

As we roll into **COLLEGE SET 04**, we are now knee-deep into the history of the college game with Bank Shot Basketball.

We are excited to present here the full Final Four from 1974: champion NC State, Marquette, Kansas, and UCLA. We also included 1974 Maryland, who were not invited to the tournament due to a bad rule that would change after the 1974 season. Until 1975, only one team per conference could be invited to the tournament. Though Maryland was ranked #3 in the country, they lost to NC State in the ACC tournament and, thus, lost their place in the NCAA tournament. In 1975, the NCAA also banned teams from declining an NCAA invitation only to participate in another tournament (which had happened for the previously prestigious NIT). These two rule changes are really the beginning of the NCAA postseason tournament becoming the major event of the college basketball season.

The 1969 Santa Clara Broncos (27-2), included here and led by Dennis Awtrey, were the peak of the school's basketball history as they finished the season ranked #3 before losing to eventual champion UCLA in the NCAA tournament.

The NCAA champions included in this set are 1974 NC State, 1980 Louisville, 1993 North Carolina, and 2015 Duke. Naismith Award winners for Player of the Year include Bill Walton (1974 UCLA) and Jimmer Fredette (2011 BYU).

Other featured players include: Elvin Hayes (1968 Houston), Artis Gilmore (1970 Jacksonville), Maurice Lucas (1974 Marquette), John Lucas (1974 Maryland), David Thompson (1974 NC State), Jamaal Wilkes (1974 UCLA), Adrian Dantley (1976 Notre Dame), Sidney Moncrief (1978 Arkansas), Darrell Griffith (1980 Louisville), Charles Barkley & Chuck Person (1984 Auburn), Tyrone Corbin & Dallas Comegys (1984 DePaul), Ken Norman (1986 Illinois), Nick Van Exel (1992 Cincinnati), Shaquille O'Neal (1992 LSU), Voshon Lenard (1994 Minnesota), Greg Oden (2007 Ohio State), Jeremy Lin (2010 Harvard), Karl Anthony Towns & Devin Booker (2015 Kentucky), and Denzel Valentine (2015 Mich St).

In this set, we also finish off the 2023 Final Four (Miami Fla), the 2015 Final Four (Duke, Kentucky, and Michigan State), and the 1992 Final Four (Cincinnati) [assuming you own the first three sets]. And what's an NCAA set without Cinderellas? To fit those roles, we have 2011 Virginia Commonwealth, 2013 Florida Gulf Coast, and the 2018 UMBC team that became the first 16 seed to defeat a number one seed.

One of the more interesting teams here – the 1982 Fresno State Bulldogs. Still today, they rank #1 in scoring defense since 1965, allowing 47.1 points per game. (1991 Princeton, available in Set 01, still ranks third.) The doormat of the set is the 2000 Grambling Tigers, who went 1-30 allowing 91 PPG while scoring only 72.6.

It's difficult to choose the Most Dominating Player of any set. David Thompson's 26 PPG and 7.9 REB are nothing to scoff at here. But I'd like to drop in a gold star for Artis Gilmore, who in 1970 averaged 26.5 PPG and 22.2 REB. Who wouldn't want to be near your tabletop when those two square off?!

*To request your favorite teams for future sets, contact S.T. Patrick at [SportsSimMagazine@gmail.com](mailto:SportsSimMagazine@gmail.com).*

*Teams included: 1968 Houston, 1969 Santa Clara, 1970 Jacksonville, 1974 NC State, 1974 UCLA, 1974 Kansas, 1974 Marquette, 1974 Maryland, 1976 Notre Dame, 1978 Arkansas, 1980 Louisville, 1982 Fresno State, 1984 DePaul, 1984 Auburn, 1986 Illinois, 1992 Cincinnati, 1992 LSU, 1993 North Carolina, 1994 Minnesota, 2000 Grambling, 2007 Ohio State, 2010 Harvard, 2011 BYU, 2011 VCU, 2013 Florida Gulf Coast, 2015 Duke, 2015 Kentucky, 2015 Michigan State, 2018 UMBC, 2023 Miami (Fla).*