach Stew Morrill plucked him out of Saddleback Junior College in Mission Viejo, Calif. He wears jersey No. 2, which stands for "second chance." Former Aggies also like golf; Jeremy Vague and Jason Napier, who played for Utah State in 2000-2001, were arrested for stealing golf clubs and served time in Cache County Jail in 2003.
- 2. They Get Free Flowers from FTD.** Among Utah State's distinguished alumni is Merlin Olsen, who was an All-American tackle for the Aggies and went on to be an NFL Hall-of-Fame lineman for the Los Angeles Rams. But you know him best as Jonathan Garvey on Little House on the Prairie, where his TV son, Andy, grew up to be Capt. Bud Roberts on JAG.
- 3. They Have Perhaps the Best Home Court Advantage in College Basketball.** The Dee Glen Smith Spectrum is notoriously loud and unfriendly to opposing Western Athletic Conference foes; the Aggies are 392-102 there all-time, and 110-10 under current head coach Stew Morrill. Some have said that it's the place opposing teams go to be buried, which is appropriate, because it's adjacent to the Logan city cemetery.

— *Rick Chandler*

AIR FORCE FALCONS (13)

D.C. REGIONAL



- 1. Antoine Hood Is Cooler Than You.** Not only was the Falcons' starting guard voted to the 2005-2006 Mountain West all-conference first team by leading Air Force in scoring at 14.8 points per game and assists with 78, but he will always be more popular than you. He currently has 1,031 friends at the United States Air Force Academy, and many more friends in over 303 universities listed on his Facebook. He is also a proud member of groups such as, "Management Majors: The Only Way to Roll" and "You Might Have Seen Me On Facebook, But Shawty You Don't Know Me." So please, after Antoine finishes driving through you like a knife through butter, don't hate him too much. After all, Hood and many more men and women like him are the reason you have the freedom to watch March Madness in the first place.
- 2. The Falcons Aren't Scared Of Ghosts.** One of the most common occurrences in the life of an Air Force Academy cadet? Briefings. They range from leadership skills to the dangers of STD's, and everything in between. The most common building used for these buildings is Arnold Hall, which also serves as a student union building for the cadets, serving food and sponsoring formal dances throughout the year. The thing about Arnold? It's haunted. Over the years, eight cadets have used Arnold Hall to commit suicide, usually deciding to hang themselves off the high rafters above where the cadets sit. If the Falcons can brave eight ghosts on a day-to-day basis, then five angry Texans shouldn't be a problem.
- 3. Dan Nwaelele Will Make You Cry.** You may not have heard his name, but once he starts dropping treys like it was nobody's business, you can be sure that "Nwaelele" will be locked in your memory for the whole offseason as the man who knocked off your beloved team. (Editor's Note: Great.) For the Falcons to advance, they will have to rely on the three, and no one has been better this year than Dan. He currently is shooting 48.4 percent from behind the arc, 5 percentage points better than that other guy playing for that OTHER blue team. He also is shooting a team high 90 percent from the free-throw line and has scored in double figures in 12 of the Falcons' 16 conference games. And next year, he will be back leading the Falcons to the big dance on a 24-5 squad that will be starting five seniors. Scary... — Kyle D. Sellner

MURRAY STATE RACERS (14)



- 1. They Think They're An Ivy League School.** Murray State bills itself as "Kentucky's Public Ivy," which is a little like billing yourself as "World's Tallest Little Person." For a school that guarantees admission to any Kentucky graduating senior who scores an 18 composite on their ACT (SAT equivalent: A Vince Young-esque 870), well, let's just say Harvard isn't bumping Brown to make way for State anytime soon.
- 2. Their Black Guys Are Kind Of White.** Distinguished Racer ballers include Hall of Famer Joe "Jumping Joe" Fulks and former fan favorite Ronald Jerome "Popeye" Jones. Fulks is credited as an early pioneer of the jumpshot, and once scored 63 points in an NBA game (before the advent of the shot clock, no less). Jones, on the other hand, counts NASCAR, golf and chess among his favorite off-court activities, making him one in what is undoubtedly a rather small coterie of black men who enjoy that particular combination of extracurriculars.
- 3. Not A Great Party Campus.** The town of Murray, Kentucky, is located in Calloway County — one of 35 limited dry counties in the state (of Kentucky's remaining 85 counties, 55 are completely dry, and only 30 are wet.) Alcohol exemptions exist for the Murray Golf Course and for all restaurants in town that serve over 100 diners, but Bacchanalian Murray Staters looking to imbibe are often forced to cross the Tennessee border to purchase provisions -- a move no doubt unpopular with S.A.D.D. — Neel Shah

