

Puzzled Pool Picker

Dear Tim:

I have to say I'm a little disappointed the Buckeyes didn't get an invitation to the Big Dance, but I'm excited for March Madness nonetheless. I filled out my bracket for the first two rounds, but I always seem to stall after that. Got any tips for making smart picks as the games get bigger and the clock strikes twelve on the Cinderellas?

-Hoopaholic on Hilo

Dear Hoopaholic:

I tend to pick with my heart rather than my head, so take this with a grain of salt (which you'll find in aisle 2). Top seeds are top seeds for a reason. They tend to get through. And while you might feel like hitching your wagon to the feel-good story of the tournament, history shows they're not likely to make it through the second weekend. So my advice would be to do as I say and not as I do – which is actually good advice in general. And when you run



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out of drinks and snacks during the tournament, stop in and see us. Nobody can fill up the basket like Huffman's.

Dear Tim:

This winter seemed like it lasted forever. If the all the snow and the weather-related school closings weren't enough evidence, there was always my heating bill. Does this mean all that talk about climate change was a little premature?

-Thawing Out on Thornwood

Dear Thawing:

I don't think one winter is a reasonable yardstick for measuring global warming, but I'm with you – I'm glad it's over. I put down more salt this year than Frito-Lay. Which reminds me, if you're planning a celebratory spring picnic, pick up all the fixings here at Huffman's. From the deli to the snacks to our new bakery case in aisle 6, we've got you covered.

Dear Tim:

My stocks are taking a beating in this economy. Got any good tips for a loyal shopper?

-Investor on Inverness

Dear Investor:

Sure. Buy low, sell high. Of course, I may not be the best guy to ask. I followed the exact opposite philosophy in business. Which may explain why I'm not rich and retired. Of course, it may also explain why we have so many loyal customers like you.

Dear Tim is presented as a public service by Tim Huffman, owner of Huffman's Market. Write to him in care of Huffman's Market, 2140 Tremont Center, Upper Arlington, Ohio, 43221, stop by and say hi, or visit www.huffmansmarket.com.