

COLLEGE BASKETBALL BETTING GUIDE

VSiN **PRO**



TIPS & STRATEGIES FOR BETTING COLLEGE BASKETBALL
OUR GUIDE INCLUDES

- REGIONAL TEAM COVERAGE
- WOODEN AWARD FUTURES
- STEVE MAKINEN POWER RATINGS

SPORTS RADIO
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TITLE SHOT

**THREE TEAMS DOWN THE BOARD
WORTHY OF A BET TODAY**

By Zachary Cohen

The championship futures landscape in college hoops is a wild ride. Unlike college football, where you can practically sketch out Ohio State's path to the College Football Playoff, the NCAA tournament throws 68 teams into a blender, serving up chaos every spring. The sheer volume of contenders, the single-elimination format, and the huge stylistic contrasts make forecasting a champion far more unpredictable than in any other sport. Navigating this market means embracing the madness, not pretending there's a tidy roadmap.

My strategy is to sift through different pockets of value at several levels. I'll normally back a top program that's flying slightly under the radar, angle for a mid-tier team with legit upside, and sprinkle in a sleeper with the talent or system to shock the public. This year, I'm completely passing on the top-tier squads and opting to take three shots further down the board. Sometimes, these tickets aren't really about finding teams that'll actually end up cutting down the nets, it's about snatching a solid price and keeping hedging options in play as the tournament unfolds.

Let's dive into some early futures I'm punching for 2025-26:

NC STATE WOLFPACK (60/1)

Will Wade is a proven winner, and he's earned a reputation as a master of talent acquisition. While his earlier methods raised some eyebrows, there's nobody better equipped to thrive in the NIL era. Now back at a high-major program, with substantial support from NC State's boosters, Wade is positioned to make a big impact.

Wade is expected to turn NC State into a powerhouse, but just how quickly he'll get there is a fair question. It could happen immediately.

Tre Holloman is slated to start at point guard. The senior arrives after averaging 9.1 points and 3.7 assists per game for Michigan State last season, bringing smart playmaking and hard-nosed defense to the Wolfpack. At shooting guard, NC State has two strong choices in Matt Able (the 24th-ranked player in the ESPN 100) and Paul McNeil. Able offers three-level scoring, while McNeil's floor spacing could get him the nod; he has the potential to be one of the ACC's best shooters.

The forward spots will be filled with high-level transfers: Terrance Arceneaux from Houston and Darrion Williams from Texas Tech. Arceneaux's defense on the wing should be elite, and he's got the tools to contribute offensively. Though his career was interrupted by a torn ACL, a bigger opportunity awaits in Raleigh. Williams, Texas Tech's best offensive player last year, posted 15.1 points, 5.5 rebounds, and 3.6 assists. He's dangerous from beyond the arc and strong enough to excel as a small-ball four.

In the middle, Ven-Allen Lubin transfers in after a controversial move from UNC. He averaged 8.7 points and 5.5 rebounds per game last season. Lengthy, capable off the dribble, and solid in the post, Lubin's two-way ability should make him a strong starter.

Following Wade from McNeese State, Quadir Copeland also projects as a key contributor. He's athletic, brings energy on defense, and manages to make things happen offensively even without a reliable jumper.

Defense could be this team's calling card, which makes sense given Wade's history: in his final season at LSU, his team ranked sixth in KenPom's adjusted defensive efficiency.

The lone question is whether NC State will be strong enough offensively. Williams helps in that department, and with several breakout candidates on the roster, it's likely the Wolfpack challenge for top ACC status right away.

At 60/1, these odds could look generous by March.

WISCONSIN BADGERS (75/1)

Wisconsin ranked 12th in KenPom's adjusted efficiency margin last season and was top 25 nationally in both adjusted offensive and defensive efficiency. John Tonje's departure is a major loss after putting up 19.6 points and 5.3 rebounds per game on elite shooting splits — he

had one of the most statistically impressive campaigns in school history. The departure of assistant coach Kirk Penney, who helped modernize Wisconsin's offense, is another key storyline.

Penney's impact was clear, with Wisconsin jumping from 226th to 16th in threes attempted nationally. Greg Gard says that the offensive changes will remain even after Penney returns to New Zealand. If Gard sticks with the system, the Badgers should be able to fill the void left by Tonje — and possibly do more damage in March.