WINTHROP EAGLES (15)

D.C. REGIONAL



- 1. Gregg Marshall Is The Best Coach You've Never Heard Of.** Marshall has compiled a 165-77 record in eight seasons and made Winthrop a dominant force in the Big South. In his first three seasons, he led the Eagles to a threepeat in regular season conference championships and NCAA tournament appearances. Success like this usually means a future coaching job in the SEC or Big East, right? Well, Marshall recently signed a contract extension that will keep him at Winthrop through 2015, giving you an idea of how much the university invests in the program and its coach. All six of Winthrop's appearances (including this year's) have happened under Marshall's tenure.
- 2. But ... Winthrop Has Never Won An NCAA Tournament Game.** In fact, no Big South team has ever gotten higher than a 14 seed from the selection committee. This year the Eagles finished 23-7 and won both the Big South regular and tournament titles. They also start five veterans, all who helped to give Gonzaga a run for its money in the first round of last year's tournament. In other words, another lousy seed.
- 3. Winthrop University ... The Harvard Of The South!** Well, if Harvard were a public school. The Princeton Review ranks Winthrop as one of the south's top public universities, offering a variety of degrees in the liberal arts. A quick scan through their music's Web page tells me they most likely kick Notre Dame's butt in music and many other fine arts areas, meaning my family could have saved \$20,000 a year by sending me to Winthrop instead of Notre Dame and making me eight times the musician I am today. I'd probably have a better sex life, too. — *Brandon Hollihan*

ALBANY GREAT DANES (16)



- 1. You Never Forget Your First Time.** Saturday, the nation was treated to a tremendous performance from the Godfather of SUNY Albany basketball, Jamar Wilson, who dropped 29 on the hopeless Vermont Catamounts in the America East title game. Wilson has been the central figure in Albany's climb to the top of the America East after joining the conference just five years ago. Hell, the Great Danes have only been in Division I since 1999. It was a year of firsts: First NCAA Tournament berth, first conference regular season and postseason titles, first season above .500 and first 20 win season ... not too shabby for a former D-III program. However, for all the good Jamar Wilson did yesterday, the greatest player Albany ever had was a 5'6", 135-pound JuCo transfer from Brooklyn, Earv Opong. Who you say? Earv "I'll Be Right Back" Opong, an And1 legend breaking ankles 24/7. The genesis of the nickname? Earv earned it on the New York playgrounds, blowing by defenders so often and easily that summer league announcers said "Opong just told the defender, 'I'll be right back.'"
- 2. Big Purple Growl.** Not sure if you noticed, but the place was going nuts during that Am-East tourney final. Forget about Rutgers ... Albany's got the best RACC (Recreation and Convocation Center) in the country. A half-hour before tipoff, the place was sold out (4,500 or so), cheering wildly and waving white "growl towels." The Big Purple Growl. A yearly basketball homecoming of sorts, with booze and food and booze and hoops (women's game before the men's game) and good times all around. Hell, the event is so fun there's even a Mr. Bounce Bouncy.
- 3. TOGA! TOGA!** Year after year, Albany manages to make the Princeton Review's Top 10 Party School list, and year after year I am baffled by this development. Truly bizarre if you ask me, but I guess having been on the U-Albany campus many times, drinking heavily may be the only viable option. Albany was No. 5 this year, and I'm shocked the Admissions Department isn't racing to use this quote in their marketing materials: "Albany is a good school, but the partying can take over your normal good student. You have to be mature to learn to balance both." SUNY Albany: You Can't Stop the Party, You Can Only Hope to Contain It. — *Thomas J. Doyle*

VILLANOVA WILDCATS (1)

