

28 | MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019 | ST. CLOUD TIMES

NCAA TOURNAMENT ROUNDUP

# Tennessee survives Iowa in overtime

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**No. 2 Tennessee 83, No. 10 Iowa 77 (OT):** Admini Schofield ran around the court in sheer joy, winning a March Madness trophy after Tennessee made it back to the Sweet 16 for the first time since 2006.

The rest of the Volunteers' just trying to breathe normally again. Tennessee made one of the biggest meltdowns in NCAA Tournament history Sunday in Columbus, Ohio, letting a 25-point lead slip away before SEC player of the year Grant Williams asserted himself in overtime.

None of the Volunteers (38-5) saw that coming, not after they'd raced ahead 44-19 in a stirring first half they dominated every which way.

The biggest NCAA Tournament comeback? BYU's 25-point rally past Iowa in the First Four in 2012.

"The way we started the game, that's the team we win with," said Schofield, who had 17 of his 19 points in the opening half. "The way we finished the game, we can't leave that."

Tenth-seeded Iowa (23-12) nearly pulled off another historic comeback, sending it overtime tied at 71 — the first overtime game in this year's tournament. The last time the teams played also was in the NCAA Tournament, with Tennessee rallying from a 22-point deficit to a 78-65 overtime victory in the First Four at Dayton in 2014.

The Vols' best player made sure they wouldn't be on the wrong end of the big comeback this time.

"Grant Williams hit some big shots," Iowa forward Luka Garza said. "He's a big-time player. And we defended him well."



Tennessee forward Grant Williams (2) steals the ball from Iowa forward Tyler Cook (28) during the second half of Sunday's NCAA Tournament game at Nationwide Arena in Columbus, Ohio. (AP/WIDE WORLD)

Williams had a pair of free throws, two jumpers, and a strip in overtime that helped the Vols pull it out and match their school record for wins in a season. He finished with 39 points and seven rebounds.

"I feel like a fifth grader who just ate Skittles," Williams said, summing up the finish.

Jordan Robinson scored for Iowa, which never led but managed to tie it twice after falling so far behind.

"They were No. 1 for a very long time this year for a reason," Iowa coach Fran McCaffey said. "It's not often that you get down 25, come back, and tie it. So you're pleased with the effort and concentration and execution of our guys to a man."

Last year, the Volunteers lost to Loyola-Chicago in the second round. They ranked No. 1 for four weeks, a school-record 19-game winning streak, a fall

season in the Top 10 — and had just enough in overtime Sunday to keep it going.

Fourth-year coach Rick Barnes got doused with water in the locker room afterward.

"My soul got soaked," Barnes said. "I got soaked. And when my hair gets wet, it don't look too good."

**No. 1 North Carolina 81, No. 9 Washington 59:** Luke Maye and Nassir Little each scored 20 points and top-seeded North Carolina breezed into the Sweet 16 with a win in Columbus, Ohio.

The Tar Heels (29-4) never trailed and moved on to face fifth-seeded Auburn on Friday in a Midwest Regional semifinal.

Last year, one season removed from its national championship, North Carolina was eliminated in the second round in a rout by Texas A&M. The Tar Heels were not going to let it happen again.

Maye added 11 rebounds for North Carolina, a No. 1 seed for a record 17th time.

The Tar Heels committed 10 turnovers in the first half, and led by eight points at the break. But they bolted out in the second half, put together a 13-0 run over 5 minutes and pulled away.

Fac-12 player of the year Jaylen Nowell paced Washington (28-4) with 22 points.

North Carolina forward Garrison Brooks took an elbow to the mouth in the first half that knocked out one tooth, clipped another and required stitches to close his cut lip. He returned to start the second half.

North Carolina guard Kenny Williams exited early in the second half grasping his left hamstring, but he also returned later in the half and seemed to be OK.

## Duke

Continued From Page 1B

over.

Barnett finished with 16 points. He looked as if Hawkins might take down his dad's alma mater in the NCAA.

His last basket broke a 70-68 tie and when Fall dunked Taylor's miss — a play he reviewed for a possible shot-clock violation — the Knights were ahead 74-70.

UCF missed a huge chance to go up six when it couldn't quite on an alley-oop dunk attempt with 1:49 left, and Cam Reddish came back with a 3-pointer for Duke. Taylor made 76-73 with two foul shots with 45 seconds to go.

Williams then missed a 3, but Duke grabbed the rebound and got the ball back to their dominant freshman. Williams caught a pass left of the key and dribbled straight into Fall's 7-6, 200-pound frame.

Fall had stuffed Williams three previous times and Duke's young star

was less effective underneath than he'd been his past four games. But Williams got this shot to drop, shooting as he fell back to the ground.

When Duke dribbled away with the final rebound, Williams and his teammates jumped in celebration and relief. They were moving on.

Duke will face fourth-seeded Virginia Tech or No. 12 seed Liberty in Washington, D.C., on Friday night for a spot in the Elite Eight.

Williams, the game's most explosive player, was clearly affected by Fall. Who wouldn't be as the Knights senior stood 11 inches taller than Williams and has a wingspan of 8-foot-4?

But with Fall inside, Williams went outside hitting three 3-pointers after entering with just 18 on the season. And when Fall was hit with foul trouble, Williams charged to the hoop.

Fall finished with 15 points and six rebounds in his final college game.

Duke's four fantastic freshmen combined for 72 of its 77 points. Reddish had 13 points and Tre Jones 11.

