

## Time tells us that history will keep taking twists and turns

RALEIGH, N.C. – In college basketball and sports-writing, you never know how things will turn out.

I certainly had no idea back in March 1966, before I had a serious inkling about going into journalism or even a driver's license. I caught a ride with an equally obsessed friend and traveled to Reynolds Coliseum for the NCAA East Regional, a Friday-Saturday whirlwind that propelled Duke toward the Final Four.

The regional unfolded on N.C. State's gleaming wood floor under an I-beam skeleton obscured by the fog of cigarette smoke. The smoke grew thicker by the hour, competing for sensory attention with popcorn smells from machines about 40 feet off the court.

Lefty Driesell, the flamboyant young Davidson coach, stomped his big feet and flapped his jaws. The Saint Joseph's Hawk flapped its wings incessantly – such a tough gig in tight quarters that the mascot took occasional refuge behind the seats in a corridor lined with the Western Union operators who filed reporters' copy.

On the same floor the previous Friday night, Duke barely survived Dean Smith's Four Corners delay, 21-20 in the ACC semifinals. Coach Jack Ramsay's Hawks, led by Matt Guokas and Cliff Anderson, pushed Duke to the brink before falling 76-74.

All-American Dave Bing and methodical backcourt mate Jim Boeheim triggered Syracuse's 94-78 romp over Davidson in the other semifinal. St. Joe's delivered a simi-

lar knockout in the consolation game the next night. Terry Holland remembers fellow Davidson assistant Warren Mitchell telling Driesell that he needed another timeout. Lefty responded, more or less: "Timeout, heck. I'm so embarrassed I would like to crawl under the floor. Let that clock run and let's get our butts out of here."

In the final, Duke coach Vic Bubas rode strong performances from Bob Verga (the outstanding player with 21 points on 10-for-13 shooting), Jack Marin, Mike Lewis and point guard Steve Vacendak. The Blue Devils won 91-81 largely because Vacendak and his buddies applied steely defense against Bing, the magnetic star who hit just 4 of 14 shots and scored 10 points.

A week later, Verga got sick and barely scratched against Kentucky in the national semifinals at College Park, Md. The Wildcats won the game, which was considered tantamount to winning the title, given the low visibility of highly ranked Texas Western in an era with few national telecasts.

Everyone knows the rest. Texas Western, with five

black starters, beat the all-white outfit nicknamed "Rupp's Runtts." Black players had decided several earlier championships, with Bill Russell and K.C. Jones leading San Francisco's back-to-back sweep in the mid-1950s and Loyola of Chicago relying on four black starters in its 1963 upset of Cincinnati, but Texas Western's achievement eventually gained wider recognition as the racial demarcation line.

Over time, there were other lines and changes, including the rise of commercialism as a driving college force.

"Obviously that was a different time and set of circumstances," Vacendak said. "It is significantly different today, if only for the size of the media attention. That alone requires people, particularly in the media, to look at and

*CONTINUED on Page 3*



## Cushman, DeCourcy, Finney form USBWA's next Hall of Fame class

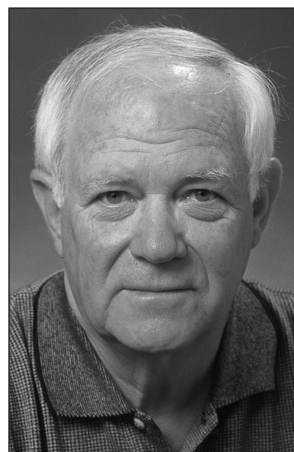
Former *San Diego Union-Tribune* sports editor and columnist Tom Cushman, *Sporting News* columnist Mike DeCourcy and longtime *New Orleans Times-Picayune* sports columnist Peter Finney will be inducted into the Hall of Fame during the Final Four weekend in New Orleans.

Finney will be honored in the city where he has worked for more than 65 years.

