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your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Duke, North Carolina, Kansas, and Villanova are some of the names that come to mind when basketball fans think of the best teams in college basketball, know the meaning of blue bloodsThis years NCAA Tournament featured
the best of the game, with unexpected upsets and underdogs completing dramatic finishes. However, when the dust settled, the Final Four was composed of the sports Blue Bloods, whereas most years have a more diverse mix of competitors. Although the
term Blue Blood is often thrown around in commentary about college basketball, many fans have no idea where the word comes from or how it came to be. This article will explain the origins of the term Blue Bloods first appeared in an article in
the Times Union of Brooklyn, New York, on January 3, 1927. The articles subtitle read, Centrals Made Up of Basketball Blue Bloods and discussed the games talented players, not specific schools or teams. Over the years, the term was
commonly used, there never seemed to be an agreed-upon definition for what it meant. Some commentators made lists of who they considered Blue Bloods, creating rankings for their readers. In the mid-1950s, newspapers began to use the term to reference top-ranked teams like Kentucky and Indiana. Still, there were no clear criteria for what made
one team a Blue Blood while others werent. The term remained a general way to talk about teams performing well on the court and nothing more. It wouldn't be until much later on that the term Blue BloodsIf you watch college basketball, youve
probably heard specific teams referred to as Blue Bloods. Sports commentators and analysts frequently used the term throughout this year was no different. The uniqueness of a Blue Bloods Final Four added to the
excitement, with basketball enthusiasts checking the latest college basketball picks to see where their favorite teams stood. Theres considerable debate among basketball fans about what makes a team a Blue Blood. Many commentators argue there are only six Blue Bloods: UCLA, Kansas, Duke, Indiana, UNC, and Kentucky. They say that a teams
recent successes dont qualify them for Blue Bloods, the Villanova Wildcats are often added to the list of Blue Bloods from teams outside of the exclusive club. Many
would say tradition, consistency, and resources confer Blue Blood status. Thus, no matter how well some teams play, they wont ever be considered Blue Blood. While many players from Blue Blood teams find success in the NBA, many
players outside of the exclusive club do too. Who Are the New Bloods? Being considered one of the New Bloods is also an elite status for college basketball teams. The New Bloods dont have as much history as their Blue Blood counterparts, but they have proven themselves worthy of respect. Virginia, Gonzaga, Villanova, and Michigan are the four
teams most commonly given New Blood Status, and coincidentally all four teams have blue in their uniforms. These teams have blue in their uniforms. These teams have all amassed impressive wins over the past eight years. The Virginia Cavaliers won the National Championship in 2019, Gonzaga has dominated the West Coast Conference for years, and Villanova and Michigan have both won
the National Championship twice over the past eight years. Also Read:WTA Porsche Tennis Grand Prix All-Time Winners List, Results, Score And 2022 Prize Money PoolYou could feel the weight of them, assembled together, displayed horizontally on the same banner that was hung on the outside of the Caesars Superdome in New Orleans for the 2022
NCAA Men's Final Four the logos of Duke and North Carolina, Villanova and Kansas. They're four of the eight schools that have three or more men's basketball national championships, with 17 titles between them. When their teams arrived in New Orleans, they were guaranteed to add an 18th to their collective total. Call them the Final Four, the
Fantastic Four or any other adjective that leads with "f" fabled, fabulous, familiar, famous, etc. Or, as many observers have done, you can opt for another alliterative phrase: blue blood. The phrase's definition one that generally relates to prominence and history and its exact parameters are hotly debated in some corners of the Internet, and surely in
and around the Superdome in early April 2022. Has Villanova become a blue blood, after winning two championships in three seasons in 2016 and 2018, and then making a third Final Four appearance in a six-tournament stretch? In 2022, has Indiana by now lost its blue blood status, as it's two decades removed from its last Final Four appearance,
three decades separated from its second-most recent run to the national semifinals and 35 years away from its last championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five of Duke's national championship? What does it mean that all five 
seasons? These are the questions that are so often asked. We're here to help provide answers. When was 'blue bloods' first used in a basketball context? The oldest example I could find in newspapers.com's database was from Jan. 3, 1927, when the Times Union of Brooklyn, New York, featured a sub-headline that read, "Centrals Made Up of
Basketball Blue Bloods," in reference to specific, talented players, rather than teams. This usage of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early and mid-1900s. Another early example of the phrase came from the March 9, 1942, edition of The Indianapolis News. The Indianapolis News. The Indianapolis News wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't uncommon in the early example of the phrase wasn't unco
the story read, "The enchanted basketball Empire of Ihsaa (Indiana High School Athletic Association) having been reduced to the Sweet Sixteen, dress rehearsals for Act III of the play called 'Championship' began today." Seven-hundred and sixty-nine teams were in the tournament field when it started, as every division was represented. Just like
today, the definition of 'blue blood' was fuzzy The oldest reference I found that was specific to college basketball blue-blood list," and this wasn't the only decades-old newspaper story I found that equated a
blue-blood status to simply being ranked. The Charlotte News detailed how Dunkel had recently dropped Duke to the No. 16 team in the South, its worst position of the season, after it had lost to Maryland in its most recent game. However, the day after Dunkel released that version of his ratings, the Blue Devils defeated a team called Wright Field.
which was No. 1 in Dunkel's rating system with a rating of 81.9, although it was not a college team. Oklahoma A&M was the No. 1 college team. Oklahoma to The Charlotte News contextualizing blue bloods as programs that were included in national rankings, in February 1953, the
Associated Press reported how Murray State simply called "Murray" by the AP had climbed to No. 17 in the AP poll. "Murray, a new member of the hoop sport tonight to test its survival as a ranking giant," the AP reported. The AP poll only featured 20 teams then, rather
than the current number of 25, and the 20 schools were broken down into the top 10 and the second 10. Eleven of the 20 schools received at least one first-place vote, which could reflect several factors, such as the lack of widespread information and ability to follow teams from throughout the country, or even the lack of groupthink that could exist
today among AP voters. In a December 1951 edition of The Cincinnati Enquirer, Bill Ford previewed an upcoming matchup between Xavier and Ball State, writing, "The Muskies have trimmed Hanover, Chase and John Carroll at home, to account for their three victories in seven starts. Losses were dished out by Eastern Kentucky, Indiana, Kentucky
and Western Kentucky, all of whom are numbered in college basketball's 'blue blood' directory," Shows another example of blue blood being used in reference to ranked teams. At the time of the Enquirer's story, Kentucky was ranked No. 2, Indiana was No. 6 and Western Kentucky was No. 16, according to
College Poll Archive. Eastern Kentucky appeared in the first AP poll of that season. However, the three descriptions of blue bloods shown above were much, much more general than today's application, which is typically reserved for no more than a half-dozen schools, depending on who you ask. In the 2021-22 men's basketball season, 46 schools were
ranked in the AP Top 25 poll at some point in the season, so if we applied this old, casual use of "blue blood. Maybe Colorado State, ranked for roughly a third of the season, is a blue blood. Of course, this extra-inclusive definition of blue blood isn't used today.