Stars John Blackwell and Nolan Winter are back after standout sophomore seasons. Blackwell averaged 15.8 points, 5.1 rebounds, and 2.2 assists per game and looks primed to be the main scorer. He's a skilled shooter and an intelligent scorer. Winter brings 9.4 points and 5.8 rebounds per game as a stretch five with touch inside.

Gard reloaded via the transfer portal: Nick Boyd (San Diego State), Andrew Rohde (Virginia), and Austin Rapp (Portland) fill out the starting five. Boyd is a tenacious competitor at point and brings Final Four experience from his days at Florida Atlantic. Rohde, who shot 41.3% from 3 last year, offers solid playmaking and improved defense. Rapp, who averaged 13.8 points, 6.5 rebounds, 2.5 assists, and 1.5 blocks, projects as a strong frontcourt fit next to Winter; his shooting gives Wisconsin five legitimate 3-point options at all times along with help protecting the rim.

Few college lineups can match the Badgers' range and versatility, and Gard's teams consistently play smart, fundamentally sound basketball. At 75/1, there's value here — especially if rotation players can provide steady minutes, giving Wisconsin a higher ceiling than most expect.

OREGON DUCKS (100/1)

It's a bit strange that Oregon is available at 100/1 despite welcoming back Jackson Shelstad and Nate Bittle to Eugene. Shelstad averaged 13.7 points per game last season, posting efficient shooting splits of 45.1% from the field, 37.9% from 3, and 83.5% from the line, which earned him All-Big Ten Third Team honors. Bittle joined Shelstad on that same team, averaging 14.2 points, 7.6 rebounds, and leading the conference with 2.1 blocks per game. Shelstad is an impressive shotmaker who's becoming more polished as a floor general. Bittle, meanwhile, is an excellent finisher around the rim, dangerous as a pick-and-pop option, and a true anchor defensively.

Oregon's greatest strength comes at two of the most critical spots: point guard and center. Pairing that foundation with head coach Dana Altman — who has won 20+ games in each of his 15 seasons at Oregon — sets the Ducks up with a remarkably high floor. Last season, they finished 27th in KenPom's adjusted efficiency rankings.

Don't overlook the team's upside, either, since Chinese flamethrower Wei Lin and transfer Takai Simpkins will add to Oregon's backcourt arsenal. Lin put up 21.6 points per game in the CBA, so he's proven himself against pro competition. Simpkins averaged 16.4 points and shot 36.7% from deep for Elon, and that kind of scoring should translate well to Big Ten play.

Transfers Devon Pryor and Sean Stewart — both athletic and skilled — could thrive with Oregon after limited roles at Texas and Ohio State, respectively. Altman's history of maximizing transfers is well documented.

One big wild card: Is this the season Kwame Evans breaks out? Evans was a top-15 recruit, but has yet to fully emerge for the Ducks. At the very least, he should be able to take pressure off Bittle when it comes to doing some dirty work. Though Altman will be expecting a little more than that.

Oregon could also get a boost from Dezdrick Lindsay, who didn't play last year after transferring from Florida Southwestern, but was one of the top JUCO players in the nation. There's a real chance Altman takes advantage of his scoring punch this season.

With a mix of proven stars and intriguing newcomers, Oregon offers a compelling blend of reliability and upside. Shelstad and Bittle will keep the Ducks competitive, but if Altman gets the most out of his athletic wings, their potential far exceeds public perception.

WOODEN AWARD FUTURES BOARD

BY AARON MOORE

Let's take a shot at handicapping this year's Wooden Award futures board.

Shot is the operable word here since this year's favorite is going to need to make a lot of them, many from behind the arc, to ultimately take home the award.

Purdue's Braden Smith (+550) starts the season atop the odds board, due in large part to the lack of a prominent big man fitting the profile of recent winners Cooper Flagg and Zach Edey.

So before any Wooden Award wagers are made, the prevailing mindset of voters must first be identified as a key variable.

Sure, Smith can score, as he averaged 15.8 PPG a season ago and should do even more in 2026, but as a point guard, he conducts his offensive work much differently than the past seven winners.

