

Busted brackets boost March Madness

By Gabby Gamez
Staff reporter

Go Bears! The team that I was rooting for in this year's 2015 NCAA Tournament was Baylor. The Bears faced Georgia State on 19 March in Jacksonville, Florida. Baylor entered the tournament as the No. 3 seed first going up against the No. 14 seed Georgia State, that had only been to the tournament twice in school history. Unluckily for me, they fell on their initial game

The game played on March 22nd night brought the state of Kansas to the very edge when Kansas University and Wichita State went head-to-head in the round of 32 of the NCAA March Madness Tournament.

When the buzzer blew for the last time No.7 seed Wichita State Shockers came out on top of the No. 2 seed Kansas Jayhawks with a final 78-65 score. NCAA online stated, "All five Wichita State starters finished in double figures. Tekele Cotton, known as a top defender, finished with a game-high 19 points."

Kansas has exited the NCAA Tournament in the Round of 32 on the last two seasons.

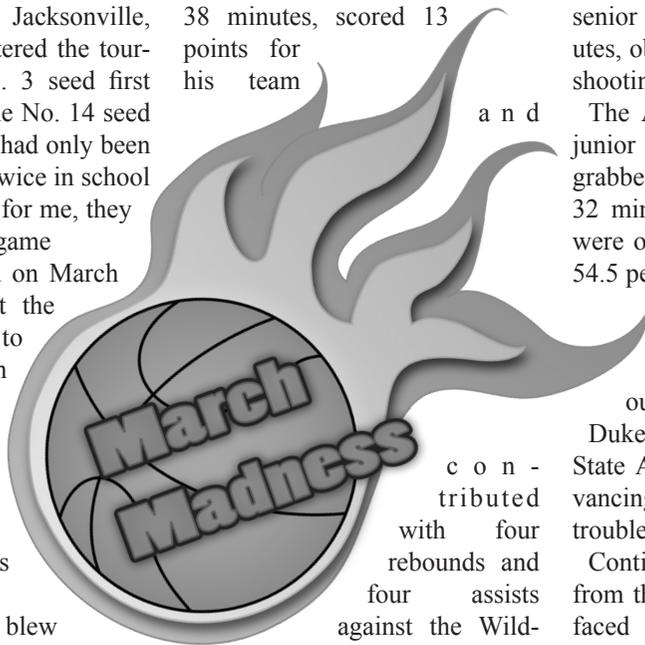
The Shockers advanced into the Sweet 16 with Head Coach Gregg Marshall leading them. With two big victories under their belt the first being in the round of 64 against Indiana University winning 81-76.

The Shockers made up for the shots missed on the court at the free-throw line, sinking 29 of 34, making a total of 85.3 percent from the line.

A day earlier, Saturday March 21 brought No. 1 seed Kentucky vs. No. 8 seed Cincinnati to the court. Playing an extremely physical game for both half, Cincinnati put up a good fight against the Wildcats. Kentucky still came out victorious 68-51.

Cincinnati showed the ranked team a 44-34 rebounding advantage, marking just the sixth time this season Kentucky was outrebounded. Kentucky's Trey

Lyles, freshman forward, played 28 minutes scoring 11 points and dominating with 11 rebounds, though he was only able to obtain one assist. Competing against that Cincinnati's Troy Caupain, sophomore guard, played 38 minutes, scored 13 points for his team



and

contributed with four rebounds and four assists against the Wildcats.

The Basketball weekend continued with North Carolina vs. Arkansas in the Western bracket. Marcus Paige, junior guard, scored 20 points in the game's final 14 minutes to help No. 4 seed North Carolina pull away from No. 5 seed Arkansas in a physical matchup.

Paige made all nine of his free throws and ended with 22 points, including 3-of-6 from beyond the arc. Paige also managed to have six rebounds and five steals in the round of 32 game.

Though not wanting to fall far behind, Arkansas Michael Qualls, junior guard, started for the Razorbacks playing in his 100th career game, and he achieved his first double-double with a game-high of 27 points and 10 rebounds in 37 minutes.

The Tar Heels will extend its NCAA record by making their 26th official Sweet 16 appearance.

Switching over to the Southern Division, San Diego State was unable to keep up with the powerhouse from Duke team, which had three players posting double figures and shooting over 50 percent from the court for the 18th time this season.

The Blue Devils' Jahil Okafor,

freshman center, played 33 minutes in which he dominated with 26 points, six rebounds and two assists.

The only other teammate who could keep up with the unstoppable Okafor was Quinn Cook, senior guard, playing 38 minutes, obtaining five rebounds and shooting 13 points.

The Aztecs' Winston Shepard, junior forward, put up 13 points, grabbed five rebounds during his 32 minutes of play. The Aztecs were outshot by the Blue Devils 54.5 percent to 32.8 percent from the court. San Diego State shot 81.8 percent from the free-throw line, outscoring Duke 9-2.

Duke outscored the San Diego State Aztecs in both halves, advancing to the Sweet 16 with no trouble at all.

Continuing on into the bracket from the South, UCLA vs. UAB faced each other on Saturday where the No. 11 seed UCLA demolished No. 14 seed Alabama-Birmingham.

The Bruins continued to demonstrate that they deserve to be playing in the NCAA tournament after the controversial selection. Scoring 90 points for the fourth time this season smashing ABU in the process towards the round of 16.

UCLA stats showed that they shot better than 60 percent for the third time this season, finishing 35-of-58 with a total of 60.3 percent from the court.

Tony Parker, junior forward, led the Bruins with 28 points and dominating with 12 rebounds. While teammate Bryce Alford, sophomore guard, followed with 22 points and a single rebound in the 39 minutes of playtime he got. UCLA had a 41-26 rebounding advantage, having 15 more than the Blazers.

The teams advancing into the Sweet 16 are Kentucky vs. West Virginia on March 26 at 9:45p.m., Notre Dame vs. Wichita State at 7:15p.m. from the Midwest bracket across the bracket for the East is NC State vs. Louisville on March 27 at 7:37p.m., and Oklahoma vs. Michigan State at 10:07 p.m.

Wisconsin vs. Carolina will play

on March 26 at 7:47p.m., and Xavier vs. Arizona at 10:17p.m. for the Western bracket. The teams advancing for the Southern bracket are Duke vs. Utah on March 27 at 9:45 p.m., and UCLA vs. Gonzaga at 7:15 p.m.

After all of these teams celebrate on victory lane, they will continue to compete to see who will come out on top when the

final whistle is blown. Unfortunately, my team was defeated and won't be making it to Indianapolis where the Final Four and championship games will be played on April 6 at 9 p.m in Lucas Oil Stadium.

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WireTapped



By Kodie Hufford