No, you the reader are here for hard and fast answers, and maybe a quick history lesson, too. Let's take stock of who has been considered a blue blood through the years There's no ancient stone at least none that we know of that's buried on the side of a mountain and that lists each blue blood by name, answering these questions for once and for all.
But read through the sport's history and familiar names show up time and time again in association with the label. Kentucky In 1981, The El Paso Times' Vince Langford referred to Kentucky "the ultimate college
basketball blue blood" in 1998, a year in which The Baltimore Sun's Paul McMullen said of the Wildcats, "this is the bluest of college basketball bluebloods." The same year, the AP reported that former Purdue-to-Kentucky transfer Kyle
Macy "willingly traded in his Indiana basketball blue blood for a transfusion of Kentucky, with eight championships won in five different decades under five decades und
blue-blood qualities. Villanova The Big East appeared to potentially receive a blanket blue-blood label from the Fort Worth Star-Telegram's David Moore in March 1983, when No. 1 seed Houston defeated No. 3 seed and Big East regular-season co-champion Villanova by 18 points in the Elite Eight. "By now, people might be wondering if the East is as
strong as many basketball bluebloods would like for people to believe," he wrote, later referencing the "Big Beast" nickname for the Big East. It took two more years for Villanova to win its first as a true Cinderella, a No. 8 seed in the 1985 NCAA Tournament, and its other two coming
in the last five NCAA tournaments Villanova offers perhaps that most intriguing blue-blood case. Duke Perhaps surprisingly, Duke was considered a blue blood by some before the program won its first national championship in 1991. In November 1990, The News and Observer's Chip Alexander wrote, "Duke...is one of college basketball's blue bloods."
At the time, the Blue Devils were coming off of a third consecutive Final Four run as a No. 7 seed in 1984 earned the Cavaliers the
Cinderella label, as they won four NCAA tournament games by a combined 13 points, including wins over No. 2 seed Arkansas, No. 3 seed Syracuse and finally, No. 4 seed Indiana Hoosiers," wrote The News and Observer's Mickey
McCarthy. Indiana had relatively recently won its third national championship, in 1981. When Indiana met Kansas was the third-winningest program at the time, one spot ahead of Indiana. North Carolina When the Hoosiers and North Carolina Tar Heels
met in the NIT in 1988, The News and Observer reported, "(Dean) Smith and (Bob) Knight in a preliminary? That's like sticking Gable and Hepburn in a 'B' movie. But that's the way it will have to be tonight as UNC and IU, two of college basketball's real blue bloods go head-to-head for the first time since 1984." When North Carolina only had three
national championships, back in 1998, the Anderson Independent-Mail's Randy Beard wrote, "that leaves us with two bona fide NCAA championship-caliber teams, complete with snazzy nicknames, ready to rock the Alamodome in San Antonio this evening. There's Kentucky. There's North Carolina. Both have plenty of Final Four history. Both the
Wildcats and the Tar Heels are also rather partial to the color blue, seeing as how the two proven powers are among this nation's basketball blue bloods." Of course, UCLA, with its record 11 national championships, and Kansas, with three championships and six runner-up finishes, also fit into this class, although there weren't as many explicit blue.
blood references in the newspaper archives I examined. Who else? Today's debates about who is and isn't a men's basketball blue blood stumbling to NCAA tourney" that was written by Gannett News Service's Mike Lopresti, who now writes for NCAA.com, Lopresti
wrote, "We interrupt the musings about bubbles and brackets to mention how uncertain life has been lately for many of the bluebloods of college basketball. What kind of season is it, when the newest top 25 coaches' rankings carry no Indiana, Kentucky, Arizona, Louisville or Michigan State...but three of the top six are Memphis, Gonzaga and George
Washington?" So, does Arizona's lonely 1997 national championship and Michigan State's pair of prizes mean one or both of the schools is worthy of an invite to the exclusive club? Arizona is 15th in all-time winning percentage among current DI programs. Michigan State is 45th. Like Arizona, Wisconsin has one national championship back in 1941,
remember that? and when the Badgers were in the midst of their national runner-up finish in 2015, The Post-Crescent's Tom Oates wrote that "despite its hugely successful run under coach Bo Ryan, UW hasn't been one of college basketball's blue bloods since early in the century." suggesting both that one national title could be enough
to merit blue-blood consideration and that a school can theoretically lose its blue-blood status over time. But no one's in charge, of course, so there are no cut-and-dried rules. The Lexington Herald-Leader's Jerry Tipton, a longtime Kentucky, UCLA,
Michigan State, Florida ... Basketball blue bloods representing more than 20 national championships are playing in this pod of the NCAA Tournament this week." Florida's first national title came in 2006. Sure, another one came a year later, but how do Florida's two championships weigh against Oklahoma State's two from 1945 and 1946, or San
Francisco's two from 1955 and 1956? That's up to the authors of history to decide and history suggests that the notion of blue-blood programs in men's basketball has gained popularity this century, as a way to elevate the have-nots or to stoke sports-related debate. Below is a graph of the search results for the phrase "basketball blue
blood" in newspapers.com's database, showing how rarely the phrase was ever published in newspapers prior to the first national championships won by Duke (1991), Arizona (1997), UConn (1999) or Florida (2006). While the definition and membership list of men's basketball's blue bloods are in flux, depending on who you ask and when you ask
them, whichever 2022 NCAA Men's Final Four participant adds a fourth, sixth or seventh national championship to its trophy case, it'll certainly renew its membership application to the sport's club of blue bloods, thanks to a shiny, new trophy. That, we can all agree upon. College basketball fans know that some schools have blue blood status. This
means that these schools have a history of dominating the sport and winning championships. But what makes a program blue blood? And which schools fit this description? In this blog post, well take a look at what blue blood? And which schools fit this description? In this blog post, well take a look at what blue blood? And which schools fit this description? In this blog post, well take a look at what blue blood? And which schools fit this description? In this blog post, well take a look at what blue blood? And which schools fit this description? In this blog post, well take a look at what blue blood? And which schools fit this description? In this blog post, well take a look at what blue blood? And which schools fit this description? In this blog post, well take a look at what blue blood? And which schools fit this description? In this blog post, well take a look at what blue blood? And which schools fit this description? In this blog post, well take a look at what blue blood? And which schools fit this description? In this blog post, well take a look at what blue blood? And which schools fit this description? In this blog post, well take a look at what blue blood? And which schools fit this description? In this blog post, well take a look at what blue blood? And which schools fit this description?
