

TO EVERY THING, THERE IS A SEASON

And how quickly they come and go. In the grand scheme of things, it was only moments ago that Seattle soundly trounced New England in Super Bowl 60 to end THAT season. And a new one begins. . . It's March now and you know what that means. Fasten your seatbelts, it's our fastest moving and most popular pool - - March Madness! Let's get to the specs.

It starts in less than 3 weeks from your reading this. March 19th for the *real* games. We have filled 3 pools the last several years but got to **four** last year, and expect to do the same this year. A quick response on this one is best to secure your spot(s). If you desire to enter multiple pools let us know when you reply. We will fill them one at a time and move to the next, keeping you posted on where you stand with that. Now the details.

It's 30 Naismith's to enter. 16 players fill a pool. Reply yes (hopefully) and tell us how many pools you want in on. No promise you will get in all if that's your desire, we open it up to everyone in from last year first and then to newbies and see how it goes. But duplications are always required to fill the pools, especially if get to four. Bob will keep you posted on the status of entries. All Naismith's must be in to Bob or myself by or BEFORE March 19th. I accept cash, checks or Zelle. Bob takes various forms of electronic payments (but not Zelle) or cash. Check in with him regarding options. Let's go to the pool mechanics.

This IS NOT like most of the bracket pools you see all over America. You DO NOT have to pick all the games. None in fact. And I know for me, that's a GOOD thing. Your teams are selected for you randomly. You just have fun rooting them home.

The teams selected for the tournament will be announced March 15th. Beware The Ides bubble teams! Bob will conduct the random drawing a day or two later. He will have at least one other person in the pool present at the drawing. Each player draws one team in each of the four brackets in each pool. So you all start with 4 chances to win. Bob will send an email after the drawing to all participants with the brackets, teams and your names under the teams you have to start the tournament.

This is a "cover" pool so in order to advance, if you have the favorite your team must win AND cover the point spread for you to move on to the next round with that team. Point spread ties go to the winner (fave). If you have the underdog, there are two ways to advance. Your team wins outright and you move on with them. Or your team loses the game BUT covers the point spread. If that occurs, you inherit the team that beat your team, and you have a new team to root for in the next round. Fun - - yes? The lines for the games will be sent to all via email every day there are games. We have used the Bet MGM line-day of game, for quite a while but I wasn't happy with their too often wrong lines for Football so I may shift to another site. Keep you posted on that.

There are a lot of games the first four days of the tournament. We cannot update the brackets game by game. Bob will send out updated brackets after each weekend of the tournament so you will have a picture of who is alive, in how many brackets and who you play against next. I will attach a brief (I know-brief and I should not be used in the same sentence) verbal recap with some hopefully witty observations, just to feel like I'm contributing to the experience. Most days it will be me sending the lines out. So I am doing something to earn my keep after all.

I know what you're all thinking - - Dom, you are already too long with this. Just tell us what the friggin' prizes are! Ah yes-the important part! Both players that make the finals (I think it's April 6th) in EACH pool win prizes. Winner takes home 330 Wembanyama's. The runner up nets 102 Flagg's.

Last year we filled 4 pools. Eight winners! Silverstein and Schrenzel (Sound familiar Football Poolsters) in pool #1. Mascio and LeBon in pool #2. Pasch and Korinth in pool #3 and Kelly and Marra in pool #4.

Same cover rule applies in the final game regarding the point spread. Point spread tie and the favorite (they DID win the damn game after all) gets the lions share. The dog gets the bone.

That should cover it kids. Any questions, don't be shy. Let us know, have fun with it, and remember to support your local bookmaker by betting these games along the way. He needs to fund his retirement account.