

2003 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament

The underdog 3 seeded Syracuse Orange beat the #2 seeded Kansas Jayhawks 81-78 to win the 2003 national championship. Syracuse a 5 ½ underdog, led by 11 after the first half and secured the title with a Hakim Warrick block of a Michael Lee 3-point shot that could have tied the game with less than a second left. Warrick redeemed himself after he missed two free throws in the final moments just prior to blocking the last shot. Maddux Sports' basketball pick subscribers cleaned up again as 2 units on Syracuse at +5.5 and a small money line wager at +215

Carmelo Anthony, who won the outstanding player award for the final four, knocked in 20 points and held onto 10 rebbies after scoring 33 against Texas in the semi-finals. Gerry McNamara hit six of 10 three-point attempts in the first half for the Orange.

Syracuse's run through the <u>ncaa bracket</u> included wins over Manhattan & the Oklahoma State Cowboys in the first 2 rounds. After squeaking by Auburn in the Sweet 16 by one point, the Orange handily beat Oklahoma 63- 47. The Orange were a <u>college basketball</u> <u>point spread</u> machine covering 5 of the 6 games they played in. Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim won his first national title after three previous final round appearances at the Big Dance in 1987, 1996 and 1991.