

SPORTS

ITS UP FOR GRABS THIS YEAR NO KIDDIN' AROUND...

By W.G. Ramirez

As four of the Sweet Sixteen pairings square off tonight, it is apparent that the NCAA Tournament has not been easy for any team to get through - including two-time defending champion Duke - and will not be as the final two weeks of the collegiate basketball season winds down.

Last Saturday night the California Golden Bears, with freshman phenom Jason Kidd, toppled the Blue Devils 82-77 in front of 17,463 fans in the Rosemount Horizon, in Rosemount, Illinois.

Despite a career-best performance by All-American Bobby Hurley, who poured in 32 points, it would be the new Kidd on the block who would shine, following a hard fought contest.

California squandered an 18-point lead away with 1:11 left in the game before the Bears' precocious freshman hit a lay-up and got the foul, to put Cal up 79-77, and re-capture the lead for good. Kidd ended up with 11 points, 14 assists, eight rebounds and four steals. Teammate Lamont Murray led the Bears with 28 points.

California freshman Jason Kidd, celebrates after he and his Golden Bear teammates toppled defending national champion Duke last Saturday 82-77. California will now face 2nd-seeded Kansas to advance to the Midwest Regional Final.



California advances to play Kansas tonight approximately 30 minutes after Indiana and Louisville face each other in the other Midwest Regional Semi-Final, which begins at 5:05 p.m.. Indiana devastated Wright State by 43 points in the opening round, then squeaked past Xavier (Ohio) 73-70 last Sunday. In the meantime, Louisville is coming off of an impressive victory over the Oklahoma State Cowboys. "Louisville will give Indiana all

they want," explained Analyst Jimmy Spats, whose service had an unprecedented Opening Round record of 13-2 for his clients. Many of Spats' clients deal with two or three service around the country, but it find profitable to be with Spats exclusively during the tournament.

Tonight's winners will meet Saturday in the regional final for

a berth to the Final Four in New Orleans.

The Southeast Regional Semi-Finals will also tip-off tonight at the Charlotte Coliseum in Charlotte, North Carolina. Florida State will meet Western Kentucky in the early game with Kentucky and Wake Forest in the nightcap. The story of this region is the impressive play of Western Kentucky, who eliminated Seton Hall last Saturday 72-68, to advance to tonight's game. Florida State is plagued with a number of injuries and could be next in line as an upset victim to the Hilltoppers.

FSU forward Rodney Dobard has a small crack in a bone at the joint between his big toe and his second toe. He is expected to play, but with a cracked bone in his foot, it is unlikely he'll be 100%. Guard Charlie Ward has a bruised muscle above his right knee, and his backcourt teammate, Sam Cassell, has a sore ankle.

"At this point, the teams with superior athletes are the one's

that are coming through," explained Spats. "Effort wise, you can just tell who are the better athletes, even in some of the losers. There have been some hard played games, and there is alot of talent out there."

The second game will feature two of the most dominating players in the college ranks - Jamal Mashburn of Kentucky and Rodney Rogers of Wake Forest.

Rogers proved last Sunday that he is 'all that', pouring in 33 points, en route to an 84-78 victory over Iowa.

Wake Forest beat the nation's leading rebounding team to the boards 26-20, and held Iowa star Acie Earl scoreless over the last 7 minutes to earn a trip to the Sweet 16 for the first time since 1984. Earl finished with 16 points.

Mashburn brings his All-American credentials in to this contest and should be proud of it. His determination and hard play will play a big role in Kentucky's path to the Final Four.

In Kentucky's 83-62 rout of Utah last Sunday, Mashburn popped for 19 points (4 of 6 from 3-pt. range) and 9 rebounds. Hear it here first, if Kentucky wins the national title, Mashburn will get National Player of the Year over Anfernee Hardaway of Memphis State and Calbert Cheaney. Hardaway may already be eliminated from the race following their first-round loss to Western Kentucky.

Friday's matchups find Virginia facing Cincinnati and North Carolina playing Arkansas at The Meadowlands in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Cincinnati guard Allen Jackson suffered a cartilage tear in his left knee in a first-round game, but may be ready to play Friday night. One of the Bearcats' top defensive players, Jackson sat out the New Mexico State game.

Using a tenacious man-to-man defense, Virginia stymied Massachusetts, crushing the Minutemen 71-56. Virginia re- (See Tournament, Page 15)

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NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 1993

1st Round: March 18-19 | 2nd Round: March 20-21 | Regional Semifinals | Regional Finals | 2nd Round: March 20-21 | 1st Round: March 18-19

SOUTHEAST

- 1) Kentucky
- 16) Rider
- 8) Utah
- 9) Pittsburgh
- 5) Wake Forest
- 12) Tn. Chatt.
- 4) Iowa
- 13) NE Louisiana
- 6) Kansas St.
- 11) Tulane
- 3) Florida St.
- 14) Evansville
- 7) W. Kentucky
- 10) Memphis St.
- 2) Seton Hall
- 15) Tennessee St.

WEST

- 1) Michigan
- 16) Coastal Carolina
- 8) Iowa St.
- 9) UCLA
- 5) New Mexico
- 12) Geo. Washington
- 4) Georgia Tech
- 13) Southern U.
- 6) Illinois
- 11) L. Beach St.
- 3) Vanderbilt
- 14) Boise St.
- 7) Temple
- 10) Missouri
- 2) Arizona
- 15) Santa Clara

EAST

- 1) North Carolina
- 16) East Carolina
- 8) Rhode Island
- 9) Purdue
- 5) St. John's
- 12) Texas Tech
- 4) Arkansas
- 13) Holy Cross
- 6) Virginia
- 11) Manhattan
- 3) Massachusetts
- 14) Pennsylvania
- 7) New Mexico St.
- 10) Nebraska
- 2) Cincinnati
- 15) Coppin St.

MIDWEST

- 1) Indiana
- 16) Wright St.
- 8) New Orleans
- 9) Xavier, Ohio
- 5) Oklahoma St.
- 12) Marquette
- 4) Louisville
- 13) Delaware
- 6) California
- 11) Louisiana St.
- 3) Duke
- 14) Southern Illinois
- 7) Brigham Young
- 10) So. Methodist
- 2) Kansas
- 15) Ball St.

1993 NCAA FINAL FOUR NEW ORLEANS

National Championship April 5

CHAMPION