term blue blood is used to describe a team with a long history of success. These are typically teams that have won multiple national championships, and they usually have a large number of fans. Some of the most well-known blue blood in college basketball include the Duke Blue Devils, the Kentucky Wildcats, and the North Carolina Tar Heels. While
there are many factors that contribute to a teams success, blue blood typically has a few things in common. They tend to have strong recruiting classes, talented coaches, and passionate fans. As a result, they are usually one of the top teams in the country year after year. blue blood is a team that is consistently one of the strongest and most
successful teams in the sport. The term is most often used to describe college basketball teams, but can also be applied to professional teams. The term blue blood generally implies that a team has a long history of success, and is often used to describe dynasties or teams with a tradition of winning. Some of the most storied blue blood in college
basketball includes Duke, Kentucky, Kansas, and North Carolina. These programs have won numerous championships and produced countless NBA stars. While there are many blue blood programs in basketball, the term is also used to describe teams that have sudden success or are considered up-and-coming. For example, the basketball program at
Gonzaga University has been considered blue blood in recent years due to its consistent success on the court. Similarly, the University of Virginia won the mens NCAA tournament in 2019 and could be considered a blue blood program as they look to build on their success in future seasons. When it comes to college basketball, some schools are
considered blue blood. These are programs with a long tradition of success on the court, and they often attract the top high school players in the country. Blue blood typically has large budgets and can offer its players better facilities and coaching. They also tend to be located in major media markets, which gives them more exposure. As a result, blue
have distinct advantages that often lead to sustained success. For generations, college basketball has been dominated by so-called blue blood programs. These are the schools with the richest tradition and most successful on the court, and they often come from wealthy, ivy-league backgrounds. In recent years, however, there has been a shift in the
landscape of college basketball. While blue blood like Duke and Kentucky still dominate the sport, schools from more diverse backgrounds are proving that college basketball is for everyone. As the sport continues to evolve, it will be interesting to
see how the blue blood fare against their up-and-coming rivals. The term blue blood is most commonly used in relation to college basketball. It refers to a school that has a long tradition of success and carries five or more national championships. The term was first used by writer Arthur Daley in a New York Times article in January of 1949. In the
article, Daley was referring to the four teams that had won the National Invitation Tournament (NIT) at least three times: NYU, Kentucky, CCNY, and Illinois. He wrote that these four teams that had sustained success over a
long period of time. Today, there are dozens of blue blood programs in college basketball, including Duke, UCLA, Indiana, and North Carolina. In college basketball, there are a handful of programs that are considered blue blood. These are the schools that have a long history of success on the court, and they typically have some of the most passionate
March Madness. As a result, they always attract a lot of attention from both fans and bettors alike. the term blue blood is used to describe a team that has a long history of success. These are typically teams that have won multiple national championships and produced a large number of NBA players. Some of the most well-known blue blood in college
basketball include the Duke Blue Devils, Kentucky Wildcats, and North Carolina Tar Heels. While these teams are all renowned for their success, there are a few other factors that contribute to their status as blue blood. these teams typically have large budgets and can attract the best recruits they tend to have a large fanbase and generate a lot of
media attention.they usually have a tradition of success that stretched back for decades. For all these reasons, the term blue blood is used to describe the elite teams in college basketball. blue blood tends to be the most dominant team in the sport. They regularly contend for conference championships and NCAA tournament berths, and they
frequently produce NBA-caliber talent. In short, blue blood always seems to be in the mix for the ultimate prize: a national championship. There are several advantages that come with being blue blood often has an easier time recruiting top prospects. they tend to
have more experienced and successful coaches. All of these factors give blue blood a significant edge over its competition. Consequently, its no surprise that nine of the last ten national champions have been blue blood. If you want to win a national championship in college basketball, its best to be blue blood. While there are some advantages to being
a blue blood program, there are also some significant disadvantages. One of the biggest disadvantages is that blue blood programs are under constant scrutiny and are often subject to rules violations. As a result, blue blood programs can often find themselves on probation, which
can severely damage their reputation and hinder their ability to compete for championships. In addition, blue blood programs often have high expectations from their fans and alumni. This can put immense pressure on the coaching staff and players, which can lead to intense media scrutiny and internal conflict. While being a blue blood program has
Kentucky Wildcats, and North Carolina Tar Heels. While these teams are all renowned for their success, there are a few other factors that contribute to their status as blue blood. These teams typically have large budgets and can attract the best recruits. They also tend to have a tradition of success that stretched back for decades. The term blue blood
is used to describe a school that has a tradition of success in college basketball. These schools are typically powerhouse programs that have a history of winning championships and sending players to the NBA. Some of the most well-known blue blood in college basketball includes Duke, Kentucky, North Carolina, and UCLA. These schools have been
addition to the schools mentioned above, some other well-known blue bloods include Indiana, Michigan State, and Louisville. These programs have also been among the most successful in college basketball history. Share copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt remix, transform, and builded.
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elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Blue Blood is a
term used in college basketball to describe teams with a long and illustrious history of success. These teams have dominated the sport for decades. They consistently compete for championships and produce some of the most legendary players in the games history. The NCAA does not officially recognize the term, but it has become a popular way for
fans, analysts, and players to refer to the sports most storied teams. This article will explore the concept of Blue Blood. Lastly, we will explain which teams have earned this distinction and why it is important to the sport. Lets ride on. Blue blood in college basketball.
refers to a team with a long-standing tradition of success and dominance. These teams have a rich history of winning championships and producing All-American players. They also make it consistently to the NCAA tournament year after year. Some examples of blue-blood teams include Duke, North Carolina, Kentucky, Kansas, and UCLA. Check Out: 15
Best College Basketball Podcasts | 2026 Ranking The term blue blood has its origins in European royalty. They used the phrase to describe the nobility of Europe, who were believed to have pale skin that made their veins more visible, giving them a bluish tint. They often see this visible vein as a symbol of their status and purity. The idea that the blood
of the nobility was somehow different or purer than commoners dates back to medieval times. According to this belief, noble families had been intermarrying for so long that their blood had become distinct from the lower classes. Over time, the term blue blood came to be associated with other characteristics of the nobility, such as their elegance,
refinement, and sophistication. It was used to set them apart from the rest of society and to reinforce their privileged status. In the United States, blue blood was first applied to college athletics in the 1980s. They used it to describe the top teams with long histories of success in college basketball. These teams were highly respected and recognized for
their achievements, including winning championships, producing All-American players, and consistently making it to the NCAA tournament year after year. While the term blue blood may seem like an odd choice for college athletics, it is not entirely out of place. Just as the nobility in Europe was believed to have a distinct and pure bloodline, these top
college basketball teams were seen as having a unique and superior talent pool, thanks to their coaching staff. See Also: Top 15 Best College Basketball Teams Ever | 2026 Ranking To be considered a blue blood in college basketball, a team must meet no specific criteria. See also Kaduna State University
Post UTME Past QuestionHowever, several factors are generally considered when determining a teams status. One of the most important factors is an overall win-loss record. A blue-blood team must have a high winning percentage throughout history, indicating consistent success. NCAA tournament success is another key factor. Blue blood teams are
expected to make regular appearances in the NCAA tournament and to perform well once they get there. Winning a championship is a major accomplishment for any team, and blue-blood teams are expected to have won multiple national titles throughout history. Conference championships are also important. Winning the regular season or conference
tournament shows consistent dominance over other teams in the same conference. Blue blood teams should have a high number of conference championships. Producing All-American players in college basketball, and a team that
consistently produces them is seen as having a superior talent pool. In addition, a blue-blood team should have a rich history and tradition of success. This includes a dedicated fan base, a recognizable brand, and a strong coaching staff that can recruit and develop top talent. Its important to note that being a blue blood does not guarantee success.
