

1096-F1-2650      **Steve Hilbert\*** ([hilbert@ithaca.edu](mailto:hilbert@ithaca.edu)), Department of Mathematics, Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY 14850. *Using March Madness in the First Linear Algebra Course*. Preliminary report.

I used the NCAA basketball tournament (March Madness) for a project in my linear algebra course. Using the Colley model gave a realistic reason for using matrix algebra to simplify manipulating relatively large matrices. The class built models for the Big East tournament from scratch and then used the UDEMY web site of Tim Chartier to make out their NCAA brackets. Using the tournament gave the class a problem with a non-negotiable deadline and feedback about how well their models performed. There were over 8 million entries in the ESPN game and students received bonus points for finishing in the top 50%,40%,30%,20%,10% and the best in the class. This topic also involved a non typical application of linear algebra that interested many students. (Received September 17, 2013)