

College Basketball

# 18-2 run key to Lions' win



**Facts & figures**

**What:** NCAA men's tournament selection show during which the 68-team field will be announced.

**When:** 6 p.m. Sunday.

**TV:** KDKA.  
**Of note:** The Final Four is April 1 & 3 in Houston. ... The betting favorites as of this week to reach the Final Four are Houston, Alabama, Kansas and Purdue, according to FanDuel Sportsbook. ... Kansas is the defending champion. ... North Carolina is likely to become the first preseason No. 1 to fail to make the tournament since the field expanded to 64 teams in 1985.

**Bracketology**

How selectetd bracketologists view the three local teams as of midday Saturday (\*-would play a play-in game):



Source	Forecast
ESPN	Last four in*
CBS	#11 Midwest
Washington Post	Last four in*
SB Nation	First four out
USA Today	#10 East



Source	Forecast
ESPN	#10 West
CBS	#10 Midwest
Washington Post	#9 Midwest
SB Nation	#9 South
USA Today	Last four in*



Source	Forecast
ESPN	#9 South
CBS	#9 South
Washington Post	#9 East
SB Nation	#9 East
USA Today	#9 Midwest

**Automatic bids**

As of late Saturday night, teams that have already earned spots in the tournament by virtue of winning their conference tournaments:

Team	League
Colgate	Patriot
College of Charleston	CAA
Drake	MVC
Duke	ACC
Fairleigh Dickinson	NEC
Florida Atlantic	C-USA
Furman	Southern
Gonzaga	WCC
Howard	MEAC
Iona	MAAC
Kennesaw State	A-Sun
Kent State	MAC
La.-Lafayette	Sun Belt
Oral Roberts	Summit
Marquette	Big East
Montana State	Big Sky
N. Kentucky	Horizon
San Diego State	Mt. West
SE Missouri State	OVC
Texas	Big 12
Tex. A&M-Corpus Christi	Southland
UNC Asheville	Big South
Vermont	America East



Indiana's Tamar Bates, right, comes down on Penn State's Kanye Claryn in the first half Saturday in Chicago.

**Tournaments highlights**

## Purdue's Edey takes over

Big Ten player of the year dominates against Ohio State in semifinal win

The Associated Press

Zach Edey knew what he needed to do just about every time he touched the ball. After all, he had just one man trying to defend him in the paint. He took over and led the Boilermakers to the Big Ten tournament championship game.

Edey, the Big Ten player of the year, had 32 points and 14 rebounds, and No. 5 Purdue beat Ohio State, 80-66, in a conference semifinal on Saturday in Chicago. "There's kind of like a point halfway through the first half when one of our coaches, P.J. (Thompson), kind of came up to me, this is just one of those days you've got to get 30," he said. "So I just kind of stuck with it. I executed the game plan. I just tried my best to score the ball every time I touched it."

The top-seeded Boilermakers (28-5) started to take control late in the first half and cruised into the conference final for the second consecutive year. They will meet Penn State 3:30 p.m. Sunday.

Purdue is seeking its second tournament title to go with

the one it captured in 2009. It will try to become the first No. 1 seed to win since 2019.

Edey, the Big Ten Player of the Year, dominated down low with the Buckeyes mostly guarding him one on one.

"They do a great job getting him the ball," Ohio State coach Chris Holtmann said of Edey, "but also he just plants in the paint and you can't move him."

**Other men's tournaments**

**ACC:** No. 21 Duke finished its run through the conference tournament with a 59-49 victory against No. 13 Virginia. The Blue Devils (26-8) were led by Jeremy Roach's 21 points and freshman Kyle Filipowski's 10 rebounds. The Cavaliers (25-7), who never led, were led by Reece Beekman's 13 points.

**Atlantic 10:** VCU (26-7) held off a late rally by Saint Louis (21-12) to earn a spot in Sunday's championship game with a 90-78 victory at Brooklyn, N.Y. ... Dayton (22-11) outscored Fordham (25-9) by nine points in the final 6:18 to secure its spot in the final.

**Big 12:** No. 7 Texas (26-8) walloped No. 3 Kansas, 76-



Purdue's Zach Edey, left, goes up for a shot against Ohio State's Felix Okpara Saturday in Chicago.

-56, to win the conference title at Kansas City, Mo. Dylan Disu overcame early foul trouble to score 18 points and was named tournament MVP as the Jayhawks (27-7) came up short in trying to repeat as champions.

**Big East:** Tyler Kolek and No. 6 Marquette raced out to a hefty lead and never trailed in beating No. 15 Xavier, 65-51, for its first Big East championship. Kolek, the Big East player of the year, had 20 points and eight rebounds for the Golden Eagles (28-6). Adam Kunkel scored 13 to lead the Musketeers (25-9).

