

## Bracket analysis made easy



**JOSH GOFF**  
Round of Goff

It's everybody's favorite time of year again - Spring Break.

Well, that and the Big Dance. For those of you who are still sitting around tearing your hair out trying to get those brackets filled out with all the right upsets - like picking which 5 seed will fall to a 12 (you know it's happening, and you know Nevada looks enticing) - and figuring which 1 seeds will survive through to the Final Four and who will ultimately come out victorious and win you bragging rights and a boatload of cash, I've got a couple tips to help you along the way.

Now, I'm no Joe Lunardi. I have no idea who is going to win each match-up. I consistently finish in the middle of the pack of my pools. I do worse in years that the Razorbacks are involved, because ever since 1994 I've been able to figure out a way they could win at least two or three games every time they've been in. Obviously, this hasn't been a problem for me lately and has helped my brackets considerably.

Unfortunately, the Hogs are back in this year and that spells trouble for my bracket. This is a trap common among Arkansans. You see them play all year and know what they're capable of when playing well, but seem to forget what they're capable of when they're playing horribly. Remember a month or so ago when everybody wanted Stan Heath's head on a platter? He's the same guy coaching the same players now. They aren't world beaters ... but they have enough talent to be. It's maddening, really. And getting that Dallas draw makes everything like a home game, so there's that enticement to deal with, too.

I'm refusing to buy into it this year. Memphis will beat Arkansas. Memphis is real good and didn't get a 1 seed for nothing. Granted, they may be the worst of the 1s, it's a virtual home game for the Hogs (who have already played a game at that arena this year, beating Texas Tech) and Arkansas will have the best player on the floor in Ronnie Brewer. See how all that could make you think Arkansas can win that? Well, 8s don't beat 1s very often, and I remember losses to the Mississippi schools that couldn't beat Delta State and blowing a 97-point lead at Kentucky as much as I remember beating Tennessee and Florida. Any team that has Vincent Hunter jacking 3s all day and Eric Ferguson going 1-for-72 doesn't get my full vote of confidence. But they're just good enough get a half vote ... but that's not enough to knock off Memphis.

So, now that I've established Arkansas isn't twinning the thing, there are several other teams to eliminate. A great starting point is eliminating teams from the weak conferences. You might get a team or two that goes nuts and gets to the Sweet 16, but those small conference teams aren't real threats. So there goes about 30 teams.

Another trap people run into is buying into sudden hype by the TV guys about certain teams. The media darlings are always scary bets. Gerry McNamara may not be overrated, but he's not going to carry the 'Cuse too far. OU is getting too much love for no good reason, and who cares if it's Mike Davis' last run in Indiana? They're still not good. So, out with those three teams.

Speaking of McNamara, if your team is relying on the Great White Hope to lead you to the Promised Land, you're through. So buh-bye Duke, Gonzaga and West Virginia (also, if you haven't already, hop on the Internet and Google Kevin Pittsnogle wedding photos.)

It's nearly impossible to report so axe UNC.

See **Goff** ▶ Page 9

## Spring practice begins new era

BY SCOTT STIRLING  
Assistant Sports Editor

Every year spring football starts at this time of the year, and for the past six seasons coach Clint Conque has been on the practice field leading those practices.

But this year, there's something quite different around the practice field along Bruce St. and the PepsiAmericas Indoor Sports Complex.

The Bears will be moving to Division I-AA next season and

they are preparing for competition even more formidable than what they've faced in the Gulf South Conference.

"This is a new team, new season, new beginning, new era," Conque said. "As I told my team and the coaching staff: basically this is a new job. It's a different job than what we signed on for six years ago, different challenges, different teams; it's just a different deal."

The Bears started practice on Saturday in helmets and shorts

and remained without pads until Monday when all players were equipped in helmets, shoulder pads and shorts. And the addition of contact seemed to fire the players up after a less-than-stellar performance on Sunday.

"Practice one was one of the best first days of spring practice I've ever been associated with," Conque said. "Practice two was kind of ho-hum. But today I thought when we put the shoulder

See **Era** ▶ Page 10



Receiver Brandon Payne speeds past defenders during the Bears' first spring football practice as a Division I-AA team.

## Close ... But No Sweep



UCA's Todd Gossage takes a hack in Sunday's game with Harding. Gossage is batting .303 with a team-leading 6 home runs. He had four hits and a homer in Saturday's doubleheader at Harding.



UCA pitcher Andy Jackson lets go of a pitch during Sunday's 2-1 loss at Harding. After a week in which the Bears scored 60 runs in four games, Sunday's was a pitcher's duel. Jackson had 8 strikeouts.