It was the second straight sluggish start for Duke in the NCAA Tournament.

But, boy, when the Blue Devils got going, it was a sight to behold as they closed the half with a 12-2 run to move in front.

Trailing 34-32 in the final four minutes of the opening half, Williams hit a short jumper, then collected Jordan Goldwire's miss for a three-point play and a streaking Jones for an easy layup as Duke led 44-36 at the break.

Williams had 15 points in the first half, but had not dunked on the tall Fall — mainly because UCF's center played just eight minutes due to foul trouble.

The two were the focus of this one and at the start mimicked the start of the classic Rocky III final fight scene where a stone-faced Rocky Balboa struts straight at talkative Clubber Lang.

The expressionless Fall played the Rocky part this time while the energetic Williams bounced around before the game's opening tip.

Both players outpumped the referee's toss, but Fall easily tipped it toward his teammates before Williams could bounce up again.

## Big picture

UCF: The Knights will have some big games to fill out its 2019 season with Fall's senior season complete. They also lose Taylor, the point guard who has started 101 of 104 games since arriving at UCF in 2014-15.

UCF has a solid core of experienced starters returning, led by Dawkins, who was second on the team in scoring average at 15.1 points a game.

Duke: The Blue Devils have had too many tentative stretches in their first two games, but their overwhelming talent edges out if it hopes to make a championship run.

UCF next

UConn's season is over.

4 Duke advances to play fourth-seeded Virginia Tech or 12th-seeded Liberty in the Sweet 16 at Washington, D.C., on Friday night.

## SCSU

Continued From Page 1B

the first period with his 19th of the season. Senior winger Patrick Newell put the initial point shot on net, and Jackson sid the puck past UMD goaltender Hunter Shepard's outstretched right leg.

The Huskies won the puck possession battle and outshot the Bulldogs 15-6 in the first 20 minutes.

"They were really good," said UMD coach Scott Sandelin. "And I don't want to sit here and say we were bad. They made us be bad. That's how good they were."

UMD (25-12-2) led the game during 4-0-4 play with 9:11 left in the first period on a goal from defenseman Mikey

Anderson.

In the second, the Huskies had their second back-to-back power-play situation, with a brief 11 seconds of 5-on-3 time but couldn't capitalize. When the third period started, the SCSU power play was 0-for-4, with some time that carried over. The Huskies finally cashed in when Newell scored just 28 seconds into the third on the power play for a 2-1 SCSU lead.

Still clinging to that lead later in the period, sophomore Mike Litore appeared to put the puck in the net for a 3-1 lead with 9:20 to play in regulation. The official signaled a goal on the ice, but after review, the goal was overturned. Video replay showed the puck did not entirely cross the goal line after it hit the inside of the post.

"That would've been nice," said senior defenseman and captain Jimmy

Schmidt. "A 3-1 game would have been a lot different than a 2-1 game."

The Huskies could have really used that insurance goal when UMD's Billy Exell scored shorthanded at the 15:09 mark of the third to make it a 2-2 game.

One of the best SCSU chances through the evenly played overtime periods came about 8-1/2 minutes into the first overtime. Freshman Nolan Walder tried to squeeze the puck through the side of the net, but Shepard got his right skate over against the post in time for the save.

The Huskies were happy with their game plan and didn't look to change anything in overtime, according to Newell.

"At that point in the game, every team's just trying to capitalize on a turnover, and that's usually how things go," Newell said.

On the game-winning goal, Turner Ladouceur came through neutral ice with the puck and passed it over to Swaney, who scored with a backhanded shot. Then the UMD celebration was on.

Junior forward Ryan Poehling did not play Saturday, after leaving Friday's semifinal following a head-first hit into the boards in the first period. Lamon said he was better Saturday and would be re-evaluated on Monday.

The loss also snapped a 15-game winning streak for the Huskies. After the game, the focus for SCSU had already started to shift toward the NCAA tournament, with "that bigger goal in mind," Newell said.

"One thing we can take away from tonight is we're not invincible," Schmidt said. "Obviously this one stings. Luckily for us, there's more hockey to be played."

## NASCAR

Continued From Page 1B

Cup races before Sunday, the Truck Series race Saturday at Martinsville, and was seeking a weekend sweep.

Busch notched his fifth trip-five finish of the season while making his 1,000th career NASCAR national series start.

Penske driver Ryan Blaney was fourth, while Gibbs driver and five-time Martinsville winner Denny Hamlin was

fifth.

Stewart-Haas Racing drivers Kevin Harvick and Clint Bowyer were sixth and seventh, Gibbs driver Martin Truex Jr. was eighth, then SHR drivers Aric Almirola and Daniel Suarez completed the top 10.

Ford drivers took six spots in the top 10, with Gibbs and Toyota claimed three of the slots.

**JOHNSON SLUMPS**

Jimmie Johnson leads all active drivers with nine victories at Martinsville,

but his struggles spanning more than a year continued Sunday. He was lagged during the second stage and finished 24th. Since winning the fall 2016 race, Johnson has not finished higher than 12th.

**NO REPEAT WINNER**

Clint Bowyer was the defending race winner and worked his way to fifth as he exited pit road from a pit stop in the third stage.

But he was penalized for speeding on pit road and dropped to the back of

the pack on the restart.

"Well, there went that," he moaned over his radio.

Bowyer was flagged for speeding on the next round of pit stops, too, and finished sixth.

**UP NEXT**

NASCAR goes to Texas Motor Speedway on Sunday. Kyle Busch won the race last April.