every year. Even the best teams can have down years or experience periods of decline. Check Out:15 Best College Athletic Teams | 2026 Ranking The term blue blood is not an official designation, so the number of teams considered blue bloods can vary depending on who you ask. However, there are generally five teams that consistently meet the
criteria for blue blood status. These five teams are the University of Kentucky, the U
players. They also have passionate fan bases and recognizable brands that are popular in college basketball. While these five teams are generally considered for the designation based on their histories of success. For example, Indiana University, the University of Louisville, and
apart as some of the most successful and iconic teams in college basketball history. See Also:15 Best College basketball Locker Rooms | 2026 Ranking While blue blood status is not an official designation, it is generally considered a mark of consistent success and prestige in college basketball. But can a team lose its blue blood status? The answer is
yes. Just as a team can earn blue blood status through sustained success, they can also lose it if their performance declines significantly over time. For example, the University of Indiana has once considered a blue-blood team due to its success under legendary coach Bob Knight, which included three national championships. However, the team has
struggled recently, failing to make the NCAA tournament since 2026. As a result, some fans and analysts no longer considered a blue-blood team thanks to its dominance under coach Jim Calhoun, which included four national championships. However, the team
has struggled recently, failing to make the NCAA tournament in four of the past six seasons. As a result, some fans and analysts have questioned whether they still deserve blue blood status is subjective and can depend on various factors, including a teams historical success, current performance, and overall brand recognition. While
a team can lose its blue blood status, it is important to note that sustained success is still the best way to earn and maintain this prestigious designation in college basketball, it is important to note that sustained success is still the best way to earn and maintain this prestigious designation in college basketball, it is important to note that sustained success is still the best way to earn and maintain this prestigious designation in college basketball, it is important to note that sustained success is still the best way to earn and maintain this prestigious designation in college basketball.
teams have experienced mediocrity or even extended periods of struggle. For example, the University of Kentucky, widely considered a blue-blood team, went through a stretch in the late 1980s and early 1990s, failing to make the NCAA tournament in three out of four seasons. Similarly, the University of North Carolina, another blue-blood team, has
experienced periods of struggle in recent years. In the 2026-20 season, the team finished with a losing record for the first time in over a decade and failed to make the NCAA tournament. However, it is important to note that even during these periods of struggle, blue-blood teams often have the resources and fan support necessary to rebuild quickly
and return to a position of dominance. This is partly due to the brand recognition and national appeal of being a blue-blood team. In short, while blue-blood teams are generally associated with dominance and success, they are not immune to periods of struggle or mediocrity. However, their status as blue bloods can help them rebound quickly and
return to a position of prominence in college basketball. Check Out:15 Best Current College Basketball is more than just a title or a recognition of past success. It holds great significance in the sport and carries a certain prestige that can impact a teams current and future success. Firstly, being
a Blue Blood means having a rich history of success in college basketball. These teams have won multiple national championships and conference titles and consistently appeared in the NCAA tournament. This type of success attracts talented high school players who want to be a part of a winning tradition and have the opportunity to play for a
prestigious team. Secondly, Blue Blood teams often have large fan bases and alumni support. These teams have loyal fans who follow them closely and are willing to travel long distances to watch them play. This level of support can lead to
financial backing for the team, which can help fund new facilities and equipment, recruit top talent, and improve the teams overall quality. Being a Blue Blood can attract top high school players seeking to play for a successful team with a storied history. These players may see
playing for a Blue Blood team as a stepping stone to playing professionally in the NBA.Lastly, being a Blue Blood can also impact a teams perception in the eyes of the NCAA selection committee. See Also: 15 Best College Basketball Team Of All Time | 2026 RankingWhat are Some Notable Moments in College Basketball History Involving Blue Bloods?
There have been many notable moments in college basketball history involving Blue Bloods. One such moment is the 1966 NCAA Championship game, also known as the Game of Change, where Texas Western, a team with all-black starters, defeated the University of Kentucky, a traditional Blue Blood. See also 30 Best Apps For College
StudentsAnother notable moment is the 1979 NCAA Championship game, where Magic Johnson led Michigan State to victory over Larry Bird and Indiana State, two other prominent college basketball teams. The annual Duke vs. North Carolina rivalry game has become a marquee matchup that often determines conference standings and tournamen
seedings in recent years. These are just a few examples of the many notable moments involving Blue Bloods in college basketball history. Check Out: 15 Best College Basketball Rivalries | 2026 Ranking Blue Bloods significantly impact recruiting and player development in college basketball. We see these teams as the most prestigious and successful;
players often aspire to play for them. As a result, Blue Bloods has an advantage in recruiting top talent, and they often attract the best in the country. Additionally, Blue Blood teams are often viewed as some of the best in the
business, and players who play for them are well-prepared for the rigors of the NBA. This reputation for player development can be a selling point for recruiting, as players often look for teams that can help them improve their skills and get them to the next level. Blue Bloods also have access to more resources than most other teams. They typically
have larger budgets, better facilities, and more exposure through media coverage and television contracts. All these factors can make a Blue Blood team more attractive to top players, and they can also help with player development by providing players with the resources and support they need to succeed. See Also: Top 15 Best Guards in College
Basketball | 2026 Ranking While Blue Bloods are a unique concept in college basketball, other sports have their version of legendary teams. The Alabama Crimson Tide, Notre Dame Fighting Irish, Ohio State Buckeyes, and USC Trojans are dominant in college
baseball. The concept of a storied team with a rich history and winning tradition is not exclusive to college basketball has faced some criticisms. One of the main criticisms is not exclusive to college basketball. Teams of the 90s2026 Ranking. The Blue Blood outside of this sport. Check Out: Top 15 Best College basketball has faced some criticisms is not exclusive to college basketball.
