

# Obama fills out Final Four bracket for ESPN

NEW YORK (AP) — President Barack Obama is picking Louisville, North Carolina, Memphis and Pittsburgh for the Final Four in the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

The First Hoops Fan indulged in one of the week's most popular pastimes, filling out his NCAA bracket Tuesday for ESPN. The network, which is posting Obama's bracket online Wednesday and showing Andy Katz's report on

"Sportscenter" at noon EDT, will reveal the president's pick for NCAA champion then.

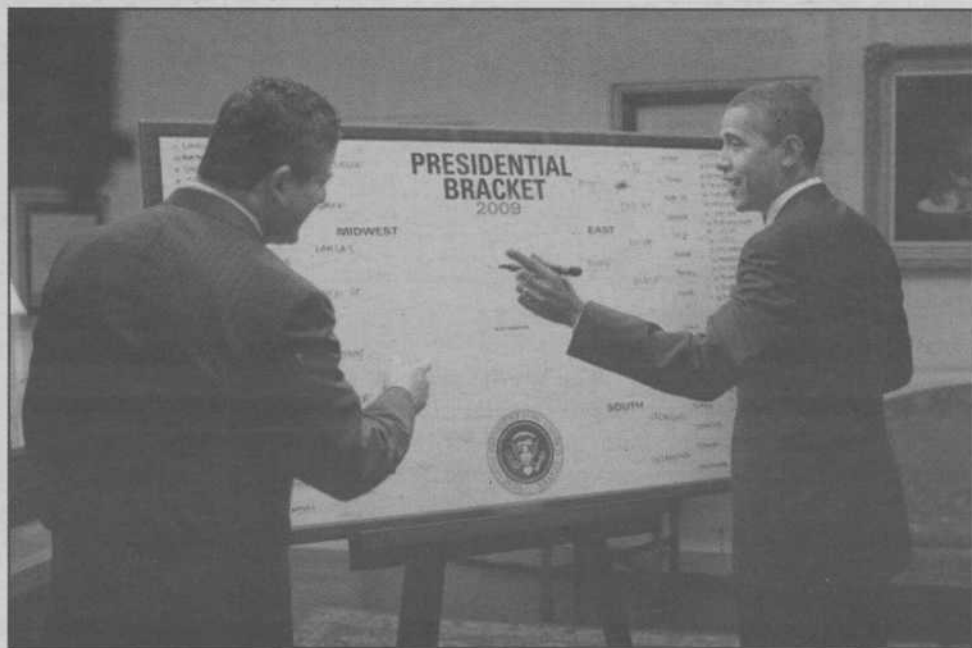
The president stuck primarily with No. 1 seeds. The sole exception was Memphis, seeded No. 2 behind Connecticut in the West regional.

"It was an educated bracket," Katz said. "He knew what he was doing. It wasn't some random kind of pick. There were no political favors or anything like that."

A private campaign promise earned ESPN the hoops scoop.

Katz interviewed Obama during the presidential campaign last October for a story about the president's brother-in-law, Oregon State head basketball coach Craig Robinson. After the interview, Obama invited Katz to play in a pickup basketball game on Election Day in Chicago, and he did.

Katz extracted a promise from Obama that if elected,



President Obama and ESPN college basketball analyst Michael Katz disagreed on two Final Four picks, along with the national champ. Obama picked UNC. Katz picked Pitt.

the new president would reveal his NCAA picks to ESPN when the pairings were announced in March.

"They stayed true to their word and didn't hesitate to get it done," he said.

Even with a lot on his mind, Obama seemed up on the latest news, such as which teams had won conference tournaments and what players were injured, he said.

They even had some

good-natured arguing. Katz is picking Wake Forest and Connecticut in his Final Four, along with North Carolina and Pittsburgh. The two men also disagreed on the eventual national champion.

# Dawson, Tarver set date for rematch in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS — The new Joint will be jumpin'! Undefeated IBF/IBO light heavyweight champion Chad Dawson and three-time world champion Antonio Tarver will meet in a rematch of their world title fight, Saturday, May 9, in The Joint at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Las Vegas. The fight will be televised live on HBO World Championship Boxing.



IBF light heavyweight champion Chad Dawson, right, and Antonio Tarver pose for photos after a news conference in Las Vegas on Tuesday. The heated rivals will fight in a IBF light heavyweight title boxing match on Saturday, May 9.

Dawson (27-0, 17 KOs), from New Haven, Conn., began his second reign as a light heavyweight world champion by dethroning the defending champion Tarver in a hard-fought battle in Las Vegas on October 11, 2008. For Dawson, it was a victory that proved he was one of boxing's elite and a Top-10

pound-for-pound fighter. Dawson's resume proves he's the man to beat. In fact three of his last five victories have been against defending or former world champions

who had a combined record of 105-15-2 (76 KOs), a winning percentage of 86 percent and a victory by knockout ratio of 72 percent. Dawson, (See Fight, Page 11)



## PUNCHER'S CHANCE

Cuba's Juan Carlos Gomez, right, punches with his coach Orlando Cuellar during a press training session in Stuttgart, Germany on Wednesday. Gomez will face defending World Boxing Council heavyweight world champion Vitali Klitschko for a heavyweight championship match in Stuttgart on Saturday. Klitschko is favored to win the fight.

Celebrate Our  
**SPRING MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE DRIVE**  
March 29 - April 5, 2009

THE ALL NEW  
**POWER 88**  
Today's Hits & Old School Jams

**Plan Now To Join Us!**

Call the Pledge Line at  
**702.647.3688**  
or  
pledge securely online  
by visiting  
**www.POWER88LV.com**

COX COMMUNICATIONS | WELLS FARGO