

# LIVING ROOM TIMES

## BINDER UPDATE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 1999

### Women's pool leaders nearly perfect

Newbold, Vasil go 16-0 in second round, are 44-4 overall; 252 points out of possible 272 put them on record pace

#### Best scores in LRT pool history (out of possible 477)

- 358—Brendan Loy, 1997 women's pool (1st)
- 354—Lou Ruggiero, 1996 men's pool (1st)
- 344—Ms. Perkins, 1997 women's pool (2nd)
- 334—Claudio Gualtieri, 1996 men's pool (2nd)

*Newbold or Vasil each need 106 more points to break the record — barely half*

Sometimes it pays to pick the higher seeds.

Brian Newbold and Kristin Vasil, who predicted that the #1, #2, #3, and #4 seeded teams would reach the Sweet Sixteen in each and every region of the NCAA women's tournament, went 16-0 in those picks after going 28-4 in the

first round, and found themselves tied for the lead in *The Living Room Times's* third annual moneyless women's NCAA pool with astonishing point totals of 252 out of a possible 272—putting them, along with a large portion of the leaderboard in the pool, on pace to easily break the all-time points record for any *Living Room Times* pool, men's or women's.

*(Continued on page 2)*

TOP 7: Place, name	Pts.	Max. possible additional pts.
1T. Brian Newbold	252	205
1T. Kristin Vasil	252	205
3T. Bindee Chokshi	247	205
3T. Justin Gerace	247	205
3T. Jason Rose	247	195
6T. Dennis Chow	245	205
6T. Chris Manzione	245	205

#### COMPLETE STANDINGS FROM #1 TO #33, PAGE 2

Where Ms. Perkins's 194 points after 48 games, enough to lead the men's pool, would place her in the women's pool: **tied for 29th out of 33**

### Perkins leads LRT men's pool by 11 points

Has substantial edge after 48 games; four students tied for second

TOP 16: Place, name	Pts.	Elite 8 picks left	Final 4 picks left	Finalists / Winner	Max. possible additional pts.
1. Christine Perkins	194	6	3	2 / yes	170
2T. Matt Kagan	183	6	4	2 / yes	185
2T. Allyson Perlini	183	5	4	2 / yes	175
2T. David Zinkerman	183	4	3	2 / yes	150
2T. Mike Mierkiewicz	183	3	2	2 / yes	105
6T. Chris Manzione	181	4	2	2 / yes	135
6T. Bonnie Stone	181	4	2	1 / yes	115
8T. Mark Jordan	176	6	4	2 / yes	185
8T. Mike Walker	176	4	3	2 / yes	150
10T. Ben Fairclough	174	5	4	2 / yes	175
10T. Mike Duensing	174	4	2	1 / yes	115
12T. Joe Ploszay	173	6	4	2 / yes	185
12T. Brendan Loy	173	6	4	2 / yes	185
12T. Sara Hamilton	173	5	4	2 / yes	175
12T. Tim Stevens	173	5	3	2 / yes	160
12T. Milan Cisar	173	5	3	2 / yes	160

*Those in italics have been mathematically eliminated from winning the pool.*

#### COMPLETE STANDINGS FROM #1 TO #61, PAGE 2

After a whirlwind weekend of upsets and Cinderella stories in the NCAA men's basketball tournament, NHS teacher Christine Perkins has emerged as the leader of *The Living Room Times's* fourth annual "moneyless" NCAA men's pool, thanks in large part to such seemingly outlandish Sweet Sixteen picks as I o w a , Florida, Temple, and Gonzaga.

M a t t K a g a n , Allyson Perlini, D a v i d Zinkerman  
*(Cont., p. 6)*

A note from the editor...

#### I TOLD YOU SO!

My prediction from the very beginning:

2. Stanford		
15. Alcorn St.	Stanford	Gonzaga!!!
7. Minnesota	Gonzag	
10. Gonzaga		

Men's tournament summary, p. 3  
Shaun Sullivan's pool standings, p. 6

Wolverines win P&R title — p. 3

NHS senior promotes "N Sync Day" on WVIT — p. 3

# Women's leaders on record pace

Newbold, Vasil have missed only four picks in 48 games

(Continued from page 1)

The women's tournament thus far has been remarkably predictable, in stark contrast to the Cinderella madness which has gripped the men's side and has kept the leader of the *LRT* men's pool to just 194 out of 272 points—a total which would place her behind 28 contestants if that total were in the women's pool.