**Southeastern:** Fourth-ranked Alabama (28-5) halted Missouri (24-9) with a 72-61 semifinal victory behind Brandon Miller's 20 points and 11 rebounds at Nashville, Tenn. ... No. 18 Texas A&M (24-8) never trailed in an 87-75 victory that ended an impressive run through the tournament for Vanderbilt (20-13).

**American:** Top-ranked Houston (31-2) had little trouble with Cincinnati (21-12) in the conference final at Fort Worth, Texas. The bad news for the Cougars was that AAC player of the year Marcus Sasser left the game in the first half with an apparent groin injury. J'wan Harris and Jamal Shead picked up the scoring slack with 16 points apiece. ... Memphis (25-8) earned its spot in Sunday's final with a 94-54 blowout of Tu-

lane. **Conference USA:** Florida Atlantic (31-3) had no trouble defeating UAB (25-8) to win the conference title. Alijah Martin scored 28 points and added 10 rebounds for the Owls

**Ivy League:** John Poulakidas' 25 points lifted Yale (22-7) into Sunday's championship game with an 80-60 win against Cornell (17-11) at Princeton, N.J. ... Princeton (20-8) scored the game's final six points to eliminate Penn, 77-70, and advance to Sunday's championship game.

**Women's tournaments**

**Big 12:** Fifteenth-ranked Texas (25-8) got 17 points from Shaylee Gonzalez to beat Oklahoma State (21-11) in a semifinal at Kansas City, Mo.

**Colonial:** Kylie Kornegay-Lucas scored 21 points and grabbed 15 rebounds to lead Towson (21-10) to a 76-59 victory against William & Mary (18-13) in their semifinal at Towson, Md.

**MAAC:** Iona's Juana Camilion scored 24 points to lift the Gaels (26-6) to a 73-60 victory against Manhattan (16-17) in their semifinal at Atlantic City, N.J.

**Mid-American:** Quinesha Lockett scored 17 points to lead Toledo (28-4) to a 73-58 victory against Bowling Green (27-6) in the Mid-American final at Cleveland.

**BIG TEN, FROM B-1**

from 3-point range by the time the first media timeout hit. Meanwhile, Indiana was 6 of 9 from the field and took an early 12-6 lead.

The fortune was quickly reversed as the Nittany Lions went on an 18-2 run over 3:29. Penn State got up by as many as 12 points with 6:32 to go in the first half before the Hoosiers started chipping away at the lead.

Indiana brought it back to a two-possession game twice, but Penn State led 34-26 at half-time.

"We've been dealing with that like this whole tournament," Lundy said. "The game of basketball is all about runs, and they went on their run, and every time, every single time, we just huddle up and talk to each other and just bring the group back together."

Penn State was slowed down to open the second half as Indiana was making every shot difficult for the Nittany Lions. Meanwhile, the Hoosiers scored on 10 of their first 14 possessions.

The Hoosiers tied the game for the first time with just 10:23 remaining, but Penn State responded with a 21-6 run. Huge 3-pointers from Funk and Wynter were key in the momentum switch.

"It's [about] staying solid," Funk said. "It's just trusting our guys. I believe in every single one of us on the floor. We know we're going to respond to whatever they throw at us."

Indiana wasn't done yet. The Hoosiers outscored Penn State 16-5 in the final two minutes. But it wasn't enough and for the second time this season, the Nittany Lions defeated Indiana.

Pickett led the way for the Nittany Lions with 28 points and Lundy also scored in double figures finishing with 16 points.

Despite Indiana having one of the best big men in the nation — Jackson-Davis — Penn State grabbed nine offensive rebounds. Freshman Kebba Njie led the team with four offensive boards.

"Offensive rebounding, in general, it's not easy at all, especially playing against someone like Trayce Jackson-Davis, All-American and all that," Njie said. "So every time I was going for my rebounds, I had a winning mentality. I wanted to just go out there and win."

**Key stat**

After going 62.1% (18 of 29) from the free-throw line the day before, the Nittany Lions went 88.5% (23 of 26) against Indiana.

"I think free throws are so psychological," Funk said. "We have great free throw shooters so I think a lot of guys stepped up, believing in themselves. I think Pickett did a great job kind of setting the tone early on making those free throws and kind of eases everyone else up."

**Quotable**

Penn State is on a five game winning-streak and all of those wins have been decided by five or fewer points. Two of those games went into overtime. The Nittany Lions are getting ready to play their fourth game in four days on Sunday.

"It's a championship game," Pickett said. "Nobody's tired. Nobody's fatigued. It feels like day one coming up."

**Up next**

The Nittany Lions advance to play Purdue in the championship game. Tipoff is set for 3:30 p.m. Penn State lost both games — 76-63 and 80-60 — against the Boilermakers during the regular season.

Penn State coach Micah Shrewsberry was an assistant coach under Purdue coach Matt Painter from 2019-21.

"It's never fun because they beat our brains in every single time we've played them," Shrewsberry said. "But like it's the friendliest of rivalries that is a guy that I call and I talk to all the time."

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