

For Immediate Release
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ESPN's *BracketBusters* to Feature 98 Teams Eligible for One of 11 Telecasts Feb. 19-20

Matchups set to be Announced Feb. 1

The eighth annual [BracketBusters](#) event, a two-day men's college basketball extravaganza pitting potential NCAA Tournament hopefuls against each other Feb. 19-20, will feature 11 nationally televised games – on either ESPN2 or ESPNU -- selected from a pool of 98 teams.

For the fifth straight year, ESPNU, the 24-hour college sports network, will televise five *BracketBusters* games while ESPN2 will televise six contests. The 11 *BracketBusters* matchups will be announced Feb. 1, while game time and network assignments will be announced Feb. 8.



BracketBusters, named because of the success of the teams in NCAA Tournament play, will provide the 22 televised teams an opportunity to play other top non-conference opponents three weeks before Selection Sunday. The 76 teams not selected for *BracketBusters* will compete against each other through the same two days.

The 98-team field will feature 12 teams from the Mid-American and Colonial Athletic; 11 from the Ohio Valley, 10 from the Missouri Valley, Horizon League and Metro Atlantic Athletic; nine from the Western Athletic and Big West; four from the Big South and Southern; three from the America East; two from the MEAC; and one from the Big Sky and Summit League.

As part of the agreement, all 11 of the *BracketBusters* home teams, as well as the remaining 38 home squads, will play a "return" game at the home facility of their opponent in November or December of the 2011-12 season.

BracketBusters is part of ESPN's college basketball franchise programming, along with *Rivalry Week Presented by Cisco*, *Feast Week*, *Holiday Hoops Presented by Kay Jewelers*, *Judgment Week* and *Championship Week Presented by Dick's Sporting Goods*.

Teams participating this season in *BracketBusters* have produced 89 appearances in the last six NCAA Tournaments, including a team in the Final Four – George Mason (2006); one in the Elite Eight – Davidson (2008); and six Sweet Sixteen squads – Butler (2007), Southern Illinois (2007), Bradley (2006), Wichita State (2006), UW-Milwaukee (2005) and Nevada (2004).

Home and Away Teams (Note: Matchups will be announced Feb. 1)

<u>Home Team</u>	<u>Visiting Team</u>
<u>America East</u>	<u>America East</u>
Vermont	Boston University
	New Hampshire
<u>Big Sky</u>	
Montana State	
<u>Big South</u>	<u>Big South</u>
Gardner Webb	Presbyterian
Radford	Winthrop
<u>Big West</u>	<u>Big West</u>
Cal State Fullerton	Cal Poly
Cal State Northridge	Long Beach State
UC Irvine	UC Davis
UC Riverside	UC Santa Barbara

Pacific	
<u>Colonial</u>	<u>Colonial</u>
Delaware	Drexel
George Mason	James Madison
Georgia State	UNC- Wilmington
Hofstra	Old Dominion
Northeastern	Towson
Virginia Commonwealth	William and Mary
<u>Horizon</u>	<u>Horizon</u>
Butler	Loyola
Cleveland State	Illinois-Chicago
Detroit	Valparaiso
Green Bay	Wright State
Milwaukee	Youngstown State
<u>Metro Atlantic</u>	<u>Metro Atlantic</u>
Canisius	Fairfield
Iona	Marist
Loyola	Niagara
Manhattan	Rider
Saint Peter's	Siena
<u>Mid-American</u>	<u>Mid-American</u>
Ball State	Akron
Bowling Green	Buffalo
Central Michigan	Eastern Michigan
Kent State	Northern Illinois
Miami	Toledo
Ohio	Western Michigan
<u>Missouri Valley</u>	<u>Missouri Valley</u>
Creighton	Drake
Evansville	Indiana State
Bradley	Wichita State
Illinois State	
Missouri State	
Northern Iowa	
Southern Illinois	
	<u>MEAC</u>
	Morgan State
	South Carolina State
<u>Ohio Valley</u>	<u>Ohio Valley</u>
Austin Peay	Morehead State
Eastern Illinois	SIU-Edwardsville
Eastern Kentucky	Southeast Missouri
Jacksonville State	Tennessee State
Murray State	Tennessee Tech
	Tennessee-Martin
<u>Southern</u>	<u>Southern</u>
Appalachian State	College of Charleston
	Elon
	Western Carolina
	<u>Summit League</u>
	Oral Roberts

