

top 100 of the NET (and 12 in the top 60 of the KenPom rankings). For the next two months, few losses will be terribly damaging on their own for anyone in the Big Ten. That's a helpful advantage, though going, say, 6-14 in league play is still not recommended. # Fair question. It's still early enough to experience some wild shifts from week to week, but just about everyone has delved into conference play and is roughly at the midpoint of the regular season. Some teams are harder to assess because of either poor nonconference schedules or early-season player absences that won't have such an outsize influence in a couple months. This a rough draft, with many more revisions still to come. Field notes # Last four in: Mississippi, Syracuse, Butler, Kansas State # First four on the outside: Clemson, Temple, Utah State, Saint Louis # Next four on the outside: Washington, San Francisco, Florida, Lipscomb # There's a decent case to be made for either Duke, Michigan or Virginia as the top overall seed. Also, it's more than two months from Selection Sunday, so now's not the time to make a big deal of that spot.... With Nevada taking its first loss of the season, it becomes one of the more curious teams to assess. The Wolf Pack scheduled well in aggregate (No. 34 nonconference), but pretty much all of those Pac-12 teams they played are letting them down.... # A Kentucky-Indiana game in the round of 32 would draw plenty of attention from fans of the NBA Draft.... It's a tough call at this point figuring out what