

TANK McNAMARA®



by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds

Duke coach expects shootout

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — Duke's 92-86 victory over Kansas in December may give the top-ranked Blue Devils added confidence, but Duke Coach Mike Krzyzewski says the only similarity between that game and a rematch in the NCAA semifinals would be the likelihood of a high-scoring contest.

"It happened so long ago that it has very little bearing," Krzyzewski said Thursday in a telephone link with the other three Final Four coaches. "I think that playing Kansas we're playing a team that is the best shooting team that we've come across all season long."

"For us, they are a very difficult team to defend. If we shoot well and they shoot well I think it will be a very

high-scoring game."

Larry Brown, coach of the second-ranked Jayhawks, said Duke, 36-2, was difficult in December — in the championship game of the pre-season Big Apple NIT — and might feel a slight psychological edge.

"It wasn't a matter of not being able to score," Brown said. "It was a matter of being able to stop them, and we didn't do that very well."

"They know they can beat us, but it's not going to have any impact on us."

Both Krzyzewski and Brown planned to look for a balanced attack in their meeting Saturday in Dallas. Both also were hoping for some extra contributions from their stars —

Johnny Dawkins for Duke and Danny Manning for Kansas.

Krzyzewski said he hoped David Henderson, who scored 30 points in the first game against the Jayhawks, comes out of an NCAA shooting slump.

"We have an inside-outside attack that starts with Dawkins on the outside so people have to pay attention to him and then they have to pay attention to (6-foot-8 Mark) Alarie," he said.

While the man-on-man matchups were not set, Brown said he was leaning toward having Manning guard Alarie. The job of guarding Dawkins might fall on Ron Kellogg, who has been hobbled with an injured ankle, or Cedric Hunter.

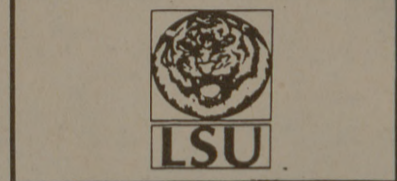
LSU's Brown savors role as Final Four underdog

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Louisiana State Coach Dale Brown says he's willing to play the underdog right up to the national championship.

"I relish the role," Brown says. "I'm more comfortable in that position. I guess I'm more familiar with the territory."

Brown says he feels more confident this year, leading the only unranked team in the Final Four, than he did in 1981 when the Tigers had the best record in the nation.

days about the "magic" his team has, about its "character" and "mental toughness."



Meanwhile, he's been drilling his players on the fine points of the guerrilla-warfare defense he developed to cope with the midseason loss of some key starters.

The constantly changing zone defense Brown calls "the freak" has proven its ability to stymie stronger teams. He concedes Louisville will be a tough team to defend against, however.

"They're very mobile," he says. "They all can score. There's no one man to stop."

Brown's estimation of the Cardinals is polite, but his voice rings with conviction when talking about his own team.

"We were the hunted when we started out 14-0," he says. "Now, we are the hunter. We will be the hunter

through Monday night. I hope we will be the hunted from then on."

Brown has worked hard this season to calm his temper, curb his tongue and not let his team's setbacks get the best of him. But his natural flamboyance can't be stifled.

"I don't want to sound arrogant, brash or abrasive," he says, "but we got here doing it my way. Nobody owns me."

During the past week's daily nationwide telephone news conferences, reporters have tried to bait Brown into launching one of his famous attacks on NCAA rule makers.

"I don't want to detract from the Final Four," he demurs. However he adds, "There will be a time and a place for that."

He has obviously been doing a lot of thinking about the national championship, which the Tigers have never won.

"All my life has been a struggle," he says. "I've got to get used to being on top. My wife said to me the other day, 'I hope your as gracious as winning as you have been at losing.' I hope so too."

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