

TANK McNAMARA*

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Final Four

Duke coach 'too excited to feel pressure'

DALLAS (AP) — Duke's Mike Krzyzewski, making his debut as a coach in NCAA basketball's Final Four, said Wednesday he is not worried about being a rookie.

"I'm too excited to feel the pressure and I hope the players catch onto it," said Krzyzewski in a telephone news conference with the other three coaches.

"I talked to (Indiana Coach) Bobby Knight and he's helped me get prepared," he said.

The top-ranked Blue Devils meet two-point underdog and No. 2 Kansas Saturday 30 minutes after Louisville and eight-point underdog Louisiana State play in Reunion Arena.

The first game begins at 2:42 p.m. The survivors play for the 1985-86 NCAA championship Monday at 8:12 p.m.

Krzyzewski admitted his Blue Devils have shot poorly in advancing out of the East Regional.

"I don't know why because it is one of our strong points," he said. "We've played good defense and we've rebounded well. Kansas is the best shooting team we've played and

if we both have hot shooting it could be a high-scoring game."

Duke defeated Kansas 92-86 in December, but Jayhawks Coach Larry Brown said his team is vastly improved.

"We'll have to play the best basketball game of the year and quit making turnovers and giving the other

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team second shots to win," Brown said. "I don't believe their earlier victory over us will have any bearing on the game, although we have great respect for Duke."

Krzyzewski said, "Our earlier victory over Kansas doesn't mean much because it happened too long ago. We have two evenly matched teams."

Louisville Coach Denny Crum, who will be in his sixth Final Four, said he was concerned over what he calls LSU's "freak" defense.

"LSU is a hard team to play because of the 'freak' defense," Crum said. "I think we might be a hard team to defense, though, because ev-

eryone on our team is capable of scoring 25 points."

LSU Coach Dale Brown, who will be in his second Final Four, said his defense was a "combination of man-for-man and zone coverages."

"You have to be careful and not get so cute your kids can't do it," Brown said.

Brown said Louisville was almost impossible to defense. "They are tough to figure and they have plenty of players who can score," Brown said.

He said he welcomed the Tigers' underdog status.

"I relish the role," he said. "I would prefer to be the underdog."

Crum doesn't consider Dale Brown's Tigers, the only one of the four teams not ranked in the Top 10, a Cinderella team.

"I learned a long time ago that nothing is surprising at this stage," Crum said. "Teams that have gotten this far are obviously the best. You prove on the floor who the best team is. Where you are ranked at this point doesn't mean anything."

LSU 'magic' may make Louisville disappear

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Dale Brown believes in magic.

"I know some people will laugh at this," Brown said, "but there's a magical feeling, like our time is coming."

The Louisiana State coach believes the same emotional high that lifted his unranked Tigers to the Final Four will sustain them through Saturday's game with No. 7 Louisville and on to the national championship.

"We've got this feeling," he said. "Maybe the other teams have it too, but that's what we've got."

His players also believe.

"The magic's there," said senior forward Don Redden. "If we can just keep up this attitude and intensity we have now, that will be enough to win the national championship."

Let others speculate whether it was magic that allowed LSU to beat seemingly stronger tournament opponents like Memphis State, Georgia Tech and Kentucky, or whether

such an unexpected accomplishment would not lift any team.

LSU is asking no questions, having no doubts.

"I don't think we're a Cinderella team," said junior forward Anthony Wilson. "We belong here the same as any other. We worked hard to get



here. I think we deserve it."

But LSU is a surprise opponent to Louisville senior guard Jeff Hall.

"If you looked at the pairings early in the tournament, you probably wouldn't have picked them," Hall said. "I'd say Louisville would have to be a favorite over LSU."

Wilson and Redden were reserves when the season opened, back before 7-foot center Zoran Jovanovich hurt his knee and team captain and

scoring leader Nikita Wilson flunked out of school.

They came off the bench along with guard-turned-center Ricky Blanton and put together the kind of team game that could neutralize superior talent.

"This has been a total team effort," Redden said. "We really came together after all the adversity we had."

The absence of any one star is a major reason for every player believing in himself, he said.

Anthony Wilson, for example, scored only twice against Memphis State in the regional semifinals until his last-second jumper that won the game.

When forward John Williams went cold against Georgia Tech in the finals, guard Derrick Taylor moved in to take up the slack, scoring 23 points.

Two days later, Taylor never hit a field goal against Kentucky, but Williams recovered his touch and scored 16 points.

Iowa coach leans to USC, not UH

HOUSTON (AP) — Iowa's George Raveling turned down the head coaching position at the University of Houston vacated by a retiring Guy V. Lewis, the *Houston Chronicle* reported Wednesday.

Raveling met with UH officials on Tuesday for the second time. A source in the Iowa athletic department told the *Chronicle* that Raveling informed UH officials of his decision late Tuesday.

But Jay Goldberg, UH sports information director, said Wednesday, "I have nothing official on that, (but) it wouldn't surprise me."

Asked if a replacement for Lewis would be named this week, Goldberg said, "I sure hope so. But there's nothing I can say."

Raveling is expected to take the basketball coaching post at the University of Southern California.

His decision to take the Trojans' job over UH is believed to be based partially on his previous 11 years at Washington State, also a Pac-10 Conference member,

the *Chronicle* reported.

Raveling, 48, has a record of 221-174 in 11 years at Washington State and the last three years at Iowa. His Hawkeye teams were 13-15, 21-11 and 20-12, losing in the first round of the NCAA tournament this year and in 1985.

Raveling first met with Houston officials a week ago, along with Stanford University Coach Tom Davis.

"It's an important decision they have to make there, and I understand what they're going through," Davis said.

Asked if he would take the job if offered, Davis said, "I really don't know. There are a lot of things to recommend it."

Navy Coach Paul Evans, who also was being considered for the UH post, was named head coach at Pittsburgh Wednesday.

Also Wednesday, the *Houston Post* identified former UH and Houston Rockets star Elvin Hayes as a leading candidate to succeed Lewis.

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