MINNEAPOLIS REGIONAL



- 1. Wired, '85.** Most people think of Villanova's 1985 victory over Georgetown as the seminal moment in the school's history; the HBO special that runs on a constant loop during March Madness also ranks it up there as one of the NCAA tournament's greatest games. But the game took somewhat of a hit to its historic lure when guard Gary McLain came out in an 18-page *Sports Illustrated* essay in March 1987 describing his Belushi-esque cocaine habit during that fateful season. McLain said he was clean for the Championship game -- which is good, considering he played the entire game -- but during the Memphis State game in the Final Four? Lit up like a firecracker. It wasn't until last year during the team's 20th anniversary of the season that McLain was reunited with his teammates and coaching staff -- clean, sober and, not surprisingly, pretty pudgy.
- 2. The "Alive" Moment.** On the way back from an overtime victory against Providence on Jan. 11, 2005, the Wildcats endured a hellish plane ride home that resulted in an emergency landing back on Providence's icy runway. This was not typical turbulence; the plane shook violently for the first 10 minutes and, according to then-junior guard Randy Foye, besides the sickening plane-rattle, all that was heard was "the sound of people crying." In a longer article published in the *Philadelphia Daily News* weeks after the incident, coach Jay Wright described manning the emergency exits, sobbing stewardesses and the pilot making an announcement that everyone should prepare for a crash landing. They did land safely, and, in what was called a galvanizing moment for the team, every member boarded a plane the next day to make the trip to Georgetown, which many players and coaching staff said was the hardest thing they ever had to do. But they did.
- 3. Jay Wright's A Stud.** He not only incites curious man-crushes from the likes of Digger Phelps and Dick Vitale (every time they comment on how "well dressed" he is, that's old white guy-speak for "I'd do him."), but he's also caused many a co-ed on Villanova's Main Line campus to take notice as well. In addition to the boy band-like reception he received as students stormed the court after Nova beat then No. 1 Connecticut last month, Wright also has his own devoted group of female students called "Jay's Angels," who watch all the Nova games together in their dorm room with the same fervency as "O.C." fans. — *A.J. Daulerio*

OHIO STATE BUCKEYES (2)



- 1. Wait Till Next Year.** The Buckeyes are poised to make a nice run this month, but things will get really interesting next year when the "Thad Five" come to town. Ohio State has five highly rated recruits incoming, led by seven-footer Greg Oden out of Indianapolis. Oden is sure to be the biggest thing to hit Columbus since the sweatervest. Just to show what a big deal Greg Oden is, ask yourself how many seniors in high school have fan sites set up devoted entirely to them? Greg Oden has two.
- 2. The Buckeyes Are Allergic To Twos.** Ohio State has at times this season shown a marked aversion to shooting from inside the arc. Thirty-nine percent of Ohio State's shots this season were 3-pointers. Je'Kel Foster was the most opportunistic of the bunch, with 65 percent of his shots coming from three point range. It's a bit of a strange offense, considering that the Buckeyes best player is 6'9, 260 pound forward Terence Dials. But when the Bucks are on, they're really on. In their first win over Michigan, the Bucks shot 63% from 3 point range (15-24).
- 3. Hey, We Were Here All Year!** It's become a cliché anymore to say that a team gets no respect (thank you New England Patriots!), but Ohio State can legitimately claim that no one thought they had a shot at being where they are. The Big 10 writer's preseason poll had the Buckeyes as the sixth best team in the Big 10, and Ohio State wasn't ranked in the top 25 until Week 6 of the Coaches Poll. — *JD Arney*

FLORIDA GATORS (3)

