

## March Madness: A Gambler's Paradise

Monday, March 25, 2013 | Seana Smith, FOX Business



March Madness is in full swing, enticing gamblers nationwide to bet billions of dollars on sixty-eight teams competing for the right to be crowned champion of men's Division I basketball. About \$12 billion will be wagered during the three weeks of the tournament, making March Madness the biggest sports gambling event of the year. Fans methodically pick the teams they think have the best odds of dancing their way to the Final Four, but since the chances of creating a perfect bracket are nearly impossible, it could take hours to select the likely upsets. More than 100 million people are expected to take part in bracket challenges this year.

In fact, more money is wagered during the first four days of the of the men's March Madness tournament than on the Super Bowl, according to the American Gaming Association. And the total amount wagered this year is expected to rise. A survey by CouponCabin.com reveals that 31% of people planning to bet money on this year's tournament will wager more than they did last year. The survey also states that more than 33% of Americans plan to watch at least one March Madness game, with 40% more likely to watch their favorite team and 32% more likely to watch their alma mater.

And businesses are profiting off the March Madness frenzy, as fans look for a sure bet in Las Vegas, the gambling capital of the U.S. The first weekend of the tournament boosted Sin City's occupancy rate to nearly 98% in 2011, up from its weekend average of 83% according to the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority. But the popularity of March Madness does not bode well for all businesses nationwide. A report issued by Challenger, Gray and Christmas estimates that in just the first two days of the tournament, distracted employees will cost firms at least \$134 million in lost productivity and wages.

Many games early in the tournament air during work hours, and the 19-day tournament distracts employees from their daily tasks. An estimated three million employees will spend one to three hours watching games and checking scores, according to the report, reducing the amount of work being done on a daily basis. Another survey released by MSN and Impulse Research found that 66% of workers will be following March Madness games during the work day, with 20% expecting to spend one to two hours following games, 14% spending three to four hours, and 16% planning to spend at least five hours of the work day watching games.

1. In appropriate paragraph form, compare and contrast the extensive research-based findings of the following applicable organizations: American Gaming Association; CouponCabin.com; Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority; Challenger, Gray and Christmas; MSN and Impulse Research. Provided the lethargic economy coupled with the fact that millions of highly qualified Americans remain unemployed, identify any proactive measures management may employ to deter the inevitable aforementioned undesirable behavior. What necessary disciplinary actions might one endure upon blatant defiance? Thoroughly explain your reasoning and provide specific artifacts and evidence not limited solely to passage above to support your response. Create and illustrate Venn Diagrams to effectively explore relationships and patterns and to make arguments about relationships between sets. (LA.910.3.2.2; LA.910.1.6.2; MA.912.D.7.2; MA.912.A.10.1)
2. In accordance with information obtained from the passage above, create a fictitious scenario illustrating the inevitable loss in productivity for an organization consumed with participants in the March Madness tournament brackets. Design a table, which includes a domain, range, and function rule. Graph the results. Identify the rate of change and the type of correlation present. Is the equation a direct variation? Find the constant of the variation. Identify the domain and range of each relation. Identify the dependent and independent variables. Create a mapping diagram, and determine whether a function exists via the Vertical-Line Test. (MA.912.A.3.7 – MA.912.A.3.12; MA.912.A.1.4; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.2.2; MA.912.A.2.3; MA.912.A.2.4)
3. Gonzaga University is a private Roman Catholic university located in Spokane, Washington with a student enrollment of 7,764 or half of Wichita State, which miraculously eliminated the number one seeded team. At a pivotal moment in the game, legendary offspring David Stockton, the gargantuan 7'1" 305 pound Polish Freshman Przemek Karnowski, and the 7'0" Canadian forward Kelly Olynyk were 15 feet from the desired target. Two of the players were 24 feet from each other adjacent to the sidelines of the basketball court. Employ the Perpendicular Bisector Theorem, its converse and concurrency of Perpendicular Bisectors of a Triangle to determine how far the target was located from each student-athlete. Illustrate the diagram and identify concurrent lines and the point of concurrency (MA.912.G.1.2; MA.912.G.4.1 – MA.912.G.4.6)
4. Using contextual clues only, define the following italicized terms: *enticing*, *methodically*, *alma mater*, and *bode* as obtained from the passage above. Additionally, use each word in a complete sentence to demonstrate further comprehension. (LA.910.1.6.3; LA.910.1.6.1)
5. **SARASOTA MILITARY ACADEMY WORD-OF-THE-WEEK** Create a concluding paragraph aligned with the passage above using the following italicized word: *Voracious* (vo RAY shus) (adj.) An Insatiable appetite or pursuit. Eager to consume. (LA.910.1.6.1; LA.910.1.6.5)

**Next Generation Sunshine State Standards** adapted from [floridastandards.org](http://floridastandards.org). Standards specifically addressed in this edition are strategically aligned with state standards and annotated adjacent to the respective inquiry.

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