

Brackets Busted: Big 12 Stumbles On Opening Day Of NCAA Tourney

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Two wins by No. 14 seeds. Two sons winning games for their father-coaches. The team nobody thought belonged in the field winning a game. The Big 12 starting 0-3. Just another opening day of the NCAA Tournament.

UAB 60, Iowa St. 59

William Lee scored the last four points for the 14th-seeded Blazers in their upset win Thursday. The Blazers (20-15) came in as one of the youngest teams in the field and with nobody having played in this tournament before. They wound up defeating the program's first NCAA game since 2005.

The third-seeded Cyclones (25-9) couldn't hold onto a 55-51 lead with 3:13 left as the Blazers outscored Iowa State 9-4 down the stretch. Robert Brown had 21 points and Lee finished with 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Blazers who dominated the boards 52-37, including 19 on the offensive glass.

Morris finished with 15 points for the Cyclones, who were making a school-record fourth straight tournament appearance.

UCLA 60, SMU 59

Bryce Alford made four 3-pointers in the final 3:40, his last on a rare goaltending call with 13 seconds remaining, to push 11th-seeded UCLA to the upset. All of Alford's points came on nine long-range shots but his last attempt was the most debated as his shot from the left side was hit by SMU's Yanick Moreira before it reached the rim. Officials awarded Alford, the son of coach Steve Alford, the basket, to the disbelief of SMU players and coach Larry Brown. The sixth-seeded Mustangs (27-7) had two shots

to win in the final seconds, but Nic Moore missed a 3-pointer and then a 2-point attempt that sent the Bruins (21-13) into a wild celebration. Norman Powell added 19 points for UCLA, the team many felt didn't even belong in the field of 68. Moore had 24 points, including six 3s.

Utah 57, Stephen F. Austin 50

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Jakob Poeltl had 18 points and eight rebounds, and fifth-seeded Utah opened its first NCAA Tournament appearance in six years by holding off Stephen F. Austin.

The high-scoring Lumberjacks were a trendy pick in brackets across the country, but the Utes used their stout defense to hold the Southland Conference Tournament champions well under their season average of 79.5 points. Ty Charles led 12th-seeded Stephen F. Austin (29-5) with 14 points.

Jordan Loveridge added 12 points for Utah (25-8), which will play the winner of the late game between No. 4 seed Georgetown and 13th-seeded Eastern Washington.

Utah had not won a tournament game since 2005. Stephen F. Austin pulled off an opening-day upset last year as a No. 12 seed, ousting VCU 77-75 in overtime.

Midwest Region

Notre Dame 69, Northeastern 65

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Zach Auguste scored 25 points, Jerian Grant added 17 and Notre Dame dodged a scare trying to erase its futile NCAA Tournament history.

The third-seeded Fighting Irish (30-5) returned to the tournament after a one-year absence. They have traditionally struggled in the tournament under coach

Mike Brey. They made only one Sweet 16 since 2001. Scott Eatherton had 18 points and David Walker had 15 for 14th-seeded Northeastern (23-12) which gave the Irish fits and threatened to keep Notre Dame's March malaise going. With a chance to tie it at 67-all with less than 10 seconds left, Quincy Ford lost control of the ball — and the Huskies lost their chance at pulling off the shocker. Auguste, who made 10 of 14 shots, sealed it with two free throws.

Butler 56, Texas 48

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Kellen Dunham scored 20 points, including a pivotal 3-pointer with 1:18 to play, to lift sixth-seeded Butler (23-10).

The Longhorns (20-14) added to a miserable day for the vaunted Big 12. Texas joined Baylor and Iowa State, both No. 3 seeds, as early tournament exits.

Jonathan Holmes led the Longhorns with 15 points and Isaiah Taylor added 14 but Texas shot just 34 percent from the field and turned it over 15 times while failing to make it beyond the first weekend of the NCAAAs for the seventh straight year.

A pullup jumper by Taylor drew Texas within 44-43 with 2:42 to play but the Longhorns never got closer. Dunham knocked down a free throw and then hit a 3-pointer from the right wing to make it 48-43.

Cincinnati 66, Purdue 65, OT

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Troy Caupain got Cincinnati to overtime with his buzzer-beating layup, then Coreontae DeBerry helped the eighth-seeded Bearcats beat No. 9 seed Purdue.

