

THURSDAY, MARCH 5TH, 2026

THURSDAY BLOG

At the Buzzer

BY BRYAN MARTINEZ

My favorite part of watching basketball isn't just when MY team wins. It's watching the "Buzzer Beaters," when a shot is made with no time left on the clock. There has to be a winner and a loser. You see these "Buzzer Beaters" more in March. The NCAA Tournament kicks off in just a few weeks, with many schools starting to play in their conference tournament games to have a chance to play in the "Big Dance."



Over the years, many fans have watched their team hit a "Buzzer Beater," sending their team to the next round of the tournament. Other fans have experienced the heartbreak of their team falling as the buzzer sounds, especially when an upset occurs. Unfortunately, I have experienced that heartbreak.

Back in 2022, MY team (Kentucky Wildcats) were a number 2 seed in the NCAA tournament. Man, that was a great team. They were loaded with talent. They were led by Oscar Tshiebwe, arguably one of the bets to ever put on a Kentucky jersey. They were matched up with the number 15 seed Saint Peter's Peacocks. I was so confident in my team. I even bought tickets to go watch the game live in Indianapolis, IN with one of my college buddies. It was a late game, starting at 9:00. But I didn't care. I had so much faith in my team.

This Saint Peter's team was scrappy. They had Kentucky outwitted on nearly every possession. They went shot-for-shot with Kentucky pretty much the whole game. Kentucky would go on to lose in overtime. I can't begin to describe the heartbreak I experienced. The 3.5 hour drive home was miserable. I drove the entire way home with no music, just trying to process what I had just witnessed.

In basketball, the buzzer only sounds when the clock hits zero. Until then, the game is still being played. A team can dominate for 39 minutes and still lose on a last-second shot. When a buzzer-beater goes in, the losing team often walks off the court stunned. They replay the moment over and over in their minds—What could we have done differently? But sometimes the truth is simple: the game just didn't go the way they hoped.

Life can leave us asking similar questions. "Why did this happen? Why now? Why me?" We think we're winning—things are going well, the momentum is on our side—then suddenly the unexpected happens. A diagnosis. A phone call. A loss. Something happens that we never saw coming.

But here's the good news: when it comes to God's story, the final buzzer hasn't sounded yet. What looks like the end of the game to us may only be another possession in God's plan. The setbacks, the heartbreak, and even the shocking moments don't get the last word. God does.

"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." — 1 Corinthians 15:57

The beauty of the Christian faith is that the ultimate game has already been won. Faith reminds us that we're not just players trying to figure things out on our own. We have a Coach who sees the entire court, every angle, every moment of the game. Even when we don't understand the play that's been called, we can trust the One who is calling it. And the promise of Scripture is clear: God is working even in the moments that feel like losses.

Life will have its buzzer-beaters. Moments that leave us stunned, confused, and wondering how everything changed so quickly. But the good news of the Gospel is that those moments don't determine the final score. God is still working, even when we can't see it. We can trust Him when we don't understand, and we can live with hope because the ultimate victory has already been secured through Jesus. So when life hits you with a buzzer-beater, remember this—the game isn't over, and God still holds the final outcome.