The last group of winners was a combination of power forwards and centers.

The 6-footer Smith's game is more reminiscent of the trio of winners from 2016-2018 (Buddy Hield, Frank Mason III and Jalen Brunson).

MEASURING UP

One way to handicap Smith's chances of winning the award is to first get an idea of what type of statistical performance is needed to be in line with the accomplishments of Hield, Mason III and Brunson during their Wooden Award winning campaigns.

The past seven winners are excluded from a comparative analysis because voters scrutinize guards differently than forwards.

Below are the offensive averages for those guards during their Wooden Award seasons. Also included is how high their clubs ranked in the AP Poll during the last quarter of the season as an indication of the team success that is needed to win the award.

PLAYER	POINTS	ASSISTS	REBOUNDS	HIGHEST AP RANK FEB-MAR
Brunson (2018)	18.9	4.6	3.1	No. 1
Mason III (2017)	20.9	5.2	4.2	No. 1
Hield (2016)	25.0	2.0	5.7	No. 1

That makes the averages for the past three guards to win the Wooden Award as 21.6 PPG, 3.9 APG and 4.3 RPG. Compare that with Smith's line from a year ago: 15.8 PPG, 8.7 APG and 4.5 RPG.

With his assists and rebounds easily surpassing those averages, raising his point total would dramatically increase his chances of winning since his team already comes with a No.1 ranking.

For Smith to jump from 15.8 points to 21.6 points, it would require a 36% increase in scoring during his senior year. Take into account that Smith had a 24% increase in scoring from his freshman to sophomore year and another 24% increase from sophomore to junior season. So if Smith continues the trend of increasing his scoring output at 24% each year, he would end this season at 19.6 PPG. Even if he doesn't get to that 21.6 PPG, Smith's numbers should be comparable to, or even better than, those Wooden Award winners.

TIER 1 FAVORITES

BRADEN SMITH (+550)

Breakdown
Last year in the VSIN College Basketball Betting Guide, we placed the Wooden candidates into different tiers, with the top one filled with a number of high-profile names including Flagg, RJ Davis, Hunter Dickinson and Mark Sears.

This year it is a group of one with Smith's odds coming in close to half of the next name on the board JT Toppin (+950).

Smith rightfully begins the season way ahead of the pack since he serves as the floor general for the favorite to win a national championship (Purdue +900).

Under a national spotlight, Smith has the green light to score from Matt Painter. With senior teammates Fletcher Loyer on the perimeter and Trey Kaufman-Renn down low, Smith's already impressive assists number should keep on rising. Averaging a double-double would place him in the same double-double conversation with recent winners Edey, Oscar Tshiebwe and, a little further back, Anthony Davis, who also accomplished that feat - albeit with rebounds instead of assists.

There is every reason to believe Smith will finish with a better average stat line than other point guards who have also won the award - Trey Burke (18.6 PPG, 3.2 RPG and 6.7 APG in 2013), Jameer Nelson (20.6 PPG, 4.7 RPG, and 5.3 APG in 2004) and T.J. Ford (15.0 PPG, 3.9 RPG, and 7.7 APG in 2003).

Perhaps just as importantly, all three PGs were running the show for a team ranked in the Top 3 of the AP Poll late in the season when voters were deep in decision-making mode.

In essence, a Wooden Award bet on Smith is correlated with Purdue (+200) winning the Big Ten regular season title. Because if Purdue stumbles, it will likely be Michigan taking that crown and that would place Yaxel Lendeborg (10/1) in an optimal position to be the Wooden Award winner.

TIER 2 FAVORITES

JT TOPPIN (+950)
YAXEL LENDEBORG (10/1)
DARRYN PETERSON (11/1)
CAMERON BOOZER (12/1)
AJ DYBANTSA (12/1)

Breakdown

Much more crowded real estate down here.

Toppin offers the most brand-name recognition after his sensational season a year ago for a Texas Tech squad that lost a heartbreaker to Florida in the Elite Eight. Now Toppin will lead the Red Raiders without Darrion Williams, who moved on to NC State. That absence could help Toppin raise his scoring numbers (18.2 PPG & 9.4 RPG), while also hurting since one less star player is around to help Texas Tech get more marquee victories.