None of the top nine contestants in the women's pool have been mathematically eliminated from winning. One *will* be eliminated on Saturday, however, when Colorado State plays UCLA—and it *could* be co-leader Brian Newbold. If UCLA wins, Justin Gerace, currently tied for third, will finish ahead of Newbold no matter what else happens. If Colorado State wins, Newbold will finish ahead of Gerace.

## Standings after 48 games (end of second round)

Scoring: 5-7-10-15-20-25, no upset points

Total possible points so far: 272

1.	Brian Newbold	252
	Kristin Vasil	252
3.	Bindee Chokshi	247
	Justin Gerace	247
	Jason Rose	247
6.	Dennis Chow	245
	Chris Manzione	245
8.	Jeff Cultrera	240
	Kristina Polomsky	240
10.	Idalina Estanislau	232
11.	Todd Stigliano	231
12.	Kevin Hauschulz	228
	Ben Fairclough	228
14.	Sara Rzeszutek	221
	Tim Stevens	221
16.	Sara Hamilton	219
17.	Josh Rubin	214
	Jenn Castelhana	214
	Mrs. Norby	214
	Joe DiNardi	214
21.	Claudio Gualtieri	213
22.	Stephanie Toohey	212
	Ms. Perkins	212
24.	Ms. Mancini	212
25.	Beth Milewski	205
26.	Mrs. Stone	200
27.	Shaun Sullivan	199
	Brenden Roche	199
29.	Brendan Loy	194
30.	Jen Persaud	186
31.	Evelyn Ni	181
32.	Heather Weinberg	171
33.	Kimberly Stone	169

## The Living Room Times's fourth annual "moneyless" men's NCAA basketball tournament pool: complete standings

### Standings after 48 games (end of second round)

Scoring: 5-7-10-15-20-25, no upset points

Total possible points so far: 272

1.	Ms. Perkins	194
2.	Mikey Mierkiewicz	183
	David Zinkerman	183
	Allyson Perlini	183
	Matt Kagan	183
6.	Mrs. Stone	181
	Chris Manzione	181
8.	Mark Jordan	176
	Mike Walker	176
10.	Mike Duensing	174
	Ben Fairclough	174
12.	Brendan Loy	173
	Sara Hamilton	173
	Joe Ploszay	173
	Tim Stevens	173
	Milan Cisar	173
17.	Shaun Sullivan	171
	Jenn Castelhana	171
19.	Ms. Mancini	169
	Kate Wright	169
21.	Brenden Roche	166
	Jamie Schultz	166
	Amanda Titus	166
	Bindee Chokshi	166
	Dennis Chow	166
	Jeff Cultrera	166
27.	Jason Rose	164
	Claudio Gualtieri	164
29.	Mr. Ruggiero	161
	Joey DiNardi	161
	Kristina Polomsky	161
	Stacey Schultz	161
	Nathan Emerson	161
	Bryan Rudolph	161
	Idalina Estanislau	161
36.	Alison Lucey	159
	Josh Rubin	159
	Justin Gerace	159
39.	Brian Newbold	158
	Travis Meyer	158
41.	Todd Stigliano	157
	Steve Santos	157
43.	Derek McDonald	156
	Kevin Hauschulz	156
	Mrs. Norby	156
46.	Tom Greca	155
47.	Matt Thomsen	154
	Liz Acey	154
	Michael Zarotney	154
50.	David Martins	153
51.	Sara Rzeszutek	152
	Joanna Kornafel	152
	Beth Milewski	152
54.	Eric Burns	151
55.	Stephanie Toohey	149
	Heather Weinberg	149
57.	Jeff Santos	142
58.	Jeff Blum	140
59.	Evelyn Ni	126
60.	Kelly Laskowski	108
61.	Ryan McBride	47

# STRANGE 16

Five teams seeded #9 or lower reach regional semis

**UPI**— The star of the show advanced to the next big stage with all the ease expected Sunday, but the supporting cast is loaded with a bunch of under-studies.

The NCAA Tournament finished its opening weekend by slimming down to 16 teams, with all four of the #1 seeds still in the running for the national title.

Chief among those is Duke, the overwhelming favorite to win it all and a team that did nothing to alter that status Sunday by putting together its second straight 41-point victory.

The Blue Devils crushed Tulsa, 97-56, joining top seeds Auburn, Michigan State and Connecticut in the regional finals that will get underway Thursday night in Knoxville and Phoenix.

But also still alive are Southwest Missouri, Oklahoma, Miami of Ohio and Temple -- underdogs who joined Gonzaga as teams that became unexpected members of the Sweet 16.

"There are several Cinderella teams out there and we're one of those," said Southwest Missouri coach and former Indiana star Steve Alford, one of a host of significant stories remaining in the tournament.

