



# NCAA Division II Elite Eight Capsule

## National Championship Game

Sat., March 30, 2019 • Ford Center • Evansville, Ind. • 2:08 p.m.  
 Telecast on CBS-TV • National radio broadcast on Westwood One

### Northwest Missouri State Bearcats (#1 seed)



**Head Coach:** Ben McCollum (10th year at Northwest Missouri State)  
**Overall Record:** 37-0  
**Conference Record:** 19-0 (won Mid-American Intercollegiate Ath. Assoc. regular season and tournament)  
**vs. Top 25 Teams:** 4-0  
**vs. 2018-19 NCAA Field:** 10-0  
**All-Time NCAA Tournament Record:** 28-20  
**NCAA Appearance:** 19th (5th Elite Eight, first appearance since 2017)  
**Longest Winning Streak:** 37 (current; began on Nov. 3 and is longest active streak in NCAA Division II)

#### Northwest Missouri State Probable Starters:

No.	Name	Ht.	Year	PPG	RPG	AST	STL	Hometown
5	Kirk Finley	6-4	Jr.	3.1	2.5	38	21	Blue Springs, MO
12	Trevor Hudgins	6-0	R-Fr.	18.9	2.4	197	51	Manhattan, KS
30	Joey Witthus	6-7	Sr.	21.0	3.9	86	33	Chanhassen, MN
33	Ryan Hawkins	6-7	So.	14.0	8.8	36	79	Atlantic, IA
44	Ryan Welty	6-8	Jr.	7.9	4.8	28	18	Parkville, MO

#### 2019 NCAA Tournament Results (Central Regional)

**Quarterfinals:**  
 def. Minnesota State 91-62  
**Semifinals:**  
 def. Southern Nazarene 70-59  
**Championship Game:**  
 def. Missouri Southern 82-70  
**Elite Eight Quarterfinal:**  
 def. Mercyhurst 55-51  
**Elite Eight Semifinal:**  
 def. Saint Anselm 76-53

#### Notes:

Northwest Missouri State is seeking its second NCAA Division II title in three years as it is playing in the championship game for the second time in program history. ... Northwest is seeking to become the first team since 2009 (Findlay) to complete a perfect season; if it succeeds, it would tie the Division II record for wins in a season. ... The Bearcats lead the nation in scoring margin at plus 21 points per game and have committed just 7.8 turnovers per game, the fewest of any team in the country. ... Trevor Hudgins is scoring 18.9 points per game -- second to Joey Witthus' 21 per game -- and owns Division II's eighth-best assist-to-turnover ratio of 3.22 to one. ... Northwest is shooting 40.8 percent from three-point range, 11th-best in the nation, led by a 47.5 percent mark by Ryan Welty.

### Point Loma Sea Lions (#6 seed)



**Head Coach:** Ryan Looney (2nd year at Point Loma; 14th season overall)  
**Overall Record:** 31-4  
**Conference Record:** 20-2 (won Pacific West Conference regular season and tournament titles)  
**vs. Top 25 Teams:** 5-1  
**vs. 2018-19 NCAA Field:** 10-3  
**All-Time NCAA Tournament Record:** 5-1  
**NCAA Appearance:** 2nd (1st Elite Eight)  
**Longest Winning Streak:** 14 (Nov. 29-Jan. 26; currently on a 11-game winning streak)

#### Point Loma Probable Starters:

No.	Name	Ht.	Year	PPG	RPG	AST	STL	Hometown
1	Preston Beverly	6-7	Sr.	13.6	7.7	49	29	Wildomar, CA
3	Josh Rodriguez	5-10	Sr.	8.8	2.5	157	60	La Habra, CA
11	Tanner Nelson	6-3	Sr.	6.3	2.7	34	12	Vancouver, WA
23	Ziggy Satterthwaite	6-6	Sr.	10.1	6.4	54	22	Puyallup, WA
34	Daulton Hommes	6-8	Jr.	21.7	5.9	48	24	Lynden, WA

#### 2019 NCAA Tournament Results (West Regional)

**Quarterfinals:**  
 def. Western Oregon 70-58  
**Semifinals:**  
 def. UC San Diego 73-50  
**Championship Game:**  
 def. Saint Martin's 60-54  
**Elite Eight Quarterfinals:**  
 def. Queens (N.C.) 87-74  
**Elite Eight Semifinal:**  
 def. Southern Indiana 81-71

#### Notes:

Point Loma, the seventh different West Regional champion in the last seven years, is the first team since Lincoln Memorial in 2016 to reach the national championship game in its first Elite Eight appearance. ... PLNU tied its single season record for wins in a season in Thursday's semifinal victory over Southern Indiana. ... The Sea Lions have one of the most experienced lineups in Evansville with four seniors and a junior who have started every game this year. ... The one junior, Daulton Hommes, leads the Sea Lions in scoring at 21.7 points per game and is the nation's third-best three-point shooter with a mark of 47.9 percent. ... Point Loma's 41.9 percent mark from beyond the arc is the second-best in Division II, while it is third in overall field goal percentage at 51.9 percent -- PLNU has shot 53.1 percent over its two Elite Eight contests. ... The Sea Lions have outrebounded their foes in 31 of their 35 contests this season.

