



NCAA Division II Elite Eight Capsule

Quarterfinal Game #3

Wed., March 24, 2021 • Ford Center • Evansville, Ind. • 6 p.m.
Webcast on NCAA.com

Northwest Missouri State (#2 seed)



Head Coach: Ben McCollum (12th year)
Overall Record: 25-2
Conference Record: 21-1 (won Mid-America Intercollegiate Ath. Assoc. regular season, 2nd in tournament)
vs. Top 25 Teams: 3-1
vs. 2020-21 NCAA Field: 5-2
All-Time NCAA Tournament Record: 31-20
NCAA Appearance: 21st (6th Elite Eight, first appearance since 2019)
Longest Winning Streak: 18 (Jan. 9-March 5)

Probable Starters:

No.	Name	Ht.	Year	PPG	RPG	AST	STL	Hometown
1	Diego Bernard	6-0	Jr.	11.8	6.2	95	39	St. Joseph, Mo.
10	Wes Dreamer	6-7	So.	8.2	4.5	30	22	Alvo, Neb.
12	Trevor Hudgins	6-0	Jr.	20.1	2.5	127	36	Manhattan, Kan.
33	Ryan Hawkins	6-7	Sr.	22.0	8.5	64	51	Atlantic, Iowa
42	Luke Waters	6-6	So.	9.4	2.3	18	12	Olathe, Kan.

2021 NCAA Tournament Results (Central Regional)

Semifinals:
def. Washburn 85-44
Championship Game:
def. Northern State 91-86 (OT)

Notes:

Northwest Missouri State is in its third Elite Eight since 2017 and has won the Division II title in its previous two, beating Fairmont State in 2017 and Point Loma in 2019. ... The Bearcats, who have a record of 153-8 since that first national title season, leads the nation in field goal percentage at 53.4 percent while also ranking third in three-point shooting (42.6 percent) and seventh at the free throw line (80 percent). ... Trevor Hudgins, the most outstanding player at the 2019 Elite Eight, scored 27 points in the second half and overtime in the Central Regional final to help the Bearcats erase an 11-point deficit with 3:01 remaining. ... The Bearcats are one of three teams in the field with two players scoring at least 20 per game, Ryan Hawkins (22.0) and Hudgins (20.1).

West Liberty (#7 seed)



Head Coach: Ben Howlett (4th year)
Overall Record: 18-4
Conference Record: 13-3 (1st in Mountain East Conference North Division, 2nd in MEC tournament)
vs. Top 25 Teams: 4-0
vs. 2020-21 NCAA Field: 5-2
All-Time NCAA Tournament Record: 29-11
NCAA Appearance: 13th (6th Elite Eight, first appearance since 2016)
Longest Winning Streak: 11 (Feb. 1-March 6)

Probable Starters:

No.	Name	Ht.	Year	PPG	RPG	AST	STL	Hometown
2	Bryce Butler	6-5	So.	10.8	5.1	47	14	Latrobe, Pa.
4	Elijah Watson	6-7	Fr.	3.8	2.9	17	7	Chicago Heights, Ill.
5	Dalton Bolon	6-4	Gr.	21.6	8.0	54	23	Gnadenhutten, Ohio
12	Luke Dyer	5-11	Gr.	5.1	2.8	92	49	Clarksburg, W.Va.
23	Pat Robinson III	6-3	Jr.	20.4	4.1	51	29	Chesterfield, N.J.

2021 NCAA Tournament Results (Atlantic Regional)

Quarterfinals:
def. Malone 94-89
Semifinals:
def. Charleston 82-63
Championship Game:
def. Hillsdale 78-61

Notes:

West Liberty has reached its sixth Elite Eight since 2011, but first since 2016 when it lost a 103-102 classic in the semifinals to Lincoln Memorial. The Hilltoppers were a national finalist in 2014. ... West Liberty is the top scoring team in the nation with an average of 102 points per game and cleared the 100-point mark nine times; it has seven of the top 12 scoring games in Division II this season. ... Dalton Bolon, West Liberty's leading scorer, is third in the nation with 66 three-point baskets (he will go against the national leader in Northwest's Trevor Hudgins), while Luke Dyer is eighth in the nation with 49 steals. ... West Liberty's 242 three-point baskets are the fourth-most nationally. ... The Hilltoppers have gone 14-1 since losing three straight games in late January and are the only team in the field that needed to win three games to reach the Elite Eight.