

'Big Dance' selections not logical

Many questions came to mind when the 64-team field for the NCAA basketball tournament was announced last Sunday. Most notably was the curious snubbing of certain teams that deservedly merited a bid to the "Big Dance" but failed to get one.

Teams like Fresno State, Davidson, Minnesota and Providence had all met the necessary qualifications, but were overlooked in favor of teams like Clemson, California and Kansas State.

The criteria used by the NCAA selection committee is neither easily understood nor all that familiar to anyone outside the committee's little group, which meets to decide the fate of the teams on the "bubble." But what is easily understood is that there are flaws in the selection system.

Compare Clemson and Davidson. Clemson heads to the tournament with a respectable 18-10 overall record, but its Atlantic Coast Conference record is 7-9.

Davidson, on the other hand, is 25-4, including a remarkable undefeated conference record. Granted, Davidson doesn't have to go up against Wake Forest or Maryland on any given night, but neither does Wisconsin-Green Bay (25-3) or Santa Clara (19-8).

Clemson's big win over North Carolina in the ACC tournament is what most likely parlayed the team into the tournament. A big win against a big team will make a good team look great. But this is exactly why it was shocking that Fresno State didn't make it in.

The Bulldogs went 20-10 on the year including two wins against top-ranked Utah and a triple overtime loss to New Mexico in the Western Athletic Conference tournament. Both Utah and New Mexico received high seeds in the tournament.

Another oddity is found when filling out the tournament brackets: After going back and forth between first and second place in the national polls, UMass and Kentucky are pitted to meet each other no higher than the Final Four.

UMass has the No. 1 seed in the East bracket, while Kentucky has the No. 1 seed in the Midwest bracket. The

OPINION



Chris Hansen



Courtesy Photo
True freshman Ben Crane led the Oregon Green team at the Duck Invitational on Monday and Tuesday by firing an even combined score of 216. True freshman Andrew Tredway played for Oregon's Yellow team and also notched a 216 in the tournament.

Ducks' first team falters at Duck Invite

■ MEN'S GOLF: Oregon's second team finishes ahead of its counting team

By Trevor Kearney
Sports Editor

It's not too often that a second-string squad outplays a first-string squad.

But that is exactly what happened as the two-day Duck Invitational played at the Shadow Hills Country Club in Junction City, spelling doom for the Oregon men's golf team, as the Ducks placed 14th in the 15-team field, an even 30 strokes behind first-place San Jose State.

The Ducks' "Green" first team, composed of the golfers who had the best scores in last week's practice, had a sub-par first day of golf on Monday, shooting a combined 596.

Two of the Ducks' top golfers, Jeff Barney and Chris Cone, had off-days on Monday, as Barney shot an eight-over-par 152 and Cone shot a 13-over par 157. The Ducks were led by true freshman Ben Crane, who shot a one-under-par 143.

But the Oregon "Yellow" team, composed of the five golfers who didn't make the first

team, shot a combined 588, good for a first-day seventh-place tie. Redshirt freshman Adrian Burtner led the way with a one-under par 143, while true freshman Andrew Tredway was one stroke back with a combined score of 144.

The "Green" team finished the tournament in sole possession of 14th place with a combined score of 894, but the "Yellow" team finished in a 10th-place tie with Portland State with a team score of 888.

Unfortunately for Oregon though, the "Yellow" team's placing doesn't count in the standings, as the second team was added only to let more Oregon players play in the Ducks' sole home tournament.

Crane paced the first team with an even score of 216, good for a five-way tie for eighth place. One of those other eighth-place golfers was Tredway, who shot an even 72 in the concluding round of golf.

San Jose State came back from a fourth-place finish on Monday to beat Oregon State, whose two teams dominated the first two rounds, in a tie breaker round. San Jose State shot a team score of 864.

Camby just misses unanimous selection

■ ALL-AMERICA: Ray Allen, Tim Duncan, Allen Iverson and Kerry Kittles join the UMass star on the Associated Press first team

(AP) Marcus Camby came within one vote of being a unanimous selection to The Associated Press' All-America team Tuesday, and the Big East became the first conference ever to have three players selected to the first team.

Camby, the 6-foot-11 junior center who drew as much attention this season for collapsing before a game as for what he did on the court, is the first player from Massachusetts to be selected to the first team.

He was joined on the first team by Ray Allen of Connecticut, Allen Iverson of Georgetown, Kerry Kittles — all from the Big East — and Wake Forest center Tim Duncan.

All but one voter on the 66-member national media panel had Camby on the first team. Camby received 328 points in the 5-3-1 voting, edging out Allen, the junior swingman who had 324.

Iverson, the sophomore guard who may be the quickest player in the game, received 318 points — four more than Duncan, a junior who plays the more traditional center role than Camby's open-court style. Kittles, the only senior on the first team, had 246 points.

Duncan and Kittles both ended long droughts for first-team honors for their schools. Wake Forest's last first-team selection was Len Chappell in 1962; for Villanova, it was Howard Porter in 1971.