that it creates an unfair advantage for certain teams regarding recruiting and funding. This can lead to a lack of competitiveness and a predictable game outcome. Critics also argue that it perpetuates a winning is everything mentality, where a teams success is solely based on past achievements rather than current performance. Additionally, the
concept needs to pay more attention to the contributions of smaller schools and lesser-known teams are historically white institutions. See Also:Top 15co
Best Point Guards in College Basketball? A Blue Blood in college basketball? A Blue Blood is a term used to describe college basketball? There are generally five Blue Blood teams in college
basketball: Duke, Kentucky, Kansas, North Carolina, and UCLA.Can a team lose its Blue Blood status? Yes, a team can lose its Blue Blood status if they go through a prolonged period of poor performance. Understanding what a blue blood is in college basketball is important for any fan or follower of the sport. It helps to contextualize the history and
success of certain teams and provides insight into the level of respect and prestige that these teams carry. While the list of blue-blood teams may shift over time, the tradition and legacy of these teams will always be an integral part of the college basketball landscape. #Blue #Blood #College #Basketball #Full #Explanation TeamsCBS SportsCBS
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247Sports makes no representation or warranty as to the accuracy of the information given or the outcome of any game or event. There is no gambling offered on this site. 26 MAR 1973: UCLAs coach John Wooden shakes hands with Bill
Walton after winning the NCAA National Basketball Championship game by defeating Memphis State 87-66 in St. Louis Arena. Walton received the Most Outstanding Player award with 30 rebounds and 58 points for the tournament. Rich Clarkson/NCAA Photos via Getty ImagesWhat defines a blue blood in college basketball? FanSided
ranks the 20 college basketball blue bloods based on their legacy and all-time performance. College athletics is often a case of the have-nots, specifically the programs playing in the so-called power conferences and those who fight for relevance in mid or low major leagues. There is even further stratification at the top of the sport, as
some programs have established traditions of excellence that put them at the top of the mountain. This is where the idea of blue bloods comes in, but who exactly qualify, but what of programs like Michigan State and Syracuse, who have been excellent at
times but not quite to the level of a UCLA or Kentucky? The blue blood question also applies to some of the more modern programs that have begun to win at high rates, like Villanova and Florida. Both schools have a pair of national championships and are regulars at the NCAA Tournament, but does that earn them a place at the blue blood table? With
that in mind, FanSided has sat down and taken a stab at the 20 bluest blue bloods in college basketball today. Going from 347 programs down to the 20 best certainly was a challenge, and it will absolutely lead to some debate. Lets start our countdown with modern blue bloods. Going from 347 programs down to the 20 bluest blue bloods are the programs that have been
so good for so long it becomes a story any time that one of the misnt a legit contender. College basketballs blue blood programs are, quite simply, the cream of the crop. The best of the best. The teams who love em or hate em you can't possibly escape if you watch even the smallest bit of regular-season college hoops, because they are so rooted in the
sports foundation. Heck, when one of the blue blood teams stinks, we often end up talking about them even more than in the normal years when theyre a threat to win it all. But why are they called blue bloods? And why are we constantly arguing over who does and does not belong in that exclusive club? Well offer our version of a definition to the term
before weaving through a definitive list of the seven blue blood programs in mens college basketball. What Is a Blue Blood in College Basketball? The term blue blood has been a part of basketball origin of the blue blood terminology, finding
newspaper references to it as far back as 1927. (For reference, the first installment of March Madness wouldnt come until 12 years later in 1939.) While there are also non-basketball origins of the term (more on that later), its equally noteworthy and annoying that there never has been a proper definition for it in the hardwood context. The moniker of
"blue blood" was originally used in reference to elite college basketball players, perhaps in a manner similar to how we talk about clutch shooters being cold-blooded or having ice in their veins. In the 1950s, blue bloods became synonymous with teams that were ranked in the Associated Press (AP) poll. It wasnt until the late 1990s and early 2000s that
arguments over who deserves to be regarded as a blue blood program became the annual tradition that it is today. It's important to point out that blue blood status is no longer a reflection of whos the best right now. In fact, two of the schools that are pretty much unanimously agreed upon as blue bloods have yet to win a national championship in a
year beginning with a 2.Rather, college basketballs blue bloods are the best of the best from an all-time perspective; the programs with a stockpile of national championships who simply must be mentioned in any oral history of the sport, because they were inescapable for at least a few decades. Like the New York Yankees in MLB, the Boston Celtics
and Los Angeles Lakers in the NBA or the Dallas Cowboys, New England Patriots, Pittsburgh Steelers and San Francisco 49ers in the NFL, the blue bloods are the flagship programs who always seem to matter, even when they arent serious contenders to win it all. The 7 Blue Blood College Basketball Programs While there is no official definition of a
blue blood, its no coincidence that the seven mens college basketball programs with at least four national championships are the seven generally regarded as the sports blue bloods. Here are those seven programs, listed in :1. Kentucky Wildcats (UK)All-Time Record (entering 2024-25): 2,400-759Conference Championships: 52 regular-season crowns,
33 conference tournament titlesNCAA Tournament titlesNCAA Tournament Appearances: 62Final Fours: 17National Championships, Kentucky is typically considered the bluest of the blue bloods. In the history of the AP poll, there have only been two seasons (1988-89 and
1989-90 when Kentucky was on NCAA probation) in which the Wildcats were not ranked for at least one week. Kentucky been ranked in the final AP poll of 55 seasons, which is the most all-time winning percentage
among programs that have played at least 500 games. Kentucky also ranks top three in total wins, regular-season titles, Final Fours and national championships. The Wildcats had never gone more than four consecutive years between trips
to the Sweet 16 which they have reached 49 times. Save for the ill-fated transition from Tubby Smith to Billy Gillespie in the late 2000s, you could take a trip in a time machine to any point in the past century of mens college basketball and find that Kentucky was either great that year, great the previous year or about to be great the following year. 2.
Duke Blue DevilsAll-Time Record (entering 2024-25): 2,300-929Conference Championships: 5 (1991, 1992, 2001, 2015)Duke didnt win its first title until 1991, but theres no question it was a relevant program
long before that. While UConn had to wait until January 1990 for its first week ranked in the top 17 of an AP poll, Duke by then had already been to eight Final Fours including the 1964 NCAA tournament, when they
annihilated Connecticut in the Elite Eight. But it was under Mike Krzyzewski that Duke leveled up from often relevant to annually dominant. From 1984-2019, not only did the Blue Devils compete in all but one of 36 NCAA tournaments, but they were a top three seed in 31 of them, including 14 years as a No. 1 seed. It got to the point where any year
that Duke didnt survive at least to the Sweet 16 was a shocker, and it speaks volumes to the randomness and difficulty of the NCAA tournament that Coach K *only* won it five times.3. Kansas Jayhawks (KU)All-Time Record (entering 2024-25): 2,408-896Conference Championships: 64 regular-season crowns, 16 conference tournament titlesNCAA
Tournament Appearances: 52Final Fours: 16National Championships: 4 (1952, 1988, 2008, 2022)Kansas has the fewest national championships by a laughable margin. Perhaps if there had been NCAA tournaments prior to 1939, the titles thing would be a much different story.
Because from the start of Phog Allens legendary coaching career in 1907 through to the final year without a tournament, Kansas went 438-148 with 20 conference championships. But the Jayhawks dont need that ancient history to be considered a blue blood. Through the first 50 years of the NCAA tournament, they won three titles and made eight trips
to the Final Four. The program's recent regular-season dominance has been even more impressive, appearing in every NCAA tournament dating back to 1990 and receiving a No. 4 seed or better in every dance since 2001. As a result, the Jayhawks rank top five all-time in NCAA tournament appearances. Final Fours and national championship games.
