

THE SPORTIER

Villanova's Final Four Victory

Last night, the Final Four was played. The first game was between the South champions Villanova and the West champions Oklahoma. The game started out pretty close, a score differential of close to 5 most of the time, with Villanova in the lead. At the end of the first half, the score was 42-28, not too bad. In the end of the second half, though, it started to get farther out of reach for Oklahoma. The beginning of the second half started good for Oklahoma, getting as close as 9 points. Oklahoma kept up with Villanova, until when there was 12 minutes left in the half left. Villanova ran up the score and pulled ahead by 21 with 11 minutes left. From there, Villanova kept scoring and scoring, and their defense kept Oklahoma from scoring for 5 minutes. Villanova kept scoring, even after the game was completely out of reach. The final score was 95-51 Villanova, a total destruction of Oklahoma.

Source: ESPN

MLB Is Back!

Major League Baseball is back! To kick off the new MLB season, the first game of the year will be St. Louis Cardinals vs. Pittsburgh Pirates. The Cardinals last minute signed former Mets shortstop Rubén Tejada off of waivers. The Pirates change this offseason was trading second baseman Neil Walker to the Mets for left-handed starting pitcher Jonathon Niese. The pitchers in that matchup will be right-handed pitcher Adam Wainwright vs. left-handed pitcher Francisco Liriano.

Another matchup today to kick off the 2016 MLB season is Toronto Blue Jays vs. Tampa Bay Rays. The change made by the Blue Jays this offseason is the trade that sent outfielder Ben Revere to the Nationals and right-handed relief pitcher Drew Storen to the Blue Jays. The Rays made an addition to their roster, picking up first baseman Steve Pearce after the Orioles dropped him. The starting pitchers for this game are going to be right-handed pitcher Marcus Stroman vs. right-handed pitcher Chris Archer.

The night game will be a rematch of the 2015 World Series, the New York Mets vs. the Kansas City Royals. Over the offseason, the Mets had a bunch of changes. First, the Mets were able to bring back outfielder Yoenis Cespedes. The Mets also acquired shortstop Asdrubal Cabrera, left-handed reliever Antonio Bastardo, and outfielder Alejandro De Aza. The Mets also traded for Neil Walker from the Pirates, giving up left-handed starting pitcher Jonathon Niese. Right before the start of the season, the Mets put shortstop Rubén Tejada on waivers, who was picked up by the Cardinals. The Royals changes this offseason include the signings of right-handed starting pitcher Dillon Gee, right-handed starting pitcher Ian Kennedy, and right-handed relief pitcher Joakim Soria. The starting pitchers for this matchup are right-handed pitcher Matt Harvey vs. right-handed pitcher Edinson Volquez, the same matchup from Game 1 of the 2015 World Series.

Source: MLB

North Carolina Moves On

In the 2nd Final Four game last night, North Carolina played Syracuse. This game started out great, both teams neck and neck until when there was about 8 minutes left in the first half and North Carolina got a little separation. The half ended in an 11 point lead for North Carolina, which is pretty close for a 10 seed, Syracuse, and a 1 seed, North Carolina. The second half wasn't much different than the first. Syracuse kept up with North Carolina, getting as close as 9 points. Then North Carolina stepped up their game and played like they usually play, putting more points on Syracuse, and near the end, Syracuse wasn't able to catch back up. This game was much more close than the first, ending at a score of 66-83 North Carolina, only a 17 point game. this might show some lack of offense, where they shot the worst any NCAA team has shot, and they must be good shooters to beat Villanova in the championship.

Source: ESPN

MLB Regular Season Predictions

NL EAST

1. New York Mets
2. Washington Nationals
3. Miami Marlins
4. Atlanta Braves
5. Philadelphia Phillies

NL CENTRAL

1. Chicago Cubs
2. Pittsburgh Pirates
3. St. Louis Cardinals
4. Milwaukee Brewers
5. Cincinnati Reds

NL WEST

1. Los Angeles Dodgers
2. San Francisco Giants
3. Arizona Diamondbacks
4. San Diego Padres
5. Colorado Rockies

AL EAST

1. Boston Red Sox
2. Toronto Blue Jays
3. New York Yankees
4. Baltimore Orioles
5. Tampa Bay Rays

AL CENTRAL

1. Kansas City Royals
2. Minnesota Twins
3. Cleveland Indians
4. Detroit Tigers
5. Chicago White Sox

AL WEST

1. Houston Astros
2. Texas Rangers
3. Los Angeles Angels
4. Seattle Mariners
5. Oakland Athletics