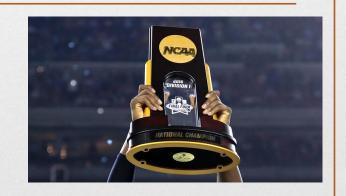
# 2020 NCAA Tournament Predictor



Ball is Life



#### Motivation

- The inspiration for this project comes from the unfortunate cancellation of the 2020 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Many die-hard college basketball fans lost the opportunity to watch their favorite team play in March Madness.
- This app aims to provide these fans with a predictive tool so they know how their team would've fared.



#### Data

- Scraped from <a href="https://barttorvik.com/trankpre.php">https://barttorvik.com/trankpre.php</a>
- Every D1 team's statistics in every season from 2008-2020.
  - Wins, Games
  - Offensive/Defensive
- Years 2008-2019 also have the variable:
  - Round to which the team made it in the tournament
- Feature Engineering had to be conducted

#### Model

- Gradient Boosted Classifier
  - Predictors: Team's season statistics
  - Response: Round to which the team made it in the tournament
- Success Criteria:
  - Cross-validation F1-score  $\geq = 0.7$
  - Number of teams predicted to reach each round in 2020 should closely match the actual format of the tournament

### Insight

- Offense Wins Championships
  - Out of seven pairs of corresponding offensive/defensive features, such as {Offensive Efficiency, Defensive Efficiency} or {Offensive Rebound %, Defensive Rebound %}, the feature importance metric was higher for the offensive feature 5 out of 7 times.

## Thank you!



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