



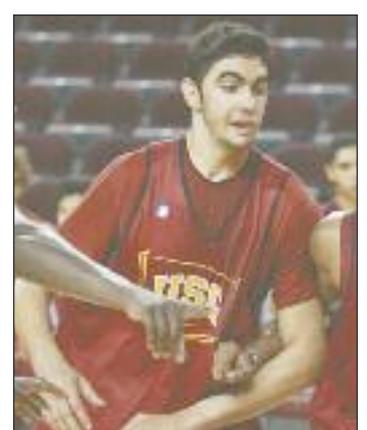
EA SPORTS MAUI INVITATIONAL

AT THE LAHAINA CIVIC CENTER



Today's Games			
Quarterfinals Butler vs. Marquette 10:30 a.m. = ESPN2	Quarterfinals Mississippi St. vs. N. Carolina 1 p.m. = ESPN2	Quarterfinals Texas vs. Chaminade 4:30 p.m. = ESPN2	Quarterfinals Southern Cal vs. Illinois 7 p.m. = ESPN2
Tuesday's Games			
Consolation Butler-Marquette loser vs. Mississippi St.-N. Carolina loser 9:30 a.m. = ESPN2	Consolation Texas-Chaminade loser vs. Southern Cal-Illinois loser Noon = ESPN2	Semifinals Butler-Marquette winner vs. Mississippi St.-N. Carolina winner 3 p.m. = ESPN	Semifinals Texas-Chaminade winner vs. Southern Cal-Illinois winner 5:30 p.m. = ESPN2
Wednesday's Games			
Seventh place 9:30 a.m. = ESPN2	Fifth place Noon = ESPN2	Third place 2:30 p.m. = ESPN2	Championship 5 p.m. = ESPN

Tournamentbreakdown



The Los Angeles Times
ALLEN J. SCHABEN photo

TALLEST AND SHORTEST

Southern California has the players listed as the tallest and the shortest in this year's field. All three 7-footers among the eight teams on Maui this week, in fact, are on the Trojans' roster, topped by 7-2 junior center Omar Oraby (*above photo*), who in 34 minutes over two games this season has scored 21 points, on 7-for-9 shooting from the field, with 12 rebounds. Chass Bryan (*left photo*), a 5-9 freshman guard, has four points and four assists.



PREDICTING THE DANCE

The "Bracketology" report posted by ESPN's Joe Lunardi earlier this month has four Maui teams in the 2013 NCAA tournament. North Carolina earned the highest seed in his projected field of 68, a No. 4. Texas was forecast as a sixth seed, with Marquette a No. 8 and Butler a No. 11. Illinois was considered a bubble team left on the outside.