MINNEAPOLIS REGIONAL



1. **Joakim Noah Is A Fancy Man.** Everyone knows Joakim Noah is the son of French tennis great Yannick Noah. Joakim not only inherited his father's athletic ability, but apparently he picked up some European style from Yannick as well. Joakim was once photographed on campus wearing some sort of fancy, full-length man-dress. Not exactly intimidating civilian clothes for an elite center.
2. **Lance Armstrong Could Teach The Team A Thing Or Two.** Lee Humphrey missed two games this season with a separated shoulder, suffered after he fell off his bicycle. Humphrey was riding alone when he lost control of his bike and took a nasty spill. "Maybe it was defective spokes, maybe he needs training wheels," Billy Donovan surmised after the accident.
3. **Billy Donovan Is A God.** The Gator basketball program began play in 1915. Before Billy Donovan arrived in 1996, the Gators appeared in the AP poll a grand total of 42 weeks and made just five NCAA Tournament appearances. This year marks Donovan's eighth straight Tournament appearance, and the Gators have found themselves ranked in the AP poll 120 weeks during Billy the Kid's 10 seasons in Gainesville. Donovan also helped the O'Connell Center morph from a cavernous canvas-domed warehouse to one of the most intimidating atmospheres in basketball, thanks to a new roof and Donovan's creation of the "Rowdy Reptile" student section. — *Roy Hutchins*

BOSTON COLLEGE EAGLES (4)



1. **All The News That Is Fit To Print.** Think you're going out on a limb by picking BC as your dark horse? The New York Times already beat you to the punch. The Old Grey Lady picked BC to win it all back last fall. Good news since the Times' Midas Touch worked so well on past winners like John Kerry, Martha Burk and Jayson Blair.
2. **Sowing Oats Leads To Oates Starting.** Despite being arguably the least-talented big man in coach Al Skinner's rotation, John Oates started at center for all of BC's regular season games this year. Oates' best attribute was his ability to stay out of trouble this offseason ... something his counterparts Akida McLain and Sean Williams couldn't do. While all are individually limited, together they combine to form a serviceable center, averaging approximately nine points, eight rebounds, two blocks and 426 fouls a game.
3. **Don't Hate BC Because Of The Sports Reporters.** On a blog dedicated to exposing jerky columnists, BC must be viewed like one of those Al Qaeda training camps. The Jesuit school is the alma mater of Bob Ryan and Mike Lupica. If BC does well this March, both will surely jump on the bandwagon in time for their Sunday morning chat fest. Don't worry, though; by April they'll be ready to steer ESPN's focus back to 24/7 Yankees-Red Sox talk. — *Bill Maloney*

NEVADA WOLF PACK (5)

MINNEAPOLIS REGIONAL



- 1. There Isn't Much Sex ... On Campus, Anyway.** Terrence Green played basketball at the University of Nevada from 1999-2003. Lyndale Burleson is on the current Pack squad. Burleson is the little brother of Minnesota Vikings' receiver (and former Nevada standout) Nate Burleson...the only Viking NOT to go on the Sex Boat. Green is the cousin of A.C. Green ... a.k.a., "Oldest Person to Lose His Virginity." Needless to say, thanks to Green and Burleson, sex on campus has been non-existent for the last seven years. This, in light of the fact that there are more than a dozen casinos, several strip clubs and a myriad of bars/taverns/watering holes within walking distance of campus. A half-dozen legal brothels are also located within an hour's drive. Brothel age limit: 18.
- 2. What Is A Mucker?** Perpetual crowd favorite Curry Lynch played for a high school team nicknamed the "Muckers" (insert your own joke). There are two high schools in Nevada with that nickname. Virginia City (Lynch's alma mater) and Tonopah (alma mater of college football's single season rushing record by a freshman (Chance Kretchmer's 1,732 yds). A Mucker is the poor bastard that has to go down into the mine and muck out the muck. Combined, both schools have an enrollment of less than 200 students.
- 3. Nick Fazekas' Family Is Badass.** In 1947, Nick Fazekas' grandfather, a Hungarian soldier, wrapped his wounded leg with a gasoline-soaked rag to promote infection and reduce the chance he'd be carted off to a Siberian gulag by the advancing Russian army. The ruse worked. I'm not sure if it was Fazekas' ingenuity, adroitness and serendipity, or just the Red Army being the Red Army. Shame Fazekas' grandfather was, you know, on the wrong side and all.

