

YOUR ULTIMATE GUIDE TO CRUSH THE BIG DANCE



THE SPORTS BETTOR'S ULTIMATE **MARCH MADNESS** BETTING GUIDE

COMPLETE GAME CAPSULES
& **EXPERT PREDICTIONS**

FIRST ROUND SEED TRENDS:
The Complete Rundown

BEWARE OF TRAP LINES:
Secrets Behind the Numbers

OLD GUYS/YOUNG BUCKS:
Experience Matters

**IS BETTING MARCH MADNESS
FAVORITES PROFITABLE?**
A Closer Look



AND MUCH MORE - OVER 150 PAGES!

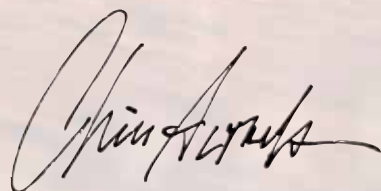
A Letter from our Lead Writer

Before anything else, thank you. Thank you for going to StatSalt.com and WinnersandWhiners.com to read our previews and giving us your confidence when it comes to making picks on every pro and college game. Thank you for expressing that confidence in purchasing this guide as part of your pick-making process, and it is our sincere hope it helps you cash in big. Our writers are equally excited in providing you the content, both with these statistics and game-by-game previews, to help you make those informed decisions and picks that will hopefully provide you excitement (and profit).

With this being our first guide, there will be things we will want to improve, so if you have ideas, share them with us on our twitter account (@WinnersWhiners) or me specifically (@AlTruda73). The most important thing you should know about our capsules is that we wanted to give a detailed snapshot to help you fill out your brackets to win your office pool or go to the window to make that Final Four pick or NCAA Tournament title winner. We pored through the NCAA record books to examine team's NCAA Tournament records, researched betting sites to find teams' records against the spreads dating back to 1998 and also their records as given seeds, a historical perspective that goes back 40 years.

Our feature stories on betting trends provide extra insight on why you should or shouldn't follow the crowd for specific teams, specific conferences, specific seeds, or even specific seed matchups. As the old adage goes, *"Those who do not study history are doomed to repeat it."*

We hope this guide provides you the added and needed information in helping you make your picks, and we really hope you, to paraphrase our video ace Scott Steehn, *"make that money."* So again, thank you for having confidence in us, and we look forward to rewarding you for it.



Chris Altruda
Lead Writer/Associate Editor

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CONTRIBUTORS

PUBLISHER
Keith Stewart

GRAPHICS/LAYOUT/PRODUCTION
Jeff Ritzmann

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Ben Hayes

ASSISTANT EDITORS
Seth Allen
David Hess
Dakota Ritzmann

LEAD WRITER/ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Chris Altruda

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Scott Reichel
Greg Patuto
Mat Daly
Ricky Dimon
Chris Kubala
Bosun Akinpelu
Nick Raffoul
David Hess
Chris Altruda
Adam Rauzino

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DUKE BLUE DEVILS

Record: (29-5) Region: East/Seed: 1

Conference: Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC)

Bid: Automatic

Coach: Mike Krzyzewski

Coach's NCAA Tournament record: 94-29 in 34 appearances

NCAA Tournament appearances: 43

Consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances: 24 (Last missed in 1995)

Best NCAA Tournament finish: Champions (1991, 1992, 2001, 2010, 2015)

Final Four appearances: 16 (1964, 1966, 1978, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2004, 2010, 2015)

NCAA Tournament Record: 111-37 (.750)

NCAA Net Ranking: 3
Associated Press Poll Rank: 5
USA TODAY Poll Rank: 5

Conference Record and finish: 14-4/3rd
Conference Tournament finish: Won
Record in Last 12 games: 9-3 SU, 4-7-1 ATS, 4-8 O/U
Record in Road and Neutral Site games: 14-3 SU, 9-7-1 ATS, 5-11-1 O/U
Record vs. 2019 NCAA Tournament teams: 13-5 SU, 7-11 ATS, 7-10-1 O/U

(Rankings are Associated Press Top 25 rankings on day of game)

11/6 – beat No. 2 Kentucky (N) 118-84 (XY) 2/9 – beat No. 3 Virginia (A) 81-71 (YY)
11/20 – beat No. 8 Auburn (N) 78-72 (YX) 2/12 – beat No. 16 Louisville (A) 71-69 (YX)
11/21 – lost to No. 3 Gonzaga (N) 89-87 (YY) 2/20 – lost to No. 8 North Carolina 88-72 (H) (YX)
12/8 – beat Yale (H) 91-58 (XX) 2/23 – beat Syracuse 75-65 (A) (XX)
12/20 – beat No. 12 Texas Tech (N) 69-58 (XX) 2/26 – lost to No. 20 Virginia Tech 77-72 (A) (YY)
1/12 – beat No. 13 Florida State (A) 80-78 (YZ) 3/9 – lost to No. 3 North Carolina 79-70 (A) (YX)
1/14 – lost to Syracuse (H) 95-91 (YY) 3/14 – beat Syracuse 84-72 (N) (XY)
1/19 – beat No. 4 Virginia (H) 72-70 (YY) 3/15 – beat No. 3 North Carolina 74-73 (N) (YX)
2/2 – beat St. John's (H) 91-61 (XX) 3/16 – beat No. 12 Florida State 73-63 (N) (XX)