Just like Smith, Toppin's production last year jumped significantly from the season prior, making an average of 20 points and 10 rebounds in 2026 a likely occurrence.

Much of the handicapping process for this award is determining if a current player fits a profile voters valued in the past. There is a lot of Tshiebwe in Toppin's game.

The problem, though, is Texas Tech, with a stacked Houston team in its way, might not get a Top 5 ranking like Kentucky had in 2022.

Call Lendeborg the poster child of Wooden Award candidates in the transfer portal era. He spent parts of three seasons at Arizona Western then left the JUCO level for two solid campaigns at UAB. Now, at 23 years old, he has experience and a leading role for a power conference squad hunting for a national championship. He can be this season's Dalton Knecht.

The others in this group are the prototypical Freshman Sensations.

Peterson is making a pit stop in Lawrence before being the likely No. 1 pick in next season's NBA Draft. Bill Self is planning on the 6-foot-6 guard being the key to his Kansas squad turning around what has been three straight underwhelming seasons.

With a similar amount of hype comes Boozer at Duke to play where his father once did, and Dybantsa is generating some Danny Ainge-like anticipation at BYU.

Narratives play a role for these two. Boozer can be the second straight Duke freshman to win the award. Dybantsa will get a lot of ink regarding BYU's ascension from semi-pretender to legitimate national contender.

Within this group, Toppin offers bettors significantly more security and equity.

Freshmen winning the award certainly isn't common and is yet to happen in consecutive seasons (Flagg 2025, Zion Williamson 2019, Anthony Davis 2012, Kevin Durant 2007).

TIER 3 AND BEYOND

DARRION WILLIAMS (20/1)
TREY KAUFMAN-RENN (22/1)
OTEGA OWEH (25/1)
DONOVAN DENT (25/1)
BOOGIE FLAND (25/1)
JA'KOB GILLESPIE (30/1)
BRYCE HOPKINS (30/1)
TAHAAD PETTIFORD (35/1)
RICHIE SAUNDERS (35/1)
ALEX KARABAN (35/1)

Breakdown

Before a bettor dismisses this group because they aren't near the top of the odds board, consider the current names contending for the Heisman Award. Two of those names are not Arch Manning and Cade Klubnik, the preseason favorites.

Perhaps there is Dante Moore, John Mateer or Fernando Mendoza in this talent pool.

The name I want to jump on here is Oweh since there is so much upside to what Mark Pope can do in Kentucky during his second season. The problem however is that Oweh suffered a turf toe injury during summer workouts. Reports indicate he says that he is healthy and ready to go, however, in the name of Brock Purdy, that is an injury that can linger.

Dent is another possibility because of all that scoring he did last year in New Mexico. The problem, though, is this offensive-minded guard is now in the Mick Cronin grind-it-out defense system at UCLA.

Dent should bring the Bruins more scoring punch and help them in the Big Ten standings, but he is likely in a situation that won't allow his offensive production to reach Wooden Award levels.

The versatile 6-foot-6 Williams is now with Will Wade at NC State. He showed plenty of flashes at Nevada and Texas Tech, but has never been a true No. 1 option. Wade will provide that chance.

Here is one major longshot to contemplate for a small sized wager: Tucker DeVries (150/1). This is my addition to Mitch and Pauly's tip jar. The sixth-year senior is healthy after playing only eight games for his father at West Virginia last year. During that time, the former Drake star shot 47.3% from 3-point territory. Now father, Darian, and son are in Indiana and that type of storyline can create some much needed media attention in the younger DeVries' favor.