Finney, who at 84 continues to write columns for the *Times-Picayune*, began covering high school sports for the *New Orleans States* in 1945 after graduating from high school. He earned a bachelor's degree from Loyola in 1949 and a master's in journalism from LSU in 1957. Just a year later, he was writing three columns a week and covering college sports for the *States-Item*. That number increased to five columns when the *States-Item* merged with the *Times-Picayune*. "Pistol Pete" is among the three books he has written.

Finney also was honored last year by the Pro Football Writers of America with its highest honor, the Dick McCann Memorial Award.

Cushman attended 30 Final Fours during a career that began at the *Colorado Springs Gazette* in 1959 and took



Tom Cushman



Mike DeCourcy



Peter Finney

him to the *Philadelphia Daily News* for 15 years and to the *San Diego Union-Tribune* from 1982-2001.

Cushman also covered 25 Super Bowls, 23 World Series, 22 Masters tournaments, 21 U.S. Open golf tournaments, 11 Olympic Games and noteworthy athletic events on every continent but Antarctica.

According to a story in the *Gazette*, Cushman developed a friendship with Bob Knight while covering the 1981 Final Four that was won by Indiana. Yet, Knight became upset with Cushman for criticizing him in a column

after Knight had stuffed a drunken LSU fan in a garbage can. Knight responded with an 11-page letter to Cushman.

"That's one of the best letters I've ever received," Cushman said. "It contains every bit of Knight's coaching philosophy. I think that might be important stuff."

He is retired and living in Colorado Springs with his wife, usually returning each winter to San Diego.

DeCourcy, who will be attending his 24th Final Four this season, has spent the past 11 years as the college basketball columnist for the *Sporting News* in a career that began at the *Pittsburgh Press* (1983-93), the *Memphis Commercial-Appeal* (1993-97) and the *Cincinnati Enquirer* (1997-2000).

He also is in his second season with the Big Ten Network as an occasional studio analyst and as a regular panelist on a weekly in-season show called Big Ten Basketball & Beyond with Jimmy Jackson and Dave Revsine. DeCourcy is also a frequent guest on radio talk shows across America.

"I celebrated my 28th wedding anniversary in October," DeCourcy said. "No doubt my biggest achievement of all."

The United States Basketball Writers Association  
1818 Chouteau Avenue  
St. Louis, Mo. 63103  
Visit us at: [www.usbwa.com](http://www.usbwa.com)  
314-444-4325  
Fax: 314-444-4333