XX – ATS win, Under YX – ATS loss, Under ZX – Push, Under
XY – ATS win, Over YY – ATS loss, Over ZY – Push, Over
XZ – ATS win, Push YZ – ATS loss, Push ZZ – Push, Push

**Odds to Win It All:
11/5**

POINTS PER GAME:

83.5 (2nd in ACC/8th in NCAA)

SHOOTING PERCENTAGE:

47.7 (2nd in ACC/31st in NCAA)

3-POINT SHOOTING PERCENTAGE:

30.2 (15th in ACC/339th in NCAA)

FREE THROW PERCENTAGE:

69.0 (13th in ACC/T-260th in NCAA)

TURNOVERS PER GAME:

13.1 (10th in ACC/235th in NCAA)

SCORING MARGIN:

15.9 (2nd in ACC/4th in NCAA)

OPPONENTS' POINTS PER GAME:

67.6 (7th in ACC/72nd in NCAA)

OPPONENTS' SHOOTING PERCENTAGE

39.5 (2nd in ACC/14th in NCAA)

OPPONENTS' 3-POINT SHOOTING PERCENTAGE:

29.4 (3rd in ACC/10th in NCAA)

OPPONENTS' TURNOVERS PER GAME:

14.6 (4th in ACC/61st in NCAA)

LAST 5 NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES:

2018 – No. 2 seed, lost in regional final (Kansas) 3-1 SU, 2-2 ATS 3-1 O/U
2017 – No. 2 seed, lost in second round (South Carolina) 1-1 SU, 1-1 ATS, 1-1 O/U
2016 – No. 4 seed, lost in regional semifinal (Oregon) 2-1 SU, 1-2 ATS, 1-2 O/U
2015 – No. 1 seed, CHAMPIONS 6-0 SU, 6-0 ATS, 1-5 O/U
2014 – No. 3 seed, lost in first round (Mercer) 0-1 SU, 0-1 ATS, 1-0 O/U

LAST 5 NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES:

RECORD AS HIGHER/LOWER SEED

Higher seed: 11-2 SU, 9-4 ATS, 6-7 O/U
Lower seed: 0-2 SU, 0-2 ATS, 1-1 O/U
Same seed: 1-0 SU, 1-0 ATS, 0-1 O/U

RECORD AS FAVORITE/UNDERDOG

Record as Favorite: 11-3 SU, 9-5 ATS, 7-7 O/U
Record as Underdog: 1-1 SU, 1-1 ATS, 0-2 O/U
Record as Pick 'em: 0-0 SU, 0-0 ATS, 0-0 O/U

SEED RECORDS

(Seeds started in 1979)

Record as No. 1 seed: 51-9
Record as No. 5 seed: 2-1
Record as No. 2 seed: 30-10
Record as No. 6 seed: 0-1
Record as No. 3 seed: 9-6
Record as No. 8 seed: 0-1
Record as No. 4 seed: 2-1

PROJECTED STARTERS:

PG – Tre Jones, 6-2, Fr. (9.3 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 5.3 apg)

SG/SF – Cam Reddish, 6-8, Fr. (13.7 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 32.7 3pt%)

SG/SF – RJ Barrett, 6-7, Fr. (22.9 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 4.1 apg)

PF – Zion Williamson, 6-7, Fr. (22.1 ppg, 8.9 rpg, 2.2 spg, 69.3 fg%)

C – Marques Bolden, 6-11, Jr. (5.8 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 1.8 bpg)

TOP RESERVES:

F – Jack White, 6-7, Jr., (4.4 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 1.1 bpg)

G – Alex O’Connell, 6-6, So., (4.5 ppg, 1.8 rpg, 39.2 3pt%)

F – Javin DeLaurier, 6-10, Jr., (3.8 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 72.5 fg%)

OUTLOOK:

One of the favorites to cut down the nets in Minneapolis, Duke has been one of the best teams in the nation throughout the season. Mike Krzyzewski’s freshman-heavy starting lineup is powered by the 1-2 punch of forward Zion Williamson – the consensus favorite to be Player of the Year – and swingman RJ Barrett, who quietly leads the Blue Devils in scoring as people ooh and aah over Williamson’s freakish athleticism. Duke showed some mortality when Williamson missed five full games and most of a sixth due to a sprained knee, but as he showed in his return during the ACC tournament, there is a much, much higher ceiling for the Blue Devils when he is in the lineup compared to when he is not. The biggest concern for Duke all season long has been its perimeter shooting – if Krzyzewski does wind up cutting down the nets for the sixth time, the Blue Devils will have the worst 3-point shooting percentage of any NCAA Tournament winners. Defensively, Jones is one of the best on-ball defenders in the country, though his pass-first mentality running the offense – while completely justifiable – means he will be challenged to hit 3-pointers to prevent opponents from sagging into the paint to collapse on Williamson. Duke enters the NCAA Tournament as one of the favorites to win it all, and it is going to take a combination of an opponents’ best game and a little slip-page from the Blue Devils to knock them out.



RJ Barrett