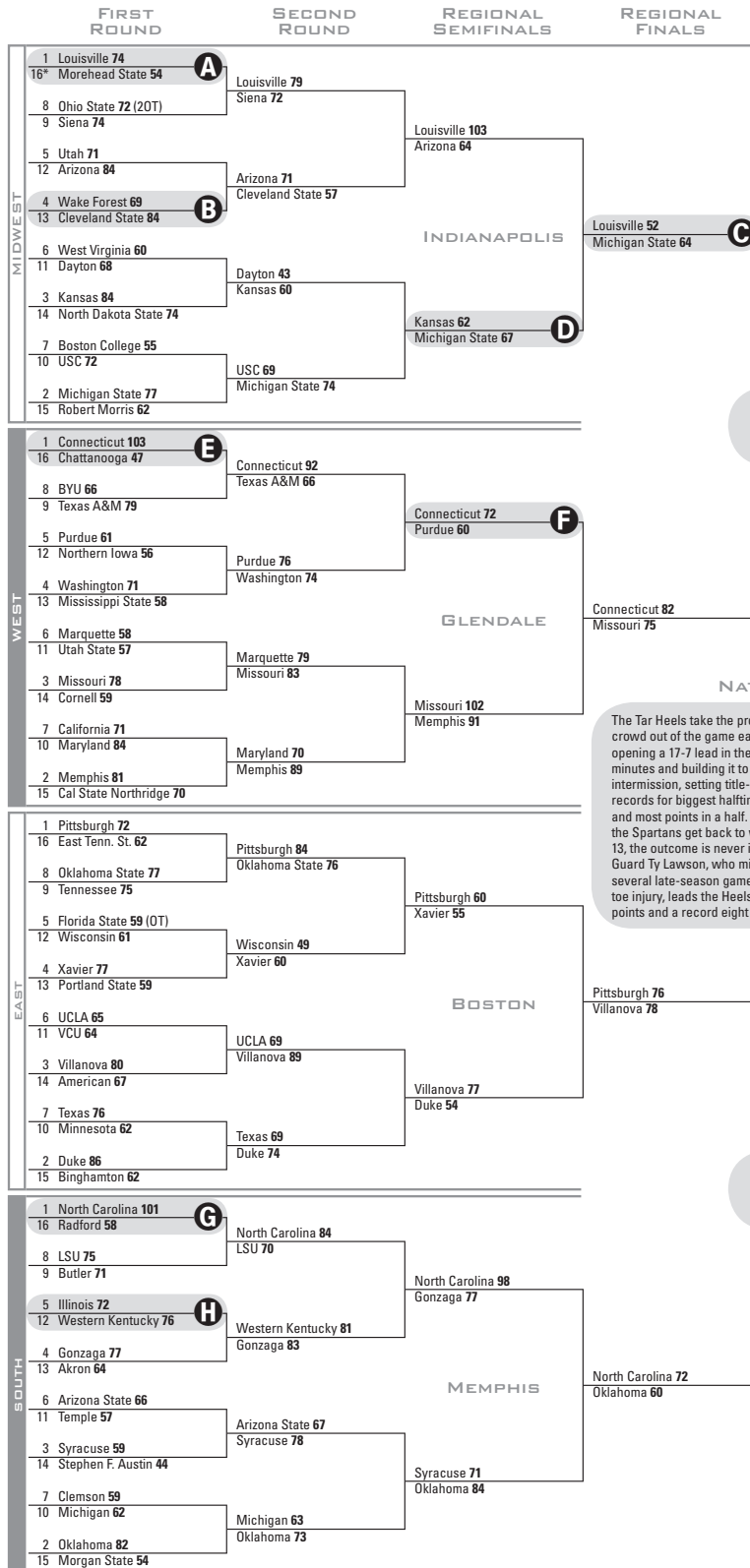


2009 NCAA TOURNAMENT



\*Opening round: Morehead State d. Alabama State 58-43      ◉ Team participation later vacated

**A** As the No. 1 overall seed for the first time in school history, the Cardinals blitz in-state rival Morehead State. With the win, No. 1 seeds improve to 100-0 against No. 16s since the Tournament expanded in 1985.

**B** Cleveland State jumps out to a 15-4 lead in the first half and stuns the Demon Deacons, who briefly held the No. 1 ranking during the season. Norris Cole leads the winners with 22, while leading Wake scorer Jeff Teague gets only 10.

**C** After crushing Arizona, Louisville falls victim to Michigan State's aggressive defense and coach Rick Pitino benches star Terrence Williams for the last five minutes of the first half. The Spartans earn their fifth Final Four trip in 10 years, the most of any school in that span.

**D** Despite losing all five starters from its 2008 championship team, Kansas reaches the Sweet 16 and plays Michigan State tough before losing. The Jayhawks' Cole Aldrich has 17 points and 14 rebounds for his third straight double-double.

**NATIONAL SEMIFINAL**

Michigan State 82  
Connecticut 73

Playing before a record Final Four crowd of 72,456 at Detroit's Ford Field, much of which is dressed in Spartan green, MSU lets UConn get close with a minute remaining. But Durrell Summers, a Detroit native, nails a three to bring a ray of sunshine to a city and state that have been devastated by the meltdown of the auto industry.

**NATIONAL FINAL**

The Tar Heels take the pro-MSU crowd out of the game early, opening a 17-7 lead in the first five minutes and building it to 55-34 at intermission, setting title-game records for biggest halftime margin and most points in a half. Although the Spartans get back to within 13, the outcome is never in doubt. Guard Ty Lawson, who missed several late-season games with a toe injury, leads the Heels with 21 points and a record eight steals.

**North Carolina 89  
Michigan State 72**

**NATIONAL SEMIFINAL**

Pittsburgh 76  
Villanova 78

DETROIT

Villanova 69  
North Carolina 83

Four Tar Heels who considered going pro after the 2007-08 season—Ty Lawson, Wayne Ellington, Tyler Hansbrough and Danny Green—score 22, 20, 18 and 12 points, respectively, as UNC overwhelms Villanova. The Wildcats have no answer for Hansbrough, who also grabs 11 rebounds.

**E** With coach Jim Calhoun hospitalized for apparent dehydration, the Huskies are led by associate head coach George Blaney. Calhoun, who is also battling cancer, is released in time for UConn's second-round game against Texas A&M.

**F** As the Huskies prepare to play Purdue in Glendale, Ariz., a story breaks alleging that UConn violated NCAA rules in recruiting Nate Miles, who transferred to the College of Southern Idaho before the season. Coach Jim Calhoun promises to cooperate with a university investigation.

**G** UNC wins a primary for new President Barack Obama, whose bracket has them going all the way. Obama won't say if he consulted brother-in-law Craig Robinson, the Oregon State coach whose team finished with an 18-18 record.

**H** Without ace defender Chester Frazier, Illinois loses to Western Kentucky and first-year coach Ken McDonald. WKU has Danced under 11 different coaches—the most in NCAA history.

ANNUAL REVIEW