**PRESIDENT** – Lenox Rawlings, Winston-Salem Journal; H: 336-272-2029; C: 336-580-5023; [len30@triad.rr.com](mailto:len30@triad.rr.com)  
**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT** – John Akers, Basketball Times; H: 704-849-8627; C: 980-422-1294; [johna19081@gmail.com](mailto:johna19081@gmail.com)  
**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT** – Kirk Wessler, Peoria Journal-Star; O: 309-686-3216; H: 309-673-5816; C: 309-256-9093; [kwessler@pjstar.com](mailto:kwessler@pjstar.com)  
**THIRD VICE PRESIDENT** – Dana O’Neil, [espn.com](http://espn.com); C: 215-313-3425; [dgoneil@msn.com](mailto:dgoneil@msn.com)  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** – Joe Mitch, Missouri Valley Conference, O: 314-421-0339; H: 636-227-9113; C: 314-795-6821; [mitch@mvc.org](mailto:mitch@mvc.org)  
**WEBMASTER** – Ted Gangi, C: 214-909-9314; [ted.gangi@sportswriters.net](mailto:ted.gangi@sportswriters.net)  
**BOARD MEMBERS**  
**DISTRICT I** – Kevin McNamara, Providence Journal; O: 401-277-7340; C: 401-434-7229; [kvmc3333@aol.com](mailto:kvmc3333@aol.com)  
**DISTRICT II** – Kevin Armstrong, New York Daily News; C: 845-323-8129; [armwrites@gmail.com](mailto:armwrites@gmail.com)  
**DISTRICT III** – Steve Wiseman, Durham Herald-Sun; O: 919-419-6671; H: 919-387-9848; C: 919-768-3933; [swiseman@heraldsun.com](mailto:swiseman@heraldsun.com)  
**DISTRICT IV** – Pat Forde, [espn.com](http://espn.com); H: 502-253-9761; C: 502-472-91633; [pfeaglebeak@aol.com](mailto:pfeaglebeak@aol.com)  
**DISTRICT V** – Mike Lopresti, USA Today, O: 765-962-0989; C: 765-969-2526; [mj15853@aol.com](mailto:mj15853@aol.com)  
**DISTRICT VI** – Tom Keegan, Lawrence Journal World; O: 785-832-7147; H: 785-856-0796; C: 785-423-0683; [tkeegan@ljworld.com](mailto:tkeegan@ljworld.com)  
**DISTRICT VII** – Wally Hall, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette; O/C: 501-831-4647; [whall@arkansasonline.com](mailto:whall@arkansasonline.com)  
**DISTRICT VIII** – Tom Kensler, Denver Post; O: 303-725-8556; C: 303-725-8556; [tkensler@denverpost.com](mailto:tkensler@denverpost.com)  
**DISTRICT IX** – Frank Burlison, C: 310-717-5942; [frank.burlison@gmail.com](mailto:frank.burlison@gmail.com)  
**WOMEN** – Mel Greenberg; C: 215-815-5943; [poll@att.net](mailto:poll@att.net)  
**AT-LARGE** – Marlen Garcia, USA Today; O/C: 312-218-9353; H: 847-803-0288; [mgarcia@usatoday.com](mailto:mgarcia@usatoday.com)  
**AT-LARGE** – Luke Winn, SI.com; O: 212-522-9835; C: 847-477-5507.  
**SID** – Kim Melcher, Mountain West Conference; O: 719-488-4050; C: 719-433-0681; [kmelcher@themwc.com](mailto:kmelcher@themwc.com)  
**MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR** – Helen Heugel; 314-421-0331; [helen@mvc.org](mailto:helen@mvc.org)  
**NEW MEDIA LIAISON** – Wendy Parker, Basketball Times/Freelance; C: 404-219-4278; [wparker.idk@gmail.com](mailto:wparker.idk@gmail.com)  
**TIPOFF EDITOR** – John Akers, Basketball Times; H: 704-849-8627; C: 980-422-1294; [johna19081@gmail.com](mailto:johna19081@gmail.com)

# Get your Final Four started with annual USBWA breakfast

One of the highlights of the NCAA men’s Final Four every year is the USBWA’s college basketball awards breakfast held on the Friday morning before the national semifinals.

This year’s breakfast, scheduled at a site to be determined in downtown New Orleans, site of this year’s Final Four, figures to be a sellout, similar to previous events hosted by the USBWA since the awards breakfast was first introduced in 2005.

Typically, the event has attracted crowds anywhere from 400 to 600 people, depending on the size of the venue.

At the breakfast, the USBWA will present the Oscar Robertson Trophy to the nation’s top Division I player and the Henry Iba Award to the national coach of the year.

In addition, the USBWA plans to recognize former LSU coach Dale Brown for his contributions to college basketball.

In past years, the USBWA has recognized players and teams from the region where the Final Four is held to help attract interest in the breakfast.

The USBWA honored the Phi Slama Jama University of Houston teams last year and before that Indiana University’s two national championship teams and the 1979 Michigan State team on the 30th anniversary of the school’s first national championship.

USBWA members are typically featured as presenters of the awards and have included award-winning author John Feinstein, ESPN personality Andy Katz and past presidents Blair Kerkhoff of the *Kansas City Star* and Rick Bozich of the *Louisville Courier-Journal*.

A portion of the proceeds from the breakfast benefits the USBWA’s scholarship program for students pursuing careers in sports journalism.

In addition, the USBWA makes an annual contribution to the National Kidney Foundation on behalf of Oscar Robertson, who donated a kidney to his daughter, Tia, several years ago.

Tickets for the breakfast are \$75 each and will be

Joe Mitch  
USBWA  
Executive Director



available on the USBWA website ([usbwa.com](http://usbwa.com)) in January. Those attending the breakfast will receive a printed program and poster featuring past player and coach of the year award winners and an autographed mini-basketball.

