

March Madness Cheat Sheet

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Tournament Field Overview

This cheat sheet contains our algorithm's top 68 teams, sorted by our transparent ranking system. Use these data-driven insights to build a smarter bracket.

Bracket Strategy Tips

- 1. Trust SOS over Record - A 22-9 team with .750 SOS often beats a 27-4 team with .450 SOS
- 2. Watch for 'Cinderella?' teams - Mid-majors with strong SOS are your upset picks
- 3. Avoid home court bias - Rankings already account for where games were played
- 4. Conference champions get auto-bids but may be overseeded if they had weak schedules
- 5. The 5-12 matchup is statistically the most common upset (38% hit rate historically)

Top 68 Tournament Teams

Rank	Team	Conference	Record	Points	SOS	Upset Risk
1	Michigan	Big Ten	9-0	269.3	0.819	Safe
2	UConn	Big East	9-1	250.7	0.705	Safe
3	Duke	ACC	10-0	247.6	0.714	Safe
4	Iowa State	Big 12	9-0	241.6	0.686	Safe
5	Gonzaga	WCC	9-1	234.5	0.806	Safe
6	Illinois	Big Ten	8-2	207.0	0.731	Safe
7	Arizona	Big 12	8-0	208.4	0.744	Safe
8	USC	Big Ten	9-1	205.8	0.736	Safe
9	Alabama	SEC	7-2	203.6	0.852	Safe
10	Purdue	Big Ten	8-1	197.9	0.746	Safe
11	Vanderbilt	SEC	9-0	195.4	0.608	Safe
12	BYU	Big 12	8-1	190.6	0.810	Safe
13	Michigan State	Big Ten	8-1	184.0	0.769	Safe
14	Nebraska	Big Ten	9-0	183.8	0.660	Safe
15	Kansas	Big 12	7-3	176.4	0.847	Safe

16	North Carolina	ACC	8-1	176.3	0.750	Safe
17	Virginia *	ACC	9-1	178.2	0.644	Watch
18	Louisville	ACC	8-1	169.9	0.657	Watch
19	Indiana	Big Ten	8-2	163.2	0.715	Watch
20	SMU	ACC	9-1	161.8	0.667	Watch
21	Seton Hall	Big East	9-1	158.2	0.618	Watch
22	Oklahoma State	Big 12	9-0	161.0	0.604	Watch
23	Wisconsin	Big Ten	7-2	156.2	0.816	Watch
24	Saint Mary's	WCC	9-1	162.2	0.630	Watch
25	Colorado	Big 12	8-1	149.8	0.647	Watch
26	Iowa	Big Ten	8-1	146.5	0.703	Watch
27	LSU	SEC	8-1	148.2	0.638	Watch
28	TCU	Big 12	6-3	142.8	0.728	Watch
29	Houston	Big 12	8-1	145.2	0.728	Watch
30	Notre Dame	ACC	7-3	138.5	0.761	Watch
31	Arizona State	Big 12	8-2	137.2	0.667	Watch
32	Miami	ACC	8-2	139.7	0.673	Watch
33	Auburn	SEC	7-3	136.0	0.786	Danger
34	Texas Tech	Big 12	6-2	136.1	0.778	Danger
35	California	ACC	9-1	140.0	0.605	Danger
36	Virginia Tech	ACC	8-2	131.2	0.652	Danger
37	Clemson	ACC	7-3	129.2	0.734	Danger
38	Washington	Big Ten	6-3	127.6	0.706	Danger
39	Butler	Big East	7-2	125.3	0.656	Danger
40	Tennessee	SEC	7-3	120.8	0.730	Danger
41	UCLA	Big Ten	7-2	118.4	0.700	Danger
42	Tulsa	American	8-1	127.3	0.603	Danger
43	Georgia	SEC	8-1	117.7	0.656	Danger
44	UCF	Big 12	8-1	115.5	0.613	Danger
45	Dayton	A-10	7-3	123.3	0.718	Danger
46	Florida Atlantic	American	6-2	119.8	0.737	Danger
47	Colorado State	Mountain West	8-2	119.4	0.598	Danger
48	Santa Clara	WCC	8-2	117.9	0.586	Danger
49	George Mason	A-10	9-1	116.6	0.488	Cinderella?
50	Saint Louis	A-10	8-1	118.1	0.558	Cinderella?

51	Northern Colorado	Big Sky	8-1	120.4	0.599	Cinderella?
52	Akron	MAC	8-2	118.6	0.611	Cinderella?
53	Ohio State	Big Ten	7-2	106.3	0.680	Cinderella?
54	East Tennessee State	SoCon	8-2	115.5	0.509	Cinderella?
55	Richmond	A-10	8-1	113.4	0.573	Cinderella?
56	Wake Forest	ACC	7-3	102.8	0.645	Cinderella?
57	Utah State	Mountain West	8-1	111.7	0.521	Cinderella?
58	Arkansas	SEC	7-2	98.2	0.615	Cinderella?
59	St. John's	Big East	5-3	96.5	0.807	Cinderella?
60	Buffalo	MAC	9-1	111.7	0.450	Cinderella?
61	Xavier	Big East	7-3	95.0	0.671	Cinderella?
62	Boise State	Mountain West	6-3	103.9	0.649	Cinderella?
63	New Mexico	Mountain West	7-2	103.8	0.639	Cinderella?
64	Texas A&M	SEC	7-3	93.9	0.665	Cinderella?
65	St. Bonaventure	A-10	8-1	101.9	0.568	Cinderella?
66	Miami (OH)	MAC	8-0	101.0	0.418	Cinderella?
67	Yale	Ivy	9-1	102.5	0.452	Cinderella?
68	Kent State	MAC	9-1	100.0	0.450	Cinderella?

* = Conference Tournament Champion (Automatic Qualifier)

Understanding Upset Risk

Rating	What It Means
Safe	Dominant team with strong resume - unlikely to lose early
Normal	Solid team, expect them to perform near their seed
Watch	Could be vulnerable - look at their recent form
Danger	Strong SOS but lower seed - prime upset candidate
Cinderella?	Mid-major with metrics of a much higher seed - your sleeper pick

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