

# Introduction

**R**eaders rejoice. For two years now you've been speaking with one voice about our annual College Basketball Prospectus book.

**One Voice:** This book is awesome! I love it! Wish you'd cover more teams, though.

**Me:** Thanks!

*(Pause.)*

**One Voice:** So....When are you going to cover more teams?

**Me:** Just a sec. Working on some promo copy. "Readers say Prospectus book is 'Awesome!' 'I love it!'"

**One Voice:** Yeah, about covering more teams....

*(Pause.)*

**One Voice:** Did you hear what--

**Me (whiny):** It's so unfair! Stupid Prospectus books for pro sports only have to cover 30-odd teams. Even a college football book only needs to preview, what, like 120 teams? We've got over 300!

**One Voice:** Quit whining. Get it done.

We got it done. I'm thrilled to say you're holding in your hands a college basketball annual that is both comprehensive and state-of-the-art in its analysis.

"Comprehensive" means that thanks to the hard work of no fewer than 11 contributors we've covered every team in Division I. If you don't believe me please skip ahead a few hundred pages right now. You'll find the preview I personally wrote for NJIT. That's dedication.

And "state-of-the-art" means simply that we're using the most trusty and advanced methods extant, some of which we've cooked up ourselves. It does not mean we can peer infallibly into the future. (Anyway I can't. Maybe Pomeroy can.) When we get the future wrong we at least have the consolation of knowing we did so based on the best information available.

If I've done my job as editor correctly and merely stayed out of the way of some tremendously talented writers, you are in for a great read. Any book that brings between two covers the likes of Ken Pomeroy, Kevin Pelton, Kyle Whelliston, and even a few token gurus whose names don't start with "K" is by definition required reading for the true college hoops fan.

I also want to thank Brad Stevens for the wild celebration that erupted at Prospectus HQ when I announced our "get" for this year's Foreword. Whenever I meet with someone who has squeezed our get-together in between an appearance on Letterman, singing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" at Wrigley Field, and serving as Grand Marshall at the Indy 500 parade, I don't automatically assume he'll say yes to sitting down and writing a piece for my book. The fact that the coach did say yes and that he took the time to come up with something interesting and informative speaks volumes. The man is a class act.

Lastly, my hope is that you enjoy this book with the knowledge that it and for that matter 90 percent of what appears at our website was made possible by Dean Smith, who 50 years ago triggered a revolution in how we look at basketball. Best wishes, Coach.

John Gasaway  
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