

As Many Theories as Teams

Welcome to the *real* season. NCAA Tournament, one-loss-and-you're-out time. Since there truly are no tomorrows left for the losers, getting invited to that oh-so-exclusive Final Four party requires far more than just talent. So let's test some of those "what wins in the NCAA's" theories you'll be hearing so much about in the coming weeks.

BACKCOURT PLAY

When each decision might be your last, the guards, who make those decisions most of the time, might be the difference. "Plus, especially in a close game, big men play 36 minutes while the little men play 40," NBC analyst Bucky Waters said. "The last four minutes, the big men's role is merely complementary. It becomes a game of protect and procure." **Choices:** N.C. State, Indiana, Syracuse and Florida State.

DEFENSE

Shooters' hands tend to tremble with the game on the line. But the "Big D" is a constant; all you have to do is *want* to play it. **Choices:** Georgetown, Georgetown and Georgetown. Add UNLV, Syracuse and Oklahoma.

INSIDE COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Tom Kertes

COACHING

At single-elimination time, the sideline dancers become even more important. A cool hand, the right choice of strategy and immediate reaction to the flow are essential. **Choices:** Duke, Arizona (tied with Indiana), Louisville and Virginia.

QUICKNESS

With everyone's intensity at an all-time high, teams with superior athleticism often own the edge. **Choices:** Georgetown, UNLV, Syracuse and Michigan.

DEPTH

Makes you forget about fatigue and say "fie" to foul trouble. Allows you to "throw numbers" at your opponent and play defense for every moment with the ultimate abandon. **Choices:** Georgetown, Arizona, Illinois and Oklahoma.

HOT TEAM

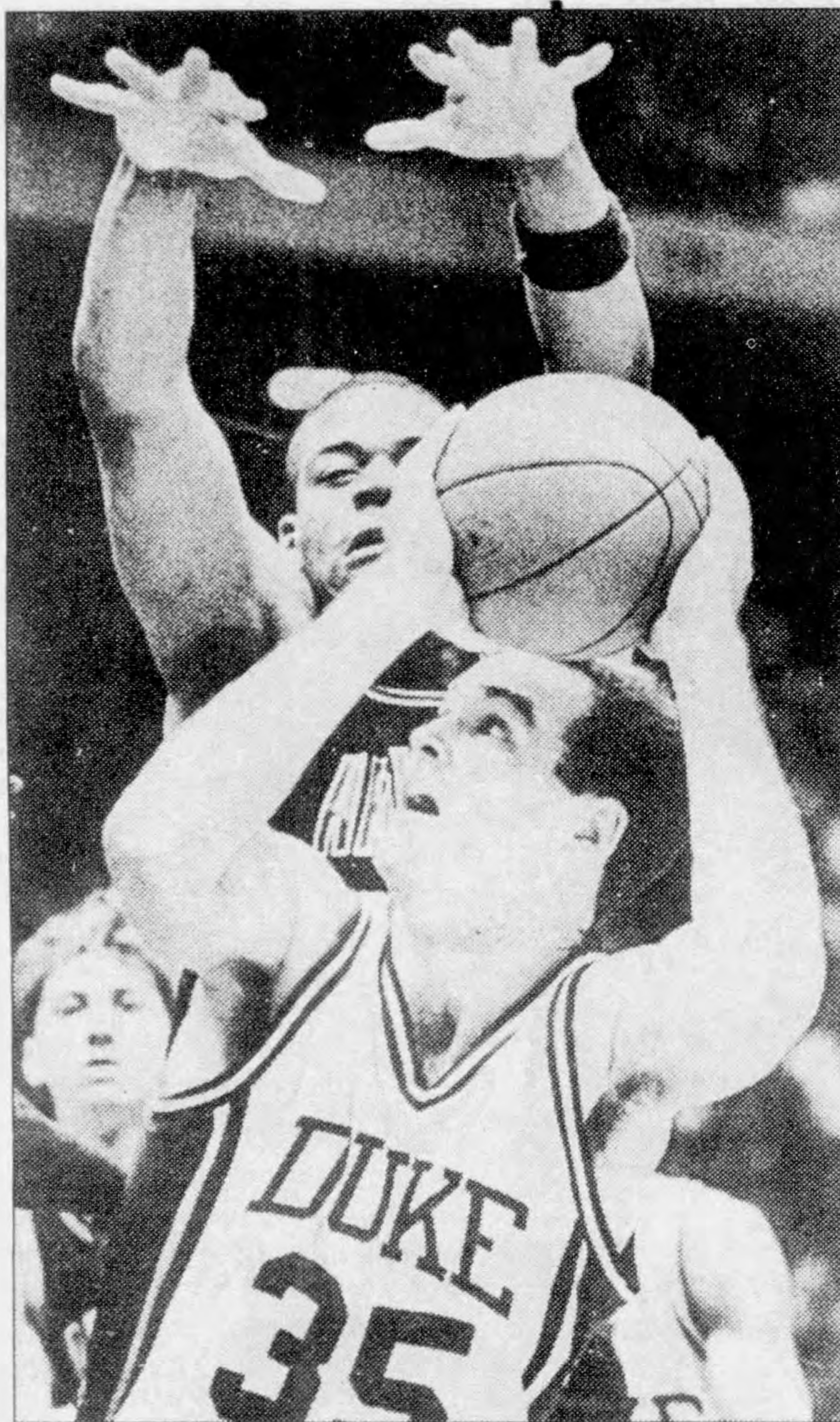
If you had your druthers, you'd rather come in on a roll. But Kansas got blown off the floor in the Big Eight Tournament last year and went on to win the big one. And the St. John's-Villanova game was downright painful to watch in the 1985 Big East Tournament — just two weeks before Lou Carnesecca and Rollie Massimino both feasted on Final Four fettucini in Lexington. **Choices:** Georgetown, Arizona, Illinois and LaSalle.