“ Much of the handicapping process for this award is determining if a current player fits a profile voters valued in the past. ”

STEVE MAKINEN'S					
POWER RATINGS					
TEAM	POWER RATING	TEAM	POWER RATING	TEAM	POWER RATING
HOUSTON	96.0	MISSISSIPPI ST	86.5	MIAMI	82.0
CONNECTICUT	94.5	MISSOURI	86.5	PITTSBURGH	82.0
PURDUE	94.5	OREGON	86.5	SAINT LOUIS	82.0
DUKE	94.0	TEXAS	86.5	W VIRGINIA	82.0
FLORIDA	94.0	CLEMSON	86.0	XAVIER	82.0
KENTUCKY	93.0	MARYLAND	86.0	OKLAHOMA ST	81.5
GONZAGA	92.5	NC STATE	86.0	NOTRE DAME	81.0
ILLINOIS	92.5	INDIANA	85.5	SYRACUSE	81.0
MICHIGAN	92.0	IOWA	85.5	VIRGINIA TECH	81.0
BYU	91.5	OLE MISS	85.5	ARIZONA ST	80.5
TENNESSEE	91.5	MARQUETTE	85.0	GEORGE WASHINGTON	80.5
UCLA	91.5	GEORGIA	84.5	SAN FRANCISCO	80.5
ARIZONA	91.0	SMU	84.5	BUTLER	80.0
IOWA ST	91.0	TEXAS A&M	84.5	UCF	80.0
ST JOHNS	90.5	UTAH ST	84.5	COLORADO	79.5
TEXAS TECH	90.0	WASHINGTON	84.5	COLORADO ST	79.5
ALABAMA	89.5	MEMPHIS	84.0	GEORGIA TECH	79.5
LOUISVILLE	89.5	NEBRASKA	84.0	GRAND CANYON	79.5
KANSAS	89.0	PROVIDENCE	84.0	MINNESOTA	79.5
WISCONSIN	89.0	VILLANOVA	84.0	UTAH	79.5
ARKANSAS	88.5	BOISE ST	83.5	DEPAUL	79.0
AUBURN	88.5	ST MARYS-CA	83.5	GEORGETOWN	79.0
BAYLOR	88.5	WAKE FOREST	83.5	RUTGERS	79.0
MICHIGAN ST	88.0	VCU	83.0	S FLORIDA	79.0
N CAROLINA	88.0	VIRGINIA	83.0	GEORGE MASON	78.5
CREIGHTON	87.5	KANSAS ST	82.5	AKRON	78.0
OHIO ST	87.5	NORTHWESTERN	82.5	CALIFORNIA	78.0
USC	87.5	OKLAHOMA	82.5	FLORIDA ST	78.0
VANDERBILT	87.5	TCU	82.5	LIBERTY	77.5
SAN DIEGO ST	87.0	DAYTON	82.0	LOYOLA-IL	77.5
CINCINNATI	86.5	LSU	82.0	NEW MEXICO	77.5

STEVE MAKINEN'S					
POWER RATINGS					
TEAM	POWER RATING	TEAM	POWER RATING	TEAM	POWER RATING
PENN ST	77.5	JAMES MADISON	73.5	HARVARD	70.5
N TEXAS	77.0	KENNESAW ST	73.5	LOUISIANA TECH	70.5
NEVADA	77.0	MURRAY ST	73.5	MASSACHUSETTS	70.5
SETON HALL	77.0	RICHMOND	73.5	S DAKOTA ST	70.5
STANFORD	77.0	TROY	73.5	CORNELL	70.0
UAB	77.0	UT-CHATTANOOGA	73.5	SAN DIEGO	70.0
UNLV	77.0	ARKANSAS ST	73.0	VERMONT	70.0
BOSTON COLLEGE	76.5	COLL OF CHARLESTON	73.0	WYOMING	70.0
BRADLEY	76.5	DRAKE	73.0	YOUNGSTOWN ST	70.0
ILLINOIS ST	76.5	NEW MEXICO ST	73.0	MONTANA	69.5
N IOWA	76.5	RHODE ISLAND	73.0	OLD DOMINION	69.5
S CAROLINA	76.5	S ILLINOIS	73.0	RICE	69.5
SANTA CLARA	76.5	UTAH VALLEY ST	73.0	S ALABAMA	69.5
TULANE	76.5	FURMAN	72.5	SAMFORD	69.5
BELMONT	76.0	TEMPLE	72.5	TOLEDO	69.5
ST JOSEPHS	76.0	FLA ATLANTIC	72.0	TX-SAN ANTONIO	69.5
UC-IRVINE	76.0	LOYOLA-MARYMOUNT	72.0	UTEP	69.5
YALE	76.0	OHIO U	72.0	WINTHROP	69.5
MCNEESE ST	75.5	TOWSON ST	72.0	ABILENE CHRISTIAN	69.0
HIGH POINT	75.0	CAL SAN DIEGO	71.5	BROWN	69.0
DUQUESNE	74.5	E TENN ST	71.5	CAL BAPTIST	69.0
OREGON ST	74.5	IL-CHICAGO	71.5	CS-NORTHRIDGE	69.0
UNC-WILMINGTON	74.5	ARK-LITTLE ROCK	71.0	E KENTUCKY	69.0
WASHINGTON ST	74.5	DAVIDSON	71.0	FORDHAM	69.0
WICHITA ST	74.5	E CAROLINA	71.0	NAVY	69.0
HAWAII	74.0	JACKSONVILLE ST	71.0	PACIFIC	69.0
KENT ST	74.0	MIDDLE TENN ST	71.0	W KENTUCKY	69.0
MIAMI OHIO	74.0	NEBRASKA-OMAHA	71.0	BOWLING GREEN	68.5
SEATTLE	74.0	RADFORD	71.0	CAMPBELL	68.5
ST BONAVENTURE	74.0	ST THOMAS-MN	71.0	FLA GULF COAST	68.5
UC-SANTA BARBARA	74.0	TULSA	71.0	LASALLE	68.5