WAC	WAC
Boise State	Louisiana Tech
Fresno State	Nevada
Hawaii	New Mexico State
Idaho	San Jose State
Utah State	

BracketBusters in NCAA Tournament play from 2004-09:

2009 NCAA Tournament: 12 berths – Akron, Butler, Cal State Northridge, Cleveland State, Morehead State, Morgan State, North Dakota State, Northern Iowa, Portland State, Siena, Utah State, and Virginia Commonwealth. A 3-12 overall record: Cleveland State defeated Wake Forest; Morehead State defeated Alabama State and Siena beat Ohio State.

2008 NCAA Tournament: 14 Berths - Austin Peay, Boise State, Butler, Cal State-Fullerton, Davidson, Drake, George Mason, Kent State, Portland State, Saint Mary's, San Diego, Siena, UMBC and Winthrop. A 6-14 overall record: Davidson defeated Gonzaga, Georgetown and Wisconsin to reach the Elite Eight; Butler defeated South Alabama; Siena defeated Vanderbilt; and San Diego defeated Connecticut.

2007 NCAA Tournament: 17 Berths - Albany, Butler, Creighton, Davidson, Eastern Kentucky, Holy Cross, Long Beach State, Miami (Ohio), Nevada, New Mexico State, Niagara, Old Dominion, Oral Roberts, Southern Illinois, Virginia Commonwealth, Winthrop and Wright State. A 7-19 overall record: Butler defeated Old Dominion and Maryland to reach the Sweet Sixteen; Southern Illinois defeated Holy Cross and Virginia Tech to reach the Sweet Sixteen; Nevada defeated Creighton; Virginia Commonwealth defeated Duke; and Winthrop defeated Notre Dame.

2006 NCAA Tournament: 19 Berths - Albany, Bradley, Bucknell, George Mason, Iona, Kent State, Montana, Murray State, Nevada, UNC-Wilmington, Northern Iowa, Northwestern State, Pacific, Oral Roberts, Utah State, Southern Illinois, UW-Milwaukee, Winthrop and Wichita State. A 12-19 overall record: Bradley defeated Kansas and Pittsburgh to reach the Sweet Sixteen; Bucknell defeated Arkansas; George Mason defeated Michigan State, North Carolina, Wichita State and Connecticut to reach the Final Four; Montana defeated Nevada; Northwestern State defeated Iowa; UW-Milwaukee defeated Oklahoma; and Wichita State defeated Seton Hall and Tennessee to reach the Sweet Sixteen.

2005 NCAA Tournament: 16 berths – Bucknell, Chattanooga, Creighton, Eastern Kentucky, Montana, Nevada, Niagara, Northern Iowa, Ohio, Old Dominion, Pacific, Southern Illinois, Utah State, UW-Milwaukee, Vermont and Winthrop. A 7-16 overall record: Bucknell defeated Kansas; Nevada defeated Texas; Pacific defeated Pittsburgh; Southern Illinois defeated Saint Mary's (California); Vermont defeated Syracuse; and UW-Milwaukee defeated Alabama and Boston College to reach the Sweet Sixteen.

2004 NCAA Tournament: 12 berths – Eastern Washington, Illinois-Chicago, Liberty, Manhattan, Murray State, Nevada, Northern Iowa, Pacific, Southern Illinois, Valparaiso, Virginia Commonwealth and Western Michigan. A 4-12 overall record: Manhattan defeated Florida, Nevada defeated Michigan State and Gonzaga to reach the Sweet Sixteen; and Pacific defeated Providence.

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