## Bears come up 2 runs shy of sweeping HU series

BY SCOTT STIRLING  
Assistant Sports Editor

For its second straight weekend UCA took two of three games against a conference foe, sweeping Harding (8-11, 1-5) in a doubleheader on Saturday and falling 2-1 against the Bisons in Sunday's finale at Jerry Moore field in Searcy.

The No. 20 Bears (15-7, 4-2) threatened in the ninth inning of the final game of the series, but came up just short, leaving the tying run on third base. Coach Doug Clark said after Sunday's game that he was happy to leave Searcy with a series win but would have liked to have traveled back to Conway without a loss.

"Two out of three will get you in the tournament," Clark said. "But I think if you want to win a championship you probably need do a little better than that in this league. In most leagues two out of three might win you a championship; in this league you've probably gotta mix in some sweeps."

UCA picked up two more wins earlier in the week winning 22-4 at Pittsborough State on Tuesday and blowing out No. 10 Grand Valley State 16-5 on Wednesday. Although the Bears have lost a conference game in each of the last two Sundays, they've played well since losing three of four to North Alabama three weeks ago.

"You gotta feel good, given that week of a couple weeks ago and the last two weeks," Clark said. "What have we won, seven of our last 10? So that's positive, that is positive."

Another source of excitement for UCA has

been its ability to overcome deficits. Seven of its 15 wins this season have been of the comeback variety.

"That second game [on Saturday] we came back, you know we had some character," Clark said. "We'll do that and we've had a bunch of wins like that and [Sunday's game] could've very easily been another comeback win, so you've gotta feel good about that."

### UCA 16, Harding 2 (7 innings)

Todd Gossage led off the game with his team leading sixth home run and it would be a sign of what would be to come as the Bears upped their run total to 54 in only three games by picking up the win in the first game of the weekend series.

Matt Whitaker (3-1) threw all seven innings for UCA, giving up only one hit and picking up his first Gulf South Conference win.

Whitaker gave up five first-inning runs against Christian Brothers in his first conference appearance before settling down and throwing five scoreless innings. He had no such problem against the Bisons as he only gave up two runs on Saturday, both unearned.

All but one UCA starter had at least one hit in the game, and only two did not score a run as the Bears worked their way through four Harding pitchers.

Gossage had two hits and three RBI and Payton Seelinger went 2-for-5 with two RBI. Chris Davis drove in three runs for UCA and Matt Warren drove in two.

See **Baseball** ▶ Page 10

## Softball struggles continue, OBU sweeps weekend set

Echo Sports

Ouachita Baptist completed the four-game sweep of UCA by winning both games of a doubleheader in Gulf South Conference softball action on Saturday.

The Lady Tigers (6-2, 4-0) downed the Bears (4-12, 2-6) 8-2 and 7-2.

UCA committed six errors and gave up eight hits to OBU in game one.

Zara Kamruddin went 2-for-4 with a home run and two runs

driven in and Emily Matthews was 3-for-3 with a homer, two RBI and two runs scored to lead the Lady Tigers offense.

UCA managed eight hits off of Ouachita starter Crystal Robinson, but could not overcome their defensive miscues. Junior catcher Sarah Scalia and junior second baseman Maegan Bell had two hits each for the Bears.

Robinson (1-1) went the distance, giving up eight hits, two runs and striking out five.

Freshman Holly Vance (0-3) gave up four hits, two earned runs, one walk and one strikeout in 1.1 innings.

Sophomore Jessica Sanders gave up four hits, two runs, one walk and two strikeouts in 5.2 innings of relief.

Six hits and an error led to a six-run sixth inning for OBU, which broke open a 1-1 game in the nightcap. The Lady Tigers outhit the Bears 12-9,

See **Softball** ▶ Page 9

## Perfect in GSC, UCA wins pair of matches

Echo Sports

The UCA Sugar Bears dominated singles play last Tuesday and beat Harding 6-3 in non-conference women's tennis action at UCA, then knocked off Henderson State on Saturday to bring their GSC record to 3-0.

After the Lady Bisons won two of the three doubles matches, UCA took five of the six singles, led by Maja Kovacev at No. 1 singles.

Kovacev beat Alicia

Williams 6-3, 6-2.

UCA also won at No. 2 with Danijela Bogdanovic beating Milena Chisca 6-1, 6-2.

Harding's Kalina Gommess won at No. 3 singles, downing Sanja Stankovic 6-0, 6-1.

UCA's Rebecca Miller rallied to top Catherine Carui 6-4, 3-6 (10-6), while Jenny Paine gave the Sugar Bears a win at No. 5 with a 6-2, 6-1 victory over Margareta Dujomvic.

Rebecca McCullough

See **Tennis** ▶ Page 9

**Randle named player of the year**

UCA forward Caronica Randle was named the Gulf South Conference West Division Player of the Year last Tuesday.

