

Tulsa a breeze for Zags

After slow start, GU rides out
Hurricane without much problem

By Steve Bergum
Staff writer

TULSA, Okla. — Call it wasted angst.

All of the hand-wringing and worry about a late-season road game against an intersectional non-conference basketball opponent proved unnecessary Saturday afternoon as sixth-ranked Gonzaga University blew past Tulsa 76-56 in front of a sellout crowd of 8,355 in Reynolds Center.



**Bulldogs 76
Hurricane 56**

Thursday: San
Diego at Gonzaga
8 p.m. TV: ESPN2

It was a game that had caused Bulldogs coach Mark Few and his staff a great deal of concern, coming, as it did, with the Zags (23-2 overall) still two wins shy of posting a perfect 14-0 record in the West Coast Conference, and against a tradition-rich Tulsa team trying to salvage an otherwise lost season.

"It's a great road win for us," Few said after watching his team battle back from a ratty start to beat the Golden Hurricane (7-17 overall, 3-11 in the Western Athletic Conference) for the second straight season as part of ESPN's Bracket Busters promotion.

"We were very concerned about this game, especially right at the tail end of our league season.

"We knew Tulsa would come out and play with great emotion, and we knew they would have a great crowd here. But I thought after the first 5 or 6 minutes we got back to playing the

Continued: **Zags/C8**

3-pointer shepherds UI to win

Guard's shot puts Vandals alone
in third, in line for tourney bye

By Carter Strickland
Staff writer

MOSCOW, Idaho — Tanoris Shepard sat in Leonard Perry's office Friday and listened.

Perry, the Idaho coach, talked to his player about having the confidence to take and make the important shot.

A little more than 24 hours later Perry sat and watched as the 5-foot-11 guard did just that. Trailing 62-60 to UC Riverside with 1:20 left, Shepard slipped his defender and slid a 3-pointer through the net to give Idaho a lead it would never give up.

"I've always trusted him to make that shot," Perry said after the 70-65 win at Cowan Spectrum Saturday night.

It's just been in past years Shepard hasn't always made it. Now, it seems as if he and the rest of the Vandals can't miss. They are riding a six-game home winning streak and, with a 8-7

Continued: **Vandals/C9**



■ **Inside:** Almost home. Saturday's 6-2 loss to Tri-City and the trip home ends the seven-game, nine-day trek.

Chiefs hockey, Page C12

State girls basketball



■ **3A championship:** Senior Ashlee Erdman, above, and Priest River fall to Marsh Valley.

■ **Third place:** Lakeland cruises past Gooding.

Page C5

LC leaves state tournament with 3rd place

Timberwolves outlast Boise 41-38
in game dominated by defenses

By Greg Lee
Staff writer

NAMPA, Idaho — Boise was the opponent Lake City High girls basketball coach Darren Taylor expected his team to play Saturday.

But Taylor anticipated a showdown in the evening game — for the State 5A championship at the Idaho Center — not in the morning

for third place at Nampa High School.

Boise was the lone Idaho team to beat Lake City during the regular season when the Braves topped the Timberwolves 29-26 in a ghastly exhibition of offense.

LC avenged that loss, outlasting the Braves 41-38 in a game less hazardous on the eyes than the game between the teams in December.

"Well, 29-26 the first time we played, this was an offensive outburst today," smiled Taylor, whose team concludes with a 21-4

record. "Two great defensive teams that just punched it out. We ended up landing the last few blows."

Absolutely. The teams combined to call seven timeouts in the final 2:08, and the breaks were mainly used to set up defensive schemes, not offensive sets.

It was appropriate that defense ruled in the final 2 minutes because during the previous 30 minutes, neither team's offense had much success on back-to-back possessions.

Continued: **Lake City/C5**

Gonzaga's new
6,000-seat
arena (top right)
rises over
Martin Centre,
home of The
Kennel.



Colin Mulvany/The Spokesman-Review

"It kind of all comes
together in The Kennel and
you just step back and go,
'Wow.'"

Mark Few, Gonzaga men's basketball coach



Christopher Anderson/The Spokesman-Review

The Kennel will receive a final ovation at the Bulldogs' final two games this week, with the applause cascading down from the heights of Section CC.

The show's over

*Kennel and Gonzaga program prospered
to foster a legacy of fervent fanaticism*

By John Blanchette / Staff writer

NOW THE WALLS BOW from the babel and the floor trembles from the stomping feet of students getting their tuition's worth on a Saturday night.

But in the earliest days of The Kennel — long before it was ever called that — you could have heard a bone snap.

Really, it's the first sound anyone did hear.

It was Nov. 24, 1965. In nine days, the Gonzaga Bulldogs would christen their new basketball arena — OK, their new gym, Kennedy Pavilion, against rival Washington State, and the Zags were finishing practice with extra wind sprints.

Gary Lechman, at the time perhaps the best 6-foot-4 center in college basketball, was churning them in the only gear he had — fifth — and without thinking stuck out his arms to brake against Kennedy's unpadded wall.

Amazingly, the wall didn't give.

Lechman broke his arm just below the elbow and without him, the Zags were chopped up by WSU, 106-78. Not only that, the Cougs recovered their catnapped mascot, Butch VI, and took him back to Pullman.

Not the most auspicious start for the new building.

But what a finish.

The show is almost over. Next season, the Bulldogs move into a new 6,000-seat arena — not a gym — next door. So on

Continued: **Kennel/C6**



Christopher Anderson/The Spokesman-Review

Gonzaga guard Blake Stepp participates in a spirited Kennel pregame introduction ritual.

Inside

■ **Outer space:** Until the mid-1980s, one area of The Kennel was used as an apartment — known as "The Cave" — for a number of assistant coaches. / **C6**

■ **Best of show:** The top games in the history of The Kennel. / **C7**