

EXAMPLE OF A PSYCHOLOGY 100 PAPER

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) began its mens' and womens' basketball tournament last week. Participating in the tournament were 64 mens' teams and 64 womens' teams. They will compete over the next three weeks to determine the National Champion in basketball (Smith, 2000).

This paper will discuss psychological topics related to the NCAA Tournament. The first section of the paper will discuss the relationship between anxiety and performance, paying attention to research that discusses the "inverted U" (Yerkes, 1958) relationship between the two variables. The next section will discuss the existing research on choking in sports, especially examining how teams in professional sports perform in a final deciding game in a playoff series (c.f., Gould, 1985). Finally, the phenomenon of the "hot hand" will be discussed, with a focus mainly on Gilovich's (1990) discussion of the statistical probabilities of streak shooting.