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Duke leads, favorites follow at NCAA

Duke 81, Seton Hall 69

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Duke kept alive its hopes of a second straight national championship and a fifth straight Final Four by avoiding its biggest road-block Thursday night.

The Blue Devils, who were No. 1 from start to finish in the regular season, beat No. 19 Seton Hall 81-69 in the East Regional semifinals and now face Kentucky Saturday night.

A win over the Wildcats would send Duke to Minneapolis and that fifth consecutive Final Four.

On a night when the big scorers didn't score, Duke (31-2) used a balanced attack to beat the team coach Mike Krzyzewski had indicated he feared the most in his bracket.

Seton Hall, which beat Duke in the national semifinals in 1989, trailed 44-42 with 16:42 to play on a jumper in the lane by Terry Dehere.

Duke then took off on a 15-4

run, with four different players scoring to take a 59-46 with 12:10 left.

Kentucky 87, UMass 77

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Kentucky couldn't hit the 3s, so the Wildcats made the most of a T.

No. 6 Kentucky capitalized on a technical foul call against Massachusetts coach John Calipari and overcame poor 3-point shooting to defeat the 17th-ranked Minutemen 87-77 in Thursday night's East Regional semifinals.

Jamal Mashburn had 30 points for Kentucky, which has lived by the 3-pointer this season but made just three of 15 against Massachusetts.

Third-seeded Massachusetts made five 3-pointers.

Indiana 85, Florida State 74

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Four stitches in the chin, 24 points and a fist in the air after nearly dunking a defender — Eric Anderson did it all Thursday

night to put Indiana into NCAA West Regional final with 85-74 victory over Florida State.

Anderson didn't start the game, but came in with Indiana trailing the speedy Seminoles.

Anderson scored 17 points the next 14 minutes before coming out with a bloody chin after slamming into the court fence chasing a loose ball.

UCLA 85, N. Mexico State 78

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — UCLA is back on familiar ground, flashing the fire and nese that built a dynasty.

The Bruins' man-to-man defense and inside scoring tandem Tracy Murray and Don MacLean ended New Mexico State's season Thursday night, 85-78, the semifinals of the West Regional.

Murray, a 6-foot-8 forward with unlimited range, scored 20 points and the 6-10 All-American MacLean added 19 as the Bruins (28-4) advanced to Saturday's game against Indiana (26-6).

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Season provides potential, not wins

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these kids are not failures. They have worked extremely hard to be winners."

Leading scorer David Edwards came to the forefront of a team that desperately needed a leader. He had his struggles as he tried to find his leadership role. Some of those struggles sent him to the bench early.

Edwards found his groove toward the end of a season that he can't help but laugh at when looking back.

"What happened to us this year was crazy if you sit back and look at it," Edwards said.

"A couple of games that we were supposed to win would have turned this season around. I think we should learn from this, and we should be better next year."

"Nobody who ever came to see us play could say that we just gave up or that we never went out fighting. That sums up our whole year."

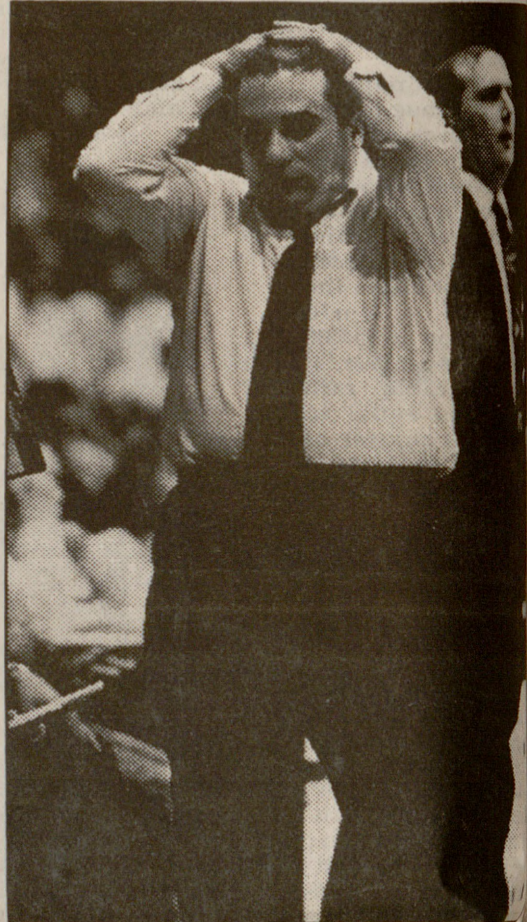
Damon Johnson felt first-hand the problems that accompanied the Aggies this season, with his foot injury in January. Even more agonizing to him than the incessant losses was having to sit out and watch his teammates play for six weeks.

