

sports

NCAA cage coverage not without its levity

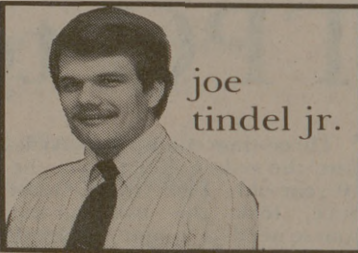
There's no telling how many loyal American basketball fans used up an entire Saturday afternoon watching the NCAA basketball tournament last week. And it's coming up again this weekend. But how about that coverage.

Really fun stuff. Yes, there really is a fun side to college athletics.

CBS sports commentator Brent Musburger called last week's telecasts a "triple-header plus." It turned out to be more of a "quadruple-header plus."

Plus what? In reality, the coverage was excellent, but who can resist having a little fun with some of the things that are said during these events?

For example, one of the most memorable moments came during the North Carolina-James Madison game, when a James Madison cheerleader had thought that play had stopped, but a North



Joe Tindel Jr.

Carolina player had thought otherwise, and continued on his fast break until he plowed into the cheerleader.

Wait, that's not the good part. Shortly thereafter, when nobody at the media desk was sure whether or not the woman was hurt, the sportscaster apparently thought he would add a little levity. He made some remark about wondering if the collision would be a blocking foul on the cheerleader or a charging foul on the player. Needless to say, he quickly changed the subject.

Speaking of subjects, what exactly are the subjects of those interviews with coaches and players?

Sportscaster: "We're talking with the man who made it all happen tonight for Dunkit University, Sam Swisher. Sam, what was the secret in tonight's 33-point victory over Foulin State?"

Swisher: "Well, we knew it was gonna be a tough game. FSU's a good team, but I think we were just mentally prepared and had more intensity tonight. Coach said we have to take it one game at a time, and that helped us too."

No kidding? During the games, it's always more fun if the telecast crew has provided our sportscasters with an over-sensitive microphone. Some of the things one can hear in the background aren't for innocent ears.

Just watch. It'll all probably happen again this weekend.

Cards, UK to meet in feud

Arkansas, Indiana bow out

United Press International Take the shotgun. Don't forget the moonshine. And bring plenty of them greenbacks.

Louisville and Kentucky are coming out of the hills for a little get-together.

Two of college basketball's most inhospitable neighbors get to settle a score Saturday in the finals of the Midwest Regional in Knoxville, Tenn. On Thursday night each won its semifinal encounter to set up the showdown with the winner advancing to the Final Four in Albuquerque, N.M.

Louisville defeated Arkansas 65-63 in a wild affair as Scooter McCray tipped in a shot at the buzzer. And Melvin Turpin scored 16 points and Kentucky broke to a 10-point lead before holding off Indiana 64-59.

In the West Regional in Ogden, Utah, North Carolina State continued its surprising run with a 75-56 decision over Utah. And Virginia defeated Boston College 95-92, setting up an Atlantic Coast Conference final.

Tonight, it's North Carolina-Ohio State and Georgia-St. John's in the East Regional in

Syracuse, N.Y., and Villanova-Iowa and Houston-Memphis State in the Midwest Regional in Kansas City, Mo.

Kentucky and Louisville have not played in 24 years, the last meeting coming in the 1959 NCAA Tournament in which the Cardinals won 76-61. And this game is certain to be a bonanza for ticket scalpers since bad blood has developed over the years. Kentucky, ever the proud Southern gentleman, has refused to schedule Louisville during the regular season.

Louisville battled from a 16-point first-half deficit to tie it 63-63 on a hook by Lancaster Gordon. Arkansas tried to work for a final shot. But Charles Balentine walked as Gordon attempted a steal, giving the Cardinals possession with 37 seconds left.

They ran the clock to 13 seconds and Milt Wagner missed from the lane. Louisville crashed the boards ferociously and kept the ball alive. There were four tips and Charles Jones and Scooter McCray finally got a hand on the ball before the buzzer. The winning basket was credited to McCray.

Louisville thus avenged a 1-point loss to the Razorbacks in the NCAA Tournament two years ago on U.S. Reed's last-second shot from mid-court.

Lancaster Gordon led the No. 2 Cardinals, 31-3, with 19 points and McCray added 17. For No. 9 Arkansas, 26-4, Joe Kleine had 21 points.