Of the top four seeds in each region, which went into the event as the 16 schools that were favored to reach the regional semifinals, just seven managed to do so. Five of the teams left were seeded 10th or higher.

Duke will resume its quest for the crown Friday night in East Rutherford, N.J., with Southwest Missouri, Temple and Purdue being the teams standing between the Blue Devils and the Final Four.

Southwest Missouri shocked Tennessee Sunday, 81-51; Purdue ousted the Miami Hurricanes, 73-63; and Temple pulled off an upset as well with a 64-54 decision over Cincinnati.

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# Parks & Rec champs repeat

Wolverines win title game, 49-46 in 2 OT's

The 1998 Parks and Recreation basketball champions successfully defended their title Saturday morning in front of a sizeable crowd at the Community Center, defeating the top-seeded Blue Devils 49-46 in double overtime in what could best be described as a total team effort.

"We've done it again," said Jeff Brunetti, who led his team in scoring with 10 points, including 5 in the decisive second overtime.

Although Brunetti scored the most points for the Wolverines, they truly spread the wealth Saturday. All but two of their ten players scored at least one field goal, and five had six points or more. Furthermore, the big plays down the stretch—and there were plenty—came from many different sources.

Nate Emerson scores a old-fashioned three-point play to give his team a 36-28 lead in the closing minutes of regulation. Matt Thomsen hits a three-pointer for the Wolverines' only points of the first overtime. Jeff Brunetti rebounds a missed Blue Devils free throw to preserve the 39-39 tie at the end of the first overtime. Eric Burns finds Brunetti under the basket with a brilliant over-the-shoulder pass late in the second overtime. David Downes seals the deal with a crucial layup off an inbounds play with eight seconds left. Three players team up to provide the pressure which prevented Blue Devils point guard Mike Maslewski from getting anything better than a desperation half-court shot at the end of the game.

Talk about working together.

"The key to the victory? Teamwork," stated Jeff Brunetti. "Everybody just stepped up. Getting rebounds, fighting for balls, tough defense — it was great."

"Tough game; it could have gone either way," he said. "Great basketball game."

The game began with the teams trading baskets until the Devils had built a 9-6 lead. The Wolverines then went on a 13-2 run—highlighted by

(Continued on page 4)



*Above: The Wolverines' Jeff Brunetti drives to the hoop late in the second overtime Saturday.*

## 'N SYNC DAY

**Right:** NHS senior Barbara Kaminski appears on Channel 30 with two members of the band 'N Sync (left) and New Haven state representative Chris DiPino (right) as Kaminski succeeded in her campaign to have Saturday declared "N Sync Day" in New Haven.



# Wolverines repeat as P & R champs

## Brunetti (10 points) leads team effort in double-overtime win

(Continued from page 3)

a Ryan McBride three-pointer at the 10:14 mark just before the wholesale substitutions which occur every five minutes, and a three-point airball from Jeff Brunetti put back into the hoop by younger brother Justin Brunetti at 5:59—to take a 19-11 lead with under five minutes left in the first half.

The Devils climbed back into it, however, pulling within 19-16 on a pull-up jumper by Matt Kagan with 2:27 to go and tying the game on a three-pointer at the buzzer by Mark Santos.

The Devils and Wolverines traded baskets again for the first few minutes of the second half, with the Wolverines eventually building a 25-24 lead. They then began to slowly pull away, starting with the emotional high which occurred when David Downes fell to the floor on defense, complained to the referee that he had been fouled, then bolted up to his feet and sprinted the length of the floor, reaching the opposite basket in a few short seconds and getting there just in time to emphatically block Devil Kenny Cafe's shot. Downes jumped up and down, waving his arms to get the crowd into it.

Downes was at the center of another memorable play a few minutes later when, with his team by now ahead 27-24, he skillfully dribbled across midcourt through pressure, then slipped and fell to the floor near the top of the key but managed to pass the ball back to teammate Eric Burns, who made a fantastic pass to Brian Newbold on the baseline for an easy layup with 10:26 to go. The crowd erupted, and Newbold high-fived the entire Wolverine bench as he ran by on his way down to the defensive end of the floor.

By the time the clock had reached 5:11, the Wolverines had taken a 36-28 lead on Nate Emerson's three-point play. The defending champs looked to have the game well in hand.

But they would not score again in regulation. The Blue Devils, seeded #1 in the Parks & Rec tournament, came roaring back. With 3:11 to go, Matt Kagan—the leading scorer for either team with 17 points, including 3 three-pointers—drained a trifecta to cut the margin to 36-31. Milan Cisar added a free throw just over a minute later, and it was 36-32.

