

## RULES

as archived from <http://www.oracla.com/index.php?p=91#more-91> on Wednesday 6 September 2006

### THE EVENT

Oraclâ March Madness is a chance for Talossans and friends of Talossa to compete for bragging rights by way of making shrewd and clairvoyant predictions on the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Men's and Women's Division I Basketball tournaments, which begin this week (they always begin and are played mostly in the month of March, hence "March Madness").

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

This event is open to citizens, prospectives, and friends of both Kingdom and Republic. Are you a "friend" of Talossa? If you have a Wittenberg account with either the Kingdom or Republic (or both), you're a friend of Talossa and are eligible to compete.

### THE COMPETITIONS

While there are but two NCAA Division I basketball tournaments going on, there are, in-fact, five Oraclâ March Madness competitions.

In Oraclâ's March Madness scheme, you have not just one chance to win it all, but five:

Oraclâ March Madness 2006 Division I Men's Total Games  
Oraclâ March Madness 2006 Division I Men's Points  
Oraclâ March Madness 2006 Division I Women's Total Games  
Oraclâ March Madness 2006 Division I Women's Points  
Oraclâ March Madness 2006 Division I Combined Pick-a-Champion

### "TOTAL GAMES" COMPETITIONS

"Total Games" is nothing more than trying to correctly predict the outcome of all 63 games in one tournament or the other. In each tournament, there are 63 games in all, and one will do well, I expect, to guess at least 40 correctly.

### "POINTS" COMPETITIONS

"Points" refers to the point system used by Yahoo (and independently thought of by me):

correctly-guessed 1st round game = 1 point (32 games in all - 32 points total)  
correctly-guessed 2nd round game = 2 points (16 games in all - 32 points total)  
correctly-guessed Regional Semifinal game = 4 points (8 games in all - 32 points total)  
correctly-guessed Regional Final = 8 points (4 games in all - 32 points total)  
correctly-guessed National Semifinal = 16 points (2 games in all - 32 points total)  
correctly-guessed National Final = 32 points (1 game)

192 total points possible for either the Men's or the Women's tournament.

Whoever has the most points for one tournament or the other wins the respective Points competition.

## TIEBREAKERS FOR MEN'S/WOMEN'S POINTS AND TOTAL GAMES

In an email to the Men's competition contestants (three of whom were also contestants in the Women's events and Pick-a-Champion) and elsewhere, I stated that the tie-breaker system would be that as used by Yahoo. At the time, I also said I had not yet been able to find out what rules Yahoo uses.

Had I been as alert and savvy to internet links as I have been in doing this competition, I would have noticed links to a complete set of rules for the competition. Alas, by the time I got to putting these things together, Yahoo had wiped their servers clean of the 2006 Tournament Pick 'em pages, including our team page (though I have everyone's picks printed out). Google searches did not help for a long time until, via a cached page on Yahoo, I found a link to the tiebreak rules for 2005 at <http://web.archive.org/web/20050317032133/help.yahoo.com/help/us/tourn/trules/trules-07.html>

Via the Wayback Machine (<http://www.waybackmachine.org>), I did a search on that link, but found no pages on the tiebreak system more recent than 2005. Searching the links given by the Wayback Machine reveals no changes in the tiebreak system in regard to final standings since 2000 (though the links for 2003 do not work). I believe, then, I am safe in assuming no changes since 2005 while utilizing Yahoo's tiebreak rules for that year, which are as follows:

1. Closest to the total points scored by the winning team in the final game
2. Closest to the total points scored by the losing team in the final game
3. Closest to the total points scored by both teams in the final game

If, at this point, a tie still exists, the entrants will remain tied in the standings.

The complete search may be had at

[http://web.archive.org/web/\\*/http://help.yahoo.com/help/us/tourn/trules/index.html](http://web.archive.org/web/*/http://help.yahoo.com/help/us/tourn/trules/index.html)

My Yahoo search may be had via

<http://www.google.com/search?hs=abg&hl=en&lr=&client=firefox-a&rls=org.mozilla%3Aen-US%3Aofficial&q=Yahoo+scoring+details+tournament+pick+%27em&btnG=Search>

then clicking the cached page at

[http://64.233.161.104/search?q=cache:IlAD\\_m0r8OIJ:help.yahoo.com/help/us/tourn/tourn-07.html+Yahoo+scoring+details+tournament+pick+%27em&hl=en&gl=us&ct=clnk&cd=3&client=firefox-a](http://64.233.161.104/search?q=cache:IlAD_m0r8OIJ:help.yahoo.com/help/us/tourn/tourn-07.html+Yahoo+scoring+details+tournament+pick+%27em&hl=en&gl=us&ct=clnk&cd=3&client=firefox-a)

then copying the "Rules" link: <http://help.yahoo.com/help/us/tourn/trules/index.html>

and using that in the Wayback Machine as detailed above.

