

WOLF PACK 91  BULLDOGS 72



Brian Plonka/The Spokesman-Review
Ronny Turiaf is stunned after picking up the second of his four fouls.

Sent Packing

Glass slipper on the other foot as Gonzaga bounced



Dan Pelle/The Spokesman-Review

This thunderous dunk by Kevinn Pinkney late in the second half over a retreating Gonzaga defense put an exclamation point on the upset scored by the 10th-seeded Wolf Pack over the second-seeded Bulldogs. Pinkney scored a game-high 20 points.

Reflection, dejection are the order of the day, **John Blanchette** writes.

A painful loss of an opportunity

The Spokesman-Review



John Blanchette

SEATTLE — The beauty of the final Associated Press college basketball poll is that it's taken before the NCAA Tournament and not after, so the Gonzaga Bulldogs will be allowed to remember themselves the way they want to be remembered.

As the No. 3 team in the land, a remarkable story, a city's joy.

Then there is the cruel madness of March, when such a number is not only irrelevant but downright stupid.

When nobody gets to pick their memories.

When, more often than not, they end up

picking through the rubble instead.

This morning, that is Gonzaga — all the Zags built through four remarkable months now mere cinders and stones, crushed by upstart Nevada and ruthlessly so, 91-72, on Saturday in just the second round of the NCAAs, or about four rounds short of the imagined conclusion.

It happened here in KeyArena, the imagined sanctuary, accessible to so many of their loud and lovestruck constituents. A week ago, the Zags and their fans were congratulating one another for the team playing its way into this safe haven, another IOU from destiny.

Instead, the Key will be recalled as the place where Blake Stepp's jump shot came to die, where Ronny Turiaf was whistled into invisibility, where the portable Kennel was left stupefied and where coach Mark



Dan Pelle/The Spokesman-Review

It was a rough go for the Bulldogs, especially Blake Stepp (3-of-18 shooting), who gets crunched here by Nick Fazekas.

Bulldogs dazed after getting floored by underdog Nevada in second round

By **Steve Bergum**
Staff writer

SEATTLE — It wasn't until the game clock ticked under a minute that the reality of the moment seemed to finally hit home.

The Gonzaga Bulldogs were about to do something they hadn't done in 90 days. Lose.

Which made the bewildered late-game expressions that started breaking out on the faces of the Zags understandable.

"I was shocked. I couldn't believe it was happening," senior guard Tony Skinner admitted just moments after the third-ranked and second-seeded Bulldogs had been stunned by 10th-seeded Nevada, 91-72, in the second round of the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

"I don't know how to describe it," added redshirt freshman forward Sean Mallon. "It's just a terrible feeling."

NEVADA 91, GONZAGA 72

Inside

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- **Okeson** steps up for Wolf Pack./C8
- **Nevada defense** stifles Stepp./C8

And one the Bulldogs will probably carry with them for some time after watching their school-record winning streak snapped at 21 by an underdog Wolf Pack team that was simply better on this particular day.

Bolstered by GU's lack of aggression and early foul problems, the Western Athletic Conference champions (25-8) scooted to a 20-point lead less than 15 minutes into the game and then answered

Continued: **Gonzaga/C9**

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Coverage/C10-11

Women/C7

ST. LOUIS BRACKET

Nevada 91, Gonzaga 72

EAST RUTHERFORD BRACKET

St. Joseph's 70, Texas Tech 65

Wake Forest 84, Manhattan 80

PHOENIX BRACKET

Alabama 80, Stanford 77

Syracuse 72, Maryland 70

Connecticut 72, DePaul 55

ATLANTA BRACKET

Duke 90, Seton Hall 62

Texas 78, North Carolina 75

Chiefs burned by mistake, trail Silvertips 2-0

Everett's Bassen scores two goals in Game 2 of teams' best-of-7 series

By **Dave Trimmer**
Staff writer

EVERETT — It was a simple mistake. But that's all the Everett Silvertips needed with their conservative brand of hockey and

Jeff Harvey in goal.

Ryan Blatchford sent a diagonal cross-ice pass through the neutral zone and Spokane defenseman Gary Gladue mistimed it. The puck ended up on the stick of Chad Bassen, who broke into the Spokane zone alone and beat Chiefs goalie Jim Watt with a wrist shot over his shoulder.

That goal with 5 minutes left in the second

period paved the way for Harvey's 22-save, 3-0 win over the Chiefs Saturday night before 6,538 fans in the Everett Events Center.

Everett has a 2-0 lead in the best-of-7 first-round Western Hockey League playoff series that resumes in Spokane on Tuesday.

"They had a guy in the middle and a guy

Continued: **Chiefs/C4**



**Silvertips 3
Chiefs 0**

**Everett leads 2-0
Game 3:** Tuesday
at Spokane, 7 p.m.