

Good evening.

I'd like to welcome the teams and their fans to the Twin Cities.

The State is proud once again to be hosting this exciting event.

Congratulations to Duke – Maryland – Arizona and Michigan State on making it to this year's Final Four.

While you're here I hope you get a chance to enjoy the area. From our fine restaurants to the Mall of America, there are plenty of things to do.

It's too bad about the weather—I was hoping it would stay colder awhile longer so that you all could've tried ice fishing.

A few weeks ago someone asked me who I thought was going to win the tournament. Although Michigan State is a Big Ten school and defending champs, I told them Duke.

Coach K seems to always get his teams to the Final Four, and it was here in Minneapolis in 1992 that Duke won their last NCAA title.

Déjà vu? Maybe.

That pick was weeks ago and the fact is all of these teams are winners just by being here—so may the best team win!

Good luck and enjoy your visit to the Twin Cities!

I'll be glad to take a few questions.