## COMBINED PICK-A-CHAMPION

Pick the winners of both the women's and men's tournaments. If you are the only person to correctly pick both champions, you are automatically the winner of the competition. If, as is very likely, there is a tie, the tie will be broken by way of the following tiebreakers:

1. Combined number of correctly-picked National Semifinals in both tournaments
2. Combined number of correctly-picked Regional Finals in both tournaments
3. Combined number of correctly-picked Regional Semifinals in both tournaments
4. Combined number of correctly-picked 2nd Round games in both tournaments
5. Combined number of correctly-picked 1st round games in both tournaments

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## ENTERING MEN'S POINTS & TOTAL GAMES

Doing so involves nothing more than filling out an online bracket at yahoo.com.

The computer infrastructure of what is the Men's Points contest (from which I will be able to do easy calculations with no extra effort on your part for the Men's Total Games competition) is provided free by Yahoo. Geo. P. Bailey, Alan Simmerman, John Woolley, G. Gollinger from Septempontia, Gjermund Higrapp, Quedéir Castiglhá, and Chirisch dal Navâ. Our friend, Ups, has also entered, but he has been removed and banned - see below.

In order to participate in the men's competition, just go to the game front page at <http://tournament.fantasysports.yahoo.com/men> and click on the "Sign Up" button to create a team. After completing registration, or if you already have a team, click the "Create or Join Group" button and follow the path to join an existing private group. Then, when prompted, enter the following information...

Group ID#: 37317  
Password: talossa

And please give either your real or Talossan-language name where appropriate. I don't care for seeing handles I don't know, and have to look at Wittenberg to see to whom they belong. :-)

\*\*\*Yahoo's deadline to make picks for the men's competition is Thu Mar 16 11:10am CST.\*\*\*

NOTE: Citizen Ups Antônio Martüc of Vuode Province, having been a Talossan since 2 February of this year has not behaved himself on Wittenberg and elsewhere in a way becoming to any decent Talossan citizen. While he may be a citizen of Talossa and technically eligible for the competition, he is currently no friend of Talossa - his entry into the contest on Yahoo has been removed, and until I am convinced otherwise, I have made the executive decision to ban him from the entire March Madness contest. Sorry, Ups, but I cannot reward behavior such as that in

<http://talossa.proboards32.com/index.cgi?board=chatroom&action=display&thread=1141408319&page=1#1141408319>

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## ENTERING WOMEN'S POINTS & TOTAL GAMES

As there is no online set-up (as far as I can tell) for the Women's Division I basketball tournament, you will need to submit, no later than Thursday, 16 March at 11:00am CST, to jeffrags "at" ev1 "dot" net, your bracket predictions. You may get the women's brackets at <http://www.ncaasports.com/basketball/womens/brackets/printable/2006>

\*\*\*NOTE: You MUST make a guess as to the winning score (regardless of teams competing) in the Women's National Final (an example being the winning team scoring 88 and the losing team scoring 84). This will be used for tie-breaking purposes according to the rules as laid out by Yahoo, though I am not certain yet of what they are.

Watch oracla.com for updates on the progress of the Women's and Men's competitions as well as the Combined Pick-a-Champion.

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## ENTERING THE COMBINED PICK-A-CHAMPION

If you submit completed brackets for both the Men's and Women's tourneys, you are automatically entered. However, in order to have a chance at the Pick-a-Champion, you must have entered brackets for both the Men's and the Women's tournaments as outlined above. If no-one enters both, there will be no Pick-a-Champion winner for 2006.

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## AWARDS

I had hoped to have a plethora of baseball caps with special one-of-a-kind insignia for each competition winner, 2nd place, and 3rd place. But frugality must be adhered to, and for now, paper certificates signed by Yours Truly will have to suffice, though to each competition winner will go a copy of "The Blue Estuaries" CD by the Houston Chamber Choir (visit [www.houstonchamberchoir.org](http://www.houstonchamberchoir.org) for more info).

Anyone who manages to win all five competitions in a single year shall have won the GRAND SWEEP.

Awards will be given to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishers as well as for the following:

- Correctly guessing the National Champion of either or both tournaments
- Correctly guessing every game in a Region up to the Regional Final
- Correctly guessing every game in a particular round overall in either or both tournaments

## CONTESTANTS – Men’s competitions

Each contestant is listed by “Team Name”, Yahoo ID, and real name

Oracla	yroeht	Gödafríeu Válcadác’h
XPBTalossa	georgepaulbailey	George Paul Bailey
DrQ @ Pitt!	drquuxum	Greg Gollinger
JohnWoolley	frjwoolley	John Woolley
Noneofyourbusiness	norm11no	Gjermund Higráff
grubi	pacaria	Chirisch Cavéir
the hammer	asimmerman2000	Alan Simmerman
Rock Chalk	jhwk2ba	Quedéir Castighâ

## CONTESTANTS - Women’s competitions & Combined Pick-a-Champion

DrQ @ Pitt!	drquuxum	Greg Gollinger
XPBTalossa	georgepaulbailey	George Paul Bailey
Oracla	yroeht	Gödafríeu Válcadác’h