Selection Sunday looms
Several teams vying for top seeds

With Selection Sunday just over four weeks away, here are five questions for the stretch run.

Who are the No. 1 seeds? At this point, the best bets are Arizona, Louisville, Texas and Oklahoma, and probably Florida, although each has trouble looming.

Kentucky and Florida have the rugged Southeastern Conference schedule. Louisville must visit Marquette and Cincinnati, and Arizona heads to Arizona State and the Bay Area.

It would take a near-collapse for the Wildcats to lose their No. 1 seed, because any region with Arizona as the second seed is instantly overloaded. (The NCAA selection committee does its best to balance the four regions.) Outside that quartet, Pittsburgh, Texas and Oklahoma have the best chance to claim a No. 1.

Tulsa (12-8) and Alabama (13-7), which has lost seven of 11 since ascending to No. 1 in December.

What about the mid-majors? Creighton is in the NCAA's regardless of its performance in the Missouri Valley Conference tournament. Manhattan College of the MAAC Conference, owns the longest winning streak, currently 15 games. Southern Illinois, Dayton and Butler are solid, barring collapses. But Gonzaga could have trouble.

The Bulldogs played their typically tough non-league schedule but were 1-4 in power-ratings games. They regrouped, dominated the West Coast Conference and were on pace for an at-large bid until last week's loss to Loyola Marymount. Now they probably can't afford another conference loss.

Butler fans are still steaming about how important is conference

How important is conference record? There is no rule prohibiting teams with sub-.500 records in league play from receiving at-large bids. But this year's selection committee chairman, Arizona Athletic Director Jim Livengood, has strong feelings on the subject.

"It's really hard to justify that," he told reporters a few weeks ago. That's trouble for Texas Tech (4-5 in the Big 12), Indiana (4-5 in the Big Ten), Louisiana State (2-7 in the SEC) and even Oregon. The Ducks are 6-5 in the Pac-10 but play five of their last seven on the road.

Does the selection committee have a clue? That's to be determined, but this much is certain: Without Virginia's Terry Holland, Kentucky's C.M. Newton and Santa Clara's Carroll Terry Holland, Kentucky's C.M. Newton and Santa Clara's Carroll Williams, whose terms have expired in recent years, the committee has lost much of its basketball savvy.

This year's contingent is long on career administrators and short on former basketball coaches. Let's hope Livengood is better at picking at-large teams than football coaches.

~Richard W. Smith, Esq.

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Jared Vichko
Old school still rules

Fashion trends come and go. They are here for a short time, and then fade away to distant memory. In the hip-hop culture, right now retro jerseys are in. Fans and ballplayers like to pay tribute to the legends by wearing their gear. But to many who wear the clothes, the names are all that are remembered. The incredible thing is that the "old school" athletes performed have been lost in the shuffle over the years.

One of the most popular jerseys belongs to Pete Maravich. Before the And One Mix Tape, Maravich was doing his thing down on the bayou. He graduated from Louisiana State University (LSU) with the highest career collegiate scoring average, over 44 points per game, a record that still stands today. That number is staggering because it was done without the advent of a three-point line. If the three ball was an option then, his average would have easily reached into the 50s. He had games of 68, 69, and 70 points, and also had 28 games where he scored 50 or more. Maravich’s points were about as common at LSU as Cajun chicken.

Love him or hate him, we all have our own opinion of Bill Walton. Some find his comments witty and funny, others find his commentary inane babble. But people cannot dispute his skill as a player. Ask Memphis State about him when they met his UCLA Bruins in the 1973 Final Four. Walton played arguably the best game in tournament history, shooting 21 of 22 from the field, and scoring 44 points. His performance helped UCLA earn their 9th title in ten years and also a record-setting 88 game winning streak.

Walton followed after another Bruin center that helped contribute to their eight straight championships, Lew Alcindor. Alcindor, or Jabbar as he is now known, was the greatest performer in the NCAA Tournament ever. In three straight years, his team never lost a game in the big dance and he was named tournament MVP each time.

Jason Kidd and Magic Johnson were both praised for their ability to produce triple doubles, and rightly so. Oscar Robertson, perhaps the most complete guard other than Michael Jordan, averaged a triple double for an entire season. Not a week, not a month—a whole season. The Big O also enjoyed a terrific college