



Every year, thousands of Americans fill out NCAA Men's Basketball brackets hoping to be one of the select few to fill out a "perfect bracket." The bracket season, or March Madness, is a season where people are glued to the TV screen, watching phenomenal basketball that includes emphatic dunks, big time shots, and the famous buzzer beaters.

This year has been full of madness. As crazy as buzzer beaters are, there has not been a single game winning shot at the buzzer this entire tournament, which is extremely rare. In comparison, last year, in the first round alone, there were six games that were won at the buzzer.

"Shockingly," there were less than 100 perfect brackets on ESPN and CBS after the first round upsets, including #2 Missouri (which ruined my bracket) and #2 Duke (which I really enjoyed but also ruined my bracket). Following the second round, not a single perfect bracket existed on a registered website. The quest will continue to next year I guess.

Every year, once our bracket is busted, we sit and anticipate the greatest upsets of all time, a basketball Cinderella story. Last year's Cinderella team, Virginia Commonwealth, made it all the way to the Final Four as a twelfth-seeded team, and this year they looked like they could make a run. Indiana, however, defeated them in a close game, just two points, 63-61. This, however, allowed for a rematch of Kentucky's only regular season loss at the buzzer.

Last year's NCAA Champion, University of Connecticut, was eliminated in the first round, which is uncommon in the tournament's history. Iowa State, though they were an eight seed,



upset the defending national champions by 13 points.

Up through the first two rounds, every single Ohio college was undefeated, and all four teams, Ohio University, Xavier University, Ohio State University, and University of Cincinnati, all reached the Sweet Sixteen. OU, a thirteen seed, upset the fourth seeded Michigan in the first round. OU's D.J. Cooper lead all scorers with an impressive 21 points in route to their five point victory.

In OSU's first round, they dominated the entire game in their victory of Loyola-Maryland, 78-59. Deshaun Thomas set the record for this year's tournament by scoring 31 points in one game to help the Buckeyes. In their second round, OSU's entire team contributed significantly, with Liberty-Benton graduate Aaron Craft scored 17 points with 10 assists, Jared Sullinger adding 18 points, and Thomas with another 18 point game.

Cincinnati faced off against University of Texas in the first round, and dominated in the first half, starting the game on an 18-2 run. But the game quickly became close with Texas's big second half, but the Bearcats

survived and won 65-59. The Bearcats were lead by Yancy Gates who had 15 points and 10 rebounds. They next played the the ACC Champion Florida State, a #3 seed. The Bearcats completed the upset with Sean Kilpatrick's 18 point game to lead Cincinnati to the Sweet Sixteen.

Lastly, Xavier upset #7 Notre Dame in the first round by just four points. Xavier senior guard Tu Holloway led all scorers with 25 points to bring the Musketeers to the second round. After some brilliant play in the backcourt for the first round, Xavier's post players began to step up. Senior Kenny Frease dominated in the paint against Lehigh, who upset #2 powerhouse Duke in the first round, and had 25 points and 12 rebounds.

Unfortunately, all of Ohio's teams were defeated in the Sweet Sixteen with the exception of Ohio State, who defeated Cincinnati 81-66. The Buckeyes were once again led by sophomore Deshaun Thomas with 26 points. Craft played one of his best defensive games by forcing over ten turnovers and being credited with six steals.

OSU faced Syracuse, the #1 seed in that region, in the Elite Eight on Saturday. The game

was very close, with constant lead changes, and throughout the second half, both teams made runs that seemed like they would for sure win.

But Jared Sullinger played a very strong game, leading the Buckeyes with 19 points and allowing OSU to advance to the Final Four after winning 77-70.

This whole week, the Final Four (Kansas, Kentucky, Ohio State, and Louisville) will prepare for the most intense weekend of basketball of the year. The #1 overall Kentucky is facing off against in-state rival Louisville at 6:00 on Saturday. The game should be very intense due to the rivalry and the fame of each team's coach, John Callipari (Kentucky) and Rick Putino (Louisville).

Ohio State faces off against Kansas following the first game, at 8:45. Ohio State's scoring ability will be challenged against Kansas's defensive ability in a very intense matchup.

All of the wonderful madness ends on Monday, where the winners of the Final Four will play in the NCAA Division I National Championship, or "The Dance." The game will be played in the New Orleans, LA Super Dome and will be live on CBS at 9:00.

I'm hoping for a spectacular and fast paced game, in comparison to last year's game where both teams scored in the 50's. This game will be one of the greatest in history, hopefully, and thousands, if not millions, will be watching the very last college game of the year. So sit back and enjoy the game, because a majority of people's brackets are probably busted as well.