Camby averaged 20.7 points, 8 rebounds and 3.8 blocks this season as the Minutemen went 31-1 and held the No. 1 ranking for 10 weeks, longer than any other team.

"There are some terrific players around the country, but with Marcus I don't have to do

any posturing," Massachusetts coach John Calipari said Tuesday. "Other people say he is the best player in the country; I don't have to. Good players put up numbers. Special players make everyone around them better. Marcus Camby is a special player."

Camby, an honorable mention All-America as a sophomore, collapsed before the St. Bonaventure game in January, missed four games and returned to lead the Minutemen to their fifth-straight Atlantic 10 regular-season and tournament championships.

"The individual honors are nice, but I would trade them all if it meant we would win the national championship," Camby said.

Allen, a 6-5 junior, made the jump from third team to first team by averaging 23.3 points and 6.5 rebounds while leading the Huskies to the Big East regular-season and tournament titles, the former with a league-record 17-1 mark.

"This is a high honor that I'll cherish," he said. "I felt this season would be a challenge because other teams would be gunning for us because of our success in the past. Our success as a team unit has allowed me to reap this special individual honor."

The only sophomore on the first team, 6-1 Iverson was a highlight clip waiting to happen this season for the Hoyas, averaging 24.7 points, 3.8 rebounds, 5 assists and 3.5 steals. He was selected the Big East defensive player of the year for the second time and was an honorable mention All-America last season.

"It's a great honor," he said. "It's something I always wanted to be."

The 6-10 Duncan put up consistent numbers as the Demon Deacons became the first team to repeat as Atlantic Coast Conference tournament champions in 14 years. A third-team selection last year as a sophomore, he averaged

1995-96 AP ALL-AMERICA BASKETBALL TEAM

FIRST TEAM

- Marcus Camby, Massachusetts, 6-11, 215, junior, 20.7 ppg, 8.0 rpg, 3.8 blocks (328 points)
- Ray Allen, Connecticut, 6-5, 205, junior, 23.3 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 3.4 apg, 46.6 3-pt fg pct, 84.3 ft pct (324)
- Allen Iverson, Georgetown, 6-1, 175, sophomore, 24.7 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 5.0 apg, 3.5 spg (318)
- Tim Duncan, Wake Forest, 6-10, 230, junior, 19.6 ppg, 12.3 rpg, 3.8 bpg, 55.9 fg pct, 37.6 mpg (314)
- Kerry Kittles, Villanova, 6-5, 180, senior, 20.5 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 3.5 apg, 2.4 spg (246)

SECOND TEAM

- Keith Van Horn, Utah, 6-9, 227, junior, 21.7 ppg, 9.1 rpg, 53.7 fg pct, 41.3 3-pt fg pct, 84.9 ft pct (189)
- Tony Delk, Kentucky, 6-1, 190, senior, 17.5 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 1.9 spg, 49.9 fg pct, 43.9 3-pt fg pct, 83.3 ft pct, 25.9 mpg (180)
- Danny Fortson, Cincinnati, 6-7, 245, sophomore, 20.7 ppg, 9.2 rpg, 55.0 fg pct, 26.8 mpg (171)
- Jacques Vaughn, Kansas, 6-0, 195, junior, 11.0 ppg, 6.3 apg, 45.0 3-pt fg pct (152)
- John Wallace, Syracuse, 6-8, 225, senior, 22.3 ppg, 8.8 rpg, 2.4 apg, 40.0 3-pt fg pct (140)

THIRD TEAM

- Stephen Marbury, Georgia Tech, 6-1, 180, freshman, 18.7 ppg, 4.3 apg, 37.3 mpg (84)
- Lorenzen Wright, Memphis, 6-11, 230, sophomore, 17.5 ppg, 10.5 rpg, 54.5 fg pct, 2.0 blocks (81)
- Shareef Abdur-Rahim, California, 6-10, 225, freshman, 21.6 ppg, 8.7 rpg, 52.3 fg pct (82)
- Brian Evans, Indiana, 6-8, 220, senior, 21.7 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 4.0 apg, 40.4 3-pt fg pct, 84.6 ft pct, 37.3 mpg (57)
- Jason Sasser, Texas Tech, 6-7, 210, senior, 19.0 ppg, 8.0 rpg, 2.9 apg (54)

HONORABLE MENTION

- Drew Barry, Georgia Tech; Marcus Brown, Murray State; Ace Custis, Virginia Tech; Erick Dampier, Mississippi State; Adonal Foster, Colgate; Todd Fuller, North Carolina State; Matt Harpring, Georgia Tech; Ronnie Henderson, LSU; Brevin Knight, Stanford; Pete Lisicky, Penn State; Marcus Mann, Mississippi Valley State; Anquell McCollum, Western Carolina; Ryan Minor, Oklahoma; Steve Nash, Santa Clara; Jeff Nordgaard, Wisconsin-Green Bay; Charles O'Bannon, UCLA; Edgar Padilla, Massachusetts; Malik Rose, Drexel; Shea Seal, Tulsa; Jess Settles, Iowa; Antoine Walker, Kentucky; Bonzi Wells, Ball State; Detric Wiloughby, Iowa State