ONE GREAT PLAYER

The genius who'll save you when all else fails. **Choices:** Duke (Danny Ferry), Arizona (Sean Elliott, tied with Indiana's Jay Edwards), Syracuse (Sherman Douglas) and Oklahoma (Stacey King).

SHOOTING TOUCH AND RANGE

When nothing works, having some "can't miss" gunners is priceless. **Choices:** Vanderbilt, Arizona, Pittsburgh and North Carolina.



UPI Photo

Standout forward Danny Ferry, Duke's guiding force, is an example of the One Great Player theory.

THE BIG MAN

The best shot is still the one close to the basket. And the best defense is intimidation. **Choices:** Georgetown (Alonzo Mourning, Dikembe Mutombo), Clemson (Elden Campbell), Syracuse (Derrick Coleman), Oklahoma (King).

EMOTION, CHEMISTRY, INTANGIBLES

They'll only take you so far — you've got to have the players — but, everything else being equal, they're wonderful to have. **Choices:** Georgetown, Arizona (tied with Indiana), Illinois and Iowa State (tied with LaSalle).

* * *

So what does all this add up to? Numerically, a Georgetown (6 points), Syracuse (5), Arizona (4.5) and Oklahoma (4) Final Four.

I heavily favor the Hoyas in the East — and to go all the way. (Incidentally, it's nice of all the TV mavens to finally discover Georgetown. But, remember, I picked the Hoyas as my preseason No. 1.)

Out West, Arizona will get a good run from Indi-

ana. Rate UNLV a no-chancer against the Wildcats. While I like Syracuse over Illinois, and Louisville (a little) and Missouri (a lot) in the Midwest, if Derrick Coleman's back is less than 100 percent, the region would be thrown wide open. And, if you're looking for an upset, you might do well to glance at the Southeast. Of the top seeds, Oklahoma's in a funk; North Carolina is *soooo* slow and Michigan's crunch-time history is downright horrendous.

■ All-Americans, the right way

It seems all Americans are picking All-Americans these days. On my team, players will be chosen strictly at the position they played.

Point Guard: Among the preseason favorites, Iowa's B.J. Armstrong has learned how to shoot — too bad, because he's stopped being a *point* guard — and Mookie Blaylock of Oklahoma has sunk into a curious month-long funk. Sherman Douglas (Syracuse) and Florida State's George McCloud came up with great years, but Chris Jackson (LSU) may be the No. 1 player in the country. Others: 2. Douglas. 3. McCloud. 4. Chris Corchiani (N.C. State) 5. Charles Smith (Georgetown). Fans of great point play might also find Pooh Richardson (UCLA), UTEP's Tim Hardaway, Rumeal Robinson (Michigan) and Elliot Perry (Memphis State) worth watching in the NCAA's.