## **Additional Notes:**

Northwest Missouri State is seeking to become the fifth team to complete an undefeated season as NCAA Division II champion, as it looks to join Evansville (1965), Cal State Bakersfield (1993), Fort Hays State (1996) and Findlay (2009) in that category. This is the sixth time a team has reached the NCAA Division II championship game with a perfect record, as only Winona State in 2007 was unable to capture the title.

Saturday's championship game marks the fourth consecutive year in which two teams ranked among the top six in the final NABC/Division II national poll are facing off in the championship game, as Northwest Missouri State was first and Point Loma was sixth in the rankings that came out prior to the start of the NCAA Tournament.

### **Last three national championship games:**

2016: #2 Augustana 90, #1 Lincoln Memorial 81

2017: #1 Northwest Missouri State 71, #3 Fairmont State 61

2018: #2 Ferris State 71, #6 Northern State 69

This year's title game also marks the fifth consecutive year that a team ranked either first or second had reached the NCAA Division II championship game -- top-ranked Florida Southern won the 2015 national title. In all four years in which the Elite Eight has been seeded following the regional championship games, the No. 1 seed has been in the title contest every time. Point Loma is the lowest-seeded team to reach the championship game, but was the top seed in the West Region.

Northwest Missouri State was ranked either first or second in every poll (NABC and D2SIDA) this season; the Bearcats moved to No. 1 on Feb. 5. The Bearcats were one of 10 teams ranked in every poll this season.

Point Loma did not crack the top 25 until the last poll preceding the holiday break (Dec. 21) and remained in the top 25 in each of the last 11 polls of the season.

The current rankings for the two teams -- first for Northwest and sixth for Point Loma -- are their highest rankings both of the season and as a member of NCAA Division II (Northwest has been ranked first in previous seasons, including its 2017 title year).

The 68 combined wins for the two finalists -- both have tied or set a new school records for victories this year -- are tied for the second-most by the two teams competing for the national title. Last year's Ferris State-Northern State game featured two teams that had a combined 73 wins entering the game, while the 2017 Northwest Missouri State-Fairmont State matchup consisted of two who had a total of 68 wins between them.

Northwest Missouri State is looking to win the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association's fourth NCAA Division II title in men's basketball, including its title two seasons ago and the two won by Central Missouri in 1984 and 2014.

Point Loma -- the first team from the West Region since 2012 to play in the national championship game -- is the second representative from the Pacific West Conference to play for a national title in men's basketball. Former member BYU-Hawai'i played in the 2011 game against Bellarmine and fell 71-68.

Northwest Missouri State is seeking to secure the Central Region (or the region it has competed in) its seventh national title since 1996. Point Loma is looking to give the West Region its first national champion since Western Washington won the 2012 title.

### **Regional Champions to win national championship (since 1993):**

Central (or North Central or South Central) Region: Fort Hays State (1996), Winona State (2006 and 2008), Central Missouri (2014), Augustana (2016), Northwest Missouri State (2017).

West Region: Cal State Bakersfield (1993, 1994 and 1997), UC Davis (1998), Cal Poly Pomona (2010), Western Washington (2012).

A twist of irony in regard to seedings: The NCAA began seeding the Elite Eight in 2016 and this year's semifinalists were the teams seeded first, fifth, sixth and seventh -- the exact same seeds that made up the semifinals of the 2018 Women's Elite Eight. The title game was won by the No. 6 seed (Central Missouri) over an undefeated No. 1 seed (Ashland).

A twist of irony in regard to seedings -- part two: The Central regional tournament that Northwest Missouri State hosted and won also had a semifinal quartet that consisted of the first, fifth, sixth and seventh seeds -- just like the Elite Eight. And in the championship game, the top-seeded Bearcats beat the No. 6 seed, Missouri Southern, for the regional title.

Point Loma has a record of 11-0 this season when wearing its green uniforms -- which it will be wearing in Saturday's championship contest. The Sea Lions lost three times on its home floor this year and once on the road, but was wearing white on the night of the road loss when host Concordia was hosting a "Blackout Night" and wore its dark uniforms for that game.

Northwest Missouri State's 37-game winning streak is the longest winning streak in NCAA Division II since Findlay won 38 in a row a decade ago. Ferris State won 26 straight on its way to the national championship last season and extended it to 27 in the 2018-19 season opener before it ended at the hands of Northwest on Nov. 4 in a 100-86 loss. Over the last three seasons, Northwest has run off winning streaks of 24, 23 and 37 games.