The Blue Blazer

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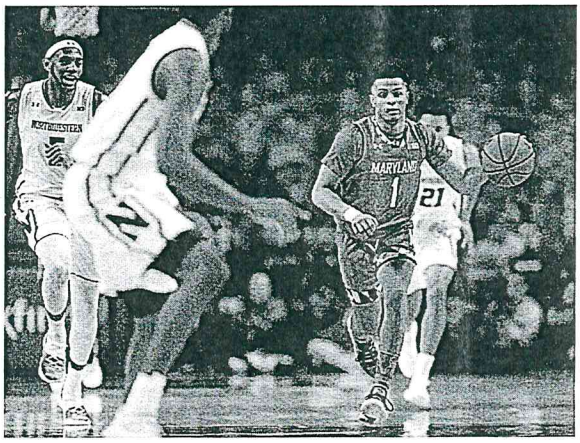
Volume 6 THE EYES AND EARS OF GRIFFINLAND Edition 6, A1

This is March!

Mater Dei alumni gear up for NCAA tournament



Reggie Gardner (left) and Anthony Cowan (right), both Mater Dei 2012 grads, begin play in the Big Dance this week for N.C. Central and Maryland.

By BILLY CANNON
Editor in Chief

The official NCAA tournament bracket was announced on Sunday, and with it came the usual snubs and surprises. After Oregon's surprising Pac-12 tournament victory, they snuck in at a 12 seed. WCC champion Saint Mary's, who beat national powerhouse Gonzaga in their conference championship game, snuck in with an 11 seed. Also with an 11 seed, the Belmont Bruins found themselves in the tournament after falling to OVC champ Murray State, who, incidentally, is a 12 seed.

Belmont beat Temple last night in a play-in game and will face Maryland Thursday in Jacksonville, Fla. Tip is 3:10 p.m. That game will feature Mater Dei alumnus Anthony Cowan, a guard for Maryland. His former Griffin classmate, Reggie Gardner, will also play in the tournament this year. His North Carolina Central team plays tonight in another play-in game; tip is 6:40 p.m. in Dayton. The winner gets to face Duke, the tourney's overall 1 seed. The Blue Devils are the 1 seed in the East region, whose finals will be held in Washington, DC. Michigan State took home the two seed. Virginia Tech will be a 4 seed playing Saint Louis in the first round. In this bracket, watch out for (12) Liberty to compete with (5) Mississippi State, and look out for (14) Yale to possibly take down (3) LSU. Also, (4) Virginia Tech has already beaten (1) Duke once this season, and that could be a potential Sweet 16 matchup.

In the West bracket, Gonzaga is the 1 seed, even after their loss to Saint Mary's. Michigan, which on Sunday lost to archrival Michigan State in the Big Ten final, will be the 2 seed. In this bracket, watch out for Ja Morant and (12) Murray State, who take on Markus Howard and (5) Marquette. Also, (6) Buffalo, led by CJ Massinburg, could make a Final Four run, thanks to a weak draw. (4) Florida State is on fire; they made it to the ACC championship before losing to Duke.

See DANCE, page A3

Remembering Willie:

3 on 3 tourney part of wonderful evening

By JACK SULLIVAN
Senior Editor

Willie Strong Three-On-Three Basketball Tournament held Friday, Feb. 15, at Little Flower School was a great success. The party kicked off with Father Lewis leading the group in a decade of the rosary. Participants then grabbed a balloon, wrote a message to Willie on the balloon, and released them in front of the Little Flower main hall.

It was a special night full of basketball, food, and fun. It's hard to imagine Willie not smiling down on it all.

In the tournament, there were four brackets: 7th and 8th grade boys and girls, and 5th and 6th grade boys and girls. Team names ranged from The Big Ballers Epic to Rainbow Skittles. After a team lost, it would head to the consolation bracket outside, where the rules were a little different, and no one was afraid to throw an elbow or two. Of course, it was all in good fun, and nobody got hurt.

Back in the main hall, pizza and two huge cakes adorned with Willie's picture were served. The adults and younger children not participating in the tournament ran around or talked, with "The Incredibles II" on in the back round.

Mrs. Hughes said that the celebration, the idea of which had first been born last summer, was everything she had expected.

After the tournament was over, Mr. Hughes gave a great speech, thanking everyone for coming and honoring Willie. Overall, the party was a great way to pay homage to Willie's memory. His spirit lives on!

MEETING ... MRS.LEASURE

Q: Where did you grow up?
A: Bethesda, Maryland

Q: Where did you go to high school and college?
A: Georgetown Visitation and Duke University

Q: Why did you decide to teach?
A: I was inspired by my high school English teacher.

Q: What are some of your hobbies?
A: tennis, running, and watching "Jeopardy" or hockey

Q: What is your favorite ice cream flavor?
A: mint chocolate chip

Mrs. Leasure is in her second year at Mater Dei. She teaches sixth grade language arts and fifth grade English. Her homeroom is 5B.