Shooting Guard: Another position where the guys who were expected to dominate — Villanova's Doug West and Temple's Mark Macon — have faded. Others, such as Louisville's LaBradford Smith and Iowa's Roy Marble, simply failed to develop their total game. On the other hand, Indiana's Jay Edwards, who wasn't even certain to play back in November because of a substance-abuse problem, was consistently awesome. Others: 2. Rodney Monroe (N.C. State) 3. Todd Lichti (Stanford) 4. Macon. 5. Jay Burson (Ohio State).

Center: King Stacey was royal, but Syracuse's Derrick Coleman, thoroughly dominating at both ends until he hurt his back, was something more than that. I assure you all centers will be measured against The Incredible Alonzo in the not-too-far-off future. Others: 2. King. 3. Pervis Ellison. 4. Mourning. 5. Dwayne Schintzius (Florida).

Power forward: Though Danny Ferry fails to overwhelm me as a pro prospect — he's a tad too slow and doesn't rebound enough — he put a medium-talented Duke team on his back and carried it further than anyone had a right to expect. Others: 2. Hank Gathers (Loyola Marymount) 3. Randy White (Louisiana Tech) 4. Tom Hammonds (Georgia Tech). 5. Ricky Blanton (LSU).

Small forward: Tremendous talent, including Michigan's Glen Rice, Mississippi's Gerald Glass and LaSalle's Lionel Simmons, were forced to take a back seat to Sean Elliott. And what about N.C. State's Chucky Brown (the ACC's leading rebounder), pure-shooting Dennis Scott (Georgia Tech) and Jeff Martin (Murray State), Illinois' deliciously aggressive Nick Anderson and George Mason's underrated Kenny Sanders? Others: 2. Glass. 3. Rice. 4. Simmons. 5. Brown.

Mobster Testifies He Backed Agents

The Associated Press

Chicago — A jailed member of a New York organized crime family said yesterday he helped finance a sports agents business started by **Norby Walters** and **Lloyd Bloom**, and used his mob connections to persuade entertainers to do business with **Walters**.

Michael **Franzese** described two occasions when Walters used him and his reputation to keep or line up entertainers as clients. While he did not directly threaten them, **Franzese** said, he made sure they understood his New York ties.

Under cross-examination, however, **Franzese** said he did directly threaten the manager of the Jacksons singing group in an effort to get **Walters** involved in a concert tour.

He also said he had only met **Bloom** once, and that because he knew nothing about **Bloom**, asked that **Bloom** be excluded from business discussions between **Franzese** and Walters.

But, **Franzese** added, "If he (**Bloom**) was **Norby's** partner, he had the same ability to use my name as Norby did."

Franzese said he never personally contacted football players involved with the agents. **Franzese** is serving a 10-year prison sentence on racketeering and fraud charges. He testified in the second week of the racketeering-fraud trial of **Bloom** and **Walters**.

Bloom, 29, and **Walters**, 58, are accused of using cash to persuade athletes to sign contracts before their college eligibility had expired — in violation of

NCAA rules — and of threatening the players with physical harm if they tried to back out of the deals. Both agents have pleaded innocent.

Under questioning by U.S. Attorney Anton Valukas, **Franzese** said he was associated with New York's Colombo organized crime family from 1973 to 1986. "I was a captain at the time," he told Valukas, in the courtroom of U.S. District Judge George Marovich.

Franzese said that in 1984 or 1985 **Walters** told him he was joining **Bloom** in the sports agents business and "he asked me to participate in some way."

Walters asked **Franzese** for \$50,000 to back the business and promised **Franzese** a 25-percent share. **Franzese** testified. **Franzese** said he had known Wal-

ters most of his life and that he was contacted by **Walters** in the early '80s to help persuade singer Dionne Warwick and a singing group, The New Edition, to keep their business with **Walters**.

Walters had loaned managers of The New Edition \$20,000 with the understanding **Walters** would get 20 percent of their tour proceeds, **Franzese** said.

"I explained to them [managers] that I expected them to live up to the deal [with **Walters**], and that the \$20,000 was mine," **Franzese** said.

On another occasion, **Franzese** said, he accompanied **Walters** to California to talk with Warwick's manager, Joe Grant. "The purpose was to make sure that the act, Dionne, remained with **Norby Walters**," **Franzese** testified.