

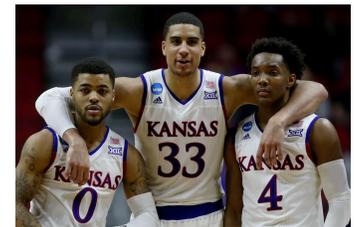
THE SPORTIER

The Unlucky 1st Seed

A general fact in college sports is that the number one ranked team is usually the best in the NCAA. Voted on each week by the AP Poll, the number one seeds change frequently. This year in college basketball, they may be changing a little too often. The first game of the season NCAA basketball season showed that the rankings would be changing throughout the year at a quick rate. Not only did number four ranked Duke beat number three ranked Kansas, number two ranked Kentucky beat number one ranked Michigan State. On the first night. Kentucky reached the number one spot, only to lose to unranked Evansville shortly after. After snatching the number one sport, Duke took an overtime loss to unranked Stephen F. Austin. Louisville followed, and though it looked as though they could maybe stay there, they quickly lost to at-the-time unranked Texas Tech. And finally, just yesterday, Kansas took a loss to number eighteen Villanova. This is a sign that college basketball could be slowly coming down. There are no powerhouse teams, even considering the reputation that schools such as Duke, Kentucky, and Kansas have obtained for their high-level recruiting. This may turn out to be an odd season, where anybody can beat anybody, and the tournament may reflect that. This quite possibly, with overseas basketball becoming a popular choice, could be the beginning of the end for college basketball.

Fun Fact

This is the first time that the AP Poll had **five** number one overall seeds (Michigan State, Kentucky, Duke, Louisville, Kansas) take losses at that position before New Years Day.



MLB Hot Stove Heats Up

It's that time of year again. The MLB offseason is in full swing, carrying a slew huge signings. This year, with so many great free agents on the market, we have seen so many expected and unexpected teams make the jump to the contending level. A team that is pushing towards the top is the Phillies. Last year, they did whatever it took to sign Bryce Harper to a giant 13 year, \$330 million contracts. This year they did not stop. They brought in former Yankee shortstop Didi Gregorius on a one-year deal, but their main signing was former Mets pitcher Zach Wheeler. At 5 years, \$118 million, it looks to be a slight overpay, considering that Wheeler had an earned run average (ERA) of close to 4 last season. Another team that snagged a significant player was the Angels. Historically known for always falling short in recent years, even with one of the era's greatest players in Mike Trout, the Angels finally paired him and Japanese star Shohei Ohtani with another superstar. 2019 MVP Candidate Anthony Rendon joins the squad, and with the possibility of pitchers having to face Rendon and Trout back-to-back, they could be an instant pitcher's nightmare. And finally, the most significant move of the 2019 MLB offseason was made by the Yankees. Signing arguably the best pitcher last year in Gerrit Cole to a record-setting 9 year, \$324 million deal (most for any pitcher ever), the Yankees are finally back in their position as favorites to win the 2020 World Series. With more signings to come, it should be exciting to see which teams jump to the next level.

In The Rulebook

Did you know: In baseball, it is in the judgement of the home plate umpire to judge collisions with a baserunner and catcher? If he believes that a runner deviates from his direct pathway to home plate, or if the collision was avoidable, he may call the runner out, regardless of the actual result of the play.



Sources:

[ESPN](#)

[CBS Sports](#)

[Baseball Reference](#)

[MLB Rules](#)