With 1:47 to go, the Wolverines' Brian Newbold put up a three-pointer which could have perhaps been the



*Above: David Downes hits the crucial layup which would give the Wolverines their final margin of victory, 49-46, in the second OT.*

nail in the Devils' coffin. But the shot rolled around and out, and the top seeds still had life.

With 1:14 left, Kagan managed to score through three defenders to cut the deficit to 36-34. Kagan then stole a Wolverines' in-bounds pass and tied the game with 0:57 remaining. The score was 36-36. Both teams had shots to win the game, with the Devils' Milan Cisar and the Wolverines' Eric Burns both getting clean looks at the basket in the final 15 seconds. But it went to overtime, the score still knotted at 36.

Just under a one minute into the first four-minute overtime period,

Matt Thomsen drained a three-pointer to give the Wolverines a 39-36 lead, breaking a dry spell of more than six minutes for his team. Unfortunately for them, it was also the beginning of another dry spell, one which would last the duration of the first overtime.

The Devils would cut it to 39-37 on a free throw with 2:19 to go. Milan Cisar then redeemed himself for the missed shot near the end of regulation, connecting on the game-tying jumper with 21 seconds left. It was 39-39.

The scariest moment of the game for the Wolverines occurred when their possession following Cisar's hoop ended in a steal by pesky Devils point guard Mike Maslewski. Maslewski looked to be on his way to a potentially game-winning and championship-assuring layup, but Eric Burns managed to foul him before he had a chance to start shooting the ball. Maslewski went to the line for a 1-and-1 free throw sequence with 0:03 on the clock. He missed the foul shot, Brunetti grabbed the rebound, and the first overtime ended with no decision. A second OT was in order.

As in each of the regulation halves, the teams traded baskets furiously at the start of the second overtime. With the Devils having taken a one-point lead, Burns gave the Wolverines a 45-43 edge on a three-pointer with 2:13 to go. But Mark Santos answered with a clutch 3 of his own at the 0:57 mark to put the Devils up 46-45.

With 27 seconds remaining, Burns found Brunetti under the hoop with a wonderful over-the-shoulder pass. Brunetti should have had an easy layup, but

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## Wolverines win back-to-back P&R titles

*(Continued from page 4)*

missed it. He was distraught—and wanted redemption.

Luckily for the Wolverines, the ball went out of bounds off a Devils player. Five seconds after Brunetti missed the “gimme” shot, Burns inbounded it right back to him—and he hit it, putting the Wolverines up for good, 47-46.

A pair of missed free throws doomed the Devils, and with eight seconds left, the Wolverines got the ball back. Again, Burns found a teammate—Downes in this case—under the basket for a quick layup off the in-bounds play. The Wolverines led 49-46 with four seconds to go.

Full-court pressure by the Wolverines prevented Mike Maslewski from getting off a good shot for the Devils. The buzzer sounded, Maslewski’s desperation half-

“We could quite possibly be the best team of the millenium, as far as Parks & Recreation goes.” —**Ryan McBride**

court prayer fell well short, and the Wolverines began celebrating their second consecutive Parks & Recreation title.

“It really hasn’t sunk in, being back-to-back Parks & Recreation champions,” said Ryan McBride, one of the six players from this year’s ten-person team who played on last year’s squad as well. “We could quite possibly be the best team of the millenium, as far as Parks & Recreation goes.”

“You figure,” he added, “Parks & Recreation’s been around the town of Newington for a couple of years now, and I’m sure high-school Parks & Recreation has been around for a while. And to be honest with you, I think we could take any Parks & Rec team ever assembled.”

## Sweet Sixteen a surprising bunch

Gonzaga, Miami (Ohio), Purdue, Southwest Missouri St., Oklahoma still alive

*(Continued from page 3)*

The Midwest Region also determined its semifinalists Sunday, those being Michigan State, Oklahoma, Kentucky and Miami (Ohio).

Michigan State had a big fight on its hands before disposing of Mississippi, 74-66; Oklahoma raced to a big lead and held off North Carolina-Charlotte, 85-72; and Miami, with superstar Wally Szczerbiak, delivered another shock by downing Utah, 66-58.

Finally, in the first tournament meeting ever between the powerhouse programs from Kentucky and Kansas, the Wildcats prevailed in the day’s best contest -- 92-88 in overtime.

Kentucky, the only member of last year’s Final Four still standing this year, overcame a five-point deficit with a minute to play in regulation and then dominated the extra period.

Michigan State will play Ohio State and Kentucky will take on Miami in the Midwest semifinals in St. Louis.

