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NCAA Tournament considering expanding to 76

Field Level Media

Madness is not only reserved for March when it comes to college basket-

Continued reports suggest the NCAA Men's **Basketball Tournament is** set to eventually expand. with the latest coming from On3 on Thursday that said the NCAA is considering a 76-team field that could arrive by 2027.

The current 68-team field includes four play-in games each year in Dayton, Ohio, and is referred to as the First Four. The winners of those games proceed on to the traditional 64-team bracket.

Under the reported new format, the play-in portion of the tournament could include as many as 12 games held early in the week after the conference tournaments are complet-

FIFA VP: We decide **World Cup** host cities

Field Level Media

FIFA's vice president said soccer's global governing body decides whether to move 2026 World Cup matches from host cities, contrary to comments made Sept. 25 by President Donald Trump.

Speaking about the event, which will be cohosted by the U.S., Canada and Mexico from June 11 to July 19, Trump was asked by reporters in the Oval Office specifically about games in Seattle and San Francisco.

"Well, that's an interesting question ... but we're going to make sure they're safe," he said. "(Seattle and San Francisco are) run by radical left lunatics who don't know what they're doing.

"If I think it's not safe, we're going to move it out of that city. So if any city we think is going to be even a little bit dangerous for the World Cup, or for the (2028) Olympics ... but for the World Cup in particular, because they're playing in so many cities. we won't allow it. We'll move it around a little bit. But I hope that's not going to happen."

Six matches are scheduled to be played at Seattle's Lumen Field and six are set for Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, Calif., about an hour's drive from San Francisco. Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Miami, Philadelphia and New York/New Jersey (East Rutherford) are also host cities in the United States.

Victor Montagliani, the organization's vice president, said during a conference in London on Wednesday that FIFA determines game sites.

ed the prior weekend. The NCAA Tournament The matchups for the 12 expanded to 64 teams play-in games would be 1985 with a 65th team added in 2001. The curthe lowest ranked conferrent 68-team field came ence champions against the 12 lowest ranked aton board in 2011.

3-time All-Pro LB Leonard to retire with the Colts

Field Level Media

Three-time All-Pro linebacker Shaquille Leonard officially will retire from the NFL this weekend.

The Indianapolis Colts announced Wednesday that Leonard will call it a career at halftime of their home game against the Las Vegas Raiders on Sunday. He will hold a press conference that morning at Lucas Oil Stadium.

Leonard played parts of his first six seasons with the Colts, who selected him in the second round of the 2018 NFL Draft. He promptly won the NFL's Defensive Rookie of the Year Award and was

named as a first-team All-Pro that season after leading the league in tackles with 163.

Leonard, 30, was named as a first-team All-Pro in both 2020 and 2021 and was named to three Pro Bowls (2019-21). He led the NFL with eight forced fumbles in 2021.

Leonard became the highest-paid linebacker in the league in August 2021 when he signed a five-year, \$98.5 million extension. He was released by the Colts in November 2023 after he became frustrated with his playing time.

"Colts Nation will always remember The Maniac's palpable energy on the field with each tackle, interception, punchout, and fumble recovery," late Colts owner and CEO Jim Irsay said in a statement after Leonard's release. "Off the field, he's a servant leader and assisted numerous families in both his hometown and the Indianapolis community. We're thankful for Shaq and the contributions he made to our organization. We wish him and his beautiful family the best moving forward."

Leonard, who finished his career with the Philadelphia Eagles in 2023, totaled 637 tackles, 17 forced fumbles, 16 sacks and 12 interceptions in 75 games (71 starts).

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