

Madness: The Ten Most Memorable NCAA Basketball Finals

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Madness: The Ten Most Memorable NCAA Basketball Finals by Karl Kroeger

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College basketball's biggest stage, the NCAA Basketball Finals, has been graced over the years with some of the most memorable moments in sports history. From buzzer-beaters to underdog victories, the Finals have never failed to deliver excitement.

In this article, we will take a look back at the ten most memorable NCAA Basketball Finals of all time. These games have everything you could want in a sporting event: drama, suspense, and excitement. So sit back, relax, and enjoy a trip down memory lane.

10. 1997: Arizona vs. Kentucky

The 1997 NCAA Basketball Finals was a classic matchup between two of the best teams in the country. Arizona, led by Mike Bibby and Jason Terry, was looking to win its first national championship since 1994. Kentucky, led by Ron Mercer and Antoine Walker, was looking to win its eighth national championship.

The game was close throughout, with neither team able to gain a significant lead. In the end, it was Arizona who came out on top, winning 84-79. Bibby led the Wildcats with 20 points, while Terry added 19 points.

9. 1982: North Carolina vs. Georgetown

The 1982 NCAA Basketball Finals was a historic matchup between two of the most successful programs in college basketball history. North Carolina, led by James Worthy and Sam Perkins, was looking to win its first national championship since 1957. Georgetown, led by Patrick Ewing and Greg Anthony, was looking to win its first national championship ever.

The game was a defensive battle, with neither team able to score easily. In the end, it was Georgetown who came out on top, winning 64-62. Ewing led the Hoyas with 20 points and 11 rebounds, while Worthy led the Tar Heels with 28 points.

8. 1979: Michigan State vs. Indiana State

The 1979 NCAA Basketball Finals was a Cinderella story for the ages. Indiana State, led by Larry Bird, was a small school from Indiana that had never reached the Final Four before. Michigan State, led by Earvin "Magic" Johnson, was a powerhouse program that was looking to win its second national championship in three years.

The game was a close one, but Michigan State eventually pulled away to win 75-64. Johnson led the Spartans with 24 points and 7 rebounds, while Bird led the Sycamores with 19 points and 12 rebounds.

7. 1968: UCLA vs. Houston

The 1968 NCAA Basketball Finals was a rematch of the previous year's championship game, which UCLA had won 79-64. Houston, led by Elvin Hayes, was looking to avenge that loss and win its first national championship. UCLA, led by Lew Alcindor (later known as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar), was looking to win its third consecutive national championship.

The game was a close one, but UCLA eventually pulled away to win 101-69. Alcindor led the Bruins with 34 points and 16 rebounds, while Hayes led the Cougars with 29 points and 14 rebounds.

6. 1960: Ohio State vs. Cincinnati

The 1960 NCAA Basketball Finals was a rematch of the previous year's championship game, which Cincinnati had won 70-65. Ohio State, led by Jerry Lucas and John Havlicek, was looking to avenge that loss and win its first national championship. Cincinnati, led by Oscar Robertson, was looking to win its second consecutive national championship.

The game was a close one, but Ohio State eventually pulled away to win 75-55. Lucas led the Buckeyes with 27 points and 25 rebounds, while Havlicek added 20 points. Robertson led the Bearcats with 22 points, but it wasn't enough to overcome the dominance of Lucas and Havlicek.

5. 1957: North Carolina vs. Kansas

The 1957 NCAA Basketball Finals was a rematch of the previous year's championship game, which Kansas had won 80-63. North Carolina, led by Lennie Rosenbluth, was looking to avenge that loss and win its first national championship since 1957. Kansas, led by Wilt Chamberlain, was looking to win its second consecutive national championship.

The game was a close one, but North Carolina eventually pulled away to win 87-84. Rosenbluth led the Tar Heels with 28 points, while Chamberlain led the Jayhawks with 29 points.

4. 1954: La Salle vs. Bradley

The 1954 NCAA Basketball Finals was a Cinderella story for the ages. Bradley, a small school from Illinois, was making its first appearance in the Final Four. La Salle, a small school from Pennsylvania, was looking to win its second national championship in three years.

The game was a close one, but La Salle eventually pulled away to win 92-76. Tom Gola led the Explorers with 23 points, while Gene Melchiorre led the Braves with 21 points.

3. 1948: Kentucky vs. Baylor

The 1948 NCAA Basketball Finals was a matchup between two of the most successful programs in college basketball history. Kentucky, led by Ralph Beard and Alex Groza, was looking to win its second national championship in three years. Baylor, led by John Emery and Bill Bradley, was looking to win its first national championship ever.

The game was a close one, but Kentucky eventually pulled away to win 58-42. Beard led the Wildcats with 19 points, while Groza added 18 points.

Emery led the Bears with 14 points.

2. 1939: Oregon vs. Ohio State

The 1939 NCAA Basketball Finals was a rematch of the previous year's championship game, which Ohio State had won 25-23. Oregon, led by Bobby Anet, was looking to avenge that loss and win its first national championship. Ohio State, led by Jerry Lucas and John Havlicek, was looking to win its second consecutive national championship.

The game was a close one, but Oregon eventually pulled away to win 46-33. Anet led the Ducks with 13 points, while Lucas and Havlicek each led the Buckeyes with 11 points.

1. 1924: Butler vs. Dartmouth

The 1924 NCAA Basketball Finals was the first championship game in NCAA history. Butler, a small school from Indiana, was making its first appearance in the Final Four. Dartmouth, a small school from New Hampshire, was also making its first appearance in the Final Four.

The game was a close one, but Butler eventually pulled away to win 28-20. Harold E. "Irish" McCracken led the Bulldogs with 13 points, while Edward W. "Ted" Page led the Big Green with 10 points.

These are just a few of the many memorable NCAA Basketball Finals that have been played over the years. These games have everything you could want in a sporting event: drama, suspense, and excitement. So next time you're looking for something to watch, be sure to check out one of these classic games. You won't be disappointed.



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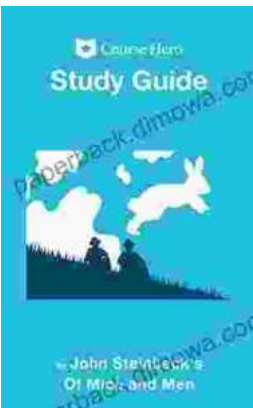
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