Johnson keeps some faith in the expression that through adversity comes strength.

"Like everybody knows, we had a lot of adversity all through the season," he said. "Overall, I'm not really pleased with the season, but I think we've grown up a lot, and we've grown together as a team. I think that's going to help out in the long run."

Right now, the long run is A&M's saving grace. Aside from the loss of seniors Shedrick Anderson and Anthony Ware, the entire team will be a year older and a year more experienced.

Already, the Aggies have shown that this is a team that can compete with the Alabamas, the Houstons, and the Texans. The next step is to translate hard work and determination into victories. That would make this season worth the sacrifice.



KARL STOLLEIS

A&M head coach Tony Barone showed a great deal of frustration in the Aggies' 6-22 season.

"The learning process is something that hopefully have gone through this year, and the concept of how you win and how you build a program based on the long-term haul, and not the short term," Barone said. "The real issue is - Have we laid a foundation of respectability and credibility for A&M basketball?"

That is the question.

Aggies lack scholarships for future

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they could not come. The NCAA, in effect, had all but cut Barone's throat when it came to asking athletes to become Aggies.

"We had worked extremely hard from May through the summer into the beginning of the year to sign kids," Barone said. "We had to tell two kids, 'No, we don't have the scholarships.'"

Barone's 6-22 team had 10 scholarship players when it began the season, but three of those were expecting to graduate after the season. By the middle of December, junior college transfer Eric Hawthorne and freshman Kevin Barker had left the team for personal reasons.

That left the coach with six scholarship athletes, a handful of walk-ons, and two freshmen on the way. Simple addition told Barone and the A&M program they would have eight scholarships to play next season, compared to the 14 that programs not under NCAA punishment are allowed to have.

The NCAA is continuing to cut down on all of those programs.

Schools will be allowed only 13 during the 1993-94 season, a progressive cut over three years from the original number of 15.

Barone's hands have been tied when it comes to the five scholarships given up by the graduating seniors and the two players who quit. Tedi Zalesky, A&M's Director of Intercollegiate Athletic Compliance, said the punishment handed down by the NCAA is set in stone, and A&M must eat those scholarships in the coming year.

"The penalty specifically states what they (A&M) are allowed to offer for the next year," Zalesky said. "There were not acceptable standards for people who leave or transfer or quit."

"No matter what happens, they're stuck with the sanctions that were handed down."

So Barone and his staff are spending the offseason making trips to the homes and schools of high school juniors, trying to promote the positive aspects of a program that is playing under the cloud of the NCAA.

"We've been doing it all year because we haven't been able to recruit seniors all year," Barone said. "We've gathered informa-

tion, test scores, grades, etc., on seniors that a lot of people don't have because they haven't been able to spend any time doing it."

"Consequently, I think we're ahead of the ball park, right now. How interested are these kids in being in us? That's the question."

The two incoming recruits are well aware of every ordeal the Aggies have suffered through this season, Barone said. They also are aware every ordeal the program may have to suffer in the future.

"I'm looking for guys who want to stay and fight and go through it," Barone said. "You have to have a very special kid here right now."

"The kids on our basketball program are extremely special to me, especially the walk-ons."

Why would they want to go through all this? And they stay and fought."

Barone has chosen to stay and fight, and he has chosen to make the best of what he has.

"I like people to look at A&M as a developing program," Barone said. "We are in the process of developing and if we continue to develop, then we'll have a good basketball program."

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