STEVE MAKINEN'S					
POWER RATINGS					
TEAM	POWER RATING	TEAM	POWER RATING	TEAM	POWER RATING
MARSHALL	68.5	MARIST	67.0	PORTLAND	65.0
MISSOURI ST	68.5	MONMOUTH	67.0	VMI	65.0
PORTLAND ST	68.5	BETHUNE-COOKMAN	66.5	WOFFORD	65.0
QUEENS COLL	68.5	FRESNO ST	66.5	BRYANT	64.5
SAN JOSE ST	68.5	JACKSON ST	66.5	CLEVELAND ST	64.5
TEXAS ST	68.5	LAMAR	66.5	E MICHIGAN	64.5
WI-MILWAUKEE	68.5	LIPSCOMB	66.5	ELON	64.5
APPALACHIAN ST	68.0	LONGWOOD	66.5	LONG BEACH ST	64.5
FLA INTERNATIONAL	68.0	PRINCETON	66.5	LONG ISLAND	64.5
INDIANA ST	68.0	UNC-GREENSBORO	66.5	MERRIMACK	64.5
LA-LAFAYETTE	68.0	BOSTON U	66.0	MONTANA ST	64.5
N ALABAMA	68.0	DARTMOUTH	66.0	MOUNT ST MARYS	64.5
OAKLAND	68.0	EVANSVILLE	66.0	NORTHWESTERN ST	64.5
QUINNIPIAC	68.0	GA SOUTHERN	66.0	SF AUSTIN ST	64.5
SAM HOUSTON ST	68.0	MANHATTAN	66.0	TARLETON ST	64.5
SIENA	68.0	NORTHEASTERN	66.0	TENNESSEE ST	64.5
SOUTHERN U	68.0	SACRED HEART	66.0	BUCKNELL	64.0
UNC-ASHEVILLE	68.0	SE MISSOURI ST	66.0	CAL POLY-SLO	64.0
WRIGHT ST	68.0	WM & MARY	66.0	COASTAL CAROLINA	64.0
INCARNATE WORD	67.5	DELAWARE	65.5	COLUMBIA	64.0
IONA	67.5	DREXEL	65.5	IDAHO ST	64.0
N COLORADO	67.5	E WASHINGTON	65.5	N KENTUCKY	64.0
N DAKOTA ST	67.5	SIU EDWARDSVL	65.5	SE LOUISIANA	64.0
PURDUE FT WAYNE	67.5	W CAROLINA	65.5	SOUTHERN MISS	64.0
ROBERT MORRIS	67.5	BALL ST	65.0	TEXAS A&M CC	64.0
TX-ARLINGTON	67.5	CAL DAVIS	65.0	AUSTIN PEAY	63.5
CHARLOTTE	67.0	CS-BAKERSFIELD	65.0	MAINE	63.5
COLGATE	67.0	JACKSONVILLE	65.0	PRESBYTERIAN	63.5
HAMPTON	67.0	MERCER	65.0	UC-RIVERSIDE	63.5
HOFSTRA	67.0	NICHOLLS ST	65.0	VALPARAISO	63.5
IDAHO	67.0	NORFOLK ST	65.0	ALBANY	63.0