Compiled by Brendan Sullivan

From DANCE, page A1

In the South bracket, Virginia got the nod for a 1 seed. Tennessee is the 2 seed. The Volunteers are coming off a loss to Auburn in the SEC championship, but the duo of Grant Williams and Admiral Schofield is one of the best in the country. In this bracket, watch out for (11) Saint Mary's, which faces (6) Villanova, the defending champs. Saint Mary's will have some momentum after their win over Gonzaga. Other than that, there aren't many upset bids in this bracket, although I would watch out for (15) Colgate, who shoots nearly 40 percent from 3 and faces Tennessee.

In the Midwest bracket, a third ACC team, North Carolina, got the 1 seed. SEC power Kentucky got the 2 seed after a loss to Tennessee in the semifinals of the SEC tournament. In this bracket, (12) New Mexico State could take down (5) Auburn, but the real story in this bracket is (7) Wofford. The Terriers shoot north of 41 percent from 3, score 83 points per game, give up under 66 points per game, and are ranked 13th by NCAA's NET ranking. After what should be a walkover win against Seton Hall, the Terriers will be able to compete with (2) Kentucky, (6) Iowa State, (3) Houston, and potentially even (1) North Carolina in the Elite Eight. Wofford's 7 seed might have been one of the biggest snubs the NCAA selection committee made this year.

From the East bracket, the Final Four representative will be either Duke, Michigan State, or Virginia Tech. In the West bracket, it will either be Gonzaga, Florida State, Buffalo, or Michigan. While Texas Tech may have star guard Jarrett Culver, they don't have the depth to really beat Buffalo, who will have a good chance to win if you let them hang around.

In the South bracket, it will be Virginia in the Final Four. While you may say, "They lost last year to UMBC, a 16 seed; it will probably happen again," the opposite is in fact true. Because of their loss to the Retrievers last year, Virginia will be extra careful to wipe out (16) Gardner-Webb, their first-round opponent, and (9) Oklahoma or (8) Ole Miss in the second round.

In the Midwest bracket, North Carolina, Auburn, Kansas, Wofford, and Kentucky all have a good chance to make it to the Final Four. Auburn is playing their best basketball of the season right now and have now beaten Tennessee twice in the past two weeks. Kansas is always a threat no matter how many players they have lost to injury or suspension (I think it's three this year). North Carolina has possibly the best point guard in the country in Coby White, who pairs with Nassir Little nicely, and the winner of the Wofford-Kentucky game will almost certainly get to the Elite Eight.

In the Final Four, it will be (1) Duke out of the East bracket, (4) Florida State out of the West bracket, (1) Virginia out of the South, and (1) UNC will be the Midwest champion. While Duke only took down Florida State thanks to a Cam Reddish buzzer-beating three in the regular season, that game was in Tallahassee in a fairly hostile environment. Duke will take down the Seminoles and advance to the national championship. While Virginia took down UNC in February, Tar Heels big man Luke Maye had a mere four points. I still believe that Virginia is the best team in the country, but UNC will take them down in the Final Four.

While a Duke-UNC national championship is unfathomable, it will happen this year. The rivals have never met in the NCAA tournament, but this will be the year. UNC will come out on top over Duke in the national championship, 77-75.

THE BLUE BLAZER

BRILLIANT BIG DANCE BRACKETS BONZANA

Using the bracket provided on the back (page A4) ----------> or your own, fill out your picks for the NCAA tournament and return them to Billy Cannon, Jack Sullivan, or Mr. Garfield before school's end on Thursday. Your name and homeroom must be on the bracket for it to be counted. First, second, and third place winners will receive prizes -- and results will be posted in an April edition of the Blue Blazer. Good luck to all!

YOU. DON'T. KNOW. JACK.

Weekly brain teasers, gut busters, and fun compiled by Jack Sullivan

LOGIC PUZZLE: There are three playing cards in a row. Can you name them with these clues? There is a two to the right of a king. A diamond will be found to the left of a spade. An ace is to the left of a heart. A heart is to the left of a spade. Now, identify all three cards in order.

RIDDLE 1: I am only useful when broken. What am I?

RIDDLE 2: Said forward, I am heavy, but backward I am not. What am I?

JOKE OF THE WEEK: Why did the outlaw steal the deck of cards? He heard there were thirteen diamonds in it.

