

How does his shot for UConn measure up to other famous ones in March Madness?

BY NOAH TRISTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A couple of days ago, Braylon Mullins was a UConn freshman whose name carried weight mostly among the true diehards — college basketball junkies and Indiana high school hoops enthusiasts.

Now he's a part of NCAA Tournament lore. That's what can happen at this time of year.

"One of the most brilliant shooters you'll ever see shoot a basketball made an incredible, legendary March shot," Huskies coach Dan Hurley said.

Mullins' 35-footer with 0.4 seconds remaining lifted UConn over Duke 73-72 in the Elite Eight on Sunday, and now that the dust has settled, it's time to evaluate just how legendary — as Hurley put it — this shot was.

The bar for last-second game winners is actually higher in the women's tournament, where North Carolina's Charlotte Smith once made a 3-pointer at the buzzer to win the national title game by one in 1994. And who can forget Notre Dame's Arike Ogunbowale winning both the semifinal and final in 2018 with tiebreaking jumpers?

On the men's side, it's a little more complicated. There are several factors to consider when determining the best of the best.

TIME AND SCORE

Last-second shot means last-second shot. Michael Jordan's game winner for North Carolina in the 1982 title game was memorable because of who shot it, but it also left plenty of time for a very ill-fated Georgetown



Abbie Parr/AP photo

UConn guard Braylon Mullins (24) scores the winning basket during the second half against Duke in the Elite Eight of the NCAA college basketball tournament, Sunday, March 29 in Washington.

possession at the other end. Still, Mullins' 3 doesn't lose any luster because there were 0.4 seconds left when it went in. It wasn't literally at the buzzer, but that's close enough.

Sports Reference helpfully compiled a database of game-winning buzzer-beaters from NCAA Tournament history. The site requires a shot to be in the last 2.0 seconds to make the list — with some leeway for the era before the clock stopped after made baskets at the end. Only game winners are included. Tying the score and forcing overtime, with apologies to Kentucky's Otega Oweh, isn't quite in the same category.

Mullins also gets bonus points because if his shot misses, UConn loses. As incredible as Kris Jenkins' 3-pointer at the buzzer was when it won Villanova a championship in 2016, the game was tied at the time, so the worst-case scenario

for his team was overtime.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GAME

Buzzer-beaters are a big part of what makes March Madness special, but as much as the first couple of rounds create the tournament's charm, it's the second weekend and beyond when the national championship starts to feel within reach. So last-second shots take on added importance.

According to the Sports Reference list, prior to Mullins there were just 16 instances in the men's tournament — in the Sweet 16 or later — in which a team was trailing before winning with a last-second shot:

— Jack Shelton's shot for Oklahoma State to beat Wyoming in the 1949 quarterfinals.

— Pembroke Burrows' tip-in for Jacksonville against Iowa in the 1970 round of 16.

— Richard Washington's shot for UCLA to beat Louisville in the 1975 national semifinal.

— Danny Ainge going coast-to-coast for BYU against Notre Dame in the 1981 round of 16.

— Mike Jones' shot from the perimeter to lift Wichita State over Kansas in the 1981 round of 16.

— Kevin Gamble's jumper for Iowa to beat Oklahoma in the 1987 round of 16.

— Keith Smart's baseline jumper for Indiana to beat Syracuse in the 1987 title game. This shot went through the hoop with around 4 seconds left, but a timeout didn't stop the clock until there was 1 second remaining.

— Anderson Hunt's 3-pointer that gave UNLV a one-point win over Arizona in the 1989 round of 16.

— Tate George's turnaround at the buzzer for UConn against Clemson in



SUSAN RAGAN/AP photo

Duke's Christian Laettner, center, celebrates his game-winning shot against Connecticut in the NCAA East Regional Final at East Rutherford, N.J., on March 24, 1990. In the background is teammate Bobby Hurley.

the 1990 round of 16. (Bookmark this one for now.)

— Christian Laettner's shot at the buzzer for Duke that beat UConn in the 1990 regional final.

— Laettner again, at the buzzer to beat Kentucky in the 1992 regional final.

— Cameron Dollar's shot for UCLA against Iowa State in the 1997 round of 16.

— Richard Hamilton's fadeaway at the buzzer — after multiple offensive rebounds — that gave UConn a win over Washington in the 1998 round of 16.

— Chris Chiozza's running 3-pointer at the buzzer for Florida that beat Wisconsin in the 2017 round of 16.

— Kyle Guy making three consecutive free throws for Virginia with 0.6 seconds left to beat Auburn in the 2019 national semifinal.

— Lamont Butler's jumper at the buzzer for San Diego State to beat Florida Atlantic in the 2023 national semifinal.