**SPORTSWRITING SEMINAR.** “Full Court Press,” the USBWA’s annual sportswriting workshop and scholarship competition that is held in conjunction with the men’s Final Four, is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 29, at the Marriott Hotel in downtown New Orleans.

The seminar is being organized by the John Curley Center for Sports Journalism at Penn State University, under the direction of past USBWAS president Malcolm Moran, the school’s inaugural Knight Chair in Sports Journalism and Society.

Moran will serve as moderator of a panel discussion that will feature several USBWA members, including USBWA president Lenox Rawlings.

This is the 12th anniversary of the seminar, which provides opportunities for college and high school students interested in a career in sports journalism to meet leaders in the industry and compete for a \$1,000 scholarship.

Students may enter a writing competition for the scholarship in honor of the late Larry Donald, who served two terms as president of the USBWA in 1987 and 1988. Those electing to participate in the writing contest will receive assignments to cover events at the Final Four, including news conferences and practices on the day before the national semifinals. One student will receive a credential to cover the national championship game on Monday, April 2.

The cost to attend the seminar is free. For additional information, contact Moran at [mum24@psu.edu](mailto:mum24@psu.edu).

## USBWA Membership Application Form

Send a check for \$50 and let the USBWA make your job of covering college basketball easier. Or go to [usbwa.com](http://usbwa.com) to subscribe. For questions, call 314-444-4325.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Newspaper/Publication/Website/College \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Office Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

USBWA  
1818 Chouteau Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 6310



# Shining moments found in glare of Penn State negativity

By MALCOLM MORAN

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. – The words do not come easily these days. Not here, at Penn State, not since Nov. 5, the Saturday that a university was changed forever. Not elsewhere, when I would cross paths with friends and colleagues in a lobby, or hallway, or elevator, and an awkward conversation would begin.

“I can’t imagine,” I would hear.

“Neither can I,” I would say.

How could we have imagined the allegations against former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky, the searing heat that resulted and the numbness that followed? Several years back, while discussing the Duke lacrosse scenario that smothered a campus community more than five years ago, I offered a description for a News Media Ethics class in an effort to bring the story closer to home. Try to imagine if every network was represented by reporters delivering their standups each morning in front of Old Main, the administration building. Try to imagine seeing satellite trucks everywhere you looked, day after day after day. I won’t have to offer that description any longer.

When the trucks left, temporarily, before Thanksgiving, I realized I had forgotten what College Avenue looked like without them. They will come and go for a long time.

Sara Ganim, the *Harrisburg Patriot-News* reporter whose story on the grand jury activity last spring offered the first hint of the scandal, offered a chilling observation recently during a panel discussion organized by the John Curley Center for Sports Journalism. Ganim was asked how long she expected the legal fallout to last.

“Twenty five years,” she said.

During that first week, when the developments shifted hour by hour and the community appeared to spin out of control, the best advice I received was that it was time for the faculty to listen. Between the riot on that Wednesday night and the candlelight vigil on Friday, students began to

describe the realization of an overwhelming conflict.

They came here to become journalists and pushed through sleep deprivation to separate fact from fiction.

They had also come here to become Penn Staters and were dealing with the pain the facts they unearthed were creating. Some of them felt their work was contributing to the demise of the place they had embraced.

“Watching the tragedy of this week unfold from the vantage point of a student journalist, not just a student, has left me a little torn,” one student wrote. “In a lot of ways, I feel guilty for feeling like I’ve barely processed this at all – I’m numb to it, and I’m bracing myself for the moment

cuffs on Nov. 5. Audrey Snyder became a regular contributor to *USA Today*. Jake Kaplan, who began to write for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* in the summer, became even more valuable. Emily Kaplan reported for the Associated Press. Karisa Maxwell maintained her professionalism when a sports-talk radio boor named Craig Carton registered his disagreement with her reluctance to rush to judgment by calling her stupid and saying that she was raised by animals.

