

# SPORTS

## Showtime for the NCAA

A look at the Final Four

For the first time in NCAA history, all four No. 1-ranked teams advanced to college basketball's most-anticipated weekend.

Memphis will take on UCLA in the first semifinal this Saturday, April 5, followed that night by Kansas and North Carolina, with the winners facing off on Monday, April 7 for the national championship.

The Final Four teams have an unbelievable combined record of 143-9, and here's a look at each:

### UCLA

**Record:** 35-3

**Who's hot:** You'd be hard-pressed to find many players that have had a better NCAA tournament than 6-foot-9 freshman Kevin Love, averaging 21.8 points and 11 rebounds in the Big Dance.

**Pivotal player:** Don't be surprised if Russell Westbrook bolts for the NBA. His athleticism gives opponents fits on the defensive end and often leads to some easy buckets in transition.

**Best in the clutch:** No Bruin makes bigger shots than junior guard Darren Collison, who kept his team alive in the NCAA tournament by making a high layup off the glass in the closing seconds of a two-point, second-round victory over Texas A&M.

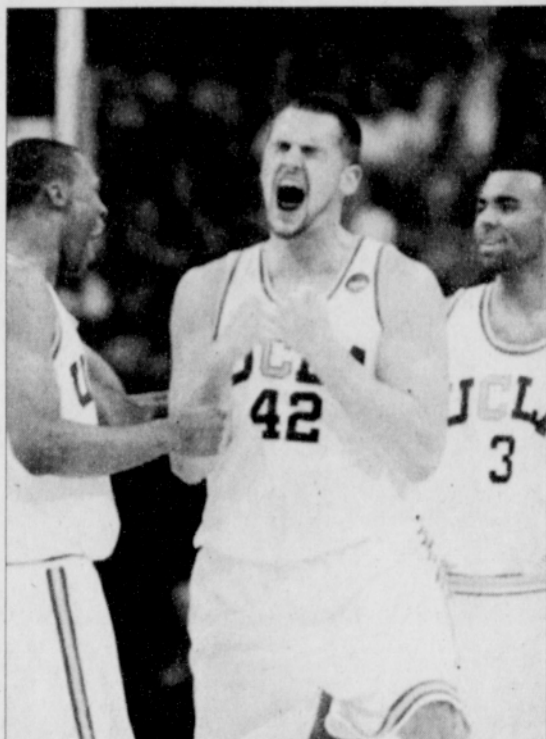
**Fast fact:** This will be the third consecutive Final Four appearance for UCLA, which hasn't won a national championship since 1995.

**Analysis:** Even up-tempo, high-scoring teams such as Memphis struggle to put the ball in the basket against UCLA.

### MEMPHIS

**Record:** 37-1

**Who's hot:** Memphis' freshman point guard Derrick Rose is coming into his own at the right time. He averaged 20.5 points in his first four NCAA tournament games and may be the best player in the Final



UCLA Bruins players Russell Westbrook, left, and Kevin Love react to a basket against Xavier with Josh Shipp last Saturday.

Four field.

**Pivotal player:** No Memphis player will be as important against UCLA as Joey Dorsey, whose match-up with Bruins forward Kevin Love will make for one of the more compelling semifinal story lines.

**Best in the clutch:** The guy who time and time again has made the big play down the stretch, guard Chris Douglas-Roberts didn't earn All-American honors for nothing.

**Analysis:** So much for that notion that Memphis was the weakest No. 1 seed in this year's tournament. The Tigers defeated their previous two opponents (Michigan State and Texas) by 18 points each.

### NORTH CAROLINA

**Record:** 36-2

**Who's hot:** Junior forward Tyler Hansbrough is averaging 21 points and 9.5 rebounds in the NCAA tournament, and he's scored in double figures in every game this season.

**Pivotal player:** Even though they kept winning, the Tar Heels weren't the same team when Ty Lawson missed six games in February with an injury.

**Best in the clutch:** Tyler Hansbrough's a force on the glass and is shooting 80.6 percent from the foul stripe.

**Analysis:** The Tar Heels averaged 93 points in their first four NCAA tournament games, which should make for a fun match-up against Kansas, a team that thrives in an up-tempo game.