You can see there aren't many 3-pointers on that list — but there are two other

UConn players in George and Hamilton. Now Mullins joins them, and his shot came a round later.

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY

Mullins' shot wasn't quite as far as the midcourt heaves by U.S. Reed of Arkansas (1981 second round vs. Louisville) and Paul Jespersion of Northern Iowa (2016 first round against Texas). The more apt comparison, in terms of distance, is with Jalen Suggs' buzzer-beating bank shot for Gonzaga against UCLA in the 2021 semifinal, although that game was tied before the winning play.

It's also worth considering the difficulty of the entire sequence. George's shot in 1990 required UConn to go the length of the court in 1 second, an impressive throw-catch-shoot sequence in which almost everything had to go perfectly. Baseball draft pick Scott Burrell made the long pass for the Huskies. Duke had 2.1 seconds to set up Laettner in '92, with Grant Hill throwing the ball down the court to him.

THE LEGACY

The reason Laettner's shot in 1992 stood the test of time is because it was the defining moment of a second straight NCAA title run for Duke. And obviously, the game winners by Jenkins and Smart decided national championships on the spot. If UConn doesn't win it all this year, maybe Mullins' 3 falls back to a slightly lower tier, but if the Huskies do prevail in Indianapolis, it'll be their third national title in four years. That's something not even Duke has done before.

And it's only possible because of Mullins' Miracle.

SPENCER

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was senior Cooper Warnecke and he worked through five innings. Schilling worked 2.1 innings and Lynch one inning before King got the final two outs. The loss was shouldered by Lynch.

Spencer County used two pitchers with each going two innings before giving the ball to Robinette. He worked the final five innings and did not allow a hit while striking out three and walking two.

The rest of the week might have been a little more 'normal' for the Chargers.

On Monday, the red and gold hosted Eastern, a team they had scrimmaged just two weeks earlier and beaten handily. It was not easy this time as the Eagles scored in six of the seven innings and won the game 9-6. It was just three years ago that Eastern and Bullitt East met in the KHSAA Kentucky State Baseball Tournament in the first round. Eastern won that game in extra innings.

Bowles was disappointed in the pitching as four different players gave up 14 walks. Only seven of the nine runs by the

Eagles were earned. Eastern did not have an extra base hit.

A day later, Bullitt East traveled to Dixie Highway for a showdown with Pleasure Ridge park, The Panthers raced out to an 8-4 lead only to have the Chargers score eight runs in the fifth and nine in the sixth to record a 21-8 victory.

The reason that explains the big comeback was obvious as PRP pitching gave up 15 walks. However, the two-time defending Sixth Region champions did not throw either of their top two pitchers in this early-season contest. The Panthers sent seven pitchers to the mound in the game and two of those pitchers never got an out and another had just one out.

Bullitt East did have 12 hits in the win. Three of those hits came from Fenwick and shortstop Kadin Adams as each drove in three runs. Both Colin Feger and Caden Phelps had two hits while driving in three runs. Fenwick had a pair of doubles while Adams and Feger each had one.

After being rained out on Friday at Oldham County, Bullitt East closed out the week on Saturday with a road game at Anderson County. This

game belonged to senior pitcher Chase Litton as he allowed just one hit as he pitched a complete game. He did walk three and struck out three, but needed just 76 pitches to get the win.

The offense generated 13 hits, including a home run by Bradley Myers. The Chargers also had doubles by Adams, Myers and Bo Elder. Catcher Dylan Haas drove in three runs with a hit while Chris Logan had three hits. Two hits were collected by Myers and Carter Hilton.

Bowles changed the schedule for the early part of this week as he wanted to open a spot for a game against a team visiting the area from Hilliard, Ohio. That moved a 23rd District game on Tuesday against Southern to Monday. Bullitt East is set to play another out-of-state team on Thursday when they host Bingham, a squad from Utah. That game is set for 6 p.m.

Bullitt East will travel over the weekend to Florida to play four games at the Jackie Robinson Training Complex. All four of those games in Florida will be against teams from Kentucky.

The Final Four is set as UConn stuns Duke to join Illinois, Arizona and Michigan

BY EDDIE PELLIS
AP NATIONAL WRITER

All that talent at Arizona and Michigan. All that momentum and good vibes at UConn. And somebody has to play the part of the unheralded "little guy." At the Final Four next weekend, that role belongs, improbably, to Illinois.

In a sign of the times, the Illini — a Big Ten team with more wins in the conference over the last seven seasons than any other program — will pass for something resembling Cinderella when college basketball's biggest party kicks off in Indianapolis on Saturday.

The first challenge for coach Brad Underwood's team will be stopping a hard-charging UConn juggernaut that came from 19 points down and got a game-winner from the logo with 0.4 seconds left from an Indy native — Braylon Mullins — to make its third Final Four in the last four years.