Alexandra Marzella found a home. She is an executive producer for PSN-TV news, a campus outlet. In a week that held so much pain and confusion, Marzella found clarity. The experience helped her decide this was going to become her career.

*When the first protests broke out downtown and at Old Main on Tuesday, I did not know exactly what to expect, but I ran with a camera downtown to film anything that took place and interview students on how they were feeling. The adrenaline running through my body was so overwhelming that I did not even have time to process what was going on so close to home. As the events of the week broke out, my schedule and my life changed ...*

*In the beginning of the game when (Nebraska assistant coach Ron Brown) was saying the prayer, I followed the rest of the*

*media that ran to the center of the field to hear what he had to say. I know it was just my job to get any key footage on film, but I couldn’t help but cry as I held my camera in one hand and got to actually hear and take part in the speech. I wouldn’t have gotten that opportunity without being a journalism student here ...*

Marzella’s words were part of an essay that accompanied her application to join the Curley Center.

The application deadline had passed.

Some deadlines were meant to be revised.

*Malcolm Moran is the Knight Chair in Sports Journalism and Society and director of the John Curley Center for Sports Journalism at Penn State University.*

*Try to imagine if every network was represented by reporters delivering their standups each morning in front of Old Main, the administration building. Try to imagine seeing satellite trucks everywhere you looked, day after day after day. I won’t have to offer that description any longer.*

when my emotions finally get the best of me ... You have to stay completely tuned into what’s happening, but a lot of the time you end up feeling like you’re insulated from the impact of it all.”

With all that going on, students and recent graduates distinguished themselves when more than a few professionals did not. They knew where to go without having to ask for directions. They knew who to ask and who to trust. Mark Viera, Class of ’09, wrote so frequently for the *New York Times* that competitors were shocked to learn he was not a staff member. Andy Colwell, who spent last summer as a photography intern at the Harrisburg Patriot-News, captured the initial image of Sandusky being led off in hand-

## Lenox Rawlings

*CONTINUED from Page 1*

expand on things that didn’t get expanded on back then, particularly on the negative side. ...

“The size of the trophy is overwhelming recognition for the way the game is played. You can interpret size of the trophy as money or attention, and that has just totally overwhelmed the admiration for the guy who gave it his best and played well and played by the rules, on and off the court. Dave Bing is that type of player. It’s just different now. The emphasis really is on the size of the trophy, on which matchup gets the most viewership. I’m not sure that’s the right formula. Times have changed dramatically, and we tend to spend more time trying to create the interest than appreciating the competition, the essence of the game.”

Twenty years after the 1966 tournament, on the College Park campus, Len Bias died celebrating the NBA draft. The cause: cocaine overdose. The tragedy led to Driesell’s dismissal on broader grounds and a career detour that perhaps cost him a spot in the Naismith Hall of Fame.

In November, Detroit Mayor Bing wrestled with a

projected shortfall of \$45 million by next summer and accumulating debt of \$150 million. “Simply put,” he announced, “our city is in a financial crisis and city government is broken.”

Just as the 2011-12 season began, two former Syra-

*“I am not sure that things were different in 1966 or if we just know more about stuff in today’s world. Has knowing about it made us any better as individuals or collectively, or has it made our world a better or safer place for anyone of any age?”*

*– Terry Holland*

cuse ballboys and another man accused associate head coach Bernie Fine of molesting them as teens.

Fine, a Syracuse team manager in 1966 and Boeheim’s assistant since 1976, denied the accusations. Boeheim defended Fine at the outset, saying the first accuser lied about seeing Boeheim in Fine’s room on a road trip. After Syra-

cuse fired Fine, Boeheim apologized for his harsh rhetoric and expressed sympathy for victims of sexual abuse.

These are all stories that go far beyond basketball, stories that would have been jarring 46 seasons or 46 seconds ago – and every story now has the Penn State scandal as a permanent sidebar.

“I don’t think anybody – even today – prior to those things happening could imagine those things going on,” Duke’s Vacendak said. “This is all just so devastating.”

