

## North Carolina takes the title in NCAA Championship over Michigan State

**DEREK NOVACEK**

*General Assignment Writer*

With their star-studded lineup that included the likes of Tyler Hansbrough and Ty Lawson, the North Carolina Tar Heels defeated the Michigan State Spartans 89-72 in the 2009 NCAA Tournament Championship in Detroit, Mich. North Carolina got off to a quick start, dominating the Spartans, and never looked back.

"North Carolina wasn't my original pick to win the tournament, but they looked the best throughout the tournament so I wasn't surprised to see them win," said freshman Ricky Zamudio.

"I can't stand [North] Carolina, but I picked them to win in my bracket. They were by far the best team in my opinion," said senior Kevin Stocks.

Despite the final four teams being a little unexpected and a few upsets early on in the tournament, the tournament went as expected.

"If you look at the Sweet 16, it was all 1,2,3, and 4 seeds like expected with the exception of a 5 seed (Purdue) and a 12 seed (Arizona). So there weren't many teams who choked away the Sweet 16," said Stocks.

The two teams who made it to the Sweet 16, but by seeding were not expected to, were the Big 10 Conference Tournament Champions the Purdue Boilermakers and the

Arizona Wildcats who many believed should not have been in the tournament to start with.

The final four teams were the North Carolina Tar Heels, the Michigan State Spartans, the Connecticut Huskies and the Villanova Wildcats. Michigan State and Villanova were not expected to make it to the Final Four as they were the 2 and 3 seed in their regions, respectively. The other two teams who were picked to make it to the Final Four were the Louisville Cardinals and the Pittsburgh Panthers who both lost in the Elite Eight.

"I picked Pittsburgh to win the tournament, but they kind of failed me. However, I did get two out of the four Final Four teams right and my bracket did rank in the top four percentile on ESPN.com until the final four. I'm pretty proud of that," said Zamudio.

In the women's tournament, the Connecticut Huskies finished another undefeated season, 39 wins and 0 losses, after giving the Louisville Cardinals a 76-54 drubbing in St. Louis, MO.

The Huskies were led by all-stars Mia Moore who had 18 points and Tina Charles who had a double-double with 25 points and 19 rebounds. With one of the best winning percentages as a coach in NCAA basketball history, this was Geno Auriemma's sixth national championship.

## Girls track team begins outdoor season

**ANDY SZABO**

*General Assignment Writer*

As the indoor track and field season comes to a close, the Bloomington High School girls team prepares for a season where the expectations are high and for good reason.

On March 27, many individuals from the team competed in the Illinois Prep Top Times Indoor Classic and put a name out for themselves in numerous events. Kelly Steffen took first place finishes in the long jump, high jump, and 55 meter hurdles. Steffen also competed with Ashley Brown, Nichelle Harrison and Teasha Harris in the 4x400 meter relay which got second place overall.

"It was a crazy meet," said Harrison of Prep Top Times. "Even though we had to run at 1:30 in the morning we had to go out there and compete to the best of our abilities, and we showed the state what we can do."

The meet lasted over ten hours, however, many girls kept their focus and performed very well. Other top finishers included Condia Smith who took fourth place in the shot put and Leah Mullenix who placed 13th in the 800 meter run.


Following these performances against the best state-wide competition, the Lady Raiders have a very optimistic attitude towards the coming season.

"Run hard and win basically," said Brown of their focuses this season. "We want to win Intercity, Sectionals, and conference for the fourth consecutive time and also qualify as many girls as we can for the State meet."

The Raiders traveled to East St. Louis for one of their first outdoor invitationals as well as a triangular meet at Champaign Centennial.

"We've had two outdoor meets so far and one was really competitive, but we did pretty good against the talent," said Brown. "I'm expecting good things for the rest of the season."

The girls will host the Bloomington Invitational today at 4:30.

**Carl's Ice Cream** 

*The best in town!*

**Buy one soft serve cone and  
receive a second one free!**

**Now at two locations...**

<b>601 W Locust</b>	<b>1700 W College</b>
<b>Bloomington</b>	<b>Normal</b>
<b>828-7732</b>	<b>4547732</b>

**[www.carlsicecream.com](http://www.carlsicecream.com)**