ESPN Tournament Challenge

March Madness Math Bracket

Due Date: Midnight Wednesday, March 16th

This module is will be both the easiest and most fun module of this entire project. There are very simple guidelines, but please pay close attention so you can join the appropriate group on ESPN and get credit for this assignment. This module may help you dominate bracket pools online, in your dorms, and with your family. The requirement for this assignment: use Math.

If you have not already, follow these instructions to join our class’ ESPN group for the Tournament Challenge.

* Follow this link to the Group Home: http://games.espn.go.com/tournament-challenge-bracket/2016/en/group?groupID=1067148
* If you have not created a profile with ESPN, it may ask you to do so. You must do this and join this exact group to receive credit for this assignment. The group password is: goIrish

When filling out your bracket (you may fill out two but only one is necessary), you must use only math. You are not allowed to make any subjective judgment after you have selected your methodology. Here is a list of possible resources.

* <http://marchmathness.davidson.edu/>
  + This is my recommendation and personal favorite. This is the applet designed by Tim Chartier of Davidson University. It allows you to pick either Colley or Massey Method as well as a method of weighting games over the course of the season. This is the best available method of capturing the concept of ‘momentum’. It’s pretty self-explanatory but really cool. This is the method I will be using, and I will have more information at our bracket-filling party tonight.
* <http://www.colleyrankings.com/hcurrank.html>
  + These are Colley Rankings without momentum factored in and is the home site for Colley Method developer Wes Colley.
* <http://www.masseyratings.com/rate.php?s=cb&sub=NCAA%20I>
  + These are Ken Massey’s Massy rankings without respect to momentum.
* <http://fivethirtyeight.com/features/nate-silvers-ncaa-basketball-predictions/>
  + <http://fivethirtyeight.com/interactives/march-madness-predictions/>
    - These are Nate Silver’s rankings which represent a composite of 5 different polls/algorithms. (You can read about it in the article). (These are the links to the 2014 predictions. Google and you can probably find Nate Silver’s 2015 predictions.)
* <http://www.masseyratings.com/cb/compare.htm>
  + This is a composite list of most ranking websites/methods. You can do two things here. You can find a particular method you like and use that one. (I’ve used Pomeroy, ESPN BPI, TeamRankings, Cheong, and LRMC in the past)
  + Or you can perform a kind of voting method between a few of the different rankings. Do this by performing head-to-head comparisons between the two teams in each matchup or by performing a Borda Count for all the teams in the field. Whatever, the point is, you pick the method and justify it.
* I will also post weighted rankings based on Massey’s method and Google’s method for Page Ranking using the parameters that gave the best results for the 2015 tournament on our web page.

**Assignment:**

* Sign up/join the Class ESPN Tournament Challenge Group
* Fill out a bracket using Math
* Submit a 1-2 page paper including: a description of your chosen method, why you think it will be the best, some possible flaws, what you’re most excited about to see in the tournament, and your overall opinion of this whole project (what you liked/didn’t like/what you learned/etc.). Submit via email to [agormley@nd.edu](mailto:agormley@nd.edu)
* If you make a perfect bracket, you will have an automatic A in the class ☺