

# The 2001 Tournament

*The folks at Spin magazine have selected their Top 40 Most Important Artists in the Game. The Top 32, of course, get seeded and shuffled and then sent to a tournament showdown in order to crown a champion.*

*After our initial groans and moans (Where's Steve Earle? The Jayhawks? Sleater-Kinney??) over the selections, we here at Exiled on Main Street got down to work by scouting the teams and breaking down all the bracket match-ups in order to present the following analysis. Keep one thing in mind while you're plotting your Pool Dominance over your co-workers: Upsets abound.*

## Regional Previews

by Bill Tuomala

### Europe

*Game To Watch:* #3 Bjork vs. #6 Madonna. Bjork comes into tournament with shaky credentials, she isn't really known for her music – she just looks like an elf and sings in a campy broken-English kinda way. Madonna's latest album is brilliant. Look for The Material Girl to rely on veteran smarts for a victory. This could set up a potential Madonna vs. Dr. Dre blockbuster matchup in round two.

*Upset Special:* #8 Stephen Malkmus over #1 Radiohead. If Malkmus goes with his Crust Brothers bench and plays some Basement Tapes covers, Radiohead will have trouble reacting to the inside-joke game. Radiohead is oh-so-precious, probably their Brit background alone secured them a #1 seed. Malkmus will show why even your merely good American band is typically better than your best British one.

### West

*Game To Watch:* All of 'em. This is the heaviest bracket in the tourney, with all artists except Aimee Mann having serious metal cred. The Queens of the Stone Age / At the Drive-In tilt will determine who has the worst long band name in heavy rock. Keenan and Pearl Jam bring absolutely no humor to their match, the first one to smile loses. PJ Harvey vs. Aimee Mann is a Waif Showdown.

*Upset Special:* #6 Deftones over #3 Zack de la Rocha. Zack doesn't have a band, the Deftones *are* a band. If Pearl Jam upsets Keenan, this could set up a Deftones / Pearl Jam battle that will be forty minutes in search of a melody.

### East

*Game To Watch:* #1 OatKast vs. #8 Destiny's Child. OutKast are proudly weird, Destiny's Child are proudly hot. This matchup will be a visual feast for the eyes. Get thee early to a sports bar to catch this one on a big screen.

*Upset Special:* #6 Air over #3 Sacha & Digweed. Look for this France/England match to get ugly, early. The Frenchies in Air have already thrown the phrase "Sucka and Dickweed" across the English Channel. Less people have not heard of Air than S&W, so Air wins in overtime.

### Central

*Game To Watch:* #2 Eminem vs. #7 Johnny Cash. Hi kids, do you like violence? Over the last forty-plus years, Cash has sang songs about 1) Shooting a man in Reno just to watch him die, 2) Doing cocaine and shooting his lover, and 3) Tying up his lover and shooting her. He may still have the craftiness to cause trouble, but if Marshall Mathers pulls away in the second half look for Cash to play the Jesus card.

*Upset Special:* #6 Wilco over #3 U2. U2 is on a mission to "save rock 'n' roll." Problem is, they didn't exactly release a rock 'n' roll record this time around. Like other such movements in the past (the Beatles, punk rock), the question is begged: Save rock 'n' roll from *what?* Wilco is one of the best live acts in the world; plus they have Jeff Tweedy's stand-up routine and Woody Guthrie ties. If they can avoid too many Beach Boy pretensions, they will send Bono & Co. packing.

2001  
TOURNEY  
BRACKET

