OAKLAND — When Adam Morrison got a chance to set up the higher seed in the game, he declined. He was too close. Gonzaga's heartbreakers 73-71 loss to resilient UCLA ended the Zags' 2006 NCAA tournament run. It wasn't supposed to be the way it was. But the poise those players showed in the moments after seeing their dream snuffed out was more awesome than any fade-away jumper or slam dunk.

One moment, victory seemed imminent. And then, well, you saw it. Morrison's eyes teared up at the emotional reaction at the game's final 11 points to deny GU its first appearance in the Elite 8. A piece of cruel history. So close.

But then they got up off the floor. They batted each other and hugged their crestfallen fans. Still Morrison's emotional reaction at the end seemed fitting. A sports loss is not a tragedy. But the way that game ended was.

For fans who believe in omens, there was plenty of superstition fuel. One moment, victory seemed possible, and then victory seemed impossible. And then, well, you saw it. It doesn't happen to good people.

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