

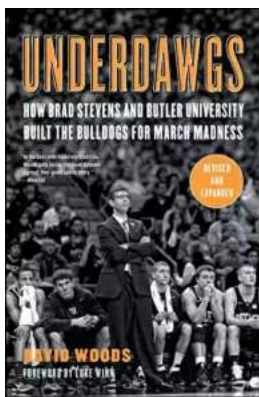
How Brad Stevens And The Butler Bulldogs Marched Their Way To The Brink Of

March Madness is a time of excitement, underdogs, and unforgettable moments. In 2010, the Butler Bulldogs, led by their young and brilliant head coach Brad Stevens, captured the national spotlight as they fought their way to the brink of a historic NCAA championship victory.

The Cinderella story that unfolded in the tournament that year gripped the nation and showcased the tenacity, determination, and strategic brilliance of both Stevens and his team. Let's dive into the journey that brought them to the edge of glory.

The Rise of Brad Stevens

Brad Stevens, a former standout basketball player himself, had already established his coaching prowess at a young age. When he was hired as the head coach of the Butler Bulldogs in 2007, few could have predicted the monumental impact he would have on the program.



Underdaws: How Brad Stevens and the Butler Bulldogs Marched Their Way to the Brink of College Basketball's National Championship

by David Woods (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 21199 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 322 pages



Stevens inherited a team with a solid foundation but lacked the resources and high-profile recruits of other powerhouse programs. However, he possessed a unique ability to see untapped potential and develop a cohesive unit that could go toe-to-toe with the best in the nation.

His calm demeanor and analytical approach to the game quickly earned him the respect of both players and fellow coaches. Stevens introduced an innovative style of basketball, emphasizing team-oriented play, disciplined defense, and meticulous attention to detail. These philosophies became the bedrock of Butler's success.

A Glimpse into Butler's Journey

The 2010 NCAA Tournament was a magical run for the Butler Bulldogs. From the first tip-off, they displayed a brand of basketball that captivated fans far and wide. Their journey was filled with nail-biting victories, stunning upsets, and countless clutch performances.

In the first round, Butler faced a challenging test against a talented squad. Despite the odds, they emerged victorious, setting the tone for what was to come. Throughout the tournament, they continued to defy expectations and topple higher-seeded teams.

Brad Stevens's ability to inspire his players and create effective game plans was on full display during their thrilling matchup against a formidable opponent in the Sweet 16. With seconds remaining, Butler was down by one point. The inbound pass found its way into the hands of a courageous Bulldog who sank a game-winning shot, propelling the team into the Elite Eight.

The Final Four matchup against a perennial powerhouse was an unforgettable clash. The Bulldogs battled relentlessly, proving that they belonged on the grandest stage of college basketball. Despite falling short in the championship game, their remarkable journey left an indelible mark on the sport.

The Brad Stevens Legacy

Brad Stevens's impact goes beyond the success Butler achieved during his tenure. His ability to lead, motivate, and develop players caught the attention of NBA franchises, leading to his eventual departure from the college ranks.

Stevens's passion for continuous improvement and his understanding of the game earned him the opportunity to coach the storied Boston Celtics in 2013. He quickly established himself as one of the brightest minds in the NBA, leading the Celtics to multiple playoff appearances and gaining the respect of players and colleagues alike.

Although his journey from Butler to the Celtics was an incredible leap, Stevens's principles and approach to the game remained unchanged. He continued to emphasize team-oriented play, disciplined defense, and meticulous attention to detail, earning him accolades as one of the league's premier coaches.

The Enduring Spirit of Butler

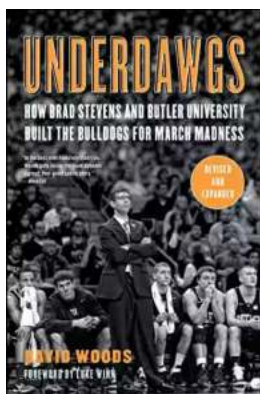
Butler's remarkable journey in 2010 was emblematic of the spirit and essence of March Madness. Their underdog status, unwavering determination, and unwavering belief in their capabilities captivated the hearts of fans across the country.

While the Bulldogs may not have claimed the ultimate prize, their tenacity in reaching the brink of glory serves as a reminder that basketball is not solely

measured by the number of championships won. The impact of their journey is etched into the annals of college basketball history.

Brad Stevens and the Butler Bulldogs showcased to the world that with heart, skill, and unwavering determination, even the most unlikely teams can challenge the status quo and leave an everlasting mark on the sport they love.

In the realm of March Madness, the Butler Bulldogs' march to the brink of glory under the guidance of Brad Stevens will forever be remembered as a tale of inspiration, resilience, and the enduring spirit of college basketball.



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Butler University in Indianapolis became the smallest school in 40 years to reach the NCAA championship game. Prior to the tournament, a statistician calculated the Bulldogs as a 200-to-1 shot to win. But as fascinating as what Butler accomplished was how they did it. Underdaws tells the incredible and uplifting story.

Butler's coach, 33-year-old Brad Stevens, looked so young he was often mistaken for one of the players, but he had quickly become one of the best coaches in the nation by employing the "Butler Way." This philosophy of basketball and life, adopted by former coach Barry Collier, is based on five principles: humility, passion, unity, servanthood, and thankfulness. Even the most casual observer could see this in every player, on the court and off, from NBA first-round draft pick Gordon Hayward to the last guy on the bench.

Butler was coming off a great 2009–10 regular season, but its longtime existence on the periphery of major college basketball fostered doubt as March Madness set in. But after two historic upsets, one of top-seeded Syracuse and another of second-seeded Kansas State, and making it to the Final Four, the Bulldogs came within the diameter of a shoelace of beating the perennial leaders of college basketball: the Duke Blue Devils. Much more than a sports story, Underdogs is the consummate David versus Goliath tale. Despite Duke's winning the championship, the Bulldogs proved they belonged in the game and, in the process, won the respect of people who were not even sports fans.



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