

Final Four Clinic Notes – Breaking Down the Championship Game with Dave Odom



Every year, Dave Odom hosts a great clinic inviting coaches to discuss the championship game. Coach Odom guides the discussion encouraging coaches to think deep into the strategies of both coaches and strength/weakness of each team.

In his 22 years as a head coach, Coach Odom compiled a 405-279 record. He was the head coach at East Carolina (1979-1982), Wake Forest (1989-2001), and South Carolina (2001-2008). He also spent time as an assistant at Wake Forest and Virginia. Accomplishments include 3 NIT Championships (2000, 2005, and 2006) as well as 2 ACC Tournament Championships and 1 ACC Regular Season Championship. Odom was named SEC Coach of the Year in 2004 and ACC Coach of the Year in 1991, 1994, and 1995.

Looking at the Game

- Going into the game, Coach Odom mentioned that the most impressed he had been with a team the entire season was Villanova vs. Kansas (specifically the defensive adjustments made to guard Kansas).
- UNC had changed some from the beginning of the season to the end.

Keys to the Game

- UNC plays above the rim, makes more 2's than Villanova
- Villanova plays below the rim, makes more 3's than UNC

North Carolina Strengths

- Offensive Rebounding
- Transition Offense
- Quality Depth
- Post Scoring
- Big Game/Championship Experience

- Height

Villanova Strengths

- Perimeter Scoring (More than just 3-point shots)
- Defensive Scouting/Adjustments
- Back Court/Half Court Scoring
- Tempo Control

Discussion Points

- Who has the advantage in the half court? Villanova with guard play and decision making
- Villanova does a great job using the shot fake (can get by the big UNC defenders)
- Villanova guarded well against the Pick & Pop from Kansas, will have to adjust to guard Pick & Roll from North Carolina
- North Carolina will want to run and score (can Nova outscore the Tarheels if it gets in the 80s?)
- Who has the advantage at the end of half/game? – Consensus=Villanova
- Who will execute better on offense AND defense at the end of the game?
- North Carolina has changed how they guard ball screens (hard hedge early in the season, flat hedge or “shade hedge” now)
- Look for Villanova to stop behind ball screens and shoot if North Carolina goes under
- Villanova is good at moving the ball side to side, spacing, passing out of the post
- UNC needs to avoid the urge to collapse on the post, let the big man take shots for Villanova taking away shots from the guards

Prediction

Coach Odom takes a vote on who will win the championship game (My vote was for Villanova).

- North Carolina – 37
- Villanova - 27