Three of Last Year’s Final Four Teams Will Return

Basketball, from Page 16

Chancy and his Temple Owls could catch Carolina by surprise, if they can get to the Sweet Sixteen.

Southeast Regional

As usual, this is the toughest regional to play in, as well as the toughest to pick. The lower seeds in this bracket (College of Charleston, Tennessee-Chattanooga) definitely have the power to pull off the big upset. Glenn “Big Dog” Robinson and Purdues will power their way to the regional final, but look for Kentucky to upset second-seeded Duke and the Boilermakers to give Rick Pitino his second straight Final Four appearance.

Big Upsets: Kentucky over Purdue on a buzzer-beater by Travis Best, and the Boilermakers to give Rick Pitino his second straight Final Four appearance.

Midwest Regional

North Carolina AD & I looks like a heavy favorite in this region, but maybe Southwest Texas State could pull off ... just kidding. Arkansas looks to have an easy run to the regional final. UCLA might have been able to upset them if they didn’t have to play Tulsa and then Oklahoma State — in Oklahoma City.

On the other side of the bracket, number two Massachusetts should be able to get by St. Louis to reach the Sweet Sixteen, but then their Young State University runs into My State University — Michigan. Yes, Michigan. The Wolverines are a great passing team, and match up well with anyone in the country. Steve Fisher (7-3 lifetime postseason record) is extremely tough to beat in the Big Dance. And Michigan has been well-motivated by losses to Purdue (and get ready to laugh) Northwestern in their last three regular-season games. Michigan is headed for yet another Final Four berth.

Big Upsets: not in this region, pal.

Western Kentucky will beat sixth-seeded Texas in the first round, which is hardly an upset. Teams to Watch: The Hilltoppers have Michigan in the second-round and are noted giant-killers (just ask Memphis State and Seton Hall). If UCLA and the O’Bannon brothers make it out of Oklahoma, things could get interesting.

West Regional

There are never any good teams in the West, so the Selection Committee just sends all the teams they couldn’t fit anywhere else out. That’s not quite the case this year, but West is still the weakest region. In this tournament, however, weak translates into fun, as upsets abound. Missouri just avoids being upset by the first number one seed to exit in the first round, as Navy misses the game-winner at the buzzer, but the Tigers will get crested by Clemson in the second round. It’s also anyone’s guess as to how long perennial power Arizona will last. Look for Jason the Kidd and Connecticut to edge out Minnesota in the finals of this region... The Hilltoppers have Michigan in the second-round and are noted giant-killers (just ask Memphis State and Seton Hall). If UCLA and the O’Bannon brothers make it out of Oklahoma, things could get interesting.

Final Four

After all the regional action is said and done, the four teams left will be North Carolina, Kentucky, Michigan, and California. Didn’t we see three of these teams last year? Fortunately, we won’t be seeing a repeat of last year’s final. In one side of the draw, Kentucky will prove to the world that they don’t miss Jamal Mashburn all that much, as they knock off Eric “Shaq” Bailey Jr. Mostost & Co. to get to the finals. In the other game, Kidd wins the battle of the guards to the finals. In the other game, Kidd wins the battle of the guards... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future... individuals who want to help shape the future...