STEVE MAKINEN'S					
POWER RATINGS					
TEAM	POWER RATING	TEAM	POWER RATING	TEAM	POWER RATING
GEORGIA ST	63.0	N DAKOTA	61.0	TENNESSEE TECH	57.5
PENNSYLVANIA	63.0	BINGHAMTON	60.5	THE CITADEL	57.5
PEPPERDINE	63.0	C MICHIGAN	60.5	ALCORN ST	57.0
SACRAMENTO ST	63.0	MISSOURI-KC	60.5	ARMY	57.0
SOUTHERN UTAH	63.0	ORAL ROBERTS	60.5	FLORIDA A&M	57.0
ST PETERS	63.0	S CAROLINA ST	60.5	LA-MONROE	57.0
UTAH TECH	63.0	STONEHILL	60.5	LEMOYNE	57.0
WEBER ST	63.0	BELLARMINE	60.0	N CAROLINA A&T	57.0
ALABAMA ST	62.5	E ILLINOIS	60.0	NEW HAMPSHIRE	57.0
LOYOLA-MD	62.5	HOWARD	60.0	NEW JERSEY TECH	57.0
STONY BROOK	62.5	N ILLINOIS	60.0	WAGNER	57.0
TEXAS SOUTHERN	62.5	NEW ORLEANS	60.0	DELAWARE ST	56.5
TX-RIO GRANDE	62.5	ALABAMA A&M	59.5	C ARKANSAS	56.0
W MICHIGAN	62.5	BUFFALO	59.5	CHICAGO ST	56.0
AIR FORCE	62.0	GARDNER WEBB	59.5	FARLEIGH DICKINSON	56.0
AMERICAN	62.0	WI-GREEN BAY	59.5	MERCYHURST	56.0
DETROIT	62.0	CANISIUS	59.0	MORGAN ST	55.0
HOUSTON CHRISTIAN	62.0	LINDENWOOD	59.0	IU INDY	54.5
LAFAYETTE	62.0	NIAGARA	59.0	ST FRANCIS-PA	54.5
LEHIGH	62.0	TENN-MARTIN	59.0	MD-EAST SHORE	52.0
MD-BALT COUNTY	62.0	CS-FULLERTON	58.5	NEW HAVEN	52.0
MOREHEAD ST	62.0	NC CENTRAL	58.5	COPPIN ST	51.0
N ARIZONA	62.0	WEST GEORGIA	58.5	ARK-PINE BLUFF	50.5
RIDER	62.0	DENVER	58.0	MISS VALLEY ST	43.0
S DAKOTA	62.0	EAST TEXAS A&M	58.0		
C CONN ST	61.5	HOLY CROSS	58.0		
CHARLESTON SO	61.5	USC UPSTATE	58.0		
FAIRFIELD	61.5	W ILLINOIS	58.0		
GRAMBLING	61.5	N FLORIDA	57.5		
S INDIANA	61.5	PRAIRIE VIEW A&M	57.5		
UMASS-LOWELL	61.5	STETSON	57.5		

FLORIDA GATORS

SEC
2024-25 RECORDS: 36-4 SU, 29-11 ATS, 21-19 O-U

STEVE MAKINEN POWER RATING 94.0

NATIONAL RANK: #5 OF 365
CONFERENCE RANK: #1 OF 16



'HOOPS' BETTING NUGGET

THE TEAM RANKED FOURTH IN OVERALL COVER PERCENTAGE LAST SEASON AT 29-11 ATS AND PLAYED 11 OF ITS FINAL 13 GAMES OVER THE TOTAL.