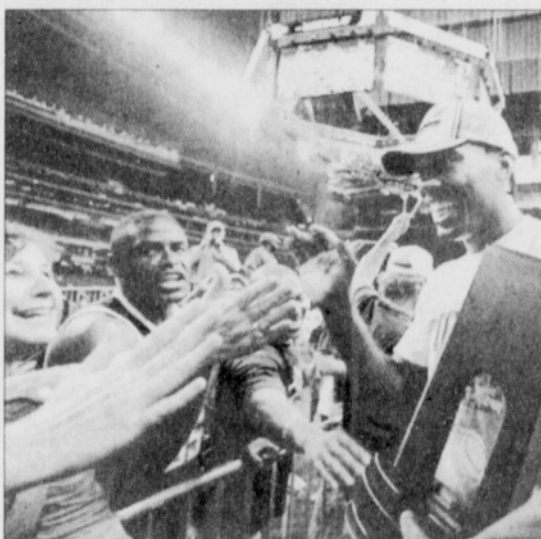
North Carolina players, from left, Jack Wooten, Deon Thompson and Quentin Thomas celebrate Saturday's victory over Louisville.

### KANSAS

**Record:** 35-3

**Who's hot:** Sasha Kaun scored 13 points off the bench against Davidson on Sunday and has been the Jayhawks' best and most consistent post player over the past three weeks.

**Most pivotal player:** Kansas is a different team when Brandon Rush is at his best. He made just four



Memphis forward Joey Dorsey holds the trophy to fans after defeating Texas, 85-67, in the NCAA South Regional basketball final last weekend.



Kansas players hoist the trophy after beating Davidson 59-57 in the NCAA Midwest Regional basketball final last Sunday.

of 14 shots against Davidson on Sunday, but he continues to contribute in so many other ways.

**Clutch player:** Mario Chalmers is creative in the lane and has a soft touch on his midrange jumper and has the ability to catch fire from beyond the arc.

**Analysis:** If the Jayhawks are ever going to win an NCAA title, this is the year to do it.

## Timbers Sign Japanese Star

The Portland Timbers last week signed Japanese forward and 2002 World Cup participant Takayuki Suzuki, who has made 55 appearances and scored 11 goals as a member of Japan's National Team.

"Takayuki is probably one of the biggest, if not the biggest, signing the Timbers have made since joining the USL First Division," said Gavin Wilkinson, Timbers head coach and general manager.

A native of Hitachi, the left-footed Suzuki will be available for the Timbers

preseason matches, next a game against University of Portland April 11 in north Portland.

"It's an honor to be playing for the Timbers," said Suzuki. "I'm looking forward to the opportunity to come in, contribute up front and be a piece that helps this team win a championship."

The Timbers open this year's campaign against the Puerto Rico Islanders on April 17 at PGE Park. Tickets, starting at \$11, are available through local Ticketmaster outlets or through the Timbers' ticket office at 503-553-5555.



Takayuki Suzuki

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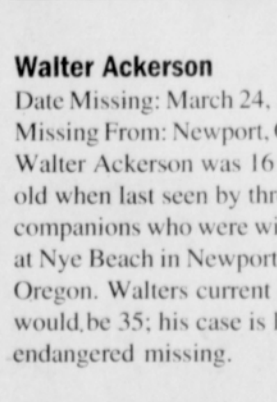
## Cold Case Files Oregon Missing Children

The cases featured this week are all Oregon children missing from the Oregon Coast. A Toll-Free Hotline: 1-800-282-7155 is maintained by the Clearinghouse to receive any information on missing children.



**Duane Fochtman**

Date Missing: July, 22, 1986  
Missing From: Lincoln City, OR  
Duane Fochtman's current age would be 36; he was last seen in downtown Lincoln City, in July of 1986. He has not been seen since; Duane's case is listed endangered runaway.



**Walter Ackerson**

Date Missing: March 24, 1990  
Missing From: Newport, OR  
Walter Ackerson was 16 years old when last seen by three male companions who were with him at Nye Beach in Newport, Oregon. Walters current age would be 35; his case is listed as endangered missing.



**Kami Vollandroff**

Date Missing: November 11, 2001  
Missing From: Depoe Bay, OR  
Kami Vollandroff was last seen, when she and her boyfriend, Eugene Hyatt, left to take a walk along the ocean shore near Depoe Bay, Oregon. They have not been seen or heard from since. Kami's current age would be 24; her case is listed as endangered missing.



**Eugene Hyatt**

Date Missing: November 11, 2001  
Missing From: Depoe Bay, OR  
Eugene Hyatt was last seen when he and his girlfriend, Kami Vollandroff, left to take a walk along the ocean shore near Depoe Bay, Oregon. They have not been seen or heard from since.



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