The headlines disturb Holland, now East Carolina’s athletics director.

“I am not sure that things were different in 1966 or if we just know more about stuff in today’s world,” he said. “Has knowing about it made us any better as individuals or collectively, or has it made our world a better or safer place for anyone of any age? Complicated issues – but about all

I am sure of at this time is that I feel badly for all the innocent people of all ages who have become involved.”

The N.C. State men rarely play in Reynolds Coliseum these days, and the Western Union operators disappeared into sportswriter history, along with college basketball as we knew it long ago.

# Winn snares another first, second in best writing contest

Luke Winn of *Sports Illustrated* and SI.com finished first and second in the U.S. Basketball Writers Association's best writing contest, claiming at least one first-place finish and multiple place-winners for the third year in a row.

Winn took first place in moderate length features and second in enterprise/investigative reporting.

Other first-place winners included Sean Gregory of *Time* in magazine length features; Dan Wiederer of the *Fayetteville Observer* in enterprise/investigative reporting; David Teel of the *Newport News Daily Press* in column writing; and David Woods of the *Indianapolis Star* in game story/spot news.

Other multiple winners were John Feinstein of the *Washington Post*, who took a third in game story/spot news and a fourth in column writing, and Kevin Armstrong of the *New York Daily News*, who finished third in moderate length features and fourth magazine length features.

Winn's winning entry, *The Gift of Grab*, was a feature story on Morehead State's Kenneth Faried, who broke the NCAA's modern-day record for career rebounds, and the relationship with his mother, who has lupus.

Winn wrote: "What separates the player who gets 10 to 12 rebounds per 40 minutes from the one who gets 17, as Faried does? He's oversized for his conference, which helps; he has long arms, an excellent second bounce and loads of lateral quickness, which help even more. He has a few tricks that he learned from Kenneth Sr., including a jujitsulike swim move Faried uses against opponents who have him boxed out; it typically involves a deft blow to the solar plexus that pushes the opposing player away from the basket. But elite rebounders have an intangible force as well. Former Pitt star DeJuan Blair, for example, said he was powered by something like greed. "I love money," he explained during his sophomore season. "I pretend that every rebound is a million dollars, and I'm going to go out and get my millions." Faried has a deeper drive, and this is what major-conference recruiters missed: They could see 6'7", 185 pounds and they could see his raw athleticism—but they could not gauge the depth of his will to rebound."

In his second-place story – *Up Three, Under Seven* – Winn explored coaching strategies for teams with a three-point lead and seven seconds remaining.

In the magazine length features category, Gregory drew on his experience as a benchwarmer at Princeton to reflect on the Tigers' historic upset of UCLA in the 1996 NCAA Tournament.

Gregory wrote: "As the country gears up for this year's version of March Madness, another group of underdog teams — including the 2011 Princeton Tigers, who reached the tournament after hitting a buzzer beater against Harvard in the Ivy League playoff — are trying to repeat Princeton's feat and win the hearts of all those sports fans who love the long shots. (Or, conversely, the enmity of office-pool participants who picked that big-time team to make the Final Four). Over the past 20 or so years, fans have witnessed a series of first-round stunners in the NCAA basketball tournament. In 1991, for example, Richmond shocked Syracuse to become the first 15th-seeded team to take a tournament game; two years later, Santa Clara University, led by a funky freshman point guard named Steve Nash, toppled Arizona. Back in 2005, tiny Bucknell, of Lewisburg, Pa., knocked off Kansas, a perennial favorite to win the championship. These games were all classics. But they

## Magazine Length Feature

1. Sean Gregory, *Time Magazine*, Princeton's Historic Upset
2. Tim Layden, *Sports Illustrated Magazine*, A Fling And A Prayer
3. Jason King, *Yahoo ! Sports*, A Bond Forged In Sorrow
4. Kevin Armstrong, *New York Daily News*, Kyrie's Path
5. Dana O'Neil, *ESPN.com*, 'I'm Proud Of Who I Am'

## Enterprise/ Investigative Reporting

1. Dan Wiederer, *Fayetteville Observer*, Duke's Family Guy
2. Luke Winn, *SI.com*, Up Three, Under Seven
3. Curtis Eichelberger, *Bloomberg News*, Women's Basketball And Profits
4. Brendan F. Quinn, *Basketball Times*, He Was The Tournament's Soul
5. John Akers, *Basketball Times*, The Best: Class Of 1979 Or 2007?