The last two times the Huskies reached this point, they won the championship.

"It's a UConn culture, a UConn heart," coach Dan Hurley said. "We believe we're supposed to win this time of year."

All these teams do. Arizona, led by Brayden Burries, and Michigan, with Yaxel Lendeborg, have up to nine NBA prospects between them.

The Wildcats opened as slight favorites — at plus-165 to win the championship, according to BetMGM Sportsbook. That was a shade ahead of the Wolverines, who are plus-180 after their 95-62 romp over Tennessee on Sunday.

But, in one of a few strange twists on the odds chart, the Wildcats are 1 1/2-point underdogs to Michigan in Saturday night's marquee

semifinal, a matchup of No. 1 seeds.

Illinois is a 1 1/2-point favorite over UConn and, in reality, it's the Huskies, at plus-550, who are the biggest long shot in Indy.

Even so, the fact that Illinois — the flagship university in the nation's sixth most populous state and a school with an enrollment of nearly 60,000 — feels most like this year's out-of-nowhere underdog speaks more about the current state of college hoops than the Illini themselves.

They are a No. 3 seed — the highest number at the Final Four in two years. (UConn is a 2. Last season, all four No. 1s made it.)

This year's meeting of 1 vs. 1 — Michigan vs. Arizona — is a heavyweight

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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

The 2025 annual report of the Leight M. Wilson Foundation, Inc. is available at the address shown below for inspection during regular business hours within 180 days after publication of this notice of its availability.
Alan Wilson, Treasurer
753 Stave Mill Road
Shepherdsville, KY. 40165
Evelyn Hudson
President
Leight M. Wilson Foundation

BID NOTICE

The Bullitt County Board of Education will accept sealed bids in the office of the Director of Transportation for the following bid until the stated date and time:

- Propane 2026-2027#1.** Bid opening will be held at the Bullitt County Board of Education Transportation Bus Garage, 1148C Hwy. 44 East, Shepherdsville, KY. 40165 on April 20, 2026 at 11:00AM.

At the published date and time, all bids, which are in order, sealed, properly signed, etc., shall be opened and read aloud. Bids must be clearly marked, on the outside of the envelope, with the name and number as listed above. Any interested parties may attend. No immediate decisions will be made.

Copies of the Bid Documents may be obtained from the Bullitt County Board of Education Transportation Department. Contact David Phelps, Director of Transportation at (502) 869-8031, for additional information or to request a bid packet.

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Mt. Washington Fire Protection District hereby gives notice that they are accepting nominations for Property Owner Trustee of the District to serve the term of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2030. Any eligible individual may run for the position. You must complete a nomination form which is available at Station One, 772 North Bardstow Road, Mt. Washington, Kentucky 40047. The nomination form must be received at the above address no later than Thursday, April 23, 2026 by 4:30 P.M. The election will be held on June 27, 2026.

To be eligible to run for this office, you must own real or personal property subject to taxation and reside in the boundaries of the Mt. Washington Fire Protection District. Additionally, you must not be an active district firefighter.

For further information, please call Station One at 538-4222 during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

LEGAL NOTICE

Legal Notice Rezoning

The City of Lebanon Junction will hold a public hearing and the regular meeting on May 4, 2026 @6:00 Pm at the City Community Center located at 123 North Poplar Street Lebanon Junction Ky 40150.
The purpose of the public hearing is to hear the following request for zoning:

Docket Number 2026Z-15
Owner/ Applicant: Hellen Halk
Rezone: B-1 to R-3
Location-Ash St./ Brook St
Parcel: 042-N00-06-009
Legislative body: City of Lebanon Junction
Size: .28 acres more or less
Purpose: Construct 4- Plex
Comprehensive Plan: Commercial

NOW HIRING

The Shepherdsville Fire Department is accepting applications for **Recruit Firefighter** and **Lateral Firefighter** positions. Applications will be accepted April 2-April 30, 2026 and may be picked up at Shepherdsville City Hall, 634 Conestoga Pkwy, Shepherdsville, KY, Monday-Thursday 0800-1600 or Friday 0800-1200, or printed at www.shepfire.com/careers and returned during those hours.

Applicants must be 18 years of age, have a high school diploma or GED, and cannot have felony convictions or pending prosecutions. Misdemeanors considered case-by-case.

Recruit Firefighter: CPAT required by June 8, 2026 or exemption per KRS 95A.040.

Lateral Firefighter: Minimum 2 years full-time firefighting experience and current CPAT by June 8, 2026 or exemption per KRS 95A.040.

Application deadline: 4:00 PM April 30, 2026.

Shepherdsville Fire Department is an Equal Opportunity Employer.