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Arizona, Kentucky ready for cat figh

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Get the VCRs ready. The pace of the NCAA title game promises to be so fast you might need to watch it in slow motion to catch it all.

Kentucky and Arizona are quick. No, they're quicker than that.

The pressure won't be in trying to repeat as national champion, Kentucky's aim. And it won't be winning the crown for the first time, Arizona's goal. It will come Monday night from defenses that live to force turnovers and create easy baskets.

"Our guys like fast-paced games," Arizona coach Lute Olson said Sunday. "It's going to be like watching a tennis match, so people better do some neck exercises before they come in tomorrow night."

Both teams capitalized on their quickness to reach the title game. Kentucky is well-known for the speed it uses in a variety of defenses, which forced 26 turnovers in Saturday's 78-69 victory over Minnesota in the semifinal.

Arizona (24-9), the only non-No. 1 seed in the Final Four, made its move in the NCAA tournament with wins over top-ranked Kansas, Providence and North Carolina.

"They've got incredible quickness and speed, and they didn't beat Kansas on a fluke game," Kentucky coach Rick Pitino said of Arizona. "They beat Kansas because they were an outstanding team against an outstanding ballclub, and they've been that way throughout the tournament, and they've been that way throughout the season."

Kentucky (35-4) is one win away from becoming the first repeat champion since Duke in 1992, and Pitino would be the seventh coach to win at least two straight titles.

His team bears little resemblance to the one that beat Syracuse for the title last season, except for Ron Mercer, who had 20 points in that championship game as a freshman.

Still, Kentucky uses the pressure defense to get things going even if the opposition has the same strategy.

"When teams press us we try to get large on it," said Kentucky senior Anthony Epps. "About me and Wayne Turner both being point guards, we have two guards to beat the press and we have all five guys to break it. We press each other every day in practice, so we know how to handle it."

Arizona freshman point guard Mike Bibby also didn't sound all that concerned about facing pressure.

"They like to run. We like to run," he said. "Teams that have tried to press us have only broken it a couple of possessions because we have broken it every time. Their press is unbelievable, but they keep coming at you because they don't seem to get tired."

Kentucky also is impressive that way. During an off night by Mercer, Kentucky found a way to score, usually off a turnover or with nine 3-pointers — two of which were back-breakers after Minnesota took its only lead of the game the way through the second half.

FURTICK

Continued from Page 7

The bottom line for this team is Johnson. They will score runs, but they will have to be able to keep a lead.

Projected Record: 94-68

Key Series: April 1-2 vs. New York Yankees: Opening Day in Seattle against the defending World Series champions. The Mariners get a chance to set the tone for the rest of the season with a two-game sweep of their cross-country rivals. Seattle felt they should have been in the post-season last year — here's their chance to prove it.

ANAHEIM ANGELS

The Angel's 1996 season was just a continuation of their 1995 collapse when they lost a 10-1/2 game division lead in the last month of the season. But they still have the core of that team who should have made the playoffs in 1995.

The outfield is one of baseball's most promising and talented. Garret Anderson, Jim Edmonds and Tim Salmon are good enough to carry this team all season, but if Anaheim wants to be around in October, the rest of the team will have to step up. Dave Hollins was acquired to play third base while Gary DiSarcina will stay at shortstop and Randy Velarde will move from third to second. Darin Erstad will replace J.T. Snow at first and Jim Leyritz, the team's most important offseason acquisition, will be behind the plate. Eddie Murray will make his sixth stop in his 21-year career to be the designated hitter.

Chuck Finley and Mark Langston will return as the one-two punch in the starting rotation. Mark Gubicza and Allen Watson will be the No. 4 and No. 5 guys and with the releasing of Todd Van Poppel, Pep Harris and Dennis Springer will battle for the last spot. Troy Percival was one of the league's most dominating closers in 1996. He will headline a bullpen that doesn't have many holes. Mike Holtz, Chuck McElroy, Mike James and Jason Dickson are expected to do most of the middle-inning work.

The Angels are a team that has the talent to surprise the entire division. It will be new manager Terry Collins' job to make them believe they can do it.

Projected Record: 82-80

Key Series: Sept. 25-28 vs. Texas Rangers: Anaheim will get a chance to play spoiler for the Rangers if they can take three or four games in this season finale.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS

Oakland is in a self-proclaimed rebuilding year. This team played as well as it could have last season, finishing 78-84, but they probably won't improve this year.

Jose Canseco was the biggest off-season acquisition, not because he's still a dominating player, but because he will be reunited with fellow Bash Brother, Mark McGuire, again. Scott Brosius will start at third base and Brent Gates at second. Tony Batista, after having a nice rookie season, will move to short. Izzy Molina will get the call to catch, but the A's will surely pick up a veteran backstop to nurse the rookie along. In the outfield the A's have three good hitters — Jason Ja[illegible]ambi, Ernie Young and Geronimo Berroa, but Young is the only one of these three that has major league outfield skills.

