

# ESPN'S BracketBusters Series

## 2010 BracketBusters Matchups

On Monday, February 1, ESPN announced the pairings for the eighth annual *BracketBusters* -- a two-day men's college basketball event pitting NCAA Tournament hopefuls on Friday, Feb. 19 and Saturday, Feb. 20. The telecast field features two ranked teams, No. 13 Butler and No. 24 Northern Iowa, with Utah State and Siena also receiving votes in the Feb. 15 ESPN/*USA Today* poll. *BracketBusters* will feature 11 nationally televised games live, selected from a pool of 98 teams.

Date	Time	Matchups -- ESPN Network
Feb. 19	7 p.m.	Old Dominion at No. 24 UNI -- ESPN2 HD/ESPN360.com
	9 p.m.	William & Mary at Iona -- ESPNU
Feb. 20	11 a.m.	Siena at No. 13 Butler -- ESPN2 HD/ESPN360.com
	Noon	Morgan State at Murray State -- ESPNU
	1 p.m.	Louisiana Tech at Northeastern -- ESPN2/ESPN360.com
	3 p.m.	Nevada at Missouri State -- ESPN2/ESPN360.com
	4 p.m.	Akron at Virginia Commonwealth -- ESPNU
	8 p.m.	College of Charleston at George Mason -- ESPN2 HD/ESPN360.com
	8 p.m.	Western Carolina at Kent State -- ESPNU
	10 p.m.	New Mexico State at Pacific -- ESPNU
	11:59 p.m.	Wichita State at Utah State -- ESPN2/ESPN360.com

All times listed are Eastern.

## Closer Look at BracketBusters Teams

Of the 22 *BracketBusters* teams, 16 rank among the top 100 of the Ratings Percentage Index through games of Feb. 14: Butler (16), UNI (25), Old Dominion (33), Siena (35), Utah State (43), Wichita State (47), William & Mary (51), Northeastern (62), Kent State (63), VCU (66), Nevada (67), Louisiana Tech (75), New Mexico State (76), Murray State (82), Missouri State (85) and Iona (96).

## League-Leading BracketBusters Units

Of the 10 conferences represented in the 2010 *BracketBusters*, there are four schools who have already clinched their outright league championship.

League	Champion	Conference Record (Games Remaining)
Horizon	Butler	17-0 (1)
Metro Atlantic	Siena	15-1 (2)
Missouri Valley	Northern Iowa	16-2 (2)
Ohio Valley	Murray State	16-0 (2)

## Classic BracketBusters Games

- On Feb. 22, 2003, Fresno State visited the Omaha (Neb.) Civic Auditorium in the first-ever *BracketBusters* game, and Creighton posted one of four MVC wins on the day with a 67-66 decision.
- On Feb. 18, 2006, Wichita State played host to George Mason, with the Patriots winning, 70-67. The teams would meet again in the semis of the NCAA East Regional, with George Mason winning, 63-55, and later advancing to the NCAA Final Four.
- On Feb. 18, 2006, Northern Iowa twice rallied to force overtime and double overtime to defeat No. 24 Bucknell, 65-61, at the UNI-Dome in Cedar Falls, Iowa, in the first double-overtime game in *BracketBusters* history.
- On Feb. 17, 2007, No. 16 Southern Illinois visited No. 12 Butler, and the Salukis escaped Hinkle Fieldhouse with a 68-64 victory. Both teams would later advance to the round of Sweet Sixteen in the NCAA Tournament.
- On Feb. 23, 2008, No. 8 Butler played host to No. 16 Drake, and for the second-straight year, an MVC school left a soldout Hinkle Fieldhouse with a 71-64 triumph.



## About BracketBusters

The *BracketBusters* concept, named because of the success of participating teams from these conferences in NCAA Tournament play through the years, provides programs with an opportunity to play top non-conference opponents roughly three weeks before Selection Sunday -- March 14, 2010. Each conference selects its participating teams before season, and the matchups for the event are determined by ESPN in conjunction with the conferences.

## All-time Conference Records

Since the first event in 2003, a total of 17 conferences have participated in the *BracketBusters* series. The Missouri Valley Conference, which had four teams compete in the 2003 *BracketBusters* series, owns the most victories through the initial seven series.

Leagues	All	Home	Road
Missouri Valley	21-11	12-5	9-6
Western Athletic	13-15	10-7	3-8
Mid-American	12-16	9-6	3-10
Colonial	11-5	4-2	7-3
Horizon League	8-10	4-5	4-5
Metro Atlantic	6-3	3-1	3-2
West Coast	3-1	2-1	1-0
Southern	3-2	0-1	3-1
Sun Belt	2-2	2-0	0-2
Big Sky	1-1	1-0	0-1
Big South	1-2	0-1	1-1
America East	1-3	1-0	0-3
Ohio Valley	1-3	0-0	1-3
Big West	1-5	1-3	0-2
Southland	0-1	0-0	0-1
Summit	0-2	0-2	0-0
Patriot	0-2	0-0	0-2

## 2009 BracketBusters Results

The 2009 *BracketBusters* series was the springboard for a total of five teams who competed in the NCAA Tournament, including Siena who defeated Ohio State in the first round.

### Schools -- ESPN Network

Virginia Commonwealth 70 at Nevada 71 -- ESPNU  
Illinois State 56 at Niagara 70 -- ESPN2  
George Mason 63 at Creighton 76 -- ESPNU  
#15 Butler 75 at Davidson 63 -- ESPN  
Miami (Ohio) 61 at Evansville 75 -- ESPNU  
Hofstra 61 at Fairfield 56 -- ESPN360.com  
Green Bay 86, Long Beach State 75 -- ESPNU  
Liberty 56 at Old Dominion 80 -- ESPNU  
Boise State 81 at Portland State 93 -- ESPNU  
#17 Utah State 64 at Saint Mary's 75 -- ESPN2  
Northern Iowa 75 at Siena 81 -- ESPN2  
Buffalo 70 at Vermont 78 -- ESPN2  
Northeastern 69 at Wright State 57 -- ESPN2