

NCAA Men's Tournament I Final Four

'Glue Guys' Who Could Make A Difference

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INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Reading a box score isn't always the best way to measure guard Josh Gasser's impact on a Wisconsin game.

Not unless the stat sheet also includes drawing charges, diving for loose balls and careening head-first toward the sideline to save a loose ball.

Meet the Badgers' "glue guy." The senior is someone who "helps us win basketball games, makes plays that a lot of people don't necessarily see that really change the course of the game," teammate Frank Kaminsky said.

For all the attention deservedly heaped on Kaminsky, Gasser has had

just as much of an impact during Badgers' two-year run of Final Four appearances.

The other national semifinalists have those guys too. Often, it's someone like Gasser who doesn't need the attention lavished on a star like Kaminsky.

The definition of a glue guy could change depending on the makeup of a team. On short-handed Duke, there's more than one of those guys.

Sometimes, it's someone who is more of an experienced scorer. On other teams, a glue guy could be a freshman.

The common quality is that they do a lot of the little things besides score, whether on or off the floor.

A look at Gasser and other glue

guys to watch in the Final Four on Saturday:

WISCONSIN: Gasser averages 6.9 points a game, though he is also 40 percent shooter from 3-point range.

But he's most valued as Wisconsin's best on-ball defender, typically drawing the assignment of trying to shut down a team's best scorer.

Gasser slides into the glue guy role effortlessly, even though the high school scorer had to adjust once he arrived in Madison. The goal was to do "anything I could to get on the court," Gasser said.

"The reason I came to Wisconsin was so that I could win games, win championships and compete in championships," Gasser said. "This year, we've definitely done that, and I think

the wins speak for themselves, and I think that's the proudest thing I have from my career."

KENTUCKY: There are so many players to choose from coach John Calipari's platoon. The coach himself loves the versatility of Trey Lyles, a 6-foot-10 freshman.

He doesn't have Gasser's savvy or leadership qualities. But he does present some other problems for teams.

Big problems.

DUKE: Everyone needs to contribute with just eight scholarship players on the roster. For assistant coach Jon Scheyer, the Blue Devils' glue guy is Matt Jones.

"One day it might be hitting a shot.

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Column: Don't Forget About Sparty

PAUL NEWBERRY
AP National Writer

Kentucky is going for the first perfect season in nearly four decades.

Duke and Wisconsin look gaudy enough with their No. 1 seeds.

It would be easy to forget about Sparty at this Final Four.

That also would be a mistake.

Overlooked and underrated all season, Michigan State is not some cuddly underdog that made its year simply by getting it to Indianapolis. No, this coach and this group of players are more than capable of cutting down the nets come Monday night.

It wouldn't even be that much of an upset.

"I would be the first to admit that a month and a half ago I questioned where we are," coach Tom Izzo said Friday. "But we've earned our right to be here, too. So we're not going to apologize anymore."

Granted, the Spartans (27-11) have lost more games than the other three teams combined.

But they've won 12 of their last 15, and two of the defeats went to overtime. The only game the Spartans weren't really competitive in during that span was a 68-61 loss at Wisconsin, when they trailed by 22 in the second half before rallying down the stretch to make it more respectable.

In fact, five of Michigan State's losses were in OT.

"They're six possessions away from having 30-something wins or being a number one or number two seed," said Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski, whose team will face the Spartans in Saturday's semifinals. "That's how crazy our game is, because they've been in so many close games."

What makes us believe Michigan State has a chance to finish the job in Indy?

Start with the guy on the sideline.

Amazingly, given the coaching royalty that reached the Final Four — Krzyzewski, Kentucky's John Calipari and Wisconsin's Bo Ryan are certainly no slouches — Izzo might be the best of them all at getting the most out of his team in March and April.

His record in the NCAA tournament is 46-16, a winning percentage of .741 that is only slightly behind Coach Cal (.770) and Coach K (.767), even though those two clearly had more talented teams over the years.

Beyond Izzo, the Spartans have plenty of experience and depth in the backcourt. For all the talk about Kentucky's imposing size, it's tough to win a championship without stellar guard play.

Michigan State fits the bill. The top scorers are senior Travis Trice and junior Denzel Valentine. Junior Bryn Forbes provides the best 3-point threat off the bench. Freshman Lourawls "Tum Tum" Nairn Jr. adds energy, quickness and leadership beyond his years — not to mention the most dazzling name at the Final Four.

Izzo certainly remembers

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Softball: USD Splits With NDSU

FARGO, N.D. — South Dakota right fielder Morgan Hancock hit a three-run homer and pitcher Madison Frain allowed two runs in her complete-game effort as the Coyotes split with three-time defending champion North Dakota State Friday at Ellig Sports Complex. The Bison won game one 9-2 and the Coyotes took the nightcap 4-2. The rubber match starts at 11 a.m. today (Saturday).

Hancock's fifth home run of the season, paired with Allie Daly's RBI single in the first inning, gave South Dakota (11-19-1, 3-2 Summit) a 4-1 lead after three innings in game two. Daly, who had the Coyotes only hit in game one, was 3-for-6 during the twin bill with three RBIs and two runs scored.

Frain (5-7) allowed four hits and struck out three to pick up her fifth win in the circle this season. She retired nine of the first 11 hitters she faced, struck out pinch hitter Danielle Renner with the bases loaded to end the fourth inning, and allowed one hit in the final three innings.