Willie Anderson, Ariel Prieto and Mike Mohler are locks for the starting rotation. The rest of the staff will surface during spring training or at least they are supposed to. The bullpen is deep with solid arms, but no one knows what their role will be. The three main hurlers in the pen are probably Buddy Groom, Jason Corsi and Billy Taylor.

No matter how bad Oakland plays this season, it will still be fun to watch them. They can flat-out pound the ball and should give a lot of teams' young pitchers trouble.

Projected Record: 75-87

Key Series: Aug. 30-31 @ Colorado Rockies: In the first summer in Major League Baseball history, interleague games will be played in the regular season. This series will be one of the more interesting match-ups of the interleague schedule. The reunited Bash Brothers and their A's teammates should enjoy the thin Denver air.

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FRIDAY
6:30-10pm Preliminary competition
noon-3:30 Rotation 1

SATURDAY
1:30 March In
2:00 Finals I
2:45 Finals II
4:00 Awards Ceremony

Intramurals
More Than Just Fun and Games

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Intramural Registration Dates

Sport	Registration	Fee
Penberthy Softball Tournament	Mar. 17-Apr. 8	$40
Putt Putt Doubles	Mar. 31-Apr. 8	*
Golf	Mar. 31-Apr. 8	**
Baseball Hitting	April 7-15	free
Fun Run	April 14-22	free

*Cost of one round of putt putt golf at that course
** Cost of Green Fee at the Texas A&M Golf Course

Intramural Event Time Change
Swim Meet has been moved from Tue. April 1, to Wed. April 2. Finals will be held on Thurs. April

TAMU Outdoors

Horseback & Rafting Trip
May 25-31 $468/514*
Explore the rim of the fabulous Rio Grande Gorge on horseback and feel the rush of rafting down the famous Taos Box--New Mexico's premier whitewater! You will love soaking awayevery last bit of stress in those historic hot springs. Don't miss you chance to experience six days of surrounded by beautiful scenery and thrilling adventure with TAMU Outdoors.

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Backpacking The Grand Canyon
May 10-18 $283/325*
Join TAMU Outdoors on an awsome exploration of the Grand Canyon. You can travel through geologic time experiencing the vast array of colors, rock formations and climactic zones of this magnificnet natural wonder.

Spring TAMU Outdoors Schedule

Event	Date	Register	Fee*/**
•Rock Climbing Clinic Sport lead Climbing	April 1	March 17-31	$20
• Women's Rock Climbing Trip	April 4-6	March 17-31	$65/72
• Wildflower Bike Ride	April 5	March 17-31	$25/30
•Kayak Roll Clinic	April 8	Mar. 24-Apr. 7	$12/15
•Rock Climbing Clinic Basic Movement	April 8	Mar 24-April 7	$20
•Backpacking Trip	April 11-13	Mar. 24-Apr. 7	$45/54
Scuba Open Water Diver Course April 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 26, & 27 6-10pm Rec Center		Mar. 17-Apr14	$150/180

*Students & faculty with Rec Memberships
**Faculty/staff without Rec Memberships and Bryan/College Station Community Members

SAILING /DIVING IN THE BAHAMAS $689*
Join TAMU Outdoors as we sail on our Blackbeard's cruise and trace the historic route of pirate ships and treasure galleons. Explore palm and pine islands, walk white sandy beaches and swim in crystal water. Come SCUBA diving, lobstering, sunbathing, and fishing with Rec Sports this summer.
August 16-22
*Price includes cruise package including meals, fishing, and unlimited SCUBA diving. Transportation to and from Miami, FL to board the ship is not included.

Feature Program
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Choose From 5 Different Sessions!
Session II: April 4-6
Session III: April 18-20
Session VI: May 7-9
Session V: May 12-14
Session VI: May 15-17
*Alternative price for non Rec-member based on availability
$110*
Get your Lifeguard certification with Rec Sports. Receive American Red Cross lifeguard training, CPR for the professional rescuer, and standard first aid training. The certification course will be held at the Student Recreation Center Natatorium.

American Taekwondo
Training includes development of balance, speed, agility, rythm, muscular strength, and endurance. Clas is Mon. & Wed. 6:30-7:30pm, Mar. 31-Apr. 29

Yoga
Relieve stress, increase felxibilty, build strength, and learn to physically and mentally relax. class session is March 24-April 24, Tuesdays & Thursdays.

Jazz Dance
Jazz up your workout with Rec Sports. Classes are Apr. 1-May 1, Thuesdays and Thursdays 6:45pm-7:45pm.

AEROBIC INSTRUCTORS WANTED!
Rec Sports will hire aerobic instructors for the summer and fall semesters. To apply fill out the yellow fitness applications at the 2nd floor reception desk of the Rec Center 8am-5:15pm, Mon-Fri. Last day to apply is April 18. For more information, call DeAun 862-3995.

Hiring for Fall
Rec Sports Marketing Department
Photographer $5.15 to $5.40 an hour
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• knowledge of darkroom equipment
• some understanding of sports composition
• Portfolio of work (action shots prefered)
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