

# Blue Jay Corner

## Guessing Game

By Montana Martin

March Madness. Those two words could make a person crazy. Nowadays, it's nearly impossible to go through the month of March without hearing about the event. Some anticipate this three-week tournament all year, while others cringe at the thought of going back to work the day after a game and listening to their colleges complain about their now "ruined" brackets.

March Madness is arguably the most popular sports tournament in the United States. Its origin comes from an Illinois high school boys' basketball tournament first held in 1908. The annual tournament, sponsored by the Illinois High School Association, grew from a small invitational event to over 900 schools competing in the 1930s. The games were played in front of sold-out crowds at the Huff Gymnasium at the University of Illinois, where it was held up until 1962. "March Madness" was the term used to describe the excitement surrounding the Illinois state high school basketball tour-

naments, and was later adopted to describe the NCAA tournaments.

Despite how you feel about March Madness, chances are you or someone you know filled out a bracket. For many people, filling out the bracket is literally madness. Some believe it's all about statistics; others believe it's just one huge guessing game. But, have you ever thought about what your chances are of guessing the perfect bracket? Well, DePaul University mathematics professor Jeff Bergen did. He figured out that you have a one in 9,223,372,036,854,775,808 chance of filling out a perfect bracket. That number is in the quintillions. Even with additional knowledge of basketball and the history of the tournament, the odds of picking a perfect bracket would be approximately one in 128 billion.

The math behind it is really quite simple. There are 64 teams in the tournament. All you need to do to pick the perfect bracket is predict the winners of 63 games because

the winner never loses. According to Bergen, "It would be easier to win the Mega Millions lottery two times in a row buying one ticket both times than it would be to get a perfect bracket." The professor also stated, "Getting a perfect bracket is also the mathematical equivalent of picking the winning party of each presidential election through 2264." Another interesting comparison for sports fans is, "It would be more likely for the next 16 World Series to be won by the Chicago Cubs and Chicago White Sox than it would be to pick a perfect bracket by guessing."

With the month of March coming to an end, along with it ends March Madness... all the hopes and dreams of predicting the perfect bracket crushed and the realization that it really is all a guessing game. But on the bright side, there's always next year, of course.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/sports/college/ct-march-madness-probability-met-20150303-story.html>

# shelby bremer

Senior 2015



**Favorite Food:** Pumpkin Seeds

**Favorite Movie:** "Far Far Away"

**Favorite Class:** Multi Media

**Favorite thing to do:** "I like to run and drag race."

**Future Plans:** Go to Southeast and major in Computer Technology

**Favorite high school memory:** My sophomore year when I met Clay.

**Advice to Underclassmen:** "Don't do drugs and stay in school."

**Middle Name:** Isabelle

**By** *Kaleigh Farmer*

## Spring Word Search

By Jackie Bradley

FLOWERS  
BUTTERFLY  
GREEN  
APRIL  
RABBIT  
BEES  
SUNSHINE  
BLOSSOM  
EASTER  
TULIP

N D F D F W X U L V K P J J Z E A N Q F  
X Q K Y T E Y B J Q R X Y T C N M X D F  
K N D W Q M V S X R I Z W P N I A F K S  
P D W W E U B B U W N O T U N H V L K U  
X W M Q F A T R U T D Q T N F S T C B G  
Y Q E L G N S H F C P L A K T N E R I O  
F L O W E R S T J M T W R S R U U Z W G  
J U F F Z U T W E X A R A N Q S S B E M  
X K O R J R B Z E R F A B S H A H E O N  
D Q F T E C N C H L O L B F D H V N Z S  
I D D P U T L E C D C D I V B I T G C P  
B B Q Y A D T U E W I B T Y S D U P N U  
C E M P O Q A U L R D B I S T A N O M S  
J R R G V E B D B N G M K P T X Y M E V  
T I A F L J I F M G X Z B H S A O E L M  
L H W G G V B P S M K E I S U S B X Q S  
I W H G I J N Q J B M A K F S H B J N Y  
J S Y V V K S B T G X N G O D B W I Z W  
U N K P T M F H Q I Q L L X J E A Y H M  
I R P I L U T G M T G B N C A G D Q M Z

## PB&J Spirals

By Jade Lemmon

If you're looking for a simple, quick, and fun snack to make I have the perfect one for you. PB&J Spirals! They're easy to make and really delicious. They're perfect for a fun cooking activity to do with your kids or just with your friends. It's perfect for all ages. This recipe will make 8 PB&J spirals.

What you'll need:

A cookie sheet  
A knife  
1 jar of peanut butter  
1 jar of jelly  
Powdered sugar  
1 can of crescent rolls

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees
2. Get out the spirals and spread them out on the cookie sheet
3. Put peanut butter and jelly on the crescent rolls
4. Put them in the oven for 11-13 min.
5. Sprinkle the powdered sugar on them.