

Administration of Donald J. Trump, 2026

Message on the NCAA College Basketball National Championship Game
April 6, 2026

Tonight I join millions of Americans gathering across the country in congratulating the Michigan Wolverines and the UConn Huskies as they compete in the 2026 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) College Basketball National Championship.

For nearly 90 years, this tournament has captivated our Nation in an epic display of athleticism, determination, and triumph. Every March, 68 college teams take to the court for an exhilarating 3-week, single-elimination competition that excites and galvanizes our Nation. The tournament includes colleges and universities big and small from every corner of our great country, each carrying its own traditions and representing the unmatched excellence of the American spirit.

To reach the court for the final showdown, teams must survive a grueling regular season, and 6 rounds of play in one of the most storied and iconic traditions in American sports, the gauntlet known as "March Madness." This prestigious springtime competition is beloved by millions of fans who fill out brackets and watch the frenzy unfold in an unpredictable tournament historically defined by powerhouse performances, heart-pounding victories, underdog stories, and inevitable surprises. This year was no exception, and when the final buzzer sounds tonight, one team will take their place in collegiate sports history.

These talented student-athletes have overcome every challenge to vie for the championship trophy. This milestone is achieved through years of sacrifice, training, discipline, individual effort, teamwork, and camaraderie. It is shared with loving and supportive families, loyal fans, and dedicated coaches committed to developing leaders who will achieve greatness and glory both on and off the court.

Melania and I congratulate these incredible players and coaches for reaching the College Basketball National Championship. May the best team win.

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