

# UCLA Picked Over Bulldogs By 13

**Sports Desk**



## Save Your Sympathy

by John Platzer

Maury John, head basketball coach at Drake University, is to be in the most enviable position of anyone on the face of the earth tonight.

There is no way the man can lose!

Regardless of the outcome of tonight's NCAA semifinal game between Drake and UCLA, John will come out of it the big winner.

UCLA, going after its third straight national championship and fifth in six years, has been established as a 13-point favorite over the 11th ranked Bulldogs. In fact almost no one (except maybe Mrs. Maury John) gives Drake a chance to even stay close to the Bruins, who may or may not rule by divine right.

This is what makes John's position tonight so enviable. If the Bruins race past the Bulldogs (regardless of the margin) it will be nothing more than what is expected. Actually the larger the defeat is, the more sympathy John can expect from the masses.

On the other hand, if Drake could pull the impossible tonight and slip past John Wooden's perennial champs he would immediately be labeled a genius and replace steak as the number one necessity at the post season banquets.

UCLA, which in recent years has made Perry Mason look like a loser, are described by John as a "super team with several super stars." The most towering of the Bruins is, of course, a 7-1 giant who answers to the name Lew Alcindor.

Alcindor, over whom a million dollar bidding war is expected to be waged following the finals, is a pretty good ballclub in himself but in UCLA's case he is little more than a starting block.

Aside from the three-time All-America, the Bruins also put such name players as Lynn Shackelford, Ken Heitz, Steve Patterson and Sidney Wick on the court.

Drake's main asset has been speed and, yet, there have been times when it seems as if UCLA invented the word just as they invented the zone press. Drake led the Missouri Valley Conference in rebounding this season and, yet, they are up against perhaps the strongest rebounding team in the country.

Drake has been a run-and-shoot ballclub all year and, yet, they are pitted against the most famous run-and-shoot team in collegiate history.

Overall the Bulldogs' problems tonight seem to be endless but, since no one expects them to win anyway, their worries should be small.

Before deciding to flood Coach John with sympathy, just think for a second of what Aggie Coach Shelby Metcalf would give to stand in his place tonight.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Mighty UCLA and the awesome Lew Alcindor are lop-sided favorites to win a record third consecutive NCAA basketball championship this weekend.

The Bruins are a 13-point choice over surprising Drake in the nightcap of Thursday's semifinal round doubleheader. North Carolina and Purdue are rated about even in the opener at 7:40 p.m., EST.

The winners advance to the title game at 4:15 p.m., EST, Saturday. The format, playing Thursday night and Saturday afternoon, is new this year. Previously, the semifinals were played

Friday and the finals Saturday night.

All games will be televised nationally by NBC-TV.

UCLA's Bruins, dubbed by Drake Coach Maury John "a super team with several super stars," take the nation's top ranking and a fantastic record of success into the semifinals.

They've won four of the last five national titles, including two in a row. And, since the 7-foot-1 Alcindor appeared on the scene, they've lost only two games in three seasons.

Alcindor, possibly the most outstanding collegiate player in the history of the game, has compiled an equally outstanding personal record—three times All-American, twice Player of the Year.

They're physically healthy and, according to Coach John Wooden, mentally and emotionally ready to make their bid to become the first team in history to win three consecutive national titles.

"Our biggest problem is final exams," Wooden said Wednesday after the team arrived from Los Angeles. Drake, North Carolina and Purdue also made late afternoon arrivals and each took a one-hour workout.

"It's our first practice since before the regionals," Wooden said. "We've had final exams and had to lay off. I don't think it will make too much difference. We've reached a point that we hadn't attained in some time."

The Bruins, 27-1, demonstrated that their 90-52 rout on third-ranked Santa Clara in the finals of the West Regional last weekend, possibly their best perform-

ance since a revenge victory over Houston in last year's national semifinals.

UCLA and Drake, ranked No. 11 with a 25-4 mark, have no injury problems. But it's a different story for North Carolina, No. 4 and 27-3, and Purdue, No. 6 and 22-4.

Tar Heel Coach Dean Smith said Dick Grubar, a three-season starter and quarterback of the team, is out with a knee injury. And Purdue's George King said

7-foot Chuck Bavis, the team's top rebounder, underwent surgery for a shoulder separation Monday and definitely is out. Herman Gil-

liam, the No. 2 scorer on the team, is listed as a doubtful starter because of an injury to his Achilles tendon.

### Mexico Continues In Soccer Lead

In the Third Annual Spring Soccer Tournament Sunday, Mexico defeated Africa, 5-1, behind the scoring of Carlos Garza.

Garza scored three goals to lead Mexico with Rubin Curial and H. Filsinger each adding one. Africa's lone score was made by A. Zid.

The current standings are: Mexico (2-0); Africa (2-1); Pink Panthers (0-1); and Allen Academy (0-2). Next Sunday's game will feature Mexico against the Pink Panthers at 4 p.m. on the South Gate soccer field. This game will wrap up the first round of the tournament with the Pink Panthers still to play Allen Academy.

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### Ag Golfers Host Ponies Monday

Coach Henry Ransom's Aggie Golf team will take to the links Monday afternoon at 1 p.m. for their first conference match of the season when they meet Southern Methodist on the A&M course. March 29, the squad hosts Texas Tech in a 1 p.m. match on the A&M course.

After finishing second to the Texas Longhorns in conference play last year, the Aggies return all of its lettermen. Reggie Majors, a junior, will be the first man on the team while Duke Butler, a junior will take second position. Richard Ellis will be the third position on the squad while either senior Bill Wade or freshman Tommy Shelton will be the fourth man.

The Aggies have played in two tournaments this spring finishing second in the Fort Worth Recreational and sixth in the Border Olympics.

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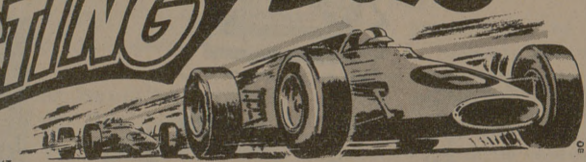
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