

THE KENNEL

1965 - 2004

Let's get
LOUD!



Christopher Anderson/The Spokesman-Review



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In recent years, the raucous fans have made The Kennel one of the toughest places to play basketball for Gonzaga opponents. Since 1991, the Bulldogs are 148-11 in The Kennel.



Torsten Kjellstrand/The Spokesman-Review

Top 10 (plus one) Best Games in The Kennel

■ 12/4/65 Gonzaga 107, Northern Arizona 106, OT

One night after being scorched by 28 points by Washington State in the grand opening of Kennedy Pavilion, the Zags and Lumberjacks put on a show — at one point, scoring seven baskets in the last 42 seconds of the first half. Chuck Thomas' tip-in with 50 seconds left gave GU the lead for good, the Zags making 21 of their last 22 foul shots.

■ 2/7/70 Gonzaga 67, Weber State 66

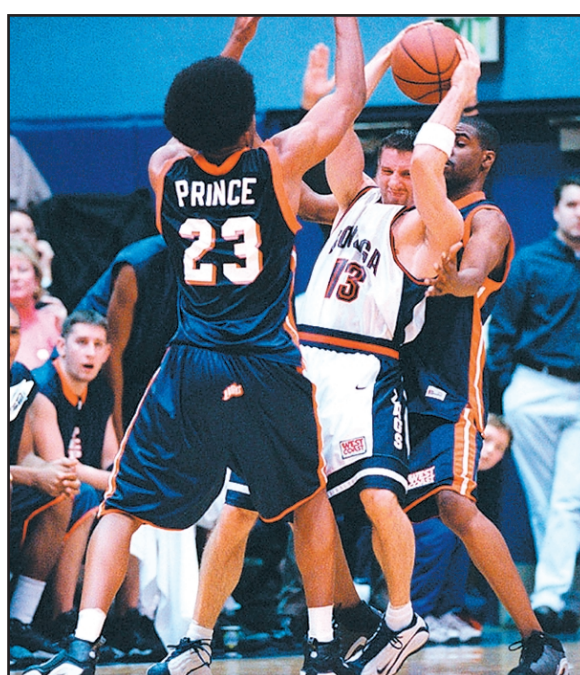
The Zags ended Weber's 24-game Big Sky Conference winning streak as Bill Quigg dueled future ABA warrior Willie Soujourner to a standoff, each scoring 26, and Jim Bresnahan and Chris Nickola knocked down crucial free throws in the last two minutes.

■ 12/5/72 Gonzaga 54, Washington State 52

Joe Clayton's three-point play on a shot from the top of the key with eight seconds to play was the game-winner, and GU's first lead since the opening minute. Clayton had 18 of his 22 points in the second and 16 of GU's final 20.

■ 2/10/78 Gonzaga 81, Idaho State 78, 4 OTs

Zags guard Jim DeWeese was phenomenal — 29 points, 7 rebounds, 4 assists, 4 steals — while holding Lawrence Butler (who the next year would lead the country in scoring) to just 12 points and fouling him out. And after that, DeWeese switched off to ISU's other smooth shooter, Brand Robinson, who would manage just eight points. Paul Cathey had seven of GU's nine points in the final OT and finished with 23 rebounds. One amazing play: Don Baldwin's behind-the-back pass



File/The Spokesman-Review

Gonzaga's Matt Santangelo finds himself sandwiched between two Pepperdine players during one of the greatest games in GU history — Jan. 3, 2000.

downcourt to Cathey for a layup and a 78-72 GU lead.

■ 2/28/81 Gonzaga 79, USF 67

In the bedlam from a crowd listed at 4,731, the Bulldogs battled back from a seven-point deficit with nine minutes to

play against one of the nation's most gifted teams. Bill Dunlap had 17 of his 21 points in the final six minutes and claimed "It was so loud, I thought my temples were going to explode." The Zags cut down the nets — thinking they'd earned an NIT invitation, which was not forthcoming — and students carried off coach Dan Fitzgerald.

■ 2/24/83 Gonzaga 64, Santa Clara 62

John Stockton's piece de resistance, a 30-point solo that brought the short-handed Zags — with just eight suited players — back from an 18-point halftime deficit. He opened the second half with a three-point play. On the next possession, his assist on a pass to Bryce McPhee broke the school career record; his last, also to McPhee, broke the single-season record and gave GU its first lead.

■ 1/19/95 Santa Clara 73, Gonzaga 68, OT

Turn-about is fair play. Like Stockton 12 years earlier, the Broncos' Steve Nash went off for 35 of his career-high 40 points after intermission — bringing the visitors back from 16 points down and snapping GU's home-court winning streak at 34 games.

■ 2/3/00 Gonzaga 62, Pepperdine 57

With both teams 16-5 and undefeated in the WCC, fans began being turned away at the door an hour and 20 minutes before game time. Q the Bulldog waddled through the Waves' layup line unleashed. Pepperdine's manic defense had the Zags down 15 points in the second half — and ripped the "O" off Matt Santangelo's name on the back of his jersey. And then came the comeback — big plays by Richie Frahm, Axel Dench banking in a 3 from the top of the key, Santangelo low-bridging a reverse layup under 6-foot-11 Nick Sheppard and Mark Spink inducing the Waves' David Lalazarian into a costly technical foul.

■ 12/4/01 Gonzaga 87, Eastern Washington 74, OT

This one merited a curtain call — the Zags returning from the locker room to salute the sellout crowd which had spurred them back from a 16-point halftime deficit. Dan Dickau had 19 of his 22 points in the second half after being outplayed by EWU's Jason Lewis, but Lewis threw the ball away when the Eagles had the last possession in regulation.

■ 12/31/02 St. Joseph's 79, Gonzaga 78, OT

Another GU homecourt winning streak — this one 29 games — comes to an end at the hands of the Hawks' remarkable Jameer Nelson. After missing a 3-pointer from the top of the key in the final seconds of regulation, the waterbug guard scores the game winner with 8 seconds left in overtime, the last of his 34 points.

Top performances

■ 3/4/67 Gonzaga 96, Idaho State 81. Gary Lechman scores 41 and the Zags earn a tie for the Big Sky title.

■ 1/27/90 Loyola Marymount 99, Gonzaga 88. Jim McPhee goes Lechman one better with 42 points, but Hank Gathers and Bo Kimble get 31 apiece for LMU.

■ 12/21/93 Gonzaga 76, Idaho 69. The Vandals' Orlando Lightfoot is unstoppable with 50 points against four different defenders.

■ 2/23/95 Gonzaga 106, USF 67. Zags sink 22 of 37 3-point shots, fourth best performance in Division I history.

■ 1/15/04 Gonzaga 92, USF 50. After a near-perfect first half, Zags lead 55-16 and Blake Stepp has 23 points on 9-of-9 shooting.

Longest winning streaks in The Kennel

■ 34 — 1992-95 (snapped by Santa Clara 73-68, OT)

■ 29 — 2000-03 (snapped by St. Joseph's 79-78 OT)

■ 20 — 1998-00 (snapped by San Diego 82-70)