albeit going just 4-6 in their 10 cracks at a title compared to UConns preposterous 6-0 record and Indianas mark of 5-1 in national championships. 39 regular-season crowns, 26 conference tournament titlesNCAA Tournament Appearances:
53Final Fours: 21National Championships: 6 (1957, 1982, 1993, 2005, 2009, 2017)Like Kentucky, North Carolina ranks top three across the board in those data points above and has just about always mattered dating back to the early 1920s. The Tar Heels did have a six-year bout of mediocrity right at the beginning of the AP poll era, and only played
in four of the first 28 NCAA tournaments. One of those, though, was the undefeated national championship in 1956-57, and UNC has been a staple in the big dance since 1967, partaking in 49 out of the last 57 tournaments. Not only do the Heels almost always get invited, but they usually fare pretty well. Their 21 Final Four appearances are the most
all-time. Hall of Fame coach Dean Smith got them there the most times (11), but Roy Williams who spent a combined total of 33 years at Kansas and North Carolina leads the way with three national championships in Chapel Hill.North Carolina also produced a player by the name of Michael Jordan. Pretty good. You may have heard of him.5. UCLA
BruinsAll-Time Record (entering 2024-25): 2,005-909Conference Championships: 32 regular-season crowns, four conference tournament titlesNCAA Tournament ti
dynastic run by any team in the history of any sport. In a span of 12 years, UCLA won 10 national championships. No other team has more than eight titles. Period. Its worth mentioning that all but one of those 10 titles came from tournaments with only 22-25 teams, meaning the Bruins had to win fewer postseason games to hang a banner. But were
also talking about a team that went 335-22 overall, winning 93.8 percent of games played over the span of three presidential terms, including an 88-game winning streak. Pretty sure they werent in any danger of losing to a No. 16 seed if the field had been as vast as it is today. Its been a while since UCLA was anything close to a juggernaut, though,
earning a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament just three times since 1980. But the Bruins could probably go 50 years without winning another natty and would still need to be counted among the blue bloods. 6. Connecticut Huskies (UConn)All-Time Record (entering 2024-25): 1,781-998Conference Championships: 28 regular-season crowns, nine
conference tournament titlesNCAA Tournament titlesNCAA Tournament Appearances: 36Final Fours: 7National Championships: 6 (1999, 2004, 2011, 2014, 2023, 2024)UConn is the new blood of the blue blood club, winning all six of its natties in the span of 25 years. All six have come more recently than the last time either Indiana or UCLA won it all. Whether the Huskies
deserved the blue blood label was debatable for a while after their fourth title, as they were historically irrelevant until Jim Calhoun coached them onto the national radar in the late 1980s. Prior to that, they had never been ranked higher than 18th in the AP poll and had played in just one Elite Eight in program history losing that lone appearance in a
Regional Final by a 47-point margin back in 1964 (see No. 2 on our list above). After back-to-back titles in 2023 and 2024, bringing the program's all-time national championship tally to six, the case for UConn belonging among the sport's blue bloods, but
the Huskies have been hands down one of the best programs in college hoops over the past three-plus decades, particularly in terms of winning the greatest single elimination tournament ever conceived. 7. Indiana Hoosiers (IU)All-Time Record (entering 2024-25): 1,928-1,120Conference Championships: 22 regular-season crowns, no conference
tournament titlesNCAA Tournament Appearances: 41Final Fours: 8National Championships: 5 (1940, 1953, 1976, 1981, 1987)When people ask if its possible for a school to lose its blue blood without even a hint of blue among its jersey colors, the Hoosiers have
always been sort of the odd one out of this group. However, the Cream and Crimson were consistently strong for so long first under Branch McCracken, later and more emphatically under Bob Knight that it didnt matter. Even before the AP polls genesis in 1948, the Hoosiers had a national championship under their belt, winning the second tourney
ever held in 1940. They quickly became a staple in the national rankings, ranked for at least one week of 59 seasons and finishing 17 years ranked in the top 10. Most notable among Indiana's iconic seasons was the perfect 32-0 campaign in 1975-76, which today still represents the last undefeated champion in mens college basketball. Only one of
those 17 top 10 seasons has come in the past three decades, though. Indiana hasnt even made it to the final of a Big Ten tournament since 2001, nor has it been to an Elite Eight since 2002. If this mediocrity continues for another decade, it might be time to start seriously discussing what it takes to be stripped of the blue blood label. But most college
basketball experts are nowhere near ready for that conversation, as the Hoosiers are still tied with Duke for the fifth-most titles of all-time. Other Schools Sometimes Regarded as Blue Bloods are still tied with Duke for the best, there are a few others with pending applications to join the blue blood
fraternity.Louisville Cardinals: Whether they have two or three national championships depends on whether you care about the NCAAs rulings on vacated wins/titles. But the Cardinals did win three tournaments, and have played in more tournaments than either Indiana or Connecticut. With only three seasons as a No. 1 seed and only four weeks
ranked No. 1 in the AP poll in program history, Louisvilles two-and-a-half titles arent quite enough to stack up to the other seven. Villanova Wildcats: Villanova Willanova Wildcats: Vil
half-decade of dominance to earn the blue blood badge. Wright is rightfully a Hall of Famer, but 'Nova had never been ranked No. 1 in the nation until 2015. Michigan State Spartans are prehaps the most frequently mentioned candidate on the blue blood fringe.
Thats because theyve been in every NCAA tournament dating back to 1998, with at least one Final Four appearance every 4-5 years. MSU has been ranked No. 1 in six different seasons and has received five No. 1 seeds, but the combination of just 16 regular-season conference titles and two natties leaves Sparty a bit shy of joining the club. Syracuse
Orange: Syracuse is fifth all-time in total wins (2,094) and entered the 2024-25 campaign tied with Indiana and Villanova for the seventh-most NCAA tournament appearances. But with just one Carmelo Anthony-fueled national championship run and a modest six trips to the Final Four, the Oranges all-time standing is only marginally better than
Arizonas, which is neither a blue blood nor a strong candidate for inclusion. Frequently Asked Questions Why are they called blue blood or sangre azul has roots all the way back to the early medieval period in regard to noble blood lines in
Spain/Europe.Like the kings of old, the blue blood programs are college basketballs royalty; bred over many generations to rule the country. They are the teams who are going to feature prominently in the AP poll any time theyre even remotely good, because weve been so conditioned to assume they belong in the national spotlight. Who are some
legendary coaches associated with blue blood programs? Pretty much all of the coaching legends from mens college basketball were associated with blue blood programs. John Wooden at UCLA. Mike Krzyzewski at Duke. Bob Knight at Indiana. Dean Smith at North Carolina. Roy Williams at both UNC and Kansas. Bill Self and Phog Allen at Kansas.
