

## SPORTS

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## NCAA WOMEN

## UConn, Irish, SC, Baylor top seeds in NAAs

By DOUG FEINBERG  
 Associated Press

NEW YORK — UConn's drive for five will begin at home.

Winners of 107 straight games, coach Geno Auriemma and the Huskies won't have to leave the state of Connecticut in the NCAA Tournament until the Final Four as they try for an unprecedented fifth consecutive national championship.

The top seed will open at home on Saturday against Albany and if they advance to the Bridgeport Regional would have a short drive.

"I worry sometimes about being at home. I worry about the distractions that kids have," Auriemma said.

"When you are on the road you can just huddle everybody up and you can eliminate a lot of distractions. Sometimes the officials get funny against the home team in the NCAA Tournament."

While the Huskies won't have to leave the state until potentially heading to Dallas for the national semifinals, the other No. 1 seeds aren't as lucky.

South Carolina is the top seed in Stockton, California. The Gamecocks are headed out of the Eastern time zone for the third time in four seasons. The Gamecocks' lone trip to the Final Four came when they played a regional in Greensboro in 2015.

"I don't know what more we can do," South Carolina coach Dawn Staley said. "We won our conference

tournament to play closer. Two years ago, we got sent to Greensboro. Last year, we had to take the time zone flight, over two time zones. I thought it was our turn to get flipped back to the Greensboro kind of ideology. I'm not going to say it's not fair. But they got to figure out a different way."

Baylor is the No. 1 in the Oklahoma City Regional and Notre Dame is the top choice in Lexington, Kentucky.

NCAA selection committee chair Terry Gawlik defended the choice to send South Carolina out west again.

"It made the most sense for the good of the game and the student-athlete experience to go out to Stockton and have Baylor go to Oklahoma City," she said.



AP Photo/Jessica Hill

The Connecticut women's basketball team pose with the American Athletic Conference championship trophy after defeating South Florida in a college basketball game tournament final in Uncasville, Conn., March 6.

## Goodyear retires blimps but keeps familiar form up in the air

By JOHN ROGERS  
 Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Goodyear has let the helium out of the last of its fabled fleet of blimps, but the company's flight program will continue.

About two dozen employees were on hand early today to witness the deflation of California-based Spirit of Innovation.

But shed no tears, blimp fans, you'll still see a familiar blue-and-gold form floating over your favorite sports event or awards show.

Although the blimp's replacement, Wingfoot Two, will look about the same when it arrives at Goodyear's airship base in Carson later this year, it will be a semi-rigid dirigible.

Such aircraft, one of which has already replaced Goodyear's Florida blimp, have a frame, which means they maintain their shape when the helium is drained. Blimps, on the other hand, go flat. Wingfoot Two, currently operating in Ohio, will be replaced by yet another dirigible when it leaves there for Southern California.

Far more important to Goodyear is that the new airships are faster, quieter, larger, easier to fly and more maneuverable than the blimps it introduced more than 90 years ago. Still, the company plans to keep calling the new models blimps.



AP Photo/Eric Risberg

The Goodyear Blimp "Spirit of Innovation" lands after a flight over Super Bowl fan sites in Livermore, Calif., in 2016.

## SCOREBOARD

## PREP SCHEDULE

## TODAY

Baseball — North Marion at Astoria, 4:30 p.m. (at CMH Field); Seaside at Molalla, 4:30 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY

Baseball — Nestucca at Warrenton, 4 p.m.

Softball — North Marion at Astoria, 4:30 p.m.

## THURSDAY

Baseball — Knappa at Kennedy, 4:30 p.m.

Softball — Astoria at Gladstone, 5 p.m.

## FRIDAY

Baseball — Sandy at Astoria, 4:30 p.m.

## SATURDAY

Baseball — Gladstone at Astoria, 1 p.m.; Blanchet Catholic at Warrenton, 3 p.m.

## NCAA MEN



AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh

Northwestern coach Chris Collins, right, and guard/forward Sanjay Lumpkin react while watching television coverage of the NCAA men's basketball tournament selection show Sunday at Welsh-Ryan Arena in Evanston, Ill. Northwestern, in its first tournament appearance, will play Vanderbilt.

## Tears and double takes and then, Northwestern

By EDDIE PELLIS  
 Associated Press

There were tears in Syracuse, head-scratching about Duke and more than a few double takes at Wichita State.

At Northwestern, they simply celebrated.

On a Selection Sunday that was more about minor quibbles than pure outrage, Northwestern's first trip to the NCAA Tournament in program history stole the headlines — reminding hardcore fans and casual bracket-fillers alike that March Madness really is that time of year when anything can happen.

The forever also-rans from outside of Chicago knew they'd see their name pop up when the brackets were released, but when they did, they partied anyway. Group hugs. Selifes. A huge sigh of relief and a celebration for a Big Ten program that's always been big on smarts, short on hoops.

"I'm used to being part of all the 'firsts' here," said senior Vic Law. "I was Coach (Chris) Collins' first recruit. That belief that we all had — that vision that me and Coach Collins shared — was that this would be different."

