

SPORTS

NORTH CAROLINA

V.S. KANSAS

By W.G. Ramirez

Sixty gone, three to go. That's the way we stand as Final Four weekend approaches us. The four participants - Michigan (30-4), Kentucky (30-3), North Carolina (32-4) and Kansas (29-6) - will tip-off Saturday afternoon in New Orleans at the Superdome.

The past few Final Four's have seen the likes of cinderella-like teams sneak in with the big boys. This year is definitely different.

All four teams have been ranked #1 at some point of the season, three of the four were #1 seeds in their respective

regions, and the fourth, Kansas, was #2 in the Midwest. The two matchups on Saturday may go down as two of the best ever.

At 2:40, North Carolina and Kansas will square off, pitting two outstanding point guards against each other. Adonis

FINAL FOUR

KENTUCKY

V.S. MICHIGAN

can both matchup with Montross, and by subbing for each other, Montross may tire easily against the duo.

Jordan and Walters will prove to be the difference - *Kansas 74 North Carolina 71.*

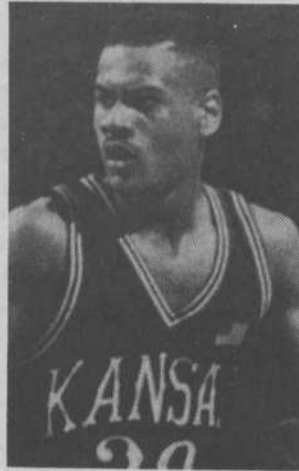
Immediately following the Carolina-Kansas matchup will be Michigan and Kentucky, which could very well be moved into Monday night's slot.

Michigan, last year's runner-up, returns to the Final Four with the same Fab Five that enticed the nation last season. Kentucky brings in, arguably the best player in the college ranks, in All-American Jamal Mashburn, as well as impeccable coach Rick Pitino. Pitino's master mind will be met by the Wolverines skipper Steve Fischer, who boasts an NCAA Tournament record of 16-2.

What is interesting in this matchup, is the styles of play that have been seen during the tournament. Kentucky has looked incredible. Michigan looks sluggish. Kentucky has crushed their opponents. Michigan is slipping by. Kentucky has looked like UNLV's 1990 squad or last season's Duke team - unbeatable. Michigan - *not.*

The thing is, both teams has had one week off. Just enough time for Coach Fischer to remind Chris Webber, Jalen Rose, Jimmy King and Ray Jackson exactly what this whole thing is all about. If Michigan continues their casual way, Kentucky will flatten the Wolverettes, but this is not something that is likely to happen.

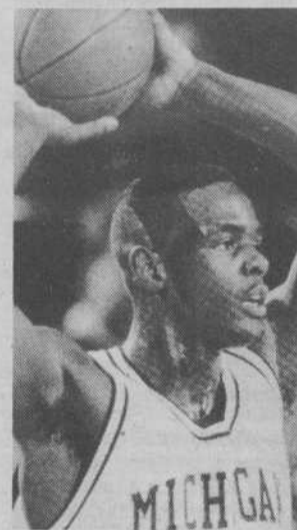
Mashburn will have his glorious moments, but think back to 1979, when Michigan State had a certain 6-9 point guard named Earvin Johnson lead them to the national title. Now 1993, Michigan brings 6-8 point guard Rose to Bourbon Street, and plans on finishing the incomplete job of last season. Kentucky is not invincible, and Michigan will prove this Saturday night. The fact that the Wolverines have not yet peaked during the tournament will surprise Kentucky when they become the victims of Wolves. The dynamic duo of Webber and Rose will help return Michigan to Monday's big show - *Michigan 92 Kentucky 89.*



Adonis Jordan

Jordan will guide the Jayhawks while Derrick Phelps will handle 'Carolina. Jordan could possibly have his best game this

season against the Tar Heels. His exquisite moves will enable him to score all day. Phelps is a better ballhandler, allowing him to create more, but that leaves him depending on his teammates' accuracy. Jordan will only have to depend on himself and his hot hand. Jordan's partner in the backcourt, Rex Walters, will be able to pop from 3-point range while 'Carolina's defense concentrates on maintaining their zone defense. Both teams' forwards matchup well against each other, and will play a vital role in sewing up the lanes and creating alot of defensive traps. It may come down to how well Eric Montross handles the



All-American Chris Webber pressure from Kansas' Eric Ostertag and Eric Pauley. They



First team All-American Jamal Mashburn

HERE'S HOW THEY SEE IT

Predictions for the title game with the eventual National Champion

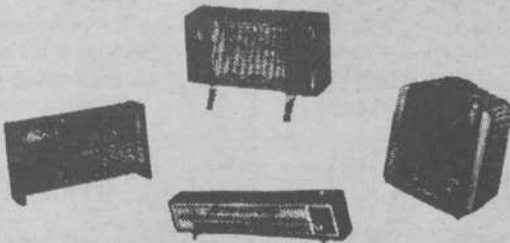
Willie Ramirez	LVSV Sp. Editor	Michigan v. Kansas KANSAS
Lee Brown	LVSV Editor	Michigan v. N.Carolina MICHIGAN
Willis Brown	LVSV Production	Michigan v. Kansas KANSAS
Scott Higgins	KLAS TV-8	Michigan v. N.Carolina MICHIGAN
Ron Futrell	KTNV TV-13	Michigan v. Kansas MICHIGAN
Colin Cowherd	KVBC TV-3	Kentucky v. Kansas KENTUCKY (in a rout)
Steve Carp	LV Sun	Kentucky v. Kansas KENTUCKY

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