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# 2021-2022 MARCH MADNESS BETTING GUIDE

Breakdown of every game, round by round analysis,  
exclusive insight, and future predictions.

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BY QUAN NGUYEN, BEAT THE BOOK HANDICAPPING, LLC

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## MARCH MADNESS FUTURES

I have made tens of thousands of dollars betting NCAA futures dating back to 2016, and I bet NCAA futures very heavily. I know this isn't for everyone. I have a separate bankroll for futures since the money is tied up for a while and I recommend you do the same. These are my March Madness future bets:

2022 NCAA Men's Basketball Champion

**Villanova +2500 (.5u)**

Betting Line Provider: BetOnline

2022 NCAA Men's Basketball Champion

**Duke +1700 (.5u)**

Betting Line Provider: Fanduel

Villanova to Make 2022 NCAA Tournament Elite Eight

**Yes +182 (1u)**

Betting Line Provider: Fanduel

Villanova to Make 2022 NCAA Tournament Final Four

**Yes +490 (1u)**

Betting Line Provider: BetOnline

# MARCH MADNESS FUTURES



## Why Villanova can win the National Championship

### **An efficient, balanced offense**

Villanova enters the tournament with one of the most efficient and balanced offenses in the country, ranked #8 in the nation. Every tournament winner in history but one has had a Top 20 offense. The Wildcats have four players who average at least 10 points per game and two others who average just over 9 points, an extremely well rounded team. They are also an elite free-throw shooting, the best FT% in history, which makes it very difficult to beat in close games as well.

### **A strong defense**

Defense is a hallmark of a great Villanova team, and this year's squad has what it takes to win it all. The Wildcats are 28th in defensive efficiency this year, which is a tad bit lower than a typical national champion, but it's not a deal breaker. Baylor's title-winning team last year finished the season No. 22 in defensive efficiency — the first champion over the last 20 years to finish outside of the top 20 in defensive efficiency. Villanova's 2016 and 2018 national championships teams, especially the former, were both great defensive teams.

### **Leadership and experience**

In handicapping futures this year, this is the most important metric I am looking at. In a strange year where there are 5th and even 6th year players, leadership and experience is going to be key. This year's Villanova team, like many squads in the past, brings a wealth of leadership and experience into the tournament.

That all starts and ends with the aforementioned Collin Gillespie, the fifth-year senior who returned this season after missing last year's NCAA Tournament due to a torn MCL. This season, Gillespie has been even better than last year. His team-best points and assists per game averages earned the Philadelphia native Big East Player of the Year and first-team All-Big East honors for a second consecutive season.

Gillespie and fellow fifth-year senior Jermaine Samuels are the two last remaining pieces from Villanova's 2018 national championship team. Meanwhile, most of the Wildcats' key contributors from last year's Sweet 16 team are back again. This group has played in plenty of high-level non-conference, Big East and postseason tournament games. The Wildcats won't be intimidated by any matchups in March.

## Coaching

Whenever someone thinks of the best basketball coach in NCAA history, they automatically think of Coach K, but I would argue Jay Wright is right there with him. When it comes to leadership and experience in March, there isn't another coach I'd rather have.

In 21 seasons as the Wildcats' head coach, Wright has led the school to 16 NCAA tournament appearances. The Hall of Famer's tournament resumé consists of seven Sweet 16s, four Elite Eights, three Final Fours and two national championships.

Wright has seen it all and he knows as well as anyone how important it is to zone out the surrounding distractions when you have multiple days or only 24 hours to prepare for an opponent and get your team ready. The only coach in this year's tournament with more rings than Wright is Duke's Mike Krzyzewski, who will obviously be retiring at the end of the season, and I can see the two legends facing off in the Final.