— *pj Connolly*

OKLAHOMA SOONERS (6)



- 1. Longar Longar: Future Cult Hero?** I love this guy, and you have to love anyone with the same name twice. Forget the fact that he should shorten it to one name like "Cher" or "Yao"; a 6'11 Sudanese import at a school filled with what Nebraska coach Bill Callahan called "[expletive] hillbillies" is a recipe for a hero of Mutombo-like proportions (or at least some unintentional comedy). Aside from being tall and lanky, Longar has the most potential of anyone on the Sooners' bench, and some late game heroics and a Final Four bid might put this guy into the stratosphere. Apparently he had to take his SAT's a couple times and go to prep school before attending, which brings us to our next point ...
- 2. Oklahoma Players Don't Often Graduate.** This is generally true with men's basketball players as a whole. But according to the latest NCAA reports on grad rates, 0 percent of players who entered the school in 1998 or 1999 graduated within a six-year span. Now, everyone knows that the statistics are a little skewed against transfers (and aren't recent enough to count newer students) but a 0 percent graduation rate? Come on guys, you can do better than that. Someone get these kids into Communication Studies already.
- 3. "Always A Bridesmaid, Never A Bride."** OU ranks second in tournament wins without a national championship, right behind Illinois (naturally). It's not like they haven't been close, though; Oklahoma basketball was a premier national power back when we were all watching "The Smurfs." After multiple conference championships throughout the 80's, the Sooners were the favorite to win the Final Four in 1988 on the backs of future pros Mookie Blaylock, Harvey Grant and Stacey King. In the finals, however, Danny Manning and the Miracle Jayhawks beat the Sooners in one of the most dramatic upsets in tournament history. Talk about getting smurfed over. By the way, THIS is a sooner. Consider yourselves informed. — *Bill Maloney*

GEORGETOWN HOYAS (7)

MINNEAPOLIS REGIONAL



- 1. Ewing, Mutombo, Mourning, Iverson... Green and Hibbert?** G'town used to be an NBA factory and may have a couple Association stars-in-waiting on the current roster. According to NBADraft.net, sophomores Jeff Green and Roy Hibbert are projected to go 11th and 26th overall in 2007. Green was Big East co-rookie of the year (with Rudy Gay) and is being compared to Hawks forward Al Harrington (alright). Hibbert is 7'2" (Mutombo size but with beef!) and is likened to Greg Ostertag (ouch). Both players were named to All-Big East second team this season.
- 2. What Rocks, Indeed.** From Wikipedia's G'town page: "The school's sports teams are called the Hoyas. Many years ago, students well-versed in the classical languages invented the mixed Greek and Latin chant of "Hoya Saxa," translating roughly as "What Rocks," in reference to both the stalwart defense of the football team and the stone wall that surrounded the campus." G'town's athletic teams used to be called Hilltoppers before writers for the school paper shortened it to Hoyas. Now you know.
- 3. John Thompson III May Be a Bit Underpaid.** This will only be the second time since 1943 that a G'town team led by anyone other than JT3's dad has gone to the NCAA Tournament. Be that as it may, the NY Times reports that John Thompson, who resigned in '99, is the second-highest-paid employee at the university behind only the school president. He has made \$400,000 each of the past two year by serving as a "presidential consultant for urban affairs," which I guess is a higher-paying gig than "head coach."

— Jamie Mottram

ARIZONA WILDCATS (8)



- 1. The Other 'Stached Star.** Freshman Marcus Williams, maybe the most underhyped freshman in the nation, sports his own version of the '70's porn-stache, a la Gonzaga's Adam Morrison, but for a very awkward reason. Supposedly — and this comes from a girlfriend of his from high school — he sports the semi-facial hair because he feels his baby face isn't tough enough during hoops games. Hey, you can't knock the kid for anything he does; he's second in scoring for the Wildcats and is shooting 44 percent from beyond the arc, best on the team.
- 2. Our Most Famous Cheerleader Is An Old Man.** It might seem odd, but 54-year-old Joe Cavaleri gets the crowd more pumped than the hottest blonde. (OK, 54 isn't *that* old.) Cavaleri, better known as the "Ohh Ahh Man," has been getting Wildcat crowds excited since he started in 1979, stripping off his top-tier t-shirt and getting a chant of "Arizona" going. He might not have a huge rack or short-shorts, but the "Ohh Ahh Man" is one of the best traditions at the school.
- 3. Handcuffs Anyone?** Since the year started, senior guard Hassan "Hot Sauce" Adams has got in more trouble than Lorena Bobbitt at a "Playgirl" shoot. (Yeah!) Adams has been arrested twice: once for disturbing the peace and the other for driving under the influence of alcohol. Plus, he showed up late to a team meeting before a loss against Houston earlier this year, benching him for most of the first half. Adams is the team leader in points, steals and citations.