## Column Writing

1. David Teel, *Newport News Daily Press*, Walking A Tightrope
2. Graham Couch, *Kalamazoo Gazette*, VCU Had The Last Laugh
3. David Jones, *Harrisburg Patriot-News*, A Very Painful Good-bye
4. John Feinstein, *Washington Post*, The Terrapin Who Conquered The Mountain
5. Bud Withers, *Seattle Times*, Jernstedt: He Deserved Better

## Moderate Length Feature,

1. Luke Winn, *Sports Illustrated Magazine*, The Gift Of Grab
2. Pablo Torre, *SI.com*, Shaka Smart's Vision
3. Kevin Armstrong, *New York Daily News*, The Light, The Truth, The Destroyer
4. Rick Bozich, *Louisville Courier-Journal*, Big East Party: A Stout Affair
5. Steve Wieberg, *USA Today*, Privileged Or Exploited?

## Game Story/ Spot News

1. David Woods, *Indianapolis Star*, Butler, The Sequel
2. Phil Chardis, *Manchester Journal Inquirer*, Kemba Magic
3. John Feinstein, *Washington Post*, Staying On The Train
4. Gary Parrish, *CBSSports.com*, Tragedy, Tears And Jayla
5. Michael Rothstein, *AnnArbor.com*, Michigan Settles A Score

still haven't gained the same level of lasting resonance, among hard-core, casual and even marginal sports fans, as Princeton vs. UCLA."

Wiederer, who now covers the Minnesota Vikings for the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, won the enterprise/investigative reporting category for *Duke's Family Guy*, about Mike Krzyzewski's strong family ties.

Wiederer wrote: "Before chartered plane trips became the norm, Lindy recalls tagging along on the team bus, playing the role of little sister as the Blue Devils, without cell phones or handheld video games, set up mazes and mock haunted houses on the bus to keep themselves entertained. Now Lindy is the elder to Duke's players, the team counselor and performance development coordinator, using her psychology background to monitor the squad's mental state. Krzyzewski's oldest daughter, Debbie, is the assistant director of Duke's Legacy Fund, with her office on the same floor as her dad's at the Schwartz-Butters Athletic Center. Jamie, meanwhile, while not employed by Duke, has co-authored two books with her dad. And her husband, Chris Spatola, is the Blue Devils' director of basketball operations. 'You've heard of mom-and-pop grocery stores?' Lindy said. "This is a mom-and-pop basketball program."

Teel won the column writing contest for question-

ing the NCAA's decision to allow Ohio State athletic director Gene Smith to remain the chairman of the tournament selection committee even after Yahoo! Sports exposed a scandal involving former football coach Jim Tressel.

Teel got right to the point: "Ohio State athletic director Gene Smith has no business chairing the NCAA basketball tournament selection committee this weekend. Two reasons. • His preposterous support Tuesday of Jim Tressel, the Buckeyes' unrepentant rogue of a football coach, leaves Smith with zero credibility. • The scandal engulfing Ohio State football demands his total attention and undoubtedly will distract him as the basketball panel is sequestered in Indianapolis to construct the 68-team bracket."

Woods won the game story/spot news category for his story on Butler's unlikely return to the Final Four.

Here's Woods' lead: "NEW ORLEANS – Last year's run to the Final Four was pure storybook. This one is saccharine fiction. Butler lost Gordon Hayward to the NBA, lost nine of its first 23 games, lost its crunch-time magic and defensive mojo. Yet the Bulldogs never lost their way. And now? They have won 13 in a row – the nation's longest active streak – and are headed to Houston. College basketball's ongoing drama continues."



Gregory



Wiederer



Teel



Winn



Woods