The Bearcats trailed by seven with 48.5 seconds left in regulation and forced overtime with a 10-3 run. Caupain's driving layup banked off the glass, rolled



MARK CORNELISON/LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER/TNS
Southern Methodist's Ryan Manuel sits at mid-court as UCLA celebrates a 60-59 win in the second round of the NCAA Tournament at the KFC Yum! Center in Louisville, Ky., on Thursday.

Tigers Escape Parker 61-57

BY JOHN PAPENDICK
Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN — Experience, size and free throws overcame undersized, over-determined and quickness Thursday in Aberdeen.

White River defeated Parker 61-57 in their opening round game of the State B Boys' Basketball Tournament at Wachs Arena. The White River front line of 6-foot-9 Justin Folkers, 6-foot-4 Link Tucker and 6-foot-3 Nicholas Young created problems for Parker — whose tallest player is 6-foot-2.

"It was a tough win, but we will take it," said White River coach Eldon Marshall, whose team is making its 10th straight State B appearance. "Sometimes, we had trouble matching up with their quickness. Give Parker credit because they are a good team and they played an outstanding game. But our players did what they needed to do, especially in the end."

White River (22-2) will play Langford Area (23-1) at 7:45 tonight (Friday) in the semifinals. Parker (17-7) will play Gregory (18-6) in the consolation semifinals at 1:45 this afternoon.

In the final five minutes, White River made eight of 14 free throws — two of the misses were front ends of one-and-ones. "We are not that great of a free-throw shooting team, but we got to the free throw line at the end of the game," Marshall said. "We didn't make them all — just enough to win."

White River also turned up the defensive intensity in the fourth quarter, holding Parker to only four field goals. During a crucial time when after Parker got the lead down to 45-44 on its lead speedster Zach O'Keefe's steal and basket with 6:22 to play, the Pheasants would make only one field goal in the next 5 1/2 minutes.

"We missed a lot of layups," Parker coach Dave Fuller said. "Of course, White River had something to do with that, too. They were big, and they altered some of our shots inside. Sometimes we would beat their guys off the dribble, but then we had to contend with the 6-foot-9 guy down the lane."

White River got off to a 10-2 start and increased its lead to 31-17 in the second quarter.

"We did a good job in the first part of the game, getting that lead," Marshall said. "But then we just made a few mental errors and got a little lackadaisical with the ball."

Fuller added, "I was so

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USD Wins WNIT Opener



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
South Dakota's Nicole Seekamp, center, is congratulated by teammates Lisa Loeffler, right, and Margaret McCloud, 30, after drawing a foul during the Coyotes' matchup with Creighton in the opening round of the WNIT on Thursday at the Dakotadome in Vermillion.

Coyotes Clip Creighton

USD Will Play At Northern Colorado On Sunday

BY JEREMY HOECK
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VERMILLION — Amy Williams put a sign in her players' lockers after a loss in last week's Summit League championship game.

It reads: "Welcome to disappointment: Don't stay too long."

The message was simple, the University of South Dakota women's basketball coach said: It was time to move on and think about the WNIT.

"That's not a place we want to linger," Williams said after her Coyotes hung on to beat Creighton 68-58 in Thursday night's first round matchup at the Dakotadome.

"We refocused very quickly on the opportunity in front of us."

That opportunity was a chance for the Coyotes (26-7) to make a deep run in the WNIT, after falling short of their goal of a repeat trip to the NCAA Tournament.

Charge accepted, said

senior Nicole Seekamp.

"We've found a new goal, and that's to win the WNIT or go as far as we can it," said Seekamp, who scored 21 points in Thursday's win.

The Coyotes, who finish 15-0 at home this season, are now set up for a road trip to Colorado for a second-round game Sunday at Northern Colorado — the Bears beat Colorado State on Thursday.

There was a time, though, on Thursday where the Coyotes were in jeopardy of not winning in the first round.

Creighton (17-14), a member of the Big East Conference, cut a 16-point deficit down to 56-53 with 5:47 remaining.

The Bluejays then got to within 61-58 with 1:50 left, but Seekamp answered with a basket and senior Lisa Loeffler later hit a three-pointer at the 35-second mark.

