

---

Subject: Re: Growing as a Team  
Posted by [Tikatu](#) on Wed, 25 Jul 2012 19:04:24 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

\*\*\*\*\*Tuesday, March 13, 2068; Thunderbird Five; around 8:10 p.m.\*\*\*\*\*

Callie paced nervously around the control room. "I don't know if Alabama even made it into the tournament."

John noticed her high-strung nerves. "Take it easy, Callie. Thunderbird Five does have Internet access."

"Oh, good. Perhaps we can also get info on your alma mater...um, it is Harvard, right?"

"Right. Just search for it on espn.com. When you find a printable bracket with all the listed teams, could you print out two copies, please?"

"F-A-B, John." She went to the sports-oriented website and found the brackets, she printed the two copies and handed one to John. "Hmm...Alabama is an 8th seed in the Midwest Regional. Their first tournament game will be on Friday in St. Louis against 9th seed Miami of Ohio."

John looked to see if Harvard had also made the cut. "Ah, there's Harvard--16th seed in the South Regional. Ooooooh...this isn't good."

"What's wrong, John?"

"Harvard has to play top-seeded Texas on Thursday...at the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center in Birmingham, Alabama."

"I know Texas has been a powerhouse this year. In the tournament, though, it means absolutely nothing. I've seen wild upsets before, but to this day no 16th seed has ever upset a top seed, at least not on the men's side."

"Really?" John asked, surprised. "There was one on the women's side?"

"Yes. My grandmother told me about the time the Harvard ladies shocked the women's tournament by defeating top-seeded Stanford by one point. It's the only time in the women's tournament it's ever happened."

"Harvard did it? How come I never knew about it?"

"Perhaps you were too wrapped up with astronomy?" Callie joked.

"Yeah, I probably was, Callie. How did you keep up with the tournament and your studies?"

"Internet, TV, and the school newspaper. I got my Bachelor's Degree from the University of Alabama."

"Oh, yeah, I forgot about that. Anyway, I have a fun little idea. Let's have a bet, but not for money."

"What do you have in mind?"

"We'll each pick one team to take it all the way. Now, if the team chosen wins the championship, the winner is exempt from doing chores here and back on Earth for a month. The loser will have to pick up the slack."

Callie liked the idea. "Okay. If neither team gets that far, we'll go by which team went further and reduce the winning bet to a week. Now, if they both lose in the same round, nothing's lost and nothing's gained."

"Good thinking, Callie. I'll choose Kansas."

"Even though I'm for my beloved Crimson Tide, I know they can't get to the finals, so my pick will be Duke."

John shook hands with Callie. "Done and done."

Callie looked at the bracket again and noticed a score already done. "Hey, it looks like Alcorn State defeated Western Michigan to become the 64th team in the tournament. Too bad they have to play Duke on Friday in Syracuse, New York."

"I have to admit this, Callie. I've never really kept up with basketball, but with anything involving Harvard, I stay very close to the news."

"Back home, Alabama is run by three sports: NASCAR, college football, and college basketball. I'll be more than happy to help you understand the basketball terms."

"Okay, I have one question already: just where is Alcorn State University?"

Callie said, "It's located in southwestern Mississippi. One thing you'll have to remember is a lot of colleges won't mention state names."

"Like where?"

"There's Gonzaga in Washington state, Liberty University in Oklahoma, and thousands of others."

"Oh, boy, that's way too many to remember."

"Don't worry about it, John. Nobody on or off Earth could remember the names of every college team in the country, and some schools don't even offer all of the sports."

John sat down and shook his head. "That's what I get for studying too much. I was more into track and field in my college years."

"In that case, here's your chance to catch up. I'll bring up the highlights of this game, and I'll explain." Callie started showing John the various moves and terms used in the sport of basketball

so he could understand it better.

Post by TracyFan4Ever on 02/10/2004

---