Adolph Rupp at Kentucky. Jim Calhoun (Connecticut), Rick Pitino (Kentucky) and John Calipari (Kentucky) are also very much in that conversation for top 10 all-time. Frankly, its because of the legendary coach factor that Villanova (Jay Wright), Michigan State (Tom Izzo), Syracuse (Jim Boeheim) and Louisville (Pitino and Denny Crum) are sometimes
considered blue bloods. How often do blue bloods make the Final Four or win it all? Through Connecticuts sixth national championship in 2024, there have been 85 NCAA tournaments, with the seven blue bloods accounting for 105 Final Four appearances (30.9 percent) and 45 titles (52.9 percent). That's out of 350+ programs that play Division I
college basketball. However, there has never been a year with four blue bloods in the same Final Four. There were three in 1991, 1993, 2008 and 2022, but those otherwise royalty-only parties were crashed by UNLV, Michigan, Memphis and Villanova, respectively. That said, there susually at least one blue blood that survives until the national
semifinals, Of the 63 tournaments dating back to 1962, only in 1979, 1983, 1985, 2013 and 2019 were there no blue bloods in that final weekend of the dance. Elevate Your College Basketball Experience with Sleeper When March Madness rolls around and youre searching for the best place to host your bracket pool, look no further than Sleepers
Bracket Mania. You can have up to 10,000 participants in your bracket pool, or make it private and just keep it to a small group of friends. Either way, you can see throughout the tournament field, in case you need stats, advice or just the occasional chuckle
while filling out your bracket. Once the tournament has begun and entries are locked in, Sleeper takes care of marking all those winners and losers while you use the in-app chat for bragging rights and/or sob stories about where it all went wrong. Of course, March Madness only encompasses a small fraction of the calendar, but Sleeper has you
covered year-round with a multitude of fantasy offerings. If you cant find something to enjoy as a sports fan, you probably didnt look very hard. With another title, UConn is officially a blue blood credits: Jessica Hill | source: AP Another college basketball season has come and gone. The womens tournament outshined the mens showcase in March
Madness due to ratings and attendance records, not to mention the undeniable star power the sport has. The mens NCAA Tournament wrapped Monday night with UConn completing the six-game streak of winning every win-or-go-home game by at least a bakers dozen. The closest game was against Miami, who overcame a double-digit deficit in the
Elite Eight itself to even advance to Houston. And that game really wasnt close at all. The Huskies lifted their fifth title in 25 years and look to be the dominant force weve come to expect from the Big East again. The difference about this title was that it wasnt unexpected like its run to the crown in 2014 as a No. 7 seed. UConn was always a team that
if it played at its peak, would be tough to stop. And boy did it ever. And with this victory, the Huskies initiation into college basketballs blue bloods is complete. Who else makes the list of the sports most elitist programs? They all just took a DNA test and theyre 100 percent that blue blood. Well go through them all here, starting with those no-longer-
pledging Huskies. source: AP Many of the blue bloods actually wear blue. Actually, only one entry on this list from the Division I mens side doesnt have blue anywhere on their uniforms. UConn oddly wasnt highly talked about as one of the wine-drinking, pinky-up programs as of late, provided that its last title was in 2014. But no one in college
basketball has accomplished more and changed the outlook of its program nationwide in the 21st century, source: AP The Huskies no doubt crossed over into the first three to Storrs with Kevin Ollie lifting the crown next and finally, Dan Hurley (pictured)
with the victory over San Diego State. There is zero chance UConn will fade back into irrelevance after this latest run to the title. And only three programs have won more national championships than anyone else in Division I. Yes, the Bruins have won
one national title since 1975 and havent lifted the crown at all since the mid-90s. But 11 national titles speak for themselves, not to mention seven straight championships. Only one team has more than seven overall. (And well get to them in a moment).
greatest threat to UConn this season. With all of the programs storied history, it could go another 30 years without winning a championship and would still be considered a blue blood. Nothing anyone will ever do in the sport will change that.
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nearly every era of college basketball, with their last crown coming in 2012. Kentucky has won eight national championships overall in five different decades. UK has always been close to the heart of college basketball and the current one-and-done factory under (pictured) reloads with stars more often than not. source: AP UK hasnt made a Final Four since 2015 and an Elite Eight since 2019. Then there was losing to Saint Peters last year and a second-round exit to Kansas State this season. How quickly Kentucky wins another championship will come down to how well Calipari can adjust to the world of NIL and the transfer portal, which has been an influence in coaches like Jay Wright and Jim Boeheim leaving the sport. source: AP The Tar Heels have won six national championships all-time, including three since the turn of the greatest coaches ever with three championships. Frank McGuire won UNCs first national championship in

1957. source: AP How quickly North Carolina wins another championship is more in flux than most other blue bloods. Hubert Davis (pictured) did take the Tar Heels to the national championship game and blew a huge lead in 2022, but went from AP Preseason No. 1 to missing the tournament completely this year. And Caleb Love is transferring away from Chapel Hill. source: AP Of course, if North Carolina is on this list, Duke cannot be far behind. The Blue Devils are tied with UConn and another school on our countdown (up next) with five national titles. Duke might be the bluest of blue bloods due to being the first private school on our list and only one of two on the Division I mens side. source: AP Every blue blood has a legendary coach associated with their brand and for Duke, its Jon Scheyer (pictured)! Well, maybe one day. Its obviously Mike Krzyzewski, who left the keys to his kingdom to a former assistant to keep up the traditions at such a prestigious institution. No matter who coaches Duke, with how it recruits, it should be in contention for a national title forever, source: AP The only team to not wear blue among the group of blue bloods are the Hoosiers, tied with UConn and Duke with five national titles. If it feels like its been a while since Indiana has been within striking distance of a championship, its because its last time advancing beyond the Sweet 16 was in 2002 as national runners-up. source: AP Still, the unique environment at Assembly Hall and what Bob Knight (pictured) created in Bloomington is as unique a college basketball brand as there is across America. And that by itself makes them a blue blood because the lack of national success over the last two decades hasnt stopped the Hoosiers from being relevant. source: AP Among the four core blue bloods that have become college basketballs Mount Rushmore for being hated (alongside Kentucky, Duke and North Carolina) the Jayhawks might be the best regular-season team. They also won the fewest national titles of that group (four) but won one more recently than anyone else in that quartet. source: AP Allen Fieldhouse is a toilet, but its Kansas toilet where reporters sitting courtside consistently take Advil before games to avoid headaches from how loud the venue can get. Bill Self (pictured) are two of the legendary coaches to patrol the sidelines in Lawrence to not have the building Kansas plays its home games in not named for them. source: AP Rounding out the group on the Division I mens side is the newest to be considered for the list. Villanova won its first championship in 1985. With the Wildcats pair of championship in 1985. With the Wildcats pair of championship in 1985. With the Wildcats pair of championship in 1985. Villanova is a blue blood just like the rest. source: AP The preppy private school on the outskirts of Philadelphia plays in a rinky-dink gym sometimes and Wells Fargo Center for bigger games. How Jay Wright (pictured) transformed the program in the latter years of his tenure truly brought Villanova from the outskirts of college basketball and into the most exclusive club. How the Wildcats can sustain it without him remains to be seen, source: AP Of course, UConn and Tennessee on the womens side are the two most obvious blue bloods. There are two other definite additions to be made with Stanford and Baylor joining the list due to the number of national titles each program has won and how consistent the Cardinal and Bears have been throughout the years. Kim Mulkey winning the national championship with LSU this past weekend only gives credence to how amazing her teams in Waco were. source: AP A few programs just missed the cut of what you could consider a blue blood and to join such an exclusive list, you needed to be decisively on it. If there was doubt, its a no. Louisville and Michigan State are the two biggest culprits of that. The Cardinals have won three national titles well, two that havent been vacated. Yet, their brand doesnt stick as needed in the fraternity like the rest. Tom Izzos (pictured) bunch hasnt won a national title since 2000 and only has two as a