The action resumes Thursday night when Auburn plays Ohio State and St. John’s faces Maryland in Knoxville while Connecticut meets Iowa and Florida tackles Gonzaga in Phoenix.

The Final 16 will include four teams from the Big

Ten, three from the Southeastern Conference, two each from the Big East and Atlantic Coast Conference and one each from the Missouri Valley, Atlantic 10, Big 12, Mid-American and West Coast Conference.

No matter who remains in the field, however, the favorite is the same.

Duke was overwhelming in its conquest of Tulsa Sunday, using a pair of 13-0 runs in the first half to open a 30-point lead at the break.

“They’re awesome,” said Tulsa coach Bill Self.

William Avery scored 16 of his 19 points in the first half, seven during the second 13-0 spurt. Elton Brand added 17 for Duke as the Blue Devils extended their school-record winning streak to 29 games.

If the Blue Devils do win the national crown, they would set an NCAA record for most victories in a season.

As if Duke was not already good enough, Trajan Langdon returned to the starting lineup after a three-game absence brought out by a sprained foot suffered in the opening round of the ACC Tournament.

“It was great having Trajan back,” said Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski. “When we have fresh bodies in there all the time, we can wear teams down and I think we wore Tulsa out.”

## 48 games in, Perkins leads *LRT* men's pool

(Continued from page 1)

, and Mikey Mierkiweicz are tied for second place, all a rather substantial 11 points behind Perkins.

If Perkins's success in the pool is to continue, the tournament's "Cinderella" pattern will have to continue as well. Perkins's picks call for #10-seed Gonzaga to reach the Elite Eight, and her predicted national championship game is Ohio State vs. Michigan State—a considerable variation from the standard Duke-UConn final predicted in the vast majority of contestants' brackets.

Such "variations" can be a good thing, however. Some contestants—including two who are presently in the Top Sixteen, Mike Walker and Mike Duensing—have already been mathematically eliminated from any chance of winning the pool because their picks are too similar to someone above them. Walker's picks are so close to Allyson Perlini's that it is now impossible for him to gain enough points on Perlini to finish ahead of her; Duensing's picks are too similar to those of Mark Jordan.

Walker and Duensing are the only contestants eliminated from the Top Sixteen, but the best Tim Stevens and Joe Ploszay—tied for twelfth—can hope for is a first-place tie with Matt Kagan; they cannot win the pool outright. Both Stevens and Ploszay will be completely eliminated if Auburn defeats Ohio State on

Thursday.

One contestant who has been completely eliminated is 1998 winner Shaun Sullivan. Sullivan's hopes of repeating as pool champion were dashed when Miami of Ohio stunned Utah Sunday. The Utes had been Sullivan's pick as the national runner-up, and without Utah in the running, Sullivan, currently tied for 17th, cannot finish ahead of Brendan Loy no matter what happens in the rest of the tournament.

Liz Acey, the 1997 champion and 1998 runner-up in the *LRT* men's pool, is also mathematically eliminated from winning this year's contest. Acey is presently far behind—tied for 47th out of 61—and has no chance of winning the pool, regardless of the outcomes of the remaining fifteen tournament games.

Meanwhile, at the bottom of the pool standings, Ryan McBride has clinched last place—which is exactly what he wanted. McBride was actually hoping to get zero points in the pool, but "accidentally" picked a number of early-round upsets which actually occurred. In fact, one of his Sweet Sixteen teams, #13-seed Oklahoma, is still alive; McBride predicted they would reach the Elite Eight by defeating #16 Mount St. Mary's, and he will add ten points to his present total of 47 if they upset Michigan State on Friday.

### Standings of Shaun Sullivan's NCAA men's basketball tournament pool

Sully's NCAA Men Tourney Pool

Standings after 48 games (Rd. 2 over)

Scoring: 5-10-15-20-30-50, no upset points

Place	Name	Picks	Pts.	Pts. Poss./630	(since 32 gms.)
1	Bryan Rudolph	34	220	465	+1
2	"Gonzaga Boy" Loy	31	200	480	+3
T3	Brian Newbold	30	195	475	+6
T3	Tom Barnicle	31	195	425	0
T3	Todd Stigliano	32	195	425	-2
T3	Shaun Sullivan	31	195	380	0
T7	Ryan McBride	30	190	470	-2
T7	Jason Cugno	30	190	455	-2
T7	Joe Serfass	30	190	455	-2
T10	Chris Knowlen	29	185	450	-1
T10	Nate Emerson	28	185	430	+2
12	Jon Schuman	28	180	410	-1