

FRESNO REGION



[1] Connecticut

Big East at-large

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: The Huskies don't have a senior on their roster, but that isn't a cause for alarm — they won the 2003 title with a senior-less team. Reserve Kaili McLaren, an All-Met from Good Counsel, is averaging 4.1 points.

TOP PLAYERS

G Renee Montgomery, 5-7, So.	13 ppg, 4.8 rpg
C Tina Charles, 6-4, Fr.	13 ppg, 8.8 rpg
F Charde Houston, 6-1, Jr.	12.5 ppg, 6.9 rpg

THE TEAM

Coach: Geno Auriemma
Record: 29-3, 16-0



[2] Stanford

Pacific-10 champion

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: Freshman forward Jayne Appel is the Cardinal's third-leading scorer (13.5 points) and third-leading rebounder (7.1) but has yet to make a start this season. That's the extent of Stanford's depth.

TOP PLAYERS

G Candice Wiggins, 5-11½, Jr.	16.3 ppg, 4.2 rpg
F-C Brooke Smith, 6-3, Sr.	13.9 ppg, 7.5 rpg
F Jilliam Harmon, 6-1, Soph.	7.9 ppg, 42% FG

THE TEAM

Coach: Tara VanDerveer
Record: 28-4, 17-1



[3] Louisiana State

Southeastern at-large

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: This season, Fowles became the first player to register a double-double in every SEC game. But all the recent attention on the Tigers has been off the court, following Pokey Chatman's abrupt resignation as coach.

TOP PLAYERS

C Sylvia Fowles, 6-6, Jr.	17.4 ppg, 12.7 rpg
G Quianna Chaney, 5-11, Jr.	12.4 ppg, 2.7 rpg
G Erica White, 5-3, Jr.	7.7 ppg, 4.3 apg

THE TEAM

Coach: Bob Starkey
Record: 26-7, 10-4



[4] North Carolina State

ACC at-large

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: Inspired by Yow's ongoing battle with cancer, N.C. State is playing its best basketball entering the tournament. Khadijah Whittington is on pace to become the first N.C. State player in 20 years to average a double-double.

TOP PLAYERS

F K. Whittington, 6-1, Jr.	10.2 ppg, 10.6 rpg
C Gillian Goring, 6-7, Sr.	10 ppg, 52.8% FG
G Shayla Fields, 6-1, So.	9.8 ppg, 45 3-pts.

THE TEAM

Coach: Kay Yow
Record: 23-9, 10-4



[5] Baylor

Big 12 at-large

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: The Lady Bears, with just three upperclassmen on the roster, were supposed to be a bit of a project this year. Instead, seven players average at least seven points, and they lead the nation in blocked shots per game.

TOP PLAYERS

F Bernice Mosby, 6-1, Sr	18.1 ppg, 9.5 rpg
G Angela Tisdale, 5-5, Jr.	11.4 ppg, 3.7 apg
G-F Jessica Morrow, 6-2, Soph.	9 ppg, 3.2 rpg

THE TEAM

Coach: Kim Mulkey
Record: 25-7, 11-5



[6] Xavier

Atlantic 10 champion

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: Xavier enters the NCAA tournament on a 10-game win streak and has won 12 of its last 13. The Musketeers have suffered only three losses since Jan. 1, two of which were by a total of three points. Harris is the Atlantic 10 rookie of the year.

TOP PLAYERS

F Amber Harris, 6-5, Fr.	16.2 ppg, 4 bpg
G S. Granderson, 5-10, Sr.	13.5 ppg, 3.6 rpg
F Joeli Clyburn, 6-1, Sr.	11.6 ppg, 51% FG

THE TEAM

Coach: Kevin McGuff
Record: 26-7, 11-3



[7] Old Dominion

Colonial champion

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: The Monarchs began 3-7 with losses to, among others, Virginia, Duke and Tennessee, but won 21 of 22 capped by their NCAA-record 16th straight league title. ODU has lost four straight NCAA first-round games.

TOP PLAYERS

G T.J. Jordan, 5-8, Jr.	14.5 ppg, 3.4 rpg
F Sherida Triggs, 6-1, Sr.	9.6 ppg, 5.7 rpg
F Tish Lyons, 5-10, Sr.	8.5 ppg, 3.1 rpg

THE TEAM

Coach: Wendy Larry
Record: 24-8, 17-1



[8] New Mexico

Mountain West champion

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: The Lobos, who have won 12 of their last 13 games, are making their sixth consecutive trip to the NCAA tournament. Briody sank a school-record 39 consecutive free throws earlier this season.

TOP PLAYERS

G Julie Briody, 6-0, Sr.	15.6 ppg, 5.3 rpg
F Dionne Marsh, 6-1, Jr.	14.8 ppg, 6.4 rpg
Katie Montgomery, 5-11, Jr.	12.3 ppg, 3.7 apg

THE TEAM

Coach: Don Flanagan
Record: 24-8, 11-5



[9] Wisconsin-Green Bay

Horizon champion

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: The Phoenix has won 22 games in a row; its last loss was Nov. 29 to DePaul. And it has done so in style, averaging 76.8 points. Wisconsin-Green Bay leads the country with 80.5 percent free throw shooting.

