

Name _____

March Madness Magic: The Thrills of College Basketball's Big Dance

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The single-elimination format adds an element of suspense because one loss means a team is out of the tournament, creating high-stakes games and thrilling upsets.
2. One famous "Cinderella" story is the 1983 tournament when the North Carolina State Wolfpack, seeded eighth, won the championship. It was memorable because they overcame the odds to achieve victory.
3. The championship game is the pinnacle of March Madness, with the winning team earning the title of national champion. It impacts the winning team by making them the focus of celebration and admiration.
4. March Madness is unique and thrilling because it combines intense competition, surprise upsets, and the spirit of rooting for underdogs, creating an atmosphere of excitement and unpredictability that captivates sports fans across the nation.