Season saved. "When you have a team that's won 26 games, that's a special thing," Amy Williams

said. "They're not ready for that to be over."

Out of the gates, it was the perfect start for the Coyotes.

Not only did they score the game's first 10 points, they didn't surrender a basket to the Bluejays for the first 5 minutes, 49 seconds.

The pace slowed a little bit, but USD still took a 36-24 cushion into halftime. As it turned, that early surge allowed the Coyotes — who would commit 21 turnovers — to eventually extend their season.

"We really didn't want to stop playing with each other," said senior Raeshel Contreiras, who scored 14 points. "For our younger people, this is good experience for them."

Up next for the Coyotes is a trip west to Colorado for a matchup with Northern Colorado.

The Bears (21-12), who lost to Montana in the Big Sky Conference championship game, have three common opponents with USD: They won by nine on the road at Omaha, lost by 23 at home to South Dakota State, and went 2-1 against North Dakota.

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State Basketball: Hitchcock-Tulare, Hanson Score Upset Wins In 'B'

ABERDEEN (AP) — Landon Gatzke had 21 points and six rebounds to lead Hitchcock-Tulare to a 54-40 upset of top-seeded Faith Thursday in the opening round of the South Dakota Class B boys basketball tournament.

Gatzke made three of six 3-pointers and went 8-for-10 from the line for the Patriots (17-7), who came in as the No. 8 seed. Tyler Oechsle added 16 points.

The Patriots shot 52 percent from the field to just 35 percent by the Longhorns (22-2), who fell behind 29-17 at half. They rallied to get within six late in the fourth

quarter.

Tyler Hohenberger led the Longhorns with 16 points and six rebounds.

Hanson 56, Wolsey-Wess. 55

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Taylor Nichols' layup with eight seconds left lifted Hanson over previously unbeaten Wolsey-Wessington 56-55 Thursday at the South Dakota Class B boys basketball tournament.

Leading by one, Wolsey-Wessington missed a free throw with 17 seconds left. After a timeout, Hanson (20-4) went inside to Nichols, who finished with 28 points and 18 rebounds.

Wolsey-Wessington's Bennett White missed a long shot as time ran out.

Nichols was 10-for-14 from the field and 8-for-10 from the line. Sam Vander Stouwe added 12 points for the Beavers.

Wolsey-Wessington (23-1) got 18 points and 10 rebounds from Darian Ogunjemiusi. White chipped in 15 points and Lorenzo Williams 14 for the Warbirds.

Langford Area 49, Gregory 36

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Langford Area followed Bo Fries' lead to a 49-36 win over Gregory on Thursday at the South Dakota Class B boys basketball tournament.

Fries had a team-high 22 points, 14 rebounds and four assists for the Lions (23-1), who spoiled the Gorillas' first state tournament game in 52 years.

Class AA RC Stevens 59, Aberdeen Central 38

SIoux FALLS (AP) — Rapid City Stevens pulled away in the second half to beat Aberdeen Central 59-38 Thursday at the South Dakota Class AA boys basketball tournament.

Sam McCloud had 18 points and eight rebounds for the Raiders (11-12),

who outscored the Golden Eagles 38-19 in the second half.

Mason Archambault had three 3-pointers and 16 points and Brad Drake had 11 points on 5-for-5 shooting for Stevens.

Jacob Goehring Aberdeen Central (19-5) with 13 points, including three 3-pointers. The Eagles shot just 28 percent from the field, 24 percent in the second half.

SF Washington 60, Huron 44

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Carter Keller had 19 points and Ty Smith had a double-double Thursday as Sioux Falls Washington beat Huron 60-44 at the South Dakota Class AA boys basketball tournament.

Keller had three 3-pointers and shot

6-for-11 from the field for the Warriors (21-2). Smith had 10 points and a game-high 10 rebounds. Cole Benson chipped in 14 points for the top-seeded Warriors, who held the Tigers (8-16) to 30 percent shooting.

Hyland Heinz led Huron with 17 points, including a 9-for-11 effort from the free throw line. Tye Evers added eight points and seven rebounds.

Washington scored 29 points off the bench to just four for Huron.

SF Lincoln 58, Watertown 38

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Addison Park's double-double led Sioux Falls Lincoln past Watertown 58-38 Thursday at the South Dakota Class AA boys

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