TOP PLAYERS

C Nicole Soulis, 6-2, Sr.	16.8 ppg, 5.8 rpg
G Natalie Berglin, 5-7, Sr.	11.4 ppg, 4.5 apg
G Amanda Popp, 5-10, Sr.	10.2 ppg, 3.3 rpg

THE TEAM

Coach: Kevin Borseth
Record: 28-3, 16-0



[10] Florida State

ACC at-large

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: Florida State, making its third straight NCAA appearance, has a strong front court in Miller and 6-4 freshman Jacinta Monroe. Gladden, an all-ACC defensive team selection, needs two steals to be the school's career leader.

TOP PLAYERS

G Alicia Gladden, 5-11, Sr.	13.4 ppg, 2.1 spg
C Britany Miller, 6-4, So.	12.8 ppg, 6.2 rpg
G Tanae Davis-Cain, 5-11, So.	9.1 ppg

THE TEAM

Coach: Sue Semrau
Record: 22-9, 10-4



[11] West Virginia

Big East at-large

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: The Mountaineers got their spot by winning 12 of their final 14 regular season games. Sanni became the second West Virginia player to be named first team all-Big East. WVU is 14-2 when holding foes under 60 points.

TOP PLAYERS

C Olayinka Sanni, 6-2, Jr.	14.1 ppg, 55.9% FG
G LaQuita Owens, 5-9, Jr.	14 ppg, 5.9 rpg
F Chakhia Cole, 5-10, Jr.	11.7 ppg, 6.1 rpg

THE TEAM

Coach: Mike Carey
Record: 20-10, 11-5



[12] Chattanooga

Southern champion

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: Anderson led the Southern Conference in scoring, rebounding and field goal percentage and was conference player of the year. Since an 80-72 OT loss to Western Carolina on Jan. 13, the Lady Mocs are 14-1.

TOP PLAYERS

G-F Alex Anderson, 6-1, Jr.	20.6 ppg, 10.4 rpg
G Brooke Hand, 5-8, Jr.	10.2 ppg, 78.6% FT
G Laura Hall, 5-6, Jr.	9.7 ppg, 3.7 apg

THE TEAM

Coach: Wes Moore
Record: 25-7, 15-3



[13] Robert Morris

Northeast champion

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: The Colonials enter their first NCAA tournament having won 13 of their last 14 games. Nesbit, a first-team all-conference player and MVP of the NEC tournament, went to high school at Ballou.

TOP PLAYERS

F Chinata Nesbit, 6-2, Jr.	19.1 ppg, 10.5 rpg
F-C Sugeiry Monsac, 6-1, Sr.	16.1 ppg, 9.3 rpg
G Psyche Butler, 5-10, Sr.	9.4 ppg, 6.1 rpg

THE TEAM

Coach: Sal Buscaglia
Record: 24-7, 15-3



[14] UNC Asheville

Big South champion

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: The Bulldogs were 3-25 in Blöse's first season (2002-03), and now they're in the NCAA tournament for the first time. Ana Baker, who leads the Bulldogs with 3.3 assists per game, was part of a state title team at Arundel.

TOP PLAYERS

G Ashton Barton, 5-8, Sr.	12.9 ppg, 5.3 rpg
F Amanda Elder, 6-0, Sr.	12.4 ppg, 7.2 rpg
G Brittany Hendley, 5-6, Sr.	11.6 ppg, 2.8 rpg

THE TEAM

Coach: Betsy Blöse
Record: 21-11, 9-5



[15] Idaho State

Big Sky champion

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: The Bengals dropped their first six games of the season but won 10 of their last 11 to claim their second NCAA berth. Doma was the conference tournament MVP after totaling 45 points and 34 rebounds in two games.

TOP PLAYERS

C Natalie Doma, 6-3, Jr.	21.8 ppg, 12.2 rpg
G Andrea Lightfoot, 5-8, Jr.	17.6 ppg, 5.7 rpg
G Jeni Boesel, 5-9, Sr.	13.6 ppg, 4.7 apg

THE TEAM

Coach: Jon Newlee
Record: 17-13, 11-5



[16] UMBC

America East champion

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: The Retrievers run a Princeton offense, for good reason: four players were in the National Honor Society and the team GPA last season was 3.25. Robinson, a graduate of Patuxent, was the conference tournament MVP.

TOP PLAYERS

F Sharri Rohde, 5-11, Sr.	13.6 ppg, 6.5 rpg
G Brittne Hughes, 5-7, Sr.	11.4 ppg, 4.1 apg
F Amanda Robinson, 6-3, Jr.	10.5 ppg, 5.3 rpg

THE TEAM

Coach: Phil Stern
Record: 16-16, 6-10