— Shane Bacon

WISCONSIN BADGERS (9)

MINNEAPOLIS REGIONAL



- 1. Alando The Egg Hunter.** Alando Tucker, one of the more prolific scorers in the Big Ten at 18.9 ppg, lists the Easter Bunny as the most famous person he has ever met. He is serious too.
- 2. ChippenDevins.** The UW assistant director of athletic communications made sure to accompany preseason All-Big Ten player Alando Tucker to Big Ten media day in Chicago this year after preseason All Big Ten player Devin Harris drove by himself in 2003 and forgot his pants.
- 3. Bisonized.** The Badgers were 68-3 at the Kohl Center under Bo Ryan heading into their January 21 meeting with the North Dakota State Bison, who were coming off a loss to Utah Valley State. Needless to say, after the game the Badgers were 68-4. The game will go down as the biggest upset in Badger Basketball history, no doubt. — *Scott Cayo*

NORTHERN IOWA PANTHERS (10)



- 1. They Sell More Books Than That OTHER Iowa Writing School.** Who's the most famous and influential alumnus of Northern Iowa? Kurt Warner, you say? Guess again. Without question, the UNI grad that has received the most press and undoubtedly wasted the most trees is Robert James Waller, best known for penning "The Bridges of Madison County" a mere 14 years ago. Waller graduated from UNI with a degree in Business Education and later received a Masters in Education ... none of which indicates that he would prolifically write sappy love stories in bucolic Iowa. On the plus side, he did play for their men's basketball team when it was known as Iowa State Teachers College. However, lest you think that he has the UNI monopoly over bad Hollywood stories, Nancy Price, author of "Sleeping with the Enemy," is also a UNI alum. Take THAT, University of Iowa Writing Program!
- 2. They Helped Produce Many Corporate Bastards.** In 1958, the first chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda opened its doors at the University of Northern Iowa, with the purpose of fostering and teaching business principles and accumen in college-age Americans. After taking root in Northern Iowa, the Phi Beta Lambda portion of FBLA grew to well over 50,000 members and does exemplary charity when not focused on preaching corporate domination to impressionable 20-year-olds. Notable graduates of this organization (though not Northern Iowa) include Troy Aikman, Patricia Nixon, Johnny Mathis, and that extremely annoying near-sighted guy you nicknamed Egon freshman year. On second thought, it's probably for UNI that none of these luminaries can call their school home.
- 3. It's A Wrestling School First.** Despite the fame that Warner has brought to the university and the recent success of the mens' hoops team, the most accomplished program at UNI is without question the wrestling team, further carrying on the state's tradition in the role of dominance on the mat. Three-time NCAA champions, the school also boasts two Olympic medalists in wrestling, a heady achievement for an institution that was primarily a teaching college until the latter half of the twentieth century.

— *Angelo Grasso*

WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE PANTHERS (11)

MINNEAPOLIS REGIONAL



- 1. Rob Jeter Is In The Wrong Sport.** Coach Jeter's dad, Bob, spent 11 seasons as a defensive back in the NFL (eight for the Packers, three for the Bears) and was a two-time Pro Bowler. Also, Yankees' shortstop Derek Jeter is his brother. OK, not really.
- 2. Stop Stealing Our Coaches.** The UW assistant director of athletic communications made sure to accompany preseason Both Wisconsin's Bo Ryan and Tennessee's Bruce Pearl were plucked from UW-M after short but successful stints as head coach. No hard feelings though; the Panthers robbed Jeter from Ryan's staff, while Pearl at least had the decency to leave his antiperspirant behind. Additionally, Illinois' Bruce Weber graduated from UW-Milwaukee, long before kicking the crap out of them in last year's Sweet Sixteen. Another alum, comedian Frank Caliendo, isn't a coach, but he does a decent Madden.
- 3. Name That Team.** The Wisconsin-Milwaukee Panthers have not always been the Wisconsin-Milwaukee Panthers. The university has been known as Milwaukee State Normal School, Wisconsin State Teachers College, Wisconsin State College of Milwaukee and finally UW-M. The nicknames: Normals, Cardinals and Green Gulls. Before moving to Division I, they worked their way up from Division's II and III as well as the NAIA. Feel free to wake up now. — *Brett Winkler*

