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Verlander debut: 'I think I still have it' **SPORTS, 3C**

2026 NCAA TOURNAMENT ELITE EIGHT MICHIGAN 95, TENNESSEE 62

BIG BLUE BLOWOUT



May's blueprint leads Wolverines to Indy in April



Shawn Windsor
Columnist
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

CHICAGO – They went from the bottom of the Big Ten to the Sweet 16 in a flash and followed that turnaround with the best regular season in Michigan basketball history.

Then they played even better once the 2026 NCAA Tournament started. Now they're headed to the Final Four after a 95-62 win over Tennessee in the Midwest regional final at United Center on Sunday, March 29.

It's another impressive basketball run for the football school (though it may be time to call U-M both; the women's team is a game from the Final Four, too).

The men's run began to feel inevitable somewhere back in Buffalo, New York, when U-M ran Howard and Saint Louis off the floor. Those first-and-second round wins were expected, no doubt.

Yet there was something about the energy the 1-seed Wolverines played with ... the freedom even, and they brought it with them to Chicago. First they squeezed wily Alabama dry in their Midwest semifinal.

Then they sprinted past lumbering Tennessee in the final.

They can play any which way,

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Michigan forward Yaxel Lendeborg (23) high-fives guard L.J. Cason (2) during the second half of their win over Tennessee on March 29.

JUNFU HAN/
DETROIT FREE PRESS

More coverage

Monarrez: Michigan shows no mercy. **1C**

Iran warns U.S. over ground attack

Ariba Shahid and Nayera Abdallah
REUTERS

ISLAMABAD – Iran said it was ready to respond to a U.S. ground attack, accusing Washington on March 29 of preparing a land assault even as the Trump administration sought talks and as regional powers met in Pakistan to try to end the conflict.

The foreign ministers of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Egypt met in Islamabad to discuss ways to halt the Iran war, which has killed thousands of people and caused the biggest-ever disruption to global energy supplies.

The ministers exchanged views on the severe economic repercussions of the military escalation in the region, its impact on international navigation, supply chains and food security, as well as its implications for energy security in light of rising oil prices, Egypt's foreign ministry said.

As the conflict entered its

Regional powers meet to discuss war's end

A man films the destruction of a building that housed offices of Qatari news network Al Araby TV following a missile strike earlier in the day in Tehran, Iran, on March 29.

ATTA
KENARE/AFP VIA
GETTY IMAGES

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Recent meteors in Ohio and Michigan provide treasures for meteorite hunters

Keith Matheny
Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The St. Patrick's Day meteor over Lake Erie into northeast Ohio – a dazzler that lit up the blue sky for several seconds and featured a sonic boom heard all the way into Pennsylvania – and meteors spotted by hundreds over Saginaw Bay in Michigan six days later – can bring rare, interesting and sometimes valuable relics with them: meteorites, space rocks that survive the busting apart of the meteor in the atmosphere and reach the Earth.

When Chris Cooper heard about the March 17 Ohio meteor and that its strewn field – the geographic area on Earth where fragments of a single meteorite are scattered after it explodes in the atmosphere – was within a drivable distance, he enlisted his cousin, Caleb Ahumada, of Mus-



Caleb Ahumada, left, of Muskegon, and his cousin Chris Cooper, of Kentwood, show off the meteorites they recovered in Medina County, Ohio, following a large meteor in the area. PROVIDED BY CHRIS COOPER

kegon, and hit the road.

Cooper, 46, works in facility maintenance for Corewell Health, but rocks – and space rocks – are his passion. He founded the Great Lakes Rocks and Minerals Face-

book group that has more than 360,000 members. He found his first meteorite along a river in Oklahoma in 2003 – a so-called

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FTC reveals shocking new record for fraud losses in 2025

The billions of dollars lost to fraud just keep piling up.

Crooks and con artists stole a record \$15.9 billion in 2025 in a variety of scams – up from \$12.5 billion in 2024, according to the latest data from the Federal Trade Commission.

The most money lost – \$7.9 billion or nearly half of the reported losses – involved some form of investment scams in 2025, according to the FTC.

Lois Greisman, associate director of the FTC's division of marketing practices, dropped those bombshells on Wednesday, March 25, in testimony before the U.S. Congressional Joint Economic Committee.

In her testimony, Greisman pointed out that reported fraud losses have risen nearly 430% since 2020.

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