Equally impressive was the Bison's game one starter, Krista Menke, who gave up a two-run homer to Daly in the top of the first inning and scattered three walks without allowing another hit the rest of the way. Menke (20-2) struck out 12 and walked four in game one. She also pitched 2 2/3 hitless innings of relief in game two and punched out three more.

North Dakota State (28-7, 6-2) took a 3-2 lead in the second inning of game one on an RBI groundout by second baseman Cheyenne Garcia. It was the only out Garcia made in game one. She was 3-for-4 including a solo home run in the fourth that made it 5-2. She singled and scored in a three-run sixth inning that made it 9-2.

The Bison's first three hitters were 7-for-10 with two homers, four RBIs and five runs scored in game one. They were 3-for-10 in game two. The rest of the Bison's lineup combined to go 4-for-30 (.133) during the double-header.

South Dakota shortstop Matley Jones was 0-for-1 with two walks in game one, ending a 14-game hitting streak. Jones was the second Coyote to have a hitting streak end at 14 games this season. Yvon Minogue, who began the season with a 14-game streak, registered her 18th double of the season Friday. Minogue entered the week with the second-most doubles in the nation.

State Wrestling Placewinners



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Several members of the Yankton Youth Wrestling program took home top-eight finishes from the South Dakota State AAU Wrestling Tournament. Placewinners include (front) Kyler Greger (4th at Pre-K, 47 pounds), Langdon Klinkhammer (2nd at Tots, 57 pounds), Bentley Klinkhammer (1st at Tots, 37 pounds), Jaclyn Kyte (4th at girls' Bantam, 50 pounds), (middle) Nevaeh Leonard (1st at girls' Midget, 72 pounds), Tucker Bahm (5th at Schoolboy, 70 pounds), Joshua Riibe (5th at Novice, 127 pounds), Shayce Platte (4th at Bantam, 53 pounds), (back) Taten Bahm (3rd at Cadet, 84 pounds), Donovan Bain (7th at Cadets, 138 pounds) and Kyler Lillie (6th at Schoolboy, 90 pounds). Not pictured are Owen Warren (1st at Novice, heavyweight), Trevor Ellis (4th at schoolboy, 180 pounds), Rachel Michl (2nd at girls' Bantam, 50 pounds) and coaches Marshall Bahm, Josh Koch and Riley Smith.

Twins Pitcher Santana Banned 80 Games

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP) — The Minnesota Twins spent \$55 million on Ervin Santana to bring some much-needed talent and experience to their beleaguered starting rotation.

Now, thanks to an 80-game suspension for testing positive for a banned substance, the Twins will be without their biggest offseason acquisition for half the season. And their pitching staff has become a major question mark once again.

Santana was suspended by Major League Baseball on Friday after testing positive for the performance-enhancing substance Stanazolol.

"It's disappointing. It's difficult," Twins GM Terry Ryan said. "We had a fairly decent spring. Now we've got to regroup here and hopefully it won't affect us as we move forward."

In a statement released through the players' union, Santana said he was surprised by the news but does not

plan to appeal. New to the Twins this year, he'll miss the first half of the season.

This was the third penalty for a positive Stanazolol test reported by MLB in the last eight days, following Seattle pitcher David Rollins and Atlanta pitcher Arodys Vizcaino.

A person familiar with the penalties told The Associated Press that MLB will look into whether there's a common source to the three cases. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is not finished.

Santana signed a four-year contract with the Twins after pitching last season with Atlanta and was slotted in the No. 2 spot behind Phil Hughes in a rotation that has been among the worst in the majors the last four years. The



Santana

32-year-old righty will lose \$5,901,639 of his \$13.5 million salary this season.

In his statement, Santana issued his "deepest apologies" to his family, fans, colleagues, teammates and the Twins.

"I am very disappointed that I tested positive for a performance-enhancing drug. I am frustrated that I can't pinpoint how the substance in question entered my body. I would never knowingly take anything illegal to enhance my performance. What I can guarantee is I never knowingly took anything illegal to enhance my performance. That's just not me, never has been and never will," Santana said.

The Twins announced before their exhibition game against Boston that they will recall left-hander Aaron Thompson from Triple-A Rochester to take Santana's place on the staff.

Thompson will go to the bullpen, and right-hander Mike Pelfrey will return to the rotation.

Haas Tourney Champs



ABOVE: The Yankton Heat capped their run as a travel team by winning the 8th grade boys' red division championship of the Hansen-Haas youth basketball tournament. Team members (front) include Rex Ryken, Ethan Wishon, Cole Sawatzke, Owen Feser, Michael Frick, Miles Carda, Nick Kurtenbach and Jack Raab. Also pictured are team parents, (middle row) mothers Mel Ryken, Amy Wishon, Connie Sawatzke, Chasity Feser, Susie Frick, Diane Carda, Darcie Kurtenbach and Tracy Raab, and (back) fathers Mark Ryken, Travis Wishon, Jim Sawatzke, Aaron Feser, Brian Frick, Brian Carda, Tom Kurtenbach and Larry Raab.

RIGHT: The Yankton Lakers won their fourth grade girls' division at the Hansen-Haas Memorial Basketball Tournament. Team members include (front) Nora Welker, Hailey Oswald, Thea Chance, (back) Shalayne Nagel, Emma Yost, Grace Behrns and Hannah Sailer.