In the opener, Kentucky had enough poise to hold off Indiana. The Hoosiers trailed by 10 with 8:30 remaining but pulled to 59-57 with 2:50 left on a basket by Randy Wittman.

Indiana had a chance to tie with 2:28 to go after drawing a charge. Kenny Walker of Kentucky then blocked a layup by Jim Thomas and the Wildcats worked the clock to 35 seconds. Five free throws secured the victory.

For No. 10 Kentucky, 23-7, Walker had 11 of his 13 points in the second half, and Jim Master added 12. No. 5 Indiana, 24-6, beat Kentucky 62-59 earlier in the year. The Hoosiers had 18 points from Wittman and 17 from 7-foot-2 Uwe Blab.

In the West, Derek Whittenburg took to the outside for 27 points to carry North Carolina

State. Lorenzo Charles had 14 points for the No. 14 Razorbacks, who shot 79 percent from the floor in the second round.

Utah entered the tournament with the worst record in team field. The Utes were led by Peter Williams with 13 points and Pace Manning with 13. Utah, which plays at UCLA, closed its season with a 68-57 loss.

Virginia eliminated College despite Ralph Sampson being on the bench in the second half because of trouble. Virginia's offense was troubled by a 14-minute span in the second half to push to a 68-57 loss.

Rick Carlisle sank six free throws in the second round and scored 22 while Othell Wilson averaged for No. 4 Virginia, 25-7. Garris led No. 13 Baylor, 25-7, with 25 points. Jay Murphy had 23.

Sampson, the Player of the Year, had 14 points but only 4 in the second half. Craig Robinson and Edlin provided the offense during the 7-4 game.

TCU 'outroaded;' overpowered by tough Cornhuskers in NIT

United Press International The Nebraska Cornhuskers used their last home game of the season as a going away party.

Nebraska toppled Texas Christian 67-57 in the National Invitation Tournament quarterfinals Thursday night before a sellout crowd of 14,753 at Lincoln, Neb. The victory earned the Cornhuskers a trip to New York and a berth in Monday night's semifinals at Madison Square Garden.

"This team has a chance. We are playing well," Cornhuskers Coach Moe Iba said. "I told them we are two games away. When you go to New York, you go to win it. That is what I talked to the kids about."

Wake Forest and Fresno State also advanced to the NIT semifinals Thursday night and will be joined by the winner of tonight's DePaul-Mississippi game.

Wake Forest routed South Carolina 78-61 and Fresno State dumped Oregon State 72-67.

The semifinal pairings will be announced today at Noon, EST. Stan Cloudy scored 18 points and grabbed 9 rebounds to lead Nebraska, 22-9. The Cornhuskers took a 12-2 lead in the first five minutes and never let the Horned Frogs get within seven after that.

Nebraska led 36-19 at half-time and by 62-38 with 6:14 left

before TCU ran off 13 straight points.

TCU felt the strain of playing all of its NIT games on the road.

"I think they (the NIT) 'roaded' us out," Horned Frogs Coach Jim Killingsworth said. "We were tired. We have been too long on the road. We just didn't have any legs tonight."

The Horned Frogs, 23-11, were led by Darrell Browder, who scored 25 points, including 20 in the second half. Dave Hoppen added 16 points for Nebraska, which finished 17-1 at home.

At Greensboro, N.C., Deacon guards Danny Young and Delaney Rudd were deadly from the outside, with Young scoring

17 points and Rudd adding 15 to lead Wake Forest.

TCU's offense was hampered by a 33.8 percent shooting percentage.

Taller South Carolina scored 47-31 rebounding edge and much else as the Deacons, 57.7 percent from the line. NC, 81.8 percent from championship throw line.

While the Deacons were evading from the outside, North Carolina's big frontcourt duo, Gamecocks' scoring duo had ward Jimmy Foster and Am points and Brad Jergent held 15.

The Deacons, who head to Madison Square Garden for a semifinal game, will meet opponent to be named later.

At Corvallis, Ore., pre-meet Thompson scored 26. Florida's Ron Anderson added 14. Fresno State, the Bulldogs, and a 64-61 lead with 2:28 left in the game. Anderson then Texas layups and Thompson's stuff and one free relay clinch the victory.

The Beavers finished the season with a 20-11 record. No State improved to 20-11.

Dave Ford's season with 100 backcourt points.

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