

# March Madness

## THE GREATEST PLAYOFFS IN SPORTS

Just as fast as it started, the 2022 March Madness tournament has come to an end and the only team left standing... the Kansas Jayhawks. Led by longtime coach Bill Self and forward Ochai Agbaji, the Jayhawks outlasted all the other teams. This year's tournament was a rollercoaster of emotions for fans, coaches, and players alike for all 68 teams participating. And although not many people can say that they had a successful bracket, myself included, this tournament still remains the best playoffs in all of sports.

March Madness is a 68 team tournament gauntlet. Upsets are bound to happen. In this year's tournament, there were a total of 17 upsets. According to the NCAA, there is an average of 12.4 upsets per tournament. The number of upsets in the past tournaments and this year's tournament is what makes March Madness such a special playoff bracket. First, Doug Edert & St. Peters took the world by storm by knocking off second-seeded Kentucky, seventh-seed Murray State, and third-seeded Purdue as a 15 seed. It was an incredible run for a team that couldn't even afford to send their cheerleaders to the tournament. Fans saw 11-seeded Iowa State upset Wisconsin and tenth-seeded Miami make it to the elite eight. Also, eighth-seeded North Carolina made an incredible run to the championship this year.



Teammates Matthew Lee and Doug Edert celebrate after knocking off Purdue in the 2022 NCAA mens basketball tournament. St. Peters would end up losing their next game to North Carolina, 69-49.

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They took out ninth-seeded Marquette, first-seeded Baylor, fourth-seeded UCLA, St. Peters, and spoiled Duke and Coach K's final run before falling to the tournament champions, Kansas. These deep runs in the tournament were some of the craziest that NCAA basketball and the sports world have ever seen.



Armando Bacot playing in a game gainst Virginia Tech in the ACC tournament. Virginia Tech went on to win this game 59-72.



Coach K is cutting down the net after winning the 2010 NCAA basketball tournament. Krzyzewski went on to coach 12 more years for Duke mens basketball.

What other tournament do people spend billions of dollars betting on their teams all in a span of less than a month? In no other sports do millions of people watch and bet on mid-major teams like Georgia State or Norfolk State. Furthermore, people fill out so many brackets each year that ESPN made a separate app that opens up for a month just for this tournament. If that doesn't show that this is the greatest playoffs in all of sports, I don't know what does.

Tons of history was made in this year's tournament as well. First, St. Peters was the first 15 seed to make a run to the elite eight. No one was happy when the Peacock's run came to an end. Second, Coach K finished out his 46th season for Duke this year. Duke was an incredibly electric and fun team to watch this year. Last, Armando Bacot for UNC averaged a double-double throughout the entire tournament. Tons of players made their mark on the basketball world in March Madness such as Steph Curry, CJ McCollum, and Carmelo Anthony. Armando Bacot consistently put up some of the best numbers that March Madness has seen. The combination of these occurrences and many more made this tournament unforgettable as always.

Fans witnessed 17 wild upsets, countless top seeds losing to double-digit seeds, runs by North Carolina and St. Peters, Coach K's last game, and a number of records broken in this year's tournament. Millions of people watch this tournament every year and the reason why never changes. This incredible tournament only comes once a year and this year's tournament will be one for the ages.

Opinion by: Ryan Severson