## Why Duke can win the National Championship

Short answer is I don't think they can, but they can get pretty darn close. The end of Mike Krzyzewski's coaching career is on the horizon. At most, the legendary Duke basketball coach has six games remaining. There is tremendous pressure around this and the Blue Devils have not played their best during Coach K's biggest farewell tour moments. They lost to UNC in his final game at Cameron and were upset in the ACC Tournament final against upstart Virginia Tech. That said, this team has a ton of star power, and I really like their path to get to the Final Four. I am not as high on Gonzaga as most, I think there is a very real chance they lose to Memphis in the second round, or Arkansas in the Sweet 16. If they do make it to the Elite 8, Duke has already beat them once and is more than capable of doing it again. While I don't think Duke wins, in a perfect world we'd have a 17/1 Duke ticket and a 25/1 Nova ticket and just be able to sit back and enjoy the championship game and have a very handsome profit either way.

# Round of 64 (Thursday)

March 17 Leans for all Games

Michigan -1 over Colorado State

Providence -2 over South Dakota State

Memphis -3 over Boise State

Baylor -20.5 over Norfolk State

Longwood +18 over Tennessee

Richmond +10.5 over Iowa

Georgia State +23 over Gonzaga

UNC -3.5 over Marquette

UConn -6 over New Mexico State

Kentucky -17.5 over St. Peter's

Indiana +3 over Saint Mary's

Creighton +2 over San Diego State

Vermont +5 over Arkansas

Murray State -2 over San Francisco

Akron +13.5 over UCLA

Kansas -21.5 over Texas Southern

Round of 64  
March 17-18

Round of 32  
March 19-20

Sweet 16  
March 24-25

Elite 8  
March 26-27

Sweet 16  
March 24-25

Round of 32  
March 19-20

Round of 64  
March 17-18

WEST

SOUTH

1 Gonzaga

16 Georgia State

8 Boise State

9 Memphis

5 UConn

12 New Mexico St

4 Arkansas

13 Vermont

6 Alabama

11 Notre Dame

3 Texas Tech

14 Montana State

7 Michigan State

10 Davidson

2 Duke

15 CSU Fullerton

1 Gonzaga

9 Memphis

5 UConn

4 Arkansas

11 Notre Dame

3 Texas Tech

7 Michigan State

2 Duke

4 Arkansas

2 Duke

3 Texas Tech

2 Duke

1 Arizona

2 Villanova

11 Michigan

2 Villanova

1 Arizona

9 TCU

5 Houston

4 Illinois

11 Michigan

3 Tennessee

7 Ohio State

2 Villanova

1 Arizona

16 Wright State

8 Seton Hall

9 TCU

5 Houston

12 UAB

4 Illinois

13 Chattanooga

6 Colorado State

11 Michigan

3 Tennessee

14 Longwood

7 Ohio State

10 Loyola Chicago

2 Villanova

15 Delaware

### National Champion

New Orleans, LA - April 4

2 Duke

2 Villanova

Your Pick



Tiebreaker: Pick the Final Score

69 = 69

Submit Picks

You have made changes to this bracket.  
Click Submit to save it.

### Final Four

New Orleans, LA - April 2

2 Duke

2 Kentucky

### Final Four

New Orleans, LA - April 2

2 Villanova

2 Auburn

EAST

MIDWEST

1 Baylor

16 Norfolk State

8 North Carolina

9 Marquette

5 Saint Mary's

12 Indiana

4 UCLA

13 Akron

6 Texas

11 Virginia Tech

3 Purdue

14 Yale

7 Murray State

10 San Francisco

2 Kentucky

15 Saint Peter's

1 Baylor

8 North Carolina

12 Indiana

4 UCLA

6 Texas

3 Purdue

10 San Francisco

2 Kentucky

1 Baylor

4 UCLA

4 UCLA

2 Kentucky

3 Purdue

2 Kentucky

1 Kansas

12 Richmond

1 Kansas

2 Auburn

6 LSU

2 Auburn

1 Kansas

9 Creighton

12 Richmond

4 Providence

6 LSU

3 Wisconsin

7 USC

2 Auburn

1 Kansas

16 Texas Southern

8 San Diego State

9 Creighton

5 Iowa

12 Richmond

4 Providence

13 S Dakota St

6 LSU

11 Iowa State

3 Wisconsin

14 Colgate

7 USC

10 Miami

2 Auburn

15 J'Ville St