

A LOOK AT THE TOP TEN TEAMS IN THE NATION



Sophomore standout Chris Webber will try to lead Michigan to their second consecutive trip to the Final Four.

Michigan: Chris Webber, Jalen Rose, Jimmy King, Juwan Howard and Ray Jackson - meet the starting five for this season's National Champions. After succumbing to Duke last spring, the Wolverines vowed to return to the title game - which they will. Head Coach Steve Fischer has proven he is a good coach and possibly has a No. 1 pick for the NBA Draft in Webber. The 6-9 forward received high praise after an impressive showing during workouts against the U.S. Olympians. The other members of last year's Fab Five offer specialties in scoring, rebounding and defense.

Indiana: The only reason why the Hoosiers aren't the top-ranked team in the country, is because the Wolverines are. Indiana is a well-balanced, talented and experienced team that has all the makings

of a Final Four appearance. Rebounding may be a concern for Head Coach Bobby Knight. Alan Henderson, a splendid athlete with speed and jumping ability, should help a lot underneath. Knight will build his frontline around 6'7" forward Calbert Cheaney, an All-America candidate.

Kansas: Regardless of the fact that Kansas has lost four letterman, they still have last season's second round NCAA tournament loss to UTEP in their heads. With a deep and talented squad and pride on the brain, KU will be a Final Four contender come March. Rex Walters and Adonis Jordan will form a deadly combination in the backcourt for Head Coach Roy Williams. JUCO Player of the Year, Darrin Hancock will be a nice addition to Kansas' frontcourt, as he will join 6-10 senior Eric Pauley and 6-7 junior Richard Scott.

Duke: The defending national champs will have their hands full with an incredibly tough schedule. The Blue Devils' first test, on December 5, will seem like a final exam when they host #1 Michigan. Duke, playing in the always tough Atlantic Coast Conference, will also have to face the likes of #8 North Carolina, #9 Florida State and #16 Georgia Tech; not to mention the other members of the ACC that are always a struggle. Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski will look to the leader of his squad, 6-0 senior guard Bobby Hurley, and other returning starters, 6-5 guard Thomas Hill and 6-8 forward Grant Hill to guide Duke to a sixth straight Final Four appearance and a third straight national championship.

Kentucky: This season, the Wildcats return a much more talented team than the squad that was eliminated in the Elite Eight of the NCAA tournament to eventual champion Duke. Kentucky lost



Grant Hill will lead Duke towards a third straight national title.

LVSU PRESEASON ALL-AMERICANS

Jamal Mashburn - Kentucky
Chris Webber - Michigan
Player Of The Year - Anfernee Hardaway - Memphis State

Bobby Hurley - Duke
Calbert Cheaney - Indiana

the game on a last second shot by Christian Laettner. Although Head Coach Rick Pitino has lost three starters off of last season's squad, he boasts one of the country's best recruiting classes. The emergence of junior forward Jamal Mashburn, who is arguably the best player in the SEC, will make this Wildcat team a Final Four contender in March.

Seton Hall: If 7-2, 290-pound center Luther Wright plays as large as his body frame, Seton Hall will dominate the Big East and could possibly be the darkhorse of the top teams in the nation. All-America candidate, Terry DeHere, a 6-4 shooting guard, will return to the team as the reigning scoring leader in the league. 6-7 senior Jerry Walker, who started at center last season, will be able to become a dominant power forward with Wright taking over in the middle.

Arizona: Another Top 10 team that has lost three starters, the Wildcats still have National Player of the Year candidate Chris Mills providing a nucleus for Head Coach Lute Olson. Five recruits that have been rated among the nation's top 100 prospects means Arizona won't be lacking depth and highly regarded talent. Often compared to former Wildcat Sean Elliot, Mills will be joined by guard Khalid Reeves and Ed Stokes in Arizona's drive toward a Pac-10 title.

North Carolina: Head Coach Dean Smith will have to build this year's squad around 7-0 center Eric Montross, accenting his frontcourt with forwards George Lynch and Brian Reese. 7-0 junior backup center Kevin Salvadori will support the Tar Heels' rebounding effort very nicely. The man that Smith will be looking to for productivity though, will be 6-3 junior point guard Derrick Phelps. Although very quick and impressive on defense, Phelps will have to be more consistent with his outside shooting. All that beef inside won't mean anything without Phelps' contribution on offense.

Florida State: Florida State's rookie campaign, last season, showed that they will be a true contender for Duke and North Carolina in the ACC. The Seminoles return five starters for their sophomore year in the powerful conference. Head Coach Pat Kennedy's main concern will be with point guard Charlie Ward. The 6-1 junior guard starts at quarterback for the Seminoles' highly ranked football team. Ward won't be available until January 2, three weeks prior to a meeting with both the Blue Devils and the Tar Heels. All-America candidates Sam Cassell and Doug Edwards will have to hold down the fort until Ward arrives. If Duke and N.C. spend too much time worrying about each other, watch for FSU to sneak on by.



By season's end, Memphis State's Anfernee Hardaway may be National Player of the Year

Memphis State: Head Coach Larry Finch must do one thing to keep his Tigers a national contender; Push sophomore guard Marcus Nolan to be an outstanding point guard. If Finch can achieve this, everything else should fall into place with Anfernee Hardaway and David Vaughn running the floor for the Tigers. By the end of the season, Hardaway just may earn National Player of the Year honors. The main concern for Finch's Tigers, will be getting by the Cincinnati Bearcats in the Great Midwest. With hard work and determination, the Tigers are the kind of team that will reach the Final Four.



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THE ONLY RUNNIN' REBELS WILL BE SLAMMIN' INTO ACTION THIS FRIDAY AGAINST RUSSIA

AFTER WATCHING J.R., EVRIC, DEXTER AND THE REST OF OUR NATIONALLY RANKED SQUAD RUN RUSSIA RIGHT OUT OF THE T&M, CRUISE DOWN FLAMINGO RD. TO THE 501 CAFE CLUB AND RECEIVE YOUR FIRST DRINK ON US WITH YOUR TICKET STUB FROM THE GAME.



Drink Specials All Night Long

501 DJs, Bubby and Willie Will, will be spinnin' for your listening and dancing pleasure

U + TICKET STUB = FIRST DRINK ON US

SENTINEL-VOICE PRESEASON TOP 25

1. Michigan
2. Indiana
3. Kansas
4. Duke
5. Kentucky
- T6. Seton Hall
- T6. Arizona
- T8. North Carolina
- T8. Florida State
10. Memphis State
11. Georgetown
12. Louisville
13. Iowa
14. Tulane
15. Oklahoma
16. Georgia Tech
17. Michigan State
18. Cincinnati
19. Syracuse
20. Iowa State
21. Connecticut
22. UCLA
23. Alabama
24. UNLV
25. Texas

Others to watch

Arizona State, Auburn, UNC Charlotte, Evansville, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Mississippi State, Nebraska, New Mexico State, Ohio State, Tennessee, Utah, Wake Forest