program overall. There needs to be a little bit more consistency in East Lansing to cross that threshold. Duke, North Carolina, Kansas, Kentucky, Indiana, and UCLA are the college basketball teams most often associated with the term blue blood. There is, however, an ongoing debate about the most deserving blue bloods and what blue blood actually means. Whats a College Basketball Blue Blood? According to the NCAA, the first reference of a blue blood was in the Brooklyn Times-Union on Jan. 3, 1927. It was used again in other publications throughout the 1940s and 1950s, appearing to reference an undefined elite class of college basketball programs. There is no concrete history for the current application of the term, nor is there a consensus on which teams are blue bloods. Despite periods of national irrelevance over the last two decades, Indiana and UCLA are often considered blue bloods. The Bruins, for example, have three more national championships (11) than the next closest team (Kentucky) but they havent won a title since 1995. There seems to be wider agreement on the other four teams: Duke, North Carolina, Kansas, and Kentucky. UConn is increasingly considered a blue blood of the sport, as the Huskies have won five national championships since 1999. No one else has won more than three over that same stretch. College Basketball Blue Bloods TeamNCAA Bids Since 1985Last ChampionshipTotal Men's NCAA ChampionshipsUCLA28199511Kentucky3120128UConn2220246UNC3420176Duke3620155Indiana2719875Kansas3620224 Related Articles BetMGM is the premier destination for college basketball odds all season. Whether youre a first-time bettor, casual fan, or seasoned pro, theres something for everyone with college basketball betting at the sportsbook offers at BetMGM. Michigan State Spartans go for a loose ball against Indiana Hoosiers. (Photo by Rey Del Rio/Getty Images)In college basketball, the term blue bloods is used in reference to Division I basketball programs considered to be among the most elite, either contemporaneously or historically. There is no official definition of what constitutes a blue blood, but the term is generally applied to programs that have a long history of success, a strong fan base, and a national reputation. These are the nine most commonly cited Blue Bloods in mens college basketball. They are in alphabetical order: Connecticut (UConn) HuskiesDuke Blue DevilsIndiana HoosiersKansas JayhawksKentucky WildcatsThese programs have all won multiple national championships, and they have consistently been ranked among the top teams in the country. They also have large and passionate fan bases, and they are often featured often in national media coverage. There is some debate about which other programs should be considered blue blood programs. UConn. for example, has won five national championships since 1999, but it has not been as consistently ranked as the other six programs on a yearly basis. However, UConn with its five national blue Blood programs like Indiana, UCLA, Kentucky, and North Carolina and then there are the new blue blood programs like Villanova, Michigan State, and UConn. No matter if the program is considered a traditional or new blue blood program, these nine programs deserve the title of being called a blue blood program. Here is a brief summary of the blue blood college basketball programs. History: These programs have a long history of success, with some dating back to the early days of college basketball. Fan base: These teams have large and passionate fan bases that follow the team closely. National media coverage. NCAA Tournament: These teams have, for the most part, made multiple deep runs in the tournament and continue to be strong contenders to make it to Elite Eight and Final Four appearances. National championships: These programs in the country. They have a long history of success, a strong fan base, and a national reputation. These programs are always contenders for the national championship, and they are always exciting to watch every season with few exceptions. Below is the criteria and Scoring Breakdown to determine the ranking of the top Blue Bloods in division one basketball programs of all time. Criteria and Scoring Breakdown to determine the ranking of the top Blue Bloods in division one basketball programs of all time. Criteria and Scoring Breakdown to determine the ranking of the top Blue Bloods in division one basketball programs of all time. 196040 points for National Championships prior to 196030 points for Final Four Appearances since 196025 points for Final Four Appearances prior to 196020 points for Regular Season Conference Championships since 195015 points for Final Four Appearances prior to 196020 points for Final Four Appear Sixteen Appearances5 points for every season with 30 or more wins since 19704 points for every season with 20 or more wins since 19702 points for every season with 30 or more wins since 19704 points for every season with 3 personalities, podcasters, writers, and people alike put together sports ranking lists such as ranking lost such as ranking lost such as ranking lists suc of blue blood programs is not flawless, it provides math-based analysis and analytical in a valid attempt to eliminate the subjective factors that many lists are comprised of. While college basketball upsets are the talk of March, by the time April brings the Final Four, the traditional powers of the sport usually hold sway. The 2023-24 season was no different. While UConn isn't generally thought of as a traditional powerhouse, a closer look confirms that it should be. Not that the Huskies are alone. There are six "blue blood" teams: UCLA, Kentucky, North Carolina, Kansas, Duke and UConn. Here's a rundown on the case for each as a perennial power and a brief summation of the top candidates who didn't quite make the field. College basketball blue blood programs in his season at Duke. UCLA The case for UCLA: The Bruins' 11 national championships is an all-time record. They are one of only five schools to reach 2,000 all-time victories. Their 18 Final Four appearances are the second-most all-time. UCLA gave us John Wooden, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Bill Walton. The case against UCLA: Of the 11 championships, 10 came in a run between 1964 and 1975. Take away one era when John Wooden dominated college basketball with four-year players, and UCLA doesn't match Syracuse as a dynasty. The last UCLA championship was in 1995, and the school has one Final Four in 16 years. Kentucky has won championships under five different coaches. Among legendary Wildcats are Adolph Rupp, Dan Issel and Anthony Davis. The case against Kentucky: The Wildcats have just one championship in the last 25 years and haven't made the Final Four since 2015. Much of Kentucky's record book was built in early NCAA Tournament days when the tournament had eight or 16 teams. North CarolinaThe case for North Carolina: UNC's 2,372 all-time victories are the third most. The Tar Heels are Dean Smith, Michael Jordan and Tyler Hansbrough. The case against North Carolina: Coming up empty in 15 Final Fours demonstrates UNC's issue with near misses. This was worse before coach Roy Williams' three titles. North Carolina has probably had more talent than any other program but often shackled its own talent. Michael Jordan, for instance, somehow did not win a championship in two of his three years. KansasThe case for Kansas: The Jayhawks have won 2,393 games, second most all-time. Their 15 Final Four appearances are the fifth most in college history, and their four NCAA titles each came in a different decade. Given the connections to Dr. James Naismith, Kansas is something of the cradle of basketball, and Wilt Chamberlain, Danny Manning and Bill Self are three Jayhawk, for instance. Before coach Bill Self, Kansas could have been in danger of falling from the list. With two titles, Self doubled Kansas' all-time total. DukeThe case for Duke: With 2,300 wins, Duke is fourth all-time in college basketball victories. It's 17 Final Four tie for third all-time and Duke has five NCAA titles, which is also fifth. Duke had a decent history but went to another like under Mike Krzyzewski, the all-time coaching wins leader. Grant Hill, JJ Reddick and Zion Williamson are some of the most famous Duke players. The case against Duke: Before 1991, Duke had zero NCAA titles. It's fair to wonder if Duke's explosion of college basketball history. While UConn can't match the other programs for longevity, its seven Final Four appearances are 10th all-time, and its 1,836 wins are 23rd best. Among the most famous Huskies ever are Ray Allen, Richard Hamilton and Jim Calhoun. UConn just became the first repeat championships in nearly 20 years. The case against UConn: Before 1999, UConn had never been to a single Final Four. Can this excellence last? As noted above, UConn's all-time standings in many college basketball areas are less than sparkling. The Near MissesIndiana has five NCAA titles but hasn't been to a Final Four since 2002 and largely accrued success under the late Bob Knight. Villanova's three times are impressive, but the Wildcats are 19th in victories and 11th in Final Four appearances. Another title or two would help the Wildcats' situation greatly. Syracuse and Temple are each about to reach 2,000 all-time wins. The Orange have one national title and the Owls have none. Michigan State and Ohio State have each reached 10 Final Fours, But MSU has just two championships, with the last in 2000, and Ohio State has one. Which near-miss should be on the list? It seems fairly clear that there's a gap between the top six programs in the sport and everyone else. About the author Quick Links Edited by R. Elahi

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