

March Madness Betting: Tennessee vs American to start Friday first round action

Contributed by
Friday, 21 March 2008
Last Updated Friday, 21 March 2008

For those of you escaping from the office early on Friday to catch some March Madness NCAA tournament action you will have eight afternoon games waiting for you. The first four start between noon ET and 12:30 p.m. to be followed by another four game set that tips off between 2:30 and 3 p.m. East region two-seed Tennessee (29-4) of the SEC gets the day started at 12:15 in Birmingham, Ala., with its match-up with 15-seed American University of the Patriot League. As expected, oddsmakers at online sports book WagerWeb.com don't expect this game to be close having installed the Volunteers the favorite by a 19 ½ point chalk with a 141 ½ total. NCAA Hoops Picks expert Reno Gold provides winning picks in single guaranteed selections and subscription packages.

The Midwest Regional has what could be the day's best match-up, starts at 12:25 when the seven-seed Gonzaga Bulldogs (25-7) of the WCC play No. 10 Davidson Wildcats (26-6) of the Southern Conference at the RBC Center in Raleigh, N.C. The Wildcats are favored by a 1 ½ point chalk with a 141 total.

A fantastic looking 5-12 seeds Western Regional match-up at the St. Petersburg, Fla., Times-Forum between the Drake Bulldogs (28-4) of the Missouri Valley Conference and Sunbelt champs Western Kentucky Hilltoppers (27-6) tips off at 12:30. WagerWeb.com has the Bulldogs as slight 4 ½ point favorites with a 140 total.

In the South at North Little Rock, Ark., seven-seed ACC member Miami (22-10) has to face dangerous 10-seed St. Mary's (25-6) of the WCC with a 12:30 start. Oddsmakers see this game as a PICK with a 137 ½ total.

The second afternoon set of games should begin at approximately 2:45 when East Regional seven-seed Butler Bulldogs (29-3) face the Sunbelt member, 10-seed South Alabama Jaguars at BJCC Arena in Birmingham, Ala. Butler is favored by a 4 ½ point chalk with a 127 total.

At 2:50 p.m. the 15-seed Maryland-Baltimore County Retrievers (24-8) face a daunting task when they play the Midwest Regional two-seed Georgetown Hoyas (27-5) at the RBC Center in Raleigh, N.C. The Hoyas are heavily favored by a 17 point chalk with a 131 ½ total.

Two games should tip off around 3 p.m. Four-seed Connecticut (24-8) plays WCC tournament winner San Diego (21-13) in the West Region at the Times Forum in St. Petersburg. UConn has been installed as an 11 ½ point favorite with a 130 ½ total.

In the South Region at North Little Rock, two-seed Texas (28-6) of the Big 12 plays Ohio Valley champ Austin Peay (24-10). The Longhorns are expected to roll, favored by -16 with a 140 ½ total.

NCAA Tournament games can only be seen on television network CBS.

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