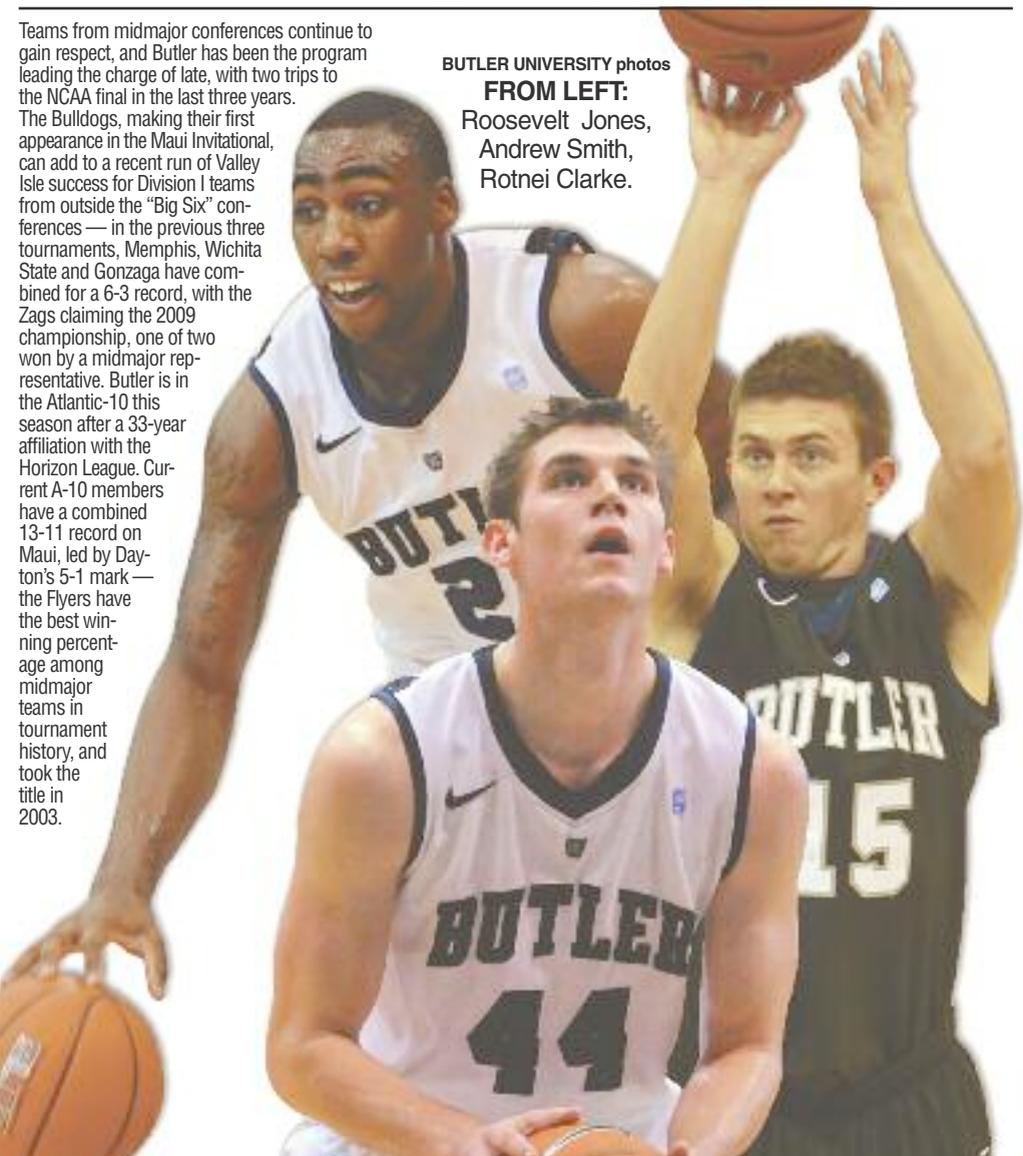


MID-MAJOR DEVELOPMENT

Teams from midmajor conferences continue to gain respect, and Butler has been the program leading the charge of late, with two trips to the NCAA final in the last three years. The Bulldogs, making their first appearance in the Maui Invitational, can add to a recent run of Valley Isle success for Division I teams from outside the "Big Six" conferences — in the previous three tournaments, Memphis, Wichita State and Gonzaga have combined for a 6-3 record, with the Zags claiming the 2009 championship, one of two won by a midmajor representative. Butler is in the Atlantic-10 this season after a 33-year affiliation with the Horizon League. Current A-10 members have a combined 13-11 record on Maui, led by Dayton's 5-1 mark — the Flyers have the best winning percentage among midmajor teams in tournament history, and took the title in 2003.

BUTLER UNIVERSITY photos

FROM LEFT:
Roosevelt Jones,
Andrew Smith,
Rotnei Clarke.



AP photo



FAB FROSH

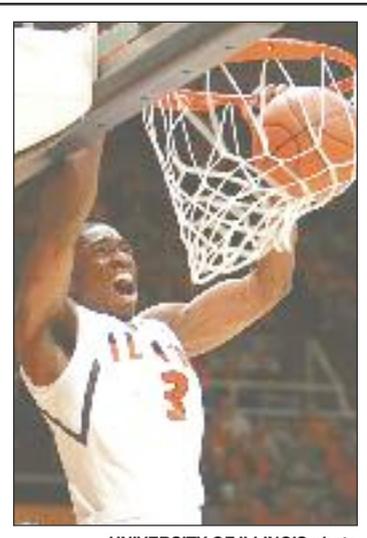
Marcus Paige (*top photo*) was selected as a McDonald's All-American last season and is one of North Carolina's two freshmen named to the Parade All-America team, along with Brice Johnson (*bottom row, left*), a two-time Gatorade South Carolina Player of the Year. The other player from the 2012 McDonald's game on Maui this week is Texas' Cameron Ridley (*bottom row, center*), who was No. 8 in ESPN's recruiting ranking for this year's incoming freshmen, tops among players in the field. Mississippi State freshman Craig Sword (*bottom row, right*) was Alabama's Mr. Basketball as a high school senior.

GOOD STARTS

Five teams have arrived on Maui unbeaten this season — Texas, Southern California and Marquette are all 2-0, while Illinois and North Carolina have opened with three consecutive wins. In terms of margin of victory, the Tar Heels have had the most success. Helped by a team-best 12 assists from Dexter Strickland (*right photo*), North Carolina is winning by an average of 18.7 points.



AP photo



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS photo



AP photo

WOODEN WATCH

Illinois' Brandon Paul and North Carolina's James Michael McAdoo are both on the Wooden Award watch list. Paul, a 6-foot-4 senior guard, has averaged 19.7 points per game this season, going 8-for-20 from 3-point range. McAdoo, a 6-9 sophomore forward, is averaging 21.0 points and 11.3 rebounds.

FAMILY TIES

Texas senior Dean Melchionni, a reserve guard (*left photo*), is part of an accomplished basketball family. His father, Gary, and older brother, Lee, both played at Duke — Gary Melchionni was an Atlantic Coast Conference first-team pick as a senior in 1973. An uncle, Bill Melchionni, played for the New York Nets and ranks third in ABA history in assists, and won an NBA title with the Philadelphia 76ers. . . . Southern California senior forward Renaldo Woolridge's father, Orlando Woolridge, played for seven NBA teams in 13 seasons, and coached the WNBA's Los Angeles Sparks. . . . North Carolina junior forward Denzel Robinson is the son of Tar Heels assistant coach Steve Robinson, who led both Tulsa and Florida State to the NCAA tournament as a head coach.



LONG TIME, NO USC

Other than Butler and Mississippi State, the two teams making their first appearances in the Maui Invitational, no school in this year's field has gone longer since its last Valley Isle game than Southern California. The Trojans have played in the tournament just once before, finishing sixth in 1999. North Carolina and Texas were part of the 2008 tournament — the Tar Heels won the title and the Longhorns took third place. The year before that, Marquette was the runner-up, and Illinois finished third.



AROUND THE WORLD

Three players in this year's tournament were born in Australia, more than any country other than the U.S., with two of them on Chaminade's roster — Dominique Cooks (*top photo*) and Rhys Murphy (*bottom photo*). The other Australian-born player is Butler's Jackson Aldridge. The Silverswords have five players born outside the U.S. altogether — Waly Coulibaly (Mali), Kevin Hu (Taiwan) and Darko Vukasic (Serbia) are the others. Southern California's Strahinja Gavrilovic is also from Serbia and Illinois' Ibby Djimde is Mali's other player in the field. The two players from Canada on this year's Maui rosters are both from Toronto — Texas' Myck Kabongo and Marquette's Junior Cadougan.