OVERVIEW

The season could have been very rocky for Florida. Head coach Todd Golden was under investigation in September for a Title IX violation that included allegations of sexual harassment and stalking. While the university was continuing to dig in, Golden kept the focus on basketball as best he could. Florida was 13-0 before losing on January 4 in the conference opener to Kentucky. By the end of the month, the university cleared him of any wrongdoing and the Gators would go on to win 17 of their final 18 games, including a 77-75 win over two-time reigning champion UConn in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

So the Gators won it all and, as luck would have it, went through the previous champs to do it. Running it back may not be a stretch. Per Bart Torvik, Florida returns over 40% of last season's minutes. Alex Condon and Thomas Haugh were fourth and fifth in points per game, so more will be expected of them as transfers try to make up the rest of the scoring. On the perimeter, Boogie Fland from Arkansas and Xaivian Lee from Princeton are high-upside transfers.

RETURNING
STARTERS

2

RETURNING
MINUTES %

40%

CONFERENCE
ODDS

+240

NCAA
TOURNEY
ODDS

15/1

MIAMI HURRICANES

ACC
2024-25 RECORDS: 7-24 SU, 11-20 ATS, 19-12 O-U

STEVE MAKINEN POWER RATING 82.0

NATIONAL RANK: #66 OF 365
CONFERENCE RANK: #10 OF 18



'HOOPS' BETTING NUGGET

THE TEAM WENT 11-20 ATS OVERALL LAST SEASON, AND THE OVER WENT 7-0 IN GAMES WITH A TOTAL OF 144.5 OR LOWER.

OVERVIEW

Jim Larranaga leaves Miami as a legend, but even he knew it was time for new blood — and the Hurricanes landed a potential star in Jai Lucas. Lucas, once a top assistant at Duke, arrives with the reputation as an elite recruiter and player developer, backed by some serious NIL resources that should let Miami take real swings in the talent market.

Lucas wasted zero time making his mark, flipping five-star wing Shelton Henderson from Duke and reeling in Michigan transfer Tre Donaldson, who put up 11.3 points and 4.1 assists per game while shooting 37.5% from 3 last season. Expect Henderson to be an impact guy right away, with Donaldson running the show as a reliable lead guard who can also fill it up. Tru Washington, a physical guard from New Mexico, is in the mix for a starting role, and freshmen Dante Allen and Jordyn Kee bring more upside to a revamped backcourt rotation.

The frontcourt has the bigger question marks. Ernest Udeh is a big-body transfer from TCU, but Indiana transfer Malik Reneau may be a better option playing as a small-ball five.

Lucas has a plan in place, and the talent will come. This year is about building, but it won't be long before Miami's aiming higher than a first-weekend March cameo.

RETURNING
STARTERS

0

RETURNING
MINUTES %

0%

CONFERENCE
ODDS

35/1

NCAA
TOURNEY
ODDS

180/1

FLORIDA ATLANTIC OWLS

AMERICAN ATHLETIC
2024-25 RECORDS: 18-16 SU, 11-20-2 ATS, 17-16 O-U

STEVE MAKINEN POWER RATING 72.0

NATIONAL RANK: #140 OF 365
CONFERENCE RANK: #8 OF 13



'HOOPS' BETTING NUGGET

THE TEAM WENT 12-20-1 ATS LAST SEASON AND
1-8 ATS AS AN UNDERDOG.

OVERVIEW

Sustaining success as a mid-major has never been harder. Between the transfer portal and the quick trigger finger from athletic directors who don't want to get pink-slipped alongside the head coach, it is so hard to keep everything together for more than a season or two. Florida Atlantic was a perfect example. Dusty May's spectacular two-year run in Boca Raton led to a job at Michigan. After 60 wins over two seasons, FAU struggled to finish north of .500 at 18-16 and 10-8 in American play.

After riding their best horses very hard through the middle of the season, the Owls' lack of depth was on display with six losses in their final nine games, including a loss to Tulane in the conference tournament with 1.281 points per possession allowed. Now FAU has a completely rebuilt roster with zero returning starters and John Jakus has a tough job ahead of him, even with some power-program transfers. Time is of the essence, as this team is very talented, but very raw all over the floor. Jakus bumped up the tempo last season and I think we see another increase this season.

RETURNING
STARTERS

0

RETURNING
MINUTES %

15%

CONFERENCE
ODDS

30/1

NCAA
TOURNEY
ODDS

2000/1



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