Randle was also named to the 2005-06 Daktronics Division II All-South Region first team.

Randle, a 5-foot-9 forward from Forrest City, was the second-leading scorer in the GSC this season. She averaged 21 points, 6.2 rebounds, and 1.7 assists in 28 games. Randle shot 46.9 percent from the field and 77.5 percent

from the free-throw line.

Randle moved into fifth in career scoring at UCA, with a season to play. Randle led the Sugar Bears in scoring in 25 of their 28 games this season. She scored 20 or more points in 16 games and had one 30-point game (32 against Harding).

Randle is UCA's fourth GSC West Player of the Year in the past five years. Carone Harris won the award in 2002, 2003 and 2005.

Randle was joined on the West All-GSC first team by

Delta State's Lawanda Stewart, Henderson State's Rayna Hare, UA-Monticello's Wendy Young and Southern Arkansas' Sharonda Davis.

The All-South team was made up of Randle, Hare, West Florida's Michelle Gibson, Rollins' Joslyn Giles and West Georgia's Tai Ellis, the South MVP.

**Golf opens with 2nd place finish**  
— by Kristen Hill and Courtney Rychtarik  
UCA finished second overall in the Henderson State Doyle Wallace

Classic at the Hot Springs Country Club on Feb. 27 and 28.

"We didn't do well the first day but we did pretty well the second day," coach Ryke Dismuke said. "We learned a lot from that tournament, and I think it's a good starting point for the rest of the year."

The Bears finished with 320-300-620, which was two strokes behind Henderson State in the nine-team tournament. Arkansas Tech finished third in the tournament. Senior Jordan Short won the

individual tournament with a two-round score of 78-74-152 while junior Ryan Lecuyer tied for second place with a 78-75-153. Junior Matt Montgomery tied for 12th place with 84-74-158 and senior Daniel Haughian tied for 14th with 80-79-159.

"I'm expecting to see good things out of my upperclassmen, Daniel Haughian, Ryan Lecuyer, Jordan Short, and Matt Montgomery," Dismuke said.

The next tournament will be the Arkansas Tech Intercollegiate

which will be held at the Chamberlyne Country Club in Russellville.

"We hope to win the next tournament," Dismuke said. "I think we will play very well in it. We've played it several times and won it twice think that we will be fine."

Looking to the future, Dismuke has high goals for the team.

"Our goals for this season are to win conference and make it into post season meaning the NCAA Regional and the NCAA Nationals," Dismuke said.

# Bonds needs to seek help or just hang it up

Well, earlier today I just finished reading the excerpt from "Game of Shadows" in the March 13 issue of *Sports Illustrated*.

The excerpt is the alleged truth about Barry Bonds and steroids. The book, written by *San Francisco Chronicle* reporters Mark Fainaru-Wada and Lance Williams, will be released March 27 and according to *SI*, in addition to the Bonds stuff "examines, in startling detail, the systematic use of a wide array of illegal drugs by other major leaguers, NFL players and track and field athletes."

Ouch. If the rest of the book is anything like the excerpt about Bonds, people's already-bruised reputations are about to be knocked out like Sonny Liston after Ali got ahold of him.

I've never been a huge fan of Bonds. From all accounts the guy is just a bad person, and those accounts were around long before he was ever portrayed as the No. 1 suspect in the steroid battle.

But before reading this excerpt I thought he was just your average overpaid-, media-hating-, "I only sign this brand of card"-type of Major League

Baseball player.

One of those you kind of hold out hope on. You think one of these days he'll realize the media's not so bad, kids like autographs and that money isn't more important than winning. But after reading the story in *SI* it's very clear that there was never any hope for Bonds.

If everything in the article is "The Truth" as it is headlined, Bonds is a pretty disgusting individual who will most likely die soon, because all of those drugs have got to take their toll on the human body.

Steroids are illegal and seem to be becoming a huge problem. According to the story, Bonds didn't start using the illegal substances until after the 1998 season. So a lot of what Bonds has done in his career was fair. And, really, until last season the MLB didn't actually have a policy against steroids. So technically Bonds may have never really cheated.

But that's not what I want to discuss. There's already plenty to be read and discussed on Bonds' steroid problems. I want to mention a few things the story revealed about his personal life.

The authors have Bonds married or dating four different

women throughout the 12-page excerpt. Two of the women were dating Bonds during his marriage to his current wife.

Most of the discussion of Bonds' affinity for different women comes from mistress No. 1 Kimberly Bell. The two met in 1994, while Bonds was divorced from his first wife. In 1997, while continuing the relationship with Bell, Bonds announced he was getting married – to a different woman.