Action in the tournament begins today with opening-round games, and things get into full swing Thursday. The Final Four starts April 1 in Phoenix.

Defending champion Villanova was the tournament's top seed, the first time a defending champion has earned that honor since Florida in 2007, when the Gators went back-to-back.

Joining Kris Jenkins and 'Nova on the "1" line were Kansas, North

Carolina and Gonzaga.

A few more notes and notables from Selection Sunday:

**SYRACUSE:** Orange coach Jim Boeheim said his players were crying when they didn't see their team's name come up during the selection show. Syracuse had an 18-14 record, nearly identical to its mark last year, when the Orange made it into the field to a chorus of protests. Syracuse responded by making a run to the Final Four. Boeheim: "I think our team was a little bit better than we were last year going into the tournament. We had the ability to win." Instead, they'll try to win in the NIT.

**DUKE:** Some bracketologists moved Duke into the '1' position over North Carolina on the strength of the Blue Devils' four-win-in-four-night run at the Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament. Not so fast, said selection committee chairman Mark Hollis. He said Duke began the week as a No. 4 seed and never really moved into consideration as a 1. Duke moved up until it ran up against two teams that took both their regular-season and tournament titles — Arizona and Kentucky.

**WICHITA STATE:** In the latest Associated Press poll, Wichita State is ranked 20th. If rankings equaled seedings, that would make the Shockers no worse than a No. 4. Imagine their shock when their name showed up with a "10" by it. "I'm just glad they didn't forget about us," coach Gregg Marshall said. The Missouri Valley Tournament champs won 30 games. About that AP ranking, Marshall said: "Somehow, 20 divided by four equals ten. But that's OK.

That's the way it's been for a long time. I don't know what we'd do if we were a really good seed most of the time." Seeded first in 2014, the Shockers ran into a Kentucky team that was surprisingly seeded eighth, and lost in the second round.

**BRAIN BOWL:** No matter how the game ends up, the guys from Northwestern and Vanderbilt will probably turn out OK. The West Region's 8 vs. 9 matchup pits two of the strongest academic schools in the country. Said Northwestern athletic director Jim Phillips: "Maybe at halftime we'll compare SAT and ACT scores."

**UNDERAPPRECIATED:** Oregon slipped to a No. 3 seed, in large part because of the season-ending injury to shot-blocking star Chris Boucher. Middle Tennessee State, with 30 wins and most of the roster back from the team that beat Michigan State last year, is a 12 seed — possibly a couple slots too low and setting up No. 5 Minnesota for a tough opening game. Baylor looked like a 2 on most lists but slid to a 3, in a flip-flop with Louisville.

**MATCHUPS-PLAYERS:** Gonzaga's Przemek Karnowski vs. South Dakota State's Mike Daum. Karnowski is one of the biggest and craftiest big men in the country — a 7-foot-1, 300-pound force on the inside. Daum is the highest-scoring player in the tournament, at 25.3 points a game (with 8.2 rebounds).

**COMING IN HOT:** Teams carrying the longest win streaks into the tournament: Vermont (21 games), Princeton (19), SMU (16), Wichita State (15), Kentucky (11 games), Middle Tennessee State (10).



AP Photo/Andy Clayton-King

Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson carries the ball during an NFL football game against the Green Bay Packers in Minneapolis.

## Peterson takes free agent visit to Seattle

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Adrian Peterson visited the Seattle Seahawks, while his original team in Minnesota hosted fellow free agent running back Eddie Lacy.

There's still a path for Peterson to return to the Vikings, but the signs of his potential departure haven't stopped popping up.

Peterson was at Seahawks headquarters on Sunday, according to a person with knowledge of the situation who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the details weren't being made public. This was Peterson's first in-person meeting with a team since the Vikings declined their option on his contract for 2017 and made him a free agent for the first time.

The Vikings have stated their openness to re-signing their all-time leading rusher for the right price, but they entered the offseason with bigger priorities and kicked it off by adding two new starters on a beleaguered offensive line in free agent tackles Riley Reiff and Mike Remmers.

That said, they'll probably need to sign a veteran running back at some point with Jerick McKinnon currently the only one on the roster of significance. So their interest in Lacy was telling. The Seahawks have their eyes on Lacy, too, after the 26-year-old's 2016 season with the Green Bay Packers was shortened by an ankle injury.

SportsTrust Advisors, the agency representing Lacy, announced Thursday on Twitter that he would visit the Seahawks, Vikings and Packers in that order over the following four days. Lacy rushed for 1,100 yards in 2013 and 2014, his first two seasons in the league, before falling off.

With Thomas Rawls and C.J. Prosise in place, the Seahawks have youth and potential at running back, but with Rawls missing 12 of 36 games over his first two years to ankle and leg injuries their depth isn't necessarily sound.

With Jamaal Charles and Latavius Murray also on the list with Peterson and Lacy, plenty of high-profile ballcarriers remain available following the initial frenzy on the market for more in-demand positions.