MONTANA GRIZZLIES (12)



- 1. Duke has "Coach K;" Montana has "Coach Special K."** Talk about a golden boy. Grizzlies coach Larry Krystkowiak (pronounced kriss-koe-vee-ack) has come home, and Montana fans adore this guy. Born in Shelby, Mont., he's still UM's all-time scoring and rebounding leader. He was the 28th pick in the 1986 NBA draft and spent 11 years in the league. After a stint coaching the CBA's Idaho Stampede, he was named head coach at Montana before the 2004-05 season and promptly led the team to a conference championship. Even though his NBA nickname was "Special K," he's known in Missoula as "Krysko."
- 2. Family-friendly fun!** The University of Montana Athletic Department encourages you to bring your kids to games — then drop them off with strangers so you can actually enjoy yourself. Griz Kidz Care, an in-game childcare service, is open for women's and men's home basketball games. The athletic department does ask parents to pick up their children "immediately upon the conclusion of the game." Spoilsports.
- 3. Off To A Slow Start.** In its first three years of existence, the Montana basketball team went 2-1: In 1901-02, they lost to Preps 18-11; in 1902-03 they beat Tzi Dal Tais 25-19; and in 1903-04, they destroyed the Missoula Athletic Association 20-0. The Griz finally hired a coach in 1904-05, but didn't play any games — perhaps gathering enough energy to finally play more than one per season. In 1905-06 (under a different coach) Montana went 4-2, creaming the YMCA three games in a row, then beating Missoula High before dropping two straight to Montana State.

— *Jennifer Phillion*

PACIFIC TIGERS (13)

MINNEAPOLIS REGIONAL



- 1. They Have An Award-Winning Swede.** Sweden's Christian Maraker is the latest international player who has contributed to the recent success of Pacific's basketball program. Maraker was selected as the Big West player of the year after averaging 17 points and nine rebounds this season. Maraker also was selected as a Mid-Major All-America. But that might pale in comparison to Maraker winning the "Astrid Lindgren Award," which is bestowed upon the Swede who best represents his country. Former winners include the rock band Europe and actor Peter Koch, who portrayed "The Swede" in the movie *Heartbreak Ridge*.
- 2. The Kandi Man? Not So Bright.** The most famous former Pacific basketball player is another international player, Michael Olowakandi. The Celtics bench warmer wanted to play on a campus near the beach, so he opened a book and picked the University of Pacific because he figured it would be on the Pacific Ocean. The University of Pacific is in Stockton, Calif., some 100 miles away from the ocean. Stockton does have the furthest inland port in the world, but probably not what he was looking for. This was just one of many bad choices by Olowakandi which seemed to start a trend.
- 3. Actually, It's Kind Of A Baseball Town.** The Pacific baseball team is coached by Ed Sprague. And his Tigers baseball team is also as bland and indiscriminant as his playing career. But there is a lot of baseball history in Stockton. The minor league baseball team, the Ports, briefly changed their name to the Mudville Nine (2000-01). But even that seemed too hokey, even for minor league baseball. — *The Hater Nation*

SOUTH ALABAMA JAGUARS (14)