Bonds reminded Bell (who is white) that she didn't want to get married anyways and his new wife-to-be was black. Bonds said he had gotten "too much s---" from that ever-evil media about marrying a white woman the first time.

Now, for whatever reason, Bell stuck around and she and Bonds continued their affair.

After Bonds started his steady diet of steroids, his anger grew and whenever Bell would threaten to kill her. It appears, however, that they must've had



KAI CADDY  
Caddy Corner

some good times because Bonds eventually bought Bell a mansion in Scottsdale, Ariz. He paid for the house using money from memorabilia

shows – he was paid in cash so there was essentially no paper trail of the money from card dealer to Bonds to Bell's new digs.

But that all changed in 2003 when Bonds met himself a new lady friend. This time it was an Eastern European model he met in New York. He started spending more money and time with this lass and the payments stopped coming on that house in Arizona.

According to the story, Bell had to eventually sell the house and return to the Bay Area. The Bonds-Bell relationship started to fall apart on May 2, 2003 when Bonds decided to threaten Bell's life one more time after a delayed flight caused Bell to be late for a meeting with Bonds.

Later that month, Bell and Bonds met up in Phoenix as the Giants took on the

walks and one strikeout. Lisa White (2-1) picked up the win by giving up two hits, one walk and a strikeout in 1.2 innings of relief.

UCA junior hurler Natalie Faulkner and Sanders combined to five up nine hits, five earned runs, one walk and one strikeout.

Okarski led the UCA offense by going 2-for-3 with two runs batted in and two runs scored. Sophomore shortstop Jamie Terry went 2-for-4 with two RBI. Sperle and Bell also had two hits a piece. UCA left 11 runners on base in the game.

Ouachita outhit the Bears 14-11 in the second game. Zara Kamruddin led the Lady Tiger

offense by going 4-for-4 with three doubles, two runs scored and an RBI. McGhee was 3-for-4 with a home run and four RBIs.

Sperle, Devin McWayne and Jessica Silver collected two hits each for UCA.

Katie Dedas (1-0) picked up the win for OBU, allowing seven hits, three earned runs and one walk in four innings. Shannon McMurry and Crystal Robinson combined for three innings of relief, giving up four hits and one walk, with Robinson picking up the save.

Bowen (1-2) and Burgess combined to give up 14 hits, six earned runs, three walks and two strikeouts for the Bears.

## Softball From Page 8

with Kamruddin hitting two solo home runs. Matthews and pitcher Beth McGhee recorded two hits and Lauren Western went 3-for-4.

UCA got hits each from Amy Sperle, Bell, Marquita Smith and Shayla Williams.

McGhee (1-0) threw seven innings and gave up two hits, one earned run, one walk and struck out five for OBU. Freshman Amanda Burgess (1-4) gave up 12 hits, four earned runs, two walks and seven strikeouts in the losing effort for UCA.

On Friday night the Lady Tigers took the first double header from the Bears.

The Lady Tigers won the first

game 7-6 and took the nightcap 7-4.

Amy Brettingen drove in Jeni Maxton with a single to center field in the top of the seventh inning of game one to give OBU the win.

Trailing 6-2 after four and a half innings, UCA clawed back with a two-run single from junior catcher in the fifth and a two-run double by senior Erika Okarski in the sixth to tie the game.

OBU broke the first game open with a five-run fourth frame, highlighted by home runs from Emily Matthews and Ashley Rader.

Lady Tiger starter Beth McGhee threw 5.1 innings, giving up nine hits, six runs, five

Kovacev/Stankovic 8-1  
Gommes/Carui (HDG) def.  
Bogdanovic/R. Miller 8-4  
Paine/Malloy (UCA) def. Dujomvic/  
Jordan 8-3  
**SINGLES:**  
Kovacev (UCA) def. Williams 6-3,  
6-2  
Bogdanovic (UCA) def. Chisaca 6-1,  
6-2  
Gommes (HDG) def. Stankovic 6-0,  
6-1  
R. Miller (UCA) def. Carui 6-4, 3-6  
(10-6)  
J. Paine (UCA) def. Dujomvic 6-2,  
6-1  
McCullough (UCA) def. Jordan 6-1,  
6-2

## Tennis From Page 8

finished off the match with a 6-1, 6-2 win over Linnea Jordan at No. 6 singles.

Paine and Jenna Malloy won UCA's lone doubles match.

In other matches that did not count in the team scores, Malloy, Heidi Miller and Ana Selva all won singles matches for UCA, while Heidi Miller and McCullough won in doubles.

**DOUBLES:**  
Williams/Chisaca (HDG) def.

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Behavioral Mock Interviews will be held March 27<sup>th</sup> – April 6<sup>th</sup>. All interviews last an hour. Call to schedule your appointment.

Dress for the interview, and bring a copy of your resume

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