ANSWERS FROM EDITION 5

LOGIC PUZZLE: music
RIDDLE 1 A: 12 RIDDLE 2 A: a door

NAME: _____ HOMEROOM: ____

PRESENTED BY jiffylube

2019 NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP BRACKET

First Round	Second Round	Regional Semifinals	Regional Finals	National Semifinals
MARCH 21-22	MARCH 23-24	MARCH 28-29	MARCH 30-31	APRIL 6

FIRST FOUR

DAYTON
MARCH 19-20

Watch On truTV

- 16 Prairie View (22-12) 76
- 16 F. Dickinson (20-13) 82
- **W**
- 11 Belmont (26-5) 81
- 11 Temple (23-9) 70
- **E**

- **E**
- N. Dakota St. (18-15) 16
- Mar 20
- NC Central (18-15) 16
- **W**
- Arizona St. (22-10) 11
- Mar 20
- St. John's (21-12) 11

EAST
WASHINGTON, D.C.
Mar 31

- 1 Duke (29-5)
- Mar 22
- 16 N. Dakota St./NC Central
- Columbia, Mar 24
- 8 VCU (25-7)
- Mar 22
- 9 UCF (23-8)
- Mar 29
- 5 Mississippi St. (23-10)
- Mar 22
- 12 Liberty (28-6)
- San Jose, Mar 24
- 4 Virginia Tech (24-8)
- Mar 22
- 13 Saint Louis (23-12)
- 6 Maryland (22-10)
- Mar 21
- 11 Belmont
- Jacksonville, Mar 23
- 3 LSU (26-6)
- Mar 21
- 14 Yale (22-7)
- Mar 29
- 7 Louisville (20-13)
- Mar 21
- 10 Minnesota (21-13)
- Des Moines, Mar 23
- 2 Michigan St. (28-6)
- Mar 21
- 15 Bradley (20-14)

WEST
ANAHEIM
Mar 30

- 1 Gonzaga (30-3)
- Mar 21
- 16 Fairleigh Dickinson
- Salt Lake City, Mar 23
- 8 Syracuse (20-13)
- Mar 21
- 9 Baylor (19-13)
- Mar 28
- 5 Marquette (24-9)
- Mar 21
- 12 Murray St. (27-4)
- Hartford, Mar 23
- 4 Florida St. (27-7)
- Mar 21
- 13 Vermont (27-6)
- 6 Buffalo (31-3)
- Mar 22
- 11 Arizona St./St. John's
- Tulsa, Mar 24
- 3 Texas Tech (26-6)
- Mar 22
- 14 Northern Ky. (26-8)
- Mar 28
- 7 Nevada (29-4)
- Mar 21
- 10 Florida (19-15)
- Des Moines, Mar 23
- 2 Michigan (28-6)
- Mar 21
- 15 Montana (26-8)

April 6

FINAL FOUR
MINNEAPOLIS
APRIL 6 AND 8

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
APRIL 8

#MarchMadness

Watch the tournament on these networks or online at NCAA.COM/MARCHMADNESS

tbs · CBS · TNT · truTV

March 21 and 23 first-/second-round sites: Hartford, Salt Lake City, Des Moines, Jacksonville. March 22 and 24 first-/second-round sites: Tulsa, Columbus, Columbia, San Jose.
March 28 and 30 regional sites: Louisville, Anaheim. March 29 and 31 regional sites: Washington, D.C., Kansas City.

DON'T BET IT. The NCAA opposes all forms of sports wagering.

April 6

SOUTH
LOUISVILLE
Mar 30

- Virginia (29-3) 1
- Mar 22
- Gardner-Webb (23-11) 16
- Columbia, Mar 24
- Mississippi (20-12) 8
- Mar 22
- Oklahoma (19-13) 9
- Mar 28
- Wisconsin (23-10) 5
- Mar 22
- Oregon (23-12) 12
- San Jose, Mar 24
- Kansas St. (25-8) 4
- Mar 22
- UC Irvine (30-5) 13
- Villanova (25-9) 6
- Mar 21
- Saint Mary's (22-11) 11
- Hartford, Mar 23
- Purdue (23-9) 3
- Mar 21
- Old Dominion (26-8) 14
- Mar 28
- Cincinnati (28-6) 7
- Mar 22
- Iowa (22-11) 10
- Columbus, Mar 24
- Tennessee (29-5) 2
- Mar 22
- Colgate (24-10) 15

MIDWEST
KANSAS CITY
Mar 31

- North Carolina (27-6) 1
- Mar 22
- Iona (17-15) 16
- Columbus, Mar 24
- Utah St. (28-6) 8
- Mar 22
- Washington (26-8) 9
- Mar 29
- Auburn (26-9) 5
- Mar 21
- New Mexico St. (30-4) 12
- Salt Lake City, Mar 23
- Kansas (25-9) 4
- Mar 21
- Northeastern (23-10) 13
- Iowa St. (23-11) 6
- Mar 22
- Ohio St. (19-14) 11
- Tulsa, Mar 24
- Houston (31-3) 3
- Mar 22
- Georgia St. (24-9) 14
- Mar 29
- Wofford (29-4) 7
- Mar 21
- Seton Hall (20-13) 10
- Jacksonville, Mar 23
- Kentucky (27-6) 2
- Mar 21
- Abilene Christ. (27-6) 15