- 1. "USA! USA!"** Years ago, when I first heard the University of Arizona fans chanting "U of A! U of A!," I was wondering why they were so damn patriotic, as it sounded a hell of a lot like "USA! USA!" As if the American fans in Torino didn't already wear it out, you're going to get a lot more chants of "USA! USA!" as long as the Jaguars are in the tournament. The University of South Alabama proudly calls itself USA, and the fans will surely want to beat whoever tunes into the game over the head with it.
- 2. It Always Comes Back To Duke.** USA head coach John Pelphrey can't get his last game as a Kentucky Wildcat out of his head. In 1992, the senior co-captain watched as Christian Laettner took Grant Hill's 75-foot overtime pass at the top of the key and put it in the bucket. Pelphrey couldn't blame himself for the loss, though; he went 5-for-7 from the field and 3-for-4 from downtown.
- 3. Once A Jaguar, Only A Jaguar.** In USA's 43-year history, only four basketball players have been picked in the NBA draft, but no one has been picked since 1985, when two players were selected. Dexter Shouse has the honor of being the most recent draftee from USA, picked in the fourth round by the Lakers that year. Shouse never saw playing time until the 1989-90 season, when he saw 18 minutes in three games with the Philadelphia 76ers. He never played again after that. The other Jaguar drafted that year was Terry Catledge, who had the most successful post-USA NBA career. "Cat Man" was the 17th pick in 1985, selected by Philadelphia and played for the Bullets and Magic. USA sports fans do have one shining star to hitch their trailer to: Arizona Diamondback Luis Gonzalez, who batted in the World Series-winning run against the Yankees in 2001. Last month, Gonzo turned down an offer to play for the other USA baseball team in the World Baseball Classic. — *Cyd Zeigler*

DAVIDSON WILDCATS (15)

MINNEAPOLIS REGIONAL



- 1. The High School Band.** With 1,700 students, Davidson is one of the smallest coed Division I schools in the country. So small that they don't even have a pep band. In comes the band from a local high school, undoubtedly honored to be in a hallowed college gym. The band does its best to get under the opponent's skin, yelling things during their player introductions like, "Who cares!" and "Daddy's girl!" OK, so it's not quite the Cameron crazies. But when you don't even have your own band, hey, you can't really complain.
- 2. Mark McGuire.** So he didn't spell his name McGwire. But he still was a big (6-10), slow, white guy from St. Louis. Occasionally, he'd do something so spectacular, like dunk on 6-11 future ex-76er Sharone Wright, that you'd think he could be the team's savior. Then he'd go back to playing like you expect a philosophy major to play. We hear Mark went on to teach in Japan and get a Ph.D. in Asian religions — which is not something we heard McGwire did, but nobody ever found any andro in his locker.
- 3. Pecan Pie.** It's a southern favorite and coach Bob McKillop, a native Long Islander, must be a convert. Way back when — OK, in 1996, when Davidson had its best record ever in 16 years under McKillop (25-5, 14-0 conference) and actually was considered for an at-large NCAA bid — McKillop came across a couple dorky looking college kids who were stumbling around the team hotel during the conference tournament. Probably knowing they were penniless and starving, he directed them to the hospitality suite and, in that beautiful Long Island accent, offered them some pecan pie AND Cokes.

Unfortunately, McKillop's hospitality continued the next day when Davidson folded in the conference title game against Western Carolina. Seeing as how those college kids had pretty much put all their hopes and dreams into that team's season as a crowning achievement for their time in school, that loss made for a very miserable overnight drive to the Florida keys to kick off spring break. — *Matt Pitzer*

MONMOUTH HAWKS (16)



- 1. It's A Reality TV Training Ground.** Life in the jungles of West Long Branch prepared alumni Stephenie LaGrossa and Katie Gallagher, both 2002 graduates, for their stints on Survivor: Palau. Gallagher finished second.
- 2. Monmouth NBA Trivia.** Quick: Name the only Monmouth player to ever play in the NBA. Come on ... anybody? Bah! Time's up! The answer of course is Alex Blackwell. (And you call yourself a NBA fan.) Yeah, an early 90's NEC All-Star forward, Blackwell signed as a free agent with the Los Angeles Lakers in the 1992-93 season. His performance? Not so hot. In 27 games, Blackwell scored 34 points, snagged 22 rebounds and smoked 8 packs of Marlboro's with Vlade Divac. True story.
- 3. Coach, We Need A Three. Get In There.** Coach Dave Calloway, a former Monmouth Hawk and Northeast Conference (NEC) All-Star, use to really love the long ball. Not only does Calloway still hold every single 3-point shooting mark in school history, but he even managed to lead the nation in 3-point field goal percentage in '89, nailing 42-of-82 shots from downtown. So, yeah, if we find the Hawks down big in the 2nd half — and I'm sure we will — don't be surprised if Coach Calloway loosens the tie, subs himself in, and just gets "hotter than a pistol" from deep. — *J.E. Skeets and Dan Cordella*

