

# Traditional big guns face upstarts in East Regional

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Duke is the odd team out in the NCAA East Regional, at least when it comes to recognizable conference affiliations.

The Blue Devils, the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament champions, might be the one team in the regional whose conference is familiar to basketball fans.

But for the Atlantic 10, home of the top-ranked Temple and Rhode Island, and the Colonial Athletic Association, in which Richmond plays, recognition has been a perennial problem.

The size of the school, the size of the state, what conference you play or those things are irrelevant at this point," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said at one of four news conferences Wednesday.

"That has no bearing on the game. We just want to concentrate on our players and have them play their game."

Fifth-ranked Duke, 26-6, will meet Rhode Island, 28-6, Thursday night in the opening game of the doubleheader at the Brendan Byrne Arena, while No. 1 ranked Temple, 11-1, will face Richmond, 26-6, in the second game.

The East Region championship game will be played Saturday afternoon, with the winner heading for the Final Four in Kansas City.

For the Blue Devils to play their game, they must come up with a way to cope with Rhode Island's outstanding senior guard duo of Tom Garrick and Carlton Owens, who both average more than 20 points per game, and blossoming sophomore forward Kenny Green.

The Rams come into the game on an emotional high after victories over Missouri and Syracuse, which was seeded third in the East. Duke is the second seed behind Temple. Rhode Island is the No. 11 seed, while Richmond is No. 13.

"The pressure is on Duke," Rhode Island coach Tom Penders said. "If they lose to us, it's tough. I'm sure (Syracuse Coach) Jim Boeheim has to wear a mask up in Syracuse because he certainly wasn't supposed to lose to Rhode Island of the Atlantic 10."

"We're loose. We feel we have everything to gain and nothing to lose."

One of the keys for Duke will be the play of 6-foot-6 forward Billy King, who will be assigned to try to

stop either Garrick or Owens.

"He's a great defensive player," said Owens, who runs the Rams' run-and-gun offense. "It doesn't concern me who he plays. We're still going to play our game."

Krzyzewski is hoping Duke does the same thing against Rhode Island, meaning the Blue Devils play good defense and play as a unit.

"We can't let Owens or Garrick have career games, or let Green take off," he said. "We have to try not to do anything different. We have to play out style."

Temple coach John Chaney said Richmond can cause some problems for his Owls because the two teams are similar in that they both play good defense and concentrate on a half-court game.

"This is the exciting portion of the year," Chaney said. "I think people who characterize teams in the final 64 as underdogs are people who have closed their heads and eyes on what has taken place. Anything can happen."

Richmond is a perfect example of that. The Spiders knocked off Indiana and Georgia Tech last week to make it to the round of 16.

## Pat Bradley to defend tourney title

PHOENIX, Ariz. (AP) — Pat Bradley returns to defend her title in the \$350,000 LPGA Turquoise Classic that begins Thursday on the Moon Valley layout where she set a course record last year.

That was the first time this tournament was played on this 6,404-yard, par-73 course, and Bradley fired the record-setting third-round 67 en route to a two-stroke victory over Chris Johnson.

But this year's crowd favorite is likely to be Mary Bea Porter of nearby Scottsdale.

She was given an unprecedented exemption into the field because of a drowning youngster last Wednesday while trying unsuccessfully to qualify for this tournament.

Bradley has not been playing well this season. She is not among the top 50 in earnings, for instance, and she didn't do well in Tuesday's sudden-death shootout that pitted the field with each hole.

Bradley missed the green on the second hole, the par-3 11th, to wind up with a bogey and a quick trip back to the clubhouse.

Patty Sheehan, who says she enjoys the shootouts because they give spectators a chance to see the players relax and joke, went on to win over Beth Daniel three holes later.

Sheehan had finished second in the Tucson Open shootout a week earlier, and previous shoot-out wins at Denver and Cincinnati.

"But I didn't win any of those tournaments," she said.

She already has taken one first, two third-places, including the Tucson Open, and a seventh place finish to head the earnings list with \$69,933.

"This is one of my better starts," said Sheehan, a two-time overall LPGA champion in her ninth season.

Sheehan and Daniel, third in earnings, are joined by such other money leaders as No. 2 Ayako Okamoto, JoAnne Carner, Betsy King, British rookie Laura Davies and Jan Stephenson. The field will be cut to low 70 scorers after 36 holes.

## Organizers take steps to improve tennis finals

DALLAS (AP) — Organizers are making some big changes in the \$680,000 World Championship Tennis Finals in a bid to bolster the tournament's attendance and prestige.

Not that the Dallas tournament is suffering — it could gross \$3 million this year. It's just that officials thought changes were needed to ensure the event's success because of a slumping Dallas economy and competition from other spectator sports.

Among the changes for this year's tournament, which runs Tuesday through April 2 at Reunion Arena, are live network television coverage for Saturday's final, the addition of Nabisco Grand Prix bonus points and increased marketing and advertising to attract fans.

Perhaps the most significant change will be new dates for next year's event — Feb. 28-March 4 — that will make it the season's final indoor tournament. The new dates won't conflict with the Virginia Slims of Dallas, tentatively scheduled for November.

Owen Williams, WCT Finals chief executive officer, fought to change the dates because they were not popular with players who had already begun playing outdoor tournaments.

Many who qualified for Dallas have been competing in outdoor tournaments since Feb. 29. The two-week Lipton International Players Championship in Key Biscayne, Fla. — an outdoor tournament — ends two days before Dallas begins.

"I had to bang heads from Timbuktu to Tokyo to get it through," Williams said. "I felt the tournament

needed it because you want the players to come happy. They said it's crazy playing a two-week outdoor tournament then coming into Dallas. The 1989 date will kill that conflict."

What worried Williams more was the potential for injuries to players competing in the LIPC. Top-ranked Ivan Lendl had already withdrawn from the WCT Finals because of a stress fracture, and the loss of other players could have hurt attendance.

But Pat Cash (sore heel), Stefan Edberg (bronchitis) and Boris Becker skipped Lipton, ensuring that the WCT will have seven Top 10 players and four of the top five.

As extra incentive, the WCT's \$200,000 first prize will be supplemented by 700 bonus points, which are part of a year-long competition that awards the bonus pool winner \$800,000.

The change from a Sunday to Saturday final this year will give the WCT Finals live coverage on CBS, which should boost its ratings. Although the WCT sacrificed a Sunday TV appearance and extra revenue, Williams said the noon Saturday final will be more popular with players and fans.

The WCT has a vested interest in its fans.

About 50 percent of its income is generated from ticket sales and about 40 percent from sponsors.

It is the "fifth or sixth largest grossing tournament in the world," Williams said.

Attendance has been consistently good, although last year's five-session tournament attracted 62,434, its lowest turnout since 1983 when it drew 64,690 for eight sessions.

## Astros edge Dodgers 4-3

VERO BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Bob Knepper blanked Los Angeles for six innings and Reid Nichols and Jim Pankovits homered Wednesday as the Houston Astros topped the Dodgers 4-3 in an exhibition baseball game.

Knepper scattered five hits, walked one and struck out four as he evened his spring record at 1-1.

Nichols and Pankovits blasted two-run home runs off Don Sutton to give the Astros all the runs they needed.

The Dodgers scored three runs off reliever Joe Sambito in the seventh inning, but left-hander Juan Agosto pitched out of trouble, and Rocky Childress hurled a scoreless ninth to pick up his first save of the spring.

Second baseman Steve Sax collected three hits and scored a run to lead the Dodger attack.

Houston boosted its record to 11-10 while the Dodgers fell to 15-7.



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